

## Road Lengths 2010

This Statistical Release presents estimates for road lengths in Great Britain in 2010.

These estimates are based on road length data from the Department for Transport major roads database and information from Local Authorities, Regional Government and Ordnance Survey.

Road lengths are categorised by different road types, incorporating major and minor roads and also whether the roads are in urban or rural locations. Major roads are also split into trunk roads, which are centrally managed, and principal roads, which are managed by local authorities

Road lengths are presented for Great Britain as a whole, and are also available by region and by local authority.



Key findings	1
Road lengths by road type	2
Road lengths and traffic	3
Road lengths by region	3
Strengths and weaknesses of the data	4
Background Notes	4

### Key results from Road Lengths 2010 include:

- The total road length in Great Britain in 2010 was estimated to be 245 thousand miles. This is an increase of nearly 2.5 thousand miles (1.0 per cent) over the ten years from 2000.
- Minor roads made up 87.3 per cent of total road length, with motorways and 'A' roads accounting for 0.9 per cent and 11.8 per cent respectively.
- Despite accounting for only 12.7 per cent of road length in 2010, major roads (motorways and 'A' roads) accounted for 64.1 per cent of road traffic.
- 76.4 per cent of the road length in Great Britain in 2010 was in England, with 15.0 per cent in Scotland and 8.6 per cent in Wales.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

#### Media Enquiries:

020 7944 3066

#### Public Enquiries:

020 7944 6573

[roadtraff.stats@dft.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:roadtraff.stats@dft.gsi.gov.uk)

# 1. Road lengths by road type

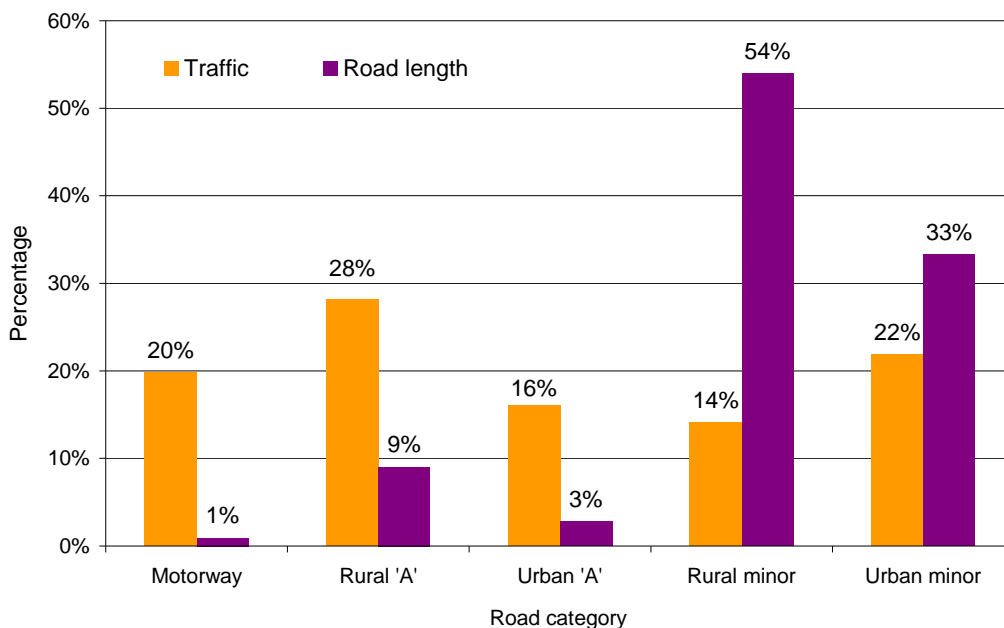
- The total road length in Great Britain in 2010 was estimated to be **245.0 thousand miles**. Estimated road length in Great Britain has increased by around 2.5 thousand miles (1.0 per cent) in the decade since 2000.
- The length of motorways in Great Britain in 2010 was estimated to be 2.2 thousand miles, which represents an increase of 2.6 per cent since 2000. The length of 'A' roads in Great Britain has increased by 0.2 per cent since 2000, to an estimated 29.0 thousand miles in 2010.
- The majority of road length in Great Britain is made up of minor roads, with these roads accounting for 213.7 thousand miles in 2010 (87.3 per cent of all roads). This represents a 1.1 per cent increase since 2000.
- Excluding motorways, 64 per cent of the roads in Great Britain were in rural areas in 2010, whilst the remaining 36 per cent were in urban areas.

Detailed statistics (tables and charts) on "Road lengths by road type" can be found in the Road Lengths web tables<sup>1</sup>, [RDL0103](#) and [RDL0203](#)

# 2. Road lengths and traffic

- In 2010, motorways and 'A' roads accounted for 0.9 per cent and 11.8 per cent respectively of total road length in Great Britain. In contrast, 19.8 per cent of all motor vehicle traffic was on motorways and 44.3 per cent on 'A' roads.
- Minor road length in Great Britain was estimated to be 213.7 thousand miles in 2010, amounting to 87.3 per cent of the total, however these roads carried 35.9 per cent of all traffic.

## Percentage of road length and traffic by road class in Great Britain, 2010



Detailed statistics (tables and charts) on "Road lengths and traffic" can be found in the Road Lengths and Road Traffic web tables<sup>1</sup>, [RDL0101](#) and [RDL0201](#), [TRA0102](#) and [TRA0202](#)

### 3. Road lengths by region

- In 2010, 76.4 per cent of the 245.0 thousand miles of road in Great Britain in 2010 was in England. 15.0 per cent was in Scotland and 8.6 per cent was in Wales.
- Within England, the regions with the largest amount of road length were South West, which had 31.0 thousand miles, and South East, with 29.5 thousand miles.

#### Motorway and trunk road network in Great Britain, 2010



Detailed statistics (tables and charts) on “Road lengths by region” can be found in the Road Lengths web tables<sup>1</sup>, [RDL0101](#) and [RDL0201](#)

---

## 4. Strengths and weaknesses of the data

- Road lengths estimates are based on road length data from the Department for Transport major roads database and information from Local Authorities, Regional Government and Ordnance Survey.
- As road lengths estimates are based on information from a range of sources, the final estimates are reliant on all of these sources being accurate and up to date.
- Each year, the Department for Transport conducts a consultancy exercise with all local authorities to compare their records for the roads they manage with the records held by the Department. This is to ensure the accuracy of our road length data and to pick up any changes which have occurred to the road network.
- Small changes may occur between years which are not accounted for by changes to the physical road network but have occurred due to improved measurement of road lengths and better accuracy of the data sources used.

## 5. Background notes

1. The web tables give further detail of the key results presented in this statistical release and statistics on other related topics. They are available here:

([http://www.dft.gov.uk/statistics?post\\_type=table&series=road-lengths-series](http://www.dft.gov.uk/statistics?post_type=table&series=road-lengths-series))

2. Full guidance on the methods used to compile these statistics can be found here:

(<http://assets.dft.gov.uk/statistics/series/road-lengths/road-lengths-2010-methodology.pdf>)

3. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure they meet customer needs: (<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html>)

4. 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/series/road-lengths/road-lengths-2010-prerelease.pdf>)