Average Residential Heating Oil Prices Nebraska

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Analysis

On December 28, 2009, the average residential <u>heating oil</u> price had risen one cent from the last report to \$2.37 per gallon (see the <u>table</u> at the end of this report). Notes that last week's price has been revised. The <u>graph</u> below shows the spread in prices from month to month and from this year compared to previous years. This week's average price was 43 cents (or 22 percent) higher than the price a year ago.

The other <u>states</u> surveyed in the Midwest Region had higher prices ranging from \$2.39 to \$2.53 per gallon resulting in a regional average of \$2.48. States near in proximity to Nebraska, such as Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin had prices of \$2.39, \$2.46, and \$2.44, respectively.

From last week's report, Nebraska's average wholesale price had jumped nine cents to \$2.11 per gallon and the average retail price had risen one cent to \$2.37 per gallon. As a result, the rack-to-retail margin decreased to 26 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.

For the week ending December 25, the Midwest heating oil inventory level was in the lower half of the normal range for this time of year at 1.5 million barrels.

Notes: The <u>annual report</u> for the 2008-2009 winter season is available. An <u>archive</u> houses annual reports from previous years.

A general rule of thumb: A dollar increase in the <u>West Texas Intermediate</u> (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 nine 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 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.

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 Heating Oil Prices by Region and State.

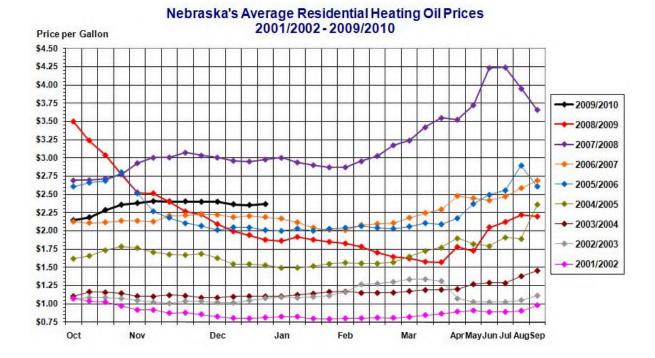
Midwest Region

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 - 2009/2010

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

		Н	leating	Seaso	n		Off Season					
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
2001/2	002											
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			\$0.805									
Fourth Monday	\$0.971	\$0.878	\$0.799	\$0.790	\$0.808							
Fifth Monday	\$0.940		\$0.812									
2002/2	.003											
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									
2003/2	004											
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			\$1.101									
Fourth Monday	\$1.148	\$1.114	\$1.108	\$1.168	\$1.157							
Fifth Monday			\$1.106									
	Heating Season									Season		
2004/2	0ct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
First	.003											
Monday Second			\$1.629				\$1.900	\$1.822	\$1.792	\$1.912	\$1.892	\$2.365
Monday Third			\$1.548			\$1.773						
Monday Fourth			\$1.546									
Monday Fifth	\$1.788		\$1.531		\$1.649							
Monday 2005/2	006	\$1.688		\$1.566						<u> </u>		
First		00.055	Φ0.0::	00.05	AC 03	#0.455	#0.1=:	00.0==	Φ0. 15.	Φ0 == :	#0.05 :	00.05
Monday Second			\$2.014				\$2.174	\$2.370	\$2.494	\$2.554	\$2.894	\$2.609
Monday Third Monday			\$2.050 \$2.048			⊅∠. 092						
Monday Fourth Monday												
Monday	⊅∠.Ծ∪4	Φ ∠. U/U	\$2.012	Φ ∠. U3U	φ∠.U61							

		Н	leating	Seaso	n		Off Season							
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep		
Fifth Monday	\$2.515			\$2.044										
2006/2	007													
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										
,		H	leating	Seaso	n				Off	Season				
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep		
2007/2	008													
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			\$2.942			\$0.020	4011.20	ψ <u>.</u>	V.III	ψοίου.	*************************************		
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											
2008/2	009													
First Monday	\$3,497	\$2,526	\$2,225	\$1,864	\$1,827	\$1,622	\$1.779	\$1,728	\$2,050	\$2,122	\$2,220	\$2,197		
Second Monday				\$1.917										
Third Monday				\$1.879										
Fourth Monday				\$1.850										
Fifth Monday			\$1.878											
2009/2	010													
First Monday	\$2.151	\$2.382	\$2.400	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		
Second Monday		\$2.407		NA	NA	NA								
Third Monday	\$2.288	\$2.404	\$2.356	NA	NA	NA								
Fourth Monday	\$2.359	\$2.404	\$2.368	NA	NA									
Fifth Monday		\$2.399												

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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.

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