

Fuel Mileage - Are MPG Values On Sticker Real?

by Ken Dunipace

I've had a 2006 MX-5 for a year now and have driven it for 7801 miles including a 2626 mile trip to Florida, two rallies, and five SCCA solo events. I've kept track of my fuel mileage consumption (tables below).

The table to the right shows the total mileage (7801), total fuel consumption (296 gals.) and overall mileage (26.7 mpg). This table also notes the fill-ups during the trip and after each solo event (which turned out to be a non-factor). The table below left shows only the Florida trip mileage which was generally interstate highway mileage at speeds that were not exorbitantly above the posted limits for the various parts of the trip, and included some mileage driving around Cocoa Beach, Stuart, and Holmes Beach. Mileage was better during the northern parts of the trip where the posted speeds were lower and while my wife was with me on the return trip. Mileage was worst during the parts of the trip that included city driving. This table also shows the 'fuel efficiency' (?) (13.9 miles per dollar). The table below center shows only the remainder of my driving which has been mostly city driving around Indianapolis, but does include a couple of trips to Columbus and one to Grissom for SCCA solo events.

Overall, my results have been remarkably consistent with the specifications (25 city / 30 highway) posted on the window sticker.

Overall Fuel Economy

Date	Distance	Gallons	mi/gal	notes
10/6/05	199.5	7.73	25.81	
10/14/05	232.6	8.54	27.24	
10/20/05	169.6	6.06	27.99	
11/2/05	126.2	5.85	21.57	
11/11/05	190.6	7.46	25.55	
11/30/05	156.9	7.16	21.91	
12/10/05	168.9	7.87	21.46	
12/17/05	143.8	5.94	24.21	
12/31/05	185.4	7.67	24.17	
1/22/06	221.9	9.5	23.36	
2/7/06	164.5	7.12	23.10	
2/12/06	166.7	5.16	32.31	
2/23/06	166.9	7.22	23.12	
2/23/06	186.3	6.085	30.62	t
2/23/06	184.5	6.228	29.62	t
2/24/06	234.4	7.272	32.23	t
2/25/06	197.3	6.678	29.54	t
2/25/06	285.1	9.787	29.13	t
2/27/06	194.9	6.674	29.20	t
2/28/06	194	6.823	28.43	t
2/1/29	155.3	5.067	30.65	t
3/1/06	219.5	7.397	29.67	t
3/1/06	246.9	7.974	30.96	t
3/2/06	225.4	7.094	31.77	t
3/3/06	302	9.94	30.38	t
3/11/06	220	9.08	24.23	
3/26/06	256.8	10.2	25.18	
3/30/06	214.9	8.03	26.76	
4/7/06	266	10.17	26.16	
4/18/06	190.4	7.78	24.47	
4/27/06	237.3	9.72	24.41	
5/6/06	227	9.16	24.78	a
5/9/06	184.3	6.51	28.31	a
5/20/06	225	8.62	26.10	
5/21/06	241.2	8.67	27.82	a
5/29/06	272.2	10.37	26.25	a
6/5/06	211.4	8.1	26.10	
9/21/06	225.3	9.28	24.28	
Overall	7890.9	295.989	26.66	

t - trip to Florida, mostly interstate highways
a - includes autocross competition

Trip to Florida (mostly highway)

Date	Distance	Gallons	Cost	mi/gal
2/23/06	186.3	6.085	\$12.77	30.6
2/23/06	184.5	6.228	\$12.82	29.6
2/24/06	234.4	7.272	\$15.48	32.2
2/25/06	197.3	6.678	\$13.79	29.5
2/25/06	285.1	9.787	\$22.50	29.1
2/27/06	194.9	6.674	\$16.01	29.2
2/28/06	194	6.823	\$15.00	28.4
2/1/29	155.3	5.067	\$11.19	30.6
3/1/06	219.5	7.397	\$15.90	29.7
3/1/06	246.9	7.974	\$16.74	31.0
3/2/06	225.4	7.094	\$15.39	31.8
3/3/06	302	9.94	\$22.05	30.4
Totals	2625.6	87.019	\$189.64	30.2(avg)

Averages Miles/\$ 13.85 Avg. \$/Gal. \$2.18

City Fuel Economy

Date	Distance	Gallons	mi/gal
10/6/05	199.5	7.73	25.81
10/14/05	232.6	8.54	27.24
10/20/05	169.6	6.06	27.99
11/2/05	126.2	5.85	21.57
11/11/05	190.6	7.46	25.55
11/30/05	156.9	7.16	21.91
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3/26/06	256.8	10.2	25.18
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4/27/06	237.3	9.72	24.41
5/6/06	227	9.16	24.78
5/9/06	184.3	6.51	28.31
5/20/06	225	8.62	26.10
5/21/06	241.2	8.67	27.82
5/29/06	272.2	10.37	26.25
6/5/06	211.4	8.1	26.10
9/21/06	225.3	9.28	24.28
Overall	5265.3	208.97	25.20

