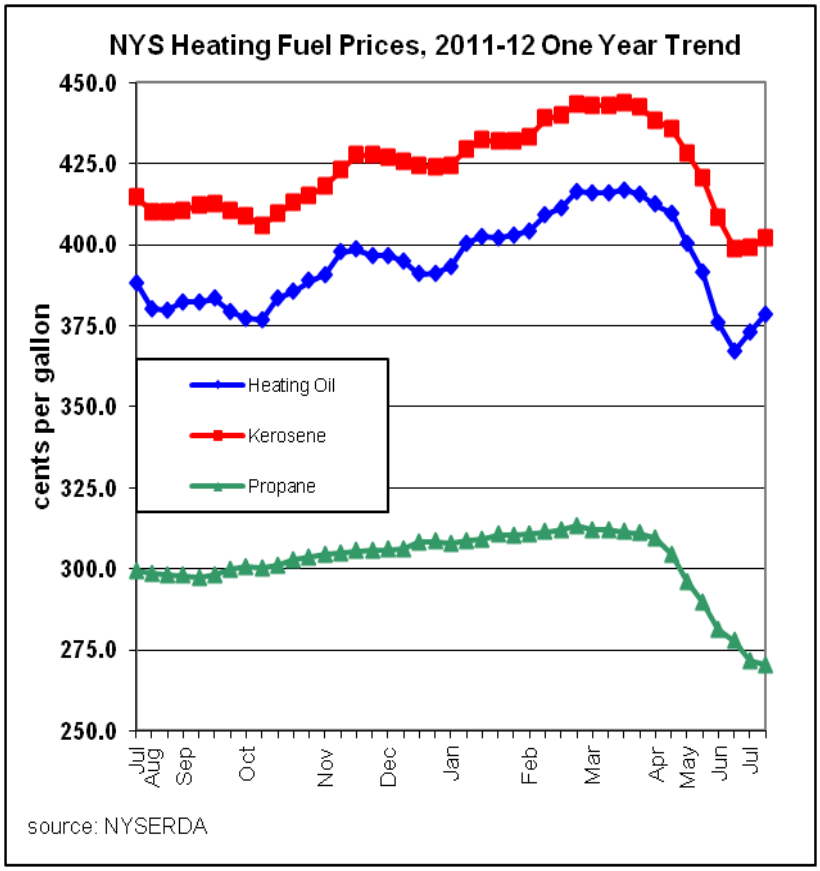
NYSERDA Heating Fuels Report

July 30, 2012

Highlights

- Mid-Atlantic heating oil inventories (greater than 500 ppm sulfur) are 43.1% below the five year average as the regional market adjusts to New York's transition to ultra-low sulfur home heating oil.
- Spot prices of propane are significantly below year-ago levels while Mid-Atlantic propane inventories are higher than the 5-year average, putting downward pressure on the retail price of propane in New York.
- New York statewide average retail prices for heating oil and kerosene increased for the second straight survey period while propane continued to decline.



Retail Petroleum Prices—On a statewide basis since the last survey on July 16th, prices increased 5.6¢/gallon (1.5%) to 378.6¢/gallon for heating oil, 3.0¢/gallon (0.8%) to 402.3¢/gallon for kerosene, and decreased 1.3¢/gallon (0.5%) to 270.3¢/gallon for propane. Compared to a year earlier, prices decreased 9.5¢/gallon (2.4%) for heating oil, 12.5¢/gallon (3.0%) for kerosene, and 29.2¢/gallon (9.7%) for propane.

Crude Oil Prices—For the week ending 7/27/12, WTI crude oil spot prices averaged $88.88/bbl, a decrease of $1.46/bbl (1.6%) from the week-ago average of $90.34/bbl. WTI prices are now $8.95/bbl (9.1%) below the year-ago weekly average of $97.83/bbl. The all-time weekly average high of $142.52/bbl occurred on 7/03/08.

Spot Natural Gas Prices—For the week ending 7/27/12, Henry Hub natural gas spot prices averaged $3.202 per million Btu (mmBtu), an increase of $0.280/mmBtu (9.6%) from the prior week level of $2.922/mmBtu. Prices are currently $1.204/mmBtu (27.3%) below the year-earlier weekly average of $4.406/mmBtu.

Residential Natural Gas Prices—The NYS average price in May 2012 was $1.390/therm, an increase of $0.108/therm (8.5%) from the prior month of $1.282/therm, and was $0.155/therm (10.1%) lower than the year earlier average of $1.545/therm.

Middle Atlantic Stocks—Current and historic heating fuel inventory data is presented in the table below.

Middle Atlantic Region, Weekly Inventories (million barrels)

Fuel Type	7/27/2012	7/20/2012	% Change vs. Last Week	Year Ago	% Change vs. Last Year	5-Year Average	% Change vs. 5-Year Avg
Highway Diesel (0-15 ppm)	10.2	9.8	4.3%	10.6	-3.5%	9.4	9.1%
Non-road Diesel (15-500 ppm)	0.5	0.4	11.0%	3.3	-86.0%	3.3	-85.7%
Home Heating Oil (>500 ppm)	11.9	12.1	-1.3%	18.8	-36.4%	21.0	-43.1%
Propane	2.598	2.494	4.2%	2.176	19.4%	2.086	24.5%
#6 Residual Oil	6.4	6.8	-6.2%	7.6	-15.7%	10.6	-39.4%
US Natural Gas	3,217	3,189	0.9%	2,745	17.2%	2,810	14.5%
US Crude Oil	373.6	380.1	-1.7%	355.0	5.2%	340.7	9.7%

Notes: Natural Gas in billion cubic feet (Bcf), Middle Atlantic is DE, DC, MD, NJ, NY, and PA

ppm = parts per million sulfur content

Source: US DOE/EIA

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New York State Retail #2 Heating Oil Posted Credit Prices (cents per gallon)					
REGION	7/30/2012	7/16/2012	% Change vs. Prior Survey	Year Ago	% Change vs. Last Year
Long Island	398.2	390.7	1.9%	405.2	-1.7%
New York City	399.4	392.7	1.7%	409.2	-2.4%
Lower Hudson	383.5	377.1	1.7%	393.4	-2.5%
Upper Hudson	368.7	360.3	2.3%	379.8	-2.9%
Capital District	367.0	361.6	1.5%	373.4	-1.7%
North Country	366.2	365.3	0.2%	373.4	-1.9%
Central	365.2	360.4	1.3%	374.9	-2.6%
Western	358.0	357.9	0.0%	373.5	-4.1%
Statewide	**378.6**	**373.0**	**1.5%**	**388.1**	**-2.4%**
New York State Retail Propane Posted Credit Prices - 1,100 gallon usage category (cents per gallon)					
Long Island	314.5	316.1	-0.5%	339.3	-7.3%
Mid-Hudson	278.2	280.1	-0.7%	312.4	-10.9%
Capital District	291.0	288.2	1.0%	318.2	-8.5%
North Country	305.6	307.3	-0.6%	319.4	-4.3%
Central	239.0	240.5	-0.6%	278.3	-14.1%
Western	244.9	246.9	-0.8%	269.3	-9.1%
Statewide	**270.3**	**271.6**	**-0.5%**	**299.5**	**-9.7%**
New York State Retail Kerosene Posted Credit Prices (cents per gallon)					
Mid-Hudson	411.1	406.8	1.1%	430.2	-4.4%
Capital District	405.1	399.7	1.4%	413.3	-2.0%
North Country	390.1	390.7	-0.2%	396.9	-1.7%
Central	398.2	395.0	0.8%	412.5	-3.5%
Western	398.2	396.7	0.4%	406.1	-1.9%
Statewide	**402.3**	**399.3**	**0.8%**	**414.8**	**-3.0%**
New York State Average Residential Natural Gas Prices ($/therm)					
REGION	May 2012	April 2012	% Change vs. Prior Month	May 2011	% Change vs. Last Year
Statewide	**1.390**	**1.282**	**8.5%**	**1.545**	**-10.1%**

*** Revision**

Historic Retail Prices—Statewide average high and low prices since Sept. 1997 for #2 & propane & Sept. 2000 for kerosene.

- Heating oil—highest price 477.8¢/gallon on 7/14/08, lowest price 87.6¢/gallon on 9/08/98.
- Propane—highest price 325.4¢/gallon on 3/07/11, lowest price 107.2¢/gallon on 9/20/99.
- Kerosene—highest price 506.8¢/gallon on 7/14/08, lowest price 130.9¢/gallon on 9/09/02.

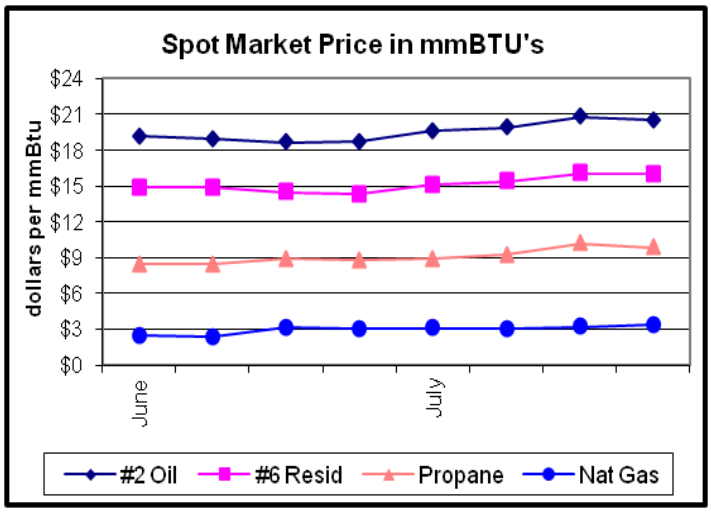
Residential Natural Gas Prices: Statewide average prices are derived from US EIA most currently available data. NYS gas utility specific prices can be found on the NYS DPS website at http://www.dps.ny.gov/TypicalBills.htm#GasRes.

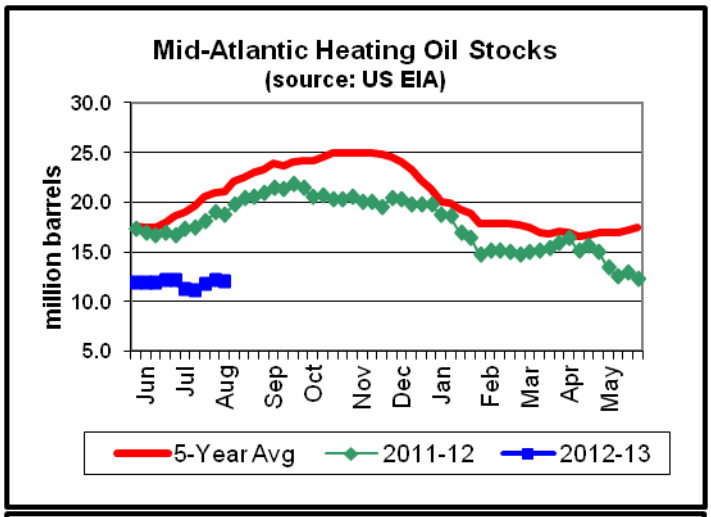
New York State Regions: ***Long Island:*** Nassau and Suffolk ***New York City:*** Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens, and Richmond ***Lower Hudson:*** Dutchess, Putnam, Rockland, and Westchester ***Upper Hudson:*** Columbia, Greene, Orange, Sullivan, and Ulster ***Capital District:*** Albany, Fulton Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, and Washington ***North Country:*** Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, and Warren ***Central:*** Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Herkimer, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, Otsego, Tioga, and Tompkins ***Western:*** Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Chemung, Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates counties. **Propane & Kerosene:** ***Mid-Hudson:*** Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester counties.

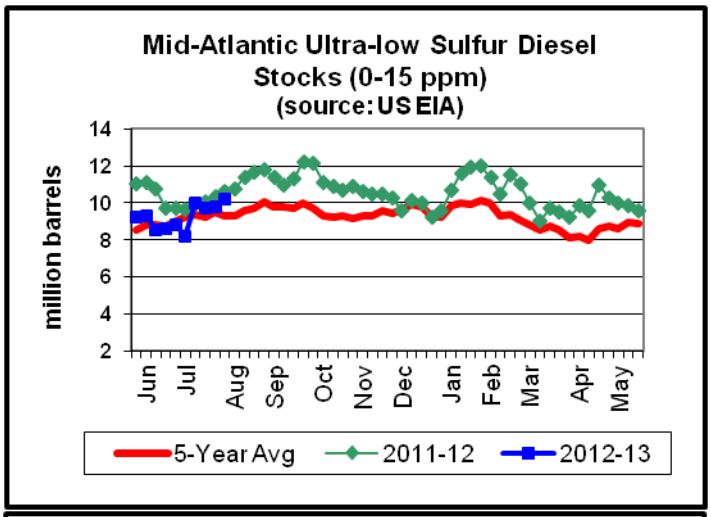
Btu Price Equivalents—The Btu graph equates the spot market price, in table below, for NY Harbor #2 heating oil and 1.0% sulfur low pour #6 residual fuel, Mont Belvieu propane, and the New York City gate natural gas price on a dollar per million Btu (mmBtu) basis.

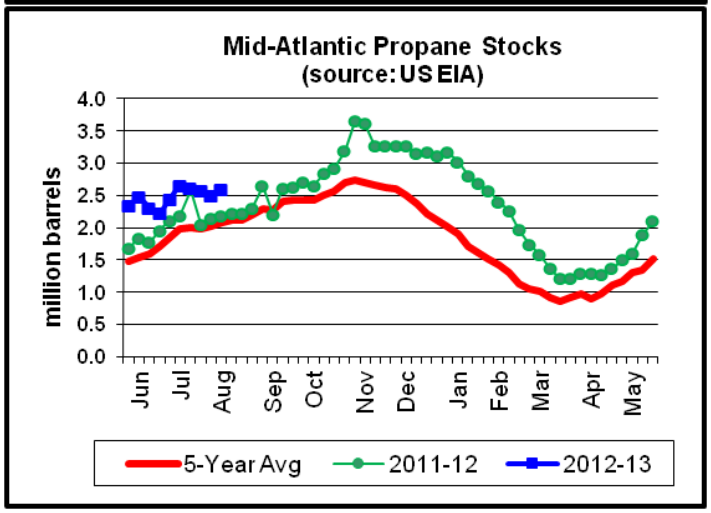
New York Spot Prices, Weekly Average			
Fuel	**7/27/2012**	**Year Ago**	**% Change**
Ultra LS Diesel	293.5	318.0	-7.7%
#2 Fuel Oil	285.1	309.2	-7.8%
#6 Residual 1.0%	240.0	252.9	-5.1%
Propane	89.9	154.2	-41.7%
Natural Gas	3.374	4.985	-32.3%

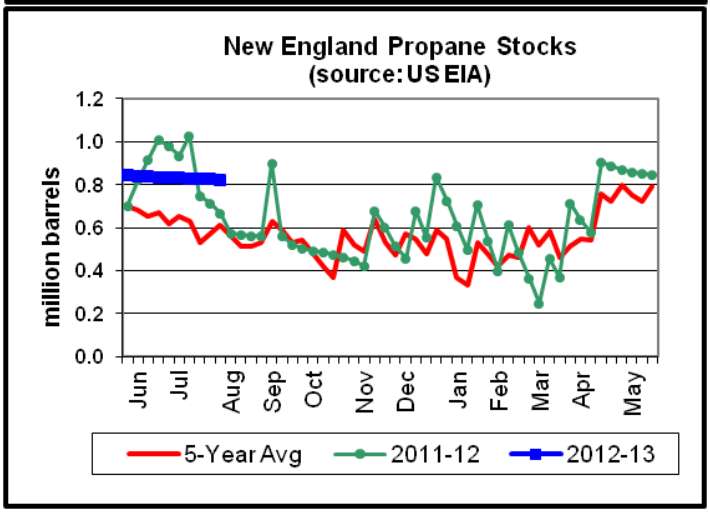
Note: Fuel in ¢/gallon, natural gas ($/mmBtu)=NYcitygate











Additional historic **regional specific** prices and supply information is available at NYSERDA's website. For more information please contact Charlie Wesley at (518) 862-1090 ext. 3364, e-mail cmw@nyserda.org.