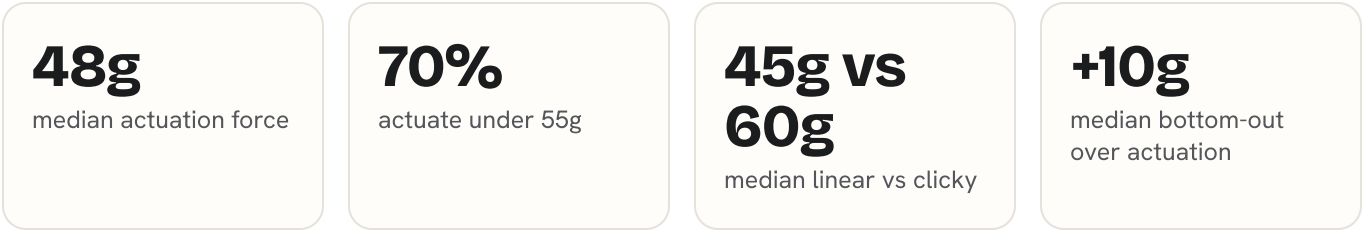


Switch Actuation Force Census 2026

We read the published actuation force of **198 switches** (of 227 in the database; the rest do not publish a figure) and the distribution is clear: the median switch actuates at **48g**, 70% of switches trip below 55g, and only 9 demand 65g or more. Tactile and clicky switches run meaningfully heavier than linears, and bottoming out takes a median **10g** beyond the actuation point.



Most switches ask for a medium-light press

Across 198 switches with a published figure, actuation force clusters between 45g and 55g: the two middle bands alone cover 96 switches (48%). The heavy end has thinned to 9 switches at 65g or more, and true featherweights under 45g are a minority at 43. The market has settled on a press that is light enough for speed but not so light that resting fingers trigger keys.



Range 35g to 80g across 198 switches with a published force.

Feel has a force signature

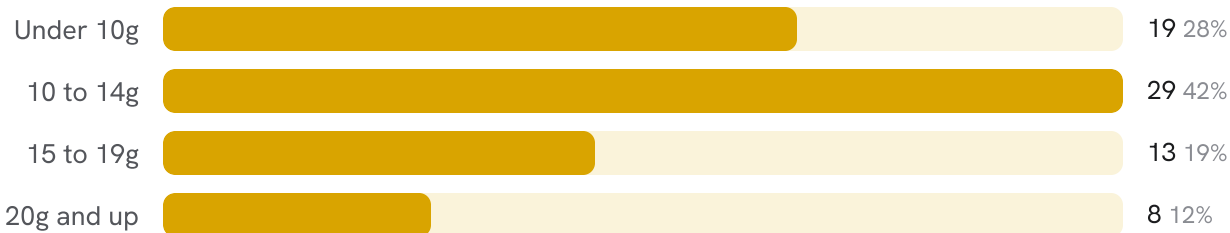
Type predicts weight. Linears, built for smooth speed, sit at a 45g median. Tactiles run heavier at 55g because the bump itself takes force to clear, and clickies are the heaviest of the mainstream types at 60g. If you want a light press, the data says start with a linear.



Median actuation force per type, switches with a published figure only. The five types are compared in the [linear vs. tactile vs. clicky guide](#).

Bottoming out costs 10g more

Among the 69 switches that publish both forces, the median gap between actuation and bottom-out is 10g: 19 switches gap less, 17 sit exactly at 10g, and 33 gap more. (The group medians are 45g to actuate and 60g to bottom out; the median gap is not simply the difference of the two, because light and heavy switches pair their forces differently.) That gap is your cushion: it is what lets you type without slamming every keystroke home. A wide gap feels progressive and forgiving; a narrow one feels direct.



Compare forces side by side on any two entries in the [switch database](#).

Methodology and citation

Every figure is computed live from the [KeebScout switch database](#) (227 switches as of August 2026; 198 publish an actuation force and 69 publish both actuation and bottom-out force). Specs are normalized to one schema and units, and unpublished fields are excluded rather than guessed, with the sample size noted wherever a spec is missing. Prices are the listed US retail price where available. Nothing here is weighted by sales, sponsorship, or affiliate payouts, because the database is not; the full method is on the [about page](#). As the database grows, these numbers update on their own.

CITE THIS PAPER

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<https://keebscout.com/research/switch-actuation-force-census-2026/>
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