

RELATION OF RESIDENCE TO WORK PLACE

The relationship between place of residence and place of work is a most intricate yet vital factor in the efficient functioning of any large city. In a large expanding industrial city like Melbourne it constitutes one of the most important influences in determining the location and size of future industrial, commercial and residential areas, and the broad pattern of traffic and communications throughout the whole area. It is desirable at this stage, therefore, to examine the existing broad pattern of where people live in relation to where they work to ascertain those existing social characteristics that need to be taken into account in planning for future development. It is necessary to know where the jobs are located at present and where the workers who fill those jobs live. From an answer to this question can be ascertained the broad pattern of regular movement of people between their homes and places of work, the time spent travelling to and from work, the proportions who work locally in different areas and the influence which distance has on residential location in relation to work location.

As the normal census statistics are confined to where people live and their type of occupation it was necessary to carry out a special sample survey throughout all municipalities in Melbourne to ascertain where people living in each municipality actually go to work. The information from this survey has been summarised in map 27 and Table 27 showing the number of jobs, the number of workers living in each statistical district, the proportion of such workers who live and work in each district and the number who live in one district and work in another. These illustrate the pattern of daily movement of workers throughout the whole metropolitan area. They show the concentration of jobs in the central district where there is a considerable surplus of jobs over resident workers, the preponderance of resident workers over jobs in the southern, eastern and northern districts and the surplus of jobs over resident workers in the western district. They indicate that the general pattern of daily movement by the majority of resident workers is from homes in the southern, eastern and northern suburbs to jobs in the central, and to a lesser degree the western districts. More detailed analysis of this information will be made in subsequent surveys. At this stage it is merely intended to deal with the broader social aspects.

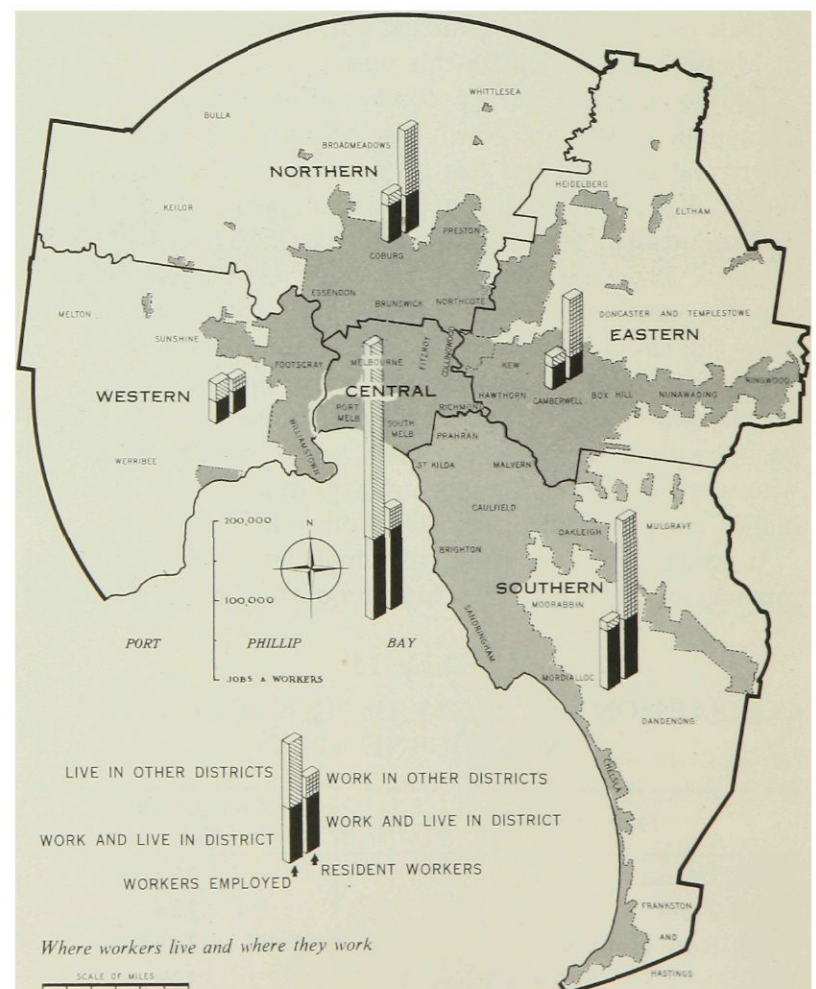
It will be noted that 57% of all jobs are located in the central district within a radius of about 3 miles from the city centre. Within this area, however, live only 125,550 workers, which means that some 213,750 workers come into this area each day from other suburbs. Of the 339,300 jobs in the central district, no less than 163,500 or nearly 28% of all Melbourne's jobs, are actually located in the area of less than one square mile bounded by Flinders, Spencer, Franklin, Victoria and Lansdowne Streets.

Those 29,400 workers whose location of work is given as "elsewhere" are people such as fishermen, plumbers, and so on whose work is not in any fixed location.

When one analyses where workers live in relation to their jobs it is found that nearly 80% of workers live outside the central district, 50% of workers live in the southern and eastern suburbs where only 20% of jobs are located, while 21.5% live in the northern districts where only 10% of jobs are located. The western district is the most balanced of all as here are 7.5% of workers living in an area containing 8.1% of all jobs.

The central and western districts therefore are the only two broad areas where there are actually more jobs than there are resident workers. But this does not mean that all the resident workers in these districts work locally. In fact, a considerable number of workers from both these districts work in districts where there are already more resident workers than local jobs. Similarly, the surplus resident workers in the southern, eastern and northern suburbs are not all working in the central or western suburbs. Some from the north work in the southern or eastern districts and vice versa. In other words, there is a complex movement of workers to jobs all over the planning area.

It is also of value to examine the proportion of resident workers who actually work in the district they live in. As might be expected, the highest figures are found in the central and western districts where 79.3% and 67.2% of



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resident workers respectively work within their areas. The corresponding figures for the southern, eastern and northern sectors are 36.2%, 25.4% and 34.6% respectively. The important fact established from these figures is that many workers do not necessarily work locally, even though there may be a considerable surplus of jobs to resident workers.

This point is perhaps shown most strongly in the central district where, despite the fact that there are 339,300 jobs and 125,550 resident workers—almost three times as many jobs as workers—we still find that 26,000 of these resident workers travel to work in other districts. A high proportion of these work in the inner surrounding suburbs such as Prahran, Hawthorn, Brunswick or Footscray. The fact remains, however, that a considerable number of workers do find it necessary or desirable to work in distant areas where there are fewer jobs than in the district they live in. Even in the western district where there is a surplus of jobs to resident workers and where the community is more self-contained than in most other districts, 14,680 of the 44,680 workers who live there travel each day to more distant suburbs to work, and some of them even find it necessary or desirable to cross the city to work in the southern and eastern sectors.

An examination of map 27 and Table 27 will show this type of movement is taking place from all sectors.

There are, of course, many reasons for this complex movement between place of residence and place of work. For one thing, the degree of mobility is affected by the availability of houses in relation to jobs and vice versa. However, it would seem logical that in times of full employment and housing shortages those people who desired to obtain a job closer to their place of residence would find it opportune to do so. For this reason the pattern as shown would not appear to overstate the degree of movement, and is probably fairly typical of the normal pattern. The fact that many households have more than one worker is another reason for the complex relationship. The father of the household may be working locally, while the son and

daughter may work in another district. A household originally may have established its home in a certain area because it was close to a particular job. The job may subsequently be changed to another district, although the household has preferred to remain in the old area. Many people prefer to remain where they have established themselves and to suffer the disability of travelling further to work rather than move their home.

According to this survey, nearly five of every ten workers in Melbourne live within fifteen to thirty minutes' travelling time of their place of work and seven out of every ten live within half an hour. Barely one-quarter of all workers live within a quarter-hour of their work. Other things being equal, however, most people undoubtedly prefer to minimise the time they have to spend in travelling to work. The choice of place of residence is a result of a combination of basic desires such as a suitable home, a suitable job, proximity to schools, transport, shops, places of recreation and to friends. All these things are desired, but the importance of one in relation to the other is what finally determines where people live in relation to where they work.

From the viewpoint of planning for future development, the following conclusions may be drawn:

Firstly, although it is desirable to minimise travelling time to work, it is impracticable to provide for all people to live in close proximity to their work. No matter how many jobs are provided for in any given area, there will always be a proportion of people living in that area who will want to work elsewhere. Every effort should be made then to provide for a flexible pattern of movement throughout the whole urban area.

Secondly, most people would seem to be quite prepared to spend up to about thirty minutes in travelling to work in order to live in the area they like best. In most cases, it is only where the work-place is more than about thirty minutes' travelling distance from the home that it seems to become a really important factor in the desire to live elsewhere.

Table 27
RELATION OF RESIDENCE TO WORK IN MELBOURNE (1951)

LOCATION OF WORK PLACE			LOCATION OF RESIDENCE									
District	Number and % of workers who work in each district		Number and % of workers who reside in each district									
			Western		Northern		Eastern		Southern		Central	
	Workers	%	Workers	%	Workers	%	Workers	%	Workers	%	Workers	%
Western	48,100	8.1	30,000*	62.4	6,700	13.9	1,870	3.9	4,240	8.8	5,290	11.0
Northern	58,300	9.8	1,100	1.9	44,200*	75.8	2,920	5.0	2,800	4.8	7,280	12.5
Eastern	34,900	5.9	230	0.7	2,520	7.2	25,250*	72.3	4,380	12.6	2,520	7.2
Southern	82,400	14.0	310	0.4	2,670	3.2	4,200	5.1	70,630*	85.7	4,590	5.6
Central	339,300	57.3	11,410	3.4	65,850	19.4	60,760	17.9	101,740	30.0	99,540*	29.3
Elsewhere	29,400	4.9	1,630	5.5	5,510	18.7	4,350	14.8	11,580	39.5	6,330	21.5
TOTAL:	592,400	100.0	44,680	7.5	127,450	21.5	99,350	16.8	195,370	33.0	125,550	21.2

*Indicates number of workers who live and work in the same district.