PRICE OF WATER: 2010-2015
A survey of water prices for households in 30 major U.S. cities.

Since 2010, the price of a monthly water bill for a family of four has increased an average of 41% in 20 of the largest U.S. cities and in 10 regionally representative cities, as chosen by Circle of Blue staff. Over the last year alone, prices climbed an average of 6%, well above any other household staple.

Key
Average Monthly Bill for Family of Four Using:

- 150 Gallons/Person/Day
- 100 Gallons/Person/Day
- 50 Gallons/Person/Day

HIGHEST 2015 WATER BILL* $153.78: Santa Fe

LOWEST 2015 WATER BILL* $23.26: Fresno

*Based on 100 gallon per person daily use for a family of four.

HIGHEST INCREASES SINCE 2014
31%: Austin is increasing the cost of water for its highest-volume users. The city utility is also charging higher fixed fees so that revenue is stable, even as water use declines.

15%: Chicago is nearing the end of a 5-year plan to double water rates. The new revenue will help the city to double the rate at which it replaces old water pipes.

15%: San Francisco has steadily increased rates to pay for a $US 4.8 billion project to ensure that the city water system will be able to deliver water within 24 hours after a major earthquake.

Rates current as of April 1, 2015.
Prices calculated for three usage tiers: 50, 100, and 150 gallons per person per day.
Source: Circle of Blue research, based on utility water rates.