

Trends in VMT Growth and Implications for Modeling and Planning

NYSAMPO Modeling Working Group

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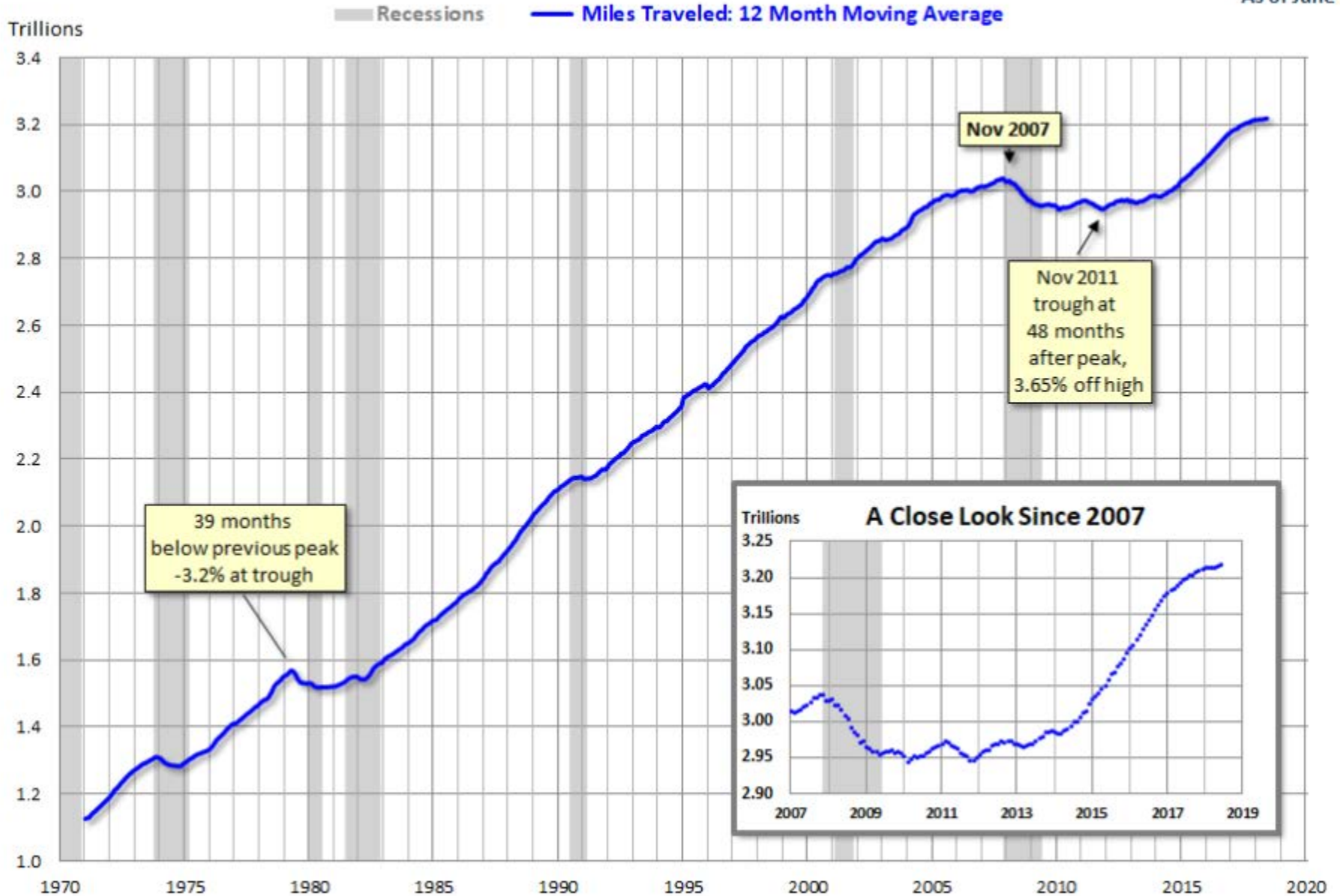
VMT Growth-Source: Advisor Perspectives

<http://www.advisorperspectives.com/dshort/updates/DOT-Miles-Traveled.php>



Estimated Vehicle Miles Traveled on All Roads

dshort.com
August 2018
As of June



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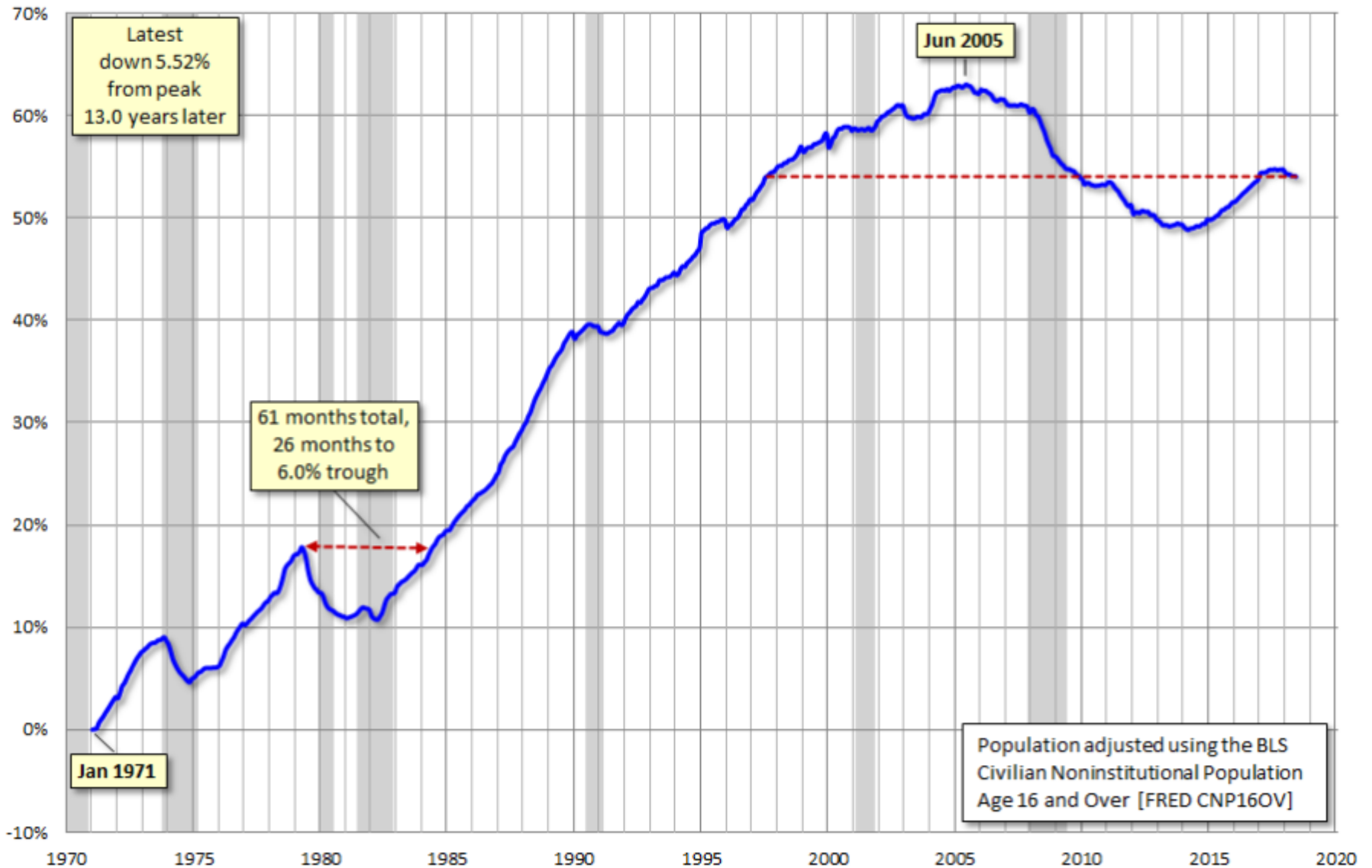
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Recessions Population-Adjusted Growth Current Level



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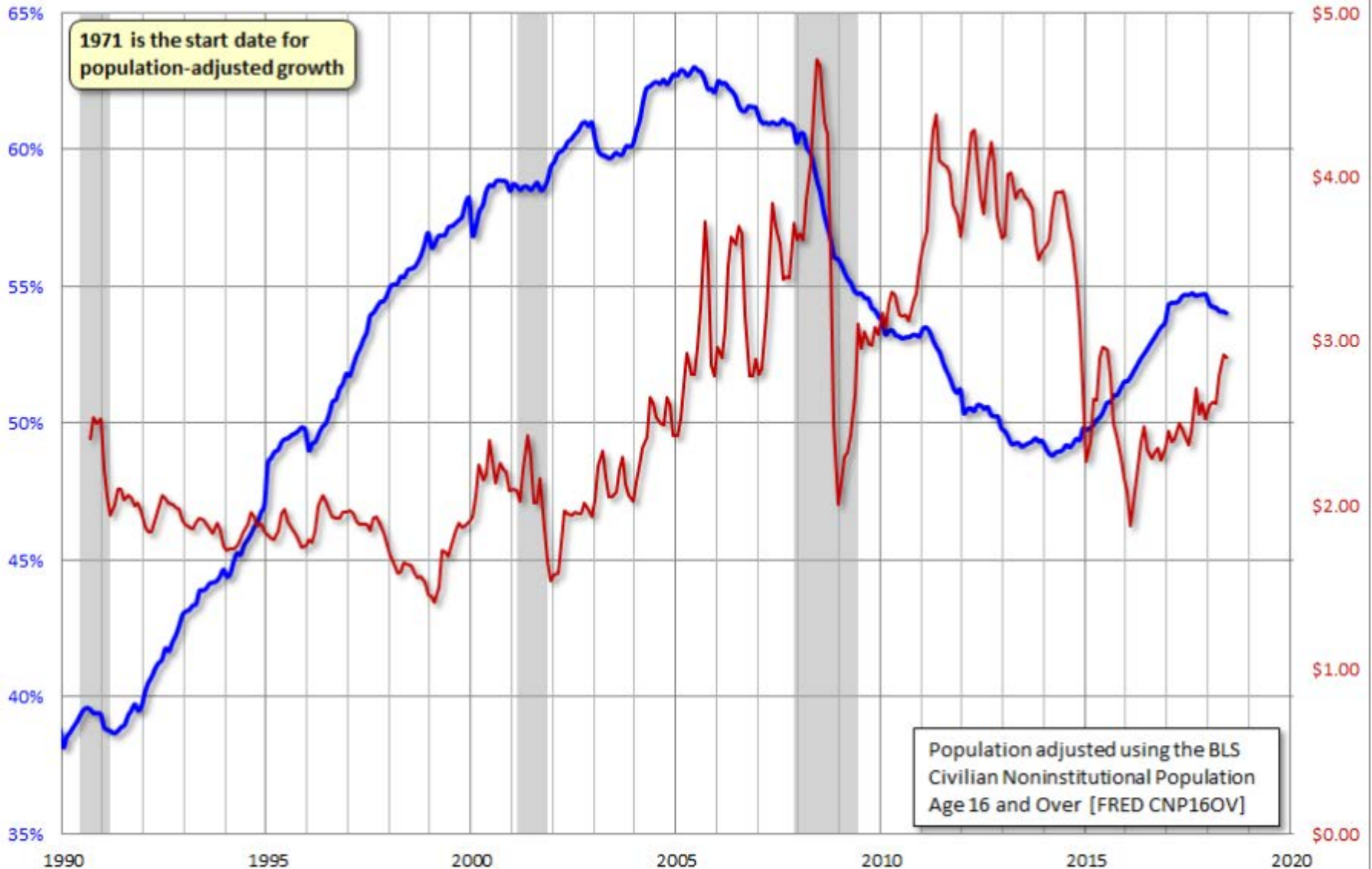
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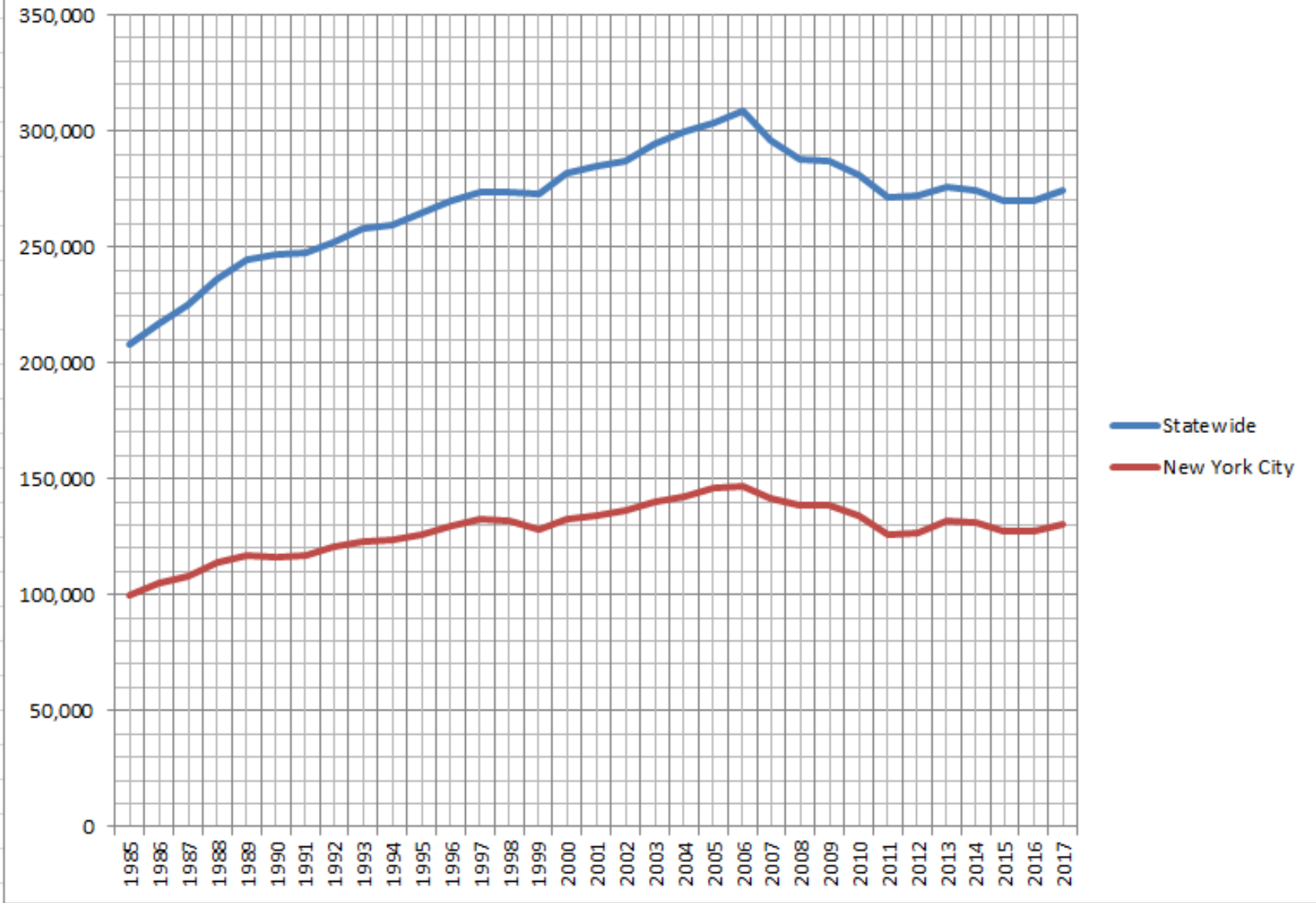
Estimated Vehicle Miles Traveled and Gasoline Prices

dshort.com
August 2018
As of June

Recessions Population-Adjusted Growth Real Gasoline Price

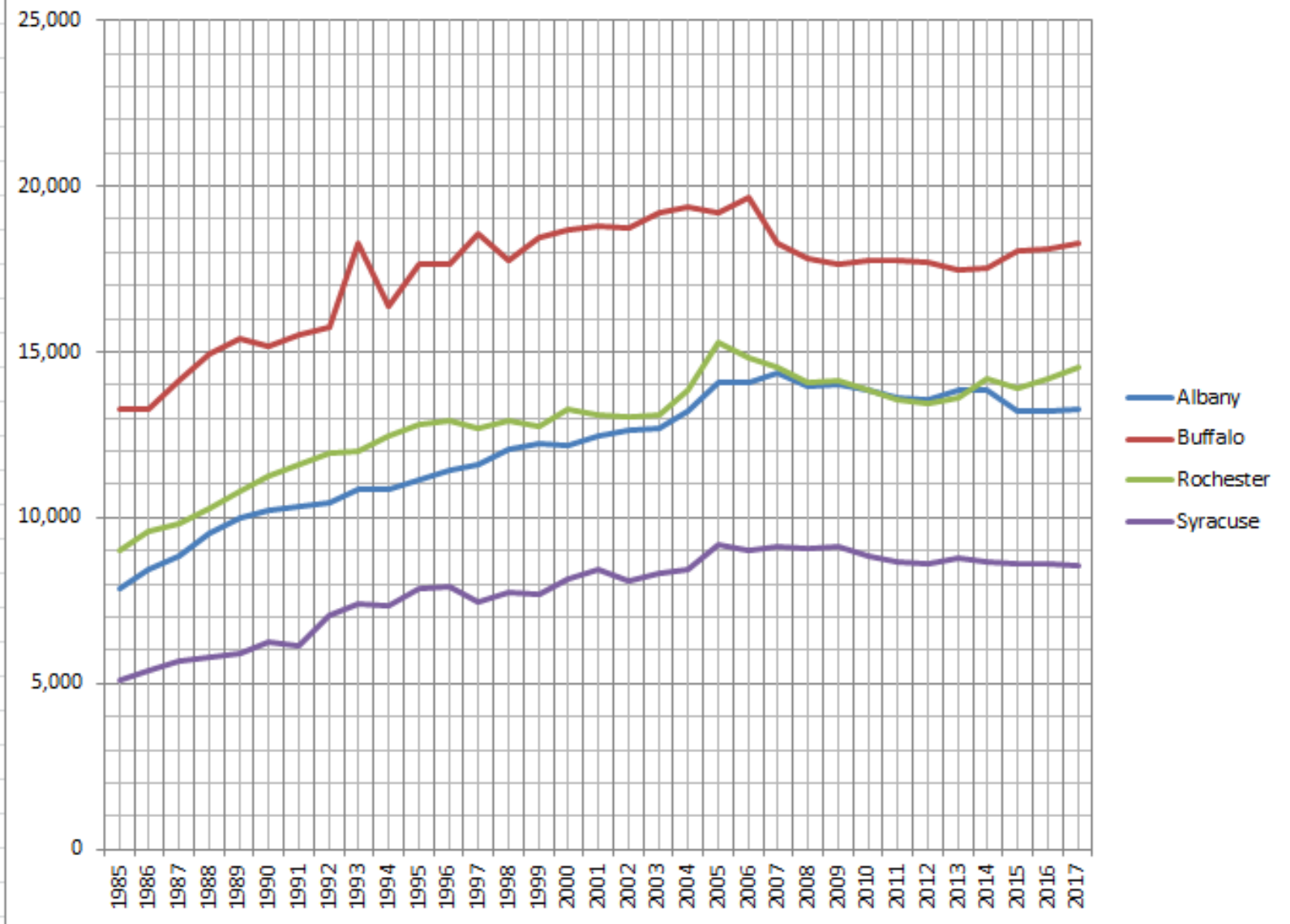


Annual Vehicle Miles Traveled on Federal Aid System in thousands of VMT



Statewide: 7% decline 2007-2017
41% increase 1985-2007

Annual Vehicle Miles Traveled on Federal Aid System in thousands of VMT



Albany: 8% decline 2007-2017
83% increase 1985-2007

Source: HPMS

Variables that affect travel behavior:

1. Millennials are preferring to own less cars and drive less.
2. Increasing popularity of cities and walkable neighborhoods.
3. The internet/mobile technology is replacing many trips.
4. As baby boomers retire, their auto travel may decline, especially in the commuting peak hours.
5. The popularity of transit increasing: smart fares, universities providing free transit for students, real time information, bus rapid transit, real time information, discovery of transit during the recession.
6. New options: carsharing, bike sharing, taxi-booking, services, and real-time ride sharing
7. The price of energy (gas, CNG, electric, renewables)—impossible to forecast for 2040.
8. Automated vehicles
9. **Scenario Planning incorporates uncertainty into the process**

Forecasting VMT is uncertain; we don't have a crystal ball; but recent trends make it hard to defend assuming high VMT growth rates of the past.

One solution can be scenario planning- what are the implications of different scenarios of VMT growth

NHTS should give us another important snapshot for model calibration- NYSDOT conducted a dialogue with the MWG in planning the NHTS last year.