



BRIEFING PAPER

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Transport Spending by Region

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Summary

This short paper provides details of the levels of transport spending by region, based on the material presented in the HM Treasury Publication Country and Regional Analysis 2017¹. It is backwards-looking, and does not include material available from other sources, such as the [Infrastructure and Projects Authority](#), which project what spending may be in future years.

¹ HM Treasury, [Country & Regional Analysis](#) 2017

1. Country and Regional Analysis

The leading publication for analysis of public spending by region is the Treasury's Country and Regional Analysis document, published annually at the time of the Budget. The tables published alongside the main document allow analysis of spending by both major function – Transport in this case – and by sub-function, allowing a broad breakdown of spending by mode of transport. The tables below give details of real-terms spending, by region/nation of the UK, on each available sub-function across the entire public sector²

1.1 Transport spending totals

Table 1 – Overall Transport Spending

OVERALL PUBLIC SPENDING ON TRANSPORT BY REGION						
£000, 2016/17 PRICES						
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	5-year total
North East	566,337	581,495	636,196	751,596	768,077	3,303,701
North West	1,860,642	1,825,956	1,935,381	2,800,267	2,670,387	11,092,633
Yorkshire and The Humber	1,506,072	1,581,902	1,537,729	2,044,496	1,818,259	8,488,458
East Midlands	843,160	962,058	1,060,682	1,218,180	1,040,936	5,125,016
West Midlands	1,286,328	1,260,895	1,476,351	1,933,183	1,823,938	7,780,695
East	1,432,652	1,476,525	1,585,091	2,068,774	2,042,780	8,605,822
London	5,754,479	5,730,538	5,948,871	7,617,641	8,293,154	33,344,683
South East	2,021,042	2,293,637	2,329,823	3,009,949	3,339,954	12,994,405
South West	1,051,589	996,630	1,133,626	1,473,024	1,683,285	6,338,154
Scotland	3,134,055	3,020,144	2,865,758	3,163,588	3,351,588	15,535,133
Wales	1,147,931	1,066,644	1,050,904	1,234,317	1,173,232	5,673,028
Northern Ireland	604,238	547,744	537,511	438,507	571,287	2,699,287

² Spending by Central Government, Local Government, Devolved Administrations, and Public Corporations

Chart 1 – Transport Spending by Region



Table 2 – Local Public Transport

PUBLIC SPENDING ON LOCAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT BY REGION
 £000, 2016/17 PRICES

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	5-year total
North East	64,921	60,489	60,327	63,993	51,104	300,834
North West	185,546	186,393	186,630	269,148	257,343	1,085,060
Yorkshire and The Humber	177,104	211,394	208,820	134,215	117,466	848,999
East Midlands	111,743	125,040	102,954	111,176	89,180	540,093
West Midlands	244,930	105,942	107,786	96,002	85,073	639,733
East	126,398	107,760	95,216	81,465	74,472	485,311
London	1,174,174	1,050,058	1,183,995	1,115,677	1,013,344	5,537,248
South East	152,186	147,314	137,373	116,679	108,623	662,175
South West	110,416	113,185	119,919	135,808	129,482	608,810
Scotland	292,330	271,841	273,962	278,891	270,618	1,387,642
Wales	74,713	53,933	48,878	45,539	45,419	268,482
Northern Ireland	83,861	70,633	67,045	44,745	64,166	330,450

Table 3 – Local Roads

PUBLIC SPENDING ON LOCAL ROADS BY REGION						
£000, 2016/17 PRICES						
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	5-year total
North East	154,626	173,124	208,804	234,207	274,672	1,045,433
North West	473,861	513,606	630,641	601,528	638,511	2,858,147
Yorkshire and The Humber	394,868	416,473	446,457	418,986	523,223	2,200,007
East Midlands	290,434	324,708	302,354	308,224	331,224	1,556,944
West Midlands	403,804	404,199	420,238	423,618	444,222	2,096,081
East	422,852	461,777	565,107	546,727	633,459	2,629,922
London	548,022	486,379	409,188	475,220	371,211	2,290,020
South East	515,604	607,709	654,594	587,338	572,508	2,937,753
South West	434,217	450,386	500,555	508,093	530,942	2,424,193
Scotland	733,842	721,663	698,101	706,652	693,940	3,554,198
Wales	384,315	301,741	263,693	213,310	215,614	1,378,673
Northern Ireland	356,148	385,860	358,804	251,376	331,777	1,683,965

Table 4 – National Roads

PUBLIC SPENDING ON NATIONAL ROADS BY REGION						
£000, 2016/17 PRICES						
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	5-year total
North East	107,335	117,275	150,718	164,068	130,661	670,057
North West	145,396	143,317	277,842	349,480	444,851	1,360,886
Yorkshire and The Humber	295,458	276,794	428,765	472,283	382,691	1,855,991
East Midlands	181,172	267,788	406,754	291,352	244,686	1,391,752
West Midlands	222,294	292,327	358,980	391,191	353,698	1,618,490
East	373,646	414,857	293,613	320,189	395,218	1,797,523
London	39,581	37,907	43,180	26,047	26,044	172,759
South East	534,117	709,539	731,968	763,809	836,880	3,576,313
South West	226,483	163,315	221,420	255,271	233,118	1,099,607
Scotland	648,878	594,740	638,155	724,067	752,978	3,358,818
Wales	230,153	257,751	253,671	300,310	348,316	1,390,201
Northern Ireland	24,063	15,560	16,970	18,468	9,107	84,168

“National Roads” are those which are part of the [Strategic Road Network](#) in England, and equivalent trunk roads in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

Table 5 – Railways

PUBLIC SPENDING ON RAILWAYS BY REGION						
£000, 2016/17 PRICES						
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	5-year total
North East	220,115	204,862	190,957	263,648	291,294	1,170,876
North West	1,006,705	932,681	780,782	1,509,157	1,262,196	5,491,521
Yorkshire and The Humber	603,223	636,373	402,931	957,937	741,155	3,341,619
East Midlands	231,543	209,903	202,341	454,281	332,320	1,430,388
West Midlands	373,962	411,936	536,841	952,803	872,270	3,147,812
East	465,105	445,409	573,753	1,039,903	883,223	3,407,393
London	3,937,275	4,041,715	4,270,707	5,903,869	6,795,691	24,949,257
South East	763,382	733,134	749,341	1,426,816	1,816,023	5,488,696
South West	240,408	224,496	232,269	491,866	750,139	1,939,178
Scotland	972,095	1,008,280	873,765	1,068,805	1,222,504	5,145,449
Wales	419,844	409,655	439,504	624,208	517,004	2,410,215
Northern Ireland	87,431	57,094	62,931	83,905	93,646	385,007

Table 6 – Other Transport

PUBLIC SPENDING ON OTHER TRANSPORT BY REGION						
£000, 2016/17 PRICES						
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	5-year total
North East	19,340	25,745	25,390	25,680	20,346	116,501
North West	49,134	49,959	59,486	70,954	67,486	297,019
Yorkshire and The Humber	35,419	40,868	50,756	61,075	53,724	241,842
East Midlands	28,268	34,619	46,279	53,147	43,526	205,839
West Midlands	41,338	46,491	52,506	69,569	68,675	278,579
East	44,651	46,722	57,402	80,490	56,408	285,673
London	55,427	114,479	41,801	96,828	86,864	395,399
South East	55,753	95,941	56,547	115,307	5,920	329,468
South West	40,065	45,248	59,463	81,986	39,604	266,366
Scotland	486,910	423,620	381,775	385,173	411,548	2,089,026
Wales	38,906	43,564	45,158	50,950	46,879	225,457
Northern Ireland	52,735	18,597	31,761	40,013	72,591	215,697

2. Transport Spending per head

The Country and Regional Analysis publication also presents data on spending by function and sub-function, per head of population, thus correcting for the fact that not all regions have equal populations. However, particularly with regard to transport, this data should be interpreted with a degree of caution.

Spending per head is calculated based on the resident population of a region, not the number of people who use transport services within the region. This is particularly notable in the case of London, which has a very high spend per head on railway, and local public transport, owing to both the concentration of surface rail lines entering the capital, and the existence of the Underground system on a scale unmatched anywhere else in the UK.

As the table below presents a single-year “snapshot” of the situation, it will be affected by individual large projects, such as Crossrail.

Table 7 – Transport spending per head

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE PER HEAD ON TRANSPORT, BY SUB-FUNCTION										
England, 2016/17, £ per head										
	North East	North West	Yorkshire and The Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East	London	South East	South West	Total England
Transport	291	370	335	220	314	333	944	370	305	425
of which:										
national roads	50	62	71	52	61	64	3	93	42	55
of which: local roads	104	88	96	70	77	103	42	63	96	78
of which: local public transport	19	36	22	19	15	12	115	12	23	35
of which: railway	110	175	137	70	150	144	773	201	136	249
of which: other transport	8	9	10	9	12	9	10	1	7	8

3. Conclusion

Public spending on Transport, both in absolute terms, and on a per capita basis is considerably higher in London and the South East than other regions of England. Forthcoming and ongoing projects such as HS2 may alter this outcome, but it will likely remain the case that a greater proportion of people travelling in and around the capital will rely on public transport, with commensurately higher spending levels being required to provide this service.

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