

(c) MOTOR-VEHICLES LICENSED AS AT 31ST MARCH, 1936.

The appended figures show the number of motor-vehicles licensed for the year 1935-36 as at 31st March, 1936 (the licensing year expires on 31st May each year):—

Type of Vehicle.	North Island.	South Island.	New Zealand Total.
Cars	97,630	52,274	149,904
Light trucks (2 tons and under laden)	15,974	8,132	24,106
Heavy trucks (over 2 tons laden)	11,585	5,604	17,189
Passenger trucks	614	289	903
Omnibuses	408	149	557
Taxis	1,111	621	1,732
Service cars	430	269	699
Rental and private-hire cars	251	163	414
Dealers' cars	908	427	1,335
Local-authority road vehicles	1,010	636	1,646
Government vehicles	1,151	492	1,643
Trailers	2,043	1,977	4,020
Dealers' motor-cycles	93	45	138
Motor-cycles	14,771	9,190	23,961
Totals	147,979	80,268	228,247

Table No. 1 of the Appendix shows the number of motor-vehicles registered as at 31st December, 1935, grouped according to highway districts.

The number of motor-vehicles licensed as at 31st March, 1936, classified according to postal districts, are set out in Table 2.

Table No. 3 of the Appendix sets out the number of motor-vehicles licensed each year since 1925. Since the system of registration was instituted there have been several changes, both in definition and in method of classification. An additional complication has been introduced by the fact that whereas since 1932 the number of vehicles "licensed" has been recorded, previously the number of vehicles "registered" was recorded. It is necessary to appreciate the distinction between these terms. When a new vehicle arrives it is registered by the owner and simultaneously is licensed for one year or lesser period. If the license is not renewed the next year the vehicle is classified as a "dormant registration." After a registration has been dormant for two years it is cancelled. If the vehicle is subsequently relicensed it is registered afresh as a new vehicle. Prior to 1932 the number of vehicles licensed was obtained by subtracting from the total registrations the number of dormant registrations. This method was not sound, however, because the date upon which the dormant registrations were totalled did not coincide with that on which the total registrations were ascertained.

It has been found necessary to endeavour to arrive at a common basis whereby the growth of the motor-vehicle in New Zealand might be measured from year to year. Table No. 3 shows the result of this effort, but attention is directed to the fact that, owing to the differences of definition and classification, the figures other than the yearly totals cannot be taken as strictly comparable. This table shows the figures as at 31st December each year. The figures for trailers have been excluded from the totals. The chief feature of the table is the steady growth in the numbers of motor-vehicles in this country, interrupted temporarily during the depression years.

The number of "dormant" registrations—*i.e.*, vehicles which although registered had not been licensed for the current year—as at 31st March, 1936, were as under:—

Type of Vehicle.	1933-34 Register.	1934-35 Register.	Total.
Cars	2,931	4,874	7,805
Light trucks (2 tons and under laden)	1,754	2,632	4,386
Heavy trucks (over 2 tons laden)	741	1,199	1,940
Service cars	42	37	79
Taxis	21	57	78
Rental and private-hire cars	1	22	23
Contract vehicles	..	42	42
Omnibuses	15	21	36
Traction-engines	33	..	33
Trailers	492	746	1,238
Tractors	111	..	111
Motor-cycles	2,603	3,904	6,507
Other motor-vehicles	26	83	109
Totals	8,770	13,617	22,387