
Trends and Conditions

Special Report - October 2008

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 upon the September 23, 2008 release of the American Community Survey (ACS) data. In Florida, 101,953 households were surveyed in 2007. In general, the trends reaffirm the continuing dominance of auto commuting.

Florida's commuting trends can be summarized as follows:

- **Increased auto availability** – only 6.15% of Florida households do not have autos available and they comprise only 4.15% of the population.
- **Increased commuting by driving alone** – nearly 80 percent of commuters drive alone, about 4 percent above the national average.
- **Smaller shares of commuting by carpool** – approximately 10 percent in both Florida and the nation, down about 2 percent since the 2000 census.
- **Less commuting by walking** – 1.65 percent in Florida and 2.85 percent nationwide – both slightly down from the 2000 Census.
- **Slight increases in transit use** – to 1.93 percent in Florida and 4.88% nationwide. The national increase since 2000 (less than 0.2 percent) outpaces that of Florida.
- **Steady increase in work at home** – up over 1% in Florida to 4.17 percent, exceeding the national increase of 0.6% (3.3% to 4.08%).
- **Stable overall commute times** – with small declines from 2000 and some fluctuations in interim years. The average one-way commute in Florida is 25.9 minutes, 0.6 minutes longer than the national average.

The 2007 ACS results also reveal that 30 percent of households in Florida and nearly 26 percent in the country have no workers and approximately 4 percent of the workforce works at home. Commuting is critically important but only a part of overall travel. Given the slowing of the economy in 2008 and the increase in fuel costs, it will be interesting to see to what extent the 2008 and subsequent year's annual data translate into any trend changes.

The tables and figures that follow contain the data that support the above summary.





Table 1 presents Census and ACS results for Florida since 2000. The reader is encouraged to familiarize themselves with margins of errors by reviewing ACS guidance.

Table 1 FLORIDA and U.S. Multi-Year ACS Trend									
	2000(C)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
VEHICLES AVAILABLE - FL									
No vehicles available	8.10%	7.20%	7.10%	6.80%	7.00%	6.50%	6.60%	6.55%	6.16%
1 vehicle available	41.40%	40.90%	41.80%	40.90%	40.50%	40.30%	40.00%	39.44%	39.74%
2 vehicles available	38.20%	38.80%	38.10%	38.40%	38.70%	39.70%	39.20%	38.96%	38.77%
3 or more vehicles available	12.30%	13.00%	13.00%	13.90%	13.90%	13.50%	14.30%	15.05%	15.34%
VEHICLES AVAILABLE - US									
No vehicles available	10.30%	8.80%	9.00%	9.20%	9.40%	9.40%	8.90%	8.78%	8.72%
1 vehicle available	34.20%	33.20%	33.30%	33.60%	34.00%	33.80%	33.10%	33.21%	33.14%
2 vehicles available	38.40%	38.50%	38.40%	38.40%	38.30%	38.50%	38.20%	38.00%	38.05%
3 or more vehicles available	17.10%	19.50%	19.20%	18.90%	18.20%	18.30%	19.80%	20.00%	20.09%
COMMUTING TO WORK - FL									
Car, truck, or van -- drove alone	78.80%	79.10%	79.90%	80.60%	81.30%	81.00%	80.00%	79.26%	79.62%
Car, truck, or van -- carpooled	12.90%	12.00%	11.40%	10.70%	10.70%	10.10%	11.10%	10.88%	10.50%
Public transportation (exclude taxi)	1.90%	2.00%	2.10%	1.90%	1.80%	1.70%	1.80%	1.96%	1.93%
Walked	1.70%	1.90%	1.70%	1.50%	1.30%	1.50%	1.60%	1.69%	1.65%
Other means	1.70%	1.90%	1.90%	1.80%	1.50%	1.70%	2.00%	2.20%	2.13%
Worked at home	3.00%	3.20%	3.10%	3.50%	3.40%	4.00%	3.60%	4.01%	4.17%
COMMUTING TO WORK - US									
Car, truck, or van -- drove alone	75.50%	77.70%	77.80%	77.40%	76.80%	76.30%	77.00%	75.97%	76.08%
Car, truck, or van -- carpooled	12.20%	10.10%	10.40%	10.40%	10.70%	11.20%	10.70%	10.74%	10.40%
Public transportation (exclude taxi)	4.70%	4.60%	4.70%	4.80%	4.90%	5.00%	4.70%	4.83%	4.88%
Walked	2.90%	2.40%	2.30%	2.50%	2.60%	2.70%	2.50%	2.86%	2.84%
Other means	1.20%	1.40%	1.30%	1.40%	1.50%	1.60%	1.60%	1.68%	1.71%
Worked at home	3.30%	3.80%	3.50%	3.50%	3.40%	3.20%	3.60%	3.91%	4.08%
Zero Worker Households - FL									
		-	-	-	-	31.70%	31.60%	30.24%	30.01%
Zero Worker Households - US									
		-	-	-	-	27.20%	27.00%	25.77%	25.78%
Mean travel time to work (min.) - FL									
	26.2	24.3	24.5	24.8	24.8	25.4	26.0	25.9	25.9
Mean travel time to work (min.) - US									
	25.5	24.7	24.3	24.4	24.3	24.4	25.1	25.0	25.3



Figure 1 contrasts Florida and national zero-vehicle household trends. Vehicle availability is improving in Florida with fewer zero-vehicle households and growth in three-or-more-vehicle households. This differs slightly from national trends that show more stable vehicle availability. As zero-vehicle households are typically smaller, often single persons, the share of the population that resides in zero-vehicle households is 6.05% in the U.S. and 4.15% in Florida.

Figure 2 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 and the country. However, in Florida, "drove alone" is higher than in the rest of the country. Both public transit commuting and walk in Florida remain below the national average. Transit use has gained share slightly since 2005 but remains comparable to the level in the 2000 census. Florida's carpooling trend is now very similar to the U.S. trend.

In Figure 3, both Florida and the nation show fluctuations in commute times, slightly below 2000 census numbers but above 2004 ACS estimates. This measure does not allow the reader to discern the relative contributions of trip length changes versus trip speed changes.

Work-at-home is growing in Florida and across the nation. This is among the fastest changing aspects of commuting. Table 1 also includes the share of households that have no workers, 30.01%. This is relevant to transportation policy in that these households' location and travel decisions are not necessarily influenced by access to work

considerations. This combined with households whose worker(s) work at home results in approximately one-third of Floridian households not involved in commuting.

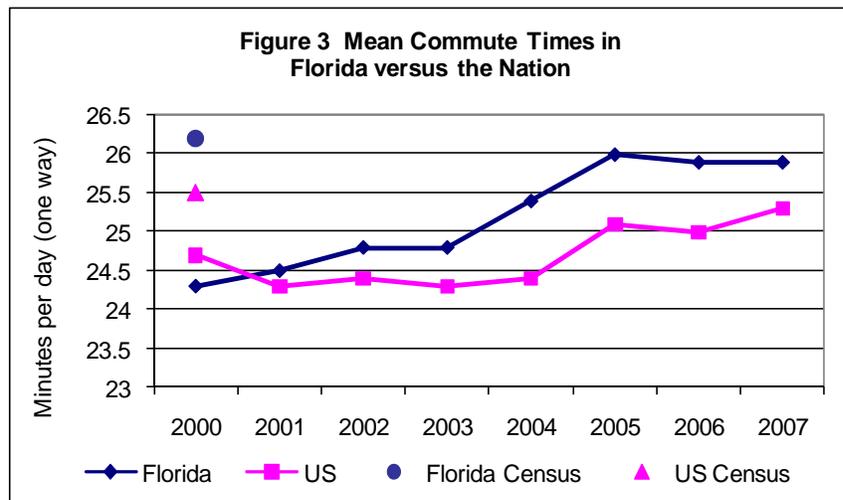
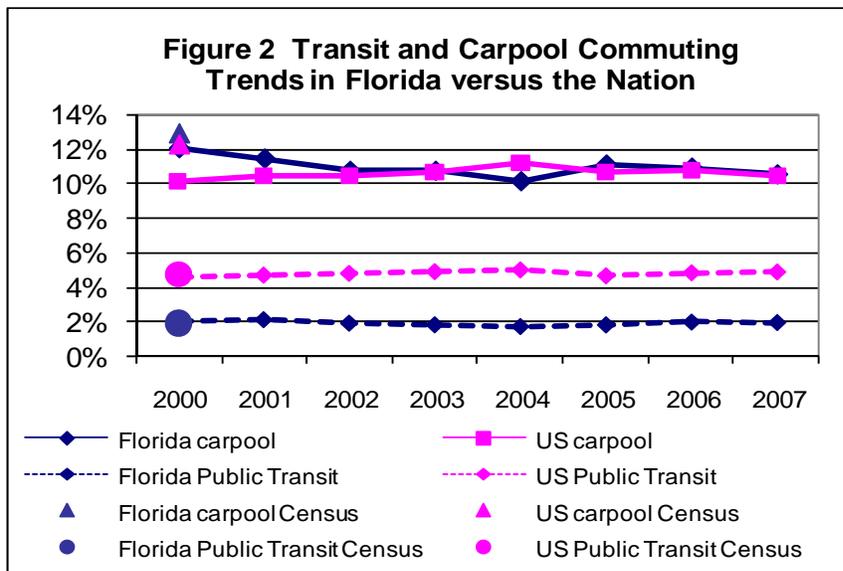
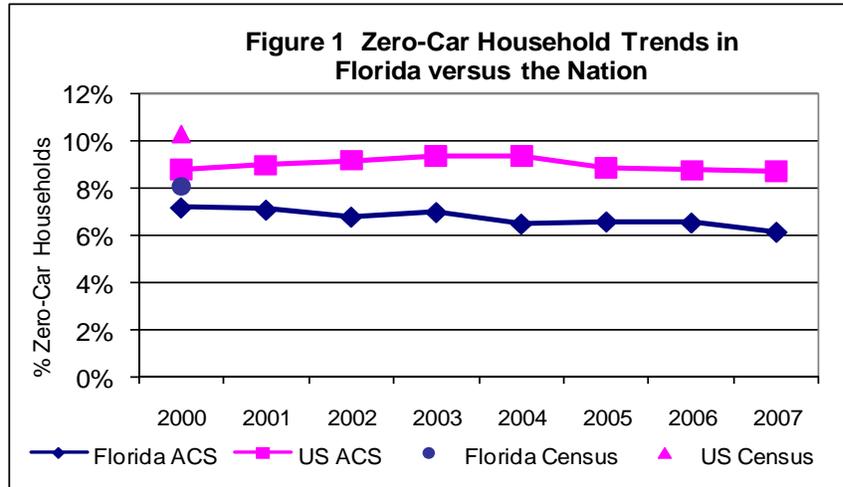




Table 2 shows the comparative transit mode shares for commuting for consolidated metropolitan statistical areas (CMSA) and metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs). Transit use in all Florida CMSAs and MSAs is below the national average. Table 3 provides the same data for counties. At the county level, only Miami-Dade County has a transit share that exceeds the national average. Table 4 provides commute times for Florida Counties. The county averages range from about eight minutes longer than the national average to well under the national average. Table 5 provides selected rank data on cross county commuting for states. Most states have more cross county line commuting than Florida.

Rank	City – Metro Area	Transit %
1	Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Miami Beach, FL	3.57%
2	Gainesville, FL	2.87%
3	Orlando-Kissimmee, FL	1.70%
4	Tallahassee, FL	1.49%
5	Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	1.21%
6	Jacksonville, FL	1.09%
7	Naples-Marco Island, FL	0.99%
8	Sarasota-Bradenton-Venice, FL	0.82%
9	Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach, FL	0.74%
10	Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville, FL	0.63%
11	Cape Coral-Fort Myers, FL	0.61%
12	Port St. Lucie-Fort Pierce, FL	0.36%
13	Lakeland, FL	0.35%
	United States	4.88%
	Florida	1.93%

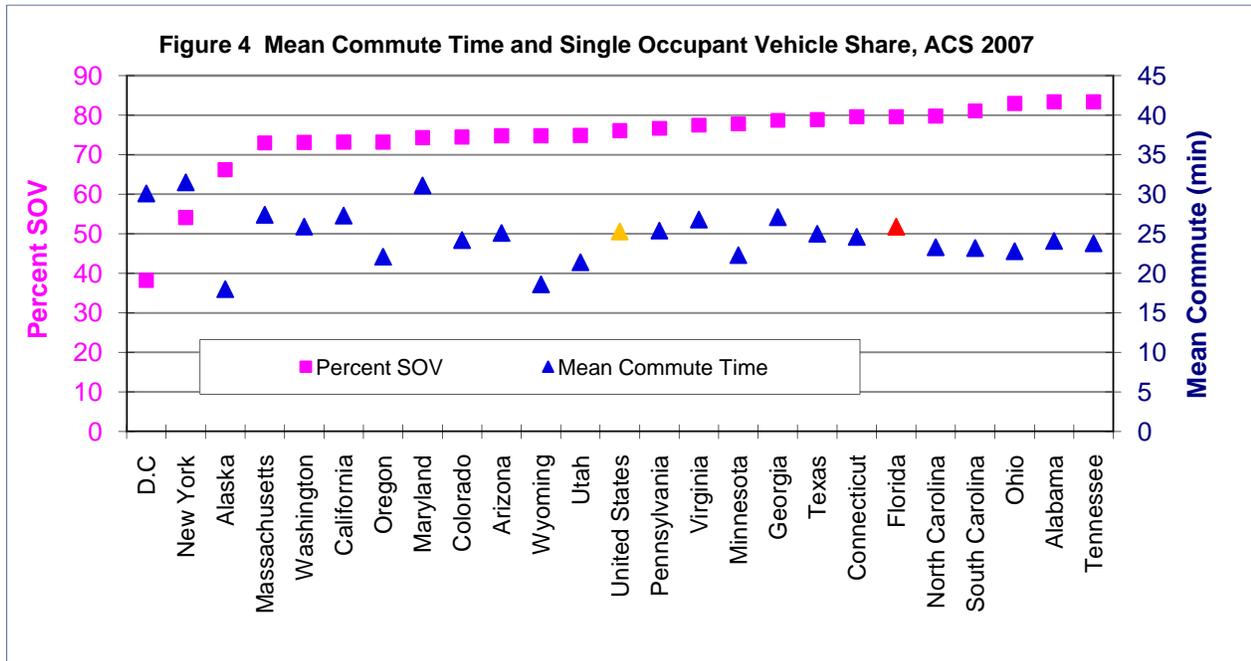
Rank	County	Transit %
1	Miami-Dade County	5.3%
2	Alachua County	3.4%
3	Broward County	2.8%
4	Orange County	2.7%
5	Collier County	2.0%
6	Leon County	1.9%
7	Hillsborough County	1.8%
8	Monroe County	1.8%
9	Palm Beach County	1.8%
10	Bay County	1.7%
	United States	4.88%
	Florida	1.93%

Florida Rank	County	Minutes	US Rank
1	Clay County	33.3	34
2	Osceola County	30.2	84
3	Miami-Dade County	30.1	89
4	Putnam County	30.0	90
5	Hernando County	29.7	93
6	Sumter County	29.6	97
7	Lake County	29.0	117
8	Pasco County	29.0	117
9	Nassau County	28.3	133
10	St. Lucie County	27.7	157
11	Santa Rosa County	27.5	163
12	Broward County	26.9	192
13	Orange County	26.7	198
14	Hillsborough County	26.1	220
15	Lee County	25.5	244
	United States	25.3	
	Florida	25.9	

State	Percent	Rank
Virginia	52.1	1
New Jersey	45.8	3
New York	35.3	7
Colorado	33.8	12
Wisconsin	28.6	21
North Carolina	28.3	22
Tennessee	27.5	24
United States	27.5	
Illinois	26.9	26
Texas	22.8	34
Florida	19.1	40
California	17.4	43
Arizona	5.7	49



Figure 4 provides comparisons across states in single occupant vehicle shares and mean travel time. Florida had a higher share of SOVs than most states shown in Figure 4. Florida's mean travel time was slightly above the national average and fell in the middle among the states charted.



For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, non-sampling error, and definitions, see http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/aff_acs2007_quickguide.pdf. This brief was prepared by CUTR. For more information, contact [Steve Polzin](#) at 813-974-9849.