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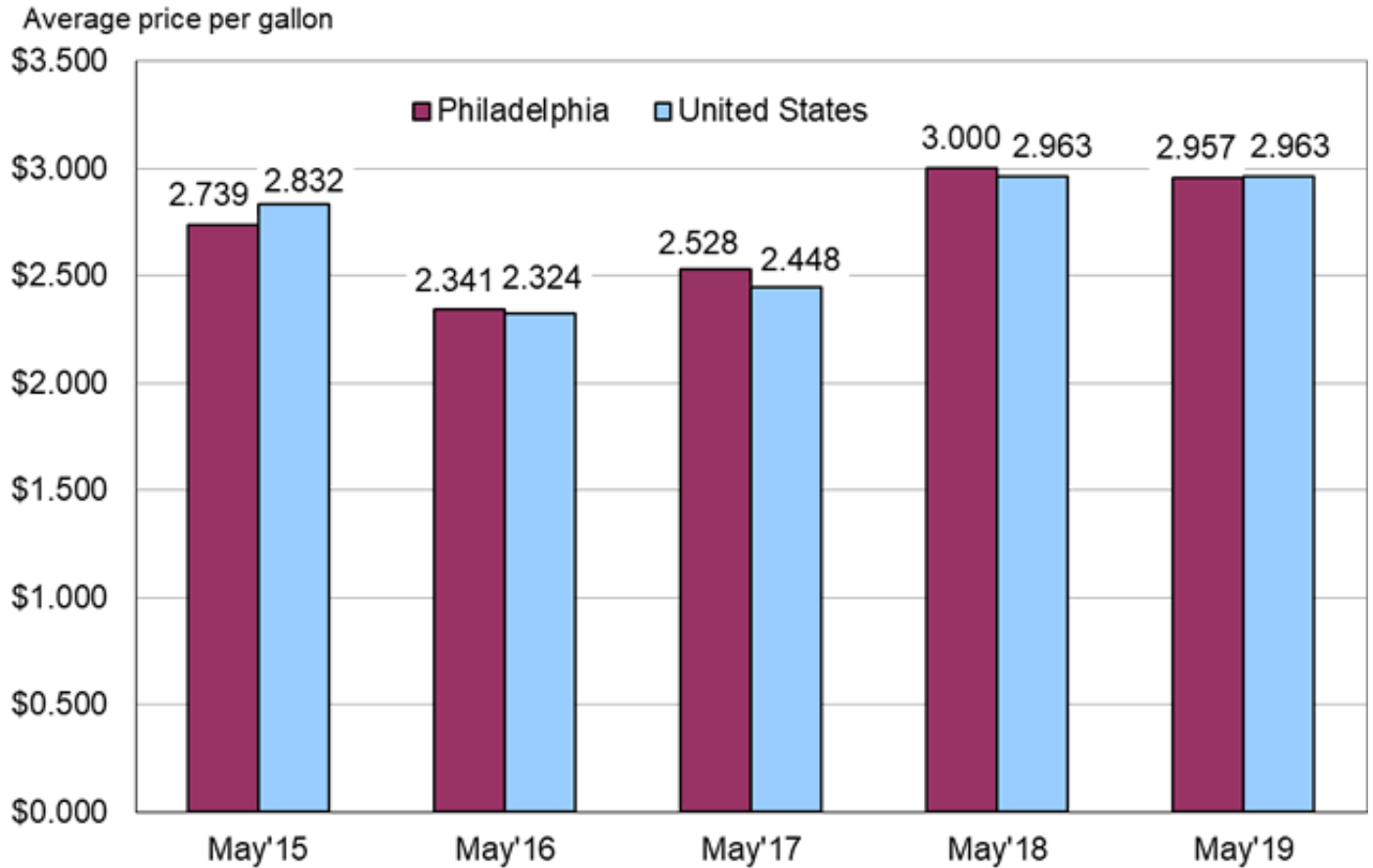
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## **Average Energy Prices, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington – May 2019**

Gasoline prices averaged \$2.957 a gallon in the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington area in May 2019, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's Regional Commissioner, noted that area gasoline prices were similar to last May when they averaged \$3.000 per gallon. Philadelphia-area households paid an average of 15.6 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity in May 2019, close to the average of 15.3 cents in May 2018. The average cost of utility (piped) gas at \$1.217 per therm in May was 9.5 percent higher than its price of \$1.111 per therm a year earlier. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

At \$2.957 a gallon, the price for gasoline in the Philadelphia area was close to the national average of \$2.963 a gallon in May 2019. From 2015 to 2018, local and national prices for gasoline in May differed by 3.3 percent or less. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

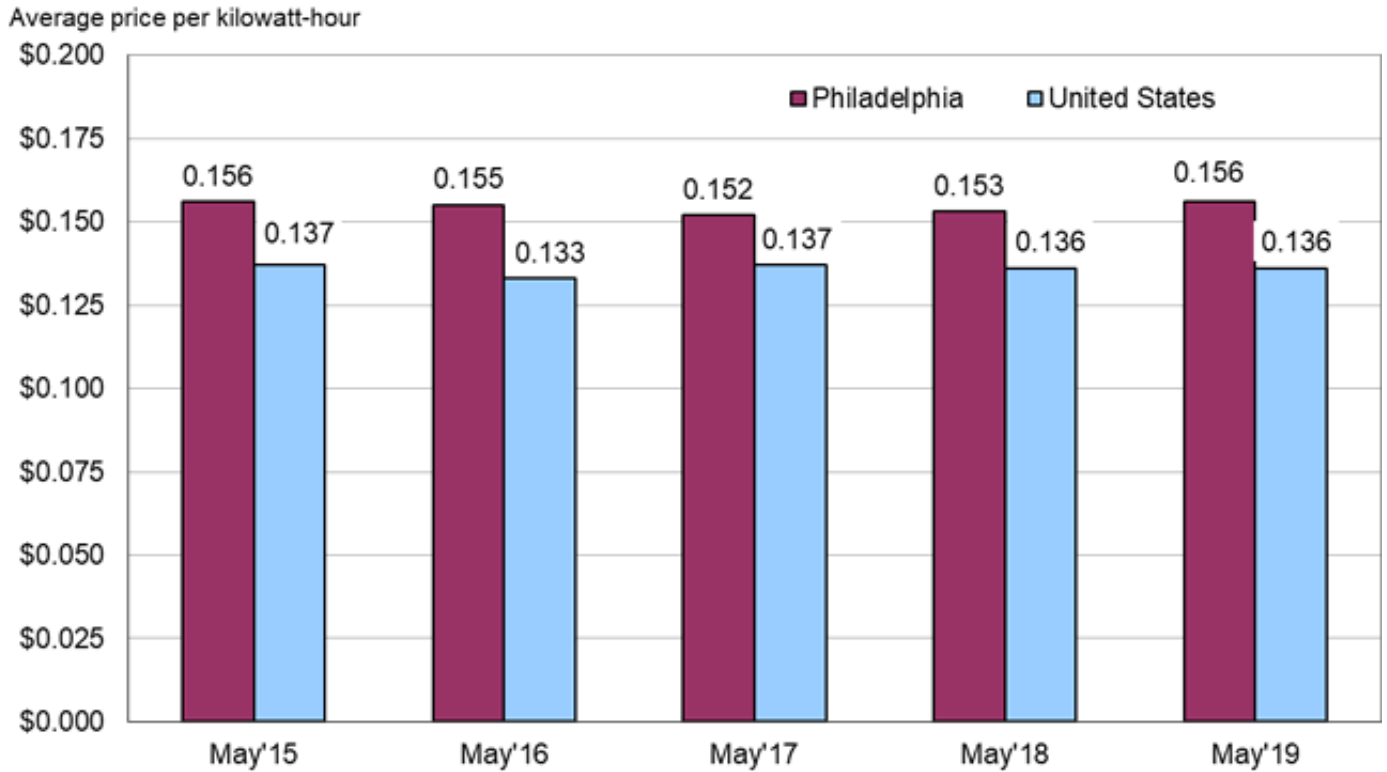
**Chart 1. Average prices for gasoline, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington and United States, May 2015–May 2019**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The 15.6 cents per kWh that Philadelphia households paid for electricity in May 2019 was 14.7 percent higher than the nationwide average cost of 13.6 cents per kWh. Last May, electricity prices in Philadelphia were 12.5 percent higher than the nation. From 2015 to 2017, prices paid by Philadelphia-area consumers for electricity in May exceeded the U.S. average by 10.9 percent or more. (See [chart 2.](#))

**Chart 2. Average prices for electricity, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington and United States, May 2015–May 2019**

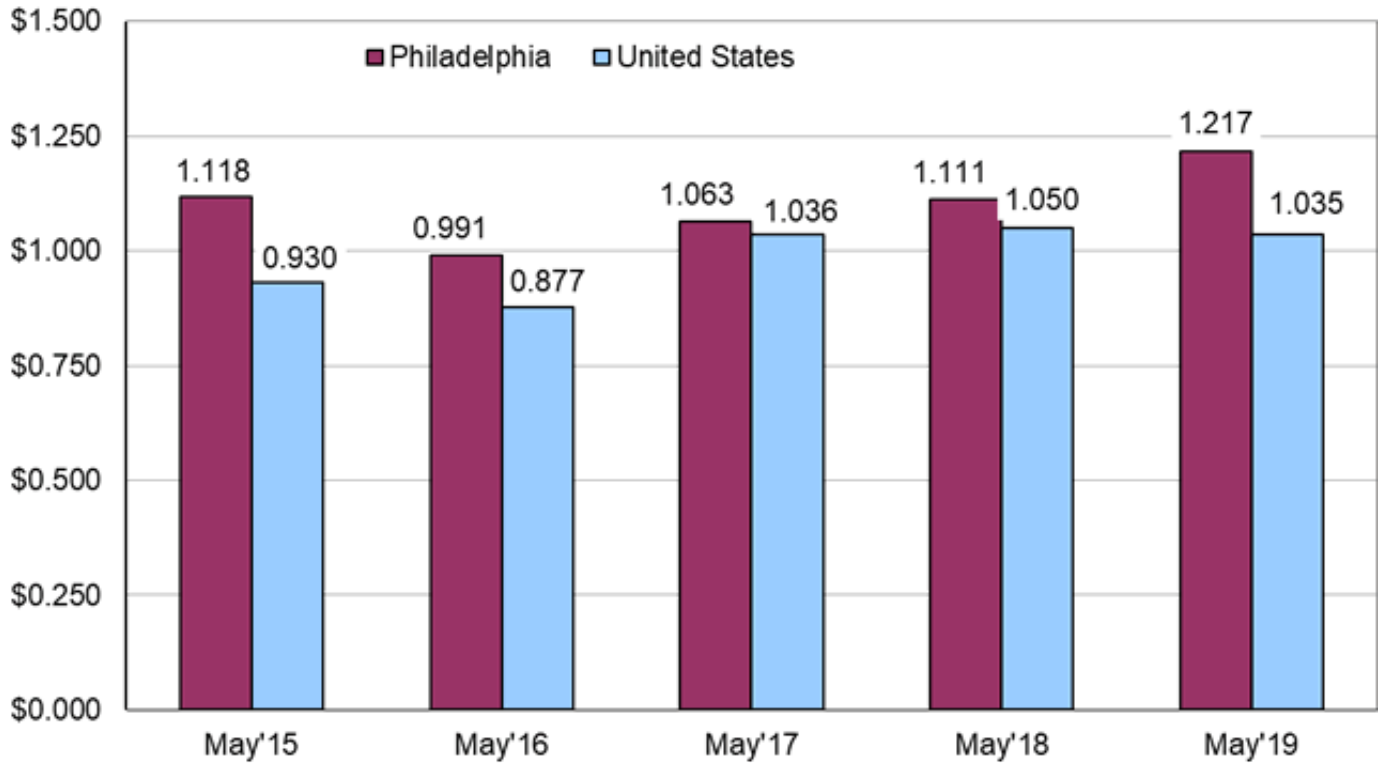


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The price paid by Philadelphia-area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, was \$1.217 per therm in May 2019, 17.6 percent higher than the national average of \$1.035 per therm. Utility (piped) gas prices in the Philadelphia area were also above the national average in May for the previous four years, ranging from 2.6 percent to 20.2 percent higher. (See [chart 3.](#))

**Chart 3. Average prices for utility (piped) gas, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington and United States, May 2015–May 2019**

Average price per therm



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**The Consumer Price Index for June 2019 is scheduled to be released on Thursday, July 11, 2019, 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, May2018–May 2019, 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
2018 .....						
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
August.....	2.973	2.919	0.154	0.139	1.096	1.055
September.....	2.977	2.930	0.152	0.138	1.096	1.030
October.....	2.922	2.945	0.149	0.136	1.108	1.023
November.....	2.658	2.733	0.151	0.134	1.116	1.020
December.....	2.509	2.479	0.150	0.135	1.134	1.085
2019 .....						
January.....	2.411	2.352	0.118	0.135	1.152	1.082
February.....	2.457	2.412	0.155	0.136	1.158	1.051
March.....	2.640	2.620	0.155	0.135	1.236	1.048
April.....	2.871	2.894	0.155	0.135	1.217	1.034
May.....	2.957	2.963	0.156	0.136	1.217	1.035