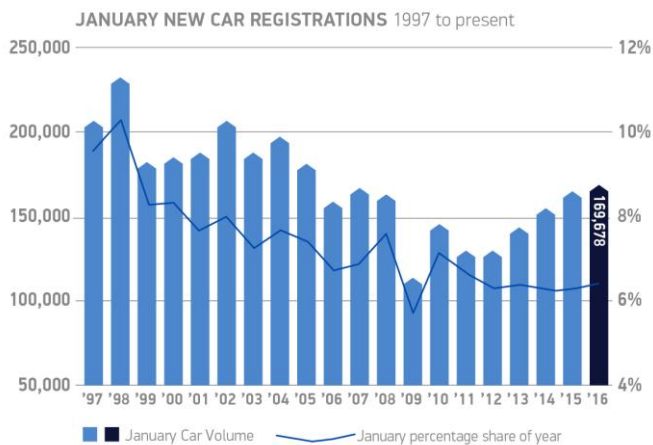


SMMT – New car market and van registration figures released

UK new car market: best January in 11 years

According to figures released by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT), the UK's new car market got off to a positive start in January, with registrations climbing 2.9% compared with the same month in 2015 to reach an 11-year high of 169,678 units. January 2005 saw 181,474 new cars registered. The sector witnessed private registrations fuel growth, up 8.2% to 73,061 vehicles – the highest level since 2004. 6,075 alternatively-fuelled vehicles registered, up 32.1% to take a record 3.6% market share.



Van Registrations fall 4.3%

After a record 2015, registrations of vans in the UK levelled off in January with a 4.3% fall in demand compared with the same month last year, according to figures released by SMMT. Vans below 2.5 tonnes saw the largest dip but demand for heavier vehicles remains buoyant (up 2.1%). 2015 set the all-time record for the van market, with 371,830 units registered last year. (Source: [SMMT](http://www.smmmt.co.uk))

BIS Committee evidence session – Spending Review

The Business, Innovation and Skills Committee will be holding an evidence session on the Spending Review and the work of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. The session will be held on Wednesday 10 February. The Committee are likely to ask questions on the impact of the Spending Review and on areas such as apprenticeships, higher and further education, R&D, skills and deregulation. Witnesses scheduled to appear include the Rt Hon Sajjid Javid MP, Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and Martin Donnelly CMG, Permanent Secretary, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. The session will be open to the public and take place at 9.30am in the Grimond Room, Portcullis House.

(Source: [Commons Select Committee](http://www.parliament.uk/commons/selectcommittee))

Automotive industry launches new scheme to recycle cars and vans

The British automotive industry has committed to helping thousands of consumers recycle their old vehicles with a free take-back service, designed to help owners whose brand may no longer sell in the UK. Under the End of Life Vehicles Directive, when cars and vans up to 3.5-tonnes reach the end of their lives, they must be disposed of in an environmentally responsible way. However, while manufacturers provide this service free of charge, some motorists can face difficulties if the brand is no longer trading and has no parent company. When this happens, the car or van becomes what is known as an 'orphan vehicle'. On behalf of its members, The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) has now taken on responsibility for these vehicles by partnering with recycling company Autogreen to ensure that all unclaimed cars and vans can be disposed of and recycled responsibly – with no cost to the consumer. This scheme will be especially valuable to owners of

orphan vehicles in remote areas of the country who can find it difficult to get to a recycling point. Autogreen has committed to collect vehicles nationally, to make sure that all vehicles can be easily disposed of in a safe, environmentally friendly way for free. The new take-back system will help ensure that the estimated 700,000 orphan vehicles still on British roads have a route to responsible disposal.

(Source: [SMMT](#))

Driverless cars technology receives £20 million boost

Eight new projects have been awarded £20 million in funding to research and develop enhanced communication between vehicles and roadside infrastructure or urban information systems, including new 'talking car technologies'. The projects are the first to be funded from the government's £100 million Intelligent Mobility Fund. They range from developing autonomous shuttles to carry visually-impaired passengers using advanced sensors and control systems, to new simulation trials for autonomous pods to increase uptake and improve real-world trials. Trials to test driverless cars on the streets are currently being worked on in Bristol, Coventry and Milton Keynes, and Greenwich. Autonomous vehicles are also being used in Heathrow to shuttle passengers, although these are currently on designated tracks.

(Source: [BIS](#))

Mayor calls for new measures to secure the success of London's roads

The Mayor of London set out wide ranging plans for the long-term improvements he believes will be required to ensure the capital's roads are able to cope with this growth. The new measures include:

- Two new east-west cross-city tunnels to reduce congestion by up to 20 per cent
- Smaller tunnels and 'flyunders' in locations around the capital
- Devolution of Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) to ensure revenue is reinvested in the capital's roads
- Looking at the potential for greater management of freight to improve safety and reduce congestion and emissions

- Transport for London Board approve work on planning submission for Silvertown Tunnel
(Source: [London Assembly](#))

India triples imports of British-built cars

UK car exports to India have more than trebled in the past five years, according to data released today ahead of *Auto Expo 2016*. In 2015, the UK exported 194.5% more cars to the region than in 2010, and 5.4% more than last year, putting India in the UK's top 10 Asian export markets. The uplift in demand to India came despite a contraction of the Asian market as a whole, which fell 17.3% as Chinese exports declined. Economic growth in a number of Asian markets, including India, has led to an increased demand for high-quality luxury vehicles, and key to the UK sector's success has been meeting this demand with a 'shift to premium' by British manufacturers. In 2010, 37% of UK car production was by premium manufacturers; this is projected to rise to 57% by 2020 when overall manufacturing levels are set to reach record levels, exceeding 2 million units.

(Source: [SMMT](#))

Week ahead

Commons Committees

Wednesday 10 February

- Business, Innovation and Skills Committee – Work of the Department: Spending Review (9:30am, Grimond Room)
- European Scrutiny – UK Government's renegotiation of EU membership (3:30pm, room 8)

Lords Chamber

Monday 8 February

- Trade Union Bill: Committee (Day 1 of 4)

Tuesday 9 February

- Transport for London Bill: Motion to consider

From Friday 12 February, the House of Commons and the House of Lords will be in recess until 22 February 2016