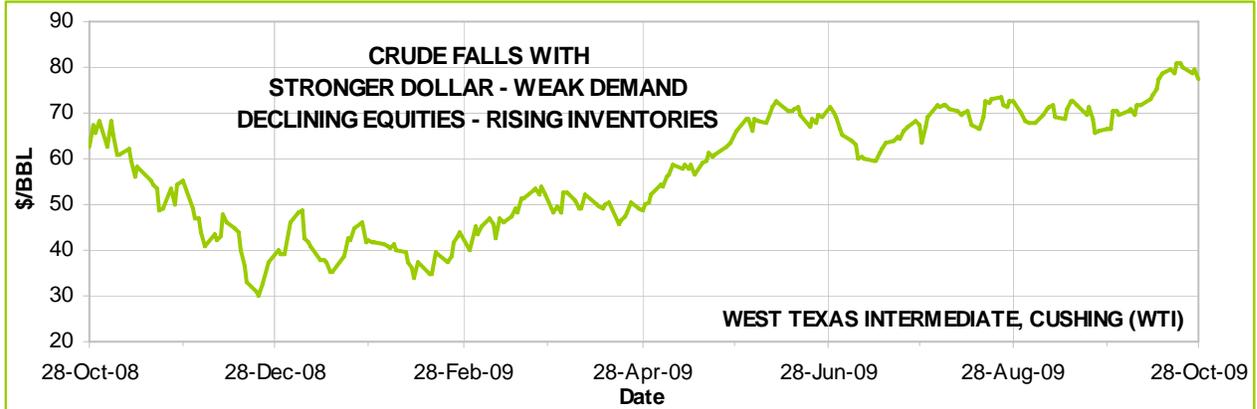


Crude Oil



Crude oil inventories rose by 0.8 million barrels this past week, less than the anticipated 1.4 to 1.8 million, as an increase in refinery inputs lessened the stock build. The increase was slightly higher than the five-year average growth of 0.7 million for this time period. Crude oil stocks are still comfortably 9.0% above last year and 8.9% above the five-year average. The current inventory is at its highest level for this date since 1994.

Crude oil prices fell this week as the market reacted to rising inventories, falling equity prices, a stronger dollar, and weak demand. Spot prices fell by \$3.64 this past week to \$77.36, \$14.56 (23.2%) higher than a year ago but 46.8% lower than last year's peak price. Futures prices closed yesterday at \$80.09, down \$3.76 for the week. They are \$14.73 (22.5%) higher than last year but 45.3% below 2008's peak price.



Natural gas



Natural gas inventories grew by 25 BCF this past week, 42% less than the five-year average of 43 as well as 17% less than the expected 30 BCF. Cumulative injections since the end of the heating season are 5.8% above the five-year average. At 3,759 BCF, current inventory levels are already at their highest level ever and there are still 2 to 3 more weeks of potential additions to natural gas inventories. Stocks are 11.0% higher than a year ago and 12.4% above the five-year average.

Prices have been falling with forecasts of warmer weather, continued weak demand, pessimistic economic news, and record high inventories. The 12-month strip settled at \$5.451 per million BTU, 19.4% lower than a year ago and 59.1% below the 2008 peak. Spot prices fell to \$4.570 per million BTU yesterday. Spot prices are 28.6% lower than a year ago and 65.7% below their 2008 peak price.



Heating oil



Although imports were up 53%, a 4.3% increase in demand and a 2.7% decline in production lead to a 2.1 million barrel fall in inventories. This was much greater than the expected decline of 0.5 million and three times the five-year average decline of 0.7 million. Despite the decline, inventory levels are 32.8% above last year and 30.7% above the five-year average. Heating oil futures and spot prices both fell this past week as they followed the downward path of crude oil. The 12 month strip was down by 10.6 cents and is now at \$2.101/gal, 9 cents (4.2%) higher than a year ago. The spot price fell by 9.5 cents and is at \$1.972 /gal, 2 cents (1.3%) above last year. Connecticut retail heating prices continue to rise. After increasing by 12.0 cents last week, prices rose another 9.2 cents/gal this past week. At \$2.713/gal, prices are 21.8 cents (7.4%) below a year ago and \$2.054 (43.1%) below the 2008 peak price. The highest price in this week's survey was \$3.099 and the lowest was \$2.330. 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
27-Oct-08	3.131	3.599	2.899	2.929	3.999	2.480	2.837	2.999	2.599
12-Oct-09	2.562	2.999	2.140	2.514	2.999	2.199	2.551	2.700	2.379
19-Oct-09	2.671	2.999	2.300	2.650	2.999	2.399	2.703	2.899	2.529
26-Oct-09	2.767	3.099	2.500	2.720	2.999	2.549	2.779	2.950	2.559
	LITCHFIELD			MIDDLESEX			TOLLAND-WINDHAM		
	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW
27-Oct-08	2.745	2.899	2.590	3.159	3.499	2.899	2.787	2.949	2.700
12-Oct-09	2.489	2.599	2.349	2.536	2.599	2.449	2.451	2.599	2.349
19-Oct-09	2.605	2.699	2.449	2.641	2.699	2.590	2.559	2.649	2.449
26-Oct-09	2.733	2.849	2.589	2.726	2.799	2.600	2.668	2.779	2.549
	NEW HAVEN								
	AVG	HIGH	LOW						
27-Oct-08	2.859	3.199	2.149						
12-Oct-09	2.429	2.699	2.180						
19-Oct-09	2.545	2.799	2.329						
26-Oct-09	2.646	2.899	2.330						

OPM 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 October 26, 2009. Figures reflect per gallon prices without discount.

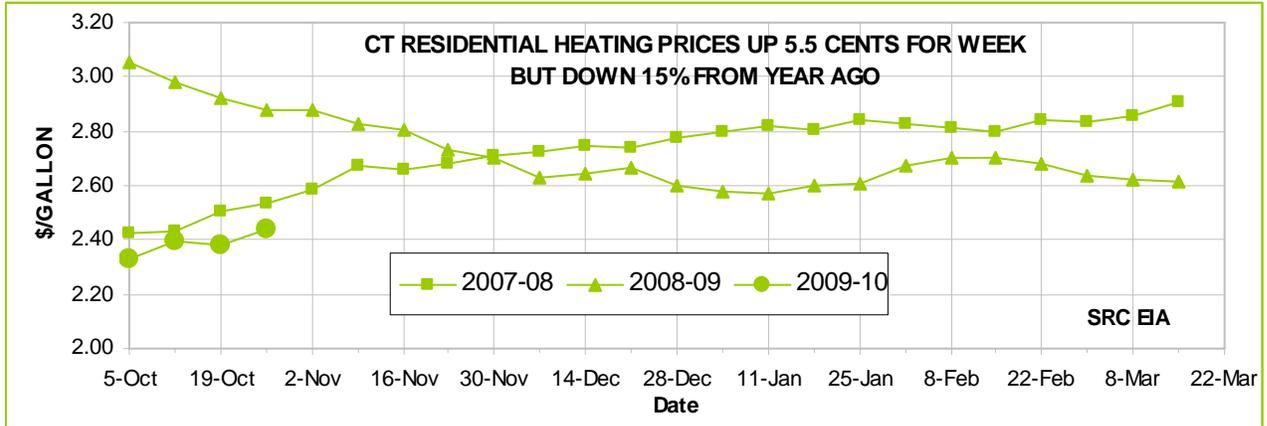
For more information, see www.ct.gov/OPM > Energy Management > Energy Price and Supply Information

Propane



Propane inventories fell another 0.6 million barrels this past week after declining by 1.4 million the previous week. This compares to a normal weekly gain of 0.2 million barrels for the week and 0.4 million for the two week period. Current storage levels exceed last year's levels by 17.4% and they are now 7.4% above the five-year average.

Monday's retail propane heating price survey showed an average price of \$2.438/gal. Although this was 5.5 cents higher than the previous week it is 15.2% (43.8 cents) less than a year ago and 20.2% (61.9 cents) lower than the peak 2008 price. Propane spot prices were 3.2 cents lower this week, settling at \$1.069 per gallon yesterday. This was 13.7 cents (14.7%) higher than a year ago but 46.0% lower than their peak 2008 price. According to census data, 2.7% of homes in Connecticut are heated by propane.



Gasoline



Inventories grew unexpectedly by 1.6 million barrels as production grew by 4.5%, imports were up by 16.5%, and demand fell by 1.0%. A decline of 1.2 million barrels had been expected. The average change for this time period is a decline of 0.4 million. Inventories levels are 6.8% above last year and 5.0% above the five-year average. Inventories are at their highest level for this date since 1991. The gasoline inventory gain should have a bearish impact on crude prices.

Wednesday's spot price was \$2.013/gal, 37 cents (22.3%) higher than last year. The 12-month strip, at \$2.080/gal, was 50 cents (31.8%) higher than a year ago. Connecticut retail prices rose by 10.5 cents/gal this past week, reflecting previous increases in crude oil prices and wholesale gasoline prices. At \$2.804/gal, prices are 10 cents (3.7%) higher than a year ago but 36.1% below last year's peak. Retail gasoline price increases over a year ago (3.7%) are lower than for crude oil (14.6%) or for wholesale gasoline (22.3%).

