

Transport and road accidents

Travel to school, university or workplace

Information on travels to school concerning children at a nursery and a kindergarten and that of students, in addition to the travels of employees for work purposes are recorded both in the multipurpose sample survey entitled “Aspects of daily life” and in the General population census. The “Aspects of daily life” survey, performed annually from 1993 onwards, is part of the system of multipurpose surveys of families, a coherent data collection system designed to systematically monitor the main social phenomena.¹ The survey in question is generally performed in the last two weeks of November, but since 2005 the survey calendar has been modified, moving the survey period to January-February each year.

The figures on travels to school or workplace from census data are available since 1971, thanks to the introduction in the questionnaire of a specific section dedicated to travel for study or work purposes by the population that commutes daily from their place of habitual domicile.² The questions on commuting represent one of the novelties of the 1971 census. In fact, on a European level, the interest in commuting began to be shown and, following international recommendations, information on place of work, or the place in which a profession is exercised, method of travel and the average time to arrive at work or school was collected during the census. These figures, when compared with the addresses of the place of work or study, guaranteed the acquisition of information on movements of workers and students never before drawn from census data.³ The subsequent census also required information regarding the time when lessons or work began. Ten years later, the questionnaire contains a specific section for codifying the responses for place of work or study. Since this is not an obligatory field, only some municipalities, with the prior authorisation of ISTAT, have collected additional information on the travel of those habitually domiciled within their territory. Once again in 2001, the figures on commuting were among the most eagerly awaited. The construction of the matrix for inter-municipal mobility and the definition of Local Work Systems meant the collection of information on daily travel for study or work purposes became crucial.

The range of questions that will be set in the 15th General population census will be close to those already tried in 2001, with the exception of the question on the time used to get to the place of work or study, which requires a detailed indication of journey time in minutes (in 2001 5 classes of time intervals were provided). In contrast to 2001, the address of the place of study or work will also be acquired in order to facilitate the work of processing the information gained by municipalities.

Tables presented in this section refer to the transport methods used for journeys. Please note that the results obtained from the multipurpose survey are not directly comparable with those derived from censuses. In addition to the differences due to the different nature of the two surveys, the main motive for the difference is the method of recording the transport method used: in censuses the respondent indicates the main transport method used in terms of distance covered, while in the multipurpose survey it is possible to indicate all the forms of transport used for a single journey. From this point of view the difference between the two sources is accentuated over time, as the figures drawn from the multipurpose survey show a growing tendency to use a combination of several transport methods for journeys to school or work.

¹ For information on the “Aspects of daily life” multipurpose survey, please refer to: [Households](#).

² For information on General population censuses, please refer to: Population.

³ Please note that for the 1971 census the figures relating to mobility refer to the results of a sample of 20% of census sheets, while the subsequent figures relate to the total number of forms collected.