

# Statistical standard for main means of travel to work

## Rationale

Main means of travel to work is a key variable in monitoring changes in travel patterns and in planning transport services.

## Definition

1. Work refers to a person's main employment on a specified day, where

- (a) Employment is defined as: all people in the working-age population who during the reference period:
- worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, or payment in kind in a job, business, farm or professional practice or,
  - worked without pay for one hour or more in work which contributed to the operation of a farm, business or professional practice operated by a relative or,
  - had a job or business they were temporarily absent from.
- (b) Main refers to the greatest hours employed on the specified day.  
(c) Day refers to midnight to midnight.

2. Main means is the method by which the respondent travelled the longest distance to their main employment.

## Explanatory notes

### People working at home

A growing number of people work from home either permanently or on a casual basis. If a respondent's place of work is in the same building as the one in which they live they should be regarded as working at home. Similarly, farmers working on a farm on the collection date should also be regarded as working at home, if the place where they live is located on the farm.

### Reference date

A number of users have queried the use of a single day as the reference period. Their main concern is that the date selected would be an abnormal day, ie would be affected by the weather or a transport strike.

If respondents were asked for their usual means of travel there is a danger of over-counting in some response categories. The likelihood of over-counting in some response categories, as opposed to the unlikely possibility that the reference day will be an abnormal day, means that questions asking for the main means of travel to work should always nominate a particular date.

## Classification criteria

The criterion used to classify a response into the classification is the main means of travel taken by the respondent on the collection date.

## Classification

Main means of travel to work is a flat classification with 15 categories – excluding residual categories.

The residual categories are defined in the Glossary.

Classification	Main Means of Travel to Work – Standard Classification
Abbreviation	TRAVWORK
Version	V1.0
Effective date	14/10/1998

## Coding process

A response of worked at home should be imputed if there is a response of work at home in the "Where do you work?" question.

A codefile can be used to code responses. A codefile is a comprehensive list of probable survey responses and the classification categories to which they are coded. The codefile for main means of travel to work contains the classification categories plus some additional unique responses.

## Questionnaire module

### Requirements

The questionnaire module must obtain the main means of travel of the respondent on the date specified in the survey.

### Example

The questionnaire module below is an example that meets the requirements documented in this statistical standard. Other questionnaire modules may vary in format but should conform to the requirements contained in this statistical standard.

**49** On Tuesday 5 March, what was the ONE main way you travelled TO your work – that is, the one you used for the greatest distance.

- worked at home
- did not go to work on Tuesday, 5 March 1996
- public bus
- train
- drove a private car, truck or van
- drove a company car, truck or van
- passenger in a car, truck, van or company bus
- motor bike or power cycle
- bicycle
- walked or jogged
- other (such as taxi, ferry, aeroplane) → Print the main way you travelled

## Standard output

### Main means of travel to work

The standard output variable categories are the same as the classification categories. The residual categories may be output separately or combined. Where a combination item of residuals is to be used in output, this item should be labelled 'not elsewhere included' and should have a footnote indicating its composition.

The residual categories are defined in Glossary.

## Related classifications and standards

### New Zealand

The standard uses the definition of employed from the labour force status statistical standard.

The classification is not used by other parts of the Official Statistical System.

### International

The classification or standard is not based on an international standard or the standard of another country.

## Glossary

### Residual categories

#### *Don't know*

Use of this category is discretionary. The use of a category capturing don't know responses is most applicable to household surveys where don't know may be a legitimate response to certain questions.

#### *Refused to answer*

This category is only used when it is known that the respondent has purposefully chosen not to respond to the question. Use of this residual category in processing is optional. Its use is most applicable in face-to-face or telephone interviews, but may be used in self-completed questionnaires if the respondent has clearly indicated they refuse or object to answering the question.

#### *Response unidentifiable*

This category is used when there is a response given, but:

1. the response is illegible, or
2. it is unclear what the meaning or intent of the response is – this most commonly occurs when the response being classified contains insufficient detail, is ambiguous or is vague, or
3. the response is contradictory eg, both the yes and no tick boxes have been ticked, or
4. the response is clear and seemingly within the scope of the classification but can not be coded because no suitable option (particularly other residual category options such as 'not elsewhere classified' or 'not further defined') exists in the classification or codefile.

#### *Response outside scope*

This category is used for responses that are positively identified (ie the meaning and the intent are clear) but which clearly fall outside the scope of the classification/topic as defined in the standard.

#### *Not stated*

This category is only used where a respondent has not given any response to the question asked, ie it is solely for non-

response.

## References

Statistics New Zealand (1998). *2001 Census of Population and Dwellings: Preliminary Views on Content* , Wellington.