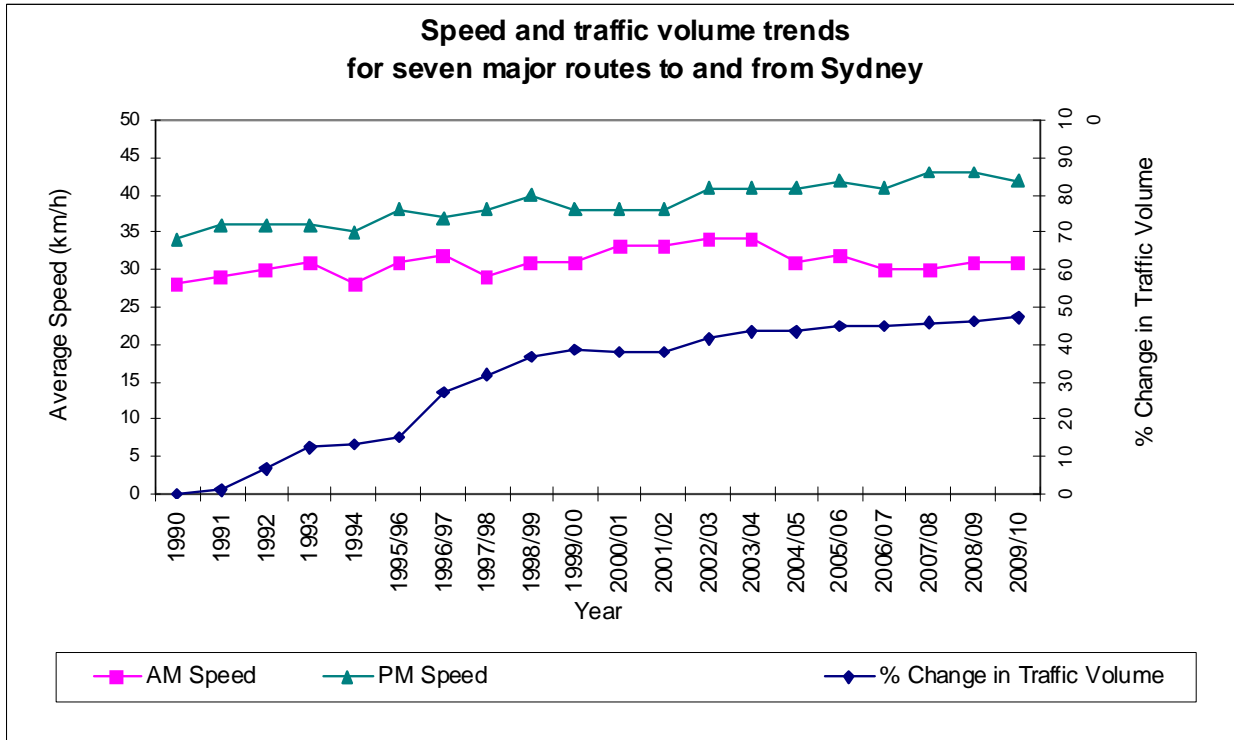


"Annual Speed and Traffic Volume Data in Sydney"

The RTA has collected data over the last 20 years to track how the Sydney road network is performing. This enables trends to be tracked in the AM and PM peak speeds on seven major routes to/from Sydney. Generally, the speeds have remained relatively consistent despite a growth in traffic on these routes of more than 47 per cent since 1990.

TABLE I – Average speed on the seven major routes across Sydney from 1990 to 2010



Between 2008-09 and 2009-10, overall travel speeds have remained unchanged for the AM peak period (31 km/h) and decreased slightly for the PM peak period (42 km/h from 43 km/h).

Of the seven routes, AM peak speeds improved on three routes and were lower for four routes. The route with the highest increase in speed was Victoria Road, which was up from 21 to 26 km/h. The M2/Lane Cove Tunnel/Gore Hill Freeway corridor increased from 36 to 40 km/h. The Princes Highway was also up, from 30 to 31 km/h. The only route with a marked decrease was the M5 corridor with a change from 41 to 35 km/h. Despite this decrease it was still higher than the speed recorded in 2007-08 and remains one of the highest of the seven routes. The other three corridors all recorded slight decreases of just one km/h.

For the PM peak, there was a slight decrease from 2008-09 and 2009-10 in the overall average speed from 43 to 42 km/h. There was a reduction in speed on the M4 corridor, from 39 to 35 km/h as a result of road works to remove the toll plazas. The Pittwater Road corridor decreased from 38 to 34 km/h. The Pacific Highway/ F3 corridor improved from 50 to 53 km/h following the completion of road widening near Berowra. There was also a small positive change on Victoria Road from 33 to 34 km/h and the Princes Highway was unchanged at 32 km/h. The other two corridors (M2 and M5) decreased slightly compared to 2008-09, although both were well above 50 km/h.

The table below indicates the overall speed on the seven routes in the AM and PM peaks from 2006- 30/06/2010.

Year ended 30 June	Actual				
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Morning Peak Speeds (km/h)					
F3/Pacific Highway/FI	38	35	35	35	34
M2/Lane Cove Tunnel / Gore Hill Fwy	36	38	31	36	40
M4/Parramatta Road/City West Link	31	25	28	29	28
M5/Eastern Distributor	44	40	34	41	35
Pittwater Road/Military Road/FI	25	27	26	26	25
Princes Highway	28	28	28	30	31
Victoria Road	23	22	23	21	26
Combined seven routes*	32	30	30	31	31
Afternoon Peak Speeds (km/h)					
F3/Pacific Highway/FI	52	45	52	50	53
M2/Lane Cove Tunnel / Gore Hill Fwy	40	47	61	66	65
M4/Parramatta Road/City West Link	43	38	40	39	35
M5/Eastern Distributor	50	50	48	56	54
Pittwater Road/Military Road/FI	40	38	39	38	34
Princes Highway	36	35	36	32	32
Victoria Road	32	31	32	33	34
Combined seven routes*	42	41	43	43	42

* Combined seven routes average speed was calculated by the total travel distance divided by the total travel time of the seven routes

[Link to :](#)

FAQs

What is the purpose of the travel time surveys?

The intention of the surveys are to:

- Measure travel time at peak and non-peak times
- Identify how the road network is running
- Establish benchmarks for monitoring trends and variations by day of week, week, month and season

When are the surveys undertaken?

- Historically the surveys are biannual in February/March and October/November
- During the morning and afternoon traffic peaks and business hours of late morning to early afternoon
- Other than on school and public holidays and prior to and post days of long weekends to exclude unusual traffic patterns

How are the surveys undertaken?

Survey cars travel within the speed limit along designated routes and are instrumented with GPS and data logging equipment that capture travel information

Where are the surveys done?

On major roads covering the area bounded by the coast, Hawkesbury River to the north, Blacktown/Seven Hills and Nepean River to the west and Heathcote to the south.

The surveys are conducted on :

- **F3, Pacific Highway, Gore Hill Freeway and Sydney Harbour Bridge**, between Brooklyn and Sydney Harbour Bridge toll plaza
- **M2, Lane Cove Tunnel, Gore Hill Freeway and Sydney Harbour Tunnel**, between Seven Hills and the Domain
- **M4 and City West Link**, between Parramatta and King Street in the City
- **M5 Motorway and the Eastern Distributor**, between The Crossroads and the Domain
- **Pittwater Road, Spit Road, Military Road, Warringah Freeway and Sydney Harbour Tunnel**, between Mona Vale and the Domain
- **Princes Highway**, between Heathcote and Railway Square
- **Victoria Road**, between Blacktown and King Street in the City

How are the speeds measured?

The average speed between intersections is based on distance and measured travel times