

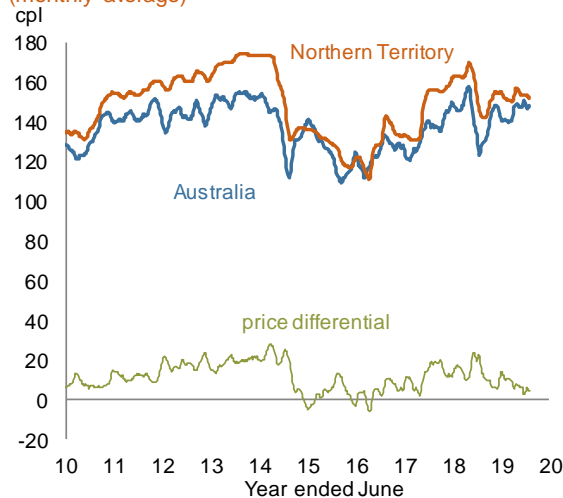
ECONOMIC BRIEF

Fuel prices

January 2020

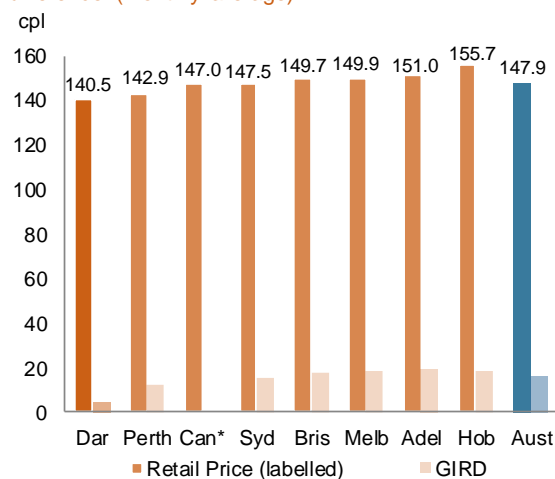
Released: 3 February 2020 | Next release: 2 March 2020

Chart 1: Retail unleaded petrol price (monthly average)



Source: Australian Institute of Petroleum, DTF

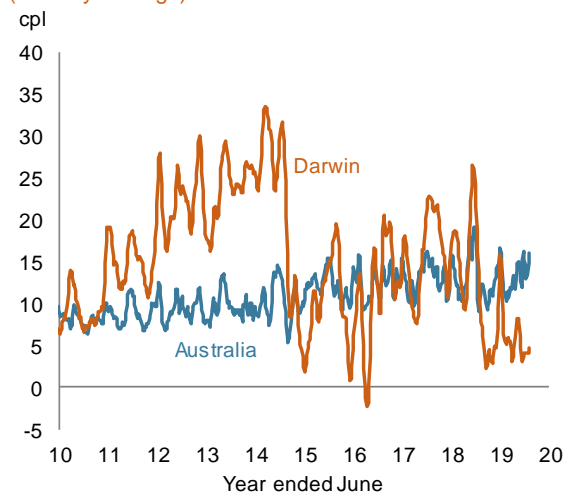
Chart 2: Retail ULP price and gross indicative retail difference (monthly average)



*No fuel import terminal in Canberra

Source: Australian Institute of Petroleum, DTF

Chart 3: ULP gross indicative retail difference (monthly average)



Source: Australian Institute of Petroleum, DTF

The following information was sourced from the Australian Institute of Petroleum (AIP) and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC).

The reported monthly average price for January 2020 is calculated as the average price in cents per litre (cpl) for the four weeks ending 2 February 2020 unless otherwise stated.

Gross indicative retail differences (GIRDs) are the average retail price less the published terminal gate prices (TGP) and are used as an indication of gross retail margins.

Unleaded (ULP)

	Average retail ULP price, cpl	Monthly change, cpl	Annual change, cpl
Darwin	140.5	↓1.6	↑11.7
Alice Springs	189.3	↓0.2	↑3.2
Katherine	163.8	↓0.1	↓1.9
Tennant Creek	193.3	↑0.9	↑4.0
Northern Territory average¹	152.2	↓1.2	↑9.1
Australia average¹	147.9	↓0.9	↑20.4

¹ weighted average

The average retail price of ULP in Darwin was 140.5 cpl, 1.6 cpl lower than the previous month, and 11.7 cpl greater in annual terms. This was the lowest monthly retail price of all the capital cities, ranging from 142.9 cpl in Perth to 155.7 cpl in Hobart (Chart 2). Nationally, the average retail price of ULP was 147.9 cpl, 0.9 cpl lower than the previous month, but up by 20.4 cpl compared to the same period last year.

The monthly average TGP for ULP in Darwin was 135.8 cpl, 2.2 cpl lower than the previous month and 15.7 cpl higher than the same period in the previous year. This was in-line with the national average TGP monthly change, down 2.4 cpl to 131.9 cpl from the previous month, and 15.5 cpl higher compared to the previous year.

The monthly average GIRD for ULP in Darwin increased by 0.7 cpl to 4.7 cpl in the month (Chart 3). This was the lowest GIRD of all the capital cities, which ranged from 11.9 cpl in Perth to 19.1 cpl in Adelaide. The national average GIRD for ULP increased by 1.5 cpl to 16.0 cpl in the month.

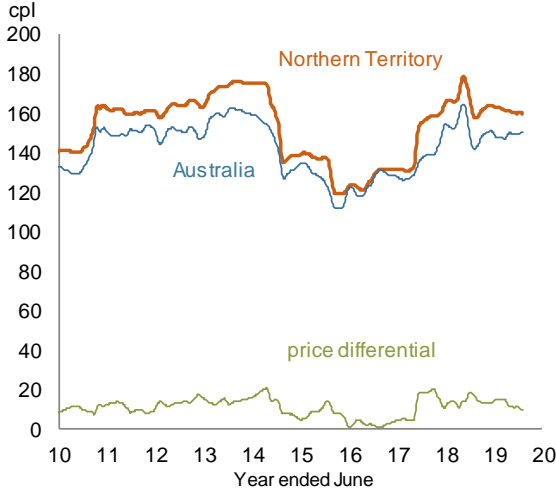
ACCC fuel price monitoring

The ACCC released its Report on the Australian Petroleum Market for the September quarter 2019 on 26 November 2019. The Report can be accessed [here](#).

The Report shows that the Darwin average ULP price was 139.1 cpl, 3.0 cpl lower than the five largest capital cities (Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth) in the September quarter 2019.

Fuel prices January 2020

Chart 4: Retail diesel price (monthly average)



Diesel

The monthly average retail price of diesel across the Territory was 159.9 cpl. This was 0.1 cpl lower compared to the previous month and 1.9 cpl greater than the same period in the previous year (Chart 4). The monthly average retail diesel price differential between the Territory and the national average was 9.6 cpl.

	Average retail diesel price, cpl	Monthly change, cpl	Annual change, cpl
Darwin	144.0	↓0.1	↑4.6
Regional average¹	184.5	flat	↓2.3
Northern Territory average¹	159.9	↓0.1	↑1.9
Australia average¹	150.3	↑0.8	↑8.5

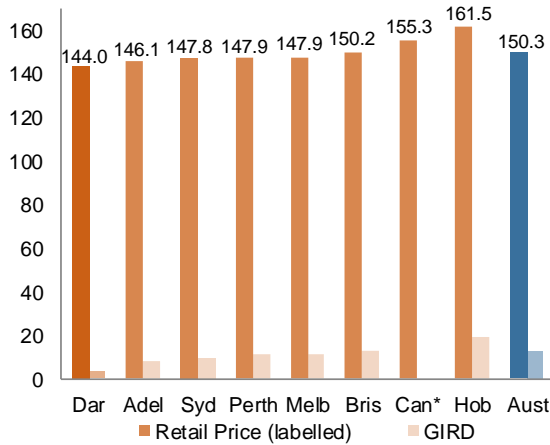
¹ weighted average

Darwin recorded the lowest retail price for diesel of all the capital cities, with a monthly average retail price of 144.0 cpl. This was a monthly decrease of 0.1 cpl and a rise of 4.6 cpl in annual terms. The monthly average retail price ranged from 146.1 cpl in Adelaide to 161.5 cpl in Hobart (Chart 5). Nationally, the average price of diesel increased by 0.8 cpl in the month to 150.3 cpl and increased by 8.5 cpl in annual terms.

The TGP for diesel in Darwin was 140.8 cpl, 1.0 cpl lower than last month, and 10.3 cpl greater than the previous year.

The average Darwin GIRD for diesel was 3.2 cpl, the lowest of all capital cities. This was a monthly increase of 0.8 cpl, and was 9.5 cpl lower than the national average of 12.7 cpl (Chart 6).

Chart 5: Diesel price and gross indicative retail difference (monthly average)



Brent crude oil

The monthly average spot price of Brent crude oil in January 2020 was \$92.19 per barrel in Australian dollar terms (Chart 7). This was a decrease of 6.3 per cent in the month and 9.7 per cent higher annually.

	Average spot price (per barrel)	Monthly Change	Annual Change
Brent Crude \$US	63.20	↓7.1%	↑4.8%
Brent Crude \$AU	92.19	↓6.3%	↑9.7%

Chart 6: Diesel gross indicative retail difference (monthly average)

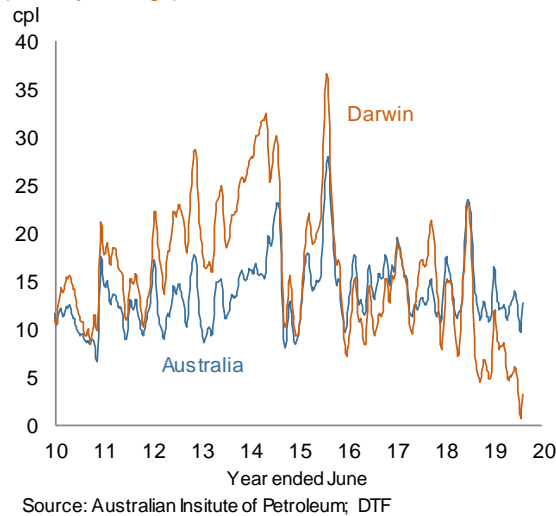
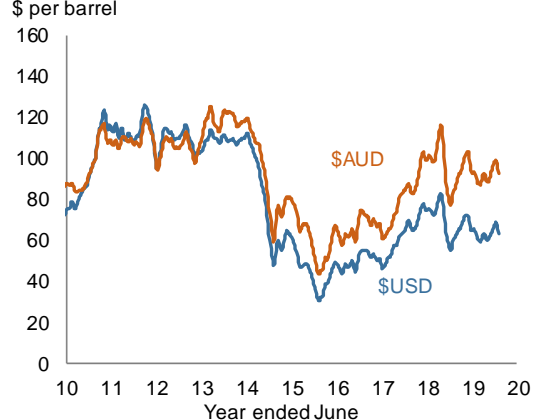


Chart 7: Brent crude oil prices (monthly average)



Fuel prices January 2020

Table 1: Monthly average fuel prices

	Monthly average for the week ending (cpl)			Change (cpl)	
	03 Feb 19	05 Jan 20	02 Feb 20	Monthly ¹	Annual ²
Unleaded petrol					
Retail price					
Northern Territory	143.1	153.4	152.2	-1.2	9.1
– Darwin	128.8	142.1	140.5	-1.6	11.7
– Alice Springs	186.0	189.5	189.3	-0.2	3.2
– Katherine	165.6	163.9	163.8	-0.1	-1.9
– Tennant Creek	189.3	192.4	193.3	0.9	4.0
Australia	127.5	148.8	147.9	-0.9	20.4
Terminal gate price³					
Darwin	120.1	138.0	135.8	-2.2	15.7
Australia	116.4	134.2	131.9	-2.4	15.5
Gross indicative retail difference (GIRD)⁴					
Darwin	8.7	4.0	4.7	0.7	-4.0
Australia	11.1	14.5	16.0	1.5	4.9
Retail price differential from Australia					
Northern Territory	15.6	4.6	4.4	-0.2	-11.2
– Darwin	1.3	-6.7	-7.4	-0.6	-8.7
Diesel					
Retail price					
Northern Territory	158.0	160.0	159.9	-0.1	1.9
– Darwin	139.4	144.1	144.0	-0.1	4.6
– Regional average*	186.8	184.5	184.5	0.0	-2.3
Australia	141.8	149.5	150.3	0.8	8.5
Terminal gate price³					
Darwin	130.5	141.8	140.8	-1.0	10.3
Australia	127.3	138.8	137.6	-1.2	10.3
Gross indicative retail difference (GIRD)⁴					
Darwin	8.9	2.3	3.2	0.8	-5.7
Australia	14.5	10.7	12.7	2.0	-1.8
Retail price differential from Australia					
Northern Territory	16.2	10.6	9.6	-0.9	-6.6
– Darwin	-2.4	-5.3	-6.3	-1.0	-3.9

Table 2 - Monthly average crude oil prices

	Monthly average for the week ending (\$)			Change (%)	
	03 Feb 19	05 Jan 20	02 Feb 20	Monthly ¹	Annual ²
Brent spot price in \$US per barrel	60.30	68.00	63.20	-7.1	4.8
Brent spot price in \$AU per barrel	84.04	98.39	92.19	-6.3	9.7

1 Compares the average of the last four weeks with the average of the corresponding four weeks of the previous month.

2 Compares the average of the last four weeks with the average of the corresponding four weeks of the previous year.

3 Terminal gate prices (TGPs) are the published daily spot prices at which fuel can be purchased from the fuel import or refinery terminal and provide an indication of the actual wholesale price of fuel. The largest component of the TGP is the price of crude oil, followed by the Commonwealth Government's fuel excise and goods and services tax.

4 Gross indicative retail differences (GIRD) are equal to the monthly average retail price less the monthly average TGP and are used as a broad indication of gross retail fuel margins.

* AIP does not report on diesel prices for Alice Springs, Katherine and Tennant Creek.

Source: Department of Treasury and Finance, Australian Institute of Petroleum, Reserve Bank of Australia, U.S. Energy Information Administration

Caution is advised when using monthly data for the Territory, which is often derived from small samples and highly volatile. Although all due care has been exercised in the preparation of this material, no responsibility is accepted for any errors or omission.

More information:

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