

V Transportation

This section examines the number of hours vehicles were delayed due to congestion and the cost per capita due to traffic congestion.

The average American has to travel outside of his community for reasons such as employment, school, worship, socializing, etc. Regardless of the citizen's purpose for traveling, each city attempts to offer the most feasible mode of transportation via a fully functioning road network, and an efficient public transportation system.

According to the 2000 Census, 72% of Houston's population drives alone in their vehicles while 16% carpool with two or more riders. Only 6% use the public transportation system.

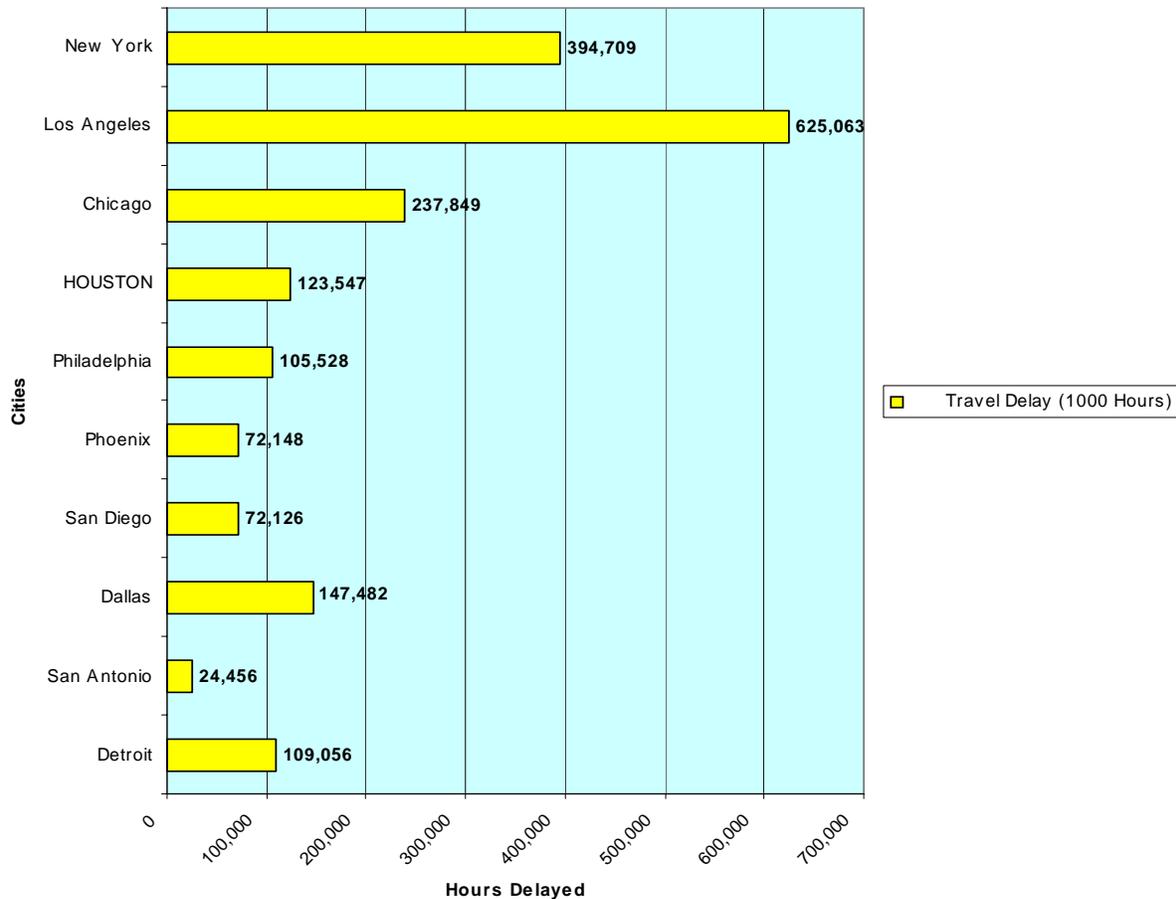
The differences in the way most Houstonians travel may have an impact on the time that it takes to travel to work. Fifty-eight percent of workers commute less than 30 minutes, and 34.4% commute 30 to 59 minutes to work (*2004 Urban Mobility Report, Texas Transportation Institute*).

The public transportation provided in the City of Houston is via the Metropolitan Transit Authority (METRO). METRO service travels to both airports, Bush Intercontinental and Hobby, downtown and throughout Houston seven days a week from 5 a.m. to midnight.

In January 2004, METRO started operating a light rail system. Currently, the rail is a 7.5 mile route connecting downtown Houston to the Texas Medical Center and Reliant Football Stadium.

Other transportation services include taxicab service, which consists of 128 taxicab companies and a combined total of 2,245 taxicabs. Private bus companies include Greyhound Bus Lines and an additional 257 bus lines providing service throughout the city and state.

Vehicle-hours of Delay Per Year Due to Congestion: 2002



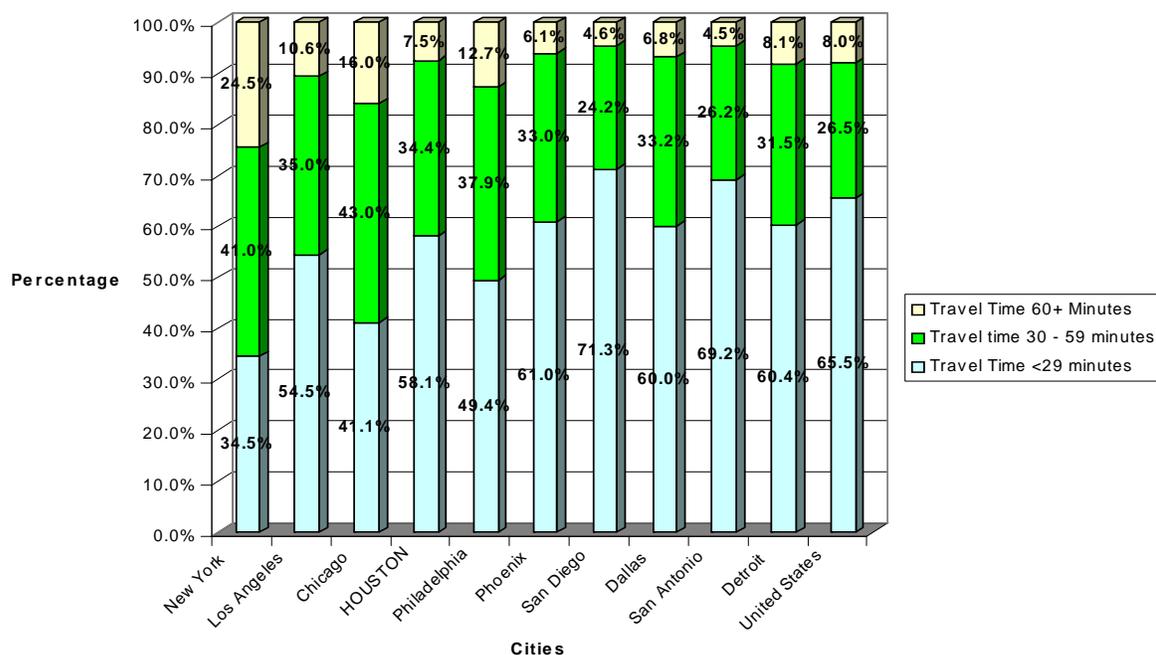
* The Los Angeles population spends the most hours traveling due to traffic congestion per year, 625 million hours in 2002.

* Houston compares favorably among the ten largest cities in terms of travel delay due to congestion.

* San Antonio residents spend the fewest hours in traffic compared to the ten largest cities, 24 million hours in 2002.

(Source: 2004 Urban Mobility Report by the Texas Transportation Institute)

Travel Time to Work: 2000



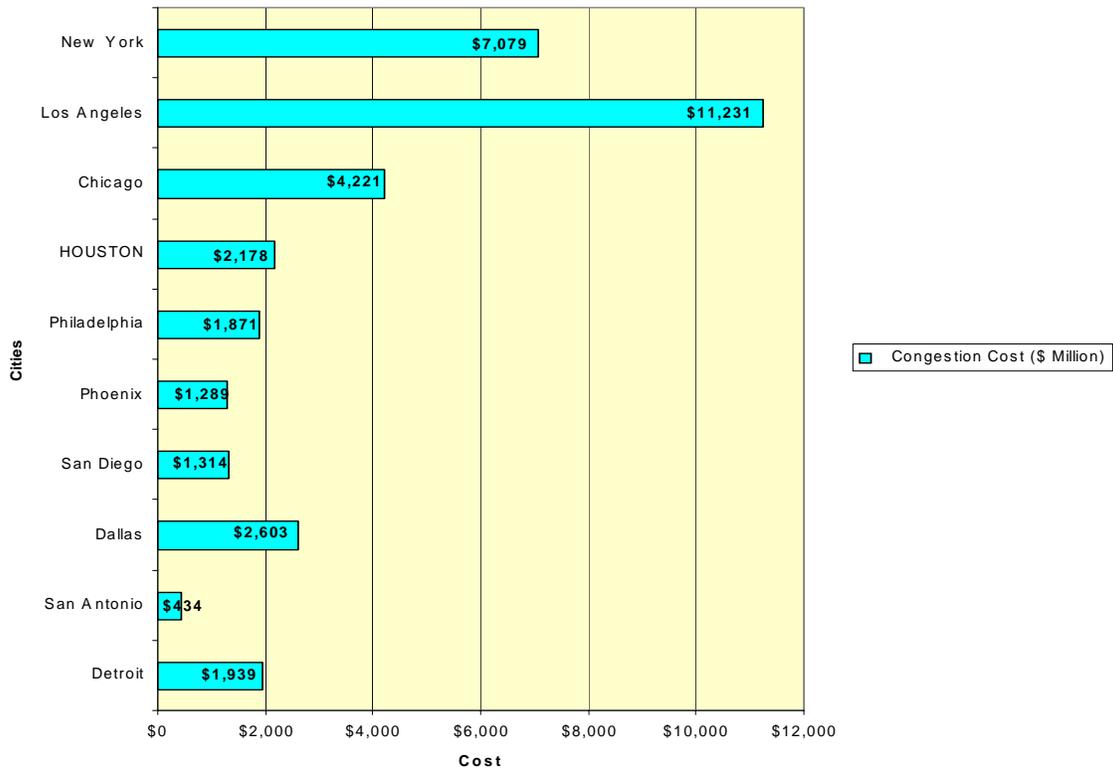
* In the city of Houston, 58% of the workers travel 29 minutes or less to their respective places of employment.

* 34% of the workers in Houston have a commute time of 30 to 59 minutes.

* The remaining 8% of workers have a commute time of 60 minutes or more.

* New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia and Detroit all have a greater share of their commuters than Houston who must travel an hour or more to work.

Congestion Cost Per Capita: 2002 (\$ Millions)

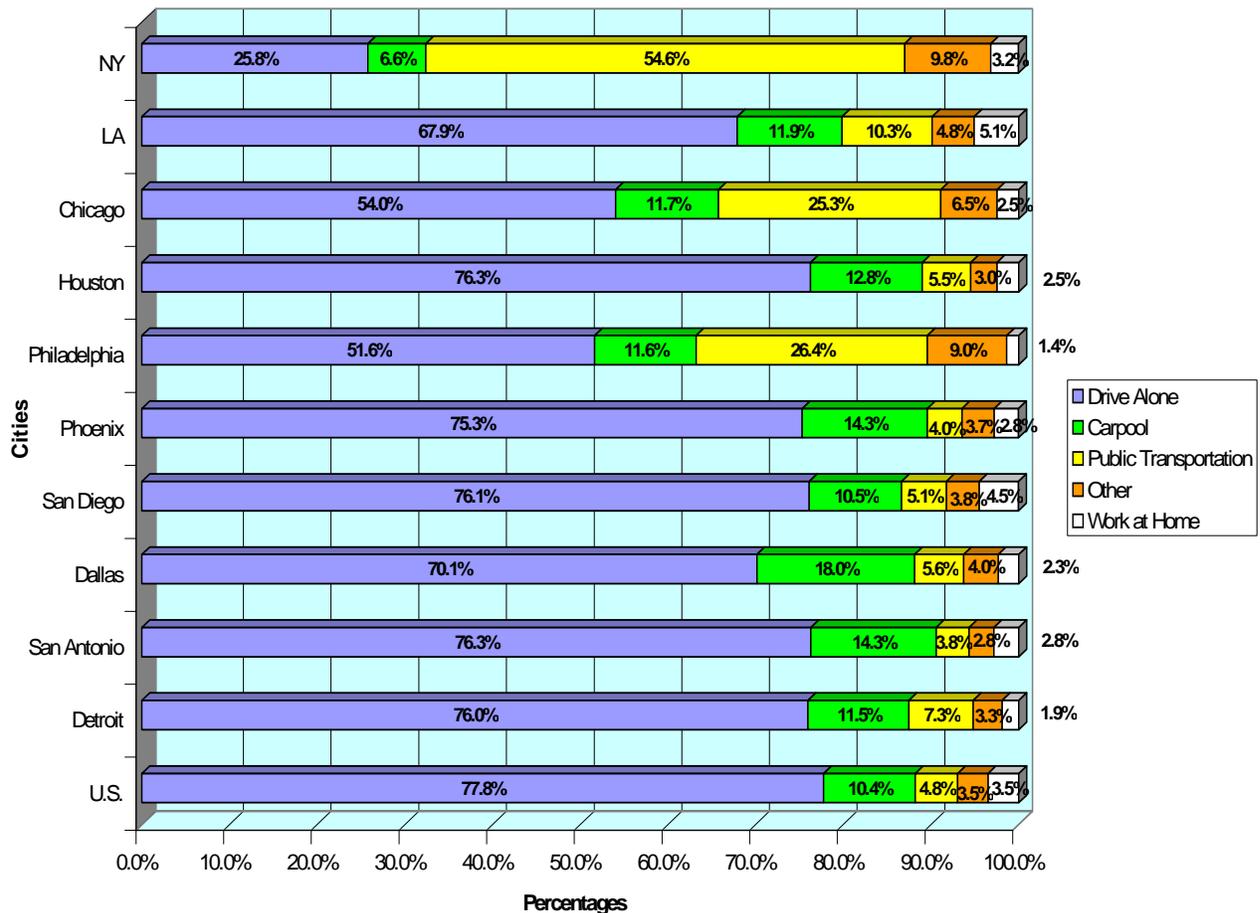


* The City of Los Angeles has the highest costs due to traffic congestion, over 11.2 billion dollars in 2002.

* Houston compares well to the largest cities in the country in terms of costs due to traffic congestion, but an estimated 2.1 billion dollars was still wasted in 2002.

(Source: 2004 Urban Mobility Report by the Texas Transportation Institute)

Means of Transportation: 2003



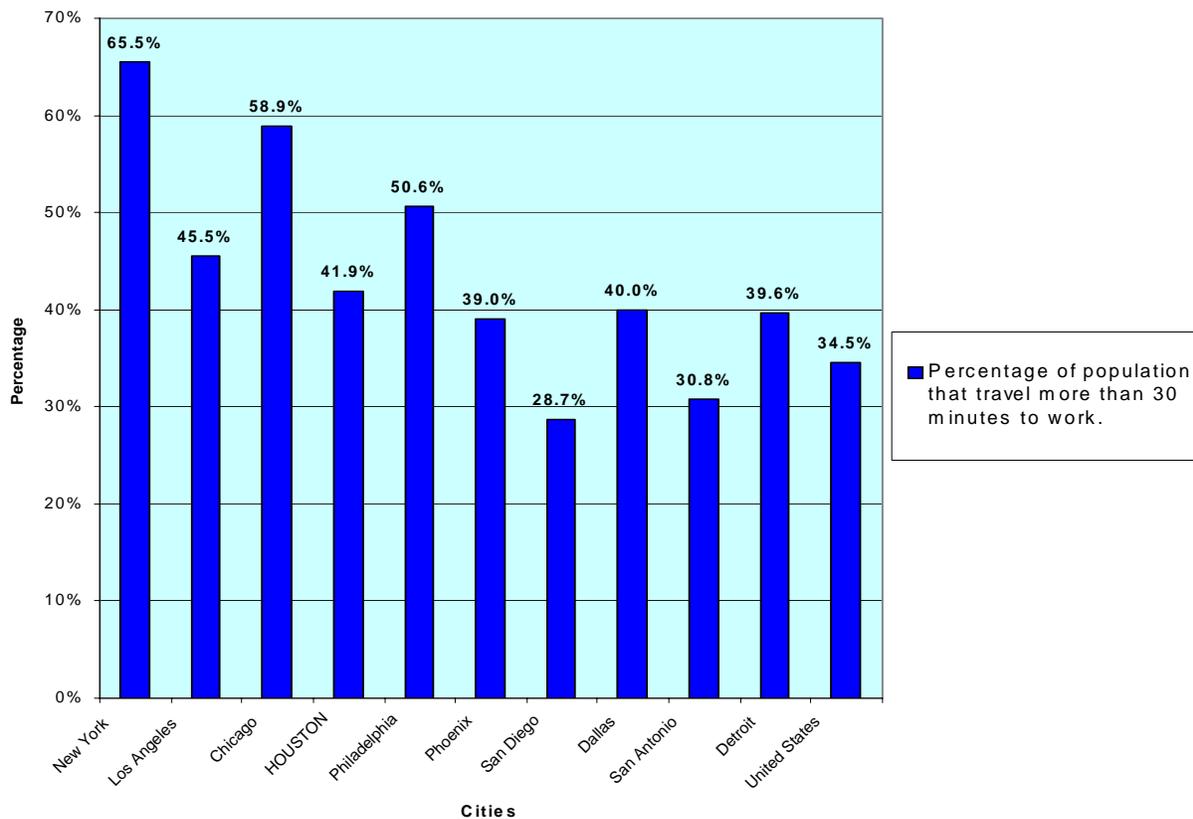
* 76% of the commuters in Houston drive alone in their vehicles.

* 13% of Houston's commuters carpool with two or more riders.

* 6% of the Houston commuters utilize the public transportation system, 3% use other means of transportation, and 3% of the working population works at home.

* Houston and San Antonio are tied among the ten largest cities in the country with the highest ratio of commuters that drive alone to their places of employment.

Travel Time to Work 30 Minutes or More: 2000



* New York had the highest percentage (65.5%) of its population traveling 30 minutes or more to their places of employment.

* In comparison with the ten largest cities, Houston ranked fifth with 41.9% of its population traveling 30 minutes or more to work.

* San Diego had the smallest percent of commuters traveling more than 30 minutes to work (28.7%).