

Crude Oil



A rise in imports, an increase in production, and a decline in refinery inputs lead to growth in crude oil inventories of 1.8 million barrels this past week, far above the expected gain of only 0.7 million. The weekly gain was almost 40% higher than the five-year average growth of 1.3 million for this time period. Crude oil stocks are still comfortably 8.2% above last year and 7.2% above the five-year average. The current inventory is at its highest level for this date since 1998.

Crude oil prices fell this past week as the market was more influenced by an anticipated inventory gain than by positive economic news. Spot prices fell by \$1.14 this past week to \$79.13, \$19.75 (33.3%) higher than a year ago but 45.5% lower than last year's peak price. Futures prices closed yesterday at \$82.23, down \$1.01 for the week. They are \$18.23 (28.4%) higher than last year but 43.8% below 2008's peak price. In the past 5 weeks futures prices are up by \$10.46 per barrel.



Natural gas



Natural gas inventories grew by 29 BCF last week, equal to the five-year average of 29. Cumulative injections since the end of the heating season were 5.7% above the five-year average. At 3,788 BCF, last weeks inventory levels were already at their highest level ever and there were still 1 to 2 more weeks of potential additions to natural gas inventories. Stocks were 11.1% higher than a year ago and 12.3% above the five-year average.

Futures prices fell 13.1 cents per million BTU this past week. Warmer weather, continued weak demand, record high inventories, and minimal storm impacts have driven prices down by 87.3 cents over the past three weeks. The 12-month strip was down 13.1 cents for the week and by 26.2 cents over the past two weeks. It settled yesterday at \$5.189 per million BTU, 26.4% lower than a year ago and 61.1% below the 2008 peak. Spot prices fell to \$3.570 per million BTU yesterday. Spot prices are 49.1% lower than a year ago and 73.2% below their 2008 peak price.

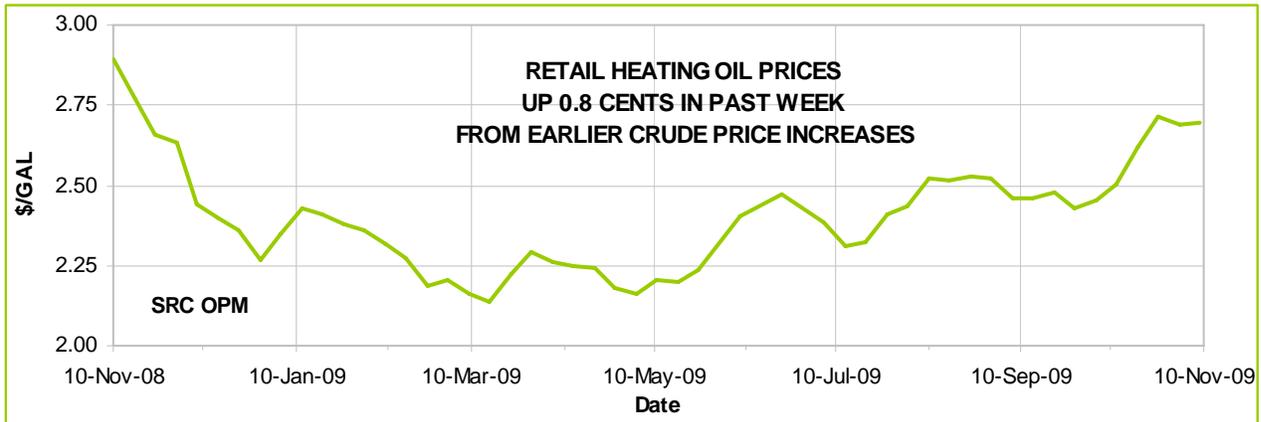


Heating oil



Distillate stocks grew by 0.3 million barrels this past week. This compares to a normal decline of 0.6 million. Inventory levels, at 30.8% above last year and 31.7% above the five-year average, remain more than adequate.

The 12 month strip fell by 3.5 cents this week and is now at \$2.165/gal, 16 cents (7.9%) higher than a year ago. The spot price fell by 1.8 cents and is at \$2.015 /gal, 11 cents (5.8%) above last year. Both the spot price and the 12 month strip are approximately 50% below their 2008 peaks. Connecticut retail heating oil prices rose by 0.8 cents this past week and are up by 26.7 cents over the past 6 weeks. At \$2.697/gal, prices are 19.8 cents (6.9%) below a year ago and \$2.07 (43.4%) below the 2008 peak price. The highest price in this week's survey was \$3.099 and the lowest was \$2.060. Although both spot prices and futures prices are higher than a year ago, retail prices are still lower. According to census data, 49.1% of dwelling units in Connecticut heat with oil.



Connecticut Regional Heating Oil Prices

	FAIRFIELD			HARTFORD			NEW LONDON		
	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW
10-Nov-08	3.128	3.449	2.899	2.855	3.490	2.510	2.831	2.999	2.629
26-Oct-09	2.767	3.099	2.500	2.720	2.999	2.549	2.779	2.950	2.559
2-Nov-09	2.775	3.099	2.500	2.670	2.999	2.449	2.736	2.899	2.479
9-Nov-09	2.776	3.099	2.340	2.700	2.999	2.499	2.738	2.930	2.459
	LITCHFIELD			MIDDLESEX			TOLLAND-WINDHAM		
	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW
10-Nov-08	2.721	2.849	2.490	2.999	3.199	2.850	2.759	2.899	2.650
26-Oct-09	2.733	2.849	2.589	2.726	2.799	2.600	2.668	2.779	2.549
2-Nov-09	2.723	2.799	2.599	2.719	2.799	2.600	2.649	2.749	2.499
9-Nov-09	2.723	2.869	2.549	2.719	2.799	2.600	2.638	2.699	2.499
	NEW HAVEN								
	AVG	HIGH	LOW						
10-Nov-08	2.860	3.199	2.489						
26-Oct-09	2.646	2.899	2.330						
2-Nov-09	2.614	2.890	2.150						
9-Nov-09	2.623	2.890	2.060						

OPM conducts a weekly survey of retail heating oil prices in Connecticut. These figures reference the most recent results of that survey for the reporting week beginning November 9, 2009. Figures reflect per gallon prices without discount.

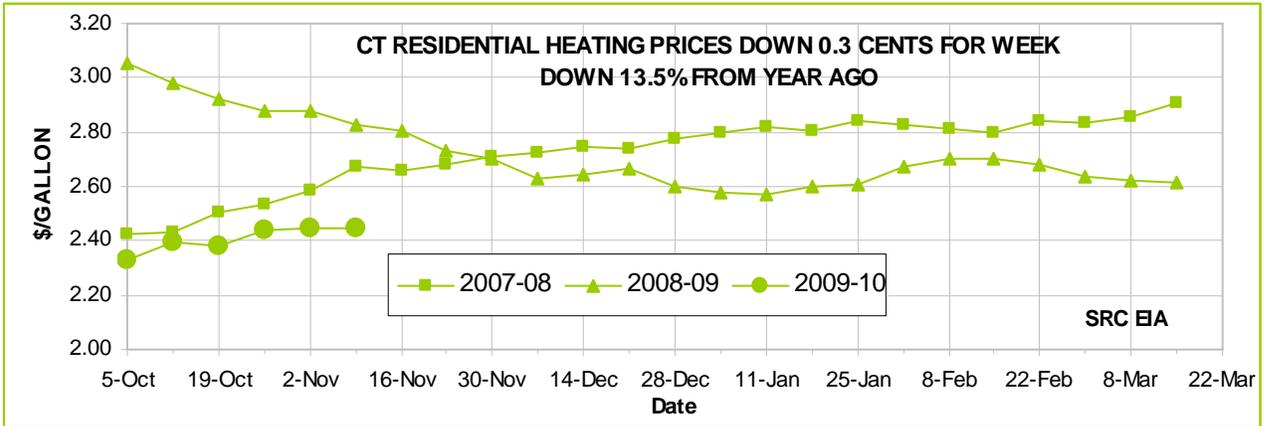
For more information, see www.ct.gov/OPM > Energy Management > Energy Price and Supply Information

Propane



Propane inventory levels declined by 1.2 million barrels this past week compared to the five-year average decline of 0.1 million. Over the past 4 weeks inventories have fallen by 4.5 million compared to a normal gain of 0.1 million. Current storage levels exceed last year's levels by 13.5% and they are now 3.8% above the five-year average.

Monday's retail propane heating price survey showed an average price of \$2.445/gal. Besides being 0.3 cents lower than the previous week, it is also 13.5% (38.0 cents) less than a year ago and 20.0% (61 cents) lower than the peak 2008 price. Propane spot prices were a cent lower this week, settling at \$1.066 per gallon yesterday. This was 35.6 cents (50.2%) higher than a year ago but 46.1% lower than their peak 2008 price. According to census data, 2.7% of homes in Connecticut are heated by propane.



Gasoline



Inventories grew by 2.6 million barrels as lower demand offset decreases in production and imports. This gain is more than five times the five-year average change for this time period of 0.5 million. Inventories levels are 6.6% above last year and 5.7% above the five-year average. Inventories are at their highest level for this date since before 1991.

Wednesday's spot price was \$2.001/gal, 69 cents (52.1%) higher than last year. The 12-month strip, at \$2.128/gal, was 61 cents (40.0%) higher than a year ago. Connecticut retail prices fell by 0.8 cents/gal this past week, reflecting declines in crude oil prices and wholesale gasoline prices as well as the weak economy. At \$2.818/gal, prices are 45.7 cents (19.4%) higher than a year ago but 35.8% below last year's peak. While futures prices and spot prices have risen by 40% and 52% in the past year, Connecticut retail prices have only risen by 19%.

