degrees Fahrenheit (°F). Cooling degree days are the number of degrees that the daily average temperature falls below 65°F. Heating degree days are used as an index for heating and cooling energy requirements. Heating degree days are the number of degree-days above 65°F for each day. Cooling degree days are the number of degree-days below 65°F. Cooling degree days are calculated as the simple average of the maximum and minimum temperatures in a 24-hour period. For example, a weather station recording an average daily temperature of 40°F would report 25 heating degree days for that day (and 0 cooling degree days). If a weather station recorded an average daily temperature of 78°F, cooling degree days for that day would be 13 (and 0 heating degree days). The U.S. Energy Information Administration calculates population-weighted heating degree days for the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Notes: • Degree days are relative measurements of outdoor air temperature used as an index for heating and cooling energy requirements. Heating degree days are the number of degree-days that the daily average temperature falls below 65 degrees Fahrenheit (°F). Cooling degree days are the number of degree-days that the daily average temperature rises above 65°F. The daily average temperature is the mean of the maximum and minimum temperatures in a 24-hour period. For example, a weather station recording an average daily temperature of 40°F would report 25 heating degree days for that day (and 0 cooling degree days). If a weather station recorded an average daily temperature of 78°F, cooling degree days for that day would be 13 (and 0 heating degree days). • Totals may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding. • Geographic coverage is the 50 states and the District of Columbia.


Sources: • State-level degree day data are from U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Weather Service centers for Environmental Information. Using these state data, the U.S. Energy Information Administration calculates population-weighted census-division and U.S. degree day averages using state populations from the same year as the degree days were recorded. A methodology at http://www.eia.gov/forecasts/steo/special/pdf/2012_sp_04.pdf.