

\$3.22 per gallon, 424 gallons per person: How we use gasoline

There are more than 4.5 million of us drivers in Washington – all gritting our teeth when we see \$3-plus at the gas station. We're taking a deep breath as we tally the fuel costs of our summer vacations, and trying to figure out if there's anything we can do to get costs down, short of leaving the car in the garage.

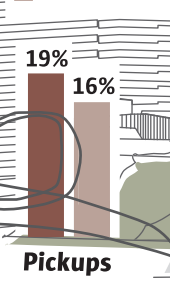
As we consider our options, we might wonder how we fit into the larger picture. Are we using more or less gasoline than other Americans? Are we finding new ways to get to work, or buying different kinds of cars? Here is a snapshot of how we use gasoline.

A SNAPSHOT: HOW WASHINGTON STATE RANKS

		NATIONAL RANK
Population	6,203,788 (2004)	15th
Per-capita income	\$35,299 (2004)	12th
CONSUMPTION		
GALLONS PER DAY, 2002		
Total petroleum	16.9 million	15th
Gasoline	7.4 million	17th
Distillate fuel (diesel and heating oil)	2.9 million	21st
Liquefied petroleum gas (heating, alternative fuel in cars or as refrigerant)	0.6 million	27th
Jet fuel	2.1 million	7th

WHAT WE DRIVE

2004 registered motor vehicles
Percent of total



SUMMER VACATIONS: WHAT THESE TRIPS WOULD COST

Calculations based on AAA regional prices as of May 2006

From Seattle to Yellowstone National Park, Wyo.
1,506 miles round trip

Sample car	Gallons used	Fuel cost
Ford Explorer, 4WD, 2004 19 mpg	79.26	\$235.12

Honda Civic, 2004, 38 mpg	39.64	\$117.56
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From Seattle to Olympic National Park, Wash.
168 miles round trip

Sample car	Gallons used	Fuel cost
Ford Explorer, 4WD, 2004 19 mpg	8.84	\$27.96

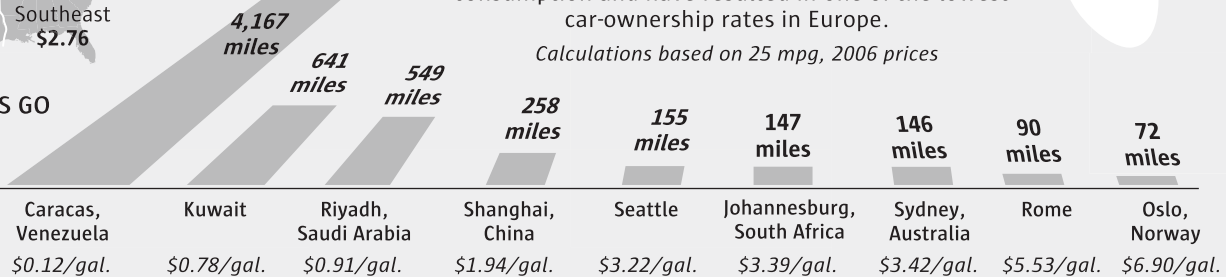
Honda Civic, 2004, 38 mpg	4.42	\$13.98
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To calculate the cost of your trip, go to AAA's site:
www.fuelcostcalculator.com

AROUND THE WORLD: HOW FAR YOU CAN GO ON \$20

Oil-producing nations such as Venezuela and Saudi Arabia keep gas prices cheap, but in Norway, the world's third-largest oil exporter, gas prices approach \$7 a gallon. Norway's policies limit fuel consumption and have resulted in one of the lowest car-ownership rates in Europe.

Calculations based on 25 mpg, 2006 prices



WHAT WE PAY

Regional prices as of May 2006

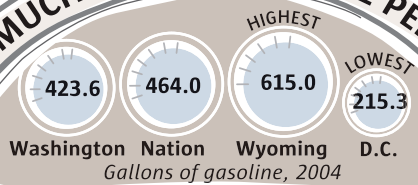


WHERE OUR GAS DOLLARS GO

For Washington, May 2006

- 55%: Crude-oil costs
- 28%: Refining and profits
- 16%: Federal, state taxes
- 2%: Distribution, retail profits

HOW MUCH GASOLINE WE USE PER PERSON



MORE THAN 1 VEHICLE FOR EVERY DRIVER

In Washington for 2004

Licensed drivers
4,504,581

Registered vehicles
5,623,000

TIME LOST IN TRAFFIC

We can expect to lose almost two days of our time in traffic each year.

For metro areas, 2003

DELAY PER TRAVELER
SEATTLE: 46 HOURS

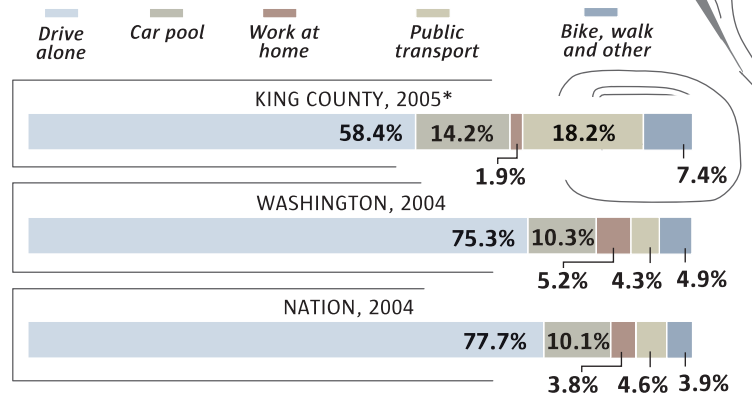
DELAY PER TRAVELER
SAN FRANCISCO: 72 HOURS

DELAY PER TRAVELER
NEW YORK: 49 HOURS

DELAY PER TRAVELER
PORTLAND: 39 HOURS

HOW WE GET TO WORK

It takes us an average of 25 minutes to get to our workplaces; more than half of us still drive alone in King County.



* King County Metro Transit Commute Trip Reduction survey

Note: Some percentages do not add up to 100 due to rounding

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Graphic by MICHELE LEE MCMULLEN/
THE SEATTLE TIMES

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy; Census Bureau, National Petroleum News "Market Facts 2004;" U.S. Department of Transportation; U.S. Department of Commerce; American Community Survey; Washington state Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development; AAA; Associates for International Research; New York Times; Texas Transportation Institute Mobility Study