

# Reported Road Casualties in Great Britain: Quarterly Provisional Estimates Q1 2011

## Statistical Release

4 August 2011

Department for  
**Transport**

## Reported Road Casualties in Great Britain: Quarterly Provisional Estimates Q1 2011

This publication presents statistics on personal injury accidents in the year ending March 2011 on public roads (including footways) in Great Britain, which became known to the police within 30 days.

*Reported Road Casualties in Great Britain: Quarterly Provisional Estimates* is a series providing estimates of personal injury road accidents and their casualties. 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/releases/road-accidents-and-safety-quarterly-estimates-q1-2011/methodology-notes-quarterly-estimates.pdf>

Estimates are based on information reported to the Department for Transport 14 weeks after the end of the latest quarter. For this release figures are based on information available on 13th July 2011.



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### The key findings from the Quarterly Provisional Estimates Q1 2011 include:

- There were 1,870 people killed and 24,770 killed or seriously injured (KSI), in reported road accidents in the year ending March 2011. This represents a fall of 10 and 5 per cent respectively compared to the previous 12 month period.
- There were 208,150 casualties (slight injuries, serious injuries and fatalities), 5 per cent less than the year ending March 2010.
- Total reported child casualties (ages 0-15) fell by 3 per cent to 19,810 with those killed or seriously injured down 4 per cent (2,510), compared with the year ending March 2010.
- The number of injury road accidents reported to the police fell by 5 per cent (to 154,030) and the number of fatal accidents by 8 per cent (to 1,770) compared with the 12-month period ending March 2010.
- Motor vehicle traffic levels fell by 0.7 per cent compared to the 12 month period ending March 2010.

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## 1. Results by road user type

- Pedestrian, motorcycle and car user casualties reported to the police showed overall reductions of 1, 5 and 7 per cent respectively compared with the year ending March 2010. Pedestrian, motorcycle and car user casualties KSI also fell, by 3, 6 and 9 per cent respectively compared with the previous 12 months.
- However, the total number of reported pedal cycle casualties rose by 6 per cent, and the number killed or seriously injured rose by 10 per cent compared to the 12 month period ending March 2010.

## 2. A comparison of quarter 1 results 2010 and 2011.

- In January to March 2011 there were 440 people killed in reported road accidents a 6 per cent increase compared to the first quarter of 2010. The number killed or seriously injured also increased by 5 per cent but the total number of casualties fell by 1 per cent. Provisional estimates of road traffic show an increase of 1.8 per cent for the same period.
- The number of pedestrians, motorcyclists and pedal cyclist casualties all rose, by 4, 16 and 26 per cent respectively compared to quarter 1 2010. However the number of car occupant casualties fell by 7 per cent.
- The increases in levels of traffic and accidents in the first quarter of 2011 relative to the same period in 2010 are likely to be influenced by the heavy snowfall in the first quarter of 2010. The number of road traffic accidents in the first quarter 2010 was reduced compared to previous and subsequent years.

### Reported road casualties by severity: Great Britain year ending first quarter 2011 (Road Accident Safety web table RAS45001)

Number/percentage change compared to previous 12 months and 2005-2009 average

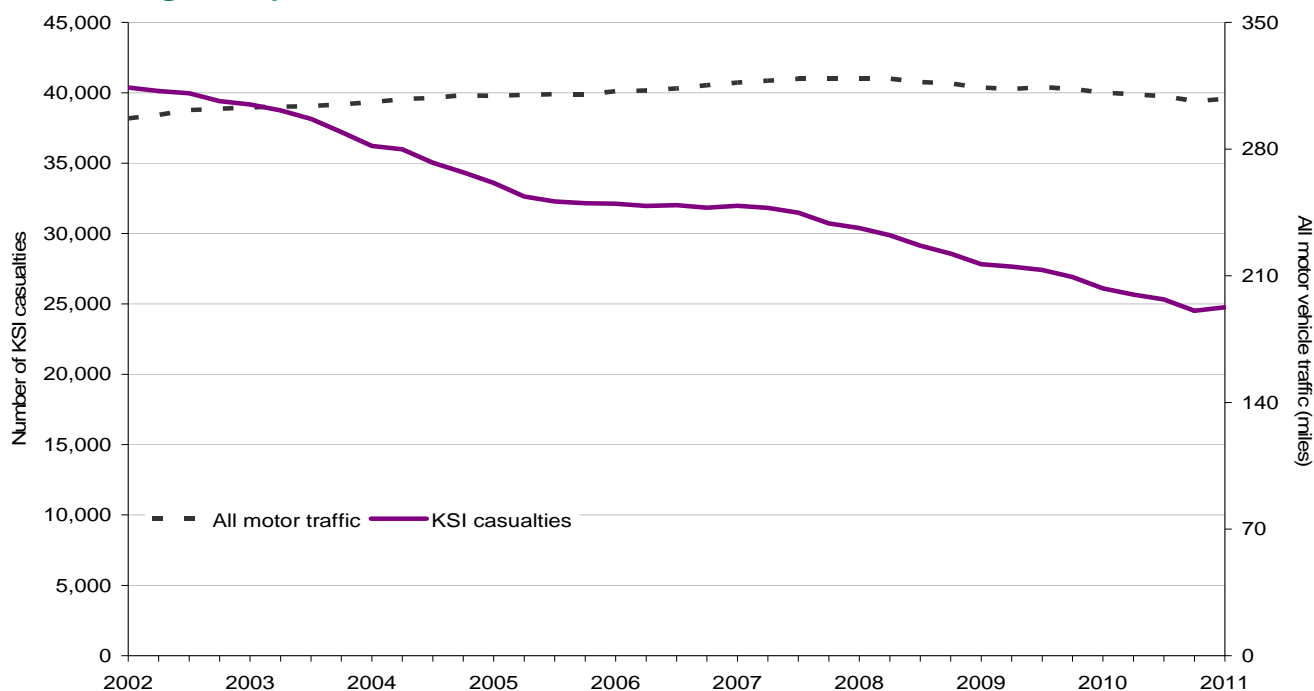
	2005-2009 average A	Apr-09 to Mar-10 B	Apr-10 to Mar-11 (P) C	Percentage change over 2005-2009 average (C-A)/A %	Percentage change over previous 12 months (C-B)/B %	Traffic <sup>1</sup> percentage change over previous 12 months
<b>ALL CASUALTIES</b>						
Killed	2,816	2,081	1,870	-34	-10	-0.7
KSI <sup>2</sup>	30,041	26,102	24,770	-18	-5	-0.7
Slightly injured	216,010	192,870	183,380	-15	-5	-0.7
All casualties	246,050	218,972	208,150	-15	-5	-0.7

P Provisional estimates

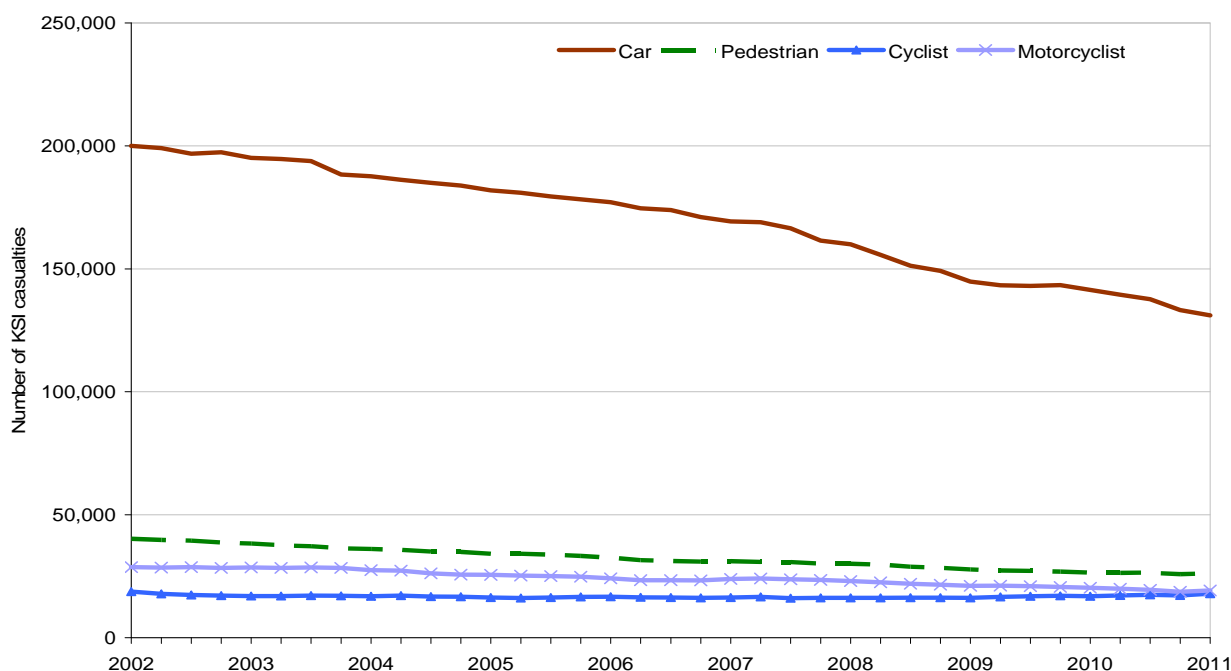
<sup>1</sup> Motor traffic (excludes pedal cycles)

<sup>2</sup> Killed or seriously injured

**Chart RAS45012- Reported killed or seriously injured casualties compared to motor vehicle miles, rolling four quarter totals: GB Q1 2002 - Q1 2011**



**Chart RAS45013 - Reported road casualties by road users, rolling four quarter totals: GB Q1 2002 - Q1 2011**



### 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 quarter-to-quarter fluctuations particularly in the smaller categories of road user.

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.

Our best estimate produced in 2010, 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 610 thousand to 780 thousand with a central estimate of 700 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 Article 5 (pages 61-68) of Reported Road Casualties Great Britain: 2009 Annual report, which can be found at:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110503151558/http://dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablepublications/accidents/casualtiesqbar/rrcgb2009>

A revised estimate will be produced later this year as part of the main analysis of 2010 road accident statistics.

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:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/statistics/releases/road-accidents-and-safety-quarterly-estimates-q1-2011>

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.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

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

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:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/statistics/series/road-accidents-and-safety/>