

Admiral Drivers' Survey 2007



What Britain's motorists really think

Annual Drivers' Survey 2007

Introduction

Welcome to the fifth annual Admiral Drivers' Survey, a comprehensive survey of the opinions of UK motorists to a range of important motoring issues.

Motorists have become a powerful and vocal lobbying group in this country. Our survey aims to find out what makes the UK's 38 million drivers tick and what they think about the issues that are in the news every day.

Over 1,800 motorists from across the country were surveyed on a wide range of topics. For each topic we have provided a breakdown of results overall, by sex and in some cases by region. This provides an interesting insight into the differing attitudes of male and female motorists and of motorists in different parts of the country. Where possible we have also included the results for our surveys in 2005 and 2006, so we can get an idea of the change in public opinion.

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- What do you think is the fairest punishment for someone caught driving without insurance?
- If you could get away with it, would you consider making a fraudulent insurance claim?
- If you could get away with it, would you inflate the cost of a car theft claim and claim for items not stolen?
- Which statement fits closest to your view of insurance fraud?

Page 34 Section 7 - Laws of the Road

- How old were you when you passed your driving test?
- How many attempts did it take for you to pass your driving test?
- If you had to sit your driving test today, do you think you would pass?
- Have you ever been banned from driving?
- What rules of the road have you ignored recently?
- Since it has been banned, have you illegally used your mobile phone while driving?
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Page 38 Section 8 - Road Rage

- Do you ever feel angry with other motorists when you are driving?
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- Have you ever physically attacked another driver or their property because of road rage?
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- Have you or your property ever been physically attacked by another driver because of road rage?
- Do you find driving generally more or less stressful than a year ago?

Page 41 Section 9 - The Cost of Motoring

- Do you feel motorists in the UK pay a fair price for fuel?
- Do you believe some road users are right to use direct action to try to persuade the government to lower fuel duty?
- Do you think fuel costs will rise or fall in the next year?
- Do you think the current method of charging for road tax is fair?
- Have you ever knowingly driven an untaxed car on the road?
- Have you ever shopped for insurance over the Internet?

- Have you ever used an aggregator site such as Confused.com or Moneysupermarket.com?
- Do you believe the average cost of insurance has risen or fallen over the last year?
- Do you think the cost of your insurance will rise or fall at the next renewal?
- Do you generally think people in this country are too quick to sue others when they are involved in a road accident?
- Do you think there are people in this country who exaggerate their injury when they are involved in a road accident in order to claim more money?
- Does the cost of tax and insurance affect the make and model of car you choose?
- How many people in your household have a driving licence?
- How many cars do you have in your household?
- What is the total amount spent on insuring all the drivers in your household?
- How would you feel about paying all the insurance premiums in your household in one bill?
- If you have more than one car in your household, who currently pays for the car insurance?

Page 49 Section 10 – Using Your Car

- Which statement most closely matches the way you feel about your car?
- How many miles a year do you drive on average?
- Is the number of miles you drive likely to increase or decrease over the next year?

Page 52 Section 11 – Road Users

- Do you think you generally drive better or worse than the average motorist?
- Which gender is better at driving?
- Which type of motorists do you rate as the worst?
- Should parents taking their children to and from school be discouraged from using their vehicle if there is an alternative?
- Should lorry drivers only be able to drive at certain times of the day?
- Do you think people who live in towns and cities are justified in owning 4x4 vehicles?
- Should cyclists have priority over other road users at all times?
- What annoys you most about other road users?

Methodology

Admiral surveyed 1,804 UK motorists over the Internet in September 2007. These results were collated and processed by Admiral's IT and Executive Information Systems teams.

Admiral's Communications department wrote the report.

All replies were treated confidentially.

Contact Information

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Drink and drug driving – Headlines

Drink driving is viewed at best as socially unacceptable at worst as a criminal act, however there are still persistent offenders. The police breath-test around three-quarters of a million motorists each year, and approximately 15% of them test positive.

- The number of motorists questioned who say they have been breathalysed is down 5% to 14% this year. This could be because police are focussing on other crimes.
- More than three times more men than women have been breathalysed.
- Nearly two thirds of motorists would not drive after a single alcoholic drink.
- Nearly half of men would have at least one alcoholic drink and drive, 6% of men would drink three or more units of alcohol and drive.
- Drink driving is considered more serious than drug possession, criminal damage and theft for at least seven out of ten motorists. Three out of ten consider it worse than physical assault.
- 21% believe convicted drink drivers should be imprisoned, 86% think they should lose their driving licence.
- The number of people who would consider getting into a car with a drink driver falls below 3%, with men more likely than women to do so.
- More people consider drink driving worse than drug driving.
- Fewer than 3% have taken illegal drugs and driven a car.

Drink and drug driving - Results

Have you ever been stopped and breathalysed by the police?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
Yes	7.8%	24.0%	20.1%	19.2%	14.4%
No	92.2%	76.0%	79.9%	80.8%	85.6%

How many units of alcohol would you drink and still consider yourself safe to drive? (A unit = half a pint of beer, a small glass of wine or a pub measure of spirits)

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
Zero units	69.2%	51.9%	52.3%	65.6%	62.2%
Between 1 and 2 units	28.8%	42.0%	38.7%	29.8%	34.1%
Between 3 and 4 units	1.5%	5.0%	8.0%	3.6%	3.0%
5 or more units	0.5%	1.1%	1.0%	1.0%	0.7%

Which of these crimes do you consider more serious than drink driving?

	2005	2006	2007
Drug possession	29.9%	29.9%	28.8%
Criminal damage	26.2%	27.0%	22.1%
Fraud from a company	14.3%	12.1%	12.1%
Driving without a licence	39.9%	37.2%	33.5%
Theft from an individual	27.2%	28.4%	25.3%
Physical assault	67.2%	69.2%	68.7%
Tax evasion	9.6%	8.5%	8.1%

Which of the following is the fairest punishment for someone caught driving over the drink drive limit?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
£500 fine & points on the licence	12.5%	14.8%	10.5%	10.1%	13.6%
£500 fine & loss of licence	14.2%	15.7%	14.7%	13.7%	14.7%
£1,000 fine & loss of licence	21.1%	18.1%	20.1%	20.1%	19.8%
£2,500 fine & loss of licence	31.1%	30.7%	25.9%	27.2%	30.9%
Prison sentence	21.1%	20.7%	28.8%	28.9%	21.0%

Would you ever consider getting in a car being driven by someone you suspected was over the drink-driving limit?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
Yes	1.7%	4.3%	4.5%	3.4%	2.9%
No	88.5%	83.4%	86.1%	87.4%	86.4%
Don't Know	9.8%	12.3%	9.4%	9.2%	10.7%

Which do you consider a bigger menace, drink driving or drug driving?

	Females	Males	2006	2007
Drink driving	27.9%	25.2%	14.7%	26.7%
Drug driving	14.3%	20.8%	6.2%	16.9%
Both the same	57.8%	54.0%	79.1%	56.4%

Have you ever taken illegal drugs and driven a car?

	Females	Males	2006	2007
Yes	2.6%	3.1%	2.5%	2.9%
No	97.4%	96.9%	97.5%	97.1%

Speed limits and speed cameras – Headlines

The debate over speed cameras continues and UK motorists are still divided between those who think they are just a cash generator for the police and those who believe they are essential for road safety. There are currently over 5,000 permanent speed cameras on British roads. We asked motorists what they think of speed cameras and speed limits generally in this country.

- Three quarters of motorists admit they have driven over the speed limit, around the same number as last year.
- 8% more men than women drive over the speed limit.
- 31% of motorists say they have been caught speeding at some time, but only 6% in the last year.
- Twice as many men than women have been caught speeding.
- 38% of all motorists are in favour of speed limits on residential streets being lowered to 20mph.
- A quarter want the speed limit on suburban dual carriageways raised to 70mph.
- When it comes to motorways, more than half want the speed limit raised to 80mph, a further 15% want it raised further still. This is more popular with men than women.
- Only 32% believe speed cameras improve road safety, around the same number as last year.

- 23% think the police should install more speed cameras.
- Eight out of ten motorists favour a change to the rules of speeding, whereby the number of points received is relative to the speed driven.

Speed limits and speed cameras - Results

Do you ever drive over the speed limit?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
Yes, frequently	6.2%	14.2%	17.5%	12.1%	9.4%
Yes, sometimes	64.7%	64.4%	65.9%	62.5%	64.6%
No, never	29.1%	21.4%	16.6%	25.4%	26.0%

Have you ever been caught speeding?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
No	75.7%	60.1%	69.0%	72.0%	69.4%
Yes, by police patrol	6.7%	14.2%	11.2%	9.3%	9.7%
Yes, by a speed camera	14.8%	20.0%	15.9%	14.7%	17.0%
Yes, by both	2.8%	5.7%	3.9%	4.0%	3.9%

Have you been caught speeding in the last twelve months?

	Females	Males	2007
No	94.1%	93.1%	93.6%
Yes, by police patrol	0.7%	1.5%	1.1%
Yes, by a speed camera	4.7%	5.3%	5.0%
Yes, by both	0.5%	0.1%	0.3%

What should the speed limit be on residential streets?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
20mph	38.0%	39.3%	25.4%	30.3%	38.5%
30mph	59.7%	56.7%	67.7%	65.9%	58.5%
40mph	2.3%	4.0%	6.9%	3.8%	3.0%

What should the speed limit be on suburban dual carriageways?

	Females	Males	2007
40mph	18.6%	13.3%	16.5%
50mph	25.9%	27.8%	26.7%
60mph	33.4%	30.4%	32.3%
70mph	22.1%	28.5%	24.5%

What should the speed limit be on motorways?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
60mph	1.7%	2.6%	2.6%	4.3%	4.1%
70mph	35.0%	19.7%	19.2%	27.9%	28.9%
80mph	50.6%	55.0%	54.1%	51.2%	52.3%
More than 80mph	12.7%	22.7%	24.2%	16.6%	14.7%

Do you think speed cameras improve road safety?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
Yes	33.9%	28.0%	27.7%	32.1%	31.5%
No	50.9%	63.1%	60.6%	54.6%	55.7%
Don't Know	15.2%	8.9%	11.7%	13.3%	12.8%

Should the police install more speed cameras?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
Yes	25.0%	20.2%	19.7%	22.4%	23.0%
No	59.5%	70.3%	66.9%	63.9%	63.7%
Don't Know	15.5%	9.5%	13.4%	13.7%	13.3%

Do you think the number of points someone receives should increase depending how much they are driving over the speed limit?

	Females	Males	2006	Overall
Yes	80.8%	80.8%	79.6%	80.8%
No	10.3%	12.6%	12.3%	11.1%
Don't know	8.9%	6.6%	8.1%	8.1%

Car crime – Headlines

Car crime is the fastest growing type of crime in the UK; over 1 million cars are stolen or broken into every year. But better security on new cars has had an impact on car crime, with fewer cars being stolen outright but more cases of smash and grab crimes. However car crime is still a major concern for most motorists.

- Only 6% of motorists have had their car stolen or broken into in the last year.
- However, nearly half of motorists have been a victim of car crime at some time.
- Half of motorists think incidents of car crime have increased over the last twelve months.
- Only 5% think current laws are tough enough on those committing car crime.
- Car crime is a worry for 82% of men, up 1% from last year - slightly more so for women than men.
- Half of women motorists and a third of men worry about their car being car jacked. And 58% of all motorists lock their car doors when driving through a built up area.
- People are still leaving items on display in an unattended car. The most common items being coats – 46%, sunglasses – 41% and CDs – 26%.
- A third of motorists never leave anything on show in an unattended car.

Car crime - Results

Have you had your car stolen or broken into in the last twelve months?

	Females	Males	2007
Yes	6.1%	7.0%	6.4%
No	93.9%	93.9%	93.6%

Have you ever had your car stolen or broken into?

	Females	Males	2006	2007
Yes	43.2%	50.7%	41.8%	46.2%
No	56.8%	49.3%	58.2%	53.8%

Do you think incidents of car crime have increased or decreased over the last twelve months?

	Females	Males	2007
Increased	51.9%	51.8%	51.8%
Decreased	8.2%	12.3%	9.8%
Stayed the same	39.9%	35.9%	38.4%

Do you think current laws are tough enough on those who commit car crime?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
Yes	3.5%	6.3%	4.1%	6.2%	4.6%
No	78.6%	82.9%	84.6%	80.3%	80.3%
Don't Know	17.9%	10.8%	11.3%	13.5%	15.1%

Do you ever worry about your car being stolen or broken into?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
Yes, always	22.8%	23.0%	22.5%	22.7%	23.0%
Yes, sometimes	58.0%	59.3%	62.7%	60.5%	59.3%
No, never	19.2%	17.7%	14.8%	16.8%	17.7%

Do you ever worry about your car being car jacked when you are driving it?

	Females	Males	2007
Yes, always	7.5%	4.0%	6.2%
Yes, sometimes	42.8%	30.4%	37.9%
No, never	49.7%	65.6%	55.9%

Do you ever lock your doors when driving through a built up area?

	Females	Males	2007
Yes	64.1%	49.8%	58.4%
No	35.9%	50.2%	41.6%

Which of the following items have you left on display in an unattended car?

	Females	Males	2007
Bag or handbag	6.9%	7.0%	6.9%
Coat or jacket	49.4%	42.9%	46.5%
Mobile phone	5.5%	9.3%	7.0%
Laptop or computer equipment	0.7%	1.9%	1.2%
CDs	24.2%	28.2%	25.7%
MP3 player	1.1%	3.2%	1.9%
Sunglasses	43.9%	36.9%	40.7%
Satnav	1.2%	2.5%	1.7%
None of these	33.7%	36.1%	34.5%

Public transport and the environment - Headlines

The number of cars on Britain's roads has passed 30 million. Global warming is a top priority for the government and motorists are at the forefront of plans to cut carbon emissions. According to our survey we have become more aware of the environmental damage caused by our cars, but are still reluctant to do anything about it.

- 60% of motorists drive themselves into work everyday, down 6% from 2006.
- While 14% of motorists commute to work by public transport.
- Only a quarter of those who do drive themselves take a passenger with them, three quarters travel on their own.
- 47% of motorists travel less than five miles to get to work.
- However 57% of motorists have used public transport at some point in the last month, up from 54% in 2006.
- Inconvenience is cited as the main reason not to use public transport regularly; expense was the second main reason.
- 8% said there was no particular reason why they never took public transport.
- 57% of motorists worry about the damage their car does to the environment, 13% more women than men worry about this.

- 44% said they consider the environmental impact of the car when deciding what to drive, down 13% on last year.
- 58% would consider buying an electric or hybrid car, however only 31% would pay more for an environmentally friendly car.
- 57% of motorists would also consider off-setting their carbon emissions, 10% more women than men said they would do this.

Public transport and the environment - Results

How do you usually travel to work?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
Car - drive myself	59.0%	61.8%	67.8%	65.7%	60.1%
Car - get a lift	5.1%	5.4%	3.1%	6.2%	5.2%
Bus	5.8%	7.9%	4.9%	6.1%	6.6%
Train	6.9%	4.4%	6.3%	5.2%	5.9%
Underground	0.2%	2.3%	3.3%	3.4%	1.0%
Motorcycle or Scooter	1.6%	3.1%	1.1%	1.0%	2.2%
Bicycle	11.6%	8.6%	2.0%	4.7%	11.1%
Walk	8.8%	6.5%	8.1%	7.5%	7.9%

If you normally travel by car, how many other people usually travel with you?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
No-one	75.7%	77.7%	79.1%	74.1%	76.5%
One other person	18.9%	18.1%	14.9%	21.7%	18.7%
Two other people	4.1%	3.1%	4.2%	2.7%	3.7%
More than two people	1.3%	1.0%	1.8%	1.5%	1.2%

How far do you travel to get to work?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
Less than 5 miles	75.7%	77.7%	38.1%	46.9%	46.8%
Between 6 & 10 miles	18.9%	18.1%	27.6%	22.4%	23.3%
Between 10 & 20 miles	4.1%	3.1%	17.8%	18.6%	16.8%
More than 20 miles	1.3%	4.1%	16.5%	12.1%	13.1%

Have you used public transport at all in the last month?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
Yes	57.3%	55.7%	55.8%	53.6%	56.7%
No	42.7%	44.3%	44.2%	46.4%	43.3%

If you don't use public transport regularly, what is the main reason?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
Too inconvenient	52.3%	56.5%	47.3%	46.3%	53.9%
Too slow	5.1%	8.3%	6.4%	7.2%	6.4%
Too expensive	19.0%	14.5%	15.8%	18.2%	17.2%
Too public	4.6%	3.5%	2.9%	1.9%	4.2%
No particular reason	7.5%	8.1%	15.2%	13.4%	7.8%
Other	10.5%	9.1%	12.4%	13.0%	10.5%

Do you ever worry about the damage your car does to the environment?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
Yes	61.6%	48.8%	52.3%	56.9%	56.6%
No	38.4%	51.2%	47.7%	43.1%	43.4%

Does its environmental impact influence the type of car you drive?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
Yes	45.7%	40.4%	32.7%	56.9%	43.6%
No	54.3%	59.6%	67.3%	43.1%	56.4%

Would you ever consider buying an electric or hybrid car?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
Yes	55.1%	62.4%	39.9%	57.9%	58.0%
No	10.7%	19.3%	25.2%	18.3%	18.6%
Don't Know	34.2%	18.3%	34.9%	23.8%	23.4%

Would you pay more for an environmentally friendly car?

	Females	Males	2007
Yes	33.3%	28.9%	31.4%
No	66.7%	71.1%	68.6%

Would you consider off-setting your carbon emissions, e.g. by supporting a tree planting programme?

	Females	Males	2007
Yes	60.7%	51.1%	56.8%
No	39.3%	48.9%	43.2%

Road tolls and congestion charging – Headlines

Road tolls and congestion charging are just two of the ways the government has considered to prevent gridlock. Since congestion charging was introduced in London in February 2003, several other towns and cities have considered introducing it, but so far other than in one street in Durham, the rest of Britain remains Congestion Charge free.

- 31% of motorists are against the London congestion charges, while only 25% are in favour of it. It is more unpopular with men than women.
- Just over a quarter also think that other towns and cities should introduce congestion charges.
- 37% say congestion charging in their town or city would make them use their car less often, while 45% said it would make no difference.
- If it was introduced locally, 24% said they would consider moving.
- Toll roads are slightly more popular, 28% think the government should build more of them.
- However over half would never use one or only use one if it was quicker, they would also want the charge to be kept to a minimum, the most popular charge would be less than £2.

Road tolls and congestion charging - Results

How do you feel about the congestion charge in London?

	Females	Males	2006	2007
I am against it	28.3%	36.3%	40.4%	31.5%
I don't care either way	46.9%	39.8%	30.8%	43.9%
I am in favour of it	24.8%	23.9%	28.8%	24.6%

Do you think other large towns and cities should consider introducing congestion charges?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
Yes	25.8%	27.7%	26.6%	25.6%	26.7%
No	32.8%	59.2%	54.1%	56.4%	55.3%
Don't Know	21.4%	13.1%	19.3%	18.0%	18.0%

Would congestion charging in your nearest town or city make you use your car less often?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
Yes	36.2%	38.9%	39.7%	40.1%	37.4%
No	45.4%	45.5%	44.1%	41.3%	45.5%
Don't Know	18.4%	15.6%	16.2%	18.6%	17.1%

Would you consider moving house to escape congestion charges?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
Yes	22.3%	27.2%	30.2%	28.3%	24.3%
No	58.7%	58.6%	50.2%	52.9%	58.6%
Don't Know	19.0%	14.2%	19.6%	18.8%	17.1%

Do you think the government should consider building more roads with tolls?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
Yes	25.9%	27.0%	29.1%	28.3%	28.5%
No	60.4%	61.0%	59.2%	52.9%	62.2%
Don't Know	13.7%	12.0%	11.7%	18.8%	9.3%

What is the most you would pay to use a toll road?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
I wouldn't use one at all	58.0%	49.3%	34.3%	17.2%	54.3%
£2 or less	24.6%	24.2%	51.9%	54.7%	24.4%
£3 - £5	2.0%	3.0%	12.9%	25.7%	18.9%
More than £5	15.4%	23.5%	0.9%	2.4%	2.4%

Would you ever use a toll road if it were quicker than using a free road?

	Females	Males	2006	Overall
Yes	57.9%	56.8%	61.2%	56.8%
No	23.6%	35.4%	27.0%	35.4%
Don't know	18.5%	7.8%	11.8%	7.8%

Insurance fraud and uninsured drivers – Headlines

We asked motorists for their opinion on fraud and uninsured drivers. They are both serious issues for insurers. Fraud costs the insurance industry £1 billion a year and it is estimated that one in twenty people on the road is uninsured. We are keen to point out to motorists that these are not victimless crimes, and this message has got through.

- Only 5% of motorists say they have knowingly driven a car when not insured to do so, down from 9% in 2006.
- 56% would consider reporting someone they knew who was regularly driving uninsured, to the police.
- Most motorists think current punishment for uninsured drivers is too lenient, with 41% favouring a fine of over £10,000 and 20% favour a prison sentence.
- Only 2% would consider making a fraudulent insurance claim, while 6% would inflate a claim. In both instances women are more honest than men.
- The majority of motorists, 63%, believe insurance fraud affects legitimate motorists and a quarter see it as a serious crime. Less than 2% think it is a victimless crime.

Insurance fraud and uninsured drivers - Results

Have you ever knowingly driven a car when you were not insured to do so?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
Yes	3.6%	8.1%	8.5%	8.9%	5.4%
No	96.4%	91.9%	91.5%	91.1%	94.6%

If you knew someone who was driving regularly while not insured, would you consider reporting him or her to the police?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
Yes	54.6%	57.4%	59.2%	55.6%	55.9%
No	15.0%	16.3%	13.9%	14.3%	15.5%
Don't Know	30.4%	26.3%	26.9%	30.1%	28.6%

What do you think is the fairest punishment for someone caught driving without insurance?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
A fine of less than £200	5.9%	4.7%	5.4%	8.1%	5.5%
A fine between £200 & £500	16.0%	11.4%	12.2%	14.1%	14.1%
A fine between £500 & £1000	20.5%	21.7%	23.2%	20.4%	20.9%
A fine over £1000	42.1%	38.4%	38.3%	35.9%	40.7%
A short prison sentence	15.5%	23.8%	20.9%	21.5%	18.8%

If you could get away with it, would you consider making a fraudulent insurance claim?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
Yes	1.3%	3.6%	1.6%	3.1%	2.2%
No	94.7%	92.0%	94.3%	94.1%	93.6%
Don't Know	4.0%	4.4%	4.1%	2.8%	4.2%

If you could get away with it, would you inflate the cost of a car theft claim and claim for items not stolen?

	Females	Males	2007
Yes	4.6%	7.0%	5.5%
No	87.6%	85.9%	86.8%
Don't Know	7.8%	7.1%	7.7%

Which statement fits closest to your view of insurance fraud?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
It is a victimless crime and is harmless	1.0%	1.4%	0.6%	1.3%	1.2%
It doesn't affect me; it is a problem for the insurance company	4.6%	4.6%	1.6%	2.5%	4.6%
I have no opinion at all on the matter	6.9%	5.5%	2.8%	4.4%	6.3%
It affects all legitimate motorists with higher insurance premiums	63.7%	62.9%	69.1%	62.0%	63.3%
It is a serious crime and those guilty of it should be punished severely	23.8%	25.6%	25.9%	29.8%	24.6%

Laws of the road – Headlines

This section concerns driving tests and the laws that people break. Many motorists appear quick to criticise other drivers, but think they themselves are faultless. Some laws are ignored more frequently than others, while the ban on mobile phones while driving is accepted by most, but ignored by many.

- 40% of men and 25% of women say they passed their driving test when they were 17.
- Only 12% were over 25 when they passed their test.
- 51% say they passed their test first time, 14% more men than women. For 6% it took more than three tests to pass.
- 59% believe they would pass their driving test if they had to sit it today. Men are more confident than women, two thirds of them say they would pass it compared with 54% of women.
- Only 3% have been banned from driving.
- The most commonly broken rules are not using indicators when turning and parking in a restricted area.
- 23% admit they have ignored the mobile phone ban and used it while driving, down from 33% last year. Slightly more men than women have ignored the ban.
- However 91% of motorists agree with the ban.

Laws of the road - Results

How old were you when you passed your driving test?

	Females	Males	2007
17	25.2%	40.4%	31.3%
18-20	36.4%	31.2%	34.2%
21-25	24.3%	19.1%	22.1%
26-30	8.1%	5.7%	7.2%
31-39	4.1%	2.6%	3.6%
40 or older	1.9%	1.0%	1.6%

How many attempts did it take for you to pass your driving test?

	Females	Males	2007
I passed first time	46.0%	59.2%	51.2%
Twice	32.0%	25.5%	29.3%
Three times	15.1%	11.0%	13.6%
More than three times	6.9%	4.3%	5.9%

If you had to sit your driving test today, do you think you would pass?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
Yes	54.4%	65.7%	64.3%	64.3%	59.0%
No	19.6%	15.4%	16.5%	16.0%	17.9%
Don't Know	26.0%	18.9%	19.2%	19.7%	23.1%

Have you ever been banned from driving?

	Females	Males	2007
Yes	1.2%	5.4%	2.9%
No	98.8%	94.6%	97.1%

Which of the following rules of the road have you ignored recently?

	Females	Males	2007
Not using indicators	14.5%	21.1%	17.0%
Parking in a restricted area	6.0%	9.0%	7.2%
Driving without a seatbelt	4.8%	8.8%	6.3%
Driving through a red light	2.8%	4.6%	3.5%
Driving in a bus lane	3.0%	6.4%	4.4%
Not stopping for pedestrians at a crossing	1.6%	2.4%	1.9%
Leaving fog lights on when not necessary	1.5%	4.4%	2.7%
None	70.1%	58.5%	65.5%

Since it has been banned, have you illegally used your mobile phone while driving?

	Females	Males	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>	2007
Yes	21.1%	25.5%	<i>36.5%</i>	<i>32.7%</i>	22.8%
No	78.9%	74.5%	<i>63.5%</i>	<i>67.3%</i>	77.2%

Do you agree with the ban on motorists using their mobile phone while driving?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
Yes	92.5%	88.7%	88.9%	90.4%	91.0%
No	7.5%	11.3%	11.1%	9.6%	9.0%

Road rage – Headlines

As our roads become more congested, road rage has become a common phenomenon sadly. Our research supports this. It also suggests it has become a vicious circle, with many motorists getting more stressed while driving.

- 20% of motorists admit they often feel angry when they are driving, while 55% said they feel angry now and again.
- More women than men admit to feeling angry when driving.
- However slightly more men than women shout at other motorists. Half of all motorists say they do this at sometime.
- Only 1% have physically attacked another motorist through road rage, but 6% say they have been attacked.
- 55% say they have been shouted at because of road rage, up 14% from last year.
- 34% of motorists find driving more stressful than a year ago.

Road rage - Results

Do you ever feel angry with other motorists when you are driving?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
Yes, often	21.0%	17.9%	20.8%	19.6%	19.8%
Now and again	55.6%	55.1%	53.4%	50.9%	55.3%
Very rarely	21.8%	22.7%	23.2%	24.8%	21.8%
Never	3.1%	4.3%	2.6%	4.7%	3.1%

Do you ever shout at other motorists when you are driving?

	Females	Males	2006	2007
Yes, frequently	7.3%	8.1%	1.7%	7.6%
Yes, sometimes	43.9%	42.4%	20.8%	43.3%
No	48.8%	49.5%	77.5%	49.1%

Have you ever physically attacked another driver or their property because of road rage?

	Females	Males	2006	2007
Yes	1.2%	1.6%	1.5%	1.4%
No	98.8%	98.4%	98.5%	98.6%

Have you ever been shouted at by another driver because of road rage?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
Yes	53.9%	56.1%	40.4%	41.2%	54.8%
No	46.1%	43.9%	59.6%	58.8%	45.2%

Have you or has your property ever been attacked by another driver because of road rage?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
Yes	4.6%	6.8%	11.2%	4.6%	5.5%
No	95.4%	93.2%	88.8%	95.4%	94.5%

Do you find driving generally more or less stressful than a year ago?

	Females	Males	2007
More stressful	35.0%	32.0%	33.8%
About the same	60.9%	61.6%	61.2%
Less stressful	4.1%	6.4%	5.0%

The cost of motoring – Headlines

The threat of fuel protests hangs over the country once again, with many motorists feeling aggrieved at the cost of petrol and diesel in the UK. But it's not only fuel which adds on to the cost of motoring; road tax and insurance are also costly and this section asks motorists for their opinions on these added costs.

- Only 11% think UK motorists pay a fair price for fuel, while 62% believe some people are right to use direct action in protest at fuel duty.
- 83% think fuel costs will rise further in 2008, only 1% think they will fall.
- 43% also feel current road tax charges are too high, but only 8% have knowingly driven an untaxed car.
- Buying insurance has changed recently, with 89% saying they have shopped for it online and 74% having used an aggregator site such as Confused.com.
- The majority of motorists think the average cost of insurance has risen this year and 47% believe it will rise next year.
- 58% believe some people are too quick to sue after a road accident, even more, 89%, think some people exaggerate an injury after an accident to claim more money.
- Two thirds of motorists say the cost of tax and insurance influences their choice of car.

- Multiple driver and multiple car households are on the rise with three quarters now having more than one motorist and 53% having more than one car.
- For a third of multiple car households, one person pays for all the insurance.

The cost of motoring - Results

Do you feel motorists in the UK pay a fair price for fuel?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
Yes	10.7%	11.1%	7.7%	9.0%	10.8%
No	84.0%	85.0%	89.9%	87.3%	84.5%
Don't Know	5.3%	3.9%	2.4%	3.7%	4.7%

Do you believe some road users are right to use direct action to try to persuade the government to lower fuel duty?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
Yes	59.5%	64.8%	72.4%	69.1%	61.6%
No	21.2%	22.3%	13.3%	15.4%	21.7%
Don't Know	19.3%	12.9%	14.3%	15.5%	16.7%

Do you think fuel costs will generally rise or fall in the next year?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
They will rise	83.2%	82.3%	91.1%	81.0%	82.7%
They will stay about the same	15.8%	16.8%	8.5%	17.1%	16.3%
They will fall	1.0%	0.9%	0.4%	1.9%	1.0%

Do you think the current method of charging for road tax is fair?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
They should be lower	42.5%	44.0%	57.6%	62.2%	43.1%
They are fine at current levels	51.2%	47.3%	41.1%	35.5%	49.6%
They should be higher	6.3%	8.7%	1.3%	2.3%	7.3%

Have you ever knowingly driven an untaxed car on the road?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
Yes	6.3%	10.5%	11.2%	9.8%	8.0%
No	93.7%	89.5%	88.8%	90.2%	92.0%

Have you ever shopped for insurance over the Internet?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
Yes	88.4%	90.5%	81.8%	92.7%	89.1%
No	11.6%	9.5%	18.2%	7.3%	10.9%

Have you ever used an aggregator site such as Confused.com or Moneysupermarket.com?

	Females	Males	2007
Yes	72.6%	75.2%	73.5%
No	27.4%	24.8%	26.5%

Do you believe the average cost of car insurance has risen or fallen over the last year?

	Females	Males	2007
It has risen	54.0%	55.6%	54.5%
It has stayed about the same	41.7%	38.6%	40.4%
It has fallen	4.3%	5.8%	5.1%

Do you think the cost of your insurance will rise or fall at the next renewal?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
It will rise	44.7%	50.1%	62.9%	64.9%	46.9%
It will stay about the same	39.2%	30.4%	33.5%	31.6%	35.7%
It will fall	16.1%	19.5%	3.6%	3.5%	17.4%

Do you generally think people in this country are too quick to sue others when they are involved in a road accident?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
Yes	59.0%	56.8%	70.6%	63.3%	58.0%
No	14.9%	17.1%	12.0%	13.6%	15.9%
Don't Know	26.1%	26.1%	17.4%	23.1%	26.1%

Do you think there are people in this country who exaggerate their injury when they are involved in a road accident in order to claim more money?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
Yes	89.6%	88.1%	78.1%	89.9%	88.9%
No	1.3%	2.3%	3.5%	1.6%	1.8%
Don't Know	9.1%	9.6%	18.4%	8.5%	9.3%

Does the cost of tax and insurance affect the make and model of car you drive?

	Females	Males	2006	2007
Yes	69.6%	61.1%	68.6%	66.3%
No	30.4%	38.9%	31.4%	33.7%

How many people in your household have a driving licence?

	Females	Males	2006	2007
1	22.0%	25.7%	19.9%	23.4%
2	60.6%	51.2%	48.8%	57.0%
3	11.6%	14.9%	20.3%	12.9%
4	4.6%	6.9%	9.6%	5.5%
5 or more	1.2%	1.3%	1.4%	1.2%

How many cars do you have in your household?

	Females	Males	2006	2007
1	45.4%	44.8%	35.4%	45.1%
2	41.9%	39.0%	41.6%	40.7%
3	9.8%	11.9%	15.0%	10.7%
4	2.3%	3.4%	5.4%	2.8%
5 or more	0.6%	0.9%	2.6%	0.7%

What is the total amount spent on insuring all the drivers in your household for a year?

	Females	Males	2007
Less than £500	44.1%	42.7%	43.4%
Between £500 and £750	28.9%	26.5%	28.0%
Between £750 and £1000	14.0%	12.9%	13.6%
Between £1000 and £1500	7.4%	9.3%	8.2%
Between £1500 and £2500	4.1%	7.5%	5.6%
More than £2500	1.5%	1.1%	1.2%

How would you feel about paying for all the insurance premiums in your household in one bill?

	Females	Males	2006	2007
There is only one car so it would make no difference	34.0%	31.6%	28.0%	33.1%
I would prefer it	15.9%	22.3%	21.2%	18.5%
I would not prefer it	21.6%	17.7%	22.4%	19.9%
I don't care one way or another	24.8%	25.1%	26.1%	24.9%
I already do this	3.7%	3.3%	2.3%	3.6%

If you have more than one car in your household, who currently pays for the car insurance?

	Females	Males	2006	2007
Each person pays his or her own	58.5%	51.0%	66.1%	55.6%
Different people pay for one or more policies	10.6%	10.4%	8.8%	10.5%
One person pays for it all	33.9%	38.6%	25.1%	33.9%

Using your car – Headlines

Are cars a luxury or a necessity? Life would certainly be different and more difficult without them.

- For 35% of motorists, their car is an absolute necessity and slightly more so for men than women.
- Only 5% say they hardly use their car and could live without it.
- Men drive more miles a year than women too. 34% of women drive less than 5,000 miles a year, whereas for men the most common annual mileage is 7,000 – 10,000 a year.
- 12% of motorists expect to drive more over the next year compared with 10% who expect to drive less.

Using your car - Results

Which of these statements most closely matches the way you feel about your car?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
It is an absolute necessity and I could never live without it	34.3%	36.5%	30.0%	32.0%	35.2%
It is very useful and it would be difficult to live without it	49.7%	49.1%	54.4%	52.9%	49.4%
I think I could possibly manage to live without it	11.0%	10.7%	13.5%	11.5%	10.8%
I hardly use it and could definitely live without it	5.0%	3.7%	2.1%	3.6%	4.6%

How many '000 miles a year do you drive on average?

	Females	Males	2007
Less than 5,000	34.1%	21.0%	28.7%
Between 5,000 & 7,000	25.2%	20.6%	23.3%
Between 7,000 & 10,000	22.8%	26.4%	24.1%
Between 10,000 & 15,000	13.7%	19.4%	16.1%
More than 15,000	3.9%	12.6%	7.8%

Is the amount of miles you drive likely to increase or decrease over the next year?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
It will rise	12.4%	12.6%	16.0%	15.0%	12.4%
It will stay about the same	77.9%	76.9%	74.5%	75.7%	77.5%
It will decrease	9.7%	10.5%	9.5%	9.3%	10.1%

Other road users – Headlines

In the final section we asked motorists for their opinion of other road users. We'd all like the road to ourselves, but unfortunately as well as the millions of private motorists there are lorry drivers, cyclists and motorcyclists. In this section we asked motorists what they think about other road users, and this is often quite disparaging.

- Motorists are confident in their own ability with 49% saying they drive better than the average motorist. Only 1% said they drive worse than average.
- Men are more confident than women, 61% of them say they drive better than average, compared with 41% of women who think they do.
- There is also a battle between the sexes when asked which gender is better at driving. 40% of men think their gender is best while 39% of women say they are better.
- The elderly were rated the worst motorists on the road followed by boy or girl racers.
- 82% believe that parents should be discouraged from driving their children to school.
- Lorry drivers are less unpopular, only 43% feel they should only be able to drive at certain times of the day.
- Nearly two thirds of motorists think that people who only drive on urban roads are justified in owning 4x4 vehicles. 11% more men think this than women.

- Cyclists also come in for some criticism with only 23% saying cyclists should always have priority over other road users.
- Finally tailgating is named as the most annoying bad habit of other road users, followed by not using indicators and hogging the middle lane.

Other road users - Results

Do you think you generally drive better or worse than the average motorist?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
Better	40.8%	61.3%	55.2%	49.8%	49.0%
About the same	57.8%	37.3%	44.0%	49.1%	49.6%
Worse	1.4%	1.4%	0.8%	1.1%	1.4%

Which gender is better at driving?

	Females	Males	2005	2006	2007
Men	12.0%	40.0%	23.0%	27.3%	23.2%
Women	38.9%	9.4%	23.2%	23.0%	27.2%
Both the same	49.1%	50.6%	53.8%	49.7%	49.6%

Which of the following do you rate as the worst motorists?

	Females	Males	2006	2007
Caravanners	1.6%	2.0%	1.8%	1.8%
Elderly motorists	34.2%	31.5%	30.8%	33.1%
White van drivers	12.5%	10.8%	11.8%	11.8%
Taxi drivers	10.3%	11.4%	11.0%	10.7%
Sales reps	1.0%	2.7%	1.6%	1.7%
4x4 drivers	3.7%	6.7%	4.2%	4.9%
Boy/girl racers	33.2%	31.8%	34.9%	32.7%
Lorry drivers	3.5%	3.1%	3.9%	3.3%

Should parents taking their children to and from school be discouraged from using their vehicle if there is an alternative?

	Females	Males	2007
Yes	82.0%	81.8%	81.9%
No	9.2%	11.4%	10.1%
Don't Know	8.8%	6.8%	8.0%

Should lorry drivers only be able to drive at certain times of the day?

	Females	Males	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>	2007
Yes	43.3%	42.6%	<i>40.4%</i>	<i>36.2%</i>	43.1%
No	39.0%	45.5%	<i>46.9%</i>	<i>53.8%</i>	64.0%
Don't Know	17.7%	11.9%	<i>12.7%</i>	<i>10.0%</i>	14.4%

Do you think people who only use their cars on urban roads are justified in owning 4x4 vehicles?

	Females	Males	2007
Yes	16.9%	28.2%	21.6%
No	68.0%	68.0%	64.0%
Don't Know	15.1%	15.1%	14.4%

Should cyclists have priority over other road users at all times?

	Females	Males	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>	2007
Yes	22.2%	25.2%	<i>16.6%</i>	<i>21.5%</i>	23.4%
No	62.0%	65.0%	<i>75.1%</i>	<i>66.3%</i>	63.2%
Don't Know	15.8%	9.8%	<i>8.3%</i>	<i>12.2%</i>	13.4%

What annoys you most about other road users?

	<i>2006</i>	2007
Not indicating	<i>16.4%</i>	16.5%
Tailgating	<i>27.5%</i>	32.8%
Hogging the middle lane	<i>21.4%</i>	16.1%
Cutting up	<i>11.0%</i>	15.3%
Driving too slowly	<i>9.2%</i>	9.0%
Racing at traffic lights	<i>1.2%</i>	8.3%
Not saying thank you when you give way	<i>13.3%</i>	2.0%