



GAS PRICES COULD HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON OUR HEALTH, FAMILY AND LIFESTYLE

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SURVEY SHOWS THAT RISE IN GAS PRICES COULD HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON OUR HEALTH, FAMILY AND LIFESTYLE

The Rise in Gas Prices Affects Where, When and Why We Drive

The rise in gas prices over the last several months has done more than just affect people's pocketbooks - it has also changed our relationship with our relatives, the way we take care of our bodies and who we may vote for in the upcoming election.

According to a survey by progressive.com, one of the most visited Internet sites on the Web, when asked what consumers would do less of if gas prices continued to rise, the survey found that gym and health club attendance could fall 24 percent and non-emergency preventive health doctor visits could fall by 33 percent. The survey also found that 43 percent of respondents would drive less to visit relatives if gas prices continued to rise. Additionally, 49 percent of people reported that they are driving less because of rising gas prices, with 53 percent reporting that gas prices will affect their summer vacation plans.

The 397 consumers were surveyed on progressive.com. Progressive is a leader in providing insurance products and services via the Internet.

"Every summer gas prices tend to rise, but this year they've increased much more sharply and much earlier than ever before, so we wanted to take a look at how the increases may affect people's driving habits," said Alan Bauer, Internet business leader, progressive.com.

Other interesting findings include: when asked what consumers would do more of if gas prices continued to rise, the number one answer was "spend more time on the Internet/computer," followed by "talk on the phone rather than visiting people" and "watch more television or movies at home." The survey also found that 35 percent of respondents said that high gas prices would affect how they will vote in the upcoming election.

Progressive (NYSE:PGR), headquartered in Mayfield Village, Ohio, is one of the nation's largest auto insurance companies. In business since 1937, the company provides all drivers with competitive rates and 24-hour, in-person services. The company sells its products over the phone (1-800-AUTO-PRO), on the Internet at



progressive.com and through more than 30,000 independent agents throughout the U.S. More information can be found at progressive.com.

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Alan Bauer is available for interview.

DID YOU KNOW THAT?

According to a progressive.com Countrywide Survey

No Doc, I Wasn't Going To Come In Until It Fell Off, Or Gas Prices Fell

The rise in gas prices could be hazardous to our health. A survey found that gym and health club attendance could fall 24 percent and non-emergency preventive health doctor visits could fall 33 percent.

Sit On These Health Ramifications

If fewer doctor and gym visits aren't enough, the study showed that gas price hikes could lead to a 52 percent rise in television viewership and a 55 percent rise in Internet usage. (Well, at least our channel changing thumb and our mouse fingers will be healthy.)

Gore, Bush Beware

A whopping 35 percent of respondents said that gas prices will affect their vote in the upcoming election.

La Familia!!! I Love You All! I'll Drop You A Letter

Gas prices will even affect the backbone of this country, the American family. Forty three percent of respondents said they would nix plans to visit relatives, 25 percent said that they would cancel plans to visit core family members like a parent or child, and 21 percent of those who answered the survey said they would cancel plans to see a family member in a performance.

Good News for E-Commerce

When asked what consumers would do more of if gas prices continued to rise, 55 percent said "spend more time on the Internet/computer," 53 percent said "talk on the phone rather than visiting people" and 52 percent said "watch more television or movies at home." Sixty percent of single people reported they would spend more time watching television or movies at home, versus 50 percent of married couples.

Gas Pains

Forty nine percent of people reported that they are driving less because of rising gas prices, with 53 percent reporting that gas prices will affect their summer vacation plans.

Not Being Sporty About It

Sixty eight percent of people driving sports cars reported to be driving less because of high gas prices, versus 42 percent of SUV owners.

I'm Taking A Trip To The Pump

Twenty one percent of respondents would drive between five to ten miles to save five cents on the price of a gallon of gas.



Benefit Not Seen

If you are hoping that a benefit of the gas shortage will be an increase in the use of public transportation -- fudgetaboutit, only 17 percent said they would turn to mass transit due to the high price of gas.

This Summer's Dinner And A Movie vs the Microwave And HBO

Thirty one percent of people would do less driving to movies if gas prices continue to rise, and 28 percent would drive less to go out to dinner.

Vacation this Summer vs A Beach Chair in the Back Yard

Twenty one percent of people reported that they would take a vacation closer to home due to high gas prices.

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Online Web 2.0 Version

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