



## CFA POLL FINDS RECORD CONCERN ABOUT GAS PRICES & OIL IMPORTS

Public supports 60 MPG fuel standard for cars

### US consumers' concern about gas prices hits record levels

79% of respondents said they were “very concerned” (5 on a 1-5 scale) about future gas prices

This is the highest percentage of “very concerned” Americans since the Consumer Federation of America first started its regular polling on this issue in 2005— a time period that has featured US military involvement in the Mid-East and 2008’s oil price spike

In 10 previous surveys, the “very concerned” group ranged from 47% to 75%

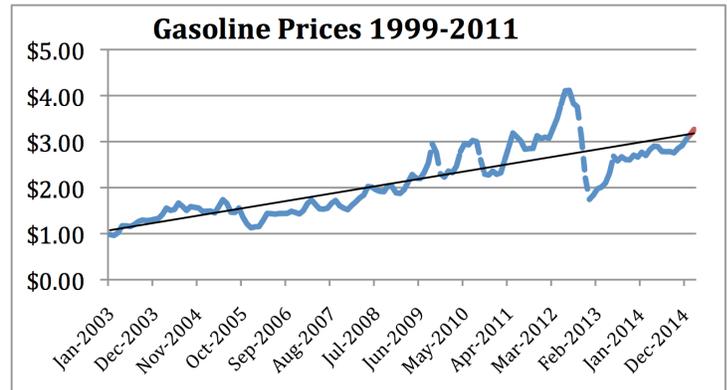
In the poll, conducted by Opinion Research Corporation, 90% of Americans expressed some level of concern about future gas prices

### US gas prices to hit historic highs in 2011

The Energy Information Agency is projecting that American drivers will pay an average \$3.56 per gallon for gasoline in 2011. If the EIA is correct, then:

- U.S. gasoline prices will be higher this year than ever measured in either current (nominal) or inflation-adjusted (real) dollars
- The average American household will spend more than \$2,800 on gas in 2011— also a new record

Despite the peaks and valleys in gas prices, the underlying trend is clear: prices are rising



### Middle class households are hit hardest, and worry most

Middle income respondents (income between \$25,000 and \$75,000) have very high levels of concern about price (83%) compared to other households (74%).

The 1/5 of Americans who have household incomes below \$20,000 are now spending 9.4% of their incomes on gas

Low- and middle-income households are now spending more to buy gas each month than they are spending on car payments, on average

Low- and middle income Americans were hit especially hard by the recession and already limit discretionary driving, and so are particularly vulnerable to rising gas prices

### American concern about dependence on Mid-East oil reaches new highs

74% of the CFA poll respondents expressed “great concern” over US dependence on Mid-East oil (5 on a 1-5 scale)

In 10 previous surveys since 2005, “great concern” about this issue never exceeded 60%



# Consumer Federation of America

## US car owners will save money through new technology

Consumers who purchase a car or truck with 60 mpg will save money within the first month of ownership

- This analysis assumes a five-year auto loan, with seven percent interest (the average rate for auto loans in the past twenty years), and gasoline prices at \$3.50/gallon
- By the end of the five-year auto loan, the consumer will have saved about \$2,000 for cars and trucks, and after ten years car owners will have saved \$5,000 and truck owners will have saved \$8,000.

## America's prospects for change in gas consumption is better now than ever

NHTSA/EPA analysis finds 62 mpg is a technologically achievable and economically beneficial target for 2025

Toyota and GM have said they can double fuel economy

Polls show public support for ambitious fuel economy goals

Seven US presidents have said we must lessen our reliance on oil

The Obama administration has the legal and administrative tools it needs to finally make progress toward that goal

## Public supports 60 MPG fuel standard for cars

By a nearly 2-1 margin (63% to 34%), Americans think the federal government should increase the fuel economy standard to 60 mpg by 2025, according to the March CFA survey

Support for higher fuel economy standards has remained strong throughout CFA's 11 surveys dating back to 2005, with 59% to 81% of respondents supporting the various fuel economy increases being considered each year

The two automakers that went bankrupt in the 2008-2009 recession—GM and Chrysler—had the lowest average fuel economy of the major firms that produce full lines of vehicles for the US market

**The United States can change the trajectory of our country's gasoline consumption, lower consumer expenditures, reduce our dependence on Mid-East oil and enhance national security by doing just one thing: dramatically increasing the fuel economy of the vehicle fleet.**

## More information at:

<http://www.consumerfed.org/pdfs/Gasoline-Prices-and-Expenditures-Report-3-16-11.pdf>



*About Consumer Federation of America: The Consumer Federation of America is an association of nearly 300 nonprofit consumer organizations that was established in 1968 to advance the consumer interest through research, advocacy, and education.*  
[www.consumerfed.org](http://www.consumerfed.org)