

University of
St Andrews

STAFF TRAVEL SURVEY

2022

Summary Report

Introduction

Every three years, University of St Andrews conducts Travel Survey for all staff, this survey provides important insights into staff travel patterns and behaviours. Results from these surveys guide the University's policies and strategies in realising sustainable travel modes like walking, cycling, use of public transport, and car sharing across the institution. Additionally, the periodic travel survey aims to better understand staff travel needs and behaviours, to understand the barriers to sustainable transport and identify solutions to monitor the progress of the University's travel plan.

In 2022 the University conducted a staff travel survey recording approximately 1112 responses. The breakdown of staff participation in the survey is shown below (see figure1). The 2022 Staff Travel Survey was funded by the University whilst the analysis of the survey was funded by the Government's Smarter Choices Smart Places project.

This summary report will highlight the different modes of travel across the University, showing the trends and results of eight years of the staff survey previously conducted in 2002, 2006, 2009, 2012, 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2022.

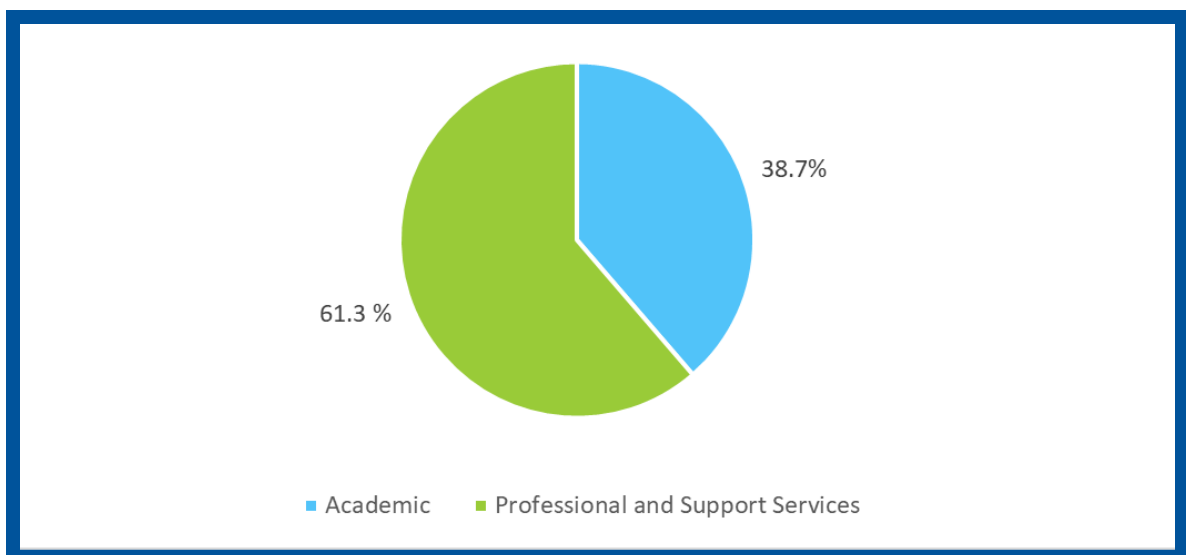


Figure 1: Pie Chart showing the representation for Staff groups of the respondents of the 2022 Staff Travel Survey

Modes of Travel

To better monitor the progress of the University of St Andrews Travel Plan, identifying the changes in the staff modes of travel is very important. This section shares data obtained from 2002 - 2022, highlighting the percentages, and differences in modes of staff travel such as single person car use, bus use, cycling and walking.



Single Person Car Use

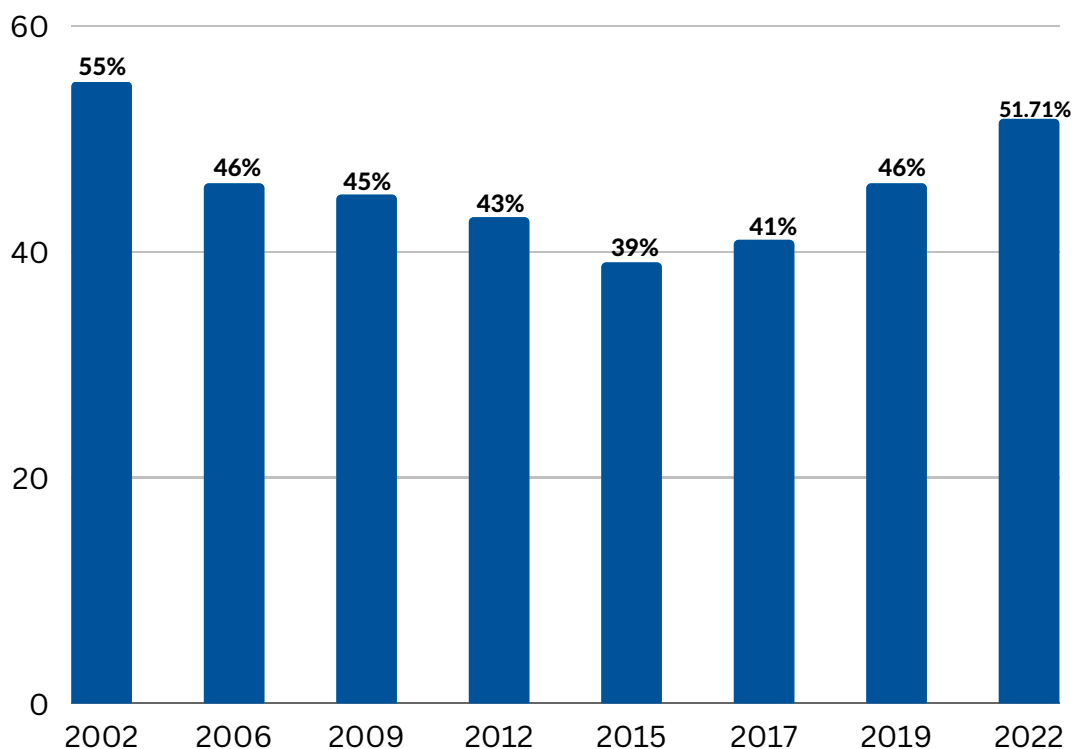


Figure 2: Data from 2002 - 2022 showing the percentage of single car use by staff

Summary of Single Person Car Use

The result above shows that 2002 recorded the highest number of single person car use, where staff (55%) travelled to work in their cars. In 2006 and 2019, staff (46%) were identified to be using their cars to work. There was a recorded 1% drop in 2009 where staff (45%) traveled to work in their cars. 2015 had the least percentage of single person car use, with staff (39%) using their cars to the university. Meanwhile, the preceding year 2012 was higher when compared with 2015, with staff (43%) using their car. 2017 and 2019 witnessed an increase in single person car use with 41% and 46% of staff respectively using car alone. Additionally, there was a significant increase in the percentage of single person car use in 2022, where staff (51.71%) used their car alone to the university. The drastic increase in single person car use recorded in 2022 can be attributed to the COVID pandemic and the staff relocation to a new campus - Eden Campus. The recent bus discount scheme launched by the University of St Andrews in November 2022, will hopefully trigger further increase in the number of staff using bus for their trip to the university.

Results from the previous years of staff survey indicated that reasons selected by car users for using car to get to work were:

- Quickest means of getting to work
- Convenience
- Comfort
- Flexibility (eg to fulfil carer responsibilities)
- Personal appointments outside of work
- Medical/mobility reasons
- Weather is too bad
- Bus is too expensive
- Working hours do not coincide with bus times

However, the most popular changes that would encourage staff to cycle to work are; improved / more cycle paths on the journey to work and improved / more covered cycle racks at their workplace. The most popular changes that would encourage staff to make regular use of public transport for travel to work are; more frequent bus services, discounted bus tickets / passes, and more direct bus routes. Car users are most likely to be encouraged to car share if help is given in finding suitable car sharing partners.

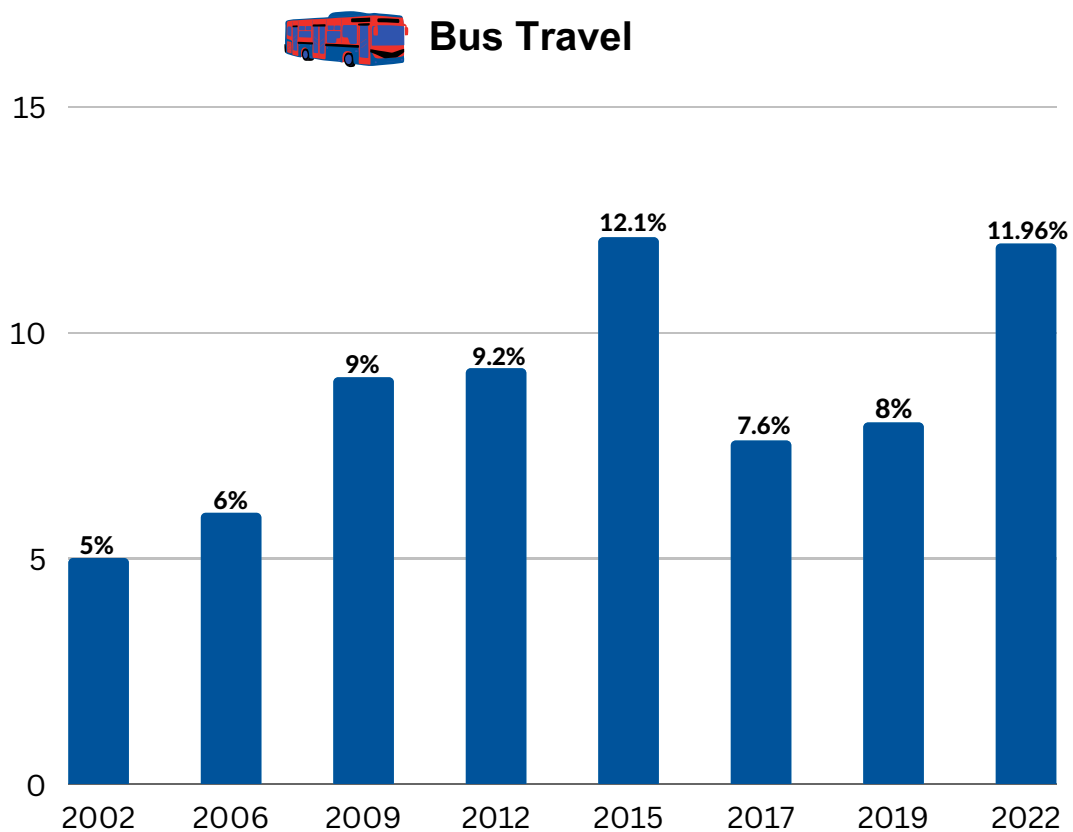


Figure 3: chart showing bus travel by staff from 2002 - 2022

Summary of Bus Travel

In 2002, the percentage of staff using bus was 5%, this increased by 1% in 2006 where 6% of staff started using bus to travel. The percentage for 2009 was 9%, surpassing the result of the previous years. There was a steady increase on the number of staff using bus to travel to the university from 2012 - 2015. In 2017, 7.6% of staff travelled by bus to the University. From the surveys done between 2012-2022, the percentage for 2017 of staff bus use was the least, followed closely by 2019 which had 8% of staff using the bus. However, 2012 and 2015 were quite impressive, with 9.2% and 12.1% of staff respectively travelling by bus to the university. The staff survey conducted in 2022 identified that 11.96% of staff travel by bus. While the percentage for 2022 is slightly below the percentage for 2015, it was however way higher than the percentage obtained in 2019 and 2017 which were the closest years.

Going forward, there is a very great opportunity for a future increase in bus travel by staff, this is due to the cost of living response support by the university, through subsidising bus travel cost for staff and students across St Andrews. The University plans to reduce carbon emission, cut down on single person car use and promote active travel by staff and student. The most popular changes noted from the surveys that would encourage staff to make regular use of public transport were more frequent bus services; discounted bus tickets / passes; and more direct bus routes.

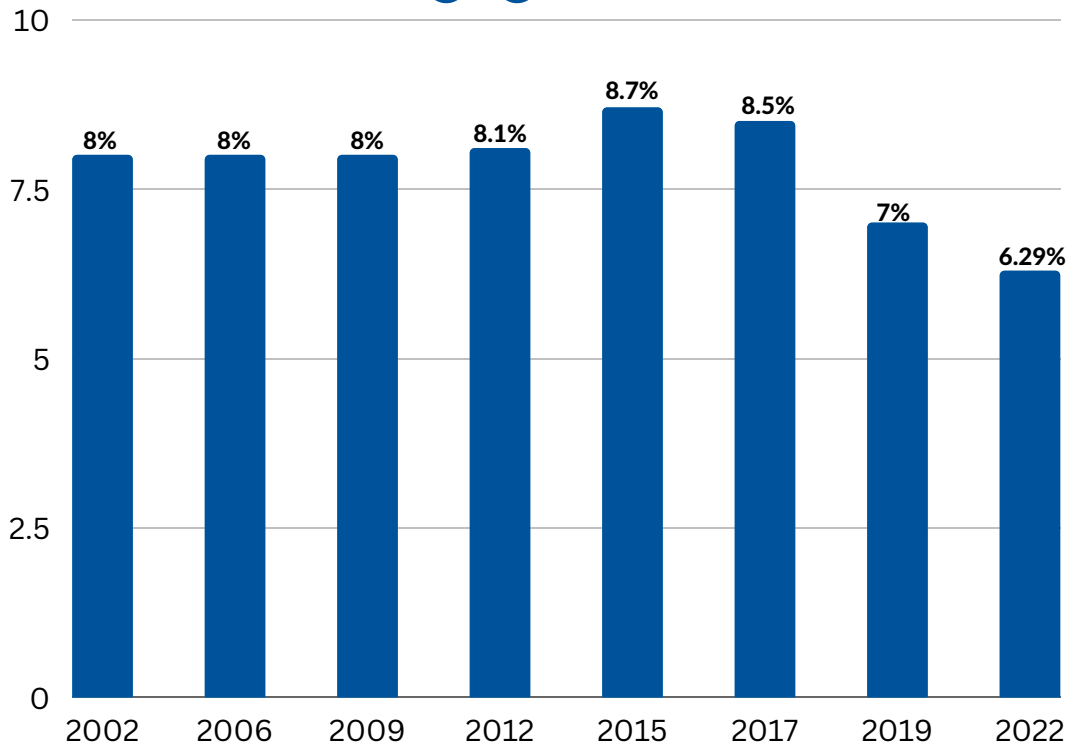


Figure 4: Chart showing cycling by staff from 2002 - 2022

Summary of Cycling

The staff travel survey in 2002 revealed that 8% of staff cycle to the university, interestingly this percentage remained steady from 2002-2009. However, in 2012 there was a 0.1% increase on the number of staff cycling. From 2015, the number of staff cycling has remained relatively consistent, where 8.7% of staff cycled in 2015 and 8.5% of staff cycled in 2017. The 2019 staff survey recorded a decrease on the number of staff cycling to work, by having 7% of staff cycling to the University. The percentage decrease trend was also recorded in 2022 where 6.29% of staff cycled to the University. While there was a decrease on the number of staff that cycled from 2019-2022, this can be attributed to the COVID19 pandemic and the step count challenge that was introduced in 2017. The step count challenge encouraged many staff to walk to the university, (see chart below).

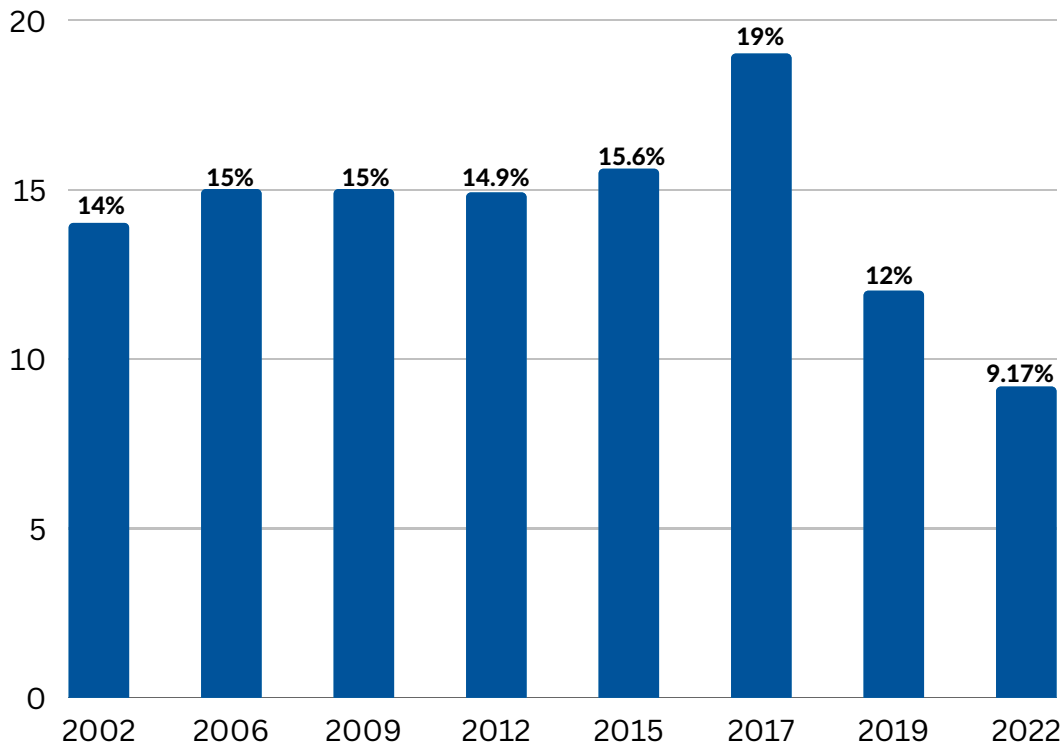


Figure 5: Chart showing walking by staff from 2002 - 2022

Summary of Walking

The chart for walking shows that in 2002 14% of staff walk to the university, this percentage increased from 2006-2017. 15% of staff walked to the university in 2006 as well as 2009, whereas in 2012 14.9% of staff walked to the school. 2015 recorded an encouraging number of staff walking to school with a percentage of 15.6%. A remarkable number of staff in 2017 walked to the University, with a total of 19%, which is the highest recorded percentage of staff walking to the school. The witnessed increased number of staff walking to school in 2017 was as a result of the Step Count Challenge introduced by the school. This challenge promoted walking across the institution and encouraged staff to take part in walking. Although, the results from the subsequent years after the massive record in 2017 is not encouraging. In 2019, 12% of staff walked to school and in 2022, 9.17% of staff walked to the university. It is very obvious that 2022, recorded the least

number of staff walking to the University. It is therefore important that ideas such as the Step Count Challenge are promoted again in the school to help encourage staff to walk more and avoid single person car use.

Actions by the school to support active travel

To increase and encourage Active Travel across the the institution, the University implements these strategies:

- Go E-Bike;
- Cycle Parking;
- Abandoned bicycle scheme;
- Bike Doctor sessions;
- Step Count Challenge;
- Go E-bike - shared electric bikes;
- Bike pool - cycle maintenance and long term rentals;
- Bike to Work Scheme; and
- Bicycle Users Group.

Conclusion

Following the results from the various staff surveys conducted over the years, the most popular changes identified all through the surveys that would possibly encourage staff to cycle to work are;

- Improved / more cycle paths on the journey to work.
- Improved / more covered cycle racks at their workplace

The most popular changes that would encourage staff to make regular use of public transport for travel to work are;

- More frequent bus services
- Discounted bus tickets / passes
- More direct bus routes

Car users are most likely to be encouraged to car share if help is given in finding suitable car sharing partners.

To access the full report of the previous staff travel survey reports, click on the [website link](#).
