



## Gas Prices Soar to Record High

Posted: May 8, 2008 07:43 AM EDT



Prices at the pump soar to another record high. The price of gas in our area is now inching closer to that four dollar a gallon mark and drivers are feeling the pain. Prices are at \$3.89 a gallon. That's up 40 cents from a day ago. At Meijer they had a line down the street. Drivers say they are so frustrated with these prices. They wait to fill up until the price goes down and these days the price just seems to be going up and they don't know why.

Saber Khan, frustrated driver: "It's outrageous, this morning I left home it was \$3.65, what happened now, I don't know."

Allison Hill, frustrated driver: "Considering I just drove by here yesterday and it was \$3.51 a gallon, I'm a student, it's so frustrating because I just feel like it's never ending."

According to AAA, at this time last year fuel prices in Lansing were sitting around \$3.20. That's nearly a 70-cent difference. Just six months ago, prices were even lower at \$3.16. I asked three different drivers what they thought about the prices and they all say the same thing, "outrageous." Unfortunately, experts say we shouldn't expect the prices to go down anytime soon. Another day, another price jump at the pump. Almost four dollars a gallon, Economist Scott Watkins says Americans should start getting used to it

Scott Watkins, Anderson Economic Group: "I wouldn't expect a decrease in the coming months."

He says unrest in the Middle East affects the supply, and booming economies in developing countries is increasing demand. Add to that inflation of the American dollar, and you've got a recipe for disaster.

Scott Watkins: "Previously one dollar could buy you a lot more on the global marketplace, anything from oil to shoes, than it can today."

Still, Watkins says, when it comes to gas prices, Americans have it good.

Scott Watkins: "We pay quite a bit less than most European countries and we've seen our prices go up a slower rate."

In fact, he says that's part of the problem is Americans adjusted their cars and lifestyles to a lower price of fuel.

Scott Watkins: "We have an addiction to automobiles, especially here in Michigan near the motor city."

Just ask drivers at the pump.

Driver: "We still have to commute, we can't not commute."

Drivers say, despite the record high prices, they have no choice but to fill up their tanks, so they're forced to cut back in other areas. According to gasbuddy.com, prices across mid-Michigan fall vary widely. Most Lansing stations are selling gas for \$3.89 per gallon of unleaded gas. In Charlotte it's between \$3.56 and \$3.63. In Jackson, between \$3.83 and \$3.89. In Williamston, most prices are \$3.89 or higher.



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