

# NATIONWIDE PERSONAL TRANSPORTATION SURVEY 

Automobile Occupancy

Report No. 1

Harry E. Strate
Highway Engineer (Trainee) Program Management Division Office of Highway Planning

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

 FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATIONWASHINGTON, D.C. 20591

## INTRODUCTION

The following report presents data concerning current automobile occupancyl/ rates and relates these figures to the major purpose of the trip2/ and to several other selected variables. These data, compiled from the Nationwide Personal Transportation Survey, represent the most complete national review of automobile occupancy to date.

Automobile occupancies taken from these data, while not only giving new perspective to urban problems, may also be useful as a basis for the computation of estimated passenger miles of travel. Furthermore, estimates of generated automobile traffic may be derived from these figures as, for example, the effect of a new office building or factory may be calculated when the number of workers is known.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE DATA

Data collected in this survey included automobile trips, number of occupants on each trip, passenger-miles, and vehicle-miles, all from which average occupancy rates were computed and primarily grouped according to the major purpose of the trip. There were four primary groupings from which more specific secondary groupings were taken. The four primary categories for purpose were: (1) earning a living; (2) family business; (3) educational, civic, and religious; and (4) social and recreational.

In addition to the classification of trips, etc., by purpose, further analyses were made for five selected variables. The variables examined were residence of principal operator of the vehicle, both for incorporated places and unincorporated areas; population groupings of the standard metropolitan statistical areas; day of the week; the length of the trip; and, finally, time of day by hour that the trip was started.

[^0]- Average car occupancy for all trip purposes combined was found to be 1.9 occupants per trip.
- Average car occupancy varied from a high of 3.3 occupants per trip for "vacation trips" to a low of 1.4 occupants per trip for "to and from work" trips.
- Average car occupancy generally increases with increasing trip length.
- Average occupancy per automobile trip shows occupancy to be higher on weekends.
. One-occupant trips represent 50.2 percent of all trips.
. Approximately 73.5 percent of trips "to and from work" were in one-occupant cars.


## Background

The Nationwide Personal Transportation Survey was designed to obtain up-to-date information on national patterns of travel. Earlier surveys, limited primarily to automobile and truck travel, were conducted in a number of States between 1930 and 1940 and more recently between 1951 and 1959. In April 1961, a survey was conducted to determine on a national basis characteristics of travel and ownership and use of automobiles. In addition, in this national survey in 1961, family income data were available which could be related to travel patterns.

## Survey procedures

Data for the Nationwide Personal Transportation Survey were collected in 1969-1970 by the Bureau of the Census of the Department of Commerce for the Federal Highway Administration of the Department of Transportation.

The survey was based on a multi-stage probability sample of housing units located in 235 sample areas, comprising 485 counties and independent cities, representing every State and the District of Columbia. The 235 sample areas were selected by grouping all the Nation's counties and independent cities into about 1,900 primary sample units (PSU's) and further forming 235 strata of one or more PSU's that are relatively homogeneous according to socio-economic characteristics. With each of the strata, a single PSU was selected to represent the stratum. Within each PSU, a probability sample of housing units was selected to represent the civilian non-institutionalized population.

The households in the Nationwide Personal Transportation Survey comprised two outgoing panels in the Quarterly Housing Survey (QHS) conducted by the Bureau of the Census. One panel was interviewed in April, July, and October 1969, and January 1970; the second panel was interviewed only once in August 1969.

Experienced field staff of the Bureau of the Census were assigned to the survey. Training consisted of a one-day session for field supervisors by Washington office personnel, and a one-day session of training of the interviewers by field supervisors. In addition, interviewers were assigned home-study exercises to be turned in before each interview period. The interviewers were also observed periodically by field office personnel.

The completed questionnaires were edited first in the Census regional field offices to clear up inconsistencies and omissions and later in the Washington office. The questionnaires were then edited, coded, etc., before being put on tapes. Edited tapes for each month of the
survey were furnished to the Federal Highway Administration for processing.

At the first visit to a selected household, in panel 1 during April 1969, and in panel 2 during August 1969, Sections I through VII of the household questionnaire were completed as well as a control card. On the control card were entered data on characteristics of the household such as income, automobile ownership, and age and sex of persons in the households. Only Sections VI and VII were completed at subsequent interviews at the households in panel 1.

Each of the tables in this report will indicate a reference source to a particular table from which the sample base can be determined. These sample bases are identified in Appendix A. A copy of the questionnaire is also found in the Appendix.

Sampling variability
The Nationwide Personal Transportation Survey is based on a probability sample and the estimates are subject to sampling variability. The term "sampling variability" refers to the expected differences between the results of the survey and those that would have been obtained had a complete census been taken.

Some items such as person or household characteristics or number of vehicles were collected only during the first visit to a household in April or in August. Standard errors of estimates and measures of sampling variability were calculated from data collected those two months. Estimates of the standard errors for characteristics of vehicle trips and vehicle miles were determined from variance functions fitted to the data collected during the five months of interviewing.

Most of the data are presented as percentage distributions. The base value of each 100 percent figure is also indicated. Tables IV.-1 and IV.-2 in Appendix B give the standard errors for specified percentages and base values. The appropriate standard error of estimate may be determined by interpolation. In general, the chances are about two out of three that the difference due to sampling variability between the estimated data and the figure that would have been obtained from a complete census does not exceed the standard error.

Other possible sources of error
In addition to variability arising from the use of samples and household responses, errors may have been made by interviewers or by other personnel involved in the collection and processing of data. Quality controls at all levels of data collection and processing were exercised by the Bureau of the Census.

In this survey the occupancy for all purposes (all places and areas combined) was found to be 1.9 occupants per trip (see table 1 and figure 1). The occupancy per trip of the four primary purpose divisions varied from a high of 2.5 for "social and recreational" and "educational, civic, and religious" purposes, to a low of 1.4 occupants per trip for "earning a living" trips. The high for any one subdivision was 3.3 occupants per trip for "vacation" trips, while the low was 1.4 for trips made "to and from work."

Occupancy weighted by passenger-miles and vehicle-miles was also computed. The occupancy in passenger-miles per vehicle-mile for "all purposes" was 2.2 (see table 1). The highest occupancy for a primary division was 2.9 passenger-miles per vehicle-mile for "social and recreational" trips, and the lowest was 1.6 for trips related to "earning a living." Values for the purpose subdivisions ranged from 3.3 passenger-miles per vehiclemile for "vacation trips" to 1.6 for "to and from work" trips.

Occupancy by population group and purpose
Generally, occupancy of automobiles seemed to be slightly higher in unincorporated areas than in incorporated places. These data are shown in table 1 . Residents of unincorporated areas reported 2.0 occupants per trip for trips for "all purposes" combined. The corresponding average for incorporated places was 1.9 occupants per trip. Interestingly, occupancy weighted by passenger-miles per vehicle-mile was equal in both incorporated and unincorporated areas at 2.2.

The major exception to this general relationship was in the category of "social and recreational" trips. Excluding "vacation" trips, which were a small percentage of the total trips, occupancy in incorporated places was higher than or equal to occupancy in unincorporated areas. The largest difference was in "pleasure" trips where incorporated outranked unincorporated 2.8 to 2.5 occupants per trip.

Two other points should be noted. First, occupants per trip for the "family business" category averaged nearly 2.0 for all subdivisions. Secondly, some of the minor differences between the averages may be due to sampling variability rather than any real difference in occupancy rates.

Occupancy by SMSA and purpose
Table 2 shows the average occupancy for trips by the residents of the various standard metropolitan statistical area (SMSA) size groupings. Generally, there appears to be no clear relationship between SMSA size and occupants per trip for any given trip purpose.
Table l.--Average occupancy in automobile trips classified by
major purpose of travel and by place of residence

| Place of residence | Major purpose of trip |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Earning a living |  |  | Family business |  |  |  | ```Educationa1, civic, and religious``` | Social and recreational |  |  |  |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { All } \\ \text { purposes } \end{gathered}$ |
|  | To and from work | Related business | Total | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Medical } \\ & \text { and } \\ & \text { dental } \end{aligned}$ | Shopping | Other | Total |  | Vacation | Visits to <br> friends <br> or <br> relatives | Pleasure rides | Other | Total |  |
| All incorporated places All unincorporated areas | Occupancy .- Occupants per trip |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 1.4 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 2.6 | * | 2.3 | 2.8 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 1.9 |
|  | 1.4 | 1.7 | 1.5 | 2.3 | 2.1 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 2.5 | * | 2.3 | 2.5 | 2.6 | 2.4 | 2.0 |
| All places and areas | 1.4 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 2.1 | 2.0 | 1.9 | 2.0 | 2.5 | 3.3 | 2.3 | 2.7 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 1.9 |
|  | Occupancy - Passenger miles per vehicle-mile |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| All incorporated places | 1.5 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.4 | * | 2.7 | 3.2 | 3.0 | 2.9 | 2.2 |
| areas | 1.6 | 2.0 | 1.7 | 2.9 | 2.3 | 2.2 | 2.4 | 2.6 | * | 2.6 | 2.5 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 2.2 |
| All places and areas | 1.6 | 1.7 | 1.6 | 2.6 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.3 | 2.5 | 3.3 | 2.7 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 2.9 | 2.2 |

* Data insufficient for analysis.
SOURCE: Based upon umpublished table P-8 from the Nationwde Personal Transportation Survey conducted by the Bureau of the
Figure 1－AVERAGE AUTOMOBILE OCCUPANCY CLASSIFIED BY PURPOSE OF TRIP

MAJOR PURPOSE OF TRIP
（SdIyl－人ON甘dnJつO）人 $3 N \forall d \cap O J O$
Table 2.--Average occupancy in automobile trips classified by
major purpose of the trip and place of residence in Standard Metropolitan Sta

| $\begin{aligned} & \text { SMSA } \\ & \text { size } \end{aligned}$ | Major purpose of trip |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Earning a living |  |  | Family business |  |  |  | ```Educational, civic and religious``` | Social and recreational |  |  |  |  | A11 purposes |
|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { To and } \\ \text { from } \\ \text { work } \end{gathered}$ | Related business | Total | Medical and dental | Shopping | Other | Total |  | Vacation | $\begin{array}{\|c\|} \hline \text { Visits to } \\ \text { friends } \\ \text { or } \\ \text { relatives } \\ \hline \end{array}$ | Pleasure rides | Other | Total |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { Under } \\ & 250,000 \end{aligned}$ | 1.4 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 1.9 | 2.0 | 1.9 | 2.0 | 2.5 | * | 2.2 | 3.0 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 2.0 |
| $\begin{aligned} & 250,000- \\ & 499,999 \end{aligned}$ | 1.4 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.5 | * | 2.3 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 1.9 |
| $\left\lvert\, \begin{aligned} & 500,000- \\ & 999,999 \end{aligned}\right.$ | 1.4 | 1.8 | 1.4 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.3 | * | 2.4 | 1.8 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 1.9 |
| $\left\lvert\, \begin{aligned} & 1,000,000- \\ & 1,999,999 \end{aligned}\right.$ | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 2.1 | 1.8 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 2.3 | * | 2.0 | 2.8 | 2.6 | 2.4 | 1.8 |
| $\begin{aligned} & 2,000,000- \\ & 2,999,999 \end{aligned}$ | 1.4 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 2.0 | 1.9 | 2.0 | 1.9 | 2.6 | * | 2.4 | 3.1 | 2.9 | 2.7 | 2.0 |
| $\begin{aligned} & 3,000,000 \\ & \text { and over } \end{aligned}$ | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 2.1 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 2.5 | * | 2.4 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 1.9 |
| Total SMSA's | 1.4 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 2.1 | 2.0 | 1.9 | 2.0 | 2.5 | 3.4 | 2.2 | 2.7 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 1.9 |

[^1]SOURCE: Based upon unpublished table P-8 from the Nationwide Personal Transportation Survey conductea by the Bureau of the Census for Federal Highway Administration, 1969-1970.

The highest proportion of single occupant cars were for trips "to and from work." As can be seen from table 3, nearly three-fourths (74.5 percent) of all "to and from work" trips are made in a single occupant car. Even in the "family business" category, which averages 2.0 occupants per trip, over 40 percent of the trips are made by cars with driver only. It is not surprising that over 50 percent of all trips made by residents of SMSA's are made by automobiles with only one occupant. Furthermore, 78.2 percent of all trips made by residents of SMSA's are made with only one or two occupants.

Occupancy by length of trip and purpose
From table 4, occupancy by trip length and purpose, automobile occupancy appears to generally increase with increasing trip length, particularly for the longer trips. Although occupancy rates may indeed increase with increasing length in the range less than 15 miles, the figures in table 4 do not clearly indicate such a relationship. Further, in some categories, no specific relationship can be seen at all; for instance "educational, civic, and religious" trips.

One category which shows a correspondence between trip length and occupancy is "shopping" trips. The occupancy increases from a low of 1.7 occupants per trip for trips less than one-half mile to more than 2.2 occupants per trip for trips over 10 miles.

Occupancy by day of week and purpose
Figures taken from table 5, average occupancy per automobile trip by day of week and purpose, show occupancy to be higher on the weekends (see figure 2). For "all purposes," occupants per trip vary from a low of 1.8 dpring early and mid-week to a high of 2.4 on Sunday. In fact, the occupancy rate increases from 1.8 occupants per trip on Thursday, to 1.9 occupants per trip on Friday, to 2.1 on Saturday, and to the high of 2.4 on Sunday.

There are two notable exceptions to this general relationship. "To and from work" trips do not show a clear relationship to the day of the week. Secondly, "shopping" trips show a relatively constant occupancy rate of 2.0 occupants per trip for all days of the week.
"Social and recreational" trips generally show a higher weekend occupancy rate in relation to mid-week rates. Occupancy for "visits to friends and relatives" trips range from a Wednesday low of 2.0 occupants per trip to a Sunday high of 2.6 .

Table 6 shows the distribution of total trips for each purpose by day of the week. As may be seen, most high occupancy trips tend to be taken on the weekend. For example, "educational, civic, and religious" trips show an all-week average of 2.5 occupants per trip (table 5). It can be seen that over 30 percent of these trips are taken on Sunday alone (table 6).

Table 3--Distribution of automobile trips by number of occupants for each furpose of travel - Residents of Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSA'S)

| Number of occupants | Major purpose of trip |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Earning a living |  |  | Family business |  |  |  | ```Educational, civic, and religious``` | Social and recreational |  |  |  |  | A11 purposes |
|  | To and from work | Related business | Total | $\begin{array}{\|c\|} \hline \text { Medical } \\ \text { and } \\ \text { dental } \\ \hline \end{array}$ | Shopping | Other | Total |  | Vacation | $\left\|\begin{array}{l}\text { Visits to } \\ \text { friends } \\ \text { or } \\ \text { relatives }\end{array}\right\|$ | Pleasure rides | Other | Total |  |
|  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Per- } \\ & \text { cent } \end{aligned}$ | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Per- cent | Percent | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Per- } \\ & \text { cent } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Per- } \\ & \text { cent* } \end{aligned}$ | Per- <br> cent | Percent | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Per- } \\ & \text { cent } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Per- } \\ & \text { cent } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Per } \\ & \text { cent } \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |
| 1 | 74.5 | 62.9 | 73.2 | 38.5 | 43.7 | 45.9 | 44.4 | 33.7 | * | 36.3 | 17.0 | 27.3 | 30.1 | 50.9 |
| 2 | 17.6 | 24.7 | 18.4 | 38.2 | 34.0 | 31.2 | 33.0 | 26.5 | * | 31.4 | 41.1 | 36.0 | 34.5 | 27.3 |
| 3 | 4.1 | 7.5 | 4.5 | 12.6 | 11.5 | 12.5 | 12.0 | 15.8 | * | 14.8 | 13.2 | 12.7 | 13.6 | 9.9 |
| 4 | 1.6 | 2.6 | 1.8 | 4.2 | 6.1 | 4.7 | 5.4 | 10.8 | * | 8.9 | 16.2 | 11.2 | 10.6 | 5.7 |
| 5 | 1.0 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 2.2 | 2.5 | 3.1 | 2.7 | 5.5 | * | 4.1 | 7.8 | 5.2 | 5.1 | 2.9 |
| 6 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 3.7 | 0.8 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 3.6 | * | 2.2 | 2.0 | 4.0 | 3.2 | 1.5 |
| 7 | 0.1 | -- | -- | 0.3 | 0.8 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 1.6 | * | 1.3 | 2.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 0.7 |
| 8 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | -- | -- | -" | -- | 0.6 | * | 0.3 | -- | 0.6 | 0.4 | 0.2 |
| 9 or more | -- | 0.3 | -- | -- | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.5 | * | 0.3 | -- | 1.0 | 0.5 | 0.3 |
| N/A | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 1.4 |  | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.6 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Total miber (000) of daily trips | 53,033 | 6,716 | 159,749 | 2,755 | 25,937 | 121,401 | 50,099 | 14,844 | 244 | 14,068 | 2,036 | 20,088] | 36,435 | 163,964 |

* Available data not sufficient for analysis

Sn!'RCE: Based upon unpublished table P-8 from the Nationwide Personal Transportation Survey conducted by the Bureau of the Census for Federal Highway Administration, 1960-1970.
Table 4.--Average occupancy in automobile trips classified by trip length and major purpose of travel

| One-waytrip lengthmiles | Major purpose of trip |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Earning <br> a living |  | Family business |  |  | ```Educational, civic, and religious``` | Social and recreational |  |  |  | A11 purposes |
|  | To and from work | Re1ated business | $\left\lvert\, \begin{gathered} \text { Medical } \\ \text { and } \\ \text { dental } \end{gathered}\right.$ | Shopping | Other |  | Vacation | ```Visits to friends and relatives``` | Pleasure rides | other |  |
| Less than $\frac{1}{\frac{1}{2}}$ | 1.3 | 1.4 | 2.0 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 2.4 | * | 1.9 | 1.6 | 2.5 | 1.8 |
| 1 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 2.6 | * | 2.2 | 2.8 | 2.2 | 1.9 |
| 2 | 1.4 | 1.6 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 2.6 | * | 2.0 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 2.0 |
| 3 | 1.3 | 1.5 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 1.9 | 2.6 | * | 2.2 | 2.3 | 2.6 | 1.9 |
| 4 | 1.3 | 1.7 | 1.6 | 2.0 | 1.9 | 2.5 | * | 2.0 | 2.3 | 2.5 | 1.9 |
| 5 | 1.4 | 1.7 | 2.2 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.4 | * | 2.3 | 2.5 | 2.7 | 2.0 |
| 6 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.9 | 2.1 | 2.0 | 2.1 | * | 2.1 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 1.9 |
| 7 | 1.4 | 1.8 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 1.9 | 2.5 | * | 2.5 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.0 |
| 8-10 | 1.4 | 1.6 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.1 | 2.6 | * | 2.1 | 2.9 | 2.6 | 1.9 |
| 11-15 | 1.4 | 1.8 | 2.7 | 2.5 | 2.1 | 2.4 | * | 2.2 | 3.1 | 2.6 | 1.9 |
| 16-20 | 1.5 | 1.9 | 2.6 | 2.3 | 2.1 | 2.0 | * | 2.6 | 2.8 | 2.6 | 1.9 |
| 21-30 | 1.7 | 1.6 | 2.3 | 2.6 | 2.1 | 2.3 | * | 2.7 | 2.6 | 2.9 | 2.1 |
| 31-40 | 1.5 | 1.6 | - | 2.1 | 2.8 | 2.9 | * | 2.2 | 2.1 | 3.0 | 2.3 |
| 41 and Over | 1.6 | 1.6 | 3.3 | 2.5 | 2.8 | 2.9 | * | 2.7 | 3.2 | 3.4 | 2.6 |
| $\begin{gathered} \text { Total all } \\ \text { Fengths } \end{gathered}$ | 1.4 | 1.6 | 2.1 | 2.0 | 1.9 | 2.5 | 3.4 | 2.3 | 2.7 | 2.6 | 1.9 |

[^2]Table 5.--Average occupancy in automobile trips
by purpose of trip and day of week

| Day of week | Major purpose of trip |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Earning a living |  |  | Family business |  |  |  | ```Educational, civic, and religious``` | Social and recreational |  |  |  |  | Al1 purposes |
|  | To and from work | Related business | Total | Medical and dental | Shopping | Other | Total |  | Vacation | $\begin{gathered} \text { Visits to } \\ \text { friends } \\ \text { or } \\ \text { relatives } \end{gathered}$ | Pleasure rides | Other | Total |  |
| Monday | 1.4 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.3 | * | 2.3 | 3.1 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 1.8 |
| Tuesday | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 2.2 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.9 | 2.5 | * | 2,1 | 2,3 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 1.8 |
| Wednesday | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 2.2 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 2.0 | 2.5 | * | 2.0 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.3 | 1.8 |
| Thursday | 1.4 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 2.1 | 2.0 | 1.9 | 2.0 | 2.4 | * | 2.1 | 2.5 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 1.8 |
| Friday | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 1.8 | 1.9 | 2.5 | * | 2.1 | 2.3 | 2.8 | 2.5 | 1.9 |
| Saturday | 1.4 | 1.9 | 1.5 | 2.3 | 2.0 | 1.9 | 2.0 | 2.7 | * | 2.4 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 2.6 | 2.1 |
| Sunday | 1.3 | 1.9 | 1.4 | 2.4 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 2.1 | 2.7 | * | 2.6 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.4 |
| $\begin{gathered} \text { Total all } \\ \text { days } \end{gathered}$ | 1.4 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 2.1 | 2.0 | 1.9 | 2.0 | 2.5 | 3.3 | 2.3 | 2.7 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 1.9 |

* Available data not sufficient for analysis.

SOLRCE: Based upon unpublished table $T-7$ fron the Nationwide Personal Transportation Survey conducted by the Bureau of the Census for the Feceral llishway Administration, 1969-1977.
Figure 2. AVERAGE AUTOMOBILE OCCUPANCY BY PURPOSE OF TRIP

Table 6--Distribution of automobill trips for each purpose of trip by day of week

"To and from work" trips show the opposite relationship. This subdivision has a low all-week average of 1.4 occupants per trip. Only 2.8 percent of this type of trip is taken on Sunday; the major portion being taken Monday through Friday. Table 7 shows the distribution of total trips for each day by the purpose of the trip. On Sunday, 42.5 percent of the total number of trips are in the high occupancy group, "social and recreational" (2.7 occupants per trip); while on Wednesday, 45 percent of the trips are in a much lower occupancy group, "earning a living," ( 1.4 occupants per trip).

Occupancy by time of day and purpose
Shown on table 8 are average occupancies for three selected purposes and "all purposes" by the time of day that the trip was started. The three selected purposes are "to and from work," "shopping," and "visit to friends or relatives." These purposes were singled out because of their particular importance by reason of the greatest share of trips. It should be noted that the category "all purposes" includes all trip purposes in the survey.

Perhaps the most interesting subdivision is "to and from work" trips. As can be seen, occupancy decreases steadily from 1.7 occupants per trip at 5:00 a.m. to 1.3 occupants per trip at 8:00 a.m. Occupancy then holds relatively steady until $3: 00$ p.m. when it jumps to 1.6 occupants per trip. It then decreases again to 1.3 occupants per trip at 6:00 p.m. and holds fairly constant until 1:00 a.m.
"Shopping" trips display a somewhat different tendency with time; increasing from 1.7 occupants per trip at 8:00 a.m., to 2.1 occupants per trip at 3:00 p.m. It appears that the occupancy rate again cycles, going from 1.9 occupants per trip at $4: 00 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. to 2.3 at $8: 00 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. before it begins to fall off.

Interestingly, the "visits to friends and relatives" occupancy rates are not affected by time of the day. Although occupancy rates are slightly higher after 8:00 p.m., most occupancy rates hover around the 24 -hour average of 2.3 occupants per trip.
"All purposes" trips display much the same tendency. The times of lowest occupancy are from 4:00 a.m. to $8: 00 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$. The times of highest occupancy appear to be from 6:00 p.m. to $11: 00$ p.m. It seems, however, that only in a few cases is the actual hourly occupancy far from the 24 -hour average of 1.9 occupants per trip.

Distribution of one occupant trips by purpose and hour of the day
Table 9 and figure 3 show the percent of all trips taken in one-occupant cars for a given purpose and time. The one-occupant trips represent 50.2 percent of all trips. As might be expected, 73.5 percent of trips "to and from work" were in one-occupant cars. On the other end are "visits to friends or relatives" with 36.3 percent being one-occupant trips.
Table 7.--Distribution of automobile trips for each day by purpose of trip

| Day of week | Major purpose of trip |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Earning a living |  |  | Family business |  |  |  | ```Educational, civic, and religious``` | Social and recreational |  |  |  |  | N/A | Total | Average number of daily trips (000) |
|  | To and from work | Related business | Total | $\begin{gathered} \text { Medical } \\ \text { and } \\ \text { dental } \end{gathered}$ | Shopping | Other | Total |  | Vacation | $\begin{gathered} \text { Visits to } \\ \text { friends } \\ \text { and } \\ \text { relatives } \end{gathered}$ | Pleasure rides | Other | Total 2/ |  |  |  |
|  | Percent | Percent | Percent | Pexcere | Percent | Ercen | Pencent | Percent | Rercent | Rercent | Percent | Percent | temert | Percent | Percent |  |
| Monday | 37.9 | 6.3 | 44.2 | 2.7 | 14.3 | 15.3 | 32.3 | 8.0 | * | 6.5 | 0.6 | 6.6 | 13.9 | 1.6 | 100.0 | 233,298 |
| Tuanday | 37.8 | 5.2 | 43.0 | 2.2 | 12.4 | 14.7 | 29.3 | 9.0 | * | 7.5 | 0.6 | 9.0 | 17.3 | 1.4 | 100.0 | 250,365 |
| Wednesday | 41.1 | 3.9 | 45.0 | 1.7 | 12.2 | 13.6 | 27.5 | 9.6 | * | 7.2 | 0.8 | 8.5 | 16.7 | 1.2 | 100.0 | 251,735 |
| Thursday | 38.0 | 5.3 | 43.3 | 2.2 | 14.8 | 14.3 | 31.3 | 7.6 | * | 6.2 | 1.0 | 8.8 | 16.3 | 1.5 | 100.0 | 251,320 |
| Friday | 34.8 | 3.8 | 38.6 | 1.6 | 17.4 | 14.6 | 33.6 | 5.8 | * | 7.2 | 0.8 | 12.7 | 20.9 | 1.1 | 100.0 | 266,047 |
| Saturday | 18.6 | 3.4 | 22.0 | 1.2 | 25.1 | 14.4 | 40.7 | 2.3 | * | 10.9 | 2.0 | 21.0 | 34.2 | 0.8 | 100.0 | 224,037 |
| Sunday | 7.7 | 2.3 | 10.0 | 0.3 | 10.4 | 10.3 | 21.0 | 25.0 | * | 19.5 | 4.3 | 18.4 | 42.5 | 1.5 | 100.0 | 192,316 |
| Avg. trip per week | 31.8 | 4.3 | 36.1 | 1.7 | 15.2 | 14.0 | 30.7 | 9.2 | 0.1 | 8.9 | 1.3 | 11.8 | 22.5 | 1.3 | 100.0 | 1,669,718 $1 /$ | * Available data not sufficient for analysis.

SOURCE: Based upon unpublished table T-7 from the Nationwide Personal Transportation Survey conducted by the Bureau of the Census for the Federal Highway Administration, 1969-1970.
I/ This figure represents average number of weekly trips.
2/ Totals include percentages for "vacation" trips.

Table 8.--Average occupancy in automobile trips by hour of day trip started - selected purposes

| Hour of day trip started | Major purpose of trip |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | To and Irom work | Shopping | $\begin{gathered} \text { Visits to } \\ \text { friends } \\ \text { and } \\ \text { relatives } \end{gathered}$ | A11 <br> purposes |
| 4:00 a.m. | * | * | * | 1.7 |
| 5:00 a.m. | 1.7 | * | * | 1.8 |
| 6:00 a.m. | 1.6 | * | * | 1.7 |
| 7:00 a.m. | 1.4 | * | * | 1.6 |
| 8:00 a.m. | 1.3 | 1.7 | 2.1 | 1.7 |
| 9:00 a.m. | 1.3 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 1.9 |
| 10:00 a.m. | 1.4 | 1.8 | 2.3 | 1.9 |
| 11:00 a.m. | 1.3 | 1.9 | 2.1 | 2.0 |
| 12:00 p.m. | 1.3 | 1.9 | 2.3 | 1.9 |
| 1:00 p.m. | 1.3 | 1.9 | 2.2 | 1.9 |
| 2:00 p.m. | 1.3 | 2.0 | 2.2 | 2.0 |
| 3:00 p.m. | 1.6 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 2.0 |
| 4:00 p.m. | 1.5 | 1.9 | 2.3 | 1.9 |
| 5:00 p.m. | 1.4 | 2.1 | 2.3 | 1.8 |
| 6:00 p.m. | 1.3 | 2.1 | 2.3 | 2.1 |
| 7:00 p.m. | 1.5 | 2.2 | 2.3 | 2.2 |
| 8:00 p.m. | 1.3 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 2.3 |
| 9:00 p.m. | 1.3 | 2.2 | 2.4 | 2.2 |
| 10:00 p.m. | 1.5 | 1.9 | 2.6 | 2.1 |
| 11:00 p.m. | 1.3 | * | 2.4 | 2.0 |
| 12:00 a.m. | 1.3 | * | 2.2 | 1.8 |
| 1:00 a.m. | 1.4 | * | * | 1.9 |
| 2:00 a.m. | * | * | * | 1.9 |
| 3:00 a.m. | \% | * | * | 1.8 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { Average for } \\ & 24 \text { hours } \end{aligned}$ | 1.4 | 2.0 | 2.3 | 1.9 |
| Percent of total trips represented | 31.8 | 15.2 | 8.9 | 100.01/ |

* Data not sufficient for analysis.

SOURCE: Based upon unpublished table T-5 from the Nationwide Personal Transportation Survey conducted by the Bureau of the Census for the Federal Highway Administration, 1969-1970.
1/ The percentages are based on an average of $236,748,000$ daily trips.

Table 9.--Proportion of trips in one-occupant automobiles by hour of day trip started - selected purposes

| Hour of day trip started | Major purpose of trip |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | To and from work | Shopping | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Visits to } \\ & \text { friends } \\ & \text { and } \\ & \text { relatives } \end{aligned}$ | A11 purposes |
| 4:00 a.m. | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| 5:00 a.m. | 68.3 | * | * | 64.3 |
| 6:00 a.m. | 65.1 | * | * | 61.6 |
| 7:00 a.m. | 74.4 | * | * | 65.4 |
| 8:00 a.m. | 77.4 | 54.6 | 45.1 | 59.9 |
| 9:00 a.m. | 78.0 | 49.4 | 47.7 | 53.7 |
| 10:00 a.m. | 78.0 | 50.6 | 43.3 | 49.3 |
| 11:00 a.m. | 82.0 | 47.5 | 45.3 | 49.2 |
| 12:00 p.m. | 79.7 | 48.1 | 36.8 | 51.3 |
| 1:00 p.m. | 78.3 | 41.8 | 38.2 | 50.0 |
| 2:00 p.m. | 78.1 | 39.8 | 38.4 | 48.3 |
| 3:00 p.m. | 64.9 | 41.1 | 40.9 | 47.3 |
| 4:00 p.m. | 69.1 | 47.1 | 38.3 | 54.0 |
| 5:00 p.m. | 75.6 | 43.2 | 35.2 | 55.1 |
| 6:00 p.m. | 78.5 | 44.6 | 35.3 | 45.3 |
| 7:00 p.m. | 71.2 | 34.1 | 38.2 | 36.5 |
| 8:00 p.m. | 78.8 | 31.5 | 27.9 | 35.0 |
| 9:00 p.m. | 76.5 | 33.2 | 27.8 | 37.7 |
| 10:00 p.m. | 71.1 | 39.1 | 23.1 | 40.1 |
| 11:00 p.m. | 76.0 | * | 38.1 | 45.0 |
| 12:00 a.m. | 81.0 | * | 42.6 | 53.9 |
| 1:00 a.m. | 66.9 | * | * | 39.3 |
| 2:00 a.m. | * | * | * | 51.6 |
| 3:00 a.m. | * | * | * | 43.8 |
| 24 Hours | 73.5 | 43.3 | 36.3 | 50.2 |

* Data not sufficient for analysis.

SOURCE: Based upon unpublished table T-5 from the Nationwide Personal Transportation Survey conducted by the Bureau of the Census for the Federal Highway Administration, 1969-1970.


Sdiyl 3าIgowoln $\operatorname{IN\forall dกכ30-3NO~}$

The "all purposes" one-occupant car percentages are above the average during both morning and evening "rush" hours (6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to $6: 00$ p.m., respectively) when "to and from work" trips exert their largest influence. During the evening hours of 6:00 to 11:00 p.m., however, "all purposes" percentages drop below the 24 -hour average to a low of 35.0 percent being one-occupant trips. Perhaps this represents the greater influence of "shopping" and "visits to friends or relatives" trips. It is interesting that during these same hours, only percentages for "to and from work" trips do not drop. It should be remembered that as one-occupant trip percentages decrease the automobile occupancy generally increases. This can be seen from tables 8 and 9 where the "all purposes" percentage is the lowest ( 35.0 percent) for trips started at 8:00 p.m. This low percentage corresponds to the "all purposes" occupancy high of 2.3 occupants per trip.

## SUMMARY

I. Occupancy rates of passenger cars are affected by the purpose of the trip. It seems that purposes that encourage family activity such as "socíal and recreational" trips do in fact result in higher occupancy rates. On the other hand, trips which a single family member might take, such as "to and from work," do result in lower occupancy rates.
2. The size of the standard metropolitan statistical area has no clear relationship to occupancy rates. Although there does appear to be some difference between incorporated places and unincorporated areas, this difference may be due to statistical variance.
3. Length of trip, day of week, and time of day all have some affect on automobile occupancy rates. It is difficult to see, however, if they directly influence occupancy rates or, if they affect the type or purpose of the trip. Even though it can be seen that these variables do influence occupancy rates for individual purposes, it is probably true that 'high occupancy" trips are encouraged by the above variables to an even greater extent.
4. Although the "all purpose" average is near 2 occupants per trip, nearly 50 percent of all trips are still taken in one-occupant cars. Even when occupancy approaches 3.0 occupants per trip, the percent of oneoccupant cars is still high. It is noteworthy that nearly three-fourths of all trips taken "to and from" work are taken in one-occupant, driver only, cars.

Sample base for Nationwide Personal Transportation Survey
The following are the major series of tables and the sample base for tables developed from the survey. Each of the tables in any of these reports will indicate a reference source from which the sample base can be determined.

1. H-series, E-series, and I-9 through T-16

These tables relate to data collected in Sections I through $V$ of the questionnaire. The tables are based upon a sample of approximately 6,000 households, approximately 3,000 from panel 1 interviewed in April 1969, and approximately 3,000 from panel 2 interviewed in August 1969. Each of these panels were expanded to national estimates. For purposes of all tables referred to in any of these reports, the expanded data from the two panels were averaged.
2. P-series and I-1 through I-8

These tables relate to data collected in Section VI. Data from four interviews at the identical households in panel 1 (approximately 3,000 households were interviewed in April, July, October 1969, and January 1970) were combined and expanded to represent annual estimates of trips and travel by automobile or other forms of public transportation.

## APPENDIX A

Major sections of questionnaire
The following are the main sections of the questionnaire:

1. The data reported in items a through $t$ above Section 1 of the questionnaire were transcribed from the control card.
2. Section I - Automobile Record
3. Section II - Shopping and nearness to public transportation to main business district by residents of Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.
4. Section III - Travel to work for all employed persons 16 years or older.
5. Section IV - Driver information or estimated annual miles driven by licensed drivers.
6. Section V - Travel to school for persons between 5 and 18 years of age and attending school. For panel 2 of the households interviewed in August 1969, the interviewer asked for the travel to school information for the preceding May.
7. Section VI - Travel day report. All one-way trips by motor vehicle or some form of public transportation taken by persons 5 years of age or older were reported for a pre-assigned reference day. The reference days were all in a one-week period in each of the months of interviewing and all weekdays and weekends were represented. Generally, the interviewer visited all households the first weekday after the reference day in order to minimize memory errors.
8. Section VII - Overnight travel record of all trips lasting one or more nights during the 7 days ending the day before the preassigned travel day. Insufficient data were collected in this section to permit detailed analyses.

APPENDIX A





Table IV.-1.--Estimated standard errors for number of vehicle trips for one day when single auto is only means

| Estimated total <br> $(000)$ | Estimated standard error <br> $\left(1 \begin{array}{l}\text { Sigma } \\ (000)\end{array}\right.$ <br> 100 <br> 250 <br> 500 <br> 750 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1,000 | 95 |
| 2,500 | 150 |
| 5,000 | 213 |
| 10,000 | 261 |
| 15,000 | 302 |
| 25,000 | 479 |
| 50,000 | 683 |
| 75,000 | 982 |
| 100,000 | 1,222 |
| 125,000 | 1,625 |
| 150,000 | 2,459 |
| 175,000 | 3,197 |
| 200,000 | 3,893 |
| 255,000 | 4,567 |

These standard errors may be used to evaluate the percentages shown in tables $3,6,7$, and 9.

Table IV.-2.--Estimated standard errors for percentages of vehicle trips for one day when single auto is only means

| Base of Percentage (000) | Estimated percentage |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1 of $99 \%$ | 5 or $95 \%$ | 10 or $90 \%$ | 20 or $80 \%$ | 25 or 75\% | 50\% |
| 500 | - | - | - | 17.0 | 18.4 | 21.2 |
| 750 | - | - | 10.4 | 13.9 | 15.0 | 17.3 |
| 1,000 | - | - | 9.0 | 12.0 | 13.0 | 15.0 |
| 2,500 | - | 4.1 | 5.7 | 7.6 | 8.2 | 9.5 |
| 5,000 | 1.3 | 2.9 | 4.0 | 5.4 | 5.8 | 6.7 |
| 10,000 | . 9 | 2.1 | 2.9 | 3.8 | 4.1 | 4.8 |
| 15,000 | . 8 | 1.7 | 2.3 | 3.1 | 3.4 | 3.9 |
| 25,000 | . 6 | 1.3 | 1.8 | 2.4 | 2.6 | 3.0 |
| 50,000 | . 4 | . 9 | 1.3 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 2.1 |
| 75,000 | . 3 | . 8 | 1.0 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.7 |
| 100,000 | . 3 | . 7 | . 9 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.5 |
| 125,000 | . 3 | . 6 | . 8 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.3 |
| 150,000 | . 2 | . 5 | . 7 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 1.2 |
| 175,000 | . 2 | . 5 | . 7 | . 9 | 1.0 | 1.1 |
| 200,000 | . 2 | . 4 | . 6 | . 8 | . 9 | 1.1 |
| 225,000 | . 2 | . 4 | . 6 | . 8 | . 9 | 1.0 |
| 235,000 | . 2 | . 4 | . 6 | . 8 | . 8 | 1.0 |
| 255,000 | . 2 | . 4 | . 6 | . 8 | . 8 | . 9 |

These standard errors may be used to evaluate the percentages shown in tables 3, 6, 7, and 9.


[^0]:    I/ For this section of the survey, the driver was counted as an occupant.

    2/ A trip is defined as any travel from one place to another (oneway) by motor vehicle that ends on the travel day (4:00 a.m. on the reference day to $3: 59 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$. the following day).

[^1]:    * Available data not sufficient for analysis.

[^2]:    * Available data not sufficient for analysis.

    SOURCE: Based upon unpublished table T-5 from the Nationwide Personal Transportation Survey conducted by the Bureau of the Census for the Federal Highway Administration,

