

DEVELOPMENT OF MOTOR TRANSPORT

2. Licensing of Motor-vehicles by Principal Groups.—Under the Motor-vehicles Act, 1924, motor-vehicles are required to be registered and licensed. Such licenses are renewable annually, and the following table gives the number of motor-vehicles, in their principal groups, licensed as at the 31st March, 1946, the figures for the two preceding years being included for purposes of comparison.

Type.	Number licensed as at 31st March,			Increase of 1946 over 1945 Licenses.
	1944.	1945.	1946.	
Cars	200,100	199,418	201,425	2,007
Trucks not exceeding 2 tons laden	27,054	28,616	30,435	1,819
Trucks exceeding 2 tons laden	19,928	21,985	23,499	1,514
Passenger-trucks	1,454	1,576	1,947	371
Omnibuses	862	932	1,025	93
Taxis, including private hire cars	1,987	2,005	2,113	108
Service cars	550	572	595	23
Rental cars	500	501	546	45
Motor-cycles	12,526	13,667	16,167	2,500
Trailers	15,059	17,064	20,031	2,967
Local body and other vehicles exempted from annual license fees	7,430	9,611	11,903	2,292
Government vehicles	4,687	5,207	5,814	607
Totals	292,137	301,154	315,500	14,346 or 4.76 per cent.

All classes of vehicles licensed at 31st March, 1946, showed gains over the figures for the preceding year.

Table No. 1 of the Appendix shows full details of the licensed motor-vehicles as at 31st March, 1946, by postal districts.

Table No. 2 gives, for purposes of comparison, the number of motor-vehicles licensed year by year as at 31st March, 1937, to 1946 inclusive.

3. Petrol Consumption.—The table hereunder shows for the individual calendar years 1937 to 1945 the estimated quantities of petrol consumed by motor-vehicles, used for other purposes, and the total consumption :—

Calendar Year.	Estimated Consumption of Petrol.		
	By Motor-vehicles (<i>i.e.</i> , Petrol on which all Duty was paid).	Other (<i>i.e.</i> , Engines, Aeroplanes, &c., on which Refunds of Petrol Duty were made)	Total.
	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.
1937	82,111,000	7,339,000	89,450,000
1938	89,306,000	7,590,000	96,896,000
1939	91,955,000	8,027,000	99,982,000
1940	74,114,000	9,649,000	83,763,000
1941	66,924,000	15,326,000	82,250,000
1942	46,100,000	10,442,000	56,542,000
1943	50,178,000	9,200,000	59,378,000
1944	53,663,000	9,000,000	62,663,000
1945	65,541,000	8,110,000	73,651,000