

## COSTAR INSIGHT

## Commutes Contribute to Rising Office Availability

Long, Expensive Treks Downtown Linked to Reduced Demand



Cities with long, expensive commutes like Los Angeles, above, have seen some of the largest increases in available office space. (Paul Winner/CoStar)

By [Phil Mobley](#)  
CoStar Analytics

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Whether it involves crowding onto public transportation or white-knuckling it on a bumper-to-bumper freeway, few enjoy a long, urban commute to work. A [new analysis of the cost of commuting](#) in different U.S. cities by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce helps to quantify its effect on overall office demand.

Using data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, the Chamber of Commerce calculated the opportunity cost of commuting in more than 150 cities by multiplying the average hourly wage in each city by the average length of a round-trip commute for those who work there.

A further comparison with CoStar data on office availability in these cities shows that the amount of available office space has increased in most markets where the annual opportunity cost of commuting exceeds the national average of approximately \$5,748. While in others the relationship between commuting and availability is weaker.

