

(1) PASSENGER VEHICLES.

This class embraces all vehicles used for the carriage of passengers for hire or reward, and includes omnibuses, service cars, passenger-trucks, school vehicles, taxis, and rental vehicles (excluding taxis in the four main centres, which are inspected by the Metropolitan Licensing Authorities). These vehicles are examined by officers of the Department specially appointed for the purpose. A certificate of fitness, showing the number of passengers which the vehicle is authorized to carry must be displayed within the vehicles.

Tabulated below is a statistical survey of these passenger vehicles which are inspected by the Department as at 31st March, 1940.

District.	Omnibuses.	Service Cars.	Service Coaches.	School Buses.	School Vehicles.	Ambulances.	Motor-cabs.	Rental Vehicles.	Passenger-trucks.	Trolley Buses.	Total.
Auckland	262	183	54	177	43	25	314	228	196	..	1,482
Wellington	273	184	13	116	43	38	312	130	103	..	1,212
Christchurch	101	163	22	65	64	16	100	133	97	..	772
Dunedin	100	94	13	75	19	13	109	103	28	..	554
Total for New Zealand	736	624	102	433	169	92	835	594	424	11	4,020

(2) GOODS-VEHICLES.

All goods-service vehicles licensed under the Transport Licensing Act are examined by the Department's Vehicle Inspectors twice annually to ensure that they are maintained in a safe condition and are not being operated in an overloaded condition. During the year an amendment to the Act brought town carriers and ancillary users within the scope of the Department's activities. The distribution of these vehicles is as follows:—

District.	Number.
No. 1 : Auckland	3,150
No. 2 : Wellington	2,951
No. 3 : Christchurch	1,719
No. 4 : Dunedin	914
Total	8,734

(3) OTHER VEHICLES.

The system of compulsory six-monthly inspection of all motor-vehicles other than those under (1) and (2) has been satisfactorily executed by 1,612 approved motor garages.

The inspection of a motor-vehicle for a Warrant of Fitness involves a check of brakes, lights, steering, wheel-alignment, windscreen-wiper, rear-vision mirror, warning-device, and door fastenings. The following table gives percentage of defects as revealed by the Inspectors:—

Period.	Brakes.		Lights.		Steering.	Windscreen-Wiper.	Rear-vision Mirror.	Warning-Device.	Door-Fastenings.
	Foot.	Hand.	Head.	Tail.					
1937.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
First	30	28	70	17	16	17	6	4	3
Second	21	19	33	10	10	7	2	3	2
1938.									
First	21	23	23	9	8	6	1.5	3	1.5
Second	24	23	19	9	9	5	1.5	3	1.5
1939.									
First	21.5	17	18	9	7.5	5	1.5	3	1.5
Second	20	15	16.5	9	6.5	4	1.5	2.5	1.5

A perusal of these figures indicates the necessity for the test being conducted periodically.