

Gas Prices Down for Labor Day...Highest in Boone

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Here's one we haven't seen in awhile—a major travel holiday, with gasoline pump prices falling. But don't get too happy—they're still higher than last Labor Day's prices. Two surveys released Monday showed gasoline prices dropped in the past week but remained higher than a year ago.

The average retail price for a gallon of unleaded regular was \$2.708 a gallon Monday, according to AAA. It has dropped about 4.2 cents in the past week but is around 8.1 cents more than a year ago. The average gallon of regular unleaded gasoline in North Carolina is 6 cents higher than this time last year. The most expensive gasoline in the state is in Boone at \$2.65 and the least expensive is in Fayetteville at \$2.54, according to AAA. The national average was \$2.704 a gallon in the Energy Department's Energy Information Administration weekly update. California drivers paid the most for gas, with a state average of \$3.14 a gallon. The cheapest gasoline was in Gulf Coast states, where the price averaged \$2.563 a gallon, the agency said. With the summer driving season about to end, experts predict pump prices will drop anywhere from a dime to a quarter a gallon in the weeks ahead.