

Weekly Gasoline Report



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 May 29, 2006

The Ontario average retail price of regular unleaded gasoline increased by 2.3 cents from a two-month low to 101.1 cents a litre, reflecting higher wholesale prices and the end of price wars in some markets.

Prices rose by 3.7 cents in Sudbury (from a two-month low), 3.1 cents in Toronto East (from a two-month low) and Windsor (from a six-week low), 2.8 cents in Toronto West (from a two-month low) and Thunder Bay (to a five-week high), 2.0 cents in London and North Bay (the latter from a two-month high), and 0.7 cents in Ottawa (from a two-month low). Prices fell by 2.9 cents in Sault Ste. Marie (to a two-month low). Prices in northern Ontario averaged 106.5 cents and in the south they averaged 100.5 cents, a difference of 6.0 cents, down from 7.0 cents the week before. The Ontario average retail diesel price, after declining three straight weeks, increased by 0.3 cents from a five-week low to 99.9 cents.

The Canadian average retail gasoline price increased by 2.8 cents from a two-month low to 106.2 cents, a four-week high. Prices rose by 7.8 cents in Montreal and 3.5 cents in Toronto, both to a four-week high. Prices fell by 1.0 cents in Halifax and Quebec City (both to a two-month low), and less than a cent in Edmonton (to a two-month low), Calgary (to a two-month low), Saint John (to a two-month low), Winnipeg, and Vancouver. The Canadian average retail diesel price increased for the second straight week, by 0.3 cents to 102.4 cents, a four-week high.

Ontario motorists spent \$13.2-billion buying gasoline in 2005, up \$2.0-billion or 18 % from 2004 and the fourth consecutive annual record, according to a Ministry of Energy analysis.

The increase in spending was due to higher pump prices and, to a lesser extent, higher gasoline consumption. The volume of Ontario retail gasoline sales grew for the tenth straight year, by 0.3% to 14.5-billion litres, the ninth consecutive annual record. The Ontario average retail price of all three grades of gasoline in 2005 was 91.1 cents a litre, up 17% from 2004 and the second consecutive annual record. The increase in pump prices reflected higher crude oil prices and higher wholesale and retail margins. Retail margins for all three grades rose by 3.2 cents a litre in 2005, costing Ontario motorists an additional \$470-million, while wholesale (refining) margins rose by 3.1 cents a litre, boosting the retail gasoline bill by \$450-million. Since 1990 there has been a noticeable shift in Ontario gasoline sales from the more expensive, higher-octane grades to cheaper, regular grade, which now accounts for nearly 90% of sales compared with just over 76% in 1990. If, last year, Ontario motorists had bought the three grades in the same proportions they did in 1990, they would have paid an extra \$180-million for their gasoline. The delivered cost of crude oil to Ontario refineries rose by 8.65 cents a litre in 2005, costing motorists an additional \$1.26-billion. The higher value of the Canadian dollar (up 5.5 cents U.S.) reduced Ontario wholesale gasoline prices by 4.1 cents a litre below what they would have been, cutting Ontario retail gasoline costs by \$600-million (Ministry of Energy).

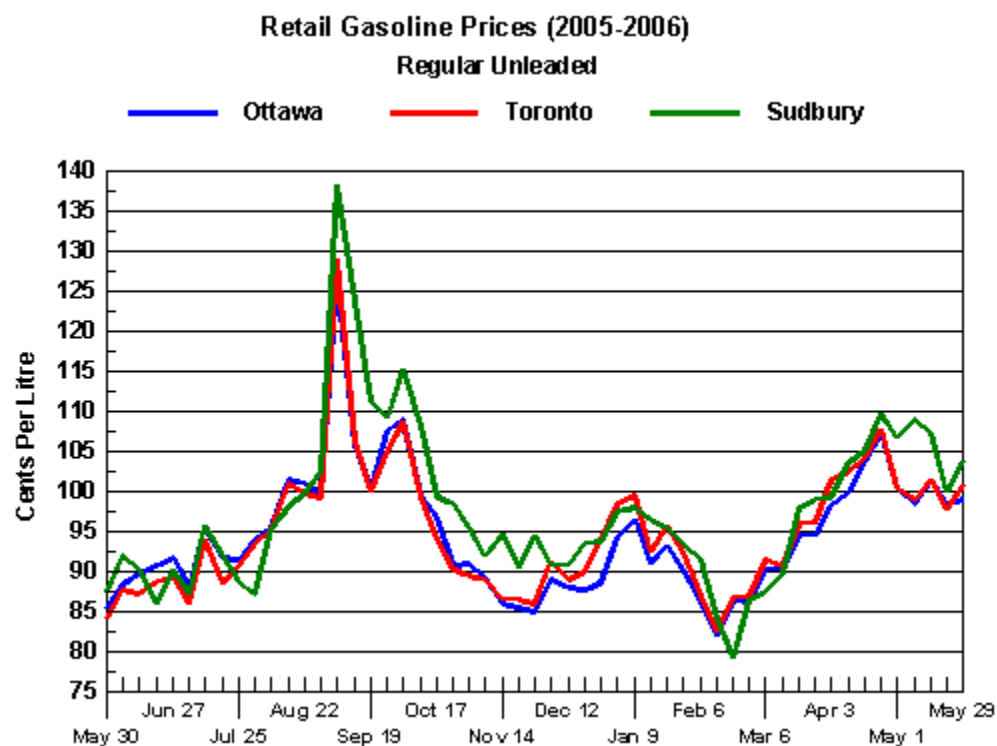
The table and graphic below show this week's gasoline price trends.

Market	May 23	May 29	+ / -
Ottawa	98.4	99.1	0.7
Toronto West	97.8	100.6	2.8
Toronto East	97.7	100.8	3.1

Windsor	99.4	102.5	3.1
London	99.4	101.4	2.0
Sudbury	100.0	103.7	3.7
S. Ste. Marie	105.3	102.4	-2.9
Thunder Bay	109.1	111.9	2.8
North Bay	103.2	105.2	2.0
Timmins	107.9	107.9	0.0
Ontario Average	98.8	101.1	2.3

Market	May 23	May 30	+ / -
St John's NF	116.2	116.2	0.0
Charlottetown	113.6	113.6	0.0
Halifax	108.8	107.8	-1.0
Saint John NB	109.8	109.6	-0.2
Quebec City	107.4	106.4	-1.0
Montreal	103.7	111.5	7.8
Toronto	97.2	100.7	3.5
Winnipeg	104.3	104.2	-0.1
Regina	109.5	109.5	0.0
Edmonton	98.8	97.9	-0.9
Calgary	101.0	100.4	-0.6
Vancouver	117.9	117.8	-0.1
Canada Average	103.4	106.2	2.8

Source: Ontario Ministry of Energy; [MJ Ervin & Associates](#)



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

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