
Trends and Conditions

Special Report – October 2014

COMMUTING TRENDS IN FLORIDA

This special report of the FDOT Trends and Conditions series highlights commuting trends in Florida and the United States. It is based on data from the 2013 American Community Survey (ACS). In 2013, 115,237 Florida households were interviewed, and 7,911 people living in group quarters¹ were surveyed. In general, the trends reaffirm the continuing dominance of auto commuting but also suggest that factors such as economic pressures and social-cultural factors may be having some influence on travel behavior.

Florida's commuting trends as of 2013 are summarized as follows:

- **Increased auto availability** – Florida's zero-vehicle households decreased to 7.2% in 2013, down from 7.4% in 2012. This compares with a national level of 9.1% in 2013.
- **Slight increase in commuting by driving alone** – In Florida, 79.6% of commuters drove alone, slightly above the 2012 level and 3.2 percentage points above the national average. The number of commuters driving alone in Florida grew by 179,457 in 2013.
- **Slightly Less Carpooling** – Carpooling remains the second most common means of commuting. However, its share reached an all-time low at 9.4% for both the U.S. and Florida. These numbers have dropped 0.7% for Florida and 1.8% nationally since 2004.
- **No statistically-significant change in commuting by walking or bicycling** – Commuting by walking decreased from 1.6% last year to 1.5% in Florida while the national level remained stable at 2.8%. Bicycle commuting in Florida continued at 0.7%.
- **Slight changes in transit use for commuting** – Transit use for commuting slightly decreased to 2.1% in Florida. Nationally, it increased to 5.2%, the highest it has been in the past decade.
- **Working at home at record level** – Working at home grew to 5.1% in Florida and stayed steady at 4.4% nationally – both record levels. This translates into about 17,951 more Floridians working at home since 2012.
- **Slight increase in overall commute times** – The average one-way commute in Florida was 26.1 minutes, 0.3 minutes longer than the national average. The Florida and national commute times have increased every year since 2010. In Florida, approximately 15% of commuters had trips longer than 45 minutes.
- **Mobile work force** – In Florida, 18.7% of commuters worked outside their county or the state, compared with 27.5% nationally who worked outside their county or state of residence.
- **No worker households** – The share of households with zero workers was 32.7% in Florida and 27.0% in the nation. This is a record level for Florida and its largest difference from the national share.

While commuting is critically important in studying travel, it is only a portion of overall travel. Fuel price levels, economic conditions, household composition and activity patterns, development patterns, and travel option availability are among the factors that influence travel behavior.

¹ Group quarters include such places as college residence halls, residential treatment centers, skilled nursing facilities, group homes, military barracks, correctional facilities, and worker dormitories.

Although fundamental travel behaviors remain intact, the most notable changes in the data for recent years reflect the influence of the economy on several measures. The following tables and figures contain detailed information supporting the above summary.

Due to relatively small sample sizes (approximately 1.70% of the households), many of the small differences over time and between locations may not be statistically significant. The difference between the adjacent values in the tables is not necessarily statistically significant at the 95% confidence level. For information on data collection, sampling design, non-sampling error, and definitions, see http://www.census.gov/acs/www/methodology/methodology_main/.

Table 1 presents commuting trends for Florida since 2004. Readers are encouraged to familiarize themselves with margins of errors by reviewing ACS guidance.

Table 1 - Florida and U.S. ACS Trends

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
VEHICLES AVAILABLE – FLORIDA										
No vehicles available	6.50%	6.60%	6.60%	6.20%	6.60%	6.60%	7.00%	7.30%	7.40%	7.20%
1 vehicle available	40.3%	40.0%	39.4%	39.7%	40.5%	41.2%	41.1%	41.7%	42.2%	41.6%
2 vehicles available	39.7%	39.2%	39.0%	38.8%	38.5%	38.3%	37.9%	37.8%	37.4%	37.7%
3 or more vehicles available	13.5%	14.3%	15.1%	15.3%	14.4%	14.0%	13.7%	13.1%	13.0%	13.0%
VEHICLES AVAILABLE – U.S.										
No vehicles available	9.4%	8.9%	8.8%	8.7%	8.8%	8.9%	9.1%	9.3%	9.2%	9.1%
1 vehicle available	33.8%	33.1%	33.2%	33.1%	33.4%	33.7%	33.8%	34.1%	34.1%	33.9%
2 vehicles available	38.5%	38.2%	38.0%	38.1%	37.8%	37.6%	37.6%	37.5%	37.3%	37.3%
3 or more vehicles available	18.3%	19.8%	20.0%	20.1%	20.0%	19.9%	19.5%	19.1%	19.3%	19.7%
COMMUTING TO WORK – FLORIDA										
Car, truck, or van – drove alone	81.0%	80.0%	79.3%	79.6%	79.5%	79.3%	79.9%	79.7%	79.3%	79.6%
Car, truck, or van – carpooled	10.1%	11.1%	10.9%	10.5%	10.3%	10.4%	9.6%	9.9%	9.7%	9.4%
Public transportation (not taxi)	1.7%	1.8%	2.0%	1.9%	2.0%	1.9%	2.1%	2.1%	2.2%	2.1%
Walked	1.5%	1.6%	1.7%	1.7%	1.5%	1.5%	1.7%	1.5%	1.6%	1.5%
Other means	1.7%	2.0%	2.2%	2.1%	2.3%	2.2%	2.1%	2.1%	2.3%	2.2%
Worked at home	4.0%	3.6%	4.0%	4.2%	4.5%	4.8%	4.6%	4.6%	5.0%	5.1%
COMMUTING TO WORK – U.S.										
Car, truck, or van – drove alone	76.3%	77.0%	76.0%	76.1%	75.5%	76.1%	76.6%	76.4%	76.3%	76.4%
Car, truck, or van – carpooled	11.2%	10.7%	10.7%	10.4%	10.7%	10.0%	9.7%	9.7%	9.7%	9.4%
Public transportation (not taxi)	5.0%	4.7%	4.8%	4.9%	5.0%	5.0%	4.9%	5.0%	5.0%	5.2%
Walked	2.7%	2.5%	2.9%	2.8%	2.8%	2.9%	2.8%	2.8%	2.8%	2.8%
Other means	1.5%	1.6%	1.6%	1.7%	1.7%	1.8%	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%	1.9%
Worked at home	3.4%	3.2%	3.6%	3.9%	4.1%	4.1%	4.3%	4.3%	4.3%	4.4%
ZERO-WORKER HOUSEHOLDS										
Florida	-	31.7%	31.6%	30.2%	30.0%	29.5%	31.6%	32.5%	32.9%	32.7%
U.S.	-	27.2%	27.0%	25.8%	25.8%	24.5%	26.3%	27.2%	27.5%	27.0%
MEAN TRAVEL TIME TO WORK (Minutes)										
Florida	24.8	25.4	26.0	25.9	25.9	25.9	25.4	25.5	25.8	26.1
U.S.	24.3	24.4	25.1	25.0	25.3	25.5	25.1	25.3	25.5	25.8

The work-at-home population has grown in the past decade across the nation and particularly in Florida (Figure 1). This was among the fastest-changing aspects of commuting. The share of households that have no workers has changed to 32.7% in Florida and 27.0% in the U.S. This is relevant to transportation policy in that the location and travel decisions of these households are not necessarily influenced by access to work considerations. This combined with work-at-home households, results in approximately 38% of Floridian households not involved in commuting.

Figure 1 – Work-at-Home Population Share, Florida versus U.S.

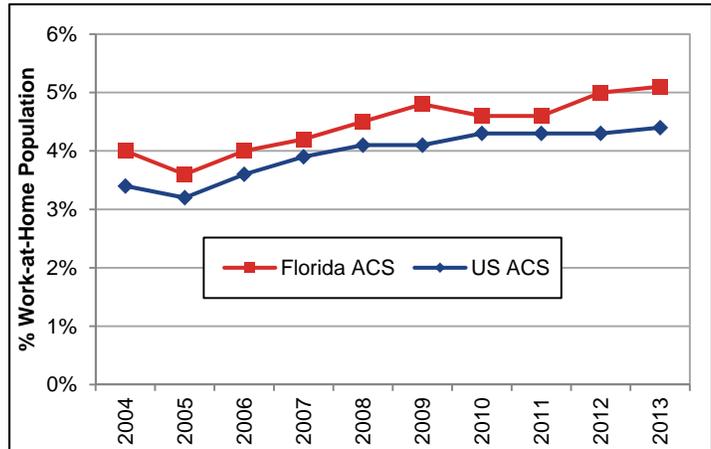


Figure 2 contrasts Florida and U.S. zero-vehicle household trends. Vehicle availability (smaller share of zero-vehicle households) improved in Florida and nationally between 2012 and 2013. At the national level, this is the first improvement in vehicle availability since 2007. As zero-vehicle households are typically smaller — often single persons — the share of the population that resides in zero-vehicle households is quite small, 4.6% in the U.S. and 3.3% in Florida.

Figure 2 - Zero-Vehicle Household Trends, Florida versus U.S.

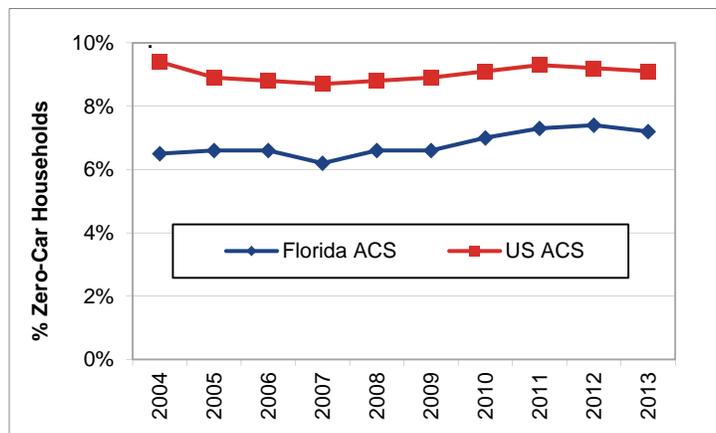
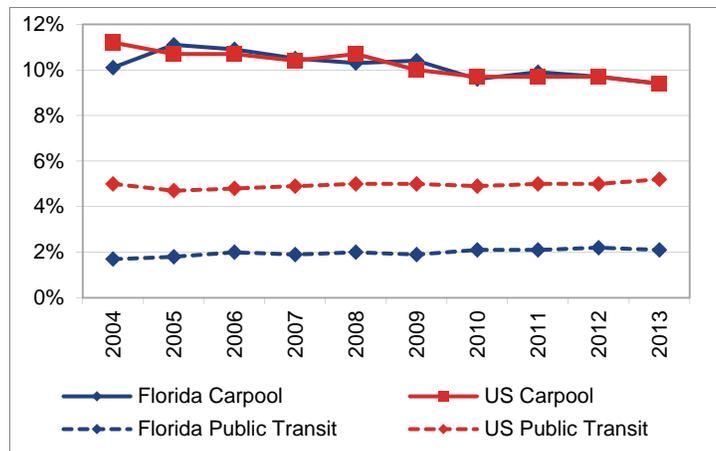


Figure 3 contrasts Florida and national trends with respect to carpool or shared-ride commuting and transit use. Reliance on driving or being a private-vehicle passenger remains the dominant means of commuting in Florida, with “drive alone” being 3.2 percentage points higher than in the rest of the country (Table 1). Commuting by both public transit and walking in Florida remain below the national averages. Transit use increased very slightly in both Florida and the U.S. in the past decade. In contrast, during the previous year, carpooling showed a slight decrease in the U.S. and Florida, both landing at 9.4% for 2013.

Figure 3 - Transit and Carpool Commuting Trends, Florida versus U.S.



In Figure 4, mean commute times changed slightly for both Florida and the U.S., with Florida remaining above the national average. Florida's average commute time slightly increased from 2012 to 26.1 minutes for 2013. The national average surpassed its 2008 peak now at 25.8 minutes for 2013. This measure does not allow discernment of the relative contributions of trip length changes versus trip speed changes.

Figure 4 - Mean Commute Times, Florida versus U.S.

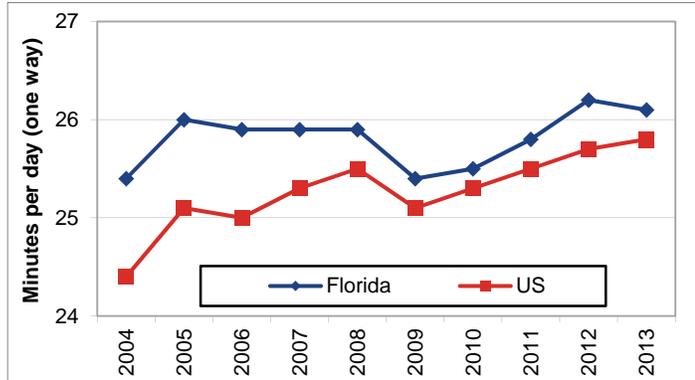


Table 2 shows the comparative transit mode shares for commuting for metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs). Transit use in all Florida MSAs is below the national average. Table 3 provides the same data for counties. At the county level, only Miami-Dade County has a transit share that exceeds the national average.

Table 2 - Top Florida MSA's Ranked by Transit Mode Share to Work, 2013

Rank	City - Area	Transit %
1	Gainesville	4.26%
2	Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach	4.07%
3	Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford	1.73%
4	Naples-Immokalee-Marco Island	1.45%
4	Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater	1.40%
6	Panama City	1.28%
7	Tallahassee	1.20%
8	Jacksonville	1.10%
9	Crestview-Fort Walton Beach-Destin	0.90%
10	Cape Coral-Fort Myers	0.81%
11	North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton	0.70%
11	Port St. Lucie	0.70%
13	Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville	0.50%
13	Pensacola-Ferry Pass-Brent	0.50%
15	Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach	0.40%
15	Punta Gorda	0.40%
17	Lakeland-Winter Haven	0.30%
18	Homosassa Springs	0.20%
19	Ocala	0.10%
	Florida	2.10%
	United States	5.20%

Table 3 - Top Florida Counties Ranked by Transit Mode Share to Work, 2013 ACS

Rank	County	Transit %
1	Miami-Dade County	5.90%
2	Alachua County	4.30%
3	Broward County	3.10%
4	Orange County	2.60%
5	Monroe County	2.10%
6	Pinellas County	2.10%
7	Palm Beach County	2.00%
8	Duval County	1.60%
9	Leon County	1.50%
10	Osceola County	1.50%
11	Bay County	1.40%
12	Collier County	1.40%
13	Hillsborough County	1.30%
	Florida	2.10%
	United States	5.20%

Table 4 provides data for 16 Florida counties with the highest commute times. All 16 counties have higher commute times than the Florida and national averages. Table 5 provides selected rank data on cross-county commuting for selected states. Many states have more cross-county-line commuting than Florida.

Table 4 - Top Florida Counties Ranked by Travel Time to Work, 2013 ACS

Rank	County	Minutes
1	Clay County	32.0
2	Osceola County	32.0
3	Pasco County	31.3
4	Miami-Dade County	29.0
5	Nassau County	28.6
6	Lee County	28.0
7	St. Lucie County	28.0
8	Lake County	27.8
9	Broward County	27.7
10	Hernando County	27.5
11	St. Johns County	27.2
12	Santa Rosa County	26.7
13	Putnam County	26.5
14	Citrus County	26.3
15	Seminole County	26.3
16	Orange County	26.2
	Florida	26.1
	United States	25.8

Table 5 - Percent of Workers Age 16 Years and Over Who Worked Outside County or State of Residence, Selected States, 2013 ACS

Rank	State	Percent
1	Virginia	51.4%
3	New Jersey	46.0%
4	Georgia	40.9%
8	New York	35.2%
20	South Carolina	28.5%
22	North Carolina	28.3%
	United States	27.5%
32	Oregon	22.9%
34	Texas	22.6%
40	Florida	18.7%
42	California	17.4%
49	Arizona	6.2%

Figures 5 and 6 provide comparisons across states in single occupant vehicle (SOV) shares and mean travel times. For SOV shares, Florida ranked above the mean (Figure 5). When it comes to mean commute time, only 11 states had longer commute times than Florida, including the District of Columbia, as can be seen in Figure 6. In both cases, Florida was higher than the national average.

Figure 5 - Percent SOV, ACS 2013

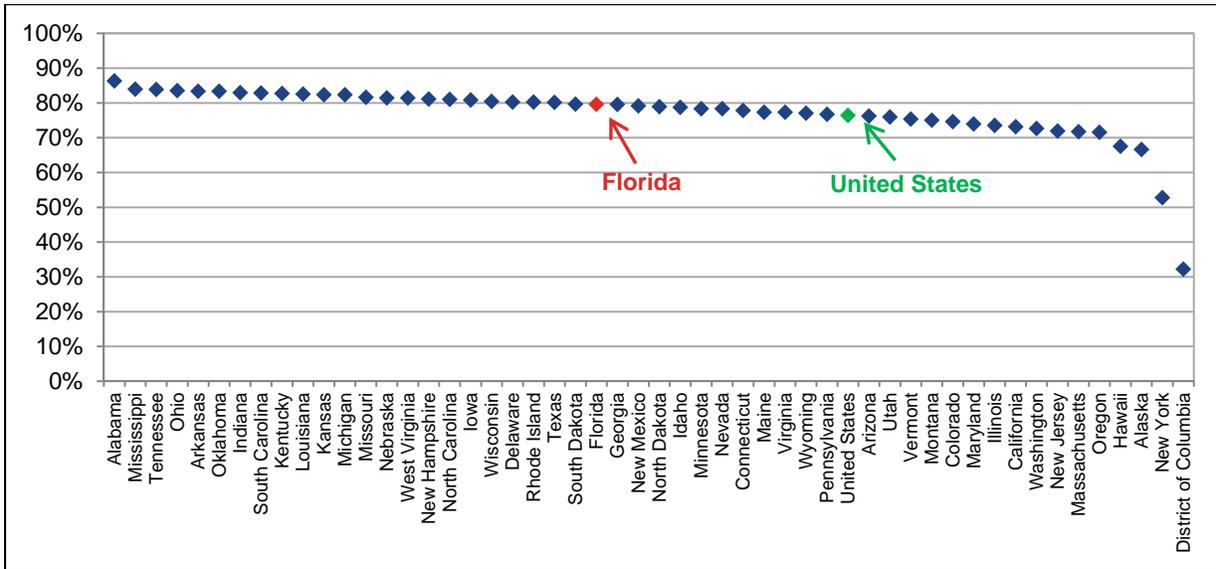


Figure 6 - Mean Commute Time, ACS 2013

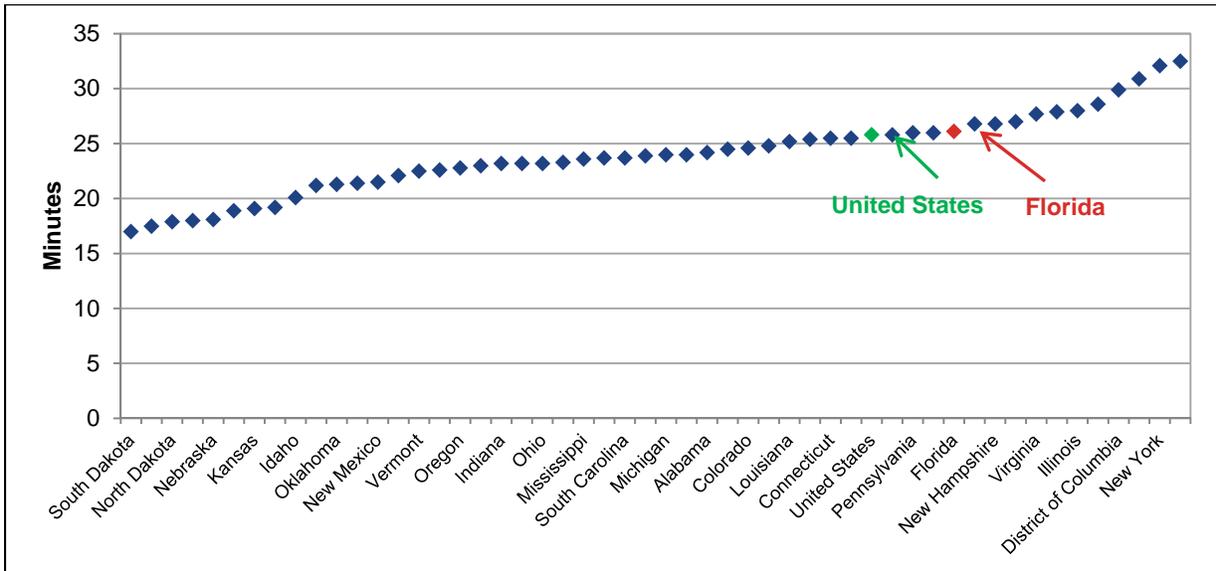


Figure 7 shows the distribution of commute travel time by mode. Transit trips are noticeably longer due to a combination of wait time, the vehicle stopping for other passengers, and transfers.

Figure 7 - Commute Time by Mode, ACS 2013

