

Great care should be taken when comparing modal energy intensity data among modes. Because of the inherent differences among the transportation modes in the nature of services, routes available, and many additional factors, it is not possible to obtain truly comparable national energy intensities among modes. These values are averages, and there is a great deal of variability even within a mode.

Table 2.11
Energy Intensities of Highway Passenger Modes, 1970–2003

Year	Cars			Buses		
	(Btu per vehicle-mile)	(Btu per passenger-mile)	Light truck ^a (Btu per vehicle-mile)	Transit ^b		Intercity (Btu per passenger-mile)
				(Btu per vehicle-mile)	(Btu per passenger-mile)	
1970	9,250	4,868	12,479	31,796	2,472	1,674
1975	8,993	4,733	11,879	33,748	2,814	988
1976	9,113	4,796	11,523	34,598	2,896	1,007
1977	8,950	4,710	11,160	35,120	2,889	970
1978	8,839	4,693	10,807	36,603	2,883	976
1979	8,647	4,632	10,467	36,597	2,795	1,028
1980	7,916	4,279	10,224	36,553	2,813	1,082
1981	7,670	4,184	9,997	37,745	3,027	1,051
1982	7,465	4,109	9,268	38,766	3,237	1,172
1983	7,365	4,092	9,124	37,962	3,177	1,286
1984	7,202	4,066	8,931	38,705	3,307	954
1985	7,164	4,110	8,730	38,876	3,423	964
1986	7,194	4,197	8,560	37,889	3,545	870
1987	6,959	4,128	8,359	36,247	3,594	940
1988	6,683	4,033	8,119	36,673	3,706	963
1989	6,589	4,046	7,746	36,754	3,732	964
1990	6,169	3,856	7,746	37,374	3,794	962
1991	5,912	3,695	7,351	37,732	3,877	963
1992	5,956	3,723	7,239	40,243	4,310	964
1993	6,087	3,804	7,182	39,043	4,262	962
1994	6,024	3,765	7,212	37,313	4,268	964
1995	5,902	3,689	7,208	37,277	4,310	964
1996	5,874	3,683	7,247	37,450	4,340	963
1997	5,797	3,646	7,251	38,832	4,431	963
1998	5,767	3,638	7,258	41,182	4,387	963
1999	5,821	3,684	7,324	40,460	4,332	964
2000	5,687	3,611	7,154	41,548	4,515	932
2001	5,626	3,583	7,074	38,341	4,125	c
2002	5,662	3,607	7,117	37,492	4,127	c
2003	5,572	3,549	7,004	36,628	4,160	c
<i>Average annual percentage change</i>						
1970–2003	-1.5%	-1.0%	-1.7%	0.4%	1.6%	c
1993–2003	-0.9%	-0.7%	-0.3%	-0.6%	-0.2%	c

Source:

See Appendix A for Highway Passenger Mode Energy Intensities.

^a All two-axle, four-tire trucks.

^b Series not continuous between 1983 and 1984 because of a change in data source by the American Public Transit Association (APTA).

^c 2001 data are not yet available.

