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Average price of fuel goes up by more than 2p a litre in August

Motorists saw the average price of fuel increase for the second month in a row in August with both petrol and diesel rising by more than 2p a litre, according to the latest RAC Fuel Watch report.

Unleaded increased 2.26p from 115.25p a litre at the beginning of the month to 117.51p by the end and diesel rose 2.28p from 116.09p to 118.37p.

The price of petrol began to go up quickly after Storm Harvey hit the United States' Gulf Coast on Friday 25 August disrupting oil refining facilities. This caused the wholesale price of unleaded to shoot up by 4p a litre by 31

August.

Crude oil also rose by 4% from \$50.86 to \$52.79, averaging \$51.44 over the month, and the exchange rate suffered, falling by 3% from \$1.32 to \$1.28 from the start to the end of August.

RAC fuel spokesman Simon Williams said: “Sadly, fuel prices went up for the second consecutive month in August, but the 2p a litre increase is unfortunately just the tip of the iceberg as motorists are likely to see further forecourt rises in the next week as a result of the disruption to oil refiners in Texas.

“While the price of producing petrol tends to be primarily affected by the cost of crude oil and the exchange rate as it’s traded in dollars, it is also affected by global market forces for the refined product itself and we often see the price move up and down according to supply and demand issues. This has been the case since Storm Harvey as petrol is now in shorter supply. It has also been compounded by a drop in the region’s crude oil production. There is, however, a glimmer of hope as the latest assessments from the States have revealed the damage to the oil infrastructure caused by Storm Harvey is less extensive than had been feared.

“Despite this, pump prices in the UK will no doubt rise in the coming days and we still expect to see the price of petrol overtake that of diesel, although the wholesale price of diesel is also starting to increase. This, together with an early month rise in the oil price, means the outlook for fuel prices in September is not good.

RAC Fuel Watch data for August also revealed that the average price of fuel sold by the UK’s four leading supermarkets increased by more than the national average, going up by 2.49p a litre for unleaded to 114.63p and 2.64p to 115.17p for diesel.

Based on the UK average price of petrol (117.51p a litre), the cost of filling a typical 55-litre family car went up by £1.24 to £64.63. A similar-sized tank of diesel (at 118.37p) a litre increased by the same amount (£1.25) to £65.10.

Regional fuel price variation

Wales suffered the biggest increase in the price of unleaded in August, with a litre rising 2.48p from 114.61p to 117.09p. Northern Ireland had the cheapest petrol across the month (113.96p to 116.30p) despite seeing the third largest pump increase at 2.34p. The South East had the most expensive petrol at both the start and finish of the month, closing at 117.98p a litre.

The North East endured the greatest rise in the price of diesel with a litre going up by 2.42p to 117.68p. Wales and the East Midlands were not far behind with increases of 2.40p and 2.39p respectively. Northern Ireland had both the smallest price rise at just 2.11p and the cheapest diesel at 116.93p. The South East still has the most expensive diesel in the country, closing August at 118.95p a litre.

Regional average unleaded pump prices

Unleaded	01/08/2017	31/08/2017	Change
UK average	115.25	117.51	2.26
Wales	114.61	117.09	2.48
East Midlands	114.87	117.31	2.44
Northern Ireland	113.96	116.30	2.34
Yorkshire And The Humber	114.90	117.22	2.32
North West	115.24	117.49	2.25
Scotland	115.07	117.31	2.24
East	115.42	117.66	2.24
North East	114.73	116.96	2.23
South East	115.76	117.98	2.22
South West	115.43	117.64	2.21
West Midlands	115.42	117.61	2.19
London	115.51	117.61	2.10

Regional average diesel pump prices

Diesel	01/08/2017	31/08/2017	Change
UK average	116.09	118.37	2.28
North East	115.26	117.68	2.42

Wales	115.69	118.09	2.40
East Midlands	115.78	118.17	2.39
London	116.37	118.71	2.34
Scotland	116.05	118.36	2.31
East	116.44	118.74	2.30
South West	116.39	118.69	2.30
Yorkshire And The Humber	115.67	117.95	2.28
South East	116.70	118.95	2.25
West Midlands	116.04	118.29	2.25
North West	116.11	118.26	2.15
Northern Ireland	114.82	116.93	2.11

Green – cheapest/least; red – most expensive/most

Motorists can keep abreast of the latest fuel prices by visiting: rac.co.uk/fuelwatch or following [#racfuelwatch on Twitter](https://twitter.com/racfuelwatch).

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Notes to Editors

About the RAC

First formed in 1897 the RAC has been looking after the needs of its members and championing the interests of motorists for 120 years.

Today it has more than eight million members and is one of the UK's most progressive motoring organisations, providing services for both private and business motorists. Whether it's roadside assistance, insurance, buying a used car, vehicle inspections and checks, legal services or up-to-the-minute traffic and travel information – the RAC offers a solution for all motoring needs. The RAC is committed to making motoring easier, safer, more affordable and more enjoyable for drivers and road users.

The RAC is the motorist's champion and campaigns to support the interests of its members and UK motorists at a national level. This includes voicing concerns about the increasing cost of motoring, particularly the price of fuel and the high level of tax levied on it, advancing levels of road safety, and supporting the needs of all drivers, from young to old.

The RAC's annual [Report on Motoring](#) – first published in 1989 – provides a clear insight into the concerns and issues facing today's motorists.

For the very latest news on UK fuel prices, check [RAC Fuel Watch](#) or follow [#racfuelwatch on Twitter](#). RAC Fuel Watch is a comprehensive guide to the latest UK unleaded petrol and diesel prices – both at the wholesale level and at the pump. RAC Fuel Watch analyses how prices changed through the previous month and compares the most recent prices with those from three, six and 12 months before.

Key facts:

- RAC patrols fix four out of five vehicles at the roadside and on average within 30 minutes
- RAC vans carry more than 500 parts and tools to get members' vehicles going again
- 92% of members would recommend RAC Rescue to their friends and family

Contacts



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