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Introducing: Taxi and Livery Statistics

The *Table of Contents*_and the *Sources and References* list of the February 1998 report *Taxi and Livery Statistics* follow. I wrote the report because I perceived a nationwide information gap, and misleading information in some of the publications in existance. The latter include federal publications by:

- (1) the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, U.S. Department of Transportation
- (2) Bureau of Economic Analysis and Bureau of the Census of the Department of Commerce
- (3) Fact Books published by the International Taxi and Livery Association.

The summary text of the report consists of roughly 154 8 1/2 by 11" pages and there are about 283 additional pages of appendices, an acronym list, and sources and references. At present, copies of the report are available in printed or electronic forms.

The U.S. Department of Transportation published the results of a 1995 Nationwide Personal Transportation survey subsequent to my drafting of the report. I have analysed much of it. The analysis would be useful in updating part of Chapter II Services and Users, Taxi Services. The analysis is described below.

Information from two relevant recently conducted surveys were not available when the report was written: (1) The 1997 Census of Transportation, Communications, and Utilities; and (2) a 1998 survey sponsored by the Transit Cooperative Research Program of the Transportation Research Board of the National Academy of Sciences and conducted by the North Carolina State University, Institute for Transportation Research. It now appears both of these will provide more up-to-date information on *some* of the topics. Additionally, the U.S. Department of Transportation has published more recent safety data in their Fatal Accident Reporting System (FARS) and General Estimates System (GES) than was available.

Taxi & Livery Statistics

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37. *Analysis of Taxicab Deregulation and Re-Regulation*: a November 1993 study by the Price Waterhouse, Office of Government Services, Washington D.C. for the International Taxicab Foundation.

38. *International Taxicab and Livery Association*: statistical excerpts from the August 1995, Taxi Services Division, and Premium Services Division Fact Books. International Taxi and Livery Association, 3849 Farrugut Ave. Kensington, MD 20895, phone (301) 946 5701.

39. L. Carol Shaw, Gorman Gilbert, Christine Bishop, Evelyn Pruit: *Taxicab Regulation in U.S. Cities*; Volume I, Final Report; prepared for and published by the University Research and Training Program, U.S. Department of Transportation, Urban Mass Transportation Administration (now the Federal Transit Administration), DOT-1-84-35, October 1983.

40. Survey of Current Business: articles: *Regional and State Projections of Economic Activity and Population to the Year 2005*, Vol. 75, number 7, July 1995; and *Metropolitan Area and BEA Economic Area Projections to the Year 2005*, Vol. 76, number 6, June 1996.

41. Paul R. Campbell: Population Projections for States, by Age, Sex, Race and Hispanic Origin:

1993 to 2020: Current Population Reports, U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration, Bureau of the Census; March 1994, P25-1111.

42. Jennifer Cheeseman Day: *Population Projections of the United States, by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1993 to 2050*: Current Population Reports, U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration, Bureau of the Census; March 1994, P25-1104.

43. Internal Revenue Service, *Statistics of Income Bulletin*, annual, 1992, 1993, 1994. Available from the Superintendent of Documents.

44. *Request for Assistance in Preventing Homicide in the Workplace*: "Alert" brochure published by National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Public Health Service, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 93-109, Sept. 1993. See also "Update" Oct. 25, 1993 by the same organization.

45. *News, Bureau of Labor Statistics*, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington D.C., August 10, 1994. This reference is from the reference 44 above.

46. *Philip Stenning*: in an e-mail message describing his research on crimes against taxi drivers in three Canadian cities. Philip is an Associate Professor, Centre of Criminology, University of Toronto, Room 8001, Robarts Library, 130 St. George Street, Toronto, Ontario M5S 3H1, Canada. The information was in an 6/14/1996 e-mail message from: p.stenning@utoronto.ca

47. *Michael Schiller, Ryszard Belk, Cliff & Pam Wheaton*: E-mail message from each relating their experience with fare jumping (skipping or runout). June 14 and June 16, 1996 messages. Michael: 1 to 2 skips per week in Fort Lauderdale Fl. Ryszard: used to have about two skips per month when he was a rookie. Now about once a month---New York; Cliff : averaged about one jumper per month---Boise, ID.

48. *John Lanigan*, E-mail message 5/1/1996 listing safety strategies he used as a taxi driver; P.O. Box 195, East Kew Vic 3102, Australia; phone 61 3 859 65 64; Fax 61 3 859 4908; e-mail: lanigan@ozemail.com.au

49. *Violence in the Workplace: Risk Factors and Prevention Strategies*: Current Intelligence Bulletin 57, published by National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Public Health Service, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; DDHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 96-100.

50. *Charles Rathbone, Dan Setzer*: E-mail messages 6/1/1996. Charles is a former taxi driver and union organizer; Dan is President of Baltimore's Royal Taxicab Association.

51. *Sven Nillson*, Trip Sheet Magazine, March 1995 Issue, article describing a session of a panel to study method of protecting taxi drivers.

52. Jeff German, Newspaper Article in The Las Vegas Sun, June 30,1996.

53. Linda Slater, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette Courthouse Reporter, Article May 22, 1996.

54. Trip Sheet Magazine: June 1995.

55. *Vic Robertson*, Final Report of the Taxi Advisory Group, Council Central Staff, Seattle Department of Finance, 600 4th Ave. Room 103, Seattle WA 98104-1891. April 8, 1996.

56. *County and City Data Book: 1994*: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington D.C. 20402; GPO stock number: 003-024-08753-7. This document includes detailed statistics on, among other things, the 1992 population and 1990 land area of all cities with population of 25,000 or more, and the 1990 population of places with more than 2,500 residents. The volume was issued in August 1994.

57. *Public Utilities Commission, State of Colorado*: upon request the Commission sent a FAX, dated August 9, 1996, with an excerpt from the State "authorities list" with the numbers of vehicles associated with each business authorized to operate for-hire passenger services.

58. *Public Service Commission of West Virginia*: Upon request the Commission sent a copy of their "Authorities List" dated August 15, 1996. The list included, for some of the for-hire passenger businesses, the number of vehicles authorized along with the nature of the business.

59. *Nebraska Public Service Commission*: Upon request the Commission sent August 1996 excerpts from their "Authority Book"; Nebraska Public Service Commission, 300, the Atrium, 1200 N Street, P.O. Box 94927, Lincoln Nebraska.

60. *Linda A. Whitcomb*: January 23, 1996 letter from the Montgomery County Maryland, Department of Transportation, Division of Transit Services, 110 North Washington Street, Suite 200, Rockville MD 20850-2224. The letter contained: statistics on the County's taxis, a list of taxi regulating agencies in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area, and a copy of a taxi study sponsored by the County.

61. *Reprint of 1993 Annual Average Tables from the January 1994 Issue of Employment and Earnings*: published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. The reprint was furnished by Diane Herz, economist at the Bureau.

62. Ryszard Belc, June 25, E-mail message outlining New York City taxi rates.

63. *Limousine and Chauffeur Magazine*, *Annual Fact Books* : published by Bobit Publishing Company, 2512 Artesia Blvd., Redondo Beach, CA 90278. The Fact Books contain a broad array of livery statistics based on surveys by the publisher. The editor also furnished the entire 1996 survey data base.

64. *Violence in the Workplace, Risk Factors and Prevention Strategies.* This is a duplicate reference. See Ref. 49.

65. *James L. Szeckely*, Jim furnished a detailed list of cities which have taxi shield ordinances and places where shields have been voluntarily installed. Additionally, Jim furnished numerous clippings

and references used in developing the report.

66. *Steve Hipple*: On November 11, 1996, I called BLS re occupational statistics. Steve answered the phone and a we discussed the nature of the report. He then sent me a nine page Fax. It included: (1) an excerpt from the BLS manual describing the range of occupational titles included in the BLS Taxicab Drivers and Chauffeurs classification, (2) an excerpt from the 1995 BLS Occupational Matrix showing 1994 estimates of employment in the class and projections to 2005 (Ref. 11 was the previous 1993 edition), (3) six pages from BLS *Current Population Survey* statistics showing the number of males, females, by ethnicity, and by age, and by private versus government affiliations. Steve works for the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Division of Labor Force Statistics, Postal Square Building, Room 4675, 2 Massachusetts Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20212; Phone (202) 606-4378, Fax (202) 606-6426.

67. *Diane Herz*: On December 9, 1996 Diane faxed a series of taxi driver/chauffeur BLS tables based on the 1992 and 1995 Census Population Surveys. The included and updated some of the information described in Ref. 66, and added statistics for the *Taxi Service Industry*. Diane is an economist at the BLS; 2 Massachusetts Ave. NE, Room 4675 Postal Square Building, Washington, D.C. 20212; Phone (202) 606 6378.

68. *Charles Rathbone*: Charles is a former taxi driver and taxi driver union organizer. He collects taxicab homicide statistics. On July 3, 1996 he e-mailed two draft reports to me based on his U.S. and Canada taxi crime database. His sources include published articles and NIOSH statistics. hccr@thecity.sfsu.edu.

69. Scientific American, magazine, Feb. 1996 issue.

70. John Mintz, Washington Post Staff Writer, Washington Post Mar. 30, 1996.

71. *Sarah Kob*, Comfort Taxi Ltd., Singapore; at the GPS World Showcase, Advanstar Communications meeting, Eugene, OR.

72. A Technical Report to the Secretary of Transportation on a National Approach to Augmented GPS Services, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Dept. of Commerce, December 1994.

73. *PhoneDisc (TM)*: A CD ROM disk, periodically updated (believed to be more frequent than annual). The author used the 1995 version. It contains telephone yellow-page listings with Standard Industrial Classifications for 10 million U.S. businesses, along with search and counting software and automatic dialing of selections. It is manufactured by Digital Directory Assistance, Inc. 6931 Arlington Road, Suite 405; Bethesda, MD 20814; Sales Office: 1-800-284-8353.

74. *businessUSA (TM)*: A commercially available CD ROM, periodically updated (at least annual). The author used a 1996 version. It contains information on 10 million businesses including: company name, types of business (Standard Industrial Classifications, with several levels where applicable), City, State, ZIP, Metropolitan Area, County, phone area code; size by employee and revenue classes; key executive title, type of location (headquarter, branch, subsidiary), and years in business. It also contains sophisticated search, counting, and file export software. It is manufactured by

infoUSA, a Division of American Business Information, Inc., 5711 So, 86th Circle, PO Box 27347, Omaha, NE 68127; (402) 593 4565, E-mail bizcd@abii.com . On Sept 10, 1997 I had a phone conversation with Barry Kerry, head of the Data Compilation Division. She mentioned that the yellow pages are the beginning point for compiling most the data. The largest part of the employment figures are from phone calls asking the number of employees at the establishment, but gaps in the data are filled using modeling. Sales information is almost totally modeled based on employment and federal revenue per employee figures by industry. Phone: 1-800-624 0076.

75. *Bill Herrig*: December 1966 phone conversation. Bill works for the Hillsborough County, Dept. of Social Services. Hillsborough County encompasses Tampa Florida. It has done analysis of dollar value of the transportation contracts the county pays for as part of its social programs.

76. *Firman Hadi*: E-mail messages re checker cabs dated December 18, 1996. E-mail: fh38@columbia.edu

77. *Hal Morgan*: Jan. 6,1997 phone call. Hal works for the International Taxi and Livery Association (ITLA), Kensington MD office. ITLA is the taxi industry representative in many FCC matters. Hal reported that the 1994 FCC publication *FCC Private Land Radio Services* reports the taxi industry operated 5117 base radio stations and 123,000 mobile transmitters.

78. *Washington Taxicab Commission*: January 3, 1997 phone conversation. The planned switch from the taxi zone system to meters is scheduled take effect Sept. 1, 1998.

79. *Dan H. Setzer*, President, Royal Taxicab Association, Inc. 2501 W. Lexington St., Baltimore, MD 21223-1439. Telephone (410) 566-7000. Royal is the second largest cab company in Baltimore with over 350 cabs in service, and a small fleet of wheelchair vans and medical transport sedans.

80. *Institute for Justice*: On Jan. 23d, 1997, John Kramer of the Institute faxed selection of excerpts from Institute background files that had taxi/livery-related regulatory information, including information on: Boston, Charlotte, Detroit, New York City, and San Antonio. Institute for Justice, 1717 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W. ,Suite 200, Washington, D.C. 20006, Phone (202) 955-1300, Fax (202) 955-1329.

81. *John Hamilton*, Taxi Supervisor [regulator] Portland Oregon. On Feb. 14, John discussed Portland's taxi/livery situation by phone with the author. Portland determines the number of taxis based on its assessment of "Necessity and Convenience." Every two years, Portland reviews population, airport traffic, and Federal program trends and determines whether more taxi/livery vehicles are needed. 20 percent of the taxi fleet must meet Americans with Disabilities Act, standards. He believed "Trimet," the cities transit company, received some FTA section 13 grant funds. He also said the State contracted with transportation firms for transportation of some welfare recipients. He suggested contacting Nancy Thomas, of "Trimet" phone (503) 233 5715 for more detail on Portland's medical transport program, and Debra Marcklein (503) 233-5706 re "Trimet's" lift program.

82. *Michel Trudel*: paper *The Fundamentals of Taxi Regulation and the Quebec Experience*, for the 7th Congress of the European Taxi Confederation, Donostia, Spain, Feb. 1995. Michel is the Department Coordinator Taxi Services, Quebec Department of Transportation., 35 Port-Royal Est, 4th

floor, Motreal, Quebec H3L 3T1, phone (514) 864-1637, Fax (514) 873-0435.

83. *Final Report of the Taxi Advisory Group*: April 8, 1996 report prepared by Vic Roberson, Council Central Staff; Seattle Department of Finance, 600 Fourth Ave, Room 103, Seattle, WA 98104-1891.

84. *Richard Marosi*: Article *One of the Most Dangerous Jobs in New York, Gypsy Cab Driver*, Columbia University News Service, Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism; found on the World Wide Web Dec. 13, 1996. Richard is a former wire-service reporter in San Francisco and general assignment reporter in Palo Alto, Califronia.

85. *Prof. John Fuller and University of Iowa graduate stundents*: Prof. Fuller, as a result of his consulting work for the U.S. Dept. of Transportation, became aware that the author was having difficulty finding information on Iowa taxis and the regulation thereof. In He assigned a team of graduate students to develop and conduct a survey to help fill in the gaps. The survey completed, in October, 1996 had information on 63 different Iowa providers of taxi/livery services. An interesting facet of their work was the finding and subsequent research on children's transportation.

86. *Internal Revenue Service*: Market Segment Specialization Program, .Training Manual 3149-108 (5-93) TPDS 84459N. During the years 1987 to 1989 Los Angeles District tax returns for 650 taxi drivers were examined. Less than 40 percent of lease drivers examined filed no Federal tax returns.

87. *Taxicab Driver Analysis Report*: Richard A. Sullivan, Tax Collector, City and County of San Francisco Tax Collector's Office, July 17, 1996.

88. Las Vegas Sun, March 23, 1996 article.

89. Trip Sheet Magazine, article Sept. 1996.

90. *Jeff German*, senior investigative reporter for the Las Vegas Sun. November 30, 1996 E-mail posting by Dick Kawadler of Trip Sheet Magazine.

91. *Jeff German*, senior investigative reporter for the Las Vegas Sun. July 7, 1996 E-mail posting by Dick Kawadler of Trip Sheet Magazine.

92. Collin Nash, Newsday article page A28, December 19, 1996.

93. Employment and Earnings, May 1993, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.

94. *National Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries* (CFOI), Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), U.S. Department of Labor. Publications and statistics are listed on the BLS World Wide Web site (http:// stats.bls.gov). A disk with 1992-1995 statistics is available to qualifying researchers.

95. *Employment and Earnings*, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, May 1993 Issue.

96. Mr. Sullivan, Sept. 29, 1997 phone call to the District of Columbia, Taxicab Commission,

(202)645 6005. Mr Sullivan stated there were currently about 6,800 taxis licensed to operate in DC. Four companies owned and leased about 2,000 thousand of these and he believed they carried radios for dispatch purposes. The remaining 4,800 taxis were owned by owner-operators and generally are not dispatched. He said there were about 10,000 drivers licensed to drive a taxi in the district. If they are licensed to drive a taxi, they may drive any light for-hire vehicle, but one must have taxi license to drive a taxi. He did not know the number of licensed limousine or livery vehicles or whether they are typically dispatched.

97. *Paul Stephen Dempsey*, Professor of Law and Director of the Transportation Law Program at the University of Denver, *Taxi Industry Regulation, Deregulation & Regulation: the Paradox of Market Failure*, copyrighted paper in the summer 1996 issue of the Transportation Law Journal (Vol. 24:73).

98. Terry Bronson, Statistics and Information Division, American Public Transit Association. I talked to Terry by phone several times (202 898 4000). In a Oct. 3,1997 phone conversation we discussed several topics. Re Demand Response vehicles he said: (1) It is often difficult to distinguish vans and mini-buses in reports from transit operators. In 1997, Terry began using a length less than 27' 6" to distinguish vans from buses (a standard Dodge van is apparently about 16 feet). In 1997, APTA transit operators reported roughly the following numbers of Demand Response vehicles:7,000 vans, 250 autos and station wagons, and nine buses. The typical Demand Response vehicle was equipped to carry one or more wheel chairs (up to four). Demand Response vehicles have perhaps doubled since enactment of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) circa 1990. (2) Charlotte NC, and Ann Arbor are two cities he knows of where transit operators use Demand Response service to provide after-normal-operating-hours transit service. (3) Some small cities routinely contract with taxi business for Demand Response service, sometimes in lieu of operating transit buses. (4) In AR most providers of Section 16 service are taxis under contract. (5) Perhaps half of Demand Response service is provided by taxis. (6) 93.5 percent of 1997 Demand Response vehicles had two-way radios (compared to 97 percent of fixed route transit buses) and 140 had cellular phones (a growing phenomenon). (7) Jitneys (legal and illegal) have made substantial inroads on transit services in Brooklyn and Queens, New York and in Miami Florida. (8) As of 1997, Phoenix no longer operated their contract Jitney service. An Atlantic City operator, the Atlantic City Jitneyman's (or Jitney) association has operated Jineys along the boardwalk area for many years. Recently, New Jersey Transit financed purchase of 190 mini-vans for the service. (9) Apparently a number of Indian Tribes in western states such as Nevada and Montana operated van fleets in transit service. (10) There is still an Airport Ground Transportation Association. It is located in Knoxville TN. (11) Lou Sanders in APTA is the person following Jitney services.

In a phone conversation Oct. 15, 1997 a number of additional topics were discussed and the following information was received: (1) In general APTA includes FTA Section 16 and Section 18 statistics as DR unless otherwise described. (2) Terry believes 90 percent of Section 15 Transit Demand Response vehicles are probably vans or, station wagons and automobiles. (3) Dallas, Seattle, and Milwaukee all contract heavily with taxi operators to provide Demand Response services. (4) Contracts with taxi operators for Demand Response service differ. Some may be on a per-passenger-mile basis; some may be on a miles operated basis; and some may use scrip, but he believes this is uncommon. (5) Transit contracts may require drivers to be employees of the provider, and have CDLs and/or be subject to drug and alcohol testing.

99. Nancy Fenn, October 21,1997 phone conversation. Nancy is an analyst with the Milwaukee

County Paratransit System (414-278 4923). Terry Bronson (Ref. 98) believed they were a heavy user of taxis for Demand Response Services. In 1990 Milwaukee had a resident population of 1.2 million persons. Milwaukee Paratransit provides Milwaukee's paratransit services with a 1997 budget of about \$8.8 million, but with an expected overrun of perhaps \$725 thousand (an average of more than seven dollars per year per city resident. They serve about 17,500 clients accounting for over 700 thousand trips annually. Each rider pays \$2.50 per trip, and Milwaukee Paratransit pays the remainder, up to \$12.10 a ride (the average budget per trip is close to the maximum, thus fares account for perhaps 17 percent of the total trip costs). In October 1997, about 412 vehicles were authorized to provide service. 196 were taxis operated by the two Milwaukee taxi firms (196 taxis were about 84 percent of Milwaukee's licensed taxis). They served roughly 20 percent of Milwaukee Paratransit's clients at cost to the public of over a million dollars. 216 vans operated under contracts to roughly 15 different non-taxi firms serve the rest of the clients. The largest operates more than a hundred vans, the next largest, twenty two. Vehicle drivers are not required to be employees or have a commercial driver's license (CDL), but they are subject to drug tests. 70 percent of the rides are standing orders (somewhat like subscription service). Some of the accessible vans may not have two-way radios and therefore may not be truly "Demand Response" vehicles. Milwaukee has developed, but apparently not yet distributed a plan for meeting transit Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.

100. *Directory of Specialized Transportation Providers Funded by FTA's Section 16 Program*, December 1994, prepared by Community Transportation Association of America, 1440 New York Ave. NW, Suite 440, Washington DC 20590, (800) 527-8279, for: Rural Transit Assistance Program, FTA.

101. *Status Report on Public Transportation in Rural America, 1994:* prepared by Community Transportation Association of America, 1440 New York Ave. NW, Suite 440, Washington DC 20590, (800) 527-8279, for: Rural Transit Assistance Program, FTA.

102. Bruce Schaller, 2/7/1998 E-mail comments on the February Draft of this report. Bruce was formerly with the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission and is a New York City taxi and for-hire vehicle expert (see References 25 and 29).