

Roads and Infrastructure

Roads Factsheet

SRMCS

January 2024

The Scottish Road Maintenance Condition Survey (SRMCS) is an annual survey which assesses the condition of the Scottish adopted road network. It is used to calculate a Road Condition Indicator (RCI) that is used by Audit Scotland as a Statutory Performance Indicator (SPI) for reporting road condition.

The survey is undertaken by an independent contractor, accredited by the Transport Research Laboratory (TRL), and covers all Scottish Council Road Networks as well as the Trunk Road Network. This ensures an unbiased survey which allows a direct comparison across adopted road networks.

Survey Details

The length of road network surveyed annually is substantial and includes:-

- 100% of “A” class roads with the direction of travel changed on alternate years;
- 50% of “B” and “C” class roads with the remaining 50% surveyed the 2nd year, so covering all of these roads on a 2 year cycle. For consistency, the direction of survey is also alternated over a four year period; and
- 10% of “U” class roads are surveyed in one direction each year.

In a Highland context, the annual survey sample equates to approximately 2,910km of road or just under 43% of the total network.

The survey machine takes a measurement every 100mm along the road. These results are then averaged over 10 metre lengths.

The main parameters collected by the survey vehicle include:-

- Texture (roughness of the road);
- Rutting (wheel tracking);
- Longitudinal profile (smoothness of ride); and
- Surface cracking.

Statutory Performance Indicator

The Statutory Performance Indicator for the condition of the Scottish Local Authority road network is defined as “the percentage of the road network which should be considered for maintenance treatment”.

To minimise the effect of differing sample sections on the results, the RCI is derived from the survey data collected over the previous two years for A, B and C class roads, and over 4 years for U class roads. This means that the overall survey result is based on a 100% sample of A, B & C class roads and a 40% sample of the U class road network.

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The overall results from the SRMCS are presented on a colour coding convention as set out below:

Green: Minor defects may be present, but the road is considered to be in an acceptable condition.

Amber: Further investigation is required.

Red: The road has deteriorated to a point where repairs are very likely to be required to preserve serviceability and to prolong its future.

The RCI is derived by adding the lengths of road categorised as “red” and “amber” together and expressed as a percentage of the overall network. The higher the RCI, the worse the road condition. A year on year increase in the RCI would indicate deterioration, whilst a decrease indicates improvement.

Long Term Trend

Comparing our results over the last 11 years shows a significant deterioration in our RCI, but there has been an improvement from the 2021 result. In 2011 we had an RCI of 32.0% and were ranked 9th best Council. In 2022 our RCI was 36.5% and our ranking is 25th, (noting an improvement from 26th in 2021). During this period, the overall Scottish RCI has improved from 36.1% to 33.6%.

The table below shows the results for 2011 and the last 5 years.

Year	2011	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
RCI	32.0%	38.6%	37.8%	39.1%	36.7%	36.5%

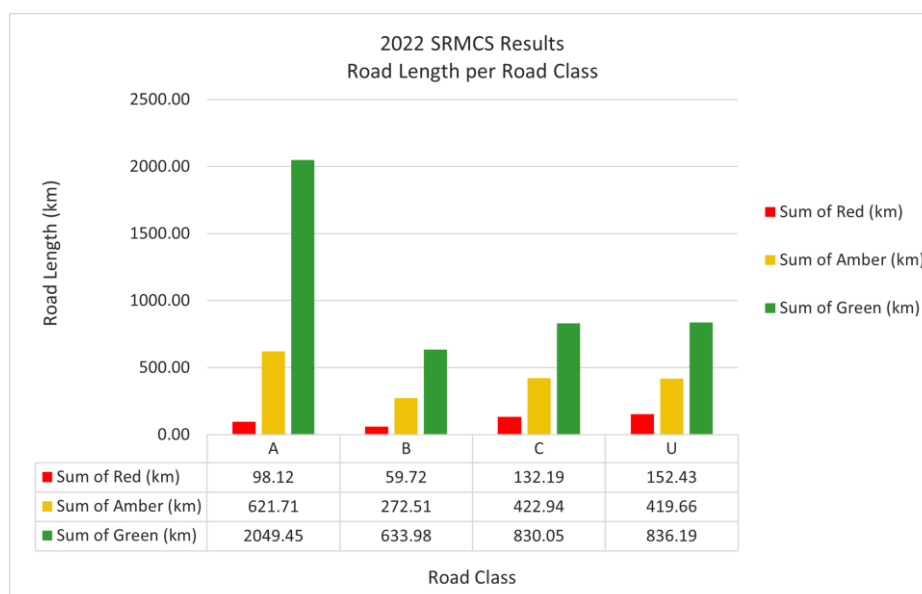
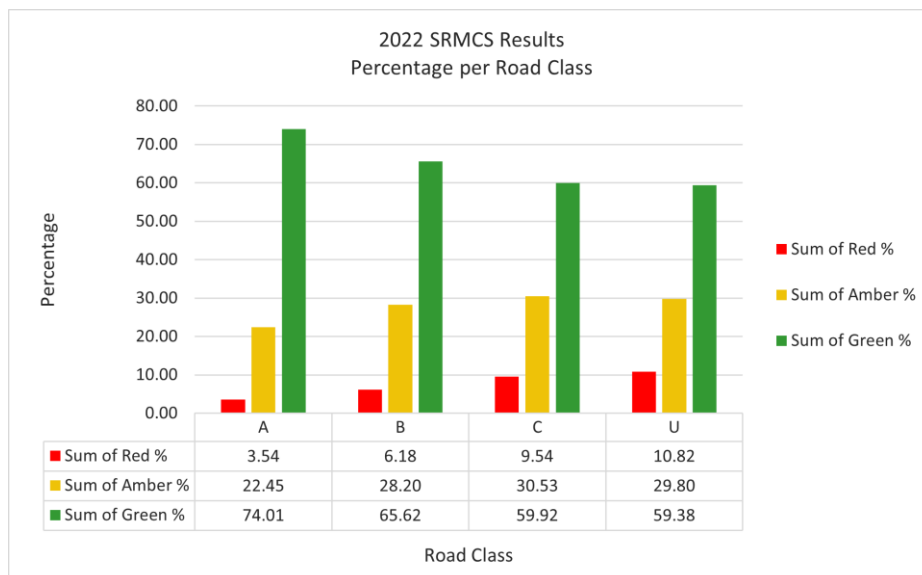
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The graphs below show the latest results of percentage and road length per road class.



Updates

This document will be updated periodically without prior notification.

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