

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 30, 2006

A sharp rebound in wholesale prices and the end of price wars in some markets caused the Ontario average retail price of regular unleaded gasoline to increase by 4.3 cents to 106.0 cents a litre, a nine-month high.

Prices rose by 8.9 cents in Sault Ste. Marie (to a nine-month high), 5.1 cents in Windsor (to a six-week high), 4.8 cents from a four-week low in London (to a nine-month high), 4.7 cents from a four-week low in Toronto (to a nine-month high), 4.1 cents from a four-week low in Ottawa (to a nine-month high), 1.6 cents in Sudbury (to a five-week high), and 1.2 cents in North Bay (to a five-week high). Prices fell by 1.3 cents in Thunder Bay and 0.3 cents in Timmins. Windsor had the lowest average price for the third straight week. The average price gap between northern and southern Ontario, after widening three straight weeks, narrowed from a four-week high of 4.5 cents to 3.3 cents. The Ontario average retail diesel price declined for the second straight week, by 0.6 cents to 96.5 cents, a two-month low.

The Canadian average retail gasoline price increased by 4.9 cents to 110.2 cents, a nine-month high. Prices rose by 11.2 cents in Montreal (to a nine-month high), 5.7 cents in Toronto (to a nine-month high), 4.8 cents in Vancouver (to a record high of 121.8 cents), and 0.2 cents in St. Johns (to a nine-month high). Prices fell by 2.2 cents in Saint John (from an eight-month high) and 1.0 cents in Regina. The Canadian average retail diesel price declined for the second straight week, by 0.9 cents to 99.0 cents, a four-week low.

Ontario motorists spent \$13.8-billion buying gasoline in 2006, up 3.9% from 2005 and the fourth consecutive annual record, according to a Ministry of Energy analysis.

The increase in spending was due to higher pump prices, which offset lower gasoline consumption. The volume of Ontario retail gasoline sales, after growing ten straight years, fell by 1.1% from a record high to 14.4-billion litres, a three-year low. The Ontario average retail price of all three grades of gasoline in 2006 was 95.8 cents a litre, up 5% from 2005 and the third consecutive annual record. The increase in pump prices reflected higher crude oil prices and higher wholesale and retail margins. The 0.6-cent increase in margins cost Ontario motorists \$86-million, while the 4.2-cent increase in crude oil costs boosted the retail gasoline bill by \$605-million. The 6.8% increase in the value of the Canadian dollar relative to the U.S. dollar reduced Ontario wholesale gasoline costs by 4.4 cents, leading to a \$635-million saving at the pump.

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 just over 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 \$182-million for their gasoline. The Canadian retail gasoline bill in 2006 increased by 6.2% to \$36.1-billion, the fourth consecutive annual record (Ministry of Energy).

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

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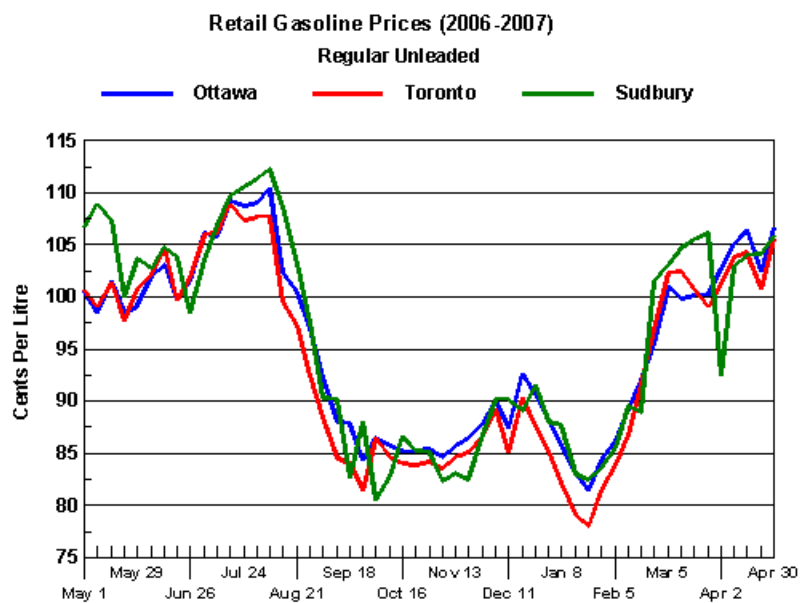
Market	April 23	April 30	+/-
Ottawa	102.5	106.6	4.1
Toronto West	100.8	105.5	4.7
Toronto East	100.8	105.5	4.7
Windsor	98.6	103.7	5.1
London	101.5	106.3	4.8
Sudbury	104.2	105.8	1.6
S. Ste. Marie	99.5	108.4	8.9
Thunder Bay	112.9	111.6	-1.3
North Bay	106.0	107.2	1.2
Timmins	112.7	112.4	-0.3
Ontario Average	101.7	106.0	4.3

Market	April 24	May 1	+/-
St John's NF	116.5	116.7	0.2
Charlottetown	112.9	112.9	0.0
Halifax	113.2	113.2	0.0
Saint John NB	108.4	106.2	-2.2
Quebec City	108.4	108.4	0.0
Montreal	106.0	117.2	11.2
Toronto	102.1	107.8	5.7
Winnipeg	102.8	102.8	0.0
Regina	107.9	106.9	-1.0
Edmonton	100.0	100.0	0.0
Calgary	99.7	99.7	0.0
Vancouver	117.0	121.8	4.8
Canada Average	105.3	110.2	4.9

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

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