



Environmental Health Indicators for New Zealand

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NUMBER OF VEHICLES IN NEW ZEALAND

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

The indicator presents the number of vehicles in New Zealand by year. Five categories of vehicles are used:

- '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.

The number of vehicles in New Zealand continued to increase between 2000 and 2011, despite a slight decrease in 2009 (Figure 1). Light passenger vehicles (passenger cars and vans), as in all previous years made up the large majority (80%) of these vehicles. Buses comprised only a very small proportion (less than 0.3%) of the total number of vehicles in 2011, with 8221 buses.

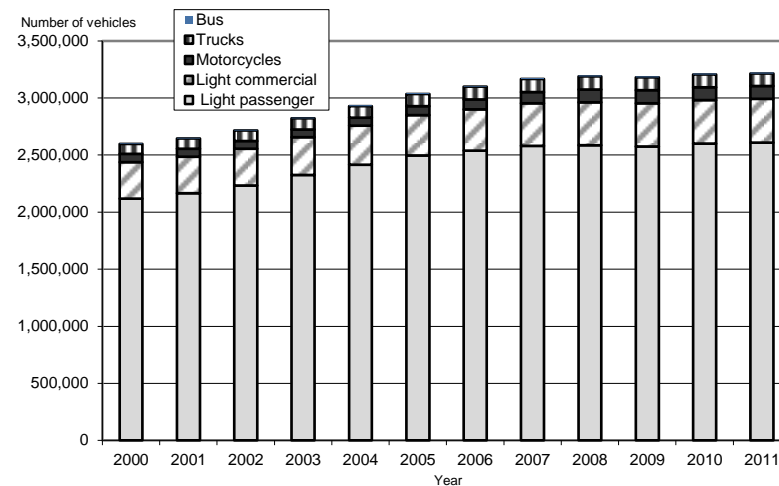
INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS

Internationally, New Zealand had the highest rate of light vehicles per population at 684 light vehicles for every 1000 persons followed by Luxembourg and Iceland (Figure 2), (Ministry of Transport 2012; United Nations Economic Commission for Europe 2012).

References

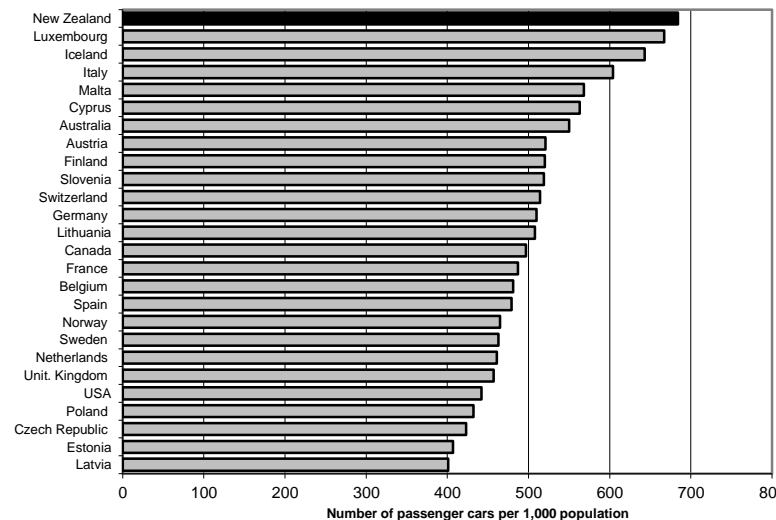
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FIGURE 1: NUMBER OF VEHICLES IN NEW ZEALAND, BY VEHICLE TYPE, 2000-11



Source: Ministry of Transport (2012)

FIGURE 2: NUMBER OF LIGHT VEHICLES PER 1000 POPULATION, COMPARISON COUNTRIES, 2009



Source: Ministry of Transport (2012); United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (2009); The World Bank Group (2012)