

# Statistical Analysis on Driving Licence Holders and Driving Instructors in Macao (2015-2017)

## 1. Overview:

As stipulated in the *Road Traffic Regulations*, Macao driving licences are classified into five categories – A, B, C, D and E – of which the distinctions are listed below:

Category	Definition
A	Heavy motorcycles
B	Motor vehicles with gross weight of no more than 3,500kg and passenger capacity not exceeding 8, excluding the driver's seat
C	Motor vehicles for transporting cargo, with gross weight of no more than 3,500kg
D	Motor vehicles for transporting passengers with passenger capacity not exceeding 8, excluding the driver's seat
E	Articulated vehicles or articulated vehicle combinations of which the tractor unit belongs to Category B, C or D. However, articulated vehicles or articulated vehicle combinations themselves are not in this category.

Categories A, D and E also include, respectively, the following sub-categories: A1, A2; D1<sup>1</sup>, D2<sup>2</sup>; E+B, E+C, E+D. There is also Category CICL of light motorcycles.

## 2. Statistics of Driving Licences under Different Categories

In 2017, there were a total of 474,174 valid driving licences in Macao, with 236,668 under Category B, 1,482 under Category D1 (heavy passenger vehicles), 6,756 under Category D2 and 662 under Category E+C. The relevant statistics between 2015 and 2017 are listed in the table below.

Total Number of Driving Licences of Category A, B, C, D, E+C between 2015 and 2017 (unit: driving licence)

Category		2015		2016		2017	
Motorcycle	CICL	174,915	55,078	181,744	55,241 (+0.30%)	189,297	55,295 (+0.10%)
	A1		89,805		94,954 (+5.73%)		100,657 (+4.16%)
	A2		30,032		31,549 (+5.05%)		33,345 (+5.69%)
B		215,392		226,848 (+5.32%)		236,668 (+4.33%)	
C		38,454		39,049 (+1.54%)		39,309 (+0.67%)	
D	D1	7,744	1,048	7,885 (+1.82%)	1,226 (+16.98%)	8,238 (+4.48%)	1,482 (+20.88%)
	D2		6,696		6,659 (-0.55%)		6,756 (+1.45%)

<sup>1</sup> Heavy passenger vehicles with a passenger capacity of 25 or less, including the driver's seat, and vehicle length of no more than 8 metres.

<sup>2</sup> Heavy passenger vehicles with a passenger capacity of more than 25, including the driver's seat, and vehicle length of more than 8 metres.

E+C	499	577 (+15.63%)	662 (+14.73%)
Total	437,004	456,103 (+4.37%)	474,174 (+3.96%)

\*Above statistics, collected until 31 March of the respective year, are provided by the Transport Bureau. The percentage within the brackets indicates the growth rate compared with the previous year.

The number of driving licences has been increasing every year for the past three years, with only a slight decrease seen in Category D2 in 2016. In general, as stipulated in the *Road Traffic Regulations*, driving licences of Category A, B, C, E (excluding E+D) can be renewed within six months before the expiration date by submitting a medical certificate and related test reports that certify the licence holder's fitness to drive, while Paragraph 4<sup>3</sup> of Article 60 of the *Road Traffic Regulations* also states that driving licences of Category D and E+D will be revoked once the holder reaches the age of 65. Therefore, as the population grows, an upward trend should be seen in the number of driving licence holders (except Category D) in Macao.

### 3. Age Distribution

The age distribution of driving licence holders in the past three years (statistics provided by the Transport Bureau):

Category	Year	Below 20	21 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60 to 65	Above 65
Light Motorcycle (C1L)	2015	33	13,248	17,464	12,224	8,913	6,720	1,476
	2016	20	10,769	18,773	12,450	9,525	1,995	1,709
	2017	4	8,309	20,034	12,730	9,884	2,381	1,953
Heavy Motorcycle (A1)	2015	2,366	28,295	20,266	18,058	15,937	3,533	1,350
	2016	1,734	28,867	22,479	19,248	16,634	4,240	1,752
	2017	1,366	28,891	25,205	20,784	17,108	5,144	2,159
Heavy Motorcycle (A2)	2015	461	5,124	4,710	4,166	7,975	4,427	3,169
	2016	374	5,334	5,724	3,986	7,680	4,654	3,797
	2017	335	5,447	6,896	4,046	7,293	4,826	4,502
Light Motor Vehicle (B)	2015	2,140	47,948	46,493	44,240	45,430	16,151	12,990
	2016	1,991	48,443	51,594	45,375	46,451	17,708	15,286
	2017	1,806	47,332	56,942	46,744	46,764	19,390	17,690
Heavy Cargo Vehicle (C)	2015	0	3,533	4,575	5,936	14,695	6,293	3,422
	2016	0	3,406	5,173	5,792	14,052	6,714	3,912
	2017	0	3,047	5,703	5,750	13,144	7,231	4,434
Heavy Passenger Vehicle	2015	0	108	285	297	326	32	0
	2016	0	111	353	338	377	47	0

<sup>3</sup> Only drivers below the age of 65 can drive motor vehicles of Category D and E+D.

(D1)	2017	0	117	433	438	426	68	0
Heavy Passenger Vehicle (D2)	2015	0	107	604	1,461	3,470	923	0
	2016	0	99	627	1,424	3,408	1,101	0
	2017	0	103	669	1,409	3,245	1,330	0
Category C Tow Tractor (E+C)	2015	0	23	88	150	199	32	7
	2016	0	34	122	168	202	40	11
	2017	0	44	153	186	218	47	14

Of all types of vehicles for which a driving licence is issued, motorcycles and light motor vehicles are important transport modes used by Macao residents in their daily lives, while Category C, D and E mostly serve commercial purposes. The distribution is shown below:

**Motorcycles (Category C1CL and A):** The number of Category A driving licence holders is relatively stable. The numbers of holders of each age group of 21 to 29, 30 to 39 and 40 to 49 are comparably close to each other, which indicates that a steady number of people obtain Category A driving licences annually. On the other hand, the number of Category C1CL (light motorcycle) driving licence holders aged between 21 and 29 decreased at a percentage of 18.7% and 22.84% yearly for the past two years, while the number of the holders aged 20 and below dropped from 33 to only 4. This shows a lack of willingness to acquire a Category C1CL driving licence.

**Light motor vehicles (Category B):** In 2015, the number of driving licence holders aged 20-29, 30-39, 40-49 and 50-59 in this category ranged between 44,000 and 48,000, respectively, with each group accounting for 21% on average. The four age groups comprise 184,111 persons, representing 85.48% of the total of 215,392. By 2017, the number of drivers aged 30 to 39 rose from 46,493 to 56,942, amounting to an increase of 10,449 persons or 22.47%, which is more significant than the overall increase of 9.87% in Category B over the three years. Meanwhile, the number of 56,942 drivers in the age group of 30 to 39 accounts for 24% of the total number of 236,668 in Category B.

Since the minimum age is 18 for taking the driving test to obtain driving licences for motorcycles (Category C1CL, A1 and A2) and of Category B, a comparatively small number of people have passed the test and obtained the driving licence before the age of 20.

**Heavy cargo vehicle (Category C):** For the past three years, licence holders of this category mainly fall under the age group 50 to 59. There is a fairly large gap between the number of licence holders in this category and other categories. However, for the past three years, the number of licence holders aged 50 to 59 in this category is seen to be constantly declining, so is the number in the age group of 21 to 29. On the contrary, the number in the age group of 60-65 went up, which reflects the aging of the licence holders. In 2015, the number of licence holders aged 50-59 was 2.47-4.16 times more than the numbers in younger age groups. The difference became 2.28-4.31 times by 2017, which may also reflect a slightly larger gap in the number of licence holders compared with the other age groups.

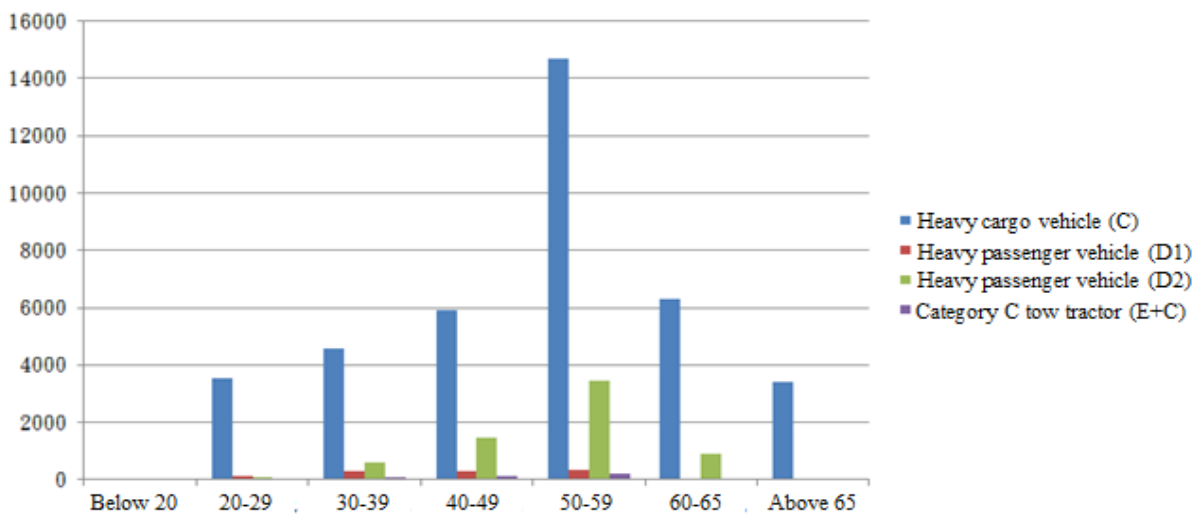
**Heavy passenger vehicle with seating capacity of 25 or less (Category D1):** Data of the past three years shows a small increase in each age group until the age of 65. However, as

Category D1 is considered a transitional qualification before a Category D2 licence is obtained, the number of holders is small, accounting for less than 16% of the total in Category D and less than 0.3% of the whole driving population. Therefore, analysis on this category is of little significance.

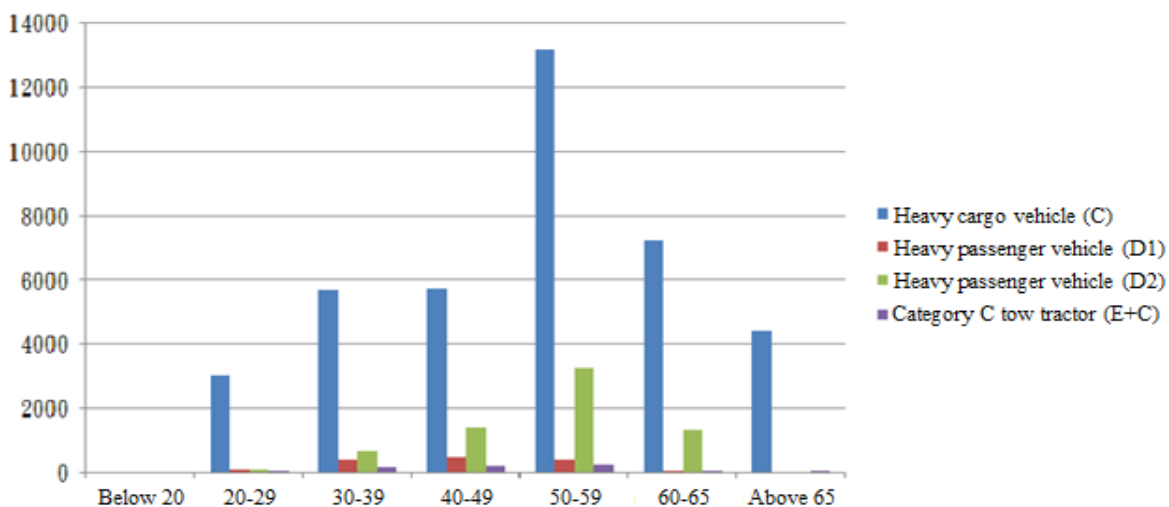
**Heavy passenger vehicle with seating capacity of more than 25 (Category D2):**

Category D2 licence holders are mostly of the age group of 40 to 49 and especially of 50 to 59, with the number of the latter at least about 2.3 times more than those of the other age groups. However, a decrease is seen in the number of holders aged between 50 and 59 for the past three years and of holders aged between 21 and 29 in 2016. In 2017, the number was up by 4 in the age group of 21 to 29 and also in the age group of 60-65. As a result, the percentage of holders aged between 50 and 59 in Category D2 fell slightly from 52.87% in 2015 to 48.03% in 2017.

**Tow tractor (Category E):** Only the Category E+C tow tractor driving licence can be obtained directly in Macao. This type of licence comprises the smallest number of holders among all categories of driving licences and represents only 0.1% of the total. For the past three years, a slight increase in the number of licence holders has been seen in each age group, with the total reaching 499 in 2015, then 577 in 2016 and 662 in 2017 – an increase of 78 and 85, or a year-on-year growth of 15.63% and 14.73%, respectively. This suggests a proportion of the younger population has taken the test for a Category E licence.



Age Distribution Chart of Holders of Driving Licences of Category C, D1, D2 and E in 2015



Age Distribution Chart of Holders of Driving Licences of Category C, D1, D2 and E in 2017

## **4. Conditions for Occupational Driving**

Persons who wish to obtain a driving licence of any category are required to pass the driving test of the Transport Bureau. The driving licences that are of an occupational nature include the following:

**4.1 Heavy passenger vehicle (Category D1):** Persons holding a driving licence of Category D1 may operate heavy passenger vehicles with a passenger capacity of no more than 25 and vehicle length of no more than 8 metres, which include public mini buses.

Prerequisites: Applicants must be at least 21 years of age and holders of a valid Category C driving licence or a valid Category B driving licence for at least 3 years.

**4.2 Heavy passenger vehicle (Category D2):** Persons holding a driving licence of Category D2 may drive heavy passenger vehicles with a passenger capacity of more than 25 and vehicle length of more than 8 metres, which include coaches, 2-door and 3-door public buses.

Prerequisites: Applicants must be at least 21 years of age and holders of a valid Category C driving licence for at least 1 year or a valid Category D1 driving licence.

**4.3 Category C tow tractor (Category E+C):** Persons holding a driving licence of Category C for heavy cargo vehicles and having passed the test for several types of tow tractors (Category E) may drive the tractor unit of heavy cargo vehicles and 4-door buses with a body length of 18 metres.

Prerequisites: Applicants must be at least 21 years of age and holders of a valid Category C driving licence.

## **5. Information on Driving Instructors**

Driving licence holders can obtain a driving instructor licence after successfully completing the 'Driving Instructor Training Course' and receiving employment by a driving school in Macao. The type of driving instructor licences they obtain will correspond with the course they have completed within the 'Driving Instructor Training Course'.

### **5.1 Number of Driving Instructors:**

Driving instructor licences are required to be renewed annually before 31 March. Only a small fluctuation is seen in the number of driving instructors for the past three years, from 353 in 2015 up to 389 in 2016 and back to 353 in 2017, which shows a bell-shaped distribution. The number of female driving instructors edged from 21 in 2015 to 22 in 2016, and remained the same in 2017, representing approximately 6% of the total.

### **5.2 Types of Driving Instructors' Teaching Qualifications:**

The number of instructors teaching driving theories follows the same trend as that of driving instructors, which grew from 352 to 367 and back to 352 again in 2015. The number of instructors teaching practical driving for Category A (heavy motorcycle), Category B (light motor vehicle) and Category C (heavy cargo vehicle) showed a single-digit increase or decrease. Only the number of instructors teaching practical driving for Category D2 (heavy passenger vehicle) and Category E (tow tractor) are on the increase.

Lastly, as the Administrative Regulation no. 24/2016 has been effective since 11 October 2016, the mechanical test for driving techniques is no longer required, and the training courses and qualifying exams for this teaching qualification are no longer provided.

Types of Driving Instructors and Teaching Qualifications between 2015 and 2017 (Unit: Person)

Type	Year 2015	Year 2016	Year 2017
Driving instructors	353	389	353
Driving theory instructors	352	367	352
Practical driving instructors for heavy motorcycles (A1)	93	94	91
Practical driving instructors for heavy motorcycles (A2)	130	136	140
Practical driving instructors for light motor vehicles	316	325	316
Practical driving instructors for heavy cargo vehicles	220	226	223
Practical driving instructors for heavy passenger vehicles (D2)	81	88	90
Practical driving instructors for tow tractors	14	14	18

\*Statistics provided by the Transport Bureau