About the RTDC RTS Tabulations

The Regional Transportation Data Clearinghouse (RTDC) Regional Travel Survey (RTS) Tabulations were prepared by TPB staff to provide an online resource for the RTS data to be used by practitioners, researchers, and other stakeholders. The RTDC RTS Tabulations share the standard 2017/2018 Regional Travel Survey tabulations from the RTS which include the household, person, vehicle, and trip files (see Figure 1). The purpose of the RTDC RTS Tabulations is to provide descriptive summaries of the data items from these files. These are first level tabulations of the RTS dataset that can be quickly pulled "off-the-shelf" when needed. Note that no cross tabulations are included in the RTDC RTS Tabulations. The user can perform customized tabulations and cross tabulations by requesting the RTS Public File.

The RTDC RTS Tabulations include tabulations for the entire RTS universe, which includes TPB member jurisdictions and neighboring jurisdictions in the TPB model region; tabulations were also prepared for Jurisdiction (County or Independent City), Subregional Areas (Core/Inner Suburb/Outer Suburb), Activity Centers (inside/outside), and Equity Emphasis Areas (inside/outside).

This document provides additional background information about the RTS as well as the contents of the RTDC RTS Tabulations.

Contents

About the RTS

The 2017/2018 Regional Travel Survey (RTS) collected demographic and travel information from a randomly selected representative sample of households in the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) jurisdictions and adjacent areas, which comprise the TPB model region. It is the primary source of observed data to estimate, calibrate, and validate the regional travel demand model. The model in turn is used for the travel forecasting and air quality conformity analysis of the region's long-range transportation plan as well as to support other key program activities. The survey data is also used for analyzing regional travel trends and provides a comprehensive picture of travel patterns in the region. The RTS captured information on household, person, and vehicle characteristics in the recruitment survey, and actual observed trip information in a one-day travel diary, which household members recorded details of every trip taken on their assigned travel day.

Figure 1: Overview of Regional Travel Survey (RTS) Data Files
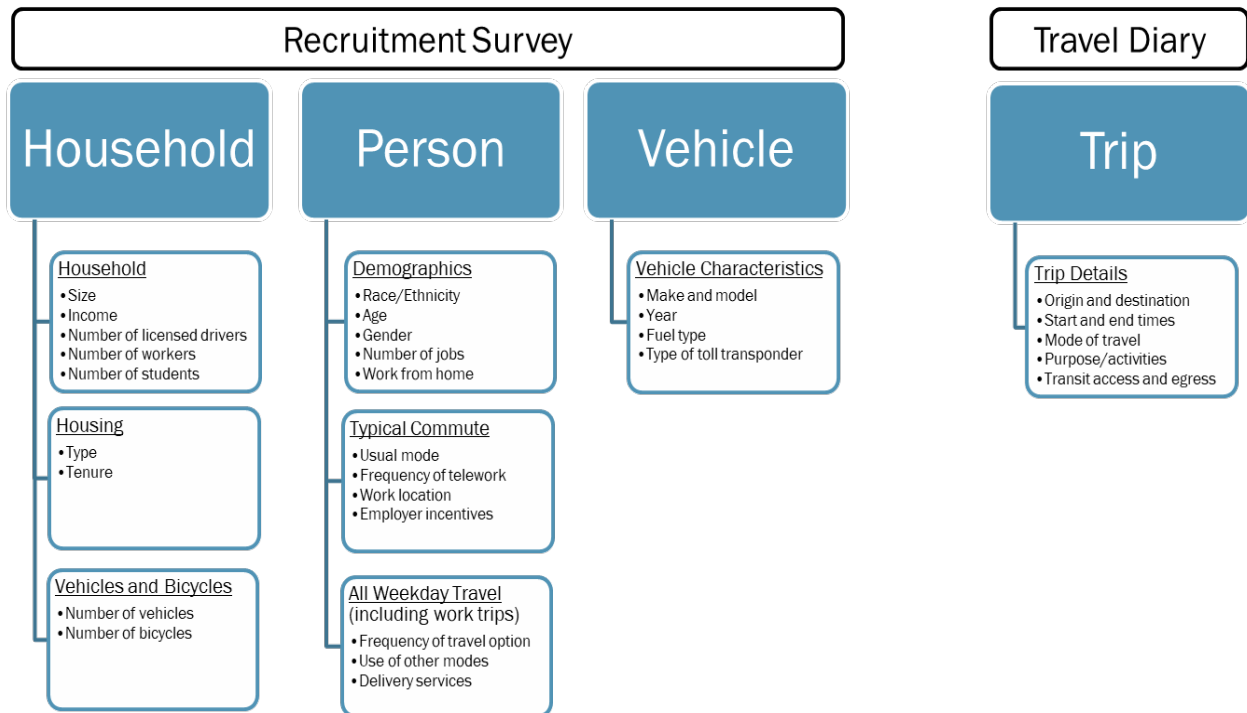
RTDC RTS Tabulations Matrix

'RTDC RTS Tabulations Matrix.xlsx' includes the tabulation variable, tabulation description, RTS source file, along with the corresponding file names. Tabulations were prepared for the entire RTS universe, in addition to County/Independent City Jurisdiction, Subregional Area, Activity Centers and Equity Emphasis Areas. For tabulations by Subregional Area, Activity Centers, and Equity Emphasis Areas, "Elsewhere" refers to outside of the TPB Planning Region but within the RTS Universe; almost all of these records are within the TPB Modeled Area.

RTDC RTS Tabulations Folders

There are two sets of RTDC RTS Tabulations contained in the following folders: 1) 'All Records' which includes all records in the RTS universe; and 2) 'NotAscertRemoved' which removed 'not ascertained' records before the tabulations were generated. Users should exercise discretion in determining which set of tabulations to use when conducting their analysis.

Data Structure

The tabulation files contain two standard data structures: 1) Universe Tabulations; 2) Jurisdiction, Subregional Area, Activity Centers, and Equity Emphasis Area Tabulations.

Universe Tabulations

Variable Name	Frequency	Weighted Frequency	Standard Deviation of Wgt Freq	Percent	Standard Error of Percent	95% Lower Confidence Limit, Percent	95% Upper Confidence Limit, Percent

Jurisdiction, Subregional Area, Activity Centers, and Equity Emphasis Area Tabulations*

Variable Name	Frequency	Weighted Frequency	Standard Deviation of Wgt Freq	Percent	Standard Error of Percent	95% Lower Confidence Limit, Percent	95% Upper Confidence Limit, Percent

(Continued from row above)

Row Percent	Standard Error of Row Percent	95% Lower Confidence Limit, Row Percent	95% Upper Confidence Limit, Row Percent

* Includes an additional column left of 'Variable Name' for Jurisdiction (HOME_STATE_COUNTY_FIPS), Subregional Area (Subarea), Activity Center (AC), and Equity Emphasis Area (EEA)

The tabulations include both unweighted ('Frequency') and weighted frequency. The weighted frequency should be used when conducting analyses to produce accurate tabulations that reflect selection probabilities. The standard deviation of the weighted frequency shows the amount of variation within 2 standard deviations of the weighted frequency (95% confidence level). The standard error of percent shows the percent variability which is used to construct the confidence interval. For example, 95% Lower Confidence Limit can be derived from subtracting 'Standard Error of Percent' from 'Percent'; 95% Upper Confidence Limit can be derived from adding 'Standard Error of Percent' to 'Percent'.

Tabulations Weights

The RTDC RTS Tabulations were prepared using the following weights for each data file:

File	Weight
Household File	WTHHFIN
Vehicle File	
Person File	WWM_WTPERFIN
Trip File	WWM_WTTRDFIN

The RTS files include two sets of weights for the Person and Trip files. The RTDC RTS Tabulations used the 'WWM' weights for the Person and Trip Files. For more information about the weights see the RTS Technical Documentation.

Jurisdiction, Subregional Area, Activity Centers, and Equity Emphasis Area Tabulations

Subregional Areas

The jurisdictions that comprise the TPB Planning Region are divided into three Subregional areas: 1) core; 2) inner suburb; 3) outer suburb. This classification is used to conduct demographic and travel behavior comparisons across the TPB Planning Region. The following table and figure list the jurisdictions that comprise each subregion.

Table 1: TPB Jurisdictions by Subarea

Figure 2: TPB Jurisdictions by Subarea

Subarea	Jurisdiction
Core	District of Columbia Arlington County, VA City of Alexandria, VA
Inner Suburb	Montgomery County, MD Prince George's County, MD Fairfax County, VA City of Fairfax, VA* City of Falls Church, VA*
Outer Suburb	Charles County, MD Frederick County, MD Loudoun County, VA Prince William County, VA City of Manassas, VA^ City of Manassas Park, VA^
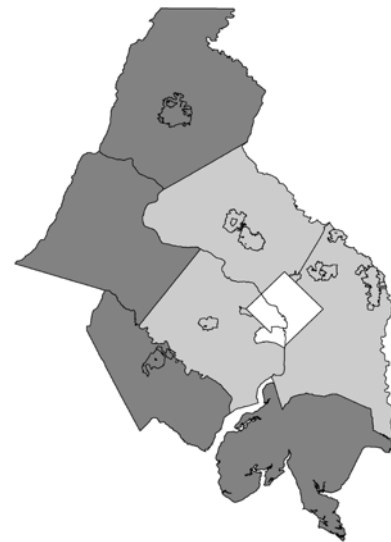
* The independent cities of Fairfax and Falls Church are typically combined with Fairfax County, VA for regional analysis.
^ The independent cities of Manassas and Manassas Park are typically combined with Prince William County, VA for regional analysis.

Activity Centers

Activity Centers were developed by the TPB and approved by the COG Board in 2013 to identify locations that would accommodate the majority of the metropolitan Washington region's future growth. They include existing urban centers, priority growth areas, traditional towns, and transit hubs. Activity Centers are typically higher density and more mixed-use and multimodal than areas outside of Activity Centers. The RTDC RTS Tabulations include tabulations aggregated by Activity Centers and Non-Activity Center areas. Additional information about Activity Centers is available on the COG webpage: https://www.mwcog.org/maps/map-listing/activity-centers/

Equity Emphasis Areas

Equity Emphasis Areas (EEAs) were developed by TPB staff and adopted by the TPB in 2017 to conduct environmental justice analysis as part of Visualize 2045, the federally required long-range transportation plan for the National Capital Region. Census-tract data were used to identify communities that have significant concentrations of low-income and/or minority populations. The RTDC RTS Tabulations include tabulations aggregated by EEA and non-EEA areas. EEAs are indicated by the orange shaded areas on the right map in Figure 3. Additional information about EEAs is available on the COG webpage: https://www.mwcog.org/transportation/planning-areas/fairness-and-accessibility/environmental-justice/equity-emphasis-areas/

Figure 3: Activity Centers and Equity Emphasis Areas
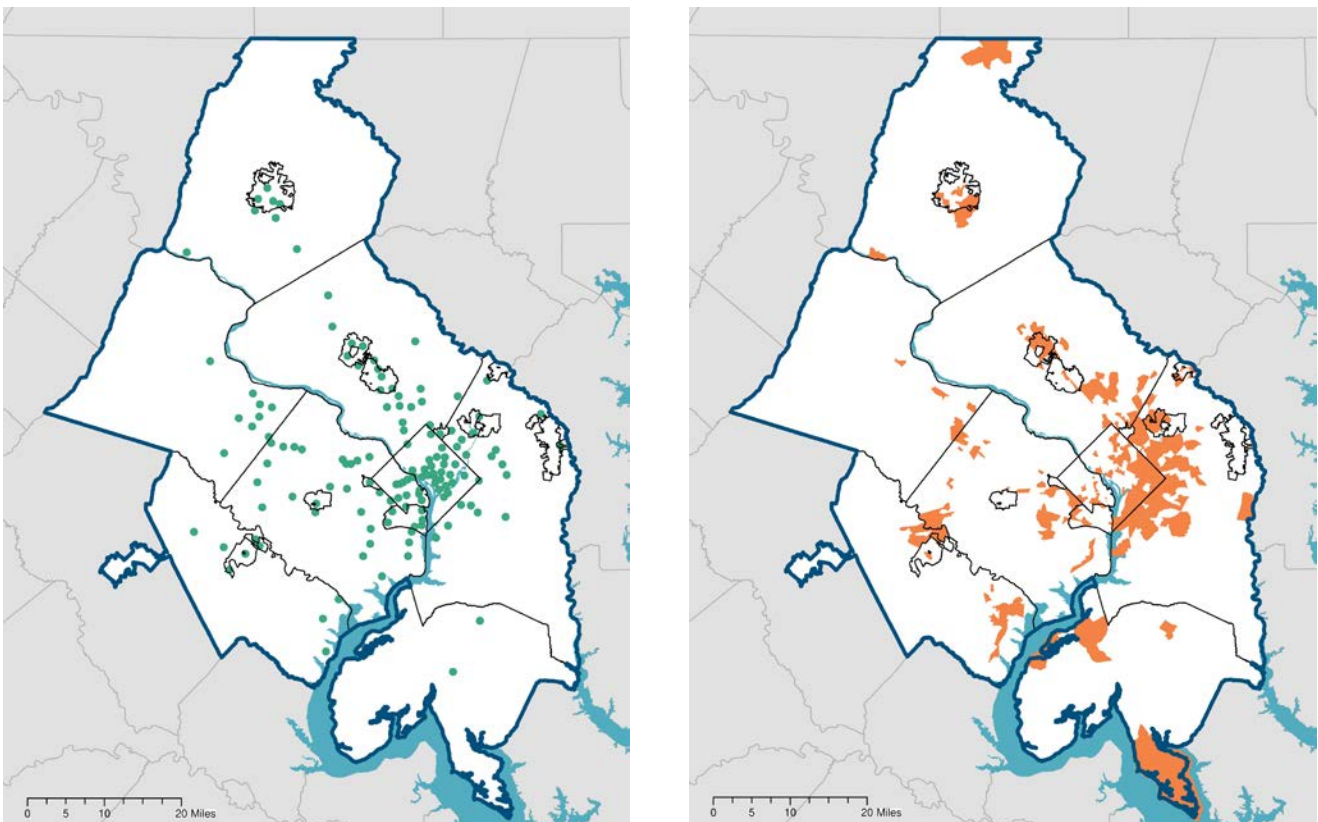
How to Request the RTS Public Files

To request the RTS Public Files so that you can prepare your own tabulations, please visit the following page: https://www.mwcog.org/transportation/data-and-tools/modeling/data-requests/

Questions

Should you have questions about these tabulations, please contact Ken Joh, kjoh@mwcog.org