

Workers Who Drove Alone to Work: 2007 and 2008 American Community Surveys

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Introduction

This report is one of a series produced to highlight results from the 2008 American Community Survey (ACS), focusing on changes between the 2007 ACS and the 2008 ACS. The report series is designed to cover a variety of economic topics, such as poverty, occupation, home values, and labor force participation. This series provides information about the changing economic characteristics of the nation and states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The ACS also provides detailed estimates of demographic, social, economic, and housing characteristics for congressional districts, counties, places, and other localities every year. A description of the ACS is provided in the text box "What Is the American Community Survey?"

This report presents data on the percentage of workers who drove alone at the national and state levels based on the 2007 ACS and 2008 ACS. Workers are civilians and members of the Armed Forces, 16 years and older, who were at work the previous week and self-report that they drove alone to work. People on vacation or not at work the prior week are not included. Respondents were to report their usual transportation method for the previous week, whether or not the information was consistent with their commuting activities for the majority of the year. Data are restricted to the residence-based population as opposed to the workplace-based population.

What Is the American Community Survey?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey designed to provide communities with reliable and timely demographic, social, economic, and housing data every year. It has an annual sample size of about 3 million addresses across the United States and Puerto Rico and includes both housing units and group quarters. The ACS is conducted in every county throughout the nation and every municipio in Puerto Rico, where it is called the Puerto Rico Community Survey.

Beginning in 2006, ACS data for 2005 were released for geographic areas with populations of 65,000 and greater. In 2008, the first set of multiyear estimates was released for data collected between January 2005 and December 2007. These 3-year estimates were published for geographic areas with populations of 20,000 and greater. The U.S. Census Bureau is planning to release the first 5-year estimates in late 2010 for the smallest geographic areas based on data collected between January 2005 and December 2009.

The data contained in this report are based on the ACS sample interviewed in 2007 and 2008. For information on the ACS sample design and other topics, visit www.census.gov/acs/www.

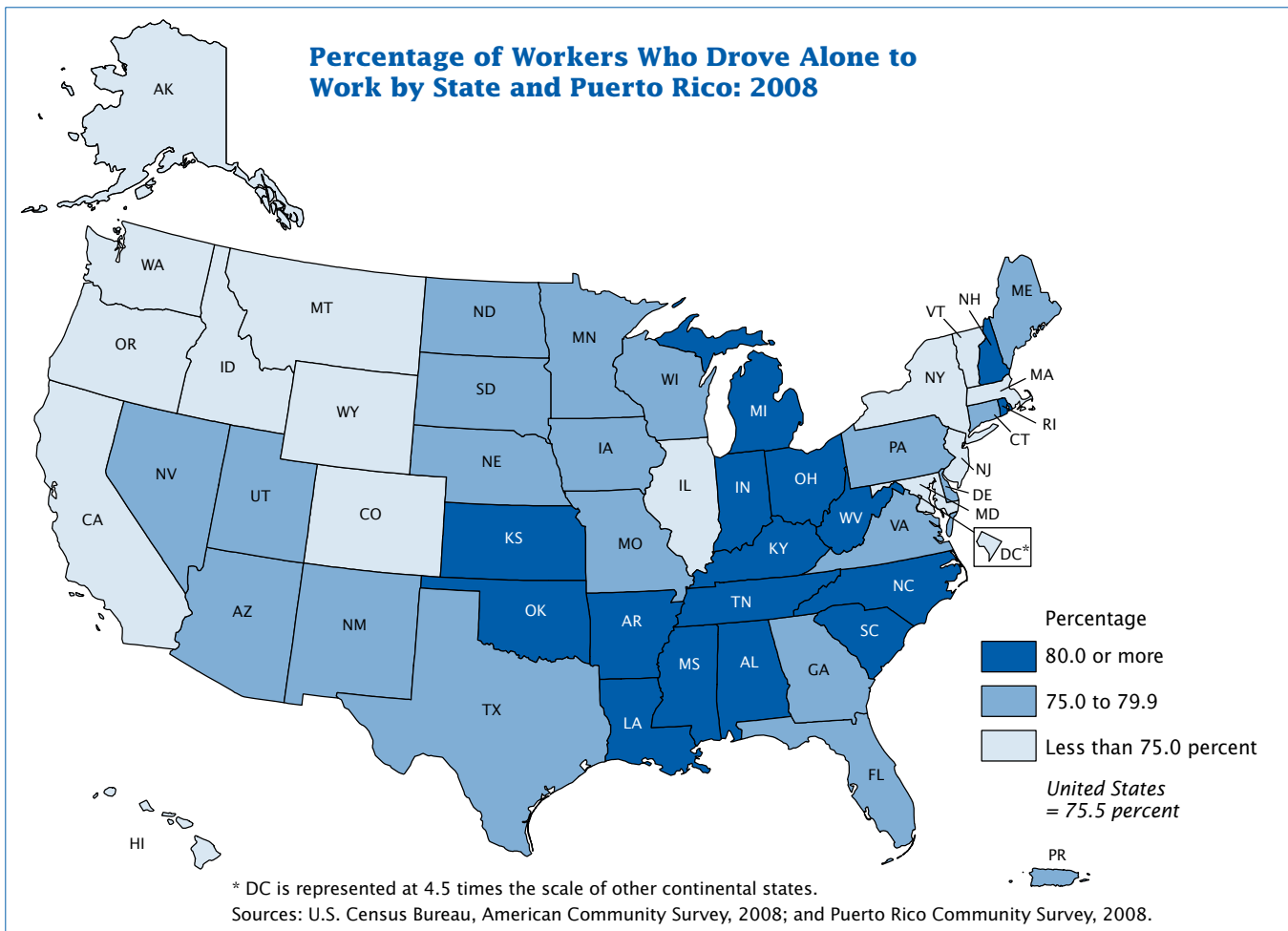
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Percentage of Workers Who Drove Alone to Work by State and Puerto Rico: 2008



The data contained in this report are based on ACS samples that were selected for interview in 2007 and 2008 and are estimates of the actual figures that could have been obtained by interviewing the entire population using the same methodology. All comparisons presented in this report have taken sampling error into account and are significant at the 90 percent confidence level unless noted otherwise. Due to rounding, some details may not sum to totals. For information on sampling and estimation methods, confidentiality protection, and sampling and nonsampling errors, please see the “2008 ACS Accuracy of the Data” document located at www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/accuracy2008.pdf.

Percentage of Workers Who Drove Alone

The percentage of workers 16 years and over who drove alone in the United States was 75.5 percent in 2008—not significantly different from Arizona, Utah, or Wyoming. Nationally, there was a decrease in the percentage of workers who drove alone from 2007, when it was 76.1 percent.

In 12 states, 80 percent or more of workers drove alone in 2008 (Alabama, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, New Hampshire, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, and West Virginia). For 14 states and the District of Columbia, 75 percent or fewer workers drove alone in 2008 (Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Maryland,

Massachusetts, Montana, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington). In 3 states (Alaska, Hawaii, and New York) and the District of Columbia, less than 70 percent of workers drove alone in 2008.

Comparing states for 2008 shows that the percentage who drove alone in Alabama (83.0 percent) was not statistically different from Tennessee or Ohio but was higher than the percentage who drove alone in the other 47 states and the District of Columbia. Conversely, the percentage who drove alone in the District of Columbia (37.2 percent) was the lowest compared to the 50 states. New York and Hawaii ranked second and third, but Hawaii was not significantly different from Alaska.

Comparing the percentage of workers who drove alone between 2007 and 2008, 22 states experienced a decrease. The remainder of the states and the District of Columbia had 2008 estimates not statistically different from 2007. Four of the states were in the Northeast (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, and

Pennsylvania). Five of the states were in the Midwest (Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, and Wisconsin). Six states in the South also experienced decreases in the percentage of workers who drove alone (Georgia, Maryland, Mississippi, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia). Seven states in the West showed statistical decreases

(California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington). Idaho experienced the greatest decrease in workers who drove alone, at 2.3 percent; but Idaho is not significantly different from Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Nevada, Oregon, or Washington.

Workers Who Drove Alone to Work by State and Puerto Rico: 2007 and 2008

(Estimates and percentages are for Armed Forces and civilian workers 16 years and older who worked last week and drove alone to work. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www)

Area	2007 workers who drove alone				2008 workers who drove alone				Difference in workers who drove alone (2008 less 2007)			
	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (±)	Per-cent	Margin of error ¹ (±)	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (±)	Per-cent	Margin of error ¹ (±)	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (±)	Per-cent	Margin of error ¹ (±)
United States . . .	105,954,656	121,899	76.1	0.1	108,775,532	140,227	75.5	0.1	*2,820,876	185,804	*-0.5	0.1
Alabama	1,652,706	16,282	83.4	0.5	1,702,592	16,740	83.0	0.5	*49,886	23,352	-0.4	0.7
Alaska	218,370	6,076	66.2	1.4	225,636	5,991	66.2	1.4	7,266	8,533	0.0	2.0
Arizona	2,077,219	19,521	74.8	0.5	2,183,335	21,273	75.3	0.5	*106,116	28,872	0.5	0.7
Arkansas	978,100	12,718	80.8	0.8	1,004,273	11,640	80.2	0.6	*26,173	17,241	-0.7	1.0
California	12,013,179	47,470	73.2	0.2	12,223,667	46,209	72.7	0.2	*210,488	66,247	*-0.4	0.3
Colorado	1,822,969	14,852	74.5	0.5	1,880,334	15,006	73.7	0.5	*57,365	21,113	*-0.9	0.7
Connecticut	1,368,547	11,826	79.6	0.5	1,375,574	12,473	78.7	0.5	7,027	17,188	*-0.9	0.7
Delaware	324,704	7,468	79.9	1.1	327,261	6,881	78.6	1.2	2,557	10,155	-1.3	1.6
District of Columbia	110,570	4,928	38.2	1.7	112,669	5,175	37.2	1.5	2,099	7,146	-0.9	2.2
Florida	6,507,890	32,711	79.6	0.3	6,576,041	33,841	79.4	0.3	*68,151	47,066	-0.2	0.4
Georgia	3,410,742	20,286	78.7	0.4	3,501,318	26,127	77.7	0.4	*90,576	33,078	*-1.1	0.6
Hawaii	426,310	7,748	68.0	1.0	431,588	8,435	65.7	1.2	5,278	11,454	*-2.2	1.6
Idaho	533,416	7,865	76.4	0.9	529,144	7,635	74.1	0.8	-4,272	10,962	*-2.3	1.2
Illinois	4,428,808	25,544	73.7	0.4	4,554,019	24,790	73.3	0.3	*125,211	35,596	-0.5	0.5
Indiana	2,454,339	14,866	83.1	0.3	2,479,732	17,902	81.9	0.4	*25,393	23,269	*-1.2	0.5
Iowa	1,187,796	10,044	78.7	0.5	1,221,512	10,952	77.9	0.6	*33,716	14,860	*-0.8	0.8
Kansas	1,118,101	12,064	81.3	0.5	1,162,220	9,324	80.9	0.5	*44,119	15,247	-0.4	0.7
Kentucky	1,515,521	14,203	81.3	0.6	1,525,116	14,887	81.2	0.5	9,595	20,575	-0.1	0.7
Louisiana	1,496,289	14,429	80.9	0.5	1,596,221	17,428	81.5	0.5	*99,932	22,626	0.6	0.8
Maine	509,119	6,238	79.2	0.8	502,420	8,385	77.3	0.8	-6,699	10,451	*-1.8	1.1
Maryland	2,067,927	19,894	74.3	0.5	2,130,775	18,204	73.2	0.5	*62,848	26,966	*-1.1	0.7
Massachusetts	2,323,566	19,135	73.0	0.5	2,390,915	21,716	72.3	0.5	*67,349	28,944	*-0.7	0.7
Michigan	3,655,587	20,547	83.1	0.3	3,668,492	19,493	82.2	0.3	12,905	28,322	*-0.8	0.4
Minnesota	2,084,735	11,311	77.8	0.4	2,158,869	13,189	77.7	0.4	*74,134	17,375	-0.1	0.5
Mississippi	977,958	14,788	82.7	0.6	1,013,882	13,311	81.7	0.6	*35,924	19,896	*-1.0	0.9
Missouri	2,220,144	14,651	80.7	0.4	2,271,508	14,608	79.8	0.4	*51,364	20,690	*-0.9	0.5
Montana	339,721	6,137	73.7	1.1	347,295	6,606	72.8	1.2	7,574	9,017	-0.9	1.6
Nebraska	725,449	7,356	79.9	0.6	753,062	8,290	79.7	0.7	*27,613	11,084	-0.1	0.9
Nevada	952,328	11,561	77.8	0.7	966,036	11,413	76.8	0.7	13,708	16,245	*-1.1	1.0
New Hampshire	551,724	7,977	81.4	0.8	570,142	7,884	81.0	0.8	*18,418	11,215	-0.4	1.1
New Jersey	2,961,506	18,525	71.8	0.4	3,072,339	18,967	71.7	0.4	*110,833	26,513	-0.1	0.6
New Mexico	668,770	10,999	77.2	0.9	681,872	12,231	76.6	0.9	13,102	16,449	-0.6	1.3
New York	4,766,878	30,760	54.1	0.3	4,949,585	34,549	53.7	0.3	*182,707	46,259	-0.4	0.4
North Carolina	3,322,734	24,625	79.8	0.4	3,496,540	21,124	80.0	0.3	*173,806	32,445	0.2	0.5
North Dakota	264,096	4,899	78.6	1.1	270,852	4,560	77.8	0.9	*6,756	6,693	-0.7	1.4
Ohio	4,386,629	23,089	83.0	0.3	4,497,218	22,492	82.6	0.3	*110,589	32,233	-0.4	0.4
Oklahoma	1,317,265	11,684	80.5	0.5	1,365,900	13,864	80.5	0.6	*48,635	18,131	0.1	0.7
Oregon	1,285,945	14,869	73.2	0.6	1,288,323	12,782	71.7	0.5	2,378	19,608	*-1.5	0.8
Pennsylvania	4,408,680	23,881	76.7	0.3	4,506,231	22,368	76.2	0.3	*97,551	32,720	*-0.5	0.4
Rhode Island	405,406	9,044	80.7	1.1	411,631	8,646	80.8	1.1	6,225	12,512	0.2	1.6
South Carolina	1,592,679	14,776	81.1	0.6	1,635,442	13,088	81.1	0.5	*42,763	19,739	0.0	0.7
South Dakota	314,228	5,770	77.3	1.1	328,744	4,909	78.2	0.9	*14,516	7,575	0.9	1.5
Tennessee	2,314,318	14,494	83.4	0.4	2,360,831	14,459	82.7	0.4	*46,513	20,472	*-0.7	0.6
Texas	8,474,133	34,657	78.9	0.3	8,866,518	42,617	78.4	0.3	*392,385	54,930	*-0.5	0.4
Utah	933,392	10,836	74.9	0.7	974,403	11,504	75.0	0.7	*41,011	15,804	0.1	1.0
Vermont	243,088	5,149	74.6	1.2	243,543	4,750	73.3	1.3	455	7,005	-1.2	1.8
Virginia	2,936,676	17,797	77.5	0.3	3,013,428	23,333	76.7	0.4	*76,752	29,345	*-0.7	0.6
Washington	2,259,602	17,665	73.1	0.4	2,287,798	21,021	71.5	0.6	*28,196	27,458	*-1.7	0.7
West Virginia	598,815	9,710	81.2	0.7	620,420	9,688	80.9	0.8	*21,605	13,717	-0.3	1.1
Wisconsin	2,241,470	12,626	79.8	0.4	2,309,025	14,843	79.3	0.4	*67,555	19,487	*-0.6	0.5
Wyoming	204,512	5,071	74.8	1.4	209,241	5,484	74.9	1.5	4,729	7,469	0.1	2.0
Puerto Rico	864,584	13,855	76.0	0.6	919,141	15,283	76.3	0.9	*54,557	20,629	0.4	1.1

* Statistically different from zero at the 90 percent confidence level.

¹ Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. A margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. When added to and subtracted from the estimate, the margin of error forms the 90 percent confidence interval.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007 and 2008; and Puerto Rico Community Survey, 2007 and 2008.