

# Average Residential Propane Prices in Nebraska

[Analysis](#) | [Heating Season](#) | [Off Season](#)  
[State Heating Oil and Propane Program](#) | [Midwest Region](#) | [Price Explanation](#)  
[Graph](#) | [Prices](#) | [Price Archive](#) | [Wholesale Prices](#)  
[Annual Report](#) | [Annual Report Archive](#)  
[Midseason Report](#)

## Analysis

On December 8, 2008, the average residential [propane](#) price had fallen four cents from the previous week to reach \$1.54 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 33 cents (or 18 percent) lower than the price at this time last year.

Other [states](#) in the Midwest Region had higher prices ranging from \$1.61 to \$2.46 with the region averaging \$2.14 per gallon. States adjacent to Nebraska, such as South Dakota, Iowa, and Missouri, had prices of \$1.61, \$1.83, and \$2.04, respectively.

While wholesale prices had dropped nearly 17 cents this week to 69 cents per gallon and the rack-to-retail margin increased to 85 cents, Nebraska retail price was 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 bottom boundary of the normal range for this time of year with 21.3 million barrels in storage on December 5.

Notes: The [annual report](#) for the 2007-2008 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 eight winter seasons. 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.

### 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](#).

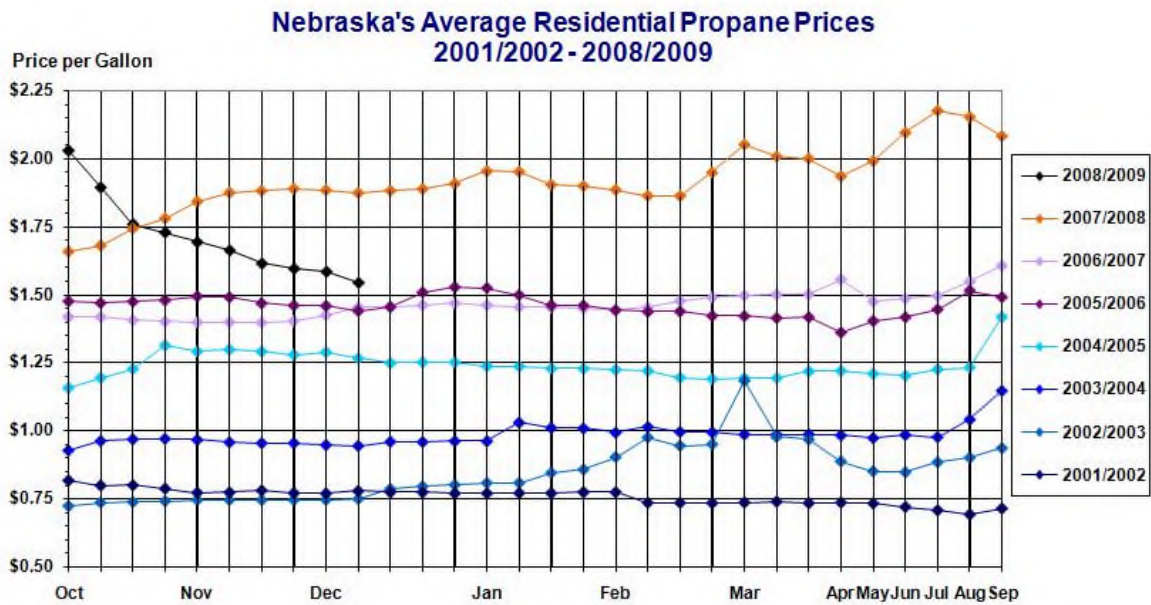
### Midwest Region

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.

[Return to top of page](#)



[Return to top of page](#)

### Nebraska's Average Residential Propane Prices 2001/2002 – 2008/2009

	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						

	Heating Season						Off Season					
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
<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							
<b>Fifth Monday</b>	\$1.493			\$1.443								
<b>2006/2007</b>												
<b>First Monday</b>	\$1.418	\$1.399	\$1.454	\$1.461	\$1.452	\$1.500	\$1.556	\$1.474	\$1.486	\$1.494	\$1.548	\$1.605
<b>Second Monday</b>	\$1.418	\$1.397	\$1.453	\$1.454	\$1.477	\$1.501						

	Heating Season						Off Season					
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
<b>Third Monday</b>	\$1.406	\$1.403	\$1.461	\$1.452	\$1.489							
<b>Fourth Monday</b>	\$1.401	\$1.424	\$1.468	\$1.448	\$1.496							
<b>Fifth Monday</b>	\$1.398			\$1.442								
	Heating Season						Off Season					
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
<b>2007/2008</b>												
<b>First Monday</b>		\$1.841	\$1.883	\$1.953	\$1.884	\$2.051	\$1.934	\$1.990	\$2.095	\$2.175	\$2.152	\$2.082
<b>Second Monday</b>	\$1.657	\$1.874	\$1.873	\$1.951	\$1.862	\$2.007						
<b>Third Monday</b>	\$1.679	\$1.881	\$1.881	\$1.903	\$1.862	\$1.999						
<b>Fourth Monday</b>	\$1.742	\$1.888	\$1.887	\$1.899	\$1.948							
<b>Fifth Monday</b>	\$1.779		\$1.907									
<b>2008/2009</b>												
<b>First Monday</b>	\$2.028	\$1.692	\$1.584	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
<b>Second Monday</b>	\$1.893	\$1.662	\$1.543	NA	NA	NA						
<b>Third Monday</b>	\$1.758	\$1.614	NA	NA	NA	NA						
<b>Fourth Monday</b>	\$1.728	\$1.595	NA	NA	NA							
<b>Fifth Monday</b>			NA									

[Return to top of page](#)

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 11, 2008.  
Typically, there is one week between updates during the heating season and one month between updates during the cooling season.*

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