MOBILITY TRENDS
DRIVERS OF DEMAND

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

TRENDING

2025

U.S. household travel demand is driven largely by population size, socioeconomic factors, and access to transportation. Freight demand, on the other hand, is determined by factors such as consumer demand and the economy, as well as fuel costs and the location of production and warehouse facilities.

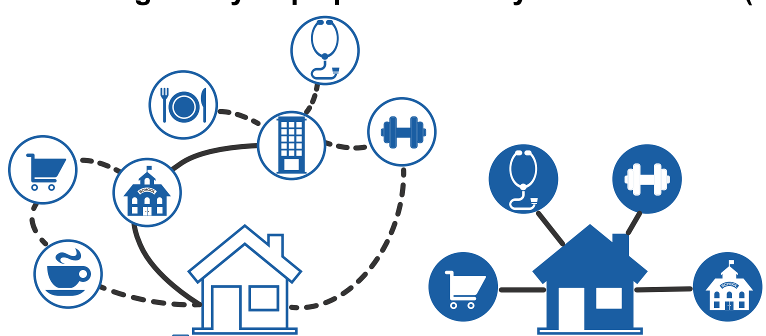
While household travel demand typically does not change much from year to year, average trip rates per person have been declining since 2001.[1] At the same time, the overall number of trips taken in the country continues to increase along with population growth.[2]

Economic factors like employment and income level remain core household transportation demand drivers, and owning or having access to a vehicle makes a measurable difference in how often people travel.

Looking forward, technological advancements are spurring new private-sector transportation services and business models and improved connectivity across transportation modes. From ride-hailing services to e-commerce and on-demand shipping, innovation is transforming how people and goods move.

Tracking the key drivers of demand for both household and freight transportation offers valuable insight for navigating America's future transportation needs.

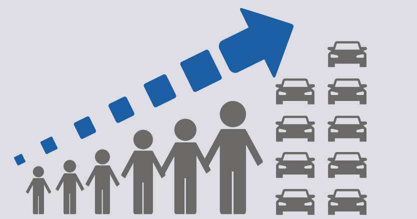
Average Daily Trips per Person by Worker Status (2022)



Employment strongly influences travel demand, and workers often add errands such as stops for shopping and childcare to their commutes. In 2022, workers averaged 39 percent more daily trips than nonworkers.[3]

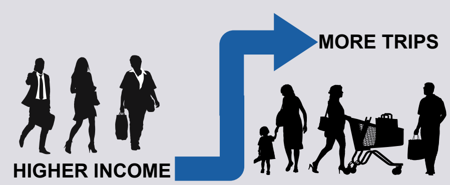
Technology, innovation, new transportation services, and improved connectivity are shaping travel demand for both households and freight.

POPULATION SIZE



Per person trip rates are declining, but population growth keeps travel demand growing.

SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS



Higher income correlates with more travel. Households with incomes $75,000 or higher tend to travel the most.[4]

VEHICLE OWNERSHIP

People in households with **no vehicles** average **1.42 trips per day.**[5]

People in households with **three or more vehicles** averaged **2.17 trips per day.**[6]

In 2022, people with greater access to vehicles made more trips.

For more information, contact the FHWA Office of Transportation Policy Studies at PolicyStudiesFeedback@dot.gov
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Notes and Sources

1. FHWA, *2022 National Household Travel Survey* (U.S. DOT, 2022), accessed September 26, 2024, https://nhts.ornl.gov/. Data series analysis.

2. FHWA, *Highway Statistics 2022* (FHWA Office of Highway Policy Information, November 2023), accessed September 27, 2024, https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/policyinformation/statistics/2022/; U.S. Census Bureau, *Population and Housing Unit Estimates Tables* (November 22, 2023), accessed October 7, 2024, https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/data/tables.html.

3. FHWA, *2022 National Household Travel Survey*.

4. FHWA, *2022 National Household Travel Survey*.

5. FHWA, *2022 National Household Travel Survey*.

6. FHWA, *2022 National Household Travel Survey*.

Graphics: Federal Highway Administration, Office of Transportation Policy Studies.

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