# UK Diesel Drivers Facing Highest Fuel Prices in Europe Despite Tax Discounts



UK drivers with diesel vehicles are currently paying the highest prices in Europe, despite a fuel duty discount of 5p per litre introduced in March 2022 and extended for another year. Research by the RAC shows that the average price of diesel at UK pumps is 155p per litre. This figure surpasses the next highest in Ireland and Belgium, both at 150p per litre, and is significantly higher than the European average.

The UK also has one of the highest diesel duty rates in Europe at 52.95p per litre, matched only by Italy. Yet, Italy's average diesel price stands at 148p per litre, 7p less than the UK's. Diesel is also cheaper in France at 146p per litre and Belgium at 150p per litre.

RAC fuel spokesman Simon Williams attributes the high prices in the UK to elevated retailer margins, which average 18p per litre—considerably higher than the long-term pre-pandemic average of 8p per litre. In contrast, petrol margins are around 13p per litre. He suggests that UK diesel prices could fall to approximately 145p if retailers charged more fairly.

The new Digital Markets, Competition, and Consumers Act has empowered the Competition and Markets Authority to monitor road fuel prices closely and report any unethical practices to the Government, potentially fostering fairer prices in the future.