

Comparative Analysis of Gasoline and Electric Vehicles: Economic, Environmental, and Consumer Perspectives

Young He Lau

Burlingame High School,
Burlingame, CA 94010, United
States

27lauy78@stu.smuhsd.org

Abstract:

This study provides an in-depth comparative analysis of traditional fuel vehicles and modern electric vehicles from multiple perspectives, including economic impact, environmental benefits and consumer preferences. Fuel vehicles have dominated the market to date due to their proven infrastructure, low cost and long range. Although electric vehicles have an advantage in environmental protection due to their lower carbon emissions and the support of government subsidies, their popularity is constrained by factors such as insufficient charging infrastructure, limited range and high initial cost. This study analyzes the advantages and disadvantages of vehicles with different powertrains in terms of performance, cost of use, market influence, and technological development, and reveals the differences in the values of consumers of all ages when choosing a vehicle. By comparing the similarities and differences between fuel vehicles and electric vehicles in terms of usage experience, environmental impact, and long-term economic returns, the study points out that technology will continue to advance in the future, and the two will gradually learn from each other to create more intense market competition.

Keywords: Electric Vehicles; Gasoline Cars; Environmental Impact; Consumer Preferences.

1. Introduction

The automobile industry is classified by two major types of power output systems - traditional gasoline-powered vehicles and modern-day electric vehicles. The gasoline car has been the dominant means of transportation ever since its invention in the 1880s by Carl Benz. As this sets the standard, people over

the years have evolved this creation, allowing it to become faster, more reliable, appealing, and efficient. As it see today, there are constantly new concepts being introduced, sometimes turning what looks impossible into possible. Although they are the norm for transportation, the movement of gas cars requires the combustion of fossil fuels. This resource is limited and induces a harmful impact on the surrounding

environment. The time and money needed to maintain the health and structure of gas vehicles are not infinite, with high costs and frequent check-ups. Over time, the drivetrain will wear and tear, resulting in expensive parts that need to be repaired. Regardless of those obstacles, the gasoline vehicle remains ubiquitous due to the low initial cost, long-range competence, and sense of power.

However, the evolution of technology has led to electric and hybrid cars, making them the new alternative for everyday travel [1]. These vehicles address the concerns about carbon emissions in gas cars, as they produce significantly fewer harmful substances to the environment [2]. Whether the vehicle runs on full electricity or a combination of electricity and gas, the carbon footprint left behind would be a much lesser trace compared to full-on gas [3]. These cars are seen as a slightly pricier pick yet have a longer lifespan than a combustion-run vehicle. Governments and companies have been investing in this technology, where companies can take advantage of tax benefits, and government subsidies may provide aid, such as avoiding company car taxes [4, 5]. Electric vehicles (EVs) satisfy those who seek lower commute costs, improved health and safety, and modernized technology while also reducing environmental impact [6].

In the following sections, this study will compare the two vehicle models - gasoline and electric vehicles - analyzing their pros and cons, such as cost efficiency, environmental weaknesses, sales, and technological advancements.

2. Economic Impact and Benefits of Electric Vehicles

Electric and hybrid vehicles bring great economic benefits to consumers and businesses [7]. For consumers, it is the immediate savings of fuel efficiency and fuel costs. Especially due to the frequent gas price fluctuations, electric vehicles make life easier by “refueling” at charging stations or at home for a much lower price. EVs have fewer moving parts, reducing the need for oil changes and part replacements. Although the upfront costs of these driving machines are quite high, it brings long-term savings through lower operational costs, making them a cost-efficient choice over time. Additionally, governments offer tax incentives and rebates for EV buyers, which aids those who carry the financial burden of purchasing these vehicles. Furthermore, companies can use these incentives to attract more customers.

From a manufacturer’s perspective, positive reviews of EVs enhance the brand’s reputation, increasing customer loyalty. When people acknowledge the environmental benefits and cost-efficiency of electric vehicles, it builds

trust in the company and brand. These factors can boost higher sales, as consumers are more likely to purchase from companies they perceive as environmentally conscious and progressive toward the future. From an economic perspective, the push toward electric vehicles is not just beneficial for the environment but also helps manufacturers and buyers save money in the long run.

3. Market Presence and Consumer Appeal of Gasoline Vehicles

Gasoline vehicles continue to dominate the global car market, largely due to their already established presence and the marketing techniques manufacturers use. Make sure to pay attention to car advertisements because most ads for traditional gas cars often focus on performance, affordability, and efficiency. These vehicles are marketed as reliable for long-distance travel, with a widespread network of gas stations almost always within a couple-mile radius. This makes it easy for unlikely situations to be solved quickly, making gas stations convenient for consumers.

Despite the rising fame of electric vehicles, gasoline cars continue to compete against electric cars in some areas. Gas cars have the ultimate driving range and fast refuel times, which appeal to consumers who travel long distances. Additionally, gasoline engines continue to attract buyers who are skeptical of newer developed technologies. As an example, while electric cars have been adopted for their incredibly low emissions, advertisements for gasoline cars incorporate features like alternate fuel usage and hybrid cars. Especially hybrid cars have become a more eco-friendly, fuel-efficient alternative, giving these cars an increase in competition [8].

4. Performance and Environmental Comparison

Comparing the main values of gas and electric cars is essential to highlight their main differences in performance, cost, environmental impact, and how the car presents itself in the market [9]. Solely electric cars are quiet, emit fewer pollutants, and require less maintenance to maintain the longevity of the vehicle. Conversely, gasoline cars offer greater range, fast refueling, and cheaper offering prices. Gas and electric vehicles perform very differently from one another. Gasoline-powered vehicles are known for their long-range capacity. With a full tank of gas, they can go over 350 miles, and they can refuel at any gas station quickly. This makes it ideal for people who travel constantly and those who live in areas where charging sta-

tions still need to be established. Additionally, the engine performance of gasoline cars, especially in high-performance models, is known to deliver top-notch torque and more power during acceleration, which can make the driving experience much more exhilarating. However, these emotional benefits bring up significant trade-offs: gasoline cars are responsible for environmental harm and release high carbon emissions, which leads to long-term health and environmental concerns.

Contrary to gasoline vehicles, electric vehicles have created remarkable economic and technological leaps in recent years. Their rapid torque response allows for a smoother and quicker acceleration experience while the car's operation is quiet, making opportunities for a more relaxed driving environment. Although EVs face the limitation of having a shorter total mileage and battery depletion over time, advances in battery technology are gradually addressing these issues. Lithium-ion batteries are becoming more efficient, with newer versions comparable to their gasoline-powered predecessors, with ranges of over 300 miles per charge. Moreover, the increasing amount of charging stations and the availability of home charging offer more convenience. However, charging times may range from 30 minutes to several hours, depending on the power output of the charger. This is a major drawback compared to the quick refuel time of gasoline cars.

5. Cost Considerations and Government Incentives

Regarding expenses, both types of vehicles have different financial pros and cons. Typically, electric vehicles are more expensive upfront because of battery size and technology [10]. In contrast, gasoline vehicles are usually less expensive, making them more accessible to a wider range of consumers. However, fuel expenses, maintenance, and repairs are all going to mount up. But electric vehicles benefit from lower long-term operating costs. On the other hand, EVs do not require much maintenance due to the lower number of moving components compared to traditional gas cars. Besides, governments offer tax rebates and subsidies to encourage the sales of electric vehicles, further reducing the cost of ownership for EV buyers.

6. Environmental Impact and Sustainability

Environmental impact is another major factor when comparing the two. While gasoline cars emit large amounts of carbon dioxide and other pollutants, electric cars run solely on recycled energy or clean energy and decrease

the amount of pollutants significantly. However, challenges still exist in both contexts. For example, both types can experience trouble starting when weather conditions are too severe. Additionally, gasoline vehicles rely on fossil fuels, which are non-renewable resources that have limited amounts, unlike electricity, which can be renewed forever.

7. Consumer Preferences and Demographic Influences

Unique individual requirements also shape personal vehicle preferences and wants. Molded by their lifestyle and values, different ages have different suitabilities and access to many types of vehicles. For example, families often pick larger vehicles with more space, like vans, minivans, and SUVs. While for the more elderly, they might be drawn to classic cars, evoking the sense of how life was like back in their days, a sense of nostalgia. However, young adults and adults in early adulthood frequently lean towards modern, sophisticated, rich, high-performance, powerful vehicles.

Families would likely have at least one minivan or SUV to transport their children for daily activities. Families often favor these large, spacious vehicles because they can seat many and accommodate children, gear, luggage, and anything such as a family road trip. These vehicles are also flexible in seating configurations, making it easy to hold more people or more cargo, all with a simple pull of a strap. This makes vans and SUVs pretty practical when it comes to constant use every day.

For older people or people whose early years were back in the day, they might be attracted to classic cars. For example, a classic Rolls Royce or Mercedes represents technology and innovation during a specific period. It has a very different design from modern cars in this era and appeals to those who treasure the craftsmanship. For older generations, these cars aren't just regular cars; and they are a moving piece of history. Additionally, owning one of these cars may express status and innovation. The unique design, like the detailing, aesthetics, and shape, contrasts sharply with modern-day technology, which shows advanced features and aerodynamic efficiency. Also, older drivers prefer vehicles that are easy to operate and maintain, valuing history and simplicity over modern-day, complex, technologically developed cars.

On the other hand, teenagers or young adults frequently look for high-performance vehicles that represent status, wealth, and style. Brands like BMW, Mercedes, Porsche, and Tesla grasp their attention due to their sleek design, top-notch quality, comfort, and special features. One of

those special features is the equipped infotainment systems, which have built-in GPS and Bluetooth technology. The acceleration in these “designer” car brands is phenomenal, making them exciting options to consider when deciding on a car. They can also be equipped with autopilot, as Tesla has done. Owning a vehicle with some of these advanced features shows status, lifestyle, and values, just like the older generation, but in the present era.

Hybrids are perfect for parents who prefer a mix of gas and electricity, a longer mile range, and a fair amount of power. As previously mentioned, most people who buy hybrid cars are the ones who buy hybrid vans because they are affordable and offer comfort and space for a reasonable amount. Besides hybrid vans, the other options are small sedans, but they don’t attract much attention.

In the automotive industry, gasoline and electric vehicles each have unique qualities that appeal to the directed buyer. Gasoline cars are popular among those who prioritize power, familiarity, and affordability. Gas cars are most likely to be preferred by those who seek high performance in speed and power, as well as those who enjoy the vibe of the traditional car. In contrast, electric cars tend to attract those who are conscious about the environment, technologically interested, and quiet driving surroundings. EVs have gotten a reputation for the new definition of innovation and futuristic technology, drawing attention from all over the world. The simplified driving experience, less maintenance, and access to top-notch technology features like autopilot have made EVs more appealing to those looking for solutions for everyday travel.

Furthermore, parents who look for a balance between practicality and personal preferences may choose eco-friendly hybrid vehicles. These cars offer the desired spaciousness and features while also reducing emissions and fuel costs. Hybrids are especially appealing to environmentally concerned families that wish to reduce their environmental effects while maintaining the comfort and convenience of a larger car. The combination of electric and gasoline engines offers greater adaptability in driving, whether running errands around town or embarking on longer travels.

8. Conclusion

In the near future, electric vehicles will become more competitive, especially with better developments in battery technology and the buyer values they look for in an EV. Currently, manufacturing companies are investing a lot of money in plug-in and hybrid vehicles, combining both gasoline and electric power. A wide range of vehicle models are designed or tailored to satisfy the demands of various consumer needs and their willingness to positive-

ly contribute to the environment through their decisions when purchasing a vehicle.

However, one thing remains in common for both types of vehicles: Electric vehicles are limited by the amount of charging infrastructure across the globe, high up-front costs, and range capacity. The gas car’s design uses a combustion engine to propel the car’s structure forward. Still, the burning of fossil fuels is a non-renewable resource that causes the release of harmful substances into the airspace. However, the recent adoption of hybrid cars is slowly replacing fully gasoline-powered vehicles, reshaping the industry with a combination of gas and electric mixed into one vehicle.

Ultimately, the decision of the best type of car will depend on personal values, familiarity, or simply liking one over another. The transition from gasoline vehicles to electric vehicles reflects how far economic development has come, creating a shift in consumer values and preferences. While traditional gasoline-powered vehicles continue to uphold their place in the market due to set infrastructure, affordability, longer-range capabilities, and reliability, electric vehicles are rapidly gaining popularity. The economic benefits they bring, less environmental impact, and new, modern, up-to-date technology make them increasingly appealing to consumers and other corporations.

In the near future, the advancement of both technologies will continue building off of each other, creating shared values and increased competition. Gasoline cars appeal to those who put forth performance, affordability, and simplicity as their values in a car, while electric vehicles appeal to those who are environmentally conscious and interested in modern technology and a representation of status. Although status can be defined in different ways, it depends on how it is viewed through the car’s perspective. As the automotive landscape evolves, electric vehicles are gaining popularity due to the economic benefits and advanced technologies, which also attract big companies and corporations, with the government offering tax subsidies and rebates.

In the end, the differences in preferences across different demographic groups show the variety of the car industry because each group chooses cars according to its own needs, values, and way of life. Acknowledging these variations helps manufacturers better customize their products while also helping buyers select or personally customize the vehicle that fits their specific needs and wants. The rich and diverse automotive industry has been shaped by the many ways that people interact with their automobiles and the roles that those vehicles play in their lives.

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