



RESULTS OF THE OIL BULLETIN SURVEY

The Energy and Transport Directorate-General (DG TREN) of the European Commission publishes the weekly Oil Bulletin, describing the price trends of the main petroleum products and the evolution of the taxation of these products. Published since 1979, the Oil Bulletin was designed to improve the transparency of oil prices and to strengthen the internal market. Originally prepared on the basis of voluntary contributions from the Member States, the various components of the Oil Bulletin are now legally defined by [Council Decision No.199/280/EC](#) of 22 April 1999 and by the Commission application [Decision No. 1999/566/EC](#) of 26 July 1999.

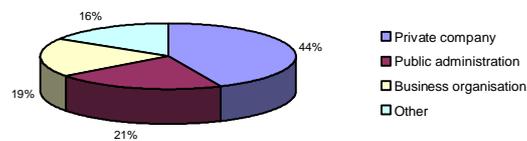
The publication presents consumer prices and net prices (excluding duties and taxes) of petroleum products in the EU member states for each Monday. The development of the taxation (VAT and excise duties) applicable to these products is shown in detail on a monthly basis. Technically, Member States report price and taxation data to DG TREN each week on Tuesday; the Oil Bulletin is then compiled by the Market Observatory for Energy within DG TREN. Interested subscribers - currently approximately one thousand - obtain the initial version of this document in 'Excel' and 'pdf' format in the same week via e-mail. The final version of the document with cross-checked country data is posted on the DG TREN website one week later.

To better understand the needs of the Oil Bulletin users the Market Observatory for Energy carried out a survey via an online questionnaire. The questionnaire was addressed to the list of subscribers and open to the general public via the website. The Market Observatory for Energy received 183 responses. The main findings of this survey are summarised below.

The users of the Oil Bulletin: (transport) professionals and public administrations, mainly in the EU-15

The majority (93%) of the readers draw on the Oil Bulletin for professional reasons. Data provided by the Oil Bulletin is mainly used by private entrepreneurs, employees of public administrations and business organisations such as Chambers of Commerce. The Oil Bulletin also proves to be of some interest to consultants, researchers, press officers and other types of readers.

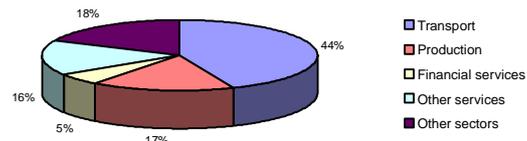
Type of users organisation



Most of the Oil Bulletin users from the public institutions come from the national public bodies (81%).

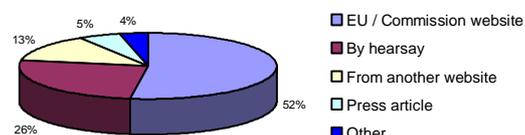
The Oil Bulletin users from private companies and business organisations are predominantly active in the transport and production sector.

Sector of private users



Geographically, most readers are from EU countries. The Oil Bulletin enjoys particular popularity among Spanish, Belgian, British, German, French, Portuguese and Dutch readers. Some readers (9%) come from outside European Union. More than half of the Oil Bulletin readers have learned about it by visiting the European Commission websites, but knowledge has also spread by hearsay.

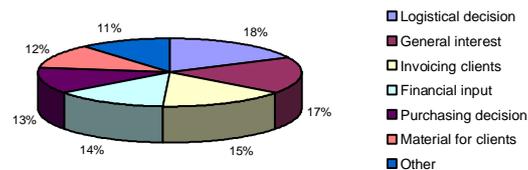
Sources of information



The use made of the Oil Bulletin: decisions along the logistic chain, purchasing and invoicing

The survey indicates that a majority (88%) of Oil Bulletin readers draw on specific data for logistical and financial decisions, purchasing and invoicing, market monitoring and client material.

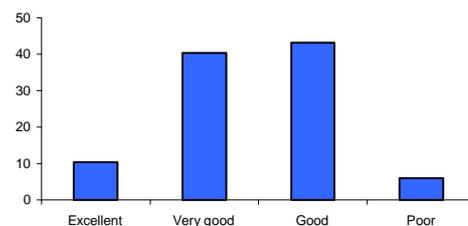
Purpose of using Oil Bulletin



The ratings for the Oil Bulletin

Although overall assessment of the Oil Bulletin was rather positive, readers have indicated some deficiencies, notably the lack of the latest time series, occasional disruption of series and the inconvenient format for download. Readers expressed willingness to get more data on monthly consumption by individual country and product, on the existence of administrative controls on prices in individual countries, and on crude oil supply cost. They provided suggestions to include more analysis and cover a broader range of products, e. g. electricity.

Rating of the Oil Bulletin



The follow-up to this survey: new website of the Market observatory for Energy

The Market observatory for Energy has duly taken these remarks into consideration and as a first move intends to create a more user-friendly webpage which will enable the user to download time series for the data categories of the user's choice. The Market observatory for Energy's vocation is to analyse developments on energy markets and thus more emphasis will be put on analysis as the Oil Bulletin and other publications such as Quarterly Electricity Price reports will be further developed.