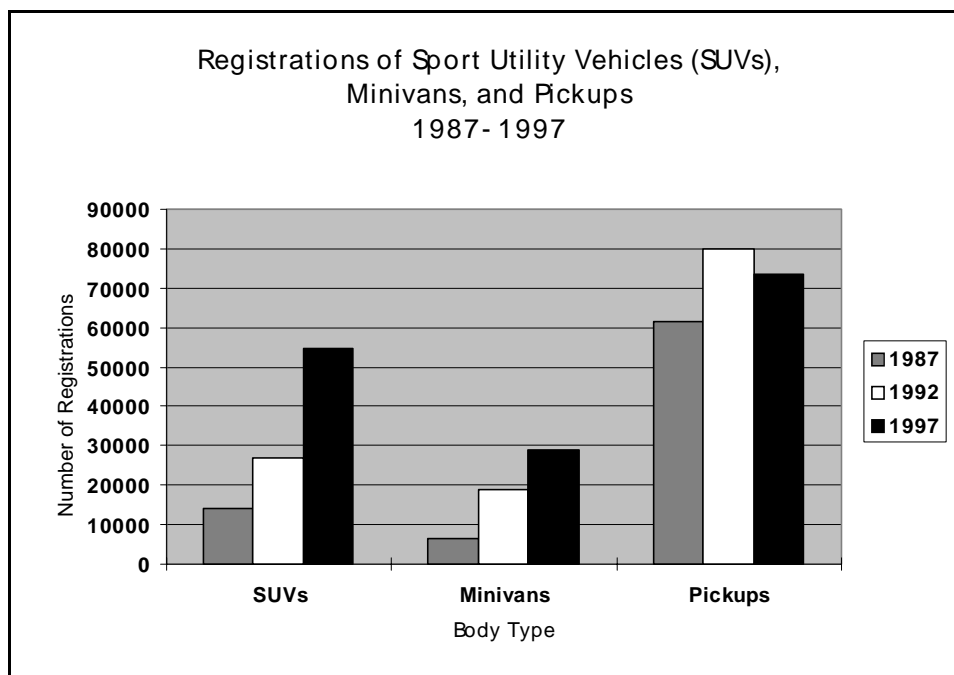


Here's What's New in Rhode Island Truck Trends

Data from the Census Bureau's 1997 Vehicle Inventory and Use Survey are now available for Rhode Island. 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 190,800 private and commercial trucks registered in Rhode Island during 1997, up more than 20 percent from the approximately 158,700 trucks registered in 1992.

The survey includes these highlights for Rhode Island:



The number of sport utility vehicles (SUVs) registered in Rhode Island during 1997 increased 103.7 percent from 1992. In comparison, the number of minivans increased 52.9 percent and the number of pickups decreased 7.6 percent during this same period.

- Total truck registrations in 1997 included 38.6 percent pickups, 28.6 percent SUVs, and 15.1 percent minivans.
- Rhode Island has approximately one pickup for every 13 people and about one SUV for every 18 people. It also has approximately one pickup for every 9 licensed drivers and about one SUV for every 12 licensed drivers.

- Approximately 5.2 percent of all large trucks carried hazardous materials in 1997.
- About 71.3 percent of all trucks were used for personal transportation, while 27.9 percent were operated for business, including for-hire use.
- Approximately 12.5 percent of all trucks were leased from someone else, compared with 1.1 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.