# Driving Test Pass Rates in the UK: Data Analysis

Yifei Bi and Chen Yang[*]

September 18, 2022

## 1  Summary

There are around 1.5 million people taking their car driving test every year in more than 300 test centres in the UK. In this paper, we visualize and analyse the car driving test pass rate data released by the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA)[1].These data files consist of pass rate information grouped by test centre, gender, testing month, ethnicity, etc. The main findings of this paper:

1. The average pass rate (car driving test) is **49.88% for males** and **43.38% for females**.

2. In 2020 (Covid-19), the total number of candidates decreased by **72.74%** compared with 2019.

3. The Top 5 test center with the highest pass rates: Kendal (Oxenholme Road) with 63.93%, Malton, Dorchester, Kendal, and Lampeter.[2]

4. The Top 5 test centers with the highest first attempt pass rate: Llandrindod Wells with 69.40%, Malton, Kendal (Oxenholme Road), Dorchester, and Kendal.

5. The lucky month for driving test is **August**, with 47.23% candidate passed in this month from 2007 to 2021[3].

6. **White candidates** have the highest pass rates and **black candidates** have the lowest pass rates.

7. Candidates using automatic cars have lower pass rate than average.

## 2  Data Description

Table 1 lists the data files released by the DVSA. The "car driving test pass rates by gender" file is updated every three month since April 2007. It shows car driving test pass rates by gender for every driving test centre by month. The "car driving test pass rates by first attempt at the test" file is updated annually since 2007. It shows car driving test pass rates by first attempt for every driving centre. The "car pass rates

---

[1]Car driving test data by test centre, available at: http://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/car-driving-test-data-by-test-centre

[2]To rule out the effect of those very small test centers with extremely high pass rates, the luckiest test centers only rank test centres serviced more than 100,000 candidates totally from 2007 to 2021.

[3]But if we only look at recent data from 2018 to 2021, the luckiest month for male is April.

by ethnicity of candidate, year and test centre" file is updated annually since 2007. It presents car driving test pass rates by ethnicity for every test centre by year. The "Automatic car pass rates by gender and test centre" file is updated annually since 2007. It presents automatic car driving test pass rates by gender for every driving test centre by year. The "car driving test pass rates by age" file is updated annually since 2007. It shows car driving test pass rates by age for every driving test centre by year. As it only include 17-25 years old candidates, we do not include this file in our analysis. The DVSA also has a "car driving test cancellation reasons by test centre" file (File 5) and "Car and trailer pass rates by gender and test centre" (File 7), which are, however, not in the scope of this paper. In the case of data validity, the DVSA notes on their website that "it is not classed as an 'official statistic'. This means it's not subject to scrutiny and assessment by the UK Statistics Authority."

**Table 1: DVSA Data Files (Used Files Marked in Blue)**

| No. | File Name | Ref. |
|-----|-----------|------|
| 1. | Car pass rates by gender, month and test centre | DVSA0201 |
| 2. | Car pass rates by first driving attempt, gender and test centre, including zero faults record | DVSA1202 |
| 3. | Car pass rates by age (17 to 25 year olds), year and test centre | DVSA1203 |
| 4. | Car pass rates by ethnicity of candidate, year and test centre | DVSA1204 |
| 5. | Car driving test cancellation reasons by test centre | DVSA1205 |
| 6. | Automatic car pass rates by gender and test centre | DVSA1206 |
| 7. | Car and trailer pass rates by gender and test centre | DVSA0221 |

Based on File 1, Table 2 reports the number of candidates (*Conducted*), the number of passed candidates (*Passed*), and pass rates from 2007 to 2021.[4]. Except for Year 2021, the number of female candidates is higher than the number of male candidates. While the pass rate of male candidates (49.88%) is 6.5% higher than female candidates (43.38%). The overall pass rate for all candidates is 46.51%. In a more recent period, i.e., 2017-2021, the average pass rate is 50.27% for male, 44.04% for female and 47.07% for all candidates.

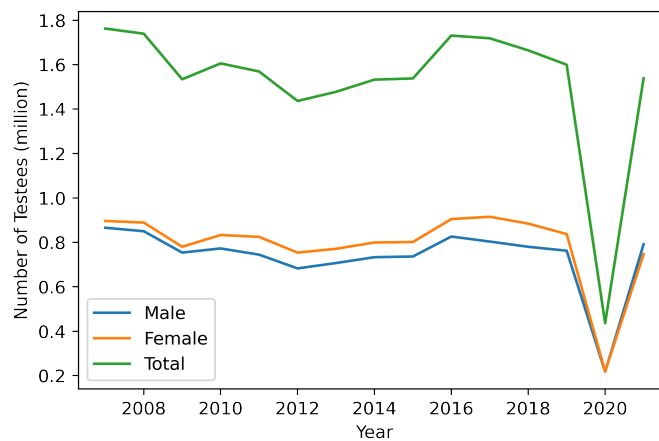**Table 2: UK Driving Test Pass Rates from 2007 to 2021**

| | Male | | | Female | | | Total | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Year | Conducted | Passes | % | Conducted | Passes | % | Conducted | Passes | % |
| 2007/08 | 865,614 | 409,329 | 47.29 | 896,341 | 369,798 | 41.26 | 1,762,363 | 779,317 | 44.22 |
| 2008/09 | 849,997 | 413,160 | 48.61 | 888,942 | 374,462 | 42.12 | 1,739,257 | 787,760 | 45.29 |
| 2009/10 | 753,838 | 370,148 | 49.10 | 780,087 | 333,805 | 42.79 | 1,534,039 | 703,994 | 45.89 |
| 2010/11 | 772,537 | 383,405 | 49.63 | 833,035 | 360,637 | 43.29 | 1,605,599 | 744,044 | 46.34 |
| 2011/12 | 744,487 | 374,472 | 50.30 | 824,572 | 361,685 | 43.86 | 1,569,069 | 736,158 | 46.92 |
| 2012/13 | 682,699 | 345,599 | 50.62 | 753,774 | 331,653 | 44.00 | 1,436,481 | 677,255 | 47.15 |
| 2013/14 | 706,757 | 358,143 | 50.67 | 770,823 | 337,436 | 43.78 | 1,477,585 | 695,580 | 47.08 |
| 2014/15 | 733,161 | 370,343 | 50.51 | 799,341 | 348,367 | 43.58 | 1,532,504 | 718,711 | 46.90 |
| 2015/16 | 736,261 | 372,777 | 50.63 | 801,472 | 350,667 | 43.75 | 1,537,735 | 723,444 | 47.05 |
| 2016/17 | 826,085 | 417,879 | 50.59 | 904,843 | 397,286 | 43.91 | 1,730,936 | 815,168 | 47.09 |
| 2017/18 | 803,464 | 402,005 | 50.03 | 915,051 | 393,885 | 43.05 | 1,718,519 | 795,892 | 46.31 |
| 2018/19 | 779,980 | 386,889 | 49.60 | 884,238 | 375,082 | 42.42 | 1,664,219 | 761,972 | 45.79 |
| 2019/20 | 762,303 | 378,034 | 49.59 | 837,193 | 356,542 | 42.59 | 1,599,566 | 734,600 | 45.92 |
| 2020/21 | 217,437 | 114,140 | 52.50 | 218,514 | 102,858 | 47.10 | 436,044 | 217,031 | 49.80 |
| 2021/22 | 791,286 | 403,209 | 50.96 | 746,650 | 348,578 | 46.69 | 1,538,314 | 751,914 | 48.88 |
| Sum | 11,025,906 | 5,499,532 | 49.88 | 11,854,876 | 5,142,741 | 43.38 | 22,882,230 | 10,642,840 | 46.51 |

---

[4]The DVSA report is not based on calendar years (e.g., 2017) but the survey year (i.e., 2017/2018) See the first column of Table 1.

Figure 1 illustrates the change of the number of candidates from 2007 to 2021. To simplify the figure, I use calendar years on the y-axis rather than the survey year (e.g., 2017/2018 in Table 2). Before 2019, the total number of candidates is relatively stable within the rage 1.4-1.8 million every year. In 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic had a enormous shock on the number of candidates taking driving test. The DVSA suspend most of the services in lockdown, March 2020 (DVSA Annual Review 2020-2021). Also, the spread of the virus could prevent candidates from taking tests due to health concerns (e.g., Stavrinos et al., 2020). As a result, the total number of candidates decreased by 72.74% in 2020 comparing with the number in 2019 (1,599,566 candidates). However, the number of candidates rebounded greatly from the pandemic in 2021, reaching a similar level as 2019. As of 2021-2021, the total number of candidates is 1,538,314.

Figure 2 illustrates the change of pass rates from 2007 to 2021. The overall pass rate has a U-shape change before 2020. In 2007, the overall pass rate is 44.2%. The overall pass rate reached its peak at 47.2% in 2012 and decreased slightly afterwards. It is interesting that the Covid-19 period, i.e., Year 2020, speaks surprisingly for the lowest number of candidates but highest pass rate (49.80% overall, 52.50% for males, and 47.10% for females). In 2021, the pass rate falls back to 48.88% from the abnormally high number in 2020.

**Figure 1: Number of Candidates from 2007 to 2021**



**Figure 2: Driving Test Pass Rates from 2007 to 2021**
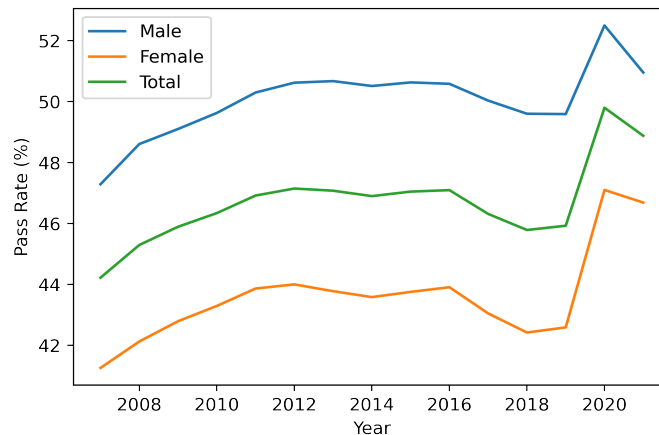
# 3 Pass Rates by City and Test Centre

Driving test pass rates vary greatly and interestingly across cities and test centers. For example, in big cities like London and Birmingham, the pass rates are usually under 40% for all test centres there. But in small towns like Durham, the pass rates are averagely more than 50%. This section discusses the varying of pass rates in different test centres and cities.

**Table 3: The Busiest and Luckiest Test Centres in the UK**

| | Busiest Test Centres | | | Luckiest Test Centers | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rank | Test Centre | Num. | Pass Rate | Test Centre | Num. | Pass Rate |
| 1. | Goodmayes (London) | 237,728 | 38.67% | Kendal (Oxenholme Road) | 14,152 | 63.93% |
| 2. | Reading | 165,669 | 47.56% | Malton | 11,869 | 63.91% |
| 3. | Birmingham (Kingstanding) | 150,639 | 36.83% | Dorchester | 52,076 | 62.51% |
| 4. | Luton | 140,615 | 39.01% | Kendal | 15,303 | 62.17% |
| 5. | Middlesbrough | 137,157 | 49.29% | Lampeter | 10,286 | 60.76% |
| 6. | Oxford (Cowley) | 130,726 | 48.89% | Brecon | 14,673 | 60.36% |
| 7. | Pinner (London) | 129,942 | 44.72% | Pwllheli | 10,844 | 60.15% |
| 8. | Horsforth | 128,981 | 44.52% | Durham | 70,126 | 59.79% |
| 9. | Birmingham (Garretts Green) | 126,098 | 39.66% | Peterhead | 15,860 | 59.75% |
| 10. | Birmingham (South Yardley) | 123,038 | 35.17% | Alnwick | 10,556 | 59.11% |

Table 3 presents the busiest test centres (i.e., with the highest number of candidates from 2007 to 2021) and the luckiest test centres (i.e., with the highest pass rate) in the UK. To rule out the effect of those very small test centers with extremely high pass rates[5], the luckiest test centers only rank test centres serviced more than 100,000 candidates totally from 2007 to 2021. The busiest test centre is Goodmayes (London), which accepted 247,728 candidates in the past 16 years. However, it only has a low pass rate of 38.67%. The Top 10 busiest test centres are Goodmayes (London), Reading, Birmingham (Kingstanding), Luton, Middlesbrough, Oxford (Cowley), Pinner (London), Horsforth, Birmingham (Garrettes Green), and Birmingham (South Yardley). All of these test centres serviced more than 1 million candidates in their history, which is close to the number of candidates taking the test every year in the UK. The Top 10 luckiest test centres include Kendal (Oxenholme Road), Malton, Kendal, Dorchester, Brecon, Pwllheli, Lampeter, Alnwick, Peterhead, and Durham. Though requiring for a minimum number of testees (as mentioned above, 100,000 candidates), these test centres are still relatively not busy, most of them (except for Durham and Dorchester) serviced less than 200,000 candidates in their history. But all of these test centres have a pass rate higher than 59%. The highest one of them, Kendal (Oxenholme Road) has a pass rate of 63.93%. In the appendix Table A1, we also provide a rank of busiest and luckiest test centres based on 5-year data, which could be a more up-to-date reference point.

A city could have more than one test centre. For instance, as shown in Table 3, London has three test centres and Birmingham has two, which are listed on the Top 10 busiest test centres ranking. Multiple centres may bias the feeling of the busyness and the pass rates in London (image that despite of the busiest test centers, London may also has some test centres that are extremely not busy). Therefore, it is helpful to look at the overall pass rates by city. However, the DVSA file only provides the name of test centres rather than any geographic information. To link the name of test centres and geographic location, we have a technical route from test centre name to ZIP code, and finally to NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics, which is more friendly to GIS plotting tools). First, the postcode of driving test centers is obtained from SpeedyTests (https://speedytests.co.uk/test-centres.html), which provide a list of

---

[5]For example, Gairloch Driving Test Centre in Scotland serviced only 504 candidates but has a pass rate of 71.68%.

test centers on static webpages. We crawl down the address information with Python [6]. Second, we link the postcode of driving test centres to NUTS codes using an R package by Yannis Galanakis (2021). Finally, we calculate the accumulative number of candidates and the average pass rates for each of 40 NUTS level-2 area and illustrate them on figures.

**Figure 3: The Geographic Distribution of Candidates (Number of Candidates, GB Only)**
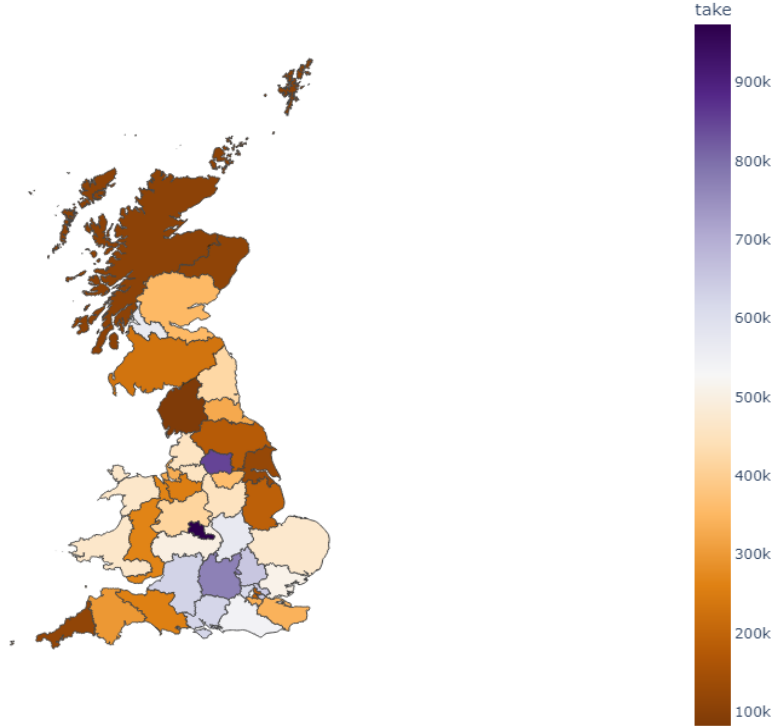


Figure 3 shows the geographic distribution of the number of candidates. Due to data available, Northern Ireland is not included on the figure. The figure shows that London, Birmingham, and Manchester area account for the highest number of candidates. Also, southeastern and southwest counties surrounding London are also busier compared with counties in Wales, Southeast, and Scotland. Scotland is relatively not busy compared with England. And Southern England is relatively not busy compared with the middle and the north. The distribution of the number of candidates is probably related to the distribution of UK population. Our Figure 3 is very similar to the distribution map of UK population published by the UK Office of National Statistics[7].

Figure 4 shows the geographic distribution of pass rates. Due to data available, Northern Ireland is not included on the figure. On average, Scotland and Wales have higher pass rates than England. However, Glasgow area has relatively low pass rate compared with other cities and counties in Scotland. And in England, the North has lower pass rates compared with the south and the middle. London surprisingly have

---

[6]We thanks SpeedyTest for collecting this data and publish it on static webpages

[7]https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/bulletins/annualmidyearpopulationestimates/mid2019

higher pass rates than the surrounding counties. In the appendix (Figure A1 and Figure A2), we also report the geographic distribution of pass rates by gender.

**Figure 4: The Geographic Distribution of Pass Rates (%), GB Only**
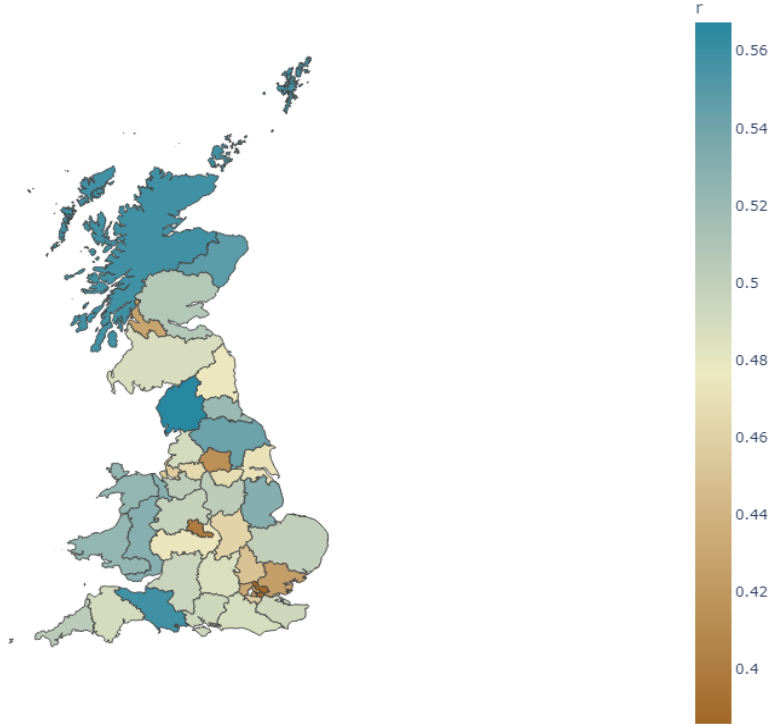


# 4   Additional Analysis

In this section, we report the results of our additional analysis on the calendar effect (pass rate by month), age effect, ethnicity effect, first attempt pass rate, and automatic car pass rate.

## 4.1   Pass Rates by Month

Calendar effects are documented in stock markets. Some researchers find that stocks are more profitable in specific months and days (Gao and Kling, 2005). Similarly, some insurance companies and driving schools have noticed the difference of pass rates in different months[8]. Although they also claim that their conclusion is based on DVSA data, we would like to add to these anecdotes by analysing comprehensively the DVSA data.

---

[8]For example, Sterling Insurance suggests Monday is the best day for taking driving test (https://www.sterling-insurance.co.uk/blog/learner/best-time-driving-test/). A driving school claims that April and August are the best months to take a driving test (https://blog.passmefast.co.uk/learning-to-drive/best-time-of-year-to-take-your-driving-test/).

Based on the data from File 1, we report the pass rate by month in Table 4. In Panel A, we use the full sample period (i.e., 2007-2021) provided by the DVSA. We find, indeed, August accounts for the highest pass rate comparing with the other months. The pass rate in Augest is 50.50% for males, 44.23% for females, and 47.23% for all candidates. It is notable that in January, April, May, July, and September, pass rates are also relatively high, which are higher than 46.5% for all candidates. In Panel B, we focus on a recent period from 2017 to 2021. The result is slightly different from Panel A. For males, the luckiest month is April with an average pass rate of 51.50%. However, for females and all candidates, August is still the luckiest month. Given all, the results shows that average pass rates are relatively higher in January, April, May, July, August, and September.

### Table 4: Luckiest Month To Pass

Panel A: Sample Period 2007-2021

| | Males | | | Females | | | Overall | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Month | Num. | Pass | % | Num. | Pass | % | Num. | Pass | % |
| Jan | 934,015 | 466,930 | 49.99% | 955,481 | 416,190 | 43.56% | 1,892,566 | 884,825 | 46.75% |
| Feb | 893,588 | 440,631 | 49.31% | 940,222 | 400,839 | 42.63% | 1,836,703 | 843,214 | 45.91% |
| Mar | 930,064 | 460,648 | 49.53% | 994,246 | 425,547 | 42.80% | 1,927,224 | 887,818 | 46.07% |
| Apr | 814,168 | 410,329 | 50.40% | 878,810 | 383,248 | 43.61% | 1,695,434 | 794,972 | 46.89% |
| May | 888,433 | 444,379 | 50.02% | 962,887 | 417,526 | 43.36% | 1,855,086 | 864,023 | 46.58% |
| Jun | 907,306 | 452,909 | 49.92% | 988,078 | 428,021 | 43.32% | 1,897,674 | 882,257 | 46.49% |
| Jul | 941,836 | 471,675 | 50.08% | 1,031,984 | 449,541 | 43.56% | 1,980,210 | 924,889 | 46.71% |
| Aug | 864,467 | 436,523 | 50.50% | 949,708 | 420,048 | 44.23% | 1,818,037 | 858,738 | 47.23% |
| Sep | 969,530 | 482,542 | 49.77% | 1,038,790 | 452,439 | 43.55% | 2,010,944 | 936,496 | 46.57% |
| Oct | 1,052,506 | 522,484 | 49.64% | 1,122,137 | 486,063 | 43.32% | 2,177,315 | 1,010,075 | 46.39% |
| Nov | 995,231 | 490,814 | 49.32% | 1,092,223 | 467,670 | 42.82% | 2,091,578 | 960,856 | 45.94% |
| Dec | 789,797 | 392,831 | 49.74% | 849,028 | 367,941 | 43.34% | 1,644,132 | 763,742 | 46.45% |

Panel B: Sample Period 2017-2021

| | Males | | | Females | | | Overall | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Month | Num. | Pass | % | Num. | Pass | % | Num. | Pass | % |
| Jan | 212,664 | 105,651 | 49.68% | 215,408 | 93,880 | 43.58% | 429,411 | 200,232 | 46.63% |
| Feb | 193,868 | 94,508 | 48.75% | 199,928 | 84,831 | 42.43% | 394,859 | 180,013 | 45.59% |
| Mar | 183,524 | 91,350 | 49.78% | 188,557 | 82,354 | 43.68% | 373,139 | 174,321 | 46.72% |
| Apr | 144,648 | 74,496 | 51.50% | 157,612 | 69,716 | 44.23% | 303,114 | 144,737 | 47.75% |
| May | 193,252 | 98,725 | 51.09% | 207,934 | 92,342 | 44.41% | 403,289 | 192,246 | 47.67% |
| Jun | 194,192 | 97,868 | 50.40% | 208,344 | 91,580 | 43.96% | 403,300 | 189,919 | 47.09% |
| Jul | 213,983 | 108,680 | 50.79% | 231,940 | 103,113 | 44.46% | 450,580 | 214,459 | 47.60% |
| Aug | 217,625 | 111,300 | 51.14% | 234,945 | 105,673 | 44.98% | 454,703 | 218,183 | 47.98% |
| Sep | 249,938 | 125,452 | 50.19% | 260,641 | 115,380 | 44.27% | 511,817 | 241,557 | 47.20% |
| Oct | 274,563 | 137,633 | 50.13% | 284,111 | 124,674 | 43.88% | 559,975 | 263,086 | 46.98% |
| Nov | 231,454 | 114,300 | 49.38% | 246,272 | 106,447 | 43.22% | 479,633 | 221,864 | 46.26% |
| Dec | 221,147 | 110,456 | 49.95% | 227,591 | 100,417 | 44.12% | 452,574 | 213,019 | 47.07% |

## 4.2 Pass Rates by Ethnicity

Based on the information in File 4 "car pass rates by ethnicity of candidates, year and test centre", we show the difference of pass rates among different ethnicity groups in Figure 5. The DVSA classifies ethnicity by seven groups, Asian or Asian British, Chinese, black or black British, mixed, other, white, no preference, and prefer not to say. We exclude the last two categories as they do not reflect any information.

During the survied period, white candidates have the highest pass rates, which is around 50%. The average pass rate of white candidates peaks in Year 2012 and then decreases. Mixed ethnicity group also has relatively high pass rate, averagely at around 45%. Among minority ethnicity groups, Chinese candidates

have relatively higher pass rate, averagely at around 37%. And the black and black British has the lowest pass rate, which has been below 35% since 2009. From 2011 to 2018, the pass rate of the black and black British continuously decrease.

**Figure 5: Driving Test Pass Rates by Ethnicity from 2007 to 2018**
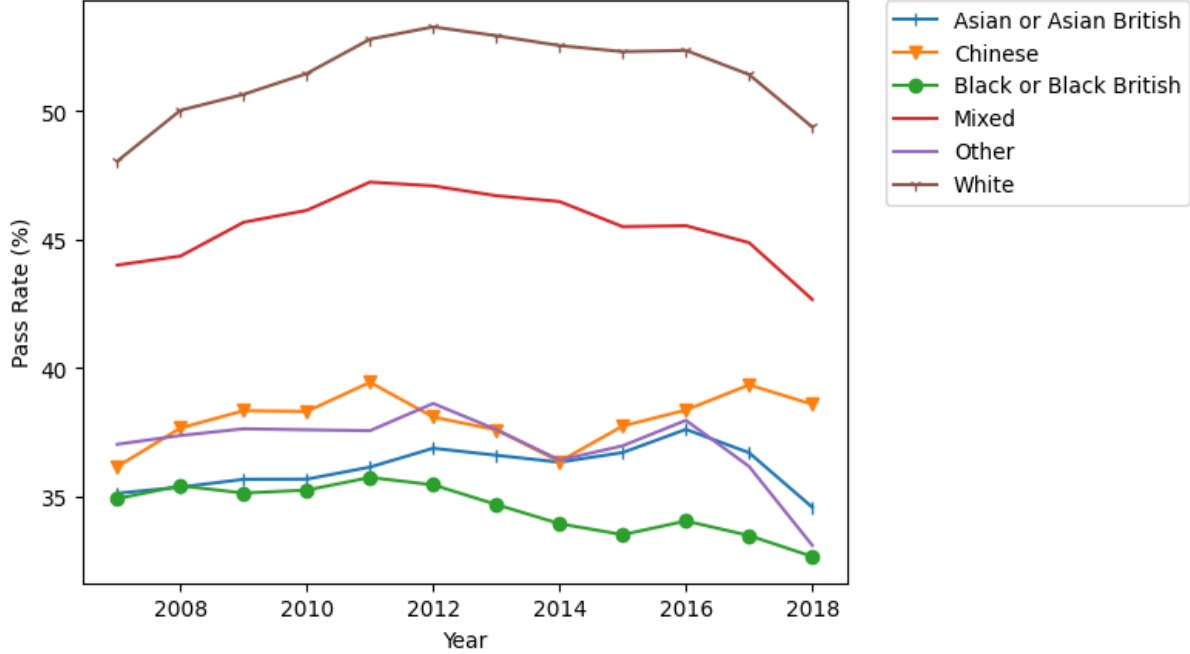


## 4.3  Where Are Experts? First Attempt Pass Rate

The File 2 "car pass rates by first driving attempt, gender and test centre, including zero faults record" provides information on candidates that passed with their first attempt. We illustrate this data in Table 5 and Table 6. In Table 5, we show the first attempt pass rates by year. For every year, we report the number of first attempt candidates, the number of candidates passed with their first attempt, first attempt pass rates, the number of candidates passed with zero fault, and zero default rates. From 2007 to 2021, the average first attempt pass rate increases from 43.29% to 49.30%. And the average zero fault rate increases from 0.53% to 1.94%. The result implies that candidates become more and more prepared before they take their first driving test.

In Table 6, we rank the Top 10 test centres with the highest first attempt pass rates. To rule out the effect of those very small test centers with extremely high pass rates, the luckiest test centers only rank test centres serviced more than 100,000 candidates totally from 2007 to 2021. For every test centre, we report the number of first attempt candidates, the number of candidates passed with their first attempt, the number of candidates passed with zero fault, the pass rate for males, the pass rate for females, and the pass rate for all candidates. The Top 10 test centres with the highest pass rates are Llandrindod Wells (with an average first attempt pass rate 72.11%), Malton, Kendal (Oxenholme Road), Dorchester, Kendal, Arbroath, Inverurie, Brecon, Durham, and Peterhead. In these test centres, both male and female candidates have first attempt pass rates which are higher than 55%.

## Table 5: First Attempt Pass Rates, by Year

| Year | Num. | Pass First Attempt | First Attempt Pass Rate | Zero Fault | Zero Fault Rate |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2007/08 | 791,098 | 342,481 | 43.29% | 4,166 | 0.53% |
| 2008/09 | 762,067 | 345,411 | 45.33% | 4,773 | 0.63% |
| 2009/10 | 701,132 | 320,695 | 45.74% | 4,826 | 0.69% |
| 2010/11 | 728,434 | 336,349 | 46.17% | 6,049 | 0.83% |
| 2011/12 | 700,549 | 332,697 | 47.49% | 7,345 | 1.05% |
| 2012/13 | 651,037 | 310,373 | 47.67% | 7,381 | 1.13% |
| 2013/14 | 667,740 | 319,577 | 47.86% | 6,534 | 0.98% |
| 2014/15 | 704,915 | 335,374 | 47.58% | 7,536 | 1.07% |
| 2015/16 | 731,925 | 347,825 | 47.52% | 8,034 | 1.10% |
| 2016/17 | 799,827 | 376,785 | 47.11% | 9,627 | 1.20% |
| 2017/18 | 777,413 | 363,044 | 46.70% | 10,029 | 1.29% |
| 2018/19 | 733,167 | 341,394 | 46.56% | 10,247 | 1.40% |
| 2019/20 | 720,490 | 334,428 | 46.42% | 10,375 | 1.44% |
| 2020/21 | 248,293 | 126,742 | 51.05% | 4,805 | 1.94% |
| 2021/22 | 816,122 | 402,371 | 49.30% | 15,851 | 1.94% |

## Table 6: Top 10 Test Centres with the Highest First Attempt Pass Rates

| Test Centre | First Take | Pass | Zero Fault | Pass Rate (M) | Pass Rate (F) | Pass Rate |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Llandrindod Wells | 5,225 | 3,626 | 236 | 72.11% | 66.81% | 69.40% |
| Malton | 7,224 | 4,666 | 330 | 68.59% | 60.94% | 64.59% |
| Kendal (Oxenholme Road) | 8,353 | 5,344 | 316 | 67.30% | 60.64% | 63.98% |
| Dorchester | 29,893 | 18,699 | 601 | 65.10% | 60.13% | 62.55% |
| Kendal | 8,625 | 5,346 | 130 | 65.35% | 58.53% | 61.98% |
| Arbroath | 6,118 | 3,771 | 395 | 63.57% | 59.92% | 61.64% |
| Inverurie | 6,093 | 3,717 | 108 | 64.13% | 58.31% | 61.00% |
| Brecon | 8,543 | 5,194 | 286 | 65.28% | 56.91% | 60.80% |
| Durham | 40,630 | 24,398 | 1,027 | 63.66% | 56.75% | 60.05% |
| Peterhead | 8,550 | 5,126 | 330 | 64.41% | 55.54% | 59.95% |

## 4.4 Automatic Car Data

In 2021, 17.87% candidates choose to take their driving test with automatic cars. In Table 7, we present the pass rate with automatic cars by year. The average pass rate using automatic cars are 39.18%, which is lower than overall pass rates. In Table 8, we list the test centres with the highest number of automatic car candidates and those with highest pass rates. To rule out the effect of those very small test centers with extremely high pass rates, the luckiest test centers for automatic car candidates only rank test centres serviced more than 500 candidates totally from 2007 to 2021. Eight test centres in London are among the Top 10 busiest auto test centres. And the luckiest centre for automatic car candidates are Dorchester (with an average pass rate 59.46%), Yeovil, Durham, Nelson, Dundee, Pembroke Dock, Ashfield, Hyde (Manchester), Chichester, and Warrington.

**Table 7: Automatic Car Pass Rates, by Year**

| Year | Num. | Pass | Pass Rate |
|------|------|------|-----------|
| 2007/08 | 70,429 | 26,400 | 37.48% |
| 2008/09 | 75,716 | 28,964 | 38.25% |
| 2009/10 | 71,454 | 27,884 | 39.02% |
| 2010/11 | 83,554 | 32,036 | 38.34% |
| 2011/12 | 70,429 | 26,400 | 37.48% |
| 2012/13 | 87,844 | 34,749 | 39.56% |
| 2013/14 | 95,759 | 37,266 | 38.92% |
| 2014/15 | 105,948 | 41,391 | 39.07% |
| 2015/16 | 114,994 | 45,238 | 39.34% |
| 2016/17 | 141,264 | 56,172 | 39.76% |
| 2017/18 | 163,790 | 63,727 | 38.91% |
| 2018/19 | 185,043 | 71,870 | 38.84% |
| 2019/20 | 202,506 | 79,951 | 39.48% |
| 2020/21 | 60,209 | 24,996 | 41.52% |
| 2021/22 | 242,713 | 101,231 | 41.71% |
| Sum | | | 39.18% |

**Table 8: The Busiest and Luckiest Test Centres for Automatic Car Candidates**

| | Busiest Auto Test Centres | | | Luckiest Auto Test Centers | | |
|------|---------------------------|------|-----------|----------------------------|------|-----------|
| Rank | Test Centre | Num. | Pass Rate | Test Centre | Num. | Pass Rate |
| 1. | Goodmayes (London) | 34,603 | 36.89% | Dorchester | 1,596 | 59.46% |
| 2. | Pinner (London) | 16,155 | 41.20% | Yeovil | 1,016 | 59.35% |
| 3. | Morden (London) | 14,004 | 44.02% | Durham | 1,588 | 59.13% |
| 4. | Isleworth (Fleming Way) | 13,259 | 42.11% | Nelson | 681 | 54.92% |
| 5. | Hither Green (London) | 13,020 | 43.65% | Dundee | 1,066 | 54.69% |
| 6. | Hendon (London) | 12,954 | 39.96% | Pembroke Dock | 576 | 53.99% |
| 7. | Mitcham (London) | 11,517 | 38.96% | Ashfield | 1,826 | 53.72% |
| 8. | Mill Hill (London) | 10,990 | 42.06% | Hyde (Manchester) | 611 | 53.68% |
| 9. | Chingford (London) | 10,970 | 35.95% | Chichester | 1,242 | 53.06% |
| 10. | Greenford (Horsenden Lane) | 8,152 | 34.97% | Warrington | 1,098 | 52.82% |

# 5 References

1. DVSA (Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency). "Car driving test data by test centre". https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/car-driving-test-data-by-test-centre. [Accessed Sep 2021].

2. DVSA, 2021. "Annual Review 2020 to 2021". https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dvsa-annual-review-2020-to-2021. [Accessed Sep 2021].

3. Galanakis, Y. 2021. "Converting UK postcodes to NUTS regions (Version 1.0)". https://github.com/ygalanak/UKpc2NUTS

4. Kling, G. and Gao, L., 2005. "Calendar effects in Chinese stock market". *Annals of Economics and Finance*, 6(1), pp.75-88.

5. Stavrinos, D., McManus, B., Mrug, S., He, H., Gresham, B., Albright, M.G., Svancara, A.M., Whittington, C., Underhill, A. and White, D.M., 2020. "Adolescent driving behavior before and during restrictions related to COVID-19". *Accident Analysis & Prevention.*

# 6 Appendix

I. Pass rate by test centre 2007-2021 (full data, average pass rate for 712 current and history test centres)
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1N4ClmRaPas-MyNQPvsIUvCtKOCA5RSf5/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=115409051612144827220&rtpof=true&sd=true

II. Busiest and luckiest test center 2017-2021 (Table A1 below)

III. Pass rate by test centre (automatic car data, five-year average)
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1pDoTKDNtpH7ceX34VCTMQd1jkVLXtc8Z/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=115409051612144827220&rtpof=true&sd=true

IV. The Geographic Distribution of Pass Rates (Figure A1 for males and Figure A2 for females)

V. First attempt pass rate by test centre 2007-2021 (full data, average pass rate)
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Pn2gctXUnwHgQNsf25Xf4eP5YqUuKyRO/view?usp=sharing

**Table A1: The Busiest and Luckiest Test Centres from 2017 to 2021**

| | Busiest Test Centres | | | Luckiest Test Centers | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rank | Test Centre | Num. | Pass Rate | Test Centre | Num. | Pass Rate |
| 1. | Goodmayes (London) | 123,411 | 38.93% | Dorchester | 21,155 | 63.09% |
| 2. | Pinner (London) | 70,012 | 44.17% | Yeovil | 22,010 | 62.25% |
| 3. | Morden (London) | 67,529 | 47.71% | Durham | 30,224 | 59.75% |
| 4. | Isleworth (Fleming Way) | 61,146 | 45.33% | Northallerton | 12,615 | 59.29% |
| 5. | Birmingham (Garretts Green) | 56,720 | 39.21% | Ipswich | 33,415 | 59.05% |
| 6. | Chingford (London) | 55,087 | 37.91% | Abergavenny | 18,025 | 58.79% |
| 7. | Hither Green (London) | 53,333 | 48.11% | Lee On The Solent | 25,650 | 58.73% |
| 8. | Norris Green (Liverpool) | 52,927 | 42.00% | Llantrisant | 10,475 | 58.25% |
| 9. | West Didsbury (Manchester) | 52,800 | 45.15% | Ashfield | 30,241 | 57.93% |
| 10. | Reading | 49,802 | 49.24% | Dundee | 20,604 | 57.63% |
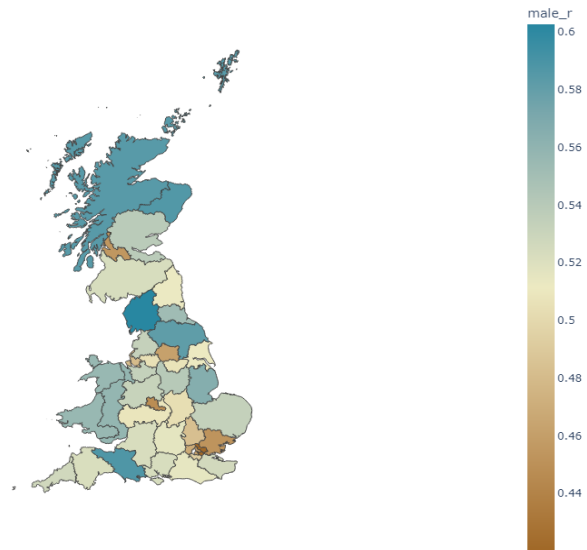
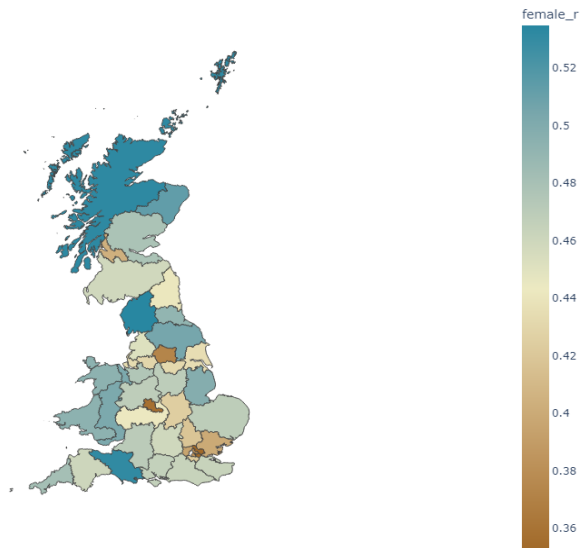Figure A1: Driving Test Pass Rates for Males from 2007 to 2021



Figure A2: Driving Test Pass Rates for Females from 2007 to 2021