

# ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

## More vehicles mean more miles traveled on our roads

It comes as no surprise that there are more vehicles, driving more miles, on Wisconsin roads. In 1970, according to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation there were 2.3 million registered vehicles in the state and a total of 26 billion vehicle miles traveled (VMT).

By 2003, the number of registered vehicles and VMT had more than doubled to 5.2 million vehicles and 60 billion VMT. Calculating the average miles per vehicle reveals little change. In 1970, total VMT equaled 11,053 miles per registered vehicle. By 2003, this increased to only 11,551 miles per registered vehicle.

What has changed is that people now own more vehi-

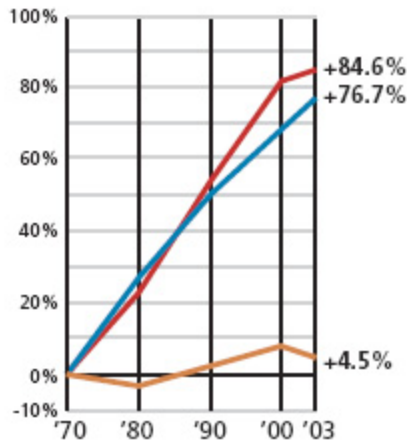
cles. Since 1970, the state's population increased by 24.3 percent, but the number of vehicles per capita increased by 76.7 percent, from 2.3 to 5.2 million. In 1970, there was one registered vehicle in Wisconsin for every 1.9 state residents.

By 2003, there was one registered vehicle for every 1.1 residents. With more vehicles owned, travel mileage per person also increased. Total VMT per capita increased significantly — 84.6 percent — from 5,877 miles per capita in 1970 to 10,859 miles per capita in 2003.

For more information, see <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/drivers/facts.htm>.

*Change in vehicle registrations and vehicle miles traveled (VMT) since 1970:*

- VMT
- VMT per capita
- Vehicle registrations per capita



SOURCE: DOT

State Journal

Part one of this month's series on transportation in Wisconsin

Next week:  
Vehicle miles traveled by county

Economic Snapshot is a weekly feature provided by the Center for Community and Economic Development, University of Wisconsin Extension.

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