

Summary:

2001 Norwegian Travel Survey – key results

The 2001 Norwegian Travel Survey 2001 (NTS2001) is the fourth nationwide travel survey conducted in Norway. The previous surveys were undertaken in 1985, 1992 and 1998. The objective of the travel surveys is to examine travel patterns and travel activities in the population. The surveys collect information on:

- how often people travel
- why people travel
- how they travel
- how travel behaviour differs with respect to age, gender, place of residence, income etc.

More than 20.000 people 13 years and older were randomly selected to participate in the NTS2001. Respondents were asked to report trips made on a certain day (daily mobility), and any long distance trip undertaken during the last month before the interview. Long distance travel was defined as trips of a minimum 100 km crow flies distance, and trips abroad. Interviews were conducted by telephone.

Transport resources

85 per cent of the population live in a household that own, or have disposal of, a car. 52 percent have one car, and 43 percent have two or more cars.

19 per cent of the population have very good access to public transport where they live. However, the quality of the public transport system varies with place of residence. In urbanized areas, such as Oslo/Akershus, Bergen or Trondheim, more than two thirds of the population have good or very good access. In scattered populated areas the corresponding number is only six percent.

75 percent own a bicycle, slightly less than three years ago. Nine percent of those aged 16 years and older own or have disposal of a moped or motorcycle.

Trip frequency

Average trip frequency is 3,1 trips per day. This is about the same as in 1992 and 1998. During a day, 15 percent do not leave the house at all, i.e., have zero trips. 35 percent make one or two trips, another 28 percent 3-4 trips, and 22 percent make five or more trips per day. The percentage of non-mobile people is slightly higher in 2001 than it was three years ago.

Average trip length is 11,9 km. However, most trips are short, 40 percent are shorter than three kilometres, 56 percent are under 5 km.

During a month, 46 percent of the population make one or more long distance journeys. Average trip frequency for this group is 2,9. Three out of four “travellers” only make one or two trips.

Transport mode

64 percent of the daily trips were taken in a personal use car (52 percent driver and 12 percent passenger), 26 percent were non-motorised (walking/cycling), while public transport was used for about ten percent of the trips. Bus is the most important type of public transport, accounting for almost 60 percent of all trips done by public transport.

Personal use vehicles are also the most frequently used mode for long distance travel. During 2001, 64 percent of all long distance journeys were taken in a personal use car. One out of five journeys were airplane trips, train and bus accounted for five percent each, and ferries/boats were used for six percent of all long distance journeys. Since 1998, commercial air travel has lost market shares, and more trips are taken by personal use car.

Trip purpose

Of all daily trips in 2001, 22 percent were to/from work, 25 percent were for shopping, 13 percent were for care-related purposes (e.g., follow kids

to/from day-care), 17 percent were for leisure activities, 13 percent were to visit friends and relatives, and 10 percent were for other purposes.

Note that trips in the NTS are to be reported stage-wise. This means that picking up kids at the kindergarten on the way home from work, is reported as an independent trip, the purpose being care. This disguises the importance of travel to/from work, which account for only 22 percent of the total number of daily trips. However, if stages are merged into trips, almost half are to/from work.

Travel outside Norway

During a month, 15 percent of all Norwegians aged 13 years and older travel to a destination outside Norway. 17 percent of these trips are work-related, and 83 percent are done for private purposes.

In 2001, 40 percent of foreign travel was to Sweden, 16 percent to Denmark, five percent to Great Britain, and 11 percent to other countries in North- and Middle-Europe. Another 18 percent were to Southern-Europe, and seven percent of the international trips Norwegians made in 2001 were to countries outside Europe.