Fuel prices

October 2026 | Economic brief

The following information is sourced from the Australian Institute of Petroleum (AIP) and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC). It does not align with the daily prices reported on MyFuel NT.

The reported monthly average price for October 2026 is calculated as the average price in cents per litre (cpl) for the four weeks ending 01 November 2026 unless otherwise stated.

Gross indicative retail differences (GIRDs) are the average retail price less the published terminal gate prices (TGP) and are used as an indication of gross retail margins.

Unleaded (ULP)

	Average retail ULP price, cpl	Monthly change, cpl	Year-ended change, cpl
Darwin	246.9	⬆11.4	⬆59.9
Alice Springs	294.0	⬆10.1	⬆48.1
Katherine	260.0	⬆3.3	⬆55.3
Tennant Creek	269.5	⬆10.3	⬆46.7
Northern Territory average[1]	257.2	⬆10.6	⬆57.1
Australia average[1]	239.6	⬆11.3	⬆60.2

1 weighted average

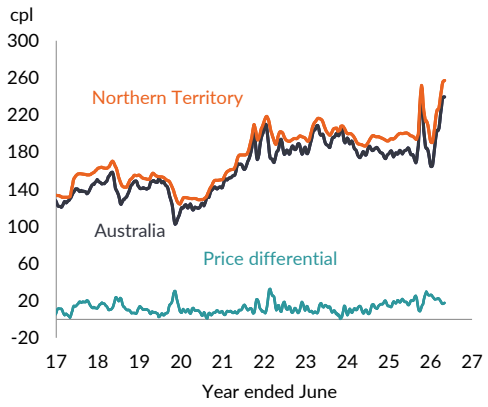
The average retail price of ULP in the Territory was 257.2 cpl, 10.6 cpl higher than the previous month and 57.1 cpl higher in year-ended terms (Chart 1). Nationally, the average retail price of ULP was 239.6 cpl, 11.3 cpl higher than the previous month and 60.2 cpl higher in year-ended terms.

In Darwin, the average ULP price was 246.9 cpl, 11.4 cpl higher than the previous month and 59.9 cpl higher in year-ended terms. This was the second highest retail price of the capital cities, which ranged from 233.2 cpl in Adelaide to 247.9 cpl in Hobart (Chart 2).

The average TGP for ULP in Darwin was 238.4 cpl, 9.3 cpl higher than the previous month and 72.6 cpl higher in year-ended terms. The average TGP nationally was 231.5 cpl, 9.4 cpl higher than the previous month and 69.7 cpl higher in year-ended terms.

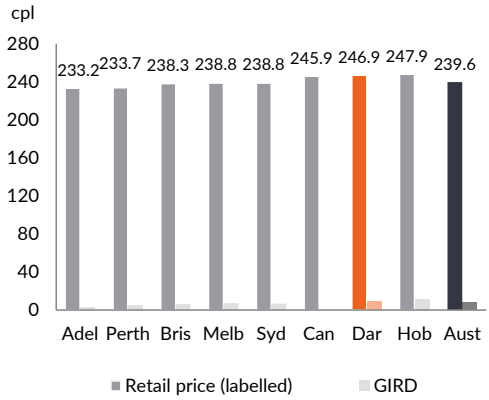
The monthly average GIRD for ULP in Darwin widened by 2.2 cpl to 8.5 cpl (Chart 3). This was the second highest GIRD of the capital cities, which ranged from 3.1 cpl in Adelaide to 10.9 cpl in Hobart. The national average GIRD for ULP widened by 1.9 cpl to 8.1 cpl in the month.

Chart 1: Retail unleaded petrol price (monthly average)



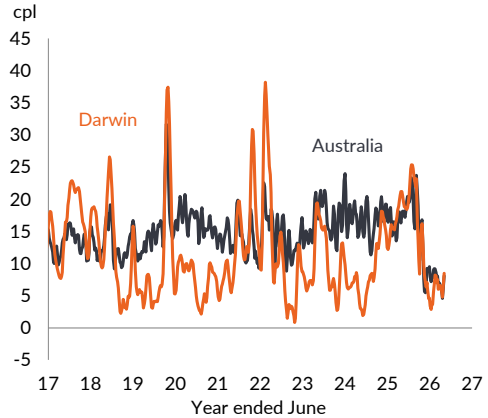
Source: Australian Institute of Petroleum, DTF

Chart 2: Retail ULP price and gross indicative retail difference (monthly average)



*No fuel import terminal in Canberra
Source: Australian Insitute of Petroleum, DTF

Chart 3: ULP gross indicative retail difference (monthly average)



Source: Australian Insitute of Petroleum, DTF

Diesel

The monthly average retail price of diesel across the Territory was 301.0 cpl. This was an increase of 8.6 cpl from the previous month and 91.4 cpl higher in year-ended terms (Chart 4). The monthly average retail diesel price across Australia was 280.8 cpl, an increase of 5.1 cpl from the previous month and 96.0 cpl higher in year-ended terms.

	Average retail diesel price, cpl	Monthly change, cpl	Year-ended change, cpl
Darwin	287.8	⬆6.2	⬆98.8
Regional average[1]	321.6	⬆12.4	⬆80.2
Northern Territory average[1]	301.0	⬆8.6	⬆91.4
Australia average[1]	280.8	⬆5.1	⬆96.0

1 weighted average

Darwin recorded a monthly average retail diesel price of 287.8 cpl, 6.2 cpl higher than the previous month and 98.8 cpl higher in year-ended terms. Darwin had the second highest retail price of the capital cities, which ranged from 270.1 cpl in Perth to 287.8 cpl in Canberra (Chart 5).

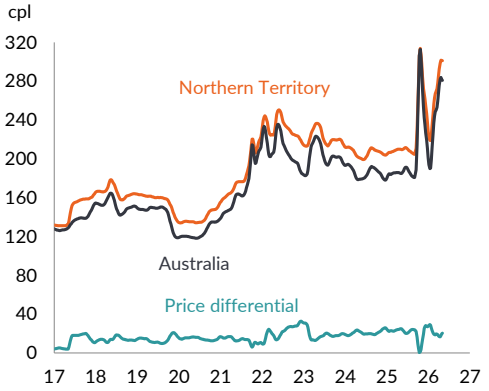
The TGP for diesel in Darwin was 272.0 cpl, 1.8 cpl higher than last month and 100.4 cpl higher in year-ended terms. Darwin's average GIRD for diesel increased by 4.5 cpl to 15.8 cpl (Chart 6). This was the third highest of the capital cities, which ranged from 12.7 cpl in Sydney to 18.3 cpl in Adelaide.

Brent crude oil

The monthly average spot price of Brent crude oil in October 2026 was $154.30 per barrel in Australian dollar terms (Chart 7). This was an increase of 8.4% in the month and an increase of 58.1% in year-ended terms.

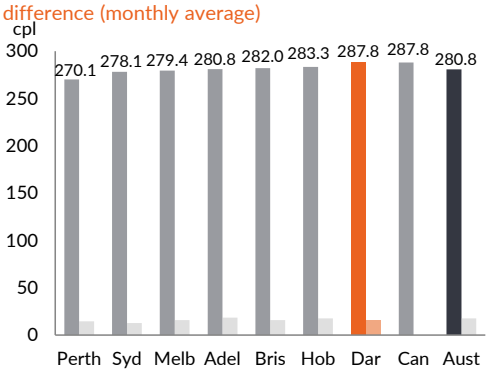
	Average spot price (per barrel)	Monthly change (%)	Year-ended change (%)
Brent crude $US	107.92	⬆6.8	⬆69.1
Brent crude $AU	154.30	⬆8.4	⬆58.1

Chart 4: Retail diesel price (monthly average)



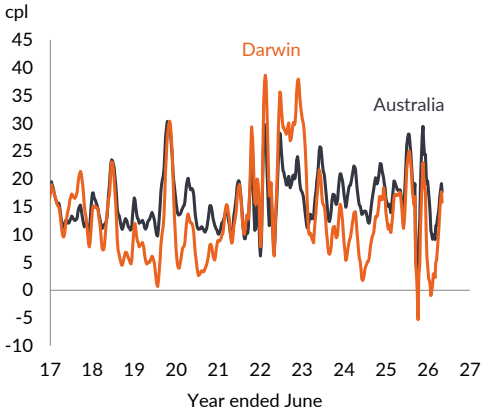
Source: Australian Insitute of Petroleum, DTF

Chart 5: Diesel price and gross indicative retail difference (monthly average)



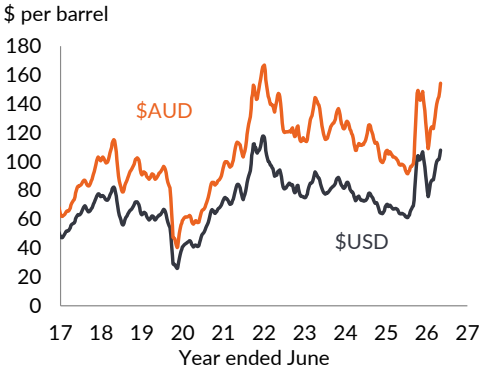
*No fuel import terminal in Canberra
Source: Australian Insitute of Petroleum, DTF

Chart 6: Diesel gross indicative retail difference (monthly average)



Source: Australian Insitute of Petroleum; DTF

Chart 7: Brent crude oil prices (monthly average)



Source: Reserve Bank of Australia, Investing.com AU, DTF

Table 1: Monthly average fuel prices

	Monthly average			Change (cpl)	
	Oct 25	Sep 26	Oct 26	Monthly[1]	Year-ended[2]
Unleaded petrol					
Retail price					
Northern Territory	200.1	246.6	257.2	10.6	57.1
– Darwin	187.0	235.5	246.9	11.4	59.9
– Alice Springs	245.9	283.9	294.0	10.1	48.1
– Katherine	204.7	256.7	260.0	3.3	55.3
– Tennant Creek	222.8	259.2	269.5	10.3	46.7
Australia	179.4	228.3	239.6	11.3	60.2
Terminal gate price[3]					
Darwin	165.8	229.1	238.4	9.3	72.6
Australia	161.8	222.1	231.5	9.4	69.7
Gross indicative retail difference (GIRD)[4]					
Darwin	21.2	6.3	8.5	2.2	-12.7
Australia	17.5	6.2	8.1	1.9	-9.4
Retail price differential from Australia					
Northern Territory	20.7	18.3	17.6	-0.7	-3.1
– Darwin	7.6	7.2	7.3	0.1	-0.3
Diesel					
Retail price					
Northern Territory	209.6	292.4	301.0	8.6	91.4
– Darwin	189.0	281.6	287.8	6.2	98.8
– Regional average*	241.4	309.2	321.6	12.4	80.2
Australia	184.8	275.7	280.8	5.1	96.0
Terminal gate price[3]					
Darwin	171.6	270.2	272.0	1.8	100.4
Australia	166.8	260.9	263.1	2.2	96.3
Gross indicative retail difference (GIRD)[4]					
Darwin	17.4	11.3	15.8	4.5	-1.6
Australia	18.0	14.8	17.6	2.8	-0.4
Retail price differential from Australia					
Northern Territory	24.8	16.7	20.2	3.5	-4.6
– Darwin	4.2	5.9	7.0	1.1	2.8

Table 2 - Monthly average crude oil prices

	Monthly average			Change (%)	
	Oct 25	Sep 26	Oct 26	Monthly[1]	Year-ended[2]
Brent spot price in $US per barrel	63.83	101.07	107.92	6.8	69.1
Brent spot price in $AU per barrel	97.63	142.39	154.30	8.4	58.1

n.p.: not published

1 Compares the average of the last four weeks with the average of the corresponding four weeks of the previous month.

2 Compares the average of the last four weeks with the average of the corresponding four weeks of the previous year.

3 Terminal gate prices (TGPs) are the published daily spot prices at which fuel can be purchased from the fuel import or refinery terminal and provide an indication of the actual wholesale price of fuel. The largest component of the TGP is the price of crude oil, followed by the Commonwealth Government's fuel excise and goods and services tax.

4 Gross indicative retail differences (GIRD) are equal to the monthly average retail price less the monthly average TGP and are used as a broad indication of gross retail fuel margins.

* AIP does not report on diesel prices for Alice Springs, Katherine and Tennant Creek.

Source: Department of Treasury and Finance, Australian Institute of Petroleum, Reserve Bank of Australia, Investing.com AU

Term	Definition
Gross Indicative Retail Differences (GIRDs)	Gross indicative retail differences are the average retail price less the published terminal gate prices and are used as an indication of gross retail margins.
Terminal Gate Price (TGP)	Terminal gate price is the wholesale price for the bulk supply of a petroleum product.

Caution is advised when using monthly data for the Territory, as it is often derived from small samples and can be highly volatile. Although due care has been exercised in preparing this material, no responsibility is accepted for any errors or omission.

More information

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