

Community report

Northern Beaches (A)

Prepared from Community Explorer topic selections for briefing, planning and reporting use.

AREA

Northern Beaches (A)

COMPARISON

Greater Sydney

POPULATION

Persons

GENERATED

3 April 2026

Included sections

1 selected topic will be included in this report.

01 Method of travel to work

Sources and method

- Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2021 and, where available, 2016 comparison data.
- Percentages are calculated from the denominator supplied for each topic. Change (pp) is the 2021 percentage minus the 2016 percentage when the topic is comparable across years.
- Usual residence topics describe where people usually live, rather than where they were counted on Census night.

Method of travel to work

Northern Beaches (A) | Greater Sydney comparison | Persons

Community report section 1 of 1

Key takeaway

In 2021, working from home was the most common travel method among employed residents in Northern Beaches (A), accounting for 44% (59,959 people). This share was higher than Greater Sydney (38.9%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in working from home, which increased by 50,704 people and 36.9 percentage points.

About this topic

Method of travel to work shows how employed residents usually got to work on Census day, including private vehicle, public transport, active travel, and working from home. It provides a snapshot of commuting behaviour rather than the full transport system.

This topic supports transport and infrastructure planning and helps show how residents access employment. The 2021 results need caution because many parts of Australia were affected by COVID-19 lockdowns, which increased working from home and reduced some other travel modes.

Interpretation notes

- Method of travel to work captures the journey to work on Census day, not a person's usual weekly travel pattern.
- It applies only to employed people and is most useful with place of work or car ownership when considering transport access.
- The 2021 Census occurred during COVID-19 restrictions in many places, so work-from-home and some travel modes need caution in trend comparisons.

Method of travel to work

Northern Beaches (A) - Employed persons (Usual residence)

| Category | 2021 | | | 2016 | | | Change | |
|--------------------|--------|-------|------------------|--------|-------|------------------|---------|-------|
| | Count | % | Greater Sydney % | Count | % | Greater Sydney % | Count | pp |
| Train | 457 | 0.3% | 4.1% | 3,562 | 2.7% | 16.2% | -3,105 | -2.4 |
| Bus | 3,863 | 2.8% | 1.4% | 16,652 | 12.8% | 6.1% | -12,789 | -10.0 |
| Tram | 9 | 0.0% | 0.1% | 20 | 0.0% | 0.1% | -11 | 0.0 |
| Ferry | 248 | 0.2% | 0.0% | 2,719 | 2.1% | 0.3% | -2,471 | -1.9 |
| Taxi/ride-share | 121 | 0.1% | 0.1% | 248 | 0.2% | 0.2% | -127 | -0.1 |
| Car - as driver | 44,891 | 33.0% | 34.2% | 70,703 | 54.5% | 52.7% | -25,812 | -21.5 |
| Car - as passenger | 2,969 | 2.2% | 2.6% | 4,463 | 3.4% | 3.9% | -1,494 | -1.2 |
| Truck | 755 | 0.6% | 0.6% | 966 | 0.7% | 0.9% | -211 | -0.1 |
| Motorbike | 936 | 0.7% | 0.4% | 1,610 | 1.2% | 0.7% | -674 | -0.5 |
| Bicycle | 749 | 0.5% | 0.4% | 1,311 | 1.0% | 0.7% | -562 | -0.5 |
| Walked only | 3,197 | 2.3% | 2.3% | 4,378 | 3.4% | 4.0% | -1,181 | -1.1 |
| Other | 1,112 | 0.8% | 0.8% | 2,023 | 1.6% | 1.1% | -911 | -0.8 |

| Category | 2021 | | | 2016 | | |
|--|----------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Count | % | Greater Sydney % | Count | % | Greater Sy |
| Worked at home | 59,959 | 44.0% | 38.9% | 9,255 | 7.1% | |
| Did not go to work | 16,500 | 12.1% | 13.6% | 10,704 | 8.3% | |
| Not stated | 451 | 0.3% | 0.4% | 1,068 | 0.8% | |
| Total employed persons aged 15+ | 136,217 | 100.0% | 100.0% | 129,682 | 100.0% | 100.0% |

Data basis: usual residence.