

SMMT UK new car and LCV registrations outlook to 2021 – December 2019

Background and context to panel survey

This is a special update on our October view. The outlook during October was conducted in a period of considerable political uncertainty, being ahead of the EU granting an Article 50 extension to the date that the UK leaves the EU (to 31 January 2020) and before the date the UK general election was agreed (12 December 2019).

The outlook for 2020 and 2021 was revised in December, after the result of the general election. The outlook for new car registrations in 2020 was revised up by 3% on the October view and for LCVs by 9.4%. The 2021 view was also revised upwards. The usual January outlook will be presented at the end of this month.

2019:

New car registrations: 2.311 million units, -2.4% on 2018's 2.367 million.

Diesel registrations at 0.616 million, down 17.9% on 2018 and share down to 26.6% (includes mild hybrids).

Light commercial vehicles (LCV, to 3.5t gvw) at 0.366 million was up 2.4% on 2018.

UK new light vehicle registrations and (December 2019) outlook

Thousands	All cars	Diesel cars	BEV cars	PHEV cars	LCVs
2007 – 2016 [^]	2,260	1,061	-	-	288
2016	2,693	1,285	10	27	376
2017	2,541	1,066	14	33	362
2018	2,367	751	15	42	357
2019	2,311	616	38	35	366
2020 outlook	2,266	565	66	50	347
2021 outlook	2,283	525	99	84	347

[^] = annual average for 2007 to 2016. LCVs = light commercial vehicles to 3.5t gvw

Diesel includes mild-hybrid diesels, BEV = battery electric vehicle, PHEV = plug-in hybrid electric vehicles

Note this revision to October 2019 view, only some panel members updated their view

SMMT outlook for 2020 and 2021 – as at December 2019

2020

- Cars registrations at 2.266 million, down 1.9% on the 2019 outturn.
- Diesel car volume of 0.565 million, down 8.2% on 2019 and taking 24.9% market share.
- BEV registrations to rise 74.7%, to 66,000 units and pushing market share up to 2.9%.
- PHEV registrations to rise 45.3%, to 50,000 units and pushing market share up to 2.2%.
- LCV registrations at 0.347 million, down 5.2% on 2019.

2021

- Cars registrations at 2.283 million, up 0.8% on the 2020 outlook level.
- Diesel car volume of 0.525 million, down 7.1% on 2020 and taking 23.0% market share.
- BEV registrations to rise 44.8% to 96,000 units, increasing market share to 4.2%.
- PHEV registrations to rise 67.0% to 84,000 units, pushing market share up to 3.7%.
- LCV registrations at 0.347 million, a 0.1% dip on the outlook for 2020.

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 January 2020 and result will be posted by end of the month.

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