

Statistical standard for number of motor vehicles

Rationale

The number of motor vehicles is a key variable in assessing people's access to services and their need for transport facilities.

Definition

Number of motor vehicles is the number of motor vehicles which are mechanically operational, but not necessarily licensed or having a current Warrant of Fitness, and are available for private use by the usual residents of private dwellings.

Motor vehicles include:

- cars, station-wagons, vans, trucks, four-wheel drive vehicles and other vehicles used on public roads
- business vehicles available for private use by people in the dwelling
- vehicles hired or leased
- vehicles temporarily under repair.

They do not include:

- motor bikes or scooters
- vehicles used only for business
- farm vehicles not licensed for road use
- vehicles that belong to visitors
- vehicles occasionally borrowed from another household.

Operational issues

The standard and classification are designed for collecting data by private dwelling or household rather than from individual people. The assumption is that the vehicle or vehicles are available for use by all members of the household and/or on behalf of all members of the household.

Explanatory notes

Access to motor vehicles

Access to motor vehicles could be used as an alternative name for this standard; access can be obtained from the classification. However, number of motor vehicles more accurately describes the information collected under this standard.

Vehicles under repair

Vehicles temporarily under repair are included in the definition for reasons of historic continuity.

Classification criteria

The criterion used to place a dwelling or household into the classification is the number of motor vehicles that are available for use by, or on behalf of, the residents or household members.

Classification

Number of motor vehicles is a flat classification with four categories – excluding residual categories.

The residual categories are defined in the Glossary.

Classification	Number of Motor Vehicles – Standard Classification
Abbreviation	NUMMOTVEH
Version	V2.0
Effective date	12/08/1998

Coding process

If tick boxes are used for collecting data, and more than one response has been given, the greater number of motor vehicles indicated should be captured.

Questionnaire module

Requirements

The questionnaire module must obtain information on the number of motor vehicles available for private use by members of the household. There are three elements that the respondent must be asked to consider in answering the question:

1. what types of vehicles should be counted, eg cars – yes, motorbikes – no
2. whose vehicles should be counted, eg work vehicles available for private use – yes, visitors' cars – no
3. what conditions of vehicle should be counted, eg temporarily out of repair – yes, unlicensed – yes, unwarranted – yes.

Example

The questionnaire module below is an example that meets the requirements documented in this statistical standard. Other questionnaire modules may vary in format but should conform to the requirements contained in this statistical standard.

10 How many motor vehicles (apart from motor bikes or scooters) do the people who live here have available for their use?

DON'T COUNT

- vehicles that belong to visitors
- vehicles that this household borrows occasionally from another household
- vehicles that can be used ONLY for work
- motor bikes, motor scooters

- none
- 1
- 2
- 3 or more

Standard output

Number of motor vehicles

The standard output variable categories are the same as the classification categories. The residual categories may be output separately or combined. Where a combination item of residuals is to be used in output, this item should be labelled 'not elsewhere included' and should have a footnote indicating its composition.

The residual categories are defined in the Glossary.

Access to a motor vehicle

An alternative output combines the categories that indicate the number of motor vehicles available and outputs that grouping as 'access to a motor vehicle'. The 'no motor vehicle' category of the classification is output as 'no access to a motor vehicle'. As before the residual categories can either be grouped or output individually.

Related classifications and standards

New Zealand

This standard classification is not linked to any other Statistics New Zealand standard classification. This standard is not used by any other part of the Official Statistical System in New Zealand.

International

This standard is not based on any international standard or the standard of any other country.

Glossary

Household

A household is either one person who usually resides alone, or two or more people who usually reside together and share facilities (such as eating facilities, cooking facilities, bathroom and toilet facilities, a living area).

Private dwelling

A private dwelling accommodates a person or a group of people, but not the public generally. Included are houses, flats, and apartments; residences attached to a businesses or institutions; baches, cribs and huts; dwellings of the above types that are under construction; garages; caravans, cabins and tents; vehicles; vessels.

Residual categories

Don't know

Use of this category is discretionary. The use of a category capturing don't know responses is most applicable to household surveys where don't know may be a legitimate response to certain questions.

Refused to answer

This category is only used when it is known that the respondent has purposefully chosen not to respond to the question. Use of this residual category in processing is optional. Its use is most applicable in face-to-face or telephone interviews, but may be used in self-completed questionnaires if the respondent has clearly indicated they refuse or object to answering the question.

Response unidentifiable

This category is used when there is a response given, but:

1. the response is illegible, or
2. it is unclear what the meaning or intent of the response is – this most commonly occurs when the response being classified contains insufficient detail, is ambiguous or is vague, or
3. the response is contradictory eg, both the yes and no tick boxes have been ticked, or
4. the response is clear and seemingly within the scope of the classification but can not be coded because no suitable option (particularly other residual category options such as 'not elsewhere classified' or 'not further defined') exists in the classification or codefile.

Response outside scope

This category is used for responses that are positively identified (ie the meaning and the intent are clear) but which clearly fall outside the scope of the classification/topic as defined in the standard.

Not stated

This category is only used where a respondent has not given any response to the question asked, ie it is solely for non-

response.

References

Statistics New Zealand (1997). *1996 Census of Population and Dwellings: Introduction to the Census* , Wellington.

Statistics New Zealand (1998). *2001 New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings: Preliminary Views on Content* , Wellington.