

## U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics <br> Boston Economic Analysis and Information Office <br> Boston, MA 02203

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Gasoline Prices in Boston, 1981 to 2008

| U.S. | Gasoline prices |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Inflation adjusted | September |
| March 1981 | 2008 |  |
| All types | $\$ 3.431$ | $\$ 3.749$ |
| Unleaded regular | $\$ 3.503$ | $\$ 3.698$ |
| Unleaded premium | - | $\$ 3.940$ |
| Boston |  |  |
| All types | $\$ 3.429$ | $\$ 3.594$ |
| Unleaded regular | $\$ 3.513$ | $\$ 3.547$ |
| Unleaded premium | - | $\$ 3.816$ |
| Dash means data not available. |  |  |
| Inflation adjustment shown in September 2008 dollars. |  |  |




- The September 2008 average price of gasoline in Boston was $\$ 3.594$, an over-the-year increase of 30 percent.
- Gasoline prices, after adjusting for inflation have been more volatile in recent years than they have been over the past two decades. Despite a decrease in the price of gasoline for the third month in a row, consumers in the Boston area saw inflation adjusted prices increase by $\$ 1.239$ between October 2007 and June 2008. Inflation adjusted prices also increased dramatically between January 2005 and September 2005, when consumers saw an increase of $\$ 1.500$.
- Gasoline prices increased 23.8 percent over the year, after adjusting for inflation. Since March 1981 there have been 13 over-the-year increases that were above 30 percent. Twelve of these increases occurred in the past $81 / 2$ years.
- The September 2008 price for gasoline in Boston is lower than the September 2005 inflation adjusted price --the series high before 2008-- when gasoline was $\$ 3.657$ per gallon. (The nominal price was $\$ 3.323$.)
- The previous inflation adjusted high was in March 1981 at $\$ 3.429$ per gallon. (The nominal price was $\$ 1.387$.)
- The price of gasoline, all types, in Boston was 15.5 cents lower than the U.S. average.
- Since the 1981 reference date, the lowest nominal price for gasoline in Boston was reported in August 1986, \$0.829 per gallon, which equals a real (inflation adjusted) price of $\$ 1.653$ per gallon.

| Landmark dates <br> (Boston gasoline) | Inflation <br> adjusted <br> price |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| March | 1981 | $\$ 3.429$ |
| August | 1986 | $\$ 1.653$ |
| Nov. | 1990 | $\$ 2.521$ |
| March | 1999 | $\$ 1.343$ |
| June | 2001 | $\$ 2.206$ |
| Dec. | 2001 | $\$ 1.487$ |
| Sept. | 2005 | $\$ 3.657$ |
| Feb. | 2007 | $\$ 2.405$ |
| June | 2008 | $\$ 4.073$ |
| Sept. | 2008 | $\$ 3.594$ |

In the information provided above, the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U), U.S. City Average, all items, was used to adjust historic gasoline prices. These prices reflect the effect of inflation on the average price of Boston gasoline (all types), collected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Average residential prices for utility (piped) gas, electricity, and fuel oil, average prices per gallon for gasoline - Boston, MA.

| Piped Gas | Piped gas | Electricity | Fuel oil | Gasoline | Gasoline <br> Unleaded | Gasoline |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Unleaded |  |  |  |  |  |  |


| 2006 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| January | 84.455 | 191.597 | 92.454 | 2.387 | 2.412 | 2.369 | 2.593 |
| February | 77.771 | 175.103 | 93.206 | 2.411 | 2.423 | 2.379 | 2.595 |
| March | 73.091 | 162.999 | 92.974 | 2.409 | 2.319 | 2.278 | 2.492 |
| April | 73.052 | 162.892 | 92.974 | 2.493 | 2.704 | 2.669 | 2.865 |
| May | 63.551 | 135.753 | 90.675 | 2.554 | 3.000 | 2.956 | 3.172 |
| June | 63.528 | 135.705 | 90.675 | 2.530 | 3.054 | 3.011 | 3.249 |
| July | 63.511 | 135.667 | 87.045 | 2.558 | 3.116 | 3.071 | 3.305 |
| August | 63.537 | 135.723 | 87.045 | 2.551 | 3.149 | 3.101 | 3.360 |
| September | 63.534 | 135.717 | 88.001 | 2.453 | 2.740 | 2.679 | 2.955 |
| October | 56.943 | 119.553 | 88.001 | 2.325 | 2.302 | 2.241 | 2.543 |
| November | 80.131 | 180.721 | 92.326 | 2.321 | 2.221 | 2.165 | 2.440 |
| December | 80.091 | 180.616 | 92.326 | 2.385 | 2.354 | 2.309 | 2.535 |
| 2007 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January | 80.147 | 180.758 | 92.726 | 2.356 | 2.396 | 2.347 | 2.590 |
| February | 75.789 | 170.017 | 92.726 | 2.387 | 2.237 | 2.187 | 2.423 |
| March | 75.802 | 170.064 | 90.744 | 2.507 | 2.573 | 2.532 | 2.727 |
| April | 75.758 | 169.945 | 90.751 | 2.492 | 2.770 | 2.727 | 2.937 |
| May | 60.068 | 126.690 | 87.482 | 2.515 | 3.033 | 2.987 | 3.202 |
| June | 62.230 | 132.079 | 87.482 | 2.493 | 3.107 | 3.067 | 3.271 |
| July | 62.270 | 132.161 | 85.136 | 2.557 | 2.994 | 2.946 | 3.175 |
| August | 61.352 | 129.988 | 85.136 | 2.571 | 2.856 | 2.801 | 3.053 |
| September | 60.033 | 126.638 | 85.136 | 2.653 | 2.767 | 2.713 | 2.961 |
| October | 58.788 | 123.689 | 85.136 | 2.796 | 2.706 | 2.661 | 2.916 |
| November | 73.566 | 164.003 | 86.703 | 3.112 | 3.021 | 2.983 | 3.210 |
| December | 73.725 | 164.428 | 86.703 | 3.257 | 3.040 | 3.000 | 3.237 |
| 2008 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January | 73.876 | 164.791 | 89.149 | 3.373 | 3.067 | 3.027 | 3.266 |
| February | 73.779 | 164.541 | 89.149 | 3.367 | 3.034 | 2.989 | 3.247 |
| March | 74.977 | 167.413 | 88.713 | 3.725 | 3.144 | 3.103 | 3.340 |
| April | 74.939 | 167.319 | 88.713 | 3.940 | 3.344 | 3.306 | 3.528 |
| May | 74.824 | 163.056 | 90.667 | 4.238 | 3.759 | 3.722 | 3.945 |
| June | 81.207 | 179.089 | 90.234 | 4.570 | 4.074 | 4.036 | 4.255 |
| July | 93.876 | 210.992 | 93.870 | 4.627 | 4.066 | 4.025 | 4.259 |
| August | 92.319 | 207.294 | 93.870 | 4.121 | 3.734 | 3.688 | 3.948 |
| September | 66.133 | 141.441 | 93.870 | 3.918 | 3.594 | 3.547 | 3.816 |

NA=Not Available.
1/ Unleaded premium replaced leaded premium in January 1984.

## Average residential prices for utility (piped) gas, electricity, and fuel oil, average prices per gallon for gasoline - U.S. City Average

|  | Piped Gas <br> 40 <br> Therms | Piped gas <br> 100 <br> Therms | Electricity 500 KWH | Fuel oil \#2 | Gasoline All types | Gasoline <br> Unleaded <br> Regular | Gasoline <br> Unleaded Premium 1 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2006 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January | 66.402 | 152.755 | 57.223 | 2.418 | 2.359 | 2.315 | 2.521 |
| February | 61.274 | 140.363 | 57.133 | 2.423 | 2.354 | 2.310 | 2.519 |
| March | 58.611 | 133.571 | 57.156 | 2.429 | 2.444 | 2.401 | 2.603 |
| April | 56.437 | 127.868 | 57.270 | 2.526 | 2.801 | 2.757 | 2.967 |
| May | 56.179 | 126.823 | 57.462 | 2.572 | 2.993 | 2.947 | 3.169 |
| June | 54.006 | 121.623 | 59.457 | 2.566 | 2.963 | 2.917 | 3.139 |
| July | 54.146 | 121.795 | 59.621 | 2.597 | 3.046 | 2.999 | 3.219 |
| August | 54.428 | 122.390 | 59.565 | 2.649 | 3.033 | 2.985 | 3.207 |
| September | 55.291 | 124.363 | 59.568 | 2.531 | 2.637 | 2.589 | 2.819 |
| October | 51.673 | 115.420 | 58.332 | 2.396 | 2.319 | 2.272 | 2.493 |
| November | 55.279 | 125.046 | 57.532 | 2.375 | 2.287 | 2.241 | 2.459 |
| December | 56.661 | 128.263 | 57.738 | 2.460 | 2.380 | 2.334 | 2.550 |
| 2007 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January | 55.986 | 126.568 | 59.043 | 2.368 | 2.321 | 2.274 | 2.501 |
| February | 55.977 | 126.488 | 59.047 | 2.425 | 2.333 | 2.285 | 2.509 |
| March | 57.001 | 128.906 | 59.297 | 2.505 | 2.639 | 2.592 | 2.818 |
| April | 56.763 | 128.324 | 59.175 | 2.555 | 2.909 | 2.860 | 3.093 |
| May | 57.327 | 128.872 | 59.779 | 2.567 | 3.176 | 3.130 | 3.348 |
| June | 57.835 | 129.922 | 61.568 | 2.561 | 3.100 | 3.052 | 3.281 |
| July | 57.018 | 127.919 | 61.562 | 2.621 | 3.013 | 2.961 | 3.200 |
| August | 54.913 | 122.701 | 61.368 | 2.634 | 2.833 | 2.782 | 3.018 |
| September | 54.195 | 120.904 | 61.457 | 2.706 | 2.839 | 2.789 | 3.021 |
| October | 54.705 | 122.110 | 60.885 | 2.808 | 2.843 | 2.793 | 3.037 |
| November | 56.757 | 127.507 | 60.418 | 3.169 | 3.118 | 3.069 | 3.307 |
| December | 57.088 | 128.131 | 60.520 | 3.247 | 3.069 | 3.020 | 3.264 |
| 2008 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January | 57.151 | 128.011 | 61.275 | 3.337 | 3.096 | 3.047 | 3.291 |
| February | 58.628 | 131.301 | 61.190 | 3.338 | 3.083 | 3.033 | 3.272 |
| March | 60.477 | 135.891 | 61.390 | 3.699 | 3.307 | 3.258 | 3.502 |
| April | 63.244 | 142.727 | 62.149 | 3.875 | 3.491 | 3.441 | 3.690 |
| May | 66.368 | 150.492 | 62.952 | 4.185 | 3.813 | 3.764 | 4.003 |
| June | 69.348 | 157.626 | 65.068 | 4.589 | 4.115 | 4.065 | 4.319 |
| July | 74.245 | 169.907 | 66.553 | 4.649 | 4.142 | 4.090 | 4.350 |
| August | 69.814 | 159.225 | 67.078 | 4.217 | 3.838 | 3.786 | 4.045 |
| September | 63.942 | 144.793 | 66.210 | 3.952 | 3.749 | 3.698 | 3.940 |

1/ Unleaded premium replaced leaded premium in January 1984.

