

# Mobility Monitor

Issue #18

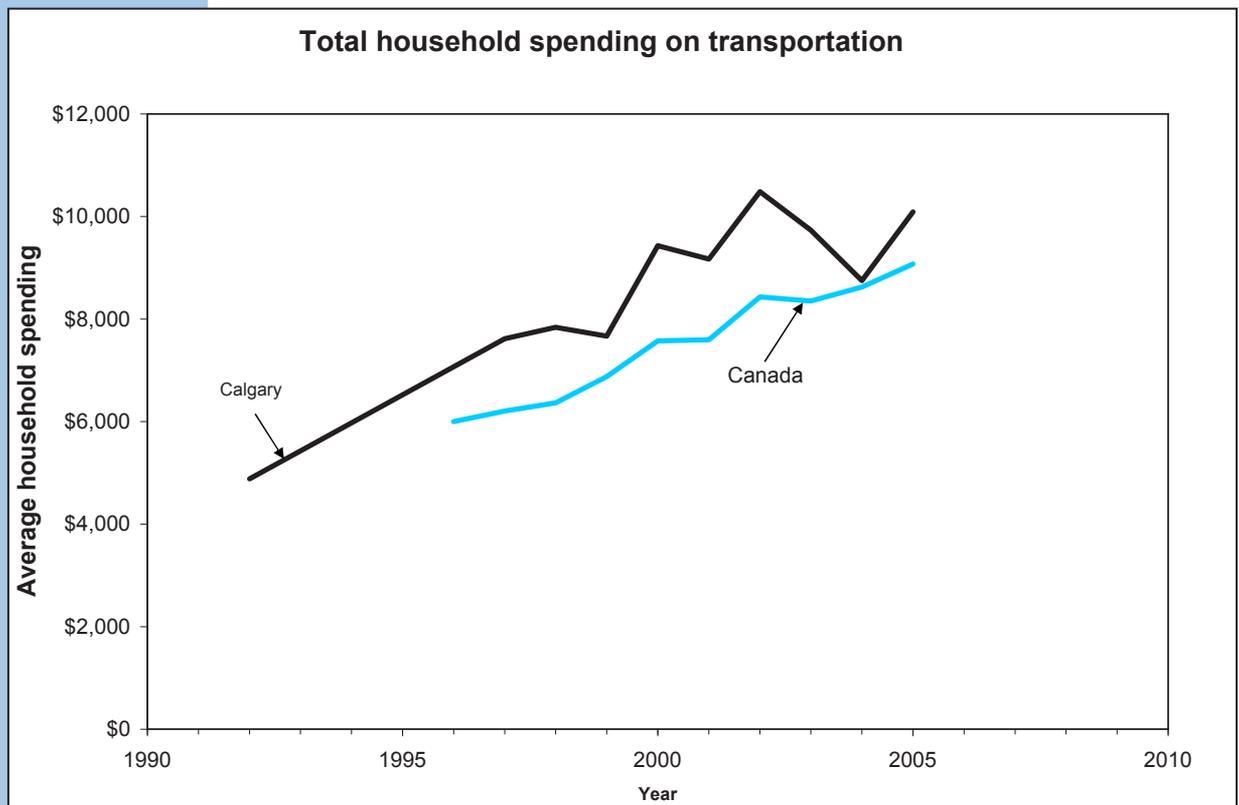
OCTOBER 2007

## HOUSEHOLD SPENDING ON TRANSPORTATION IN CALGARY

Statistics Canada tracks household spending in Canada. This Mobility Monitor presents the results for household spending on transportation in Calgary.

### KEY FINDING

***Household spending on transportation in Calgary has increased, but this rate of increase may be levelling off.***



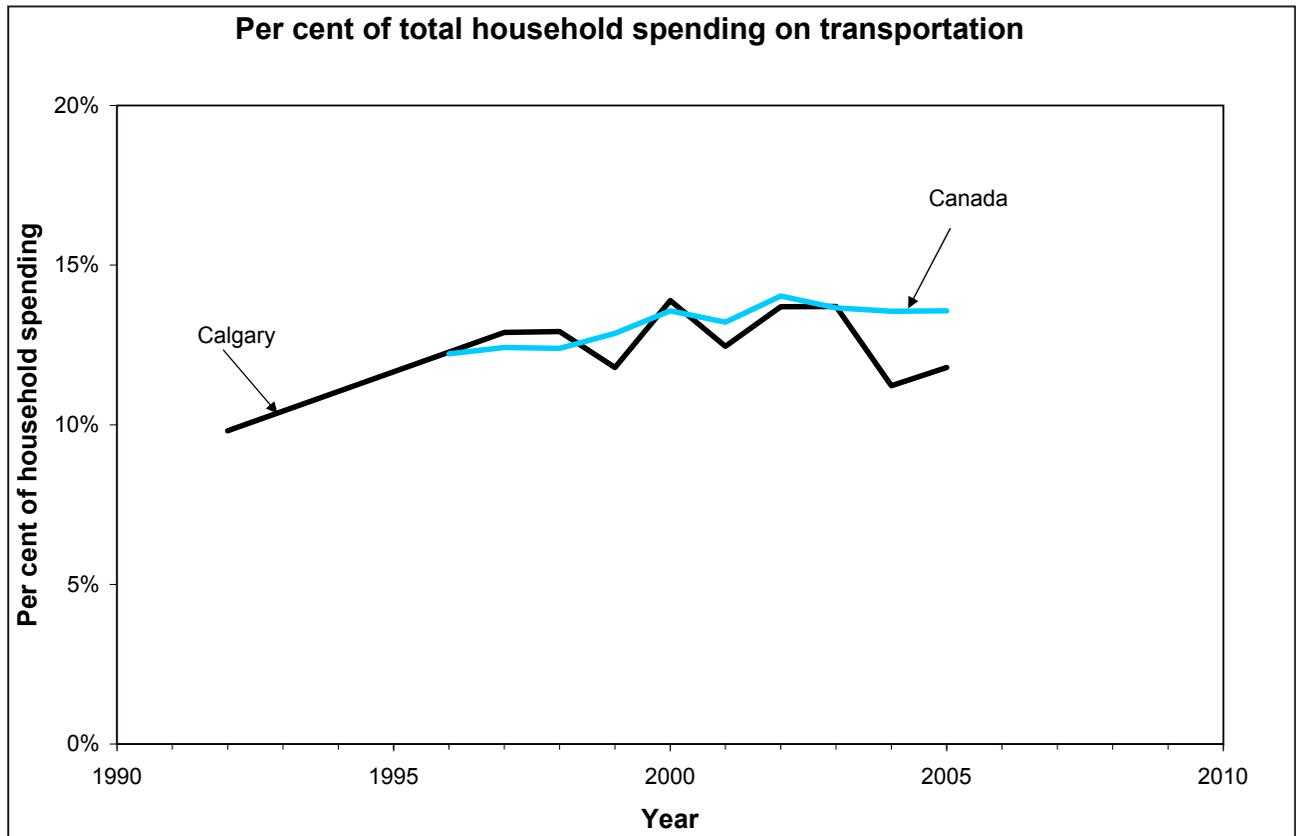
Source: Adapted from Statistics Canada, Spending Patterns in Canada, Catalogue no. 62-202-XIE, 1997 to 2005

- The Survey of Household Spending by Statistics Canada shows that household spending on transportation in Calgary grew from \$8,749 in 2004 to \$10,090 in 2005. Spending on transportation in 2005 represented 12 per cent of total household spending.
- Households in Calgary were spending about 20 per cent more on transportation than the Canadian average until 2003. Since 2003 Calgary households have been closer to the Canadian average, although there was an increase in 2005.

The Mobility Monitor is part of the Ongoing Monitoring and Implementation Program (OMIP) for the Calgary Transportation Plan (CTP). The purpose of the Mobility Monitor is to report on strategic trends and events that affect the implementation of the CTP, and to recommend future actions. The Mobility Monitor is produced by the Transportation Data division of Transportation Planning.

## KEY FINDING

**People in Calgary have been spending about the same percentage of their income on transportation as other Canadians. In 2004 and 2005 People in Calgary were spending a lower percentage than other Canadians.**



Source: Adapted from Statistics Canada, Spending Patterns in Canada, Catalogue no. 62-202-XIE, 1997 to 2005

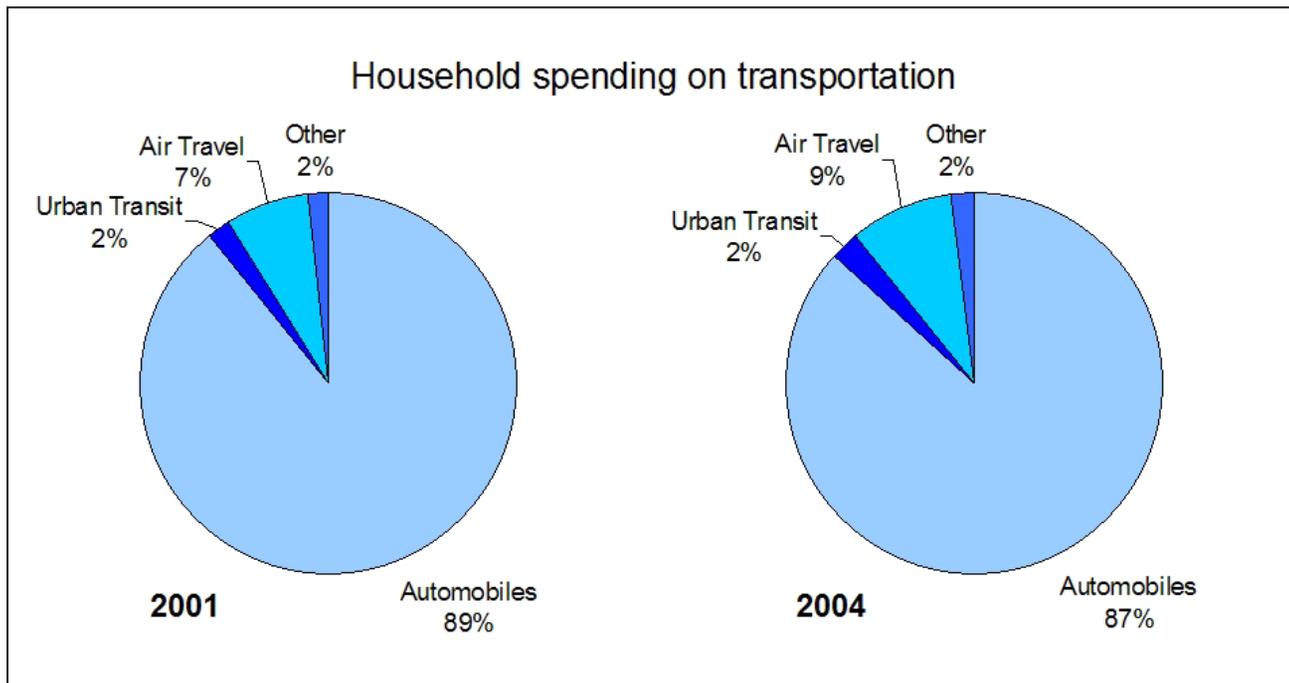
- The percentage of household income spent on transportation went up in Calgary from 1992 to 2005. The same was true for Canada from 1996 to 2005.
- From 1996 to 2003 household spending on transportation in Calgary was similar to the country as a whole at about 13 per cent. In 2004 and 2005, however, the percentage dropped below the national average to about 11 per cent.

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## KEY FINDING

**Most of the transportation spending of Calgary households is for automobiles, which accounts for almost 90 per cent of total household spending on transportation.**



Source: Adapted from Statistics Canada, Spending Patterns in Canada, Catalogue no. 62-202-XIE, 1997 to 2005

- In 2004 the average household in Calgary spent \$7,571 on automobiles (including taxes), \$218 on urban transit, \$794 on air travel and \$160 on other modes of travel including trains, intercity buses and moving expenses.
- In 2001 the average household in Calgary spent \$8,171 on automobiles (including taxes), \$172 on urban transit, \$661 on air travel and \$153 on other modes of travel including trains, intercity buses and moving expenses.
- Between 2001 and 2004 there was a large decrease in overall spending. This was mostly due to a drop in spending on automobiles. Household spending on urban transit and on air travel increased.

### What is included in household spending on transportation?

Spending on transportation includes all household spending on automobiles, transit, taxis, airplanes, trains, intercity buses and other travel. It also includes spending on insurance, fuel, parking, purchase of vehicles, rental of vehicles, license fees, registration fees, repairs and maintenance. It does not include government spending on transportation, or the transportation cost of goods. Household spending is not adjusted for inflation.



### **Implications**

- While household spending on transportation has increased since adoption of the GoPlan, transportation is now a lower proportion of household spending.
- Household spending on transportation in Calgary is higher than elsewhere in Canada, but the level of income is also higher. The per cent of total spending for transportation in Calgary is the same or lower than the rest of Canada.
- The most recent information in this report is for 2005. This issue will need to be revisited when newer data becomes available.

### **Recommendations**

- Continue to monitor how much households in Calgary spend on transportation and extend the analysis to incorporate all costs of the transportation system.

### **How accurate and reliable are these data?**

How concerned should you be by the potential for error in the data presented in The Mobility Monitor? Statistics Canada publications include detailed discussions of the value and limitations of the information they provide. More information can be obtained from Statistics Canada's Regional Offices, its World Wide Web site at [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca), and its toll-free access number 1-800-263-1136.

No one source of information can claim to be infallible. Consideration and appropriate weighting of other sources of information is to be encouraged before making decisions

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