

United Kingdom



TRANSPORT, CLIMATE
AND SUSTAINABILITY
GLOBAL STATUS REPORT



The UK recorded a decrease in transport CO₂ emissions from 2017 to 2019 before the COVID-19 pandemic had significant impacts in 2020 and 2021. As of 2021, transport is the largest CO₂-producing sector in the country.

As shown in the previous edition, the UK continues to accelerate ambition on promoting public transport, walking, and cycling in cities, as well as inter-city railway services. New investment strategies and integrated plans were developed for these modes. The phase out of fossil fuel cars was also brought forward from 2040 to 2035 (and 2030 according to some sources). One in four new vehicles sold in 2022 was battery-electric.

Income group: high-income	
Human Development Index (2021): 0.929	
Population size (2022): 67 394 305	+3.7% (2015 - 2022)
Urban population share (2022): 85.2%	+6.3% (2015 - 2022)
GDP per capita (2021): 46 318.35	+1.84% (2015 - 2021)

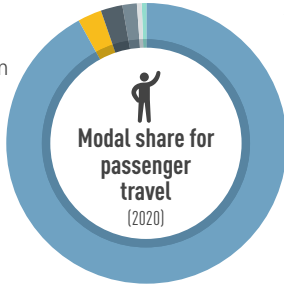
Transport Demand Trends

Passenger travel activity

549

billion passenger-km in 2020

31.2%
(2015 to 2020)



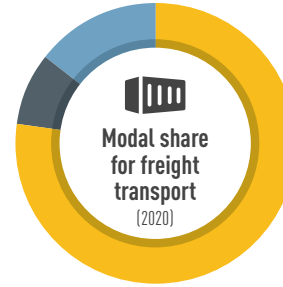
2020	92%	Cars, vans and taxis
	2.6%	Buses and coaches
	0.6%	Motorcycles
	1.6%	Pedal cycles
	2.9%	Rail
	0.4%	Air

Freight transport activity

176

billion ton-km in 2020

0.6%
(2015 to 2020)



2020	77.3%	Road
	8.5%	Rail
	14.2%	Inland Waterways

Energy consumption (2020)

33.1

million tonnes of oil equivalent

18.3%
(2015 to 2020)

Average light duty fuel economy consumption Lge/100 km (WLTP) ▶

6.4
(2019)

94%
Oil Products

4.8%
Biofuels

1.2%
Electricity

Transport Emission Trends

Transport CO₂ emissions (2021)

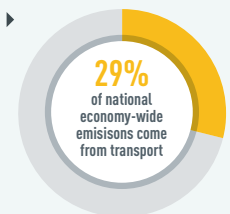
95.8 million tonnes

19.4%
(2015 to 2021)

Per capita transport CO₂ emissions (2021)

1.43 tonnes

Transport is the largest CO₂ producing sector in the country



Per capita transport CO₂ emissions



Transport Decarbonisation Pathways

Transport strategy identifies climate change	✓
Long-term strategy submitted to UNFCCC	✓
NDC submitted:	1st and Updated NDC
NDC highlights transport for GHG mitigation	✓
Transport mitigation targets in NDC	✗
Other non-emission related transport targets in NDC	✗
VNR highlights transport	✓ 2019 VNR with transport linkages to SDG 3, SDG 7, SDG 8, SDG 9 and SDG 13

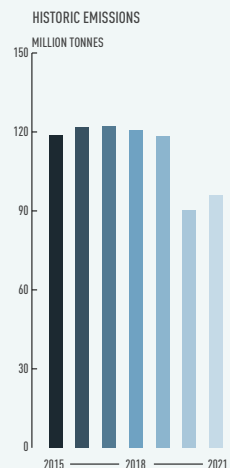
Transport actions in VNRs

- ▶ Zero-emission vehicle
- ▶ Renewable energy for transport
- ▶ Upgrading transport infrastructure
- ▶ EV charging

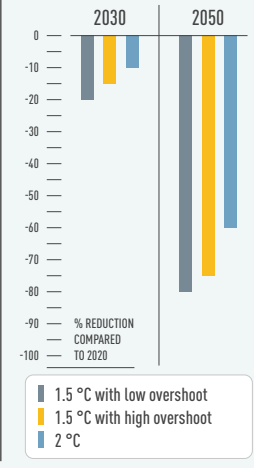
Transport actions in NDC

- ▶ Not available
- ▶ Not available

Required regional transport decarbonisation pathways



IPCC transport decarbonisation pathways for this region



Policy Areas: Indicators and Targets

Integrated Transport Planning	
National urban mobility framework (2022)	✓
Sustainable urban mobility plans (2022)	✓
Number of sustainable urban mobility plans (2022)	103 cities
Low emission zones (2022)	21 cities

Walking	
National walking strategies (2022)	✓
Targets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ increase the percentage of short journeys in towns and cities that are walked or cycled from 41% in 2018 to 2019 to 46% in 2025 ▶ increase walking activity, where walking activity is measured as the total number of walking stages per person per year, to 365 stages per person per year in 2025 ▶ increase the percentage of children aged 5 to 10 who usually walk to school from 49% in 2014 to 55% in 2025 	

Cycling	
National walking strategies (2022)	✓
Targets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ double cycling from 0.8 billion stages in 2013 to 1.6 billion stages in 2025 	
Cycling infrastructure in capital (2022)	2 000 km

Shared Mobility, Public Transport and Informal Transport	
Bus rapid transit (2022)	135 km in 7 cities
Bus rapid transit daily passenger volume (2022)	101 559
Urban rail (LRT, metro, tram) (2022)	Over 818 km in 10 cities
Rapid Transit to Resident Ratio (2021)	32.8

Intercity Rail	
Rail network (2021)	16178.6
Rail travel activity (2020)	24188.47
Rail freight activity (2020)	15212.1
High-speed rail (2021)	Not available
High-speed rail travel activity (2021)	Not available
National plans for passenger and freight rail expansion (2022)	✓
Target <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ To invest GBP 96 billion for rail construction and upgrades ▶ To electrify 75% of all rail lines, allowing to remove diesel-only trains from the network by 2040 	

Road Transport	
Total road vehicles in use per 1,000 people (2020)	632.3
Average annual growth rate (from 2015 to 2020)	2.10%

Aviation	
Air passengers carried (2020)	31.0 million people
Air freight activity (2020):	3675.2 million ton-km
Carbon-accredited airports (2022)	22 airports
of which carbon neutral:	8 airports

Shipping	
Liner shipping connectivity index (2021):	90.0
Container port traffic (2020):	869 2260 TEU

Transport Energy Sources	
Biofuel blend mandate (2022)	7% Biodiesel, 10% Ethanol
Renewable energy (biofuels and electricity) share in transport (2020)	6%
Targeted % of renewable energy	31% advanced biofuels by 2032

Vehicle Technologies	
Emission standards for LDVs (2020)	Euro 6
CO ₂ emissions performance for passenger cars (2020)	Not available
Targeted CO ₂ emissions performance	Not available
Regulatory environment ranking on used vehicles by UNEP (2021)	Not available
Electric vehicles (2022)	550 000
Share of electric vehicles in car sales (2022)	23%
ICE phase-out targets:	2035

COVID-19	
Strongest impact of COVID-19 on...	(compared to pre-COVID-19 baseline)
... trips to public transport	-72.1% Week of 5 April 2020
... navigation request for walking	-61.7% Week of 29 March 2020
... navigation request for driving	-66.9% Week of 5 April 2020
... driven kilometres	-75.4% Week of 12 April 2020
Traditional transport infrastructure investment:	USD 132.65 billion
Clean transport infrastructure investment:	USD 22.79 billion
Examples <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Support for infrastructure and regulatory changes to accommodate shift toward active transport ▶ Boost for the green road freight ▶ Transport network support ▶ Buses and trams safety and services fund 	

This fact sheet is part of the SLOCAT Transport, Climate and Sustainability Global Status Report 3rd Edition. Information shown in this country fact sheet is based on desk research and might not be complete or not show the most recent status. The data has been collected to the best knowledge and availability. If no information was able to be retrieved, then 'Not available' is being indicated. The content does not represent the opinion of the SLOCAT Partnership on Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport. For more information, please visit tcc-gsr.com

List of acronyms	
GDP	Gross-domestic product
HDV	Heavy-duty vehicle
ICE	Internal combustion engine
LDV	Light-duty vehicle
LRT	Light-rail transit
NDC	Nationally determined contribution
TEU	Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
VNR	Voluntary national review of the Sustainable Development Goals
WLTP	Worldwide harmonised light vehicles test procedure