

Reported Road Casualties in Great Britain: Quarterly Provisional Estimates Q3 2012

Statistical Release

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Department
for Transport

Reported Road Casualties in Great Britain: Quarterly Provisional Estimates 2012 Q3

Reported Road Casualties in Great Britain: Quarterly Provisional Estimates is a series providing estimates of personal-injury road accidents on public accidents (including footways) and their casualties which became known to the police within 30 days. This publication contains statistics for the year ending September 2012.

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/series/road-accidents-and-safety/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 January 2013.



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The key findings from the Quarterly Provisional Estimates 2012 Q3 include:

- For reported road accidents in the year ending September 2012, there were 1,760 fatalities, a 7 per cent drop from the year ending September 2011 figure (1,883). However, the number of people killed or seriously injured rose to 24,860, a 2 per cent increase compared with the year ending September 2011 figure (24,473).
- Both pedestrian and all road user child KSIs (ages 0-15) fell by 1 per cent between the years ending September 2011 and 2012.
- The number of fatal accidents on major roads (motorways and A roads) fell by 9 per cent and the number of fatal or serious accidents fell by 2 per cent. However, fatal and serious accidents rose by 5 per cent on minor roads
- There were a total number of 197,730 casualties from 146,980 accidents in the year ending September 2012. These figures represent a 3 per cent fall from the year ending September 2011 for both casualties (from 204,211) and accidents (from 151,162).
- In comparison, motor vehicle traffic levels rose by 0.2 per cent compared with 12 month period ending September 2011.

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1. Comparison of rolling years, by road user type and road type

- The total number of people killed in road accidents that have been reported to the police in the year ending September 2012 was 1,760. This is a 7 per cent drop from the 1,883 people killed in the year ending September 2011. However, in comparison, the number of killed and seriously injured (KSI) casualties rose to 24,860, 2 per cent higher than in the year ending September 2011 (24,473).
- Vulnerable road user (pedestrians, pedal and motor cyclists) killed or seriously injured (KSI) casualties showed overall increases of 6, 8 and 4 per cent respectively compared with the year ending September 2011. This is largely due to substantial increases in reported accidents for all three vulnerable road user groups in 2011 Q4 and 2012 Q1, relative to 2010 Q4 and 2011 Q1, resulting in an overall increase across the rolling year.
- The total number of pedestrian and car user casualties fell from the year ending September 2011 to the year ending September 2012 by 2 per cent and 5 per cent respectively; conversely, the total number of pedal cyclist and motorcyclist casualties each rose by 4 per cent over the same period.
- Both pedestrian and all road user child KSIs (ages 0-15) fell by 1 per cent between the years ending September 2011 and 2012. In total, there were 2,360 child KSIs in the year ending September 2012, of whom 1,590 were pedestrians. The total number of child casualties fell by 10 per cent over this period.
- The number of fatal accidents on major roads (motorways and A roads) fell by 9 per cent and the number of fatal or serious accidents fell by 2 per cent. However, fatal and serious accidents rose by 5 per cent on minor roads (and similarly 5 per cent on built-up roads), which is concurrent to the rise in number of KSI pedestrian and pedal cyclist casualties observed between the year ending September 2011 and the year ending September 2012.
- There were 197,730 casualties from 146,980 separate accidents in the year ending September 2012. These figures represent a 3 per cent fall from the year ending September 2011 for both casualties (from 204,211) and accidents (151,162).

Table RAS45001: Reported road casualties by severity: GB year ending third quarter 2012

	Number/percentage change compared with previous 12 months and 2005-2009 average					
	2005-2009 average A	Oct-10 to Sep-11 B	Oct-11 to Sep-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	1,883	1,760	-38	-7	0.2
KSI ²	30,041	24,473	24,860	-17	2	0.2
Slightly injured	216,010	179,738	172,870	-20	-4	0.2
All casualties	246,050	204,211	197,730	-20	-3	0.2

P Provisional estimates

¹ Motor traffic (excludes pedal cycles)

² Killed or seriously injured

Chart RAS45012: Reported killed or seriously injured (KSI) casualties and motor vehicle traffic (billion miles), rolling four quarter totals: GB Q3 2003 – Q3 2012

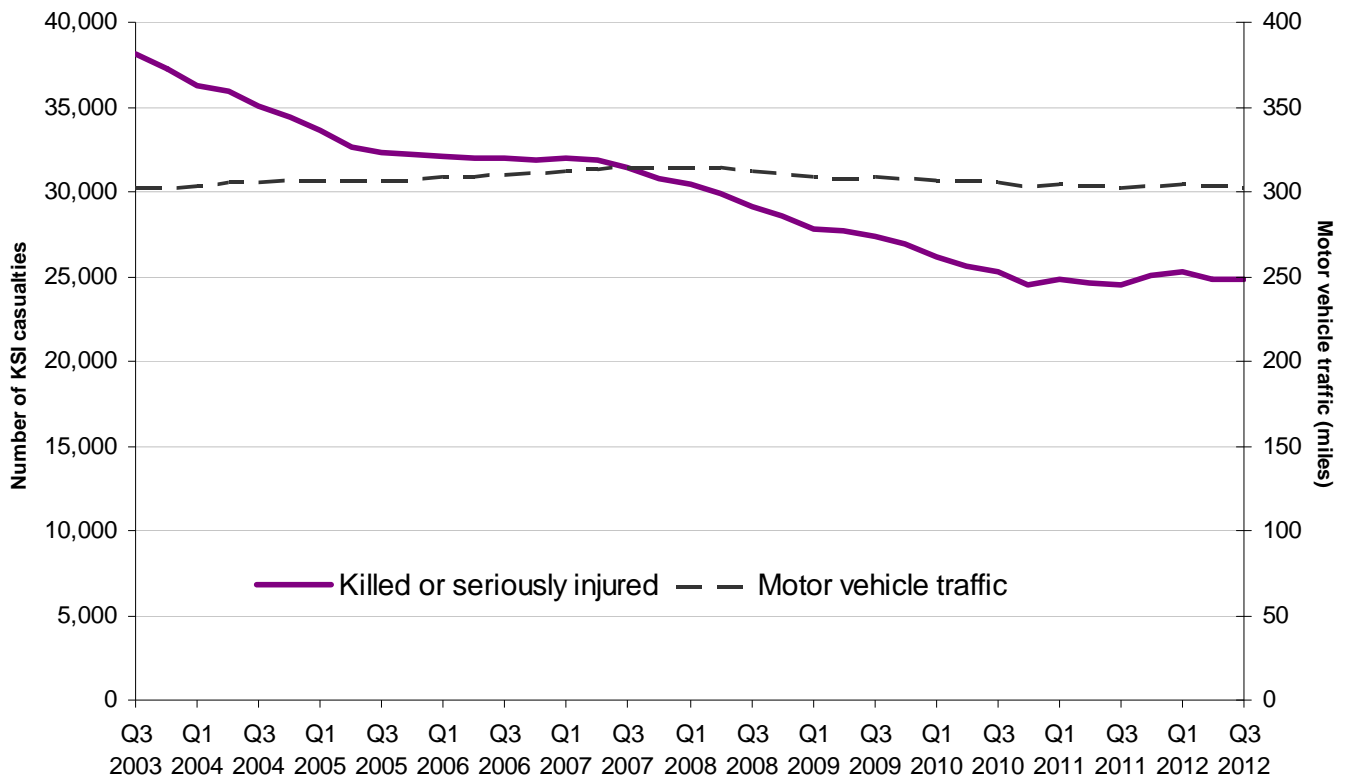
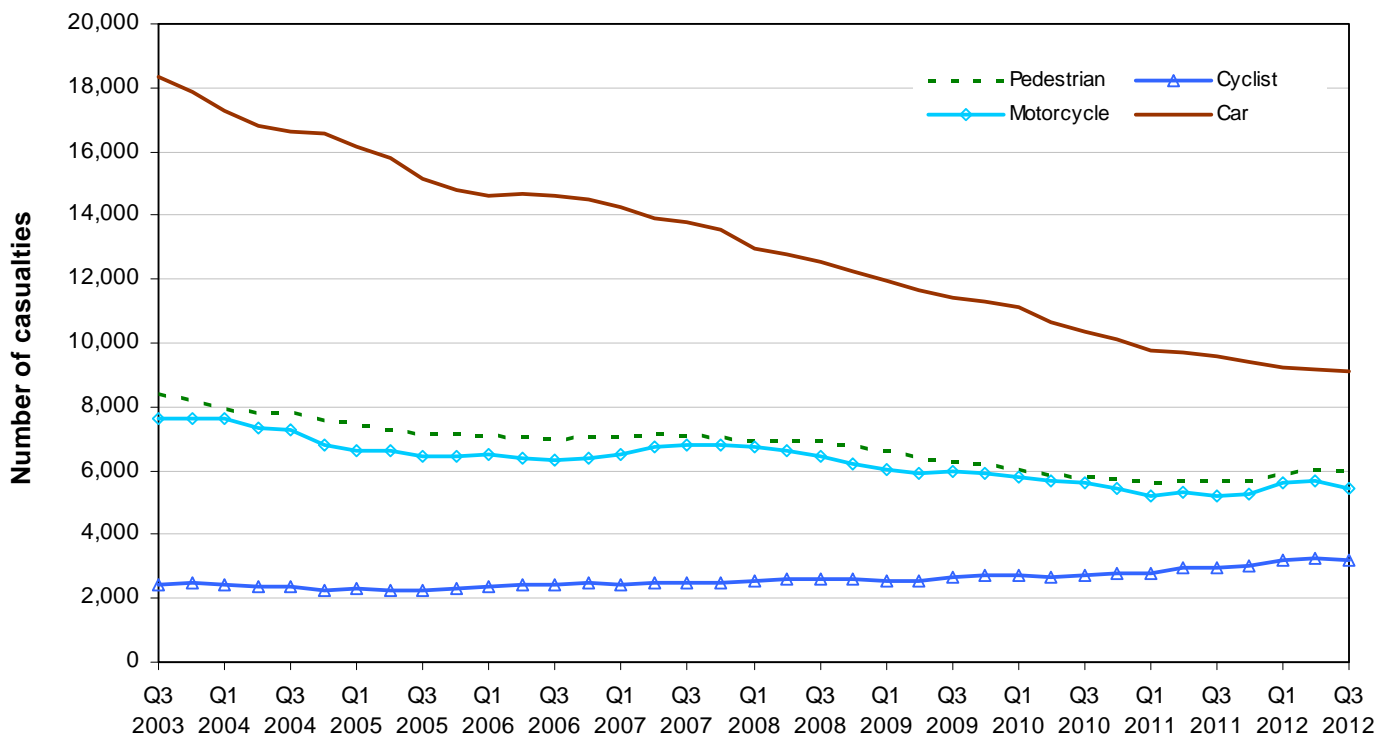


Chart RAS45013: Reported killed or seriously injured (KSI) road casualties by road user, rolling four quarter totals: GB Q3 2003 – Q3 2012



2. Comparison of quarter 3 results 2011 and 2012

- Four hundred and seventy people were killed in reported road accidents from July to September 2012, 5 per cent fewer than the third quarter of 2011 (494). Overall, the estimated total number of casualties fell by 3 per cent, though KSI casualties remained at roughly the same level. Some of the overall decreases may be due to reductions in traffic levels, with provisional figures showing a fall of 0.9 per cent in vehicle miles between 2011 Q3 and 2012 Q3.
- Although the overall number of KSI casualties remained at similar levels in 2011 Q3 and 2012 Q3, this masks a difference between road users. Pedestrian and pedal cyclists KSI numbers rose by 6 and 7 per cent respectively while motorcycle and car users fell by 2 and 6 per cent respectively.
- Comparisons of the total number of casualties between quarters differ from the KSI comparisons. Overall, the total number of casualties for all road users fell by 3 per cent between 2011 Q3 and 2012 Q3. The number of pedestrians and motorcycle user casualties moved in opposite directions to the KSI totals, with a 3 per cent fall in pedestrian casualties and a 1 per cent rise in motorcycle user casualties.
- All child road casualties fell by 9 per cent, with child KSI casualties remaining roughly the same at around 660. However, child pedestrian KSIs rose by 8 per cent from 390 in 2011 Q3 to 420 in 2012 Q3.
- The total number of fatal accidents fell by 5 per cent from 465 in 2011 Q3 to 440 in 2012 Q3. The number of fatal or serious accidents also fell over the same period, and the total number of accidents fell by 2 per cent from 38,488 to 37,700.

Table RAS45002: Reported road casualties by severity for the third quarter 2012: Great Britain

	Number/percentage change compared with same quarter last year			
	Q3 2011 A	Q3 2012 (P) B	Percentage change (B-A)/A %	Traffic ¹ percentage change over same period
ALL CASUALTIES				
Killed	494	470	-5	-0.9
KSI ²	6,640	6,620	0	-0.9
Slightly injured	45,596	44,140	-3	-0.9
All casualties	52,236	50,770	-3	-0.9

P Provisional estimates

¹ Motor traffic (excludes pedal cycles)

² Killed or seriously injured

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. The 2012 Q3 results are based on complete (July to September 2012) figures provided by 50 police authorities. However, it is possible that some additional records will be received for this period after the publication date or some records removed / altered depending on the outcome of police investigations.

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://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20120801131304/http://www.dft.gov.uk/statistics/releases/road-accidents-and-safety-annual-report-2010/>

A revised estimate will be produced in the Reported Road Casualties Great Britain: 2012 Annual report later this year. This has been delayed until the NTS 2011 data are available.

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:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reported-road-casualties-great-britain-provisional-estimates-q3-2012>

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.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority will be reassessing these statistics in spring 2013. This will include seeking comments from users. Any user who wishes to provide comment for the assessment should contact the Road Safety Statistics Team who will help you get in touch with the assessment team.

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:

<https://www.gov.uk/transport-statistics-notes-and-guidance-road-accident-and-safety>