

Here's your sneak peak of Engine13



March 17, 2026 | Read online

Engine13

Good morning.

If you filled up your car this week and did a double take at the price, you're not alone. Energy has a funny way of reminding us it's global.

One moment it's a headline overseas, the next it's showing up on the sign outside your local gas station.

Today's reading time is 5 minutes

AFFORDABILITY

The global chain reaction behind Canada's gas prices



Source: Getty Images / Overflightstock Ltd

When tensions rise in global energy markets, Canadians tend to notice the impact in one place first: the price at the pump.

But the forces behind those prices are global, and they ripple far beyond a single fill-up.

What's happening

Rising tensions in the Middle East have pushed global oil prices higher as markets watch for potential supply disruptions, particularly around the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most important energy shipping routes.

When conflict threatens routes like this, markets react quickly. Even the possibility of supply interruptions can drive prices upward as traders anticipate shortages and countries begin securing alternative supplies.

Because fuels are traded on international markets, those shifts ripple through prices everywhere, including Canada.

Why it matters

There's no such thing as "Canadian-priced" gasoline. Even in a country that produces energy, prices at the pump are largely tied to global markets.

When international prices rise, Canadians feel it in fuel costs, and those costs move through the broader economy. Transportation fuels power the vehicles that move people, food, goods and services across the country.

Fuel is also embedded in the production and delivery of everyday products. When energy costs rise, shipping, manufacturing and distribution often become more expensive as well.

In short, fuel prices influence the cost of living in ways that go far beyond the pump.

Behind the story

Predicting where prices will go next is notoriously difficult. Markets respond to geopolitics, supply disruptions, and economic signals all at once.

What the current moment does highlight is the value of reliable domestic supply.

Canada holds the world's fourth-largest reserves and has the infrastructure to extract, refine and deliver fuels such as gasoline, diesel and jet fuel across the country. That system, from production to refining to transportation networks, helps ensure Canadians have access to the fuels that keep daily life moving.

Around the world today, some countries are scrambling to secure supply as uncertainty grows. In Canada, the question is often price. In other places, it can be whether fuel will be available at all.

That difference underscores the importance of a stable, responsible energy system at home.

For Canadians, energy security rarely makes headlines when everything is working. But moments like this remind us how foundational it is.

[Full picture here.](#)

JOBS

The long runway ahead for Canada's fuels workforce



Source: Getty Images / Onuma Inthapong

For many Canadian students, careers in fuels can feel uncertain. Years of transition language and "peak demand" headlines have created the impression that gasoline, diesel and aviation fuels are nearing their end.

The data suggests something far more durable.

What's happening

Global demand for transportation fuels remains high across major forecasts, even in scenarios focused on transition. Cars, trucks, ships and aircraft will continue to rely on liquid fuels for decades, particularly in freight, aviation and heavy transport.

At the same time, energy infrastructure does not run on autopilot. Wells naturally produce less over time, refineries require constant maintenance and upgrades, and fuel systems must evolve to incorporate new technologies and lower-carbon fuels.

All of that work requires engineers, skilled trades, environmental specialists and project managers to keep the system running.

Why it matters

This is where the career question becomes clearer.

Even if global demand eventually levels off, the work does not disappear. The fuels system still needs people to maintain production, modernize refineries, expand biofuel blending and ensure transportation fuels remain reliable across the country.

Canada holds the world's fourth-largest reserves, supported by long-life resources that can supply domestic refineries and export markets for decades.

At the same time, the sector is evolving. New investments are emerging in renewable fuels such as ethanol, renewable diesel and sustainable aviation fuel, alongside emissions-reduction technologies that improve how fuels are produced and processed.

Those investments translate directly into jobs, training opportunities and long-term careers across the country.

For Canadians, this goes beyond individual career choices. Transportation fuels move people and goods, support agriculture, enable healthcare and keep supply chains running in a modern economy.

Maintaining a strong domestic fuels sector also strengthens Canada's economic resilience and reduces reliance on unstable regions of the world.

The bigger picture

Canada's resources, technical expertise and stable regulatory environment position it as one of the few countries capable of sustaining large-scale, responsible fuel production while continuing to reduce emissions through innovation and renewable fuel integration.

For students considering their future, the real question is not whether transportation fuels will disappear.

It is whether Canada will continue to need skilled people to produce, improve and deliver the energy modern life depends on.

All signs point to a long runway ahead.

[Full picture here.](#)

SECURITY

When the world gets nervous, it calls Canada



Source: Getty Images / jimfeng

As tensions in the Middle East rattle global energy markets, countries are starting to look for stable suppliers.

Some of those calls are coming to Canada.

What's happening

Following recent strikes in Iran and renewed concerns about global supply disruptions, Canada's energy minister says foreign governments have begun asking how quickly Canadian producers could expand energy exports.

The reality is that production cannot be ramped up overnight. Expanding supply takes time, investment, and infrastructure.

Moments like this tend to expose how interconnected global energy markets really are and how quickly countries begin searching for reliable partners when supply looks uncertain.

Why it matters

Canada already produces enough transportation fuels to meet domestic demand, but energy systems are complex and slow to change.

Building new refining capacity for conventional fuels is a long-term, capital-intensive investment. Current demand trends do not support large expansions.

Where demand is growing quickly is in lower-carbon fuels such as ethanol, renewable diesel and sustainable aviation fuel.

Today, more than 60% of Canada's biofuels are imported, mostly from the United States. As demand grows over the next decade, that reliance will increase unless domestic production expands.

Zoom out

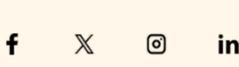
Global energy disruptions often highlight the importance of secure supply chains.

Canada has the resources, expertise and workforce to strengthen its position, not only as a reliable supplier of conventional fuels, but also as a producer of the next generation of renewable fuels.

Expanding that capacity would reduce reliance on foreign imports while supporting Canadian jobs, investment, and energy security.

In moments of uncertainty, countries look for stability. Canada already has many of the ingredients needed to provide it.

[Full picture here.](#)



Engine13

A NEWSLETTER BY

Fuel Forward

Your weekly Canadian fuel news.

Subscribe today at:
fuelforward.ca