

Department for Transport statistics

[Road Freight Statistics](#)

Table RFS0117

Percentage empty¹ running and loading factors² by type and weight of vehicle: annual 2000 - 2013

UK activity of GB registered heavy goods vehicles

Vehicle type and size (gvw tonnes)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Percentage empty running														
Rigid vehicles														
Over 3.5 to 7.5	24.3	25.1	24.3	26.3	25.0	27.5	25.4	28.4	26.0	26.9	26.7	28.9	27.2	26.2
Over 7.5 to 17	25.2	24.2	24.9	24.2	25.7	23.6	24.8	24.0	26.5	25.0	25.1	27.9	23.6	25.4
Over 17 to 25	28.0	26.5	26.0	25.4	25.6	25.0	23.9	23.3	26.6	24.7	26.1	26.6	25.3	25.6
Over 25	37.7	36.7	37.5	35.7	35.3	35.3	34.6	34.4	35.2	36.3	35.8	35.5	34.9	34.6
All rigids	27.3	27.2	27.6	27.9	27.7	28.4	27.5	28.4	29.0	28.8	29.2	30.4	28.7	28.8
Articulated vehicles														
Over 3.5 to 33	22.3	20.1	22.3	21.0	21.1	23.6	22.9	22.8	24.9	23.9	23.7	22.8	23.7	22.8
Over 33	27.5	26.7	25.9	25.9	26.5	26.8	26.5	26.7	29.1	28.0	28.6	30.6	28.6	28.8
All artics	26.4	25.5	25.3	25.2	25.8	26.5	26.1	26.4	28.8	27.7	28.2	30.0	28.2	28.4
All vehicles	26.9	26.4	26.5	26.5	26.8	27.4	26.8	27.4	28.9	28.3	28.7	30.2	28.5	28.6
Loading factor														
Rigid vehicles														
Over 3.5 to 7.5	0.45	0.44	0.43	0.42	0.41	0.41	0.42	0.40	0.41	0.43	0.46	0.45	0.44	0.45
Over 7.5 to 17	0.44	0.41	0.42	0.40	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.37	0.41	0.36	0.39	0.43	0.40	0.39
Over 17 to 25	0.51	0.51	0.48	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.45	0.45	0.44	0.42	0.44	0.47	0.47	0.45
Over 25	0.70	0.67	0.68	0.65	0.66	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.60	0.61	0.62	0.71	0.76	0.73
All rigids	0.54	0.52	0.53	0.52	0.52	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.52	0.50	0.53	0.59	0.61	0.60
Articulated vehicles														
Over 3.5 to 33	0.47	0.46	0.45	0.43	0.41	0.43	0.45	0.43	0.45	0.45	0.44	0.44	0.45	0.46
Over 33	0.66	0.64	0.62	0.60	0.60	0.59	0.59	0.60	0.61	0.61	0.62	0.65	0.64	0.64
All artics	0.63	0.62	0.60	0.58	0.59	0.58	0.58	0.59	0.60	0.60	0.61	0.63	0.63	0.63
All vehicles	0.60	0.59	0.58	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.56	0.57	0.58	0.57	0.59	0.62	0.63	0.63

1. Empty is defined as carrying zero tonnes.

2. The ratio of the actual goods moved to the maximum tonne-kms achievable if the vehicles, whenever loaded, were loaded to their maximum carrying capacity.

Note: discontinuities in the series (denoted by lines) are described in detail within the methodology note; comparisons across years where methodological changes have occurred should be treated with caution.

[Methodology note](#)

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[Notes & definitions](#)

Source: Continuing Survey of Road Goods Transport (Great Britain)
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