

15 December 2011

## Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Statistics: 2011

This statistical release presents information on taxis and private hire vehicles (PHVs) in England and Wales as at 31 March 2011 and includes information relating to the number of licensed vehicles, drivers and (for PHVs only) operators.

Figures are updated every two years. They are collected through a survey of licensing officers for each lower tier local authority in England and Wales.



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### The key findings from Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Statistics 2011 include:

- There were 78,000 licensed taxis in England and Wales as at 31 March 2011. Of these 73,000 were in England, an increase of 3 per cent from 2009, the last time that this information was collected.
- In 2011, in England 44,300 licensed taxis were wheelchair accessible – 61 per cent of the total.
- There were 155,100 licensed Private Hire Vehicles (PHVs) in England and Wales as at 31 March 2011. 150,900 of these were in England, an increase of 3 per cent compared with 2009.
- 31 per cent of licensed taxis and 34 per cent of licensed PHVs in England were in London.
- Overall, there were 299,200 licensed taxi or PHV drivers in England and Wales, with 287,300 of these in England (an increase of 5 per cent compared with 2009).

### RESPONSIBLE STATISTICIAN

Matthew Tranter  
020 7944 3076

### FURTHER INFORMATION

**Media Enquiries:**  
020 7944 3066

### Public Enquiries:

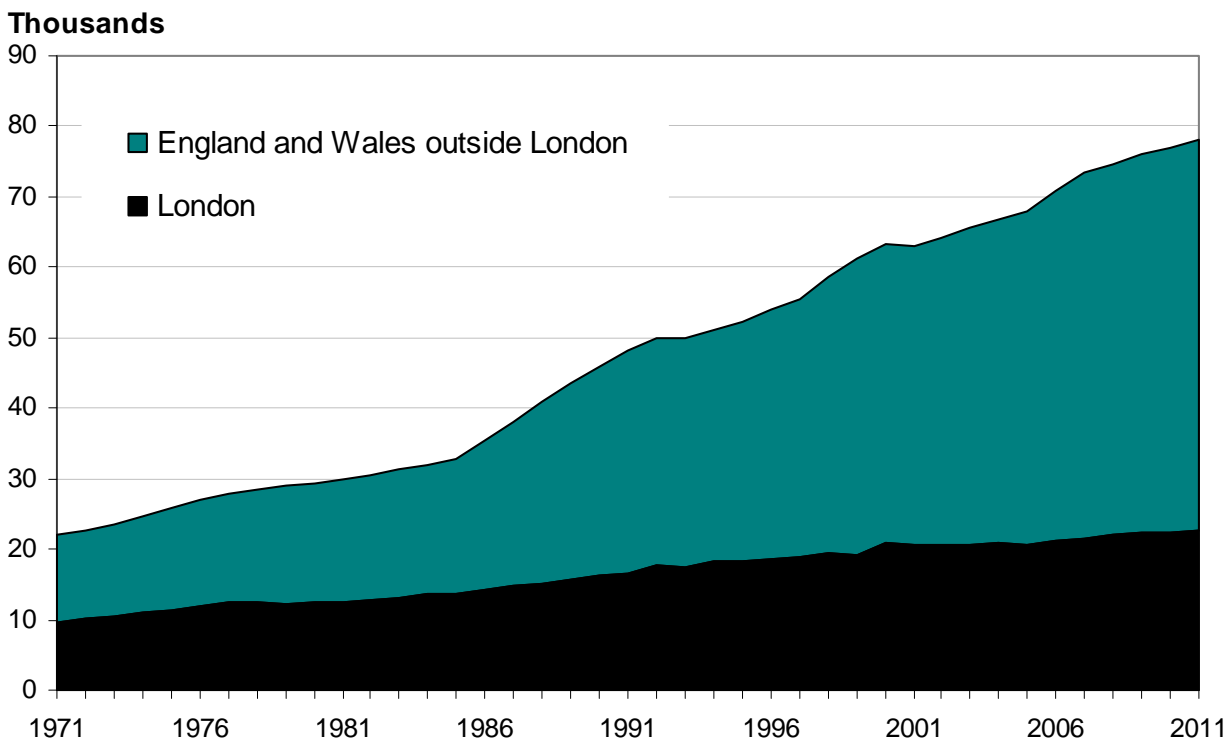
Paul Syron  
020 7944 3094  
bus.statistics@dft.gsi.gov.uk

## 1. Licensed taxis

- There were 78,000 licensed taxis in England and Wales as at 31 March 2011. Of these 73,000 were in England, an increase of 3 per cent from 2009, the last time that this information was collected. The number of licensed taxis has increased steadily over several decades (see chart), with a faster rate of increase following the 1985 Transport Act which amended the circumstances in which a local authority could control taxi licences.
- There were 22,600 licensed taxis in London at 31 March 2011, 31 per cent of the total in England. The South East and North West are the regions outside London with most taxis, having 9,700 and 8,100 respectively in 2011.
- In 2011, in England 44,300 licensed taxis were wheelchair accessible (either purpose built, or converted) – 61 per cent of the total. All London taxis are wheelchair accessible. Outside London, the proportion varies from 72 per cent in the West Midlands to 26 per cent in the South East (see table TAXI0103 for complete figures).

### Number of Licensed taxis: England and Wales, from 1971

(Taxi statistics web table TAXI0101)



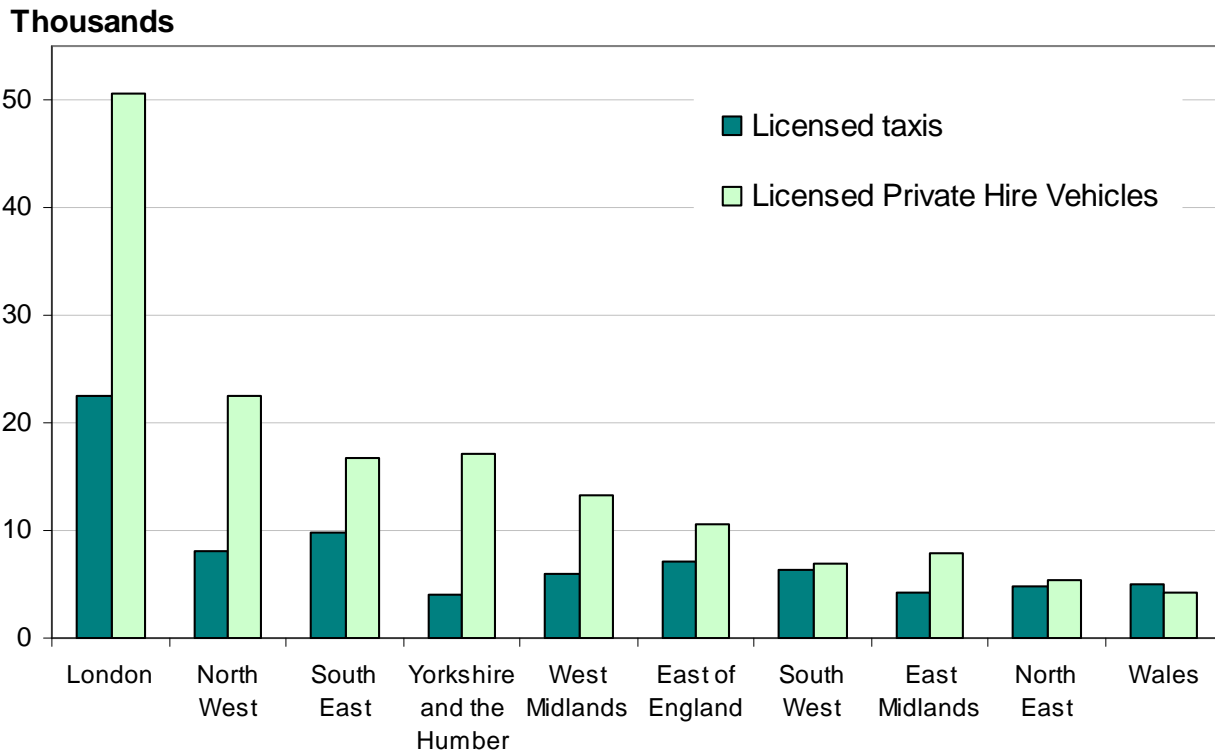
## 2. Licensed private hire vehicles (PHVs)

- There were 155,100 licensed Private Hire Vehicles (PHVs) in England and Wales as at 31 March 2011, with 150,900 of these in England. This represents an increase of 3 per cent compared with 2009. An estimated 3,600 PHVs in England were wheelchair accessible.

- Over a third (34 per cent) of licensed PHVs were in London, where there were 50,700 licensed vehicles in 2011. The North West (22,500), Yorkshire and Humber (17,100) and South East (16,800) were the areas outside London with most licensed PHVs (see chart).
- There were a total of 16,700 licensed PHV operators in England and Wales at end March 2011. 15,900 of these were in England (compared with 16,500 in 2009).

### Number of Licensed taxis and PHVs by region: England and Wales, March 2011

(Taxi statistics web table TAXI0103. Regions ordered by total licensed vehicles)



### 3. Licensed taxi and PHV drivers

- Overall, there were 299,200 licensed taxi or PHV drivers in England and Wales, with 287,300 of these in England (an increase of 5 per cent compared with 2009).
- Of the total licensed drivers in England, 54 per cent were licensed PHV-only drivers, 23 per cent licenced taxi-only with 23 per cent having dual taxi/PHV licences.
- The number of licensed drivers exceeds the number of licensed vehicles by around 28 per cent in England (with a total of 287,300 licensed drivers and 223,900 licensed taxis and PHVs in 2011). The regional pattern generally reflects the number of vehicles, with London having 30 per cent of all licensed drivers.

Detailed data tables for “taxis and private hire statistics” can be found on the Taxi Statistics web tables<sup>1</sup>, table numbers [TAXI0101 to TAXI0104](#)

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## 4. Notes, definitions and related information

**Taxis** (or ‘hackney carriages’) are available for immediate hire and can be hailed in the street (known as ‘plying for hire’). Taxis can also accept pre-bookings. For taxis there are two types of licence, a vehicle licence and a driver’s licence. The vehicle licence is issued to the owner of the taxi.

**Private Hire Vehicles (PHVs)** (sometimes known as ‘minicabs’) must be pre-booked and cannot use taxi ranks. It is illegal for PHVs to ply for hire. For PHVs there are three types of licence: a vehicle licence, a driver’s licence and an operator’s licence. The operator accepts bookings and is the person with whom the customer makes a contract for carriage; services can be provided either by licensed PHV owners who are also licensed drivers or by licensed drivers who rent a licensed vehicle.

These statistics are collected through a survey of the 316 licensing authorities in England and Wales (lower tier local authorities, and TfL for London). A copy of the survey questionnaire can be found here:

<http://assets.dft.gov.uk/statistics/series/taxis/taxi-survey-questionnaire.pdf>

In 2011, full or partial responses were received from 95 per cent of areas, covering over 98 per cent of licensed vehicles. Where a figure was not provided, this was imputed by carrying forward a figure from the authority’s latest response to previous surveys. In a few cases, authorities report that figures are estimated, or relate to time points other than 31 March. However, these factors are unlikely to impact on the national and regional level figures to any great degree; among individual data items the number of wheelchair accessible taxis and PHVs are most affected by unavailability of information.

Besides these statistics, information on taxi *use* in Great Britain is collected through the National Travel Survey. Taxi-specific figures are not usually included in standard tabulations but are available on request from the NTS team (by email to [national.travelsurvey@dft.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:national.travelsurvey@dft.gsi.gov.uk))

The number of people employed as taxi drivers is also collected in the Labour Force Survey, and published in table TSGB0116 of [Transport Statistics Great Britain](#).

Numbers of licensed taxis and PHVs in Scotland (which operators under a different licensing regime) are collected by the Scottish Government and published in [Scottish Transport Statistics](#).

## 5. Background notes

1. The web tables give further detail of the key results presented in this statistical release. They are available here: [http://www.dft.gov.uk/statistics?post\\_type=table&series=taxis](http://www.dft.gov.uk/statistics?post_type=table&series=taxis)
2. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure they meet customer needs: <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html>
3. Details of ministers and officials who receive pre-release access to these statistics up to 24 hours before release can be found here: <http://assets.dft.gov.uk/statistics/series/taxis/pre-release.pdf>
4. The next Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Statistics release is scheduled for 2013.