

More pain at the pump as [gas prices](#) continue to rise, though not yet at the levels of a year ago. With Memorial Day weekend on the horizon, drivers are wondering when it might stop.

Many haven't forgot about last summer when prices were above \$4 a gallon, but it also wasn't long ago when prices were under \$2. With the price again inching up, drivers and politicians are concerned.

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As a truck driver, every penny Scott Rupo of Omaha pumps into his truck is profit out of his pocket. "Quite a bit, quite a bit, it was getting up to \$200, \$300 a day."

With a tank that can cost hundreds to fill, he isn't about to wait for gas to get any higher. "That's what I am doing right now, it's getting close to the weekend so I want to make sure I keep it filled."

He wasn't the only driver thinking ahead. "When I go by I think well, I'll get my gas tomorrow and then I go, oh I should have got it yesterday 'cause it's higher," said Maryann Mitchell of Omaha. "Yes, it's ridiculous."

Monday's average price in Omaha of unleaded regular gas was \$2.37 a gallon according to Triple A, up ten cents from last week and up from \$2.08 a month ago. While it's a far cry from the \$3.76 of a year ago, at least one person from Washington would not be surprised if we see those prices again.

"I worry we're going to go above \$3 this year," said Nebraska Sen. Mike Johanns, who believes the country is too dependent on foreign oil.

"We have to have an energy strategy that really says yes to a whole lot of things. I have always been for renewables and we produce a lot of ethanol in the state, but I've always said that's not going to solve the problem, you have to do more drilling."

Nebraska Rep. Lee Terry agrees. "The best thing we can do is make sure we put ourselves on a path on energy independence so OPEC(Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) doesn't have that type of control."

Drivers just hope relief comes soon. "What really worries me is if it keeps going back up, it's just going to stall the economy just like we have already been through," said Rupo.

Sen. Johanns says the United States doesn't have the same influence over gas prices as it did in the past.

"The reason why it is, is because there is a world competition for oil. China is growing, India is growing their economy's. Even though they are struggling at the moment, they have grown expediently in the last, 20, 25, 30 years. We don't dominate the marketplace anymore."

Congressman Terry added having just one fuel instead of a variety of regional blends could help lessen the pressure. Sen. Johanns said that in addition to drilling, we need to look at nuclear, [clean](#) coal and conservation to get on top of the problem.



