

What is the Local Impact of Rising Gas Prices?

Skyrocketing gas prices are drastically increasing the cost of living for New York families. Since July, the price of unleaded gasoline has increased 27 cents and is now up to \$1.87 per gallon— only one penny less than the record high. If the high prices continue, the average two car family from upstate New York could spend an extra \$360 on gasoline this year.

To decrease the cost of gas for New Yorkers, Senator Schumer is calling on the President to demand that the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) increase – not decrease – the supply of oil in the market. OPEC is meeting tomorrow in Vienna to decide whether to proceed with a February 10 decision to reduce its supply of oil. The Energy Information Administration (EIA) estimates the current eleven OPEC members account for almost 40% of world oil production and about 2/3 of the world's proven oil reserves.

The following report shows the county-by-county impact of the rising price of gasoline.

Capital Region: On March 29, 2004, the average price of one gallon of regular unleaded gasoline reached \$1.81, compared with \$1.49 in July. This represents an increase of over 21%. The average two car family in the Capital Region could see a \$428 increase in their annual gas bill as a result of this price change.

County	Licensed Drivers	Added Yearly Expenditure for 2-Car Family	Total Added Yearly Expenditure for County (in millions)
Albany	193,761	\$548	\$53.1
Rensselaer	106,366	\$414	\$22
Schenectady	111,385	\$353	\$19.7
Saratoga	152,011	\$369	\$28.1
Fulton	39,698	\$368	\$7.3
Montgomery	35,831	\$609	\$10.9
Schoharie	23,217	\$330	\$3.8
Washington	42,671	\$298	\$6.4
Capital Region	704,940	\$428	\$151.3

Western New York: On March 29, 2004, the average price of one gallon of regular unleaded gasoline reached **\$1.85**, compared with **\$1.54 in July**. This represents an increase of over 20%. The average two car family in the Western New York could see a \$352 increase in their annual gas bill as a result of this price change.

County	Licensed Drivers	Added Yearly Expenditure for 2-Car Family	Total Added Yearly Expenditure for County (in millions)
Orleans	29,681	\$280	\$4.2
Genesee	44,178	\$860	\$19
Wyoming	29,820	\$390	\$5.8
Erie	640,863	\$358	\$114.7
Niagara	157,393	\$255	\$20.1
Cattaraugus	58,651	\$304	\$8.9
Chautauqua	96,474	\$284	\$13.7
Western New York	1,057,060	\$352	\$186.4

Central New York: On March 29, 2004, the average price of one gallon of regular unleaded gasoline reached **\$1.86**, compared with **\$1.53 in July**. This represents an increase of over 21%. The average two car family in the Central New York could see a \$410 increase in their annual gas bill as a result of this price change.

County	Licensed Drivers	Added Yearly Expenditure for 2-Car Family	Total Added Yearly Expenditure for County (in millions)
Oneida	160,946	\$411	\$33.1
Oswego	85,701	\$412	\$17.7
Madison	49,452	\$311	\$7.7
Cortland	32,368	\$557	\$9
Onondaga	315,615	\$410	\$64.7
Central New York	644,082	\$410	\$132.2

The Hudson Valley: On March 29, 2004, the average price of one gallon of regular unleaded gasoline reached \$1.88, compared with \$1.57 in July. This represents an increase of 20%. The average two car family in the Hudson Valley could see a \$308 increase in their annual gas bill as a result of this price change.

County	Licensed Drivers	Added Yearly Expenditure for 2-Car Family	Total Added Yearly Expenditure for County (in millions)
Westchester	639,903	\$266	\$85.1
Rockland	205,530	\$180	\$18.5
Putnam	74,470	\$352	\$13.1
Dutchess	199,171	\$345	\$34.3
Ulster	128,890	\$384	\$24.7
Sullivan	53,979	\$408	\$11
Orange	229,155	\$368	\$42.2
Greene	36,334	\$482	\$8.8
Columbia	46,805	\$494	\$11.6
Hudson Valley	1,614,237	\$308	\$249.3

Rochester/Finger Lakes: On March 29, 2004, the average price of one gallon of regular unleaded gasoline reached \$1.84, compared with \$1.58 in July. This represents an increase of 16%. The average two car family in the Finger Lakes could see a \$320 increase in their annual gas bill as a result of this price change.

County	Licensed Drivers	Added Yearly Expenditure for 2-Car Family	Total Added Yearly Expenditure for County (in millions)
Cayuga	55,053	\$351	\$9.7
Seneca	24,014	\$320	\$3.8
Yates	16,926	\$252	\$2.1
Ontario	74,169	\$440	\$16.3
Wayne	68,792	\$304	\$10.5
Monroe	506,567	\$297	\$75.2
Livingston	44,787	\$439	\$9.8
Schuyler	13,852	\$313	\$2.2
Tompkins	59,624	\$297	\$8.8
Finger Lakes	863,784	\$320	\$138.4

Southern Tier: On March 29, 2004, the average price of one gallon of regular unleaded gasoline reached \$1.84, compared with \$1.51 in July. This represents an increase of 22%. The average two car family in the Southern Tier could see a \$410 increase in their annual gas bill as a result of this price change.

County	Licensed Drivers	Added Yearly Expenditure for 2-Car Family	Total Added Yearly Expenditure for County (in millions)
Delaware	37,368	\$294	\$5.5
Otsego	43,457	\$442	\$9.6
Chenango	37,661	\$334	\$6.3
Broome	142,360	\$474	\$33.7
Tioga	37,749	\$346	\$6.5
Chemung	62,738	\$334	\$10.5
Steuben	72,363	\$458	\$16.6
Allegany	32,763	\$409	\$6.7
Southern Tier	466,459	\$410	\$95.4

North Country: On March 29, 2004, the average price of one gallon of regular unleaded gasoline reached \$1.84, compared with \$1.53 in July. This represents an increase of 20%. The average two car family in the North Country could see a \$410 increase in their annual gas bill as a result of this price change.

County	Licensed Drivers	Added Yearly Expenditure for 2-Car Family	Total Added Yearly Expenditure for County (in millions)
Warren	48,984	\$492	\$12.1
Essex	27,946	\$414	\$5.8
Clinton	53,882	\$441	\$11.9
Franklin	33,645	\$332	\$5.6
Hamilton	4,880	\$421	\$1
St Lawrence	74,512	\$340	\$12.7
Herkimer	45,747	\$412	\$9.4
Lewis	19,484	\$373	\$3.6
Jefferson	69,238	\$443	\$15.3
North Country	378,318	\$410	\$77.4

**** Source: Schumer projections based on data from American Automobile Association (AAA), the New York Department of Motor Vehicles and Schumer survey of local gas stations.**