

## **Family Energy Expenditures (2016)**

“Energy Cost Impacts on American Families” provides information about energy expenditures (gasoline, electricity, and natural gas) by families at five different income levels (quintiles). The report is updated annually by Gene Trisko who relies on data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the U.S. Census Bureau, and the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Below are some of the key findings of the 2016 report:

- ❖ 40% of America’s families — 51 million households — live on an average after-tax income of \$1,643 per month, or slightly less than \$55 per day. These families spend an average of 17% of their income on energy.
- ❖ The poorest of these — some 25 million families — spend 22 cents of every dollar they take home on energy.
- ❖ Compared to the other basic necessities (food, clothing, gasoline, health care, and housing), increases in electricity costs have the most regressive impact on low-income households.
- ❖ Since 2005, national average electricity prices have increased by 33% in current dollars and by 7% in constant 2005 dollars. A portion of this increase is due to compliance costs associated with new Clean Air Act and other environmental regulations.

A full copy of the report is available at [americaspower.org](http://americaspower.org).