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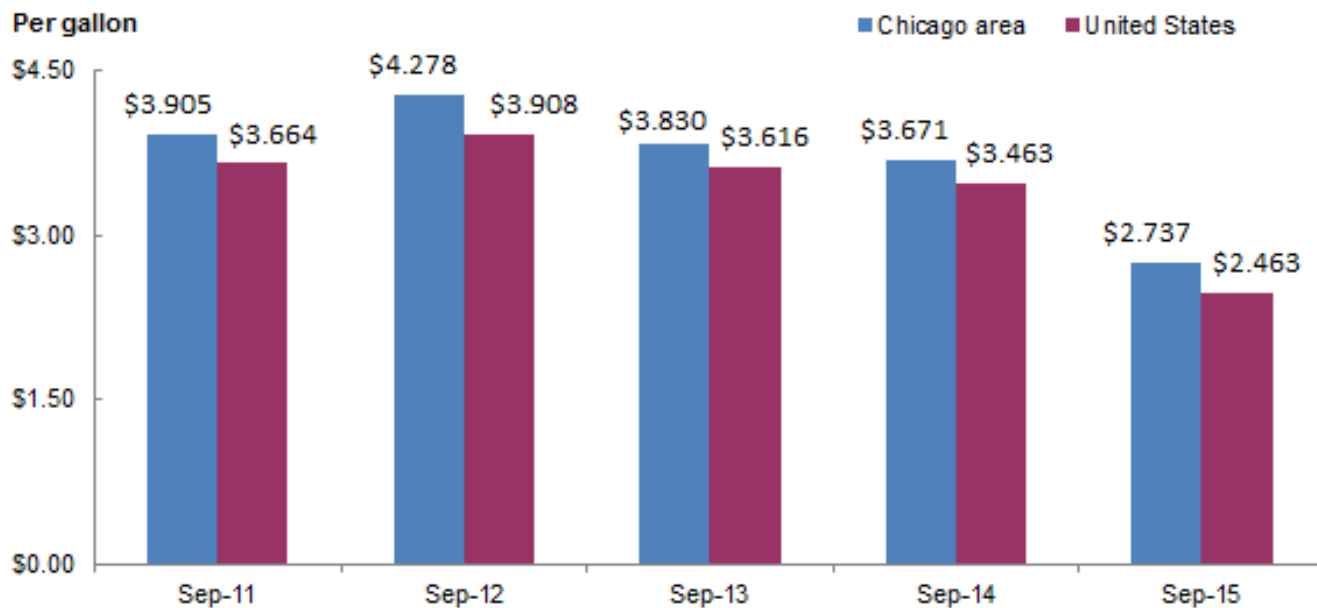
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Average Energy Prices, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha — September 2015

Gasoline prices averaged \$2.737 a gallon in the Chicago-Gary-Kenosha area in September 2015, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that area gasoline prices were down 93.4 cents compared to September 2014 when they averaged \$3.671 per gallon. Chicago area households paid an average of 15.7 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity in September 2015, less than the 16.4 cents per kWh paid in September 2014. The average cost of utility (piped) gas at 78.6 cents per therm in September was down from \$1.009 per therm a year earlier. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

At \$2.737 a gallon, costs for gasoline in the Chicago area were 27.4 cents higher than the national average of \$2.463 a gallon in September 2015. Gasoline prices in Chicago have been higher than the national average in the prior four years (2011-2014) in September, ranging from 20.8 cents in 2014 to 37.0 cents in 2012. (See [chart 1.](#))

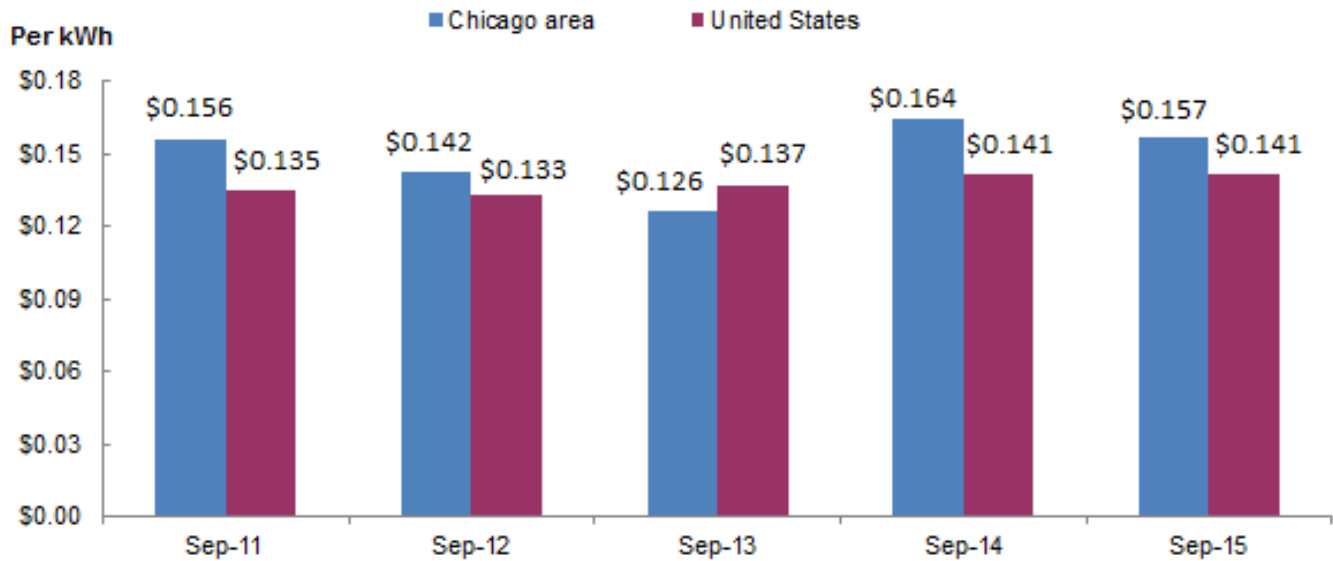
Chart 1. Average prices for gasoline, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha and the United States, 2011-2015 (as of September)



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The 15.7 cents per kWh that Chicago households paid for electricity in September 2015 was 11.3 percent higher than the nationwide average cost of 14.1 cents per kWh. With the exception of September 2013 when Chicago area electricity costs were 8.0 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 September. (See [chart 2.](#))

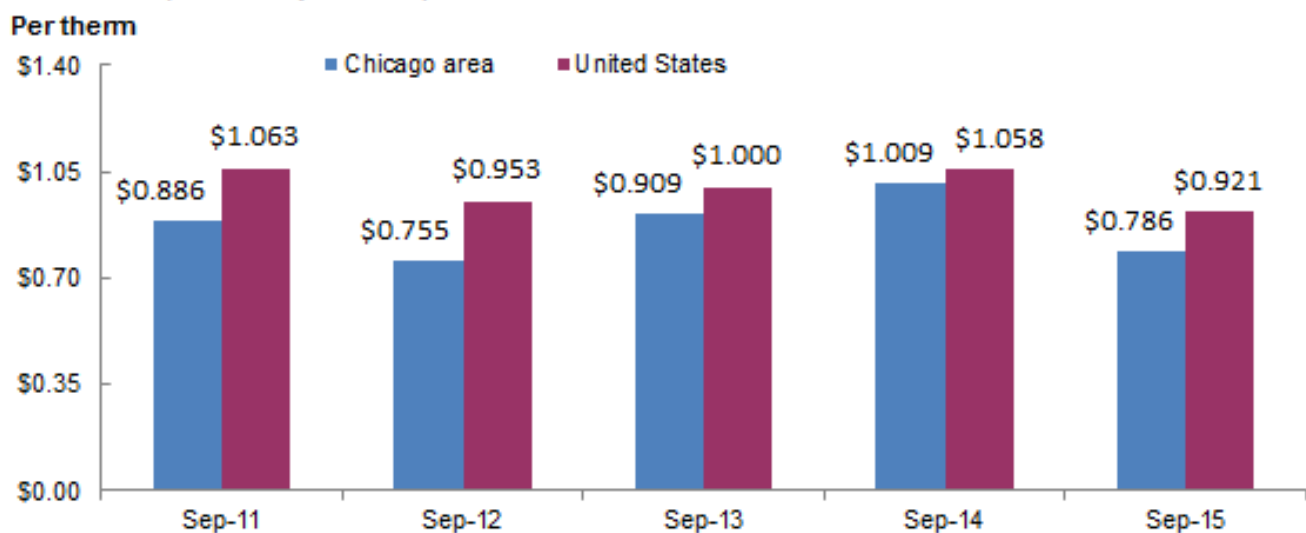
Chart 2. Average prices for electricity, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha and the United States, 2011-2015 (as of September)



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Prices paid by Chicago area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, were 78.6 cents per therm in September 2015, 14.7 percent below the national average of 92.1 cents per therm. In the previous four years (2011-2014) in September, Chicago area utility (piped) gas costs were lower than the national average, ranging from 4.6 percent to 20.8 percent less. (See [chart 3.](#))

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



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 October 2015 is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, November 17, 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, September 2014 – September 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						
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
August.....	3.115	2.745	0.161	0.142	0.793	0.932
September.....	2.737	2.463	0.157	0.141	0.786	0.921