

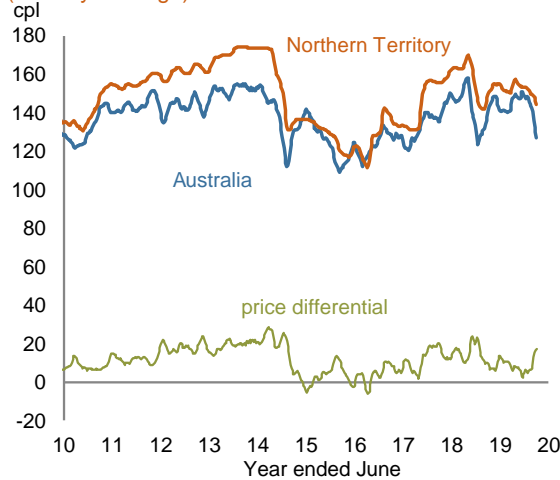
ECONOMIC BRIEF

Fuel prices

March 2020

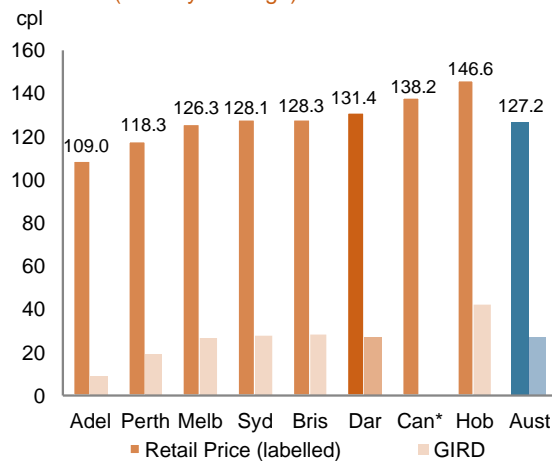
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Chart 1: Retail unleaded petrol price (monthly average)



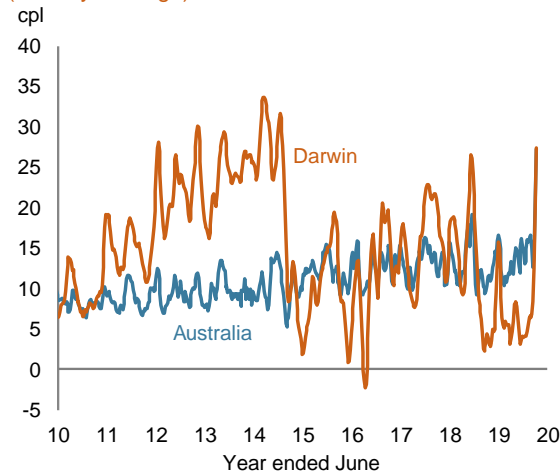
Source: Australian Institute of Petroleum, DTF

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 March 2020 is calculated as the average price in cents per litre (cpl) for the four weeks ending 5 April 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	131.4	↓5.2	↓7.3
Alice Springs	185.6	↓3.3	↓1.1
Katherine	160.4	↓3.3	↑1.0
Tennant Creek	188.4	↓4.3	↓1.3
Northern Territory average¹	144.6	↓4.6	↓5.5
Australia average¹	127.2	↓13.6	↓13.5

¹ weighted average

The average retail price of ULP in Darwin was 131.4 cpl, 5.2 cpl lower than the previous month, and 7.3 cpl lower in annual terms. This was the third highest monthly retail price of all the capital cities, ranging from 109.0 cpl in Adelaide to 146.6 cpl in Hobart (Chart 2). Nationally, the average retail price of ULP was 127.2 cpl, 13.6 cpl lower than the previous month, and down by 13.5 cpl compared to the same period last year.

The monthly average TGP for ULP in Darwin was 104.0 cpl, 25.8 cpl lower than the previous month and 30.3 cpl lower than the same period in the previous year. This was in-line with the national average TGP monthly change, down 25.7 cpl to 99.8 cpl from the previous month, and 30.4 cpl lower compared to the previous year.

The monthly average GIRD for ULP in Darwin increased by 20.7 cpl to 27.4 cpl in the month (Chart 3). This was the fourth lowest GIRD of all the capital cities, which ranged from 9.0 cpl in Adelaide to 42.4 cpl in Hobart. The national average GIRD for ULP increased by 12.1 cpl to 27.3 cpl in the month.

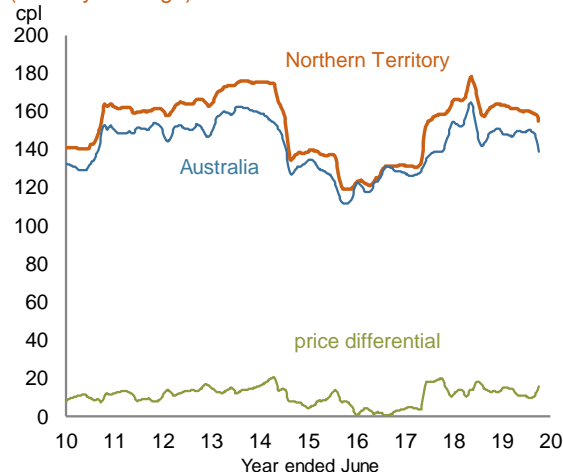
ACCC fuel price monitoring

The ACCC released its Report on the Australian Petroleum Market for the December quarter 2019 on 16 March 2020. The Report can be accessed [here](#).

The Report shows that the Darwin average ULP price was 143.8 cpl, 5.3 cpl lower than the five largest capital cities (Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth) in the December quarter 2019.

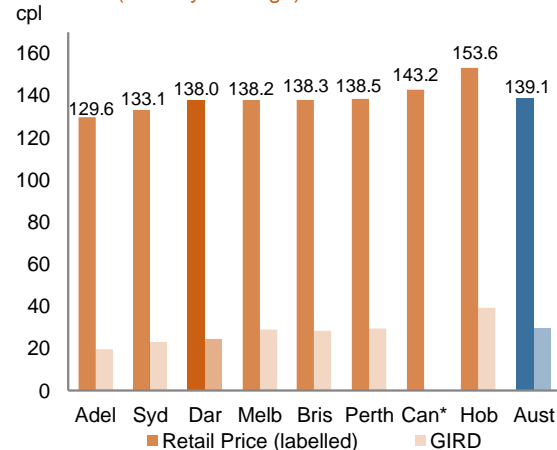
Fuel prices March 2020

Chart 4: Retail diesel price (monthly average)



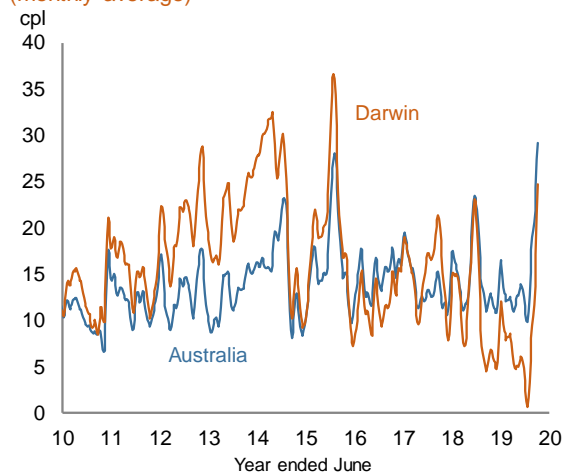
Source: Australian Institute of Petroleum, DTF

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



*No fuel import terminal in Canberra
Source: Australian Institute of Petroleum, DTF

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



Source: Australian Institute of Petroleum, DTF

Diesel

The monthly average retail price of diesel across the Territory was 154.9 cpl. This was 3.8 cpl lower compared to the previous month and 7.1 cpl lower 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 15.8 cpl.

	Average retail diesel price, cpl	Monthly change, cpl	Annual change, cpl
Darwin	138.0	↓4.3	↓8.3
Regional average¹	181.1	↓3.0	↓5.2
Northern Territory average¹	154.9	↓3.8	↓7.1
Australia average¹	139.1	↓8.5	↓9.8

¹ weighted average

Darwin recorded the third lowest retail price for diesel of all the capital cities, with a monthly average retail price of 138.0 cpl. This was a monthly decrease of 4.3 cpl and a decline of 8.3 cpl in annual terms. The monthly average retail price ranged from 129.6 cpl in Adelaide to 153.6 cpl in Hobart (Chart 5). Nationally, the average price of diesel decreased by 8.5 cpl in the month to 139.1 cpl and decreased by 9.8 cpl in annual terms.

The TGP for diesel in Darwin was 113.3 cpl, 17.3 cpl lower than last month, and 26.7 cpl lower than the previous year.

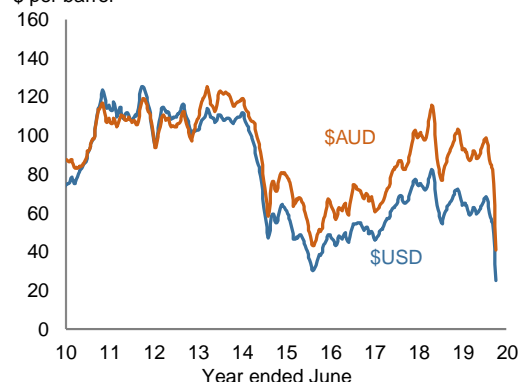
The average Darwin GIRD for diesel was 24.7 cpl, the third lowest of all capital cities. This was a monthly increase of 13.0 cpl, and was 4.5 cpl lower than the national average of 29.2 cpl (Chart 6).

Brent crude oil

The monthly average spot price of Brent crude oil in March 2020 was \$41.12 per barrel in Australian dollar terms (Chart 7). This was a decrease of 50.1 per cent in the month and 56.8 per cent lower annually.

	Average spot price (per barrel)	Monthly Change	Annual Change
Brent Crude \$US	25.27	↓53.8%	↓62.5%
Brent Crude \$AU	41.12	↓50.1%	↓56.8%

Chart 7: Brent crude oil prices (monthly average)



Source: Reserve Bank of Australia, U.S Energy Information Administration, DTF

Fuel prices March 2020

Table 1: Monthly average fuel prices

	Monthly average for the week ending (cpl)			Change (cpl)	
	07 Apr 19	08 Mar 20	05 Apr 20	Monthly ¹	Annual ²
Unleaded petrol					
Retail price					
Northern Territory	150.1	149.2	144.6	-4.6	-5.5
– Darwin	138.7	136.5	131.4	-5.2	-7.3
– Alice Springs	186.7	188.9	185.6	-3.3	-1.1
– Katherine	159.4	163.7	160.4	-3.3	1.0
– Tennant Creek	189.6	192.7	188.4	-4.3	-1.3
Australia	140.6	140.7	127.2	-13.6	-13.5
Terminal gate price³					
Darwin	134.3	129.8	104.0	-25.8	-30.3
Australia	130.2	125.5	99.8	-25.7	-30.4
Gross indicative retail difference (GIRD)⁴					
Darwin	4.4	6.8	27.4	20.7	23.0
Australia	10.4	15.2	27.3	12.1	16.9
Retail price differential from Australia					
Northern Territory	9.5	8.5	17.4	8.9	7.9
– Darwin	-1.9	-4.2	4.2	8.4	6.1
Diesel					
Retail price					
Northern Territory	162.0	158.7	154.9	-3.8	-7.1
– Darwin	146.3	142.3	138.0	-4.3	-8.3
– Regional average*	186.2	184.0	181.1	-3.0	-5.2
Australia	149.0	147.6	139.1	-8.5	-9.8
Terminal gate price³					
Darwin	140.0	130.6	113.3	-17.3	-26.7
Australia	136.5	127.0	109.9	-17.1	-26.6
Gross indicative retail difference (GIRD)⁴					
Darwin	6.3	11.7	24.7	13.0	18.5
Australia	12.5	20.6	29.2	8.6	16.7
Retail price differential from Australia					
Northern Territory	13.0	11.1	15.8	4.7	2.8
– Darwin	-2.7	-5.3	-1.1	4.3	1.6

Table 2 - Monthly average crude oil prices

	Monthly average for the week ending (\$)			Change (%)	
	07 Apr 19	08 Mar 20	05 Apr 20	Monthly ¹	Annual ²
Brent spot price in \$US per barrel	67.46	54.73	25.27	-53.8	-62.5
Brent spot price in \$AU per barrel	95.09	82.45	41.12	-50.1	-56.8

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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