**SMMT USED CAR SALES** (data for Q2 2025)   
STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 00:001 FRIDAY 8 AUGUST

**Hi-res charts available via Dropbox:** <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/sqinvb2hoanwhochn9r87/AKeSvXQeKRb7wJfolhiHN5Q?rlkey=l0qrdregb254l6gz5rfsn0y91&st=01synk95&dl=0>

**Used car market bounces back to pre-pandemic level in first half**

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| * Used car sales reach almost 2 million units in second quarter as new car sector slowly recovers. * One in 10 used car transactions electrified, with record 68,721 battery electric vehicles changing hands. * Overall market back to pre-pandemic level in first half of the year, surpassing 4 million units. |  |
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|  | **Friday 8 August, 2025**The UK’s used car market grew by 1.7% in the second quarter to reach almost two million (1,996,116) transactions in the best Q2 performance since 2021,1according to the latest figures published today by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT). It was the 10th consecutive quarter of growth, driven by ongoing recovery in the new car sector, and realigned the market within 1% of pre-pandemic levels in the first half of 2025 as 4,017,106 pre-owned cars found new owners, up 2.2% on last year.2    In Q2, petrol remained the best-selling fuel type, with transactions rising 1.5% to 1,134,387 units, while diesel declined -4.3% to 664,644 units. These vehicles accounted for 90.1% of all cars changing hands, although their combined market share fell by more than two percentage points due to the growing popularity of second-hand electrified vehicles.    One in 10 (9.7%) cars changing hands in Q2 was electrified, with hybrid electric vehicle (HEV) transactions increasing by 27.7% to 100,127 units and owning 5.0% of the market. Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) were also up by 10.3% to 24,370 units, and a market share of 1.2%. Battery electric vehicle (BEV) transactions showed the strongest growth, up 40.0% to record 68,721 units and account for 3.4% of the market. Further growth will hinge on measures to drive uptake in the new car market, including rapid rollout of the new Electric Car Grant and accelerated development of the UK’s charging network, both crucial to assuring plentiful long-term supply into the used sector and building consumer confidence.    Smaller cars retained their popularity, with superminis continuing to hold the highest share of the market (31.8%), followed by lower medium vehicles (26.7%). Transactions rose in both segments, up 1.3% to 635,126 units and 0.5% to 533,860 units respectively. Sales of dual purpose vehicles also grew, up 6.7% to 331,924 units. Specialist sports cars experienced the sharpest drop of -4.1% to 58,759 units, followed by upper medium vehicles which fell -3.4% to 186,714 units.    In line with the new car market, black, grey and white (the latter shunting blue from the top three) were the quarter’s best-selling colours, together commanding more than half (55.2%) of transactions. Cream, green, yellow and pink recorded the strongest growth, up 10.7%, 9.0%, 8.0% and 8.0% respectively, while the steepest declines were experienced by turquoise (-5.6%), gold (-5.5%) and silver (-3.9%). Maroon meanwhile replaced cream as the sector’s least favourite colour.    **SMMT Chief Executive, Mike Hawes,**said, “Surpassing the four million half-year milestone for the first time since 2019 shows the UK’s used car market is building back momentum. That’s good news for the industry and for motorists who benefit from more choice and affordability across a range of higher tech, cleaner vehicles, notably in the emerging electric vehicle sector. To maintain this trajectory, a thriving new car market must be delivered across the segments, along with accelerated investment into the charging network to give every driver the ability to switch.” |  |
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**Notes to editors:**

*All used car data published by SMMT is correct based on information available at the time of publication. SMMT used car data is derived from information supplied by DVLA, which periodically revises historic data, which can therefore result in variations in data previously reported.*

1. Used car transactions, Q2 2021: 2,167,504
2. Used car transactions, first half 2019: 4,054,380

**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, representing the automotive industry in the UK.

The automotive industry is a vital part of the UK economy, integral to growth, the delivery of net zero and the UK as a global trade hub. It contributes £93 billion turnover and £22 billion value added to the UK economy, and invests around £4 billion each year in R&D. With 198,000 people employed directly in manufacturing and some 813,000 across the wider automotive industry. Many of these automotive manufacturing jobs are outside London and the South-East, with wages that are around 13% higher than the UK average. The sector accounts for 13.9% of total UK exports of goods, with UK-produced vehicles traded globally, generating £115 billion of trade in total automotive imports and exports.

The UK manufactures almost every type of vehicle, from cars, to vans, taxis, trucks, buses and coaches, as well as specialist and off-highway vehicles, supported by more than 2,500 component providers and some of the world's most skilled engineers. In addition, the sector has vibrant aftermarket and remanufacturing industries. The automotive industry also supports jobs in other key sectors – including advertising, chemicals, finance, logistics and steel.

More detail on UK Automotive available in SMMT's Motor Industry Facts publication at [www.smmt.co.uk/reports/smmt-motor-industry-facts/](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=http%3a%2f%2fclick.agilitypr.delivery%2fls%2fclick%3fupn%3dq-2FLDa0hDiW76FMqhIH6mp5-2FMTGpUEJbaCvc6DuDo36VcR8RSJY3Bb5j6PbOH1m-2BGBroLVjN0i37n2XGzfuZqWeJIleDttsiCosv-2FDCrC6xU-3DNJg9_FQC2LT8GxayrM161hhHVAu067ZxSQQmW4GgEbtFUHlnhSWpWCBkdzj4Kj3fTDj3UcGAZVk99-2Bu1tfX9z9RQO-2B9fp1S7-2Fexh6yUV9D8RBopPF9ftQfnPc7Oo8dF-2F33tfJjdydmYFo-2B3-2FZ4S3f9yiwFBWbAH2cHJTjoEr5feTUeIMrD8UWKTM1I1WBxqo-2BXD3fbqrVstjQgJpCVUtkuS44mATwZi-2FbDS0RLy4Kc-2Fak9mJlNrH2Nah4rxWcpFJUTjG3RiewRLsY-2FAZI6U0gEwzyg9f9kMfDtIVBFWqvytbp6QcWQj2PeXkpCxvRodUjf3F1bU-2FxLse2gxEG9OKOYYxtS1tA2LYKxhRnFj9q53jyGZweydKCFcHXXvlm-2BEtwQKouRDkalUMxcmwIMiSFD018yHvLjhh-2FC8go6WJBD0qJAAoMxe6pRcHATJUuLQLxwba6pecZLrra-2Fg4iylWC-2FWgmiA-3D-3D&c=E,1,shIdwDxv4DuE5O9ruDV8SOnjRMbYMUMBvtuJxpEKqrl46ScL8uWK0I3vTeCBbKaz6ApDgOsYVpzNo1oLsNWSiqoAg1rNS4OJq8sxq_-Rh3TtLukLbc6Kt-UlbkI,&typo=1)

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