

MOBILITY TRENDS BRIEF

VEHICLES AND TRAVEL DEMAND



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Federal Highway
Administration



TRENDING

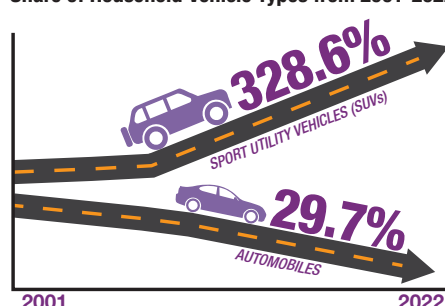
2025

The United States relies primarily on its highway system to connect people to their jobs, their communities, and to access essential goods and services. In 2022 alone, total vehicle miles traveled surpassed 3.2 trillion miles—that's the equivalent of nearly 5,000 trips to the moon and back.¹

Vehicle Characteristics

The number of vehicles Americans use to travel about their business continues to increase. From 2001 to 2019, the total number of registered private and commercial vehicles increased by 20 percent, from 226.6 million to 272.4 million, and the number of private and commercial trucks increased from 90 million in 2001 to 156 million in 2019—a 73-percent increase.²

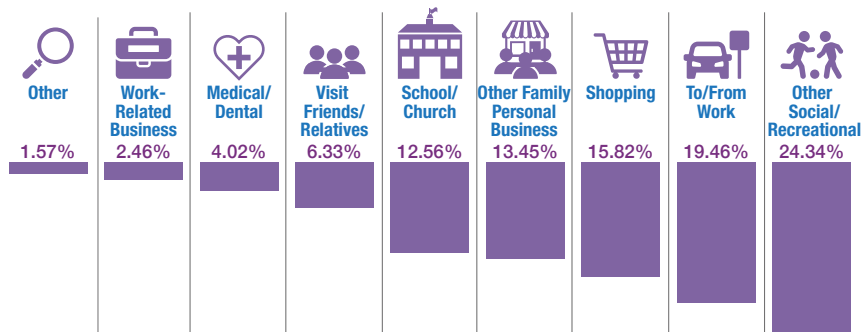
Share of Household Vehicle Types from 2001-2022³



Household Travel Demand

Americans use their vehicles for many different purposes and to reach a variety of destinations. Between 2017 and 2022, the share of trips people took to and from work grew by about 3 percent, accounting for nearly 20 percent of household trips. The category with the greatest growth, however, was school and church, which accounted for about 12.5 percent of household trips, an increase of nearly 5 percent.⁴

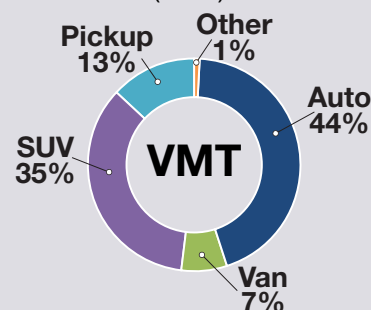
Share of Household Trips by Purpose in 2022⁵



Among households with incomes less than \$25,000 per year, nearly 30 percent had no vehicle available in 2022; by contrast, less than 4 percent of households with incomes above \$100,000 per year are zero-vehicle households.⁶

→ VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED

Among U.S. households, autos and SUVs accounted for the most vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in 2022.⁷



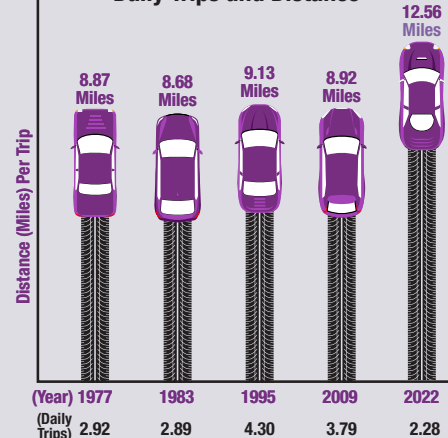
→ VEHICLE AGE

From 2001 to 2022, average vehicle age rose from less than 9 years to more than 10 years—a 17-percent increase.⁸ That means a new safety feature, fuel source, or efficiency enhancement implemented today would take at least 4–7 years before it is included in about half the household vehicle fleet.

→ DAILY TRAVEL

Americans are taking fewer daily trips but traveling farther. In 1995, households took an average of 4.3 daily trips, compared to only 2.28 in 2022, although the distance per trip increased.⁹

Daily Trips and Distance¹⁰



Notes and Sources

1. Federal Highway Administration, “Table VM-1: Annual Vehicle Distance Traveled in Miles and Related Data - 2022,” *Highway Statistics 2022* (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Transportation, 2022), accessed March 15, 2025, <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/policyinformation/statistics/2022/vm1.cfm>.
2. Federal Highway Administration, “Table MV-1: 2022 State Motor-Vehicle Registrations,” *Highway Statistics 2022* (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Transportation, 2022), <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/policyinformation/statistics/2022/mv1.cfm>.
3. Federal Highway Administration, “Table MV-1: State Motor-Vehicle Registrations – 2022,” *Highway Statistics 2022*.
4. Federal Highway Administration, *Summary of Travel Trends: 2022 National Household Travel Survey*, (U.S. Department of Transportation, 2021), Report No. FHWA-HPL-24-009, accessed June 15, 2024, https://nhts.ornl.gov/assets/2022/pub/2022_NHTS_Summary_Travel_Trends.pdf.
5. Federal Highway Administration, *Summary of Travel Trends: 2022 National Household Travel Survey*.
6. U.S. Census Bureau, “Physical Housing Characteristics for Occupied Housing Units,” 2019: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S2504, accessed September 27, 2024, <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2019.S2504>.
7. Federal Highway Administration, *2022 NextGen National Household Travel Survey Core Data*, “Vehicle” file, U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington, DC, 2022, accessed March 10, 2026, <https://nhts.ornl.gov/downloads>.
8. Federal Highway Administration, *2022 NextGen National Household Travel Survey Core Data*, “Vehicle” file.
9. Stacey Bricka et al., *Summary of Travel Trends: 2022 National Household Travel Survey*, Report No. FHWA-HPL-24-009 (Washington, DC: Federal Highway Administration, 2024), Table 2-9, accessed September 25, 2024, https://nhts.ornl.gov/assets/2022/pub/2022_NHTS_Summary_Travel_Trends.pdf#page=23.
10. Bricka et al., *Summary of Travel Trends: 2022 National Household Travel Survey*, Table 2-9.

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

Non-Binding Contents: Except for the statutes and regulations cited, the contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the States or the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide information regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**