

Data Sheet 35 (DS 035)

Use of Public Transport for Travel to Work

What are we monitoring?

The use of public transport (buses and trains) for travel to work by Blue Mountains workers in comparison to workers in Greater Sydney.

What is the trend?

The use of public transport by Blue Mountains workers has declined from 17.7% in 1991 to only 11.5% in 2011. This contrasts to an average of 20% of workers in Greater Sydney using public transport to get to work in 1991 and in 2011.

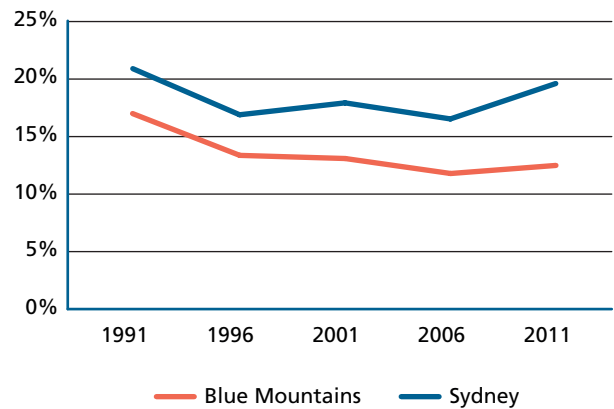
Why is monitoring this trend important?

The use of public transport can have environmental, social and economic impacts. The transport sector is the third greatest source of greenhouse gases in Australia. This sector is also contributing to emissions growth. Passenger cars contribute significantly to these emissions (ABS, 2006). Use of public transport has the greatest capacity to reduce pollution and traffic congestion during the morning and evening peak commuter travel times, however, these are also the times that public transport struggles to meet demand.

Public transport provides a social service. Research suggests that people with lower incomes tend to use more public transport than high income earners (NCOSS, 2006). Public transport provides a low cost mode of transport for people who do not have access to a car.

Public transport connections to employment, services, education and recreation can significantly influence quality of life by facilitating or hindering access to work, education, recreation, shopping facilities, health and other services.

Use of Public Transport for Travel to Work by Workers in Blue Mountains and Greater Sydney



Use of Public Transport for Travel to Work by Workers in the Blue Mountains and Greater Sydney

Year	1991	1996	2001	2006	2011
Blue Mountains	17.7%	14.0%	12.4%	11.1%	11.5%
Greater Sydney	20.6%	17.9%	18.6%	17.7%	19.7%

Source: ID Population Profile for the Blue Mountains
<http://profile.id.com.au/blue-mountains>