

Average Residential Propane Prices in Nebraska

Analysis

On March 19, 2012, the average residential propane price had fallen 3 cents from last week to \$1.67 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.

Other [states](#) in the Midwest Region had higher prices ranging from \$1.82 to \$2.87 per gallon with the region averaging \$2.18. States adjacent to Nebraska, such as South Dakota, Iowa, and Missouri, had prices of \$1.93, \$1.82, and \$2.09, respectively.

Since the last report, Nebraska's average wholesale price had dropped 8 cents to \$1.15 while the average retail price had fallen 3 cents to \$1.67 per gallon. As a result, the rack-to-retail margin has increased to 52 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 above the normal range for this time of year with 16.6 million barrels in storage on March 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), time permitting, 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

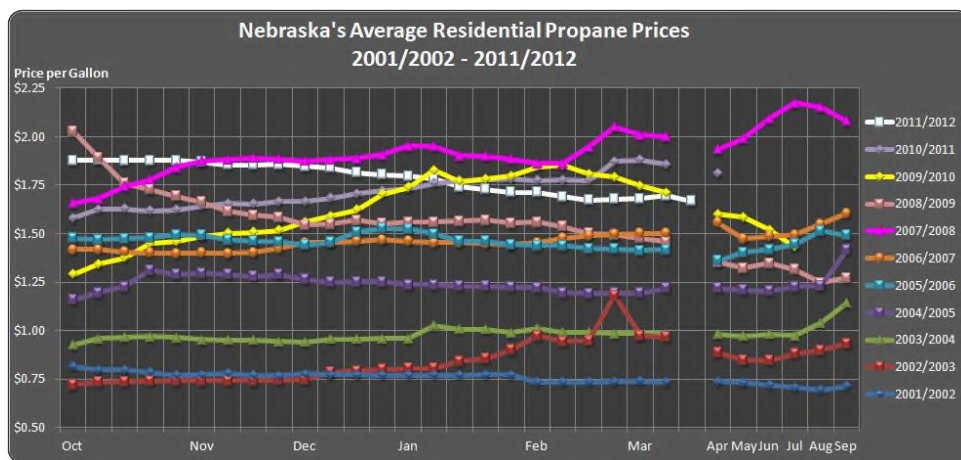
The Energy Information Administration, the independent statistical and analytical agency within the U.S. Department of Energy, conducts the State Heating Oil and Propane Program from October to March—the heating season—each year. The Energy Information Administration collects prices for the program each 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.



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
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						
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									

	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									

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

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

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

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 March 22, 2012.
Typically, there is one week between updates during the heating season and
one month between updates during the cooling season.*