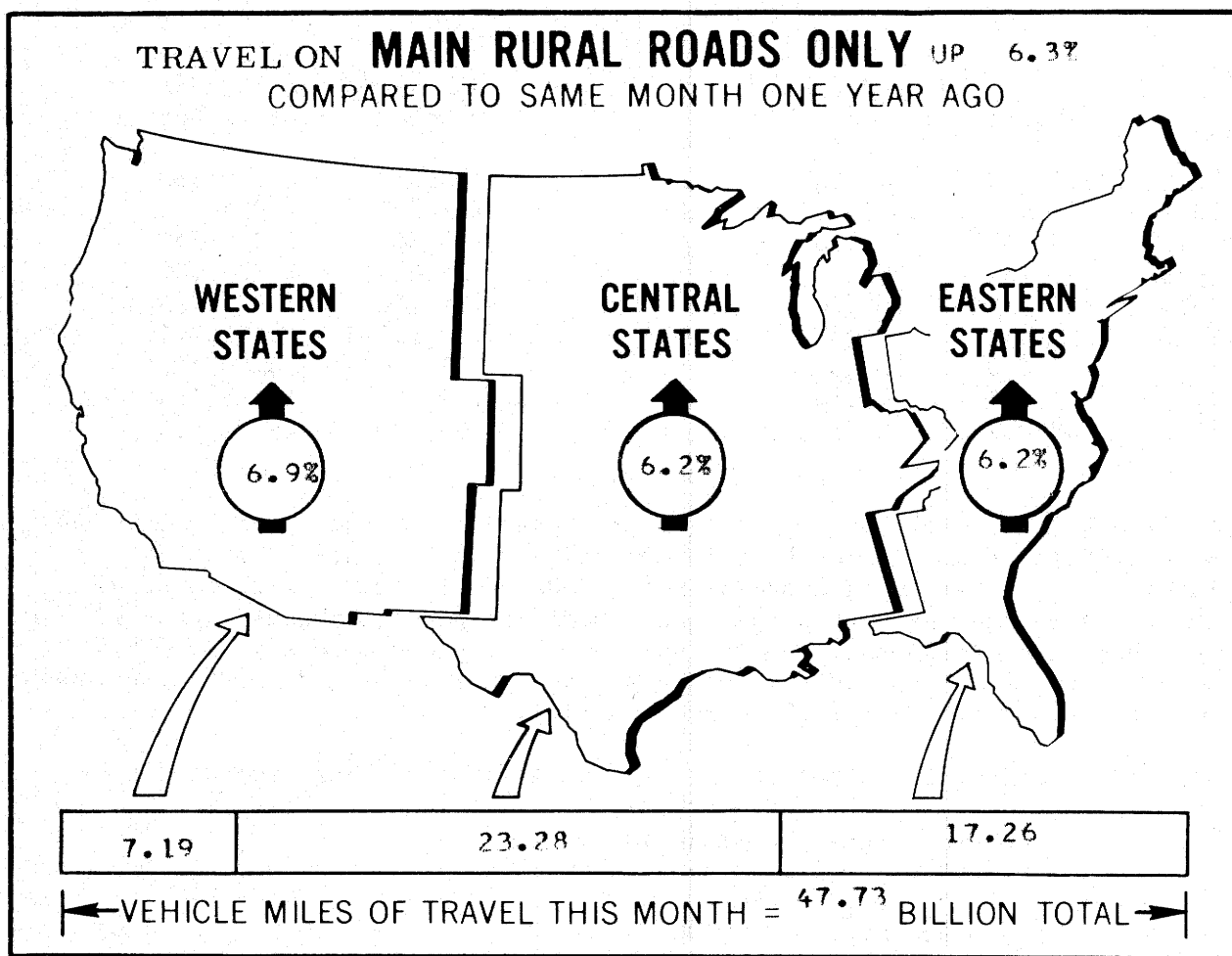


# TRAFFIC VOLUME TRENDS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

OCTOBER 1978 <sup>1/</sup>

TRAVEL ON **ALL ROADS AND STREETS** UP 4.7%  
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.

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TRAFFIC VOLUME TRENDS - OCTOBER 1978

Based on preliminary reports from the State highway agencies, travel during October 1978 on all roads and streets in the nation increased by 4.7 percent as compared to October 1977, resulting in estimated travel for the month at 133,323 million vehicle miles. This total includes 48,004 million vehicle miles on main rural roads, 13,435 million vehicle miles on other rural roads, and 71,884 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	
	October	Year to Date	October	Year to Date
1970	35,338	348,504	96,317	940,733
1971	37,470	367,017	102,525	994,545
1972	38,671	379,784	108,841	1,066,531
1973	39,754	393,417	113,089	1,105,051
1974	38,582	374,601	112,572	1,079,483
1975	40,032	392,019	115,250	1,115,140
1976	42,452	422,371	121,210	1,183,137
1977	45,168	441,142	127,388	1,228,666
1978	48,004	461,532	133,323	1,271,555

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.  
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 Phone (202) 426-0677.

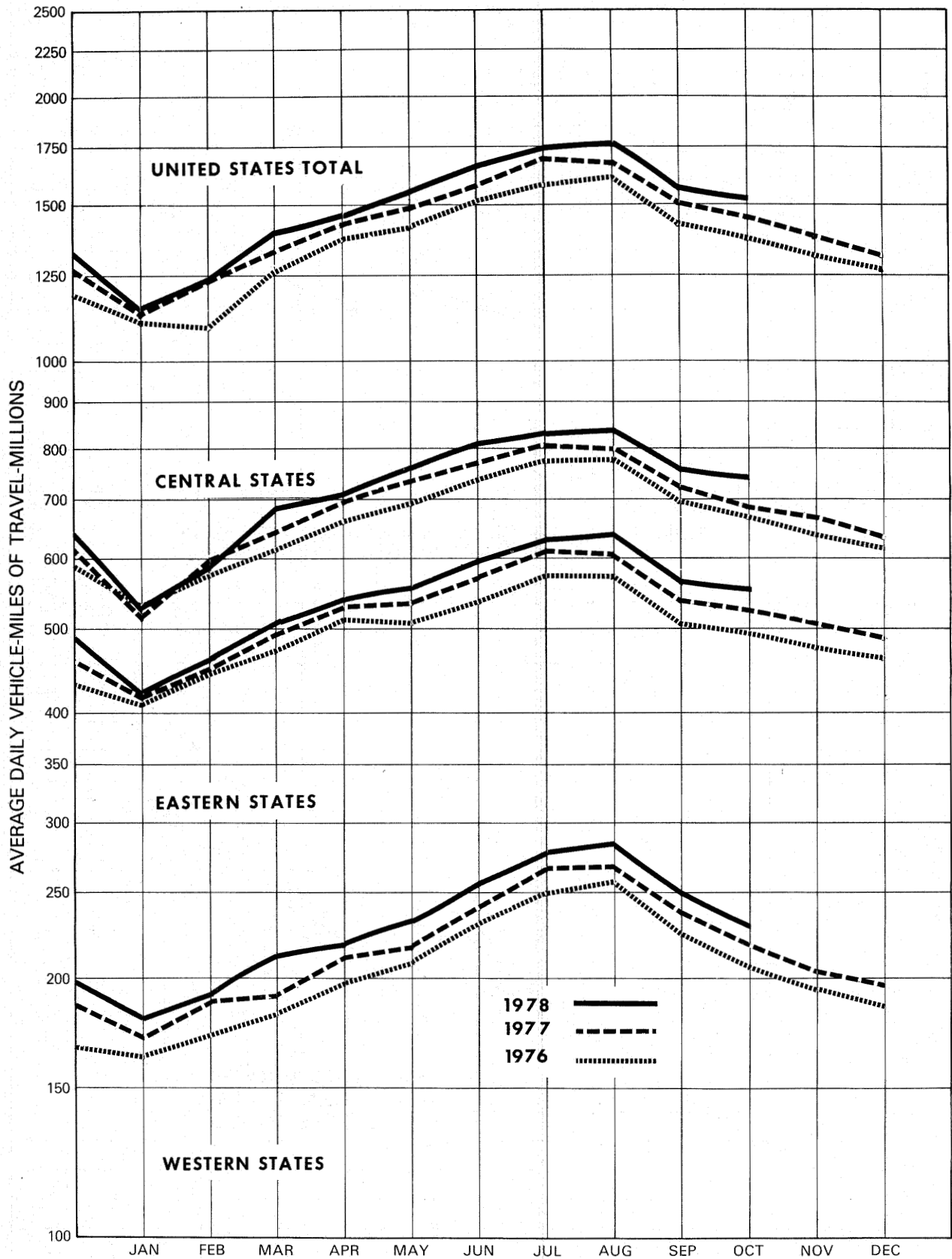


FIGURE 1 - TRAVEL ON MAIN RURAL ROADS, BY MONTHS

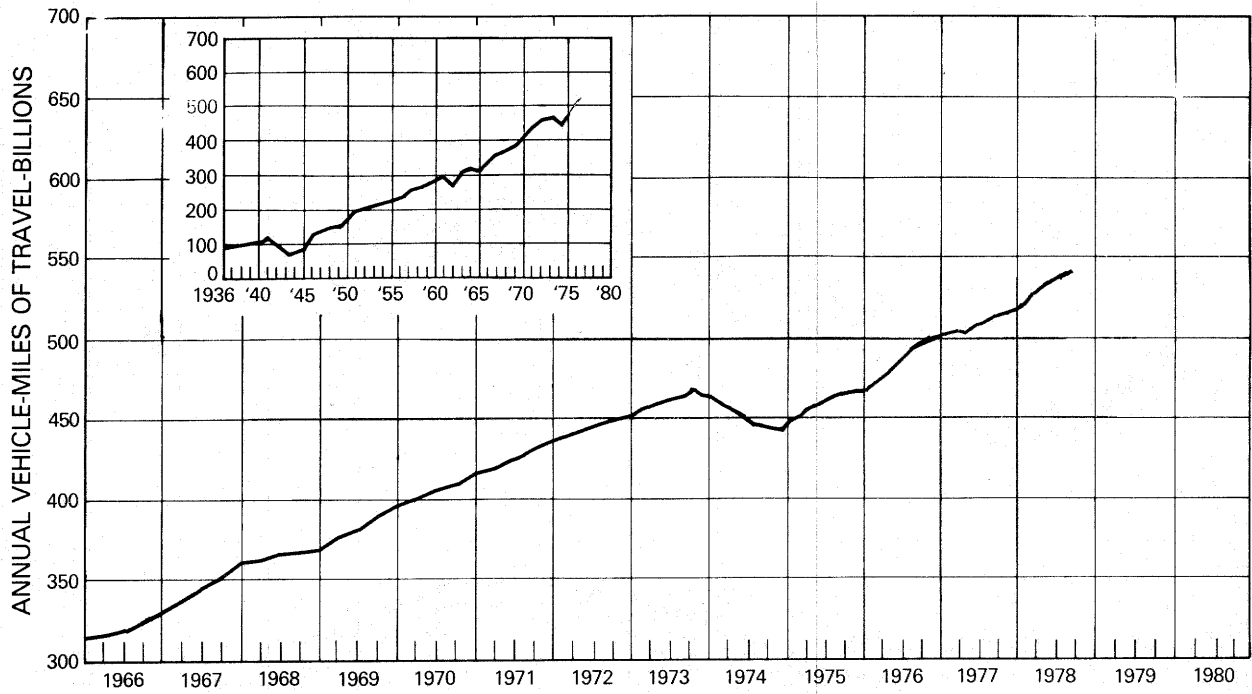


FIGURE 2 - ANNUAL TRAVEL ON MAIN RURAL ROADS FOR 12 MONTH PERIOD ENDING IN MONTH SHOWN

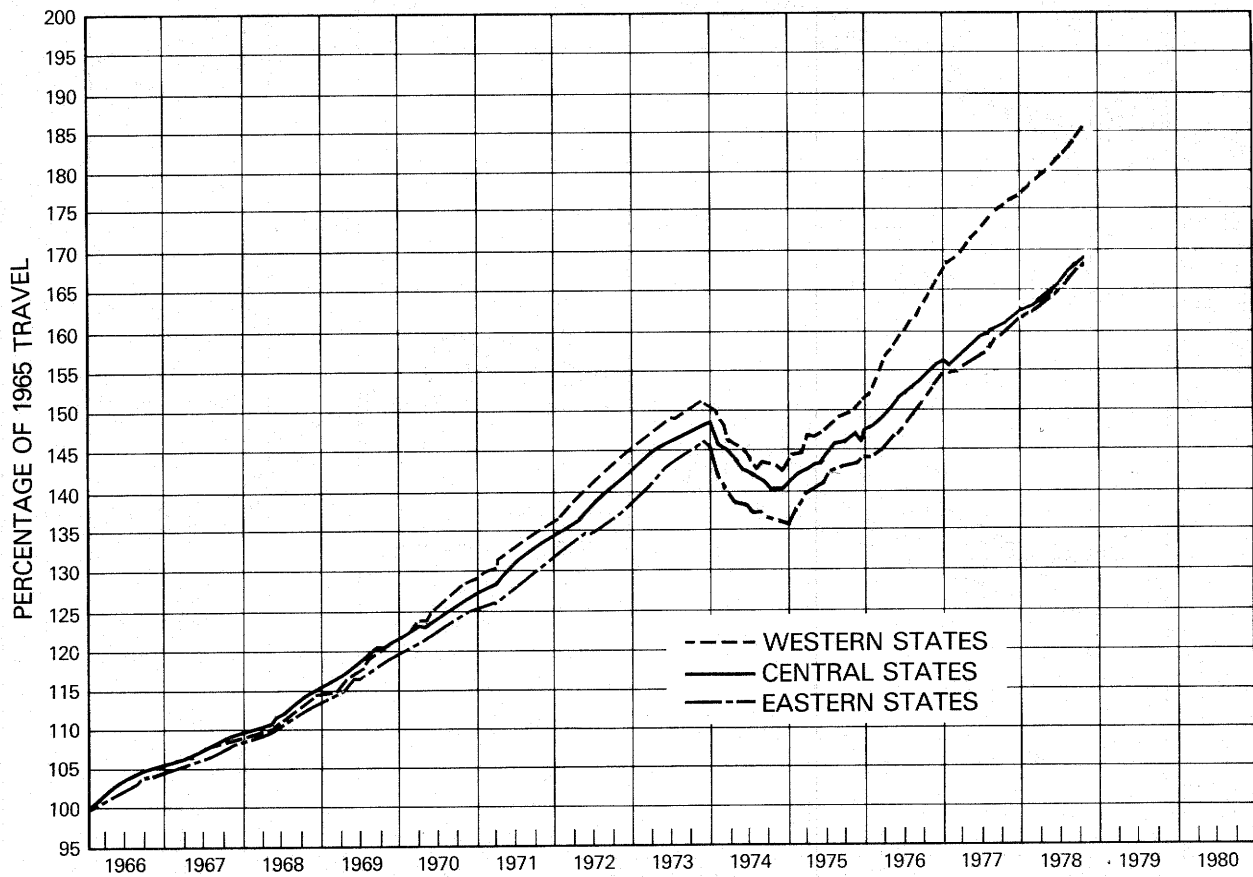


FIGURE 3 - ANNUAL TRAVEL ON MAIN RURAL ROADS AS PERCENTAGE OF YEAR 1965

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

CLASS OF ROAD, ALL STATES:	PRELIMINARY DATA FOR OCTOBER			REVISED DATA FOR SEPTEMBER		
	VEHICLE-MILES (MILLIONS)		PERCENTAGE CHANGE	VEHICLE-MILES (MILLIONS)		PERCENTAGE CHANGE
	1978	1977		1978	1977	
MAIN RURAL ROADS.....	48,004	45,168	6.3	47,370	44,972	5.3
LOCAL RURAL ROADS.....	13,435	12,934	3.9	13,222	12,829	3.1
ALL RURAL ROADS.....	61,439	58,102	5.7	60,592	57,801	4.8
CITY STREETS.....	71,884	69,286	3.8	69,325	66,402	4.4
ALL ROADS AND STREETS.....	133,323	127,388	4.7	129,917	124,203	4.6
48 STATES (MAIN RURAL ONLY):						
EASTERN REGION.....	17,258	16,257	6.2	16,839	15,974	5.4
CENTRAL REGION.....	23,281	21,931	6.2	22,787	21,647	5.3
WESTERN REGION.....	7,189	6,726	6.9	7,473	7,085	5.5
TOTAL.....	47,728	44,914	6.3	47,099	44,706	5.4

TABLE 2.-CHANGES ON MAIN RURAL ROADS BY STATES

DIVISION AND STATE	OCTOBER (PRELIMINARY)		SEPTEMBER (REVISED)		DIVISION AND STATE	OCTOBER (PRELIMINARY)		SEPTEMBER (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.....	13	7.7	11	6.3	ALABAMA.....	-	-	-	-
MAINE.....	-	-	22	4.9	KENTUCKY.....	38	4.1	-	-
MASSACHUSETTS.....	6	6.4	5	1.2	MISSISSIPPI.....	47	8.8	43	8.1
NEW HAMPSHIRE.....	-	-	54	11.0	TENNESSEE.....	22	6.8	26	7.3
RHODE ISLAND.....	-	-	-	-	WEST NORTH CENTRAL:				
VERMONT.....	41	7.2	41	5.9	IOWA.....	31	5.6	31	4.0
MIDDLE ATLANTIC:					KANSAS.....	69	1.7	68	2.7
NEW JERSEY.....	21	4.7	21	6.0	MINNESOTA.....	37	9.0	30	7.5
NEW YORK.....	29	5.8	27	5.9	MISSOURI.....	69	8.2	68	6.5
PENNSYLVANIA.....	-	-	50	4.2	NEBRASKA.....	22	7.1	21	5.7
SOUTH ATLANTIC (NORTH):					NORTH DAKOTA.....	30	6.1	29	6.1
DELAWARE.....	12	5.0	12	4.7	SOUTH DAKOTA.....	35	2.6	34	0.7
MARYLAND.....	-	-	34	3.6	WEST SOUTH CENTRAL:				
VIRGINIA.....	-	5.3	-	5.0	ARKANSAS.....	25	1.4	22	4.1
WEST VIRGINIA.....	-	-	26	7.1	LOUISIANA.....	-	-	43	7.6
SOUTH ATLANTIC (SOUTH):					OKLAHOMA.....	-	-	25	6.2
FLORIDA.....	-	-	-	-	TEXAS.....	118	7.0	119	5.1
GEORGIA.....	24	5.8	25	3.9	MOUNTAIN:				
NORTH CAROLINA.....	44	7.7	45	6.4	ARIZONA.....	18	6.5	17	6.7
SOUTH CAROLINA.....	12	6.2	12	8.0	COLORADO.....	43	6.0	43	6.0
EAST NORTH CENTRAL:					IDAHO.....	-	-	-	-
ILLINOIS.....	32	5.7	29	4.0	MONTANA.....	-	-	25	6.1
INDIANA.....	23	6.5	23	5.2	NEVADA.....	28	11.3	28	9.9
MICHIGAN.....	56	5.7	53	2.6	NEW MEXICO.....	26	5.6	26	4.9
OHIO.....	22	7.6	21	4.4	UTAH.....	-	-	48	1.5
WISCONSIN.....	35	6.3	48	5.6	WYOMING.....	39	5.7	38	3.7
ALASKA.....	-	-	-	-	PACIFIC:				
HAWAII.....	3	9.8	3	0.3	CALIFORNIA.....	15	6.0	29	5.3
					OREGON.....	-	-	-	-
					WASHINGTON.....	5	7.7	26	5.9

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.

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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	44.2	44.3	48.5	50.3	54.3	55.0	47.4	48.0		
LOCAL RURAL	9.5	9.4	11.2	12.3	13.6	13.6	14.4	14.4	13.2	13.4		
URBAN	59.4	57.9	68.9	68.5	71.8	71.6	72.4	73.3	69.3	71.9		
ALL SYSTEMS	103.5	102.3	124.4	125.0	133.9	135.4	141.2	142.7	129.9	133.3		
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	6.3		
LOCAL RURAL	1.4	-0.9	1.3	0.3	1.9	2.8	3.2	3.7	3.1	3.9		
URBAN	0.2	-0.7	2.0	3.5	3.6	4.3	3.6	4.2	4.4	3.7		
ALL SYSTEMS	1.0	-0.1	3.7	2.9	3.9	4.7	3.6	4.7	4.6	4.7		

\* 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.

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION  
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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
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	461.5		
LOCAL RURAL	9.5	18.9	30.1	42.4	56.0	69.5	84.0	98.4	111.6	125.0		
URBAN	59.4	117.3	186.2	254.7	326.5	398.1	470.5	543.8	613.1	685.0		
ALL SYSTEMS	103.5	205.8	330.1	455.1	589.0	724.5	865.6	1008.3	1138.2	1271.6		
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		
LOCAL RURAL	1.4	0.3	0.7	0.6	0.9	1.3	1.6	1.9	2.0	2.2		
URBAN	0.2	-0.2	0.6	1.3	1.8	2.3	2.5	2.7	2.9	3.0		
ALL SYSTEMS	1.0	0.4	1.6	2.0	2.4	2.8	3.0	3.2	3.4	3.5		

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

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