



Driver and Rider Test and Instructor Statistics, Great Britain: October to December 2012

This publication presents information on the number and pass rates of driving and riding practical tests conducted in Great Britain in the period from October to December 2012. It also includes statistics from the Approved Driving Instructor (ADI) register and the Integrated Register of Driver Trainers.

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 Practical Test and Instructor Statistics: October to December 2012 (Quarter 3 2012/13) include:

- A total of 430,765 tests were conducted across all test categories¹ between October and December 2012. This is a decrease of 1.4 per cent in comparison to the same period last year.
- The reduction in the number of tests conducted between October and December 2012 is likely to have been due to the continuing economic situation. Data from the National Travel Survey shows a clear downward trend in the number of young adults (aged 17-20) holding full licences since the economic downturn began in 2008.
- There is also likely to have been some impact due to bad weather. There was widespread disruptive flooding in Britain during December 2012, which saw the lowest number of practical car tests conducted in a single month for almost three years.
- An increase in the pass rate has also affected the number of tests being taken, as fewer retakes are necessary.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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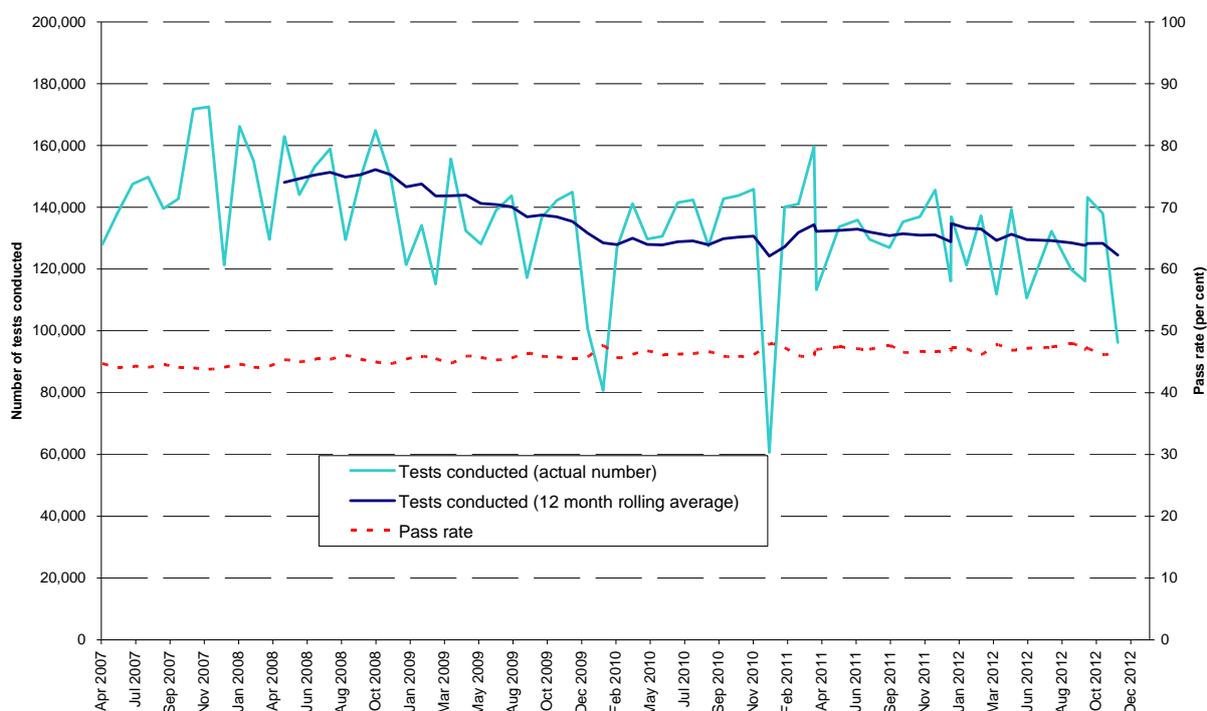
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1. Practical car tests

Practical car tests: Great Britain, April 2007 to December 2013

(Driving and Riding Tests web table DRT0201)



- There were 377,444 car tests conducted from October to December 2012. This is a 5.3 per cent decrease on the same quarter last year.
- Of the three months in the quarter, December showed the greatest change; tests conducted were 17.1 per cent lower than the same month last year.
- The pass rate for this quarter, 46.7 per cent, is equal to the same period last year. This is 0.4 percentage points lower than the year-to-date pass rate.

2. Practical motorcycle tests (Module 1 and 2)

With effect from 19 January 2013, changes were introduced to motorcycle rider testing as part of implementing the EU 3rd Driving Licence Directive. For more details please follow link to the notes and definitions given in Section 7 of this release. The Data for January 2013 have been included in this quarterly publication to allow an initial assessment of the effect of these changes on motorcycle test numbers.

- There were 19,722 module 1 motorcycle tests conducted between October and December 2012. This represents a 68.9 per cent increase on the same quarter a year ago.
- There were 19,688 module 2 motorcycle tests conducted, which is a 48.6 per cent increase on the same period in 2011.

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- During the period from 1 to 18 January (under the previous testing arrangements), there were 2,680 module 1 and 4,433 module 2 motorcycle tests conducted, an average of 149 module 1 and 246 module 2 tests per day.
 - During the period from 19 to 31 January (under the new testing arrangements), there were 349 module 1 and 474 module 2 motorcycle tests conducted, an average of 27 module 1 and 36 module 2 tests per day.
 - Initial motorcycle test volumes have therefore been much lower under the new arrangements than under the previous arrangements, and it appears that the increases in test numbers in the final months of 2012 were in anticipation of the change in arrangements in January 2013.
 - The module 1 pass rate for October to December 2012 fell marginally by 0.3 percentage points to 69.3 per cent compared to the same quarter last year.
 - The pass rate for module 2 fell by 1 percentage point to 68.6 per cent over the same period.
 - The module 1 pass rate for women fell by 2.2 percentage points to 51.2 percent from October to December 2012 compared to a year earlier. The module 2 pass rate for women rose 0.6 percentage points over the same period.
 - The module 1 pass rate for men increased marginally by 0.1 percentage points to 71.9 per cent from October to December 2012 compared to a year earlier. The module 2 pass rate fell by 1.1 per to 68.7 per cent over the same period.

3. Practical large goods vehicle (LGV) tests

- In total there were 11,680 LGV tests conducted from October to December 2012. This is 3.4 per cent more tests than the same quarter last year.
- Only 6.8 per cent of LGV tests were taken by women and the pass rate from October to December 2012 was 49.6 per cent. This is 4.5 percentage points lower than the same period last year.
- The pass rate for men was 53.9 per cent from October to December 2012, an increase of 1.1 percentage points when compared to the same quarter last year.

4. Practical passenger carrying vehicle (PCV) tests

- There was an 8 per cent increase (172 tests) increase to 2,231 tests conducted in the last three months of 2012 compared to the same quarter last year.
- The pass rate for women increased by 2 percentage points to 58.9 per cent in the last three months of 2012 compared to the same time period a year ago. The pass rate for men fell 2 percentage points to 51.9 per cent over the same period.

5. Approved Driving Instructor (ADI) tests

- There were 1,135 ADI part 2 tests conducted from October to December 2012, this is a 31 per cent reduction compared to the same period last year. ADI part 3 tests for the same time period also saw a steep decline of 39 per cent from 2,146 tests in the final three months of 2011 to 1,314 tests in the final three months of 2012.
- ADI part 2 pass rate has seen a rise of 3.1 percentage points to 54.1 per cent from October to December 2012 compared to the same quarter last year. The pass rate for the part 3 test saw a 2.5 percentage point increase to 32 percent for the same time period.

6. Driving and riding instructors

- At the end of December 2012, there were 45,387 approved driving instructors on the Register. This is 2.6% less than the number registered at the end of December in 2011. In contrast to this trend, the number of first applications to become a potential driving instructor has increased by 1.9% when compared to the same period last year; this will be offset in the annual figures as there was a fall of 14.8% between July and September in 2012.
- Alongside the ADIs, there were 2,497 riding instructors on the Statutory Register at end of the year.
- Between October and December 2012, 4,664 check tests were conducted on ADIs. This is an increase of 21% when compared with the same period in the previous year. At the end of December 2012, 55 per cent of all ADIs scored a grade four, 37 per cent a grade five and 6.5 per cent a grade six¹. No ADI scored a grade one and just over 1 per cent scored a grade two or three.
- Compulsory basic test (CBT) instructors also undergo check tests. Of the 161 tests undertaken between October and December 2012, 143 (88%) resulted in a satisfactory result.

7. 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).
2. The [Driver and Rider Tests and Instructors](#) web page provides further detail of the key findings presented in this statistical release.
3. Notes and definitions and a statement of administrative sources can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/technical-guidance-for-transport-stats#driving-tests-and-instructors-statistics>
4. 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.
5. 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](#).
6. The Driving Standards Agency also publishes data by test centre. These datasets can be accessed at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/driving-standards-agency/about/statistics>.
7. The next release of statistics will be published on 27 July 2013 and will provide quarter 4 data.
8. Additional data on ethnicity of candidates is available on www.data.gov.uk. This information is not being published as part of the statistical release as only circa 30 per cent of candidates declare their ethnicity. It is, therefore, highly likely that the information is subject to self-selection and –reporting biases and neither the DSA nor DfT would recommend that users rely on these data being a true reflection of the ethnicity of all candidates. The data are being provided simply for information and as they are frequently request under the Freedom of Information Act. A full link to these data will be provided in the July supplementary release.

ⁱ 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).

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