

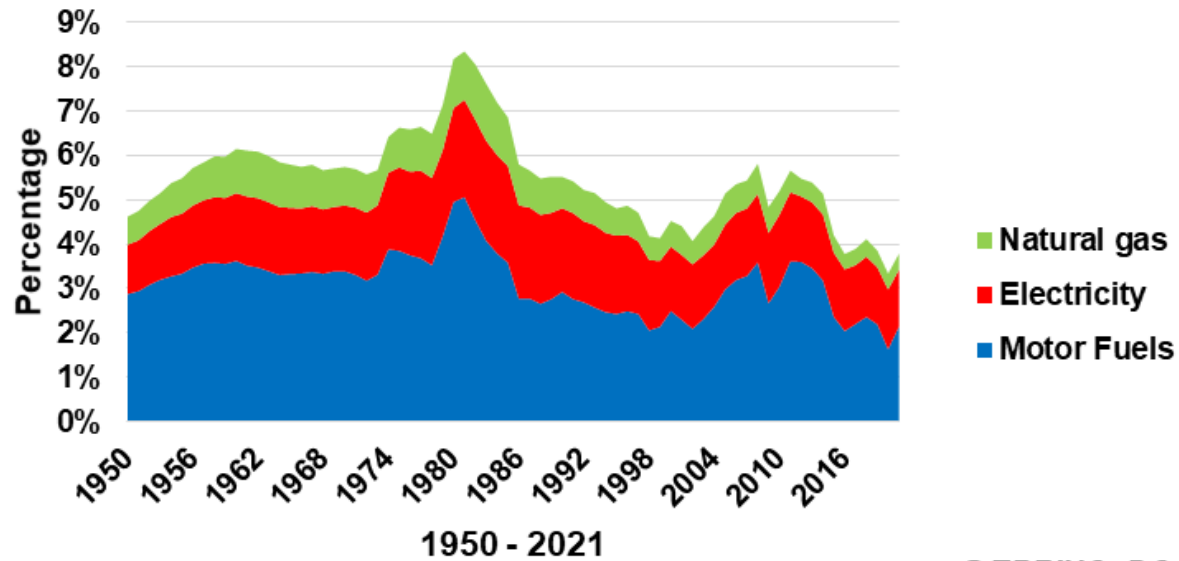
Chart of the Week 2022-06: **U.S. Consumer Energy Expenditures as a Percentage of Disposable Income**

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Washington, DC

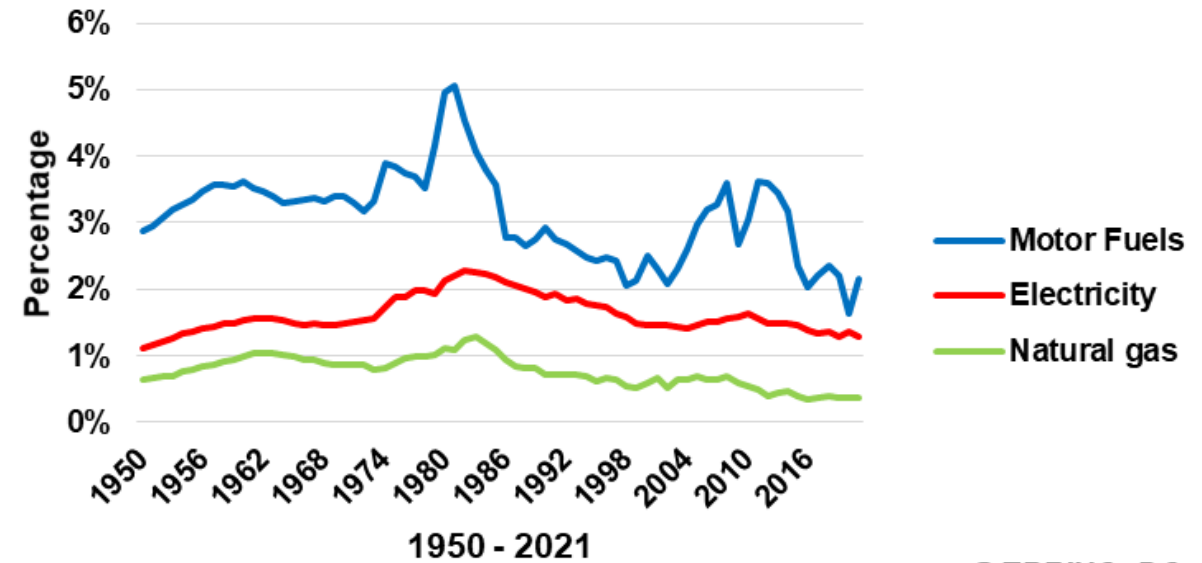
Two Views of U.S. Consumer Energy Expenditures



U.S. Consumer Energy Expenditures as a Percentage of Disposable Income



U.S. Consumer Energy Expenditures as a Percentage of Disposable Income



Two Views of U.S. Consumer Energy Expenditures



- Since 1950, the trend in total U.S. consumer energy prices (motor fuels, electricity, and natural gas) as a percentage of disposable income has declined from 4.6% in 1950 to 3.8% in 2021.
- However, motor fuel prices, the largest component of consumer energy prices and driven primarily by crude oil feedstock costs, have been volatile during this period. In the mid-to-late 1970s, political conflicts affecting Middle East suppliers brought on global crude oil shortages that pushed total U.S. consumer energy prices to 8.4% of disposable income in 1981.
- After a period of relief, new demand from developing countries in the 2000s (especially China) caused prices to rise again.
- In the last fifteen years, declining prices has come primarily from increases in North American crude oil supplies that have been developed using new drilling technologies. This is notable especially in an era of increasingly stringent environmental and pollution policies.
- In addition, various policies have been enacted, some of which have led to lower electricity and natural gas prices.
- 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).