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## Note

The Comprehensive Truck Size and Weight Study was begun in 1994 along with a companion study, the Federal Highway Cost Allocation Study that was submitted to Congress in August, 1997. The same basic data on truck travel were to be used for both studies so that important conclusions about cost responsibility and user fee equity developed in the cost allocation study could be used in assessing illustrative truck size and weight policy scenarios analyzed in the Comprehensive Truck Size and Weight Study. This truck size and weight study was anticipated to be completed shortly after the cost allocation study, but was delayed for several reasons including unanticipated technical difficulties with a key component of the analytical framework and the release of drafts of Volumes II and III for public comment. Drafts of reports to Congress normally are not released for comment, but because of the extraordinary interest and sensitivity of this study, the Department decided to solicit comments on drafts of the main technical sections of this report. Because of these delays, data in the report are not the most currently available. The 1994 base year data were the most current at the time the study was initiated, but later data are now available. Likewise, 2000 was chosen for the future analysis year, but the report could not be completed until 2000. Revising the report to use a different analysis year would have delayed the report still further and more importantly would have destroyed the direct link between the cost allocation study and the truck size and weight study. Furthermore, updating data used in the report would not substantially change basic findings of the scenario analyses conducted for this study. The Department concluded that it would be better to submit the report using the 1994 base year and the 2000 analysis year even though more recent data are available. Both the highway cost allocation study and the truck size and weight study can be updated before surface transportation reauthorization and many improvements in data and methods can be incorporated in those updates.