

# Operating Costs are Flat for Third Consecutive Year

A number of variables are keeping fleet operating costs flat, primarily the dramatic drop in fuel prices that began three years ago, but also extended maintenance intervals, and lower commodity prices to manufacture tires. **BY MIKE ANTICH & LAUREN FLETCHER**

Calendar-year 2015 marked the third consecutive year that fleet operating costs have remained stable compared to the past three years, primarily due to the continuing softness in gasoline and diesel prices.

## HEAVEN-SENT FUEL PRICES

Fuel represents approximately 60% of a fleet's total operating costs, so the price per gallon of fuel has a dramatic impact on overall fleet costs. The past three years

have been heaven-sent for the fleet industry overall, however. It has had a dramatic impact on fleets operated by energy companies, which are scrambling to LUL costs to offset the decline in fuel prices.

In addition to lower prices at the pump, the cost reduction has been amplified by the ongoing trend for fleets to downsize to smaller vehicle segments and using smaller displacement engines, when applicable, along with increased driver training to eliminate "driving behavior".

Despite lower fuel costs, corporate sustainability programs remain strong at large multinational fleets. Although there may be less pressure for alternative-fuel vehicles, the focus continues to be to acquire the most fuel-efficient models that can fulfill the fleet requirement. In addition, newer model vehicles tend to have higher mpg ratings than preceding models due to lightweighting, the proliferation of higher-speed transmissions, and more efficient powertrains. The implementation of telematics systems, has al



## 2015 OPERATING COSTS - FUEL

VEHICLE SEGMENT	<24,000 MILES		24,001-48,000 MILES		48,001-80,000 MILES		80,001-100,000 MILES	
	CENTS PER GALLON	DOLLARS PER MONTH	CENTS PER GALLON	DOLLARS PER MONTH	CENTS PER GALLON	DOLLARS PER MONTH	CENTS PER GALLON	DOLLARS PER MONTH
COMPACT CARS	0.1011	\$181.47	0.1003	\$202.8	0.0948	\$206.34	0.1000	\$222.28
INTERMEDIATE CARS	0.1081	\$192.04	0.1034	\$207.51	0.0985	\$213.29	0.0965	\$221.64
MINIVANS	0.1391	\$296.39	0.1314	\$297.84	0.1314	\$301.37	0.1320	\$310.12
FULL-SIZE VANS	0.1900	\$241.94	0.1613	\$319.92	0.1876	\$348.67	0.1907	\$385.18
TRUCKS (CLASS 1-2)	0.1870	\$286.17	0.1762	\$324.76	0.1728	\$332.33	0.1756	\$333.08
SUVs	0.1291	\$270.24	0.1300	\$275.87	0.1236	\$292.67	0.1269	\$300.07
<b>TOTAL OPERATING COSTS</b>	<b>0.8546</b>	<b>\$1,468.25</b>	<b>0.8026</b>	<b>\$1,628.74</b>	<b>0.8087</b>	<b>\$1,694.67</b>	<b>0.8217</b>	<b>\$1,772.37</b>

## 2015 OPERATING COSTS - OIL

VEHICLE SEGMENT	<24,000 MILES		24,001-48,000 MILES		48,001-80,000 MILES		80,001-100,000 MILES	
	CENTS PER GALLON	DOLLARS PER MONTH	CENTS PER GALLON	DOLLARS PER MONTH	CENTS PER GALLON	DOLLARS PER MONTH	CENTS PER GALLON	DOLLARS PER MONTH
COMPACT CARS	0.0065	\$7.08	0.0065	\$9.27	0.0069	\$9.00	0.0051	\$9.56
INTERMEDIATE CARS	0.0040	\$7.65	0.0041	\$6.32	0.0058	\$9.18	0.0044	\$7.41
MINIVANS	0.0052	\$7.58	0.0052	\$9.34	0.0056	\$7.50	0.0043	\$8.36
FULL-SIZE VANS	0.0039	\$6.65	0.0063	\$8.10	0.0037	\$7.48	0.0050	\$7.22
TRUCKS (CLASS 1-2)	0.0049	\$7.58	0.0057	\$10.05	0.0058	\$12.16	0.0052	\$8.67
SUVs	0.0077	\$7.09	0.0053	\$7.37	0.0039	\$8.58	0.0040	\$9.22
<b>TOTAL OPERATING COSTS</b>	<b>0.0286</b>	<b>\$43.63</b>	<b>0.0331</b>	<b>\$50.45</b>	<b>0.0317</b>	<b>\$54.59</b>	<b>0.0280</b>	<b>\$50.44</b>

