

FAQs for Survey Form EIA-877 Winter Heating Fuels Telephone Survey

What is the Form EIA-877?

The Form EIA-877 *Winter Heating Fuels Telephone Survey* is designed to collect data on State-level sales volumes and residential retail prices of No. 2 heating oil and propane.

Is reporting data on Form EIA-877 mandatory?

This report is mandatory pursuant to Section 13(b) of the Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-275) and must be completed by a scientifically selected sample of No. 2 heating oil and propane dealers.

How does EIA identify companies that must respond to Form EIA-877?

The Form EIA-877 periodically selects a sample of individual heating fuel retailers that are required to participate in the survey. Information on the sampling procedure can be found in the Form EIA-877 [methodology](#).

What will the information collected be used for?

The data are used to monitor the prices of propane and No. 2 heating oil, and to report to the Congress and others when requested. EIA provides State and Federal governments, consumers, policymakers, the press, analysts, and others with up-to-date information on retail heating fuels prices during the heating season. Winter Heating Fuels Price data continues to be one of the most requested datasets EIA produces.

Data can be found here:

- [Heating Oil and Propane Update \(HOPU\)](#)
- [Winter Heating Fuels](#)
- [This Week in Petroleum \(TWIP\)](#)

Form Questions

There are several different prices for propane that we offer our customers. How do I know which price to provide EIA with when they call?

Propane prices are often determined by annual consumption and categorized in pricing tiers. A company should report the tier-level price based on the amount of heating fuel the majority of their residential customers consume on a yearly basis. The price should not reflect any discounts such as those given to cash or high-volume purchasers.

Each week, EIA is requesting Monday's price even during the weeks when data collection may be delayed due to holiday schedule. The price you report should be the price as of Monday, not an average of the previous week's price.

I operate a small heating fuel company, am I still required to participate in this survey?

Yes. Your participation is mandatory under Section 13(b) of the Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (FEAA) (Public Law 93-275), as amended. EIA will work with you to minimize your response time and facilitate your participation. Having participation from smaller companies in this survey is important so that EIA and its data users have a more accurate understanding of the heating oil and/or propane markets in your state.

Submission

What is the reporting deadline?

The data collected on Form EIA-877 are requested on Monday or Tuesday of each week during October to March and the second Monday of the month during April to September by telephone. No written confirmation of your data submission is required.

How do I submit the form?

Companies selected for Form EIA-877 survey are telephoned by the participating State Energy Offices or EIA to collect data on No. 2 heating oil and propane retail prices. Respondents are not required to submit any written information.

Resubmission

Am I required to submit revised data?

In the event that EIA finds evidence of a data reporting error or anomaly, you will be required to provide a revised or corrected price.

Contact EIA

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

Call the EIA Survey Support Team at 1-855-EIA-4USA (1-855-342-4872) or email to eia4usa@eia.gov.

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.