



Department for Transport

# Vehicle Licensing Statistics: Quarter 2 (Apr - Jun) 2016



The number of vehicles newly registered in Great Britain in the second quarter of the year (April to June 2016) exceeded 800,000 for the first time since 2003

## 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).

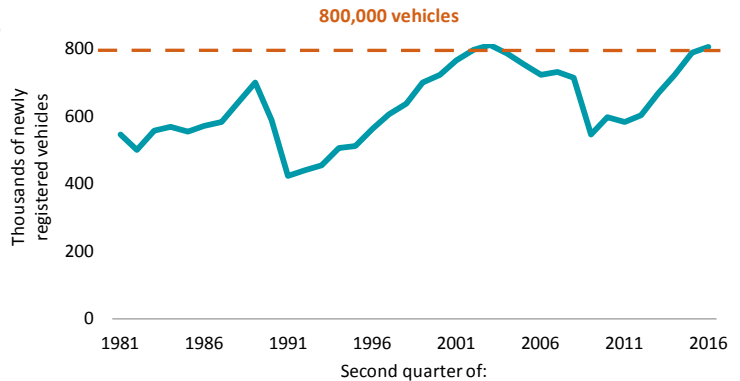
Except where otherwise stated, the statistics in this release all refer to Great Britain. However, the underlying data set has recently been expanded to cover UK data.

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

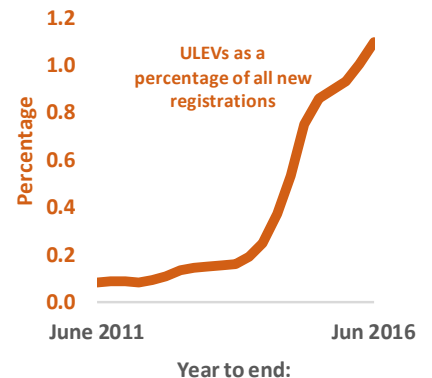
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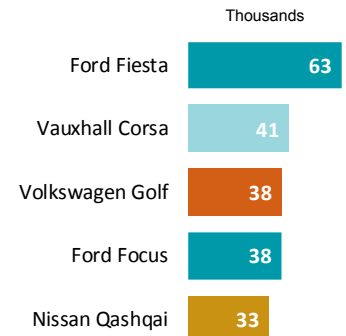
The number of vehicles newly registered increased by 2% on the same period in 2015.



During April to June 2016, over 9,650 new **ultra low emission vehicles (ULEVs)** were registered in the United Kingdom. Over the year to the end of June 2016, ULEVs represented 1.1% of all new registrations, compared with 0.8% over the previous year and 0.2% over the year before that.



The most popular new car model in Great Britain in 2016 up to the end of June was the Ford Fiesta with 63,000 registrations, followed by the Vauxhall Corsa with 41,000; the Volkswagen Golf and Ford Focus both with 38,000 and the Nissan Qashqai with 33,000



**During April to June 2016** **805,000** Vehicles



registered for the first time

**At end of June 2016**



**37.1 million** Vehicles licensed for use on roads in Great Britain

## New Registrations this quarter



From April to June 2016, 805,000 vehicles were registered for the first time in Great Britain.

This was first time the number of new registrations in the second quarter of the year had exceeded 800,000 since 2003.

It was 2% up on the same quarter of the previous year, and 1% lower than than 2003 when the highest number of new registrations for this quarter was recorded.

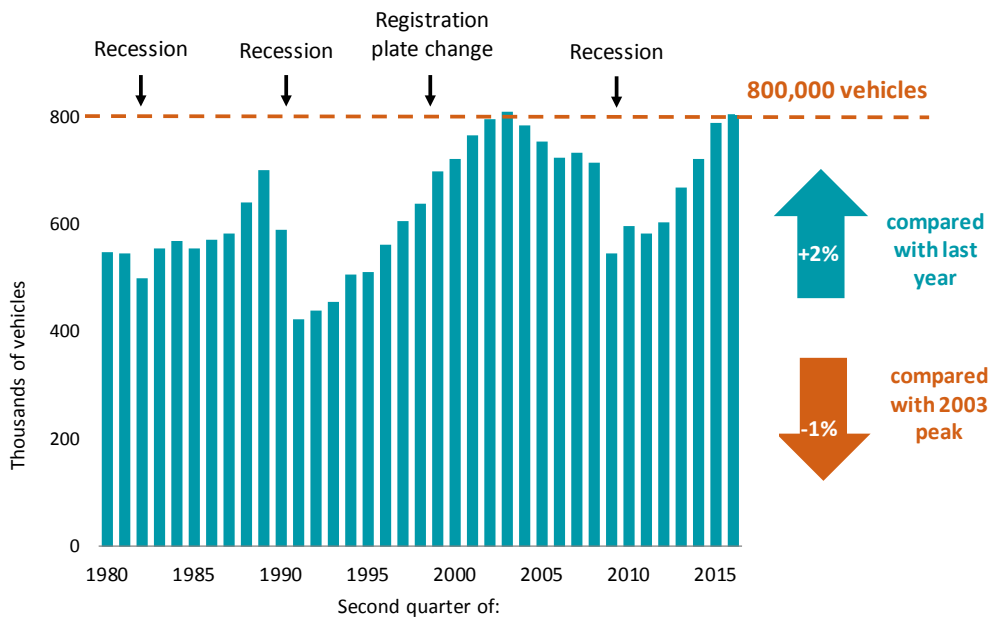
### Tables

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: second quarter of the year only, 1980-2016**

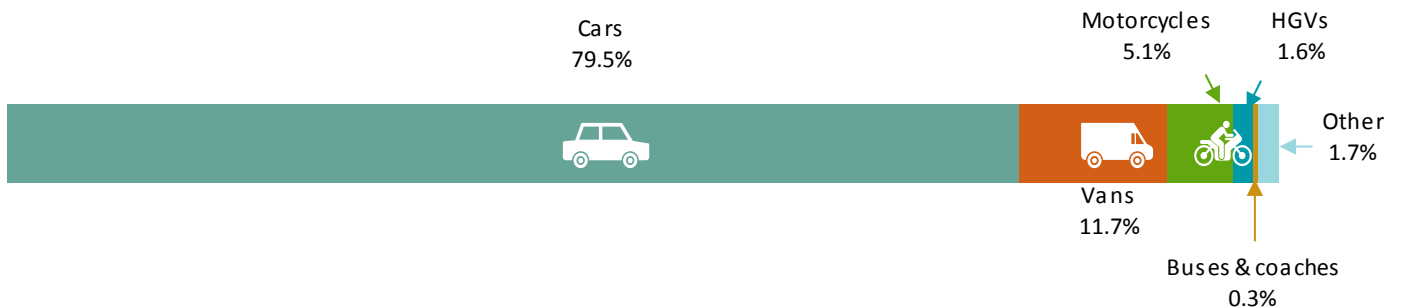


### Change of registration plates

Up to 1998, new registration plates were issued once a year in August, causing a peak in registrations in that month. In 1999, this was changed to twice a year, in March and September. This changed the distribution of new registrations through the year.

The economic downturn during the recession of 2008/9 affected the new registration figures which fell below 600,000 in the second quarter of the year. The number of new registrations was also effected during the recessions of the early 1980s and 90s. In each year since 2011, there has been a year-on-year increase in the number of new registrations in the second quarter.

**Figure 2: Vehicles registered for the first time, GB: April to June 2016; by vehicle type**



Nearly 80% of new registrations between April and June 2016 were cars; 12% were vans and 8% were motorcycles, HGVs, Buses & coaches and other vehicles.



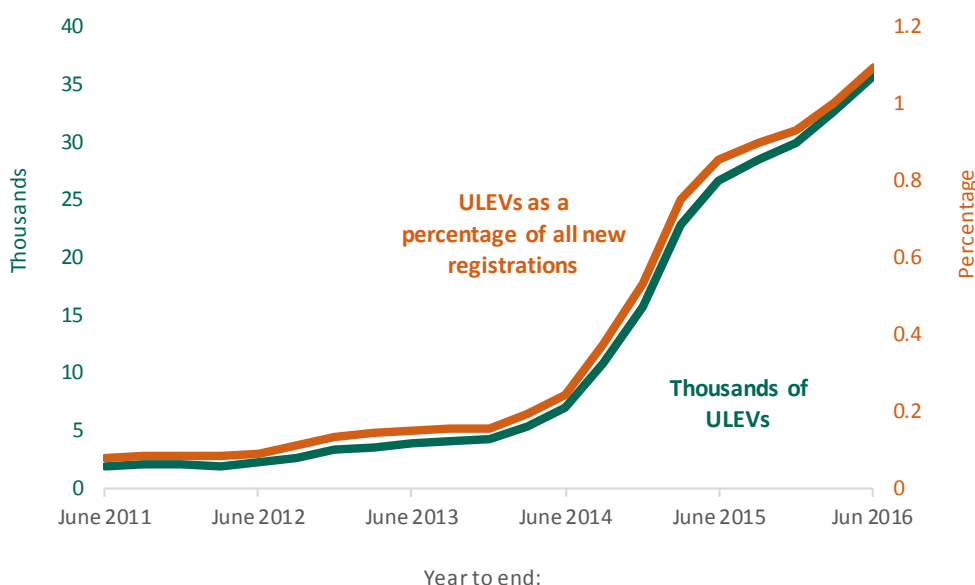
During April to June 2016, 9,657 new **ultra low emission vehicles** (ULEVs) were registered for the first time in the United Kingdom, an increase of 49% on one year before and 253% on two years previously.

During the year to end of June 2016, ULEVs represented 1.1% 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 CO<sub>2</sub> below 75 g/km, or fully electrically powered.

**Figure 3: New Ultra Low Emission Vehicle registrations, UK: 2011 - q2 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 April to June 2016 included 9,220 cars and 274 vans of models that were eligible for these grants, 51% 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 (which first appeared in 2014) with 1,854, followed by the Mercedes C350 (first appeared last year) with 1,480 and the BMW 330 (which first appeared this year) with 1,143.

## 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](#)

CO<sub>2</sub> cars: [VEH0256](#)



At the end of June 2016 there were 37.1 million vehicles licensed for use on the roads in Great Britain, of which 30.7 million were cars.

In the year to June 2016 the stock of vehicles increased by 2.4%. This is the third consecutive quarter that year-on-year increases have exceeded 2%. This also occurred in two quarters of 2014 but had not previously been seen since 2005.

In the year to June 2016, the largest percentage increase was for vans at 4.6% followed by HGVs at 2.3%. Motorcycles increased only by 1.1% over the same period while buses & coaches fell by 0.5%.

Over the last twenty years, vehicle stock has increased by 42%. The largest increase was for vans at 72%, followed by motorcycles at 67%. Growth in HGVs was 13% and buses & coaches only 3%.

In June 2016, the numbers of licensed cars and vans were at their highest ever levels. The numbers of motorbikes, HGVs and buses & coaches, on the other hand, remained below their peak levels, which they reached between 2004 and 2009.

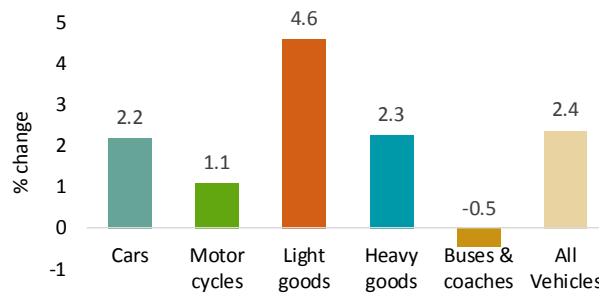
**Tables**

Detailed vehicle stock statistical tables updated this quarter are:-

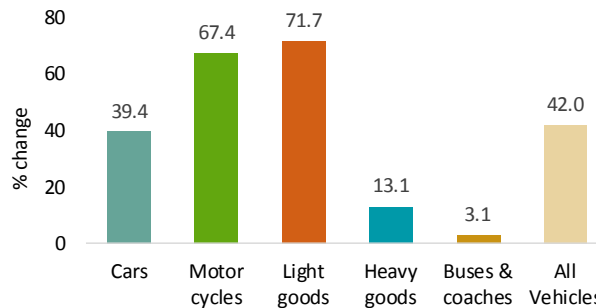
All vehicle types: [VEH0101, 104,110, 120 to 123, 128 to 131](#)

Motorcycles: [VEH0301](#)

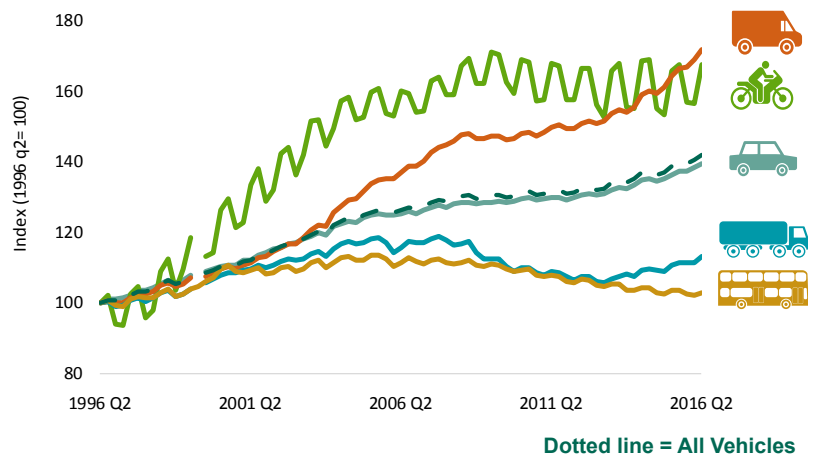
**Figure 4: Change in licensed vehicles in GB, up to June 2016: over last year**



**over last 20 years**



**Figure 5: Licensed vehicles by type, GB: Q2 1996 - Q2 2016**



## 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 June 2016 in Great Britain. Ford accounted for 14% of all cars and Vauxhall for 12%.

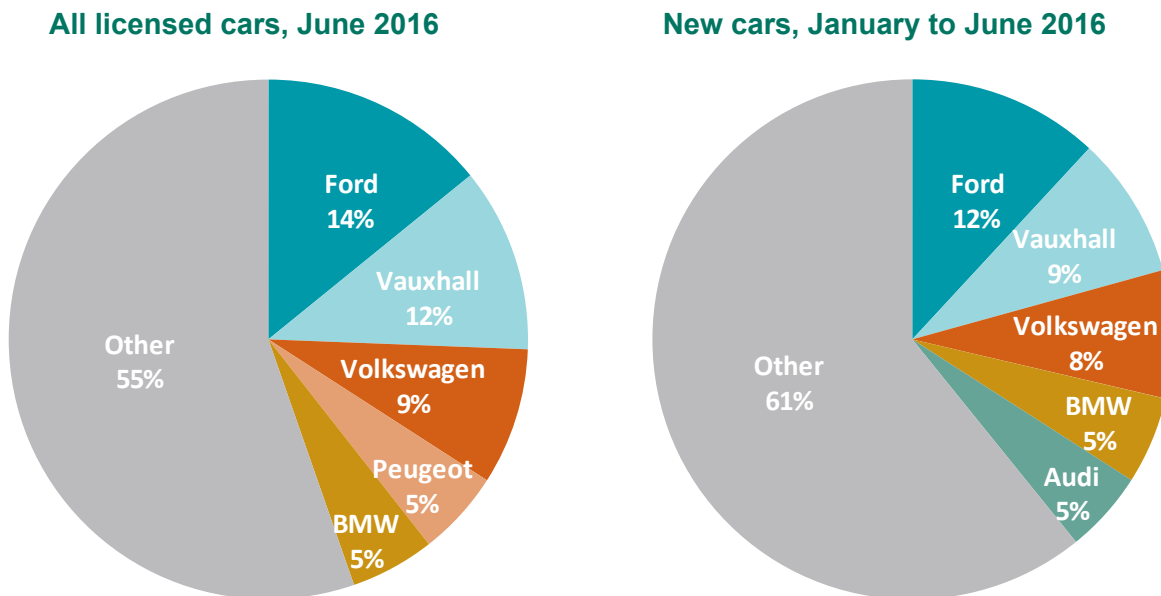
### Tables

Detailed make and model data tables

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

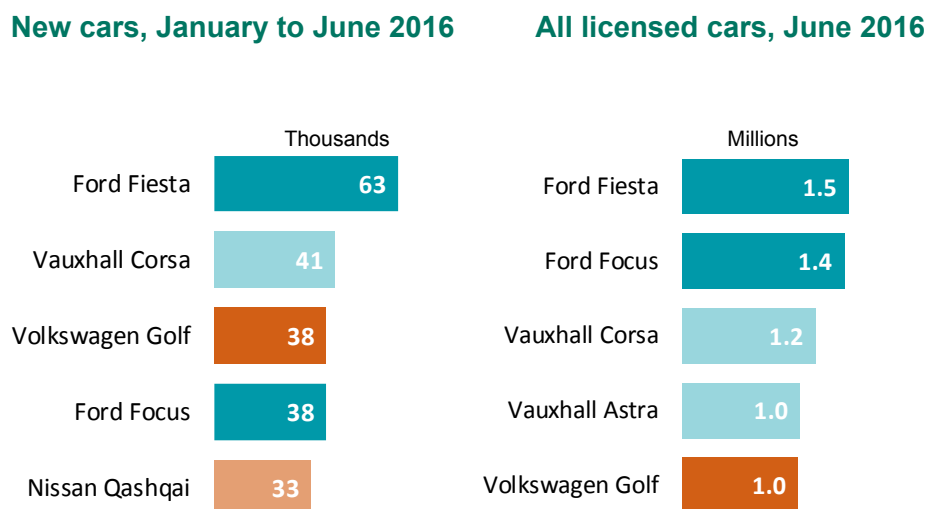
Ford, Vauxhall, Volkswagen, Mercedes and Audi accounted for 39% of the new car registrations in January to June 2016.

Figure 6: Top 5 makes of cars, GB



The most common **models** licensed at the end of June 2016 were the Ford Fiesta with 1.5 million cars followed by the Ford Focus with 1.4 million.

Figure 7: Top 5 models of cars, GB



The Ford Fiesta was the most common new registration from January to June with 63,000 registered for the first time. This was followed by the Vauxhall Corsa with 41,000.

### 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
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 December 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](mailto:vehicles.stats@dft.gsi.gov.uk).