

RAC Member Priorities Tracker

Cycling

In December 2020, 381 of our members¹ took part in a survey telling us their views and experiences about cycling and what could be done to make it easier and safer to ride their bikes.



How often do we ride bikes?

Five or more days a week	2%
A few days a week	9%
Once a week	8%
Once a fortnight	5%
Once a month	7%
Less often	23%
Never	46%

Are we riding bikes more often?

Our members² and particularly regular bike riders³ have noticed an increase in the amount of people riding their bikes over the last 12 months.

	All members	Regular bike riders
Decreased	3%	4%
About the same	27%	15%
Increased	49%	71%
Not sure / can't say	21%	11%

When asked whether they themselves are riding their bike more or less often than 12 months ago:

	All members	Regular bike riders
Less often	40%	19%
About the same	39%	43%
More often	20%	39%

Regular bike riders

1 in 5 members ride their bike at least once a week.

Of regular bike riders:

76%

are men

24%

are women

What are our main reasons for riding?

The main reasons members⁴ identify for why they ride bikes are similar, no matter how often they ride:

	All members	Regular bike riders
For exercise	68%	73%
For leisure/fun	66%	75%
Errands/shopping	9%	15%
Travel to work/study	9%	15%

¹ 285 from the Perth and Peel regional and 96 from regional WA. Age, gender and location sampling quotas were applied, and data has been post-weighted to be representative of RAC's membership (which is broadly consistent with the WA population profile) - the margin of error at total sample level is +/-5% at the 95% confidence level.
² All 381 members who responded to the survey. Numbers may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
³ Regular bike riders' are those who ride their bike once a week or more (75 respondents). Numbers may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
⁴ Does not include respondents who state they 'never' ride a bike.



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How safe we feel riding

How safe⁵ people feel while riding a bike varies considerably depending on the type of path they use.

Of those who regularly ride bikes:

55% feel safe when riding on 'off-road shared paths'

27% feel 'extremely safe'

31% feel safe when riding 'on the road (cycle lane)'

9% feel safe when riding 'on the road (sharing with vehicles)'

24% feel 'extremely unsafe'

12% feel safe when riding in bus lanes

19% feel 'extremely unsafe'

What stops us from riding more often?

When members were asked what, if anything, stops them from riding more often, the top five responses include:

Fear of sharing the roads with motorists

40%

Top response by regular riders (**48%**) and non-regular bike riders⁶ (**39%**)



Too far to get to where I need to go

34%



Lack of safe bike routes

29%

42% of regular riders



Too time consuming / inconvenient

26%



Fitness or health issues

18%



Satisfaction with existing infrastructure

When all members were asked how satisfied⁷ they were with the quality and availability of off-road and on-road cycling infrastructure, only:

37% were satisfied with 'off-road bike / shared path network (for pedestrians and cyclists)'

29% were satisfied with 'on-road bike network (e.g. bike lanes, reallocation of road space for people riding a bike)'

Priorities for government action

Members were asked how likely they were to **ride a bike more** often⁸ if the government funded different types of bike infrastructure⁹.

Regular bike riders top two priorities were:



Building on/improving the on-road bike network

74% Would ride more often



Building on/improving the off-road bike / shared path network

70% Would ride more often

Non-regular bike riders top two priorities were:

48% 

Building more 'green bridges'¹⁰

47% 

Building on/improving the off-road bike / shared path network

⁵ Those members who said they felt 'extremely safe' and 'moderately safe'.

⁶ Non-regular bike riders are those who ride their bike once a fortnight or less (306).

⁷ Members who were 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the infrastructure.

⁸ A moderate amount, 'a lot' or 'a great deal' more often. Other options included 'not at all', and 'a little'.

⁹ Top two priorities for metro and regional members were identical.

¹⁰ For example across the river, major roads, etc. to make connections to/from key destinations easier and safer.



For further information
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