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Fuel economy improves as EPA plans emissions rollback

By Alex Guillén

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Vehicle fuel economy increased slightly in model year 2018 vehicles and is expected to increase again in 2019 vehicles, according to [EPA's annual automotive trends report](#) released today.

Model year 2018 vehicles had a real-world fuel economy of 25.1 miles per gallon, up 0.2 mpg from 2017, the EPA said. Meanwhile, carbon dioxide emissions fell to 353 grams per mile, down 4 grams from the prior year. Preliminary data shows those real-world metrics will improve again in the 2019 fleet, to 25.5 mpg and 346 grams per mile, according to the EPA.

While both showed improvement, they “are a far cry from the unfeasible Obama Administration’s standards,” EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler said in a statement.

“These concerns are top of mind and play a key role in the finalization of our Safe Affordable Fuel Efficient Vehicles Rule with the U.S. Department of Transportation, which when finalized will reduce the cost of new vehicles and protect consumer choice,” Wheeler said. ([Reg. 2060-AU09](#))

The improvements are slower than envisioned under the Obama-era rules, but because automakers banked early compliance credits, “the industry overall does not face any non-compliance issues as of the end of the 2018 model year,” EPA's report concludes.

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