

## DEVELOPMENT OF MOTOR TRANSPORT

**2. Licensing of Motor-vehicles by Principal Groups.**—Under the Motor-vehicles Act, 1924, motor-vehicles are required to be registered and licensed. Such licences are renewable annually, and the following table gives the number of motor-vehicles, in the principal groups, licensed as at the 31st March, 1947, the figures for the two preceding years being included for purposes of comparison :—

Type.	Number licensed as at 31st March,			Increase of 1947 over 1946 Licences.
	1945.	1946.	1947.	
Cars .. .. .	199,418	201,425	202,437	1,012
Trucks not exceeding 2 tons laden .. .. .	28,616	30,435	33,134	2,699
Trucks exceeding 2 tons laden .. .. .	21,985	23,499	25,375	1,876
Passenger-trucks .. .. .	1,576	1,947	1,997	50
Omnibuses.. .. .	932	1,025	1,133	108
Taxis, including private-hire cars .. .. .	2,005	2,113	2,147	34
Service cars .. .. .	572	595	637	42
Rental cars .. .. .	501	546	828	282
Motor-cycles .. .. .	13,667	16,167	17,699	1,532
Trailers .. .. .	17,064	20,031	22,788	2,757
Local body and other vehicles exempted from annual licence fees	9,611	11,903	14,451	2,548
Government vehicles .. .. .	5,207	5,814	8,296	2,482
<b>Totals .. .. .</b>	<b>301,154</b>	<b>315,500</b>	<b>330,922</b>	<b>15,422</b> or 4·89 per cent.

All classes of vehicles licensed at 31st March, 1947, showed gains over the figures for the preceding year.

Table No. 1 of the Appendix shows full details of the licensed motor-vehicles as at 31st March, 1947, by postal districts.

Table No. 2 gives, for purposes of comparison, the number of motor-vehicles licensed year by year as at 31st March, 1937 to 1947, inclusive.

**3. Petrol Consumption.**—The table hereunder shows for the individual calendar years 1937 to 1946 the estimated quantities of petrol consumed by motor-vehicles, used for other purposes, and the total consumption :—

Calendar Year.	Estimated Consumption of Petrol.		
	By Motor-vehicles ( <i>i.e.</i> , Petrol on which all Duty was paid).	Other ( <i>i.e.</i> , Engines, Aeroplanes, &c., on which Refunds of Duty were made).	Total.
	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.
1937 .. .. .	82,111,000	7,339,000	89,450,000
1938 .. .. .	89,306,000	7,590,000	96,896,000
1939 .. .. .	91,955,000	8,027,000	99,982,000
1940 .. .. .	74,114,000	9,649,000	83,763,000
1941 .. .. .	66,924,000	15,326,000	82,250,000
1942 .. .. .	46,100,000	10,442,000	56,542,000
1943 .. .. .	50,178,000	9,200,000	59,378,000
1944 .. .. .	53,663,000	9,000,000	62,663,000
1945 .. .. .	65,541,000	8,110,000	73,651,000
1946 .. .. .	86,440,000	8,500,000	94,940,000