
National Roadside Survey of Canada

Summary prepared for:
1998 North American Travel Monitoring Exhibition and Conference
12 May 1998
Adams Mark Hotel, Charlotte, North Carolina, United States

- The survey was undertaken to fill gaps in existing truck data, the main gaps being lack of:
 - links between existing sources of driver, carrier, truck, cargo and trip characteristics;
 - characteristics of trucks in use (e.g., axle spacing);
 - information on freight moved by private carriers; and
 - information on activities of non-Canadian carriers.
- The survey was a joint effort by federal, provincial and territorial government officials.
- The survey targeted domestic and transborder activity on Canada's main truck arteries by heavy trucks (4 tonnes and up) used to haul cargo.
- The survey collected data at 148 survey sites spread across the 25,600 kilometres of the Survey Highway System (**SHS**). Two types of information were collected at each site:
 - a 7 day count of trucks passing the site, classified by day, time and truck type; and
 - interviews of a random sample of the passing trucks (80 questions in interview).
- Combined, the 148 sites counted 1,040,163 trucks and interviewed 36,242 trucks (3.5%).
- A data set consisting of 36,239 weighted interviews was created from the data collected.
- The survey products are:
 1. Project Report
 - Contents
 - Methodology
 - Selected traffic estimates
 - Survey experience & lessons
 2. *Data Analysis Package*
 - See below
- *Data Analysis Package*
 - Software consisting of 4 components:
 - Survey data set
 - 36,239 weighted interviews with 252 data fields per interview
 - Structured for analysis via WesVarPC
 - Sampling error estimate using "jackknife" re-sampling technique
 - WesVarPC
 - A survey analysis program (comes with its own manual, stored as Adobe Acrobat format files)
 - Survey Manual (English & French editions in Word 6.0 format files)
 - Describes data set and its use with WesVarPC
 - Acrobat reader (to read the WesVarPC manual)

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- Runs on IBM compatible personal computer with:
 - 80386 or better CPU with math co-processor
 - Windows 3.1 or better
 - 16 megabytes of memory
 - 138 megabytes of hard disk space free
 - Microsoft Word 6.0 or better (to read the survey manual file)
 - Produces estimates of truck traffic volume:
 - For a representative week (7 day total) in the summer/fall 1995
 - On SHS roads within a particular province/territory or Canada
 - Categorised by 1 or more characteristics (of the 70+ available)
 - With a sampling error estimate
 - Volume measured 6 ways
 - Number of trips
 - Distance travelled (kilometres)
 - Cargo carried (tonnes)
 - Output (tonne-kilometres)
 - Truck weight (tonnes)
 - Impact (tonne-kilometres)
 - 70+ characteristics of the truck, carrier, driver, trip and cargo
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- Due to the sampling design, the estimates produced from the survey data set, at a national level of aggregation:
 - are a reasonable representation of the volume of activity by heavy trucks on the SHS when the trip haul length is 200 kilometres or greater; but
 - understate the volume of activity by heavy trucks on the SHS when the trip haul length is less than 200 kilometres, with the magnitude of the understatement increasing as the haul length decreases.
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- To obtain the survey products:
 - Project Report
 - Contact CCMTA to obtain a paper copy or a diskette containing the report in a Word 6 format file. *
 - *Data Analysis Package*
 - Contact CCMTA to obtain a diskette set containing the software. *
 - Download the software from Transport Canada's internet web site at no charge.
 - Address: www.tc.gc.ca
 - On the opening screen select a language preference (either English or French). On the next screen select the "Policy" item. On the next screen select the "Motor Carrier Information" item. Finally, select "National Roadside Survey" and follow the instructions.
- * Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators (CCMTA); 2323 St. Laurent Boulevard; Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1G-4J8 (tel (613) 736-1003, fax (613) 736-1395, e-mail secretariat@ccmta.ca). A fee to cover processing and handling costs is charged.
- Users of the *Data Analysis Package* are asked to forward any comments to: Bill Harbour; Transport Canada, Motor Carrier Policy; Place de Ville, Tower "C"; Ottawa, Ontario,