

15 March 2012

Concessionary Travel, England 2010/11 and 2011/12

This Statistical Release presents information on Concessionary Travel on buses in England in 2010/11 and 2011/12.

Most of the data are derived from the Department's survey of Travel Concession Authorities (TCAs) in England undertaken in Summer 2011.

Important notes: Figures for 2010/11 are outturn, and figures for 2011/12 are forecasts provided by local authorities. 2011/12 figures will be updated with outturn data in next year's publication – see the strengths and weaknesses section for more information.

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Key findings include:

- In 2011/12, 82 per cent of **total net expenditure on concessionary travel** in England was forecast to be on the statutory bus concession, one percentage point up compared to 2010/11.
- There were forecast to be an estimated 9.9m older and disabled **concessionary pass holders** in England in 2011/12, making an average of 108 **journeys made per pass**.
- In 2011/12, **reimbursement of bus operators for concessionary travel** in England was forecast at £888m, a 2 per cent decrease in real terms compared to 2010/11.
- The **average reimbursement per concessionary journey** in England was forecast to be 83 pence per journey in 2011/12 compared to 86 pence in 2010/11 (2011/12 prices).
- In 2011/12, all 89 TCAs outside London offered **discretionary concessions** in addition to the statutory bus concession. The discretions most frequently offered included companions' passes, extensions to the statutory travel time and concessions on non-bus modes.

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1. Expenditure on concessionary travel

- In 2011/12, 82 per cent of total net **expenditure** on concessionary travel in England was forecast to be on the **statutory bus concession**, one percentage point up compared to 2010/11.
- In London, the proportion of net current expenditure on the statutory concession was forecast at 71 per cent in 2011/12, compared to 92 per cent in English non-metropolitan areas and 77 per cent in English metropolitan areas.

2. Concessionary bus passes

- There were forecast to be an estimated 9.9m older and disabled concessionary pass holders in England in 2011/12, compared to 9.6m in 2010/11. This increase is despite a projected fall in the population eligible for a CT pass on age grounds of around 120,000, due to the rising age threshold for CT pass holding.
- In 2011/12, each pass holder made on average 108 concessionary bus journeys. There were 269 journeys per pass in London, 134 journeys per pass in metropolitan areas and 71 journeys per pass in non-Metropolitan areas.

3. Reimbursement of bus operators

- In 2011/12, reimbursement of bus operators for concessionary travel in England was forecast at £888m (in 2011/12 prices), a 2 per cent decrease in real terms compared to 2010/11.
- The average reimbursement per concessionary journey in England was forecast to decrease in real terms from 86 pence per journey in 2010/11 to 83 pence per journey in 2011/12.
- Reimbursement per journey was forecast to decrease in real terms by 7.9 per cent in English non-metropolitan areas (from 99 pence to 91 pence) and by 0.9 per cent in metropolitan areas (from 85 pence to 84 pence). This compares to a forecast increase of 5.2 per cent in London (from 66 pence to 69 pence).

4. Discretionary travel concessions

- In 2011/12, all 89 TCAs in England outside London offered discretionary concessions in addition to the statutory bus concession. The most frequent discretions offered were extensions to the statutory time of travel (66 TCAs), passes for companions to the disabled (55 TCAs), and concessionary travel on other modes (44 TCAs).
- Some TCAs in England outside London withdrew discretionary concessions in 2011/12. For example, in 2011/12, 59 TCAs offered pre-9.30 start to some or all eligible older/disabled people, compared to 71 in 2010/11.
- In 2011/12, 25 TCAs outside London (28 per cent) offered travel concessions to young people.

5. Strengths and weaknesses of the data

These statistics are derived from the DfT survey of Travel Concession Authorities (TCAs) undertaken in Summer 2011. The 90 TCAs (London, ITAs, Unitary Authorities and County Councils) in England are responsible for administering the English National Travel Concessionary Scheme.

76 TCAs (84 per cent) responded to the survey although not all questions were necessarily answered. The data was imputed for item and survey non-response using data from other authorities within the survey, concessionary journey data from the DfT survey of PSV operators, and information from TCAs' websites (for discretionary concessions). Around 10 per cent of total pass figures and 17 per cent of total reimbursement in 2011/12 are imputed.

The figures for 2011/12 are forecasts. The forecasts have been calculated by individual TCAs using their own methodologies which may not be consistent. Outturn figures for 2011/12 will be published in the next annual release.

6. Background notes

1. The web tables give further detail and regional breakdowns of the key results presented in this statistical release and statistics on other related topics. The Concessionary Travel tables are numbered starting **bus08**. They are available here:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/statistics?s=bus08&series=buses>

2. A copy of the questionnaire used to compile these statistics can be found here:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/statistics/series/buses/>

3. The HM Treasury GDP deflator used in table bus0803 are based on the deflator as at 22 December 2011, which can be found here: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/data_gdp_fig.htm

4. These figures have not been assessed by the UK Statistics Authority, and so are not National Statistics. However, they have been produced in compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

5. 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/buses/pre-release-concessionary-travel.pdf>

6. The next Concessionary Travel Statistics are due to be published in 2013.