

Notes to individual tables

A list of the 2009 format table numbers can be found in the index sheet of all Road Safety Statistics tables

RAS10002 – The traffic data used to calculate the accident rates was revised for all years in this series in 2011.

RAS10004 – The total number of accidents is classified according to the number of each severity of injury resulting from them.

RAS10006 – “Raining” includes drizzle, hail and sleet not tending to build up a deposit. “Snowing” includes sleet building up a deposit. “Fog” does not include light mist if it does not constitute a driving hazard on the road where the accident occurred.

RAS10008 – Carriageway hazards are recorded as such, whether or not the animal or object concerned was hit and whether or not its presence is known to have contributed to the accident. “Other object in carriageway” comprises those not expected to be found in the carriageway; it does not include permanent features such as a bollard or pedestrian refuge. “Animal in carriageway” includes led animals, but not ridden horses which are recorded separately on the accident statistics report.

RAS10009 – An accident is considered to be at a junction if it is within 20 metres of an intersection or roundabout. Grade separated crossings (by bridge or underpass) are not junctions. “Roundabout” includes mini-roundabout junctions, “T junction” includes slip roads joining dual carriageways. “Crossroads” includes only junctions where the alignments of both of the roads are uninterrupted, whatever the angle of the crossing, i.e. the arms are not staggered. If there is more than one junction within 20 metres of the accident, the nearest is coded.

RAS10010 – This table only covers accidents where one vehicle is involved. It does not cover accidents involving two or more vehicles.

RAS10011 – In column 6, “other combination” means that at least one of the vehicles involved is not a car.

RAS20001 – See note to RAS10002

RAS20003 – This table shows the number of vehicles involved in fatal, serious, and slight accidents and data for other vehicles (i.e. taxis and minibuses) that usually come within the definition of a “car” in this publication.

RAS20005 – Although pedal cycles are occasionally reported as having been involved in accidents on motorways, no attempt is made to estimate cycle traffic on motorways or to calculate corresponding rates. In other cells of the table, the rates are subject to uncertainty because of the small number of involvements (see RAS20004) and because the traffic estimates are based on a small number of counting points.

RAS20007 – “Skidded” does not include vehicles which also jack-knifed. A vehicle which, as a result of the accident, was at any time on its roof, side, front or rear is recorded as having overturned, even though it may have come to rest on its wheels.

RAS20008 – In all cases the manoeuvres are those being performed immediately before the accident. For definition of “at a junction” see note to RAS10009.

RAS20010 – The journey purpose of around three quarters of drivers/riders of non-commercial vehicles is either classified as “other” or “unknown”. These two categories cannot be separated although changes to the collection of data may make this possible in the future. It is therefore likely that, for example, the number of work trips is under-reported.

RAS30013 – See note to RAS10002

RAS30015 – See note to RAS10016

RAS30017 – The table gives the number of casualties in accidents involving different types of vehicle. As a large proportion of accidents involve two or more vehicles, not necessarily of the same type, many casualties will be counted in two or more columns of this table. Pedestrian casualties are included under each type of vehicle involved in the accident. For example (first row, under the heading “Car”), 304 road users were killed in accidents on built-up A roads in which a car was involved.

RAS30018 – The casualty rates, for a particular type of vehicle, have been calculated by dividing the number of user or pedestrian casualties by the total amount of traffic estimated for the particular type of vehicle on a particular class of road.

RAS30019 – This table shows the number of casualties in fatal, serious, and slight accidents for each of the road user types listed and these are further split by drivers or riders and passengers.

RAS30020 – Casualty rates are calculated by dividing the number of casualties of each road user type by the total number of vehicle miles or kilometres travelled by that vehicle type each month. In calculating rates, no allowance has been made for the number of persons per vehicle, which may vary from month to month.

The table shows separate monthly casualties in respect of motorcycles and passenger car users as distinct from the remainder of the “car” category. Monthly rates are only possible for the groups shown.

RAS30027 – A “zebra” crossing has broad black and white stripes on the road and orange flashing beacons. A “pelican” or “puffin” crossing has lights controlling the traffic including a flashing amber phase, and lights controlling pedestrians (or pedestrians and cyclist/horse riders) including a flashing “green man” phase. This category also includes any crossing with traffic lights which is not a pelican/puffin/toucan crossing but which has an indicator light for pedestrians only. “Light controlled junction (with pedestrian phase)” is any crossing with traffic lights at a junction, with a “green man phase” or other indicator light for pedestrians, this does not include normal traffic signals with pedestrian stud crossing points but no special indicator lights for pedestrians. Crossings with “human control” are those controlled by school crossing (“lollipop”) patrols and other authorised persons (police, traffic wardens).

RAS30030 – Replaces the previous version based on the variable “School Pupil Casualty”. This was withdrawn following the 2008 Review of Personal Injury Road Accident Statistics as analyses suggested that it was frequently not completed correctly,

making it unreliable for research purposes. The current table reports the number of child casualties which occur during term time (based on local authority term dates) and in the hours in which children may be expected to be making a journey to or from school, although the actual reason for the journey cannot be certain.

RAS30035 – This table compares the number of registered road deaths (as published by the Registrars General) with all accidental deaths and with deaths from all causes (both of which include registered road deaths). Road deaths published by the Registrars General are based on the date of death as opposed to the date of death registration. They differ from the STATS19 figures that are restricted to deaths within 30 days of an accident. Year to year fluctuations occur due to time lags between accident and death and registration of death.

RAS30037 – See note to RAS20010

RAS30040 and **RAS41003** – See note to RAS10002

RAS40001 – The completeness of reporting for slight injuries may vary over such a long time period. The reporting rate is especially influenced by public attitudes about reporting to the police, and the police awareness of the requirement to collect a defined long range of slight injury accidents.

RAS40002 – The casualties in columns 3 to 6 are those resulting from the accidents in column 1. They are classified by severity of injury suffered by the casualty (columns) and by the severity of accident, i.e. of the most severely injured casualty in the accident (rows).

RAS40003 – Provides for each speed limit in common use, the number of accidents and casualties on major roads - motorways (including A(M) roads) and A roads - and on minor roads. An accident on a road with any other limit is included with those of the next higher limit.

RAS40004 – Columns 1 and 2 give, for each vehicle type, the number of accidents in which only one such vehicle was involved, showing the user casualties and any pedestrian casualties involved; e.g, in the All Areas table, 576 accidents involved only a pedal cycle, giving rise to 579 cyclist casualties (riders and passengers); a further 369 accidents also involved 374 pedestrian casualties as well as 109 cyclist casualties.

Columns 3 to 10 analyse two-vehicle accidents according to both vehicle types, also giving, by severity of injury, the casualties for the users of the vehicle class defined on the left (under vehicle A) and pedestrians who were (first) hit by vehicles of that class. Thus 15,626 accidents involved a pedal cycle and a car, resulting in 15,472 pedal cyclist casualties and 21 pedestrian casualties hit by the pedal cycle. The car user casualties and pedestrians hit by cars, in these same accidents, appear in the fourth group of column 3. Where both vehicles are of the same class, the casualties refer to those deriving from both vehicles, e.g. 86 accidents involved two pedal cycles with 111 cyclist casualties with 2 pedestrians hit by one or other pedal cycle.

Column 11 shows the total number of two vehicle accidents for the vehicle class defined on the left (under vehicle A).

Column 12 includes all accidents involving 3 or more vehicles, at least one of which is of the class on the left (under vehicle A), together with casualties associated with that class in such accidents; e.g. 544 such accidents involved at least one pedal cycle, with 591 cyclist casualties but with no pedestrians involved. Other casualties in these accidents would appear against the other vehicle classes concerned.

Column 13 is the sum of columns 1, 2, 11, and 12. In multi-vehicle accidents, the accidents (but not casualties) are multi-counted; e.g. the total number of accidents involving goods vehicles is the sum of involving 12,238 light goods vehicles (LGV) and 6,709 heavy goods vehicles (HGV) less the 276 accidents which involved both an HGV and a LGV and less any of the 3 or more vehicle accidents which involved at least one of each.

RAS40005 – This table shows the number of vehicles involved in accidents and (where applicable) the number which were Left Hand Drive, the number of accidents involving these vehicles and casualties arising from these accidents.

RAS51002 – The figures relate to drivers (or riders) of cars, motor vehicles and motorcycles involved in accidents, whether or not the driver was a casualty. The first line gives the number of all such drivers of accident involved vehicles, including those who were not with their vehicles or not contacted by the police, as well as cases where injury or circumstances would have prevented a breath test. The second line gives the number required to take a breath test near the place of the accident, or at a hospital in the case of a casualty admitted there as a patient, provided the doctor in charge of the patient has not objected; it does not include breath tests at a police station following an arrest. The fourth line gives the number of positive tests, which indicated a breath alcohol concentration in excess of 35 micrograms per 100 millilitres of blood, plus the number of drivers required to provide a breath test who either refused or failed to provide a specimen of breath. No account is taken of whether or not a possible second breath test, or blood or urine test, confirmed the results, and whether or not a prosecution followed.

RAS51003 and ras51004 – See note to RAS51002 for the coverage of breath test data. The small number of breath tests which have been recorded as carried out on pedal cyclists have been excluded.

RAS52001 – Provisional 2011 fatality and fatality rates per million population have been included together with 2010 data.

RAS53001 – There have been a number of small changes due to revisions in road traffic and rail usage data to this table, but these have had little effect on the comparisons of the different modes.

For rail, the figures in this table have been sourced from the Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB). In versions of this table published in previous years they were based on casualties recorded by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) within a database called SIGNAL. Data from previous years have been revised to the RSSB figures to provide a consistent time series.

For Maritime, the latest table contains revisions to various years data between 2000 and 2006. For further details see the Annual Report by the Marine Accident Investigations Branch at www.maib.gov.uk.

For Pedestrians, exposure is calculated using trip data from the National Travel Survey (NTS). There is an apparent under-recording of short walks in 2002-2003 and in 2007-2008 compared to other years. See section 1 of National Travel Survey 2008 Bulletin at: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/personal/mainresults/nts2008/> For 2011 data, 2010 NTS data is used together with projected 2011 population data.

Passenger casualty rates given in the table can be interpreted as the risk a traveller runs of being injured, per billion kilometres travelled. The coverage varies for each mode of travel and the definitions of injuries and accidents are different. Thus care should be exercised in drawing comparisons between the rates for different modes. Further information can be found in article 7 of RCGB 2007 (page 79).

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110503151558/http://dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/accidents/casualtiesgbar/roadcasualtiesgreatbritain20071>

The table provides information on passenger casualties and where possible travel by drivers and other crew in the course of their work has been excluded. Exceptions are for private journeys and those in company owned cars and vans where drivers are included.

Figures for all modes of transport exclude confirmed suicides and deaths through natural causes. Figures for air, rail and water exclude trespassers and rail excludes attempted suicides. Accidents occurring in airports, seaports and railway stations that do not directly involve the mode of transport concerned are also excluded; for example, injuries sustained on escalators or falling over packages on platforms.

The following definitions are used:

Air: Accidents involving UK registered airline aircraft in UK and foreign airspace. Fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft are included but air taxis are excluded. Accidents cover UK airline aircraft around the world not just in the UK.

Rail: Train accidents and movement accidents involving people on board trains or in the act of boarding or alighting from them in Great Britain. These figures only cover National Rail, and do not cover accidents on Eurotunnel, London Underground, trams, other rail guided systems and trolley vehicle systems.

Water: Figures for travel by water include both domestic and international passenger carrying services of UK registered merchant vessels.

Road: Figures refer to Great Britain and include accidents occurring on the public highway (including footways) in which at least one road vehicle or a vehicle in collision with a pedestrian is involved and which becomes known to the police within 30 days of its occurrence. Figures include both public and private transport. More information and analyses on road accidents and casualties can be found in Part 4: Road traffic, freight, accidents and motor vehicle offences.

Bus or coach: Figures for work buses are included.

Car: Includes taxis, invalid tricycles, three and four wheel cars and minibuses. Prior to 1999 motor caravans were also included.

Van: Vans mainly include vehicles of the van type constructed on a car chassis. These are defined as those vehicles not over 3.5 tonnes maximum permissible gross vehicle weight.

Motorcycles: Mopeds, motor scooters and two-wheeled motor vehicles (including motor cycle combinations).

Pedal cycle: Includes tandems, tricycles and toy cycles ridden on the carriageway.

Pedestrian: Includes persons riding toy cycles on the footway, persons pushing bicycles, pushing or pulling other vehicles or operating pedestrian controlled vehicles, those leading or herding animals, occupants of prams or wheelchairs, and people who alight safely from vehicles and are subsequently injured.