

The number of registrations cancelled between the coming into operation of the Motor-vehicles Act, 1924, and the 31st March, 1931, is as follows :—

	North Island.	South Island.	Total.
Cars	8,299	4,878	13,177
Commercial vehicles	3,685	1,619	5,304
Cycles	7,021	5,341	12,362
Totals	19,005	11,838	30,843

Action was taken during the year to place with the Precision Engineering Co., of Wellington, an order for the manufacture of the number-plates required for the relicensing year ending on the 31st May, 1932.

VEHICLES ACTUALLY ON THE ROAD.

The number of "live" registrations on the register kept in accordance with the provisions of the Motor-vehicles Act, 1924, may be taken as a reasonable indication of the number of vehicles actually on the road. The numbers of these "live" registrations have been estimated for each month, and the monthly averages for the twelve months ended 31st March, 1930 and 1931, are given hereunder:—

Vehicle.	Monthly Averages.	
	1930.	1931.
Motor-cars	125,013	134,407
Trucks	23,512	25,294
Omnibuses	1,029	1,040
Traction-engines	173	117
Trailers	755	923
Tractors	293	302
Motor-cycles	26,266	25,167
Other motor-vehicles	445	458
Totals	177,486	187,708

N.B.—Service-cars designed to carry not more than nine persons are included with motor-cars, while those designed to carry more than nine persons are included with omnibuses.

MOTOR-SPIRITS TAXATION ACT, 1927.

The motor-spirits tax was increased from 4d. to 6d. per gallon as from the 22nd July, 1930.

The following data show the yield from and distribution of the petrol-tax for the year ended 31st March, 1931. The figures for previous years are given for comparative purposes :—

(a) YIELD.

Gross yield	£	1,417,294
Deductions—	£	
Refunds and cost of making same	102,844	
Commission to Customs Department for collection	14,400	
		117,244
		£1,300,050
Net yield (<i>i.e.</i> , gross yield less refunds and commission on collection)—		
Year ended 31st March—	£	
1928	143,516*	
1929	802,232	
1930	961,907	
1931	1,300,050†	
Total since inception of tax	£3,207,705	

There has been an increase in the applications for refunds since the tax was increased to 6d. There are two main reasons for this—firstly, the financial stringency due to the prevailing depression, and, secondly, the increase in the tax, which has now made it worth while for people to claim refunds that they did not worry about when the tax was 4d.

* Part year only.

† Increase from 4d. to 6d. per gallon as from the 22nd July, 1930.