

Average Residential Heating Oil Prices Nebraska

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

Analysis

On October 31, 2005, the average residential [heating oil](#) price plummeted 29 cents from last week to \$2.52 per gallon (see the [table](#) at the end of this report). The [graph](#) below shows the spread in prices from month to month and from this year compared to previous years.

Other [states](#) in the Midwest Region had comparable prices ranging from \$2.50 to \$2.80 with the region averaging \$2.70 per gallon. States near Nebraska, such as Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, had prices of \$2.57, \$2.76, and \$2.74, respectively. This is the third week in five years that Nebraska did not have the lowest price in the region. Ohio had a lower price of \$2.50.

While wholesale prices dropped 47 cents per gallon this week and the rack-to-retail margin increased to 46 cents, Nebraska retail prices continue to be the lowest or next lowest of the surveyed states in the region. (Nebraska does not have the lowest wholesale prices of the surveyed states in the region.)

For the week ending October 28, the Midwest distillate inventory level was at the bottom of the normal range for this time of year at 6.8 million barrels.

Notes: The [annual report](#) for the 2004-2005 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 five years. During the heating season (October to March), the staff contact companies each week who supply heating oil 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 heating oil 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. Another reason would be the number of participating states. Since state participation in the program is voluntary, heating oil 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 heating oil sources.

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 heating oil 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 | \$1.073 | \$1.048 | \$1.036 | \$1.094 | \$1.162 | \$1.336 | \$1.074 | \$1.027 | \$1.023 | \$1.026 | \$1.051 | \$1.113 |
| Second Monday | \$1.086 | \$1.025 | \$1.022 | \$1.084 | \$1.269 | \$1.339 | | | | | | |
| Third Monday | \$1.090 | \$1.008 | \$1.017 | \$1.098 | \$1.277 | \$1.313 | | | | | | |
| Fourth Monday | \$1.077 | \$1.039 | \$1.047 | \$1.113 | \$1.302 | | | | | | | |
| Fifth Monday | | | \$1.078 | | | | | | | | | |
| 2003/2004 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| First Monday | \$1.109 | \$1.109 | \$1.088 | \$1.108 | \$1.171 | \$1.177 | \$1.205 | \$1.272 | \$1.292 | \$1.287 | \$1.381 | \$1.457 |
| Second Monday | \$1.168 | \$1.105 | \$1.088 | \$1.126 | \$1.153 | \$1.193 | | | | | | |
| Third Monday | \$1.161 | \$1.122 | \$1.101 | \$1.143 | \$1.154 | \$1.197 | | | | | | |
| Fourth Monday | \$1.148 | \$1.114 | \$1.108 | \$1.168 | \$1.157 | | | | | | | |
| Fifth Monday | | | \$1.106 | | | | | | | | | |
| 2004/2005 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| First Monday | \$1.621 | \$1.768 | \$1.629 | \$1.495 | \$1.557 | \$1.727 | \$1.900 | \$1.822 | \$1.792 | \$1.912 | \$1.892 | \$2.365 |
| Second Monday | \$1.661 | \$1.710 | \$1.548 | \$1.496 | \$1.554 | \$1.773 | | | | | | |
| Third Monday | \$1.736 | \$1.678 | \$1.546 | \$1.519 | \$1.571 | | | | | | | |
| Fourth Monday | \$1.788 | \$1.672 | \$1.531 | \$1.549 | \$1.649 | | | | | | | |
| Fifth Monday | | \$1.688 | | \$1.566 | | | | | | | | |
| 2005/2006 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| First Monday | \$2.608 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Second Monday | \$2.661 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | | | | | | |
| Third Monday | \$2.686 | NA | NA | NA | NA | | | | | | | |
| Fourth Monday | \$2.804 | NA | NA | NA | NA | | | | | | | |
| Fifth Monday | \$2.515 | | | NA | | | | | | | | |

[Return to top of page](#)

Sources: *State Heating Oil and Propane Survey* and the *Weekly Petroleum Status Report*. Energy Information Administration, Office of Oil and Gas, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, DC. Nebraska Energy Office, Lincoln, NE.

Note: NA = Not Available.

*This report was updated on November 7, 2005.
Typically, there is one week between updates during the heating season
and one month between updates during the cooling season.*

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