

# Alternative Fuel Price Report



#### Welcome to the October 2017 issue!

The Clean Cities Alternative Fuel Price Report is a quarterly report designed to keep Clean Cities coalitions and other interested parties up to date on the prices of alternative and conventional fuels in the United States. This issue summarizes prices that were submitted between October 1 and October 16, 2017 by Clean Cities coordinators, fuel providers, and other Clean Cities stakeholders.

#### What's New in This Issue:

For the October 2017 report, 3,999 prices were submitted, a slight decrease from July's 4,065 prices. This included 127 prices for lesser-used fuels such as ethanol blends between E15 and E50, biodiesel blends such as B5, B10 and B50, hydrogen and renewable diesel. A total of 21 renewable diesel prices were submitted by 4 coalitions in California and 1 in Oregon. The data submitted for the lesser-used fuels is maintained in the database for possible future use; we do not currently include separate sections addressing those fuels in this publication, due to an insufficient number of data points.

In the October report, we saw fairly large increases in the national average retail prices of gasoline and diesel, when compared to July 2017, as shown in Tables 12a and 12b. The national average retail price of gasoline increased by \$0.23/gallon, or 10.18%, while diesel increased by \$0.29/gallon, or 11.74%. The Lower Atlantic PADD region saw the largest percentage average price increases for gasoline and diesel, of 18.10% and 15.13%, respectively.

The diesel price increase was also reflected in the national average retail price of B20, which increased by \$0.19/gallon, or 7.63%, from July to October, as shown in Table 12g. The increase in gasoline and diesel prices was likely due, in large part, to the impact of a series of hurricanes that hit the Gulf Coast and Lower Atlantic regions during this period, including Hurricane Harvey, which dropped over 50 inches of rain on Houston and southern Texas between August 25 and August 30, 2017. The resulting flooding temporarily shut down multiple refineries in Texas, and also caused short-term pipeline disruptions.

### **Looking Ahead**

We will continue to improve the Alternative Fuel Price Report, based on user feedback. We look forward to hearing from you as we implement these upgrades.

#### Methodology

- This report's prices represent retail, at-the-pump sales prices for each fuel, including federal and state motor fuel taxes.<sup>1</sup>
- Clean Cities coordinators, fuel providers, and other key stakeholders provide prices for fuels in their areas on a voluntary basis.
- Prices were submitted for all major alternative fuels currently in widespread use, i.e. natural gas, propane, biodiesel, and ethanol.
- Prices were submitted for conventional fuels from stations that also sell alternative fuels, or from nearby stations.
- Prices from public and private refueling stations are included.<sup>2</sup>
- Prices were averaged to determine regional price trends by fuel and variability in fuel price within and among regions.<sup>3</sup>
- Some states charge a flat annual fee, in lieu of collecting motor fuel taxes at the pump, usually for large trucks using gaseous fuels like compressed natural gas (CNG) and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG or propane). These flat fees are not included in the prices reported in these pages.

• Consistent with the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) fuel price reporting format, prices are grouped by the Petroleum Administration for Defense Districts (PADD). The PADD districts are illustrated in the map below.



#### FIGURE 1 PETROLEUM ADMINSTRATION FOR DEFENSE DISTRICTS (PADD)

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

TABLE 1 Number of Data Points Submitted								
Region	Region Gasoline Diesel CNG LNG Ethanol Propane B20 B99/B100							
New England	42	28	28	1	7	25	10	3
Central Atlantic	76	78	97	0	92	54	29	3
Lower Atlantic	106	92	59	6	106	84	13	7
Midwest	326	248	134	4	311	92	16	0
Gulf Coast	108	97	72	6	139	136	8	1
Rocky Mountain	105	103	102	6	58	73	10	0
West Coast	119	122	124	19	67	137	56	27
TOTAL	882	768	616	42	780	601	142	41

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In some cases, prices were submitted by government refueling facilities, and motor fuel taxes were not included in the prices reported to Clean Cities. In these instances, the appropriate federal and state motor fuel taxes have been added to the reported prices to provide a more representative basis for comparison.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Public refueling stations are open to the public, while private fueling stations are privately-owned or available only to selected fleets.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Fuel price averages for this report are determined by simply averaging the individual data points received. A comparison of average fuel prices for private and for public stations by region can be found on pages 22-23.

### Summary of Current Report Information





Table 2 shows national average retail fuel prices for this report and the previous report. Changes in average retail prices from one quarter to another may be due to a number of factors, including an actual change in price, different sample sizes, the inclusion of different locations, and seasonal variations in demand.

Prices in this report were reported in the units in which they are typically sold, for example, dollars per gallon of gasoline or dollars per gasoline gallon equivalent (GGE) of CNG.

Consumer interest in alternative fuels generally increases when the alternative fuel price is less than the conventional fuel price on a per gallon basis, even if that differential does not directly translate to savings on an energy-equivalent basis.

## TABLE 2National Average Retail Fuel PricesConventional and Alternative Fuels, October 2017 \*

	July	October	Change in Price	Units of
Fuel Type	2017	2017	July-October	Measurement
Gasoline	\$2.26	\$2.49	\$0.23	per gallon
Diesel	\$2.47	\$2.76	\$0.29	per gallon
CNG	\$2.15	\$2.17	\$0.02	per GGE
LNG	\$2.52	\$2.60	\$0.08	per DGE
Ethanol (E85)	\$1.99	\$2.10	\$0.11	per gallon
Propane**	\$2.84	\$2.78	-\$0.06	per gallon
Biodiesel (B20)	\$2.49	\$2.68	\$0.19	per gallon
Biodiesel (B99/ B100)	\$3.22	\$3.38	\$0.16	per gallon

\*Includes public and private stations

\*\*Includes primary and secondary stations

TABLE 3 National Average Retail Fuel Prices on an Energy-Equivalent Basis, October 2017 *							
	Per Gasoline Per Diesel Per Million British						
	Gallon Equivalent	Gallon Equivalent	Thermal Units				
	(\$/GGE)	(\$/DGE)	(\$/MBtu)				
Gasoline	\$2.49	\$2.81	\$21.78				
Diesel	\$2.46	\$2.76	\$21.45				
CNG	\$2.17	\$2.45	\$18.99				
LNG	\$2.32	\$2.60	\$18.03				
Ethanol (E85)	\$2.73	\$3.08	\$31.16				
Propane**	\$3.82	\$4.29	\$45.75				
Biodiesel (B20)	\$2.41	\$2.73	\$19.07				
Biodiesel (B99/B100)	\$3.31	\$3.72	\$28.27				

\*Includes public and private stations

\*\*Includes primary and secondary stations

Liquid fuels have differing energy contents per gallon, so the price paid per unit of energy content can differ somewhat from the price paid per gallon. Table 3 shows fuel prices from Table 2 normalized to an energy-equivalent basis.

Note that, for the alternative fuels, prices on an energy-equivalent basis, ie, \$/GGE or \$/DGE, are generally higher than the prices per gallon, due to their lower energy content.<sup>5</sup>

Propane prices include information from both "primary" and "secondary" stations. Primary stations have dedicated vehicle services and tend to be less expensive than secondary stations, which mostly serve the propane tank and bottle market.

Prices for Table 3 were calculated using the nominal lower heating values in BTUs per gallon of fuel from the Oak Ridge National Laboratory's Transportation Energy Data Book.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>4</sup> A very small sample (10 points) of hydrogen information was received, with an average price of \$15.04/GGE.

<sup>5</sup> For ethanol flexible-fuel vehicles (FFVs), the actual difference in fuel used per mile is somewhat less than would be calculated simply on the difference in energy content of the fuels. Some sources have noted that some FFVs can achieve better energy efficiency (miles per unit of energy) on E85 than on gasoline. This effect is not currently included in these calculations as the magnitude of the effect varies by specific FFV model.

<sup>6</sup> http://cta.ornl.gov/data/appendix\_b.shtml\_A listing of the conversion factors used appears as an appendix at the end of this report.

#### Gasoline and Diesel Prices: Clean Cities and EIA Data

Table 4, below, shows gasoline and diesel prices submitted by Clean Cities coordinators, fuel providers, and other stakeholders on a voluntary basis, between October 1 and October 16, 2017, compared to prices from the petroleum information section of the Energy Information Administration (EIA) website, for the week of October 2, 2017.

Clean Cities prices for conventional fuels were obtained from retail stations providing alternative fuel price information, or from nearby stations, so data collection was not uniform across the regions of the country; however, the information is representative of refueling stations selling both alternative fuels and conventional fuels.

The EIA data shows weekly average prices from a sample of approximately 800 retail gasoline and 400 retail diesel outlets across the country. The EIA data points are weighted to reflect the quantity of fuel being sold at that price. The Clean Cities data is not weighted, and represents simple averages of reported prices. While there is some variation, the EIA average prices match relatively closely with the average prices reported by Clean Cities coordinators.

	TABLE 4							
	Average Retail Gasoline and Diesel Prices by Region, in \$/gal							
		from Clean Citie	s and EIA* Sou	rces				
		Gasoline Prices			<b>Diesel Prices</b>			
Region	Clean Cities	EIA**	Difference***	Clean Cities	EIA**	Difference***		
New England	\$2.70	\$2.67	\$0.03	\$2.81	\$2.77	\$0.04		
Central Atlantic	\$2.55	\$2.65	-\$0.10	\$2.97	\$2.93	\$0.04		
Lower Atlantic	\$2.48	\$2.48 \$2.53 -\$0.05 \$2.74 \$2.75						
Midwest	\$2.33	\$2.40	-\$0.07	\$2.68	\$2.75	-\$0.07		
Gulf Coast	\$2.29	\$2.38	-\$0.09	\$2.48	\$2.62	-\$0.14		
Rocky Mountain	\$2.47	\$2.57	-\$0.10	\$2.63	\$2.86	-\$0.23		
West Coast	Yest Coast         \$3.01         \$2.98         \$0.03         \$3.13         \$3.11         \$0.02							
NATIONAL AVERAGE	\$2.49	\$2.57	-\$0.08	\$2.76	\$2.79	-\$0.03		

\*EIA = Energy Information Administration

\*\*EIA prices are from the petroleum information section of the EIA website, week of 10/02/2017

http://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/xls/PET\_PRI\_GND\_A\_EPMR\_PTE\_DPGAL\_W.xls

http://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/xls/PET\_PRI\_GND\_A\_EPD2D\_PTE\_DPGAL\_W.xls

\*\*\*Negative numbers represent average Clean Cities prices that are lower than EIA prices.

**Natural Gas** 

#### **Compressed Natural Gas (Relative to Gasoline)**

TABLE 5 Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Gasoline						
Average Retail Prices by Region CNG Prices Gasoline Prices Price						
Region	Region (\$/GGE*) (\$/gal) Difference					
New England	\$2.44	\$2.70	-\$0.26			
Central Atlantic	\$2.22	\$2.55	-\$0.33			
Lower Atlantic	\$2.11	\$2.48	-\$0.37			
Midwest	\$2.02	\$2.33	-\$0.31			
Gulf Coast	\$2.07	\$2.29	-\$0.22			
Rocky Mountain	\$2.00	\$2.47	-\$0.47			
West Coast \$2.44 \$3.01 -\$0.57						
NATIONAL AVERAGE	\$2.17	\$2.49	-\$0.32			

The prices shown in Table 5 were submitted by Clean Cities coordinators, fuel providers, and other stakeholders on a voluntary basis, between October 1 and October 16, 2017.



\*GGE = gasoline gallon equivalent

\*\*Negative numbers represent average CNG prices that are lower than gasoline, on a \$/GGE basis.

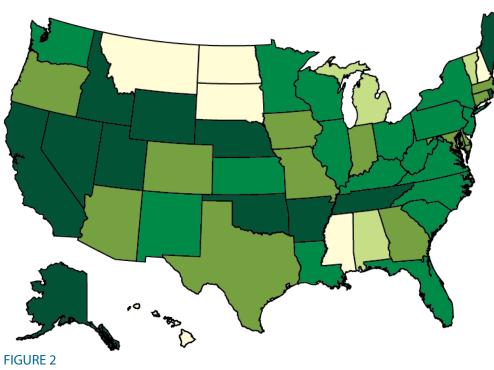
CNG prices in Table 5 were obtained from the "price at the pump," given in \$/gasoline gallon equivalent (GGE), and averaged for each region.

As with other fuels, the energy content of natural gas can vary. CNG dispensers are calibrated for local gas compositions and dispense an accurate GGE for the actual gas being sold. On average, during this reporting period, CNG cost about \$0.32 less than gasoline on a per gasoline gallon equivalent (GGE) basis. Note: The Alternative Fuel Price Report is a snapshot in time of retail fuel prices. Alternative fuel fleets can obtain significantly lower fuel prices than those reported in the AFPR by entering into contracts directly with local fuel suppliers. Contract prices will vary, depending on fleet size and amount of fuel to be purchased, distance from the supplier, region of the country and other factors.

> In this map, negative numbers represent prices for CNG that are lower than gasoline, on a per gasoline gallon equivalent basis. States not highlighted with a color did not have any CNG data points in the current report.

#### CNG Price Difference Relative to Gasoline





PRICE DIFFERENTIALS BY STATE FOR COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS (CNG) RELATIVE TO GASOLINE

6

## Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), cont.



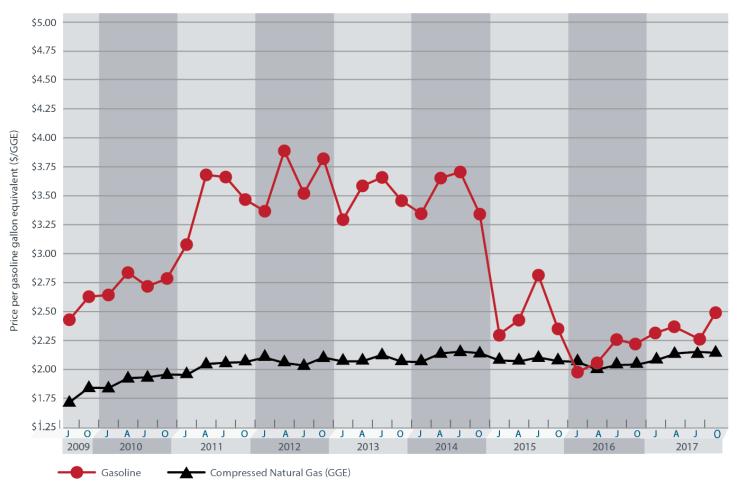


FIGURE 3 HISTORICAL COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS (CNG) PRICES VERSUS GASOLINE

**Natural Gas** 

## **Compressed Natural Gas (Relative to Diesel)**

TABLE 6 Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Diesel					
Average	e Retail Prices by				
	CNG Prices	Diesel Prices	Price		
Region	(\$/DGE*)	(\$/gal)	Difference**		
New England	\$2.76	\$2.81	-\$0.05		
Central Atlantic	\$2.51	\$2.97	-\$0.46		
Lower Atlantic	\$2.38	\$2.74	-\$0.36		
Midwest	\$2.28	\$2.68	-\$0.40		
Gulf Coast	\$2.34	\$2.48	-\$0.14		
Rocky Mountain	\$2.26	\$2.63	-\$0.37		
West Coast         \$2.76         \$3.13         -\$0.37					
NATIONAL AVERAGE	\$2.45	\$2.76	-\$0.31		

\*DGE = diesel gallon equivalent

\*\* Negative numbers represent average CNG prices that are lower than diesel, on a \$/DGE basis.

Table 6 shows the prices from Table 5, converted to \$/diesel gallon equivalent (\$/DGE), for easy comparison with diesel prices.

As with other fuels, the energy content of natural gas can vary. CNG dispensers are calibrated for local gas compositions and dispense an accurate GGE for the actual gas being sold.

On average, during this reporting period, CNG cost about \$0.31 less than diesel on a per diesel gallon equivalent basis.

The prices shown in Table 6 were submitted by **Clean Cities** coordinators, fuel providers, and other stakeholders on



a voluntary basis, between October 1 and October 16, 2017.

Note: The Alternative Fuel Price Report is a snapshot in time of retail fuel prices. Alternative fuel fleets can obtain significantly lower fuel prices than those reported in the AFPR by entering into contracts directly with local fuel suppliers. Contract prices will vary, depending on fleet size and amount of fuel to be purchased, distance from the supplier, region of the country and other factors.

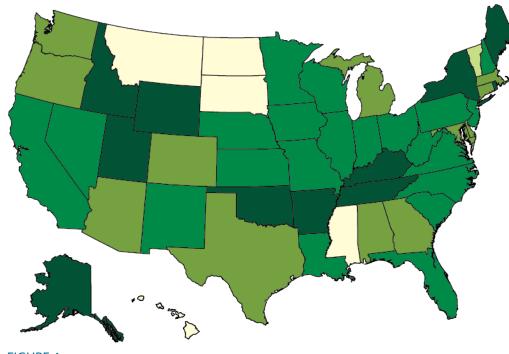


FIGURE 4 PRICE DIFFERENTIALS BY STATE FOR COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS (CNG) **RELATIVE TO DIESEL** 

In this map, negative numbers represent prices for CNG that are lower than diesel, on a per diesel gallon equivalent basis. States not highlighted with a color did not have any CNG data points in the current report.

#### CNG Price Difference **Relative to Diesel**



## Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), cont.



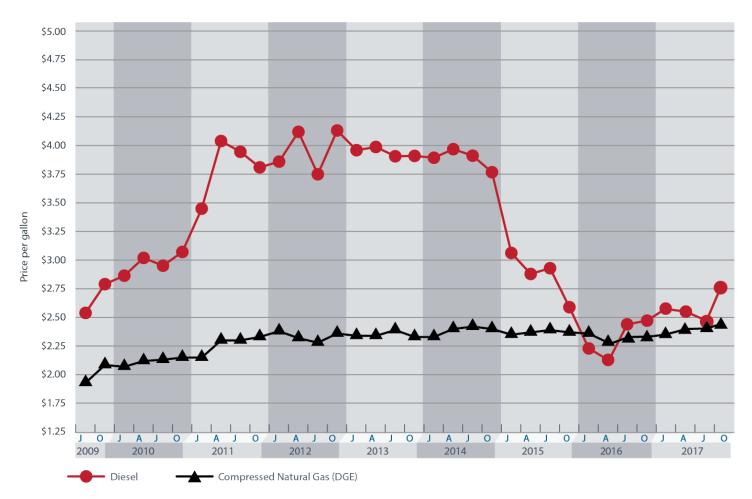


FIGURE 5 HISTORICAL COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS (CNG) PRICES VERSUS DIESEL

## Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Relative to Diesel

TABLE 7 Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and Diesel Average Retail Prices by Region						
	LNG Prices Diesel Prices Price					
Region	(\$/DGE*)	(\$/gal)	Difference**			
New England	\$2.75	\$2.81	-\$0.06			
Central Atlantic		\$2.97				
Lower Atlantic	\$2.67	\$2.74	-\$0.07			
Midwest	\$2.62	\$2.68	-\$0.06			
Gulf Coast	\$2.47	\$2.48	-\$0.01			
Rocky Mountain	\$2.53	\$2.63	-\$0.10			
West Coast         \$2.63         \$3.13         -\$0.50						
NATIONAL AVERAGE	\$2.60	\$2.76	-\$0.16			

The prices shown in Table 7 were submitted by Clean Cities coordinators, fuel providers, and other stakeholders on a voluntary basis, between October 1 and October 16, 2017.



\*DGE = diesel gallon equivalent

\*\* Negative numbers represent average LNG prices that are lower than diesel, on a \$/DGE basis.

LNG prices in Table 7 were obtained from the "price at the pump," given in \$/diesel gallon equivalent (DGE), and averaged for each region.

As with other fuels, the energy content of natural gas can vary. LNG dispensers are calibrated for local gas compositions and dispense an accurate DGE for the actual gas being sold. On average, during this reporting period, LNG cost about \$0.16 less than diesel on a per diesel gallon equivalent (DGE) basis.

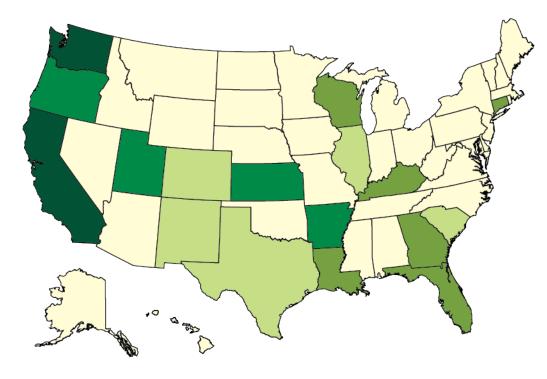
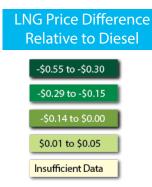
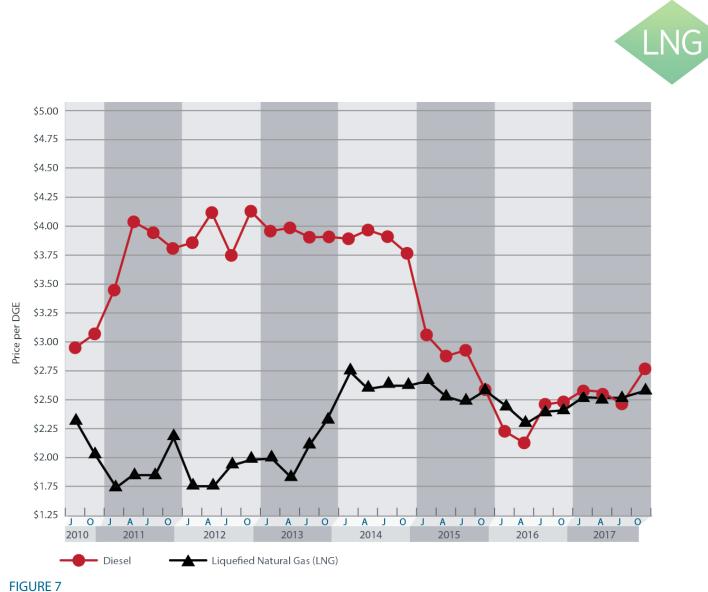


FIGURE 6 PRICE DIFFERENTIALS BY STATE FOR LNG RELATIVE TO DIESEL In this map, negative numbers represent prices for LNG that are lower than diesel, on a per gallon basis. States not highlighted with a color did not have any LNG data points in the current report.



### Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), cont.



#### HISTORICAL LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS (LNG) PRICES VERSUS DIESEL

NOTE: While LNG data had not been shown in a separate section in this report prior to the July 2016 issue, we do have a record of historical prices submitted by Clean Cities coordinators. We have, therefore, included Figure 7, showing historical LNG vs. Diesel prices, as well as Table 12d, comparing LNG prices submitted for this report and the prior report.

#### OCTOBER 2017

**Ethanol** 

#### Ethanol (E85)

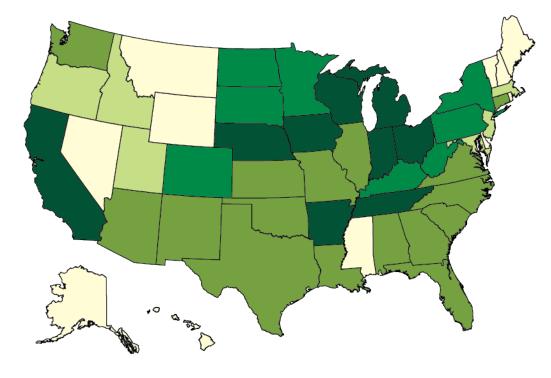
TABLE 8 Ethanol (E85) and Gasoline Average Retail Prices by Region					
E85 Prices Gasoline Prices Price					
Region	(\$/gal)	(\$/gal)	Difference*		
New England	\$2.82	\$2.70	\$0.12		
Central Atlantic	\$2.44	\$2.55	-\$0.11		
Lower Atlantic	\$2.16	\$2.48	-\$0.32		
Midwest	\$1.89	\$2.33	-\$0.44		
Gulf Coast	\$2.05	\$2.29	-\$0.24		
Rocky Mountain	\$2.12	\$2.47	-\$0.35		
West Coast \$2.50 \$3.01 -\$0.51					
NATIONAL AVERAGE	\$2.10	\$2.49	-\$0.39		

The prices shown in Table 8 were submitted by Clean Cities coordinators, fuel providers, and other stakeholders on a voluntary basis, between October 1 and October 16, 2017.



\*Negative numbers represent average E85 prices that are lower than gasoline, on a \$/gal basis.

Most gasoline available throughout the United States today is a blend of 90% gasoline and up to 10% ethanol, or E10. Additionally, the E85 that is sold in the United States today actually contains, on average, approximately 70% ethanol. E85 energy content for this report is therefore calculated as (.70)(E100energy content) + (.30)(E0 energy content), to more closely reflect the actual energy content of E85 fuel available today. On average, during this reporting period, E85 cost about \$0.39 less than gasoline on a per (liquid) gallon basis. See page 26 for a \$/GGE comparison.



#### FIGURE 8 PRICE DIFFERENTIALS BY STATE FOR E85 RELATIVE TO GASOLINE

In this map, negative numbers represent prices for E85 that are lower than gasoline, on a per gallon basis. States not highlighted with a color did not have any E85 data points in the current report.

#### E85 Price Difference Relative to Gasoline



## Ethanol (E85), cont.

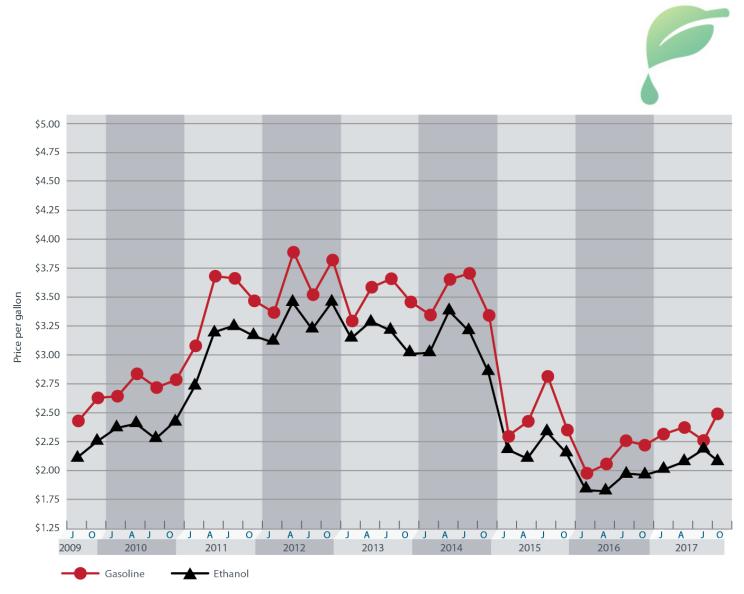


FIGURE 9 HISTORICAL ETHANOL (E85) PRICES VERSUS GASOLINE

#### OCTOBER 2017

#### **Propane (LPG)**

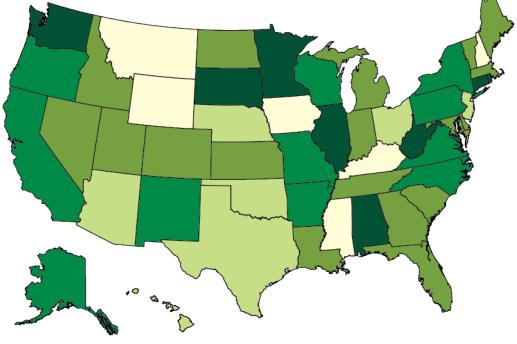
TABLE 9 Propane (LPG) and Gasoline Average Retail Prices by Region					
	LPG Prices Gasoline Prices Price				
Region	(\$/gal)	(\$/gal)	Difference*		
New England	\$2.80	\$2.70	\$0.10		
Central Atlantic	\$2.75	\$2.55	\$0.20		
Lower Atlantic	\$2.55	\$2.48	\$0.07		
Midwest	\$2.61	\$2.33	\$0.28		
Gulf Coast	\$2.78	\$2.29	\$0.49		
Rocky Mountain	\$2.83	\$2.47	\$0.36		
West Coast \$3.04 \$3.01 \$0.03					
NATIONAL AVERAGE	\$2.78	\$2.49	\$0.30		

The prices shown in Table 9 were submitted by Clean Cities coordinators, fuel providers, and other stakeholders on a voluntary basis, between October 1 and October 16, 2017.



\*Negative numbers represent average propane prices that are lower than gasoline, on a \$/gal basis.

Propane prices in this report are from both private fleet refueling stations and public refueling sites that can provide propane for vehicles and for other uses.<sup>7</sup> Note: The Alternative Fuel Price Report is a snapshot in time of retail fuel prices. Alternative fuel fleets can obtain significantly lower fuel prices than those reported in the AFPR by entering into contracts directly with local fuel suppliers. Contract prices will vary, depending on fleet size and amount of fuel to be purchased, distance from the supplier, region of the country and other factors. On average, during this reporting period, propane cost about \$0.30 more than gasoline on a per (liquid) gallon basis. See page 26 for \$/GGE.



In this map, negative numbers represent prices for propane that are lower than gasoline, on a per gallon basis. States not highlighted with a color did not have any propane data points in the current report.



#### FIGURE 10 PRICE DIFFERENTIALS BY STATE FOR PROPANE (LPG) RELATIVE TO GASOLINE

<sup>7</sup> Because many propane retailers provide fuel for non-vehicle uses (camping stoves, gas grills, etc.), the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) has worked with suppliers to clarify the differences. On the AFDC Station Locator website (http://www.afdc.energy.gov/locator/stations/) each public propane station is designated as a "primary" or "secondary" service type. Both types are able to fuel vehicles; however, stations designated as "primary" have indicated they have facilities and billing procedures specifically designed for vehicle customers. They may also offer special vehicle pricing and most accept major credit cards, similar to traditional gasoline/diesel retailers. Propane pricing reported here reflects a sampling of both primary and secondary stations.

## Propane (LPG), cont.



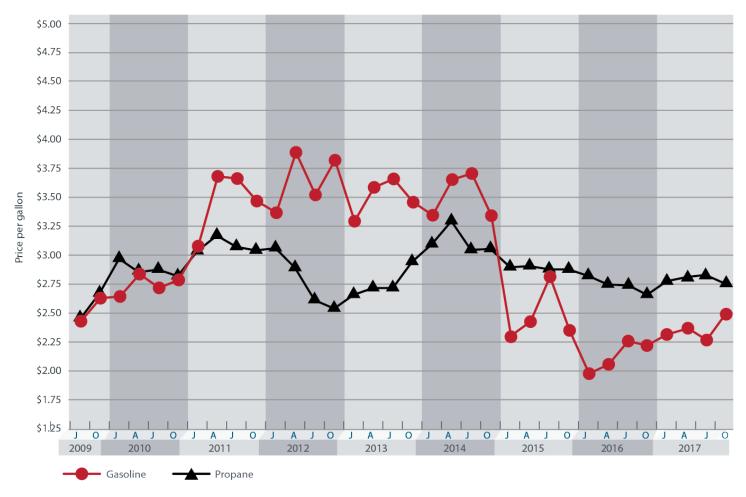


FIGURE 11 HISTORICAL PROPANE (LPG) PRICES VERSUS GASOLINE

#### OCTOBER 2017

#### **Biodiesel Blends: B20**

TABLE 10 Biodiesel (B20) and Diesel					
Averaç	e Retail Prices by				
Region	B20 Prices         Diesel Prices         Price           Region         (\$/gal)         (\$/gal)         Difference*				
New England	\$2.45	\$2.81	-\$0.36		
Central Atlantic	\$2.57	\$2.97	-\$0.40		
Lower Atlantic	\$2.46	\$2.74	-\$0.28		
Midwest	\$2.80	\$2.68	\$0.12		
Gulf Coast	\$2.52	\$2.48	\$0.04		
Rocky Mountain	\$2.80	\$2.63	\$0.17		
West Coast \$2.79 \$3.13 -\$0.34					
NATIONAL AVERAGE	\$2.68	\$2.76	-\$0.08		

The prices shown in Table 10 were submitted by Clean Cities coordinators, fuel providers, and other stakeholders on a voluntary basis, between October 1 and October 16, 2017.

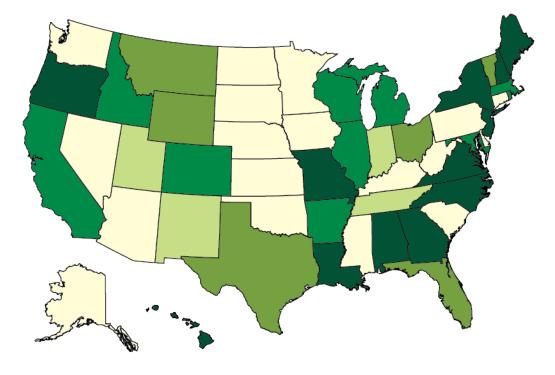


\*Negative numbers represent average B20 prices that are lower than diesel, on a \$/gal basis.

B20 is a blend of 20% biodiesel and 80% conventional diesel. B20 contains only about 2% less energy (BTUs) per volume than 100% diesel. The appendix at the end of this report provides conversion factors for calculating B20 prices on a GGE and DGE basis.

Note that B20 prices, in many regions, track closely with diesel prices.

#### On a national average basis, during this reporting period, B20 cost \$0.08 less than diesel on a per gallon basis.



#### FIGURE 12 PRICE DIFFERENTIALS BY STATE FOR B20 RELATIVE TO DIESEL

In this map, negative numbers represent prices for B20 that are lower than diesel, on a per gallon basis. States not highlighted with a color did not have any B20 data points in the current report.





### **Biodiesel Blends: B20, cont.**

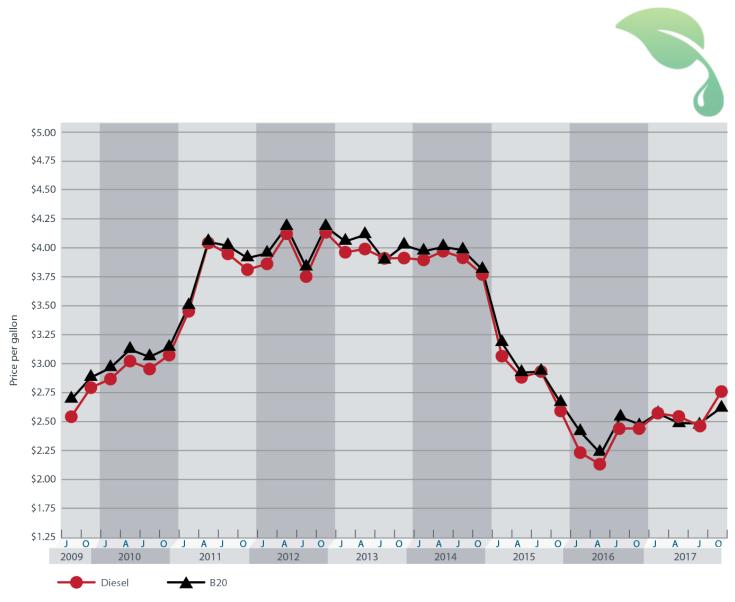


FIGURE 13 HISTORICAL B20 PRICES VERSUS DIESEL

#### **Biodiesel Blends: B99/B100**

TABLE 11 Biodiesel (B99/B100) and Diesel					
Avera	ge Retail Prices by	Region			
	B99/B100 Prices	<b>Diesel Prices</b>	Price		
Region	(\$/gal)	(\$/gal)	Difference*		
New England	\$2.41	\$2.81	-\$0.40		
Central Atlantic	\$2.98	\$2.97	\$0.01		
Lower Atlantic	\$3.81	\$2.74	\$1.07		
Midwest		\$2.68			
Gulf Coast	\$2.49	\$2.48	\$0.01		
Rocky Mountain		\$2.63			
West Coast \$3.45 \$3.13 \$0.32					
NATIONAL AVERAGE	\$3.38	\$2.76	\$0.62		

The prices shown in Table 11 were submitted by Clean Cities coordinators, fuel providers, and other stakeholders on a voluntary basis, between October 1 and October 16, 2017.



\*Negative numbers represent average B99/B100 prices that are lower than diesel, on a \$/gal basis.

B100 contains about 10% less energy (BTUs) per volume than 100% diesel. The appendix at the end of this report provides conversion factors for calculating B100 prices on a GGE and DGE basis. On average, during this reporting period, B99/B100 cost about \$0.62 more than diesel on a per gallon basis.

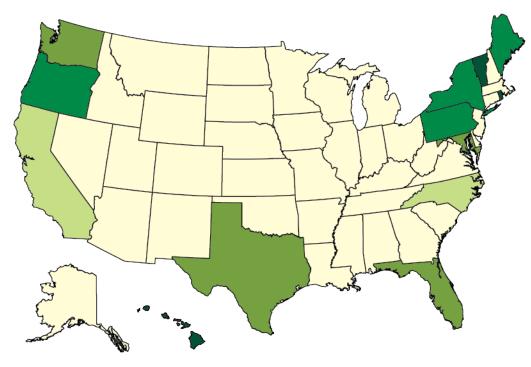


FIGURE 14 PRICE DIFFERENTIALS BY STATE FOR B99/B100 RELATIVE TO DIESEL

In this map, negative numbers represent prices for B99/B100 that are lower than diesel, on a per gallon basis. States not highlighted with a color did not have any B99/B100 data points in the current report.



### **Biodiesel Blends: B99/B100, cont.**

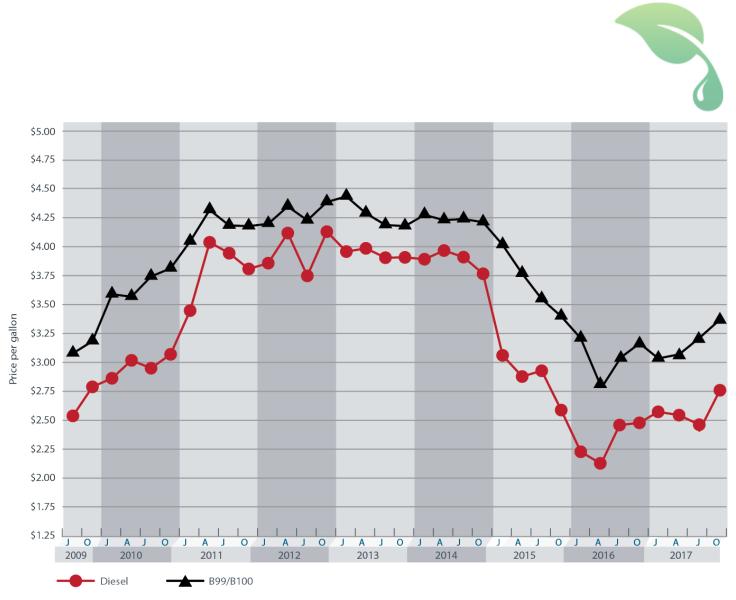


FIGURE 15 HISTORICAL B99/B100 PRICES VERSUS DIESEL

## **Comparison Of Prices: This Report Versus Last Report**

The following tables summarize the average retail prices submitted for this report by region, and compare them to prices submitted for the July 2017 Alternative Fuel Price Report. It should be noted that a portion of the price changes may be attributed to differing sample sizes and locations between the two reports.

	TABLE 12a - Gasoline Prices				
GASOLINE		July 2017	October 2017	Difference in \$	Difference in %
	New England	\$2.45	\$2.70	\$0.25	10.20%
(\$ per gallon)	Central Atlantic	\$2.29	\$2.55	\$0.26	11.35%
	Lower Atlantic	\$2.10	\$2.48	\$0.38	18.10%
	Midwest	\$2.17	\$2.33	\$0.16	7.37%
	Gulf Coast	\$1.96	\$2.29	\$0.33	16.84%
	Rocky Mountain	\$2.26	\$2.47	\$0.21	9.29%
	West Coast	\$2.80	\$3.01	\$0.21	7.50%
	NATIONAL AVERAGE	\$2.26	\$2.49	\$0.23	10.18%

TABLE 12b - Diesel Prices				
	July 2017	October 2017	Difference in \$	Difference in %
New England	\$2.64	\$2.81	\$0.17	6.44%
Central Atlantic	\$2.62	\$2.97	\$0.35	13.36%
Lower Atlantic	\$2.38	\$2.74	\$0.36	15.13%
Midwest	\$2.37	\$2.68	\$0.31	13.08%
Gulf Coast	\$2.20	\$2.48	\$0.28	12.73%
Rocky Mountain	\$2.37	\$2.63	\$0.26	10.97%
West Coast	\$2.85	\$3.13	\$0.28	9.82%
NATIONAL AVERAGE	\$2.47	\$2.76	\$0.29	11.74%



DIESEL

	TABLE 12c - CNG Prices				
CNG		July 2017	October 2017	Difference in \$	Difference in %
	New England	\$2.41	\$2.44	\$0.03	1.24%
(\$ per GGE)	Central Atlantic	\$2.21	\$2.22	\$0.01	0.45%
	Lower Atlantic	\$2.10	\$2.11	\$0.01	0.48%
	Midwest	\$2.02	\$2.02	\$0.00	0.00%
CNC	Gulf Coast	\$2.03	\$2.07	\$0.04	1.97%
	Rocky Mountain	\$1.92	\$2.00	\$0.08	4.17%
	West Coast	\$2.47	\$2.44	-\$0.03	-1.21%
	NATIONAL AVERAGE	\$2.15	\$2.17	\$0.02	0.93%

TABLE 12d - LNG Prices					
	July 2017	October 2017	Difference in \$	Difference in %	
New England	\$2.79	\$2.75	-\$0.04	-1.43%	
Central Atlantic					
Lower Atlantic	\$2.42	\$2.67	\$0.25	10.33%	
Midwest	\$2.63	\$2.62	-\$0.01	-0.38%	
Gulf Coast	\$2.49	\$2.47	-\$0.02	-0.80%	
Rocky Mountain	\$2.51	\$2.53	\$0.02	0.80%	
West Coast	\$2.52	\$2.63	\$0.11	4.37%	
NATIONAL AVERAGE	\$2.52	\$2.60	\$0.08	3.17%	



## Comparison Of Prices: This Report Versus Last Report, cont.

TABLE 12e - E85 Prices				
	July 2017	October 2017	Difference in \$	Difference in %
New England	\$2.93	\$2.82	-\$0.11	-3.75%
Central Atlantic	\$2.28	\$2.44	\$0.16	7.02%
Lower Atlantic	\$1.99	\$2.16	\$0.17	8.54%
Midwest	\$1.84	\$1.89	\$0.05	2.72%
Gulf Coast	\$1.78	\$2.05	\$0.27	15.17%
Rocky Mountain	\$2.06	\$2.12	\$0.06	2.91%
West Coast	\$2.46	\$2.50	\$0.04	1.63%
NATIONAL AVERAGE	\$1.99	\$2.10	\$0.11	5.53%



PROPANE (\$ per gallon)



TABLE 12f - Propane Prices				
	July 2017	October 2017	Difference in \$	Difference in %
New England	\$2.91	\$2.80	-\$0.11	-3.78%
Central Atlantic	\$2.65	\$2.75	\$0.10	3.77%
Lower Atlantic	\$2.65	\$2.55	-\$0.10	-3.77%
Midwest	\$2.66	\$2.61	-\$0.05	-1.88%
Gulf Coast	\$3.00	\$2.78	-\$0.22	-7.33%
Rocky Mountain	\$2.88	\$2.83	-\$0.05	-1.74%
West Coast	\$3.03	\$3.04	\$0.01	0.33%
NATIONAL AVERAGE	\$2.84	\$2.78	-\$0.06	-2.11%

TABLE 12g - B20 Prices				
	July 2017	October 2017	Difference in \$	Difference in %
New England	\$2.39	\$2.45	\$0.06	2.51%
Central Atlantic	\$2.38	\$2.57	\$0.19	7.98%
Lower Atlantic	\$2.04	\$2.46	\$0.42	20.59%
Midwest	\$2.32	\$2.80	\$0.48	20.69%
Gulf Coast	\$2.32	\$2.52	\$0.20	8.62%
Rocky Mountain	\$2.49	\$2.80	\$0.31	12.45%
West Coast	\$2.66	\$2.79	\$0.13	4.89%
NATIONAL AVERAGE	\$2.49	\$2.68	\$0.19	7.63%

## BIODIESEL B20 (\$ per gallon)





TABLE 12h - B99/B100 Prices				
	July 2017	October 2017	Difference in \$	Difference in %
New England	\$2.60	\$2.41	-\$0.19	-7.31%
Central Atlantic	\$2.56	\$2.98	\$0.42	16.41%
Lower Atlantic	\$3.47	\$3.81	\$0.34	9.80%
Midwest				
Gulf Coast	\$2.09	\$2.49	\$0.40	19.14%
Rocky Mountain				
West Coast	\$3.29	\$3.45	\$0.16	4.86%
NATIONAL AVERAGE	\$3.22	\$3.38	\$0.16	4.97%

### Price Comparison By Region For Public & Private Refueling Stations

The tables below summarize average retail fuel prices contained in this report, sorted by type of refueling station, i.e., "private" or "public". The stations classified as "public" are open to the general public. The majority of the stations classified as "private" are operated by state or local government agencies, transit agencies, utility districts, colleges or universities, or military facilities. They serve the host agency's fleets, and may have contractual or other arrangements in place to sell fuel to other government agencies and/or selected other fleets. In some cases, contracts may include billing, accounting, or fleet service management fees that are rolled into the price of the fuel.

For this report, there were 3,640 prices submitted from "public" refueling stations, and 359 prices submitted from "private" refueling stations, for a total of 3,999 prices. This includes a small number of data points that were submitted for alternative fuel blends that are not widely used, such as E15-E50, B5, B10 and B50, hydrogen and renewable diesel.

As with the other prices in this report, these prices include state and federal taxes, as described in the Methodology section of this document.

TABLE 13a - Gasoline Average Retail Price by Refueling Station Type (\$/gal)					
	Private	Public			
New England	\$2.46	\$2.71			
Central Atlantic	\$2.39	\$2.57			
Lower Atlantic	\$2.62	\$2.48			
Midwest	\$2.29	\$2.33			
Gulf Coast		\$2.29			
Rocky Mountain	\$2.51	\$2.47			
West Coast	\$2.92	\$3.03			
NATIONAL AVERAGE	\$2.53	\$2.49			

TABLE 13b - Diesel Average Retail Price by Refueling Station Type (\$/gal)					
	Private	Public			
New England	\$2.63	\$2.83			
Central Atlantic	\$2.81	\$3.03			
Lower Atlantic		\$2.74			
Midwest	\$2.39	\$2.68			
Gulf Coast		\$2.48			
Rocky Mountain	\$2.53	\$2.63			
West Coast	\$3.11	\$3.13			
NATIONAL AVERAGE	\$2.77	\$2.76			

TABLE 13c - Natural Gas (CNG) Average Retail Price by Refueling Station Type (\$/GGE)					
Private Public					
New England	\$1.56	\$2.55			
Central Atlantic	\$2.06	\$2.29			
Lower Atlantic	\$1.14	\$2.16			
Midwest	\$1.93	\$2.03			
Gulf Coast	\$1.80	\$2.10			
Rocky Mountain	\$1.94	\$2.04			
West Coast	\$1.97	\$2.51			
NATIONAL AVERAGE	\$1.93	\$2.22			

TABLE 13d - Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)						
Average Retail Price b	Average Retail Price by Refueling Station Type (\$/DGE)					
Private Public						
New England		\$2.75				
Central Atlantic						
Lower Atlantic		\$2.67				
Midwest		\$2.62				
Gulf Coast		\$2.47				
Rocky Mountain	\$2.61	\$2.52				
West Coast	\$1.99	\$2.93				
NATIONAL AVERAGE	\$2.08	\$2.71				

--- indicates no data points were submitted for this region.

### Comparison Of Prices By Region For Public & Private Refueling Stations cont.

TABLE 13e - Ethanol (E85) Average Retail Price by Refueling Station Type (\$/gal)				
	Private	Public		
New England		\$2.82		
Central Atlantic	\$2.41	\$2.45		
Lower Atlantic	\$2.39	\$2.16		
Midwest	\$2.18	\$1.87		
Gulf Coast	\$2.04	\$2.05		
Rocky Mountain		\$2.12		
West Coast	\$2.37	\$2.50		
NATIONAL AVERAGE	\$2.29	\$2.09		

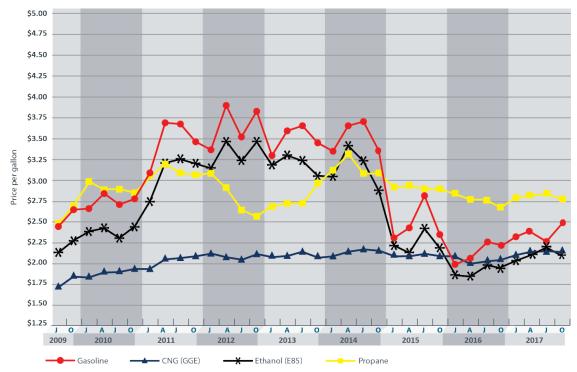
TABLE 13f - Propane Average Retail Price by Refueling Station Type (\$/gal)				
Private Public				
New England	\$1.99	\$2.83		
Central Atlantic	\$1.72	\$3.01		
Lower Atlantic	\$2.21	\$2.55		
Midwest	\$2.21	\$2.64		
Gulf Coast	\$1.58	\$2.91		
Rocky Mountain	\$1.70	\$2.85		
West Coast	\$3.77	\$2.98		
NATIONAL AVERAGE	\$2.24	\$2.83		

TABLE 13g - Biodiesel (B20) Average Retail Price by Refueling Station Type (\$/gal)				
Private Public				
New England	\$2.15	\$2.58		
Central Atlantic	\$2.53	\$2.69		
Lower Atlantic	\$2.31	\$2.53		
Midwest	\$2.06	\$2.91		
Gulf Coast	\$2.00	\$2.60		
Rocky Mountain	\$1.79	\$2.91		
West Coast \$2.68 \$2.79				
NATIONAL AVERAGE \$2.41 \$2.76				

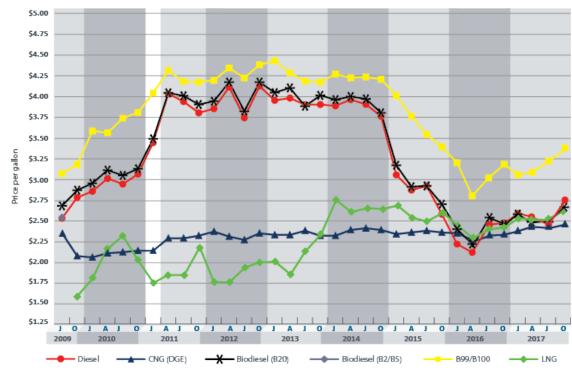
TABLE 13h - Biodiesel (B99/B100) Average Retail Price by Refueling Station Type (\$/gal)					
	Private Public				
New England		\$2.41			
Central Atlantic	\$2.95	\$3.00			
Lower Atlantic	\$3.95	\$3.63			
Midwest	1idwest				
Gulf Coast	\$2.49				
Rocky Mountain					
West Coast	\$3.99	\$3.41			
NATIONAL AVERAGE \$3.82 \$3.29					

## **Historical Alternative Fuel Prices From Previous Reports**

The following graphs illustrate historical prices for the alternative fuels included in the Alternative Fuel Price Report from 2009 to the present, relative to gasoline and diesel. Compressed natural gas (in GGE), propane, and ethanol (E85) have been graphed against gasoline prices, while compressed natural gas (in DGE) liquefied natural gas (in DGE) and biodiesel blends (B20 and B99/B100) have been graphed against diesel prices.







ALTERNATIVE FUEL PRICES VERSUS DIESEL

FIGURE 17

#### **Illustration of Conversion Factors for Fuels**

TABLE 14 Lower Heating Values			
Fuel Lower Heating Value			
Gasoline (E0)	115,400 BTU/gal		
Gasoline (E10) <sup>9</sup>	114,300 BTU/gal		
Diesel	128,700 BTU/gal		
Biodiesel (B100)	117,100 BTU/gal		
Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) <sup>10</sup>	114,300 BTU/GGE		
Ethanol (E100)	75,700 BTU/gal		
Propane	83,500 BTU/gal		

**Conversion to GGE** 

The conversion factor used to convert the price of an alternative fuel from \$/gallon to \$/GGE is determined as follows:

Conversion factor = BTU/gal of gasoline (E10) BTU/gal of alternative fuel

To calculate the price of an alternative fuel in \$/GGE, multiply the price per gallon of the alternative fuel by the relevant conversion factor from Table 15.

#### Conversion to DGE

The conversion factor used to convert the price of an alternative fuel from \$/gallon to \$/DGE is determined as follows:

Conversion factor = BTU/gal of diesel BTU/gal of alternative fuel

For example, the conversion factor used to convert a B100 price from \$/gal to \$/DGE is determined as follows:

 $\frac{128,700 \text{ BTU/gal of diesel}}{117,100 \text{ BTU/gal of B100}} = 1.099$ , rounded to 1.10

To calculate the price of an alternative fuel in \$/DGE, multiply the price per gallon of the alternative fuel by the relevant conversion factor from Table 16.

For example, if the price of B100 is given as \$3.00/gal, the \$/DGE is determined as follows: (\$3.00/gal) x 1.10 = \$3.30/DGE

contains, on average, approximately 70% ethanol. E85 energy content for this report is therefore calculated as [(.70) x (E100 energy content)] + [(.30) x (E0 energy content)], to more closely reflect the actual energy content of E85 fuel available today.

Conversion factors used to establish prices in dollars per gasoline gallon equivalent (\$/GGE) and dollars per diesel gallon equivalent (\$/DGE) were developed using the lower heating values from the Transportation Energy Data Book Edition 34, Table B.4,<sup>8</sup> and are listed to the left.

In the case of CNG, prices are provided to us in GGE, so no conversion is necessary. The representative heating value of CNG is provided in Table 13 as a reference.

TABLE 15 Conversion Factors: \$/gal to \$/GGE		
Fuel Conversion Factor		
Biodiesel (B20)	0.90	
Biodiesel (B100)	0.98	
CNG	1.00	
Ethanol (E85)11	1.30	
LNG	0.89	
Propane	1.37	

TABLE 16 Conversion Factors: \$/gal to \$/DGE		
Fuel Conversion Factor		
Biodiesel (B20)	1.02	
Biodiesel (B100)	1.10	
CNG	1.13	
Ethanol (E85)12	1.47	
LNG <sup>13</sup>	1.00	
Propane	1.54	

<sup>8</sup> http://cta.ornl.gov/data/appendix\_b.shtml

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> According to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) Alternative Fuels Data Center, the energy content of common gasoline baseline references (E0, E10 and indolene) varies between 112,114 and 116,090 Btu/gal. We chose 114,300 Btu/gal for the E10 energy content, consistent with the Transportation Energy Data Book (TEDB) energy content of CNG, in GGEs. See next footnote.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> (5.66 lbs. of CNG/GGE) x (20,200 BTU/lb.) = 114,332; rounded to 114,300.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Most gasoline available throughout the United States today is a blend of 90% gasoline and up to 10% ethanol, or E10. Additionally, the E85 that is sold in the United States today actually

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> See footnote 11, above.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> In July 2016, at its annual meeting, the National Conference of Weights and Measures (NCWM) voted to approve the diesel gallon equivalent (DGE) as an authorized method of measuring natural gas sold as a vehicle fuel. 1 DGE means 6.059 lbs. of liquefied natural gas (LNG) or 6.384 lbs. of compressed natural gas (CNG).

### **Comparison of Prices on an Energy-Equivalent Basis**

The following tables compare prices for E85, propane, B20 and B99/B100 to conventional fuels (gasoline and diesel) on an energy-equivalent basis. (Natural gas is generally sold in gasoline gallon equivalents or diesel gallon equivalents, so the natural gas "price at the pump" can be directly compared to the price of the corresponding conventional fuel, as shown in Tables 5, 6 and 7.)

TABLE 17a Ethanol (E85) and Gasoline Average Retail Prices by Region (GGE)					
E85 Prices Prices Price					
Region	(\$/GGE)	(\$/gal)	Difference*		
New England	\$3.67	\$2.70	\$0.97		
Central Atlantic	\$3.17	\$2.55	\$0.62		
Lower Atlantic	\$2.81	\$2.48	\$0.33		
Midwest	\$2.46	\$2.33	\$0.13		
Gulf Coast	\$2.67	\$2.29	\$0.38		
Rocky Mountain	\$2.76	\$2.47	\$0.29		
West Coast \$3.25 \$3.01 \$0.24					
NATIONAL AVERAGE \$2.73 \$2.49 \$0.24					

\*Negative numbers represent average E85 prices that are lower than gasoline, on a \$/GGE basis.

TABLE 17b Propane (LPG) and Gasoline Average Retail Prices by Region (GGE)					
LPG Prices Prices Price					
Region	(\$/GGE)	(\$/gal)	Difference*		
New England	\$3.84	\$2.70	\$1.14		
Central Atlantic	\$3.77	\$2.55	\$1.22		
Lower Atlantic	\$3.49	\$2.48	\$1.01		
Midwest	\$3.58	\$2.33	\$1.25		
Gulf Coast	\$3.81	\$2.29	\$1.52		
Rocky Mountain \$3.88 \$2.47 \$1.41					
West Coast \$4.16 \$3.01 \$1.15					
NATIONAL AVERAGE \$3.81 \$2.49 \$1.32					

\*Negative numbers represent average propane prices that are lower than gasoline, on a \$/GGE basis.

TABLE 17c Biodiesel (B20) and Diesel Average Retail Prices by Region					
B20 Prices Prices Price					
Region	(\$/DGE)	(\$/gal)	Difference*		
New England	\$2.50	\$2.81	-\$0.31		
Central Atlantic	\$2.62	\$2.97	-\$0.35		
Lower Atlantic	\$2.51	\$2.74	-\$0.23		
Midwest	\$2.86	\$2.68	\$0.18		
Gulf Coast	\$2.57	\$2.48	\$0.09		
Rocky Mountain	\$2.86	\$2.63	\$0.23		
West Coast \$2.85 \$3.13 -\$0.28					
NATIONAL AVERAGE \$2.73 \$2.76 -\$0.03					

TABLE 17d Biodiesel (B99/B100) and Diesel Average Retail Prices by Region (DGE)					
B99/B100 Diesel Prices Prices Price					
Region	(\$/DGE)	(\$/gal)	Difference*		
New England	\$2.65	\$2.81	-\$0.16		
Central Atlantic	\$3.28	\$2.97	\$0.31		
Lower Atlantic	\$4.19	\$2.74	\$1.45		
Midwest		\$2.68			
Gulf Coast	\$2.74	\$2.48	\$0.26		
Rocky Mountain		\$2.63			
West Coast	\$3.79	\$3.13	\$0.67		
NATIONAL AVERAGE \$3.72 \$2.76 \$0.96					

\*Negative numbers represent average B20 prices that are lower than diesel, on a \$/DGE basis.

\*Negative numbers represent average B99/B100 prices that are lower than diesel, on a \$/DGE basis.

#### **Acknowledgements**

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### Would You Like To Participate?

If you would like to provide prices for alternative fuels in your region and be part of the data collection effort for this report, or if you have any questions, please contact:

U.S. DOE, Clean Cities EE-3V 1000 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20585 Phone: (202) 586-6459 afpr@alleghenyst.com

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