**HEAVY GOODS VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS**

17 February 2022(data for Q4 and full year 2021)

**HGV market accelerates 12.9% in 2021 to defy supply challenge**

* UK new HGV registrations increase to 37,163 (+12.9%) as market gains ground after locked down 2020.
* Supply chain constraints see market end -16.9% down on pre-pandemic average.
* Industry calls for clear plan to drive transition to zero emission vehicles and maintain fleet operator confidence.



**Thursday 17 February, 2022** New heavy goods vehicle (HGV) registrations rose by 12.9% year-on-year in 2021, according to new figures released today by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT). Growth in key industry sectors such as construction saw demand outstrip supply, with truck registrations surging from a locked-down 2020 fall of -32.2%. However, the global semiconductor shortage, as well as supply constraints affecting steel and aluminium, impacted availability, resulting in 7,571 fewer (-16.9%) HGV units registered compared with the pre-pandemic average.1

Some 37,163 units were registered last year, 57.1% of which were rigids, while 42.9% were articulated trucks, in line with market splits seen in previous years, though both segments grew with 2,239 more rigids (+11.8%) and 2,006 more artics (+14.4%) registered than 2020.

As construction began to bounce back during the year, tipper demand rose by 32.5% to 3,808 units. Tractor units were the most popular type of HGV, with 15,679 units (+16.0%) representing a market share of 42.1%, while refuse trucks increased by 2.0% to 2,067 units. Conversely, box van registrations fell slightly, by -1.2% to 4,054 units, while curtain-sided lorries declined by -6.3% to 2,452 units.

In terms of UK nations, the majority of registrations were recorded in England (87.8%), followed by Scotland (6.9%), Wales (3.0%) and Northern Ireland (2.2%). Regionally, most registrations were made in South East England (23.2%), North West (12%), West Midlands (12%) and Yorkshire & Humberside (11.9%).

Maintaining and growing demand will be vital to fleet renewal - getting more of the latest, greenest trucks on the road – but operators need long-term certainty to make investment decisions. New non-zero emission HGV sales will end in 2040 – just five years after the end of sale date for non-zero emission new cars and vans. While the passenger car market is largely focused on one technology – electric – to meet driver needs, with a massive choice of models already available, there is no single zero emission technology appropriate for all HGV use cases. Furthermore, there is no plan to create the necessary public recharging or refuelling infrastructure specifically for HGVs and drivers to enable the transition. As a result, fossil fuel vehicles still accounted for 99.8% of HGVs in use in 2020, a proportion last seen in the car parc in 2007.2

**Mike Hawes, SMMT Chief Executive, said,** “With so much of our economy dependant on HGVs, the market’s return to growth is good news as getting more of the latest, high tech and low emission trucks onto the roads is critical to both air quality and climate change improvements. However, the sheer variety of functions HGVs perform, in logistics, construction and waste collection to name but three, illustrates how a range of technologies may be necessary to decarbonise road transport. Manufacturers are investing billions in such technologies, including battery electric, hydrogen and other alternative fuels but operators will need clarity, affordability and evidence on an infrastructure plan dedicated to their needs if this transition is to be delivered on time.”















**Notes to Editors**

12015-2019 average:44,734 units

2 0.2% of HGVs were alternatively fuelled, based on SMMT analysis of 2020 motorparc data; [*Fuelling the Fleet: Delivering Commercial Vehicle Decarbonisation*](https://www.smmt.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/SMMT-Fuelling-the-Fleet-Driving-Commercial-Vehicle-Decarbonisation.pdf)

**Hi-res charts available here:**

SMMT HGV registrations for Q2 2022 will be published 17 May 2022.

**About SMMT and the UK automotive industry**

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) is one of the largest and most influential trade associations in the UK. It supports the interests of the UK automotive industry at home and abroad, promoting the industry to government, stakeholders and the media.

The automotive industry is a vital part of the UK economy, and integral to supporting the delivery of the agendas for levelling up, net zero, advancing global Britain, and the plan for growth. It contributes £60 billion turnover and £12 billion value added to the UK economy, and invests around £3 billion each year in R&D. With more than 155,000 people employed directly in manufacturing and some 800,000 across the wider automotive industry, it accounts for 11% of total UK exports with more than 150 countries importing UK produced vehicles, generating more than £73 billion of trade.

More than 30 manufacturers build more than 70 models of vehicle in the UK, supported by more than 2,500 component providers and some of the world's most skilled engineers. The automotive sector also supports jobs in other key sectors – including advertising, chemicals, finance, logistics and steel. Many of these jobs are outside London and the South East, with wages that are around 25% higher than the UK average.

More detail on UK automotive available in SMMT's Motor Industry Facts 2021 publication at [smmt.co.uk/facts21](https://www.smmt.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/SMMT-Motor-Industry-Facts-JULY-2021.pdf)

**Broadcasters: SMMT has an ISDN studio and access to expert spokespeople, case studies and regional representatives.**

**SMMT media contacts**

Paul Mauerhoff                       07809 522181            pmauerhoff@smmt.co.uk

James Boley                           07927 668565            jboley@smmt.co.uk
Daniel Zealander                    07546 415205            dzealander@smmt.co.uk
Scott Clarke                            07912 799959            sclarke@smmt.co.uk

Emma Butcher 07880 191825 ebutcher@smmt.co.uk