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Travel Characteristics

More Cars, More Drivers, Greater Distances

As the data in the first section of this report demonstrate, average annual daily traffic volumes have generally increased countywide. Regional modeling done by AMBAG predicts more of the same. As trips continue to increase in length, vehicle miles traveled (VMT) on all roadway types is expected to go up by just over 40%. **Figure 10**, below, shows projected VMT by road type to the year 2030.

Figure 10: Projected Vehicle Miles of Travel by Road Type for Santa Cruz County

Year	Freeway	Highway	Major Arterial	Minor Arterial	Collector	All Types
2000	1,501,851	913,085	952,764	619,521	484,813	4,472,034
2030	2,019,202	1,455,527	1,300,087	868,809	634,537	6,278,162
% CHANGE	34%	59.40%	36.50%	40.20%	30.90%	40.40%

source: AMBAG

Commute Patterns

Despite the extent and variety of work opportunities available within Santa Cruz County, a substantial number of county residents have historically commuted to other counties to take advantage of generally higher-paying jobs or opportunities unavailable locally. It is estimated that, in the year 2000, more than 25,000 workers drove to jobs in counties north of Santa Cruz County on a daily basis. Santa Cruz County residents also commute to Monterey County for job opportunities on the Monterey peninsula and in Moss Landing and Salinas. More than 13,000 people commuted into Santa Cruz County each day in the year 2000. The number of commuters heading outside of Santa Cruz County is expected to increase between the years 2000 and 2020.

Figure 11 below shows that total out-commuting from Santa Cruz County rose by 30.4% from 1990 to 2000, while in-commuting rose only 9.7%. The complete commute pattern data table in **Appendix E** shows that even commuting between Santa Cruz and Monterey counties, an exchange that has historically favored Monterey, followed this trend. In 1990, nearly twice as many Monterey County residents (6,821) commuted to work in Santa Cruz as Santa Cruz County residents to Monterey County (3,650), but by 2000, this gap was narrowed substantially as Santa Cruz-Monterey commuting rose 41.5% and Monterey-Santa Cruz commuting rose only 11.4%.

Figure 11: Santa Cruz County Commute Patterns

County of Residence	County of Work	Total Commuters 1980	Total Commuters 1990	Total Commuters 2000	% Change 1990-2000	Absolute Change 1990-2000
Santa Cruz	Santa Cruz	65,000	89,628	93,084	3.9%	3,456
Other counties	Santa Cruz	3,669	11,899	13,053	9.7%	1,154
Santa Cruz	Other counties	16,628	24,568	32,029	30.4%	7,461

Source: AMBAG