

PASSENGER-SERVICE VEHICLES.—This group embraces all vehicles which carry passengers for hire—namely, omnibuses, trolley-buses, service cars, service coaches, passenger-trucks, school buses, school vehicles, taxis (excluding taxis operating in the four main centres, which are inspected by the Metropolitan Licensing Authorities), and rental cars. Examinations are made each six months by departmental Vehicle Inspectors appointed for this purpose. The examination not only covers matters which may effect the safety of the travelling public, but also their health and comfort. Each vehicle is required to display a certificate of fitness, showing the number of passengers which it is authorized to carry.

GOODS-SERVICE VEHICLES.—This group comprises all vehicles which carry goods for hire, and these vehicles are also inspected by departmental officers, each six months, and carry a certificate of fitness which shows the maximum load which may be carried.

OTHER VEHICLES.—Vehicles not included in the above groups—*i.e.*, private cars, &c.—are inspected each six months by municipal vehicle-testing stations and approved motor-garages which issue warrants of fitness.

The following table gives the number of passenger and goods-service vehicles in operation in the Auckland, Wellington, Canterbury, and Otago districts on the 31st March, 1948 :—

Area.	Passenger-service Vehicles.										Goods-service Vehicles.	Total.
	Omnibuses.	Trolley Buses.	Service Cars.	Service Coaches.	Passenger trucks.	School Buses.	School Vehicles.	Taxis.	Rental Cars.	Ambulances.		
Auckland ..	504	4	116	142	200	229	39	465	374	40	3,991	6,104
Wellington ..	367	..	165	74	119	124	27	459	363	48	3,349	5,035
Canterbury ..	206	11	92	69	108	70	31	191	195	32	1,629	2,634
Otago ..	147	..	59	45	78	85	21	167	122	20	1,330	2,074
Total ..	1,224	15	372	330	505	508	118	1,282	1,054	140	10,299	15,847

VEHICLE DEFECTS.—The following tables give the percentages of vehicles which were found to be free from defects at the time of examination :—

(a) *Passenger-service Vehicles*

Type.	Percentage.
Omnibuses	24.4
Trolley buses	26.6
Service cars	14.5
Service coaches	23.0
Passenger-trucks	20.0
School buses	21.8
School vehicles	30.5
Taxis	40.5
Rental cars	54.1
Ambulances	18.0

(b) *Goods-service Vehicles*

20.9 per cent.