

- (5) Plates with initial letter "E" for vehicles exempt from payment of annual license fees.
- (6) Plates with the prefix "GOVT." for vehicles owned by Government Departments.
- (7) Plates with initial letter "H" for heavy trucks.
- (8) Plates with initial letter "L" for light trucks.
- (9) Plates with initial letter "P" for omnibuses.
- (10) Plates with initial letter "R" for trailers.
- (11) Plates with initial letter "S" for service cars.
- (12) Plates with initial letter "T" for taxis.
- (13) Plates with initial letter "V" for passenger trucks and "Contract" motor-vehicles.

(e) VEHICLES ACTUALLY ON THE ROAD.

The number of "live" registrations on the register kept in accordance with the provisions of the Motor-vehicles Act, 1924, may be taken as a reasonable indication of the number of vehicles actually on the road. The numbers of these "live" registrations have been estimated for each month, and the monthly averages for the twelve-monthly periods ended on 31st March, 1931, to 31st March, 1935, are given hereunder :—

Type of Vehicle.	Monthly Averages.				
	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.
	Number.	Number.	Number.	Number.	Number.
Motor-cars	134,407	130,889	127,115	123,331	129,277
Trucks	25,294	26,232	26,907	29,863	33,314
Omnibuses	1,040	1,048	1,000	1,000	877
Traction-engines ..	117	123	136	140	140
Trailers	923	1,160	1,545	2,400	2,407
Tractors	302	426	561	600	600
Motor-cycles	25,167	23,487	21,995	21,171	21,110
Other motor-vehicles ..	458	441	421	420	400
Totals	187,708	183,806	179,680	178,925	188,125

N.B.—Service-cars designed to carry not more than nine persons are included with motor-cars, while those designed to carry more than nine persons are included with omnibuses.

The above table shows 5,946 more motor-cars on the road in 1934–35 as compared with 1933–34.

The number of trucks also increased by 3,451, this representing an increase of over 10 per cent. as compared with the previous year.

(f) PETROL CONSUMPTION.

The following table shows a classification of the manner in which petrol was consumed in the Dominion during the last seven calendar years :—

Calendar Year.	Consumption of Petrol.		
	By Motor-vehicles (i.e., Petrol on which all Duty was paid).	Other—i.e., Engines, Aeroplanes, &c. (Petrol on which Refunds of Duty were made).	Total.
	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.
1928	41,457,150*	2,057,940*	43,515,090*
1929	56,575,840	3,650,040	60,225,880
1930	62,821,479	3,907,900	66,729,379
1931	55,203,252	5,286,000	60,489,252
1932	49,861,449	5,495,479	55,356,928
1933	51,262,371	5,400,000†	56,662,371
1934	55,914,450	6,100,000†	62,014,450

* Excludes an unknown amount of petrol on which duty was not paid.

† Estimated.

The figures in the first column afford a reasonably reliable index of the usage of motor-vehicles during the last seven years, subject to allowance being made for the growing use of smaller cars with a lower consumption of petrol, and also subject to the fact that in latter years a greater proportion of applications have been made for refunds on petrol not used in motor-vehicles.