

## Key statistics for the UK



### Travel mode in England in 2016 ([National Travel Survey 2016](#))

- 62% of all trips were made by car, either as driver or passenger. 25% of trips were made by foot, 5% by bus, 3% by train, 2% by cycling and 2% by other. <sup>[1]</sup>
- 68% of trips were under 5 miles and 23% of trips were under 1 mile. This varies by mode of travel: nearly all walks are under 5 miles, compared to 56% of car driver trips and 9% of surface rail trips. <sup>[1]</sup>
- Active modes of travel (walking and cycling) account for 27% of all trips and 4% of all distance travelled, as active trips tend to be shorter distance trips. From 2002 to 2016, the number of trips by walking has declined by 17% and distance travelled by 19%. For cycling, distance travelled has increased by 37% but number of trips by cycling has declined by 19% between 2002 and 2016. <sup>[1]</sup>
- There has been a decline in the number of trips and the distance of trips by car between 2002 and 2016, by both drivers and passengers. Number of trips has declined by 11% for the car driver and 16% for passengers, and the distance of trips taken by car has declined by 11% for car drivers and 15% for passengers. <sup>[1]</sup>
- There were 243 walking trips per person per year on average in 2016, up from 200 per walking trips per person in 2014. <sup>[1]</sup>
- 80% of all trips under 1 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. <sup>[1]</sup>
- 86% of people use private car at least one a week, and 7% at least once a month. <sup>[1]</sup>
- The average distance cycled per person per year has increased by 37% since 2002, although the number of trips made by bicycle has decreased by 19%. <sup>[1]</sup>
- Bus trips were highest amongst the 17-20 year old age range, and 27% of trips to school by private and local bus were by children aged 11-16. <sup>[1]</sup>
- The average number of trips made by buses in London has decreased by 7% since 2002, and trips on local buses outside London have decreased by 23%. <sup>[1]</sup>

### School journey in England in 2016 ([National Travel Survey 2016](#))

- 94% of 5-10 year olds usually accompanied by an adult and 56% of 11-16 year olds accompanied to school by an adult. <sup>[1]</sup>
- For 5-10 year olds the average trip length to school is 1.5 miles, and for 11-16 year olds the average trip length is 3.2 miles. <sup>[1]</sup>
- Primary school journeys (children aged 5-10) - 51% walk to school, 41% are driven, 2% cycle, 2% take a private bus and 3% take a local bus to school. <sup>[1]</sup>
- Secondary school journeys (children aged 11-16) - 39% walk to school, 26% by car, 3% by bike, 23% by local bus, 4% by private bus and 3% by surface rail. <sup>[1]</sup>
- For trips under 1 mile walking was the most popular mode, at 78% for primary and 87% for secondary school children. <sup>[1]</sup>

- For trips between 2-5 miles 80% of primary school trips were by car, and for secondary school trips between 2-5 miles 42% were by car and 44% were by bus, 2% cycled and 8% walked. <sup>[1]</sup>

#### Travel to work in England ([National Travel Survey 2016](#))

- 64% of commuting trips were made by car/van, 11% by walking, 7% by surface rail, 7% by bus, 4% by bicycle, 1.3% by motorcycle, and 5% by other. <sup>[1]</sup>

#### Reasons to travel in England ([National Travel Survey 2016](#))

- 19% shopping
- 18% personal business and other escort
- 17% other leisure
- 15% commuting
- 15% visiting friends
- 12% education and escorting to education
- 3% business

#### Distance travelled in England ([National Travel Survey 2016](#))

- 23% of trips were under 1 mile and 68% of trips were under 5 miles. <sup>[1]</sup>
- The average bicycle trip length increased from 2014 to 2016, with an average 3.5 miles (3.1 miles in 2014). <sup>[1]</sup>
- On average each person walks 198 miles per year, spending an average of 16 minutes walking per trip. <sup>[1]</sup>
- The average distance cycled per person per year has decreased by 9.5% since 2014 to an average of 53 miles per person per year at an average length of 24 minutes. <sup>[1]</sup>

#### Road Safety in Great Britain

- 1,792 people were killed in reported accidents in 2016, 25% of these were pedestrians and 6% were pedal cyclists. <sup>[2]</sup> ([Reported road casualties in Great Britain](#))
- Pedestrian fatalities have increased by 10% since 2015 to 448 deaths in 2016. <sup>[2]</sup> ([Reported road casualties in Great Britain](#))
- 1,287 child pedestrians and 317 child cyclists were killed or seriously injured in 2016. <sup>[2]</sup> ([Reported road casualties in Great Britain](#))
- In 2016, 61% of children killed on the road were pedestrians or cyclists. <sup>[2]</sup> ([Reported road casualties in Great Britain](#))
- 2,564 adult pedestrians and 2,668 pedal cyclists were killed or seriously injured in 2016. <sup>[2]</sup> ([Reported road casualties in Great Britain](#))
- In 2016, 59% agreed that “It is too dangerous for me to cycle on the roads”, which is significantly lower than the 64% who agreed in 2015. This is the lowest record of the perception that roads are too dangerous for cyclists lowest since the question was first asked in 2011. <sup>[3]</sup> ([British Social Attitudes Survey 2016: Public attitudes towards transport](#))

## Transport costs ([National Travel Survey 2016](#))

- The most common reason cited for people not learning to drive was not being interested (23%).<sup>[1]</sup>
- 73% of all adults aged 17+ in England held a full car driving licence in 2016, whilst the proportion of young adults (aged 17-20) with a full driving licence has decreased, with 33% of men and 29% of women aged 17-20 owning a full driving licence in 2016.<sup>[1]</sup>
- The proportion of households without a car has fallen from 38% in 1985/86 to 23% by 2016.<sup>[1]</sup>
- The cost of travel has risen faster than the cost of living since 1997.<sup>[1]</sup>

## Congestion

- In 2016 all motor vehicle traffic in Great Britain was 323.7 billion miles, a 2.2% increase from 2015.<sup>[4]</sup> ([Road Traffic Estimates: Great Britain 2016](#))
- Pedal cycle traffic was 3.5 billion vehicle miles, 23% above the figure ten years before.<sup>[4]</sup> ([Road Traffic Estimates: Great Britain 2016](#))
- Congestion in England on the strategic road network will cost the British economy as much as £307 billion by 2030.<sup>[5]</sup> ([CEBR – The economic effect of road investment](#))
- The estimated time wasted by traffic delays per person in the UK in 2016 was 4.9 days.<sup>[5]</sup> ([CEBR – The economic effect of road investment](#))

## Obesity and Physical in/activity

In England:

- 26% of men and 27% of women were obese. The proportion of adults who were obese has been similar since 2010.<sup>[6]</sup> ([Health Survey for England, 2016](#))
- Being overweight was more common than being obese, and 40% of men and 30% of women were overweight, but not obese.<sup>[6]</sup> ([Health Survey for England, 2016](#))
- In May 2016 – 2017, 25.6% of adults did less than 30 minutes exercise a week, 13.8% did 30-149 minutes exercise a week, and 60.6% did 150 minutes or more of exercise a week.<sup>[7]</sup> ([Active Lives Adult Report](#))
- In May 2016 – 2017 men (63% were more likely to be active than women (58%), and women (27%) were more likely to be inactive than men (24%). Men were more likely to play sporting activities (41%) than women (29%).<sup>[7]</sup> ([Active Lives Adult Report](#))
- In May 2016 – 2017 women were more likely to walk for leisure (44%) than men (38%), and more likely to walk for travel (34%) than men (31%). Men were more likely to cycle for leisure (18%) than women (11%), and more likely to cycle for travel (10%) than women (4%).<sup>[7]</sup> ([Active Lives Adult Report](#))
- In 2016, 16% of children aged 2 to 15 were obese and a further 12% of children were overweight (but not obese).<sup>[6]</sup> ([Health Survey for England, 2016](#))
- Estimated costs to the NHS on overweight and obesity-related ill health in 2014/2015 was as much as £5.1 billion.<sup>[8]</sup> ([Childhood Obesity: a plan for action](#))

In Scotland:

- In 2016, 65% of adults were overweight, including 29% who were obese.<sup>[9]</sup> ([Scottish Health Survey 2017](#))
- 70% of children were a healthy weight in 2016, and there was a reduction in the prevalence of the risk of obesity in children to 14% in 2016, down from 17% in 2014.<sup>[9]</sup> ([Scottish Health Survey 2017](#))

- 64% of adults met the guidelines for physical activity (150 minutes of moderate or 75 minutes of vigorous activity per week) in 2016, a similar level to 2015 (63%).<sup>[9]</sup> ([Scottish Health Survey 2017](#))
- 76% of children met the guidelines of 60 minutes or more physical activity a day, similar to levels since 2013, and an increase from 71% in 2008.<sup>[9]</sup> ([Scottish Health Survey 2017](#))

In Wales:

- In 2016-2017, 59% of adults were overweight or obese, with 23% of the population being obese.<sup>[10]</sup> ([National Survey for Wales 2016-2017: Population Health](#))
- In 2016-2017, 32% of adults were inactive – doing less than 30 minutes of physical activity a week.<sup>[10]</sup> ([National Survey for Wales 2016-2017: Population Health](#))
- Middle-aged adults were the most likely to be overweight or obese, at 66-67%, whereas adults aged 16-24 were less likely to be overweight or obese at 36%.<sup>[10]</sup> ([National Survey for Wales 2016-2017: Population Health](#))
- More than a quarter of children (26.2%) in Wales in reception year are classified as overweight or obese.<sup>[11]</sup> ([The Child Measurement Programme for Wales 2015/16](#))

In Northern Ireland:

- Over a quarter of adults (27%) were classed as obese with a further 36% classed as overweight. Obesity levels have increased from 24% in 2005/06.<sup>[12]</sup> ([Health Survey \(NI\): First Results 2016/17](#))
- Around three-quarters of children aged 2-15 were classed as either normal weight or underweight, while 17% were classed as overweight and 8% were classed as obese.<sup>[12]</sup> ([Health Survey \(NI\): First Results 2016/17](#))
- Over half of respondents (55%) reported meeting the Chief Medical Officer's recommendations on physical activity.<sup>[12]</sup> ([Health Survey \(NI\): First Results 2016/17](#))

## References

- [1] **DfT, July 2017** National Travel Survey 2016
- [2] **DfT, September 2017** Reported road casualties in Great Britain
- [3] **DfT, August 2017** British Social Attitudes Survey 2016: Public attitudes towards transport
- [4] **DfT, April 2017** Road Traffic Estimates: Great Britain 2016
- [5] **CEBR, February 2017** The economic effect of road investment
- [6] **NHS Digital, December 2017** Health Survey for England 2016
- [7] **Sport England, October 2017** Active Lives Adult Report May 2016 to May 2017
- [8] **Department of Health and Social Care, January 2017** Childhood obesity: a plan for action
- [9] **Scottish Government, October 2017** Scottish Health Survey
- [10] **Welsh Government, June 2017** National Survey for Wales 2016-17: Population Health
- [11] **Public Health Wales, April 2017** Child Measurement Programme for Wales 2015/16
- [12] **Department of Health, October 2017** Health Survey (NI): First Results 2016/17