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Services

**ANNUAL UK DRIVING
INSTRUCTOR REVIEW
2023**

Introduction and Methodology



At FBTC we have been providing accountancy and tax support to UK Driving Instructors for over 25 years and in that time, we have witnessed an enormous amount of change within the industry. Having seen a need to provide an independent and authoritative analysis on the health of the UK Driver Training sector, FBTC created and conducted the Annual Driving Instructor Review, which has been widely regarded as the definitive guide to Driving Instructor earnings throughout the UK for the last eight years.

As the leading provider of Accountancy Services to the UK Driver Training Industry, FBTC is in a unique position to be able to provide such insight. FBTC client confidentiality is paramount, we therefore gather information by surveying a random sample of Independent and Franchised Instructors from all corners of the country and the information gathered from participants will only ever be used and presented on an aggregated basis.

This year's study provides a fascinating insight into Driving Instructor's workload, earnings and levels of job satisfaction. Having the year-on-year comparison sheds captivating light on a dynamic and evolving marketplace.

Each November we distribute the survey questionnaires to FBTC clients and members of the driver training trade organisations. The survey sent in November 2022 attracted 584 responses which allows us to treat the data as significant. However, as with previous years the data is skewed towards male, southern based and franchised Driving Instructors.

We hope that this insight is of interest to the various stakeholders within the UK Driver Training sector and we look forward to further debate on the topics raised.

Executive Summary

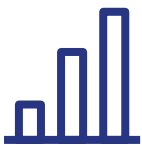
We are pleased to report that post pandemic rise in demand for driving lessons has led to continued and ongoing recovery in the sector.

The pandemic bottled up demand from Learners which created a surge in business across the industry from April 2021 onwards. The DVSA continues to report practical test waiting times in excess of 24 weeks in many key urban locations.

The long-term decline in the number of registered Approved Driving Instructors (ADIs) has halted, but DVSA data shows that there is still less Driving Instructors than before the pandemic.

The effect of higher Learner demand and low Driving Instructor availability has created a set of conditions for Driving Instructors to increase their hourly rates and improve their weekly earning above the rate of inflation.

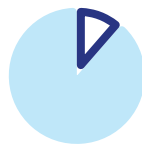
Some highlights:



A strong and positive post-pandemic recovery in the sector.



Average UK lesson prices have topped the **£30 per hour** mark for the first time.



Lesson prices have increased by an inflation-beating **11.5%** over the year.



40% of Driving Instructors achieve gross weekly earnings of £1000 or more.



92% of Driving Instructors are satisfied with their job.

Key Findings

Hours Worked

Throughout 2022, UK Driving Instructors have been working just over 28 hours per week - which is in line with previous years' findings.

We feel that the post-pandemic demand for lessons could have perhaps yielded an increase in the hours worked by Instructors, but it seems that the majority of Driving Instructors choose to restrict their working week.

Female Instructors average 26 hours per week which again is in line with previous findings.

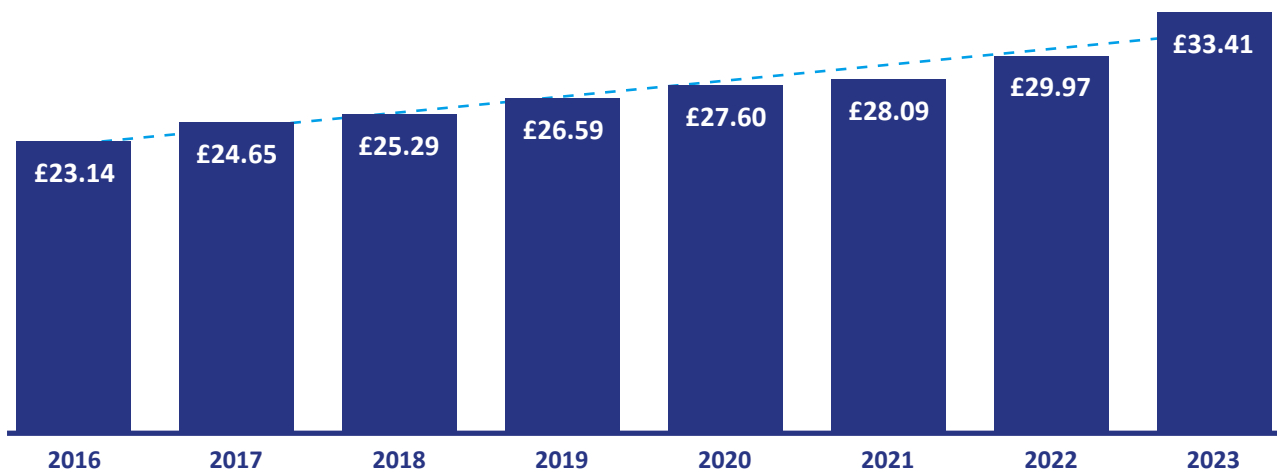
These figures includes "all paid-for driver tuition" and includes work such as fleet and Instructor training, excluding travel time.

Hourly Rate

UK Driving Instructors are attaining an average net hourly rate of £33.41 which is the first time that lesson prices have topped the £30 per hour mark and represents an 11.5% price increase over the year.

This is the largest annual lesson price increase and reflects the increased demand for lessons and the high inflationary costs of running a tuition vehicle. It will be interesting to see whether Learner demand declines in 2023 as the cost-of-living crisis hits consumer spending and what effect this will have on the hourly rates across the country.

This figure deducts the cost of student offers and discounts.

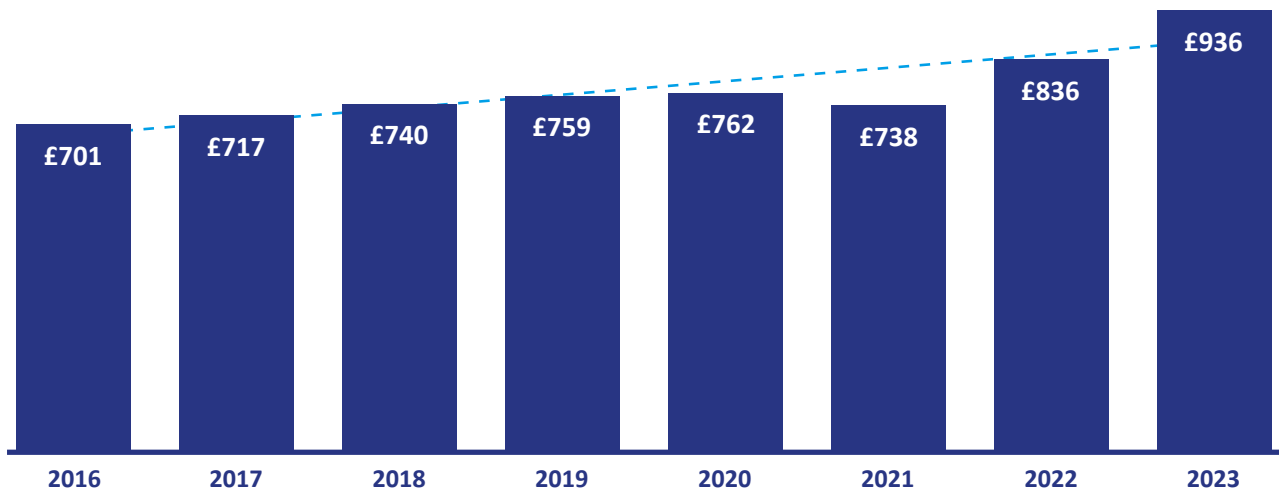


The North East and North West have the lowest hourly rates in the country, but both areas top £31 per hour. The highest hourly rates are commanded in the South East and South West where lesson prices exceed £34 per hour.

Key Findings

Gross Weekly Income

By multiplying the number of hours worked each week by the hourly rate we can see that Driving Instructors are earning an average of £935 per week, which is a £99 increase over last year's results and is indicative of the very strong recovery that the sector has seen since the pandemic.

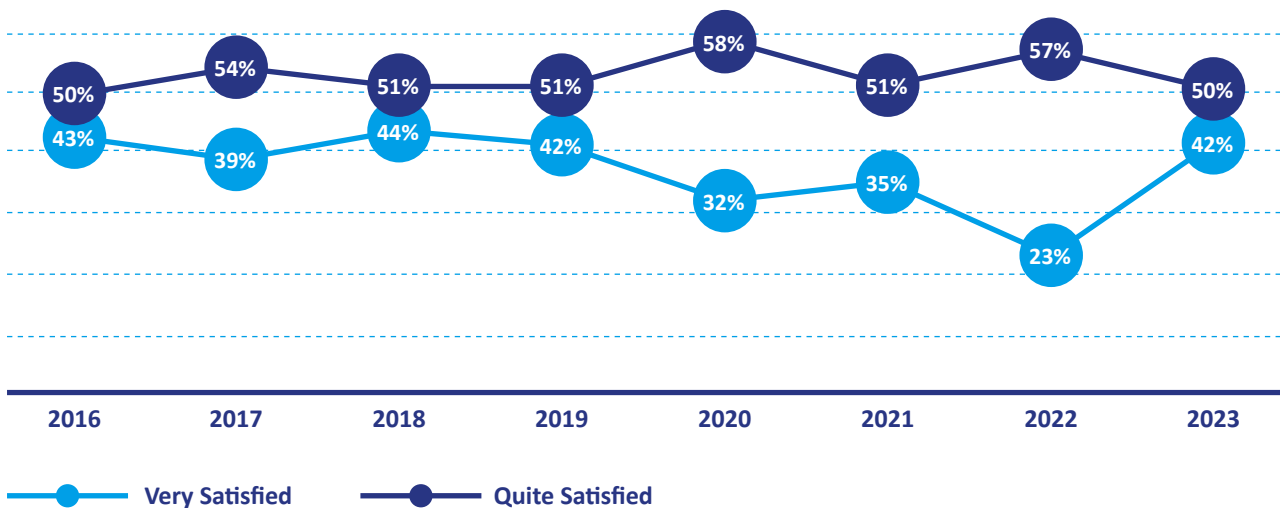


Of those surveyed, one in four Driving Instructors are earning a weekly gross income of £1,000 or more. The corresponding figure in 2016 was 11.6%.

Key Findings

Job Satisfaction

92% of Driving Instructors are satisfied with their job and within this, with 42% of these individuals reporting they feel “very high levels of job satisfaction”.



There is a dramatic improvement in overall job satisfaction which stood at 80% last year. This recovery is evidenced in those reporting very high levels of job satisfaction which has almost doubled in the year. The very high levels of job satisfaction are likely attributable to the boost in earnings and there seems that the ongoing practical test waiting times for Learners, has not dampened the spirits of the country's Instructors.

For further information contact

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About FBTC

The UK's leading provider of Accountancy Services to the UK Driver Training Industry providing support to more than 2,300 ADIs.

With more than 25 years of specialist expertise we:

- Complete your self-employment setup
- Compile your annual accounts and tax returns
- Submit your tax return to HMRC
- Handle all communications with HMRC
- Offer HMRC Investigation support
- Provide digital software for you to record your business transactions
- Prepare you for Making Tax Digital
- Assist with professional references and proof of earnings
- Offer unlimited tax support from the team

All for an affordable monthly fee.

To find out more about the FBTC service and how to take advantage of our new client offer you can;

- Visit **www.fbtc.co.uk**
 - Call **0344 984 2515**
 - Email **fbtcenquiries@fbtc.co.uk**
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