

**From:** [Petroleum Marketing Program](#)  
**To:** [Terrence Sauvain, Jr.](#); [Petroleum Marketing Program](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Fuel Price Surveys Overestimating Inflation  
**Date:** Friday, September 27, 2024 2:22:30 PM

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Dear Terry,

Thank you for your feedback on Federal Register Notice 2024-12198 and your interest in our data. We have noted your concerns. You bring up an interesting point on evolving gasoline markets and the availability of new discount programs.

However, since not every gasoline or diesel station we sample offers discounts or a discount program using points, we would be unable to collect comparable prices for gasoline prices across the country if we were to take discounts into account. It would also be difficult at this time to assess how many customers get a discount and the variations of discounts based on other purchases, such as grocery store points. We are aware of the various gasoline and diesel discount programs that exist, but we have instructed respondents to exclude discounts for the purpose of comparability of prices from a measurement perspective.

We are constantly assessing our data offerings and we value the feedback of data users like you.

Rosalyn Berry | U.S. Energy Information Administration  
Petroleum and Natural Gas Data Team Lead | Office of Energy Production, Conversion, & Delivery  
[rosalyn.berry@eia.gov](mailto:rosalyn.berry@eia.gov) | 202-586-2425  
Visit us @ EIA.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Terrence Sauvain, Jr. <[sauvain1@gmail.com](mailto:sauvain1@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2024 8:31 PM  
To: Petroleum Marketing Program <[PetroleumMarketingProgram@eia.gov](mailto:PetroleumMarketingProgram@eia.gov)>  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fuel Price Surveys Overestimating Inflation

Earlier today I filled my tank with regular gasoline for \$2.759/gallon in the Maryland suburbs of Washington, DC. The price I paid included a \$0.90 discount for grocery store points that makes the reported pump price over-inflated by 25 percent.

I am concerned that the increasing prevalence and now routine nature of gasoline discount programs that has been established over the last few years may be leading to overblown estimates of fuel cost inflation. The EIA's reliance on reported pump prices at the same time consumers are more frequently employing substantial discounts seems like it would be presenting a fictitious price that distorts economic data. If gasoline discount point use was a constant, any distortion would be less of a concern, but a dramatic increase in discount program participation could be massively distorting fuel prices.

Please consider more closely examining fuel prices paid and the changes in discount program use by consumers. It seems like the pump prices of a decade ago—or even a few years ago—are not the same thing as reported pump prices today. And misleading fuel price information has massive consequences for Americans.

Thank you,

Terry Sauvain  
Bethesda, MD

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