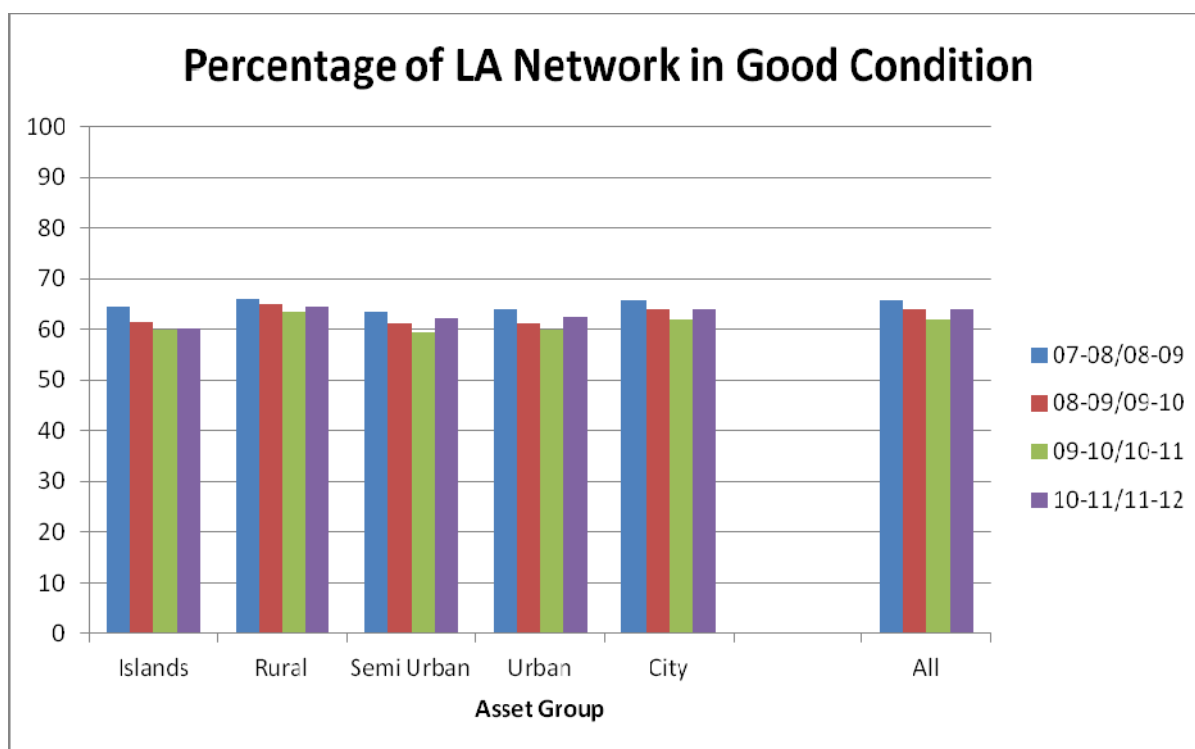


SOCIETY OF CHIEF OFFICERS OF TRANSPORTATION IN SCOTLAND
Scottish Road Maintenance Condition Survey
January 2012

The Scottish Road Maintenance Condition Survey (SRMCS) is a Scotland-wide contract organised since 2002 by the Society of Chief Officers of Transportation in Scotland (SCOTS). The survey is machine-based, and is subject to independent audit and quality assurance with the survey vehicles being subjected to rigorous annual validation checks. Data from the surveys are used to report on the condition of the local public road network – Statutory Performance Indicator 22. Over the years, this work has been developed to give a valuable oversight on the condition of the local road network and the trends in carriageway condition.

The latest results from the Scottish Roads Maintenance Condition Survey (SRMCS) show that the condition of the local authority road network shows a small improvement after some years of deterioration. The chart below shows the percentage of roads in good condition for each authority type. Individual survey results are reported by each Council as part of their Public Performance Reporting regime.



Notes:

- Each year's Road Condition indicator is based on two year's worth of SRMCS data – so that the results to be reported in 2012 includes data gathered in both 2010-11 and 2011-12.
- The data used to calculate the 2010-11/2011-12 figures has not yet been publically reported by individual Councils.

The amount of the road network to be surveyed each year is based on national guidance:

- A Class roads - 100%/year;
- B and C Class roads - 50%/year

- Unclassified roads - 10% /year

Where surveys do not encompass a complete road class (ie on non-principal classified roads), a rolling selection of roads is surveyed. That is, for B and C Class roads, one-half of the network is surveyed in one year and the other half in the following year. Over the course of the four-year SRMCS project, theoretically, A Class roads will be surveyed 4 times and B and C Class roads will be surveyed twice. A 10% sample of unclassified roads is surveyed each year – this is made up from 10% of urban roads and 10% rural roads.

In previous years, SCOTS have made available individual results for every Scottish Authority. Because only 10% of unclassified roads are surveyed each year, results can (and do) fluctuate from year to year. It is not practical to eliminate these sampling errors without surveying more unclassified roads each year but that would add significantly to the cost of the survey. Grouping results together, as we have done this year, helps average out such sampling errors.