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MIDWEST INFORMATION OFFICE: Chicago, Ill.

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

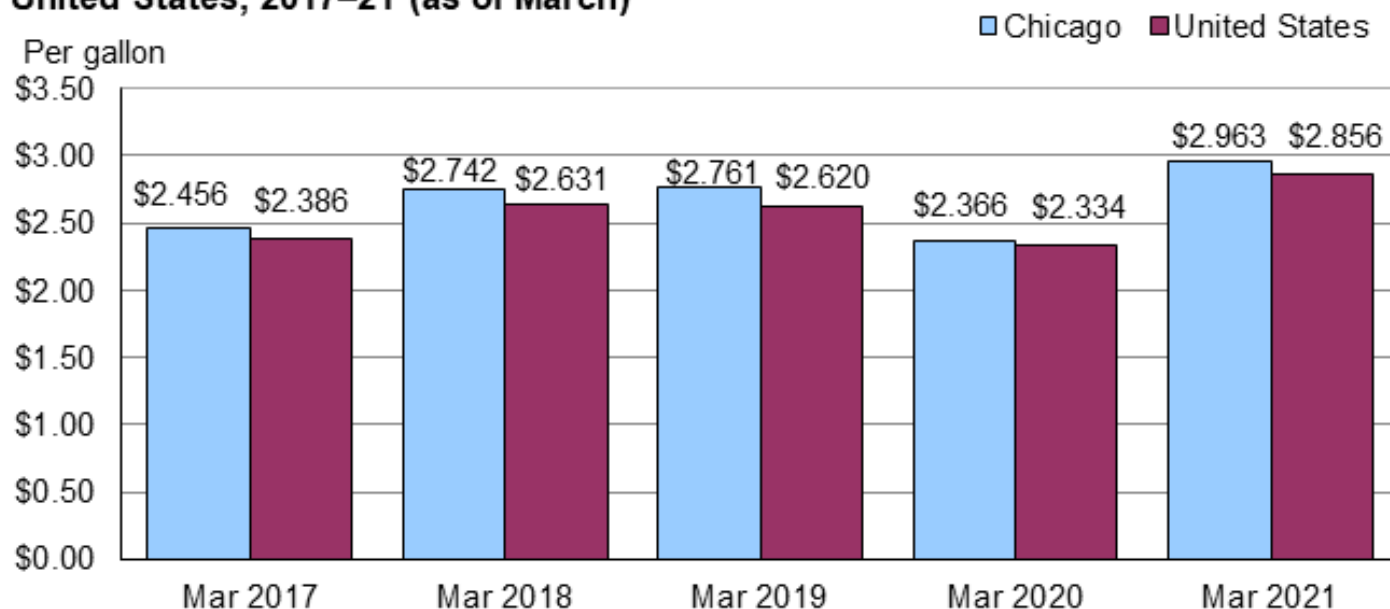
Media contact: (312) 353-1138

Average Energy Prices, Chicago-Naperville-Elgin — March 2021

Gasoline prices averaged \$2.963 per gallon in the Chicago-Naperville-Elgin area in March 2021, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Jason Palmer noted that area gasoline prices were up 59.7 cents compared to March 2020, when they averaged \$2.366 per gallon. Chicago area households paid an average of 14.8 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) of electricity in March 2021, more than to 14.3 cents in March 2020. In March, the average cost of utility (piped) gas was 87.6 cents per therm, more than its average price of 75.7 cents per therm a year earlier. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

The \$2.963 per gallon Chicago households paid for gasoline in March 2021 was 10.7 cents higher than the nationwide average of \$2.856. In the previous four years (2017-2020) in March, Chicago area gasoline prices ranged from 3.2 cents to 14.1 cents more than the nationwide average. (See [chart 1.](#))

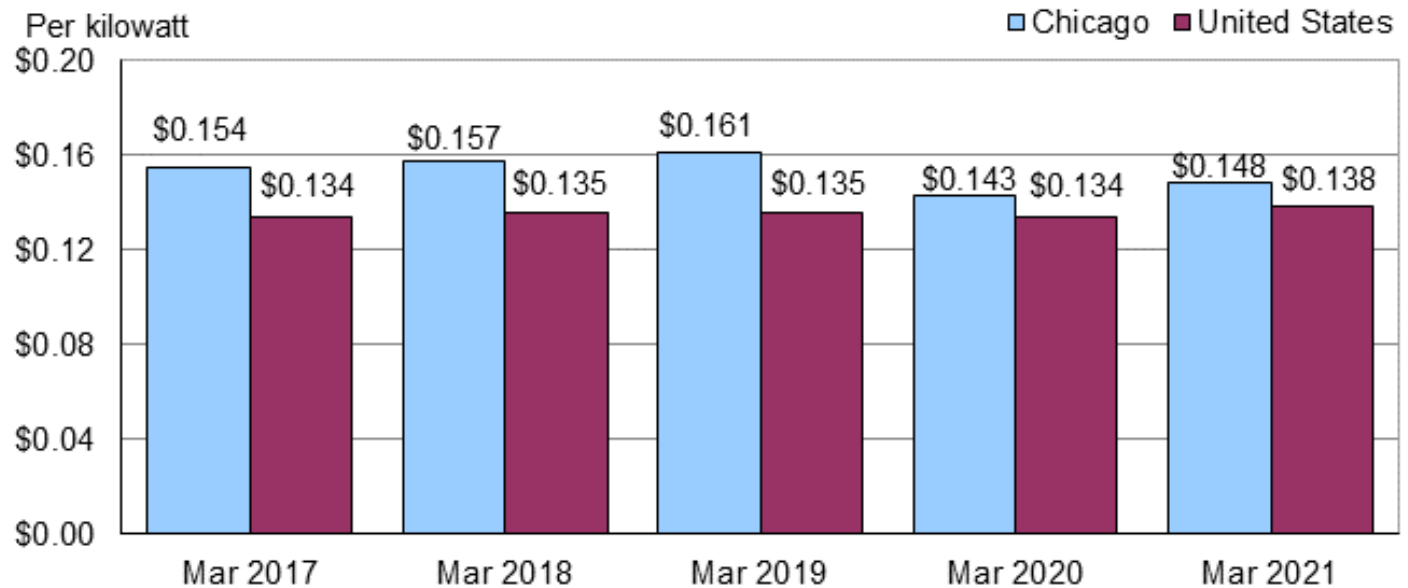
Chart 1. Average prices for gasoline, Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI, and the United States, 2017–21 (as of March)



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

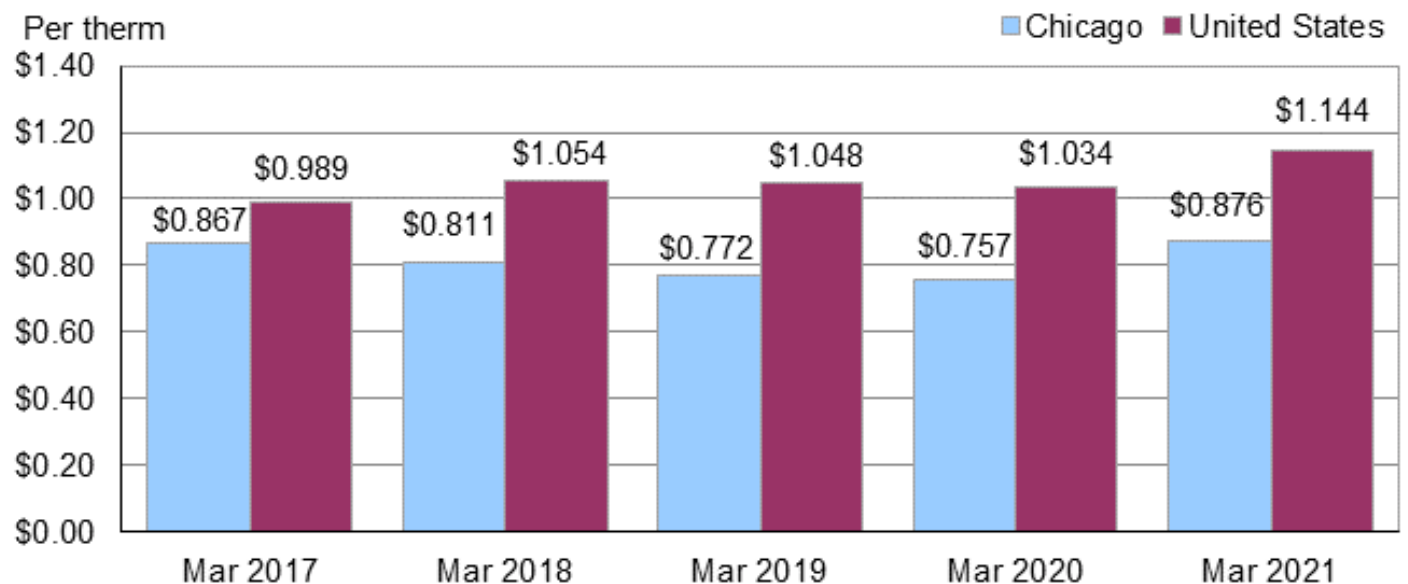
The 14.8 cents per kWh that Chicago households paid for electricity in March 2021 was more than the national average cost of 13.8 cents per kWh. In Chicago, average electricity costs were higher than the national average in the previous four years (2017-2020) in March, ranging from 6.7 percent to 19.3 percent more. (See [chart 2.](#))

Chart 2. Average prices for electricity, Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI, and the United States, 2017–21 (as of March)



Prices paid by Chicago area households for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, were 87.6 cents per therm in March 2021, 26.8 percent less than the national average of \$1.144 per therm. In each of the previous four years (2017-2020) in March, Chicago area utility (piped) gas costs were lower than the national average, ranging from 12.3 percent to 26.8 percent less. (See [chart 3.](#))

Chart 3. Average prices for utility (piped) gas, Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI, and the United States, 2017–21 (as of March)



The **Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI**, core based statistical area consists of Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties in Illinois; Jasper, Lake, Newton, 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 April 2021 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, May 12, 2021.

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 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-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI, and the United States, March 2020 – March 2021, 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
2020						
March	\$2.366	\$2.334	\$0.143	\$0.134	\$0.757	\$1.034
April	1.936	1.946	0.144	0.133	0.741	1.028
May	2.166	1.946	0.150	0.134	0.753	1.037
June	2.341	2.141	0.143	0.137	0.774	1.037
July	2.370	2.243	0.145	0.137	0.762	1.027
August	2.357	2.245	0.146	0.137	0.763	1.031
September	2.312	2.260	0.142	0.137	0.791	1.064
October	2.253	2.228	0.142	0.135	0.793	1.067
November	2.176	2.159	0.141	0.136	0.808	1.104
December	2.290	2.235	0.141	0.136	0.808	1.114
2021						
January	2.472	2.391	0.140	0.136	0.822	1.119
February	2.663	2.559	0.141	0.137	0.832	1.124
March	2.963	2.856	0.148	0.138	0.876	1.144