

9 October 2025
ENVIRONMENTALLY RELATED TAXES AND FEES
2024

ENVIRONMENTALLY RELATED TAXES REACHED 5.9 BILLION EURO IN 2024

In 2024, the value of environmentally related taxes was approximately 5.9 billion euro, representing 5.7% of revenue from taxes and social contributions (5.6% in 2023). That value corresponds to an increase of 8.7% compared to 2023, whereas total revenue from taxes and social contributions increased by 6.7%.

According to information available for 2023, in Portugal, the share of environmentally related taxes in total revenue from taxes and social contributions was higher (5.6%) than the EU27 average (5.2%).

Statistics Portugal publishes data for environmentally related taxes and fees¹ for the year 2024. “Environmentally related tax” means a tax whose tax base is a physical unit (or a proxy of a physical unit) of something that has a proven negative impact on the environment, and which is identified in ESA 2010 as a tax.

This information is consistent with the Portuguese National Accounts (Base 2021) and is transmitted annually to Eurostat under the Regulation (EU) No 691/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 6 July 2011, on European environmental economic accounts.

International comparisons are presented at the European level for 2023, the latest year for which this information is available.

This Press Release is organized into two distinct parts: environmentally related taxes and environmentally related fees.

ENVIRONMENTALLY RELATED TAXES

In 2024, the value of these taxes was approximately 5.9 billion euro, registering an increase of 8.7% comparing to 2023, reflecting the growth of revenue from tax on oil and energy products (ISP), as a result of the increase of its tax rate, namely, the carbon tax.

Regarding the tax base, and according to data on fuel sales from the General Directorate of Energy and Geology (DGEG), although petrol consumption rose 6.0%, diesel consumption, which represents 66% of this tax revenue, fell 2.6%.

¹ This press release analyses revenue from environmentally relevant taxes and fees, using as a reference the total revenue from taxes and social contributions paid by economic agents operating in Portuguese territory. Revenue from environmental taxes can be broken down by type of taxpayer, namely households and other institutional sectors as payers (essentially corresponding to corporations, which can also be presented by sector of activity). See box with methodological notes at the end of this press release.

Since the growth of total revenue from Environmentally related taxes (+8.7%) was higher than that of total revenue from taxes and social contributions (+6.7%), the share of this kind of taxes increased slightly in the Portuguese tax system (5.7%, which compares to 5.6% in 2023).

Between 2023 and 2024, tax on oil and energy products increased its share to 61.5% (+1.5 p.p.) in total revenue from environmentally related taxes. Other energy taxes also rose its share (from 13.6% to 14.0%) due to an additional increase in Carbon trading rights' revenue.

Altogether, in 2024, energy taxes represented 75.5% of total revenue from environmentally related taxes.

Within the category of taxes on transports, the share of tax on motor vehicle sales fell from 8.9% to 8.0% and the same happened to the unified circulation tax (from 15.4% to 14.8%, between 2024 and 2023).

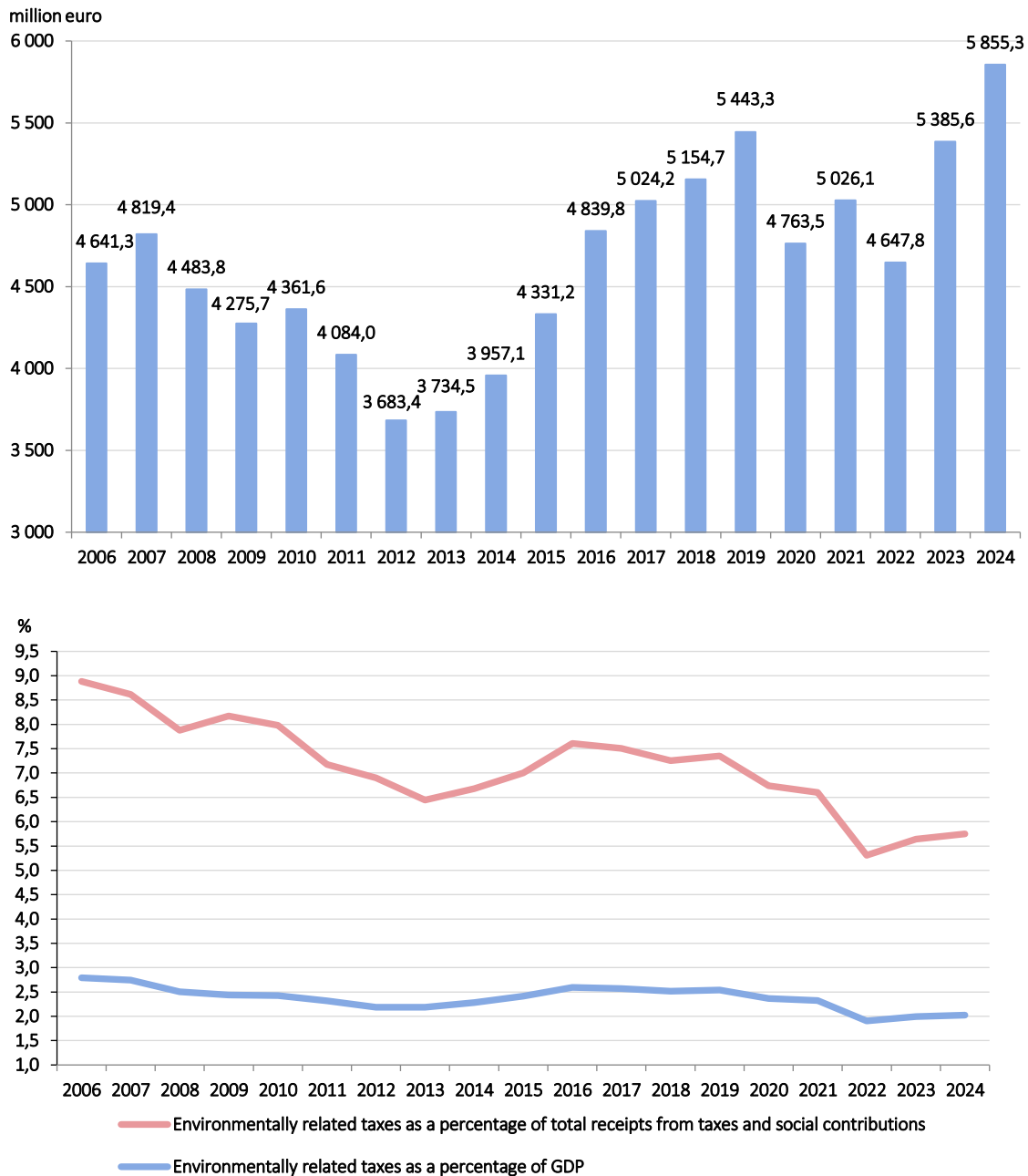
The revenue from taxes related to the acquisition and use of motor vehicles (tax on oil and energy products, tax on motor vehicle sales and the unified circulation tax) represented, in 2024, around 84.4% of all environmentally related taxes, a figure slightly inferior to the previous year (84.5%).

By categories, in 2024, energy taxes accounted for 75.5% of total environmentally related taxes. Transport taxes had a relative weight of 22.8%. The remaining categories – Pollution taxes and Resource taxes – were insignificant in the structure of environmentally related taxes (1.3% and 0.4%, respectively).

A final note to the fact that, despite the slight recovery in 2024, the share of environmentally related taxes in GDP (2.0%) was the second lowest since 1995.

Figure 1

TOTAL ENVIRONMENTALLY RELATED TAXES

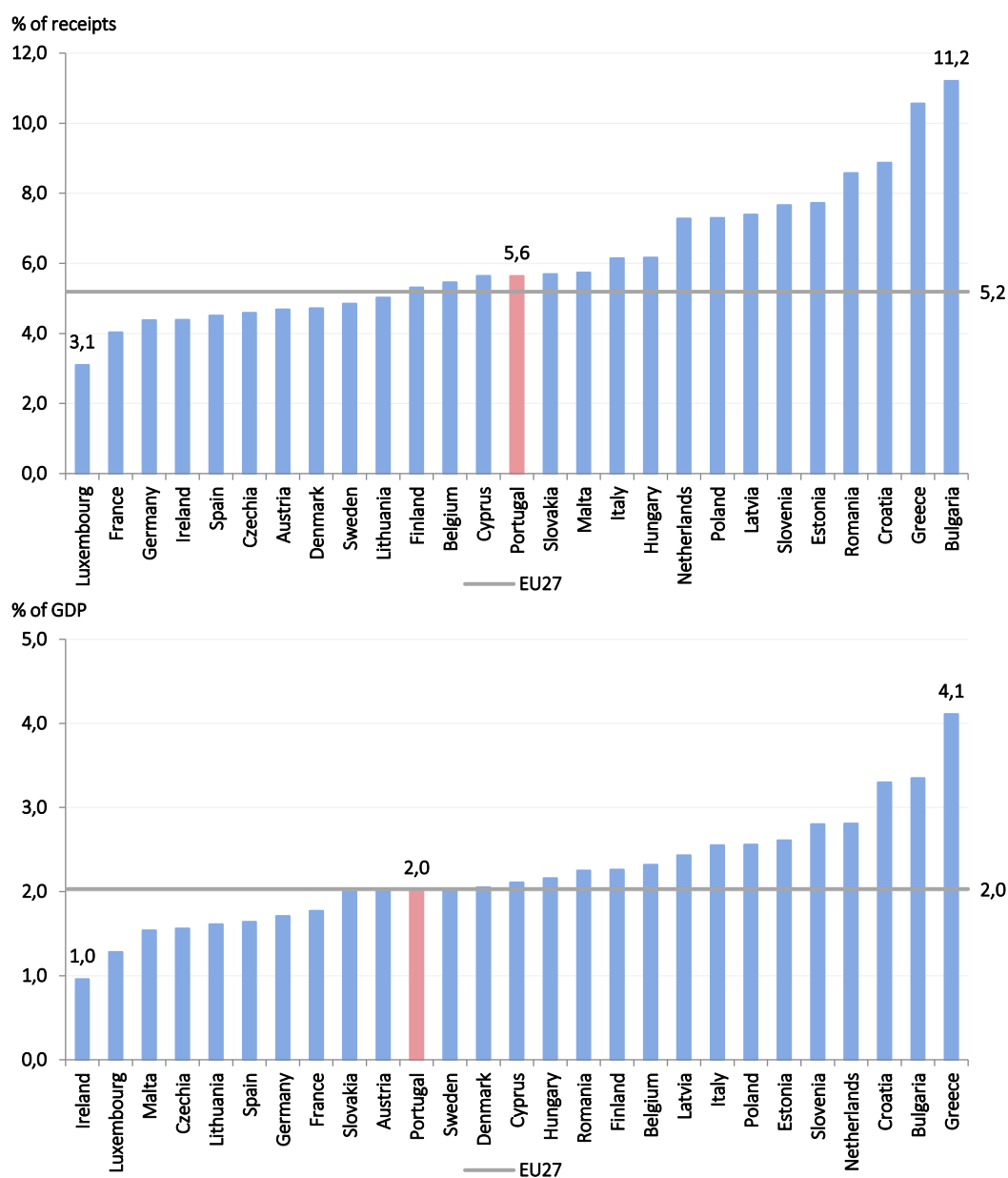


Comparing with other European Union countries, in 2023, “Environmentally related taxes as a percentage of total revenue from taxes and social contributions”, in Portugal, registered a value of 5.6%, which is higher than the EU27 average (5.2%).

Regarding “Environmentally related taxes as a percentage of GDP”, Portugal registered a value of 2.0%, which was in line with the EU27 average.

Figure 2

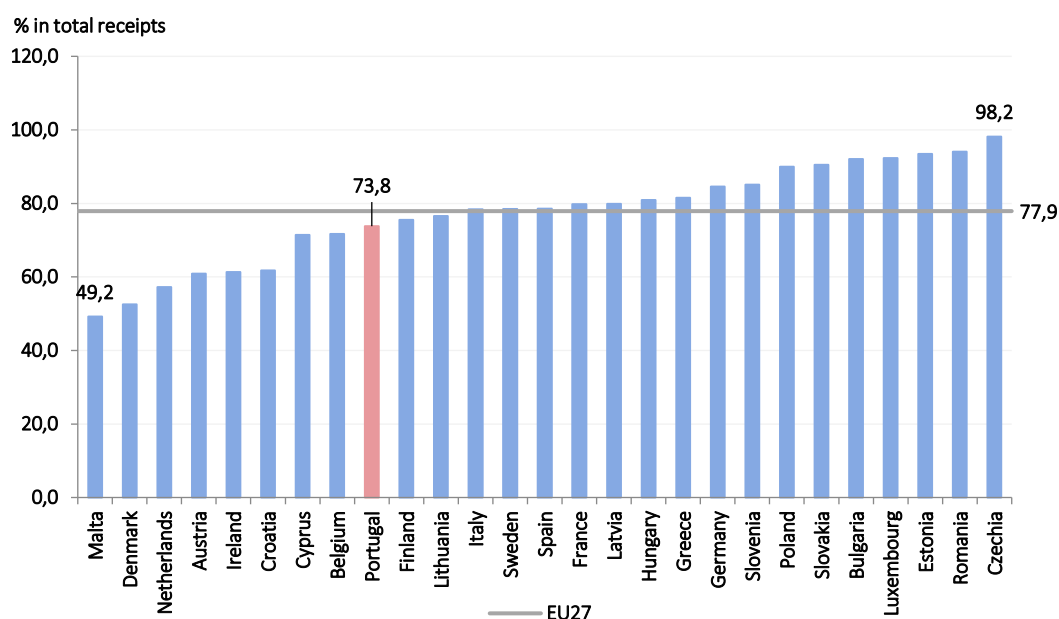
ENVIRONMENTALLY RELATED TAXES AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL RECEIPTS FROM TAXES AND SOCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND AS A PERCENTAGE OF GDP, IN EUROPEAN UNION COUNTRIES, IN 2023



Across the 27 countries of the European Union, apart from Malta, energy taxes account for more than 50% of total environmentally related taxes, being the EU27 average 77.9%, in 2023, 4.1 p.p. higher than the figure registered for Portugal, which was 73.8%.

Figure 3

ENERGY TAXES AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ENVIRONMENTALLY RELATED TAXES, IN EUROPEAN UNION COUNTRIES, IN 2023



ENVIRONMENTALLY RELATED FEES

In 2023, the most recent year for which this information is available, environmentally related fees amounted to 2.1 billion euro (0.8% of GDP), representing an increase of 13.5% compared to 2022, mainly explained by higher revenues from fees for solid waste collection, treatment and disposal (13.6%), from fees for wastewater collection, treatment and management (11.0%) and from waste management fee (18.9%).

The revenues from fees of the system of recycling and disposal of packages (glass, cardboard, plastic, metal and wood) rose 62.6%, due the steep increase of its unit value. This increase was necessary, since the market for reclaimed materials, especially plastic, paper and cardboard, contributed far less to the system's revenues than it was usual in the past, thus balancing economically this system of recycling.

Fees for solid waste collection, treatment and disposal and for wastewater collection, treatment and management still account for 87.4% of total revenue collected from environmentally related fees.

Table 1

ENVIRONMENTALLY RELATED FEES, BETWEEN 2014 AND 2023

unit: 10⁶ euro

FEE DESCRIPTION	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Pollution fees	1 294,014	1 391,553	1 361,392	1 421,854	1 487,288	1 545,384	1 633,813	1 675,377	1 794,484	2 044,170
Fees for solid waste collection, treatment and disposal	547,364	613,201	585,907	587,275	613,116	640,852	666,047	687,588	772,340	877,572
Fees for wastewater collection, treatment and management	642,470	676,765	665,292	700,688	735,269	754,812	796,022	786,806	842,881	935,559
Fee for the recycling and disposal of packages (glass, cardboard, plastic, metal and wood)	55,366	50,386	54,694	70,992	69,261	70,850	84,556	92,236	53,660	87,273
Fee for the recycling and disposal of pharmaceutical and plant protection products	2,043	2,118	2,224	1,975	2,159	2,119	2,213	2,260	2,219	2,608
Fee for the recycling and disposal of used lubricating oils	4,202	3,502	3,357	5,652	5,636	4,845	5,780	6,539	3,338	2,302
Fee for the recycling and disposal of tyres	11,266	11,760	12,654	12,564	11,209	11,655	10,016	11,131	11,407	11,811
Fee for the recycling and disposal of old motor vehicles	0,436	0,425	0,399	0,396	0,559	0,572	0,632	0,735	0,879	1,024
Fee for the recycling and disposal of electrical and electronic equipments	9,378	8,744	7,968	8,033	8,386	12,245	13,087	13,315	14,193	15,391
Fee for the recycling and disposal of batteries and accumulators	1,548	1,472	1,393	1,522	1,617	1,778	1,863	2,502	2,837	4,577
Waste management fee	15,966	19,124	24,101	29,013	35,532	41,187	49,820	67,163	86,070	102,335
Fee for collection of corpses of dead animals on the farm	3,975	4,056	3,403	3,744	4,544	4,469	3,777	5,102	4,660	3,718
Resource fees	23,177	16,502	15,785	18,104	19,788	24,500	22,572	27,976	33,576	30,357
Fee for the use of water resources	23,177	16,502	15,785	18,104	19,788	24,500	22,572	27,976	33,576	30,357
Fee for boiling springs management	//	//	//	//	//	//	//	//	//	//
Total environmental related fees	1 317,191	1 408,055	1 377,177	1 439,958	1 507,076	1 569,884	1 656,385	1 703,353	1 828,060	2 074,527

METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Taxes consist of compulsory, unrequited payments, which are levied by general government. The term “unrequited” means in this context that government provides nothing directly in return to the individual unit making the payment, although they might use the funds to provide goods and services to other units or to the community as a whole.

ENVIRONMENTALLY RELATED TAXES

Environmentally related tax statistics record data on revenues raised by governments from taxation on products and services with a negative impact on the environment. Thus, all taxes levied on these tax bases are environmentally related taxes (this definition is in agreement with Eurostat’s publication – [Environmental taxes – A statistical guide](#), from 2024).

The value added tax (VAT) is excluded from the definition of environmentally related tax. This is mainly because VAT is a neutral tax (with few exceptions) since it is deductible for industries but not for households. Therefore, it does not influence relative prices in the same way as an environmentally related tax does.

Alcohol, tobacco and similar consumption taxes should also not be included in environmental tax statistics, since they are not considered to be specifically negative for the environment.

The source of information is table 9 of the national accounts (ESA 2010) transmission programme – Regulation (EC) n. 5492/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 21 May 2013, which details tax and social contribution receipts by type of tax and social contribution and receiving sub-sector.

According to ESA 2010, there are three main categories of taxes:

- Taxes on production and imports (D.2);
- Current taxes on income, wealth, etc. (D.5);
- Capital taxes (D.91).

For analytical purposes, the environmentally related taxes can be classified into four main categories:

- Energy taxes – this group includes taxes on energy products (petrol, diesel, fuel oil, natural gas, coal and electricity), as well the proceeds from emission permits recorded as taxes in the national accounts.
- Transport taxes – this group mainly includes taxes related to the ownership and use of motor vehicles. Taxes on other transport equipment – planes or ships – are also included here, when they conform to the general definition of environmentally related taxes. The transport taxes may be a single tax related to imports or sales of the equipment or recurrent taxes such as an annual road tax.
- Pollution taxes – this group includes taxes on measured or estimated emissions to air and water, management of solid waste and noise.

- Resource taxes – this group includes taxes linked to the extraction or to the use of natural resources, such as oil and gas, water, forests, wild flora and fauna, etc., as these activities deplete natural resources.

ENVIRONMENTALLY RELATED FEES

The difference between a tax and a fee is on the way General Government uses the receipts. If the amounts collected are used to issue licences to organise some proper regulatory function (such as checking the competence or qualifications of the entity concerned or the promotion of management systems in areas that have a tendency to generate negative externalities), these payments should be treated as purchases of services from government (P.11 – Market output, in ESA 2010) rather than payment of taxes, unless the payments are clearly out of all proportion to the cost of providing the services. Some examples are garbage disposal fees or wastewater collection, treatment and management fees.

Generally, the value of the fees is determined by the revenue charged by the entity that is legally responsible for the assessment and collection of the fee. However, given the complexity of waste and wastewater management activities, the amount of revenue collected from fees for solid waste collection, treatment and disposal and from fees for wastewater collection, treatment and management is indirectly obtained from National Accounts' data for entities belonging to subsectors "S11001 - Public non-financial corporations" and "S13 - General government". It should be noticed that several integrated waste management systems operating in the country are managed by entities that do not belong to the General Government sector. However, these entities are licensed by the Portuguese Environmental Agency, where they were given a mandate to assume a role that should be the responsibility of the Government. Thus, the revenues collected for the management of each system by those entities are considered to be an environmentally related fee.

Regarding the fees for solid waste collection, treatment and disposal and for wastewater collection, treatment and management collected by entities outside general government sector, those were now included in the current exercise which determined changes in the whole series for environmentally related fees.

In the specific case of fees for solid waste collection, treatment and disposal, these are determined taking into account the revenue of CPA product 38 (Waste collection, treatment and disposal services; materials recovery services) obtained by entities classified in NACE 36 (Water collection, treatment and supply), in NACE 37-38-39 (Sewerage; Waste collection, treatment and disposal activities; materials recovery; Remediation activities and other waste management services) and in NACE 841 (Administration of the State and the economic and social policy of the community).

Regarding the fees for wastewater collection, treatment and management, these are determined considering the revenue of CPA product 37 (Sewerage services; sewage sludge) obtained by entities classified in NACE 36 (Water collection, treatment and supply), in NACE 37-38-39 (Sewerage; Waste collection, treatment and disposal activities; materials recovery; Remediation activities and other waste management services) and in NACE 841 (Administration of the State and the economic and social policy of the community).

ACRONYMS AND DESIGNATIONS

CO₂ – Carbon Dioxide

CPA – Statistical classification of products by activity

ESA2010 – European system of accounts - 2010

EU – European Union

EU27 – All the 27 countries (Member states) that belong to the European Union, since 31 January 2020

GDP – Gross Domestic Product

NACE – Statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community