Motor Vehicles: Q3/2026

NR 207/2026 | Transport | Release Date: 13/11/2026



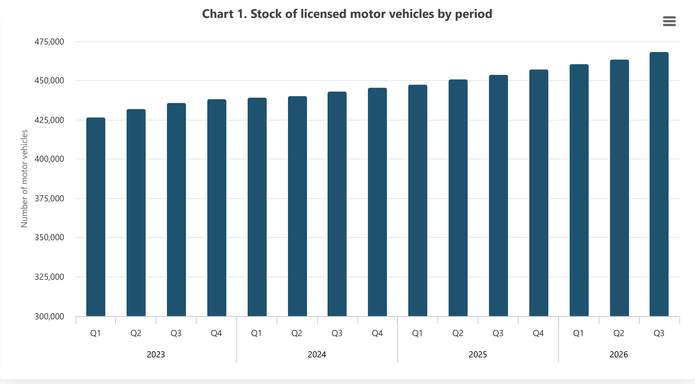
Salient Points

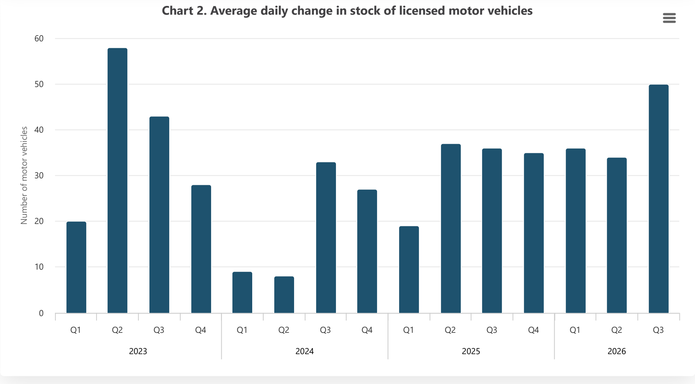
- During the third quarter of 2026, the stock of licensed motor vehicles increased by 4,633 over the previous quarter. The stock of licensed motor vehicles increased at a net average rate of 50 motor vehicles per day.
- The majority of newly licensed motor vehicles, 4,198 or 58.0 per cent of the total, were passenger cars, followed by motorcycles/E-bikes/PA-bikes with 2,162 or 29.9 per cent.
- Petrol-powered engines accounted for 57.9 per cent of the total, followed by diesel-powered engines (33.2 per cent), and electric-powered engines (4.1 per cent).
- Compared to the previous quarter, increases of 6.4 per cent, 5.9 per cent and 4.2 per cent were registered in electric, mild hybrid (petrol-electric) and plug-in hybrid (diesel-electric) motor vehicles, respectively.

Commentary

During the third quarter of 2026, the stock of licensed motor vehicles increased by 4,633 over the previous quarter.

At the end of September 2026, the stock of licensed motor vehicles stood at 468,367. Out of this total, 72.9 per cent were passenger cars, 14.2 per cent were commercial and agricultural motor vehicles and 12.3 per cent were motorcycles/E-bikes/PA-bikes, E-kick scooters, quadricycles and All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs). Buses and minibuses amounted to less than one per cent (Table 1). During the quarter under review, the stock of licensed motor vehicles increased at a net average rate of 50 motor vehicles per day (Chart 2).

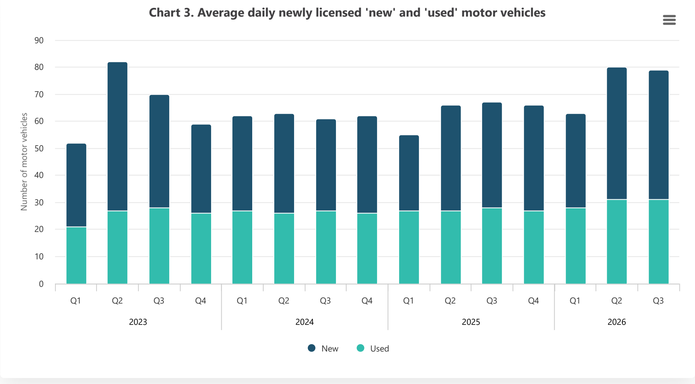




Note: The values indicated in the chart above are calculated using the formula in methodological note 7. This may differ slightly from the change obtained from the formula indicated in methodological note 6 due to the cut-off dates of the different databases.

Newly licensed motor vehicles

Newly licensed motor vehicles put on the road during the period under review amounted to 7,235. The majority of newly licensed motor vehicles, 4,198 or 58.0 per cent of the total, were passenger cars, followed by motorcycles/E-bikes/PA-bikes with 2,162 or 29.9 per cent. Newly licensed 'new' motor vehicles amounted to 4,395 or 60.7 per cent of the total, whereas newly licensed 'used' motor vehicles totalled 2,840 or 39.3 per cent (Tables 2-4). An average of 79 motor vehicles per day were newly licensed during the quarter under review (Chart 4).



Motor vehicles under restriction

During the third quarter of 2026, 5,550 motor vehicles were recorded as having a restriction starting. Of these, 40.4 per cent were garaged and 35.7 per cent were scrapped. Motor vehicles whose restriction ended during the quarter under review totalled 2,890. The majority were recorded as being garaged (58.6 per cent) or resold (40.8 per cent) (Tables 5-6).

Motor energy type

As at the end of September 2026, 271,231 motor vehicles or 57.9 per cent of the total had petrol-powered engines. Diesel-powered motor vehicles reached 155,393 or 33.2 per cent of the total. Electric and plug-in hybrid motor vehicles accounted for 5.4 per cent of the entire stock, with a total of 25,220 motor vehicles. When compared to the previous quarter, increases of 6.4 per cent, 5.9 per cent and 4.2 per cent were registered in electric, mild hybrid (petrol-electric) and plug-in hybrid (diesel-electric) motor vehicles, respectively (Table 7).

Table 1. Stock of licensed motor vehicles by vehicle group and period

Period	Agricultural	Coach and private bus	Minibus		Route bus	Motorcycle/E-Bicycle/ PA-Bicycle			E-kick scooter		Quad and ATV		Passenger car					Commercial vehicle			Total
			Garage hire	Other		Self-drive	Leased	Other	Leased	Other	Leased	Other	Garage hire	Self-drive	Leased	Taxi	Other	Goods-carrying vehicle	Special purpose vehicle	Road tractor	
2023																					
Q1	2,574	370	101	1,490	437	-	1,268	39,996	2,647	239	164	1,189	3,919	384	9,732	281	303,783	52,756	4,227	1,163	**426,720**
Q2	2,625	380	99	1,500	461	-	1,369	40,970	3,644	257	180	1,196	4,484	425	10,341	286	305,171	53,215	4,270	1,166	**432,039**
Q3	2,662	379	100	1,542	467	-	1,487	41,872	4,348	281	183	1,196	4,623	438	10,465	286	306,575	53,603	4,331	1,169	**436,007**
Q4	2,683	385	99	1,550	467	-	1,397	42,697	4,242	296	172	1,202	4,787	351	10,360	285	308,069	53,958	4,393	1,174	**438,567**
2024																					
Q1	2,742	390	96	1,545	467	-	1,382	43,149	2,618	293	168	1,202	4,780	324	10,752	283	309,399	54,180	4,466	1,162	**439,398**
Q2	2,788	397	92	1,545	498	-	1,414	43,980	-	356	173	1,196	4,917	338	11,264	286	310,822	54,414	4,525	1,158	**440,163**
Q3	2,841	398	85	1,565	499	-	1,421	44,804	-	387	172	1,229	5,074	329	11,489	285	312,109	54,766	4,581	1,159	**443,193**
Q4	2,892	406	78	1,611	525	-	1,367	45,613	-	414	160	1,248	5,065	206	11,266	282	313,665	55,120	4,638	1,155	**445,711**
2025																					
Q1	2,948	402	77	1,618	515	-	1,353	46,344	-	395	159	1,246	5,028	148	11,188	281	314,546	55,357	4,682	1,168	**447,455**
Q2	3,023	407	74	1,638	564	-	1,395	47,611	-	395	156	1,252	5,072	74	11,586	282	315,763	55,622	4,710	1,170	**450,794**
Q3	3,098	419	71	1,652	546	-	1,453	48,907	-	403	155	1,244	5,206	37	11,518	282	317,330	55,892	4,741	1,184	**454,138**
Q4	3,132	417	72	1,674	521	-	1,319	49,891	566	620	140	1,237	5,337	30	11,332	273	318,721	56,160	4,782	1,179	**457,403**
2026																					
Q1	3,161	426	71	1,684	521	-	1,183	50,912	566	648	156	1,251	5,400	1	11,463	275	320,309	56,568	4,858	1,195	**460,648**
Q2	3,234	427	68	1,702	562	-	1,131	52,518	-	514	180	1,262	5,832	-	11,723	276	321,325	56,855	4,931	1,194	**463,734**
Q3	3,285	445	66	1,715	548	-	1,092	54,312	-	601	185	1,263	6,071	-	11,773	277	323,358	57,172	5,008	1,196	**468,367**

Table 2. Newly licensed motor vehicles by category and period

Period	Agricultural	Coach and private bus	Minibus	Route bus	Motorcycle/E-Bicycle/ PA-Bicycle	E-kick scooter	Quad and ATV	Passenger car	Goods-carrying vehicle	Special purpose vehicle	Road tractor	Total
2023	**164**	**12**	**95**	**31**	**4,279**	**2,086**	**99**	**14,433**	**2,486**	**316**	**48**	**24,049**
Q1	54	2	12	-	804	153	43	3,039	520	67	10	**4,704**
Q2	49	5	13	25	1,335	1,089	20	4,161	686	83	10	**7,476**
Q3	35	4	49	6	1,173	819	18	3,575	604	86	17	**6,386**
Q4	26	1	21	-	967	25	18	3,658	676	80	11	**5,483**
2024	**232**	**22**	**95**	**59**	**4,006**	**205**	**107**	**15,071**	**2,448**	**341**	**48**	**22,634**
Q1	65	6	6	-	734	35	11	4,076	602	86	16	**5,637**
Q2	49	8	5	30	1,076	72	11	3,836	538	92	9	**5,726**
Q3	57	3	29	3	1,114	52	57	3,579	636	79	12	**5,621**
Q4	61	5	55	26	1,082	46	28	3,580	672	84	11	**5,650**
2025	**273**	**25**	**111**	**107**	**5,724**	**134**	**17**	**14,104**	**2,346**	**311**	**70**	**23,222**
Q1	57	1	19	-	1,000	19	4	3,112	604	88	20	**4,924**
Q2	86	6	32	100	1,559	29	3	3,555	582	67	12	**6,031**
Q3	80	8	27	7	1,664	44	5	3,683	539	64	22	**6,143**
Q4	50	10	33	-	1,501	42	5	3,754	621	92	16	**6,124**
2026												
Q1	26	7	15	-	1,197	30	27	3,699	566	90	23	**5,680**
Q2	82	2	20	41	2,070	53	36	4,206	604	107	16	**7,237**
Q3	61	6	19	-	2,162	88	15	4,198	573	93	20	**7,235**

Note: Figures include 'new' and 'used' licensed motor vehicles.

Table 3. Newly licensed 'new' motor vehicles by category and period

Period	Agricultural	Coach and private bus	Minibus	Route bus	Motorcycle/E-Bicycle/ PA-Bicycle	E-kick scooter	Quad and ATV	Passenger car	Goods-carrying vehicle	Special purpose vehicle	Road tractor	Total
2023	**61**	**2**	**81**	**31**	**3,959**	**2,086**	**95**	**7,465**	**875**	**51**	**3**	**14,709**
Q1	23	-	11	-	725	153	42	1,601	208	13	2	**2,778**
Q2	10	2	9	25	1,243	1,089	19	2,386	217	9	-	**5,009**
Q3	14	-	43	6	1,105	819	17	1,597	225	16	-	**3,842**
Q4	14	-	18	-	886	25	17	1,881	225	13	1	**3,080**
2024	**160**	**6**	**68**	**33**	**3,714**	**205**	**105**	**7,683**	**933**	**84**	**3**	**12,994**
Q1	48	1	2	-	668	35	11	2,149	238	22	1	**3,175**
Q2	35	4	1	30	999	72	11	2,006	209	15	1	**3,383**
Q3	38	-	16	3	1,047	52	56	1,700	229	23	1	**3,165**
Q4	39	1	49	-	1,000	46	27	1,828	257	24	-	**3,271**
2025	**166**	**8**	**66**	**102**	**5,405**	**134**	**12**	**6,537**	**785**	**72**	**1**	**13,288**
Q1	42	-	9	-	915	19	4	1,283	230	24	-	**2,526**
Q2	57	-	26	100	1,481	29	3	1,684	187	13	-	**3,580**
Q3	49	4	16	2	1,585	44	3	1,708	157	13	1	**3,582**
Q4	18	4	15	-	1,424	42	2	1,862	211	22	-	**3,600**
2026												
Q1	16	4	8	-	1,129	30	27	1,744	184	29	3	**3,174**
Q2	55	-	12	41	1,890	53	33	2,166	138	26	1	**4,415**
Q3	47	-	10	-	2,071	87	14	1,967	173	25	1	**4,395**

Table 4. Newly licensed 'used' motor vehicles by category and period

Period	Agricultural	Coach and private bus	Minibus	Route bus	Motorcycle/E-Bicycle/ PA-Bicycle	E-kick scooter	Quad and ATV	Passenger car	Goods-carrying vehicle	Special purpose vehicle	Road tractor	Total
2023	**103**	**10**	**14**	**-**	**320**	**-**	**4**	**6,968**	**1,611**	**265**	**45**	**9,340**
Q1	31	2	1	-	79	-	1	1,438	312	54	8	**1,926**
Q2	39	3	4	-	92	-	1	1,775	469	74	10	**2,467**
Q3	21	4	6	-	68	-	1	1,978	379	70	17	**2,544**
Q4	12	1	3	-	81	-	1	1,777	451	67	10	**2,403**
2024	**72**	**16**	**27**	**26**	**292**	**-**	**2**	**7,388**	**1,515**	**257**	**45**	**9,640**
Q1	17	5	4	-	66	-	-	1,927	364	64	15	**2,462**
Q2	14	4	4	-	77	-	-	1,830	329	77	8	**2,343**
Q3	19	3	13	-	67	-	1	1,879	407	56	11	**2,456**
Q4	22	4	6	26	82	-	1	1,752	415	60	11	**2,379**
2025	**107**	**17**	**45**	**5**	**319**	**-**	**5**	**7,567**	**1,561**	**239**	**69**	**9,934**
Q1	15	1	10	-	85	-	-	1,829	374	64	20	**2,398**
Q2	29	6	6	-	78	-	-	1,871	395	54	12	**2,451**
Q3	31	4	11	5	79	-	2	1,975	382	51	21	**2,561**
Q4	32	6	18	-	77	-	3	1,892	410	70	16	**2,524**
2026												
Q1	10	3	7	-	68	-	-	1,955	382	61	20	**2,506**
Q2	27	2	8	-	180	-	3	2,040	466	81	15	**2,822**
Q3	14	6	9	-	91	1	1	2,231	400	68	19	**2,840**

Table 5. Motor vehicles with restriction starting during Q3/2026 by category and restriction type

Restriction	Agricultural	Coach and private bus	Minibus	Route Bus	Motorcycle	E-kick scooter	Quad and ATV	Passenger car	Goods-carrying vehicle	Special purpose vehicle	Road tractor	Total
Resale	1	-	-	-	58	-	4	1,070	114	2	1	**1,250**
Exported	-	-	-	1	6	-	-	32	5	1	6	**51**
Garaged	27	4	11	-	493	1	17	1,291	312	69	19	**2,244**
Scrapped	-	2	4	-	165	1	3	1,653	147	9	-	**1,984**
Other[1]	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	14	2	-	-	**21**
Total	**28**	**6**	**15**	**1**	**727**	**2**	**24**	**4,060**	**580**	**81**	**26**	**5,550**

[1] Other minor restrictions such as seized by police, no engine, pending documents, etc.
Note: There may be motor vehicles with restriction starting and ending during the same quarter.

Table 6. Motor vehicles with restriction ending during Q3/2026 by category and restriction type

Restriction	Agricultural	Coach and private bus	Minibus	Motorcycle	Quad and ATV	Passenger car	Goods-carrying vehicle	Special purpose vehicle	Road tractor	Total
Resale	-	-	-	47	2	1,026	100	3	-	**1,178**
Exported[1]	-	-	-	1	-	6	-	-	-	**7**
Garaged	10	7	5	259	10	1,166	203	24	9	**1,693**
Other[2]	-	-	-	5	-	5	2	-	-	**12**
Total	**10**	**7**	**5**	**312**	**12**	**2,203**	**305**	**27**	**9**	**2,890**

[1] Motor vehicles that have been exported and reimported.

[2] Other minor restrictions such as seized by police, no engine, etc.

Note: There may be motor vehicles with restriction starting and ending during the same quarter.

Table 7. Stock of licensed motor vehicles by motor energy type and vehicle category as at end Q3/2026

Vehicle category	Petrol	Diesel	Electric	Mild Hybrid (Petrol-Electric)	Mild Hybrid (Diesel-Electric)	LPG	Combined (Petrol-LPG)	Combined (Diesel-LPG)	Plug-in Hybrid (Petrol-Electric)	Plug-in Hybrid (Diesel-Electric)	Total
Agricultural	329	2,955	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**3,285**
Coach and private bus	2	408	5	-	-	-	-	30	-	-	**445**
Minibus	18	1,692	8	-	-	-	-	63	-	-	**1,781**
Route bus	-	466	82	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**548**
Motorcycle/PA-Bicycle	50,307	17	5,079	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	**55,404**
E-kick scooter	-	-	601	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**601**
Quad and ATV	1,109	-	339	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**1,448**
Passenger car	216,842	90,276	12,342	13,696	513	4	1,878	8	5,798	122	**341,479**
Goods-carrying vehicle	2,557	53,778	671	6	36	2	86	24	11	1	**57,172**
Special purpose vehicle	67	4,607	160	-	-	148	20	6	-	-	**5,008**
Road tractor	-	1,194	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	**1,196**
Total	**271,231**	**155,393**	**19,288**	**13,702**	**549**	**154**	**1,985**	**133**	**5,809**	**123**	**468,367**
% change over Q2/2026	**0.9**	**0.1**	**6.4**	**5.9**	**2.8**	**0.7**	**-0.5**	**0.8**	**3.7**	**4.2**	**1.0**

Methodological Notes

1. This news release is based on data provided by Transport Malta.

2. Data in this news release is subject to revision.

3. Data is being presented in consistency with international counterparts (Eurostat/ITF/UNECE) according to the 6th edition of the illustrated Glossary for Transport Statistics.

4. Definitions:

a. Motor vehicle categories and classifications

- **Agricultural**: motor vehicle, normally a tractor, designed exclusively or primarily for agricultural purposes; licensed to use roads open to public traffic.

- **Coach and private bus**: passenger road motor vehicle designed to carry more than 24 persons (including driver), and with a provision to carry seated and standing passengers.

- **Minibus/mini-coach**: passenger road motor vehicle designed to carry 10-23 seated or standing persons (including the driver).

- **Route bus**: bus licensed to operate on established bus routes.

- **Motorcycle**: two-, three- or four-wheeled road motor vehicle not exceeding 400kg of unladen weight. All such vehicles with a cylinder capacity of 50cc or over are included, as are those under 50cc which do not meet the definition of moped.

- **E-Bicycle/PA-Bicycle**: bicycle with supportive electrical power unit. Due to the negligible number of powered bicycles, such data is included with motorcycles.

- **E-kick scooter**: a stand-up device that has a handlebar, a deck and small hard wheels powered by an electric motor and which also allows for human propulsion.

- **Moped**: two-, three- or four-wheeled road motor vehicle which is fitted with an engine having a cylinder capacity of less than 50cc and a maximum authorised design speed in accordance with national regulations. In this news release, mopeds are included together with motorcycles.

- **Quad (Quadricycle)/ATV (All-Terrain Vehicle)**: four-wheeled road motor vehicle not exceeding 400kg of unladen weight. All such vehicles with a cylinder capacity of 50cc or over are included, as are those under 50cc which do not meet the definition of moped.

- **Passenger road vehicle**: a road motor vehicle designed, exclusively or primarily, to carry one or more persons. This category includes motorcycles, mopeds, passenger cars, vans designed and used primarily for the transportation of passengers, taxis, hire cars, ambulances, buses, coaches, minibuses and motor homes.

- **Passenger car**: road motor vehicle, other than a moped, motorcycle or Quad/ATV, intended for the carriage of passengers and designed to seat no more than nine persons (including the driver). This category includes passenger cars, vans designed and used primarily for the transportation of passengers, taxis, hire cars, ambulances, motor homes (not caravans), hearses and microcars.

- **Goods-carrying vehicle**: road motor vehicle designed, exclusively or primarily, to carry goods. This category includes: (i) light goods road motor vehicles with a gross vehicle weight of not more than 3,500kg designed exclusively or primarily to carry goods, such as vans and pick-ups; (ii) heavy goods road motor vehicles with a gross vehicle weight above 3,500kg designed to carry goods.

- **Road tractor**: road motor vehicle designed, exclusively or primarily, to haul other road motor vehicles which are not power driven (mainly semi-trailers).

- **Special purpose vehicle**: road motor vehicle for purposes other than the carriage of passengers or goods. This category includes: fire brigade vehicles; mobile cranes; self-propelled rollers; bulldozers with metallic wheels or track; vehicles for recording film, radio and TV broadcasting; mobile library vehicles; mobile kiosks; towing vehicles for vehicles in need of repair and other special purpose road motor vehicles.

- **Garage hire**: chauffeur-driven car for hire with driver without pre-determined routes. The method of hire is normally: (i) Flagging down the street; (ii) Picking up at a designated taxi rank; (iii) Telephoning for collection; (iv) Booking through mobile apps or internet.

- **Self-drive car/motorcycle**: passenger road motor vehicle available for hire (without chauffeur). A 'K' plate is assigned to all motor vehicles falling in this category.

- **Taxi**: licensed passenger car for hire with driver without pre-determined routes. The method of hire is normally: (i) Flagging down the street; (ii) Picking up at a designated taxi rank; (iii) Telephoning for collection. In Malta, this category refers only to a specific taxi licence and is commonly recognised as white taxis.

- **Leased**: a contract under which the owner of a motor vehicle grants to another person the exclusive possession of the motor vehicle for an agreed period, in return for a consideration, and under such conditions that the possessor of the motor vehicle will be obliged to pay the full amount of the consideration, or a penalty, to the owner of the motor vehicle, should the contract be terminated before the expiration of the agreed period. A 'QZ' plate is assigned to all motor vehicles falling in this category. In recent years, this category is taking over the 'self-drive vehicles' category.

- **Other**: this category includes any other use/ownership (mostly private), not mentioned above.

b. Alternative vehicle motorisation types

- **Electric/battery-operated**: electrically-operated motor vehicle, totally independent of a fuel-driven engine.

- **Mild hybrid petrol-electric vehicle (not plug-in)**: road motor vehicle using petrol for propulsion, with an additional one or more electric motors for propulsion, where the electric motor(s) are powered from a traction battery which is charged by a generator driven by the petrol engine. Plug-in hybrid petrol-electric vehicles are not included.

- **Mild hybrid diesel-electric vehicle (not plug-in)**: road motor vehicle using diesel for propulsion, with an additional one or more electric motors for propulsion, where the electric motor(s) are powered from a traction battery which is charged by a generator driven by the diesel engine. Plug-in hybrid diesel-electric vehicles are not included.

- **Plug-in hybrid petrol-electric vehicle**: hybrid petrol-electric vehicle where the traction battery can also be charged from an external electricity source (such as an electric socket). Mild hybrid petrol-electric vehicles are not included.

- **Plug-in hybrid diesel-electric vehicle**: hybrid diesel-electric vehicle where the traction battery can also be charged from an external electricity source (such as an electric socket). Mild hybrid diesel-electric vehicles are not included.

- **Combined**: a combined engine motor vehicle is one that uses two or more distinct non-electric power sources. Combination types include: Petrol/LPG, Diesel/LPG.

c. Motor vehicle restrictions

- **Restrictions**: conditions imposed on a motor vehicle's licence. Restrictions can be either temporary such as garaged, seized, resale, etc., or permanent (i.e. motor vehicle is indefinitely removed from circulation on national territory), such as exported, scrapped or destroyed.

- **Resale**: a motor vehicle which has been de-licensed and put up for resale. The motor vehicle cannot be used on the road until licensed again when sold.

- **Exported**: a motor vehicle licensed in Malta which has been exported.

- **Garaged**: a motor vehicle no longer licensed for use on the road. This category excludes motor vehicles which have been scrapped or exported. A motor vehicle may be garaged for a particular period, then re-licensed after this period.

- **Scrapped**: a motor vehicle which has been scrapped/destroyed and therefore, indefinitely removed from circulation.

- **Other**: a motor vehicle which has been de-licensed for other reasons not listed above such as stolen, seized, engine removed, arrears issues, pending documents, and other minor restrictions.

5. Newly licensed motor vehicles' data (new and used) shows the number of motor vehicles licensed for the first time to be used on Maltese roads. These values approximately indicate also the local sales of motor vehicles during the applicable period. Transfers of motor vehicles between owners are not included.

6. Stock level corresponding to reference quarter =
Stock recorded in previous quarter
+ newly licensed motor vehicles in quarter under review
– number of motor vehicles with restriction starting during quarter under review
+ number of motor vehicles with restriction ending during the quarter under review
The final number might differ slightly from the actual stock due to the cut-off dates of the different databases.

7. Net average daily increase of stock of licensed vehicles =
stock recorded in quarter under review – stock recorded in previous quarter
number of days in quarter under review

8. Average daily increase of newly licensed motor vehicles =
newly licensed motor vehicles (new and used)
number of days in quarter under review

9. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:
Sources and Methods
Statistical Concepts

10. A detailed news release calendar is available online.

11. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately. For guidance on access and re-use of data please visit our dedicated webpage.

12. For further assistance send your request through our online request form.