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Two Countries Move Up in Top 100 Ranking on Gasoline Sulfur Limits

Stratas Advisors

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Stratas Advisors' annual Top 100 ranking again confirms the continued worldwide movement toward lower sulfur content in gasoline and cites several countries that have positioned themselves through policy initiatives to make advances in this area in the near future. However, aspects other than sulfur reduction — among them benzene, aromatics, olefins and volatility — are important in determining gasoline quality as well as influencing vehicle emissions.

The last ranking was carried out in July 2021 and this year's ranking was assessed as of June 1, 2022. EU countries continue to dominate the Top 40, as they were required to implement 100% market penetration of sulfur-free (less than 10 ppm) fuels since January 2009. Germany, which led the way with full market penetration in 2003, continues to reign at No. 1

Only two countries moved up in the 2022 ranking, which were fewer than the seven countries in the last ranking (see Insights, [July 23, 2021](#)). These include:

- Colombia
- Morocco

Due to gasoline sulfur reductions to max 10-50 ppm in January 2022, Morocco moved up 6 places to enter the Top 60 at 58th place, while Colombia moved up 18 places to rank at 81st place. No countries dropped out in this year's ranking. It is also worthwhile noting that even with a new annual average sulfur limit of 10 ppm implemented since Jan. 1, 2017, Canada and the U.S. dropped in their rankings. Many of the other countries that dropped in the rankings including top gasoline markets like Mexico did not alter their gasoline specifications but were simply passed by others that implemented stricter sulfur limits.

In the 2022 ranking, Panama ranks at the last place with a national sulfur limit of 150 ppm, which did not change from last year's ranking. Even though cities and provinces are not officially ranked, it is worthwhile to note that a number of cities require gasoline with lower sulfur of 50 ppm and below ahead of the rest of the country. For example, Iran supplied 10 ppm sulfur gasoline in Tehran and seven other major cities since March 2018, alongside 50 ppm, while the rest of Iran is currently required to meet a maximum sulfur limit of 1,000 ppm.

Maximum Gasoline Sulfur Limits (2022)



■ 0-10 ppm ■ 11-30 ppm ■ 31-50 ppm ■ 51-150 ppm ■ 151-500 ppm ■ 501-2500 ppm ■ No information / Not regulated

Countries may apply lower limits for different grades, regions/cities, or based on average content. Detailed information on limits and regulations can be found at www.stratasadvisors.com.

Source: *Stratas Advisors, June 2022*

2022 Top 100 Gasoline Sulfur Ranking

Rank	Country/ Territory	Change
1	Germany	+0
2	Japan	+0
3	Austria	+0
	Denmark	+0
	Estonia	+0
	Finland	+0
	Hungary	+0
	Sweden	+0
9	Albania	+0
	Belgium	+0
	Bulgaria	+0
	Cyprus	+0
	Czech Republic	+0
	France	+0
	Greece	+0
	Iceland	+0

	Ireland	+0
	Israel	+0
	Italy	+0
	Latvia	+0
	Liechtenstein	+0
	Lithuania	+0
	Luxembourg	+0
	Malta	+0
	Netherlands	+0
	Norway	+0
	Poland	+0
	Portugal	+0
	Romania	+0
	Slovakia	+0
	Slovenia	+0
	South Korea	+0
	Spain	+0
	Switzerland	+0
	United Kingdom	+0
36	Turkey	+0
	Macedonia	+0
38	Hong Kong	+0
39	Croatia	+0
40	Montenegro	+0
41	Taiwan	+0
42	Serbia	+0
43	Belarus	+0
44	Lebanon	+0
	Russia	+0

46	Armenia	+0
	China	+0
	Georgia	+0
	Macau	+0
	Mayotte	+0
	Singapore	+0
52	Ukraine	+0
	New Zealand	+0
54	Moldova	+0
	Oman	+0
56	India	+0
57	Fiji	+0
58	Morocco	+6
59	Suriname	-1
#	Iran, Select Cities	
60	Bhutan*	-1
	Brunei	-1
	Laos*	-1
63	Chile	-1
64	Uruguay	-1
65	Philippines	+0
66	United Arab Emirates	+0
67	Kazakhstan	+0
68	Kenya	+0
69	Nepal	+0
70	Malaysia	+0
71	New Caledonia	+0
72	Thailand	+0
73	Brazil	+0

74	Ghana	+0
	Costa Rica	+0
	Mozambique	+0
77	Peru	+0
78	Rwanda	+0
	Uganda	+0
80	Cambodia	+0
81	Colombia	+18
82	United States	-1
83	Canada	-1
84	Mexico	-1
85	Iraq	-1
86	Algeria*	-1
87	Guyana	-1
88	Bosnia & Herzegovina	-1
89	Argentina	-1
90	Australia	-1
91	Tanzania	-1
92	Burundi	-1
93	Libya*	-1
94	Niger	-1
95	Côte D'Ivoire	-1
96	Eritrea*	-1
97	Nigeria	-1
98	Gabon	-1
99	Benin	-1
100	Panama	-1

Notes:

Not actually included in ranking; highlighted for significant achievement.

* Best ranking based on available information.

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