



Motoring money

New research* by Halifax Unsecured Personal Loans shows that most car owners would like to upgrade their car's sound system if money were no object.

The research also shows that younger drivers were most likely to pay for car modifications, with 20% of those aged 17 to 24 spending more than £500 on upgrades in the past year.

Men opt for engine upgrades, while women want a better sound system...

Among male drivers, modifying their car's engine was cited as the upgrade they would most like to make (11%), followed by an improved sound system (10%). Women drivers were keenest on upgrading their sound system (8%), with satellite navigation next on the wish list (6%).

Women most likely to spend more on upgrades...

More than one-third (35%) of drivers paid for upgrades to their cars in the past year, with the average driver spending £617. Women were slightly more likely to spend large amounts on modifications, with 11% saying they had spent more than £1,000 in the past year, compared with 10% of men.

Used cars more popular than new...

Perhaps because of the depreciation involved in buying a new car, more than half of those surveyed (57%) said they would usually buy a used car, compared with just 24% who said they tend to buy new.

Drivers also seem to be attached to their cars, with just 3% saying they replace them each year. Nearly one in six drivers (17%) said they replace their cars every three years or so, but 11% said they would keep a car for ten years or more.

Financing options...

When it comes to financing their next car, nearly one in five respondents (18%) said they would use a bank loan, while 59% said they would use funds from either their current or savings account.

Of those that said they would borrow money to fund their car purchase, one in five (20%) said they would borrow more to help pay for other expenses such as tax and insurance.

More/....

Neil Chandler, Head of Halifax Unsecured Personal Loans, comments:

"Whatever your reason for taking an unsecured personal loan, with Halifax you'll have no monthly repayments for the first three months. If you're buying a car, this will allow you to pay for other things such as road tax, MOT or car insurance."

Regardless of cost, what part of your car would you most like to modify or upgrade?	%
Sound system	9%
Engine	8%
Sat Nav	7%
Wheels	4%
Paintwork	3%
Seat covers and mats	3%
Hands free kit	2%
Windows	1%
Spoiler	1%
Roof rack	1%
Tow bar	1%

How do you think you would finance the purchase of your next car?	%
Savings	38%
Current account	21%
Bank loan	18%
Finance from car dealer	13%
Borrow from family or friends	2%
Remortgage	1%

Ends.

Editors' notes:

*Research conducted by GFK NOP on behalf of Halifax Unsecured Personal Loans 15th-17th February 2008. Based on a sample of 967 adults aged 17+ UK wide.

Halifax unsecured personal loans feature:

- No repayments for the first three months of the loan
- Option to spread payments over one to seven years
- Fixed monthly payments, making budgeting easier
- A fixed rate that is tailored to your individual circumstances and needs
- Typical APR of 7.9% on loans over £7000.00 via <http://www.halifax.co.uk/loans/personalloans.shtml>

To apply for a Halifax unsecured personal loan you can:

- **Apply in branch** - We'll take your details and can usually give you an answer straight away
- **Call 08457 24 34 44** - Lines are open Monday - Friday 8am - 8pm, Saturday 8am - 6pm and Sunday 10am - 4pm
- **Visit our website at** www.halifax.co.uk/personalloans