

For Release: Tuesday, June 23, 2015

15-1258-PHL

MID-ATLANTIC INFORMATION OFFICE: Philadelphia, Pa.

Technical information: (215) 597-3282 • BLSInfoPhiladelphia@bls.gov • www.bls.gov/regions/mid-atlantic/

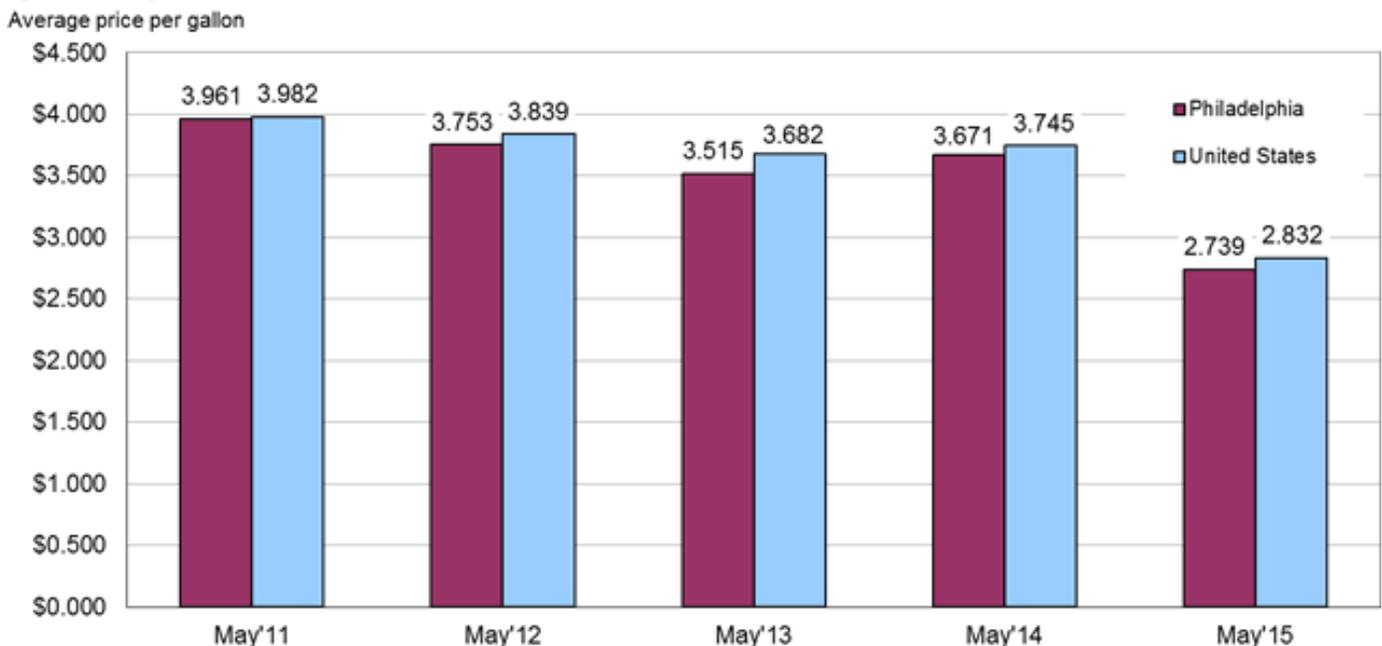
Media contact: (215) 861-5600 • BLSMediaPhiladelphia@bls.gov

Average Energy Prices, Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City – May 2015

Gasoline prices averaged \$2.739 a gallon in the Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City area in May 2015, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that area gasoline prices were down \$0.932 compared to last May when they averaged \$3.671 per gallon. Philadelphia area households paid an average of 15.6 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity in May 2015, unchanged from May 2014. The average cost of utility (piped) gas at \$1.118 per therm in May was 9.1 percent below its price of \$1.230 per therm a year earlier. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

At \$2.739 a gallon, the price for gasoline in the Philadelphia area was roughly 10 cents less than the national average of \$2.832 a gallon in May 2015. A year earlier, the price for a gallon of gasoline in the Philadelphia area was also close to the national average. In fact, local prices for a gallon of gasoline in May differed from the national average by less than 5 percent from 2011 to 2015. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

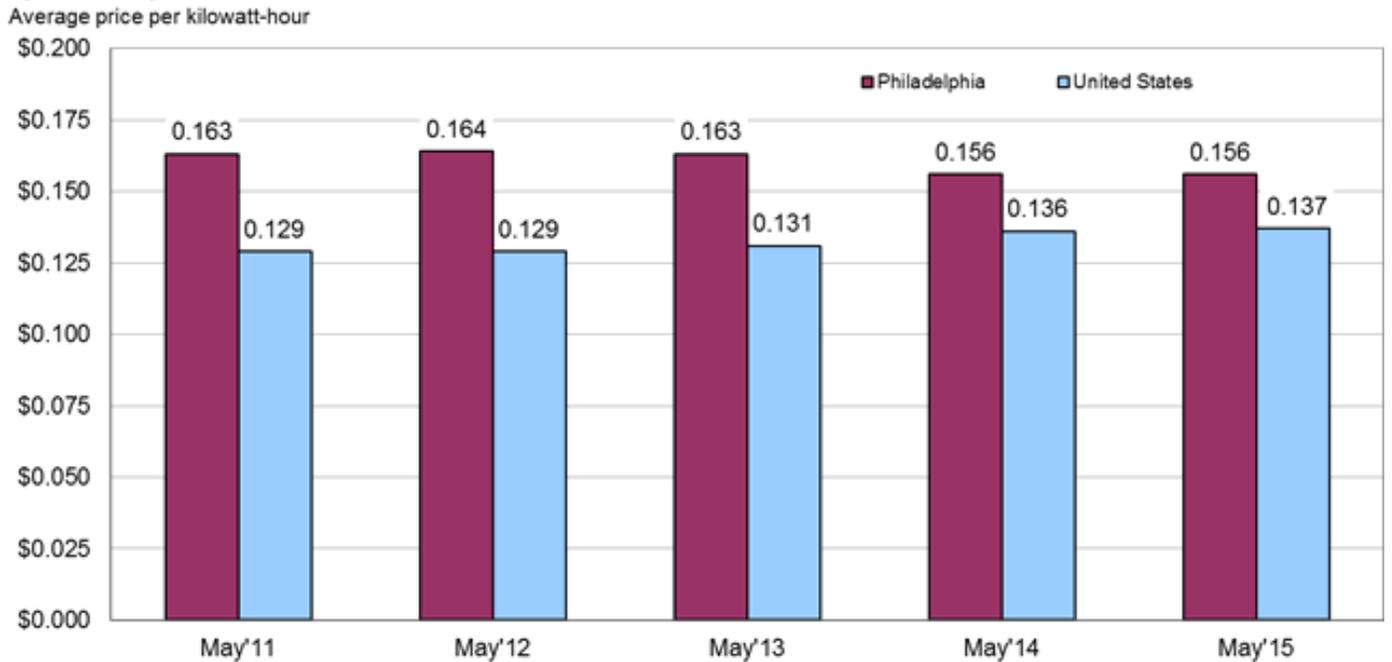
Chart 1. Average prices for gasoline, Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City and United States, May 2011-May 2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The 15.6 cents per kWh that Philadelphia households paid for electricity in May 2015 was 13.9 percent higher than the nationwide average cost of 13.7 cents per kWh. Last May, electricity prices in Philadelphia were 14.7 percent higher than the nation. From 2011 to 2013, prices paid by Philadelphia area consumers for electricity in May exceeded the U.S. average by more than 20 percent. (See [chart 2](#).)

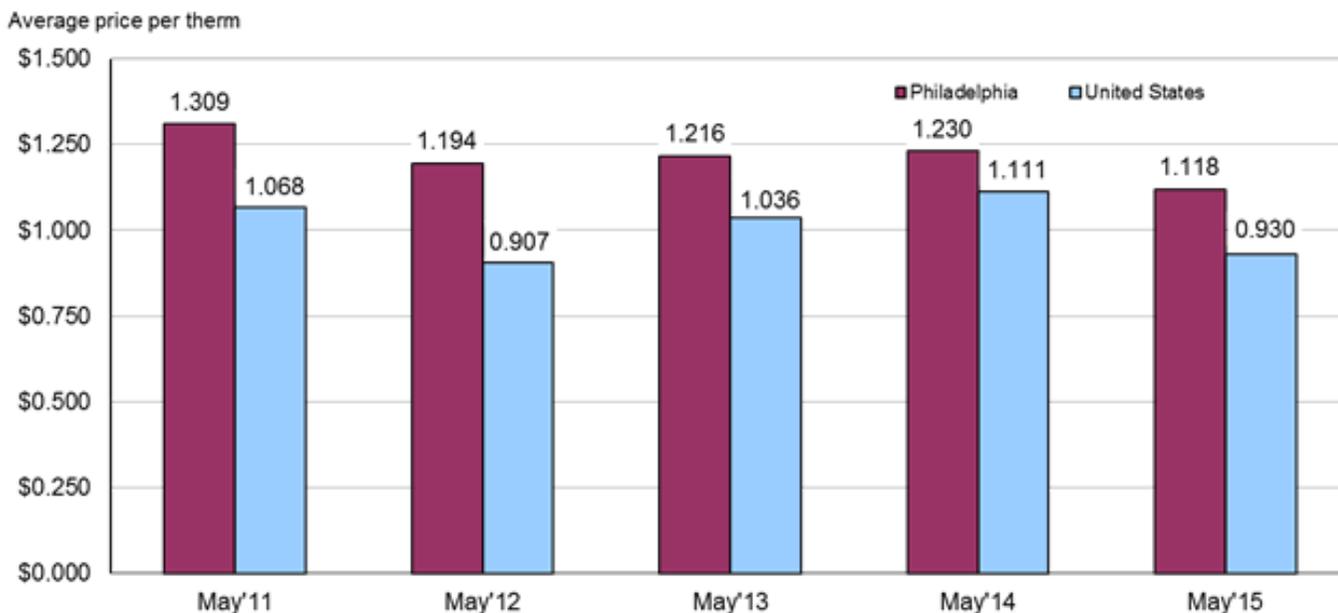
Chart 2. Average prices for electricity Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City and United States, May 2011-May 2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The price paid by Philadelphia area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, was \$1.118 per therm in May 2015, 20.2 percent above the national average of \$0.930 per therm. Utility (piped) gas prices in the Philadelphia area were also above the national average in May for the previous four years, ranging from 10.7 percent to 31.6 percent higher. (See [chart 3](#).)

Chart 3. Average prices for utility (piped) gas, Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City and United States, May 2011-May 2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The **Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md. Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties in Pennsylvania; Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties in New Jersey; New Castle County in Delaware; and Cecil County in Maryland.

The Consumer Price Index for June 2015 is scheduled to be released on Friday, July 17, 2015, at 8:30 a.m. (ET).

Technical Note

Average prices are estimated from Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for selected commodity series to support the research and analytic needs of CPI data users. Average prices for electricity, utility (piped) gas, and gasoline are published monthly for the U.S. city average, the 4 regions, the 3 population size classes, 10 region/size-class cross-classifications, and the 14 largest local index areas. For electricity, average prices per kilowatt-hour (kWh) are published. For utility (piped) gas, average prices per therm are published. For gasoline, the average price per gallon is published. Average prices for commonly available grades of gasoline are published as well as the average price across all grades.

All eligible prices are converted to a price per normalized quantity. These prices are then used to estimate a price for a defined fixed quantity. The average price per kilowatt-hour represents the total bill divided by the kilowatt-hour usage. The total bill is the sum of all items applicable to all consumers appearing on an electricity bill including, but not limited to, variable rates per kWh, fixed costs, taxes, surcharges, and credits. This calculation also applies to the average price per therm for utility (piped) gas.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; Federal Relay Service: 1-800-877-8339.

Table 1. Average prices for gasoline, electricity, and utility (piped) gas, United States and the Philadelphia area, May 2014-May 2015, not seasonally adjusted

Year and Month	Gasoline per gallon		Electricity per kWh		Utility (piped) gas per therm	
	Philadelphia	United States	Philadelphia	United States	Philadelphia	United States
2014						
May.....	3.671	3.745	0.156	0.136	1.230	1.111
June.....	3.662	3.750	0.157	0.143	1.233	1.088
July.....	3.640	3.690	0.159	0.143	1.236	1.093
August.....	3.433	3.540	0.158	0.143	1.237	1.060
September.....	3.385	3.463	0.156	0.141	1.144	1.058
October.....	3.158	3.241	0.154	0.136	1.165	1.033
November.....	2.899	2.945	0.154	0.134	1.140	1.035
December.....	2.693	2.618	0.159	0.135	1.146	1.060
2015						
January.....	2.297	2.170	0.159	0.138	1.140	1.036
February.....	2.300	2.308	0.160	0.138	1.140	1.007
March.....	2.449	2.544	0.156	0.136	1.092	0.985
April.....	2.485	2.545	0.157	0.137	1.087	0.947
May.....	2.739	2.832	0.156	0.137	1.118	0.930