

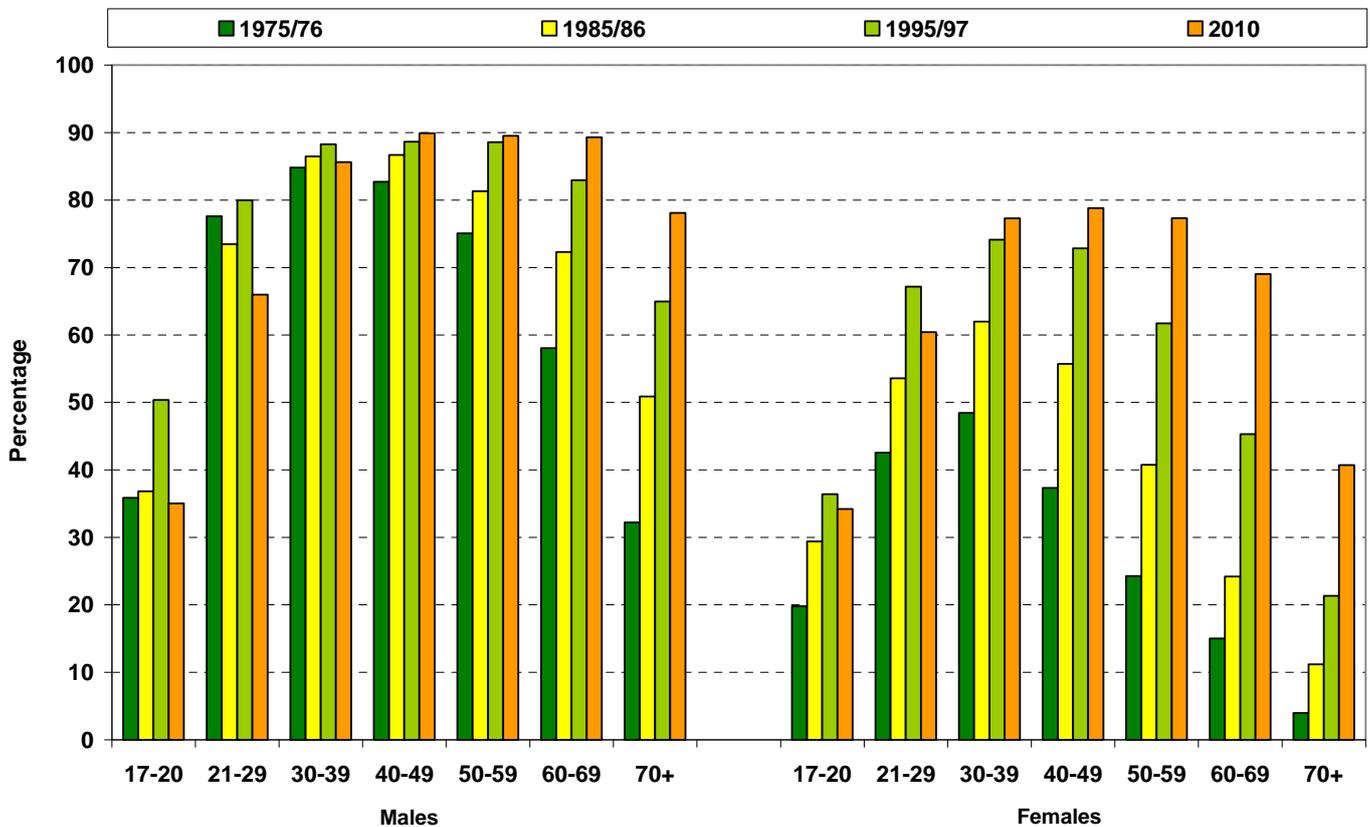


## Driving licence holding and vehicle availability

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)



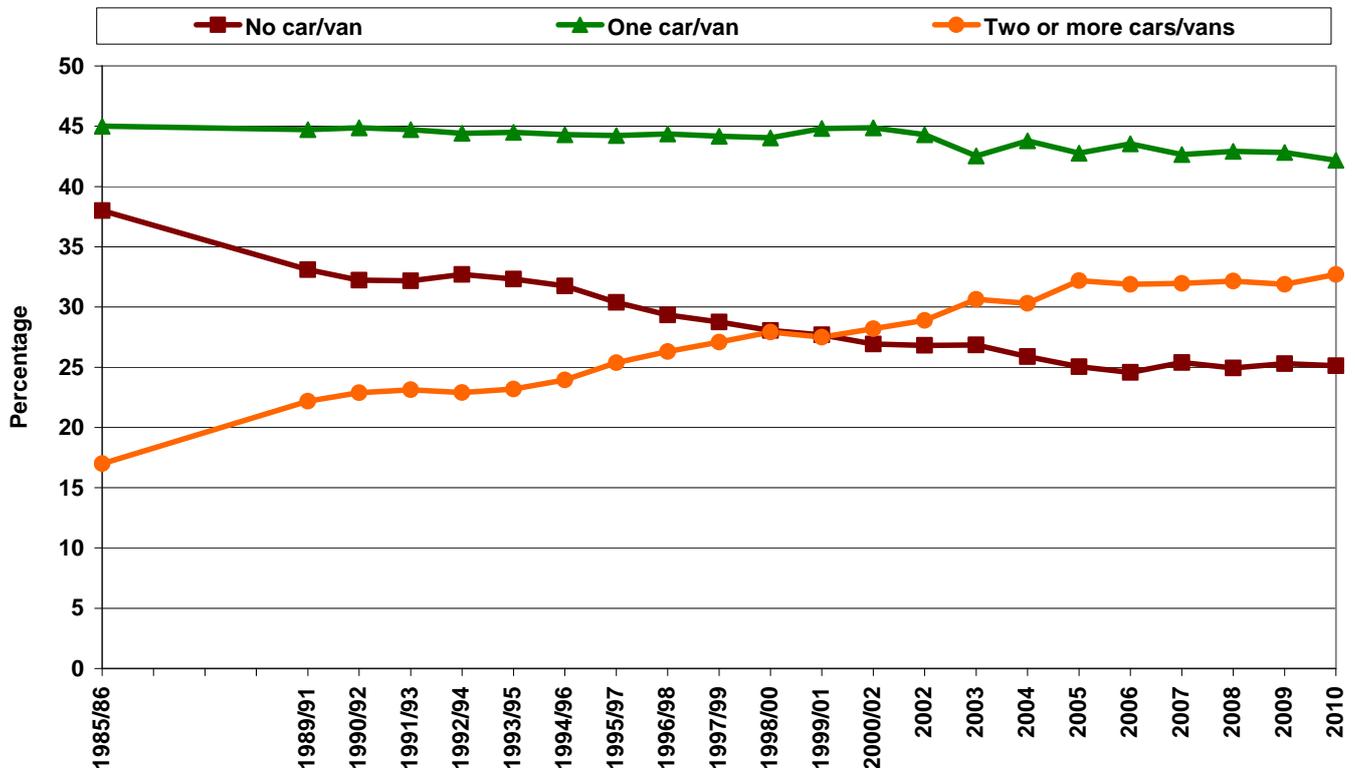
- As the chart above shows, over the long term there has been an increase in the proportion of both males and females holding a full driving licence for most age groups. Overall in 1975/76, 69% of males and 29% of females had a licence.
- In 2010, 80% of males and 66% of females had a licence. While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

- 
- 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>