

Transit Commuting Reported in the American Community Survey

The Bureau of Census has collected "Means of Transportation to Work - universe: Workers 16 Years and Older" data since the 1960 Decennial Census. Included in those data are estimates of the number of persons who use transit as their primary means of travel to work. From 1960 through 2000, Decennial Census Long-Form data showed a decline in the number and percentage of persons using public transportation as their primary means of commuting. Since 2000, the number of transit commuters has increased by 18 percent. Historical commute data are shown on Table 1.

Table 1: Census Bureau Estimates of Public Transportation Commuters "without Taxicab"

Census Document	Transit Commuters (without Taxi) Estimate	Total Commuters "Estimate" Number	Transit Commuters as Percent of All Commuters
1960 Decennial Census Long-Form	7,806,932	64,655,805	12.07%
1970 Decennial Census Long-Form	6,514,012	76,852,389	8.48%
1980 Decennial Census Long-Form	6,007,728	96,617,296	6.22%
1990 Decennial Census Long-Form	5,890,155	115,070,274	5.12%
2000 Decennial Census Long Form	5,867,559	128,279,228	4.57%
2000 Supplementary Survey	6,425,403	127,731,766	5.03%
2001 Supplementary Survey	6,331,191	128,244,898	4.94%
2002 American Community Survey - One Year Data	6,202,191	128,617,952	4.82%
2003 American Community Survey - One Year Data	6,072,316	129,141,982	4.70%
2004 American Community Survey - One Year Data	5,978,055	130,831,187	4.57%
2005 American Community Survey - One Year Data	6,202,014	133,091,043	4.66%
2006 American Community Survey - One Year Data	6,684,040	138,265,905	4.83%
2007 American Community Survey - One Year Data	6,800,512	139,259,684	4.88%
2008 American Community Survey - One Year Data	7,210,014	143,994,967	5.01%
2009 American Community Survey - One Year Data	6,922,424	138,591,804	4.99%
Three-Year Data			
2005-2007 American Community Survey - Three Year Estimates	6,638,872	136,926,294	4.85%
2006-2008 American Community Survey - Three Year Estimates	6,908,323	140,261,584	4.93%
Five-Year Data			
2005-2009 American Community Survey - Five Year Average	6,859,705	138,541,405	4.95%

These data represent commuters who use transit as their usual commute mode for the longest portion of their work trip. Commuters who use transit regularly but use another mode such as automobiles for a longer portion of their trip are not included. Persons who use transit occasionally as opposed to regularly are also not included.

Prior to the implementation of the American Community Survey, journey-to-work mode data were collected by the Census during the Decennial Census from 1960 through 2000. Full scale ACS

Surveys began in 2005; the previous ACS and Supplementary Surveys were developmental surveys in the ACS testing phase.

Figure 1 shows the number of transit commuters reported in ACS surveys beginning in 2002. Figure 2 tracks the percentage of commuters using transit as their primary mode as reported by the ACS beginning in 2002. All ACS data used for Figures 1 and 2 are one year data.

Figure 1: American Community Survey:
Number of Transit Commuters

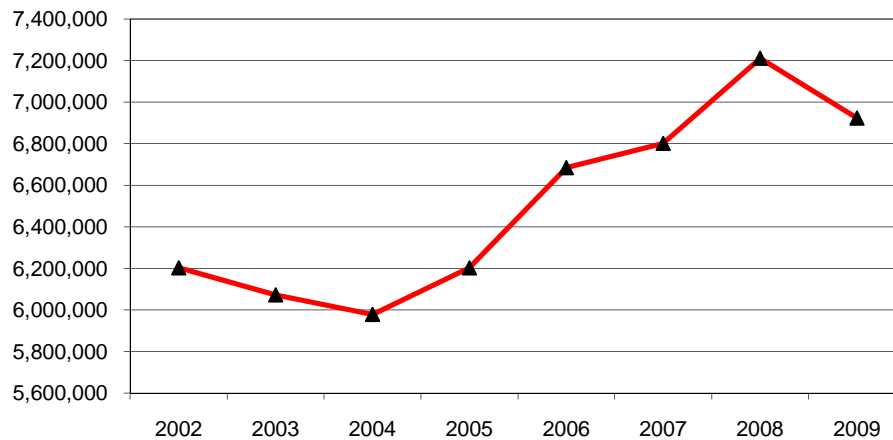
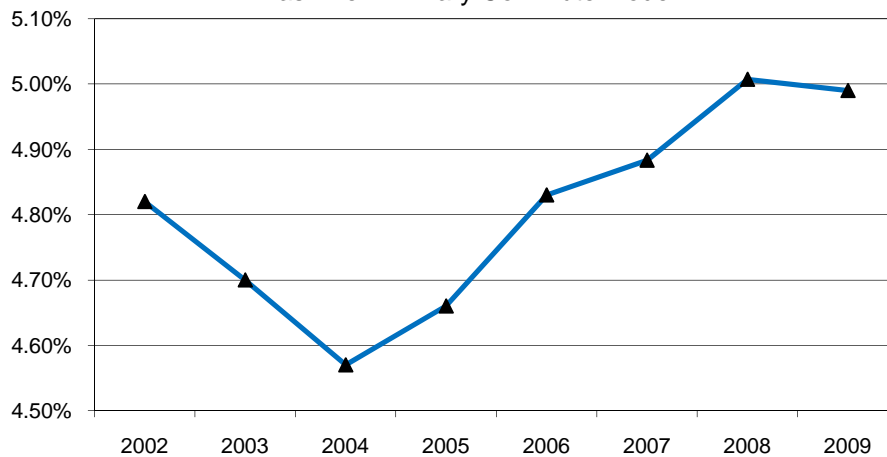


Figure 2: ACS: Percent of Commuters Using Transit
as Their Primary Commute Mode



The number of transit commuters has increased 18.0 percent since 2000. Between 2000 and the first full scale ACS in 2005, transit commuters increased 5.7 percent, in 2006 the increase was an additional 7.8 percent, in 2007 another 1.7 percent, in 2008 an increase of 6.0 percent, but in 2009 declined 4.0 percent.

Table 2: Trend in Census Bureau Estimates of Public Transportation Commuters Since 2000

Census Document	Transit Commuters	Percent Change from Prior Year	Percent Change from 2000 Census Long Form
2000 Decennial Census Long Form	5,867,559	---	---
2005 American Community Survey	6,202,014	+3.8 %	+ 5.7 %
2006 American Community Survey	6,684,040	+ 7.8 %	+ 13.9 %
2007 American Community Survey	6,800,512	+ 1.7 %	+ 15.9 %
2008 American Community Survey	7,210,014	+ 6.0 %	+ 22.9 %
2009 American Community Survey	6,859,705	- 4.0 %	+ 18.0 %

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