

Transport and Travel in Scotland – Recent developments and possible improvements

Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to inform members of the Committee about recent developments in Transport and Travel in Scotland (TATIS) and suggest possible improvements to the publication.

Background

Transport and Travel in Scotland was first published in 2011 (covering 2010 data). It replaced two earlier publications:

- Main Transport Trends which described some main transport trends in Scotland using a range of data sources and included some comparisons with Great Britain; and
- Household Transport which provided analysis of the Transport related questions asked in the Scottish Household Survey (SHS).

From 2013 onwards, TATIS also includes SHS travel diary results, replacing a third publication.

In 2015, the presentation of the publication was updated. Changes included a stronger emphasis on single year estimates and the inclusion of an infographic summary to draw out key messages.

Contents

The main focus of TATIS is on social survey and travel diary results from the Scottish Household Survey. The publication also includes background statistics which help interpret personal travel behaviour. Although there has been a reduction in the number of non-SHS statistics included in the publication, background statistics still feature prominently. Since these statistics are also published in Scottish Transport Statistics and Reported Road Casualties, however, we are considering to give them a less prominent role in TATIS.

This year's publication included the results of the Scottish Access to Bus Indicator (SABI). This is a new piece of analysis undertaken by the Scottish Government GIS team to address accessibility of bus services across Scotland. This analysis is not based on Scottish Household Survey data and does not cover individual travel behaviour. We are therefore considering to publish this data as part of another publication or on its own.

1. What type of background statistics should be included in TATIS? Would it be appropriate to have a stronger focus on the SHS results, and spend less time discussing statistics that are also published elsewhere?

Presentation

The presentation of the publication has changed over the years. Currently, there is an emphasis on single year estimates. The publication also includes an infographic summary page. We are considering to place a stronger emphasis on development over time and to expand on the infographic content. DfT publish an infographic report of several pages that covers the main trends

in their travel diary data and the main SHS publication this year also included more charts and infographics to make the results more accessible to users. The report currently highlights some of the main points but often fails to address important developments over time or across subgroups.

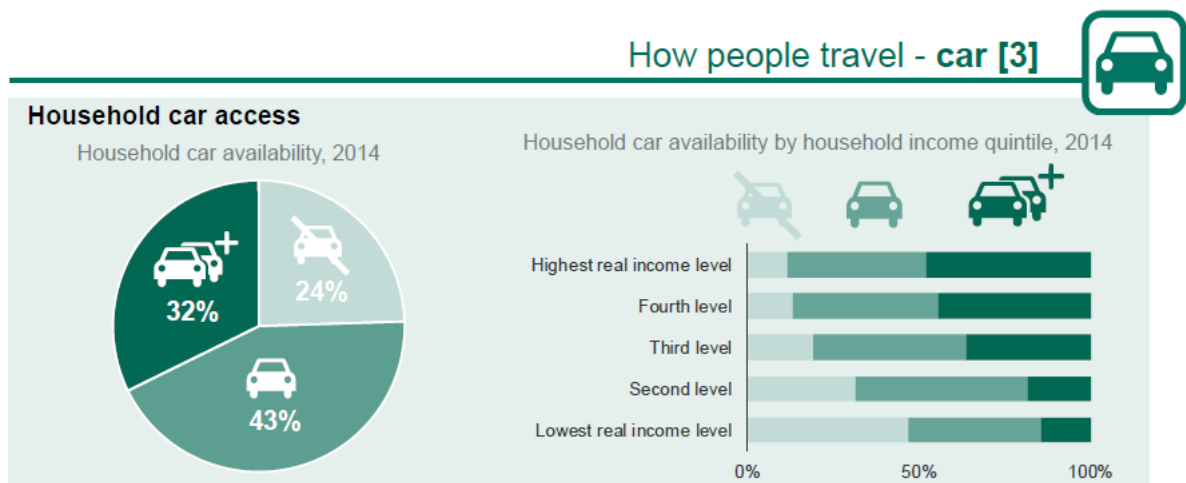
2. How can we improve the presentation of the travel diary and social survey statistics?

Topic reports

We currently publish the travel diary and SHS statistics once a year in TATIS. Throughout the year, the SHS data is used internally to provide analytical support for policy colleagues. For example, we are currently using the SHS data to examine the causes of bus patronage decline and drivers of active travel. This information could potentially be interesting for external stakeholders and we are therefore considering to make topic reports available on an ad hoc basis.

3. Should we consider publishing topic reports throughout the year?

Some examples of data visualisation



Source: National Travel Survey Factsheet (2014)

Characteristics of adults

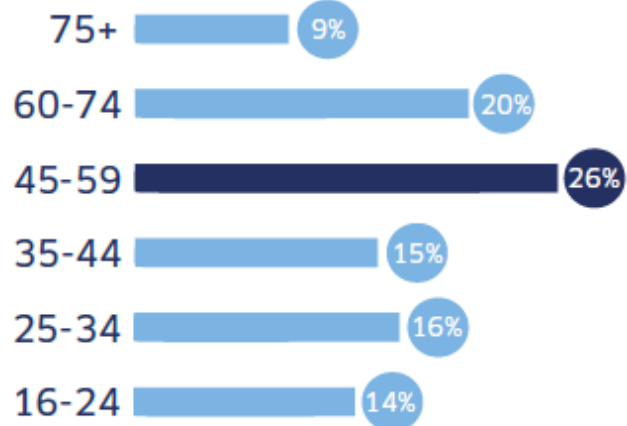
Over a quarter (26%) are between 45 and 59-years old.

Over a half (55%) are aged 45-years or more.

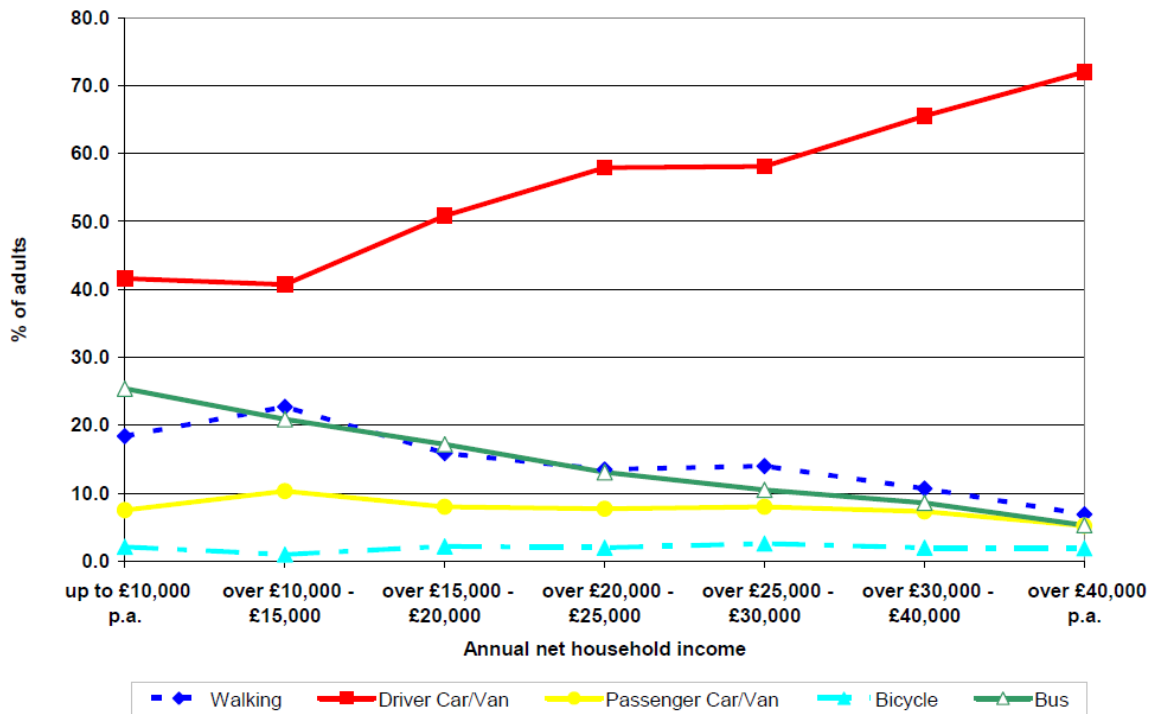
There are more women (52%) than men (48%).

Three in ten adults reported a long-term physical or mental health condition.

Age of adults



Source: Scottish Household Survey Key Findings (2016)



Source: Transport and Travel in Scotland (2011)