The components into which petroleum can be split have various uses. Petroleum uses include fuel for vehicles, to heat homes and to generate electricity.

Over two-thirds of all territories are net importers of refined petroleum. The biggest net importers are the United States, Japan and Hong Kong. The value of net refined petroleum imports to the United States is almost three times larger than the imports to Japan, the second biggest net importer.

Taking regions as a whole, the highest net importer is North America, followed by Western Europe, then Asia Pacific. Indonesia and Viet Nam both have imports that are four times larger than those to any other territory in Asia Pacific.

Territory size shows the proportion of worldwide net imports of refined petroleum (in US$) that are received there. Net imports are imports minus exports. When exports are larger than imports the territory is not shown.

“In fact China, with a fifth of the world's population, consumes only 4% of the world's daily oil output. It imports about three million barrels a day. A lot to be sure, but far below American consumption.”

Rupert Wingfield-Hayes, 2006

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