

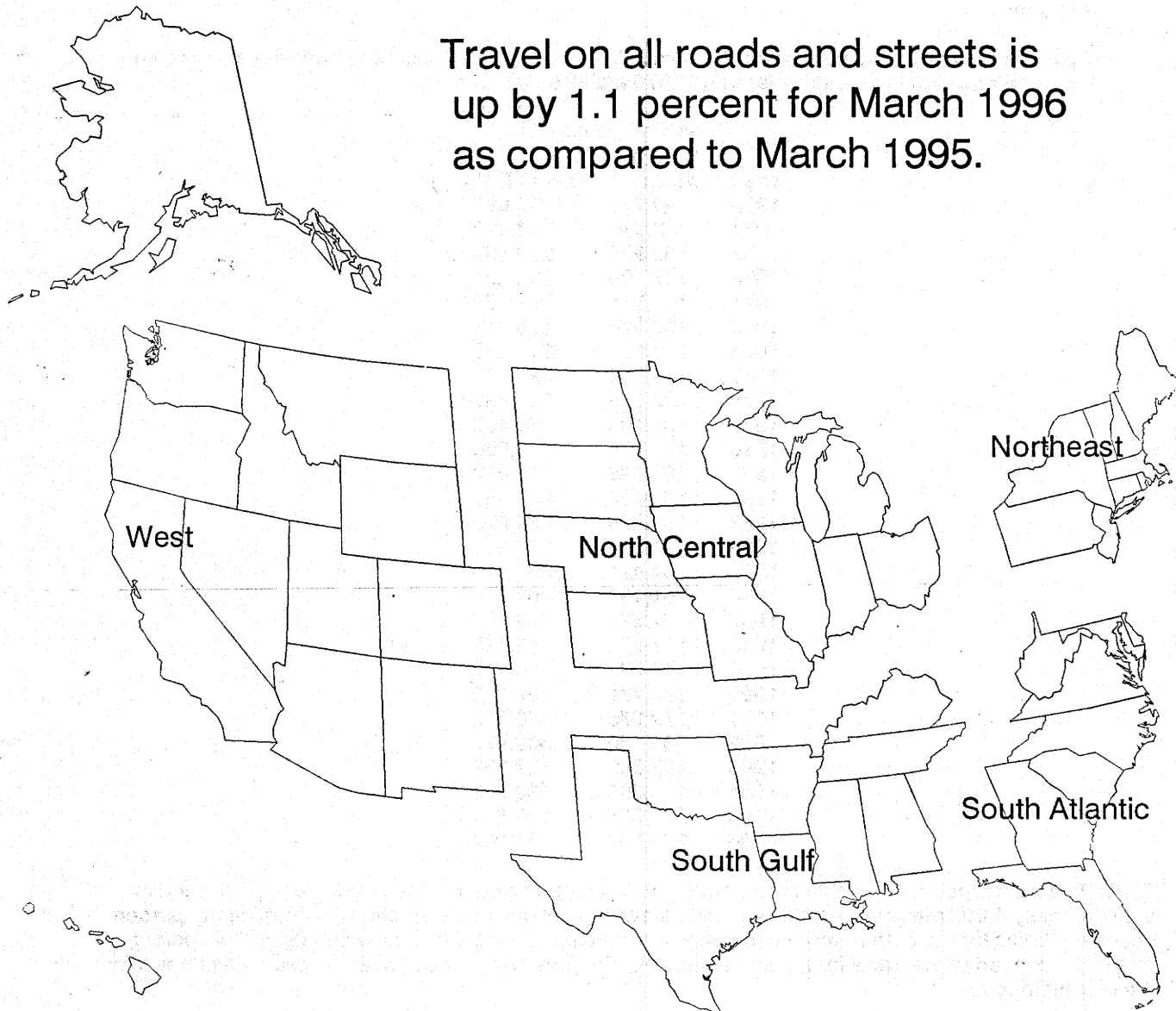


U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
Federal Highway  
Administration

# TRAFFIC VOLUME TRENDS

March 1996

Travel on all roads and streets is up by 1.1 percent for March 1996 as compared to March 1995.



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

West	North Central	South Gulf	Northeast	South Atlantic
44.6	47.5	39.9	30.7	40.3
+3.3%	+0.5%	+2.0%	-1.9%	+1.0%

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

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 1994 Table VM-2 as a base

Compiled with data on hand as of May 22, 1996.

## Traffic Volume Trends – March 1996

Based on preliminary reports from the State Highway Agencies, travel during March 1996 on all roads and streets in the nation increased by 1.1 percent as compared to March 1995 resulting in estimated travel for the month at 203.1 billion vehicle-miles. This total includes 77.2 billion vehicle-miles on rural roads and 125.9 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	March	Year to Date
1970	90,223	247,837
1971	92,974	258,429
1972	102,926	283,664
1973	107,490	296,721
1974	100,736	282,192
1975	106,070	295,715
1976	114,284	315,272
1977	119,960	324,821
1978	125,035	341,890
1979	131,406	355,410
1980	125,179	348,980
1981	127,798	353,612
1982	128,182	345,451
1983	132,814	364,078
1984	137,307	377,319
1985	144,424	387,912
1986	151,183	407,707
1987	157,573	433,488
1988	167,836	458,463
1989	174,990	481,473
1990	178,771	495,930
1991	179,076	490,316
1992	183,186	509,977
1993	187,869	522,392
1994	196,390	532,323
1995	200,864	552,695
1996	203,067	561,027

*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	15.2	14.8	17.9	18.5	19.3	20.0	21.7	21.4	19.2	19.1	18.1	17.7
Rural Other Arterial	25.8	25.0	29.7	29.8	32.3	33.1	34.9	34.8	32.0	31.8	29.0	28.0
Other Rural	25.0	23.8	28.1	28.1	30.4	30.5	31.7	31.5	29.4	29.4	27.1	26.8
Urban Interstate	25.8	25.2	28.9	27.6	29.2	29.5	29.9	30.6	28.5	29.1	27.9	27.9
Urban Other Arterial	62.7	59.5	68.7	66.4	70.3	69.6	69.4	70.7	68.0	69.6	64.9	66.2
Other Urban	25.0	23.8	27.7	26.9	28.4	28.3	28.7	29.1	27.6	28.0	26.4	26.4
All Systems	179.5	172.3	200.9	197.4	209.9	211.0	216.3	218.1	204.8	206.9	193.2	193.0
1996 Individual Monthly Vehicle—Miles of Travel In Billions *												
Rural Interstate	15.4	15.2	18.8									
Rural Other Arterial	26.0	25.6	30.2									
Other Rural	25.1	24.4	28.2									
Urban Interstate	26.6	26.0	29.2									
Urban Other Arterial	63.4	60.6	68.9									
Other Urban	25.3	24.4	27.8									
All Systems	181.9	176.1	203.1									
Percent Change In Individual Monthly Travel 1996 vs. 1995												
Rural Interstate	1.3	2.5	5.2									
Rural Other Arterial	0.8	2.2	1.6									
Other Rural	0.5	2.3	0.4									
Urban Interstate	2.8	2.9	1.2									
Urban Other Arterial	1.2	1.7	0.3									
Other Urban	1.3	2.4	0.4									
All Systems	1.3	2.2	1.1									

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	15.2	30.1	47.9	66.4	85.7	105.7	127.4	148.8	168.0	187.1	205.1	222.8
Rural Other Arterial	25.8	50.8	80.5	110.4	142.7	175.8	210.7	245.5	277.5	309.3	338.2	366.2
Other Rural	25.0	48.8	76.9	105.1	135.4	165.9	197.6	229.1	258.5	287.9	314.9	341.8
Urban Interstate	25.8	51.1	79.9	107.5	136.7	166.2	196.1	226.7	255.2	284.2	312.1	340.0
Urban Other Arterial	62.7	122.2	190.9	257.4	327.6	397.2	466.6	537.3	605.4	675.0	739.9	806.0
Other Urban	25.0	48.8	76.4	103.3	131.7	160.0	188.7	217.9	245.5	273.5	299.9	326.3
All Systems	179.5	351.8	552.7	750.0	959.9	1170.9	1387.2	1605.3	1810.0	2016.9	2210.2	2403.2
1996 Cumulative Monthly Vehicle—Miles of Travel In Billions *												
Rural Interstate	15.4	30.6	49.4									
Rural Other Arterial	26.0	51.6	81.8									
Other Rural	25.1	49.5	77.7									
Urban Interstate	26.6	52.5	81.7									
Urban Other Arterial	63.4	124.0	192.9									
Other Urban	25.3	49.7	77.5									
All Systems	181.9	358.0	561.0									
Percent Change In Cumulative Monthly Travel 1996 vs. 1995												
Rural Interstate	1.3	1.9	3.1									
Rural Other Arterial	0.8	1.5	1.5									
Other Rural	0.5	1.3	1.0									
Urban Interstate	2.8	2.8	2.2									
Urban Other Arterial	1.2	1.5	1.1									
Other Urban	1.3	1.8	1.3									
All Systems	1.3	1.7	1.5									

\* 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	March				February			
	Number of Stations	Vehicle-Miles (Millions)		Percent Change	Number of Stations	Vehicle-Miles (Millions)		Percent Change
		1996 (Preliminary)	1995			1996 (Revised)	1995	
<b>Northeast</b>								
Connecticut	–	327	311	5.0	22	266	258	2.9
Maine	–	405	391	3.5	36	337	323	4.2
Massachusetts	19	438	415	5.6	5	310	308	0.5
New Hampshire	–	315	305	3.3	54	271	258	4.9
New Jersey	8	525	536	-2.1	10	493	467	5.5
New York	–	1,282	1,265	1.4	36	1,081	1,037	4.2
Pennsylvania	–	1,964	2,005	-2.0	18	1,676	1,631	2.7
Rhode Island	–	62	58	5.9	–	47	45	3.3
Vermont	35	209	208	0.7	35	187	181	3.7
		5,528	5,495	0.6		4,667	4,509	3.5
<b>South Atlantic</b>								
Delaware	25	120	121	-0.9	19	100	98	2.5
Dist Of Columbia	–	0	0	0.0	–	0	0	0.0
Florida	183	2,332	2,312	0.9	182	2,037	1,989	2.4
Georgia	37	1,899	1,845	3.0	35	1,629	1,503	8.3
Maryland	–	714	721	-1.0	–	624	608	2.7
North Carolina	–	1,725	1,683	2.5	22	1,281	1,279	0.1
South Carolina	3	1,405	1,359	3.4	14	1,108	1,073	3.2
Virginia	–	1,618	1,613	0.3	–	1,330	1,337	-0.5
West Virginia	–	639	640	-0.1	–	550	534	2.9
		10,452	10,293	1.5		8,659	8,421	2.8
<b>North Central</b>								
Illinois	26	1,586	1,553	2.1	30	1,310	1,257	4.2
Indiana	–	1,453	1,435	1.2	–	1,221	1,179	3.6
Iowa	124	907	888	2.2	125	757	743	1.9
Kansas	65	731	702	4.2	65	595	583	2.1
Michigan	–	1,507	1,537	-2.0	–	1,313	1,263	4.0
Minnesota	–	1,046	1,044	0.2	–	931	912	2.0
Missouri	71	1,371	1,331	3.0	72	1,127	1,087	3.6
Nebraska	29	539	517	4.2	29	464	450	3.0
North Dakota	38	234	225	4.1	32	196	192	2.3
Ohio	–	1,714	1,653	3.7	49	1,407	1,340	5.0
South Dakota	48	311	305	2.0	50	267	270	-1.1
Wisconsin	122	1,368	1,396	-2.1	125	1,169	1,137	2.8
		12,766	12,587	1.4		10,757	10,413	3.3
<b>South Gulf</b>								
Alabama	–	1,249	1,228	1.7	–	1,039	1,015	2.3
Arkansas	–	910	891	2.2	–	731	734	-0.5
Kentucky	53	1,014	1,016	-0.2	51	805	803	0.2
Louisiana	–	938	881	6.5	–	749	740	1.2
Mississippi	76	969	931	4.0	77	774	798	-3.0
Oklahoma	–	994	934	6.5	–	786	769	2.2
Tennessee	21	1,425	1,410	1.0	21	1,120	1,139	-1.7
Texas	116	3,491	3,268	6.8	116	2,841	2,778	2.3
		10,990	10,559	4.1		8,845	8,778	0.8
<b>West</b>								
Alaska	46	87	82	6.2	46	68	69	-1.1
Arizona	–	687	621	10.6	–	621	606	2.5
California	15	3,300	3,027	9.0	14	2,917	2,855	2.1
Colorado	64	808	757	6.7	64	698	666	4.8
Hawaii	–	108	103	4.8	–	89	88	0.8
Idaho	–	356	342	4.0	–	280	282	-1.0
Montana	–	366	356	2.9	–	306	299	2.5
Nevada	–	283	260	8.6	–	229	226	1.1
New Mexico	–	906	846	7.1	–	791	769	2.8
Oregon	106	831	809	2.7	107	652	681	-4.3
Utah	54	427	392	9.0	68	329	320	2.8
Washington	54	834	805	3.6	46	662	666	-0.5
Wyoming	124	259	254	2.0	124	216	211	2.4
		9,252	8,654	6.9		7,858	7,741	1.5
<b>TOTALS</b>		48,989	47,589	2.9		40,785	39,862	2.3

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

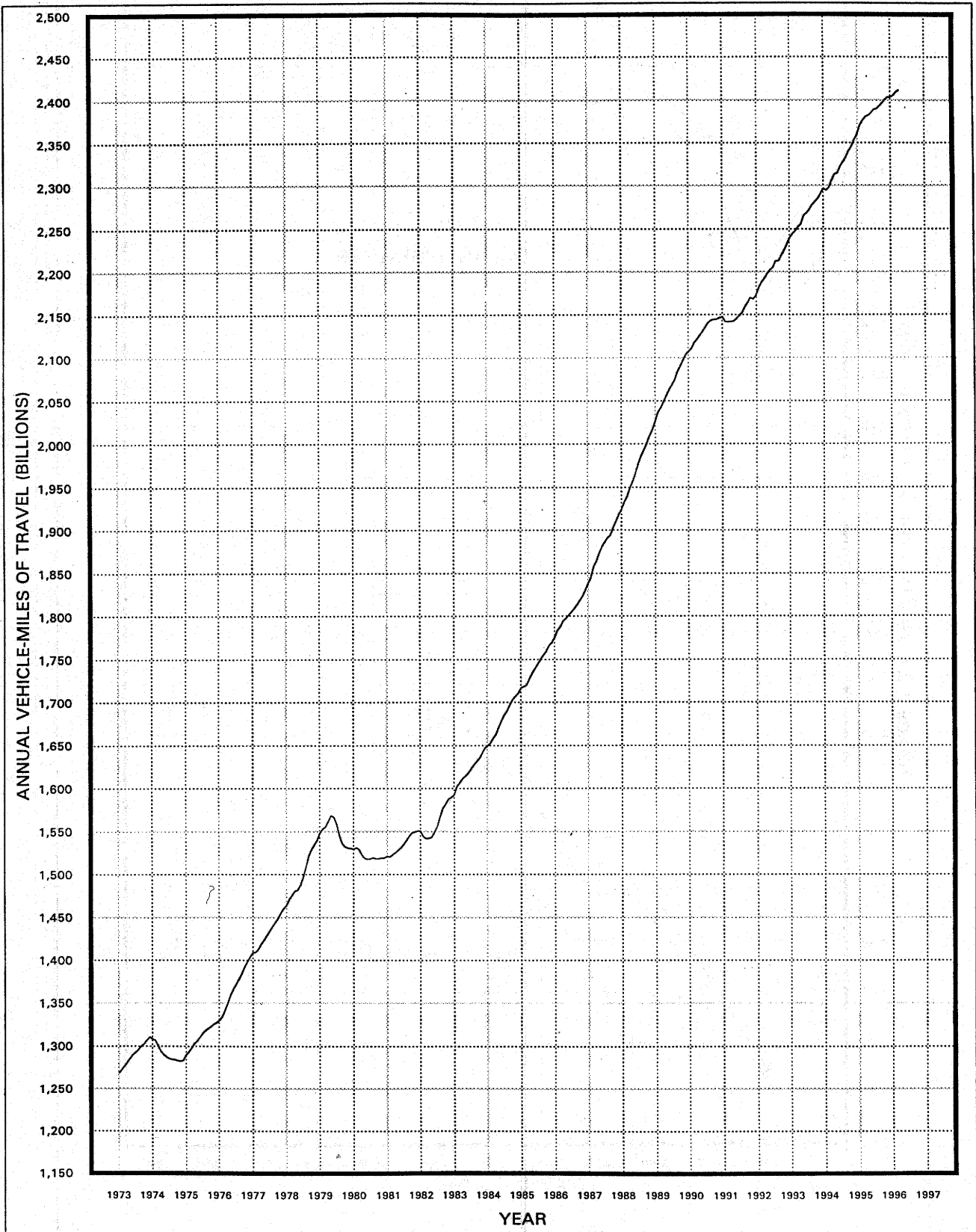
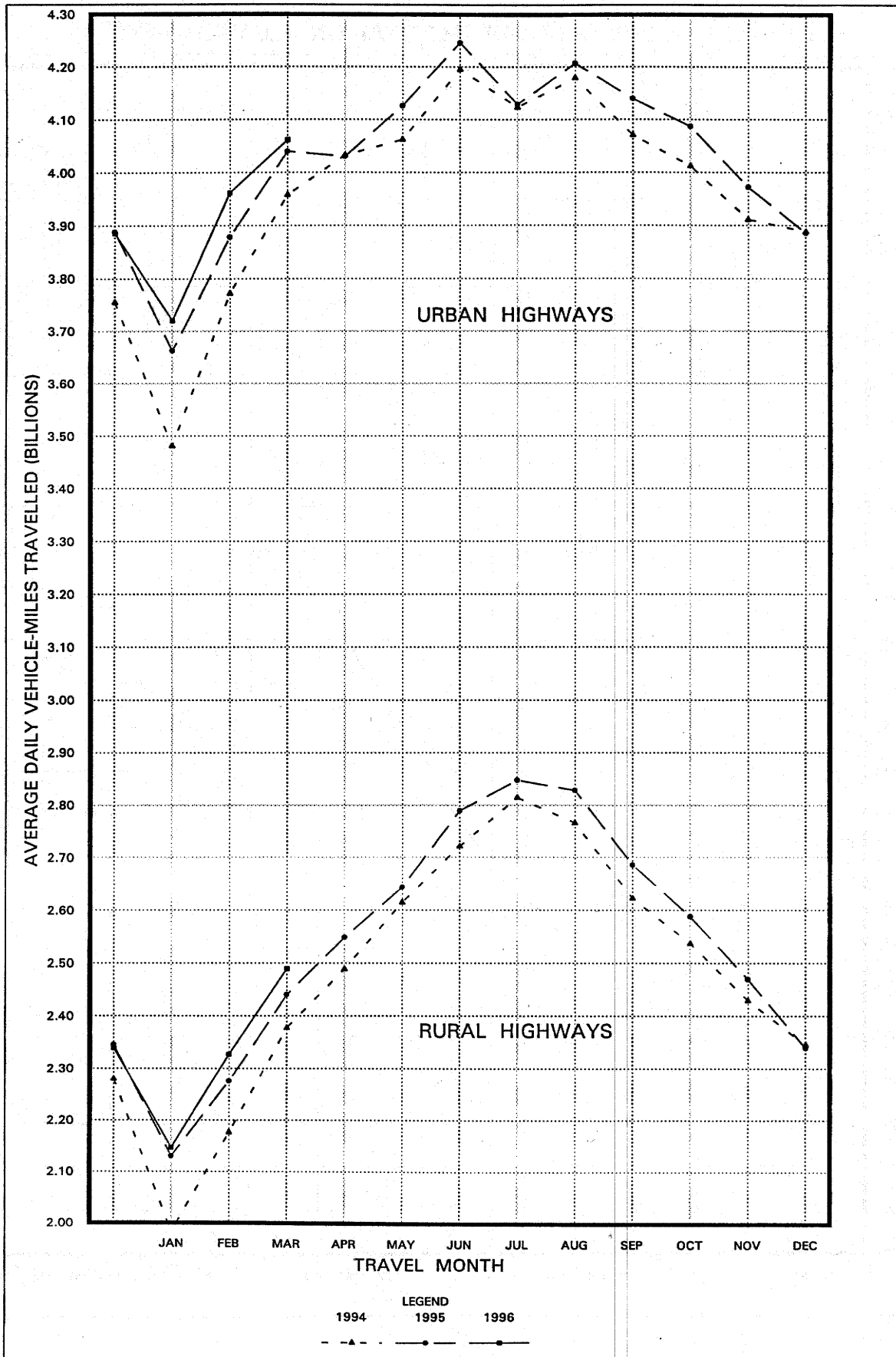


FIGURE 2 - TRAVEL ON U.S. HIGHWAYS BY MONTH



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