

Fast Facts

New England's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM

- 145 employers are on New England's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM list.
- The 229,941 commuters covered by New England's Best Workplaces for Commuters will help reduce 110,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide, 98 tons of volatile organic compounds (VOC), 210 tons of nitrogen oxide (NOx), and 1,909 tons of carbon monoxide (CO) each year. This is the equivalent of removing 21,000 cars from the road, and will save New England commuters more than 12.5 million gallons of gasoline every year.
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of Vermont, and Dartmouth College are among the 12 colleges and universities that are New England's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM.
- 12 hospitals and health care facilities, including Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham & Women's Hospital, are among New England's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM.
- This year, the city of Cambridge, Massachusetts became the first municipality in New England to join the list of New England's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM.

Local Commuting

- More than 3 million people commute each day in Massachusetts, and more than 73 percent of them drive to work alone. (*Census 2000 Supplementary Survey*)
- The table below highlights the costs of congestion and gallons of wasted fuel in New England's major metropolitan areas. (*Texas Transportation Institute Urban Mobility Study 2005*)

Metro Region	Cost of Traffic Congestion	Congestion Cost per Commuter*	Gallons of Wasted Fuel
Boston, MA	\$1.7 billion	\$853	60 million
Hartford, CT	\$127 million	\$268	5 million
Providence, RI	\$363 million	\$546	11 million
* per peak traveler			

- The average rush hour Boston commuter spends 51 hours stuck in gridlock each year; the average rush hour Providence commuter spends 33 hours; and the average rush hour Hartford commuter spends 16 hours each year in traffic. (*Texas Transportation Institute Urban Mobility Study 2005*)
- The average Boston household spends nearly \$6,000 annually on transportation—15 percent of its income—and spends more on transportation than it does on food. Only shelter is allocated a higher percentage of household income than transportation. (*Surface Transportation Policy Project*)
- Annually, car insurance costs the average Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island driver \$1,051, \$982, and \$992, respectively. These three states rank among the country's top ten with the highest average annual car insurance rates. (*Insurance Information Institute, 2003*)



Air Quality

- Motor vehicles, including cars, trucks and off road vehicles, contribute more than one half of New England's ozone ("smog") forming pollutants. Cars and trucks also emit particulate matter, air toxics, carbon monoxide, and carbon dioxide. (*U.S. EPA Region 1*)
- This summer, ozone levels in New England exceeded the federal health standards on 16 different days. (*U.S. EPA Region 1*)

Health

- Exposure to elevated ozone levels can cause serious breathing problems and aggravate asthma and other pre-existing lung diseases. Asthma rates in New England are significantly higher than in the rest of the country, and all six of the New England states have childhood asthma rates above 10 percent. (*New England Asthma Regional Council*)
- Walking to work gives you a 20 percent less chance of getting breast cancer, a 30 percent less chance of getting heart disease, a 50 percent less chance of diabetes, and helps you live longer and healthier into old age. (*Nurse's Health Study, Archives of Internal Medicine; New England Journal of Medicine*)
- Workers with flexible options—such as telecommuting from home or having alternative work hours—are least likely to leave their companies, have the highest productivity, and enjoy better mental health. (*Families and Work Institute, 2004*)

National Commuting

- In a 2003 survey, 24 percent of workers said they would prefer to walk to work. (*Commuter Culture Survey, 2003, WageWorks Center for Commuter Studies*)
- 14 percent of Americans say they have changed jobs, or simply left a job, primarily because of the commute. (*ABC News Poll, February, 2005*)
- The number of urban areas with more than 20 hours of annual delay per peak traveler has grown from only five in 1982 to 51 in 2003. (*Texas Transportation Institute, 2005 Urban Mobility Report*)
- The amount of wasted fuel lost to engines idling in traffic jams now totals 2.3 billion gallons per year. (*Texas Transportation Institute, 2005 Urban Mobility Report*) At \$2.60 per gallon, this represents almost \$6 billion dollars that commuters could have spent on housing, health care, education, or other discretionary items.

