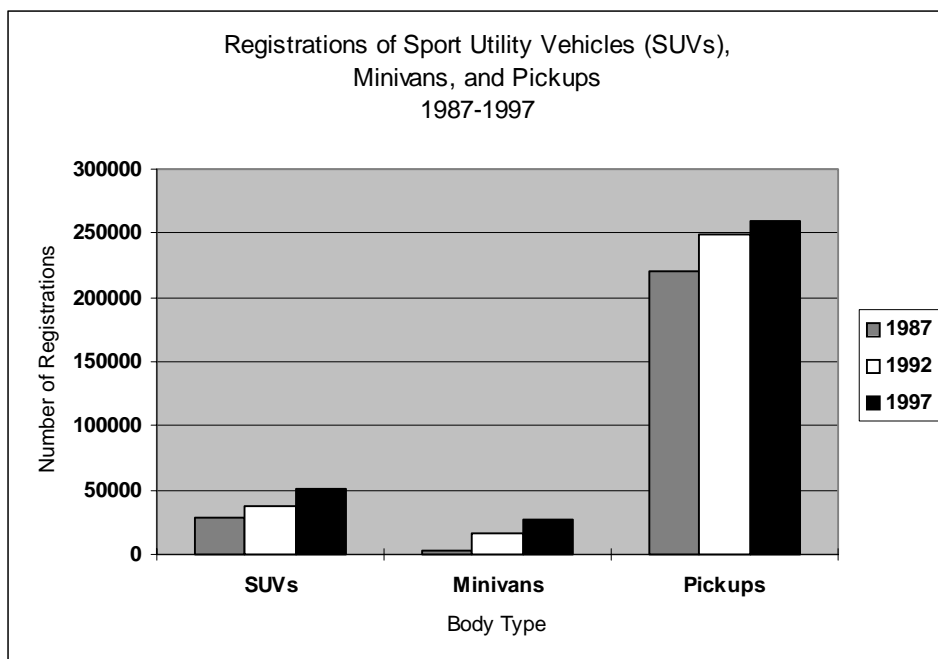


## Here's What's New in Montana Truck Trends

Data from the Census Bureau's 1997 Vehicle Inventory and Use Survey are now available for Montana. This survey produces state and U.S. level statistics on the physical and operational characteristics of the Nation's truck, van, minivan, and sport utility vehicle population.

There were an estimated 417,200 private and commercial trucks registered in Montana during 1997, up more than 12 percent from the approximately 371,800 trucks registered in 1992.

The survey includes these highlights for Montana:



The number of minivans registered in Montana during 1997 increased 67.5 percent from 1992. In comparison, the number of sport utility vehicles increased 35.7 percent and the number of pickups increased 4.3 percent during this same period.

- Total truck registrations in 1997 included 62.2 percent pickups, 12.3 percent SUVs, and 6.5 percent minivans.
- Montana has approximately one pickup for every 3 people and about one SUV for every 17 people. It also has approximately one pickup for every 3 licensed drivers and about one SUV for every 13 licensed drivers.

- Approximately 3.7 percent of all large trucks carried hazardous materials in 1997.
- About 64.4 percent of all trucks were used for personal transportation, while 34.1 percent were operated for business, including for-hire use.
- Approximately 1.5 percent of all trucks were leased from someone else, compared with 1.4 percent in 1992.

The report also includes information on fuel efficiency, annual and lifetime mileage, model year, equipment accessories and other data for each kind of registered truck.

The U.S. Summary will be issued in late 1999, following the release of reports for the 50 states and the District of Columbia. This survey is conducted every five years as part of the Economic Census and data are used by government agencies, business, industry, academia, and the general public.

The estimates from the 1997 Vehicle Inventory and Use Survey are subject to sampling and nonsampling error. Sources of nonsampling error include errors of response, non-reporting and coverage. Measures of sampling variability, presented as relative standard errors, are shown in the tables in the report.

For more detailed information, see the VIUS web site at:  
<http://www.census.gov/econ/www/viusmain.html> or call Kimberly P. Moore at (301) 457-2797.