

# Average Residential Propane Prices in Nebraska

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## Analysis

The U.S. Census Bureau reported in the "2005 American Community Survey" that more than 65,000 Nebraska [households](#) rely on propane to heat their homes. In the "[Short-Term Energy Outlook](#)" released on October 10, the [Energy Information Administration](#) projected that Nebraskans will see slightly higher propane expenditures this winter compared to last winter due to increased consumption resulting from colder weather.

On October 16, 2006, the average residential [propane](#) price had fallen more than one cent from last week to \$1.41 per gallon (see the [table](#) at the end of this report). Last week's price was revised by one-tenth of one cent to reflect no change from the prior week. The [graph](#) below this text shows the spread in prices from month to month and from this year compared to previous years. This week's average price was seven cents (or 4.6 percent) lower than the price at this time last year.

Other [states](#) in the Midwest Region had higher prices ranging from \$1.45 to \$1.95 with the region averaging \$1.73 per gallon. States adjacent to Nebraska, such as South Dakota, Iowa, and Missouri, had prices of \$1.47, \$1.48, and \$1.62, respectively.

While wholesale prices had risen more than two cents this week and the [rack-to-retail](#) margin decreased to 41 cents, Nebraska retail prices continue to be the lowest of the surveyed states in the region. (Nebraska does not have the lowest wholesale prices of the surveyed states in the region.)

On the supply side, the Midwest Region inventory level was just above the normal range for this time of year with 26.4 million barrels in storage on October 13.

Notes: The [annual report](#) for the 2005-2006 winter season is available. An [archive](#) houses annual reports from previous years.

## Heating Season

The Nebraska Energy Office has participated in the State Heating Oil and Propane Program for six years. During the heating season (October to March), the staff contact companies each week who supply propane to Nebraska, collect Monday's retail price, and submit the data to the [Energy Information Administration](#). The Energy Information Administration calculates the average price shown in the [table](#) below.

In the Midwest Region, Nebraska's average residential propane price was the lowest price each week during the last five heating seasons. The Energy Information Administration theorized that this was due to minimal transportation costs since Nebraska's [wholesale](#) prices were not the lowest in the region each week. Another reason would be the number of participating states. Since state participation in the program is voluntary, propane prices were not surveyed in each state in the Midwest Region. Kansas and Oklahoma might also have had low prices--possibly lower than



	Heating Season						Off Season					
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
<b>2001/2002</b>												
<b>First Monday</b>	\$0.815	\$0.771	\$0.768	\$0.769	\$0.773	\$0.736	\$0.736	\$0.733	\$0.720	\$0.708	\$0.693	\$0.714
<b>Second Monday</b>	\$0.797	\$0.772	\$0.777	\$0.770	\$0.735	\$0.739						
<b>Third Monday</b>	\$0.798	\$0.779	\$0.773	\$0.770	\$0.735	\$0.734						
<b>Fourth Monday</b>	\$0.786	\$0.770	\$0.773	\$0.773	\$0.734							
<b>Fifth Monday</b>	\$0.774		\$0.769									
<b>2002/2003</b>												
<b>First Monday</b>	\$0.721	\$0.743	\$0.744	\$0.806	\$0.901	\$1.181	\$0.886	\$0.849	\$0.845	\$0.882	\$0.899	\$0.934
<b>Second Monday</b>	\$0.734	\$0.743	\$0.747	\$0.806	\$0.973	\$0.975						
<b>Third Monday</b>	\$0.736	\$0.743	\$0.784	\$0.843	\$0.943	\$0.966						
<b>Fourth Monday</b>	\$0.739	\$0.743	\$0.793	\$0.855	\$0.948							
<b>Fifth Monday</b>			\$0.799									
<b>2003/2004</b>												
<b>First Monday</b>	\$0.925	\$0.964	\$0.945	\$0.959	\$0.990	\$0.984	\$0.981	\$0.971	\$0.982	\$0.974	\$1.038	\$1.143
<b>Second Monday</b>	\$0.960	\$0.955	\$0.942	\$1.027	\$1.011	\$0.983						
<b>Third Monday</b>	\$0.966	\$0.952	\$0.957	\$1.008	\$0.993	\$0.984						
<b>Fourth Monday</b>	\$0.968	\$0.952	\$0.956	\$1.006	\$0.992							
<b>Fifth Monday</b>			\$0.959									
	Heating Season						Off Season					
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
<b>2004/2005</b>												
<b>First Monday</b>	\$1.158	\$1.290	\$1.265	\$1.237	\$1.220	\$1.194	\$1.220	\$1.209	\$1.202	\$1.225	\$1.232	\$1.415
<b>Second Monday</b>	\$1.195	\$1.297	\$1.248	\$1.236	\$1.196	\$1.218						
<b>Third Monday</b>	\$1.227	\$1.290	\$1.251	\$1.228	\$1.190							
<b>Fourth Monday</b>	\$1.312	\$1.278	\$1.251	\$1.228	\$1.194							
<b>Fifth Monday</b>		\$1.288		\$1.224								
<b>2005/2006</b>												
<b>First Monday</b>	\$1.475	\$1.490	\$1.440	\$1.524	\$1.437	\$1.414	\$1.361	\$1.403	\$1.417	\$1.446	\$1.514	\$1.490
<b>Second Monday</b>	\$1.469	\$1.468	\$1.455	\$1.498	\$1.438	\$1.417						
<b>Third Monday</b>	\$1.474	\$1.460	\$1.508	\$1.461	\$1.422							
<b>Fourth Monday</b>	\$1.479	\$1.458	\$1.527	\$1.460	\$1.421							

	Heating Season						Off Season					
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
<b>Fifth Monday</b>	\$1.493			\$1.443								
<b>2006/2007</b>												
<b>First Monday</b>	\$1.418	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
<b>Second Monday</b>	\$1.418	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA						
<b>Third Monday</b>	\$1.406	NA	NA	NA	NA							
<b>Fourth Monday</b>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA							
<b>Fifth Monday</b>	NA			NA								

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Sources: State Heating Oil and Propane Survey and the Weekly Petroleum Status Report. Energy Information Administration, Washington, DC. Nebraska Energy Office, Lincoln, NE.

Note: NA = Not Available.

*This report was updated on October 19, 2006.  
Typically, there is one week between updates during the heating season and one month between updates during the cooling season.*

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