

FACT SHEET

FEBRUARY 2025



CARS

WHAT ARE PASSENGER CARS?

- The European classification system defines passenger cars as “vehicles designed and constructed for the carriage of passengers and comprising no more than eight seats in addition to the driver’s seat, and having a maximum mass not exceeding 3.5 tonnes”.
→ They are classified as the ‘M1’ category.
- There are many different kinds of cars: including sports, luxury, family-oriented, small cars, and sports utility vehicles (SUVs).

WHY ARE CARS IMPORTANT?

- For over a hundred years, the private car has transformed modern society by providing independence and freedom of mobility.
- Cars are our number one source of mobility, taking the average European more than 12,000 kilometres a year.
- More than 82% of inland journeys are made by car – be it private car, taxi, or carsharing.
- Without individual mobility, adequate participation in social and economic life would not be possible in many cases, particularly for people living in remote areas, the elderly, and those with disabilities.
- People living in urban areas may rely on taxis, carsharing, or on-demand services instead of, or as a complement to, their own private car.
- Passenger car travel enables home care and medical assistance, as well as a range of other emergency services.
- Job-related mobility is of particular importance, with about a half of all vehicle kilometres travelled in the EU being related to employment.
- EU member states' budgets receive €384 billion per year from the sale and use of passenger cars.

CARS

IN FIGURES



24

new cars were registered per 1,000 inhabitants in the EU in 2023

249
MILLION

passenger cars are on the road in the EU today.

12.2 MILLION

passenger cars were made in the EU in 2023.

10.6
MILLION

passenger cars were registered in the EU in 2024, an increase of 0.8% compared to the previous year.

12.5

The average age of cars in the EU is 12.5 years now.

98

There are 98 passenger car assembly plants in the EU and the UK.

20.8%

of new cars sold in the EU are electrically chargeable (battery electric and plug-in hybrid), but they only account for 3.9% of all cars on the road today.

-14.7%

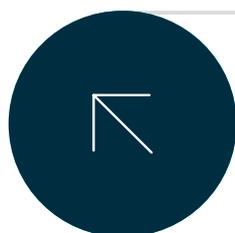
In 2023, average new car emissions were 107.8g CO₂/km, a 14.7% decrease since 2013.

4,553,344

European cars were exported worldwide in 2024, worth €155 billion.

33.3%

Petrol still dominated EU car sales, accounting for 33.3% of all new registrations in 2024.



20%

of all cars produced around the world are built in Europe.