



**For Release: Friday, May 12, 2017**

**17-643-PHI**

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)

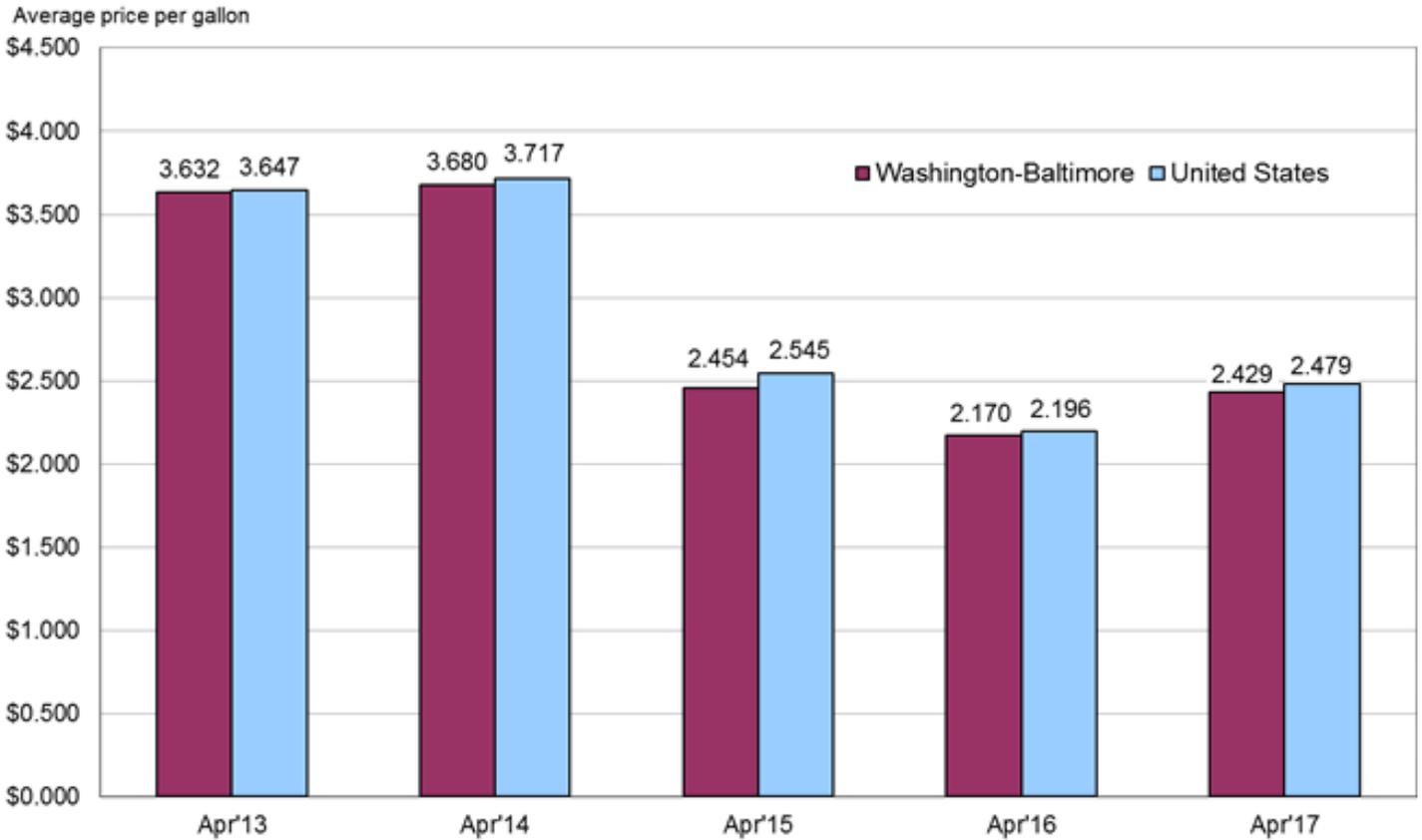
Media contact: (215) 861-5600 BLSMediaPhiladelphia@bls.gov

## **Average Energy Prices, Washington-Baltimore – April 2017**

Gasoline prices averaged \$2.429 a gallon in the Washington-Baltimore area in April 2017, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Sheila Watkins noted that area gasoline prices were up 11.9 percent compared to last April when they averaged \$2.170 per gallon. Washington area households paid an average of 13.0 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity in April 2017, down 3.7 percent compared to the 13.5 cents per kWh in April 2016. The average price of utility (piped) gas at \$1.274 per therm in April 2017 was up 33.0 percent from \$0.958 per therm a year earlier. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

At \$2.429 a gallon, Washington area consumers paid close to the national average of \$2.479 for a gallon of gasoline in April 2017. Last April, gasoline prices in Washington were also close to the national average. From 2013 to 2015, prices for a gallon of gasoline in Washington differed from the U.S. average by 3.6 or less percent in April. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

**Chart 1. Average prices for gasoline, Washington-Baltimore and United States, April 2013–April 2017**

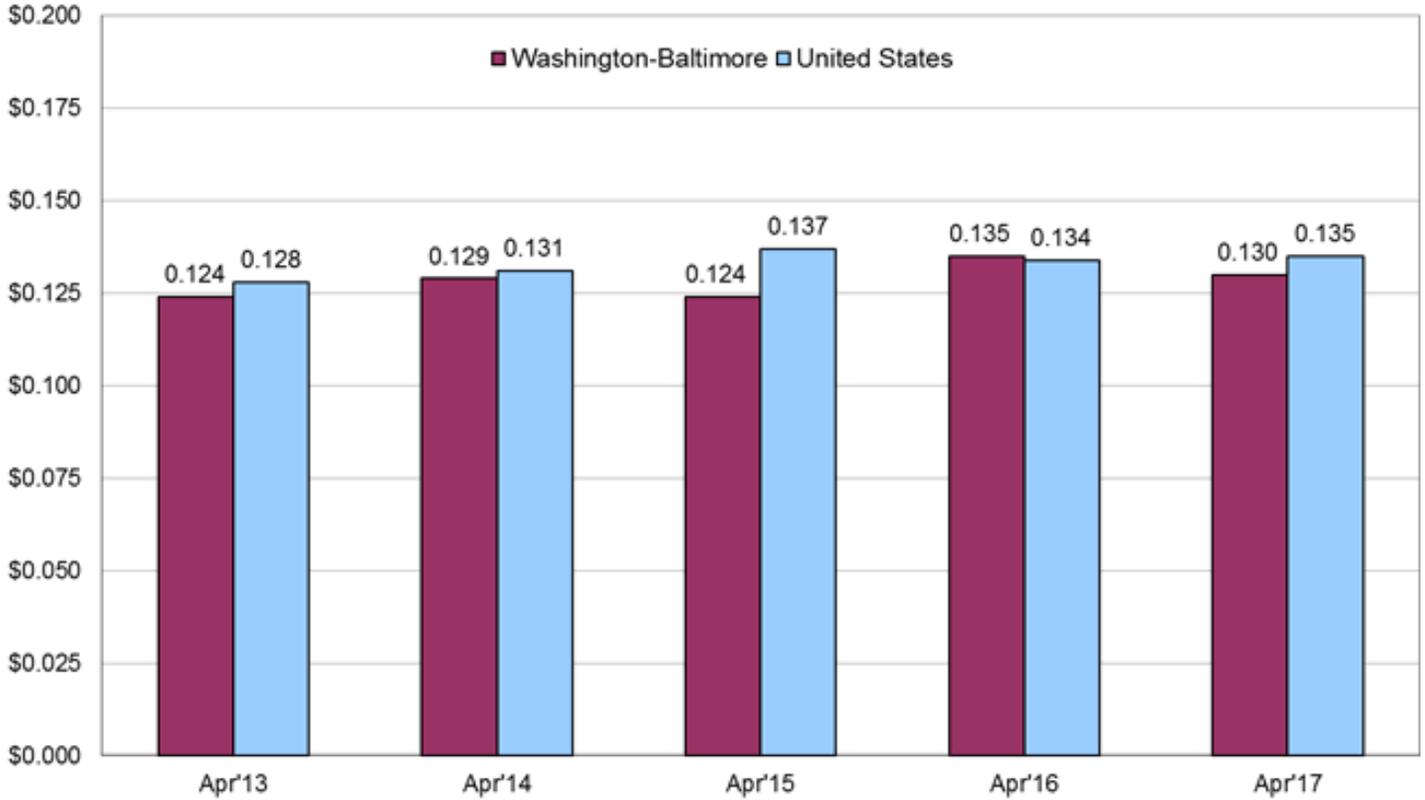


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The 13.0 cents per kWh that Washington households paid for electricity in April 2017 was 3.7 percent below the nationwide average of 13.5 cents. Last April, the price per kWh for electricity in Washington was close to the national average. From 2013 to 2015, the price differentials for electricity in the Washington area ranged from 1.5 to 9.5 percent below the national average in April. (See [chart 2.](#))

**Chart 2. Average prices for electricity, Washington-Baltimore and United States, April 2013–April 2017**

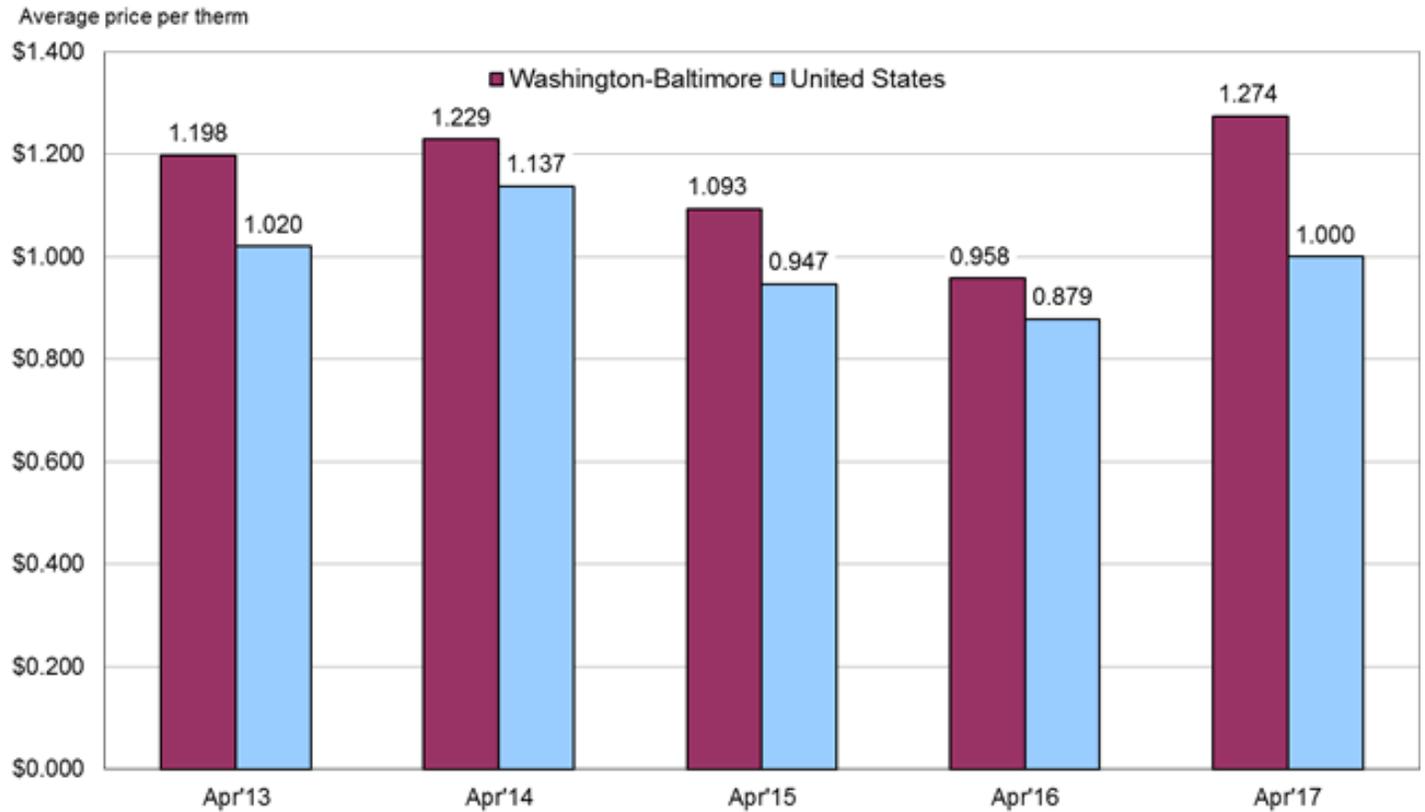
Average price per kilowatt-hour



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 \$1.274 per therm in April, 27.4 percent above the national average of \$1.000 per therm. From 2013 to 2016, the price differentials for utility (piped) gas in the Washington area have ranged from 8.1 to 17.5 percent above the national average in April. (See [chart 3](#).)

**Chart 3. Average prices for utility (piped) gas, Washington-Baltimore and United States, April 2013–April 2017**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**The Consumer Price Index for May 2017 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, June 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 **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, April 2016-April 2017, 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>2016</b>						
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
July.....	2.287	2.265	0.139	0.140	0.931	1.150
August.....	2.218	2.159	0.139	0.140	0.943	1.095
September.....	2.269	2.244	0.139	0.141	0.954	1.063
October.....	2.304	2.283	0.134	0.137	0.961	1.051
November.....	2.246	2.249	0.131	0.128	0.970	1.157
December.....	2.289	2.303	0.133	0.128	0.972	1.109
<b>2017</b>						
January.....	2.409	2.416	0.134	0.128	1.000	1.150
February.....	2.360	2.337	0.135	0.130	1.003	1.205
March.....	2.386	2.350	0.134	0.129	0.989	1.234
April.....	2.479	2.429	0.135	0.130	1.000	1.274