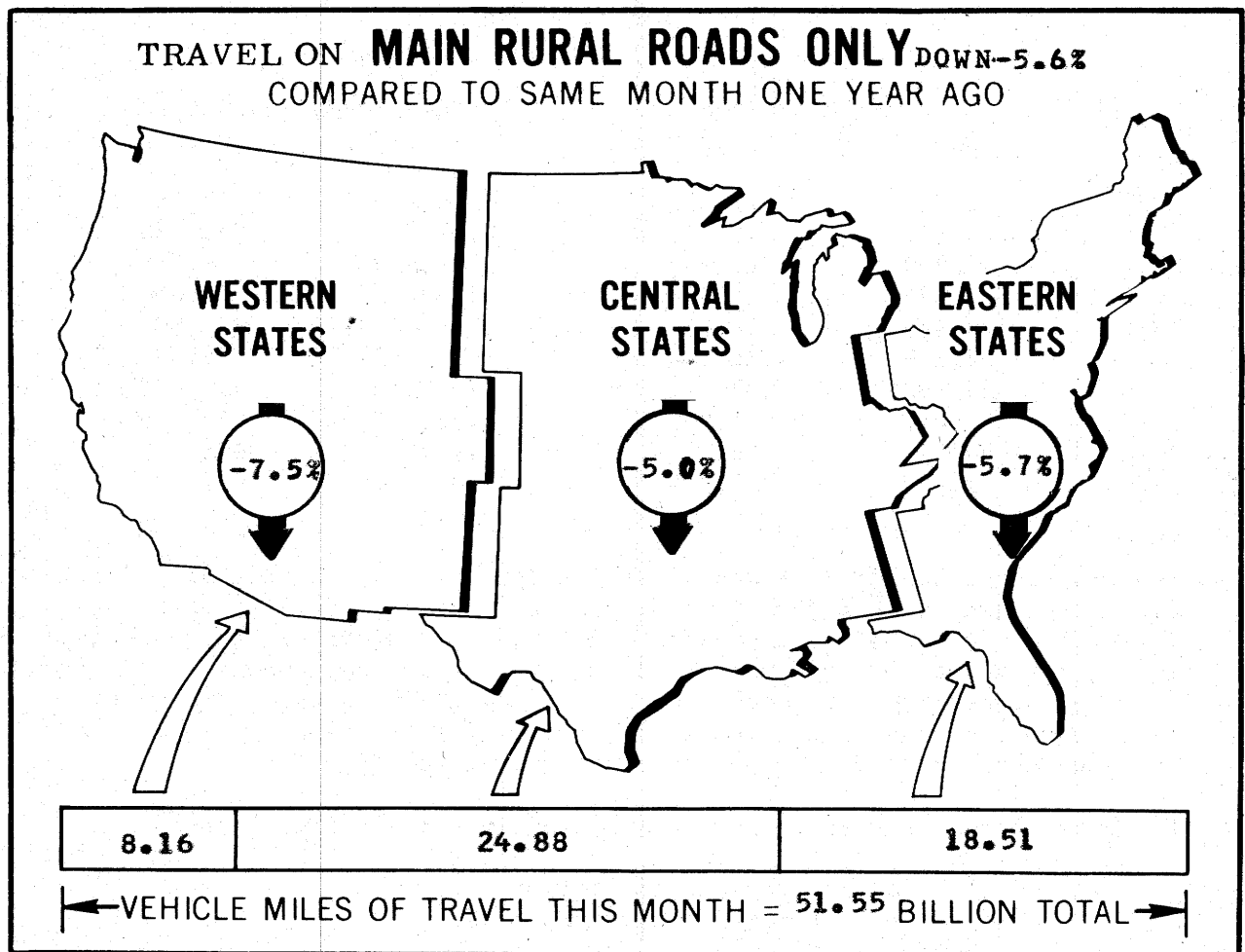


# TRAFFIC VOLUME TRENDS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

AUGUST 1979 <sup>1/</sup>

TRAVEL ON **ALL ROADS AND STREETS** DOWN-3.8%  
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 - AUGUST 1979

Based on preliminary reports from the State highway agencies, travel during August 1979 on all roads and streets in the nation decreased by -3.8 percent as compared to August 1978, resulting in estimated travel for the month at 137,204 million vehicle miles. This total includes 51,858 million vehicle miles on main rural roads, 13,924 million vehicle miles on other rural roads, and 71,423 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	
	August	Year to Date	August	Year to Date
1970	42,804	277,327	106,969	749,162
1971	44,537	291,921	112,642	790,730
1972	45,979	301,950	119,913	849,618
1973	47,078	314,071	124,426	881,630
1974	46,165	298,099	124,070	857,786
1975	47,129	312,975	126,103	888,491
1976	49,892	337,091	131,913	942,496
1977	52,047	351,002	136,337	977,075
1978	54,952	366,158	142,695	1,008,315
1979	51,858	359,838	137,204	998,309

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  
 Phone (202) 426-0677.

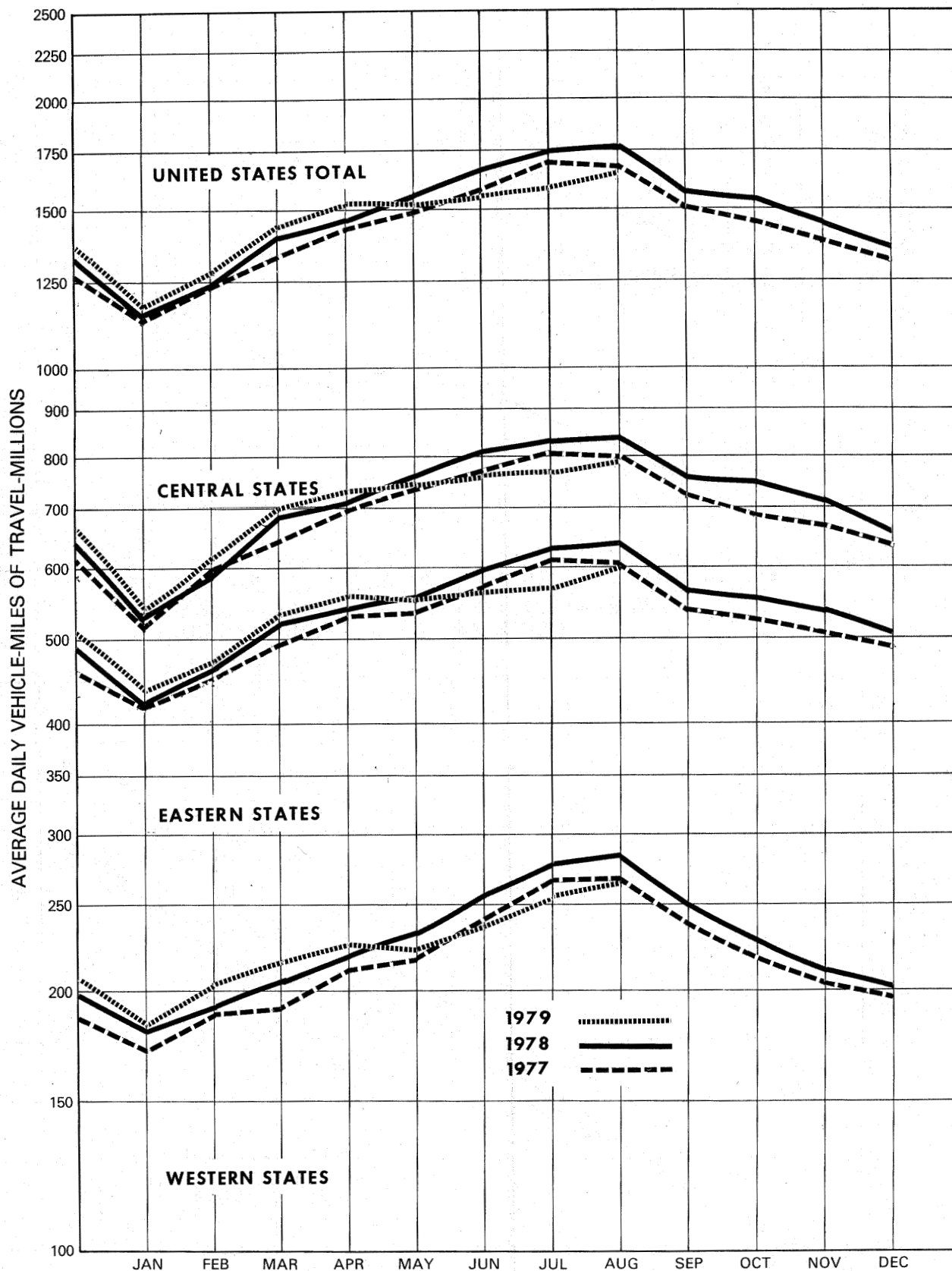


FIGURE 1 - TRAVEL ON MAIN RURAL ROADS, BY MONTHS

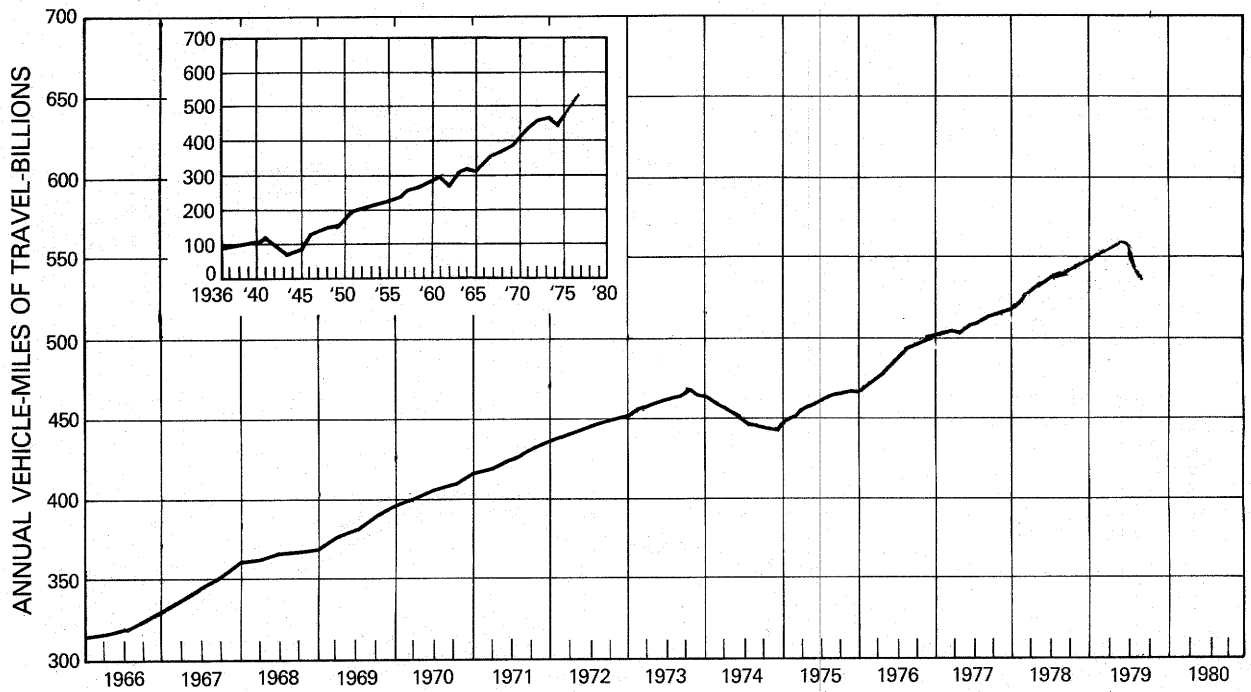


FIGURE 2 - ANNUAL TRAVEL ON MAIN RURAL ROADS FOR 12 MONTH PERIOD ENDING IN MONTH SHOWN

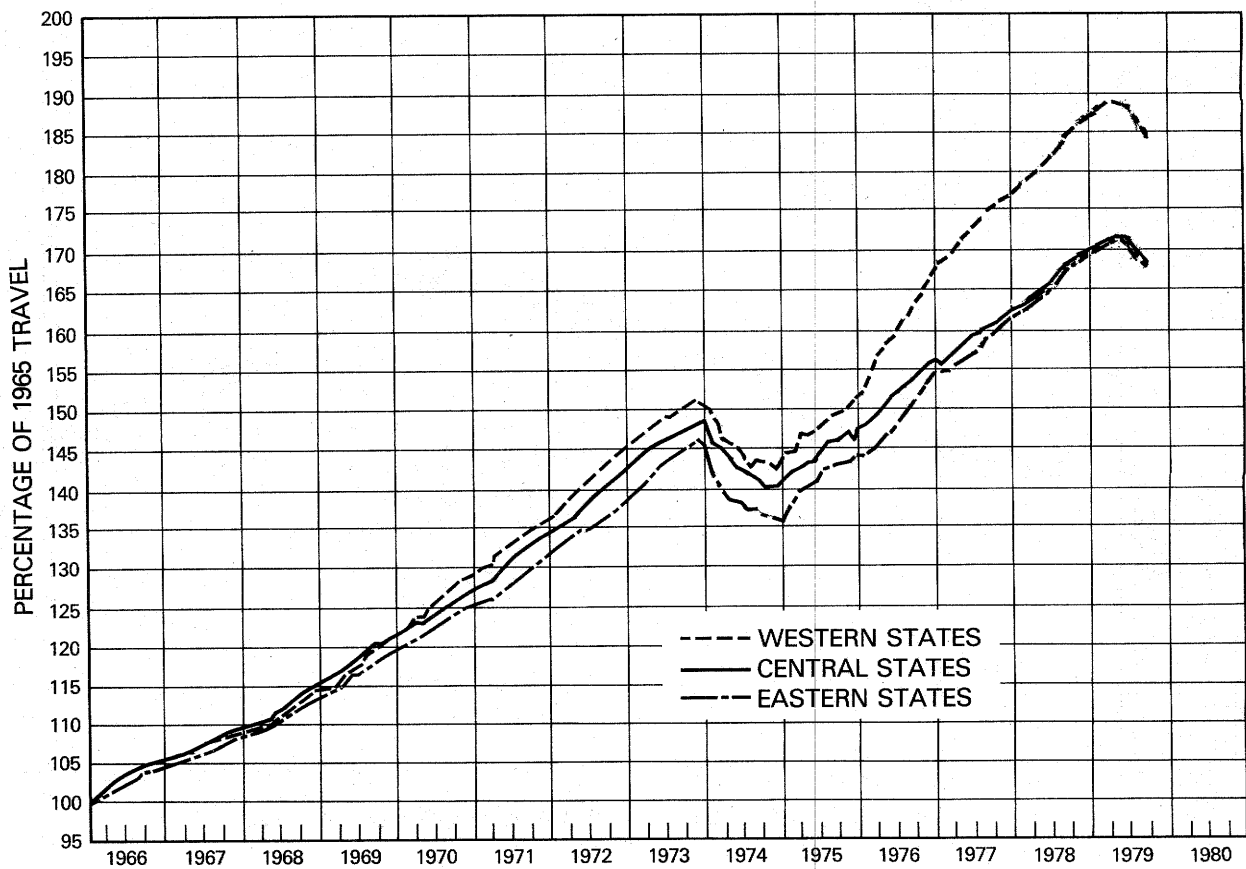


FIGURE 3 - ANNUAL TRAVEL ON MAIN RURAL ROADS AS PERCENTAGE OF YEAR 1965

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

CLASS OF ROAD, ALL STATES:	PRELIMINARY DATA FOR AUGUST			REVISED DATA FOR JULY		
	VEHICLE-MILES (MILLIONS)		PERCENTAGE CHANGE	VEHICLE-MILES (MILLIONS)		PERCENTAGE CHANGE
	1979	1978		1979	1978	
MAIN RURAL ROADS.....	51,858	54,952	-5.6	49,693	54,332	-8.5
LOCAL RURAL ROADS.....	13,924	14,438	-3.6	14,000	14,426	-3.0
ALL RURAL ROADS.....	65,782	69,390	-5.2	63,693	68,759	-7.4
CITY STREETS.....	71,423	73,304	-2.6	68,533	72,408	-5.4
ALL ROADS AND STREETS.....	137,204	142,695	-3.8	132,226	141,167	-6.3
48 STATES (MAIN RURAL ONLY):						
EASTERN REGION.....	18,510	19,619	-5.7	17,554	19,445	-9.7
CENTRAL REGION.....	24,880	26,186	-5.3	23,872	25,972	-8.1
WESTERN REGION.....	8,158	8,819	-7.5	7,951	8,591	-7.4
TOTAL.....	51,548	54,624	-5.6	49,377	54,008	-8.6

TABLE 2.--CHANGES ON MAIN RURAL ROADS BY STATES

DIVISION AND STATE	AUGUST (PRELIMINARY)		JULY (REVISED)		DIVISION AND STATE	AUGUST (PRELIMINARY)		JULY (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.....	-	-	8	-9.4	ALABAMA.....	-	-	51	-8.7
MAINE.....	20	-6.8	21	-13.4	KENTUCKY.....	37	-4.8	34	-9.2
MASSACHUSETTS.....	6	-7.2	8	-14.1	MISSISSIPPI.....	40	-3.8	35	-9.3
NEW HAMPSHIRE.....	-	-	58	-9.9	TENNESSEE.....	29	-3.7	29	-7.0
RHODE ISLAND.....	-	-	-	-	WEST NORTH CENTRAL:				
VERMONT.....	38	-6.0	40	-10.0	IOWA.....	36	-6.3	33	-9.9
MIDDLE ATLANTIC:					KANSAS.....	70	-5.9	67	-9.0
NEW JERSEY.....	-	-	19	-8.9	MINNESOTA.....	-	-	34	-7.3
NEW YORK.....	28	-8.0	24	-15.3	MISSOURI.....	74	-5.9	74	-10.0
PENNSYLVANIA.....	52	-8.9	53	-12.7	NEBRASKA.....	19	-9.8	17	-10.6
SOUTH ATLANTIC (NORTH):					NORTH DAKOTA.....	-	-6.8	-	-7.2
DELAWARE.....	18	-4.3	21	-8.9	SOUTH DAKOTA.....	35	-11.4	30	-10.7
MARYLAND.....	-	-	32	-8.1	WEST SOUTH CENTRAL:				
VIRGINIA.....	-	-4.2	-	-4.1	ARKANSAS.....	25	-4.2	25	-5.9
WEST VIRGINIA.....	-	-	-	-	LOUISIANA.....	-	-	45	-4.6
SOUTH ATLANTIC (SOUTH):					OKLAHOMA.....	34	0.8	-	-
FLORIDA.....	14	-3.9	22	-7.8	TEXAS.....	118	-2.1	118	-7.9
GEORGIA.....	-	-	-	-	MOUNTAIN:				
NORTH CAROLINA.....	46	-4.1	45	-7.5	ARIZONA.....	18	-3.1	18	-12.2
SOUTH CAROLINA.....	10	-3.4	11	-9.0	COLORADO.....	42	-4.5	43	-8.6
EAST NORTH CENTRAL:					IDAHO.....	-	-	64	-9.2
ILLINOIS.....	32	-7.3	19	-9.7	MONTANA.....	-	-8.2	22	-12.7
INDIANA.....	22	-5.6	23	-7.5	NEVADA.....	28	-6.4	26	-7.3
MICHIGAN.....	60	-5.3	62	-6.8	NEW MEXICO.....	30	-5.9	30	-9.5
OHIO.....	19	-5.7	20	-7.6	UTAH.....	39	-5.0	40	-3.8
WISCONSIN.....	46	-6.2	46	-6.9	WYOMING.....	-	-3.8	-	-9.6
ALASKA.....	-	-	-	-	PACIFIC:				
HAWAII.....	3	-4.1	3	0.2	CALIFORNIA.....	-	-2.8	15	-3.2
					OREGON.....	-	-	-	-
					WASHINGTON.....	6	-8.8	23	-9.8

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 SHOWN AS A DASH AND A VALUE FOR PERCENTAGE CHANGE IS INDICATED, THE LATTER VALUE IS BASED ON A STATEWIDE ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY THE HIGHWAY AGENCY DETERMINED FROM EXTENSIVE TRAFFIC SAMPLING SURVEYS.

3--WHERE THE NUMBER OF STATIONS AND THE PERCENTAGE CHANGE ARE SHOWN AS DASHES, SUFFICIENT INFORMATION WAS NOT AVAILABLE TO DETERMINE AN ESTIMATE.

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
1978 INDIVIDUAL MONTHLY VEHICLE-MILES OF TRAVEL IN BILLIONS*												
MAIN RURAL	34.6	35.0	44.2	44.3	48.5	50.3	54.3	55.0	47.4	48.0	44.0	42.8
LOCAL RURAL	9.5	9.4	11.2	12.3	13.6	13.6	14.4	14.4	13.2	13.4	12.0	11.1
URBAN	59.4	57.9	68.9	68.5	71.8	71.6	72.4	73.3	69.3	72.0	66.9	67.7
ALL SYSTEMS	103.5	102.3	124.4	125.0	133.9	135.4	141.2	142.7	129.9	133.4	122.8	121.6
1979 INDIVIDUAL MONTHLY VEHICLE-MILES OF TRAVEL IN BILLIONS**												
MAIN RURAL	36.3	36.1	45.1	45.8	47.7	47.2	49.7	51.9				
LOCAL RURAL	9.6	9.6	11.6	12.5	13.5	13.2	14.0	13.9				
URBAN	61.9	60.0	71.2	69.1	70.0	68.5	68.5	71.4				
ALL SYSTEMS	107.8	105.7	127.9	127.4	131.1	128.9	132.2	137.2				
PERCENT CHANGE IN INDIVIDUAL MONTHLY TRAVEL 1979 VS. 1978												
MAIN RURAL	4.8	3.3	2.1	3.4	-1.6	-6.1	-8.5	-5.6				
LOCAL RURAL	1.7	2.0	3.1	2.2	-1.1	-2.7	-3.0	-3.6				
URBAN	4.3	3.6	3.4	0.8	-2.5	-4.4	-5.4	-2.6				
ALL SYSTEMS	4.2	3.3	2.9	1.9	-2.0	-4.8	-6.3	-3.8				

\* THESE ARE PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES WHICH WILL BE REVISED TO AGREE WITH FINAL ESTIMATES OF 1978 ANNUAL TRAVEL PROVIDED BY STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENTS.

\*\* TO BE REVISED BASED ON 1978 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.

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION  
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400 - 7TH STREET, S.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

TABLE 4.

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

SYSTEM	MONTH											
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
1978 CUMULATIVE MONTHLY VEHICLE-MILES OF TRAVEL IN BILLIONS*												
MAIN RURAL	34.6	69.6	113.8	158.1	206.6	256.9	311.2	366.2	413.5	461.6	505.6	548.4
LOCAL RURAL	9.5	18.9	30.1	42.4	56.0	69.5	84.0	98.4	111.6	125.0	137.0	148.1
URBAN	59.4	117.3	186.2	254.7	326.5	398.1	479.5	543.8	613.1	685.1	752.0	819.6
ALL SYSTEMS	103.5	205.8	330.1	455.1	589.0	724.5	865.5	1008.3	1138.2	1271.7	1394.5	1516.1
1979 CUMULATIVE MONTHLY VEHICLE-MILES OF TRAVEL IN BILLIONS**												
MAIN RURAL	36.3	72.4	117.5	163.3	211.1	258.3	308.3	359.8				
LOCAL RURAL	9.6	19.2	30.8	43.3	56.8	70.0	84.0	97.9				
URBAN	61.9	121.9	193.1	262.2	332.1	400.6	489.2	540.6				
ALL SYSTEMS	107.8	213.5	341.5	468.9	600.0	728.9	861.1	998.3				
PERCENT CHANGE IN CUMULATIVE MONTHLY TRAVEL 1979 VS. 1978												
MAIN RURAL	4.8	4.0	3.3	3.3	2.2	0.5	-1.3	-1.7				
LOCAL RURAL	1.7	1.8	2.3	2.3	1.5	0.6		-0.5				
URBAN	4.3	3.9	3.7	2.9	1.7	0.6	-0.3	-0.6				
ALL SYSTEMS	4.2	3.8	3.4	3.0	1.9	0.6	-0.5	-1.0				

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