

Emergency oil stocks statistics

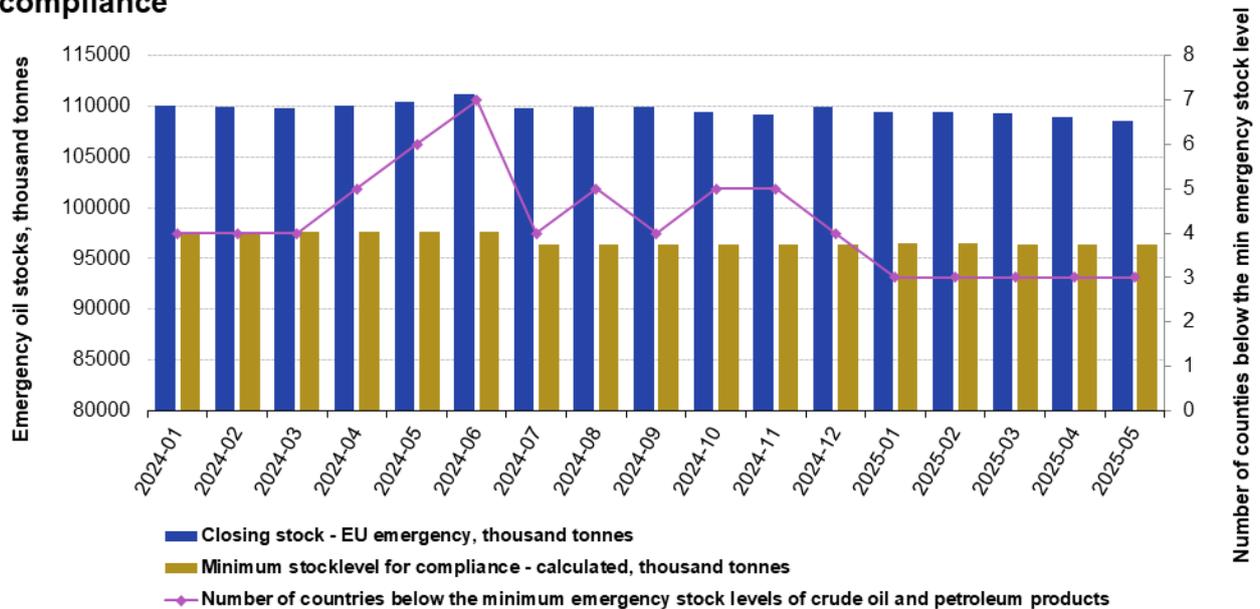
Statistics Explained

Data extracted 18 October 2023
Planned article update: November 2026

Highlights

Emergency oil stocks in the EU are at a lower level than they were before the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Emergency oil stocks of the EU and minimum stocklevel for compliance



Note: Left y-axis do not start at 0.

Source: Eurostat - Emergency oil stocks in days equivalent - monthly data (nrg_stk_oem) and Stock levels for oil products - monthly data (nrg_stk_oilm)

eurostat

Source: Eurostat (nrg_stk_oilm)

This article presents data on emergency and commercial oil stocks in the [European Union \(EU\)](#). Crude oil and petroleum products play a very important role in the economy of the European Union and, given the oil import dependency of the EU, holding emergency oil stocks is very important for the energy security of the EU. Commercial stocks can also be fundamental in times of need and therefore are included in the assessment of the overall stock holding situation. Given the current geopolitical instability, holding stocks becomes even more crucial.

Emergency oil stocks statistics

Crude oil and petroleum products play a very important role in the economy of the European Union, particularly in the transport sector and the petrochemical industry. Given their important role and the oil import dependency of the EU, holding emergency oil stocks is very important for the energy security of the Union. To guarantee these stocks, the relevant EU law, Council Directive 2009/119/EC imposes an obligation on Member States to maintain minimum emergency stocks of crude oil and petroleum products. Member States are required, at all times, to maintain oil stocks equivalent to at least 90 days of average daily net imports or 61 days of average daily inland consumption, whichever of the two quantities is greater. In the current geopolitical situation, marked by ongoing Russian aggression in Ukraine and instability in the Middle East, these requirements continue to play a major role in stabilising the market as they did during previous lesser severe crises.

The EU emergency oil stocks

Table 1 presents the emergency oil stocks of each EU country as well as of the European Union. In May 2025, the EU held 108.6 million tonnes of emergency oil stocks, an increase of +7.3% from June 2022, which recorded a historical low of 101.1 million tonnes. However, the difference between May 2024 and May 2025 is minimal, with slight decrease of -1.7 %.

The current levels are mostly composed of crude oil (43.5 million tonnes in the EU), followed by gas/diesel oil (39.0 million tonnes) and gasoline (10.4 million tonnes). The composition of the emergency stocks by fuels is selected by each country and must adhere to its specific needs; therefore, it varies as seen in the table below.

Emergency oil stocks of the EU, May 2025
(1000 tonnes)

	Total crude oil and oil products (¹)	Crude oil	Gasoline*	Kerosene type jet fuel	Gas/diesel oil*	Fuel oil	All other products
EU	108,559	43,499	10,391	5,210	38,976	3,709	2,342
Germany	20 803	12 622	1 505	1 078	5 597	0	0
France	16 722	5 123	1 771	1 178	8 241	247	162
Spain	13 955	4 212	1 326	689	4 901	954	252
Italy	11 896	2 726	1 072	565	3 380	944	1 102
Poland	8 357	4 844	783	47	2 656	15	12
Belgium	4 458	2 604	209	164	1 481	0	0
Netherlands	4 402	2 514	404	176	1 279	29	0
Greece	3 278	1 117	315	248	503	521	391
Finland	3 181	832	323	32	1 849	18	0
Portugal	2 611	720	181	66	937	253	399
Austria	2 598	946	269	46	937	82	0
Sweden	2 200	306	460	167	1 205	62	0
Romania	2 038	1 081	158	9	511	279	0
Czechia	1 861	781	266	46	768	0	0
Ireland	1 538	131	213	330	823	19	22
Hungary	1 429	628	241	11	550	0	0
Denmark	1 303	138	260	142	735	7	1
Bulgaria	1 148	428	61	13	561	83	2
Slovakia	816	562	87	11	157	0	0
Croatia	784	476	39	0	269	0	0
Luxembourg	689	366	43	76	193	11	0
Lithuania	620	256	74	12	272	6	0
Slovenia	561	0	116	0	445	0	0
Cyprus	554	0	112	45	244	152	0
Latvia	380	85	0	31	264	0	0
Estonia	267	0	52	16	199	0	0
Malta	111	0	53	13	17	28	0

(¹) Includes Natural Gas Liquids (NGL), Feedstocks, Hydrocarbons

*including bio portion

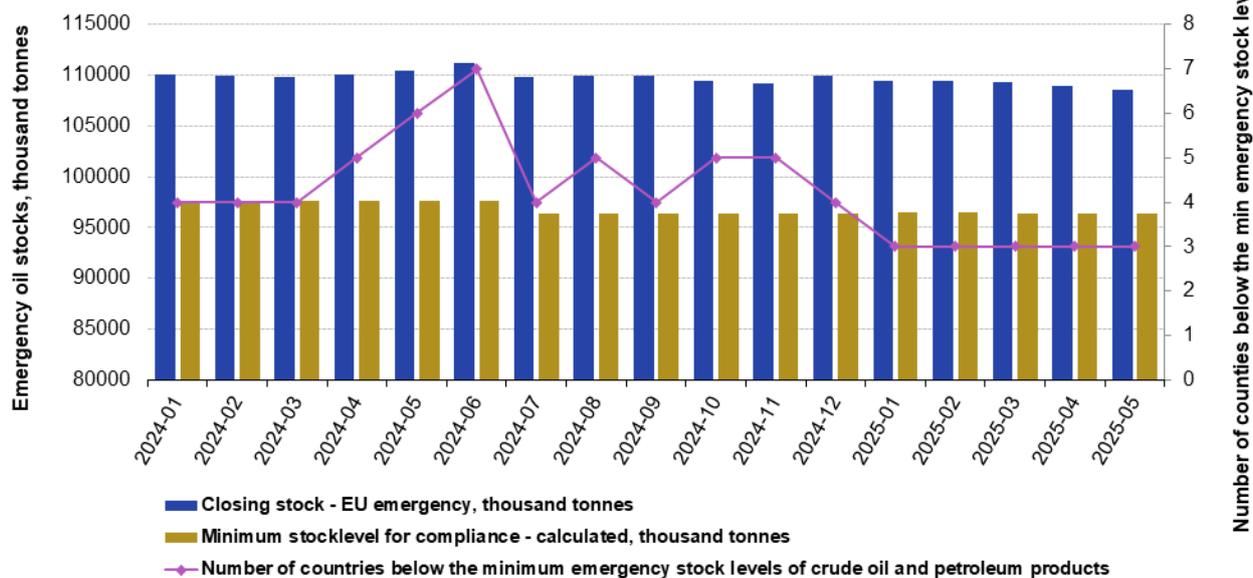
Eurostat (online data code: nrg_stk_oilm)

eurostat 

Table 1: Emergency oil stocks of the EU, May 2025 Source: Eurostat (nrg_stk_oilm)

Up until June 2022, the minimum stock level for compliance in all EU countries was 86.3 million tonnes, which was subsequently raised to 90.3 million tonnes in July 2022. EU countries are obliged to replenish the stocks to the minimum required levels and cooperate with the [European Commission](#) to determine a reasonable time frame, taking into account the situation in the domestic and international oil and petroleum products markets.

Emergency oil stocks of the EU and minimum stocklevel for compliance



Note: Left y-axis do not start at 0.

Source: Eurostat - Emergency oil stocks in days equivalent - monthly data (nrg_stk_oem) and Stock levels for oil products - monthly data (nrg_stk_oilm)

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Figure 1: Emergency oil stocks of the EU and minimum stocklevel for compliance Source: Eurostat (nrg_stk_oilm)

Emergency oil stocks in days equivalent

Stocks requirements are expressed in 'days equivalent' as EU countries must maintain, at all times, oil stocks amounting to at least 90 days of average daily net imports or 61 days of average daily inland consumption, depending on which of the 2 quantities is greater. The 90 days net imports method generally applies to EU countries who are heavily import dependent. The 61 days inland consumption method normally applies to EU countries that produce crude oil and oil shale and for which domestic production contributes mostly to their security of supply. The inland consumption method can also apply to EU countries with very significant petrochemical industry, such as the Netherlands.

The reference method for requirements are subject to change in July of each year when the obligations are recalculated based on the production and import/export data from the preceding year. In July 2024, Malta's obligations shifted from being based on 61 days of domestic consumption to 90 days of net imports.

Table 2 presents the emergency oil stocks in days equivalent, according to the methods applied for the obligations. In January 2024, 23 EU countries kept oil stocks based on net imports and 3 were below the 90 days requirement. Four EU countries kept stocks based on inland consumption and all of them were above the required 61 days.

In October 2024 the number of EU countries falling below the requirements increased to 5. Starting in October 2024, countries began steadily increasing their stock levels. By May 2025, only 3 countries still remained below the required level.

Emergency oil stocks in days equivalent
(Days equivalent for total crude oil and petroleum products)

90 days of net imports					
January 2024		October 2024		May 2025	
Finland	180	Finland	175	Finland	178
Sweden	112	Sweden	118	Greece	112
Belgium	108	Greece	115	Belgium	108
Spain	99	Malta	105	Sweden	107
Slovakia	97	Slovenia	104	Malta	105
Luxembourg	97	Belgium	104	Spain	104
Greece	96	Spain	98	Slovenia	101
Slovenia	95	Portugal	97	Luxembourg	99
Portugal	94	Luxembourg	97	Hungary	97
Germany	93	Poland	96	Slovakia	96
Lithuania	93	Slovakia	96	France	95
France	92	France	95	Cyprus	94
Croatia	92	Germany	94	Poland	94
Austria	92	Lithuania	93	Croatia	93
Czechia	91	Austria	92	Portugal	93
Poland	91	Italy	91	Romania	92
Italy	90	Hungary	91	Austria	91
Cyprus	90	Croatia	91	Italy	91
Hungary	90	Romania	90	Lithuania	91
Romania	90	Bulgaria	88	Germany	91
Ireland	87	Cyprus	87	Latvia	90
Bulgaria	83	Czechia	86	Bulgaria	88
Latvia	36	Ireland	85	Ireland	83
		Latvia	34	Czechia	79
61 days of consumption					
January 2024		October 2024		May 2025	
Netherlands	106	Netherlands	106	Estonia	110
Estonia	81	Estonia	88	Netherlands	96
Malta	87	Denmark	73	Denmark	73
Denmark	72				

Note: figures in shaded cells are below the requirements

Source: Eurostat (nrg_stk_oem)

Table 2: Emergency oil stocks in days equivalent Source: Eurostat (nrg_stk_oem)

Emergency oil stocks held abroad

EU countries can hold their emergency oil stocks in their own territory or in other EU countries. In May 2025, 12% of emergency stocks in the EU were held in other EU countries. National procedures differ very much in this regard. Six EU countries kept all their emergency stocks in their territory: Czechia, Hungary, Austria, Poland, Slovakia and Greece while 21 EU countries held part of their emergency stocks in the territories of other EU countries. The country with the largest share of oil stocks held abroad was Malta (93.6%), followed by Luxembourg (87.6%) and Belgium (50.3%). Data can be seen here: Eurostat ([nrg_stk_oem](#)).

Commercial stocks

According to the Directive, countries must also report most of their commercial stocks. Specifically, they must report those stocks held by economic operators in the national territory for their own operational and commercial needs, which therefore can be considered available, in addition to the emergency stocks, in case of need.

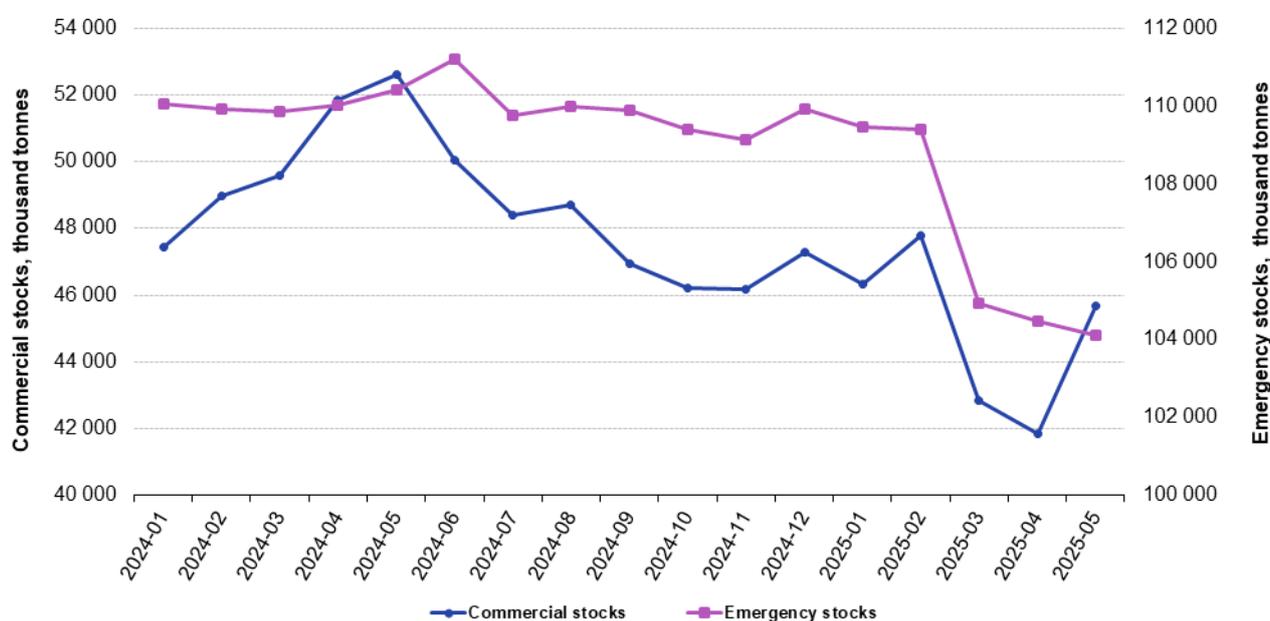
However, while emergency stocks, outside critical events, are normally quite stable as they reflect obligations that are calculated on an annual basis, commercial stocks in the territory may fluctuate according to market trends.

In August 2020 commercial oil stocks reached a historic high of 63.2 million tonnes, with some countries even reaching their maximum storage capacity limits. Subsequently, as economic activities resumed, commercial stock levels began to decline and reached a low point in December 2021, totalling 44.8 million tonnes. Starting in January 2022, efforts to replenish commercial stocks commenced. However, the situation shifted once again due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The market encountered significant instability, causing fluctuations in commercial stocks, which were 52.6 million tonnes in May 2024 and hit a low at 45.7 million tonnes in May 2025. During May 2025, commercial stocks accounted for 31% of the total stocks reported under the Directive.

These values are intrinsically volatile, as they are influenced by many factors such as spot prices, geopolitical situations, OPEC+ decisions, policy announcements, and refineries' choices.

Emergency and commercial oil stocks of the EU

(Total crude oil and oil products, 1000 tonnes)



Note: Eurostat - Right and left y-axes do not start at 0.

Source: Eurostat - Stock levels for oil products - monthly data (nrg_stk_oilm)

eurostat

Figure 2: Emergency and commercial oil stocks of the EU Source: Eurostat (nrg_stk_oilm)

In May 2025, the EU countries with the largest quantity of commercial stocks were the Netherlands (9.50), Germany (9.3 million tonnes) and Italy (5.6), followed by France (3.6) and Poland (3.1). The proportion between commercial stocks and total stocks was highest in Netherlands (68.3%), Hungary (59.4%), Croatia (55.2%) and Sweden (55.2%), followed by Slovakia (49.6%). Figure 3 shows both emergency and commercial stock levels in the

different EU countries.

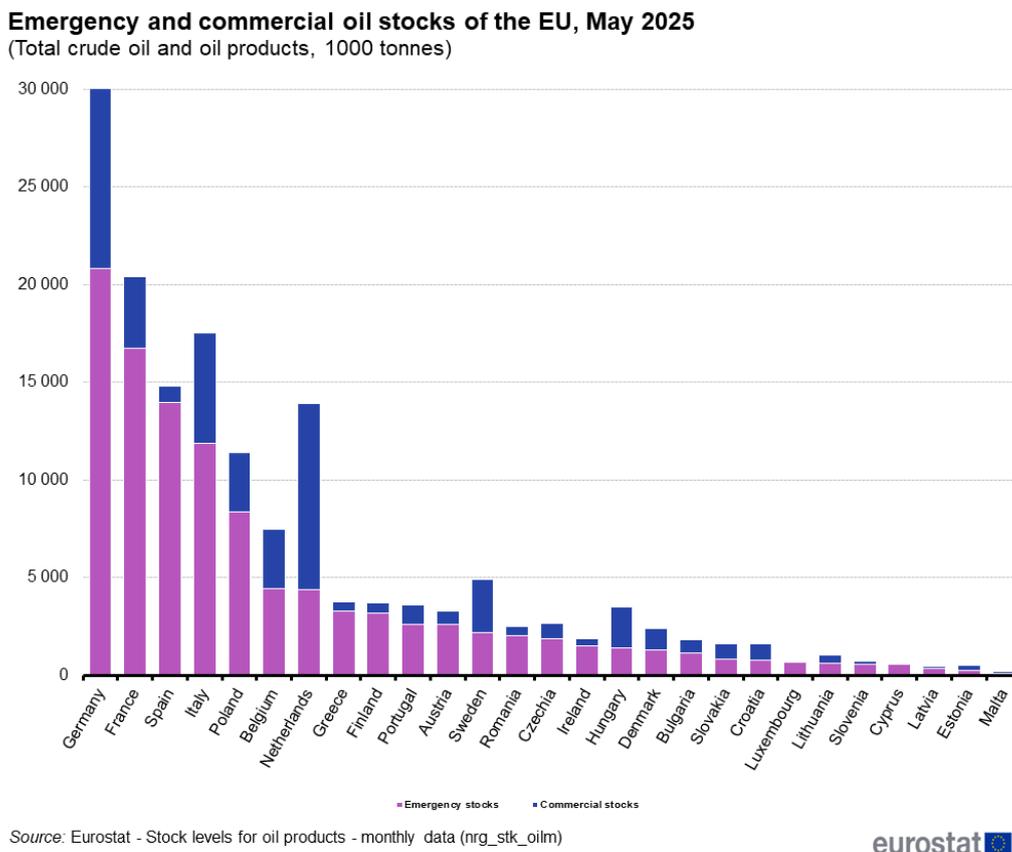


Figure 3: Emergency and commercial oil stocks of the EU, May 2025 Source: Eurostat (nrg_stk_oilm)

Source data for tables and graphs

- [Download Excel file](#)

Data sources

Data on energy are submitted on the basis of internationally agreed methodology. Data are available for all EU countries and the methodology is harmonised for all reporting countries. Consequently, data comparability across countries is very high. All energy data are available in the online database.

NOTE: Some data are provisional: Please refer to the 'p' flags in the database for further details.

NOTE: Quantities of emergency stocks held in accordance with the Directive listed as "Stocks – EU Emergency" in table ([nrg_stk_oilm](#)) refers to actual quantities in 1 000 tonnes. Such quantities are reassessed using weights (multipliers) to determine their value in "days equivalent" which are reported in table ([nrg_stk_oem](#)). Yearly imports and consumption values declared by reporting countries are also reassessed using weights (multipliers) to calculate requirement levels defined as "minimum stock level for compliance" in table ([nrg_stk_oem](#)). This can create some apparent discrepancies when comparing values in ([nrg_stk_oilm](#)), ([nrg_stk_oem](#)). [Council Directive 2009/119/EC](#) details the provisions regarding these weights.

Context

Crude oil and petroleum products play a very important role in the economy and import dependency is a very crucial element of economic stability, political autonomy and energy security. Holding emergency oil stocks is therefore very important in time of crises. The assessment of the overall stock holding situation is consequently a fundamental task. Requirements and obligations for the EU Member States are outlined in the [Council Directive 2009/119/EC](#) of 14 September 2009 imposing an obligation on Member States to maintain minimum stocks of crude oil and/or petroleum products and in the Commission Implementing Directive (EU) 2018/1581 of 19 October 2018 amending [Council Directive 2009/119/EC](#) as regards the methods for calculating stockholding obligations.

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- [Council Directive 2009/119/EC](#)
- [Regulation \(EC\) No 1099/2008 on energy statistics](#)
- [Summaries of EU legislation: Common system for the production of energy statistics](#)