

## Macro Roundup Article

**Headline:** [America's Obsession with Big Cars Has Fatal Consequences](#)

**Article Link:** <https://www.ft.com/content/a75a6623-67f4-41d1-a0ca-cedc9fda4f90>

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Publication	Financial Times
Publication Date	February 24, 2023

**Tweet:** [Pedestrians' deaths in America have risen 57%, in part because Americans prefer larger cars \(fully half a ton larger than the European average\). @jburnmurdoch](#)

**Summary:** 43,000 people died on America's roads in 2021, the highest mortality rate in the developed world by some margin. The average new American car purchased in 2021 weighed 1.94 tons, fully half a ton more than the European average. Purchases of SUVs and "light" trucks together now account for four out of every five new vehicles bought in the US, up from one in five 50 years ago. This would all be a mere curiosity except that these vehicles have a variety of lethal qualities. As American cars have bulked up, the number of fatalities for the drivers and passengers inside these rolling fortresses has fallen by 22 per cent. But the number of pedestrians killed has risen by 57 per cent. According to an estimate by Justin Tyndall, assistant professor of economics at the University of Hawaii, the lives of 8,000 pedestrians could have been saved between 2000 and 2018 if Americans had stuck to smaller vehicles.

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