

Summary

The Australian Automobile Association reports that in June 2011 the average retail unleaded petrol (ULP) price in Darwin decreased by 2.0 cents per litre (cpl) (see Table 1). Over the same period, the weighted average retail ULP price of the eight capital cities decreased by 5.1 cpl.

Average ULP price	Darwin	8 Capitals
Monthly change	↓ 1.3%	↓ 3.5%
Annual change	↑ 13.4%	↑ 9.2%

In June 2011, the average ULP price in Darwin was 152.3 cpl, an decrease of 1.3 per cent compared to May 2011. Over the same period, the eight capital cities weighted average ULP price declined by 3.5 per cent to 139.5 cpl (Chart 1).

In the year to June 2011, Tapis crude oil prices increased by 16.1 per cent in Australian dollar terms.

In June 2011, the average monthly retail ULP price in:

- Alice Springs increased by 0.4 cpl (0.2 per cent) to 164.9 cpl;
- Tennant Creek decreased by 0.5 cpl (0.3 per cent) to 164.0 cpl (Chart 2); and
- Katherine declined by 0.6 cpl (0.4 per cent) to 147.0 cpl.

The average ULP price for Darwin in June was 12.2 per cent lower than the 173.4 cpl high recorded in July 2008, prior to the onset of the global financial crisis. In comparison, the eight capital cities weighted average ULP price was 139.5 cpl, 12.7 per cent lower than the peak of 159.7 cpl in July 2008. Petrol prices fell sharply in August 2008, due to the global financial crisis. However, they have trended upwards since January 2009 as global economic conditions have gradually improved and more recently, on supply concerns relating to unrest in the Middle East and North Africa.

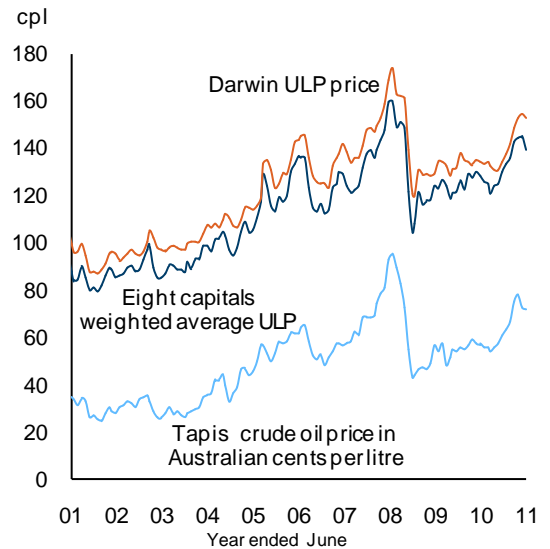
Darwin retail fuel prices tend to be higher than other capital cities due to its distance from refineries and higher transaction costs. Over the long term, movements in Darwin retail fuel prices closely mirror national trends. However, in the short term they can be highly volatile.

Tapis Crude Oil Average Price	\$US	\$A
Monthly change	↓ 2.1%	↓ 1.0%
Annual change	↑ 55.2%	↑ 25.5%

In US dollar terms, the average monthly price of Tapis crude oil decreased by 2.1 per cent to US\$119.7 per barrel in June 2011 (Chart 3). Comparing June 2011 with June 2010, the average monthly \$US price of Tapis crude oil increased by 55.2 per cent. In Australian dollar terms, the price of Tapis crude oil increased by 25.5 per cent over the same period. The substantial price differential of Tapis oil in Australian and US dollar terms reflects the recent strength of the currency, acting as a hedge against higher international benchmark prices.

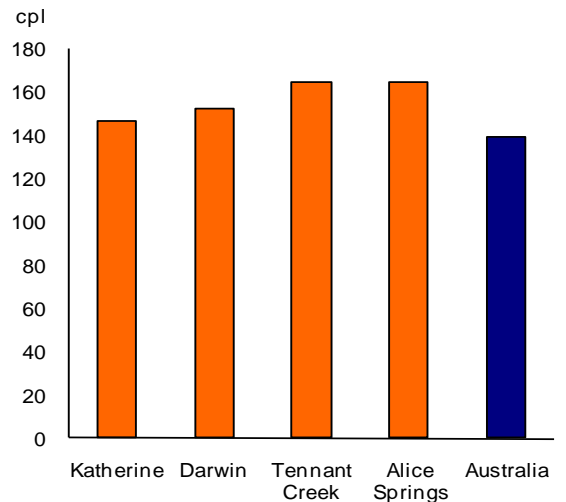
Released: 13 July 2011
Next Release: Mid-August 2011

Chart 1: Average Monthly Prices



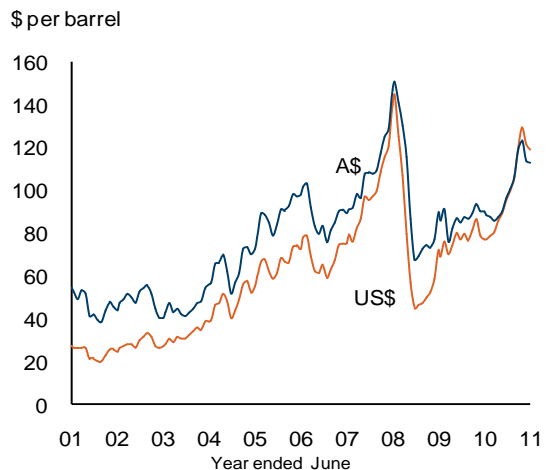
Source: Australian Automobile Association, Reserve Bank of Australia, Australian Bureau of Statistics, ABARE

Chart 2: Territory Regional Fuel Prices (May 2011)



Source: Australian Automobile Association, NT Treasury

Chart 3: Tapis Crude Oil Prices



Source: Reserve Bank of Australia, Energy Information Administration

Table 1: Unleaded Petrol Prices

	May 2011	Jun 2011	change		
	month	month	monthly ¹	annual ²	year on year ³
Northern Territory					
retail petrol price (cpl)					
<i>Darwin</i>	154.3	152.3	-1.3%	13.4%	5.0%
<i>Alice Springs</i>	164.5	164.9	0.2%	11.5%	7.2%
<i>Katherine</i>	147.6	147.0	-0.4%	11.9%	3.2%
<i>Tennant Creek</i>	164.5	164.0	-0.3%	9.7%	3.0%
Australia					
retail petrol price (cpl)					
<i>Sydney</i>	145.9	139.1	-4.7%	9.2%	7.5%
<i>Melbourne</i>	142.8	138.9	-2.7%	8.4%	5.2%
<i>Brisbane</i>	145.4	140.7	-3.2%	9.2%	6.2%
<i>Adelaide</i>	143.6	138.8	-3.3%	11.2%	5.4%
<i>Perth</i>	143.9	139.0	-3.4%	8.9%	7.5%
<i>Hobart</i>	151.1	148.5	-1.7%	9.4%	6.5%
<i>Canberra</i>	143.2	139.0	-2.9%	10.4%	4.1%
Tapis crude price in \$US per barrel	122.34	119.73	-2.1%	55.2%	29.9%
Tapis crude price in \$A per barrel	114.46	113.29	-1.0%	25.5%	16.1%

¹ compares the latest month with the previous month

² compares the latest month with the same month last year

³ compares the 12 months up to and including the latest month with the previous 12 month period

Caution is advised when using monthly data for the Territory, which is often derived from small samples and highly volatile.

Source: Australian Automobile Association, Energy Information Administration, Reserve Bank of Australia

Although all due care has been exercised in the preparation of this material, no responsibility is accepted for any errors or omission.