



For Release: Friday, August 10, 2018

18-1333-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

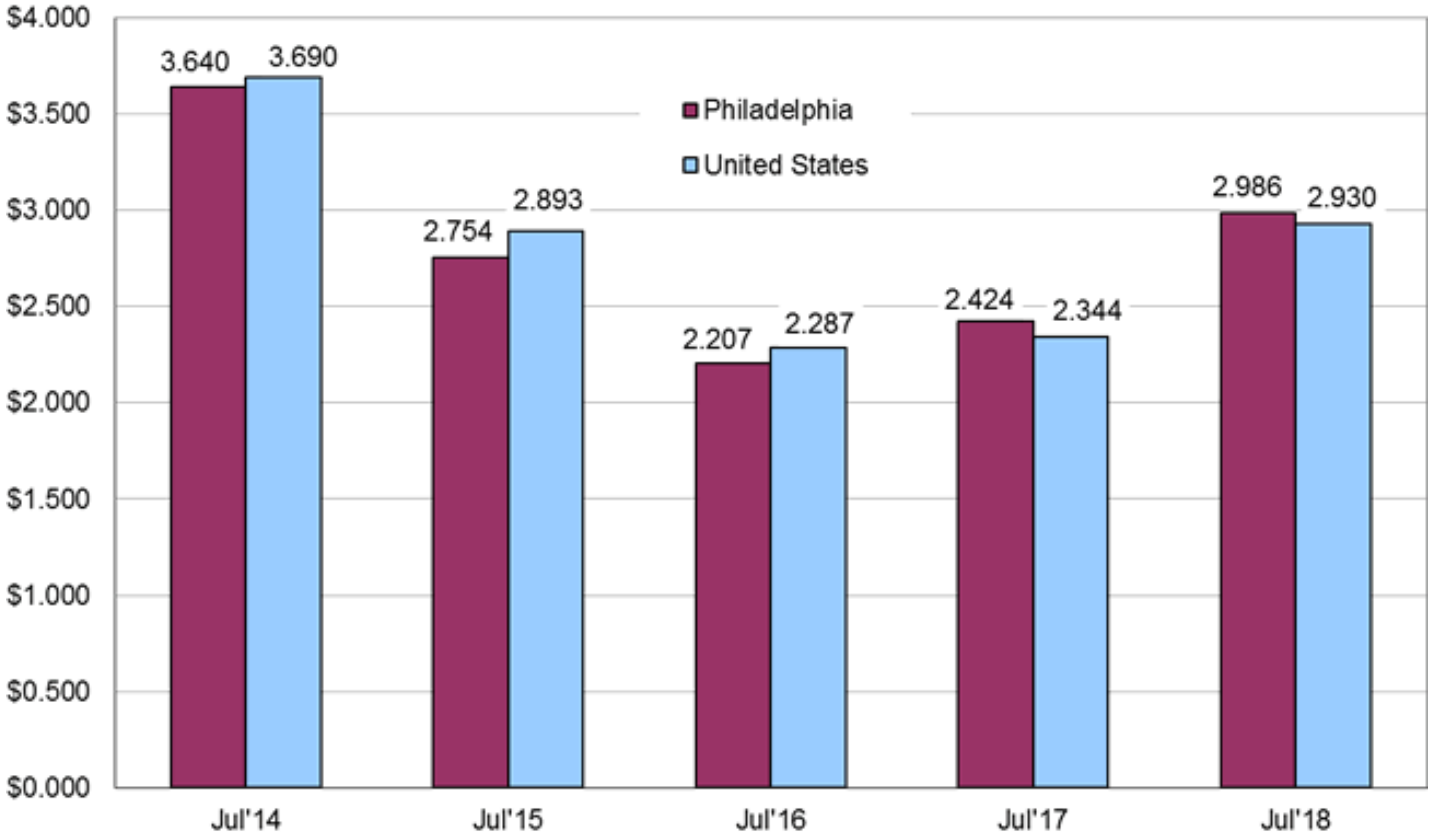
Average Energy Prices, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington – July 2018

Gasoline prices averaged \$2.986 a gallon in the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington 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 23.2 percent from last July when they averaged \$2.424 per gallon. Philadelphia-area households paid an average of 15.5 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity in July 2018, close to the 15.3 cents paid in July 2017. The average cost of utility (piped) gas at \$1.096 per therm in July was 3.0 percent higher than its price of \$1.064 per therm a year earlier. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

At \$2.986 a gallon, the price for gasoline in the Philadelphia area was close to the national average of \$2.930 a gallon in July 2018. Last July, gasoline prices in the Philadelphia area were also close to the national average. From 2014 to 2016, local and national prices for gasoline in July differed by 4.8 percent or less. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

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

Average price per gallon

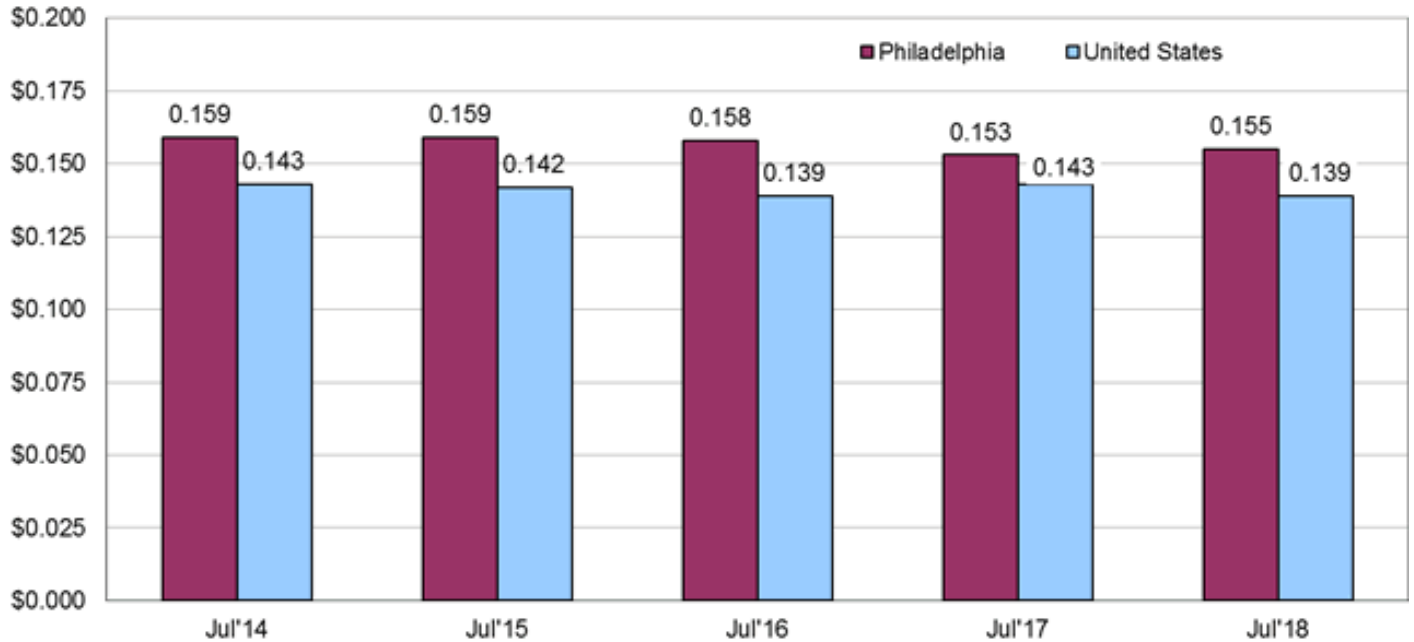


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The 15.5 cents per kWh that Philadelphia households paid for electricity in July 2018 was 11.5 percent higher than the nationwide average cost of 13.9 cents per kWh. Last July, electricity prices in Philadelphia were 7.0 percent higher than the nation. From 2014 to 2016, prices paid by Philadelphia-area consumers for electricity in July exceeded the U.S. average by 11.2 percent or more. (See [chart 2.](#))

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

Average price per kilowatt-hour

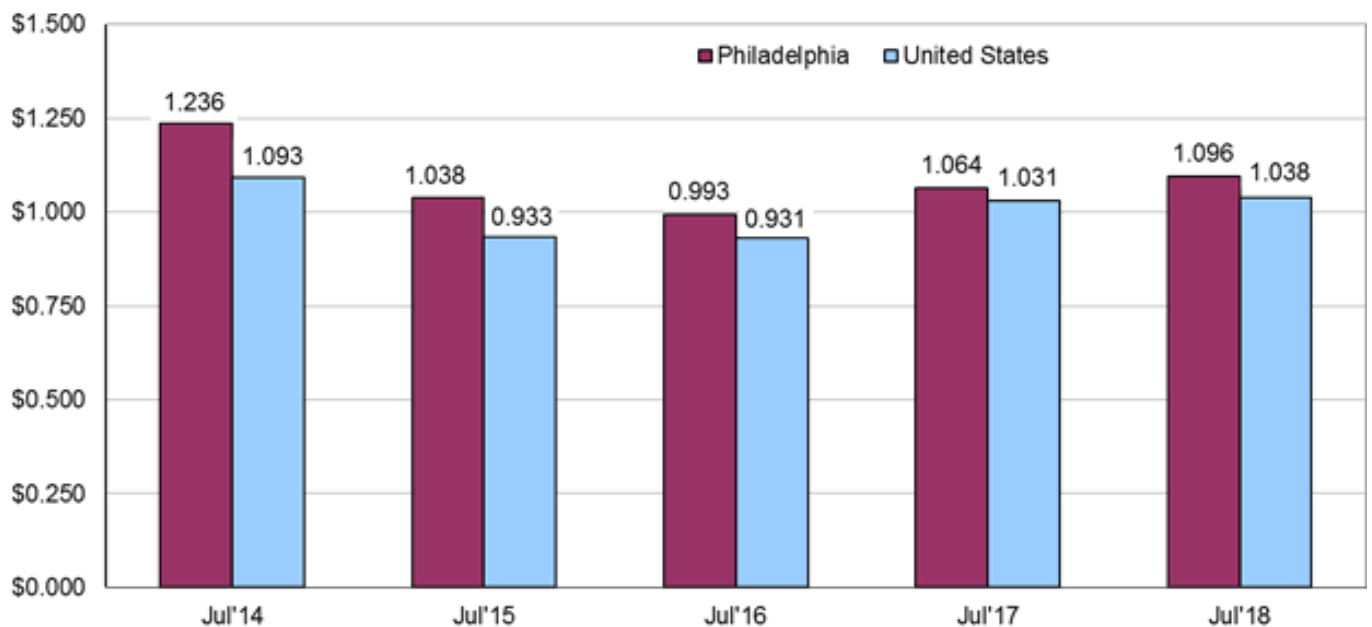


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The price paid by Philadelphia-area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, was \$1.096 per therm in July 2018, 5.6 percent higher than the national average of \$1.038 per therm. Utility (piped) gas prices in the Philadelphia area were also above the national average in July for the previous four years, ranging from 3.2 percent to 13.1 percent higher. (See [chart 3](#).)

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

Average price per therm



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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 **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, July 2017–July 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						
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
April	2.884	2.795	0.145	0.134	1.112	1.044
May	3.000	2.963	0.153	0.136	1.111	1.050
June	2.995	2.970	0.155	0.139	1.092	1.042
July	2.986	2.930	0.155	0.139	1.096	1.038