

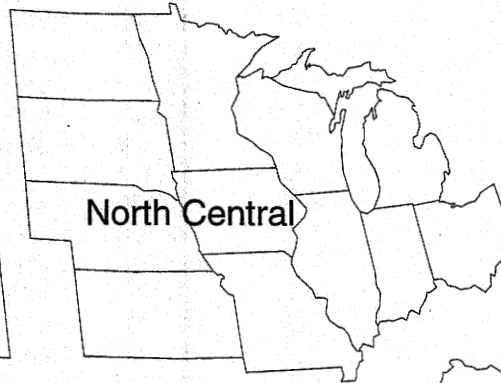
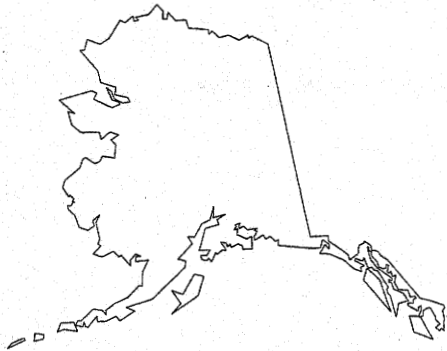


U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

TRAFFIC VOLUME TRENDS

December 1996

Travel on all roads and streets is up by 2.0 percent for December 1996 as compared to December 1995.



Estimated Vehicle-Miles of Travel by Region - December 1996 - (in Billions)

West	North Central	South Gulf	Northeast	South Atlantic
41.8	47.1	38.1	31.4	39.8

Change in Traffic as compared to the same month last year.

-1.3%	+2.9%	+2.1%	+3.9%	+2.9%
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Note: All data for this month are preliminary. Revised values for the previous month are shown in Tables 1 and 2.

All vehicle-miles of travel computed with 1995 Table VM-2 as a base

Compiled with data on hand as of February 19, 1997.

Traffic Volume Trends - December 1996

Based on preliminary reports from the State Highway Agencies, travel during December 1996 on all roads and streets in the nation increased by 2.0 percent as compared to December 1995 resulting in estimated travel for the month at 198.2 billion vehicle-miles. This total includes 75.1 billion vehicle-miles on rural roads and 123.2 billion vehicle-miles on urban roads and streets.

Travel for the current month as well the cumulative yearly total on all roads and streets is shown below. Similar totals for each year since 1970 are also included.

Travel in Millions All Roads and Streets		
Year	December	Year to Date
1970	89,911	1,120,328
1971	95,515	1,185,616
1972	101,040	1,268,363
1973	98,856	1,308,287
1974	105,083	1,289,644
1975	107,945	1,330,073
1976	113,030	1,409,162
1977	116,257	1,463,408
1978	124,595	1,548,211
1979	123,226	1,529,132
1980	124,798	1,520,856
1981	124,421	1,550,269
1982	127,139	1,592,481
1983	129,776	1,649,108
1984	136,095	1,716,770
1985	141,584	1,774,763
1986	149,628	1,838,240
1987	155,580	1,924,328
1988	164,798	2,025,586
1989	167,530	2,107,040
1990	168,621	2,147,501
1991	172,782	2,172,214
1992	180,999	2,247,152
1993	186,828	2,296,705
1994	193,087	2,357,587
1995	193,341	2,422,776
1996	198,220	2,466,538

Traffic Volume Trends is a monthly report based on hourly traffic count data. These data, collected at approximately 4,000 continuous traffic counting locations nationwide, are used to determine the percent change in traffic for the current month compared to the same month in the previous year. This percent change is applied to the travel for the same month of the previous year to obtain an estimate of travel for the current month.

For additional information, for extra copies, or to be put on the monthly mailing list, write:

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Table 1 - Estimated Individual Monthly Motor Vehicle Travel In The United States

System	Month											
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1995 Individual Monthly Vehicle-Miles of Travel In Billions *												
Rural Interstate	15.3	14.7	18.0	18.4	19.3	20.2	21.9	21.6	19.0	19.0	18.2	17.9
Rural Other Arterial	26.7	25.2	29.8	30.0	33.3	32.9	35.1	34.6	31.8	31.7	29.0	28.5
Other Rural	24.7	23.4	27.8	28.0	30.4	30.4	31.6	31.6	29.3	29.6	27.4	26.9
Urban Interstate	25.8	24.7	29.2	28.0	30.0	29.8	29.9	30.5	28.7	29.4	27.7	27.8
Urban Other Arterial	64.1	59.7	69.1	67.4	71.3	70.1	70.6	72.5	68.4	69.8	65.9	66.5
Other Urban	25.7	24.2	28.4	27.5	29.4	28.9	29.2	29.6	27.7	28.4	26.9	26.8
All Systems	182.3	171.9	202.2	199.2	213.6	212.4	218.3	220.4	204.9	207.8	195.2	194.4
1996 Individual Monthly Vehicle-Miles of Travel In Billions *												
Rural Interstate	15.4	15.1	18.6	18.8	20.2	20.8	22.5	22.9	19.2	19.5	18.2	18.7
Rural Other Arterial	26.8	25.6	30.0	30.7	34.3	33.3	35.8	36.0	31.7	32.5	29.5	29.1
Other Rural	24.8	23.9	27.9	28.6	31.2	30.7	32.2	32.4	29.2	30.4	27.9	27.3
Urban Interstate	26.4	25.4	29.4	28.9	31.0	30.0	30.8	31.3	29.0	30.1	28.2	28.5
Urban Other Arterial	64.6	60.6	68.9	69.1	72.6	70.1	73.2	73.9	68.6	71.6	67.0	67.5
Other Urban	26.0	24.7	28.4	28.3	30.3	29.1	30.0	30.2	27.6	29.0	27.2	27.2
All Systems	183.9	175.2	203.3	204.5	219.7	214.1	224.5	226.7	205.2	213.2	198.1	198.2
Percent Change In Individual Monthly Travel 1996 vs. 1995												
Rural Interstate	1.1	2.4	3.7	2.1	4.6	3.1	3.0	6.2	0.6	2.8	0.2	4.2
Rural Other Arterial	0.2	1.8	0.9	2.3	3.1	1.3	1.9	4.0	-0.4	2.6	1.7	2.2
Other Rural	0.1	2.0	0.2	2.3	2.6	0.9	1.8	2.5	-0.4	2.7	1.7	1.4
Urban Interstate	2.3	2.7	0.6	3.4	3.6	0.7	2.9	2.5	1.1	2.5	1.7	2.4
Urban Other Arterial	0.8	1.4	-0.2	2.6	1.9	0.0	3.7	2.0	0.3	2.7	1.7	1.6
Other Urban	0.9	2.0	0.3	3.0	2.9	0.6	2.6	2.0	-0.6	2.2	1.1	1.3
All Systems	0.9	1.9	0.6	2.6	2.8	0.8	2.8	2.8	0.1	2.6	1.5	2.0

Table 2 - Estimated Cumulative Monthly Motor Vehicle Travel In The United States

System	Month											
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1995 Cumulative Monthly Vehicle-Miles of Travel In Billions *												
Rural Interstate	15.3	30.0	48.0	66.4	85.7	105.8	127.7	149.3	168.3	187.3	205.5	223.4
Rural Other Arterial	26.7	51.9	81.6	111.6	144.9	177.8	212.9	247.6	279.4	311.1	340.1	368.6
Other Rural	24.7	48.1	76.0	104.0	134.4	164.9	196.5	228.1	257.4	287.0	314.4	341.3
Urban Interstate	25.8	50.5	79.8	107.7	137.7	167.5	197.4	227.9	256.6	286.0	313.7	341.5
Urban Other Arterial	64.1	123.8	192.9	260.3	331.5	401.6	472.2	544.7	613.1	682.9	748.7	815.2
Other Urban	25.7	49.9	78.2	105.7	135.1	164.1	193.3	222.9	250.7	279.0	306.0	332.8
All Systems	182.3	354.3	556.5	755.7	969.4	1181.8	1400.1	1620.5	1825.5	2033.2	2228.4	2422.8
1996 Cumulative Monthly Vehicle-Miles of Travel In Billions *												
Rural Interstate	15.4	30.5	49.2	67.9	88.1	108.9	131.5	154.4	173.5	193.0	211.2	229.9
Rural Other Arterial	26.8	52.4	82.4	113.1	147.4	180.7	216.5	252.5	284.2	316.7	346.2	375.4
Other Rural	24.8	48.6	76.5	105.2	136.4	167.1	199.3	231.7	261.0	291.3	319.2	346.5
Urban Interstate	26.4	51.8	81.2	110.1	141.2	171.2	202.0	233.2	262.2	292.4	320.6	349.0
Urban Other Arterial	64.6	125.2	194.1	263.3	335.9	406.0	479.2	553.1	621.7	693.3	760.3	827.8
Other Urban	26.0	50.6	79.1	107.4	137.6	166.7	196.8	226.9	254.5	283.5	310.8	338.0
All Systems	183.9	359.1	562.5	766.9	986.6	1200.7	1425.2	1651.9	1857.1	2070.3	2268.3	2466.5
Percent Change In Cumulative Monthly Travel 1996 vs. 1995												
Rural Interstate	1.1	1.7	2.5	2.4	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.4	3.1	3.1	2.8	2.9
Rural Other Arterial	0.2	1.0	0.9	1.3	1.7	1.6	1.7	2.0	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8
Other Rural	0.1	1.0	0.7	1.1	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5
Urban Interstate	2.3	2.5	1.8	2.2	2.5	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2
Urban Other Arterial	0.8	1.1	0.6	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.6
Other Urban	0.9	1.4	1.0	1.6	1.9	1.6	1.8	1.8	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.6
All Systems	0.9	1.4	1.1	1.5	1.8	1.6	1.8	1.9	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8

* System entries may not add to give "All Systems" total due to rounding.

Table 3 - Changes On Rural Arterial Roads By Region and State

Region and State	December				November			
	Number of Stations	Vehicle-Miles (Millions)		Percent Change	Number of Stations	Vehicle-Miles (Millions)		Percent Change
		1996 (Preliminary)	1995			1996 (Revised)	1995	
Northeast								
Connecticut	22	325	300	8.4	22	339	323	4.9
Maine	35	398	375	6.0	35	401	390	2.7
Massachusetts	14	404	388	4.1	15	414	412	0.7
New Hampshire	61	303	290	4.5	59	305	299	2.0
New Jersey	4	588	578	1.7	4	598	582	2.7
New York	-	1,258	1,207	4.2	45	1,281	1,244	3.0
Pennsylvania	50	1,950	1,861	4.8	50	2,050	2,018	1.6
Rhode Island	9	54	51	7.1	6	51	51	0.5
Vermont	37	211	204	3.7	39	203	200	1.1
		5,491	5,254	4.5		5,642	5,519	2.2
South Atlantic								
Delaware	-	115	109	6.1	-	134	131	2.0
Dist Of Columbia	-	0	0	0.0	-	0	0	0.0
Florida	186	2,251	2,158	4.3	165	2,122	2,090	1.5
Georgia	38	1,914	1,844	3.8	39	1,898	1,833	3.6
Maryland	-	708	675	4.9	-	711	700	1.5
North Carolina	-	1,851	1,774	4.3	-	1,702	1,642	3.7
South Carolina	17	1,449	1,349	7.4	18	1,322	1,254	5.4
Virginia	-	1,648	1,605	2.7	-	1,680	1,643	2.3
West Virginia	-	640	610	4.9	-	620	612	1.3
		10,576	10,124	4.5		10,189	9,905	2.9
North Central								
Illinois	30	1,493	1,470	1.6	21	1,482	1,501	-1.3
Indiana	29	1,423	1,363	4.4	22	1,531	1,592	-3.9
Iowa	129	892	866	3.1	125	883	887	-0.4
Kansas	66	736	695	6.0	65	710	729	-2.6
Michigan	140	1,458	1,408	3.6	92	1,579	1,506	4.8
Minnesota	-	1,077	1,052	2.3	-	1,066	1,054	1.1
Missouri	72	1,387	1,328	4.5	71	1,364	1,365	-0.0
Nebraska	30	550	530	3.7	31	540	544	-0.7
North Dakota	-	217	232	-6.5	34	241	234	2.7
Ohio	51	1,678	1,564	7.3	52	1,658	1,646	0.7
South Dakota	46	310	323	-3.9	46	295	310	-4.8
Wisconsin	117	1,410	1,363	3.5	111	1,456	1,411	3.1
		12,632	12,193	3.6		12,804	12,779	0.2
South Gulf								
Alabama	-	1,170	1,124	4.0	42	1,115	1,114	0.1
Arkansas	-	846	814	3.9	-	899	882	2.0
Kentucky	46	1,021	1,003	1.8	50	1,038	1,019	1.9
Louisiana	-	863	824	4.7	-	860	828	3.9
Mississippi	69	998	958	4.2	64	976	939	4.0
Oklahoma	-	905	845	7.1	-	893	868	2.9
Tennessee	18	1,451	1,393	4.1	19	1,442	1,410	2.2
Texas	-	3,446	3,346	3.0	115	3,384	3,244	4.3
		10,699	10,309	3.8		10,608	10,304	2.9
West								
Alaska	47	78	79	-1.6	46	76	80	-4.2
Arizona	-	696	705	-1.3	-	694	716	-3.0
California	20	3,063	3,120	-1.8	19	3,142	3,243	-3.1
Colorado	-	805	780	3.2	-	725	732	-1.0
Hawaii	-	110	111	-0.6	-	80	80	-0.8
Idaho	133	310	320	-3.2	149	333	336	-0.9
Montana	25	325	353	-8.0	25	357	363	-1.7
Nevada	40	261	272	-4.1	38	270	276	-2.2
New Mexico	78	667	647	3.1	80	627	642	-2.3
Oregon	101	752	756	-0.6	109	782	799	-2.1
Utah	63	387	379	2.2	73	387	381	1.6
Washington	50	668	740	-9.7	53	748	778	-3.8
Wyoming	118	250	261	-4.0	121	268	264	1.6
		8,371	8,523	-1.8		8,489	8,689	-2.3
TOTALS		47,769	46,403	2.9		47,731	47,197	1.1

Note: Where Number of Stations are shown as dashes, the values for Vehicle-Miles and Percent Change are derived from the estimated VMT based on data from surrounding States or the Nationwide average VMT.

FIGURE 1 - MOVING 12-MONTH TOTAL ON ALL HIGHWAYS

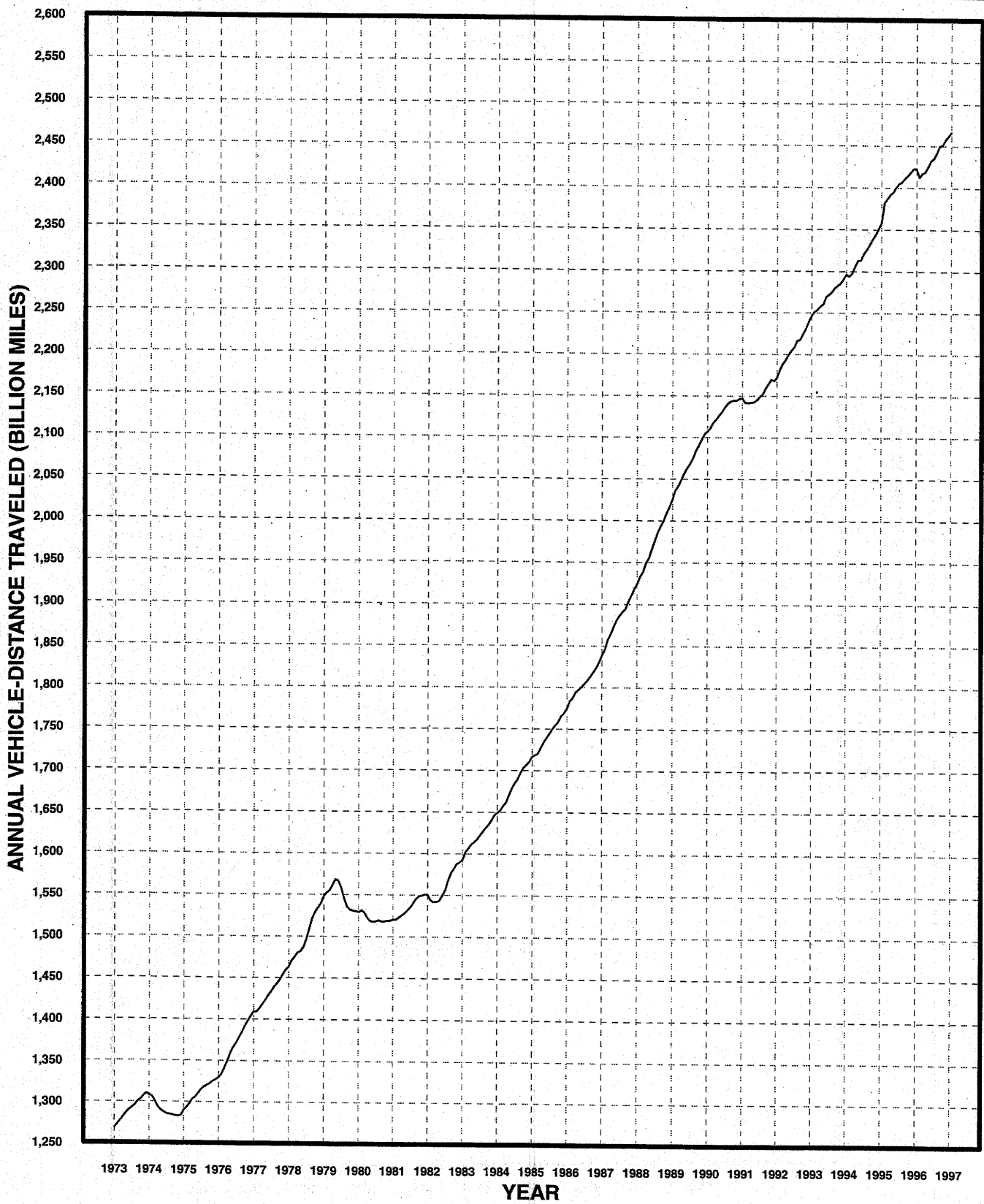
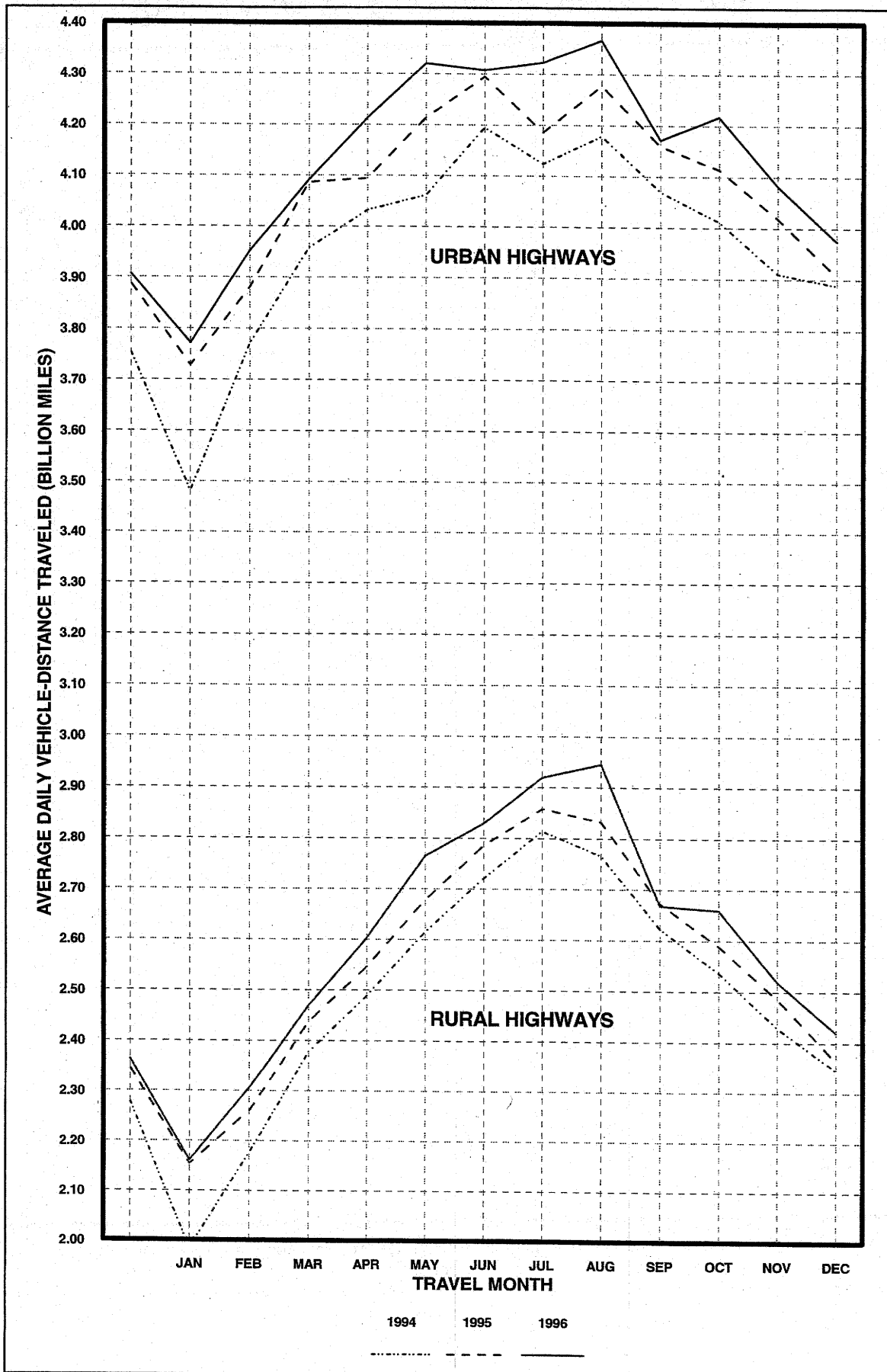


FIGURE 2 - TRAVEL ON U.S. HIGHWAYS BY MONTH



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