

# Fuel prices

January 2026 | Economic brief

The following information is sourced from the Australian Institute of Petroleum (AIP) and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC).

The reported monthly average price for January 2026 is calculated as the average price in cents per litre (cpl) for the four weeks ending 01 January 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	182.9	↓1.7	flat
Alice Springs	243.5	↓0.3	↓3.7
Katherine	203.7	↓1.7	↓1.7
Tennant Creek	221.9	↓1.1	↑3.4
Northern Territory average <sup>1</sup>	196.6	↓1.4	↓0.7
Australia average <sup>1</sup>	176.2	↓2.9	↓5.5

<sup>1</sup> weighted average

The average retail price of ULP in the Territory was 196.6 cpl, 1.4 cpl lower than the previous month and 0.7 cpl lower over the year (Chart 1). Nationally, the average retail price of ULP was 176.2 cpl, 2.9 cpl lower than the previous month and 5.5 cpl lower over the year.

In Darwin, the average ULP price was 182.9 cpl, 1.7 cpl lower than the previous month and unchanged over the year. This was the fourth highest retail price of the capital cities, which ranged from 160.4 cpl in Adelaide to 186.4 cpl in Canberra (Chart 2).

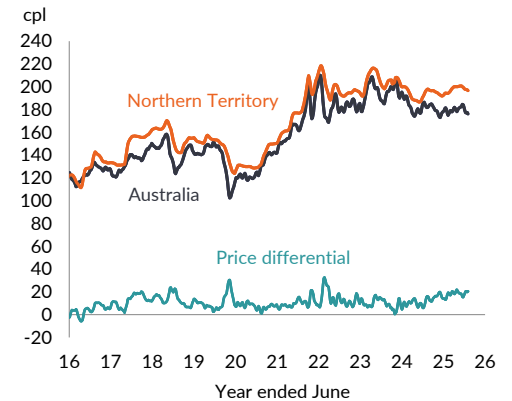
The average TGP for ULP in Darwin was 157.6 cpl, 6.2 cpl lower than the previous month and 17.2 cpl lower over the year. The average TGP nationally was 153.6 cpl, 6.0 cpl lower than the previous month and 16.3 cpl lower over the year.

The monthly average GIRD for ULP in Darwin increased by 4.4 cpl to 25.3 cpl (Chart 3). This was the third highest GIRD of the capital cities, which otherwise ranged from 7.2 cpl in Adelaide to 32.2 cpl in Melbourne. The national average GIRD for ULP increased by 3.1 cpl to 22.6 cpl in the month

## ACCC fuel price monitoring

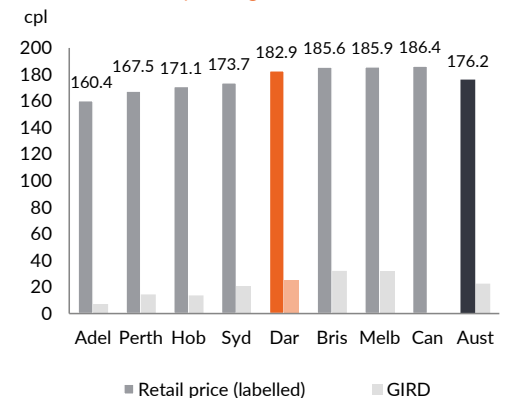
The ACCC released its Report on the Australian Petroleum Market for the September quarter 2025 on 10 December 2025. The Report can be accessed [here](#). The Report shows that the Darwin average ULP price was 182.5 cpl, 3.7 cpl higher than the average of the five largest capital cities (Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth).

Chart 1: Retail unleaded petrol price (monthly average)



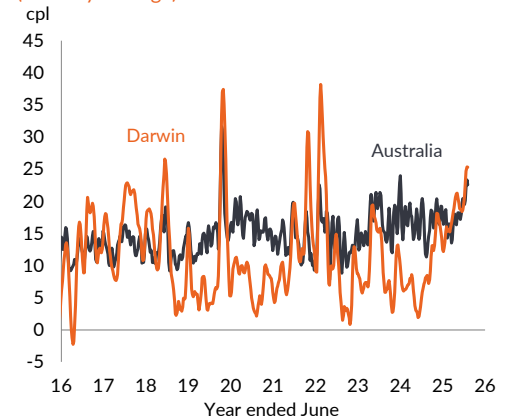
Source: Australian Institute of Petroleum, DTF

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



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

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



Source: Australian Institute of Petroleum, DTF

## Diesel

The monthly average retail price of diesel across the Territory was 206.6 cpl. This was a decline of 2.7 cpl from the previous month and 3.3 cpl lower over the year (Chart 4). The monthly average retail diesel price across Australia was 182.8 cpl, a decline of 5.6 cpl from the previous month and 7.4 cpl lower over the year.

	Average retail diesel price, cpl	Monthly change, cpl	Year-ended change, cpl
Darwin	185.5	↓3.4	↓3.1
Regional average <sup>1</sup>	239.2	↓1.6	↓3.7
Northern Territory average <sup>1</sup>	206.6	↓2.7	↓3.3
Australia average <sup>1</sup>	182.8	↓5.6	↓7.4

1 weighted average

Darwin recorded a monthly average retail diesel price of 185.5 cpl, 3.4 cpl lower than the previous month and 3.1 cpl lower over the year. Darwin had the third highest retail price of the capital cities, which ranged from 176.1 cpl in Sydney to 196.1 cpl in Canberra (Chart 5).

The TGP for diesel in Darwin was 163.0 cpl, 2.5 cpl lower than last month and -19.9 cpl lower over the year. Darwin's average GIRD for diesel declined by 0.9 cpl to 22.6 cpl (Chart 6). This was the fourth highest of the capital cities, which otherwise ranged from 17.4 cpl in Sydney to 26.5 cpl in Melbourne.

## Brent crude oil

The monthly average spot price of Brent crude oil in January 2026 was \$95.27 per barrel in Australian dollar terms (Chart 7). This was an increase of 3.8% in the month, however a decline of 24.1% over the year.

	Average spot price (per barrel)	Monthly change (%)	Year-ended change (%)
Brent crude \$US	64.74	↑5.9	↓17.2
Brent crude \$AU	95.27	↑3.8	↓24.1

Chart 7: Brent crude oil prices (monthly average)

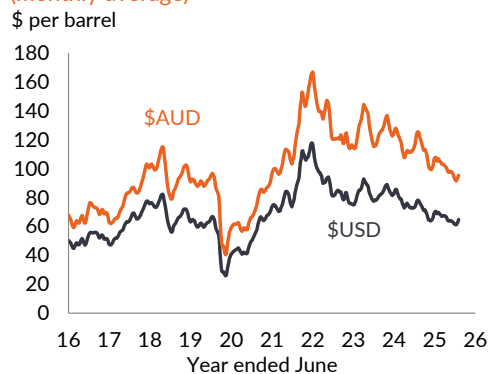


Chart 4: Retail diesel price (monthly average)

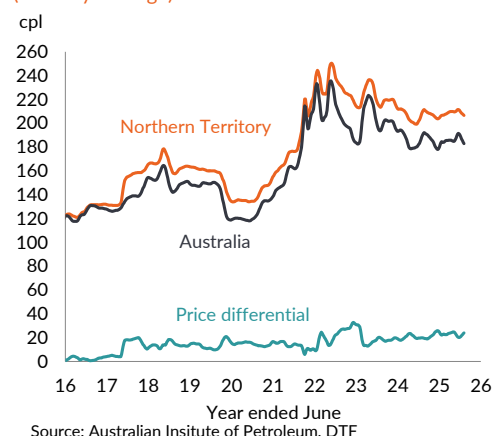


Chart 5: Diesel price and gross indicative retail difference (monthly average)

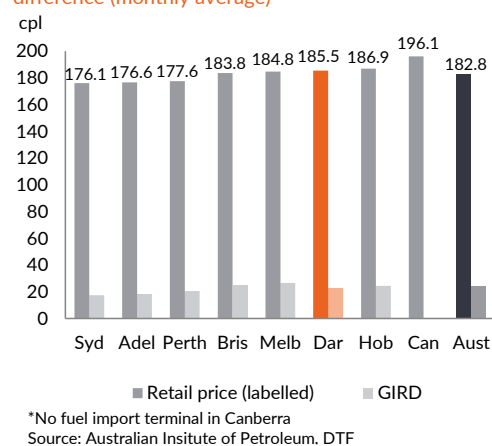


Chart 6: Diesel gross indicative retail difference (monthly average)

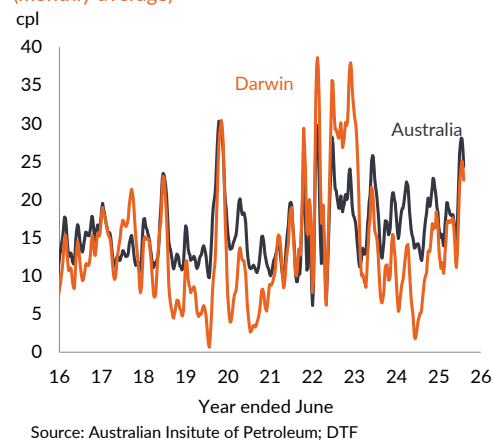


Table 1: Monthly average fuel prices

	Monthly average			Change (cpl)	
	Jan 25	Dec 25	Jan 26	Monthly <sup>1</sup>	Year-ended <sup>2</sup>
<b>Unleaded petrol</b>					
<b>Retail price</b>					
Northern Territory	197.3	198.0	196.6	-1.4	-0.7
- Darwin	182.9	184.6	182.9	-1.7	0.0
- Alice Springs	247.2	243.8	243.5	-0.3	-3.7
- Katherine	205.4	205.4	203.7	-1.7	-1.7
- Tennant Creek	218.5	223.0	221.9	-1.1	3.4
Australia	181.7	179.1	176.2	-2.9	-5.5
<b>Terminal gate price<sup>3</sup></b>					
Darwin	174.8	163.8	157.6	-6.2	-17.2
Australia	169.9	159.6	153.6	-6.0	-16.3
<b>Gross indicative retail difference (GIRD)<sup>4</sup></b>					
Darwin	8.1	20.9	25.3	4.4	17.2
Australia	11.8	19.5	22.6	3.1	10.8
<b>Retail price differential from Australia</b>					
Northern Territory	15.6	18.9	20.4	1.5	4.8
- Darwin	1.2	5.5	6.7	1.2	5.5
<b>Diesel</b>					
<b>Retail price</b>					
Northern Territory	209.9	209.3	206.6	-2.7	-3.3
- Darwin	188.6	188.9	185.5	-3.4	-3.1
- Regional average*	242.9	240.8	239.2	-1.6	-3.7
Australia	190.2	188.4	182.8	-5.6	-7.4
<b>Terminal gate price<sup>3</sup></b>					
Darwin	182.9	165.5	163.0	-2.5	-19.9
Australia	178.2	160.9	158.4	-2.5	-19.8
<b>Gross indicative retail difference (GIRD)<sup>4</sup></b>					
Darwin	5.7	23.5	22.6	-0.9	16.9
Australia	12.0	27.5	24.3	-3.2	12.3
<b>Retail price differential from Australia</b>					
Northern Territory	19.7	20.9	23.8	2.9	4.1
- Darwin	-1.6	0.5	2.7	2.2	4.3

Table 2 - Monthly average crude oil prices

	Monthly average			Change (%)	
	Jan 25	Dec 25	Jan 26	Monthly <sup>1</sup>	Year-ended <sup>2</sup>
Brent spot price in \$US per barrel	78.18	61.13	64.74	5.9	-17.2
Brent spot price in \$AU per barrel	125.54	91.78	95.27	3.8	-24.1

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 (TGP) 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

Economic Group | Department of Treasury and Finance

P: 08 8999 6718 | E: [economics.dtf@nt.gov.au](mailto:economics.dtf@nt.gov.au) | W: [nteconomy.nt.gov.au](http://nteconomy.nt.gov.au)