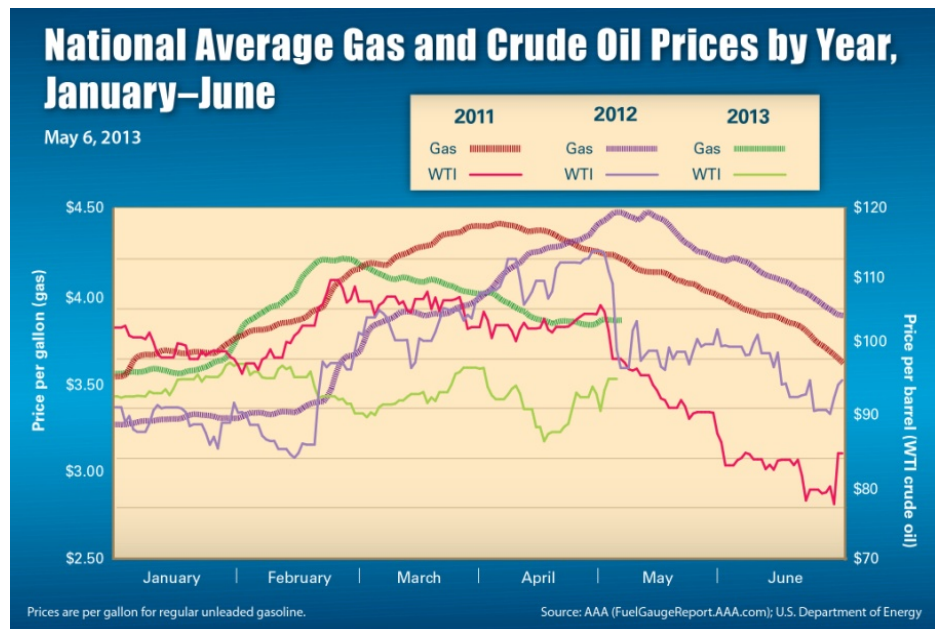


GAS PRICE AVERAGE LOWER THAN A YEAR AGO

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va., (May 8, 2013) - Today's national average price for a gallon of regular unleaded gasoline is \$3.54. This price is two cents more expensive than one week ago, but it remains five cents less than one month ago and 22 cents less than one year ago. After registering a week-over-week decline every day since March 1 (61 consecutive days), the national average has posted a week-over-week increase for six straight days. The national average is currently 25 cents below the peak 2013 price to date of \$3.79 on February 27. In 2011 the national average for regular unleaded gasoline peaked at \$3.98 on May 5. In 2012 the price peaked at \$3.94 on April 5 and 6.

The Virginia's average on a gallon of gas today is \$3.36, 15 cents less than a month ago and 29 cents less a year ago. In Hampton Roads, the current gas price is \$3.36, 15 cents less than a month ago and 29 cents less a year ago.

On April 17 West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil settled at \$86.68 at the close of formal trading on the NYMEX. At the close today the traditional U.S. benchmark settled at \$96.16 — up 55 cents on the day and almost \$10 in less than three weeks.



These higher oil prices have been broadly supported by signs of economic recovery, however news over the weekend of an Israeli airstrike in Syria raised fresh concerns of a possible disruption to oil supplies in the Middle East and added to the upward pressure on prices. In the spring of both 2011 and 2012 oil prices rose substantially on violence and escalating geopolitical tensions with Libya and Iran respectively, before tumbling as these concerns were alleviated heading into the summer.

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