



District of Columbia

STATE DATA CENTER MONTHLY BRIEF February 2016



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These indicators were derived from data produced by the U.S. Census Bureau and may differ from data produced by other entities.

Commuting to Work in the District of Columbia: 2014

Figure 1: Question on Commuting from the 2014 ACS

Introduction

Workers commute to their place of work using various types of transportation. This report provides information on the commuting patterns of workers 16 years and over in the District of Columbia. The data are from the 2000 Census and the 2014 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year estimates conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. One of the commuting questions from the 2014 ACS is displayed in Figure 1.

Means of Transportation to Work

In 2014, of the total 343,062 workers who reside in the District, 40.7 percent drove a car, truck, or van to work (35.1 percent drove alone and 5.6 percent carpooled), 36.1 percent used public transport, 13.1 percent walked to work, 3.9 percent used bicycle, 1.3 percent used taxicab, motorcycle, or other means of transport, and 5 percent worked at home.

Female workers used public transport to work at a rate of 38.2 percent, compared with 33.7 percent of male workers. About 4.8 percent of male workers biked to work, compared with 3.1 percent of female workers (Table 1).

Time Leaving Home to Go to Work

Of the total 326,050 workers in the District who did not work at home in 2014, about 18.2 percent left their home for work between 12:00 a.m. and 6:59 a.m., more than half (55.5 percent) left between 7:00 a.m. and 8:59 a.m., and 26.3 percent left between 9:00 a.m. and 11:59 p.m.

How did this person usually get to work LAST WEEK? If this person usually used more than one method of transportation during the trip, mark (X) the box of the one used for the most distance.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Car, truck or van | <input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bus or trolley bus | <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Streetcar or trolley car | <input type="checkbox"/> Walked |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Subway or elevated | <input type="checkbox"/> Worked at home –
<i>SKIP to question 39a</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Railroad | <input type="checkbox"/> Other method |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ferryboat | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Taxicab | |

Travel Time to Work

Of the total 326,050 workers in the District who did not work at home in 2014, about 5.9 percent took less than 10 minutes to get to work, 43.4 percent took 10 to 29 minutes to get to work, 42.9 percent took 30 to 59 minutes to get to work, and 7.8 percent took 60 or longer minutes to get to work. In 2014, workers in the District of Columbia took an average of 29.3 minutes to get to work.

Table 1. Workers 16 Years and Over by Means of Transportation to Work, Place of Work, Time Leaving Home and Travel Time to Work and by Sex: 2014

Subject	Total		Male		Female	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Workers 16 years and over	343,062	+/-5,802	165,714	+/-3,554	177,348	+/-4,230
MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK						
Car, truck, or van	40.7%	+/-1.6	41.4%	+/-2.1	40.1%	+/-2.2
Drove alone	35.1%	+/-1.4	36.4%	+/-2.1	34.0%	+/-2.1
Carpooled	5.6%	+/-0.6	5.0%	+/-0.8	6.2%	+/-0.9
In 2-person carpool	4.3%	+/-0.5	3.6%	+/-0.6	4.9%	+/-0.8
In 3-person carpool	1.0%	+/-0.3	1.1%	+/-0.4	1.0%	+/-0.3
In 4-or-more person carpool	0.3%	+/-0.3	0.3%	+/-0.4	0.3%	+/-0.2
Public transportation	36.1%	+/-1.5	33.7%	+/-2.1	38.2%	+/-2.2
Walked	13.1%	+/-1.0	13.6%	+/-1.6	12.6%	+/-1.2
Bicycle	3.9%	+/-0.5	4.8%	+/-0.7	3.1%	+/-0.6
Taxicab, motorcycle, or other means	1.3%	+/-0.3	1.5%	+/-0.5	1.1%	+/-0.4
Worked at home	5.0%	+/-0.6	5.0%	+/-0.9	4.9%	+/-0.9
Workers 16 years and over who did not work at home	326,050	+/-5,896	157,370	+/-3,768	168,680	+/-4,414
TIME LEAVING HOME TO GO TO WORK						
12:00 a.m. to 4:59 a.m.	1.9%	+/-0.4	2.5%	+/-0.7	1.3%	+/-0.4
5:00 a.m. to 5:29 a.m.	2.4%	+/-0.4	3.2%	+/-0.7	1.7%	+/-0.6
5:30 a.m. to 5:59 a.m.	2.6%	+/-0.5	2.8%	+/-0.7	2.3%	+/-0.6
6:00 a.m. to 6:29 a.m.	5.0%	+/-0.6	4.2%	+/-0.7	5.7%	+/-0.9
6:30 a.m. to 6:59 a.m.	6.3%	+/-0.8	6.5%	+/-1.1	6.1%	+/-0.9
7:00 a.m. to 7:29 a.m.	11.2%	+/-1.0	12.0%	+/-1.3	10.5%	+/-1.3
7:30 a.m. to 7:59 a.m.	10.9%	+/-0.8	9.6%	+/-1.2	12.0%	+/-1.1
8:00 a.m. to 8:29 a.m.	19.7%	+/-1.0	20.5%	+/-1.5	19.0%	+/-1.4
8:30 a.m. to 8:59 a.m.	13.7%	+/-0.9	13.1%	+/-1.3	14.3%	+/-1.2
9:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m.	26.3%	+/-1.3	25.5%	+/-1.9	27.1%	+/-2.0
TRAVEL TIME TO WORK						
Less than 10 minutes	5.9%	+/-0.8	6.5%	+/-1.2	5.4%	+/-1.0
10 to 14 minutes	7.3%	+/-0.6	7.6%	+/-1.1	7.1%	+/-1.0
15 to 19 minutes	12.1%	+/-1.0	12.8%	+/-1.4	11.4%	+/-1.3
20 to 24 minutes	16.1%	+/-1.1	15.3%	+/-1.4	16.7%	+/-1.5
25 to 29 minutes	7.9%	+/-0.7	7.9%	+/-1.1	7.8%	+/-0.8
30 to 34 minutes	21.0%	+/-1.3	21.6%	+/-1.7	20.5%	+/-1.9
35 to 44 minutes	11.2%	+/-0.9	11.1%	+/-1.3	11.3%	+/-1.3
45 to 59 minutes	10.7%	+/-0.9	9.9%	+/-1.3	11.4%	+/-1.2
60 or more minutes	7.8%	+/-0.8	7.2%	+/-1.0	8.4%	+/-1.2
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	29.3	+/-0.6	28.8	+/-0.9	29.7	+/-0.8

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey

Means of Transportation to Work by Nativity of Workers

Of the total 343,062 workers in the District in 2014, 284,662 workers (83 percent) were native-born and 58,400 workers (17 percent) were foreign-born. Native-born workers drove a car, truck, or van to work at a rate of 41.3 percent, compared with 37.9 percent of foreign-born workers. About 35.9 percent of native-born workers used public transport to work, compared with 36.8 percent of foreign-born workers. 17.7 percent of native-born workers used taxicab, motorcycle, bicycle, walk, or other means to work, compared with 21.1 percent of foreign-born workers, and 5.1 percent of native-born workers worked at home, compared with 4.2 percent of foreign-born (Table 2).

Table 2. Workers 16 Years and Over by Means of Transportation to Work and by Nativity: 2014

Means of transportation	Total		Native		Foreign-born					
					Total		Naturalized U.S. citizen		Not a U.S. citizen	
	Estimate	%	Estimate	%	Estimate	%	Estimate	%	Estimate	%
Total workers 16 years and over	343,062	100.0	284,662	100.0	58,400	100.0	22,510	100.0	35,890	100.0
MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION										
Car, truck, or van	139,694	40.7	117,559	41.3	22,135	37.9	10,593	47.1	11,542	32.2
Drove alone	120,528	35.1	102,197	35.9	18,331	31.4	9,214	40.9	9,117	25.4
Carpooled	19,166	5.6	15,362	5.4	3,804	6.5	1,379	6.1	2,425	6.8
Public transportation	123,707	36.1	102,192	35.9	21,515	36.8	6,677	29.7	14,838	41.3
Taxicab, motorcycle, bicycle, walked, or other means	62,649	18.3	50,355	17.7	12,294	21.1	4,284	19.0	8,010	22.3
Worked at home	17,012	5.0	14,556	5.1	2,456	4.2	956	4.2	1,500	4.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey

Means of Transportation to Work by Place of Work

In 2014, of the total 343,062 workers who reside in the District of Columbia, 259,894 workers (75.8 percent) worked in the District, while 83,168 workers (24.2 percent) worked outside the District. Workers who worked outside the District drove a car, truck or van at a rate of 63.2 percent (56.4 percent drove alone and 6.8 percent carpooled), compared with 33.5 percent of workers who worked in the District (Table 3).

Table 3. Workers 16 Years and Over by Means of Transportation to Work and by Place of Work: 2014

Subject	Total		Worked in state of residence		Worked outside state of residence	
	Estimate	%	Estimate	%	Estimate	%
Total workers 16 years and over	343,062	100.0	259,894	100.0	83,168	100.0
MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION						
Car, truck, or van	139,694	40.7	87,116	33.5	52,578	63.2
Drove alone	120,528	35.1	73,630	28.3	46,898	56.4
Carpooled	19,166	5.6	13,486	5.2	5,680	6.8
Public transportation	123,707	36.1	98,324	37.8	25,383	30.5
Taxicab, motorcycle, bicycle, walked, or other means	62,649	18.3	57,442	22.1	5,207	6.3
Worked at home	17,012	5.0	17,012	6.5	X	X

X = not applicable

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey

Commuting Trends (2000 to 2014)

From 2000 to 2014, the percentage of workers who drove a car, truck, or van to work showed a declining trend. In 2014, about 40.7 percent of workers in the District drove a car, truck, or van to work, down from 49.4 percent in 2000. On the other hand, the percentage of workers who used public transport, bicycle, and walking to work showed increasing trends. In 2014, 36.1 percent of workers used public transport to work compared with 32.4 percent in 2000.

The percentage of workers who walked to work increased from 11.8 percent in 2000 to 13.1 percent in 2014. Similarly, the percentage of workers who biked to work increased from 1.2 percent in 2000 to 3.9 percent in 2014. The number of workers who biked to work increased from 3,035 in 2000 to 10,295 in 2014, experiencing the highest percentage increase at 339.2 percent (Table 4).

Table 4. Workers 16 Years and Over by Means of Transportation, Time Leaving Home, and Travel Time to Work: 2000 and 2014

Subject	2000		2014		Change, 2000 to 2014	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Workers 16 years and over	260,884	100.0	343,062	100.0	82,178	31.5
MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION						
Car, truck, or van	128,775	49.4	139,694	40.7	10,919	8.5
Drove alone	100,168	38.4	120,528	35.1	20,360	20.3
Carpooled	28,607	11.0	19,166	5.6	-9,441	-33.0
In 2-person carpool	21,430	8.2	14,644	4.3	-6,786	-31.7
In 3-person carpool	4,459	1.7	3,486	1.0	-973	-21.8
In 4-person carpool	1,266	0.5	437	0.1	-829	-65.5
In 5- or 6-person carpool	951	0.4	599	0.2	-352	-37.0
In 7-or-more-person carpool	501	0.2	0	0.0	-501	-100.0
Public transportation	84,460	32.4	123,707	36.1	39,247	46.5
Taxicab	2,033	0.8	1,861	0.5	-172	-8.5
Motorcycle	202	0.1	724	0.2	522	258.4
Bicycle	3,035	1.2	13,330	3.9	10,295	339.2
Walked	30,785	11.8	44,965	13.1	14,180	46.1
Other means	1,664	0.6	1,769	0.5	105	6.3
Worked at home	9,930	3.8	17,012	5.0	7,082	71.3
PLACE OF WORK						
Worked in state of residence	190,566	73.0	259,894	75.8	69,328	36.4
Worked outside state of residence	70,318	27.0	83,168	24.2	12,850	18.3
TRAVEL TIME TO WORK						
Workers who did not work at home	250,954	100.0	326,050	100.0	75,096	29.9
Less than 10 minutes	16,186	6.4	19,296	5.9	3,110	19.2
10 to 14 minutes	23,202	9.2	23,879	7.3	677	2.9
15 to 19 minutes	34,257	13.7	39,454	12.1	5,197	15.2
20 to 24 minutes	40,556	16.2	52,376	16.1	11,820	29.1
25 to 29 minutes	17,102	6.8	25,631	7.9	8,529	49.9
30 to 34 minutes	50,138	20.0	68,477	21.0	18,339	36.6
35 to 44 minutes	21,266	8.5	36,518	11.2	15,252	71.7
45 to 59 minutes	25,167	10.0	34,827	10.7	9,660	38.4

Table 4. Workers 16 Years and Over by Means of Transportation, Time Leaving Home, and Travel Time to Work: 2000 and 2014 (cont)

Subject	2000		2014		Change 2000 to 2014	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
60 or more minutes	23,080	9.1	25,592	7.8	2,512	10.9
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	29.7	(X)	29.3	(X)	-0.4	-1.3
TIME LEAVING HOME TO GO TO WORK						
Workers who did not work at home	250,954	100.0	326,050	100.0	75,096	29.9
12:00 a.m. to 4:59 a.m.	5,398	2.2	6,214	1.9	816	15.1
5:00 a.m. to 5:29 a.m.	5,001	2.0	7,857	2.4	2,856	57.1
5:30 a.m. to 5:59 a.m.	6,829	2.7	8,333	2.6	1,504	22.0
6:00 a.m. to 6:29 a.m.	14,820	5.9	16,280	5.0	1,460	9.9
6:30 a.m. to 6:59 a.m.	16,778	6.7	20,597	6.3	3,819	22.8
7:00 a.m. to 7:29 a.m.	29,542	11.8	36,588	11.2	7,046	23.9
7:30 a.m. to 7:59 a.m.	36,043	14.4	35,489	10.9	-554	-1.5
8:00 a.m. to 8:29 a.m.	44,436	17.7	64,225	19.7	19,789	44.5
8:30 a.m. to 8:59 a.m.	31,140	12.4	44,662	13.7	13,522	43.4
9:00 a.m. to 9:59 a.m.	24,271	9.7	36,639	11.2	12,368	51.0
10:00 a.m. to 10:59 a.m.	7,678	3.1	12,014	3.7	4,336	56.5
11:00 a.m. to 11:59 a.m.	3,100	1.2	3,783	1.2	683	22.0
12:00 p.m. to 3:59 p.m.	13,252	5.3	17,110	5.2	3,858	29.1
4:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.	12,666	5.0	16,259	5.0	3,593	28.4
(X) = Not applicable						
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2014 American Community Survey						

National Commuting Patterns 2014

Of the total 145,870,653 workers 16 years and over in the United States in 2014, 85.7 percent drove a car, truck, or van to work (76.5 percent drove alone and 9.2 percent carpooled), 5.2 percent used public transport, 4.5 percent worked at home, 2.7 percent walked to work, and 1.9 percent used taxicab, motorcycle, bicycle, or other means of transportation.

Among the nation's 50 largest cities in 2014, New York had the highest percentage of public transport commuters at 57.1 percent, followed by Washington DC (36.1 percent), San Francisco (34 percent), and Boston (34 percent).

Among the nation's 50 largest cities in 2014, Boston had the highest percentage of workers (14.3 percent) who walked to work, followed by Washington DC (13.1 percent), and San Francisco (11.2 percent).

Among the nation's 50 largest cities in 2014, Portland had the highest percentage of workers (7.2 percent) who biked to work, followed by Minneapolis (4.6 percent), San Francisco (4.4 percent) and Washington DC (3.9 percent).

For more information contact:
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