

Fuel prices

August 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 August 2026 is calculated as the average price in cents per litre (cpl) for the four weeks ending 06 September 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	210.9	↑16.2	↑27.1
Alice Springs	273.9	↑16.0	↑29.5
Katherine	250.5	↑10.8	↑45.6
Tennant Creek	243.4	↑12.0	↑23.2
Northern Territory average ¹	226.0	↑15.8	↑28.6
Australia average ¹	203.4	↑14.4	↑24.7

¹ weighted average

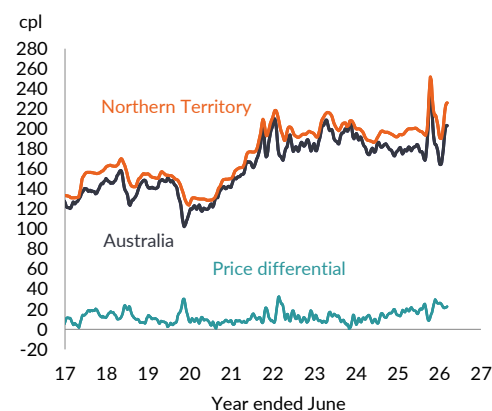
The average retail price of ULP in the Territory was 226.0 cpl, 15.8 cpl higher than the previous month and 28.6 cpl higher in year-ended terms (Chart 1). Nationally, the average retail price of ULP was 203.4 cpl, 14.4 cpl higher than the previous month and 24.7 cpl higher in year-ended terms.

In Darwin, the average ULP price was 210.9 cpl, 16.2 cpl higher than the previous month and 27.1 cpl higher in year-ended terms. This was the highest retail price of the capital cities, which otherwise ranged from 200.6 cpl in Sydney to 206.4 cpl in Canberra (Chart 2).

The average TGP for ULP in Darwin was 203.3 cpl, 15.5 cpl higher than the previous month and 35.6 cpl higher in year-ended terms. The average TGP nationally was 195.3 cpl, 15.5 cpl higher than the previous month and 31.8 cpl higher in year-ended terms.

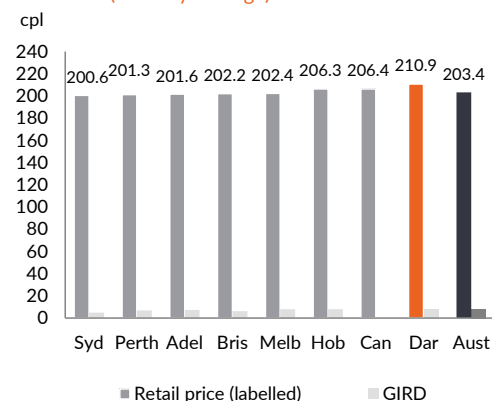
The monthly average GIRD for ULP in Darwin increased by 0.6 cpl to 7.5 cpl (Chart 3). This was the third highest GIRD of the capital cities, which ranged from 4.9 cpl in Sydney to 8.0 cpl in Melbourne. The national average GIRD for ULP declined by 1.1 cpl to 8.1 cpl in the month.

Chart 1: Retail unleaded petrol price (monthly average)



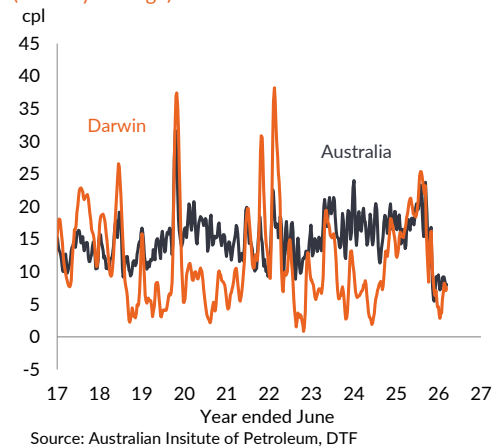
Source: Australian Institute of Petroleum, DTF

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



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 269.3 cpl. This was an increase of 23.2 cpl from the previous month and 61.0 cpl higher in year-ended terms (Chart 4). The monthly average retail diesel price across Australia was 249.8 cpl, an increase of 24.1 cpl from the previous month and 64.2 cpl higher in year-ended terms.

	Average retail diesel price, cpl	Monthly change, cpl	Year-ended change, cpl
Darwin	254.3	↑25.8	↑67.0
Regional average ¹	292.5	↑19.1	↑51.6
Northern Territory average ¹	269.3	↑23.2	↑61.0
Australia average ¹	249.8	↑24.1	↑64.2

¹ weighted average

Darwin recorded a monthly average retail diesel price of 254.3 cpl, 25.8 cpl higher than the previous month and 67.0 cpl higher in year-ended terms. Darwin had the second highest retail price of the capital cities, which ranged from 243.1 cpl in Perth to 254.5 cpl in Canberra (Chart 5).

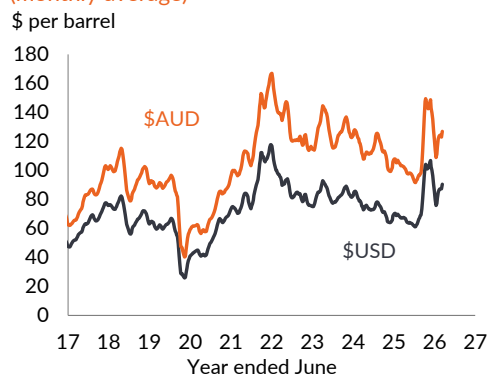
The TGP for diesel in Darwin was 249.3 cpl, 21.7 cpl higher than last month and 78.6 cpl higher in year-ended terms. Darwin's average GIRD for diesel increased by 4.1 cpl to 5.0 cpl (Chart 6). This was the lowest of the capital cities, which otherwise ranged from 5.4 cpl in Sydney to 12.4 cpl in Hobart.

Brent crude oil

The monthly average spot price of Brent crude oil in August 2026 was \$126.80 per barrel in Australian dollar terms (Chart 7). This was an increase of 2.7% in the month and an increase of 23.0% in year-ended terms.

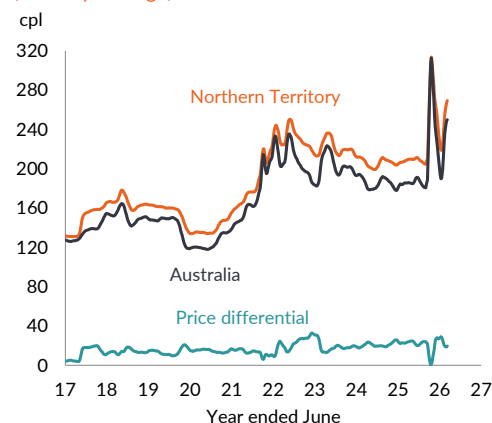
	Average spot price (per barrel)	Monthly change (%)	Year-ended change (%)
Brent crude \$US	90.40	↑4.6	↑34.8
Brent crude \$AU	126.80	↑2.7	↑23.0

Chart 7: Brent crude oil prices (monthly average)



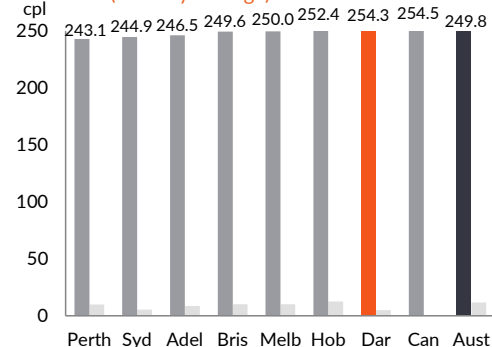
Source: Reserve Bank of Australia, Investing.com AU, DTF

Chart 4: Retail diesel price (monthly average)



Source: Australian Institute of Petroleum, DTF

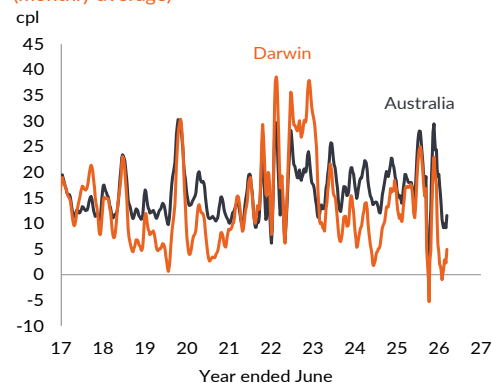
Chart 5: Diesel price and gross indicative retail difference (monthly average)



*No fuel import terminal in Canberra

Source: Australian Institute of Petroleum, DTF

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



Source: Australian Institute of Petroleum; DTF

Table 1: Monthly average fuel prices

	Monthly average			Change (cpl)	
	Aug 25	Jul 26	Aug 26	Monthly ¹	Year-ended ²
Unleaded petrol					
Retail price					
Northern Territory	197.4	210.2	226.0	15.8	28.6
– Darwin	183.8	194.7	210.9	16.2	27.1
– Alice Springs	244.4	257.9	273.9	16.0	29.5
– Katherine	204.9	239.7	250.5	10.8	45.6
– Tennant Creek	220.2	231.4	243.4	12.0	23.2
Australia	178.7	189.0	203.4	14.4	24.7
Terminal gate price³					
Darwin	167.7	187.8	203.3	15.5	35.6
Australia	163.5	179.8	195.3	15.5	31.8
Gross indicative retail difference (GIRD)⁴					
Darwin	16.1	6.9	7.5	0.6	-8.6
Australia	15.1	9.2	8.1	-1.1	-7.0
Retail price differential from Australia					
Northern Territory	18.7	21.2	22.6	1.4	3.9
– Darwin	5.1	5.7	7.5	1.8	2.4
Diesel					
Retail price					
Northern Territory	208.3	246.1	269.3	23.2	61.0
– Darwin	187.3	228.5	254.3	25.8	67.0
– Regional average*	240.9	273.4	292.5	19.1	51.6
Australia	185.6	225.7	249.8	24.1	64.2
Terminal gate price³					
Darwin	170.7	227.6	249.3	21.7	78.6
Australia	166.0	216.5	238.2	21.7	72.2
Gross indicative retail difference (GIRD)⁴					
Darwin	16.6	0.9	5.0	4.1	-11.6
Australia	19.6	9.1	11.6	2.5	-8.0
Retail price differential from Australia					
Northern Territory	22.7	20.4	19.5	-0.9	-3.2
– Darwin	1.7	2.8	4.5	1.7	2.8

Table 2 - Monthly average crude oil prices

	Monthly average			Change (%)	
	Aug 25	Jul 26	Aug 26	Monthly ¹	Year-ended ²
Brent spot price in \$US per barrel	67.06	86.40	90.40	4.6	34.8
Brent spot price in \$AU per barrel	103.11	123.53	126.80	2.7	23.0

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

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