

Job growth, rising home prices increase Silicon Valley megacommuting

Rise in one-way drives of 90 minutes-plus to Silicon Valley

November 2, 2016 – Silicon Valley's economic boom is forcing greater numbers of solo drivers to endure megacommutes of 90 minutes or more to work, the Joint Venture Silicon Valley Institute for Regional Studies reported today.

The Institute found that 5.3% of Silicon Valley workers in 2015 were megacommuters, up from 3% in 2011. They are coming primarily from Alameda County (18.4%), San Francisco (19.8%), and San Joaquin County (13.1%).

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- Jon Haveman

An Institute analysis of regional traffic data shows that Silicon Valley workers who live outside of the region are spending an average of 113 minutes per day, or 57 hours per month, in their cars.

"They may spend their commutes listening to podcasts or radio or making phone calls," said report author Jon Haveman, "but we can safely say this is unwanted time that could be spent working, being with families or in other, more useful ways."

The report found that 21% of those employed in Silicon Valley live outside the region, while only 14% of Silicon Valley residents are employed elsewhere. Those commuting out of the region primarily head to San Francisco (55%) and Alameda (30%) Counties.

Residents who live and work in Silicon Valley have relatively short commute times, but even those have risen from just under 22 minutes in 2009 to an average of 26 minutes.

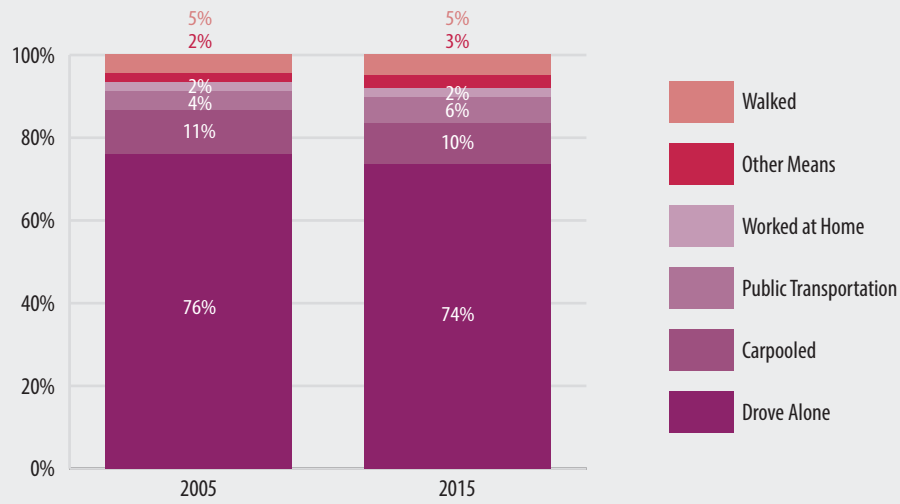
Commute times have increased, said Haveman, because Silicon Valley workers have been moving out of the region for more affordable housing and because of increased traffic. Most Silicon Valley residents, 74%, drive alone to work, 10% carpool and 6% take public transit to work.

"With continued job growth and this many people driving alone, traffic is only going to get worse," said Haveman.

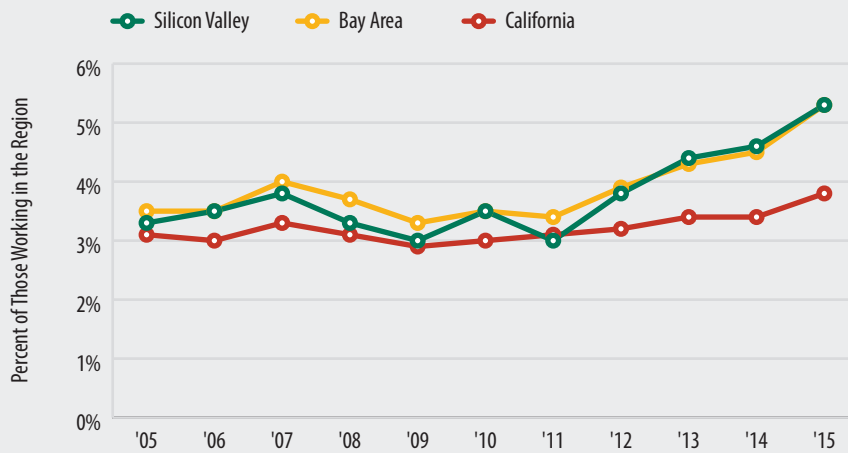
Means of Commute

Percentage of Workers

Santa Clara & San Mateo Counties



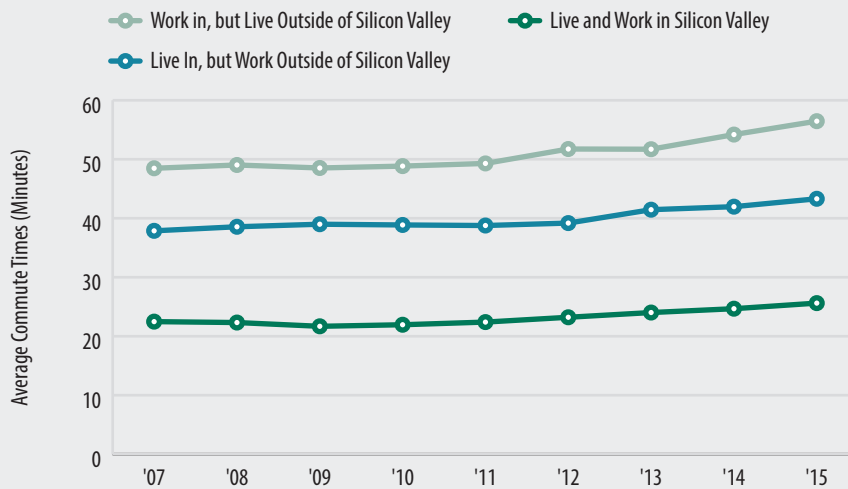
Percent of Local Employees With One-Way Commutes of More than 90 Minutes in Silicon Valley, Bay Area, and California, 2005-2015



Commute Flows by County, for Megacommuters Only					
County	Live and Work in Silicon Valley	Live In, but Work Outside of Silicon Valley		Work in, but Live Outside of Silicon Valley	
Alameda		2,394	17.4%	9,835	18.4%
Contra Costa		536	3.9%	6,553	12.3%
Merced		148	1.1%	3,391	6.4%
Monterey		420	3.0%	2,130	4.0%
Sacramento		328	2.4%	1,213	2.3%
San Francisco		7,711	55.9%	10,578	19.8%
San Joaquin				6,991	13.1%
Solano		234	1.7%	1,437	2.7%
Stanislaus		320	2.3%	4,007	7.5%
Silicon Valley	77,688				
TOTAL	77,688	13,787	15.1%	53,366	40.7%

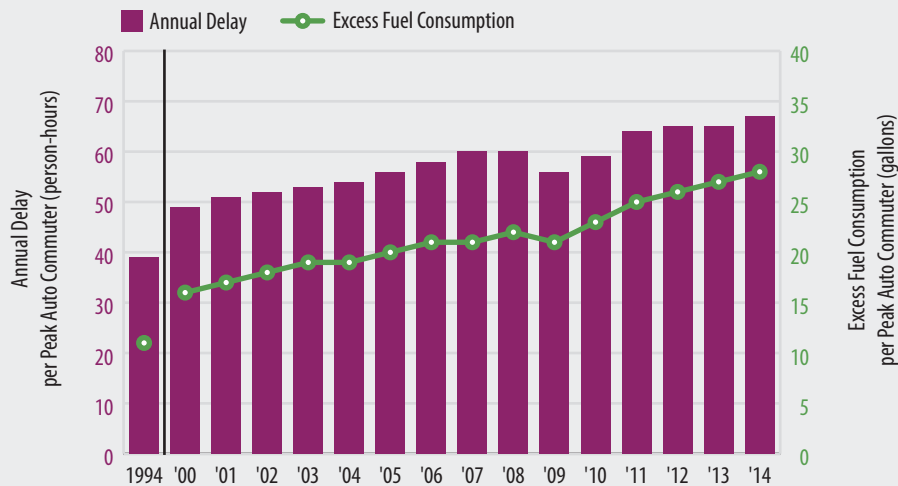
Commute Flows by County					
County	Live and Work in Silicon Valley	Live In, but Work Outside of Silicon Valley		Work in, but Live Outside of Silicon Valley	
Alameda		51,086	29.7%	109,233	36.7%
Contra Costa		5,113	3.0%	25,126	8.4%
Marin		1,016	0.6%	3,443	1.2%
Merced		618	0.4%	6,266	2.1%
Monterey		4,462	2.6%	9,729	3.3%
Sacramento		588	0.3%	2,238	0.8%
San Francisco		95,387	55.5%	83,666	28.1%
Santa Cruz		4,201	2.4%	16,542	5.6%
Solano		621	0.4%	3,710	1.2%
Stanislaus		320	0.2%	5,495	1.8%
Silicon Valley	1,103,725				
TOTAL	1,103,725	171,970	13.5%	297,709	21.2%

Average Commute Times (Minutes), 2007-2015



Annual Delay and Excess Fuel Consumption per Peak Auto Commuter

San Jose



About the Silicon Valley Institute for Regional Studies

The Silicon Valley Institute for Regional Studies provides research and analysis on a host of issues facing Silicon Valley's economy and society. The Institute is housed within Joint Venture Silicon Valley. For more information, visit www.siliconvalleyindicators.org.