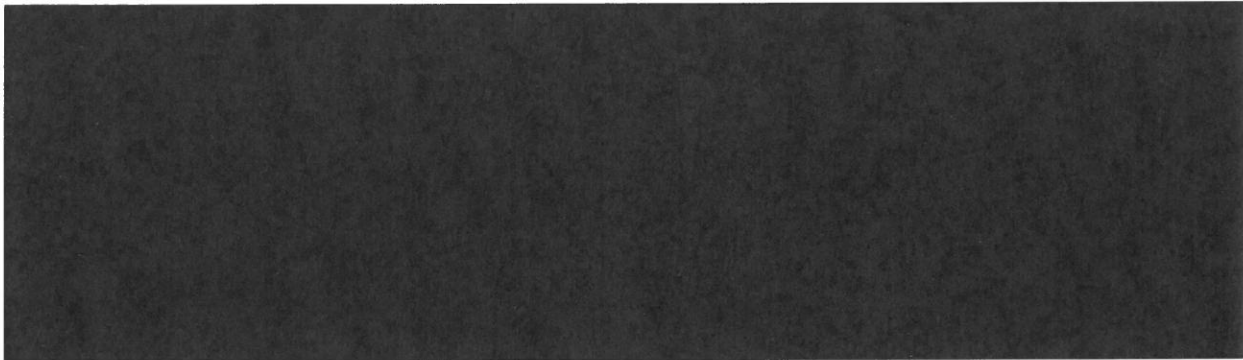


Overseas fuel price data arrangements

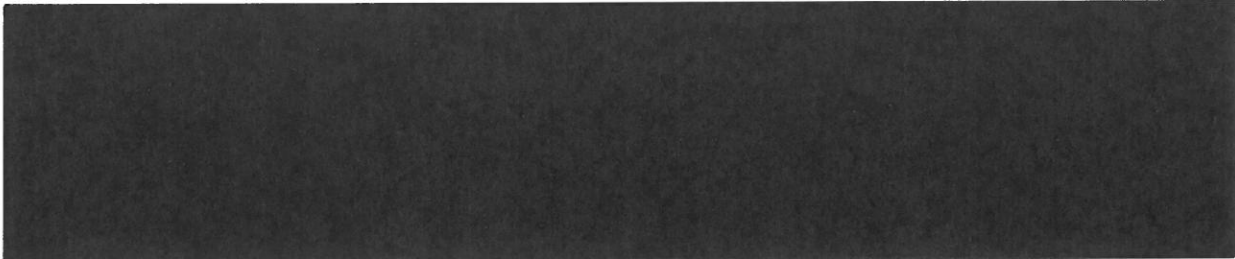
This note looks at the current arrangements for fuel price information in several OECD countries.

The main elements of the overseas arrangements for supplying fuel prices to retailers and consumers are described in [Attachment A](#).

Summary

- 
- The most common source of fuel price information in overseas markets for consumers are consumer-accessible websites and smartphone apps.
 - The apps are often free of charge, though in some cases consumers can pay extra to access additional information. These websites and apps often rely on crowdsourcing, whereby registered users enter prices they have observed.
 - Some websites and apps also rely on credit card transaction data collected and provided by private companies, and in some cases rely on direct reporting of prices from individual service stations and fuel retailers.
 - Less common are government-administered price information services, such as those run by the competition regulators in Germany and Austria.

Australia



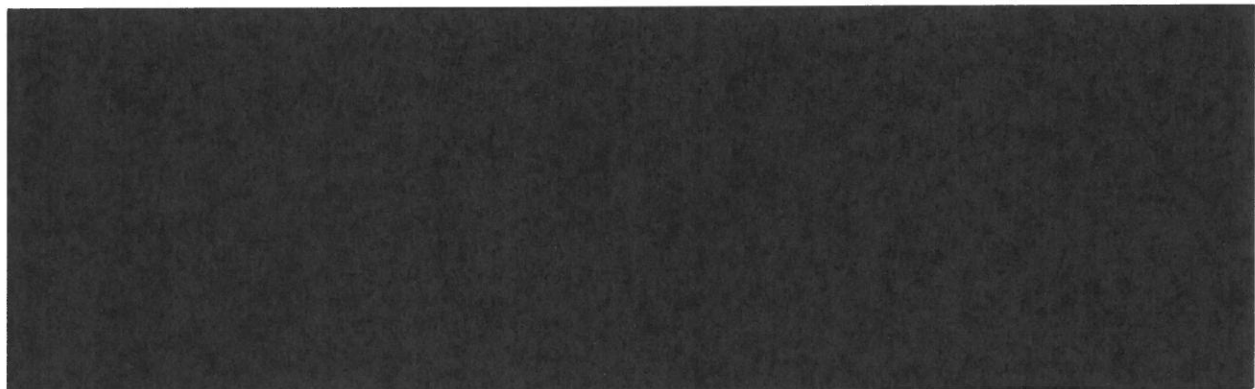
Informed Sources publishes price information on a site basis at 8.00am and 4.00pm daily to consumers via its Motormouth website. There is a 45 minute delay between the time the data is provided to Motormouth and the time it is available to consumers.

Motormouth has an app that provides users with a recommended 'buy below' price in a given area and information regarding the timing of price cycles. However, it does not provide site specific prices.

Some petrol retailers such as **Woolworths** and **United** also have apps that show the latest prices for their own brand at individual sites.



United States



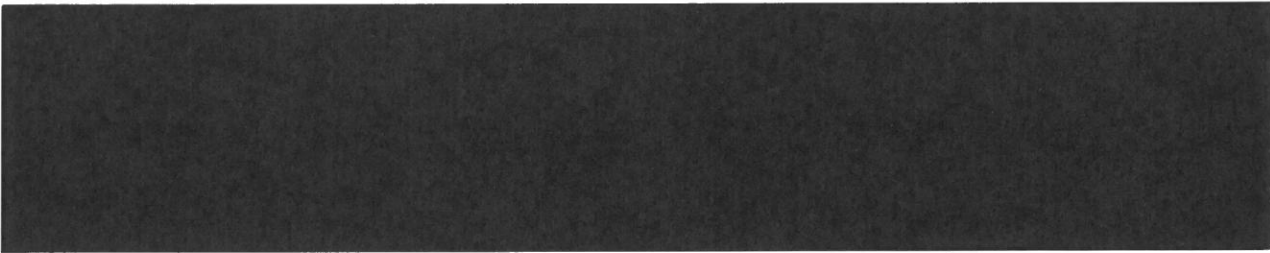
GasBuddy is a comprehensive petrol price service based in the United States. Since 2013 Gasbuddy has been a subsidiary of OPIS.

It is both a website and an app, and allows users to search for the cheapest petrol in a certain area. Gasbuddy sources most of its fuel price data via crowdsourcing. When a user reports a price, they go into the draw to win fuel cards. Gasbuddy also receives some pricing data from credit card companies and direct from service stations. When a price report is

older than a day or two it is generally removed from the system, in order to ensure prices are relatively up to date. Gasbuddy also provides its service in Canada.

The **US Department of Energy** runs a website called www.fueleconomy.gov which allows users to select a state, and are then provided with a series of links for each major town or city in the state. Typically the links are to websites such as gasbuddy.com or automotive.com (similar to Gasbuddy). There does not appear to be any formal collection of petrol prices by the government itself.

UK



One of the most popular sources for petrol prices in the UK for consumers is **petrolprices.com**, which allows users to search for the cheapest petrol prices in their area. The service is free, and sources its data from Experian Catalist. Petrolprices.com also has an app called **Petrol Prices Pro**, which can be purchased for £2.99.

There are also other apps available to consumers that rely on crowdsourcing, such as **WhatGas**.

Europe

Many European countries such as Portugal, Ireland, Spain and the Netherlands also have crowdsourcing petrol price websites and apps that allow users to find the cheapest fuel prices in a certain area. An example of this is **whatgas.com**.

Austria and Germany both have comprehensive price provision systems that have been established by legislation.

Germany

Under the German model, oil companies and petrol station operators are obliged by law to report price changes on a site basis of "the most commonly used types of fuel" within five minutes to the Market Transparency Unit for fuel (MTU, a government agency).

The prices received by the MTU are released to registered consumer information service providers (such as internet websites and app providers) "...within a few minutes."

Consumers enter their postcode or location on the website/apps and the latest prices of various nearby service stations are shown.

Austria

Austria has a similar scheme to Germany in regard to provision of fuel prices to consumers. All fuel stations have to send any price change within 30 minutes to E-Control, the Austrian Energy Regulator, which makes the prices available to drivers via a free internet tool. Consumers can enter a location and the system will provide the 10 nearest sites on a map. However, only the 5 cheapest stations will have their prices shown.

However, unlike in Germany the Austrian Energy Regulator provides the fuel data directly to the public, though other apps are available that also provide this data.