

# Hochul announces start of statewide gas and diesel tax holiday

Suspension of certain taxes on motor fuel and diesel motor fuel extends through December

√ Initiative to provide an estimated \$609 million in relief for working families and businesses

√ 25 counties have elected to cap local sales tax per gallon for more savings

Gov. Kathy Hochul on Wednesday announced the suspension of certain taxes on motor fuel and diesel motor fuel is now in effect. The motor fuel excise tax, state sales tax, and metropolitan commuter transportation district sales tax on motor fuel and diesel motor fuel will remain suspended through the end of the year. This fuel taxes suspension will provide a reduction of at least 16 cents per gallon statewide, with some counties providing additional savings per gallon.

"Fuel prices have surged in recent months, hurting working families and small businesses the most, and it is crucial that we provide New Yorkers relief," Hochul said. "By suspending certain fuel taxes for the next seven months, New York is providing some \$609 million in direct relief to New Yorkers – a critical lifeline

for those who need it most. At a time when families are struggling because of economic headwinds and inflation, we will continue to take bold action to reduce the economic burden on New Yorkers and get money back in their pockets."

### Counties Contribute to Additional Savings

Twenty-five counties across the state have also taken action to set temporary caps on the sales tax charged per gallon of gas and diesel. This program was authorized as part of the state's fiscal year 2023 enacted budget.

As of June 1, Delaware, Dutchess, Erie, Monroe, Putnam, Rockland, Saratoga, Schenectady, Seneca, Ulster, Wayne and Yates counties will collect tax only on the first \$2 charged per gallon of gas and diesel, regardless of the actual price at the pump.

Allegany, Broome, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Jefferson, Livingston, Nassau, Niagara, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, Suffolk and Westchester counties will collect tax only on the first \$3 charged



per gallon of gas and diesel, regardless of the actual price at the pump.

Hochul's team said, "These actions will save New Yorkers additional cents per gallon with each customer's specific savings depending on the local sales tax rate and the difference between the price per gallon and the local cap."

### Information for Distributors, Wholesales & Retailers

Hochul previously directed distributors, wholesales and retailers of motor fuel and highway diesel motor fuel to prepare for the upcoming suspension of these taxes.

New York State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins said, "New Yorkers have been

picking up the tab for economic hardships due to geopolitical conflicts and a global pandemic. That is why we suspended the fuel tax and, starting today, are giving workers and families a break that they deserve and allowing them to keep their hard-earned money in their pockets. I am proud to have led the Senate majority in working with Gov. Hochul and Speaker Heastie to support New York consumers during these uncertain economic times."

Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie said, "As gas prices continue to hit record highs, the Assembly majority remains committed to delivering relief for New York's families and small businesses. I am hopeful that this suspension of the gas tax by the state and certain counties will alleviate some economic pressure as families prepare for their summer vacations and businesses rebound from the economic impacts of the pandemic."

## AAA: Gas tax relief in store – but will a tax break offset recent price spikes at the pump?

Information submitted by AAA of Western and Central New York

New York's tax break on gasoline went into effect on Wednesday, June 1. The state is suspending the sales and excise taxes on each gallon of gas, which equates to a total discount of 16 cents per gallon through the end of the year. Many counties across New York have also followed suit and will suspend or cap gas taxes at the county level.

In Erie County, motorists will not be taxed on any gallon of fuel beyond the first \$2. Consumers should save an estimated 11 cents per gallon. Niagara County is capping taxes after \$3 per gallon, and motorists should save about 5 cents per gallon.

With a cap in place, the sales tax won't rise beyond that amount, regardless of how high the price of gas rises. The cap will expire Nov. 30, unless county lawmakers extend it.

Monroe County will tax gas as if it costs \$2 per gallon. Motorists will save 8 cents per gallon if gas

costs \$4 per gallon, which combined with the state tax cap will save motorists 24 cents a gallon.

As of Tuesday, the national average price for a gallon of gasoline is \$4.62. One year ago, the price was \$3.05. The New York state average is \$4.93. A year ago, the NYS average was \$3.08.

AAA Western and Central New York reports the following averages:

- √ Batavia – \$4.83
- √ Buffalo – \$4.83
- √ Elmira – \$4.87
- √ Ithaca – \$4.87
- √ Rochester – \$4.89
- √ Rome – \$4.89
- √ Syracuse – \$4.86
- √ Watertown – \$4.90

Oil prices closed Tuesday topping \$115 per barrel. If oil prices remain elevated, gas prices will likely do the same. Fears of further global supply constraints caused by a European Union (EU) ban on Russian oil exports are driving up oil prices. And domestic gas demand may again start to climb as drivers fuel up

for the three-month-long summer travel season, which began this Memorial Day weekend.

Meanwhile, the national average for diesel fuel is at \$5.52. One year ago, the price was \$3.19. In New York, the average price for diesel is \$6.45. One year ago, the price was \$3.23.

To conserve fuel, motorists should map routes, avoid peak traffic times like rush hour, and combine errands into one trip while using cruise control when possible. Drivers should also make sure tire pressure is at the vehicle's recommended level for the best gas mileage while removing any unnecessary and bulky items from the car, since it takes more fuel to accelerate a heavy vehicle. Get more tips here: <https://gasprices.aaa.com/news/fuel-saving-tips/>. Motorists can benefit from comparing pump prices before filling up with the AAA mobile app for iPhone, iPad and Android.

AAA members receive discounts at gas stations such as Fas-

trac, Maple Leaf Market and Shell. Learn more here. AAA members can save on gas by joining the Fuel Rewards at Shell program. Join at [AAA.com/Shell](http://AAA.com/Shell). Motorists

can also locate gas prices across the country and stay up-to-date on the latest news and fuel-saving tips at <http://gasprices.aaa.com>.

## IN THE NEWS

### Niagara County career fair postponed to June 8

With Wednesday's forecast calling for inclement weather, including rain and possible hail, Niagara's WorkSourceOne made a decision to reschedule its career fair to next Wednesday, June 8.

This event is now slated to run from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Openheim Park, 2713 Niagara Falls Blvd.

For those seeking employment, more than 50 companies with open positions have signed up to take part.

"Our career fairs have a tremendous track record in matching up job seekers with employers, and the current demand of employers

looking to hire has never been higher," said Niagara County Legislator Jesse Gooch, chairman of the community service committee and a small business owner whose company has previously participated in the event. "Whether you are currently unemployed or looking for a change, the right opportunity may be waiting for you at the career fair."

Businesses will be located along the entrance driveway to display information on their company and meet with job seekers. No appointment is necessary.

Director of Employment and Training Donald Jablonski said,

"We were overwhelmed last year with employers in desperate need of employees and, a year later, that demand has only increased. Anyone looking for a job, regardless of skill and educational level, should attend this event. There is a broad spectrum of jobs available, and our WorkSourceOne team will be present to provide job seekers with servicers like resume writing and interview prep as they conduct their job search."

To learn more about the career fair, including a full list of participating businesses, visit [www.worksource1.com](http://www.worksource1.com) and choose career fair under the job seeker tab.



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