

# Commuting to Work, 2011

Coverage: **UK**

Date: **02 June 2011**

Geographical Area: **Region**

Theme: **Labour Market**

Theme: **Travel and Transport**

---

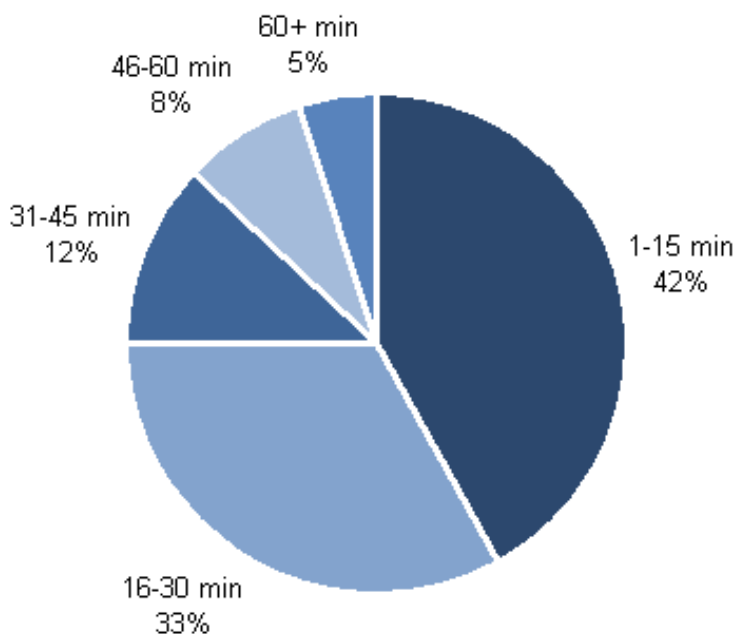
## Animated YouTube Video

### Commuting to work

#### 3 out of 4 people work within 30 minutes from home

Looking at the UK as a whole, around 3 in 4, or 75 per cent of workers take less than half an hour to travel from home to work.

#### Percentage of workers by home-to-work travel time, October–December 2009, United Kingdom



Source: Labour Force Survey - Office for National Statistics

**Download chart****XLS** [XLS format](#)

(13.5 Kb)

However, commuting patterns are vastly different between workers in London and those working in the rest of the UK.

People working in London, in particular central London, tend to travel longer to get to work, with more than half, 56 per cent, needing to commute for more than thirty minutes to get to work every day. In contrast, of those working in the rest of the UK, only 20 per cent need to travel as long to reach their workplace.

In the final quarter of 2009, around 3 in 5, or 59 per cent of all workers in the UK worked and lived in the same local authority district. The remaining, 41 per cent, worked in a different local authority district from the one in which they lived.

**Duration of commute from home to work by region of workplace, Per cent, October-December 2009, United Kingdom**

	London	Rest of UK	All UK
<b>1-15 min</b>	18	46	42
<b>16-30 min</b>	26	34	33
<b>31-45 min</b>	20	11	12
<b>46-60 min</b>	20	6	8
<b>60+ min</b>	16	3	5

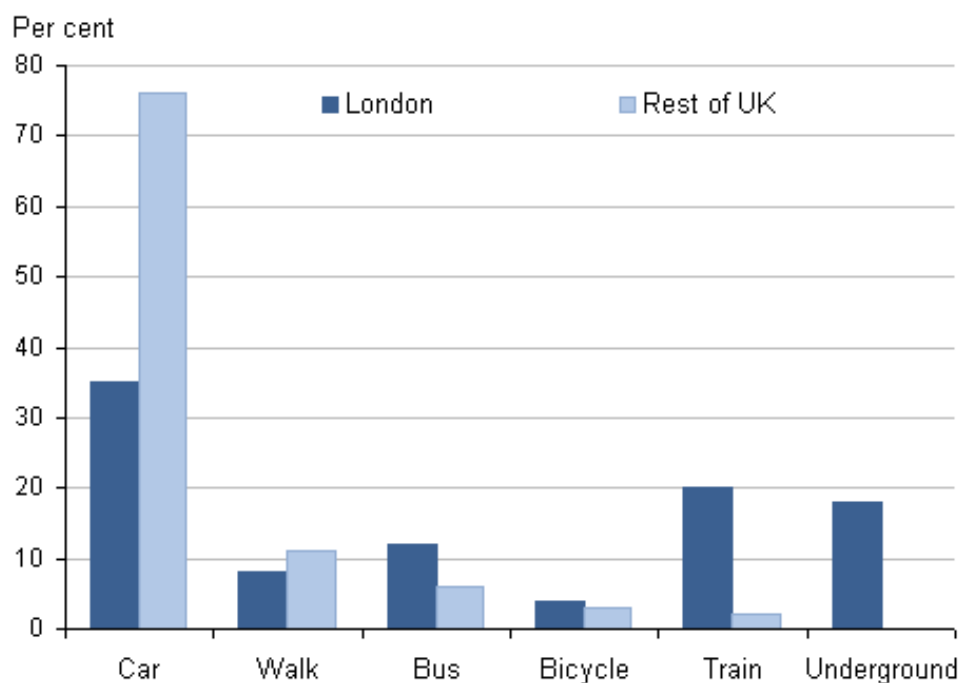
Table source: Office for National Statistics

**Download table****XLS** [XLS format](#)

(22 Kb)

**Majority drive to work rather than use public transport**

## Percentage of workers by method of travel, London and Rest of the UK, October-December, 2009, United Kingdom



Source: Labour Force Survey - Office for National Statistics

### Download chart

[XLS](#) [XLS format](#)  
(13.5 Kb)

In the final quarter of 2009, most of the workers in the UK, 71 per cent, drove a car to work.

However, the types of transport used were again different between workers in London and those in the rest of the UK. Only 35 per cent of people working in London drove to work, compared with 76 per cent of those working in the rest of the UK.

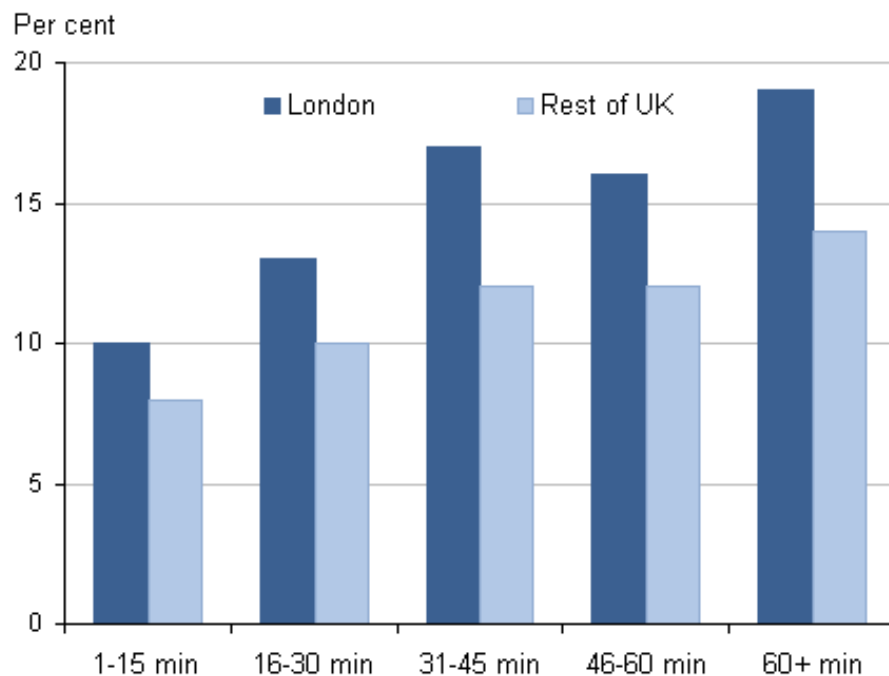
Half of the people who worked in London took public transport to work, with:

- 20 per cent taking the train
- 18 per cent taking the underground
- 12 per cent taking the bus

This compared with only 1 in 11 workers, or 9 per cent, in the rest of the UK taking any form of public transport to work.

### Those who commute longer earn more

## Median hourly earnings by travel time, London and Rest of the UK, October-December, 2009, United Kingdom



Source: Labour Force Survey - Office for National Statistics

### Download chart

[XLS](#) [XLS format](#)  
(13.5 Kb)

Regardless of the length of travel-to-work time, those who work in London tend to earn more than those who work in the rest of the UK.

However, for workers in both London and the rest of the UK, those with long commutes to work (more than sixty minutes) tend to earn more than those who have short commutes (fifteen minutes or less). In the final quarter of 2009, the average median hourly earnings were:

- £18.80 for those with long commutes, and £9.60 for those with short commutes to work in London
- £14.30 for those with long commutes, and £8.30 for those with short commutes to work in the rest of the UK

In addition, working full-time rather than part-time, and working in a high-skill (manager and professionals) rather than low-skill (elementary) occupations are associated with long commutes to work:

- Of the people working full-time, 29 per cent have long commutes, compared with only 14 percent of part-time workers

- Of the people working in high-skill jobs, 36 per cent have long commutes, compared with only 12 per cent of those in low-skill jobs

## Background notes

1. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available by visiting [www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html](http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html) or from the Media Relations Office email: [media.relations@ons.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:media.relations@ons.gsi.gov.uk)

These National Statistics are produced to high professional standards and released according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

## Copyright

© Crown copyright 2011

You may use or re-use this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/) or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk).

This document is also available on our website at [www.ons.gov.uk](http://www.ons.gov.uk).

## Appendices

### Background information

Email [labour.market@ons.gov.uk](mailto:labour.market@ons.gov.uk)

- a) Workers are defined as those in employment aged between 16 and 64.
- b) The data used for this release refer to the period covering October – December 2009. These are the most recent data as information on travel to work is collected every three years on the Labour Force Survey.
- c) Occupations can be grouped by the skill level required according to the following guidelines:

Low – The first skill level equates with the competence associated with a general education, usually acquired by the time a person completes his/her compulsory education and signalled via a satisfactory set of school-leaving examination grades. Competent performance of jobs classified at this level will also involve knowledge of appropriate health and safety regulations and may require short periods of work-related training. Examples of occupations defined at this skill level within the SOC90 include postal workers, hotel porters, cleaners and catering assistants.

Lower-middle – The second skill level covers a large group of occupations, all of which require the knowledge provided via a good general education as for occupations at the first skill level,

but which typically have a longer period of work-related training or work experience. Occupations classified at this level include machine operation, driving, caring occupations, retailing, and clerical and secretarial occupations.

Upper-middle – The third skill level applies to occupations that normally require a body of knowledge associated with a period of post-compulsory education but not to degree level. A number of technical occupations fall into this category, as do a variety of trades occupations and proprietors of small businesses. In the latter case, educational qualifications at sub-degree level or a lengthy period of vocational training may not be a necessary prerequisite for competent performance of tasks, but a significant period of work experience is typical.

High – The fourth skill level relates to what are termed ‘professional’ occupations and managerial positions in corporate enterprises or national/local government. Occupations at this level normally require a degree or equivalent period of relevant work experience.