

Gasoline Facts and Stats

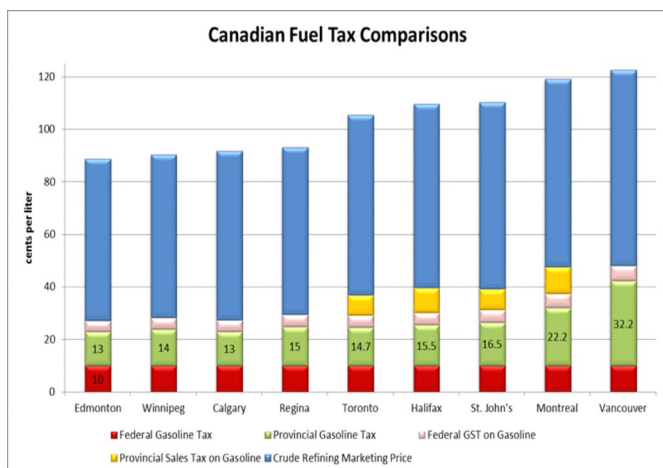
Gasoline prices are determined in the competitive marketplace by the forces of supply and demand, which vary between regions, cities and neighborhoods.

A key component in the price of gasoline is the cost of crude oil, one of the most actively traded commodities in the world. Global demand as a result of world economic growth, events in the oil producing nations of the Middle East and other parts of the world, and continued concern for security of supply are among the major factors that drive crude oil prices. Other factors such as refining capacity, seasonal variations in inventory levels, and demand for gasoline and other petroleum products also contribute to the volatility in gasoline prices.

What taxes do I pay when I buy gasoline in Alberta?

Two federal gasoline taxes are collected on consumer gasoline purchases: a 10 cents per litre (¢/ℓ) federal flat tax and the five per cent GST applied to the entire purchase price.

At 13¢/ℓ, Alberta has the lowest provincial gasoline tax among the provinces. The provincial fuel tax revenue goes into general revenue and is used to fund priority government services like health, education and infrastructure.



*Sales tax on fuel is based on average prices of gasoline and diesel from Natural Resources Canada for the week ending April 14th, 2015.

†Based on provincial tax rates as of March 27, 2015.

‡PST does not apply to British Columbia or Saskatchewan fuel prices.

§British Columbia has a 6.5 cent carbon tax included in the provincial tax component.

Why are gasoline prices so high right now when the price of oil is low?

Since crude prices are just one of the several factors affecting gasoline prices, a drop in crude prices does not necessarily lead to a proportional decline in gasoline prices.

Recent fires in northern Alberta leading to a number of oil sands projects being shut-in, coupled with refinery shutdowns for maintenance in the U.S. Midwest, and upgrader and refinery maintenance in Alberta have led to higher gasoline prices.

Diesel used to be cheaper than gasoline. What happened?

Diesel prices, like gasoline prices, are determined in the competitive marketplace by the forces of supply and demand. Diesel prices are also affected by the price of crude oil, transportation and distribution costs and local retail and marketing considerations.

Location	March 2011	March 2012	March 2013	March 2014	March 2015
Diesel fuel at self service filling stations (cents per litre)					
Charlottetown	126.8	131.7	136.1	153.4	128.4
Québec	130.9	140.3	144.2	151.5	133.2
Ottawa	126.2	131.9	134.7	141.8	120.4
Toronto	126.7	130.2	131.2	142.0	120.2
Winnipeg	115.9	119.7	124.4	141.2	107.7
Regina	117.5	120.5	125.5	140.5	108.5
Saskatoon	118.9	120.9	124.9	143.3	107.5
Edmonton	111.9	114.2	117.7	133.3	101.6
Vancouver	130.9	144.9	143.9	149.4	129.7
Yellowknife	121.5	137.7	136.4	142.4	126.9

Source: Statistics Canada