

Weekly Gasoline Report

 Ministry
of **Energy**

The Gasoline Report is a roundup of consumer gasoline prices from across Ontario and Canada. The graph shows price trends for three Ontario cities for the previous 12 month period. The report and graph are updated weekly.

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This week's Gasoline Report is for the week ending April 4, 2005

Record high world crude oil and U.S. wholesale gasoline prices drove the Ontario average retail price of regular unleaded gasoline up for the sixth straight week, by 3.7 cents to 91.0 cents a litre, a record high.

Prices rose by 4.8 cents in Toronto East (to a record high of 91.4 cents), 4.2 cents in Windsor (to a ten-month high), 3.8 cents in Ottawa (to a record high of 92.6 cents), 3.6 cents in London (to a record high of 90.2 cents), 3.5 cents in Toronto West (to a record high of 90.1 cents), 1.5 cents in Sudbury, and 1.3 cents in Thunder Bay (to a ten-month high). Prices fell by 1.3 cents in North Bay (from a six-month high). Windsor's nine-week run as the lowest-priced market ended, with Sudbury taking over the mantle; however, Windsor still had the lowest observed pump price, 81.1 cents. The hefty increases in the south caused the average price gap between southern and northern Ontario to narrow from 4.3 cents to 0.9 cents, its lowest level since March 2002. The Ontario average retail diesel price increased for the second straight week, by 1.3 cents to 85.6 cents, a five-month high.

The Canadian average retail gasoline price increased by 3.3 cents to 92.9 cents, a record high. Prices rose by 5.2 cents in Toronto (to a record high of 92.3 cents), 5.1 cents in Calgary (to a record high of 86.8 cents), 5.0 cents in Edmonton (to a record high of 86.4 cents), 4.6 cents in Charlottetown (to a six-month high), 4.0 cents in Halifax (to a ten-month high), 3.8 cents in Vancouver (to a ten-month high), 3.5 cents in Winnipeg (to a ten-month high), 3.0 cents in Regina (to a record high of 94.9 cents), and 0.4 cents in Saint John. Prices fell by 0.9 cents in Montreal. The Canadian average diesel price increased by 1.7 cents to 89.8 cents, a record high.

Gasoline marketing margins in the first three months of 2005 increased substantially in southern Ontario but declined slightly in the north compared with a year earlier, according to a Ministry of Energy analysis.

Margins in Toronto averaged 4.6 cents a litre in the first quarter, up from -0.2 cents in the same period in 2004 and their highest level in five years, while in Ottawa they averaged 5.5 cents, up from -0.2 cents last year and their highest level in nearly 10 years. Margins in London averaged 5.0 cents, up from 1.6 cents a year ago and their highest level in four years. Margins in these three markets were unusually low early last year, reflecting intense retail competition. Hamilton, alone among the southern markets, saw margins decline, to 4.2 cents from 4.5 cents a year earlier. In the north, margins in Thunder Bay averaged 8.9 cents in the first quarter, up from 2.8 cents a year earlier, and in Sault Ste. Marie they averaged 7.5 cents, up from 6.1 cents. Margins, defined as the pump price minus the wholesale or rack price, represent the amount available to the marketer to cover operating costs and provide a return on investment (Ministry of Energy).

The table and graphic below show this week's gasoline price trends.

Market	March 28	April 4	+/-
Ottawa	88.8	92.6	3.8
Toronto West	86.6	90.1	3.5



Toronto East	86.6	91.4	4.8
Windsor	83.7	87.9	4.2
London	86.6	90.2	3.6
Sudbury	85.3	86.8	1.5
S. Ste. Marie	91.4	91.4	0.0
Thunder Bay	95.3	96.6	1.3
North Bay	90.2	88.9	-1.3
Timmins	94.6	94.6	0.0
Ontario Average	87.3	91.0	3.7

Market	March 29	April 5	+/-
St John's NF	98.9	98.9	0.0
Charlottetown	86.5	91.1	4.6
Halifax	95.9	99.9	4.0
Saint John NB	95.0	95.4	0.4
Quebec City	93.5	93.5	0.0
Montreal	94.5	93.6	-0.9
Toronto	87.1	92.3	5.2
Winnipeg	85.5	89.0	3.5
Regina	91.9	94.9	3.0
Edmonton	81.4	86.4	5.0
Calgary	81.7	86.8	5.1
Vancouver	95.5	99.3	3.8
Canada Average	89.6	92.9	3.3

Source: Ontario Ministry of Energy; MJ Ervin & Associates



Still seeing last week's chart? Refresh your browser (CTRL-R)

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