REGIONAL HOUSEHOLD TRAVEL SURVEY: Bergen County Profile

Why we travel
How we travel
Who we are and how often we travel
When we travel
Where we travel
How far and how long we travel
THE NORTH JERSEY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AUTHORITY (NJTPA) partnered with the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC) to sponsor a survey of weekday travel of metropolitan area residents. This profile provides results of the Regional Household Travel Survey (RHTS) for Bergen County residents.

IN BERGEN COUNTY, 972 households were surveyed about the travel activity of all household members (2,351 people). Similar to all counties in the NJTPA region, most travel by Bergen County residents is not work-related (78%) and stays within the county (78%). For work trips, Bergen County residents have the fourth highest share of commutes using public transit in the region (after Hudson, Essex and Union). Over 40% of public transit work trips use express bus service. Bergen has the second highest percentage of its work trips going into Manhattan, accounting for 13% of all work trips. (Hudson is first with 31%; Essex is similar with about 13%.) Bergen County residents tend to make more trips for all purposes than those in other counties, even accounting for factors like income and the presence of children that tend to increase trip making. Travel times and trip distances are similar to the NJTPA regional average, with work trips generally longer (32 minutes) than non-work trips (16 minutes). Bergen County residents make more than half of their trips, for both work and non-work purposes, during morning and evening peak periods (6am-10am and 4pm-8pm, respectively).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bergen County Facts at a Glance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010 Census: Households</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 Census: Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households Surveyed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population Surveyed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Trips per Household (per day)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Trips per Person (per day)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Trips Staying within County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Trips Using Transit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Trips Work Related</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Work Trip Duration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Non-Work Trip Duration</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: The survey design, and subsequent data weighting process, was adjusted to take into account socioeconomic characteristics such as household size, age and income. It was designed and conducted for use in regional travel demand modeling with a sample size and frame suitable for that purpose. Survey results may be subject to sampling variability and other sources of error. To find further detail on the survey process, the final report and detailed technical reports are available on the NJTPA website at www.njtpa.org.
Why we travel

TRIP PURPOSE

WITHIN COUNTY

TO/FROM ADJOINING COUNTY (NOT NYC)

TO/FROM MANHATTAN

TO/FROM OTHER NJTPA COUNTY

TO/FROM ELSEWHERE IN METRO AREA

TO/FROM OUTSIDE OF METRO AREA

ENTIRELY OUTSIDE COUNTY**

Work (Total)

(22% of Trips)

53%

15%

13%

2%

6%

3%

* 8%

Between Home and Work

(12% of Trips)

53%

16%

16%

4%

8%

3%

* -

Work Related

(2% of Trips)

46%

13%

9%

* * 4%

1%

* 31%

Between Work and Non-Work

(8% of Trips)

56%

14%

9%

* * 4%

1%

* 15%

Other Home Based Trips (Total)

(33% of Trips)

88%

7%

2%

1%

1%

1%

* -

Social/Rec

(14% of Trips)

85%

7%

2%

1%

2%

2%

* -

School

(8% of Trips)

92%

5%

1%

* 1%

* * -

Personal Business

(10% of Trips)

86%

9%

3%

* 1%

* 1%

* -

Shopping

(11% of Trips)

86%

11%

1%

1%

* 1%

* -

Serving Passengers

(11% of Trips)

94%

2%

1%

2%

* 1%

* -

Other Destinations

(2% of Trips)

87%

9%

3%

* * 1%

* * -

Other Non-Home/Non-Work

(23% of Trips)

78%

4%

4%

* 1%

* * 13%

*less than 0.5% ** Trips that both begin and end outside the resident's home county

Non-work trips in Bergen County tend to be local. Thirteen percent of Bergen County resident work trips are to Manhattan (second among counties in the NJTPA region).

More than three-fourths of Bergen County resident trips are unrelated to work.
Overall, 13% of work trips by Bergen County residents use transit, ranking fourth in the NJTPA region.
Bergen County residents make 4.6 trips per day, more than the region’s residents do overall (4.1 per day).

As in the rest of the NJTPA region, Bergen County residents with higher incomes and vehicle ownership make more trips.
**TIME OF TRAVEL**

Work and non-work trips

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME OF TRAVEL</th>
<th>% OF TOTAL WORK AND NON-WORK TRIPS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NIGHT:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-work: 1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work: 2%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AM PEAK:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-work: 23%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work: 35%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIDDAY:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-work: 40%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work: 35%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PM PEAK:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-work: 28%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work: 28%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVENING:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-work: 8%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work: 4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Trips that both begin and end outside the resident’s home county

**PERCENTAGE OF WEEKDAY TRIP DISTRIBUTION**

Bergen County

- 78% Within county (Bergen County)
- 8% To/from adjoining county (not NYC)
- 5% To/from Manhattan
- 5% To/from other NYC
- 5% To/from other NJTPA county
- 5% To/from elsewhere in metro area
- 5% Entirely outside county*

**Typical weekday travel for both work and non-work purposes in Bergen County peaks during the morning and evening as in the NJTPA region as a whole.**

**Most trips by Bergen County residents either remain within the county or are to/from an adjoining county.**
How far and how long we travel

Travel times and distances for Bergen County residents are similar to regional averages.

Bergen County work trips tend to be about twice as long in both time and distance as non-work trips.

AVERAGE TRAVEL TIME IN MINUTES

Work and non-work trips

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trip Purpose</th>
<th>Average Travel Time (in Minutes)</th>
<th>Average Trip Distance (in Miles)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Work</td>
<td>32.1</td>
<td>9.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between Home and Work</td>
<td>38.6</td>
<td>10.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work Related</td>
<td>21.8</td>
<td>6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between Work and Non-Work</td>
<td>24.6</td>
<td>8.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Home Based Trips</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social/Recreation</td>
<td>20.3</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>16.9</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Business</td>
<td>18.9</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shopping</td>
<td>14.6</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serving Passengers</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Destinations</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Non-Home/Non-Work</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Minutes

NOTE: Average values for distance and time can be skewed due to long distance trips. For example, the median (middle value) travel time for Bergen County work trips is 10 minutes less than the average travel time.
THE 2010/11 REGIONAL HOUSEHOLD TRAVEL SURVEY (RHTS) collected data on the travel behavior characteristics and related demographics from 18,965 households in the New York/New Jersey/Connecticut metropolitan area (including 7,574 households from the 13 county NJTPA region). This survey was a follow-up to one conducted in 1997/98 and found generally similar travel patterns. The RHTS was completed to provide information to update regional travel demand forecasting models and for other studies that will assist transportation professionals and decision-makers in better understanding the needs of the traveling public.

To find further detail on the survey process, the final report and detailed technical reports are available on the NJTPA website at www.njtpa.org.

**Key Definitions**

**TRIP:** A trip (also called linked trip) is defined as a journey from an origin place to a destination place for a particular purpose (excluding the “purpose” of changing modes of travel). Therefore, if a traveler drives from home to a train station, takes the train to work, and walks from the train station to a final work destination, this is defined as one trip (from the home origin to the work destination). The trip from home to the train station is described as an “Unlinked Trip” or “Trip Segment”.

**PRIMARY MODE:** Since a trip can include many modes of travel, a “primary” mode is used when reporting on trip patterns. The primary mode is based on the hierarchy of modes. A generalized version of the hierarchy follows (in decreasing order): (1) School Bus, (2) Taxi, (3) Commuter Rail, (4) Express Bus, (5) Subway, LRT, Tram, PATH, Ferry, (6) Other Bus, (7) Shared Auto, (8) Local Bus, (9) Auto, (10) Bike, (11) Walk, (12) Air Train or Other. A more detailed version is available in the RHTS Final Report.