# **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 <a href="https://households.com/households">households</a> rely on propane to heat their homes. In the "<a href="https://short-Term Energy Outlook">households</a> rely on propane to heat their homes. In the "<a href="https://short-Term Energy Outlook">households</a> released on October 10, the <a href="https://short-Term Energy Outlook">households</a> released on October 10, the <a href="https://short-Term Energy Outlook">households</a> released on October 10, the <a href="https://short-Term Energy Outlook">households</a> released on October 10, the <a href="https://short-Term Energy Outlook">households</a> released on October 10, the <a href="https://short-Term Energy Outlook">households</a> released on October 10, the <a href="https://short-Term Energy Outlook">households</a> released on October 10, the <a href="https://short-Term Energy Outlook">households</a> released on October 10, the <a href="https://short-Term">households</a> released on October 10, the <a href="https://shor

On October 16, 2006, the average residential <u>propane</u> price had fallen more than one cent from last week to \$1.41 per gallon (see the <u>table</u> 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 <u>graph</u> 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 <u>states</u> 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 <u>rack</u>-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 <u>annual report</u> for the 2005-2006 winter season is available. An <u>archive</u> 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 <u>Energy Information Administration</u>. The Energy Information Administration calculates the average price shown in the <u>table</u> 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 <u>wholesale</u> 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

Nebraska's because the two states are closer to production, refinery, and storage areas.

#### **Off Season**

During the off season (April through September), the Nebraska Energy Office staff continue to contact the same suppliers who were contacted during the heating season. Staff contact suppliers once a month instead of once a week since the price of propane is usually not as volatile during the off season. The Nebraska Energy Office staff calculate the average price, shown in the <u>table</u> below, from the suppliers' retail prices on the first Monday of the month.

#### **State Heating Oil and Propane Program**

The Energy Information Administration, the independent statistical and analytical agency within the U.S. Department of Energy, conducts the State Heating Oil and Propane Program from October to March--the heating season--each year. The Energy Information Administration collects prices for the program each week from participating states and calculates a state average price, a regional average price, and a national average price which can be seen in the report Residential Propane Prices by Region and State.

#### **Midwest Region**

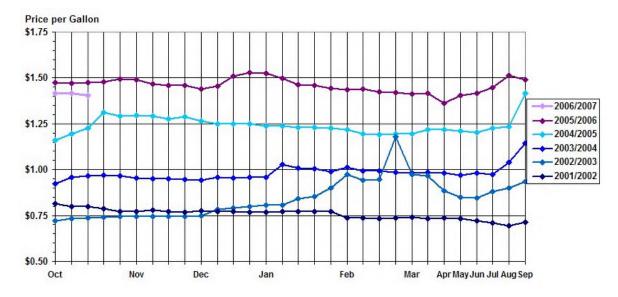
For statistical purposes, the Energy Information Administration defines the <u>Midwest Region</u> to include the states of Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

### **Price Explanation**

The prices represent average home heating charge prices for delivery of consumer grade propane, excluding taxes and cash discounts.

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## Nebraska's Average Residential Propane Prices 2001/2002 - 2006/2007



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## Nebraska's Average Residential Propane Prices 2001/2002 - 2006/2007

	Н	leating	Seaso	n		Off Season						
Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Se	

	Heating Season							Off Season						
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep		
2001/2	002													
First Monday	\$0.815	\$0.771	\$0.768	\$0.769	\$0.773	\$0.736	\$0.736	\$0.733	\$0.720	\$0.708	\$0.693	\$0.714		
Second Monday	\$0.797	\$0.772	\$0.777	\$0.770	\$0.735	\$0.739								
Third Monday	\$0.798	\$0.779	\$0.773	\$0.770	\$0.735	\$0.734								
Fourth Monday	\$0.786	\$0.770	\$0.773	\$0.773	\$0.734									
Fifth Monday	\$0.774		\$0.769											
2002/2	003													
First Monday	\$0.721	\$0.743	\$0.744	\$0.806	\$0.901	\$1.181	\$0.886	\$0.849	\$0.845	\$0.882	\$0.899	\$0.934		
Second Monday	\$0.734	\$0.743	\$0.747	\$0.806	\$0.973	\$0.975								
Third Monday	\$0.736	\$0.743	\$0.784	\$0.843	\$0.943	\$0.966								
Fourth Monday	\$0.739	\$0.743	\$0.793	\$0.855	\$0.948									
Fifth Monday			\$0.799											
2003/2	004													
First Monday	\$0.925	\$0.964	\$0.945	\$0.959	\$0.990	\$0.984	\$0.981	\$0.971	\$0.982	\$0.974	\$1.038	\$1.143		
Second Monday	\$0.960	\$0.955	\$0.942	\$1.027	\$1 011	\$0.983								
Third Monday			\$0.957											
Fourth Monday	\$0.968	\$0.952	\$0,956	\$1,006	\$0.992									
Fifth Monday	ψοισσο	<b>401002</b>	\$0.959	ψ 11000	ΨοίσσΣ									
	Heating Season						Off Season							
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep		
2004/2	005													
First Monday	\$1.158	\$1.290	\$1.265	\$1.237	\$1.220	\$1.194	\$1.220	\$1.209	\$1.202	\$1.225	\$1.232	\$1.415		
Second Monday	\$1 <u>.</u> 195	\$1.297	\$1.248	\$1.236	\$1 <u>.</u> 196	\$1.218								
Third Monday	\$1.227	\$1.290	\$1.251	\$1.228	\$1.190									
Fourth Monday	\$1.312	\$1.278	\$1.251	\$1.228	\$1.194									
Fifth Monday		\$1.288		\$1.224										
2005/2	006													
First Monday	\$1.475	\$1.490	\$1.440	\$1.524	\$1.437	\$1.414	\$1.361	\$1.403	\$1.417	\$1.446	\$1.514	\$1.490		
Second Monday	\$1.469	<b>\$1.468</b>	\$1.455	\$1.498	\$1.438	\$1.417								
Third Monday	\$1.474	\$1.460	\$1.508	\$1.461	\$1.422									
Fourth Monday	\$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		
Fifth Monday	\$1.493			\$1.443										
2006/2	2007													
First Monday	\$1.418	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		
Second Monday	\$1.418	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA								
Third Monday	\$1.406	NA	NA	NA	NA									
Fourth Monday	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA									
Fifth Monday	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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