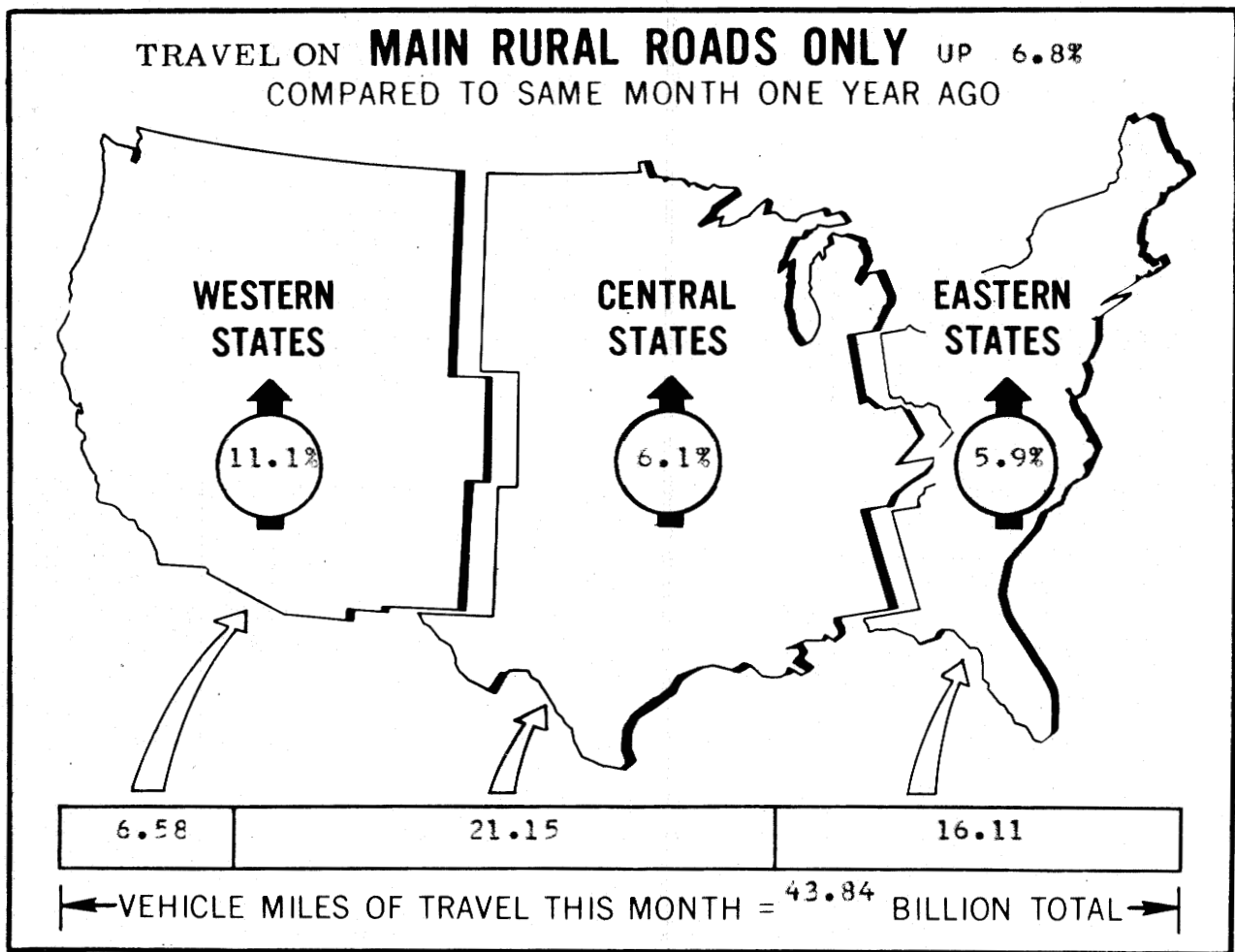


# TRAFFIC VOLUME TRENDS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

MARCH 1978 <sup>1/</sup>

TRAVEL ON **ALL ROADS AND STREETS** UP 3.9%  
COMPARED TO SAME MONTH ONE YEAR AGO



<sup>1/</sup> ALL DATA FOR THIS MONTH ARE PRELIMINARY, REVISED VALUES FOR PREVIOUS MONTH ARE SHOWN IN TABLES 1 and 2.

NOTE: ALL VEHICLE MILES OF TRAVEL HAVE BEEN COMPUTED WITH 1976 VM-2 DATA AS A BASE.

FOR OFFICIAL DISTRIBUTION

TRAFFIC VOLUME TRENDS - MARCH 1978

Based on preliminary reports from the state highway agencies, travel during March 1978 on all roads and streets in the nation increased by 3.9 percent as compared to March 1977, resulting in estimated travel for the month at 124,681 million vehicle miles. This total includes 44,095 million vehicle miles on main rural roads, 11,343 million vehicle miles on other rural roads, and 69,242 million vehicle miles on city streets.

Travel for the current month as well as the cumulative yearly total on main rural roads and for all roads and streets is shown below. Similar totals for each year since 1970 are also included.

TRAVEL IN MILLIONS

	Main Rural Roads		All Roads and Streets	
	March	Year to Date	March	Year to Date
1970	31687	85409	90223	247838
1971	32525	89136	92974	258428
1972	35025	93494	102926	283663
1973	36594	99095	107490	296721
1974	33244	91689	100736	282192
1975	36720	99084	106070	295715
1976	39324	106921	114284	315272
1977	41300	109761	119960	324821
1978	44095	113682	124681	330431

Traffic Volume Trends is a monthly report prepared by the Planning Services Branch, Highway Statistics Division, 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 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 Public Affairs, Room 4208  
 400 7th Street, SW.  
 Washington, D.C. 20590  
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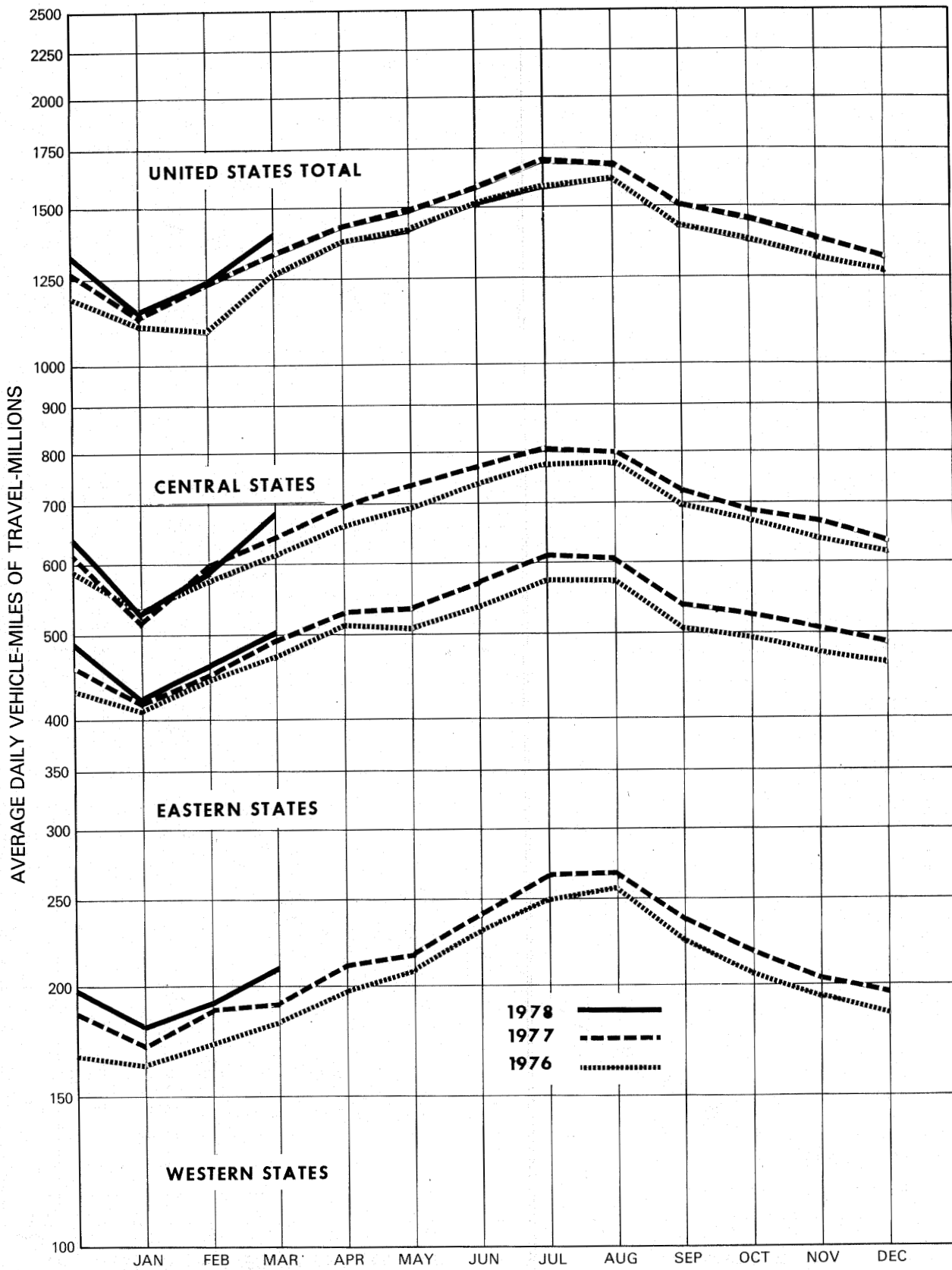


FIGURE 1 - TRAVEL ON MAIN RURAL ROADS, BY MONTHS

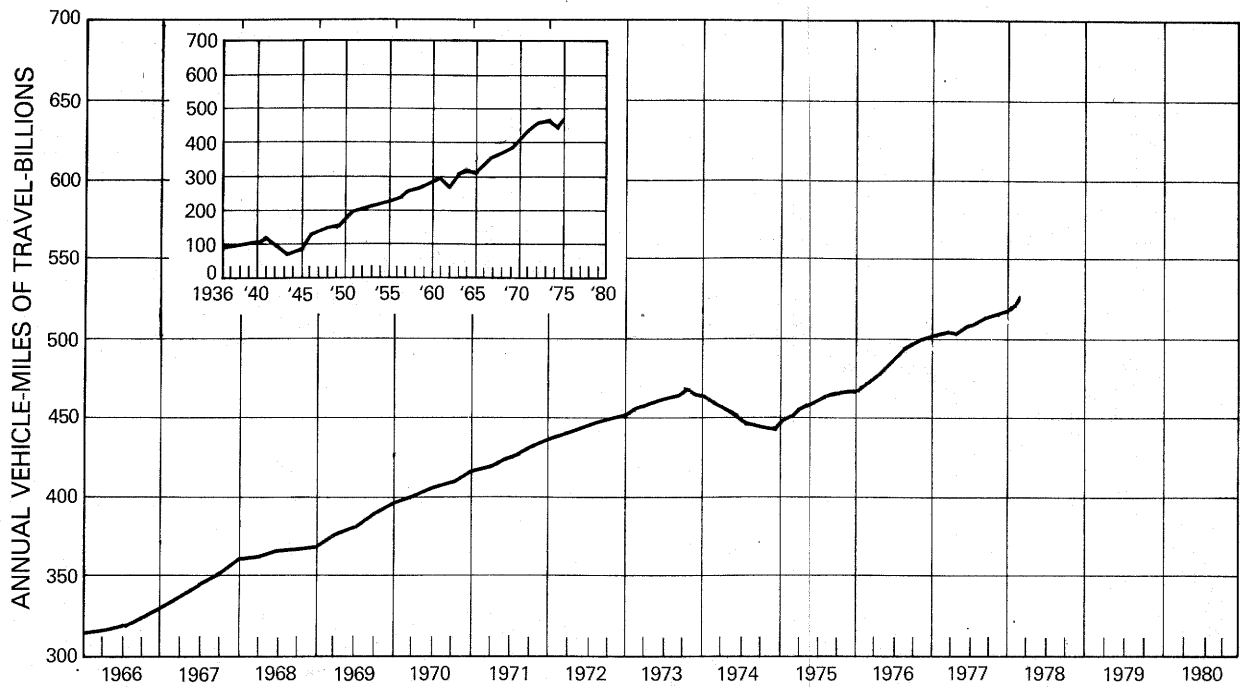


FIGURE 2 - ANNUAL TRAVEL ON MAIN RURAL ROADS FOR 12 MONTH PERIOD ENDING IN MONTH SHOWN

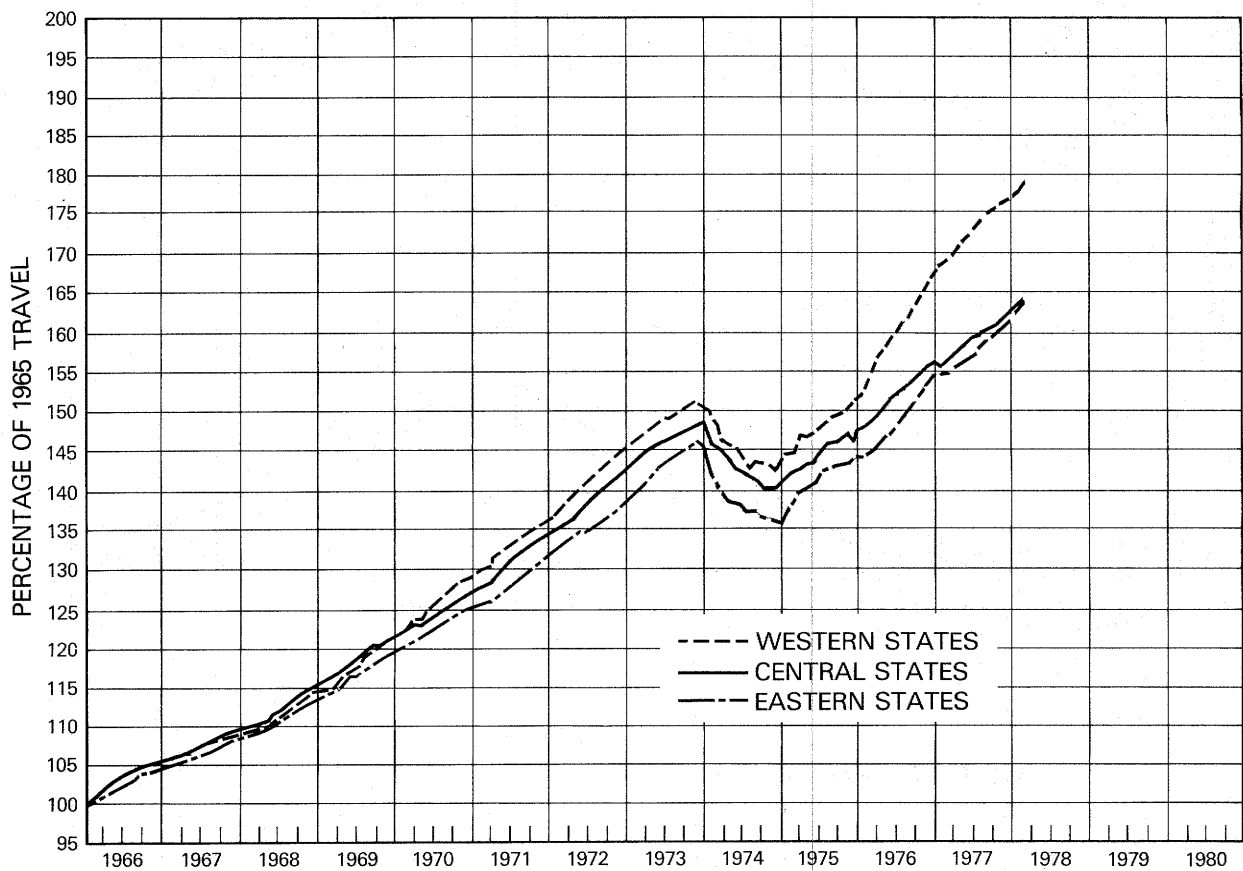


FIGURE 3 - ANNUAL TRAVEL ON MAIN RURAL ROADS AS PERCENTAGE OF YEAR 1965

TABLE 1.-SUMMARY BY ROAD CLASS AND BY GEOGRAPHIC AREA

CLASS OF ROAD, ALL STATES:	PRELIMINARY DATA FOR MARCH			REVISED DATA FOR FEBRUARY		
	VEHICLE-MILES (MILLIONS)		PERCENTAGE CHANGE	VEHICLE-MILES (MILLIONS)		PERCENTAGE CHANGE
	1978	1977		1978	1977	
MAIN RURAL ROADS.....	44,095	41,300	6.8	34,955	34,591	1.1
LCCAL RURAL ROADS.....	11,343	11,083	2.3	9,387	9,470	-0.9
ALL RURAL ROADS.....	55,439	52,384	5.8	44,342	44,062	0.6
CITY STREETS.....	69,242	67,576	2.5	57,923	58,354	-0.7
ALL ROADS AND STREETS.....	124,681	119,960	3.9	102,266	102,416	-0.1
48 STATES (MAIN RURAL ONLY):						
EASTERN REGION.....	16,112	15,211	5.9	12,935	12,511	3.4
CENTRAL REGION.....	21,146	19,925	6.1	16,424	16,632	-1.3
WESTERN REGION.....	6,578	5,922	11.1	5,390	5,240	2.9
TOTAL.....	43,826	41,058	6.8	34,749	34,383	1.1

TABLE 2.-CHANGES CN MAIN RURAL ROADS BY STATES

DIVISION AND STATE	MARCH (PRELIMINARY)		FEBRUARY (REVISED)		DIVISION AND STATE	MARCH (PRELIMINARY)		FEBRUARY (REVISED)	
	NUMBER OF STATIONS	PER-CENTAGE CHANGE	NUMBER OF STATIONS	PER-CENTAGE CHANGE		NUMBER OF STATIONS	PER-CENTAGE CHANGE	NUMBER OF STATIONS	PER-CENTAGE CHANGE
NEW ENGLAND:					EAST SOUTH CENTRAL:				
CONNECTICUT.....	-	-	-	-	ALABAMA.....	-	-	51	5.4
MAINE.....	21	7.3	21	9.1	KENTUCKY.....	37	4.7	42	-4.5
MASSACHUSETTS.....	-	-	8	-2.5	MISSISSIPPI.....	41	8.2	40	4.6
NEW HAMPSHIRE.....	-	-	54	4.7	TENNESSEE.....	-	-	22	1.2
RHODE ISLAND.....	-	-	-	-	WEST NORTH CENTRAL:				
VERMONT.....	42	7.1	37	4.7	IOWA.....	33	5.0	33	-4.3
MIDDLE ATLANTIC:					KANSAS.....	62	3.8	57	-11.5
NEW JERSEY.....	15	-4.8	20	-3.4	MINNESOTA.....	37	11.0	38	5.4
NEW YORK.....	24	3.7	24	-1.0	MISSOURI.....	68	0.7	68	-4.0
PENNSYLVANIA.....	45	-4.3	46	-1.3	NEBRASKA.....	16	5.7	19	-9.3
SOUTH ATLANTIC (NORTH):					NORTH DAKOTA.....	37	3.5	37	-7.4
DELAWARE.....	14	4.9	9	-3.4	SOUTH DAKOTA.....	-	-	29	-9.2
MARYLAND.....	30	5.0	35	-0.2	WEST SOUTH CENTRAL:				
VIRGINIA.....	-	4.7	-	3.1	ARKANSAS.....	-	-	24	-6.8
WEST VIRGINIA.....	-	-	29	-2.9	LOUISIANA.....	-	-	45	5.2
SOUTH ATLANTIC (SOUTH):					OKLAHOMA.....	-	-	15	-15.3
FLORIDA.....	-	-	-	-	TEXAS.....	117	10.6	116	-2.2
GEORGIA.....	25	13.5	24	10.3	MOUNTAIN:				
NORTH CAROLINA.....	47	4.7	45	1.6	ARIZONA.....	26	11.3	27	6.2
SOUTH CAROLINA.....	8	18.4	11	9.8	COLORADO.....	33	14.7	40	3.9
EAST NORTH CENTRAL:					IDAHO.....	57	9.3	61	2.8
ILLINOIS.....	-	-	25	-1.3	MONTANA.....	25	10.1	23	-4.5
INDIANA.....	24	-0.6	24	-2.6	NEVADA.....	24	16.8	14	4.4
MICHIGAN.....	60	7.1	61	5.7	NEW MEXICO.....	29	11.5	29	4.2
OHIO.....	23	1.1	16	2.4	UTAH.....	41	11.2	45	3.8
WISCONSIN.....	24	12.0	44	5.8	WYOMING.....	34	11.1	35	-2.5
ALASKA.....	-	-	8	-10.0	PACIFIC:				
HAWAII.....	3	7.0	3	5.3	CALIFORNIA.....	13	10.6	24	2.6
					OREGON.....	-	-	-	-
					WASHINGTON.....	-	-	3	2.7

NOTE: 1-RURAL MILEAGE OF EACH MAJOR TOLL ROUTE IS CONSIDERED AS ONE OR MORE STATIONS, DEPENDING ON STATES' METHOD OF REPORTING.  
 2-WHERE THE NUMBER OF STATIONS IS DASH AND THE PERCENTAGE CHANGE IS SHOWN, THE STATES PREPARED TRAFFIC ESTIMATES, GENERALLY BASED ON EXTENSIVE TRAFFIC SAMPLING SURVEYS.  
 3-WHERE THE NUMBER OF STATIONS AND THE PERCENTAGE CHANGE FOR A STATE ARE DASHES, THE STATE REPORT HAD NOT BEEN RECEIVED AT TIME OF PRINTING, OR NO COMPARABLE DATA WERE AVAILABLE.

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TABLE 3.

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

SYSTEM	MONTH											
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
1977 INDIVIDUAL MONTHLY VEHICLE-MILES OF TRAVEL IN BILLIONS*												
MAIN RURAL	33.9	34.6	41.3	43.1	46.3	47.5	52.4	52.0	45.0	45.2	41.6	40.7
LOCAL RURAL	9.4	9.5	11.1	12.2	13.4	13.2	14.0	13.9	12.8	12.9	11.6	10.7
URBAN	59.2	58.4	67.6	66.2	69.3	68.7	69.9	70.4	66.4	69.3	65.3	64.8
ALL SYSTEMS	102.4	102.4	120.0	121.5	128.9	129.3	136.2	136.3	124.2	127.4	118.5	116.3
1978 INDIVIDUAL MONTHLY VEHICLE-MILES OF TRAVEL IN BILLIONS**												
MAIN RURAL	34.6	35.0	44.1									
LOCAL RURAL	9.5	9.4	11.3									
URBAN	59.4	57.9	69.2									
ALL SYSTEMS	103.5	102.3	124.7									
PERCENT CHANGE IN INDIVIDUAL MONTHLY TRAVEL 1978 VS. 1977												
MAIN RURAL	2.2	1.1	6.8									
LOCAL RURAL	1.4	-0.9	2.3									
URBAN	0.2	-0.7	2.5									
ALL SYSTEMS	1.0	-0.1	3.9									

\* THESE ARE PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES WHICH WILL BE REVISED TO AGREE WITH FINAL ESTIMATES OF 1977 ANNUAL TRAVEL PROVIDED BY STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENTS.

\*\* TO BE REVISED BASED ON 1977 FINAL TRAVEL ESTIMATES.

\*\*\* SYSTEM ENTRIES MAY NOT ADD TO TOTAL "ALL SYSTEMS" DUE TO ROUNDING.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT KENNETH WELTY, HIGHWAY STATISTICS DIVISION, FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION. 202-426-0160.

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TABLE 4.

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

SYSTEM	MCNTH											
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
1977 CUMULATIVE MONTHLY VEHICLE-MILES OF TRAVEL IN BILLIONS*												
MAIN RURAL	33.9	68.5	109.8	152.5	199.1	246.6	299.0	351.0	396.0	441.1	482.8	523.4
LOCAL RURAL	9.4	18.8	29.9	42.1	55.5	68.7	82.6	96.6	109.4	122.3	133.9	144.6
URBAN	59.2	117.6	185.2	251.3	320.6	389.3	459.1	529.5	595.9	665.2	730.5	795.3
ALL SYSTEMS	102.4	204.9	324.8	446.3	575.2	704.5	840.7	977.1	1101.3	1228.7	1347.2	1463.4
1978 CUMULATIVE MONTHLY VEHICLE-MILES OF TRAVEL IN BILLIONS**												
MAIN RURAL	34.6	69.6	113.7									
LOCAL RURAL	9.5	18.9	30.2									
URBAN	59.4	117.3	186.5									
ALL SYSTEMS	103.5	205.8	330.4									
PERCENT CHANGE IN CUMULATIVE MONTHLY TRAVEL 1978 VS. 1977												
MAIN RURAL	2.2	1.6	3.6									
LOCAL RURAL	1.4	0.3	1.0									
URBAN	0.2	-0.2	0.7									
ALL SYSTEMS	1.0	0.4	1.7									

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