

SMMT NEW CAR REGISTRATIONS

4 June 2021 (data for May 2021)

Hi-res charts, data and attachments available via Dropbox:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/s40cy3mcje8zezy/AAAYlRVxBaHP6uo0tPNqggW-a?dl=0>

Business confidence drives cautious recovery in new car registrations

- 156,737 new cars registered in May – significantly up from last year when retailer doors were shut during the pandemic.
- Plug-in vehicle market continues to rise, accounting for 13.8% of registrations in 2021 so far
- Despite more positive economic outlook, total registrations over the year to date remain down –29.1% on 10-year average.¹

Friday 4 June, 2021 With the year's first full month of showroom openings, new car registrations in May reached 156,737 units, according to the latest figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT). The total represents an almost eightfold increase on the same month last year, but is down -14.7% on pre-pandemic May 2019, and -13.2% on the 10-year May average.²

Uptake was in line with the most recent industry outlook, published in April, which sees the sector anticipating around 1.86 million registrations by the end of the year – with 723,845 achieved so far.

Against a more positive economic backdrop – including OECD forecasting a 7.2% increase in UK GDP during 2021 – fleet registrations grew more than twice as fast as private purchases in May.³ Large fleets accounted for 50.7% of all new vehicles hitting the road, demonstrating improving business confidence compared to the same month last year.

In terms of segments, dual purpose vehicles saw a small decline in market share in the month, down to 26.7%, leapfrogged by lower medium cars which rose to 27.8%. Superminis remained Britain's most popular car choice, with a 31.1% share.

Battery electric vehicle (BEV) market share declined from 12.0% a year ago to 8.4% in the past month, although the May 2020 performance was distorted by lockdowns when new cars could only be purchased through click and collect or delivery, giving rise to variable purchasing patterns.

Looking more broadly across 2021, plug-in vehicles now comprise 13.8% of new car registrations, up from 7.2% a year earlier, with the most rapid growth seen in plug-in hybrid (PHEV) derivatives. Pure petrol and mild hybrid petrol cars so far account for 60.4% of registrations, while pure diesel and mild hybrid diesels took a 18.0% share year to date, compared to 64.6% and 22.4% last year.

Meanwhile, total registrations for 2021 sit at 296,448 fewer units, or -29.1% less, than the average recorded across January to May during the last decade, evidence of the scale of the recovery still needed given the impact of Covid on the market.

Mike Hawes, SMMT Chief Executive, said: "With dealerships back open and a brighter, sunnier, economic outlook, May's registrations are as good as could reasonably be expected. Increased business confidence is driving the recovery, something that needs to be maintained and translated in private consumer demand as the economy emerges from pandemic support measures. Demand for electrified vehicles is helping encourage people into showrooms, but for these technologies to surpass their fossil-fuelled equivalents, a long term strategy for market transition and infrastructure investment is required."

May

	2021	2020	% change	Mkt share -21	Mkt share -20
Private	73,865	12,899	472.6%	47.1%	63.7%
Fleet	79,435	6,648	1,094.9%	50.7%	32.8%
Business	3,437	700	391.0%	2.2%	3.5%
TOTAL	156,737	20,247	674.1%		

Year to date

	YTD 2021	YTD 2020	% change	Mkt share -21	Mkt share -20
Private	321,983	241,760	33.2%	44.5%	47.6%
Fleet	388,349	256,027	51.7%	53.7%	50.4%
Business	13,513	10,338	30.7%	1.9%	2.0%
TOTAL	723,845	508,125	42.5%		

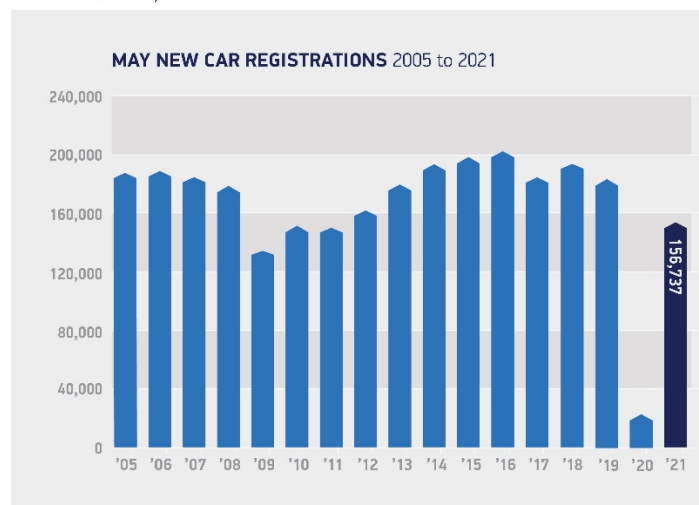
May

	2021	2020	% change	Mkt share -21	Mkt share -20
Diesel	15,474	3,448	348.8%	9.9%	17.0%
MHEV diesel	10,628	767	1,285.7%	6.8%	3.8%
Petrol	75,787	11,150	579.7%	48.4%	55.1%
MHEV petrol	18,873	982	1,821.9%	12.0%	4.9%
BEV	13,120	2,424	441.3%	8.4%	12.0%
PHEV	9,855	827	1,091.7%	6.3%	4.1%
HEV	13,000	649	1,903.1%	8.3%	3.2%
TOTAL	156,737	20,247	674.1%		

Year to date

	YTD 2021	YTD 2020	% change	Mkt share -21	Mkt share -20
Diesel	78,060	95,946	-18.6%	10.8%	18.9%
MHEV diesel	52,215	17,991	190.2%	7.2%	3.5%
Petrol	356,172	304,712	16.9%	49.2%	60.0%
MHEV petrol	80,882	23,751	240.5%	11.2%	4.7%
BEV	54,051	22,054	145.1%	7.5%	4.3%
PHEV	46,068	14,667	214.1%	6.4%	2.9%
HEV	56,397	29,004	94.4%	7.8%	5.7%
TOTAL	723,845	508,125	42.5%		

BEV - Battery Electric Vehicle; PHEV - Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle; HEV - Hybrid Electric Vehicle, MHEV - Mild Hybrid Electric Vehicle



BEST SELLERS

MAY 2021			YEAR-TO-DATE		
①	Volkswagen Golf	4,181	①	Vauxhall Corsa	20,024
②	Vauxhall Corsa	3,643	②	Ford Fiesta	17,700
③	Volkswagen Polo	3,518	③	Mercedes-Benz A-Class	16,752
④	Mercedes-Benz A-Class	3,313	④	Volkswagen Golf	14,979
⑤	Ford Puma	3,158	⑤	Nissan Qashqai	14,447
⑥	Kia Sportage	2,956	⑥	Ford Puma	13,755
⑦	Ford Fiesta	2,794	⑦	Kia Sportage	13,363
⑧	Toyota Yaris	2,578	⑧	Volvo XC40	12,449
⑨	MINI	2,561	⑨	BMW 3 Series	12,354
⑩	Audi A3	2,489	⑩	Volkswagen Polo	11,802

Notes to editors

1 Average Jan-May 2010-2019 registrations: 1,020,293

2 May 2019 registrations: 183,724; Average May 2010-2019 registrations: 180,489

3 OECD Economic Forecast summary, May 2021 (<https://www.oecd.org/economy/united-kingdom-economic-snapshot/>)

About SMMT and the UK automotive industry

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) is one of the largest and most influential trade associations in the UK. It supports the interests of the UK automotive industry at home and abroad, promoting a united position to government, stakeholders and the media.

The automotive industry is a vital part of the UK economy accounting for £78.9 billion turnover and £15.3 billion value added. With some 180,000 people employed directly in manufacturing and 864,000 across the wider automotive industry, it accounts for 13% of total UK export of goods and invests more than £3 billion each year in automotive R&D. More than 30 manufacturers build some 70 models of vehicle in the UK supported by 2,500 component providers and some of the world's most skilled engineers.

More detail on UK automotive available in SMMT's Motor Industry Facts 2020 publication at <https://media.smmt.co.uk/facts/>

Broadcasters: SMMT has an ISDN studio and access to expert spokespeople, case studies and regional representatives.

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