

# Spelman College Census Information Center

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Spelman College

*A Choice to Change the World*

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## Introduction

During 2009, the Spelman College Census Information Center focused on many issues relevant to the community. These issues included, but are not limited to, a historical exploration of racial categories in the United States, changes in the racial composition of Atlanta, women's health and well-being, the significance of Census 2010, and the 2009 Atlanta Mayoral Election. For the month of December, we have chosen to explore additional issues relevant to many Atlantans: public transportation and worker commuter patterns.

[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

[www.cdc.gov/scientific.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/scientific.htm)

[www.quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/13000.html](http://www.quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/13000.html)

## A Brief History of MARTA

What is MARTA? MARTA, which stands for Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority, is the city of Atlanta's public rail and bus line. According to the official MARTA website, it was created in 1965 after public officials recognized the need for a public transportation system to serve the burgeoning area (Marta 2010a). Originally, the system was developed to serve four counties of the Atlanta Metropolitan area and the city of Atlanta. However, MARTA is currently funded through three sources: the city of Atlanta, Fulton County, and DeKalb County (Marta 2010a). When it was first developed, MARTA offered only bus service, not rail service. In fact, trains did not start transporting passengers to and from their destinations until 1979 when the East Line was created (Marta 2010a). Since then, MARTA has expanded its services to multiple locations in an effort to limit highway congestion and facilitate community development (See Figure 1).



Source: MARTA (2010b).

As Figure 1 shows, there are currently four rail lines that MARTA operates.

## Transportation in Atlanta

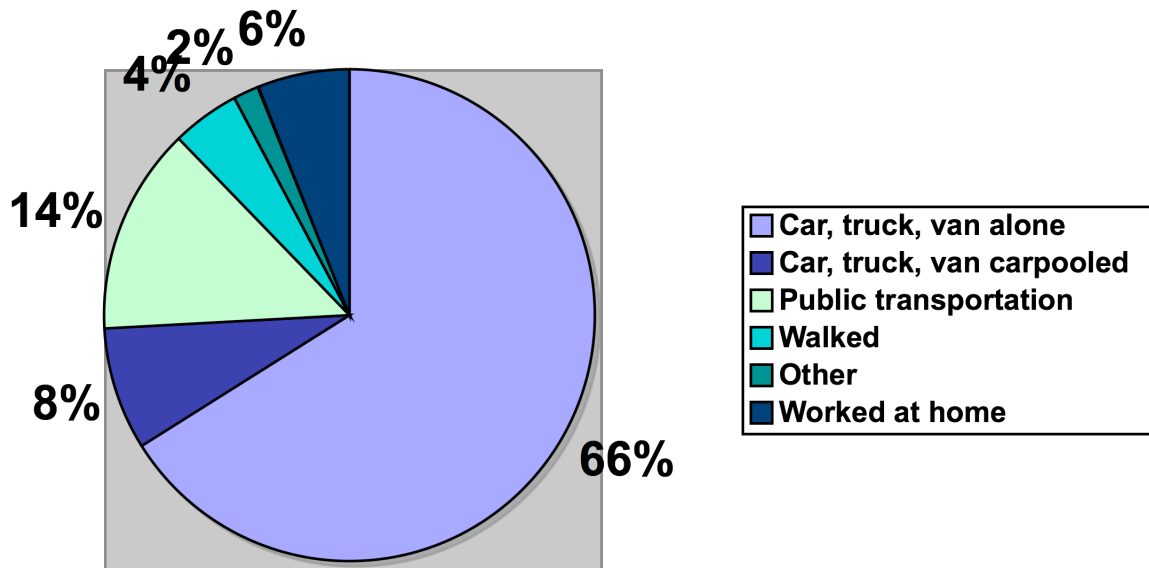
According to the American Community Survey (U.S. Census), in 2008, more people living in Atlanta **drove to work alone** than any other option. Table 1 shows the various methods of transportation that Atlanta workers aged 16 and over utilize.

**Table 1 Transportation Methods in Atlanta: 2008**

<b>Method of Transportation</b>	<b>Number of Atlanta workers aged 16 and over</b>	<b>Margin of Error</b>	<b>Percent of Atlanta workers aged 16 and over</b>	<b>Margin of Error</b>
<i>Car, truck, or van, Drove alone</i>	138,943	+/- 4805	66.1%	+/- 1.3
<i>Car, truck, or van -- carpooled</i>	16,816	+/- 1805	8.0%	+/- 0.9
<i>Public transportation (excluding taxicab)</i>	29,031	+/- 2141	13.8%	+/- 0.9
<i>Walked</i>	8,739	+/- 1102	4.2%	+/- 0.5
<i>Other means</i>	4,072	+/- 939	1.9%	+/- 0.4
<i>Worked at home</i>	12,592	+/- 1,307	6.0%	+/- 0.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2010a

**Graph 1: Transportation in Atlanta for workers aged 16 and over: 2008**



As Table 1 and Graph 1 demonstrate, the vast majority (**66%**) of workers aged 16 and over in Atlanta, GA commuted alone. More workers utilized public transportation (excluding taxicabs) than carpooled with others. Only **6%** of workers in Atlanta carpooled compared to **14%** that took advantage of available public transportation options. The Census currently offers an invaluable resource about transportation options and commutes

across the nation, and more specifically, Atlanta. The **Longitudinal-Employer Household Dynamics (LED)** survey explores local labor market conditions. It is a partnership between state labor market information agencies and the Census Bureau.

The **LED**:

- Is **Local**, at the state, county and sub county level.
- Supplies statistics on **Employment**, job creation, turnover, and earnings by industry, age and sex.
- Provides **Dynamic** information on the rapidly changing economy. (US Census Bureau 2010a)

There are several interesting features that the LED offers. Its flagship product, known as Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI), “provides information about trends in employment, hiring, job creation and destruction, and earnings, with unprecedented details of geography, age, gender, and industry going as far back as 1990” (LED 2010). The LED features a mapping tool entitled “OnTheMap”.

# Longitudinal- Employer Household Dynamics

This product displays maps of employment and home locations of workers. Additional LED tools are in Table 2. This tool will be explored in upcoming newsletters.

**Table 2**

<a href="#">Online Tool</a>	Data updated /Currency	Description
<a href="#">QWI Online</a>	Quarterly 1990-2008	Accesses 8 QWI covering employment, new hires, job creation and destruction, and earnings.
<a href="#">Industry Focus</a>	Quarterly 1990-2008	Identifies hot industries by selected criterion for worker groups in a local economy.
<a href="#">OnTheMap</a>	Annually 2002-2006	Maps and reports on workers and jobs covering 46 states, five years of data, cross-state flows, and selectable geographic layers.
<a href="#">Older Worker Profiles</a>	Multi-year interval 2004	Shows comprehensive state-by-state profile of older (55+) workers released in 3 to 4 year intervals.
<a href="#">CED HotReports</a>	At the source 2008	Integrates the most current social and economic information from eleven different sources for all counties in the U.S.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2010b)

## References

- Marta. (2010a). Marta's Past and Future. Retrieved 31 March 2010 from <<http://itsmarta.com/marta-past-and-future.aspx>>
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- US Census Bureau (2010a). American Community Survey 2006-2008 3-year Estimates: Selected Economic Characteristics. Retrieved 31 March 2010 from [http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?\\_bm=y&-geo\\_id=16000US1304000&-qr\\_name=ACS\\_2008\\_3YR\\_G00\\_DP3YR3&-context=adp&-ds\\_name=&-tree\\_id=3308&-lang=en&-redoLog=false&-format=](http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?_bm=y&-geo_id=16000US1304000&-qr_name=ACS_2008_3YR_G00_DP3YR3&-context=adp&-ds_name=&-tree_id=3308&-lang=en&-redoLog=false&-format=)
- U.S. Census Bureau (2010b). Local Employment Dynamics: New Data from the States and the U.S. Census Bureau. <http://lehd.did.census.gov/led/led/led.html>

## Spelman College

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The Census Information Center (CIC) is a cooperative program between the U.S. Census Bureau and 52 national, regional, and local non-profit organizations. This program represents the interest of underserved communities. The centers serve as repositories of census data and reports, making census information and data available to the public and the communities they serve. The CICs use census data in areas such as program planning, assessing advocacy needs, defining service areas, public policy development, developing new business enterprises, and conducting race/ethnic related research. Individually, and in concert with other community service organizations, the Spelman College's CIC focuses on strengthening community development organizations by improving access to information and national resources for Atlanta University Center (AUC) faculty and students, local activists, minority low income groups, housing, and neighborhood development organizations. Most of the Spelman CIC's projects involve assessment of area needs and local population characteristics.

## Census Information Center History

### The Primary Objectives are:

- Make the Spelman's CIC a resource for information on Census related data for diverse community groups
- Promote university community involvement in community development.
- Promote AUC student and faculty development and involvement in community services.
- Promote awareness of the Census as a resource base.
- Encourage AUC students and faculty to integrate Census material in their classrooms, research and career plans.

The Spelman College Census Information Center (CIC) was established in 2000 by economics professor Dr. Ronnie Tribble, and is now directed by Dr. Bruce Wade, professor and former chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

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