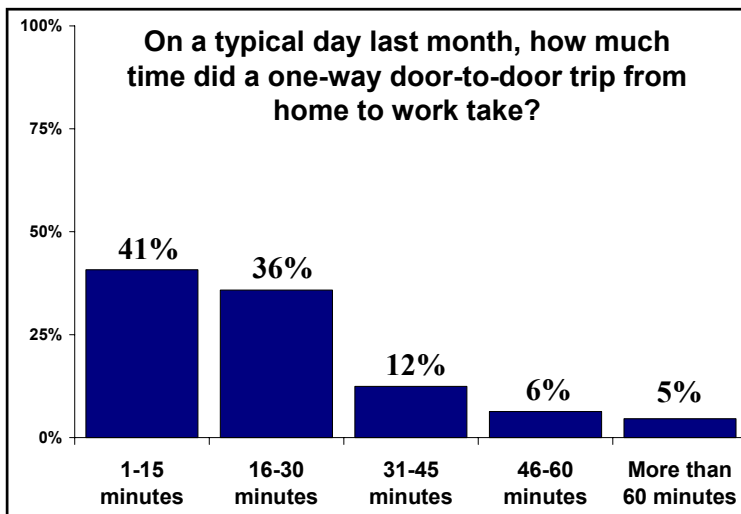


## From Home to Work, the Average Commute is 26.4 Minutes



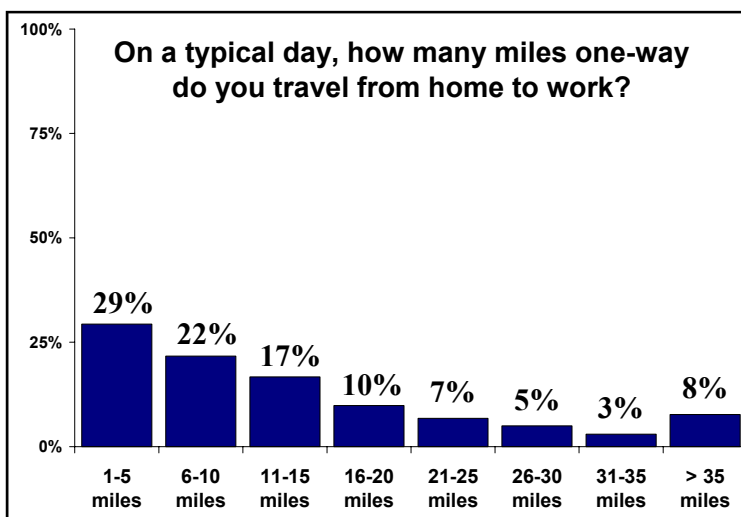
The average commuter spends about 26 minutes on a one-way trip to work, according to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) *Omnibus Household Survey*. About three out of four commuters report spending 30 minutes or less on their daily one-way commute to work while about 5 percent report a one-way commute of more than an hour.



Source: US Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, *Omnibus Household Survey*. Aggregated data cover activities for the month prior to the survey.

Aggregated results from the *Omnibus Household Survey* conducted in February, April, June, and August of 2003 show an average of 127.3 million adult U.S. residents<sup>1</sup> (61 percent) were employed for pay or profit in the calendar month preceding the surveys. About nine out of ten workers (92 percent) reported that they commuted from home to work and the majority of workers (90 percent) commuted on at least 15 days during the month prior to the survey.

To get to work, the average commuter travels approximately 15 miles one way. Two out of three commuters (68 percent) reported a one-way commute of 15 miles or less, 22 percent traveled between 16 and 30 miles and 11 percent traveled more than 30 miles<sup>2</sup>.



Source: US Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, *Omnibus Household Survey*. Aggregated data cover activities for the month prior to the survey.

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The majority of commuters (81 percent) used only their personal vehicle to complete their commute and most personal vehicle users (86 percent) drove alone. About 4 percent of commuters drove or rode in a company car, 3 percent used only public transit, 2 percent relied solely on a car or van pool, and 2 percent used some other mode of transportation (for example biking or walking).

About 7% of commuters reported that they used some combination of transportation modes to get to work. The majority of these commuters (73 percent) used their private vehicle and some other mode or modes of transportation.

Nine out of ten commuters (91 percent) reported that they worked at the same location on most work days. About one out of six US residents (17%) who worked in the month prior to the survey, reported that they had either telecommuted or worked at a telework center at some time in their career and 4 percent reported that they were currently doing so.

Findings on commuting to work from the BTS *Omnibus Household Survey* show that average commuting time has not changed significantly since the *2000 Census*<sup>3</sup>. Census data show an average one-way commute of 25.5 minutes reported by 124.1 million residents<sup>4</sup>.

<b>Combinations of modes used</b>	
<b>Private vehicle and</b>	
public transit	18.0%
walking	17.1%
carpooling/vanpooling	8.0%
company car or govt vehicle	7.5%
biking	4.2%
train or light rail	4.4%
two other modes	10.9%
three or more other modes	2.5%
	<hr/> 72.6%
<b>Public transit and</b>	
walking	12.7%
carpooling/vanpooling	2.4%
biking	1.2%
taxi	1.4%
train or light rail	1.2%
two other modes	1.9%
three or more other modes	1.9%
	<hr/> 22.7%
<b>Combinations excluding private vehicles and public transit</b>	
	4.7%

**Source:** US Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, *Omnibus Household Survey*. Aggregated data cover activities for the month prior to the survey.

<sup>1</sup> The target population includes non-institutionalized adult (18 years or older) U.S. residents.

<sup>2</sup> Percentages may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.

<sup>3</sup> Data from the *2000 Census* are available on the US Census website at [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?\\_lang=en](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?_lang=en).

<sup>4</sup> The Census questionnaire asks about the calendar week prior to filling out the form while the *Omnibus Household Survey* asks about commuting during the month prior to the survey. In addition, Census figures are based on workers aged 16 and older while BTS data are based on workers aged 18 and older.

<i>Omnibus Household Survey</i>		Margin	Population	Sample
Questions used in this report		Results	of Error	Estimates
		+/-	(in millions)	Size
<b>Last month, did you work for pay or profit?</b>				
Yes		61%	1.71	127.3
No		39%	1.71	81.4
		100%		208.7
				4,076
<b>Last month, did you commute, that is, travel routinely from home to work?</b>				
Yes		92%	1.19	117.2
No		8%	1.19	10.1
		100%		127.3
				2,443
<i>The remaining questions were only asked of commuters.</i>				
<b>Altogether, about how many days did you commute to work last month?</b>				
1-7 days		4%	0.97	4.3
8-14 days		7%	1.16	7.8
15-21 days		53%	2.39	62.3
22-28 days		31%	2.22	35.8
29-31 days		6%	1.15	6.6
		100%		116.8
				2,225
Average number of days commuting		20.3 days	.26 days	116.8
				2,225
<i>This question was first asked in June 2003. Figures represent averages for data from June and August 2003.</i>				
<b>On a typical day last month, to get to work did you</b>				
Drive or ride in a personal vehicle, not a company car		81%	2.65	47.9
Drive or ride in a carpool or vanpool		2%	1.14	1.3
Use public transit		3%	1.19	2.0
Drive or ride in a company car		4%	1.30	2.6
Use a combination of modes		7%	1.68	3.9
Walked, biked, or used some other mode		2%	1.07	1.7
		100%		59.4
				1,118
<i>This question was first asked in June 2003. Figures represent averages for data from June and August 2003.</i>				
<b>Did you drive alone or were there other commuters in your car?</b>				
(Asked of those who used a personal car or company car only)				
Alone		86%	2.59	43.4
Other commuters		11%	2.40	5.5
Other non-commuters		3%	1.13	1.5
		100%		50.4
				968
<b>Did you work at the same location on most days?</b>				
Yes		91%	1.42	106.5
No		9%	1.42	10.7
		100%		117.2
				2,031
				200
				2,231
<b>On a typical day last month, how much time did a one-way door-to-door trip from home to work take?</b>				
1-15 minutes		41%	2.37	46.3
16-30 minutes		36%	2.31	40.7
31-45 minutes		12%	1.53	14.1
46-60 minutes		6%	1.18	7.2
More than 60 minutes		5%	1.03	5.2
		100%		113.5
				2,162
Average commuting time		26.4 min	1.3 min	

**NOTE:** Percentages may not sum to 100 percent due to independent rounding. Response values for "Don't know" and "Refused" are not included in the table.

**Source:** US Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, *Omnibus Household Survey*. Data from the February, April, June, and August 2003 surveys have been combined. Data cover activities for the month prior to the survey.

<i>Omnibus Household Survey</i>		<b>Results</b>	<b>Margin of Error</b>	<b>Population Estimates</b>	<b>Sample Size</b>
<b>Questions used in this report</b>					
<b>On a typical day, how many miles one-way do you travel from home to work?</b>			+/-	(in millions)	
1-5 miles		29%	2.32	30.2	578
6-10 miles		22%	2.06	22.3	431
11-15 miles		17%	1.90	17.2	314
16-20 miles		10%	1.42	10.1	205
21-25 miles		7%	1.19	7.0	146
26-30 miles		5%	1.10	5.1	96
31-35 miles		3%	0.80	3.1	60
More than 35 miles		8%	1.34	7.9	148
		100%		102.9	1,978
Average number of miles one way		15.3 miles	.8 miles		
<b>Have you ever telecommuted or worked at a telework center or satellite office?</b>					
Telecommuted only		12%	1.38	15.5	351
Telework center or satellite office only		3%	0.87	4.3	74
Have done both		2%	0.66	2.9	60
Have done neither		82%	1.67	104.6	1,959
		100%		127.3	2,444
<b>Are you currently telecommuting or teleworking?</b>					
Telecommuting only		3%	0.64	3.3	81
Teleworking only		1%	0.33	0.8	16
Am currently doing both		<0.5%			
Am not doing either		97%	0.73	122.9	2,341
		100%		127.0	2,438

**NOTE:** Percentages may not sum to 100 percent due to independent rounding. Response values for “Don’t know” and “Refused” are not included in the table.

**Source:** US Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, *Omnibus Household Survey*. Data from the February, April, June, and August 2003 surveys have been combined. Data cover activities for the month prior to the survey.

**Methodology.** Data presented in this OmniStats are taken from the several issues of the 2003 BTS Omnibus Household Survey (covering activities in the months prior to the survey). The target population for the survey is the adult (18 years or older) non-institutionalized population of the US. Results are based on completed bi-monthly samples of 1000+ households that are randomly selected using a list-assisted random digit dialing (RDD) methodology.

**Margin of Error.** Survey data provide estimates of population parameters and are subject to error because findings are based on a sample, rather than on the entire population. Margins of error for

findings in this report are shown in the tables included in this report (based on a 95% confidence interval). Estimates are also subject to nonsampling error, e.g., coding, transcription, or data coding errors. For additional information on the Omnibus Household Survey, visit the BTS website at <http://www.bts.gov/omnibus/household/index.html>.

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