



COMMUTING TIME

What does this measure & why is it important?

The Commuting Time indicator measures the average duration of Basin Boundary residents' commute to work. Data is compared by Regional District. Data for this indicator were acquired from the 2011 [National Household Survey](#). Some caution should be exercised when using these figures, as depending on the Regional District, non-response rates for the National Household Survey were up to 46%.

Data on commuting patterns can help economists assess connections between regional job markets. They can also help us understand the economic, social, cultural, and environmental impacts of residents having to travel farther to work.

What are the trends & current conditions?

Commuting times in the region are lower than the BC average of 25 minutes, with the shortest average commute being reported in the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary (16 minutes) and the longest commute being reported in the Regional District of East Kootenay (19 minutes) (Figure 1).

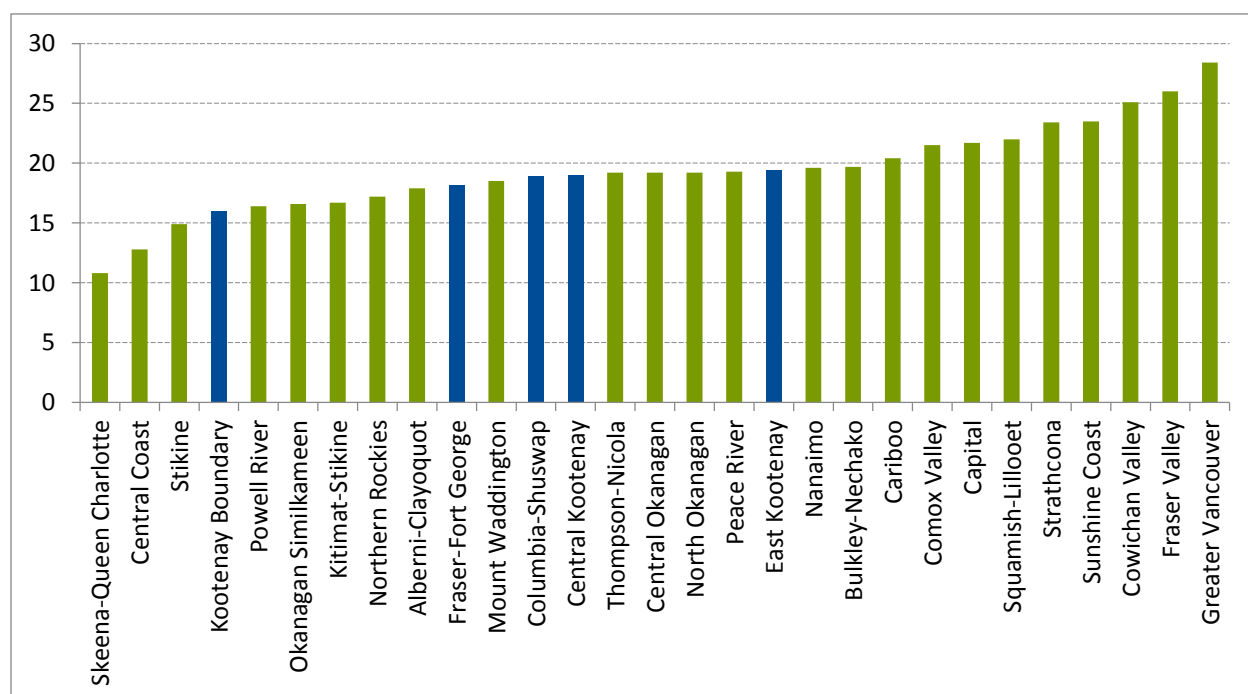


Figure 1: Average commuting time by Regional District

Source: Statistics Canada, 2013b

Our short commutes are likely related to the small and relatively isolated nature of our communities. Most Basin Boundary residents work close to home. For example, Statistics Canada reports that of the 3,655 commuters living in Nelson, only about 8% leave the city for work. Similarly, of the 7,325 commuters in Cranbrook, about 12% leave the city for work (Statistics Canada, 2013c).



The Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute, at Selkirk College, is a regional centre of excellence in applied research and information provision focused on strengthening rural communities in the Columbia Basin-Boundary Region. Visit www.cbrdi.ca for more information.