

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.

This week's Gasoline Report is for the week ending April 2, 2006

Higher wholesale prices offset price wars in some markets, causing the Ontario average retail price of regular unleaded gasoline, which had fallen two straight weeks, to increase by 1.2 cents from a four-week low to 101.3 cents a litre.

Prices fell by 13.6 cents from a seven-month high in Sudbury (to a six-week low), 5.4 cents in Sault Ste. Marie (to a six-week low), 2.7 cents from a seven-month high in North Bay (to a four-week low), 2.4 cents in Windsor (to a five-week low), and 0.6 cents in Timmins. Prices rose by 2.7 cents in Ottawa (to an eight-month high) and 2.1 cents in Toronto and London (both from a four-week low). The average price gap between northern and southern Ontario, after widening two straight weeks, shrank from a two-month high of 6.2 cents to -0.8 cents, the second time in the past four weeks that southern prices have been higher than northern prices. The Ontario average retail diesel price was unchanged at a four-week low of 96.8 cents.

The Canadian average retail gasoline price increased for the tenth straight week, by 1.2 cents to 105.1 cents, an eight-month high. Prices rose by 4.0 cents in Montreal (to an eight-month high), 3.6 cents in Vancouver (to an eight-month high), 2.1 cents in Charlottetown (to a seven-month high), and less than a cent in St. Johns and Halifax. Prices fell by less than a cent in Saint John (from a seven-month high) and Calgary. The Canadian average retail diesel price increased by 0.8 cents to 98.9 cents.

Gasoline marketing margins in the first three months of 2007 weakened in Toronto, Hamilton, and Sault Ste. Marie, but strengthened in Ottawa, London, and Thunder Bay, according to a Ministry of Energy analysis.

Margins in Toronto averaged 4.1 cents a litre, down from 4.3 cents in the fourth quarter and 5.6 cents in the first quarter of 2006, in Hamilton they dropped from 3.9 cents to 3.8 cents (and from 4.4 cents a year earlier), and in Sault Ste. Marie they fell from 5.0 cents to 4.9 cents (and from 7.0 cents a year earlier). Margins in Ottawa averaged 6.8 cents, up from 5.9 cents in the fourth quarter and 4.3 cents a year earlier, in London they rose from 4.7 cents to 5.5 cents (and from 4.1 cents a year earlier), and in Thunder Bay they increased from 10.5 cents to 10.9 cents (and from 6.0 cents a year earlier). Margins in Thunder Bay averaged 15.1 cents in January, reaching a high of 20.9 cents on Jan. 22, and then declined to an average of 7.7 cents in March. 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 on the next pages show this week's gasoline price trends.

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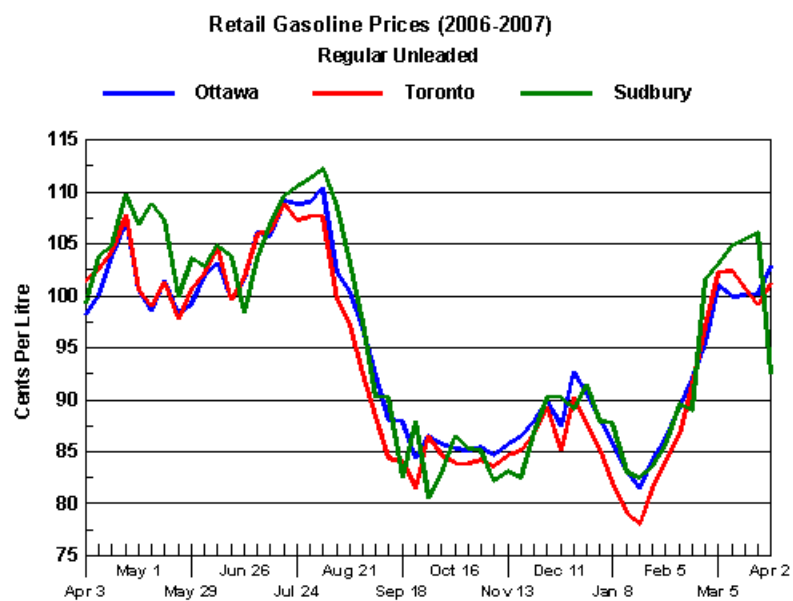
Market	March 26	April 2	+/-
Ottawa	100.1	102.8	2.7
Toronto West	99.1	101.2	2.1
Toronto East	99.2	101.3	2.1
Windsor	100.5	98.1	-2.4
London	99.7	101.8	2.1
Sudbury	106.1	92.5	-13.6
S. Ste. Marie	99.1	93.7	-5.4
Thunder Bay	106.3	106.3	0.0
North Bay	107.2	104.5	-2.7
Timmins	112.5	111.9	-0.6
Ontario Average	100.1	101.3	1.2

Market	March 27	April 3	+/-
St John's NF	112.5	113.1	0.6
Charlottetown	109.8	111.9	2.1
Halifax	110.8	110.9	0.1
Saint John NB	103.8	103.5	-0.3
Quebec City	108.4	108.4	0.0
Montreal	109.4	113.4	4.0
Toronto	101.2	101.2	0.0
Winnipeg	98.7	98.7	0.0
Regina	103.9	103.9	0.0
Edmonton	96.0	96.0	0.0
Calgary	96.1	96.0	-0.1
Vancouver	110.6	114.2	3.6
Canada Average	103.9	105.1	1.2

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

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