

## Executive Summary

### Annual Miles Driven

- Marking the first time this has happened in more than two decades, the number of annual miles driven declined in 2007. Although the average annual growth in miles traveled has been 2.7 percent since 1971, recent years have seen a decidedly slower rates of increase. In 2007, the number of miles traveled totaled 2.99 trillion miles, representing a decrease of 0.4 percent from 2006. **[Page 13]**
- Travel is much more frequent during the summer months of July and August than during any other month of the year. May through August are the months that register high mileage, while the cold weather months of January and February have the lowest average number of miles driven. On a seasonal basis, the distribution of miles traveled is greatest during the second and third quarters. **[Page 15]**

### Roadway Congestion

- For the past 20 years, congestion on U.S. roads has been on a steady rise with a leveling out experienced in the past five years. By 2008, it is projected the U.S. will record a total of 748,318 vehicle miles traveled for each mile of road. **[Pages 16 & 17]**
- Another indicator of congestion on U.S. roads, the ratio of light vehicle registrations to length of roads, also has displayed steady growth during the past 17 years. Since 1991, the ratio of light vehicle registrations to overall length of U.S. roads increased from 45 vehicles for each mile of road to a projected 63 registered vehicles per mile of road in 2008 representing an increase of more than 39 percent. **[Pages 18 & 19]**

### Vehicle Collisions

- Due to the variation in state laws regarding the reporting of vehicle collisions, the collection of accurate data at the national level is very difficult. Nevertheless, our sources report that in 2006, the number of vehicle collisions on U.S. roads is estimated to have declined 3.2 percent from the previous year. **[Page 21 & 22]**
- In 2006, the nationwide ratio of property damage claims per 100 insured light vehicles was approximately 3.6, meaning that nearly four out of every 100 light vehicles on the road filed for a property damage claim. This value indicates a continued improving trend in this key ratio since 1993. **[Page 22]**

- The number of vehicle collision and property damage paid claims both increased in 2007. In 2007, the number of collision paid claims rose to 5.39 million, while property damage claims increased to 4.15 million. **[Pages 24 & 25]**