



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Every mode of transportation except buses carried more passengers during the fourth quarter of 1972 than they did during a comparable period in 1971.

According to a quarterly national transportation system activity report issued by the Department of Transportation, interstate water vessels showed the highest proportional increase -- 382,782 during the final three months of last year compared with 201,734 in 1971.

Next highest increase came from private autos, which recorded 246 billion vehicle-miles last quarter contrasted with 233 billion vehicle-miles in 1971. Airlines totaled 156.35 billion passenger-miles, compared with 150.42 billion; and railroad transported 65.5 million passengers, compared with 63.7 million.

All types of freight carriers posted increases except for airlines, which posted 1.95 million ton-miles in the fourth quarter of 1972 as compared with 2.01 million ton-miles in 1971.

Attached are comparisons by mode for the two periods.

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM ACTIVITY

FOURTH QUARTER 1972

PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES

	Fourth Quarter 1971	Fourth Quarter 1972
<u>Passengers Carried</u>		
Railroad (Class I) (Passengers)	63,780,234	65,548,334
Air (Passenger-Miles)	150,42 billion	156,35 billion
Bus (Class I Interstate) (Passengers)	110,992,418	96,695,509
Water (Interstate) (Passengers)	201,734	382,782
Automobile (Vehicle-Miles)	233 billion	246 billion

Freight Carried

Railroad (Class I) (Tons)	572,019,163	658,446,684
Air (Ton Miles)	2,012,362,000	1,951,167,000
Highway (Class I) (Tons)	161,359,896	179,393,720
Water (Interstate) (Tons)	32,443,991	42,911,044
Pipeline (Barrels)	2,081,727,046	2,319,618,897

Source: Office of Systems Analysis and Information, Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation; Civil Aeronautics Board, and Interstate Commerce Commission.

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