



SMMT New Car Registrations

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For Release

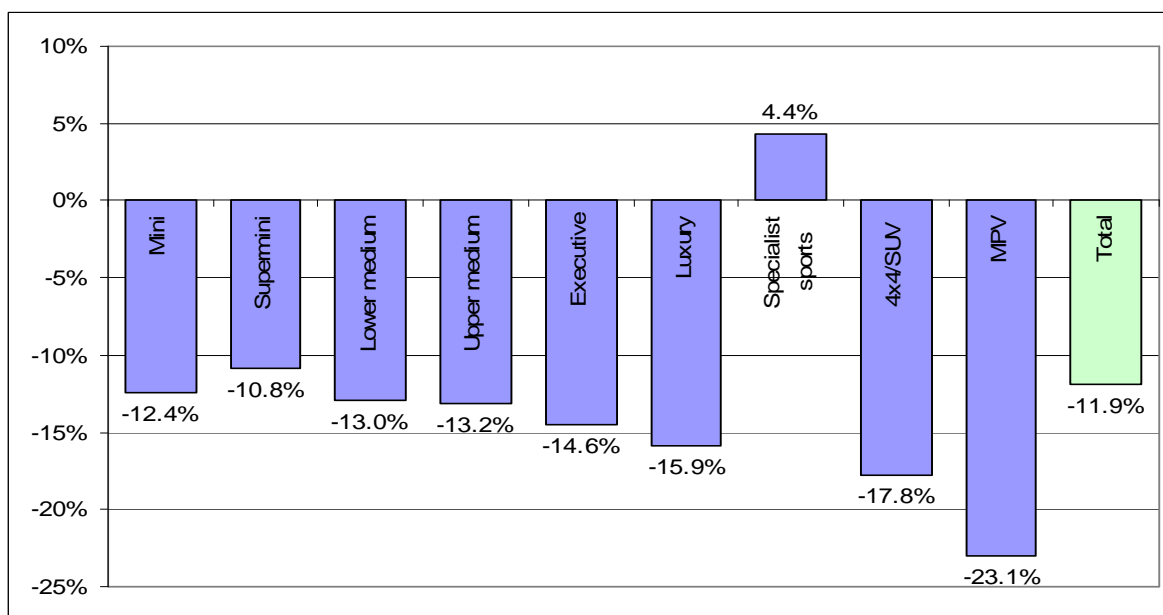
Immediate

March registrations put spring into new car market

- March new car registrations up 3.1 per cent to 449,287 units on 2006
- Second highest March registrations ever since the twice-yearly plate change
- Diesel demand up 7.8 per cent to 264,186 units in the first quarter
- Supermini demand remains strong, up 6.6 per cent in the first quarter

'Growth in diesel and supermini cars shows that fuel efficiency and greener motoring are now critical concerns for buyers,' said SMMT chief executive, Christopher Macgowan. 'The industry has been working hard to improve its environmental profile too. CO₂ from tailpipes has reduced dramatically across all bar one of the sales segments since 1997 showing a net 12 per cent reduction of CO₂ across the whole market. The recent DfT "Act on CO₂" consumer campaign is a welcome further step in a more integrated approach to sustainable motoring.'

Change in average new car CO₂ emissions by segment, 2006 vs 1997



Notes:

The UK motor industry is committed to monitor and improve its environmental performance. On behalf of members, SMMT publishes annual reports on new car CO₂ emissions and its industry-wide sustainability strategy, measuring progress towards economic, social and environmental goals.

These reports reveal significant CO₂ improvements for new vehicles and a host of other good news from UK production sites on environmental measures. Average new car CO₂ emissions for example have dropped by 12 per cent since 1997, while the number of cars sold in the cleanest bands A-C has doubled to over 860,000 models last year.

From vehicle production sites, manufacturers have **halved** the water and energy consumption (and CO₂ emissions produced) in making each vehicle. 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 these reports free from the SMMT web site www.smmt.co.uk/publications