



8 October 2021  
Environmentally related taxes and fees  
2020

## ENVIRONMENTALLY RELATED TAXES REPRESENTED 6.8% OF TOTAL REVENUE FROM TAXES AND SOCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS, IN 2020

In 2020, the value of environmentally related taxes was approximately 4.77 billion euro, representing 6.8% of total revenue from taxes and social contributions (7.3% in 2019). That value corresponds to a decrease of 12% compared to 2019, which was more intense than the decrease observed for total revenue from taxes and social contributions (-4.6%), reflecting the significant effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on revenue from taxes associated with the purchase and use of motor vehicles.

According to information available for 2019, in Portugal, the share of environmentally related taxes in total revenue from taxes and social contributions was higher (7.3%) than the EU28 average (5.9%).

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Statistics Portugal publishes data for environmentally related taxes and fees for the year 2020. “Environmentally related tax” means a tax whose tax base is a physical unit (or a proxy of a physical unit) of something that has a proven negative impact on the environment, and which is identified in ESA 2010 as a tax.

This information, consistent with the Portuguese National Accounts (Base 2016), is transmitted annually to Eurostat under the Regulation (EU) No 691/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 6 July 2011, on European environmental economic accounts.

International comparability is presented at the European level for 2019, the latest year for which this information is available.

This press release is organized into two distinct parts: environmentally related taxes and environmentally related fees.

### Environmentally related taxes

In 2020, the value of these taxes was approximately 4.77 billion euro, registering a decrease of 12% comparing to 2019. This reduction was more intense than that observed for total revenue from taxes and social contributions (-4.6%), reflecting the significant effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on revenue from taxes associated with the purchase and use of motor vehicles.

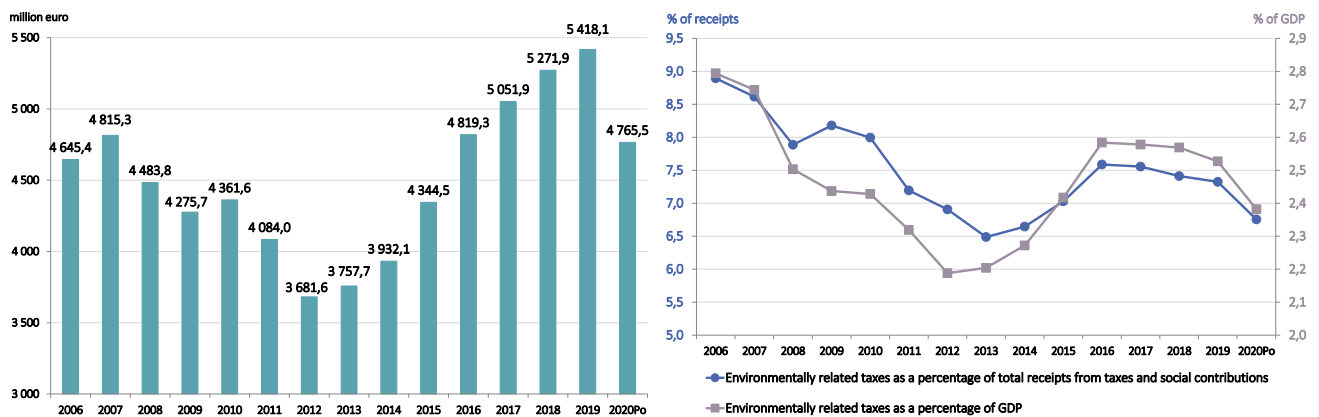


Between 2019 and 2020, tax on oil and energy products gained share in total revenue from environmentally related taxes (from 67.3% to 69.2%). In the opposite direction, tax on motor vehicle sales has now a lower share (from 13.7% to 9.4%), since its revenue declined 39.8% in 2020. This behaviour reflects the decrease (-33.9%) in motor vehicle sales due to economic uncertainty as a result of COVID-19 pandemic, which led to the postponement of the decision to purchase new vehicles and the renewal of fleets, particularly in the vehicle rental sector.

The revenue from taxes related to the acquisition and use of motor vehicles (tax on oil and energy products, tax on motor vehicle sales and the unified circulation tax) represented, in 2020, around 88.1% of all environmentally related taxes (89.5% in 2019). The revenue from carbon trading rights gained share again, in total receipts in 2020.

By categories, in 2020, energy taxes accounted for 75.5% of total environmentally related taxes. Transport taxes had a relative weight of 23.7%. The remaining categories – Resource taxes and Pollution taxes – were insignificant in the structure of environmentally related taxes (0.4% for both).

Figure 1. Total environmentally related taxes



Source: Statistics Portugal, Tax Revenue Statistics

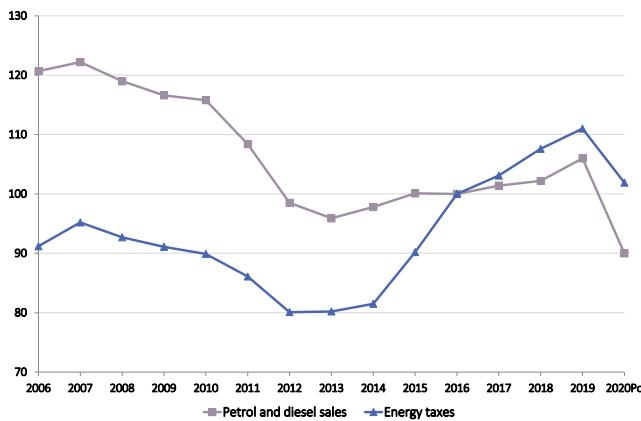
Since environmentally related taxes are essentially comprised by three taxes - tax on oil and energy products, tax on motor vehicle sales and unified circulation tax, it is relevant to analyse the performance of those taxes, given the behaviour of the respective tax base.



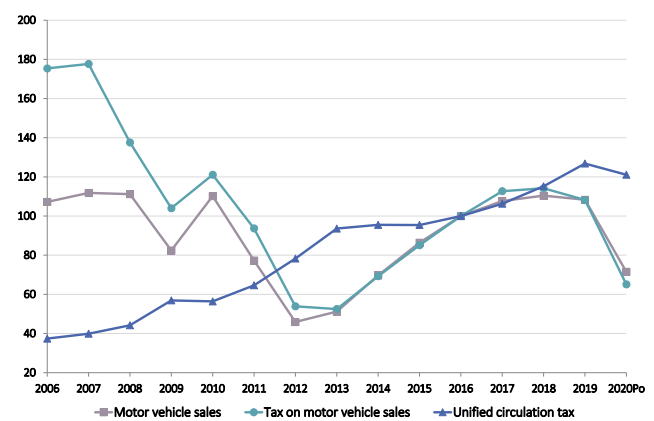
The evolution of energy taxes was, in general, similar to petrol and diesel sales, in volume terms, until 2014. From 2015 onwards, there was a deviation (figure 2, left) explained by a significant rise in tax rates, as well as the introduction of a new tax component related to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Regarding transport taxes, motor vehicle sales and tax on motor vehicle sales show a similar behaviour. On the opposite side, the unified circulation tax, which focuses on the existing stock of vehicles, presents a growth for the total series. This behaviour is mainly explained by the car taxation reform (entered into force in 2007), which increased taxation over the vehicle's lifetime.

Figure 2. Evolution of fuel and motor vehicles sales and their respective taxes



Source: Directorate-General of Energy and Geology, Monthly fuel sales in Portugal



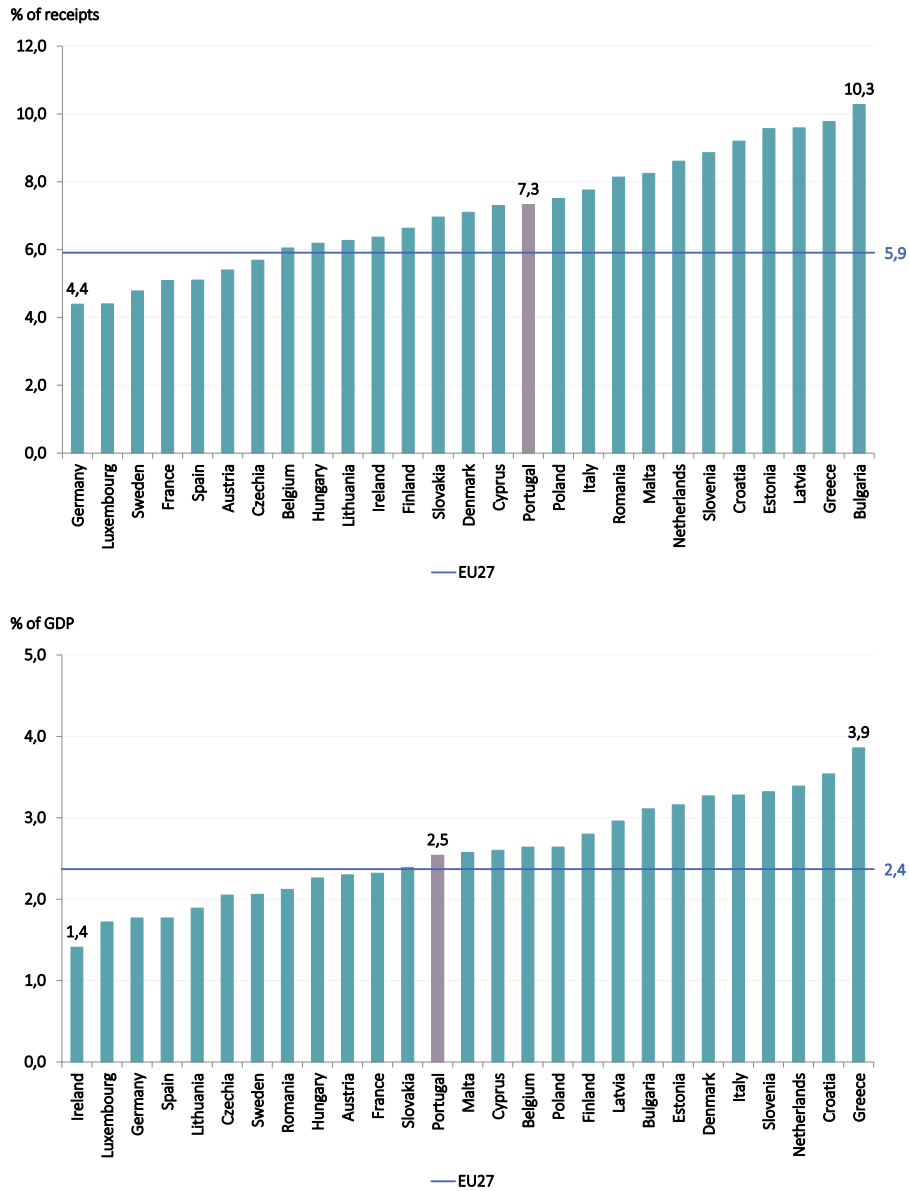
Source: ACAP – Portuguese Vehicle Sales Association, Motor vehicle sales in Portugal

Comparing with other European Union countries, in 2019, “Environmentally related taxes as a percentage of total revenue from taxes and social contributions”, in Portugal, registered a value of 7.3%, which is higher than the EU27 average of 5.9%.

Regarding “Environmentally related taxes as a percentage of GDP”, Portugal registered a value of 2.5%, which was also higher than the EU27 average (2.4%).



Figure 3. Environmentally related taxes as a percentage of total receipts from taxes and social contributions and as a percentage of GDP, in European Union countries, in 2019

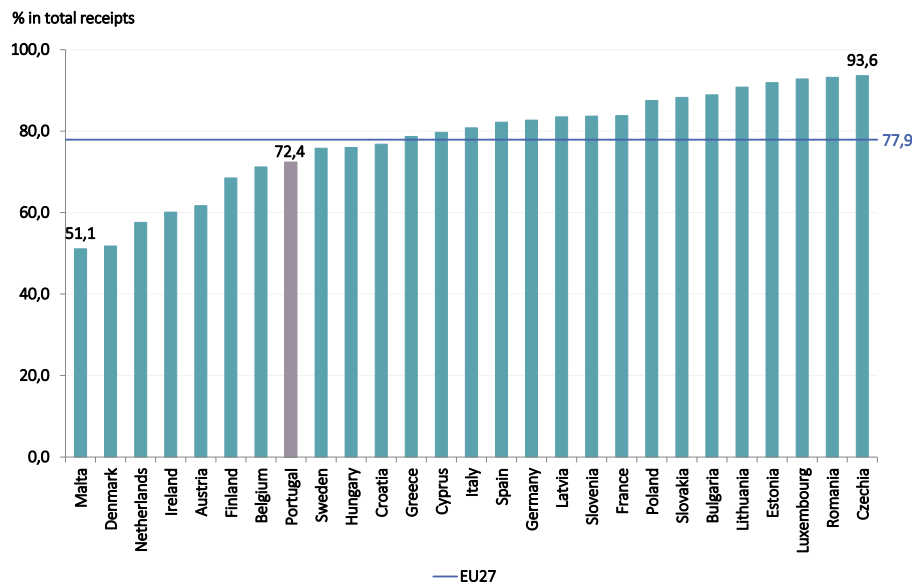


Source: Statistics Portugal, Tax Revenue Statistics; Eurostat

Like Portugal, most EU countries have a higher relative weight of energy taxes in total environmentally related taxes. However, in 2019, that weight (72.4%) was lower than the EU27 average (77.9%).



Figure 4. Energy taxes as a percentage of total environmentally related taxes, in European Union countries, in 2019



Source: Statistics Portugal, Tax Revenue Statistics; Eurostat

### Environmentally related fees

In 2019, the most recent year for which this information is available, environmentally related fees amounted to 1.572 billion euro (0.7% of GDP), representing an increase of 4.3% compared to 2018, mainly explained by higher revenues from fees for solid waste collection, treatment and disposal (+4.5%), from fees for wastewater collection, treatment and management (+2.7%) and from waste management fee (+15.9%).

The fees from the system of recycling and disposal of packages (glass, cardboard, plastic, metal and wood) rose 5.2%, after the decrease registered in the previous year (-2.4%).

Fees for solid waste collection, treatment and disposal and for wastewater collection, treatment and management still account for 88.8% of total revenue collected from environmentally related fees.



Figure 5. Environmentally related fees, between 2010 and 2019

FEE DESCRIPTION	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
	unit: 10 <sup>6</sup> euro									
<b>Pollution fees</b>	<b>1 249,517</b>	<b>1 272,823</b>	<b>1 247,892</b>	<b>1 260,771</b>	<b>1 294,014</b>	<b>1 391,553</b>	<b>1 361,392</b>	<b>1 421,854</b>	<b>1 487,323</b>	<b>1 547,542</b>
Fees for solid waste collection, treatment and disposal	567,548	556,711	542,629	532,459	547,364	613,201	585,907	587,275	613,116	640,852
Fees for wastewater collection, treatment and management	549,427	589,667	600,366	629,160	642,470	676,765	665,292	700,688	735,269	754,812
Fee for the recycling and disposal of packages (glass, cardboard, plastic, metal and wood)	71,752	67,562	55,477	50,528	55,366	50,386	54,694	70,992	69,261	72,841
Fee for the recycling and disposal of pharmaceutical and plant protection products	2,035	2,165	2,054	1,984	2,043	2,118	2,224	1,975	2,159	2,119
Fee for the recycling and disposal of used lubricating oils	5,156	4,666	3,878	3,997	4,202	3,502	3,357	5,652	5,636	4,845
Fee for the recycling and disposal of tyres	10,369	9,081	8,235	9,994	11,266	11,760	12,654	12,564	11,244	11,832
Fee for the recycling and disposal of old motor vehicles	0,274	0,579	0,416	0,417	0,436	0,425	0,399	0,396	0,559	0,572
Fee for the recycling and disposal of electrical and electronic equipments	22,555	17,966	11,521	10,285	9,378	8,744	7,968	8,033	8,386	12,245
Fee for the recycling and disposal of batteries and accumulators	2,020	1,682	1,569	1,579	1,548	1,472	1,393	1,522	1,617	1,768
Waste management fee	15,732	18,131	17,301	15,889	15,966	19,124	24,101	29,013	35,532	41,187
Fee for collection of corpses of dead animals on the farm	2,649	4,613	4,446	4,479	3,975	4,056	3,403	3,744	4,544	4,469
<b>Resource fees</b>	<b>16,167</b>	<b>8,269</b>	<b>22,289</b>	<b>18,195</b>	<b>23,177</b>	<b>16,502</b>	<b>15,785</b>	<b>18,104</b>	<b>19,788</b>	<b>24,500</b>
Fee for the use of water resources	16,167	8,269	22,289	18,195	23,177	16,502	15,785	18,104	19,788	24,500
Fee for boiling springs management	//	//	//	//	//	//	//	//	//	//
<b>Total environmental related fees</b>	<b>1 265,684</b>	<b>1 281,092</b>	<b>1 270,181</b>	<b>1 278,966</b>	<b>1 317,191</b>	<b>1 408,055</b>	<b>1 377,177</b>	<b>1 439,958</b>	<b>1 507,111</b>	<b>1 572,042</b>

Source: Statistics Portugal, Tax Revenue Statistics and National Accounts



## METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Taxes consist of compulsory, unrequited payments, which are levied by general government. The term “unrequited” means in this context that government provides nothing directly in return to the individual unit making the payment, although they might use the funds to provide goods and services to other units or to the community as a whole.

## ENVIRONMENTALLY RELATED TAXES

Environmentally related tax statistics record data on revenues raised by governments from taxation on products and services with a negative impact on the environment. Thus, all taxes levied on these tax bases are environmentally related taxes (this definition is in agreement with Eurostat’s publication – [Environmental taxes – A statistical guide](#), from 2013).

The value added tax (VAT) is excluded from the definition of environmentally related tax. This is mainly because VAT is a neutral tax (with few exceptions) since it is deductible for industries but not for households. Therefore, it does not influence relative prices in the same way as an environmentally related tax does.

Alcohol, tobacco and similar consumption taxes should also not be included in environmental tax statistics, since they are not considered to be specifically negative for the environment.

The source of information is table 9 of the national accounts (ESA 2010) transmission programme – Regulation (EC) n. 5492/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 21 May 2013, which details tax and social contribution receipts by type of tax and social contribution and receiving sub-sector.

According to ESA 2010, there are three main categories of taxes:

- Taxes on production and imports (D.2);
- Current taxes on income, wealth, etc. (D.5);
- Capital taxes (D.91).

For analytical purposes, the environmentally related taxes can be classified into four main categories:

- Energy taxes – this group includes taxes on energy products (petrol, diesel, fuel oil, natural gas, coal and electricity), as well the proceeds from emission permits recorded as taxes in the national accounts.
- Transport taxes – this group mainly includes taxes related to the ownership and use of motor vehicles. Taxes on other transport equipment – planes or ships – are also included here, when they conform to the general definition of environmentally related taxes. The transport taxes may be a single tax related to imports or sales of the equipment or recurrent taxes such as an annual road tax.
- Pollution taxes – this group includes taxes on measured or estimated emissions to air and water, management of solid waste and noise.



- Resource taxes – this group includes taxes linked to the extraction or to the use of natural resources, such as oil and gas, water, forests, wild flora and fauna, etc., as these activities deplete natural resources.

## ENVIRONMENTALLY RELATED FEES

The difference between a tax and a fee is on the way General Government uses the receipts. If the amounts collected are used to issue licences to organise some proper regulatory function (such as checking the competence or qualifications of the entity concerned or the promotion of management systems in areas that have a tendency to generate negative externalities), these payments should be treated as purchases of services from government (P.11 – Market output, in ESA 2010) rather than payment of taxes, unless the payments are clearly out of all proportion to the cost of providing the services. Some examples are garbage disposal fees or wastewater collection, treatment and management fees.

Generally, the value of the fees is determined by the revenue charged by the entity that is legally responsible for the assessment and collection of the fee. However, given the complexity of waste and wastewater management activities, the amount of revenue collected from fees for solid waste collection, treatment and disposal and from fees for wastewater collection, treatment and management is indirectly obtained from National Accounts' data for entities belonging to subsectors "S11001 - Public non-financial corporations" and "S13 - General government". It should be noticed that several integrated waste management systems operating in the country are managed by entities that do not belong to the General Government sector. However, these entities are licensed by the Portuguese Environmental Agency, where they were given a mandate to assume a role that should be the responsibility of the Government. Thus, the revenues collected for the management of each system by those entities are considered to be an environmentally related fee.

Regarding the fees for solid waste collection, treatment and disposal and for wastewater collection, treatment and management collected by entities outside general government sector, those were now included in the current exercise which determined changes in the whole series for environmentally related fees.

In the specific case of fees for solid waste collection, treatment and disposal, these are determined taking into account the revenue of CPA product 38 (Waste collection, treatment and disposal services; materials recovery services) obtained by entities classified in NACE 36 (Water collection, treatment and supply), in NACE 37-38-39 (Sewerage; Waste collection, treatment and disposal activities; materials recovery; Remediation activities and other waste management services) and in NACE 841 (Administration of the State and the economic and social policy of the community).

Regarding the fees for wastewater collection, treatment and management, these are determined considering the revenue of CPA product 37 (Sewerage services; sewage sludge) obtained by entities classified in NACE 36 (Water collection, treatment and supply), in NACE 37-38-39 (Sewerage; Waste collection, treatment and disposal activities; materials recovery; Remediation activities and other waste management services) and in NACE 841 (Administration of the State and the economic and social policy of the community).





INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ESTATÍSTICA  
STATISTICS PORTUGAL

press release



DIISTAQUE

#### ACRONYMS AND DESIGNATIONS

CO<sub>2</sub> – Carbon Dioxide

CPA – Statistical classification of products by activity

ESA2010 – European system of accounts - 2010

EU – European Union

EU27 – All the 27 countries (Member states) that belong to the European Union, since 31 January 2020

GDP – Gross Domestic Product

NACE – Statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community