

Real-World Driving Beats EPA Rating Good fuel economy is even better than advertised.

The EPA's fuel efficiency rating has become a big part of the decision when purchasing a new car. The MPG projection for a vehicle, when it's good, tends to factor big on its marketing and big in the mind of potential customers.

So what if you learned that number was wildly off?

Analyzing 37,000 fuel economy records across 8,400 different vehicle makes/models, AAA found that eight in 10 drivers report getting better fuel economy than the EPA ratings.

"For years, we've heard that drivers question whether the fuel economy rating for their vehicle is accurate," John Nielsen, AAA's managing director for automotive engineering and repair, told Automotive News. "In the interest of our members, AAA aimed to address this issue with a multiphase testing series designed to uncover the real reasons behind fuel economy variations."

So what in particular did AAA find?

Vehicles with a manual transmission had a fuel economy that was 17 percent higher than the EPA rating, diesel-powered vehicles were 20 percent higher, gasoline-powered pickups with V-8 engines were 5 percent higher, and, finally, sedans with nonturbo V-6 engines beat the EPA rating by 9 percent.

AAA researchers this year plan to take into account driver behavior such as acceleration rates and idle time to see how these particulars affect the fuel economy as well.

For those interested in some of Chevrolet's higher EPA-rated vehicles, we recommend checking out the Spark or Sonic. However, if you need something a little bigger but still want great economy, take a look at the Trax crossover or Colorado pickup.

Darcy De Leon 7/16/2015 1:01 PM

Comment [1]: No hyphen and one word, as per the AP Stylebook.

Darcy De Leon 7/16/2015 1:01 PM

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Darcy De Leon 7/16/2015 1:22 PM

Comment [2]: Because vehicles are not human and cannot "report."

Darcy De Leon 7/16/2015 1:02 PM

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Darcy De Leon 7/16/2015 1:05 PM

Comment [3]: Use semicolons to eliminate comma splices. As per AP's Ask the Editor section:

Comma splices/run-on sentences

Q. Lately I've been seeing a lot of sentences with commas separating two complete thoughts. It seems the younger generation does this all the time. Example: "We just have to continue to get better, we're really a pretty young team." Example: "The neighbors went nuts over it, they thought it was really cool." I was always taught to separate two complete thoughts with a se [more...]

A. These are run-on sentences, also known as comma splices. They require periods or semicolons instead of commas. 2010-12-06 (Source: Ask the Editor, Punctuation)

Darcy De Leon 7/16/2015 1:02 PM

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Comment [4]: To clarify and eliminate a misplaced modifier.

Darcy De Leon 7/16/2015 1:08 PM

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