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 January 3, 2006

Higher wholesale prices caused the Ontario average retail price of regular unleaded gasoline to increase for the third straight week, by 4.1 cents to 96.8 cents a litre, a three-month high.

Prices rose by 5.7 cents in Ottawa, 5.0 cents in Toronto East, 4.8 cents in Windsor, 4.1 cents in Toronto West, 3.7 cents in Sudbury, 3.6 cents in London, 2.0 cents in Timmins, and 1.9 cents in North Bay. Prices in all these markets were at three-month highs, except in Sudbury, North Bay, and Timmins, which were at two-month highs. Prices fell by 5.2 cents in Thunder Bay and 2.8 cents in Sault Ste. Marie, both from two-month highs. Prices in southern Ontario averaged 97.3 cents, 4.1 cents higher than in the north, a reversal of the normal situation where southern prices are lower than northern prices. The Ontario average retail diesel price increased for the third straight week, by 1.1 cents to 94.6 cents, a two-month high.

The Canadian average retail gasoline price increased for the third straight week, by 1.9 cents to 94.4 cents, a three-month high. Prices rose by 4.6 cents in Toronto (to a three-month high), 3.6 cents in Charlottetown (to a two-month high), 1.3 cents in Vancouver, and 0.6 cents in Montreal. Prices fell by 2.2 cents in Regina (from a two-month high) and 0.2 cents in Winnipeg and Calgary (the latter from a two-month high). The Canadian average retail diesel price declined by 0.3 cents to 95.7 cents.

Gasoline marketing margins increased significantly in southern Ontario in 2005, according to a Ministry of Energy analysis.

Margins in Toronto, after declining five straight years, averaged 4.7 cents a litre, up from 1.3 cents in 2004 and the highest in five years. Margins in Ottawa averaged 5.3 cents, up from 1.5 cents in 2004 and the highest in ten years. Margins in Hamilton averaged 4.0 cents, up from 2.1 cents the year before and the highest since records began in 2000, while in London, after declining five straight years, they averaged 4.3 cents, up from 2.2 cents in 2004 and the highest in five years. Margins in Sault Ste. Marie declined for the second straight year, from 7.9 cents to 7.3 cents, the lowest since records began in 2002, while in Thunder Bay they rose from 6.8 cents to 8.2 cents, the highest since records began in 1993. Margins, defined as the pump price minus the wholesale or “rack” price, are the amount available to the retailer to cover operating costs and provide a return on investment (Ministry of Energy).

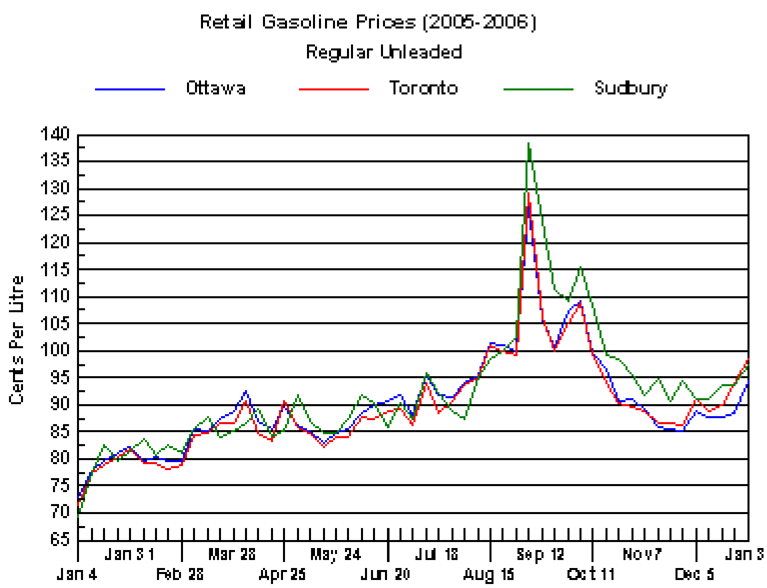
The table and graphic below show this week's gasoline price trends.

Market	December 28	January 3	+ / -
Ottawa	88.6	94.3	5.7
Toronto West	94.3	98.4	4.1
Toronto East	93.8	98.8	5.0
Windsor	90.4	95.2	4.8
London	92.0	95.6	3.6
Sudbury	93.8	97.5	3.7
S. Ste. Marie	91.1	88.3	-2.8
Thunder Bay	93.6	88.4	-5.2
North Bay	97.2	99.1	1.9

Timmins	95.9	97.9	2.0
Ontario Average	**92.7**	**96.8**	**4.1**

Market	**December 27**	**January 3**	**+ / -**
St John's NF	103.4	103.4	0.0
Charlottetown	95.3	98.9	3.6
Halifax	98.9	98.9	0.0
Saint John NB	98.9	98.9	0.0
Quebec City	98.4	98.4	0.0
Montreal	96.1	96.7	0.6
Toronto	94.2	98.8	4.6
Winnipeg	86.4	86.2	-0.2
Regina	91.7	89.5	-2.2
Edmonton	80.0	80.0	0.0
Calgary	83.4	83.2	-0.2
Vancouver	90.1	91.4	1.3
Canada Average	**92.5**	**94.4**	**1.9**

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



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