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ROAD TRANSPORT STATISTICS, 1988

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A. Vehicles on register as at 31st December, 1988

At the end of 1988, 95,840 vehicles were licensed at the National Transport Authority compared to 85,677 a year ago. This represents an increase of nearly 12% over the previous year.

A look at the fleet composition indicates that passenger cars (including 10,283 dual purpose vehicles) accounted for 42% while two-wheelers made up another 41% of the fleet. Goods vehicles (lorries and vans) constituted a further 11%, the remaining 6% being buses, trailers, tractors etc. The number of buses increased by 16% over the previous year to stand at 1,771 in 1988.

The registration of new vehicles rose by 36% from 7,255 in 1987 to reach 9,840 in 1988. The remission of duty to certain categories of public officers continued to have its effect on the registration of new passenger cars which went up by 21%. To this must be added the registration of 2,248 second hand vehicles. This included 1,065 imported vehicles of which the majority (625) were cars and dual purpose vehicles. The remaining comprised vehicles which had been previously withdrawn from the register of vehicles (off the road) temporarily. In 1988, the number of vehicles which were put off the road in this way amounted to 1,925.

The renewal of the fleet of motor-cars and dual purpose vehicles was pursued in 1988, as revealed by an estimate of their age distribution. At the end of the year 23% were aged 5 years or less as compared to 17% in 1987.

A considerable improvement is noted in the age composition of the operational bus fleet. More than a third of the fleet had 5 years or less as compared to around one quarter the year before. This was due to the issue of road service licences mainly to individual operators in late 1987.

B. Road Traffic Accidents

1. Accidents

The number of road traffic accidents which occurred during 1988 was 8,259. Compared to the previous year this shows a considerable increase of 17%, bringing along a parallel increase in the accident rate which went up from 703 per 100,000 population in 1987 to reach 812 in 1988. The number of accidents per 1,000 registered motor vehicles similarly rose from 87 to 91.

2. Vehicles involved

Motor vehicles involved in road accidents numbered 14,153, that is, an increase of 19% over the year 1987. Passenger cars (7,788 private and taxi cars) constituted a very high proportion (53%) of all vehicles involved in accidents. The number of vehicles involved in accidents per 1,000 motor vehicles registered increased from 147 to 156 over the period under reference.

3. Casualties

Casualties reported as a result of the 8,259 accidents were 3,004 of which 122 were fatal, 282 serious injuries and 2,600 slight injuries. It may be worth pointing out that this shows a drop of 9% in the number of casualties although the number of accidents rose by 17% over the previous year. There was a decrease in casualties resulting in slight injuries (2,927 in 1987 and 2,600 in 1988), while the number of fatal cases and serious injuries have increased respectively from 112 to 122 and 255 to 282.

Pedestrians made up the highest proportion (35%) of casualties, followed by passengers (28%). The former also comprised the highest rate (58%) of total deaths. The injury rate, that is, the number of persons injured per 100,000 population fell to 283 from 317 in 1987. On the other hand, the fatality index which represents the ratio of the number of fatalities to the total number of casualties reached 4.1% in 1988 from 3.4% for the previous year.

Central Statistical Office
Rose Hill

May 1989

Table 1 - Registration of vehicles, 1988

Type of vehicle	Number				
	Vehicles on register as at 31.12.87	New vehicles registered during 1988	Second-hand ^{1/} registration during 1988	Vehicles put off ^{2/} the road during 1988	Vehicles on register as at 31.12.88
Car	28,337	1,841	656	551	30,283
Dual purpose vehicle	9,207	784	376	84	10,283
Motor cycle	9,436	395	307	226	9,912
Auto cycle	24,124	5,482	357	782	29,181
Lorry and truck	5,057	267	288	78	5,534
Van	4,115	559	196	82	4,788
Bus	1,529	262	5	25	1,771
Other vehicle	3,872	250	63	97	4,088
T O T A L	85,677	9,840	2,248	1,925	95,840

^{1/} refers to imported second-hand vehicles as well as to the registration of vehicles previously put off the road.

^{2/} a vehicle may be withdrawn from the register of vehicles (off the road) either temporarily or permanently.

Any such vehicle (except a government vehicle) must re-register with the National Transport Authority before it is put on the road again.

Table 2 - Age distribution of cars and dual purpose vehicles^{1/}, 1987 - 1988

Age group (years)	Number of cars and dual purpose vehicles			
	as at 31st December 1987 ^{2/}		as at 31st December 1988	
	Number	%	Number	%
Less than 5	6,517	17	9,541	23
5 less than 10	5,660	15	6,741	17
10 less than 15	7,876	21	6,539	16
15 and over	17,491	47	17,745	44
TOTAL	37,544	100	40,566	100

^{1/} dual purpose vehicle : essentially a car but so designed as to be capable of carrying a certain load of goods, e.g. all hatchback cars.

^{2/} revised.

Table 3 - Age composition of operational bus fleet (public transport) ^{1/} as at 31st December, 1987 - 1988

Age-group (years)	as at 31st December 1987		as at 31st December 1988	
	Number	%	Number	%
Less than 5	333	26	542	36
5 less than 10	551	43	466	31
10 less than 15	306	24	364	24
15 less than 20	95	7	128	9
Total	1,285	100	1,500	100

^{1/} refers only to buses with a Road Service Licence, i.e., buses which operate on proclaimed routes and charge individual fares

Table 4 - Road traffic accidents^{1/}, motor-vehicles involved and casualties,
1987 - 1988

	<u>Number</u>	
	1 9 8 7	1 9 8 8
<u>Road traffic accidents</u>		
Number of accidents	<u>7,059</u>	<u>8,259</u>
Rate per 100,000 population	703	812
Rate per 1,000 registered motor- vehicles	87	91
<u>Motor-vehicles involved</u>		
Number of vehicles involved	<u>11,869</u>	<u>14,153</u>
Number per 1,000 registered motor- vehicles	147	156
<u>Casualties</u>		
Total number of casualties	<u>3,294</u>	<u>3,004</u>
Fatal	112	122
Seriously injured	255	282
Slightly injured	2,927	2,600

^{1/} exclude number of accidents involving bicycles only

Table 5 - Casualties by class of road-users, 1987-1988

Class of road users	1987		1988	
	Casualties		Casualties	
	Number	%	Number	%
Pedestrian	1,070	32	1,037	35
Passenger	1,146	35	841	28
Driver	300	9	238	8
Rider	462	14	583	19
Pedal cyclist	316	10	305	10
All road users	3,294	100	3,004	100

1/
Table 6 - Number of vehicles involved in accidents by type of vehicle, 1987-1988

Type of vehicle	1987		1988	
	Vehicles involved		Vehicles involved	
	Number	%	Number	%
Private car	5,386	43.7	6,407	43.9
Taxi car	983	8.0	1,381	9.5
Bus	1,683	13.6	1,839	12.6
Lorry	1,130	9.2	1,141	7.8
Van	1,280	10.4	1,498	10.3
Motor/Auto cycle	1,292	10.5	1,767	12.1
Pedal cycle	445	3.6	429	3.0
Other motor vehicle	103	0.8	106	0.7
Other non-motor vehicle	34	0.3	20	0.1
All vehicles	12,336	100.0	14,588	100.0

1/ only three main vehicles have been considered in accidents involving more than three vehicles.