

# newsworthy trends

## Motorcycles: A Fuel-Efficient Alternative

(NAPSA)—Over the past decade, U.S. motorcycle sales have more than tripled. While there are a number of reasons for this surge in popularity, one explanation is simple economics.

On average, motorcycles can get between 40 and 75 miles per gallon of gas. And even as gasoline prices are hovering near \$3 a gallon in many parts of the country, motorcycle riders can usually fill up their tanks for between \$7 and \$9. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, motorcycles consume 56 percent less fuel per mile traveled. In fact, the purchase of a motorcycle can sometimes pay for itself with the amount of gas savings.

Other noteworthy trends regarding motorcycles include:

- More women choosing to get behind the handlebars;
- The continued popularity of television shows about bike-building such as “Orange County Choppers” and “American Chopper”; and
- More people realizing a ride can be a great stress reliever.

### Miles Per Gallon

While many people have long dreamed about owning and riding a motorcycle, many consumers are now taking the plunge due to high fuel prices. And when they do, they quickly realize they can save money and have fun at the same time. In addition, motorcycles can be an effective way to conserve the nation’s oil supply. Studies show that if Americans would use a motorcycle instead of a car for one out of every 10 drives they make, we would save an estimated 4.2 billion gallons of gasoline per year.

With fuel efficiency as a gauge,



**Thanks to their fuel efficiency compared to other vehicles, motorcycles like this Kawasaki Ninja 250R are experiencing a massive surge in popularity.**

one way to start looking at motorcycles is by checking out the *Cycle World* magazine’s Econo-Shootout, a competition that ranks motorcycles based on mileage and sticker price.

The 2006 winner is the Ninja 250R from Kawasaki. With a suggested retail price of under \$3,000, it’s considered a motorcycle bargain—one that’s perfectly suitable for everyday use, for going to work or hitting the road on a pleasure ride. Plus, according to *Cycle World*, the bike gets an estimated 70 miles per gallon.

And as an added benefit for commuters, many municipalities allow motorcyclists to use highway carpool/HOV lanes—even if they’re riding solo.

To learn more about the Kawasaki Ninja 250R or other high-performance, class-leading motorcycles, please visit [www.kawasaki.com](http://www.kawasaki.com).