

# Commuting Times and Means of Travel to Work

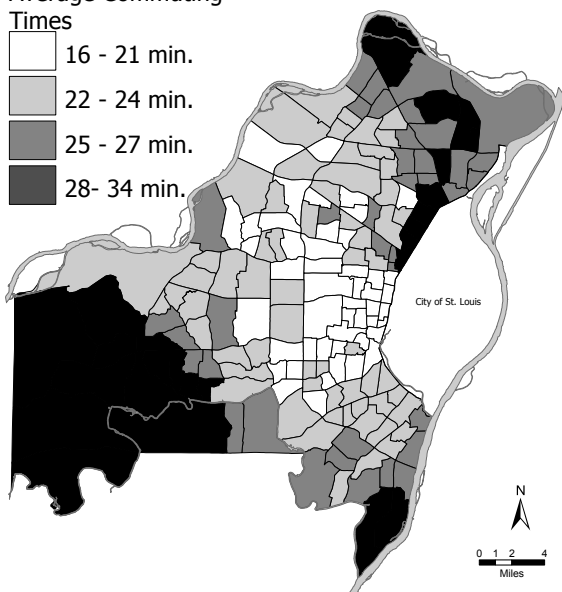
## Commuting Times

According to the latest census figures, lengthy commutes and the issues associated with them are not going away in the near future. Nationally the average American spent nearly 26 minutes commuting to work in 2000, up from 22 minutes in 1990.

Commuting times of St. Louis County residents also increased in the past decade, but not as much as the national increase. The average commuting time to work for St. Louis County residents is 24.0 minutes one way, which is slightly less than the national average of 25.5 minutes, whereas in 1990, St. Louis County commuting times matched the national figure.

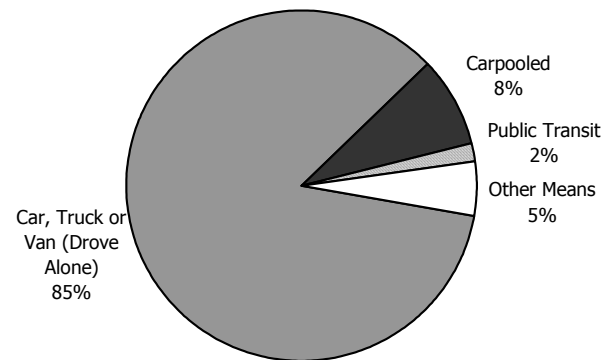
As shown on the map below, residents who live in the northern, southern and western edges of the county have the longest commuting times - between twenty-eight and thirty-four minutes.

### Average Commuting Times



Average Commuting Time for County Residents

## Means of Travel to Work



Means of Commuting to Work for St. Louis County Residents, 2000

The 2000 Census showed the continued importance of the automobile in the lives of American workers. Nearly 76 percent of Americans drove alone to their jobs, up from 73 percent in 1990.

County residents rely heavily on private automobile transportation: 84.9 percent drive alone to work, which is considerably higher than the national average. The proportion of commuters using car pools and public transit has declined slightly since 1990, the figure was 10.1 percent in 2000.

In spite of the opening of the MetroLink light rail system since the previous census, the 2000 census showed only a very slight increase in St. Louis County workers using public transit for work trips - an increase from 1.6 percent to 1.7 percent.

"Other means" of transportation include walking, bicycling, and working at home.

These data do not include the residents of other counties who work in St. Louis County.

Sources: American Fact Finder and U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.