

DVSA DATA ANALYSIS — HIGH WYCOMBE

MOT Failure Data Report 2026

An analysis of 57.6 million DVSA anonymised test records covering the 2024–25 testing period, with South East and High Wycombe regional context. Produced by Auto Clinics High Wycombe.

57.6M UK test records analysed	21.7% UK national failure rate	~20% South East failure rate	78.3% UK average pass rate
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SECTION 1 — FAILURE RATE BY CATEGORY

Most Common MOT Defect Categories — UK 2024–25

The table below shows the percentage of all MOT tests (not just failures) that recorded a defect in each category. A single vehicle can generate defects in multiple categories.

Rank	Defect Category	% of All Tests	Typical Causes	Risk Level
1	Lights & Electrical	10.6%	Blown bulbs, headlamp aim, wiring faults, warning lights	HIGH
2	Brakes	9.03%	Worn pads/discs, seized calipers, imbalanced efficiency, handbrake	HIGH
3	Tyres	8.05%	Tread below 1.6mm, sidewall damage, incorrect pressure	HIGH
4	Suspension	5.8%	Worn bushes, drop links, shock absorbers, springs	MEDIUM
5	Steering	4.2%	Excessive play, power steering faults, track rod ends	MEDIUM
6	Emissions	3.7%	Blocked DPF, lambda sensor, catalytic converter faults	MEDIUM
7	Windscreen & Wipers	2.9%	Chips in A-zone, wiper blade failure, washer jets	LOW
8	Body & Structure	2.1%	Structural corrosion, sharp edges, number plate faults	LOW

Source: DVSA anonymised test data 2024. Percentages indicate proportion of all tests recording a defect — not the failure rate. A single test can contribute to multiple categories.

SECTION 2 — REGIONAL PASS RATE ANALYSIS

MOT Pass Rates by UK Region — 2024–25

Region	Est. Pass Rate	vs UK Average	Notes
South East (incl. High Wycombe)	~80%	+1.7pp	M40 commuter profile, newer avg vehicle age
London	~80%	+1.7pp	Higher proportion of newer leased vehicles
East of England	~79%	+0.7pp	Mix of rural and commuter driving
UK National Average	78.3%	—	Baseline — 57.6M records
East Midlands	~76%	-2.3pp	Higher proportion of older vehicles
North West	~74%	-4.3pp	Urban stop-start, older fleet age
Wales	~72%	-6.3pp	Rural road damage, older average fleet
Some Scottish areas	52–70%	-8 to -26pp	Rural road damage, older vehicles, potholes

SECTION 3 — PASS RATE BY VEHICLE MAKE

MOT First-Test Pass Rate by Manufacturer — UK 2024

Make	Pass Rate	Rating	Make	Pass Rate	Rating
Lexus	86.4%	Excellent	Nissan	78.8%	Average
BMW	84.4%	Excellent	Kia	78.2%	Average
Jaguar	84.4%	Excellent	Vauxhall	76.9%	Average
Toyota	83.1%	Very Good	Ford	75.1%	Below Avg
Audi	82.7%	Very Good	Peugeot	73.4%	Below Avg
Mercedes	81.9%	Very Good	Land Rover	72.9%	Below Avg
Honda	81.2%	Very Good	Renault	71.8%	Poor
Volkswagen	80.1%	Good	Citroen	71.3%	Poor
Hyundai	79.5%	Good	UK Average	78.3%	—

Data based on DVSA first-test pass rates. Brands with fewer than 100,000 records excluded. Results vary by vehicle age, mileage and maintenance history.

SECTION 4 — HIGH WYCOMBE POSTCODE ANALYSIS

MOT Risk Profile by HP Postcode Area

Where you drive in High Wycombe affects which components wear fastest — and which items are most likely to fail at MOT. Urban stop-start driving accelerates brake and clutch wear; Chilterns rural roads stress suspension.

Postcode	Area	Road Type	Est. Pass Rate	Top MOT Risks
HP11	Town Centre / Marsh	Urban A-road, stop-start	~79%	Brakes, clutch, tyres, exhaust
HP12	Cressex / Totteridge	Mixed urban / industrial	~80%	Brakes, lights, tyre wear
HP13	Micklefield / Terriers	Residential / suburban	~81%	Tyres, lights, wiper blades
HP14	Stokenchurch / Bledlow Ridge	Rural B-roads, Chilterns	~82%	Suspension, exhaust corrosion, body rust
HP15	Hazlemere / Penn	Suburban / semi-rural	~82%	Tyres, suspension, lighting

Pass rates estimated from South East DVSA data (~80% regional average) adjusted for local driving profile, road type and vehicle age. Auto Clinics does not hold DVSA data at postcode level.

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