

## Trends in gasoline and crude oil prices

The price of gasoline does not depend solely on the price of a barrel of crude oil. Taxes, exchange rates, and refining and distribution costs all influence fuel prices. Over the long term, the two curves (gasoline and crude oil) follow similar trends, but price increases and decreases do not necessarily have the same magnitude and occur with a time lag. Why does the price at the pump change more slowly than the price of oil? Why can fuels such as SP95 remain expensive even when crude oil prices fall? Understanding these mechanisms makes it possible to address key concepts in economic and social sciences, such as price formation, demand elasticity, and the role of taxes in stabilizing markets.

### Crude oil and gasoline prices at the pump in France: trends since 2002



Source: INSEE. Conversions based on the annual average exchange rate.