

LATEST NEWS ON TOBACCO CONTROL!

Tobacco price levels in 2018

increasing tobacco taxes as a win-win

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Interesting results from the survey on food, beverage and tobacco prices carried out in 2018 in 37 participating countries.



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Increasing tobacco taxes is a win-win for health and the economy.

Price level indices (PLIs) provide a comparison of countries' price levels relative to the European Union average: if the price level index is higher than 100, the country concerned is relatively more expensive than the EU average, while if the price level index is lower than 100, then the country is relatively cheaper than the EU average. For tobacco, the price levels were four times higher in the most expensive Member State than in the cheapest in 2018. The lowest price levels were observed in **Bulgaria** (49% of the EU average), **Poland** (60%) and **Croatia** (62%), and the highest in the **United Kingdom** (204%), **Ireland** (201%) and **France** (141%). Outside the EU, price levels were the highest in **Norway** (222%), **Iceland** (187%) and **Switzerland** (121%).

Just a reminder that, according to the World Bank group, increasing tobacco taxes is a win-win for public health outcomes and mobilising domestic resources. Higher taxes on tobacco products reduce tobacco consumption and improve public health, while also increasing government revenues that can be used to fund priority investments and programmes that benefit the whole population.

Sources: Eurostat, Consumer Price Levels 2018, 20 June 2019. Available [here](#).

World Bank Group, Taxing tobacco, 30 March 2018. Available [here](#).

