

## Gas Price Settles near \$2.30 Per Gallon as Shoppers, Travelers Make Holiday Plans

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After registering a relatively small increase of 6.6 cents per gallon since the middle of last month, the nationwide average price of self-service regular gasoline has stalled near \$2.30 per gallon, according to AAA's daily, on-line Fuel Gauge Report ([www.aaafuelgaugereport.com](http://www.aaafuelgaugereport.com)).

The national average price was \$2.226 per gallon one month ago and is \$2.292 per gallon today. The price increased only a scant one-tenth of a cent in the last week. According to AAA, the relative stability of recent prices for both oil and gasoline - and the continued absence of any dramatic news affecting oil or gasoline supplies - is an indicator the cost of fuel should remain fairly stable the last few weeks of the year.

One year ago the price of self-serve regular gasoline was \$2.175 per gallon, AAA said.

AAA's fuel price survey shows Hawaii has the highest average gas price in the nation at \$2.832 per gallon. Oregon and Washington state have the next highest average prices; at \$2.641 and \$2.601 per gallon, respectively.

Oklahoma has the lowest state-wide average gasoline price in the nation at \$2.155 per gallon. South Carolina has the next lowest price at \$2.162 per gallon, followed by Missouri with an average gas price of \$2.174 per gallon.

Nationwide, the price of self-serve, mid-grade gasoline averages \$2.433 per gallon, an increase from \$2.363 per gallon in the middle of last month, and up from \$2.307 one year ago. Self-serve premium averages \$2.521 per gallon nationwide; up from \$2.449 one month ago. Premium averaged \$2.307 per gallon at this time last year.

The national average prices for self-serve regular unleaded gasoline for AAA's mid-December survey for the last five years are: 2005, \$2.175; 2004, \$1.906; 2003, \$1.471; 2002, \$1.378; and 2001, \$1.115.

AAA's Fuel Gauge Report is based on data from Oil Price Information Service, the nation's most comprehensive source of petroleum pricing information. AAA purchases the data and makes it available free on the Internet as a public service. Average daily prices for the nation, all 50 states and more than 250 localities are available for all grades of gasoline, making the site the most current and complete public source of fuel price information.

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