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

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
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 2017
($5,001 nd 6.2% of total household expenditures)

- Natural gas (6% of exp.), $482, 9%
- Fuel oil and other fuels (1% of exp.), $98, 2%
- Water and other public services (1% of exp.), $788, 16%
- Telephone (2.3% of exp.), $1,843, 37%
- Electricity (2.2% of exp.), $1,789, 36%

Consumer expenditures on utilities by household size (2017)

Source: IPUMS 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: IPUMSU based on RLS data

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

Source: IPUMSU based on RLS data
Utilities expenditures by income level and regressivity

Consumer expenditures on utilities by income quintile (all consumers $2017)

Source: IPUMS-MSU based on BLS data.

Consumer expenditures on utilities by income quintile (all consumers 2017%)

Source: IPUMS-MSU based on BLS data.
Change in percentage of expenditures on utilities

Change in percentage of consumer expenditures on utilities by income quintile (2005-2017)

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

Income before taxes by income quintile

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

Source: IPUMSU based on BLS data.
Trends in expenditures by region

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

Consumer expenditures on utilities by urban and rural area

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

Consumer expenditures on utilities by housing

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

Trends in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for public utilities

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

Trends in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for public utilities

Source: IPUMSU based on BLS data.
CPI trends for household expenditures (US)

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

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

Household expenditures and CPI for electricity

Annual household expenditures (family of four)

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

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

Household expenditures and CPI for natural gas

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

Household expenditures and CPI for water and sewer maintenance

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

Household expenditures and CPI for telecommunications

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

Source: IPU-MSU based on BLS data.
Welcome to IPU

The Institute of Public Utilities (IPU) supports informed, effective, and efficient regulation of the infrastructure-intensive network industries providing essential utility services - electricity, natural gas, water, and telecommunications. IPU was established in 1965 and operates as a self-sustaining unit within the College of Social Science at Michigan State University, the nation’s pioneer land-grant institution. We are located on MSU’s beautiful East Lansing campus and collaborate with faculty and researchers from various academic colleges, departments, and centers.

IPU specializes in conducting applied research and providing exceptional learning and networking opportunities to professionals in the utility policy community. IPU's neutral analytical and instructional practice is informed by a broad array of traditional and applied disciplines including economics, political science, law, accounting, finance, and engineering. IPU's educational forums sharpen the skills needed to address today's most salient challenges of infrastructure governance, including the integration of markets and economic regulation.