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Americans' demand for EVs outstrips supply



Ford Mustang Mach E electric vehicles are offered for sale at a dealership in Chicago. Hybrids and all-electric vehicles have seen a jump in demand from the oil crisis caused by the war in Iran. SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Production cuts leave fewer cars for buyers

John Paul Helveston
George Washington University
THE CONVERSATION

Within three months of the U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran on Feb. 28, the average price of gasoline for American drivers climbed from $2.94 to $4.35 a gallon. If there was ever a moment for Americans to switch to electric vehicles, this was it.

From March to May, in fact, sales of hybrid electric vehicles were 18% higher than over the same months in 2025.

But sales of fully electric vehicles were 16% lower from March to May compared with the same months in 2025. Some observers took that as evidence that high gas prices alone wouldn't push Americans toward fully electric cars, but that conclusion misses half the story.

I study car buyers and their preferences, and there is an important distinction between what consumers want

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The United States has effectively shut out Chinese automakers, even though nearly three-quarters of the world's electric cars are built in China. KEVIN FRAYER/GETTY IMAGES FILE

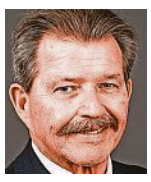
The average new car now sells for about $50,000 and the average new electric vehicle for about $55,000, according to Kelley Blue Book, a company that tracks car prices.

Official: GA lottery has plenty for HOPE

Wayne Ford
Wayne Ford
USA TODAY NETWORK

Unlike the lottery in Tennessee, a veteran Georgia state House representative recently said that he sees no shortage of funds for education in the state's lottery.

"There is a lot of money over there. That's in good shape," said Hartwell Republican state Rep. Alan Powell, who is chair of the state House Regulated Industries Committee, which serves as a financial check for the lottery.


Powell

Declining lottery revenue could force significant cuts to Tennessee's HOPE Scholarships as early as next fall, according to reporting in The Tennessean, a USA Today Network publication. Lottery ticket sales are projected to fall about $15 million this year as sports betting and prediction markets such as Kalshi and Polymarket draw gamblers away.

"I haven't seen the dollars for this quarter, but remember Tennessee has a different situation. I don't think their lottery is as established as we are in Georgia," Powell said about a lottery that began in 1992. "When I tell you there is a surplus of money over at the lottery commission, there is a surplus."

The Georgia Lottery Corporation confirmed the financial status that Powell described.

The lottery returned more than $1.54 billion to the state treasury's Lottery for Education account in fiscal year 2026, marking the 11th consecutive year that the lottery has surpassed $1 billion in profits for education and exceeding fiscal year 2025 by $69.5 million, Tandi Reddick, communications director for the lottery, said on Nov. 18.

"There are many factors that could impact sales, including the economy, gas prices, jackpot sizes and inclement weather," she said. "Consumers have a variety of entertainment options competing for their discretionary dollars, and these factors certainly influence spending decisions."

Reddick said the lottery corporation does not have any data on the potential impact of prediction marketing or other methods of gambling on lottery sales in Georgia.

Messages left with officials for the Georgia Student Finance Commission and the state House Appropriations for Higher Education Subcommittee were not immediately returned last week.

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Eight arrested in Athens, Oconee County vehicle break-in sprees

Wayne Ford
Athens Banner-Herald
USA TODAY NETWORK

Eight suspects from Athens have been arrested in connection with a rash of more than 100 entering auto crimes in Athens that recently spread into Oconee County.

Athens-Clarke police have charged five suspects, while Oconee County sheriff's deputies charged three. All of the suspects reside in Athens and range in age from 16 to 21. They have denied the crimes were connected as an organized group, according to police.

"They are saying they were doing these entering autos independently of one another," Athens-Clarke police Lt. Katie Jenkins said Thursday.

In Athens, numerous entering autos occurred in early October in neighborhoods dominated by University of Georgia students in an area of north Athens between MLK Jr. Parkway and North Avenue.

Then a second surge of crimes occurred in southwest Athens in the Puritan Mill Athens and River Club Apartments area later that month.

During the crime spree, six vehicles were stolen and five have been recovered, police reported. In addition, one suspect was arrested following a

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