

(c) MOTOR-VEHICLES LICENSED AS AT 31ST MARCH, 1937.

The appended figures show the number of motor-vehicles licensed for the year 1936–37 as at 31st March, 1937 (the licensing year expires on 31st May each year):—

Type of Vehicle.	North Island.	South Island.	New Zealand Total.
Cars	111,869	58,135	170,004
Light trucks (2 tons and under laden)	17,386	8,903	26,289
Heavy trucks (over 2 tons laden)	12,927	6,333	19,260
Passenger trucks	790	344	1,134
Omnibuses	445	174	619
Taxis	1,133	564	1,697
Service cars	419	284	703
Rental and private-hire cars	346	224	570
Dealers' cars	1,103	482	1,585
Local-authority road vehicles	1,156	921	2,077
Government vehicles	1,450	569	2,019
Trailers	2,807	2,637	5,444
Dealers' motor-cycles	96	50	146
Motor-cycles	15,082	9,119	24,201
Totals	167,009	88,739	255,748

Table No. 1 of the Appendix shows the number of motor-vehicles registered as at 31st December, 1936, grouped according to highway districts.

The number of motor-vehicles licensed as at 31st March, 1937, 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, 1937, were as under:—

Type of Vehicle.	1934–35 Register.	1935–36 Register.	Total.
Cars	3,067	4,808	7,875
Light trucks (2 tons and under laden)	2,077	3,054	5,131
Heavy trucks (over 2 tons laden)	880	1,332	2,212
Service cars	23	37	60
Taxis	31	41	72
Rental and private-hire cars	12	25	37
Contract vehicles and passenger trucks	27	49	76
Omnibuses	15	17	32
Traction-engines	41	74	115
Trailers	508	795	1,303
Tractors	73	216	289
Motor-cycles	2,771	4,075	6,846
Other motor-vehicles	15	47	62
Totals	9,540	14,570	24,110