Long Distance Travel in the United States

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Long-Distance Travel Facts

- Most people do not take a long distance trip
- People in the west-central region take more long distance trips (stuff is farther away?)
- 62 percent of long-distance trips are within the travelers home state
- 56 percent of long-distance trips are taken for pleasure – vacation, sightseeing, visiting friends and relatives, and outdoor recreation
- 9 out of 10 long-distance trips are by personal vehicle
- Long-distance vehicle travel accounts for about 15% of daily VMT
- For trips of about 750 miles, air becomes the predominant mode
More than half of people take no long-distance trips

Source: NHTS 2001
Overall, people in the West-Central region take more trips…

Source: 1995 ATS Annual
Purpose Distribution of Long-distance Trips

- Pleasure, 55.5%
- Business, 15.9%
- Commute, 12.7%
- Personal Business, 12.6%

Source: NHTS 2001
Access and Egress Modes

Source: NHTS 2001
Private vehicle dominates for all purposes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Commute</th>
<th>Business</th>
<th>Pleasure</th>
<th>Personal Business</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal vehicle</td>
<td>96.4</td>
<td>79.3</td>
<td>90.4</td>
<td>89.3</td>
<td>96.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>17.8</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>1.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bus</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Train</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NHTS 2001
Overall, air starts to dominate for trips more than 750 miles….

Mode Share for Personal Vehicle and Air at Various Trip Lengths

Source: NHTS 2001
But people in poorer households will drive further..
People who travel for business travel more for other purposes too.

Number of Long Distance Trips by Purpose, All Modes

Source: NHTS 2001
Long distance vehicle travel adds considerably to total VMT

- Freight: 14%
- Commercial Drivers: 4%
- Passenger Travel: 82%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Highway Statistics</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total VMT</td>
<td>(000,000s)</td>
<td>2,781,462</td>
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<tr>
<td>Passenger Travel</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,282,890</td>
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<tr>
<td>NHTS 2001 VMT</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,281,863</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Base: HPMS – Highway Statistics: Table VM-2
Trips of more than 100 miles account for almost 15% of daily passenger vehicle miles...

Source: NHTS 2001
Who Travels Long-Distance

- Men make 57 percent of long-distance trips
- Business travelers are more likely to travel for other purposes
- People in households with children are more likely to drive for recreational travel
- 57 percent of long distance trips are made by people with household incomes above $50,000
- About 2/3 of long-distance trips are made by people age 25-64
This chart is really hard to read…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIF_CYC</th>
<th>HHFAMINC</th>
<th>COUNT</th>
<th>PERCENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>adults/no children</td>
<td>less than $40K</td>
<td>185923296.4</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$40-$80K</td>
<td>261757323.2</td>
<td>42.1%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$80K plus</td>
<td>174489009.2</td>
<td>28.0%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>622169628.8</td>
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<td>Children 0-15 in HH</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>302007925.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children 0-15 in HH</td>
<td></td>
<td>1119487428</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teens in HH</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Teens in HH</td>
<td>$80K plus</td>
<td>56390377.95</td>
<td>29.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teens in HH</td>
<td></td>
<td>194689654.3</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retired</td>
<td>less than $40K</td>
<td>142648125.3</td>
<td>48.9%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>101027457.6</td>
<td>34.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retired</td>
<td>$80K plus</td>
<td>48083709.64</td>
<td>16.5%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
People in households with children make more vacation vehicle trips...

**Vehicle Vacation Trips by Household Type**

- Household with children (0-15)
- Adults/No children
- Retired
- Household with teens

**Percent of Vacation Vehicle Trips**

Source: NHTS 2001
People use Vans and SUVs more than cars

Average Round Trip Distance by Vehicle Type

Source: NHTS 2001
More recreational vehicle trips are taken during summer...

**Seasonality of Recreational Vehicle Trips**

- **Jan/Feb/Mar**: 4,000,000
- **Apr/May/Jun**: 5,000,000
- **Jul/Aug/Sep**: 6,000,000
- **Oct/Nov/Dec**: 5,000,000

Source: NHTS 2001
Since 2001, the gas cost R&R vehicle trips rose

Change in the cost of a vehicle trip for vacation,
2001-2008
Summary Thoughts

Long distance travel is important
People trade off between air and car based on trip distance, travel party size, and income
Overall, long-distance travel accounts for almost 15% of VMT
Access and egress choices to/from air, rail, and bus terminals is important to understand
It’s too bad we can’t figure out how to collect data efficiently