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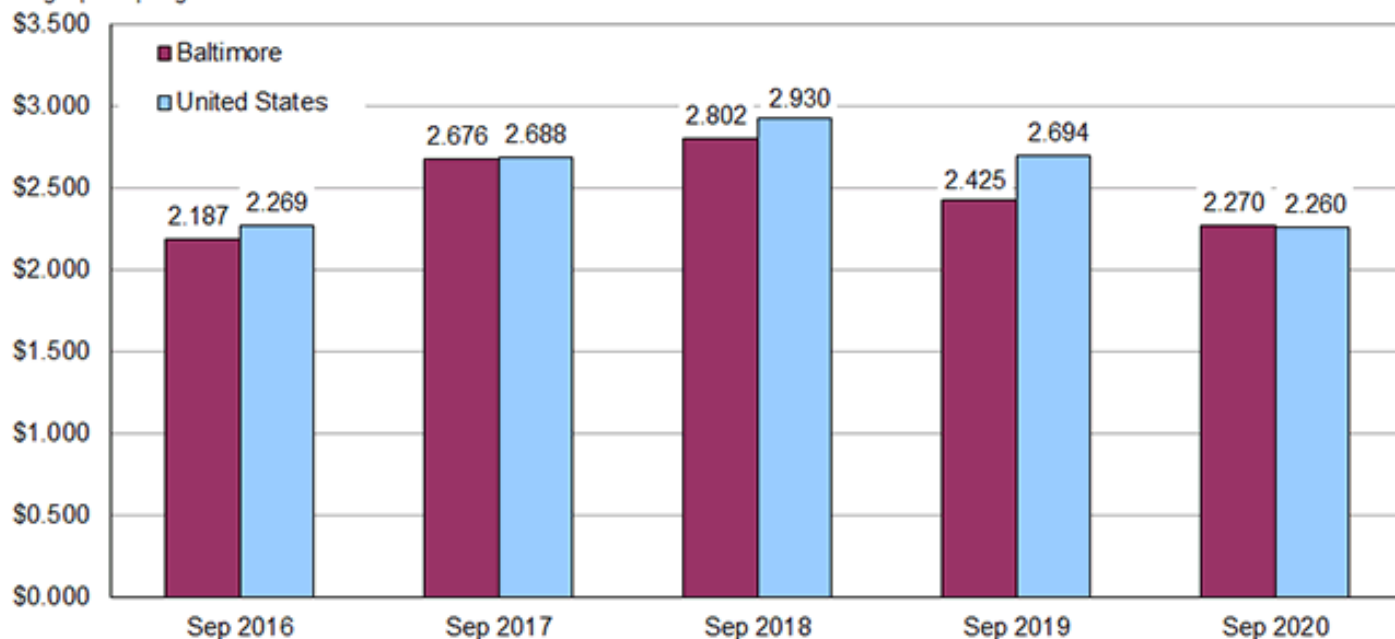
Average Energy Prices, Baltimore-Columbia-Towson – September 2020

Gasoline prices averaged \$2.270 per gallon in the Baltimore-Columbia-Towson area in September 2020, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau’s Regional Commissioner, noted that area gasoline prices were 6.4 percent lower than their price last September when they averaged \$2.425 per gallon. Baltimore-area households paid an average of 12.1 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity in September 2020, 4.3 percent higher than its September 2019 average of 11.6 cents. The average cost of utility (piped) gas at \$1.388 per therm in September 2020 was 34.6 percent higher than its price of \$1.031 per therm a year earlier. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

At \$2.270 per gallon, the price for gasoline in the Baltimore area was close to the national average of \$2.260 per gallon in September 2020. Gasoline prices in the Baltimore area were below the national average in September for the previous four years, ranging from 0.4 to 10.0 percent lower. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Average prices for gasoline, Baltimore-Columbia-Towson and United States, September 2016–September 2020

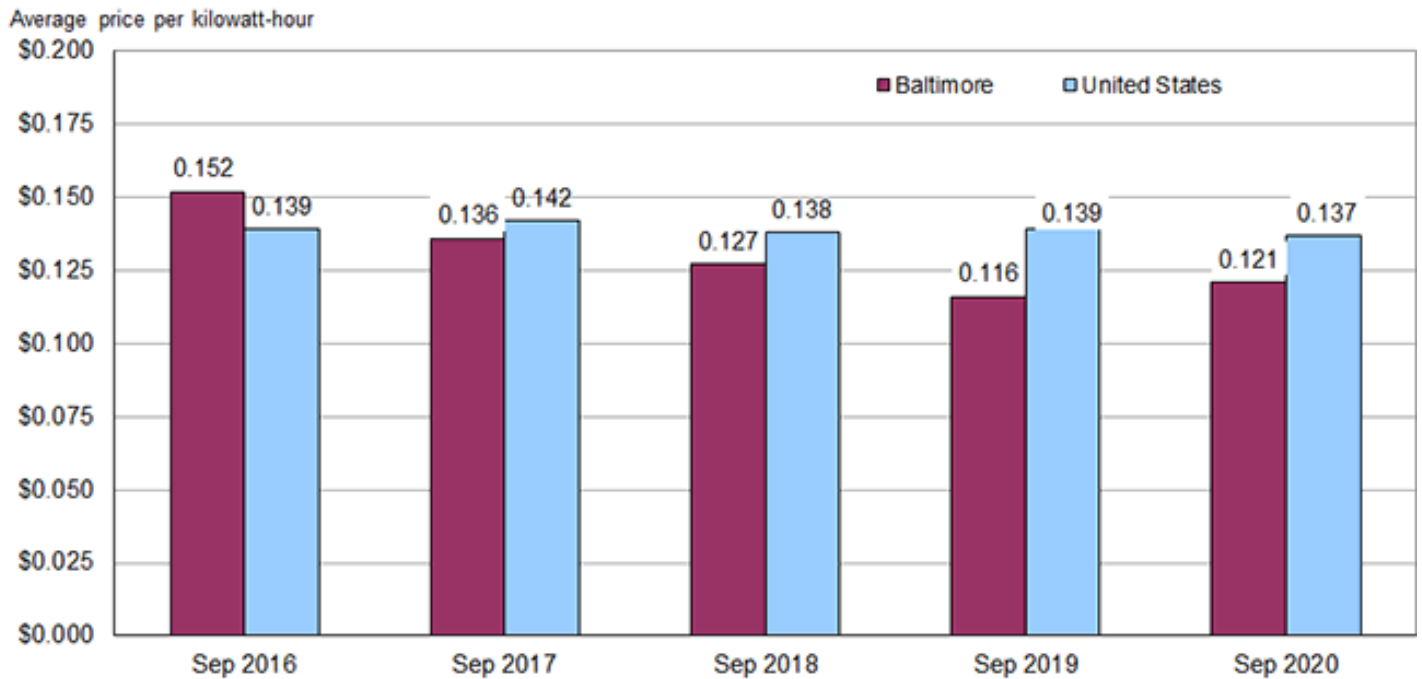
Average price per gallon



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The 12.1 cents per kWh that Baltimore households paid for electricity in September 2020 was 11.7 percent lower than the nationwide average cost of 13.7 cents per kWh. Last September, electricity prices in Baltimore were 16.5 percent lower than the nation. From 2016 to 2018, prices paid by Baltimore-area consumers for electricity in September differed from the U.S. average by 9.4 percent or less. (See [chart 2.](#))

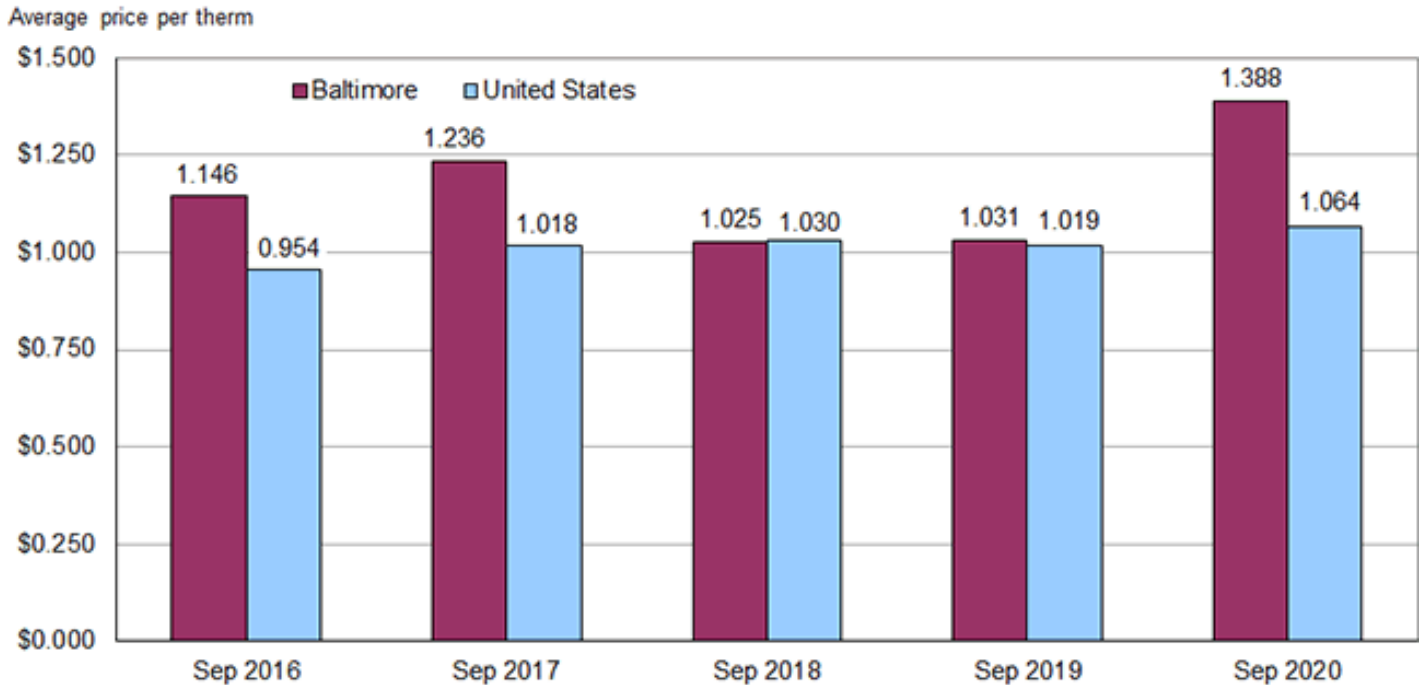
Chart 2. Average prices for electricity, Baltimore-Columbia-Towson and United States, September 2016–September 2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The price paid by Baltimore-area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, was \$1.388 per therm in September 2020, 30.5 percent higher than the national average of \$1.064 per therm. Local utility (piped) gas prices were 1.2 percent higher than those for the nation in September 2019. From 2016 to 2018, local prices for utility (piped) gas in September differed from the national average by 21.4 percent or less. (See [chart 3.](#))

Chart 3. Average prices for utility (piped) gas, Baltimore-Columbia-Towson and United States, September 2016–September 2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The Consumer Price Index for October 2020 is scheduled to be released on Thursday, November 12, 2020, 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, September 2019–September 2020, 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
2019						
September	\$2.425	\$2.694	\$0.116	\$0.139	\$1.031	\$1.019
October	2.445	2.741	0.122	0.136	1.126	1.041
November	2.452	2.687	0.123	0.133	1.305	1.058
December	2.444	2.652	0.125	0.133	1.268	1.057
2020						
January	2.501	2.631	0.127	0.134	1.347	1.066
February	2.343	2.530	0.132	0.134	1.383	1.050
March	2.252	2.334	0.133	0.134	1.328	1.034
April	1.915	1.946	0.133	0.133	1.344	1.028
May	1.858	1.946	0.132	0.134	1.367	1.037
June	2.073	2.141	0.128	0.137	1.360	1.037
July	2.234	2.243	0.129	0.137	1.343	1.027
August	2.255	2.245	0.123	0.137	1.372	1.031
September	2.270	2.260	0.121	0.137	1.388	1.064