Alaska Fuel Price Report: Summer 2019

State of Alaska; Division of Community and Regional Affairs
March 5, 2026

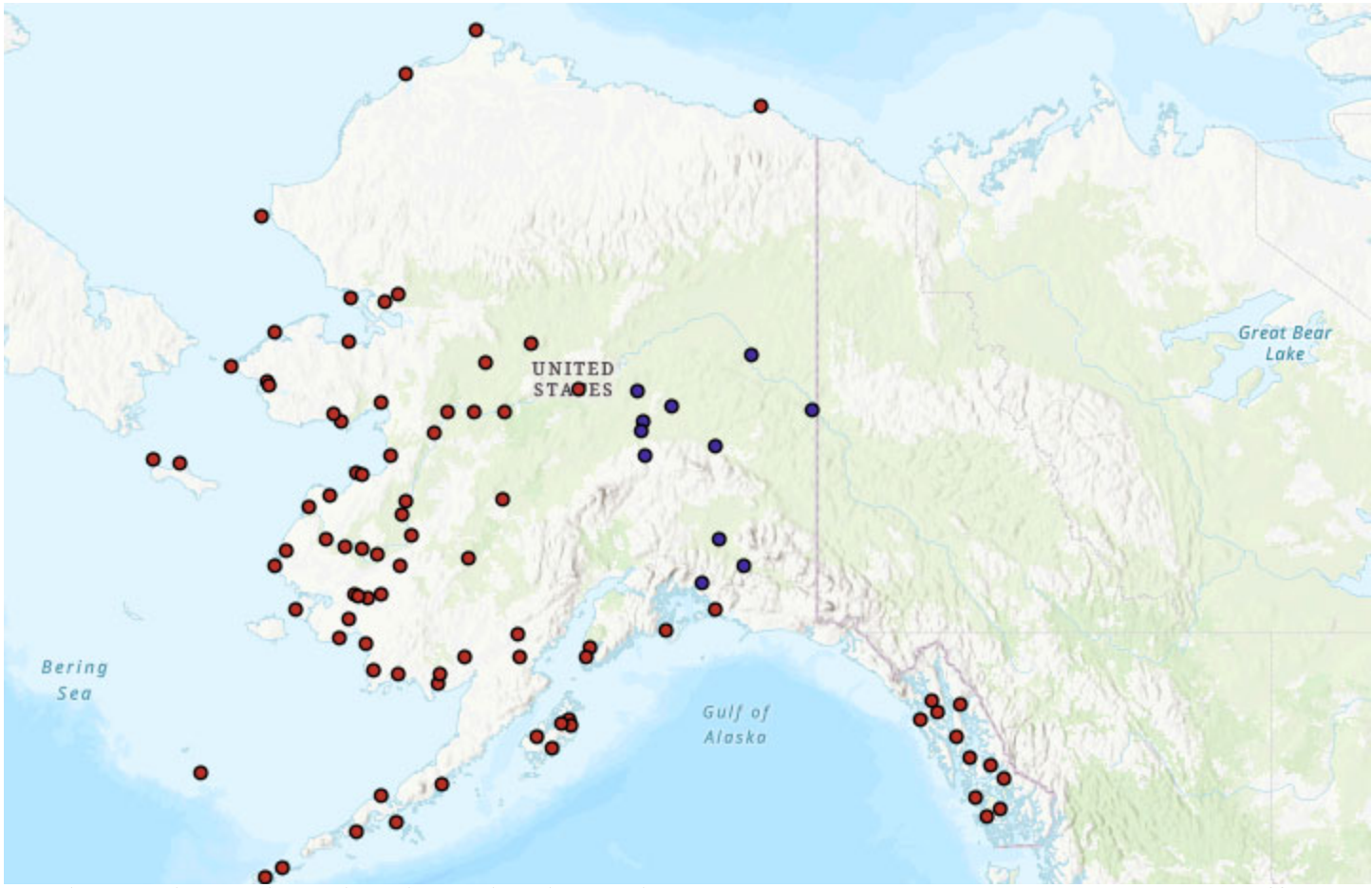
The Alaska Fuel Price Report was originally created in 2005 to inform former Governor Frank Murkowski's administration about actual energy costs across Alaska. These data were used to inform decision making relating to grant and loan programs administered by the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development.

Since the initial report in 2005, DCRA has conducted 27 surveys to obtain heating fuel and gasoline prices from 100 selected Alaskan communities. The survey data continue to be used by public and private entities as a consistent frame of reference over time.

This report provides summary information about current fuel prices across Alaska, comparisons of historical fuel prices in the surveyed communities versus the national average, and interactive maps that contain both current and historical fuel price data.

Since the initial report in 2005, the Division of Community and Regional Affairs (DCRA) has conducted 41 surveys to obtain heating fuel and gasoline prices from 100 selected Alaskan communities. At the time the survey was launched, the national AAA fuel survey only reported Anchorage and Mat-Su pricing, so these areas were deliberately excluded from the 100 select communities. For twenty years, DCRA fuel survey data have been used by public and private entities as a consistent frame of reference for gasoline and heating fuel prices over time.

This report provides summary information about current fuel prices across Alaska, comparisons of historical fuel prices in the surveyed communities versus the national average, and interactive maps that contain both current and historical fuel price data.



About Fuel Transportation in Alaska

Most communities in Alaska receive heating fuel and gasoline by barge or via the road system; however, some communities receive fuel by air cargo, local refineries, or seasonal ice roads.

Communities on the road system or those near local refineries receive regular fuel shipments and have access to cheap, reliable delivery.

Southeast and Gulf Coast communities are generally able to receive fuel barges or chartered boats year round. Most of these communities will have gasoline and heating fuel prices that rise and fall throughout the year.

Coastal communities in western Alaska and communities along Alaska's major river systems have a shorter window in which to receive fuel. Rough waters, ice buildup, and shallow river depths limit when fuel barges can make deliveries. Specialized barges are

required to deliver fuel to river communities where docking facilities are underdeveloped or nonexistent and rivers can be shallow. Longer shipping distances and unique shipping solutions add to the overall cost of fuel delivery.

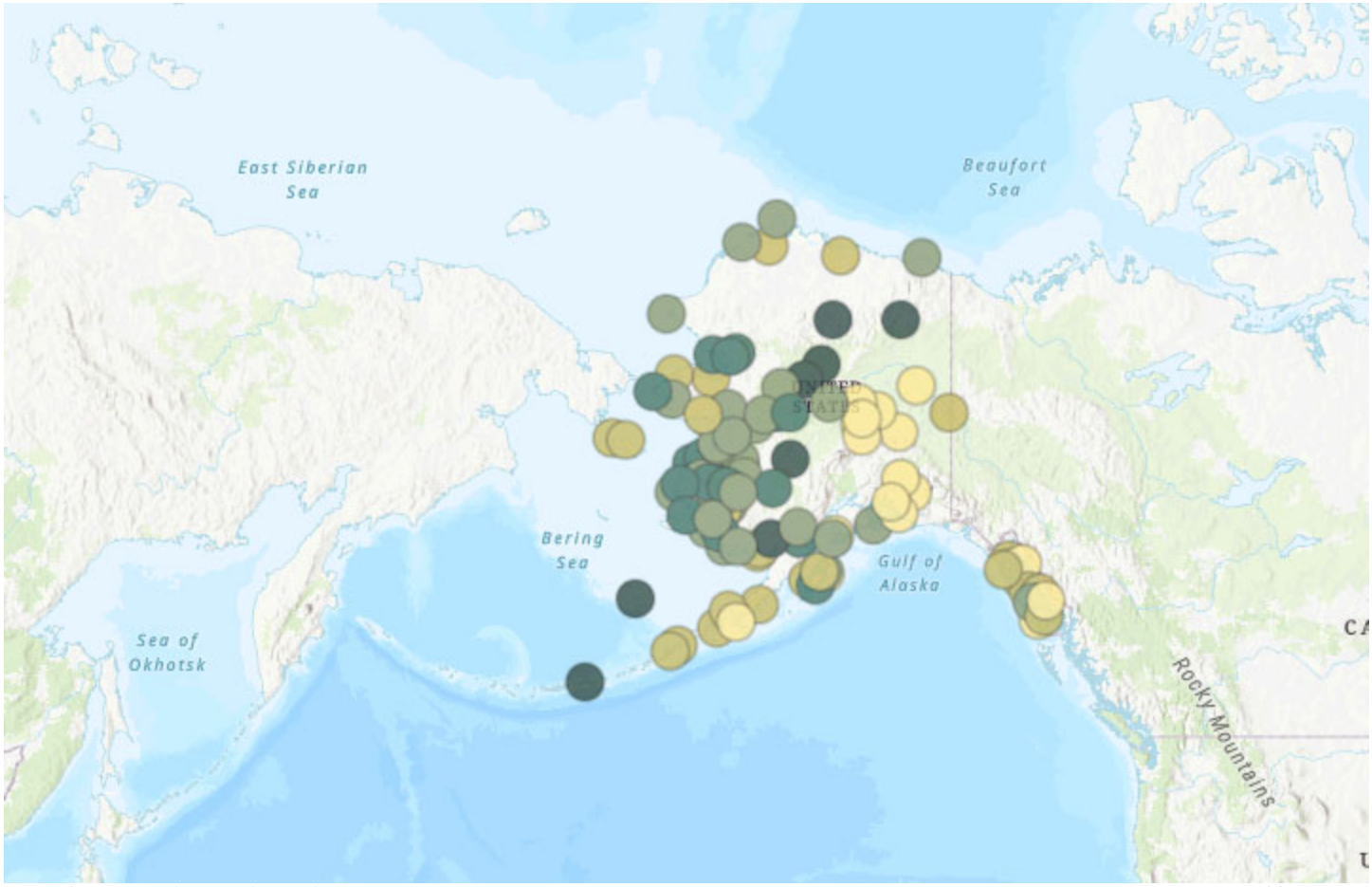
Communities in these areas have a large fuel delivery in the summer, and possibly a small top-off delivery shortly before the rivers and ports freeze over. Because of the limited delivery schedule, prices in these communities often remain fixed for a full year until the arrival of the next barge. Communities in these areas have a large fuel delivery in the summer, and possibly a small top-off delivery shortly before the rivers and ports freeze over. Because of the limited delivery schedule, prices in these communities often remain fixed for a full year until the arrival of the next barge.

Communities that are not on the road system and not located near the coast or a major river rely on air service for fuel delivery. As these communities are usually rural, remote communities, delivery volumes are limited. Retail prices in these communities reflect the inefficiencies involved in shipping fuel via general aviation.

This map indicates how fuel is most commonly transported to each of the 100 surveyed communities. Researchers: The DCRA Community Database Online allows for download of fuel transportation methods.

Note: Communities may receive fuel by other transportation methods. Infrastructure issues, environmental conditions (ice thickness, river height, etc.), or unexpected bulk fuel shortages can all lead to a vendor using a different method of transportation

Researchers: DCRA's Community Database Online has data about fuel transportation methods for download.



Gasoline Pricing in Alaskan Communities

In July 2019, the average retail price of unleaded gasoline in the 100 surveyed communities was $5.19 per gallon. The national average price for unleaded gasoline was $2.78 per gallon.

The map to the right includes the price per gallon for gasoline in each of the surveyed communities as reported in the July 2019 survey.

Gasoline Price Average by Region

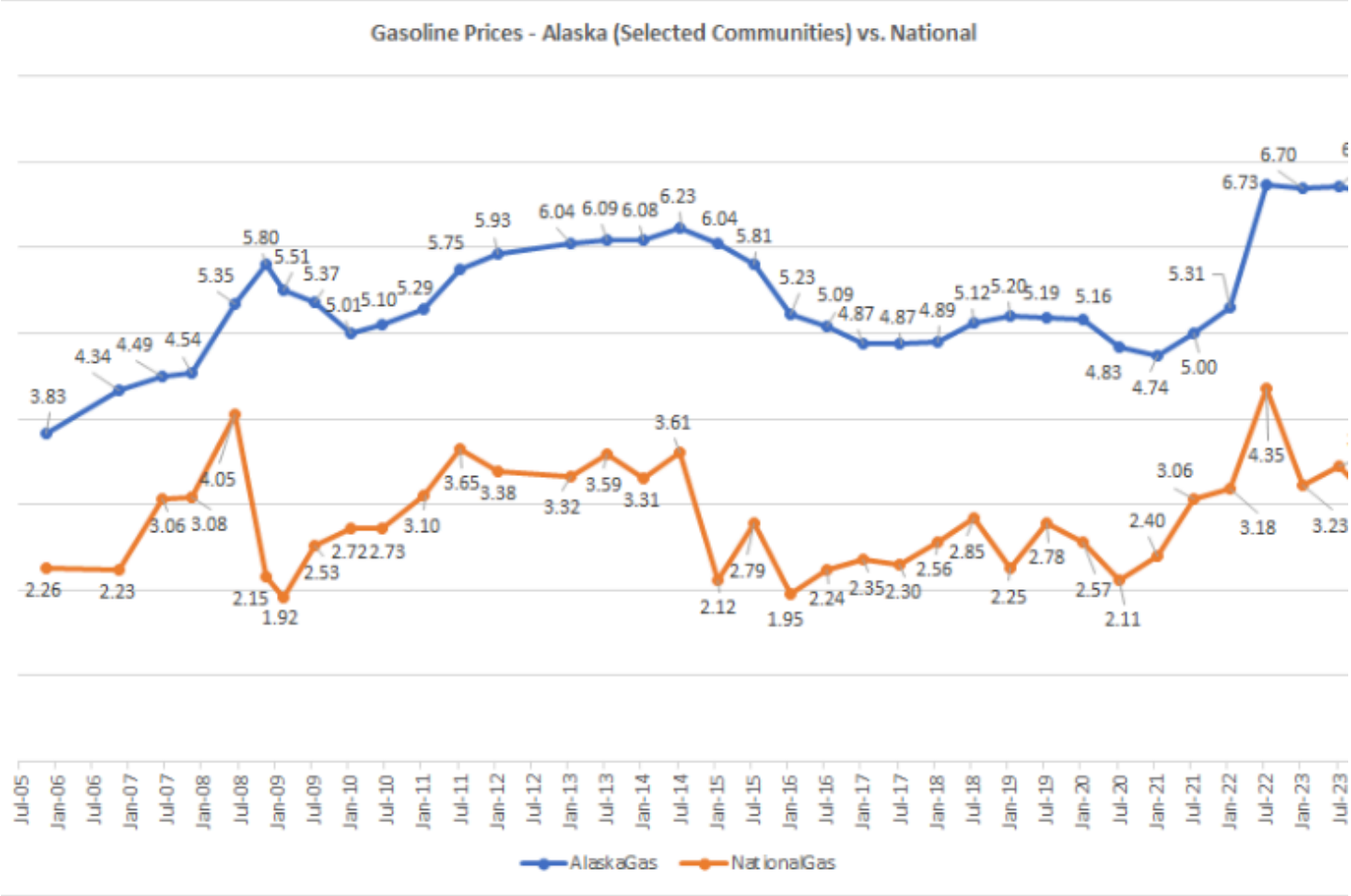
Among the surveyed communities, the Southeast region had the lowest average gasoline price at $4.28 per gallon. The Western region had the highest average gasoline price at $5.74 per gallon.

The Interior region featured the two communities with the lowest retail price and the two communities with the highest retail price for gasoline. Fairbanks ($3.09 per gallon) and Healy ($3.12 per gallon) are both along the road system while Arctic Village ($10.00 per gallon) and Hughes ($8.00 per gallon) both rely on air cargo for fuel delivery.

Region	Average
Gulf Coast	$4.50
Interior	$5.49
Northern	$5.43
Northwest	$4.99

Southeast	$4.28
Southwest	$5.41
Western	$5.74

Note: Because national fuel surveys included Southcentral Alaska only, the DCRA fuel survey was intentionally designed to report on fuel prices in unreported regions of Alaska. For this reason, the DCRA survey does not report on prices in the Anchorage/Mat-Su region.



Comparison of Gasoline Prices vs. National Average: 2005 to Present

Average gasoline prices for the 100 surveyed communities have generally been between $2.00 and $3.00 per gallon higher than the national average. In western regions and river communities of Alaska, communities are locked into the prior summer's prices even when winter prices drop significantly elsewhere. These gaps were exaggerated in winters when a summer spike in the price per barrel

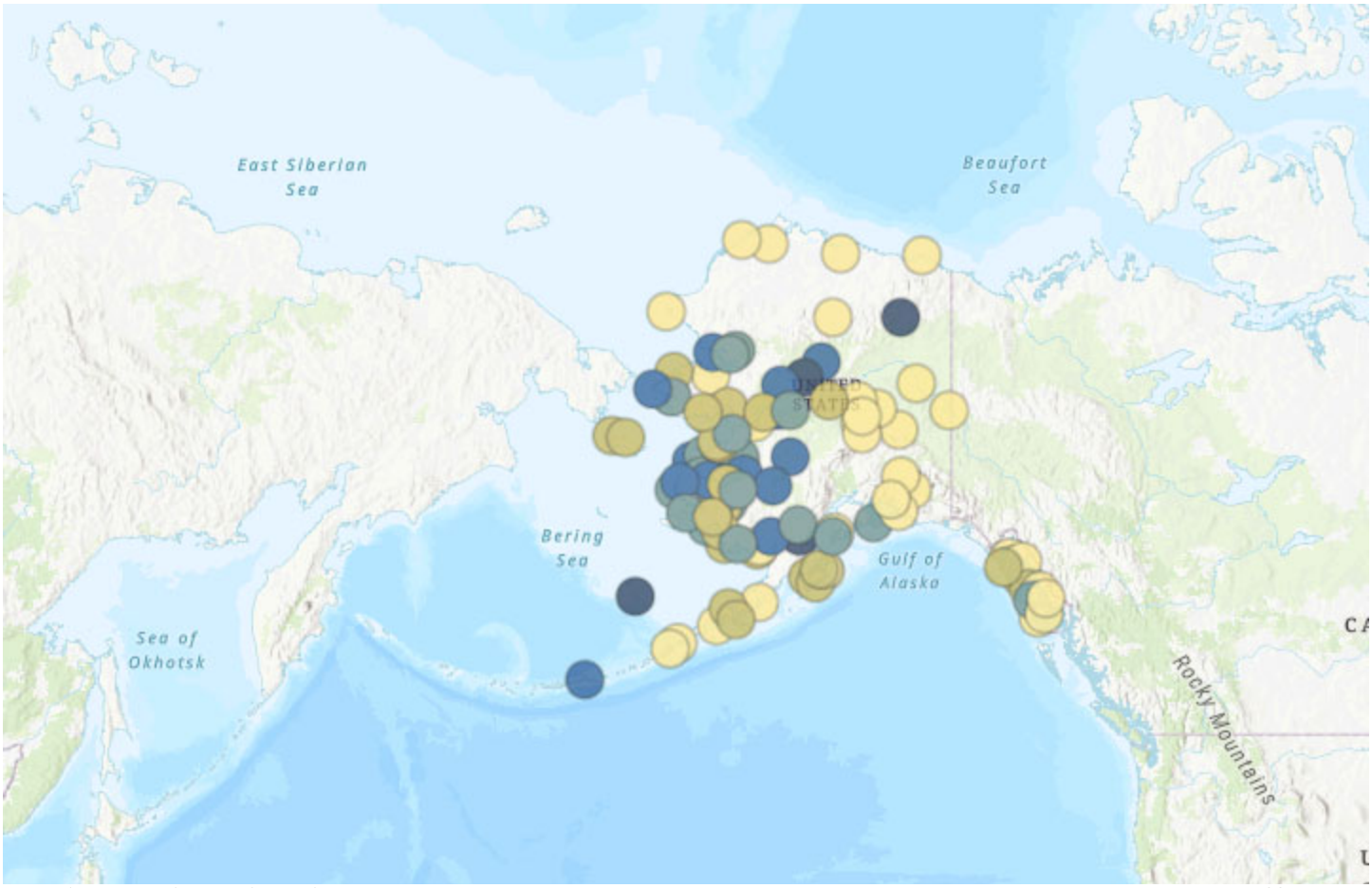
of Alaska North Slope Crude was followed by a winter crash, such as those in 2009 and 2015:

$133.78 in June 2008 vs. $39.01 in January 2009

$114.47 in July 2014 vs. $48.87 in January 2015

In the February 2009 and January 2015 surveys, winter gasoline prices were between $3.50 and $4.00 per gallon higher in the surveyed communities - nearly triple the national average ($5.51 vs. $1.92 and $6.04 vs. $2.12, respectively).

Researchers: The national unleaded gasoline average is tracked by the US Energy Information Administration and is based on regular, conventional gasoline.



Heating Fuel Prices in Alaskan Communities

In July 2019, the average retail price of heating fuel in the 93 surveyed, unsubsidized communities was $4.89 per gallon. The

national average price for heating fuel was $3.22 per gallon.

The map to the right includes the price per gallon for heating fuel in each of the surveyed communities as reported in the July 2019 survey.

Note 1: The Northern region is not included in this average because residential heating fuel is subsidized by the North Slope Borough.

Note 2: The national heating fuel average is based on the price of heating fuel #2, the primary heating fuel utilized in the Lower 48. The average of Alaska's 93 surveyed, unsubsidized communities is based on the fuel most commonly sold in the community. In most cases this is heating fuel #1, which is better suited to Alaska's cold climates.

Note 3: The national heating fuel average is tracked by the US Energy Information Administration from October to March. The most recent nationally reported heating fuel average is from March 25, 2019.

Heating Fuel Price Average by Region

Among the surveyed communities, the Gulf Coast region had the least expensive average heating fuel price at $3.92 per gallon, The Western region had the most expensive average heating fuel price at $5.47 per gallon.

Road system communities within the Gulf Coast and Interior regions featured the communities with the lowest retail price. Homer ($2.97 per gallon) and Fairbanks ($3.06 per gallon).

The interior communities of Arctic Village ($12.00 per gallon) and Hughes ($9.00 per gallon) have the highest heating fuel prices. Both communities are off the road system and rely on air cargo for fuel delivery.

Region	Average
Gulf Coast	$3.92
Interior	$5.31

Northwest	$4.85
Southeast	$3.97
Southwest	$5.08
Western	$5.47

Note 1: The Northern region is not included in this comparison because residential heating fuel is subsidized by the North Slope Borough. See the section About heating fuel pricing in the North Slope for more details.

Note 2: Because national fuel surveys included Southcentral Alaska only, the DCRA fuel survey was intentionally designed to report on fuel prices in unreported regions of Alaska. For this reason, the DCRA survey does not report on prices in the Anchorage/Mat-Su region.

Note 3: The national heating fuel average is based on the price of heating fuel #2, the primary heating fuel utilized in the Lower 48. The average of Alaska's 93 surveyed, unsubsidized communities is based on the fuel most commonly sold in the community. In most cases this is heating fuel #1, which is better suited to Alaska's cold climates.

Note 4: The national heating fuel average is tracked by the US Energy Information Administration from October to March. The most recent nationally reported heating fuel average is from March 25, 2019.

This is an image of the coastline in Utqiagvik, Alaska

About Heating Fuel Pricing in the North Slope Borough

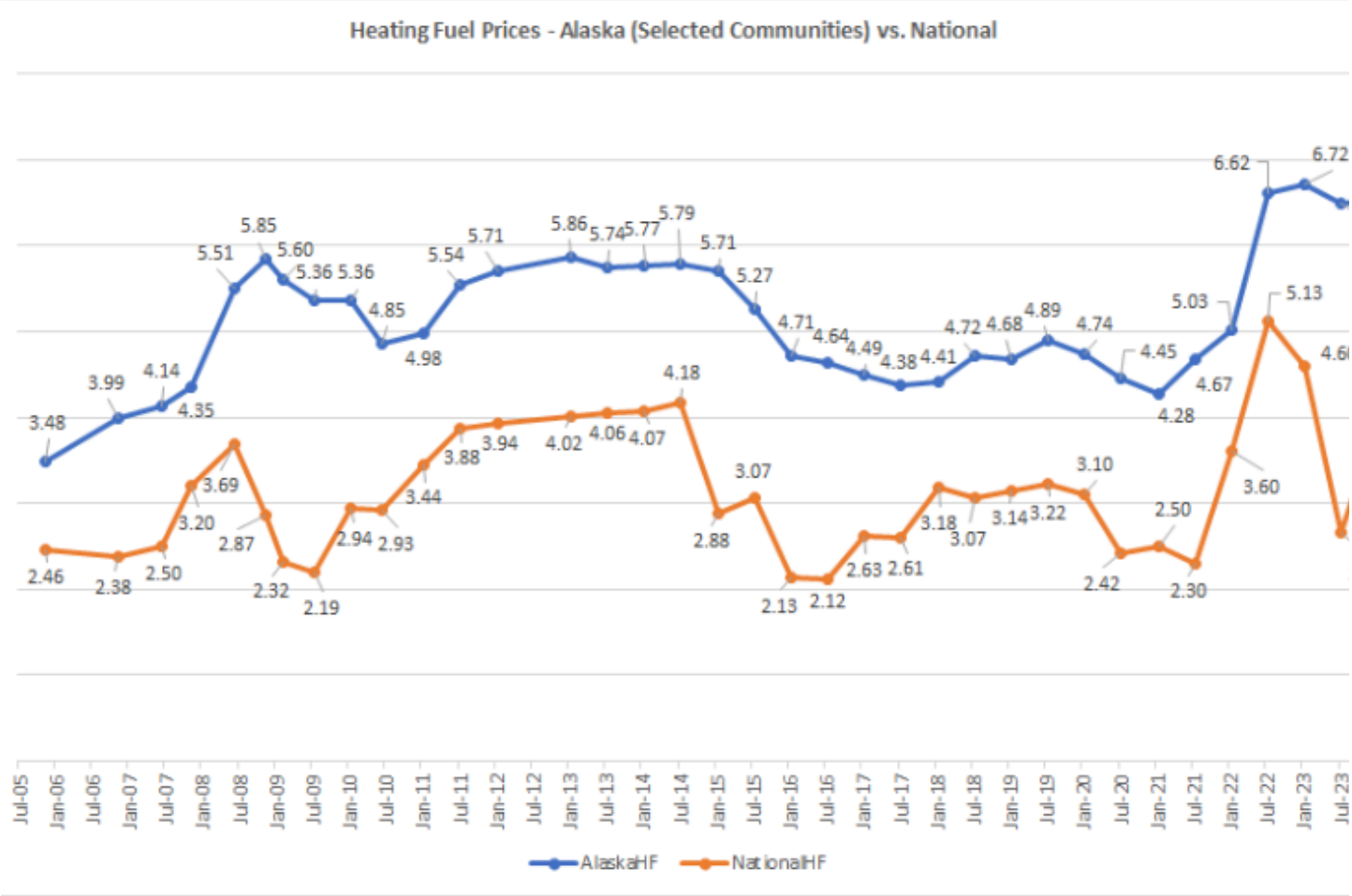
Residential heating fuel in the North Slope is subsidized by the North Slope Borough. This subsidy is not extended to commercial businesses. The commercial heating fuel price in North Slope communities is routinely 2 to 6 times higher than the residential price.

Because residential heating fuel prices are subsidized in this region, North Slope communities are not factored into the average heating fuel price of DCRA's surveyed communities.

Note: Residential heating fuel is not sold in Utqiagvik. Homes in Utqiagvik are heated with natural gas.

Comparison of North Slope residential and commercial heating fuel prices in July 2019:

Community	Residential	Commercial
Anaktuvuk Pass	$1.50	$8.35
Atqasuk	$1.40	$4.10
Kaktovik	$2.50	$6.00
Nuiqsut	$2.30	$6.91
Point Hope	$2.08	$7.25
Utqiagvik	n/a	2.08
Wainwright	$1.50	$7.30



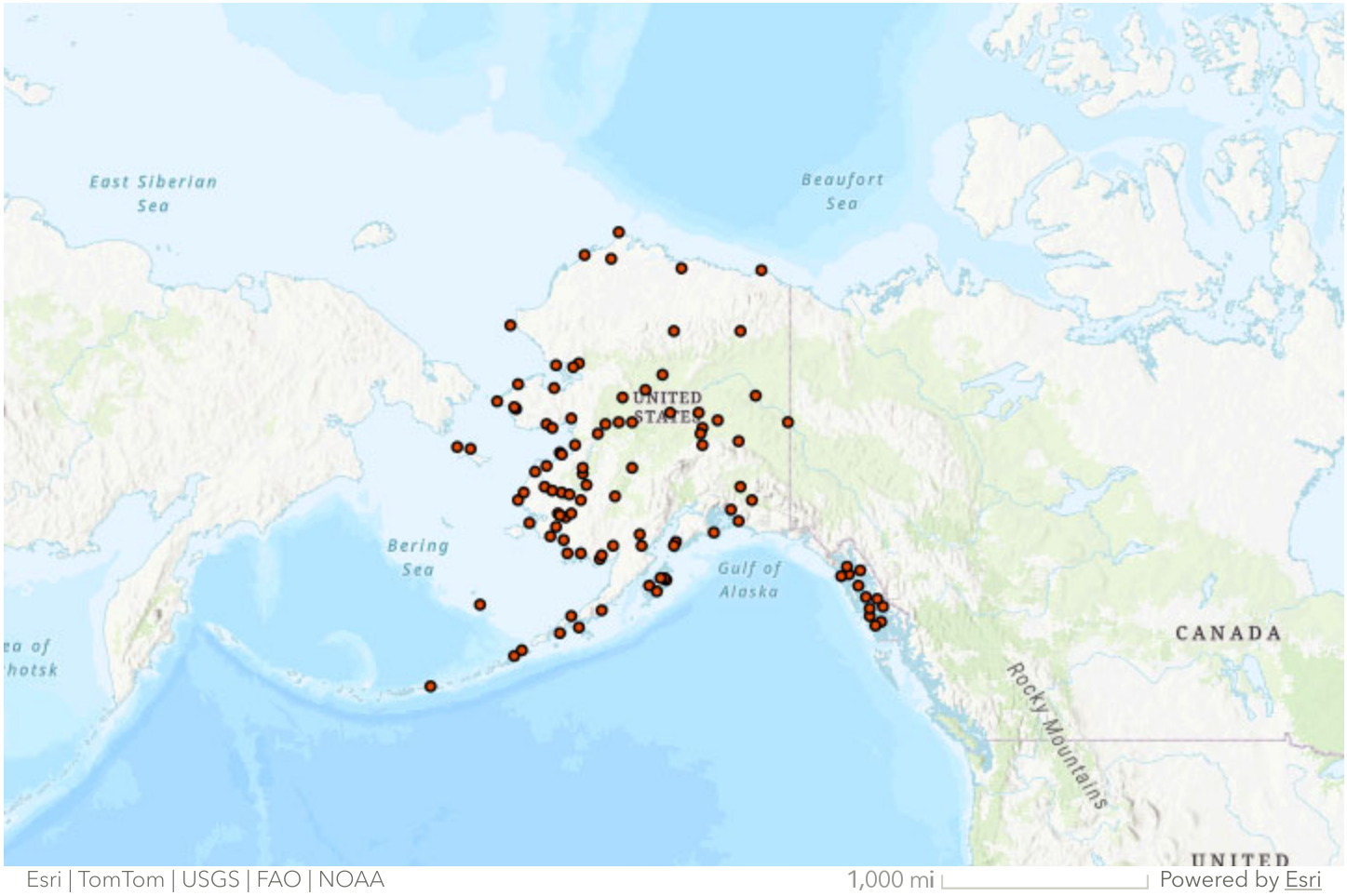
Comparison of Heating Fuel Prices vs. National Average: 2005 to Present

Average heating fuel prices in the surveyed communities have generally ranged between $1.00 and $2.00 per gallon higher than the national average. These gaps were exaggerated in winters when a summer spike in the price per barrel of Alaska North Slope Crude was followed by a winter crash, such as those in 2009 and 2015:

- $133.78 in June 2008 vs. $39.01 in January 2009
- $114.47 in July 2014 vs. $48.87 in January 2015

In the February 2009 survey, winter heating fuel prices were $3.28 per gallon higher in the surveyed communities ($5.60 vs. $2.32) - nearly a 150% premium.

Note: National averages for per gallon gasoline pricing are obtained from the United States Energy Information Administration.



Interactive Map of DCRA Fuel Survey Data

The map to the right contains historical pricing for all 100 surveyed communities from Winter 2005 to present.

There are missing data points within the historical collection. Missing data points indicate that one of the following conditions occurred:

- The vendor did not sell a given fuel type at the time of the survey
- The vendor was out of inventory at the time of the survey
- The vendor was unresponsive or unreachable during the survey period
- In two instances, the recorded survey response was determined to be in error and the value was removed from the historical data
  - Summer 2018, Wainwright - The commercial heating fuel price of $7.30 per gallon was recorded instead of the residential rate

- Winter 2018, Shishmaref - The heating fuel price was recorded as $15.30 per gallon, more than $10.00 per gallon higher than either the reported Summer 2017 or Summer 2018 price

Researchers: DCRA fuel survey data is available through the Community Database Online for both heating fuel and gasoline data.

This is an image of the Trans Alaska Pipeline, as seen in Prudhoe Bay, Alaska

About Alaska North Slope Crude Pricing

Alaska North Slope Crude pricing is relevant to any conversation relating to unleaded gasoline and heating fuel prices in Alaska.

While high crude oil prices inevitably lead to high prices for petroleum distillates, these prices also increase state revenue and allow Alaska's decision makers to enact programs and policies to mitigate the impacts these prices have upon its residents, such as the energy rebate that was distributed in 2008.

The Alaska Department of Revenue's Tax Division reports on the daily price and output and the monthly average price of Alaska North Slope Crude.

Bulk Fuel Revolving Loan Program

The Division of Community and Regional Affairs administers the Bulk Fuel Revolving Loan Program to assist communities, utilities, and fuel retailers with purchases of bulk fuel to generate power or supply the public with fuel for use in rural communities.

More information about this program is available on DCRA's website.

Image of bulk fuel tanks in Elfin Cove, Alaska

Historical Alaska Fuel Price Reports

PDF copies of all historical (2005 to 2017) Alaska Fuel Price Reports may be obtained here.


This is a historical photo of a Copper Center gas station

About the Alaska Fuel Price Report

The Alaska Fuel Price Report is an ongoing project of the Division of Community and Regional Affairs (DCRA). On 26 occasions from November 2005 to January 2019, DCRA has surveyed 100 selected communities across Alaska and obtained pricing information for unleaded gasoline and heating fuel.

Due to the inherent challenges related to surveying rural Alaskan communities, actual contact dates within a given survey period may range from three days to three weeks apart. Gasoline and heating fuel prices are based on the price of fuel on the actual day of contact.

National pricing data is sourced from the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Alaska North Slope crude pricing data is sourced from the Alaska Department of Revenue.

For more information about this report, please contact DCRA Mapping, Analytics, and Data Resources.