



**For Release: Wednesday, April 18, 2018**

**18-530-CHI**

MIDWEST INFORMATION OFFICE: Chicago, Ill.

Technical information: (312) 353-1880 BLSInfoChicago@bls.gov [www.bls.gov/regions/midwest](http://www.bls.gov/regions/midwest)

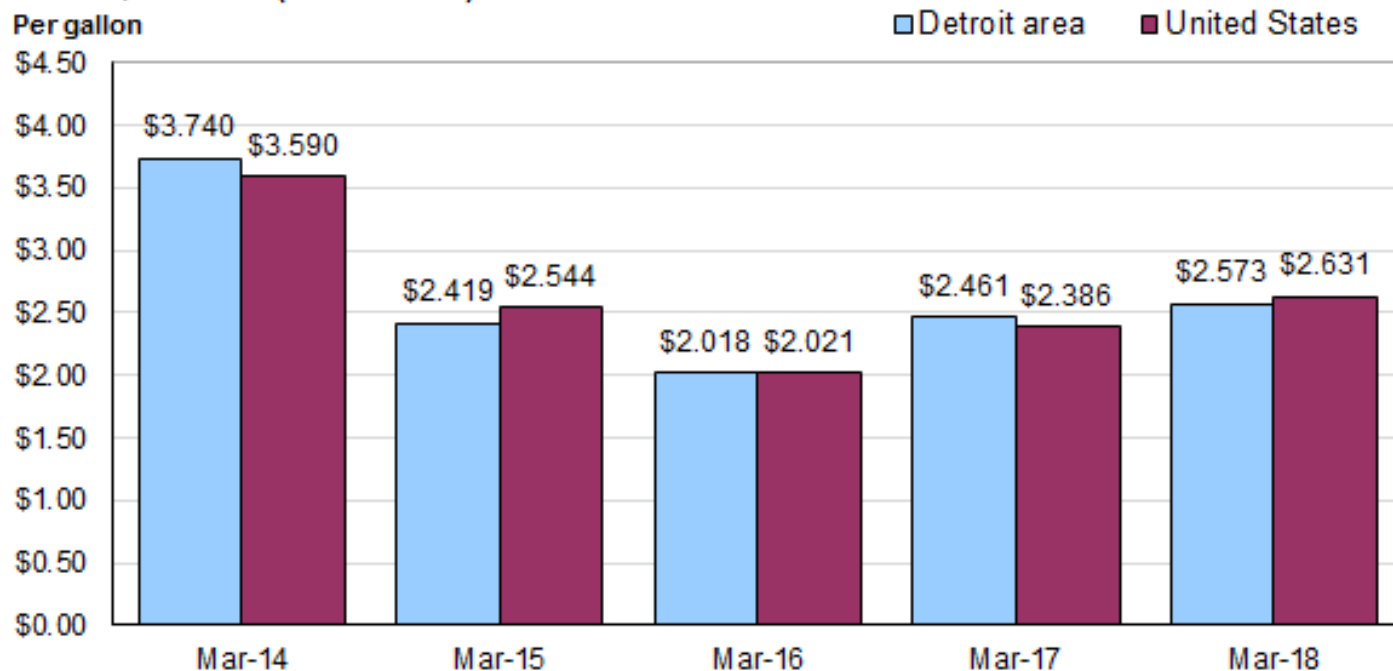
Media contact: (312) 353-1138

### Average Energy Prices, Detroit-Warren-Dearborn — March 2018

Gasoline prices averaged \$2.573 a gallon in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn area in March 2018, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that area gasoline prices were up 11.2 cents compared to last March when they averaged \$2.461 per gallon. Detroit area households paid an average of 16.4 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) of electricity in March 2018, comparable to the 16.1 cents per kilowatt-hour in March 2017. In March, the average cost of utility (piped) gas was 75.7 cents per therm, lower than its average price of 78.4 cents per therm a year earlier. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

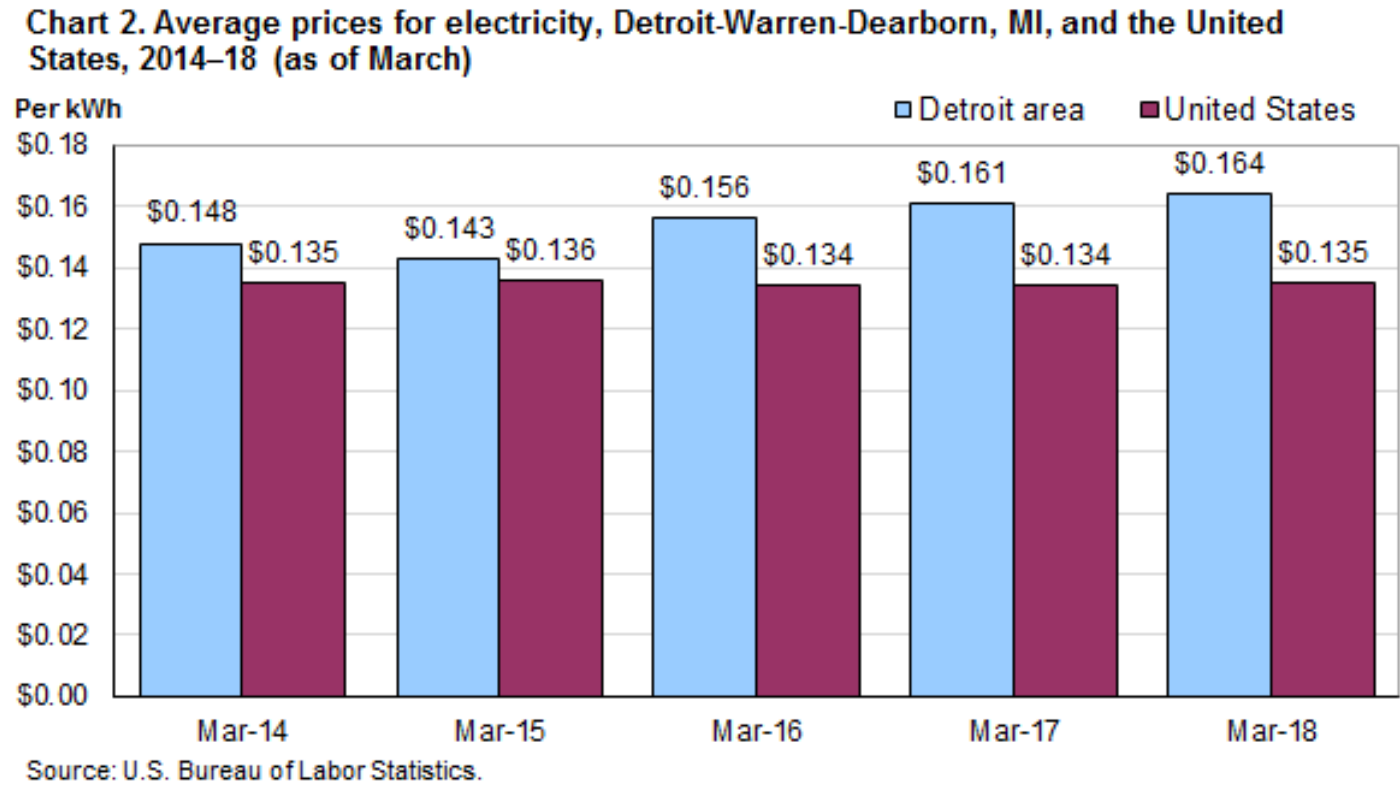
At \$2.573 a gallon in March 2018, costs for gasoline in the Detroit area were 5.8 cents lower than the national average of \$2.631 a gallon. In the previous four years in March, gasoline prices in the Detroit area were as much as 15 cents more than the national average and 12.5 cents less. (See [chart 1.](#))

**Chart 1. Average prices for gasoline, Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI, and the United States, 2014–18 (as of March)**



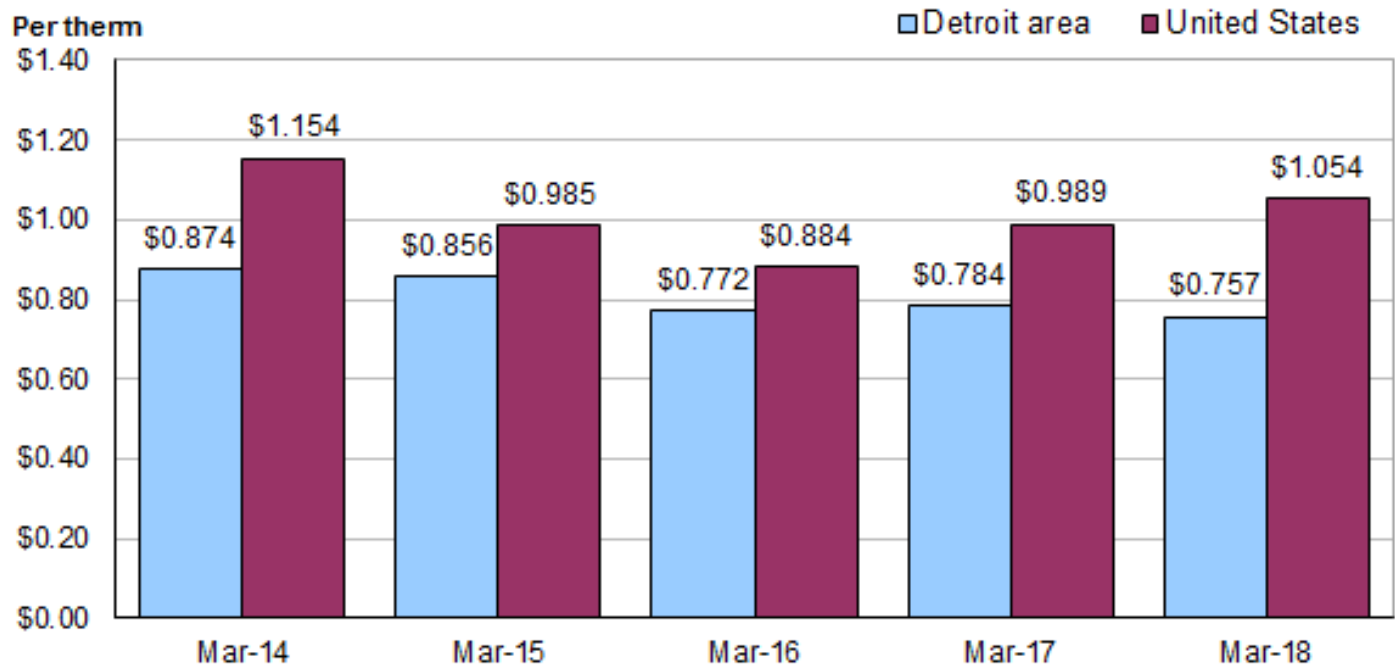
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The 16.4 cents per kWh that Detroit households paid for electricity in March 2018 was 21.5 percent higher than the nationwide average cost of 13.5 cents per kWh. In the previous four years (2014-2017) in March, Detroit area electricity costs exceeded the national average, ranging from 5.1 percent to 20.1 percent more. (See [chart 2](#).)



Prices paid by Detroit area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, were 75.7 cents per therm in March 2018, 28.2 percent below the national average of \$1.054 per therm. In the previous four years (2014-2017) in March, Detroit area utility (piped) gas costs were lower than the national average, ranging from 12.7 percent to 24.3 percent less. (See [chart 3](#).)

**Chart 3. Average prices for utility (piped) gas, Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI, and the United States, 2014–18 (as of March)**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The **Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, Mich.** core based statistical area covered in this release is comprised of Lapeer, Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair, 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 April 2018 is scheduled to be released on Thursday, May 10, 2018.**

### 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, 9 divisions, 2 population size classes, 8 region/size-class cross-classifications, and the 23 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-Warren-Dearborn, MI and the United States, March 2017 – March 2018, 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>2017</b>						
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
October.....	2.597	2.545	0.154	0.137	0.774	1.020
November.....	2.729	2.608	0.156	0.136	0.770	1.028
December.....	2.533	2.521	0.156	0.136	0.772	1.042
<b>2018</b>						
January.....	2.663	2.596	0.164	0.135	0.774	1.048
February .....	2.549	2.632	0.164	0.135	0.757	1.077
March .....	2.573	2.631	0.164	0.135	0.757	1.054