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## **Torontonians Spend More Time Commuting Now Than Six Years Ago**

### **Big jumps in North York, Etobicoke, and York to blame**

Toronto, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1157 Toronto voters, commute times are up an average of almost 8% since 2013, with an average commute of 42 minutes, up from 39 minutes in 2013.

About 9 in 10 (87%) say they commute to work or school, an increase of six points since 2013 (2013: 81%).

One sixth (16%) said their commute was less than 15 minutes, while one-fifth (20%) said their commute took between 15 and 30 minutes.

One-fifth (19%) said their commute takes more than 30 minutes but less than 45 minutes, while a similar proportion (17%) said their commute takes between 45 minutes and one hour.

About 1 in 10 (8%) said that their commute takes more than one hour, but less than an hour and a half, while a similar proportion (7%) said their commute takes an hour and a half or more.

About 1 in 10 (13%) said they don't travel to work or school.

Young people are most likely to report the longest commute, with those aged 18-34 saying they faced an average commute of 46 minutes to work or school and those aged 35-44 saying their commute was 43 minutes.

Those earning \$40,000-\$60,000 had the longest average commute, saying it takes them 49 minutes to get to work or school.

We've seen major changes in commute duration by areas of the city since 2013, with Downtown/East York and Scarborough each seeing modest declines in their average commute duration, but North York, Etobicoke/York seeing major increases.

The Former City of Toronto/East York sees a modest decline in their average commute time to an average of 35 minutes, down from an average of 37 minutes in 2013.

Scarborough saw a similarly modest decline in the average commute since 2013, with residents saying their 2019 commute is an average of 46 minutes, down from 49.

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"On average, commute times have increased across the city, due to the massive increases we're seeing in North York, Etobicoke, and York," said Dr. Lorne Bozinoff, President of Forum Research. "Young people, and particularly public transit users, are hardest hit by long commutes. The majority says that building more public transit is the way to alleviate congestion, but we've also seen an increase in the amount of people who want another option, or just don't know how to improve the problem; it may speak to a general frustration about the state of traveling throughout the city."

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North York, however, has seen a massive increase of more than 21% in their average commute duration, with residents saying their average commute is now 45 minutes.

It was only 37 minutes in 2013.

Etobicoke/York has seen an even bigger jump in its average commute duration, increasing by more than 31%, to 46 minutes in 2019, from only 35 minutes in 2013.

One point of surprise in the results is this: amongst those who identify transit as their primary mode of transportation, they say their average commute is 52 minutes, well above the average, and above those who identify a private vehicle as their primary mode of transportation (40 minutes).

### **Torontonians say commute is affecting quality of life**

Amongst those who travel to work or school, almost two-thirds (60%) agree that the time they spend commuting reduces their quality of life.

A quarter (27%) disagree that the time they spend traveling to and from work or school reduces their quality of life, about one-sixth (13%) say they don't know.

### **Majority say solution to relieve congestion is more transit**

More than half (58%) say that building more transit is the best way to relieve congestion, down six points since 2013 (2013: 64%).

One-sixth (17%) say the best way to relieve congestion is building more roads, down six points since 2013 (2013: 23%), while a similar proportion (16%) say that something else should be done to relieve congestion, up six points since 2013 (2013: 10%).

1 in 10 (9%) say they don't know, up six points since 2013 (2013: 3%)

“On average, commute times have increased across the city, due to the massive increases we’re seeing in North York, Etobicoke, and York,” said Dr. Lorne Bozinoff, President of Forum Research. “Young people, and particularly public transit users, are hardest hit by long commutes. The majority say that building more public transit is the way to alleviate congestion, but we’ve also seen an increase in the amount of people who want another option, or just don’t know how to improve the problem; it may speak to a general frustration about the state of traveling throughout the city.”

Lorne Bozinoff, Ph.D. is the president and founder of Forum Research. He can be reached at [lbozinoff@forumresearch.com](mailto:lbozinoff@forumresearch.com) or at (416) 960-9603.

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## Methodology

The Forum Poll™ was conducted by Forum Research with the results based on an interactive voice response telephone survey of 1157 randomly selected Toronto voters. The poll was conducted June 8-9, 2019.

Results based on the total sample are considered accurate +/- 3%, measured as the average deviation across all response categories, 19 times out of 20.

Subsample results will be less accurate. Margins of error for subsample (such as age, gender) results are available at [www.forumresearch.com/samplestim.asp](http://www.forumresearch.com/samplestim.asp)

Where appropriate, the data has been statistically weighted by age, region, and other variables to ensure that the sample reflects the actual population according to the latest Census data.

This research is not necessarily predictive of future outcomes, but rather, captures opinion at one point in time. Forum Research conducted this poll as a public service and to demonstrate our survey research capabilities. Forum houses its poll results in the Data Library of the Department of Political Science at the University of Toronto.

With offices across Canada and around the world, 100% Canadian-owned Forum Research is one of the country's leading survey research firms. This Forum Poll™ and other polls may be found at Forum's poll archive at [forumpoll.com](http://forumpoll.com).



**Top2/Btm2 (or 3 or 4 where applicable) refers to the combined results of the most answered positive and negative responses (EXAMPLE):**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	631	112	91	133	119	176	303	315
NET: TOP3	66	57	60	68	78	86	67	64
NET: BTM3	34	43	39	32	21	14	32	36
Very satisfied	9	9	6	6	13	20	11	8
Satisfied	28	17	29	35	32	45	25	31
Somewhat satisfied	28	31	26	28	32	20	31	25
Somewhat dissatisfied	12	11	16	14	11	8	13	12
Dissatisfied	11	15	15	9	5	3	9	13
Very dissatisfied	11	18	9	8	5	3	9	12
Don't know	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0

*Top 3 here collects very satisfied, satisfied, and somewhat satisfied into one category, and Btm 3 collects very dissatisfied, dissatisfied, and somewhat dissatisfied.*

**Due to rounding some numbers may not add up to 100**

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### Commuter times

How long do you spend each day getting to and from work or school?

### Age/gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1157	154	167	206	242	388	589	544
Less than 15 minutes	16	13	14	20	20	17	16	16
15-30 minutes	20	20	24	24	21	8	22	18
More than 30 minutes but less than 45 minutes	19	21	24	21	15	8	21	18
45 minutes to one hour	17	25	18	15	11	6	15	18
More than one hour but less than an hour and a half	8	9	9	10	10	1	10	6
More than one hour and a half	7	10	8	7	4	3	6	8
You don't travel to work or school	13	2	3	4	19	57	10	16
Mean	42	46	43	40	38	33	41	42

### Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	1157	68	121	142	127	125	289
Less than 15 minutes	16	18	18	13	13	13	16
15-30 minutes	20	16	23	10	22	27	27
More than 30 minutes but less than 45 minutes	19	32	16	28	16	17	16
45 minutes to one hour	17	4	11	16	18	22	23
More than one hour but less than an hour and a half	8	5	8	13	9	5	8
More than one hour and a half	7	8	10	9	6	9	4
You don't travel to work or school	13	17	13	11	15	8	6
Mean	42	40	42	49	42	42	39



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### Community

%	Total	Former City of Toronto + East York	North York	Etobicoke + York	Scarborough
<b>Sample</b>	<b>1157</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>194</b>
Less than 15 minutes	16	21	14	15	12
15-30 minutes	20	27	17	18	15
More than 30 minutes but less than 45 minutes	19	19	18	18	20
45 minutes to one hour	17	10	21	17	22
More than one hour but less than an hour and a half	8	7	8	9	8
More than one hour and a half	7	4	8	10	8
You don't travel to work or school	13	12	13	13	14
Mean	42	35	45	46	46

### Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate degree
<b>Sample</b>	<b>1157</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>332</b>
Less than 15 minutes	16	17	13	16	17
15-30 minutes	20	15	21	19	22
More than 30 minutes but less than 45 minutes	19	17	20	19	18
45 minutes to one hour	17	23	8	20	16
More than one hour but less than an hour and a half	8	4	9	7	11
More than one hour and a half	7	6	12	6	6
You don't travel to work or school	13	19	16	13	10
Mean	42	41	47	41	41



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**Method of commute to work/school**

%	Total	Private vehicle	Public transit	Bicycle	Walking	Some other way	Don't travel to work or school
<b>Sample</b>	<b>1157</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>274</b>
Less than 15 minutes	16	18	7	27	57	26	9
15-30 minutes	20	26	16	29	19	27	2
More than 30 minutes but less than 45 minutes	19	23	22	23	8	9	0
45 minutes to one hour	17	17	27	7	9	4	1
More than one hour but less than an hour and a half	8	7	14	9	3	6	0
More than one hour and a half	7	7	12	2	1	0	1
You don't travel to work or school	13	2	2	3	3	27	88
Mean	42	40	52	31	22	26	21



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### Commute and quality of life

*Do you agree or disagree the time you spend traveling to and from work or school reduces your quality of life?*

#### Age/gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	875	150	162	198	199	166	484	369
Agree	60	60	67	62	52	46	59	61
Disagree	27	26	21	28	34	37	26	28
Don't know	13	14	13	10	14	17	14	11

#### Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	875	44	90	111	89	103	252
Agree	60	52	61	65	61	68	59
Disagree	27	26	32	22	29	18	31
Don't know	13	22	8	13	10	14	10

#### Community

%	Total	Former City of Toronto + East York	North York	Etobicoke + York	Scarborough
Sample	875	365	167	202	141
Agree	60	50	62	72	64
Disagree	27	37	22	21	23
Don't know	13	13	17	7	13

#### Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate degree
Sample	875	81	181	344	269
Agree	60	33	62	66	60
Disagree	27	37	24	25	28
Don't know	13	30	14	9	12



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**Method of commute to work/school**

%	Total	Private vehicle	Public transit	Bicycle	Walking	Some other way	Don't travel to work or school
Sample	875	449	264	51	65	13	33
Agree	60	64	62	47	39	62	33
Disagree	27	25	22	39	51	27	35
Don't know	13	10	16	14	10	12	32



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**Congestion relief**

*In your opinion, which of the following is more likely to relieve congestion in Toronto?*

**Age/gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1157	154	167	206	242	388	589	544
Build more transit	58	62	53	53	59	61	58	58
Build more roads	17	15	19	23	14	14	21	14
Something else	16	17	18	15	16	12	13	18
Not sure	9	6	10	8	10	13	7	10

**Income**

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	1157	68	121	142	127	125	289
Build more transit	58	43	45	52	69	54	65
Build more roads	17	30	16	21	7	13	19
Something else	16	12	22	17	15	25	13
Not sure	9	15	16	10	8	9	4

**Community**

%	Total	Former City of Toronto + East York	North York	Etobicoke + York	Scarborough
Sample	1157	476	222	265	194
Build more transit	58	63	55	57	55
Build more roads	17	11	20	19	21
Something else	16	19	15	15	14
Not sure	9	7	9	10	10



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### Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate degree
<b>Sample</b>	<b>1157</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>332</b>
Build more transit	58	43	58	57	64
Build more roads	17	19	19	19	13
Something else	16	25	12	15	17
Not sure	9	14	11	9	6

### Method of commute to work/school

%	Total	Private vehicle	Public transit	Bicycle	Walking	Some other way	Don't travel to work or school
<b>Sample</b>	<b>1157</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>274</b>
Build more transit	58	46	69	62	75	48	64
Build more roads	17	26	11	9	13	4	8
Something else	16	18	14	24	7	38	13
Not sure	9	10	6	5	5	9	15



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