

Measurement template

Field	Notes
Short title	Bus subsidy per passenger journey
Technical definition	Bus Service Operators' Grant per passenger journey (including concessionary journeys)
Rationale	This shows the average public funding (directly from central government) for each journey made on buses.
Formula	Total Bus Service Operators' Grant <i>divided by</i> total passenger journeys.
Start date	Data available from financial year 2004-05 (discontinuity in passenger journeys data at this point – earlier years' figures are not comparable)
Performance	Lower subsidy per passenger journey will indicate better value for the public purse. However, this could arise as a result of reductions in the most heavily subsidised services – many of which are routes in rural areas which would be unprofitable without public subsidy. Reductions to these services would improve the 'headline' measure but would risk making rural communities more isolated.
Behavioural impact	As noted above, reductions in rural bus services are a possible negative impact of an 'improvement' in this indicator.
Comparability	Comparable statistics are available for Wales and Scotland.
Collection frequency	Annual
Time lag	Approximately 8 months. Final data are published in the December after the end of the financial year.
Data source	The data are supplied by bus operators (through the DfT Public Service Vehicle Survey), Transport for London and the DfT Bus Service Operators' Grant returns. Statistics are published by the Department for Transport.
Type of data	National Statistics
Robustness and data limitations	The figures exclude expenditure on capital projects (e.g. bus lane priority schemes) which benefit the bus industry directly or indirectly. Outside London, the local bus industry is deregulated, but London runs an entirely tendered bus market under the oversight of Transport for London. Given the different market structures, comparisons between London and the rest of country should be made with considerable care.
Collecting organisation	The data are published by the Department for Transport.

Return format	Pence per journey
Geographical coverage	England
How indicator can be broken down	Data are available for London, English metropolitan areas (as a group) and English non-metropolitan areas (as a group).
Further guidance	The full guidance on DfT bus statistics can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/buses-statistics-guidance Related bus statistics are available here: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/bus-statistics