

DRŽAVNI ZAVOD ZA STATISTIKU
REPUBLIKE HRVATSKE
CROATIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

INTERESTING POINTS

Zagreb, 30 April 2018

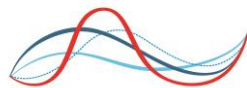
We are bringing to light the traffic habits of the Croatian population

Travelling has always been an inspiration for many. All since explorers like Marco Polo and Christopher Columbus, who discovered new worlds on their journeys, there is a fascination with travelling and with mobility in general. Although the majority of us cannot afford long journeys during their lifetime like the mentioned great men did, we are almost unaware of the fact that each our day consists of smaller or bigger trips. Commuting to school, college or work, visiting a doctor, seeing friends and relatives are, in fact, trips that we often take as a mere routine. But how frequently, in what way and when do we travel? Do students travel in a different way than pensioners? The answer to this and many other questions can be found in the Traffic Habits Survey, which was first carried out by the Croatian Bureau of Statistics in autumn 2017, with the financial assistance of the European Union. As the Survey results arrived in April, we will present to you some interesting details collected in the field in the following sections.

Why do we travel?

Every time persons change their usual residence they become travellers, and a traveller is defined in the Survey as a person who travelled in a reference period by using at least one transport mean or on foot. At the very beginning, interviewers were most interested in getting the answer to the question why we travel, i.e. what the purpose of travelling is. The results show that more than a third trips (35.4%) refers to commuting to work, which takes 30 minutes on average. Sports and leisure, seeing friends and family, i.e. leisure time for short, account for 22.1% of trips. Visiting a doctor or going to a bank as well as attending to other personal issues account for 18.8% of trips, while accompanying someone accounts for 12.7% of trips. Shopping is a purpose related to 5.3% of trips, while 4.3% of trips are business trips.

Travelling is a part of the morning routine for many people. That is to say, most trips in urban traffic zones take place in the morning, in the period from 6 to 10 a.m., when 38% of trips occur. It can be said that, as early as in the morning, we begin to collect travelled kilometres, which by the end of day amount to 9.7 kilometres on average.



What means of transport do we prefer?

The results of this Survey, conducted during September, October and November 2017, show that the Croatian population mostly travel by passenger cars (60%) and on foot (23%). One half of households, or 51% to be precise, have one passenger car, 24% of households have two or more cars, while one quarter of households do not have a passenger car. While observing passenger kilometres travelled in passenger cars, most of them are travelled in diesel cars (51%), while 47% were travelled in petrol cars. The remaining percentage refer to passenger cars driven by other types of fuel. Persons who travel in passenger cars usually travel alone, according to the fact that the average occupancy of a passenger car is 1.6 persons.

Although passenger cars are the first choice of the interviewed Croatian citizens, the interviewers were no less interested in in what way and how frequently other means of transport are used. Trips of up to 300 kilometres are defined as short-distance trips, on which 6.5% of travels were done by bus. Trips of 300 to 1 000 kilometres are defined as medium-distance trips, on which 2.9% of travels were done by plane.

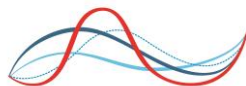
One of the healthiest modes of travelling is certainly bicycling. Many people do not forget a drive on two wheels even in winter and for a long time now it has not been reserved only for leisure time. Cyclists travel 3.5 kilometres per trip on average.

The results obtained in the Survey point to another fun fact as well. They show that the Croatian population rarely uses a taxi as a means of transport on average, once a year to be exact.

Are there differences in the traffic habits between different groups of citizens?

The Survey results indicate that the traffic habits tend to change with age. Pupils over 15 years of age and students mostly travel by bus (32%), passenger cars (31%) and on foot (22%), while employed persons (71%), pupils and students (24%) and pensioners persons (5%) prefer travelling by train. The Survey also shows that pensioners do not travel every day, according to the fact that they take 0.64 trips a day on average, or 234 trips a year.

The traffic habits of women and men also differ. Specifically, although a passenger car is their most often chosen mean of transport, there is a difference in percentage of its use by them. Men travel as drivers of passenger cars almost two times more often (60% in contrast



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to 33% of women drivers of passenger cars). Moreover, women travel on foot more often (30% of women in contrast to 16% of men). When observing kilometres travelled per day, there is also a difference by sexes. Women, with an average of 10.2 kilometres a day, travel even 6 kilometres less than men.

The responses in the Survey revealed yet another interesting habit of the Croatian citizens. Shopping appears as one of the purposes of travelling. It made us realise that the majority of the Croatian citizens do the shopping on Saturdays (18%), Tuesdays (16%) and Sundays (13%).

No matter what means of transport is used, travelling always opens the door to new experiences. Therefore, either you take oversea flights, or take a walk in your own neighbourhood, or commute, do not let your trips be reduced to mere moving from a point A to a point B. For, as it is often said: it's not about the destination; it's about the journey.