

Average Age of Vehicle Fleet in NZ

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Compared to 2012, the average age of vehicles has increased except for light commercial vehicles
- The oldest types of vehicles were trucks and buses.
- New Zealand had an older vehicle fleet than Australia, Canada and the USA.



Source: Torbo Nutters. (2012). *Buying New v. Used Car—Things to Consider*. Retrieved from: <http://www.turbo-nutters.co.uk/tag/ford>

Relevance of the indicator to environmental health

The average age of a country’s vehicle fleet is an indicator of the efficiency of the vehicles on the road. Older cars tend to be less efficient, and have more emissions. These emissions include carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide and particles (PM10), particularly from diesel vehicles (Kjellström 2004). Furthermore, vehicle age is often related to vehicle safety, with newer cars having better safety features.

From 2000 to 2012, estimated vehicle emission fell between 25 and 49 percent for various pollutants despite the increase in the age of vehicles. This may mainly due to technological advances in vehicles and fuel (Ministry for the Environment, 2014).

Table 1: vehicle age by type, 2012 vs 2013.

Number of vehicles increased by 3%

Compared to 2012, except for light commercial vehicle, the average age of other types of vehicles has increased. (Table 1)

Vehicles	2012	2013	Trend
Light passenger	13.35	13.53	1.4% ↑
Light commercial	12.23	12.21	0.2% ↓
Motorcycles	12.08	12.53	3.7% ↑
Trucks	15.3	15.7	2.6% ↑
Buses	15.1	15.3	1.3% ↑

Source: Ministry of Transport, 2014

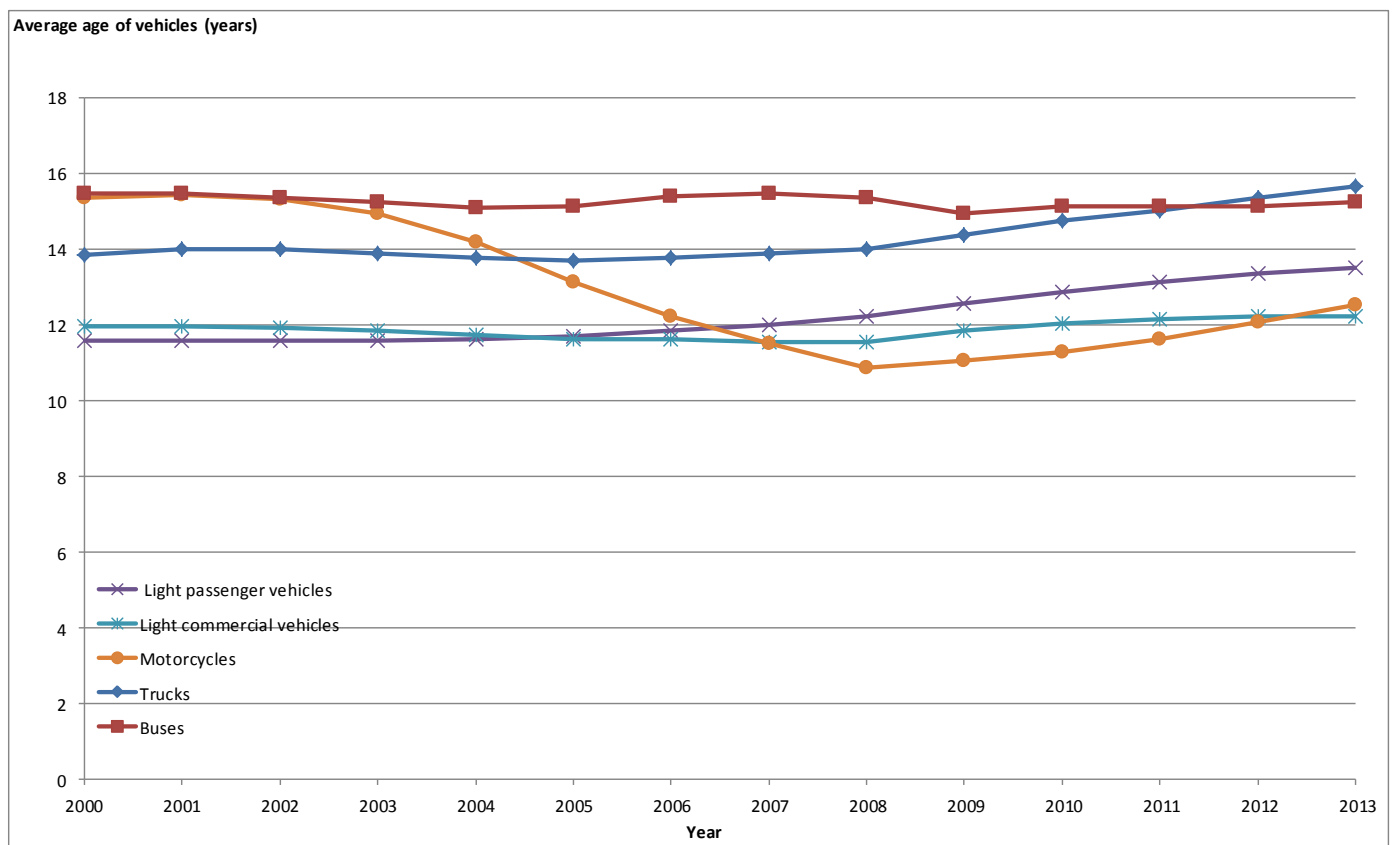
The oldest types of vehicles were trucks and buses from 2000 to 2013

The average age of the light passenger vehicles and the trucks has been increasing from 2000 to 2013. This may be due to the influence of improved mechanical reliability which leads to long lasting vehicles. In contrast, the average age of motorcycles has decreased from 15 years in 2000 to 12 years in 2013. The average age of the bus fleet has dropped slightly in recent years in response to increased new vehicle purchasing, although it remains relatively high (Ministry of Transport, 2014).

New Zealand had an older vehicle fleet than Australia, Canada and the USA.

This comparison has been confined to countries with high levels of motorisation, and with similar patterns of development to New Zealand (Ministry of Transport). Between 2002 and 2013, the average age of vehicles in New Zealand was approximately 12 years, compared to about 10 years in Australia, 11 years in the USA and 8 years in Canada.

FIGURE 1: AVERAGE AGE OF VEHICLE FLEET IN NEW ZEALAND, 2000-2013

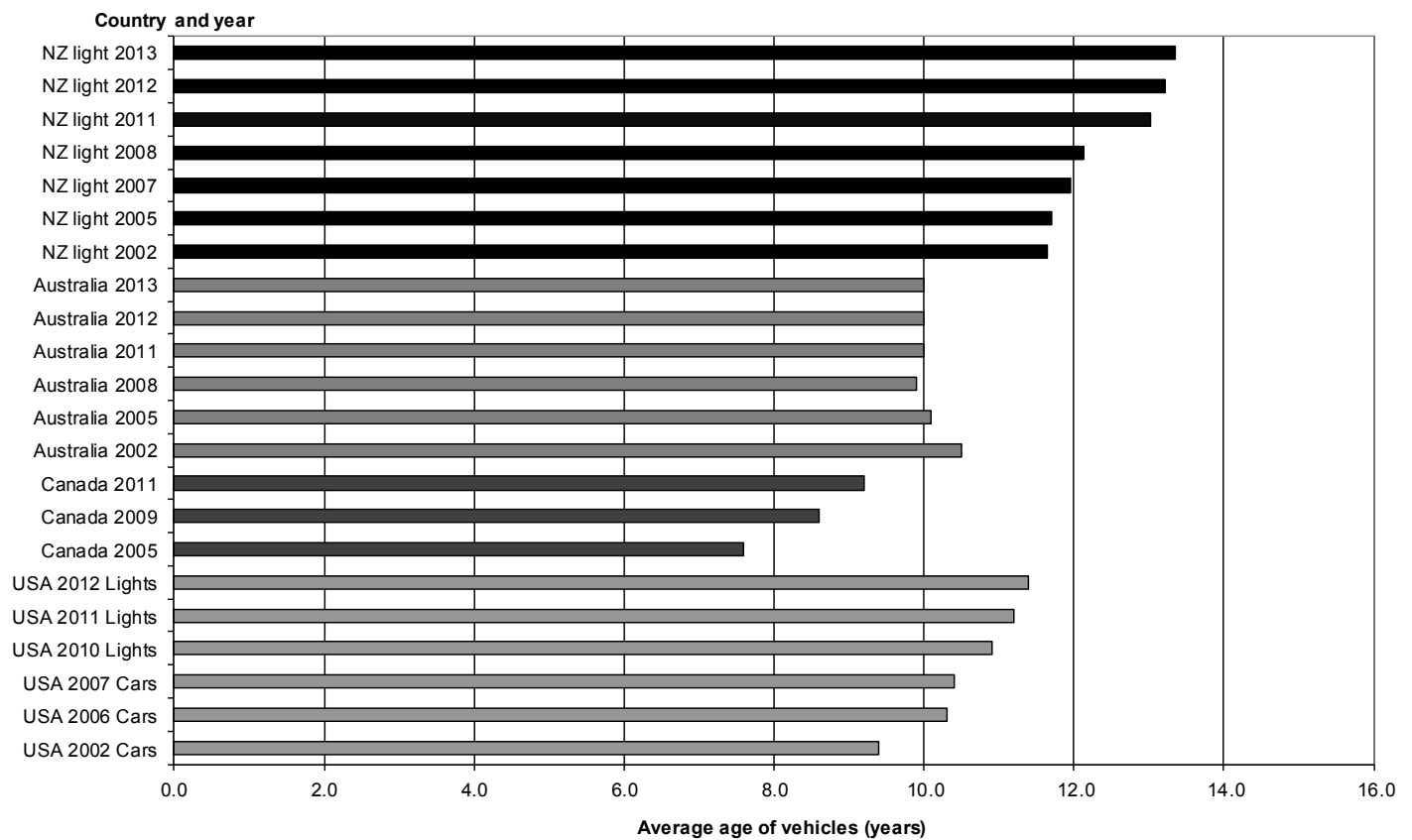


Notes:

- 'light passenger' vehicles include passenger cars and vans
- 'light commercial' vehicles include the following, if under 3500kg: goods vans, trucks, utilities, buses, motor caravans
- 'trucks' include the following, if over 3500kg: goods vans, trucks, utilities, motor caravans
- 'motorcycles' include motorcycles and mopeds
- 'buses' include buses over 3500kg.

Source: Ministry of Transport, 2014

FIGURE 1: AVERAGE AGE OF VEHICLE FLEET, INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON, 2002-2013



Source: The World Bank, 2014

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