

# Average Residential Propane Prices in Nebraska

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## Analysis

On December 19, 2011, the average residential [propane](#) price had fallen 3 cents from last week to \$1.81 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 11 cents (or 6 percent) higher than the price a year ago.

Other [states](#) in the Midwest Region had higher prices ranging from \$1.91 to \$2.87 per gallon with the region averaging \$2.23. States adjacent to Nebraska, such as South Dakota, Iowa, and Missouri, had prices of \$1.98, \$1.91, and \$2.10, respectively.

Since the last report, Nebraska's average wholesale price had dropped 11 cents to \$1.21 while the average retail price had fallen 3 cents to \$1.81 per gallon. As a result, the rack-to-retail margin has increased to 60 cents per gallon. Of the surveyed states in the region this week, Nebraska had the lowest average retail price but not the lowest average wholesale price.

On the supply side, the Midwest Region inventory level was at the upper boundary of the normal range for this time of year with 24.1 million barrels in storage on December 16.

Notes: The [annual report](#) for the 2010-2011 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 eleven 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 previous years, Nebraska had the lowest average residential propane price each week in the Midwest Region. 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 have been 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](#).

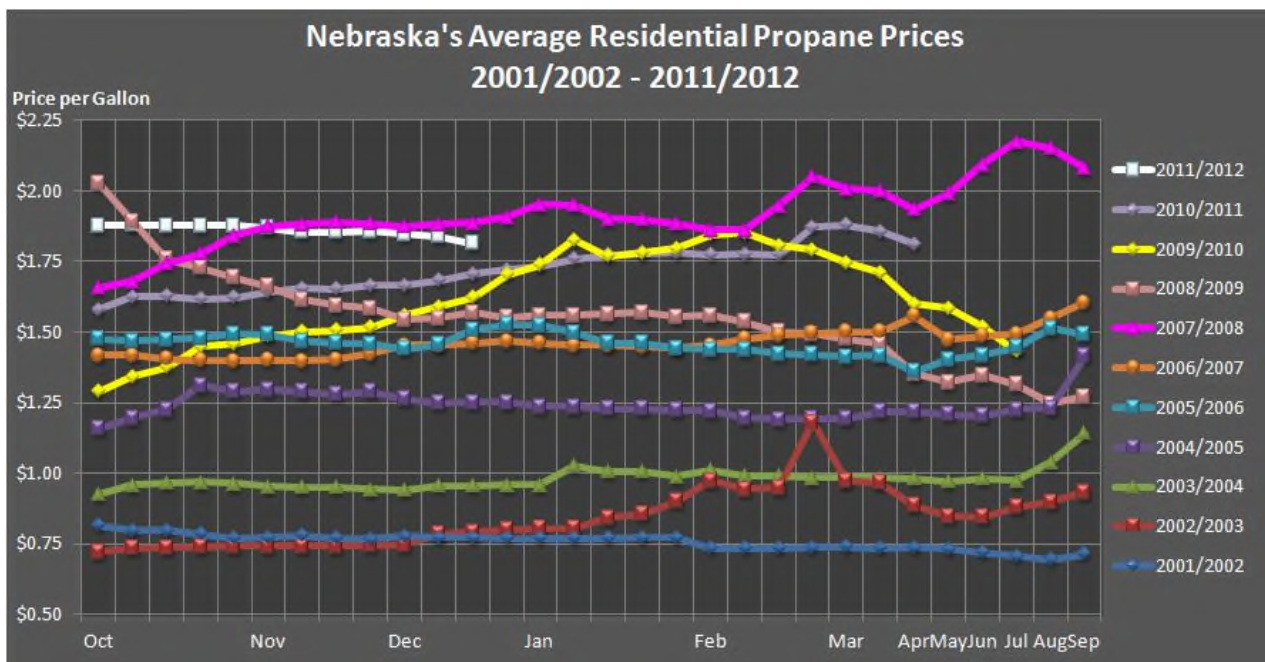
### Midwest Region

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.

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### Nebraska's Average Residential Propane Prices 2001/2002 – 2011/2012

|                      | 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 |            |         |         |         |         |         |

|                      | Heating Season |         |         |         |         |         | Off Season |         |         |         |         |         |
|----------------------|----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|                      | Oct            | Nov     | Dec     | Jan     | Feb     | Mar     | Apr        | May     | Jun     | Jul     | Aug     | Sep     |
| <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 |         |            |         |         |         |         |         |
| <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 |



|                      | Heating Season |         |         |     |     |     | Off Season |     |     |     |     |     |
|----------------------|----------------|---------|---------|-----|-----|-----|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|                      | Oct            | Nov     | Dec     | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr        | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep |
| <b>2011/2012</b>     |                |         |         |     |     |     |            |     |     |     |     |     |
| <b>First Monday</b>  | \$1,877        | \$1,870 | \$1,846 | NA  | NA  | NA  | NA         | NA  | NA  | NA  | NA  | NA  |
| <b>Second Monday</b> | \$1,879        | \$1,855 | \$1,839 | NA  | NA  | NA  |            |     |     |     |     |     |
| <b>Third Monday</b>  | \$1,877        | \$1,855 | \$1,813 | NA  | NA  |     |            |     |     |     |     |     |
| <b>Fourth Monday</b> | \$1,876        | \$1,857 | NA      | NA  | NA  |     |            |     |     |     |     |     |
| <b>Fifth Monday</b>  | \$1,877        |         |         | 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 22, 2011.*

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

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