

There has been an increase in the number of all classes of motor-vehicles on the road excepting motor-cycles and service cars, which have remained practically stationary. Motor-cars on the road show a 13-per-cent. increase on 1935-36, while trucks have increased by 11 per cent. It is interesting to note that the total number of vehicles in use has increased by 27 per cent. since 1933-34.

(f) PETROL CONSUMPTION.

The following table shows a classification of the manner in which petrol was consumed in the Dominion during the last nine 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	55,202,983	5,286,000	60,488,983
1932	49,861,976	5,495,479	55,357,455
1933	51,293,572	5,400,000†	56,693,572
1934	55,991,831	6,100,000†	62,091,831
1935	62,807,535	6,483,600†	69,291,135
1936	72,107,051	6,685,600†	78,792,651

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

† Estimated.

The total gallons are calculated from the quantity of motor-spirits on which petrol-tax was paid. A tremendous increase in motor-vehicle petrol-consumption took place in 1936 as compared with 1935, and the previous peak year 1930. The figures show a 9,300,000-gallon increase on the previous year.

4. MOTOR-SPIRITS TAXATION ACT, 1927.

The following data show the yield from and distribution of petrol-tax plus surtax on foreign petrol imports since the inception of the tax in 1928.

(a) YIELD.

Year ended 31st March,	Gross Yield.	Refunds.	Net Yield.	Expenses of Collection and Refund.	Net Balance.
	£	£	£	£	£
1928	148,202	32	148,170	1,710	146,460*
1929	867,794	49,105	818,689	8,303	810,386
1930	1,063,811	67,296	996,515	12,633	983,882
1931	1,480,517	100,978	1,379,539	16,335	1,363,204†
1932	1,817,893	137,585	1,680,308	20,360	1,659,948‡
1933	2,018,449	132,421	1,886,028	20,266	1,865,762§
1934	2,520,825	148,984	2,371,841	20,283	2,351,558
1935	2,773,372	159,978	2,613,394	20,180	2,593,214
1936	3,082,862	165,389	2,917,473	21,271	2,896,202
1937	3,557,070	166,426	3,390,644	20,596	3,370,048
Total up to 31st March, 1937	19,330,795	1,128,194	18,202,601	161,937	18,040,664

* Part year only. † increase from 4d. to 6d. per gallon as from 22nd July, 1930. ‡ Increase from 6d. to 8d. per gallon as from 7th October, 1931. § Increase from 8d. to 10d. per gallon as from 9th February, 1933.