Reported Road Casualties in Great Britain: Main Results 2010

Statistical Release

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Department for Transport

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This publication presents statistics on personal injury accidents in 2010 on public roads (including footways) in Great Britain, which became known to the police.

Figures are derived from the 'STATS 19' forms completed by the police. These collect detailed data on individual road accidents, covering the circumstances of the accident and the casualties and vehicles involved. The resulting data is supplied to local authorities and to the Department for Transport.

Figures for deaths refer to persons who sustained injuries which caused death within 30 days of the accident.

Summary statistics are published quarterly. A more comprehensive analysis of 2010 casualty statistics will be published later this year.

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The key findings from the Main Results 2010 include:

- The number of people killed in road accidents reported to the police fell by 16 per cent from 2,222 in 2009 to 1,857 in 2010. This is the lowest figure since national records began in 1926.
- A total of 22,660 people were reported killed or seriously injured in 2010, 8 per cent less than in 2009.
- There were 208,655 casualties (slight injuries, serious injuries and fatalities) in road accidents reported to the police in Great Britain in 2010, 6 per cent less than in 2009.
- Total reported child casualties (ages 0-15) fell by 5 per cent to 19,569 in 2010. The number of children killed or seriously injured in 2010 was 2,502, down 6 per cent on 2009.
- Motor vehicle traffic levels fell by 2 per cent compared to 2009. The overall casualty rate for accidents reported to the police per billion vehicle miles therefore fell to 677 per billion vehicle miles, compared to 709 casualties per billion vehicle miles in 2009.

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1. Results by road user type

- The number of people killed in road accidents reported to the police fell by 16 per cent from 2,222 in 2009 to 1,857 in 2010. Just under half (45 per cent) of all fatalities were car occupants, while pedestrians and motorcyclists each accounted for just over a fifth (22 per cent).
- The number of deaths among **car users** in 2010 was 842, 20 per cent lower than in the previous year. The number seriously injured in accidents reported to the police fell by 11 per cent to 8,914. Total reported casualties among car users were 133,212, 7 per cent less than 2009. Car and taxi traffic fell by 2 per cent over the same period.
- There were 405 **pedestrian** deaths, 19 per cent fewer than in 2009. Seriously injured pedestrian casualties in accidents reported to the police fell by 6 per cent to 5,200.
- The number of **pedal cyclists** killed increased by 7 per cent from 104 in 2009 to 111 in 2010. The number seriously injured in accidents reported to the police increased by 2 per cent to 2,660. Total reported casualties among pedal cyclists also rose, by 1 per cent, compared to 2009. Pedal cyclist traffic levels are estimated to have risen by 0.5 over the same period.
- There were 403 **motorcycle users** killed in 2010, 15 per cent fewer than during 2009. The number reported as seriously injured fell by 11 per cent to 4,780. Total reported motorcycle user casualties decreased by 10 per cent to 18,686 in 2010. However, motorcycle traffic also fell by 9 per cent over the same period.

2. Changes in comparison to the 1994-98 average

- The average over the five-year period from 1994 to 1998 is used as a basis for comparison when considering road safety trends over a longer period. The number of casualties in road accidents reported to the police in 2010 was 35 per cent lower than the 1994-98 average, and the number of people killed or seriously injured was 49 per cent lower. For fatalities alone, the 2010 figure was 48 per cent lower than in the 1994-98 base period.
- Reported child casualties (ages 0-15) in 2010 were 56 per cent lower than in the 1994-98 base period, and the number of children killed or seriously injured was 64 per cent lower. For child fatalities alone, the 2010 figure was 79 per cent lower than in the 1994-98 base period.
- There were 154,421 reported road accidents in 2010, 35 per cent less than the 1994-98 average. Of these, 24,517 involved death or serious injury, down 39 per cent on the 1994-98 average (40,481).

Reported road casualties: by road user type and severity: Great Britain comparison of 2010 with 1994 - 1998 average and 2009
(Road Accident Safety web table RAS3001)

	1994 - 1998 average	2009	2010	Number/percentage change: Percent change over 1994 - 1998 average	Number/percentage change: Percent change from last year
Pedestrians					
Killed	1,008	500	405	*-60*	*-19*
Seriously injured	10,662	5,545	5,200	*-51*	*-6*
KSI[1]	11,669	6,045	5,605	*-52*	*-7*
Slightly injured	34,874	20,842	20,240	*-42*	*-3*
All casualties	46,543	26,887	25,845	*-44*	*-4*
Pedal cyclists					
Killed	186	104	111	*-40*	*7*
Seriously injured	3,546	2,606	2,660	*-25*	*2*
KSI	3,732	2,710	2,771	*-26*	*2*
Slightly injured	20,653	14,354	14,414	*-30*	*0*
All casualties	24,385	17,064	17,185	*-30*	*1*
Motorcycle users					
Killed	467	472	403	*-14*	*-15*
Seriously injured	6,008	5,350	4,780	*-20*	*-11*
KSI	6,475	5,822	5,183	*-20*	*-11*
Slightly injured	17,547	14,881	13,503	*-23*	*-9*
All casualties	24,023	20,703	18,686	*-22*	*-10*
Car occupants					
Killed	1,762	1,059	842	*-52*	*-20*
Seriously injured	21,492	10,053	8,914	*-59*	*-11*
KSI	23,254	11,112	9,756	*-58*	*-12*
Slightly injured	180,034	132,300	123,456	*-31*	*-7*
All casualties	203,288	143,412	133,212	*-34*	*-7*
Bus and coach occupants					
Killed	20	14	9	*-55*	*-36*
Seriously injured	696	356	392	*-44*	*10*
KSI	716	370	401	*-44*	*8*
Slightly injured	8,883	5,947	5,867	*-34*	*-1*
All casualties	9,598	6,317	6,268	*-35*	*-1*
Goods vehicle occupants					
Killed	118	50	62	*-48*	*24*
Seriously injured	1,475	556	509	*-65*	*-8*
KSI	1,593	606	571	*-64*	*-6*
Slightly injured	9,169	5,656	5,501	*-40*	*-3*
All casualties	10,763	6,262	6,072	*-44*	*-3*
All road users[2]					
Killed	3,578	2,222	1,857	*-48*	*-16*
Seriously injured	44,078	24,690	22,660	*-49*	*-8*
KSI	47,656	26,912	24,517	*-49*	*-9*
Slightly injured	272,272	195,234	184,138	*-32*	*-6*
All casualties	319,928	222,146	208,655	*-35*	*-6*
of whom children: 0 - 15 years					
Killed	260	81	55	*-79*	*-32*
Seriously injured	6,600	2,590	2,447	*-63*	*-6*
KSI	6,860	2,671	2,502	*-64*	*-6*
Slightly injured	37,494	17,984	17,067	*-54*	*-5*
All casualties	44,354	20,655	19,569	*-56*	*-5*
Casualty rates[3]					
KSI	174	86	80	*-54*	*-7*
Slightly injured	995	623	598	*-40*	*-4*
All casualties	1,170	709	677	*-42*	*-5*

1 Killed or seriously injured.
2 Includes other vehicles.
3 Casualties per billion vehicle miles of motor vehicle traffic.

3. Strengths and weaknesses of the data

Comparisons of road accident reports with death registrations show that very few, if any; road accident fatalities are not reported to the police. However, it has long been known that a considerable proportion of non-fatal casualties are not known to the police, as hospital, survey and compensation claims data all indicate a higher number of casualties than police accident data would suggest.

Our best estimate produced in 2010, derived primarily from National Travel Survey (NTS) data, is that the total number of road casualties in Great Britain each year, including those not reported to police, is within the range 610 thousand to 780 thousand with a central estimate of 700 thousand. A discussion of how this estimate has been derived, and its limitations, together with information on complementary sources of data on road accidents and casualties, are contained in Article 5 (pages 61-68) of Reported Road Casualties Great Britain: 2009 Annual report, which can be found at: http://www2.dft.gov.uk/adobepdf/162469/221412/221549/227755/rrcgb2009.pdf
A revised estimate will be produced later this year as part of the main analysis of 2010 road accident statistics.

The data used as the basis for these statistics are therefore not a complete record of all personal injury road accidents, and this should be borne in mind when using and analysing the figures. However, police data on road accidents (STATS19), whilst not perfect, remain the most detailed, complete and reliable *single* source of information on road casualties covering the whole of Great Britain, in particular for monitoring trends over time.

4. Background notes

1. The Road Casualties Great Britain Main Results web page provides further detail of the key findings presented in this statistical release. The tables are available at http://www2.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/accidents/reported-road-casualties-gb-main-results-2010.html.
2. The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

   Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:
   - meet identified user needs;
   - are well explained and readily accessible;
   - are produced according to sound methods, and
   - are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

   Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.
3. Details of Ministers and officials who receive pre-release access to these statistics up to 24 hours before release can be found here: http://assets.dft.gov.uk/statistics/releases/reported-road-casualties-gb-main-results-2010/reported-road-casualties-gb-main-results-2010-prerelease.pdf
4. A full list of the definitions used in this publication can be found here: http://assets.dft.gov.uk/statistics/releases/reported-road-casualties-gb-main-results-2010/reported-road-casualties-gb-main-results-2010-definitions.pdf