



Wakefield State of the District: Transport

Selection: Wakefield

District level profile of transport and travel trends, including commuting patterns, railway station usage, major road projects and road accident statistics. **New**

Journeys to Work and School

Wakefield has good transport links to the wider region and UK, being served by the M1 and M62 motorways and an extensive network of rail and bus services. The Transport Plan target is for 96% of district residents to be able to reach one of the three main centres (Wakefield, Castleford and Pontefract) by public transport within 45 minutes.

Private car numbers continue to grow. The proportion of Wakefield households that have a car or van (73%) has now caught up with the England rate (74%), and on average there are now 1.5 cars per car-owning household. More people use their cars to travel to work in Wakefield than in the region as a whole and nationally, and journeys tend to be longer. This reflects the dispersed nature of settlement in the district. Nevertheless, the 2011 census showed that 36% of people travelled less than 5km to work each day.

Rush-hour survey data show that car travel is the dominant mode of transport for commuting. The levels of car and public transport use have not changed significantly in recent years.

% of inbound journeys by people during morning rush-hour in Wakefield						
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Car i	66.8	60.9	61.3	60.3	63.6	59.8
Bus i	11.1	11.0	14.1	12.7	9.8	11.1
Train i	10.9	14.6	12.2	14.2	14.4	15.8
Walk i	2.9	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.0	5.5
Cycle/motorcycle i	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.8
Van/HGV i	7.4	7.8	7.1	7.4	7.3	7.0

The majority of pupils walk to school but around 30% are dropped off by car. Cycling is not common, although numbers have increased over the last few years.

% of pupil journeys to school					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Walking i	57	57	57	57	55
Car i	30	30	29	29	29
Bus i	12	13	13	11	14
Cycle i	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.6	1.7
Taxi or train i	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.7

Railways

The new Wakefield Westgate station opened in 2014 and work on the renovation of Wakefield Kirkgate was completed in 2015. Wakefield Westgate is by far the busiest of the district's 16 stations, with over two million passengers using the station in 2014/15.

Continuous improvements to data collection methodology means the assessment of trends over time needs to be treated with a bit of caution. At face value, however, station usage across the district as a whole rose by 4.9% between 2013/14 and 2014/15.

People entering or exiting railway stations (rounded to nearest 1,000)		
	2013/14	2014/15
Wakefield Westgate	2,358,000	2,485,000
Castleford	555,000	566,000
Wakefield Kirkgate	508,000	528,000
South Elmsall	377,000	419,000
Outwood	349,000	374,000
Pontefract	283,000	282,000
Sandal and Agbrigg	260,000	275,000
Fitzwilliam	256,000	279,000
Normanton	245,000	249,000
Moorthorpe	241,000	264,000
Glasshoughton	178,000	181,000
Knottingley	155,000	158,000
Featherstone	72,000	67,000
Streethouse	28,000	27,000
All stations	5,866,000	6,154,000

Commuting Flows

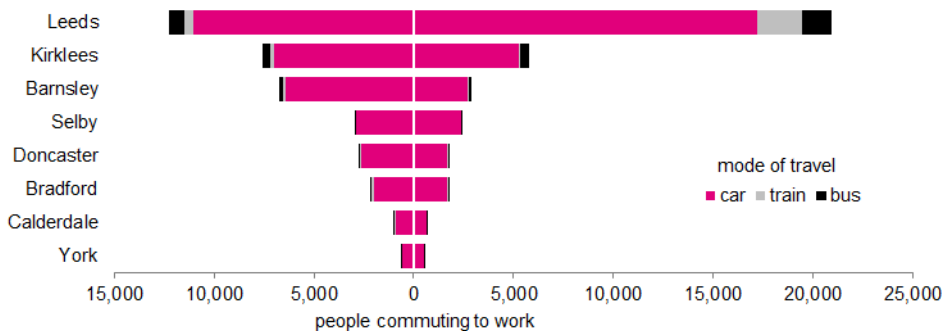
Overall, the 2011 Census shows that among nearby local authorities the only net out-flow of commuters is to Leeds. For all other districts there are more people coming into Wakefield each day to work than there are going the other way.

The car is dominant mode of travel. The train is only used by significant numbers of people for the journey to or from Leeds. Bus services are used for going to/from Leeds to a lesser extent, and the same is true for people commuting to/from Kirklees.

Overall, cars are used for 87% of the journeys to and from Wakefield (for the areas shown in the chart below). The train is used for 5% of journeys, and bus for 5% of journeys.



commute into Wakefield from commute from Wakefield to



Major Road Projects

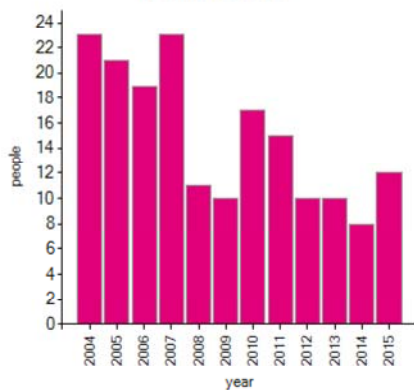
Work on the new Northern Link Road at Pontefract was completed in 2014/15. The 1.5km single carriageway from Park Road to Skinner Lane, Monkhill, has been designed to ease congestion in the area; improve capacity on Park Road and the Town end junction; and increase access to junction 32 of the M62.

In June 2015 work started on the construction of the Wakefield East Relief Road. This road will provide access for residents of the new homes to be built at City Fields and improve access to Wakefield city centre and the wider district and motorway network.

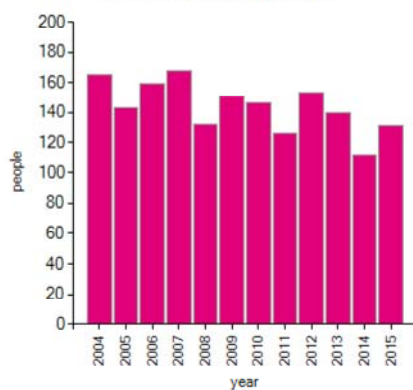
Accidents

In 2015, 12 people were killed in road accidents, and 131 people were seriously injured. The number of fatalities has been falling steadily, as have the number of casualties with slight injuries. In 2015 there were 22 children seriously injured in road accidents, but no children killed. Of those children seriously injured, 16 were pedestrians and two were riding bicycles.

Casualties killed



Casualties seriously injured



Casualties slightly injured

