



For Release: Thursday, August 27, 2015

15-1605-CHI

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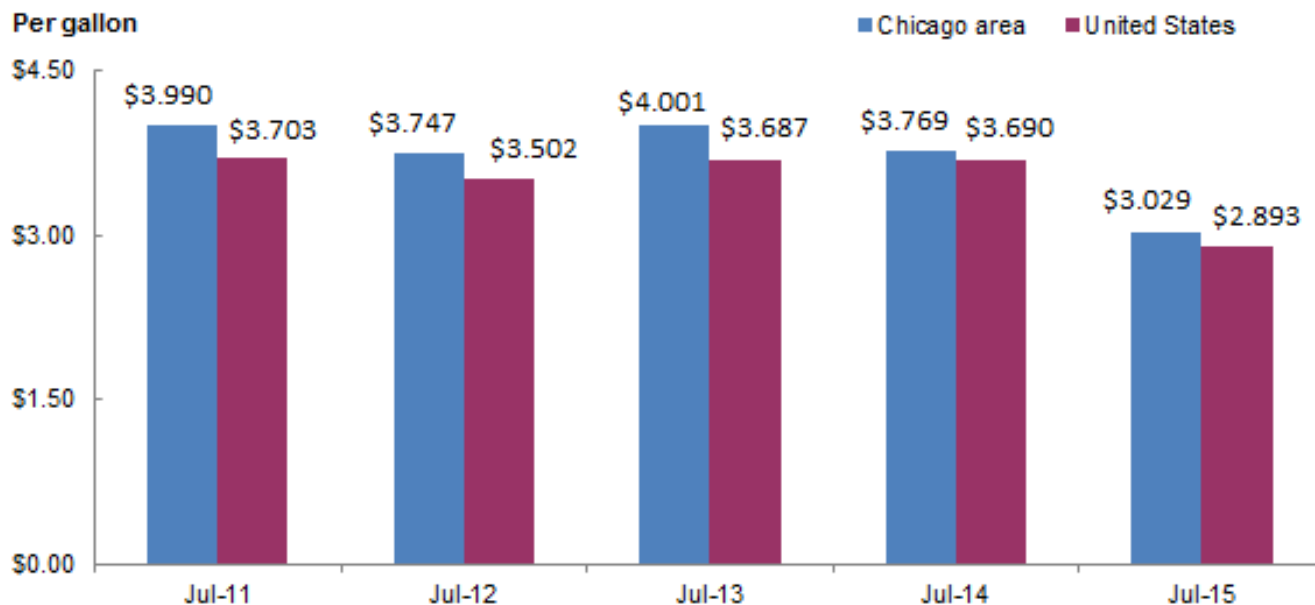
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Average Energy Prices, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha — July 2015

Gasoline prices averaged \$3.029 a gallon in the Chicago-Gary-Kenosha area in July 2015, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that area gasoline prices were down 74.0 cents compared to July 2014 when they averaged \$3.769 per gallon. Chicago area households paid an average of 16.0 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity in July 2015, unchanged from July 2014. The average cost of utility (piped) gas at 78.3 cents per therm in July was down from \$1.186 per therm a year earlier. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

At \$3.029 a gallon, costs for gasoline in the Chicago area were 13.6 cents higher than the national average of \$2.893 a gallon in July 2015. In July 2014, gasoline prices in Chicago were comparable to the nation's; however, in the previous three years (2011-2013) in July, Chicago area gasoline prices were higher than the national average by 7.0 percent or more. (See [chart 1.](#))

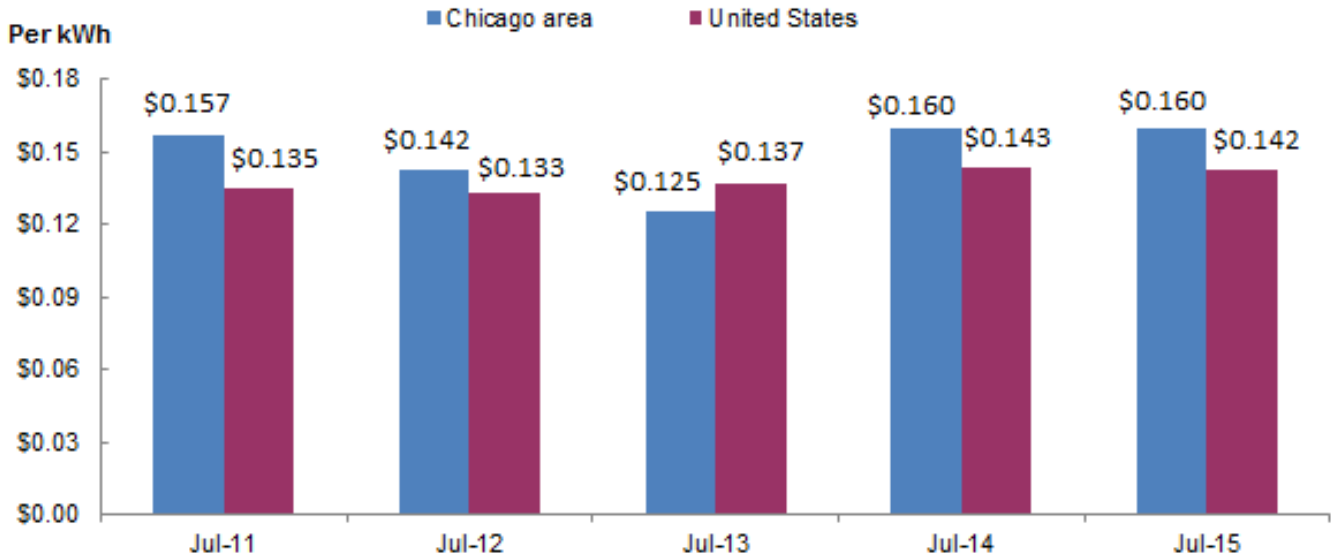
Chart 1. Average prices for gasoline, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha and the United States, 2011-2015 (as of July)



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The 16.0 cents per kWh that Chicago households paid for electricity in July 2015 was 12.7 percent higher than the nationwide average cost of 14.2 cents per kWh. With the exception of July 2013 when Chicago area electricity costs were 8.8 percent less than the national average, prices have exceeded the national average by 6.8 percent or more in the previous four years (2011-2014) in July. (See [chart 2.](#))

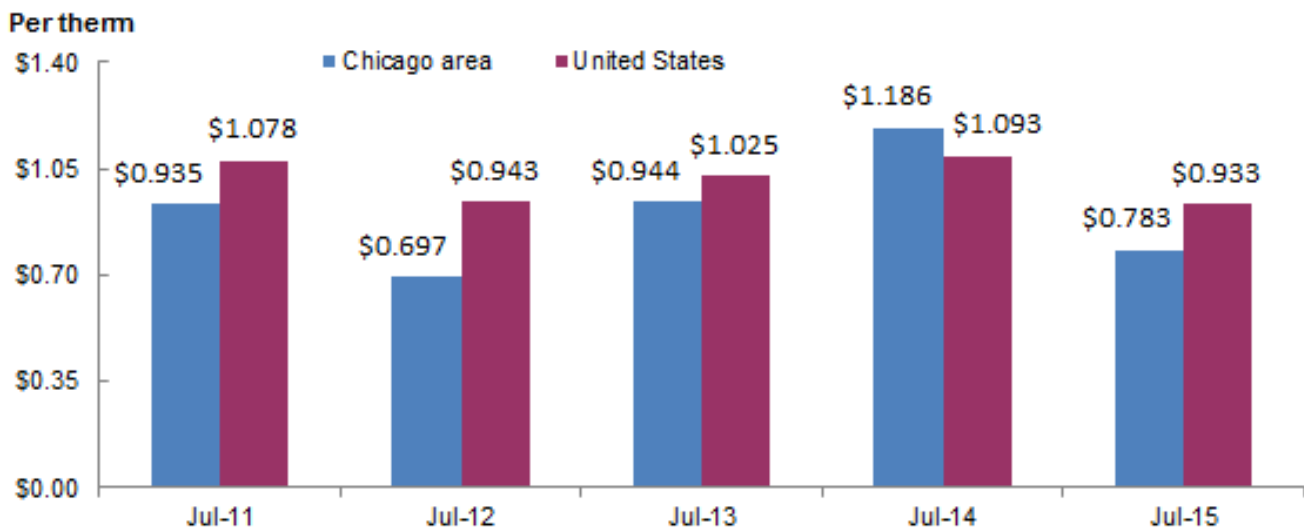
Chart 2. Average prices for electricity, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha and the United States, 2011-2015 (as of July)



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Prices paid by Chicago area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, were 78.3 cents per therm in July 2015, 16.1 percent below the national average of 93.3 cents per therm. In July 2014, utility (piped) gas prices in Chicago exceeded the nation's by 8.5 percent; however, in the previous three years (2011-2013) in July, Chicago area utility (piped) gas costs were lower than the national average by 7.9 percent or more. (See [chart 3.](#))

Chart 3. Average prices for utility (piped) gas, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha and the United States, 2011-2015 (as of July)



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The **Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, Ill.-Ind.-Wis., Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area** consists of Cook, De Kalb, Du Page, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties in Illinois; Lake and Porter Counties in Indiana; and Kenosha County in Wisconsin.

Historical average energy prices for the U.S. and select metropolitan areas are available at www.bls.gov/regions/midwest/data/averageenergyprices_selectedareas_table.htm.

The Consumer Price Index for August 2015 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, September 16, 2015.

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, the 3 population size classes, 10 region/size-class cross-classifications, and the 14 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.

Table 1. Average prices for gasoline, electricity, and utility (piped) gas, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha and the United States, July 2014 – July 2015, not seasonally adjusted

Year and month	Gasoline per gallon		Electricity per kWh		Utility (piped) gas per therm	
	Chicago area	United States	Chicago area	United States	Chicago area	United States
2014						
July	\$3.769	\$3.690	\$0.160	\$0.143	\$1.186	\$1.093
August	3.635	3.540	0.162	0.143	1.122	1.060
September	3.671	3.463	0.164	0.141	1.009	1.058
October	3.366	3.241	0.167	0.136	0.885	1.033
November	3.063	2.945	0.149	0.134	0.906	1.035
December	2.637	2.618	0.167	0.135	0.953	1.060
2015						
January	2.140	2.170	0.172	0.138	0.862	1.036
February	2.425	2.308	0.172	0.138	0.781	1.007
March	2.664	2.544	0.172	0.136	0.811	0.985
April	2.737	2.545	0.175	0.137	0.766	0.947
May	2.942	2.832	0.176	0.137	0.756	0.930
June	3.189	2.889	0.161	0.143	0.774	0.942
July	3.029	2.893	0.160	0.142	0.783	0.933