

The increase in the number of licensed motor-vehicles (all groups) compared with those at the 31st March, 1939, was 9,595, or 3.12 per cent.

The number of motor-vehicles licensed as at 31st March, 1940, classified according to postal districts, are set out in Table No. 1.

Table No. 2 of the Appendix sets out the number of motor-vehicles licensed each year since 1932.

The number of "dormant" registrations—*i.e.*, vehicles which although registered had not been licensed for the current year—as at 31st March, 1940, were as under :

Type of Vehicle.	1937-38 Register.	1938-39 Register.	Total.
Cars	5,296	9,981	15,277
Light trucks (2 tons and under laden)	2,792	3,688	6,480
Heavy trucks (over 2 tons laden)	1,357	1,686	3,043
Service cars	29	41	70
Taxis	17	36	53
Rental and private-hire cars	13	40	53
Contract vehicles and passenger-trucks	55	34	89
Omnibuses	21	38	59
Local-body and exempt vehicles	264	467	731
Trailers	824	2,038	2,862
Government vehicles	62	..	62
Motor-cycles	1,034	1,774	8,808
Other motor-vehicles	163	163
Totals	14,764	22,986	37,750

Section 10 of the Motor-vehicles Amendment Act, 1927, provides that after a registration has remained "dormant" for two complete years it is to be cancelled. The following sets out the 1936-37 registrations cancelled on 1st June, 1939, in accordance with this section :

Type of Vehicle.	Number.
Cars	5,624
Light trucks	4,406
Heavy trucks	1,608
Service cars	44
Taxis	19
Passenger-trucks	51
Rental and private-hire cars	20
Motor-buses	19
Traction-engines	67
Trailers	703
Tractors	199
Motor-cycles	4,111
Other vehicles	57
Total	16,628

D. MOTOR-VEHICLE REGISTRATION-PLATES.

The following classes of number-plates were assigned during the licensing year 1939-40 :

- (1) For private cars, plates *without initial letter* from 2001 onwards, the highest number manufactured being 228,000.
- (2) For "private-hire" cars plates without initial letters 1-499 inclusive.
- (3) Rental cars without initial letter 500-1600 inclusive.
- (4) Special plates for issuance to cycles.
- (5) Plates with initial letter "D" (both car and cycle) for dealers' vehicles.
- (6) Plates with initial letter "E" for vehicles exempted from payment of annual license fees.
- (7) Plates with the prefix "Govt." for vehicles owned by Government Departments.
- (8) Plates with initial letter "H" for heavy trucks.
- (9) Plates with initial letter "L" for light trucks.
- (10) Plates with initial letter "P" for omnibuses.
- (11) Plates with initial letter "R" for trailers.
- (12) Plates with initial letter "S" for service cars.
- (13) Plates with initial letter "T" for taxis.
- (14) Plates with initial letter "V" for passenger-trucks and "contract" motor-vehicles.