



---

## Auto Industry Prepares for Motor Oil Shortage

### Description

Wholesale motor oil prices are surging rapidly, prompting industry leaders to caution against impending shortages driven by the ongoing war with Iran. The conflict has caused damage to crucial facilities in the Middle East and the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, a strategic waterway for oil transport.

This situation has led to fears that popular motor oil types could soon be scarce, necessitating delays in oil changes for drivers or reliance on unsuitable alternatives. Holly Alfano, CEO of the Independent Lubricant Manufacturers Association (ILMA), expressed her conviction that shortages are unavoidable and warned that it might take up to a year to resolve the crisis.

Tom Glenn, president of Petroleum Trends International, noted the unprecedented price hikes in motor oil observed since the outbreak of hostilities. Normally, price increases for distributors range from 70 to 80 pence per gallon annually; however, this year, some distributors have witnessed price surges exceeding £5 per gallon. This escalation is linked to rising costs for crude oil and essential components necessary for motor oil production.

ILMA has flagged an imminent scarcity of low viscosity oils, such as 0W-16 and 0W-20, which are vital for modern vehicles and accounted for a sizeable portion of passenger car oil demand last year. As nearly half of the Group III base oils, essential for motor oil manufacturing, originate from just three Gulf producers, the ongoing conflict poses significant risks to supply chains.

The United States typically relies on South Korea for additional supplies, but Asian refiners face similar challenges, diverting production towards more profitable jet fuel and diesel. Despite the efforts of the Energy Department, which is exploring various strategies to address the situation, industry experts foresee continued challenges in the short term, with indications of early shortages reported in certain regions.

Looking ahead, stakeholders will need to consider temporary adjustments, such as permitting the use of alternative viscosity oils and altering recommended oil change frequencies to mitigate the impact of the shortages while aiming to sustain supply levels.

---

### Vocabulary List:

1. **surging** //ˈsɜːdʒɪŋ// (verb): rising very quickly to a much higher level
2. **shortages** //ˈʃɔːrtɪdʒɪz// (noun): times when there is not enough supply
3. **blockade** //blɒˈkeɪd// (noun): an action that stops ships or goods moving
4. **viscosity** //vɪˈskæsəti// (noun): how thick or thin a liquid is
5. **diverting** //daɪˈvɜːtɪŋ// (verb): sending something to a different place or use
6. **refiners** //rɪˈfaɪnəz// (noun): companies that process crude oil into fuel



---

## Comprehension Questions

### Multiple Choice

1. What has caused the surge in wholesale motor oil prices?  
Option: Increased demand for gasoline  
Option: Ongoing war with Iran  
Option: Natural disasters  
Option: Technological advancements
2. Who is the CEO of the Independent Lubricant Manufacturers Association?  
Option: Tom Glenn  
Option: Holly Alfano  
Option: John Smith  
Option: Mike Johnson
3. How much have some distributors witnessed price surges exceeding per gallon?  
Option: £1  
Option: £2  
Option: £3  
Option: £5
4. What types of oils are flagged as likely to become scarce?  
Option: High viscosity oils  
Option: Synthetic oils  
Option: Low viscosity oils  
Option: Biofuels
5. From which country does the United States typically seek additional oil supplies?  
Option: Japan  
Option: China  
Option: India  
Option: South Korea
6. What portion of passenger car oil demand did low viscosity oils account for last year?  
Option: A small portion



- Option: A high portion
- Option: A sizeable portion
- Option: An insignificant portion

### True-False

7. The blockade of the Strait of Hormuz has helped stabilize oil prices.
8. Holly Alfano believes that shortages in motor oil are avoidable.
9. Price increases for distributors usually range from 80 to 90 pence per gallon annually.
10. Industry experts predict continued challenges in the oil supply chain due to the conflict.
11. Low viscosity oils such as 0W-16 and 0W-20 are not important for modern vehicles.
12. Stakeholders may need to adjust oil change frequencies to mitigate shortages.

### Gap-Fill

13. The ongoing conflict has caused damage to crucial facilities in the \_\_\_\_\_ region.
14. Shortages might take up to a year to \_\_\_\_\_ according to industry leaders.
15. ILMA has flagged an imminent scarcity of low viscosity oils such as 0W-16 and \_\_\_\_\_  
for modern vehicles.
16. Nearly half of the Group III base oils originate from just \_\_\_\_\_ Gulf producers.
17. The Energy Department is exploring various strategies to address the \_\_\_\_\_ in oil  
supply.
18. To mitigate the impact of shortages, stakeholders might consider allowing alternative viscosity oils and  
changing \_\_\_\_\_ frequencies.



## Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Ongoing war with Iran 2. Holly Alfano 3. £5 4. Low viscosity oils 5. South Korea 6. A sizeable portion

**True-False:** 7. False 8. False 9. False 10. True 11. False 12. True

**Gap-Fill:** 13. Middle East 14. resolve 15. 0W-20 16. three 17. situation 18. oil change

## Vocabulary quizzes

### Multiple Choice ( Select the Correct answer for each question. )

1. What term describes the first event of a particular kind?

- Option: Culminating
- Option: Inaugural
- Option: Annualised
- Option: Beneficiaries

2. What type of flight reaches the edge of space but does not go into orbit?

- Option: Suborbital
- Option: Orbital
- Option: Geopolitical
- Option: Inflation

3. Which term refers to the act of driving or pushing something forward?

- Option: Refiners
- Option: Propulsion
- Option: Collaterals
- Option: Blockade

4. What do we call significant events or achievements that mark progress?

- Option: Milestones
- Option: Shortages
- Option: Disruptions
- Option: Impairment

5. What term describes a lack of sufficient supply of something?



- Option: Shortages
- Option: Refiners
- Option: Inflation
- Option: Indices

6. Which term refers to a barrier used to prevent access to an area?

- Option: Surging
- Option: Milestones
- Option: Blockade
- Option: Culminating

7. What term describes the measure of a fluid's resistance to flow?

- Option: Viscosity
- Option: Exposure
- Option: Adjustment
- Option: Insolvency

8. What do we call an asset pledged as security for a loan?

- Option: Collateral
- Option: Beneficiaries
- Option: Discrepancy
- Option: Scrutiny

9. What term refers to the condition of being in contact with a harmful substance?

- Option: Discrepancy
- Option: Surging
- Option: Exposure
- Option: Culminating

10. What economic term refers to the rate of increase in prices?

- Option: Inflation
- Option: Indices
- Option: Annualised
- Option: Adjustment

**Gap-Fill ( Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

11. The company's \_\_\_\_\_ event marked its entry into the tech industry.

12. The spacecraft successfully completed its \_\_\_\_\_ flight testing.



13. The new engine design focuses on improving \_\_\_\_\_ efficiency.
14. Reaching these \_\_\_\_\_ is crucial for the project's success.
15. The \_\_\_\_\_ of essential goods led to increased prices and demand.
16. The naval \_\_\_\_\_ prevented any ships from entering the harbor.
17. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the liquid affected its flow through the pipes.
18. She provided her property as \_\_\_\_\_ for the loan.
19. His \_\_\_\_\_ to the virus has raised concerns among health officials.
20. The rising \_\_\_\_\_ has become a major concern for economists.

**Matching Sentences ( Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

21. The inaugural flight took place in front of a large crowd eager to witness history.
22. The suborbital test flight provided valuable data for future missions.
23. Advancements in propulsion technology can significantly reduce travel time.
24. The project has reached several important milestones ahead of schedule.
25. The shortages of raw materials have led to production delays across industries.
26. The blockade resulted in a significant decrease in trade activity.
27. The viscosity of the paint affects how easily it can be applied.
28. Using valuable assets as collateral can help secure a loan.
29. Long-term exposure to pollutants can have serious health effects.
30. Inflation rates can influence economic policies and interest rates.

**Answer**

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Inaugural 2. Suborbital 3. Propulsion 4. Milestones 5. Shortages 6. Blockade 7. Viscosity 8. Collateral



9. Exposure 10. Inflation

**Gap-Fill:** 11. inaugural 12. suborbital 13. propulsion 14. milestones 15. shortages 16. blockade 17. viscosity  
18. collateral 19. exposure 20. inflation

**Matching sentence:** 1. inaugural 2. suborbital 3. propulsion 4. milestones 5. shortages 6. blockade 7. viscosity  
8. collateral 9. exposure 10. inflation

## CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL6

## POST TAG

1. auto industry
2. C2
3. ESL learning
4. esl news
5. Level 6
6. motor oil shortage

## Tags

1. auto industry
2. C2
3. ESL learning
4. esl news
5. Level 6
6. motor oil shortage

## Date Created

2026/05/20

## Author

aimeeyoung99

ESL-NEWS.COM