

Driver and Rider Test and Instructor Statistics, Great Britain: Quarter 1 2012/13

This publication presents information on the number and pass rates of driving and riding tests conducted in Great Britain to 30th June 2012

The test and instructor statistics are derived from data held by the Driving Standards Agency (DSA), which administers the driving test and training schemes in Great Britain.

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The key findings from Driver and Rider Test and Instructor Statistics: Quarter 1 2012/13 include:

- A total of 410,778 tests were conducted across all test categories between April and June 2012 (Q1 2012/13). This is a decrease of 4.9 per cent in comparison with the same quarter in 2011/12.
- The reduction in the number of tests conducted in quarter 1 2012/13 is likely to have been due to the continuing economic situation and the Jubilee long weekend at the beginning of June 2012.
- The practical car test pass rate was unchanged from quarter 1 2011/12, at 47 per cent.
- At the end of the quarter there were 46,313 approved driving instructors on the Register.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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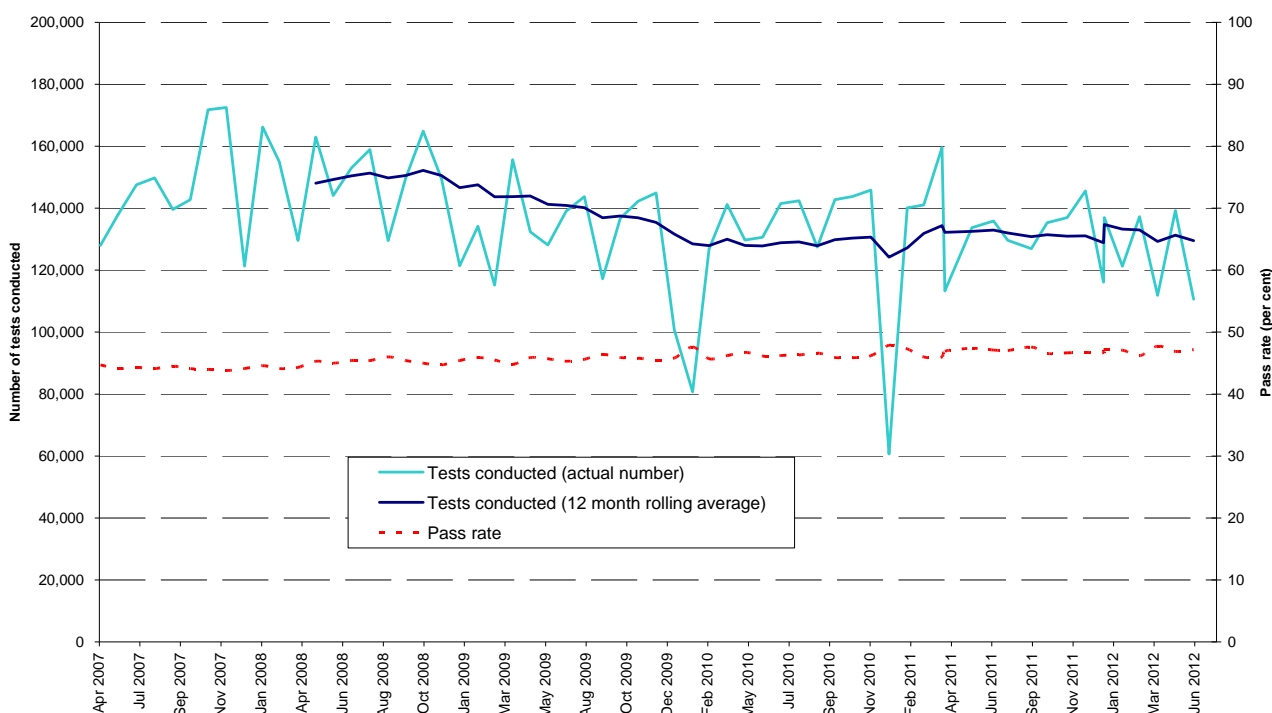
1. General trends

- There are a number of factors that affect how many tests are conducted: common ones are the economic climate influencing candidate behaviour; changes in the testing regime generating surges in tests; and weather conditions at each test centre. In general, the number of tests conducted in December through to February each year is lower than the other months. This is because the weather is often worse during these months, lowering the demand for tests, and reducing the number of tests that are conducted. This leads to a redistribution of tests in the following months.
- A total of 410,778 tests were conducted across all test categories¹ between April and June 2012 (Q1 2012/13). This is a decrease of 4.9 per cent in comparison with the same quarter in 2011/12. This reduction is likely to have been due to the continuing economic situation and the Jubilee long weekend at the beginning of June 2012.

2. Practical car tests

Practical car tests: Great Britain, April 2007 to June 2012

(Driving and Riding Tests web table DRT0201)



- There were 361,670 practical car driving tests were conducted in quarter 1 2012/13. This was 5.5 per cent lower than the same period in the previous year. As discussed above, this probably relates to the continuing economic situation and to the Jubilee long weekend.
- The overall practical car test pass rate was unchanged since quarter 1 2011/12 at just over 47

per cent. The pass rate has remained stable for both genders over this time period.

- The number of tests taken by females is higher than for males largely due to females having a lower pass rate than males. The male pass rate in quarter 1 2012/13 remained higher than the female at 50.7 and 44.0 per cent respectively. In most years the male pass rate is about 6 to 6.5 percentage points higher than the female pass rate.

3. Practical motorcycle tests (Module 1 and 2)

- There were 18,057 Module 1 motorcycle tests in quarter 1 2012/13. This represents a 3.5 per cent fall compared to the same quarter in 2011/12.
- The number of Module 2 tests taken was 16,800, a 2.7 per cent increase over the same period.
- Over 87 per cent of all Module 1 motorcycle tests since April 2009 have been undertaken by men. This rises to 91 per cent of all Module 2 tests.
- The pass rate for Module 1 increased 1.9 percentage points to 72 per cent while the Module 2 pass rate fell by 0.8 percentage points to 68.1 per cent in quarter 1 2012/13 compared to the same quarter in 2011/12.
- The female pass rate for Module 1 tests remained static when compared to quarter 1 in the previous year, however the Module 2 female pass rate fell by 2.6 percentage points to 65.3 per cent in the same time frame.
- The male pass rate for Module 1 increased by 2.2 percentage points to 74.3 per cent in quarter 1 2012/13 compared to the same quarter in the previous year. For Module 2, the male pass rate fell by 0.6 percentage points to 68.4 per cent over this period.

4. Practical large goods vehicle (LGV) tests

- There were 11,807 LGV tests in quarter 1 2012/13, very similar to quarter 1 2011/12.
- Although numbers of LGV tests have increased since 2010/11, the levels are still well below those of 2007 and 2008. It is likely that the prevailing economic situation has led to fewer people undertaking commercial vehicle tests. Although the decreases are not as marked, this pattern reflects the trends in both heavy goods vehicle traffic* and vehicle licensing statistics†, and as the number of vehicles and distance driven have fallen there will have been a corresponding fall in the need for newly-qualified drivers.
- As with motorcycles, the vast majority of LGV tests are taken by men. In quarter 1 2012/13 92.7 per cent of tests were taken by men, representing a slight reduction from 93.7 per cent in quarter 1 2011/12.
- The pass rate over this period increased by 0.4 percentage points to 51.8 per cent, with a marginal increase for both genders.

5. Practical passenger carrying vehicle (PCV) tests

- There were 2,444 PCV tests carried out in quarter 1 2012/13, a 14.1 per cent increase compared to the same quarter in the previous year, however numbers of PCV tests remain below the quarter 1 2008/09 peak. As with the LGV tests, it is likely that the pattern since the peak has been partially influenced by the wider economic situation and, similarly, it reflects the decrease in the number of licensed buses and coaches that has been seen since the peak in 2005**.
- The overall pass rate for the quarter was 50.8 per cent, an increase of 1.4 percentage points on quarter 1 2011/12.
- Similarly to LGV tests, most PCV tests (83.3 per cent) were taken by men. The pass rate for females taking the test was slightly higher than that for males at 53.7 per cent and 50.3 per cent respectively.
- The female pass rate represents a decrease of 6.4 percentage points compared to quarter 1 in the previous year, while the male pass rate has increased by 0.6 percentage points.

6. Approved Driving Instructor (ADI) tests

- There were 1,432 ADI Part 2 tests conducted in quarter 1 2012/13, a 38.6 per cent reduction compared to the same period in 2011/12. ADI Part 3 tests also saw a steep decline of 30.1 per

* www.dft.gov.uk/statistics/releases/road-traffic-estimates-2011/

† www.dft.gov.uk/statistics/releases/vehicle-licensing-statistics-q1-2012/

** <http://www.dft.gov.uk/statistics/releases/annual-bus-statistics-201011/>

cent from 2,436 tests in quarter 1 2011/12 to 1,702 tests in 2012/13. Again, it is likely that current economic conditions are likely to be influencing the number of tests that are taken.

- The Part 2 pass rate fell by 2.7 percentage points to 51.5 per cent in quarter 1 2012/13 when compared to quarter 1 2011/12. The Part 3 pass rate rose slightly by 0.7 percentage points to 32.7 per cent.
- As with the vocational driving tests, ADI tests are dominated by male candidates. In quarter 1 2012/13, 70.2 per cent of Part 2 tests and 75.4 per cent of Part 3 tests were taken by men.

7. Driving and riding instructors

- At the end of quarter 1 2012/13 there were 46,313 ADIs on the Register. Over the quarter, 553 new ADIs joined the register and 557 new trainee licences were issued (trainee licences are issued following a successful application by a potential driving instructor after they have passed their Part 2 test); these latest figures represent decreases of 40.5 and 46.4 per cent respectively on the same quarter in the previous year.
- Alongside the ADIs, there were 2,849 riding instructors on the Statutory Register at end of the quarter. This represents a decrease of 11.5 per cent on quarter 1 2011/12.
- During the quarter, 3,556 check tests were conducted on ADIs. At the point of their last check test, 56 per cent of all ADIs scored a grade four, 37 per cent a grade five and 6 per cent a grade six[‡]. No ADI scored a grade one and just under 1 per cent scored a grade three.
- Compulsory basic test (CBT) instructors also undergo check tests. Of the 151 tests undertaken during the quarter, 124 (82%) resulted in a satisfactory marking.
- 23 new approved off-road CBT sites were approved in Great Britain in this quarter. Overall there has been a decrease in the number of sites since quarter 1 2011/12 from 1,524 to 1,493.

[‡] Grades run from 1 – extremely poor overall performance, to 6 – very high overall performance

8. Background notes

1. Test categories included are B (car), B1 (tricycles and quadricycles), A, A1 and A2 (motorcycles), C, C1 (medium and large goods vehicles), C+E, C1+E (medium/large goods vehicles with trailers), D, D1 (minibuses and buses), D+E and D1+E (minibuses / buses with trailers). It does not include ADI Part 2 and Part 3.
2. The [Driver and Rider Tests and Instructors](#) 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?orderby=title&post_type=table&series=driving-tests-and-instructors
3. These official statistics are not designated National Statistics. They are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.
4. Details of ministers and officials who receive pre-release access to these statistics up to 24 hours before release can be found in the [Pre-release access list](#).
5. All of the DRT tables are provisional until the end of the current financial year. Figures for every month in the current financial year are subject to minor revision until they are made final in the June publication. Some of the figures presented in this publication for 2011/12 have been revised slightly since first publication in February and are now final.
6. The Driving Standards Agency also publishes data by test centre. These datasets can be accessed through the [Driver and Rider Tests and Instructors](#) web page.
7. Additional data on ethnicity of candidates is available at <http://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/driving-riding-tests-data>. This information is not being published as part of the statistical release as only circa 30 per cent of candidates declare their ethnicity.
8. Additional data on driving licences held by the DVLA will be released via www.data.gov.uk. This information is not being published as part of the statistical release as it is not possible to distinguish whether licence holders are using their licenses, still in the country, or still alive. Neither the DVLA nor DfT would recommend that users rely on these data being a true reflection of the number of driving license holders or number of drivers in the UK. The data are provided simply for information and as they are frequently requested under the Freedom of Information Act.