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Environmental Health Indicators for New Zealand

NUMBER OF VEHICLES IN NEW ZEALAND

Vehicle use has a large impact on the environment, including vehicle emissions caused by the burning of petrol and diesel. The releases of greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide), carbon monoxide, particulate matter (PM10), and other gases can all lead to health problems (Kjellström 2004).

The indicator presents the number of vehicles in New Zealand by year. Five categories of vehicles are shown

- 'light passenger' vehicles include passenger cars and vans
- 'light commercial' vehicles include the following, if under 3500kg: goods vans, trucks, utilities, buses, motor caravans
- 'trucks' include the following, if over 3500kg: goods vans, trucks, utilities, motor caravans
- 'motorcycles' include motorcycles and mopeds
- 'buses' include buses over 3500kg.

The number of vehicles in New Zealand continued to increase between 2000 and 2008, but decreased slightly in 2009 (Figure 1). The reduction in vehicle numbers included the first decrease in light passenger vehicle numbers (approximately 10,000 fewer than 2008) since 2000. Light passenger vehicles (passenger cars and vans), as in all previous years made up the large majority of these vehicles. Buses comprised only a very small proportion (less than 0.3%) of the total number of vehicles in 2009, with 8450 buses.

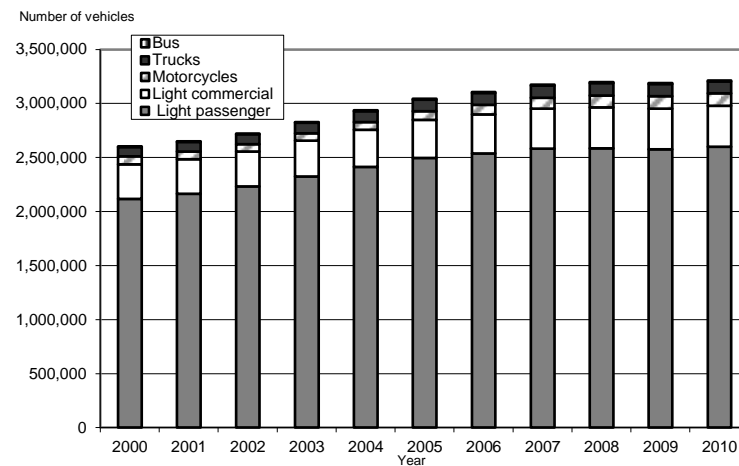
INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS

The number of light vehicles per 1000 people in New Zealand is also compared to other countries, as reported in The New Zealand Vehicle Fleet (Ministry of Transport 2008). Internationally, New Zealand has a very high rate of light vehicles per population at 694 light vehicles for every 1000 persons. In 2007-08, only the USA had higher rates of passenger cars per population (Figure 2) (Ministry of Transport 2011).

References

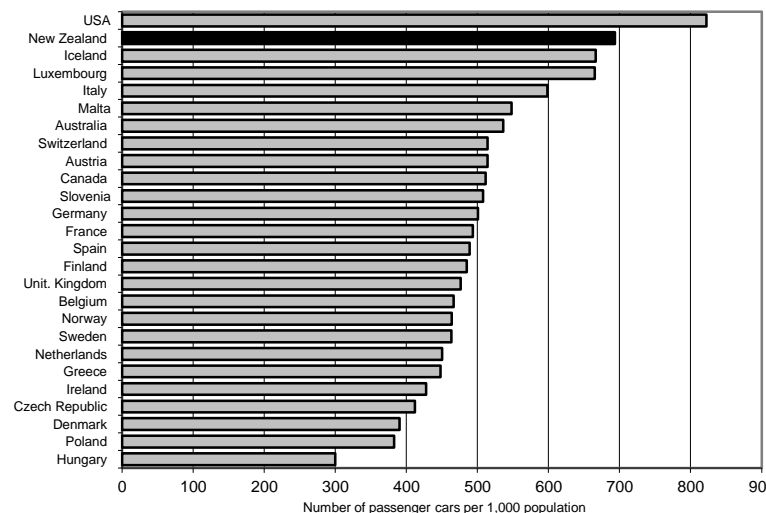
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FIGURE 1: NUMBER OF VEHICLES IN NEW ZEALAND, BY VEHICLE TYPE, 2000-2010



Source: Ministry of Transport (2011)

FIGURE 2: NUMBER OF LIGHT VEHICLES PER 1000 POPULATION, COMPARISON COUNTRIES, 2007-2008



Source: Ministry of Transport (2011)