

Based on data for 122 countries over 1970–2003, car ownership (per thousand people) is initially low at per capita incomes below US\$5000 in 2000 prices but increases rapidly with income levels thereafter.

The number of cars worldwide is projected to increase from 0.6 billion in 2005 to 2.9 billion in 2050. Note the rapid boom in ownership in China, with the boom in India lagging it by about a decade or two. China is expected to overtake the United States as the country with the largest car fleet in the world in 2030.

No. of cars in millions

Year	Advanced economies	Developing economies	USA	India	China	World
2005	457	189	153	7	21	646
2010	503	257	171	9	51	760
2020	601	445	211	19	134	1046
2030	695	778	253	55	255	1473
2040	785	1310	295	163	412	2095
2050	869	2038	337	367	573	2906

Share of worldwide car fleet (%)

Year	Advanced economies	Developing economies	USA	India	China	China & India
2005	70.7	29.3	23.7	1.1	3.2	4.3
2010	66.2	33.8	22.5	1.2	6.6	7.9
2020	57.4	42.6	20.2	1.9	12.8	14.7
2030	47.2	52.8	17.2	3.7	17.3	21.1
2040	37.5	62.5	14.1	7.8	19.7	27.4
2050	29.9	70.1	11.6	12.6	19.7	32.4

No of cars per 1000 people

Year	Advanced economies	Developing economies	USA	India	China	World
2005	482.4	34.7	513.2	6.5	15.8	101
2010	519.1	44.5	547.8	7.8	37.3	112.8
2020	596.4	69.1	624.1	14.5	94.1	140.4
2030	672.5	111	699.8	38	176.2	183.1
2040	749.1	175.4	777.4	106	287.2	246
2050	824.6	261.1	853.3	230.7	411.6	328.1