

D. MOTOR-VEHICLE REGISTRATION PLATES.

The following classes of number-plates were assigned during the licensing year 1937-38 :—

- (1) For private cars, plates *without initial letter* from 1001 onwards, the highest number manufactured being 202,000.
- (2) For " private-hire " and " rental " cars, plates without letter 1-1999, inclusive.
- (3) Special plates for issuance to cycles.
- (4) Plates with initial letter " D " (both car and cycle) for dealers' vehicles.
- (5) Plates with initial letter " E " for vehicles exempted from payment of annual license fees.
- (6) Plates with the prefix " Govt." for vehicles owned by Government Departments.
- (7) Plates with initial letter " H " for heavy trucks.
- (8) Plates with initial letter " L " for light trucks.
- (9) Plates with initial letter " P " for omnibuses.
- (10) Plates with initial letter " R " for trailers.
- (11) Plates with initial letter " S " for service cars.
- (12) Plates with initial letter " T " for taxis.
- (13) Plates with initial letter " V " for passenger-trucks and " contract " motor-vehicles.

E. VEHICLES ACTUALLY ON THE ROAD.

The number of vehicles licensed on the register kept in accord 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 number of vehicles licensed have been estimated from month to month, and the averages for the years ending on the 31st March, 1934, to the 31st March, 1938, are given hereunder :—

Class of Vehicle.	Averages.				
	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
	Number.	Number.	Number.	Number.	Number.
Cars	117,867	124,204	135,220	152,819	172,899
Trucks, light, up to 2 tons laden ..	17,643	19,840	21,281	23,499	24,214
Trucks, heavy, over 2 tons laden ..	13,708	14,394	15,539	17,310	18,965
Omnibuses	518	511	531	575	622
Taxis	1,493	1,518	1,627	1,659	1,682
Rental cars	131	215	333	474	601
Service cars	965	735	670	656	648
Dealers' cars	853	1,003	1,221	1,475	1,687
Local-body road vehicles	1,147	1,198	1,430	1,762	2,276
Government vehicles	1,378	1,444	1,546	1,806	2,374
Dealers' motor-cycles	127	123	128	133	135
Motor-cycles	21,113	21,063	20,602	20,631	19,947
Trailers	2,400	2,107	2,894	3,796	5,119
Passenger-trucks	*	628	795	977	1,190
Totals	179,343	188,983	203,817	227,572	252,359

* Included under other headings for 1933-34.

There has been an increase in the number of all classes of motor-vehicles on the road excepting motor-cycles and service cars, which show a slight decline.

The following table shows the relative increase or decrease in the various classes of vehicles on the road from year to year for the period under review :—

Class of Vehicle.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Cars	100	105	115	130	147
Trucks—					
Light	100	112	121	133	137
Heavy	100	105	113	126	138
Omnibuses	100	99	102	111	120
Taxis	100	102	109	111	113
Rental cars	100	164	254	362	459
Service cars	100	76	69	68	67
Dealers' cars	100	117	143	173	198
Local-body road vehicles	100	104	125	154	198
Government vehicles	100	105	112	131	172
Dealers' motor-cycles	100	97	101	105	106
Motor-cycles	100	100	98	98	94
Trailers	100	88	120	158	213
Passenger-trucks	*	100	127	156	189
Totals	100	105	114	127	141

* Included under other headings for 1933-34.