Chart of the Week #2022-13
U.S. Gasoline Sales vs. Vehicle Miles Traveled

Max Pyziur
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U.S. Gasoline Sales (LHS) vs. Vehicle Miles Traveled (RHS)

Analysis Based on EIA and FHWA/DOT Data

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U.S. Gasoline Sales vs. Vehicle Miles Traveled

- Over the last two decades and prior to the onset of COVID, trends in both U.S. gasoline sales and vehicle miles travelled (VMTs) have been increasing at small but positive annualized rates, 0.5% and 0.9%, respectively.

- The annualized rate for VMTs has increased 80% more than that for gasoline, implying that, overall, Americans are driving more but are using less gasoline.

- Factors that underlie driving behavior are complex. But clearly, motor vehicle fuel efficiency has been one of the reasons.

- This slide deck is available at: https://eprinc.org/chart-of-the-week/

- For more information on this chart, please contact Max Pyziur (maxp@eprinc.org).