

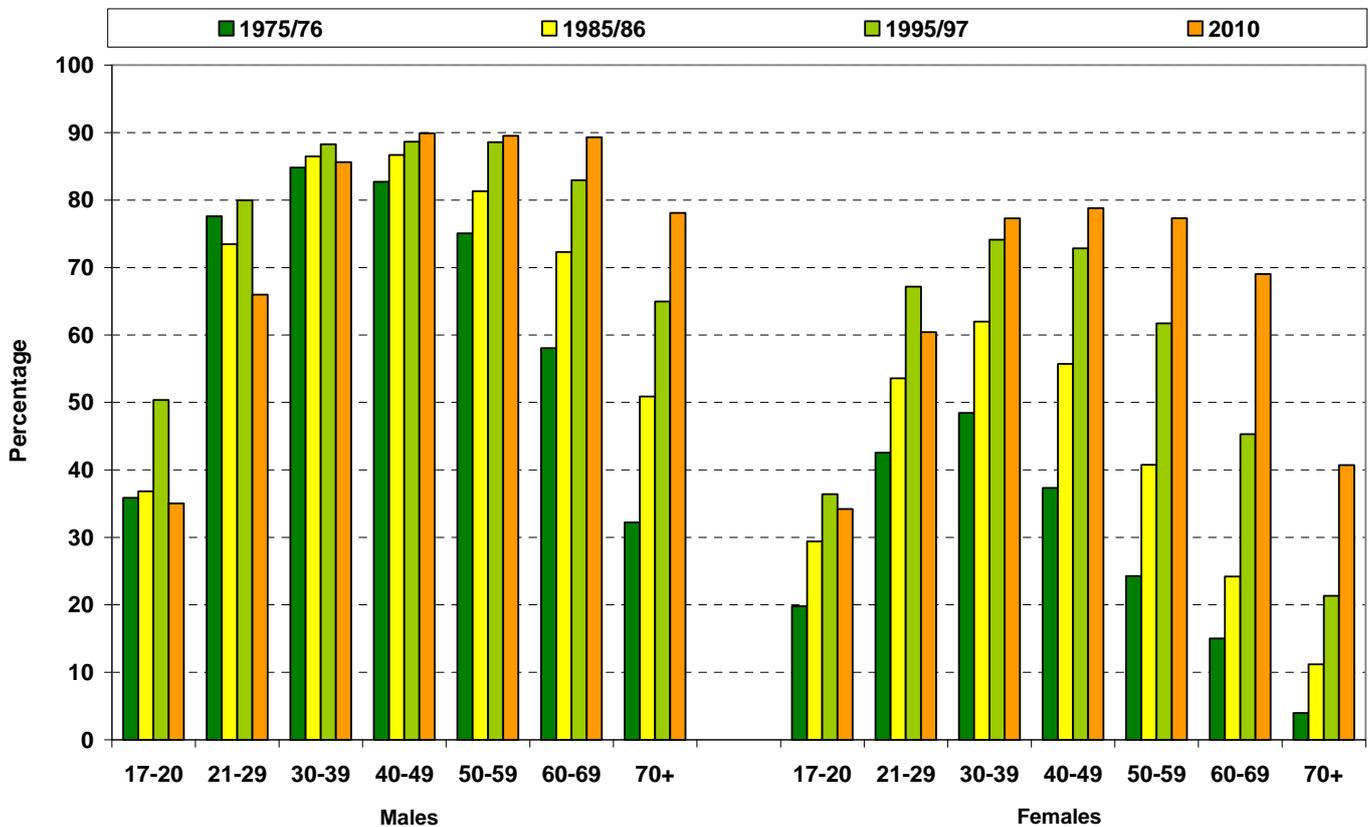


Driving licence holding and vehicle availability

This section shows the trends in driving licence holding and in car and motorcycle availability, both of which influence changes in personal travel patterns.

Driving licence holding

Full car driving licence holders by age and gender: Great Britain, 1975/76 to 2010 (NTS web table NTS0201)



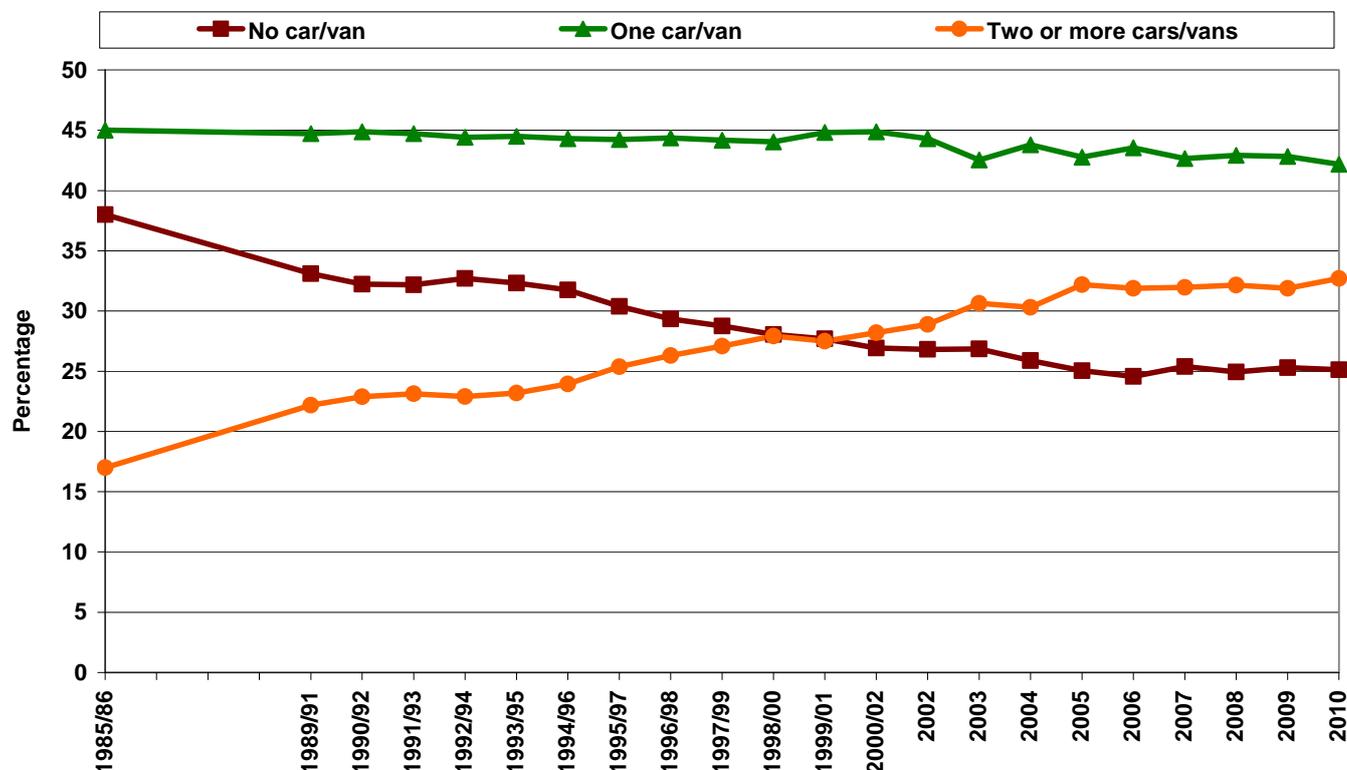
- As the chart above shows, over the long term there has been an increase in the proportion of both males and females holding a full driving licence for most age groups. Overall in 1975/76, 69% of males and 29% of females had a licence.
- In 2010, 80% of males and 66% of females had a licence. While the proportion of males holding a full driving licence remained fairly stable since the early 1990's, the proportion of females with a licence continued to increase.

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- The proportion of young adults (aged 17-20) with a full driving licence has decreased since the early 1990's although this trend started to reverse in 2005, but it has levelled off in recent years. In 1995/97, 43% of those aged 17-20 held a full licence, compared with a low of 27% in 2004 and 35% in 2010.
 - There has been a large increase in the number of older people holding a full driving licence. Between 1995/97 and 2010 the proportion of people aged 60-69 holding a licence increased from 63% to 79%. Over the same period, the proportion of people aged 70+ holding licences has increased from 38% to 57%. The increase among older women is particularly notable; 69% of women aged 60-69 and 41% aged 70+ held a licence in 2010 compared with 45% and 21% respectively in 1995/97.
 - The National Travel Survey monitors the reasons why people are choosing not to drive and the likelihood that non-licence holders will acquire a licence. Overall, the most common reasons mentioned for not learning to drive were 'family and friends drive when necessary' (33%) and 'not interested in driving' (31%). When asked for the main reason the majority of people said 'not interested in driving' (22%), followed by 'cost of learning to drive' (16%). In younger age groups, cost factors remain the main barrier to learning to drive. Of those aged 17-20, 54% mentioned 'cost of learning to drive' as a reason, 34% said the 'cost of insurance' and 33% said 'cost of buying a car'. When asked for the main reason the majority of 17-20 year olds said 'cost of learning to drive' (38%).
 - Of all non-licence holders the majority (60%) said that they never intend to learn to drive. This proportion increases with age – 6% of non-licence holders aged 17-20 said they never intend to learn compared to nearly all of those aged 60+.

Car and motorcycle availability

Household car availability: Great Britain, 1985/86 to 2010

(NTS web table NTS0205)



- The proportion of households in Great Britain which did not have access to a car fell from 38% in 1985/86, to 30% in 1995/97, and to 25% in 2005. It has remained at this level up to 2010. The proportion of households with two or more cars has increased from 17% in 1985/1986 to 25% in 1995/97 and to 33% in 2010. Since 2000, there have been more households with two or more cars than households with no car.
- The proportion of adults living in households with a car has risen over the last 35 years, but has levelled off in recent years. In 2010, 80% of adults lived in a household with a car compared to 59% in the mid-1970's, 69% in the mid-1980's and 77% in the mid-1990's. In 2010, 83% of men and 78% of women lived in a household with a car.
- Households with a car are more likely to own a motorcycle as well than households with no car. Overall in 2010, 2.7% of households owned a motorcycle. Of those households without a car 1.2% owned a motorcycle, while 2.5% of households with one car also owned a motorcycle and 4.3% of households with two or more cars also owned a motorcycle.

Detailed statistics (tables and charts) on “driving licence holding and vehicle ownership” can be found on National Travel Survey 2010 web page at:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/statistics/releases/national-travel-survey-2010>,
table numbers [NTS0201 to NTS0207](#).

Background notes

1. Further information about the National Travel Survey can be found at:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/statistics/series/national-travel-survey>

2. Full guidance on the methods used to conduct the survey, response rates, weighting methodology and survey materials can be found in the National Travel Survey 2010 Technical Report at:

<http://assets.dft.gov.uk/statistics/series/national-travel-survey/nts2010-technical.pdf>

3. A Notes & Definitions document which includes background to the NTS, response rates, sample size & standard error information and a full list of definitions can be found at:

<http://assets.dft.gov.uk/statistics/releases/national-travel-survey-2010/nts2010-notes.pdf>