

FILL 'ER UP... AND UP... AND UP... E



Read a line graph to learn about the record rise in gas prices.

If you were in the car with your parents this summer as they filled up the gas tank, you probably heard grumbles coming from the driver. These unhappy reactions happened at gas stations all across the U.S., caused by record-high gas prices.

A gallon of gasoline has more than quadrupled in price in the past 10 years, and experts aren't sure when it will stop. "Increasing world demand for oil and limited supply are the main reasons prices are increasing," Geoff Sundstrom, fuel price analyst for the American Automobile

Association, told *MATH*.

Think you're too young to be affected by the increasing gas prices? Think again. Sundstrom explained that higher gas prices also cause "higher prices for anything that is delivered by car, truck, train, ship, or plane." Almost everything you buy will be affected!

You may be excited to get your license in a few years, but keep in mind that new drivers are often hit hard by high gas prices. Just ask 16-year-old Sarah Nowalis of Kingston, Pennsylvania, who doesn't think she earns enough to pay for gas. "I will probably have

to take the bus a lot more," Sarah told us.

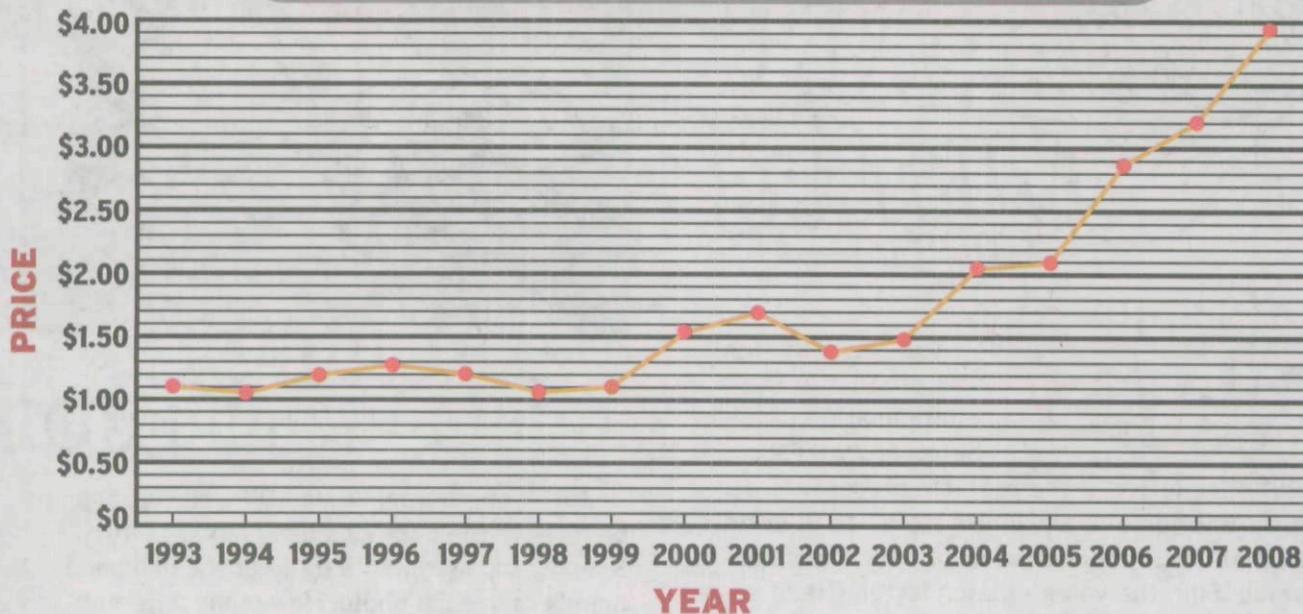
Take a look at our line graph to learn more about rising gas prices. You might soon join in on those gas station grumbles from the back seat!

—by Graham Bavitz

WHAT TO DO

Use the line graph on page 7 to answer the questions.

U.S. AVERAGE PRICE OF A GALLON OF GASOLINE, WEEK ENDING MEMORIAL DAY, 1993-2008



Source: U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration. Regular grade gasoline. Week ending Memorial Day is considered the beginning of the popular summer driving season. Prices rounded to nearest cent.

1 About how much did a gallon of gas cost in 1995?

2 In which year did gas prices first go above \$2.00?

3 Between which two consecutive years on the graph did the gas price...

a. decrease the most?

b. increase the most?

4 In which year did gas cost approximately twice what it cost in 2002?

5 About how much has the price of gas increased from 2003 to 2008?

6 What conclusion can you draw from the graph?

(Fill in one circle.)

- (A) Gas prices increase at the same rate every year.
- (B) After setting record highs, gas prices should soon set record lows.
- (C) If the general trend continues, gas prices could be well over \$4.00 per gallon by next Memorial Day.

High demand and low supply of oil worldwide caused gas prices to soar.



Self Serve Gasoline

Regular

423 ⁹/₁₀

Plus

433 ⁹/₁₀

V-Power

443 ⁹/₁₀

WRITE NOW

What could your family do to save money by using less gasoline? Write your ideas on a separate sheet of paper.

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