

Summary

The Australian Automobile Association reports that in October 2009 the average retail unleaded petrol (ULP) price in Australia decreased by 5.1 cents per litre (cpl), with all capitals experiencing decreases in the month, ranging from 5.7 cpl to 1.5 cpl. Darwin experienced a 4.1 cpl decrease over this period (see Table 1 on the next page).

Average ULP price	Darwin	8 Capitals
Change in the month	↓ 3.1%	↓ 4.1%
Change over the year	↓ 20.1%	↓ 19.9%

In October 2009, the average ULP price in Darwin was 128.4 cpl, a decrease of 3.1% compared to September 2009. Over the same period, the eight capital cities weighted average ULP price decreased by 4.1% to 118.6 cpl (see Chart 1).

In October 2009, the average monthly retail ULP price in:

- Alice Springs decreased by 4.0 cpl (2.8%) to 136.4 cpl;
- Katherine decreased by 2.4 cpl (1.8%) to 129.2 cpl; and
- Tennant Creek decreased by 8.5 cpl (5.8%) to 138.5 cpl.

The average ULP price for Darwin in October 2009 has decreased by 45.0 cpl or 26.0% from the peak recorded in July 2008 (173.4 cpl). In comparison, the eight capital cities weighted average ULP price decreased by 41.1 cpl (25.8%) over the same period.

Darwin retail fuel prices tend to be higher than other capital cities, due to distance from refineries and other supply factors. Over the long term, movements in Darwin retail fuel prices closely mirror national trends. However, in the short term they can be highly volatile (primarily due to supply side factors and lags in the distribution chain).

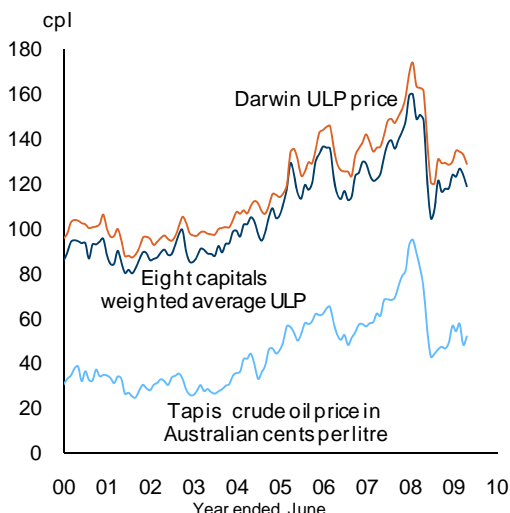
Tapis Crude Oil Average Price	\$US	\$A
Change in the month	↑ 6.2%	↑ 7.7%
Change over the year	↓ 6.4%	↓ 29.0%

Comparing October 2009 with October 2008, the average monthly \$US price of Tapis crude oil decreased by 6.4% to US\$74.76 per barrel. In \$A terms, the average monthly price of Tapis crude oil decreased by 29.0% to A\$82.21 per barrel over this period (see Chart 3). The larger percentage decrease in \$A terms reflects the 31.7% appreciation of the \$A versus the \$US over the year.

After contracting sharply in late 2008 and early 2009, the global economy is growing again. The rebound has been led by Asian economies, particularly China, where there has been a recovery in domestic demand supported by fiscal and monetary policy stimulus. In turn this has led to strengthening growth in global oil consumption which has driven \$US crude oil prices higher over 2009 (see Chart 3). The appreciation of the \$A versus the \$US over the year has helped to partly offset the impact of higher crude oil prices on petrol prices in Australia.

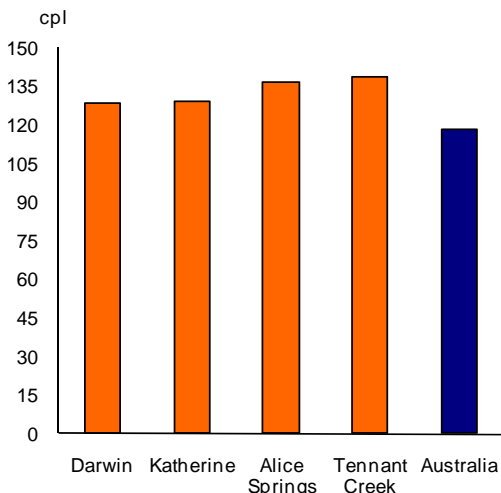
Released: 13 November 2009
Next Release: Mid-December 2009

Chart 1: Average Monthly Prices



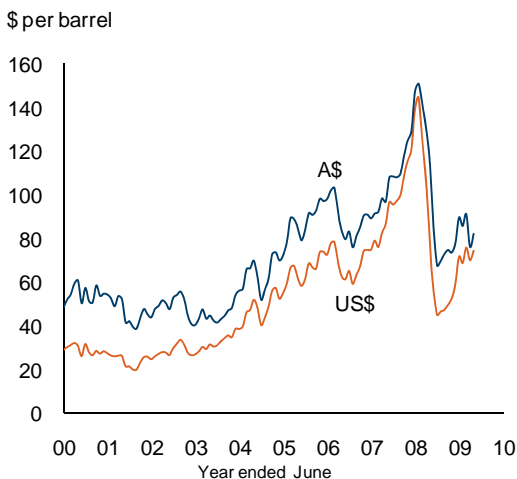
Source: Australian Automobile Association, Reserve Bank of Australia, Australian Bureau of Statistics, ABARE

Chart 2: Territory Regional Fuel Prices (September 2009)



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

	September month	October month	change monthly ¹	change annual ²	change year on year ³
Northern Territory					
retail petrol price (cpl)					
<i>Darwin</i>	132.5	128.4	-3.1%	-20.1%	-17.1%
<i>Alice Springs</i>	140.4	136.4	-2.8%	-17.4%	-16.1%
<i>Katherine</i>	131.6	129.2	-1.8%	-19.5%	-15.5%
<i>Tennant Creek</i>	147.0	138.5	-5.8%	-19.5%	-14.2%
Australia					
retail petrol price (cpl)					
<i>Sydney</i>	123.7	118.6	-4.1%	-19.9%	-18.3%
<i>Melbourne</i>	122.9	117.6	-4.3%	-21.0%	-19.1%
<i>Melbourne</i>	124.3	118.6	-4.6%	-20.7%	-17.9%
<i>Brisbane</i>	124.9	119.8	-4.1%	-15.1%	-16.9%
<i>Adelaide</i>	121.5	117.4	-3.4%	-21.4%	-19.0%
<i>Perth</i>	121.6	117.5	-3.4%	-20.3%	-18.8%
<i>Hobart</i>	130.0	128.5	-1.2%	-17.2%	-17.8%
<i>Canberra</i>	128.9	123.7	-4.0%	-17.3%	-17.8%
Tapis crude price in \$US per barrel	70.39	74.76	6.2%	-6.4%	-46.0%
Tapis crude price in \$A per barrel	76.33	82.21	7.7%	-29.0%	-36.4%

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.