



Government of the Virgin Islands
of the United States
Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs
Office of the Commissioner

Golden Rock Shopping Center
3000 Estate Golden Rock, Suite 9
St. Croix, VI 00820-4311
Telephone: 340.713.3522

Administrative Complex
"The Battery"
St. John, VI 00830
Telephone: 340.727.3303

Property & Procurement Building
8201 Subbase, Suite 1
St. Thomas, VI 00802-5826
Telephone: 340.714.3522

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONDAY, MAY 12, 2025

CONTACT: DIANE G. JOHN, DIANE.JOHN1@DLCA.VI.GOV

DLCA CLARIFIES FUEL PRICING DISPARITIES

(U.S. Virgin Islands) — The Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs (DLCA) is addressing ongoing concerns over persistently high fuel prices in the U.S. Virgin Islands, despite a significant global decline in oil prices and rack rates. This statement aims to clarify current pricing trends and outline steps being taken to protect consumers. As of May 2025, Brent crude oil prices dropped by 19% to \$61.12 per barrel. However, local fuel prices have not reflected this decline. DLCA's research found that rack rates at Sol Petroleum's Limetree Bay Terminal on St. Croix saw only modest decreases:

- **Regular gasoline:** \$2.53 to \$2.46/gal (↓2.8%)
- **Premium gasoline:** \$2.73 to \$2.67/gal (↓2.2%)
- **Diesel gasoline:** \$2.88 to \$2.73/gal (↓5.2%)

Despite these reductions, DLCA's analysis revealed notably high gross margins between rack rates and retail prices on St. Croix:

- **Regular gasoline:** \$2.46 rack vs. \$3.99 retail (~62%)
- **Premium gasoline:** \$2.67 rack vs. \$4.40 retail (~65%)
- **Diesel gasoline:** \$2.73 rack vs. \$4.63 retail (~70%)

Retail prices in St. Thomas and St. John are even higher, with diesel costing as much as \$5.89 per gallon. By contrast, Gulf Coast wholesale gasoline prices fell more sharply to approximately \$2.04 per gallon. Nationally, the Producer Price Index for gasoline dropped 11.1% in March and retail prices fell 13.3% year-over-year. U.S. fuel retailers typically see gross markups of just 10 - 12%, or 27 - 40 cents per gallon.

Fuel retailers have been observed to often raise prices when rack rates increase but seldom adjust them downward when costs fall. To address this imbalance and promote fairness, DLCA is strengthening enforcement by conducting audits and investigations into pricing practices, using subpoena authority to secure rack rate and pricing documentation, and implementing mandatory reporting requirements, including:

- Rack rate purchase invoices
- Shipping and logistics costs
- Inventory turnover data
- Operational overhead
- Markup formulas and pricing models

Commissioner Nathalie Hodge issued the following statement to fuel retailers, *"The people of the Virgin Islands deserve transparency and fairness at the pump. I urge all fuel retailers to reassess their current prices, account for recent declines in costs, and make the necessary adjustments. If savings are being realized at the rack, they must be passed on to the public. Our Department will use every tool available to ensure accountability and to protect the interests of Virgin Islands residents."*

DLCA strongly encourages retailers to pass on savings in good faith. Consumers are urged to report concerns by calling (340) 713-3522 or (340) 714-3522, emailing myrna.george@dlca.vi.gov, or visiting www.dlca.vi.gov.

The Bryan-Roach Administration is investing in the Territory's people, infrastructure, and future through transparency, stabilizing the economy, restoring trust in the government, and ensuring that recovery projects are completed as quickly as possible. Visit transparency.vi.gov.