



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

# TRAFFIC VOLUME TRENDS

## DECEMBER 1986

**TRAVEL ON ALL ROADS AND STREETS IS UP BY 6.6 PERCENT  
FOR DECEMBER 1986 AS COMPARED TO DECEMBER 1985.**



**WESTERN**

**CENTRAL**

**EASTERN**

**ESTIMATED VEHICLE MILES OF TRAVEL BY REGION - DECEMBER 1986.**

**31.1 BILLION**

**66.2 BILLION**

**52.8 BILLION**

**PERCENT CHANGE IN TRAFFIC COMPARED TO SAME MONTH LAST YEAR**

**+7.2**

**+7.3**

**+5.6**

**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 HAVE BEEN COMPUTED WITH 1983 VM-2 AS A BASE.

COMPILED WITH DATA ON HAND AS OF FEBRUARY 11, 1987.

TRAFFIC VOLUME TRENDS - DECEMBER 1986

BASED ON PRELIMINARY REPORTS FROM THE STATE HIGHWAY AGENCIES, TRAVEL DURING DECEMBER 1986 ON ALL ROADS AND STREETS IN THE NATION INCREASED BY 6.6 PERCENT AS COMPARED TO DECEMBER 1985, RESULTING IN ESTIMATED TRAVEL FOR THE MONTH AT 150975 MILLION VEHICLE MILES. THIS TOTAL INCLUDES 63189 MILLION VEHICLE MILES ON RURAL ROADS AND 87786 MILLION VEHICLE MILES ON URBAN ROADS AND STREETS.

TRAVEL FOR THE CURRENT MONTH AS WELL AS THE CUMULATIVE YEARLY TOTAL ON ALL ROADS AND STREETS IS SHOWN BELOW. SIMILAR TOTALS FOR EACH YEAR SINCE 1970 ARE ALSO INCLUDED.

| YEAR | TRAVEL IN MILLIONS<br>ALL ROADS AND STREETS |              |
|------|---|--------------|
|      | DECEMBER                                    | YEAR TO DATE |
| 1970 | 89911                                       | 1120328      |
| 1971 | 95515                                       | 1185615      |
| 1972 | 101040                                      | 1268362      |
| 1973 | 98856                                       | 1308288      |
| 1974 | 105083                                      | 1289645      |
| 1975 | 107945                                      | 1330075      |
| 1976 | 113030                                      | 1409163      |
| 1977 | 116257                                      | 1463409      |
| 1978 | 124595                                      | 1548212      |
| 1979 | 123226                                      | 1529132      |
| 1980 | 124798                                      | 1520856      |
| 1981 | 124421                                      | 1550270      |
| 1982 | 127139                                      | 1592481      |
| 1983 | 129776                                      | 1649106      |
| 1984 | 136095                                      | 1716768      |
| 1985 | 141584                                      | 1774762      |
| 1986 | 150975                                      | 1860618      |

TRAFFIC VOLUME TRENDS IS A MONTHLY REPORT BASED ON HOURLY TRAFFIC COUNT DATA. THESE DATA, COLLECTED AT APPROXIMATELY 4000 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 PERIOD IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR TO OBTAIN TRAVEL FOR THE CURRENT PERIOD.

FOR EXTRA COPIES, OR TO BE PUT ON THE MONTHLY MAILING LIST, CONTACT: FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION, OFFICE OF HIGHWAY INFORMATION MANAGEMENT, ROOM 3300 - HPM-30, 400 7TH STREET S.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590. PHONE 202-366-5055.

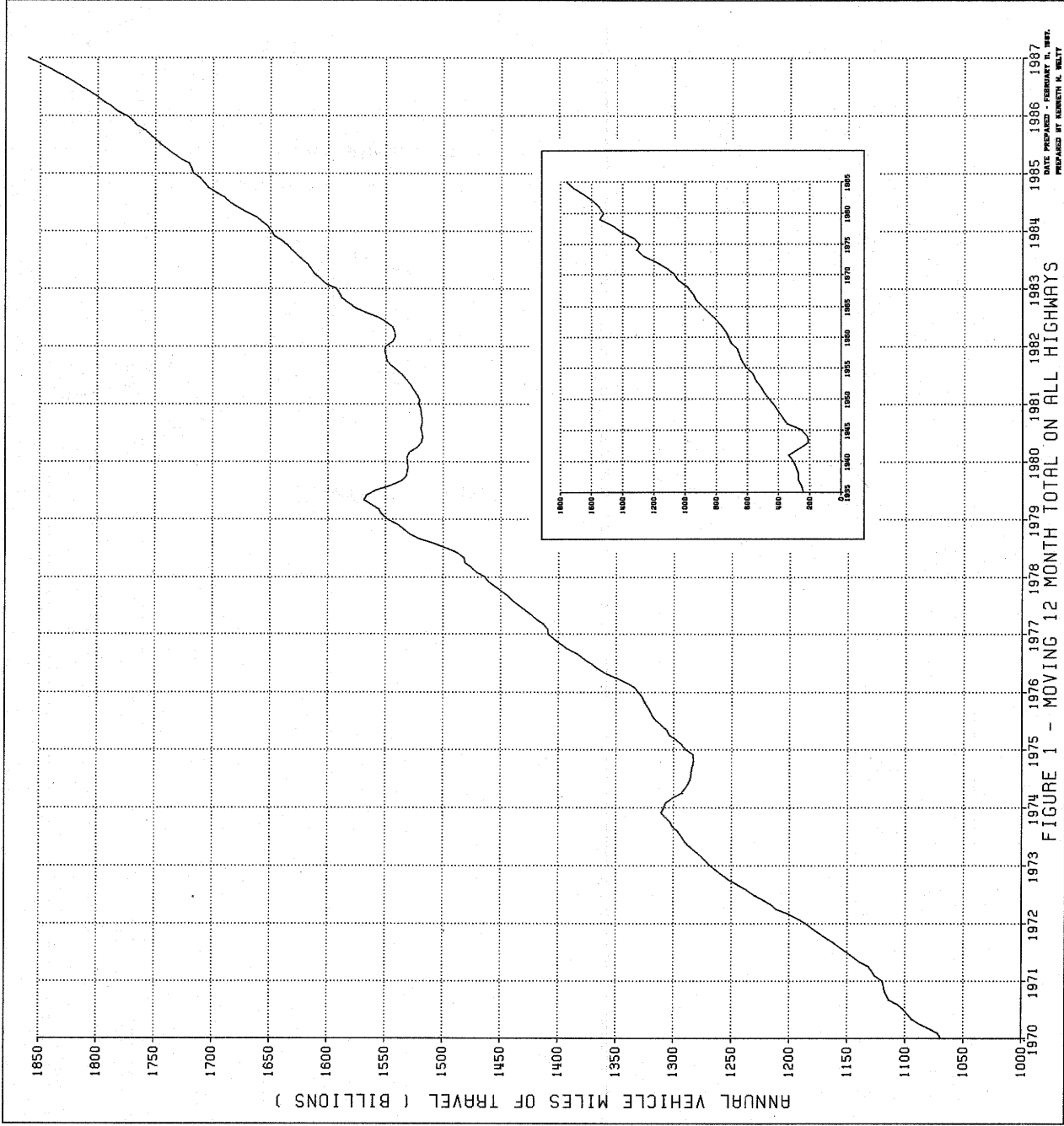
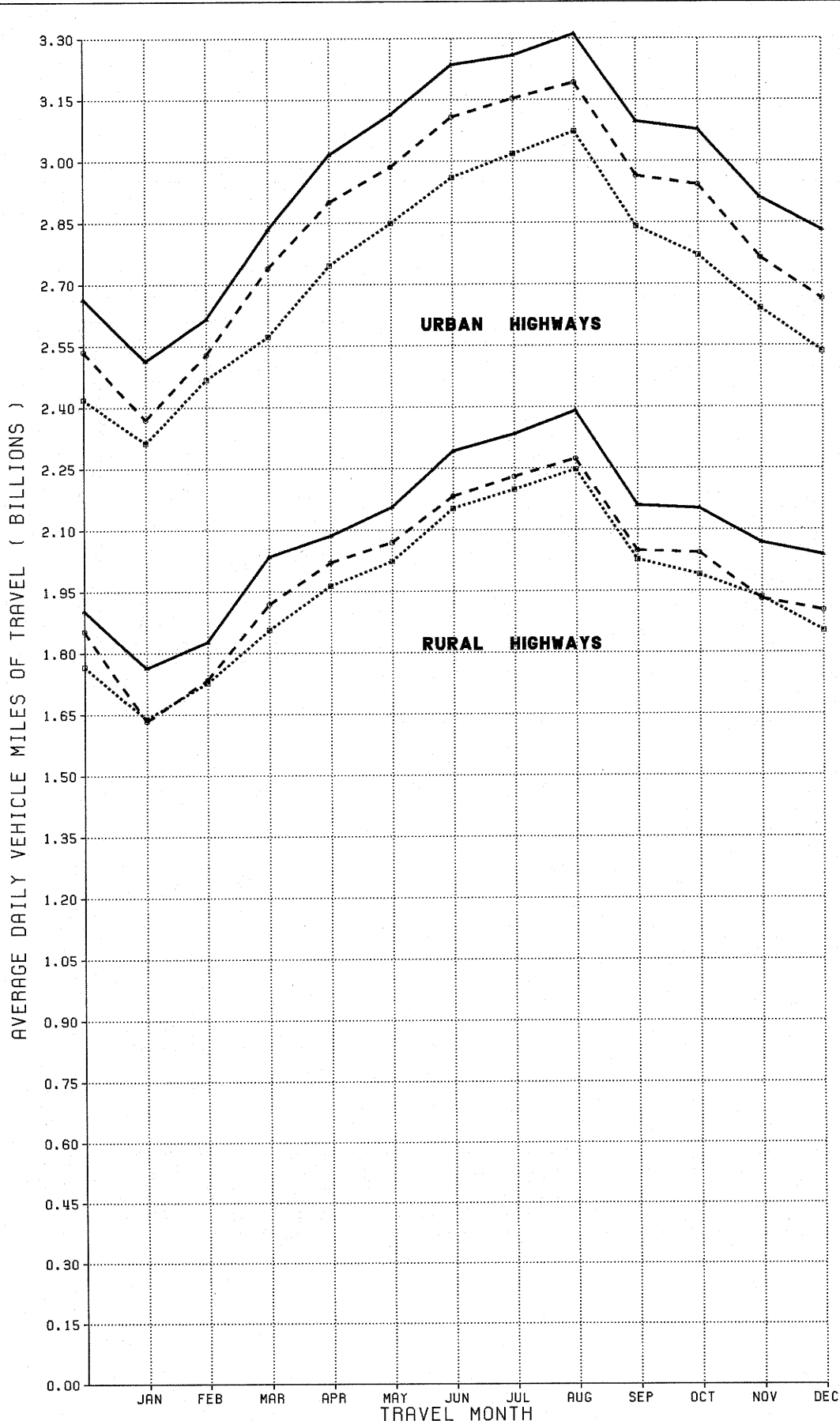


FIGURE 1 - MOVING 12 MONTH TOTAL ON ALL HIGHWAYS

DATE PREPARED - FEBRUARY 11, 1987  
 PREPARED BY KENNETH H. WELTY

FIGURE 2 - TRAVEL ON U S HIGHWAYS BY MONTH



**LEGEND**

..... - 1984  
 ———▲——— - 1986

- - - - - 1985

PREPARED BY KENNETH H. MELTY  
 DATE PREPARED - FEBRUARY 11, 1987.

TABLE 1.

ESTIMATED INDIVIDUAL MONTHLY MOTOR VEHICLE TRAVEL IN THE UNITED STATES \*\*\*

| SYSTEM  | MONTH |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|   | JAN   | FEB   | MAR   | APR   | MAY   | JUNE  | JULY  | AUG   | SEPT  | OCT   | NOV   | DEC   |
| 1985 INDIVIDUAL MONTHLY VEHICLE-MILES OF TRAVEL IN BILLIONS*  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| RURAL ARTERIAL  | 28.6  | 27.6  | 34.8  | 36.0  | 38.6  | 40.1  | 43.2  | 44.3  | 37.0  | 37.7  | 34.2  | 34.9  |
| OTHER RURAL   | 22.0  | 21.0  | 24.7  | 24.6  | 25.6  | 25.4  | 26.0  | 26.2  | 24.5  | 25.6  | 23.8  | 24.1  |
| URBAN   | 73.5  | 70.8  | 84.9  | 87.0  | 92.6  | 93.2  | 97.8  | 99.0  | 88.9  | 91.2  | 82.9  | 82.6  |
| ALL SYSTEMS   | 124.1 | 119.4 | 144.4 | 147.6 | 156.7 | 158.7 | 166.9 | 169.4 | 150.4 | 154.6 | 140.9 | 141.6 |
| 1986 INDIVIDUAL MONTHLY VEHICLE-MILES OF TRAVEL IN BILLIONS** |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| RURAL ARTERIAL  | 31.1  | 29.1  | 37.3  | 37.4  | 40.6  | 42.4  | 45.6  | 46.7  | 39.2  | 40.0  | 37.1  | 37.7  |
| OTHER RURAL   | 23.5  | 22.0  | 25.8  | 25.2  | 26.3  | 26.4  | 26.8  | 27.4  | 25.6  | 26.7  | 25.0  | 25.5  |
| URBAN   | 77.9  | 73.3  | 87.9  | 90.5  | 96.5  | 97.1  | 101.0 | 102.6 | 92.9  | 95.4  | 87.4  | 87.8  |
| ALL SYSTEMS   | 132.6 | 124.4 | 151.0 | 153.1 | 163.4 | 165.8 | 173.4 | 176.7 | 157.7 | 162.1 | 149.4 | 151.0 |
| PERCENT CHANGE IN INDIVIDUAL MONTHLY TRAVEL 1986 VS. 1985     |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| RURAL ARTERIAL  | 8.7   | 5.5   | 7.3   | 3.8   | 5.2   | 5.7   | 5.6   | 5.5   | 6.0   | 6.1   | 8.5   | 8.0   |
| OTHER RURAL   | 7.0   | 5.2   | 4.4   | 2.4   | 2.6   | 4.0   | 3.1   | 4.6   | 4.5   | 4.1   | 5.2   | 5.8   |
| URBAN   | 6.1   | 3.5   | 3.4   | 4.0   | 4.3   | 4.1   | 3.3   | 3.7   | 4.5   | 4.6   | 5.3   | 6.3   |
| ALL SYSTEMS   | 6.8   | 4.2   | 4.5   | 3.7   | 4.2   | 4.5   | 3.9   | 4.3   | 4.8   | 4.9   | 6.1   | 6.6   |

TABLE 2.

ESTIMATED CUMULATIVE MONTHLY MOTOR VEHICLE TRAVEL IN THE UNITED STATES \*\*\*

| SYSTEM  | MONTH |       |       |       |       |       |        |        |        |        |        |        |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|   | JAN   | FEB   | MAR   | APR   | MAY   | JUNE  | JULY   | AUG    | SEPT   | OCT    | NOV    | DEC    |
| 1985 CUMULATIVE MONTHLY VEHICLE-MILES OF TRAVEL IN BILLIONS*  |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| RURAL ARTERIAL  | 28.6  | 56.2  | 91.0  | 127.0 | 165.6 | 205.7 | 248.9  | 293.1  | 330.1  | 367.9  | 402.0  | 436.9  |
| OTHER RURAL   | 22.0  | 43.0  | 67.7  | 92.3  | 117.9 | 143.3 | 169.2  | 195.4  | 219.9  | 245.5  | 269.3  | 293.4  |
| URBAN   | 73.5  | 144.3 | 229.2 | 316.2 | 408.8 | 502.0 | 599.8  | 698.7  | 787.7  | 878.9  | 961.9  | 1044.4 |
| ALL SYSTEMS   | 124.1 | 243.5 | 387.9 | 535.5 | 692.3 | 851.0 | 1017.9 | 1187.3 | 1337.7 | 1492.3 | 1633.2 | 1774.8 |
| 1986 CUMULATIVE MONTHLY VEHICLE-MILES OF TRAVEL IN BILLIONS** |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| RURAL ARTERIAL  | 31.1  | 60.3  | 97.6  | 134.9 | 175.5 | 217.9 | 263.5  | 310.2  | 349.4  | 389.4  | 426.5  | 464.2  |
| OTHER RURAL   | 23.5  | 45.6  | 71.4  | 96.6  | 122.9 | 149.3 | 176.0  | 203.4  | 229.0  | 255.7  | 280.7  | 306.2  |
| URBAN   | 77.9  | 151.2 | 239.1 | 329.5 | 426.1 | 523.1 | 624.2  | 726.8  | 819.7  | 915.1  | 1002.5 | 1090.2 |
| ALL SYSTEMS   | 132.6 | 257.0 | 408.0 | 561.1 | 724.4 | 890.3 | 1063.6 | 1240.4 | 1398.1 | 1560.2 | 1709.6 | 1860.6 |
| PERCENT CHANGE IN CUMULATIVE MONTHLY TRAVEL 1986 VS. 1985     |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| RURAL ARTERIAL  | 8.7   | 7.1   | 7.2   | 6.2   | 6.0   | 5.9   | 5.9    | 5.8    | 5.8    | 5.9    | 6.1    | 6.2    |
| OTHER RURAL   | 7.0   | 6.1   | 5.5   | 4.7   | 4.2   | 4.2   | 4.0    | 4.1    | 4.1    | 4.1    | 4.2    | 4.4    |
| URBAN   | 6.1   | 4.8   | 4.3   | 4.2   | 4.2   | 4.2   | 4.1    | 4.0    | 4.1    | 4.1    | 4.2    | 4.4    |
| ALL SYSTEMS   | 6.8   | 5.6   | 5.2   | 4.8   | 4.6   | 4.6   | 4.5    | 4.5    | 4.5    | 4.6    | 4.7    | 4.8    |

\* THESE ARE PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES WHICH WILL BE REVISED TO AGREE WITH FINAL ESTIMATES OF 1986 ANNUAL TRAVEL PROVIDED BY STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENTS.  
\*\* TO BE REVISED BASED ON 1986 FINAL TRAVEL ESTIMATES.  
\*\*\* SYSTEM ENTRIES MAY NOT ADD TO TOTAL "ALL SYSTEMS" DUE TO ROUNDING.  
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT KENNETH WELTY, OFFICE OF HIGHWAY INFORMATION MANAGEMENT, FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION, PHONE 202-366-5055.

TABLE 3.-SUMMARY BY ROAD CLASS AND BY GEOGRAPHIC AREA

|                                    | PRELIMINARY DATA FOR DECEMBER |               |                      | REVISED DATA FOR NOVEMBER   |               |                      |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|----------------------|
|                                    | VEHICLE-MILES<br>(MILLIONS)   |               | PERCENTAGE<br>CHANGE | VEHICLE-MILES<br>(MILLIONS) |               | PERCENTAGE<br>CHANGE |
|                                    | 1986                          | 1985          |                      | 1986                        | 1985          |                      |
| <b>CLASS OF ROAD, ALL STATES:</b>  |                               |               |                      |                             |               |                      |
| RURAL ARTERIAL ROADS.....          | 37,663                        | 34,880        | 8.0                  | 37,071                      | 34,173        | 8.5                  |
| OTHER RURAL ROADS.....             | 25,526                        | 24,118        | 5.8                  | 24,989                      | 23,755        | 5.2                  |
| ALL RURAL ROADS.....               | 63,189                        | 58,998        | 7.1                  | 62,059                      | 57,928        | 7.1                  |
| CITY STREETS.....                  | 87,786                        | 82,586        | 6.3                  | 87,352                      | 82,944        | 5.3                  |
| ALL ROADS AND STREETS.....         | 150,975                       | 141,584       | 6.6                  | 149,412                     | 140,872       | 6.1                  |
| <b>48 STATES (RURAL ARTERIAL):</b> |                               |               |                      |                             |               |                      |
| EASTERN REGION.....                | 12,925                        | 11,874        | 8.9                  | 12,871                      | 11,685        | 10.2                 |
| CENTRAL REGION.....                | 17,879                        | 16,662        | 7.3                  | 17,741                      | 16,687        | 6.3                  |
| WESTERN REGION.....                | 6,693                         | 6,190         | 8.1                  | 6,290                       | 5,645         | 11.4                 |
| <b>TOTAL.....</b>                  | <b>37,497</b>                 | <b>34,726</b> | <b>8.0</b>           | <b>36,902</b>               | <b>34,017</b> | <b>8.5</b>           |

TABLE 4.-CHANGES ON RURAL ARTERIAL ROADS BY STATES

| DIVISION AND STATE                 | DECEMBER<br>(PRELIMINARY) |                           | NOVEMBER<br>(REVISED)    |                           | DIVISION AND STATE         | DECEMBER<br>(PRELIMINARY) |                           | NOVEMBER<br>(REVISED)    |                           |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
|                                    | NUMBER<br>OF<br>STATIONS  | PER-<br>CENTAGE<br>CHANGE | NUMBER<br>OF<br>STATIONS | PER-<br>CENTAGE<br>CHANGE |                            | NUMBER<br>OF<br>STATIONS  | PER-<br>CENTAGE<br>CHANGE | NUMBER<br>OF<br>STATIONS | PER-<br>CENTAGE<br>CHANGE |
| <b>NEW ENGLAND:</b>                |                           |                           |                          |                           | <b>EAST SOUTH CENTRAL:</b> |                           |                           |                          |                           |
| CONNECTICUT.....                   | 8                         | 5.7                       | 10                       | 8.2                       | ALABAMA.....               | 45                        | 8.0                       | 45                       | 7.9                       |
| MAINE.....                         | 19                        | 9.4                       | 19                       | 8.4                       | KENTUCKY.....              | 29                        | 8.4                       | 29                       | 6.3                       |
| MASSACHUSETTS.....                 | 10                        | 8.1                       | 11                       | 0.9                       | MISSISSIPPI.....           | 31                        | 1.1                       | 28                       | 1.4                       |
| NEW HAMPSHIRE.....                 | -                         | -                         | 49                       | 8.3                       | TENNESSEE.....             | 13                        | 13.4                      | 12                       | 8.9                       |
| RHODE ISLAND.....                  | 1                         | -17.1                     | 1                        | 11.4                      | <b>WEST NORTH CENTRAL:</b> |                           |                           |                          |                           |
| VERMONT.....                       | 28                        | 13.5                      | 28                       | 12.3                      | IDWA.....                  | 62                        | 6.3                       | 62                       | 5.4                       |
| <b>MIDDLE ATLANTIC:</b>            |                           |                           |                          |                           | KANSAS.....                | 56                        | 8.4                       | 53                       | 8.6                       |
| NEW JERSEY.....                    | -                         | -                         | -                        | -                         | MINNESOTA.....             | 23                        | 11.7                      | 23                       | 10.6                      |
| NEW YORK.....                      | 17                        | 10.1                      | 16                       | 7.1                       | MISSOURI.....              | 14                        | 11.9                      | 13                       | 9.7                       |
| PENNSYLVANIA.....                  | -                         | -                         | 5                        | 18.8                      | NEBRASKA.....              | 20                        | 8.3                       | 20                       | 11.0                      |
| <b>SOUTH ATLANTIC<br/>(NORTH):</b> |                           |                           |                          |                           | NORTH DAKOTA.....          | -                         | -                         | -                        | -                         |
| DELAWARE.....                      | 17                        | 5.1                       | 16                       | 7.0                       | SOUTH DAKOTA.....          | 21                        | 9.2                       | 23                       | 15.0                      |
| MARYLAND.....                      | 28                        | 7.8                       | 28                       | 5.7                       | <b>WEST SOUTH CENTRAL:</b> |                           |                           |                          |                           |
| VIRGINIA.....                      | -                         | 4.7                       | -                        | 4.7                       | ARKANSAS.....              | 14                        | 1.8                       | 14                       | 9.1                       |
| WEST VIRGINIA.....                 | 11                        | 12.1                      | 11                       | 8.0                       | LOUISIANA.....             | -                         | -                         | -                        | -                         |
| <b>SOUTH ATLANTIC<br/>(SOUTH):</b> |                           |                           |                          |                           | OKLAHOMA.....              | 34                        | 5.5                       | 34                       | - 0.4                     |
| FLORIDA.....                       | 33                        | 8.9                       | 31                       | 10.0                      | TEXAS.....                 | -                         | -                         | -                        | -                         |
| GEORGIA.....                       | 17                        | 15.2                      | 22                       | 15.4                      | <b>MOUNTAIN:</b>           |                           |                           |                          |                           |
| NORTH CAROLINA.....                | 20                        | 7.1                       | 21                       | 9.3                       | ARIZONA.....               | -                         | -                         | -                        | -                         |
| SOUTH CAROLINA.....                | 5                         | 8.9                       | 6                        | 8.9                       | COLORADO.....              | 32                        | 4.6                       | 28                       | 9.8                       |
| <b>EAST NORTH CENTRAL:</b>         |                           |                           |                          |                           | IDAHO.....                 | 45                        | 8.9                       | 40                       | 14.1                      |
| ILLINOIS.....                      | 28                        | 10.3                      | 28                       | 6.9                       | MONTANA.....               | -                         | -                         | 31                       | 7.3                       |
| INDIANA.....                       | -                         | -                         | -                        | -                         | NEVADA.....                | 11                        | 11.8                      | 11                       | 18.2                      |
| MICHIGAN.....                      | -                         | -                         | -                        | -                         | NEW MEXICO.....            | -                         | -                         | 42                       | 6.2                       |
| OHIO.....                          | -                         | -                         | 16                       | 6.7                       | UTAH.....                  | 45                        | 10.0                      | 43                       | 14.8                      |
| WISCONSIN.....                     | 38                        | 7.8                       | 39                       | 3.6                       | WYOMING.....               | 30                        | 2.9                       | 29                       | 1.9                       |
| <b>ALASKA.....</b>                 | <b>-</b>                  | <b>-</b>                  | <b>-</b>                 | <b>-</b>                  | <b>PACIFIC:</b>            |                           |                           |                          |                           |
| <b>HAWAII.....</b>                 | <b>3</b>                  | <b>7.4</b>                | <b>3</b>                 | <b>6.4</b>                | CALIFORNIA.....            | -                         | 8.1                       | -                        | 8.9                       |
|                                    |                           |                           |                          |                           | OREGON.....                | -                         | -                         | 63                       | 17.2                      |
|                                    |                           |                           |                          |                           | WASHINGTON.....            | 25                        | 11.8                      | 12                       | 26.7                      |

NOTE: 1-WHERE THE NUMBER OF STATIONS IS SHOWN AS A DASH AND A VALUE FOR PERCENTAGE CHANGE IS INDICATED, THE LATTER VALUE IS BASED ON A STATEWIDE ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY THE HIGHWAY AGENCY AS DETERMINED FROM EXTENSIVE TRAFFIC SAMPLING SURVEYS

2-WHERE THE NUMBER OF STATIONS AND THE PERCENTAGE CHANGE ARE SHOWN AS DASHES, INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION WAS AVAILABLE TO DETERMINE AN ESTIMATE.

# 1985 REVISED TRAVEL ESTIMATES

| SYSTEM  | MONTH |       |       |       |       |       |        |        |        |        |        |        |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|   | JAN   | FEB   | MAR   | APR   | MAY   | JUNE  | JULY   | AUG    | SEPT   | OCT    | NOV    | DEC    |
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| RURAL ARTERIAL  | 28.6  | 27.6  | 34.8  | 36.0  | 38.6  | 40.1  | 43.2   | 44.3   | 37.0   | 37.7   | 34.2   | 34.9   |
| OTHER RURAL   | 22.0  | 21.0  | 24.7  | 24.6  | 25.6  | 25.4  | 26.0   | 26.2   | 24.5   | 25.6   | 23.8   | 24.1   |
| URBAN   | 73.5  | 70.8  | 84.9  | 87.0  | 92.6  | 93.2  | 97.8   | 99.0   | 88.9   | 91.2   | 82.9   | 82.6   |
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| 1985 CUMULATIVE MONTHLY VEHICLE-MILES OF TRAVEL IN BILLIONS** |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |        |        |        |        |        |
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| ALL SYSTEMS   | 124.1 | 243.5 | 387.9 | 535.5 | 692.3 | 851.0 | 1017.9 | 1187.3 | 1337.7 | 1492.3 | 1633.2 | 1774.8 |

THESE ESTIMATES HAVE BEEN REVISED TO AGREE WITH FINAL ESTIMATES OF 1985

U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Highway  
Administration**

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