

Electric Vehicles in the News, 2019-2026: Attention, Geography and Tone of Global Coverage, and How It Compares with Research and Invention

Fliar BI · Prism Research Layer · Working paper, October 2026 · Dataset and code: github.com/fliarbi/prism-news-api · Licence CC BY-NC 4.0

Abstract

We measure how electric vehicles were covered in a global news index from January 2019 to July 2026, using 505,323 de-duplicated articles, and set that coverage beside 57,163 research papers and 124,376 patent families on electric vehicles. Six results stand out:

1. **Rise and fall of attention.** Electric vehicles took 23.99 of every 10,000 news articles in 2019 and 41.38 in 2023, a 1.72-fold rise. The share then fell 22.1% to 32.25 in 2025. The low point was 2020, at 20.18.
2. **Geography.** India's share of located electric-vehicle news is 1.83 times its share of all news. The United States, the largest source of located articles (31.8%), is under-represented at 0.66. Among the ten largest sources, China (3.87) and Germany (2.6) are the most over-represented. By continent, only Asia (1.78) and Europe (1.03) are above 1.
3. **States.** Within India, Telangana (3.31), Tamil Nadu (2.97) and Karnataka (2.42) lead. Within the United States, Michigan (5.19), California (2.3) and Nevada (2.16) lead.
4. **Tone.** 77.7% of electric-vehicle articles are positive in tone (all news: 56.8%), and 20% are negative (all news: 33.6%). In India the negative share is 7.8%, against 41.2% for Indian news overall.
5. **Shifting attention.** Between 2023 and 2025 the topic's share of national news fell in France (0.33 times), Canada (0.4) and China (0.59), and rose in Nigeria (1.4), the Philippines (1.37) and Turkey (1.21).
6. **Research and invention.** Electric-vehicle papers grew from 3.73 to 14.51 per 10,000 papers between 2015 and 2025 (3.89 times). Patent families grew 2.65-fold from 2015 to 2024, and China's office held 78.9% of office filings.

Findings stated for citation

- **F1.** Electric vehicles' share of news rose 1.72-fold from 2019 (23.99 per 10,000) to 2023 (41.38).
- **F2.** The share fell 22.1% from 2023 to 2025 (32.25 per 10,000).
- **F3.** 2020 was the low point, 15.9% below 2019 (20.18 per 10,000).
- **F4.** India's share of located electric-vehicle news (24.22%) was 1.83 times its share of all news. The United States' (31.8%) was 0.66 times.
- **F5.** Among the ten largest sources, China (3.87) and Germany (2.6) were the most over-represented countries.
- **F6.** 77.7% of electric-vehicle articles were positive in tone, 1.37 times the all-news share.

- **F7.** Charging-network expansion was a theme of 12.82% of themed articles, 154.07 times its rate in all news.
- **F8.** Government incentives appeared in 7.32% of themed articles, 154.59 times their rate in all news.
- **F9.** 1.95% of raw matches were other senses or templated items, such as "EVs" meaning extracellular vesicles.
- **F10.** Electric-vehicle papers rose 3.89-fold as a share of all papers between 2015 and 2025.
- **F11.** China's office held 78.9% of office filings of electric-vehicle patent families (2015–2024).
- **F12.** Electric-vehicle patent families published per year grew 2.65-fold between 2015 and 2024.
- **F13.** Within India, Telangana (3.31), Tamil Nadu (2.97) and Karnataka (2.42) had the most over-represented coverage.
- **F14.** Within the United States, Michigan (5.19), California (2.3) and Nevada (2.16) had the most over-represented coverage.
- **F15.** The topic's share of national news fell in France (0.33 times) and Canada (0.4 times) from 2023 to 2025, and rose in Nigeria (1.4 times) and the Philippines (1.37 times).
- **F16.** Indian electric-vehicle news was 7.8% negative, against 41.2% for Indian news overall.

1. Introduction

Electric vehicles are at the centre of the transition away from fossil fuels in road transport. They are also a subject of industrial policy, trade disputes and consumer debate. News coverage shapes how the public and policy-makers see the technology, its costs and its pace. Yet coverage is rarely measured as data in its own right. Sales statistics record vehicles. Bibliometric studies record research. Few sources record attention, meaning how much of the news electric vehicles take, and when, where and in what tone.

This paper and its dataset do that. They combine three records for one topic: a global news index, research papers and patents. Each comparison uses a denominator, so that growth in the index or in publishing is not mistaken for growth in interest. The companion dataset publishes an article-level sample (63,173 rows) and full coverage tables, so every figure here can be re-derived. The [Prism News API](#) serves the full history.

2. Data and methods

News. The Prism news index holds articles from outlets worldwide; non-English articles are indexed in English translation. Each article carries its opening text (the first few sentences), a primary location, a graded tone label, an editorial priority rating (1–9), themes, keywords and named organisations. We count unique article identifiers; repeated rows for the same article are removed. When this release was built, 92.88% of the index was readable, so all counts are lower bounds.

Matching. An article is about electric vehicles when its opening text contains one of 20 whole-word terms: *electric vehicle(s)*, *electric car(s)*, *EVs*, *EV sales*, *EV charging*, *plug-in hybrid(s)*, *battery electric*, *electric scooter(s)*, *electric two-wheeler(s)*, *electric bus(es)*, *electric truck(s)*, *e-mobility* and *electric mobility*. Broad terms such as "charging station"

were tested and dropped, because they also match phone charging and business listings. Three families of matches are excluded:

- biomedical uses of "EVs" and "exosomes" (extracellular vesicles);
- investment-filing templates ("grew its position in shares of...", "13F filing");
- market-report listings ("market research report", "latest report").

Together these removed 10,040 of 515,363 raw matches (1.95%). One reviewer read 40 randomly drawn matched openings, and a second reviewer re-checked them. 37 used the terms for electric road vehicles, their charging or their industry (precision 92.5%). In 34 (85%) electric vehicles were the main subject. The three false positives were a personal electric scooter used as a mobility aid and two templated market-research listings that the exclusions did not catch.

Measures. Coverage over time is expressed per 10,000 articles in the index that month or year, because the index grew from 11,807,177 articles in 2019 to 26,990,006 in 2025. Year comparisons use the complete years 2019–2025. Geography, tone, priority and themes use January 2023 – July 2026. Geography is expressed as lift: a country's share of electric-vehicle articles divided by its share of all located articles. State lift uses the same rule within India and within the United States. Place tags derived from ordinary words ("Congress", "Earth", "Winter", "Cloud", "Mobile", "Hurricane"; 714 such words) were treated as unlocated in every location field, which removed 15.3% of city-tagged articles.

Research and patents. Research papers are de-duplicated articles and reviews (2000–2025) with an electric-vehicle term in the title (electric vehicle, electric car, plug-in hybrid, battery electric, electric bus, electric truck, vehicle-to-grid, EV charging, electric two-wheeler, electric mobility). Repository deposits are excluded. Patent families (2006–2024) use a similar title rule that adds the Chinese filing terms "new energy vehicle" and "charging pile". They are counted once per filing office, and toy and car-accessory titles (seat, window, mirror) are excluded.

3. Results

3.1 How much and when

The index holds 505,323 electric-vehicle articles from January 2019 to July 2026. Raw counts rose from 28,322 in 2019 to 93,070 in 2024. As a share of all news, coverage rose from 23.99 per 10,000 in 2019 to a peak of 41.38 in 2023, then fell to 39.92 in 2024 and 32.25 in 2025 (Table 1). The low point was 2020, at 20.18 per 10,000. That is 15.9% below 2019. The highest regular monthly share was April 2024, at 46.65 per 10,000 (Figure 1). February 2026 shows a higher value (52.28), but it comes from a single-day batch of articles dated 15 February 2026 and is treated as an artefact.

Year	Electric-vehicle articles	All articles in index	Per 10,000
2019	28,322	11,807,177	23.99
2020	32,752	16,230,014	20.18
2021	58,542	17,281,220	33.88
2022	74,657	19,115,515	39.06
2023	84,771	20,484,506	41.38
2024	93,070	23,311,896	39.92
2025	87,031	26,990,006	32.25

Table 1. Electric-vehicle articles per year and as a share of the index. 2026 (January-July) is partial and omitted.

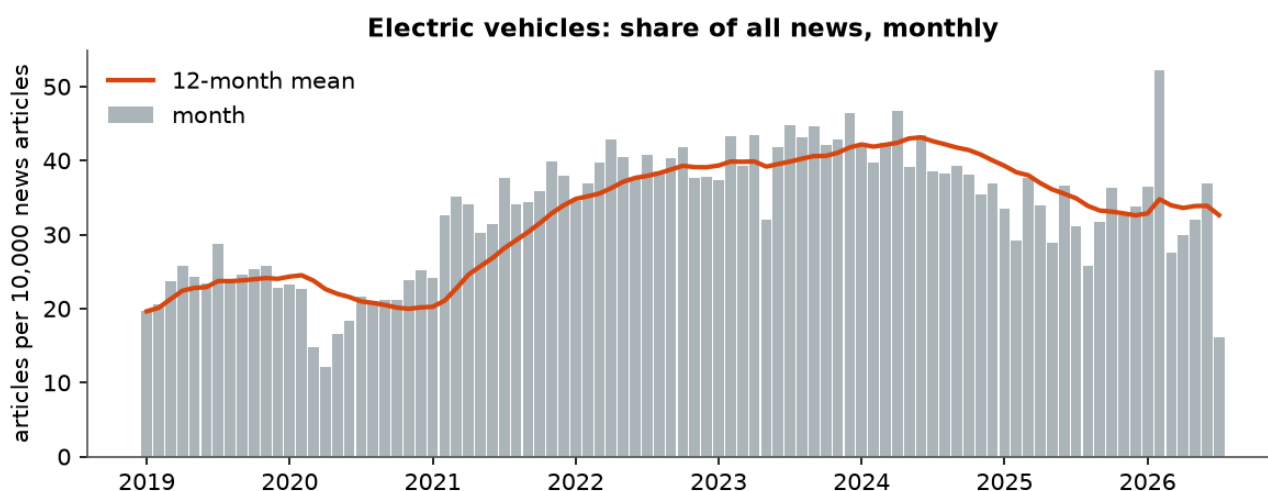


Figure 1. Electric-vehicle coverage as articles per 10,000 news articles, monthly, January 2019 – July 2026. Bars are months; the line is the 12-month mean.

Unlike event-driven topics, electric-vehicle coverage has no season (Figure 2). Every month holds between 7.74% (June) and 8.98% (September) of a typical year's articles, close to an even spread.

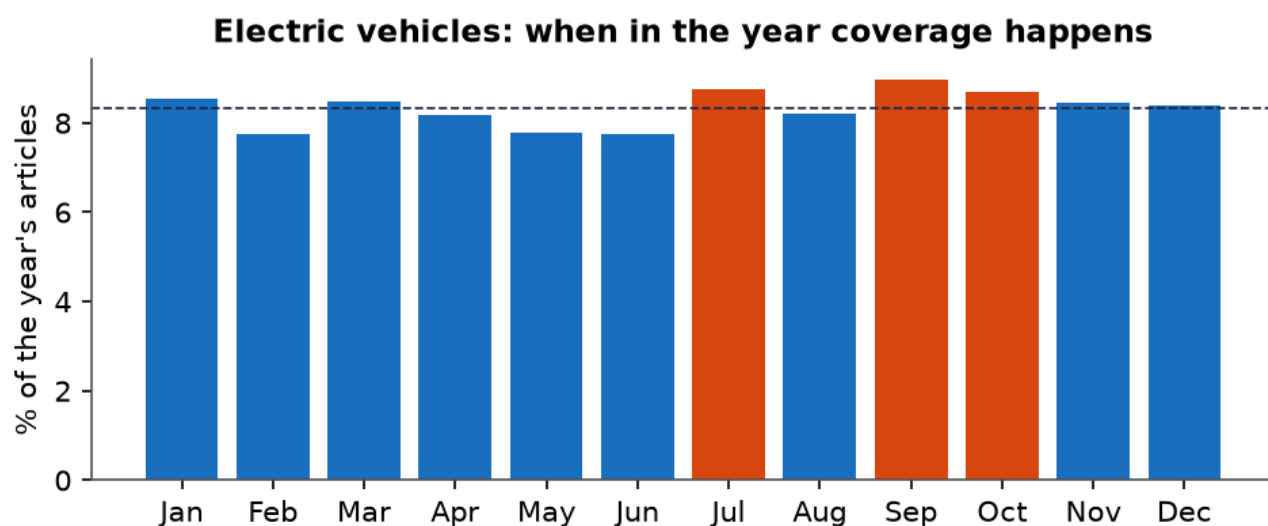


Figure 2. Share of each year's electric-vehicle articles published in each month, averaged over 2019-2025. Dashed line = an even spread (8.3% per month).

3.2 Where

Between January 2023 and July 2026, 155,580 electric-vehicle articles carried a primary location. The United States holds the largest raw share (31.8%), but its lift is 0.66: electric vehicles take a smaller share of American news than of news overall. India's share (24.22%) comes with a lift of 1.83. Among the ten largest sources, the most over-represented are China (3.87) and Germany (2.6). South Korea (3.97) and Japan (2.44) also show high lifts, but most of their located rows carry a company name as the place ("Samsung" for South Korea, "Toyota" the carmaker for Japan), so their lifts are tagging artefacts and are not ranked. Smaller sources with a high lift include Sweden (2.82), Indonesia (2.2), Hungary (2.14) and Norway (1.99) (Table 2, Figure 3).

Country	Located articles	Share %	Lift vs all news
United States	49,478	31.8	0.66
India	37,682	24.22	1.83
China	15,857	10.19	3.87
United Kingdom	9,642	6.2	1.06
Germany	4,759	3.06	2.6
Japan	4,041	2.6	2.44
South Korea	3,703	2.38	3.97
Canada	3,484	2.24	1.04
Australia	3,315	2.13	0.99
France	1,742	1.12	0.57
Singapore	1,507	0.97	1.09
Italy	1,407	0.9	0.93
Sweden	962	0.62	2.82
Indonesia	951	0.61	2.2
Norway	628	0.4	1.99
Hungary	271	0.17	2.14

Table 2. Leading countries in located electric-vehicle news, January 2023 – July 2026, with lift against all located news: the twelve countries with the most articles, then the smaller sources with a lift near or above 2 (the Central African Republic, a tagging artefact, is left out). The lifts of South Korea and Japan are inflated by company names read as places (Samsung, Toyota).

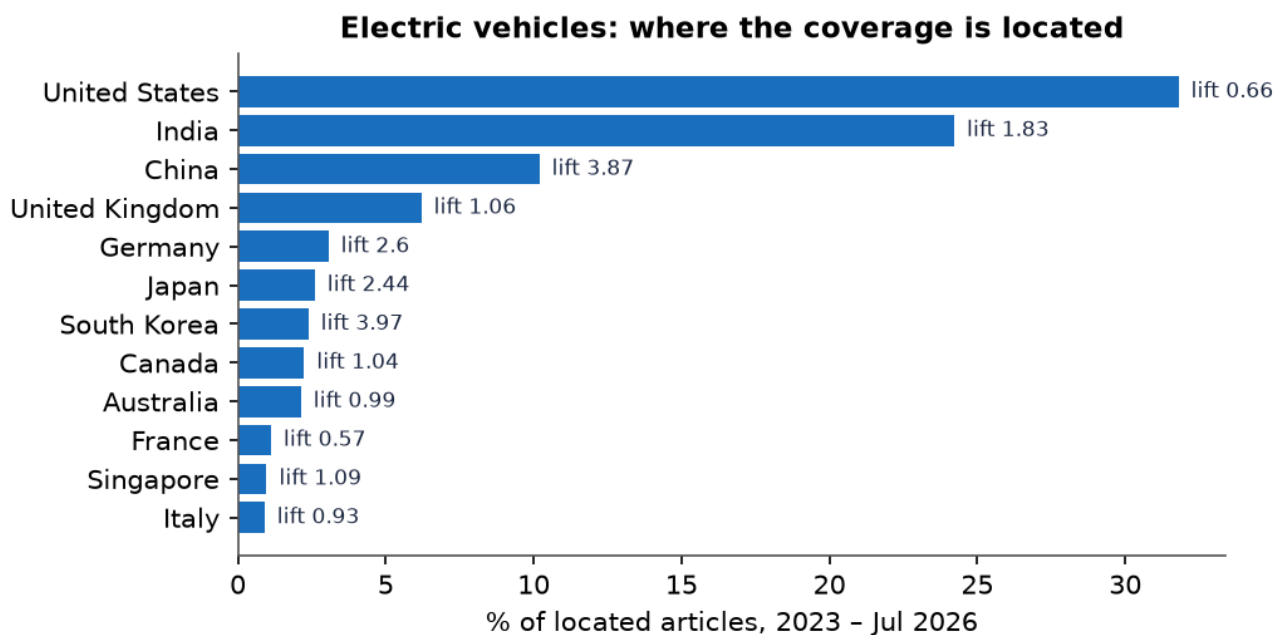


Figure 3. Leading countries by share of located electric-vehicle articles, 2023 – Jul 2026, labelled with lift against all located news.

3.3 Geo intelligence: continents, states and shifting attention

The world map (Figure 4) shows the pattern at a glance. Electric vehicles are over-represented in the news of China, Southeast Asia, India, Germany, Hungary and the Nordic countries (South Korea and Japan also appear red, but their lifts rest on company names read as places). They are under-represented in the Americas, most of Africa and Oceania. By continent, Asia (1.78) is the only clear case of over-representation, and Europe (1.03) is

close to its expected share. North America (0.66), Oceania (0.79), Africa (0.55) and South America (0.33) are below it (Figure 7, left). One country on the map, the Central African Republic, shows a high lift (3.74) that is most likely a tagging artefact of the word "car"; it is not discussed further.

Electric vehicles: which countries over- and under-cover the topic

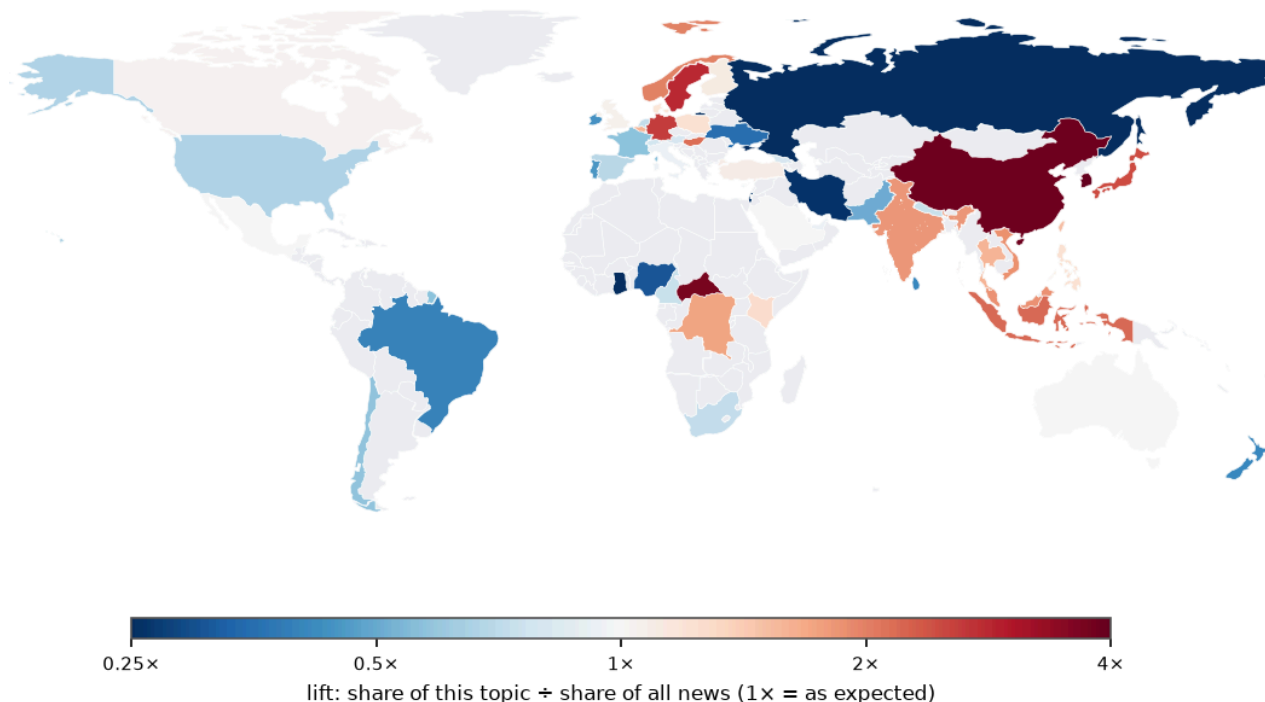


Figure 4. Lift of each country's share of located electric-vehicle articles, January 2023 – July 2026 (red = over-represented, blue = under-represented, grey = fewer than 100 articles). India is drawn with its official outline.

Within countries, the picture is sharper (Table 3). In India, coverage concentrates in three southern states. Measured against each state's share of Indian news, Telangana (3.31), Tamil Nadu (2.97) and Karnataka (2.42) are the most over-represented, followed by Chandigarh (1.85), Delhi (1.41), Gujarat (1.25) and Maharashtra (1.13). Uttar Pradesh (0.35), Madhya Pradesh (0.35), Assam (0.33), West Bengal (0.28), Jammu and Kashmir (0.27), Uttarakhand (0.23), Punjab (0.22) and Bihar (0.11) are under-represented (Figure 5). In the United States, Michigan (5.19), the home of the Detroit carmakers, leads by lift, followed by California (2.3), Nevada (2.16), Texas (1.8), Georgia (1.63) and Kentucky (1.58). Delaware shows 2.36, but most of its rows are about companies incorporated or sued there rather than about the state, so it is left out. New Jersey (0.13), Pennsylvania (0.35), Minnesota (0.39) and Missouri (0.42) are far below their weight in American news (Figure 6).

India: state	Articles	Lift	United States: state	Articles	Lift
Telangana	2,307	3.31	Michigan	4,214	5.19
Tamil Nadu	2,987	2.97	California	7,991	2.3
Karnataka	2,686	2.42	Nevada	773	2.16
Chandigarh	115	1.85	Texas	3,706	1.8
Delhi	3,667	1.41	Georgia	1,060	1.63
Gujarat	829	1.25	Kentucky	191	1.58
Jammu and Kashmir	128	0.27	Missouri	146	0.42
Uttarakhand	105	0.23	Minnesota	216	0.39
Punjab	112	0.22	Pennsylvania	742	0.35
Bihar	106	0.11	New Jersey	862	0.13

Table 3. States with the highest (top six rows) and lowest (bottom four rows) lift in electric-vehicle coverage, January 2023 – July 2026. Lift = the state's share of the country's located electric-vehicle articles ÷ its share of all located news from that country. States with fewer than 100 articles are omitted, and so is Delaware (2.36), whose rows are mostly about companies incorporated or sued there.

Electric vehicles: states of India by lift

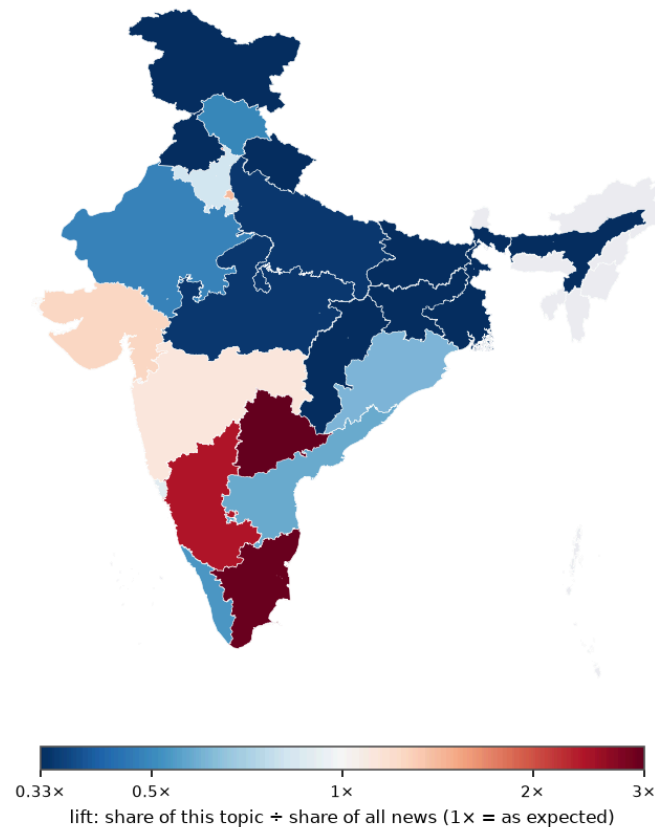


Figure 5. Lift of each Indian state's share of located electric-vehicle articles against its share of all located Indian news, January 2023 – July 2026. Official outline; Ladakh is drawn within Jammu and Kashmir in the boundary file used.

Electric vehicles: states of United States by lift

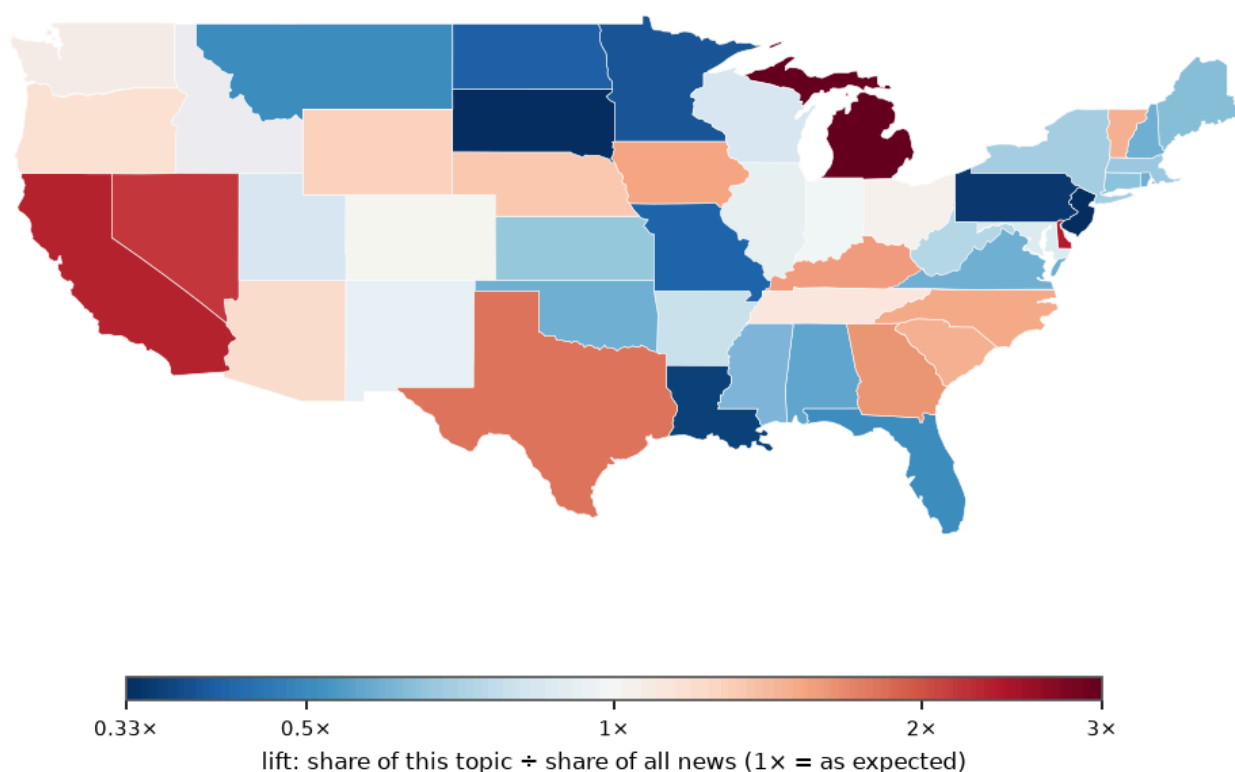


Figure 6. Lift of each US state's share of located electric-vehicle articles against its share of all located US news, January 2023 – July 2026.

Attention also moves between countries from year to year (Table 4, Figure 7, right). Measured as electric-vehicle articles per 10,000 of each country's located news, the share fell between 2023 and 2025 in France (39.82 to 12.98), Canada (59.95 to 23.76), Sweden (160.37 to 84.61), Singapore (57.18 to 32.1) and China (191.22 to 113.67). In China the share had first risen to 273.1 in 2024. It rose in Nigeria, the Philippines, Turkey, Brazil and India. The Central African Republic, which also falls, is left out as a tagging artefact.

Country	2023	2025	Ratio	Country	2023	2025	Ratio
Nigeria	10.48	14.64	1.4	France	39.82	12.98	0.33
Philippines	41.35	56.74	1.37	Canada	59.95	23.76	0.4
Turkey	39.43	47.52	1.21	Sweden	160.37	84.61	0.53
Brazil	11.93	14.22	1.19	Singapore	57.18	32.1	0.56
India	64.86	71.71	1.11	China	191.22	113.67	0.59

Table 4. Largest rises (left) and falls (right) in electric-vehicle articles per 10,000 of each country's located news, 2023 to 2025, among the countries with the most coverage.

Tone differs by country too. Electric-vehicle news is less negative than a country's news overall almost everywhere. Among the ten largest sources, the gap is proportionally widest in India (7.8% negative against 41.2%), Australia (19.6% against 38.4%) and France (26.5% against 47.6%); among smaller sources the Philippines (3.3% against 39.4%) stands out. China is the exception among the large sources: its electric-vehicle news is slightly more negative (29.6%) than Chinese news overall (27.2%).

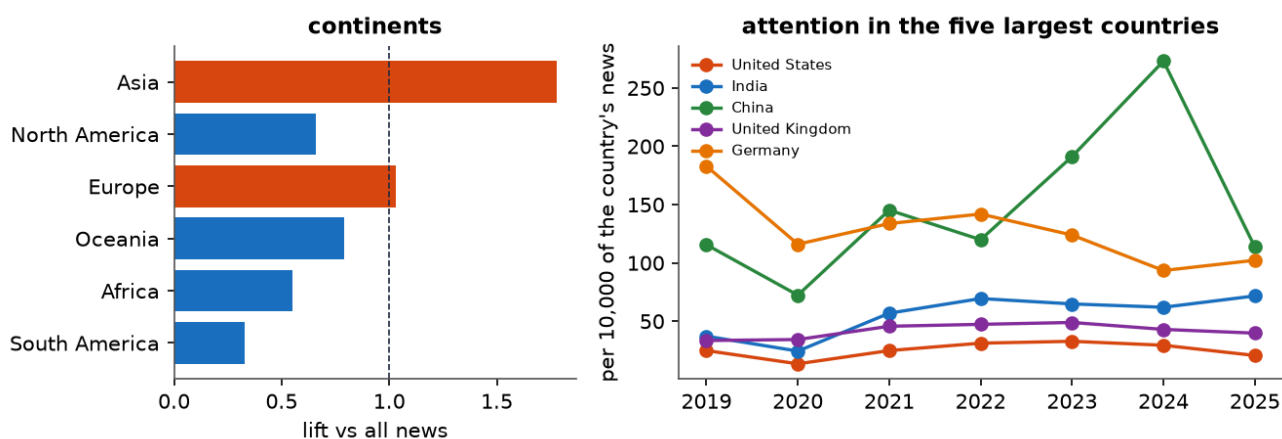


Figure 7. Left: lift by continent, January 2023 – July 2026. Right: electric-vehicle articles per 10,000 of each country's located news, 2019–2025, for the five countries with the most articles.

3.4 Tone, urgency and themes

Electric-vehicle coverage is more positive than news in general (Figure 8). Among articles with a tone label, 77.7% are positive, against 56.8% across the index (1.37 times), and 20% are negative, against 33.6%. Editorial priority puts 50.5% of electric-vehicle articles at critical level (7 or higher), slightly more than the 42.6% for all news (1.19 times).

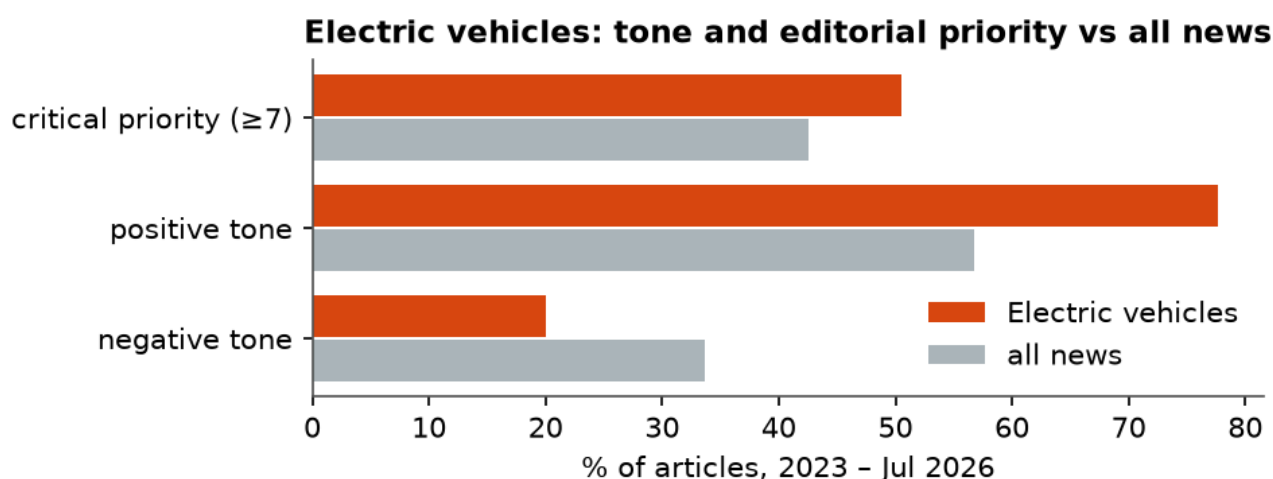


Figure 8. Tone and the share rated critical priority, electric-vehicle articles vs all news, 2023 – Jul 2026.

Themes show what electric-vehicle stories are about (Table 5). Technology and innovation is the most common theme (27.49% of themed articles). Charging dominates the specific themes: network expansion appears in 12.82% of articles, 154.07 times its rate in all news, and charging infrastructure in 10.93%. Government incentives for alternative-fuel vehicles appear in 7.32%, with a lift of 154.59.

Theme	Articles	Share %	Lift
electric vehicle (ev) technology and innovations	50,504	27.49	104.37
ev charging station network expansion	23,553	12.82	154.07
electric vehicle charging infrastructure	20,090	10.93	130.64
government incentives for alternative fuel vehicles	13,457	7.32	154.59
electric vehicle range and charging speed tests	11,954	6.51	55.98
wireless charging for electric vehicles	8,795	4.79	147.01
public transportation electrification initiatives	4,759	2.59	155.24
vehicle-to-grid (v2g) technology integration	3,230	1.76	137.95

Table 5. Leading and most specific themes in electric-vehicle coverage (lift against all themed news), January 2023 – July 2026.

The organisations named most often are carmakers: Ford Motor Company (19,737 articles), BYD (13,746), Toyota (10,981), Volkswagen (10,198), BMW (8,939) and General Motors (8,358). Ford's lead is inflated by the February 2026 batch described above.

3.5 Research attention and invention

Research on electric vehicles grew much faster than the scientific literature. Papers with an electric-vehicle term in the title rose from 3.73 per 10,000 papers in 2015 to 14.51 in 2025, a 3.89-fold increase in share, while the total literature in the corpus grew by a factor of 1.0 over the same years. Between 2015 and 2025, 57,163 such papers were published. The most-cited work deals with lithium-ion battery management, thermal runaway and recycling, and with the integration of electric vehicles into power grids [1–5].

News attention does not track research attention (Figure 9). Research share rose every year from 2016, while news share fell after 2023.

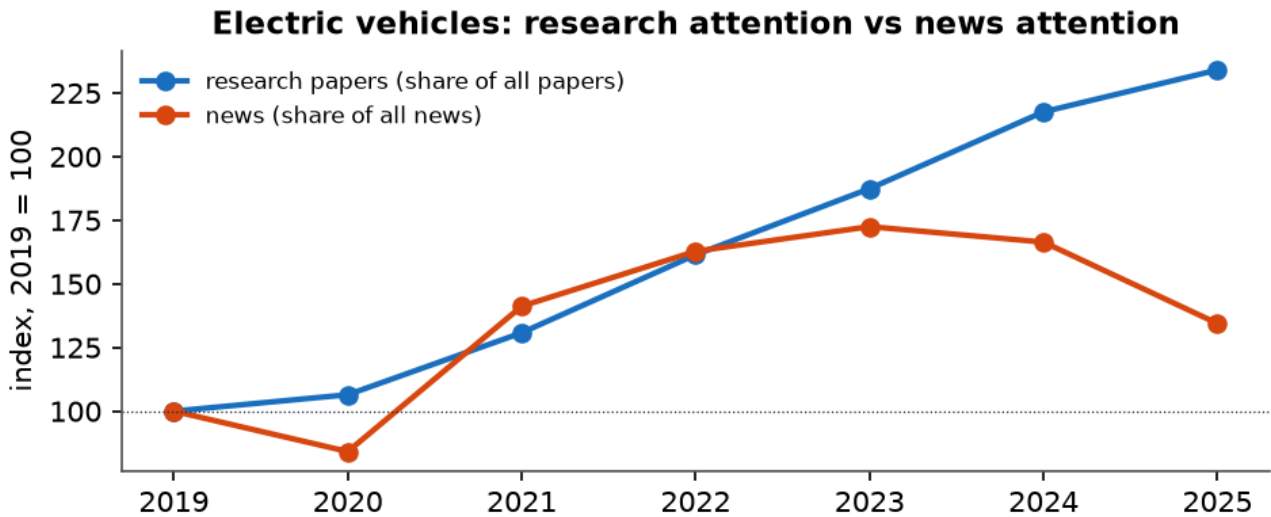


Figure 9. Research papers with electric-vehicle terms in the title (share of all papers) and electric-vehicle news (share of all news), each indexed to 2019 = 100.

Patenting rose earlier. 6,094 electric-vehicle patent families were published in 2015 and 16,177 in 2024 (2.65 times), with most of the growth before 2019. China's office holds 78.9% of office filings from 2015 to 2024 (families counted once per office), followed by the United States (5.6%) and South Korea (4.7%) (Figure 10). The leading technology classes are transport climate-mitigation technologies (Y02T, 19,266 families) and electric propulsion and vehicle charging (B60L, 17,392).

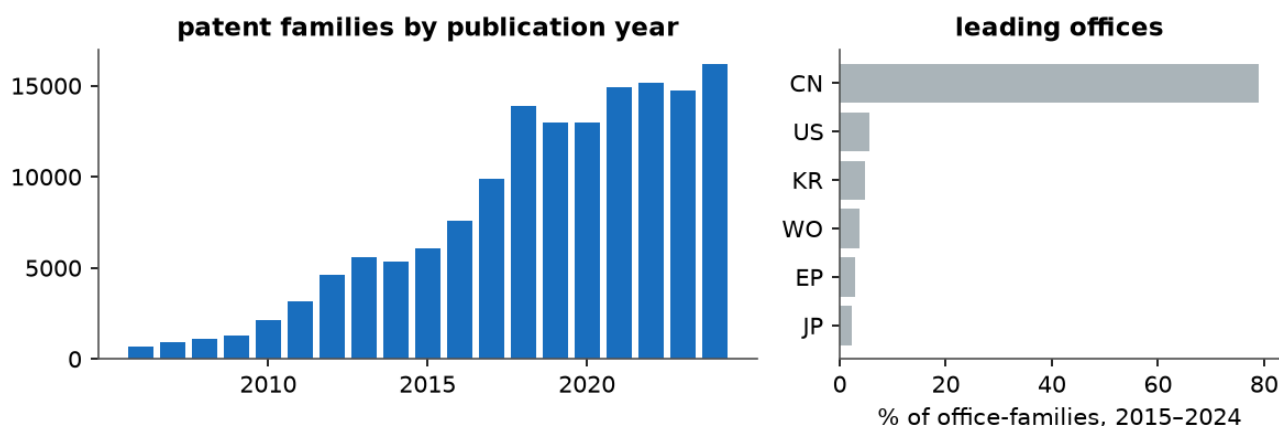


Figure 10. Electric-vehicle patent families by publication year (left) and the leading filing offices, 2015-2024 (right).

4. Discussion

Three points matter for anyone who uses news as a record of electric vehicles. First, coverage measures attention, and attention has turned. The topic's share of news grew every year from 2020 to 2023 and has fallen since. Research share kept rising over the same years, so the news decline is not a decline in scientific interest. Second, raw shares mislead. The United States produces the largest number of located articles but is under-represented relative to its weight in the index. The countries and states where electric vehicles take the largest share of attention include several that host large vehicle or battery industries, such as China, Germany, Michigan and the southern Indian states; the data do not test why. Third, "EVs" is an ambiguous keyword. Without exclusions, biomedical news about extracellular vesicles would be counted as electric-vehicle coverage.

The tone results are also distinctive. Electric-vehicle news is mostly positive, much of it product launches, charging expansion and incentives. China is the one large source where it is not more positive than the country's news overall. The dataset lets researchers link these records, for example to test whether a fall in national coverage precedes changes in incentives or sales.

5. Limitations

- **Index availability.** 92.88% of the index was readable at build time, so counts are lower bounds. Shares and lifts are less affected, because the missing part is spread across topics.
- **Coverage after May 2026.** The index thins after May 2026, so 2026 is partial and is excluded from year comparisons.
- **February 2026 batch.** A single-day batch dated 15 February 2026 inflates that month and the Ford Motor Company count. It is left in the data and flagged here.
- **Matching.** Matching uses the article opening. Articles that mention electric vehicles only later are missed, and about 7.5% of matches are not about electric vehicles.
- **Machine labels.** Location, tone, priority and themes are machine-labelled. The city field is noisy and is not analysed, and one country (the Central African Republic) is a likely tagging artefact.
- **Place words.** Place tags derived from ordinary words ("Congress", "Earth", "Winter", "Cloud", "Mobile", "Hurricane"; 714 such words) were treated as unlocated in every location field, which removed 15.3% of city-tagged articles. Located counts are

therefore smaller, and some articles with a real but ambiguous place name (for example a state named Georgia) may still be mis-tagged.

- **Outlet mix.** The index over-represents English-language outlets, which shapes the geography.
- **Research and patent counts.** These match titles only. Office shares reflect filing practice; utility models are numerous in China.

Data availability

The dataset (article sample, monthly and country tables, research and patent tables, all metrics) is released under CC BY-NC 4.0 with this paper. The sample holds 63,173 of 505,275 matched articles to 31 July 2026. Full article text, headlines, publishers, later articles and other topics are served by the Prism News API: <https://github.com/fliarbi/prism-news-api> (base URL <https://radar-api.fliarbi.com/news>). A worked query: `prism-news trends "electric vehicle" --since 2019-01-01 --until 2026-07-31 --granularity monthly`.

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