

Year ended 31st March,	Great Britain.	United States of America or Canada.	Other Countries.	Total Registration.
<i>Motor-cycles.</i>				
1927 .. ..	70	30	..	100
1928 .. ..	76	24	..	100
1929 .. ..	80	20	..	100
1930 .. ..	81	19	..	100
1931 .. ..	82	18	..	100
1932 .. ..	76	24	..	100
1933 .. ..	73	26	1	100
1934 .. ..	73	26	1	100
1935 .. ..	75	24	1	100
1936 .. ..	78	20	2	100
1937 .. ..	86	14	..	100
1938 .. ..	90	10	..	100
1939 .. ..	90	10	..	100
Totals ..	79	20	1	100

The above table shows a steady growth of the share of new cars obtained by Great Britain up till the depression year of 1933, when 60 per cent. came from that source. Then came a drop following upon the improving economic conditions, with a sudden increase for 1936-37 to 57 per cent., while for 1938-39 a similar percentage is maintained.

Up to 1933-34 a somewhat similar trend is noticeable in the case of commercial vehicles, when 39 per cent. of the total came from Great Britain. Over the past four years this proportion has been slowly declining in favour of American and Canadian vehicles, and the imports from these two countries outnumber imports from Great Britain by over two to one. It should be noted that imports from "Other Countries" have been omitted from the percentage table; this is because practically all the figures under that heading refer to trailers, 3,409 of the 3,482 vehicles under that heading for 1938-39 being trailers.

In the motor-cycle field the British entry shows an increasing predominance since the depression years, and the slight swing-over to American machines has not been maintained. Foreign motor-cycles do not appear to be able to establish any hold on the New Zealand motor-cycle market.

#### C. MOTOR-VEHICLES LICENSED AS AT 31ST MARCH, 1939.

The appended figures show the number of motor-vehicles licensed for the year 1938-39 as at 31st March, 1939 (the licensing year expires on 31st May each year):—

Type of Vehicle.	North Island.	South Island.	New Zealand Total.
Cars .. ..	141,285	71,281	212,566
Light trucks (2 tons and under laden) .. ..	18,442	9,352	27,794
Heavy trucks (over 2 tons laden) .. ..	14,659	6,734	21,393
Passenger trucks .. ..	1,064	588	1,652
Omnibuses .. ..	492	199	691
Taxis .. ..	1,186	509	1,695
Service cars .. ..	393	266	659
Rental and private-hire cars .. ..	486	296	782
Dealers' cars .. ..	1,367	586	1,953
Local-authority road vehicles .. ..	2,212	2,438	4,650
Government vehicles .. ..	2,431	1,061	3,492
Trailers .. ..	5,319	4,026	9,345
Dealers' motor-cycles .. ..	96	54	150
Motor-cycles .. ..	13,335	7,774	21,109
Totals .. ..	202,767	105,164	307,931

The increase in the number of licensed motor-vehicles (all groups) compared with those at the 31st March, 1938, was 27,604, or 9·84 per cent.

In this connection it is interesting to compare the ratio of population per vehicle for New Zealand with the latest authentic figures available for overseas countries:—

	Per Cent.
U.S.A., December, 1937 .. ..	4·16
New Zealand, March, 1939 .. ..	5·23
Australia, June, 1937 .. ..	8·60
Great Britain, September, 1937 .. ..	16·20

Compared with last year the motor-cycles licensed decreased by 1,771, or 7·74 per cent., whilst motor-cars increased by 22,012, or 11·55 per cent.; the increase in trucks licensed was 2,167, or 4·61 per cent., whilst "Other Vehicles" licensed advanced by 5,070, or 28·33 per cent.