
Transport Travel and Tourism

Three Year Work Plan 2002/03-2004/05

1. Summary

An Introduction to the Transport Travel and Tourism Theme

Transport Travel and Tourism statistics cover a range of topics from national traffic counts and large-scale surveys of road freight operators to assessment of the role of tourism in the economy and statistics about the relative safety of different transport modes.

The main organisations involved are the DTLR, DCMS, ONS, SE, Welsh Assembly Government, Northern Ireland Department for Regional Development, National Tourist Boards, English Tourism Council and British Tourist Authority.

Publications from the theme are available from the departmental websites. The NS website also contains information and maintains links to the relevant departmental websites.

The diversity of transport and tourism statistics is mirrored in a wide range of sources and data collection methods. These include surveys involving direct observation (traffic counts, road condition surveys): questionnaire surveys of transport and tourism operators: interview surveys (NTS, International Passenger Survey): administrative sources, e.g. Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) records of vehicle registrations and police records of road accidents.

Users of Transport Travel and Tourism statistics include: central Government; local government; transport and tourism consultants and planners; transport and tourism industries; national tourist boards; academics; European Union and other international bodies.

The Theme actively seeks user input and is working to enhance and develop means of achieving this. There are regular contacts established to consult central government users. Wider consultation takes place through a variety of formal and semi-formal means. These include events organised with the Transport Statistics User Group, meetings with local authorities¹³ and communication with industry specific groups (e.g. Chamber of Shipping, or the Tourist Boards).

Brief overview of the Theme's Work Programme

The key activities covered in this plan are:

- enhancement of the NTS to allow annual monitoring of key national trends and greater geographical detail (GB);
- extension and rationalisation of data available at various sub-national levels;
- development of a programme to monitor road congestion (England);
- development of two new surveys of van usage (GB);
- work to bring the UK Tourism Survey within the scope of NS.

Planned developments reinforce the priorities identified in last year's programme: strategy to monitor the Ten year transport plan; emphasis on sub-national data; continuing drive to improve and maintain quality and ensure value for money. There is increased recognition of the importance of tourism statistics, in the wake of the Foot and Mouth Disease crisis. The Theme is actively pursuing developments to improve access to statistics via the Internet.

2. Strategic Influence and Policy Drivers

The main initiatives currently planned for the coming years are driven by policy initiatives and priorities including:

- sustainable transport: DTLR's Ten Year Transport Plan and devolved administrations plans¹⁴;
- reducing and monitoring road congestion;
- road safety strategy and targets for casualty reduction;
- promoting regional strategy;
- supporting Local authorities to monitor Local Transport Plans;
- role of tourism;
- e-Business agenda;
- maintaining and improving quality; and
- promoting efficiency and value for money.

¹³ e.g. CLIP(Transport) – England, Welsh Statistical Liaison Committee

¹⁴ Transport Framework for Wales, Northern Ireland Regional Transportation Strategy.

3. Planned developments:

Outputs

National Travel Survey

The quality review of the NTS (GB) concluded that the sample size should be significantly increased. The sample will be approximately trebled from 2002 which means that key national trends can be produced annually, rather than triennially as at present, and with greater geographical detail. The first annual report should be produced during 2003.

Statistics for devolved administrations, local and regional statistics

Road Accidents Scotland will be substantially revised to include, in many of the tables, figures for the 'baseline' year for the targets for casualty reductions by the year 2010. Other improvements may be made, in the light of the responses to a survey of readers of the publication.

Further Transport-related results from the *Scottish Household Survey* will be published.

The first *Northern Ireland Travel Survey* will report at the end of a three-year fieldwork period in 2002.

A new publication *Regional Transport Statistics* (covering English regions, Scotland and Wales) was published in November 2001 for the first time: it replaces *Transport Statistics for Metropolitan Areas*. It will henceforth be produced annually, to extend and consolidate transport statistics available for government office regions. Data for Metropolitan areas are included where they are available.

In 2001 a database was set up of indicators being used to monitor English Local Transport Plans. This is a tool to target guidance and promote Best Practice. During 2002 this database will be updated and developed. The Department has now specified a core set of indicators, reflecting the national PSA targets and key targets in the Ten Year Plan which are applicable at local scale, which all authorities should report. DTLR statisticians have issued guidance on how these indicators should be compiled on a consistent basis, and also given authorities guidance on a menu of further "recommended" indicators which are in common use in Local Transport Plans.

Transport Indicators

DTLR is producing data to support monitoring of indicators and targets in the Ten-Year Plan for Transport, at national scale and to support the monitoring being done for Local Transport Plans described above.

The Department is working to develop a framework of performance indicators for roads in England, in consultation with various interested parties. Work will continue to develop the indicators themselves, to populate the framework, and to develop user-friendly publication such as map-based presentation on the web.

Congestion monitoring

The Ten Year Plan for Transport set targets to reduce congestion on inter-urban roads and in large urban areas in England to below 2000 levels by 2010. DTLR had developed a monitoring programme based on existing surveys of journey speeds. First results, including the baseline estimates for average time lost due to congestion in 2000, should be ready for publication in spring of 2002. This work is being informed by focus group research on what people think about congestion and how it could be measured.

Road Freight

The annual publication *Transport of Goods by Road in Great Britain* will be extended from 2002-03 to include results of the new survey of light goods vans.

Some results on the activity of foreign-registered lorries in the UK is expected to become available as new data collected under the EC Road Transport Statistics Regulation is developed.

The Quality Review of Road freight statistics will explore additional data needs.

Maritime Statistics

In 2000, a new system for collecting detailed port traffic statistics was introduced in order to meet the requirements of an EU Maritime Statistics Directive (Council Directive 95/64/EC on statistical returns in respect of the carriage of goods and passengers by sea) and the first results from the new collection system were published in December 2001 in *Maritime Statistics*. These first published results maintain the basic information on volume of passenger and cargo traffic through UK ports.

In addition the new system has the capability for analysing detailed route information (e.g. volume

and type of cargo between individual UK and overseas ports), with the added potential to link these to ship characteristics (e.g. flag).

The DTLR will consider, in consultation with data providers and users, including port authorities, shippers and ship owners, the range of extra detailed information to be made available, and in what format.

Use of administrative data

DTLR plan to publish during 2002-03 GB data from the *Vehicle Inspectorate* about testing regimes for Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) and Public Service Vehicle, and from the *Traffic Commissioners* about HGV and Light Goods Vehicle (LGV) licence infringement.

DTLR is also working with DVLA to investigate statistical outputs from the Agency's database of information about licensed drivers. This will complement DVLA information on vehicle stock in GB already published.

It had been hoped to release some of these results during 2001, but constraints on resources prevented this.

Tourism Statistics

DCMS plan regular pre-announced quarterly and annual bulletins as part of the changes to bring the UK Tourism Survey within the scope of NS.

DCMS is joint chair of the consortium of 10 bodies funding the GB 2002 Day Visits Survey. These include the English Tourism Council and Countryside Agency. Results are scheduled to be released by late spring 2003.

Resources permitting, DCMS is also working with National Tourist Boards on the production of a new compendium tourism statistics publication in late 2002. In 2002, DCMS will be exploring the scope, and will be continuing to seek funding for the development of a 'tourism satellite account' which can provide better information on the economic and employment impacts of tourism.

Electronic dissemination

As a matter of policy, NS publications are available free of charge on the Internet. Where there are delays between 'hard copy' publication and electronic release, they will be reduced. There are also plans to improve the style and ease-of-use of Internet publication.

The Theme Group is concerned to develop and maintain an appropriate balance between traditional 'hard copy' format and electronic publication. The Statistics Commission is conducting an independent audit of the availability of transport statistics on the Internet. The Theme welcomes this and looks forward to responding positively to its recommendations.

Sources

Enhancements to the National Travel Survey: The NTS is a household survey of travel in Great Britain, and is the main source of information on why and how people travel. Respondents are asked to keep a travel diary for seven days, and background information is collected on age, sex, car ownership, driving licences, vehicles, employment and income. The survey has run continuously since mid-1988, following similar ad-hoc surveys from the 1970s, and is designed to track longer-term trends in transport. The current sample is fairly small, so results are aggregated over a three-year period.

The first Quality Review of the Theme was held on the NTS. The main conclusion of the review was that the overall design of the survey should remain largely unchanged, but the sample size should be increased significantly to allow key annual trends to be monitored, and greater geographical detail to be produced. Following the review, a new contract has been let from January 2002 that includes provision for an approximate trebling of the sample size.

The expanded survey will be monitored, including investigation of the impact of incentives. New grossing and imputation procedures will be introduced.

There will be improved regional data, although data for individual local authorities will not be available. From 2003 it may be possible for Local Authorities to fund boosted samples in their own areas.

Statistics for devolved administrations, local and regional statistics

SE, DTLR and other bodies will consider how the estimates of road traffic volumes for Scotland, and areas within Scotland, might be improved, in the light of the results of a research study by external consultants.

The SE has produced a number of topic specific bulletins relating to transport from the results of the SHS. During 2001-02 the SHS is being

reviewed. Conditional on decisions on the future of the SHS, during 2002-03 SE will develop the Transport-related questions to be included in 2003 and subsequent years and during 2003-04 consider possible detailed follow-up surveys on specific transport topics.

The NAW has recently released a Statistical Bulletin describing the Assembly's need for transport statistics. It aims to review the current availability and usage of Welsh transport statistics and identifies areas where there are gaps in the data. Work on the recommendations in the bulletin will take place over the next year or so.

Road Freight surveys

Detailed plans for GB surveys of LGVs (vans) are underway, to complement the existing surveys of HGVs. DTLR's survey of van activity was discontinued in 1999 because of low response rates and high levels of under-reporting. Instead, following further investigative work, including research by ONS's Question Testing Unit, it is proposed to undertake two separate surveys. The first survey will cover vehicles owned by companies and run along the lines of the department's well-established survey of heavy goods vehicles. The second will be a stand-alone survey of non-company owned vans.

DTLR is also working to update the geographical coding of origin and destination for the Continuing Survey of Road Goods Traffic (CSGRT) and the International Road Haulage Survey (IRHS).

Maritime Statistics

A review of information requirements for numbers of seafarers and trainees is to be carried out by DTLR in 2002. Important gaps in information will be identified as part of the review, and new surveys will be considered to fill these gaps.

Tourism Statistics

The UK Tourism Survey and UK Occupancy Survey are both conducted outside of the GSS. DCMS will be examining these surveys against the NS Code of Practice, in partnership with the survey co-ordinators – the English Tourism Council and the National Tourist Boards. Changes will be made as appropriate in order to bring these surveys within the scope of NS. This work on the UK Tourism survey will be completed during 2002-03 – somewhat later than

originally planned, largely because of pressure on resources as a result of the Foot and Mouth outbreak.

More generally, the events of this year have highlighted the need for comprehensive and up to date information about Tourism. At a meeting of top-ranking industry and chaired by the DCMS's Secretary of State, one of only eight medium-term actions was for DCMS to work with industry to improve the range of statistics on tourism. Subsequent detailed proposals are awaiting Ministerial approval. Consultation is likely to be a part of the resulting actions.

Changes to the scope of the theme following departmental reorganisation

The Transport Travel and Tourism theme was not affected by departmental reorganisation.

Quality developments

Quality Review programme

A quality review of the NTS has been completed and a report published in May 2001.

A major review of road accident statistics was scheduled for 2002/03. In fact consultation started during 2001/02 and work is well underway in collaboration with local authorities, central government and the police. The review is scheduled to report towards the end of 2002, with any changes in data collection taking effect in January 2004.

Review for Road freight statistics (originally scheduled for 2000/01) starts early 2002. Preparatory work undertaken includes drawing up a list of potential weaknesses in the surveys and compiling a 'shopping list' of requirements arising from, in particular, the DTLR internal Transport Statistics Review, National Economic Research Associates Study into the Medium Statistical Needs of the Haulage Industry, and EC Regulation on Road Transport. Other quality reviews for 2002-03 include Bus and Coach statistics, Vehicle Licensing Statistics, and International Passenger Survey (by ONS).

Other quality improvements and efficiency measures:

Road conditions: over the next three years the National Road Maintenance Condition Survey, will evolve from a sample survey (for England and Wales) to one making use of operational data

from the Highways Agency and local highway authorities. This will bring considerable efficiency gains as well as more comprehensive estimates of road conditions with particular emphasis on Local Authority comparisons and the need for treatment.

Rail statistics: DTLR will work with the Strategic Rail Authority to bring these within the scope of NS.

International Passenger Survey: A new monthly processing system is due to go live in 2002 which will bring it more in line with the current quarterly processing system. The main benefits will be to improve the quality of monthly estimates and to reduce the extent of data revisions.

Use of administrative data: The DTLR is investing effort to make fullest use of records held by the DVLA, the Vehicle Inspectorate and the Traffic Commissioners. This is being achieved by developing formal contacts between DTLR and the agencies, and working closely with IT specialists who are responsible for delivering results from the databases.

4. Key Changes from last year's Plan

A few of the developments envisaged last year have been postponed or cancelled:

Road Traffic data

Consideration of the possible use of portable traffic counters, and possible regular processing by DTLR of local authority traffic data, will now be considered as part of the planned quality review of road traffic statistics, preliminary work for which will start in 2002/03.

Road accident statistics

DTLR's consideration of the viability of a common road accident database for input and storage of STATS19 that could be used by all parties concluded that it was technically feasible but would not result in significant savings and had not been generally acceptable to other users. It would be difficult to design a system that would fit into all local computer systems and accommodate additional variables collected locally. Moreover, it would not assist in the adaptation of local analysis systems to accommodate survey changes at the times of reviews.

Tourism Statistics

There is no firm date to complete work to bring the UK Occupancy Survey within the scope of NS. Initial assessment has showed there to be a number of methodological issues to be addressed. These will need to be introduced in coordination with enhanced quality management processes, given the devolved arrangement in which Regional Tourist Boards run the survey. Initially, limited resources will concentrate on changes to bring the UK Tourist Survey within NS.

5. International Considerations

DTLR and DCMS are heavily involved in the development of EU statistics. There is legislation for the collection of road freight and for maritime statistics, and a new rail regulation has been prepared to take account of the impact of liberalisation of the industry.

DTLR is also involved with the EU care project, to develop internationally comparable road accident statistics, with a working group of the European Board for Electronic Data Interchange standards for transport statistics, and with the EU Transport Environmental Reporting Mechanism project.

DTLR represents UK at UNECE and European Conference of Ministers of Transport meeting

6. Costs

For a full explanation of National Statistics costs, see Appendix B.

Theme specific expenditure is as follows:

'Projected' Resource Costs:

2002/03	£15.5m
2003/04	£15.4m

These annual estimates of 'projected' expenditure include the following expenditure on **significant developments** (i.e. over £50k):

Review of Bus and Coach statistics	2002/03	£70k
Review of Road Accident Statistics	2002/03	£90k
Light Vans Survey	2002/03	£375k
National Travel Survey	2002/03	670k
Review of Traffic Statistics	2003/04	£50k

Please note, these figures represent significant developments only and will not match the total expenditure on statistical developments for the theme shown in Table 1 in Appendix B.

7. Contacts and further information

Websites

Further information on statistics covered by this Theme can be found at the following websites:

National Statistics
www.statistics.gov.uk

Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions
www.dtlr.gov.uk

Department of Culture, Media and Sport
www.culture.gov.uk

Department for Regional Development, Northern Ireland
www.derdni.gov.uk

Scottish Executive
www.scotland.gov.uk

National Assembly for Wales
www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/index.htm

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