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How much more are New Yorkers paying this winter to heat their homes because of skyrocketing oil prices?

Thousands of families throughout New York rely on heating oil to keep their homes warm for the winter. According to the New York State Energy Research and Development Association, last week (2/21/05) the average cost of a gallon of home heating oil in New York was $2.10, up 38 cents from the $1.72 it cost during the same week last year. US Senator Charles E. Schumer today said that these sky-high prices will continue to drive up heating costs throughout the State unless immediate action on the part of the Administration is taken to pressure the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to adopt policies that will lower prices, such as the abandonment of their price target band, a significant factor in the high cost of oil.

The following study illustrates the impact of the high prices on this winter's heating bills for New York households. The study compared home heating oil monthly prices for this winter and last winter in every region of the State. It uses US Department of Energy projections that the average Northeast household will use 698 gallons of home heating oil to show how much of an impact the price differences are having on the heating bills of upstate New Yorkers. The analysis shows that for the average upstate New York family will pay an estimated **$329 extra** this winter than they would have paid if oil prices were the same as they were last year: $1,068 at last year's prices, and $1397 at this year's oil prices.

The following is a county-by-county breakdown of how much more New Yorkers are paying this year because of the skyrocketing oil prices:

Capital Region: The average family in the Capital Region using home heating oil will pay an estimated **$340 extra *or 34% more*** this winter than they would have paid if oil prices were the same as they were last year: $999 at last year's prices and $1339 at this year's prices. In total, skyrocketing oil prices will cost Capital Region families **an extra $36.6 million** to heat their homes this year.

County	Households using Home Heating Oil	Estimated Total Home Heating Oil bills this winter	Estimated Total Home Heating Oil bills at last year's prices	Total increase to this winter's bills because of skyrocketing oil prices
Albany	19,563	$26.2 million	$19.5 million	$6.7 million
Fulton	8,823	$11.8 million	$8.8 million	$3 million
Montgomery	7,365	$9.9 million	$7.4 million	$2.5 million

Rensselaer	22,000	$29.5 million	$22 million	$7.5 million
Saratoga	20,942	$28 million	$20.9 million	$7.1 million
Schenectady	8,755	$11.7 million	$8.7 million	$3 million
Schoharie	7,756	$10.4 million	$7.7 million	$2.7 million
Washington	12,108	$16.2 million	$12.1 million	$4.1 million
Capital Region Total	**107,312**	**$143.7 million**	**$107.1 million**	**$36.6 million**
Capital Region Household Average		***$1,339***	***$999***	***$340***

Central New York: The average family in Central New York using home heating oil will pay an estimated **$322 extra *or 32% more*** this winter than they would have paid if oil prices were the same as they were last year: $1021 at last year's prices, and $1343 at this year's oil prices. In total, skyrocketing oil prices will cost Central New York families **an extra $18.6 million** to heat their homes this year.

County	Households using Home Heating Oil	Estimated Total Home Heating Oil bills this winter	Estimated Total Home Heating Oil bills at last year's prices	Total increase to this winter's bills because of skyrocketing oil prices
Cortland	4,411	$5.9 million	$4.5 million	$1.4 million
Madison	8,849	$11.9 million	$9 million	$2.9 million
Oneida	22,464	$30.2 million	$22.9 million	$7.3 million
Onondaga	10,784	$14.5 million	$11 million	$3.5 million
Oswego	10,957	$14.7 million	$11.2 million	$3.5 million
Central New York Total	**57,465**	**$77.2 million**	**$58.6 million**	**$18.6 million**
Central New York Household Average		***$1343***	***$1021***	***$322***

Rochester / Fingerlakes: The average family in the Rochester / Finger Lakes region using home heating oil will pay an estimated **$331 extra *or 32% more*** this winter than they would have paid if oil prices were the same as they were last year: $1023 at last year's prices, and $1354 at this year's oil prices. In total, skyrocketing oil prices will cost Rochester / Finger Lakes area families **an extra $16.8 million** to heat their homes this year.

County	Households using Home Heating Oil	Estimated Total Home Heating Oil bills this winter	Estimated Total Home Heating Oil bills at last year's prices	Total increase to this winter's bills because of skyrocketing oil prices
Cayuga	7,329	$9.8 million	$7.5 million	$2.3 million
Tompkins	5,696	$7.6 million	$5.8 million	$1.8 million

Livingston	4,572	$6.2 million	$4.7 million	$1.5 million
Monroe	12,273	$16.7 million	$12.6 million	$4.1 million
Ontario	5,881	$8 million	$6 million	$2 million
Schuyler	2,624	$3.6 million	$2.7 million	$9 million
Seneca	2,740	$3.7 million	$2.8 million	$9 million
Wayne	7,483	$10.2 million	$7.7 million	$2.5 million
Yates	2,333	$3.2 million	$2.4 million	$8 million
Rochester / Finger Lakes Total	**50,931**	**$69 million**	**$52.2 million**	**$16.8 million**
Rochester / Finger Lakes Household Average		***$1,354***	***$1,023***	***$331***

Hudson Valley: The average family in the Hudson Valley using home heating oil will pay an estimated **$328 extra** ***or 29% more*** this winter than they would have paid if oil prices were the same as they were last year: $1119 with last year's prices, and $1447 at this year's prices. In total, skyrocketing oil prices will cost Hudson Valley families **an extra $125 million** to heat their homes this year.

County	Households using Home Heating Oil	Estimated Total Home Heating Oil bills this winter	Estimated Total Home Heating Oil bills at last year's prices	Total increase to this winter's bills because of skyrocketing oil prices
Dutchess	61,351	$90.3 million	$70.6 million	$19.7 million
Putnam	22,653	$33.4 million	$26.1 million	$7.3 million
Rockland	2,956	$4.4 million	$3.4 million	$1 million
Westchester	158,438	$233.3 million	$182.3 million	$51 million
Columbia	15,985	$22.4 million	$17 million	$5.4 million
Greene	12,780	$17.9 million	$13.6 million	$4.3 million
Orange	46,430	$65.1 million	$49.4 million	$15.7 million
Sullivan	18,636	$26.1 million	$19.8 million	$6.3 million
Ulster	42,362	$59.4 million	$45.1 million	$14.3 million
Hudson Valley Total	**381,591**	**$552.3 million**	**$427.3 million**	**$125 million**
Hudson Valley Household Average		***$1447***	***$1119***	***$328***

North Country: The average family in the North Country using home heating oil will pay an estimated **$325 extra *or 31% more*** this winter than they would have paid if oil prices were the same as they were last year: $1043 at last year's prices, and $1368 at this year's prices. In total, skyrocketing oil prices will cost North Country families **an extra $31.2 million** to heat their homes this year.

County	Households using Home Heating Oil	Estimated Total Home Heating Oil bills this winter	Estimated Total Home Heating Oil bills at last year's prices	Total increase to this winter's bills because of skyrocketing oil prices
Herkimer	9,476	$12.7 million	$9.7 million	$3 million
Clinton	17,246	$23.6 million	$18 million	$5.6 million
Essex	10,435	$14.3 million	$10.9 million	$3.4 million
Franklin	12,729	$17.4 million	$13.3 million	$4.1 million
Hamilton	1,423	$2 million	$1.5 million	$5 million
Jefferson	11,548	$15.8 million	$12.1 million	$3.7 million
Lewis	5,827	$8 million	$6.1 million	$1.9 million
Saint Lawrence	17,922	$24.6 million	$18.7 million	$5.9 million
Warren	9,307	$12.8 million	$9.7 million	$3.1 million
North Country Total	**95,913**	**$131.2 million**	**$100 million**	**$31.2 million**
North Country Household Average		***$1368***	***$1043***	***$325***

Southern Tier: The average family in the Southern Tier using home heating oil will pay an estimated **$324 extra *or 32% more*** this winter than they would have paid if oil prices were the same as they were last year: $1022 at last year's prices, and $1345 at this year's oil prices. In total, skyrocketing oil prices will cost Southern Tier families **an extra $21.8 million** to heat their homes this year.

County	Households using Home Heating Oil	Estimated Total Home Heating Oil bills this winter	Estimated Total Home Heating Oil bills at last year's prices	Total increase to this winter's bills because of skyrocketing oil prices
Broome	13,582	$18.2 million	$13.9 million	$4.3 million
Chenango	10,405	$14 million	$10.6 million	$3.4 million
Delaware	11,219	$15.1 million	$11.5 million	$3.6 million
Otsego	12,652	$17 million	$12.9 million	$4.1 million
Tioga	8,467	$11.4 million	$8.6 million	$2.8 million
Allegany	2,233	$3 million	$2.3 million	$7 million
Chemung	3,107	$4.2 million	$3.2 million	$1 million
Steuben	5,574	$7.6 million	$5.7 million	$1.9 million
Southern Tier Total	**67,239**	**$90.5 million**	**$68.7 million**	**$21.8 million**
Southern Tier Household Average		***$1345***	***$1022***	***$324***

Western New York: The average family in Western New York using home heating oil will pay an estimated **$334 extra *or 34% more*** this winter than they would have paid if oil prices were the same as they were last year: $1024 at last year's prices, and $1358 at this year's oil prices. In total, skyrocketing oil prices will cost Western New York families **an extra $11.7 million** to heat their homes this year.

County	Households using Home Heating Oil	Estimated Total Home Heating Oil bills this winter	Estimated Total Home Heating Oil bills at last year's prices	Total increase to this winter's bills because of skyrocketing oil prices
Cattaraugus	4,165	$5.7 million	$4.3 million	$1.4 million
Chautauqua	2,360	$3.2 million	$2.4 million	$8 million
Erie	7,841	$10.6 million	$8 million	$2.6 million
Genesee	4,379	$5.9 million	$4.5 million	$1.4 million
Niagara	9,317	$12.7 million	$9.5 million	$3.2 million
Orleans	4,445	$6 million	$4.6 million	$1.4 million
Wyoming	2,555	$3.5 million	$2.6 million	$9 million
Western New York Total	**35,062**	**$47.6 million**	**$35.9 million**	**$11.7 million**
Western New York Household Average		***$1358***	***$1024***	***$334***

- *Source: Schumer estimates based on US Census household energy data; the US Department of Energy's Energy Information Association's projections for fuel consumption; and regional monthly oil price data from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority.*

- *Note: Schumer study assumes a 698-gallon average household consumption of heating oil according to EIA projection, which is 0.3% less than consumption during the 2003-2004 winter season. Schumer study also assumes that oil prices will remain at January 2005 levels until the conclusion of the 2005 heating season.*