

# MODAL SPLIT 2025

Choice of transport by students and employees

Sustainability Office | November 2025



**LEUPHANA**  
UNIVERSITÄT LÜNEBURG

# INTRODUCTION

The modal split is surveyed every 5 to 6 years.

The last survey took place in 2020 and examined the choice of transport under non-coronavirus conditions. The new survey in 2025 was conducted using the same questions to ensure comparability.

The survey was conducted from 18 June to 18 July 2025 using an online questionnaire in German and English.

413 employees and 477 students participated in the survey. This exceeded the required sample sizes.

To verify the survey results, a modal split traffic count was conducted at 8 entrances to the campus.

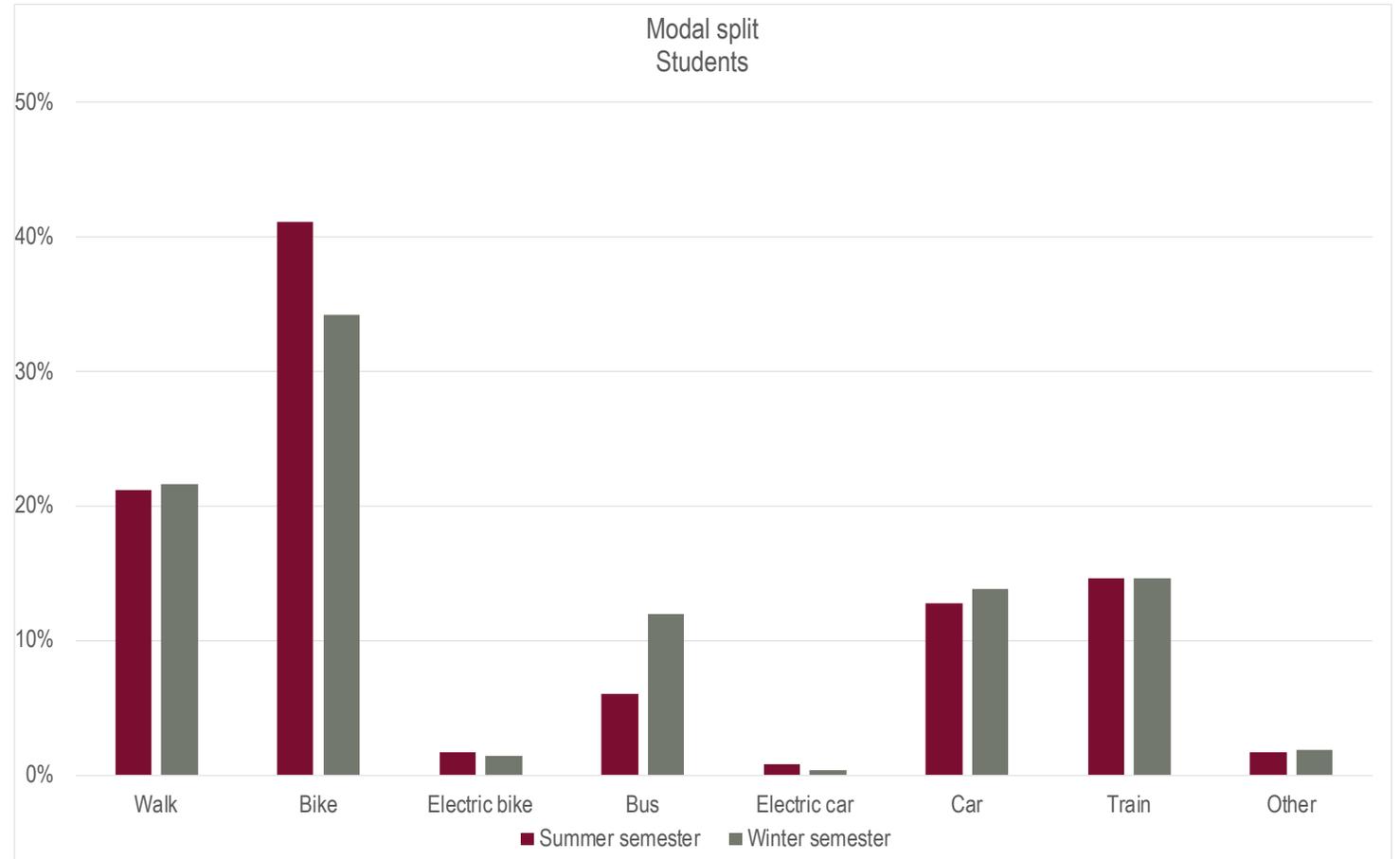
The detailed report 'Modal Split 2025 - Mode of Transport' can be requested from the Sustainability Office.



# MODAL SPLIT 2025 STUDENTS

Students commute to the university in a very environmentally friendly manner: by foot, by bike, by train or by public transport. 85% of the students in the summer semester and 84% in the winter semester use environmentally friendly modes of transport.

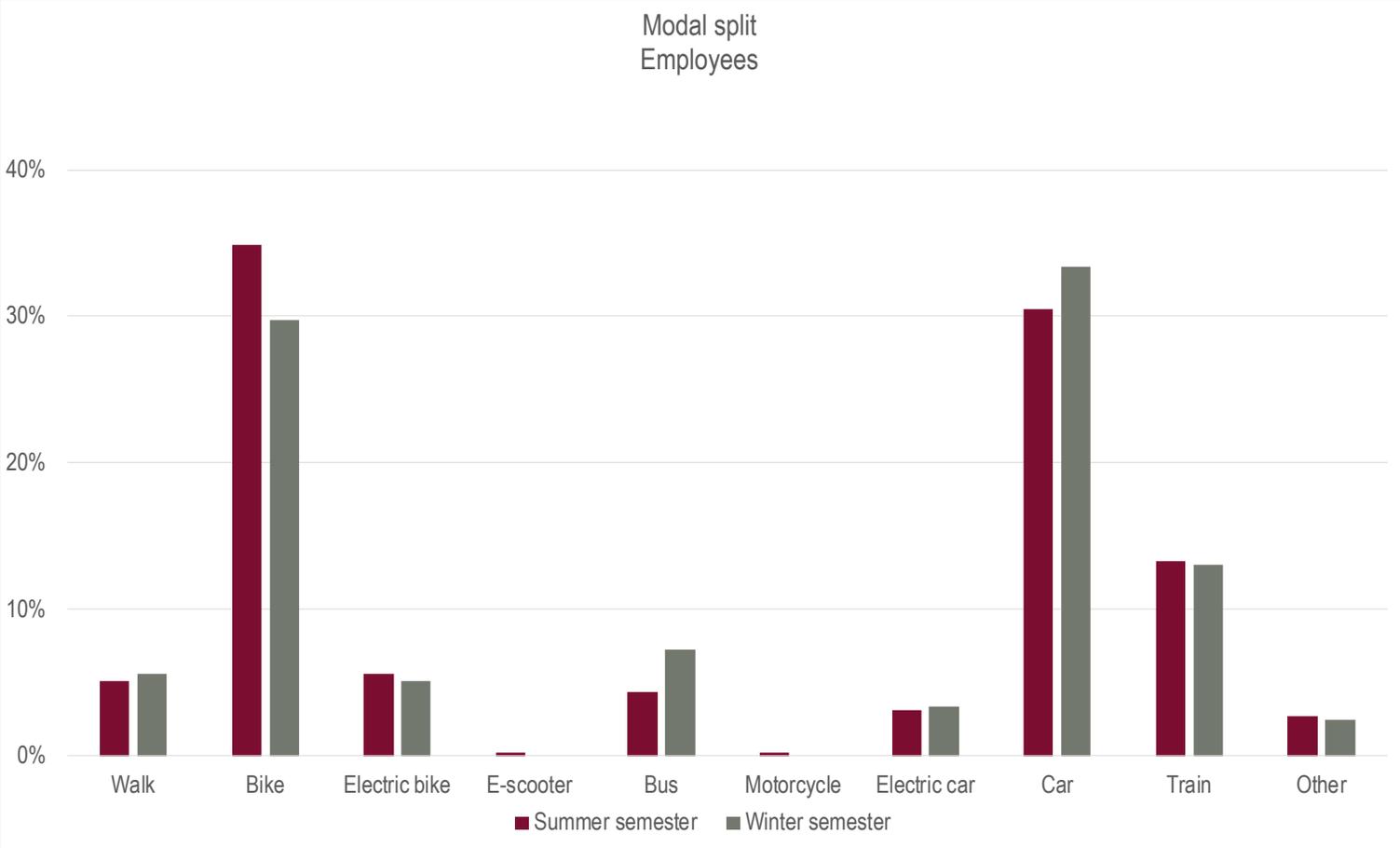
- The most used mode of transport is the bike (41% in the summer semester and 34% in the winter semester).
- Walking is the second most popular way for students to get to campus (21 % in the summer semester and 22 % in the winter semester).



# MODAL SPLIT 2025 EMPLOYEES

63% of employees commute in an environmentally friendly manner by foot, by bike, by train or by public transport during the summer semester and 61% during the winter semester.

- During the summer semester, bikes, including e-bikes, overtook car use at 40% compared to 31%.
- During the winter semester, these two modes of transport are becoming more similar: 35% come to campus by bike and 33% use a car.
- Compared to the 2020 modal split, the decline in car use is remarkable: car use fell from 39% to 31% (summer semester) and from 44% to 33% (winter semester).



# COMPARISON MODAL SPLIT: LEUPHANA - CITY OF LÜNEBURG

To verify the survey results (Fig. 1), a modal split count was carried out on campus during the summer semester of 2025 (Fig. 2).

Comparison with the modal split in the city of Lüneburg in 2021 (Fig. 3): The university's transport structure is much more focused on eco-friendly modes of transport, while motorised private transport (MPT) is much less prevalent.

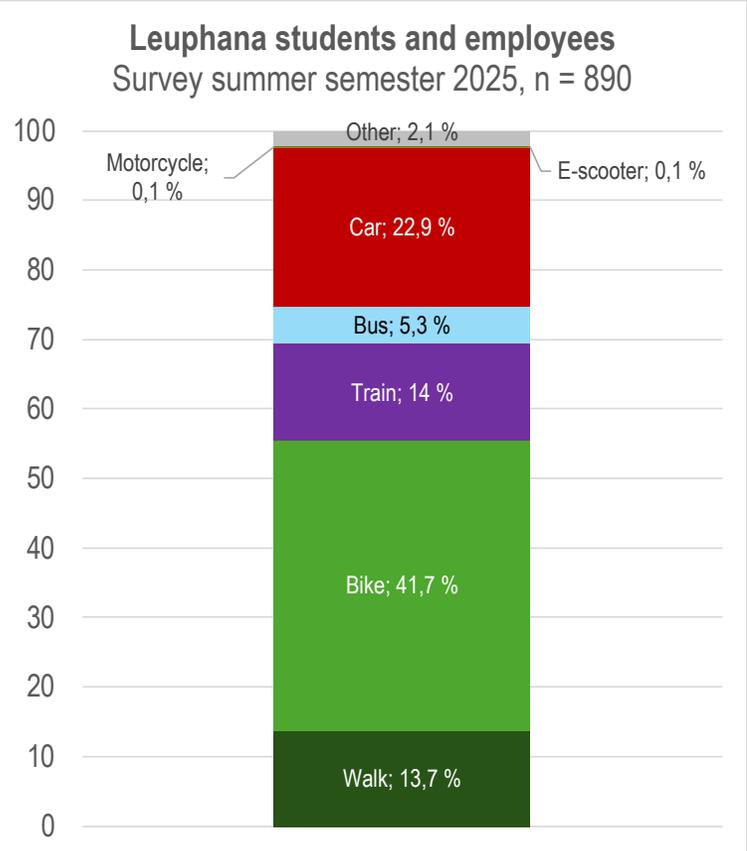


Fig. 1: Modal split 2025 Leuphana, survey

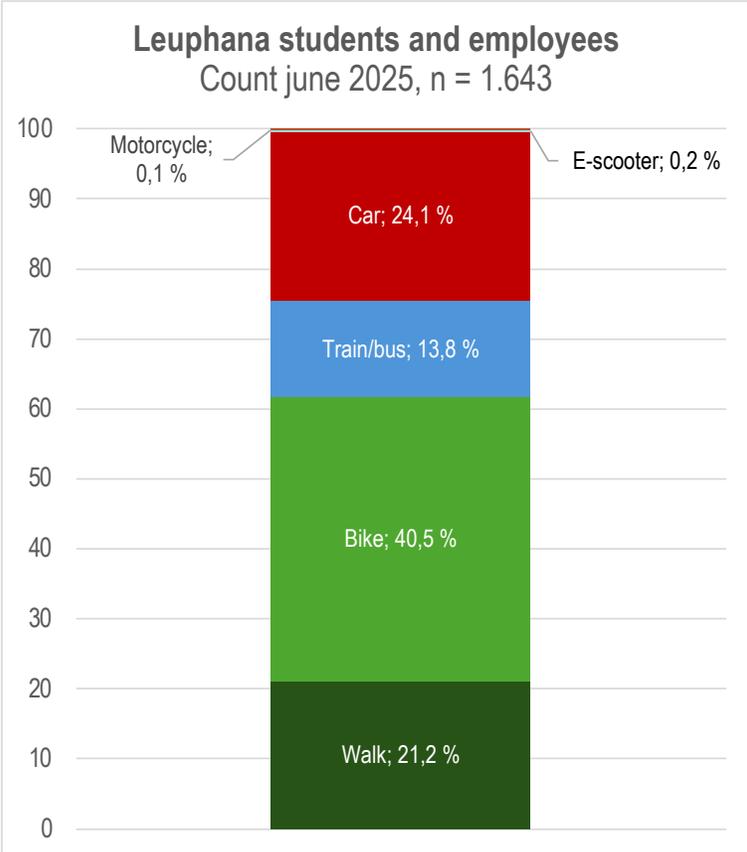


Fig. 2: Modal split 2025 Leuphana, count

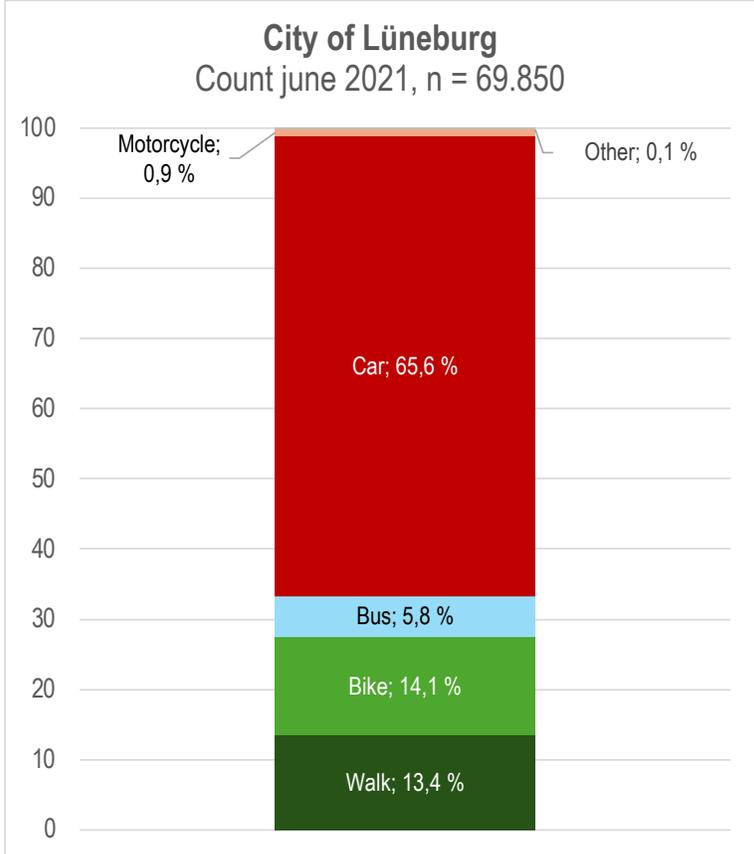
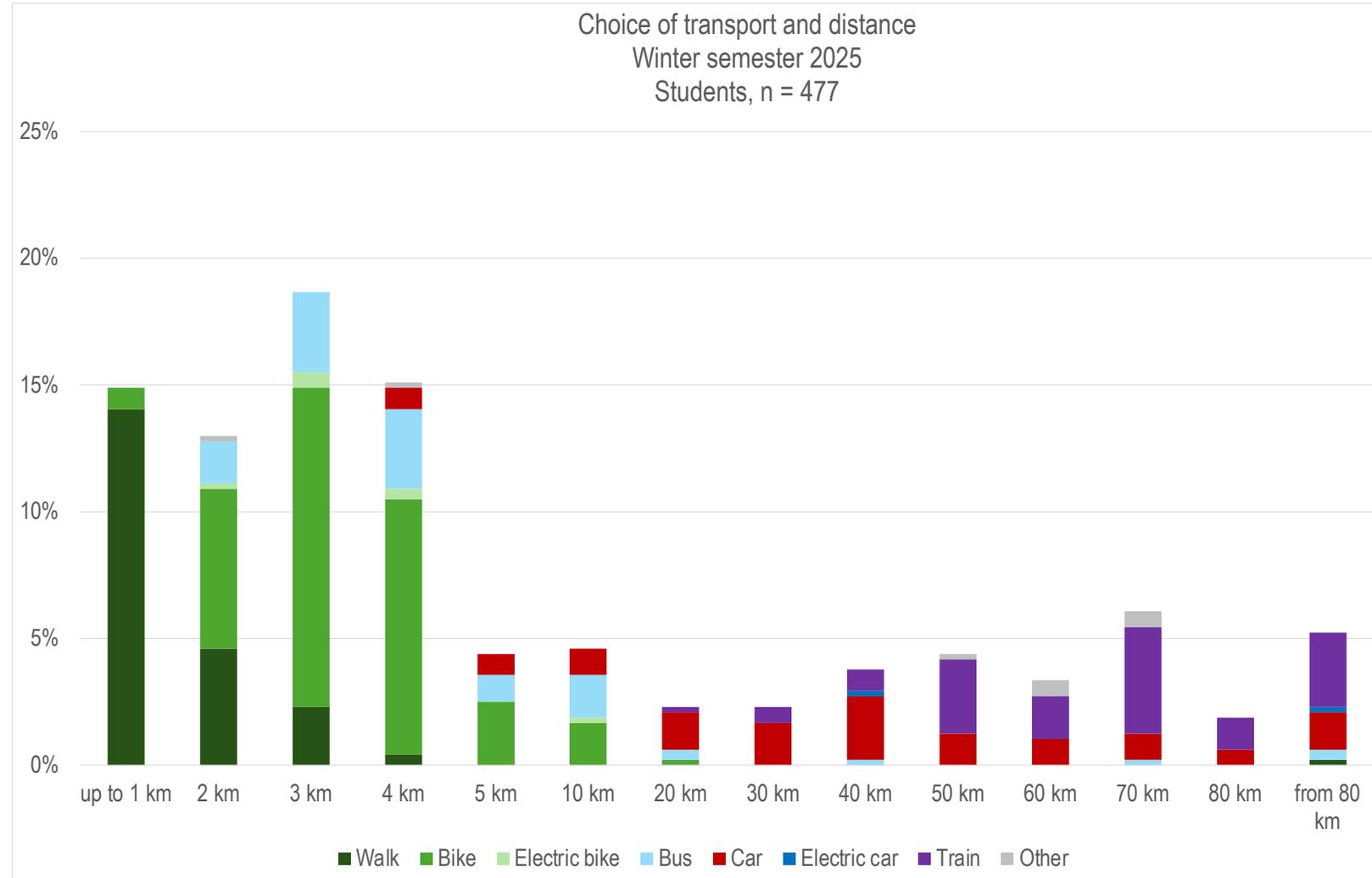


Fig. 3: Modal split 2021 City of Lüneburg, Count

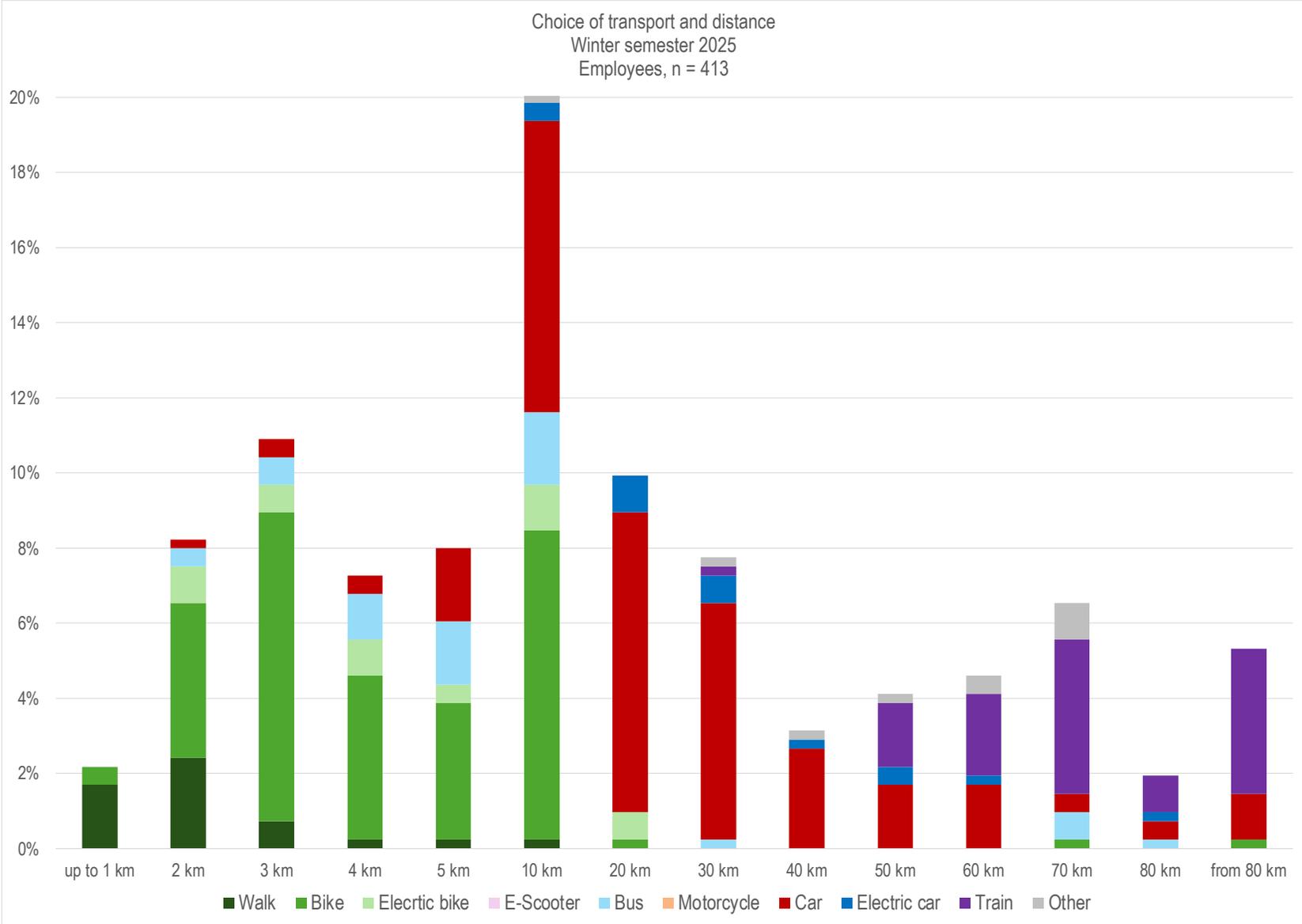
# DEPENDING ON DISTANCE STUDENTS

- Walking and cycling are highly dependent on distance.
- Walking reaches its limit at 3 kilometres.
- For distances of more than 1 kilometre, the bike dominates.
- 10 kilometres is a threshold beyond which neither the bike nor the bus are frequently chosen. Instead, cars and trains are used to travel to university.
- From 20 kilometres onwards, cars dominate, and from 50 kilometres onwards, train use strongly predominates.



# DEPENDING ON DISTANCE EMPLOYEES

- Walking and cycling show a high dependency on distance.
- Walking reaches its limit at 3 kilometres; few employees still walk up to 10 kilometres.
- Bikes dominate for distances between 2 and 10 kilometres.
- For distances between 20 and 40 kilometres, cars and electric cars are used almost exclusively.
- after 40 kilometres the train use increases significantly



# REASONS

The reasons are almost the same for students and staff.

There are hardly any differences between the summer and winter semesters. Except for bus use in the winter semester, the reason changes to 'weather'.

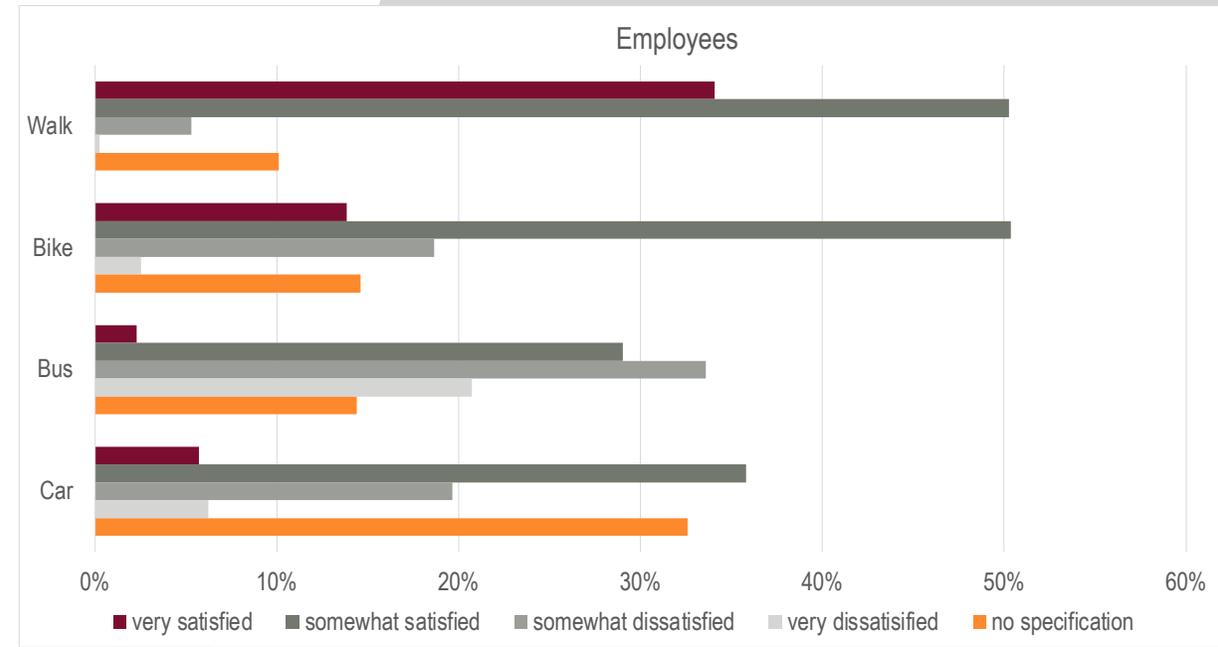
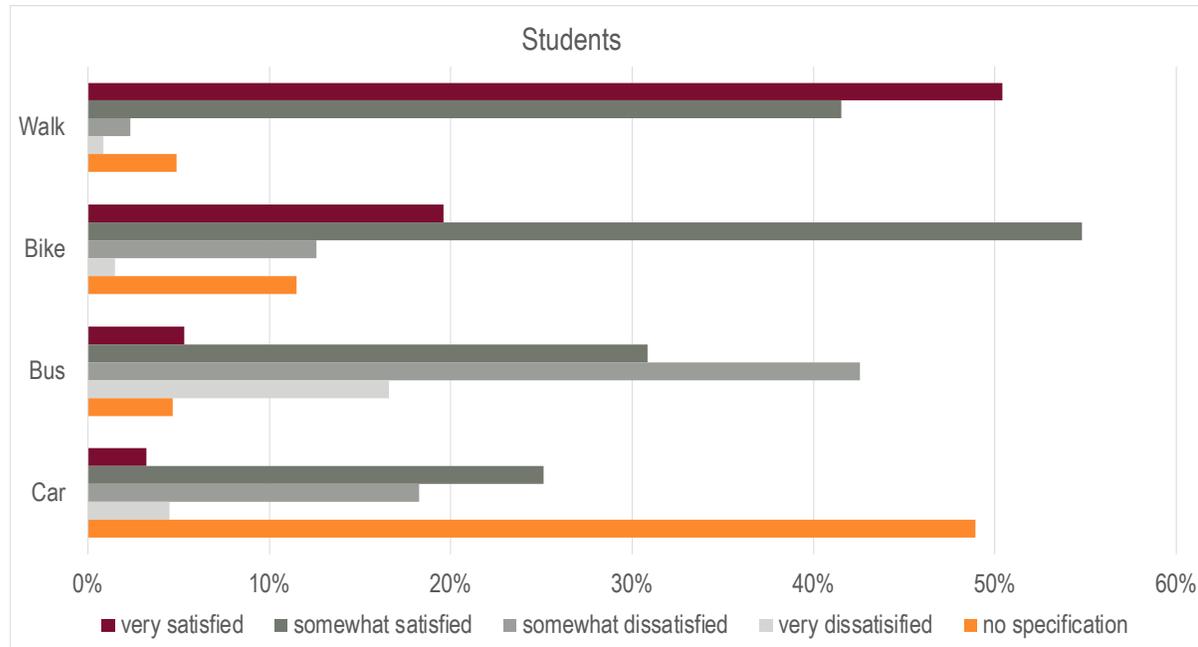
Common specific reasons:

- Bike: Bus timetables are inflexible and take too much time
- Car: Transportation of children, carrying a large amount of work materials for lessons and seminars
- Train: The time can be used for other activities

		Students	Employees
Walk	Summer semester	Distanz (38 %) Exercise (16 %)	Exercise (39 %) Distanz (33 %)
	Winter semester	Distanz (38 %) Fast (17 %)	Distanz (25 %) Exercise (17 %)
Bike	Summer semester	Fast (38 %) Flexibility (29 %)	Fast (26 %) Flexibility (22 %)
	Winter semester	Fast (38 %) Flexibility (26 %)	Fast (27 %) Flexibility (22 %)
Bus	Summer semester	Comfort (30 %) No alternative (22 %)	Comfort (27 %) Uncomplicated (27 %)
	Winter semester	Weather (40 %) Comfort (13 %)	Weather (35 %) Safety (13 %)
Car	Summer semester	Fast (29 %) No direct public transport(26 %)	Fast (34 %) No direct public transport(24 %)
	Winter semester	Fast (25 %) No direct public transport (25 %)	Fast (33 %) No direct public transport (22 %)
Train	Summer semester	No alternative (30 %) Costs (26 %)	Costs (20 %) No alternative (16 %)
	Winter semester	No alternative (26 %) Costs (26 %)	Costs (20 %) Comfort (16 %)

The two main reasons are listed below; further reasons can be found in the report 'Modal split 2025'.

# SATISFACTION WITH INFRASTRUCTURE



Students und employees are similarly satisfied with the infrastructure:

Walk: High satisfaction - Bike: Mostly satisfied - Bus: Mostly dissatisfied - Car: Somewhat satisfied

# IMPROVEMENT SUGGESTIONS

286 students and 233 employees made suggestions for improvement.

The participants mainly stated that the public transport and the cycling infrastructure should be improved.

Further categories:

- Public transport: Optimisation of network and routes
- Bike: Parking facilities, StadtRAD, more
- Car: Parking, road network
- Other

## Public transport: More buses and reliability

- Increase in bus departure times, including in the evenings
- Optimisation of bus departure times
- Coordination of bus services with train services and university operations
- Optimisation of bus departure times at the railway station
- Increased reliability of bus services

41% of students and 46% of staff submitted suggestions for this category.

## Cycling infrastructure

- Expansion and improvement of cycle paths
- Expansion and improvement of cycle paths
- Winter maintenance on cycle paths
- No cycle paths on the road
- Separate cycle paths and bus stops
- Improve traffic light timing for cyclists
- Expansion and improvement of footpaths, accessibility

33% of students and 30% of employees submitted suggestions for this category.

# CLIMATE BALANCE COMMUTER MOBILITY

## SCOPE 3 ACCORDING TO GREENHOUSE GAS PROTOCOL (GHG)

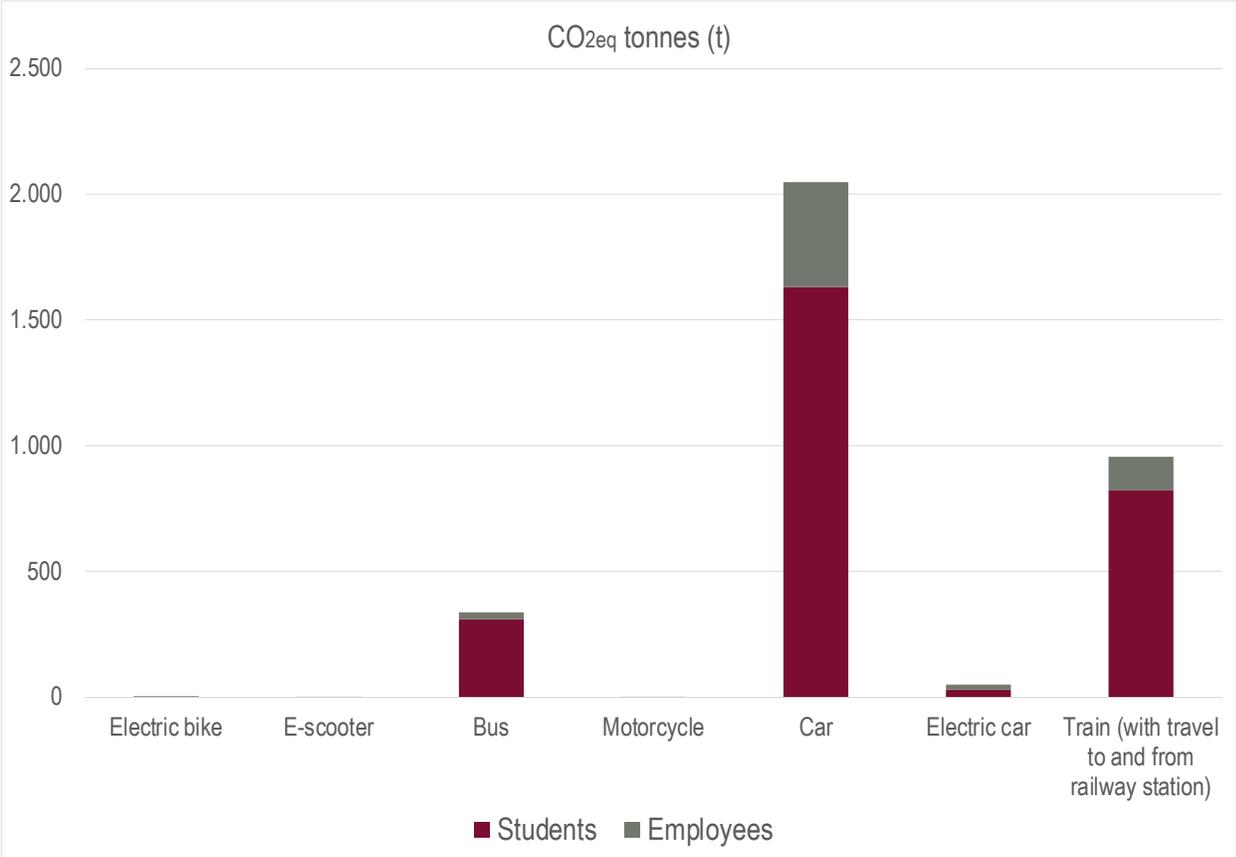
Commuting by employees and students is 3,391 tonnes of CO<sub>2eq</sub> per year.

CO<sub>2eq</sub> emissions from car traffic account for the highest share.

Key figures	CO <sub>2eq</sub> in kg per students	CO <sub>2eq</sub> in kg per employees
Electric bike	0,03	0,33
E-scooter	0	0,01
Bus	33	24
Motorcycle	0	0,14
Car	174	359
Electric car	3	18
Train (with travel to and from station)	88	113
<b>Total</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>515</b>

At 515 kg, CO<sub>2eq</sub> emissions per capita are a good quarter higher for employees than for students.

This is mainly due to the more frequent use of cars.



Emission factors according to Umweltbundesamt (2023); compare report „Modal Split 2025“

# THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE SURVEY

## Gender

**Students:** 68% are female (comparison: 63% university 2024) and 26% are male

**Employees:** 66% are female (comparison: 60% university 2024) and 29% are male

## Age

26% are between 20 and 24 years old

15% are between 25 and 29 years old

14% are between 30 and 39 years old

11% are between 40 and 49 years old

10% are between 50 and 60 years old

19% did not provide any information about their age

## Students: School

35% School of Sustainability

25% School of Education

13% School of Management and Technology

13% School of Culture and Society

13% School of Public Affairs

## Employees: School/Institution

47% Institutions/Administration

17% School of Sustainability

13% School of Education

12% School of Management and Technology

6% School of Culture and Society

6% School of Public Affairs

## Employees

57% non academic employees (comparison: 50% at Leuphana in 2024)

28% scientific staff (comparison: 35% at Leuphana in 2024)

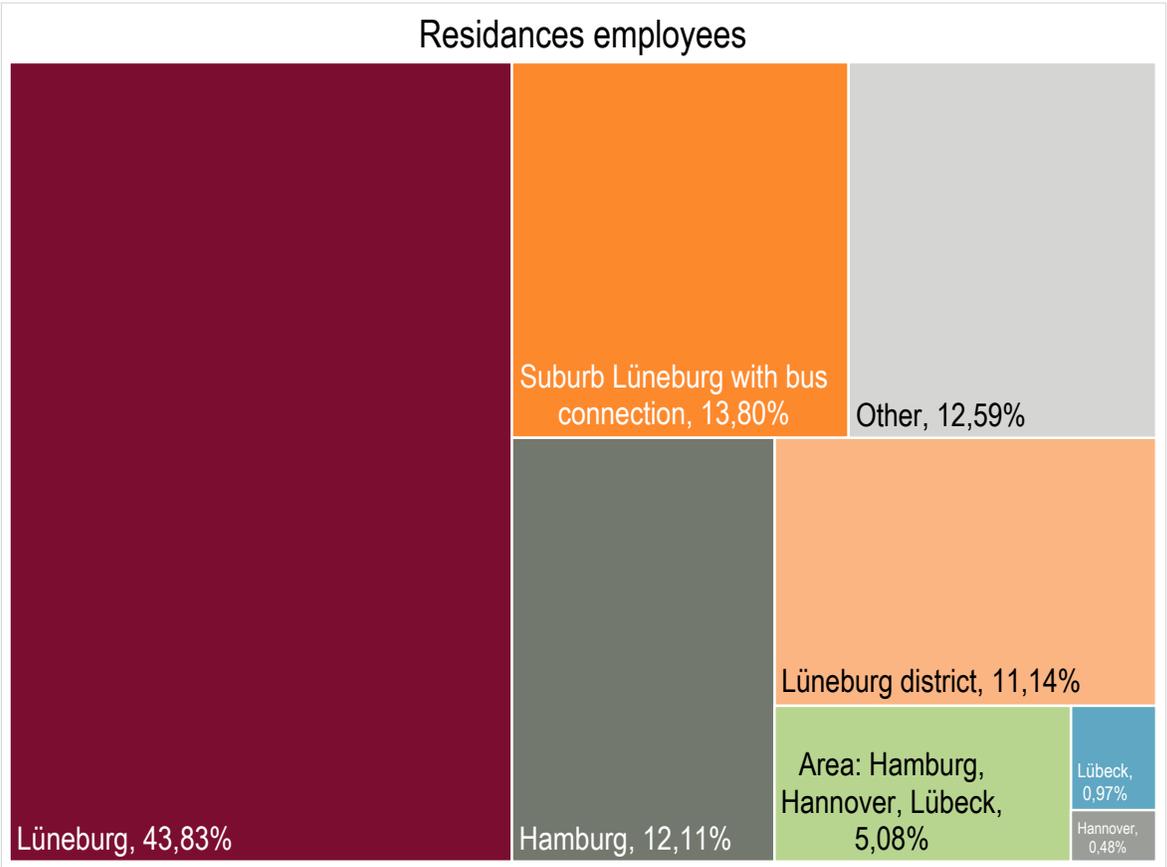
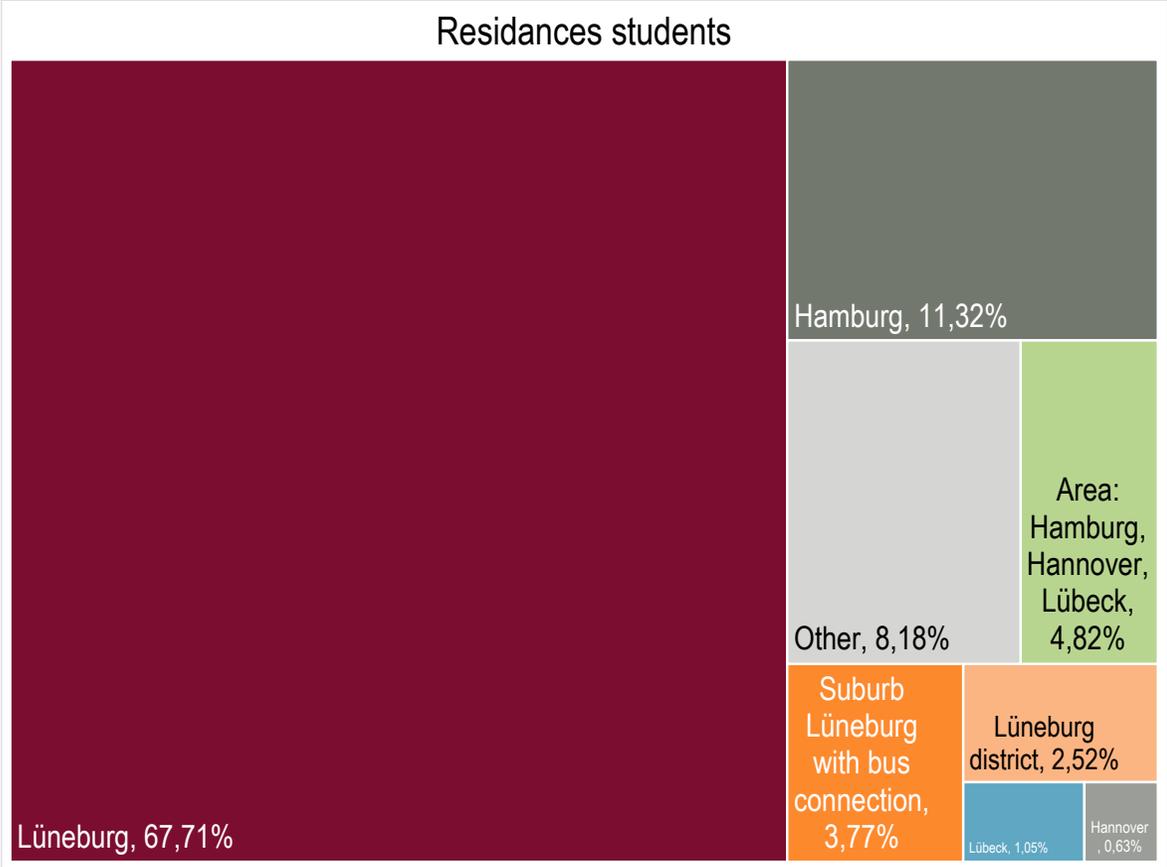
9% professors (comparison: 15% at Leuphana in 2024)

## Attendance at university

50% of **students** are on campus 4 to 5 days during term time and 55% are on campus a maximum of 1 day per week during the outside term time.

57% of **employees** are on campus 4 to 5 days during term time and 51% are on campus 4 to 5 days during the outside term time.

# PARTICIPANTS' PLACES OF RESIDENCE



# CONTACT & IMPRINT

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## Support

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