

## Crude Oil



Although imports fell by 6.1%, a 0.9% decline in inputs to refineries and a 2.4% increase in domestic production lead to a 2.1 million barrel inventory gain. This was in sharp contrast to expectations ranging from a 1.3 million barrel decline to a modest gain of 0.4 million. Crude oil stocks are comfortably 6.1% above last year and 7.5% above the five-year average. Current inventory levels are at the second highest level for this date since 1991.

Crude oil prices fell this past week as the market reacted to an unexpected inventory gain, a stronger dollar, and continued weak demand for refined petroleum products. Spot prices fell by 41 cents this past week to \$76.61, \$29.59 (62.9%) higher than a year ago but 47.3% lower than last year's peak price. Futures prices closed yesterday at \$81.71, down 53 cents for the week. They are \$28.02 (52.2%) higher than last year but 44.2% below 2008's peak price. Because of weak demand, refinery utilization rates are at their lowest levels since before 1990.

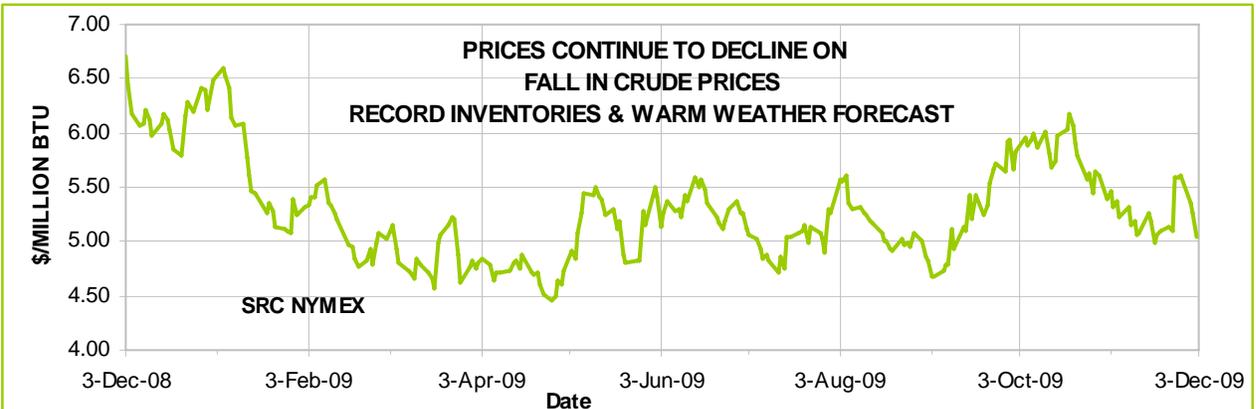


## Natural gas



Natural gas inventories grew by 2 BCF this week, in sharp contrast to the five-year average decline of 42 BCF. Cumulative injections since the end of the heating season are 9.4% above the five-year average. At 3,837 BCF, this weeks inventory levels are at record highs, surpassing the previous high by 8.2%. Stocks are 14.0% higher than a year ago and 14.5% above the five-year average.

Futures prices fell 54 cents per million BTU this past week. Forecasts for warmer weather, continued weak demand, record high inventories, and the decline in crude oil prices have driven prices down by \$1.02 over the past 6 weeks. The 12-month strip settled yesterday at \$5.047 per million BTU, 25.5% lower than a year ago and 62.2% below the 2008 peak. After falling to \$3.12 last week because of the long holiday weekend, spot prices recovered to \$4.670 per million BTU yesterday. Spot prices are 30.2% lower than a year ago and 64.9% below their 2008 peak price.

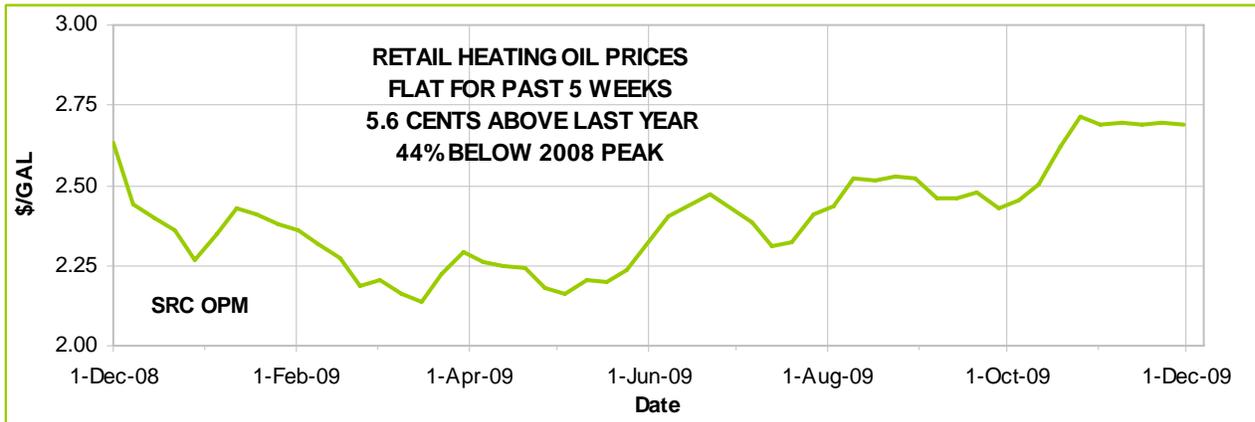


# Heating oil



Distillate stocks fell by 1.2 million barrels this past week. This compares to an expected decline of only 0.3 million and the five-year average gain off 0.8 million. However, inventory levels, at 32.3% above last year and 30.2% above the five-year average, remain more than adequate.

The 12 month strip rose by 1.0 cents this week and is now at \$2.135/gal, 43 cents (25.1%) higher than a year ago. The spot price rose by 3.2 cents and is at \$1.984 /gal, 29 cents (17.2%) above last year. Both the spot price and the 12 month strip are approximately 50% below their 2008 peaks. Connecticut retail heating oil prices fell by 0.6 cents this past week but are up by 26.2 cents over the past 2 months. At \$2.691/gal, prices are 5.6 cents (2.1%) above a year ago but are \$2.08 (43.5%) below the 2008 peak price. The highest price in this week's survey was \$3.199 and the lowest was \$2.359. According to census data, 49.1% of dwelling units in Connecticut heat with oil. Although spot prices and futures prices are 25.1% and 17.2% above last year, retail prices are up only 2.1%.



## Connecticut Regional Heating Oil Prices

	FAIRFIELD			HARTFORD			NEW LONDON		
	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW
1-Dec-08	2.882	3.149	2.699	2.608	3.490	2.269	2.591	2.799	2.379
16-Nov-09	2.788	3.199	2.340	2.695	2.999	2.399	2.716	2.899	2.429
23-Nov-09	2.820	3.199	2.390	2.696	2.999	2.489	2.711	2.899	2.439
30-Nov-09	2.807	3.199	2.390	2.685	2.999	2.489	2.709	2.899	2.449
	LITCHFIELD			MIDDLESEX			TOLLAND-WINDHAM		
	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW
1-Dec-08	2.465	2.599	2.250	2.757	2.990	2.499	2.499	2.699	2.420
16-Nov-09	2.703	2.869	2.529	2.712	2.799	2.599	2.603	2.699	2.499
23-Nov-09	2.697	2.869	2.599	2.705	2.799	2.599	2.664	2.799	2.499
30-Nov-09	2.697	2.869	2.599	2.726	2.899	2.600	2.621	2.749	2.499
	NEW HAVEN								
	AVG	HIGH	LOW						
1-Dec-08	2.576	2.999	1.926						
16-Nov-09	2.606	2.940	2.050						
23-Nov-09	2.606	2.799	2.389						
30-Nov-09	2.609	2.890	2.359						

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 November 30, 2009. Figures reflect per gallon prices without discount.

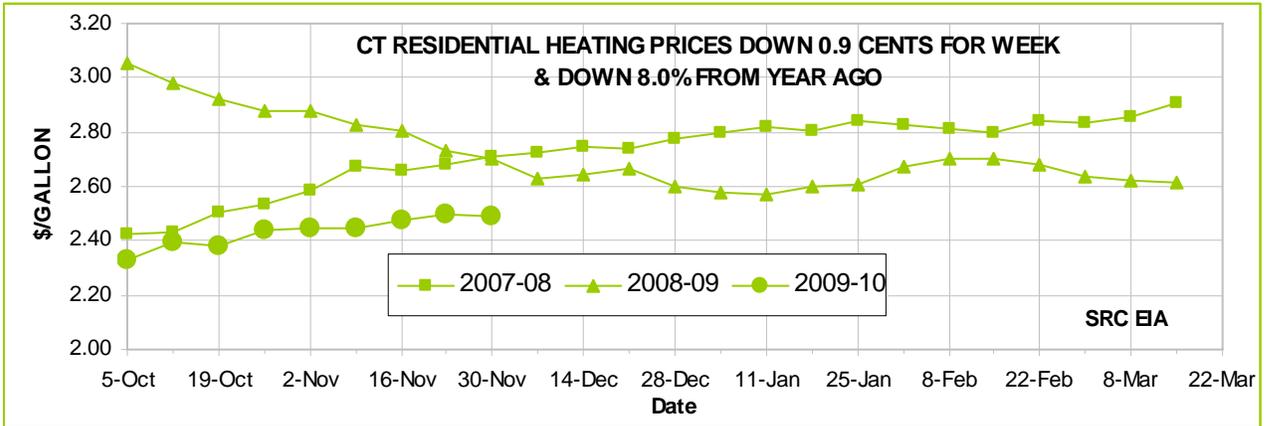
For more information, see [www.ct.gov/OPM](http://www.ct.gov/OPM) > Energy Management > Energy Price and Supply Information

# Propane



Propane inventory levels declined by 0.9 million barrels this past week compared to the five-year average decline of 30,000 barrels. Over the past 7 weeks inventories have fallen by 10.3 million compared to a normal decline of only 0.8 million. Current storage levels exceed last year's levels by 4.0% but they are 3.4% below the five-year average.

Monday's retail propane heating price survey showed an average price of \$2.487/gal, 0.9 cents/gal lower than the previous week. Prices are 8.0% (21.7 cents) less than a year ago and 18.7% (57 cents) lower than the peak 2008 price. Propane spot prices were 7.0 cents higher this week, settling at \$1.160 per gallon yesterday. This was 50.8 cents (77.8%) higher than a year ago but 41.4% lower than their peak 2008 price. According to census data, 2.7% of homes in Connecticut are heated by propane.



# Gasoline



Inventories rose by 4.0 million barrels this week as weak demand and increased imports offset a slight decline in production. The inventory growth was approximately 4 times the expected gain of 1.0 million and as well as the five-year average gain of 0.9 million. Inventories levels are 7.5% above last year and 6.5% above the five-year average. Inventories are at their highest level for this date since 1993.

Wednesday's spot price was \$1.978/gal, 88 cents (79.8%) higher than last year. The 12-month strip, at \$2.126/gal, was 85 cents (66.7%) higher than a year ago. Connecticut retail prices have been flat over the past 5 weeks, reflecting the narrow price band in which crude oil has been trading. At \$2.806/gal, retail prices are 83.4 cents (42.3%) higher than a year ago but 36.1% below last year's peak. While futures prices and spot prices have risen by 67% and 80% in the past year, Connecticut retail prices have only risen by 42% because of continued weak demand.

