



## Your E Source Member Inquiry Response

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*Thank you for trusting E Source with your inquiry.*

Answered by [Essie Snell](#)

### **You asked:**

I'm looking for a list of public studies looking at historic pricing trends for various technology areas (Refrigeration, Lighting, Space Heating, Space Cooling, Water Heating). I know most of the lighting ones but in case I miss something, would like your input...is this something that can be done in a couple of hours?

### **Our response:**

As we discussed on the phone, while there tends to be a fair amount of information on appliance shipments and/or market penetration collected by industry groups and governmental organizations, it's actually fairly difficult to find historical information on pricing trends for appliances. However, we've identified a couple of resources that may prove helpful, which I've outlined below.

To start off, the US Census Bureau's [Current Industrial Reports](#) contain historical data on number and monetary value of shipments of selected products going back a number of years. While the 2010 and 2009 data is available on its website (for example, you can find tables about major household appliances [here](#)), there also appears to be a plethora of information going back much further that's available for purchase. For reference, a recent 2013 ACEEE report titled [Appliance Standards: Comparing Predicted and Observed Prices](#) uses this data to compare the DOE's expectations around the impacts of efficiency standards on appliance prices with the actual change in appliance prices in selected years (before and after relevant standards took effect). However, it's worth mentioning that the Census data would presumably be indicative of average wholesale prices (since the data is at the manufacturer level), and it's unclear if one could get an accurate estimate of retail prices based on this data.

Next, the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics has a [Producer Price Index \(PPI\)](#) program that measures the average change over time in the selling prices received by domestic producers for their output. While the PPI doesn't detail exactly what the historical prices were in dollars, it does show trends in prices over time, and you may be able to back out historical price estimates for certain appliances based on their current costs. For reference, a 2011 DOE report titled [Using the Experience Curve Approach for Appliance Price Forecasting](#) summarizes the PPI data for a variety of different appliance types (including many of the ones you mention) on the first page.

Finally, we ran across two additional reports that may be of interest: a 2008 paper titled [Retrospective evaluation of appliance price trends](#), and a 2007 report titled [Do energy efficient appliances cost more?](#) Both of these reports use a variety of sources (in some cases going back to 1970) to take a general look at the effect of efficiency standards on appliance prices and include some cost information that may be of interest.

I hope this information is helpful, but if you have further questions, don't hesitate to contact us. If you need immediate assistance, please e-mail [Customer Service](#) or call 1-800-ESOURCE.

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