

# Reported Road Casualties in Great Britain: Main Results 2011

## Statistical Release

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This publication presents statistics on personal injury accidents in 2011 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 2011 casualty statistics will be published later this year.



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### The key findings from the Main Results 2011 include:

- The annual number of people killed in road accidents reported to the police has increased, by 3 per cent, from 1,850 in 2010 to 1,901 in 2011. This is the first increase since 2003.
- The number of people reported killed or seriously injured has also increased by 2 per cent to 25,023 from 24,510 in 2010 - the first annual increase since 1994.
- The total number of casualties (slight injuries, serious injuries and fatalities) in road accidents reported to the police in Great Britain in 2011 continued to fall, by 2 per cent, from 208,648 in 2010 to 203,950 in 2011.
- Total reported child casualties (ages 0-15) have continued to fall, by 0.5 per cent in 2011 to 19,474. The number of children killed or seriously injured also fell, decreasing by 4 per cent to 2,412 in 2011, from 2,502 in 2010.
- Vehicle traffic levels are broadly stable after falling for 3 years. The overall casualty rate for accidents reported to the police per billion vehicle miles continued to fall to 666 per billion vehicle miles, compared to 681 casualties per billion vehicle miles in 2010 but the killed or seriously injured rate increased to 82 per billion vehicle miles.

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## 1. Results by road user type

- The number of people killed in road accidents reported to the police has increased, by 3 per cent, from 1,850 in 2010 to 1,901 in 2011. Just under half (46 per cent) of all fatalities were car occupants, nearly a quarter (24 per cent) were pedestrians, while motorcyclists accounted for just under a fifth (19 per cent) of all fatalities.
- The number of **car occupant** fatalities in 2011 increased to 883, up 6 per cent compared to 2010, following a general downward trend in deaths since 2003. However, the number seriously injured in accidents reported to the police continued to fall, by 6 per cent to 8,342. Total reported casualties among car users were 124,924, 7 per cent less than 2010. Car and taxi traffic slightly increased by 0.2 per cent over the same period.
- There were 453 **pedestrian** deaths, 12 per cent more than in 2010. Seriously injured pedestrian casualties in accidents reported to the police also increased, by 5 per cent, to 5,454. These increases are set against a generally downward trend in the number of pedestrian casualties and fatalities since the 1970s.
- The number of **pedal cyclists** killed fell by 4 per cent from 111 in 2010 to 107 in 2011. However, the number of casualties reported to the police as seriously injured in a road accident increased by 16 per cent to 3,085. Total reported casualties among pedal cyclists also rose, by 12 per cent, compared to 2010. Pedal cyclist traffic levels are estimated to have risen by 2.2 per cent over the same period.
- There were 362 **motorcycle users** killed in 2011 a 10 per cent decrease compared to 2010 and in line with the trend for motorcycle fatalities. However the number of users reported as seriously injured increased by 10 per cent to 5,247. Total reported motorcycle user casualties increased by 8 per cent to 20,150 in 2011. Motorcycle traffic increased by 0.9 per cent over the same period.
- Casualties on motorways decreased for all severities (killed, serious, slight down 1, 7 and 6 per cent respectively) against an increase of 1 per cent in traffic. The number of casualties on non built-up roads also fell but to a lesser extent (down 1, 3 and 5 per cent). Slight casualties on built-up roads also fell (by 2 per cent) but fatalities and serious casualties increased (by 10 and 5 per cent respectively)
- Adverse weather (heavy snow falls) experienced in the first and last quarters of 2010 but not in 2011 are likely to be a factor in the increase in serious road casualties and fatalities recorded in 2011.

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## 2. Changes in comparison to the 2005-09 average

- The average over the five-year period from 2005 to 2009 is used as a basis for comparison when considering road safety trends over a longer period and used as a baseline for the Outcomes Framework for the Strategic Framework for Road Safety<sup>1</sup>.
- The number of casualties in road accidents and the number of people killed or seriously injured (KSI) reported to the police in 2011 were both 17 per cent lower than the 2005-09 average. For fatalities alone, the 2011 figure was 32 per cent lower than in the 2005-09 base period.
- Reported child casualties (ages 0-15) in 2011 were 19 per cent lower than in the 2005-09 base period and the number of children killed or seriously injured was 21 per cent lower. For child fatalities alone, the 2011 figure was 53 per cent lower than in the 2005-09 base period.
- There were 151,474 reported road accidents in 2011, 16 per cent less than the 2005-09 average (180,831). Of these, 22,783 involved death or serious injury, down 14 per cent on the 2005-09 average (26,473).
- The rate per billion vehicle miles for total casualties in reported road accidents and the rate of people killed or seriously injured (KSI) in 2011 were both 15 per cent lower than the 2005-09 average. For fatalities alone, the 2011 figure was 31 per cent lower than in the 2005-09 base period.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/strategic-framework-for-road-safety>

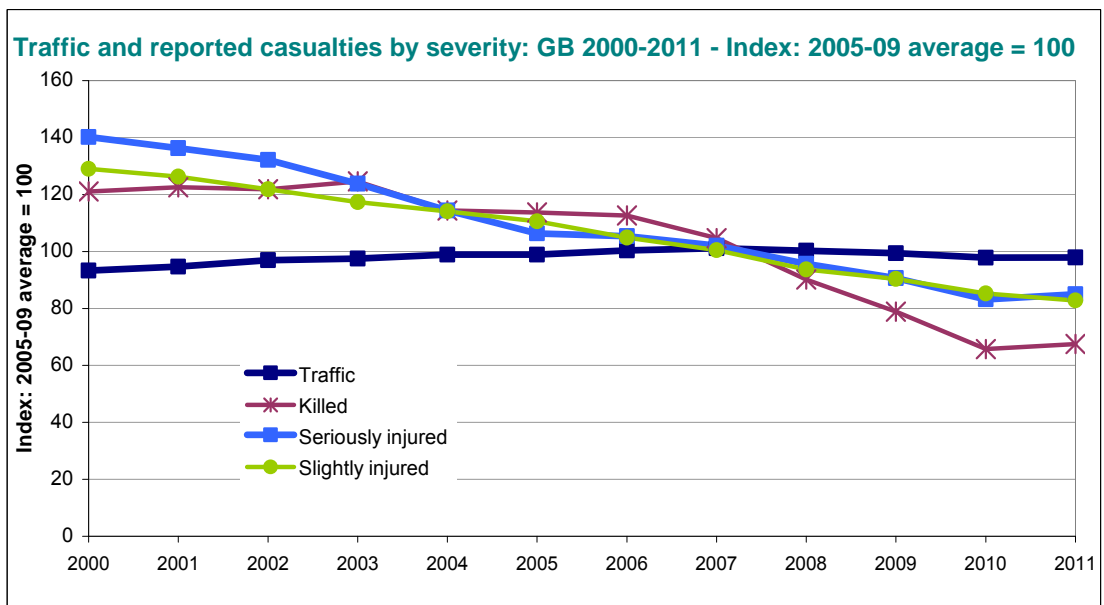
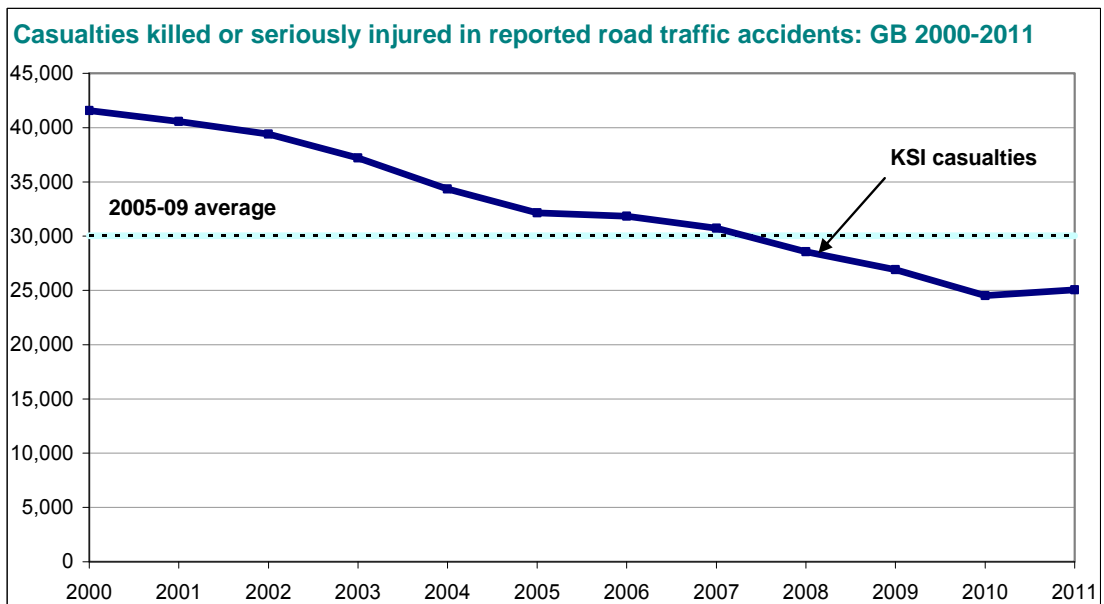
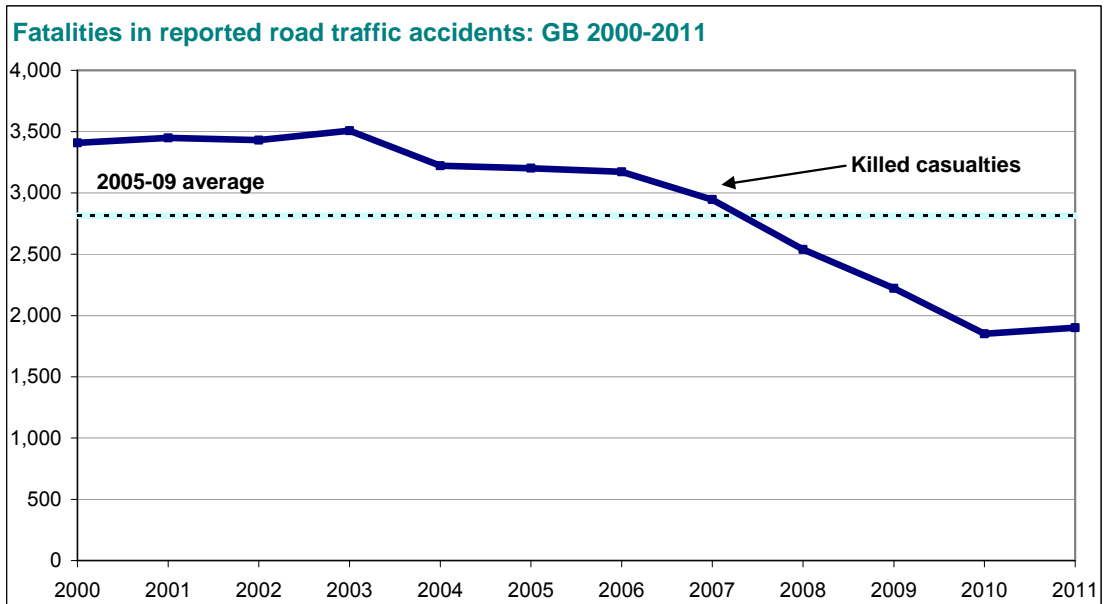
**Reported road casualties: by road user type and severity: Great Britain comparison of 2011 with 2005 - 2009 average and 2010**  
**(Road Accident Safety web table RAS30001)**

							Number/percentage change	
	2005-09 average	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% change over 2005-09 average	% change from 2010
<b>Pedestrians</b>								
Killed	613	646	572	500	405	453	-26	12
Seriously injured	6,145	6,278	6,070	5,545	5,200	5,454	-11	5
KSI <sup>1</sup>	6,758	6,924	6,642	6,045	5,605	5,907	-13	5
Slightly injured	23,206	23,267	21,840	20,842	20,240	20,291	-13	0
All casualties	29,965	30,191	28,482	26,887	25,845	26,198	-13	1
<b>Pedal cyclists</b>								
Killed	130	136	115	104	111	107	-18	-4
Seriously injured	2,398	2,428	2,450	2,606	2,660	3,085	29	16
KSI	2,528	2,564	2,565	2,710	2,771	3,192	26	15
Slightly injured	13,934	13,631	13,732	14,354	14,414	16,023	15	11
All casualties	16,463	16,195	16,297	17,064	17,185	19,215	17	12
<b>Motorcycle users</b>								
Killed	544	588	493	472	403	362	-33	-10
Seriously injured	5,776	6,149	5,556	5,350	4,780	5,247	-9	10
KSI	6,320	6,737	6,049	5,822	5,183	5,609	-11	8
Slightly injured	16,452	16,722	15,501	14,881	13,503	14,541	-12	8
All casualties	22,772	23,459	21,550	20,703	18,686	20,150	-12	8
<b>Car occupants</b>								
Killed	1,407	1,432	1,257	1,059	835	883	-37	6
Seriously injured	11,577	11,535	10,711	10,053	8,914	8,342	-28	-6
KSI	12,984	12,967	11,968	11,112	9,749	9,225	-29	-5
Slightly injured	147,683	148,466	137,220	132,300	123,456	115,699	-22	-6
All casualties	160,667	161,433	149,188	143,412	133,205	124,924	-22	-6
<b>Bus and coach occupants</b>								
Killed	12	12	6	14	9	7	-42	-22
Seriously injured	397	443	426	356	392	325	-18	-17
KSI	409	455	432	370	401	332	-19	-17
Slightly injured	6,690	6,624	6,497	5,947	5,867	5,845	-13	0
All casualties	7,100	7,079	6,929	6,317	6,268	6,177	-13	-1
<b>Goods vehicle occupants</b>								
Killed	85	110	66	50	62	62	-27	0
Seriously injured	730	747	619	556	509	473	-35	-7
KSI	815	857	685	606	571	535	-34	-6
Slightly injured	6,836	6,959	6,158	5,656	5,501	5,379	-21	-2
All casualties	7,651	7,816	6,843	6,262	6,072	5,914	-23	-3
<b>All road users<sup>2</sup></b>								
Killed	2,816	2,946	2,538	2,222	1,850	1,901	-32	3
Seriously injured	27,225	27,774	26,034	24,690	22,660	23,122	-15	2
KSI	30,041	30,720	28,572	26,912	24,510	25,023	-17	2
Slightly injured	216,010	217,060	202,333	195,234	184,138	178,927	-17	-3
All casualties	246,050	247,780	230,905	222,146	208,648	203,950	-17	-2
<b>of whom children: 0 - 15 years</b>								
Killed	127	121	124	81	55	60	-53	9
Seriously injured	2,940	2,969	2,683	2,590	2,447	2,352	-20	-4
KSI	3,067	3,090	2,807	2,671	2,502	2,412	-21	-4
Slightly injured	20,955	20,717	19,189	17,984	17,067	17,062	-19	0
All casualties	24,021	23,807	21,996	20,655	19,569	19,474	-19	0
<b>Casualty rates<sup>3</sup></b>								
Killed	9	9	8	7	6	6	-31	3
Seriously injured	87	88	83	79	74	75	-13	2
KSI	96	97	91	87	80	82	-15	2
Slightly injured	690	686	645	628	601	584	-15	-3
All casualties	786	783	736	714	681	666	-15	-2

1 Killed or seriously injured.

2 Includes other vehicles.

3 Casualties per billion vehicle miles.



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### 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 2011, 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 660 thousand to 800 thousand with a central estimate of 730 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 the Survey data on road accidents article of Reported Road Casualties Great Britain: 2010 Annual report, which can be found at:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/statistics/releases/road-accidents-and-safety-annual-report-2010>

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://www.dft.gov.uk/statistics/releases/reported-road-casualties-gb-main-results-2011>
2. More detailed tables and analysis of the 2011 statistics, including an updated set of outcome indicators for the Strategic Framework for Road Safety will be published in Road Casualties Great Britain: Annual Report 2011 later this year.
3. 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.

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/releases/reported-road-casualties-gb-main-results-2010/reported-road-casualties-gb-main-results-2010-prerelease.pdf>
5. 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>