

MPG: Label Values vs. Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) Values

Label MPG	CAFE MPG
1. Examples (MPG for average new car)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Today (MY 2014): 24 • 2025: 40 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Today (MY 2014): 31 • 2025: 50
2. Where you'll find it	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the Fuel Economy and Environment Label that is part of the window sticker on new vehicles on auto dealership lots • Websites: Fueleconomy.gov – EPA/DOE comprehensive vehicle website—and other vehicle search sites • Labels provide a single combined value, as well as separate city and highway values; automakers and/or dealers sometimes display only the highest of these three values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Average Fuel Economy regulations—The average fuel economy of a manufacturer's annual fleet of vehicle production must be at or above the defined standard ; see "Summary of Fuel Economy Performance" for details • Press articles about these regulations
3. Purpose	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide consumers with a real-world MPG estimate they can use to compare different vehicle models 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce energy consumption by increasing the fuel economy of cars and light trucks • Regulatory tool -- Vehicle manufacturers are required to comply with the CAFE standards, which increase every year, per the Light-Duty Vehicle Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards and Corporate Average Fuel Economy Standards
4. Derivation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on tests reflecting urban commuting, rural highway operation, high speed/acceleration, high temperature/air conditioning, and cold temperature operation • Methodology often referred to as 5-cycle testing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on tests reflecting urban commuting (city) and rural highway (highway) operation • Methodology often referred to as 2-cycle testing • Reflects various credits, incentives, and adjustments available to automakers
5. Comparison of Results	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Label MPG values are, on average, 20-25% lower than CAFE MPG values 	
6. Lead Agency	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), within the Department of Transportation (DOT)