

Average Residential Propane Prices in Nebraska

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Analysis

On December 3, 2007, the average residential [propane](#) price had decreased nearly one cent from the previous week to \$1.88 per gallon (see the [table](#) at the end of this report). This week's average price was 43 cents (or 30 percent) higher than the price at this time last year. The [graph](#) below this text shows the spread in prices from month to month and from this year compared to previous years.

Other [states](#) in the Midwest Region had higher prices ranging from \$1.90 to \$2.59 with the region averaging \$2.22 per gallon. States adjacent to Nebraska, such as South Dakota, Iowa, and Missouri, had prices of \$1.90, \$1.92, and \$2.14, respectively.

Wholesale prices had fallen nearly seven cents this week, and the [rack](#)-to-retail margin increased to 37 cents.

On the supply side, the Midwest Region inventory level was at the lower boundary of the normal range for this time of year with 21.8 million barrels in storage on November 30.

Notes: The [annual report](#) for the 2006-2007 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 seven 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 has had the lowest average residential propane price each week. The Energy Information Administration theorizes that this is due to minimal transportation costs since Nebraska's [wholesale](#) prices are 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 have not been 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.

	Heating Season						Off Season					
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
2002/2003												
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									
2003/2004												
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	\$0.966	\$0.952	\$0.957	\$1.008	\$0.993	\$0.984						
Fourth Monday	\$0.968	\$0.952	\$0.956	\$1.006	\$0.992							
Fifth Monday			\$0.959									
	Heating Season						Off Season					
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
2004/2005												
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	\$1.195	\$1.297	\$1.248	\$1.236	\$1.196	\$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								
2005/2006												
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	\$1.468	\$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							
Fifth Monday	\$1.493			\$1.443								
2006/2007												
First Monday	\$1.418	\$1.399	\$1.454	\$1.461	\$1.452	\$1.500	\$1.556	\$1.474	\$1.486	\$1.494	\$1.548	\$1.605
Second Monday	\$1.418	\$1.397	\$1.453	\$1.454	\$1.477	\$1.501						
Third Monday	\$1.406	\$1.403	\$1.461	\$1.452	\$1.489							
Fourth Monday	\$1.401	\$1.424	\$1.468	\$1.448	\$1.496							

	Heating Season						Off Season					
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Fifth Monday	\$1.398			\$1.442								
	Heating Season						Off Season					
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
2007/2008												
First Monday		\$1.841	\$1.883	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Second Monday	\$1.657	\$1.874	NA	NA	NA	NA						
Third Monday	\$1.679	\$1.881	NA	NA	NA	NA						
Fourth Monday	\$1.742	\$1.888	NA	NA	NA							
Fifth Monday	\$1.779		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 6, 2007.
Typically, there is one week between updates during the heating season and one month between updates during the cooling season.*

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