

Average Residential Heating Oil Prices Nebraska

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Analysis

On December 15, 2008, the average residential [heating oil](#) price had fallen five cents from last week to \$2.04 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 92 cents (or 31 percent) lower than the price at this time last year.

Other [states](#) in the Midwest Region had comparable prices ranging from \$1.91 to \$2.16 with the region averaging \$2.09 per gallon. States adjacent to Nebraska, such as Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, had prices of \$2.02, \$2.16, and \$2.16, respectively.

Nebraska's average wholesale price increased nearly five cents this week, while the [rack](#)-to-retail margin decreased to 28 cents.

For the week ending December 12, the Midwest heating oil inventory level was on the bottom boundary of the normal range for this time of year at 2.5 million barrels.

Notes: The [annual report](#) for the 2007-2008 winter season is available. An [archive](#) houses annual reports from previous years.



A general rule of thumb: A dollar increase in the [West Texas Intermediate](#) (WTI) crude oil price per barrel will result in a 2.5-cent increase in the price of heating oil per gallon. Likewise, a dollar decrease in the WTI crude oil price per barrel will result in a 2.5-cent decrease in the price of heating oil per gallon.

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 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.

At times, Nebraska's average residential heating oil price has been the lowest price in the Midwest Region. 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

	Heating Season						Off Season					
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
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									
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									
	Heating Season						Off Season					
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
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	\$2.001	\$2.067	\$2.108	\$2.174	\$2.370	\$2.494	\$2.554	\$2.894	\$2.609
Second Monday	\$2.661	\$2.181	\$2.050	\$2.034	\$2.044	\$2.092						
Third Monday	\$2.686	\$2.106	\$2.048	\$2.003	\$2.033							
Fourth Monday	\$2.804	\$2.070	\$2.012	\$2.030	\$2.061							
Fifth Monday	\$2.515			\$2.044								
2006/2007												

	Heating Season						Off Season					
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
First Monday	\$2.128	\$2.128	\$2.221	\$2.169	\$2.079	\$2.246	\$2.478	\$2.447	\$2.418	\$2.472	\$2.586	\$2.690
Second Monday	\$2.110	\$2.209	\$2.189	\$2.117	\$2.097	\$2.293						
Third Monday	\$2.118	\$2.215	\$2.204	\$2.045	\$2.108							
Fourth Monday	\$2.138	\$2.230	\$2.190	\$2.015	\$2.181							
Fifth Monday	\$2.138			\$2.009								
	Heating Season						Off Season					
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
2007/2008												
First Monday		\$2.932	\$3.036	\$3.005	\$2.875	\$3.242	\$3.528	\$3.728	\$4.240	\$4.247	\$3.954	\$3.664
Second Monday	\$2.694	\$3.006	\$3.008	\$2.942	\$2.957	\$3.424						
Third Monday	\$2.698	\$3.011	\$2.964	\$2.904	\$3.030	\$3.552						
Fourth Monday	\$2.720	\$3.076	\$2.954	\$2.874	\$3.177							
Fifth Monday	\$2.780		\$2.982									
2008/2009												
First Monday	\$3.497	\$2.526	\$2.225	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Second Monday	\$3.238	\$2.515	\$2.092	NA	NA	NA						
Third Monday	\$3.036	\$2.398	\$2.042	NA	NA	NA						
Fourth Monday	\$2.772	\$2.265	NA	NA	NA							
Fifth Monday			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 18, 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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