

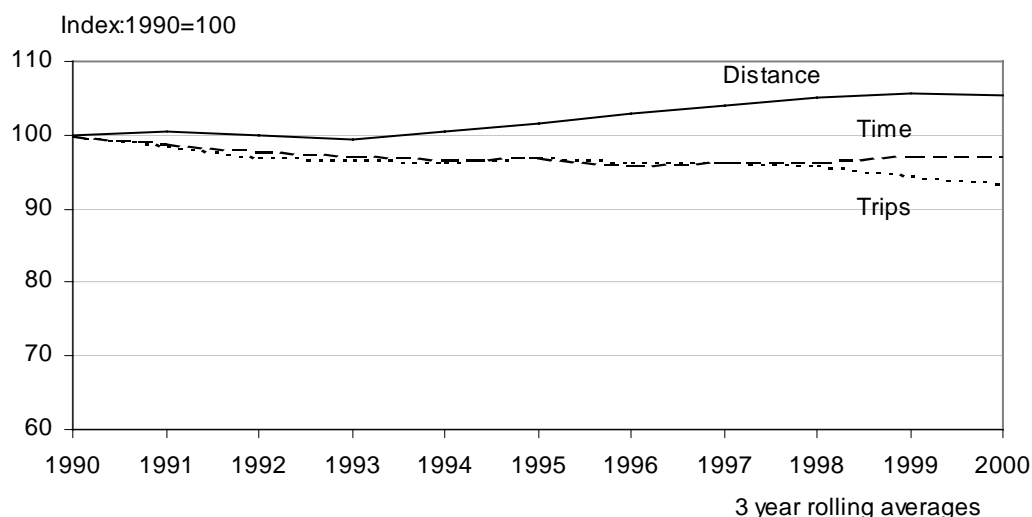
Section 2: Trends in personal travel

Tables and charts in this section show the changes in personal travel over the last 30 years, and the trends in car ownership and driving licence holding that have led to these changes.

Trends in distance, trips and time spent travelling (Table 2.1 and Charts 2.1-2.3)

- The average distance travelled each year by residents of Great Britain has risen steadily, with the exception of a small fall during the recession of the early 1990s. The number of trips and the time taken have fallen over the same period. (Chart 2.1).
- On average, we travelled 6,815 miles each year in the period 1999/2001. This was an increase of 5 per cent from 1989/1991, owing to the increasing length of trips. In 1999/2001, the average trip was 6.7 miles compared with 5.9 miles in 1989/1991.
- The most significant increase in distance travelled occurred during the late 1980s. The average distance travelled increased by just over one per cent a year between 1975/1976 and 1985/1986, by about four per cent a year between 1985/1986 and 1989/1991, and then by just over ½ per cent per year between 1989/1991 and 1999/2001.
- The average number of trips made decreased by 7 per cent between 1989/1991 and 1999/2001 from 1,091 per person per year to 1,019.
- Although there has been a steady increase in the distance travelled, the average time spent travelling is almost unchanged since 1972/1973. The average time spent travelling during 1999/2001 was 360 hours per person per year, or just under an hour per day. With increases in car ownership this has meant that people can now travel faster from door-to-door, covering a greater distance in about the same time (Chart 2.1).

Chart 2.1 Trends in travel: 1990 to 2000



- The number of car trips has increased slightly over the years, while trips by other modes have fallen (Chart 2.2). The distance travelled by car has risen during the 1990s. The distance walked fell sharply in the early 1990s, but then stabilised. The distance travelled by public transport trips fell in the early 1990s but then increased in the latter part of the decade (Chart 2.3).

Table 2.1 Distance, trips and hours travelled per person per year: 1965 to 1999/2001

	Distance travelled (miles)		Number of trips		Time taken (hours)	Miles/trips/hours
	All trips	Trips of 1 mile or more	All trips	Trips of 1 mile or more	All trips	Average trip length (miles)
						All trips
1965	..	3,660	..	584
1972/1973	4,476	4,357	956	594	353	4.7
1975/1976	4,740	4,638	935	659	330	5.1
1978/1979	4,946	4,828	1,097	736	376	4.5
1985/1986	5,317	5,192	1,024	689	337	5.2
1989/1991	6,475	6,353	1,091	771	370	5.9
1992/1994	6,439	6,322	1,053	742	359	6.1
1996/1998	6,728	6,617	1,051	764	357	6.4
1999/2001	6,815	6,717	1,019	767	360	6.7

Chart 2.2 Trends in number of trips: 1990 to 2000

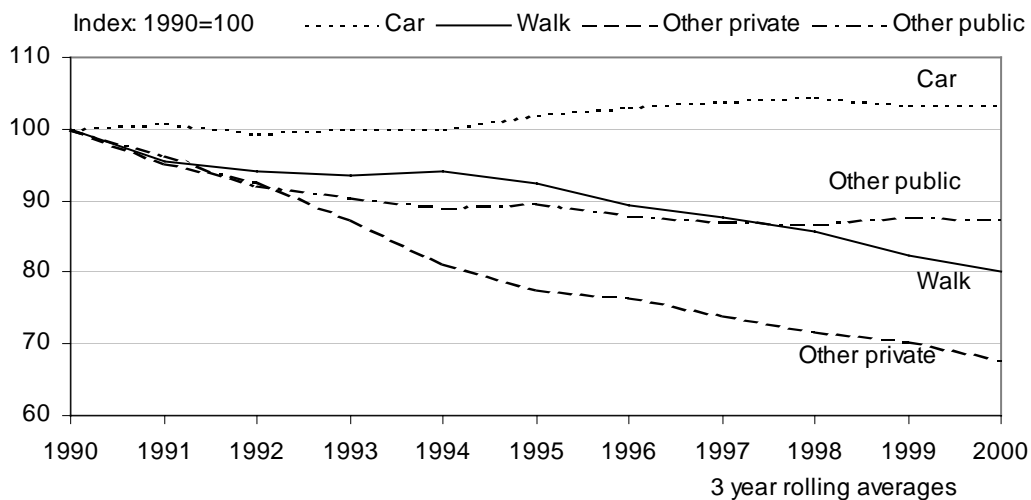
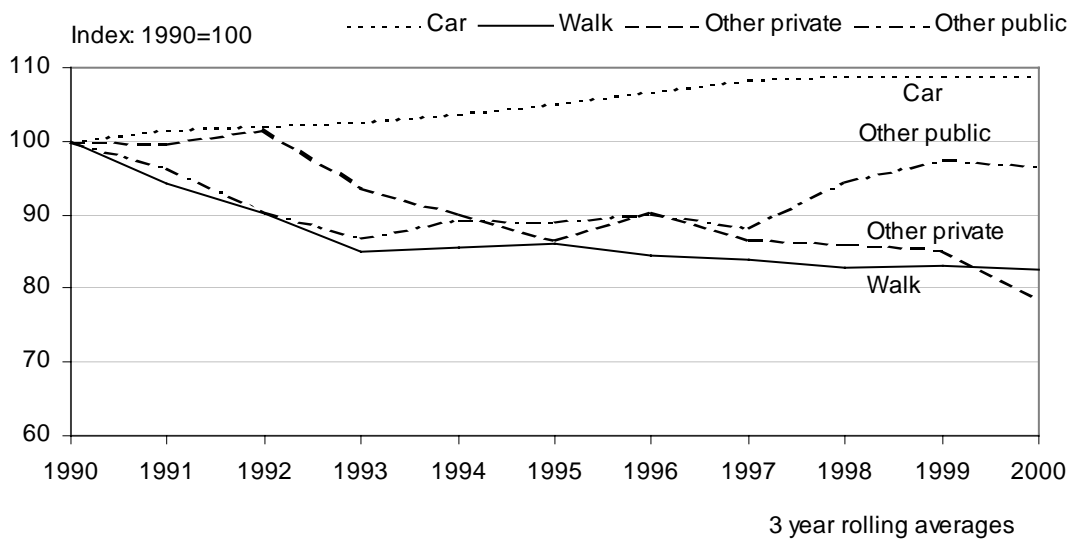


Chart 2.3 Trends in distance travelled: 1990 to 2000

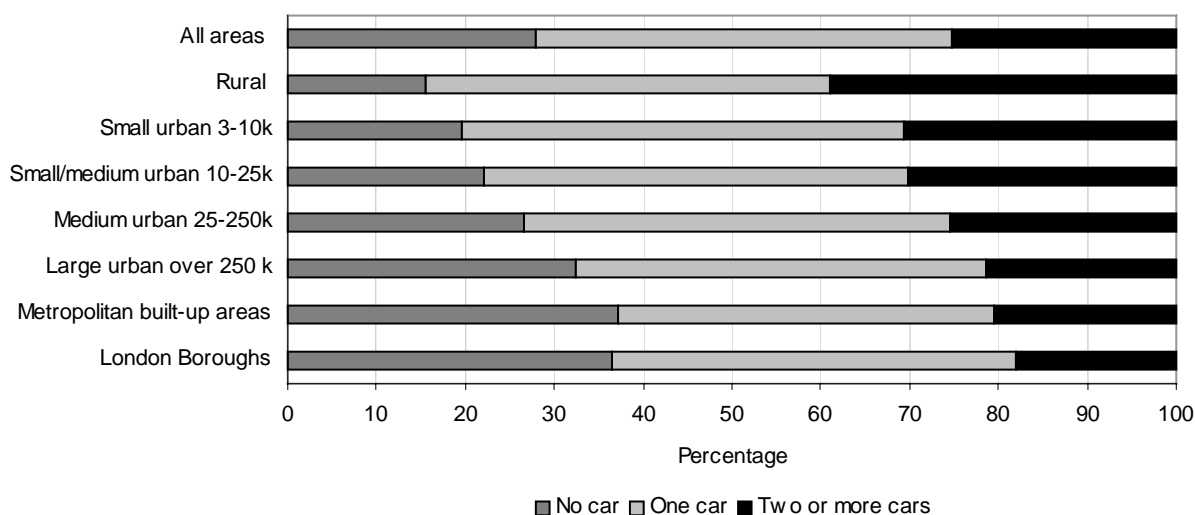


Trends in car ownership (Table 2.2 and Chart 2.4)

- The proportion of households in Great Britain without access to a car fell from 33 per cent in 1989/1991 to 28 per cent in 1999/2001. This proportion varied from 15 per cent in rural areas to 38 per cent in metropolitan built-up areas (figures revised December 2002)
- Only 20 per cent of people lived in households without a car as households without cars tend to be smaller than average.
- One in four households in GB had access to two or more cars in 1999/2001.
- In the South East (excluding London Boroughs), only one household in five did not have a car, and a third had two or more cars.

Chart 2.4 Household car ownership by area type: 1999/2001

Revised December 2002



Trends in driving licence holding (Table 2.3)

- In 1999/2001, 82 per cent of adult men (aged 17 and over) held full car driving licences, but only 60 per cent of women. However, licence holding has increased rapidly among women, rising by over a fifth from 49 per cent in 1989/1991, while the proportion of men holding licences changed little during the same period.
- The peak licence holding age group for men was 40-49, with 91 per cent holding driving licences. The peak age for women was 30-49, with 77 per cent holding licences.
- The gap between men and women holding licences is closing in each age group, although young men (under 29 years old) are still much more likely to hold licences. The reduction in young driving licence holders (aged 17-20) has probably been due to the introduction of the new theory test in July 1996.
- The most striking change has been among older women; nearly three in five women aged 60-69 have licences, and one in five of those aged 70 and over. Licence holding will continue to increase in these age groups, as those currently in the younger age groups keep their licence as they grow older.

Table 2.2 Household car ownership by area of residence: 1999/2001

Revised December 2002

						Percentage/number	
	No car	One car	Two cars	Three or more cars	All households	Cars per household	Cars per adult (17+)
London Boroughs	37	45	15	3	100	0.86	0.49
Other English Metropolitan areas	35	45	18	2	100	0.89	0.50
South East excl. Greater London	20	47	27	6	100	1.24	0.67
Rest of England and Wales	25	48	24	3	100	1.09	0.60
Scotland	33	46	19	2	100	0.94	0.53
All areas 1999/2001	28	47	22	4	100	1.04	0.58
London Boroughs	37	45	15	3	100	0.86	0.49
Metropolitan built-up areas	38	42	18	2	100	0.87	0.48
Other urban areas with population:-							
Over 250 thousand	32	47	19	2	100	0.96	0.55
25 to 250 thousand	27	48	22	3	100	1.04	0.58
10 to 25 thousand	23	48	25	4	100	1.13	0.63
3 to 10 thousand	21	49	26	4	100	1.18	0.64
Rural areas	15	47	32	6	100	1.34	0.72
All areas 1999/2001	28	47	22	4	100	1.04	0.58
1985/1986	38	45	15	2	100	0.82	0.42
1989/1991	33	45	19	3	100	0.93	0.48
1992/1994	33	44	20	3	100	0.94	0.50
1996/1998	30	45	21	4	100	1.00	0.55

1 South East as defined by Standard Statistical Regions. See Appendix B.

Table 2.3 Full car driving licence holders by age and sex: 1975/1976 to 1999/2001

									Percentage/millions
	17-20	21-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70 and over	All aged 17+	Estimated licence holders (m)
All adults									
1975/1976	28	59	67	60	50	35	15	48	19.4
1985/1986	33	63	74	71	60	47	27	57	24.4
1989/1991	43	72	77	78	67	54	32	64	28.0
1992/1994	48	75	82	79	72	57	33	67	29.0
1996/1998	43	73	82	82	76	64	38	69	31.0
1999/2001	36	73	83	84	78	71	44	71	32.3 ^P
Males									
1975/1976	36	78	85	83	75	58	32	69	13.4
1985/1986	37	73	86	87	81	72	51	74	15.3
1989/1991	52	82	88	89	85	78	58	80	16.9
1992/1994	54	83	91	88	88	81	59	81	17.1
1996/1998	48	79	89	90	88	82	64	81	17.7
1999/2001	41	81	89	91	88	86	69	82	18.4 ^P
Females									
1975/1976	20	43	48	37	24	15	4	29	6.0
1985/1986	29	54	62	56	41	24	11	41	9.2
1989/1991	35	64	67	66	49	33	15	49	11.2
1992/1994	42	68	73	70	57	37	16	54	12.1
1996/1998	38	68	75	73	63	48	20	58	13.4
1999/2001	31	66	77	77	69	57	25	60	14.2 ^P