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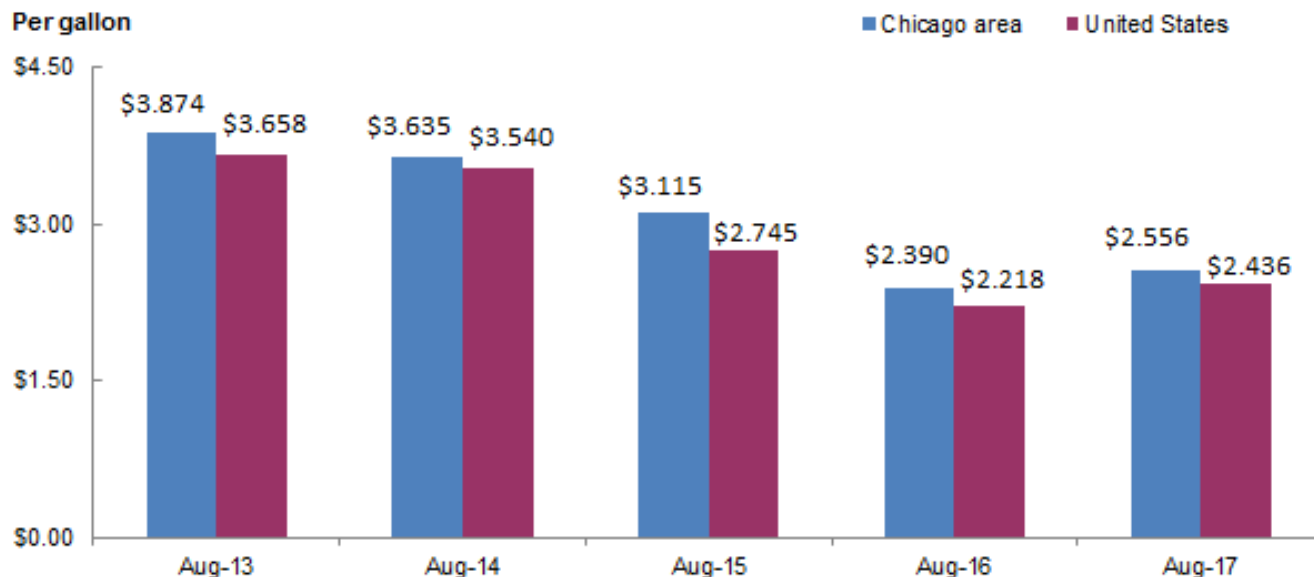
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### Average Energy Prices, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha — August 2017

Gasoline prices averaged \$2.556 a gallon in the Chicago-Gary-Kenosha area in August 2017, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that area gasoline prices were up 16.6 cents compared to August 2016 when they averaged \$2.390 per gallon. Chicago area households paid an average of 16.1 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) of electricity in August 2017, up 6.6 percent from August 2016. In August, the average cost of utility (piped) gas was 86.2 cents per therm, up from its average price of 81.3 cents per therm a year earlier. Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

At \$2.556 a gallon, prices for gasoline in the Chicago area were 12.0 cents higher compared to the national average of \$2.436 a gallon in August 2017. Chicago area gasoline prices in the previous four years (2013-2016) in August exceeded the national average, ranging from 9.5 cents to 37.0 cents more. (See [chart 1.](#))

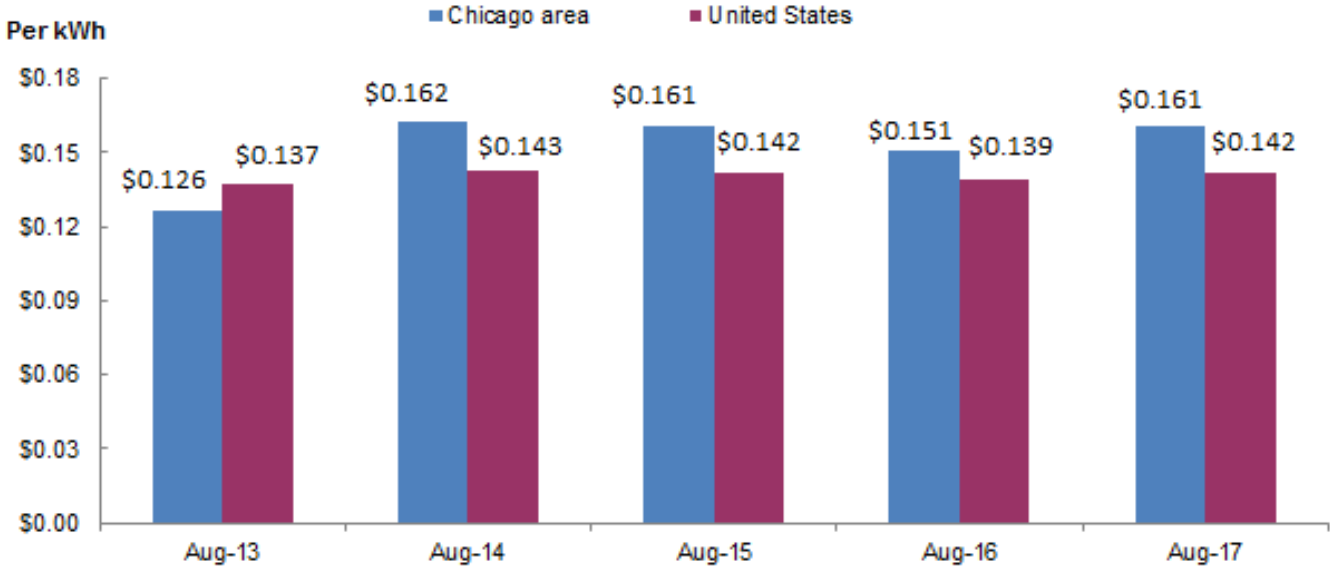
**Chart 1. Average prices for gasoline, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha and the United States, 2013-2017 (as of August)**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The 16.1 cents per kWh that Chicago households paid for electricity in August 2017 was 13.4 percent higher than the nationwide average cost of 14.2 cents per kWh. In August 2013, Chicago area electricity costs were 8.0 percent lower than the national average. In the previous three years (2014-2016) in August, Chicago area electricity costs have exceeded the national average, ranging from 8.6 percent to 13.4 percent more. (See [chart 2.](#))

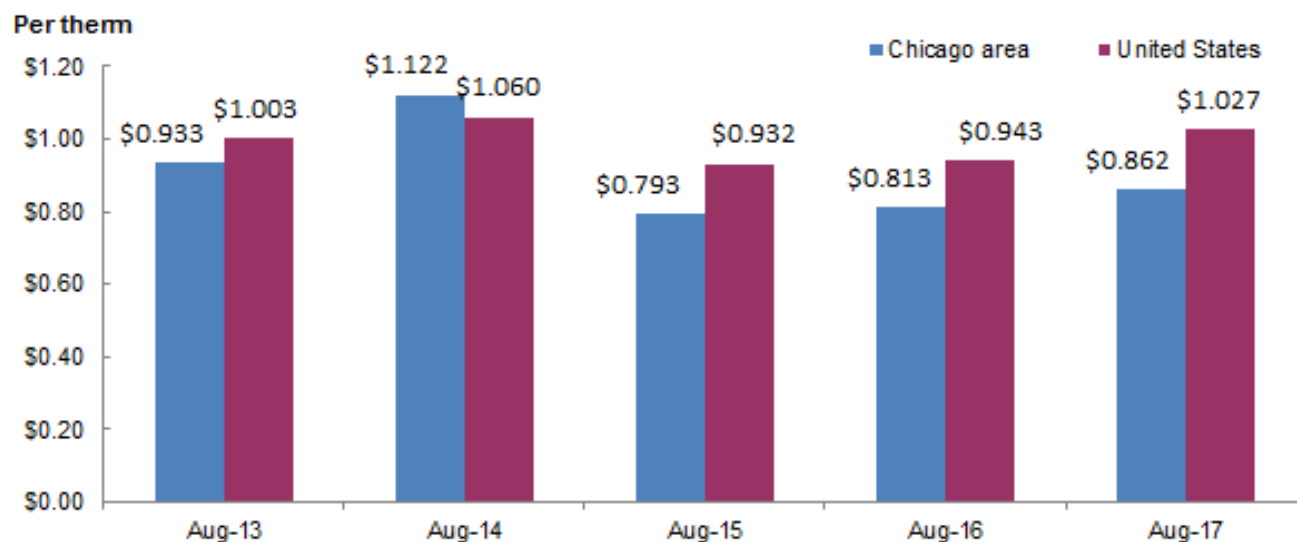
**Chart 2. Average prices for electricity, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha and the United States, 2013-2017 (as of August)**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Prices paid by Chicago area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, were 86.2 cents per therm in August 2017, 16.1 percent below the national average of \$1.027 per therm. Except for August 2014, when Chicago area utility (piped) gas costs were 5.8 percent higher than the national average, Chicago area utility (piped) gas costs in the previous four years (2013-2016) in August were lower than the national average, ranging from 7.0 percent to 14.9 percent less. (See [chart 3.](#))

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



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).

**The Consumer Price Index for September 2017 is scheduled to be released on Friday, October 13, 2017.**

### **Consumer Price Index Geographic Revision for 2018**

In January 2018, BLS will introduce a new geographic area sample for the Consumer Price Index (CPI). As part of the new sample, the index for this area will be renamed. The first indexes using the new structure will be published in February 2018. Additional information on the geographic revision is available at: [www.bls.gov/cpi/additional-resources/geographic-revision-2018.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cpi/additional-resources/geographic-revision-2018.htm).

### **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, August 2016 – August 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>						
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
June .....	2.452	2.400	0.161	0.142	0.890	1.040
July .....	2.487	2.344	0.160	0.143	0.878	1.031
August .....	2.556	2.436	0.161	0.142	0.862	1.027