

Train users in Sydney

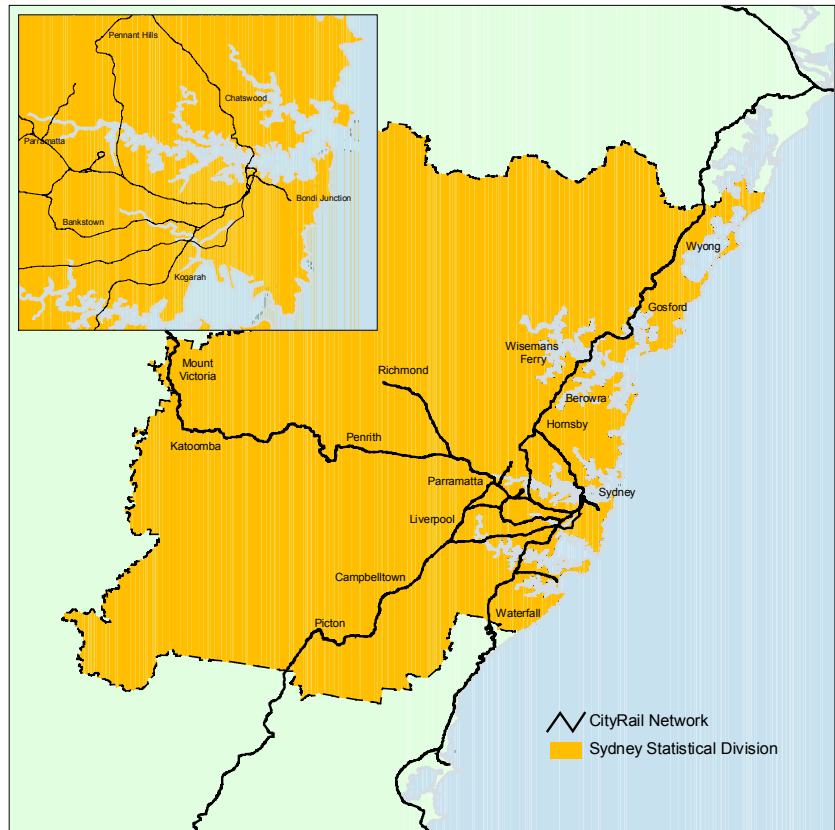
November 2003

Introduction

This brochure presents some of the latest information on train travel and travellers living in the Sydney Statistical Division (population 4.1 million), which includes the Central Coast and Blue Mountains (see map). The information presented includes the role of trains in Sydney's transport system, some characteristics of train trips and some analysis of how train users differ between peak and off-peak periods.

Train services in Sydney

Passenger train services in Sydney are operated by CityRail and cover an extensive area. They extend beyond the suburban areas of Sydney to Scone/Dungog in the north, Lithgow in the west, Goulburn in the southwest and Bomaderry (Nowra) in the south. The network covering Sydney is illustrated in the map.



Summary of findings

- In 2001 4.9% of all weekday trips by Sydney residents were by train. On weekend days 1.8% of trips were by train.
- 61% of all train trips by Sydney residents are made during the "peak" – defined as train trips arriving at their destination between 6.00am and 9.30am or departing between 3.00pm and 6.30pm on an average weekday.
- The share of trips by train varies by destination, with almost half of all trips to the Sydney CBD in the morning peak by train (47%).
- Train's mode share also increases with the length of the trip - only 2% of of trips under 10km are by train, compared to 18% of all trips over 40km.
- The average distance of train trips has fallen slightly since 1991, while the average duration of train trips has remained stable.
- Train is an important mode for commuters in Sydney, with 49% of all Sydney train users during the peak travelling to and from work.
- Train users in the peak are more likely to either get a lift or drive themselves to the station, than off-peak train users.
- 59% of train users travelling in the peak are full-time workers, compared to 35% of train users in the off-peak.

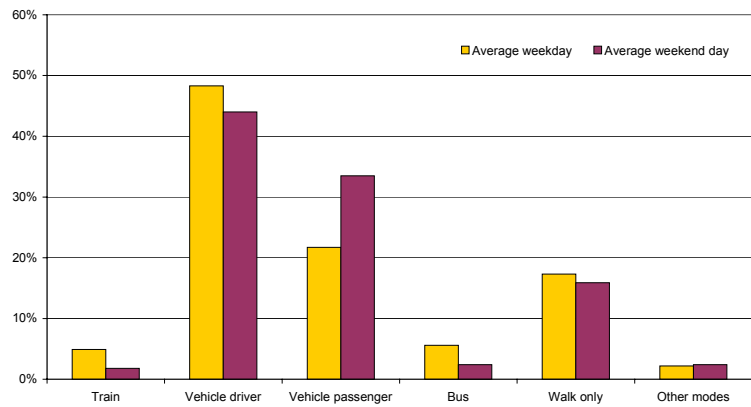
Source of data

This publication reports on train travel in 2001, with some comparisons made with 1991. The analysis presented for 2001 is based on the combined data collected in the Household Travel Survey (HTS) for 1999/2000, 2000/01 and 2001/02, while the 1991 data is from the 1991/92 Home Interview Survey (HIS).

Train travel in Sydney

- In 2001 4.9% of all weekday trips by Sydney residents were by train. On weekend days 1.8% of trips were by train.
- Since 1991 the share of train trips on weekdays and weekends has remained stable.
- 61% of all train trips are made during the “peak” (arriving 6.00am-9.30am or departing 3.00pm-6.30pm on an average weekday). The other 39% of train trips are made during the “off-peak” (rest of an average weekday & weekends).

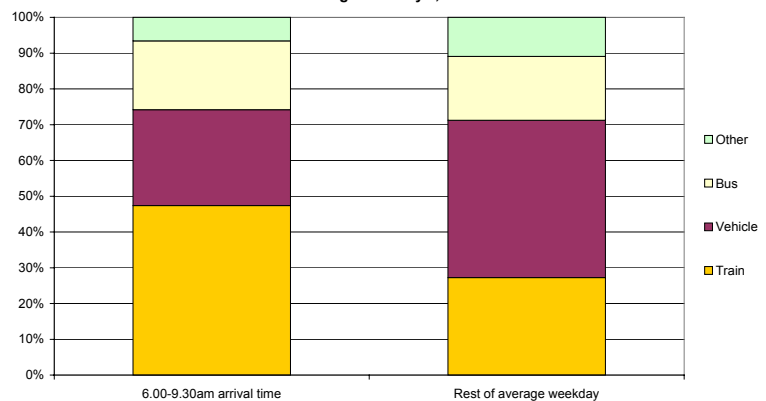
Proportion of trips by mode, 2001



Train trips to the Sydney CBD*

- The share of trips by train varies by destination, with almost half of all trips to the Sydney CBD in the morning peak (6.00am-9.30am) on weekdays by train (47%), compared to 27% by private vehicle (driver & passenger).
- However, the later in the day people travel to the Sydney CBD the more likely they are to travel by vehicle over train.
- Excluding the morning peak, on an average weekday, 27% of all trips to the CBD are by train, while 44% are by vehicle.

Mode share to Sydney CBD during morning peak & rest of average weekday**, 2001

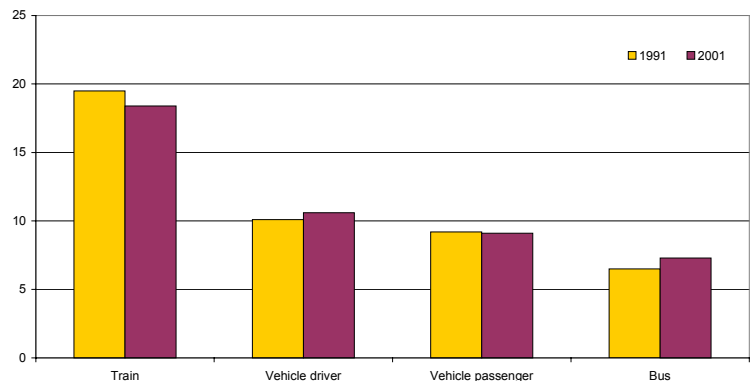


* Sydney CBD Commercial Centre, not Sydney Local Govt Area

Distance* of train passenger trips

- The share of trips by train also increases with the length of the trip. Only 2% of trips under 10km are by train, compared to 18% of all trips over 40km.
- On weekdays the average distance of train trips by Sydney’s residents is 18.4km, down slightly from 19.5km in 1991.
- By comparison the average distance of both vehicle driver and bus trips has increased since 1991.

Average trip length (kms) by mode, average weekday

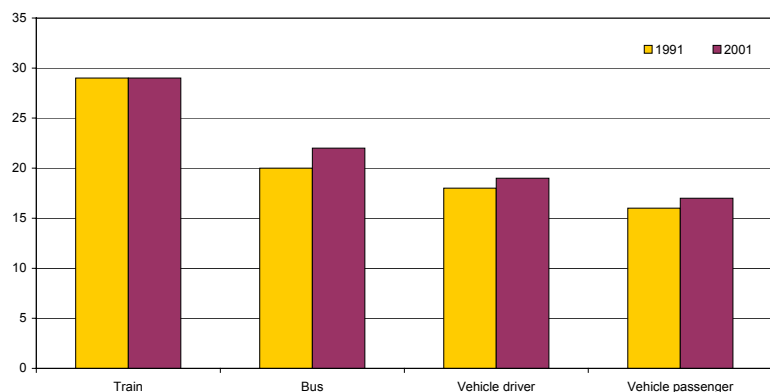


* Road network distance on each mode

Duration* of train passenger trips

- As well as having the longest average distance of the modes, train trips have the longest average duration at 29 minutes on weekdays.
- Since 1991 the average duration of train trips has remained stable, while the average duration of trips by the other modes has increased.

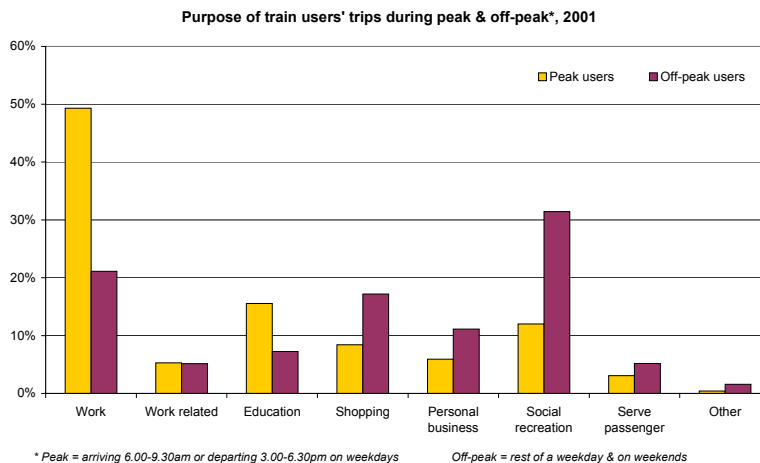
Average duration (in minutes) of trips by mode, average weekday



* Duration is the time reported by respondents

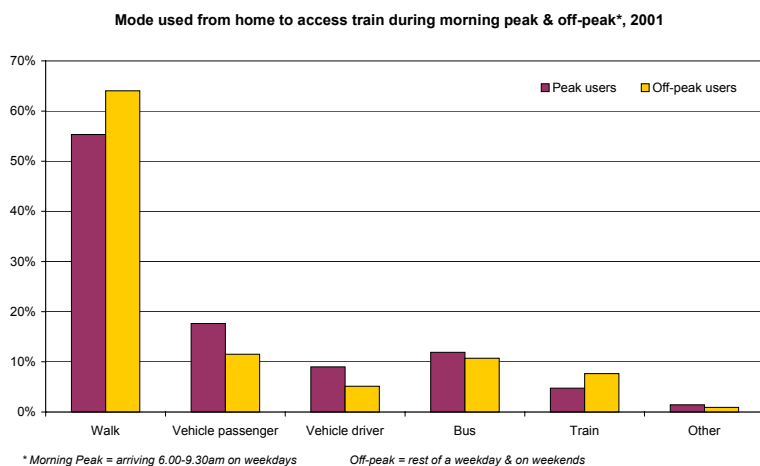
Why people travel by train*

- Around 8% of Sydney's residents use train on an average day.
- Train is an important mode for commuters in Sydney, with 49% of all Sydney train users during the peak travelling to and from work. The next most common reason for travelling by train during the peak is for education (16%).
- During the off-peak most train users are travelling for social recreational purposes (31%), followed by work (21%).



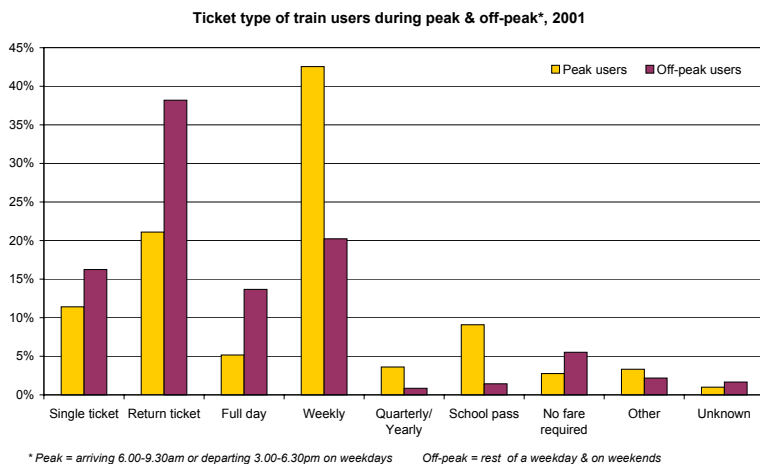
How do people get from home to the train station?

- Most people walk from home to the train station for travel in both the morning peak (55%) and the off-peak (64%).
- During the morning peak 27% of train users starting their trip at home either drove to the station or got a lift, compared to 17% of train users in the off-peak.
- The use of buses from home to access train is similar during the morning peak and the off-peak.



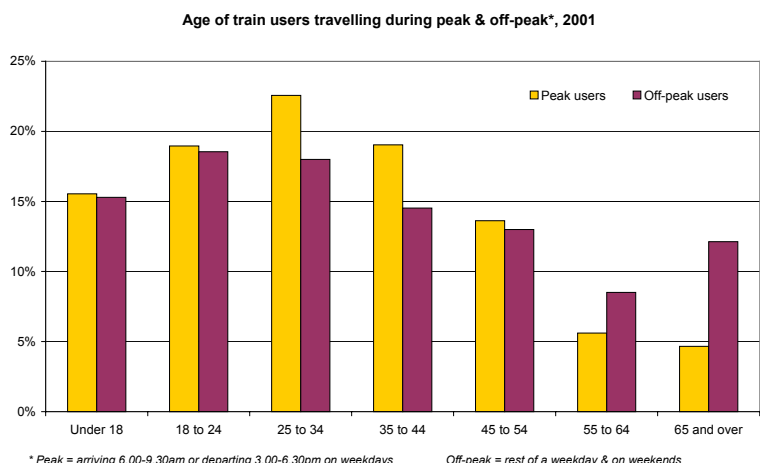
Ticket type

- Most peak train users travel with a weekly ticket (43%), followed by a return ticket (21%).
- The opposite pattern occurs for off-peak train travellers, with most using a return ticket (38%), followed by a weekly (20%).
- 9% of train travellers in the peak use a school pass.



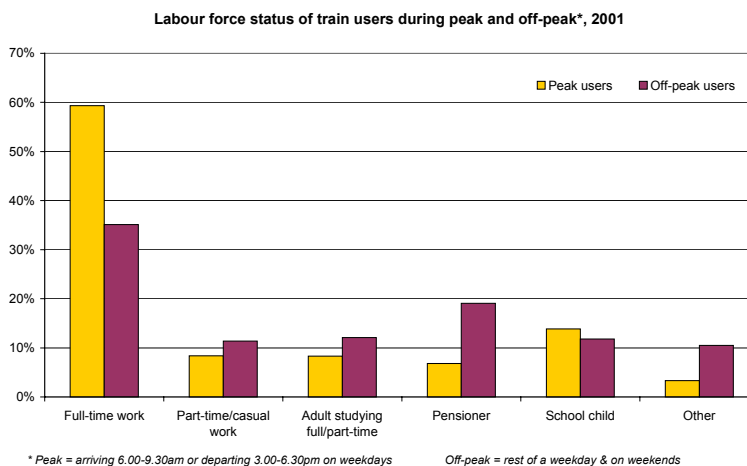
Age & gender of train users

- The average age of train travellers in the peak is 34 years, while during the off-peak it is 37 years.
- Overall, train passengers are equally distributed between males and females both during the peak and off-peak.



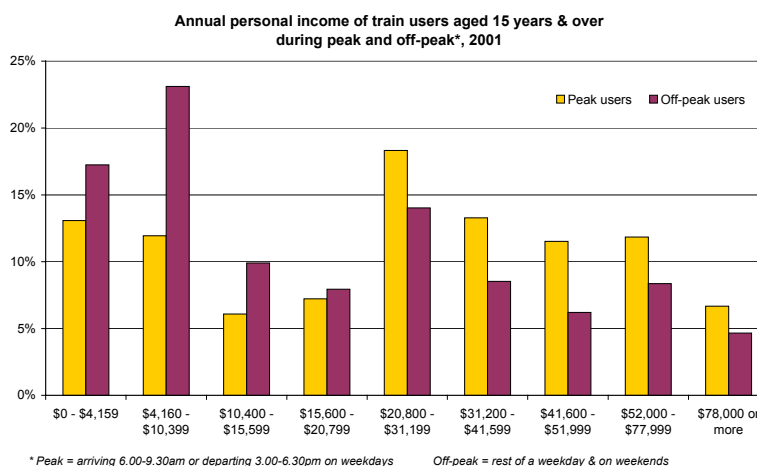
Labour force status of train users

- Full-time workers are the largest proportion of train users in both the peak (59%) and off-peak (35%).
- The second largest group of peak train users are school children (14%).
- 19% of off-peak train users are pensioners.



Personal income of train users

- On average train users in the peak have higher incomes than off-peak train users, reflecting that a much larger proportion of peak train users are full-time workers.
- The average peak train user has an annual income of between \$20,800 and \$31,199, while the average off-peak train user is a person with an income of between \$10,400 and \$15,599 per annum.
- Overall, train users have a higher median income than bus users and vehicle passengers, and similar to vehicle drivers.



The Household Travel Survey

The Household Travel Survey (HTS) is the only large scale, comprehensive and continuous survey of the travel patterns of residents of the Greater Metropolitan Region.

Every year approximately 3,500 households (or 10,000 individuals) are interviewed about their travel on a particular day, with interviews spread across the whole year. Information on all travel and activities undertaken by all household members over a given 24 hour period are collected via face to face interview.

To maximise the statistical reliability of HTS results for a given year, each annual HTS estimate consists of three years of pooled HTS data weighted to the Estimated Resident Population from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

The 2001 estimates in this paper are based on data from waves 3 to 5 of the HTS (1999/2000, 2000/01 and 2001/02) pooled together and weighted to represent travel by the 2001 Estimated Resident Population of Sydney.

For further information

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