Global gasoline taxes and subsidies
Codebook

Version 1.0

Michael L. Ross
UCLA[1]

Chad Hazlett
UCLA

Paasha Mahdavi
Georgetown University

If you use these data, please cite the following:

Ross, Michael L., Chad Hazlett, and Paasha Mahdavi. 2017.
"Global progress and backsliding on gasoline taxes and subsidies."
Nature Energy 2(16201).
DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/nenergy.2016.201

Research for this project is supported by the UCLA Burkle Center and
the Natural Resources Governance Institute.[2]

[1] Corresponding author: mlross@polisci.ucla.edu

[2] We thank Maxim Ananyev, Chao-yo Cheng, Amanda Rizkallah Chown, Andre Comandon, Marika Csapo, Thomas Flaherty, Sebastian Garrido de Sierra, Viola Hilbert, Kristen Kao, Aram Karamli, Bronwyn Lewis Friscia, Zsuzsa Magyar, Christopher Vo Nguyen, Lauren Peritz, Hanna Petro, Kari Lipshutz, Aaron Rudkin, Adria Tinnin, Joseph Van Horn, and Kathryn Wainfan for excellent research assistance. A list of others who helped us obtain data is found at the end of the codebook.

Variable definitions and descriptions

Identifiers

wb_code: three-letter World Bank country code

country: full-length World Bank country names

country_short: shortened country names for use in graphics

region2: regional identifier

month: calendar month

year: calendar year

bookends: identifier for the first and last six months of the sample

Gasoline price

price: retail gasoline price in local currency units per liter

units: local currency unit name

price_usd_2015: retail gasoline price in constant 2015 US dollars per liter

> Note: Prices are recorded monthly; where prices are reported more frequently than monthly intervals (such as daily, weekly, bi-weekly, or ad hoc), we record the price from the first day or week of the month as the monthly price.
>
> Where prices are reported for multiple grades of gasoline, we use regular-graded gasoline, which is typically between 87 and 90 octane. This reflects the type of gasoline that is most likely to be purchased by the average consumer. In cases where the data availability of grades changes over time, we select the grade with the longest coverage.
>
> Where prices varied across different parts of a country, we use the price for the region that contains the capital city. Otherwise, we use the nationally reported price.
>
> To convert local prices to constant 2015 US dollars per liter, we use monthly exchange rates from the IMF International Financial Statistics and monthly inflation rates from the US Federal Reserve Economic Database.
>
> For further discussion of the sources and details in assembling price data, please refer to the "Measuring gasoline taxes and subsidies" and the "Methods" sections of the text.

Benchmark prices

benchmark_2015_adj: international benchmark price; spot price for conventional refined gasoline at the New York harbor (predominantly Brent crude oil blend) as reported by the US EIA.

benchmarkGULF_2015_adj: alternative international benchmark price; spot price for conventional refined gasoline along the U.S. Gulf Coast (predominantly West Texas Intermediate crude oil blend) as reported by the US EIA.

Note: Based on Coady et al. (2010), we add an adjustment to the benchmark price (to both prices, from the NY Harbor and Gulf Coast) to account for distribution costs, which we assume are fixed for all countries and years at 10 US cents per liter in constant 2015 US dollars.

Net implicit tax (subsidy)

bmgap2015_adj: net implicit tax (subsidy); estimated using the price gap approach, which is the difference between the local price (**price_usd_2015**) and the benchmark price (**benchmark_2015_adj**), in constant 2015 US dollars per liter.

pctbmgap2015_adj: alternative measure of net implicit taxes (subsidies); computed using an *ad valorem* approach, given by the local price (**price_usd_2015**) as a percentage of the benchmark price (**benchmark_2015_adj**), in percentage units.

pctbmgapGULF2015_adj: alternative measure of net implicit taxes (subsidies), using the alternative WTI-blend-based benchmark; computed using an *ad valorem* approach, given by the local price (**price_usd_2015**) as a percentage of the benchmark price (**benchmarkGULF_2015_adj**), in percentage units.

Gasoline consumption and emissions

gasolinecons: annual motor gasoline consumption, in thousands of barrels per day; drawn from the US EIA International Energy Statistics.

cons: average per-country level of gasoline consumption, in logged (base 10) thousands of barrels per day.

conspct: consumption shares; estimated as a country's annual gasoline consumption as a percent of total annual global consumption.

Note: The latest available consumption data from the EIA are from 2012; to this end, we extrapolate consumption shares up to 2015 by assuming that shares (but not consumption) remain fixed for each year after 2012.

emissions: carbon dioxide emissions from petroleum consumption, in metric tons per year; drawn from the US EIA International Energy Statistics.

Gasoline price fixity

fix12m: price fixity; measured as 1 minus the percentage of month-to-month changes in the retail price of gasoline in local currency units within a rolling 12-month interval, lagged by one month.

Note: For example, if the price changed only once in the last 12 months in a given country, then fix12m for the following month is equal to 1 – (1/12) or 0.9167.

fixtype: price fixity types; we categorize countries as "fixed" if their price changed three or fewer times in the last year; as "transitional" if their prices changed between four and eight times; and as "variable" or "floating" if prices changed nine or more than times.

Note: In the data, the "fixed" category is labeled as "1-FPS"; the "transitional" category is labeled as "2-Wobbler"; and the "variable" category is labeled as "3-Market".

We owe a special debt of gratitude to the following people for their assistance in collecting data:

Algeria
Rabah Arezki
Mohammed Yazid Boumgha

Azerbaijan
Taleh Ziyadov
Elnur Soltanov

Bangladesh
Asheka Ishrat

Bolivia
Sinclair Thomson
George Gray Molina
Carlos Monge
Alex Tilley
Luis Bustillo Portocarrero

Brazil
Marika Csapo

Ecuador
Juan José Herrera

EU
Francis Soupart

Haiti
Megan Berwick
Marie Madeleine Pierre

Iraq
Yahia Said
Joost Hilterman
Bassam Yousif
Zaid Al-Ali

Iran
Saman Mirkarimi

Japan
Zsuzsa Magyar

Jordan
Pete Moore
Tamer Momani
Malek Kabariti

Kenya
Obie Porteous
Brian Dillon

Lebanon
Patricia Karam
Nadine Aboukhaled

Libya
Dirk Vandewalle
Youssef Sawani

Mongolia
Dorjdari Namkhaijanstan

Morocco
Andrea Liverani
Khalid El Massnaoui

Myanmar
Maung Maung Thein

Saw Oo
Matthew Smith
Lorenzo Delesgues

Pakistan
Michael Callen
Saad Gulzar
Yasir Khan

PNG and Timor Leste
Patrizia Tumbarello
Ezequiel Rodrigo Cabezon

Sudan
Ibrahim Elbadawi
Mosllem Alamir

Trinidad
Tony Paul

Venezuela
Javier Corrales
Francisco Monaldi
Igor Hernandez

Vietnam
Eddy Malesky

Yemen
Nadwa Al-Dawsari
Robin Madrid

Other countries
Sonja Perakis
Alex Gillies
Suneeta Kaimal
Carol Holschuh
Sameer Shukla
Masami Kojima
Antonio David
Sudeshna Banerjee
David Coady
Rafik Selim
Brian Hiland
Joshua Charap