

SECTION F

TRANSPORT TRENDS SHOWN BY AVAILABLE STATISTICS

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Previous attempts at presenting an overview of transport trends in Sri Lanka were published in *Economic Review*, Nov. 75, and *Energy in Sri Lanka SLAAS*, Jan. 80. The first of these was oriented towards an overview of transport activities and the second towards the energy intensity of different transport modes. The present study is aimed at a wider data base, up-dating to 1981 and including the relative importance of transport in GNP and of transport manpower in total employment.

Data was extracted from available published and unpublished sources from 1964 to 1981. Attempts to resolve conflicting statistics, especially as to the country's actual vehicle population have not yet been successful. Despite these, tentative findings are presented showing that travel by bus has increased considerably and continuously while travel by car has remained almost static and travel by rail has declined. Within the bus mode, travel by private bus has increased dramatically at the expense of travel by state-owned buses. However fare increases within the time frame were reflected by fall in travel showing an elasticity of about -3.

Other findings are that the movement of goods has increased with road transport increasing and rail transport declining significantly. Road accidents have increased alarmingly.

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References

1. Transport Statistics of Sri Lanka 1980 and 1981 editions.
2. Census Department. Socio Economic Surveys 69/70 and 80/81.
3. Police accident statistics.
4. Central Bank. Annual Reports.