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**MARSHALL LOEB'S DAILY MONEY TIP:**

## Save money through car-pooling

By Marshall Loeb,  
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NEW YORK (CBS.MW) -- Yes, gas prices are climbing, but a study by the National Retail Federation shows only a 4.2 percent increase in the number of people using car pools since early May.

If you want to start or join a car pool, check first at work. Many companies have informal car-pooling options or ride-sharing boards. Some incorporate programs and ideas from Commuter Choice at [www.commuter-choice.gov](http://www.commuter-choice.gov), a joint effort by the federal Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Transportation that recognizes "best workplaces for commuters." Boulder, Colo., was recognized for the incentives it offers city employees who use alternative methods of transportation, says transportation resource coordinator Michele Coffelt. Free parking spaces are offered to car pools, and employees are also entitled to free bikes or bus passes -- purchased with revenue from city parking meters.

Another option is to call your state department of transportation. Numbers can be found at state Web sites. In Connecticut, said Peter Graves, spokesman for the state's DOT, the government operates park-and-ride lots, promotes high-occupancy vehicle lanes and works with public transportation organizations to provide alternatives to driving alone.

Finally, try the Internet. Sites have sprung up to organize car pools. Several states or metropolitan areas have their own government-run versions, while other sites are independently run to serve commuters across the country.

*Marshall Loeb, former editor of Fortune, Money, and The Columbia Journalism Review, writes "Your Dollars" exclusively for CBS.MarketWatch.com.*

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