



Department for Transport

Vehicle Licensing Statistics: Quarter 1 (Jan - Mar) 2016

About this release

This release presents the latest quarterly statistics on licensed motor vehicles. It is part of the [Vehicle Statistics](#) series. Detailed [data tables](#) are available from the web site.

For a more detailed commentary on vehicle registration statistics, see the [annual release](#).

It is based on administrative data held by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA).

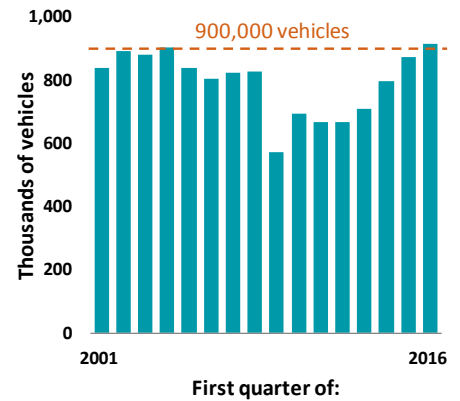
Except where otherwise stated, the statistics in this release all refer to Great Britain. However, the underlying data set has recently been expanded to cover UK data.

For further details please refer to the Background Information section below and the separate [Technical Notes](#).

In this publication

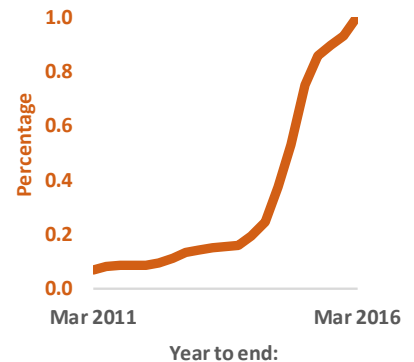
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The number of newly registered vehicles in Great Britain from January to March 2016 was a record for the first quarter of the year, exceeding 900,000 for the first time since 2004.

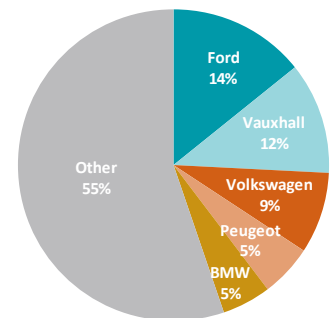


The total of 916,000 was an increase of 5% on the same period in 2015.

During January to March 2016, over 11,750 new **ultra low emission vehicles (ULEVs)** were registered in the United Kingdom. Over the year to the end of March 2016, ULEVs represented 1.0% of all new registrations, compared with 0.8% over the previous year and 0.2% over the year before that.



The most common car make on the road in Great Britain was Ford, followed by Vauxhall and Volkswagen.



During January to March 2016

916,000 Vehicles registered for the first time



At end of March 2016

36.7 million Vehicles licensed for use on roads in Great Britain



New Registrations this quarter



From January to March 2016, 916,000 vehicles were newly registered for the first time in Great Britain.

This is the highest number of new registrations in the first quarter of the year since the series began in 2001, and the first time that first quarter new registrations have exceeded 900,000 since 2004.

It was 5% up on the same quarter of the previous year, and 1% higher than the previous peak in 2004.

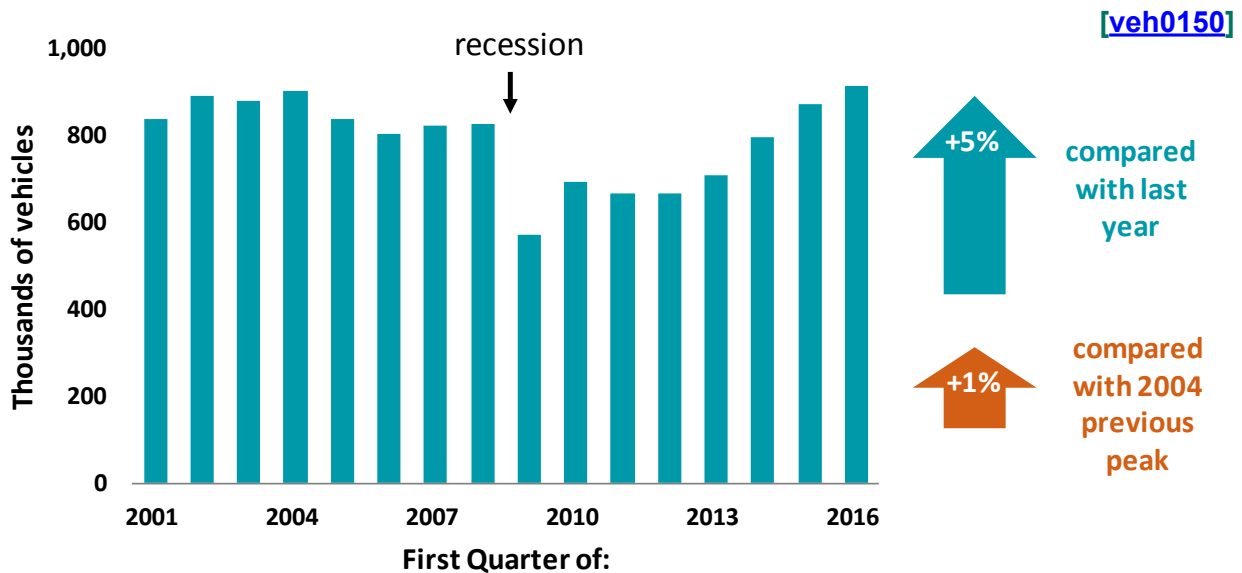
Tables

Detailed new registrations statistical tables updated this quarter are:-

All vehicles types: [VEH0150, 160 to 170](#)

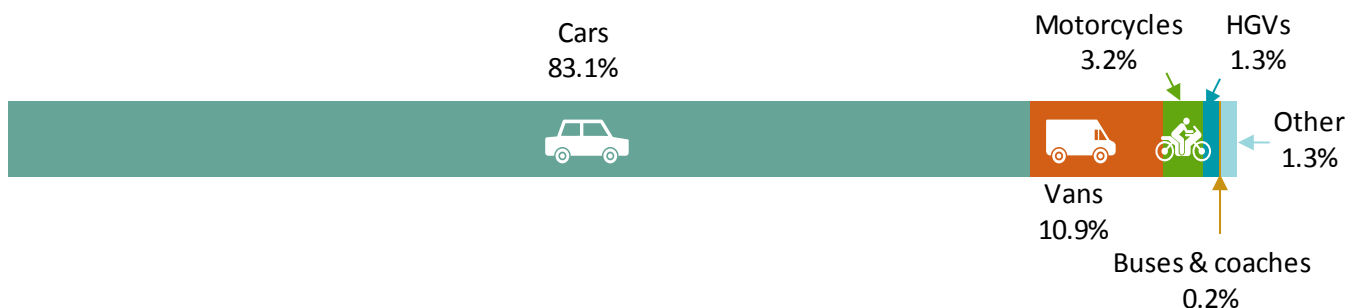
Cars: [VEH0256](#)

Figure 1: Vehicles registered for the first time, GB: first quarter of the year only, 2001-2016



The economic downturn from late 2008 affected the new registration figures from then onwards, but new registrations had already dropped a little from their peak levels earlier in that decade. In each year since 2011, there has been a year-on-year increase in new registrations in the first quarter.

Over 83% of new registrations were cars; 11% were vans and 6% HGVs, motorcycles, buses & coaches and other vehicles.





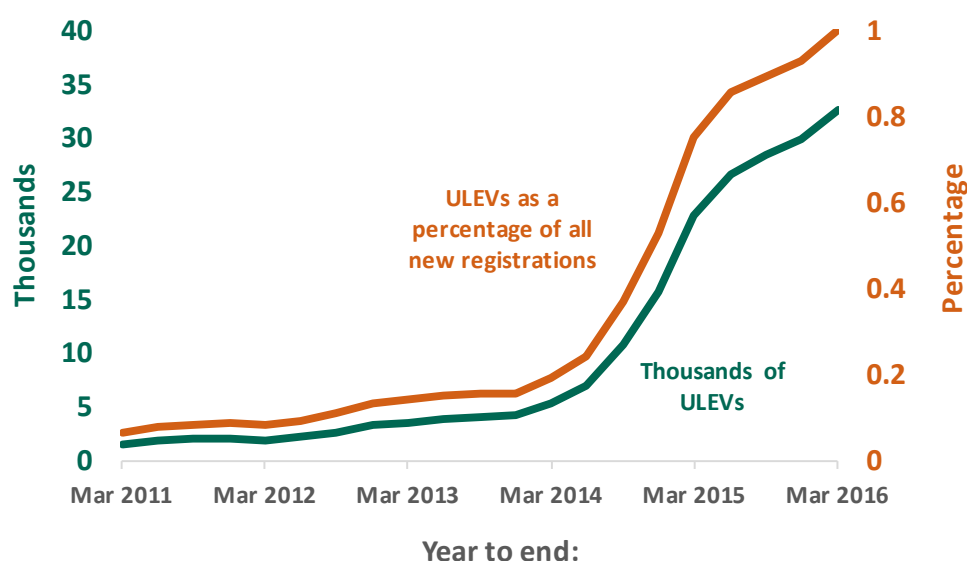
During January to March 2016, 11,755 new **ultra low emission vehicles** (ULEVs) were registered for the first time in the United Kingdom, an increase of 31% on one year before and 508% on two years previously.

Over the year to the end of March 2016, ULEVs represented 1.0% of all new registrations, compared with 0.8% over the previous year, and 0.2% over the year before that.

What are Ultra Low Emission Vehicles?

Ultra low emission vehicles are those with emissions of CO₂ below 75 g/km, or fully electrically powered.

Figure 2: New Ultra Low Emission Vehicle registrations, UK: 2011 - q1 2016



Most of the increase in ULEV registrations has been accounted for by vehicles eligible for plug-in car and van grants. New registrations in January to March 2016 included 11,243 cars and 262 vans of models that were eligible for these grants, 31% up on the same period in 2015.

The growth in ULEVs is being influenced by new models coming into the market, and increasingly, competitive pricing. The models with the most registrations in the latest quarter were the Mitsubishi Outlander with 3,881, followed by the Nissan Leaf with 1,519 and the Mercedes C350 with 1,282.

What are plug-in grants?

Plug-in car and van grants started in Jan 2011 and Feb 2012 respectively, with major changes in Mar 2016.

They provide a grant towards the cost of new qualifying models - see [Plug-in car and van grants](#) for further details.

Tables

Detailed environmental statistical tables updated this quarter are:-

ULEV: [VEH0130, 0131 and 0170](#)

CO₂ cars: [VEH0256](#)



At the end of March 2016 there were 36.7 million vehicles licensed for use on the roads in Great Britain, of which 30.5 million were cars.

In the year to March 2016 the stock of vehicles increased by 2.5%. This is the largest year-on-year increase since December 2004.

Tables

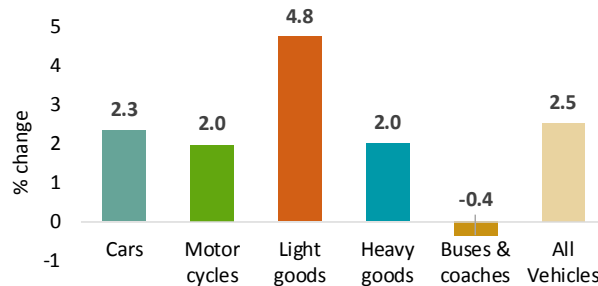
Detailed vehicle stock statistical tables updated this quarter are:-

All vehicle types: [VEH0101.104.110.120 to 123.128 to 131](#)

Motorcycles: [VEH0301](#)

In the year to March 2016, the largest percentage increase was for vans at 4.8% followed by cars at 2.3%. Motorcycles and HGVs both increased by 2.0% over the same period while buses & coaches fell by 0.4%.

Figure 3: Percentage growth, licensed vehicles by type, Jan-Mar 2015 to Jan-Mar 2016, GB



Over the last twenty years, vehicle stock has increased by 45%. The largest increase was for motorcycles (78%), followed by vans (73%) and cars (42%). Growth in HGVs was 14% and buses & coaches only 6%.

Figure 4: Percentage growth, licensed vehicles by type, Jan-Mar 1996 to Jan-Mar 2016, GB

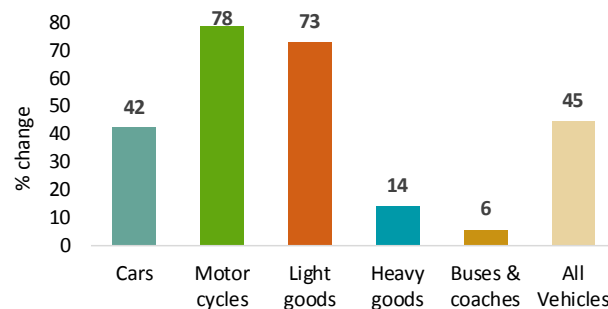
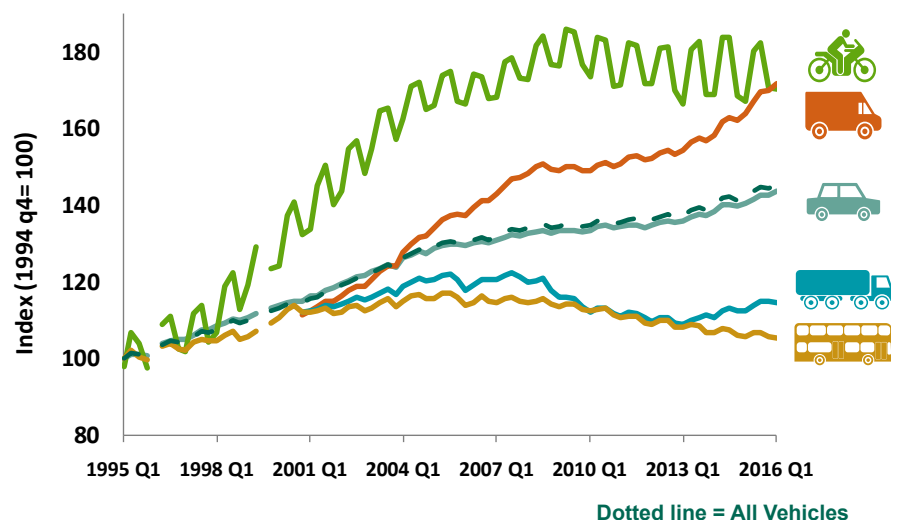


Figure 5: Licensed vehicles by type, GB: Q1 1995 - Q1 2016

The numbers of cars and vans licensed were at their highest ever levels. The number of motorbikes, HGVs and buses & coaches, on the other hand, remained below their peak levels, which they reached between 2004 and 2009.



Makes and models of cars



The top five **makes** (Ford, Vauxhall, Volkswagen, Peugeot and BMW)

accounted for 45% of all licensed cars at the end of March 2016 in Great Britain. Ford accounted for 14% of all cars and Vauxhall for 12%.

The most common **models** licensed at the end of March 2016 were the Ford Fiesta and Ford Focus, both with 1.4 million.



Ford, Vauxhall, Volkswagen, Mercedes and Audi accounted for 40% of the new car registrations in January to March 2016.

The Ford Fiesta was the most common new registration in the first three months of 2016 with 36,000 registered for the first time. This was followed by the Vauxhall Corsa with 24,000, the Ford Focus and Volkswagen Golf with 20,000 each.

Figure 6: Licensed cars, top 5 makes, GB: Q1 2016

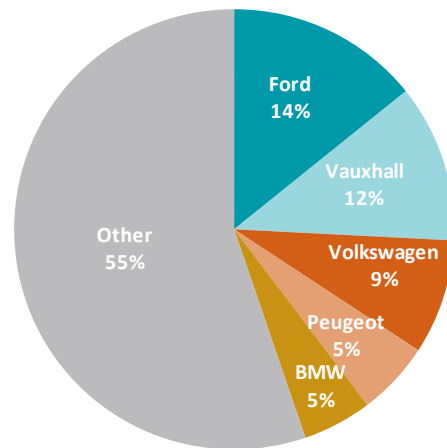
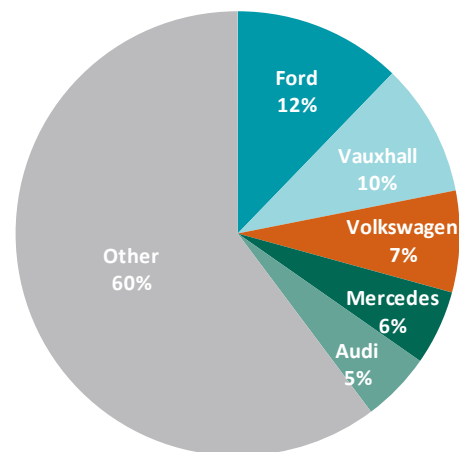


Figure 7: New registrations of cars, top 5 makes, GB: Jan to Mar 2016



Tables

Detailed make and model data tables

[VEH0120, 0121, 0124 to 0129, 0160, 0161](#)

About these statistics

Almost all the statistics in the vehicle licensing statistics series are derived by Department for Transport statisticians from extracts of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) vehicle database. The main purpose of the database is to administer vehicle registration and licensing records in the United Kingdom.

For further information, please see the detailed [Technical Notes](#). There is also a [Statement of Administrative Sources](#) for the DVLA vehicles database.

Strengths and weaknesses of the data

The DVLA database can be regarded as being virtually complete in terms of the number of licensed vehicles and vehicles with a SORN (Statutory Off-Road Notification). However, there will be some errors in some of the specific details of individual vehicles, mostly less important details. The Department for Transport estimates that under 2% of the vehicles records have an inaccuracy in one of the variables used for the statistics published. Other factors to consider in interpreting these statistics include: changes in legislation, revisions to the series, seasonal variation which affects some vehicle types, vehicle excise duty evasion and other types of failure to inform DVLA of relevant facts about the status of a vehicle, and the fact that foreign registered vehicles may also use UK roads without being registered with DVLA. Most of these factors will only have a marginal effect for most uses of the data. For further information, please see the detailed [Technical Notes](#).

What is the full list of tables updated as part of this release?

veh0101:	number of licensed vehicles by body type
veh0104:	number of licensed vehicles by region
veh0105:	number of licensed vehicles by upper and lower tier local authority (annual table with added detail)
veh0110:	number of SORN vehicles by body type
veh0120:	number of licensed vehicles by make and model
veh0121:	number of SORN vehicles by make and model
veh0122:	number of licensed vehicles by postcode district
veh0123:	number of SORN vehicles by postcode district
veh0128:	number of licensed vehicles by generic model name
veh0129:	number of SORN vehicles by generic model name
veh0130:	number of licensed ultra-low emissions vehicles (UK data)
veh0131:	number of plug in cars and vans by upper and lower tier local authority.
veh0150:	first registrations by body type
veh0160:	first registrations by make and model
veh0161:	first registrations by generic model name
veh0170:	first registrations of ultra-low emission vehicle registrations (UK data)
veh0256:	first registrations of cars by CO2 emission band
veh0301:	number of licensed motor cycles

Users and uses of these statistics

A separate note on this is available from the vehicles statistics guidance [web page](#).

National Statistics

All of the statistics published in this series are National Statistics, apart from the exceptions listed on the [series page](#). Vehicles statistics were assessed by the UK Statistics Authority and confirmed as National Statistics in April 2012. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.

Details of ministers and officials who receive pre-release access to these statistics up to 24 hours before release can be found in the [Pre-release access list](#).

Next Release

Vehicle Licensing statistical releases are published quarterly. The next is due on 8 September 2016.

The Quarter 4 release for each calendar year is accompanied by a larger set of data tables and more detailed commentary.

In addition a single table of monthly new vehicle registrations is released on the series page on the second Thursday of each month.

Any updates to these plans will be advertised via the [DfT statistical publications schedule](#).

Request for Feedback

We welcome any feedback on these statistics, to ensure future releases best meet user needs. Feedback can be provided by email to vehicles.stats@dft.gsi.gov.uk.