



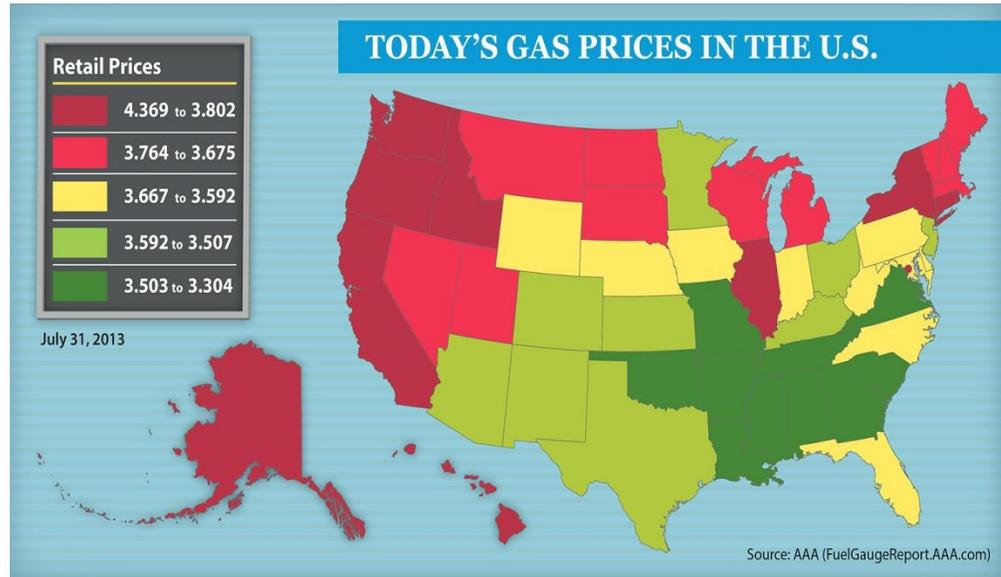
## News Release

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### AAA TIDEWATER FINDS VIRGINIA AMONG FEW WITH LOWER GAS PRICES

**VIRGINIA BEACH, VA**, (July 31, 2013) – Virginia has averaged lower gas prices for July compared to surrounding states. The average gas price in Virginia is currently \$3.46 for regular unleaded gasoline, down three cents from last week. This is good news since the national average increased 14 cents per gallon (3.9 percent) in July from \$3.49 to \$3.63, marking the largest monthly increase since February.

Unfortunately, this trend may not continue into August where the potential for late-summer hurricanes and refinery problems may cause an increase in prices. Conversely, if refineries stay active and no major hurricanes threaten the Gulf Coast we may see gas prices remain flat or even drop.



“July was a volatile month for consumers with gas prices reeling from the lowest to the highest averages seen in months.” said Georjeane Blumling, spokesman for AAA Tidewater Virginia. “A combination of expensive crude oil costs, refinery glitches and rising summer demand resulted in sharp price spikes for many motorists.” Gulf Coast refineries have resulted in lower prices compared to the rest of the country. The highest prices in the continental U.S. are in Connecticut where high taxes and recent refinery problems along the East Coast have pushed prices above \$4 per gallon.

*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/AAATidewaterVA](https://twitter.com/AAATidewaterVA).*

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