

Hercules Engine News

By Glenn Karch



Discussion comes up regularly about gas engine prices and how they've changed over the years. With that in mind, I pulled together records of my 30 years of purchases of Hercules-

built engines, including prices paid and comments about individual engines.

In February 2003 I started tracking asking prices, sale prices and comments relative to

Hercules and related engines from GEM and Internet sources. That list, when done, will reflect the current market.

| Date | Brand & HP | Price | Comments |
|----------------|-------------------|-------|----------------------------------|
| February 1973 | ARCO 2 GH | \$10 | Cart, well worn, magneto damaged |
| August 1973 | Hercules 1-1/2 E | \$50 | Complete, loose, good condition |
| November 1973 | Economy 1-3/4 S | \$25 | Complete, loose, excellent |
| December 1973 | Thermoil 6 U | Trade | Complete, well worn |
| January 1974 | Economy 2-1/2 E | \$50 | Complete, loose, governor broke |
| April 1974 | Economy 1-1/2 JK | \$6 | Complete, crack in hopper |
| August 1974 | Hercules 3 E | \$15 | Complete, loose, small flywheels |
| October 1974 | Hercules 1-1/2 E | \$5 | Complete, rusted, stuck, parts |
| October 1974 | Hercules 1-1/2 E | \$5 | Complete, rusted, stuck, parts |
| January 1975 | Hercules 3 EK | \$50 | Changed from TG to H&M |
| March 1976 | ARCO 2 GH | \$20 | Complete, nice, stuck |
| April 1976 | Hercules 5 E | \$30 | Complete, rusted, stuck |
| May 1976 | Economy 1-3/4 S | Trade | Nice, original |
| June 1976 | Economy 2-1/2 E | Trade | Nice, original |
| October 1977 | Hercules 1-3/4 S | \$110 | Nice, was grandpa's engine |
| November 1977 | Hercules 1-1/2 E | \$70 | Nice, complete, original |
| November 1977 | Hercules 1-1/2 E | \$100 | Complete, loose |
| October 1978 | Economy 3 H | \$75 | Complete, stuck |
| April 1979 | Economy 2-1/2 E | \$20 | Stuck, no magneto |
| November 1980 | Jaeger 3-1/2 S | \$50 | Complete, rusty |
| May 1984 | Hercules 1-1/2 F | \$230 | Good, complete, original |
| March 1987 | Hercules 1-3/4 S | \$200 | Nice, complete, original |
| March 1988 | Hercules 1-3/4 S | \$125 | Complete, rusty |
| May 1988 | Hercules 1-3/4 SK | \$45 | Parts missing, stuck, rusty |
| June 1989 | Hercules 1-1/2 F | \$325 | Nice, two-piece block |
| June 1989 | Economy 1-1/2 E | Trade | Complete, Wico PR magneto |
| June 1989 | Jaeger 2 S | Trade | Worn, repairs needed |
| June 1990 | Economy 1-1/2 E | \$150 | Repairs needed |
| October 1990 | Hercules 1-1/2 D | \$400 | Running, igniter |
| January 1991 | Hercules 1-1/2 N | Trade | Complete but worn |
| February 1992 | Economy 1-1/2 E | \$250 | Rough, tag on base |
| June 1992 | Thermoil 5 T | Trade | Parts missing |
| September 1992 | Economy 2-1/2 D | \$250 | Rough |
| January 1994 | Economy 1-1/2 JK | Free | Nice, original |
| November 1995 | Hercules 3 F | Free | Rough and rusted |
| November 1995 | Hercules 3 EK | \$100 | Rough, parts missing |
| November 1995 | Hercules 1-1/2 E | Free | Rough, parts missing |
| October 1996 | Jaeger 2 | \$500 | Worn, loose, spark plug in head |
| August 1997 | Economy 1-1/2 D | \$500 | Complete, loose |
| June 1998 | Economy 3 G | \$200 | Parts engine |
| December 1998 | Economy 1-3/4 XK | \$250 | Nice, loose, no magneto |
| August 1999 | Hercules 1-1/2 E | Trade | Good, missing magneto |
| August 1999 | Hercules 1-1/2 E | Trade | Good, missing magneto |
| July 2001 | Hercules 8 S | \$600 | Running, 1/2 base |
| June 2002 | Jaeger 2 S | \$450 | Complete, broken 3-hole flywheel |
| August 2002 | Economy 1-1/2 E | \$500 | Loose, wrong ignition |
| August 2002 | Economy 1-3/4 S | \$600 | Loose, on cart, wrong ignition |
| August 2002 | Economy 2-1/2 E | \$400 | Nice, complete, igniter, bargain |