



Department for Transport

Vehicle Licensing Statistics: Quarter 3 (Jul - Sep) 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

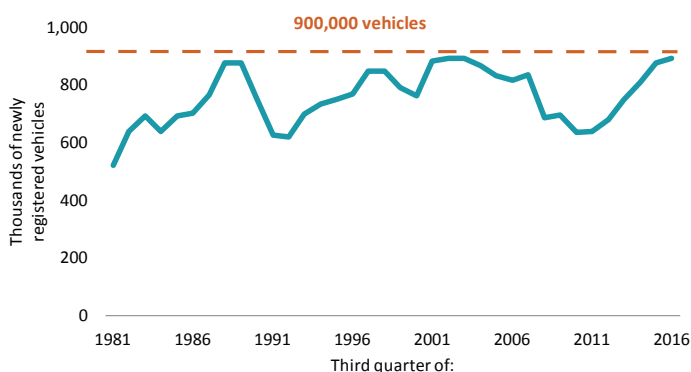
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April 2017

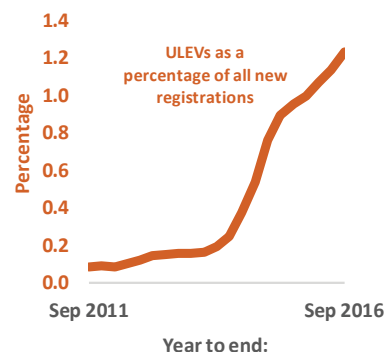


July to September 2016 saw the highest number of new registrations ever recorded in the third quarter, in Great Britain, at 893,000.

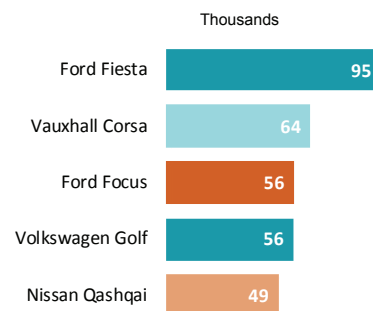
This was 0.2% higher than the previous peak in 2002.



During July to September 2016, over 11,000 new **ultra low emission vehicles** (ULEVs) were registered in the United Kingdom, an increase of 47% of the same period in 2015.



The most popular new car model in Great Britain in 2016 up to the end of September was the Ford Fiesta with 95,000 registrations, followed by the Vauxhall Corsa with 64,000; the Ford Focus and Volkswagen Golf both with 56,000 and the Nissan Qashqai with 49,000



During July to Sept 2016

893,000 Vehicles

At end of Sept 2016

37.4 million Vehicles licensed

registered for the first time



for use on roads in Great Britain



New Registrations this quarter



From July to September 2016, 893,000 vehicles were registered for the first time in Great Britain.

This was the highest number of new registrations ever recorded in the third quarter of the year.

It was 1.9% up on the same quarter of the previous year, and 0.2% higher than the previous peak in 2002, when 892,000 were recorded.

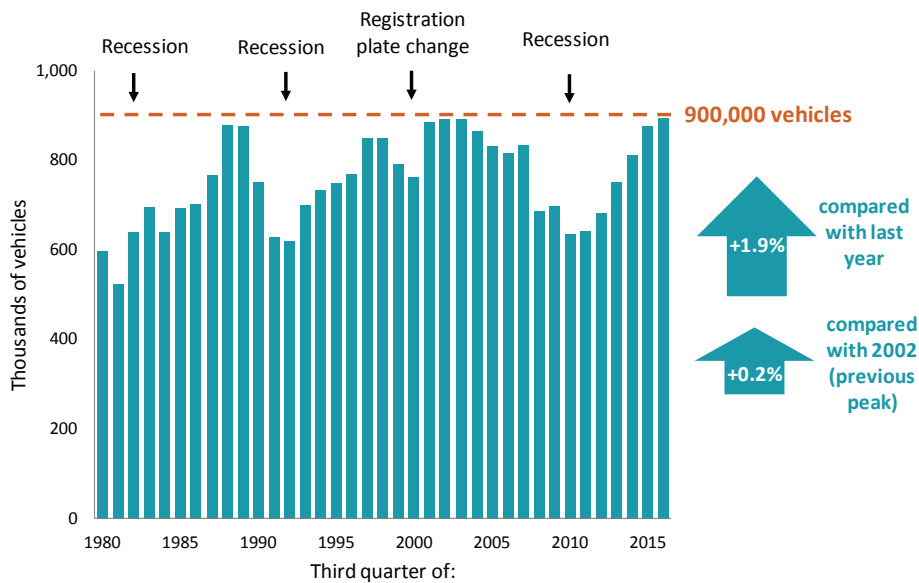
Tables

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: third quarter of the year only, 1980-2016



Change of registration plates

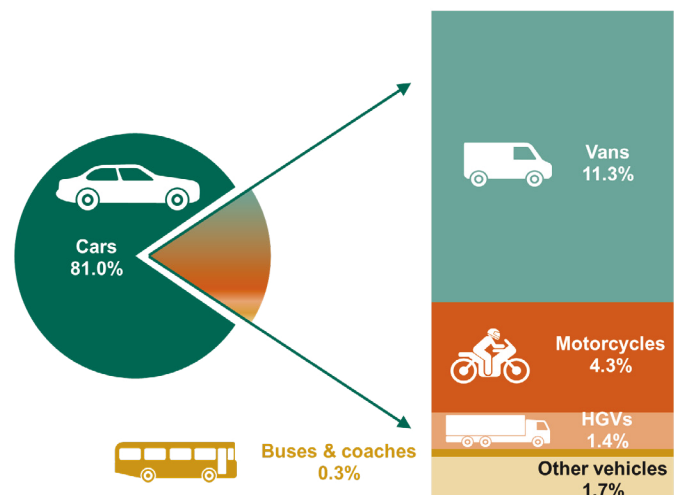
Up to 1998, new registration plates were issued once a year in August, causing a peak in registrations in that month. In 1999, this was changed to twice a year, in March and September. This changed the distribution of new registrations through the year.

The economic downturn during the recession of 2008/9 affected the new registration figures which fell to 636,000 in the same quarter of 2010. The number of new registrations was also effected during the recessions of the early 1980s and 90s.

In each year since 2010, there has been a year-on-year increase in the number of new registrations in the third quarter.

81% of new registrations between July and September 2016 were cars, 11% were vans and 8% were motorcycles, HGVs, Buses & coaches and other vehicles.

Figure 2: Vehicles registered for the first time, GB: July to September 2016; by vehicle type



Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs)

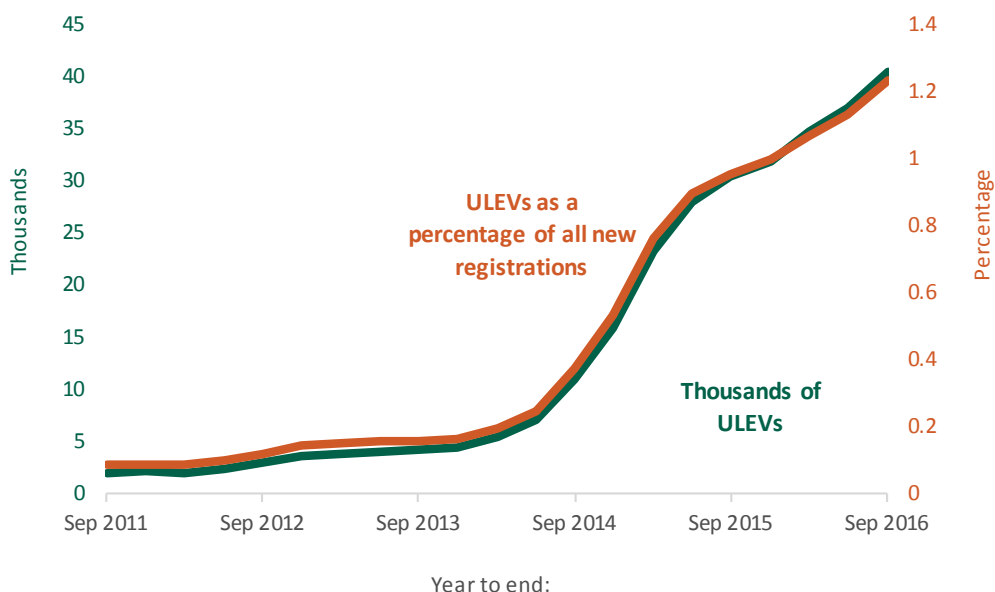
During July to September 2016, 11,030 new **ultra low emission vehicles** (ULEVs) were registered for the first time in the United Kingdom, an increase of 47% on one year before and 118% on two years previously.

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 3: New Ultra Low Emission Vehicle registrations, UK: 2011 - q3 2016

During the year to end of September 2016, ULEVs represented 1.2% of all new registrations, compared with 1.0% over the previous year, and 0.4% over the year before that.



Most of the increase in ULEV registrations has been accounted for by vehicles eligible for plug-in car and van grants. New registrations in July to September 2016 included 9,643 cars and 274 vans of models that were eligible for these grants, 50% up on the same period in 2015.

The ULEV models with the most registrations from July to September 2016 were plug-ins. These were the Mitsubishi Outlander (which first appeared in 2014) with 2,051, followed by the Mercedes C350 (first appeared last year) with 1,457 and the Nissan Leaf (which first appeared in 2011) with 1,394.

What are plug-in vehicles and grants?

A plug-in vehicle is one that can be recharged from an external source of electricity. It may be powered by a battery only, or by a combination of battery and a conventional internal combustion engine (a plug-in hybrid).

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 September 2016 there were 37.4 million vehicles licensed for use on the roads in Great Britain, of which 30.9 million were cars.

In the year to September 2016 the stock of vehicles increased by 2.3%. This is the fourth 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 September 2016, the largest percentage increase was for vans at 4.5% followed by HGVs at 2.2%. Motorcycles increased only by 1.2% over the same period while buses & coaches fell by 0.6%.

Over the last twenty years, vehicle stock has increased by 42%. The largest increase was for vans at 73%, followed by motorcycles at 66%. Growth in HGVs was 14% and buses & coaches only 2%.

In September 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.

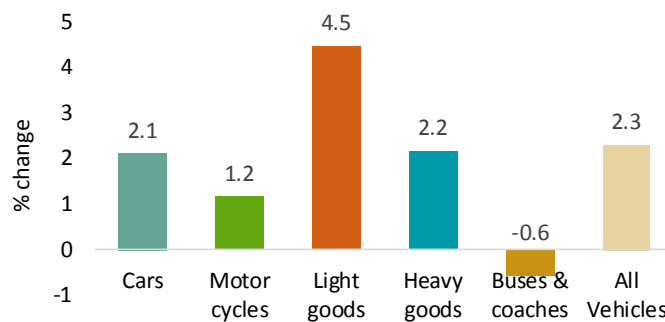
Tables

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 Sept 2016: over last year



over last 20 years

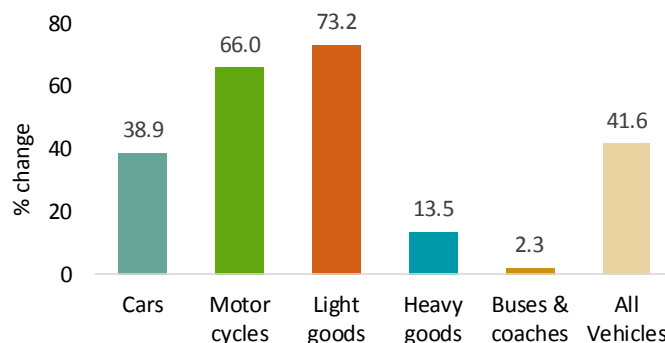
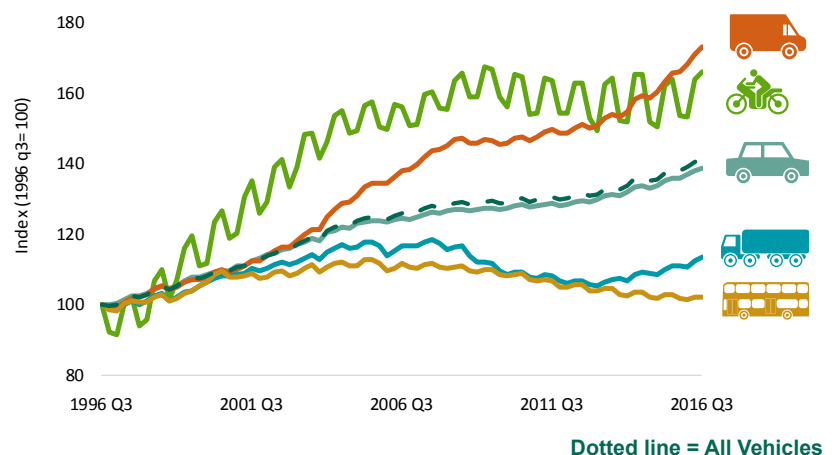


Figure 5: Licensed vehicles by type, GB: Q3 1996 - Q3 2016



Makes and models of cars

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

The top five **makes** (Ford, Vauxhall, Volkswagen, Peugeot and BMW) accounted for 44% of all licensed cars at the end of September 2016 in Great Britain. Ford accounted for 14% of all cars and Vauxhall for 11%.

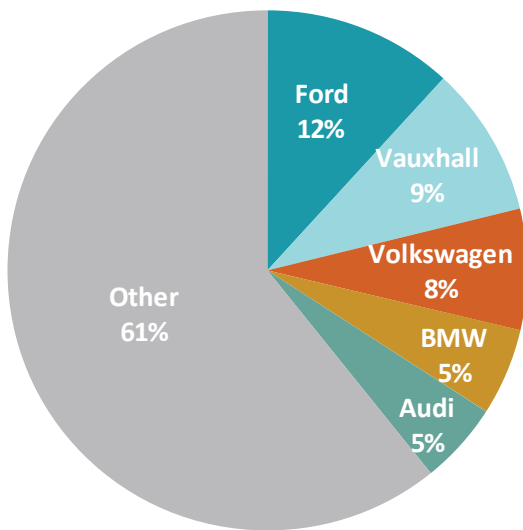
Tables

Detailed make and model data tables

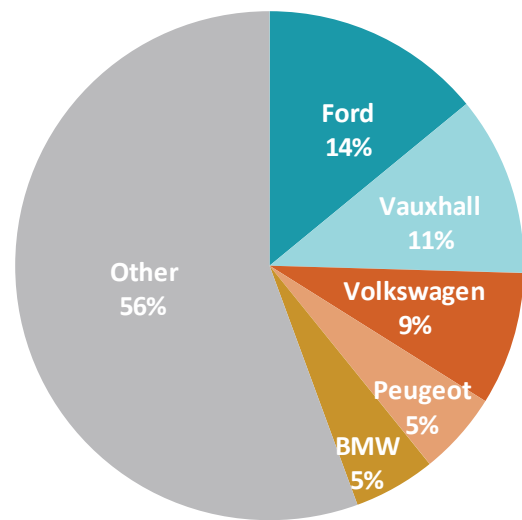
[VEH0120, 0121, 0124 to 0129, 0160, 0161](#)

Figure 6: Top 5 makes of cars, GB

New cars, January to September 2016



All licensed cars, September 2016

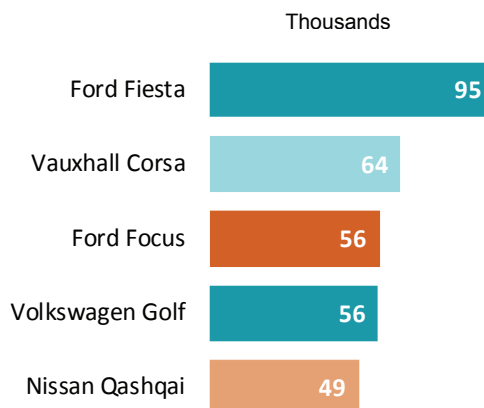


The Ford Fiesta was the most common new registration car model from January to September with 95,000 registered for the first time. This was followed by the Vauxhall Corsa with 64,000.

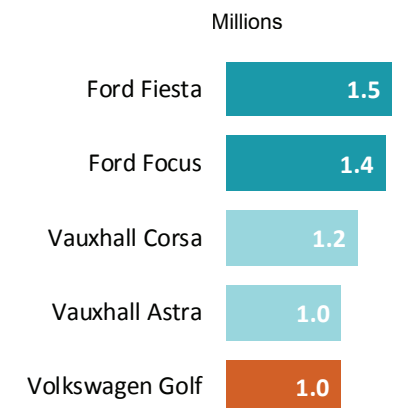
The most common **models** licensed at the end of September 2016 were the Ford Fiesta with 1.5 million cars followed by the Ford Focus with 1.4 million.

Figure 7: Top 5 models of cars, GB

New cars, January to Sept 2016



All licensed cars, Sept 2016



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 13 April 2017.

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.

Release of DfT Statistics publications

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