

Highest April CV registrations since 1990

- Total CV registrations in April up 4.0 per cent
- Light commercial vehicle registrations up 5.4 per cent
- New truck registrations down 2.2 per cent
- Bus & coach registrations up 7.0 per cent

Registrations of new commercial vehicles in the United Kingdom				
	April	% change	YTD	% change
Total	25,458	4.0%	105,475	3.0%
Light CVs	20,497	5.4%	87,543	4.3%
Heavy CVs	4,566	-2.2%	16,471	-3.9%
Buses & coaches	395	7.0%	1,461	8.9%

Total CV registrations in April up 4.0 per cent

April's return to growth took CV registrations to 105,475 over the first four months, 3.0 per cent ahead of the total for the same period in 2001. This April saw growth of 4.0 per cent on the 25,458 registrations in April 2001,.

This April saw the highest registration volume for the month since the 26,799 CVs registered in April 1990. The all time record for the month is 33,581, set in 1989. In that year there were over 371,000 CV registrations.

'April saw CV registrations continuing to grow, hitting the highest April figures for 12 years,' said SMMT chief executive Christopher Macgowan. 'Future monthly registration figures should also show those continuing positive results.'

The April bounce-back confirmed the strength, diversity and continued growth at the lighter end of the market. Year-on-year truck registrations are down for the third successive month, but still above the long-term average.

Most analysts expect a slightly weaker new CV market for 2002 as a whole. However, the domestic economy, most especially for households, is positive. The firm evidence that the USA economy is recovering suggests that market trends and forecasts for the year will be increasingly positive, as was the case last year.

The SMMT expects annual CV registrations to fall by just 3.6 per cent to 302,000 for 2002. This is due to expectations of softer markets through the summer giving lower registrations from September to December.

Light commercial vehicle registrations up 5.4 per cent

LCV registrations were up by 1,059 or 5.4 per cent in April. However, as in March three low volume segments in the market up to 3.5t gvw recorded significant growth.

Car type pick-ups again shot up, this month by 54.6 per cent to 722. 4x4 utilities were up 46.2 per cent to 649. Micro van registrations were up 15.7 per cent to 265.

Strong demand for a variety of heavier vans in the 2.6 to 3.5 tonne segment has driven the overall market forward for the past year and a half. This momentum paused in March.

In April 11,868 registrations represented a confident return to year on year growth at 10.4 per cent. Registration growth in this sector has been nearly constant since January 1998.

New truck registrations down 2.2 per cent

As in February and March, growth in truck registrations dipped in April, down 2.2 per cent. At April the total rigid market was down by 1.6 per cent and artic registrations fell 3.6 per cent. For the first four months all truck registrations were down by 3.9 per cent, but just 1.6 per cent for rigids and 9.0 per cent for artic.

Within the rigid sector there were again some contrasts across the axle configurations and weight categories between April 2002 and 2001. Two-axle 7.401 to 7.5 tonne rigids were just three trucks down. The 3.501 to 7.5 tonne segment was up and four-

axle rigids also grew. Two-axle rigids over 15 tonnes gvw accounted for the decline between the months with registrations down by 21.0 per cent.

Two-axle tractor registrations accounted for all of the shortfall in this April's article figures compared with April 2001. For the four months to date registrations remained down by 14.1 per cent and 6.7 per cent for two- and three-axle tractors respectively.

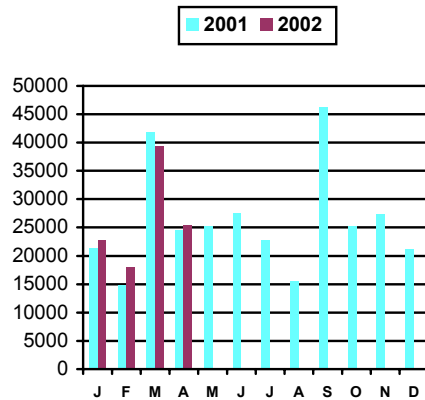
Bus & coach registrations up 7.0 per cent

April's bus and coach registrations were again up, by 7.0 per cent to 395. The 1,461 registrations for the first four months are 8.9 percent up on the same period last year. The industry remains cautious, not expecting growth this year. However, this positive start to the year has taken total bus and coach registrations for the twelve months to April to 3,883 compared to an industry projection of 3,400 for the year as a whole.

If you have any questions, please call Robin Dickeson

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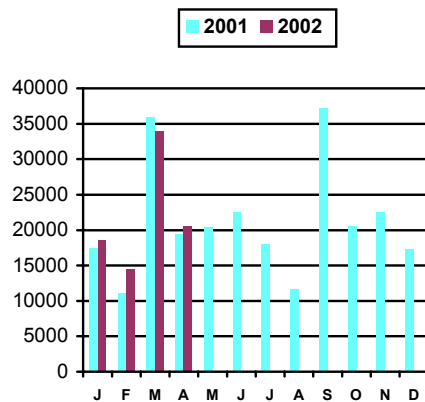
All new cv registrations Jan 2001 to date



April 2002 new CV registrations up by 4.0 per cent:

- year to April up 3.0 per cent;
- best April since 1990;
- softer truck demand continues;
- car-type pick-ups & 4x4 utilities again up positively.

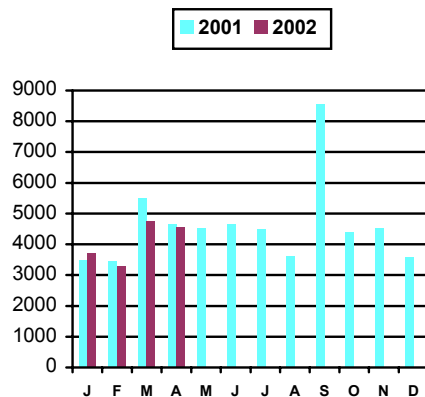
All new lcv registrations Jan 2001 to date



LCV new registrations up by 5.4 per cent:

- Year to date growth 4.3 per cent;
- strong growth in both 4x4s and car-type pick-ups;
- heavy vans, 2.6 to 3.5t, 58 per cent of all LCV sales, and up by 10.4 per cent.

New truck registrations Jan 2001 to date



April 2002 sees three consecutive months of weak demand:

- April down 2.2 per cent and also down 3.9 per cent for first four months;
- rigids fall 1.6 per cent in April and also for the year to date;
- Artics down 3.6 per cent in April, 9.0 per cent year to date.