Trends in consumer expenditures and prices for public utilities (2018)

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Trends in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for utilities

Source: PLUMS based on BLS data.
Introduction

- This research summary is based on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor (https://www.bls.gov/data)
- Data are provided on both household expenditures and the consumer price index (CPI) with a focus on public utility services
Household expenditures on utilities in the U.S.

Consumer expenditures on utilities for a four-person household in 2016 ($5,102 and 6.6% of total household expenditures)

- Telephone (2.6% of exp.), $1,994, 39%
- Electricity (2.4% of exp.), $1,829, 36%
- Natural gas (.6% of exp.), $443, 9%
- Fuel oil and other fuels (.1% of exp.), $89, 2%
- Water and other public services (1% of exp.), $747, 14%

Source: IPU-MSU based on BLS data.

Consumer expenditures on utilities by household size (2016)

- Single-person
  - Telephone: $340
  - Electricity: $945
  - Water and other public services: $61
  - Fuel oil and other fuels: $242
  - Natural gas: $818

- Four-person
  - Telephone: $1,994
  - Electricity: $1,829
  - Water and other public services: $747
  - Fuel oil and other fuels: $443
  - Natural gas: $340

Source: IPU-MSU based on BLS data.
Household expenditures on utilities over time

Annual consumer expenditures on utilities for a four-person household ($)

- Water and other public services
- Fuel oil and other fuels
- Natural gas
- Telephone
- Electricity

Source: IPU-MSU based on BLS data.

Consumer expenditures on utilities for a four-person household (% of total expenditures)

Source: IPU-MSU based on BLS data.
Utilities expenditures by income level and regressivity

Consumer expenditures on utilities by income quintile (all consumers $2016)

- **Water and other public services**
  - Lowest quintile: $1,013
  - 2nd quintile: $1,309
  - 3rd quintile: $1,436
  - 4th quintile: $1,569
  - Highest quintile: $1,895

- **Fuel oil and other fuels**
  - Lowest quintile: $220
  - 2nd quintile: $1,095
  - 3rd quintile: $1,427
  - 4th quintile: $1,752
  - Highest quintile: $2,164

- **Natural gas**
  - Lowest quintile: $719
  - 2nd quintile: $888
  - 3rd quintile: $1,155
  - 4th quintile: $1,557
  - Highest quintile: $2,164

- **Telephone**
  - Lowest quintile: $47
  - 2nd quintile: $74
  - 3rd quintile: $81
  - 4th quintile: $88
  - Highest quintile: $136

- **Electricity**
  - Lowest quintile: $321
  - 2nd quintile: $550
  - 3rd quintile: $888
  - 4th quintile: $1,752
  - Highest quintile: $2,164

Source: IPU-MSU based on BLS data.
Change in percentage of consumer expenditures on utilities by income quintile (2006-2016)

Source: IPU-MSU based on BLS data.
Trends in expenditures by income

Trends in consumer expenditures on utilities by income quintile
(% of total expenditures)

Source: IPU-MSU based on BLS data.

Income before taxes by income quintile

Source: IPU-MSU based on BLS data.
Trends in expenditures by region

Source: IPU-MSU based on BLS data.
Trends in expenditures by area

Source: IPU-MSU based on BLS data.
Trends in expenditures by housing

Consumer expenditures on utilities by housing

Source: IPU-MSU based on BLS data.
CPI trends for utilities (US)

Trends in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for utilities

Source: IPU-MSU based on BLS data.
CPI trends for utilities (US)

Source: IPU-MSU based on BLS data.
CPI trends for household expenditures (US)

Trends in CPI for major household expenditures (1983=100)

- College tuition (1978)
- Medical care (1935)
- Food (1913)
- Housing (1967)
- CPI (1913, 1983=100)
- Fuels and utilities (1953)
- Gasoline, unl. reg. (1976)
- Telephone services (1997=100)

Source: IPUMSU based on BLS data.
Expenditure and price trends combined

Household expenditures and CPI for electricity

- Electricity expenditures (nominal)
- Electricity expenditures ($2016)
- Electricity CPI

Source: IPU-MSU based on BLS data.
Expended and price trends combined

Household expenditures and CPI for natural gas

- Natural gas (nominal)
- Natural gas expenditures ($2016)
- Natural gas CPI

Source: IPU-MSU based on BLS data.
Expenditure and price trends combined

Household expenditures and CPI for water and sewer maintenance

Annual household expenditures (family of four)

Water expenditures (nominal)
Water expenditures ($2016)
Water CPI

Source: IPU-MSU based on BLS data.
Expenditure and price trends combined

Household expenditures and CPI for telecommunications

Source: IPU-MSU based on BLS data.
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