

Vehicle Licensing Statistics - Revisions

December 2010



Notes on Vehicle Licensing Statistics Revisions

9th December, 2010

This note provides background on why the licensed vehicle statistics have been revised.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Public Enquiries:

Daryl Lloyd
020 7944 6142

Paul Syron
020 7944 3077
Vehicles.stats@dft.gsi.gov.uk

1. What has been revised?

- A number of vehicles which were initially described as 'licensed' have been reallocated to the 'SORN' (Statutory Off Road Notice) category.
- In the Department for Transport's definition of the vehicle parc, SORN vehicles are counted as unlicensed.

2. Why has this revision happened?

- In some cases it is not clear whether a vehicle is licensed or not on the last day of the quarter. In these cases the Department makes its best estimate of the vehicles' licensing statuses by looking at the dates and status of both the current and previous licence period.
- In these specific cases, new evidence shows that the vehicles which were initially allocated a 'licensed' status should have been allocated a 'SORN' status instead.

3. What period of time do these revisions cover?

- The licensed vehicle data have been revised from quarter 1 2006 up to quarter 2 2010. Prior to 2006 the unclear vehicles were treated slightly different and only a very small number were misallocated.
- The quarter 3 2010 figures are correct from first publication on the 9th December 2010.

4. How has this affected the licensed vehicles statistics?

- The revisions have had a net effect of reducing the licensed vehicle stock figures by about 260 thousand to 300 thousand vehicles a quarter (about 0.8 per cent).
- The revisions have had a more significant effect on the 'heavy goods vehicles' category and 'buses & coaches' category, reducing them by about 3.5 per cent and 2.5 per cent respectively.
- The number of SORN vehicles as presented in Table 2 of Vehicle Licensing Statistics 2009 will increase by the same amount. For instance, the number of SORN vehicles in 2009 should stand at 2.1 million rather than the published 1.8 million.

5. Do these revisions have any effect on the new registration statistics?

- No. New registration statistics are not based on license status so the new registration tables do not need to be revised.

6. Which tables have been revised?

- The quarterly table VEH0101 (Motor vehicles licensed by body type) has been revised from 2006 to quarter 2 2010.
- Tables VEH0301, VEH0302, VEH0303 and VEH0305 which were released as part of the Motorcycling Statistics 2010 publication in December contain the new, revised figures.
- All other licensed vehicle tables as presented in Vehicle Licensing Statistics 2009 have not yet been revised. These will be corrected and updated in April 2011. In the meantime, corrected tables will be available from the Vehicle Licensing Statistics team on request.