



Department
for Transport

National Travel Survey: England 2016

About this release

The National Travel Survey is a household survey of personal travel by residents of England travelling within Great Britain, from data collected via interviews and a one week travel diary.

The NTS is part of a continuous survey that began in 1988, following ad-hoc surveys from the 1960s, which enables analysis of patterns and trends.

Some key uses of the data include describing patterns patterns, for example how different groups of people travel, monitoring trends in travel, including sustainable modes; assessing the potential equality impacts of transport policies on different groups; and contributing to evaluation of the impact of policies.

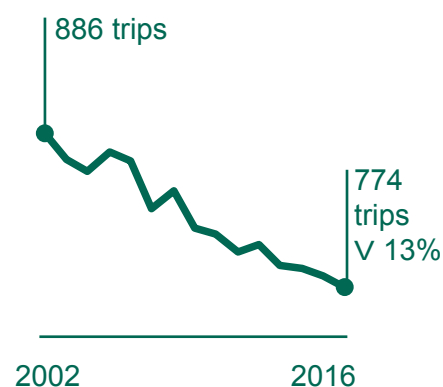
Results from the 2016 National Travel Survey show that in recent years there has been a trend of steadily falling trip rates. In 2016 people made nearly 15 trips a week on average (774 trips on average in the year) excluding short walks. This was 13% lower than 2002.

People made an average of 954 trips in 2016 including short walks. This is an average of around 18 trips a week.

Average trip distance and time spent travelling for trips **excluding short walks** were also lower than in 2002. The average distance travelled (6,396 miles) was 10% lower than in 2002, and 3% lower than in 2015 but similar to the 2014 figure.

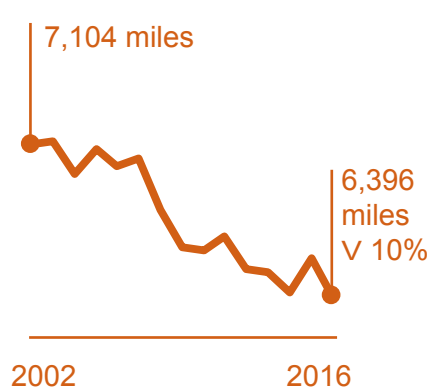
Trips

Average trips per person per year excluding short walks



Distance

Average distance travelled per year excluding short walks



Note: figures in charts exclude short walks

Most of the trips people made in 2016 were by car, either as a driver or a passenger (62%), or by walking (25%). 87% of all trips were accounted for by these modes of transport.

78% of the total distance people travelled in 2016 was by car, either as a driver or a passenger.

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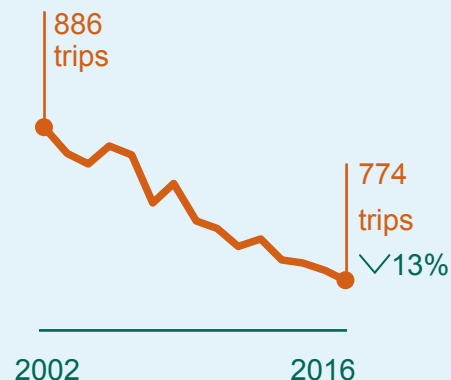
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National Travel Survey England 2016 Main Results



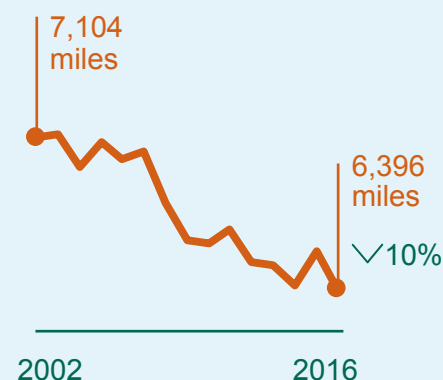
Trips [NTS0101]

Average trips per person per year,
excluding short walks



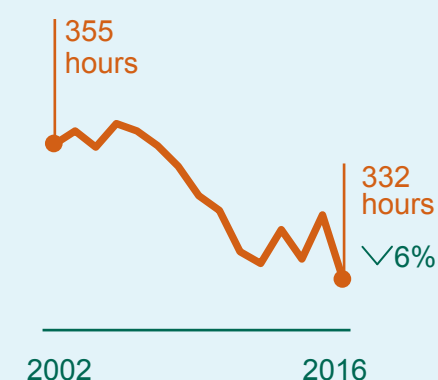
Distance [NTS0101]

Average distance travelled per year,
excluding short walks



Time [NTS0101]

Average time travelled per year,
excluding short walks

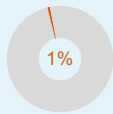
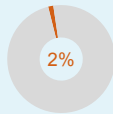
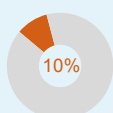
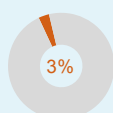
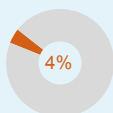
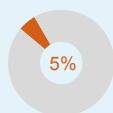
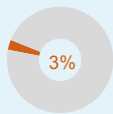
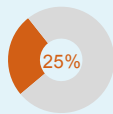
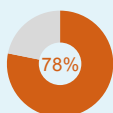
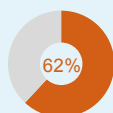


How we travelled [NTS0301, 0302]

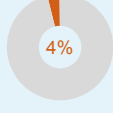
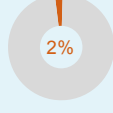
Modal share

Trips

Distance



Other



Why we travelled [NTS0401]

The most common trip purposes were:



Shopping 19%



Personal business 18%

Gender [NTS0601, 0605]

Women travelled more often than men, but men travelled further



trips per year

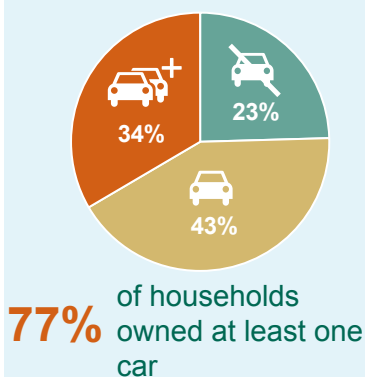
927

981

distance (miles)

7,178 5,839

Car ownership [NTS0205]



Licence holding [NTS0201]

73% of residents (17+) held a driving licence

32.4 million

licence holders



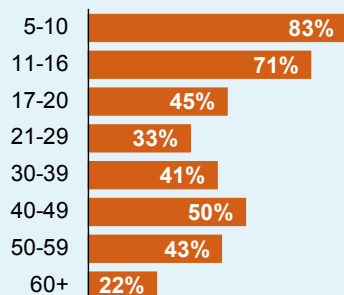
80% of males



67% of females

Cycling [NTS0608, NTS0303, NTS0305]

People with access to a bicycle, by age (2014-2016)



Average cycling trips and distance per year



For further information:



Search 'National Travel Survey' on GOV.UK



national.travelsurvey@dft.gsi.gov.uk



020 7344 3097

Estimates based on small sample sizes are subject to sampling variation and should be interpreted with caution.

Introduction to the 2016 publication

The 2016 National Travel Survey (NTS) is the latest in a series of household surveys designed to provide a consistent source of data on personal travel behaviour across England.

This statistical release is the first of two publications this year based on National Travel Survey (NTS) data.

We have acted on two pieces of feedback from users in developing this publication. Firstly, that the data be released earlier and secondly that the statistical release is shorter.

On the first point, we are making the most recent data available in July for the first time. Secondly, this publication includes only some top level results but will allow users to have access to the published tables and data via the Data Service to do research earlier than usual. Due to the early release, we have only updated about half of the main tables for this first statistical release.

We will follow up with a longer statistical release with more detailed analysis and a complete set of tables later on in the year.

Users should also note the impact of the experiment on short walks that is described on page 5 and the impact this has on the comparability of data.

We always welcome feedback to help ensure that the survey meets the needs of users, and any feedback provided will help inform the future design and development of the survey.

Accessing NTS data

In addition to the published statistics described in this document together with accompanying statistical tables, the underlying dataset and guidance in analysing it can be accessed from the [UK Data Service](#) for users who wish to explore the data for themselves.

Thank you

The 2016 survey fieldwork, data input, coding and some analysis was carried out by the National Centre for Social Research. Special thanks are due to the project team, the coders and to all the interviewers and especially Alun Humphrey, Peter Cornick, and Katriina Lapanjuuri.

The help of the members of the public who gave their time to respond is gratefully acknowledged.

What travel is included?

The NTS only includes personal travel within Great Britain, by residents of private households in England, along the public highway, by rail or by air. Travel off-road, or for commercial purposes (to deliver goods or to convey a vehicle or passengers) is not included.

What is a trip?

The basic unit of travel in the NTS is a trip, which is defined as a one-way course of travel with a single main purpose.

What is a stage?

Trips consist of one or more stages. A new stage is defined when there is a change in the mode of transport.

Further information about the NTS and its methodology

A range of supporting information is available which provides background to understand the source of the statistics presented in this publication, all available from the [NTS collections page](#) on GOV.UK.

Short walks experiment in 2016

The data published here include the results of the experiment in 2016 to collect short walks (those walks of less than a mile in length) on day 1 for half of the sample, and day 7 for the other half of the sample. This is a significant methodological improvement, as previous research (see box opposite) has concluded that collecting short walks on day 7 results in an under-reporting of these types of trips.

The figures for 2016 have been weighted using the information from both samples to produce NTS results as if all the respondents for 2016 had reported short walks on day 1.

Impact of the change

A full description of the impact of this change in methodology is described in Annex T of the Technical Report. In terms of the headline findings for adults, the effect was substantial. Collecting details of short walks on day 1 of the travel week increased the reporting of the prevalence of short walks and the number of short walks reported. Some 25.9% of adult respondents reported taking at least one short walk when reporting on day 1 compared with 21.3% when reporting on day 7. The average number of walks reported by all adults was 0.71 on day 1 compared with 0.57 for day 7.

Comparability of data between 2016 and earlier years

The impact of this improvement in the methodology for capturing short walks has meant a break in the time series between 2015 and 2016 for total trips, total distance and total time and for walking trips, distance and time in this publication.

We will be reweighting data back to 2002 and will present revised data in a publication later in the year. Until this time, **users should exercise caution when comparing 2016 with previous years** for certain types of analyses.

We have made the decision to publish 2016 data for three reasons. Firstly, it represents the best data available at the present time for 2016. Secondly, time series excluding short walks; individual, household and vehicle analyses; and analyses solely for 2016 will be unaffected; and thirdly, we wanted users to have access to the data as soon as possible to conduct their own analysis.

Improved measurement of short walks in the NTS

The Department ran a [consultation](#) on the collection of short walk data in the NTS in 2014, and experiments during 2013 and 2015 which concluded that there is under-reporting of short walks in the NTS. In 2016, the NTS sample was split and this data has been used to develop weights to uplift the day 7 sample so that NTS results for 2016 will be published as if all short walks were collected on day 1.

In 2017, short walks for all respondents will be collected on day 1 of the travel diary.

Presentation of results

So, with those points in mind, users should also note the following for the publication and the set of tables published here:

- Tables and analysis not trip-related (for example, tables on driving licence holding, household car access and household vehicles) are not affected.
- Any analyses based on 2016 only (i.e. cross-sectional analysis) uses figures that include the new short walks weighting as this represents our best estimate of travel behaviour in 2016.
- For time series tables, we have noted the breaks in the series and added additional rows to tables to show figures exclude short walks back to 2002, where possible.
- Time series analysis in this publication relating to totals and walks will use figures that exclude short walks. While modes of transport other than walking may be impacted by the reweighting, we have currently assumed they will not, and have produced time series in the same way as previous NTS publications.

NTS standard errors

As these statistics are derived from a sample survey resulting estimates can fluctuate as a result of sample variability. Therefore users should be careful when drawing conclusions, particularly from short-term changes.

A detailed [report on standard errors](#) for selected NTS variables (based on 2009 data) is available. This will be updated later this year.

We have made a couple of other changes to tables as follows:

- For tables that are broken down by mode of transport, we have used the same categories for each table as much as possible to provide consistency for users. Previously there had been different categories shown in different tables. While this means that there will be more missing values, it means users can compare specific modes of transport more easily across tables.
- Finally, we have removed the Great Britain time series data and the charts from spreadsheets to reduce the number of worksheets associated with each table. Workbooks will now only contain tables for England, and the time series data for England where relevant.

Long-term trends in trips, trip times and distance

The National Travel Survey has collected data on personal travel in a broadly consistent way since the 1970s, meaning it is a key source for monitoring trends in travel behaviour.

The average number of trips per person and total time spent travelling have remained broadly stable since the 1970s. What has changed over this period is the average distance travelled, which has grown as a result of increasing average trip lengths. This is largely the result of changes in how - not why - we travel, in particular increasing car availability and use.

1972/73

4,476 miles

353 hours

956 trips

travelled per person per year
on average (GB residents)

2016

6,499 miles (+45%)

367 hours (+4%)

954 trips (<-0.5%)

travelled per person per year
on average (England residents)

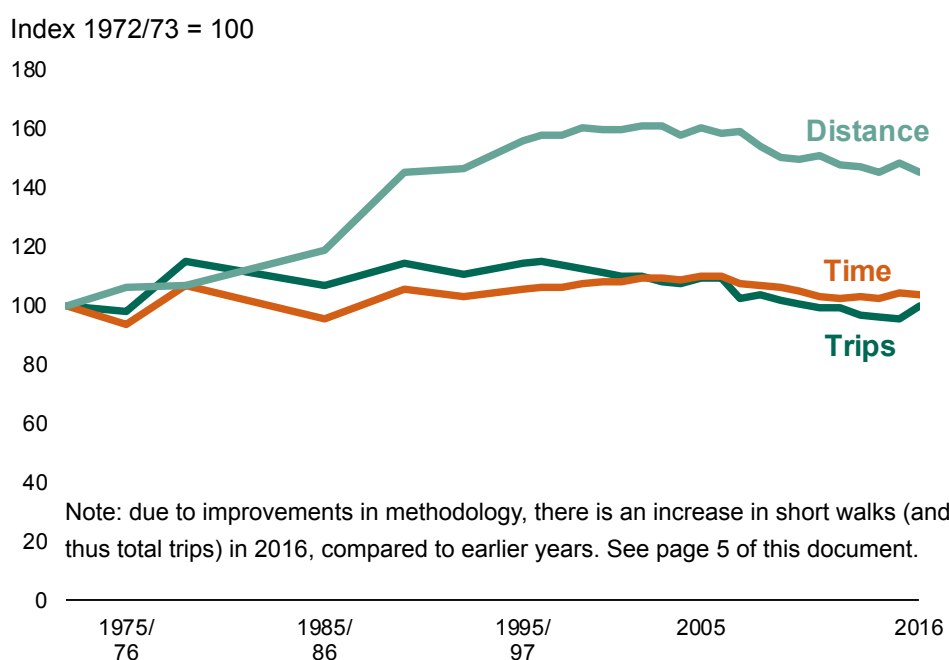
Over 50 years of the NTS

Although the time series presented here begins in 1972/73, the first NTS was carried out in 1965.

The 1965 survey had some notable differences - in particular, data on short walks were not collected and so results are not presented as part of the standard data tables.

To mark the 50th anniversary of the first NTS data collection, a factsheet including figures estimated from the 1965 survey is available on the [NTS 2014 page](#).

Chart 1: Trends in trips, distance travelled and time spent travelling: England 1972/73-2016 [[NTS0101](#)]



Note on trend data

Figures from 1995 onwards are weighted, causing a one-off change in the NTS series. Data prior to 2002 are based on combined survey years (e.g. 1995/97) as the annual sample size was smaller.

Figures are for Great Britain residents to 1989, and England residents thereafter. The majority of the comparisons in this publication are not materially affected by this change.

For this time series analysis only, the 2016 figures include short walks (see page 5).

Trends in car availability

Over the long term, the cost of purchasing a motor vehicle has decreased, contributing to increases in car ownership. Estimates from the Retail Prices Index show that between February 1998 and December 2016, the cost of motor vehicle purchase decreased by 36% in the UK. Petrol and oil costs were also broadly decreasing between the start of 2013 and the start of 2016.

The proportion of households without a car has fallen from 38% in 1985/86 to 23% by 2016 while the proportion of households with more than one car increased over this period, from 17% to 34%. People in London tend to have lower rates of car ownership than people living in other regions.

Chart 2: Household car availability: England 1985/86-2016 [NTS0205]

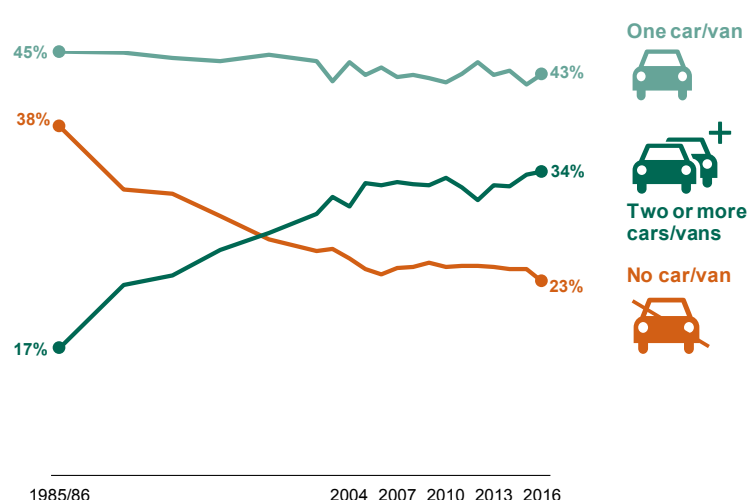
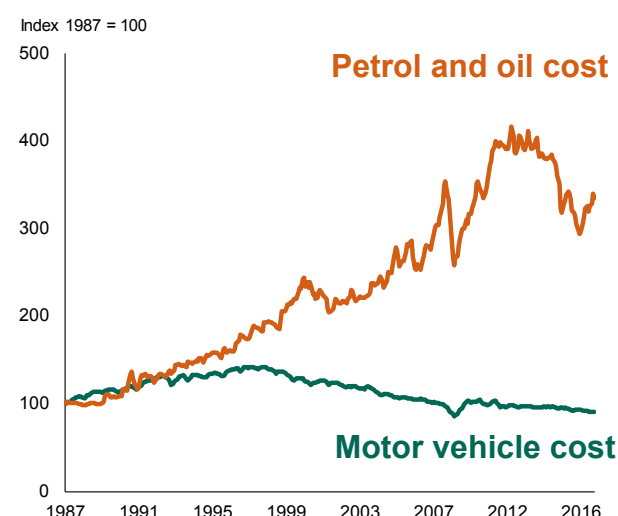


Chart 3: Change in cost of motor vehicle purchase, and petrol and oil: UK, Retail Prices Index, monthly, 1987-2016 [ONS]



We see this trend in DfT's vehicle statistics. Between 1996 and 2016, the stock of licensed cars in England grew by 39%. While many regions had increases in licensed cars of over 40%, in London the growth was 14%.

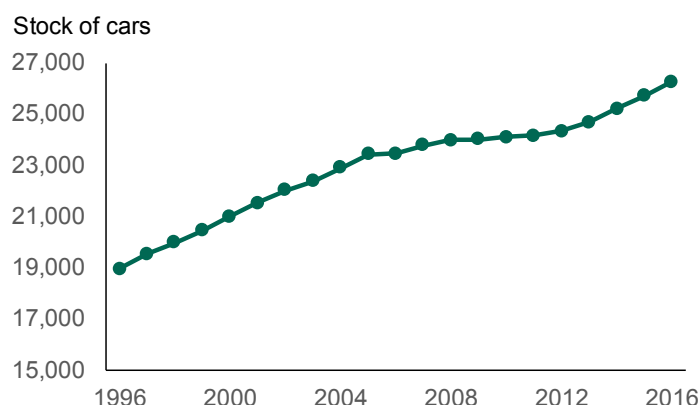


Chart 4: Stock of licensed cars: England, 1996-2016 [VEH0204]

Car availability greatly influences personal travel patterns: people in households with cars, on average, make more trips, spend more time travelling and, most notably, travel much further than those without cars.

Related data sources

Household car availability is also collected by the Census. This provides data at a much more detailed level of geography than is possible from NTS data:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/census/2011-census/index.html>

The Department for Transport also publishes Vehicle Licensing Statistics:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/vehicles-statistics>

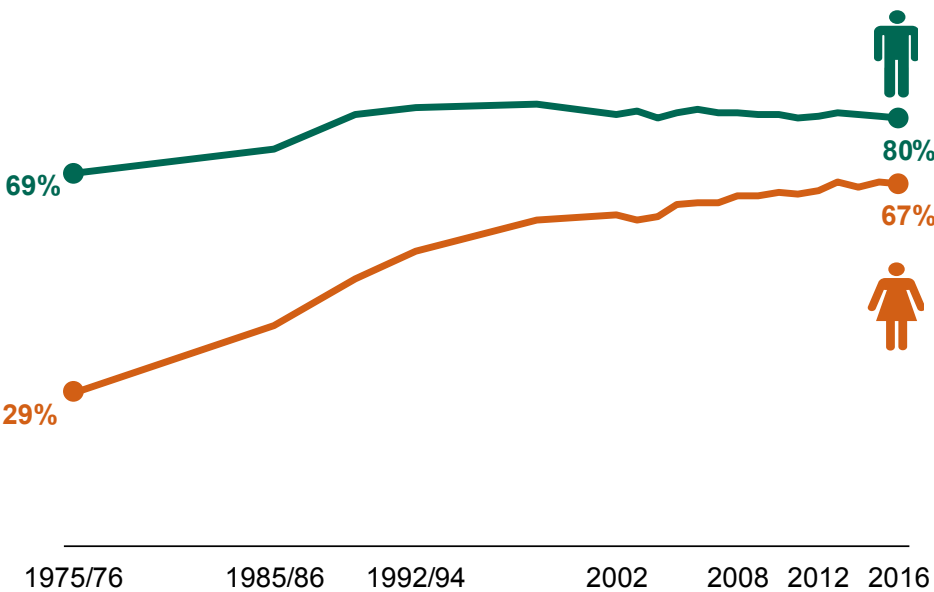
These statistics show the total number of licensed road vehicles and new vehicle registrations derived from data held by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA).

Trends in driving licence holders

The increasing access to cars is also reflected by trends in driving licence holding. 73% of all adults aged 17+ in England held a full car driving licence in 2016. This was an increase from 48% in the mid 1970s, and represented over 32 million licence holders.

While over the long term licence holding among both men and women has increased, the rate of increase has been much greater for women. The proportion of males holding a licence has been flat since the early-1990s. For women it has continued to increase, reaching 67% in 2016, compared to 80% of men.

Chart 5: Full car driving licence holders by gender: England 1975/76-2016 [\[NTS0201\]](#)



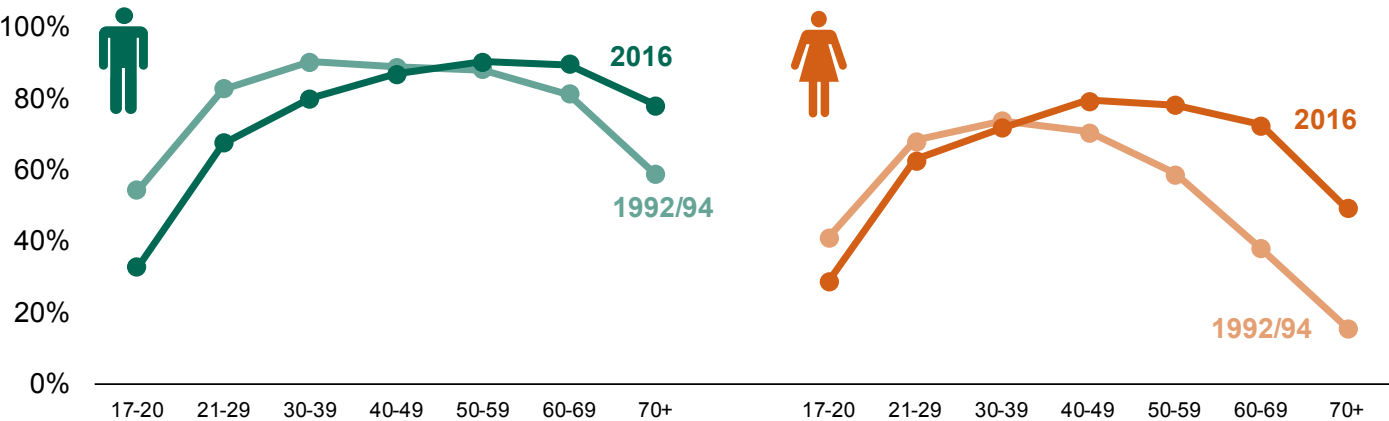
Related data sources

DfT publishes statistics about [driving tests and instructors](#).

DVLA publishes a breakdown of licence holders by age and gender at <http://data.gov.uk/dataset/driving-licence-data>

The increase in driving licence holding has been greatest among older age groups whereas the proportion of young adults (aged 17-20) with a full driving licence has decreased since the 1990s when it was highest for this age group.

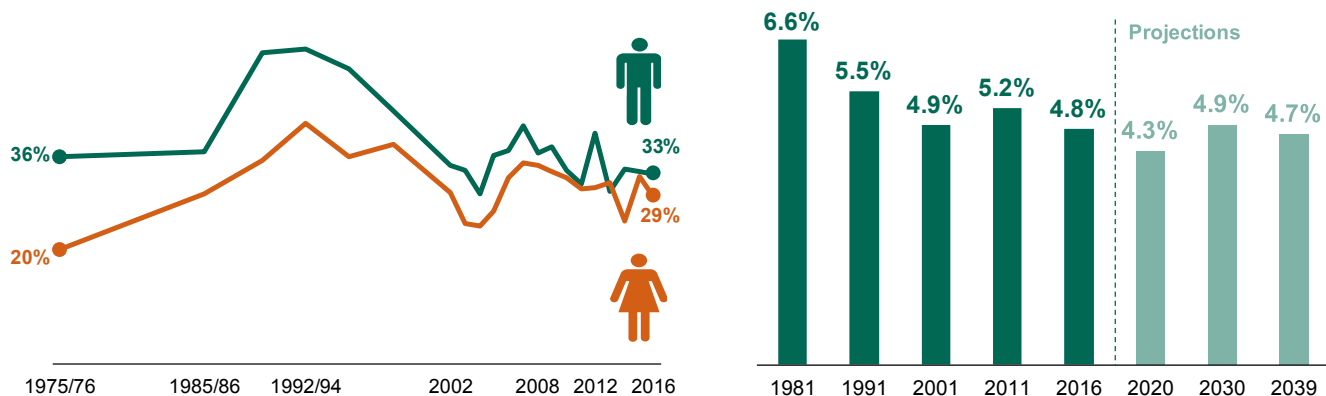
Chart 6: Full car driving licence holders by age and gender: England 1975/76 and 2016 [\[NTS0201\]](#)



Young drivers

Young drivers play a huge role in the trends over time in the total number of licences as the most common age group for taking driving tests is 17-20. Around 46% of practical car test candidates were aged 17-20 in Great Britain in 2016/17. However, in recent years, both the proportion of the population in this age group has been decreasing (and projected to remain at a similar proportion until 2039) and the proportion of 17-20 year olds with a licence has decreased since the early 1990s for both men and women.

Chart 7: Full car driving licence holders aged 17-20 by gender: England 1975/76-2016 [NTS0201] **Chart 8: Proportion of England population aged 17-20 England 1981-2039** [ONS]



Non-drivers

Around 27% of adults did not hold a full car driving licence in 2016. The NTS asked people aged 17 and over without a full or provisional licence and not currently learning what their **main** reason was for not learning to drive, and when they might learn, if at all.

Chart 9: Main reason for not learning to drive, by age: England, 2016 [NTS0203]

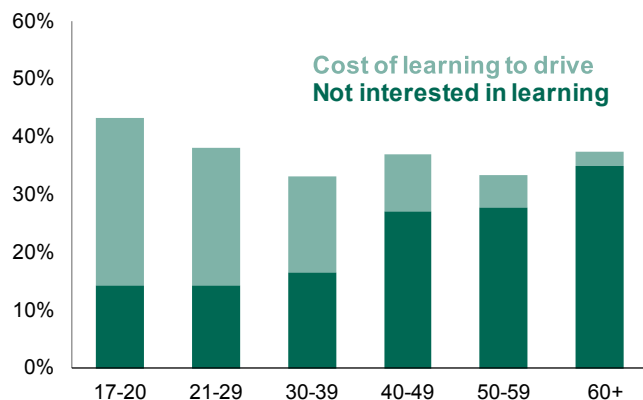
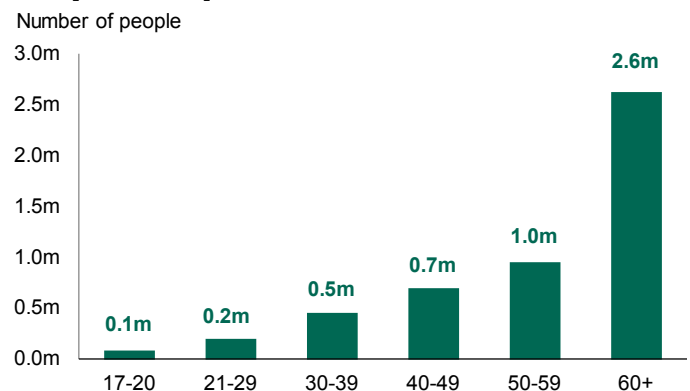


Chart 10: Estimated number of people who said they would never learn to drive, by age: England, 2016 [NTS0204]



For all people aged 17 and over in this group, the two main reasons were people either not being interested, or the cost of learning, although the split between these two reasons varied significantly between age groups. Most people in the older age groups were not interested in learning, while cost of learning was the main reason for the younger age groups. A high proportion of older people also cited physical difficulties, safety concerns or nervousness as a main reason.

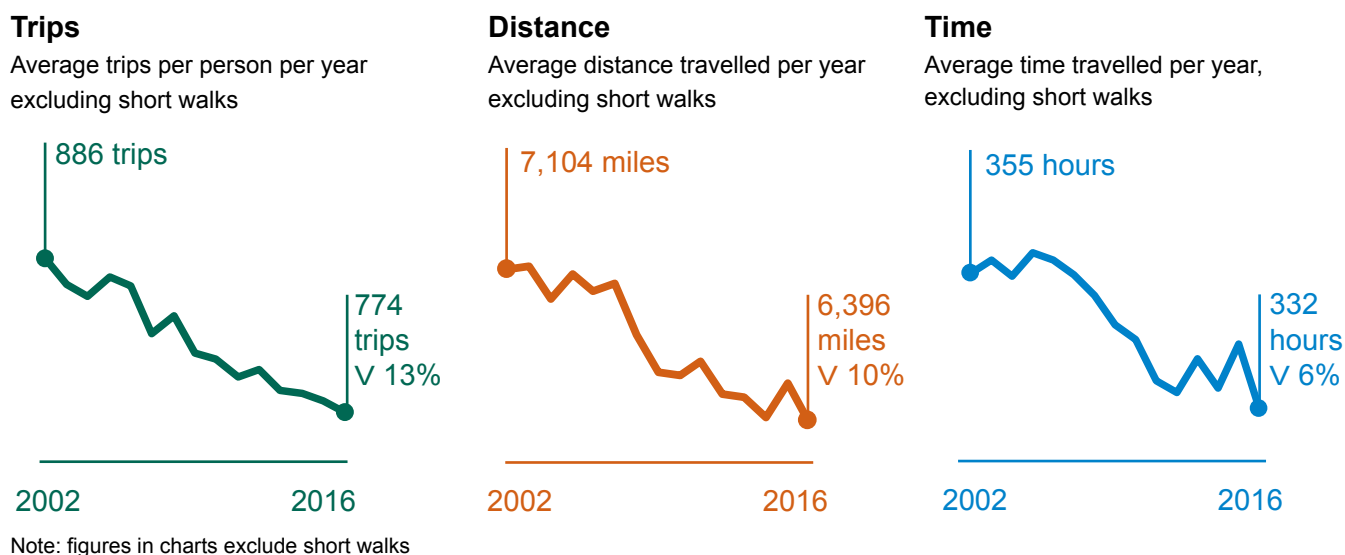
Around 7% of 17-20 year olds without a licence and not learning said they would “never” learn, while nearly all people aged 60 and over not learning said they would never learn. These figures would equate to around 80,000 17-20 year olds and over 2.5 million people aged 60+.

Recent trends in trips, trip times and distance

In recent years there has been a falling trend in trip rates. In 2016, the average number of trips per person **excluding short walks** was 774 (around 15 trips per week), 13% lower than 2002. Including short walks, people made an average of 954 trips in 2016 - around 18 trips per week.

Average trip distance and time spent travelling for trips **excluding short walks** were also lower than in 2002. The average distance travelled (6,396 miles) was 10% lower than in 2002, and 3% lower than in 2015 but similar to the 2014 figure.

Chart 11: Trends in trips, distance travelled and time spent travelling: England 2002-2016 [NTS0101]



Trends in driver and passenger trips and miles

In 2016, 62% of trips were made by car, either as a driver or passenger. Since the mid-2000s, most of the fall in total trips has been due to fewer car trips. Over this period, average distance travelled by car per person has also fallen; this is explained largely by the fall in trips, with average trip length by car remaining fairly stable. However, in 2016, there was a small increase on 2015 figures in the average trips and average miles travelled as a car driver, but these were not significant.

Chart 12: Average number of trips per person per year as a car driver or passenger: England, 2002-2016 [NTS0303]

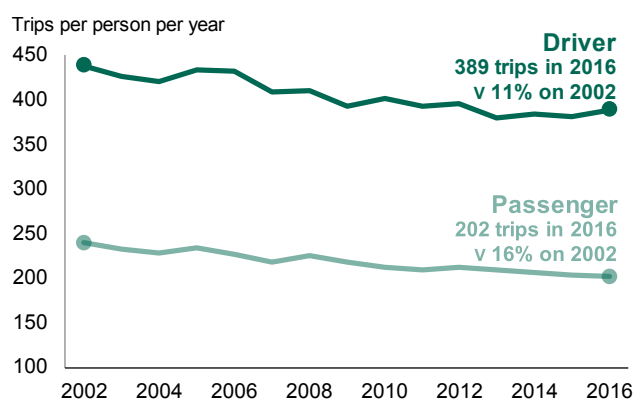
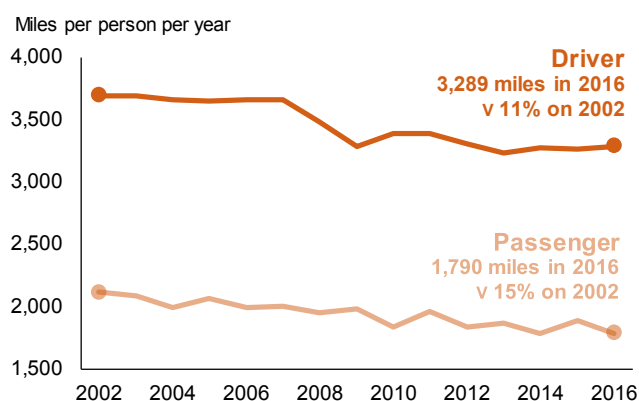


Chart 13: Average miles per person per year as a car driver or passenger: England, 2002-2016 [NTS0305]



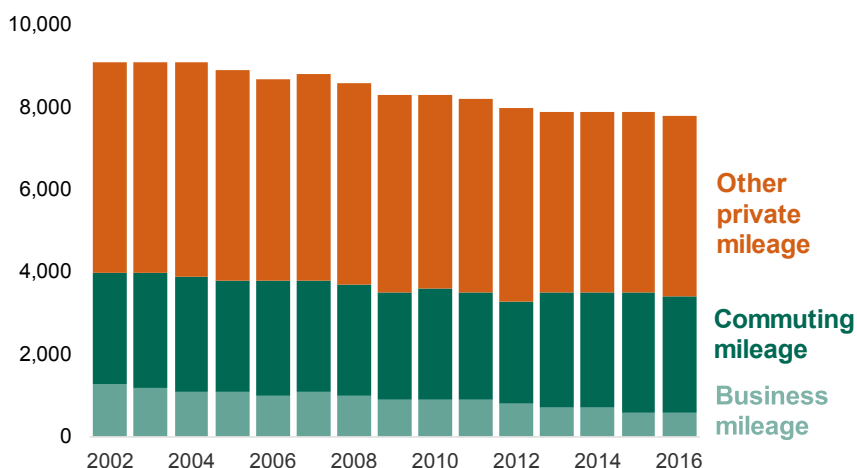
Trends in household car mileage

As well as personal mileage, the NTS asks households about their average yearly car mileage for each car they own. Trends in household car mileage are similar to the trend in miles driven per person per year.

The average annual mileage of a household car was 7,800 miles in 2016 a fall from 9,200 in 2002.

Company cars had an annual mileage more than double that of private cars (18,900 compared to 7,500) in 2016 but accounted for only 3% of total vehicles. The proportion of company cars has fallen from 6% in 2002, which could be linked to changes in how they are taxed.

Chart 14: Annual mileage of household cars by type of mileage: England, 2002-2016 [NTS0901]



Although the average annual mileage of household cars has decreased when compared to 2002, the average annual mileage for commuting has remained relatively stable, varying between 2,500 and 2,900 miles per year. Business mileage however has halved over this period.

The NTS can provide further information on annual car miles, for example, for cars of different ages, and for diesel cars compared to petrol cars.

Related data sources

Aggregate trends in road traffic are published in the Department's traffic statistics available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/road-traffic-statistics>

Experimental statistics

derived from vehicle odometer readers taken at annual MOT tests are also published by DfT as part of the vehicle statistics series.

Further analysis and forecasts

A more detailed analysis of trends in car trips and mileage, which uses NTS data, can be found in the DfT publication '[Understanding drivers of road travel](#)'.

[Road Use Statistics](#) is a publication which draws together key results from DfT statistics, in particular road traffic statistics, National Travel Survey, vehicle licensing statistics, and road freight statistics to provide an overall picture of roads, vehicles and how people use roads.

DfT also publishes [road traffic forecasts](#).

Further information about trends in personal travel

The statistical datasets published alongside this release provide a series of statistical tables containing further data. [NTS01](#) presents trends in travel over time, and [NTS02](#) covers driving licence holding and vehicle availability. Section [NTS09](#) provides further data relating to household vehicles mileage

In addition, the NTS dataset contains a wide range of further details which facilitate more in-depth study.

Trends in walking trips and miles

In this publication, we are not able to compare all walking trips between years up to 2015, and 2016. However, we are able to compare walks that were not short walks (i.e. those over a mile in length).

Chart 15: Average number of walking trips per person per year excluding short walks: England, 2002-2016 [NTS0303]

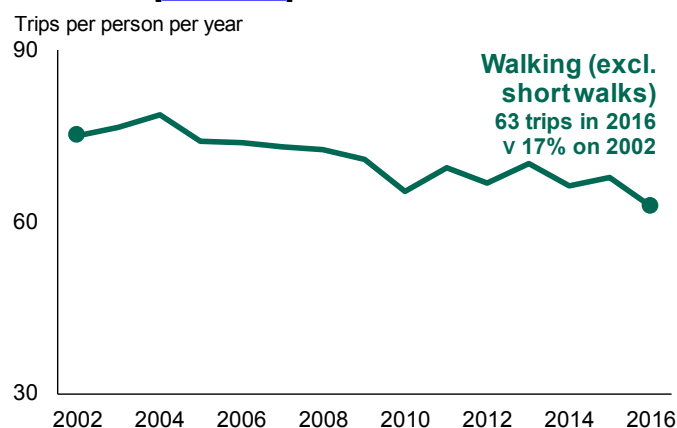


Chart 16: Average walking miles per person per year excluding short walks: England, 2002-2016 [NTS0305]



In 2016, people walked an average of 95 miles in longer walking trips (i.e. excluding short walks - see box opposite). This was a decrease of 19% on the 2002 figures. Similarly, the number of longer walking trips decreased by 17% over the same period. In 2016, including short walks, people walked an average of 198 miles, or around 4 miles per week.

The NTS also asks people to estimate how often they did a walk of more than 20 minutes. Around 65% of respondents said at least once a week.

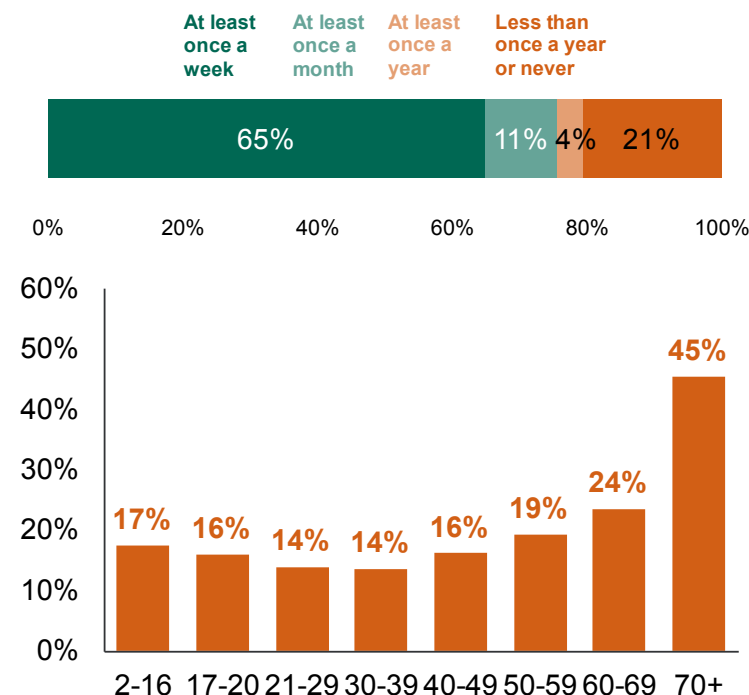


Chart 17: Walking frequency (walks of 20 minutes or more): England, 2016 [NTS0312]

Chart 18: Proportion of people walking for 20 minutes less than once a year or never: England, 2016 [NTS0312]

What is a walk in NTS?

A walk trip in the NTS is one where walking is the main mode in terms of distance. Walks under 50 yards and off the public highway are excluded. Walks over 50 yards but under 1 mile ("short walks") were recorded on 7 of the travel diary for half of respondents, and for day 1 for the other half in 2016. See page 5 for more information. Distance figures include walks made as part of any trip.

Around 21% said less than once a year or never, but this varied by age. For age groups up to 50-59, less than 20% of respondents gave this answer, compared to 45% of people aged 70 and over.

Trends in bicycle ownership, trips and miles

For the average 2014 to 2016 (see box), 43% of people owned a bicycle, or had use of one. This figure was broadly unchanged on the three years to 2015. Young children and children aged 11-16 had the highest rates of bicycle access at 83% and 71% respectively.

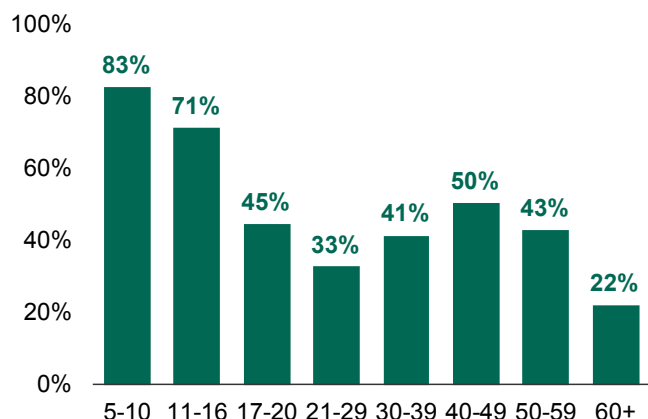


Chart 19: % of people with access to a bicycle: England, average of 2014-2016 [NTS0608]

Around 14% of those respondents cycled at least once a week, and 10% cycled at least once a month. 66% of respondents cycled less than once a year or never.

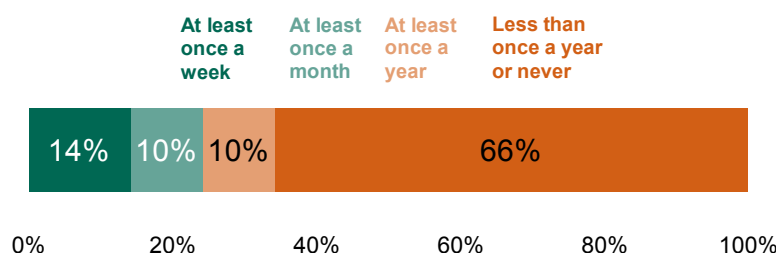


Chart 20: Cycling frequency: England, 2016 [NTS0313]

What is a cycling trip in the NTS?

A **cycling trip** in the NTS is one where cycling is the main mode in terms of distance. **Distance** figures include cycling stages made as part of any trip. The number of respondents using this mode is small, so results (particularly year-on-year variability) should be interpreted with caution.

Due to these small sample numbers, sometimes we average over more than one year to increase the reliability of the data

Related data sources

DfT publishes statistics on walking at local area level as part of the annual [Local Area Walking and Cycling statistics](#).

Chart 21: Average number of cycling trips per person per year: England, 2002-2016 [NTS0303]

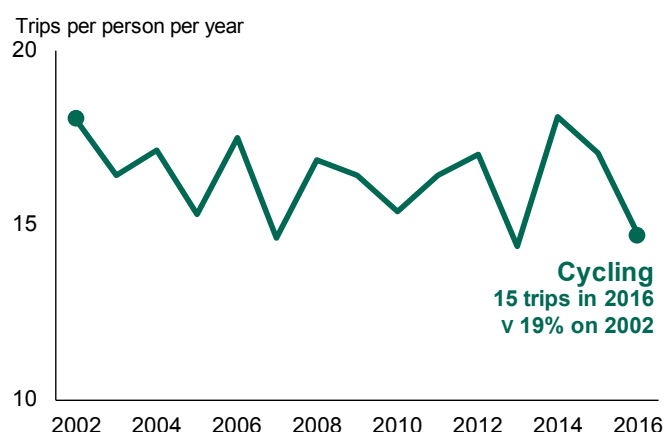
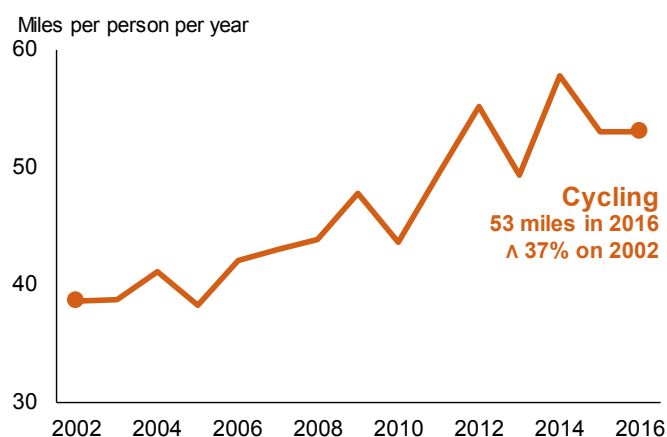


Chart 22: Average cycling miles per person per year: England, 2002-2016 [NTS0305]



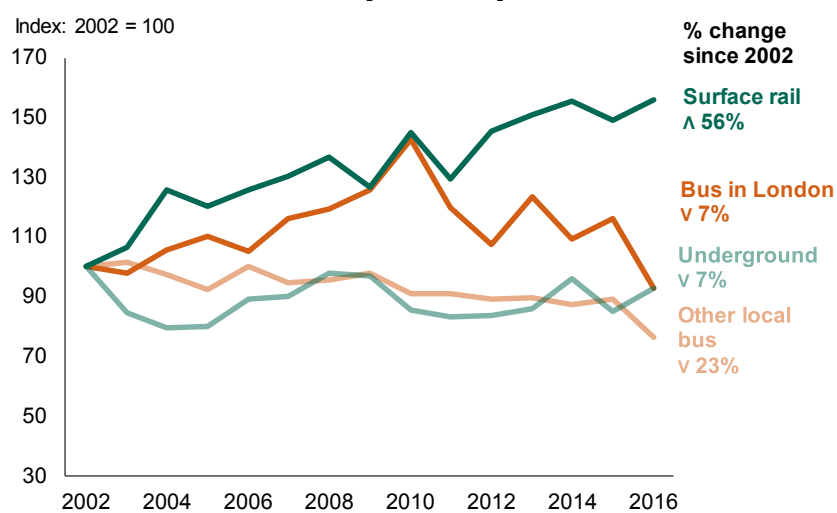
Overall, the broad trends in the average cycling distance travelled and the average number of cycling trips we saw to 2015 continued in 2016. Although the average number of miles cycled in 2016 (53 miles per person) was at the same level in 2015, this was 37% higher than in 2002. The number of trips in 2016 was 19% lower than in 2002. The relatively small number of cycling trips does mean that the series can be more volatile than some others.

Trends in public transport trips and miles

Trips trends by public and private modes have evolved differently in recent years. Earlier sections showed that walking (excluding short walks) and car trips have fallen consistently over time.

However, trends are different for public transport modes. Since 2002, surface rail trips have grown by 56% to 21 trips per person per year. Trips on London buses, that increased in the years from 2002 to 2010, were 7% lower in 2016 than in 2002 at 16 trips per person per year. There was a similar decrease for trips on the London Underground, and trips on other local buses (outside London) decreased by 23%.

Chart 23: Trips per person per year by selected public modes: England, 2002-2016, index 2002=100 [NTS0303]

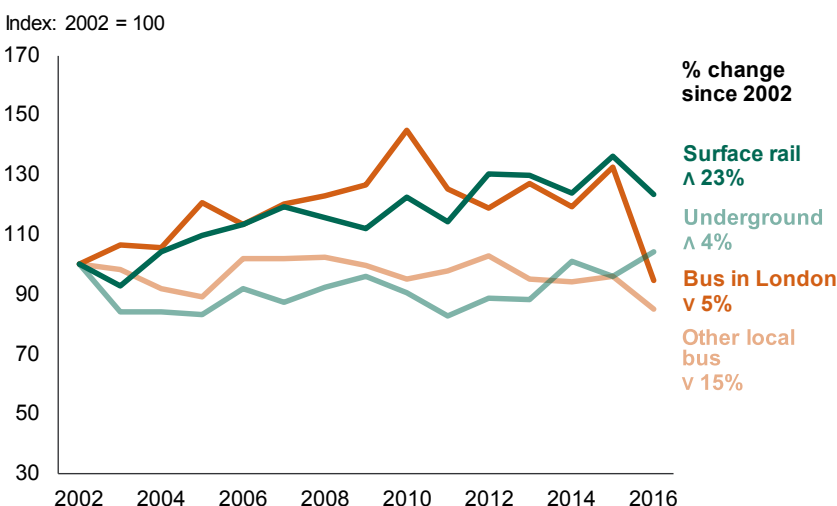


What are the public modes of transport in the NTS?

Public modes of transport in the NTS are local bus in London, other local bus, non-local bus, surface rail (that includes the London Underground), London Underground, light rail, tram, taxi, domestic air and ferry.

There were similar trends for the average distance people travelled per year on public transport modes. The main drop was in buses in London that fell to a level similar (61 miles per person per year) to that in 2002. This followed a significant drop between 2015 and 2016 after an increase between 2014 and 2015.

While people made fewer trips on the London Underground than 2002, the average distance they travelled increased by 4% over the same period (around 10 miles per person per year).



Related data sources

DfT publishes a range of statistics on public transport including:

- [Annual Bus Statistics](#)
- [Rail Statistics](#)
- [Light Rail and Tram](#)
- [Statistics](#)
- [Taxi Statistics](#)

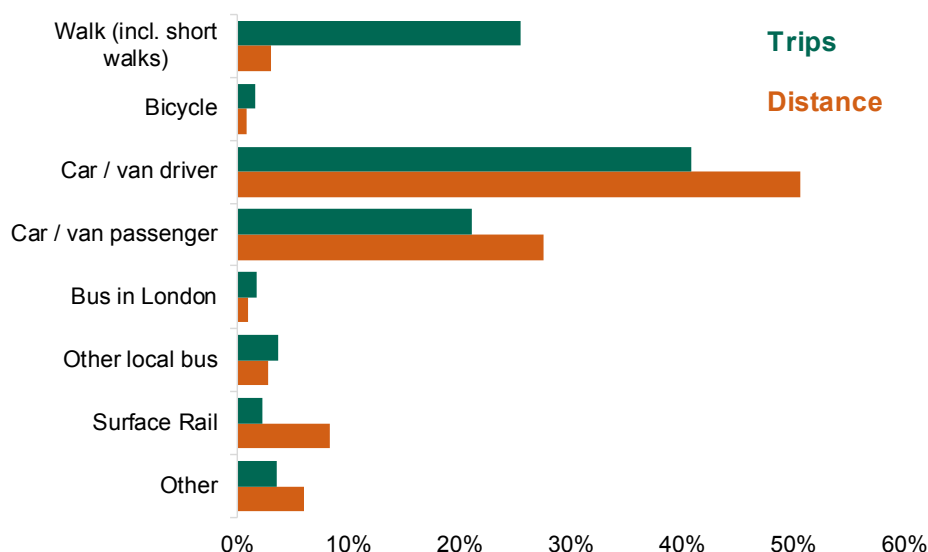
Chart 24: Miles per person per year by selected public modes: England, 2002-2016, index 2002=100 [NTS0305]

Share of trips and distance travelled by mode

The National Travel Survey collects information on modes of travel for each trip and stage, from which we can analyse the share of trips, distance and time for each mode. The analysis uses figures for 2016 that include short walks.

The mode share depends whether trips or distance are considered. The modes accounting for most trips were car, either as a driver or a passenger (62%), and walking (25%). Therefore, in 2016, 87% of all trips were accounted for by only two modes: car and walking.

Chart 25: Mode share of average number of trips and distance travelled: England, 2016 [[NTS0303](#), [NTS0305](#)]



What are private modes?

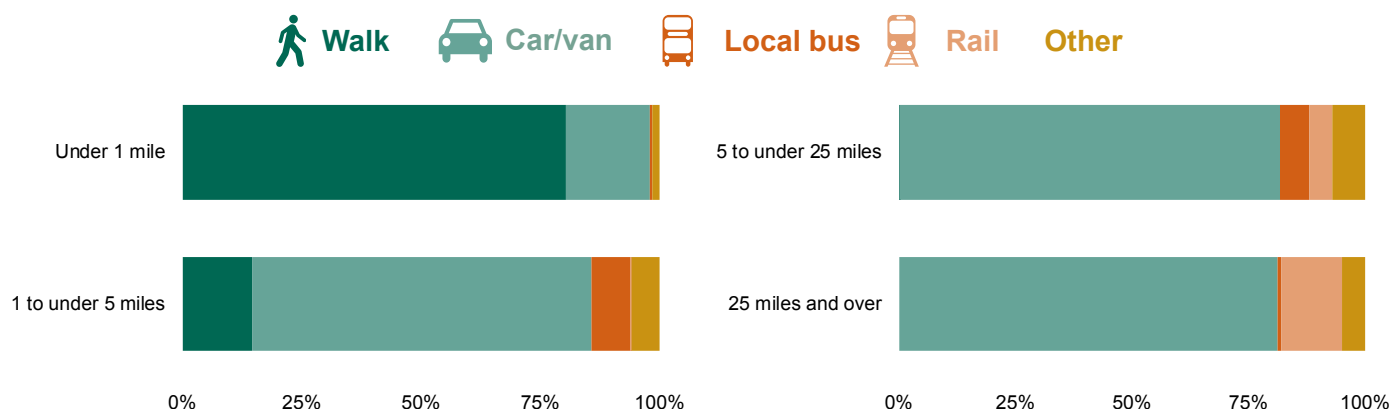
Private modes of transport are walk, bicycle, car, motorcycle, private hire buses, minibuses, motorcaravan and dormobile.

What are public modes?

Public modes of transport are local bus in London, other local bus, non-local bus, surface rail (that includes the London Overground), London Underground, light rail, tram, taxi, domestic air and ferry.

Car, either as a driver or as a passenger, was also the most common mode for distance travelled, accounting for 78% of the total distance travelled in 2016. Walking accounted for a larger share of trips than of distance (25% compared to 3%) in 2016, because it is a mode which tends to be used for short distances. Conversely, surface rail travel accounted for a larger share of distance than trips (8% compared to 2%) being predominantly for longer distances.

Chart 26: Mode share of trips by main mode for different trip lengths: England, 2016 [[NTS0308](#)]



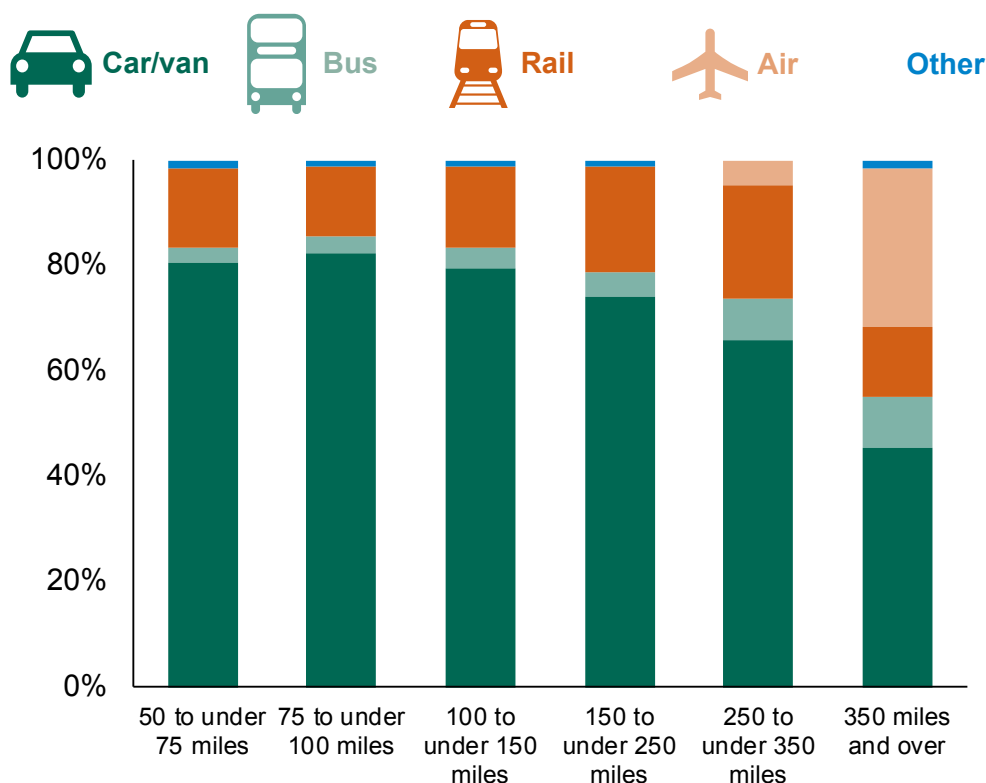
Walking was the most frequent mode used for very short distance trips: 80% of all trips under one mile were walks. For all other distance bands, the car was the most frequent mode of travel. Buses were mainly used for medium length trips, between 1 and 25 miles.

Long distance trips

The NTS shows how most trips are relatively short - in 2016, including short walks, 23% of trips were under 1 mile, and 68% under 5 miles. Again, this varies by mode of travel; nearly all walks are under 5 miles, compared with 56% of car driver trips and 9% of trips by surface rail.

However, the NTS can also look at long distance trips and how they are distributed.

Chart 27: Mode share of long distance trips for different trip lengths:
England, average of 2012 to 2016 [NTS0317]



What is a flight in NTS?

Domestic air relates to single way flights within Great Britain. **International air** refers to single way flights overseas.

Related data sources

Aviation statistics are published by DfT, available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/aviation-statistics>.

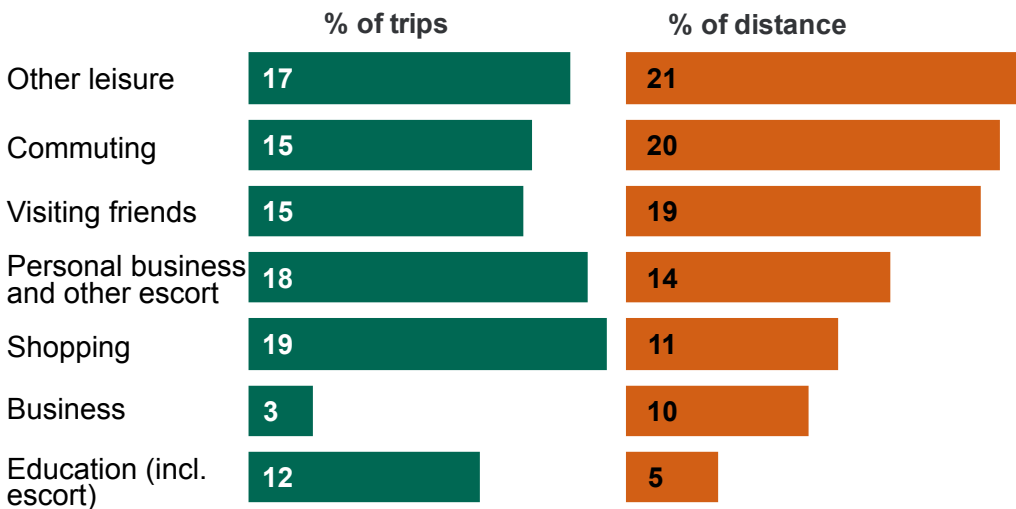
For trips up to 150 miles, around 80% were done by car in 2016, and for trips between 150 and 350 miles, over two-thirds were done by car. A broadly similar proportion of trips were done using rail for each of the distance groups shown. Only when the trip distance was 350 miles and over do trips using domestic flights become significant - around 30% of these trips were flown in 2016.

People make relatively few domestic flights compared to international flights. In 2016, 93% of respondents made a domestic flight less than once a year or never, but only 52% of respondents had not made an international flight in the last 12 months.

Share of trips and distance travelled by purpose

The subject of the National Travel Survey is personal travel - trips people make in order to reach a destination, with each trip having a single main purpose. Therefore the NTS provides a key source of information on why people travel.

Chart 28: Purpose share of average number of trips and distance travelled: England, 2016 [NTS0403, NTS0404]



Shopping and personal business were the most common reasons for travelling and accounted for 19% and 18% of trips per person in 2016, but accounted for a smaller share of trip distance (11% and 14% respectively).

Other leisure - which includes holidays and day trips, sport and entertainment - accounts for the highest share of distance travelled per person at 21% (17% of trips).

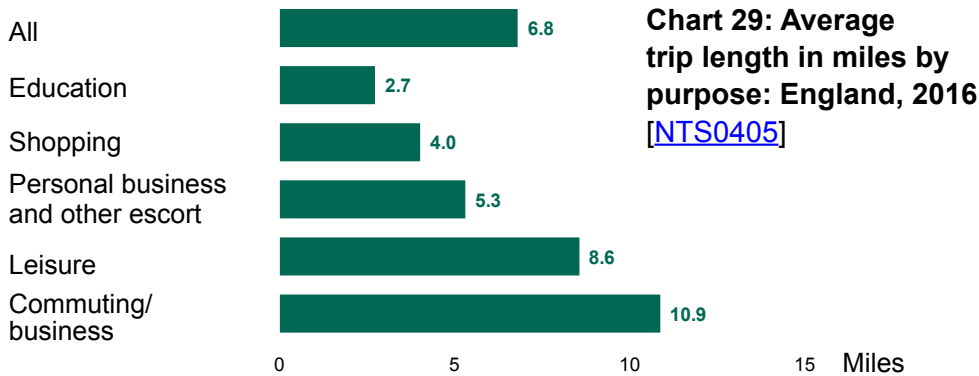


Chart 29: Average trip length in miles by purpose: England, 2016 [NTS0405]

Average trip lengths vary by for different purposes as well. Education trips were the shortest on average in 2016, at 2.7 miles. Leisure and commuting trips were longer on average at 8.6 miles and 10.9 miles respectively and generally as trips increase in distance, they are more likely to be for business or holiday purposes.

Comparing average trip length and time suggests education trips are slowest, which reflects the fact that a high proportion of these trips are made by walking.

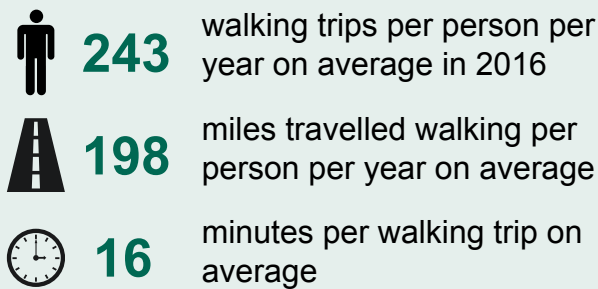
Purpose of travel in the NTS

The purposes of travel used in this section can be summarised as follows:

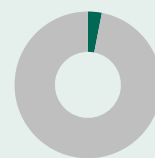
- ▶ **Commuting:** trips from home to usual place of work or from usual workplace to home
- ▶ **Business:** personal trips in course of work
- ▶ **Education:** trips to school or college
- ▶ **Shopping:** trips to the shops or from shops to home
- ▶ **Personal business:** visits to services, medical consultations, etc.
- ▶ **Visit friends:** trips to visit friends, either at someone's home or elsewhere
- ▶ **Other leisure:** mostly entertainment, sport, holidays and day trips

Escort trips are those made to accompany someone else e.g. taking a child to school is escort education.

For more details on trip purposes, please see [Notes and definitions](#).



25%
of trips

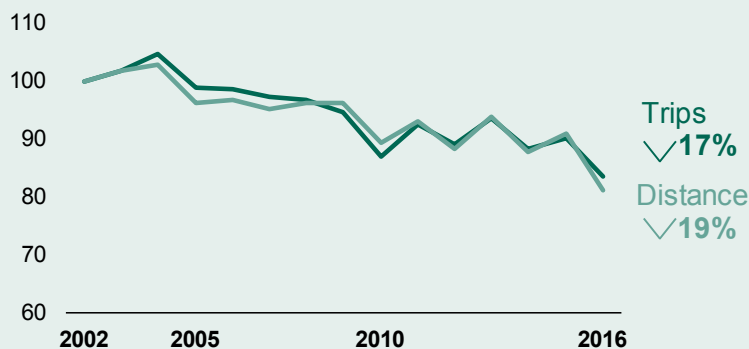


3%
of distance

Walking was the second most common mode for trips, but accounted for a small share of distance, as walking trips tended to be shorter than average.

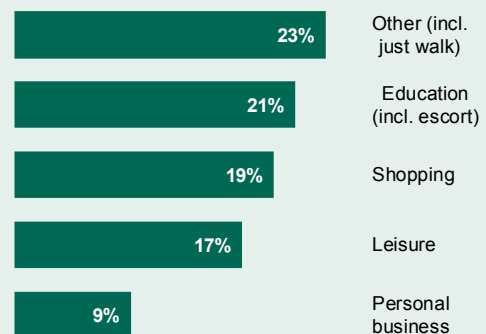
Trends (excluding short walks) [NTS0303, NTS0305]

Trends in trips and distance from 2002 to 2016 (index: 2002=100)



Purpose of walking [NTS0409]

Top 5 purposes, as % of walking trips: 2016



Frequency of walks of 20 minutes or more [NTS0312]



Over a third of people who walk for 20 minutes “less than once a year or never” had a mobility problem.

Walking trips, by age and gender [NTS0601]

Trips per person per year, by age and gender: 2016



Rates of walking trips were greater for women than men on average, with the greatest difference for those aged 30-39.

What is a walk in NTS?

A **walk trip** in the NTS is one where walking is the main mode in terms of distance. In 2016 short walks (those walks of less than a mile in length or less than 20 minutes duration) were recorded on day 1 for half of the sample, and day 7 for the other half of the sample. In previous years short walks have only been recorded on day 7 of the travel diary. Collecting short walks on day 1 of the travel week has increased the number of short walks reported which means a break in the time series between 2016 and earlier years. Figures on this factsheet which **only refer to 2016 include short walks, however the trends in trips and distance chart exclude short walks so that figures are comparable across years.** Distance figures include walks made as part of any trip. Walks under 50 yards, walks and off the public highway are excluded.

Related data sources

DfT publishes statistics on walking at local area level as part of the annual [Local Area Walking and Cycling statistics](#).



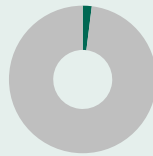
15 cycling trips per person per year on average in 2016



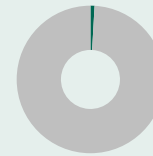
53 miles travelled cycling per person per year on average



24 minutes per cycling trip on average



2%
of trips

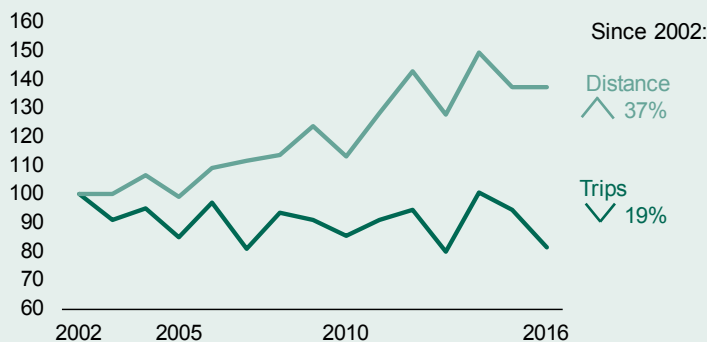


1%
of distance

Cycling accounted for a small share of trips and distance travelled.

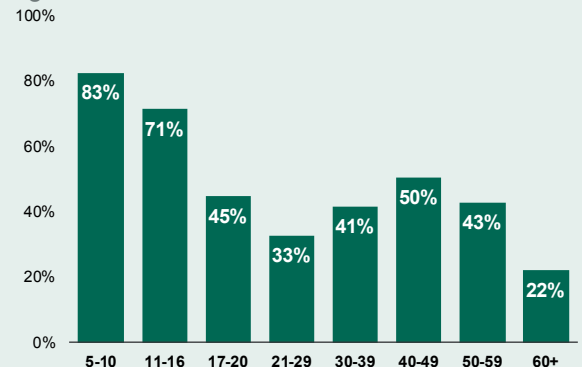
Trends [[NTS0303](#), [NTS0305](#)]

Trends in trips and distance from 2002 to 2016 (index: 2002=100)



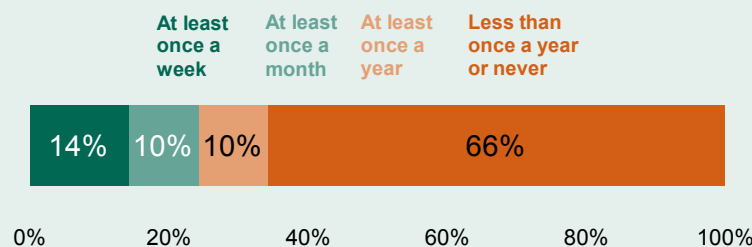
Access to a bicycle [[NTS0608](#)]

Proportion who own or have use of a bicycle, by age band: 2014-16 combined



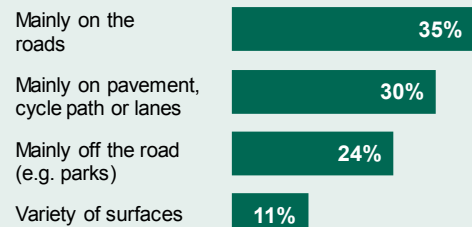
Frequency of cycling [[NTS0313](#)]

14% of people aged 5+ use a bicycle at least once a week



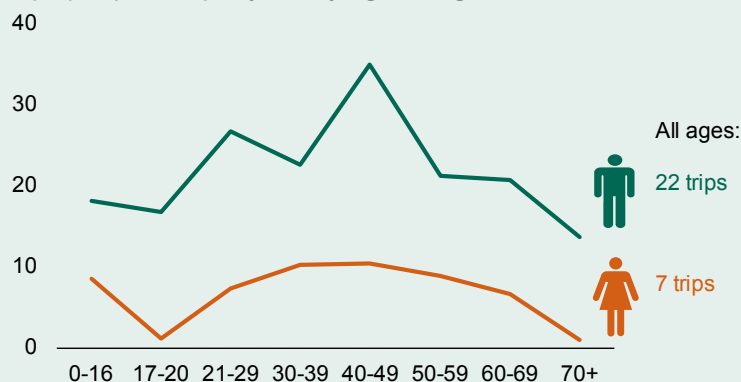
Where people cycle [[NTS0315](#)]

Where usually cycled in the last 12 months: 2016



Cycling trips by age and gender [[NTS0601](#)]

Trips per person per year, by age and gender: 2016



Men make more cycling trips than women at all ages, with the greatest difference for those aged 40-49.

What is a cycling trip in NTS?

A **cycling trip** in the NTS is one where cycling is the main mode in terms of distance.

Distance figures include cycling stages made as part of any trip. The number of respondents using this mode is small, so results (particularly year-on-year variability) should be interpreted with caution.

Related data sources

DfT publishes statistics on cycling at local area level as part of the annual [Local Area Walking and Cycling statistics](#).



591

trips made by car (driver or passenger) per person per year on average in 2016



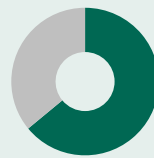
5,079

miles travelled by car per person per year on average

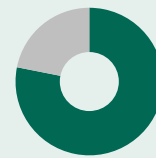


22

minutes per car driver trip on average



62%
of trips

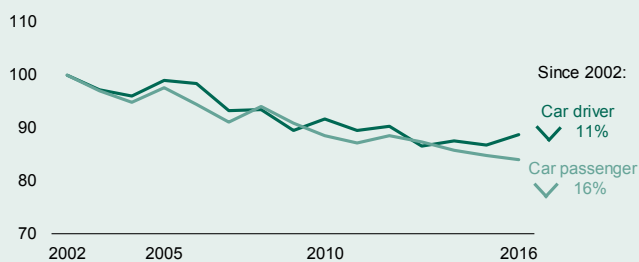


78%
of distance

Car (as a driver and as a passenger) was the most common mode for both trips and distance travelled, but car use has been falling in the last decade.

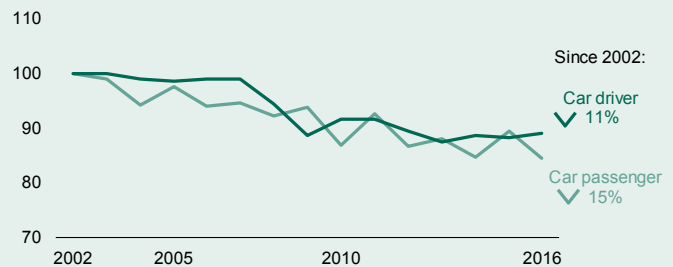
Trends [\[NTS0303\]](#)

Trends in trips from 2002 to 2016
(index: 2002=100)



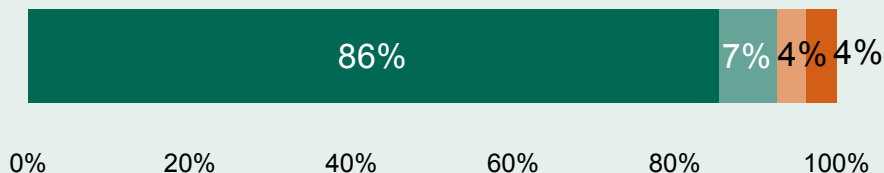
Trends [\[NTS0305\]](#)

Trends in distance from 2002 to 2016
(index: 2002=100)



Frequency of private car use [\[NTS0313\]](#)

At least once a week
At least once a month
At least once a year
Less than once a year or never



What is a car trip in NTS?

Figures for car trips and distance presented here relate to both **cars** and **vans**.

Further information

In addition to the figures presented here, the National Travel Survey collects statistics on household vehicles in the [NTS09](#) tables, including annual mileage, type of car (company or private), and fuel type.

Related data sources

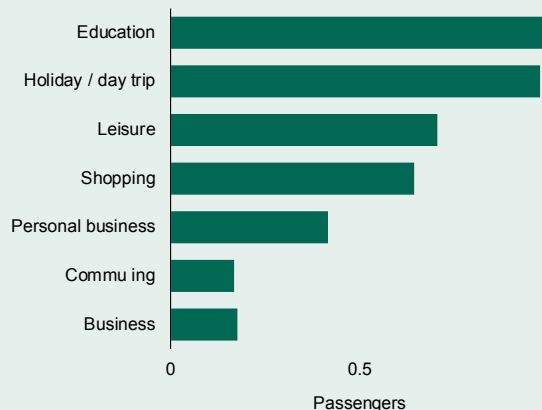
Statistics on the volume of road traffic are available at: <http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/road-traffic-statistics>.

Car occupancy [\[NTS0906\]](#)

1.5
persons in the car
on average for a car
driving stage

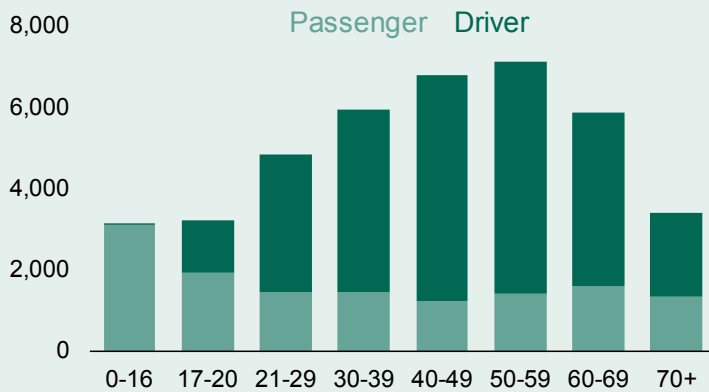
62%
of car driving stages,
where the driver is
alone in the car

Average number of car passengers by purpose: 2016





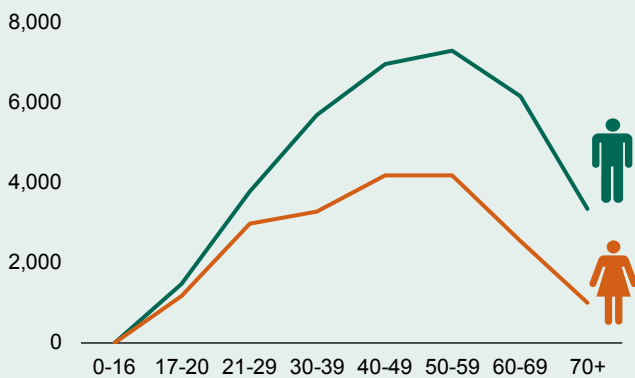
Car mileage, by age and gender [NTS0605]



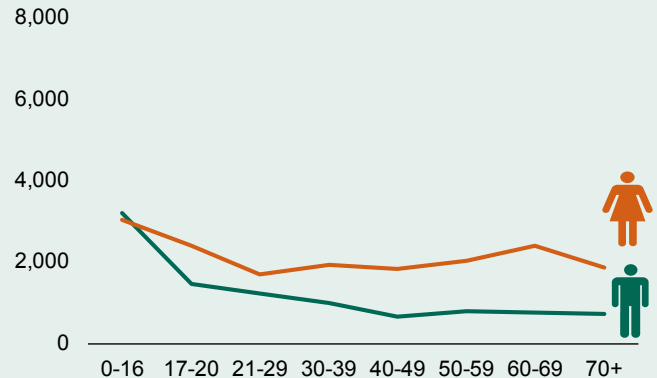
Car mileage increased with age until 50-59 years old, and then decreased. Car drivers accounted for a larger share of total car mileage for all age groups except the youngest.

Distance travelled by car as a driver was lower for women, but women did more mileage as car passengers than men at nearly all age groups.

Distance travelled as a car driver in miles, by age and gender: 2016



Distance travelled as a car passenger in miles, by age and gender: 2016



Travel and personal car access [NTS0702]



Persons in households without a car

702 trips
per person per year

2,836 miles
per person per year



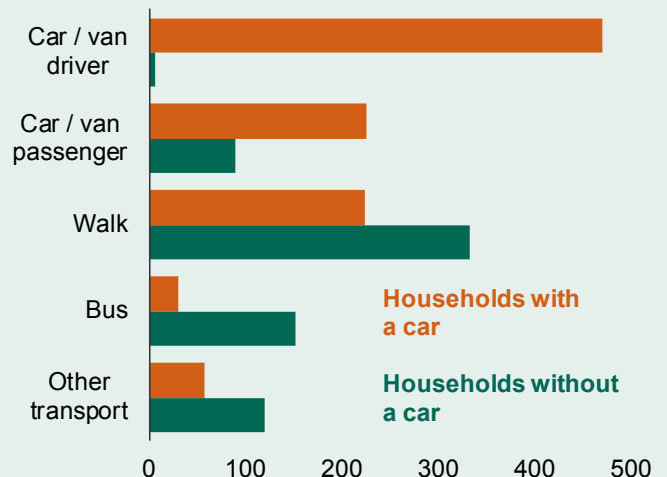
Persons in households with a car

1,008 trips
per person per year

7,282 miles
per person per year

People living in households with a car made 1.4 times more trips and travelled 2.6 times further than people living in households without cars.

Trips per person per year, by personal car access: 2016

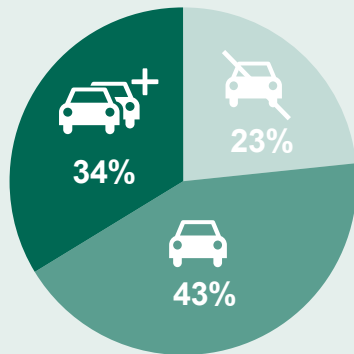


People who did not have access to a car in their household most often walked or travelled by bus. Car driving was the most frequent mode for people with a car in their household.

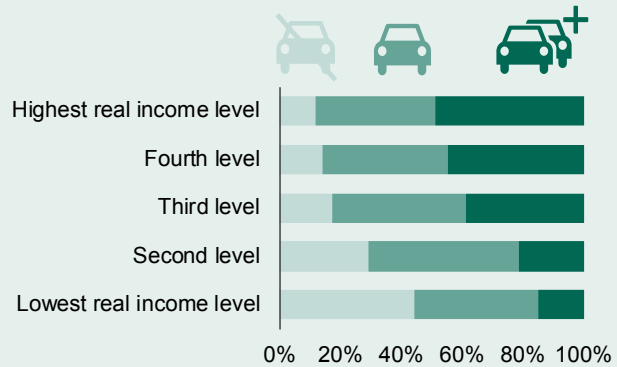


Household car access [NTS0205, NTS0703]

Household car availability: 2016



Household car availability, by household income quintile: 2016



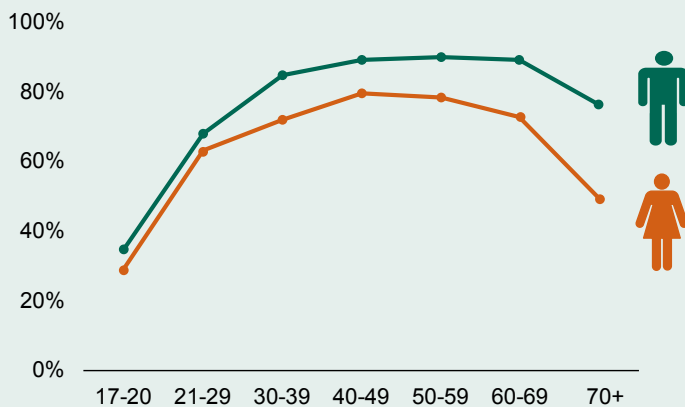
Driving licence holding in 2016 [NTS0201]



32.4 million estimated licence holders

73% of English residents aged 17+

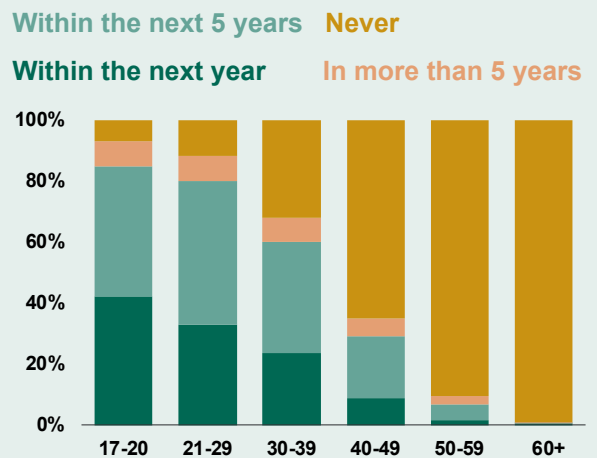
Full car driving licence holders, by age and gender: 2016



Learning to drive [NTS0203, NTS0204]

Among people who did not hold a driving licence, how soon they think they will learn to drive varied by age. Younger age groups were more inclined to say they will learn to drive in the near future.

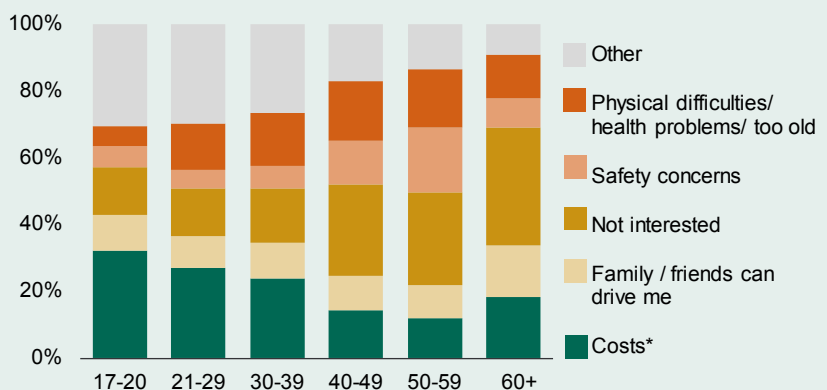
How soon non-licence holders think they will learn to drive, by age: 2016



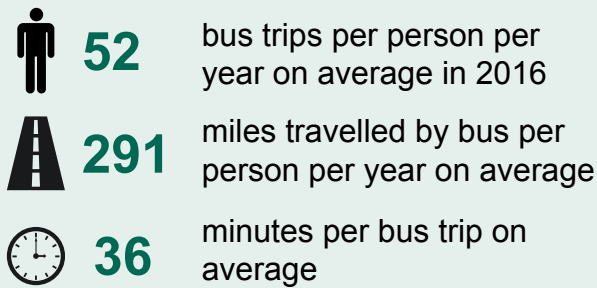
Among people who did not hold a driving licence, the reasons for not learning to drive also varied by age.

For young people, costs were the main barrier for not learning to drive, whereas older age groups were more often not interested in driving, had safety concerns or physical difficulties.

Main reason for not learning to drive, by age: 2016



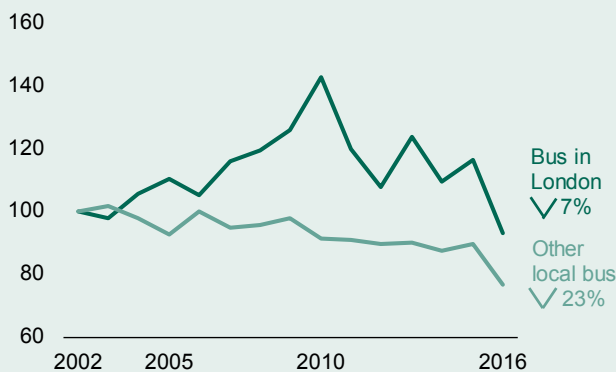
* includes learning to drive, insurance, buying a car and other general motoring costs



Bus travel accounted for a small share of trips and distance. The bus was mainly used for medium length trips (1 to 25 miles).

Trends [NTS0303]

Trends in trips per person per year from 2002 to 2016 (index: 2002=100)



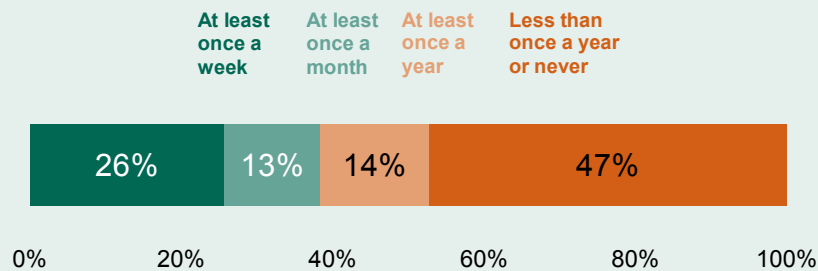
[NTS0305]

Trends in distance per person per year from 2002 to 2016 (index 2002=100)



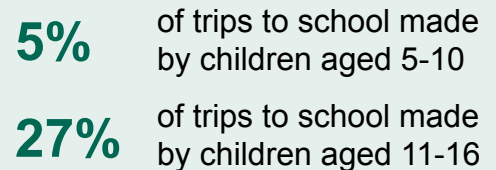
Trips and distances made by bus have decreased in the last 15 years. Trips made by buses in London have decreased by 7%, and trips on local buses outside London have decreased by 23%.

Frequency of local bus use [NTS0313]



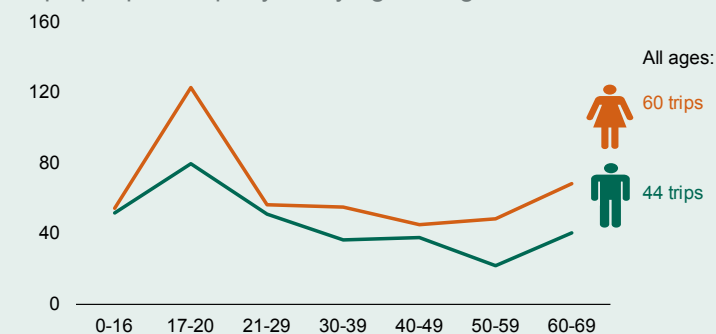
Trips to school [NTS0613]

Private and local buses account for...



Bus use by age and gender [NTS0601]

Trips per person per year by age and gender: 2016



Women made more bus trips than men at all ages.

What is a bus trip in the NTS?

Local bus includes all local services, which can be split between bus in London and other local bus. **Non-local bus** includes express services, excursions and tours. Unless otherwise specified, bus refers to local and non-local bus.

Related data sources

DfT publishes bus statistics, available at <http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/bus-statistics>.



21

surface rail trips per person per year on average in 2016



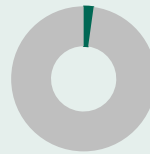
538

miles travelled per person per year on average

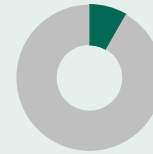


76

minutes per surface rail trip on average



2% of all trips

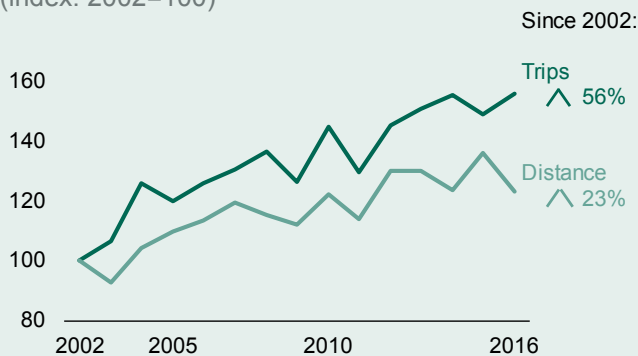


8% of total distance

Surface rail accounts for a small share of trips, but a larger share of distance travelled, as rail trips tend to be longer than average.

Trends [\[NTS0303\]](#), [\[NTS0305\]](#)

Trends in trips and distance from 2002 to 2016 (index: 2002=100)



Purpose of surface rail trips

[\[NTS0409\]](#)



48% of surface rail trips are for **commuting**



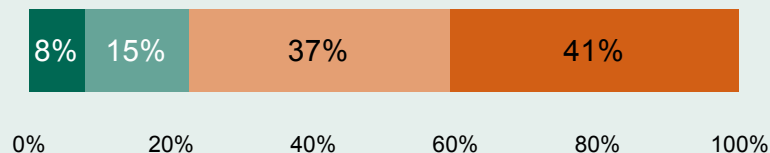
23% of surface rail trips are for **leisure**



10% of surface rail trips are for **business**

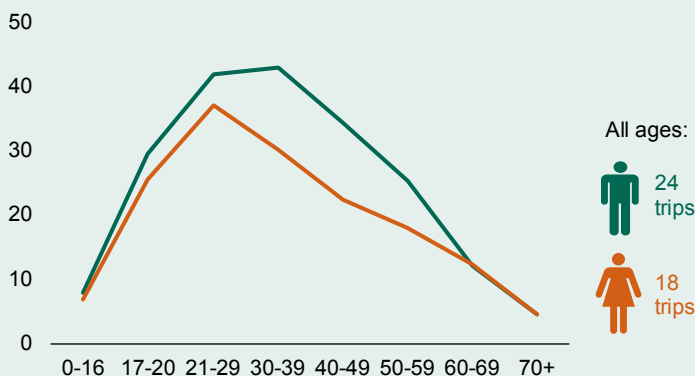
Frequency of surface rail use [\[NTS0313\]](#)

At least once a week
At least once a month
At least once a year
Less than once a year or never



Surface rail trips, by age and gender [\[NTS0601\]](#)

Trips per person per year, by age and gender: 2016

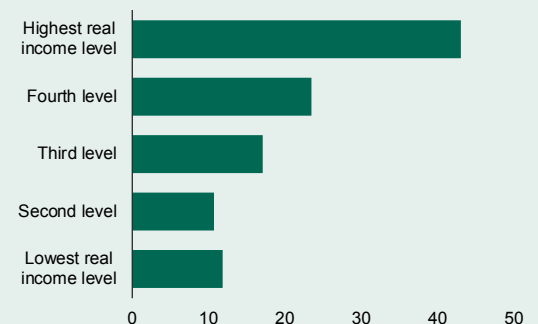


Surface rail trip rates are higher for people aged 21-39, and men make more surface rail trips than women, on average.

Surface rail trips by income

[\[NTS0705\]](#)

Trips per person per year, by household income quintile: 2016



People in the highest income level make nearly 4 times more surface rail trips than people in the lowest.

What is a surface rail trip?

Surface rail includes National Rail and London Overground, but excludes London Underground, DLR, trams or light rail.

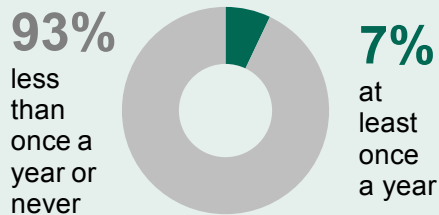
Related data sources

Rail statistics are published by the [Office of Rail and Road](#), and by [DfT Rail Statistics](#).



Frequency of domestic flights [\[NTS0313\]](#)

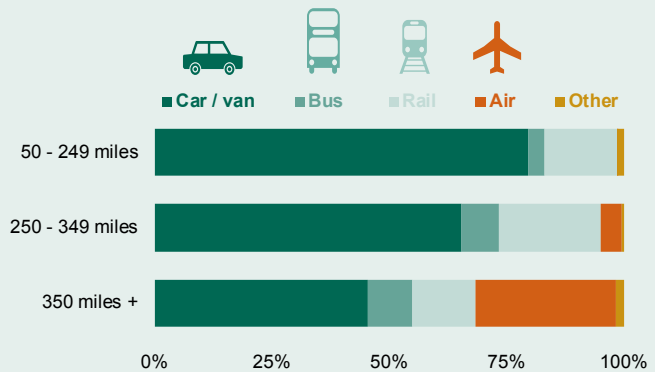
Frequency of use of domestic air: 2016



The proportion of people who travelled at least once a year by domestic air has decreased over the last decade from 9% to 7%.

Domestic air as share of long trips [\[NTS0317\]](#)

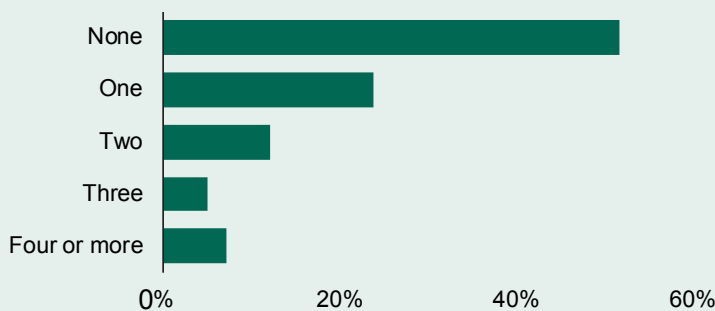
Mode share of long distance trips, by trip length: 2012-2016



Domestic air accounts for 30% of long distance trips of 350 miles and over.

Frequency of international flights [\[NTS0316\]](#)

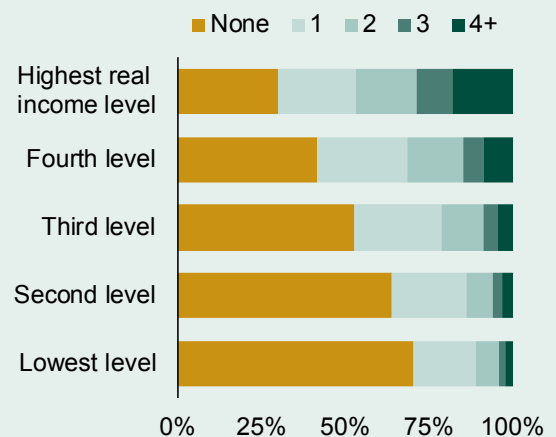
Number of flights abroad in the last 12 months: 2016



52% of people made no international flights in the last 12 months. The figure in 2011 was 57%

International flights by income

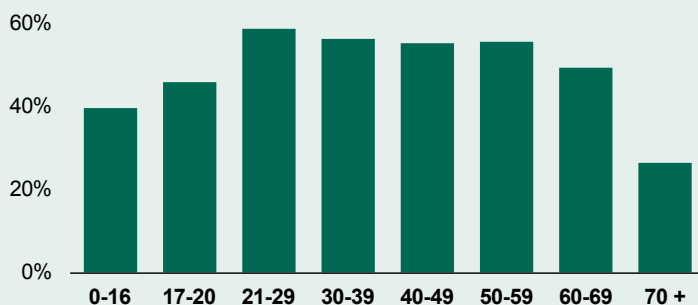
Number of flights abroad in the last 12 months, by household income quintile: 2016



The proportion of people who took at least one international flight in the last 12 months increased with household income level, from 30% in the lowest quintile to 70% in the highest.

International flights by age [\[NTS0316\]](#)

Percentage of people who made at least one flight abroad in the last 12 months, by age: 2016



Younger and older age groups make fewer than average international flights abroad.

What is a flight in NTS?

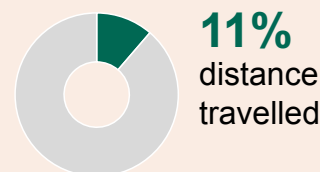
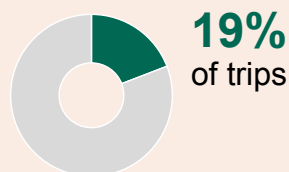
Domestic air relates to single way flights within Great Britain. **International air** refers to single way flights overseas.

Related data sources

Aviation statistics are published by DfT, available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/aviation-statistics>.

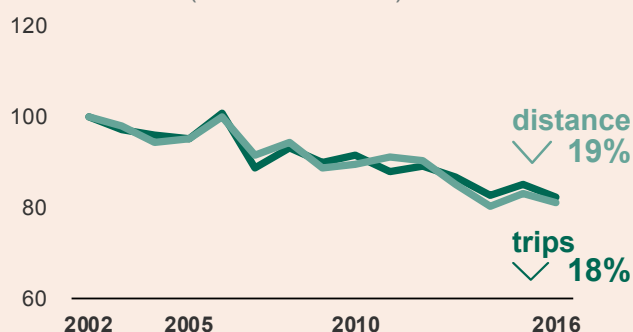


Shopping was one of the most common reasons for travelling in 2016, but accounted for a smaller share of distance travelled.



Trends excluding short walks [\[NTS0403, NTS0404\]](#)

Trends in trips and distance per person per year, from 2002 to 2016 (index: 2002=100)

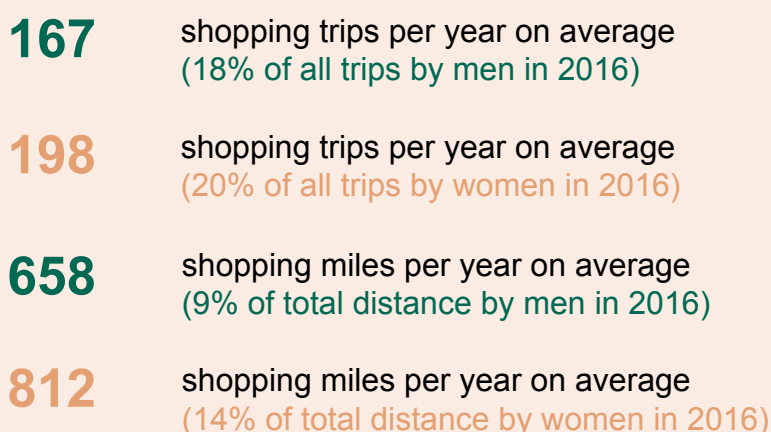
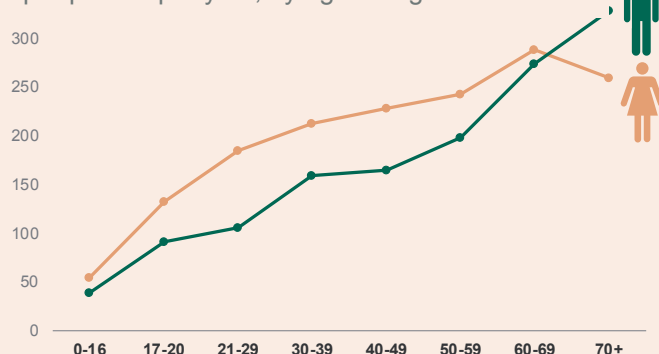


Main shopping modes in 2016 [\[NTS0409\]](#)



Age and gender [\[NTS0611, NTS0612\]](#)

Trips per person per year, by age and gender: 2016



What is a shopping trip?

A shopping trip is defined in the NTS as 'any trip to the shops, whether or not anything was bought, and even when there was no intention to buy'.

Related data sources

The National Travel Survey Factsheet on shopping, published in March 2017, used NTS and other data to describe shopping trends.

[ONS Retail sales statistics](#) provide information on the growth in online shopping which may be associated with trends in shopping trips.

Internet Access statistics, published by the ONS, show that in 2016, 77% of adults in Great Britain had bought goods or services online in the past 12 months, this compares to 53% of adults in 2008. These statistics also highlighted differences between age groups when looking at the types of goods and services bought online.



144

commuting trips per person on average in 2016

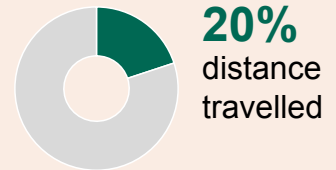
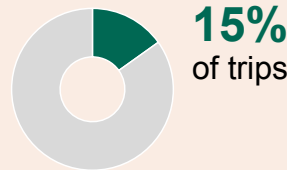
1,296

average commuting miles per person per year

30

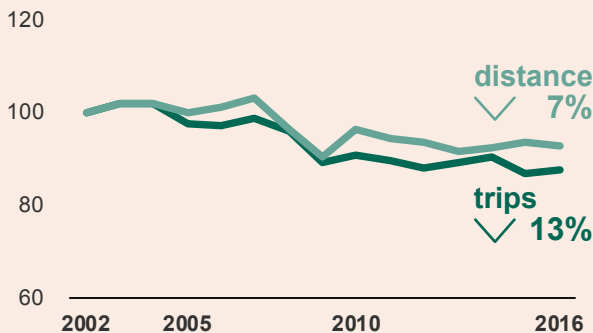
average length of a commuting trip in minutes

Commuting was one of the most common reasons for travelling in 2016, and accounted for a large share of distance travelled.



Trends excluding short walks [NTS0403, NTS0404]

Trends in trips and distance per person per year, from 2002 to 2016 (index: 2002=100)



Main commuting modes in 2016 [NTS0409]



64% of commuting trips were made by **car/van**



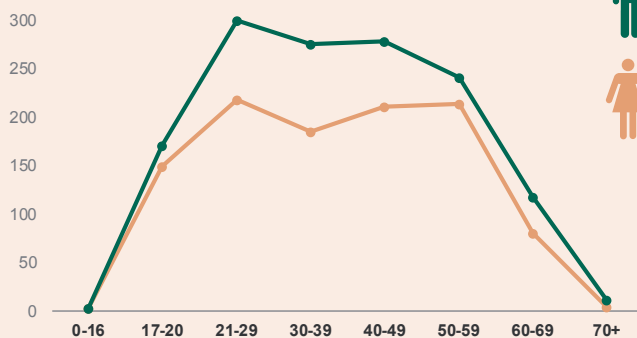
11% of commuting trips were made by **walking**



7% of commuting trips were made by **surface rail**

Age and gender [NTS0611, NTS0612]

Trips per person per year, by age and gender: 2016



166 commuting trips per year on average (18% of all trips by men in 2016)

124 commuting trips per year on average (13% of all trips by women in 2016)

1,705 commuting miles per year on average (24% of total distance by men in 2016)

898 commuting miles per year on average (15% of total distance by women in 2016)

Commuting trips

In the NTS a **commuting** trip is defined as a trip from home to work, or from work to home.

On this definition, 15% of all trips are for commuting. However, this means that if a (nontrivial) break in the journey is made, for example to take children to school on the way to work, the trip is no longer classified as a commute according to the NTS definition.

Understanding how these different types of trips are linked together (a 'trip chain') is described in the Trip Chaining factsheet here:

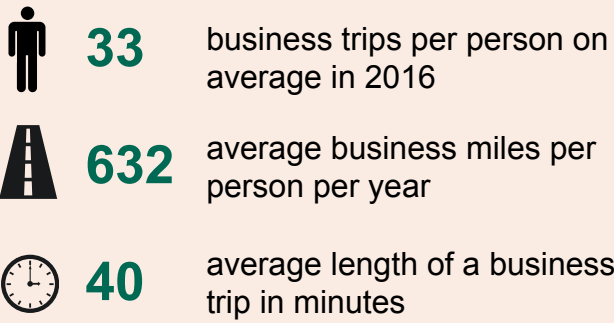
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/509447/nts-trip-chaining.pdf

Related data sources

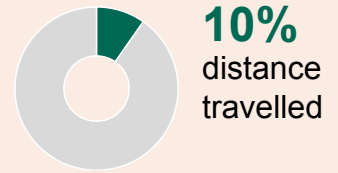
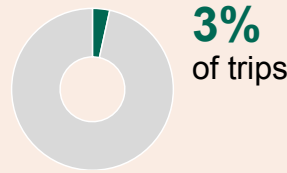
The Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Census both have information on commuting:

LFS: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/tsgb01-modal-comparisons>

Census: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/census-data/index.html>

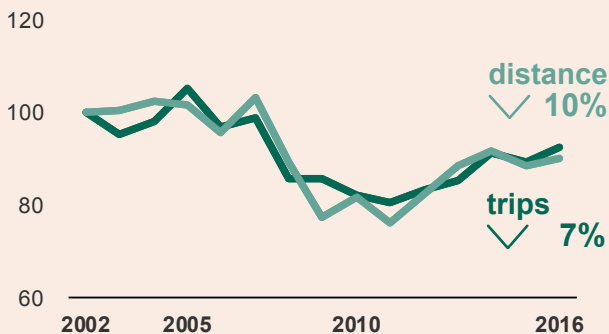


Business was one of the least common reasons for travelling in 2016, but accounted for a larger share of distance travelled.

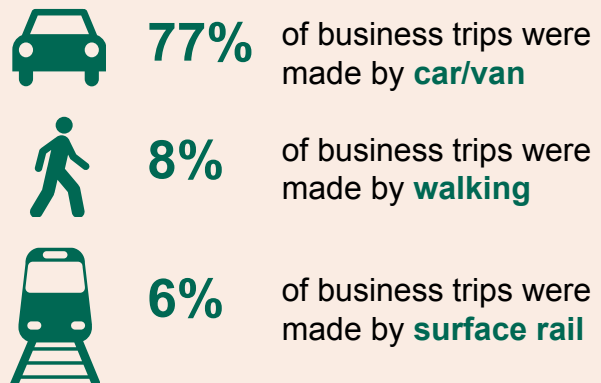


Trends excluding short walks [NTS0403, NTS0404]

Trends in trips and distance per person per year, from 2002 to 2016 (index: 2002=100)

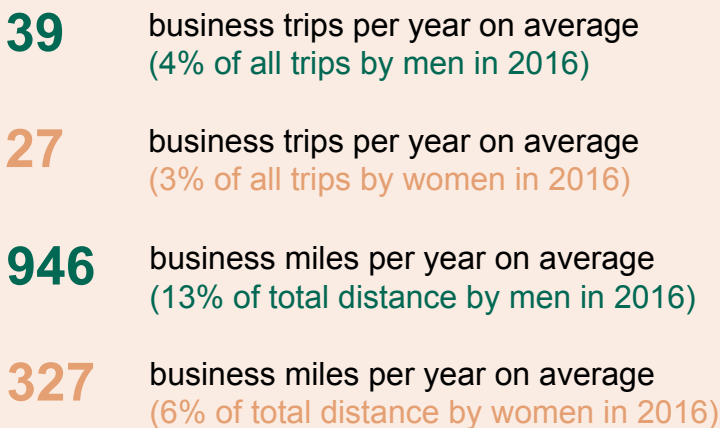
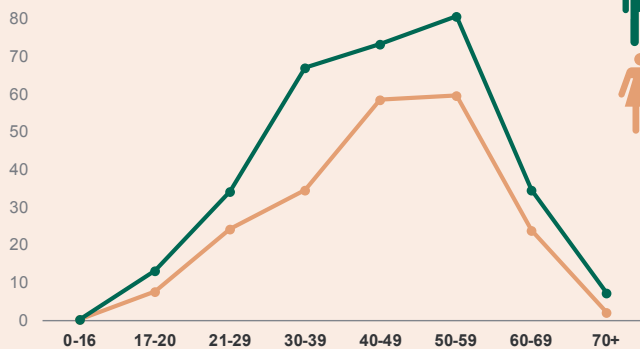


Main business modes in 2016 [NTS0409]



Age and gender [NTS0611, NTS0612]

Trips per person per year, by age and gender: 2016



Difference between commuting and business trips

In the NTS a **commuting** trip is defined as a trip from home to work, or from work to home.

Business trips are defined as those made in the course of work, provided that the purpose is to reach a destination - commercial travel (e.g. to deliver goods or convey a vehicle or passenger) is not included.

Figures here cover business trips only.

Related data sources

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Census both have information on commuting:

LFS: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/tsgb01-modal-comparisons>

Census: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/census-data/index.html>

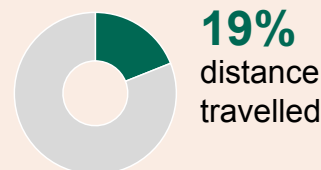
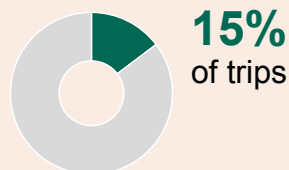


140 trips to visit friends per person on average in 2016

1,232 average miles per person per year visiting friends

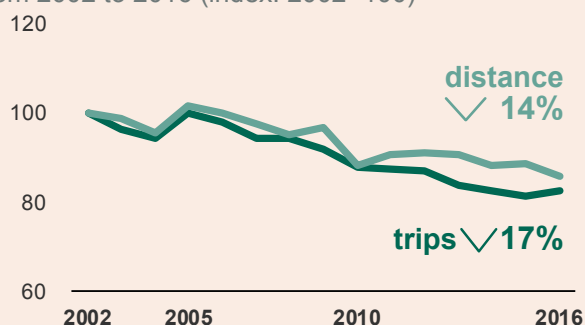
25 average length of a trip to visit friends in minutes

Visiting friends was a common reason for leisure travel, and accounted for a relatively large share of distance travelled.



Trends excluding short walks [NTS0403, NTS0404]

Trends in trips and distance per person per year, from 2002 to 2016 (index: 2002=100)



Main modes used to visit friends in 2016 [NTS0409]

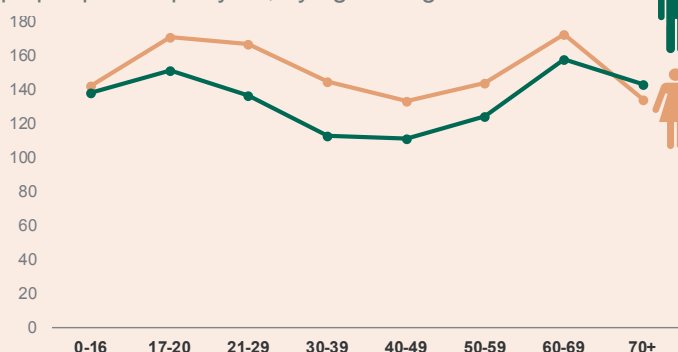
68% of trips to visit friends were made by **car/van**

20% of trips to visit friends were made by **walking**

5% of trips to visit friends were made by **local bus**, including London buses

Age and gender [NTS0611, NTS0612]

Trips per person per year, by age and gender: 2016



132 trips to visit friends per year on average (14% of all trips by men in 2016)

148 trips to visit friends per year on average (15% of all trips by women in 2016)

1,170 miles visiting friends per year on average (16% of total distance by men in 2016)

1,292 miles visiting friends per year on average (22% of total distance by women in 2016)

Leisure trips in the NTS

Leisure trips include trips to visit friends (at home or elsewhere), for entertainment, sport, and holidays and day trips (travel within Great Britain only). They also include walking trips which are made for no purpose other than to walk.

Related data sources

The Office for National Statistics publish statistics on [tourism](#), which includes international travel by UK residents.

Sport England's Active Lives Survey provides data about the sport and physical activities adults in England take part in and their attitudes to physical activity. In addition to sporting activities, the survey measures levels of walking, cycling and dance.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport Taking Part Survey collects information on people's engagement in different leisure activities such as art, museums, libraries, heritage and sport.

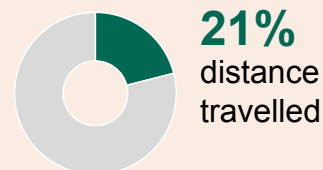
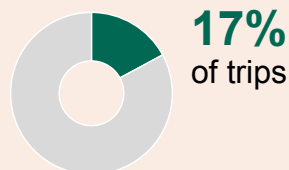


163 trips for other leisure purposes per person on average in 2016

1,367 average miles per person per year for other leisure purposes

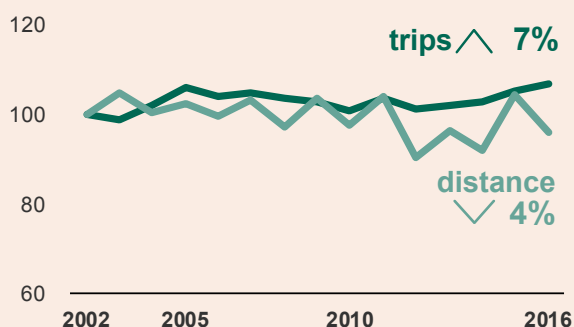
27 average trip length in minutes for other leisure purposes

Other leisure includes entertainment, sport and holidays and accounted for a relatively large share of trips and distance in 2016.



Trends excluding short walks [NTS0403, NTS0404]

Trends in trips and distance per person per year, from 2002 to 2016 (index: 2002=100)



Main modes used for other leisure trips in 2016 [NTS0409]

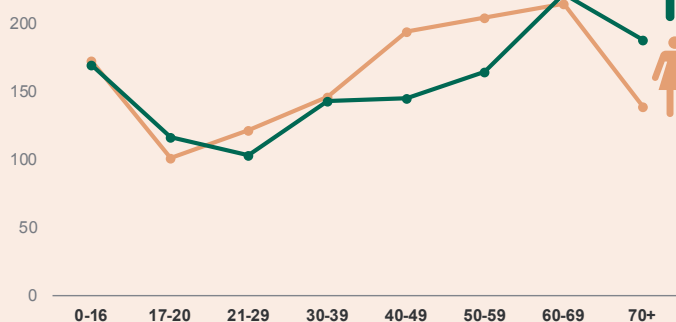
49% of other leisure trips were made by **car/van**

41% of other leisure trips were made by **walking**

3% of other leisure trips were made by **local bus**, including London buses

Age and gender [NTS0611, NTS0612]

Trips per person per year, by age and gender: 2016



159 trips to visit friends per year on average (17% of all trips by men in 2016)

168 trips to visit friends per year on average (17% of all trips by women in 2016)

1,458 miles per year visiting friends on average (16% of total distance by men in 2016)

1,278 miles per year visiting friends on average (22% of total distance by women in 2016)

Leisure trips in the NTS

Leisure trips include trips to visit friends (at home or elsewhere), for entertainment, sport, and holidays and day trips (travel within Great Britain only). They also include walking trips which are made for no purpose other than to walk.

Related data sources

The Office for National Statistics publish statistics on [tourism](#), which includes international travel by UK residents.

Sport England's Active Lives Survey provides data about the sport and physical activities adults in England take part in and their attitudes to physical activity. In addition to sporting activities, the survey measures levels of walking, cycling and dance.

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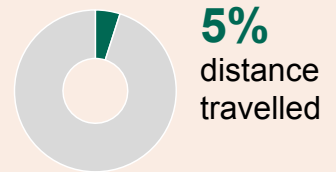
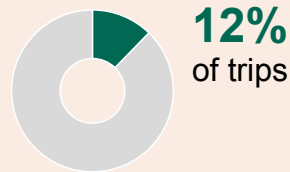


117 trips for education (including escort) per person on average in 2016

321 average miles per person per year for education/escort education

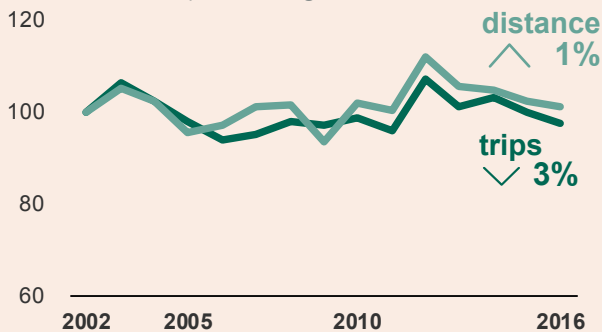
17 average trip time in minutes for education/escort education

The share of trips for education, including escorting people to education, was higher than the share of distance in 2016 as trips to school tend to be relatively short.



Trends excluding short walks [NTS0403, NTS0404]

Trips and distance per person from 2002 to 2016 (index: 2002=100), including escort education



3.2 miles

average length of an **education trip** - shortest of any main purpose

94% of 5-10 year olds are usually accompanied to school by an adult.

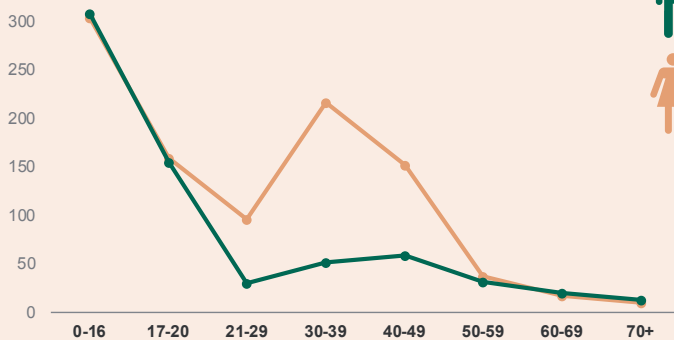


56% of 11-16 year olds are usually accompanied to school by an adult.



Age and gender [NTS0611, NTS0612]

Trips per person per year, including escort by age and gender: 2016



99 education/escort trips per year on average (11% of all trips by men in 2016)

136 education/escort trips per year on average (14% of all trips by women in 2016)

304 miles per year for education/escort on average (4% of total distance by men in 2016)

338 miles per year for education/escort on average (6% of total distance by women in 2016)

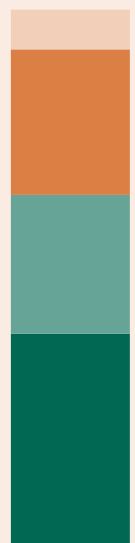
Travel to school [NTS0613]

Children's main mode of travel to school by age group: 2016

5-10
year olds

11-16
year olds

other
including
rail and
cycling



51% of primary school children walked to and from school in 2016. 27% of secondary school children took the bus.

Notes and background information

This publication presents an overview of the National Travel Survey data. This section provides brief background notes and links to sources of further information.

Other topics covered by the NTS

In addition to the material covered in this publication, the National Travel Survey covers a range of topics, including the following, which are covered by the published NTS data tables:

- ▶ Daily and monthly trip patterns (tables NTS0504 - NTS0506)
- ▶ Motorcyclists and household motorcycle ownership (tables NTS0610 and NTS0207)
- ▶ Concessionary bus travel (NTS0619 - NTS0621)
- ▶ Road safety - proportion of people involved in road accidents (NTS0623 - NTS0625)
- ▶ Accessibility of local services (NTS0801 - NTS0803)
- ▶ Working from home and deliveries of good and services (NTS0804 - NTS0806)
- ▶ Annual vehicle mileage, by type and age of vehicle (NTS0901 - NTS0904)
- ▶ Satellite navigation technology and vehicle parking (NTS0907 and NTS0908)

Detailed statistical tables

The National Travel Survey web page at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-travel-survey-statistics> provides a set of results tables covering the topics presented in this release and the additional topics above. The full list of table sections is:

- ▶ Trends in personal travel (Tables [NTS0101 to NTS0108](#))
- ▶ Driving licence holding and vehicle availability (Tables [NTS0201 to NTS0208](#))
- ▶ How people travel (Tables [NTS0301 to NTS0317](#))
- ▶ Why people travel (Tables [NTS0401 to NTS0412](#))
- ▶ When people travel (Tables [NTS0501 to NTS0506](#))
- ▶ Travel by age and gender (Tables [NTS0601 to NTS0625](#))
- ▶ Travel by car availability, income, ethnic group, household type and NS-SEC (Tables [NTS0701 to NTS0710](#))
- ▶ Accessibility (Tables [NTS0801 to NTS0806](#))
- ▶ Vehicles (Tables [NTS9901 to NTS9915](#))
- ▶ Travel by region and Rural-Urban Classification of residence (Tables [NTS9901 to NTS9915](#))

Raw data

Raw data from the NTS is available from the UK Data Service for users to produce their own analysis. A dataset covering survey years 2002-2015 will be available as soon as possible.

Related information

Other travel surveys in Great Britain. From January 2013, the coverage of the NTS changed to sample residents of England only. This change was agreed following a public consultation in 2011. Details of the consultation outcome can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/230560/NTSconsultationSummaryofresponses.pdf

Related surveys carried out in other areas of Great Britain which cover similar topics (though do not use the same collection methods as NTS) include:

- ▶ Transport Scotland collect personal travel data for residents of **Scotland** using a one day travel diary in their Scottish Household Survey.
<http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/statistics/scottish-household-survey-travel-diary-results-all-editions>
- ▶ In **Northern Ireland** data are collected via the Travel Survey for Northern Ireland, based on a similar methodology to the NTS (interview and 7-day travel diary):
<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/articles/travel-survey-northern-ireland>
- ▶ The Welsh Government collect information on active travel as part of the National Survey for **Wales**, although this does not include a travel diary
<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/national-survey/>
- ▶ Within England, Transport for London conduct the London Travel Demand Survey for **London** residents which is much bigger than the London sample of the NTS (and uses a different data collection method)
tfl.gov.uk/corporate/publications-and-reports/london-travel-demand-survey

Other transport statistics. In addition to National Travel Survey statistics presented here, DfT and others publish a range of statistics related to modes of transport - as signposted throughout this document. Detailed comparisons between the NTS and other sources are not always possible because of differences in collection, coverage and measurement. However, where the NTS and other statistics refer to the same phenomenon, a degree of coherence between different sources can be observed over time, although year-on-year changes can vary.

The full range of statistics published by DfT can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-transport/about/statistics>

Methodology notes

Strengths and limitations of the NTS: The NTS is a long-running survey which uses a high-quality methodology to collect a broad range of information on travel behaviours at the England level. The methodology has been broadly unchanged over several decades meaning that trends can be monitored. Figures are weighted to be representative of the population. However, like any statistical source, the NTS has its limitations. For example, as a sample survey resulting figures are estimates with associated sampling error. In addition, figures below national level require several years data to be combined, and figures for geographies below regional level cannot be published.

Survey methodology: Since 2002, the Department for Transport has commissioned the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) as the contractor for the NTS. 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 Technical Report at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-travel-survey-2015>

A 'Notes and definitions' document which includes background to the NTS, response rates, sample size and standard error information and a full list of definitions can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-travel-survey-2015>

Sample sizes are included in all the individual web tables. As estimates made from a sample survey depend upon the particular sample chosen, they generally differ from the true values for the population. This is not usually a problem when considering large samples but may give misleading information when considering data from small samples, such as cyclists in a particular age group.

A note explaining the methodology used to calculate the 2009 NTS standard errors and tables of standard errors for selected key statistics are published at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nts-standard-error-guide>

National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The National Travel Survey was assessed by the UK Statistics Authority against the Code of Practice and was confirmed as National Statistics in July 2011. Details of ministers and officials who receive pre-release access to these statistics up to 24 hours before release can be found in the pre-release access list at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-travel-survey-2015>