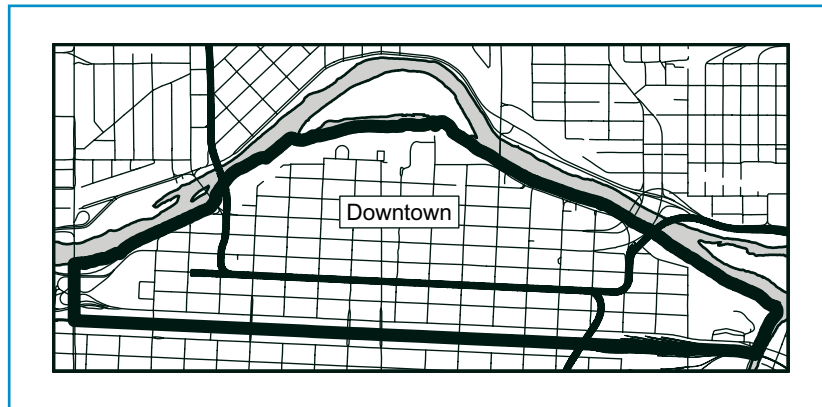




VEHICLES & PEOPLE ENTERING & LEAVING THE DOWNTOWN 1958 TO 2002

The downtown is the most important travel destination in the city. Since at least 1958 The City of Calgary has monitored travel to the downtown by counting the vehicles and people entering and leaving the downtown between 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. on a typical spring weekday.



KEY FINDING

In 1958 over a third of people working in Calgary worked in the downtown, but by 2002 only 20% of people working in Calgary worked in the downtown. Despite this, the number of vehicles and transit passengers entering and leaving the downtown continues to grow.

Summary of Trips Entering and Leaving the Downtown Between 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.

YEAR	CARS		TRUCKS	TRANSIT		OTHER BUS		TOTAL	
	Vehicles	Occupants	Vehicles	Vehicles	Occupants	Vehicles	Occupants	Vehicles	Occupants
1991	312,986	397,981	5,034	3,255	116,906	980	5,482	322,255	520,369
2001	313,526	390,962	5,976	4,058	125,526	1,602	8,221	325,162	524,709
2002	323,997	402,941	5,778	3,989	136,927	2,000	17,089	335,764	556,957

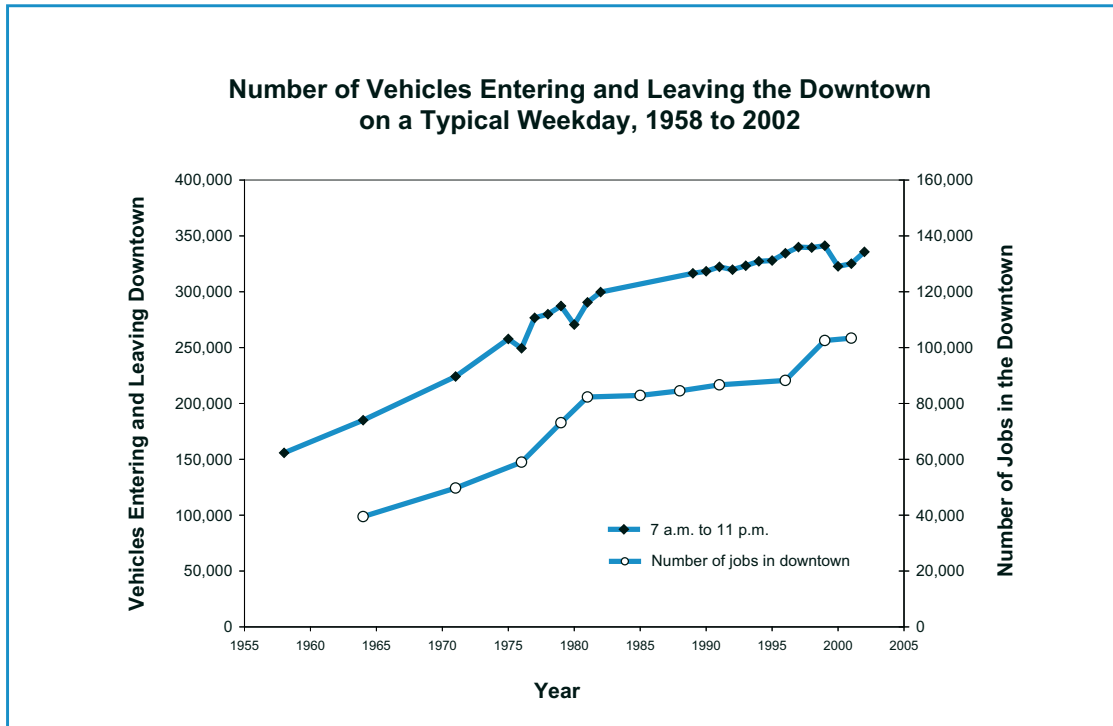
NOTE: The number of passengers in trucks was not collected in 2001 and 2002, therefore it was excluded from the total occupants for these years and 1991.

The Mobility Monitor is produced by the Transportation Data Team to make the information the Team has gathered more accessible and to help the public become better informed. The Transportation Data Team is responsible for collecting information on travel for use in planning and operating the city's roads, transit, and pathways.

- The number of vehicles entering and leaving the downtown between 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. grew by 2,907 from 1991 to 2001, and by 10,602 from 2001 to 2002.
- The number of transit users entering and leaving the downtown between 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. grew by 8,620 from 1991 to 2001, and by 11,401 from 2001 to 2002.

KEY FINDING

The number of vehicles entering and leaving the downtown between 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. has not grown as fast as the number of jobs in the downtown.



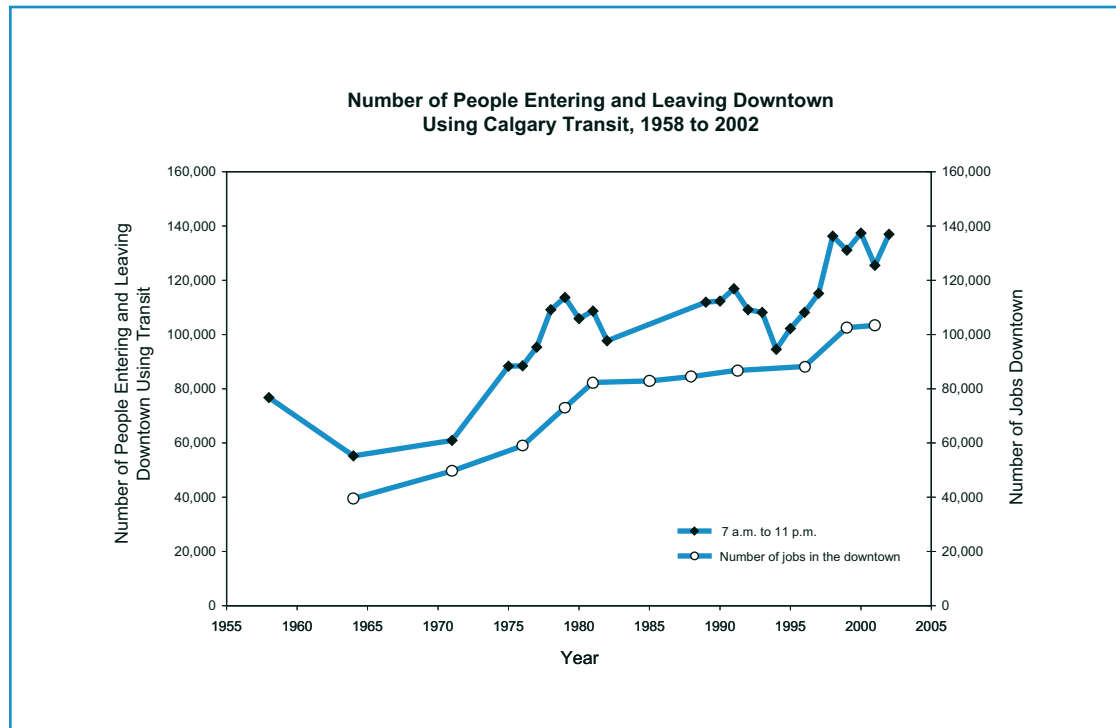
- The number of vehicles grew at 3.4% a year between 1964 to 1982, while the number of jobs grew at 6.0% a year. The number of vehicles grew at 0.8% a year from 1982 to 1999, while the number of jobs grew at 1.4% a year.
- From 1981 to 1996 the number of vehicles entering and leaving the downtown between 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. grew at a rate of about 1.0% annually, compared to a growth rate of 0.5% annually for the number of jobs in the downtown. From 1996 to 1999 the number of vehicles entering and leaving the downtown between 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. grew at a rate of about 0.7% annually, compared to a growth rate of 5.4% annually for the number of jobs in the downtown.
- The number of vehicles entering and leaving the downtown between 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. dropped by more than 5% from 1999 to 2000. This is likely a response to the closure of Centre Street Bridge. By 2002 the number of vehicles was still less than in 1999.

Why Are Some Years Missing From The Chart?

Counts of the traffic entering and leaving the downtown were not done every year. During the period 1983 to 1987 comprehensive counts of traffic entering and leaving the downtown were suspended due to budget constraints. Counts done prior to 1976 were only available for years when major transportation reports were published. These may not represent all of the counts that were done.

KEY FINDING

The number of people using Calgary Transit to enter and leave the downtown between 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. has been growing faster than the number of jobs in the downtown.



- From 1971 to 2002 the number of people using Calgary Transit to enter or leave the downtown grew from 61,000 to 137,000. This increase of 76,000 people represents a 4% annual growth rate. The number of jobs increased by about 3.6% during the same period.
- During the period 1971 to 1979 the number of people using Calgary Transit to enter or leave the downtown grew by about 11% a year. Since 1994 the number of people using Calgary Transit to enter or leave the downtown grew by about 9% a year.
- The number of people using Calgary Transit to enter or leave the downtown has grown when the number of jobs in the downtown has grown, and has remained stable or dropped when the number of jobs in the downtown has been stable.
- The 2001 Transit strike had an adverse impact on the number of people using Calgary Transit to enter or leave the downtown, but by 2002 this had recovered to pre-strike levels. Other studies by Calgary Transit confirm this observation.

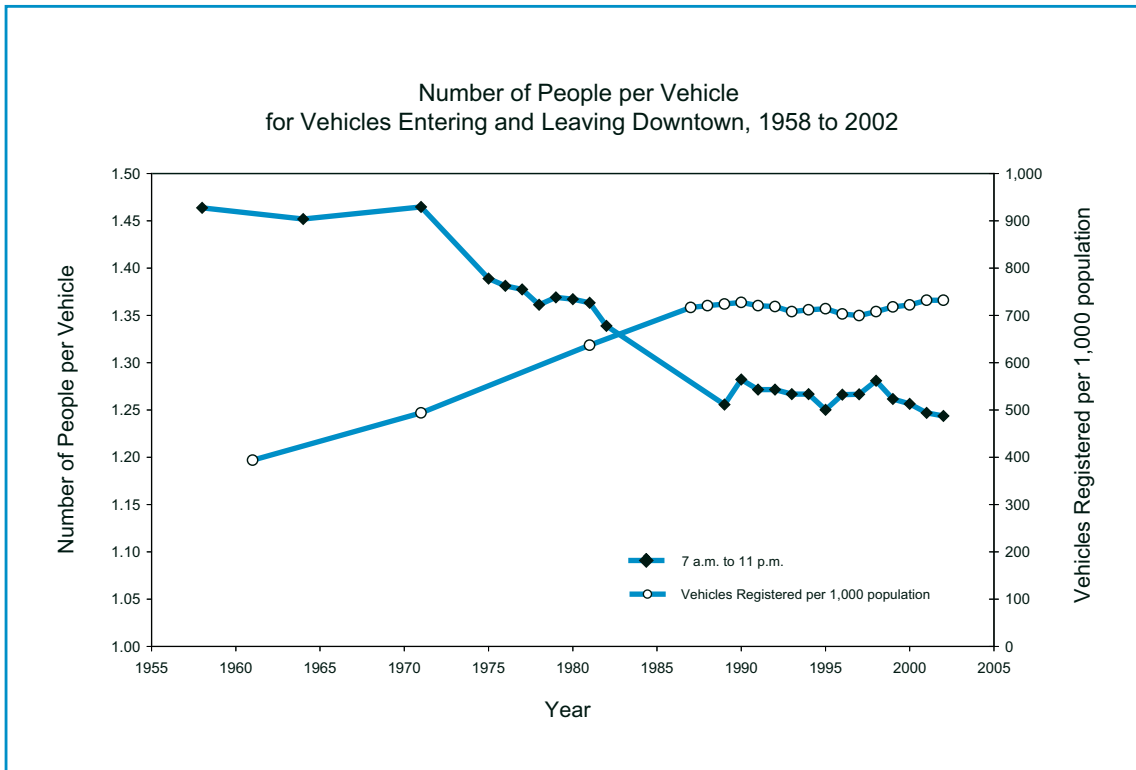
How Accurate and Reliable is this Data?

How concerned should you be by the potential for error in the data presented in *The Mobility Monitor*? Traffic on a road can vary by 10% or more from one day to the next. The City tries to minimise the effect of this by scheduling the counts of traffic entering and leaving the downtown on the same day each year.

Even so, a change from one year to the next may be due to some random event, such as the weather, traffic accidents, or illness. This is why it is wise to look at trends. Changes that are consistent over a long period of time are more likely to be real, and not just the result of random events.

KEY FINDING

The number of persons per vehicle for vehicles entering or leaving the downtown dropped between 1971 and 1989 and has remained relatively stable since then.



- The number of people per vehicle entering or leaving the downtown was relatively stable at about 1.46 persons per vehicle from 1958 to 1971. It declined during the period 1971 to 1989 at about 1% a year. After 1989 the number of people per vehicle entering or leaving the downtown has again been relatively stable at about 1.26 persons per vehicle.
- The levelling off of the number of people per vehicle entering or leaving the downtown after 1989 happened about the same time that the number of vehicles registered per 1,000 population (vehicle ownership) levelled off. The vehicle registration information was obtained from Alberta Transportation's Driver Safety, Research, Traffic Safety Initiative.
- The number of people per vehicle entering or leaving the downtown has been declining each year since 1998 at about 0.7% a year.

Counting Vehicles and People Entering and Leaving the Downtown

The City assigned people to each of the routes entering and leaving the downtown. These people counted individual vehicles and people as they passed by and recorded the total every 15 minutes. The counts began at 7:00 a.m. and continued until 11:00 p.m. each day. Individual routes were done on a different days, between May 13 and May 21, 2002, to minimise the number of staff needed.