



News Release

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GAS PRICES SURPASS \$3.00 PER GALLON FOR 1,000 CONSECUTIVE DAYS IN LONGEST STREAK EVER

Paying Less than \$3.00 per Gallon Likely to Remain a Historic Memory for Most Americans

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA. (Sept. 16, 2013) – The national average price of gasoline will surpass \$3.00 per gallon tomorrow for the 1,000th consecutive day for the first time on record, according to AAA. The current streak began on Dec. 23, 2010. AAA forecasts the national average will remain above \$3.00 per gallon for at least another thousand days barring a major economic recession.

In Virginia, the price for a gallon of regular gasoline is currently \$3.29, six cents lower than a week ago, seven cents lower than a month ago, and .43 a year ago. The current price for a gallon of regular gas in the Hampton Roads area is currently \$3.29, six cents lower than a week ago, .11 lower than a month ago, and .40 lower than a year ago.

“Paying less than \$3.00 per gallon for gasoline may be automotive history for most Americans, like using 8-track tapes or going to a drive-in movie,” said Georjeane Blumling, Vice President of Public Affairs for AAA Tidewater Virginia. “The reality is that expensive gas is here to stay, which is tough on millions of people who need a car to live their lives. While a few lucky drivers may occasionally pay less than \$3.00 per gallon, the national average is likely to remain more costly into the future.”

Today’s national average is \$3.52 per gallon. Gas prices on average have remained above \$3.50 per gallon for the majority of days during the current streak, and AAA projects the national average will remain higher than \$3.50 per gallon tomorrow. Since the current streak began, consumers will have paid a national average of:

- \$3.25 per gallon or higher for 913 total days
- \$3.50 per gallon or higher for 643 total days
- \$3.75 per gallon or higher for 189 total days
- \$4.00 per gallon or higher for 0 days

“Motorists took notice when gas prices crept past \$3 per gallon,” continued Blumling. “Spending more on gas concerns consumers because it reduces savings and spending for everything else we need. Our leaders can help alleviate this economic burden by encouraging a national policy that stimulates production, limits price volatility, ensures greater efficiency and promotes alternative energy.”

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Gas prices first surged above \$3.00 per gallon for eight days immediately following Hurricane Katrina from Sept. 3-10, 2005. The longest previous streak above \$3.00 per gallon was for 244 days from Feb. 17-Oct.17, 2008. The national average fell below \$3.00 per gallon for 796 days from Oct. 18, 2008-Dec. 22, 2010 due to a weaker economy, which demands less gasoline and oil. The national average tomorrow will have remained above \$3.25 per gallon for 265 consecutive days.

The national average price of gas so far this year is \$3.57 per gallon, but this average should drop through December as demand declines during cooler months. Last year was the most expensive year on record with an annual average of \$3.60 per gallon, followed by an annual average of \$3.51 per gallon in 2011. The average U.S. household in 2012 spent \$2,912 on gasoline, or just under four percent of income before taxes, according to the Energy Information Administration.

The most expensive daily national average during the current streak was \$3.98 per gallon on May 5, 2011, while the lowest daily average was \$3.01 per gallon on December 23, 2010.

Forty-six percent of adults believe gas is too high when it reaches \$3.00 per gallon, according to a consumer index developed by AAA. Sixty-two percent believe gas is too high when it reaches \$3.50 per gallon and 90 percent believe gas is too high when it reaches \$4.00 per gallon. Sixty-two percent of Americans reported offsetting high gas prices by changing their driving habits or lifestyle.

AAA updates fuel price averages daily at www.FuelGaugeReport.AAA.com. Every day up to 120,000 stations are surveyed based on credit card swipes and direct feeds in cooperation with the Oil Price Information Service (OPIS) and Wright Express for unmatched statistical reliability.

As part of North America's largest motoring and leisure travel organization, AAA Tidewater Virginia provides its more than 325,000 members with travel, insurance, financial and automotive-related services. Since its founding AAA Tidewater Virginia has been a leader and advocate for the safety and security of all travelers. For more information, visit AAA.com and follow us on Twitter at [Twitter.com/AAATidewaterVA](https://twitter.com/AAATidewaterVA).

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