



## 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 13 December 2012.

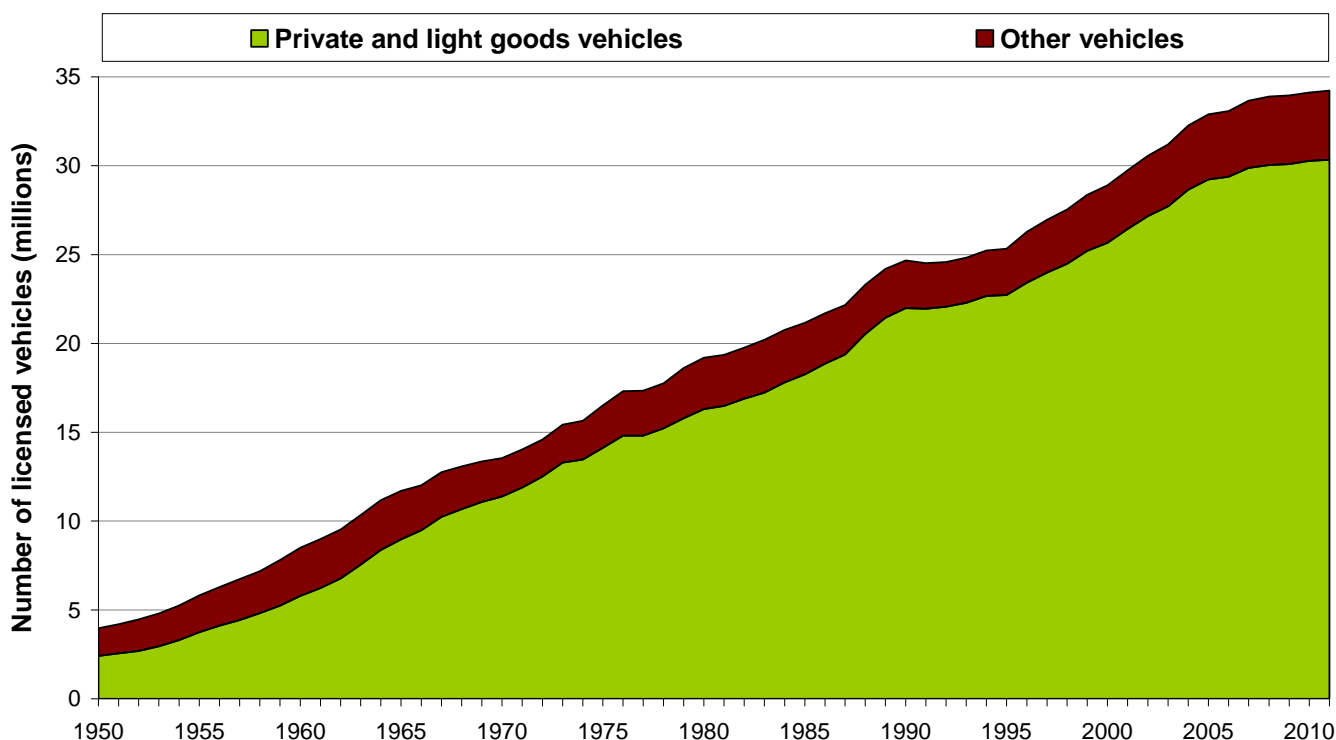
### The Vehicles chapter includes:

- 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 2011

(Table VEH0103, and by body type in Table VEH0102)



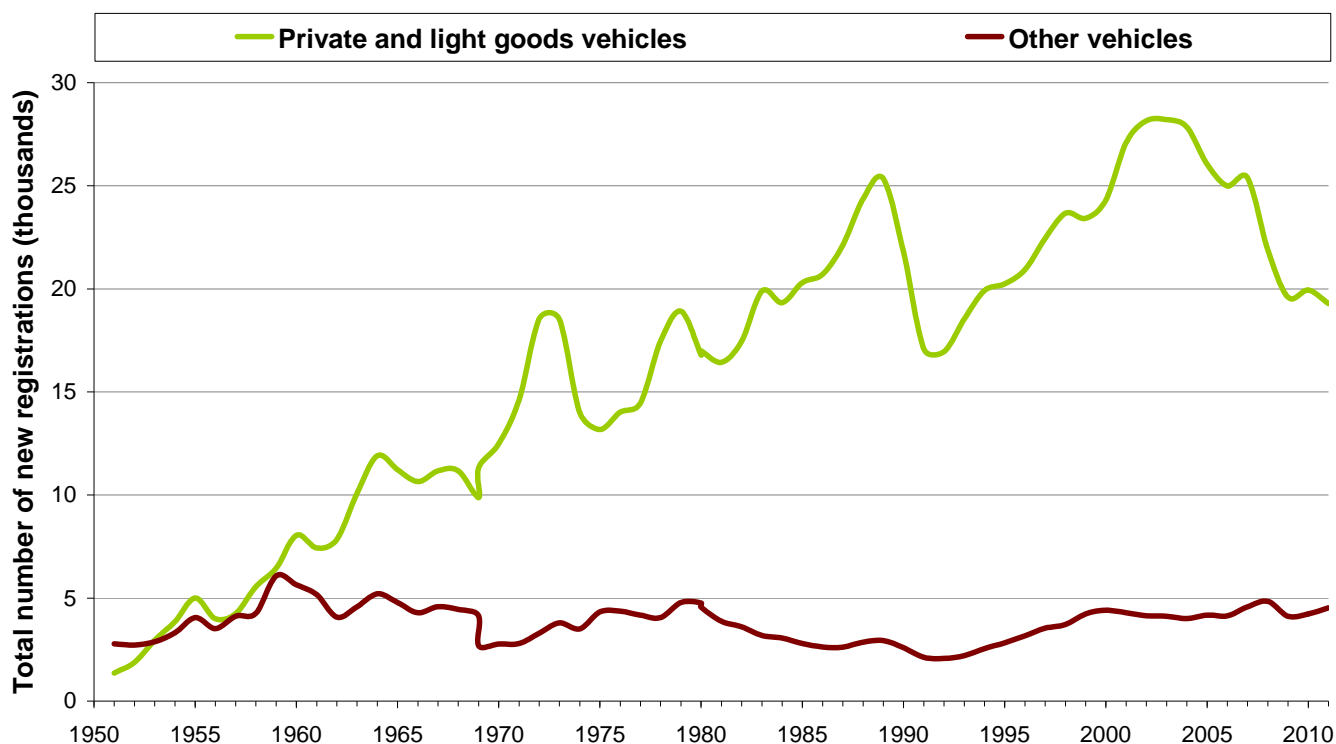
- The chart above shows that the number of licensed vehicles in Great Britain has increased from about 4 million in 1950 to over 34 million in 2011.

- The number of licensed vehicles has grown by about 3.6 per cent a year on average from 1950 to 2011. However, the number grew by only 0.3 per cent in 2011, and the period since 2007 rivals the early 1990s for the lowest period of growth on record since World War 2.
- 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 in 2011.

## New Vehicle Registrations

### Motor vehicles registered for the first time by tax class: 1951 to 2011

(Table VEH0153)



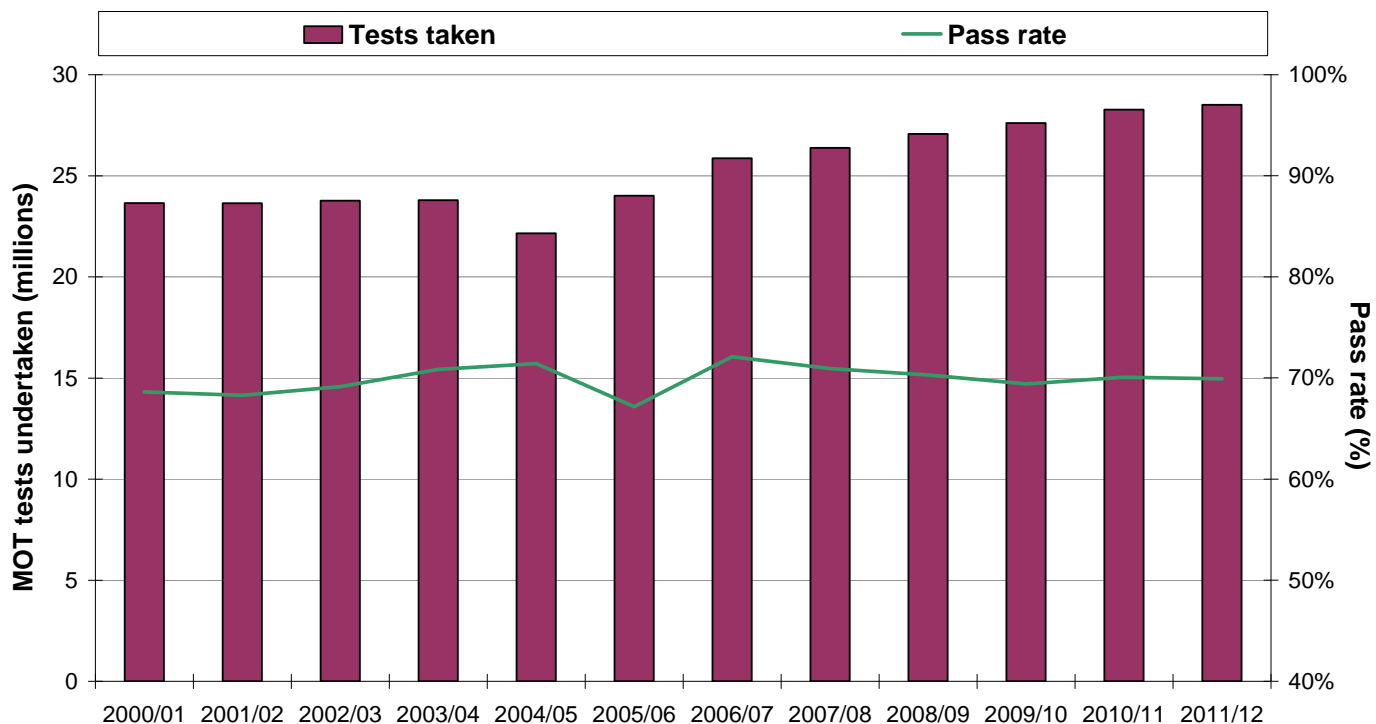
- The total number of vehicles being registered for the first time has increased from about 414 thousand a year in 1951 to peak of over 3.2 million vehicles a year in the early 2000s. The number dipped to just under 2.4 million in 2011, 1.5 per cent lower than in 2010, and only marginally higher than in 2009, which was 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 440 thousand new vehicle registrations.
- It is likely that the significant decrease in new registrations since 2008 was caused by the recession and the ongoing economic climate. New car and light van registrations were helped by the 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 2011/12

(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 2011/12 the overall pass rate stayed steady at around 70 per cent.
- Over 28.5 million MOT tests were carried out in 2011/12. The vast majority of these (26.8 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 2011/12 19 per cent of all car tests failed for this reason. Other common defects on cars include brakes, suspension and tyres. These defects tend to be the most common across the other vehicle types as well.

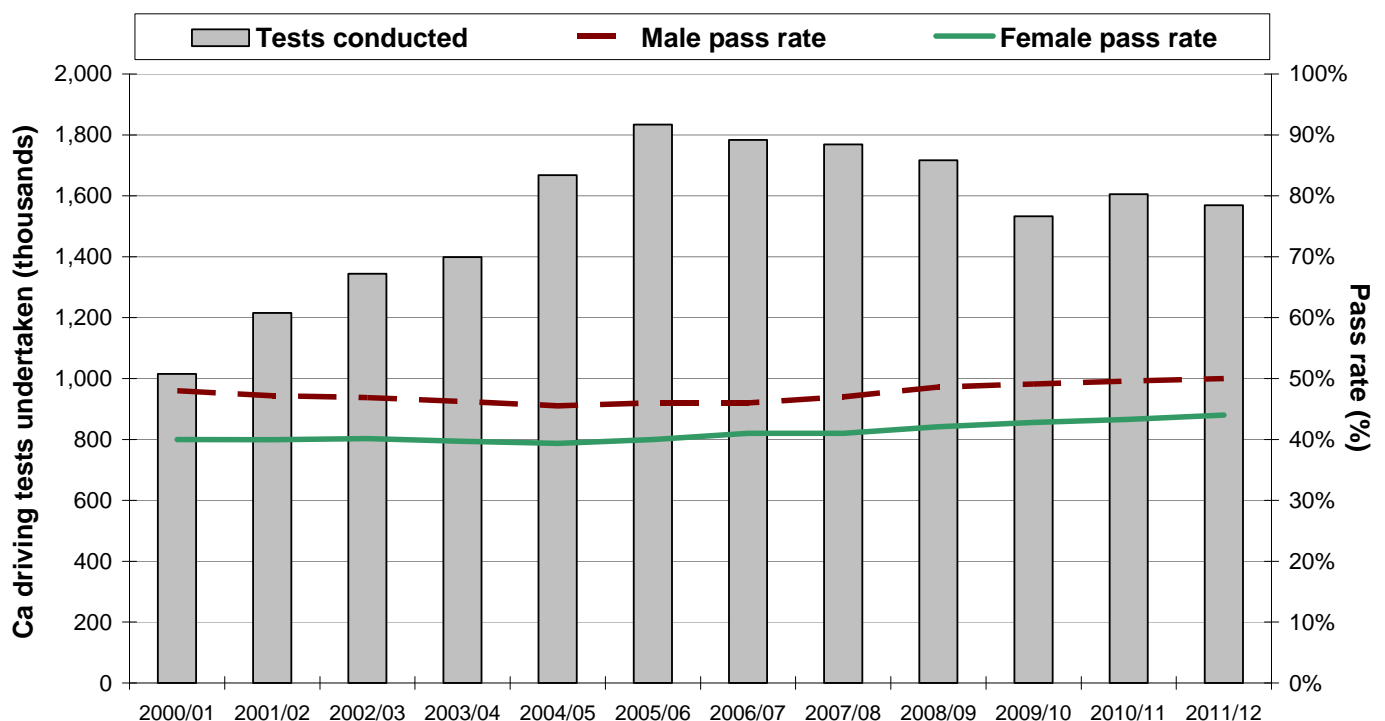
## Private Motoring

(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.

### Car driving tests: 2000/01 to 2011/12

(Table TSGB0917)



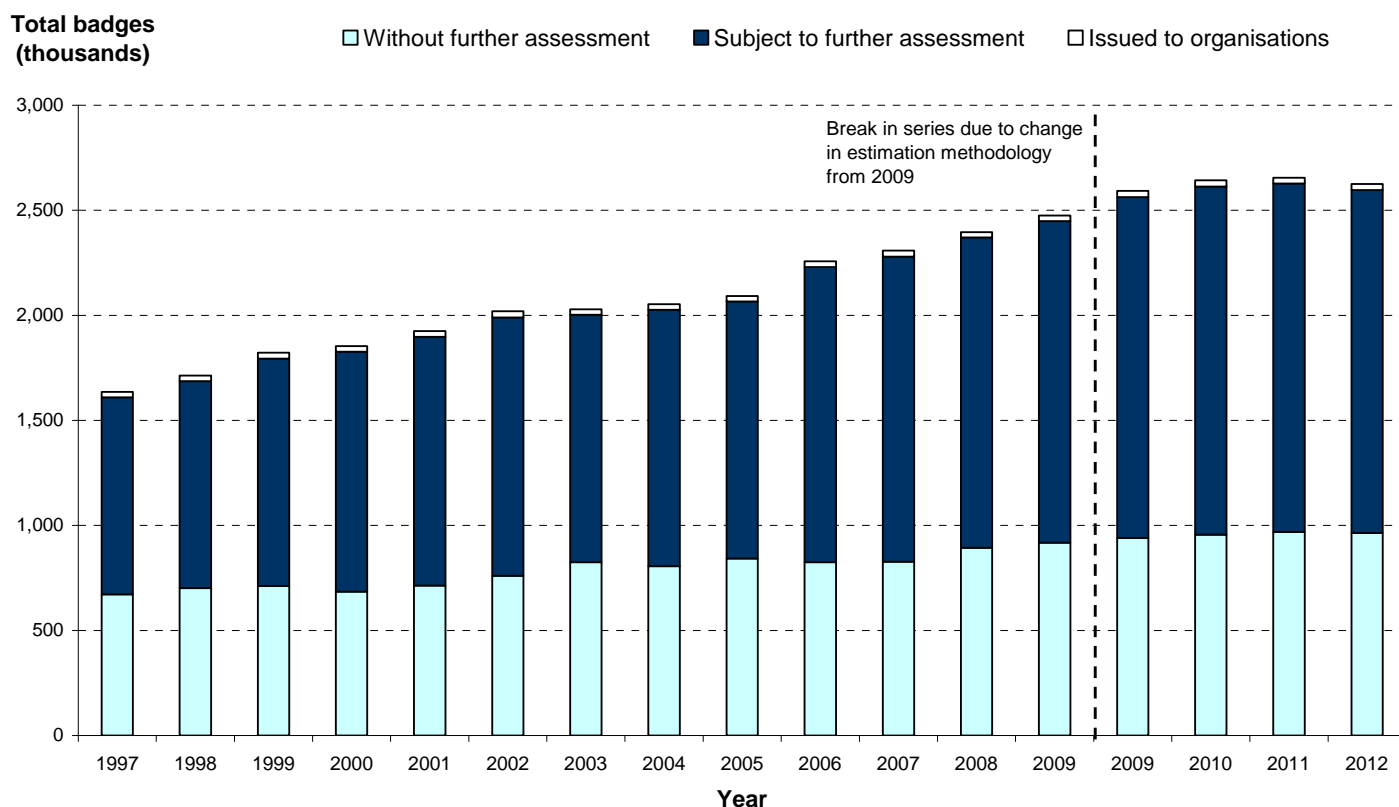
- The number of car practical driving tests taken has fallen by 14 per cent from a peak of 1.83 million in 2005/6 to 1.57 million in 2011/12. Roughly 51 to 54 per cent of tests passes each year are by males, the 2011/12 figure being relatively low at 50.8 per cent.
- The overall pass rate has remained reasonably steady at about 42 to 47 per cent overall. In most years males have had a pass rate about 6 or 7 percentage points higher than females.

## Disabled Parking Badges

- The estimated number of valid Blue Badges (parking badges for disabled people) held in England at 31 March 2012 was 2.62 million, a decrease of 1.1 per cent from the previous year which saw the highest annual figure recorded of 2.65 million. This figure had been steadily increasing since 1997 and this is the first year to experience a decline. This fall may be due to the introduction of reforms to the process of applying for a badge.
- There are two main categories for eligibility for a Blue Badge, those that are “eligible without further assessment” (previously known as the automatic criteria) and those that are “eligible subject to further assessment” (previously known as the discretionary criteria).
- Of the 2012 total, 37 per cent were issued without further assessment, 62 per cent were subject to further assessment and 1 per cent were issued to organisations. These proportions have remained broadly similar since 1997.
- The reduction in number of badges held has been driven by a decline of 1.6 per cent in the number of badges held under the ‘subject to further assessment criteria’ since 2010/11.

### Blue Badges held: England, annually from 1997

(Table DIS0101)



On 31 March 2012, 5.0 per cent of the English population held a valid Blue Badge, a decrease of 0.1 percentage points from 2011. As for the absolute number of Badges, this proportion had been steadily increasing since 1997, and 2011 was the first year to experience a decline.

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Detailed statistics (tables and charts) on “vehicle statistics” can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-transport/about/statistics>.

## Background notes

1. Full guidance on the methods used to compile these statistics and their sources can be found in the TSGB ‘notes and definitions’ here <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-transport/series/transport-statistics-great-britain>.
2. Further information about the data used to compile the vehicle licensing tables can be found in the ‘technical information’ section here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-transport/series/vehicle-licensing-statistics>
3. Further information about the data used to compile the tables from the National Travel Survey can be found in the ‘technical information’ section here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-transport/series/national-travel-survey-statistics>
4. Further information about the data and methods used to compile the Blue Badge statistics can be found in the ‘technical information’ section here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-transport/series/disabled-parking-badges-statistics>