

# News Release

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For Immediate Release



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## **THANKSGIVING WRAP-UP: GAS PRICES, ROAD SAFETY, TRIP PLANNING**

*Idaho pump prices drop lower than the national average for the first time in five months*

BOISE - (November 26, 2013) A special meal and an opportunity to spend time with family and friends will be top of mind for the 195,000 Idahoans expected to hit the road this Thanksgiving holiday. Getting some relief at the pump will be a welcome gift for Idaho travelers.

Based on AAA's Daily Fuel Gauge Report ([www.fuelgaugereport.aaa.com](http://www.fuelgaugereport.aaa.com)) Idaho's average price for regular grade gasoline today is \$3.22, down 33 cents in the past month and well below the \$3.58 average price from a year ago.

For the first time since the third week in May, Idaho's \$3.22 average price is lower than the U.S. average of \$3.29. The two crossed paths this past weekend, heading in different directions. Idaho's average mark dropped seven cents in the past week, while the U.S. average rose seven cents.

AAA said lower seasonal demand, less costly winter grade fuels and plentiful supplies helped push prices down across the country since September 1. In just the past two weeks, U.S. gas prices have risen a dime. Higher prices reflect week-over-week gains in 38 states. Idaho is one of twelve states where pump prices declined.

The largest gains have occurred in the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic states, due to refinery issues and seasonally strong demand.

"We believe lower, moderate prices will stick around for a while in Idaho," said AAA Idaho spokesman Dave Carlson. "We're not aware of any market factors that would lead to an immediate reversal in regional prices."

### **Winter storm**

Nearly 1,000 flights were cancelled at Dallas-Fort-Worth Airport on Sunday and Monday and winter weather advisories remained in effect for much of New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma.

The storm is expected to reach the East coast on Wednesday—the busiest day for travel. In general, AAA says it expects the overwhelming majority of Americans tend to keep their plans, monitor weather forecasts, and take a wait-and-see approach with a bias towards keeping their plans when possible.

"It's challenging to predict the impact that this storm will have on vacation plans this upcoming holiday, however storms typically do not negatively influence travel at the aggregate national level, but they affect travel on a regional basis," Carlson said.

Weather forecasts for Idaho and this region look more promising, with little precipitation expected, though AAA reminds travelers that proper preparation is crucial, especially when travel involves driving through high elevation passes.

### **Travel safe, travel smart**

Nationally, AAA expects to rescue more than 320,000 motorists during the holiday weekend due

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to car trouble. Idaho offers the following advice for those planning to drive:

- **Plan ahead.** Get point-to-point driving directions, gas station locations and prices, maps, and aids before you go. Much of this information is available to the public at [www.AAA.com](http://www.AAA.com)
- **Prepare your vehicle.** Have your vehicle checked by a qualified technician. Check tires, batteries and fluid levels. Take a winter driving kit, including such items as jumper cables, traction mats, water, blankets, a scraper, a flashlight (with new batteries) and a cell phone (with a charged battery).
- **Buckle up.** Follow all posted speed limits and obey all traffic laws. Don't drink and drive. Idaho law enforcement agencies will be out in force to strictly enforce the state's DUI laws this weekend.
- **Prepare yourself.** Dress in layers and dress according to your destination. Let someone know when you're leaving, where you're going, and when you expected to arrive.
- **Go online to [www.511.Idaho.gov](http://www.511.Idaho.gov)** – for road conditions and other travel services. The online 511 service and provide road specific information for the entire trip.

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**AAA Idaho is affiliated with AAA Oregon/Idaho, providing more than 750,000 members with travel, insurance, financial and 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.*