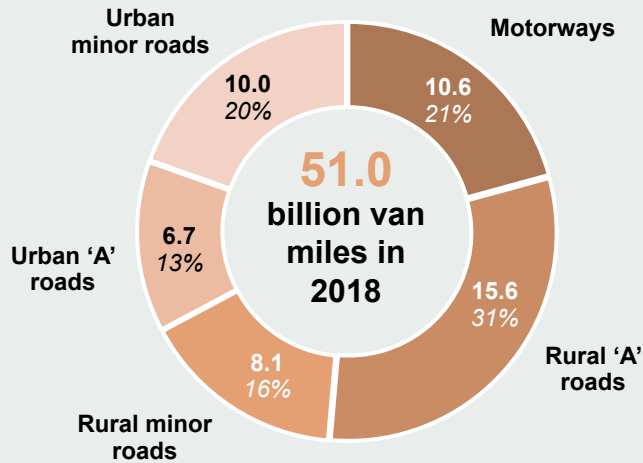




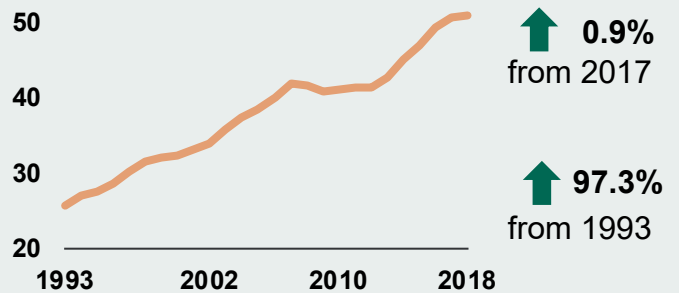
Vans (Light Commercial Vehicles)

Van traffic grew 0.9% between 2017 and 2018 to reach a record high of 51.0 billion vehicle miles; the fastest growth in percentage terms of any motor vehicle type.

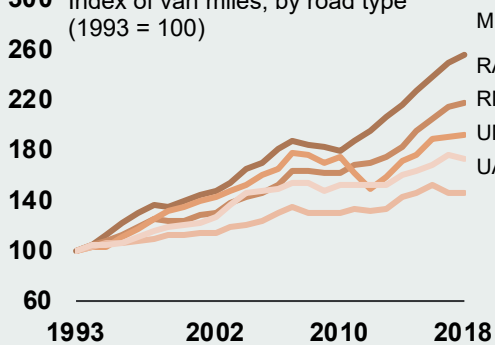


16% of motor vehicle traffic

Trend in van traffic, 1993 - 2018 (billion miles)



300 Index of van miles, by road type (1993 = 100)



Change in van miles travelled on...

	Motorways (M)	Rural 'A' roads (RA)	Rural minor roads (RM)	Urban 'A' roads (UA)	Urban minor roads (UM)
From 5 years ago	↑ 23.9%	↑ 25.3%	↑ 21.2%	↑ 9.3%	↑ 13.9%
From 10 years ago	↑ 38.6%	↑ 33.8%	↑ 9.3%	↑ 11.7%	↑ 12.5%

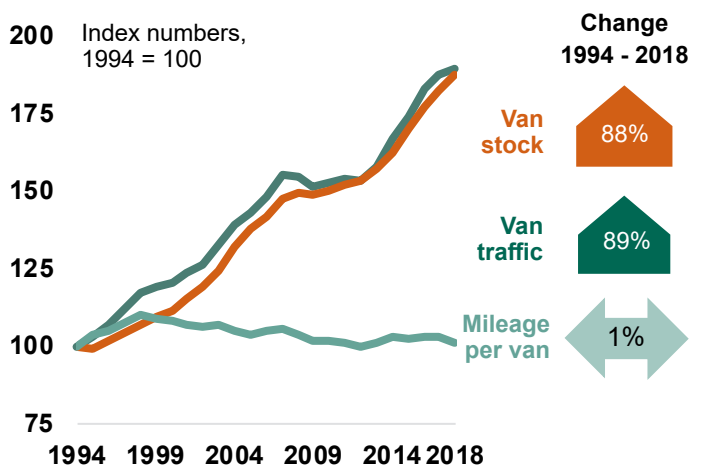
Van traffic rose to new record highs on all road types except urban roads between 2017 and 2018. Motorways and rural 'A' roads carried over half of all van traffic in 2018.

The rapid rise in van traffic over the last 25 years means that van traffic now makes up around 16% of total traffic, compared to 10% in 1993.

Why is van traffic rising so quickly?

Alongside the 89% increase in van miles between 1994 and 2018, the number of licensed vans rose 88% over the same period, from 2.1 to 4.0 million.

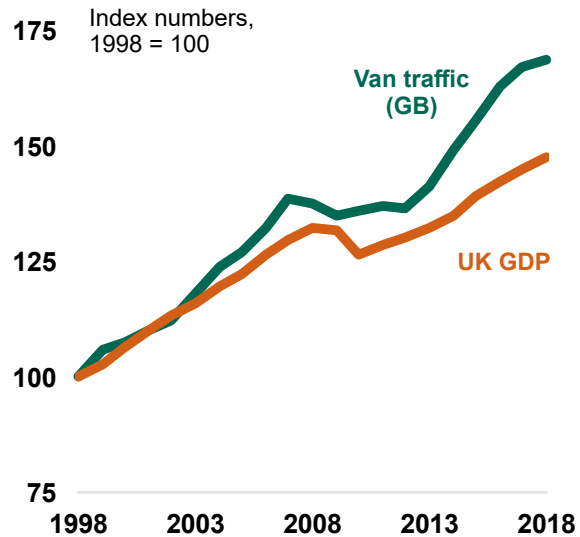
In contrast to the trend seen in average car mileage, the average annual mileage per van in Great Britain (estimated from van vehicle miles divided by van stock) has remained stable, at around 13,000 miles per year.



Over the last twenty years, trends in van traffic have followed changes in the economy closely. This is perhaps to be expected given the mainly commercial use of vans, and the variety of uses to which they are put*.

Gross domestic product (GDP) resumed growth after the 2008 recession, but van traffic grew even faster than GDP between 2012 and 2018. This additional growth may be linked to a shift in the way consumers and businesses operate.

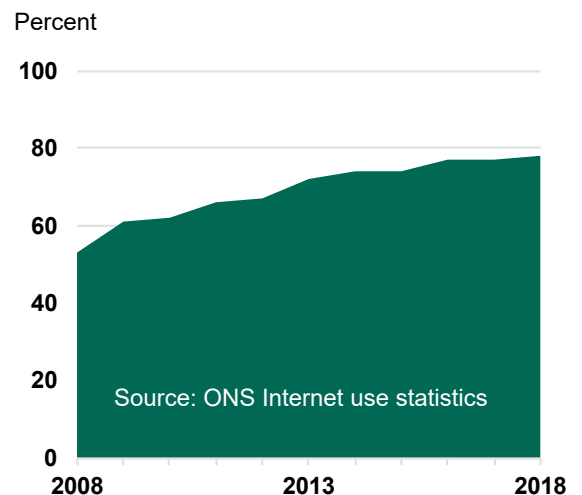
Indices of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and van traffic, 1998-2018



Drivers of this rapid growth could include:

- Growth in internet shopping and home deliveries. In 2018, 78% of adults shopped online at least once compared to 53% in 2008.
- Changes to company car taxation rules and vehicle excise duty in the early-to-mid 2000s, which may have made vans a cheaper alternative and so caused people to switch to vans from cars.
- Less strict regulation on driver training, driver's hours restrictions and roadworthiness testing for vans than for lorries, making it easier to find drivers for vans. This may encourage businesses to substitute vans for small lorries.

Percentage of people aged 16+ shopping online, 2008 - 2018



Van Definition



Light Commercial Vehicle (LCV; a.k.a. van) Goods vehicles not exceeding 3.5 tonnes gross vehicle weight

Survey into Light Commercial Vehicles

In 2019, the department commissioned a project to conduct research into the light commercial vehicle sector. The aim of this research is to provide robust and timely evidence of LCV travel activity and behaviours. Findings will be published in next years road traffic estimates publication.

* The most recent survey was undertaken in 2008, a postal survey of UK registered vans, to find out who owned vans, what they were used for, and how far they were driven. The DfT report can be found [here](#).

Sources and further information

Gross Domestic Product and **Internet usage** data are sourced from the [Office for National Statistics](#).