



## 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 eleven years. In contrast, the average age of motorcycles has decreased from 15 years in 2000 to about 11 years in 2011.

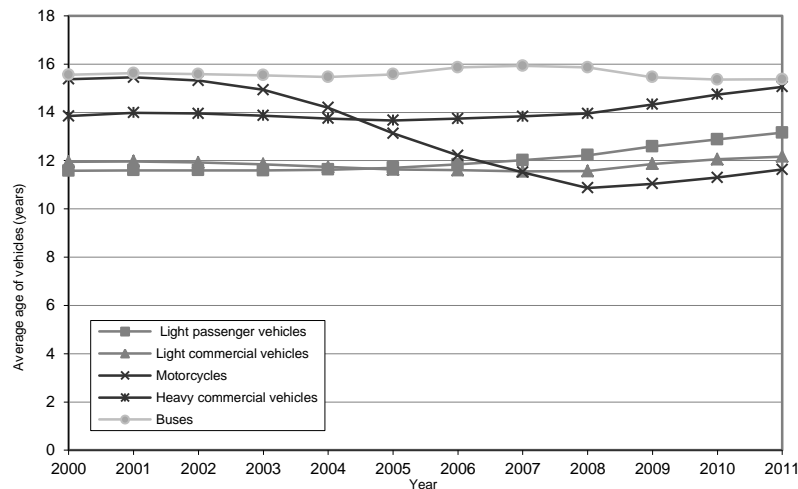
### INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS

The average of vehicle fleet in New Zealand has increased from 12 years in 2008 to 13 years in 2011 (Figure 2). . Between 2002 and 2011, the average age of vehicles in New Zealand was approximately 12 years, compared to about 10 years in Australia and the USA, and 8 years in Canada.

**References**

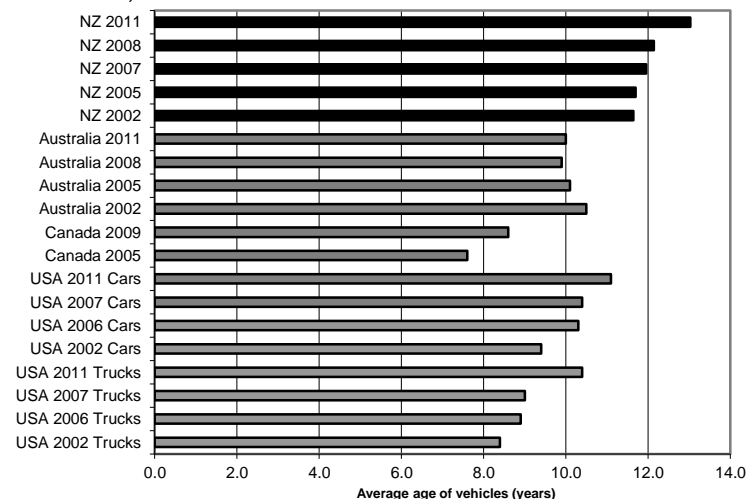
- Kjellström T. (2004). Air Quality and Health. In: Cromar N, Cameron S, Fallowfield H. (eds.). Environmental Health in Australia and New Zealand. Melbourne: Oxford University Press:274-92.
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**FIGURE 1: AVERAGE AGE OF VEHICLE FLEET IN NEW ZEALAND**



Source: Ministry of Transport (2012)

**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 (2012)