Statement of Administrative Sources

Journey Time Database – Locally Managed Roads

Collection
Data about journey times on locally managed A roads in England are generated from the recorded movements of around 60,000 probe vehicles equipped with in-vehicle Global Positioning Systems (GPS).

Application
The data are used by Trafficmaster Ltd, the data supplier, to monitor live congestion levels and allocate the fastest moving routes to vehicles equipped with their satellite navigation system.

Access and Dissemination
The data are used by Trafficmaster, the data supplier, to monitor live congestion levels and allocate the fastest moving routes to vehicles equipped with their satellite navigation system. Once the data are made available to the Department, aside from a small subset provided to the Highways Agency for use in the Strategic Road Journey Time Database, they are not shared in the period before they are processed and converted into official statistics.

Non-statistical Publication
None

Statistical publication
The data provided by Trafficmaster are the only source of journey time data used in the calculation of the following official statistics:
- *Congestion on local authority managed A roads (quarterly)*

The subset of Trafficmaster data provided to the Highways Agency are used alongside other sources of journey time data in the derivation of the following national statistics:
- *Reliability of journeys on Highways Agency's motorway and A road network (monthly)*

Synergies
There are no public manifestations of the data before publication as official statistics.

Security/Data Protection arrangements
The data are provided to the Department on a monthly basis on encrypted hard disks and are then imported into a SQL database, where access to the data is strictly controlled.

Statistical End-Products
Congestion on local authority managed 'A' roads (quarterly)

Reliability of journeys on Highways Agency's motorway and A road network (monthly)

Published by the Congestion Statistics Branch, Department for Transport. Contact Point: congestion.stats@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Administrative/Management Source or System
Title: Trafficmaster journey time data
Owner: Trafficmaster Ltd
Purpose: To monitor live congestion levels and allocate the fastest moving routes to vehicles equipped with Trafficmaster's satellite navigation system
Unit of Inquiry: Vehicles equipped with Trafficmaster's satellite navigation system
Intended coverage: All roads within England
Completeness: The exact coverage varies from month to month based on the movements of Trafficmaster's subscribers
Geographical coverage: England
Lowest level of geographical coverage: Individual road links on Ordnance Survey's Integrated Transport Network (ITN)
Extent to which statistical end-producers can influence the system: The Department specifies the version of the road network to which the data are mapped and how the data are validated by Trafficmaster
Data definitions used: Provided in congestion statistics bulletins
Classification systems used: Provided in congestion statistics bulletins
Periodicity/Timing: GPS data are collected by Trafficmaster on a constant basis. The data are processed and provided to the Department every month.
Validation procedures: The data are checked by both Trafficmaster and the Department before being used for statistical analyses. All statistical outputs are thoroughly quality assured before release.
Access arrangements: Trafficmaster have constant access to the raw data and use it for their own purposes. Within the Department, access to the statistical outputs is limited to 24 hours and only for those involved in ministerial briefing
Dissemination procedures: Statistical outputs are released through quarterly web publications, in accordance with the National Statistics code of practice
Timing/Periodicity of public release: Quarterly, around 6 weeks after the end of the period to which the data refer
Nature of changes to the system/source which can impact on the statistics: The raw GPS data are mapped to a new version of the Ordnance Survey's Integrated Transport Network each year. This is necessary to allow for ongoing changes to the road network in England.

Change Process
Definitions are kept constant over time.

The subsequent statistical production process
Validation procedures: The raw data are checked by both Trafficmaster and the Department before being used for statistical analyses. All statistical outputs are thoroughly quality assured before release.
Quality assessment: Not yet been assessed

Periodicity of release: Quarterly

Potential impact of changes to the administrative/management system on the statistics: Changes in the supplier of journey time data or the way the raw GPS data are processed and mapped to the network can result in break-points to the statistical series.

Procedures for mitigating such discontinuities: The data source and methodology will remain fixed until December 2012. The Department will ensure an appropriate cross-over period between any subsequent changes in the data source or methodology so that the effects of the change can be properly accounted for.

Last updated: November 2011