

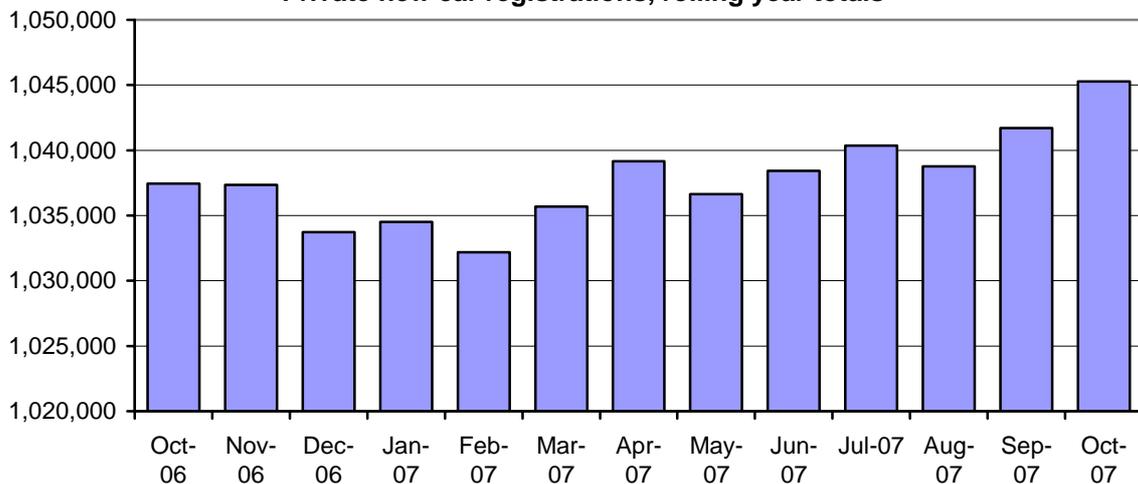


Private new car buyers head back to showrooms in October

- October new car demand up 8.4 per cent exceeding expectations to 166,797 units
- Best monthly growth since December 2005
- Private demand up by 5.6 per cent in October and 1.3 per cent over year-to-date
- Year to October registrations up 2.5 per cent to 2,107,312 units

'After a strong September, one of the key months for car buying, we are pleased, if a little surprised, that the growth has continued into October,' said Christopher Macgowan, SMMT chief executive. 'After interest rate rises, and the ongoing concerns within the banking sector, we expected private demand to weaken. However, October figures show private buyers are storming back to the showrooms, and SMMT has revised upwards the forecast for 2007 new car registrations. Interestingly, private buyers appear to be choosing smaller, more fuel-efficient cars with the Vauxhall Corsa topping the list in October, and the Ford Fiesta over 2007 so far.'

Private new car registrations, rolling year totals



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 CO₂ 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 CO₂ 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 CO₂ a year. Total combined waste to landfill down by more than half, from 80,399 tonnes in 2000 to 39,862 tonnes in 2006. For more details, download SMMT's eighth annual Sustainability Report from the SMMT web site www.smmt.co.uk/publications.