



Active transport in Sydney: Walking

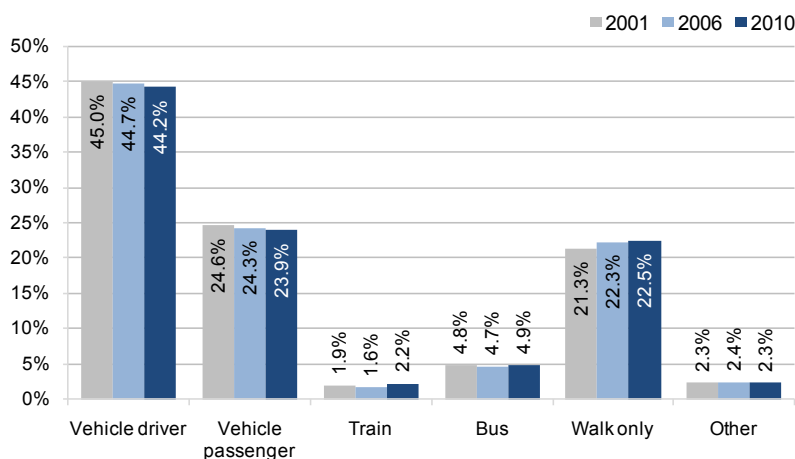
About this publication

This publication explores the nature of walk trips in Sydney. We look at the incidence of walking across various segments of the population and examine changes over the past decade.

Broad trends - walking in comparison to other modes

As a mode of transport, walking has obvious health and environmental benefits. NSW 2021 targets include increasing the share of walking trips made on an average day in the Greater Metropolitan Area of Sydney (GMA)¹ at a local and district² level to 25% by 2016. To achieve this target, ideally short car trips will be converted to walk trips. As shown in Figure 1, 'walk only'³ trips in 2010 made up nearly 23% of local and district trips, which was marginally up from a decade ago. Car trips (as a driver or passenger) made up over two-thirds of trips, while public transport trips accounted for 7% of these trips.

Figure 1 Mode share³ of trips in 2001, 2006 and 2010 on an average day

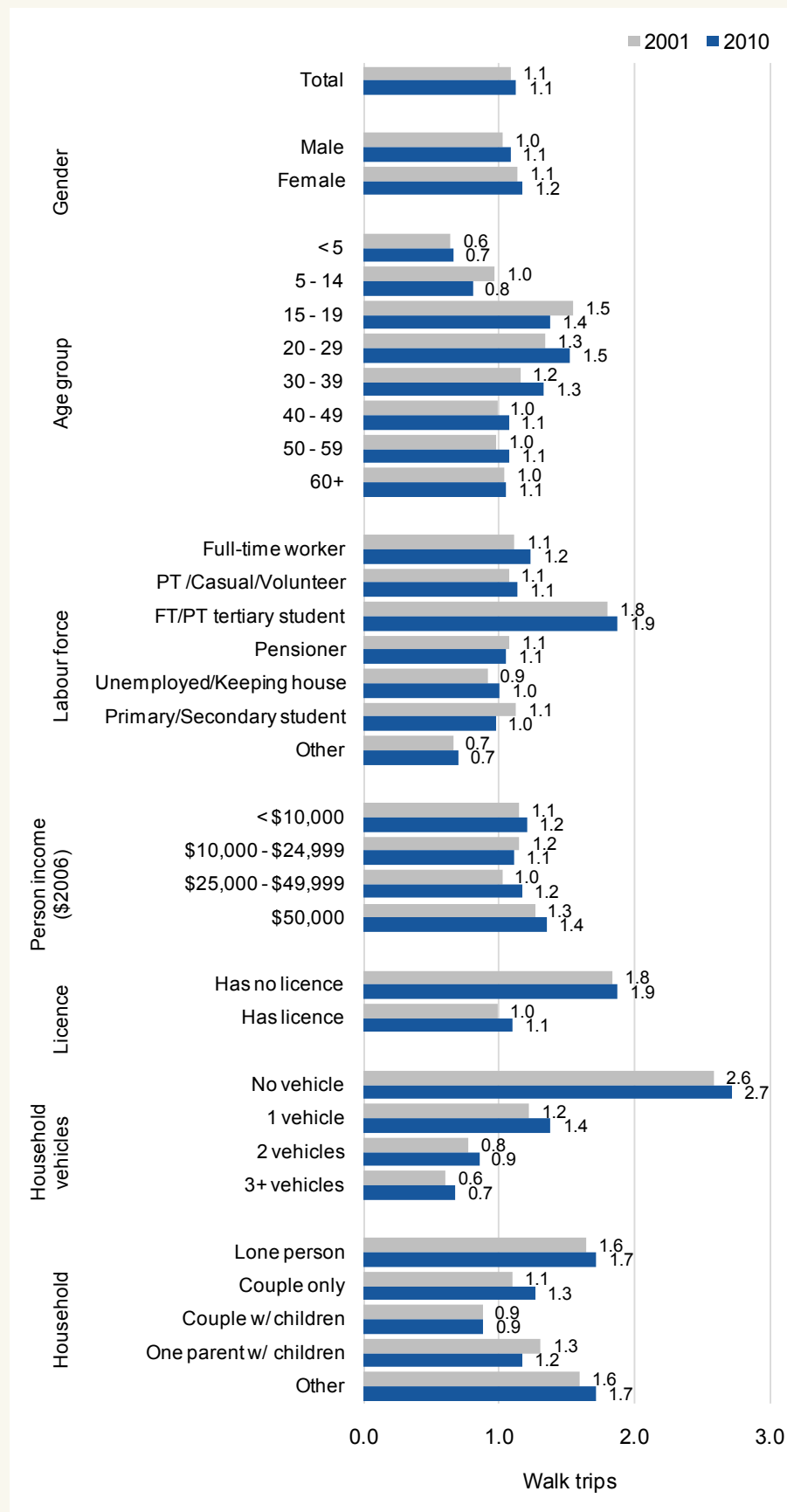


About the data

Estimates in this publication were produced using the 2010/11 Household Travel Survey (HTS).

Figures reported in this publication are for the Sydney Greater Metropolitan Area (GMA), which includes Newcastle Statistical Subdivision (SSD), Sydney Statistical Division (SD) and Illawarra Statistical Division.

To maximise the statistical reliability of the estimates, data from five years were pooled together and weighted to the 2010 Estimated Resident Population (ERP) from the Australian Bureau of Statistics to produce estimates for 2010. Figures reported are for an average day, unless otherwise specified.

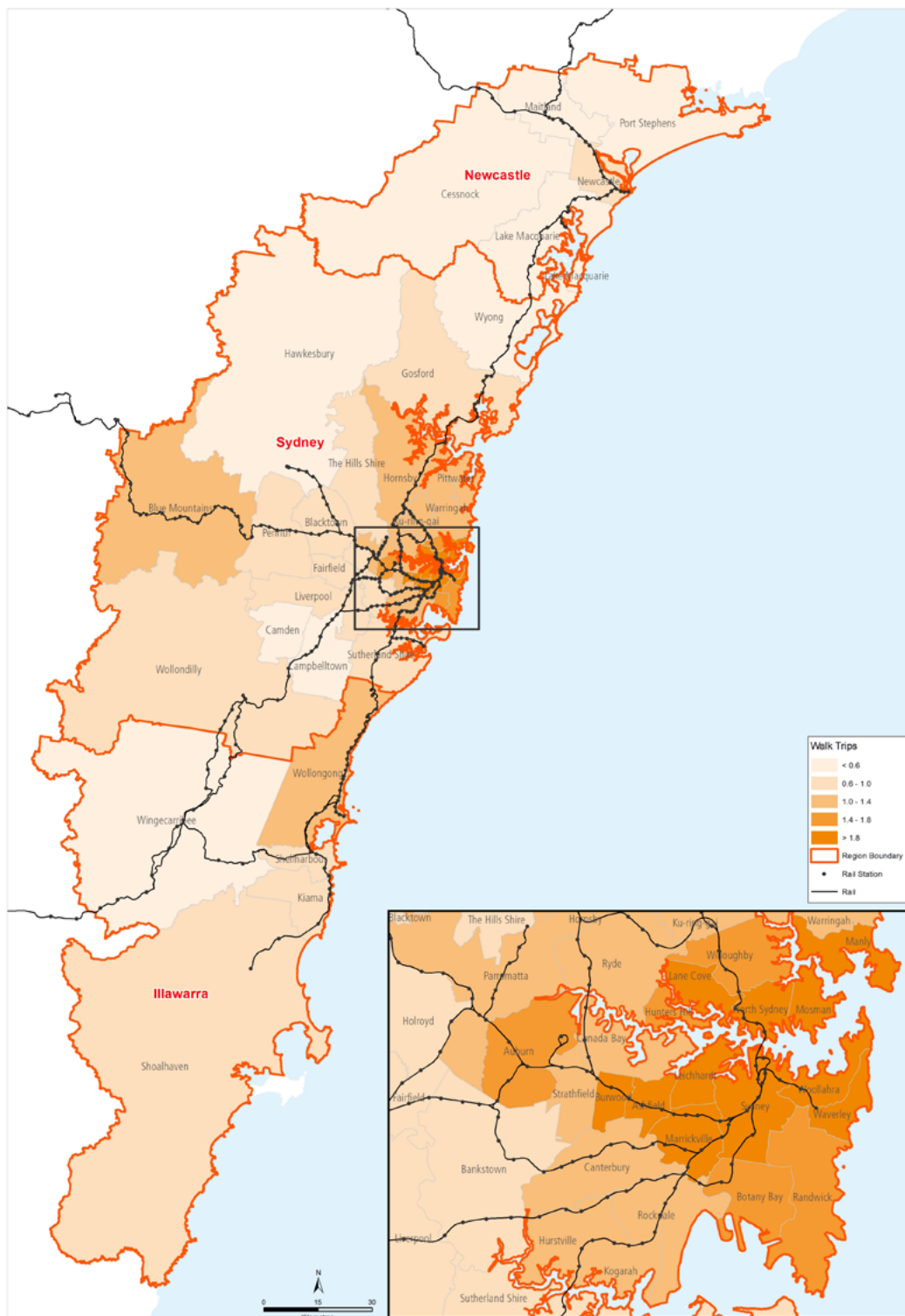
Figure 2 Average number of walk trips per person per day by socio-demographic characteristics, GMA

An alternative approach to looking at the incidence of walk trips is to look at per capita measures. On average, Sydney residents made 1.1 walk trips a day. These walk trips include 'walk only' trips as well as 'walk linked' trips³.

This figure of 1.1 walk trips a day remained relatively unchanged between 2001 and 2010. Similarly, the average amount of time spent walking per day was largely stable, 10 minutes in 2001 and 11 minutes in 2010.

Though change in walking rates in the last decade has been small, there is a clear relationship between the amount of walking and various socio-demographic characteristics.

- Females walked more than males.
- Those aged 15-29 made the most walk trips. Amongst 5-19 year-olds, the average number of walk trips declined between 2001 and 2010. However, in every other age group, the average number of walk trips increased between this time period.
- Full-time and part-time tertiary students had a higher incidence of walking as compared to other segments of the labour force.
- Walking rates were also high amongst non-licence holders aged 15 or over.
- Walking was more prevalent amongst those without access to vehicles in their households. The greater the number of household vehicles, the fewer the number of walk trips made.
- In general, people from households without children made more walk trips.

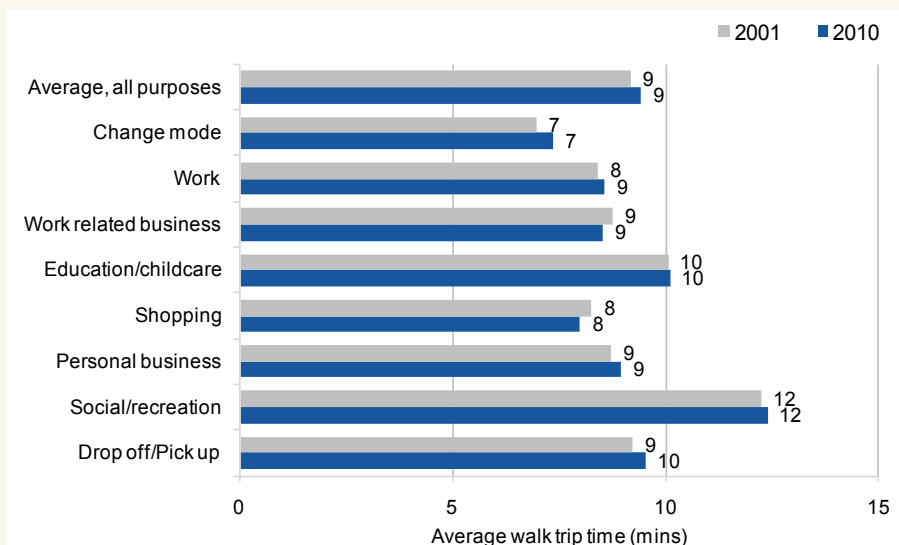
Figure 3 Number of walk trips per person on an average day in 2010, by home LGA

In 2010, residents of Sydney SD made 1.2 walk trips per person, slightly more than those in Illawarra SD (0.9) and twice the number of those in Newcastle SSD (0.6). The higher number of walk trips made by Sydney SD residents was largely due to the higher number of walk-linked trips (eg access and egress to other modes) they made, which is consistent with public transport use in this region.

Furthermore, residents of Local Government Areas (LGAs) close to the CBD made the most walk trips per person on an average day. Higher density living in these areas, characterised by close proximity and easier access to services and activities, coupled with more public transport options, are likely to contribute to the greater number of walk trips.

LGAs with the highest walk trips per capita were Sydney (3.4), Leichhardt (2.9) and North Sydney (2.8). Conversely, Cessnock (0.3), Port Stephens (0.3) and Maitland (0.4), had the lowest number of walk trips per capita.

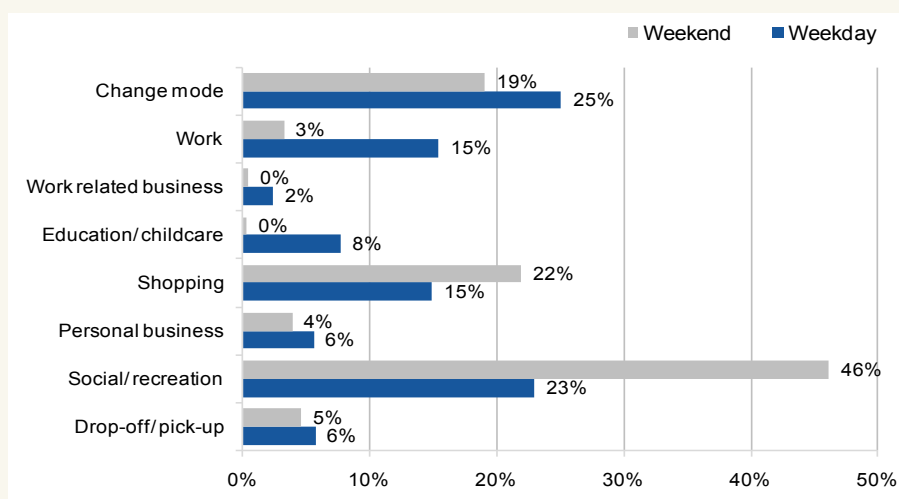
The total duration of walk trips is related to the average number of walk trips; the higher the number of trips, the longer the total duration. Residents of higher density LGAs tended to walk for longer each day. Residents of Sydney (32 mins), Leichhardt (29 mins) and North Sydney (24 mins) walked the most. Residents of Port Stephens and Cessnock (three mins each) and Hawkesbury and Maitland (four mins each) walked the least.

Figure 4 Average walk trip time by purpose on an average day

In 2001 and 2010, a walk trip was about nine minutes in duration, though this varied by trip purpose. Walking trips for social and recreational purposes had the longest average trip time of 12 minutes, followed by education/childcare at ten minutes.

Trips to change mode, which generally refer to access trips to public transportation, were the shortest, at seven minutes.

In the past decade, the average walk trip time by purpose has not changed substantially.

Figure 5 Purpose of walk trips in 2010, weekend and weekday

The purpose of walk trips was quite different during the week as compared to on the weekend. There was a greater proportion of discretionary walk trips on weekends, including social/recreation and shopping trips.

Notes:

1. The GMA is a BTS defined geographical area for core BTS datasets. It comprises Sydney Statistical Division, Newcastle Statistical Subdivision and Illawarra Statistical Division.
2. Local and district trips are 10 kilometres or less.
3. When looking at mode shares, 'walk only' trips (where trips are entirely by walking) are considered and 'walk-linked' (where trips are intermediary walk trips simply to just change mode) are excluded. This treatment is to avoid misrepresenting the incidence of walking relative to other modes by inflating its share artificially. In all other analysis, all types of walking are examined.

For other publications, data and maps, contact:

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