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MID-ATLANTIC INFORMATION OFFICE: Philadelphia, Pa.

Technical information: (215) 597-3282 • BLSInfoPhiladelphia@bls.gov • [www.bls.gov/regions/mid-atlantic](http://www.bls.gov/regions/mid-atlantic)

Media contact: (215) 861-5600 • BLSMediaPhiladelphia@bls.gov

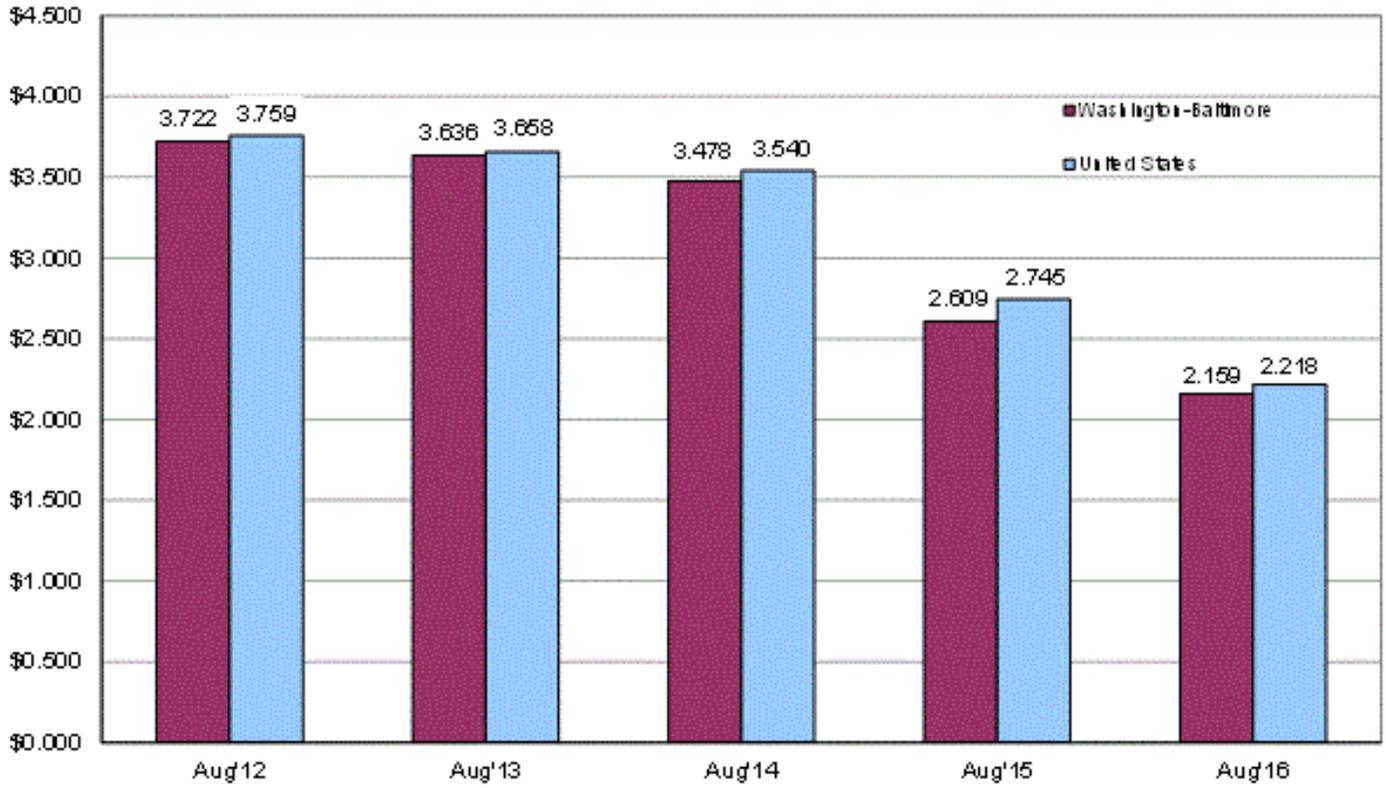
## **Average Energy Prices, Washington-Baltimore – August 2016**

Gasoline prices averaged \$2.159 a gallon in the Washington-Baltimore area in August 2016, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Sheila Watkins noted that area gasoline prices were down 17.2 percent compared to last August when they averaged \$2.609 per gallon. Washington area households paid an average of 14.0 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity in August 2016, up 3.7 percent from 13.5 cents per kWh in August 2015. The average price of utility (piped) gas at \$1.095 per therm in August 2016 was up 9.4 percent from \$1.001 per therm a year earlier. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

At \$2.159 a gallon, Washington area consumers paid 2.7 percent below the national average of \$2.218 for a gallon of gasoline in August 2016. Last August, gasoline prices in Washington were 5.0 percent lower than the national average. From 2012 to 2014, prices for a gallon of gasoline in Washington differed from the U.S. average by less than 2 percent in August. (See [chart 1](#).)

**Chart 1. Average prices for gasoline, Washington-Baltimore and United States, August 2012–August 2016**

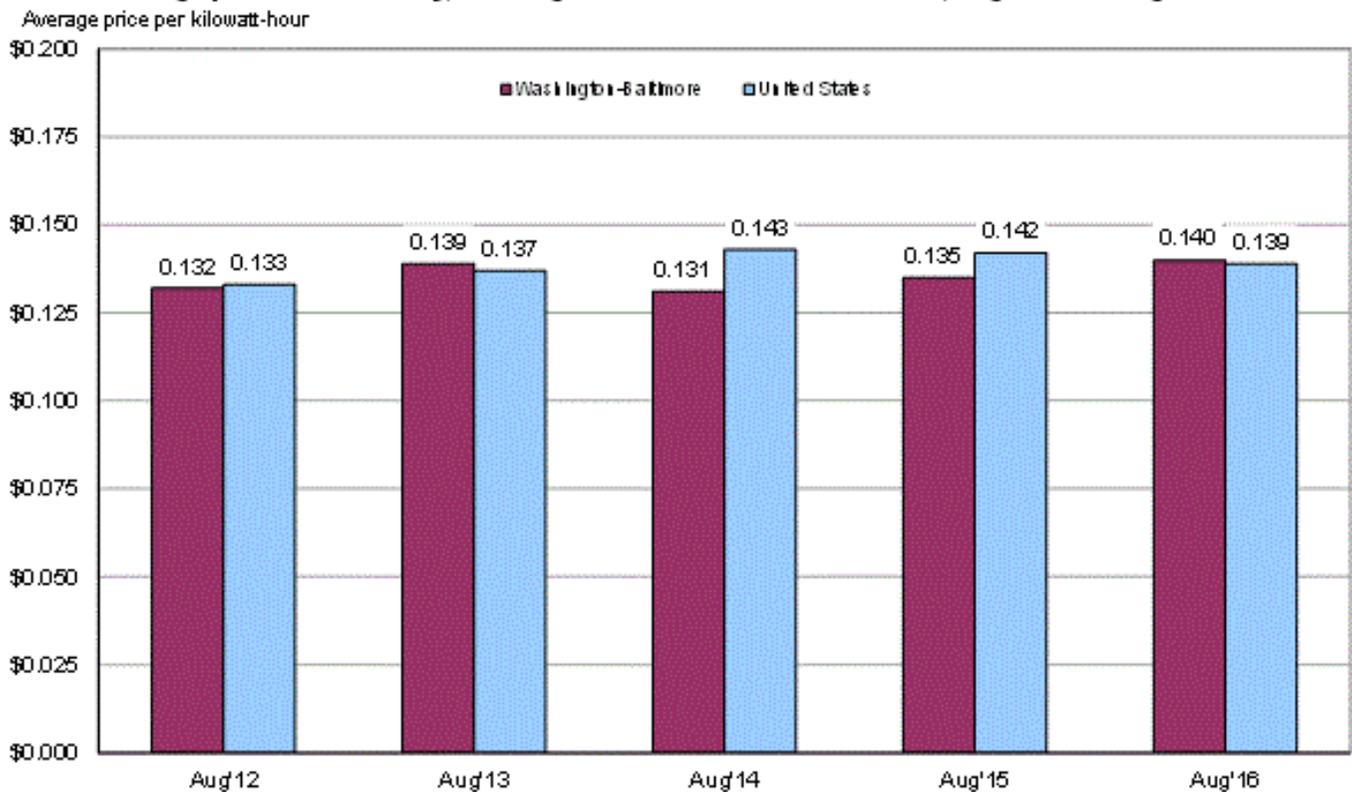
Average price per gallon



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The 14.0 cents per kWh that Washington households paid for electricity in August 2016 was similar to the nationwide average of 13.9 cents. Last August, the price per kWh for electricity in Washington was 4.9 percent lower than the national average. From 2012 to 2014, Washington area electricity prices ranged from 8.4 percent below to 1.5 percent above the national average in the month of August. (See [chart 2](#).)

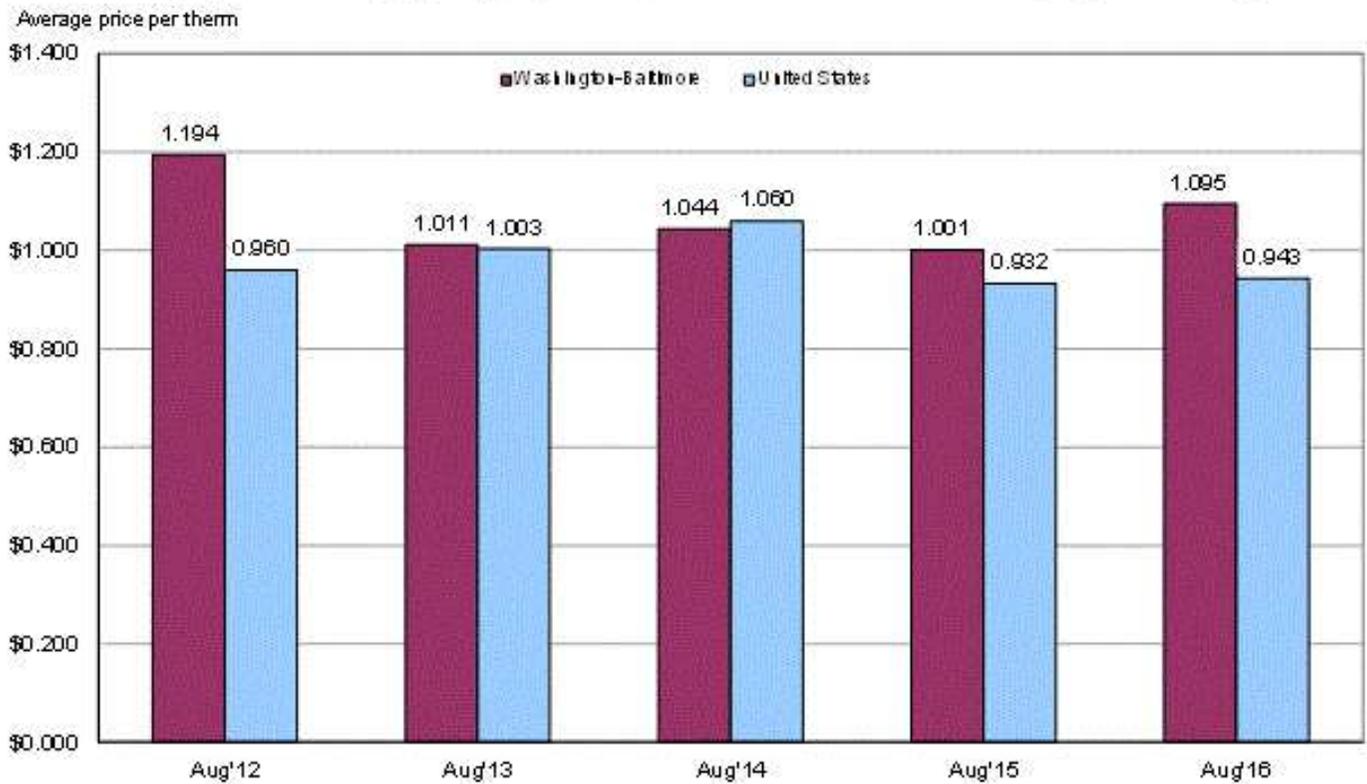
**Chart 2. Average prices for electricity, Washington-Baltimore and United States, August 2012–August 2016**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The price paid by Washington area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, was \$1.095 per therm in August, 16.1 percent above the national average of \$0.943 per therm. The price differentials for utility (piped) gas in the Washington area have ranged from 1.5 percent below to 24.4 percent above the national average in August over the past five years. (See [chart 3](#).)

**Chart 3. Average prices for utility (piped) gas, Washington-Baltimore and United States, August 2012–August 2016**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**The Consumer Price Index for September 2016 is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, October 18, 2016, at 8:30 a.m. (ET).**

### 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.

The **Washington-Baltimore, D.C.-Md.-Va.-W.Va., Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes the District of Columbia; Baltimore City and the counties of Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Charles, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, and Washington in Maryland; the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas, and Manassas Park and the counties of Arlington, Clarke, Culpeper, Fairfax, Fauquier, King George, Loudoun, Prince William, Spotsylvania, Stafford, and Warren in Virginia; and the counties of Berkeley and Jefferson in West Virginia.

**Table 1. Average prices for gasoline, electricity, and utility (piped) gas, United States and the Washington-Baltimore area, June 2015–June 2016, not seasonally adjusted**

Year and Month	Gasoline per gallon		Electricity per kWh		Utility (piped) gas per therm	
	United States	Washington-Baltimore	United States	Washington-Baltimore	United States	Washington-Baltimore
<b>2015</b>						
August.....	\$2.745	\$2.609	\$0.142	\$0.135	\$0.932	\$1.001
September.....	2.463	2.359	0.141	0.136	0.921	1.008
October.....	2.357	2.254	0.136	0.136	0.909	1.002
November.....	2.249	2.193	0.134	0.133	0.903	0.985
December.....	2.125	2.091	0.133	0.133	0.892	0.952
<b>2016</b>						
January.....	2.034	1.983	0.134	0.134	0.898	0.930
February.....	1.833	1.836	0.134	0.135	0.895	0.960
March.....	2.021	1.954	0.134	0.135	0.884	1.006
April.....	2.196	2.170	0.134	0.135	0.879	0.958
May.....	2.324	2.322	0.133	0.135	0.877	1.008
June.....	2.422	2.378	0.138	0.141	0.891	1.059
<b>July.....</b>	<b>2.287</b>	<b>2.265</b>	<b>0.139</b>	<b>0.140</b>	<b>0.931</b>	<b>1.150</b>
<b>August.....</b>	<b>2.218</b>	<b>2.159</b>	<b>0.139</b>	<b>0.140</b>	<b>0.943</b>	<b>1.095</b>