



FAQ – TRIPPURP Definitions

The NHTS has traditionally coded five general purposes for trips: Home-based Work (HBW), Home-based Shop (HBSshop), Home-Based Social and Recreational (HBSoc), Home-Based Other trips (HBO), and Non Home-Based (NHB).

The definition of a home-based trip is that either the origin or destination is the respondent's home. These definitions do not include any trip linking or chaining. Since the trip definition is any movement from one address to another, analysts interested in trip chaining or tour-based analysis can link the trip file in any way they wish.

For the TRIPPURP definition, WHYFROM and WHYTO were used to establish whether the trip began or ended at home. A small percentage of trips were not possible to categorize and are coded as Not Ascertained (-1). This primarily occurred when the person did not begin or end their day at home.

For example, a home based work trip (HBW) is coded when one end of the trip has WHYFROM='01' (Home) and one end of the trips has WHYTO='10' or WHYTO='11' (Go to Work) or WHYTO='12' (Return to Work).

For all Home Based trips, one end of the trip is HOME, WHYTO or WHYFROM is '01'.

HBSHOP, one end of the trip is Home and one end has a WHYTO or WHYFROM code of 40=Shop/Errands, 41=Buy Goods, 42=Buy Services, 43=Buy Gas, 80=Meals, 82=Get/Eat Meal, 83=Coffee/Ice Cream/Snacks

HBSOCREC, one end of the trip is Home and one end has a WHYTO or WHYFROM code of 50=Social/Recreation, 51=Go to Gym/Exercise, 52= Rest Relaxation/Vacation, 53=Visit Friends/Relatives, 54=Go Out/Hang Out, 55=Visit Public Place, 81= Social Event.

HBO, one end of the trip is Home and the other end is not in any of the above categories.

Anything else with valid WHYTO and WHYFROM variables are classified as NHB, Not Home Based.

When using these variables, analysts should note the effect of changing the base population (the population included in the analysis). For example, HBW trips account for 11.6 percent of all person trips by the sampled population in the NHTS—people aged 5 and older, but they are 13.3 percent of person trips by potential workers—people aged 15 and older, 19.2 percent of person trips by workers, and 21.8 percent of vehicle trips by workers.



NHTS 2009
National Household Travel Survey

General Trip Purpose	Percent of Person Trips (ages 5 and older)	Percent of Person Trips (ages 15 and older)	Percent of Person Trips (Workers only)	Percent of Vehicle Trips (Workers only)
Not Ascertained -9	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
HBW	11.6	13.3	19.2	21.8
HBSHOP	21.3	22.3	19.5	19.8
HBSOCREC	14.0	12.9	11.3	8.7
HBO	22.0	19.4	16.8	17.2
NHB	31.0	31.9	33.1	32.5