



Coach Facts

(Figures are for GB unless stated)



Driving
the UK
forward





About the Coach Sector

- There are circa 2,500 coach operators in the UK, 81% of which are family or individually owned, often with multiple generations working for the business¹
- Together, these businesses provide 42,000 jobs across the country²
- 66% of coach operators have 15 vehicles or less³
- Coach travel is 6 times safer than car use⁴
- Coaches make work viable in areas or during hours poorly served by rail; coach operates 24 hours a day seven days a week and can support shift patterns for industries such as airports and airlines⁵
- The coach can be two to three times cheaper than rail⁶
- In just one day, one coach operator carries out 473 lines of work delivered by 142 vehicles, including
 - 113 trips to and from school with the capacity to carry 8,000 children
 - 16 trips on sports shuttle services with the capacity to carry 1,274 passengers
 - 31 assorted private hire bookings
 - 63 coaches for school away day trips⁷

Economic Benefits

- British people make an estimated 500 million passenger journeys by coach in the UK each year⁸
- Of the 6.3 million people who took a coach trip in 2019, 40% were 55 years old or older⁹
- In 2019 there were 23 million visits to tourist attractions and locations by coach, which contributed £14 billion to the UK economy¹⁰
- Coaches are an attractive travel option for international visitors, with 46% reportedly nervous about driving in Britain¹¹
- In 2019 more than 68,000 passengers (accounting for nearly 40% of festival-goers) were transported to Glastonbury by coach from cities as far afield as Penzance and Dundee, with 880 passengers per hour being transported in the peak period¹²

¹ CPT research

² CPT research

³ CPT research

⁴ DfT Passenger casualty rates per billion passenger kilometers by mode: Great Britain ras0203

⁵ CPT research

⁶ CPT research

⁷ CPT research

⁸ CPT analysis of 2019 DfT and National Travel Survey data

⁹ CPT Coach Operators Survey 2020

¹⁰ CPT research

¹¹ VisitBritain: Foresight Issue 117, In BEIS & DCMS (28 June 2019) Policy Paper: [gov.uk/government/publications/tourism](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tourism)

¹² CPT research



Environmental Benefits

- Just one coach-load of people can keep up to 50 cars off the roads¹³
- For coach, average carbon dioxide emissions per passenger per journey are around 1.5 times lower than rail, 5 times lower than air and 6 times lower than car travel¹⁴
- Just a 15% increase in coach passenger journeys by British people each year could lead to approximately 47 million fewer cars on the road, saving over a quarter of a million tonnes of carbon dioxide and significantly reducing congestion¹⁵
- The cost of ultra-low and zero emission coaches is currently considerably more – around 75% more - than the latest Euro VI diesel vehicles¹⁶
- It is estimated that an electric charging point would cost between £20,000 and £35,000, plus the associated infrastructure costs which would vary depending on the site. This adds significant cost to the investment in electric vehicles¹⁷
- 51% of carbon dioxide emissions come from cars and taxis, with coaches and buses responsible for just 2%¹⁸
- 32% of NOx emissions come from cars and taxis with coaches and buses responsible for just 2%¹⁹
- Through improvements to the coach fleet we can reduce carbon dioxide emissions even further – by around 56,000 tonnes over the next decade - and reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides by enough to equate to £225 million in damage cost savings²⁰

Societal Benefits

- Coaches transport around 600,000 children to school each day²¹
- On average, 560,000 students take an overseas school residential trip each year²²
- Many thousands more students undertake day and residential trips in the UK²³
- 89% of schools view residential as extremely or very important to students and the school itself, and 94% of schools ran a residential trip during the 2018/19 academic year²⁴

¹³ CPT research

¹⁴ Zemo partnership test data and DBEIS Greenhouse Gage Reporting: conversion factors 2020

¹⁵ CPT analysis of DfT and National Travel Survey data

¹⁶ CPT research

¹⁷ CPT research

¹⁸ DfT, Greenhouse gas emissions by transport mode: United Kingdom, env02

¹⁹ DfT, Nitrogen oxide emissions by transport mode: United Kingdom, env03

²⁰ Zemo Partnership

²¹ CPT research

²² School Travel Forum member survey 2019

²³ CPT research

²⁴ School Travel Forum member survey 2019