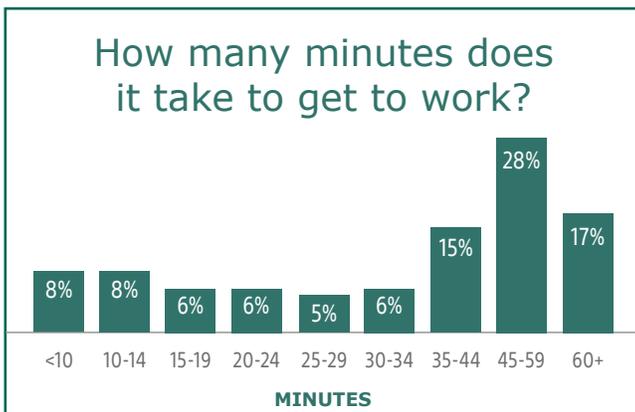
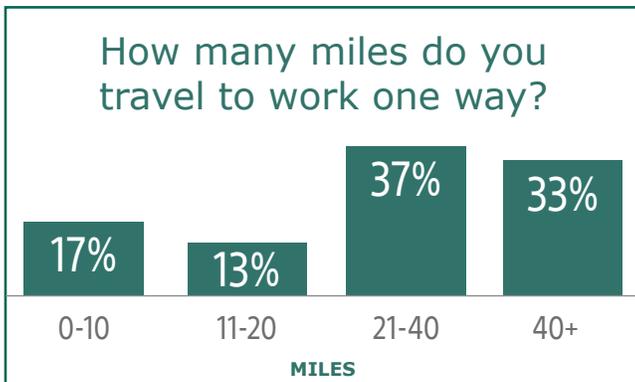


Commuter Survey Snapshot

Thank you to those that completed the Chisago County Commuter survey last fall! The information you provided is valuable and gave us insight to where residents are working, what your occupations are, and why you commute. This information will be used to promote the county to new and existing businesses, but more importantly the survey helped identify an already present workforce here in Chisago County.



The following charts show Chisago County residents are spending a substantial amount of time and fuel getting to work.



There were 584 households that responded on behalf of 1,180 residents. Here are some highlights:

78% reported that they work outside of the home. Of those not working outside the home: 52% are retired, 17% are stay-at-home parents and 15% have a home based business. We know some retirees would like to work but are not, and some parents are not working due to lack of day care services. These residents may be an untapped labor force.

The majority, 65% are commuters and commute 5 days a week. Others do not commute daily because: 33% work part time, 27.4% telecommute, 10% travel to different locations and 9% are self-employed. Telecommuting opportunities to work from home are becoming more readily available. This is one reason why the Chisago County HRA-EDA has been working with townships and cities by advocating to bring faster, more reliable Internet services to the county.

When asked why people travel more than 20 minutes to work, 52% said it was for higher wages. 30% said they were not able to find a similar job closer to home. It is often difficult for rural businesses to compete with the higher wages and variety of businesses in the metro. This is an area Chisago County HRA-EDA will delve into further to understand what industries are paying and who could possibly bring forward competitive wages.

The top occupations that people commute for include: Business and Financial Operations; Management; Construction and Extraction; Health Care; and Education, Training and Library. The top four industries are Healthcare, Manufacturing, Education, and Transportation.

The Chisago County HRA-EDA is working with the MN Department of Employment and Economic Development to analyze the survey results.

These results will help promote the county and furnish helpful data to existing businesses in an effort to aid them with future workforce decisions.

To encourage residents to complete the survey, there was a drawing for \$100 gas cards.

CONGRATULATIONS

to the following winners of the gift cards:

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Taylor Belisle | Curt Rivard |
| Jessica Blomberg | Justin Richert |
| Crystal De Kam | Chris Schramm |
| Lacey Passer | Tess Wang |
| Michael Pickens | Jeanne Witte |

To contact the Chisago County HRA-EDA about this and other Economic Development Resources go to chisagocounty.org or call **651-674-5664**.