

Traffic jam

Driven by growth in two-wheeler sales, the country's motor vehicle population is touching new heights. This does not augur well from a pollution standpoint.

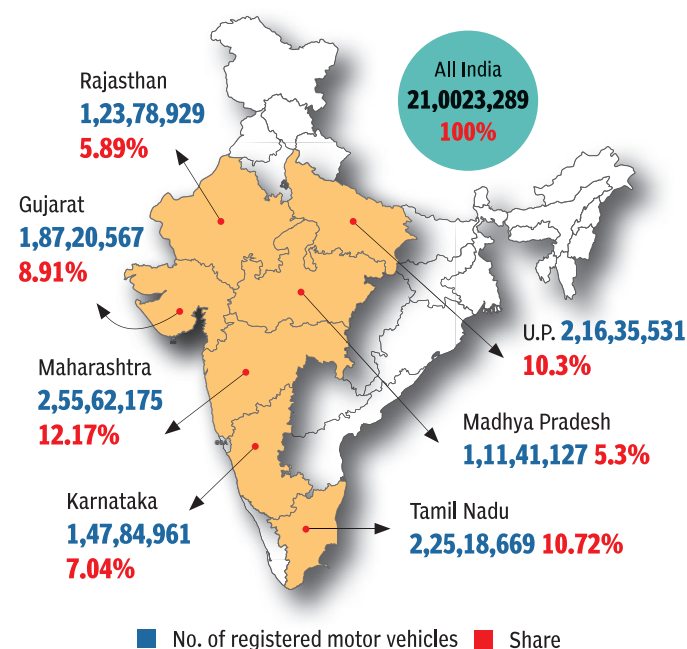
By **RAMESH CHAKRAPANI**

The combined domestic sales of motor vehicles (of all categories) continued their upward trend in the fiscal year gone by, growing 6.8 per cent from 204.68 lakh to 218.62 lakh, on the back of strong sales in the two-wheeler segment, according to data from the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers. This augurs well from an industry and economy perspective but not from an environment and pollution standpoint, especially since the country's total motor vehicle population is reaching alarmingly high numbers.

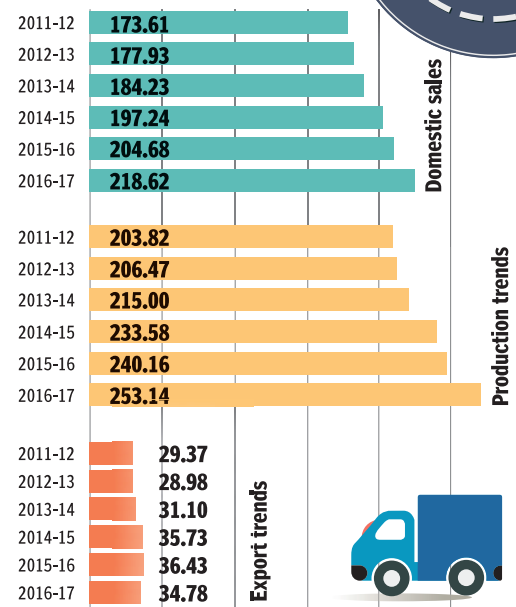
The total number of registered motor vehicles in the country as on March 31, 2015 stood at just over 21 crore. Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh topped the States, each State home to more than two crore vehicles; together the three States accounted for more than 33 per cent of the nationwide figure. The number of registered motor vehicles per 1,000 population went up from 53 in 2001 to 167 in 2015.

In 2016-17, domestic sales of passenger vehicles rose 9.2 per cent from the previous year to 30,46,727, while two-wheelers grew 6.9 per cent to 1,75,89,511.

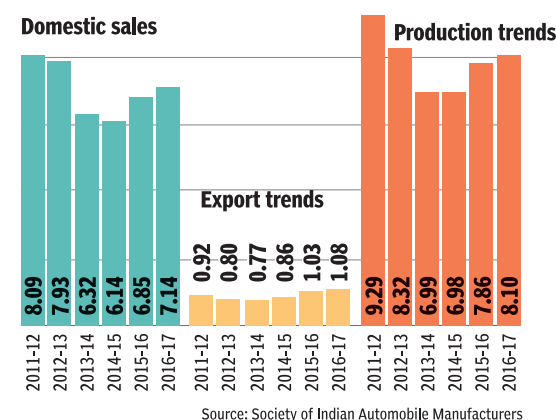
Top States in motor vehicle population (as on March 31, 2015)



All categories of vehicles (in lakh)



Commercial vehicle trends (in lakh)



Two-wheelers: A growing segment

Year	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Production	1,54,27,532	1,57,44,156	1,68,83,049	1,84,89,311	1,88,30,227	1,99,29,485
Exports	19,75,111	19,56,378	20,84,000	24,57,466	24,82,876	23,39,273
Domestic sales	1,34,09,150	1,37,97,185	1,48,06,778	1,59,75,561	1,64,55,851	1,75,89,511



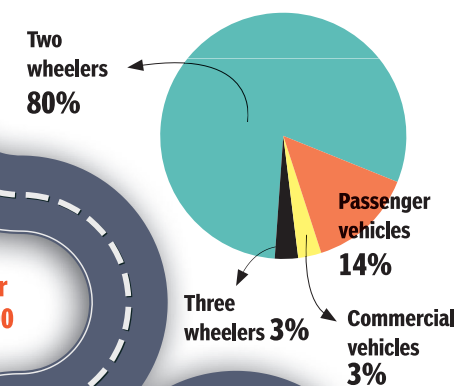
Source: Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers

Passenger vehicle trends

Year	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Production	31,46,069	32,31,058	30,87,973	32,21,419	34,65,045	37,91,540
Domestic sales	26,29,839	26,65,015	25,03,509	26,01,236	27,89,208	30,46,727
Exports	5,08,783	5,59,414	5,96,142	6,21,341	6,53,053	7,58,830

Source: Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers

Domestic market share 2015-16

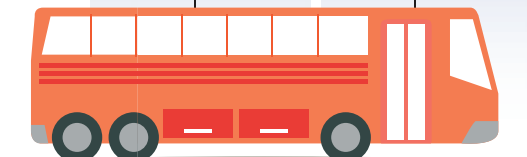


Registered motor vehicles per 1,000 population

Year	Number
2001	53
2002	56
2005	74
2010	109*
2013	144
2014	154*
2015	167



Year	Buses owned by private sector (in thousands)		Buses owned by public sector (in thousands)	
	Number	Market share (%)	Number	Market share (%)
2001	518.9	81.86	115	18.14
2006	879.9	88.70	112.1	11.3
2011	1,473.2	91.86	130.6	8.14
2014	1,746.7	92.57	140.2	7.43
2015	1,830.3	92.87	140.5	7.13



Gross turnover of automobile manufacturers in India

