United States of America

The transport sector in the **United States** showed a very strong dependence on light-duty vehicles while lacking efficiency, road safety and affordable alternatives. The United States has the highest transport emissions globally, with the sector accounting for 29% of national GHG emissions in 2023. While freight activity increased slightly, passenger travel declined due to a fall in public transport and active mobility use. Light-duty vehicles consumed 8.4 Lge/km in 2022. Transport accounted for 15.4% of national air pollutant emissions in 2019 as well as 2.3 premature deaths per 100,000 people in 2019. Road traffic injury is another leading cause of death, claiming 14.2 lives per 100,000 people and accounting for 5% of the country's GDP in 2021. In 2020, only 56.7% of the population had convenient access to public transport.

Efforts to improve the sustainability of mobility and decarbonise transport can be mainly found in individual states, as they establish subnational mandates for biofuels and electric vehicle policies. The United States has an increasing electric vehicle adoption (9.5% of new car sales in 2023) but the carbon intensity of its electricity remains high, at 392.9 gCO_2/kWh in 2023. Adaptation actions in transport are limited. Public transport systems exist in major cities to a limited degree as supporting national investment and policy frameworks only provide minimal support towards service improvements or network expansions.

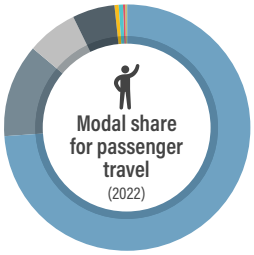
Income group: High-income		
Human Development Index (2023): 0.94		
Population size (2023): 327.62 million	**+5.50%** (2015 - 2023)	
Urban population share (2023): 82.34%	**+7.92%** (2015 - 2023)	
GDP per capita (2023): 63 585.02 USD	**+12.83%** (2015 - 2023)	
Share of transport and storage jobs in workforce (2023)		**10.8%**
Share of women employed in transport and storage (2023)		**28.5%**

Transport Demand Trends

Passenger transport activity

9 324 219 million passenger-km in 2022

-3.8% (2015 to 2022)



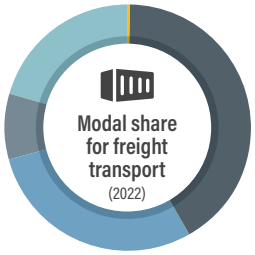
74.1%	Light duty vehicle
5.7%	Trucks
0.4%	Motorcycle
0.5%	Public Transport
0.3%	Walking
0.1%	Cycling
6.6%	Intercity bus
0.1%	Intercity rail
12.2%	Air

SDG 9.1

Freight transport activity

7 666 774 million ton-km in 2023

+2.8% (2015 to 2022)



0.4%	Air
41.4%	Truck
29.2%	Railroad
8.7%	Domestic water transportation
20.3%	Pipeline

SDG 9.1

Transport energy consumption (2022)

25 903 068 TJ

+1.2% (2015 to 2022)

Oil products

88.9% of total transport energy consumption

Per capita fossil fuel subsidies

SDG 12

— USD per capita

Fuel quality standards (2022)

<15 ppm

Average light duty vehicle fuel consumption (2022)

8.39 Lge/km

Road traffic fatalities (2021), WHO estimates

SDG 3.6

14.2 deaths per 100,000 people

13.2 Regional

15.0 Global

Road traffic fatality cost as percentage of GDP (2021)

5.0%

Premature deaths linked to transport air pollution (2019)

SDG 11.6

2.3 deaths per 100,000 people

1.7 Regional

2.3 Global

Contribution of transport to air pollution (2019)

15.4%

Transport Emission Trends

Transport GHG emissions (2023)

1735.9 million tonnes of CO_2 equivalent

+0.4% (2015 to 2023)

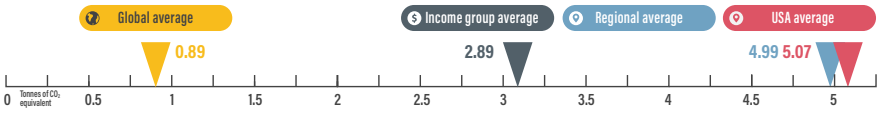
+0.7% (2022 to 2023)

2015 — 2023

Per capita transport GHG emissions (2023)

5.07 tonnes of CO_2 equivalent per capita

PER CAPITA EMISSION COMPARISON

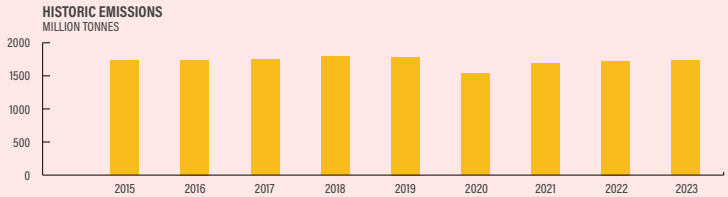


Transport is the largest GHG-emitting sector in the country in 2023.

Transport Decarbonisation Pathways

Transport strategy identifies climate change	✓
Long-term strategy submitted to UNFCCC	✓
NDC submitted:	1st, 2nd and 3rd NDC
NDC highlights transport for GHG mitigation	✓
Transport mitigation targets in NDC	✗
Other non-emission related transport targets in NDC	✗
VNR highlights transport	–

Transport GHG emissions from 2015 to 2023



Transport actions in VNRs

Transport actions in NDC

Mitigation

- Transport and land use planning
- Public transport improvement
- Active mobility
- Infrastructure improvements
- Financial instruments to support decarbonisation
- Freight actions
- E-mobility measures
- Hydrogen support measures
- Shipping improvement
- Jet fuel policies
- Innovations and digitalization

Adaptation

Policy Areas: Indicators and Targets

Integrated Transport Planning

National urban mobility framework (2024)	–
Sustainable urban mobility plans (2024)	–
Number of sustainable urban mobility plans (2022)	–
Low emission zones (2022) First nation-wide pilot in Santa Monica conducted in December 2022; Zero emissions delivery zones being developed in 8 cities	

Adaptation and Resilience

ND-GAIN Index (2022)	67.66
Vulnerability score for infrastructure (2022)	0.15

Walking

Walkability Score (2024)	–
National walking strategies (2024)	✕

Target (target combined with public transport and cycling)

- Increase the percentage of person trips by public transport and active transport modes from roughly 4% in 2020 to 6% by 2026

Cycling

Cycling infrastructure in capital (2022)	167 km of separated bikelanes
Percent near protected bikeways (2024)	–
Bike sharing systems (2024)	174
National cycling strategies (2024)	✕

Target (target combined with public transport and walking)

- Increase the percentage of person trips by public transport and active transport modes from roughly 4% in 2020 to 6% by 2026

Public Transport

Bus rapid transit (2024)	509 km of total length in 16 cities
Bus rapid transit daily passenger volume (2024)	502 389 passengers per day
Urban rail (LRT, metro, tram) (2024)	2 377 km in 41 cities
Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport (2020) SDG 11.2	56.72%

Intercity Rail

Rail network (2021)	148 553.3 km
Rail travel activity (2020)	12 460 million passenger-km
Rail freight activity (2021)	2 239 401 million ton-km
High-speed rail	–
High-speed rail travel activity	–
National plans for passenger and freight rail expansion (2024)	✓

Target

- Support the current freight rail market share and growth. Develop strategies to attract 50% of all shipments 500 miles or greater to intermodal rail by 2035.

Road Transport

Total road vehicles in use per 1,000 people (2020)	852.3
Road vehicle fleet growth (from 2015 to 2020)	9.40%
Rural Access Index (2019) SDG 9.1	–
Diesel prices (2022)	1.14 USD per litre
Gasoline prices (2022)	1.03 USD per litre

Aviation

Air passengers carried (2021)	666.2 million people
Air freight activity (2021)	46 004.6 million ton-km
Carbon-accredited airports (2023)	60 airports
of which carbon neutral:	5 airports

Shipping

Logistics Performance Index (2023)	–
Liner shipping connectivity index (Q4 2024)	102.6
Container port traffic (2020)	54 963 689.0 TEU

Transport Energy Sources

Biofuel blend overall mandate (2023)	Subnational mandates ranging from 2 to 20%
Biofuel blend biodiesel mandate (2023)	–
Biofuel blend ethanol mandate (2023)	–
Carbon intensity of electricity (2023)	392.85 gCO_2/kWh
Renewable energy (biofuels and electricity) share in transport (2022) SDG 7.2.1	6.2% of total transport energy consumption
Biofuels (2022)	6.0% of total transport energy consumption
Electricity (2022)	0.2% of total transport energy consumption
Targeted renewable power share	–

Vehicle Technologies

Emission standards for LDVs (2024)	Euro 4 and above
CO_2 emissions performance for passenger cars (2024)	90 g CO_2/km in 2023
Targeted CO_2 emissions performance (2024)	38 g CO_2/km by 2032
Regulatory environment ranking on used vehicles (2024)	–
Electric vehicles stock for passenger cars (2024)	4 700 000 vehicles
Share of electric vehicles in car sales (2024)	10 %
ICE phase-out targets	Sub-national (11 states by 2035)
Electric vehicles stock for vans (2024)	56 000 vehicles
Electric vehicles stock for trucks (2024)	–

This fact sheet is part of the SLOCAT Transport, Climate and Sustainability Global Status Report – 4th Edition. The country fact sheets have been made possible thanks to financial support from the ClimateWorks Foundation. Information presented in this fact sheet is based on desk research and may not be complete or reflect the most recent status. Data has been collected to the best of our knowledge and availability. Where no information could be retrieved, the indicators are shown in grey. The content does not represent the views of the SLOCAT Partnership on Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport or the ClimateWorks Foundation. For more information, please visit **gsr4.slocat.net**.

Supported by: Drive Electric CAMPAIGN

List of acronyms

GDP	Gross-domestic product
HDV	Heavy-duty vehicle
ICE	Internal combustion engine
kWh	Kilowatt-hour
LDV	Light-duty vehicle
LRT	Light-rail transit
NDC	Nationally determined contribution
PST	Primary, secondary or tertiary roads
TEU	Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
VNR	Voluntary national review of the Sustainable Development Goals
WLTP	Worldwide harmonised light vehicles test procedure

SDG 3.6 SDG 7.2.1 SDG 9.1 SDG 11.2 SDG 11.6 SDG 12