



News Release

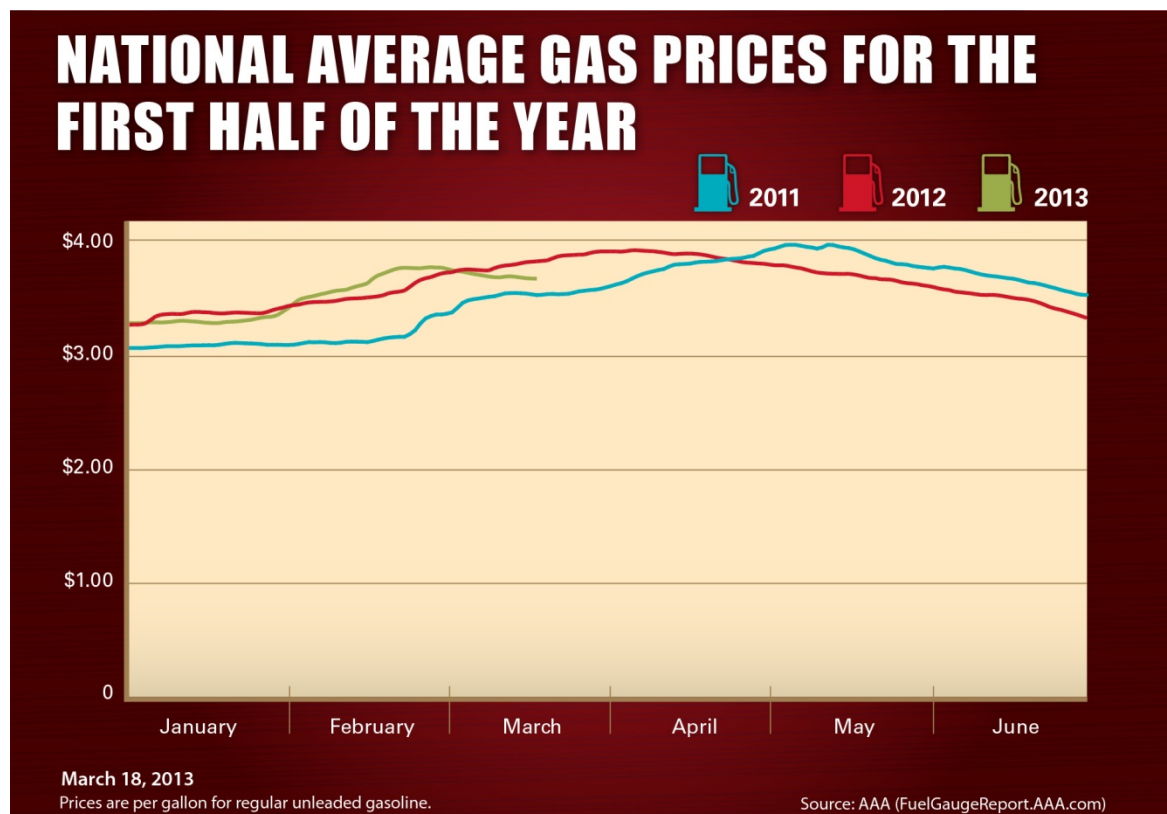
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AAA: MARCH'S DECLINE OF GAS PRICES AT THE PUMP

Easing the financial pressure at the pump for motorists

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA, (March 19, 2013) - The average price at the pump has registered a month-over-month decline since January 11. The national average had fallen for five consecutive days and 17 of 20 days since the peak 2013 price to date of \$3.79 on Feb. 27. **Since the beginning of March, the Hampton Roads average price of gasoline declined by .10 as of today, averaging to \$3.54 per gallon.**

While the recent price movement has varied by state, the year-over-year savings have been nearly universal. Motorists in every state, with the exception of North Dakota, pay less than the same day last year, led by nine states where prices have dropped by at least 20 cents and one state (Ill.) where the price is more than 30 cents lower.



After declining during the second half of February, West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil prices have posted slight gains in recent weeks on positive economic news. These gains continued today, despite traders keeping a wary eye on fresh signs of economic instability in the eurozone, centered on a 10-billion-euro bailout package for –

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Cyprus. Crude oil futures are priced in U.S. dollars. When economies weaken overseas, the dollar strengthens and the price of oil becomes relatively more expensive. Oil futures subsequently become a less attractive investment, which is expected to exert downward pressure on prices. While the value of the U.S. dollar did rise today, WTI futures managed to eek out a gain as well, settling 29 cents higher at \$93.74 at the close of formal trading on the NYMEX.

“Nationally and locally, we are seeing a steady decrease in gas prices,” said Georjeane Blumling, spokesman for AAA Tidewater Virginia. “Hopefully, it will continue to decline and give motorists reprieve at the pumps.”

As part of North America's largest motoring and leisure travel organization, AAA Tidewater Virginia provides its more than 325,000 members with travel, insurance, financial and automotive-related services. Since its founding AAA Tidewater Virginia has been a leader and advocate for the safety and security of all travelers. For more information, visit AAA.com and follow us on Twitter at [Twitter.com/AAATWnews](https://twitter.com/AAATWnews).

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