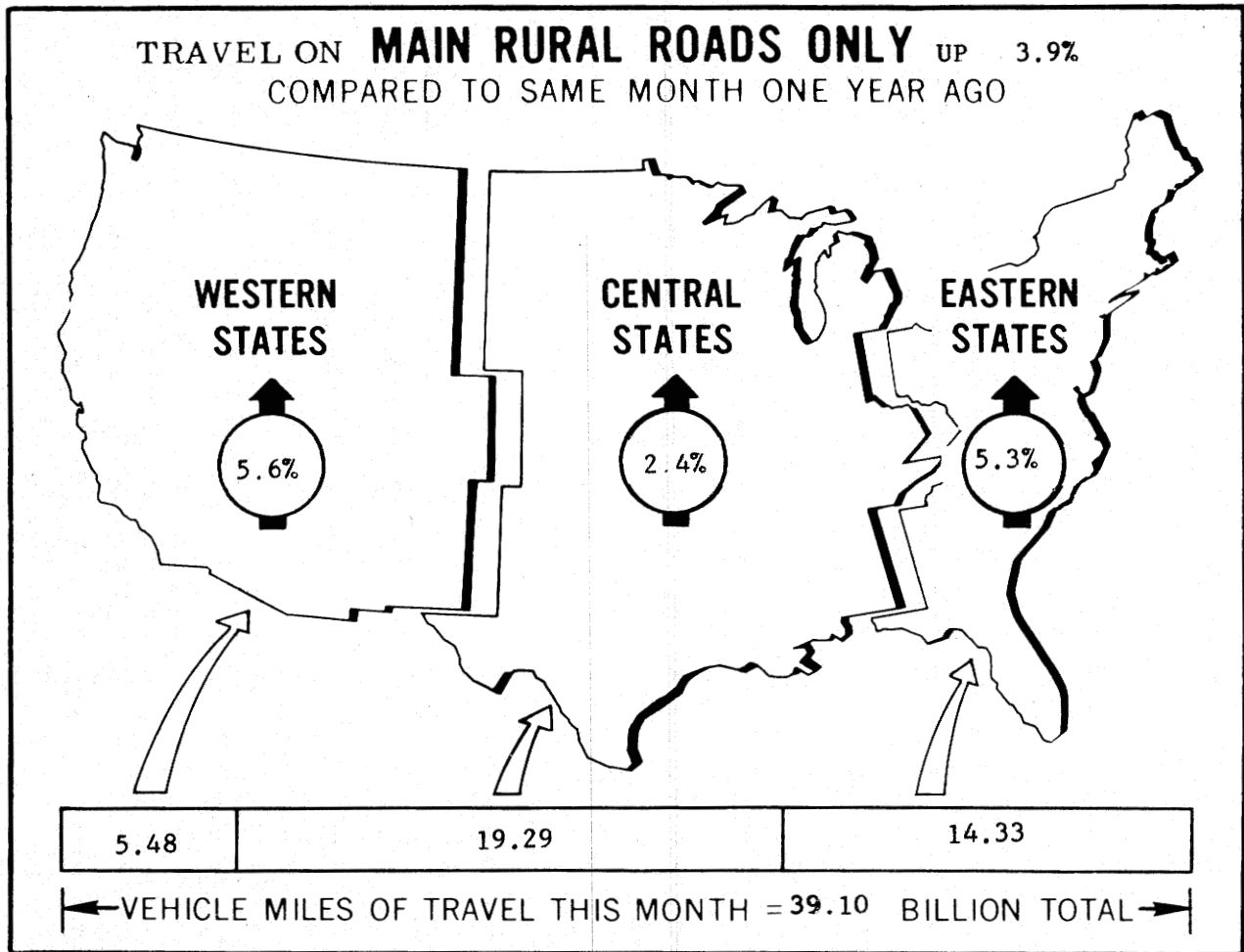


TRAFFIC VOLUME TRENDS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

DECEMBER 1977 ^{1/}

TRAVEL ON **ALL ROADS AND STREETS** UP 3.4%
COMPARED TO SAME MONTH ONE YEAR AGO



^{1/} 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 1975 VM-2 DATA AS A BASE.

FOR OFFICIAL DISTRIBUTION

TRAFFIC VOLUME TRENDS - DECEMBER 1977

Based on preliminary reports from the State highway agencies, travel during December 1977 on all roads and streets in the nation increased by 3.4 percent as compared to December 1976, resulting in estimated travel for the month at 115,491 million vehicle miles. This total includes 39,307 million vehicle miles on main rural roads, 11,389 million vehicle miles on other rural roads, and 64,795 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	
	December	Year to Date	December	Year to Date
1970	31,751	412,734	89,911	1,120,328
1971	33,555	434,734	95,515	1,185,615
1972	34,296	449,026	101,040	1,268,362
1973	32,905	462,451	98,856	1,308,288
1974	35,525	446,213	105,083	1,289,645
1975	36,321	465,636	107,105	1,330,073
1976	37,839	492,386	111,691	1,389,314
1977	39,307	514,082	115,491	1,444,828

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 a travel for the current period.

For extra copies, or to be put on the monthly mailing list, contact:

Federal Highway Administration
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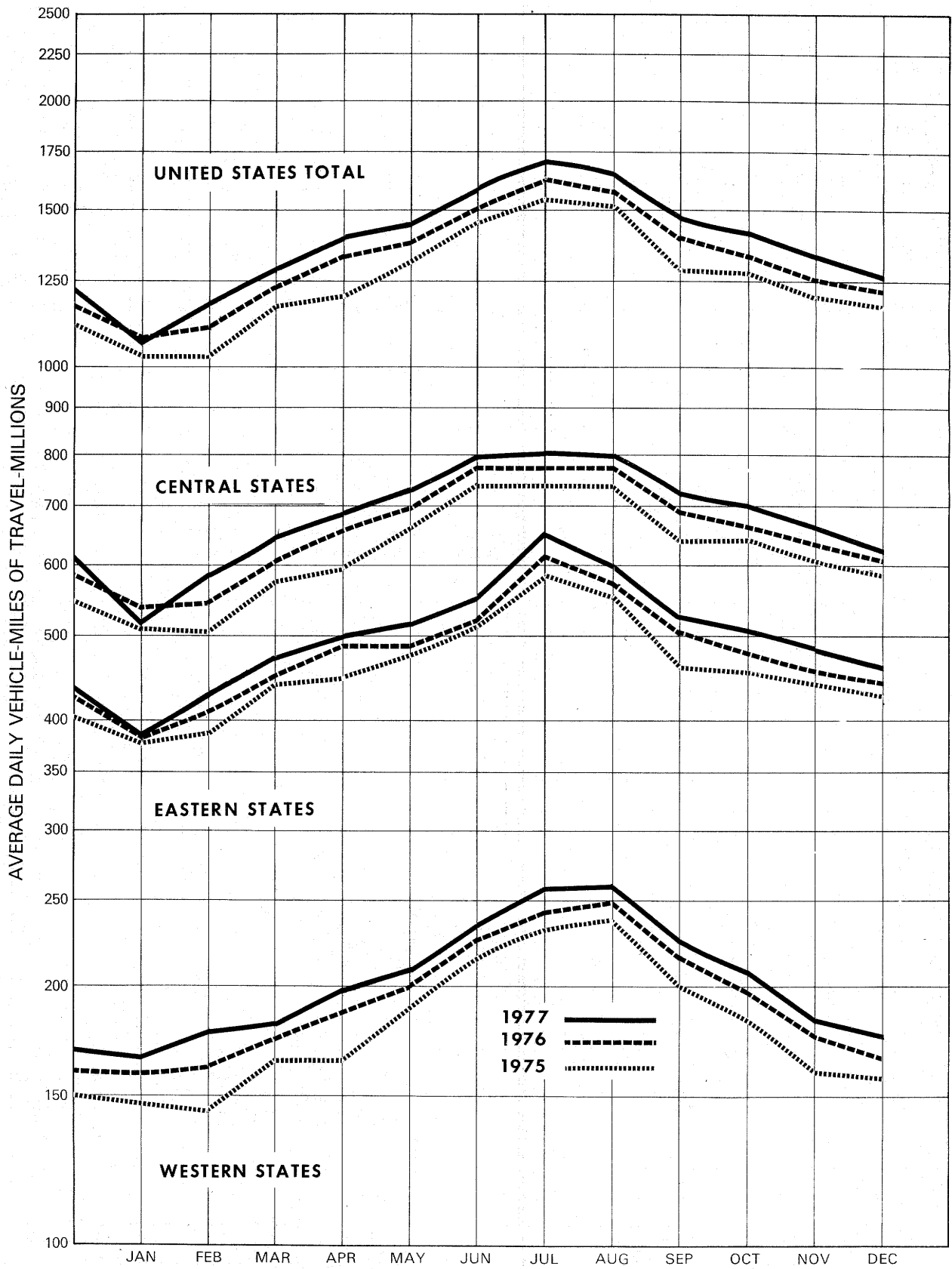


FIGURE 1 - TRAVEL ON MAIN RURAL ROADS, BY MONTHS

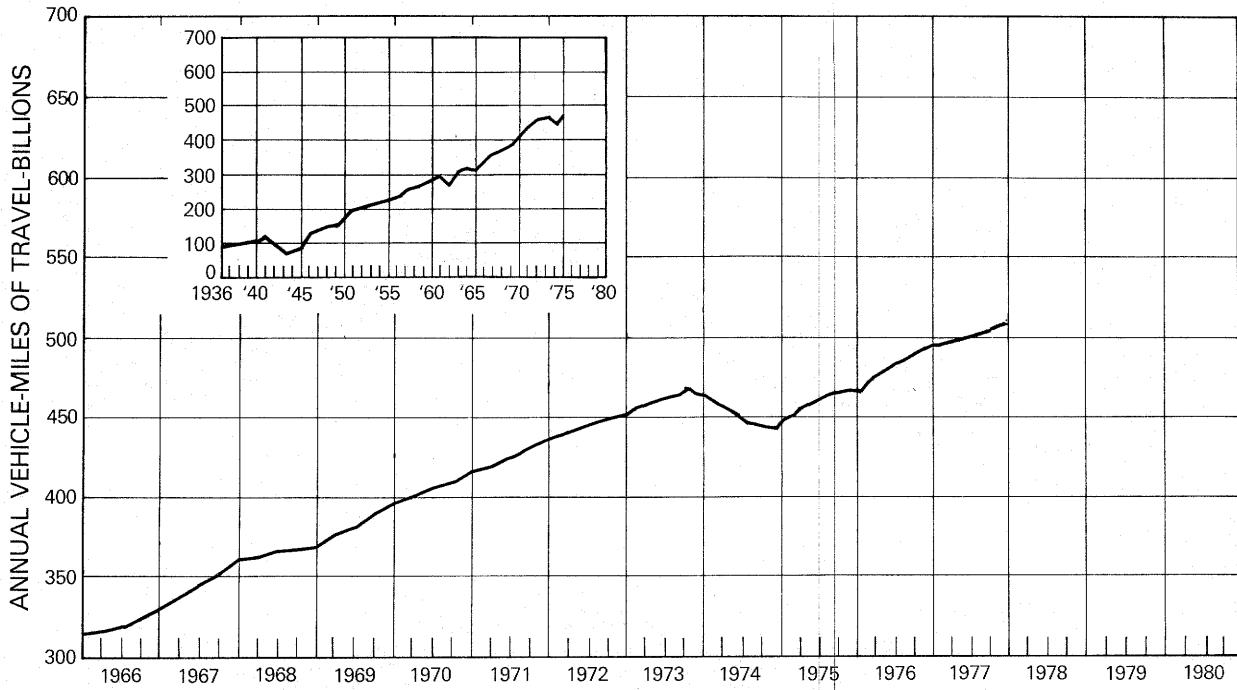


FIGURE 2 - ANNUAL TRAVEL ON MAIN RURAL ROADS FOR 12 MONTH PERIOD ENDING IN MONTH SHOWN

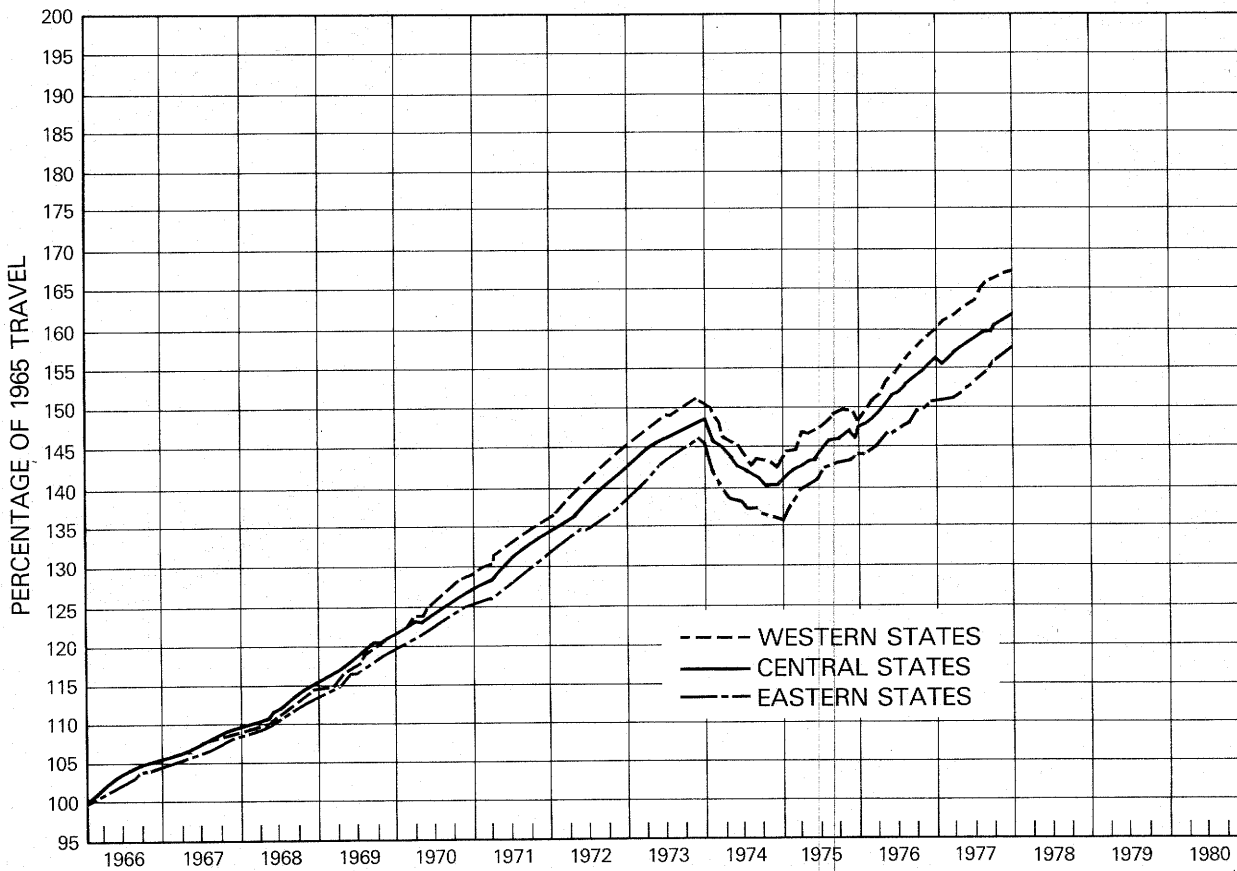


FIGURE 3 - ANNUAL TRAVEL ON MAIN RURAL ROADS AS PERCENTAGE OF YEAR 1965

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

	PRELIMINARY DATA FOR DECEMBER			REVISED DATA FOR NOVEMBER		
	VEHICLE-MILES (MILLIONS)		PERCENTAGE CHANGE	VEHICLE-MILES (MILLIONS)		PERCENTAGE CHANGE
	1977	1976		1977	1976	
CLASS OF ROAD, ALL STATES:						
MAIN RURAL ROADS.....	39,307	37,839	3.9	40,135	38,021	5.6
LOCAL RURAL ROADS.....	11,389	11,126	2.4	11,559	11,151	3.7
ALL RURAL ROADS.....	50,696	48,965	3.5	51,694	49,172	5.1
CITY STREETS.....	64,795	62,726	3.3	63,591	60,739	4.7
ALL ROADS AND STREETS.....	115,491	111,691	3.4	115,285	109,911	4.9
48 STATES (MAIN RURAL ONLY):						
EASTERN REGION.....	14,334	13,613	5.3	14,429	13,644	5.7
CENTRAL REGION.....	19,281	18,833	2.4	20,019	18,961	5.6
WESTERN REGION.....	5,484	5,195	5.6	5,471	5,210	5.0
TOTAL.....	39,099	37,641	3.9	39,919	37,815	5.6

TABLE 2.—CHANGES ON MAIN RURAL ROADS BY STATES

DIVISION AND STATE	DECEMBER (PRELIMINARY)		NOVEMBER (REVISED)		DIVISION AND STATE	DECEMBER (PRELIMINARY)		NOVEMBER (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.....	—	—	53	7.6
MAINE.....	21	4.4	22	7.1	KENTUCKY.....	—	—	42	8.0
MASSACHUSETTS.....	—	—	8	10.2	MISSISSIPPI.....	39	8.0	41	7.7
NEW HAMPSHIRE.....	58	8.7	63	8.3	TENNESSEE.....	24	4.9	22	1.7
RHODE ISLAND.....	5	10.6	2	2.5	WEST NORTH CENTRAL:				
VERMONT.....	32	3.3	43	4.4	IOWA.....	34	- 2.4	33	0.3
MIDDLE ATLANTIC:					KANSAS.....	66	2.2	69	2.8
NEW JERSEY.....	9	12.5	22	5.6	MINNESOTA.....	40	1.4	41	1.3
NEW YORK.....	25	- 2.1	23	2.7	MISSOURI.....	71	1.8	70	6.7
PENNSYLVANIA.....	47	0.6	46	4.3	NEBRASKA.....	19	- 0.6	20	0.6
SOUTH ATLANTIC (NORTH):					NORTH DAKOTA.....	32	-11.3	37	- 9.1
DELAWARE.....	14	5.9	13	4.2	SOUTH DAKOTA.....	34	- 6.2	34	- 7.9
MARYLAND.....	—	—	36	4.5	WEST SOUTH CENTRAL:				
VIRGINIA.....	—	4.3	—	5.0	ARKANSAS.....	—	—	27	7.4
WEST VIRGINIA.....	—	—	—	—	LOUISIANA.....	—	—	47	9.1
SOUTH ATLANTIC (SOUTH):					OKLAHOMA.....	—	—	—	—
FLORIDA.....	—	—	—	—	TEXAS.....	117	8.5	113	10.3
GEORGIA.....	23	9.0	23	7.5	MOUNTAIN:				
NORTH CAROLINA.....	42	3.6	44	4.4	ARIZONA.....	26	6.5	27	8.4
SOUTH CAROLINA.....	8	11.5	11	9.7	COLORADO.....	41	8.5	43	8.1
EAST NORTH CENTRAL:					IDAHO.....	—	—	63	1.6
ILLINOIS.....	—	—	21	4.8	MONTANA.....	27	- 1.4	27	1.6
INDIANA.....	24	- 6.0	24	3.3	NEVADA.....	26	7.3	27	9.2
MICHIGAN.....	63	2.0	63	6.8	NEW MEXICO.....	27	9.6	33	11.5
OHIO.....	22	- 1.3	21	4.7	UTAH.....	37	6.5	10	3.8
WISCONSIN.....	30	1.7	43	5.2	WYOMING.....	34	2.8	35	3.8
ALASKA.....	—	—	—	—	PACIFIC:				
HAWAII.....	3	5.4	3	6.0	CALIFORNIA.....	—	6.5	14	5.0
					OREGON.....	—	—	—	—
					WASHINGTON.....	6	2.4	12	0.8

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 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
1976 INDIVIDUAL MONTHLY VEHICLE-MILES OF TRAVEL IN BILLIONS*												
MAIN RURAL	33.4	32.4	38.4	39.9	42.9	45.8	50.6	49.3	42.2	41.6	38.0	37.8
LOCAL RURAL	9.7	9.6	10.6	11.7	12.5	12.6	13.4	13.4	12.0	12.4	11.2	11.1
URBAN	56.9	55.5	63.4	63.5	66.1	65.8	65.6	68.1	62.9	65.6	60.7	62.7
ALL SYSTEMS	100.0	97.4	112.4	115.2	121.5	124.2	129.6	130.9	117.1	119.5	109.9	111.7
1977 INDIVIDUAL MONTHLY VEHICLE-MILES OF TRAVEL IN BILLIONS**												
MAIN RURAL	32.9	33.6	40.2	41.7	45.3	47.8	53.3	51.4	44.3	44.2	40.1	39.3
LOCAL RURAL	9.7	9.9	11.0	12.1	13.1	13.0	13.9	13.8	12.4	12.9	11.6	11.4
URBAN	57.9	57.9	66.9	65.9	68.7	68.6	68.2	69.9	65.2	68.7	63.6	64.8
ALL SYSTEMS	100.5	101.3	118.1	119.7	127.1	129.4	135.3	135.1	121.8	125.7	115.3	115.5
PERCENT CHANGE IN INDIVIDUAL MONTHLY TRAVEL 1977 VS. 1976												
MAIN RURAL	-1.5	3.7	4.8	4.4	5.6	4.4	5.2	4.3	4.9	6.2	5.6	3.9
LOCAL RURAL	-0.6	3.0	3.6	3.9	4.6	3.5	3.7	3.0	3.3	4.0	3.7	2.4
URBAN	1.8	4.4	5.5	3.7	4.0	4.3	3.9	2.5	3.6	4.7	4.7	3.3
ALL SYSTEMS	0.5	4.0	5.0	3.9	4.6	4.2	4.4	3.2	4.1	5.2	4.9	3.4

* THESE ARE PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES WHICH WILL BE REVISED TO AGREE WITH FINAL ESTIMATES OF 1976 ANNUAL TRAVEL PROVIDED BY STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENTS.
** TO BE REVISED BASED ON 1976 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	MONTH											
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
1976 CUMULATIVE MONTHLY VEHICLE-MILES OF TRAVEL IN BILLIONS*												
MAIN RURAL	33.4	65.8	104.2	144.1	187.0	232.8	283.4	332.8	374.9	416.5	454.5	492.4
LOCAL RURAL	9.7	19.3	29.9	41.6	54.1	66.7	80.0	93.5	105.5	117.8	129.0	140.1
URBAN	56.9	112.4	175.8	239.3	305.4	371.2	436.8	504.9	567.8	633.3	694.1	756.8
ALL SYSTEMS	100.0	197.5	309.9	425.0	546.5	670.6	800.2	931.1	1048.2	1167.7	1277.6	1389.3
1977 CUMULATIVE MONTHLY VEHICLE-MILES OF TRAVEL IN BILLIONS**												
MAIN RURAL	32.9	66.5	106.7	148.4	193.6	241.5	294.8	346.2	390.5	434.6	474.8	514.1
LOCAL RURAL	9.7	19.6	30.5	42.7	55.7	68.7	82.6	96.4	108.8	121.7	133.3	144.6
URBAN	57.9	115.8	182.7	248.6	317.3	385.9	454.0	523.9	589.1	657.7	721.3	786.1
ALL SYSTEMS	100.5	201.8	319.9	439.6	566.7	696.1	831.4	966.5	1088.3	1214.1	1329.3	1444.8
PERCENT CHANGE IN CUMULATIVE MONTHLY TRAVEL 1977 VS. 1976												
MAIN RURAL	-1.5	1.0	2.4	3.0	3.6	3.7	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.3	4.5	4.4
LOCAL RURAL	-0.6	1.2	2.0	2.5	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.2
URBAN	1.8	3.1	3.9	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.0	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.9
ALL SYSTEMS	0.5	2.2	3.2	3.4	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.0

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