

WHAT ARE 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.
- Mobility is becoming more and more important due to ever-increasing distances between home, work, educational institutions, shopping and leisure facilities.
- Cars are our number one source of mobility, taking the average European almost 13,000 kilometres a year.
- Over 70% of 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.
- The budgets of the EU member states receive 350 billion euros per year from the production and use of passenger cars – this represents about 8% of the total tax revenue in the EU28.



140

There are 140 car assembly plants in Europe.



Alternative fuel cars (electric, natural gas, LPG) represent 5.6% of the total EU fleet, and 4.2% of new car sales.



256 million

There are 256 million cars on Europe's roads today.



24% of all cars produced around the world are built in Europe.

29

new cars were registered per 1,000 inhabitants in the EU in 2016.



5,498,518

Some 5.5 million European cars were exported worldwide last year, worth over 125 billion euros.

10 years

The average age of cars in the EU is more than 10 years.

36.5%

In 2016, average new car emissions were 118.1g CO₂/km, a 36.5% decrease in just two decades.



16.5 million

passenger cars were made in the EU in 2016.

14.6 million

In 2016, 14.6 million cars were registered in the EU, an increase of 6.8% compared to the previous year.

Almost half of new cars sold are powered by diesel.

