COVID-19 Pandemic Impact on Average Person Miles Traveled

- Data based on anonymized cellphone location data that is updated daily.
- Includes all modes (car, train, bus, plane, bike, walk, etc.).
- A good proxy for overall travel in the region.
- Miles traveled is derived from trips, where a trip is counted if the end point is more than one mile from the person’s home, and the trip is more than 10 minutes; it does not count short trips like checking the mail.

The Average Person Miles Traveled measure is part of the overall Social Distancing Index measure. This measure includes all modes (car, train, bus, plane, bike, walk, etc.). There was a sharp decrease in this measure from March 13th to March 31st, with the five DVRPC Pennsylvania counties on average decreasing from 32 to 16 miles per person. The measure remained level from April 1st through mid-April, then gradually increased through mid-June, and then remained relatively flat through almost mid-August at 34. It then climbed during the next several weeks of August, coincidentally during the end of the summer vacation period, and then declined to its previous mid-August levels.

The Average Person Miles Traveled measure is part of the overall Social Distancing Index measure. This measure includes all modes (car, train, bus, plane, bike, walk, etc.). There was a sharp decrease in this measure from March 13th to March 31st, with the four DVRPC New Jersey counties on average decreasing from 39 to 20 miles per person. The measure remained level from April 1st through mid-April, then gradually increased through mid-June, and then remained relatively flat through almost mid-August at 37. It then climbed during the next several weeks of August, coincidentally during the end of the summer vacation period, and then declined to its previous mid-August levels.