

WHERE PEOPLE WALK IN SACRAMENTO

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Data on where people walk is limited. However, one source of data is fairly complete. This is the data from the census on how people get to work. This is taken every 10 years of 10% of the population. It documents all modes of travel including walking, biking, motorcycle, taxi, transit, rail, and by car.¹ One can assume similar percentages of walking trips for other purposes. Data from 2000 is not yet available.

Percentage of People Walking to Work in Sacramento County -- 1990 Census		
City	Zipcode	
Sacramento City		3.4%
Citrus Heights*	95610	2.0%
Elk Grove-Sheldon*	95624	2.3%
Folsom City		2.1%
Galt		2.1%
Neighborhood		
Downtown	95814	23.5%
Midtown	95816	8.4%
Med Center	95817	5.9%
Land Park	95818	6.2%
McKinley Park	95819	4.2%
American River College	95821	1.9%
Franklin/Mack	95823	2.5%
Freeport/City College	95822	1.7%
Elder Creek/Fruitridge	95824	1.5%
Fulton	95825	3.1%
Florin	95828	1.2%
Natomas	95833	1.0%
Auburn/San Juan	95621	1.3%
Fair Oaks	95628	1.4%
Orangevale	95662	0.9%
Rancho Cordova	95670	2.5%

*Zipcode rather than city boundaries because these cities weren't incorporated in 1990.

¹ This data is available over the Internet via 1990 Census Look-up Tables at <http://venus.census.gov/cdrom/lookup>. Select the zip code data base, enter the selected zip code and submit, choose "table" and submit, select information categories -- #1, 5, 49-53 are most useful for mode split, scroll back to top and submit. Then you have the numbers and you can calculate the percentages.

The percentage of people walking in Sacramento County varies significantly between neighborhoods. People who live in downtown neighborhoods and close-in neighborhoods are much more likely to walk to their jobs than people in the suburbs. Countywide only 2.5% of the population walk to work. However, in the downtown area 23.5% of residents walk to work. In the close-in neighborhoods, walking is much higher than the county as a whole. Most of these neighborhoods have sidewalks and have many destinations within walking distance.

What this data suggests is that with the right conditions, many people will choose to walk for some of their trips. The older neighborhoods close to many destinations have a high proportion of walkers. The outlying neighborhoods with greater distances between destinations, wider and higher speed arterials, have much reduced levels of walking.

A recent travel survey prepared by DKS Associates for the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) has looked at all trips and found that 5.01 % are by walking. What the survey data indicates is that while only 2.6% percent of work trips in the SACOG region are by walking mode, nearly 5.6 % of the remaining non-work trips are by walking. Work trips are approximately 18% of all trips.

Estimated Percentage of People Walking for Work and Non-Work trips in Sacramento County			
(Based on 1990 Census and 2.2 multiplier)			
City	Zipcode	% Work	% Non-Work
Sacramento City		3.4%	7.5%
Citrus Heights*	95610	2.0%	4.4%
Elk Grove-Sheldon*	95624	2.3%	5.1%
Folsom City		2.1%	4.6%
Galt		2.1%	4.6%
Neighborhood			
Downtown	95814	23.5%	51.7%
Midtown	95816	8.4%	18.5%
Med Center	95817	5.9%	13.0%
Land Park	95818	6.2%	13.6%
McKinley Park	95819	4.2%	9.2%
American River College	95821	1.9%	4.2%
Franklin/Mack	95823	2.5%	5.5%
Freeport/City College	95822	1.7%	3.7%
Elder Creek/Fruitridge	95824	1.5%	3.3%
Fulton	95825	3.1%	6.8%
Florin	95828	1.2%	2.6%
Natomas	95833	1.0%	2.2%
Auburn/San Juan	95621	1.3%	
Fair Oaks	95628	1.4%	3.1%
Orangevale	95662	0.9%	2.0%
Rancho Cordova	95670	2.5%	5.5%

If you assume a multiplier of 2.2 based on the ratio of the average % walk-to-work to the average % walk-for-other-trips, you see an even greater spread of percentages. percentages of people walking for the rest of their daily trips.

In neighborhoods with high walk mode share tend also to have high bike and transit mode share for very high alternative mode share.

Sacramento County						
% alternative mode share for walk-to-work trips -- 1990 Census						
from highest % walk						
zip	Community	% walk	% bike	% transit	% Walk + Bike	% Alt Mode
95814	Downtown	23.5	5.4	6.8	28.9	35.7
95816	Midtown	8.4	6.4	6.0	14.8	20.8
95818	Land Park	6.2	3.5	5.1	9.6	14.7
95817	Medical Center	5.9	3.5	6.8	9.4	16.2
95819	East Sacramento	4.2	4.3	4.0	8.5	12.5
	Sacramento City	3.4	1.9	4.0	5.3	9.2
95825	Fulton	3.1	2.2	3.3	5.3	8.6
95823	Franklin-Mack	2.5	0.5	3.8	3.0	6.8
95670	Rancho Cordova	2.5	1.3	3.1	3.8	6.8
95624	Elk Grove-Sheldon	2.3	0.6	1.1	2.9	4.0
95838	Rio Linda	2.2	0.8	3.2	3.0	6.2
	Galt City	2.1	-	0.5	2.1	2.6
	Folsom City	2.1	0.3	1.5	2.4	3.9
95610	Citrus Heights	2.0	0.3	1.5	2.3	3.8
95821	American River College	1.9	1.1	3.9	3.0	6.9
95822	South Land Park-City College	1.7	1.3	4.7	3.0	7.7
95824	Franklin-47th Avenue	1.5	1.0	3.6	2.5	6.1
95864	Arden Park	1.5	1.0	2.6	2.5	5.1
95628	Fair Oaks	1.4	0.5	1.5	1.9	3.4
95621	Auburn-San Juan	1.3	0.4	1.9	1.7	3.6
95828	Florin	1.2	0.6	1.8	1.7	3.5
95833	Natomas	1.0	1.4	2.2	2.4	4.6
95662	Orangevale	0.9	0.4	1.0	1.3	2.3

Location and pedestrian amenities appear to make a significant difference. What this also suggests is that transportation planning that is focused primarily on commute trips is unbalanced planning and not fully addressing community trip needs.

These data were prepared for the Sacramento Pedestrian Summit Strategic Plan and thus do not include communities outside Sacramento County.