

October 2020 - SMMT UK New Car and LCV Registrations Outlook to 2022

Background and context to panel survey

The outlook is revised quarterly in January, April, July and October. The latest survey of participants' own views was conducted during October 2020.

Please note, results in October were collected ahead of the announcement by the Prime Minister on 31 October around plans to introduce tougher Coronavirus restrictions across England from 00:01 on 5 November till 2 December, which included vehicle showrooms being ordered to close. In light of this SMMT has published a revised figure for 2020 for the total car market only, of 1.56 million units – 100,000 units less than we were expecting. No further breakdown of the market is provided. Our original October view of 2020 (including fuel breakdown) is presented below, at 1.664 million units. There also remains considerable uncertainty over the future economic setting, impacted not only by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic but also the threat of a 'no deal' with the EU at the end of the transition period.

UK new car and light vehicle registrations (October 2020) outlook						
<i>thousands</i>	All cars	Diesel cars	BEV cars	PHEV cars	HEV cars	LCVs
2007 – 2016[^]	2,260	1,061	-	-	-	288
2016	2,693	1,285	10	29	50	376
2017	2,541	1,066	14	36	68	362
2018	2,367	750	15	42	84	357
2019	2,311	616	38	35	98	366
2020(f)	1,560* 1,664	335	94	60	118	288
2021(f)	2,001	345	154	92	165	328
2022(f)	2,151	313	222	125	229	338

[^] = annual average for 2007 to 2016. LCVs = light commercial vehicles to 3.5t gvw. * at 4 November
 Diesel include mild hybrids, BEV = Battery electric vehicle, PHEV = Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles, HEV = Hybrid electric vehicles.
 Note: there were 16 returns from a current panel of 16 – the survey is voluntary.

SMMT outlook for 2020, 2021 & 2022 – as at October 2020

2020

- Car registrations at 1.56 million units, down 32.5% or 750,000 units on 2019's 2.311 million
- Cars registrations at 1.664 million, down 28.0% on the 2019 total.
- Diesel car volume of 0.355 million, down 45.5% on 2019 and taking a 20.2% market share.
- BEV registrations to rise 147.1%, pushing market share up to 5.6%.
- PHEV registrations to rise 72.9%, taking market share of 3.6%.
- HEV registrations to increase by 20.5%, with market share of 7.1%.
- LCV registrations at 0.288 million, down 21.3% on the 2019 total.

2021

- Cars registrations at 2.001 million, up 20.2% on the October 2020 outlook level.
- Diesel car volume of 0.345 million, up 2.8% on 2020 with a 17.2% market share.
- BEV registrations to rise 64.2% on 2020 outlook, increasing market share to 7.7%.
- PHEV registrations to rise 52.9% on 2020 outlook, pushing market share up to 4.6%.
- HEV registrations to increase 40.2% on 2020 outlook, with market share of 8.3%.

- LCV registrations at 0.328 million, up 13.8% on the outlook for 2020.

2022

- Cars registrations at 2.151 million, up 7.5% on the 2021 outlook level.
- Diesel car volume of 0.313 million, down 9.4% on 2021 with a 14.5% market share.
- BEV registrations to rise 44.8% on 2021 outlook, increasing market share to 10.3%.
- PHEV registrations to rise 35.8% on 2021 outlook, pushing market share up to 5.8%.
- HEV registrations to increase 38.5% on 2021 outlook, with market share of 10.6%.
- LCV registrations at 0.338 million, up 3.0% on the outlook for 2021.

Notes: car forecasts rounded to nearest 10,000 and LCV to 1,000 unit.

Reasonable care has been taken in preparing this information. It is not an exclusive aid for market analysis, other sources and market intelligence should be reviewed.

Next revision and contact

The outlook is scheduled to be next revised in Jan 2021 and result will be posted by end of the month.

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