



Greater Philadelphia Bicycle Facts 2008

How many people bicycle in Philadelphia?

The Bicycle Coalition estimates that **36,000 commuters** bicycle to work at least once a month in Philadelphia¹.

On a typical day in 2001, Philadelphia had an estimated **11,000** bicycle commute-to-work trips, a majority of the **19,000** bicycle commute-to-work trips throughout the Delaware Valley².

Bicyclists travel **260,000 miles**³ a day in Philadelphia on **75,000**⁴ bike trips

300,000 Philadelphians bicycle at least once a month during the summer⁵

Up to **600** bicycles an hour cross the Schuylkill River Bridges during the evening rush⁶

In 2000, **3.2%** of Center City workers and **0.4%** of Delaware Valley workers biked to work.⁷

In 2005, approximately **6%** of all trips in Center City and surrounding neighborhoods were made by bicyclists⁸

In 2006, **1.2 %** of workers in Philadelphia (6403) biked to work as their primary mode of transportation⁹

43% of Delaware Valley cyclists surveyed in 2005 ride daily or almost daily¹⁰

More than 400 bicycles on transit trips are taken daily on NJ TRANSIT's RiverLINE¹¹

Is bicycling increasing?

The number of Philadelphia bicycle commuters increased **76%** between 1990 and 2006¹²

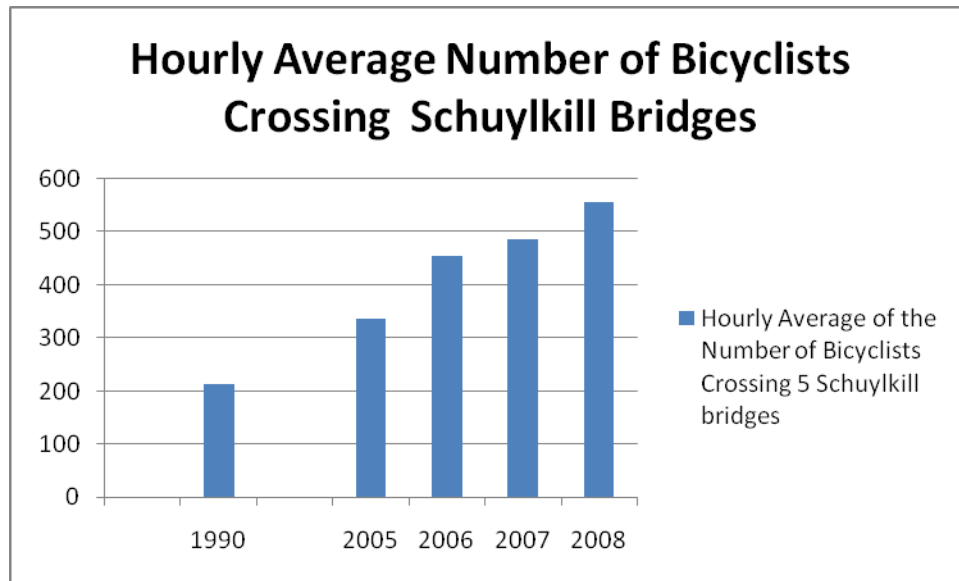
In 2006, the percentage of Philadelphian commuters who used bikes was **1.2%**¹³ of 550,988 of workers 16 years or older, up from **0.9%** in 2000, and **0.6%** in 1990¹⁴

At the intersection of Broad and Chestnut Streets, there was a 44% increase in bicyclists counted during the evening rush hour from July 2006 to July 2008¹⁵

Bicycling on the bridges over the Schuylkill River rose **15%** between 2007 and 2008¹⁶

Bicycling on the bridges over the Schuylkill bridges increased **12%** annually between 1990 and 2006¹⁷

Bicycling on the Schuylkill bridges **more than doubled (163%)** between 1990 and 2008¹⁸



Who is bicycling?

61% of Delaware Valley bicyclists surveyed use bikes for utilitarian purposes (commuting to school or work, work – related, social visits and errands); **35%** use them for recreation¹⁹.

In the Delaware Valley region, between **22-34%** of bicyclists are women and **64-76%** are men²⁰

In Center City, **31%** of bicyclists use helmets²¹

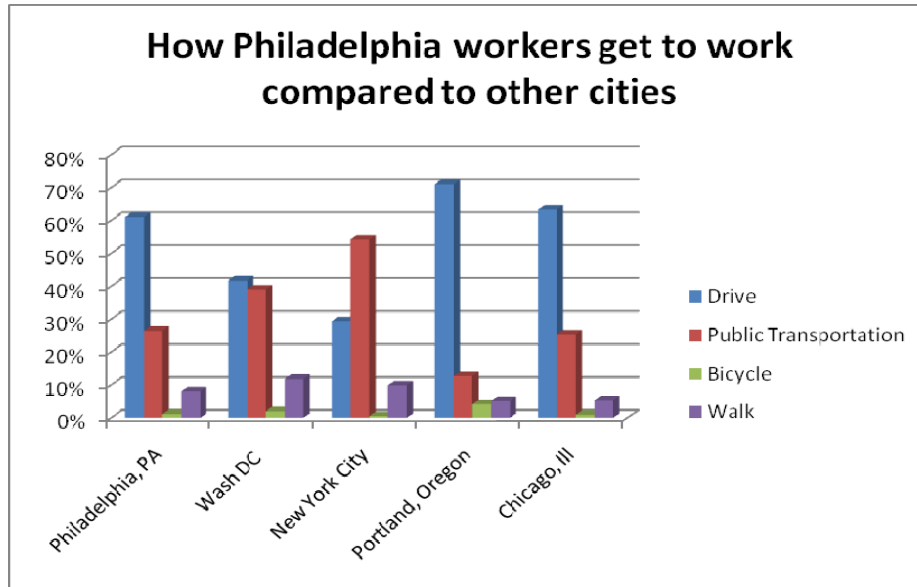
How does bicycling compare to other modes of commuting?

Bicycling is faster than driving, walking or taking the bus across Center City²²

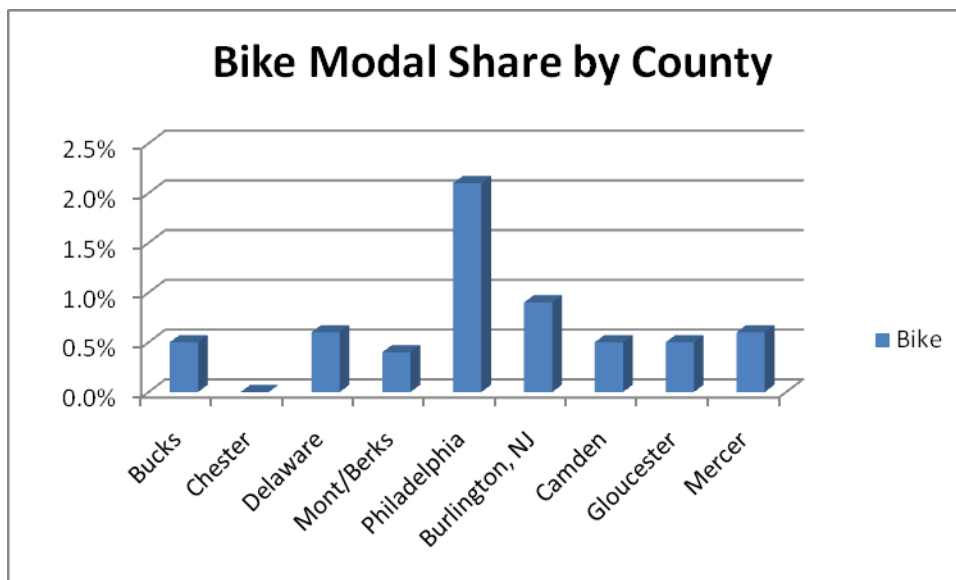
As of 2006, **35%** of the occupied housing units in Philadelphia and **51%** of the occupied rental housing units did not have a vehicle²³.

More than **25 %** of all trips are made within one mile of the home, more than **40 %** of all trips are within two miles of the home, and **50 %** of the U.S. working population commutes five miles or less to work. Yet more than **82% of trips five miles** or less are made by personal motor vehicle.²⁴

Philadelphia workers commute mostly by driving (61%), followed by taking public transportation (26.4%), walking (8%) and riding a bicycle (1.2%). Philadelphia’s bicycle commute “mode share” (1.2%) is larger than New York City’s (0.6%) and Chicago’s (0.9%), but not as large as Washington DC’s (2.0%) and Portland Oregon’s (4.0%).²⁵



Based on a 2001 survey, Philadelphia county leads the region in the percentage of trips that are taken by bicycles²⁶.



What do bicyclists want?

Delaware Valley bicyclists surveyed favor **more bike lanes** on roads over other bicycle facilities²⁷

Delaware Valley bicyclists surveyed favor **more secure bike** parking over other amenities²⁸

Lack of bike lanes, unsafe road conditions and the speed/volume of traffic were cited by bicyclists as the **top three** reasons for not riding more (after weather conditions).²⁹

Philadelphia has **205** miles of bicycle lanes³⁰

The City of Philadelphia has installed approximately **1000** bicycle racks in Center City and surrounding neighborhoods³¹

Chicago has installed **10,000** bike racks³².

New York City has installed **4,700** bike racks.³³

Portland, Oregon has installed over **3,000** racks³⁴

Safety in numbers

When bicycle usage doubles, the crash risk for each individual declines by **one third**³⁵.

How has driving changed since \$4 gas?

As of July 2008, gasoline consumption is down nationally 3% from 2007 and is below July 2005 levels³⁶

SEPTA 2008 Regional Rail Ridership is up 11% over 2007³⁷

DRPA Bridge traffic declined by 5% in June 2008³⁸

In Pennsylvania, vehicle miles travelled on urban roads and streets declined by 3.9% between May 2007 and May 2008³⁹

In June 2008, SEPTA's total ridership was up 13 percent compared with June 2007⁴⁰.

What are the benefits of riding a bike?

In one year, riding a bicycle versus owning and driving will save an individual **\$8,000**. On average, commuting 10 miles a day by bike instead of car burns **110,250 calories** (keeping off 30 pounds of fat each year) and saves **3,500 lbs.** of greenhouse gas emissions each year⁴¹.

Commuting by bicycle for 15 minutes each way (about 2-3 miles) meets the Center for Disease Control's minimum recommendation of 30 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity per day⁴².

Regular physical activity may help reduce your risk for many diseases including cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, colon and breast cancers, and osteoporosis. It also helps to control weight; contributes to healthy bones, muscles, and joints; and reduces falls among older adults.

¹ Nationally, 2/3 of bicyclists bike to work less than 6 days per month, 1/3 bike 6 days or more a month (Bureau of Transportation Statistics Omnistats Volume 2, Issue 6, December 2002). Based on the 2006 American Community Survey estimate of the number of adult bicycle commuters who bicycle 12 days a month or more (6400) in the City of Philadelphia, the Bicycle Coalition estimates that used there are 36,000 bicycle commuters who bike to work at least one day per month.

² Figures derived by multiplying 14,735,586 daily trips by the 0.9% bike mode share for the Delaware Valley region (2001. DVRPC. "Transportation for the 21st Century: Household Travel Survey: Travel Survey Results for the DVRPC Region" Prepared for DVRPC by NuStats Research and Consulting and Cambridge Systematics) to find 133,000 daily bike trips in the region, which was multiplied by the percentage of all bike trips that are for work (29%) to derive 38,570 daily bike trips for work. $38,570 / 2 = 19,285$ daily one-way bike trips in the region. 19,285 bike commute trips multiplied by the number of the region's bicycle commuters who are residents of Philadelphia (57%) = 10,992 bicycle commute trips take place daily in Philadelphia.

³ Estimate was derived by multiplying 75,000 bike trips by the average number of miles travelled by bicyclists, 3.47 miles, from DVRPC 2007 [Bicycling in the Delaware Valley in 2005](#).

⁴ DRPC reported that the 133,000 daily trips are made by bicycle in the region (Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission. 2007. [Bicycling in the Delaware Valley in 2005, p. 1](#). According to the U.S. Census, 57% of the region bicycle commuters are residents of Philadelphia. 57% of 133,000 is approximately 75,000.

⁵ The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration found that that 27.3% of driving age public (over 16 years of age) bicycle once a month in warm weather. ([2002 National Survey of Pedestrian and Bicyclist Attitudes and Behaviors, Highlights Report](#). U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Bureau of Transportation Statistics). According to the 2000 census, there were 1.134 million persons 18 years and older in the City of Philadelphia (<http://philadelphia.areacconnect.com/statistics.htm>). 27% of that population is 300,000.

⁶ BCGP Bicycle counts

⁷ Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission. 2006. [Journey to Work](#); Trends in Delaware Valley Region. Appendix D: 1990 and 2000 Distribution of Resident Workers by Means of Transportation and Travel Time. Table D-13, D-12 and D-5

⁸ DVRPC reported that in 2005, 23,300 trips were made by bicycles in the Center City and surrounding neighborhoods out of approximately 400,000 total daily trips. From DVRPC's 2005 Motorized and Non-motorized Travel powerpoint by W. Thomas Walker, PdD. Presented to the Regional Transportation Committee April 2008.

⁹ Commuting 3 or more days a week. 2006 American Community Survey. U.S. Census Bureau. <http://tinyurl.com/2b9f8u>

¹⁰ DVRPC, 2007. p. 13

¹¹ BCGP Bicycle counts

¹² In 1990, the number of Philadelphia County workers who bicycled was 3637 (DVRPC, 2006. Table D-5. In 2006, the number of workers was 6403 (2006 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau).

¹³ 2006 American Community Survey. U.S. Census Bureau. <http://tinyurl.com/2b9f8u>

¹⁴ 2006 American Community Survey, Means of Transportation to Work (Workers 16 years and over) Table B08301 for Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania is the source for the 1.2% figure. The 1990 and 2000 figure is from Appendix D: 1990 and 2000 Distribution of Resident Workers by Means of Transportation and Travel Time. Table D-13, D-12 and D-5 of DVRPC 2006 Journey to Work: Trends in Delaware Valley Region.

¹⁵ BCGP Bicycle Counts, between 4:30-6pm

¹⁶ BCGP Bicycle Counts

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- ¹⁷ 2006. Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia & Center City District. Bicycle Count report
- ¹⁸ BCGP Bicycle Counts
- ¹⁹ Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission. 2007. [Bicycling in the Delaware Valley in 2005](#). P. 11
- ²⁰ Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission. 2007. [Bicycling in the Delaware Valley in 2005](#). P. 17
- ²¹ BCGP 2006 Bicycle Count Report to the Center City District. 2006.
- ²² Center City District. 2007. [Managing Success in Center City: Reducing Congestion, Enhancing Public Spaces](#).
- ²³ 2006. American Community Survey, Means of Transportation to Work (Workers 16 years and over)
- ²⁴ From League of American Bicyclists webpage [Ride for the Environment](#) , citing data from the US DOT's Nationwide Personal Travel Survey.
- ²⁵ 2006 American Community Survey, Means of Transportation to Work (Workers 16 years and over) Table B08301 for Philadelphia, Washington DC, New York City and Portland, Oregon.
- ²⁶ "Transportation for the 21st Century: Household Travel Survey: Travel Survey Results for the DVRPC Region" Prepared for DVRPC by NuStats Research and Consulting and Cambridge Systematics
- ²⁷ DVRPC, 2007. P.37
- ²⁸ DVRPC, 2007. P. 40
- ²⁹ DVRPC, 2007. P.28
- ³⁰ City of Philadelphia Streets Department and Google Maps.
- ³¹ City of Philadelphia Streets Department
- ³² [Chicagoland](#) Bicycle Federation
- ³³ The [Gothamist](#) website
- ³⁴ Sarah Figliozi, Portland Department of Transportation, personal communication
- ³⁵ Jacobson, P.L. 2003. "Safety in Numbers: More Walkers and Bicyclists, safer walking and bicycling." [Injury Prevention](#). September 2003. P. 205-209
- ³⁶ Energy Information Administration <http://tinyurl.com/6ysr66>
- ³⁷ SEPTA Board Report - Selected Financial and Operating Performance Results May 31, 2008 page 3.
- ³⁸ KWKY News
- ³⁹ Federal Highway Administration. May 2008 Traffic Volume Trends [Table 4](#)-Changes on Urban Arterial Roads by Region and State
- ⁴⁰ Evening Bulletin "SEPTA's Monthly Ridership Reaches 25-Year High" by Andrew Overton 7/24/08
- ⁴¹ BCGP press release <http://bcgp.blogspot.com/2008/06/bicyclists-declare-independence-from.html>
- ⁴² Centers For Disease Control and Prevention Website - Physical Activity For Everyone <http://tinyurl.com/46es3y>