

**COMMUTER CONNECTIONS
2001 and 2004
STATE OF THE COMMUTE SURVEYS**

**Survey Highlights
Arlington County, VA**

Prepared for:

**Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
and
Arlington County Commuter Services**

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KEY SOC RESULTS

Arlington County, VA Residents and Employees and Comparisons to Regional Results

Introduction

The Commuter Connections Program of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments conducted two regional telephone “State of the Commute” surveys, in 2001 and 2004, to explore regional commute travel patterns and other commute trends. Each of the two surveys interviewed 7,200 workers in the Washington metropolitan region.

2001 Survey

The 2001 survey included 6,924 respondents who traveled outside their homes one or more weekdays per week to a job location (“regional commuters”) and 276 respondents who: worked at home full-time (220) or telecommuted from home full-time (56). These 276 respondents were excluded from questions related to weekly commute patterns, but were included in other questions as appropriate.

The sub-set sample for Arlington, VA included 600 respondents who lived in the County and 527 respondents who worked in Arlington County. Note that these two data sub-sets (live in Arlington and work in Arlington) overlap for 193 respondents who both worked and lived in the County.

2004 Survey

The 2004 survey included 6,851 “regional commuters” and 349 respondents who: worked at home full-time (280), telecommuted from home full-time (53), or worked only on weekends (16). As in 2001, these 349 respondents were excluded from questions related to weekly commute patterns.

The sub-set sample for Arlington, VA included 600 respondents who lived in the County and 552 respondents who worked in Arlington County. The two data sub-sets (live in Arlington and work in Arlington) overlap for 189 respondents who both worked and lived in the County.

Data from these surveys were used to explore differences and similarities between Arlington County residents and employees for the two survey years and between Arlington County residents and residents of other jurisdictions in the region.

The following tables present data for three datasets:

- 1) Live in Arlington,
- 2) Work in Arlington
- 3) All Region

Current Travel Information

- **Current mode split** – Percentage of weekly commute trips (including CWS and TW days)

	<u>Live in Arl</u>	<u>Work in Arl</u>	<u>All Region</u>
<u>2004</u>			
DA/Motorcycle	55.9%	59.6%	71.4%
CP	4.8%	11.6%	5.6%
VP	0.2%	0.4%	0.3%
Bus	6.9%	5.4%	4.4%
Metrorail	24.3%	14.8%	11.5%
Commuter Rail	0.3%	1.2%	0.9%
Bike/walk	3.9%	2.7%	2.2%
CWS	0.8%	1.1%	0.7%
Telework	2.9%	3.2%	2.3%
<u>2001</u>			
DA/Motorcycle	62.5%	58.8%	70.3%
CP	6.2%	10.6%	6.9%
VP	0.2%	0.7%	0.5%
Bus	4.1%	7.3%	4.5%
Metrorail	19.0%	14.2%	11.5%
Commuter Rail	0.0%	1.7%	0.8%
Bike/walk	5.2%	4.1%	2.3%
CWS	1.1%	0.7%	0.9%
Telework	1.6%	2.0%	2.3%

- **Regular mode use** – Percentages of weekly “on the road” commuter trips (without TC/CWS)

	<u>Live in Arl</u>	<u>Work in Arl</u>	<u>All Region</u>
<u>2004</u>			
DA/Motorcycle	58.0%	62.3%	74.1%
CP/VP	5.1%	12.5%	6.1%
Bus	7.2%	5.6%	4.7%
Train (Metro/commuter rail)	25.5%	16.8%	12.8%
Bike/walk	4.1%	2.8%	2.3%
<u>2001</u>			
DA/Motorcycle	64.5%	60.4%	72.6%
CP/VP	6.6%	11.6%	7.6%
Bus	3.8%	7.5%	4.6%
Train (Metro/commuter rail)	19.7%	16.4%	12.7%
Bike/walk	5.3%	4.2%	2.4%

- **Average length of commute**

	<u>Live in Arl</u>	<u>Work in Arl</u>	<u>All Region</u>
<u>2004</u>			
Distance	9.9 miles	18.3miles	16.5 miles
Time	27 minutes	38 minutes	34 minutes
<u>2001</u>			
Distance	9.9 miles	16.1 miles	15.5 miles
Time	24 minutes	35 minutes	32 minutes

- **Work Non-standard/flexible schedules**

	<u>Live in Arl</u>	<u>Work in Arl</u>	<u>All Region</u>
<u>2004</u>			
No	74%	68%	69%
Yes	26%	32%	31%
Compressed schedule	5%	8%	5%
Flextime	21%	24%	26%
<u>2001</u>			
No	72%	71%	72%
Yes	28%	29%	28%
Compressed schedule	6%	5%	5%
Flextime	22%	24%	23%

- **Access mode to rideshare/transit modes**

	<u>Live in Arl</u>	<u>Work in Arl</u>	<u>All Region</u>
<u>2004</u>			
Picked-up at home	9%	15%	15%
Drive to driver's home	4%	16%	11%
Drive to central location	5%	28%	18%
Another pool/dropped off	<1%	<1%	1%
Walk/bicycle	69%	28%	39%
Drive CP/VP	4%	3%	6%
Bus/transit	8%	10%	9%
Average access distance	1.5 miles	4.1 miles	3.1 miles
<u>2001</u>			
Picked-up at home	17%	16%	16%
Drive to driver's home	4%	18%	11%
Drive to central location	1%	19%	14%
Another pool/dropped off	<1%	2%	1%
Walk/bicycle	62%	29%	39%
Drive CP/VP	5%	8%	9%
Bus/transit	9%	8%	10%
Average access distance	1.7 miles	4.1 miles	2.6 miles

- **Reasons for using alt modes** – regional commuters who currently use alternative modes

	<u>Live in Arl</u>	<u>Work in Arl</u>	<u>All Region</u>
<u>2004</u>			
Save time	16%	30%	18%
Changed jobs	20%	16%	16%
Save money	14%	14%	14%
No vehicle available	10%	6%	11%
Moved residence	13%	5%	9%
Avoid congestion	8%	11%	7%
Always used	6%	5%	7%
Tired of driving	7%	9%	6%
No parking, parking cost	5%	1%	3%
Close to work/pick-up point	7%	5%	4%

<u>2001</u>			
Save time	20%	19%	20%
Changed jobs	6%	6%	5%
Save money	23%	25%	21%
No vehicle available	21%	18%	19%
Moved residence	4%	4%	3%
Avoid congestion	6%	8%	8%
Always used	2%	2%	2%
Tired of driving	11%	10%	8%
No parking, parking cost	5%	3%	<1%
Close to work/pick-up point	4%	4%	<1%

- **Used or tried other alternative modes** – Respondents used or tried an alt mode they are not using now within the past two years (all commuters)

	<u>Live in Arl</u>	<u>Work in Arl</u>	<u>All Region</u>
Yes - 2004	28%	31%	22%
Yes - 2001	34%	31%	24%

<u>2004</u>			
<u>Other Alternatives Tried</u>			
Carpool, vanpool	3%	5%	4%
Bus	7%	7%	7%
Metrorail/commuter rail	17%	22%	12%
Bike/walk	6%	4%	3%

<u>2001</u>			
<u>Other Alternatives Tried</u>			
Carpool, vanpool	3%	6%	4%
Bus	10%	9%	8%
Metrorail/commuter rail	20%	20%	13%
Bike/walk	4%	2%	2%

Telecommute

- **Telecommute incidence** – all commuters

	<u>Live in Arl</u>	<u>Work in Arl</u>	<u>All Region</u>
<u>2004</u>			
% workers telecommuting	12.6%	13.7%	12.8%
Home-based telecommuters	100%	97%	95%
<u>2001</u>			
% workers telecommuting	13.8%	11.4%	11.3%
Home-based telecommuters	99%	100%	98%

* Note: in 2004, the definition of “telecommuter” was changed from the definition used in the 2001 survey. In 2001, the definition was, “*wage and salary employees who at least occasionally work at home or at a location other than their central work place during their normal work hours.*” In 2004, the definition was, “*wage and salary employees who at least occasionally work at home or at a tele-work or satellite center during an entire work day, instead of traveling to their regular work place.*” The 2001 definition would have included workers who work at client sites and/or who travel from one customer location to another during the course of the day and workers who worked part of a day at home or at another location, but traveled to the main work place for the remainder of the day. The 2004 definition was rewritten to exclude these workers. To provide an appropriate comparison, the 2001 telecommute results were revised to remove workers who would have been excluded under the 2004 definition. The results shown in this section reflect the revised 2001 results.

- **Potential for additional regional telecommuting** – all commuters

	<u>Live in Arl</u>	<u>Work in Arl</u>	<u>All Region</u>
<u>2004</u>			
Non-telecommuters (percent of commuters)	87%	87%	87%
Job responsibilities allow TC (“could TC”)	25%	21%	25%
Interested in TC if offered (“could and would TC”)	20%	17%	19%
<u>2001</u>			
Non-telecommuters (percent of commuters)	86%	89%	89%
Job responsibilities allow TC (“could TC”)	32%	29%	31%
Interested in TC if offered (“could and would TC”)	24%	20%	21%

- **Telecommute frequency** – current telecommuters

	<u>Live in Arl</u>	<u>Work in Arl</u>	<u>All Region</u>
<u>2004</u>			
< once per month/occasionally	18%	27%	22%
1 – 3 times per month	32%	21%	32%
1 day per week	20%	17%	15%
2 days per week	10%	13%	12%
3 or more times per week	20%	22%	19%
Mean (days per week)	1.3	1.4	1.3
<u>2001</u>			
< once per month/occasionally	28%	32%	29%
1 – 3 times per month	36%	22%	28%
1 day per week	17%	13%	16%
2 days per week	4%	6%	9%
3 or more times per week	16%	28%	16%
Mean (days per week)	1.0	1.5	1.1

- **Length of time telecommuting** – current telecommuters

	<u>Live in Arl</u>	<u>Work in Arl</u>	<u>All Region</u>
<u>2004</u>			
Less than one year	21%	22%	22%
One to two years	44%	32%	27%
More than two years	36%	46%	51%
<u>2001</u>			
Less than one year	27%	27%	23%
One to two years	28%	40%	29%
More than two years	46%	32%	48%

Awareness/Attitudes Toward Transportation Options

- **Transit availability between home and work** – all commuters

	<u>Live in Arl</u>	<u>Work in Arl</u>	<u>All Region</u>
Yes - 2004	86%	75%	65%
Yes - 2001	85%	79%	65%

- **HOV lane availability and use** – all commuters

	<u>Live in Arl</u>	<u>Work in Arl</u>	<u>All Region</u>
<u>2004</u>			
HOV lane on route to work	29%	50%	29%
Use lanes	7%	21%	8%
<u>2001</u>			
HOV lane on route to work	32%	45%	27%
Use lanes	5%	14%	7%

- **Park & Ride availability and use** – all commuters

	<u>Live in Arl</u>	<u>Work in Arl</u>	<u>All Region</u>
<u>2004</u>			
Know locations of P&R lots	21%	41%	40%
Used P&R in past year	2%	12%	7%
<u>2001</u>			
Know locations of P&R lots	26%	42%	42%
Used P&R in past year	3%	10%	7%

- **Reasons for not riding bus** – commuters who don't currently use bus who have transit available

	<u>Live in Arl</u>	<u>Work in Arl</u>	<u>All Region</u>
<u>2004</u>			
Trips takes too much time	28%	25%	32%
No bus service	27%	33%	13%
Need car for work	10%	9%	15%
Work schedule irregular	6%	6%	8%
Trip too long – distance too far	7%	6%	7%
Bus unreliable/late	3%	4%	5%
Too expensive	2%	5%	3%
Need car before/after work	3%	2%	5%
<u>2001</u>			
Trips takes too much time	32%	25%	27%
No bus service	12%	13%	14%
Need car for work	17%	16%	19%
Work schedule irregular	5%	7%	7%
Trip too long – distance too far	9%	4%	7%
Don't know routes/stops	7%	7%	4%
Bus unreliable/late	5%	6%	5%
Too expensive	5%	7%	5%
Need car before/after work	2%	6%	2%

- **Reasons for not riding train** – commuters who don't currently use train who have transit available

	<u>Live in Arl</u>	<u>Work in Arl</u>	<u>All Region</u>
<u>2004</u>			
No train service	56%	48%	37%
Trips takes too much time	17%	20%	21%
Need car for work	10%	8%	14%
Trip too long – distance too far	5%	5%	6%
Work schedule irregular	5%	3%	5%
Train unreliable	<1%	2%	2%
Too expensive	2%	6%	4%
Need car before/after work	2%	<1%	4%
<u>2001</u>			
No train service	36%	33%	36%
Trips takes too much time	20%	18%	16%
Need car for work	18%	16%	18%
Trip too long – distance too far	6%	3%	5%
Work schedule irregular	5%	8%	5%
Train unreliable	4%	2%	2%
Too expensive	3%	9%	5%
Need car before/after work	<1%	7%	4%

- **Reasons for not carpooling/vanpooling** – commuters who don't currently CP or VP

	<u>Live in Arl</u>	<u>Work in Arl</u>	<u>All Region</u>
<u>2004</u>			
Don't know anyone to CP/VP with	42%	46%	47%
Work schedule irregular	16%	20%	20%
Need car for work	9%	10%	12%
Need car before or after work	5%	7%	7%
Doesn't save time	9%	5%	5%
Live close to work	3%	2%	3%
Takes too much time	7%	4%	4%
<u>2001</u>			
Don't know anyone to CP/VP with	48%	42%	48%
Work schedule irregular	15%	17%	18%
Need car for work	9%	12%	12%
Need car before or after work	5%	6%	7%
Doesn't save time	5%	3%	4%
Live close to work	5%	4%	3%
Takes too much time	5%	4%	4%

- **Commute easier, more difficult, or same as one year ago** – all regional commuters

	<u>Live in Arl</u>	<u>Work in Arl</u>	<u>All Region</u>
<u>2004</u>			
Easier	18%	15%	14%
More difficult	21%	33%	29%
About the same	57%	49%	54%

2001 – Not available – question not asked in 2001

2004

Reasons commute is easier

Shorter distance	51%	35%	44%
Route less congested	9%	30%	19%
Faster trip, less time	28%	29%	21%
Less stressful	7%	14%	9%
Started using bus/train/CP/VP	5%	6%	6%
Started driving alone	4%	4%	4%

Reasons commute is more difficult

Route more congested	66%	82%	81%
Longer distance	13%	13%	11%
Slower trip, more time	12%	13%	11%
More stressful	6%	3%	5%

Advertising/Messages

- **Heard, seen, or read commute advertising in past 6 months** – all respondents (includes both commuters and respondents who work at home/telework from home full-time)

	<u>Live in Arl</u>	<u>Work in Arl</u>	<u>All Region</u>
Yes - 2004	57%	63%	55%
Yes - 2001	57%	57%	55%
<u>2004</u>			
<u>Ad messages recalled</u>			
You can call for CP/VP info	14%	10%	16%
GRH	10%	11%	12%
Contact Commuter Connections	5%	6%	6%
Use bus/train, Metro	11%	10%	7%
New buses/trains coming	9%	9%	7%
Saves money	2%	5%	3%
Saves time	2%	4%	2%
HOV lanes	2%	2%	2%
Less stressful	2%	2%	1%
Telecommuting	4%	4%	3%
Help environment	<1%	3%	2%
Reduce traffic	3%	2%	3%
<u>2001</u>			
<u>Ad messages recalled</u>			
You can call for CP/VP info	6%	9%	9%
GRH	3%	3%	3%
Contact Commuter Connections	4%	5%	5%
Use bus/train, Metro	0%	0%	0%
New buses/trains coming	4%	4%	4%
Saves money	6%	8%	7%
Saves time	13%	10%	11%
HOV lanes	9%	7%	11%
Less stressful	5%	2%	3%
Telecommuting	3%	3%	2%
Help environment	3%	3%	4%
Reduce traffic	3%	4%	5%

- **Attitudes/actions after hearing/seeing commute ads** (respondents who remembered ads)

	<u>Live in Arl</u>	<u>Work in Arl</u>	<u>All Region</u>
More likely to consider RS/transit - 2004	18%	17%	18%
More likely to consider RS/transit - 2001	25%	24%	28%
<u>2004</u>			
Too actions to change commute	1%	1%	2%
Sought commute info (internet, family, commute organization, other source)	0.5%	1.0%	1.6%
Changed route to work	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
Tried alt mode	0.5%	0.0%	0.2%

2001 – questions about actions taken were not asked in 2001

- **Awareness and use of regional commute info phone/web site** – all respondents

	<u>Live in Arl</u>	<u>Work in Arl</u>	<u>All Region</u>
<u>2004</u>			
Know regional number/web site	45%	58%	46%
Used any number/web site in past year	14%	10%	11%
<u>2001</u>			
Know regional number/web site	40%	42%	33%
Used any number/web site in past year	10%	15%	10%

Employer Services

- **Employer offers TDM services** – all non-self employed commuters

	<u>Live in Arl</u>	<u>Work in Arl</u>	<u>All Region</u>
<u>2004</u>			
Discount/free transit pass	44%	59%	31%
Information on commute options	27%	33%	22%
Preferential parking for CPVP	17%	23%	16%
Bike/ped facilities or services	18%	21%	14%
GRH	10%	11%	12%
Parking discounts for CP/VP	6%	9%	4%
CP financial incentive	5%	6%	4%
None – employer doesn't offer any	36%	27%	47%
<u>2001</u>			
Discount/free transit pass	36%	44%	29%
Information on commute options	31%	34%	25%
Preferential parking for CPVP	20%	23%	19%
Bike/ped facilities or services	9%	7%	9%
GRH	17%	16%	19%
Parking discounts for CP/VP	8%	8%	4%
CP financial incentive	7%	12%	7%
None – employer doesn't offer any	46%	40%	49%

- **Employer offers parking services** – all non-self employed commuters

	<u>Live in Arl</u>	<u>Work in Arl</u>	<u>All Region</u>
<u>2004</u>			
Free on-site parking	49%	49%	66%
Free off-site parking	3%	2%	3%
Employee pays full charge	33%	32%	21%
Employer pays part of charge	10%	11%	6%
<u>2001</u>			
Free on-site parking	54%	44%	65%
Free off-site parking	4%	4%	3%
Employee pays full charge	32%	42%	23%
Employer pays part of charge	8%	10%	6%

Demographics

- **States of Residence** – all respondents

	<u>Live in Arl</u>	<u>Work in Arl</u>	<u>All Region</u>
<u>2004</u>			
DC	0%	6%	11%
MD	0%	23%	45%
Arlington County	100%	22%	4%
Other VA	0%	49%	40%
Other	0%	0%	0%

<u>2001</u>			
DC	0%	5%	12%
MD	0%	24%	48%
Arlington County	100%	26%	5%
Other VA	0%	45%	36%
Other	0%	0%	0%

- **States of Employment** – all respondents

	<u>Live in Arl</u>	<u>Work in Arl</u>	<u>All Region</u>
<u>2004</u>			
DC	42%	0%	29%
MD	6%	0%	33%
Arlington County	32%	100%	6%
Other VA	21%	0%	31%
Other	0%	0%	1%

<u>2001</u>			
DC	35%	0%	30%
MD	8%	0%	34%
Arlington County	32%	100%	6%
Other VA	24%	0%	29%
Other	0%	0%	1%

- **Gender** – all respondents

	<u>Live in Arl</u>	<u>Work in Arl</u>	<u>All Region</u>
<u>2004</u>			
Female	51%	45%	55%
Male	49%	55%	45%

<u>2001</u>			
Female	49%	49%	54%
Male	51%	51%	46%

- **Age** – all respondents

	<u>Live in Arl</u>	<u>Work in Arl</u>	<u>All Region</u>
<u>2004</u>			
Under 25	7%	5%	7%
25 – 34	30%	17%	21%
35 – 44	23%	26%	28%
45 – 54	23%	29%	27%
55 – 64	14%	20%	14%
65 or older	3%	3%	3%
<u>2001</u>			
Under 25	12%	10%	10%
25 – 34	33%	25%	23%
35 – 44	24%	29%	29%
45 – 54	20%	21%	25%
55 – 64	9%	11%	10%
65 or older	3%	4%	3%

- **Income** – all respondents

	<u>Live in Arl</u>	<u>Work in Arl</u>	<u>All Region</u>
<u>2004</u>			
Under \$30,000	7%	8%	6%
\$30,000 – \$39,999	8%	5%	8%
\$40,000 – \$59,999	16%	10%	14%
\$60,000 – \$79,999	15%	15%	17%
\$80,000 – \$99,999	14%	18%	16%
\$100,000 – \$119,999	18%	15%	14%
\$120,000 – \$139,999	7%	8%	7%
\$140,000 – \$159,999	5%	6%	5%
\$160,000 or more	12%	16%	13%
<u>2001</u>			
Under \$30,000	12%	10%	9%
\$30,000 – \$39,999	8%	8%	9%
\$40,000 – \$59,999	17%	18%	18%
\$60,000 – \$79,999	16%	15%	19%
\$80,000 – \$99,999	14%	17%	15%
\$100,000 – \$119,999	33%	32%	30%
\$120,000 – \$139,999			
\$140,000 – \$159,999			
\$160,000 or more			

- **Employer type** – all respondents

	<u>Live in Arl</u>	<u>Work in Arl</u>	<u>All Region</u>
<u>2004</u>			
Federal agency	24%	37%	22%
State/local government	9%	11%	13%
Non-profit organization	14%	11%	10%
Private sector	47%	37%	49%
Self-employed	7%	5%	7%
<u>2001</u>			
Federal agency	20%	34%	20%
State/local government	9%	7%	14%
Non-profit organization	11%	8%	10%
Private sector	52%	44%	50%
Self-employed	8%	8%	7%

- **Employer size** – all respondents

	<u>Live in Arl</u>	<u>Work in Arl</u>	<u>All Region</u>
<u>2004</u>			
1 – 25 employees	22%	18%	25%
26 – 50 employees	11%	6%	12%
51 – 100 employees	11%	11%	12%
101 – 250 employees	11%	11%	13%
251 – 999 employees	16%	23%	15%
1,000 employees	29%	31%	25%
<u>2001</u>			
1 – 25 employees	28%	21%	30%
26 – 50 employees	12%	11%	12%
51 – 100 employees	10%	12%	11%
101 – 250 employees	12%	13%	12%
251 – 999 employees	15%	17%	14%
1,000 employees	23%	27%	22%

- **Ethnic/Racial background** – all respondents

	<u>Live in Arl</u>	<u>Work in Arl</u>	<u>All Region</u>
<u>2004</u>			
Hispanic/Latino	8%	7%	6%
White	78%	71%	64%
Black/African-American	6%	16%	23%
Asian	6%	3%	5%
<u>2001</u>			
Hispanic/Latino	13%	7%	6%
White	74%	62%	61%
Black/African-American	5%	21%	23%
Asian	6%	4%	5%