**SMMT NEW CAR REGISTRATIONS**

Thursday 4 September 2025 (data for August)

**Hi-res graphics available via Dropbox:** [**https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/7wpprsrsh291z9799cj46/AFKhGFloz8ymgAh-CCw5LM0?rlkey=dps4vg2131nyk2njzxnlnvban&st=fv0y9f4h&dl=0**](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/7wpprsrsh291z9799cj46/AFKhGFloz8ymgAh-CCw5LM0?rlkey=dps4vg2131nyk2njzxnlnvban&st=fv0y9f4h&dl=0)

**New car market shrinks in August but EVs reach record share for the year**

* New car market declines -2.0% in August to 82,908 units during typically quietest month of the year.
* Model choice, ongoing manufacturer discounts and some limited initial impact from the newly announced Electric Car Grant helped drive battery electric car share to 26.5%, the highest recorded in 2025, replicating previous performances for low volume month.
* September – usually the second biggest month of the year – critical for delivering BEV growth as new Electric Car Grant takes effect, with YTD market share at 21.9%.

**Thursday 4 September** UK new car registrations declined by -2.0% in August to 82,908 units, during what is normally the quietest month of the year – generally accounting for less than 5% of annual deliveries ahead of September’s number plate change.

Fleet uptake dominated the month, accounting for 59.1% of all new vehicles reaching the road despite a -4.6% reduction in volumes. Uptake by private buyers grew by a marginal 0.7% while the business sector rose 41.6%, although this equated to fewer than 500 additional units.

The zero emission transition, fuelled by manufacturer investment in model choice, hefty discounting, and a new fiscal incentive from government, drove battery electric vehicle (BEV) registrations up by 14.9% to reach a market share of 26.5% – the highest this year and the fourth highest on record.1 This replicates the pattern in 2023 and 2024, where August’s low overall registration volumes and high fleet concentration resulted in significantly larger BEV shares than those recorded across the rest of the year.2

BEV growth was only outpaced by plug-in hybrid vehicle (PHEV) uptake, which rose by 69.4% to deliver an 11.8% market share. Hybrid electric vehicle (HEV) uptake, meanwhile, fell by -13.9% to account for 11.4% of the market.

In the first eight months, the new car market is up 2.1% to a five-year peak of 1.265 million – although it still remains -16.7% down on pre-pandemic levels, with BEV share comprising 21.9%, below 2025’s nominal zero emission vehicle mandate target of 28%.3

As that target approaches and ‘new number plate’ September, usually the second busiest month of the year, gets underway, accelerating EV uptake remains critical. Around a quarter of BEV models are now eligible for the Electric Car Grant, which has the potential to increase demand over the coming months. Combined with action to accelerate affordable, reliable and convenient charging solutions, the year-to-date market share of EVs should increase as the industry strives to deliver on government ambition.

M**ike Hawes, SMMT Chief Executive,** said, “August was the best month yet this year for EV market share and, while it is often volatile due to low overall volumes, the overall trend is positive. September will be critical, with the new number plate factor typically driving around one in seven new car registrations for the year. There is now a vast choice of electric models across all segments and many consumers will also, for the first time in three years, benefit from a grant to help them switch to electric.

With more models being added to the Government’s Electric Car grant each week, there is now every reason for drivers to make the switch, helping deliver both economic growth and decarbonisation.”

**About SMMT and the UK automotive industry**

1 Top 3 months for BEV share: December 2022: 32.9%; December 2024: 31.0%; April 2020 (during lockdown when the market was essentially shut down): 31.8%

2 BEV share August 2024: 22.6%; August 2023: 20.1%

3 Jan-Aug 2019 new car registrations: 1,519,016

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 £92 billion turnover and £25 billion value added to the UK economy and invested £5 billion in R&D, with 183,000 people employed directly in manufacturing and some 796,000 in total across the wider automotive industry. Many of these automotive manufacturing jobs are outside London and the South-East, with wages that are 8% higher than the UK average. The sector accounts for 13.4% of total UK exports of goods with more than 140 countries importing UK produced vehicles, generating £108 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 [https://www.smmt.co.uk/reports/smmt-motor-industry-facts/](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=http%3a%2f%2fclick.agilitypr.delivery%2fls%2fclick%3fupn%3du001.HWzSVswrZNpvpa6B-2FHxTldkC2rY1lv7BRUTd1BHTs7fZIIyk-2Bg-2FW314-2FdhkPS-2Fjz7PnTdptMbGJDY8Ek2AXF2AaxJU6tVWwLiNLH-2FpBprEw-3DLNLS_le-2FBC1iEkHsSkKoj-2FaVDRz-2Bxr5YqLPLe3JXSPk-2F-2B8c0jDfjYpI1vIJSFY0C8LMLPIEHun1EMX0awDa-2BABxqm61s4lo9FOw2sF6FC-2FvrpcWz26G-2F5xg2MhYiDmNkZqsGlFVVBBz-2BrDlA5BzbOeYdCdH02fh7VTKMbPGZq83wUPOUUq2CT0xEOft2-2FipWjIX-2BdrHsLhmJ74t7jIpR-2BIs-2BSCHY7IIqaHcZxGLAxNE1DDFxv3rYe6NmgZeDV5xUtok2eZooEYVJ-2BtOo2jr-2FufQhW-2FFeuXsnvd2sK-2Ba9TaULqFmWPcMxfo-2BbZ3JL07Pkx9rw0027tmzNOw4RavHnKGkoHzcMVVKrXV4QaZNOgF5G58K8Wi-2B1c7mnz-2F4ShYxpFAmldp8NF4yeCW8Ln1wI5Qvl-2BIxSC06MegU-2BmKkKuaXQk-2FS-2Fc2rCJ9RWHnPYAmUuRPfAfOptSkZ7i0H4ScjhzlbLrFvgejZVVrtjAfg64UZzF3Q8-3D&c=E,1,fjAuJP0vqw2CmBMdmMaHb7dZ_VxYvKni6RxtSMJfhuNA68NBY4uP_K2sJZgxHi-IGA0427M70Gh6eYDlMa-eX_5wvCkNZk5_4KXXrv7piGcfj9I,&typo=1)

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

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