



For Release: Wednesday, November 15, 2017

17-1537-PHI

MID-ATLANTIC INFORMATION OFFICE: Philadelphia, Pa.

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

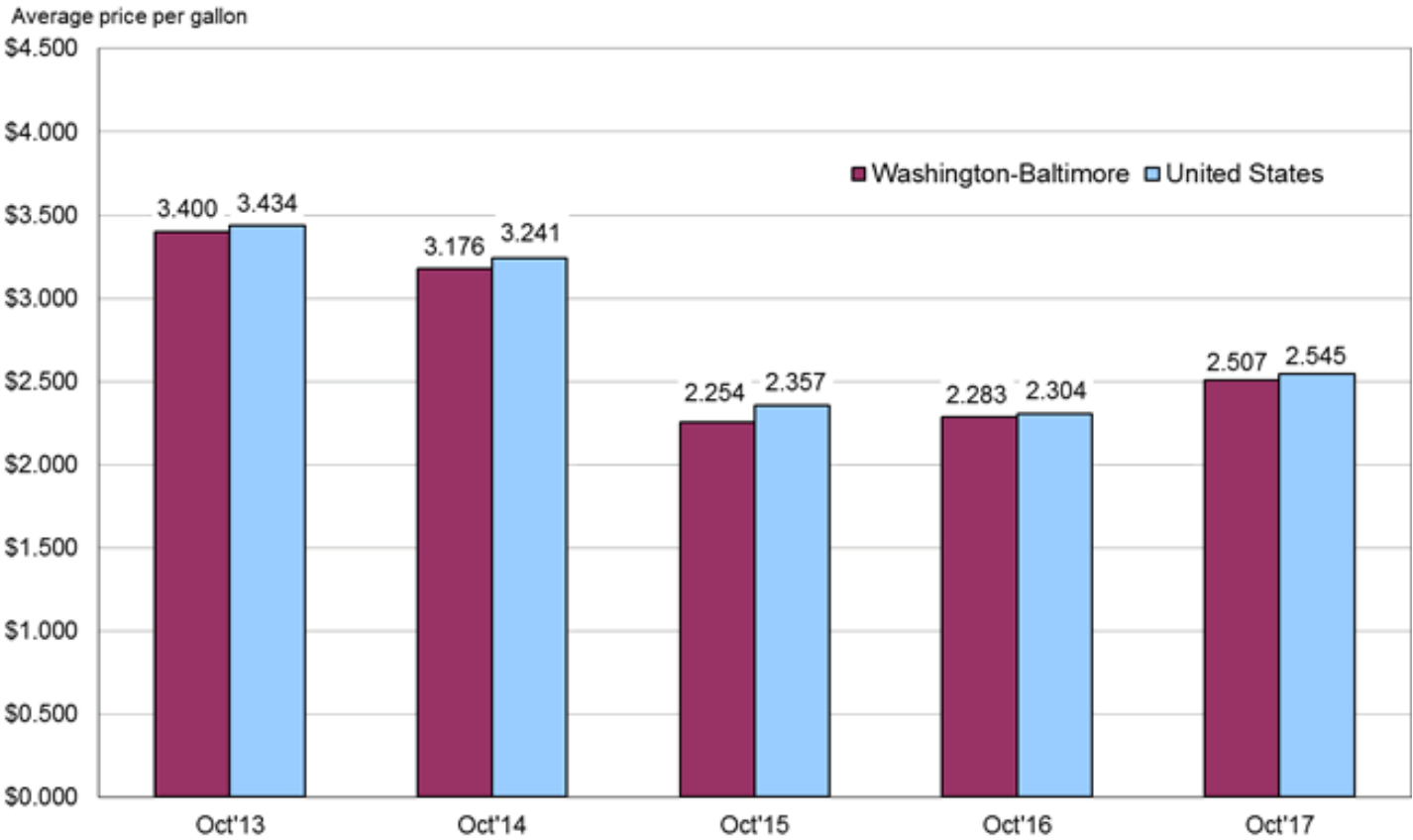
Media contact: (215) 861-5600 BLSMediaPhiladelphia@bls.gov

Average Energy Prices, Washington-Baltimore – October 2017

Gasoline prices averaged \$2.507 a gallon in the Washington-Baltimore area in October 2017, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Sheila Watkins noted that area gasoline prices were 9.8 percent higher than last October when they averaged \$2.283 per gallon. Washington area households paid an average of 13.2 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity in October 2017, down 3.6 percent compared to the 13.7 cents per kWh in October 2016. The average price of utility (piped) gas at \$1.208 per therm in October 2017 was up 14.9 percent from \$1.051 per therm a year earlier. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

At \$2.507 a gallon, Washington area consumers paid close to the national average of \$2.545 for a gallon of gasoline in October 2017. Last October, gasoline prices in Washington were also close to the national average. From 2013 to 2015, prices for a gallon of gasoline in Washington differed from the U.S. average by less than 5.0 percent in October. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Average prices for gasoline, Washington-Baltimore and United States, October 2013–October 2017

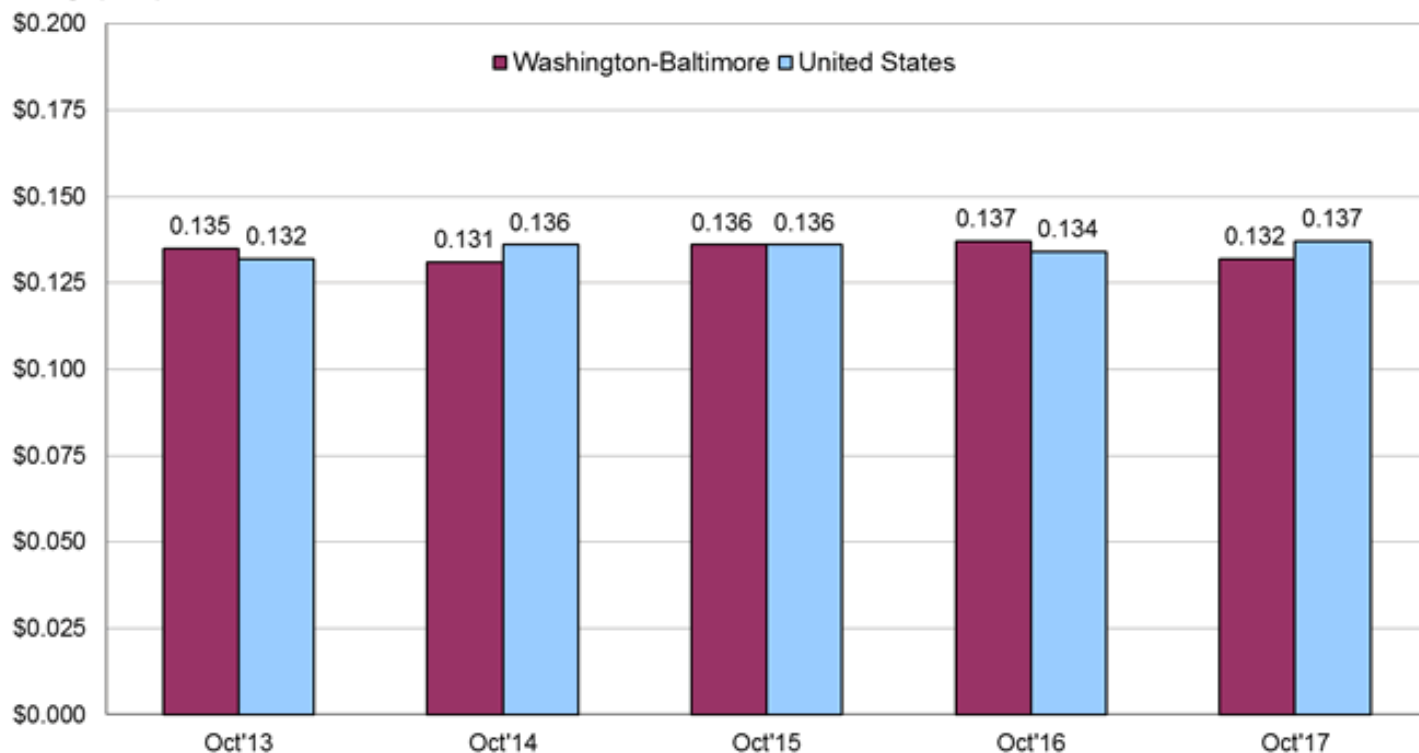


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The 13.2 cents per kWh that Washington households paid for electricity in October 2017 was 3.6 percent below the nationwide average of 13.7 cents. Last October, the price per kWh for electricity in Washington was close to the national average. From 2013 to 2015, the price differentials between the Washington area and the national average for electricity ranged from -3.7 to 2.3 percent in October. (See [chart 2.](#))

Chart 2. Average prices for electricity, Washington-Baltimore and United States, October 2013–October 2017

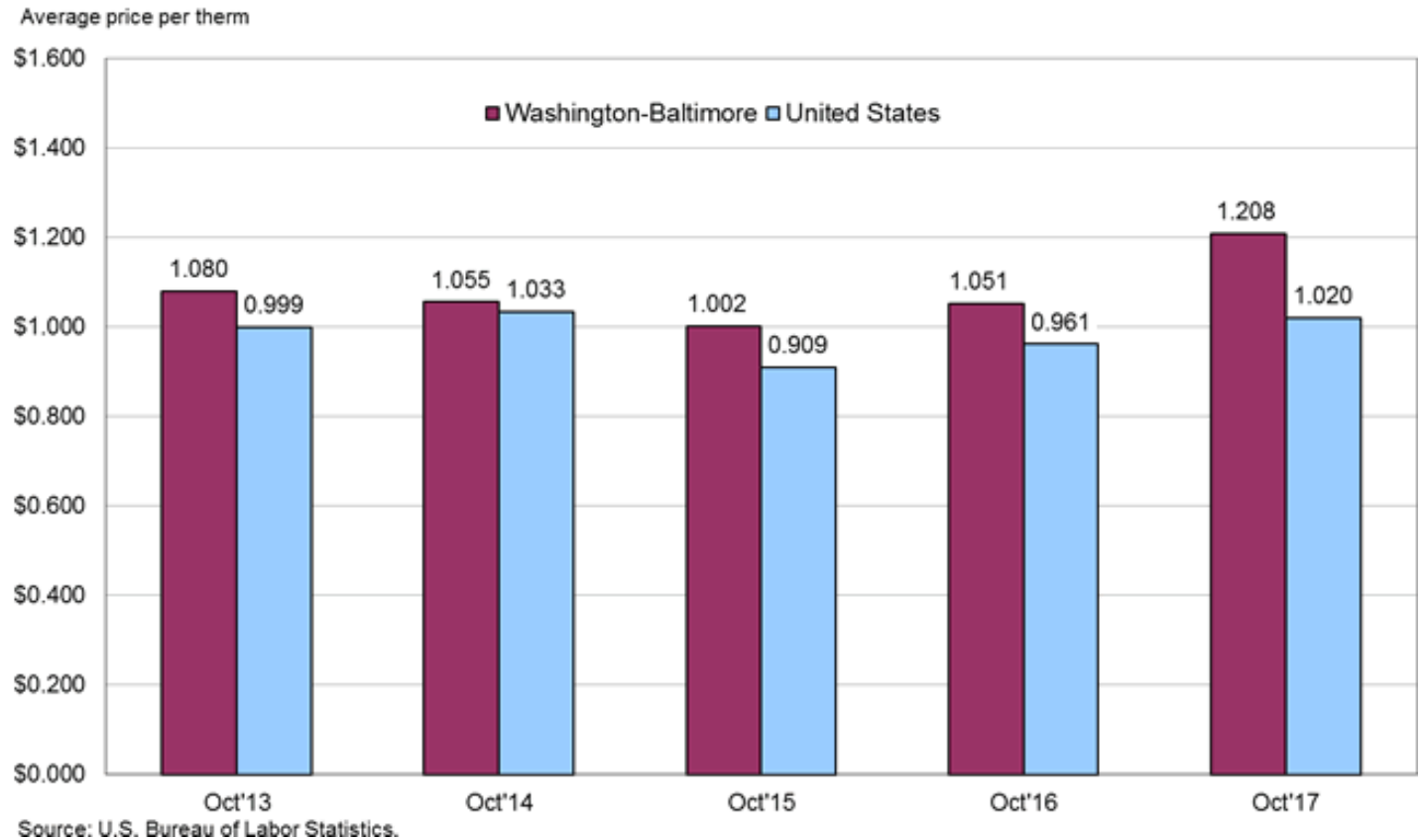
Average price per kilowatt-hour



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The price paid by Washington area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, was \$1.208 per therm in October, 18.4 percent above the national average of \$1.020 per therm. From 2013 to 2016, the price differentials for utility (piped) gas between the Washington area and the national average ranged from 2.1 to 10.2 percent in October. (See [chart 3.](#))

Chart 3. Average prices for utility (piped) gas, Washington-Baltimore and United States, October 2013–October 2017



The Consumer Price Index for November 2017 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, December 13, 2017, at 8:30 a.m. (ET).

Consumer Price Index and Average Energy Price Geographic Revision for 2018

In January 2018, BLS will introduce a new geographic area sample for the Consumer Price Index (CPI). As part of the new sample, Washington DC and Baltimore will have separate indexes and average energy price data. The first releases using the new structure will be published in February 2018. Additional information on the geographic revision is available at: www.bls.gov/cpi/additional-resources/geographic-revision-2018.htm.

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: (800) 877-8339.

The **Washington-Baltimore, D.C.-Md.-Va.-W.Va., Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes the District of Columbia; Baltimore City and the counties of Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Charles, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, and Washington in Maryland; the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas, and Manassas Park and the counties of Arlington, Clarke, Culpeper, Fairfax, Fauquier, King George, Loudoun, Prince William, Spotsylvania, Stafford, and Warren in Virginia; and the counties of Berkeley and Jefferson in West Virginia.

Table 1. Average prices for gasoline, electricity, and utility (piped) gas, United States and the Washington-Baltimore area, October 2016-October 2017, not seasonally adjusted

Year and Month	Gasoline per gallon		Electricity per kWh		Utility (piped) gas per therm	
	United States	Washington-Baltimore	United States	Washington-Baltimore	United States	Washington-Baltimore
2016						
October.....	\$2.304	\$2.283	\$0.134	\$0.137	\$0.961	\$1.051
November.....	2.246	2.249	0.131	0.128	0.970	1.157
December.....	2.289	2.303	0.133	0.128	0.972	1.109
2017						
January.....	2.409	2.416	0.134	0.128	1.000	1.150
February.....	2.360	2.337	0.135	0.130	1.003	1.205
March.....	2.386	2.350	0.134	0.129	0.989	1.234
April.....	2.479	2.429	0.135	0.130	1.000	1.274
May.....	2.448	2.402	0.137	0.130	1.036	1.357
June.....	2.400	2.368	0.142	0.133	1.040	1.397
July.....	2.344	2.303	0.143	0.136	1.031	1.387
August.....	2.436	2.384	0.142	0.136	1.027	1.342
September.....	2.688	2.709	0.142	0.134	1.018	1.221
October.....	2.545	2.507	0.137	0.132	1.020	1.208