

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 July 11, 2005

Higher world crude oil and North American wholesale gasoline prices caused the Ontario average retail price of regular unleaded gasoline to increase by 7.8 cents to 94.8 cents a litre, a record high.

Record highs were achieved in all ten markets, with prices rising by 11.8 cents in Windsor (thus ending the city's 12-week streak as the lowest-priced market), 9.9 cents in London, 9.0 cents in Toronto West, 8.5 cents in Sudbury, 7.3 cents in Ottawa, 6.8 cents in Toronto East, 6.4 cents in Sault Ste. Marie and North Bay, 4.8 cents in Timmins, and 0.3 cents in Thunder Bay. The average price gap between southern and northern Ontario narrowed from a two-month high of 7.0 cents to 3.9 cents. The Ontario average retail diesel price increased for the second straight week, by 1.1 cents to 90.0 cents, a record high.

The Canadian average retail gasoline price increased by 4.3 cents to 95.7 cents, a record high. Prices rose by 9.6 cents in Montreal (to a record high of 103.2 cents), 6.3 cents in Quebec City (to a record high of 104.7 cents), 5.0 cents in Regina (matching the record high of 96.9 cents), 4.5 cents in Toronto (to a record high of 92.7 cents), 4.0 cents in Saint John (to a record high of 102.9 cents), 2.2 cents in Halifax (to a record high of 102.1 cents), 1.4 cents in Vancouver, and 0.4 cents in Calgary (to a record high of 87.7 cents). The Canadian average retail diesel price increased by 0.8 cents to 92.1 cents, a record high.

Ontario retail gasoline marketing margins remained strong in the second quarter of 2005 despite considerable volatility in world crude oil and North American wholesale gasoline markets, according to a Ministry of Energy analysis.

Margins in Toronto averaged 4.5 cents a litre, down slightly from 4.6 cents in the first quarter but up substantially from -0.8 cents in the second quarter last year. Hamilton and London, which also had very competitive retail gasoline markets last year, saw their margins increase to 3.7 cents and 4.8 cents, respectively, in the second quarter from 0.6 cents and 0.8 cents a year earlier, although in both cases margins were down slightly from the first quarter. Retailers in Ottawa realized an average margin of 5.2 cents, down from 2.8 cents a year earlier and 5.5 cents in the first quarter. Sault Ste. Marie was the only market in which margins rose from the first quarter (7.5 cents) to the second quarter (9.1 cents), while Thunder Bay was the only market in which margins declined from last year (6.8 cents) to this year (6.0 cents); margins in the first quarter were 8.9 cents.

In the first six months of 2005, margins averaged 4.0 cents in Hamilton (2.6 cents last year), 4.5 cents in Toronto (-0.5 cents), 4.9 cents in London (1.2 cents), 5.4 cents in Ottawa (1.3 cents), 7.4 cents in Thunder Bay (4.8 cents), and 8.3 cents in Sault Ste. Marie (6.8 cents). Margins (the pump price minus the wholesale or rack price) are the amount available to the dealer 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.

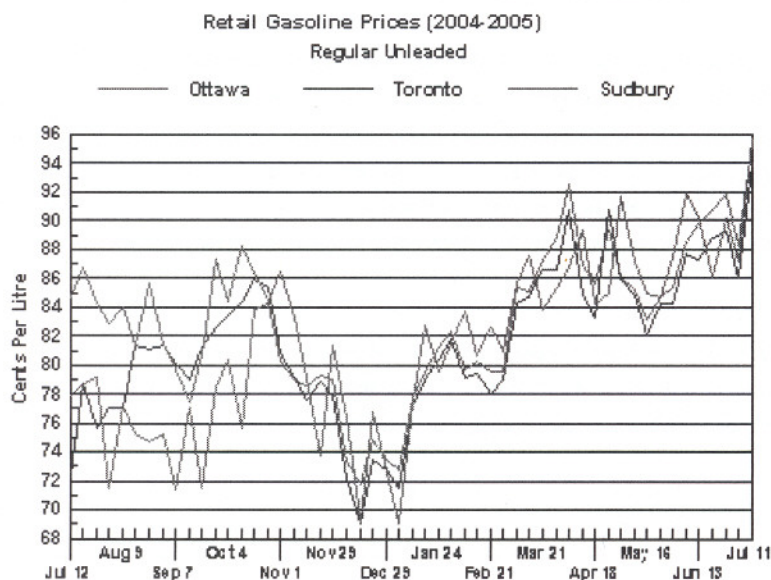
Market	July 4	July 11	+/-
Ottawa	88.2	95.5	7.3
Toronto West	84.9	93.9	9.0
Toronto East	87.3	94.1	6.8

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Windsor	82.5	94.3	11.8
London	85.4	95.3	9.9
Sudbury	87.2	95.7	8.5
S. Ste. Marie	92.4	98.8	6.4
Thunder Bay	98.5	98.8	0.3
North Bay	93.9	100.3	6.4
Timmins	94.8	99.6	4.8
Ontario Average	87.0	94.8	7.8

Market	July 5	July 12	+/-
St John's NF	103.2	103.2	0.0
Charlottetown	98.0	98.0	0.0
Halifax	99.9	102.1	2.2
Saint John NB	98.9	102.9	4.0
Quebec City	98.4	104.7	6.3
Montreal	93.6	103.2	9.6
Toronto	88.2	92.7	4.5
Winnipeg	89.0	89.0	0.0
Regina	91.9	96.9	5.0
Edmonton	87.1	87.1	0.0
Calgary	87.3	87.7	0.4
Vancouver	98.4	99.8	1.4
Canada Average	91.4	95.7	4.3

Source: Ontario Ministry of Energy; MJ Ervin & Associates



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