

3. COMPARISONS WITH OTHER SURVEYS

It is useful to compare key survey results with past surveys in the National Capital Region and with surveys in other Canadian cities. This comparison provides a useful context and benchmark for understanding the findings. **Table 3-1** compares the daily person and household trip rates for several recent Canadian surveys. The table also indicates household sizes; that is, the average number of persons per household. For some cities, data from previous surveys also are provided, to assist in the understanding of changes over time.

It should be noted that an exact comparison among the surveys is not possible, given that different surveys used different methods for sampling, different minimum age for participation (5 years old for surveys in Quebec) and even different survey instruments. For example, the 2005 Edmonton survey was an activity-based survey, using a small (1%) sample of households (whereas all of the other surveys collected information on trips only). Nonetheless, several important observations still may be made.

The primary observations are:

- The 2005 trip rates in the National Capital Region compare favourably with those of other cities, and with previous TRANS surveys.
- It can be seen that the household trip rates in the National Capital Region have been dropping steadily over the past 20 years. This reflects in part a continuing reduction in average household sizes. The reductions in household trip rates and sizes are consistent with the findings of surveys in Montréal and Edmonton. The Greater Toronto Area (GTA) household trip rates have increased or remained constant, although the average household size has not changed. This is true for GTA as a whole as well as for constituent cities, such as Toronto, Hamilton and Mississauga.
- The average person trip rate in the National Capital Region has decreased since 1995 and is approximately the same as that in 1986. By comparison, the Edmonton person trip rates are approximately the same – in fact, the 2005 rate is also slightly higher than the earlier rate. However, the Montréal person trip rates have dropped over the five-year period, while the GTA person trip rates have increased or remained constant.
- The Edmonton and Vancouver person trip and household trip rates are higher than those of the eastern cities. However, the 2004 Vancouver survey was based upon a 0.5% sample, with a deliberate over-representation of the Fraser River Valley (i.e., of fast-growing rural towns and communities within the Greater Vancouver commuter shed that are not well served by transit and which, typically, have a higher trip generation rate). This may explain the higher than average trip rates for Vancouver.

Table 3-1: Comparison of Trip Rates – Canadian Surveys

City (Year of Survey)	Daily Person Trip Rate	Daily Household Trip Rate	Avg. Persons Per Household
<i>National Capital Region (2005)</i>	<i>2.78</i>	<i>6.03</i>	<i>2.47</i>
National Capital Region (1995)	3.00	6.52	2.58
National Capital Region (1986)	2.83	7.08	2.68
Montréal (2003)	2.30	5.2	2.4
Montréal (1998)	2.46	5.7	2.5
Sherbrooke (2003)	2.80	6.0	2.3
Trois-Rivières (2000)	2.94	6.8	2.5
Québec City (2001)	2.65	5.5	2.2
Greater Toronto Area (2001)	2.5	5.8	2.7
Greater Toronto Area (1996)	2.4	5.6	2.7
City of Mississauga (2001)	2.6	6.6	3.0
City of Mississauga (1996)	2.5	6.2	3.0
City of Toronto * (2001)	2.3	5.0	2.5
Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto (1996)	2.3	5.0	2.5
City of Hamilton** (2001)	2.5	5.7	2.6
Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth (1996)	2.5	5.4	2.6
Edmonton (2005)	3.63	8.6	2.37
Edmonton (1994)	3.61	9.2	2.55
Vancouver (2004)	3.2	9.0	2.81

* City of Toronto represents the area of the former Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto

** City of Hamilton represents the area of the former Region of Hamilton-Wentworth. The 1996 and 2001 indicators based on Travel Survey Summary reports, fifth report of the 1996 and 2001 series.