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# New Zealand vehicle fleet open data

## QUESTION AND ANSWERS

Last updated: July 2018

### Why is this data being made openly available?

In 2013 the NZ Transport Agency signed up to the Open Government Information and Data Work Programme, adopting the Declaration on Open and Transparent Government. The release of this data aligns with this programme, which aims to:

- make non-personal government-held data and information more widely available and discoverable, easily usable and compliant with open government data principles within the New Zealand legal context; and
- facilitate agencies' release of the non-personal government-held data and information that people, communities, and businesses want to use and re-use.

### Are unlicensed vehicles included?

Yes – currently registered vehicles are included, regardless of licence status (ie whether they have a current 'rego' or not).

### Are all data variables from the Motor Vehicle Register (MVR) included?

No, but we have included what our research indicates would be the most commonly-used variables. We would have liked to make more MVR data openly available. However, in order to manage file size and ensure ease of use, we have had to limit the amount of data we release.

### How did you decide which data to include?

We looked at the types of requests we get for MVR data to make sure we are providing the data people are most interested in. We will consider including further variables in future if required.

## How do I find out how many vehicles there are like mine?

You could find out how many vehicles are like yours a number of ways. If you are interested in a particular vehicle year, you could go to the file for that vehicle year, and then filter by your vehicle's make, model, or sub-model. The number of vehicles is the total number of rows in the data.

If you are interested in a particular vehicle more generally, you could go to the *Vehicle data – all vehicle years* file and filter by the variables of interest. Note however that this is a very large file, so you'll need to check your system will open it before using this method. If you can't open this file you could add up the totals from each of the individual year files.

## Who can use this data?

The data can be used by anyone, consistent with the principles of open data. There are no restrictions on its use.

## There are two versions of this dataset

### Which one should I use?

Many fields on the Motor Vehicle Register (MVR) are free text fields and may therefore be subject to spelling mistakes and other human error. As such, we provide two versions of the data – one in which identified errors have been algorithmically cleaned (the [New Zealand Vehicle Fleet Open Data](#)) and one where they haven't (the [New Zealand vehicle fleet – raw open data for specialist use](#)).

### What do you mean by algorithmically cleaned?

We run a machine learning process that identifies and corrects potential errors in the data. This is to correct vehicle make and model information that has been manually entered into the Motor Vehicle Register. Typos are found and replaced automatically, as such a small number of errors may still exist in the data. For example, a vehicle may be assigned to a more common make or model name. If you come across a vehicle make or model that you think is incorrect, please contact us at [statisticalanalysis@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:statisticalanalysis@nzta.govt.nz) and we will investigate it and update our process.

### Why do you release the raw data?

We release the raw data to maintain consistency with our legacy subscription service. It is primarily of interest to industry groups who use this service. If you are not using the data for this purpose, we recommend using the standard [cleaned version of the data](#).

## How can I get help with using the data or if I have any further questions?

You can email [statisticalanalysis@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:statisticalanalysis@nzta.govt.nz)

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