

# **New Zealand Transport Statistics – Questions and Answers**

## **What is the New Zealand Transport Statistics document and why was it created?**

The *New Zealand Transport Statistics* is an annual document that reports against the data collected in the *Transport Monitoring Indicator Framework (TMIF)*.

## **What does the document tell me?**

The July 2009 edition is the first *New Zealand Transport Statistics*, and it uses the indicators included in the *Transport Monitoring Indicator Framework (TMIF) Version 1: 2008* to report on transport trends.

## **What is the *Transport Monitoring Indicator Framework (TMIF)*?**

The *Transport Monitoring Indicator Framework (TMIF)* provides a national and, where possible, regional framework for the monitoring of the New Zealand transport system. The role of the TMIF is to monitor trends over time. The data are intended to be durable enough to allow for continued monitoring in times of change. The high-level indicators monitor multi-modal trends in the economic, environmental and social areas related to transport.

The TMIF is designed to be a sector-wide applicable framework which can be used to provide information on trends to other transport agencies and local regions. The framework is a tool which can be used to inform and evaluate transport-related policies and strategies.

Further versions of the framework will be produced, and it is anticipated that the framework will continue to develop as a monitoring tool. The TMIF Version 2 will be released in late August.

## **Who owns the statistics?**

The statistics are owned by various government agencies including the Ministry of Transport, the Civil Aviation Authority, Maritime New Zealand, the NZ Transport Agency, Statistics New Zealand, as well as local government.

## **What are the key transport trends from *New Zealand Transport Statistics July 2009*?**

Some transport trends from the *New Zealand Transport Statistics July 2009* include:

- New Zealand's transport system has become increasingly safe. There has been a large decrease in the number of Police-reported fatal and injury road accidents since 1990.
- Overall, New Zealanders perceive all modes of transport (except cycling) to be safe and secure.

- There has been growth in New Zealanders' use of public transport. People generally perceive public transport as value for money, reliable, frequent and available<sup>1</sup>.
- The number of deaths for modes other than road (e.g., aviation, maritime, rail) continues to decrease.
- The 2008 road-death number was 366; the lowest number recorded in 49 years.
- A strong reliance on vehicles as a mode of transport can be seen in the increased percentage of people who use vehicles to get to work and school.

You can find all key transport trends in the 'Key Findings' section of each chapter in the *New Zealand Transport Statistics July 2009*.

### **What is an indicator?**

An indicator is a summary measure related to a key issue that can be used to show positive or negative change. Indicators are measurable aspects of a topic that can be used to monitor its progress and direction.

### **What is an indicator set?**

The indicators within the TMIF are grouped by theme, for example all environmental indicators are grouped together. Each of these groups is classed as an indicator set.

### **What does the 'TMIF Indicator Reference #' mean on the graphs?**

The TMIF indicator reference number listed on the graphs denotes which indicator set the indicator is classed under.

### **Is data collected at a national or regional level?**

Data is collected at a national, and where possible, regional level. Work to address any data gaps is underway.

### **How can I provide feedback?**

If you would like to provide feedback on either the TMIF or the *New Zealand Transport Statistics July 2009* you can do so by emailing [TMIF@transport.govt.nz](mailto:TMIF@transport.govt.nz).

### **Where do I go if I have any further questions?**

If you have any questions about the *New Zealand Transport Statistics July 2009*, you can email your questions to [TMIF@transport.govt.nz](mailto:TMIF@transport.govt.nz).

### **How can I find out about the quality of the data provided in the New Zealand Transport Statistics?**

Comments on the quality of the data, such as how often it is updated and how reliable the data is, can be found in the meta-data provided for each indicator on the

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<sup>1</sup> In the regions of Auckland, Wellington and Canterbury 2006/07

Transport Monitoring Indicator Framework section of the Ministry of Transport website: [www.transport.govt.nz](http://www.transport.govt.nz).

### **Where can I find the latest trend data from the TMIF?**

The latest trend data from the TMIF can be found on the Transport Monitoring Indicator Framework section of the Ministry of Transport website: [www.transport.govt.nz](http://www.transport.govt.nz).

### **What is an active mode of transport?**

Active modes of transport include walking, running and cycling.

### **What is CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>-e)?**

CO<sub>2</sub>-e is a measure of the greenhouse potential of a gas or mixture of gasses expressed as the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> needed to produce the equivalent amount of climate change impact.

### **What is FOB?**

FOB stands for 'free on board' – the value of the goods delivered to the port of export and loaded onto a vessel for transportation out of the country of origin. It is used for exported goods.

### **What is considered a 'heavy truck'?**

Trucks with a gross vehicle mass of over 3500 kg are classified as heavy trucks.

### **What is meant by 'household travel'?**

Household travel includes all travel reported by households from the Household Travel Survey. This excludes most commercial and freight travel.

### **What is the Household Travel Survey?**

The Household Travel Survey is a survey of household travel undertaken by the Ministry of Transport in 1989/90, the Land Transport Safety Authority (with funding from the Road Safety Trust) in 1997/98 and the Ministry of Transport from 2003.

### **What is the Ongoing Household Travel Survey?**

The Ongoing Household Travel Survey is a sample survey of 2200 households per year, running throughout the year. Respondents report all travel in specified two-day period. Survey began in mid 2003 and is ongoing. The survey is designed to capture household travel only and excludes most commercial and freight travel. See <http://www.transport.govt.nz/research/TravelSurvey/> for more information.

### **What is considered a 'light commercial vehicle'?**

Goods vans, utilities, camper vans, trucks and buses, with mass up to 3500 kg are classified as light commercial vehicles.

### **What is considered a 'light vehicle'?**

Vehicles with up to 3500 kg gross vehicle mass are classified as light vehicles. This excludes motorcycles.

### **What is considered as a 'light passenger vehicle'?**

Passenger cars and vans, with mass up to 3500 kg are classified as light passenger vehicles.

### **What is considered a 'light 4-wheeled vehicle'?**

Four-wheeled vehicles that weigh up to 3500kg are classified as light 4-wheeled vehicles. This includes cars, vans, utes and sports utility vehicles (SUVs). It excludes motorcycles, mopeds, trucks and tractors.

### **What is a 'Main Urban Area'?**

Main urban areas, as defined by Statistics New Zealand, are very large urban areas centred on a city or major urban centre. Main urban areas have a minimum population of 30,000. This includes satellite urban areas eg Kapiti, Cambridge.

### **What are considered merchandise goods?**

Merchandise goods are tangible, moveable goods crossing the customs frontier.

### **What are considered non-merchandise goods?**

Non-merchandise goods are goods returned after repair or modification in New Zealand, goods on short-term loan or lease, and service transactions (e.g. computer data tapes and drawings).

### **What is the National Land Transport Fund?**

The revenue for land transport comes mostly from road users through fuel excise (petrol tax) charges on diesel and heavy vehicles (Road User Charges) and vehicle licensing and registration charges. The Land Transport Management Act hypothecates, or reserves, this revenue in the national land transport fund for land transport purposes.

### **What does 95% CI mean?**

A 95% CI is a 95 percent confidence interval for survey-based estimates, quoted as Lower limit, Upper limit. Given the survey result, there is a 95 percent chance that the real underlying value in the population falls within the quoted interval.

### **What is meant by 'particulates' or 'particulate matter'?**

Particulates, or particulate matter, is air pollution consisting of fine particles. This may be carbon soot from incomplete combustion, road dust or dust from brake and tyre wear. Referred to as PM(10) or PM(2.5), the number indicates the size of the filter required to trap the particles, in microns.

**What does 'person km' mean?**

One person travelling one kilometre is one person-km.

**What does 'PJ' mean?**

PJ is a unit of energy:  $10^{15}$  joules.

**What are public transport boardings?**

Public transport boardings include the number of individual fare-paying passengers that board the public transport service.

**What does 'RUC' stand for?**

RUC stands for Road User Charges. Vehicles either not powered by petrol or with a weight over 3500 kg pay for their use of the road via RUC, which is a distance and weight based charging system. RUC licences allow the user to operate a vehicle up to the purchased weight limit, for the distance purchased.

**What is a 'Secondary Urban Area'?**

Secondary Urban Areas, as defined by Statistics New Zealand, were established at the 1981 Census of Population and Dwellings. They have a population between 10,000 and 29,999 and are centred on the larger regional centres.

**What is a single occupancy vehicle?**

A single occupancy vehicle is classified as a light 4-wheeled vehicle in which the driver is the only vehicle occupant.

**What is meant by 'social cost'?**

Social cost includes the market cost and the external cost not reflected in the market. For example, the social cost of fossil fuel consumption can include the retail market cost plus the external costs such as air pollution and other environmental impacts that are not reflected in the market price. It is sometimes referred to as the total social cost.

**What is a 'tonne-kilometre'?**

A tonne-kilometre is defined by the transportation of one tonne of freight for one kilometre. This unit of measure is used to describe the freight task by including both the weight transported and the distance of transportation.

**What is a 'trip leg'?**

A trip leg is non-stop travel by a single mode for a single purpose. For example, walking to work with a stop at the shop is two trip legs; catching a bus to work may be three trip legs (walk to bus stop, bus trip leg, walk from bus stop to work). The Household Travel Survey does not record trip legs under 100 metres, off-road travel or travel on private property (eg farms, malls).

**What are unimpeded (free) speeds?**

An unimpeded (free) speed is a car drivers' choice of speed when unimpeded by other vehicles, as recorded in observational surveys. For more information see <http://www.transport.govt.nz/research/SpeedSurveys/>.

**What does VFD mean?**

VFD stands for 'value for duty' – the market value of imported goods as used for Customs valuation purposes for tariff assessment in New Zealand.

**What is VKT, or Vehicle Kilometres Travelled?**

A vehicle travelling one kilometre constitutes one vehicle kilometre travelled (VKT).