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.

This week's Gasoline Report is for the week ending October 3, 2005

A sharp increase in wholesale prices caused the Ontario average retail price of regular unleaded gasoline to increase for the second straight week, by 4.0 cents to 109.6 cents a litre.

Prices rose by 15.2 cents in Windsor, 13.2 cents in Sault Ste. Marie, 7.1 cents in Timmins, 6.2 cents in Sudbury, 4.9 cents in North Bay, 3.6 cents in Toronto, 2.0 cents in London, and 1.6 cents in Ottawa. Prices fell by 0.2 cents in Thunder Bay. The average price gap between southern and northern Ontario widened by 1.9 cents from a six-week low to 7.3 cents. The Ontario average retail diesel price increased for the second straight week, by 4.9 cents to 103.3 cents, a record high.

The Canadian average retail gasoline price increased for the second straight week, by 2.4 cents to 109.6 cents. Prices rose by 12.8 cents in Regina, 7.0 cents in Charlottetown, 6.7 cents in Quebec City, 5.9 cents in Winnipeg, 5.0 cents in Saint John, 4.9 cents in Halifax, 4.8 cents in Calgary, 3.2 cents in St. John's, 1.1 cents in Vancouver, and less than a cent in Toronto, Montreal, and Edmonton. The Canadian average retail diesel price increased for the second straight week, by 5.9 cents to 106.8 cents, a record high.

Ontario retail gasoline marketing margins declined slightly in the third quarter of 2005 but were substantially higher than in the same period last year, according to a Ministry of Energy analysis.

Margins in Toronto averaged 3.6 cents a litre, down from 4.5 cents in the second quarter but up from 1.9 cents in the third quarter of 2004. Margins in Ottawa showed the biggest year-to-year turnaround, averaging 4.5 cents compared with -0.3 cents last year, though they, too, were down from the second quarter's 5.2 cents. Hamilton had the most competitive retail market, with margins averaging 2.7 cents, down from 3.7 cents in the second quarter but up from 0.6 cents last year. Margins in London fell from 4.8 cents to 4.3 cents, but were higher than last year's 2.1 cents. Sault Ste. Marie was the only market to show a year-to-year decline in margins, with the third-quarter average of 6.9 cents down from last year's 9.4 cents. Margins in Thunder Bay were the only ones to increase in the third quarter, to 9.5 cents from 6.0 cents in the second quarter, and were also higher than the year-earlier level of 7.8 cents. For the first nine months of the year, margins in all markets increased substantially from the same period in 2004, averaging 5.1 cents in Ottawa, 4.2 cents in Toronto, 3.6 cents in Hamilton, 4.7 cents in London, 7.8 cents in Sault Ste. Marie, and 8.1 cents in Thunder Bay. Margins (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).

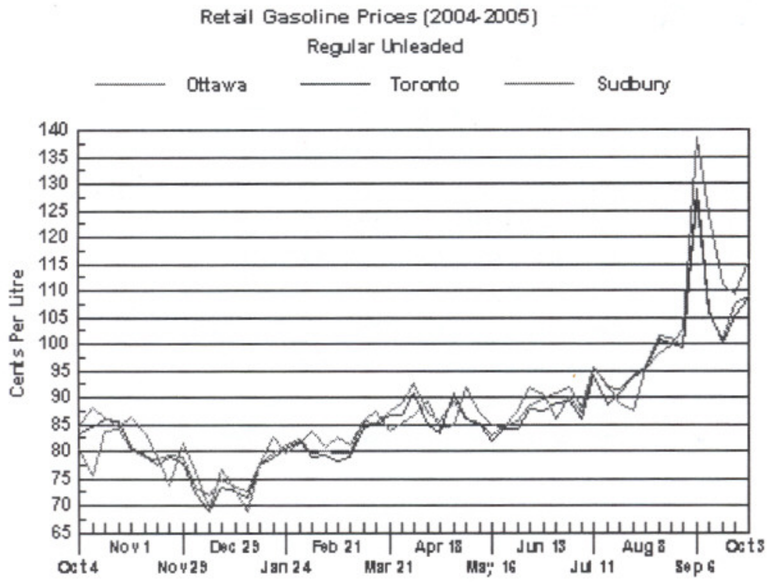
The table and graphic below show this week's gasoline price trends.

Market	September 26	October 3	+/-
Ottawa	107.4	109.0	1.6
Toronto West	104.9	108.2	3.3
Toronto East	105.2	109.1	3.9
Windsor	98.5	113.7	15.2
London	104.0	106.0	2.0
Sudbury	109.2	115.4	6.2

S. Ste. Marie	102.4	115.6	13.2
Thunder Bay	114.4	114.2	-0.2
North Bay	114.2	119.1	4.9
Timmins	112.8	119.9	7.1
Ontario Average	**105.6**	**109.6**	**4.0**

Market	**September 27**	**October 4**	**+/-**
St John's NF	115.3	118.5	3.2
Charlottetown	113.5	120.5	7.0
Halifax	111.9	116.8	4.9
Saint John NB	111.9	116.9	5.0
Quebec City	112.7	119.4	6.7
Montreal	116.4	117.1	0.7
Toronto	105.1	105.9	0.8
Winnipeg	100.5	106.4	5.9
Regina	96.9	109.7	12.8
Edmonton	96.3	96.4	0.1
Calgary	97.0	101.8	4.8
Vancouver	113.0	114.1	1.1
Canada Average	**107.2**	**109.6**	**2.4**

*Source: Ontario Ministry of Energy; **MJ Ervin & Associates***



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