



## Number of Vehicles in New Zealand and International Comparison

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- In 2013, the total number of vehicle has increased by 3% compared to last year.
- The number of vehicles continued to steadily increase between 2000 and 2008, with minimal fleet growth from 2008 onwards
- New Zealand’s rate of passenger cars per 1,000 populations was higher than Australia, Japan, United Kingdom and United States.



Source: Stuff. (2014). NZ's new vehicles sale surged in 2013. Retrieved from: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/motoring/news/9584377/NZs-new-vehicle-sales-surged-in-2013>

### Relevance of the indicator to environmental health

Vehicle use has a large impact on the environment, including vehicle emissions caused by the burning of petrol and diesel. Vehicle releases greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide), carbon monoxide, particulate matter (PM10), and other gases, which can all lead to health problems (Kjellström 2004).

From 2000 to 2012, estimated vehicle emission fell between 25 and 49 percent for various pollutants despite the increase in the number of vehicles. This may mainly due to technological advances in vehicles and fuel (Ministry for the Environment, 2014).

Table 1: vehicle number by type, 2012 vs 2013.

|  | Vehicles         | 2012             | 2013             | Trend         |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|
| <b>In 2013, the total number of vehicle has increased by 3% compared to last year.</b> | Light passenger  | 2,633,378        | 2,700,192        | 2.5% ↑        |
|  | Light commercial | 391,751          | 412,918          | 5.4% ↑        |
|  | Motorcycles      | 112,047          | 114,930          | 2.6% ↑        |
|  | Trucks           | 110,418          | 112,856          | 2.2% ↑        |
|  | Bus              | 8,115            | 8,286            | 2.1% ↑        |
|  | <b>Total</b>     | <b>3,255,709</b> | <b>3,349,182</b> | <b>2.9% ↑</b> |

Source: Ministry of Transport, 2014

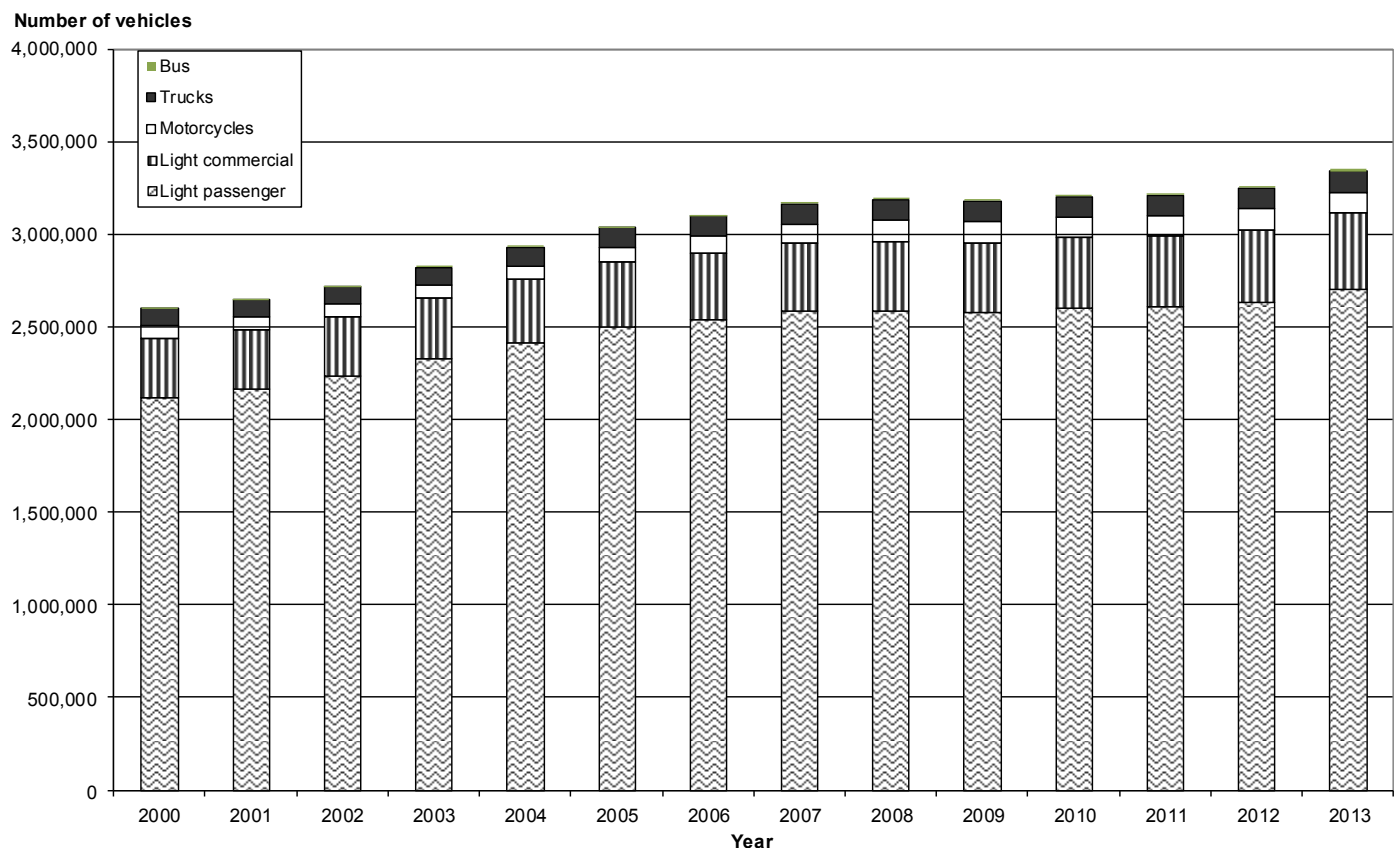
### The number of vehicles continued to steadily increase between 2000 and 2008, with minimal fleet growth from 2008 onwards

The number of vehicles in New Zealand continued to steadily increase between 2000 and 2008. Since then, the growth in the vehicle fleet has slowed down (Figure 1). Light passenger vehicles (passenger cars and vans) accounted for over 80% of total vehicles in New Zealand while bus only accounted for over 0.2% from 2000 to 2013 (Ministry of Transport, 2014)

**New Zealand’s rate of passenger cars per 1,000 populations was higher than Australia, Japan, United Kingdom and United States.**

Internationally, New Zealand's number of passenger cars ranked at the 6th position in 2011 with 597 passenger cars per 1,000 populations (The World Bank, 2014). Meanwhile Australia had 559 passenger cars per 1,000 populations, Japan had 455 passenger cars; the United Kingdom had 454 passenger cars and the United States had 403 passenger cars (Figure 2).

**FIGURE 1: NUMBER OF VEHICLES IN NEW ZEALAND, BY VEHICLE TYPE, 2000-2013.**

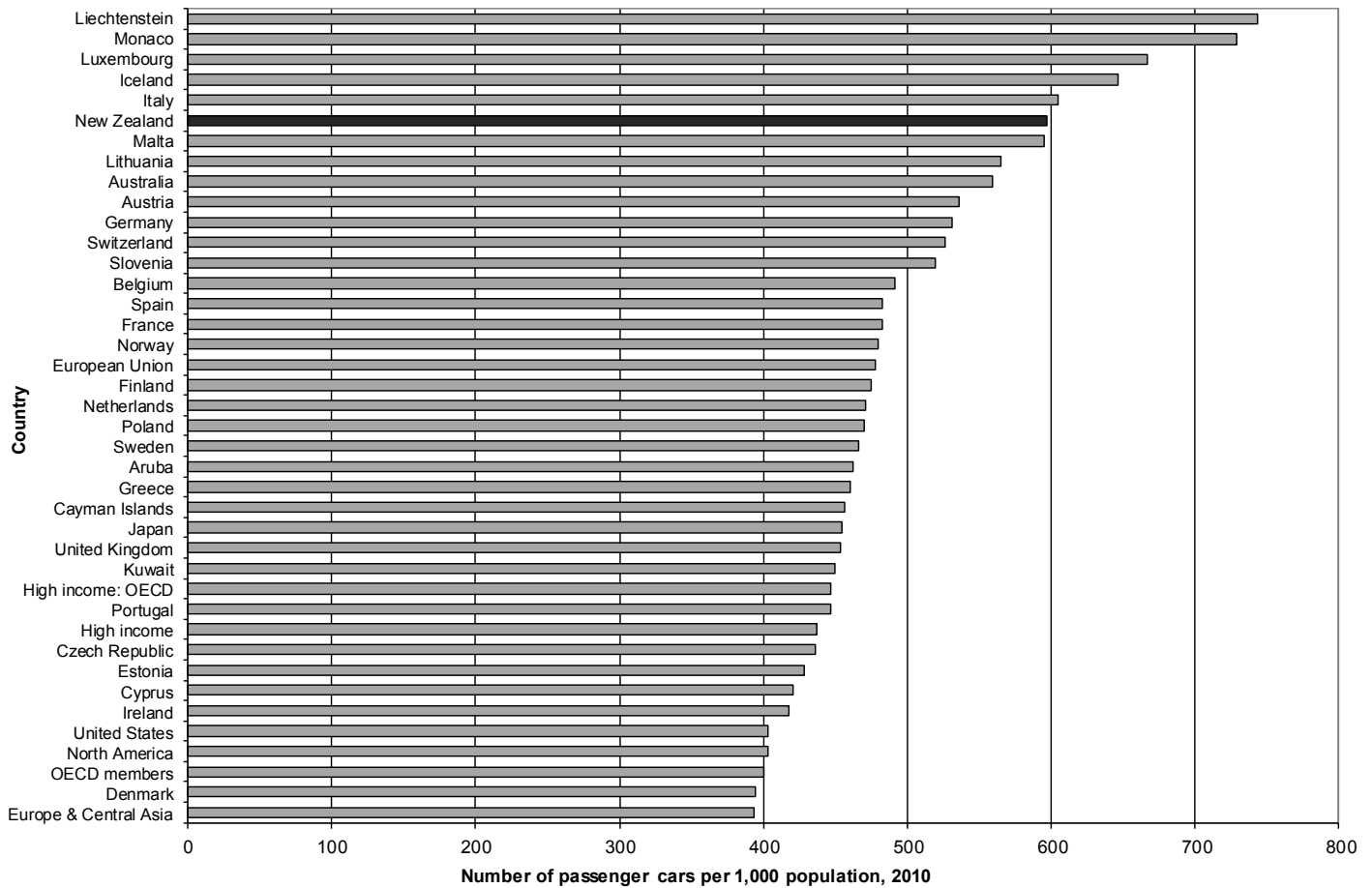


Notes:

- 'light passenger' vehicles include passenger cars and vans
- 'light commercial' vehicles include the following, if under 3500kg: goods vans, trucks, utilities, buses, motor caravans
- 'trucks' include the following, if over 3500kg: goods vans, trucks, utilities, motor caravans
- 'motorcycles' include motorcycles and mopeds
- 'buses' include buses over 3500kg.

Source: Ministry of Transport, 2014

**FIGURE 2: NUMBER OF PASSENGER CARS PER 1,000 POPULATION, COMPARISON COUNTRIES, 2011.**



Notes: Passenger cars refer to road motor vehicles, other than two-wheelers, intended for the carriage of passengers and designed to seat no more than nine people (including the driver).

Source: The World Bank, 2014

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