



Not just taxi drivers anymore

Posted by [Yankee](#) on September 12, 2005 - 2:38pm

Topic: [Demand/Consumption](#)

News roundup: One week after Katrina, how are high gas prices affecting us?

- The pizza market is already tight, and gas prices are making it tighter. MSNBC tells us about how [Domino's Pizza is being hit by rising fuel costs](#).
- The IRS and Treasury Department [have approved a new optional automobile reimbursement rate](#) from 40.5 cents a mile to 48.5 cents a mile for Sept. 1 through Dec. 31 to reflect the spike in gas prices.
- Oddly enough, [more drowning deaths in Des Moines](#) have been blamed on higher gas prices.

And the Dallas Morning News tells us where in the oil production chain they think the money is going to: [the refiners](#). (Bugmenot login under the fold.)

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Energy companies of all stripes are benefiting from higher oil and gas prices, but the big winners aren't the giant oil companies or the neighborhood service stations. It's the refiners - the companies that turn crude oil into gasoline, diesel and heating oil.

"Obviously, at \$60 oil, the producers make enough money. But the guys who are really making enormous amounts of money in the whole energy spectrum are the refiners," said Oppenheimer & Co. analyst Fadel Gheit.

Experts say it's not a matter of manipulation or gouging, but simple supply and demand.

And one last tidbit: Natural gas prices [threaten school budgets in Oil City, PA](#). (OK, I know this isn't that interesting, but I couldn't resist the fact that it was set in Oil City, and that the paper is called *The Derrick*.)

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