

Truck Inventory and Use in North Dakota: 2002

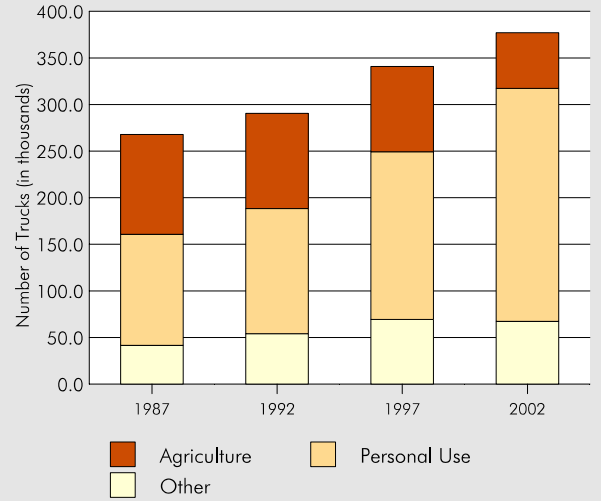
In 2002, an estimated 377,000 private and commercial trucks were registered in North Dakota (from minivans to dump trucks). Of those trucks, 66.3 percent were for personal use, up from 44.5 percent in 1987 and 28.0 percent in 1977. Currently, there are 1.8 licensed drivers for every one personal-use truck in North Dakota (Figure 2).

Data for 2002 indicate that 111,200 trucks throughout the state are used for business (28.9 percent), mainly agriculture. In 1987, trucks used for agriculture represented 40.1 percent of all trucks statewide. This proportion declined to 15.9 percent in 2002 (Figure 1).

The number of trucks registered in North Dakota rose nearly 41 percent between 1987 and 2002. This change is the result of an increase in pickups, vans/minivans, and sport utility vehicles. These three categories alone rose 63.1 percent and now represent 85.2 percent of all trucks in North Dakota (Table 1).

The Vehicle Inventory and Use Survey (VIUS) provides data on the physical and operational characteristics of the nation's truck population. This survey is conducted every five years as part of the Economic Census. Its primary goal is to produce national and state-level estimates of the total number of trucks. For more information, visit <<http://www.census.gov/svsd/www/tiusview.html>>.

Figure 1. Number of Trucks in North Dakota by Type of Major Use: 1987, 1992, 1997, and 2002



Note: Numbers in thousands, thus 350.0=350,000. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Economic Census, Vehicle Inventory and Use Survey, <<http://www.census.gov/svsd/www/tiusview.html>>.

Figure 2. Licensed Drivers for Every One Personal Use Truck by State: 2002

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2002 Economic Census, Vehicle Inventory and Use Survey, <<http://www.census.gov/svsd/www/02vehinv.html>>; U.S. Department of Transportation, Highway Statistics 2002, <<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/policy/ohim/hs02/>>.

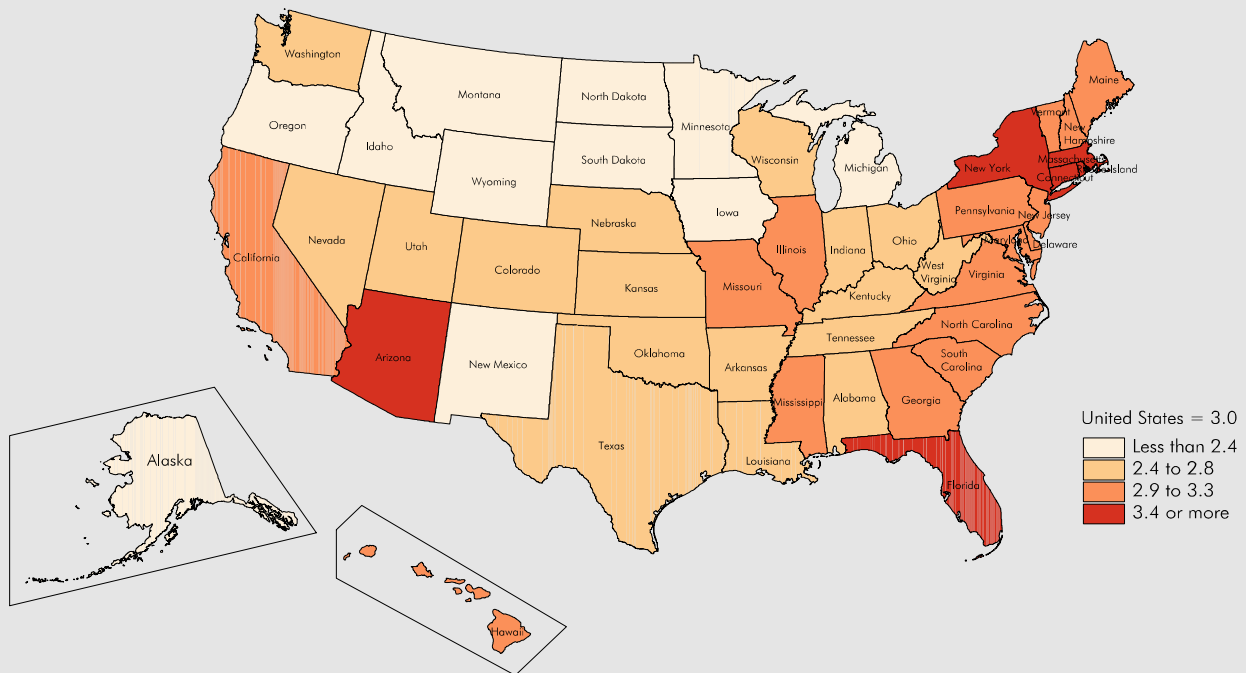


Table 1. North Dakota Registered Truck Characteristics: 1987, 1992, 1997 and 2002

Notes: Numbers are estimates shown as percentages. ¹ Includes all medium to heavy vans such as open top trailers, step, walk-in, and multistop vans. ² Includes vehicles not in use. See the following source for information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, sample design, and definitions.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Economic Census, Vehicle Inventory and Use Survey, <<http://www.census.gov/svsd/www/tiusview.html>>.

Physical and operational characteristics	Percent of All Registered Trucks in North Dakota			
	1987	1992	1997	2002
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
TYPE OF MAJOR USE				
Agriculture, forestry, fishing or hunting	40.1	35.3	26.9	15.9
Mining	0.4	0.9	0.4	0.5
Construction	4.8	6.1	5.7	4.8
Manufacturing	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.2
Wholesale and retail trade	3.6	4.9	3.2	2.9
For-hire transportation or warehousing	1.3	1.7	1.6	1.5
Utilities and all services	4.1	3.1	6.3	3.1
Personal transportation	44.5	46.2	52.8	66.3
Other, not reported, and not applicable	1.0	1.4	2.5	4.8
BODY TYPE				
Pickup, minivan, other light vans, and sport utility	73.5	77.3	80.3	85.2
Flatbed, stake, platform, and low boy	12.3	6.3	4.6	2.1
Van ¹	1.5	1.6	2.7	7.1
Service, utility	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2
Dump	0.6	1.3	1.4	3.2
Tank for liquids, gases, or dry bulk	1.0	0.7	0.8	1.1
Other and not applicable	10.9	12.5	9.8	1.2
VEHICLE SIZE				
Light	76.5	79.0	80.4	84.4
Medium	5.3	5.6	5.1	3.2
Light-heavy	9.4	5.7	5.0	3.1
Heavy-heavy	8.7	9.8	9.5	9.3
ANNUAL MILES				
Less than 5,000 ²	44.2	38.8	30.9	27.0
5,000 to 9,999	23.7	24.8	22.8	20.0
10,000 to 19,999	24.2	26.2	29.7	36.9
20,000 to 29,999	5.2	6.9	11.2	9.0
30,000 or more	2.8	3.2	5.4	7.1
MODEL YEAR				
1 to 2 years old	8.0	13.6	9.4	17.5
3 to 4 years old	8.9	8.3	11.7	16.9
5 years or older	83.0	78.1	78.9	65.6
RANGE OF OPERATION				
50 miles or less	68.7	65.9	65.9	66.2
51 to 200 miles	14.9	17.1	19.5	12.4
201 miles or more	3.8	6.3	6.0	6.3
Off-the-road, not reported, and not applicable	12.6	10.6	8.5	15.1
FUEL TYPE				
Gasoline	92.3	88.3	87.4	79.6
Diesel	6.8	9.0	10.5	11.3
All other fuels	0.0	2.1	0.5	5.9
Other, not reported and not applicable	0.9	0.6	1.6	3.2

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North Dakota Sees an Increase in Registered Trucks

The number of trucks registered in North Dakota rose nearly 41 percent over the past 15 years, reaching an estimated 377,000 in 2002. This change is the result of an increase in pickups, vans/minivans, and sport utility vehicles. These three categories alone rose 63.1 percent and now represent 85.2 percent of all trucks in North Dakota.

This month's "Economic Briefs," a monthly publication from the North Dakota State Data Center at North Dakota State University, focuses on the number of private and commercial trucks registered in North Dakota (from minivans to dump trucks) as reported by the Vehicle Inventory and Use Survey (VIUS) which is conducted every five years as part of the Economic Census.

In 2002, an estimated 377,000 private and commercial trucks were registered in North Dakota. Of those trucks, 66.3 percent were for personal use, up from 44.5 percent in 1987 and 28.0 percent in 1977. Currently, there are 1.8 licensed drivers for every one personal-use truck in North Dakota; the national average is three licensed drivers for every one personal-use truck. "The significant rise in trucks and vans in our state has been fueled in part by the growing interest in the sport utility vehicle that caters to the sport enthusiast or young-at-heart and the minivan that targets families," said Richard Rathge, Director of the State Data Center. "However, this trend may change as fuel prices continue to rise and the cost of these vehicles becomes overburdening," said Rathge.

Data for 2002 indicate that 111,200 trucks throughout the state are used for business (28.9 percent), mainly agriculture. In 1987, trucks used for agriculture represented 40.1 percent of all trucks statewide. This proportion declined to 15.9 percent in 2002.

In 2002, the majority of North Dakota trucks traveled 10,000 miles or more annually (53.0 percent), were 5 years or older (65.6 percent), had a usual range of operation of 50 miles or less (66.2 percent), and used gasoline (79.6 percent). While the majority of trucks use gasoline, slightly more than one in 10 North Dakota trucks use fuel other than gasoline, up from 6.8 percent in 1987.

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