

Average Age of Vehicle Fleet in New Zealand

BACKGROUND

The average age of a country's vehicle fleet is an indicator of the efficiency of the vehicles on the road. Older cars tend to be less efficient, and have more emissions. These emissions include carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide and particles (PM10), particularly from diesel vehicles (Kjellström 2004). Furthermore, vehicle age is often related to vehicle safety, with newer cars having better safety features.

The indicator presents the average age of vehicles in New Zealand by type from the year 2000 onwards. The data are sourced from the report *The New Zealand Vehicle Fleet* (Ministry of Transport 2012), published annually by the Ministry of Transport. For this indicator, the five categories of vehicles used are the same as for the previous indicator 'Number of vehicles in New Zealand'. The average age of vehicles in New Zealand is also compared with other countries with high levels of motorisation and similar patterns of development to New Zealand, as reported in *The New Zealand Vehicle Fleet* (Ministry of Transport 2012).

References

- Kjellström T. (2004). Air Quality and Health. In: Cromar N, Cameron S, Fallowfield H. (eds.). *Environmental Health in Australia and New Zealand*. Melbourne: Oxford University Press:274-92.
- Ministry of Transport. (2012). *The New Zealand Vehicle Fleet*. Wellington: Ministry of Transport.

