

J. International Energy Comparisons

Introduction

This section compares New Zealand's energy situation with that of its major Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) trading partners, for which information is available.

International data are based on *Energy Prices and Taxes Fourth Quarter 2008* published by the International Energy Agency (IEA). Care is needed in interpreting the data as product specifications, statistical methodology and information available can differ considerably among countries. Where 2008 data are not available, the latest information is used. Where information is unavailable for the last three years, no data are shown.

Taxation forms a large component of some energy prices, notably for petrol (around 50% or more for most countries, except for the North American countries, for which the share is closer to 30%).

Prices

Table J.1 and Figures J.1a–J.1d compare the prices of different energy sources in OECD countries for the September quarter 2008.

New Zealand liquid fuel prices are at the lower end of the OECD range. Residential natural gas prices are currently higher than the average OECD price. Industrial natural gas prices and industrial and residential electricity prices are all less than the average of OECD countries. However, international gas and electricity price comparisons should be treated with caution given the incomplete data and inconsistent price calculation methodologies.

Residential (or “retail”) energy prices are subject to value-added taxes such as New Zealand's Goods and Services Tax of 12.5%.

Consumption

Comparative energy consumption on a per capita basis in New Zealand's OECD trading partners in 2007 (2008 international energy consumption and production comparisons were not available for this edition) is shown in Table J.2 and Figures J.2a–J.2c. This shows that New Zealand is in the highest third when comparing electricity consumption and around the middle of the group when comparing consumption of oil and natural gas.

Production

Despite growing oil and gas production, New Zealand is a very minor player in global energy production. In 2007, New Zealand produced the equivalent of 40% of the amount of the oil it consumed. However, most of this was exported. New Zealand is therefore a net importer of oil and oil products.

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Price Comparisons

Table J.1: International Energy Prices for the September Quarter 2008¹

	Electricity		Natural Gas ²		Petrol		Diesel ³	
	NZ cents/kWh		NZ\$/GJ		NZ cents/litre		NZ cents/litre	
	Industrial	Residential	Industrial	Residential	Premium	Regular	Industrial	Residential
Australia	9.17	14.83	n.a.	n.a.	199.40	189.05	n.a.	214.52
Austria	22.44	37.39	n.a.	34.15	268.78	268.16	193.89	279.36
Belgium	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	323.71	n.a.	232.80	281.69
Canada	n.a.	n.a.	8.34	19.74	188.59	177.51	n.a.	n.a.
Czech Republic	22.40	28.52	22.23	30.84	277.17	272.64	247.32	294.31
Denmark	14.44	55.89	n.a.	42.47	311.20	309.51	228.59	285.86
Finland	14.28	24.99	13.41	18.64	320.68	n.a.	237.53	289.79
France	8.55	24.29	21.76	32.33	302.40	n.a.	239.15	286.01
Germany	14.79	35.75	n.a.	n.a.	317.95	317.95	252.17	300.09
Hungary	25.66	34.14	28.56	30.96	272.41	n.a.	237.93	285.51
Ireland	26.75	41.45	21.73	40.11	277.18	n.a.	246.50	298.20
Italy	45.18	44.70	19.84	35.45	309.33	n.a.	253.23	303.87
Japan	15.73	23.92	16.01	45.54	n.a.	n.a.	185.06	212.34
Korea	9.38	14.91	16.85	21.88	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Luxembourg	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	20.55	266.04	n.a.	223.17	256.59
Mexico	20.45	13.41	16.98	28.23	122.14	98.92	74.29	84.61
Netherlands	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	44.18	346.74	n.a.	246.67	293.53
New Zealand	10.34	23.57	7.77	36.40	208.56	201.88	150.82	169.68
Norway	9.49	23.00	n.a.	n.a.	348.85	n.a.	274.29	342.86
Poland	18.42	30.69	22.01	43.88	287.89	n.a.	234.44	286.01
Portugal	18.24	34.13	18.26	36.73	309.68	n.a.	260.38	284.05
Slovak Republic	26.00	34.11	22.80	27.79	283.47	n.a.	256.52	305.26
Spain	n.a.	n.a.	17.20	35.54	252.17	n.a.	222.54	258.06
Sweden	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	298.19	n.a.	251.25	314.06
Turkey	22.48	26.62	21.12	24.27	n.a.	n.a.	356.95	356.95
United Kingdom	20.52	34.09	14.93	29.64	303.34	n.a.	285.89	335.87
United States	10.62	16.89	13.84	24.76	146.97	142.50	160.87	160.87

¹ Notes to Table J.1: ¹ Based on prices and exchange rates published by the International Energy Agency (*Energy Prices and Taxes, 4th Quarter 2008*).

² The New Zealand residential natural gas price presented in this chapter should be treated as an approximation only. Further information on regional and national average gas tariffs can be found in the Residential Gas Price Survey at www.med.govt.nz/gas/RGPS/.

³ New Zealand Road User Charges are not taken into account by IEA diesel price statistics.

Taxes that have to be paid by the user and are not refundable are included. Value added taxes (such as New Zealand's GST) are included for residential users. Because industrial value added taxes are refundable for industry, these are not included in industrial prices.

Figures in grey are based on older information.

n.a. = Not available. No data is available for the previous three years.

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Price Comparisons continued

Figure J.1a: International Electricity Prices for the September Quarter 2008

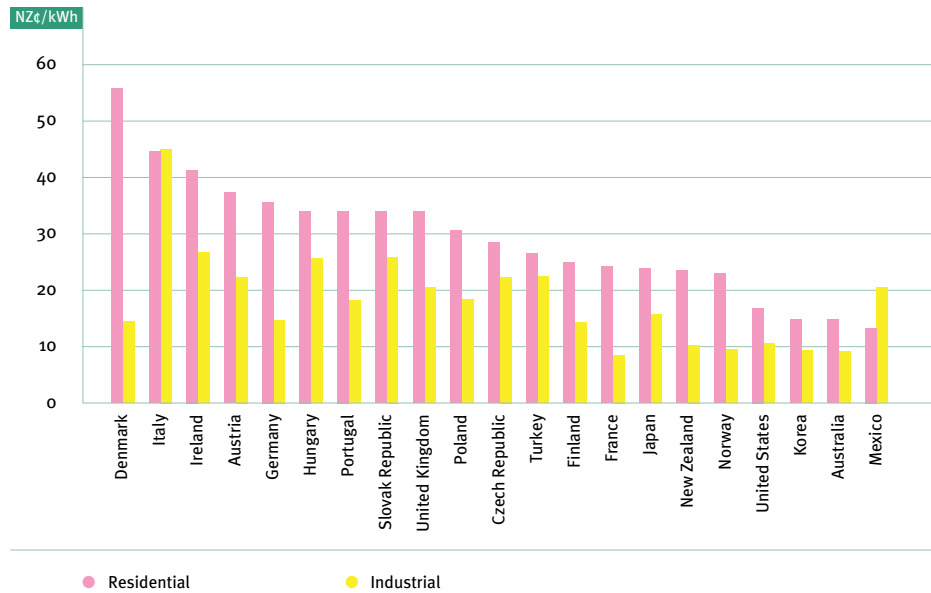
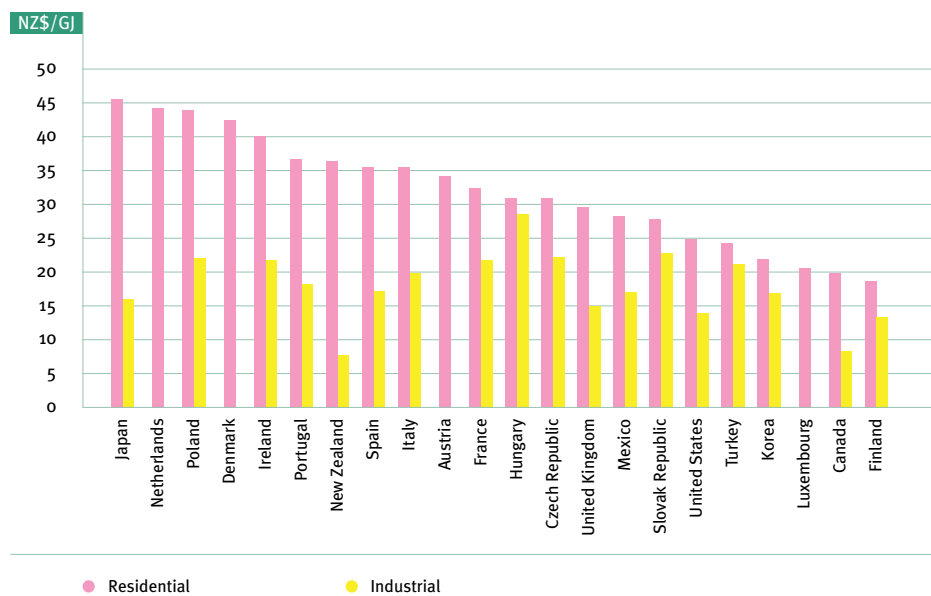


Figure J.1b: International Natural Gas Prices for the September Quarter 2008



J. International Energy Comparisons

Price Comparisons continued

Figure J.1c: International Petrol Prices for the September Quarter 2008

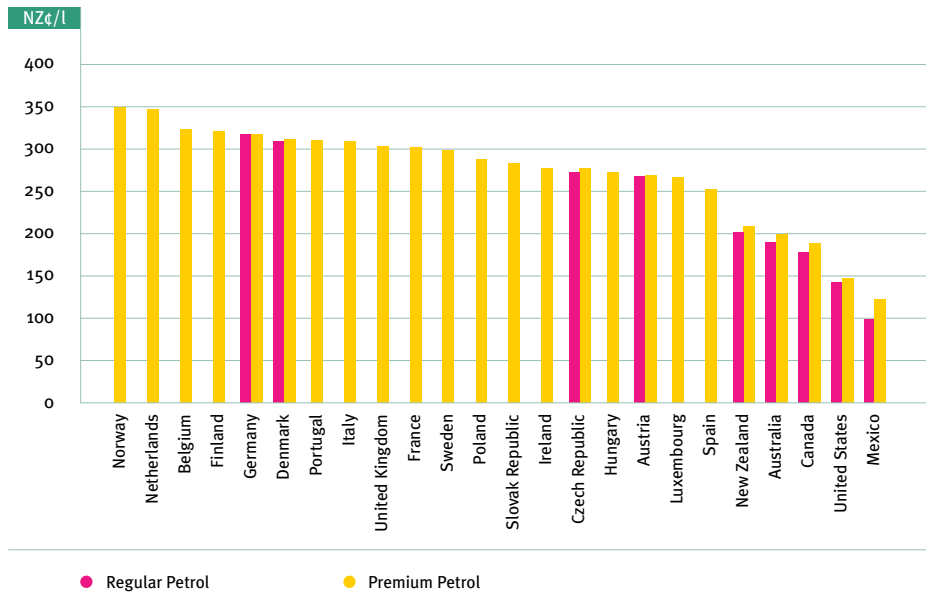
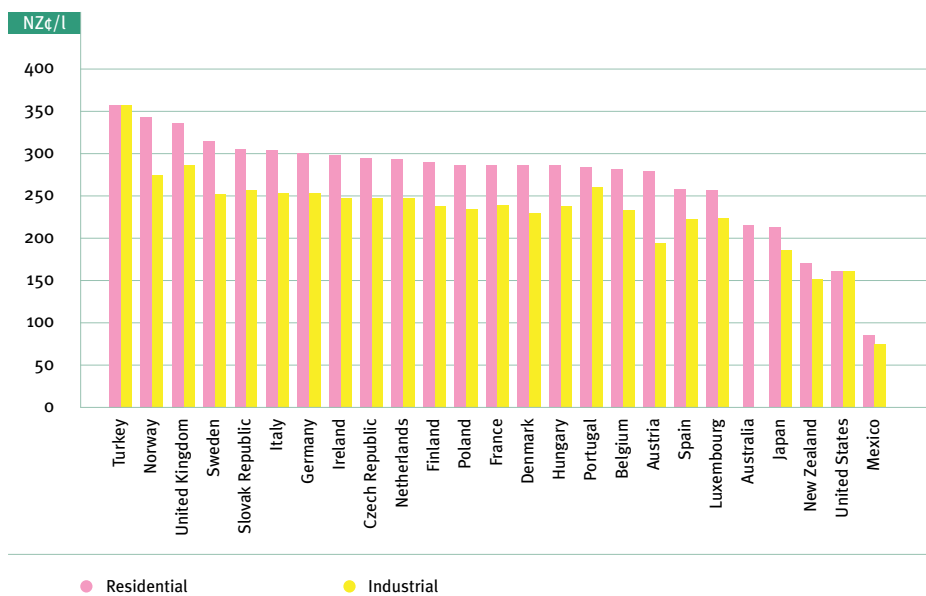


Figure J.1d: International Diesel Prices for the September Quarter 2008



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Energy Consumption Comparisons

Table J.2: International Consumption of Energy Calendar Year 2007

	Oil Products ¹	Gas	Electricity
	Tonnes per person	m ³ per person	kWh per person
Luxembourg	5.88	2,964	16,565
Belgium	5.38	1,751	9,235
United States	5.16	2,209	14,669
Canada	4.87	2,933	18,229
Netherlands	4.69	2,458	7,300
Norway	4.51	1,296	27,588
Finland	4.20	870	17,901
Korea	3.55	792	9,094
Iceland	3.37	n.a.	39,665
Australia	3.29	1,454	12,491
Sweden	3.23	123	16,670
Spain	3.05	973	7,433
Japan	2.85	797	9,059
Italy	2.85	1,464	6,196
Denmark	2.82	909	7,000
Ireland	2.73	1,277	7,067
New Zealand	2.65	1,083	10,372
France	2.52	738	8,056
Austria	2.51	1,083	8,581
Germany	2.49	1,139	7,526
United Kingdom	2.39	1,650	6,627
Portugal	2.23	415	5,161
Slovak Republic	1.62	1,142	5,237
Czech Republic	1.59	857	7,043
Hungary	1.39	1,327	4,406
Mexico	1.33	597	2,355
Poland	1.01	392	3,997
Turkey	0.69	498	2,535

Note to Table J.2: ¹ Includes crude oil, motor gasoline, aviation gasoline, kerosene-type jet fuel, kerosene, gas/diesel oil, heavy fuel oil, petroleum coke, non-specified petroleum products.

n.a. = Not available.

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Energy Consumption Comparisons continued

Figure J.2a: Oil Products Consumption Calendar Year 2007

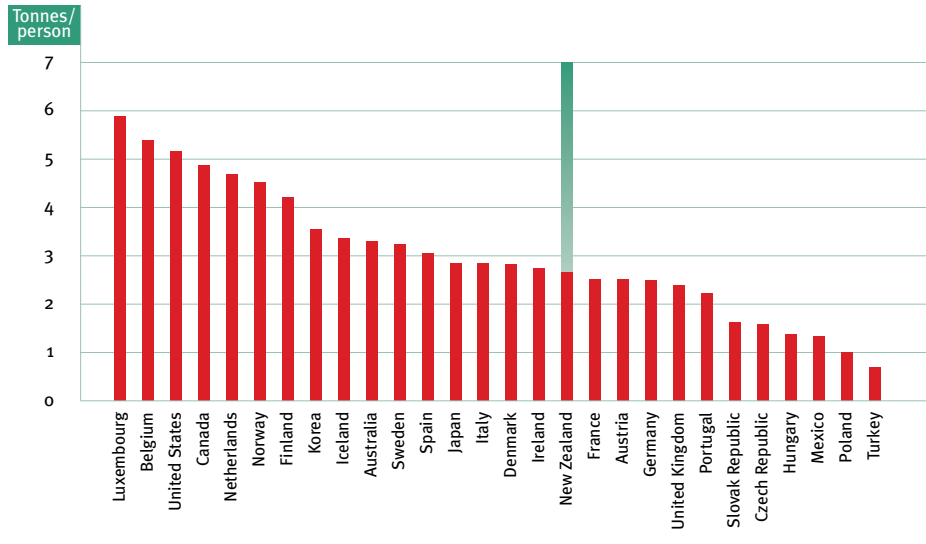
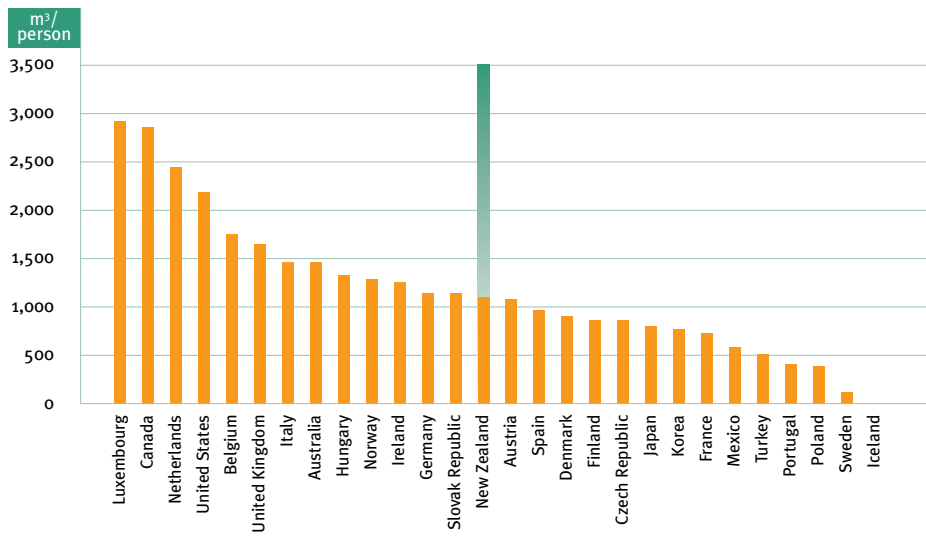


Figure J.2b: Gas Consumption Calendar Year 2007



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Energy Consumption Comparisons continued

Figure J.2c: Electricity Consumption Calendar Year 2007

