

NORTH EAST Regional Road Safety Resource

Project Report: 5.

Regional Overview of Goods Vehicle Accidents 2005 – 2007.

**Produced July 2008.
Natalie Goodman**

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Introduction

This report has been produced by the North East Regional Resource as an overview of accidents involving goods vehicles in the NE region 2005 -2007. The data used to produce the report is based on the project database of Stats 19 provided by Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria police forces.

Profile of Goods Vehicle Accidents 2005 – 2007

Goods vehicles are involved in 5% of road accidents in the North East Region. The Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) rate for all categories of goods vehicles in the period 2005-7 was 12% which is in line with the National average (2006: DFT).

Figure 1. Accidents by Motor Vehicle Type, NE Region 2005-7.

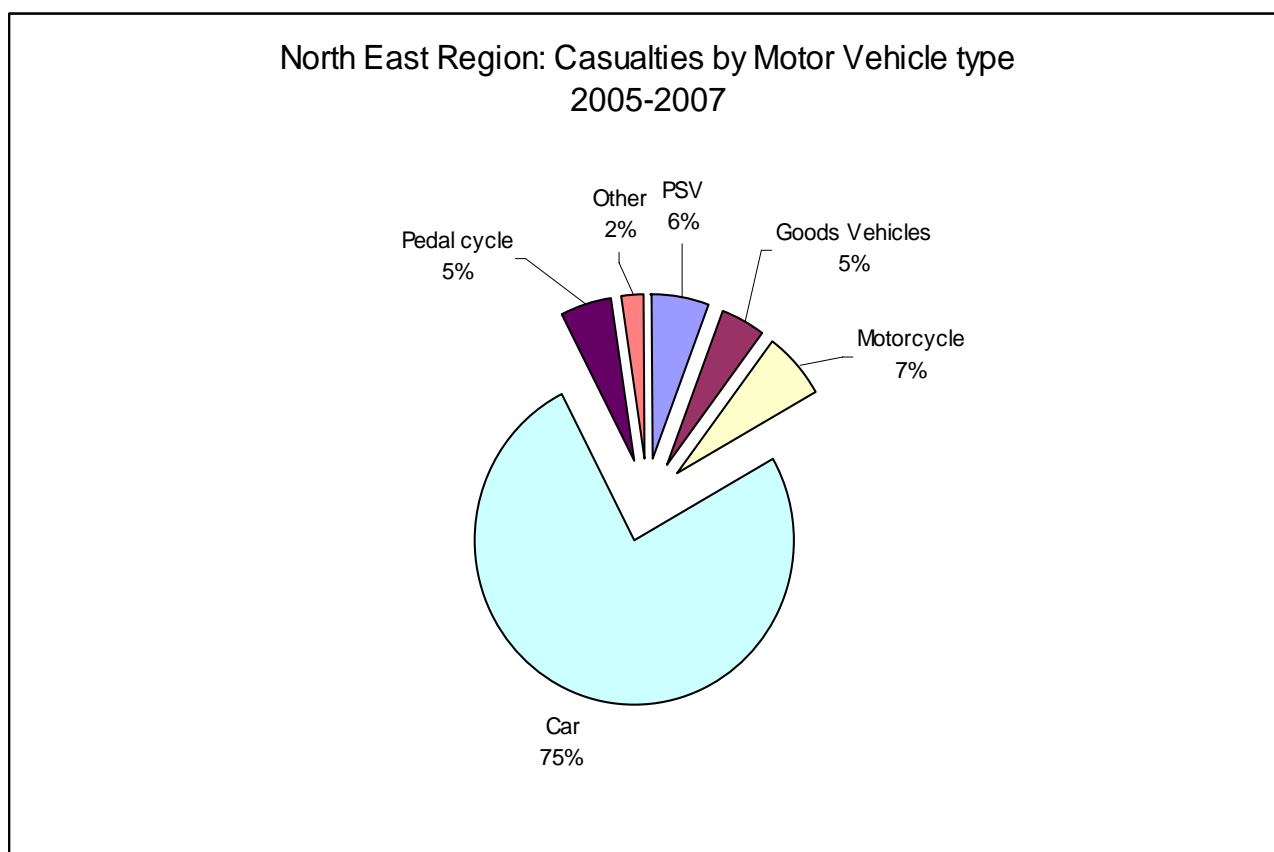


Figure 2. Number of Casualties from Accidents involving Goods Vehicles, NE Region 2005-2007

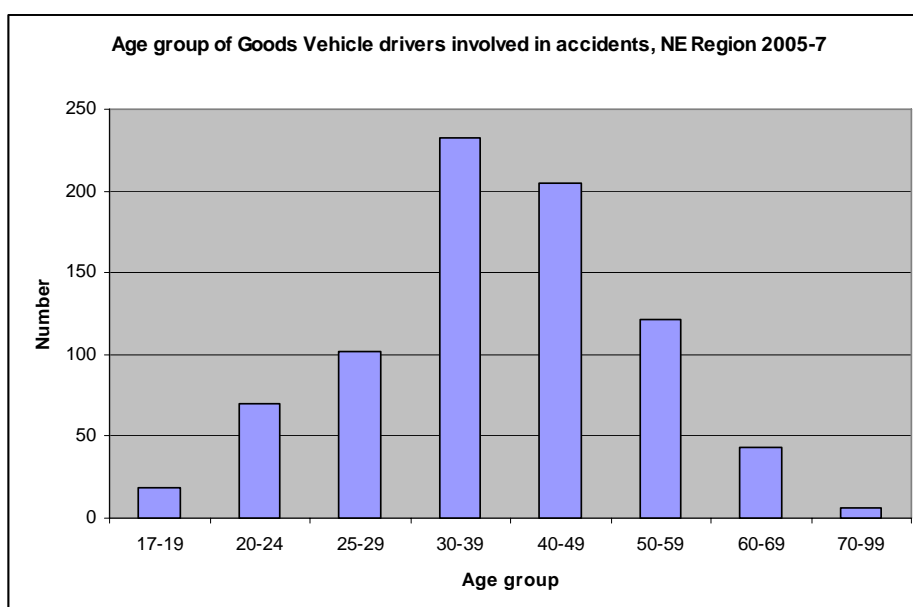
	Fatal	Serious	Slight	Total
Goods vehicle <= 3.5 tonnes mgw	12	103	913	1028
Goods vehicle > 3.5 and < 7.5 tonnes mgw	1	12	85	98
Goods vehicle >= 7.5 tonnes mgw	4	27	141	172
Total	17	142	1139	1298

The KSI rate for goods vehicles over 7.5 tonnes is higher than other categories at 18%. While the accident record of heavy vehicles (classified as those over 3.5 tonnes gross vehicle weight) in the UK is generally good, accidents involving heavy vehicles have the potential to cause a large number of casualties in a single incident. This is an area being studied by the Transport Research laboratory (www.trl.co.uk)

Profile of Goods vehicle drivers

The majority of accidents involving goods vehicles occur when the vehicle is being used for expected work purposes or being used to commute to work. The age profile of goods vehicle drivers is shown below, most drivers tend to be men aged over 30. This reflects the restrictions on some categories of goods vehicle licensing and insurance which can exclude younger drivers. Only 7% of goods vehicles involved in accidents had female drivers.

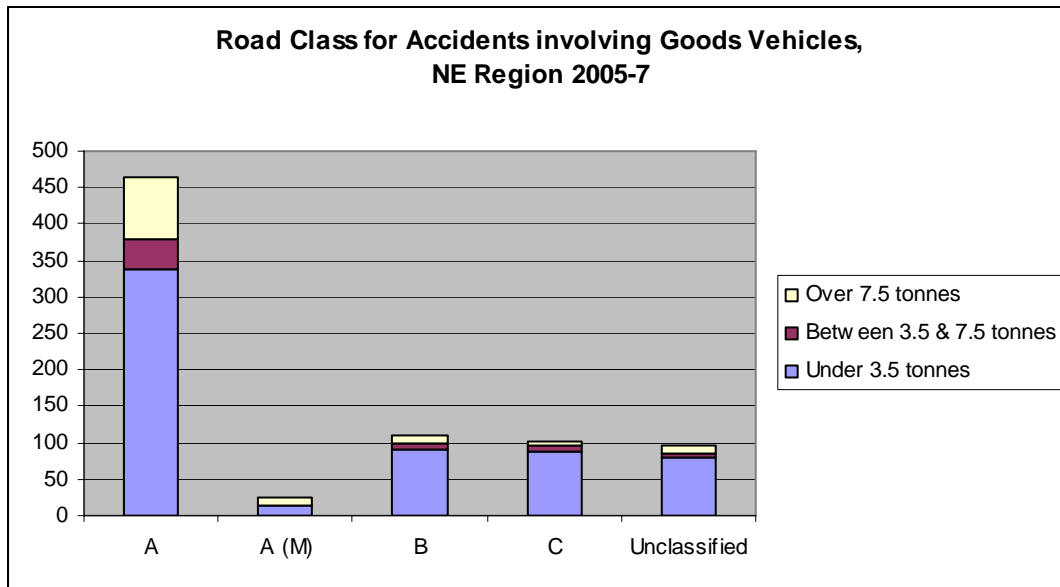
Figure 3. Age group of Goods vehicle Drivers involved in Accidents, NE Region 2005-7.



Road class

58% of goods vehicle accidents take place on A Class roads, with vehicles under 3.5 tonnes (light goods) accounting for the majority of accidents on all road types.

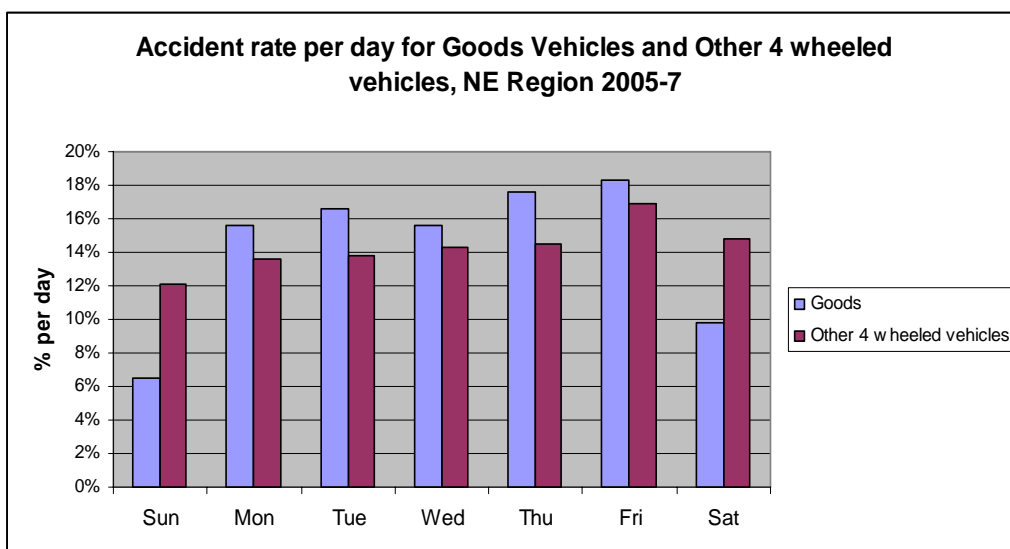
Figure 4. Road Class for Accidents involving Good Vehicles, NE Region 2005-7



When do accidents occur

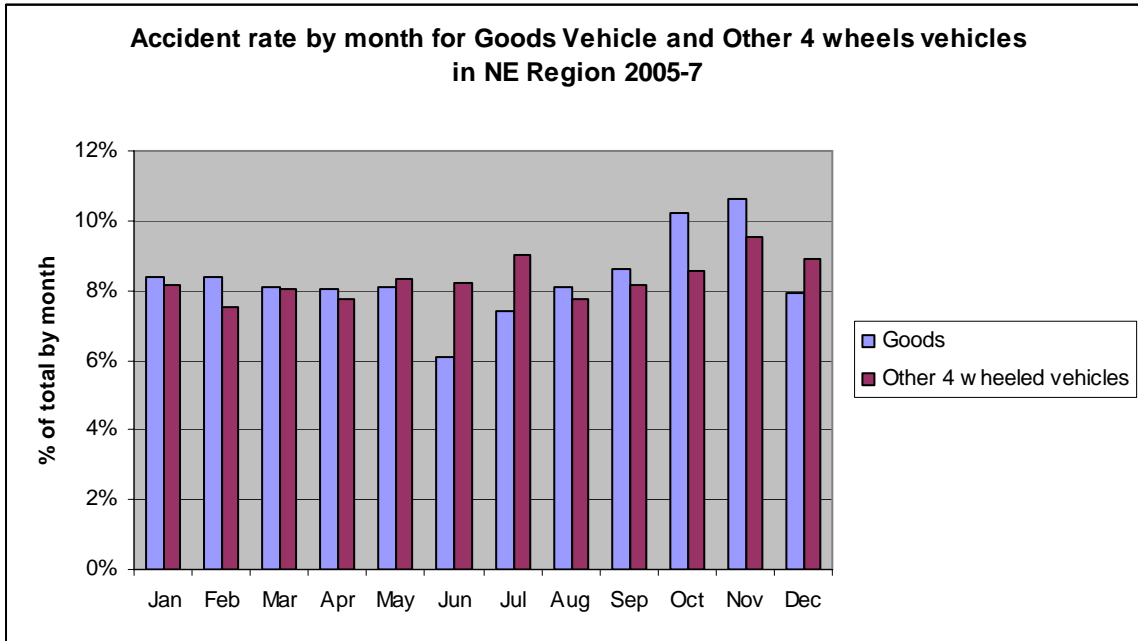
The majority of accidents involving Goods vehicles occur during the week, Monday – Friday reflecting standard working patterns in the UK. This is in contrast to the use of other vehicle e.g. Cars which show peak use at weekends.

Figure 5. Day of the week for Goods Vehicle Accidents in the NE Region 2005-7.



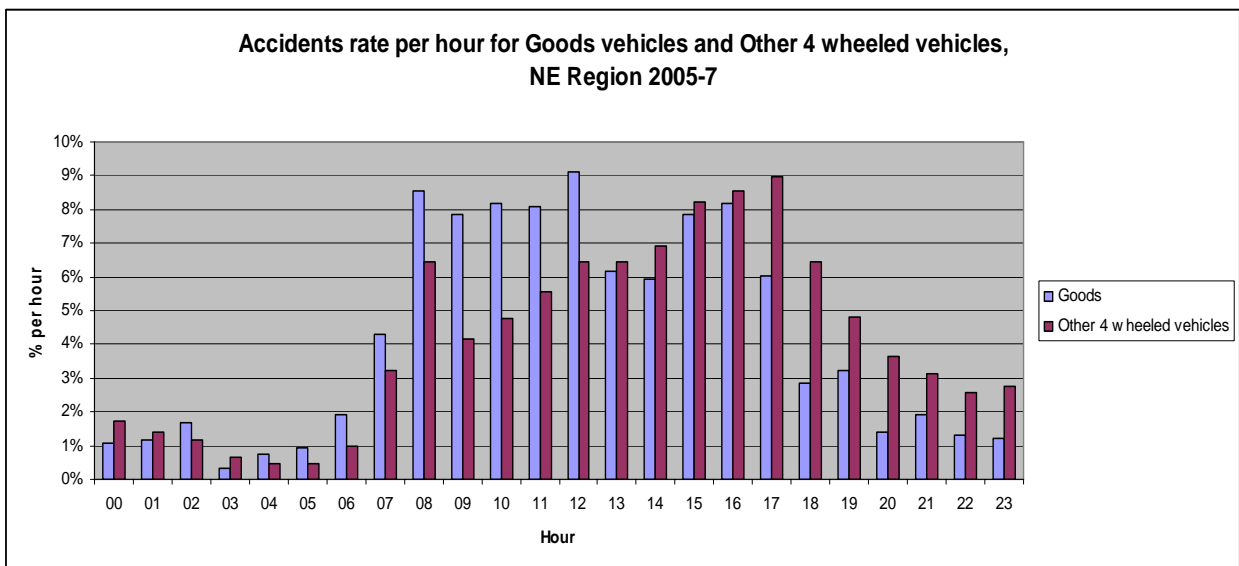
On a monthly basis there is a drop in the number of goods vehicle accidents during June / July, the accident rate then rises through the autumn period to a peak on November. When compared with other 4 wheel vehicles it is clear that there is a difference during the summer months.

Figure 6. Accident rate by month for goods vehicles and other 4 wheels vehicles, NE Region 2005-7.



The peak time of day for goods vehicle accidents are shown in the chart below with 76% of accidents happening between 8am and 5pm, there is a significant peak in the morning period 8am – 12pm.

Figure 7. Time of the day when Goods Vehicle and Other 4 wheels vehicle Accidents occur, NE Region 2005-7.



Cause of accidents

Analysis of causation factors shows that ‘failed to look properly’ was the most often cited cause for goods vehicles accidents, as it is with all other types of driven transport.

Figure 8. Contributory factors in Accidents involving Goods Vehicle, NE Region 2005-7

Causation factor	%
Failed to look properly	22.7
Failed to judge other persons path or speed	13.7
Careless/Reckless/In a hurry	11.7
Poor turn or manoeuvre	9.0
Following too close	6.8
Sudden braking	6.1
Slippery road (due to weather)	5.8
Travelling too fast for conditions	5.4
Loss of control	4.4
Pedestrian failed to look properly	3.4
Exceeding speed limit	2.4
Dazzling sun	2.4
Impaired by alcohol	2.4
Swerved	2.0
Other	1.9

National research shows that ‘failed to look properly’ occurs more in urban accidents. It is suggested that this may be due to the many distractions for drivers in built up areas. DFT research also indicates that nationally the percentage of drivers who ‘fail to look properly’ most often are on A roads. (DFT:2006).

Analysis of accident causation in the North East Region shows that good vehicle drivers are

Headline notes.

- 5% of road accidents in the North East Region involve goods vehicles.
- Good vehicles are involved in 18% of KSIs in the region.
- Goods vehicle drivers are mainly male.
- A roads have the majority of accidents involving goods vehicles.
- Goods vehicle drivers are mainly aged 30-60 years
- 22.7% of goods vehicle accidents are caused by the driver ‘failing to look properly’.
- The peak accident time for goods vehicles is between 8am and lunchtime.