

**WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES...**

For a ~~\$4.10~~ ~~\$3.05~~

**\$1.68** <sup>10</sup>/<sub>100</sub>

**Gallon of Gas**

Pump prices are exquisitely sensitive to supply and demand, which is why the per-gallon tab has fallen 59% since its recent peak in July (people and businesses use less energy during recessions). Here's who is getting a cut of each gallon—and how much. **BY JOE LIGHT**

**CRUDE-OIL SUPPLIERS**  
**95¢**  
Since the summer, crude's price per barrel has dropped more than 70%. Canada reaps the largest share of our crude-oil dollars. Saudi Arabia and other OPEC nations produce 20% of the oil we consume.

**OIL COMPANIES**  
**23¢**  
Large firms such as ExxonMobil and BP make money on oil drilling, refining and distribution. On average, Big Oil's after-tax profit equals a healthy 8% of the pump price, which is why the oil companies were raking it in when you paid more than \$4 a gallon.

**YOUR STATE AND CITY**  
**23¢**  
These taxes, and the price you ultimately pay at the pump, vary widely. New Yorkers shell out 41¢ a gallon, while Georgians hand over only about 12¢.

**THE FEDS**  
**18¢**  
For now Washington's cut is fixed at this amount. Congressional commissions are urging lawmakers to increase the tax to pay for road projects.

**SERVICE STATIONS**  
**10¢**  
After paying expenses, station owners make a measly few cents of profit per gallon. High gas prices don't change that, since they increase the amount that stations pay in credit-card fees and shrink their margins. (Stations make most of their money selling coffee, snacks and the like.)

**NOTES:** Numbers are U.S. averages as of December 2008 (the most recent data available). Breakdowns are estimates based on data from the Department of Energy, the Association of Oil Pipelines, the American Petroleum Institute, the Association for Convenience and Petroleum Retailing, and MONEY research.

