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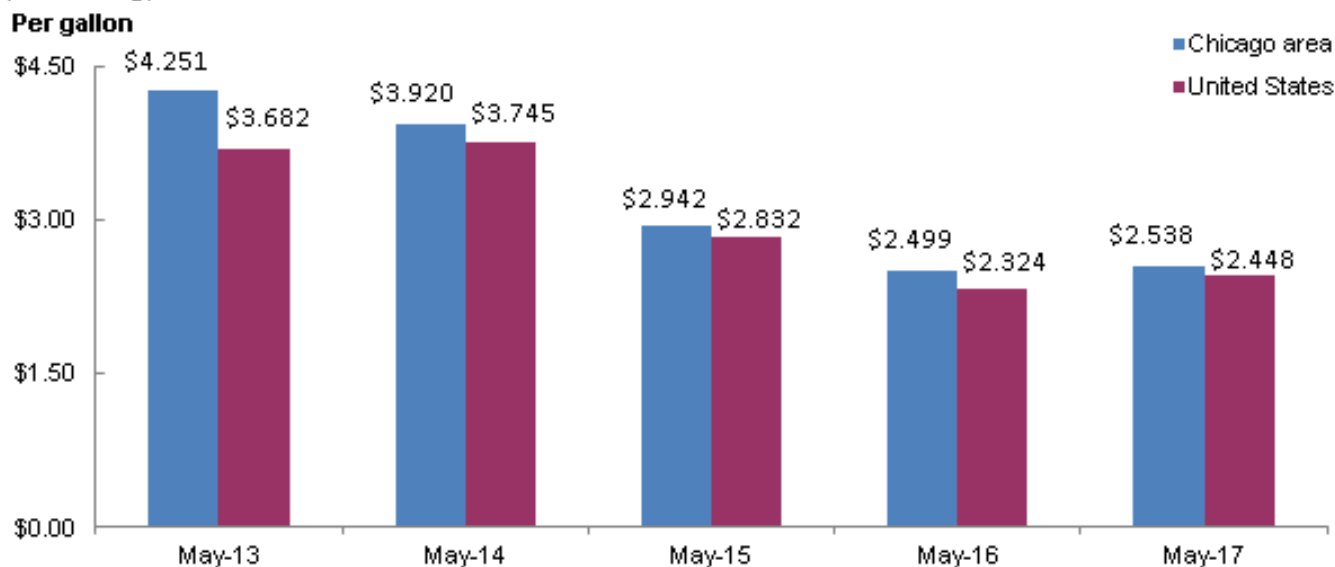
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## Average Energy Prices, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha — May 2017

Gasoline prices averaged \$2.538 a gallon in the Chicago-Gary-Kenosha area in May 2017, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that area gasoline prices were up 3.9 cents compared to May 2016 when they averaged \$2.499 per gallon. Chicago area households paid an average of 15.0 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) of electricity in May 2017, down from the 15.5 cents per kWh paid in May 2016. In May, the average cost of utility (piped) gas was 87.5 cents per therm, up from its average price of 70.7 cents per therm a year earlier. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

At \$2.538 a gallon, prices for gasoline in the Chicago area were 9.0 cents higher than the national average of \$2.448 a gallon in May 2017. Chicago area gasoline prices in the previous four years (2013-2016) in May also exceeded the national average, ranging from 11.0 cents to 56.9 cents more. (See [chart 1](#).)

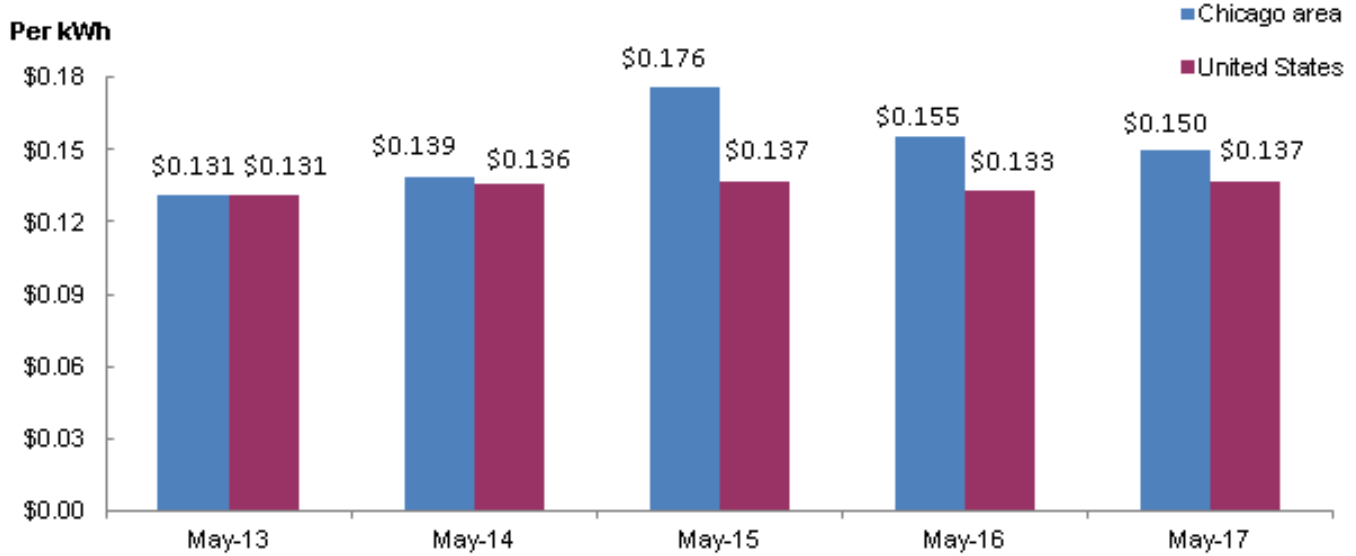
**Chart 1. Average prices for gasoline, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha and the United States, 2013-2017 (as of May)**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The 15.0 cents per kWh that Chicago households paid for electricity in May 2017 was 9.5 percent higher than the nationwide average cost of 13.7 cents per kWh. Chicago area electricity costs were comparable to the national average in May 2013 and 2014, and exceeded the national average in May 2015 and 2016, by 28.5 percent and 16.5 percent, respectively. (See [chart 2](#).)

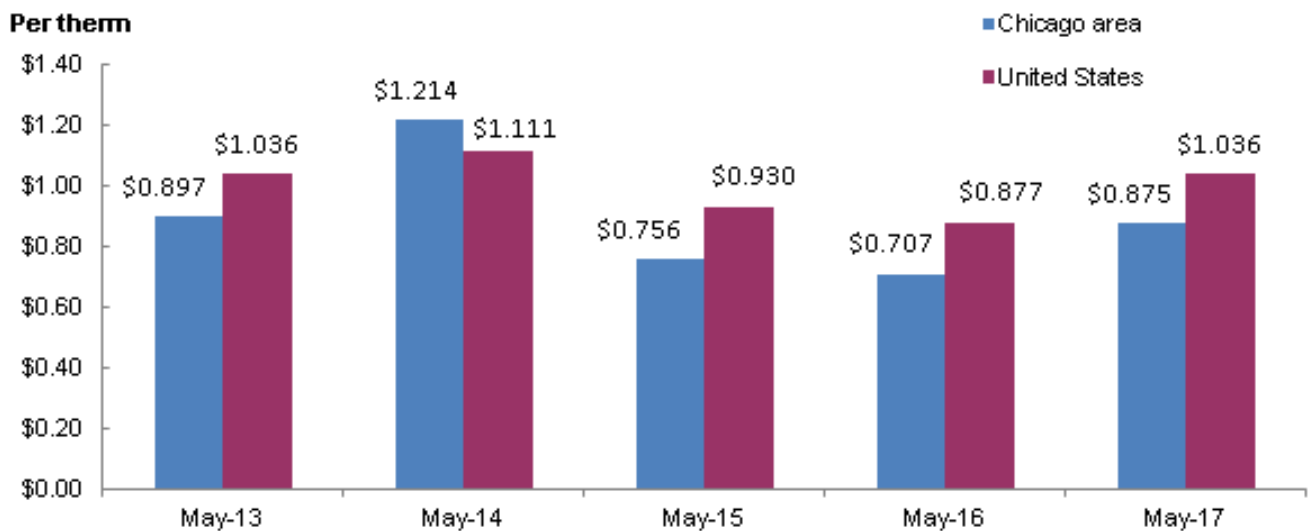
**Chart 2. Average prices for electricity, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha and the United States, 2013-2017 (as of May)**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Prices paid by Chicago area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, were 87.5 cents per therm in May 2017, 15.5 percent below the national average of \$1.036 per therm. Except for May 2014, when Chicago area utility (piped) gas costs were 9.3 percent above the national average, Chicago utility (piped) gas costs in the previous four years (2013-2016) in May were lower than the national average, ranging from 13.4 percent to 19.4 percent less. (See [chart 3.](#))

**Chart 3. Average prices for utility (piped) gas, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha and the United States, 2013-2017 (as of May)**



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](http://www.bls.gov/regions/midwest/data/averageenergyprices_selectedareas_table.htm).

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**The Consumer Price Index for June 2017 is scheduled to be released on Friday, July 14, 2017.**

### **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, May 2016 – May 2017, 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
<b>2016</b>						
May.....	\$2.499	\$2.324	\$0.155	\$0.133	\$0.707	\$0.877
June.....	2.708	2.422	0.151	0.138	0.744	0.891
July.....	2.403	2.287	0.153	0.139	0.781	0.931
August.....	2.390	2.218	0.151	0.139	0.813	0.943
September.....	2.415	2.269	0.151	0.139	0.844	0.954
October.....	2.419	2.304	0.148	0.134	0.852	0.961
November.....	2.242	2.246	0.148	0.131	0.869	0.970
December.....	2.433	2.289	0.148	0.133	0.836	0.972
<b>2017</b>						
January.....	2.556	2.409	0.152	0.134	0.876	1.000
February.....	2.420	2.360	0.152	0.135	0.885	1.003
March.....	2.456	2.386	0.154	0.134	0.867	0.989
April.....	2.653	2.479	0.151	0.135	0.861	1.000
May.....	2.538	2.448	0.150	0.137	0.875	1.036