



## Fuel Economy 2024

A Nationally Representative Multi-Mode Survey

### Results

#### **Overview of Methodology**

Consumer Reports fielded this Fuel Economy Survey to understand Americans' priorities and beliefs around fuel economy and policies regulating it. These results are based on interviews conducted from August 26<sup>th</sup> – September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024.

The survey was administered by NORC at the University of Chicago through its AmeriSpeak® Panel to a nationally representative sample. Interviews were administered both online and by phone. In total NORC collected 2,191 interviews, 2,044 by web mode and 147 by phone mode, 2,121 in English and 70 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 US adult population.

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

50% female; median age of 47 years old; 61% white, non-Hispanic; 36% 4-year college graduates; and 62% have a household income of \$50,000 or more.

The margin of error for results based on the total sample is +/- 2.71 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 wording, response answer choices, or direction of scales were randomized or rotated and those instances are noted below.

Also shown, where available, are trends over time. Not every item was asked on every previous survey, and where minor revisions to the wording of an item or response choices were made, they are noted below. Note these changes may impact comparability of results.

**Prepared by CR Survey Research Department, October 2024**

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### Survey Notes for Monthly Trends

2022 results are based on interviews conducted from September 23<sup>rd</sup> – October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 with a nationally representative sample of 2,161 US adults.

2020 results are based on interviews conducted from July 29<sup>th</sup> – August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 with a nationally representative sample of 3,879 US adults.

FE1.

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

*By "vehicle," we mean a car, truck, or SUV. We do not mean motorcycles, scooters, or boats.*

	Total
	%
Yes	94
No	6
<b>Base: All respondents</b>	<b>2,184</b>

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 personal vehicle that you drive most often?

*"Personal vehicle" means your own vehicle, not one owned by your workplace.*

	Total
	%
Car/sedan	38
SUV with two rows of seats	29
SUV with three rows of seats	11
Pickup truck	10
Van or minivan	4
Sports car	1
Other, please specify	2
I do not drive	5
<b>Base: All respondents</b>	<b>2,190</b>

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

Did you buy or lease the vehicle you drive most often new or used?		
	Fuel Economy 2024	Fuel Economy 2022
	Total	Total
	%	%
New	42	43
Used	56	54
Unsure; I am not the one who bought or leased it	2	3
<b>Base: Respondents who drive</b>	<b>2,078</b>	<b>2,075</b>

FE4. [SHOW IF ANSWER TO FE2 WAS NOT 'I DO NOT DRIVE.' RESPONSES DISPLAYED IN A DROPDOWN MENU.]

What is the model year of the vehicle you drive most often?		
	Fuel Economy 2024	Fuel Economy 2022
	Total	Total
	%	%
2025	1	-
2024	5	-
2023	5	0.3
2022	5	4
2021	5	6
2020	6	6
2019	7	7
2018	8	7
2017	8	7
2016	6	7
2015	5	8
2014	5	6
2013	5	6
2012	5	4
2011	3	4
2010	3	4
2009	2	2
2008	2	3
2007	3	3
2006	3	2
2005	2	2
2004	2	3
2003	1	2
2002	1	1
2001	0.3	1
2000	0.4	1
Earlier than 2000	2	3
<b>Base: Respondents who drive</b>	<b>2,062</b>	<b>2,073</b>

Note: The 2022 survey only went up through model year 2023.

FE5. [SHOW IF ANSWER TO FE2 WAS NOT 'I DO NOT DRIVE.' RESPONSE OPTIONS WERE SHOWN IN THIS ORDER: GASOLINE; DIESEL; HYBRID; PLUG-IN HYBRID; FULLY ELECTRIC; OTHER.]

What is the engine type of the vehicle you drive most often?		
	Fuel Economy 2024	Fuel Economy 2022
	Total	Total
	%	%
Gasoline	91	92
<b>Net: Either kind of hybrid or electric</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Net: Either kind of hybrid</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>
Hybrid--runs mainly on gasoline, but also uses a battery and electric motor to help power the vehicle. Cannot be plugged in to charge	5	5
Fully electric, like a Tesla or a Nissan Leaf--does <u>not</u> take gasoline or any fuel other than electricity	2	1
Diesel	1	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	1	1
Other, please specify	0.3	0.1
<b>Base: Respondents who drive</b>	<b>2,079</b>	<b>2,081</b>

FE6. [SHOW IF ANSWER TO FE2 WAS NOT 'I DO NOT DRIVE.' RESPONDENTS WERE PROMPTED ONCE TO ANSWER IF THEY DID NOT INITIALLY RESPOND.]

Do you <u>ever</u> use the vehicle you drive most often for towing?	
<i>This could mean towing a boat or camper, for example.</i>	
	Total
	%
Yes	11
No	89
<b>Base: Respondents who drive</b>	<b>2,079</b>

FE7. [SHOW IF FE6 = 'YES.']

**You said you use the vehicle you drive most often for towing. About how often do you use it to tow?**

	<b>Total</b>
	<b>%</b>
Less often than once a year	19
Once or twice a year	26
Three to five times per year	29
Six to ten times per year	15
More than ten times per year	11
<b>Base: Respondents who tow with the vehicle they drive most often</b>	<b>226</b>

FE8. [SHOW IF FE6 = 'YES.']

**How far do you typically tow in one day when towing with the vehicle you drive most often?**

	<b>Total</b>
	<b>%</b>
Less than 50 miles	39
50 to less than 100 miles	32
100 to less than 200 miles	15
200 to less than 300 miles	10
300 to less than 400 miles	2
400 to less than 500 miles	1
500 miles or more	1
<b>Base: Respondents who tow with the vehicle they drive most often</b>	<b>226</b>

FE9. [SHOW IF ANSWER TO FE2 WAS NOT 'I DO NOT DRIVE.' RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS. RESPONDENTS WERE LIMITED TO THREE SELECTIONS. 'FUEL ECONOMY' DID NOT SHOW IF FE5 = 'FULLY ELECTRIC. 'EV RANGE' ONLY SHOWED IF FE5 = 'PLUG-IN HYBRID' OR 'FULLY ELECTRIC.']

Thinking about the vehicle you drive most often, which three attributes have the most room for improvement?		
Select up to three responses.		
	Fuel Economy 2024	Fuel Economy 2022
	Total	Total
	%	%
Fuel economy	36	43
Purchase price	30	30
Maintenance costs	28	27
Infotainment or connectivity (e.g., Bluetooth, GPS navigation, Wi-Fi)	22	24
Cargo space	18	15
Vehicle comfort	17	15
Passenger room	15	15
Reliability	14	13
Vehicle size	13	14
Horsepower	13	13
Off-road capability	11	12
Safety	10	11
Style	10	8
Handling	7	7
EV range (i.e., distance that can be travelled on a full charge)	2	-
<b>Base: Respondents who drive</b>	<b>2,081</b>	<b>2,081</b>

Note: "EV range" was not an option in 2022. All respondents saw "Fuel economy" instead.

FE10. [SHOW IF ANSWER TO FE2 WAS NOT 'I DO NOT DRIVE.' ROTATE RESPONSE SCALE.]

How important is fuel economy to you when considering what vehicle to purchase or lease?		
	Fuel Economy 2024	Fuel Economy 2022
	Total	Total
	%	%
Extremely important	27	29
Very important	39	41
Somewhat important	30	26
Not very important	3	3
Not at all important	1	2
<b>Base: Respondents who drive</b>	<b>2,063</b>	<b>2,059</b>

FE11. [SHOW IF ANSWER TO FE10 WAS 'NOT VERY IMPORTANT' OR HIGHER. RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS, HOLDING 'OTHER' AND 'NOTHING IN PARTICULAR' AT END IN THAT ORDER. 'NOTHING IN PARTICULAR' WAS EXCLUSIVE. RESPONDENTS WERE 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.

	Fuel Economy 2024	Fuel Economy 2022
	Total	Total
	%	%
Decrease spending on fuel or gasoline	60	60
Protection against future gas price increases	32	32
Lower carbon pollution	22	23
Improve air quality	17	18
Higher resale value	11	9
Concern about US dependence on oil from foreign countries	11	16
Concern about dependence on non-renewable fuels	9	10
Other, please specify	2	2
Nothing in particular	8	6
<b>Base: Respondents who drive and said fuel economy is "not very important" through "extremely important" when considering what vehicle to get</b>	<b>2,037</b>	<b>2,034</b>

FE12. [ROTATE ORDER OF 'AGREE' AND 'DISAGREE' IN QUESTION STEM AND ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS TO MATCH. RANDOMIZE ITEMS ACROSS TWO SCREENS.]

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

	Total	Total	Total
<i>Automakers should continue to improve fuel economy for all vehicle types.</i>	Fuel Economy 2024	Fuel Economy 2022	Fuel Economy/EVs 2020
	%	%	%
<b>NET "Agree"</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>NET "Disagree"</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
Strongly Agree	41	44	56
Agree	43	41	34
Neither agree nor disagree	14	12	8
Disagree	2	1	1
Strongly Disagree	1	2	1
<b>Base: All respondents</b>	<b>2,168</b>	<b>2,143</b>	<b>3,869</b>



FE12. [CONTINUED]

<i>Making larger vehicles such as SUVs or trucks more fuel-efficient is important.</i>	Fuel Economy 2024	Fuel Economy 2022	Fuel Economy/EVs 2020
	%	%	%
<b>NET "Agree"</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>NET "Disagree"</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>
Strongly Agree	36	36	47
Agree	44	45	37
Neither agree nor disagree	17	14	12
Disagree	3	2	3
Strongly Disagree	2	2	1
Base: All respondents	2,169	2,139	3,867
<i>I expect each new generation of vehicles available on the market to be more fuel-efficient than the last.</i>	Fuel Economy 2024	Fuel Economy 2022	Fuel Economy/EVs 2020
	%	%	%
<b>NET "Agree"</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>NET "Disagree"</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>
Strongly Agree	31	34	46
Agree	45	44	38
Neither agree nor disagree	20	17	14
Disagree	3	3	2
Strongly Disagree	1	1	1
Base: All respondents	2,174	2,139	3,863
<i>Automakers have a responsibility to consumers to improve gas mileage.</i>	Fuel Economy 2024	Fuel Economy 2022	Fuel Economy/EVs 2020
	%	%	%
<b>NET "Agree"</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>NET "Disagree"</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>
Strongly Agree	33	34	26
Agree	41	42	48
Neither agree nor disagree	21	17	20
Disagree	4	4	4
Strongly Disagree	1	2	1
Base: All respondents	2,165	2,142	3,849
<i>The U.S. government should continue to increase fuel-efficiency standards.</i>	Fuel Economy 2024	Fuel Economy 2022	Fuel Economy/EVs 2020
	%	%	%
<b>NET "Agree"</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>NET "Disagree"</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>
Strongly Agree	30	29	42
Agree	35	35	31
Neither agree nor disagree	23	24	18
Disagree	8	8	7
Strongly Disagree	4	4	3
Base: All respondents	2,170	2,141	3,863

FE12. [CONTINUED]

<i>Automakers are doing a good job of making fuel-efficient passenger vehicles.</i>	Fuel Economy 2024	Fuel Economy 2022	Fuel Economy/EVs 2020
	%	%	%
<b>NET "Agree"</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>NET "Disagree"</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>
Strongly Agree	6	7	7
Agree	40	41	42
Neither agree nor disagree	38	39	34
Disagree	13	10	13
Strongly Disagree	3	4	3
Base: All respondents	2,162	2,146	3,839

  

<i>Automakers care about lowering fuel costs for their customers.</i>	Fuel Economy 2024	Fuel Economy 2022	Fuel Economy/EVs 2020
	%	%	%
<b>NET "Agree"</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>NET "Disagree"</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>28</b>
Strongly Agree	5	6	6
Agree	22	21	23
Neither agree nor disagree	43	42	43
Disagree	22	22	22
Strongly Disagree	8	8	5
Base: All respondents	2,163	2,139	3,844

FE13.

**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?**

	Fuel Economy 2024	Fuel Economy 2022
	Total	Total
	%	%
Yes	67	70
No	33	30
Base: All respondents	2,154	2,151

FE14. [SHOW IF ANSWER TO FE2 WAS NOT 'I DO NOT DRIVE' AND ANSWER TO FE5 WAS 'GASOLINE' OR 'DIESEL.']

**Initially, hybrid vehicles were only available in certain body types, mainly sedans. Now, an increasingly wide range of vehicles comes in both conventional gasoline-powered and hybrid models.**

**Think about the vehicle you drive most often. If you could get a vehicle that was otherwise the same--the same cost, power, towing ability, and so on--but was a hybrid, would you?**

*As a reminder, a hybrid is a vehicle that can run on gasoline as well as an electric motor. Some, but not all, can be plugged in to charge the battery directly. We are interested in either type here.*

	Total
	%
Yes	52
No	20
Unsure; I don't know enough about hybrid vehicles to say	27
<b>Base: Drivers who most frequently drive a vehicle powered by gasoline or diesel</b>	<b>1,894</b>

FE15. [SHOW IF ANSWER TO FE2 WAS NOT 'I DO NOT DRIVE.' RESPONDENTS WERE PROMPTED ONCE TO RESPOND IF THEY DID NOT DO SO INITIALLY.]

**What do you consider good fuel economy in a gasoline-powered vehicle for each of the following body types?**

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

	Total
<b>Car/sedan</b>	
	%
10 to 15 MPG	2
16 to 20 MPG	3
21 to 25 MPG	7
26 to 30 MPG	16
31 to 35 MPG	23
36 to 40 MPG	21
41 to 45 MPG	10
46 MPG or more	10
Unsure	10
<b>Base: Respondents who drive</b>	<b>2,073</b>

FE15. [CONTINUED]

<b>SUV with two rows of seats</b>	
	%
10 to 15 MPG	2
16 to 20 MPG	6
21 to 25 MPG	17
26 to 30 MPG	27
31 to 35 MPG	21
36 to 40 MPG	9
41 to 45 MPG	6
46 MPG or more	3
Unsure	10
<b>Base: Respondents who drive</b>	<b>2,063</b>
<b>SUV with three rows of seats</b>	
	%
10 to 15 MPG	2
16 to 20 MPG	12
21 to 25 MPG	24
26 to 30 MPG	25
31 to 35 MPG	12
36 to 40 MPG	7
41 to 45 MPG	3
46 MPG or more	3
Unsure	11
<b>Base: Respondents who drive</b>	<b>2,060</b>
<b>Pickup truck</b>	
	%
10 to 15 MPG	5
16 to 20 MPG	14
21 to 25 MPG	26
26 to 30 MPG	21
31 to 35 MPG	10
36 to 40 MPG	6
41 to 45 MPG	4
46 MPG or more	3
Unsure	13
<b>Base: Respondents who drive</b>	<b>2,054</b>

FE16.

Currently, federal regulations require automakers in the US to meet stricter emissions standards every year up through 2032. These emissions standards regulate the average emissions of all the vehicles an automaker sells, not each individual vehicle.

Automakers are allowed to use any technology of their choice, or a mix of technologies, to meet those increasing standards: for example, making gas-powered vehicles more efficient, making more hybrid vehicles, or making more electric vehicles.

Had you heard of that policy before taking this survey?

	Total
	%
Yes	31
No	55
Unsure	15
<b>Base: All respondents</b>	<b>2,176</b>

FE17. [IF FE16 = 'NO,' 'UNSURE,' OR MISSING, QUESTION STEM READ 'NOW THAT YOU HAVE HEARD OF IT, TO WHAT EXTENT...' IF FE 17 = 'YES,' QUESTION STEM BEGAN AT 'TO WHAT EXTENT.....' ORDER OF 'SUPPORT' AND 'OPPOSE' WAS ROTATED IN QUESTION STEM AND RESPONSE OPTIONS WERE ROTATED TO MATCH, ALWAYS HOLDING 'UNSURE' AT END.]

Now that you have heard of it, to what extent do you support or oppose that policy?

	Total
	%
Strongly support	22
Somewhat support	39
Somewhat oppose	12
Strongly oppose	4
Unsure	23
<b>Base: All respondents</b>	<b>2,184</b>

FE18.

As far as you know, are there currently any federal regulations that would ban the sale of vehicles powered only by gasoline in the USA by some point in the future?

*Some states may have existing or proposed regulations about the sale of vehicles powered only by gasoline within that state. Here, we are only interested in federal regulations.*

	Total
	%
Yes	17
No	44
Unsure	39
Base: All respondents	2,179

**CONTACT:**

**Tess M. Yanisch**  
**Senior Research Associate**  
[Tess.Yanisch@consumer.org](mailto:Tess.Yanisch@consumer.org)