

Civil Parking Enforcement Statistics 2009/10

This publication presents statistics on the use of Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) powers by local authorities in England. These powers allow local authorities to enforce parking regulations without recourse to criminal court proceedings.

The data are derived from the department's annual survey of relevant local authorities in England and Wales. The statistics relate to Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) issued, challenged and cancelled, and the number of Penalty Charges paid.

The number of authorities with CPE powers in England (outside London) has increased from 28 in 2000 to 236 in 2009/10. This means that simple trend analysis will not tend to give a true 'like for like' comparison over time, as the number of drivers and vehicles potentially subject to CPE activity will have increased substantially over the last decade.



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The key findings from civil parking enforcement statistics 2009/10 include:

- The estimated number of PCNs issued in England during 2009/10 was 7.14 million for on-street offences and 1.80 million for off-street offences, compared to 7.42 million and 1.67 million respectively in 2008/09.
- In 2009/10, the total number of Penalty Charges paid (on and off-street combined) was 6.21 million, compared to 6.18 million in 2008/09. Of the 2009/10 total, 1.34 million were paid at full rate and 4.87 million at discount rate.
- The number of PCNs challenged in 2009/10 was 1.84 million (on-street) and 0.50 million (off-street), compared to 1.86 million and 0.45 million respectively in 2008/09.
- As a result of these challenges, 0.86 million on-street PCNs were cancelled in 2009/10 compared to 0.87 million in 2008/09, and 0.30 million off-street PCNs were cancelled as compared to 0.26 million in 2008/09.

FURTHER INFORMATION

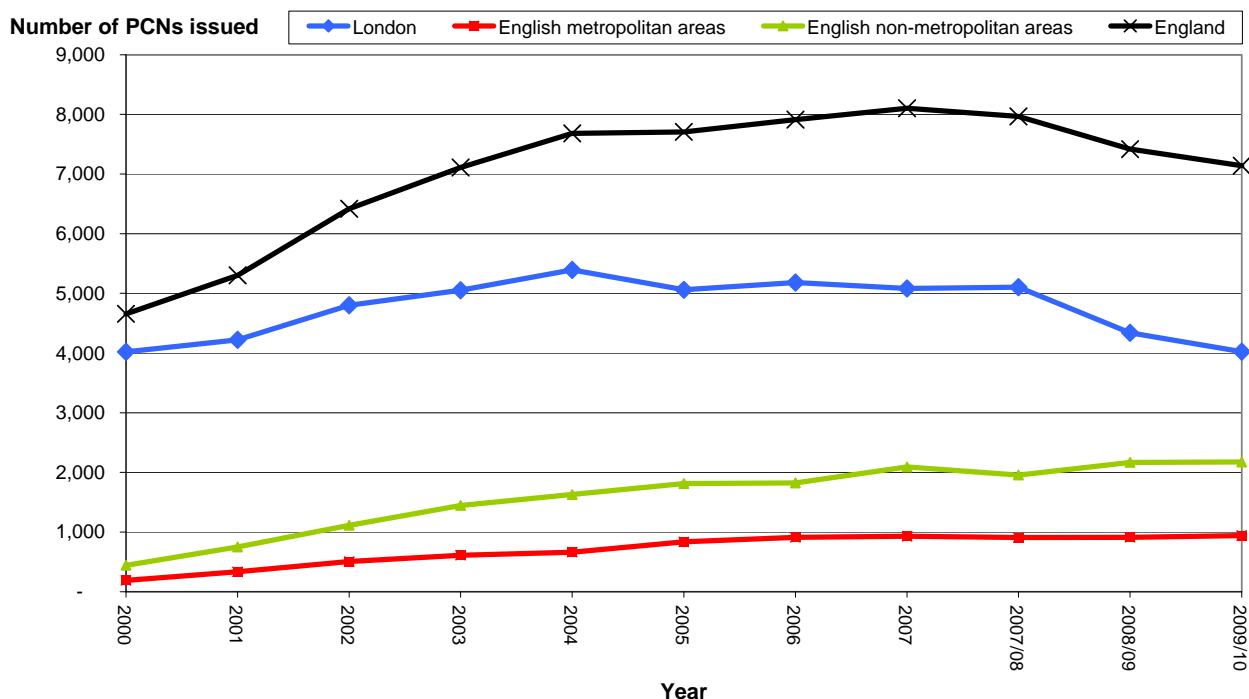
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1. Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) issued and Penalty Charges paid in 2009/10

- The estimated number of PCNs issued **on-street** in England in 2009/10 was 7.14 million compared to 7.41 million in 2008/09, a 4 per cent decrease. The region with the most PCNs issued outside London was the South East (0.80 million) with the fewest in the North East (0.13 million).
- Of the 2009/10 total PCNs issued **on-street** in England, the Penalty Charge was paid in 5.01 million cases (70 per cent). Of these, 1.13 million (23 per cent) were paid at the full rate and 3.88 million (77 per cent) were paid at the discounted rate.

Penalty charge notices issued on-street, England and Wales, 2000 to 2009/10



- The estimated number of PCNs issued **off-street** in England was 1.80 million in 2009/10, compared to 1.67 million in 2008/09, an 8 per cent increase. The region with the most PCNs issued outside London was the South East (0.30 million), with the fewest in the North East (0.04 million).
- Of the 2009/10 total PCNs issued **off-street** in England, the Penalty Charge was paid in 1.20 million cases (67 per cent). Of these, 0.21 million (17 per cent) were paid at the full rate and 0.99 million (83 per cent) at the discounted rate.

Detailed statistics on PCNs issued and Penalty Charges paid can be found on the civil parking enforcement statistics web tables¹, table numbers CPE0101 to CPE0106 (on-street) and CPE0201 to CPE0206 (off-street).

2. Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) cancelled in 2009/10

Figures for PCNs challenged and cancelled are not directly comparable to those figures given in Section 1 for PCNs issued, as cancelled PCNs may have been issued in a previous year. The figures include PCNs challenged both before and after a Notice to Owner (NTO) has been served. A NTO can be sent to the owner of a vehicle which has received a PCN, and where a 28-day period has elapsed without the Penalty Charge being either paid or challenged.

- The number of **on-street** PCNs challenged in 2009/10 was 1.84 million, compared to 1.86 million in 2008/09.
- The total number of **on-street** PCNs cancelled or waived following a challenge in 2009/10 was 0.86 million (47 per cent of all PCNs challenged)
- The number of **off-street** PCNs challenged in 2009/10 was 0.51 million, compared to 0.45 million in 2008/09.
- The total number of **off-street** PCNs cancelled or waived following a challenge in 2009/10 was 0.30 million (59 per cent of all PCNs challenged).

Detailed statistics on PCNs challenged and cancelled can be found on the civil parking enforcement tables¹, table numbers CPE0107 to CPE0110 (on-street) and CPE0207 to CPE0210 (off-street)

3. Local data on Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) powers

- There were 236 local authorities in England (outside London) with CPE powers by the end of the 2009/10 financial year. This is a lower figure than at the end of 2008/09, a decrease that reflects mergers and other structural changes to local government in some areas of the country in April 2009, rather than an actual decline in the usage of CPE powers by local authorities.
- We are publishing local-level data for all relevant authorities in England **and Wales** who responded to our survey on their use of CPE powers. The local-authority level data for 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10 (which sits outside the scope of National Statistics) is available in table CPE0401, within the civil parking enforcement tables¹.

4. Strengths and weaknesses of the data

Data about civil parking enforcement are collected from all local authorities in England and Wales who have the relevant CPE powers. In 2009/10, 85 per cent of authorities with CPE powers provided a full or partial response.

Data are collected for the last two years of CPE activity. The earlier of the two years (2008/09) is included in order to obtain an improved retrospective picture of challenges and cancellations of PCNs issued during that year. However, both years' figures (2008/09 and 2009/10) are labelled as 'provisional' as there remains some risk that late or amended returns from local authorities could alter the underlying data.

Data provided by local authorities can vary in quality between authorities and from year to year. Local authorities use different systems to record these data, and follow different procedures and practices. This means that some authorities are unable to provide responses for all of the questions in the survey. Data at local authority level is being published, but has been placed outside the scope of National Statistics for the above reasons.

Where no data are available for an authority, or where some individual items of data are not available, data are imputed (i.e. estimated) to produce aggregate totals for key variables at area type or regional level. Imputation uses figures provided in previous or future years, partial data supplied by an authority in the current year. Where local authorities are not able to provide splits between on and off-street activity, these are imputed as a percentage of the total for the question. The percentage used is based on the type of authority and year.

On occasion, imputations for earlier years can be improved using directly-reported data for later years. Minor revisions to back-data can occur as a result, although substantive trends are rarely affected. Data may also be received from authorities after publication, and be incorporated into back-data retrospectively.

5. Background notes

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

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/public/parkingstats/#tables>

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

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/public/parkingstats/#technical>

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.

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://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/public/parkingstats/#technical>

5. The next civil parking enforcement Statistics will be published in January 2012.