

WHAT CAN THE NATIONAL TRAVEL SURVEY TELL US ABOUT TRAVEL IN THE LAST YEAR?

How often did people travel?

- In 2023 people in England made on average 915 journeys over the course of the year, about 18 each week. This was 6 percentage points higher than 2022 (862) yet lower by 4 percentage points compared to 2019 (953).

How far do people travel?

- On average, the distance people in England travelled was 5,974 miles, which has increased 11 percentage points from 2022 (5,573). This was 8 percentage points lower than in 2019 (6,500).

How do people travel?

- The most common method of travel in 2023 was by car (60% of trips) or by walking (29% of trips). The proportion of trips made by car is 1 percentage point lower compared with 2019, while the proportion of trips made on foot were 3 percentage points higher than in 2019.

Why do people travel?

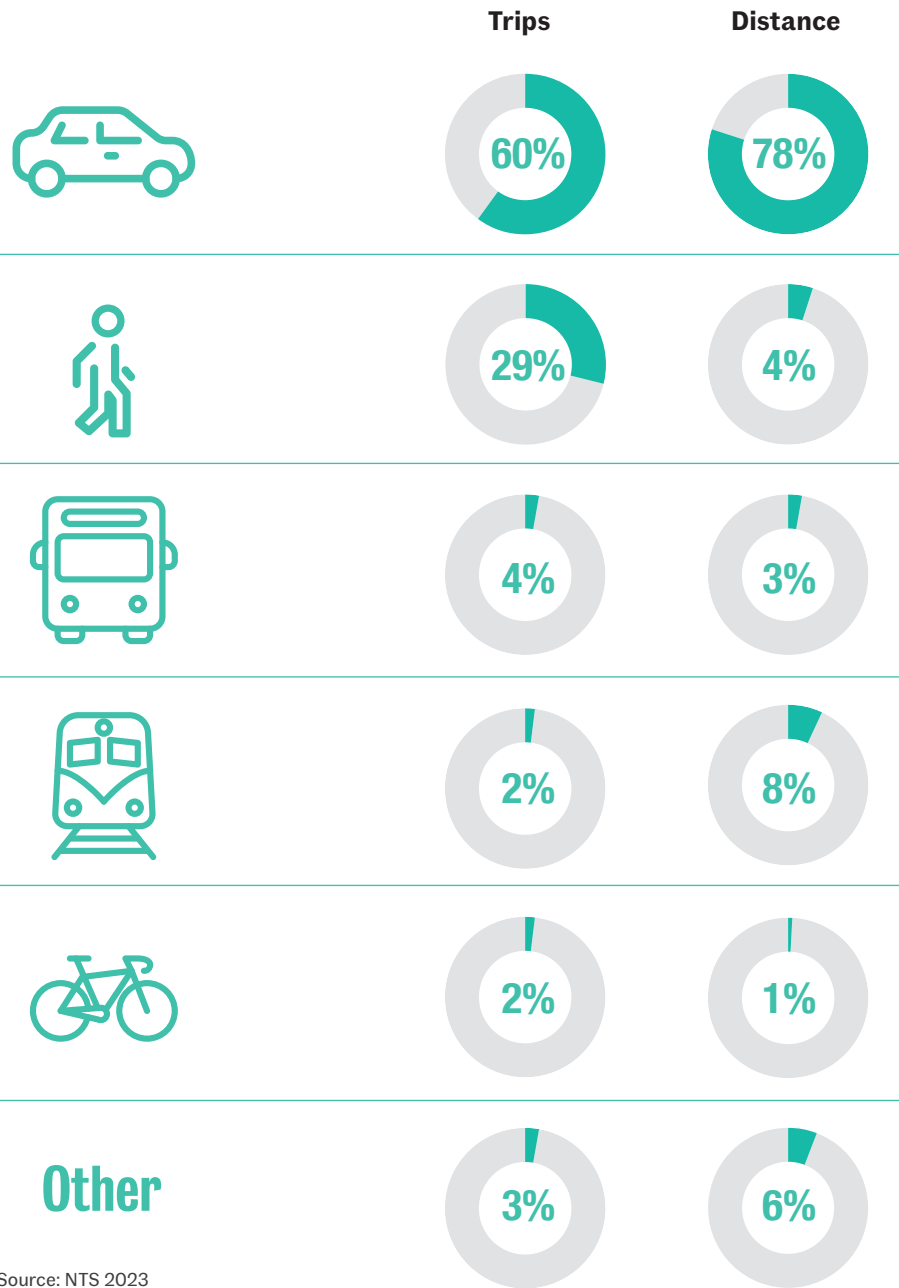
- People most often made a journey for shopping (18%) and commuting (13%).

Who was travelling in 2023?

- Similar to 2022, women travelled more often (942 trips) compared to men (887 trips). However, men travelled 15% further on average.
- This was likely because men travelled more miles when commuting.



MOST FREQUENT WAYS OF TRAVELLING



Source: NTS 2023

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NATIONAL TRAVEL SURVEY

TRAVEL TRENDS

- In 2023 people travelled 5,974 miles on average. This is an 11% increase on the 2022 average (5,373 miles).
- On average, in 2023, people spent 353 hours travelling, which is less than the 2019 average of 370 hours.
- In 2023, males made fewer trips (887 trips per person) than females (942 trips per person).

A survey carried out by the National Centre for Social Research (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 are 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. This is gathered from a public list of addresses across England kept by the Post Office. The National Centre for Social Research (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, which can then be used by the Department for Transport for improving and developing transport policy in England.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

People just like you have previously been chosen and 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 look at travel after the pandemic, as well as understanding the use of electric modes of transport with a growing concern for the environment.

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. You are not expected to hold any special knowledge about travel.

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 – will not be heard by the government.

WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO DO?

Taking part is easy. An interviewer from the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) 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.

When the interviewer visits your home, they will be able to give you more information on this survey. The interview will be arranged for a time that suits you.

HOW IS THE INFORMATION USED?

The government uses the data for transport planning and policy development. For example, previous survey results allowed 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. The National Centre for Social Research (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. Your data and information will be securely stored and deleted after two years.

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:

FAO: National Travel Survey team
National Social Research
35 Northampton Square
London
EC1V 0AX
Telephone: **0800 652 4568**
Email: **nts@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
Email: **national.travelsurvey@dft.gov.uk**