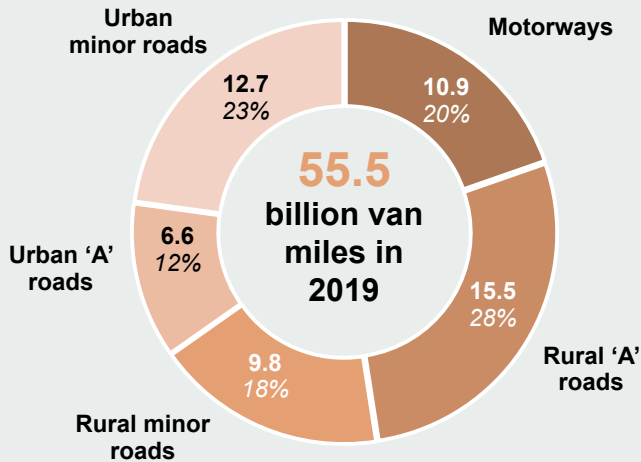




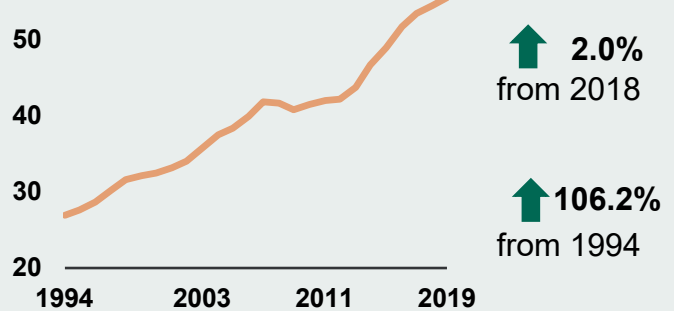
Vans (Light Commercial Vehicles)

Van traffic grew 2.0% between 2018 and 2019 to reach a record high of 55.5 billion vehicle miles.

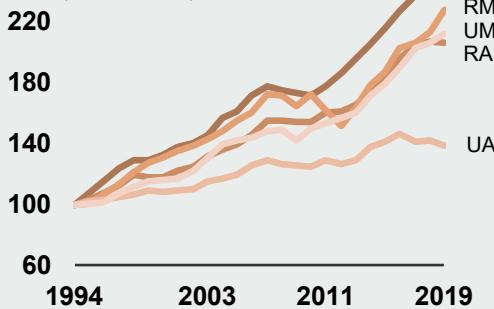


16% of motor vehicle traffic

Trend in van traffic, 1994 - 2019 (billion miles)



Index of van miles, by road type (1994 = 100)



Change in van miles travelled on...

	Motorways (M)	Rural 'A' roads (RA)	Rural minor roads (RM)	Urban 'A' roads (UA)	Urban minor roads (UM)
From 5 years ago	↑ 22.0%	↑ 18.1%	↑ 27.7%	↑ 0.8%	↑ 23.5%
From 10 years ago	↑ 44.6%	↑ 33.9%	↑ 38.8%	↑ 10.4%	↑ 49.2%

Van traffic rose to new record highs on motorways and minor road types between 2018 and 2019. Motorways and rural 'A' roads carried almost half of all van traffic in 2019.

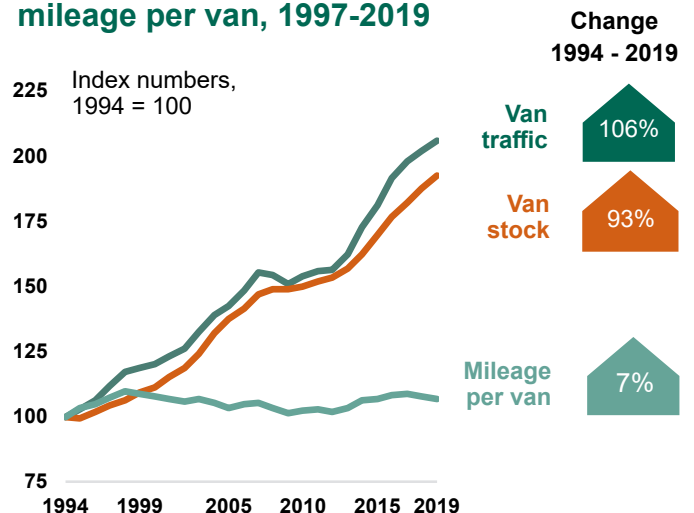
The rapid rise in van traffic over the last 25 years means that van traffic now makes up around 16% of total traffic, compared to 10% in 1994.

Why is van traffic rising so quickly?

Alongside the 106% increase in van miles between 1994 and 2019, the number of licensed vans rose 93% over the same period, from 2.1 to 4.1 million.

In contrast to the trend seen in average car mileage, the average annual mileage per van in Great Britain (estimated from van vehicle miles divided by van stock) has remained broadly stable, at around 13,000 miles per year.

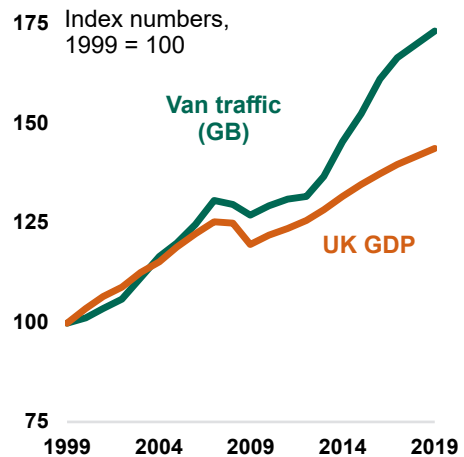
Chart: Indices of Van Stock, traffic and mileage per van, 1997-2019



Over the last twenty years, trends in van traffic have followed changes in the economy closely. This is perhaps to be expected given the mainly commercial use of vans, and the variety of uses to which they are put.

Gross domestic product (GDP) resumed growth after the 2008 recession, but van traffic grew even faster than GDP between 2012 and 2019. This additional growth may be linked to a shift in the way consumers and businesses operate.

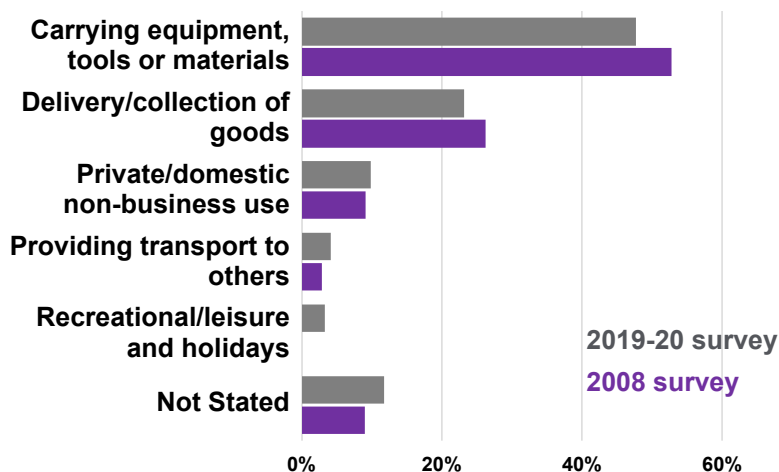
Indices of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and van traffic, 1999-2019



What are vans being used for?

Provisional estimates from the 2019-20 Van Statistics survey show that across all van owners, the primary activity of the majority of Great Britain’s annual van mileage (48%) was for ‘carrying equipment, tools or materials’. ‘Delivery/collection of goods’ made up the next most mileage at 23%, followed by ‘private/domestic non-business’ use at 10%.

Van Mileage by Primary Usage, 2008 and 2019-20 (2008 figures cover England only)



These 2019-20 figures are broadly similar to the previous study of van ownership in England in 2008. In the 2008 study, 53% of mileage was attributed to ‘carrying equipment’, 26% to ‘delivery/collection’ and 9% to ‘private/domestic’ use.

The 2019-20 study saw the introduction of a new category – ‘recreational/ leisure and holidays’, which made up 3% of all van mileage in 2019-20.

The provisional results show that the majority of owners (60%) stated that their previous vehicle was a similar type of van. Across all van owners, 17% had previously kept a smaller van or car; 9% had previously kept a larger van or lorry; and 10% of all responders didn’t have a need before their current vehicle, meaning that this was their first van purchase. Private keepers, however, were more likely to not previously have had a need for a van in the past (16%), or had previously kept a car or smaller van (30%).

Van Definition



Light Commercial Vehicle (LCV; a.k.a. van) Goods vehicles not exceeding 3.5 tonnes gross vehicle weight

Sources and further information

Gross Domestic Product and **Internet usage** data are sourced from the [Office for National Statistics](#).

Provisional Van Statistics 2019-2020 are sourced from a DfT statistical release of [Van Activity in Great Britain](#). A final report will be produced later in 2020-21.