

The social use of time in the Barcelona Metropolitan Region

Executive summary

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The social use of time in the Barcelona Metropolitan Region

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Introduction

The study *The Social Use of Time in the Metropolitan Region of Barcelona* which the IERMB has produced for the Department of Uses of Time at Barcelona City Council, the Equality and Citizenship Department of Barcelona Provincial Council and the Barcelona Metropolitan Strategic Plan materialises in **three main areas of analysis**:

1. Analysis of the uses of time in the Barcelona metropolis.
2. Compilation of experiences from other European metropolises.
3. Proposals on lines of work and action.

Increasingly, urban policies are paying special attention to how the functioning of cities influences the use that citizens make of their time and, especially, to the possibilities for reconciliation of the different vital spheres of individuals (work, family and personal). The report presented here wants to advance in reflection on this issue, incorporating a new element into the current debate: **how metropolitanisation influences the time factor** and what its costs are, as well as the opportunities that it generates.

Introduction

The investigation is based on the hypothesis that **managing time depends, in part, on the territorial structure and the use made of space itself in life**. The way in which the territory is structured and the way in which cities are organised determine, to a great extent, people's strategies as they carry out activities. And the fact is that, often, conflicts in time management are also a reflection of the territorial structure and the use made of it. In short, the social use of time also depends on the configuration of the real city of each person.

Time becomes a rare value. Socially it is attributed an increasingly important weight in individuals' quality of life. The social perception of this lack of available time leads to a search for proximity and the social demand for a reduction in travelling time.

This document is divided into **three parts**.

Introduction

The first part corresponds to the **quantitative analysis** of the study and its aim is to characterise the social uses of time in the Metropolitan Region of Barcelona, based on the exploration of the Survey on Population's Living Conditions and Life Habits, and the Survey on Mobility on Working Days. The chapters of this part offer elements for producing a framework on the metropolitan reality from the perspective of citizens' uses of time in relation to their everyday life.

The second part contains a compilation of territorial and time dynamics in **other European metropolitan areas**, public policies designed to solve problems of time reconciliation and good practices.

The third part of the report contains the main **conclusions** on work lines and proposals for action debated at a **meeting with agents** involved in the management of time in different spheres of the Metropolitan Region of Barcelona.

The annex presents three further sections: the methodological annex, the statistical tables annex and the annex of files of experiences from other European metropolitan areas.

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Part I. Analysis of uses of time in the metropolitan territory

1. The metropolitan territory and uses of time

2. Social uses of time

- 2.1 Paid work time
- 2.2 Family and domestic work time
- 2.3 Free time and leisure time
- 2.4 The coexistence of activities

3. Travel patterns and times

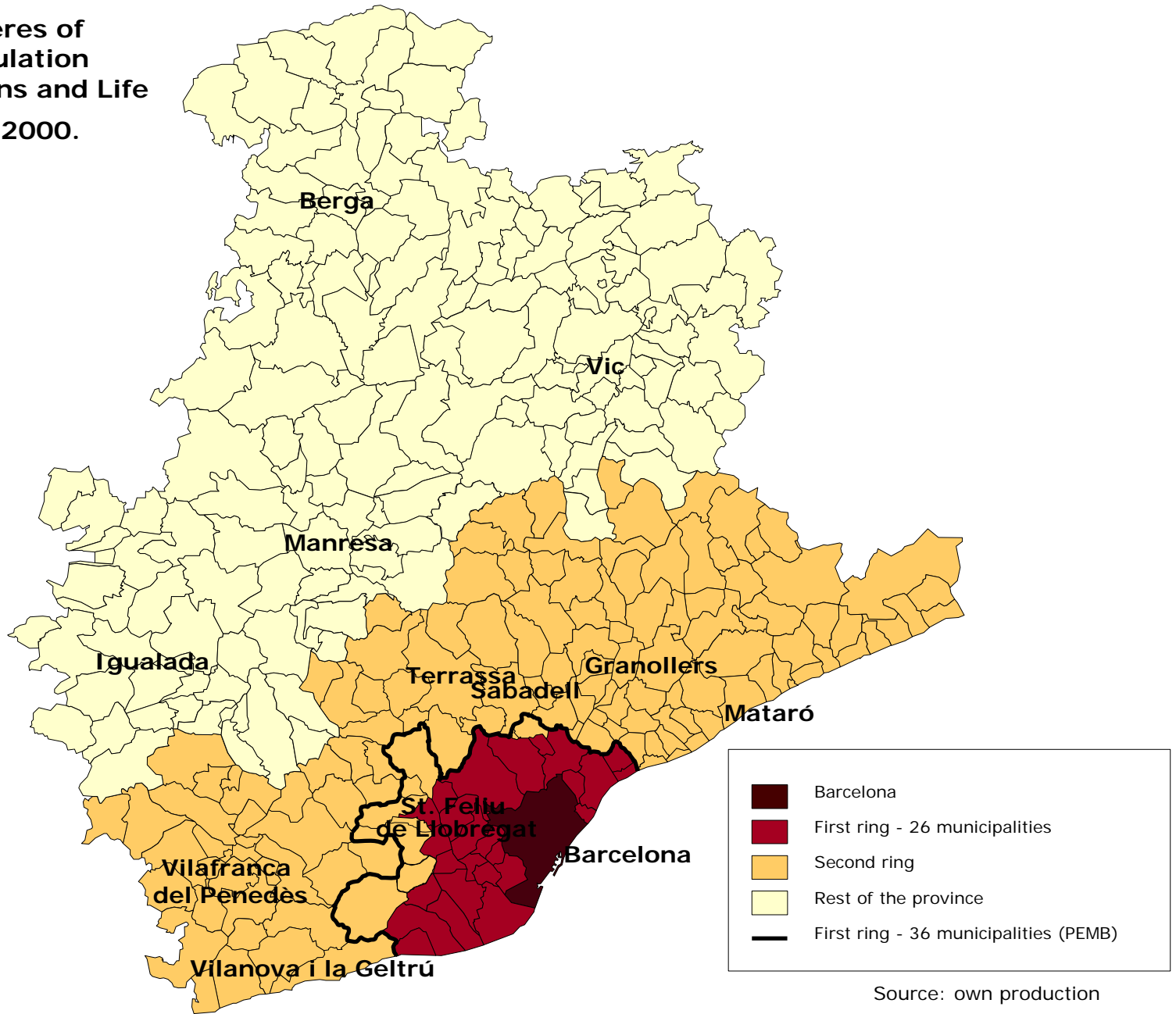
- 3.1 Total travel time
- 3.2 Time and reasons for travel
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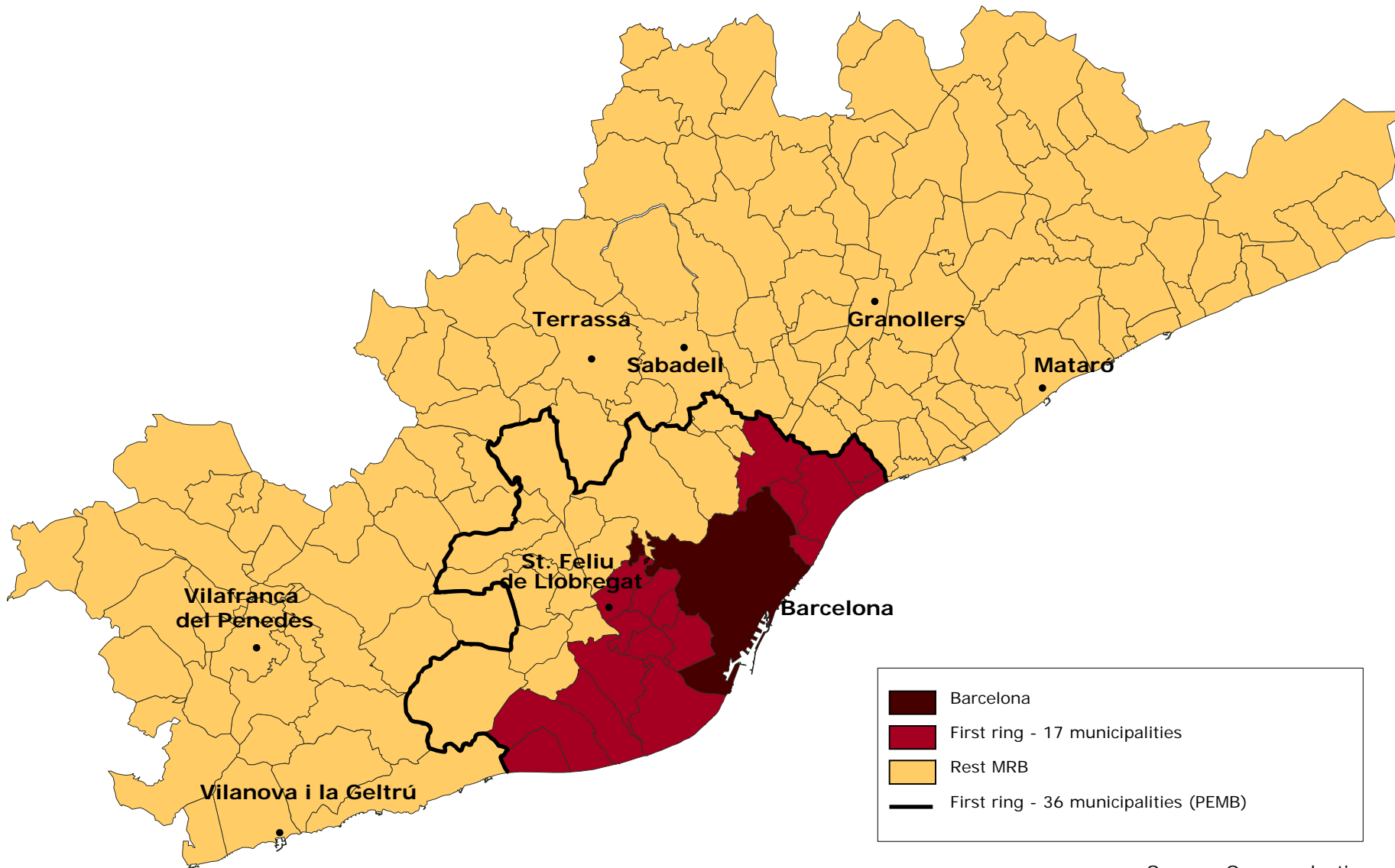
Part II. Compilation of European experiences in time policies

Methodological annex

Territorial spheres of reference. Population Living Conditions and Life Habits Survey. 2000.



**Territorial spheres of reference.
Working Day Mobility Survey. 2005.**



Source: Own production

Part I. Analysis of uses of time in the metropolitan territory

2. Social uses of time

Paid working time

Situation of people interviewed with regard to work activity according to territory of residence. 2000

	First ring – 36 (PEMB)	Barcelona	First ring – 26	Second ring	Total BMR
Working	51.5	50.0	52.6	59.4	53.9
Not working but seeking work	5.2	4.8	5.7	3.9	4.8
Dedication to household work	15.5	13.9	17.5	11.1	14.1
Retired	18.8	21.9	15.4	18.1	18.6
Student	5.6	6.5	4.6	3.7	5.0
Not working nor seeking work	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.5
Incapacitated	2.9	2.1	3.8	3.4	3.1
Other situations of inactivity	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Population Living Conditions and Life Habits Survey, 2000. IERMB

Paid working time

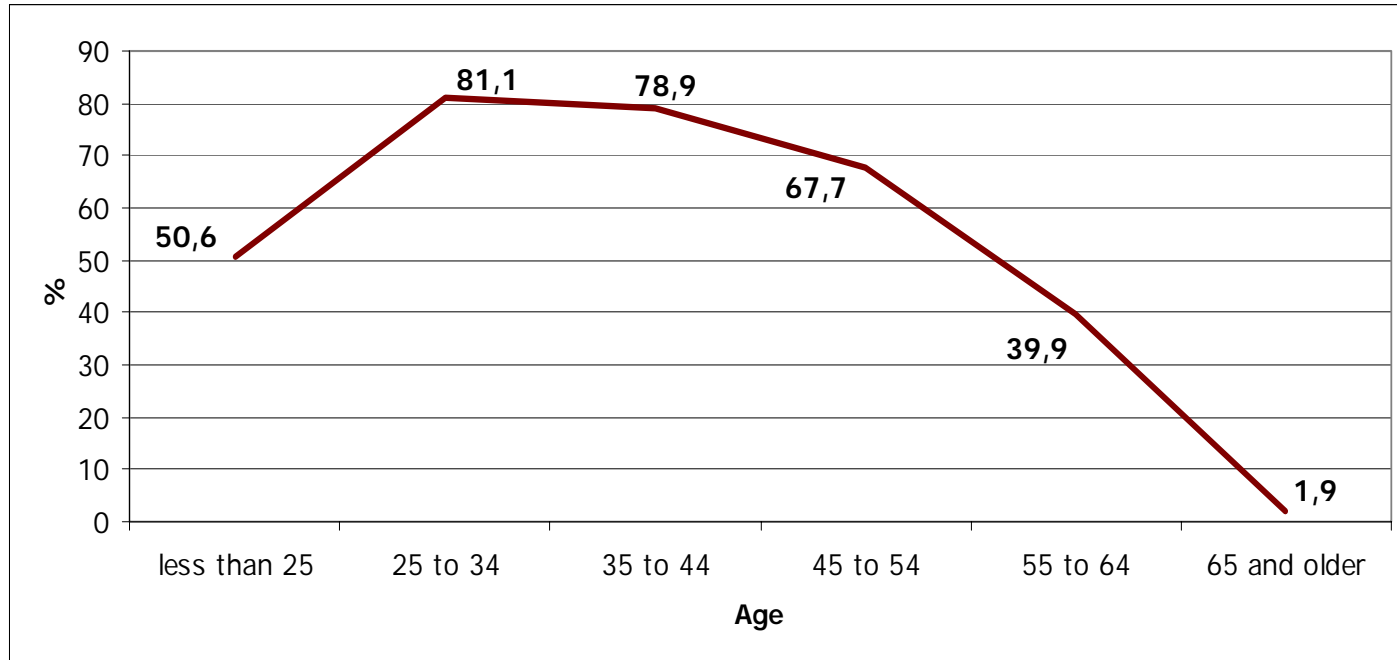
Situation of people interviewed with regard to work activity according to gender. PEMB. 2000

	Male	Female
Working	63.7	40.7
Not working but seeking work	5.2	5.2
Dedication to household work	0.1	29.1
Retired	21.4	16.5
Student	5.5	5.7
Not working nor seeking work	0.4	0.6
Incapacitated	3.6	2.2
Other situations of inactivity	0.2	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: Population Living Conditions and Life Habits Survey. 2000. IERMB.

Paid work time

Percentage population occupied according to age. PEMB. 2000



Source: Population Living Conditions and Life Habits Survey. 2000. IERMB

Paid work time

Number of hours worked by the occupied population during the last week according to territory of residence. 2000

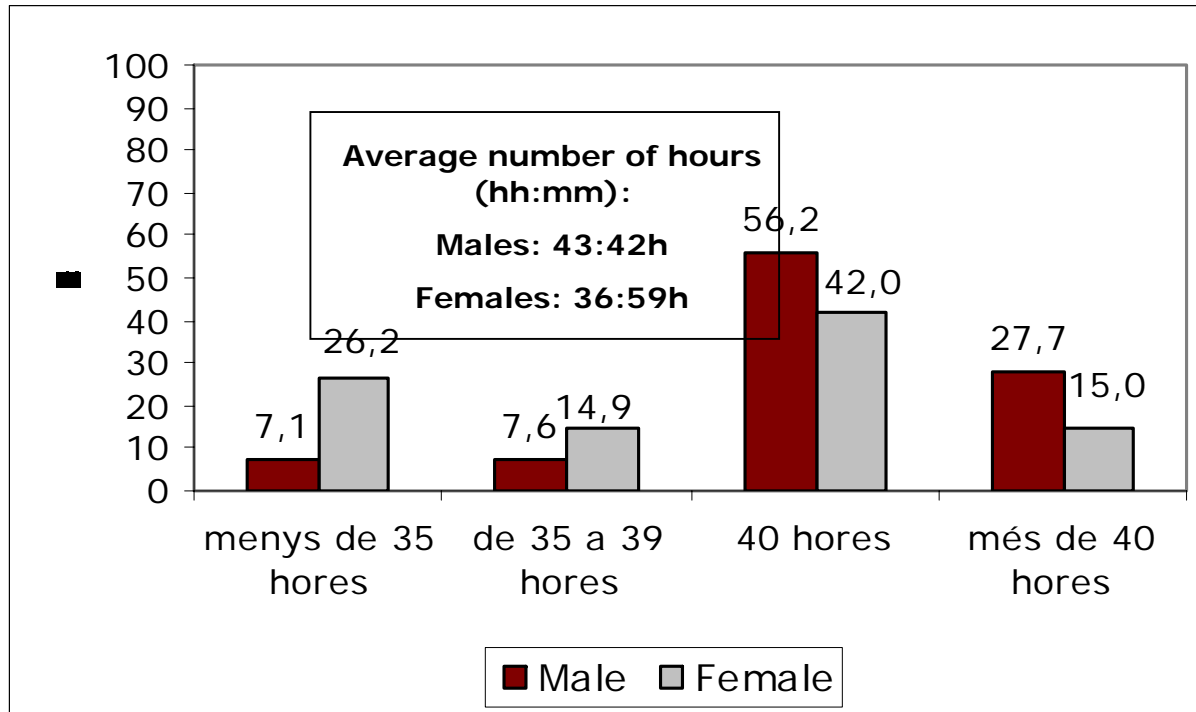
	First ring – 36 (PEMB)	Barcelona	First ring – 26	Second ring	Total BMR
Less than 10 hours	1.3	1.5	1.2	1.0	1.2
11 to 20 hours	5.5	6.5	4.9	5.0	5.4
21 to 34 hours	8.3	8.6	7.4	7.1	7.7
35 to 39 hours	10.7	13.4	8.5	7.8	9.8
40 hours	50.2	45.5	54.9	56.0	52.2
41 to 50 hours	12.0	12.6	11.1	12.0	11.9
More than 50 hours	10.4	9.7	11.2	9.8	10.2
N/A	1.6	2.2	0.9	1.2	1.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Average (hh:mm:ss)	40:52:55	40:24:02	41:20:42	41:02:02	40:55:29

Subsample occupied population

Source: Population Living Conditions and Life Habits Survey. 1990-2000. IERMB

Paid work time

Number of hours worked by the occupied population during the last week according to gender. PEMB. 2000



Subsample occupied population

Source: Population Living Conditions and Life Habits Survey. 2000. IERMB

Family and household work time

Weekly hours that people devote to household tasks. PEMB. 1990-2000

	1990	1995	2000
No hours	24.8	19.1	13.6
An hour or less	1.6	2.2	2.9
From 1 to 3 hours	5.9	7.5	8.6
From 3 to 6 hours	8.8	10.5	11.7
From 6 to 10 hours	10.7	10.6	15.2
More than 10 hours	45.5	49.1	45.3
N/A	2.7	1.0	2.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Average (hh:mm:ss)	18:44:25	18:10:56	15:46:51

Source: Survey on Living Conditions and Life Habits of the Population. 1990-2000. IERMB

Family and household work time

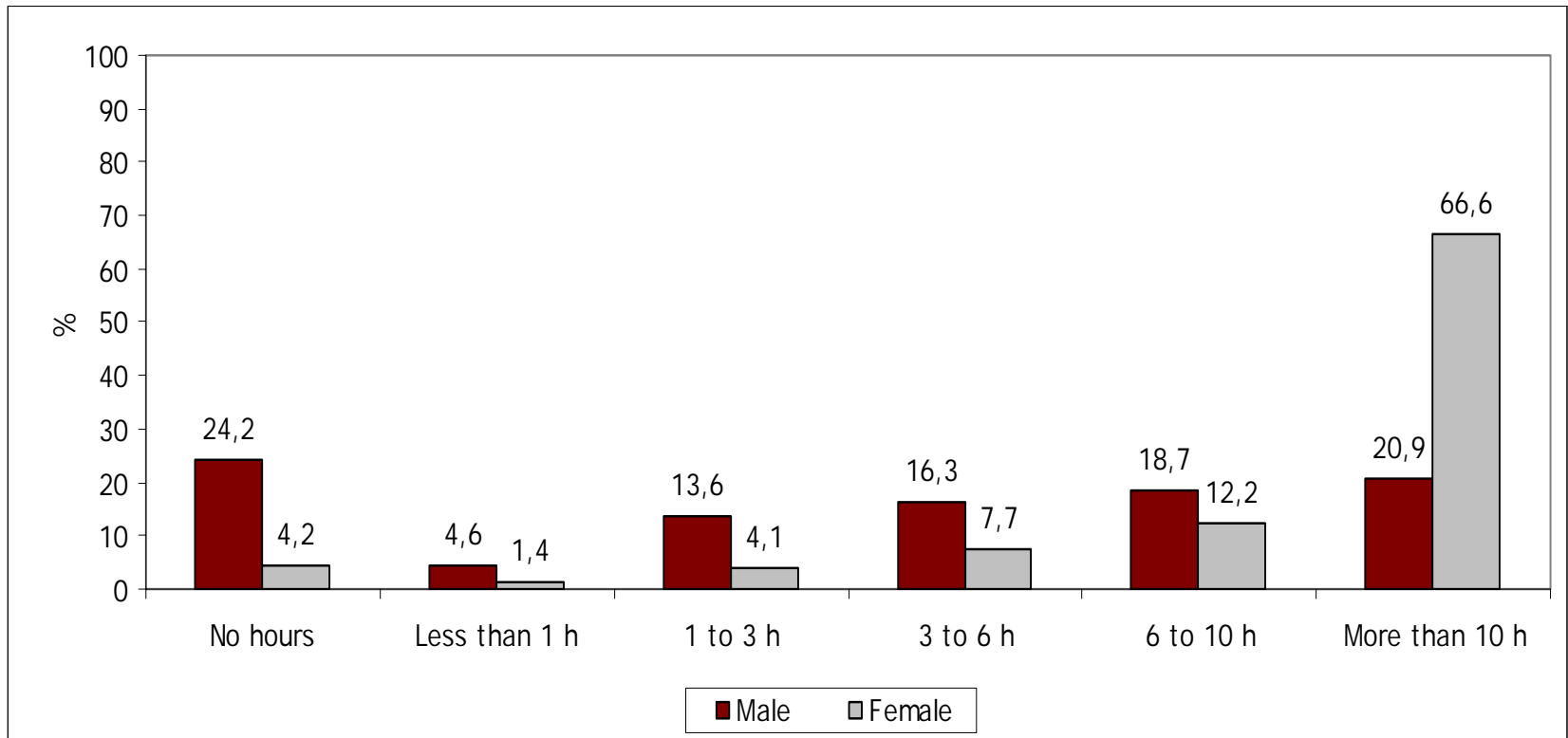
Weekly hours that people devote to household tasks according to territory of residence. 2000

	First ring – 36 (PEMB)	Barcelona	First ring - 26	Second ring	Total BMR
No hours	13.6	12.5	14.6	17.0	14.6
One hour or less	2.9	3.0	3.0	2.4	2.8
From 1 to 2 hours	5.0	5.7	4.2	4.6	4.9
From 2 to 3 hours	3.6	3.7	3.4	3.4	3.5
From 3 to 6 hours	11.7	11.9	11.8	13.2	12.3
From 6 to 10 hours	15.2	16.4	13.7	14.2	14.8
More than 10 hours	45.3	43.0	47.7	44.0	44.8
N/A	2.7	3.8	1.7	1.2	2.3
Average (hh:mm:ss)	15:46:51	15:07:13	16:34:29	14:30:35	15:23:02

Source: Survey on Living Conditions and Life Habits of the Population. 2000. IERMB

Family and household work time

Weekly hours that people devote to household tasks according to gender. PEMB. 2000



Source: Survey on Living Conditions and Life Habits of the Population. 2000. IERMB

Family and household work time

Weekly hours that people devote to household tasks according to age.
PEMB. 2000

	Less than 25 years	25 to 34 years	34 to 44 years	45 to 54 years	55 to 64 years	65 years and over
No hours	19.4	12.8	9.0	10.3	15.3	15.4
One hour or less	7.2	4.0	1.5	2.6	2.0	1.3
From 1 to 3 hours	21.1	9.5	6.3	6.6	6.6	4.2
From 3 to 6 hours	18.4	17.3	13.1	10.1	7.4	5.9
From 6 to 10 hours	17.6	19.3	17.7	12.3	10.1	13.7
More than 10 hours	15.5	34.2	50.6	54.4	55.8	55.6
N/A	0.9	2.9	1.7	3.6	2.8	4.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Average (hh:mm:ss)	06:14:23	11:41:11	17:26:17	19:37:07	19:04:40	19:10:02

Source: Survey on Living Conditions and Life Habits of the Population. 2000. IERMB

Free time and leisure time

Number of leisure activities undertaken outside the home by people interviewed. PEMB. 1995-2000

	1995	2000
No activity	5.2	3.7
One activity	60.5	40.9
Two activities	26.6	34.1
Three activities	6.2	15.1
Four activities	1.3	4.8
Five activities	0.2	1.5
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: Population Living Conditions and Life Habits Survey. 1995-2000. IERMB

Free time and leisure time

Number of leisure activities undertaken outside home by people interviewed according to residence territory. 2000

	First ring – 36 (PEMB)	Barcelona	First ring – 26	Second ring	Total BMR
No activity	3.7	3.9	3.5	3.0	3.5
One activity	40.9	43.0	37.9	38.5	39.9
Two activities	34.1	29.3	39.6	34.1	34.1
Three activities	15.1	15.5	15.0	16.8	15.8
Four activities	4.8	6.3	3.2	6.1	5.3
Five activities	1.5	2.0	0.8	1.6	1.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Survey on Living Conditions and Life Habits of the Population. 2000. IERMB

Free time availability

Opinion of people interviewed regarding their free time availability. PEMB. 1995-2000

	1995	2000
A lot	32.2	29.5
Sufficient	35.8	35.1
Not much	31.8	34.8
N/A	0.2	0.6
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: Population Living Conditions and Life Habits Survey. 2000. IERMB

Free time availability

Opinion of people interviewed regarding their free time availability according to territory of residence. 2000

	First ring -36 (PEMB)	Barcelona	First ring -26	Second ring	Total BMR
A lot	29.5	29.9	29.5	27.8	29.1
Sufficient	35.1	35.1	35.8	32.6	34.5
Not much	34.8	34.0	34.6	39.3	36.0
N/A	0.6	1.0	0.1	0.2	0.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Population Living Conditions and Life Habits Survey, 2000. IERMB

Free time availability

Opinion of people interviewed regarding their free time availability according to gender. PEMB. 2000

	Male	Female
A lot	31.5	27.7
Sufficient	34.8	35.5
Not much	33.3	36.1
N/A	0.4	0.7
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: Population Living Conditions and Life Habits Survey. 2000. IERMB.

Coexistence of activities

Paid work time + Family household work time

=

Total weekly load

This is the sum of all the day's times



Free time availability



Age

Coexistence of activities

Total load and valuation of free time according to territory of residence. 2000

hh:mm:ss	First ring – 36 (PEMB)	Barcelona	First ring - 26	Second ring	Total BMR
Paid working time	20:52:18	19:58:46	21:38:47	24:14:13	21:54:30
Family household work time	15:46:51	15:07:13	16:34:29	14:30:35	15:23:02
Total weekly load	36:04:35	34:21:14	37:50:39	38:26:21	36:48:18
Valuation of free time availability	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.8

Source: Population Living Conditions and Life Habits Survey. 2000. IERMB

Coexistence of activities

Total load and valuation of free time according to age. PEMB. 2000

hh:mm:ss	Young people	Adults	Elderly people
Time paid work	19:08:30	28:07:13	00:41:51
Time family household work	06:14:23	16:41:41	19:10:02
Total weekly load	25:15:55	44:05:45	19:06:34
Valuation of free time availability	4.5	4.2	7.0

Source: Population Living Conditions and Life Habits Survey. 1990-2000. IERMB

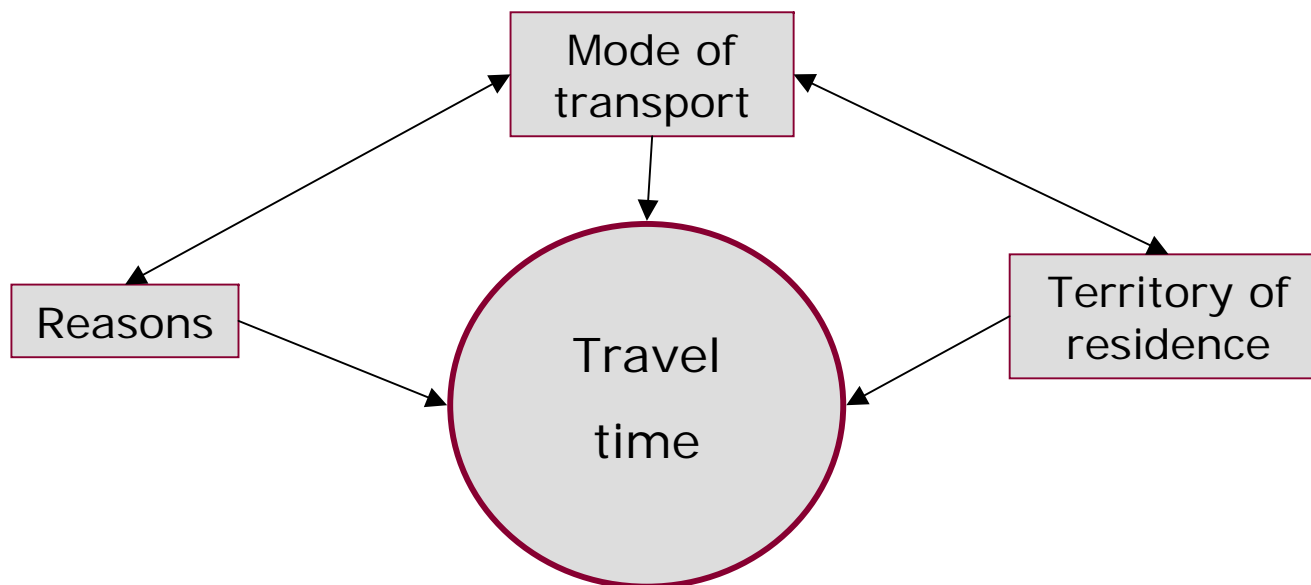
3. Travel patterns and times

Travel time

Travel allows one to reach the place where the daily tasks are carried out

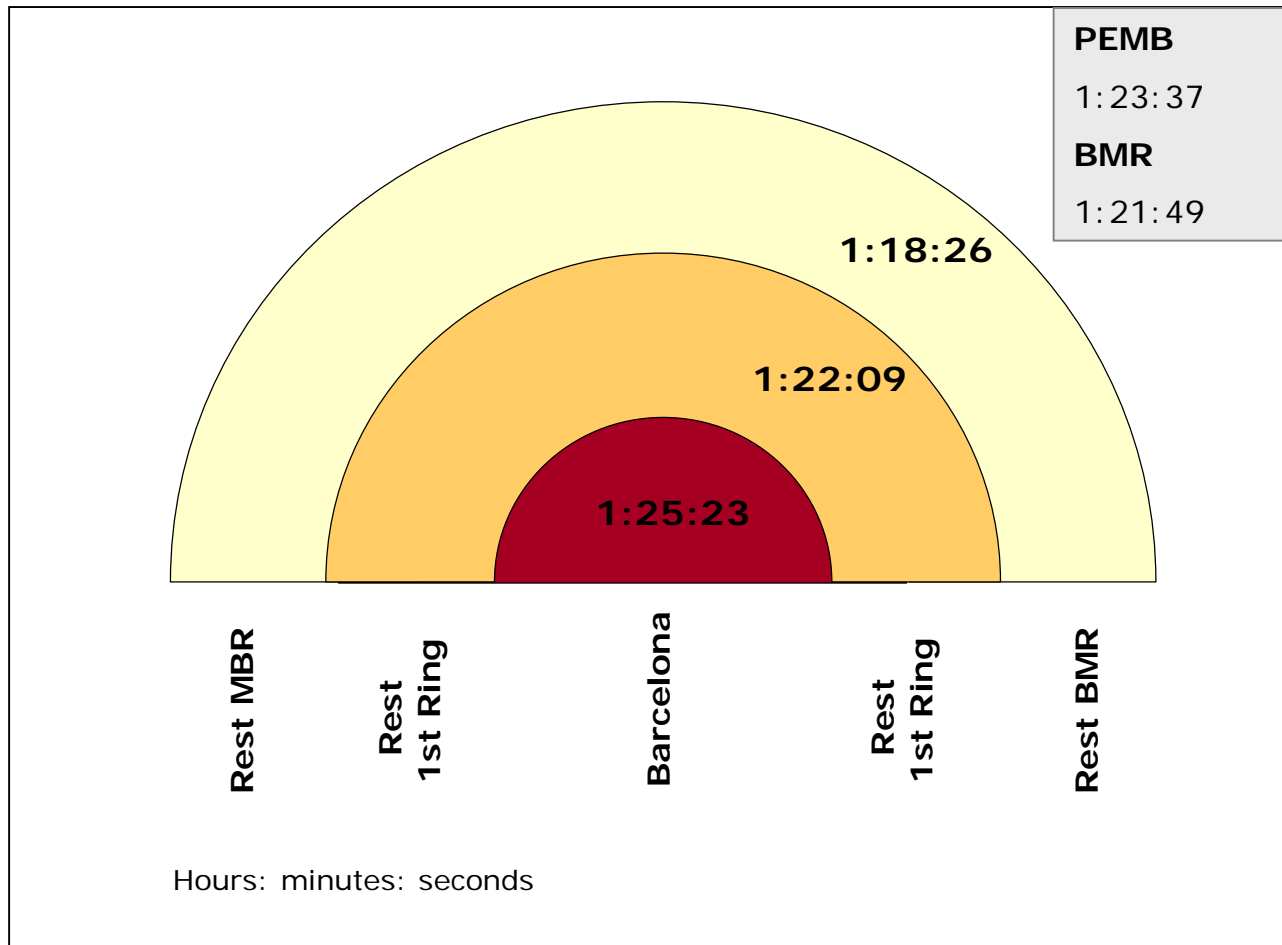


Travel time forms part of the everyday living time



Travel time

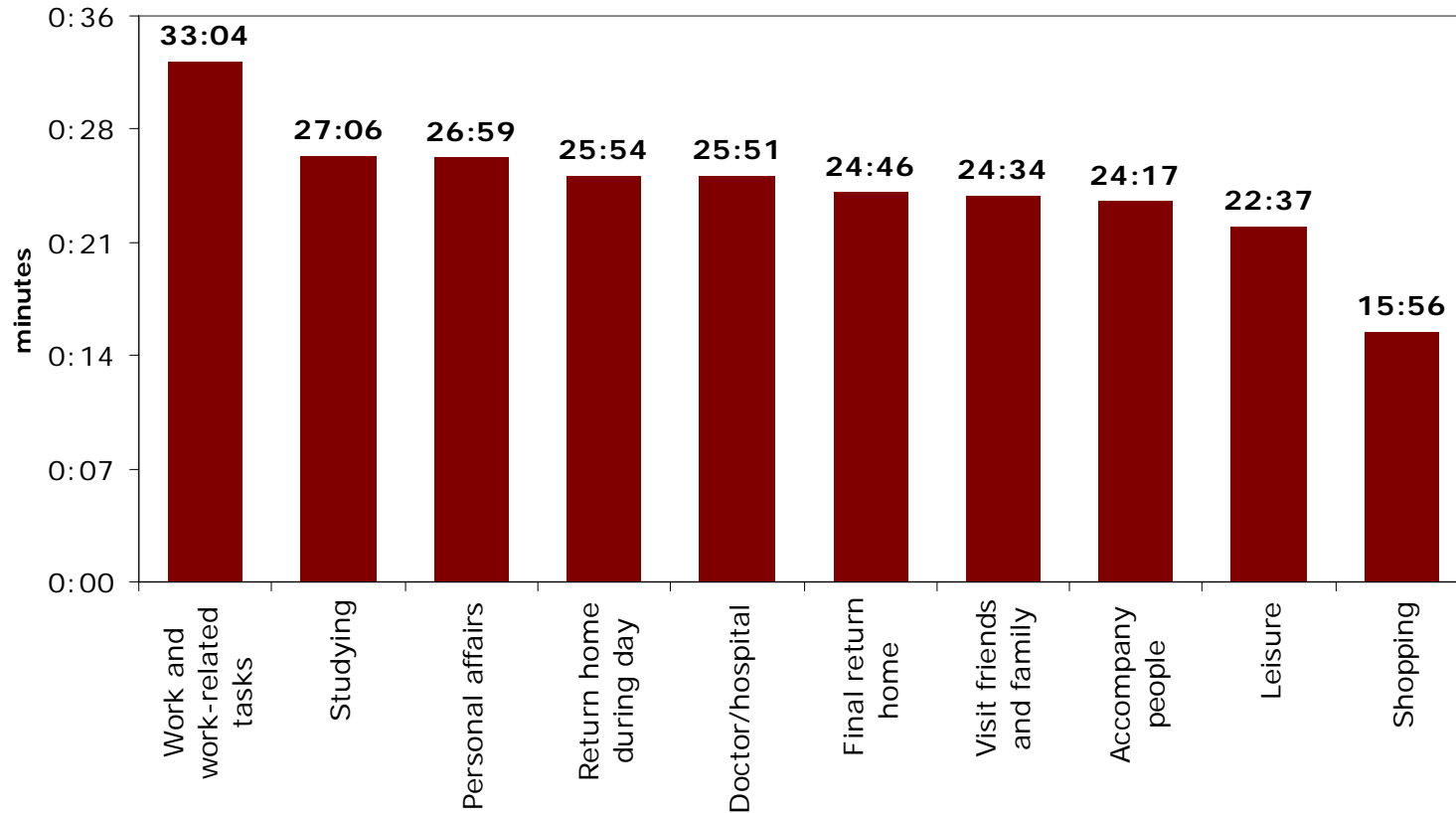
Total travel time according to territory of residence. 2005



Source: Working Day Mobility Survey. 2005. ATM and Barcelona City Council

Travel time

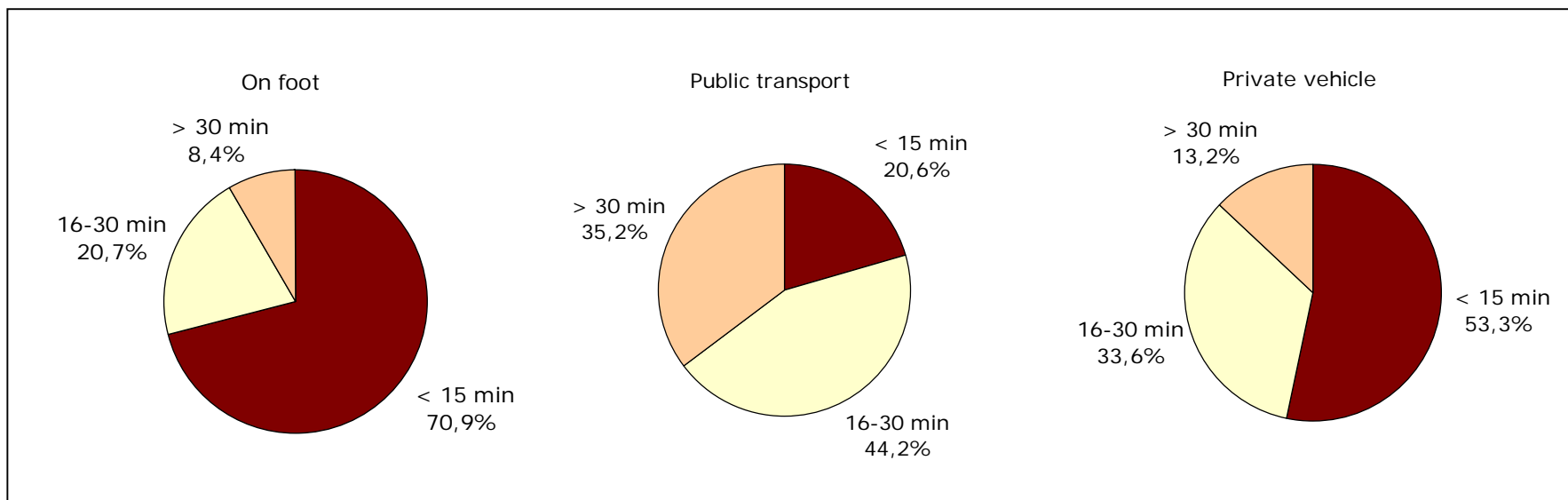
Average travel time of people who specifically carry out each type of activity. PEMB. 2005



Source: Working Day Mobility Survey. 2005. ATM and Barcelona City Council

Travel time

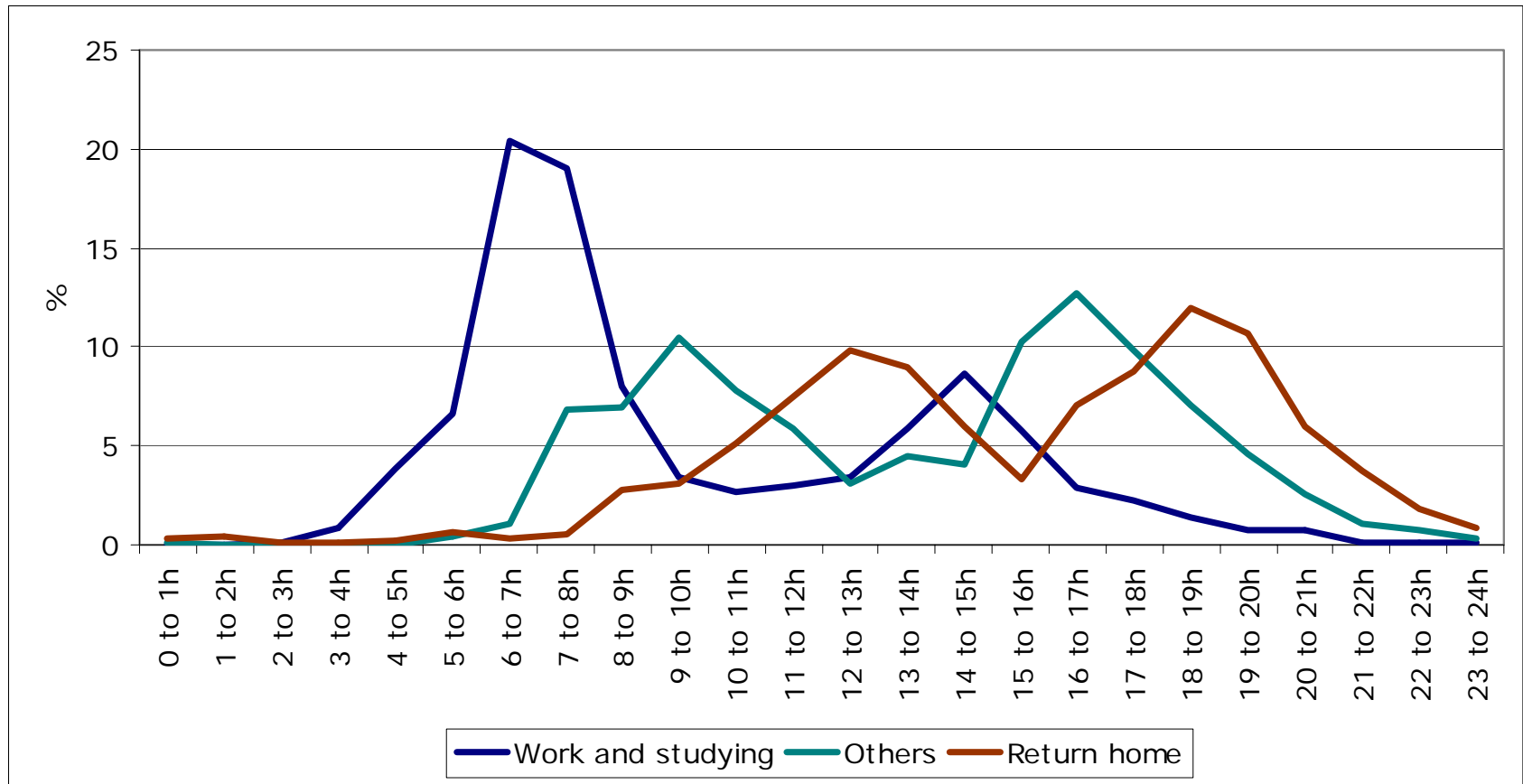
Distribution by intervals of duration (minutes) of trips made using different modes of transport. PEMB. 2005



Source: Working Day Mobility Survey. 2005. ATM and Barcelona City Council

Travel time

Timetable distribution of travel according to grouped reasons. PEMB 2005



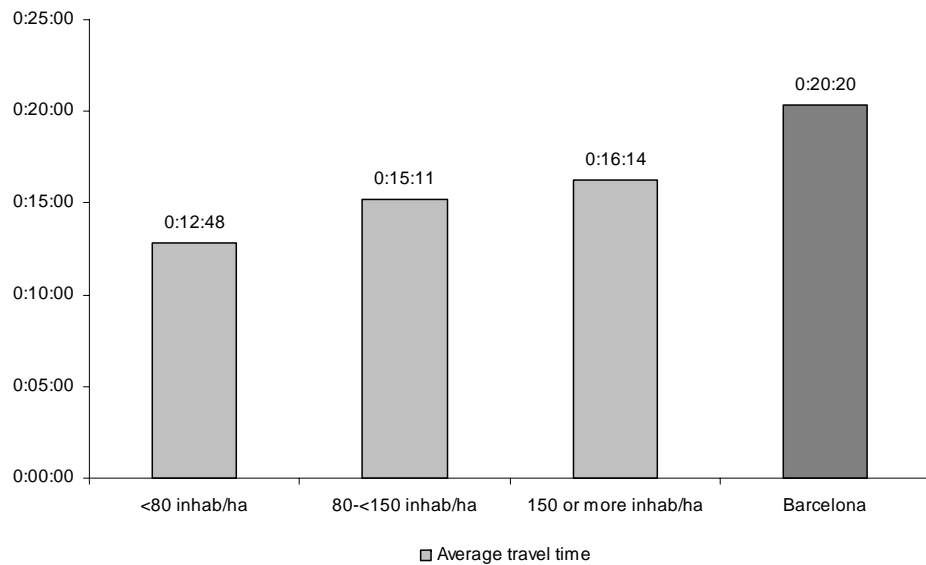
Source: Working Day Mobility Survey. 2005. ATM and Barcelona City Council.

4. Travel time and territory

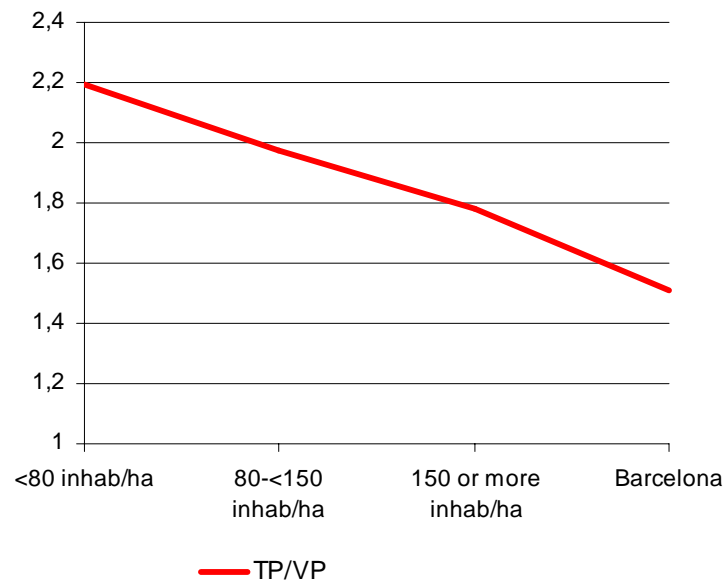
Travel time and territory

Population density. PEMB 2005

Intra-municipal travel: Average travel time



Intra-municipal travel: Relation of average time Public transport / Private vehicle

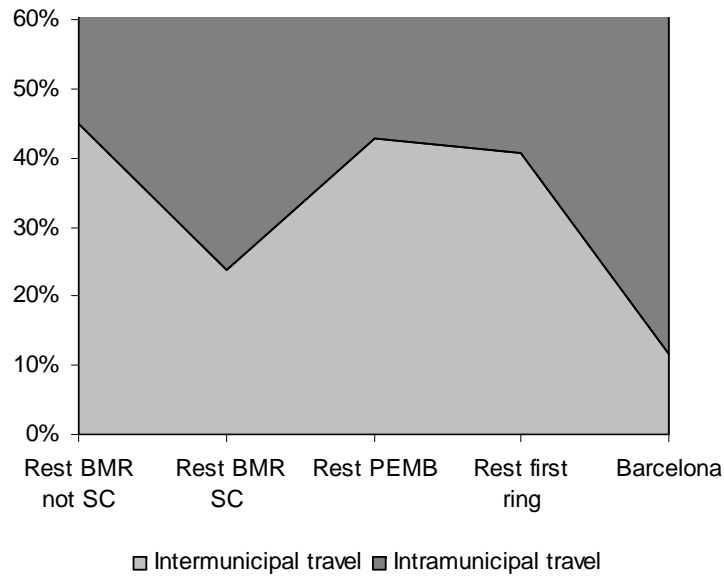


Source: Working Day Mobility Survey. 2005. ATM and Barcelona City Council.

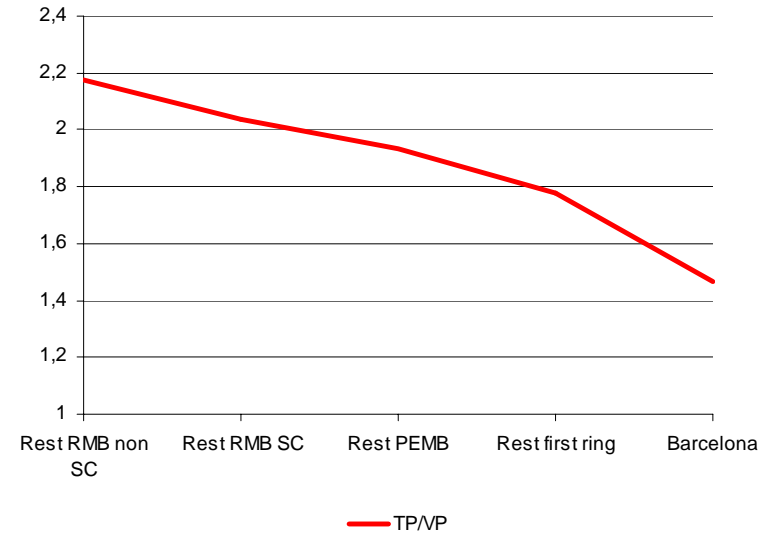
Travel time and territory

Centrality. PEMB 2005

Distribution Intra-municipal / Inter-municipal travel



Inter-municipal travel: Average time relationship Public transport / Private vehicle

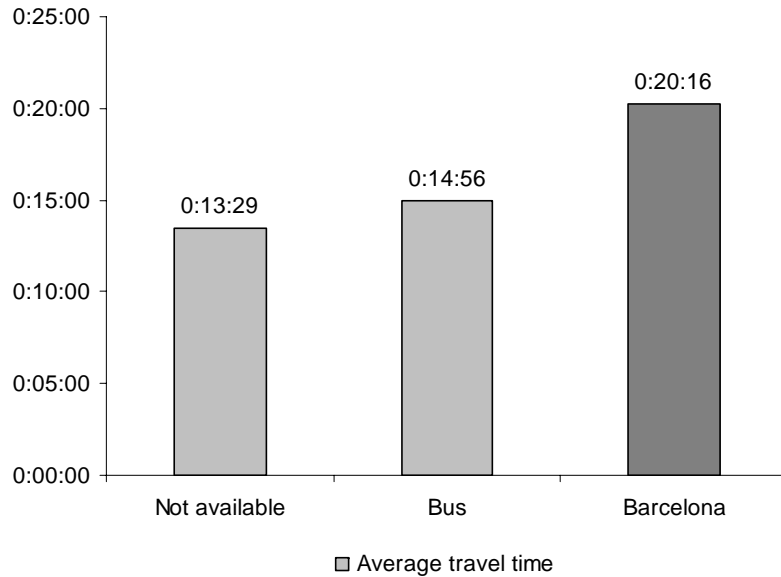


Source: Working Day Mobility Survey. 2005. ATM and Barcelona City Council.

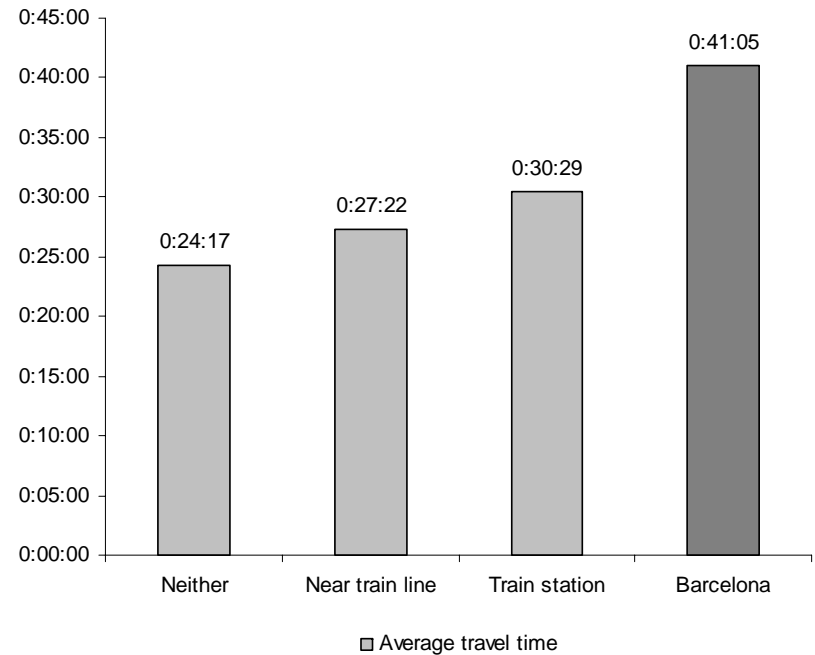
Travel time and territory

Offer of public transport. PEMB 2005

**Intra-municipal travel:
Average travel time according to
availability of urban buses**



**Inter-municipal travel:
Average travel time according to
availability of trains**



Source: Working Day Mobility Survey. 2005. ATM and Barcelona City Council.

Part II. Compilation of European experiences in time policies

Synthesis of European scenario in urban time policies

112 experiences carried out in 9 European countries:

**Italy, France, Germany, Belgium, Holland, United Kingdom, Finland,
Denmark and Spain.**

Compilation of experiences

Need to resolve time reconciliation problems



Time appears as a pillar of intervention in public policies.

The shared **objective** of these time policies is to **reconcile the city's time with that of its inhabitants.**

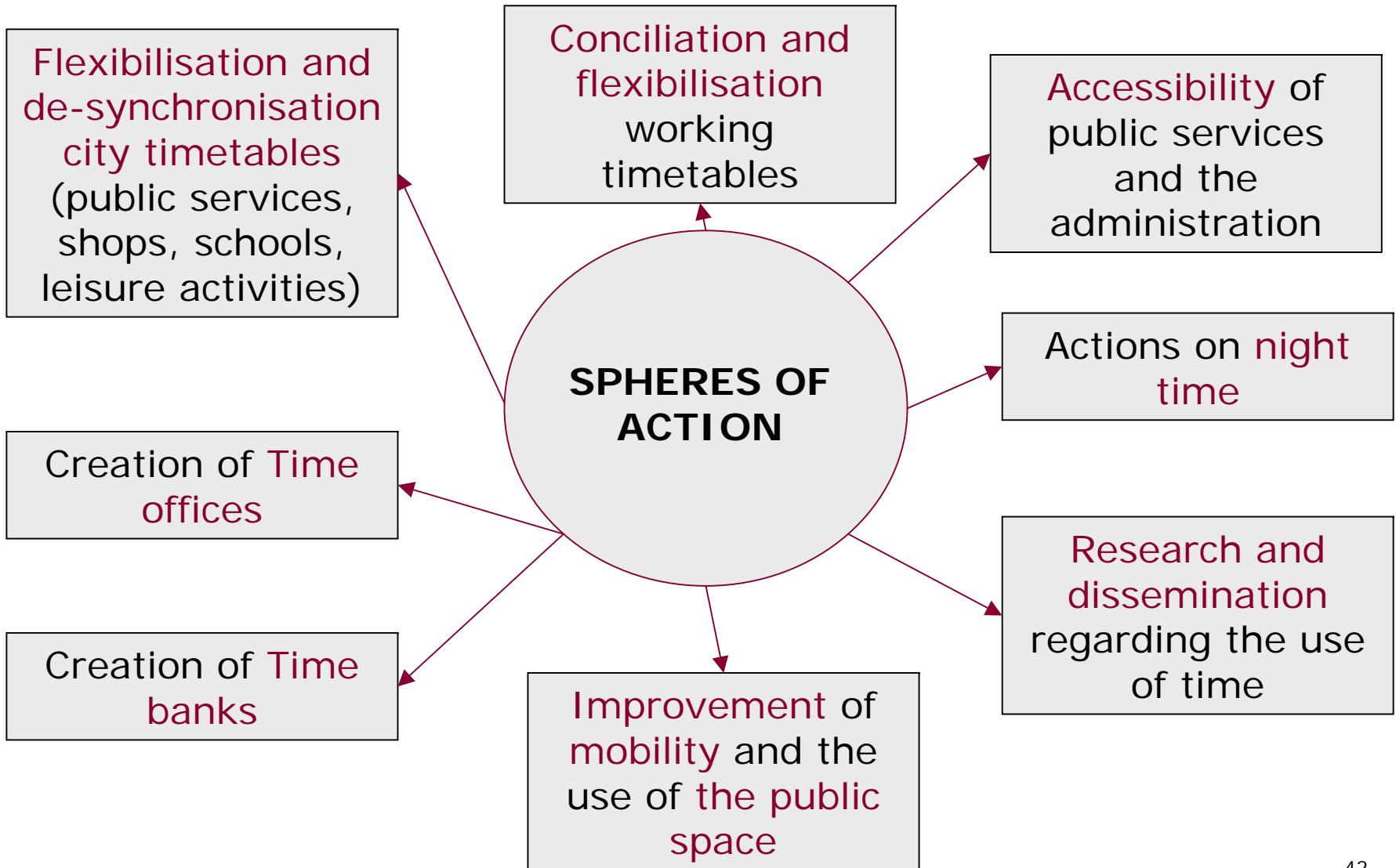
Time and city policies are relatively new. Until now, the **most developed** policies in many countries were for reconciling working life and family life.

Compilation of experiences

Synthesis time and city policies analysed:

- **Paid work** as the central pillar of people's everyday life: experiences are based on the objective of conciliating working time with living time.
- **Urban territory** as a place that expresses the needs for harmonisation between **social time and individual time**: time policies require the participation of players with responsibilities in local management matters.
- Policies have to be retransmitted to other **territorial and administration levels** beyond the local.
- **Participation and agreement** between all agents whose objective is to improve citizens' quality of life is needed. Public and private agents alike.
- It must be a case of **social welfare** policies, not only territorial conciliation of timetables.

Compilation of experiences



Compilation of experiences

	Grand Lyon	Torino	Roma
Objective	Harmonising city time and citizens' time to improve quality of life		
Spheres of action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -City services: services for everyday life: elderly people, children, guide to timetables of all cities -Mobility -Salaried workers: paid work time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -City services: school, services, free time, public services, transports -Training on time plans and policies - Time banks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -City services: for families and social relations, leisure timetables, culture and commerce Mobility -Bureaucratic simplification: accessibility of administration -Night time
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Diagnosis of strong points and weak points: chronomaps, surveys, gatherings -Consensus of agents: debate forums -Experimentation: local temporary actions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Research into accessibility and the use of time in the city -Training and consultation: seminars, etc. -Coordination of time banks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Actions to improve family, personal and leisure time and reconcile them with work time -Design of a Mobility Plan -Extension of timetables, one-stop counters, increase channels of access to the administration
Institutions and instruments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Cooperation by projects: organise cooperation between all users of the metropolitan city 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Provincial and metropolitan coordination between town councils of the municipalities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Permanent observatory of the city's time -Cooperation table: with all agents involved -Inter-departmental table at the city council

Methodological Annex

Sources:

This analysis has been carried out based on the statistical exploitation of data from two surveys:

- The **Population Living Conditions and Life Habits Survey** (ECVHP), produced every five years between 1985 and 2000 by the Institute for Regional and Metropolitan Studies of Barcelona (IERMB), commissioned by the Barcelona Provincial Council and the Union of Municipalities of the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona.
- The **Working Day Mobility Survey** 2005 (EMEF). Survey produced annually by the Institute for Regional and Metropolitan Studies of Barcelona, commissioned by Barcelona City Council and the Metropolitan Transport Authority (ATM).

Territorial treatment:

The territorial spheres analysed vary according to each of the surveys and the year published. The following maps show the territorial differences.

EMEF

2005: Barcelona, First ring (17 municipalities), Rest of BMR, First ring (PEMB-36 municipalities)

ECVHP

1985: Barcelona, First ring (26 municipalities), First ring (PEMB-36 municipalities)

1990: Barcelona, First ring (26 municipalities), Rest of Region I, First ring (PEMB-36 municipalities)

1995: Barcelona, First ring (26 municipalities), Second ring, First ring (PEMB-36 municipalities)

2000: Barcelona, First ring (26 municipalities), Second ring, Rest of the province, First ring (PEMB-36 municipalities)