

WHAT DOES CONGESTION COST US?

Congestion has several effects on travelers, businesses, agencies and cities. One significant element is the value of the additional time and wasted fuel. The top 14 urban areas include about two-thirds of the delay estimated for 2007, and the top 20 areas account for over 75 percent of annual delay. Some other highlights include:

- In 2007, congestion (based on wasted time and fuel) cost about \$87.2 billion in the 439 urban areas, compared to \$87.1 billion (in constant dollars) in 2006. (See Exhibits B-11 and B-12).
- The average cost per traveler in the 439 urban areas was \$757 in 2007, down from \$758 in 2006 (using constant dollars). The cost ranged from an average of \$1,084 per traveler in Very Large urban areas down to \$384 per traveler in the Small areas.
- Exhibits B-13 and B-14 show that 2.8 billion gallons of fuel were wasted in the 439 urban areas. This amount of fuel would fill 56 super-tankers or 370,000 gasoline tank trucks.
- The urban areas with populations greater than 3 million accounted for 1.6 billion gallons (almost two-thirds of the national estimate) of wasted fuel.
- The amount of wasted fuel per traveler ranges from 35 gallons per year in the Very Large urban areas to 11 gallons per year in the Small areas.

Exhibit B-11. Congestion Effects on the Average Traveler – 2007

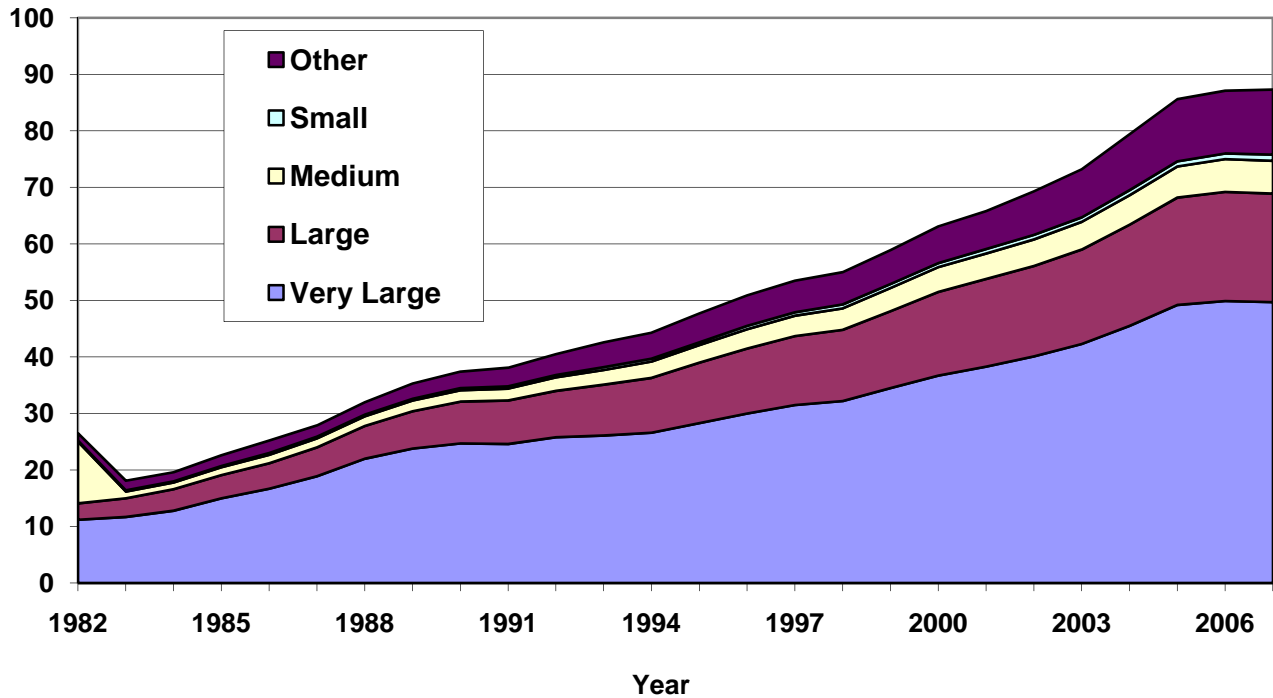
Population Group	Congestion Statistics per Traveler		
	Average Cost (\$)	Average Delay (hours)	Average Fuel (gallons)
Very Large areas	1,084	51	35
Large areas	734	35	24
Medium areas	481	23	15
Small areas	384	19	11
Other Urban Areas	404	20	12
439 Area Average	757	36	24
439 Area Total	\$87.2 billion	4.2 billion	2.8 billion

What is the Total Cost of Congestion?

The total cost of congestion for each population size group is shown in Exhibit B-12. This cost accounts for the amount of wasted time and fuel due to traffic congestion. The total cost of congestion in the urban areas is \$87.2 billion in 2007 or an average of \$757 per peak period traveler.

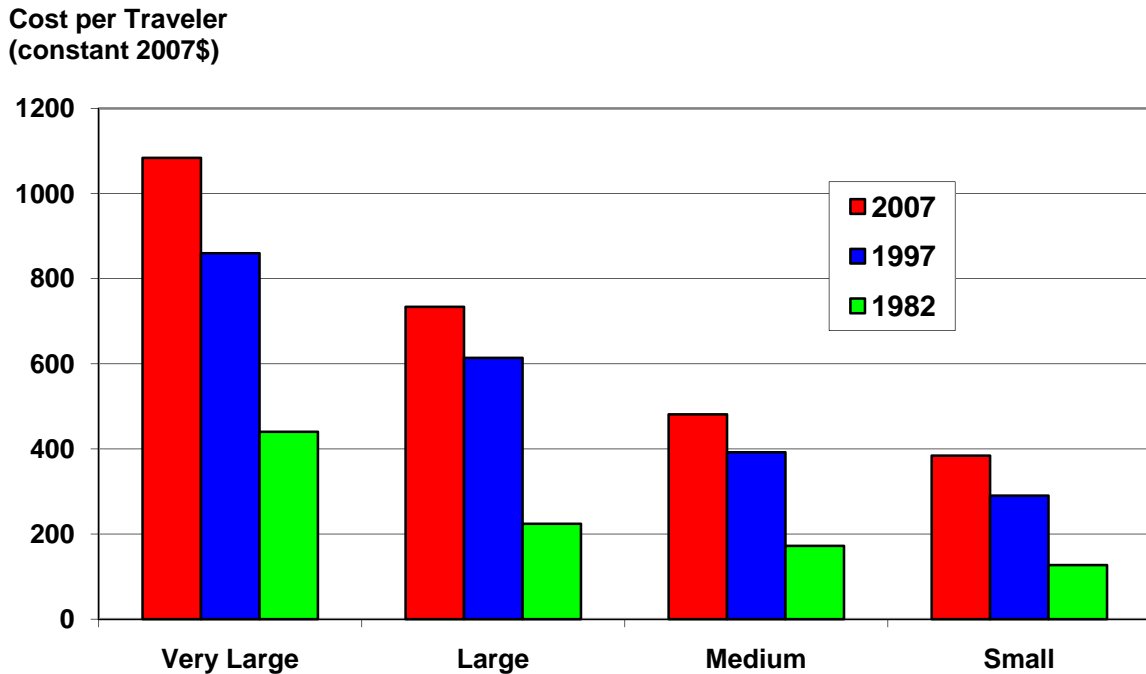
Exhibit B-12. Annual Cost of Congestion

Annual Cost
(billions of 2007\$)



- Twenty-one urban areas had a total annual congestion cost of at least \$1 billion each.
- The areas with populations over 3 million persons account for about 57 percent of the congestion cost.

Exhibit B-13. Annual Cost of Congestion per Traveler



What is the cost of congestion for me?

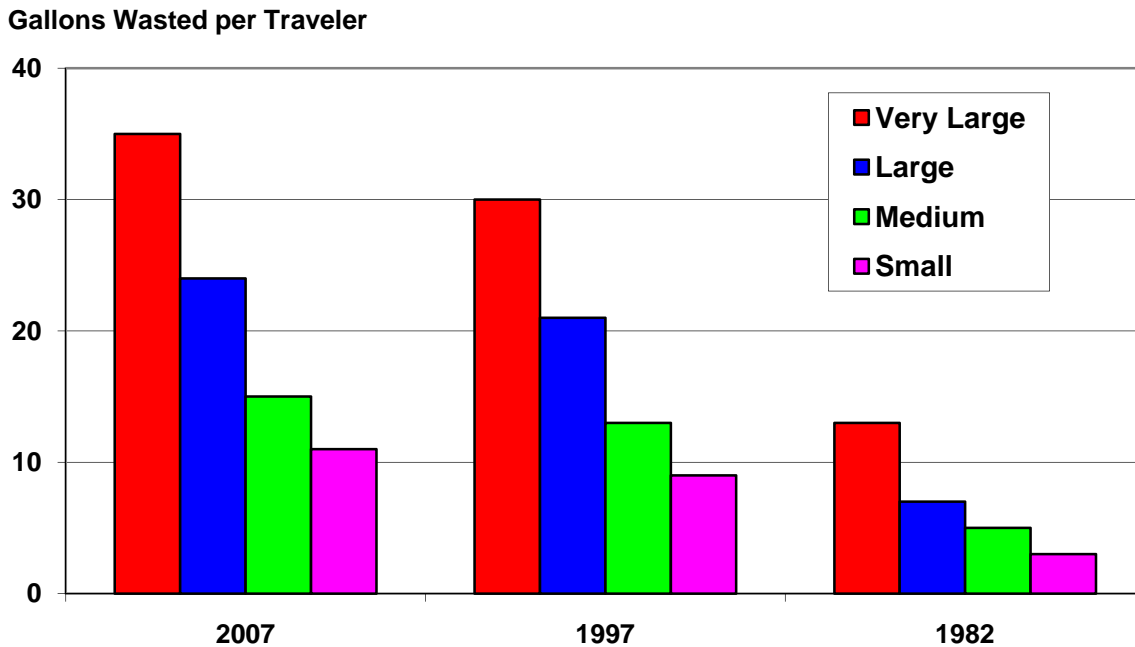
The total cost of congestion is divided by the number of peak period travelers to determine the effect of congestion on an individual (Exhibit B-13). The average annual cost to each of these travelers in the 439 urban areas is about \$757.

- Travelers of 74 areas are “paying” more than \$1 per workday in congestion costs; 45 areas have a congestion value exceeding \$2 per workday.
- The average cost of congestion per traveler ranged from \$1,084 in the Very Large population group to \$384 in the Small population group in 2007.

How Much Fuel is Wasted in Congestion?

As with cost, the amount of fuel wasted in congestion is divided by the estimated number of persons in the urban area. This provides an estimate of the amount of fuel consumed for each individual because of congestion (Exhibit B-14), a quantity that can be compared to other per capita consumptions. More than 28 gallons are wasted per traveler in the 439 urban areas. The average amount of wasted fuel per traveler in 2007 in the 439 study areas was 28 gallons.

Exhibit B-14. Wasted Fuel per Traveler



- The amount of wasted fuel per traveler ranged from 11 gallons in the Small population group to 35 gallons in the Very Large population group in 2007.
- The total amount of wasted fuel in the 439 urban areas was approximately 2.8 billion gallons in 2007.