

KEY FACTS

- In 2000, the average Massachusetts worker spent 27 minutes traveling to work each way. This was the 9th longest commute time in the nation.
- Nearly 1 in 5 Massachusetts commuters (18%) or 551,738 commuters spent at least 45 minutes getting to work each way.
- Between 1980 and 2000, Massachusetts commute times increased at the sixth fastest rate in the nation.
- The average distance traveled by Massachusetts commuters increased by approximately 10% between 1990 and 2000, and more commuters are traveling between different regions of the state.
- In Massachusetts, there are five commuting hot spots, where residents endure particularly long commutes:
 - 1) Western Mass. Hill Towns;
 - 2) Quabbin Region;
 - 3) Nashoba Valley;
 - 4) Metrowest-495 South;
 - and 5) Coastal South Shore.
- In 2000, the average Massachusetts commuter lost the equivalent of about 25 (8-hour) workdays commuting to and from work. Time spent commuting has increased by almost 19% since 1990.
- In 2000, commuters in Southeastern Massachusetts were the most likely to face a long commute, with 22% spending at least 45 minutes commuting each way. The Berkshire and Cape and Islands regions have the largest share of commuters with a short commute time (less than 15 minutes).

- Compared to other commuters, those workers with the longest commutes (at least 45 minutes) have higher incomes and are more likely to have a college degree, be a professional or manager, and work in the knowledge economy. They are also more likely to own their own homes.
- Driving alone is the most common way that people get to work. In 2000, nearly 3 in 4 workers (74%) drove to work alone.
- In 2000, Massachusetts commuters had the 4th highest rate of public transportation use in the nation and had bucked the national trend of declining transit use.
- Commuters who travel via public transportation have the highest average commute times, a trend consistent with other states with a large share of public transit commuters.
- Traffic congestion in Massachusetts has increased considerably. Between 1992 and 2002, the number of car registrations increased 48%.
- In 2000, the Commonwealth received more workers from other states than it sent to those states (176,741 in-commuters vs. 101,081 out-commuters).
- The Cape and Islands and the Pioneer Valley regions are the only two regions of the state that suffer a net loss of workers to other states. In the Pioneer Valley, 2.5 times as many workers leave the state for work compared with those who enter the region for work (24,843 vs. 9,078 workers).