SMMT New Car Registrations

6 August 2007

Press Release Number 4490 For Release Immediate

Diesel registrations storm ahead in July

- Total year-to-date registrations up 2.4 per cent to 1,443,576 units
- Year-to-date diesel registrations rise by 6.6 per cent to 562,917 units
- July full market total of 176,277 units, up 4.9 per cent on previous year
- Private registrations up for fifth month this year, with 2.8 per cent rise in July

'Trying to predict the spending habits of the motorist is as tricky as forecasting the British weather, and July has given us both of those challenges in spades,' says Christopher Macgowan, chief executive of SMMT. 'In spite of interest rate rise concerns and the traditional quiet holiday period, new car registrations have exceeded expectations. Interestingly, diesel cars took a whopping 41.2 per cent share of the total registrations, which should help government and industry with their CO_2 reduction targets.'

Notes:

At €20 bn, the automotive sector is Europe's largest investor in R&D, driving industry forward and helping deliver more sustainable motoring for the 21st century. Technological innovation has helped car and CV manufacturers slash CO_2 and air quality emissions from vehicles. New diesel cars, for example, emit 95 per cent less soot from the tailpipe than those made 15 years ago and average new car CO_2 has been cut by 12 per cent since 1997.

Each vehicle made in Britain requires half the energy to produce than it did just five years ago, saving an estimated 700,000 tonnes of CO_2 a year. Waste to landfill per vehicle produced has also been cut by a factor of four, from 66.4 kg in 2001 to 14.5 kg in 2005. For more details, download SMMT's annual Sustainability Report from the SMMT web site www.smmt.co.uk/publications