

**README for “Truck Inventory and Use Survey (TIUS) 1977” dataset.**  
Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS), U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)  
2021-03-24

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**LINKS TO DATASET**

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A. Dataset archive link:

<https://doi.org/10.21949/1521114>

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**SUMMARY OF DATASET**

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The Truck Inventory and Use Survey (TIUS) is one of the surveys included in the Census of Transportation. Its primary purpose is to collect and publish data on the physical and operational characteristics of the Nation's truck resources. The 1977 TIUS Survey is based on a stratified probability sample of about 117,000 trucks, drawn from an estimated 28 million registrations on file with motor vehicle departments in the 50 States and the District of Columbia during 1977. For sampling purposes, the States are divided into three groups based on the total number of trucks registered annually, and two vehicle size strata are formed based on body type (small= pickups, panels, vans; large= all others) as shown by the motor vehicle registration record. Individual trucks are sampled and expanded back to the State level. Vehicles owned by Federal, State, and local governments, as well as ambulances, buses, and motor homes, are eliminated from the sample before questionnaires are mailed. Various other vehicles which are actually surveyed are subsequently classified as "out-of-scope": trucks sold prior to 1977, farm tractors, open jeep models, unpowered trailer units, trucks reported to have been junked or wrecked prior to the registration year, etc. For the first time, however, certain small utility-type vehicles built on pickup and van chassis are included in the sample. Many States allow pickups and small vans to be registered as cars or trucks: therefore, the passenger car files are searched, and any such trucks are included in the sample universe. Some privately or commercially owned vehicles do not have to be licensed, such as "off-highway" trucks used exclusively on private property, and since they had no chance of being drawn in the sample, they are not covered in the survey.

The survey was first conducted in 1963. It has since been conducted every 5 years as part of the economic census. Title 13 of the United States Code (Sections 131, 191, and 224) directs the U.S. Census Bureau to take the economic census every 5 years, covering years ending in 2 and 7.

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## A. GENERAL INFORMATION

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### 0. Title of Dataset:

Truck Inventory and Use Survey (TIUS) 1977 [datasets]

### 1. Description of Dataset:

The Truck Inventory and Use Survey (TIUS) is one of the surveys included in the Census of Transportation. Its primary purpose is to collect and publish data on the physical and operational characteristics of the Nation's truck resources. The 1977 TIUS Survey is based on a stratified probability sample of about 117,000 trucks, drawn from an estimated 28 million registrations on file with motor vehicle departments in the 50 States and the District of Columbia during 1977. For sampling purposes, the States are divided into three groups based on the total number of trucks registered annually, and two vehicle size strata are formed based on body type (small= pickups, panels, vans; large= all others) as shown by the motor vehicle registration record. Individual trucks are sampled and expanded back to the State level. Vehicles owned by Federal, State, and local governments, as well as ambulances, buses, and motor homes, are eliminated from the sample before questionnaires are mailed. Various other vehicles which are actually surveyed are subsequently classified as "out-of-scope": trucks sold prior to 1977, farm tractors, open jeep models, unpowered trailer units, trucks reported to have been junked or wrecked prior to the registration year, etc. For the first time, however, certain small utility-type vehicles built on pickup and van chassis are included in the sample. Many States allow pickups and small vans to be registered as cars or trucks: therefore, the passenger car files are searched, and any such trucks are included in the sample universe. Some privately or commercially owned vehicles do not have to be licensed, such as "off-highway" trucks used exclusively on private property, and since they had no chance of being drawn in the sample, they are not covered in the survey.

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### 2. Dataset archive link:

<https://doi.org/10.21949/1521114>

### 3. Authorship Information:

Principal Data Creator or Data Manager Contact Information

Institution: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, U.S.

Department of Transportation

Address: 1200 New Jersey Ave SE, Washington D.C. 20590

Email: [http://transportation.libanswers.com/form.php?queue\\_id=1810](http://transportation.libanswers.com/form.php?queue_id=1810)

Associate Data Creator or Data Manager Contact Information

Name: Office of Data Development and Standards

Institution: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, U.S.

Department of Transportation

Address: 1200 New Jersey Ave SE, Washington D.C. 20590

Email: [VIUS@dot.gov](mailto:VIUS@dot.gov)

## Organizational Contact Information

Name: National Transportation Library Data Curator

Institution: National Transportation Library, Office of Information and Library Sciences,  
Bureau of Transportation Statistics, U.S. Department of Transportation

Address: 1200 New Jersey Ave SE, Washington D.C. 20590

Email: [ntldatacurator@dot.gov](mailto:ntldatacurator@dot.gov)

### 4. Date of data collection and update interval:

Every 5 years

### 5. Geographic location of data collection:

United States of America

### 6. Information about funding sources that supported the collection of the data:

Bureau of Transportation Statistics, U.S. Department of Transportation

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## **B. SHARING/ACCESS & POLICIES INFORMATION**

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### 0. Recommended citation for the data:

U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics. (1977). Truck Inventory and Use Survey (TIUS) 1977 [datasets]. <https://doi.org/10.21949/1521114>

### 1. Licenses/restrictions placed on the data:

These data are in the Public Domain.

### 2. Was data derived from another source?:

No.

3. This dataset and its documentation was created and shared to meet the requirements enumerated in the U.S. Federally-Funded Scientific Research" Version 1.1 << <https://doi.org/10.21949/1520559> >> and guidelines suggested by the DOT Public Access website << <https://doi.org/10.21949/1503647> >>, in effect and current as of December 03, 2020.

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## C. DATA & RELATED FILE OVERVIEW

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### 1. File List for the bts\_TIUS\_2002\_DATA\_and\_Documentation.zip collection

#### A. Filename:

bts\_TIUS\_1977\_data.csv

Short description:

A CSV file that contains the dataset for the survey data that was collected for 1977.

#### B. Filename:

bts\_tius\_1977\_DMP.pdf

Short description:

A PDF file containing the Data Management Plan that was created for current and future management of the data and associated files.

#### C. Filename:

bts\_tius\_1977\_README.txt

Short description:

The README.txt file that includes human-readable information about the data, variable definitions, contact information, and other contextual information. The file you are reading now.

#### D. Filename:

bts\_tius\_1977\_Metadata.json

Short description:

The machine-readable .json metadata file based on Project Open Data metadata schema v1.1.

#### F. Filename:

bts\_TIUS\_1977\_technical\_documentation.pdf

Short description:

A PDF file that contains the technical documentation for the data, including the data dictionary for the 1977 TIUS dataset.

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## D. METHODOLOGICAL INFORMATION

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### 1. Description of methods used for collection/generation of data:

Due to limited documentation the methodology behind the Truck Inventory and Use Survey (TIUS) 1977 dataset isn't complete.

### 2. Instrument- or software-specific information needed to interpret the data:

The data and documentation files can be opened with any text reader. Some versions of the documentation files may be opened with PDF reading software.

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## **E. DATA-SPECIFIC INFORMATION**

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1. bts\_TIUS\_1977\_data.csv data table.

A. Number of variables (columns):

83 variables are present in the data table. The data dictionary found in bts\_TIUS\_1977\_technical\_documentation.pdf provides definitions for the variables.

B. Number of cases/rows:

96495 total rows are present in the data table: 1 header row and 96494 rows of data.

C. Each row represents:

Each of the 96494 rows represents the results from a single completed questionnaire for the survey.

D. Data Dictionary/Variable List:

Because of the large number of variables, please refer to the Data Dictionary found within the file bts\_TIUS\_1977\_technical\_documentation.pdf for names, definitions, and formats of variables.

E. Missing data codes:

In the case of blanks found in the dataset, means either not reported, not applicable, or as reported depending on the question.

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## **F. UPDATE LOG**

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This bts\_tius\_1977\_README.txt file was originally created on 2021-03-24 by Jesse A. Long  
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[Note changes or update to the readme.txt file, e.g.:]

2021-03-24: Original file created