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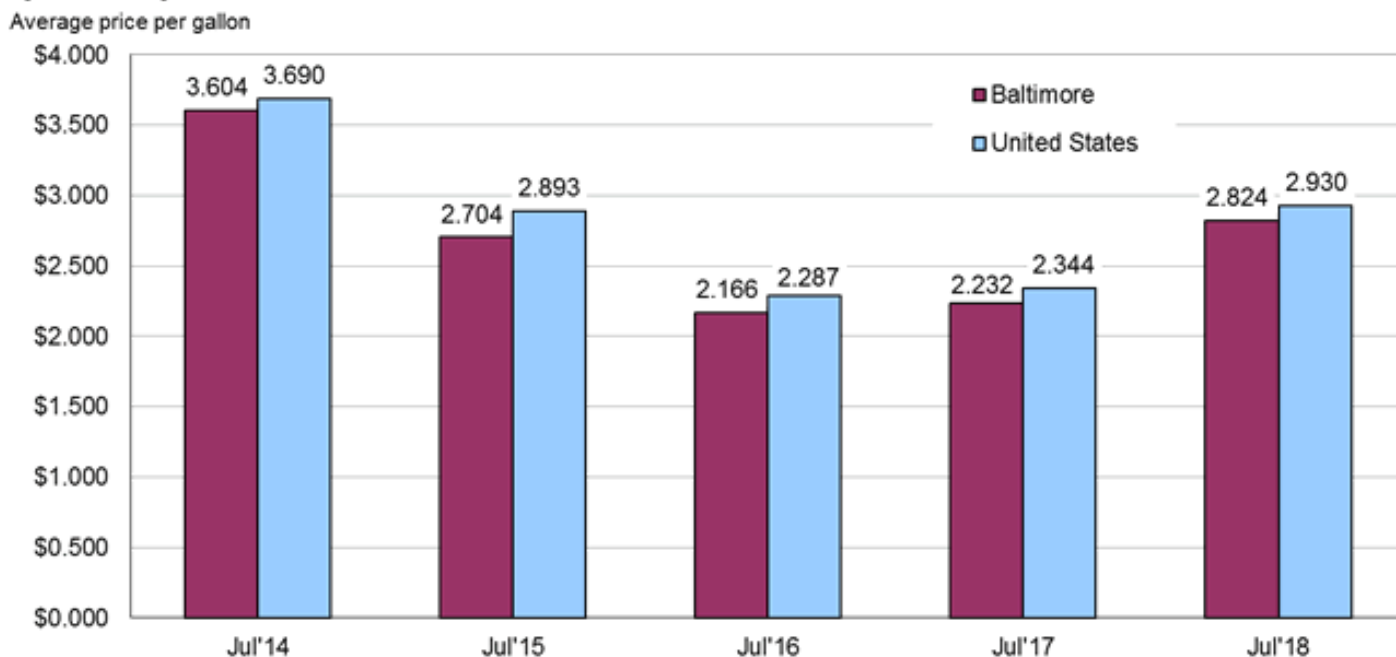
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Average Energy Prices, Baltimore-Columbia-Towson – July 2018

Gasoline prices averaged \$2.824 a gallon in the Baltimore-Columbia-Towson area in July 2018, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's Regional Commissioner, noted that area gasoline prices were up 26.5 percent from last July when they averaged \$2.232 per gallon. Baltimore-area households paid an average of 12.4 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity in July 2018, 10.8 percent lower than the 13.9 cents paid in July 2017. The average cost of utility (piped) gas at \$1.025 per therm in July was 16.6 percent lower than its price of \$1.229 per therm a year earlier. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

At \$2.824 a gallon, the price for gasoline in the Baltimore area was 3.6 percent lower than the national average of \$2.930 a gallon in July 2018. Gasoline prices in the Baltimore area were close to the national average in July for the previous four years, ranging from 2.3 percent to 6.5 percent lower. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1.](#))

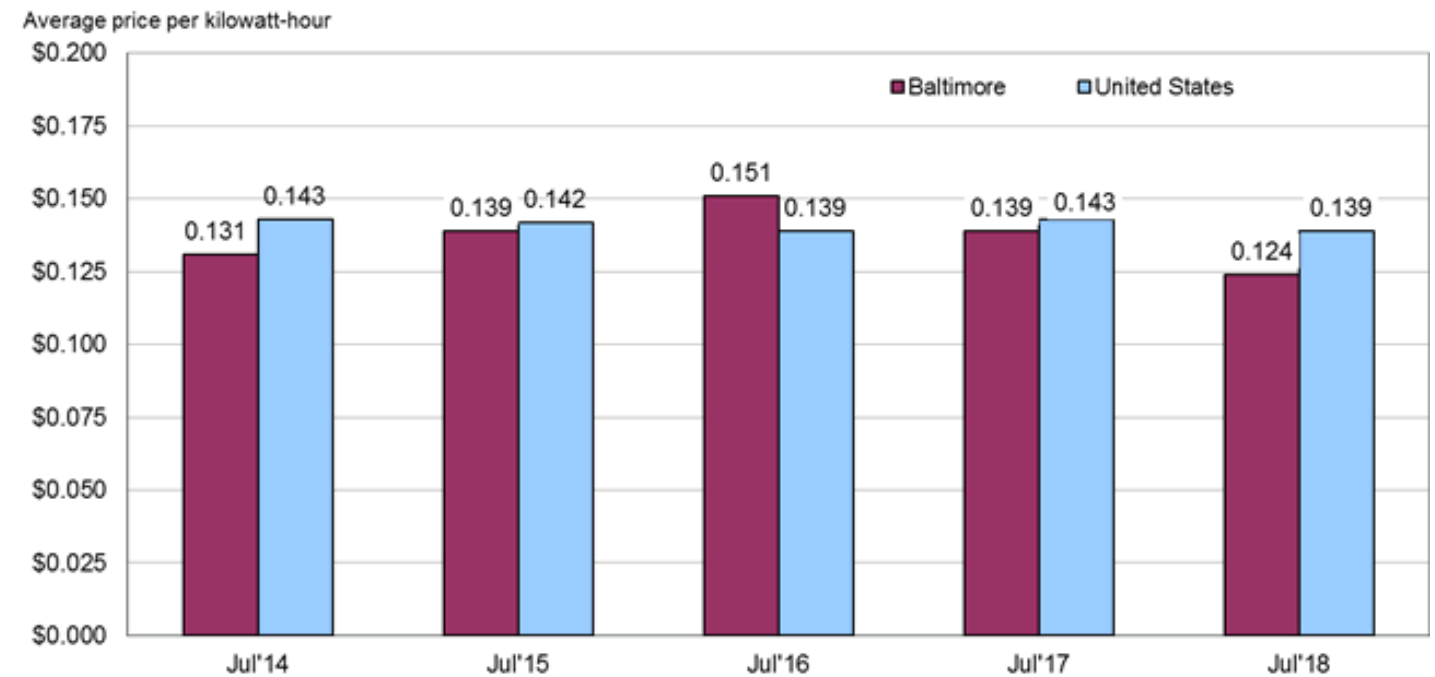
Chart 1. Average prices for gasoline, Baltimore-Columbia-Towson and United States, July 2014–July 2018



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

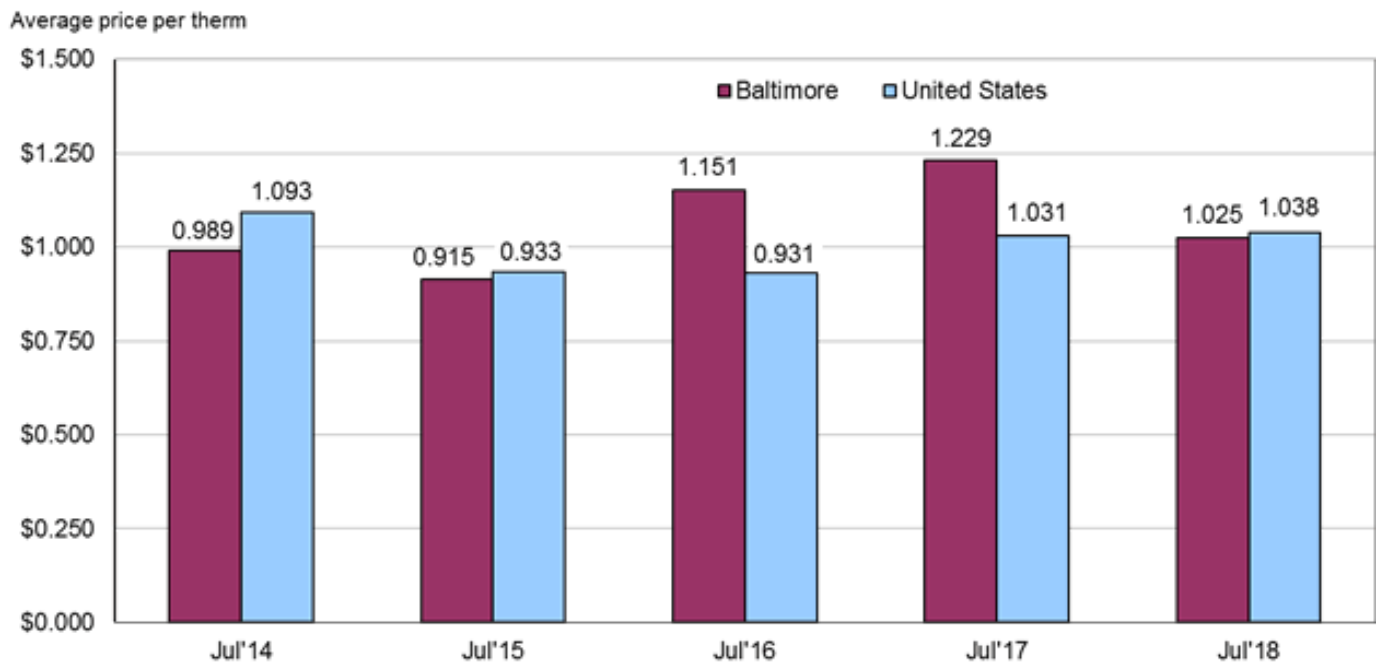
The 12.4 cents per kWh that Baltimore households paid for electricity in July 2018 was lower than the nationwide average cost of 13.9 cents per kWh. Last July, electricity prices in Baltimore were 2.8 percent lower than the nation. From 2014 to 2016, prices paid by Baltimore-area consumers for electricity in July ranged from 8.4 percent lower than the U.S. average to exceeding it by 8.6 percent. (See [chart 2.](#))

Chart 2. Average prices for electricity, Baltimore-Columbia-Towson and United States, July 2014–July 2018



The price paid by Baltimore-area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, was \$1.025 per therm in July 2018, close to the national average of \$1.038 per therm. Utility (piped) gas prices in the Baltimore area ranged from 9.5 percent lower to 23.6 percent higher in July from 2014 to 2017. (See [chart 3](#).)

Chart 3. Average prices for utility (piped) gas, Baltimore-Columbia-Towson and United States, July 2014–July 2018



The Consumer Price Index for August 2018 is scheduled to be released on Thursday, September 13, 2018, 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, 9 divisions, 2 population size classes, 8 region/size-class cross-classifications, and the 23 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 **Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD, Core Based Statistical Area** includes Baltimore City and the counties of Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard, and Queen Anne's in Maryland.

Table 1. Average prices for gasoline, electricity, and utility (piped) gas, United States and the Baltimore area, July 2017–July 2018, not seasonally adjusted

Year and Month	Gasoline per gallon		Electricity per kWh		Utility (piped) gas per therm	
	Baltimore	United States	Baltimore	United States	Baltimore	United States
2017						
July	\$2.232	\$2.344	\$0.139	\$0.143	\$1.229	\$1.031
August	2.318	2.436	0.139	0.142	1.232	1.027
September	2.676	2.688	0.136	0.142	1.236	1.018
October	2.351	2.545	0.135	0.137	1.214	1.020
November	2.465	2.608	0.135	0.136	1.203	1.028
December	2.389	2.521	0.135	0.136	1.235	1.042
2018						
January	2.543	2.596	0.136	0.135	1.263	1.048
February	2.547	2.632	0.132	0.135	1.234	1.077
March	2.498	2.610	0.129	0.135	1.088	1.054
April	2.693	2.795	0.130	0.134	1.152	1.044
May	2.856	2.963	0.124	0.136	1.057	1.050
June	2.874	2.970	0.124	0.139	1.058	1.042
July	2.824	2.930	0.124	0.139	1.025	1.038