

# FACT SHEET

FEBRUARY 2025



# VANS

## WHAT ARE VANS?

- Vans are part of a category known as 'light commercial vehicles'.
- The European classification system defines vans as "motor vehicles with at least four wheels, used for the carriage of goods, and having a maximum mass not exceeding 3.5 tonnes".
  - They are classified as the N1 category.
  - This category is further broken down into Class I, II, and III vehicles, depending on vehicle weight.
- Light commercial vehicles can also be used to transport people, in which case they are treated as passenger cars under the M categories.
- Many light commercial vehicles are registered through multi-stage type approval. This means that the manufacturer produces an incomplete vehicle, which is then completed by a bodybuilder.
  - Thousands of different build-ups are available to satisfy customer needs (eg camper vans, broadcasting vans, freezer boxes, etc).

## WHY ARE VANS IMPORTANT?

- Vans enable a broad range of activities, including:
  - Construction
  - Postal and courier services
  - Ambulances
  - Policing and rescue operations
  - Mobile workshops
  - Passenger transportation, think for example of school buses or the transport of disabled people
- Vans are key players in the logistics chain, enabling the 'last mile' delivery of goods in urban areas.
- Van-derived cars are the most effective means to carry small groups of less than eight passengers.
- As they are business tools, the total cost of ownership (TCO) is extremely important.
  - Fuel consumption, price, and maintenance costs are decisive factors for customers.
- Largely used by SMEs as business tools, vans power the European economy, helping businesses to thrive.

# VANS IN FIGURES



**30** There are 30 light commercial vehicle assembly plants in the EU.

**578,482**

vans were exported in 2023, worth nearly €10 billion. European vans are increasingly popular around the world.

**30,191,188**

30.2 million vans are in circulation throughout the EU, half of which can be found in three countries: France (6.4 million), Italy (4.4 million) and Spain (4 million).

**1.5**  
MILLION

vans were registered in the EU in 2023, an increase of 14.6% compared to the previous year.

**12.5**

The average age of the EU van fleet is 12.5 years and rising.

**7.4%**

7.4% of new vans sold in the EU are electrically chargeable (battery electric and plug-in hybrid), but they account for only 0.8% of vans on the road today.

**80%**

Vans represent almost 80% of sales (in units) in the commercial vehicle market (which also includes trucks, heavy trucks, buses and coaches).

**83%**

Diesel vehicles continue to make up the vast majority of new van registrations in the EU, accounting for 83% of sales.



**2 MILLION**

vans were produced in the EU in 2023.