

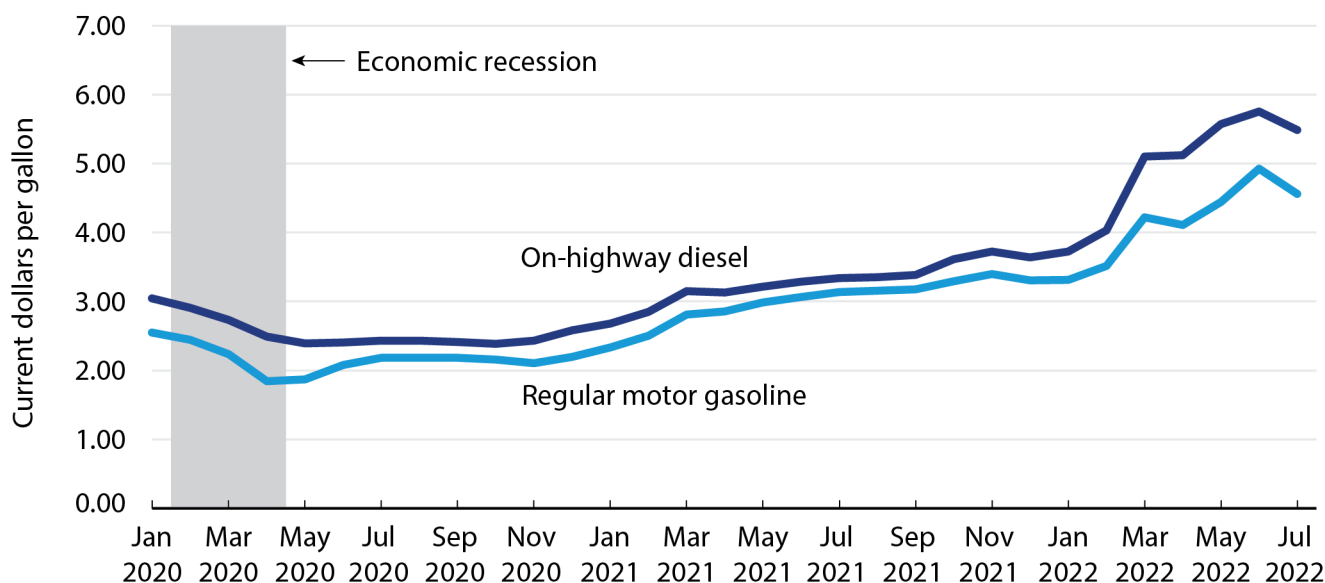
Data Spotlight

August 18, 2022

Record Breaking Increases in Motor Fuel Prices in 2022

From January to June 2022, the price of regular motor gasoline rose 49% and the price of diesel fuel rose slightly more at 55%. Fuel prices have risen since declining in early 2020 during the economic recession and the period when many states adopted stay-at-home orders in response to COVID-19 (figure 1). Fuel prices declined from June to July 2022 but remain more than twice as much as their level in early 2020.

Figure 1. Monthly Sales Price of Transportation Fuel to End Users (current dollars per gallon)



Source:: U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration, available at <https://www.eia.gov/odata/qb.php> (series id = EMD_EPD2D_PTE_NUS_DPG and EMM_EPMR_PTE_NUS_DPG)

Note: Shaded area indicates economic recession. Regular gasoline price is the average retail price for regular grade formulations, and on-highway diesel price is the average retail price for diesel used in motor vehicles. The monthly prices are a simple average of weighted weekly estimates collected by the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Prices include all federal, state, and local taxes paid at the time of sale.

Fuel price increases in 2022 are recording breaking. The February to March 2022 price increase for both regular motor gasoline and diesel fuel was the largest month-over-month gain on record (table 1).

Table 1. Top 3 Largest Month-Over-Month Increases (January 1995 to June 2022)

Rank	On-highway diesel		Regular motor gasoline	
	Date	Change from previous month	Date	Change from previous month
1	Mar-2022	27%	Mar-2022	20%
2	Mar-2008	15%	Sep-2005	17%
3	Jun-2009	14%	Jun-2009	16%

Source: U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics calculations from U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration, available at <https://www.eia.gov/opendata/qb.php> (series id = EMD_EPD2D_PTE_NUS_DPG and EMM_EPMR_PTE_NUS_DPG)

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Some states are turning to gas-tax holidays to provide relief to consumers. Each state sets its own tax rate on motor fuel and the proposed or passed legislation suspends the tax for a set period of time (i.e., a gas-tax holiday). An analysis of 50 states, as of the week of August 8, 2022, shows 29 states have proposed legislation changing their state gas or diesel tax, or providing gas tax rebates. Of those 29 states, six signed legislations to temporarily suspend their state diesel or gas-tax: California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, and New York.

The Bureau of Transportation Statistics' (BTS') new interactive [State Motor Fuel Revenue, State Fuel Taxes, and Fuel Prices](#) visualizations track the price of motor fuel and revenue collected by states from motor fuel sales. Data are available by month, beginning with January 2019. The visualizations also show the tax rate set by states on motor fuel.