

## Summary

The Australian Automobile Association reports that in September 2011 the average retail unleaded petrol (ULP) price in Darwin increased by 0.8 cents per litre (cpl) (see Table 1). Over the same period, the weighted average retail ULP price of the eight capital cities increased by 3.3 cpl.

<b>Average ULP price</b>	<b>Darwin</b>	<b>8 Capitals</b>
<b>Monthly change</b>	↑ 0.5%	↑ 2.3%
<b>Annual change</b>	↑ 14.5%	↑ 19.0%

In September 2011, the average ULP price in Darwin was 151.3 cpl, an increase of 0.5 per cent compared to August 2011. Over the same period, the eight capital cities weighted average ULP price increased by 2.3 per cent to 143.7 cpl (Chart 1).

In the year to September 2011, Tapis crude oil prices increased by 21.7 per cent in Australian dollar terms.

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

- Alice Springs decreased by 1.5 cpl (0.9 per cent) to 163.5 cpl;
- Tennant Creek increased by 0.1 cpl (0.1 per cent) to 164.2 cpl (Chart 2); and
- Katherine remained flat at 146.2 cpl.

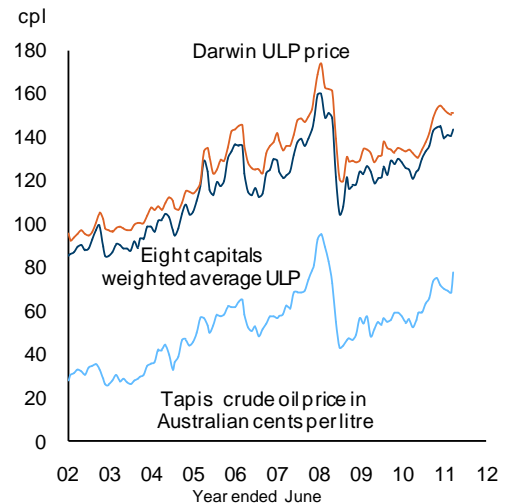
International crude oil and fuel prices rose from November 2010 through to May 2011, reflecting political instability in the Middle East, limited spare capacity in oil producing nations and economic recovery from the Global Financial Crisis. More recently, international crude oil prices have moderated slightly – partly reflecting weaker economic activity in Western Europe and the United States.

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.

<b>Tapis Crude Oil Average Price</b>	<b>\$US</b>	<b>\$A</b>
<b>Monthly change</b>	↑ 3.0%	↑ 12.5%
<b>Annual change</b>	↑ 49.0%	↑ 47.3%

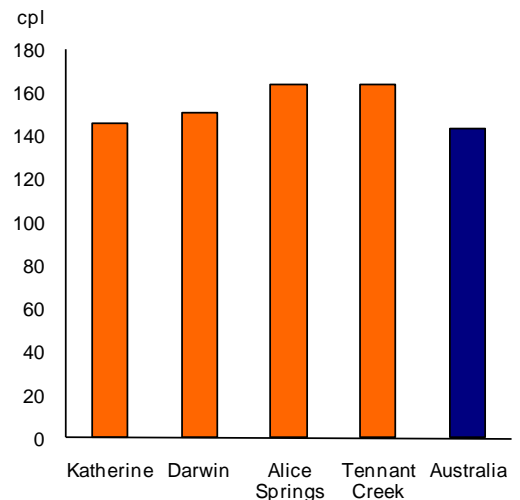
In US dollar terms, the average monthly price of Tapis crude oil increased by 3.0 per cent to US\$119.92 per barrel in September 2011 (Chart 3) compared to an upwardly revised figure of US\$116.48 per barrel in August 2011. Comparing September 2011 with September 2010, the average monthly \$US price of Tapis crude oil increased by 49.0 per cent. In Australian dollar terms, the price of Tapis crude oil increased by 47.3 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.

**Chart 1: Average Monthly Prices**



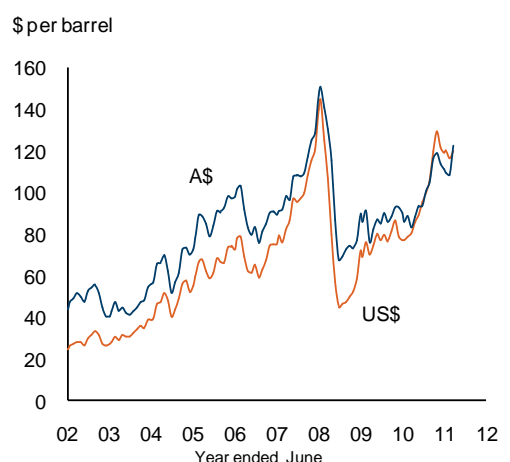
Source: Australian Automobile Association, Reserve Bank of Australia, Australian Bureau of Statistics, ABARE

**Chart 2: Territory Regional Fuel Prices (September 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

	Aug 2011	Sep 2011	change		
	month	month	monthly <sup>1</sup>	annual <sup>2</sup>	year on year <sup>3</sup>
<b>Northern Territory</b>					
retail petrol price (cpl)					
<i>Darwin</i>	150.5	151.3	0.5%	14.5%	8.5%
<i>Alice Springs</i>	165.0	163.5	-0.9%	12.1%	9.2%
<i>Katherine</i>	146.2	146.2	0.0%	12.3%	6.4%
<i>Tennant Creek</i>	164.1	164.2	0.1%	15.1%	6.7%
<b>Australia</b>					
retail petrol price (cpl)					
<i>Sydney</i>	141.2	143.7	1.8%	19.9%	11.5%
<i>Melbourne</i>	139.0	142.7	2.7%	18.9%	9.0%
<i>Brisbane</i>	141.9	145.1	2.3%	18.5%	9.7%
<i>Adelaide</i>	137.3	142.6	3.9%	21.7%	9.9%
<i>Perth</i>	140.1	143.8	2.6%	17.5%	10.3%
<i>Hobart</i>	147.1	147.6	0.3%	9.5%	7.3%
<i>Canberra</i>	141.9	144.2	1.6%	17.5%	8.7%
Tapis crude price in \$US per barrel	116.48	119.92	3.0%	49.0%	39.6%
Tapis crude price in \$A per barrel	108.95	122.61	12.5%	47.3%	21.7%

<sup>1</sup> compares the latest month with the previous month

<sup>2</sup> compares the latest month with the same month last year

<sup>3</sup> 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.