

# *Long Distance Travel in the United States*



Transportation Research Board Annual Conference  
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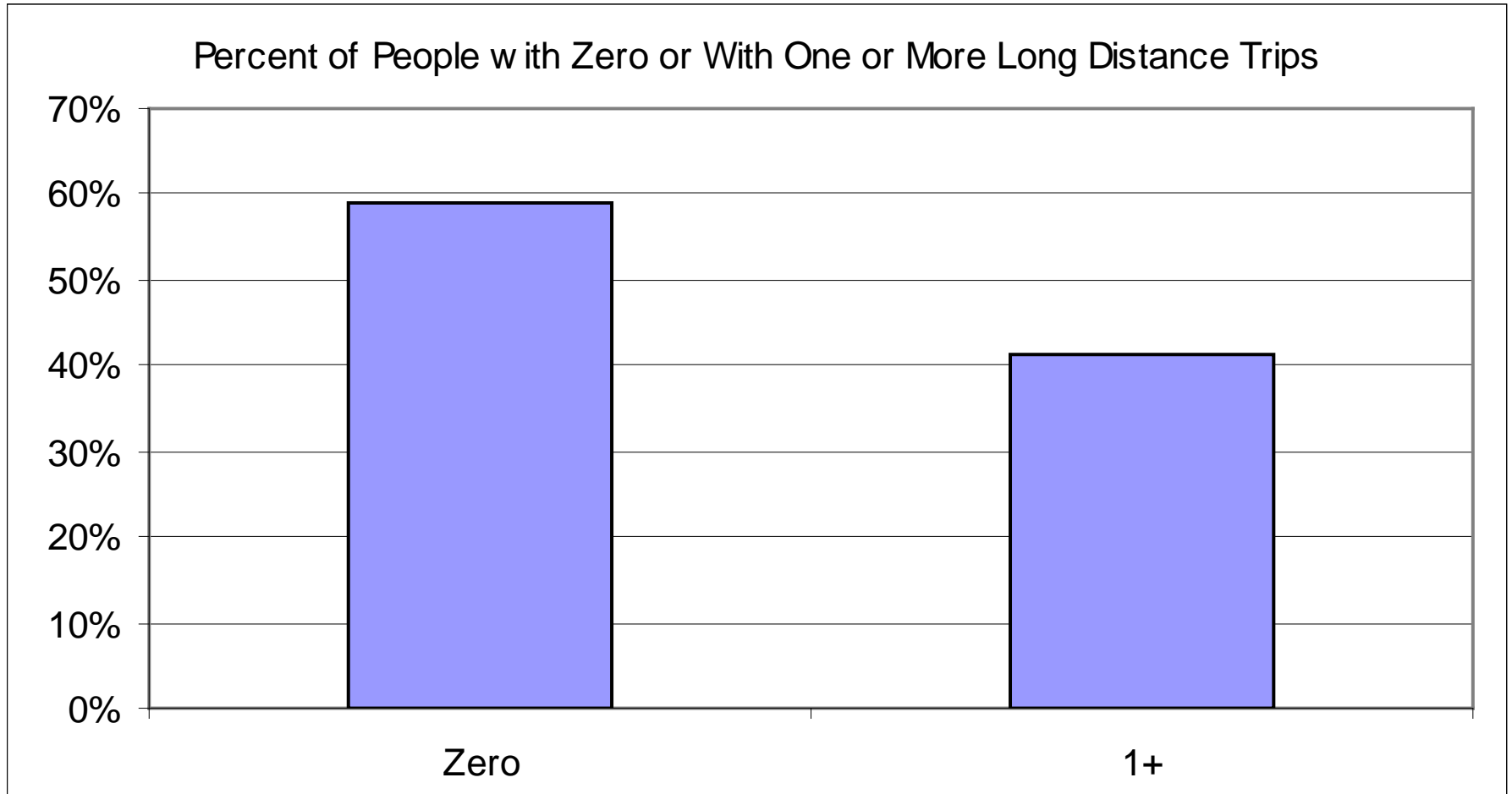
Nancy McGuckin, Travel Behavior Analyst



# 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

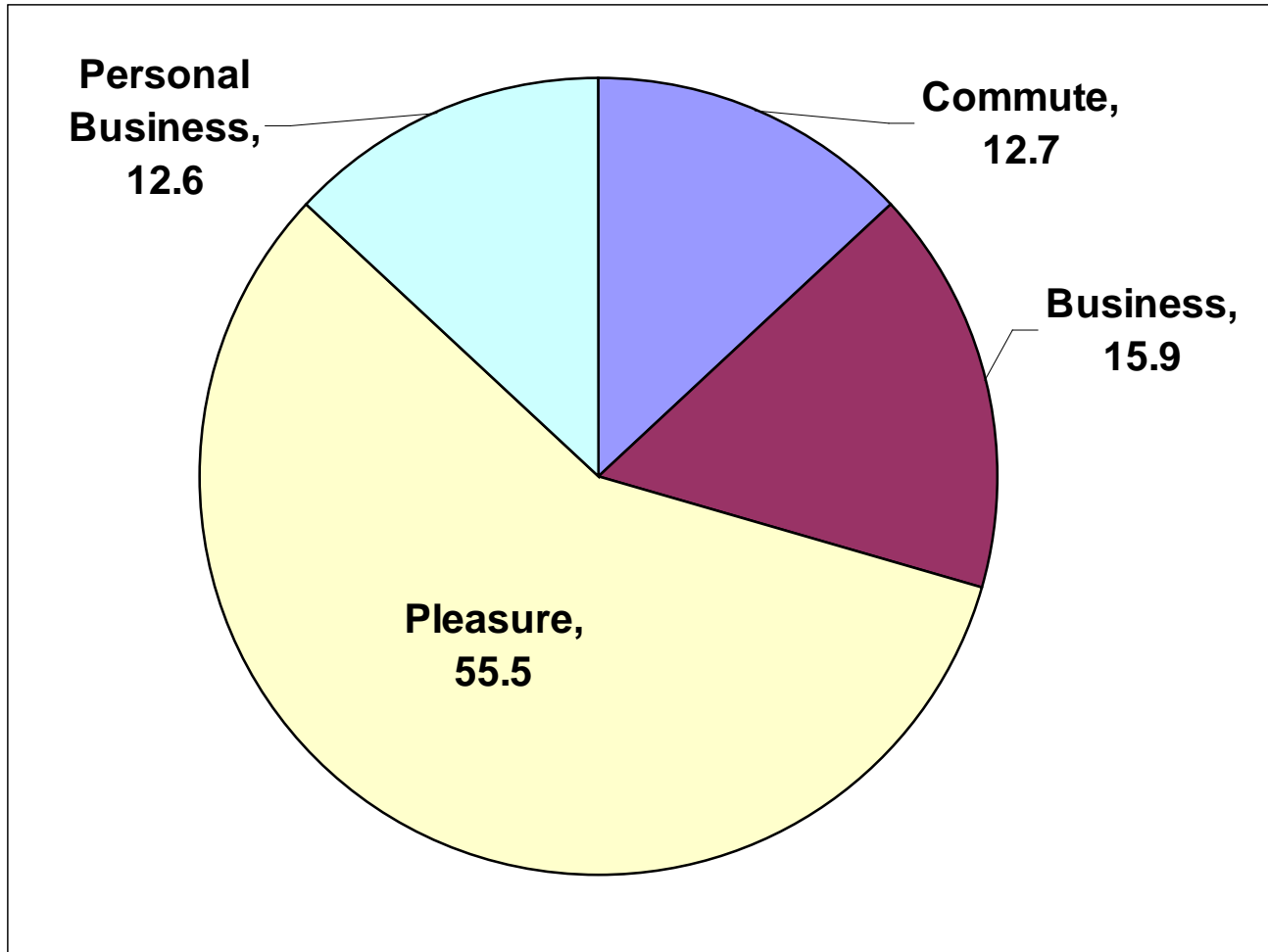
# More than half of people take no long-distance trips





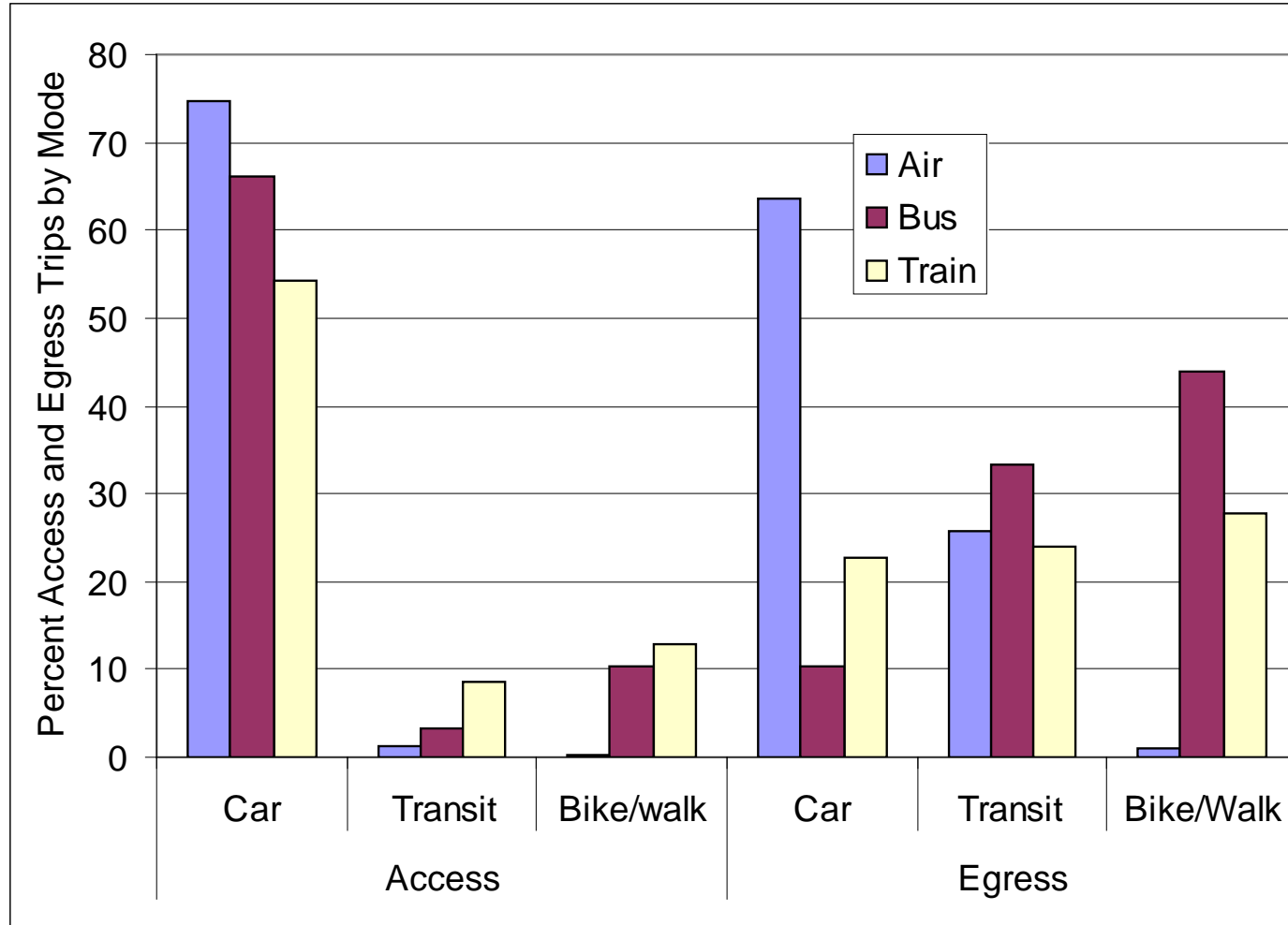
Overall, people in the West-Central region take more trips...

# Purpose Distribution of Long-distance Trips




Source: NHTS 2001

# Access and Egress Modes



Source: NHTS 2001

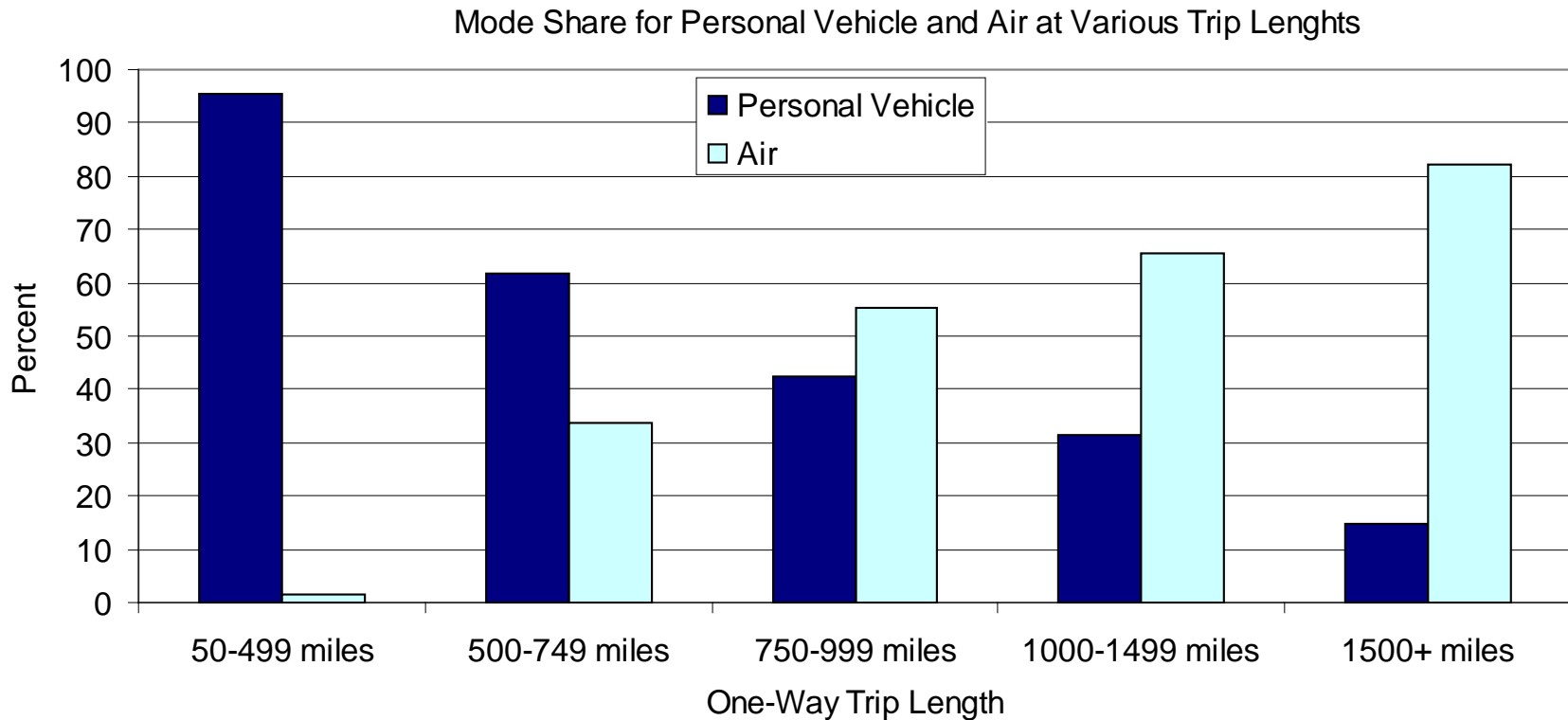


# Private vehicle dominates for all purposes

	Commuter	Business	Pleasure	Personal Business	Other
Personal vehicle	96.4	79.3	90.4	89.3	96.6
Air	1.5	17.8	6.7	4.7	1.9
Bus	0.5	0.8	2.2	5.6	0.5
Train	1.7	1.6	0.5	0.3	0.0
Other	0.0	0.5	0.2	0.1	1.0

Source: NHTS 2001

# Overall, air starts to dominate for trips more than 750 miles....

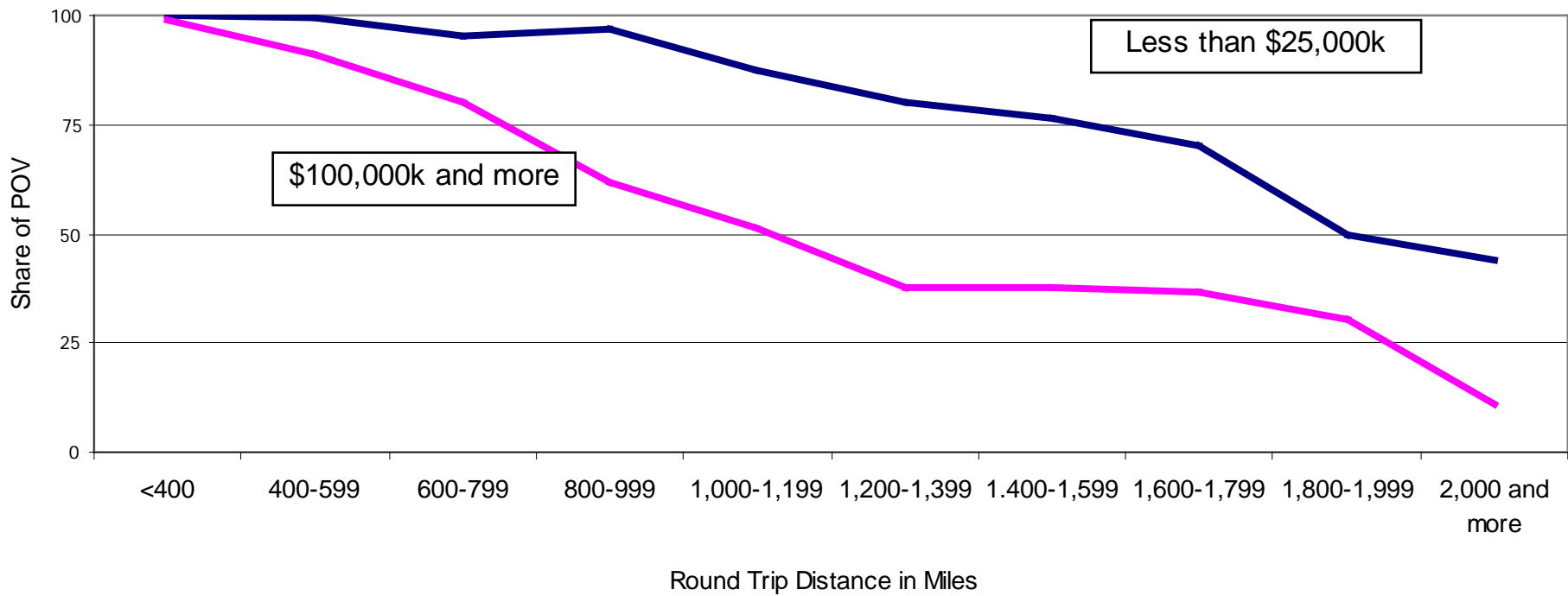


Source: NHTS 2001



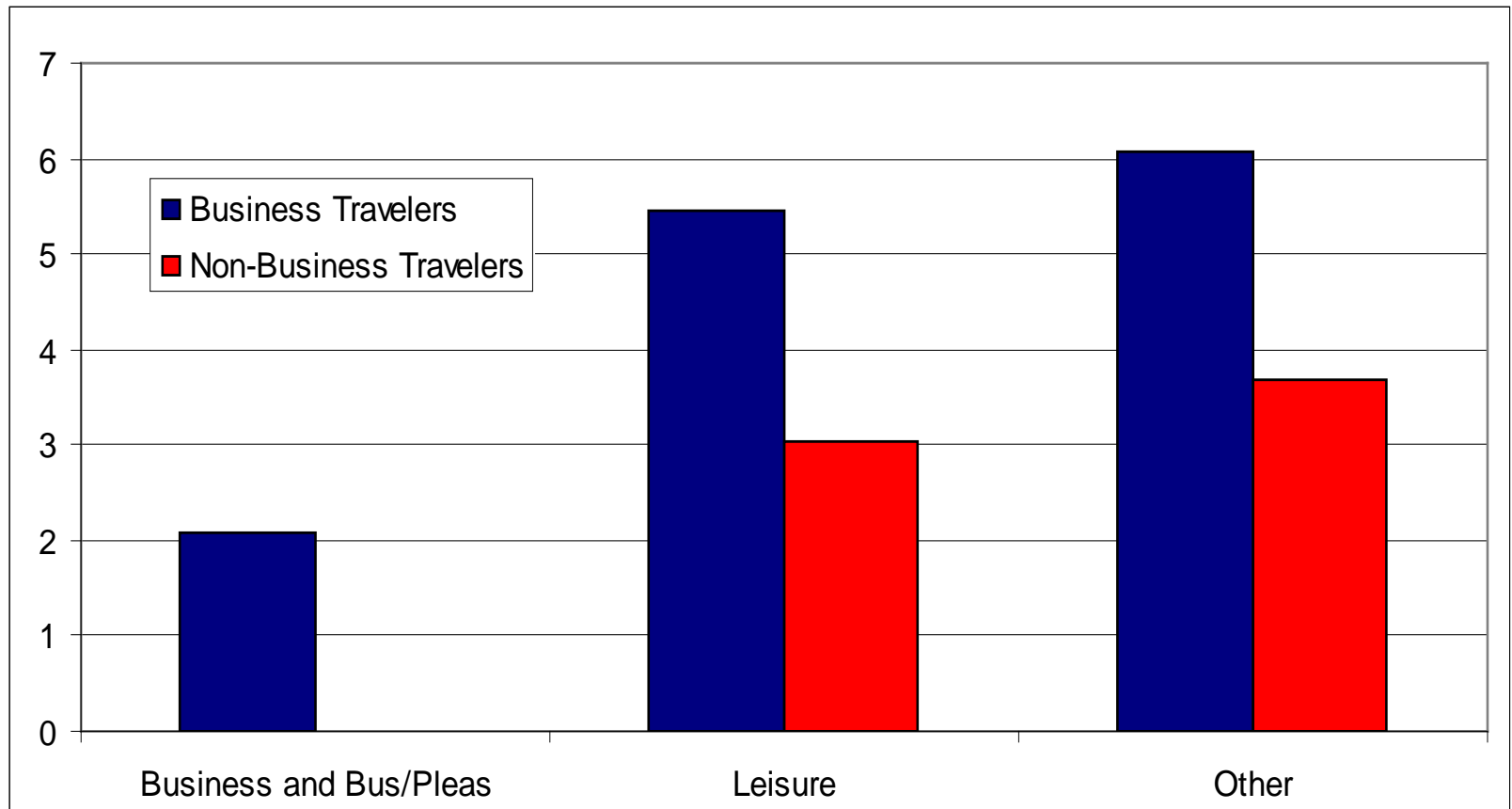
# But people in poorer households will drive further..

Share of Private Vehicle Trips by Distance and Income (Comparing Low and High Income only)



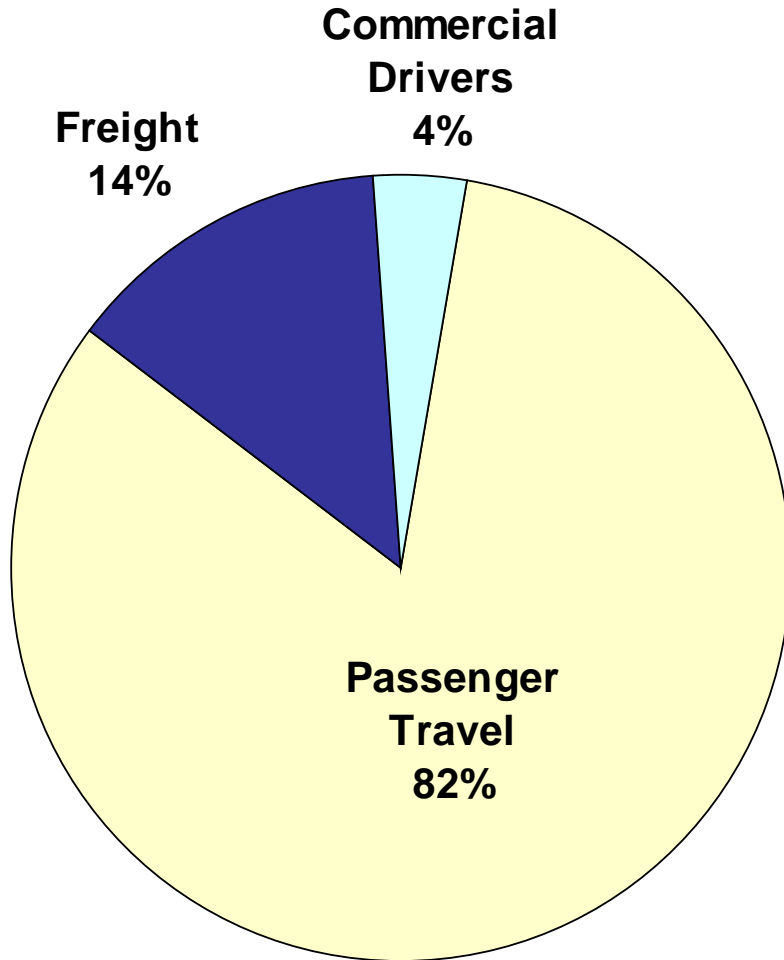
# People who travel for business travel more for other purposes too

## Number of Long Distance Trips by Purpose, All Modes



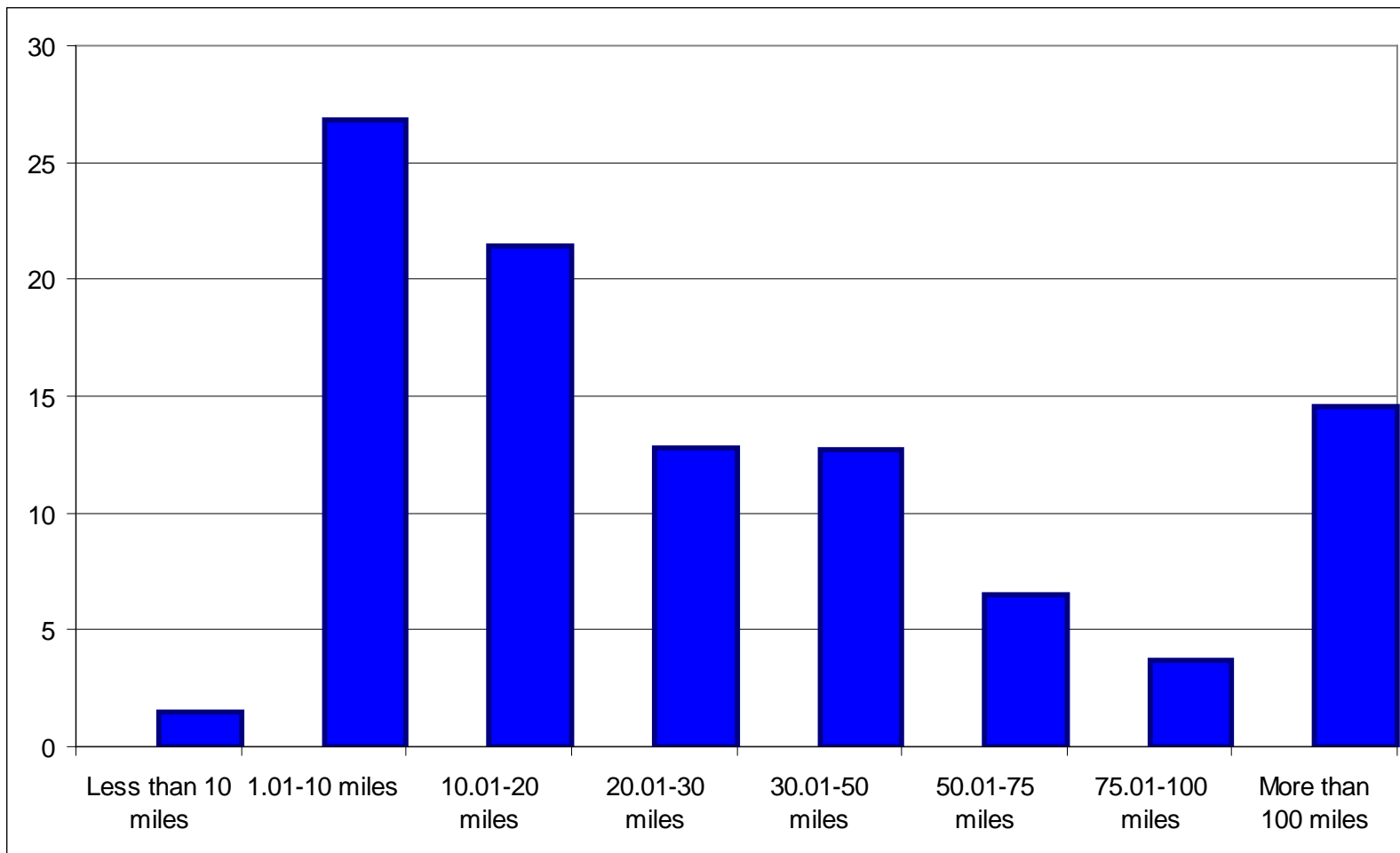
Source: NHTS 2001

# Long distance vehicle travel adds considerably to total VMT



Highway Statistics Total VMT	(000,000s) 2,781,462
Highway Statistics Passenger Travel	2,282,890
NHTS 2001 VMT	2,281,863

Trips of more than 100 miles account for almost 15% of daily passenger vehicle miles...



Source: NHTS 2001



# Who Travels Long-Distance

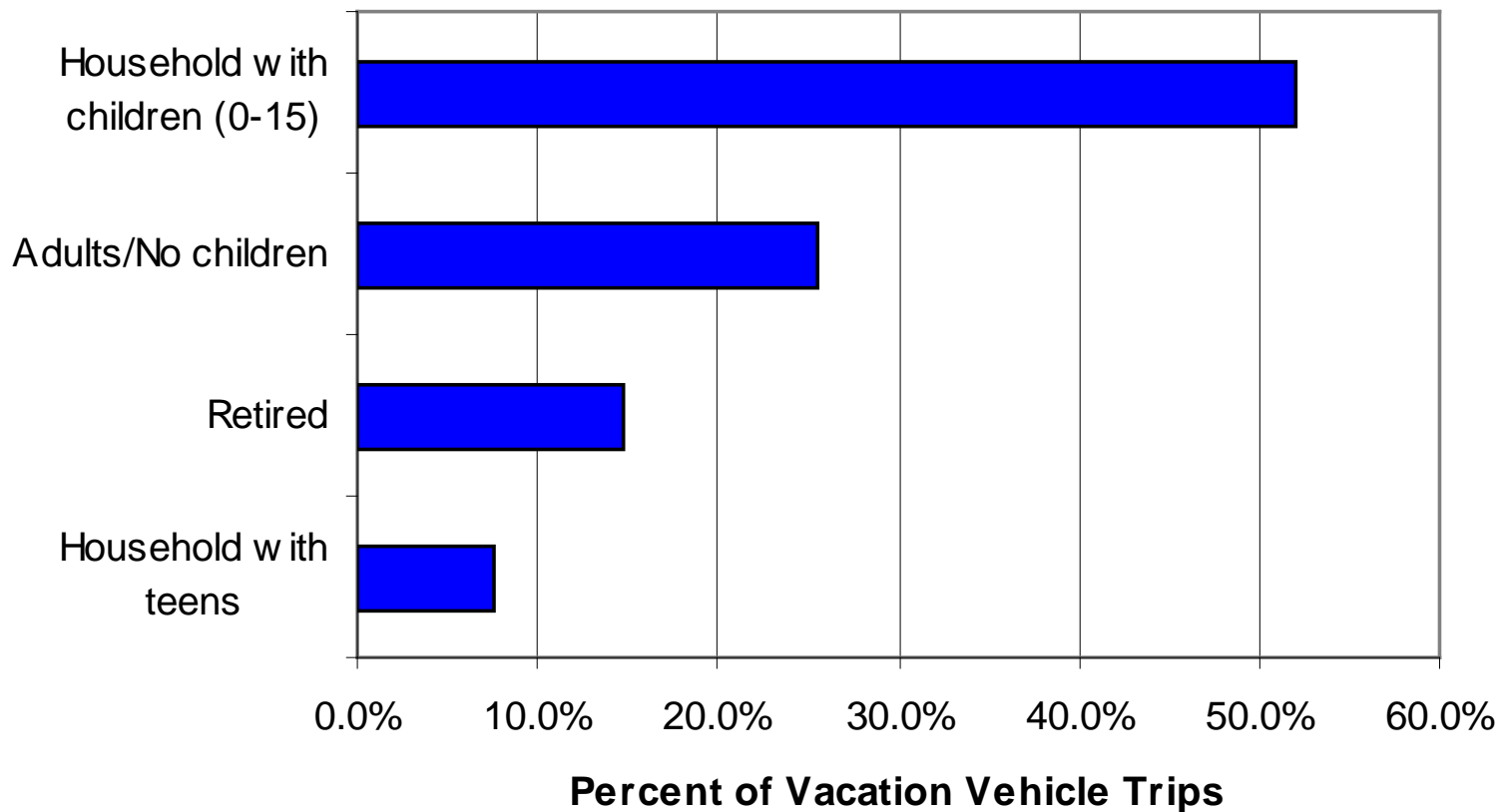
- Men make 57 percent of long-distance trips
- Business travelers are more likely to travel for other purposes
- People in households with children are more likely to drive for recreational travel
- 57 percent of long distance trips are made by people with household incomes above \$50,000
- About 2/3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

# This chart is really hard to read...

LIF_CYC	HHFAMINC	COUNT	PERCENT
adlts/no children	less than \$40K	185923296.4	29.9%
adlts/no children	\$40-\$80K	261757323.2	42.1%
adlts/no children	\$80K plus	174489009.2	28.0%
		622169628.8	100.0%
Children 0-15 in HH	less than \$40K	338339041.6	30.2%
Children 0-15 in HH	\$40-\$80K	479140460.7	42.8%
Children 0-15 in HH	\$80K plus	302007925.3	27.0%
		1119487428	100.0%
Teens in HH	less than \$40K	53087090.11	27.3%
Teens in HH	\$40-\$80K	85212186.22	43.8%
Teens in HH	\$80K plus	56390377.95	29.0%
		194689654.3	100.0%
Retired	less than \$40K	142648125.3	48.9%
Retired	\$40-\$80K	101027457.6	34.6%
Retired	\$80K plus	48083709.64	16.5%

# People in households with children make more vacation vehicle trips...

## Vehicle Vacation Trips by Household Type

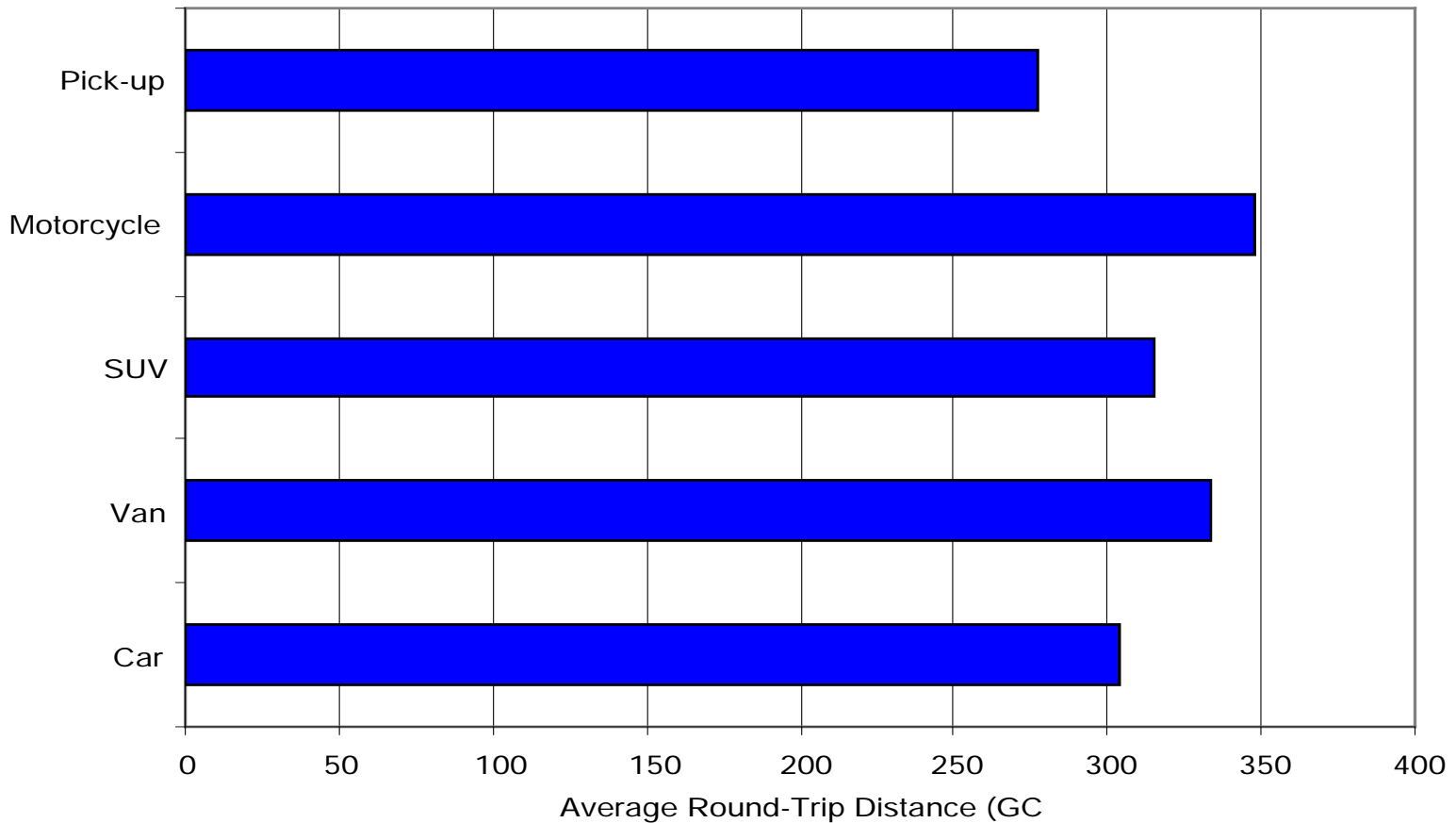


Source: NHTS 2001



# People use Vans and SUVs more than cars

## Average Round Trip Distance by Vehicle Type

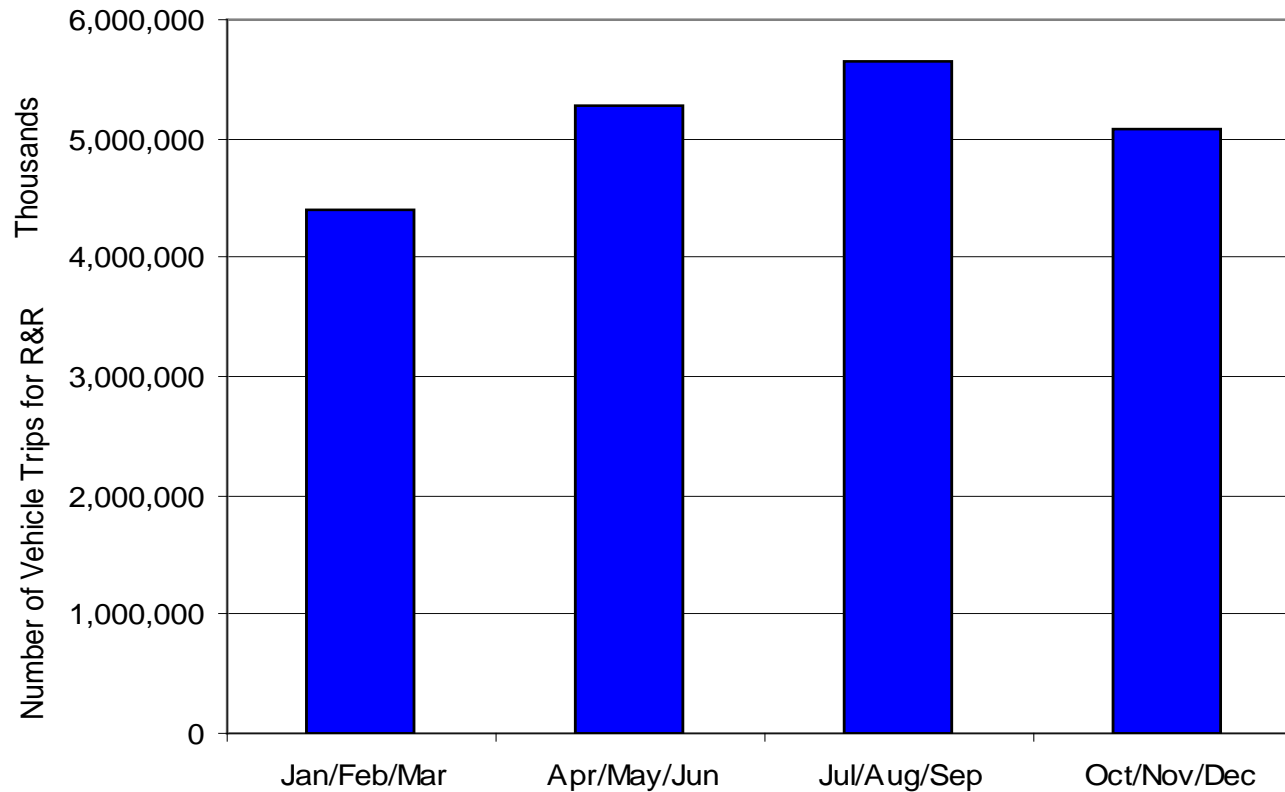


Source: NHTS 2001



# More recreational vehicle trips are taken during summer...

## Seasonality of Recreational Vehicle Trips



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