



**News Release**

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**VIRGINIA’S GAS PRICES CLIMB 35 CENTS IN 30 DAYS**

**VIRGINIA BEACH, VA (Monday, February 18, 2013)** – Gas prices have soared 35 cents in the past 30 days in the Commonwealth, forcing Virginia motorists to shell out more and more of their hard earned money to fill their gas tanks. In fact, prices went up a whopping 11 cents per gallon since Friday in Virginia and currently average \$3.61 for a gallon of self-serve regular gasoline.

The high prices motorists are seeing at the pump are a function of the age-old tension between supply and demand, and strangely enough, both are down now. Crude oil supplies are also down in the wake of OPEC’s decision several months ago to lower production by nearly one million barrels per day. Now, the cost of crude oil has sky-rocketed, causing gas at the pumps to soar.

**Gas Prices as of February 18, 2013, for a gallon of self-serve regular gasoline:**

	<b>Price Today</b>	<b>Change since FRIDAY</b>	<b>Price Last Month</b>	<b>Price Last Year</b>
<b>National</b>	\$3.73	<i>Up 9 cents</i>	\$3.30	\$3.56
<b>Virginia</b>	\$3.61	<i>Up 11 cents</i>	\$3.26	\$3.54
<b>Norfolk</b>	\$3.58	<i>Up 9 cents</i>	\$3.23	\$3.48
<b>Charlottesville</b>	\$3.60	<i>Up 16 cents</i>	\$3.19	\$3.47
<b>Richmond</b>	\$3.59	<i>Up 11 cents</i>	\$3.21	\$3.48
<b>Roanoke</b>	\$3.57	<i>Up 14 cents</i>	\$3.19	\$3.56

American motorists are now spending in the neighborhood of \$1.3 billion per day to fill their gas tanks. The average household spent \$2,912 for gasoline in 2012, which makes up almost 4 percent of pre-tax income, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. That figure ties 2008 for the highest percentage in roughly 30 years.

“In essence, for each 50 cent increase in the price at the pump, motorists will approximately spend \$600 more per year,” said Georjeane Blumling, Vice President of Public Affairs. “These rapidly rising gas prices are especially tough on people already trying to do more with less. Fuel conservation is becoming critical for people trying to balance a family budget.”

With motorists shelling out a whole lot more money on fuel price and spending a greater percentage of their monthly budgets on gas, AAA reminds motorists of several AAA tools that can help save money on gas:

**Let AAA find the lowest gas prices**

Drivers equipped with the AAA TripTik® Mobile iPhone application can find the lowest gas prices close to home or on the road. Using AAA TripTik® Mobile, the first free app offering frequently updated gas prices, motorists can compare fuel costs at stations near to their location or in a specified area. The AAA app’s GPS technology enables users to quickly locate stations on a map and see the price for all available grades of gasoline. AAA also provides gas station location and fuel price information at AAA.com with the online [TripTik® Travel Planner](#).

**AAA's Fuel Cost Calculator**

The [Fuel Cost Calculator](#) shows travelers what their drive trip will cost by factoring in the make and model of their car, and the distance to the final destination.

*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](http://AAA.com) and follow us on Twitter at [Twitter.com/AAATWnews](https://twitter.com/AAATWnews).*

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