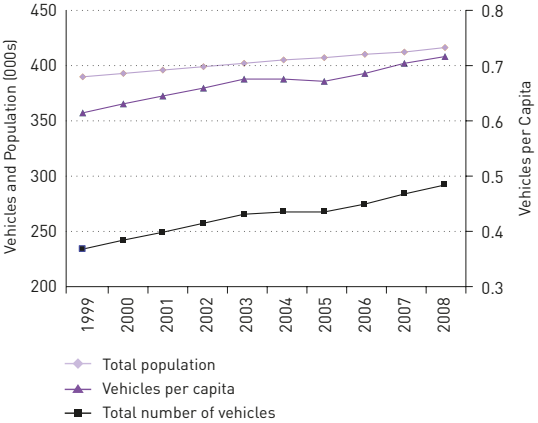
DF4 VEHICLE FLEET PER CAPITA

Key policy question: Is vehicle ownership on the rise?

Malta's land transport system depends chiefly on private motor vehicles. The large vehicle fleet relative to population has a negative impact on human health, the environment and the economy. Registered motor vehicles totalled 294,658 in 2008, increasing by 2.63% from 2007, compared to the 3.12% growth rate between 2006 and 2007. The number of vehicles per capita stood at 0.71 in 2008, increasing slightly (by 0.01) from 2007. The increasing number of imported second-hand vehicles is a matter of concern since second-hand vehicles in the European Union (EU) are not required to have the same emission standards as new vehicles. In 2008, 44% (5,726 vehicles)[4] of imported vehicles were second-hand, increasing by 11% over the 2007 value. The number of registered electric vehicles continued to increase, albeit at a slow pace, and in 2008 there were 30 of these, 3 more than in 2007.[5] Electric vehicles do not produce emissions at point source and therefore have a positive impact on air pollution.

Source: NSO 2004, 2007c; 2009b; 2009c



Note: In the fourth quarter of 2005, the stock of motor vehicles was re-assessed in view of an improvement in the computation of cars that had been scrapped in past years