

How Far Do Average Golfers Actually Hit It?

Driving distance in the professional game is longer than it has ever been, but what about the amateur side of things?

A long drive for a man is probably considered to be some 280-300 yards but in reality golfers aren't getting anywhere near that figure.

Driving distance figures from the R&A and USGA's most recent Distance Report show that the average hit by an amateur male club golfer is 215 yards.

Five handicaps and below average 240 yards, 6-12 handicaps average 220 yards, 13-20 handicaps average 204 yards and 21 and overs average 187 yards.

Handicap	<6	6-12	13-20	21+	Overall
Average Distance (Yards)	239.8 ± 3.5	220.0 ± 2.0	204.3 ± 2.0	187.3 ± 5.6	214.7 ± 1.3
Longest Drive (yds)	310.0	341.4	320.1	278.8	341.4
Driver Usage (%)	86.0 %	87.0 %	87.2%	91.4 %	87.2 %
No. Shots	129	464	429	81	1103

Graph: 2018 Driving Distance Report

Note: These figures are based on 87% of shots being hit with a driver.

The average of 215 yards is up 15 yards on the 2000 figure recorded of 200 yards, although it is down 2 yards on 2005, perhaps evidence that not much distance has been gained since 460cc drivers were released in the early 00's.

How far do amateur female golfers hit the ball on average?

The Distance Report also looks at the female game and the numbers show that the average hit by a woman is 148 yards, with handicaps of 5 and under averaging 196 yards.

Handicap	<6	6-12	13-20	21-28	29+	Overall
Average Drive (yds)	196.4 ± 2.7	178.4 ± 1.3	152.5 ± 1.1	138.3 ± 1.0	117.6 ± 1.8	147.9 ± 0.7
Longest Drive (yds)	261.5	254.2	255.6	216.7	188.1	261.5
Drivers Used (%)	98.6	96.4	97.4	98.1	95.3	97.2
No. Shots	73	329	729	831	297	2259

Graph: 2018 Driving Distance Report

Six-12 handicaps average 178 yards, 13-20s average 153 yards, 21-28s average 138 yards and 29s and overs average 118 yards.

Related: 10 ways to hit the ball further

How Far Do Average Golfers Actually Hit It? - 2016 data

Median Driver Distance	Percentage	Yards
Driver HCP <5	14.83%	250.93
Driver HCP 5-10 (<10)	21.94%	231.04
Driver HCP 10-19 (<19)	39.42%	215.65
Driver HCP 19-28 (<28)	17.28%	195.93
Driver HCP ≥28	6.73%	177.49
Age 20-30 (<=30)	12.97%	238.68
Age 30-40 (<=40)	25.76%	231.21
Age 40-50 (<=50)	24.17%	220.52
Age 50-60 (<=60)	21.42%	211.93
Age >60	15.69%	196.40