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Drivers get a ‘shock to the system’ as June ends three straight months of falling fuel prices

After three months of falling pump prices in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic the average cost of fuel shot up in June with a litre of unleaded increasing by nearly 4p from 107.11p to 110.85p (3.74p), new RAC Fuel Watch data reveals.*

Diesel rose by just under 3p a litre (2.89p) from 112.07p to 114.96p as the price of oil strengthened by more than $6 from $35.48 to $41.87. The

forecourt rises mean a 55-litre tank of petrol has gone up by £2 to £60.97 (from £58.91 at the start of June) and the diesel equivalent by £1.59 to £63.23 (£61.64 at the start of June).

These prices are a blow to drivers who have got used to seeing some unusually low pump prices. The global coronavirus travel restrictions led to oil crashing to $13.21 a barrel in late April which in turn caused the price of a litre of petrol to come down to an average low of 106.48p and diesel to 111.8p on 19 May. This was brought about by Asda, Tesco, Sainsbury's and Morrisons all selling petrol for an average of £1 a litre from mid-May to the end of the month. Diesel's average low at the supermarkets was 105.5p over the same period.

And in June it is the big four supermarkets that appear to have driven the price rises, with the most marked increases being seen at Morrisons. It went from having the cheapest petrol and diesel at the start of June to the most expensive of the major supermarkets, putting up both fuels by 7p a litre with unleaded going from 99.7p to 106.7p and diesel from 104.7p to 111.49p. Asda also increased its petrol price steeply by adding 6.5p, pushing up a litre from 99.91p to 106.42p. This meant by the end of June Sainsbury's had both the cheapest supermarket petrol and diesel at 104.42p and 109.01p respectively.

RAC fuel spokesman Simon Williams said:

"The pump price rises witnessed in June will have been a nasty shock to the system for drivers. While those who continued to drive regularly throughout the pandemic will have benefited from some very low prices, millions won't have so will be disappointed that just as they start to drive more again prices are on the up. It is, of course, the lack of demand for fuel which caused prices to drop in the first place so sadly it's no great surprise that they're on the rise again now.

"But drivers should take quite a lot of comfort from the fact that both petrol and diesel are a whopping 17p a litre cheaper than they were at the end of January. That means a tank of fuel is on average £9 less than it was then.

"And with RAC data predicting this weekend could be the busiest of the year so far on the roads that's at least a little bit of better news, particularly as the direction of travel for fuel prices is upwards. Oil producer group OPEC and its

allies are continuing to restrict output which has successfully driven up the barrel price and that can only mean one thing for drivers in the coming weeks – higher prices. This is confirmed by RAC Fuel Watch data which shows that petrol is likely to go up by 2p a litre in the next fortnight. Diesel, however, shouldn't rise much at all unless retailers use the saving in its slightly lower wholesale price to subsidise petrol."

Regional fuel price variation

Regional average unleaded pump prices (pence per litre)

Unleaded	01/06/2020	30/06/2020	Change
UK average	**107.11**	**110.85**	**3.74**
Scotland	105.92	110.55	4.63
Wales	105.17	109.58	4.41
Northern Ireland	103.65	108.00	4.35
North East	105.73	109.84	4.11
Yorkshire And The Humber	106.44	110.35	3.91
South West	106.99	110.67	3.68
North West	106.78	110.45	3.67
West Midlands	107.23	110.83	3.60
South East	108.19	111.75	3.56
East	107.57	111.08	3.51
East Midlands	107.50	110.96	3.46
London	108.74	112.09	3.35

Regional average diesel pump prices

Diesel	01/06/2020	30/06/2020	Change

UK average	**112.07**	**114.96**	**2.89**
Scotland	111.31	114.64	3.33
Wales	110.68	113.91	3.23
North East	110.95	113.90	2.95
Northern Ireland	108.93	111.84	2.91
South West	112.09	114.98	2.89
Yorkshire And The Humber	111.71	114.59	2.88
North West	111.56	114.44	2.88
East	112.60	115.46	2.86
East Midlands	112.14	114.95	2.81
South East	113.35	116.12	2.77
West Midlands	112.32	115.09	2.77
London	113.60	116.17	2.57

Notes to Editors

* UK national and regional average pump prices quoted are based on Experian Catalist data from 1 to 30 June 2020. Wholesale prices, oil price and the value of sterling are based on data from 1 to 30 June 2020.

The press office email address is press.enquiries@rac.co.uk. **Please note:** the press office is unable to help with individual customer enquiries - please visit the RAC contacts page to find the right contact.

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About the RAC

The RAC provides complete peace of mind to 12m UK private and business drivers, whatever their motoring needs. Its services include:

- **Breakdown assistance.** Its highly-skilled, 1,600-strong branded patrol workforce attends more than two million breakdowns every year, fixing on average four out of five vehicles at the roadside. The RAC's patrol fleet is one of the most advanced in the UK, and was the first to roll out both an All-Wheels-Up recovery system, allowing the vast majority of vehicles to be recovered from a single patrol van, and EV Boost mobile electric vehicle charging units
- Insurance. The RAC is a top-five car insurance broker having surpassed the 500,000 policies-in-force milestone in 2018. It also offers 'black box' telematics policies, as well as home and travel insurance
- **Other motoring services**. The RAC leads in the development of new solutions for business, fleets, electric vehicles and future car technology. Its additional products and services include a personal loans offering, a used car buying website, vehicle inspections and checks, legal services or up-to-the-minute traffic and travel information. It also has a network of Approved Dealers and Approved Garages which combine the trust of RAC brand with local service and convenience

The RAC also works to support the interests of its members and UK drivers on the most important motoring issues which it identifies via the annual RAC Report on Motoring and the RAC Opinion Panel. The Report on Motoring is the longest running analysis of driver opinion in the UK having been published every year since 1989.

For more information about the RAC, visit the RAC website.

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