MINO-717 Number of passenger cars registered by location

18 April 2023

Provide an example of a location/s in New Zealand where there are approximately 144,000 registered private vehicles to be quoted in a Press Release from the Prime Minister's office.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's response:

Below are tables that show the total number of registered private-usage vehicles within the NZ Regions (table A) and NZ Towns/Cities (table B).

Table A – region totals

Private-use passenger cars registered in each region as at 16 April 2023	
Region	Total vehicles
AUCKLAND REGION	1,144,674
CANTERBURY REGION	497,061
WAIKATO REGION	336,006
WELLINGTON REGION	331,906
BAY OF PLENTY REGION	226,247
MANAWATU-WHANGANUI REGION	174,742
OTAGO REGION	170,516
NORTHLAND REGION	134,593
HAWKE'S BAY REGION	117,290
TARANAKI REGION	88,777
SOUTHLAND REGION	80,342
TASMAN REGION	43,215
NELSON REGION	37,922
MARLBOROUGH REGION	35,541
GISBORNE REGION	28,573
WEST COAST REGION	25,099

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Table B – town/city totals

Private-use passenger cars registered in each town/city as at 16 April 2023	
Town/City	Total vehicles
AUCKLAND	945,061
CHRISTCHURCH	291,369
HAMILTON	134,596
WELLINGTON	120,109
TAURANGA	79,773
LOWER HUTT	69,553
DUNEDIN	67,344
PALMERSTON NORTH	62,856
WHANGAREI	53,147
NAPIER	47,670
NEW PLYMOUTH	46,604
INVERCARGILL	46,159
ROTORUA	43,607
HASTINGS	38,785
NELSON	37,767
PORIRUA	35,104
PAPAKURA	31,559
UPPER HUTT	30,230
WHANGANUI	27,298
TIMARU	26,645
BLENHEIM	25,537
RANGIORA	25,412
GISBORNE	24,914
PUKEKOHE	23,495
ASHBURTON	22,854
TAUPO	21,720
PAPAMOA	20,969
QUEENSTOWN	20,074
PARAPARAUMU	20,037

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The table entries with a town/city/region with as close to 144,000 registered motor vehicles are:

- Northland Region with 134,593 vehicles.
- Hamilton with 134,596 vehicles.

Caveats

It is important to note the following caveats in relation to the total provided:

- Data was extracted from the Motor Vehicle Register (MVR) and is current as at 16 April 2023.
- Data can only be reported on vehicles that have ever been entered the Motor Vehicle Register (MVR). Imports for private use would not be recorded.
- Data is limited to registered vehicles that have an active registration status.
- Registered - in relation to a vehicle, means registered under Part 17 of the Land Transport Act 1998, and consequently a vehicle will have plates issued to it.
- Active - the vehicle has not been deregistered and the registration has not lapsed.
- Lapsed - the vehicle has not had a valid vehicle licence for 12 months or more.
- The data includes vehicles that may or may not be currently licensed for road use.
- Licence - in relation to a vehicle, a vehicle has paid its current annual licensing fee to be allowed to travel on New Zealand roads. Commonly referred to as 'Rego'.
- Data is limited to vehicles of the type “PASSENGER CAR/VAN”.
- Data is limited to vehicles with one of the following body types:
    - HATCHBACK
    - SALOON
    - SPORTS CAR
    - STATION WAGON
- Data is limited to vehicles that are in private use, not commercial use.
- Vehicle attributes are free text or user-selection. Mistakes may occur with these types of entries (e.g. mis-spellings, wrong selection type).
- Region is based on the registered owner’s address.
- The suburb or town of a registered owner’s address is not necessarily the area in which they operate the vehicle.
- Regional totals are provided for those regions with more than 20,000 private-usage cars.
- Town/city totals are provided for those towns/cities with more than 20,000 private-usage cars.
- Owner addresses are free text or user-selection. Mistakes may occur with these types of entries (e.g. mis-spellings, wrong selection type).

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