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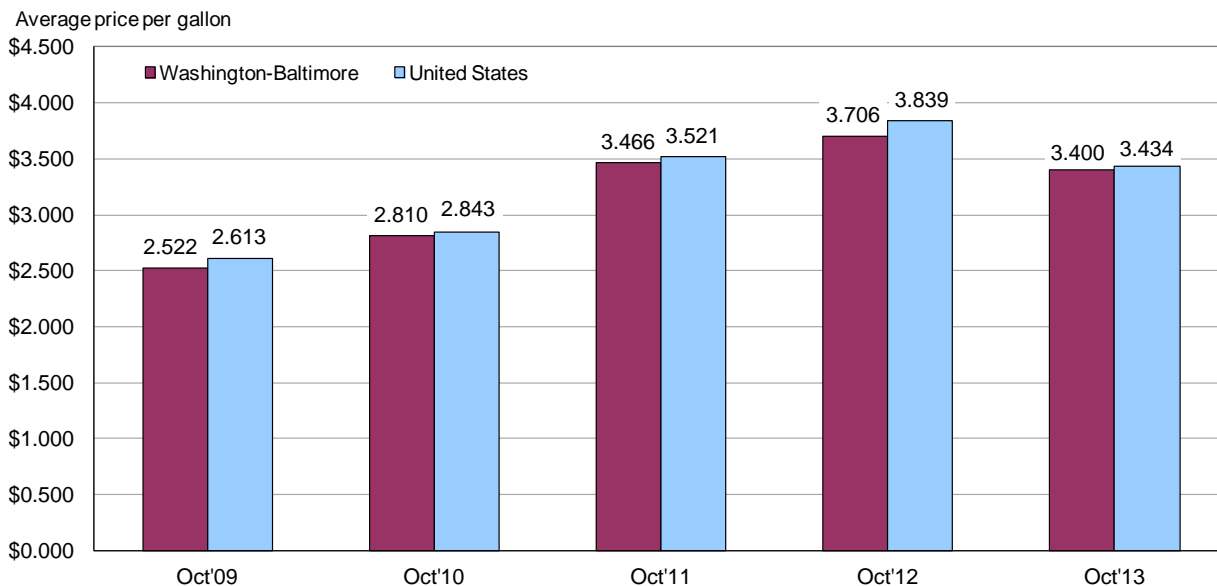
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AVERAGE ENERGY PRICES, WASHINGTON-BALTIMORE – OCTOBER 2013

Gasoline prices averaged \$3.400 a gallon in the Washington-Baltimore area in October 2013, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that area gasoline prices decreased 8.3 percent since last October when they averaged \$3.706 per gallon. Washington area households paid an average of 13.5 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity in October 2013, up 8.9 percent since October 2012. The average cost of utility (piped) gas at \$1.080 per therm in October was 2.7 cents more than the \$1.053 per therm spent last year. (All data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year analysis is used throughout.)

At \$3.400 a gallon, Washington area consumers paid close to the national average of \$3.434 for gasoline in October 2013. A year earlier, the price for a gallon of gasoline in the Washington area was also similar to the national average. In fact, the local prices for a gallon of gasoline in October have differed by less than 4 percent from the national average in each of the last five years. (See chart 1 and table 1.)

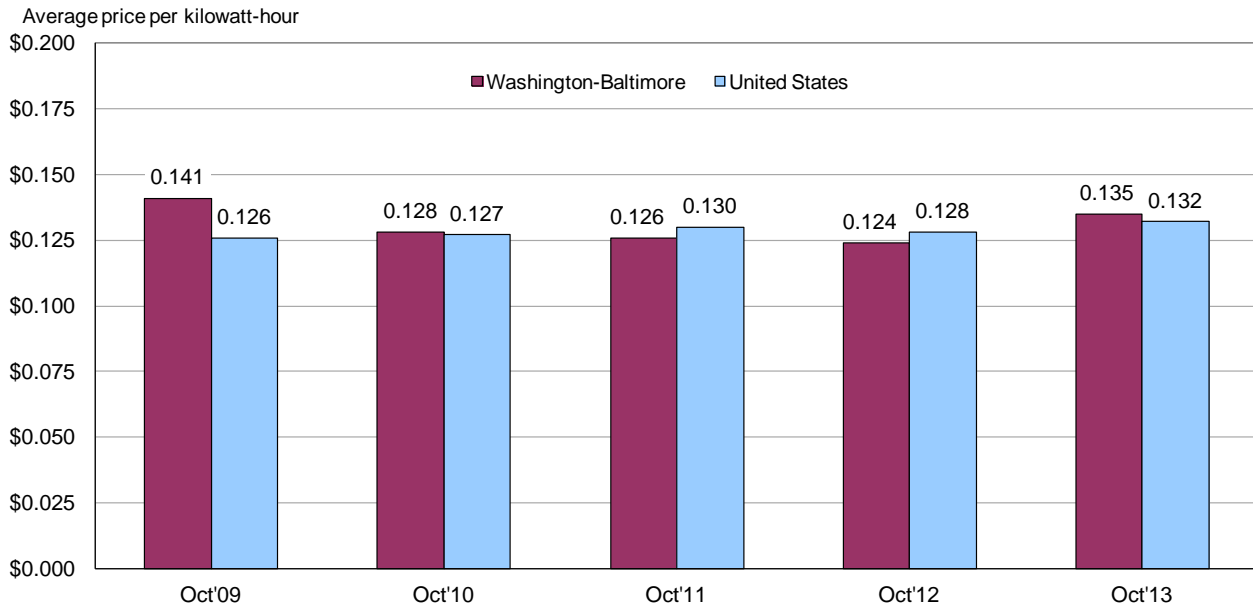
Chart 1. Average prices for gasoline, Washington-Baltimore and United States, 2009–2013



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The 13.5 cents per kWh that Washington households paid for electricity in October 2013 was close to the nationwide average of 13.2 cents per kWh. Last year, electricity prices for consumers in Washington were also close to those for the nation. In fact, in the month of October, the local price for electricity differed by less than 4 percent from the national average in the last four years. (See chart 2.)

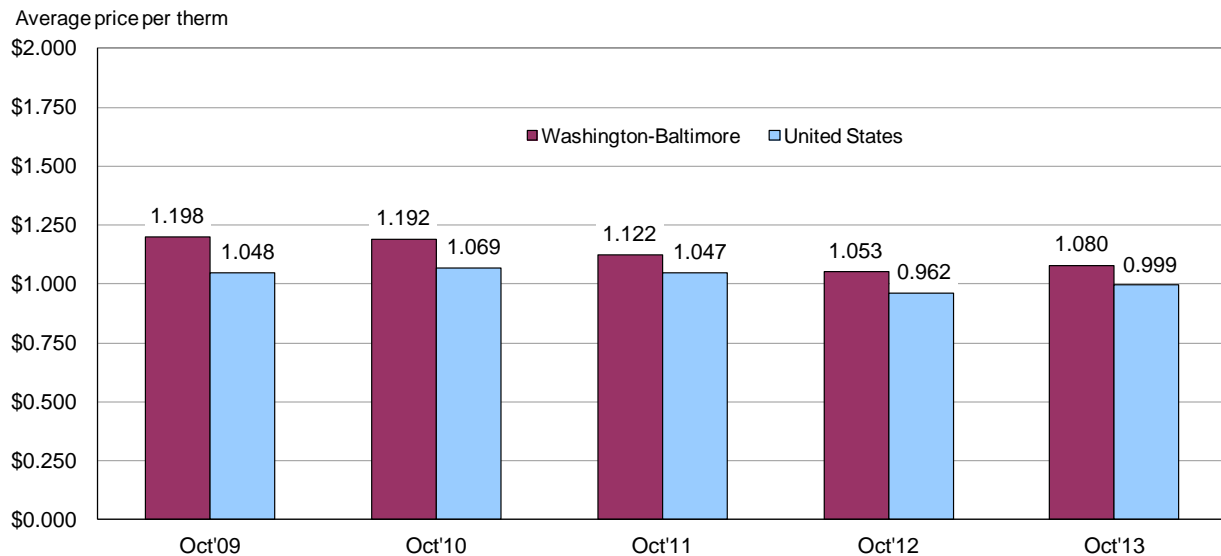
Chart 2. Average prices for electricity, Washington-Baltimore and United States, 2009–2013



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In October 2013, the price paid by Washington area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, at \$1.080 per therm, was 8.1 percent more than the national average of \$0.999. A year earlier, local area consumers paid 9.5 percent more per therm for natural gas compared to consumers nationwide. In fact, from 2009 to 2012, the per-therm cost for natural gas in Washington exceeded the U.S. average by at least 7 percent in the month of October. (See chart 3.)

Chart 3. Average prices for utility (piped) gas, Washington-Baltimore and United States, 2009–2013



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The **Washington-Baltimore, D.C.-Md.-Va.-W.Va. Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA)** 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.

Additional Information

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; Federal Relay Services: 1-800-877-8339.

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.

Table 1. Average prices for gasoline, electricity, and utility (piped) gas, United States and the Washington-Baltimore area, October 2012–October 2013, 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
2012						
October	\$3.839	\$3.706	\$0.128	\$0.124	\$0.962	\$1.053
November	3.542	3.473	0.127	0.120	0.994	1.102
December	3.386	3.353	0.127	0.120	1.004	1.101
2013						
January	3.407	3.443	0.129	0.120	0.996	1.089
February	3.748	3.738	0.129	0.122	0.997	1.112
March	3.792	3.754	0.128	0.125	0.994	1.098
April	3.647	3.632	0.128	0.124	1.020	1.198
May	3.682	3.568	0.131	0.121	1.036	1.206
June	3.693	3.587	0.137	0.132	1.038	1.201
July	3.687	3.640	0.137	0.136	1.025	1.143
August	3.658	3.636	0.137	0.139	1.003	1.011
September	3.616	3.525	0.137	0.140	1.000	1.054
October	3.434	3.400	0.132	0.135	0.999	1.080