

# **ROAD CASUALTIES GREAT BRITAIN**

## **Main Results 1998**

**Department of the Environment,  
Transport and the Regions  
Statistics Bulletin (99) 18**

### **Note**

The statistics refer to personal injury accidents on public roads (including footways) which became known to the police. Figures for deaths refer to persons who sustained injuries which caused death less than 30 days after the accident. This is the usual international definition and differs from that used in other contexts by the Registrars General, whose published statistics cover all deaths on public roads, generally by date of registration.

More detailed statistics can be obtained from:-

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## **Symbols**

The following symbols have been used throughout.

- 0 Nil, or less than 0.5% change
- \* Percentage changes are not meaningful for unknown categories
- R Revised

The casualty figures for 1991 - 1997 have been revised slightly. Figures for fatalities remain unchanged from those previously published.

**SUMMARY**  
**CASUALTIES: 1998 FINAL DATA COMPARED WITH 1997 FINAL DATA**

- There were 3,421 road accident deaths in 1998 - a fall of 5 per cent on 1997
- There were 40,834 serious injuries, a fall of 5 per cent and 280,957 slight injuries, about the same as the 1997 level.
- Total casualties fell by 1 per cent to 325,212.
- Pedestrian casualties fell by 2 per cent. Pedal cyclist casualties fell by 7 per cent, while casualties of two-wheeled motor vehicle users remained at a similar level to 1997.
- Car user casualties were unchanged on the 1997 level although fatal and serious casualties fell by 6 per cent and 7 per cent respectively.

**CASUALTIES: 1998 FINAL DATA COMPARED WITH 1981-85 BASELINE AVERAGE**

In 1987 the then Secretary of State adopted a target to reduce road casualties by one third from the baseline average of casualties in 1981-85 by the year 2000.

- Fatalities and serious injuries are now 39 per cent and 45 per cent respectively below their baseline average. Slight injuries are 16 per cent above, and all casualties are 1 per cent above the baseline average.
- Pedestrian, pedal cyclist and two wheeled motor vehicle casualties are all below their 1981-85 baseline average, by 27 per cent, 19 per cent, and 62 per cent respectively.
- Car user casualties are 46 per cent above, although fatalities are 23 per cent down and serious injuries 30 per cent down on their baseline average. Car user slight casualties, which now account for around 67 per cent of all slightly injured casualties, have increased by 67 per cent since the baseline average, which is higher than car traffic growth of 60 per cent.

**Table 1: Casualties: by class of road user and severity: final data GB 1998:  
Comparison of 1998 with baseline average and 1997<sup>R</sup>**

	Number/percentage change				
	Baseline average (1981 - 1985)	1997 <sup>R</sup>	1998	Percent change over baseline	Percent change over 1997
<b>Pedestrians</b>					
Killed	1,863	973	906	-51	-7
Seriously injured	17,169	10,053	9,575	-44	-5
Slightly injured	42,710	34,575	34,405	-19	0
All casualties	61,742	45,601	44,886	-27	-2
<b>Pedal Cyclists<sup>1</sup></b>					
Killed	312	183	158	-49	-14
Seriously injured	5,711	3,409	3,154	-45	-7
Slightly injured	22,368	21,044	19,611	-12	-7
All casualties	28,391	24,636	22,923	-19	-7
<b>Two wheeled motor vehicle users</b>					
Killed	989	509	498	-50	-2
Seriously injured	19,714	5,937	5,944	-70	0
Slightly injured	44,490	18,046	18,168	-59	1
All casualties	65,193	24,492	24,610	-62	0
<b>Car users<sup>2</sup></b>					
Killed	2,198	1,795	1,696	-23	-6
Seriously injured	28,354	21,396	19,980	-30	-7
Slightly injured	113,392	188,257	188,798	67	0
All casualties	143,944	211,448	210,474	46	0
<b>Bus and Coach</b>					
Killed	32	14	18	-44	29
Seriously injured	939	587	613	-35	4
Slightly injured	9,211	8,838	9,208	0	4
All casualties	10,182	9,439	9,839	-3	4
<b>Goods vehicle</b>					
Killed	184	109	127	-31	17
Seriously injured	2,372	1,392	1,382	-42	-1
Slightly injured	8,640	9,277	9,607	11	4
All casualties	11,196	10,778	11,116	-1	3
<b>Other vehicle<sup>3</sup></b>					
Killed	21	16	18	-14	13
Seriously injured	272	210	186	-32	-11
Slightly injured	976	1,183	1,160	19	-2
All casualties	1,269	1,409	1,364	7	-3
<b>All road users</b>					
Killed	5,598	3,599	3,421	-39	-5
Seriously injured	74,533	42,984	40,834	-45	-5
Slightly injured	241,787	281,220	280,957	16	0
All casualties	321,919	327,803	325,212	1	-1

R Data has been revised.

1 Includes battery-powered cycles and tricycles.

2 Comprises invalid tricycles, other three-wheel cars, taxis, four wheel cars, minibuses and motor caravans.

3 Includes vehicles whose class was not reported.

**Table 2: Casualties: by class of road user and severity: final data: GB 1998**

Number/percentage change compared to 1997									
	Killed		Seriously injured		Slightly injured		All Casualties		Road Traffic
	Number	Percentage change	Number	Percentage change	Number	Percentage change	Number	Percentage change	Percentage change
<b>Pedestrians</b>									
Children: 0-15 years	103	-25	3,634	-5	14,234	-2	17,971	-2	
Adults: 16-59 years	381	-4	3,930	-5	14,962	0	19,273	-1	
60 and over	422	-3	1,859	-5	4,273	-3	6,554	-3	
Age not reported	0	*	152	*	936	*	1,088	*	
All casualties	906	-7	9,575	-5	34,405	0	44,886	-2	
<b>Pedal Cyclists</b>									
Children	32	-3	883	-10	6,015	-13	6,930	-12	
Adults	126	-16	2,219	-7	12,981	-5	15,326	-5	
Age not reported	0	*	52	*	615	*	667	*	
All casualties	158	-14	3,154	-7	19,611	-7	22,923	-7	-2
<b>Two wheeled motor vehicle users</b>									
Moped	10	-41	405	-2	1,979	11	2,394	8	
Motor scooter	7	0	142	23	652	30	801	28	
Motor cycle <sup>1</sup>	481	-1	5,397	0	15,537	-1	21,415	-1	
All casualties	498	-2	5,944	0	18,168	1	24,610	0	-2
<b>Other vehicle users</b>									
Car <sup>2</sup>	1,696	-6	19,980	-7	188,798	0	210,474	0	1
Bus and Coach	18	29	613	4	9,208	4	9,839	4	1
Goods vehicle	127	17	1,382	-1	9,607	4	11,116	3	3
Other vehicle <sup>3</sup>	18	13	186	-11	1,160	-2	1,364	-3	
All casualties	1,859	-4	22,161	-6	208,773	1	232,793	0	
<b>All road users</b>									
Children: 0-15 years	206	-19	5,873	-5	37,366	-2	43,445	-2	
Adults: 16-59 years	2,343	-4	28,965	-5	212,851	0	244,159	0	
60 and over	870	-4	5,350	-5	25,542	-1	31,762	-2	
Age not reported	2	*	646	*	5,198	*	5,846	*	
All casualties	3,421	-5	40,834	-5	280,957	0	325,212	-1	1
<b>Type of road</b>									
Built-up <sup>4</sup>	1,393	-5	25,234	-5	196,815	0	223,442	-1	0
Non Built-up <sup>5</sup>	2,028	-5	15,600	-5	84,142	0	101,770	-1	2
Speed limit not reported	0	*	0	*	0	*	0	*	
All casualties	3,421	-5	40,834	-5	280,957	0	325,212	-1	1

1 Includes combinations.

2 Comprises invalid tricycles, other three-wheel cars, taxis, four wheel cars, minibuses and motor caravans.

3 Includes vehicles whose class was not reported.

4 Subject to a speed limit of 40mph or less.

5 Subject to a speed limit greater than 40 mph.

6 Includes pedal cycle mileage.

**Table 3: Casualties: by severity of casualty: 1988 - 1998: GB**

Year and quarter						Number
	Killed	Seriously injured	Slightly injured	All casualties	Motor traffic Thousand million vehicle kilometres	
1981-85 baseline average	5,598	74,533	241,787	321,919		292.4
1988	5,052	63,491	253,762	322,305		375.7
1989	5,373	63,158	273,061	341,592		406.9
1990	5,217	60,441	275,483	341,141		410.9
1991 <sup>R</sup>	4,568	51,618	255,182	311,368		411.6
1992 <sup>R</sup>	4,229	49,256	257,268	310,753		412.1
1993 <sup>R</sup>	3,814	45,020	257,301	306,135		412.2
1994 <sup>R</sup>	3,650	46,540	265,169	315,359		422.6
1995 <sup>R</sup>	3,621	45,533	261,533	310,687		430.9
1996 <sup>R</sup>	3,598	44,499	272,481	320,578		442.5
1997 <sup>R</sup>	3,599	42,984	281,220	327,803		448.9
1998	3,421	40,834	280,957	325,212		459.4
1994 <sup>R</sup> Q1	878	10,752	61,908	73,538		97.8
Q2	793	10,994	63,198	74,985		107.5
Q3	930	11,922	66,508	79,360		112.0
Q4	1,049	12,872	73,555	87,476		105.3
1995 <sup>R</sup> Q1	828	10,323	62,310	73,461		101.4
Q2	815	10,989	60,617	72,421		109.3
Q3	967	12,180	68,331	81,478		113.7
Q4	1,011	12,041	70,275	83,327		106.5
1996 <sup>R</sup> Q1	790	9,969	61,439	72,198		103.4
Q2	824	10,656	65,001	76,481		113.1
Q3	961	11,657	69,000	81,618		117.4
Q4	1,023	12,217	77,041	90,281		108.5
1997 <sup>R</sup> Q1	805	9,893	64,646	75,344		104.8
Q2	894	10,598	69,795	81,287		114.6
Q3	915	11,017	69,619	81,551		118.9
Q4	985	11,476	77,160	89,621		110.6
1998 Q1	791	9,337	63,933	74,061		107.2
Q2	834	10,367	69,401	80,602		115.3
Q3	856	10,610	70,414	81,880		118.9
Q4	940	10,520	77,209	88,669		111.9
Change on same quarter of previous year						Percentage
1995 Q1	-6	-4	1	0		4
Q2	3	0	-4	-3		2
Q3	4	2	3	3		2
Q4	-4	-6	-4	-5		1
1996 Q1	-5	-3	-1	-2		2
Q2	1	-3	7	6		3
Q3	-1	-4	1	0		3
Q4	1	1	10	8		2
1997 Q1	2	-1	5	4		1
Q2	8	-1	7	6		1
Q3	-5	-5	1	0		1
Q4	-4	-6	0	-1		2
1998 Q1	-2	-6	-1	-2		2
Q2	-7	-2	-1	-1		1
Q3	-6	-4	1	0		0
Q4	-5	-8	0	-1		1

R Data has been revised.

**Table 4: Casualties: by class of road user: 1988 - 1998: GB**

Year and quarter	Pedestrians		Pedal cyclists	Two-wheel motor vehicle users		Car users	Other vehicle users
	All ages	Children <sup>1</sup>		Motor <sup>2</sup> cycles	Mopeds		
1981-85 baseline average	61,742	25,592	28,391	53,551	11,642	143,944	22,647
1988	58,843	21,839	25,849	34,659	8,177	170,705	24,072
1989	60,080	22,154	28,513	35,188	7,442	184,688	25,681
1990	60,230	22,860	26,422	32,735	6,313	190,558	24,883
1991 <sup>R</sup>	54,030	20,708	24,817	26,084	4,667	179,383	22,385
1992 <sup>R</sup>	51,612	20,124	24,769	23,118	3,773	185,662	21,816
1993 <sup>R</sup>	48,128	18,250	24,087	21,894	3,200	187,479	21,345
1994 <sup>R</sup>	48,695	19,263	24,839	21,636	2,718	195,154	22,316
1995 <sup>R</sup>	47,083	18,590	24,945	21,070	2,454	194,027	21,107
1996 <sup>R</sup>	46,450	18,510	24,584	20,904	2,229	205,336	21,075
1997 <sup>R</sup>	45,601	18,407	24,636	22,273	2,219	211,448	21,626
1998	44,886	17,971	22,923	22,216	2,394	210,474	22,319
1994 <sup>R</sup> Q1	12,327	4,539	4,791	4,161	651	46,317	5,291
Q2	11,539	5,339	6,529	5,717	627	45,337	5,236
Q3	11,229	4,861	7,724	6,388	626	47,401	5,992
Q4	13,600	4,524	5,795	5,370	814	56,099	5,797
1995 <sup>R</sup> Q1	12,074	4,391	4,807	3,901	615	46,947	5,117
Q2	10,972	4,972	6,614	5,794	526	43,746	4,768
Q3	11,326	4,867	8,161	6,403	635	49,299	5,654
Q4	12,711	4,360	5,363	4,972	678	54,035	5,568
1996 <sup>R</sup> Q1	11,205	4,142	4,408	3,788	537	47,442	4,818
Q2	11,365	5,194	6,422	5,655	495	47,685	4,859
Q3	10,810	4,706	8,181	6,493	538	50,059	5,537
Q4	13,070	4,468	5,573	4,968	659	60,150	5,861
1997 <sup>R</sup> Q1	10,877	4,220	4,617	4,216	476	50,182	4,976
Q2	11,022	5,098	6,410	6,123	509	52,040	5,183
Q3	10,880	4,715	7,832	6,793	550	49,914	5,582
Q4	12,822	4,374	5,777	5,141	684	59,312	5,885
1998 Q1	11,024	4,129	4,758	4,386	540	48,246	5,107
Q2	11,029	5,045	6,264	5,912	529	51,579	5,289
Q3	10,552	4,591	6,852	6,840	582	51,366	5,688
Q4	12,281	4,206	5,049	5,078	743	59,283	6,235
Change on same quarter of previous year							
1995 Q1	-2	-3	0	-6	-6	1	-3
Q2	-5	-7	1	1	-16	-4	-9
Q3	1	0	6	0	1	4	-6
Q4	-7	-4	-7	-7	-17	-4	-4
1996 Q1	-7	-6	-8	-3	-13	1	-6
Q2	4	4	-3	-2	-6	9	2
Q3	-5	-3	0	1	-15	2	-2
Q4	3	2	4	0	-3	11	5
1997 Q1	-3	2	5	11	-11	6	3
Q2	-3	-2	0	8	3	9	7
Q3	1	0	-4	5	2	0	1
Q4	-2	-2	4	3	4	-1	0
1998 Q1	1	-2	3	4	13	-4	3
Q2	0	-1	-2	-3	4	-1	2
Q3	-3	-3	-13	1	6	3	2
Q4	-4	-4	-13	-1	9	0	6

<sup>1</sup> Aged 0 - 15, inclusive.

<sup>2</sup> Includes motor scooters and combinations.

<sup>R</sup> Data has been revised.

**Table 5: Accidents: by speed limit, class of road severity <sup>1</sup>: final data: GB 1998**

Type of road	Number/percentage change compared with 1997								
	Fatal		Serious		Slight		All accidents		Road Traffic <sup>2</sup>
	Number	Percentage change	Number	Percentage change	Number	Percentage change	Number	Percentage change	Percentage change
Built-up roads <sup>3</sup>	1,339	-5	22,931	-5	149,691	0	173,961	-1	0
Non Built-up roads <sup>4</sup>	1,798	-5	11,702	-5	51,462	1	64,962	0	2
Major roads <sup>5</sup>	1,945	-7	17,404	-5	99,319	0	118,668	-1	2
Minor roads <sup>6</sup>	1,192	-1	17,229	-5	101,834	1	120,255	0	0
All roads/all speed limits <sup>7</sup>	3,137	-5	34,633	-5	201,153	0	238,923	-1	1

<sup>1</sup> The severity of an accident is defined as " the severity of the most seriously injured casualty in the accident".

<sup>2</sup> Includes pedal cycle mileage.

<sup>3</sup> Subject to a speed limit of 40 mph or less.

<sup>4</sup> Subject to a speed limit greater than 40 mph.

<sup>5</sup> Motorways, A(M) and A roads (ie motorways, trunk and principal roads).

<sup>6</sup> B, C and unclassified roads (ie other roads).

<sup>7</sup> Includes unknown speed limits.



**Table 6: Casualties: by severity: by police force area: 1998**

Police force area	Severity of injury			Number
	Fatal	Serious	Slight	All severities
Avon and Somerset	109	699	6,449	7,257
Bedfordshire	30	371	2,701	3,102
Cambridgeshire	62	638	4,016	4,716
Cheshire	69	960	6,274	7,303
Cleveland	15	247	2,210	2,472
Cumbria	48	488	2,310	2,846
Derbyshire	66	712	4,694	5,472
Devon and Cornwall	90	856	6,759	7,705
Dorset	31	471	3,452	3,954
Durham	44	257	2,747	3,048
Essex	76	1,148	7,365	8,589
Gloucestershire	45	222	2,339	2,606
Greater Manchester	104	902	16,001	17,007
Hampshire	79	1,156	8,497	9,732
Hertfordshire	44	943	4,967	5,954
Humberside	65	729	4,003	4,797
Kent	85	1,139	6,704	7,928
Lancashire	84	1,174	7,587	8,845
Leicestershire	87	424	4,667	5,178
Lincolnshire	83	701	3,412	4,196
Merseyside	50	713	9,051	9,814
Metropolitan Police	251	7,112	41,166	48,529
Norfolk	74	664	3,197	3,935
North Yorkshire	88	931	3,760	4,779
Northamptonshire	60	653	2,448	3,161
Northumbria	62	619	6,109	6,790
Nottinghamshire	85	1,029	4,966	6,080
South Yorkshire	56	669	5,851	6,576
Staffordshire	68	447	5,816	6,331
Suffolk	23	364	2,630	3,017
Surrey	51	653	5,438	6,142
Sussex	102	1,080	7,035	8,217
Thames Valley	154	906	10,714	11,774
Warwickshire	51	582	2,600	3,233
West Mercia	98	1,025	4,867	5,990
West Midlands	96	1,966	11,150	13,212
West Yorkshire	106	1,250	13,131	14,487
Wiltshire	43	411	2,988	3,442
England	2,834	35,311	250,071	288,216
Dyfed-Powys	50	464	2,072	2,586
Gwent	29	293	2,158	2,480
North Wales	63	393	3,706	4,162
South Wales	60	309	4,943	5,312
Wales	202	1,459	12,879	14,540
Central	26	222	852	1,100
Dumfries and Galloway	17	172	449	638
Fife	24	195	794	1,013
Grampian	58	348	1,497	1,903
Lothian and Borders	73	441	4,056	4,570
Northern	43	373	1,039	1,455
Strathclyde	116	1,838	8,111	10,065
Tayside	28	475	1,209	1,712
Scotland	385	4,064	18,007	22,456
Great Britain	3,421	40,834	280,957	325,212