



USE OF ENERGY EXPLAINED

ENERGY USE FOR TRANSPORTATION

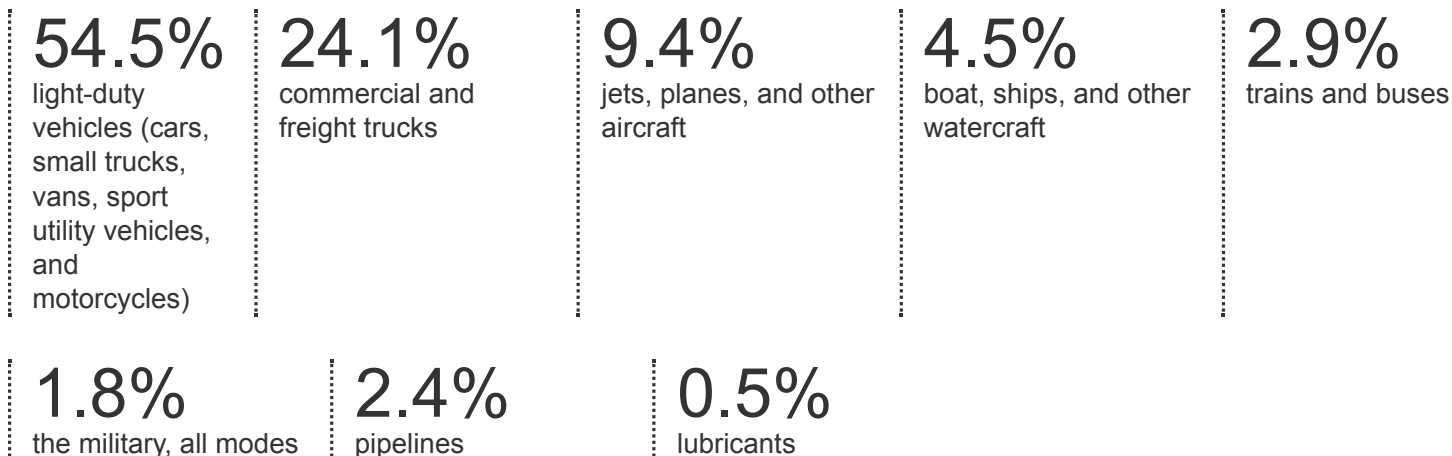


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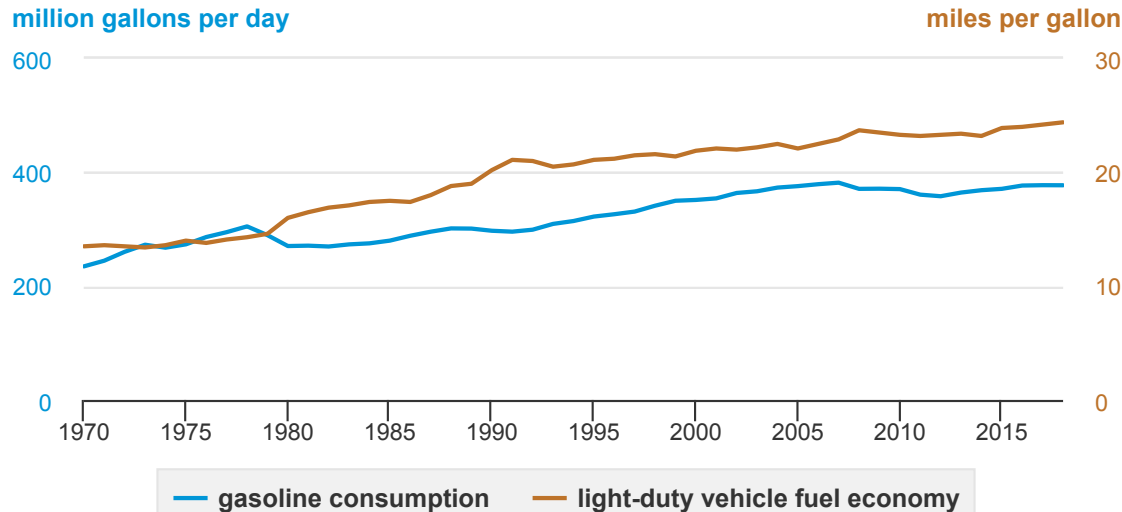
Cars, vans, and buses are commonly used to transport people. Trucks, airplanes, and trains are used to move people and freight. Barges and pipelines move freight or bulk quantities of materials.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration estimates that cars, light trucks, and motorcycles use the largest percentage of the total energy consumed for transportation in the United States.

Estimates for the shares of total U.S. transportation energy use by types or modes of transportation in 2019



U.S. motor gasoline consumption for transportation and light-duty vehicle fuel economy, 1970-2018



Note: Fuel economy data not available for 2017.

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Monthly Energy Review*, Tables 1.8 and 3.7c, May 2020

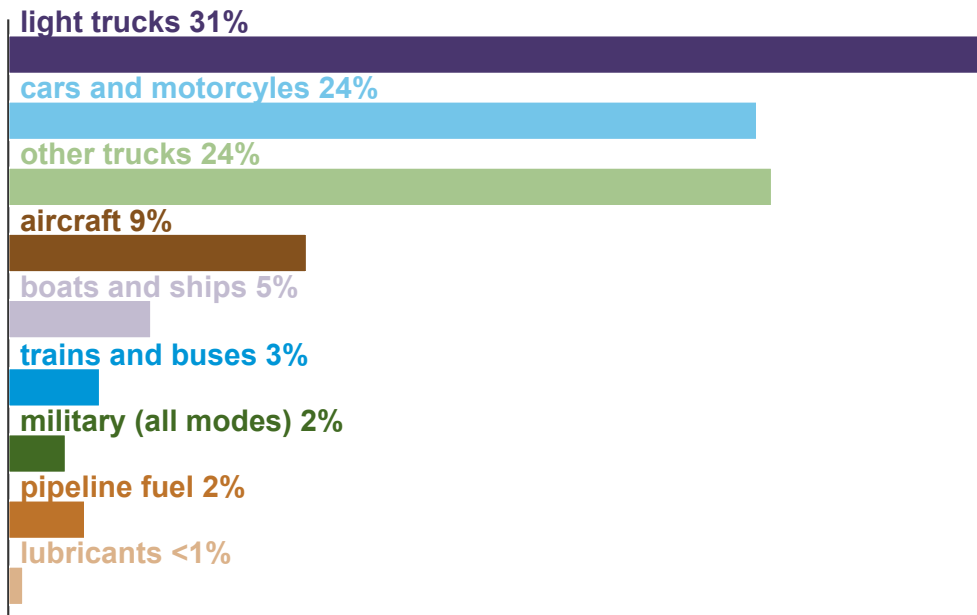


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U.S. gasoline consumption for transportation has increased even though overall fuel economy in cars and light trucks has improved

The national average fuel economy for [light-duty vehicles](#), which include passenger cars, pickup trucks, vans, sport utility vehicles, and crossover vehicles, has improved over time mainly because of [fuel economy standards](#) the federal government established for those types of vehicles. However, total motor gasoline consumption for transportation has generally increased after fuel economy standards were set because of increases in the number of vehicles in use—especially light pickup trucks, minivans, sport utility vehicles, and [crossover vehicles](#), which have lower fuel economy than many passenger cars—and in the [number of miles traveled per vehicle](#)

Transportation energy use by mode and type



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Annual Energy Outlook 2020*, Reference case, Table 35, estimates for 2019

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