



Annual Bus Statistics: Revenue, Costs and Government Support Great Britain 2011/12

This release presents annual figures on local bus operator revenue and costs, and Government support for buses, up to the 2011/12 financial year. Data are derived from the Department's annual survey of bus operators and Department for Communities and Local Government's (DCLG) local authority revenue expenditure returns.



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Key findings include:

Revenue

- Operating revenue on local bus services in Great Britain has increased by 13 per cent in real terms from 2004/05, but fell by 1 per cent between 2010/11 and 2011/12, with similar trends for England.
- Revenue per passenger journey has remained broadly steady since 2004/05, and was 120 pence per journey for Great Britain in 2011/12 and 116 pence per journey for England.
- For England in 2011/12, an estimated 55 per cent of operators' revenue came from passenger fare receipts, with the remainder from public transport support, concessionary travel and Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG).

Costs

- Operating costs for local bus services in Great Britain (outside London) have increased by 16 per cent in real terms since 2004/05; the cost per vehicle mile has increased by 20 per cent over the same period (from 239 pence to 286 pence).
- The trends for England (outside London) are similar, with a 17 per cent real terms increase in operating cost per mile between 2004/05 and 2011/12.

Government support

- Total net public funding support for local bus services in England was £2.3 billion in 2011/12, a decrease of 5 per cent in real terms from 2010/11. This was largely due to a 10 per cent decrease in public transport support.

RESPONSIBLE STATISTICIAN

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FURTHER INFORMATION

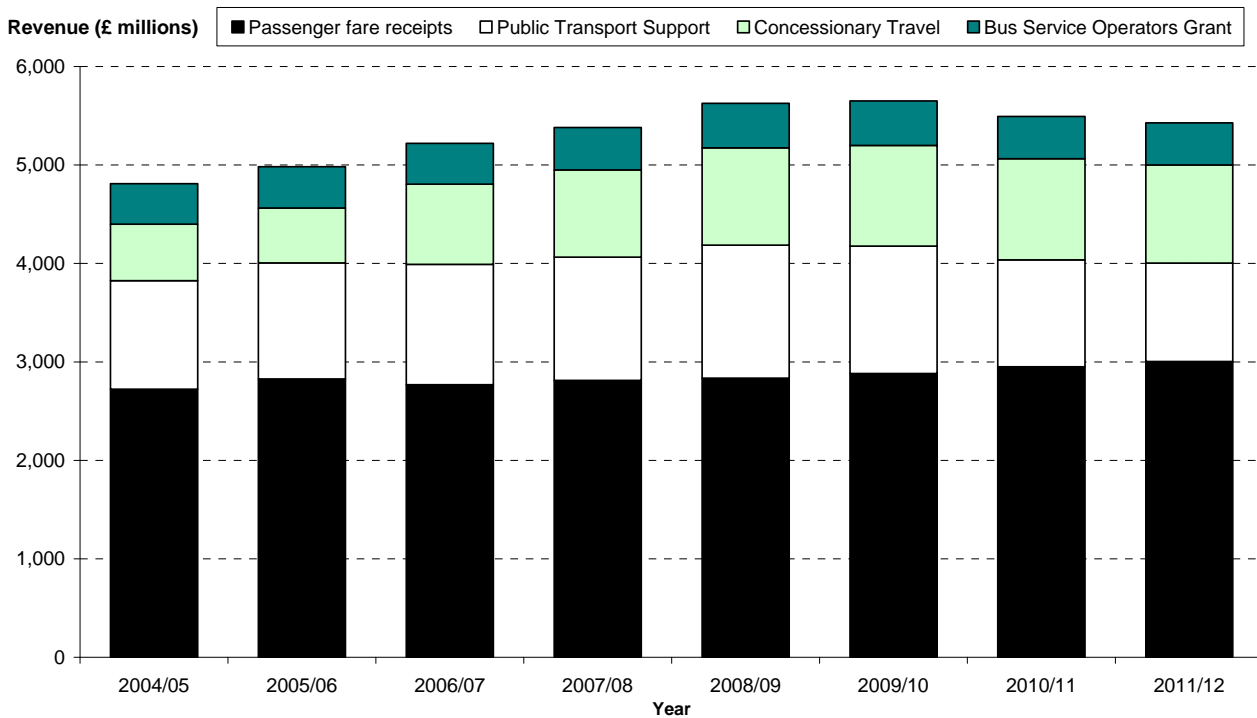
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1. Bus operator revenue and costs

- Operating revenue on local bus services in Great Britain decreased by 1 per cent in real terms (i.e. adjusting for inflation) between 2010/11 and 2011/12, with a 13 per cent increase from 2004/05. Revenue per passenger journey remained broadly flat for Great Britain as a whole over this period, and was 120 pence per journey in 2011/12.
- Figures for England show similar patterns, with revenue per journey of 116 pence in 2011/12. This represents a reduction of 2 per cent in real terms compared with 2004/05; over this period revenue per journey has fallen 15 per cent in London, but increased by 9 per cent in England outside London, in real terms.
- In England in 2011/12, an estimated 55 per cent of operators' revenue came from passenger fare receipts (54 per cent in 2010/11) with the remainder from public transport support, concessionary travel and Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG).

Operating revenue for local bus services in England, from 2004/05 (at 2011/12 prices) (Table BUS0501)



- Operating costs for local bus services in Great Britain (outside London) have increased by 16 per cent in real terms from 2004/05. Costs per vehicle mile have increased by a similar amount (20 per cent in real terms) over this period, as mileage has remained broadly flat.
- Between 2010/11 and 2011/12, costs per vehicle mile increased by 4 per cent, with increases of 10 per cent for Scotland, 12 per cent for Wales and 2 per cent for England outside London.

Detailed statistics (tables and charts) on bus revenue and costs for Great Britain can be found on the Bus Statistics web tables, table numbers BUS0401 to BUS0409.

2. Government revenue support for buses and concessionary travel in England

- Total net public funding revenue support for local bus services and concessionary travel in England was £2.3 billion in 2011/12, of which 38 per cent was public transport support (mainly payments to operators for supported services), 43 per cent concessionary travel funding and 19 per cent BSOG.
- Since 2004/05, total net support has increased by 15 per cent in real terms, mainly due to a 73 per cent increase in funding for concessionary travel (following the introduction of statutory free off-peak bus travel for the elderly and disabled). However, between 2010/11 and 2011/12 net support fell by 5 per cent, largely due to a 10 per cent decrease in public transport support.
- Between 2010/11 and 2011/12 there was a 5 per cent real terms decrease in net funding support in London, with a 3 per cent decrease in English metropolitan areas and a 7 per cent decrease in non-metropolitan areas.
- Central government subsidy for the bus industry in England (through BSOG) per passenger journey in real terms remains unchanged from 2010/11 at 9.2 pence, with a 9 per cent fall in 2011/12 from the 2004/05 level.

Detailed statistics (tables and charts) on bus support for England can be found on the Bus Statistics web tables, table numbers BUS0501 to BUS0503.

3. Related statistics

Annual statistics covering passenger journeys, vehicle miles, vehicles operated and staff employed on the local bus sector in Great Britain, are available here on the Department's website: www.gov.uk/government/publications/annual-bus-statistics-2011-12

The latest quarterly bus statistics, containing estimates for bus patronage and fares, for 2012 Q3 (July to September) has been released alongside this publication and can be found here: www.gov.uk/government/publications/quarterly-bus-statistics-quarter-3-2012

Public transport support and concessionary travel expenditure figures are taken from the Department for Communities and Local Government's statistics on local authority revenue expenditure and financing in England, available here: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/series/local-authority-revenue-expenditure-and-financing

Further information on concessionary travel, including pass use, spend and concessions offered, is included in the Department's official concessionary travel statistics: www.gov.uk/government/publications/concessionary-travel-statistics-england-2011-12-and-2012-13

4. Strengths and weaknesses of the data

These statistics are derived from a number of sources, with the main source being the DfT annual Public Service Vehicle (PSV) survey of local bus operators which provides data on passenger journeys, vehicle miles, fare receipts and costs. 350 operators were selected to provide information on their operating revenue and costs. Fare receipts for London are provided by Transport for London. Figures for public transport support and concessionary travel are from the DCLG local authority revenue expenditure statistics, and BSOG figures are from DfT administrative payment records.

The PSV survey uses imputation techniques to derive key figures for operators who were either not selected in the sample for that year, or who did not respond. On occasion, imputations for earlier years can be improved using directly-reported data for later years. Minor revisions to back-data can occur as a result, although trends are rarely affected substantively.

Figures have been collected in a similar way since 2004/05, so should be broadly comparable across years and therefore suitable for monitoring trends. However, year on year changes can be susceptible to the recording practices of individual operators or local authorities and should be interpreted with greater caution.

Further details of the full range of data sources and methods used in the production of these statistics can be found in the notes and definitions document (see link below) and in the notes to individual tables.

5. Background notes

1. The web tables give further detail of the key results presented in this statistical release and statistics on other related topics. They are available here, along with technical notes and definitions:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-transport/series/bus-statistics

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.

3. Details of Ministers and officials who receive pre-release access to these statistics up to 24 hours before release can be found here:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-transport/series/bus-statistics

4. The next Annual Bus Statistics will be published in Autumn 2013. They will contain figures for passenger journeys, vehicle miles, vehicles operated and staff employed. The annual finance tables are scheduled to be updated in December 2013.