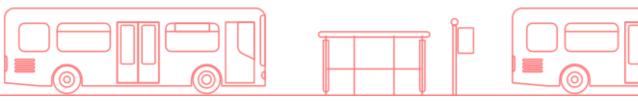


Contents

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About Your Bus Journey



An independent survey

Run by Transport Focus, the independent consumer organisation representing the interests of bus passengers across England outside of London.

We use professional market research suppliers to conduct the survey on the ground, collect and process the responses and analyse the results.

The survey builds on our knowledge and experience of gathering bus passenger feedback since 2010, including trialling the methodology for Your Bus Journey in 2022.

We publish all our survey results, making them transparent and available to transport users, bus operators, transport authorities, Governments and other industry stakeholders.

Measuring actual experiences

Passengers provide their feedback about a single leg of a journey, made on the day of recruitment.

We recruit passengers as they make their journeys, at bus stops and on board buses – verified and inclusive.

The structured survey questions focus initially on the essential measures of satisfaction – with follow-on more detailed questions optional but encouraged.

Passengers are also encouraged to tell us in their own words what was good or bad about the journey and what stood out.

Monitoring and evaluating

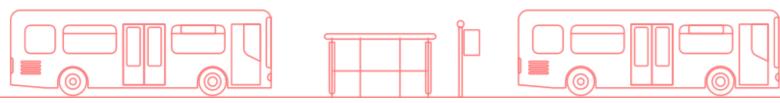
The survey produces robust metrics that can be used as targets in Bus Service Improvement Plans / Enhanced Partnerships / Franchises.

A consistent survey approach and questions over time and across all participating areas will allow for trend analysis in future years and allows for benchmarking against other areas.

We work to make a difference for all transport users.



Key information about the survey and this report



Fieldwork

Passengers aged 16 years or older are approached at bus stops and on board buses and asked if they would like to take part in the survey about the journey they are making.

Passengers complete the survey themselves, using either an online or paper questionnaire.

Fieldwork is ongoing, with data reported every 4 weeks across the year. Fieldwork is spread evenly across the year to give a full view of bus travel in each area.

This report covers the first full year of research, with fieldwork running from late January to mid-December.

Data

Data has been weighted to be representative of the demographics of passengers by gender and age and journey time banding. It has also been weighted according to whether passengers were approached at bus stops or on board a bus to ensure there is a 50:50 split in all areas*. Data is based on journeys rather than passengers, so frequent users are more likely to be sampled.

All data in this report is for All England areas unless otherwise stated.

Only data with a base size of over 75 respondents has been shown. Please note that lower base sizes (below 100) should be treated with caution.

Figures are rounded, so may not add up to 100%. For ratings questions, responses are based on those that gave an option (excluding don't know) unless otherwise stated.

In All England areas, 35044 responses were received.

Definitions

Throughout the report, we refer to 'off peak' and 'peak' travel. Peak travel is defined as weekdays between 7:00-9:29am and 3:30-6:29pm.

The 'All England areas' total refers to all areas taking part in the survey within England.

This total is weighted average scores that take account of the number of bus journeys that take place in each area.

Total satisfied scores combine responses for 'very' and 'fairly' satisfied, likewise for Total good scores.

Further details can be found in the appendix.



^{*} The one exception being for the Reading Buses network survey, where all passengers were approached on board.

Areas covered in the 2023 survey (England)

Urban metropolitan

Greater Manchester

Liverpool City Region

Tyne & Wear

South Yorkshire

West Midlands

West Yorkshire

Urban other

Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole

Brighton and Hove

City of York

Lancashire and Blackburn with

Darwen

Leicester City

Luton

North East Lincolnshire

Greater Nottingham

Portsmouth

Reading Buses Network

Stoke-on-Trent

Surrey

Urban other (cont.d)

Tees Valley

Thurrock

Warrington

West of England and North

Somerset

West Sussex

Semi-rural

Cheshire East

Cheshire West & Chester

Derbyshire

East Sussex

Nottinghamshire

Rural

Cornwall

East Riding of Yorkshire

Norfolk

Durham

Northumberland

Oxfordshire

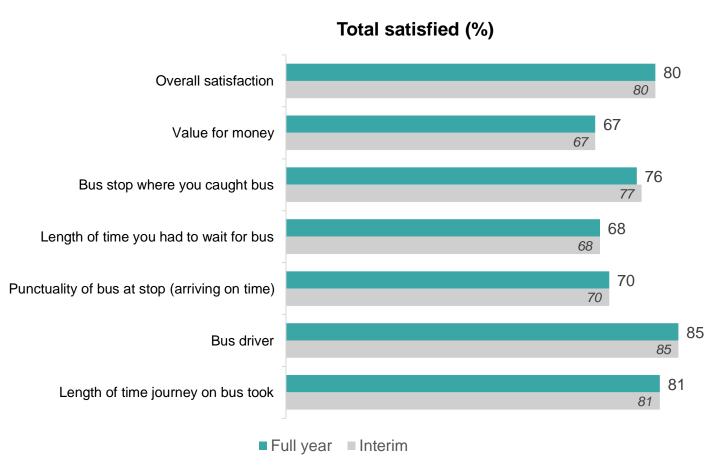
Suffolk







Summary of headline results for All England areas

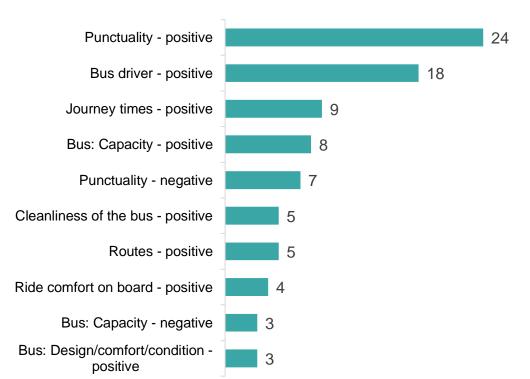


Q9 Overall taking everything into account from the start to the end, how satisfied were you with your bus journey? Q10A How satisfied were you with the value for money of your journey? Q8 How satisfied were you with each of the following during the journey? Base: Interim 9063 - 14390; Full Year 21431 - 34434

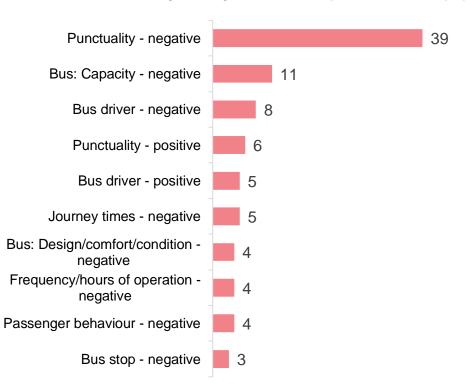


Stand out moments from this journey

Comments from those "very/fairly satisfied" with journey overall – top ten themes (%)



Comments from those "neither satisfied nor unsatisfied, very/fairly dissatisfied" with journey overall – top ten themes (%)



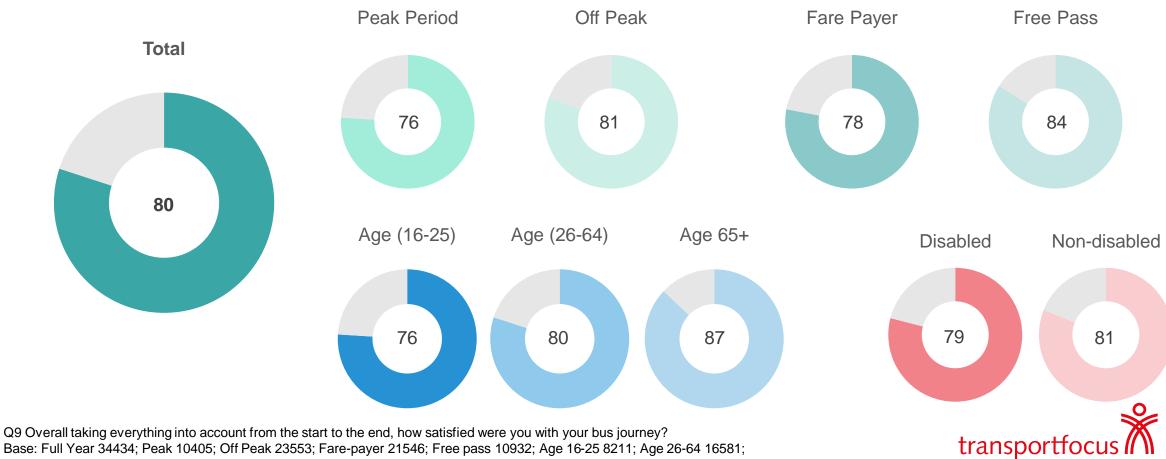
Q7 Please tell us in your own words what was good or bad about this journey. We're interested in anything that stood out about this journey.

Base: Those satisfied with journey overall 25419; Those not satisfied with journey overall 5405



Overall satisfaction with journey - summary

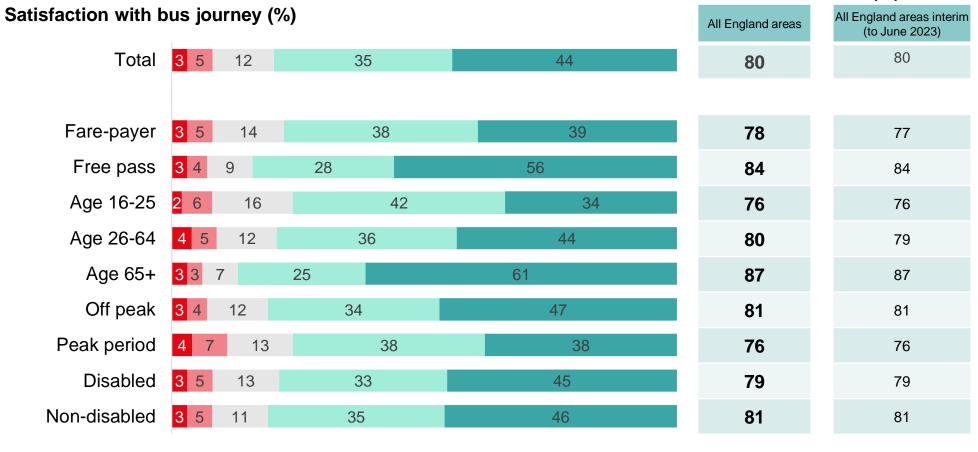
Satisfaction with bus journey (%) Total very and fairly satisfied



Base: Full Year 34434; Peak 10405; Off Peak 23553; Fare-payer 21546; Free pass 10932; Age 16-25 8211; Age 26-64 16581; Age 65+ 9267; Disabled 8747; Non-disabled 20690

Overall satisfaction with journey - in detail

Total satisfied (%)

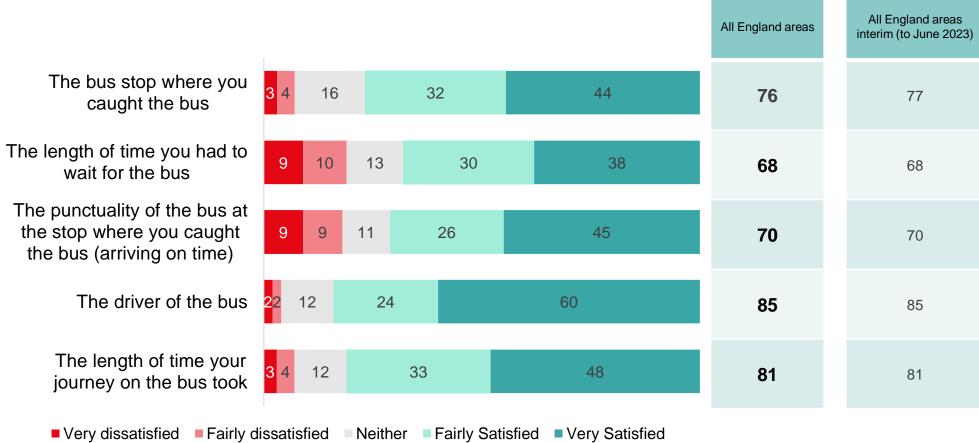




■ Very dissatisfied
■ Fairly dissatisfied
■ Neither
■ Fairly Satisfied
■ Very Satisfied

Satisfaction with headline journey measures

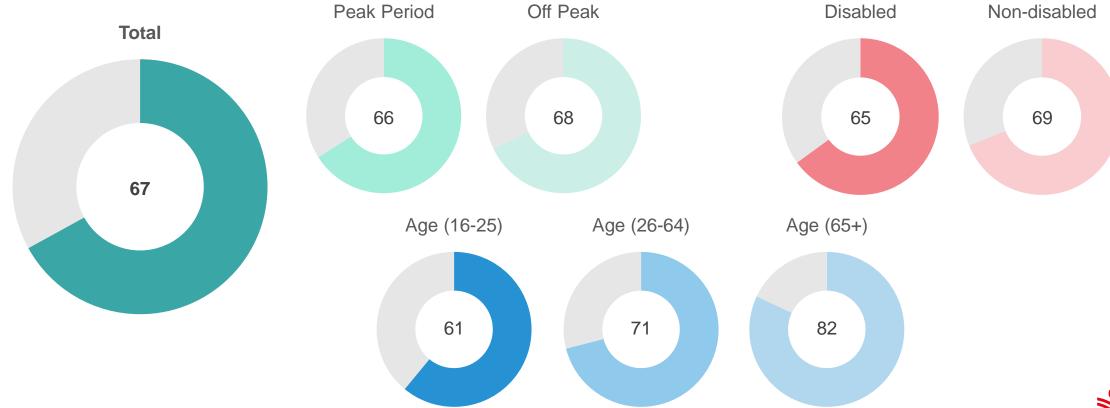
Total satisfied (%)

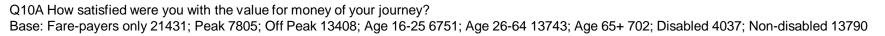




Value for money of the journey - summary

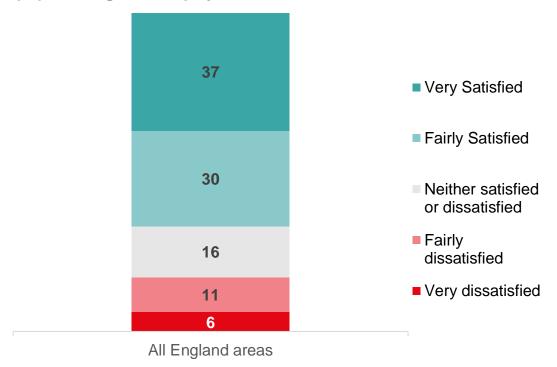
Satisfaction with the journey's value for money (%) amongst fare-payers Total very and fairly satisfied



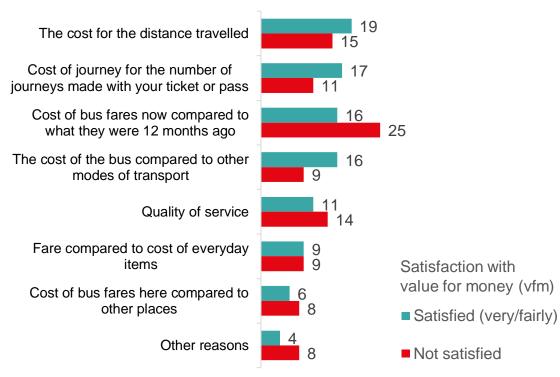


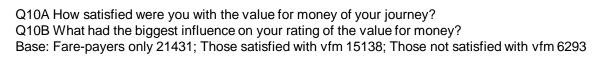
Value for money of the journey – in detail

Satisfaction with the journey's value for money (%) amongst fare-payers



Influential factors on value for money rating (%) in All England areas

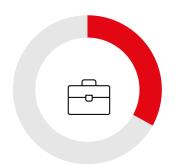




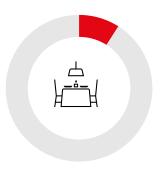




Journey purpose



Commuting for work 33%



Leisure 9%



Shopping 20%



Appointment 5%



Commuting for education

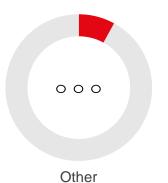
13%



Business 1%



Friends or relatives 10%



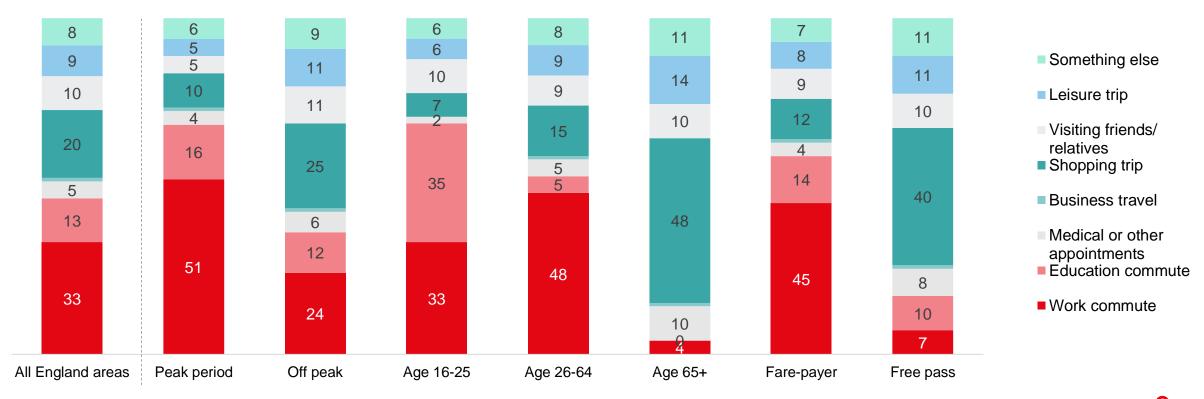
8%

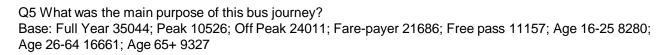


Q5 What was the main purpose of this bus journey? Base: Full Year 35044

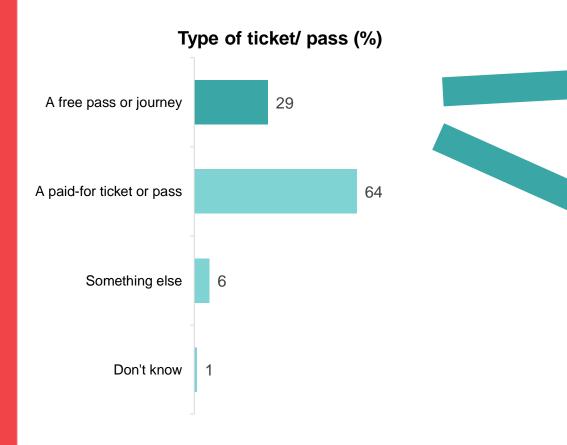
Journey purpose

Purpose of bus journey (%)

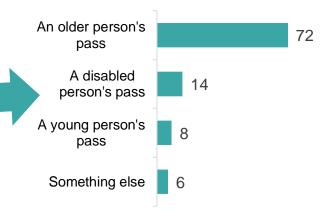




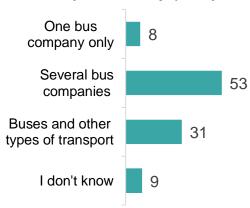
Ticket type

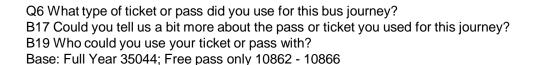


Pass/ticket used (free pass only) (%)



Ticket/pass validity (free pass only) (%)

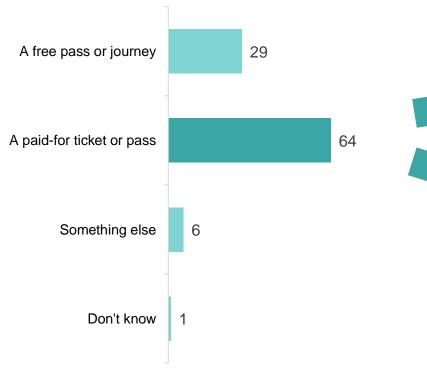






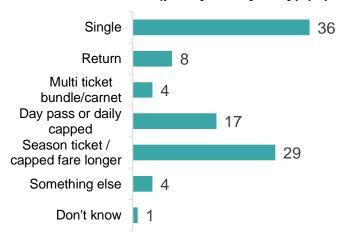
Ticket type



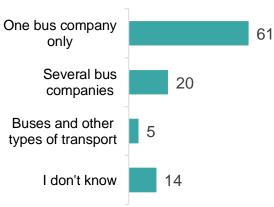


Q6 What type of ticket or pass did you use for this bus journey? B18 Could you tell us a bit more about the pass or ticket you used for this journey? B19 Who could you use your ticket or pass with? Base: Full Year 35044; Paid for ticket or pass only 19543 - 19581

Pass/ticket used (paid journey only) (%)



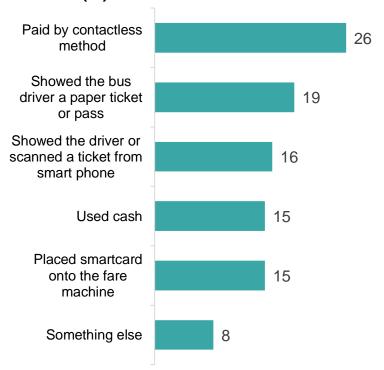
Ticket/pass validity (paid journey only) (%)



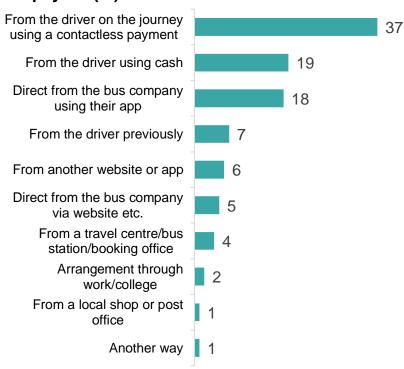


All passengers purchasing ticket or pass

Ticket or pass format used when boarding the bus (%)

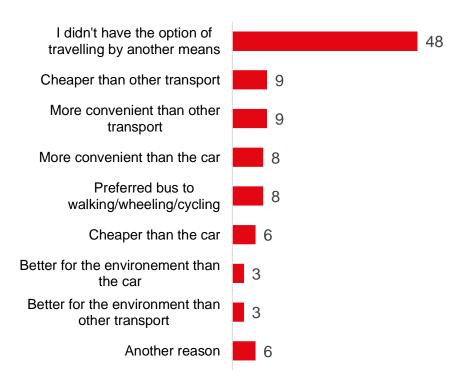


Way of purchasing ticket or pass by farepayers (%)



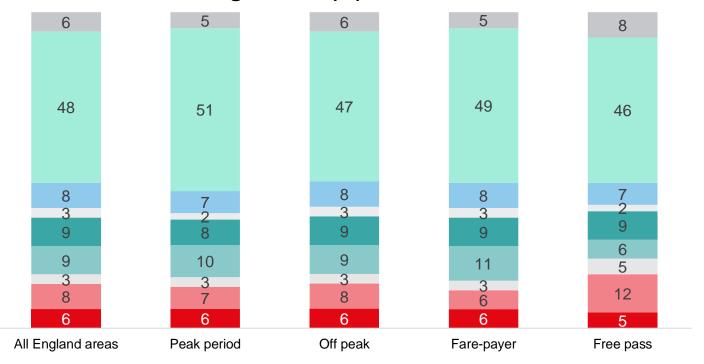


Reason for taking the bus





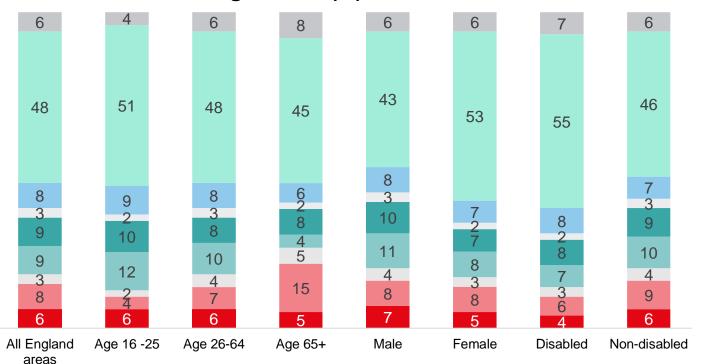
Reason for taking the bus by time and fare type



- Another reason
- I didn't have the option of travelling by another means
- Preferred bus to walking/ wheeling/ cycling
- Better for the environment than other transport
- More convenient than other transport
- Cheaper than other transport
- Better for the environment than the car
- More convenient than the car
- Cheaper than the car



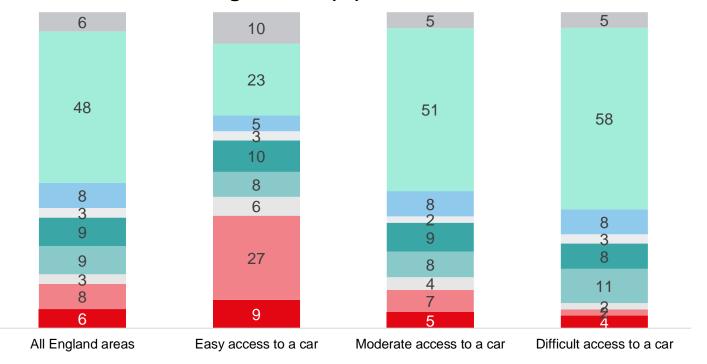
Reason for taking the bus by demographics



- Another reason
- I didn't have the option of travelling by another means
- Preferred bus to walking/ wheeling/ cycling
- Better for the environment than other transport
- More convenient than other transport
- Cheaper than other transport
- Better for the environment than the car
- More convenient than the car
- Cheaper than the car



Reason for taking the bus by access to a car

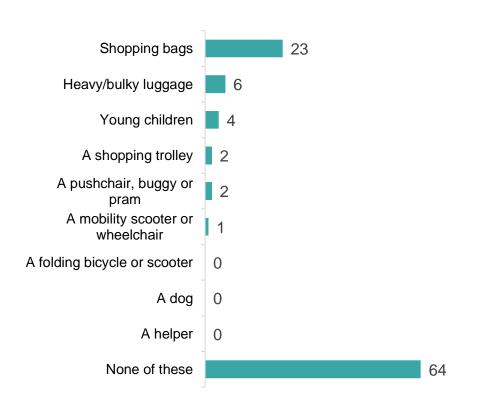


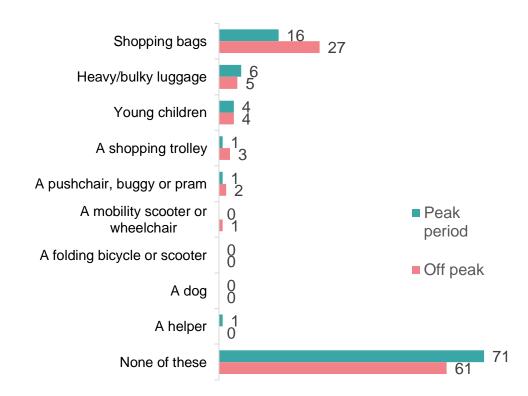
- Another reason
- I didn't have the option of travelling by another means
- Preferred bus to walking/ wheeling/ cycling
- Better for the environment than other transport
- More convenient than other transport
- Cheaper than other transport
- Better for the environment than the car
- More convenient than the car
- Cheaper than the car



Who or what passengers were travelling with

Items travelling with (%)



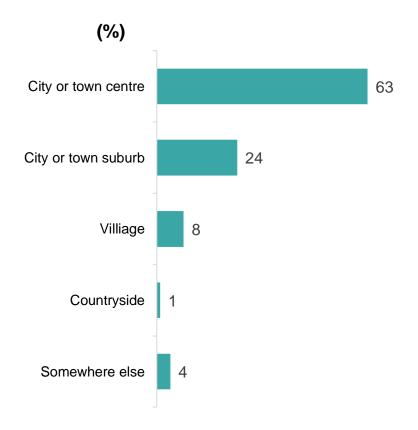






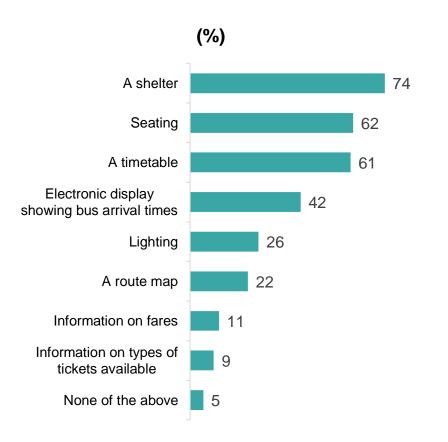


Area of boarding bus stop

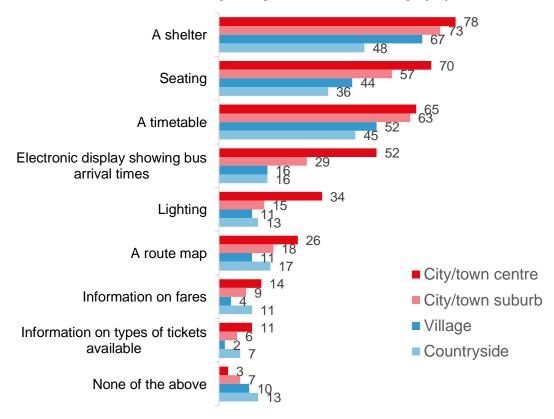




Bus stop facilities



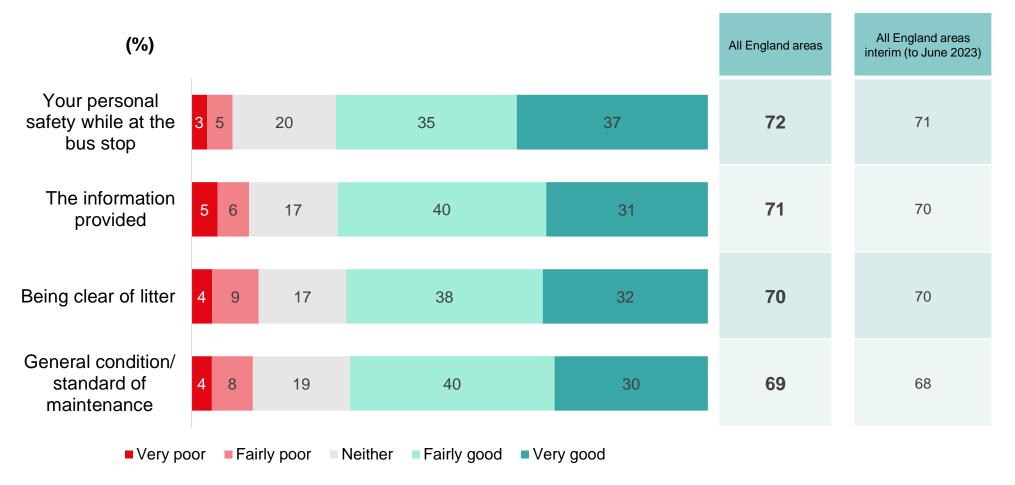
Features split by location of stop (%)





Bus stop ratings

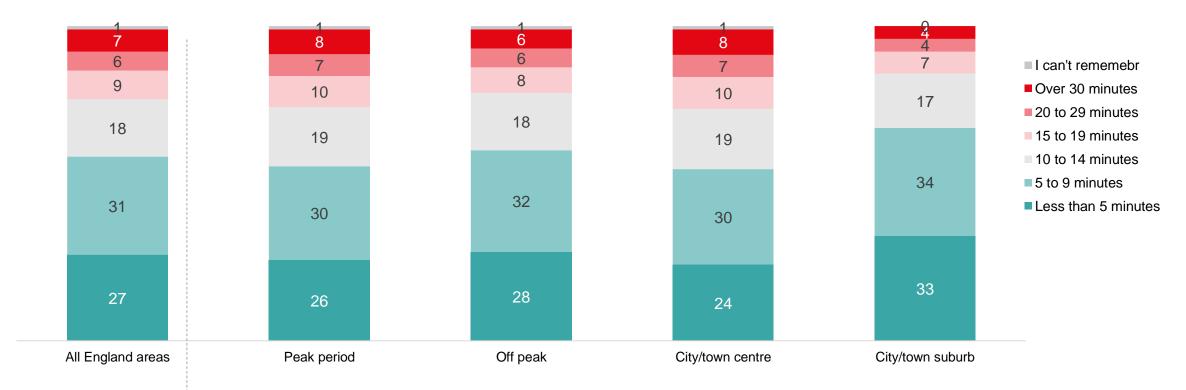
Total good (%)

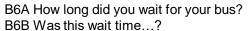




Waiting for the bus

Length of wait for the bus (%)





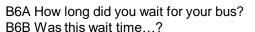
Base: Full Year 33985; Peak 10182; Off Peak 23315; City/town centre 19989; City/town suburb 8261



Wait compared to expectations

How long the wait was compared to expectations (%)

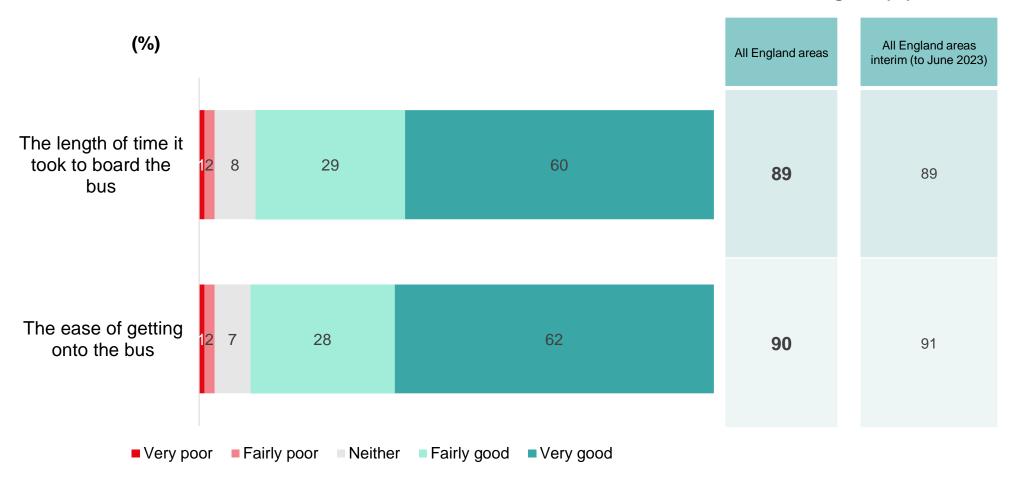




Base: Full Year 33622; Peak 10113; Off Peak 23054; City/town centre 19875; City/town suburb 8209

Ratings for getting onto the bus

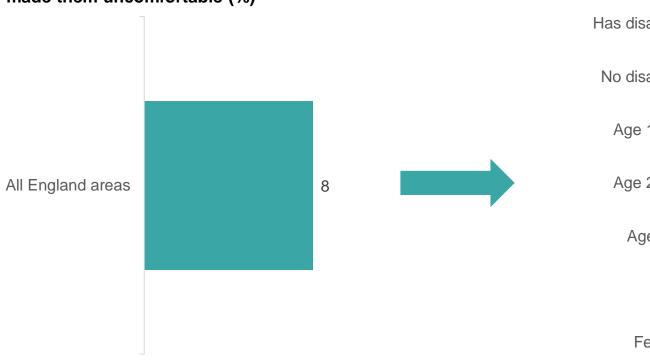
Total good (%)

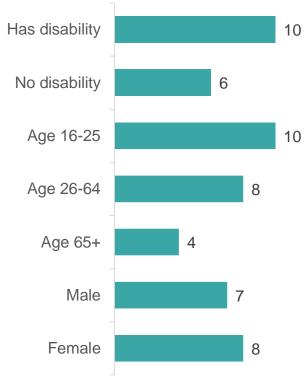




Behaviour of other passengers at the bus stop

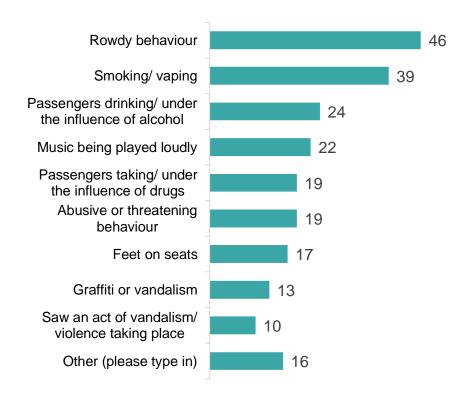
Other passengers' behaviour made them uncomfortable (%)



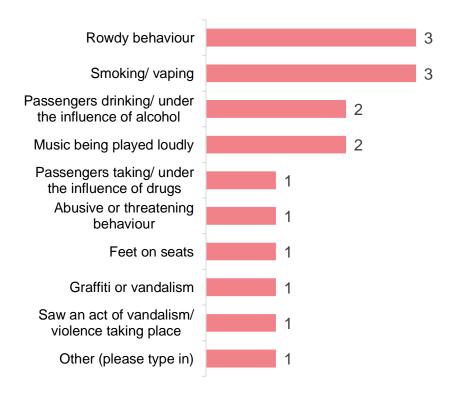


Behaviour of other passengers at the bus stop

What behaviours made them uncomfortable (% of those who were worried or made to feel uncomfortable)



What behaviours made them uncomfortable (% of all passengers)



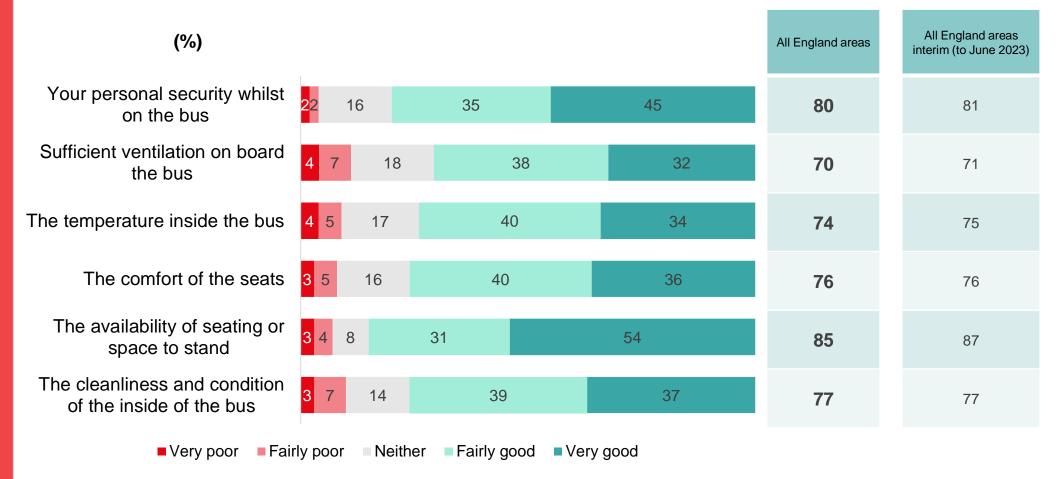






On board the bus ratings

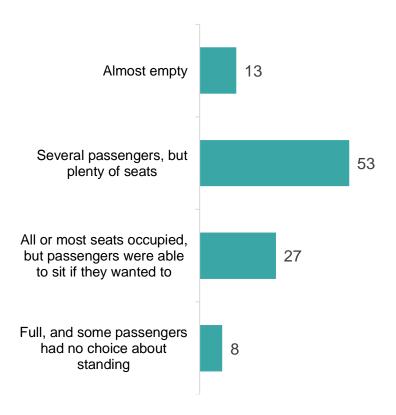
Total good (%)





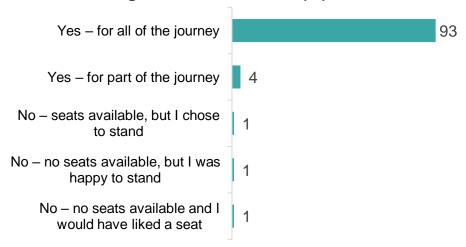
How busy the bus was

How busy the bus was (%)

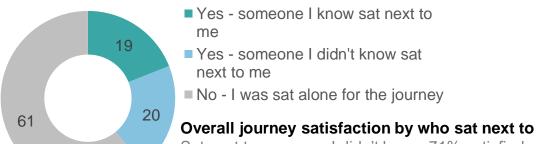


B9 How busy was the bus during most of your journey? B10 Did you get a seat on the bus? B11 And did anyone sit next to you on the bus? Base: Full Year 26345 - 33153

Whether got a seat on the bus(%)



Whether sat next to someone on the bus (%)

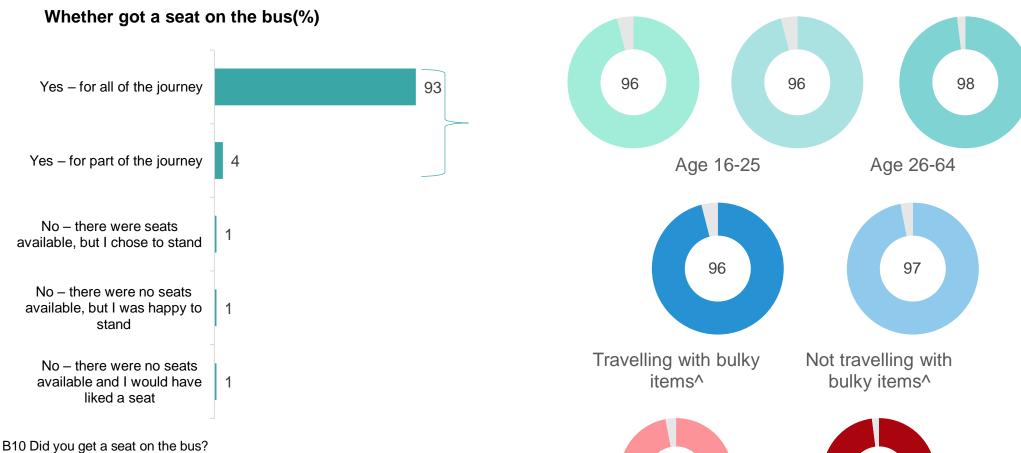


Sat next to someone I didn't know: 71% satisfied

Not sat next to someone I didn't know: 84% satisfied



Seating on the bus by journey details



Morning peak

97

Evening peak

Base: Full Year 33145; Morning Peak 4406; Evening Peak 5533; Off Peak 17178; Weekend 5572; Age 16-25 7505; Age 26-64 15750; Age 65+ 9164; Travelling with bulky items 12502; Not travelling with bulky items 20643.

^Bulky items include: Heavy/bulky luggage, Shopping bags, A shopping trolley, A pushchair/pram, Young children, folding bike/scooter, dog, mobility scooter/wheelchair



Off peak

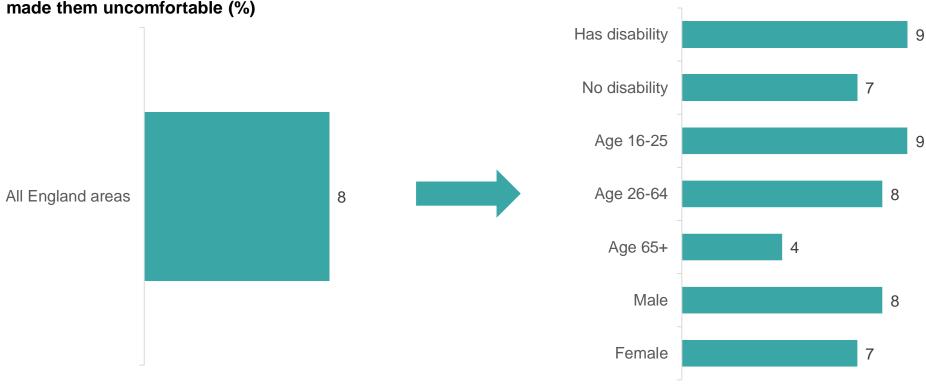
Weekend

98

Age 65+

Behaviour of other passengers on board

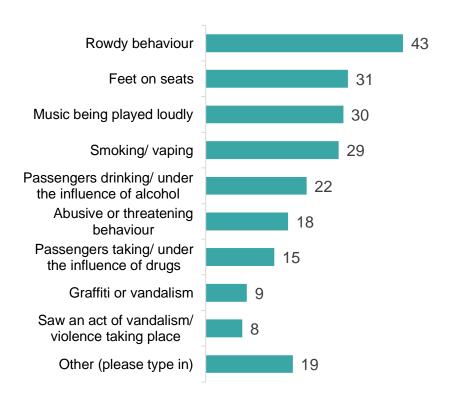




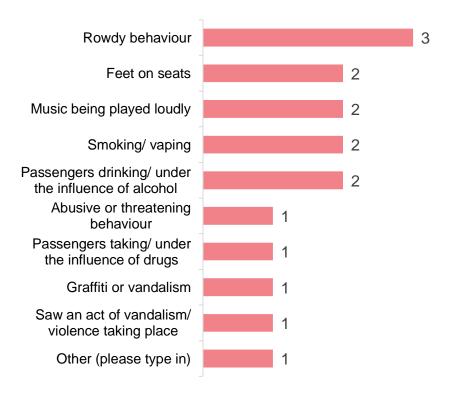


Behaviour of other passengers on board

What behaviours made them uncomfortable (% of those who were worried or made to feel uncomfortable)



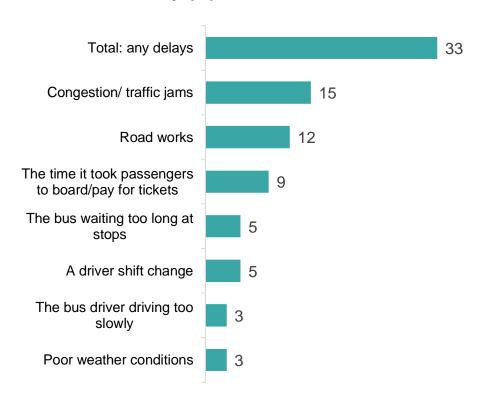
What behaviours made them uncomfortable (% of all passengers)



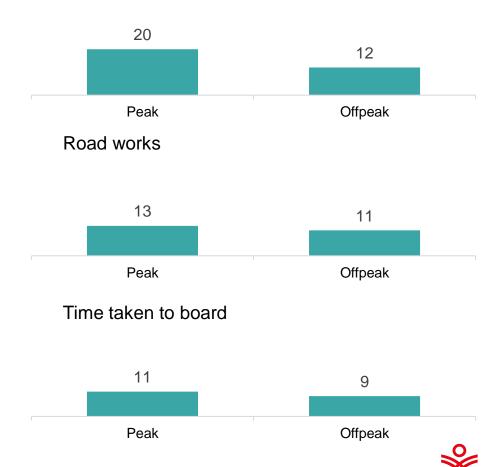


Journey delays

Reasons for delay (%)



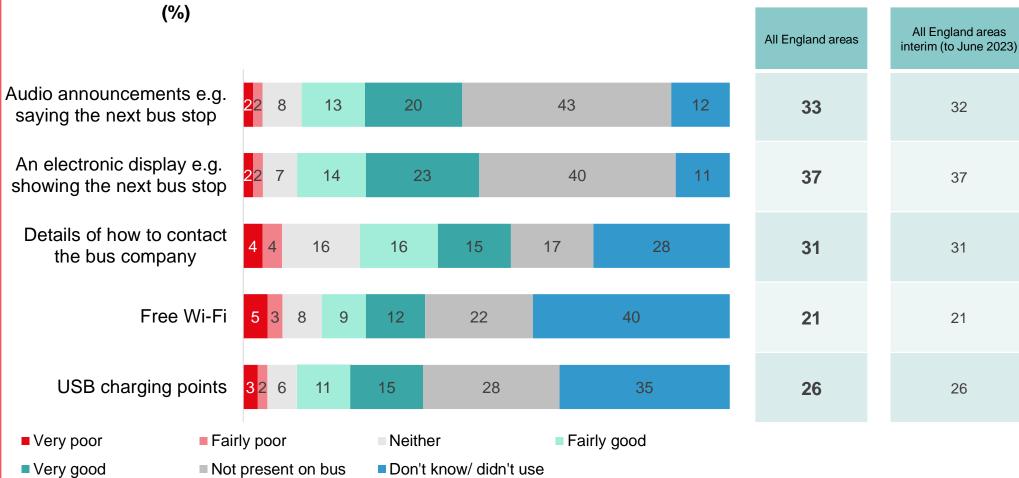
Congestion/ traffic jams



B14 Was your journey delayed by...? Base: Full Year 35044; Peak 10526; Off Peak 24011 transportfocu

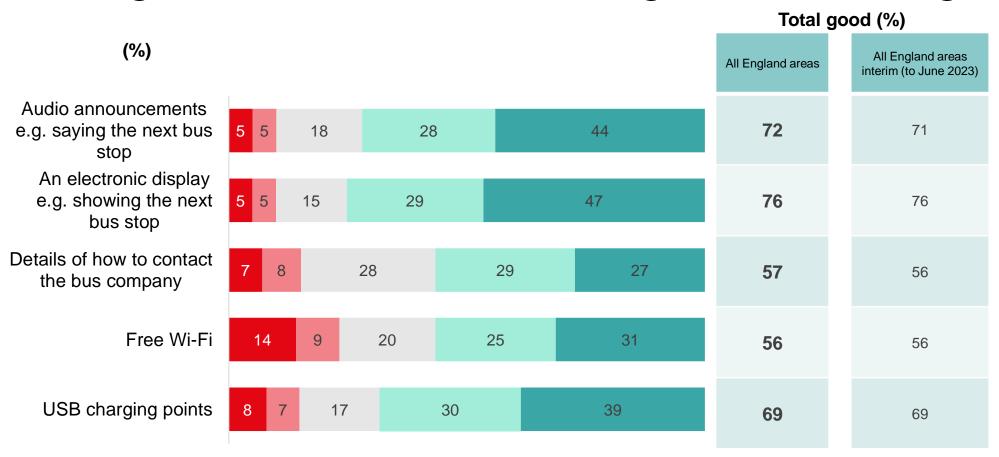
Ratings of bus facilities amongst all passengers

Total good (%)





Ratings of bus facilities amongst those using them



Fairly good

Very good

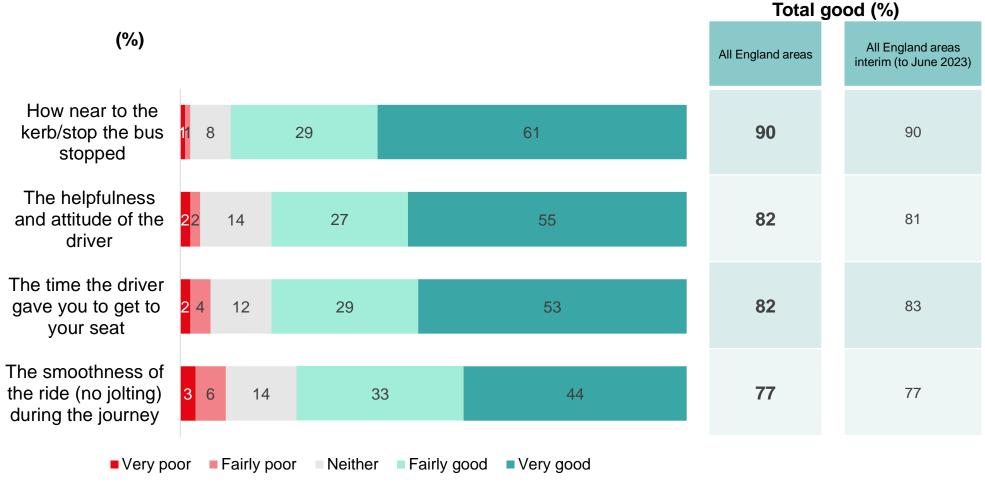


Very poor

Fairly poor

Neither

Ratings of the bus driver



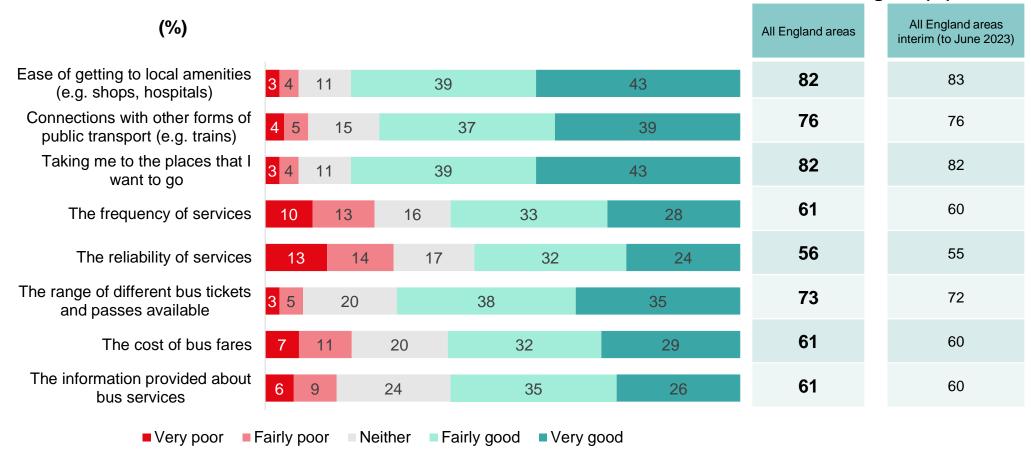






Ratings for local bus services in general

Total good (%)



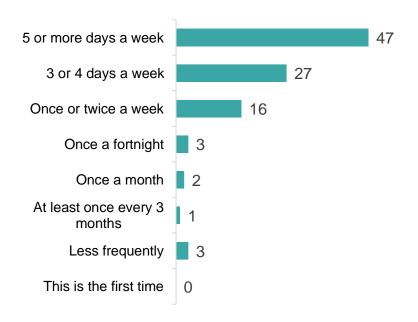
B22 Thinking more generally about the bus services where you were making this journey (so not just about this particular journey) how would you rate them for the following?

Base: Interim 9714 - 12749; Full Year 22761 - 30439

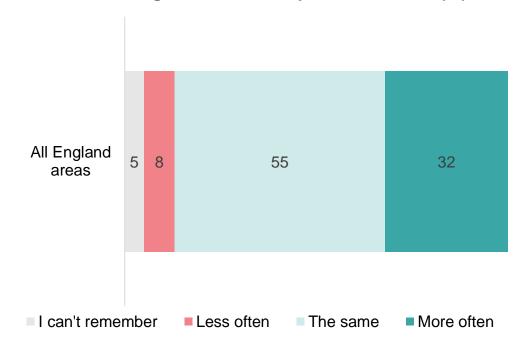


Frequency of bus travel

Frequency of bus travel (%)

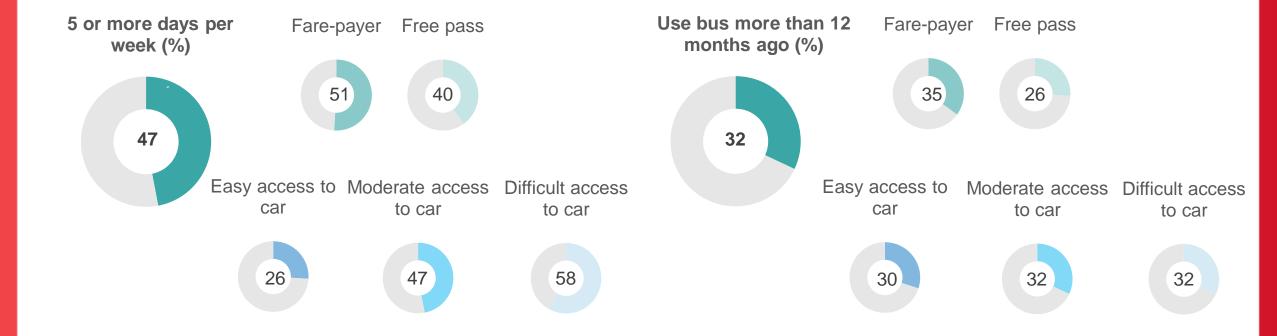


Change in bus use in past 12 months (%)





Frequency of bus travel

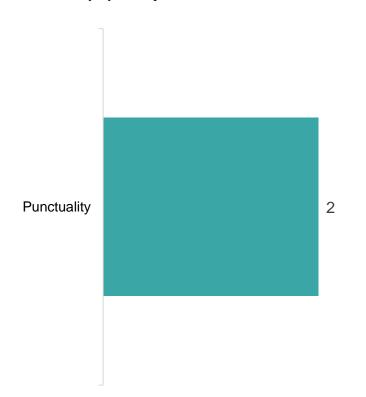




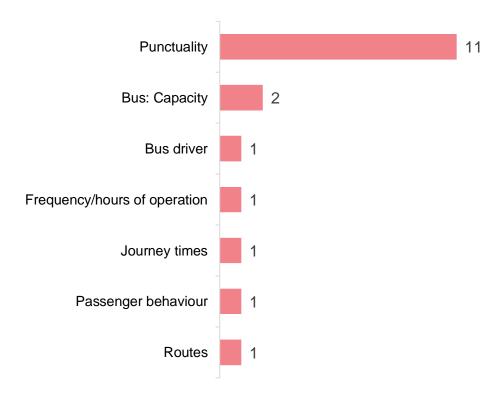
Comments made about other bus journeys

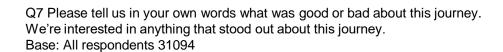
(provided by passengers in addition to comments about the current journey)

Positive comments (%) – top ten themes



Negative comments (%) – top ten themes





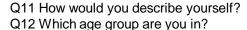






Profile of passengers

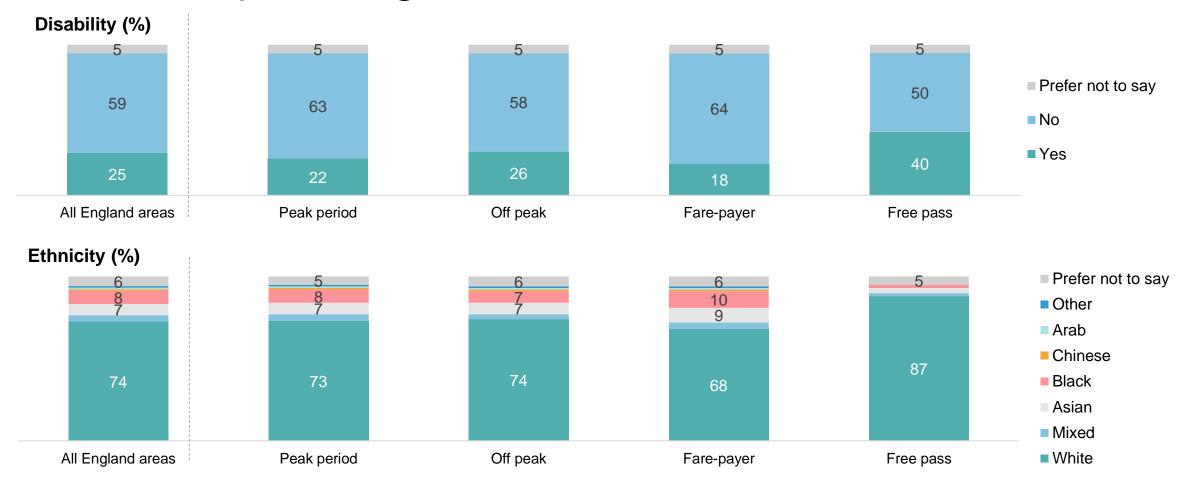




Base Q11: Full Year 35044; Peak 10526; Off Peak 24011; Fare-payer 21686; Free pass 11157 Base Q12: Full Year 35044; Peak 10526; Off Peak 24011; Fare-payer 21686; Free pass 11157



Profile of passengers



D1 Are you affected by any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more? D2 Which of the following best describes your ethnic background?

Base D1: Full Year 35044; Peak 10526; Off Peak 24011; Fare-payer 21686; Free pass 11157

Base D2: Full Year 31897; Peak 9517; Off Peak 21915; Fare-payer 19136; Free pass 10791



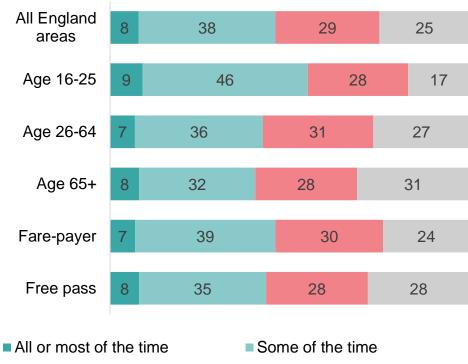
Access to a car

Personal access to a car (%)



- Have a car available and don't mind driving
- Have a car available but prefer not to drive
- Don't have a car available
- Don't drive

Access to a car through others (%)



= I don't nave a

■I don't have anybody I can ask ■ Not relevant to me

D3 In terms of having a car to drive, which of the following applies?

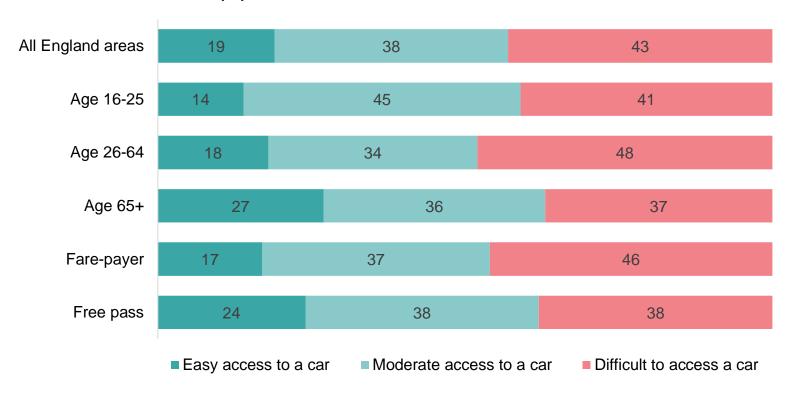
D4 How often are you able to ask someone else to drive you for local journeys?

Base D3: Full Year 31671; Fare-payer 19058; Free pass 10676; Age 16-25 6871; Age 26-64 14982; Age 65+ 9123 Base D4: Full Year 31530; Fare-payer 19013; Free pass 10592; Age 16-25 6858; Age 26-64 14939; Age 65+ 9049



Access to a car

Overall ease of car access (%)



Easy access to car:
Have a car and don't
mind driving or can ask
someone else to drive all
or most of the time

Moderate access: Have a car but prefer not to drive or can ask someone else some of the time

Difficult to access: don't have a car/don't drive/ don't have anyone to ask

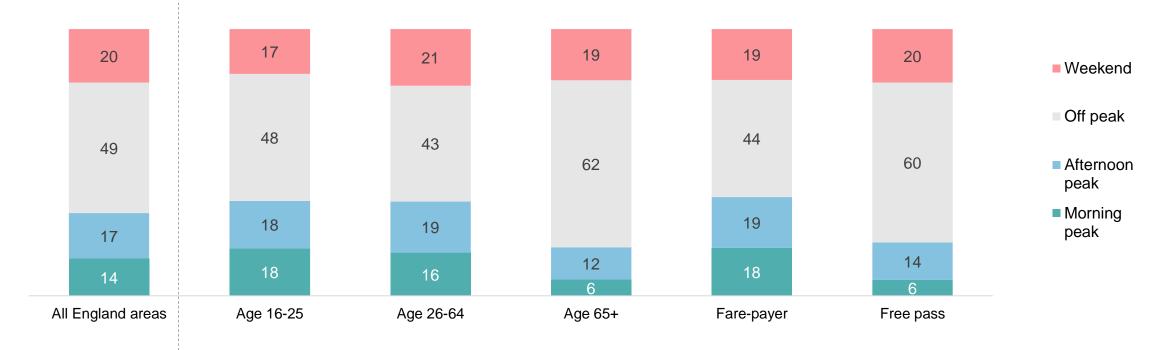






Journey start times

Daypart (%)





Further details about the survey (1)

Overview of the methodology

The survey has been designed to provide results that are representative of bus passenger journeys made within each area, that is at the level of a local/transport authority, or a designated operator area.

The sampling method is 'systematic', derived from two sources*:

• the list of all bus stops within each area sourced from the Department for Transport's Bus Open Data, which were then grouped on locality to clusters of stops within a 100 metre radius of a central point. During their three-hour shift, fieldworkers were able to move between bus stops within the selected cluster to focus on those where the most passengers could be seen. They discussed the survey with passengers waiting for a bus or

- disembarking from a bus at the stop and gave them the chance to participate.
- the list of the area's bus services and the times that they run (sourced from the Department for Transport's Bus Open Data). Services available for selection were those running between 6am to 10pm, seven days of the week; only school bus services were systematically excluded^. During their three-hour shift, fieldworkers made as many return trips as possible on that selected service. They discussed the survey with passengers who boarded that bus service and gave them the chance to participate.

Those wishing to take part were offered four options: to scan a QR code taking

them to an online version of the survey, to provide their email address or mobile phone number so that an online version of the survey could be emailed or sent via text to them, or to take a self-completion paper questionnaire. Questions primarily referred to the journey they were making at the time, but also included some more general questions about local bus services.

Fieldwork for the survey was conducted between 30 January and 28 December 2023, but start dates varied locally, with some areas joining the survey in February and others in March.

The survey was conducted among passengers aged 16 or over.



^{*} The once exception to this being for Reading Buses network, for which all passengers were recruited on board buses to ensure that they were using a Reading Buses service.

[^] In some areas bordering London, services running under a Transport for London franchise were also excluded.

Further details about the survey (2)

Overview of the methodology (continued)

Responses were weighted in three stages: the first was to weight to the age, gender and 'daypart' profile of bus passengers within each area ('dayparts' are morning peaks, weekday off-peaks, afternoon peaks, and weekends).

As there was no nationally available data at area level on the age/gender/daypart profile of passengers this was estimated: for age and gender the profile of passengers was recorded on two occasions during each fieldwork shift.

Daypart was taken from the Department for Transport's Bus Open Data, using the proportion of bus journeys taking place during each part of the day and calculating weights to be representative of the total number of journeys on this basis.

The second stage was to weight by where the passengers were recruited for the survey within each area, so that 50% came from passengers recruited at bus stops and 50% on board buses*. The third stage was at area level to ensure that in the final data each participating area (within the survey) was represented in proportion to its total annual journey volume. Journey volume information was sourced from the DfT's published statistics, and in a minority of cases with input from operators.

Transport Focus was supported by BVA BDRC in conducting the survey. There is an accompanying methodology document that provides more detail on the survey process, available at www.transportfocus.org.uk.



^{*} The once exception to this being for Reading Buses network, for which all passengers were recruited on board buses to ensure that they were using a Reading Buses service.

[^] In some areas bordering London, services running under a Transport for London franchise were also excluded.

Further details about the survey (3)

Interpreting results

Throughout the report, behavioural results are based on all survey respondents, and passengers' opinion ratings are based on those respondents that gave an opinion (so it excludes those who gave a 'don't know' response or no response). All results are based on weighted values. In the report where base sizes are shown in the footnotes these are the actual numbers of passenger responses generating the answer value shown (in some cases, where a series of questions has been asked, the base numbers shown are an average across those questions).

For ease of use, figures are reported rounded up to whole numbers, that is, without decimal places. Note: 'all satisfied' results are the sum of the 'very satisfied' and 'fairly satisfied' responses and calculated on the underlying values which include decimal places. As a consequence, these true

summations can appear up to one per cent different to the sum of the individual rounded 'very satisfied' and 'fairly satisfied' numbers. The same is true for the 'all good' results.

Percentages quoted at 'grouped area' level that is: Urban - metropolitan, Urban - other, Semi-rural and Rural, are the aggregate scores achieved across all the areas surveyed in that group. Each individual area counts towards the area group aggregate score in proportion to the number of passenger journeys made annually in that area.

Where we refer to passengers as having a disability, these have been self identified within the survey based on the question 'Are you affected by any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more?' With options for conditions being: Vision, Hearing, Mobility, Dexterity,

Difficulty with learning, understanding or concentrating, Memory, Mental health, Staminia or breathing or fatigue, Socially or behaviourally, or Something else.

Waiver

Transport Focus has taken care to ensure that the information contained in this report is correct. However, no warranty, express or implied, is given as to its accuracy and Transport Focus does not accept any liability for error or omission.

Transport Focus is not responsible for how the information is used, how it is interpreted or what reliance is placed on it. Transport Focus does not guarantee that the information contained in the Your Bus Journey survey is fit for any particular purpose.



Contact

If you have any queries about the data or wish to discuss the survey in more detail, please contact your nominated Transport Focus representative in the first instance.

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