

Passenger and Vehicle Traffic by Tariff Code - 1997

The Alaska Marine Highway System does not collect demographic information on passengers or detailed vehicle information. The only information available on passengers and vehicle characteristics is that which is required to determine the proper tariff. Therefore, tariff information should be viewed as a superficial indicator of travel trends. Specifically, the number of senior citizens and physically challenged adults who used the system is not fairly represented by the numbers in the chart on page 24. These categories refer only to those who qualified for the tariff rates which are based on season, route, and other limiting factors. Another example is the number of "adults" traveling at the group rate. Many of these travelers over 12 years of age were students on school-sponsored trips.

Cardeck space is predominantly sold by vehicle length. However, some consideration must be given to width, to the overall weight of the vehicle traffic on the cardeck, and to the effect of vehicle placement on the vessel's overall stability. Consequently, vehicle tariffs are classified as Standard (up to 8-1/2' wide), Wide (up to 9' wide), Extra Wide (over 9' wide), and Vans. In 1997, vehicles of standard width comprised more than 94% of the motorized car deck traffic, including vans.

Due to their height and weight, vans must be categorized separately. Vans are defined as vehicles, normally commercial, and from 12'-13' in height with enclosed cargo space. Vans can be any length and either self-propelled or towed. A flatbed or stakebed truck or trailer, with a load higher than 10 feet from the ground, is also considered a van. Vans accounted for 5% of the motorized car deck traffic, but 8% of the total linear feet used. These percentages are unchanged from 1996.

Recreational vehicles are defined as truck/campers, camper vans, motorhomes, and vehicles with trailers. Although RVs are identified with a separate tariff, they are also classified by width. In the first table below, the RV traffic is included in the size categories. Recreational vehicles of all widths made up 8% of the total motorized cardeck traffic, and 12% of the linear feet.

In addition, 3,268 non-motorized forms of transport were ticketed. These "Alternate Means of Conveyance" include bicycles, kayaks and canoes that are not being transported in a car, truck or trailer. Over 12,000 vehicles, including most of the commercial vans, sailed unaccompanied by a driver. Although not shown in any of the tables, one other tariff number may interest readers: 7,066 pets, confined to the car deck, traveled by ferry in 1997.

1997 CAR DECK USAGE BY WIDTH AND SIZE

Vessel	Standard Vehicles (up to 8-1/2')	Commercial Vans	Wide Vehicles (up to 9')	Extra Wide Veh (over 9')	TOTAL	Non-motorized traffic	Vehicles without a driver
Columbia	11,842	566	24	6	12,438	538	1,331
Malaspina	15,132	1,185	65	17	16,399	466	2,052
Matanuska	11,262	400	70	3	11,735	496	851
Taku	14,814	1,028	31	7	15,880	340	2,040
Aurora	14,403	800	12	3	15,218	166	2,258
LeConte	10,338	420	19	4	10,781	705	1,785
Bartlett	6,981	184	24	3	7,192	299	317
Tustumena	8,315	341	23	7	8,686	258	1,512
TOTAL	93,087	4,924	268	50	98,329	3,268	12,146

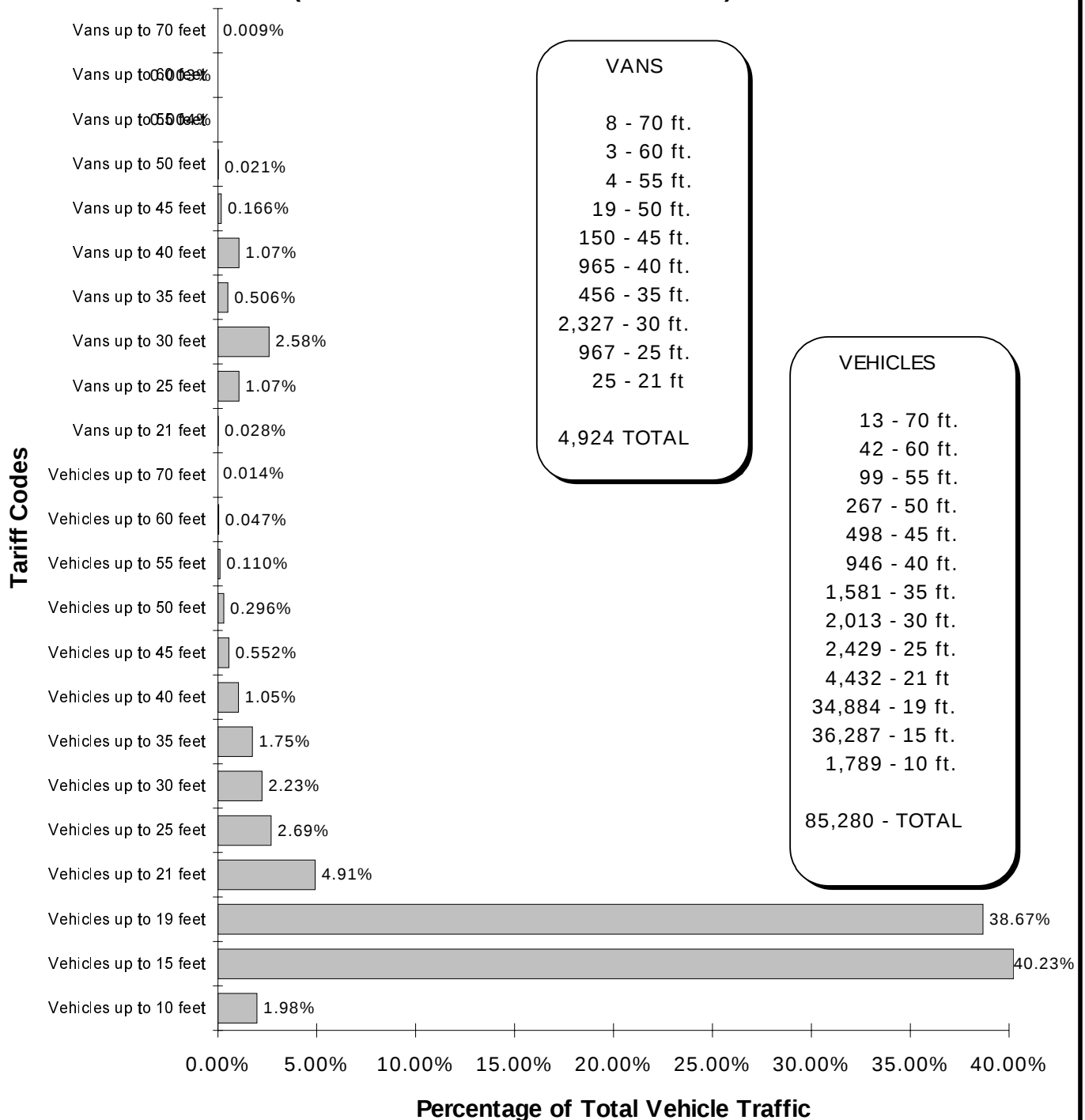
1997 CAR DECK USAGE BY VEHICLE CATEGORY WITH PERCENT OF TOTAL

Recreational Vehicles		Vans		Other Vehicles*		Total	
Quantity	Feet	Quantity	Feet	Quantity	Feet	Quantity	Feet
8,125	231,393	4,924	151,052	85,280	1,556,358	98,329	1,938,803
8.3%	11.9%	5.0%	7.8%	86.7%	80.3%		

* Note: These figures do not include space used by non-motorized traffic.

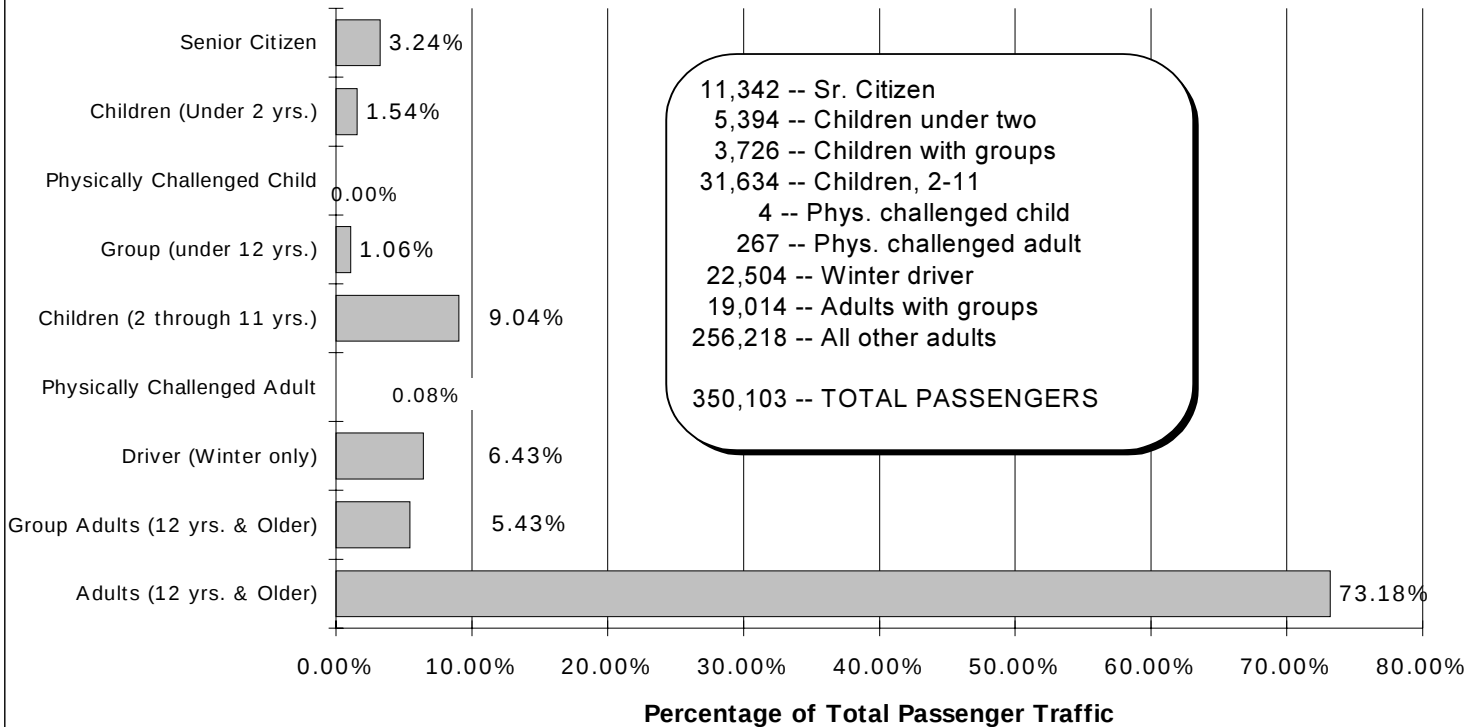
Van and Vehicle Traffic by Tariff Code - 1997

(does not include recreational vehicles)



Standard-sized vehicles between 10' and 20' in length represent 86% of the vehicles (not including vans and RVs) that traveled on the ferries in 1997. Of the combined van, RV and other vehicle traffic, this group of vehicles accounted for 74% of the 1997 Alaska Marine Highway traffic. Similarly, the greatest number of vans fell into two tariff categories. Vans over 21' and up to 30' made up 67% of the total van traffic.

Passenger Traffic by Tariff Code - 1997



Recreational Vehicles by Length - 1997

