

Gas prices fall below their level a year ago

By Kristy Eppley Rupon
The State

Gas prices are falling in South Carolina as people put the brakes on driving and as other global economies slow.

With Monday's average at \$3.60 a gallon for regular unleaded, South Carolina drivers are paying about 9 cents a gallon less than they paid a year ago at this time. Since peaking April 9 at an average of \$3.74 a gallon, prices at the pump have been falling every day, according to AAA Carolinas. And prices are expected

to fall further as the mercury rises before leveling out this summer.

"Hopefully, we will see a repeat of last year," said David E. Parsons, president of AAA Carolinas. "Prices fluctuated between \$3.30 to \$3.50 in the summer but then declined to end last year at \$3.08."

Gas prices were cheapest Monday in the Greenville area, averaging \$3.55 a gallon, followed by Columbia at \$3.57 and Myrtle Beach at \$3.59. Charleston had the most expensive gas in the state at \$3.64. The national average was \$3.82.