

Summary

Introduction

- This report presents the results of the sixth Hertfordshire County Travel Survey carried out in October 2015. The survey provides an accurate and robust database of travel attitudes and behaviour of a representative sample of Hertfordshire residents. It is based on travel patterns over a typical seven day period. The survey was last undertaken in 2012, following previous surveys in 2009, 2005, 2002, and 1999.
- For the 2015 survey, questionnaires were sent to 19,000 households, randomly sampled from across all districts in the county. In total, 3,464 households completed questionnaires, giving an overall response rate of 18%. Unlike previous surveys, all members of the household aged 4 and over were requested to complete the survey. This yielded 6,953 person records, and 16,748 trips.

Household Characteristics and General Travel Patterns

Demographic Characteristics

- Over two fifths of respondents live in households with two people (40.1%) and over a third (34.1%) live alone. Just over half the sample was female (51.2%). More than two fifths (42.2%) of people are in full time employment and a further 11.5% work part time. A fifth (21.1%) are in education and 18.4% are retired.

Access to transport

- Eleven percent of households do not have a car, while 40.3% of households have one car. The average number of cars per household is 1.5, and the average number of cars per person is 0.7. Just 15.9% of those aged 17 or over say they do not have access to a car or van for private use, and 15.2% have no driving licence.
- Half, 50.5% owns a usable bicycle; health issues limit activities for 9.6% of respondents and 17.0% have a bus pass.

The Journey to Work

- Of those who work, 24.7% said they work from home once a week or more. Working at home was given as a reason for not having travelled on the survey day by 2.7% of those who said they worked at home
- The number of trips per person per average day made for work trips was 0.27, increasing to 0.36 for weekdays. People who work but do not work from home (and made trips on the travel day) made an average of 0.56 work trips, higher than the 0.31 work trips made by people who say they work from home on one day a week or more.
- Work trips accounted for 18.9% of outward or onward trips. Walking was the main mode for 11.4% of work trips, although a walking stage was recorded for 32.1% of work trips. Over half, 57.7% drove as the main mode for work trips, and 18.7% used train. In 2012, the proportion using car was 60%.

Work Destinations

- Greater London accounted for 29.4% of work trips, with a further 10.8% being in counties adjacent to Hertfordshire, and 2% further afield. The average distance travelled for home-to-work was 13.2 miles, lower than the 14.6 miles recorded in 2012. The average distance driven by car drivers was also very similar, 13.6 miles in 2015 and 13.4 in 2012. Where train was used the average distance travelled was 24.8 miles; in 2012 this was 26.3 miles.

Shopping

- The number of shopping trips per person per day was 0.23. This was significantly higher for Saturday trips, at 0.41, and was higher for females than males, 0.26 compared with 0.20. Overall, 27.0% of shopping trips were made on foot, and 47.0% by car as the driver. Almost three quarters, 72.8% of shopping trips under 1 mile were made on foot, and 20.6% by car. The average distance for shopping trips was 3.7 miles

The Journey to School

- 49.6% of 5-10 year olds walked to school, 3.6% cycled, 43.7% were driven, and 1.1% used 'other' modes (possibly scooter); the 2012 survey indicated that just under half of children of primary school age (48%) walked to school and 43% went by car.
- For trips of under a mile, 83.6% of 5-10 year olds walked to school, and 10.5% were driven;
- 43.7% of 11-15 year olds walked to school, 2.5% cycled, 15.4% used bus and 34.6% were driven;
- For trips of under a mile, 89.2% of 5-10 year olds walked to school, and 8.6% were driven;
- 37.9% of 16-17 year olds walked to school, 3.0% cycled, 12.8% used bus, 2.6% drove themselves and 41.2% were driven. ;
- Most education trips for 16-17 year olds were between 1 and 3 miles in length. For these trips 48.6% walked 44.6% were driven;

Attitudes to Transport Issues

- Over two fifths (40.6%) of respondents commented on buses and bus services, almost a quarter (24.2%) on driving or roads, and 9.3% on rail services. A further 7.2% of comments related to public transport services generally, and 10.6% of people made a positive comment about transport in Hertfordshire.
- The majority of the comments regarding driving or roads related to traffic flow and congestion (11.4%), followed by road surfaces and the state of repair of roads (10.8%). There were notable differences by district in the proportion who mentioned traffic congestion, as follows:
 - o - Watford (19.4%);
 - o - Three Rivers (16.5%); and
 - o - St Albans (13.2%).
- Traffic congestion was also more likely to be mentioned as an issue in households with children (15.0%) than in those without (10.0%). A further 5.6% of comments related to parking issues, principally a lack of parking (3.9%).
- The most frequently occurring comments about bus services were:
 - o - Low frequency and scheduling (6.5%);
 - o - Poor quality of vehicles and reliability of services (5.6%);
 - o - First services of the day not starting sufficiently early, and finishing too early in the evening (5.1%);
 - o - Too expensive (5.1%);
 - o - No or poor Sunday/weekend services (3.8%).

Personal Travel Statistics

Amount of Travel

- 29.0% of respondents made no trips on the travel day, 31.5% made two trips and 37.4% made three or more trips. The average trips rate for 2015 was 2.4 trips per person per day.

Trip Purpose

- In 2015 18.9% of trips were to work, 16.4% were shopping related and 30.0% were for social or recreational purposes.

Mode of Travel

- 32.4% of trips included a walking stage, and walking was the main mode used for 23.4% of trips. Cycle was used as the main mode for 1.6% of trips, and car, as the driver was used in 46.8 of all trips.

Trip Distance

- In 2012 the average distance travelled per trip was 9.8 miles; in 2015 the average was 8.04 miles. 30.3% of trips are of between 1 and 3 miles, and 19.4% are less than 1 mile. Walk was the main mode used for 76.6% of trips under a mile; cycle was used for 1.7% of these very short trips and car as the driver for 15.2%.