



Department of Economic Development  
 Division of Energy

**MISSOURI ENERGY BULLETIN**

December 26, 2017

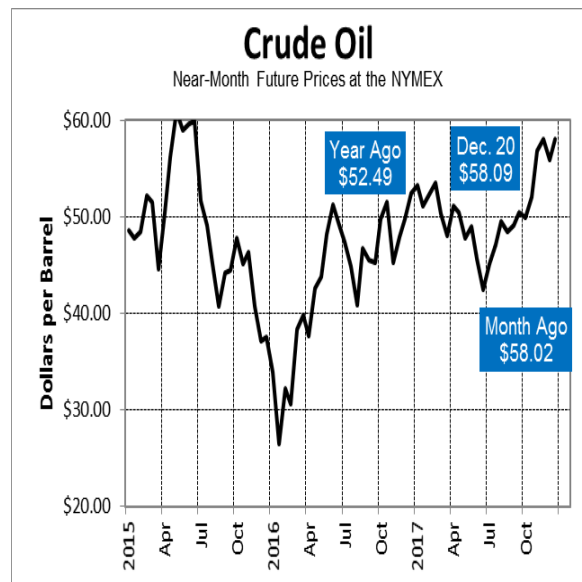
*(Data are for the week ended December 15, 2017, unless stated otherwise.)*

**Crude Oil**

**U.S. crude oil prices increased by \$0.07 to \$58.09 per barrel in the past month, 11 percent higher compared to this time last year.**

<b>Crude Oil - Near Month Future Prices (dollars per barrel)</b>					
	<u>12-20-17</u>	<u>11-22-17</u>	<u>change</u>	<u>12-21-16</u>	<u>change</u>
<b>NYMEX</b>	<b>\$58.09</b>	<b>\$58.02</b>	<b>up 0%</b>	<b>\$52.49</b>	<b>up 11%</b>

- Crude oil futures for January delivery on the NYMEX ended \$0.53, or 0.9 percent higher on December 20 to settle at \$58.09 per barrel, after Energy Information Administration (EIA) data showed a larger-than-expected drop in U.S. crude inventories.
- According to the EIA, domestic crude supplies fell 6.5 million barrels (MMB) for the week ended December 15. Analysts surveyed had forecast a fall of 3.2 MMB.
- Compared to this time last year, the U.S. crude oil futures settlement price of \$58.09 is \$5.60, or 11 percent, higher.
- Domestic crude production was slightly higher than in the prior week at nearly 9.8 MMB/D. Last year at this time, production stood at nearly 8.8 MMB/D. Total crude imports were higher from the prior week at over 7.8 MMB/D. Imports at this time last year averaged nearly 8.5 MMB/D.



- U.S. crude oil supplies decreased 6.5 MMB on the week to 436.5 MMB. U.S. supplies are 49.0 MMB lower compared to this time last year.
- U.S. refinery crude runs were higher from the prior week with refiners processing over 17.0 MMB/D. U.S. refinery capacity utilization was higher on the week at 94.1 percent. Last year at this time, capacity use stood at 91.5 percent.
- Gasoline output was lower on the week at nearly 10.1 MMB/D. Output was nearly 10.2 MMB/D at this time last year. Distillate output was lower from the prior week at over 5.2 MMB/D. Last year at this time, production stood at over 5.1 MMB/D.
- Total petroleum products supplied to market, a measure of consumption, over the last four-week period stood at 20.3 MMB/D, up by 2.6 percent compared to the same period last year.

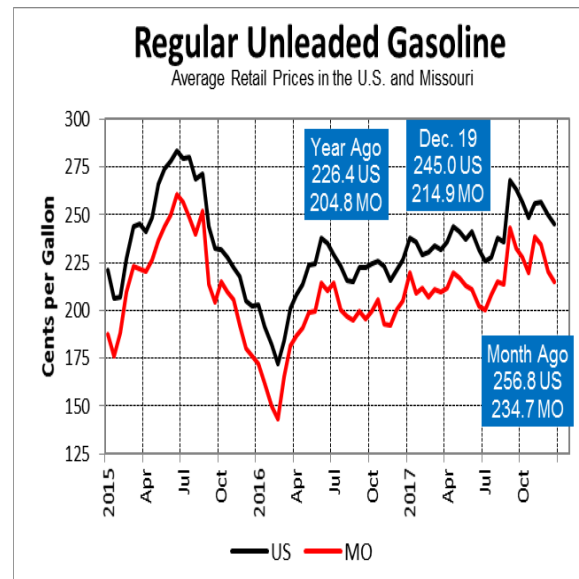
## Transportation Fuels

On December 19, Missouri's statewide average retail price for gasoline was almost \$2.15 per gallon, down 19.8 cents in the past month and up 10.1 cents in the past year.

Regular Unleaded Gasoline - Retail Prices (cents per gallon)					
	12-19-17	11-21-17	change	12-19-16	change
US	245.0	256.8	down 5%	226.4	up 8%
Missouri	214.9	234.7	down 8%	204.8	up 5%

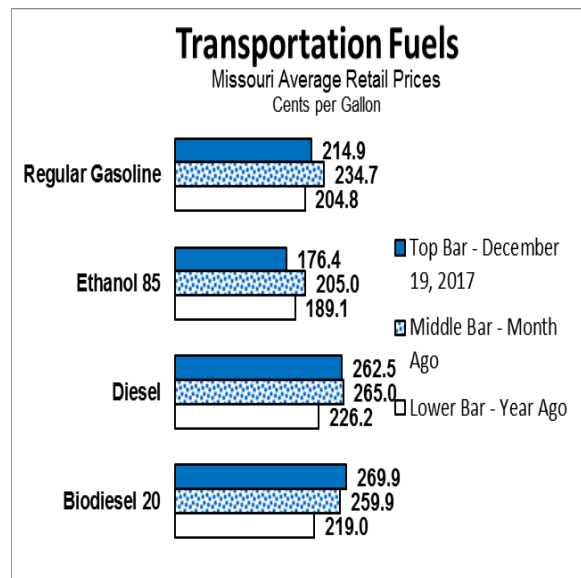
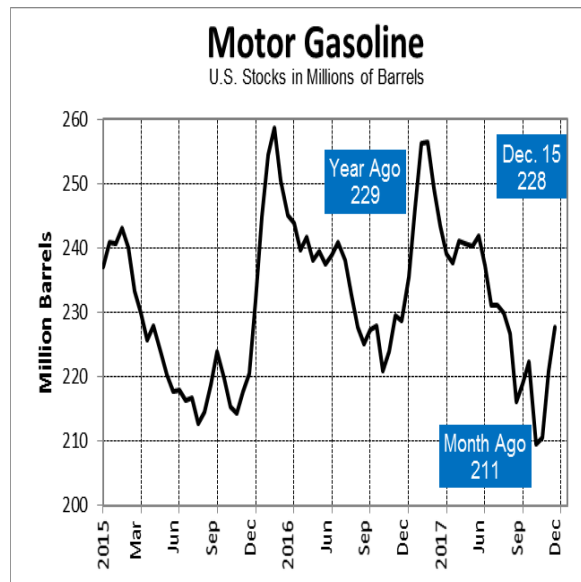
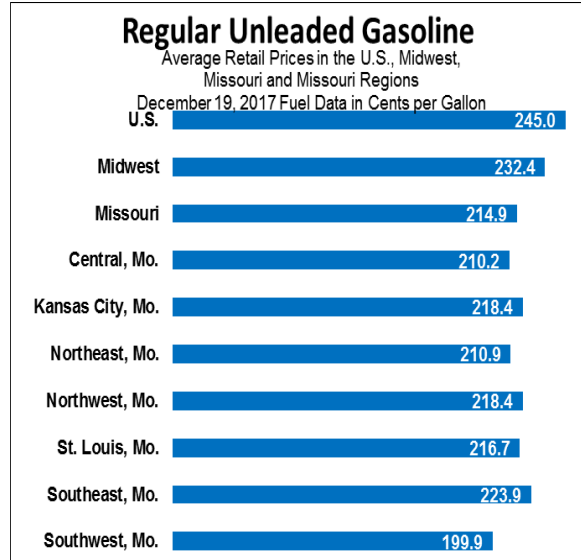
Diesel Fuel - Retail Prices (cents per gallon)					
	12-19-17	11-21-17	change	12-19-16	change
US	290.1	291.2	down 0%	252.7	up 15%
Missouri	262.5	265.0	down 1%	226.2	up 16%

- On December 19, Missouri's average retail price for gasoline was almost \$2.15 per gallon, down 19.8 cents in the past month.
- Missouri's average price for diesel fuel was nearly \$2.63 per gallon, down 2.4 cents in the past month.
- Compared to last year at this time, Missouri's average retail gasoline price is 10.1 cents per gallon, or 5 percent, higher while the average retail diesel fuel price is 36.3 cents per gallon, or 16 percent, higher.
- At \$2.45, the U.S. average price for regular gasoline is 11.8 cents per gallon, or 5 percent, lower compared to last month.



- The U.S. average price for regular gasoline is 18.6 cents per gallon, or 8 percent, higher compared to this time last year. In the past week, the U.S. average decreased by 3.5 cents per gallon.

- Gasoline imports increased from the prior week at nearly 0.5 MMB/D. Last year at this time, imports stood at nearly 0.5 MMB/D.
- Implied demand for gasoline was higher on the week at over 9.4 MMB/D. Demand stood at nearly 9.3 MMB/D at this time last year.
- In the past four weeks, U.S. gasoline demand has averaged over 9.0 MMB/D.
- U.S. gasoline supplies were higher on the week at nearly 228.0 MMB. U.S. supplies are 1.0 MMB lower compared to this time last year.
- Distillate stocks increased 1.7 MMB on the week at 128.8 MMB and stand 24.7 MMB lower compared to the same period last year.
- Distillate demand decreased on the week at over 3.9 MMB/D. Demand stood at over 4.5 MMB/D at this time last year. On a four-week average, distillate demand was lower at nearly 4.0 MMB/D.
- On December 19, Missouri's average retail price for E85 motor fuel, conventional motor fuel containing 85 percent ethanol, was over \$1.76 per gallon, 38.5 cents, or 18.0 percent, lower than the average price for conventional motor gasoline.
- On December 19, Missouri's average retail price for B20, diesel fuel containing 20 percent biofuel, was nearly \$2.70 per gallon, 7.4 cents per gallon, or 2.8 percent, lower than the average price for conventional diesel fuel.
- According to EIA's latest *Short Term Energy Outlook* dated December 12, 2017, U.S. regular gasoline retail prices, which averaged \$2.43 per gallon in 2015 and \$2.15 per gallon in 2016, are projected to average \$2.43 in 2017.



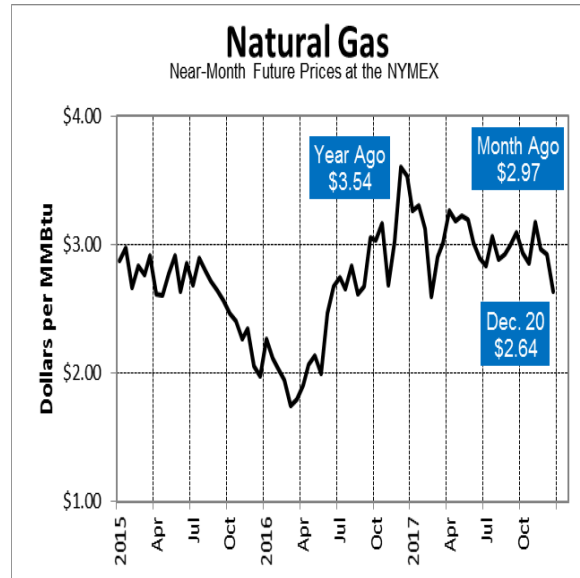
## Natural Gas

Approximately 51.6 percent (1,220,485) of Missouri households use natural gas to heat their homes. (Data updated from the most recent U.S. Census report.) Natural gas is also used to produce goods and electricity.

**On December 20, 2017, natural gas futures on the NYMEX closed at \$2.64 per million British thermal units (MMBtu), down \$0.90, or 25 percent, in the past year.**

Natural Gas - Near Month Future Prices (dollars per MMBtu)					
	<u>12-20-17</u>	<u>11-22-17</u>	<u>change</u>	<u>12-21-16</u>	<u>change</u>
NYMEX	\$2.64	\$2.97	down 11%	\$3.54	down 25%

- The January 2018 NYMEX futures contract settled at \$2.64 per MMBtu on December 20, down 5.5 cents from the prior settlement.
- In the past month, the futures contract has decreased 33 cents, or 11 percent.
- Futures are down \$0.90, or 25 percent, in the past year.
- Working gas in storage was 3,444 billion cubic feet (Bcf), 2.4 percent below the five-year average inventory level for the week. According to EIA's December 21, 2017 *Weekly Natural Gas Storage Report*, U.S. natural gas supplies are 183 Bcf, or 5.0 percent, lower than last year at this time.



- According to the EIA, net withdrawals from storage totaled 182 Bcf for the week ending December 15, compared with the five-year (2012–16) average net withdrawal of 125 Bcf and last year's net withdrawals of 200 Bcf during the same week.
- Temperatures fell substantially this storage week compared to last week, though cumulative heating degree-days (HDDs) this heating season are still well below normal. Temperatures in the Lower 48 states averaged 37°F this storage week, 1°F lower than the normal and 1°F higher than last year at this time. HDDs in the Lower 48 states totaled 199, compared with 207 last year and a normal of 192.
- According to the EIA, total U.S. consumption of natural gas fell by 8 percent compared with the previous report week. Natural gas consumed for power generation declined by 8 percent week over week, while industrial sector consumption decreased by 3 percent. In the residential and commercial sectors, consumption declined by 10 percent with warmer-than-normal-temperatures for most of the country and temperatures close to normal for most of the eastern seaboard. Natural gas exports to Mexico increased 2 percent.

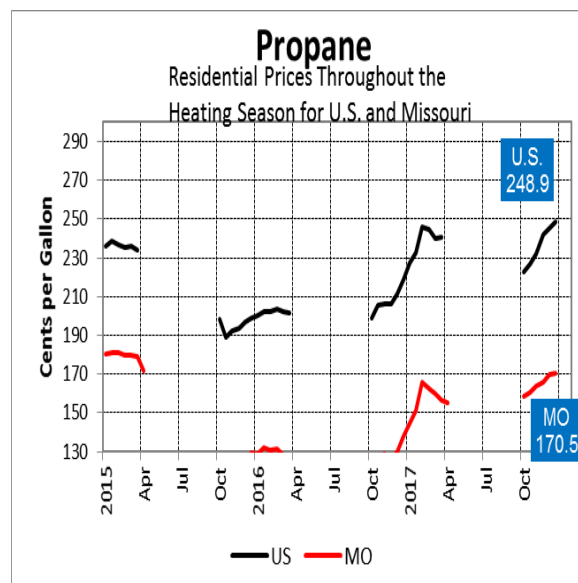
## Propane

Approximately 9.2 percent (216,853) of Missouri households use propane to heat their homes. (Data updated from the most recent U.S. Census report.) Propane is also used to support commercial operations, produce goods, dry grain harvests and fuel vehicles.

**On December 19, the average Missouri retail price for residential propane was nearly \$1.71 per gallon, up 32.6 cents, or 24 percent, in the past year.**

<i>Propane - Retail Prices (cents per gallon)</i>					
	<u>12-19-17</u>	<u>11-20-17</u>	<u>change</u>	<u>12-19-16</u>	<u>change</u>
Missouri	170.5	166.1	up 3%	137.9	up 24%

- According to the Division of Energy's most recent statewide propane price survey conducted December 19, the average Missouri retail residential propane price was nearly \$1.71 per gallon, up 32.6 cents compared to last year at this time.
- According to the survey, the highest Missouri retail residential price for propane was \$2.10 per gallon. The lowest retail price was \$1.40 per gallon.
- U.S. propane stocks decreased by 3.3 MMB last week to 71.3 MMB as of December 15, 2017, 7.1 MMB or 9.0 percent, lower than the five-year average inventory level for this same time of year. Midwest inventories decreased by nearly 0.7 MMB to over 23.6 MMB last week. Midwest inventories stood at over 24.8 MMB at this time last year.



- U.S. propane consumption decreased on the week at over 1.3 MMB/D. Consumption stood at nearly 1.5 MMB/D last year at this time.

**For more information on propane, please visit:**

<http://energy.mo.gov/energy/services/be-prepared-for-propane>

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The *Missouri Energy Bulletin* is distributed twice a month by the Missouri Department of Economic Development's Division of Energy. The Division of Energy collects transportation and propane heating fuel prices from several retail providers located throughout the state. To preserve confidentiality, price data are averaged and reported by region. The bulletin is a public resource made available to state government decision-makers, other interested individuals upon request and online at the division's Web address. The department thanks each of the following in helping to provide accurate, timely data on fuel supplies and prices: the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration; the National Association of State Energy Officials; the St. Louis AAA Auto Club; and Missouri's energy retailers. For more information, contact: MO Dept. of Economic Development, Division of Energy, P.O. Box 1766, Jefferson City, MO 65102-1766; Phone: 573-751-2254; Fax: 573-751-6860; Email: [energy@ded.mo.gov](mailto:energy@ded.mo.gov); Web Address: <http://energy.mo.gov/energy/stay-informed/missouri-energy-bulletins>.