



For Release: Thursday, April 12, 2018

18-598-PHL

MID-ATLANTIC INFORMATION OFFICE: Philadelphia, Pa.

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

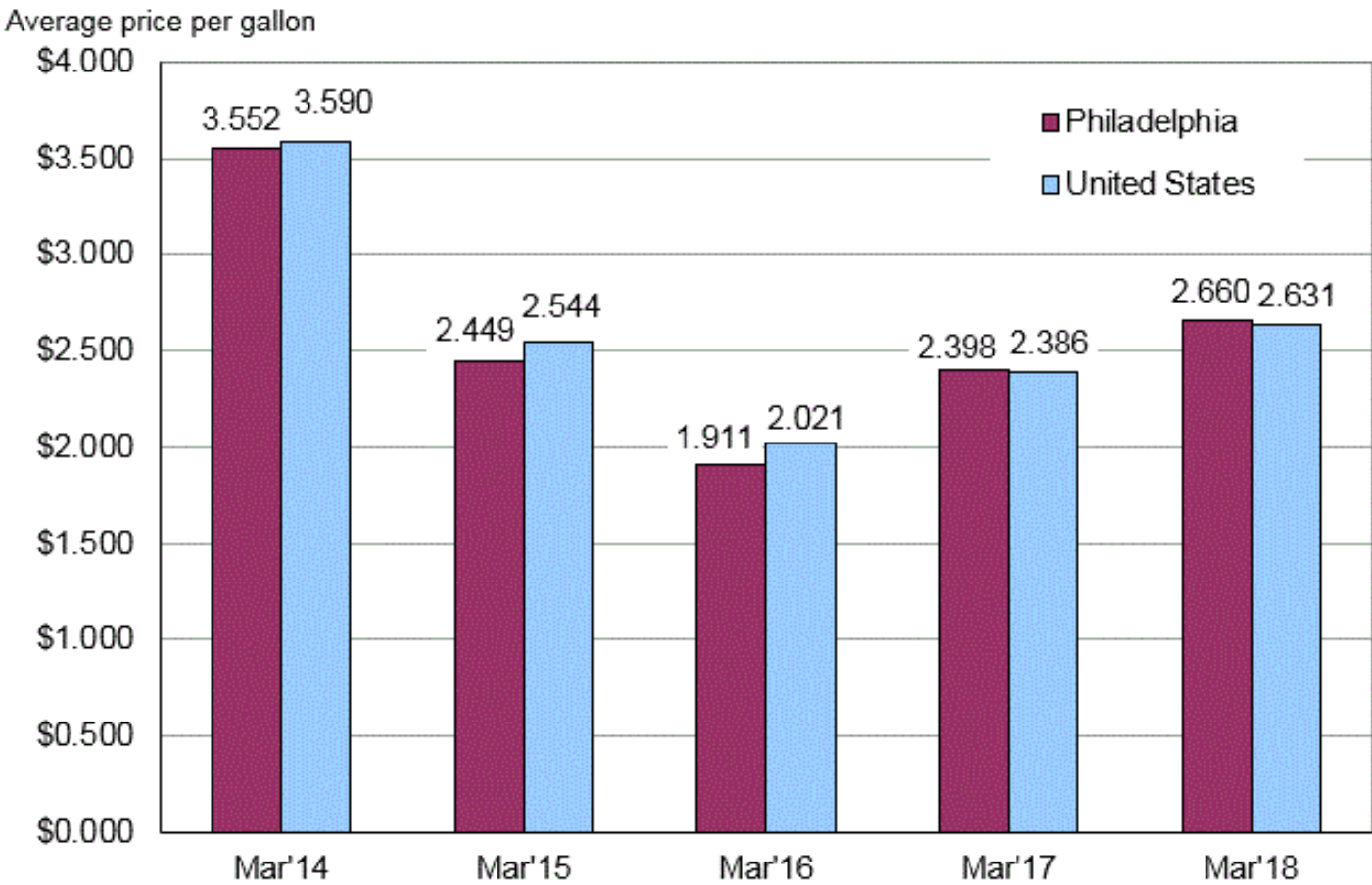
Media contact: (215) 861-5600 BLSMediaPhiladelphia@bls.gov

Average Energy Prices, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington – March 2018

Gasoline prices averaged \$2.660 a gallon in the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington area in March 2018, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's Regional Commissioner, noted that area gasoline prices were up 10.9 percent from last March when they averaged \$2.398 per gallon. Philadelphia-area households paid an average of 14.5 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity in March 2018, close to the 15.0 cents paid in March 2017. The average cost of utility (piped) gas at \$1.138 per therm in March was 7.1 percent higher than its price of \$1.063 per therm a year earlier. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

At \$2.660 a gallon, the price for gasoline in the Philadelphia area was close to the national average of \$2.631 a gallon in March 2018. Last March, gasoline prices in the Philadelphia area were also close to the national average. From 2014 to 2016, local prices for gasoline in March were below the national average. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Average prices for gasoline, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington and United States, March 2014–March 2018

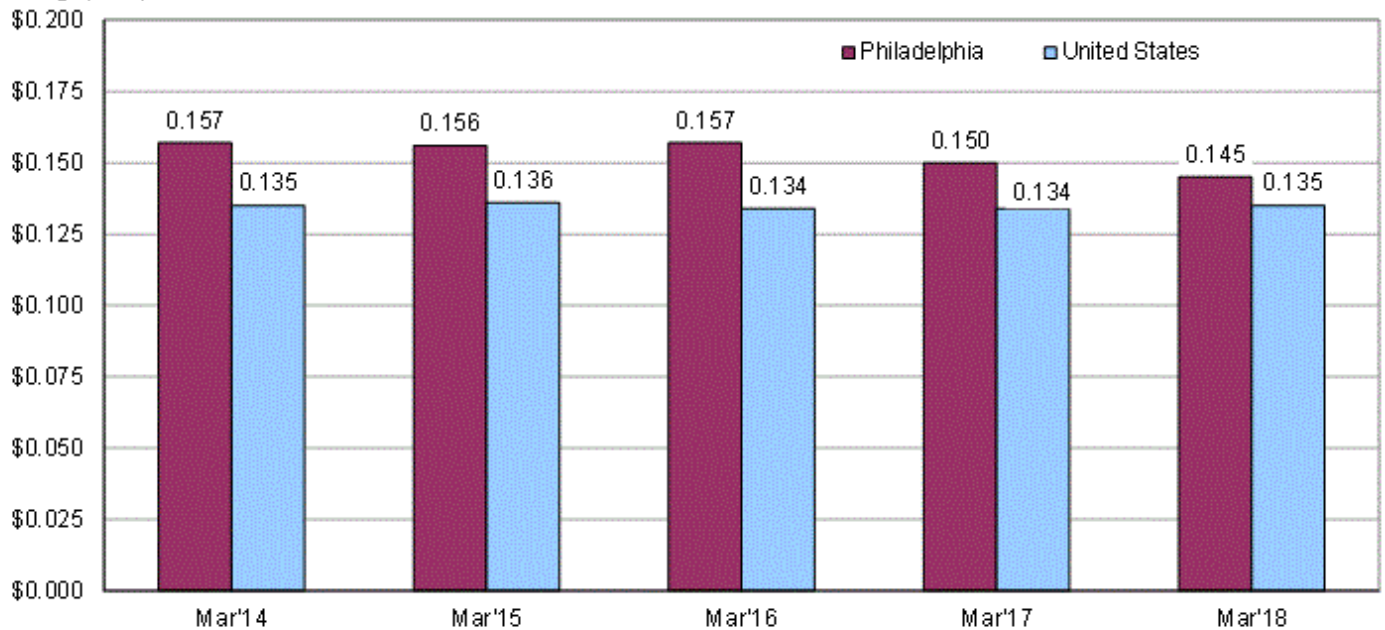


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The 14.5 cents per kWh that Philadelphia households paid for electricity in March 2018 was 7.4 percent higher than the nationwide average cost of 13.5 cents per kWh. Last March, electricity prices in Philadelphia were 11.9 percent higher than the nation. From 2014 to 2016, prices paid by Philadelphia-area consumers for electricity in March exceeded the U.S. average by 14.7 percent or more. (See [chart 2.](#))

Chart 2. Average prices for electricity, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington and United States, March 2014–March 2018

Average price per kilowatt-hour

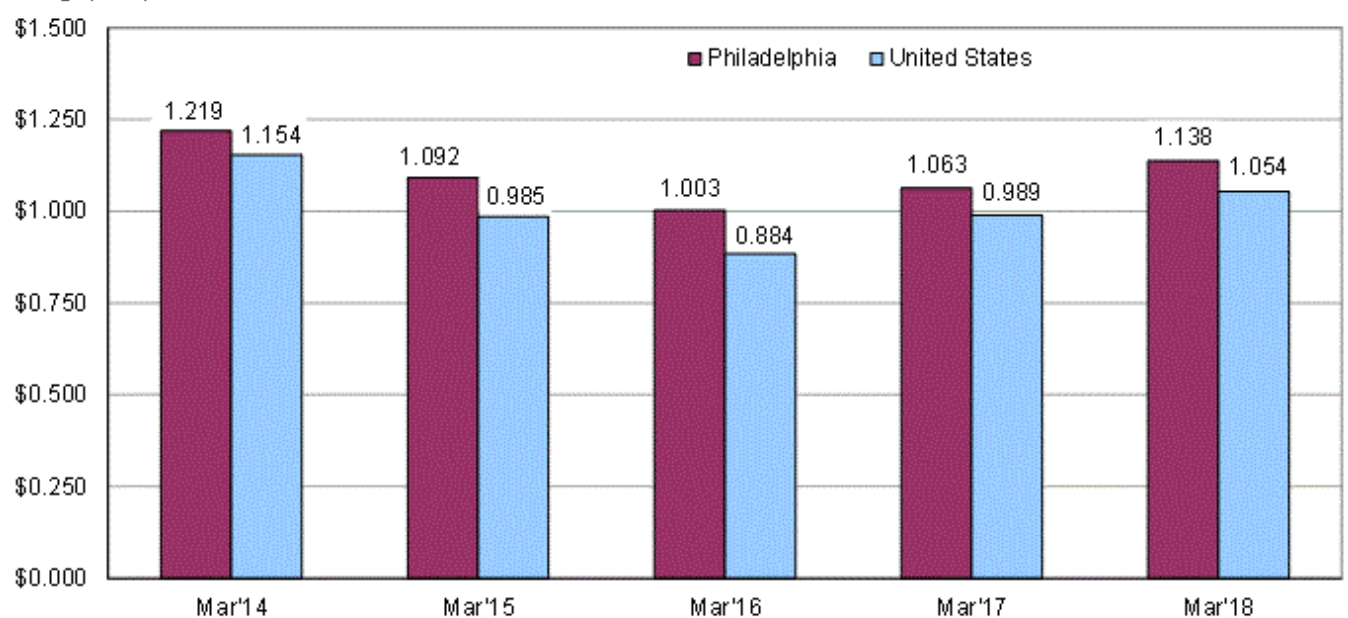


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The price paid by Philadelphia-area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, was \$1.138 per therm in March 2018, 8.0 percent higher than the national average of \$1.054 per therm. Utility (piped) gas prices in the Philadelphia area were also above the national average in March for the previous four years, ranging from 5.6 percent to 13.5 percent higher. (See [chart 3](#).)

Chart 3. Average prices for utility (piped) gas, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington and United States, March 2014–March 2018

Average price per therm



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The Consumer Price Index for April 2018 is scheduled to be released on Thursday, May 10, 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 **Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD Core Based Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties in Pennsylvania; Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Salem Counties in New Jersey; New Castle County in Delaware; and Cecil County in Maryland.

Table 1. Average prices for gasoline, electricity, and utility (piped) gas, United States and the Philadelphia area, March 2017–March 2018, 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
2017						
March	\$2.398	\$2.386	\$0.150	\$0.134	\$1.063	\$0.989
April	2.564	2.479	0.151	0.135	1.061	1.000
May	2.528	2.448	0.152	0.137	1.063	1.036
June	2.465	2.400	0.153	0.142	1.060	1.040
July	2.424	2.344	0.153	0.143	1.064	1.031
August	2.533	2.436	0.152	0.142	1.064	1.027
September	2.831	2.688	0.152	0.142	1.029	1.018
October	2.622	2.545	0.145	0.137	1.034	1.020
November	2.664	2.608	0.148	0.136	1.076	1.028
December	2.596	2.521	0.150	0.136	1.108	1.042
2018						
January	2.733	2.596	0.147	0.135	1.090	1.048
February	2.763	2.632	0.148	0.135	1.095	1.077
March	2.660	2.631	0.145	0.135	1.138	1.054