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EPA: Fuel efficiency dropped in 2019



[Ben Geman](#), author of [Generate](#)

Data: [EPA](#); Chart: Axios Visuals

The average fuel efficiency of cars and light trucks sold in the U.S. dipped in model year 2019, newly released [federal data](#) shows.

Why it matters: Transportation is the nation's largest source of greenhouse gas emissions. The overall trends (see *above*) show that the sector is far from steep emissions cuts.

How it works: [Per Reuters](#), "The shift to larger vehicles was the biggest factor hurting fuel economy. In 2019, 44% of the fleet were cars and 56% were light-duty trucks, a category that includes SUVs, the highest percentage of trucks on record."

What they're saying: EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler said the data justifies his agency's decision to weaken Obama-era rules on mileage and CO2 emissions to allow smaller increases through the mid-2020s.

- "This report shows in detail how few auto manufactures were able to meet the unrealistic emissions standards set by the Obama administration without resorting to purchasing emission credits," he said.

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<https://www.axios.com/epa-fuel-efficiency-carbon-emissions-7528cf4c-b74d-4c8b-9188-f89b9398b2ba.html>