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## **Petrol and diesel prices up again last month with mixed outlook for April**

**March saw the fifth straight month of petrol and diesel price increases at UK forecourts, with prices up another 2.7p and 2.4p respectively and both fuels now costing the same as they did in February 2020, according to new data from RAC Fuel Watch.**

With the average price of a litre of petrol now standing at 126.28p and diesel at 129.07p, drivers are respectively having to pay 12.2p and 11.4p more for every litre than they did at the start of November, a rise of about 10% rise in

just five months. This means it now costs £6.68 more to fill a 55-litre petrol car than it did in November (£69.45 in total), and £6.29 more to fill an equivalent-sized diesel car (£70.99).

While the oil price was \$63.67 at the end of March having recovered in recent months after hitting a historic low of just \$13.21 last April, the ongoing impact of the pandemic on demand – particularly with global travel well down on normal – is, for now, helping to prevent it from going much higher.

Drivers looking for the best value at the pumps should continue to head to supermarkets, with a litre of unleaded currently costing 121.9p on average, with diesel at 124.86p. Asda leads the way with petrol at just 120.99p a litre, and diesel at 123.99p. It is still the case, however, that all the major retailers raised their prices in March in line with the rest of the industry, to the tune of an average of 2.61p for petrol and 2.59p for diesel.

In fact, RAC Fuel Watch data suggests that drivers should even be in line for a pump price cut in the coming weeks if retailers fairly reflect wholesale prices on their forecourts.

**RAC fuel spokesman Simon Williams said:**

“Pump price rises seem a little unrelenting at the moment with March being the fifth successive month where prices went up. This is very frustrating for drivers who are now starting to use their vehicles more with the easing of the national lockdown. They’re unfortunately suffering the effects of the rise in wholesale fuel prices that took place in February which led retailers to increase their forecourt prices almost daily throughout last month.

“The situation isn’t as grim as it could be though as the combination of a relatively strong pound and an oil price that is pegged back by lower global demand as a result of the pandemic mean wholesale prices are still lower than they otherwise would be.

“Diesel is looking particularly overpriced at the moment, with the wholesale price of the fuel currently less than the petrol equivalent. Unfortunately, this rarely translates into lower prices as retailers tend to use the saving to subsidise the price of petrol.

“The coming weeks and months are critical when it comes to working out where prices might be heading during the rest of 2021. For as long as global Covid travel restrictions remain, it’s hard to see oil prices rocketing – and that should protect wholesale, and in turn, pump prices from rising too quickly. However, what the major oil producing nations decide to do in terms of oil output is also important. Any further reductions in supply could start to push the barrel price up above the \$70 mark again – spelling yet more pump price rises here in the UK.”

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### Regional pump prices compared

<b>Unleaded</b>	<b>01/03/2021</b>	<b>30/03/2021</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>UK average</b>	<b>123.58</b>	<b>126.26</b>	<b>2.68</b>
East	124.03	126.86	2.83
East Midlands	123.43	125.78	2.35
London	124.81	127.87	3.06
North East	122.44	125.11	2.67
North West	123.37	125.89	2.52
Northern Ireland	118.45	122.18	3.73

Scotland	122.72	125.97	3.25
South East	124.59	127.36	2.77
South West	123.48	126.32	2.84
Wales	122.40	125.14	2.74
West Midlands	123.53	125.99	2.46
Yorkshire And The Humber	123.20	125.40	2.20

<b>Diesel</b>	<b>01/03/2021</b>	<b>30/03/2021</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>UK average</b>	<b>126.68</b>	<b>129.03</b>	<b>2.35</b>
East	127.61	129.96	2.35
East Midlands	126.65	128.85	2.20
London	127.54	130.21	2.67
North East	125.61	127.97	2.36
North West	126.23	128.63	2.40
Northern Ireland	121.76	124.40	2.64
Scotland	126.26	128.72	2.46
South East	127.95	130.33	2.38
South West	126.84	129.24	2.40
Wales	125.71	128.19	2.48
West Midlands	126.70	128.99	2.29
Yorkshire And The Humber	126.18	128.47	2.29

[Find out more about UK petrol and diesel prices](#) on the RAC website.

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## **Notes to Editors**

\* UK national average pump prices quoted are based on Experian Catalist data from 1 to 31 March 2021. Regional pump price from 1 to 30 March. Wholesale prices, oil price and the value of sterling are based on data from 1 to 31 March 2021.

The press office email address is [press.enquiries@rac.co.uk](mailto: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.

ISDN radio studio facilities are available for interviews Monday to Friday.

## 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](#).

## Contacts



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