

## EXPECTATIONS CONFIRMED?



Although the move to an online MOT administration system some years ago means that there is now the ability to interpret the mass of data which the annual test generates, only recently has anyone looked at how likely certain makes are to pass their first MOT after the statutory three years.

I should point out that some of the failures at these first tests are just like the failures in subsequent years in that they are as much the fault of the owners as the cars, tyres being the most common cause. However, this situation is broadly the same for all makes, so the results would still appear to be valid. Indeed, in the period surveyed -October 2010-September 2011- a not insignificant 164,837 failures related to tyres, which really does say more about the drivers than the cars, but the fact still remains that 20% of first tests resulted in a failure. It would certainly be interesting to know how this percentage compares with that for other countries.

So, who were the best and the worst makes at their first MOT? The top ten looked like this:

1. Lexus
2. Suzuki
3. Honda
4. Saab
5. Toyota
6. Audi
7. Smart

8. Mercedes Benz

9. Landrover

10. SEAT

Was a concentration Japanese makes at the top predictable? Perhaps, with the top five ranged from 88%-83% first time pass rates, although these figures only relate to makes that achieved 5000 or more tests. Maserati, for instance, scored 90%, but only out of 127 vehicles.

Turning to the bottom ten, we find the following (again of 50000 or more submissions) to be most likely to fail their first test:

1. Renault

2. Mini

3. Citroen

4. Chevrolet

5. Peugeot

6. Fiat

7. Volvo

8. Vauxhall

9. Mitsubishi

10. Jaguar

With one or two exceptions there would seem to be few surprises here either and the only volume Italian marque unfortunately makes its appearance in this section, perhaps as predictably in its position as the Japanese in theirs.

Yes, you can prove anything with figures and yes, the manner in which the cars have been looked after has as much of a bearing on the results as their manufacturing quality, but the results are still interesting. For the full survey, which covers far more than just these first time scores, see <http://good-garage-guide.honestjohn.co.uk/mot-results/> and be prepared for some preconception-fulfilling Italian performances, along with a few surprises!

***MJB***