

HOW HIGHER HEATING OIL AND GAS PRICES COULD AFFECT NEW YORK STATE HEATING OIL USERS AND DRIVERS

Home heating oil prices have increased dramatically over last year, rising by over 44% from \$1.25 per gallon to \$1.80 due to colder than normal temperatures and high crude oil prices. As a result, the Department of Energy estimates that New York heating oil users will see a 52% rise in heating expenditures this year, an increase of \$334 per household over 2002 for a total heating bill of \$977. **The following report estimates how this rise in the cost of heating oil will affect New York State on a region-by-region basis.**

Region	Heating Oil Users	Current Price per gallon	Increased Expenditure
Capital Region	107,312	\$1.70	\$35.8 million
Finger Lakes	50,931	\$1.71	\$17 million
North Country	95,913	\$1.68	\$32 million
Central New York	57,647	\$1.71	\$19.2 million
Western New York	35,062	\$1.71	\$11.7 million
Hudson Valley	381,318	\$1.86	\$127.4 million
Southern Tier	67,239	\$1.71	\$22.5 million
Total	795,422	\$1.80	\$265.6 million

Gas prices across New York State are 46% higher this year than last year. On February 25, 2003 crude oil prices closed near a new high at over \$36 per barrel. Experts believe that despite record high gas prices across the state, this high crude price has not yet been wholly accounted for in the gasoline pump price. As a result, further price increases of up to 15 cents per gallon are expected as the oil strike in Venezuela continues, war with Iraq becomes increasingly likely, and demand increases brought on by colder weather and the approaching Spring driving season take hold. The average gas price outside of New York City and Long Island is \$1.74 per gallon and would cause a \$507 increase in the average upstate New Yorker's gas bill if it endured for one year. **The following report estimates on an county-by-county basis how these record gas prices will affect local drivers' annual gas bills.**

Capital Region: As of February 25, 2003 the average gallon of regular unleaded gasoline cost approximately \$1.71 in the Tri-Cities, compared with \$1.16 a year ago. This represents an increase of over 47%. A fifteen cent increase would yield a price of \$1.86 causing the average driver in the Capital Region to see a \$580 increase in their annual gas bill as a result of this price change.

County	Licensed Drivers	Individual Added Expenditure	Total Added Expenditure
Albany	193,761	\$742	\$143.7 million
Rensselaer	106,366	\$560	\$59.6 million
Schenectady	111,385	\$478	\$53.3 million
Saratoga	152,011	\$500	\$76 million
Fulton	39,698	\$498	\$19.8 million
Montgomery	35,831	\$825	\$29.6 million
Schoharie	23,217	\$447	\$10.4 million
Washington	42,671	\$403	\$17.2 million
Capital Region	704,940	\$580	\$408.9 million

Finger Lakes: As of February 25, 2003 the average gallon of regular unleaded gasoline cost approximately \$1.73 in Rochester, compared with \$1.20 a year ago. This represents an increase of over 44%. A fifteen cent increase would yield a price of \$1.88 causing the average driver in the Finger Lakes to see a \$521 increase in their annual gas bill as a result of this price change.

County	Licensed Drivers	Individual Added Expenditure	Total Added Expenditure
Cayuga	55,053	\$571	\$31.4 million
Seneca	24,014	\$521	\$12.5 million
Yates	16,926	\$410	\$6.9 million
Ontario	74,169	\$716	\$53.1 million
Wayne	68,792	\$494	\$34 million
Monroe	506,567	\$483	\$244 million
Livingston	44,787	\$715	\$32 million
Schuyler	13,852	\$509	\$7.1 million
Tompkins	59,624	\$483	\$28.8 million

Finger Lakes	863,784	\$521	\$435.8 million
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Hudson Valley: As of February 25, 2003 the average gallon of regular unleaded gasoline cost approximately \$1.75 across the region, compared with \$1.20 a year ago. This represents an increase of over 45%. A fifteen cent increase would yield a price of \$1.90 causing the average driver in the Hudson Valley to see a \$437 increase in their annual gas bill as a result of this price change.

County	Licensed Drivers	Individual Added Expenditure	Total Added Expenditure
Westchester	639,903	\$372	\$237.8 million
Rockland	205,530	\$252	\$51.7 million
Putnam	74,470	\$492	\$36.6 million
Dutchess	199,171	\$482	\$95.9 million
Ulster	128,890	\$537	\$69.2 million
Sullivan	53,979	\$570	\$30.8 million
Orange	229,155	\$515	\$118 million
Greene	36,334	\$675	\$24.5 million
Columbia	46,805	\$690	\$32.3 million
Hudson Valley	1.6 million	\$437	\$698.7 million

North Country: As of February 25, 2003 the average gallon of regular unleaded gasoline cost approximately \$1.73 in Watertown, compared with \$1.19 a year ago. This represents an increase of over 45%. A fifteen cent increase would yield a price of \$1.88 causing the average driver in the North Country to see a \$567 increase in their annual gas bill as a result of this price change.

County	Licensed Drivers	Individual Added Expenditure	Total Added Expenditure
Warren	48,984	\$682	\$33.4 million
Essex	27,946	\$572	\$16 million
Clinton	53,882	\$611	\$32.3 million
Franklin	33,645	\$459	\$15.5 million
Hamilton	4,880	\$582	\$2.8 million
St Lawrence	74,512	\$471	\$35.1 million

Herkimer	45,747	\$571	\$26.1 million
Lewis	19,484	\$517	\$10.1 million
Jefferson	69,238	\$613	\$42.4 million
North Country	378,318	\$567	\$214.6 million

***Southern Tier:** As of February 25, 2003 the average gallon of regular unleaded gasoline cost approximately \$1.75 in Binghamton, compared with \$1.20 a year ago. This represents an increase of over 45%. A fifteen cent increase would yield a price of \$1.90 causing the average driver in the Southern Tier to see a \$543 increase in their annual gas bill as a result of this price change.*

County	Licensed Drivers	Individual Added Expenditure	Total Added Expenditure
Delaware	37,368	\$390	\$14.6 million
Otsego	43,457	\$586	\$25.5 million
Chenango	37,661	\$443	\$16.7 million
Broome	142,360	\$628	\$89.4 million
Tioga	37,749	\$457	\$17.2 million
Chemung	62,738	\$443	\$27.8 million
Steuben	72,363	\$607	\$44 million
Allegany	32,763	\$543	\$17.8 million
Southern Tier	466,459	\$543	\$253.1 million

***Western New York:** As of February 25, 2003 the average gallon of regular unleaded gasoline cost approximately \$1.75 in Buffalo-Niagara, compared with \$1.18 a year ago. This represents an increase of over 48%. A ten cent increase would yield a price of \$1.90 causing the average driver in Western New York to see a \$495 increase in their annual gas bill as a result of this price change.*

County	Licensed Drivers	Individual Added Expenditure	Total Added Expenditure
Orleans	29,681	\$393	\$11.7 million
Genesee	44,178	\$1208	\$53.3 million
Wyoming	29,820	\$548	\$16.3 million
Erie	640,863	\$503	\$322 million

Niagara	157,393	\$359	\$56.4 million
Cattaraugus	58,651	\$426	\$25 million
Chautauqua	96,474	\$399	\$38.5 million
Western New York	1.057 million	\$495	\$523.2 million

Central New York: As of February 25, 2003 the average gallon of regular unleaded gasoline cost approximately \$1.74 in Syracuse, compared with \$1.17 a year ago. This represents an increase of over 48%. A fifteen cent increase would yield a price of \$1.89 causing the average driver in Central New York to see a \$543 increase in their annual gas bill as a result of this price change.

County	Licensed Drivers	Individual Added Expenditure	Total Added Expenditure
Oneida	160,946	\$545	\$87.7 million
Oswego	85,701	\$547	\$46.8 million
Madison	49,452	\$413	\$20.4 million
Cortland	32,368	\$738	\$23.9 million
Onondaga	315,615	\$543	\$171.5 million
Central New York	644,082	\$543	\$349.9 million