

FAQs for Survey Form EIA-878 Motor Gasoline Price Survey

What is the Form EIA-878?

The Form EIA-878 *Motor Gasoline Price Survey* consists of two parts: Schedules A and B.

Schedule A is designed to collect weekly data on the cash, pump price (including taxes) of self-serve, unleaded gasoline, by grade of gasoline.

Schedule B is designed to collect total annual sales volume for each grade of gasoline sold at your station during the calendar year. It is not conducted each year, and the data collected are strictly for internal statistical purposes and will not be published.

Is reporting data on Form EIA-878 mandatory?

Response to the Form EIA-878 is mandatory pursuant to Section 13(b) of the Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-275) for the scientifically selected sample of companies selling gasoline at retail outlets. Companies sampled are notified in writing or by phone in advance.

How does EIA identify companies that must respond to Form EIA-878?

It is very important for those companies selected to participate in the survey to ensure accuracy and reliability of the published data. A representative sample of outlets is surveyed in order to minimize public reporting burden. We need sufficient geographic coverage to produce national, regional, state and city estimates. A representative sample includes a selection of large, medium and small outlets.

The probability of selection of any particular outlet depends on the sampling method, target coefficient of variance, and allocation method. A large outlet has a higher probability of selection than a smaller one. It is important to have a representative sample of outlets by geographic area and size. Outlets are randomly selected from the sampling frame.

What will the information collected be used for?

The data collected on Schedule A are used to calculate average gasoline prices at the national, regional, and select state and city levels across all grades and formulations. These data are point-in-time estimates as of 8:00 a.m. Monday.

The data collected on Schedule B are used to add weights to the prices collected weekly, since EIA collects prices for stations of various sizes.

The average prices are released every Tuesday (Wednesday if Monday is a Federal holiday) and are also published in the [Gasoline & Diesel Fuel Update](#) and released electronically to subscribers of EIA's email notification (regular and wireless). In addition, these average prices are released to the public by the media, including print, radio, and sometimes television. The statistics are widely used to inform the public and policymakers about current retail gasoline prices and is one of EIA's most viewed products.

Data collected on the EIA-878 can be found here:

- [Gasoline & Diesel Fuel Update](#)
- [This Week in Petroleum](#)
- [Weekly Petroleum Status Report](#)
- [Weekly Retail Gasoline and Diesel Prices](#)

Form Questions

Should I inform you of a change in the contact person in our company for Form EIA-878?

Yes. Whenever there is a change in the contact person for Form EIA-878 at your company please contact a representative at 1-877-267-2879 or via email at eia_survey@rti.org. The contact person should be the person who can answer questions about the data you report.

Should I inform you if our company is sold, merged with another company, or buys another company?

Yes. Whenever there is any change in ownership, please contact a representative at 1-877-267-2879 or via email at eia_survey@rti.org.

How do you define regular, midgrade, and premium motor gasoline?

For the EIA-878 survey, the grades of gasoline are defined by their octane rating as shown in the table below. Note that octane requirements may vary by altitude. For ethanol content, we accept prices for gasoline containing no ethanol through up to 15% ethanol. If you sell several types of the same gasoline grade with different ethanol content, then please report your price for that grade containing up to 10% ethanol. Please refer to the questions below for other possible situations.

Grade	Octane Rating
Regular	85, 86, or 87
Midgrade	88, 89, or 90
Premium	91, 92, 93, 94

I sell a regular grade (e.g. 87 octane) with up to 10% ethanol and a regular grade with no ethanol. Which price do I report?

For this case, please provide the price for your regular grade (87 octane) with up to 10% ethanol.

I sell a regular grade (e.g. 87 octane) with no ethanol and a regular grade with 15% ethanol (E15). Which price do I report?

For this case, please provide the price for your regular grade with no ethanol.

I sell a regular grade (e.g. 87 octane) with up to 10% ethanol and a regular grade with 15% ethanol (E15). Which price do I report?

Please provide the price for your regular grade with up to 10% ethanol.

I sell a regular grade (e.g. 87 octane) with up to 10% ethanol and a midgrade with 15% ethanol (E15), and a premium grade with no ethanol (E0). These are the only grades of gasoline that I sell. Do you want prices for all three of these grades?

Yes.

Do you want my price for E20 or E85?

No. Please provide prices for the grades of gasoline containing either no ethanol (E0) or up to 10% ethanol (E10).

I do not have self-serve at this station. Do you still want my price?

Yes. If you do not sell self-serve, then provide your price for mini-serve or full-serve.

I do not accept cash at this station. Do you still want my price?

Yes. If you do not accept cash at your station location, then please provide your credit card price.

Submission

What is the reporting deadline?

Schedule A: The data are collected on Monday of each week, except for Federal holidays, in which case, the data are collected on the following Tuesday.

Schedule B: The data are collected on a one-time basis for newly sampled outlets. This data must be reported within 10 days of receiving official notice of selection.

How do I submit the form?

Schedule A: EIA personnel collect the data by telephone. Respondents are required to provide the data when contacted. Companies preferring to report by other electronic means should contact the toll-free number 1-877-267-2879 in advance to make arrangements.

Schedule B: Report data on the form provided to your station/company.

Data Submission Methods:

By Secure File Transfer: <https://signon.eia.doe.gov/upload/form/878>

By Fax: 919-541-8812, ATTN: EIA-878 Schedule B

By Mail: U.S. Department of Energy (EI-23)
c/o RTI International
ATTN: Cox Building – FDC (Gas Price Survey)
P O Box 12194 Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-2194

Resubmission

Am I required to submit revised data?

Yes. If you have a revision, contact a representative at 1-877-267-2879 or via email at eia_survey@rti.org.

Contact EIA

Who do I contact if I have technical questions on completing the form?

Call the EIA Survey Support Team at 1-877-267-2879 or via email at eia_survey@rti.org

I have questions about the form. How do I request help?

If you have any questions about this U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) survey after reading the instructions, please contact the EIA Survey Support Team Contact Center at 1-855-EIA-4USA (1-855-342-4872) or send an email to eia4usa@eia.gov.