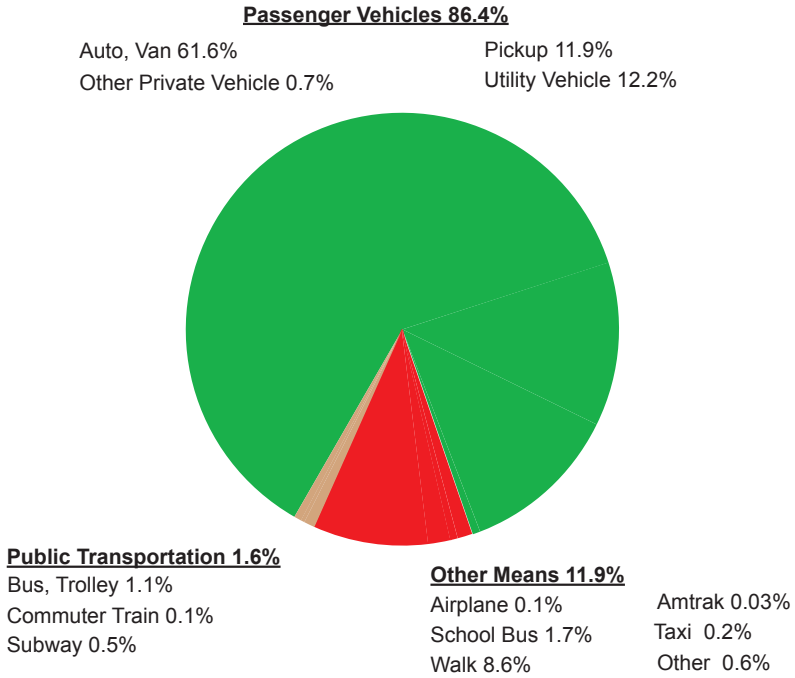


# 2 HIGHWAY TRAVEL

While motor vehicles—automobiles, light trucks, vans, sports utility vehicles, and motorcycles—are the predominant forms of personal transportation, freight-carrying trucks predominate among all modes of freight movement in terms of tonnage and dollar value. The following figures and diagrams are snapshots of vehicle travel statistics on our highway system.

Figure 2-1. Passenger Travel Modal Choice

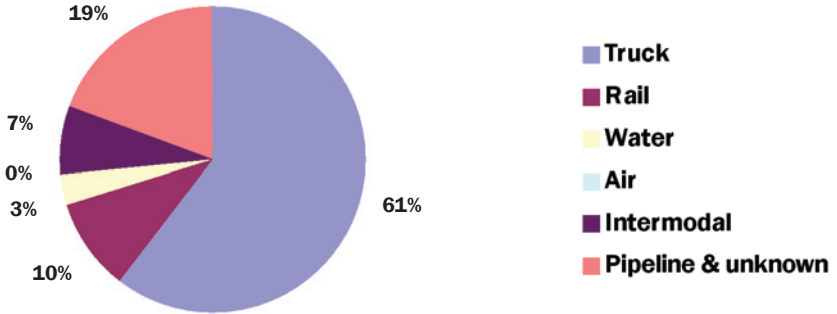


AMONG ALL MODES of travel in the United States—rail, air, water, highway—highway travel by personal motor vehicle (automobile, light truck, van, and motorcycle) is predominant.

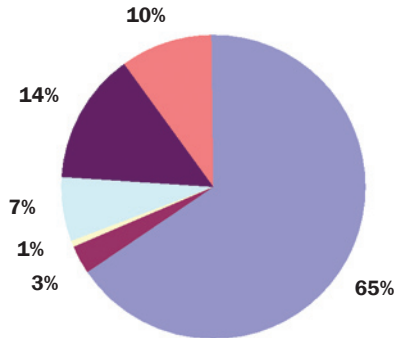
Data Source: U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Office of Highway Policy Information, National Household Travel Survey

**Figure 2-2. Freight Movement Modal Share by Tonnage and Dollar Value, 2006**

**A Total of 21 Billion Tons of Goods for 2006**



**A Total of 15 Trillion Dollars Worth of Goods for 2006**



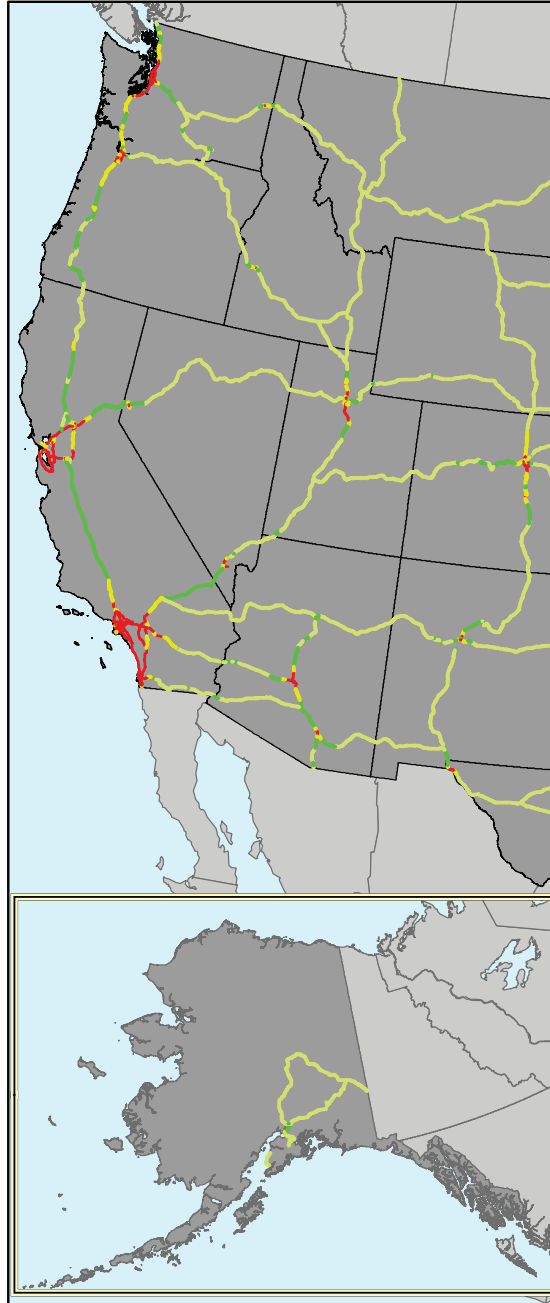
THE LATEST COMPREHENSIVE goods movement data indicate that the U.S. transportation system moved nearly 21 billion tons of freight worth close to \$15 trillion in 2006. Trucks alone moved over 60 percent in weight and over 65 percent of dollar value.

Data Source: U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Office of Freight Management and Operations, Freight Analysis Framework

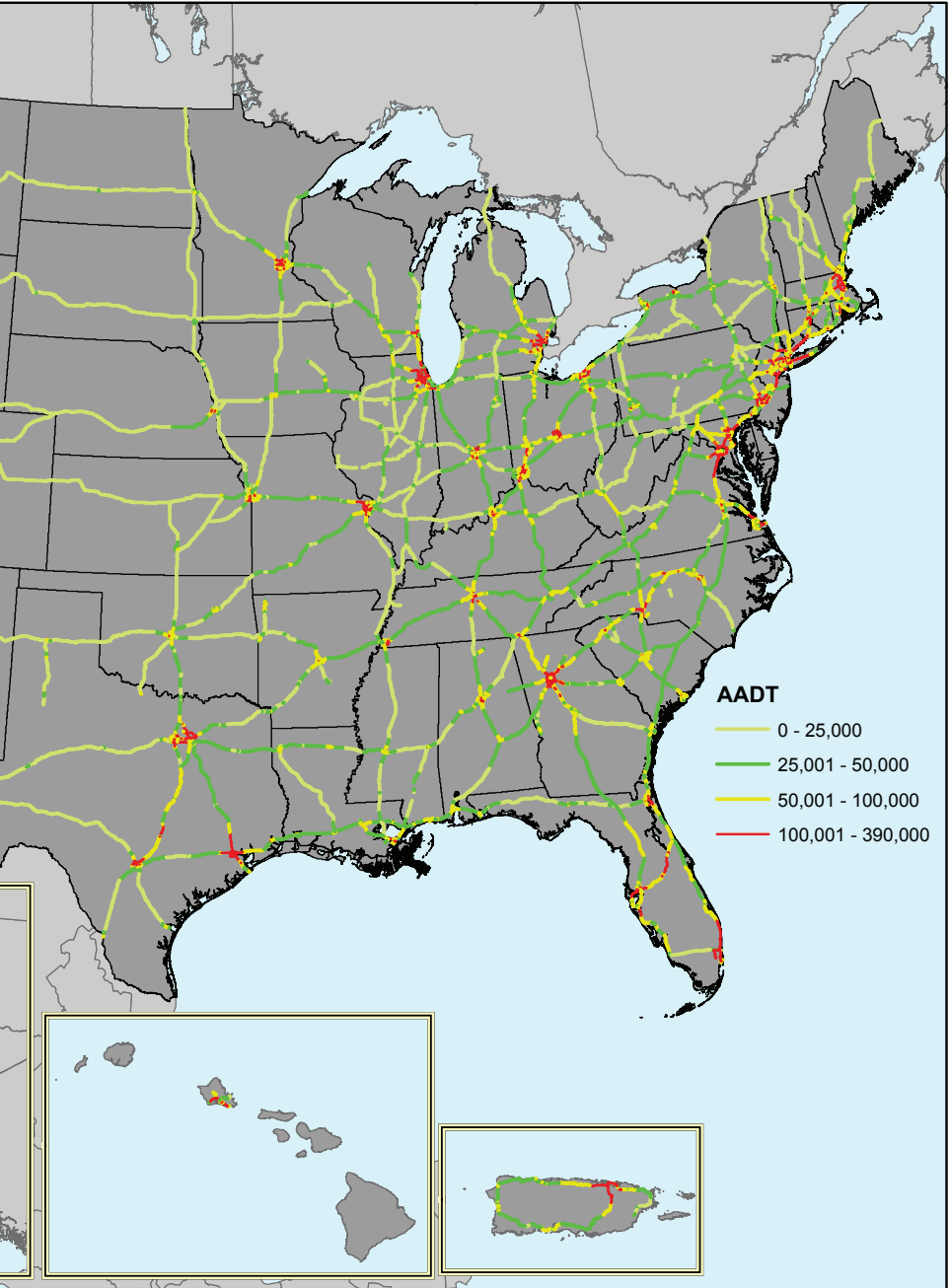
# HIGHWAY TRAVEL

**Figure 2-3. Interstate Annual Average Daily Traffic, 2006**

THE MOST WIDELY used parameter of measuring traffic activity on a highway or highway segment is annual average daily traffic (AADT). AADT can also be used to assess how serious congestion is by comparing the highway's capacity with AADT at peak times and directions. These calculations help transportation agencies decide whether highway infrastructure is adequate to the demand.

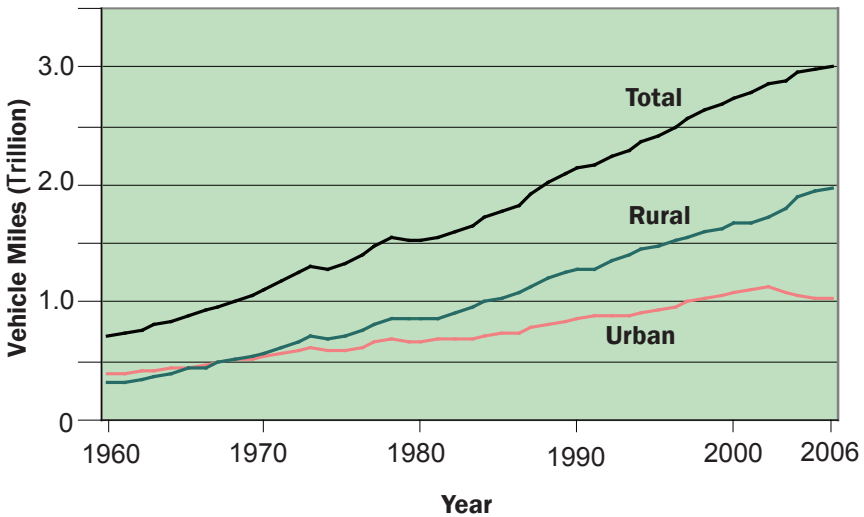


Data Source: U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Office of Highway Policy Information, Highway Performance Monitoring System



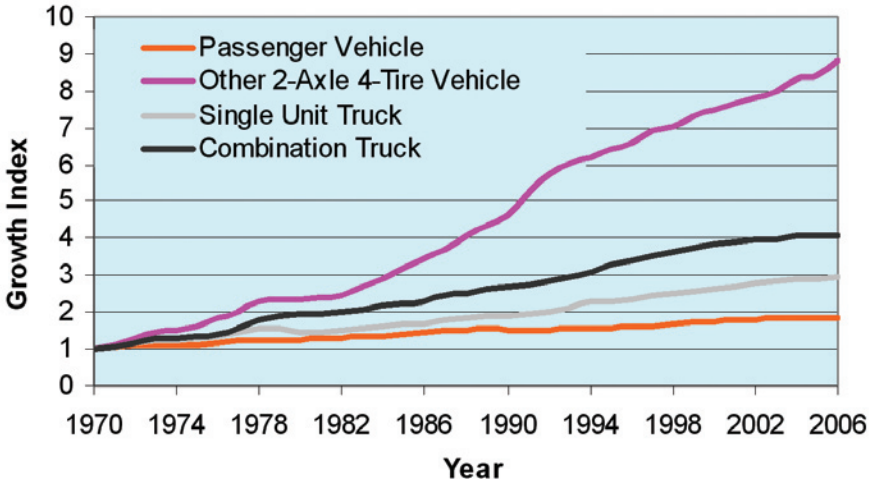
# HIGHWAY TRAVEL

**Figure 2-4. Vehicle Miles Traveled on Rural and Urban Public Roads, 1960–2006**



VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED (VMT) is one of the most widely used measures of travel intensity. For a given segment of roadway, the VMT is obtained by multiplying AADT by the length of the roadway segment. For example, on a 5-mile highway segment traveled by 5,000 vehicles daily (an average obtained over a year), the VMT would be 25,000. VMT is a measure of total vehicle activity.

**Figure 2-5. Vehicle Miles Traveled on Public Roads by Vehicle Type, 1970–2006**



THE AMOUNT OF use of different types of vehicles varies from year to year because of ownership trends and utility needs. As a result, VMTs for the vehicle types also change. During the last decade, truck VMT has been increasing at a much higher rate than passenger VMT.

# HIGHWAY TRAVEL

**Figure 2-6. Toll Road Vehicle Miles Traveled, 1993–2006**

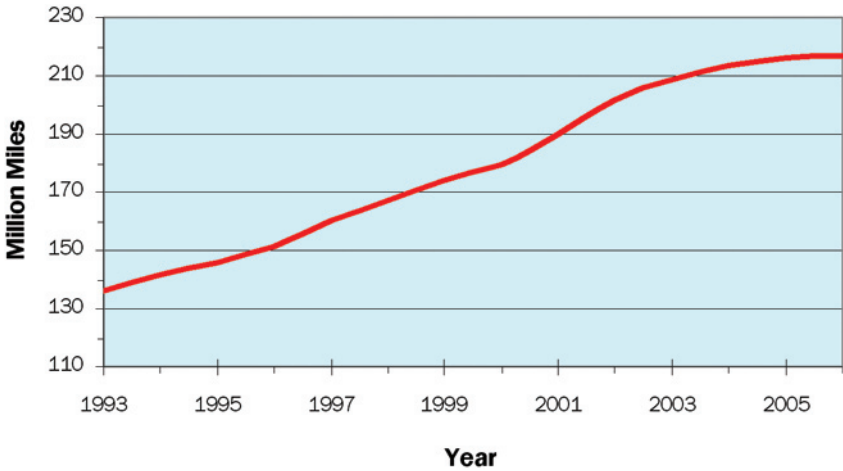


FIGURE 2-6 INDICATES that the annual average vehicle miles traveled (VMT) growth rate for toll roads exceeds 3.6 percent compared with the 2.1 percent average of all roadway types over the last 14 years. Although VMT from all roadway types is still growing, VMT growth rates have been declining since 2003, with the growth rate of toll VMT declining at a much slower pace than the national average.