



Environmental Health Indicators for New Zealand

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AVERAGE AGE OF VEHICLE FLEET IN NEW ZEALAND

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 for the years 2000 to 2010 (Figure 1).

The average age of all types of New Zealand vehicles is between 11 and 16 years, light passenger and commercial vehicles approximately 12 years, heavy commercial vehicles about 14 years, and buses approximately 16 years. The pattern has not changed substantially in the past ten years. In contrast, the average age of motorcycles has decreased from 15 years in 2000 to about 11 years in 2010.

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS

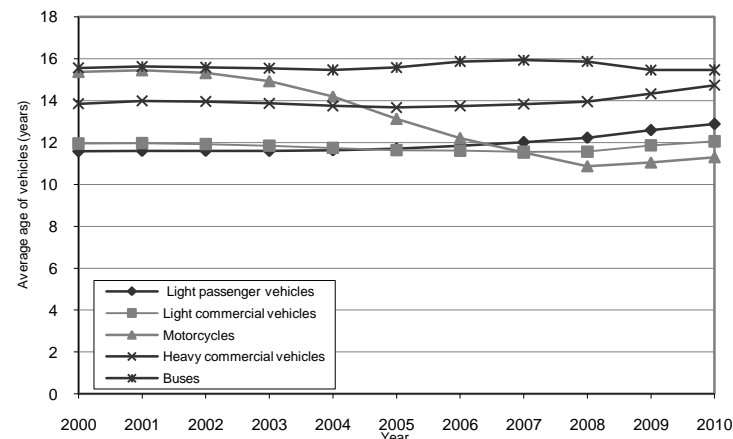
The average age of number of vehicles in New Zealand is also compared to other countries with high levels of motorisation and similar patterns of development to New Zealand, as reported in The New Zealand Vehicle Fleet (Ministry of Transport 2008).

The latest available international data shows New Zealand has an older vehicle fleet than the other countries shown (Figure 2). Between 2002 and 2008, the average age of vehicles in New Zealand was approximately 12 years, compared to about 10 years in Australia, and 7-8 years in Canada and the USA.

References

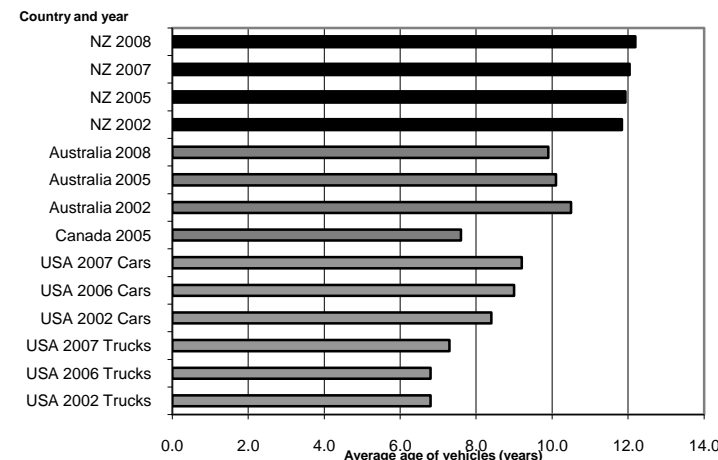
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FIGURE 1: AVERAGE AGE OF VEHICLE FLEET IN NEW ZEALAND



Source: Ministry of Transport (2011)

FIGURE 2: AVERAGE AGE OF VEHICLE FLEET (YEARS), INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS, 2002-2008



Note: The average age refers to the mean age of the vehicle fleet. An exception is the United States, where vehicle ages are given as medians, and is therefore lower than the expected average ages for vehicles
Source: Ministry of Transport (2011)