

Gas Prices Keep Rising

If you go past any gas stations on your way to school, you have probably noticed that gas prices have been changing almost every day. Those prices have been going up and up. In some parts of the country, gas now costs more than \$3 per gallon. The average price for a gallon of gasoline has jumped to more than \$2.90 a gallon. It was \$2.51 cents a gallon a month ago and \$2.24 cents a gallon a year ago.



Experts say there are a few reasons why gas is so expensive. One reason is that the cost of crude oil, which is used to make gasoline, has been going up. Also, the amount of gasoline that the country has saved up is shrinking. Another reason is that there are problems in the Middle East, where a lot of oil comes from.

Because gas prices are getting so high, many people are driving less. Some people are planning to save money and gas by taking shorter trips for summer vacation. The cost of airplane tickets has been going up too, because planes need a lot of fuel.

NEWS WORD BOX

expensive crude oil
average consumers
fuel shrinking rising

The prices for other things also are going up. Truckers who bring products to stores are paying more for gas, so they have to charge the stores more money. That means stores must charge higher prices for the things they sell.

MORE FACTS ABOUT FUEL

- U.S. businesses and consumers use an average of 20 million barrels of oil a day.
- Did you know that crude oil is used to produce many products you use? It is used to produce the pen you write with, the carpet you walk on, the rubber soles on your shoes, and thousands of other things!

THINK ABOUT THE NEWS

What are some things your family might do to cut down on the amount of gas you use?