Fuel Economy:

A New York State-Representative Multi-Mode Survey of Drivers

2022 Results

Overview of Methodology

Consumer Reports fielded this Fuel Economy Survey to understand Americans' priorities and beliefs around fuel economy. These results are based on interviews conducted September 23 – October 17, 2022.

The survey was administered by NORC at the University of Chicago through its AmeriSpeak® Panel to a nationally representative sample. Interviews were conducted in English and in Spanish, and were administered both online and by phone. In addition, NORC oversampled drivers from New York State. In total, NORC collected 576 interviews for this New York State population sample. Of these, 551 were collected by web mode and 25 by phone mode, 567 in English and 9 in Spanish. Final data are weighted by age, gender, race/Hispanic ethnicity, housing tenure, telephone status, education, and Census Division to be proportionally representative of the New York State adult population.

Key demographic characteristics (after weighting is applied) of this sample are presented below:

51% female; median age of 54 years old; 65% white, non-Hispanic; 47% 4-year college graduates; and 61% have a household income of $50,000 or more.

The margin of error for results based on the total sample is +/-5.76 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. Smaller subgroups will have larger error margins, and only those subgroups for which there are at least 100 unweighted cases are included.

TOPLINE RESULTS

The questions presented below were shown to respondents in this order unless otherwise noted. Where appropriate, question verbiage, response answer choices, or direction of scales were alphabetized, randomized, or rotated. Those instances are noted below.

Prepared by CR Survey Research Department, December 2022

www.cr.org

SURVEY TOPLINES

FE1.

Does your household currently own or lease one or more vehicles?

	Total
	%
Yes	94
No	6
Base: All respondents (NY drivers)	573

FE2. *[RESPONDENTS WERE PROMPTED TWICE TO ANSWER IF THEY DID NOT INITIALLY RESPOND. RESPONSE OPTIONS DISPLAYED IN THIS ORDER: CAR/SEDAN; SUV WITH THREE ROWS OF SEATS; SUV WITH TWO ROWS OF SEATS; PICKUP TRUCK; VAN OR MINIVAN; SPORTS CAR; OTHER; DO NOT DRIVE.]*

How would you describe the vehicle that you drive most often?

	Total
	%
Car/sedan	39
SUV with two rows of seats	39
SUV with three rows of seats	9
Pickup truck	7
Van or minivan	4
Sports car	1
Other, please specify	2
I do not drive	screened out
Base: All respondents (NY drivers)	576

FE3. *[SHOW IF ANSWER TO FE2 WAS NOT 'I DO NOT DRIVE' OR MISSING.]*

Did you buy or lease the vehicle you drive most often new or used?

	Total
	%
New	47
Used	48
Unsure; I am not the one who bought or leased it	5
Base: All respondents (NY drivers)	571

FE4. *[SHOW IF ANSWER TO FE2 WAS NOT 'I DO NOT DRIVE' OR MISSING. RESPONSES DISPLAYED IN A DROP-DOWN MENU.]*

What is the model year of the vehicle you drive most often?

	Total
	%
2023	1
2022	7
2021	11
2020	9
2019	6
2018	9
2017	6
2016	7
2015	4
2014	3
2013	6
2012	4
2011	5
2010	4
2009	4
2008	3
2007	2
2006	1
2005	2
2004	1
2003	2
2002	2
2001	0
2000	0
Earlier than 2000	1
Base: All respondents (NY drivers)	573

FE5. *[SHOW IF ANSWER TO FE2 WAS NOT 'I DO NOT DRIVE' OR MISSING. RESPONDENTS WERE PROMPTED ONCE TO ANSWER IF THEY DID NOT INITIALLY RESPOND. RESPONSE OPTIONS WERE SHOWN IN THIS ORDER: GASOLINE; DIESEL; HYBRID; ELECTRIC; OTHER.]*

What is the engine type of the vehicle you drive most often?

	Total
	%
Gasoline	93
NET: Either kind of hybrid or electric	***5***
NET: Either kind of hybrid	***4***
Hybrid--runs mainly on gasoline, but also uses a battery and electric motor to help power the vehicle. Cannot be plugged in to charge	4
Diesel	2
Fully electric, like a Tesla or a Nissan Leaf--does not take gasoline or any fuel other than electricity	1
Plug-in hybrid--hybrid that can be plugged in to charge the battery directly. Can drive a limited distance on electric power only before the gasoline engine is used	0
Other, please specify	-
Base: All respondents (NY drivers)	576

FE6. *[SHOW IF ANSWER TO FE5 WAS EITHER KIND OF 'HYBRID' OR 'ELECTRIC.' QUESTION STEM READS EITHER 'HYBRID' OR 'ELECTRIC' DEPENDING ON RESPONSE TO FE5. RESPONSES WERE WRITTEN INTO A TEXTBOX.]*

Please provide the make and model of your vehicle. *[If the vehicle was hybrid or plug-in hybrid, question read "...of your hybrid vehicle." If the vehicle was electric, question read "...of your electric vehicle."]*

For instance, Toyota Prius, Ford F-150 Lightning, or Hyundai Elantra.

FE7. *[SHOW IF ANSWER TO FE2 WAS NOT 'I DO NOT DRIVE' OR MISSING. RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS. LIMITED TO THREE SELECTIONS.]*

Thinking about the vehicle you drive most often, which three attributes have the most room for improvement?

Select up to three responses.

	Total
	%
Fuel Economy	45
Purchase price	28
Maintenance costs	27
Infotainment or connectivity (e.g., Bluetooth, GPS navigation, Wi-Fi)	21
Cargo space	20
Vehicle comfort	19
Passenger room	19
Vehicle size	14
Safety	12
Off-road capability	12
Horsepower	10
Reliability	9
Style	8
Handling	6
Base: All respondents (NY drivers)	576

FE8. *[SHOW IF ANSWER TO FE2 WAS NOT 'I DO NOT DRIVE' OR MISSING. ROTATE RESPONSE SCALE.]*

How important is fuel economy to you when considering what vehicle to purchase or lease?

	Total
	%
Not at all important	2
Not very important	4
Somewhat important	30
Very important	41
Extremely important	24
Base: All respondents (NY drivers)	567

FE9. *[SHOW IF ANSWER TO FE8 WAS NOT 'NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT' OR MISSING. RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS, HOLDING 'OTHER' AND 'NOTHING IN PARTICULAR' AT END IN THAT ORDER.* ***LIMITED TO TWO SELECTIONS.]***

You said that fuel economy is at least a little important to you when considering what vehicle to purchase or lease. Which two, if any, of the following are reasons you think it is important?

Select up to two responses.

	Total
	%
Decrease spending on fuel or gasoline	59
Protection against future gas price increases	34
Lower carbon pollution	26
Improve air quality	19
Concern about US dependence on oil from foreign countries	17
Concern about dependence on non-renewable fuels	10
Higher resale value	9
Other	1
Nothing in particular	5
Base: Respondents who said fuel economy is "not very important" through "extremely important" when considering what vehicle to get	559

FE10. *[ROTATE ORDER OF 'AGREE' AND 'DISAGREE IN QUESTION STEM AND ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS TO MATCH. RANDOMIZE ITEMS ACROSS TWO SCREENS.]*

Please indicate if you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

	Total
Automakers should continue to improve fuel economy for all vehicle types.	
	%
NET "Agree"	***86***
NET "Disagree"	***4***
Strongly Agree	42
Agree	44
Neither agree nor disagree	10
Disagree	1
Strongly Disagree	3
Base: All respondents (NY drivers)	571

FE10. *[CONTINUED.]*

Making larger vehicles such as SUVs or trucks more fuel-efficient is important.	
	%
NET "Agree"	***83***
NET "Disagree"	***3***
Strongly Agree	37
Agree	46
Neither agree nor disagree	14
Disagree	2
Strongly Disagree	1
Base: All respondents (NY drivers)	573
I expect each new generation of vehicles available on the market to be more fuel-efficient than the last.	**Total**
	%
NET "Agree"	***83***
NET "Disagree"	***6***
Strongly Agree	35
Agree	48
Neither agree nor disagree	11
Disagree	3
Strongly Disagree	3
Base: All respondents (NY drivers)	572
Automakers have a responsibility to consumers to improve gas mileage.	
	%
NET "Agree"	***79***
NET "Disagree"	***5***
Strongly Agree	33
Agree	46
Neither agree nor disagree	16
Disagree	4
Strongly Disagree	1
Base: All respondents (NY drivers)	573
The U.S. government should continue to increase fuel-efficiency standards.	**Total**
	%
NET "Agree"	***72***
NET "Disagree"	***12***
Strongly Agree	26
Agree	45
Neither agree nor disagree	16
Disagree	8
Strongly Disagree	3
Base: All respondents (NY drivers)	570

FE10. *[CONTINUED.]*

Automakers are doing a good job of making fuel-efficient passenger vehicles.	
	%
NET "Agree"	***46***
NET "Disagree"	***15***
Strongly Agree	4
Agree	42
Neither agree nor disagree	39
Disagree	11
Strongly Disagree	4
Base: All respondents (NY drivers)	569
Automakers care about lowering fuel costs for their customers.	**Total**
	%
NET "Agree"	***32***
NET "Disagree"	***25***
Strongly Agree	5
Agree	27
Neither agree nor disagree	44
Disagree	20
Strongly Disagree	5
Base: All respondents (NY drivers)	569
The federal government should prevent states from setting stronger vehicle emissions standards than the federal government.	
	%
NET "Agree"	***26***
NET "Disagree"	***36***
Strongly Agree	7
Agree	19
Neither agree nor disagree	37
Disagree	20
Strongly Disagree	17
Base: All respondents (NY drivers)	572

[FE11 AND FE12 APPEARED IN A RANDOM ORDER.]

FE11.

Some people are interested in fuel-efficient vehicles even if the initial price for the vehicle is a little higher because it saves them money on gas, and thus larger savings over time. How quickly would fuel savings have to offset a higher purchase price for you to be willing to pay extra for a more fuel-efficient vehicle?

	Total
	%
NET: In less than one year	***49***
NET: In less than six months	***28***
Within the first month	11
One month to less than three months	6
Three months to less than six months	11
Six months to less than one year	20
One year to less than two years	19
Two years to less than three years	6
Three years to less than five years	8
Over the lifetime of the vehicle	10
I would be willing to pay extra for a more fuel-efficient vehicle regardless of whether I would make the money back	8
Base: All respondents (NY drivers)	565

FE12.

Sometimes more fuel-efficient vehicles have a higher sticker price than less fuel-efficient vehicles. This means higher monthly payments. However, vehicles that are more fuel efficient do not need to be fueled as often, leading to lower monthly gas expenses.

If you had the choice to buy or lease a vehicle at a higher monthly payment, but would save enough at the pump that your total monthly expense would be lower, would you buy that vehicle?

	Total
	%
Yes	69
No	31
Base: All respondents (NY drivers)	573

FE13. *[SHOW IF FE5 WAS 'GASOLINE,' 'DIESEL,' OR EITHER 'HYBRID.']*

On average, what is the MPG (miles per gallon) that you get with the vehicle you drive most often?

If you're uncertain, please make your best estimate.

	Total
	%
NET: Less than 25	***37***
NET: 25 to less than 35	***41***
NET: 35 or more	***13***
Less than 20	14
20 to 24	23
25 to 29	27
30 to 34	13
35 to 39	8
40 to 44	2
45 to 49	1
50 to 54	0
55 to 59	0
60+	1
Unsure	9
Base: All respondents (NY drivers)	568

FE14. *[RANDOMIZE ITEMS ACROSS THREE SCREENS.]*

Please indicate, to the best of your knowledge, whether the following statements about hybrid vehicles are true or false.

A hybrid vehicle is a vehicle that runs on a combination of electricity and gasoline.

	Total
	%
Hybrid vehicles are typically more fuel-efficient than conventional non-hybrid gasoline vehicles of the same class.	
NET: Any "True"	***89***
NET: Any "False"	***8***
True	41
Mostly true	48
Mostly false	6
False	2
Skipped or said "don't know"	3
Base: All respondents (NY drivers)	576

FE14. *[CONTINUED.]*

Hybrid vehicles typically cost <u>more</u> to repair than conventional non-hybrid gasoline vehicles.	
NET: Any "True"	***76***
NET: Any "False"	***20***
True	26
Mostly true	50
Mostly false	16
False	5
Skipped or said "don't know"	4
Base: All respondents (NY drivers)	576

Most hybrid vehicles will pay for any additional purchase cost in fuel savings within a few years of ownership.	**Total**
NET: Any "True"	***70***
NET: Any "False"	***27***
True	18
Mostly true	52
Mostly false	22
False	5
Skipped or said "don't know"	3
Base: All respondents (NY drivers)	576

Hybrid vehicles typically have <u>similar</u> power/performance to that of non-hybrid gasoline vehicles of the same class.	
NET: Any "True"	***65***
NET: Any "False"	***31***
True	17
Mostly true	48
Mostly false	26
False	5
Skipped or said "don't know"	4
Base: All respondents (NY drivers)	576

Hybrid vehicles typically require <u>more</u> maintenance than conventional non-hybrid gasoline vehicles.	**Total**
NET: Any "True"	***49***
NET: Any "False"	***47***
True	12
Mostly true	37
Mostly false	37
False	10
Skipped or said "don't know"	4
Base: All respondents (NY drivers)	576

FE14. *[CONTINUED.]*

Hybrid vehicles are <u>less</u> reliable (e.g., break down more) than conventional non-hybrid gasoline vehicles.	
NET: Any "True"	***29***
NET: Any "False"	***67***
True	6
Mostly true	23
Mostly false	49
False	18
Skipped or said "don't know"	4
Base: All respondents (NY drivers)	576

CONTACT:

Tess M. Yanisch
Senior Research Associate
Tess.Yanisch@consumer.org