

Key points

- On average, **Great Britain residents travelled 6,815 miles** each year in the period 1999/2001. This was an increase of 5 per cent since 1989/1991, owing to the increasing length of trips. In 1989/1991, the **average trip length** was 5.9 miles, but this had increased by 13 per cent to 6.7 miles in 1999/2001.
- The **average number of trips** made in 1999/2001 was 1,019 per person per year, 7 per cent less than in 1989/1991.
- 28 per cent of households in Great Britain **did not have access to a car** in 1999/2001, compared with 33 per cent in 1989/1991. This 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.
- **Car travel** accounted for four fifths of the total distance travelled. Overall, the distance travelled by car increased by 11 per cent during the 1990s.
- The number of **local bus trips** made outside London dropped by 30 per cent between 1989/1991 and 1999/2001. In contrast the number of London bus trips rose 25 per cent.
- Between 1989/1991 and 1999/2001, the **average length of shopping trips** increased by 27 per cent, **commuting** trips by 17 per cent and **education trips** by 17 per cent. We are also choosing to **travel further to visit friends**, both in their homes (with trips averaging nearly 9 miles) and in other places such as pubs and restaurants (averaging 5½ miles).
- Since 1989/1991, the proportion of primary-aged **children walking to school** has declined from 62 to 54 per cent, with an increase from 27 to 39 per cent in the numbers being driven to school. For secondary school pupils there was a similar, though smaller, shift from walking to car use, and a small increase in bus use.
- **Walking** fell by 20 per cent during the 1990s to 189 miles per person per year, accounting for under 3 per cent of the total distance travelled compared with 4 per cent in 1989/1991.
- 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.

In 1999/2001:-

- **Men** made an average of 1,031 trips per year, 2 per cent more than **women**, but travelled just over 8,000 miles a year, 41 per cent more than women. The difference was greatest among those aged 40-49, where men travelled 58 per cent further than women on average.
- 60 per cent of cars on the road had only one occupant. For commuting and business travel the rate was 84 per cent.
- 25 per cent of trips were **under 1 mile**, 80 per cent of which were on foot. Car was the dominant mode of transport for all trips over 1 mile.
- Those in the highest **income** band on average travelled over 3 times as far as those in the lowest band (11,048 miles compared with 3,396 miles).

- On average we spent about one hour a day travelling around Great Britain. Approximately 36 minutes (61 per cent) of this **time** was spent travelling by car and 11 minutes walking.
- **Londoners** travelled about 5½ thousand miles in the year while those living in the **South East** (excluding London) averaged over 8 thousand miles.
- **Children** aged 16 and under made half of their trips as car passengers, with most of the rest on foot (36 per cent). Women made 28 per cent of their trips on foot, compared with 24 per cent for men.
- In total, **leisure purposes** accounted for 31 per cent of all trips in 1999/2001. 21 per cent of trips were to and from the shops, and 15 per cent were to and from work.
- In terms of **distance**, 39 per cent of mileage was for leisure purposes, 19 per cent for commuting, 13 per cent for shopping and 10 per cent for business travel.
- In the 17-59 year old age group, **men** made 27 per cent of their trips **commuting** to and from work, with an additional 7 per cent travelling on **business**. For **women**, only 19 per cent of trips were to and from work, and 3 per cent on business.
- The peak age for **bicycle use** was 17-20 years. Males of this age made about four times as many bicycle trips as females. However, even for this peak age, cycling accounted for only 4 per cent of their trips.
- 87 per cent of households in Great Britain lived within 6 minutes **walk of a bus stop**, but 56 per cent of households lived about a 25 minute walk from the **nearest rail station**.

The Government's 10 Year Plan

- The Government's 10 year Plan includes two targets for England which are monitored using NTS data:
 - to triple the number of cycling stages compared with the 2000 base of 18 stages per person per year. The estimate for 2001 was 15 stages per person per year. However, figures for single years need to be treated with caution because the sample sizes are small. The change in the number of stages per person per year between the three year periods 1996/1998 and 1999/2001 was smaller – from 18 to 17.
 - to achieve a one-third increase in the proportion of households in rural areas within about 10 minutes walk of an hourly or better bus service by 2010. This represents an increase from the 1996/1998 baseline figure to 48 per cent. The level for 1999/2001 was 48 per cent (figures revised December 2002)
- The 10 Year Plan also includes a commitment to monitor changes in modal share for passenger trips covering car, public transport modes, cycling and walking. This is covered in Section 3.