

District of Columbia

STATE DATA CENTER MONTHLY BRIEF

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Commuting to Work in the District of Columbia: 2012

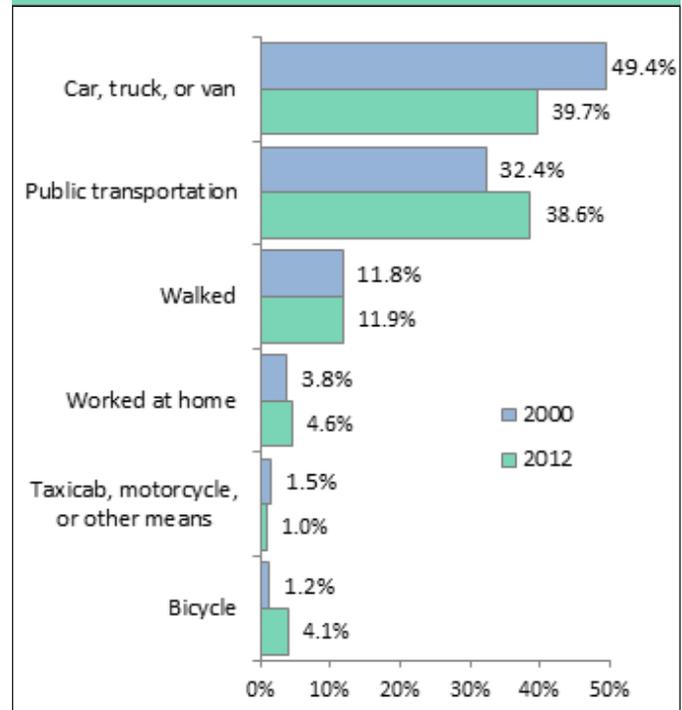
Introduction

Workers commute to their work place using various types of transportation. This report provides information on the patterns of commuting for workers 16 years and over in the District of Columbia using data from the 2000 Census and the 2012 American Community Survey (ACS 1-Year Estimates) conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Commuting Highlights for District of Columbia

- The percentage of workers who drove a car, truck, or van to work decreased from 49.4 percent in 2000 to 39.7 percent in 2012 (Fig. 1).
- Workers who used public transportation to work increased from 32.4 percent in 2000 to 38.6 percent in 2012.
- Percentage of workers who worked at home increased from 3.8 percent in 2000 to 4.6 percent in 2012.
- Percentage of workers who biked to work increased from 1.2 percent in 2000 to 4.1 percent in 2012.
- Mean travel time to work slightly increased from 29.7 minutes in 2000 to 29.9 minutes in 2012.
- In 2012, 9.5 percent of District of Columbia workers who did not work at home had commutes of 60 minutes or longer to get to work.
- In 2012, among 50 cities with most workers 16 years and over, Washington D.C. had the second highest percentage of public transportation commuters (38.6 percent), next to New York City at 55.9 percent.
- The percentage of workers who walked to work slightly increased from 11.8 percent in 2000 to 11.9 percent in 2012.
- The percentage of District residents who worked outside the District decreased from 27 percent in 2000 to 24.4 percent in 2012 (Table 1).

Figure 1. Percentage of Workers by Means of Transportation to Work: 2000 and 2012



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and 2012 ACS

Table 1. Workers 16 Years and Over by Means of Transportation, Time Leaving Home, and Travel Time to Work: 2000 and 2012

Subject	2000		2012		Change, 2000 to 2012	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Workers 16 years and over	260,884	100.0	326,143	100.0	65,259	(X)
MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION						
Car, truck, or van	128,775	49.4	129,484	39.7	709	-9.7
Drove alone	100,168	38.4	111,088	34.1	10,920	-4.3
Carpooled	28,607	11.0	18,396	5.6	-10,211	-5.4
In 2-person carpool	21,430	8.2	13,645	4.2	-7,785	-4.0
In 3-person carpool	4,459	1.7	3,076	0.9	-1,383	-0.8
In 4-person carpool	1,266	0.5	973	0.3	-293	-0.2
In 5- or 6-person carpool	951	0.4	344	0.1	-607	-0.3
In 7-or-more-person carpool	501	0.2	358	0.1	-143	-0.1
Workers per car, truck, or van	1.14	(X)	1.09	(X)	-0.05	(X)
Public transportation	84,460	32.4	125,890	38.6	41,430	6.2
Bus or trolley bus	38,163	14.6	52,963	16.2	14,800	1.6
Streetcar or trolley car	299	0.1	882	0.3	583	0.2
Subway or elevated	45,412	17.4	70,781	21.7	25,369	4.3
Railroad	577	0.2	1,264	0.4	687	0.2
Ferryboat	9	0.0	0	0.0	-9	0.0
Taxicab	2,033	0.8	1,552	0.5	-481	-0.3
Motorcycle	202	0.1	357	0.1	155	0.0
Bicycle	3,035	1.2	13,493	4.1	10,458	2.9
Walked	30,785	11.8	38,795	11.9	8,010	0.1
Other means	1,664	0.6	1,443	0.4	-221	-0.2
Worked at home	9,930	3.8	15,129	4.6	5,199	0.8
PLACE OF WORK						
Worked in state of residence	190,566	73.0	246,634	75.6	56,068	2.6
Worked outside state of residence	70,318	27.0	79,509	24.4	9,191	-2.6
TRAVEL TIME TO WORK						
Workers who did not work at home	250,954	100.0	311,014	100.0	60,060	(X)
Less than 10 minutes	16,186	6.4	16,926	5.4	740	-1.0
10 to 14 minutes	23,202	9.2	24,275	7.8	1,073	-1.4
15 to 19 minutes	34,257	13.7	40,295	13.0	6,038	-0.7
20 to 24 minutes	40,556	16.2	50,417	16.2	9,861	0.0
25 to 29 minutes	17,102	6.8	21,448	6.9	4,346	0.1
30 to 34 minutes	50,138	20.0	62,901	20.2	12,763	0.2
35 to 44 minutes	21,266	8.5	31,652	10.2	10,386	1.7
45 to 59 minutes	25,167	10.0	33,629	10.8	8,462	0.8
60 or more minutes	23,080	9.1	29,471	9.5	6,391	0.4
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	29.7	(X)	29.9	(X)	0.2	(X)
TIME LEAVING HOME TO GO TO WORK						
Workers who did not work at home	250,954	100.0	311,014	100.0	60,060	(X)
12:00 a.m. to 4:59 a.m.	5,398	2.2	4,892	1.6	-506	-0.6
5:00 a.m. to 5:29 a.m.	5,001	2.0	6,881	2.2	1,880	0.2
5:30 a.m. to 5:59 a.m.	6,829	2.7	8,609	2.8	1,780	0.0
6:00 a.m. to 6:29 a.m.	14,820	5.9	17,855	5.7	3,035	-0.2
6:30 a.m. to 6:59 a.m.	16,778	6.7	17,487	5.6	709	-1.1
7:00 a.m. to 7:29 a.m.	29,542	11.8	35,394	11.4	5,852	-0.4
7:30 a.m. to 7:59 a.m.	36,043	14.4	39,418	12.7	3,375	-1.7
8:00 a.m. to 8:29 a.m.	44,436	17.7	56,036	18.0	11,600	0.3
8:30 a.m. to 8:59 a.m.	31,140	12.4	45,087	14.5	13,947	2.1
9:00 a.m. to 9:59 a.m.	24,271	9.7	34,912	11.2	10,641	1.6
10:00 a.m. to 10:59 a.m.	7,678	3.1	10,933	3.5	3,255	0.5
11:00 a.m. to 11:59 a.m.	3,100	1.2	3,936	1.3	836	0.0
12:00 p.m. to 3:59 p.m.	13,252	5.3	17,048	5.5	3,796	0.2
4:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.	12,666	5.0	12,526	4.0	-140	-1.0

(x) Not applicable

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division 2013 estimate

Means of Transportation by Sex of Workers

In 2012, of the total 326,143 workers 16 years and over in the District of Columbia, 158,512 or 48.6 percent were male workers and 167,631 or 51.4 percent were female workers (Table 2). Forty-two percent of the female workers in the District used public transportation to work, compared with 35.4 percent of male workers. On the other hand, 5.5 percent of male workers biked to work, compared with 2.9 percent of female workers. Of the 13,493 workers who commuted by bicycle to work in the District in 2012, 64.3 percent were male workers while 35.7 percent were female workers.

Table 2. Workers 16 years and Over by Means of Transportation to Work, Place of Work, Time Leaving Home, & Travel Time to Work: 2012

Subject	Total		Male		Female	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Workers 16 years and over	326,143	+/-6,312	158,512	+/-4,247	167,631	+/-4,130
MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION						
Car, truck, or van	39.7%	+/-1.5	40.7%	+/-2.0	38.8%	+/-1.8
Drove alone	34.1%	+/-1.4	35.1%	+/-2.1	33.0%	+/-1.6
Carpooled	5.6%	+/-0.7	5.6%	+/-0.8	5.7%	+/-0.9
In 2-person carpool	4.2%	+/-0.5	4.0%	+/-0.6	4.4%	+/-0.8
In 3-person carpool	0.9%	+/-0.3	1.2%	+/-0.5	0.7%	+/-0.2
In 4-or-more person carpool	0.5%	+/-0.2	0.3%	+/-0.2	0.7%	+/-0.3
Workers per car, truck, or van	1.09	+/-0.01	1.08	+/-0.01	1.09	+/-0.01
Public transportation (excluding taxicab)	38.6%	+/-1.6	35.4%	+/-2.0	41.6%	+/-2.1
Walked	11.9%	+/-1.1	12.6%	+/-1.6	11.2%	+/-1.2
Bicycle	4.1%	+/-0.8	5.5%	+/-1.0	2.9%	+/-0.8
Taxicab, motorcycle, or other means	1.0%	+/-0.3	1.3%	+/-0.5	0.8%	+/-0.5
Worked at home	4.6%	+/-0.6	4.6%	+/-0.8	4.7%	+/-0.9
PLACE OF WORK						
Worked in state of residence	75.6%	+/-1.1	72.8%	+/-1.6	78.3%	+/-1.5
Worked outside state of residence	24.4%	+/-1.1	27.2%	+/-1.6	21.7%	+/-1.5
Workers 16 years and over who did not work at home	311,014	+/-6,284	151,288	+/-4,197	159,726	+/-4,271
TIME LEAVING HOME TO GO TO WORK						
12:00 a.m. to 4:59 a.m.	1.6%	+/-0.4	2.0%	+/-0.5	1.1%	+/-0.5
5:00 a.m. to 5:29 a.m.	2.2%	+/-0.5	3.2%	+/-0.8	1.3%	+/-0.5
5:30 a.m. to 5:59 a.m.	2.8%	+/-0.5	3.3%	+/-0.8	2.3%	+/-0.6
6:00 a.m. to 6:29 a.m.	5.7%	+/-0.7	6.0%	+/-1.1	5.4%	+/-1.0
6:30 a.m. to 6:59 a.m.	5.6%	+/-0.7	4.7%	+/-1.0	6.5%	+/-0.8
7:00 a.m. to 7:29 a.m.	11.4%	+/-1.0	11.7%	+/-1.3	11.1%	+/-1.5
7:30 a.m. to 7:59 a.m.	12.7%	+/-1.0	12.6%	+/-1.6	12.7%	+/-1.2
8:00 a.m. to 8:29 a.m.	18.0%	+/-1.2	17.5%	+/-1.6	18.5%	+/-1.8
8:30 a.m. to 8:59 a.m.	14.5%	+/-1.0	13.2%	+/-1.2	15.7%	+/-1.6
9:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m.	25.5%	+/-1.2	25.8%	+/-1.9	25.2%	+/-1.6
TRAVEL TIME TO WORK						
Less than 10 minutes	5.4%	+/-0.7	6.4%	+/-1.1	4.5%	+/-0.8
10 to 14 minutes	7.8%	+/-0.8	7.4%	+/-1.0	8.2%	+/-1.2
15 to 19 minutes	13.0%	+/-1.1	14.2%	+/-1.4	11.8%	+/-1.6
20 to 24 minutes	16.2%	+/-1.2	16.1%	+/-1.6	16.3%	+/-1.4
25 to 29 minutes	6.9%	+/-0.9	7.0%	+/-1.1	6.8%	+/-1.1
30 to 34 minutes	20.2%	+/-1.4	20.4%	+/-1.8	20.1%	+/-1.7
35 to 44 minutes	10.2%	+/-1.0	8.8%	+/-1.1	11.4%	+/-1.5
45 to 59 minutes	10.8%	+/-0.9	10.2%	+/-1.0	11.4%	+/-1.2
60 or more minutes	9.5%	+/-0.8	9.5%	+/-1.3	9.4%	+/-1.2
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	29.9	+/-0.6	29.6	+/-0.9	30.3	+/-0.8

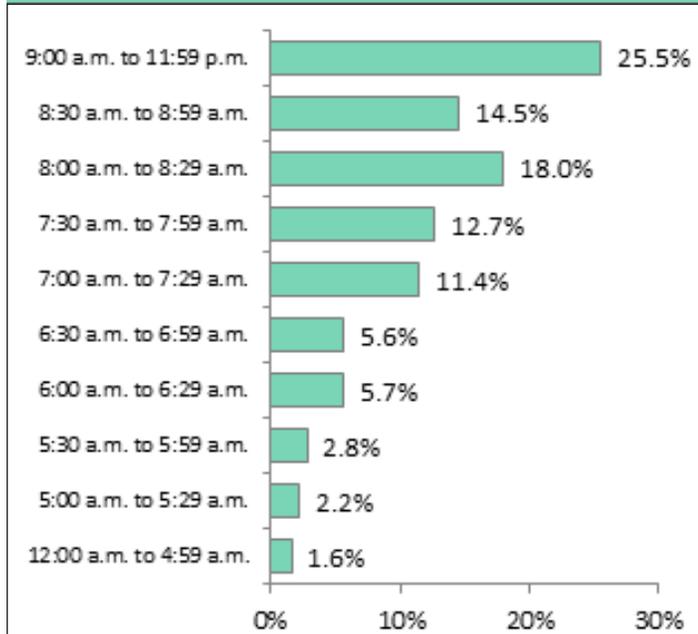
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

Journey to Work

Of the total 311,014 workers who did not work at home in 2012, about 17.9 percent left their home for work between 12:00 a.m. to 6:59 a.m., more than half or 56.6 percent left their home for work between 7:00 a.m. to 8:59 a.m., and the remaining 25.5 percent left their home for work between 9:00 a.m. to 11:59 a.m. (Figure 2).

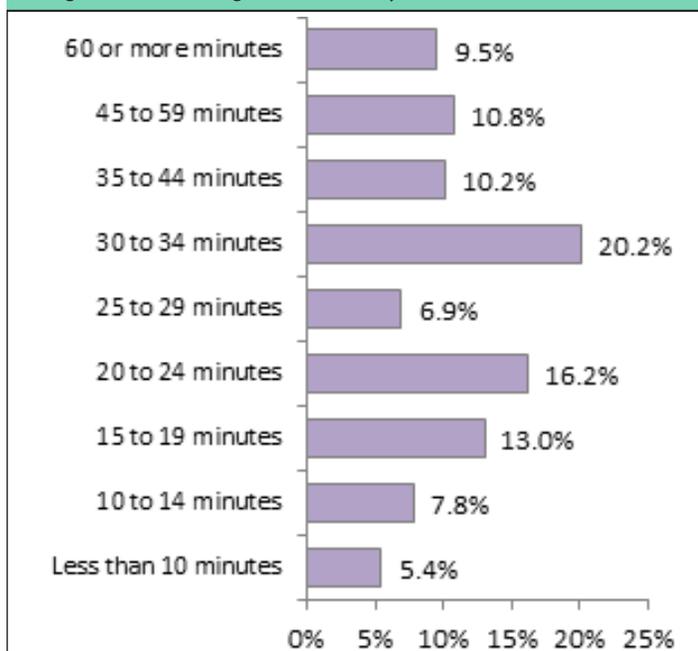
Of the total 311,014 workers who did not work at home in 2012, about 5.4 percent took less than 10 minutes to get to work, 43.9 percent of workers took 10 to 29 minutes to get to work; 41.2 percent took 30 to 59 minutes to get to work; and 9.5 percent took 60 or longer minutes to get to work (Figure 3).

Figure 2. Percentage of Workers by Time Leaving Home to go to Work: 2012



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey (ACS)

Figure 3. Percentage of Workers by Travel Time to Work: 2012



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey (ACS)

Place of Work

In 2012, of the total 326,143 workers 16 years and over who reside in the District of Columbia, 246,634 workers (75.6 percent) worked in the District, while 79,509 workers (24.4 percent) worked outside the District (Table 3). About 61.9 percent of workers who worked outside the District drove a car, truck, or van to work (54.7 percent drove alone and 7.2 percent carpoled), compared with only 32.6 percent of workers who worked in the District. About 33.8 percent of workers who worked outside the District used public transportation, compared with 40.2 percent of workers who worked in the District. Only 2 percent of workers who worked outside the District walked to work, compared with 15.1 percent of workers who worked in the District.

Nativity of Workers

The transportation choices of the foreign-born are similar to those of the native-born. In 2012, of the total 326,143 workers 16 years and over in the District of Columbia, 267,133 workers (81.9 percent) were native-born, while 59,010 workers (18.1 percent) were foreign-born. In 2012, 39.6 percent of native-born workers drove a car, truck, or van to work, compared with 40.2 percent of foreign-born workers; 38.4 percent of native-born workers used public transportation to work, compared with 39.5 percent of the foreign-born workers; and 12.0 percent of native-born workers walked to work, compared with 11.4 percent of the foreign-born workers (Table 4).

National Commuting Patterns: 2012

Of the total 140,862,960 workers 16 years and over in the United States in 2012, 86 percent drove a car, truck, or van to work (76.3 percent drove alone and 9.7 percent carpoled), 5 percent used public transportation, 4.4 percent worked at home, 2.8 percent walked to work, 1.2 percent used taxicab, motorcycle, or other means of transportation, and 0.6 percent commuted by bicycle to work.

Among the 50 cities with most workers 16 years and over in 2012, Washington D.C. had the second highest percentage of public transportation commuters (38.6 percent), next to New York City at 55.9 percent. Boston (34.6 percent) ranked 3rd and San Francisco ranked 4th at 33.1 percent. Washington D.C. had also the second highest percentage of workers (11.9 percent) who walked to work, next to Boston at 15.5 percent.

Among the 50 cities with most workers 16 years and over in 2012, Portland ranked first with 6.1 percent of workers commuted by bicycle to work followed by Minneapolis at 4.5 percent. Washington D.C. ranked 3rd with 4.1 percent of workers commuted by bicycle to work in 2012.

Among the 50 cities with most workers 16 years and over in 2012, Atlanta ranked first with 8.1 percent of workers worked at home, followed by Portland 7.9 percent, and Seattle 7 percent. Washington D.C. ranked 19th with 4.6 percent of workers worked at home in 2012.

Table 3. Workers 16 Years and Over by Place of Work and Means of Transportation to Work: 2012

Subject	Total		Worked in state of residence		Worked outside state of residence	
	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent
Workers 16 years and over	326,143	100.0	246,634	100.0	79,509	100.0
MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK						
Car, truck, or van	129,484	39.7	80,298	32.6	49,186	61.9
Drove alone	111,088	34.1	67,600	27.4	43,488	54.7
Carpooled	18,396	5.6	12,698	5.1	5,698	7.2
Public transportation	125,890	38.6	99,040	40.2	26,850	33.8
Walked	38,795	11.9	37,225	15.1	1,570	2.0
Taxicab, motorcycle, bicycle, or other means	16,845	5.2	14,942	6.1	1,903	2.4
Worked at home	15,129	4.6	15,129	6.1	(X)	(X)

(x) Not applicable

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

Table 3. Workers 16 Years and Over by Place of Work and Means of Transportation to Work: 2012

Subject	Total		Native		Foreign-born					
					Total		Naturalized U.S. citizen		Not a U.S. citizen	
	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent
Workers 16 years and over	326,143	100	267,133	100	59,010	100	24,372	100	34,638	100
MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK										
Car, truck, or van	129,484	39.7	105,766	39.6	23,718	40.2	12,866	52.8	10,852	31.3
Drove alone	111,088	34.1	91,832	34.4	19,256	32.6	11,316	46.4	7,940	22.9
Carpooled	18,396	5.6	13,934	5.2	4,462	7.6	1,550	6.4	2,912	8.4
Public transportation	125,890	38.6	102,609	38.4	23,281	39.5	7,451	30.6	15,830	45.7
Walked	38,795	11.9	32,068	12.0	6,727	11.4	1,902	7.8	4,825	13.9
Taxicab, motorcycle, bicycle, or other means	16,845	5.2	14,107	5.3	2,738	4.6	632	2.6	2,106	6.1
Worked at home	15,129	4.6	12,583	4.7	2,546	4.3	1,521	6.2	1,025	3.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

For more information contact:
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