

National Travel Survey: 2010



How people travel

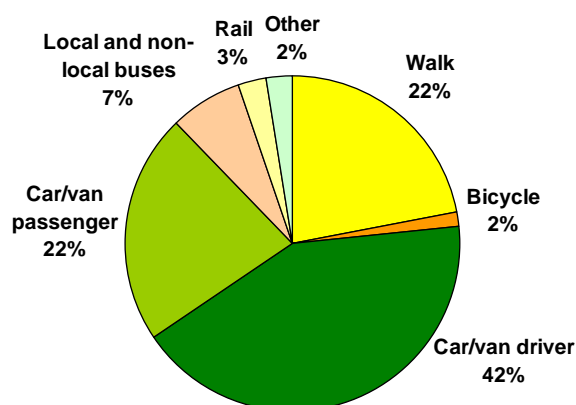
This section provides details about how residents of Great Britain travelled in 2010, showing number of trips and distance travelled by both private and public transport modes. It also shows figures for comparison back to 1995/97.

- Overall in 2010, there were an average of 960 trips per person per year, 1,061 stages¹, 6,726 miles travelled, and an average trip length of 7.0 miles. This compares to 1995/97 when there were an average of 1,086 trips per person per year (-12%), 1,192 stages (-11%), 6,981 miles travelled (-4%), and an average trip length of 6.4 miles (+9%).
- Of all trips made in 2010, 20% were less than one mile in length and 95% were less than 25 miles.

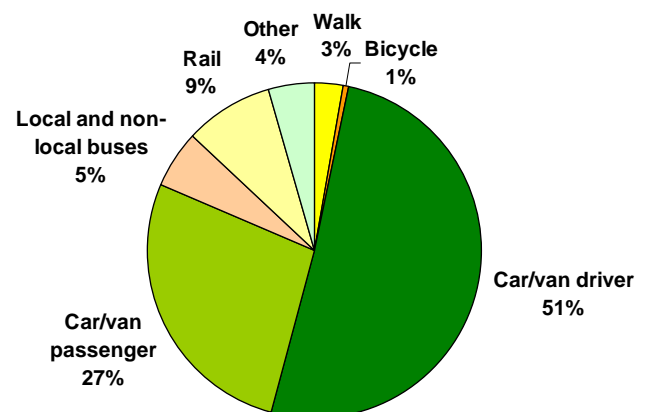
Mode share: Great Britain, 2010

(NTS web tables NTS0301 and NTS0302)

Average number of trips



Average distance travelled



- In 2010, 64% of all trips were made by car (as a driver or passenger) compared to 23% by walking or cycling. Car travel accounted for 78% of total distance travelled. Buses (both local and non-local) account for more trips than rail (both surface rail and London Underground) at 7% and 3% respectively, however as bus trips tend to be shorter in length, they account for only 5% of total distance travelled compared to 9% for rail.

¹ A trip consists of one or more stages. A new stage is defined when there is a change in the form of transport or vehicle requiring a separate ticket.

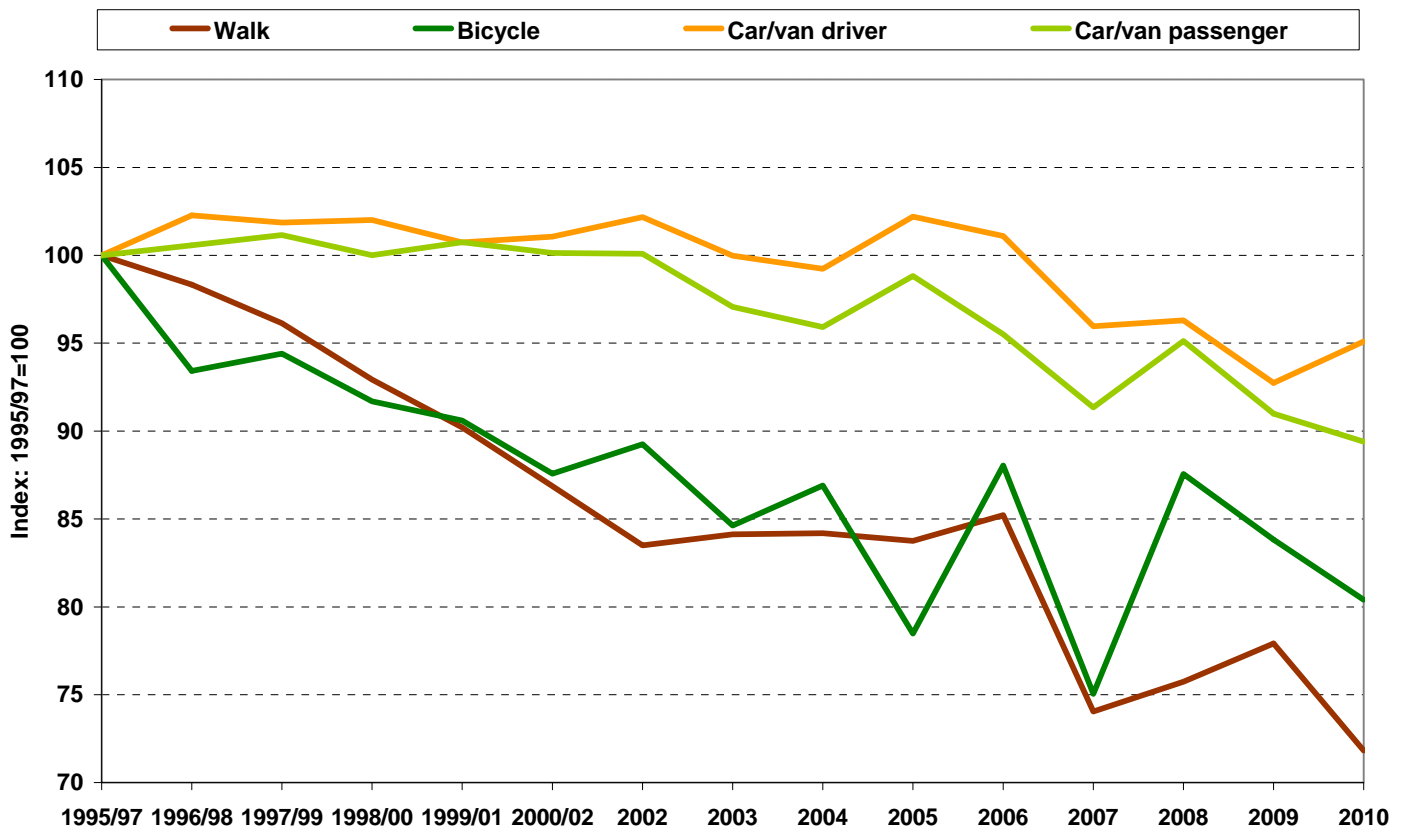
Private modes

- Most of the fall in overall trips rates since 1995/97 is accounted for by a fall in walking trips which were 28% lower in 2010. Walking trips fell 8% compared to last year, making 2010 the lowest level recorded at 210 trips per person per year. The previous minimum was in 2007, however part of the fall that year was likely due to an apparent under-recording of short trips associated with the introduction of a new travel diary. In 2010, 77% of all trips under one mile were made on foot, with 20% made by car.
- Car driver and car passenger trips have fallen by 5% and 11% respectively since 1995/97. However, the most recent figures show a rise in the number of car driver trips compared to last year. Overall, the average length of all car trips has remained fairly constant over time at around 8.5 miles and 21 minutes. Trip lengths of other modes have increased.

Average number of trips by selected private transport modes - index:

Great Britain, 1995/97 to 2010

(NTS web table NTS0103)



Note: Due to the relatively small number of cyclists in the NTS sample, results for travel by bicycle are more volatile than those for other modes.

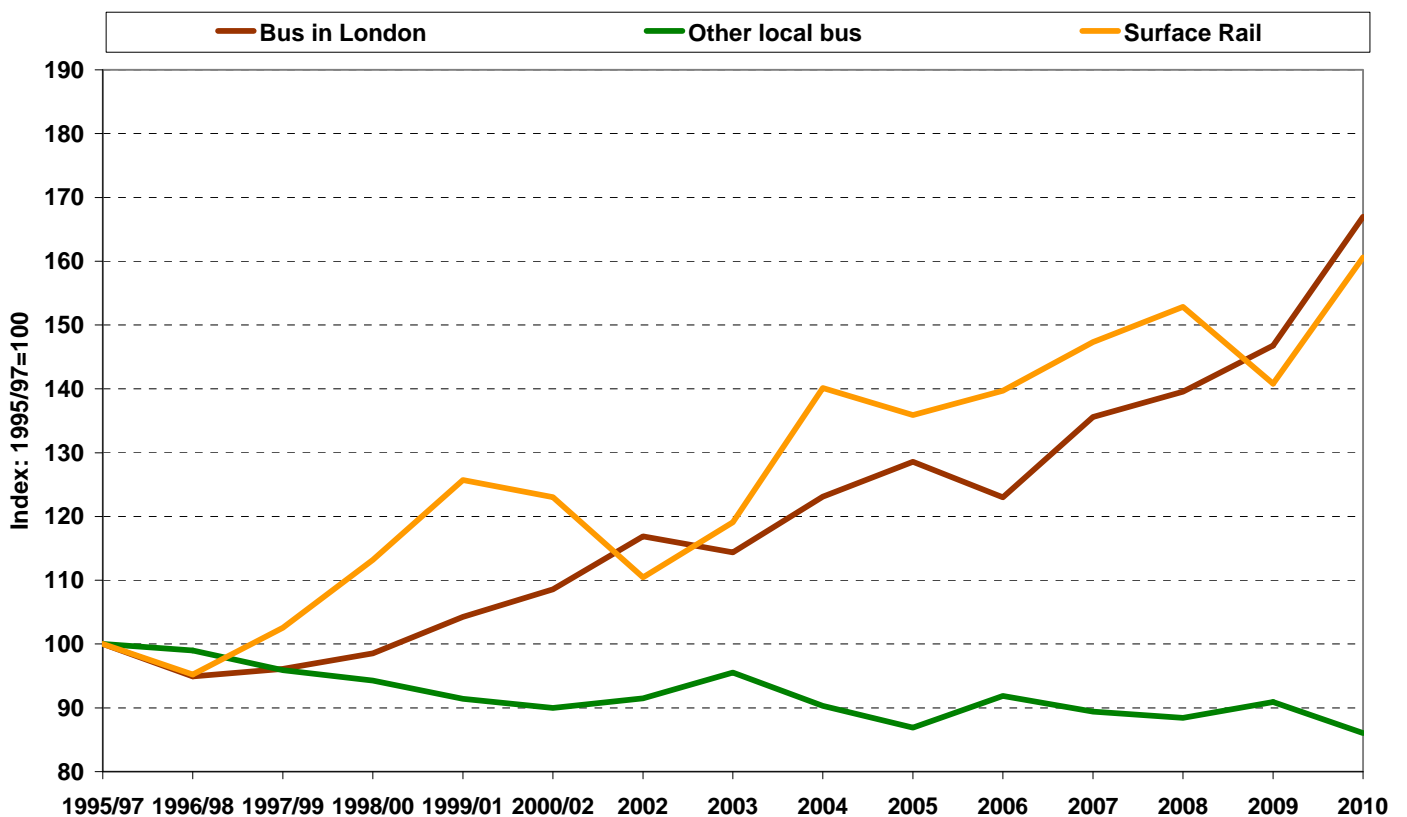
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- On average in 2010, people made 15 stages² by bicycle compared to 19 per person per year in 1995/97. Distance travelled by bicycle in 2010 was 42 miles per person per year which is similar to 1995/97 (43 miles). Cycling accounted for 2% of trips of less than 5 miles in 2010. Frequency of bicycle use has remained fairly stable over time since 1998/00. In 2010, 15% of respondents said they ride a bicycle at least once a week and a further 10% said they did so at least once a month. Two-thirds (66%) said they use a bicycle less than once a year or never. For those people who said they had ridden a bike in the last year, most of them said that they usually cycled mainly on the road (38%).
 - Cyclists and motorcyclists are defined as persons who recorded at least one stage in their travel diary using this mode. The average cyclist made 6 trips per week by bicycle in 2010, spending just under two hours on their bicycle and covering 16 miles. While the average motorcyclist made 8 trips per week by motorcycle, travelled around 88 miles and spent three hours and 20 minutes travelling on their motorcycle. On average cyclists made a quarter of all their trips by bicycle while motorcyclists used their motorcycle as the main mode for nearly two-fifths of all trips.
 - In 2010, 41% of respondents said they made walks of 20 minutes or more at least 3 times a week and a further 23% said they did so at least once or twice a week. 20% of people said they made walks of 20 minutes less than once a year or never.

Public modes

- The number of trips per person per year by bus in London increased by 67% between 1995/97 and 2010, while trips by bus outside of London fell by 14%. The average distance travelled by bus in London has nearly doubled, while the average distance travelled on other local bus is now similar to its 1995/97 level.
- The average number of trips and distance travelled by surface rail has increased between 1995/97 and 2010, by 61% and 58% respectively. The latest year shows a rise in surface rail travel, reversing the downward trend of recent years. Trips by London underground increased by 12% between 1995/97 and 2010, while the average distance travelled has increased by 23%.

² For cycling and walking, the number of stages is a better measure than number of trips as frequently these modes tend not to be the main mode when there is a multi-stage trip so a count of cycling or walking trips would be lower.

Average number of trips by selected public transport modes - index:
Great Britain, 1995/97 to 2010
 (NTS web table NTS0104)



- Self-reported frequency of use of public transport modes has remained relatively stable since the set of questions were introduced into the NTS interview in 1998. Local bus is the most frequently used mode of public transport with 29% of respondents saying that they use a bus at least once a week and a further 14% saying they use a bus at least once a month. In 2010, 7% of respondents said they used surface rail at least once a week and a further 13% at least once a month. The equivalent figures for taxis/minicabs are 8% and 17% respectively. One in ten respondents said they take a flight within Great Britain at least once a year.
- Between 2006 and 2010, 81% of all long distance trips were made by car, a further 13% by rail, and 4% by bus (both local and non-local). In 2010, 44% said they had made at least one international flight in the last 12 months, with 10% flying abroad three or more times.

Detailed statistics (tables and charts) on “how people travel” can be found on National Travel Survey 2010 web page at: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/statistics/releases/national-travel-survey-2010>, table numbers [NTS0301](#) to [NTS0317](#).

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>

4. Short walks of under 1 mile were under-recorded in 2002, and to a lesser extent in 2003. Short trips, particularly short walks of under 1 mile and car trips under 5 miles, were under-recorded in 2007 and 2008.