



For Release: Monday, October 22, 2018

18-1636-CHI

MIDWEST INFORMATION OFFICE: Chicago, Ill.

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

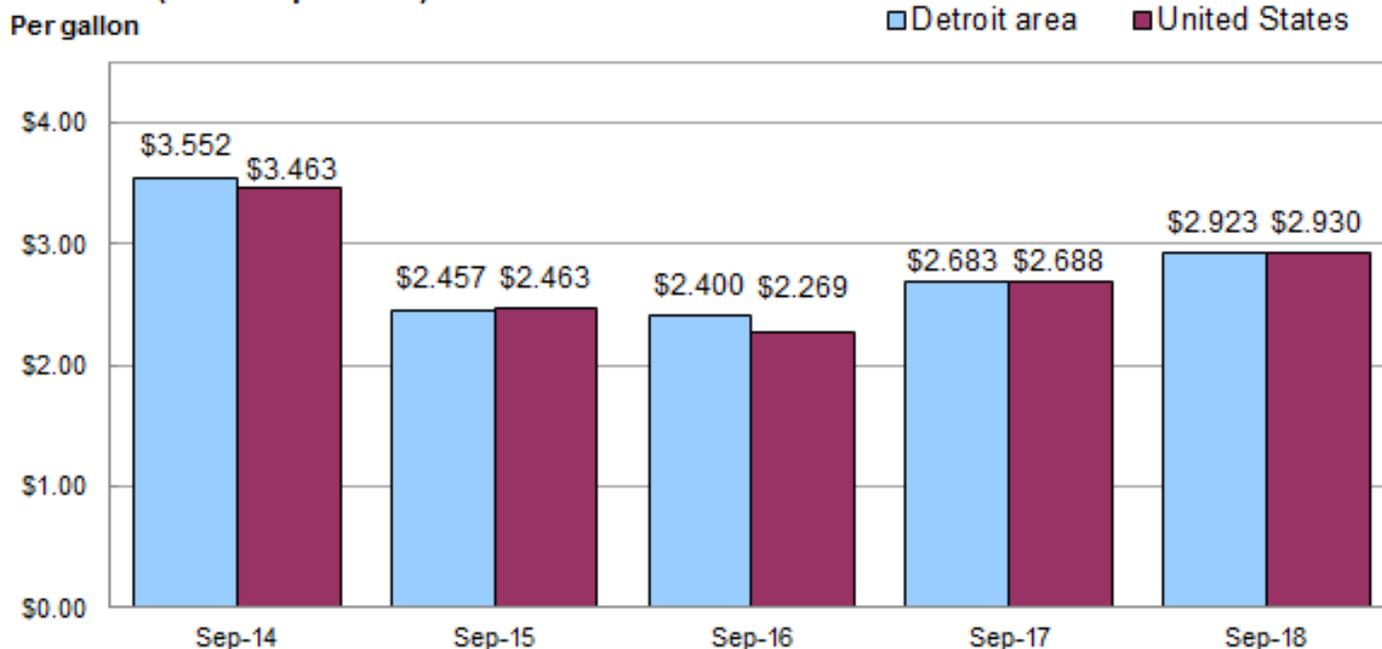
Media contact: (312) 353-1138

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

Gasoline prices averaged \$2.923 per gallon in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn area in September 2018, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that area gasoline prices were up 24.0 cents compared to last September when they averaged \$2.683 per gallon. Detroit area households paid an average of 15.6 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) of electricity in September 2018, less than the 16.1 cents per kilowatt-hour in September 2017. In September, the average cost of utility (piped) gas was 85.2 cents per therm, higher than its average price of 77.5 cents per therm a year earlier. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

At \$2.923 per gallon in September 2018, costs for gasoline in the Detroit area were similar to the national average of \$2.930 per gallon. In September 2014 and September 2016, Detroit area gasoline prices were 8.9 cents and 13.1 cents higher than the national average, respectively. Detroit area gasoline prices in September 2015 and September 2017 were comparable to the national average. (See [chart 1.](#))

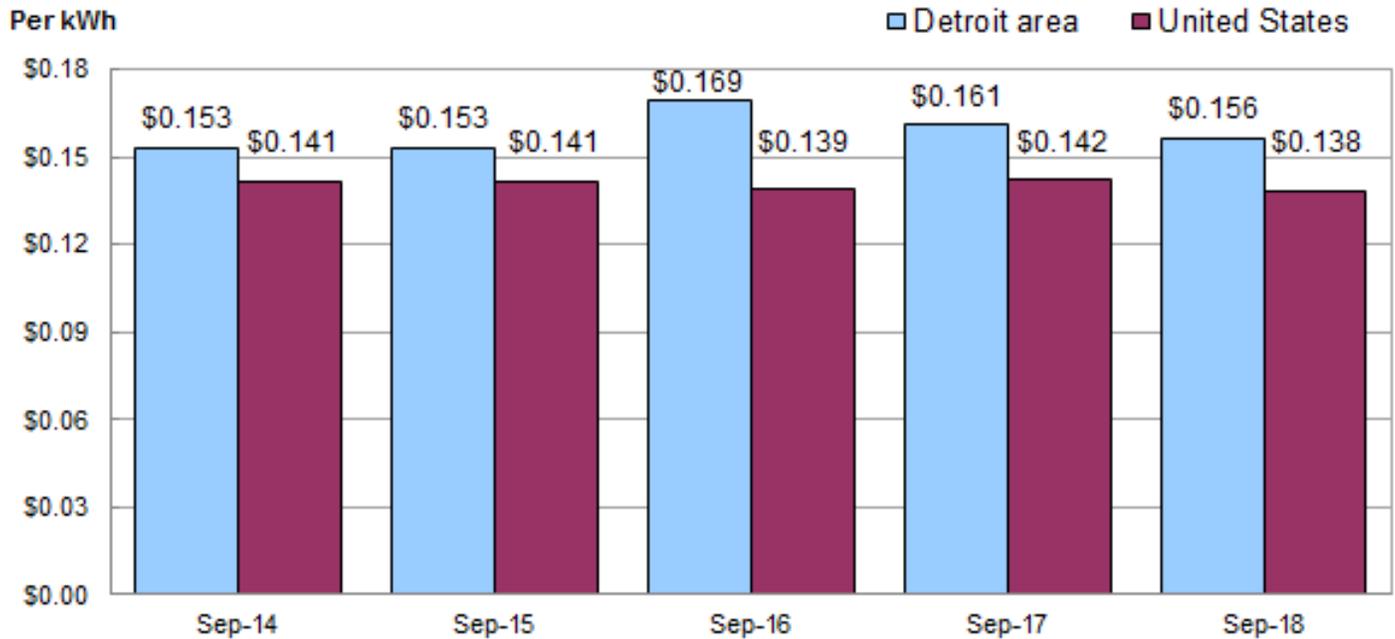
**Chart 1. Average prices for gasoline, Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI, and the United States, 2014–18 (as of September)**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The 15.6 cents per kWh that Detroit households paid for electricity in September 2018 was 13.0 percent higher than the nationwide average cost of 13.8 cents per kWh. In the previous four years (2014-2017) in September, Detroit area electricity costs exceeded the national average, ranging from 8.5 percent to 21.6 percent more. (See [chart 2.](#))

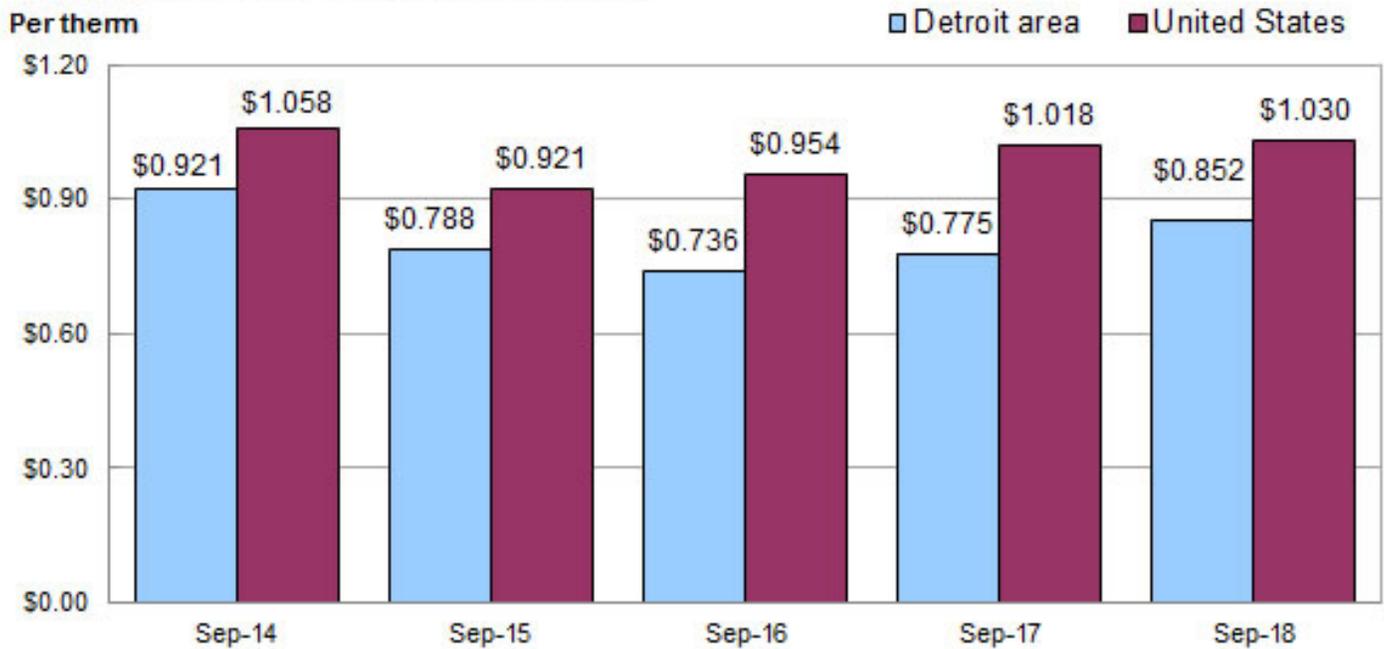
**Chart 2. Average prices for electricity, Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI, and the United States, 2014–18 (as of September)**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Prices paid by Detroit area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, were 85.2 cents per therm in September 2018, 17.3 percent below the national average of \$1.030 per therm. In the previous four years (2014-2017) in September, Detroit area utility (piped) gas costs were lower than the national average, ranging from 12.9 percent to 23.9 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 September)**



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 October 2018 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, November 14, 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, September 2017 – September 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>						
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
April.....	2.718	2.795	0.165	0.134	0.733	1.044
May.....	2.972	2.963	0.154	0.136	0.862	1.050
June.....	3.014	2.970	0.161	0.139	0.870	1.042
July.....	2.968	2.930	0.161	0.139	0.846	1.038
August.....	2.953	2.919	0.156	0.139	0.841	1.055
September.....	2.923	2.930	0.156	0.138	0.852	1.030