



# SMMT New Car Registrations

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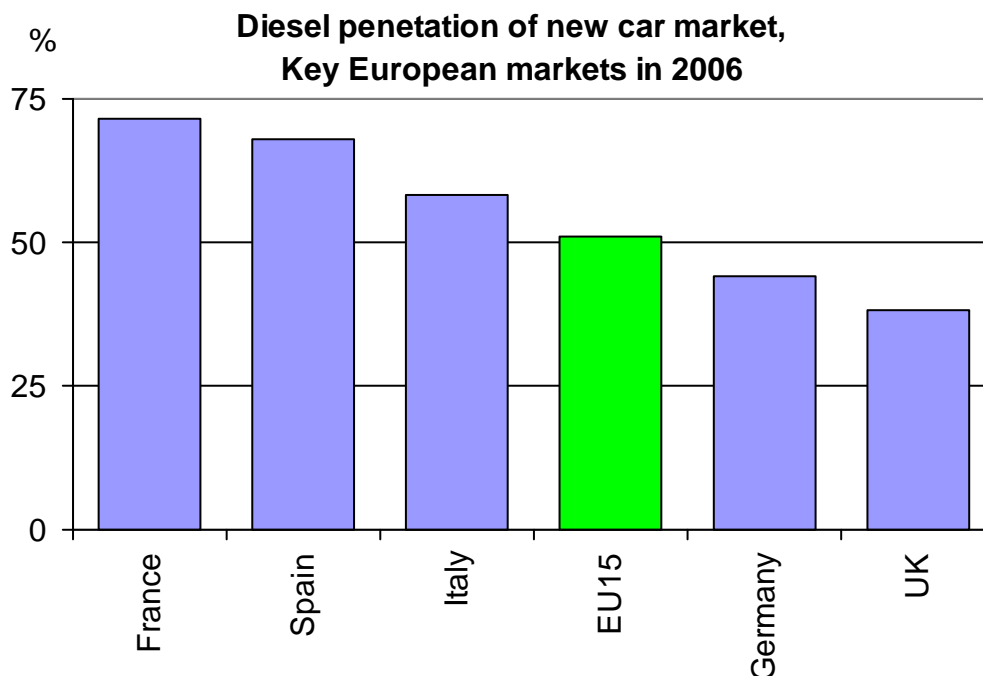
For Release

Immediate

## Diesel registrations boosted during quiet, but stable August

- Total year-to-date registrations up 2.2 per cent to 1,521,225 units
- Year-to-date diesel registrations rise by 6.5 per cent to 595,033 units
- August registrations total of 77,649 units, down by 0.4 per cent on previous year
- Full year volume on course to hit 2.355 million units forecast

'Since the introduction of the twice yearly plate-change prefix, August has vied with February for the dubious honour of being the smallest volume month for new car registrations. This year August was down just 312 units or 0.4 per cent compared to 2006 and at 77,649 units, was slightly above the February figure,' says Christopher Macgowan, chief executive of SMMT. 'While the overall market is stable, demand for diesel powered cars continues to climb, as buyers seek optimum fuel consumption and lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Diesel registrations reached 41.4 per cent in August, its highest level this year. However, diesel penetration remains well below the European average, due to a less favourable tax regime than exists in some continental markets.'



### 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 21<sup>st</sup> century. Technological innovation has helped car and CV manufacturers slash CO<sub>2</sub> 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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 CO<sub>2</sub> a year. Waste to landfill per vehicle produced has also been cut by a factor of four, from 66.4 kg in 2001 to 14.5 kg in 2005. For more details, download SMMT's annual Sustainability Report from the SMMT web site [www.smmt.co.uk/publications](http://www.smmt.co.uk/publications)