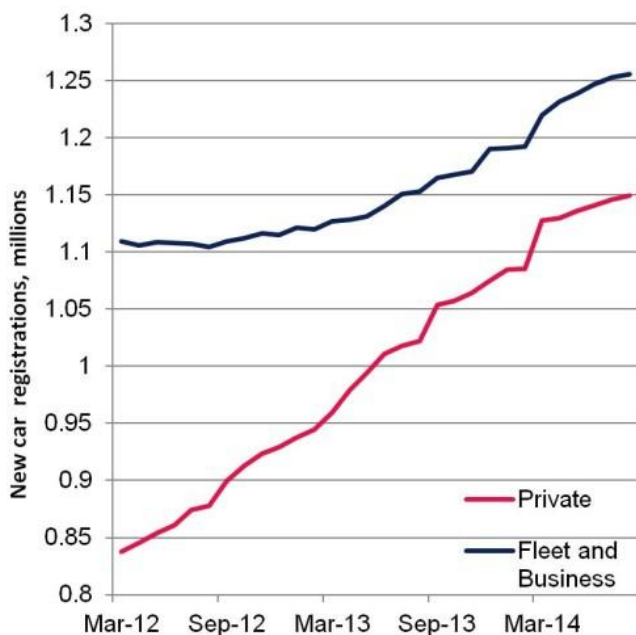


Car and van registrations continue to rise, with trucks down in August

New car registrations

New car registrations for August grew for the 30th consecutive month, with 72,163 new cars registered; a 9.3% increase on the number of registrations for August 2013. Registrations for the year-to-date were up 10.1%, passing 1.5 million units, although some levelling off is expected in the coming months. Increasing consumer confidence has been evident across the market, with strong growth in private, fleet and business sectors. However, the greatest surge has been in private registrations, which have grown from around 840,000 units in the year before March 2012 to 1.15 million cars in the past 12 months. Attractive finance deals are a significant factor behind the growth in private demand, with consumers able to take advantage of Personal Contract Purchase offers (PCPs). Mikes Hawes, Chief Executive of SMMT, said "The UK's performance in the context of Europe is particularly impressive, with growth consistently ahead of the rest of the EU for the past two years. As the UK market starts to find its natural level, we expect to see the growth level off during coming months."



Private vs. fleet/business over the past 30 months

Commercial vehicle registrations

The commercial vehicle market grew by 11.9%, increasing registrations by 13% for the year-to-date, up to 214,959 units. There was continued growth in the van market, which was up 22.3% in August, and 19.1% for the year-to-date, reaching 192,948 units. Truck registrations, however, were down by 22% for the year-to date, with a fall of 22.7% in August continuing the trend. The rolling year totals remain strong, up 12.9%, fuelled by the rush in late 2013 for pre-Euro-6 vehicles.

Bus and coach registrations

The bus and coach market showed stable year-to-date figures, with a drop of 0.3%, although figures for August show a decline of 271 units. The purpose-built sector fell by 57.6%, with a year-to-date decrease of 6.3%. For the past 12 months registrations are strong, particularly for converted buses, with an 8.1% increase overall.

(Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smmt.co.uk/category/news-registration-cars/>



London fleets to shape capital's EV infrastructure

Transport for London (TfL) and the Energy Saving Trust have announced a new initiative to help businesses in Greater London increase their use of ultra-low emission vans and trucks. The 'Rapid Charge Mapping Point' will work with local businesses to identify potential locations for rapid chargers in the capital by analysing fleet schematics and scheduling

data. London-based fleets operating vehicles of up to 12.5 tonnes are invited to take part in the programme. Each participant will receive a tailored report, showing whether there is a business case for acquiring ultra-low emission vehicles onto its fleet. Ian Wainwright, Head of Freight and Fleet Programmes at TfL, said, "The 'Rapid Chargepoint Mapping' project will help deliver more efficient electric fleets and improved air quality for all."

(Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smmt.co.uk/2014/08/london-fleets-shape-capitals-ev-infrastructure/>



Medium-sized businesses to benefit from new accounting rules

An estimated 11,000 medium-sized UK businesses could benefit to the tune of £8 million a year as a result of changes to accounting rules announced by government today. The measures, which bring the EU's new Accounting Directive into UK law, mean that companies can prepare and file simpler, less detailed accounts with Companies House. The new changes will see 11,000 companies, for accounting purposes, move from being medium to small-sized companies, allowing them the opportunity to save time and money as their reporting will need to be less detailed. Government proposes to take up this option permitting that the changes may first apply to financial years beginning on or after 1 January 2016, and will consult as to whether companies should be able to apply the new regulations ahead of this date.

(Source: BIS)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/medium-sized-businesses-to-face-less-accounting-paperwork>

Rolls Royce and Teach First partner up to train 75 new STEM teachers

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne, has welcomed an announcement by Rolls-Royce to support education charity Teach First with a three-year partnership deal to provide teaching to disadvantaged young people. This new partnership will enable Teach First to recruit and train an additional 75 science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) teachers. Brett Wigdortz, Chief Executive Officer of Teach First, said, "The UK economy needs 40,000 extra STEM graduates each year to fill the 104,000 graduate-level Stem jobs the economy requires."

(Source: HM Treasury)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/great-british-brands-rolls-royce-and-teach-first-to-train-75-new-stem-teachers>

Week ahead

Houses of Parliament

Tuesday 9 September

9:30am: Business, Innovation and Skills Select Committee – Business-University Collaboration, Room 16, Palace of Westminster

Wednesday 10 September

2:15pm: Environmental Audit Select Committee – Action on Air Quality, Thatcher Room, PCH

The House of Lords is in recess and will next sit on Monday 13 October