

Statistics report

# Energy prices and taxes for OECD countries

Overview

2020



This overview presents a selection of data from the 2Q2020 edition of the [Energy Prices and Taxes](#) database of the International Energy Agency. This database includes annual and quarterly end user industry and consumer prices for OECD countries; as well as annual, quarterly and monthly crude oil spot prices, oil product spot prices and import costs by crude stream. The end use prices cover the main oil products, gas, coal and electricity.

The quarterly *Energy Prices and Taxes* database is complemented by IEA's [World energy prices](#) database which provides users with high-quality annual data on end-use prices for most non-OECD countries in the world.

The two databases are available as package under the unified product [Energy Prices](#).

To purchase the full report, please visit the IEA webstore at <http://data.iea.org/payment/products/111-oecd-energy-prices-and-taxes-quarterly.aspx>

More information is available [iea.org/subscribe-to-data-services/prices-and-taxes](http://iea.org/subscribe-to-data-services/prices-and-taxes).

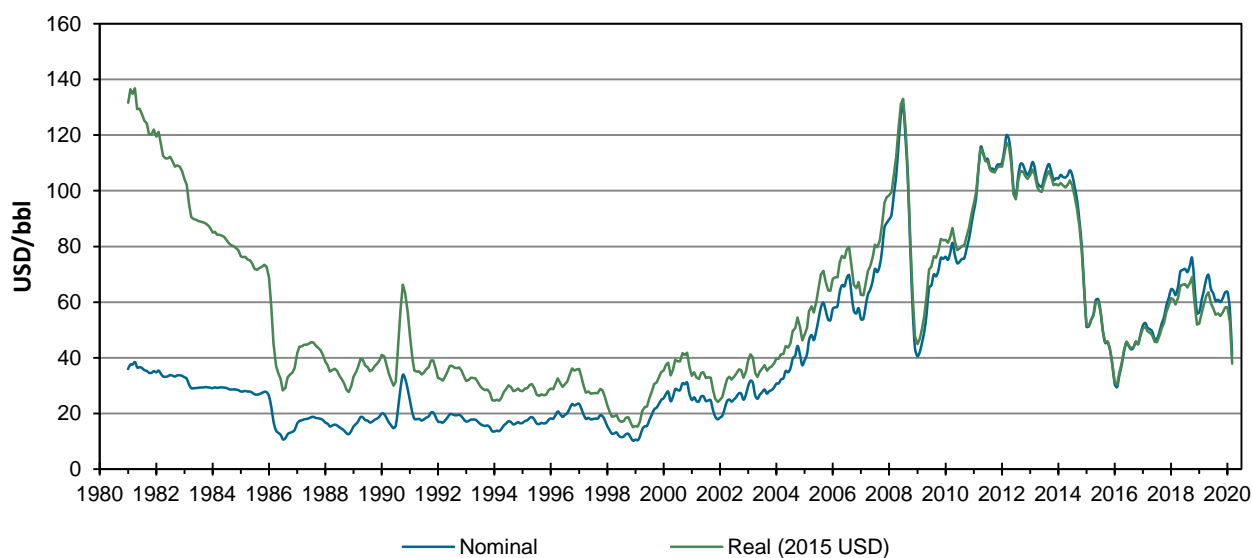
Please address your inquiries to [prices@iea.org](mailto:prices@iea.org).

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## OECD Energy Prices and Taxes

Energy prices are a significant part of expenditures for both households and firms, and have important implications for industrial competitiveness and consumer welfare. End-use prices paid by final consumers are affected by movements in commodity markets as well as policy settings.

**Figure 1 – Nominal and real crude oil import costs (IEA average)\***

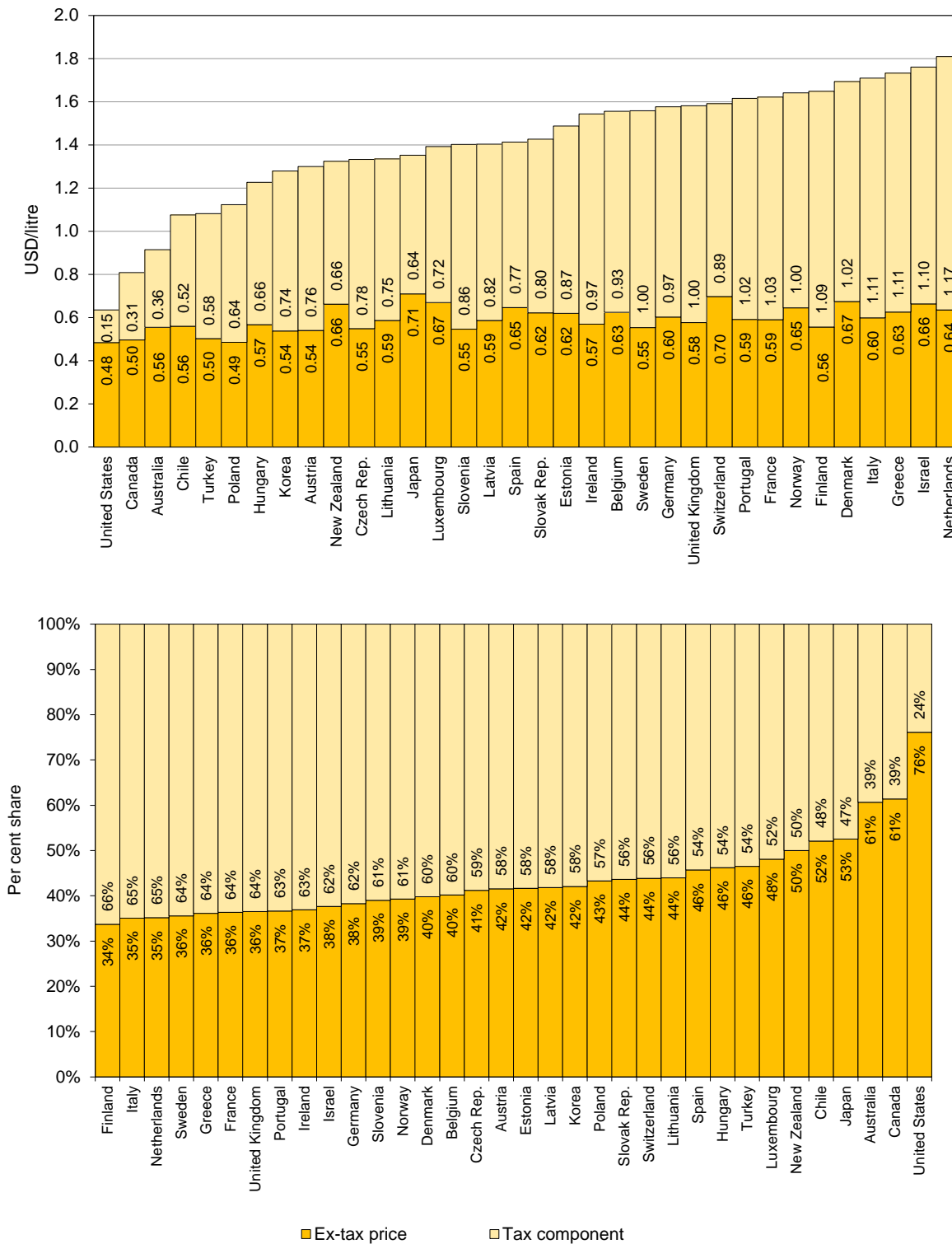


\* Monthly averages, from January 1981 to March 2020.

In the first quarter of 2020, crude oil import costs for IEA member countries plummet, following the market imbalance caused by covid-19 outbreak and consequent lockdown measures. At 41 US dollars per barrel, import costs in IEA member countries in March 2020 were 36% cheaper than the previous year.

The ex-tax price for gasoline is relatively homogenous among OECD countries (Figure 2). This is mainly due to the existence of a well-connected trading market for crude oil.

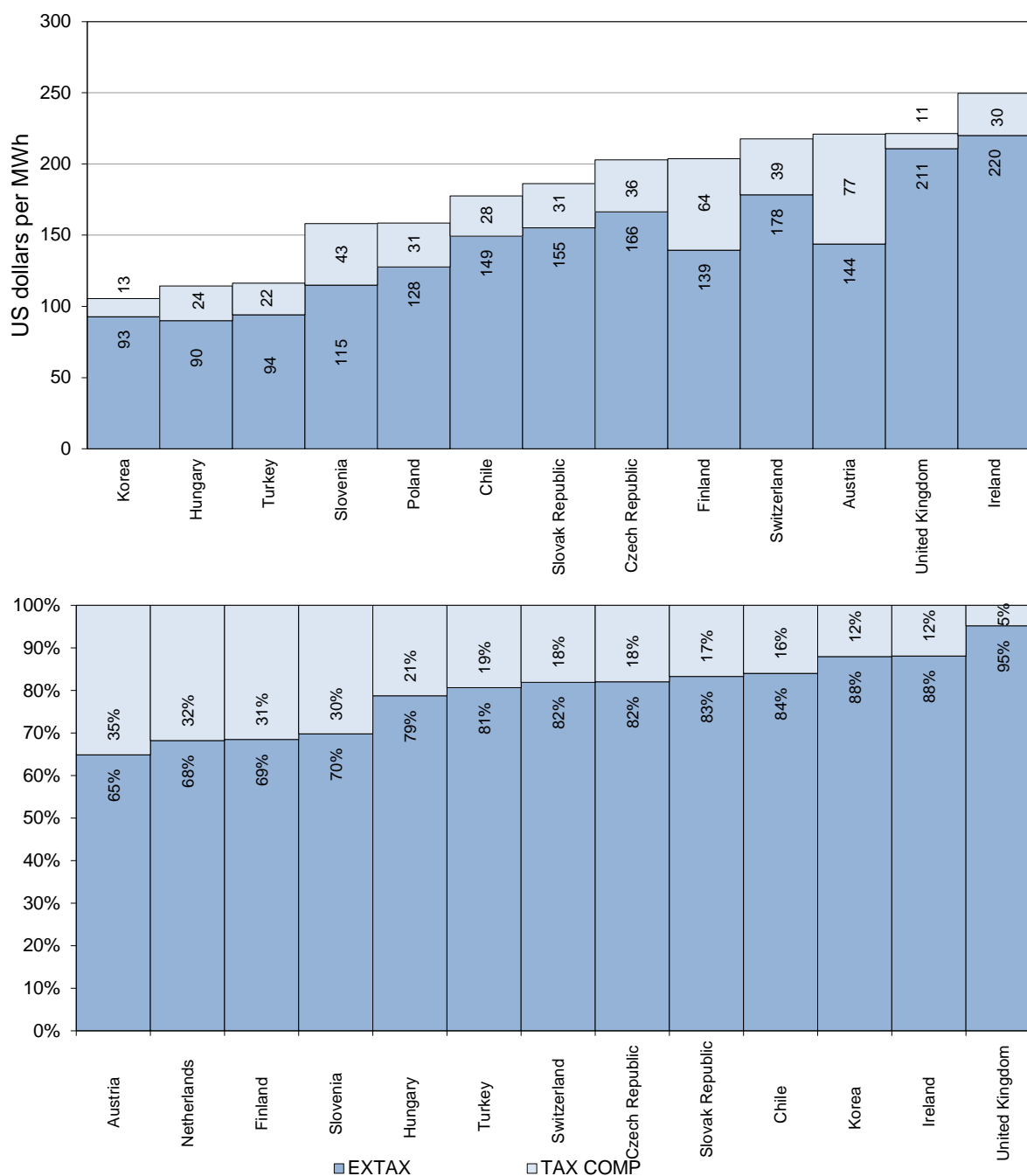
Figure 2 – Unleaded gasoline\* prices and taxes, 1Q2020



\* Regular unleaded for Australia, Canada, Japan, Korea, Mexico, New Zealand and the United States; premium unleaded 95 for all other countries.

European consumers generally pay the highest post-tax gasoline prices. This is primarily a reflection of the tendency for European countries to use high taxation to reduce consumption of gasoline for environmental concerns and/or to raise revenues for social policy objectives.

**Figure 3 – Electricity prices and taxes for households, 1Q2020**



Electricity prices show a different pattern compared to transport fuel prices (Figure 3). In fact, the electricity market and the final price are highly dependent on country-specific characteristics such as the generation mix, the characteristics of the grid network and regulatory settings. Ideally, the ex-tax price reflects not only the cost of generation, but also the cost of grid infrastructure development, operation and maintenance. This results in significant variation in ex-tax prices for electricity from country to country,

with an almost three-fold difference in electricity prices from lowest (Korea) to highest (the Netherlands). In general, taxes on electricity consumption are lower than those on transport fuels, mainly because electricity is considered as a primary good without a close substitute.

## Reference to databases

*Energy Prices and Taxes* [Database documentation](#) (for OECD countries).

## Sources

2Q2020 [Energy Prices and Taxes](#), OECD/IEA, Paris

Released in June 2020 at [data.iea.org](http://data.iea.org).

Queries should be addressed to [stats@iea.org](mailto:stats@iea.org).

In addition, a wide range of free energy statistics can be accessed at [iea.org/statistics](http://iea.org/statistics).

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