

# BRITISH WORKERS WILL SPEND 1 YEAR 35 DAYS COMMUTING 191,760 MILES IN THEIR LIFETIME

2 SEP 2015

- 45 per cent of British commuters would move house to be nearer to work
- The average journey to work is 17 miles a day, totaling 51 minutes and costing £82 a month
- Nearly half (47 per cent) are not willing to work anywhere that's over 48 minutes from home
- 13 per cent hate commuting, and one in ten (ten per cent) would rather work from home

It may not be the statistic you want to hear while stuck in traffic on the way to work, or struggling to keep cool in a forest of arms on the tube but new research from Get Living London has discovered that the average British commuter\*\* will spend the equivalent of 1 year and 35 days of their working lives\*\*\* getting to and from the office – at a cost of around £42,000.

With journeys to and from work averaging 17 miles\* a day and taking a total of 51 minutes, it's not surprising that nearly half (45 per cent) of British workers report a short commute is their number one consideration when deciding where to live. Given the option, 45 per cent would actually move house to be near their place of work, and just over one in ten (13 per cent) have already done this.

Neil Young, CEO of Get Living London which owns and manages the private rented homes at East Village, the former London 2012 Athletes' Village said: *"No one likes their commute to work, for the vast majority it is simply a means to an end. Yet, with commuting time to work and good transport links the top considerations for renters when choosing a place to live we are proud that East Village is one of London's best connected neighbourhoods. Eight different tube and rail lines operate approximately 200 trains every hour from Stratford, meaning our residents can be in Canary Wharf in just eight minutes and the City in under 15. It's only seven minutes to King's Cross St Pancras and the Jubilee and Central Lines whisk you to the West End. It's a commuting dream!"*

The commute has a big influence on home life, with nearly half (47 per cent) of British commuters not willing to work anywhere that is too far from their house; 48 minutes being too far. In addition 21 per cent have turned down a job offer because the commute was just too long. In the battle of the sexes, women are more adamant about this, with 52 per cent refusing to work somewhere that is too far from home, versus 42 per cent of men.



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The longest commutes are found in the south of England with Brighton & Hove residents logging commute times of 74 minutes to and from work. Those in Chelmsford, Essex commute for just over an hour at 66 minutes and Londoners endure an average daily commute of 64 minutes. If it's a shorter commute you're after, the research of 2,000 UK commuters finds that Worcester, Plymouth and Sheffield are ideal towns, with total travel times of just 23, 37 and 39 minutes respectively.

Whilst nearly a quarter (24 per cent) of British workers treat their commute as simply a 'means to an end', 13 per cent claim to hate it. One in ten (ten per cent) would rather work from home, and six per cent find it depressing and stressful.

**Top ten commuter hates**

This might stem from the fact that nearly half of British commuters are irked by long traffic jams (52 per cent) and constant delays on transport networks (26 per cent). 21 per cent resent the monotony of the same journey day in day out, and 22 per cent get annoyed by the cost at an average of £82 a month – with Londoners paying the highest at £116. Busy carriages, having to stand up and other commuters' bad personal hygiene also rate highly (14 per cent and 12 per cent).

1. Traffic Jams – 52 per cent
2. Delays to the transport network – 26 per cent
3. The cost of it – 22 per cent
4. The monotony of the same journey day in, day out – 21 per cent
5. The busyness – 14 per cent
6. Having to stand due to no seats – 12 per cent
7. People talking loudly on the phone – 12 per cent
8. Fellow travellers bad personal hygiene – 12 per cent
9. Being packed in like sardines – 11 per cent
10. Queuing – 10 per cent

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### Top ten commuter activities

The journey to work is, for many, a solitary pursuit. The research by Get Living London found that 85 per cent of us commute alone, with 11 per cent admitting they enjoy the time to themselves. Nearly a quarter (23 per cent) like to people watch, whilst 16 per cent are nose down in a book. 15 per cent use the time to “have a think” and 12 per cent keep informed by reading a newspaper.

1. People watching - 23 per cent
2. Reading books - 16 per cent
3. Using the time to think - 15 per cent
4. Reading the newspaper - 12 per cent
5. Play games on the phone - 9 per cent
6. Update social media status - 8.5 per cent
7. Catching up on emails - 8 per cent
8. Sleep - 7 per cent
9. Eat breakfast - 6 per cent
10. Catch up on calls to friends and family - 5 per cent

### Top ten methods of commuting

Cars are, by far, the most popular way to commute, with 63 per cent of workers choosing to drive to work. Nearly a quarter of British commuters prefer to walk with 25 per cent opting for a swift stroll, followed by 18 per cent who catch a bus, and 14 per cent who ride the train. Cycling and running are less popular choices with only seven and two per cent choosing these methods respectively. In London the research finds that 32 per cent take the tube, 36 per cent walk and 18 per cent run whilst only eight per cent cycle.

1. Car - 63 per cent
2. Walk - 25 per cent
3. Bus - 18 per cent
4. Train - 14 per cent
5. Underground - 9 per cent
6. Cycling - 7 per cent
7. Taxi - 4 per cent
8. Running - 2 per cent
9. Motorbike - 1 per cent
10. Boat - 1 per cent

For a number of British commuters it is not an easy journey to the office, with over 36 per cent having to change their method of transport at least once, and one in ten changing more than twice.

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## Notes to Editors

\*The survey was carried out by One Poll, on behalf of Get Living London, and ran from the 27th – 29th July 2015. The number of respondents: 2,000 adults.

\*\*Research carried out by One Poll, on behalf of Get Living London in July 2015 found that 60 per cent of British workers commuted to work on a daily basis.

\*\*\* A working life is calculated as 47 years from 18-65 years old.

**For further information visit [www.delancey.com](http://www.delancey.com)**

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### About Get Living London

Get Living London is a true pioneer in the private rental sector, changing the way London rents. As the residential owner directly managing 1,439 private rental homes in East Village, Get Living London aims to make renting refreshingly straightforward and convenient. In this unique position, Get Living London:

- **Doesn't charge fees:** Residents rent directly from Get Living London, rather than through a letting agency, which means there are no admin fees for preparing a tenancy agreement, no initial referencing fees, no fees to renew the lease, no check-in or check-out fees, no debit card fees and no commercial cleaning fees when residents move out (as long as the home is clean and hasn't been damaged beyond 'fair wear and tear'). This no fees approach can save renters up to £350.
- **Provides long term stability with built-in flexibility:** Residents are offered one to three year tenancies, with residents-only break clauses after six months. Annual rent increases within a contract period are linked to the Consumer Prices Index so there are no surprises for residents on a longer contract.
- **Ensures a service-oriented approach:** The expert property management team are on-site at Get Living London's Welcome Office seven days a week to ensure any issues are dealt with quickly. The Welcome Office is open from 8am-8pm Monday to Friday and 9am-6pm at weekends, with an out-of-hours service for emergencies.
- **Offers high quality homes:** All Get Living London homes at East Village include fitted wardrobes, wooden flooring, fitted curtains and blinds, underfloor heating and modern kitchens with fully-integrated appliances. Every home meets the highest levels of sustainability and has achieved Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4 – the UK's single largest development to meet this standard.
- **Is building a thriving new neighbourhood:** Living in the former Athletes' Village means living in a brand new, stylish and imaginatively planned neighbourhood – which showcases the best of British architecture and construction. East Village highlights include Chobham Academy, arguably the most impressive school in London, which now caters for 1,800 students from age 3 to 18, and the Sir Ludwig Guttmann Health and Wellbeing Centre, offering GP services to residents and the wider local community.

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Further benefits for residents include free broadband and evening and weekend phone calls, great savings with Sky TV, and furnished homes come with complimentary high-end furniture packages.

Prices start from £410 per week for a 1 bedroom apartment, £440 per week for a 2 bedroom apartment, £600 per week for a 3 bedroom apartment.\*

For more information, and to see Get Living London homes currently available to rent within East Village E20, visit [GetLivingLondon.com](http://GetLivingLondon.com) or call 020 3714 8080 and follow us on Twitter @GetLivingLDN

\*Prices correct at time of issue of press release

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