The Increasing Role of Diesel Trucks in National Petroleum Use

Ontario Exhibit Hall, Level 3
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Transport Diesel Use Had a Large Net Oil Use Increase; Never Dropped Like Other Sectors, Was Never <’77 Value
We examine the changed mix of U.S. oil demand and multi-decade trends in truck fuel use to show:

- Highway transport activity growth, for heavy trucks in particular, is closely tied to nation’s economic growth
- Transport diesel total growth in use was a close 2\textsuperscript{nd} to gasoline. It never matched oil use drops in other sectors.
- Advantages of truck freight transport caused truck energy share to increase, despite rail and water modes’ better fuel efficiencies
- Diesel truck fuel efficiency improved significantly between 1982 and 2002
- Most single unit trucks are used within 50 miles of base
- Diesel trucks are used far more intensively than gasoline trucks