

Reported Road Casualties in Great Britain: Quarterly Provisional Estimates Q1 2012

Statistical Release

16 August 2012

Department for
Transport

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This publication presents statistics on personal injury accidents in the year ending March 2012 on public roads (including footways) in Great Britain, which became known to the police within 30 days.

Reported Road Casualties in Great Britain: Quarterly Provisional Estimates is a series providing estimates of personal injury road accidents and their casualties. These estimates are published to allow emerging trends to be monitored between the publications of annual figures. A note on methodology can be found at: <http://assets.dft.gov.uk/statistics/releases/road-accidents-and-safety-quarterly-estimates-q1-2012/methodology-note-quarterly-estimates.pdf>

Estimates are based on information reported to the Department for Transport 15 weeks after the end of the latest quarter. For this release figures are based on information available on 23rd July 2012.



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The key findings from the Quarterly Provisional Estimates Q1 2012 include:

- For reported road accidents in the year ending March 2012; 1,870 people were killed, a 1 per cent drop from the year ending March 2011 figure (1,881). However people killed or seriously injured rose to 25,210, a 1 per cent increase compared to the year ending March 2011 figure (24,849).
- Overall for year ending March 2012; there were 202,980 reported road casualties (slight, serious injuries and fatalities), which is 3 per cent less than the year ending March 2011 figure.
- Total reported child casualties (ages 0-15) fell by 3 per cent, from 19,784 to 19,130 with those killed or seriously injured down 2 per cent (2,460), compared with the previous 12 month period.
- Road injury accidents reported to the police fell by 2 per cent (to 150,810) while fatal accidents fell by less than 0.5 per cent (to 1,770) compared with the year ending March 2011 (at 1,774).
- In comparison, motor vehicle traffic levels have risen by 0.6 per cent compared to the 12 month period ending March 2011.

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1. Results by road user type

- Pedestrian, and car user casualties, reported to the police, showed overall reductions of 1 and 6 per cent respectively compared with the year ending March 2011. However, motorcyclist and pedal cyclist casualties have both risen, by 6 and 9 per cent respectively.
- However, killed or seriously injured (KSI) casualty numbers for pedestrians, pedal cyclists and motor cyclists have increased by 6, 11 and 6 per cent respectively but fallen by 6 per cent for car users compared to the previous 12 months.

2. A comparison of quarter 1 results 2011 and 2012

- In January to March 2012 there were 420 people killed in reported road accidents, 6 per cent less than the first quarter of 2011. Overall, estimated total number of casualties fell by 2 per cent despite numbers for casualties killed or seriously injured rising by 3 per cent. This is owed to a large drop in numbers of slightly injured casualties observed in quarter 1 of 2012 compared to quarter 1 for the previous year. Provisional estimates show an increase of 0.6 per cent in road traffic levels over the same period.
- The number of pedestrian and car user casualties both decreased, by 3 and 4 per cent respectively, with pedal and motor cyclist casualties increasing by 10 and 7 per cent respectively, compared to quarter 1 for the previous year. Pedestrian, pedal cycle and motorcycle KSI casualties increased by 8, 13 and 8 per cent respectively between quarter 1 2011 and quarter 1 of 2012 whilst car user KSI casualties fell by 4 per cent over the same period..
- All child road casualties fell by 8 per cent but child KSI casualties were estimated to have increased by 9 per cent (from 522 in quarter 1 of 2011 to 570 in quarter 1 of 2012).

Reported road casualties by severity: Great Britain year ending first quarter 2012 (Road Accident Safety web table RAS45001)

Number/percentage change compared to previous 12 months and 2005-2009 average

	2005-2009 average A	Apr-10 to Mar-11 B	Apr-11 to Mar-12 (P) C	Percentage change over 2005-2009 average (C-A)/A %	Percentage change over previous 12 months (C-B)/B %	Traffic ¹ percentage change over previous 12 months
ALL CASUALTIES						
Killed	2,816	1,881	1,870	-34	-1	0.6
KSI ²	30,041	24,849	25,210	-16	1	0.6
Slightly injured	216,010	183,572	177,770	-18	-3	0.6
All casualties	246,050	208,421	202,980	-18	-3	0.6

P Provisional estimates

¹ Motor traffic (excludes pedal cycles)

² Killed or seriously injured

Chart RAS45012: Reported killed or seriously injured casualties compared to motor vehicle traffic (billion miles), rolling four quarter totals: GB Q1 2003 – Q1 2012

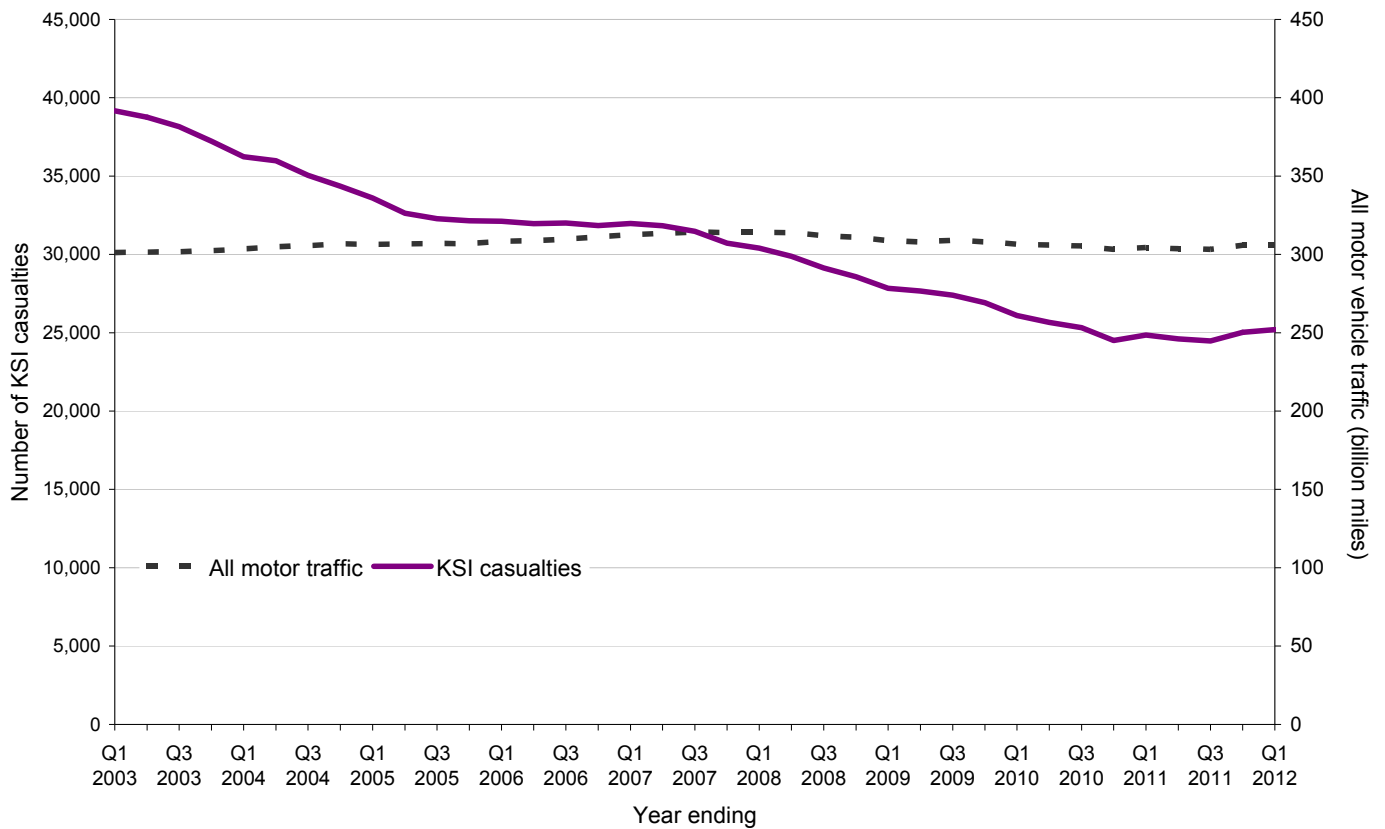
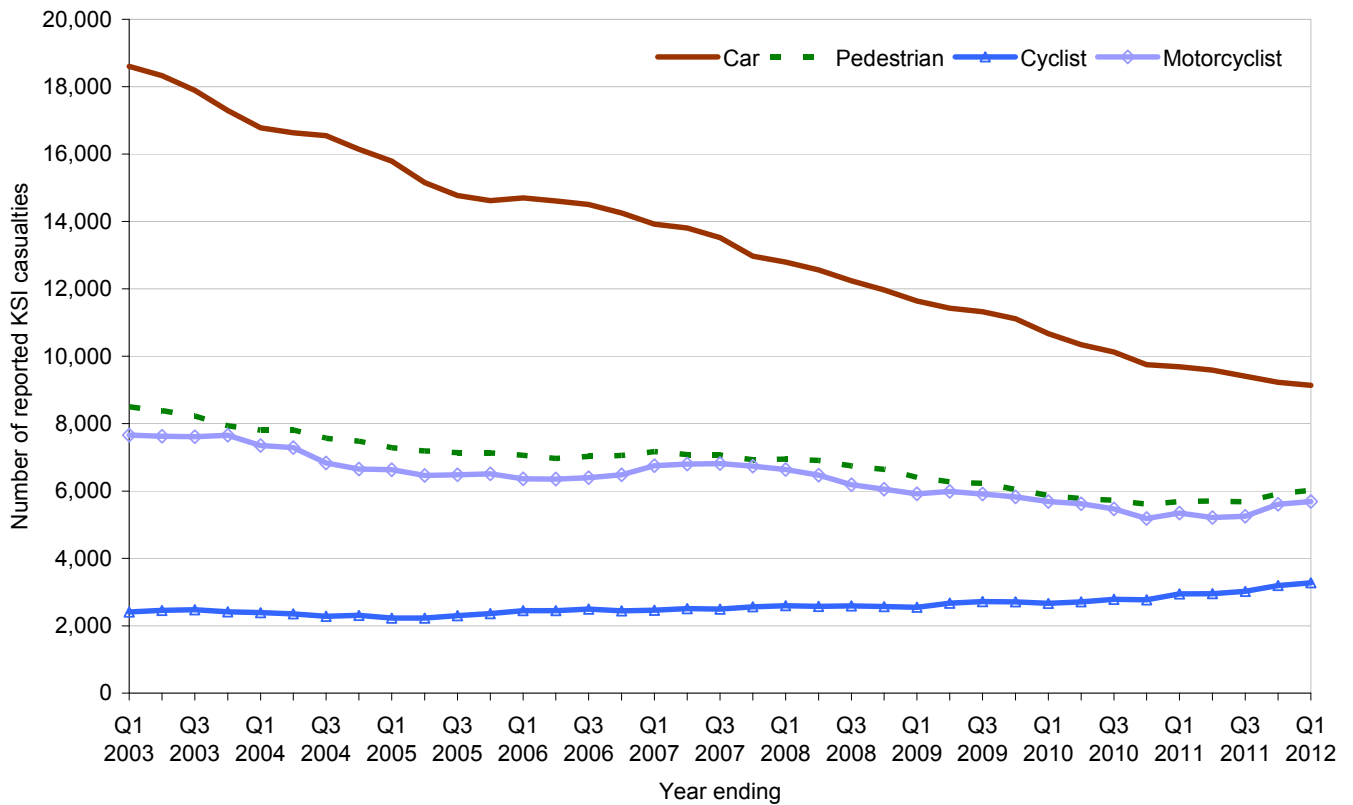


Chart RAS45013: Reported killed or seriously injured (KSI) road casualties by road users, rolling four quarter totals: GB Q1 2003 – Q1 2012



3. Strengths and weaknesses of the data

The quarterly figures are based on estimates. It should be noted that no single quarter's figures should be taken in isolation, especially if they appear to show a change in trend, as there are seasonal fluctuations particularly in the smaller categories of road user.

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. Proportionally, the unreported number of casualties who sustained slight injuries from a road accident is likely to be higher compared to the unreported number of casualties which sustained serious injuries from a road accident.

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>

A revised estimate will be produced earlier next year as a separate article to the detailed analysis of 2011 road accident statistics in the RRCGB 2011 report.

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 Reported Road Casualties Great Britain Quarterly Provisional Estimates 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/road-accidents-and-safety-quarterly-estimates-q1-2012>

2. On 17 December 2010, the United Kingdom Statistics Authority designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007, signifying their 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. A full list of the definitions used in this publication and details of Ministers and officials who receive pre-release access to these statistics up to 24 hours before release can be found here:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/statistics/series/road-accidents-and-safety/>