

Off to Work We Go, But Not Too Far

For all the griping about gridlock, most working Americans don't have to travel all that far to bring home the bacon: They report an average one-way commute of 22 minutes, just a minute more than it was 10 years ago.

In fact almost eight in 10 working Americans spend a half hour or less getting to work each way, including 47 percent who travel 15 minutes or fewer. Only 16 percent commute more than a half hour, including only two percent more than an hour.

Surprisingly, these figures haven't changed much in the past decade: Telecommuting hasn't pushed them down, traffic congestion hasn't pushed them up, and neither of those has made any significant change at the extremes.

	Commuting time in minutes		
	1-15	16-30	Over 30
12/5/99	47%	32	16
7/21/89	50	30	18

GOING FURTHER - The better the job, the farther people are willing to travel to get there. People travel longer to work at full-time jobs than they do for part-time jobs. And income is the strongest factor. Almost three in 10 people making over \$75,000 travel more than a half hour to work, compared with only 15 percent of those making less.

	Commuting time in Minutes		
	1-15	16-30	Over 30
Work part time	54%	24	6
Work full time	45	33	18
Less than \$75,000	49	32	15
Over \$75,000	40	26	29

METHODOLOGY - This ABC News.com survey was conducted by telephone Dec. 1-5, 1999, among a random national sample of 692 adults who work full or part-time. The results have a four-point error margin. Fieldwork by ICR-International Communications Research of Media, Pa.

Analysis by Daniel Merkle.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com on the Internet at:

<http://www.abcnews.com/sections/us/PollVault/PollVault.html>

27. (If employed full or part time.) How much time does it usually take you to travel to work . . . about how many minutes one way?

	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	26-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61+	No opin.
12/5/99	17	16	14	13	5	14	4	7	3	2	6
7/21/89*	16	18	16	16	4	10	5	5	4	1	3

1999 average: 22 minutes

1989 average: 21 minutes

*Gallup.

END