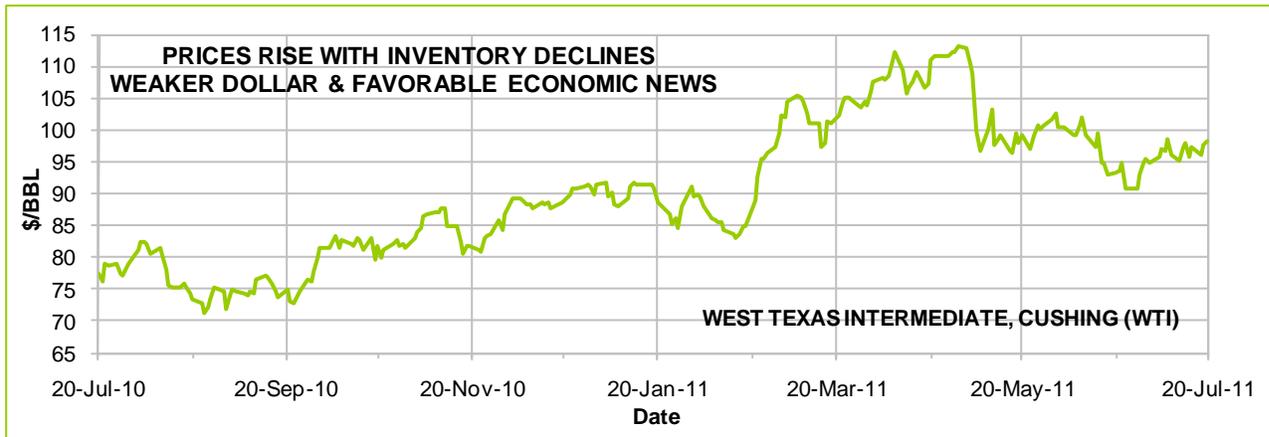


Crude Oil



Although production and imports both grew, an even larger increase in crude inputs to refineries led to a 3.7 million barrel inventory decline this past week. This was more than twice the expected decline, 7 times the 5-year average decline, and 9 times the size of the decline one year ago. Inventories have worsened to 0.5% below last year and to only 4.7% above the 5-year average.

After falling by more than \$2/bbl last Thursday, futures prices rebounded back over \$100 because of falling inventories, a weaker dollar, and more positive economic signals. Futures prices settled at \$100.23, down only 21 cents for the week. Futures are \$20.90 (26.3%) higher than a year ago. Spot prices rose 7 cents for the week. At \$98.09, they are \$20.79 (26.9%) higher than last year. Futures and spot prices are about \$47 (32%) below their 2008 peaks.



Natural gas



Natural gas inventories grew by 60 BCF this past week. This was 5.3% greater than the expected gain of 57 BCF but 10.9% below the 5-year average gain of 67 BCF. The gain was 9.4% higher than last year's gain of 55 BCF. As a result, this week's 2,671 BCF inventory level has improved to 7.4% below last year's level but worsened to 2.2% below the 5-year average. Cumulative injections this year are running 11.3% below last year and 6.7% below the 5-year average.

Warmer than normal summer weather pushed prices up again this past week. Futures prices rose by 3.1 cents despite falling by 6.2 cents the past 2 days as profit-taking traders sold off gas. Futures settled at \$4.694 per million BTU. This was 26.5 cents (5.3%) lower than a year ago and 64.8% below the 2008 peak. Spot prices rose by 22 cents. They settled at \$4.65 per million BTU, 6 cents (1.3%) higher than a year ago. Spot prices are 65.1% below their 2008 peak. According to census data, 31% of dwelling units in Connecticut heat with natural gas.

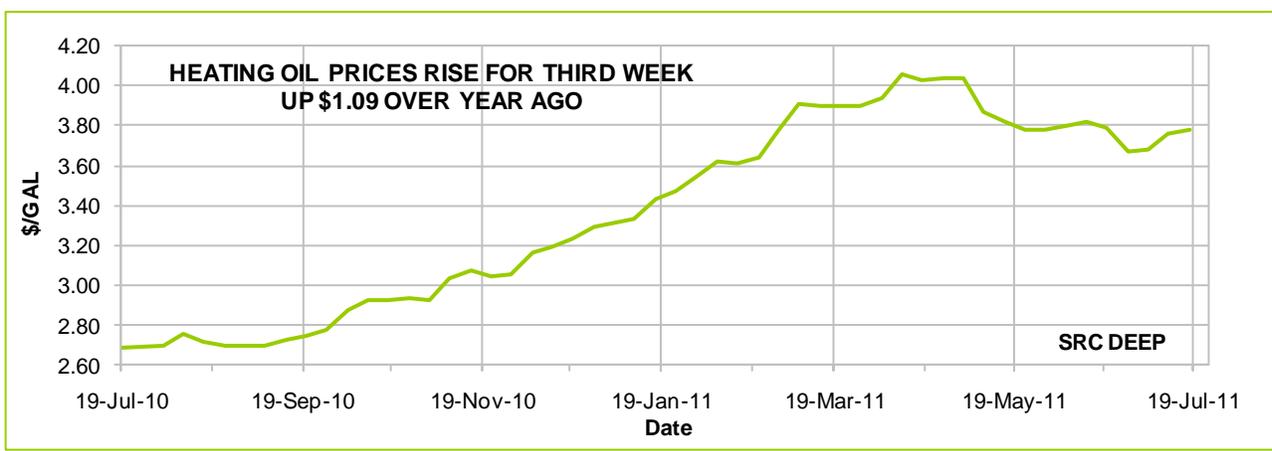


# Heating oil



Inventories rose by 3.4 million barrels this past week as an increase in production offset a slight gain in demand and a decline in imports. The weekly gain was 2 ½ times the expected gain of 1.3 million and almost twice the 5-year average gain of 1.8 million. Inventories now trail last year by 10.6%. At 5.0% above the five-year average, they are at their third highest level ever for this date.

Futures prices rose by 1.3 cents this week and settled at \$3.158/gal, \$1.024 (48.0%) above last year but \$1.037 (24.7%) below 2008's peak. Spot prices rose by 1.9 cents. They settled at \$3.105/gal, \$1.103 (55.1%) above last year but \$0.974 (23.9%) below their 2008 peak. Retail prices rose by 2.5 cents this week and by 11 cents over the past 3 weeks. Prices are now at \$3.780/gal, \$1.090 (40.5%) above a year ago. Prices are \$0.987 (20.7%) below their 2008 peak. The highest price in this week's survey was \$4.599 and the lowest was \$3.449. According to census data, 49.1% of dwelling units in Connecticut heat with oil.



## Connecticut Regional Heating Oil Prices

	FAIRFIELD			HARTFORD			NEW LONDON		
	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW
19-Jul-10	2.829	3.299	2.340	2.668	3.199	2.299	2.671	2.850	2.480
4-Jul-11	3.786	4.399	3.440	3.680	3.999	3.099	3.590	3.750	3.320
11-Jul-11	3.882	4.599	3.540	3.770	4.299	3.349	3.663	3.750	3.460
18-Jul-11	3.898	4.599	3.540	3.776	4.299	3.449	3.720	3.860	3.460
	LITCHFIELD			MIDDLESEX			TOLLAND-WINDHAM		
	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW
19-Jul-10	2.627	2.679	2.559	2.741	2.899	2.499	2.629	2.799	2.449
4-Jul-11	3.687	3.899	3.499	3.766	3.850	3.590	3.588	3.799	3.389
11-Jul-11	3.743	3.899	3.499	3.824	3.999	3.690	3.649	3.799	3.439
18-Jul-11	3.777	3.899	3.599	3.842	3.999	3.690	3.708	3.819	3.469
	NEW HAVEN								
	AVG	HIGH	LOW						
19-Jul-10	2.627	2.849	2.390						
4-Jul-11	3.631	3.899	3.299						
11-Jul-11	3.685	3.999	3.359						
18-Jul-11	3.711	3.999	3.459						

DEEP conducts a weekly survey of retail heating oil prices in Connecticut. These figures reference the most recent results of that survey for the reporting week beginning July 18, 2011. Figures reflect per gallon prices without discount.

For more information, go to:  
<http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=4120&Q=481600&deepNav=>

# Propane



Propane inventories improved to 11.0% below last year and to 11.9% below the 5-year average as last week's 3.1 million barrel gain was followed by a 2.0 million barrel increase this week. This week's inventory growth was more than 50% greater than the 5-year average of 1.3 million and more than twice last year's 1.0 million barrel gain. Cumulative injections over the past 13 weeks are running 7.6% below the 5-year average and 7.3% below last year.

Spot propane prices were flat this past week as prices increases over the past 2 days erased earlier declines. Prices have risen by 4.8 cents over the past three weeks. At \$1.533 per gallon, spot prices are 53.9 cents (54.2 %) higher than a year ago but they are 22.5% lower than their peak 2008 price. The usual reporting of Connecticut retail propane heating prices has been discontinued for the season but will resume in October. According to census data, propane is used to heat 2.7% of homes in Connecticut.



# Gasoline



Inventories rose unexpectedly this week. Production and imports both grew as the industry sought to take advantage of high U.S. retail prices. The 0.8 million barrel inventory gain compares to an expected decline of 0.1 million and a 5-year average gain of 0.9 million. Inventories have worsened to 4.3% below last year and to 0.8% below the 5-year average.

Futures prices increased by 1.2 cents this past week. They are at \$2.993/gal, \$0.937 (45.6%) higher than last year but \$0.618 (17.1%) below their 2008 peak. Spot prices fell by 1.8 cents/gal to \$3.057/gal. They are \$1.044 (51.9%) higher than a year ago. Spot prices are 10.4% (\$0.355) below their 2008 peak. Connecticut retail prices rose by 6.0 cents this week and by 11.5 over the past two weeks. They rose to over \$4/gal for the first time in a month. At \$4.026, prices are \$1.175 (41.2%) higher than a year ago. Retail prices are 36.4 cents (8.3%) cents below their 2008 all time high of \$4.390.

