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## U.S. gasoline prices rise to \$3.08/gallon-survey

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NEW YORK Jan 9 (Reuters) - The average price for a gallon of gasoline in the United States rose 9.32 cents from three weeks before, but the price increases have slowed and could stop rising, according to an industry analyst.

The national average for self-serve regular, unleaded gas was about \$3.08 a gallon on Jan. 7, compared with three weeks ago when the average price was nearly \$2.98, according to the Lundberg survey of some 2,500 gas stations.

"It's up, but rate of increase did slow already, and there are reasons to believe that it will slow further or even will stop," survey editor Trilby Lundberg said.

The price of crude oil CLc1 reached \$91.55 per barrel on Jan. 3, and has been declining since. It stood at \$88.02 a barrel on Jan. 7, a penny less than the \$88.03 on Dec. 17.

"This is the main reason that we can expect the gasoline price increases to slow even more or to halt entirely, in part because January is our lowest gasoline consumption month and because supply of stocks of gasoline are flush," Lundberg said.

The price of a gallon of gasoline a year ago was about 34.44 cents lower.

During the most recent survey of large U.S. cities, Chicago had the highest average price for self-service, regular unleaded gas in the 48 continental states at \$3.35 per gallon, while Salt Lake City had the lowest per-gallon price at \$2.73. (Reporting by Ilaina Jonas, editing by Maureen Bavdek)

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