



For Release: Thursday, June 15, 2017

17-858-PHL

MID-ATLANTIC INFORMATION OFFICE: Philadelphia, Pa.

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

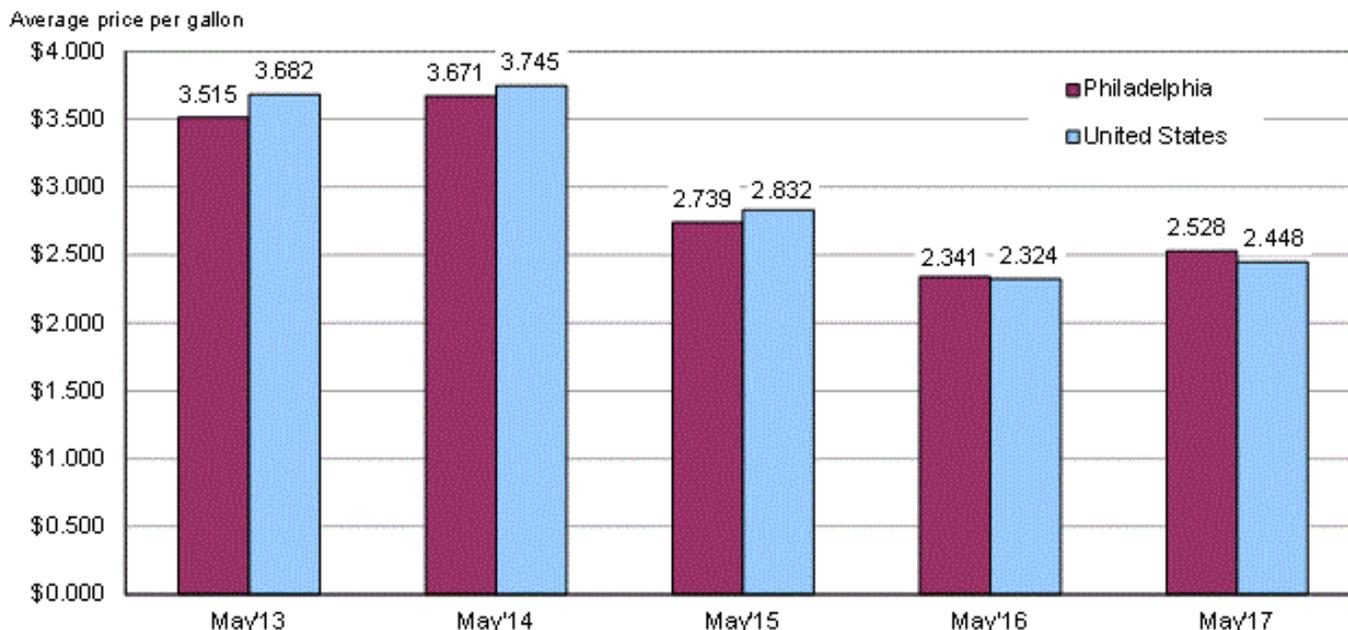
Media contact: (215) 861-5600 BLSMediaPhiladelphia@bls.gov

Average Energy Prices, Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City – May 2017

Gasoline prices averaged \$2.528 a gallon in the Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City area in May 2017, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau’s Regional Commissioner, noted that area gasoline prices were up 8.0 percent from last May when they averaged \$2.341 per gallon. Philadelphia area households paid an average of 15.2 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity in May 2017, close to the 15.5 cents paid in May 2016. The average cost of utility (piped) gas at \$1.063 per therm in May was 7.3 percent higher than its price of \$0.991 per therm a year earlier. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

At \$2.528 a gallon, the price for gasoline in the Philadelphia area was close to the national average of \$2.448 a gallon in May 2017. Gasoline prices paid by Philadelphia-area consumers remained close to the national average in May for the previous four years, differing by 4.5 percent or less. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

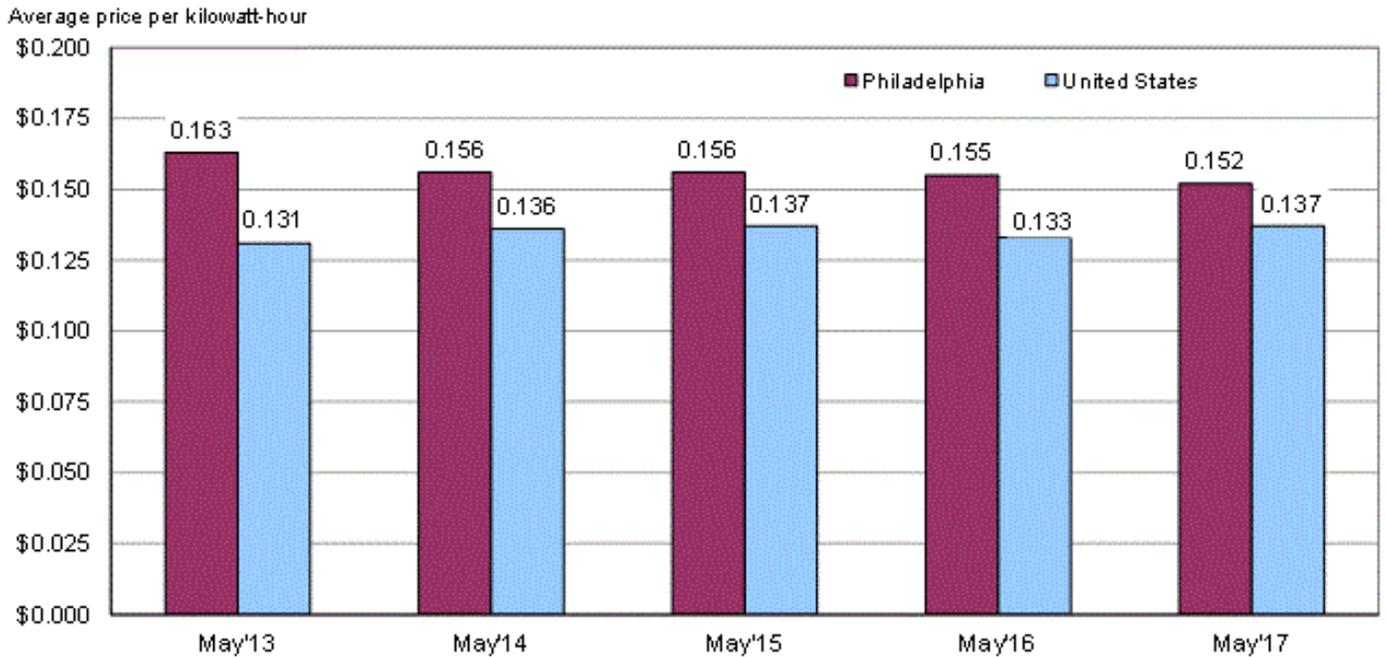
Chart 1. Average prices for gasoline, Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City and United States, May 2013–May 2017



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The 15.2 cents per kWh that Philadelphia households paid for electricity in May 2017 was 10.9 percent higher than the nationwide average cost of 13.7 cents per kWh. Last May, electricity prices in Philadelphia were 16.5 percent higher than the nation. From 2013 to 2015, prices paid by Philadelphia area consumers for electricity in May exceeded the U.S. average by 13.9 percent or more. (See [chart 2](#).)

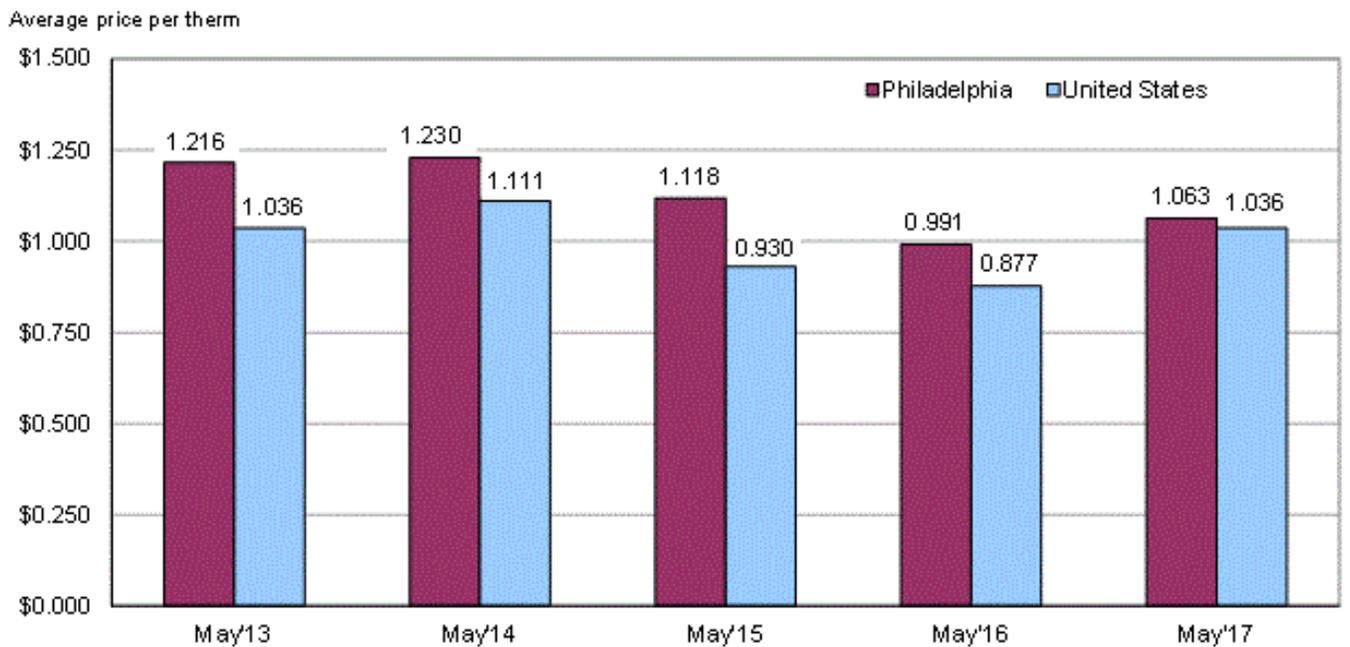
Chart 2. Average prices for electricity, Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City and United States, May 2013–May 2017



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The price paid by Philadelphia-area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, was \$1.063 per therm in May 2017, close to the national average of \$1.036 per therm. Utility (piped) gas prices in the Philadelphia area were above the national average in May for the previous four years, ranging from 10.7 percent to 20.2 percent higher. (See [chart 3](#).)

Chart 3. Average prices for utility (piped) gas, Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City and United States, May 2013–May 2017



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The Consumer Price Index for June 2017 is scheduled to be released on Friday, July 14, 2017, 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 **Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md. Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties in Pennsylvania; Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties in New Jersey; New Castle County in Delaware; and Cecil County in Maryland.

Table 1. Average prices for gasoline, electricity, and utility (piped) gas, United States and the Philadelphia area, May 2016-May 2017, not seasonally adjusted

Year and Month	Gasoline per gallon		Electricity per kWh		Utility (piped) gas per therm	
	Philadelphia	United States	Philadelphia	United States	Philadelphia	United States
2016						
May.....	\$2.341	\$2.324	\$0.155	\$0.133	\$0.991	\$0.877
June.....	2.338	2.422	0.157	0.138	0.992	0.891
July.....	2.207	2.287	0.158	0.139	0.993	0.931
August.....	2.146	2.218	0.157	0.139	0.993	0.943
September.....	2.220	2.269	0.158	0.139	1.000	0.954
October.....	2.246	2.304	0.153	0.134	0.995	0.961
November.....	2.308	2.246	0.152	0.131	1.002	0.970
December.....	2.394	2.289	0.151	0.133	1.013	0.972
2017						
January.....	2.562	2.409	0.152	0.134	1.006	1.000
February.....	2.463	2.360	0.151	0.135	1.006	1.003
March.....	2.398	2.386	0.150	0.134	1.063	0.989
April.....	2.564	2.479	0.151	0.135	1.061	1.000
May.....	2.528	2.448	0.152	0.137	1.063	1.036