Trends in consumer expenditures and prices for public utilities (2021)
Data sources

- 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 2018
($5,001 and 6.2% of total household expenditures)

- Natural gas (6% of exp.), $538, 19%
- Fuel oil and other fuels (1% of exp.), $104, 2%
- Water and other public services (1% of exp.), $854, 17%
- Electricity (2.2% of exp.), $1,760, 34%
- Telephone (2.3% of exp.), $1,919, 37%

Source: IPUMSU based on BLS data

Consumer expenditures on utilities by household size (2018)

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

Source: IPUMSU based on BLS data
Household expenditures on utilities over time

Annual consumer expenditures on utilities for four-person households
(Nominal, BLS)

Consumer expenditures on utilities for four-person households
(% of total expenditures, BLS)

Source: IPUMS/MSU based on BLS data.
Utilities expenditures by income level and regressivity
Change in percentage of expenditures on utilities

Change in percentage of consumer expenditures on utilities by income quintile (2005-2018)

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

Consumer expenditures on utilities by region

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

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

Consumer expenditures on utilities by housing

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

Trends in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for utilities and transportation

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

Trends in the CPI for major household expenditures (1983=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.
Expenditure 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

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.