

## Travel Time to Work

The average travel time to work in the region continues to steadily increase across all modes. In 2017, Pierce County commuters faced the longest average travel time at 32.5 minutes, followed by Snohomish County at 32.3 minutes and Kitsap County at 30.4 minutes. Commuters in King County had the shortest average commute at 29.9 minutes.

### Short vs. Long Commutes

While travel time to work averages around 30 minutes in the region, the share of commuters with long commutes (greater than 60 minutes) has increased steeply. In Pierce County, 16% of travelers in 2017 had long commutes, followed by Snohomish County (15%), Kitsap County (14%), and King County (10%). Regionwide, 12% of travelers had long commutes.

Pierce County also experienced the largest increase in the share of commuters with long commutes since 2010.

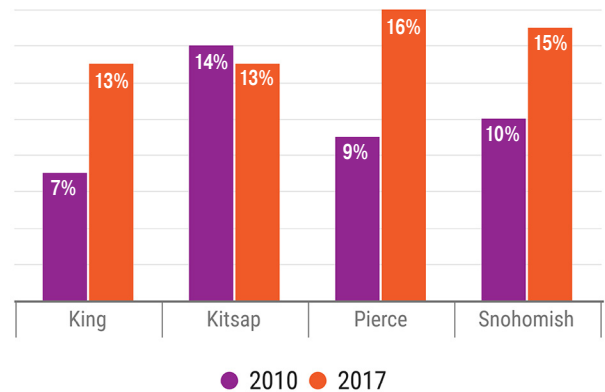
The breakdown by county shows a similar increase in the share of commuters for both Snohomish and King counties.

Only Kitsap County saw a slight decrease between 2010 and 2017. Across the region, the share of travelers with long commutes increased by 47% between 2010 and 2017.

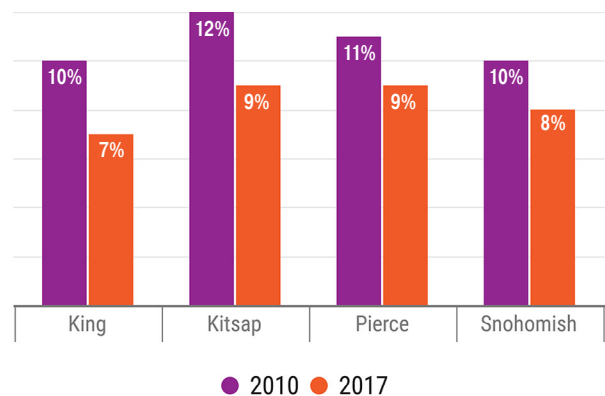
At the other end of the spectrum, the share of travelers with very short commutes (less than 10 minutes) continues to steadily decline. Since 2010, the share of travelers with short commutes has decreased by 26% across the region.

The share of commuters with long commutes is now higher than the share of commuters with short commutes across the region and in each of the four counties.

**Share of Commuters,  
Travel Time Greater Than 1 Hour, 2010-2017**



**Share of Commuters,  
Travel Time Less Than 10 Minutes, 2010-2017**



## Rise of super commuters

The share of commuters with extremely long commutes — 90 minutes one way — is fast increasing in the region.

Metropolitan areas such as New York and Washington D.C. typically see a significant share of super commuters. However, in recent years, other regions have also seen increases in the number of super commuters.

While the share of super commuters in the central

Puget Sound region is still a small percentage (3.5%) of the total commuting population, there has been a sharp rise in the number of super commuters.

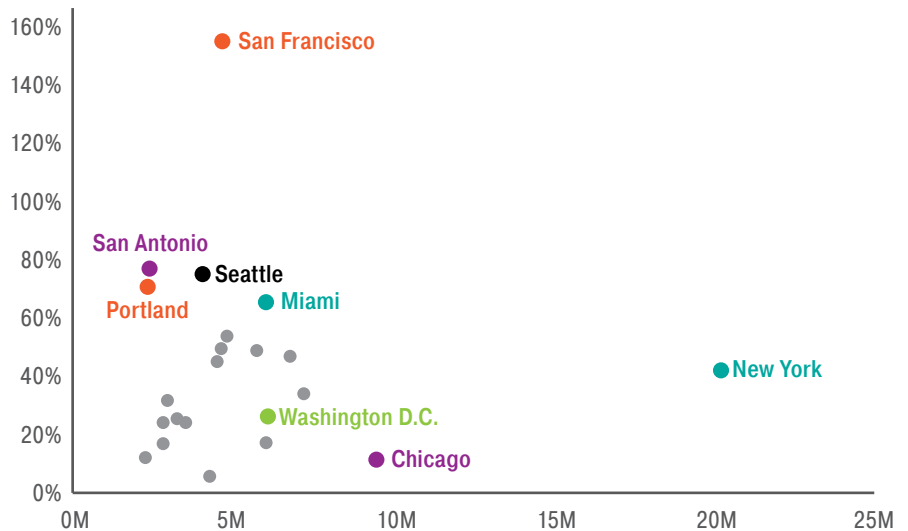
Since 2010, the population of super commuters in the central Puget Sound region has increased by 75%.

The region now ranks third out of the top 25 metropolitan areas in the nation in the increase in super commuters. Only the San Francisco and San Antonio metropolitan areas rank higher in terms of the percent increase in super commuters.

## Why does commute time matter?

The combination of increasing commute times, shift in share of travelers with long commutes versus short commutes, and the rising share of super commuters points to growing congestion and delays on the region's transportation system and the distribution of jobs and housing across the region.

**Percent Increase in Commutes Longer Than 90 Minutes, 2010-2017**



Data source for all figures: 2010 – 2017 American Community Survey 1-year estimates  
[https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/guided\\_search.xhtml](https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/guided_search.xhtml)