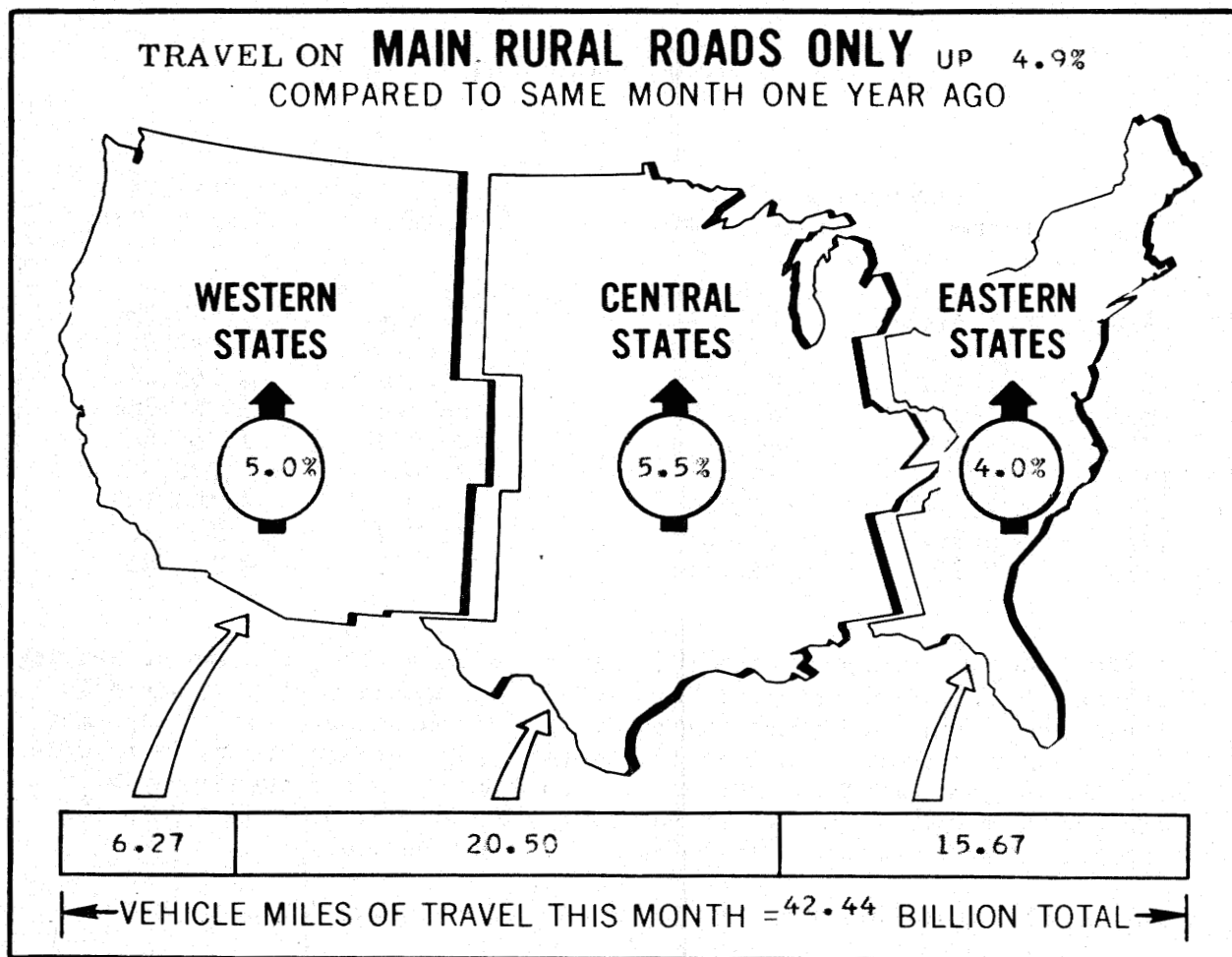


TRAFFIC VOLUME TRENDS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

DECEMBER 1978 ^{1/}

TRAVEL ON **ALL ROADS AND STREETS** UP 4.5%
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 1976 VM-2 DATA AS A BASE.

FOR OFFICIAL DISTRIBUTION

TRAFFIC VOLUME TRENDS - DECEMBER 1978

Based on preliminary reports from the state highway agencies, travel during December 1978 on all roads and streets in the nation increased by 4.5 percent as compared to December 1977, resulting in estimated travel for the month at 121,507 million vehicle miles. This total includes 42,684 million vehicle miles on main rural roads, 11,128 million vehicle miles on other rural roads, and 67,695 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	36,888	465,635	107,945	1,330,075
1976	39,194	500,970	113,030	1,409,163
1977	40,686	523,436	116,257	1,463,409
1978	42,684	548,242	121,507	1,516,017

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.

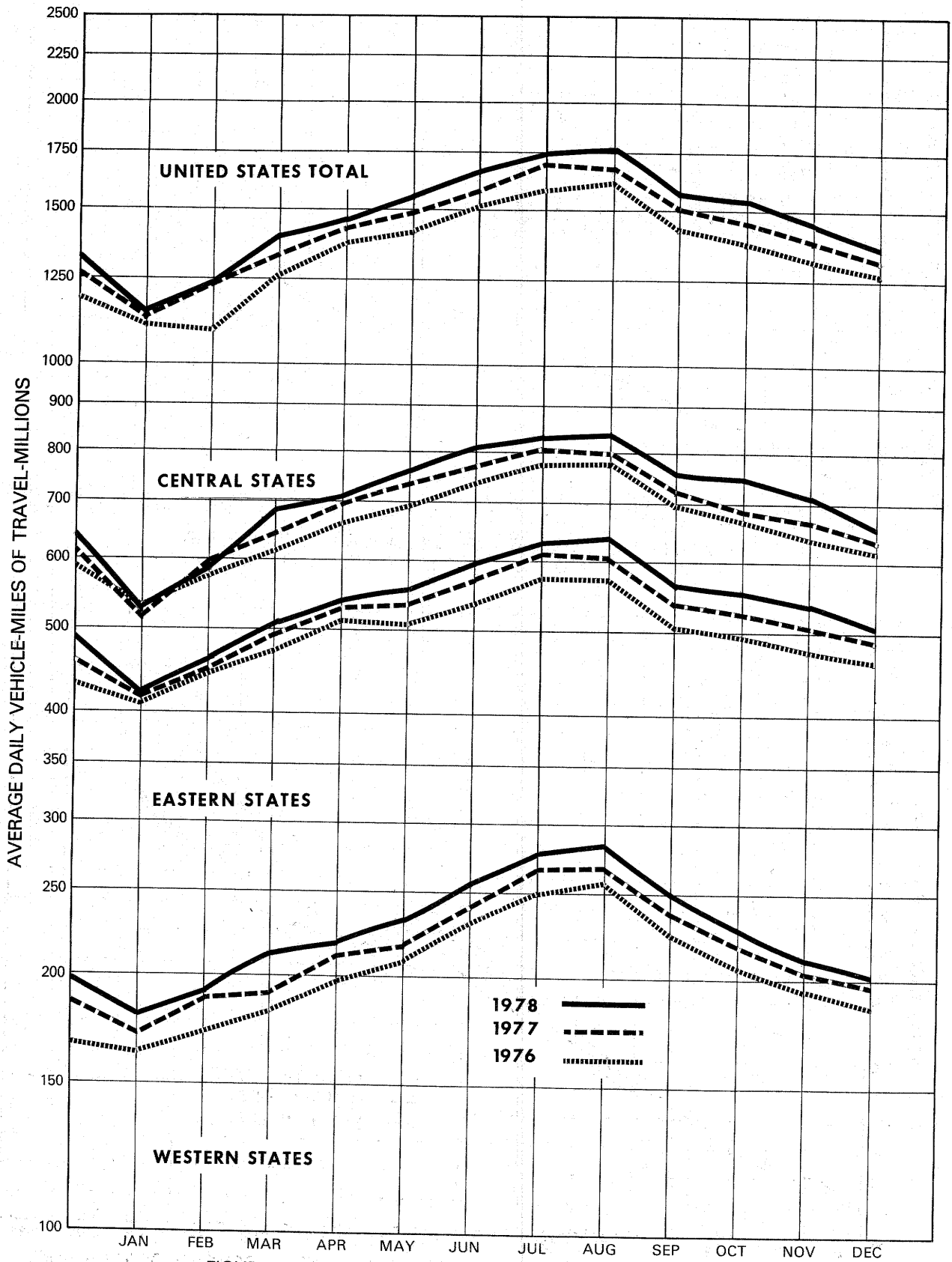


FIGURE 1 - TRAVEL ON MAIN RURAL ROADS, BY MONTHS

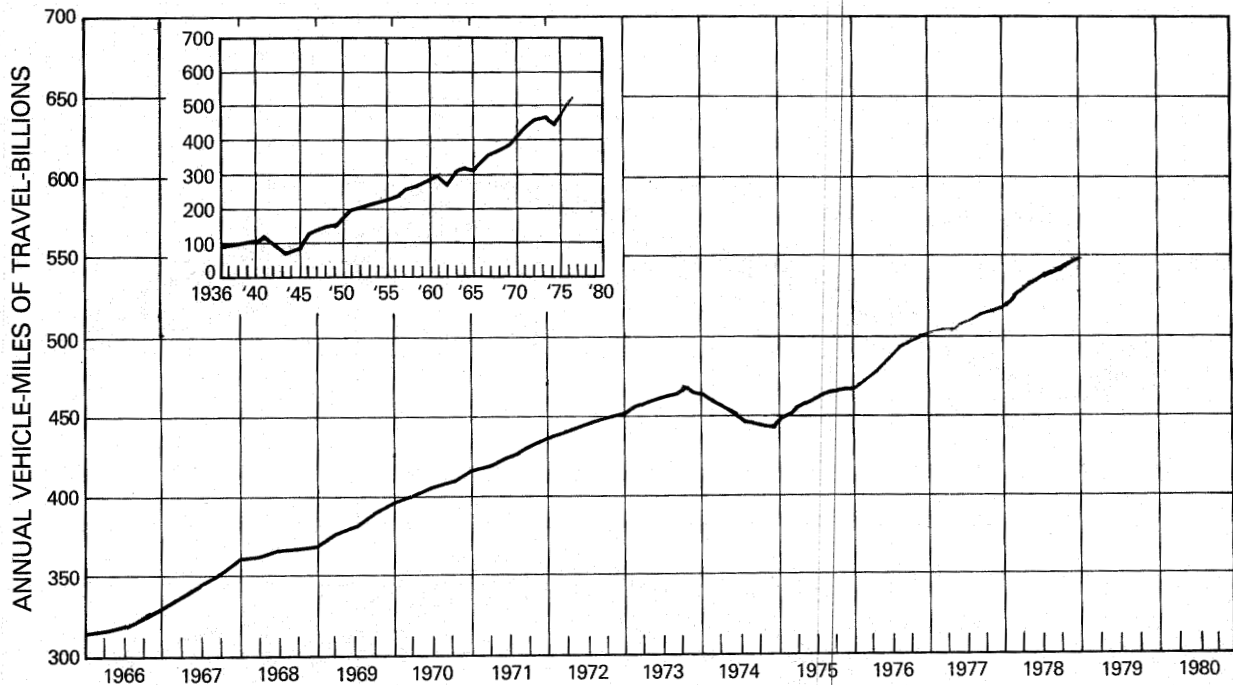


FIGURE 2 - ANNUAL TRAVEL ON MAIN RURAL ROADS FOR 12 MONTH PERIOD ENDING IN MONTH SHOWN

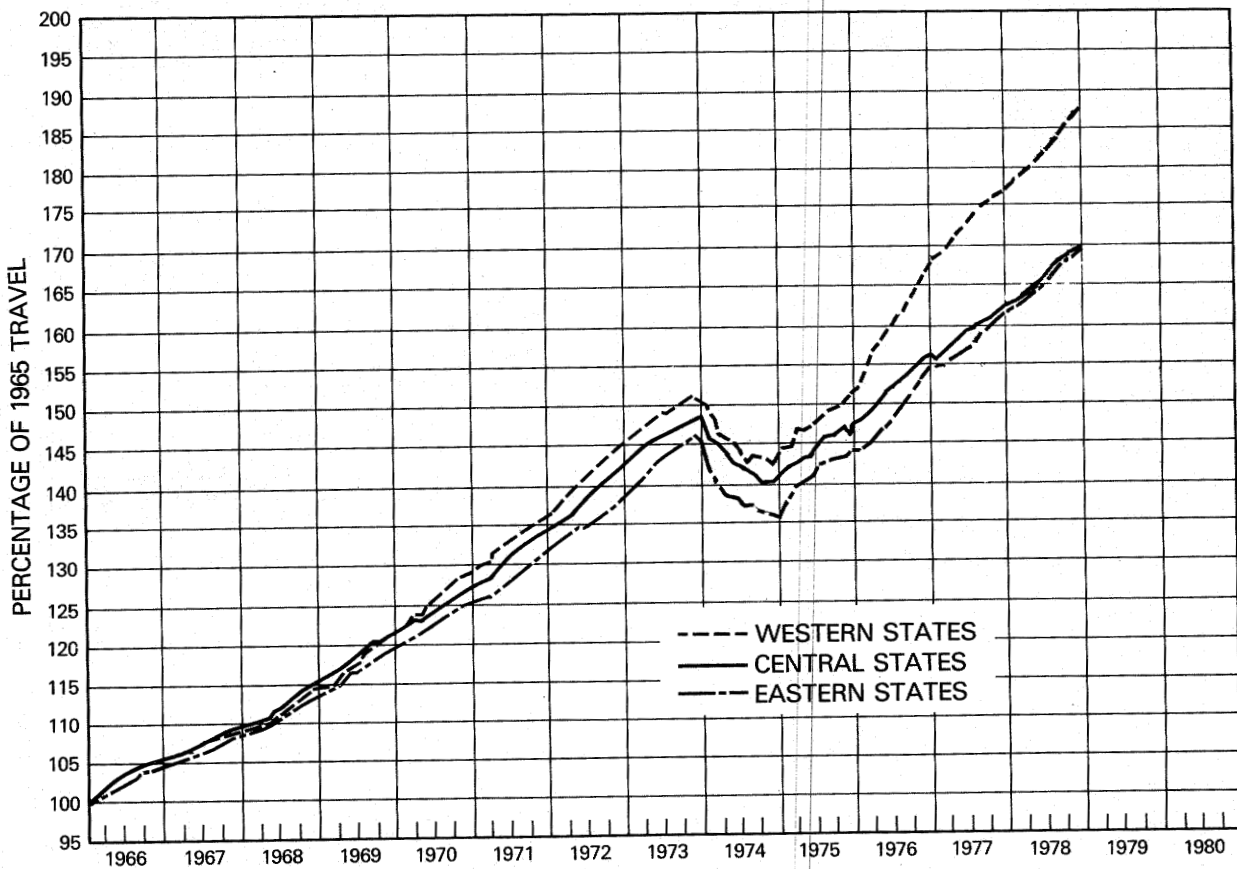


FIGURE 3 - ANNUAL TRAVEL ON MAIN RURAL ROADS AS PERCENTAGE OF YEAR 1965

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

CLASS OF ROAD, ALL STATES:	PRELIMINARY DATA FOR DECEMBER			REVISED DATA FOR NOVEMBER		
	VEHICLE-MILES (MILLIONS)		PERCENTAGE CHANGE	VEHICLE-MILES (MILLIONS)		PERCENTAGE CHANGE
	1978	1977		1978	1977	
MAIN RURAL ROADS.....	42,684	40,686	4.9	43,989	41,608	5.7
LOCAL RURAL ROADS.....	11,128	10,723	3.8	11,967	11,579	3.4
ALL RURAL ROADS.....	53,812	51,409	4.7	55,956	53,187	5.2
CITY STREETS.....	67,695	64,847	4.4	66,873	65,299	2.4
ALL ROADS AND STREETS.....	121,507	116,257	4.5	122,829	118,486	3.7
48 STATES (MAIN RURAL ONLY):						
EASTERN REGION.....	15,672	15,063	4.0	16,041	15,058	6.5
CENTRAL REGION.....	20,504	19,432	5.5	21,377	20,248	5.6
WESTERN REGION.....	6,266	5,966	5.0	6,333	6,077	4.2
TOTAL.....	42,442	40,461	4.9	43,751	41,383	5.7

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.....	4	9.6	6	12.1	ALABAMA.....	-	-	53	8.3
MAINE.....	23	6.9	22	2.9	KENTUCKY.....	35	6.0	37	7.2
MASSACHUSETTS.....	3	- 0.9	3	- 0.1	MISSISSIPPI.....	39	5.5	42	9.0
NEW HAMPSHIRE.....	-	-	54	2.7	TENNESSEE.....	25	7.2	24	7.4
RHODE ISLAND.....	-	-	-	-					
VERMONT.....	41	6.8	42	6.1	WEST NORTH CENTRAL:				
MIDDLE ATLANTIC:					IOWA.....	31	4.3	31	4.7
NEW JERSEY.....	20	3.0	22	3.3	KANSAS.....	67	- 1.6	69	1.2
NEW YORK.....	23	4.1	24	5.8	MINNESOTA.....	39	7.5	40	7.4
PENNSYLVANIA.....	53	5.4	52	3.8	MISSOURI.....	71	5.3	70	6.6
					NEBRASKA.....	19	- 0.5	20	3.6
SOUTH ATLANTIC (NORTH):					NORTH DAKOTA.....	27	14.2	31	6.7
DELAWARE.....	14	1.1	13	3.6	SOUTH DAKOTA.....	34	4.3	34	3.4
MARYLAND.....	30	5.6	35	7.9	WEST SOUTH CENTRAL:				
VIRGINIA.....	-	4.7	-	4.9	ARKANSAS.....	24	2.4	26	- 1.8
WEST VIRGINIA.....	27	8.8	28	6.7	LOUISIANA.....	-	-	45	8.6
					OKLAHOMA.....	38	- 2.1	34	- 2.6
SOUTH ATLANTIC (SOUTH):					TEXAS.....	118	3.3	117	5.3
FLORIDA.....	-	-	3	7.6	MOUNTAIN:				
GEORGIA.....	-	-	24	8.4	ARIZONA.....	6	7.5	6	11.4
NORTH CAROLINA.....	43	5.5	44	10.0	COLORADO.....	43	- 3.1	43	5.6
SOUTH CAROLINA.....	13	1.8	12	8.9	IDAHO.....	-	-	-	-
					MONTANA.....	-	-	24	1.9
EAST NORTH CENTRAL:					NEVADA.....	27	8.4	26	8.8
ILLINOIS.....	-	-	31	4.2	NEW MEXICO.....	26	1.2	26	6.4
INDIANA.....	20	12.6	23	6.4	UTAH.....	-	-	51	3.9
MICHIGAN.....	60	6.6	59	6.8	WYOMING.....	37	- 4.4	38	2.3
OHIO.....	23	9.6	22	7.0	PACIFIC:				
WISCONSIN.....	47	6.4	47	5.5	CALIFORNIA.....	-	6.6	15	1.4
					OREGON.....	-	-	-	-
ALASKA.....	51	8.1	-	-	WASHINGTON.....	4	6.4	23	6.6
HAWAII.....	1	7.9	1	5.6					

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.

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

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	44.2	44.3	48.5	50.3	54.3	55.0	47.4	48.0	44.0	42.7
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	121.5
PERCENT CHANGE IN INDIVIDUAL MONTHLY TRAVEL 1978 VS. 1977												
MAIN RURAL	2.2	1.1	7.1	2.7	4.9	5.9	3.8	5.6	5.3	6.4	5.7	4.9
LOCAL RURAL	1.4	-0.9	1.3	0.3	1.9	2.8	3.2	3.7	3.1	3.6	3.4	3.8
URBAN	0.2	-0.7	2.0	3.5	3.6	4.3	3.6	4.2	4.4	3.9	2.4	4.4
ALL SYSTEMS	1.0	-0.1	3.7	2.9	3.9	4.7	3.6	4.7	4.6	4.8	3.7	4.5

* 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.

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
1977 CUMULATIVE MONTHLY VEHICLE-MILES OF TRAVEL IN BILLIONS*												
MAIN RURAL	33.9	68.5	109.8	152.9	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	113.8	158.1	206.6	256.9	311.2	366.2	413.5	461.6	505.6	548.2
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	470.5	543.8	613.1	685.1	752.0	819.7
ALL SYSTEMS	103.5	205.8	330.1	455.1	589.0	724.5	865.6	1008.3	1138.2	1271.7	1394.5	1516.0
PERCENT CHANGE IN CUMULATIVE MONTHLY TRAVEL 1978 VS. 1977												
MAIN RURAL	2.2	1.6	3.7	3.4	3.7	4.2	4.1	4.3	4.4	4.6	4.7	4.7
LOCAL RURAL	1.4	0.3	0.7	0.6	0.9	1.3	1.6	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.4
URBAN	0.2	-0.2	0.6	1.3	1.8	2.3	2.5	2.7	2.9	3.0	2.9	3.1
ALL SYSTEMS	1.0	0.4	1.6	2.0	2.4	2.8	3.0	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.6

* 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.

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