

Vehicles



This section looks at the number of licensed vehicles in Great Britain and related data about vehicles from Transport Statistics Great Britain published on 15 December 2011.

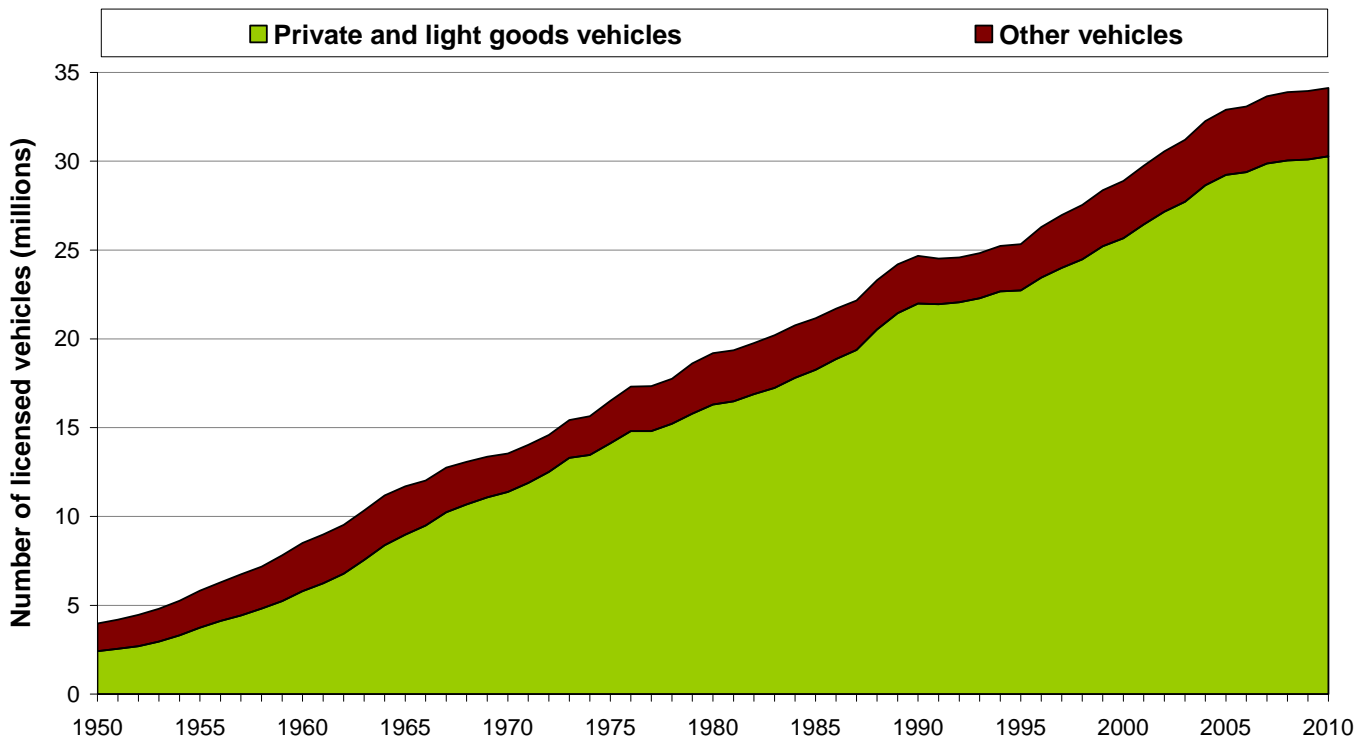
The Vehicles chapter includes:

- The number of licensed vehicles broken down by taxation class.
- The number of newly registered vehicles broken down by taxation class.
- The number of driving tests undertaken with pass/fail rates.
- The number of MOT tests undertaken with pass/fail rates.

Licensed Vehicles

Number of licensed vehicles by tax class, 1950 to 2010

([Table TSGB0901](#), and by body type in [Table TSGB0903](#))



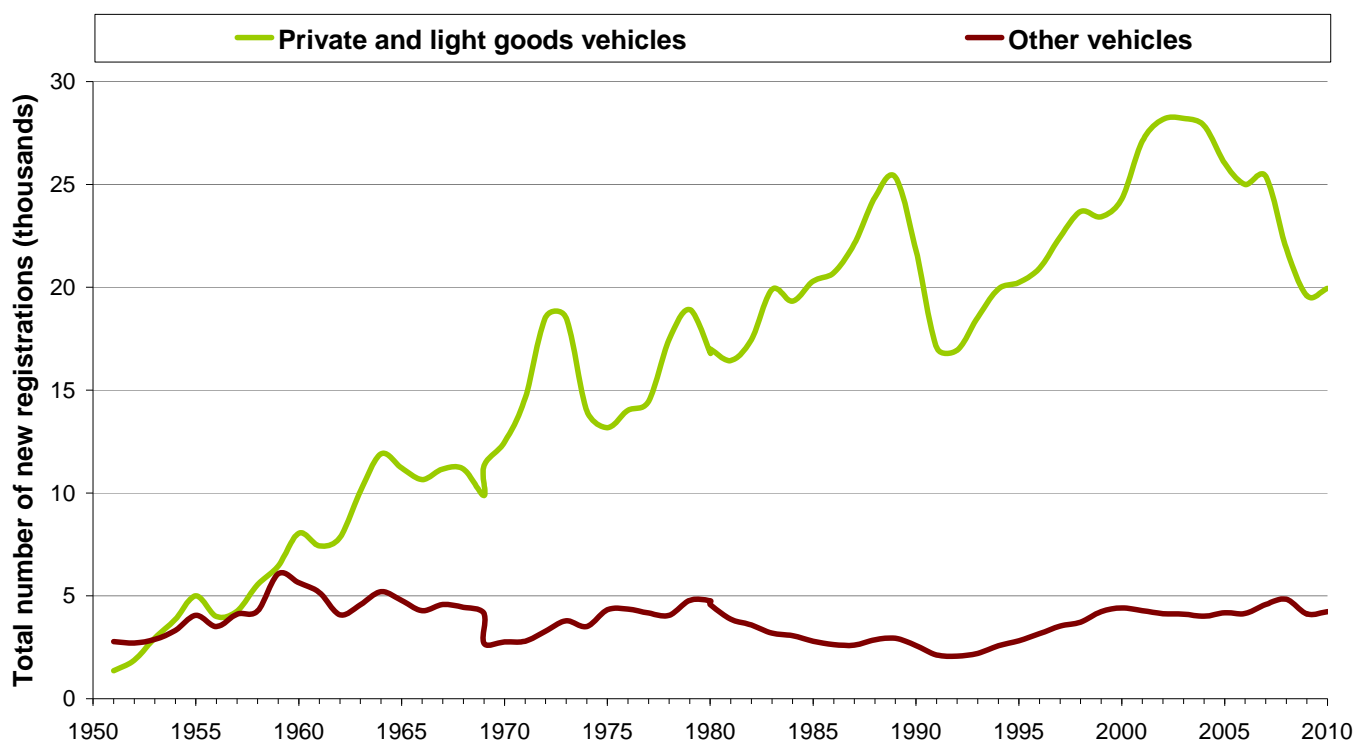
- The chart above shows that the number of licensed vehicles in Great Britain has increased from about 4 million in 1950 to over 34 million in 2010.

- The number of licensed vehicles has grown by about 3.7 per cent a year on average from 1950 to 2010. However, it grew by 0.7 per cent in 2008, 0.1 per cent in 2009 and 0.5 per cent in 2010. Aside from 1990 to 1991, the growth since 2008 has been the lowest growth period on record.
- Vehicles in the private and light goods taxation class (which is mainly made up of private cars and light vans) accounted for about 89 per cent of all the licensed vehicles.

New Vehicle Registrations

Motor vehicles registered for the first time by tax class: 1951 to 2010

([Table TSGB0902](#))



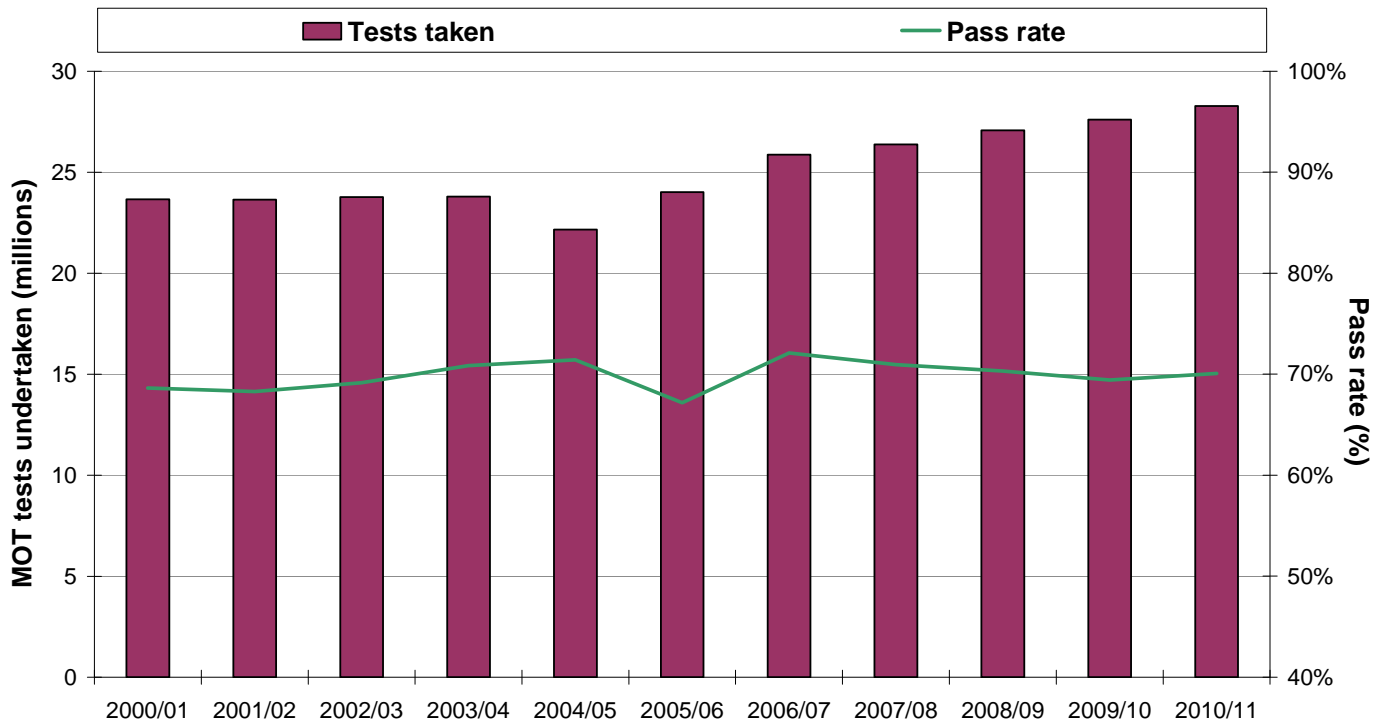
- The total number of vehicles being registered for the first time has increased from about 414 thousand a year in 1951 to peak of over 3.2 million vehicles a year in the early 2000s. The number dipped to 2.4 million in 2010. This is a 2 per cent increase on the previous year but, other than 2009, the lowest year since 1996.
- Most of the increase in new registrations has been in the private and light good vehicles tax class. New registrations in the other tax classes have remained fairly steady with most years between 290 thousand and 430 thousand new vehicle registrations.
- It is likely that the significant decrease in new registrations since 2008 was caused by the recession on the ongoing economic climate. New car and light van registrations have been helped by Vehicle Scrappage Scheme which ran between May 2009 and March 2010.

MOT Tests

(Tables TSGB0908 to TSGB0912)

Road vehicle testing scheme (MOT) test results: 2000/01 to 2010/11

(Table TSGB0908)



- As the number of licensed vehicles has increased, so too has the number of MOT tests undertaken. More than one test per valid vehicle is carried out a year as some vehicles fail their initial test, undergo rectification work, and are retested.
- During the period 2000/01 to 2010/11 the overall pass rate stayed steady at around 70 per cent.
- Over 28.2 million MOT tests were carried out in 2010/11. The vast majority of these (26.6 million) were of cars and other small passenger vehicles (up to 12 seats).
- The most common reason for rejection (RfR) for cars was with the lighting and signalling system. In 2010/11 19 per cent of all car tests failed for this reason. Other common defects on cars include brakes, suspension and tyres. These defects are the most common across the other vehicle types as well.

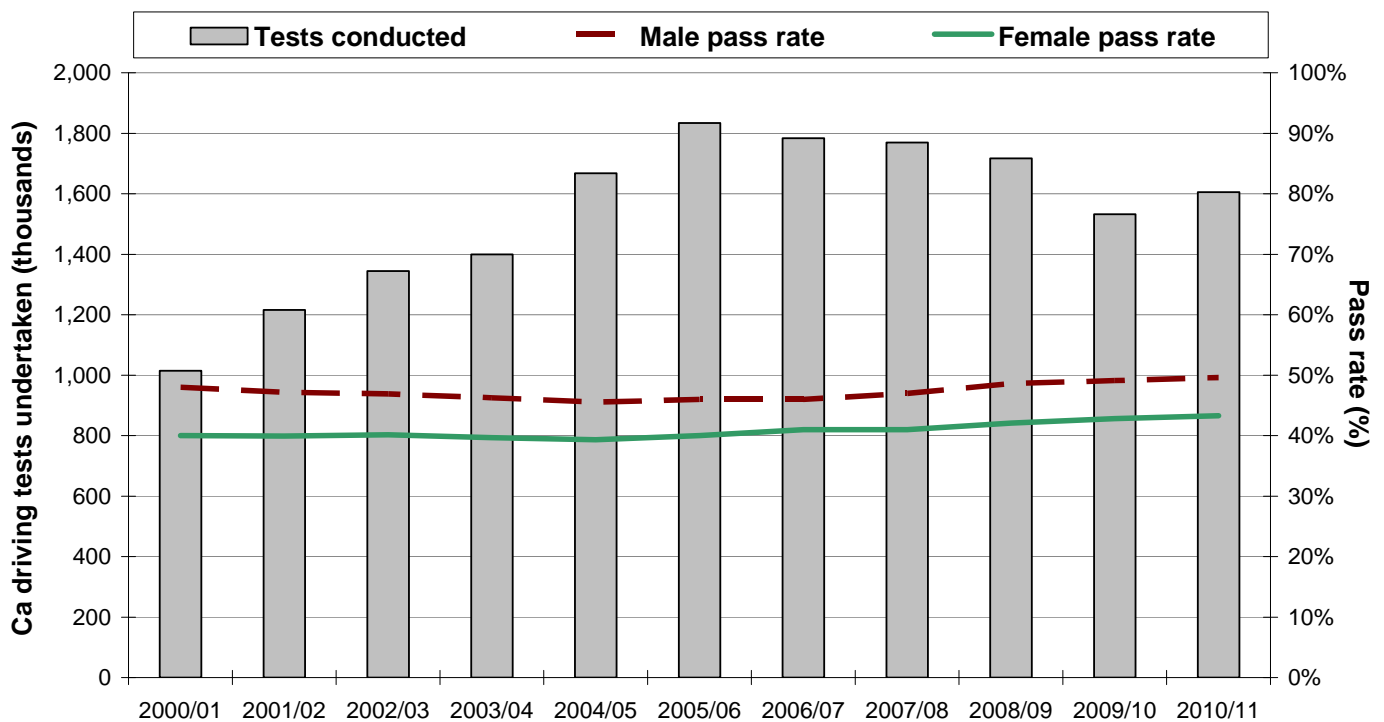
Private Motoring

(Tables TSGB0913 to TSGB0917)

- The proportion of households with access to car or van has risen from 14 per cent in 1951 to 75 per cent in 2010. Since 2002 there have been more households with access to two or more cars/vans than without any access at all.
- The proportion of the eligible population holding full driving licences rose from 48 per cent in 1975/76 to 71 per cent in 1998/00. Since then it has only risen slightly to 73 per cent in 2010. However, as the population has grown in that time there were 3.9 million more licence holders in 2010 as there were in 1998/00.
- The average annual mileage of four-wheeled cars has decreased from 9,700 miles in 1995/97 to 8,430 in 2010. Most of this decrease has been in the distance driven as part of work as well as commuting, though the average commuting distance driven increased between 2009 and 2010. The average distance driven for other private mileage fell to its lowest level since 1995/1997 in 2010.

Car driving tests: 2000/01 to 2010/11

(Table TSGB0917)



- The number of car practical driving tests taken rose to by 3.6 per cent from 1.59 million in 2009/10 to 1.65 million in 2010/11. Roughly 51 to 54 per cent of the tests each year were taken by males.
- The overall pass rate has remained reasonably static at about 42 to 46 per cent overall, though in most years males had about a 7 percentage point higher success rate than females.

Detailed statistics (tables and charts) on “vehicle statistics” can be found on the [Transport Statistics Great Britain Vehicle Statistics web page](#).

Background notes

1. Full guidance on the methods used to compile these statistics and their sources can be found in the [Transport Statistics Great Britain Vehicle Statistics notes and definitions](#).
2. Further information about the data used to compile the vehicle licensing tables can be found in [Vehicle licensing statistics notes and definitions](#).
3. Further information about the data used to compile the tables from the National Travel Survey can be found in [NTS notes and definitions](#).