

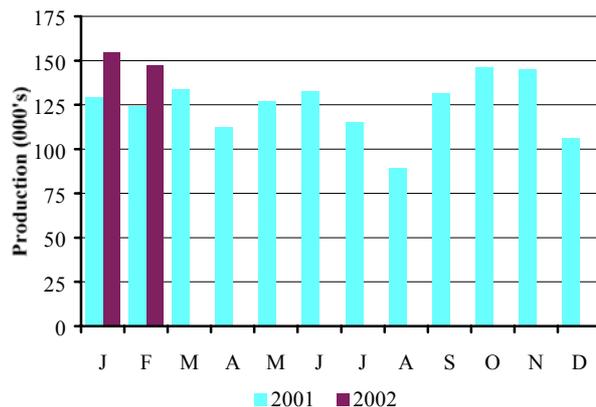
February car production continues positive trend

Production figures released today by the Office for National Statistics show that:

- Car production in February 2002 increased 18.7 per cent
- Car production in YTD 2002 up by 19.2 per cent

Car Production						
	Feb 2001	Feb 2002	% chg.	Year 2001	Year 2002	% chg.
Total	124,163	147,379	18.7%	253,084	301,747	19.2%
Home	55,434	65,704	18.5%	106,109	135,158	27.4%
% of total	44.6%	44.6%		41.9%	44.8%	
Export	68,729	81,675	18.8%	146,975	166,589	13.3%
% of total	55.4%	55.4%		58.1%	55.2%	

Monthly Car Production 2001-2002



- Car production in February rose by 18.7 per cent to 147,379 units. So far this year, total output is up 19.2 per cent at 301,747 units.
- Production for the home market was strong in February, rising by 18.5 per cent to 65,704 units. Production for export was also up, by 18.8 per cent to 81,675 units.

Commenting on the latest figures from the Office for National Statistics, SMMT chief executive Christopher Macgowan said, 'The positive trend in car production continued in February, with an encouraging boost in output for the home market. The industry is evolving but there is no doubt that this upward trend, which follows a long period of restructuring, confirms that Britain is still a great place to build cars. It's a fact that there are still more companies making cars in Britain than any other country in the world - including the US'.

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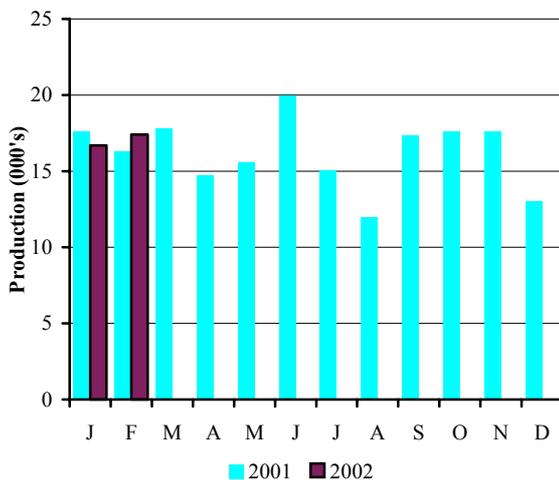
CV production growing too

- CV production in February 2002 rose by 6.6 per cent
- CV production in YTD 2002 rose by 0.5 per cent

Commercial Vehicles

	Feb 2001	Feb 2002	% chg.	YTD 2001	YTD 2002	% chg.
Total	16,290	17,357	6.6%	33,870	34,054	0.5%
Home	10,085	8,243	-18.3%	21,400	14,520	-32.1%
% of total	61.9%	47.5%		63.2%	42.6%	
Export	6,205	9,114	46.9%	12,470	19,534	56.6%
% of total	38.1%	52.5%		36.8%	57.4%	

Monthly CV production 2001-2002



- For the three months to February, production was 47,087, up by 4.7 per cent on the same three months a year ago.
- Export production rose a massive 46.9 per cent in February, the ninth straight month of growth.
- Output for the home market dropped 18.3 per cent.

Figures from the Office for National Statistics show commercial vehicle production up 6.6 per cent last month to 17,357 vehicles, compared with 16,290 in February 2001.

This shows a return to growth in UK CV vehicle production. SMMT chief executive Christopher Macgowan said, 'CV production picked up strongly toward the end of 2001, driven by export demand and increased demand for heavy vans both at home and abroad. Year to date growth is also good. We're confident this trend will run well into the year as the economy continues to pick up.'

February 2002 CV Output returns to growth

February's CV output growth rose against February 2001 volumes. Output for Nissan, Opel, Renault and Vauxhall-badged vans at the IBC van plant in Luton stays strong. Increases from Vauxhall at Ellesmere Port plant, Land Rover and Leyland Trucks also contributed significantly to February's growth.

Vauxhall output rose by over 52 per cent in February, bouncing back from a year-on-year decline of 50 per cent last month. Land Rover's output increased by more than 23 per cent last month with output for the home market more than doubling. Leyland Trucks recorded growth of nearly nine per cent in February.

Export focus continues with output volume up 46.9 per cent in February

CV exports have now grown for nine straight months. That growth is influenced by changes with some plants building for specific sectors of the European CV market. Most production of the joint Renault/GM Vauxhall van is for export, remaining the major contributor to the growth in this market.

Home production volumes remain low

Production for the home market dropped for the fifth straight month but by only 18.3 per cent. However this was a significantly better performance than the 30 to 40 per cent drop seen at the end of last year.

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	PASSENGER CARS			COMMERCIAL VEHICLES		
	Total	For Home	For Export	Total	For Home	For Export
	(GKAJ)		(GKAK)	(GKDF)		(GKDG)
1991	1 236 900	631 515	605 385	217 141	106 424	110 717
1992	1 291 880	702 590	589 290	248 453	118 140	130 313
1993 a	1 375 524	842 648	532 876	193 467	102 320	91 147
1994	1 466 823	848 142	618 681	227 815	132 270	95 545
1995	1 532 084	787 473	744 611	233 011	140 634	92 377
1996	1 686 134	777 922	908 212	238 314	125 830	112 484
1997	1 698 001	736 090	961 911	237 706	134 304	103 402
1998	1 748 258	727 531	1 020 727	227 379	124 538	102 841
1999	1 786 623	648 146	1 138 477	185 905	110 983	74 922
2000	1 641 452	578 462	1 062 990	172 442	96 261	76 181
1999 Q1	460 496	167 581	292 915	53 369	30 894	22 475
1999 Q2	448 932	155 973	292 959	50 546	30 556	19 990
1999 Q3	407 787	177 606	230 181	36 198	22 962	13 236
1999 Q4	469 408	146 986	322 422	45 792	26 571	19 221
2000 Q1	494 311	179 401	314 910	49 972	24 666	25 306
2000 Q2	433 240	140 548	292 692	52 061	27 345	24 716
2000 Q3	335 106	145 558	189 548	29 249	18 588	10 661
2000 Q4	378 795	112 955	265 840	41 160	25 662	15 498
2001 Q1	387 100	160 646	226 454	51 623	31 952	19 671
2001 Q2	372 395	142 864	229 531	49 675	26 436	23 239
2000 Jan	146 990	50 747	96 243	13 222	6 104	7 118
2000 Feb	162 164	66 591	95 573	17 166	8 534	8 632
2000 Mar	185 157	62 063	123 094	19 584	10 028	9 556
2000 Apr	124 971	38 011	86 960	15 766	7 763	8 003
2000 May	152 008	46 917	105 091	17 170	8 151	9 019
2000 Jun	156 261	55 620	100 641	19 125	11 431	7 694
2000 Jul	126 372	55 823	70 549	13 372	8 342	5 030
2000 Aug	74 761	32 965	41 796	5 885	3 628	2 257
2000 Sep	133 973	56 770	77 203	9 992	6 618	3 374
2000 Oct	131 522	38 712	92 810	13 872	8 565	5 307
2000 Nov	150 716	47 115	103 601	16 189	10 418	5 771
2000 Dec	96 557	27 128	69 429	11 099	6 679	4 420
2001 Jan	128 921	50 675	78 246	17 580	11 315	6 265
2001 Feb	124 163	55 434	68 729	16 290	10 085	6 205
2001 Mar	134 016	54 537	79 479	17 753	10 552	7 201
2001 Apr	112 547	45 865	66 682	14 172	8 097	6 075
2001 May	127 176	46 614	80 562	15 563	8 418	7 145
2001 Jun	132 672	50 385	82 287	19 940	9 921	10 019
2001 Jul	114 878	50 943	63 935	15 044	6 660	8 384
2001 Aug	89 350	43 180	45 540	11 960	5 994	5 966
2001 Sep	131 562	58 000	73 562	17 332	8 611	8 721
2001 Oct	145 984	53 206	92 778	17 607	6 697	10 910
2001 Nov	144 989	51 841	93 148	17 588	6 051	11 537
2001 Dec	106 107	36 801	69 306	13 033	4 486	8 547
2002 Jan	154 368	69 454	84 914	16 697	6 277	10 420
2002 Feb	147 379	65 704	81 675	17 357	8 243	9 114

Percentage change for latest three months on:

Previous three months	-3.5	8.1	-9.1	-10.4	-11.0	-9.9
Same period last year	16.6	27.5	9.0	4.7	-32.3	66.3

a - 5 week month or 14 week quarter or 53 week year

Source: Office for National Statistics

