Carbon pricing in Australia

Emissions coverage by carbon pricing instrument, 2018-2021

In total, 22.4% of CO₂ emissions from energy use in Australia are priced in 2021, unchanged since 2018. Australia does not levy an explicit carbon price. Fuel excise taxes, an implicit form of carbon pricing, cover 22.4% of emissions in 2021, unchanged since 2018.

Note: Priced means that a positive price applies after correcting for tax reductions and refunds. Due to overlapping coverage between instruments, the sum of components can be larger than the summary indicators (explicit carbon prices, effective carbon rates). Taxes are those applicable on 1 April 2021. ETS coverage estimates are based on the OECD’s Effective Carbon Rates 2021, with ad-hoc adjustments to account for recent coverage changes. Emissions refer to energy-related CO₂ only and are calculated based on energy use data for 2018 from IEA’s World Energy Statistics and Balances. The figure includes CO₂ emissions from the combustion of biomass and other biofuels. Percentages are rounded to the first decimal place.

Average carbon price by instrument, 2018-2021

Since 2018, carbon prices have decreased in Australia. In 2021, fuel excise taxes amounted to EUR 19.23 on average, down by EUR 1.13 relative to 2018 (in real 2021 euros).

Note: Taxes are those applicable on 1 April 2021. Emissions refer to energy-related CO₂ only and are calculated based on energy use data for 2018 from IEA’s World Energy Statistics and Balances. Carbon prices are averaged across all energy-related emissions, including those that are not covered by any carbon pricing instrument. The figure includes CO₂ emissions from the combustion of biomass and other biofuels. All rates are expressed in real 2021 EUR using the latest available OECD exchange rate and inflation data; change can thus be affected by inflation and exchange rate fluctuations. Prices are rounded to the nearest eurocent.
Effective carbon rates in Australia, average by sector and combination of instruments, 2021

Effective carbon rates are highest in the road sector, which accounts for 20.1% of the country’s total CO₂ emissions from energy use. Emissions are unpriced in electricity, industry and agriculture & fisheries. Together, these sectors account for 71.1% of CO₂ emissions from energy use in Australia.

Note: Emissions-weighted average by sector and combination of instruments (explicit carbon price only, fuel excise only, both, none). Taxes are those applicable on 1 April 2021. Emissions refer to energy-related CO₂ only and are calculated based on energy use data for 2018 from IEA’s World Energy Statistics and Balances. The figure includes CO₂ emissions from the combustion of biomass and other biofuels. All rates are expressed in real 2021 EUR using the latest available OECD exchange rate and inflation data; change can thus be affected by inflation and exchange rate fluctuations. Prices are rounded to the nearest eurocent.

Want to know more?


More information

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