Metadata

Information topic	Details
Indicator name	**Main mode of travel to work**
Domain	Transport domain
Indicator definition and units	Percentage of commuters aged 15 years and over who used public transport or active forms of transport (walking, jogging or cycling) as their main means to travel to work. Main means of travel to work is the usual method that an employed person, aged 15 years and over, uses to travel the longest distance to their place of employment (for example, by bicycle, public bus, walking, or driving). 'Usual' is the type of transport used most often – for example, the one used for the greatest number of days each week, month, or year. If there are two (or more) forms of transport used equally as often, the most recent form of transport is recorded. 'Main' is the type of transport used for the component of the journey that covers the longest distance. The Census question asks people to answer in relation to where they were working in the 7-day period up to and including the Sunday before Census day. Those who responded that they mostly worked away from home were then asked to indicate the one main way that they usually travelled to work (that is, the one used for the greatest distance). Commuters are defined as the employed, usually resident population aged 15 years and over who usually travel to work (ie excludes people not in work and those that usually work from home).
Data source	New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings
Numerator	Number of commuters who used different transport modes as their main means of travel (ie to travel the longest distance) to get to their place of employment. Transport modes include walking, jogging, cycling, using a public bus or train, and using a private or commercial vehicle (car, van or truck).
Denominator	Number of commuters. Commuters are defined as the employed usually resident population aged 15 years and over who usually travel to work (ie excludes people not in work and those that usually work from home).
Methodology	Main means of travel to work is the usual method which an employed person aged 15 years and over used to travel the longest distance to their place of employment (for example, by bicycle, public bus, walking, or driving). Main means of travel to work data is collected from the individual form. Respondents were asked to think about their working status for the 7-day period up to and including the Sunday before Census day. The main mode

	of transport to work question was only answered by people that were in work, and mostly worked away from home. The question states that if the respondent doesn't have a usual travel method, then they should select the one they used most recently. In 2023, the Census question in the online and paper forms was: What is the **one main way** you usually travel to work – that is, the one you use for the greatest distance? *If you don't have a usual method, select the one you used most recently.* • Drive a private car, truck or van • Drive a company car, truck or van • Passenger in a car, truck, van or company bus • Public bus • Train • Ferry • Bicycle • Walk or jog • Other, eg taxi, motorbike
Time period	A question on travel to work has been asked every census year from 2001 (ie 2001, 2006, 2013, 2018, 2023). However, the question changed in 2018, and results are not comparable to previous years. In addition, the data quality for this question was rated as poor for 2018. For these reasons the latest surveillance report does not include time series comparisons.
Population coverage:	The subject population for the Census data is the employed census usually resident population aged 15 years and over. For the purposes of this indicator, the subject population excludes people who did not travel to work, those who worked from home, or who provided no response or a response that could not be classified ('Not elsewhere classified').
Spatial coverage	National and Regional Council.
Reporting variables	Results are presented by gender, age group and regional council.
Limitations of indicator and data sources	This data relates to the main means of travel, and therefore the indicator has several limitations. • It only relates to the main means of travel, that is, the longest distance. It does not take into account secondary modes of transport. • Some people did not respond to the question, or did not provide the type of information asked for; alternative data sources were used to fill missing responses. Statistics New Zealand have rated the quality of this variable in 2023 as 'moderate'. For the 2023 Census results, approximately 16% of responses were imputed using nearest neighbour imputation. In terms of time trends, a question on travel to work has been asked every census year from 2001 (ie 2001, 2006, 2013, 2018, 2023). However, the

	question changed markedly in 2018, and results are not comparable to previous years. Up to 2013 the question asked about travel on the day of the Census specifically. From 2018 onwards, the question asked about the usual mode of travel over a 7-day period. In addition, the data quality for this question was rated as poor for 2018. For these reasons the latest surveillance report does not include time series comparisons.
Related indicators	Number of motor vehicles Road traffic injury deaths and hospitalisations Unmet need for GP services due to lack of transport Household travel time by mode of transport Active transport to and from school
For more information	For more information on the Census, visit the Stats NZ website: https://www.stats.govt.nz/2023-census Data quality rating information can be found here: https://www.stats.govt.nz/2023-census/data-quality-in-the-2023-census