

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 16, 2006

Higher wholesale prices, caused in part by declining U.S. gasoline inventories at a time when they are normally rising in preparation for the summer driving season, caused the Ontario average retail price of regular unleaded gasoline to increase for the third straight week, by 0.8 cents to 105.1 cents a litre, an eight-month high.

Prices rose by 8.2 cents in Thunder Bay (to an eight-month high), 4.7 cents in Sault Ste. Marie (to a four-week high), 2.8 cents in North Bay (from a six-week low), 1.4 cents in Ottawa (to an eight-month high), 1.1 cents in Sudbury, and less than a cent in Toronto and London (both to an eight-month high). Prices fell by 2.4 cents in Windsor, and 0.3 cents in Timmins (from an eight-month high). The average price gap between northern and southern Ontario widened from 0.9 cents to 4.5 cents. The Ontario average retail diesel price increased for the second straight week, by 0.1 cents to 97.3 cents, a five-week high.

The Canadian average retail gasoline price, after increasing eleven straight weeks, declined by 0.9 cents from an eight-month high to 105.3 cents. Prices fell by 7.5 cents from an eight-month high in Montreal (to a two-month low), 1.0 cents in Toronto (from a four-week high), and 0.1 cents in Halifax (from an eight-month high). Prices rose by 4.0 cents in Winnipeg, Regina, and Edmonton, 3.5 cents in Calgary and St. Johns, and 1.0 cents in Charlottetown, all to an eight-month high, and 0.9 cents in Vancouver (to an eleven-month high). The Canadian average retail diesel price, after increasing two straight weeks, was unchanged at a seven-month high of 100.3 cents.

Ontario gasoline sales (retail and non-retail), after increasing 14 straight years, declined by 1.3% in 2006 from a record high to 15.66-billion litres, according to a Ministry of Energy analysis of Statistics Canada data.

Sales of regular unleaded, after rising 15 straight years, declined by 0.8% from a record high, but their share of total sales increased to 90.3%, the highest since 1985. Sales of higher-octane premium and mid-grade declined for the fourth straight year, by 5.3% to a 20-year low, partly in response to higher pump prices, and their market share fell to 9.8%, the lowest since 1985. Retail gasoline sales, after growing ten straight years, declined by 1.1% from a record high to 14.37-billion litres, a three-year low. Ontario diesel sales, after rising four straight years, declined by 5.5% from a record high to 6.91 billion litres. In the fourth quarter of 2006, Ontario gasoline sales fell by 1.8%, and diesel sales dropped by 5.5%.

Canadian gasoline sales in 2006 grew by 0.2% to 40.93-billion litres. Sales of regular unleaded increased for the 24th straight year, by 0.5% to a record high, and their market share rose to 90.5%, the highest since 1985. Sales of premium and mid-grade declined for the fourth straight year, by 1.7% to a 20-year low, and their market share fell to 9.5%, the lowest since 1985. Retail gasoline sales increased for the 11th straight year, by 0.4% to 36.61-billion litres, a record high. Canadian diesel sales grew for the fourth straight year, by 0.4% to 26.49-billion litres, a record high. In the fourth quarter, Canadian gasoline sales rose by 1.6%, and diesel sales grew by 2.3% (Statistics Canada, Ministry of Energy).

The table and graphic on the next pages show this week's gasoline price trends.

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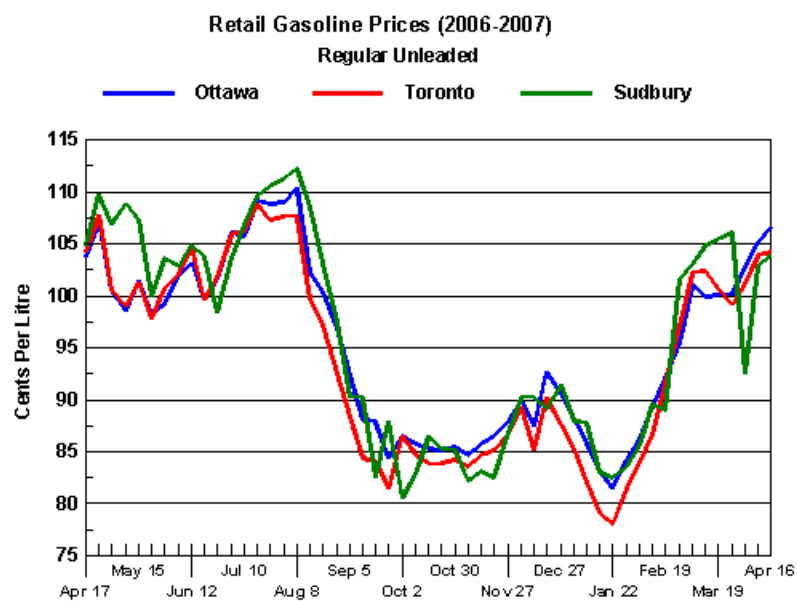
Market	April 9	April 16	+/-
Ottawa	105.1	106.5	1.4
Toronto West	103.9	104.3	0.4
Toronto East	103.9	104.3	0.4
Windsor	103.2	100.8	-2.4
London	104.6	104.9	0.3
Sudbury	102.9	104.0	1.1
S. Ste. Marie	102.8	107.5	4.7
Thunder Bay	106.3	114.5	8.2
North Bay	103.0	105.8	2.8
Timmins	113.4	113.1	-0.3
Ontario Average	104.3	105.1	0.8

Market	April 10	April 17	+/-
St John's NF	113.1	116.6	3.5
Charlottetown	111.9	112.9	1.0
Halifax	113.9	113.8	-0.1
Saint John NB	105.2	105.2	0.0
Quebec City	108.4	108.4	0.0
Montreal	114.4	106.9	-7.5
Toronto	102.3	101.3	-1.0
Winnipeg	98.7	102.7	4.0
Regina	103.9	107.9	4.0
Edmonton	96.0	100.0	4.0
Calgary	96.2	99.7	3.5
Vancouver	117.2	118.1	0.9
Canada Average	106.2	105.3	-0.9

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

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