

PRESS RELEASE

6th September 2019



LLOYDS BANK

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BRITISH WORKERS SPEND 492 DAYS OF THEIR LIVES TRAVELLING TO WORK

- Britain's commuters spend 492 days travelling to work at a cost of £37,399 over a lifetime
- One in five (21%) say their commute has become less reliable over the past 5 years and a third (33%) say it is more crowded
- East Midlands named the best region for commuting in the UK

British workers are spending over 10 days (251 hours) travelling to and from work every year, at an annual cost of almost £800 (£795.72), according to new research by Lloyds Bank.

With an average journey time of 65 minutes each day, commuters are set to spend around 70 weeks' worth of time (492 days) travelling for their job during their working life, at a total cost of £37,399.*

Part of Lloyds Bank's 'How Britain Lives' study, the UK-wide analysis conducted in partnership with YouGov, also found that despite the time and expense, almost half of workers (47%) like their commute and one in twenty (7%) go as far as to say they love their journey into work.

Commuting clearly divides opinion, with a third of workers disliking their commute (36%), one in five (21%) saying it has become less reliable over the past five years, and a third (33%) claiming it is more crowded than half a decade ago.

Londoners have the longest commute in the UK

With an average daily commute of 84 minutes, people living in London experience the longest journey to and from work in the UK, almost double that of those living in the East Midlands (49 minutes) or Wales (52 minutes).

Those living in the South East (75 minutes) and the East of England (69 minutes) also face higher-than-average commuting times.

MEDIA CONTACTS

Lloyds Bank Press Team:

Adam McGee, Adam.McGee@lloydsbanking.com, 07776 671159

Lynsey Cheshire-Willis, Lynsey.Cheshire-Willis@lloydsbanking.com, 07595 124294

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East of England travelers fork out the most on commuting

Those living in the East of England, in areas such as Cambridge, Norwich and Peterborough, fork out an average of £78.93 each month on commuting costs, totaling £947.16 a year, the highest amount spent by any UK region.

Londoners spend an average of £76.49 on their commute every month (£917.88 a year), while workers in the South East are also spending above the UK average of £66.31 per month, splashing out £75.77 (£909.24 a year).

Sweet spot: the cheapest and quickest commutes are in the East Midlands

Workers in the East Midlands, living in cities such as Derby, Leicester and Nottingham, spend the least time and money commuting, paying £45.51 each month (£546.12 a year) and undertaking a daily journey of only 49 minutes.

Unsurprisingly, workers in this region are the happiest commuters in the UK, with just 19% saying they dislike their journey to and from work.

Driving is the most popular way to travel

The car is the most used mode of transport for commuting, with 57% of British workers travelling to work in this way.

Almost a third walk to work (31%), one in five (20%) take the bus, 18% use the train, and just 6% choose to cycle.

Londoners are the most likely to travel on public transport (51%) or on foot (45%) in the UK, while those in the West Midlands are most likely to commute by car (76%).

Younger commuters aged 18-24 are the most likely to use public transport (56%) or walk to work (43%), while those aged over 55 are the most likely to drive (63%).

Miles Ravenhill, Director at Lloyds Bank said: “Commuters in the UK are spending almost £800 a year

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on their journey to and from work - the equivalent of a city break to sunny Europe. While many may dream of rolling out of bed and straight into the office, the daily commute is the perfect opportunity to invest in yourself, whether that's keeping up with the latest news, unwinding to a podcast or relaxing to some music."

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Table 1: Average daily commute time

Region	Average time spent commuting per day
North East	58 minutes
North West	60 minutes
Yorkshire and Humber	61 minutes
East Midlands	49 minutes
West Midlands	56 minutes
East of England	69 minutes
London	84 minutes
South East	75 minutes
South West	57 minutes
Wales	52 minutes
Scotland	57 minutes
Northern Ireland	54 minutes

Table 2: Average monthly cost of commuting

Region	Average monthly cost of commuting
North East	£70.83
North West	£59.09
Yorkshire and Humber	£57.67
East Midlands	£45.51
West Midlands	£59.00
East of England	£78.93
London	£76.49
South East	£75.77
South West	£53.33
Wales	£76.11
Scotland	£60.31
Northern Ireland	£70.91

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Table 3: Attitudes to commuting

Region	Dislike commute	Like commute
North East	37%	54%
North West	40%	51%
Yorkshire and Humber	34%	57%
East Midlands	19%	66%
West Midlands	31%	61%
East of England	38%	50%
London	43%	46%
South East	43%	47%
South West	29%	60%
Wales	35%	59%
Scotland	33%	59%
Northern Ireland	29%	63%

Notes to Editors:

Methodology

YouGov fielded a quantitative survey to a nationally representative sample of the UK population, interviewing 2018 UK panelists who agreed to take part in research in March 2019.

* The average time spent commuting was calculated by taking the number of weekdays in the year (261 days in 2019) and removing a further 28 days to account for UK statutory holiday (233 days per year). State pension age currently stands at 65 years and therefore working life has been assumed as 47 years for these calculations.

Cost of a city break to Barcelona including flights and hotel at £649 on Expedia.co.uk. Correct as of 30th August 2019.

This research is part of a wider series from Lloyds Bank called 'How Britain Lives', a major study looking into the issues that British people face in today's modern world including insight on their lives, attitudes and daily pressures.

About Lloyds Bank

Lloyds Bank is proud to have served the people, businesses and communities of Britain for over 250 years.

Whether you're starting a family, buying a new home, opening for business, changing direction, or dealing with the unexpected, Lloyds Bank are here to provide the support, and guidance, to face your next steps

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We offer a comprehensive range of financial products and services –shaped to suit individual needs, from current accounts, savings, mortgages, loans, credit cards, private banking and wealth management services and we are the UK's biggest provider of start-up finance for small businesses.

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