

2001 Ohio EPA Sewer and Water Rate Survey

Introduction

The primary purpose of the Sewer and Water Rate Survey is to collect and publish Ohio residential sewer and water rates. Year 2001 rates were collected from the eighteenth annual Sewer and Water Rate Survey, conducted by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. Survey questionnaires were sent to 557 municipalities and districts; responses were received from 479 places (86%).

The 2001 Sewer and Water Rate Survey also gathered information regarding the following:

- ? Cause of sewer rate increase
- ? Cause of water rate increase
- ? Existence of extra strength wastewater flows and charges
- ? Number of residential, nonresidential, inside and outside sewer and water accounts
- ? Impact of rule changes on water rates

Survey data and sewer and water rates for over 500 cities, villages and districts during the 1984-2001 period are available on the Ohio EPA's Fiscal Web page (<http://www.epa.state.oh.us/ofa/ofamain.html>), or by email request to **economic.analysis@epa.state.oh.us**, or by calling 614-644-2897.

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Sewer and Water Rate Calculations Sewer and water charges usually depend on consumption that is measured in gallons or cubic feet, and are calculated for a monthly, bimonthly, or quarterly billing period. The 2001 Sewer and Water Rate Survey presents rates calculated for an assumed level of consumption, in order to standardize sewer and water rates across Ohio and to allow for comparisons among systems.

Annual rates were calculated for residential customers within municipal limits, assuming that a household consists of 3 people individually consuming 85 gallons of water each day. Community annual sewer and water rate calculations assumed one of the following as the average water consumption per household:

- ? 7,756 gallons per month (1,037 cubic feet per month)
- ? 23,268 gallons per quarter (3,111 cubic feet per quarter)

The rates in Appendices 2 and 3 include charges levied for direct use of sewer and water systems. Charges unrelated to sewer and water use, such as income and property taxes, have not been included in rate calculations. Information about other revenue sources has been noted in the appendices, when available.

Actual sewer and water charges for individual households will be higher (or lower) than those listed in Appendices 2 and 3 for those households with average, metered water use more (or less) than 7,756 gallons per month.

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Sewer Rates

The 2001 average annual residential sewer rate in Ohio was \$367, which is a 3.1% increase over 2000. Half of all sewer systems charged rates lower than \$356 per year. Table 1 shows annual sewer rate averages for 1983 through 2001, along with the percentage change in average rates and the consumer price index (CPI-U: Midwest urban prices for all items). Figure 1 displays average annual sewer rate data and a trend line adjusting the base year (1984) average sewer rate for inflation. Figure 2 displays the number of communities charging a range of sewer rates.

Table 1. Annual Residential Sewer Rate and CPI Change 1983 - 2001

Year	Average Rate	Percentage Increase	
		Rate	CPI
1983	\$138	N/A	N/A
1984	\$144	4.3%	3.7%
1985	\$154	6.9%	3.1%
1986	\$163	5.8%	1.1%
1987	\$180	10.4%	3.6%
1988	\$200	11.1%	3.8%
1989	\$217	8.5%	4.7%
1990	\$232	6.9%	4.9%
1991	\$247	6.5%	3.9%
1992	\$259	4.9%	2.8%
1993	\$276	6.6%	2.9%
1994	\$286	3.6%	2.9%
1995	\$297	3.8%	3.1%
1996	\$310	4.4%	3.1%
1997	\$325	4.8%	2.4%
1998	\$335	3.1%	1.7%
1999	\$344	2.7%	2.1%
2000	\$356	3.5%	3.4%

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2001	\$367	3.1%	2.7%
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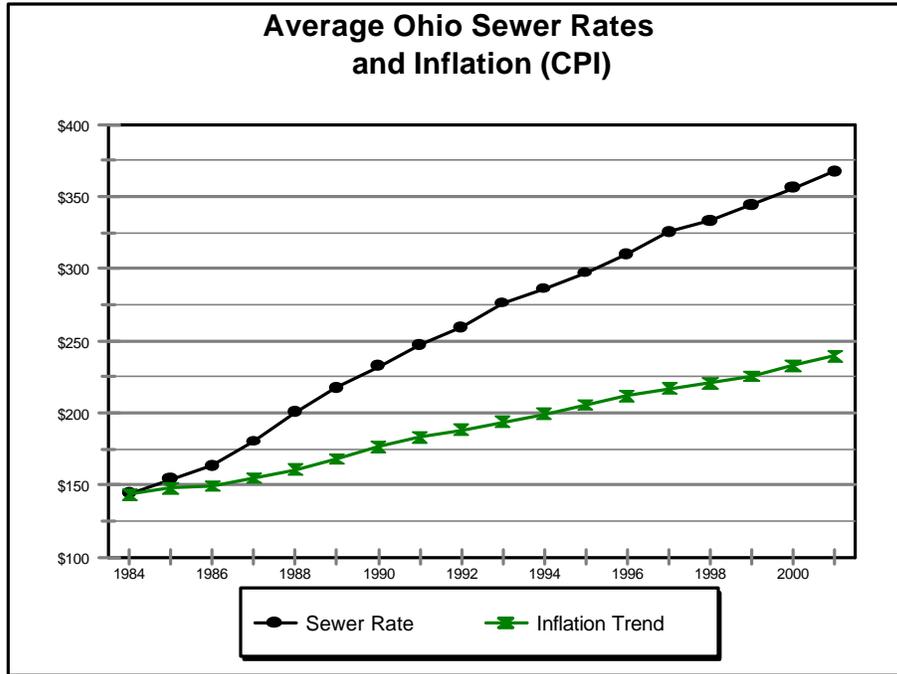


Figure 1: Annual Sewer Rates and Inflation 1984 - 2001

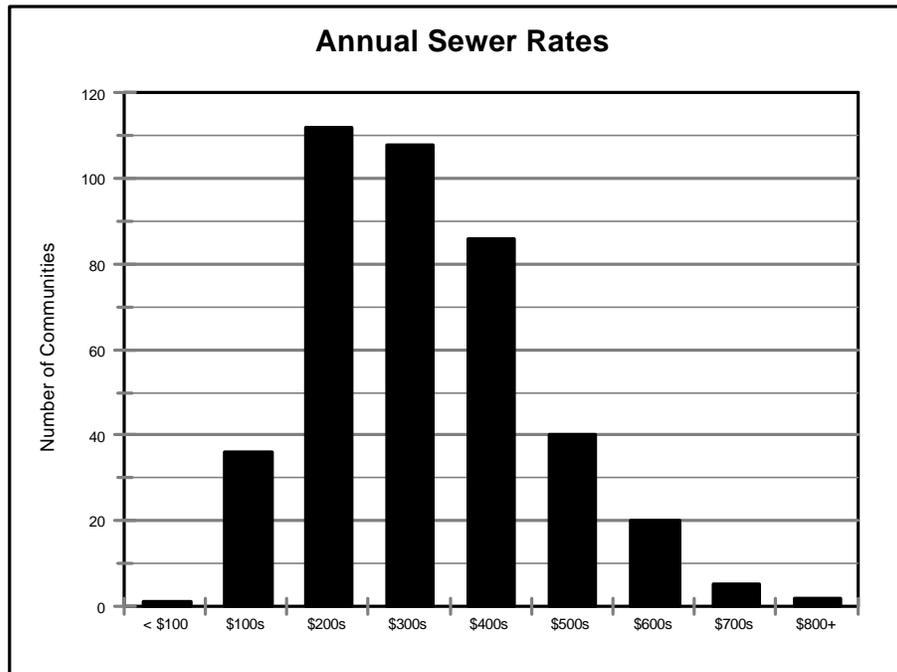


Figure 2: Sewer Rate Distribution in 2001

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Water Rates

The 2001 average annual residential water rate in Ohio was \$336, which is a 2.8% increase over 2000. Half of all water systems charged rates lower than \$312. Table 2 displays annual water rate data for 1984 through 2001, along with the percentage change in average rates and the consumer price index (CPI-U: Midwest urban prices for all items). Figure 3 displays average annual water rate data and a trend line adjusting the base year (1985) average water rate for inflation. Figure 4 displays the number of communities charging a range of water rates.

Table 2. Annual Residential Water Rate and CPI Change 1984 - 2001

Year	Average Rate	Percentage Increase	
		Rate	CPI
1984	\$155	N/A	N/A
1985	\$162	4.5%	3.1%
1986	\$167	3.1%	1.1%
1987	\$175	4.8%	3.6%
1988	\$180	2.9%	3.8%
1989	\$188	4.4%	4.7%
1990	\$195	3.7%	4.9%
1991	\$210	7.7%	3.9%
1992	\$225	7.1%	2.8%
1993	\$239	6.2%	2.9%
1994	\$254	6.3%	2.9%
1995	\$269	5.9%	3.1%
1996	\$281	4.5%	3.1%
1997	\$296	5.3%	2.4%
1998	\$306	3.4%	1.7%
1999	\$316	3.3%	2.1%
2000	\$327	3.5%	3.4%
2001	\$336	2.8%	2.7%

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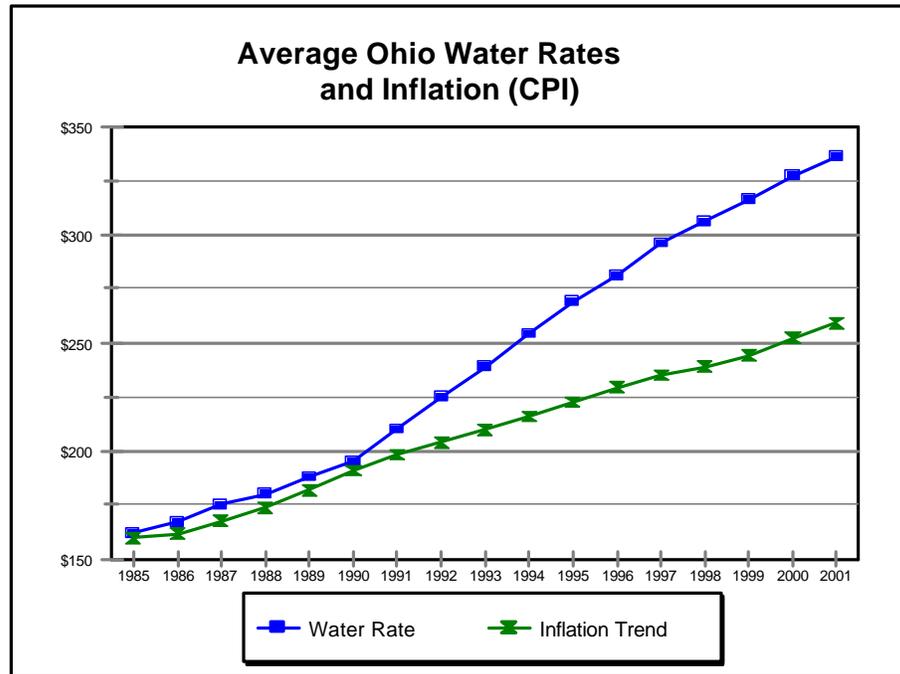


Figure 3: Annual Water Rates and Inflation 1985 - 2001

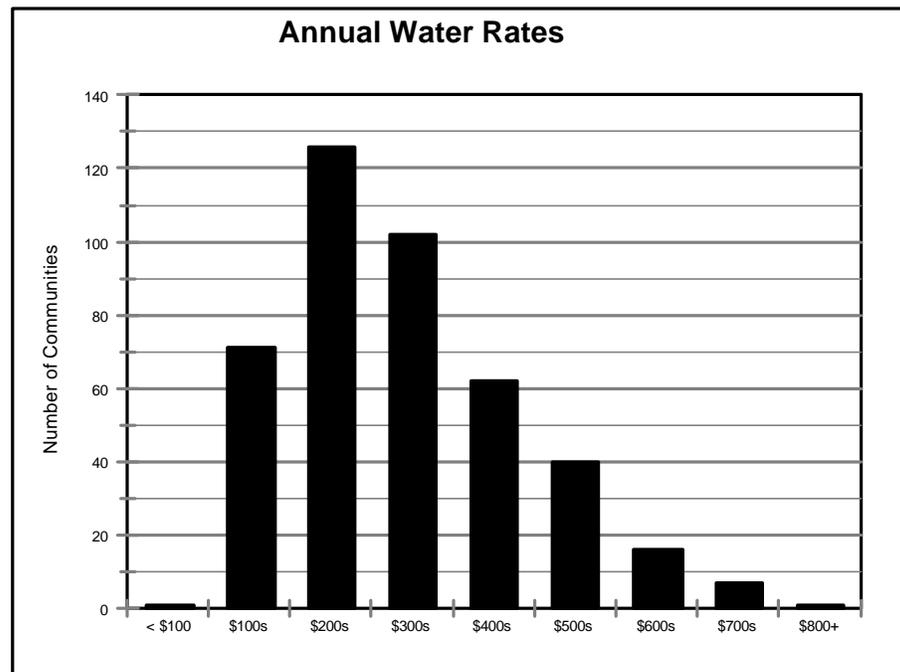


Figure 4: Water Rate Distribution in 2001

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Sewer and Water Of 410 sewer systems, 114 reported a rate increase during 2001.
Rate Increases Of 419 water systems, 129 reported a rate increase.

Statistical Section

Table 3. Descriptive Statistics for Appendix 2 Sewer Rates

Count	410
Mean	367
Median	356
Mode	294
Range	916
Standard Deviation	138.10
Minimum	93
Maximum	1009
25 th Percentile	262
75 th Percentile	456

Table 5. Descriptive Statistics for Appendix 3 Water Rates

Count	426
Mean	336
Median	312
Mode	298
Range	712
Standard Deviation	140.95
Minimum	94
Maximum	806
25 th Percentile	231

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75 th Percentile	425
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