**BUS AND COACH REGISTRATIONS**

16 November 2021(data for Q3 2021)

**Bus and coach registrations decline by almost a fifth in Q3 2021**

* 853 vehicles registered in Q3 2021, down -19.8% on 2020, and 500 units or -37.0% short of 2019 outturn.
* Double-deck bus market declines -63.6% in Q3 as long-term low passenger numbers continue to hamper demand.
* Market falls -10.2% on first nine months of 2020, with 2,584 vehicles registered year-to-date – 1,437 fewer than the pre-pandemic five-year average.1

**Tuesday 16 November, 2021** The UK new bus and coach market fell by -19.8% in the third quarter, according to figures released today by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT), a deeply disappointing decline following a 2020 performance devastated by Covid.

Single-deck buses were the only vehicle type that saw growth, increasing by 5.2%, whilst double-deck buses declined significantly, by -63.6%, to just 76 new registrations. The number of new buses and coaches registered in Q3 remains -37.0% down on the pre-pandemic 2019, with long-term low passenger numbers continuing to impact demand for vehicles.2

Year to date, registrations remain -10.2% down against a pandemic ravaged 2020, with just 2,584 new buses and coaches registered so far this year, down 293 units.

**Mike Hawes, SMMT Chief Executive,**said, “The decline in bus and coach figures during the third quarter of the year is incredibly disappointing, especially when viewed against the same period in 2020, when the country was still struggling to recover from the effects of pandemic induced lockdowns. Whilst lockdowns have ended, and workers have begun returning to the office as the economy continues to be fully open, the sector is still struggling, with dwindling passenger numbers leading to operators hesitant to place new orders. This sector also continues to wait for the promised investment from the government for new zero emission buses to flow through, with such funding necessary to stimulate confidence and deliver environmental goals.”

**Notes to Editors**

SMMT now has expanded its categorisation of minibuses to incorporate LCVs <6.5tonnes with carrying capacity of up to 17 pax

1. Year to date 2019– 4021
2. Q3 2019 - 1353

**Hi-res charts available here:**

SMMT bus and coach registrations for FY and Q4 2021 will be published in January.

**About SMMT and the UK automotive industry**

The 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.**

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