

## **Gas Prices Ease Up**

By The Moscow Times

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Russian drivers paid 0.7 percent more at the pump last month, the first time prices had risen since last November, Interfax reported Friday, citing the State Statistics Service.

Gasoline prices were flat in March after dipping 0.3 percent in December through February.

Energy Minister Sergei Shmatko said in mid-January that an agreement had been reached with oil companies to "freeze" their fuel prices at the end-2011 level. Apparently, that agreement expired last month. Compared with April of last year, gasoline prices were up 12.1 percent.

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