## Accessibility

- Monitoring accessibility is important because it can help identify who has access to, and therefore benefits from, services and who might be disadvantaged. Ways of measuring accessibility include assessing the time taken to travel to particular service locations and the number of services reachable within specified travel times.
- Generally, people living in rural settlements have lower overall levels of accessibility to key service locations compared with people living in urban settlements, while people living in rural areas in a sparse setting have the lowest overall accessibility.
- The average minimum travel times to reach the nearest key services were longer for people living in rural areas for all services, compared with people living in urban areas.
- More services were available on average for people living in urban areas for all service types and all journey times compared with those for people living in rural areas, when walking and using public transport.
- For travel by public transport or walking in 2017:
- the average minimum travel time to a hospital was a little over one hour in rural areas, compared with a little over half an hour in urban areas.
- fewer than half the users living in rural areas have access to places with 5,000 or more jobs within 45 minutes, compared with 90 per cent of users living in urban areas.
- 43 per cent of users living in rural areas do not have access to their nearest hospital within an hours travel, compared with 6 per cent of users living in urban areas.
- the average number of key service locations accessible to people living in rural areas was highest for primary schools and food stores with 9 available within a 60 minute journey time.
- the services with the lowest average number of service locations available to people living in rural areas within a 60 minute journey time were hospitals (with around one) and places with 5,000 or more jobs available (with around two).
- For travel by car in 2017:
- for people living in rural hamlets and isolated dwellings in a sparse setting, average minimum journey times to centres of employment with 5,000 or more jobs was 47 minutes and it took on average 34 minutes to travel to the nearest hospital.
- some users in rural areas do not have access to centres of employment with over 5,000 jobs or hospitals within an hour's travel by car.
- people living in rural areas had on average two General Practices available within a 15 minute journey compared with eight General Practices available for people living in urban areas.


## Average minimum travel times

- For travel by public transport and walking, cycling and by car, the average minimum travel times to reach the nearest key services were longer for people living in rural areas for all services, compared with people living in urban areas.
- For travel by public transport or walking: In rural areas the services with the lowest level of accessibility were hospitals and centres of employment with 5,000 or more jobs. The average minimum travel time to a hospital was a little over one hour in rural areas, compared with a little over half an hour in urban areas. The average travel time to places with 5,000 or more jobs was 56 minutes in rural areas compared with 27 minutes in urban areas. For all key service types the average minimum rural travel times were around double the average minimum urban travel times.
- For travel by car: For people living in rural areas, making the same journey by car compared with using public transport or walking, had the effect of halving the average minimum journey times. Urban areas also saw a reduction in travel times when comparing travel by car with public transport or walking but the difference was less pronounced. The average minimum travel time across all eight services was 37 per cent higher in rural areas compared with urban areas overall. For people living in rural hamlets and isolated dwellings in a sparse setting, average minimum journey times by car to centres of employment with 5,000 or more jobs was around 47 minutes and over half an hour to travel to the nearest hospital.

Average minimum travel time to reach the nearest key services by mode of travel, by Lower Super Output Area rural urban classification, in England, 2017

## by public transport or walking


by car


Note: The average of 8 services is calculated from the minimum journey times to medium sized centres of employment (500-4999 jobs), primary and secondary schools, further education, GPs, hospitals, food stores and tow n centres.

| Mode | Rural urban classification | Centre of employment |  |  | Primary school | Secondary school | Further Education | GP | Hospital | Food store | Town Centres | Average of 8 services |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Places } \\ \text { with } 100 \\ \text { to } 499 \text { jobs } \end{array}$ | Places with 500 to 4,999 jobs | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Places } \\ \text { with } \\ 5,000+ \\ \text { jobs } \end{array}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Public transport / walking | Rural town \& fringe | 10.7 | 13.9 | 45.3 | 9.9 | 22.9 | 28.1 | 14.5 | 52.3 | 8.9 | 26.6 | 22.1 |
|  | Rural town \& fringe in a sparse setting | 14.3 | 11.6 | 81.9 | 10.2 | 21.3 | 28.9 | 13.4 | 58.3 | 6.9 | 24.0 | 21.8 |
|  | Rural village | 22.3 | 23.6 | 59.9 | 13.9 | 35.7 | 40.3 | 27.7 | 66.3 | 21.3 | 39.0 | 33.5 |
|  | Rural village in a sparse setting | 32.8 | 34.3 | 97.5 | 16.7 | 48.0 | 57.6 | 35.9 | 81.0 | 28.1 | 53.7 | 44.4 |
|  | Rural hamlets \& isolated dwellings | 29.9 | 31.0 | 67.6 | 21.5 | 43.3 | 49.2 | 34.8 | 73.3 | 28.8 | 47.0 | 41.1 |
|  | Rural hamlets \& isolated dwellings in a sparse setting | 52.2 | 56.0 | 105.3 | 33.3 | 67.6 | 78.3 | 57.0 | 93.2 | 49.2 | 73.2 | 63.5 |
|  | All Urban | 7.5 | 10.2 | 27.2 | 8.4 | 15.6 | 18.2 | 10.8 | 34.2 | 7.2 | 17.6 | 15.3 |
|  | All Rural | 18.5 | 20.6 | 56.0 | 13.6 | 31.2 | 36.6 | 22.9 | 61.3 | 16.9 | 34.9 | 29.8 |
|  | Rural town \& fringe | 10.1 | 12.7 | 54.6 | 8.8 | 21.4 | 28.2 | 13.4 | 56.6 | 8.9 | 29.6 | 22.5 |
| Cycle | Rural town \& fringe in a sparse setting | 13.6 | 11.7 | 110.0 | 8.7 | 23.7 | 36.8 | 12.6 | 82.3 | 7.4 | 32.8 | 27.0 |
|  | Rural village | 17.2 | 18.8 | 58.8 | 11.4 | 28.9 | 34.2 | 22.3 | 60.8 | 17.7 | 34.7 | 28.6 |
|  | Rural village in a sparse setting | 24.7 | 27.1 | 112.6 | 13.5 | 41.0 | 52.9 | 28.7 | 84.0 | 22.4 | 50.1 | 40.0 |
|  | Rural hamlets \& isolated dwellings | 18.6 | 19.7 | 59.8 | 13.9 | 28.6 | 34.3 | 22.4 | 60.7 | 18.4 | 33.5 | 28.9 |
|  | Rural hamlets \& isolated dwellings in a sparse setting | 28.4 | 33.0 | 110.8 | 18.5 | 44.7 | 60.5 | 33.3 | 86.8 | 27.4 | 54.6 | 44.8 |
|  | All Urban | 7.9 | 9.1 | 25.1 | 8.3 | 11.8 | 13.9 | 9.4 | 28.4 | 7.8 | 14.2 | 12.8 |
|  | All Rural | 14.3 | 16.2 | 59.6 | 10.7 | 25.6 | 32.1 | 18.1 | 60.0 | 13.6 | 32.6 | 26.1 |
| Car |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Rural town \& fringe | 8.0 | 9.0 | 23.7 | 7.7 | 12.6 | 14.9 | 9.2 | 25.6 | 7.3 | 15.5 | 12.7 |
|  | Rural town \& fringe in a sparse setting | 9.4 | 8.3 | 44.1 | 7.8 | 12.6 | 16.7 | 8.9 | 29.8 | 6.7 | 14.7 | 13.2 |
|  | Rural village | 10.3 | 11.0 | 24.8 | 8.2 | 14.8 | 16.7 | 12.1 | 26.4 | 10.1 | 16.8 | 14.5 |
|  | Rural village in a sparse setting | 14.2 | 13.6 | 47.9 | 9.7 | 19.1 | 22.9 | 13.6 | 32.7 | 11.6 | 21.8 | 18.1 |
|  | Rural hamlets \& isolated dwellings | 11.0 | 11.5 | 25.5 | 9.2 | 14.9 | 16.9 | 12.2 | 26.7 | 10.6 | 16.7 | 14.8 |
|  | Rural hamlets \& isolated dwellings in a sparse setting | 15.1 | 15.9 | 46.8 | 10.9 | 19.7 | 25.0 | 15.8 | 33.6 | 13.6 | 22.7 | 19.7 |
|  | All Urban | 7.2 | 7.9 | 15.6 | 7.6 | 9.8 | 10.9 | 8.1 | 18.2 | 7.1 | 11.2 | 10.1 |
|  | All Rural | 9.4 | 10.2 | 25.5 | 8.2 | 13.8 | 16.1 | 10.8 | 26.4 | 8.8 | 16.3 | 13.8 |

## Access to key services

- For travel by public transport or walking: Fewer than half the users living in rural areas have access to places with 5,000 or more jobs within 45 minutes, compared with around 90 per cent of users living in urban areas. 43 per cent of users living in rural areas do not have access to their nearest hospital within an hour's travel, compared with 6 per cent in urban areas.
- For travel by car: All service users living in rural areas had access to places with 100 to 499 jobs and 500 to 4,999 jobs, town centres, food stores, General Practices, and key places of education within 60 minutes by car. However small proportions of users in rural areas do not have access to places with over 5,000 jobs or hospitals within 60 minutes by car.

Percentage of service users with access to key services within selected journey times by mode of travel, by Lower Super Output Area rural urban classification, in England, 2017
by public transport or walking for journey times within 15 minutes


Percentage of service users with access to key services within selected journey times by mode of travel, by Lower Super Output Area rural urban classification, in England, 2017
by car for journey times within 15 minutes


Percentage of service users with access to key services within selected journey times by mode of travel, by LSOA rural urban classification, in England, 2017

| Rural urban classification | Mode | Journey time (within 15, 30, 45 or 60 minutes) | Key services |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | Places with 100-499 jobs | re of employm <br> Places with 500-4999 jobs | Places with 5000+ jobs | Primary school | Secondary school | Further Education | GP | Hospital | Food store | Town Centres |
| Public Transport / Walking | Urban | 15 minutes | 93.2 | 80.2 | 16.5 | 94.5 | 47.3 | 36.4 | 78.9 | 6.3 | 96.3 | 37.5 |
|  |  | 30 minutes | 99.9 | 99.8 | 67.2 | 100.0 | 98.2 | 92.3 | 99.5 | 44.2 | 99.6 | 94.6 |
|  |  | 45 minutes | 100.0 | 100.0 | 90.3 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 99.2 | 99.6 | 79.2 | 99.6 | 99.5 |
|  |  | 60 minutes | 100.0 | 100.0 | 96.9 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 99.9 | 99.6 | 93.5 | 99.6 | 99.6 |
|  | Rural | 15 minutes | 51.5 | 41.0 | 0.9 | 71.9 | 13.9 | 8.4 | 36.4 | 0.8 | 60.6 | 10.1 |
|  |  | 30 minutes | 85.4 | 83.8 | 15.3 | 94.2 | 62.2 | 48.1 | 80.9 | 9.8 | 88.3 | 52.9 |
|  |  | 45 minutes | 93.6 | 93.2 | 45.8 | 97.6 | 87.0 | 79.2 | 91.6 | 31.8 | 93.9 | 82.8 |
|  |  | 60 minutes | 96.2 | 96.0 | 66.6 | 99.0 | 92.7 | 89.5 | 94.5 | 57.3 | 96.0 | 90.4 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cycle | Urban | 15 minutes | 99.3 | 96.7 | 36.8 | 99.8 | 85.4 | 71.8 | 95.7 | 19.7 | 99.6 | 65.4 |
|  |  | 30 minutes | 99.9 | 100.0 | 79.0 | 100.0 | 99.8 | 97.2 | 99.5 | 68.4 | 100.0 | 97.4 |
|  |  | 45 minutes | 100.0 | 100.0 | 88.8 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 99.2 | 99.6 | 86.2 | 100.0 | 99.2 |
|  |  | 60 minutes | 100.0 | 100.0 | 93.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 99.6 | 99.6 | 92.7 | 100.0 | 99.6 |
|  | Rural | 15 minutes | 63.5 | 52.5 | 1.7 | 86.4 | 23.6 | 15.0 | 44.7 | 1.2 | 66.5 | 12.1 |
|  |  | 30 minutes | 94.2 | 91.4 | 17.9 | 99.6 | 68.9 | 53.2 | 87.4 | 11.8 | 94.8 | 47.3 |
|  |  | 45 minutes | 99.2 | 98.8 | 40.3 | 99.9 | 92.8 | 81.7 | 98.3 | 33.3 | 99.4 | 80.3 |
|  |  | 60 minutes | 99.8 | 99.8 | 58.6 | 100.0 | 98.7 | 93.9 | 99.5 | 55.4 | 99.9 | 94.5 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Car | Urban | 15 minutes | 99.9 | 99.9 | 59.4 | 100.0 | 98.9 | 92.2 | 99.9 | 35.5 | 100.0 | 88.5 |
|  |  | 30 minutes | 100.0 | 100.0 | 95.3 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 99.8 | 100.0 | 94.8 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
|  |  | 45 minutes | 100.0 | 100.0 | 98.7 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 99.5 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
|  |  | 60 minutes | 100.0 | 100.0 | 99.6 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 99.8 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
|  | Rural | 15 minutes | 93.9 | 91.7 | 11.8 | 99.4 | 64.1 | 46.6 | 88.7 | 7.2 | 96.0 | 40.5 |
|  |  | 30 minutes | 99.9 | 100.0 | 73.2 | 100.0 | 99.7 | 98.4 | 100.0 | 70.8 | 100.0 | 98.8 |
|  |  | 45 minutes | 100.0 | 100.0 | 94.2 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 99.9 | 100.0 | 96.9 | 100.0 | 99.9 |
|  |  | 60 minutes | 100.0 | 100.0 | 99.3 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 99.4 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

## Average number of key services available

- For travel by public transport or walking: The average number of key service locations accessible to people living in rural areas was highest for places with 100-499 jobs, places with 500-4999 jobs, primary schools and food stores, with around 9 available within a 60 minute journey time. The services with the lowest average number of service locations available were hospitals and centres of employment with 5,000 or more jobs, with none available for either service within a 30 minute journey time, and one hospital and two places with 5,000 or more jobs available within a 60 minute journey time.
- More services were available on average for people living in urban areas for all service types and all journey times compared with those for people living in rural areas when travelling by public transport or walking, or cycling.
- For travel by car: Similar availability of services can be observed for travel by car. For people living in rural areas the number of General Practices available within a 15 minute journey time by public transport or walking was less than one, however by car this increased to an average of 2.4. For people living in urban areas, the number of General Practices available within a 15 minute journey time by public transport or walking was two and this increased to around eight General Practices when travelling by car.

Average number of sites available within selected journey times, by mode of travel, by Lower Super Output Area rural urban classification, in England, 2017
by public transport or walking for journey times within 15 minutes

by car for journey times within 15 minutes


| Rural urban classification | Mode | Journey time (within 15, 30, 45 or 60 minutes) | Key services |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | Places with 100-499 jobs | of employm <br> Places with <br> 500-4,999 <br> jobs | Places with 5,000+jobs | Primary school | Secondary school | Further Education | GP | Hospital | Food store | Town Centres |
| Public Transport / Walking | Urban | 15 minutes | 4 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 0 |
|  |  | 30 minutes | 9 | 9 | 2 | 10 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 10 | 3 |
|  |  | 45 minutes | 10 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 8 | 7 | 10 | 2 | 10 | 6 |
|  |  | 60 minutes | 10 | 10 | 7 | 10 | 10 | 9 | 10 | 3 | 10 | 8 |
|  | Rural | 15 minutes | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
|  |  | 30 minutes | 4 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 1 |
|  |  | 45 minutes | 7 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 9 | 2 |
|  |  | 60 minutes | 9 | 9 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 4 |
| Cycle | Urban | 15 minutes | 8 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 8 | 1 |
|  |  | 30 minutes | 10 | 9 | 3 | 10 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 10 | 4 |
|  |  | 45 minutes | 10 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 10 | 6 |
|  |  | 60 minutes | 10 | 10 | 7 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 3 | 10 | 7 |
|  | Rural | 15 minutes | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
|  |  | 30 minutes | 5 | 4 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 1 |
|  |  | 45 minutes | 8 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 0 | 9 | 2 |
|  |  | 60 minutes | 9 | 9 | 2 | 10 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 10 | 3 |
| Car | Urban |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 15 minutes | 10 | 9 | 1 | 10 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 0 | 10 | 2 |
|  |  | 30 minutes | 10 | 10 | 7 | 10 | 10 | 9 | 10 | 2 | 10 | 8 |
|  |  | 45 minutes | 10 | 10 | 9 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 6 | 10 | 10 |
|  |  | 60 minutes | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 9 | 10 | 10 |
|  | Rural | 15 minutes | 5 | 4 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
|  |  | 30 minutes | 10 | 10 | 3 | 10 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 10 | 5 |
|  |  | 45 minutes | 10 | 10 | 7 | 10 | 10 | 9 | 10 | 4 | 10 | 9 |
|  |  | 60 minutes | 10 | 10 | 9 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 7 | 10 | 10 |

Notes: Technical information on Journey Time Statistics can be found at www.gov.uk/government/publications/iourney-time-statistics-guidance
Source: DfT Journey Time Statistics: www.gov.uk/government/collections/iourney-time-statistics\#data-tables (files JTSO102, JTSO202, JTS0302)

