Travel in London: At a glance

Travel in London summarises trends and developments relating to travel and transport in London.
About Transport for London

We are the integrated transport authority for London. Our purpose is to keep London working and growing and to make life in the Capital better. We reinvest all of our income to run and improve London’s transport services.


On the roads, we regulate taxis and the private hire trade, run the Congestion Charging scheme, manage the city’s 580km red route network, operate all of the Capital’s 6,200 traffic signals and work to ensure a safe environment for all road users.

We are delivering one of the world’s largest programmes of transport capital investment, which is building Crossrail, modernising Tube services and stations, improving the road network and making the roads safer, especially for more vulnerable road users, such as pedestrians and cyclists.

We are a pioneer in integrated ticketing and providing information to help people move around London. Oyster is the world’s most popular smartcard, and contactless payment is making travel ever more convenient. Real-time travel information is provided by us directly and through third parties who use the data TfL makes openly and freely available to power apps and other services.

Improving and expanding transport in London is central to driving economic growth, jobs and housing across the country.
About Travel in London

The annual Travel in London report summarises trends and developments relating to travel and transport in the Capital. We published the eighth Travel in London report in December 2015, reflecting the 2014 calendar year, or the 2014/15 financial year. This document provides an overview of important trends identified in Travel in London and looks ahead to some of the challenges these may present for transport in the Capital. More detailed information on the topics here can be found in Travel in London 8 and other TfL publications.

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A growing city

London’s population is growing rapidly, stimulating demand for more travel. In 2014 there were 8.5 million residents in the Capital and each made an average 2.4 trips a day. London has also seen major growth in employment, particularly in the Central Activities Zone (CAZ), which is one of the world’s most attractive and competitive business locations.
Increasing demand for travel

London’s continued growth is a major preoccupation for future transport planning. Rising passenger numbers and increasing freight and servicing trips will place additional pressures on the road and public transport networks.

AM peak congestion is forecast to increase most in central London.

8.5 million
London residents.

10.4
London residents (forecast).

AM peak passenger demand in crowded conditions is forecast to increase by 70-100% for rail-based modes (2011 versus 2041).

93% of people living or working in London order items for delivery at least once a year. 192 million deliveries are made per year.

Total volume of trips is expected to increase to 32 million in 2041.
An expanding transport network

London’s transport network has transformed over the past 15 years with more and better transport.

34% increase in London Bus km operated since 2000/01.

26% increase in London Underground km operated since 2000/01.

Excess Wait Time for buses down 50% since 2000/01.

Excess Journey Time on London Underground down 47% since 2000/01.

Trips per year on new modes (2014/15):

- **1.5 million** Emirates Air Line
- **10 million** Santander Cycles
- **31 million** London Trams
- **140 million** London Overground

Over 40km of Cycle Superhighway opened.

London Overground network extended to **over 120km**.
Unlocking growth potential

London’s transport network has a major role in facilitating new homes and jobs. More than 300,000 new jobs are forecast to be created within the Central Activities Zone (CAZ) over the next 20 years.

London’s Opportunity Areas have the capacity to provide:

- 575k jobs
- 300k homes

40% of London’s population growth is forecast to be in the East.*

New employment centres emerging in the East.

Continued intensification in the Central Activities Zone (CAZ).*

In-commuting is forecast to increase by 25% to 1 million daily trips by 2041.

Evolving travel patterns

The nature of trips and travel behaviour in London has been changing.

In 2013, public transport mode share surpassed that of private transport for the first time. Road traffic volumes have been falling but may now be starting to rise again.

Motor vehicle traffic in Greater London is down compared to the year 2000.

The decline has been greatest in Central London.

But traffic may be starting to rise again as London’s population continues to grow.

Londoners are driving less...

Outer Londoners are travelling more by public transport.

More public transport trips are made than private transport trips.

Inner Londoners are travelling more by public transport, walking and cycling.
Responding to changing lifestyles

The way in which Londoners live has a big influence on the city. How people spend their time and money, how they choose to travel, and their expectations, all have implications for the planning of the transport network.

London will continue to face the challenge of keeping pace with changing lifestyles, new technologies, and customer expectations.
A diverse city

London’s transport network caters for a population with different needs and challenges. This can show in travel behaviour, barriers to travel and access to information.

**London is a young city:**
people under the age of 25 make up 32% of the population.

- 99% under 25
- 64% 26–64
- 11% over 65

Londoners over 65 years have **less internet access** than young Londoners.*

The proportion of Londoners from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups is increasing.

Disabled Londoners use buses for more of their trips than non-disabled Londoners.

Disabled Londoners
travel less often than non-disabled Londoners.

- 1.7 trips per day
- 2.5 trips per day

**32%** household income **under £20,000.***

**66%** household income **under £20,000.***

*Statistics relating to 2014
Supporting a safe, accessible, healthy London

As the Capital’s population becomes older and more diverse, transport will play an important role in ensuring we can enjoy a safe, healthy city with opportunities for all.

75% population growth projected in Londoners over 65 years between 2011 and 2041.

45% step-free access on the Tube and Rail.*

85% of bus stops are accessible.*

60% of Londoners could achieve their recommended level of physical activity if they switched from motorised modes to walking or cycling for short journeys.

25% of Londoners achieve their recommended level of physical activity from active travel.

Overcrowding is the top barrier to increasing public transport use for all equality groups.

*Statistics relating to 2015
Taking steps towards a better environment for London

Ensuring the Capital’s growth is sustainable presents a major challenge for transport.

Policies directed at improving air quality have seen significant progress although there is still a lot of work to do.

**More than 1.6 million people** in London are exposed to daytime road traffic noise levels above recommended healthy levels.*

In 2010 the impacts of air pollution caused the equivalent of over 9,000 premature deaths.

*the World Health Organization defines daytime road traffic noise levels above 55dB a level of community noise that causes health problems

**CO₂ per passenger km from public transport is falling.**

CO₂ from transport is falling, but targets are very challenging.

**A 3.45 million tonne gap is equivalent to a 45% reduction in vehicle kilometres in 2025.**

**Target**

1990 2010 2015 2020 2025 2030

**Annual CO₂ emissions (megatonnes)**

0.0 2.0 4.0 6.0 8.0 10.0

**Travel in London: At a glance**
Creating a cleaner, greener London

While transport is essential for enabling growth, it is also a significant source of air pollution, carbon emissions and noise. The Capital is working to address these environmental challenges.

The proportion of hybrid buses in TfL’s fleet is increasing.

98% of waste from TfL construction and demolition projects is recycled.

2010 2015 2020
1% 14% 46%

23,000+ trees on TfL’s surface network.

There has been a twentyfold increase in the number ULEVs* registered in London since 2011.

*ULEVs - Ultra low emission vehicles

Fewer people living in areas exceeding NO₂ limit.

3.6 million 2008
1 million 2015

All new taxis to be zero emission capable from 2018.

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