



BITRE STATISTICAL ALERT

Survey of Motor Vehicle Use, 12 months ended 30 June 2018
(ABS cat. no. 9208.0)

22 March 2019

Overview

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) released the results of the latest Survey of Motor Vehicle Use (SMVU), for the 12 months ending 30 June 2018, on 20 March 2019.

The SMVU is the only national survey of road use in Australia and informs critical parts of the portfolio’s policy and analytical work. In particular, the SMVU directly informs periodic determinations of heavy vehicle road use charges, road safety measures and transport sector emissions performance. Of particular interest to the Department are estimates of total vehicle use, total road freight activity, total transport fuel use and average vehicle fuel efficiency trends.

For the 12 months to end June 2018, there were approximately 19.0 million registered motor vehicles in Australia—comprising approximately 14.3 million passenger cars, 3.2 million light commercial vehicles (LCVs), 496 thousand rigid trucks and 100 thousand articulated trucks. These vehicles travelled approximately 255.0 billion vehicle kilometres—an average of 13,400 kilometres for each registered vehicle—and consumed approximately 34.1 billion litres of fuel. Road freight vehicles moved an estimated 214.8 billion tonne kilometres of freight.

Summary – Motor vehicle use, 12 months ended 30 June 2018

Vehicle type	No. vehicles	Vehicle use		Fuel consumption		Freight activity	
		Total kilometres travelled	Average kilometres travelled	Total fuel use	Average fuel use	Freight task	Average load per trip
	('000 vehicles)	(million kms)	('000 kms)	(million litres)	(L/100 km)	(million tonne kms)	(kilograms)
Passenger vehicles	14 258.6	179 761	12.6	19 486	10.8
Motor cycles	857.5	2 193	2.6	128	5.8
Light commercial vehicles	3 193.7	52 307	16.4	6 537	12.5	9 544	417
Rigid trucks	495.0	10 274	20.8	2 939	28.6	39 909	6 114
Articulated trucks	99.7	7 917	79.4	4 369	55.2	165 366	27 342
Non-freight carrying trucks	23.9	313	13.1	66	21.3
Buses	84.3	2 266	26.9	645	28.4
Total	19 012.8	255 031	13.4	34 170	13.4	214 789	3 858

Source: ABS, Survey of Motor Vehicle Use, Australia, 12 months ended 30 June 2018 (ABS Cat. no. 9208.0).

Further information and estimates are available at: www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/9208.0.

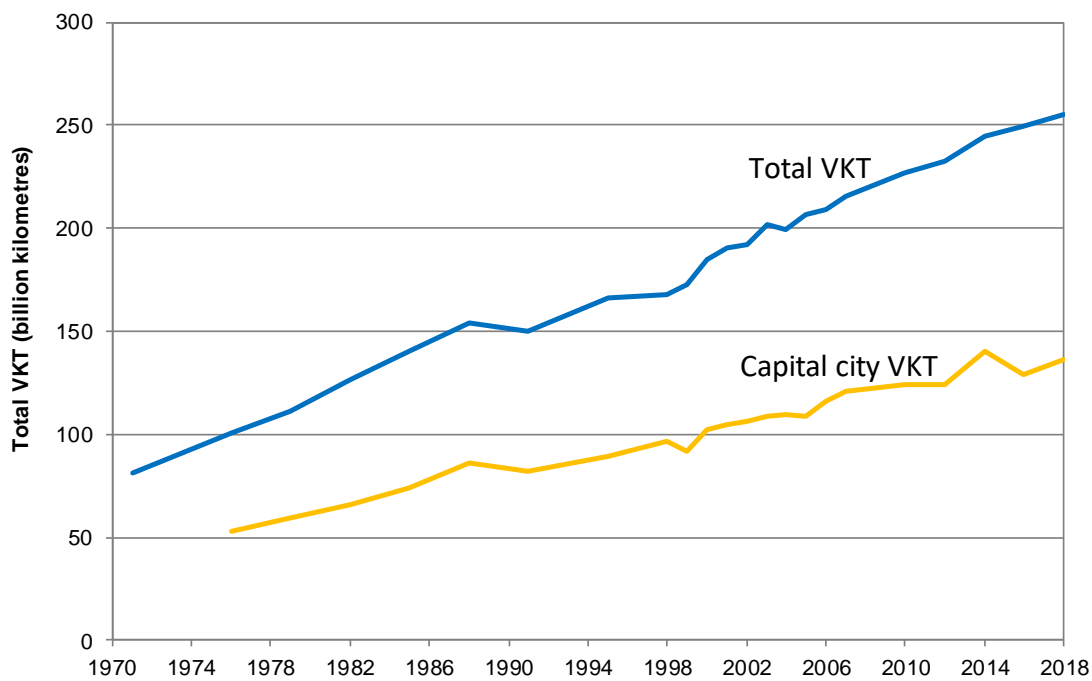
Total vehicle use trends

Total vehicle use (vehicle kilometres travelled – VKT) was approximately 255 billion vehicle kilometres over 2017-18. This represents average annual growth of 1.1 per cent per annum in total vehicle road use over the previous SMVU (2015-16), and is lower than the growth in total vehicle registrations over the same period.

Travel in the eight state and territory capital cities accounted for approximately 53 per cent of total vehicle kilometres in 2017-18 and increased by 2.6 per cent per annum over the last two years, to around 136 billion vehicle kilometres in 2017-18.

Fleet-wide average annual vehicle usage decreased to 13,400 kilometres per vehicle in 2017-18, down from 13,700 kilometres per vehicle in 2015-16.

Figure 1 Total vehicle kilometre trends, 1971–2018



Source(s): ABS, Survey of Motor Vehicle Use Data Cubes, Australia (ABS Cat. no. 9208.0)

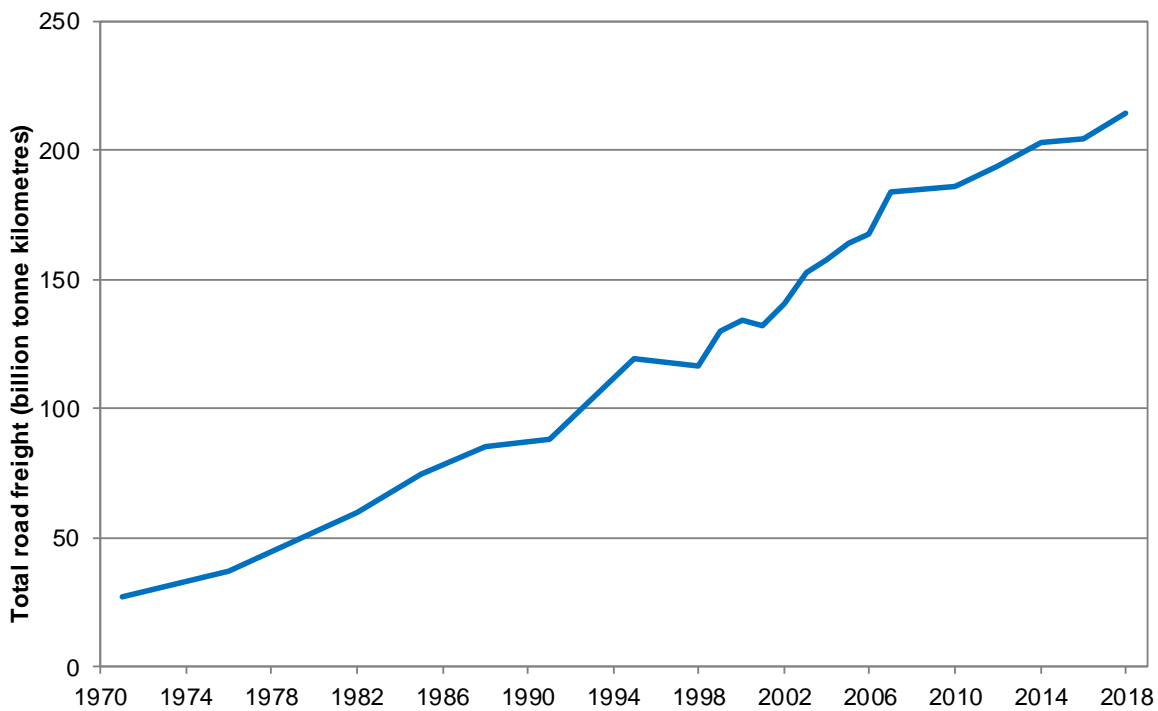
Road freight activity trends

Total road freight grew by 5.0 per cent (2.5 per cent per annum) between 2015-16 and 2017-18, to 214.8 billion tonne kilometres. This is similar to the rate of growth between 2012 and 2016, and continues longer-term trend growth.

Articulated trucks accounted for approximately 77 per cent of all road freight, which is broadly unchanged since 2010. B-doubles continue to carry the largest share of all freight carried by articulated trucks, accounting for approximately 44 per cent. Six-axle articulated trucks account for 25.5 per cent and road trains 20 percent of total articulated truck freight.

Average articulated truck freight loads per laden trip were around 27.4 tonnes per vehicle. This is up on average loads reported in 2015-16, which were around 25.7 tonnes per vehicle.

Figure 2 Total road freight trends, 1971–2018



Source(s): ABS, Survey of Motor Vehicle Use Data Cubes, Australia (ABS Cat. no. 9208.0)

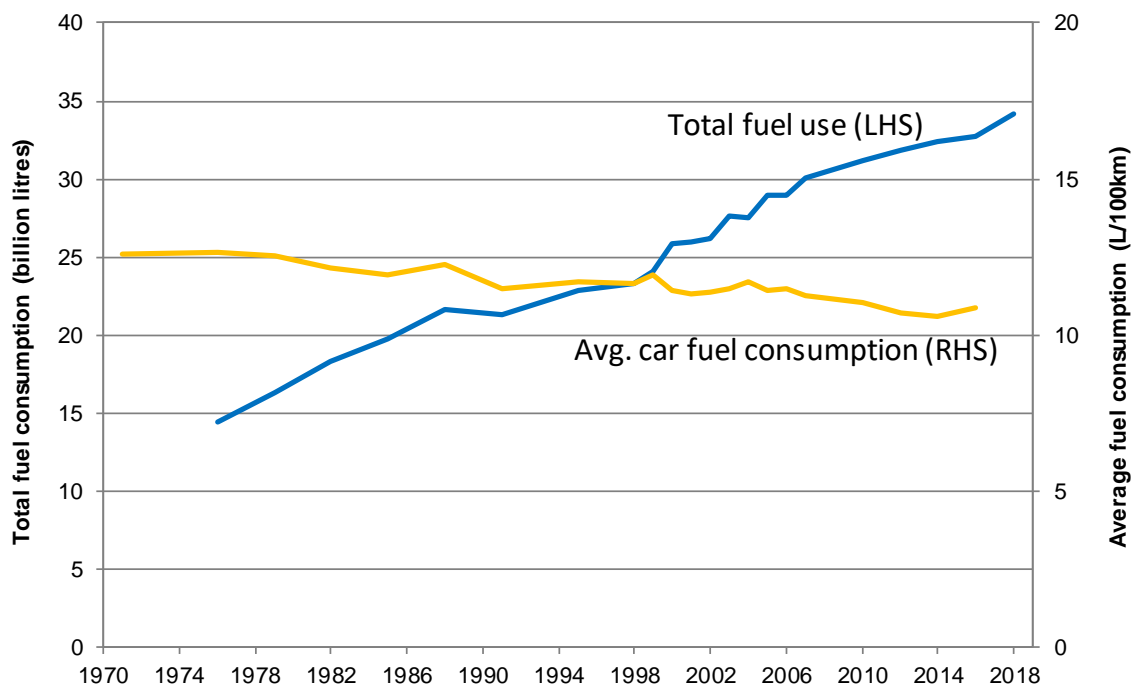
Fuel Use and Fuel Efficiency

Total fuel used in road transport increased by 4.4 per cent between 2015-16 and 2017-18, to total 34.2 billion litres in 2017-18.

Fleet average fuel intensity (efficiency) has remained more or less unchanged since 2014, at around 13.4 L/100km. Passenger car average fuel intensity was approximately 10.8 L/100km in 2017-18, slightly up on 2015-16 (10.6 L/100km). In trend terms, passenger car fuel intensity has improved by around 4 per cent (0.4 per cent per annum) over the past decade.

Petrol’s share of total transport fuel use has continued to decrease, from around 58 per cent in 2009-10 to around 51 per cent in 2017-18. Diesel’s share of transport fuel use has increased over that time, from around 35.5 per cent in 2009-10 to around 45.8 per cent in 2017-18.

Figure 3 Total road vehicle fuel use and average car fuel consumption trends, 1971–2018



Source(s): ABS, Survey of Motor Vehicle Use Data Cubes, Australia (ABS Cat. no. 9208.0)

Further information and estimates are available at: www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/9208.0.

The next SMVU is scheduled to commence on 1 July 2019, covering the 12 months ending 30 June 2020, with results expected to be available around March 2021. The Department is co-funding the 2019-20 SMVU through Parts 4/5 of the National Land Transport Act 2014.

Related ABS releases
27 July 2018 - Motor Vehicle Census, Australia, 31 Jan 2018 - ABS cat. 9309.0
23 March 2017 - Survey of Motor Vehicle Use, Australia, 12 months ended 30 June 2016 – ABS Cat. no. 9208.0