

WHAT CAN THE NATIONAL TRAVEL SURVEY TELL US ABOUT TRAVEL DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC?

How often did people travel?

- In 2020 people in England made on average 739 journeys over the course of the year, about 14 each week. This is 22 percentage points lower than in 2019, most likely due to the travel restrictions imposed as a result of the pandemic.

How far do people travel?

- On average, the distance people in England travelled was 33% lower than in 2019, again likely to be due to the rules imposed to control the pandemic - in 2020 people travelled an average of 4,334 miles compared with 6,500 in 2019.

How do people travel?

- The most common method of travel in 2020 was by car (58% of trips) or by walking (32% of trips). The proportion of trips made by car fell by 3 percentage points compared with 2019, while the proportion of trips made on foot increased by 6 percentage points.

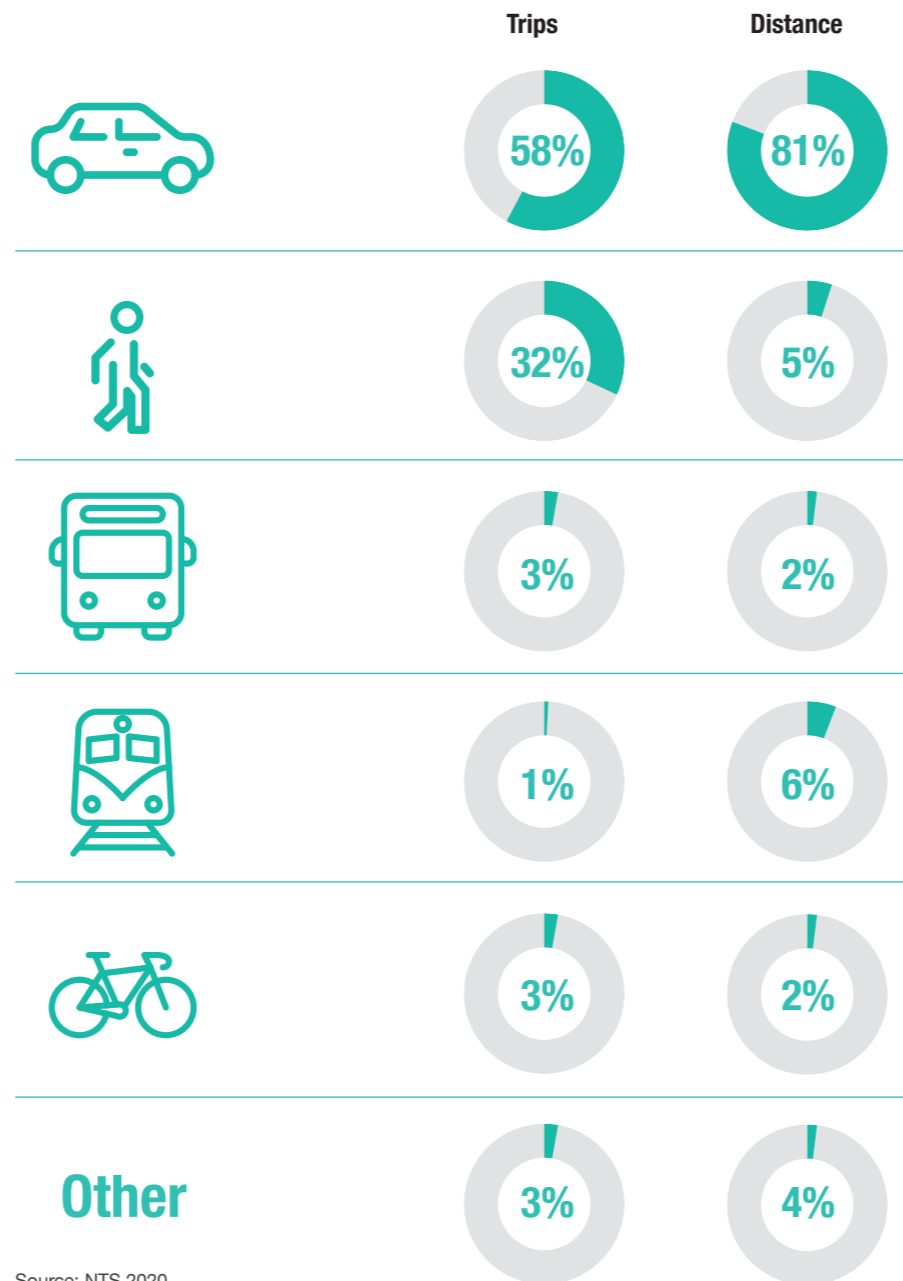
Why do people travel?

- People most often made a journey for leisure (23%) and shopping (19%) – these were also the most popular purposes in 2019.

Who was travelling in 2020?

- Women travelled more often than men. However, men travelled further distances. This is likely because men are travelling more miles when commuting.

MOST FREQUENT WAYS OF TRAVELLING



Source: NTS 2020

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Department
for Transport

NatCen
Social Research



NATIONAL TRAVEL SURVEY

TRAVEL TRENDS

- In 2020 people travelled 4,334 miles on average. This is the lowest yearly average on record.
- On average, in 2020, people spent 269 hours travelling, or about 11 days. In 2019 the average was 370 hours.
- In 2020, women made more trips than men, but men travelled 22% further.

A survey carried out by NatCen on behalf of the Department for Transport





WHAT IS THE NATIONAL TRAVEL SURVEY?

As you go about your daily life, the chances are that you have to travel somewhere. Some journeys we make can be routine, such as a journey to work. Some are more occasional, like a trip to see friends or relatives in another part of the country. Others are more spontaneous, like a short walk to the local shop to buy a newspaper.

The government makes decisions about transport services that affect how you travel. It needs up-to-date and reliable information on how people actually travel to ensure its policies are well developed and its transport plans appropriate. The best way to get this information is to ask people, like you, about the different journeys they make, and the National Travel Survey does just that. Where, why, how and how far people travel are all questions the survey tries to answer.

HOW DOES THE SURVEY WORK?

Each year, a representative sample of addresses in England is chosen at random. NatCen, an independent social research organisation, then invites the people who live at these addresses to take part in the survey.

The information gathered in this way is used to help create a national picture of how we travel.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

People just like you have previously told us about their travel experiences, and we have learned a lot from this. But people's behaviour and needs change so it is important that we continue to collect information every year. This is particularly important as we monitor the impact of the pandemic on our travel behaviours.

Now is your chance for your travel needs to be recognised. It doesn't matter how much or how little you travel and to get a good, representative picture, we need to include people of all ages and backgrounds.

Taking part in the survey is voluntary. However, if you decide not to join in, this means that your experience – and the experience of people like you – is less likely to be taken into account in transport planning.

WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO DO?

Taking part is easy. A NatCen interviewer will visit your home to ask you, and any other people who live with you, questions about travel. These cover subjects including: how you get to work, to school and to the shops; satisfaction with your local transport services; and any transport difficulties; and about road accidents that you or anyone else (including children) have been involved in. This interview can take place either face to face or over the phone.

HOW IS THE INFORMATION USED?

The government uses the data for transport planning and policy development. For example, the survey results allow public authorities to study the travel of school children and to predict future traffic levels. The findings are also used by academics, businesses and the general public, as well as by campaigning organisations representing a wide range of groups, including motorists, cyclists, motorcyclists, the elderly, rural communities and children.

IS THE SURVEY CONFIDENTIAL?

Yes. NatCen and the Department for Transport (DfT), which are responsible for the data, are bound by the same code of confidentiality. Your answers will be treated in strict confidence in accordance with the Data Protection Act, and used for statistical purposes only. Your details will only be known to the team processing the survey results at NatCen and DfT. We won't pass on your name or address to anyone else.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

You can find more information for people taking part in the survey at NatCen's National Travel Survey website: www.natcen.ac.uk/nts

IF YOU WISH TO CONTACT NATCEN ABOUT THIS SURVEY PLEASE WRITE TO:

National Travel Survey
NatCen Social Research
Kings House
101–135 Kings Road
Brentwood
Essex CM14 4LX
Telephone: **0800 652 4568**
Email: info@natcen.ac.uk

YOU CAN FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE NATIONAL TRAVEL SURVEY, INCLUDING ITS FINDINGS, ON THE DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT WEBSITE:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-travel-survey-statistics
Telephone: **020 7944 3077** (DfT NTS enquiry number)
Email: national.travelsurvey@dft.gov.uk

A large print version of this leaflet is available on request.