Average Residential Heating Oil Prices Nebraska

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Analysis

On December 19, 2005, the average residential heating_oil price had relatively no change from last week at \$2.05 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. This week's average price was 50 cents (or 32 percent) higher than the price at this time last year.

Other <u>states</u> in the Midwest Region had higher prices ranging from \$2.14 to \$2.33 with the region averaging \$2.27 per gallon. States near Nebraska, such as Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, had prices of \$2.14, \$2.28, and \$2.32, respectively.

While wholesale prices fell almost two cents per gallon this week and the rack-to-retail margin rose to 27 cents, Nebraska retail prices continue to be the 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 December 16, the Midwest distillate inventory level was below the normal range for this time of year at 6.8 million barrels.

Notes: The <u>annual report</u> for the 2004-2005 winter season is available. An <u>archive</u> 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 <u>table</u> below, from the suppliers' retail prices on the first Monday of the month.

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 Heating Oil Prices by Region and State.

Midwest Region

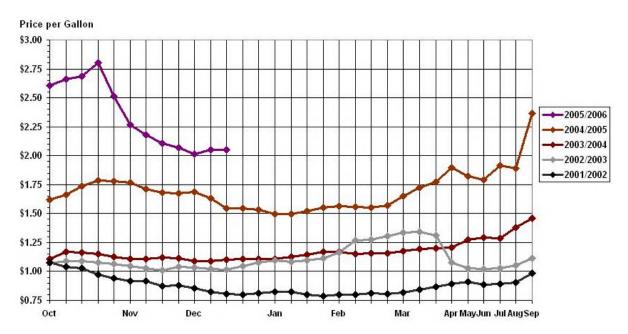
For statistical purposes, the Energy Information Administration defines the <u>Midwest region</u> to include the states of Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

Price Explanation

The prices represent average residential home heating charge prices for home delivery of No. 2 heating oil, excluding taxes and cash discounts.

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Nebraska's Average Residential Heating Oil Prices 2001/2002 - 2005/2006



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Nebraska's Average Residential Heating Oil Prices

2001/2002 - 2004/2005

	Heating Season						Off Season						
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	
2001/2002													
First Monday	\$1.076	\$0.916	\$0.857	\$0.825	\$0.800	\$0.819	\$0.894	\$0.908	\$0.887	\$0.889	\$0.905	\$0.982	
Second Monday	\$1.038	\$0.916	\$0.824	\$0.824	\$0.802	\$0.844							
Third Monday	\$1.026	\$0.874	\$0.805	\$0.798	\$0.809	\$0.865							
Fourth Monday	\$0.971	\$0.878	\$0.799	\$0.790	\$0.808								
Fifth Monday	\$0.940		\$0.812										

	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	\$2,269	\$2.014	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Second Monday	\$2.661	\$2.181	\$2.050	NA	NA	NA							
Third Monday	\$2,686	\$2,106	\$2.048	NA	NA								
Fourth Monday	\$2.804	\$2.070	NA	NA	NA								
Fifth Monday	\$2,515			NA									

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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 December 22, 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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