

Average Residential Heating Oil Prices in Nebraska

Analysis

On February 20, 2012, the average residential [heating oil](#) price had risen 3 cents from the last report to \$3.52 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. This week's average price was 42 cents (or 13 percent) higher than the price a year ago.

The other [states](#) surveyed in the Midwest Region had comparable prices ranging from \$3.47 to \$3.60 per gallon resulting in a regional average of \$3.56. States near in proximity to Nebraska, such as Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin had prices of \$3.47, \$3.59, and \$3.50, respectively.

Since the last report, Nebraska's average wholesale price had risen 2 cents to \$3.23 per gallon while the average retail price had risen 3 cents to \$3.52 per gallon. As a result, the rack-to-retail margin increased to 29 cents per gallon. Of the surveyed states in the region this week, Nebraska had neither the lowest average retail price nor the lowest average wholesale price.

For the week ending February 17, the Midwest heating oil inventory was at 0.7 million (700,000) barrels. The total regional distillate inventory level was in the upper half of the normal range for this time of year.

Notes: The [annual report](#) for the 2010–2011 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 eleven 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 [table](#) below, from the suppliers' retail prices on the first Monday of the month.

State Heating Oil and Propane Program

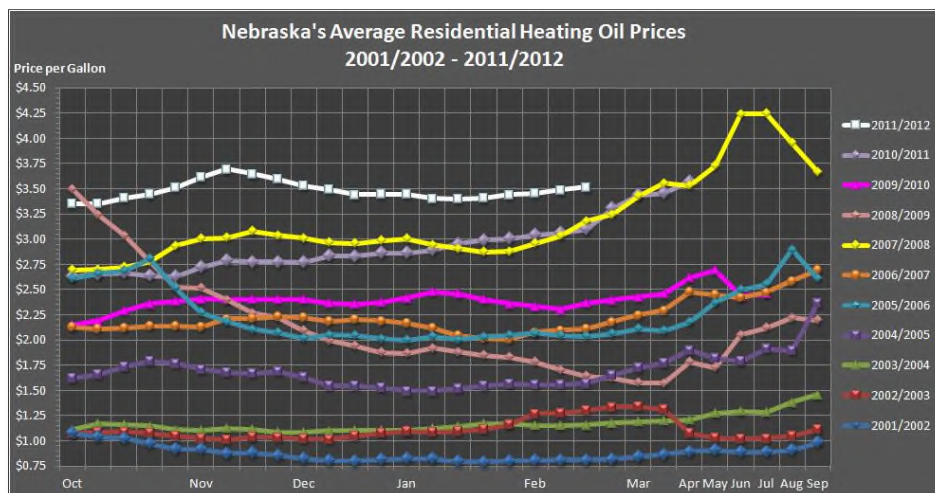
The Energy Information Administration, the independent statistical and analytical agency within the U.S. Department of Energy, conducts the State Heating Oil and Propane Program from October to March—the heating season—each year. The Energy Information Administration collects prices for the program each 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 Heating Oil 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 residential home heating charge prices for home delivery of No. 2 heating oil, excluding taxes and cash discounts.



**Nebraska's Average Residential Heating Oil 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	\$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									

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

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

	Heating Season						Off Season					
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
2006/2007												
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									

	Heating Season						Off Season					
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
2008/2009												
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	\$3.238	\$2.515	\$2.092	\$1.917	\$1.784	\$1.577						
Third Monday	\$3.036	\$2.398	\$1.993	\$1.879	\$1.702	\$1.571						
Fourth Monday	\$2.772	\$2.265	\$1.943	\$1.850	\$1.644							

	Heating Season						Off Season					
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
2008/2009												
Fifth Monday			\$1,878									

	Heating Season						Off Season					
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
2009/2010												
First Monday	\$2,151	\$2,382	\$2,400	\$2,416	\$2,359	\$2,397	\$2,619	\$2,696	\$2,435	\$2,461	NA	NA
Second Monday	\$2,190	\$2,407	\$2,366	\$2,479	\$2,331	\$2,426						
Third Monday	\$2,288	\$2,404	\$2,356	\$2,455	\$2,304	\$2,458						
Fourth Monday	\$2,359	\$2,404	\$2,372	\$2,402	\$2,366							
Fifth Monday		\$2,399										

	Heating Season						Off Season					
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
2010/2011												
First Monday	\$2,627	\$2,625	\$2,771	\$2,865	\$3,040	\$3,435	\$3,571	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Second Monday	\$2,651	\$2,720	\$2,831	\$2,892	\$3,058	\$3,457						
Third Monday	\$2,668	\$2,786	\$2,829	\$2,951	\$3,099							
Fourth Monday	\$2,640	\$2,773	\$2,862	\$2,990	\$3,304							
Fifth Monday		\$2,773		\$3,003								

	Heating Season						Off Season					
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
2011/2012												
First Monday	\$3,353	\$3,613	\$3,532	\$3,442	\$3,452	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Second Monday	\$3,353	\$3,693	\$3,490	\$3,402	\$3,488	NA						
Third Monday	\$3,410	\$3,648	\$3,441	\$3,400	\$3,515							
Fourth Monday	\$3,444	\$3,595	\$3,442	\$3,409	NA							
Fifth Monday	\$3,508			\$3,440								

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 February 28, 2012.
Typically, there is one week between updates during the heating season and
one month between updates during the cooling season.*