

Gas mileage at all-time high

April 4 2014, by Bernie Degroat

(Phys.org) —Fuel economy of new vehicles sold in the U.S. is now at its best mark ever, say researchers at the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute.

Average fuel economy (window-sticker values) of cars, [light trucks](#), vans and SUVs purchased in March was 25.4 [mpg](#), up 0.3 mpg from a revised February figure and 5.3 mpg from October 2007, the first full month of monitoring, according to UMTRI researchers Michael Sivak and Brandon Schoettle.

In addition to average [fuel economy](#), Sivak and Schoettle issued a monthly update of their national Eco-Driving Index, which estimates the average monthly emissions generated by an individual U.S. driver. The EDI takes into account both the fuel used per distance driven and the amount of driving—the latter relying on data that are published with a two-month lag.

The EDI edged upward to 0.80 (the lower the value, the better) during January, on the heels of its two best months at 0.78 during November and December . The index currently shows that emissions of greenhouse gases per driver of newly purchased vehicles are down 20 percent, overall, since October 2007.

More information: Fuel economy calculations, along with a graph and table of current and recent mpg: www.umich.edu/~umtriswt/EDI_saves-weighted-mpg.html

Eco-Driving Index calculations, along with a graph and table of current

and recent values: www.umich.edu/~umtriswt/EDI_values.html

Provided by University of Michigan

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