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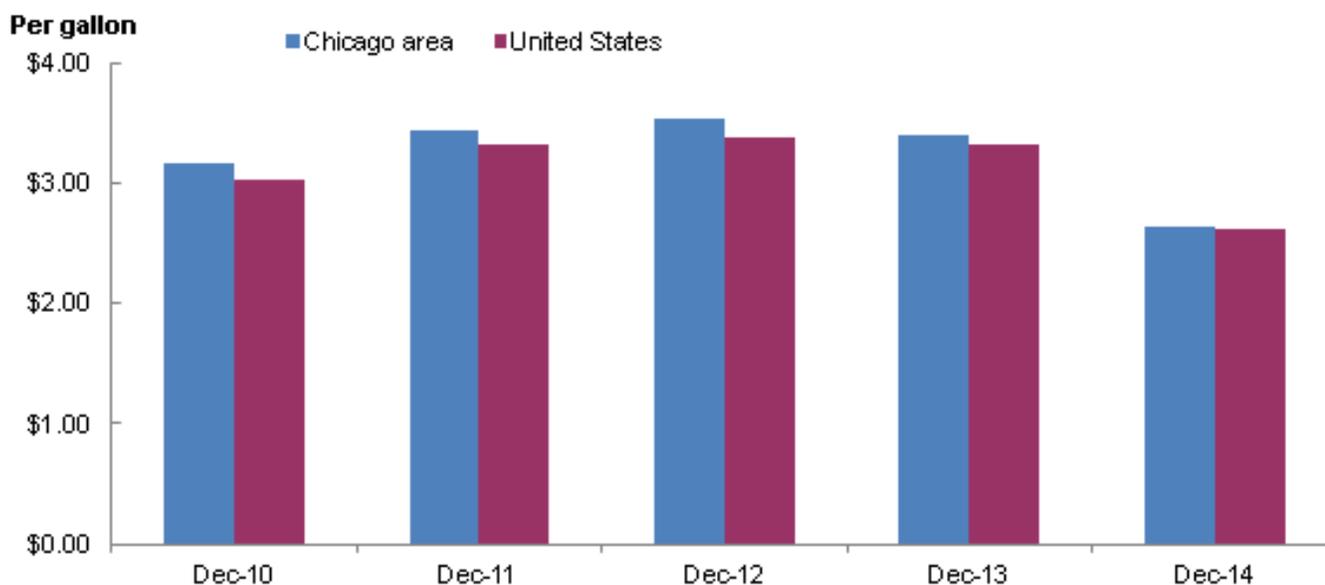
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Average Energy Prices, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha – December 2014

Gasoline prices averaged \$2.637 a gallon in the Chicago-Gary-Kenosha area in December 2014, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that area gasoline prices were down 75.9 cents compared to December 2013 when they averaged \$3.396 per gallon. Chicago area households paid an average of 16.7 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity in December 2014, up from 12.5 cents per kWh in December 2013. The average cost of utility (piped) gas at 95.3 cents per therm in December was up from 87.1 cents per therm a year earlier. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

At \$2.637 a gallon, costs for gasoline in the Chicago were similar to the national average of \$2.618 a gallon in December 2014. Average gasoline costs in Chicago had been higher by 6.3 cents or more, compared to the U.S. average for the previous four Decembers (2010-2013). (See [chart 1.](#))

Chart 1. Average prices for gasoline, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha and the United States, 2010-2014 (as of December)



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The 16.7 cents per kWh that Chicago households paid for electricity in December 2014 was 23.7 percent higher than the nationwide average cost of 13.5 cents per kWh. Last December, electricity costs in Chicago were 4.6 percent lower than the nation. With the exception of December 2013, Chicago area electricity costs have exceeded the national average by 15.2 percent or more over the past five Decembers. (See [chart 2.](#))

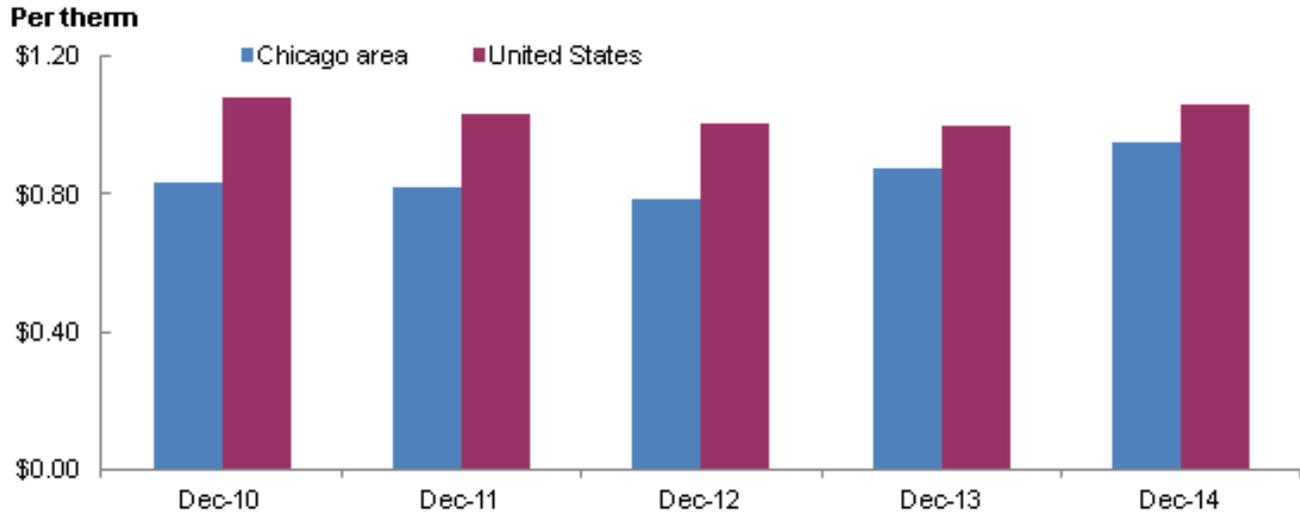
Chart 2. Average prices for electricity, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha and the United States, 2010-2014 (as of December)



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Prices paid by Chicago area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, were 95.3 cents per therm in December 2014, 10.1 percent below the national average of \$1.060 per therm. Utility (piped) gas prices in the Chicago area have been below the national average over the previous five Decembers, ranging from 10.1 percent below in December 2014 to December 2010's 22.8 percent difference. (See [chart 3.](#))

Chart 3. Average prices for utility (piped) gas, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha and the United States, 2010-2014 (as of December)



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The **Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, Ill.-Ind.-Wis., Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area** consists of Cook, De Kalb, Du Page, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties in Illinois; Lake 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 January 2015 is scheduled to be released on Thursday, February 26, 2015, at 7:30 a.m. (CT).

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.

Table 1. Average prices for gasoline, electricity, and utility (piped) gas, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha and the United States, December 2013 - December 2014, 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
2013						
December.....	\$3.396	\$3.333	\$0.125	\$0.131	\$0.871	\$0.998
2014						
January.....	3.545	3.378	0.138	0.134	0.909	1.040
February.....	3.603	3.422	0.138	0.134	0.969	1.078
March.....	3.919	3.590	0.138	0.135	1.269	1.154
April.....	4.044	3.717	0.139	0.131	1.394	1.137
May.....	3.920	3.745	0.139	0.136	1.214	1.111
June.....	4.051	3.750	0.161	0.143	1.158	1.088
July.....	3.769	3.690	0.160	0.143	1.186	1.093
August.....	3.635	3.540	0.162	0.143	1.122	1.060
September.....	3.671	3.463	0.164	0.141	1.009	1.058
October.....	3.366	3.241	0.167	0.136	0.885	1.033
November.....	3.063	2.945	0.149	0.134	0.906	1.035
December.....	2.637	2.618	0.167	0.135	0.953	1.060