

Average gas price to soon be under \$2, lowest since recession

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Gas station attendant Carlos Macar pumps gas in May in Andover, Mass. (*Elise Amendola, Associated Press*)

DALLAS — Gasoline is close to breaking below a key psychological barrier as drivers enjoy some of the cheapest pump prices since the recession.

The nationwide average price of a gallon of regular on Saturday was \$2.02, down 58 cents from this time last year, according to auto club AAA. Experts say it could drop below \$2 a gallon in the coming days.

For consumers, this winter is shaping up to be a good one, energy-wise. Forecasters predict warmer weather than normal, and fuel prices are low.

On the roads, many drivers across the country are already seeing gasoline prices well below \$2 a gallon. According to data compiled by AAA and the Oil Price Information Service, drivers in about half of the states, including Colorado, are already paying less than \$2. The average price in Colorado is \$1.89 a gallon. South Carolina has the lowest average price at \$1.79 a gallon. At the high end, Californians are paying \$2.65, and Hawaiians are shelling out \$2.76.

Tom Kloza, head of energy analysis for the Oil Price Information Service, said gasoline could go as low as \$1.79 a gallon by winter, before rising again next year.

"I do think it will be much higher in the spring," he said, predicting they could rise to \$2.75 a gallon.