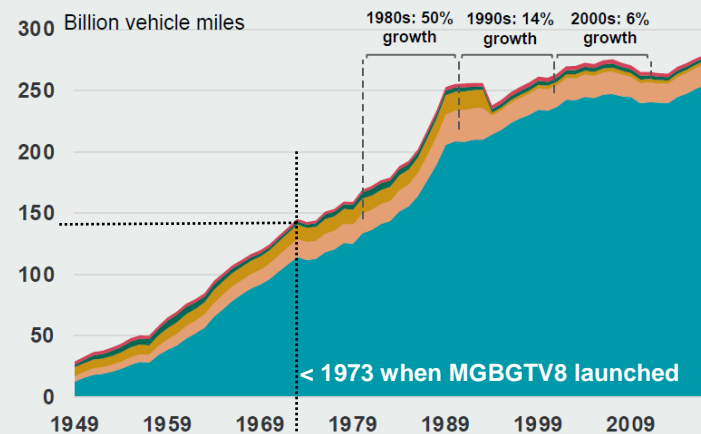


## Increased traffic levels in the UK

## Regional increase in vehicle traffic in the UK

Motor vehicle traffic in Great Britain, since 1949



### Vehicle traffic changes in Great Britain 1973 to 2018

Year billion miles  
 1973: 146.6  
 2018: 328.1  
 Increase: 181.5 **126.8%**

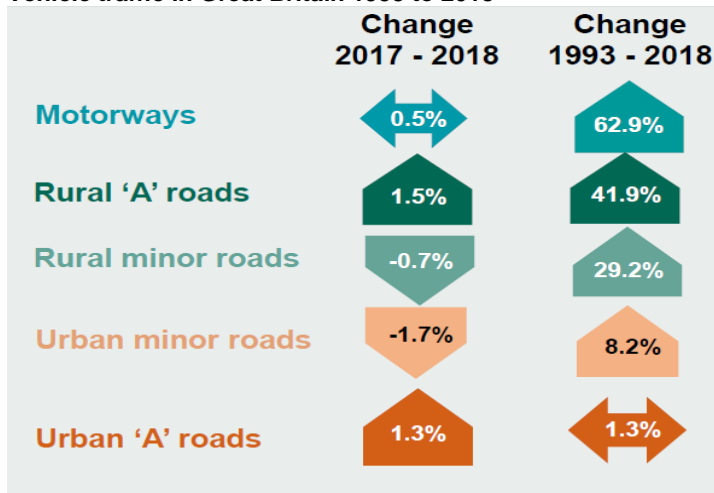
Note: the drop in traffic miles from 1973 to 1975 seen in the chart above was during the Suez crisis and the OPEC oil embargo.

The following figures show the reductions in traffic levels in 1974 compared to 1973:

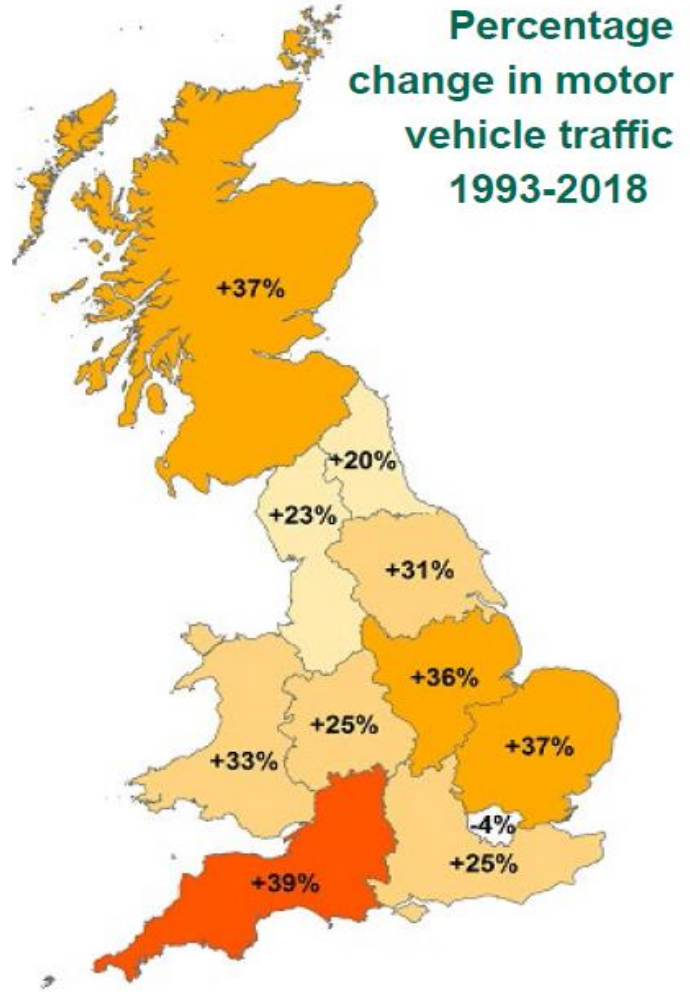
Month	% Change in Traffic Levels (1974 on 1972)	% Change in Traffic Levels (1974 on 1973)
April	4.6	-4.4
May	2.3	-1.3
June	3.3	-6.5
July	-1.4	-6.9
August	3.2	-3.8
September	1.0	-5.3
October	2.0	-1.1
November	3.0	-1.4
December	0.6	13.3

These reductions in traffic levels at the time when traffic levels were generally rising at around 5% pa. There is no doubt that traffic levels fell in 1973/74 in response to the sharply increased fuel prices when petrol doubled from 36p to 72p per gallon, and also to the recession conditions in 1974.

### Vehicle traffic in Great Britain 1993 to 2018



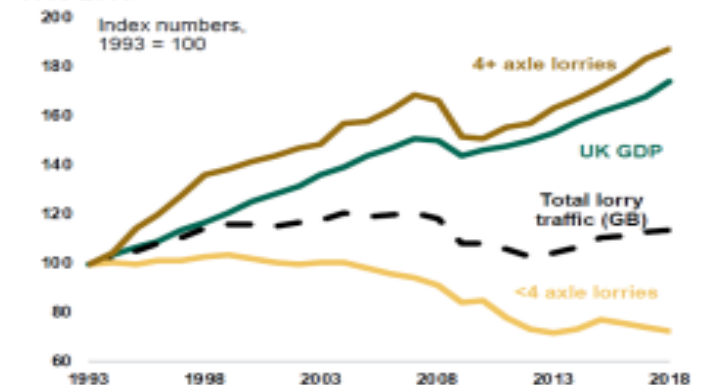
## Percentage change in motor vehicle traffic 1993-2018



### Growth of van traffic in Great Britain

Growth from 1994 to 2018 has been **89%**.

### Indices of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and lorry traffic, 1993-2018



### Growth in heavy lorries 1993 to 2018

Traffic of lorries with four or more axles was **87%** higher in 2018 than 25 years ago.

Source charts & tables

DfT Road Traffic Estimates: Great Britain 2018, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2019 [More](#)