

West Central Kentucky gas prices rose almost four cents to \$3.63 a gallon this week, according to AAA East Central.

This week's national average price at the pump is \$3.64 per gallon. This is six cents more expensive than one week ago, 13 cents more than one month ago, and 12 cents more per gallon than the same date last year.

Last Wednesday, for the first time since January 17, the national average registered higher than the same date the year prior. Motorists in the majority of states are now paying a year-over-year premium. The most dramatic premiums are in and around the Midwest, where drivers in four states pay an average price more than 20 cents per gallon above this date last year: Illinois +23 cents; Kentucky +25 cents; Ohio +28 cents; and Indiana +29 cents.

Each spring refiners are required to switch to producing summer-blend gasoline by May 1. Refineries tend to drawdown their supplies of gasoline at this time of year so as not to be left with winter-blend fuel that they can no longer sell after May 1. This has been on display in recent weeks, as gasoline stocks nationwide have tightened.

Locally, Bowling Green and Elizabethtown are at an average of \$3.65.