

## Road usage

The Department for Transport (DfT) compile estimates of total motor vehicle traffic (including cars), and car traffic only, for local authorities in Great Britain. They show annual million vehicle kilometres from 1993 to 2007, and are updated annually following the publication of the annual traffic estimates.

The Department's traffic estimates are produced by using a consistent national methodology which is mainly designed to deliver national level estimates. This methodology includes applying the same growth factors for minor roads to all local authorities across the country. The local authority level estimates resulting from this process may therefore differ from estimates produced by local authorities using local data and locally robust methodologies.

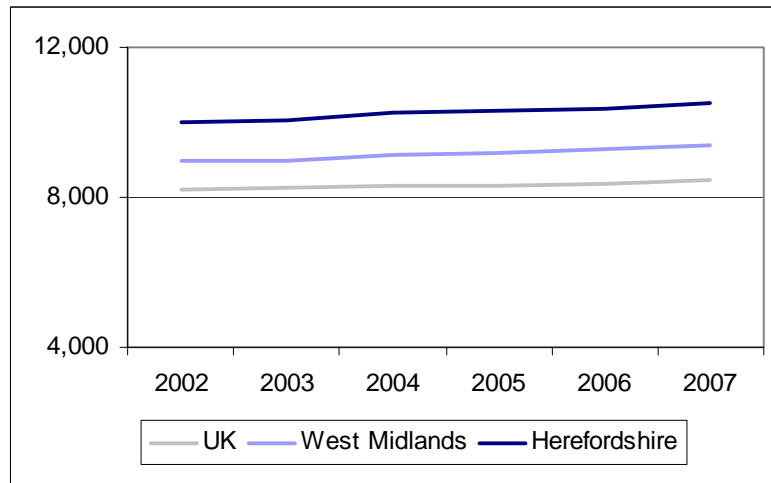
It should be recognised that, for some local authorities, the number of sample points on minor roads is very small. This limits the value of the estimates for comparing the levels of traffic across different authorities.

Because of the limitations described above, the local authority traffic estimates are not designated as National Statistics.

### All vehicles

An estimated 10,500 vehicle kilometres per head were travelled on Herefordshire roads in 2007, representing a 7% increase compared with 2002. Road usage for Herefordshire remains consistently higher than the general trend for the West Midlands and England as a whole (chart 1.1). However in 2007, Herefordshire's per capita road usage was similar to Shropshire (10,557) and Gloucestershire (10,688) and lower than Worcestershire (12,552) and Powys (11,526).

Chart 1.1. Vehicle kilometres per head, 2002-2007



Source: Department for Transport's National Road Traffic Survey

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The estimated number of vehicle kilometres travelled by car per capita on Herefordshire roads was 7,975 in 2007. Total vehicle kilometres for just cars had increased by 5% since 2002, less than for all vehicles (7%).

Table 1.2 Vehicle kilometres per capita, 2007

	Population (thousands)	Cars	All vehicles
<b>UK Total</b>	60,588	6,670	8,467
<b>West Midlands</b>	5,367	7,380	9,395
<b>Herefordshire</b>	178	7,975	10,534
<b>Worcestershire</b>	553	9,935	12,552
<b>Shropshire</b>	289	8,015	10,557
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	579	8,403	10,688
<b>Powys</b>	131	8,566	11,526

Source: Department for Transport

**For further information on the data in this article, please contact the Research Team on 01432 260 893 or e-mail [researchteam@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:researchteam@herefordshire.gov.uk)**

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