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### Average Energy Prices, Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint — September 2017

Gasoline prices averaged \$2.683 a gallon in the Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint area in September 2017, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that area gasoline prices were up 28.3 cents compared to last September when they averaged \$2.400 per gallon. Detroit area households paid an average of 16.1 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) of electricity in September 2017, down 4.7 percent from September 2016. In September 2017, the average cost of utility (piped) gas was 77.5 cents per therm, up from its average price of 73.6 cents per therm a year earlier. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

At \$2.683 a gallon in September 2017, costs for gasoline in the Detroit area were comparable to the national average of \$2.688 a gallon. With the exception of September 2015, when Detroit area gasoline prices were comparable to the national average, local area gasoline costs have exceeded the national average in the previous four years (2013-2016) in September, ranging from 4.2 cents to 13.1 cents more. (See [chart 1](#).)

**Chart 1. Average prices for gasoline, Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint and the United States, 2013–2017 (as of September)**

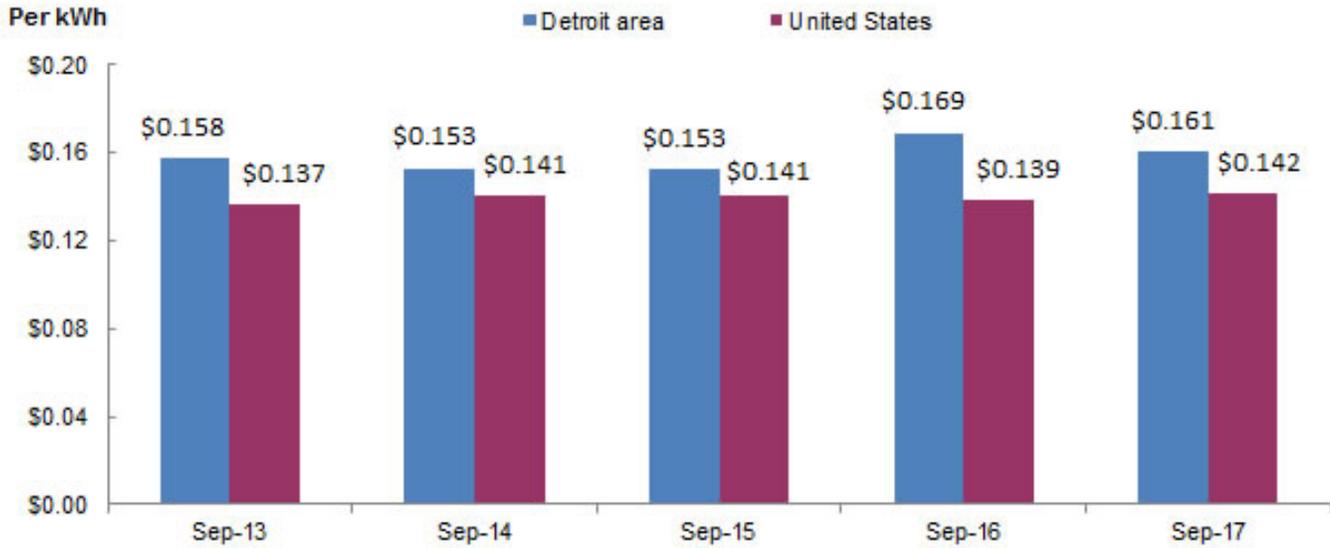
Per gallon



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The 16.1 cents per kWh that Detroit households paid for electricity in September 2017 was 13.4 percent higher than the nationwide average cost of 14.2 cents per kWh. In the previous four years (2013-2016) in September, Detroit area electricity costs exceeded the national average, ranging from 8.5 percent to 21.6 percent more. (See [chart 2](#).)

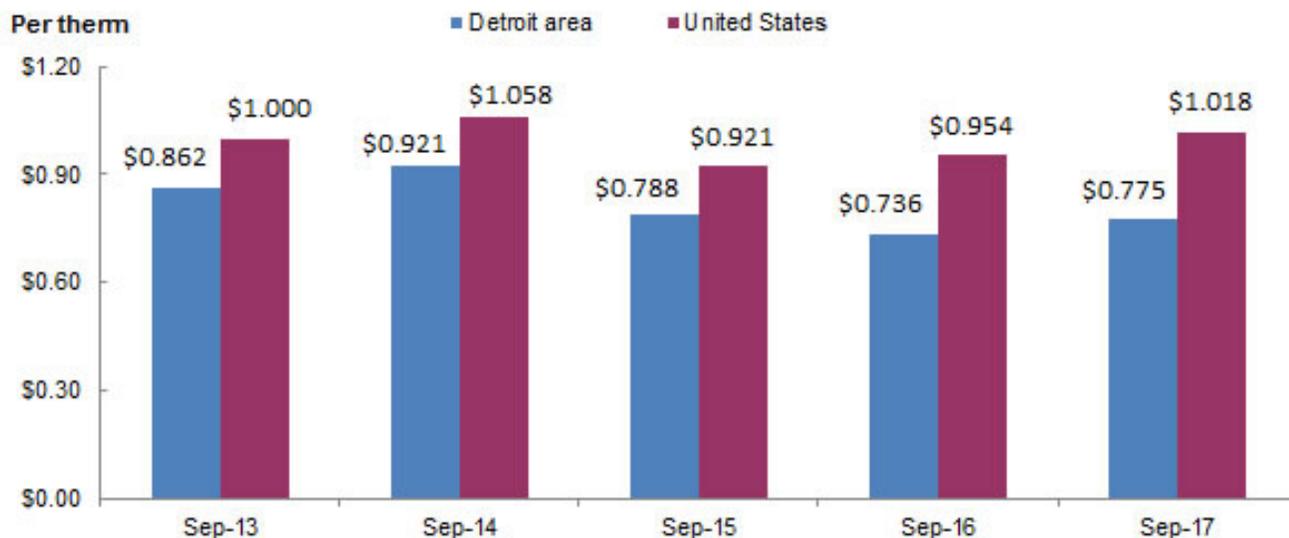
**Chart 2. Average prices for electricity, Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint and the United States, 2013–2017 (as of September)**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Prices paid by Detroit area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, were 77.5 cents per therm in September 2017, 23.9 percent below the national average of \$1.018 per therm. In the previous four years (2013-2016) in September, Detroit area utility (piped) gas costs were lower than the national average, ranging from 12.9 percent to 22.9 percent less. (See [chart 3](#).)

**Chart 3. Average prices for utility (piped) gas, Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint and the United States, 2013–2017 (as of September)**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The **Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, Mich.** consolidated area covered in this release is comprised of Genesee, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw, and Wayne Counties in Michigan.

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 October 2017 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, November 15, 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 from this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200, Federal Relay Services: 800-877-8339.

**Table 1. Average prices for gasoline, electricity, and utility (piped) gas, Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint and the United States, September 2016 – September 2017, not seasonally adjusted**

Year and month	Gasoline per gallon		Electricity per kWh		Utility (piped) gas per therm	
	Detroit area	United States	Detroit area	United States	Detroit area	United States
<b>2016</b>						
September.....	\$2.400	\$2.269	\$0.169	\$0.139	\$0.736	\$0.954
October.....	2.382	2.304	0.170	0.134	0.742	0.961
November.....	2.200	2.246	0.166	0.131	0.780	0.970
December.....	2.383	2.289	0.166	0.133	0.784	0.972
<b>2017</b>						
January.....	2.512	2.409	0.167	0.134	0.786	1.000
February.....	2.358	2.360	0.161	0.135	0.784	1.003
March.....	2.461	2.386	0.161	0.134	0.784	0.989
April.....	2.623	2.479	0.161	0.135	0.775	1.000
May.....	2.492	2.448	0.161	0.137	0.787	1.036
June.....	2.517	2.400	0.164	0.142	0.780	1.040
July.....	2.502	2.344	0.164	0.143	0.772	1.031
August.....	2.566	2.436	0.163	0.142	0.775	1.027
September.....	2.683	2.688	0.161	0.142	0.775	1.018