Total greenhouse gas emissions from transport

The data are compiled by DECC and its contractors on a calendar year basis due to the reporting timetable of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the EU. The methodology behind the compilation from all sources, also agreed with the UNFCCC, takes some time to work through and final results for the calendar year 2010 were published in February 2012. Results for 2011 will be published in early 2013.

The figures published for this indicator are the emissions from the basket of greenhouse gases covered by the Kyoto Protocol. In accordance with international reporting protocols each of the gases is weighted by its global warming potential relative to that of carbon dioxide and presented in terms of the equivalent amount of carbon dioxide. Total transport greenhouse gas emissions include those from domestic transport as well as international shipping and aviation. From 2009 to 2010 transport emissions decreased by 2 per cent from 165.6 to 162.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents and formed about a quarter of total UK greenhouse gas emissions. Longer term, they increased by 22 per cent from 1990 to 2007, and then decreased by 9 percent to 2010. In 2010, cars and taxis contribute around two fifths of transport emissions, light vans and heavy goods vehicles slightly under a quarter with another fifth from international aviation.

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