

Road freight economic, environmental and safety statistics



Department for Transport

Key results

- ▶ Estimates from the Labour Force Survey show there were more HGV drivers in 2014 (285,000); 10 per cent more than in 2013. Around 252,000 (88 per cent) were employees and 33,000 (12 per cent) were self-employed.
- ▶ There were more enterprises in the road freight industry in 2013 (31,858 in total); 9 per cent higher than the figure for 2012 and 15 per cent lower than the figure for 1999.
- ▶ The total amount of money generated by the road freight industry in 2013 (£22.9 billion) was 1 per cent higher than in 2012.
- ▶ The contribution to the UK economy of the road freight industry was lower in 2013 than in 2012, at £9.4 billion.
- ▶ At the end of 2013 there were 468,900 heavy goods vehicles over 3.5 tonnes gross vehicle weight licensed in Great Britain, of which 385,800 were taxed as 'goods vehicles'.



Of these goods vehicles, **111,000 were articulated vehicles** and **274,800 were rigid vehicles.**

- ▶ In 2013, there were 6,092 accidents reported to the police involving at least one HGV in Great Britain, with 8,448 casualties. Of those casualties, 258 were fatalities.

About this release

This statistical release summarises a number of economic, environmental and safety statistics about the road freight industry.

This release is part of a suite of statistical releases on different aspects of the road freight industry and draws on a number of pre-published statistical series from other government departments, mainly the Office for National Statistics and other teams in the Department for Transport.

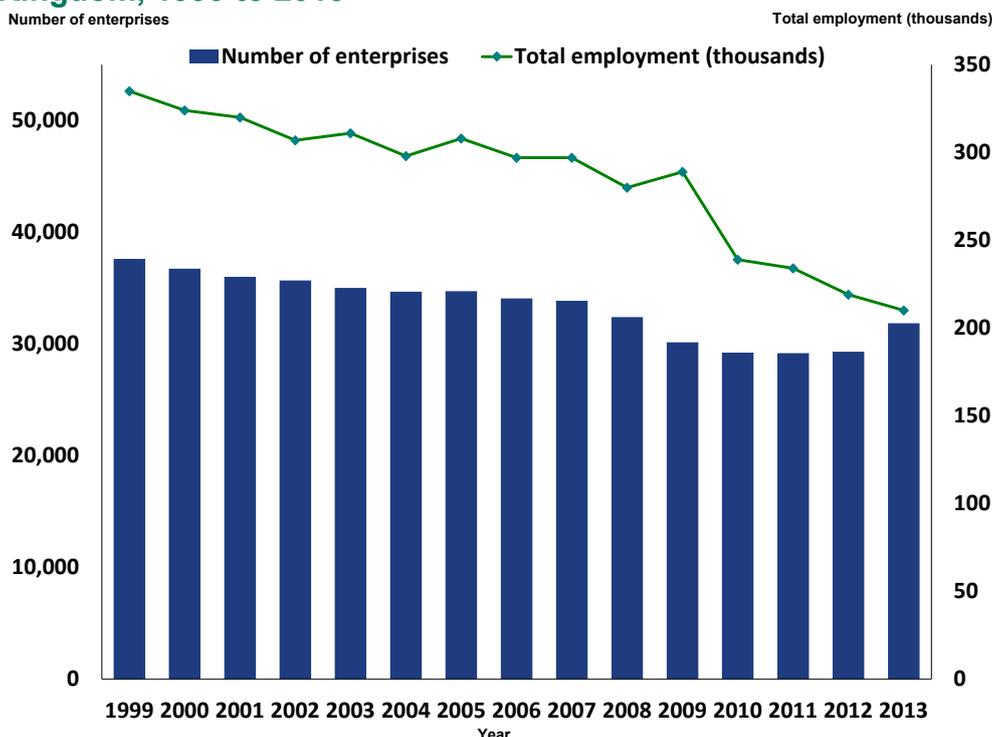
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Road freight economic activity

- There were 31,858 enterprises in the road freight industry in 2013 (provisional results from the latest Annual Business Survey). This was 9 per cent higher than the figure for 2012 and 15 per cent lower than the figure for 1999.
- These enterprises generated turnover for the road freight industry of £22.9 billion in 2013, 1 per cent higher than in 2012.
- Gross value added by the road freight industry was 4 per cent lower in 2013 than in 2012, at £9.4 billion.
- In 2013, there were approximately 210,000 people employed within sectors where the principal activity was road freight. This was 4 per cent lower than the figure of 219,000 in 2012 (**Chart 1**).

Chart 1: Road freight enterprises and employment, United Kingdom, 1999 to 2013



- Service Producer Price Indices (SPPI) for the freight transport by road industry showed very little change between 2012 and 2013, but was 31 per cent higher than in 2000. In 2013, SPPI for the freight forwarding industry were 1 per cent higher than in 2012 (**Chart 2**).

Definitions

Enterprise in road freight industry: based on the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC), is defined as an enterprise whose principal activity is within the road freight industry so will not include all those with a goods vehicle operator licence.

Turnover: the amount of money generated by a business in a particular period.

Gross Value Added (GVA): measures the contribution to the economy of each industry in the United Kingdom.

2012 to 2013

- ↓ 4 per cent decrease in number of people in employment in the road freight industry
- ↑ 9 per cent increase in number of road freight enterprises

Detailed statistics ...

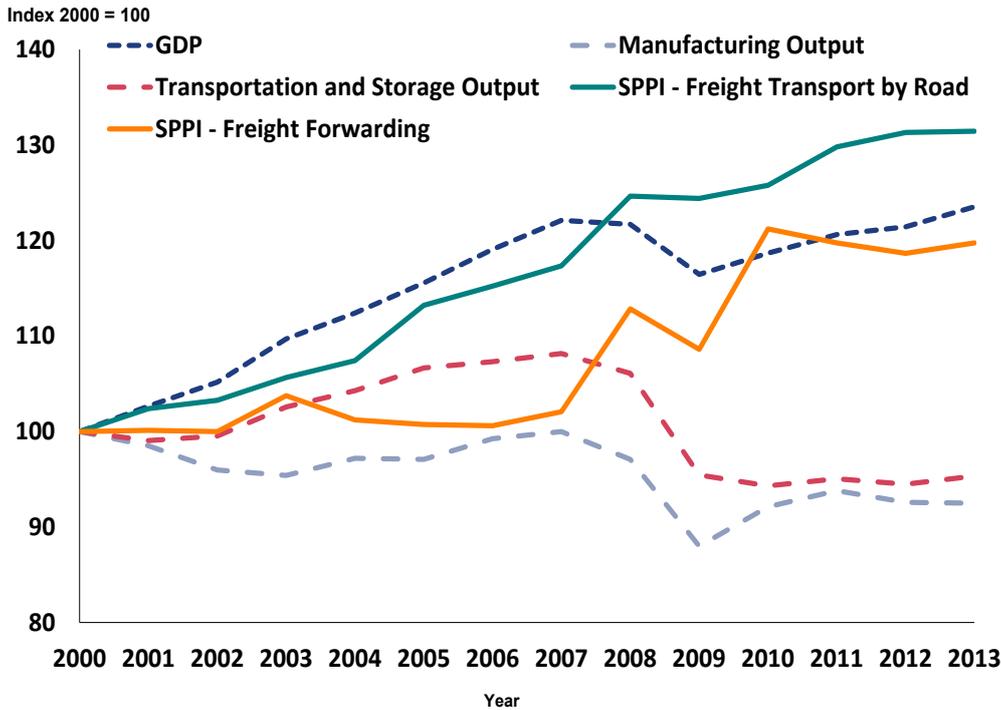
for the UK business economy can be sourced from the [Annual Business Survey, ONS](#)

Definitions

Service Producer Price Indices (SPPI): capture quarterly and annual changes in the price received for services provided by UK businesses to other UK businesses and Government.

Freight forwarding: the activity of arranging freight movement between businesses and transport companies.

Chart 2: Indices of road freight activity measures, United Kingdom, 2000 to 2013



2012 to 2013

➔ no change to SPPI for the freight transport by road industry

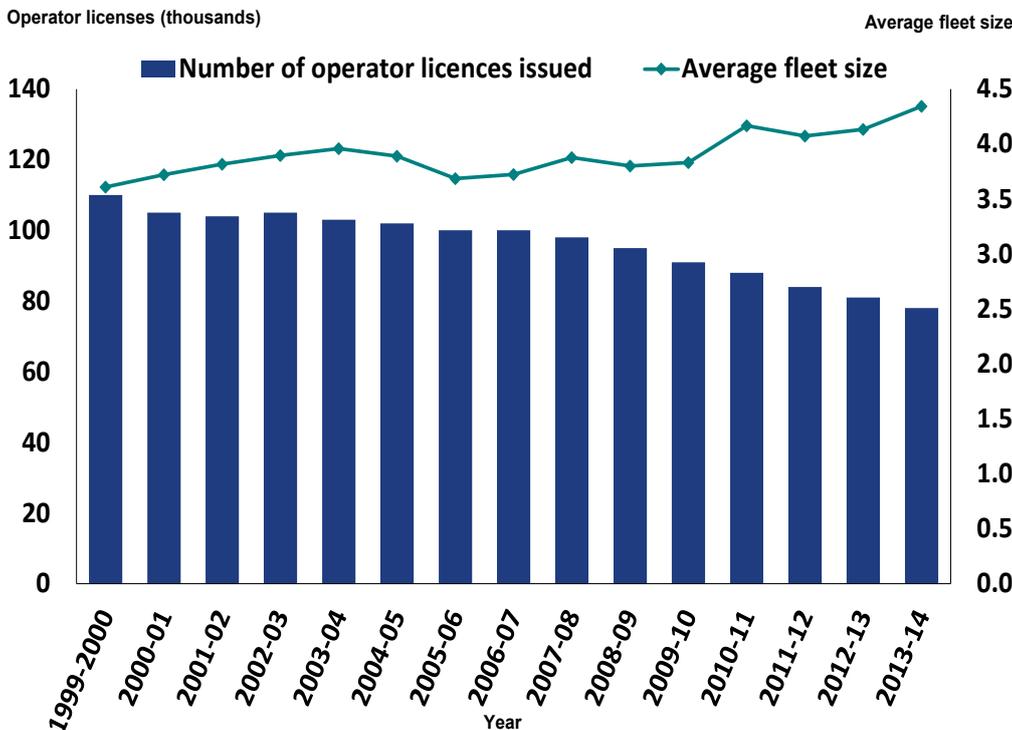
⬆️ 1 per cent increase in SPPI for the freight forwarding industry

Detailed statistics ...

on GDP and SPPI can be sourced from the [UK national accounts, ONS](#) and [Services Producer Price Indices, ONS](#)

• The number of goods vehicle operators in Great Britain declined from 110,000 in 1999-00 to 78,000 in 2013-14. The 2013-14 figure was 3.7 per cent lower than the year before. The average size of operators' fleets has increased from 3.6 vehicles in 1999-2000 to 4.3 vehicles in 2013-14 (Chart 3).

Chart 3: Goods vehicle operator licences issued in Great Britain and average fleet size, 1999-2000 to 2013-14



2012-13 to 2013-14

⬆️ 5.1 per cent increase in average fleet size

⬇️ 3.7 per cent decrease in number of goods vehicle operators

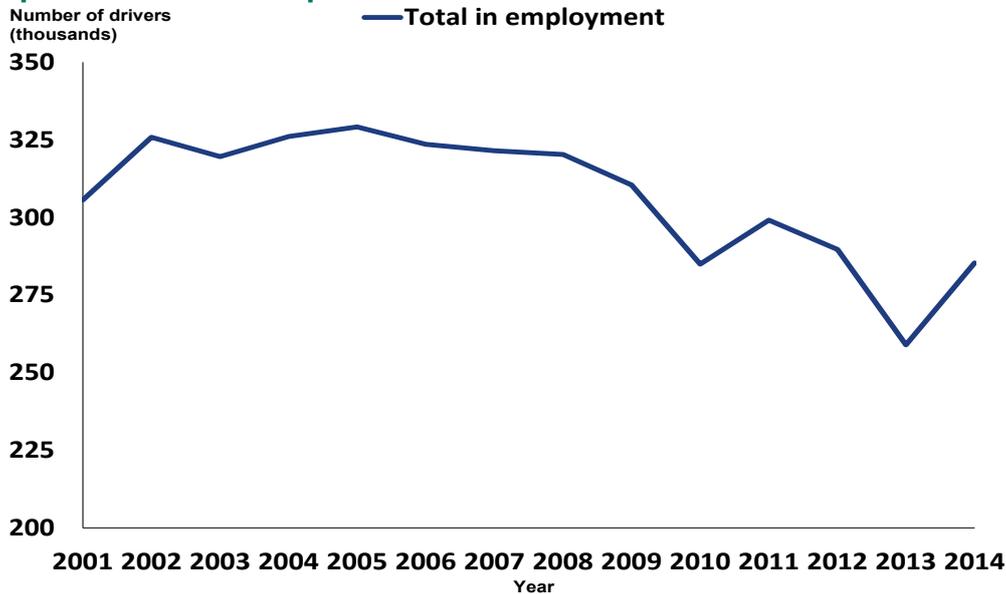
Detailed statistics ...

on the number of operator licences and fleet size can be found within the [Traffic Commissioners' annual reports](#)

Employment and unemployment of HGV drivers

- Estimates from the Labour Force Survey showed there were 285,000 HGV drivers in 2014 (April-June estimate), a 10 per cent increase on the 259,000 low in 2013. Prior to the recession there had been around 320,000 HGV drivers until 2009 when driver numbers started to decline (**Chart 4**).

Chart 4: Number of HGV drivers in employment, United Kingdom, April-June 2001 to April-June 2014



2013 to 2014

↑ 10 per cent increase in number of HGV drivers in employment

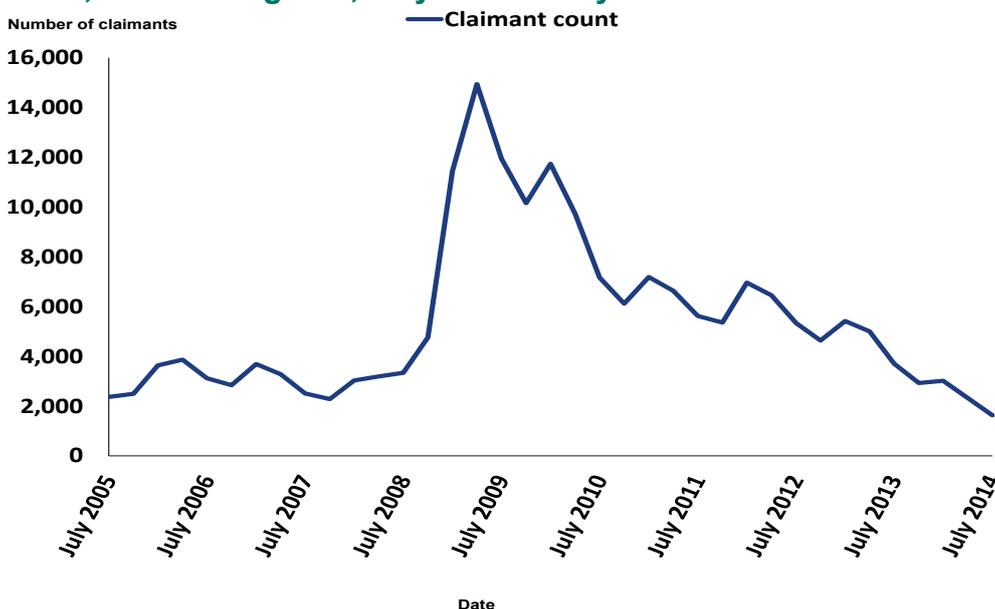
Detailed statistics ...

on the number of people in employment by occupation can be sourced from the [Labour Force Survey, ONS](#)

- The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings showed that in 2013, the median number of total paid hours worked per week (including overtime) by HGV drivers was 48. This figure has remained relatively similar since 2005. Prior to 2005 the average was generally higher at around 50 hours.

- In July 2014, 1,630 people claiming Jobseekers' Allowance stated that HGV driver was their usual occupation. This was 89 per cent lower than the 14,945 high in April 2009 during the recession (**Chart 5**).

Chart 5: Claimant count totals where usual occupation is HGV driver, United Kingdom, July 2005 – July 2014



July 2013 to July 2014

↓ 56 per cent decrease in number of people claiming Jobseekers' Allowance who stated that HGV driver was their usual occupation

Detailed statistics ...

on the number of claimants of Jobseekers' Allowance can be sourced from the [Nomis service, ONS](#)

The population of licensed goods vehicles

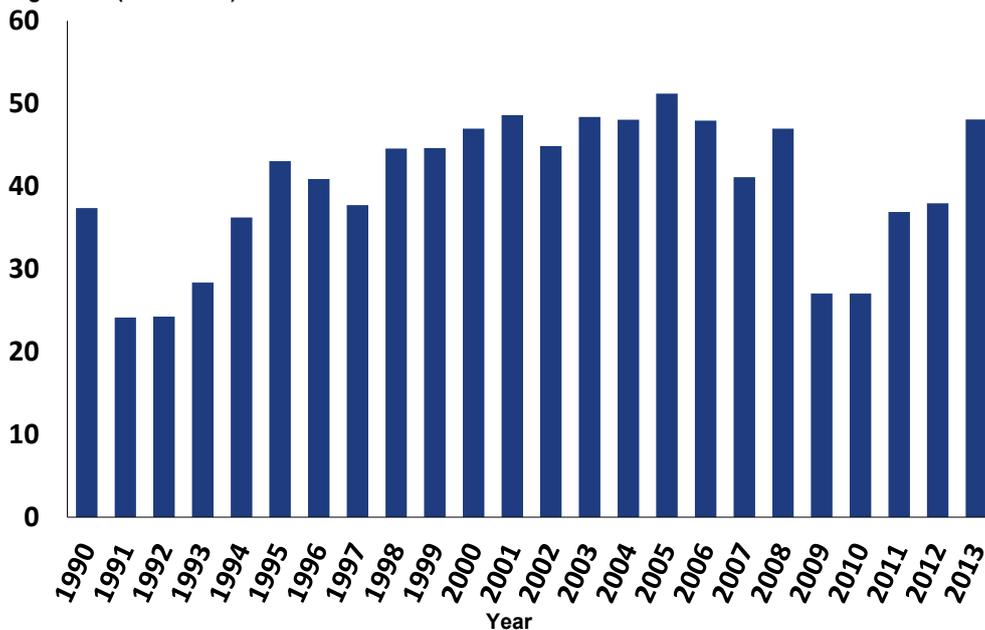
- At the end of 2013 there were 468,900 heavy goods vehicles over 3.5 tonnes gross vehicle weight licensed in Great Britain, of which 385,800 were taxed as 'goods vehicles'. The remaining vehicles were HGVs exempt from tax and those taxed as private HGVs.

- Of these goods vehicles, 111,000 were articulated vehicles and 274,800 were rigid vehicles. About a quarter of rigid goods vehicles were licensed as box vans.

- In 2013, there were 48,100 new goods vehicles over 3.5 tonnes licensed and taxed as 'goods vehicles'. This was a 27 per cent increase on the figure of 38,000 in 2012, and a 2 per cent increase on the number of new goods vehicles first registered in 2008 (**Chart 6**).

Chart 6: Goods vehicles over 3.5 tonnes registered by year, Great Britain, 1990 to 2013

Number of goods vehicles first registered (thousands)



- In recent years, of the number of articulated goods vehicles that have been licensed a greater proportion have been heavier vehicles. In 2000, around 26 per cent of articulated goods vehicles licensed were over 40 tonnes. In 2013 this proportion had risen to 77 per cent.

- In addition to the number of vehicles over 3.5 tonnes registered in Great Britain, there were 3.4 million light goods vehicles (LGVs) registered as at 31 December 2013. This was a 41 per cent increase on the total of 2.4 million in 2000.

Definitions

Box van: a van with rigid sides and a "box" mounted to the chassis



2012 to 2013

↑ 27 per cent increase in the number of new goods vehicles over 3.5 tonnes licensed

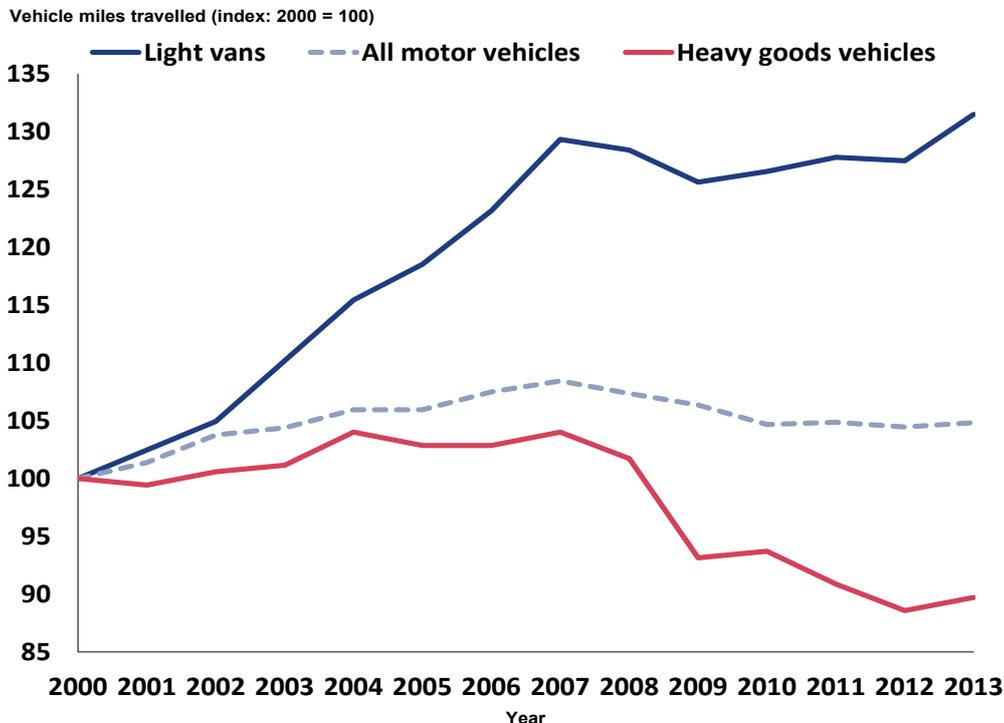
Detailed statistics ...

on Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) and Light Goods Vehicles (LGVs) can be sourced from [Vehicle licensing statistics](#).
[Department for Transport](#)

HGV and LGV road traffic

- In 2013 heavy goods vehicle traffic was 15.7 billion vehicle miles. This represented a 0.9 per cent increase from 2012 (**Chart 7**); although heavy goods vehicle traffic levels remained 10.6 per cent lower than in 2000.

Chart 7: Road Traffic for HGVs and LGVs in Great Britain, 2000 to 2013



2012 to 2013

↑ 3.2 per cent increase in light van traffic

↑ 0.9 per cent increase in heavy goods vehicle traffic

Detailed statistics ...

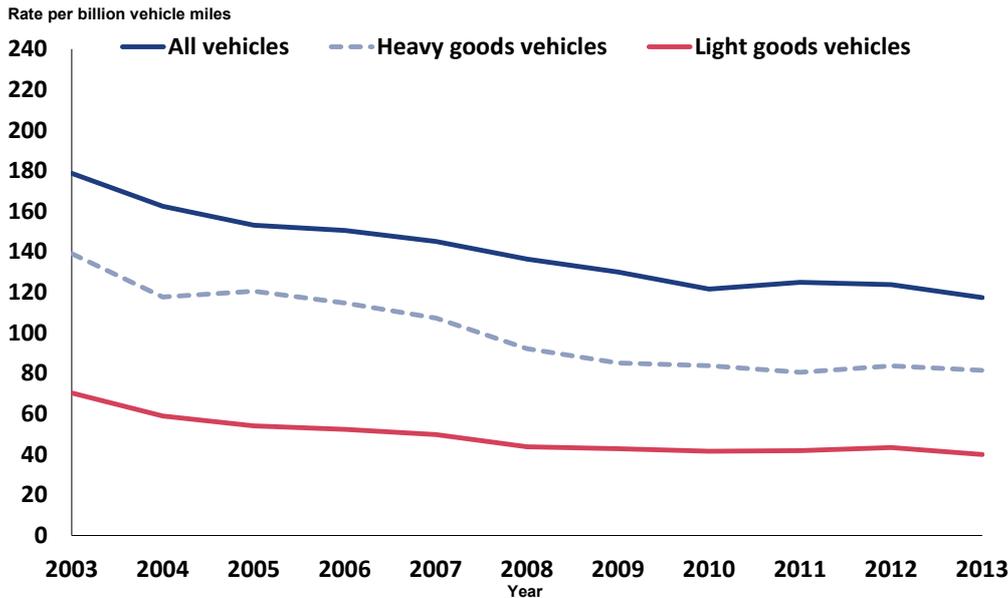
on road traffic volumes can be sourced from [Road traffic statistics](#), [Department for Transport](#)

- The proportion of HGV traffic that is made up by foreign registered vehicles is higher than for other vehicle types. In 2013, 3.3 per cent of HGV vehicle miles were driven by a foreign registered vehicle. This has decreased from 3.6 per cent in 2011 and 4.0 per cent in 2009.
- Light van traffic increased by 3.2 per cent between 2012 and 2013 to 42.6 billion vehicle miles. This was 31.3 per cent higher than 2000. Light van traffic reached a new peak in 2013, although not all of these vans would be carrying freight.
- The Road Traffic Estimates are different to those derived from the Department's road freight surveys mainly due to differing coverage; further information on the differences is available in the [methodology note on discrepancies between Road Freight and Road Traffic HGV traffic estimates](#).

Road accidents involving HGVs

- In 2013, there were 6,092 accidents involving at least one HGV in Great Britain, with 8,448 casualties. Of those casualties, 258 were fatalities.
- There were around 81 fatal or serious accidents involving HGVs per billion vehicle miles in 2013. This figure was lower than the rate for all vehicles (117 fatal or serious accidents per billion vehicle miles) and has decreased from 139 per billion vehicle miles in 2003 (**Chart 8**).

Chart 8: Involvement rates in reported road accidents, by vehicle type 2003-2013



2012 to 2013

↓ 3 per cent decrease in accident involvement rate for HGVs

↓ 8 per cent decrease in accident involvement rate for LGVs

Detailed statistics ...

on reported road accidents, vehicles and casualties can be sourced from [Road accidents and safety statistics](#), Department for Transport

Definitions

Particulate Matter: is a complex mixture of small particles and liquid droplets. Their size is directly linked to their potential for causing health problems. Fine particles (2.5 micrometers in diameter and smaller) can form from gases emitted from vehicles.

2011 to 2012

↑ 4 per cent increase in greenhouse gas emissions

↓ 16 per cent decrease in Particulate Matter emissions smaller than 2.5 micrometers

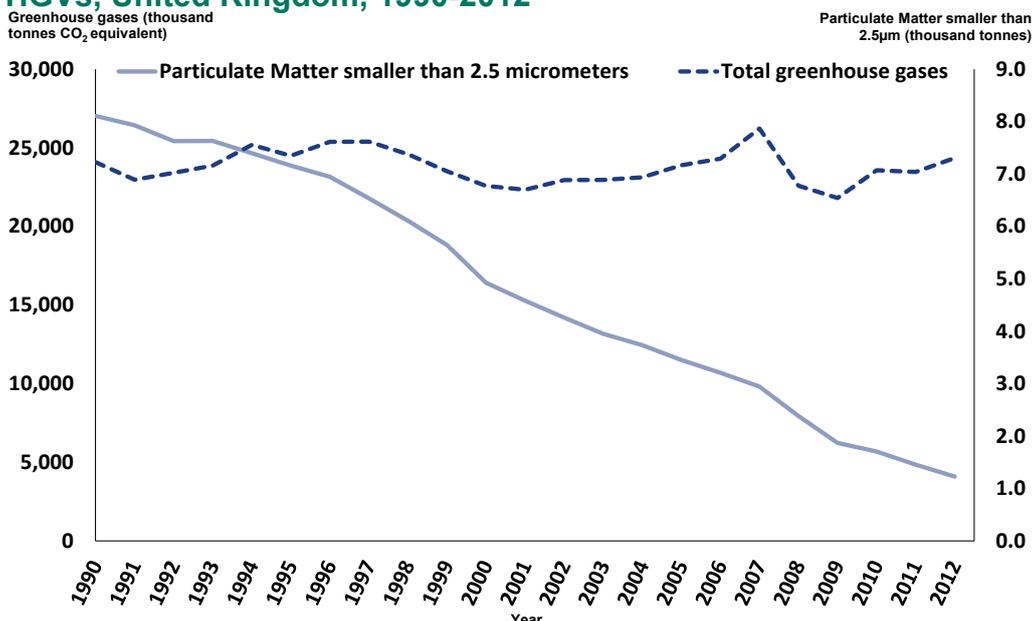
Detailed statistics ...

on UK emissions can be sourced from the [National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory, DECC/DEFRA](#)

Road freight industry and the environment

- Greenhouse gas emissions from HGVs increased by 4 per cent between 2011 and 2012, the latest data available (**Chart 9**). This increase was likely to be a result of an increase in road freight activity by HGVs; 2 per cent increase in the amount of **goods lifted** and a 4 per cent increase in the amount of **goods moved** by UK-registered HGVs over the same period¹.
- HGVs contributed around 1.23 thousand tonnes of Particulate Matter smaller than 2.5 micrometers in 2012, this was a decrease of 16 per cent from 2011 and continues the downward trend in particulate emissions.

Chart 9: Greenhouse gases and Particulate Matter emissions from HGVs, United Kingdom, 1990-2012



1. Estimates of the amount of goods lifted and goods moved are not currently designated as National Statistics, see the [methodology note](#) for more information.

Background Notes

- This statistical release is one of three providing information on the road freight industry in the UK. The others give information on the domestic activity of GB-registered HGVs, and the international activity of UK HGVs.
 - This release collates statistics from a number of published sources that are revised and updated throughout the year. The data for this release were extracted on 21 November 2014, and users can refer to the links below for the most recent or revised data available for each of the sources used, and also caveats relating to the sources.
- ▶ Annual Business Survey: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/abs/annual-business-survey/index.html>
 - ▶ Service Producer Prices Indices from the Office for National Statistics (ONS): <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/ppi2/services-producer-price-indices/quarter-2-2014/tsd-services-producer-price-index---quarter-2-2014.html>
 - ▶ ONS national accounts: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/naa1-rd/united-kingdom-national-accounts/the-blue-book--2014-edition/tsd-blue-book-2014.html>
 - ▶ HGV operators: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/traffic-commissioners-annual-reports>
 - ▶ Employment and unemployment of HGV drivers: <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/> and <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/lms/labour-force-survey-employment-status-by-occupation/index.html>
 - ▶ Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE): <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/search/index.html?pageSize=50&sortBy=none&sortDirection=none&newquery=Annual+Survey+of+Hours+and+Earnings+results>
 - ▶ Licensed heavy and light goods vehicles: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/veh05-licensed-heavy-goods-vehicles> and <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/veh04-licensed-light-goods-vehicles>
 - ▶ Department for Transport Road Traffic estimates: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/road-traffic-statistics>
 - ▶ Road Accidents and Safety Statistics: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/road-accidents-and-safety-statistics>
 - ▶ National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory, DECC/DEFRA: <http://naei.defra.gov.uk/data/data-selector>