

DRŽAVNI ZAVOD ZA STATISTIKU
REPUBLIKE HRVATSKE
CROATIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

INTERESTING POINTS

Zagreb, 22 April 2017

Earth Day

This year's Earth Day campaign is environmental and climate literacy whose aim is establishing education as the basis for progress, in order to create a citizen-of-the-world mindset that is aware of climate changes and the threats they pose to our planet. Earth Day Network is celebrating Earth Day with goals such as worldwide expansion of the environmental movement and warning humanity about climate changes and the importance of Earth preservation for future generations.

Last year, Croatia signed the Paris Agreement on Climate Change on that day, which includes an action plan which aims to limit global warming to less than 2 °C.

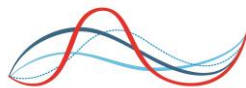
Imports of fossil fuels continues to grow in the European Union¹

Energy consumption in the EU has fallen below 1990 levels, while EU dependence on imported fossil fuels continues to grow. Germany remained the largest consumer of energy in the EU in 2015, with 314 million tonnes of oil equivalent, or 19% of total energy consumption in the EU. Germany was followed by France with 253 Mtoe (16%), the United Kingdom with 191 Mtoe (12%), and Italy with 156 Mtoe (10%). Compared to 1990, the largest decline in energy consumption in 2015 was recorded in three Baltic countries, Lithuania 57%, Latvia 45% and Estonia 37%. In Croatia, consumption in that same period fell by nearly 12%, to 8.5 million tonnes of oil equivalent. In contrast, the largest increase in consumption was recorded in Cyprus by 41%, Ireland, by 38%, in Spain by 35%, in Austria by 33%.

Share of fossil fuels in energy consumption fell in all EU Member States

In the period from 1990 to 2015 all Member States recorded a fall in the share of fossil fuels in energy consumption, with the largest decrease recorded in Denmark, from 91% to 69%. Next up was Latvia with a drop from 83% to 61% and Romania, where the share dropped from 96% to 74%. In Croatia, the share of fossil fuels in energy consumption decreased from 81% in 1990 to 70% in 2015. In most EU countries in the period from 1990 to 2015, dependence on imported fossil fuels increased, with notably the largest increase recorded in the UK, from 2% in 1990 to as much as 43% in 2015. In Poland, an increase from only 1% to

¹ Eurostat news release, "Energy consumption in 2015"



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32% was recorded, while in Croatia, imports of fossil fuels increased from 42% in 1990 to 64% in 2015.

Croatia is one of 11 EU countries that achieved the intended share of energy from renewable sources

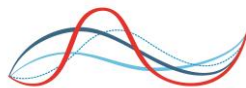
The EU share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption in 2015 further inched closer to the planned 20% in 2020 and 11 countries, including Croatia, have already achieved the set goals at the national level. In 2015, the share of energy from renewable sources in gross final energy consumption at EU level was 16.7%, almost double than in 2004, when it stood at 8.5%. Sweden is at the forefront among the 28 Member Countries, with the share of energy from renewable sources in gross final consumption as much as 53.9%. Croatia has already exceeded the set goal with 29% in 2015. Besides Croatia, the goals set for 2020 were exceeded by Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Italy, Lithuania, Hungary, Romania, Finland and Sweden.

Croatia has the highest share of environmental taxes in 2015.

Total environmental tax revenues in the European Union amounted to 359.3 billion euros in 2015, and were about 20% higher compared to 2005. In the same period, the share of environmental taxes in total revenues of state taxes and contributions decreased from 6.6% in 2005 to 6.3% in 2015. This year Croatia had the highest share of environmental taxes (10.9%), followed by Slovenia (10.6%), Greece (10.3%) and Bulgaria (10.0%).

Tax revenues from energy taxes in Croatia in 2014 were higher by 13% compared to 2013 and amounted to almost 128 billion kuna. Of these, more than seven billion kuna were taxes for energy, followed by more than two billion for natural resources, and the rest are revenues from transport and pollution. Income taxes related to transportation were higher by 7% in 2014 compared to the year before it, while tax revenues related to pollution were lower by as much as 50% in 2014.

Environment charges in 2014 have grown by more than 400 million kuna compared to the previous year. The largest increase in environmental charges was recorded in the category of transport, by almost 28% compared to 2013. Growth was also recorded in environmental charges in the category of pollution and natural resources, while energy charges almost halved in 2014 compared to the previous year.



The share of environmental taxes in total revenues of state taxes and contributions is one of the indicators of the effectiveness of resources. The results reflect the result of the implementation of the Resource Efficient Europe plan, which recommends a significant increase in the share of environmental taxes in accordance with best practice in Member States (above 10%).²

Most of the investment in environmental protection is spent on investments at the end of the production process

Total investments in environmental protection in 2015 amounted to 2.9 billion kuna, of which the largest share, as much as 94.6%, was for investment at the end of the production process, which includes methods, practices, technologies, processes or equipment designed to collect and remove contaminations. Of total investments in environmental protection, most of them were for waste water management – 63.7%, followed by waste management (22%) and investments in air and climate protection (10.3%). Total current expenditures for environmental protection in 2015 amounted to nearly four billion kuna, of which the largest part was spent on waste management (45%). Total revenues from activities related to environmental protection in 2015 amounted to 3.6 billion, of which as much as 95.9% were environmental protection charges.

Total income from charges for activities related to environmental protection is income from environmental protection charges and revenues from the sale of by-products that have market value and are created as a result of environmental protection activities (e.g., Electricity is created in the process of landfill degasification or recycling waste). Of these revenues in 2015, the largest part was from the protection and recovery of soil, groundwater and surface water (49.6%).

² European Commission: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/resource_efficiency/index_en.htm