

News Release

Date: October 24, 2012
For Immediate Release



Dave Carlson
Director of Public & Govt. Affairs
208-658-4401

7155 W. Denton St.
Boise, ID 83704
208-342-9391
www.AAA.com

U.S. ENJOYS DOUBLE-DIGIT DECLINES AT THE PUMP; NOT SO MUCH IN IDAHO

BOISE – The nation’s largest week-over-week decline in gas prices since 2008 hasn’t showed up in the Gem State, according to AAA Idaho – not yet, at least.

Barring any unforeseen forces, falling oil and gasoline futures prices should result in lower pump prices leading up to Election Day and beyond.

Wholesale (RBOB) gasoline futures have dropped 30 cents since the start of October, and retail prices, which typically lag wholesale price declines, are now beginning to reflect this drop. Yesterday, crude oil for December delivery declined \$1.98 to \$86.67 a barrel, the lowest since mid-July.

The U.S. average pump price has dropped 13 cents in the past week to \$3.63 a gallon. At \$3.82 a gallon, Idaho’s average is down a penny from a week ago and is 19 cents higher than the national average. Idaho’s average price, which lagged the U.S. average for the first five months of the year, is now tenth highest in the country.

“Much of the volatility in pricing has been a regional phenomenon brought on by pipeline shutdowns and refinery fires,” according to AAA Idaho Public Affairs Director Dave Carlson. “Idaho has not been directly impacted by those events, and we’re not aware of any such problems currently at the Utah and Wyoming refineries that serve Idaho.”

AAA said that high gas prices continue to not just be a front-of-mind issue for motorists, but also a frequent topic in Washington and on the Presidential campaign trail. AAA has consistently noted, because it is a publically traded global commodity, there is no silver-bullet solution to high gas prices and there is very little that politicians in Washington can do in the short-term to meaningfully impact prices.

“Motorists have experienced volatile pump prices due to increasing global demand, geopolitical tensions overseas, international economic news, and most recently domestic supply and distribution issues.

In the past week, ten states have experienced pump price drops from 16-cents (Iowa) to 26-cents-a-gallon (Michigan). Altogether, prices in sixteen states are more than a dime lower on the week.

AAA Idaho expects that the national average is likely to be \$3.40 to \$3.650 when Americans head to the polls in in two weeks and to be \$3.25 to \$3.40 by Thanksgiving. Year-to-date U.S. prices are averaging \$3.65 per gallon, versus \$3.55 in 2011, putting this year on track to be the most expensive year ever.

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AAA Idaho is affiliated with AAA Oregon/Idaho, providing more than 746,000 members with travel, insurance, financial automotive related services. AAA serves 53 million member motorists in North America.

Editor: An audio version of this news release is available on the AAA News Hotline. In Boise, call 342-9391. Outside Boise, call toll free, 1-800-999-9391. Ask for the AAA News Hotline.