

## **New car market scores a record breaking 2002**

- ▲ Total new car registrations rose 4.3 per cent in 2002 to a record 2,563,631 units
- ▲ New car market adds £33.3 bn to UK plc in 2002
- ▲ December's market grew by 14.3 per cent to a best-ever 144,576 units

Commenting on the end of year registration figures, SMMT chief executive Christopher Macgowan said, 'Last year's new car market was marked by two important facts; sales smashed the 2.5 million barrier for the first time and the UK cemented its position as the second largest new car market in Europe. Overall it was an incredible year and December's figures were the icing on the cake.'

On buying patterns in two consecutive record years he added, 'New car buyers have increasingly focused on smaller cars and a new generation of greener diesel models, taking advantage of cheaper motoring costs as well as tax breaks for lower carbon dioxide emissions. These are trends we fully expect to continue into 2003.'

### **Notes to editors:**

1. Following 12.4 per cent growth in 2001, sales in the supermini segment rose 7.4 per cent in 2002 from 773,995 to 831,264 units. Nearly one in three new cars (32.4 per cent) registered last year was a supermini. Sales of diesel models were up 38 per cent to 602,623 units. Diesel market share in 2002 was 23.5 per cent, the highest ever.
2. Over the last decade the new car market has averaged 2.15 million units each year. After three consecutive years of growth in 2000, 2001 and 2002, SMMT forecasts the market will dip to 2.38 million units in 2003.

### **December 2002**

The attached tables show the registration figures for Great Britain, Northern Ireland, The Isle of Man and the Channel Islands in detail. Top performers by range and UK penetration figures are also listed. Providing the SMMT is acknowledged as the source of this information, the figures may be quoted. Substantial reproduction needs specific approval by the SMMT.

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