

Average Residential Propane Prices in Nebraska

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Analysis

On December 18, 2006, the average residential [propane](#) price had increased nearly a penny from last week to \$1.46 per gallon (see the [table](#) at the end of this report). 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 nearly five cents (or three percent) lower than the price at this time last year.

Other [states](#) in the Midwest Region had higher prices ranging from \$1.49 to \$2.06 with the region averaging \$1.79 per gallon. States adjacent to Nebraska, such as South Dakota, Iowa, and Missouri, had prices of \$1.49, \$1.50, and \$1.67, respectively.

While wholesale prices had fallen four cents this week and the [rack](#)-to-retail margin increased to 47 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 at the upper boundary of the normal range for this time of year with 23.2 million barrels in storage on December 15.

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 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 [table](#) 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

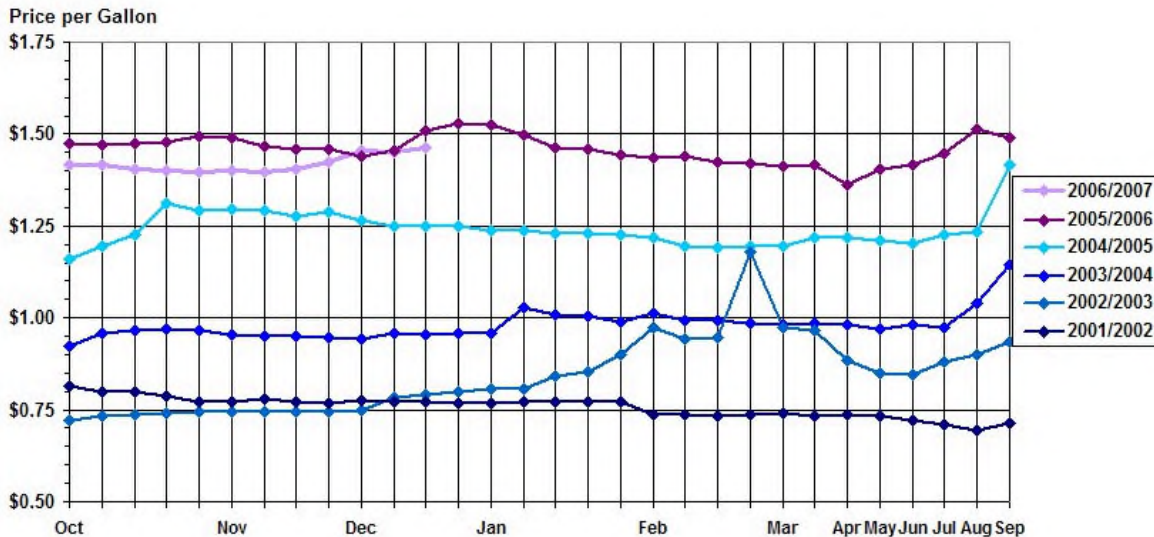
For statistical purposes, the Energy Information Administration defines the [Midwest Region](#) to include the states of Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

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

	Heating Season						Off Season					
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
2001/2002												
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						

	Heating Season						Off Season					
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Second Monday	\$1.418	\$1.397	\$1.453	NA	NA	NA						
Third Monday	\$1.406	\$1.403	\$1.461	NA	NA							
Fourth Monday	\$1.401	\$1.424	NA	NA	NA							
Fifth Monday	\$1.398			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 December 21, 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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