Statement of Administrative Sources

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Vehicle Information Database

Collection

Data on vehicles and registration marks are collected by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) on first registration in the UK, when keepers provide updated information on the vehicle, and when vehicles are licensed or relicensed.

Any changes to the status of the vehicle (e.g. change in keeper, change of keeper's address, physical modifications to the vehicle, the registration of a Statutory Off Road Notice, its license status and license dates) are logged on the database.

Application

The database is used by the DVLA for operational monitoring of vehicles, checking for vehicle excise duty (VED) evasion and tracking vehicles to keepers.

Access and dissemination

An anonymised version of the database is provided to other users. These include DVLA's business agents (http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/detail?r.s=sc&r.l4=1082032108&r.l1=1081597476&r.lc=en&r.l3=1082104761&r.l2=1082103262&type=RESOURCES&itemId=1082032477). The business agents can provide aggregated data to users ahead of formal publication by the DfT.

The Motor Insurance Bureaux also receive regular copies of the database for comparison with the Motor Insurance Database.

On a quarterly basis, a random sample of registration marks for freight vehicles are provided to the Freight Statistics Team in DfT. These are used for part of their CSRGT survey of freight vehicles currently licensed. Depending on the exact timing, the sample can be provided before publication.

Non-statistical publication

None by the Department or DVLA.

Statistical publication

Quarterly statistics of vehicle stock
Monthly statistics of new registrations of vehicles
Vehicle Licensing Statistics (annual)
Compendium of Motorcycle Statistics

Road Freight Statistics

Synergies

The statistics produced by DfT are unadjusted aggregates of the vehicles in the DVLA database.

Security / data protection arrangements

No names or addresses (other than postcode) are provided by DVLA to DfT. All data transfers take place by courier on an encrypted CD. The original CDs are stored in a locked cabinet in DfT and processed data are held on a secure database. Only members of the Vehicle Licensing branch have access to the CDs or database.

Statistical end products

Vehicle Licensing Statistics - annual
(www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/vehicles/licensing/)
Vehicle Registration and Licensing Statistics - monthly and quarterly
(www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/vehicles/vehreg.xls)
Compendium of Motorcycle Statistics - annual
(www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/vehicles/motorcycling/)
Vehicle Excise Duty Evasion - Annual
(www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/vehicles/excisedutyevasion/)
MOT non-compliance – One-off for 2007 and 2008.
(www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/vehicles/motnoncomp/)
> Published by the Vehicle Licensing Statistics Branch, Department for Transport.
> Contact point: Paul Syron, Zone 3/9 Great Minster House, 76 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DR. Tel: 020 7944 3077. Email: vehicles.stats@dft.gsi.gov.uk.

Road Freight Statistics - annual

(www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/freight/goodsbyroad/)
> Published by the Road Freight Statistics Branch, Department for Transport.
> Contact point: Robert Hartley, Zone 2/29 Great Minster House, 76 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DR. Tel: 020 7944 3180. Email: roadfreight.stats@dft.gsi.gov.uk.

Administrative / management source or system

Title: Vehicle Systems Software (VSS)
Owner: Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency
Purpose of database: For the operational management and licensing of vehicles
Unit of inquiry: registration marks on vehicles
Intend coverage: 100%
Completeness: 100%
Geographical coverage: United Kingdom (data held by DVLA); Great Britain (data held by DfT)

Lowest level of geographical coverage: N/A (vehicles registered by house on DVLA system; postcode on DfT system)

Extent to which statistical end-producers can influence the system: DfT statistics can only influence what is collected where there are statutory reporting duties.

Data definitions used: Provided in Vehicle Licensing Statistics bulletins

Classification systems used: Provided in Vehicle Licensing Statistics bulletins

Periodicity / timing: Original DVLA database updated on a daily basis. DfT holds snapshots as at the end of each quarter.

Validation procedures:

Access arrangements: DVLA have internal access for operational and enforcement purposes. Other bodies (e.g. business agents, Motor Insurance Bureaux, police forces) receive copies of the database on a regular basis.

Dissemination procedures: The Department has a publication calendar for announcing publication dates in advance.

Timing of release: Snapshots of the database are provided to organisations shortly after the end of the relevant quarter / month / week. DfT statistics releases are c. 6 weeks after the end of the month for new registrations and two months after the end of the quarter for the stock figure.

Nature of changes to the system which can impact on the statistics: There are no plans to change definitions or classifications. However, more detail on vehicles will be collected and provided to the Department. This might allow more detailed aggregates to be published.

Changes to the taxation class can result in changes in the output statistics, but this would only be a reallocation of vehicles to different classes.

Change process

DVLA in conjunction with the Vehicle Certification Agency can change definitions and what is recorded. However, due to European Commission statutory returns, most of the data needs to be captured in a defined format from the Certificate of Conformity or Individual Vehicle Approval (IVA) processes.

DVLA in conjunction with DfT vehicles policy can change taxation class.

The subsequent statistical production process

Validation procedures: Data are aggregated totals of vehicles directly from the database. Most validation is carried out on the raw data.

Quality assessment: See Vehicle Licensing Statistics

Periodicity of release:
>   Vehicle Licensing Statistics - Annual
>   New registration statistics - Monthly
>   Vehicle stock statistics - Quarterly
>   Compendium of Motorcycling Statistics - Annual
>   Vehicle Excise Duty Evasion - Annual
>   MOT non-compliance - one off, possibly becoming annual

Potential impact of changes: The system may be changed to reflect new taxation classes, vehicle definitions, or EC requirements.

Mitigation of discontinuities: Any significant changes may cause discontinuities in sub-sections of the series (e.g. changes between taxation classes). However, the overall series should not be affected.

Most anticipated changes will introduce new data variables rather than change anything substantial within the dataset.

Last updated : November 2010