

Electric and hybrid car sales up almost 69pc

Electric and hybrid car registrations surged 68.5pc in the first half of 2019, according to new [CSO figures](#).

However, despite this there was an overall 6.5pc decline in the number of new private cars licensed in the first half of the year.

According to the CSO figures in the first half of 2019 some 77,639 new private cars were licensed. The number of used (imported) private cars increased 2.8pc compared with 2018.

Room to vroom for EVs

In the first half of 2019, electric and hybrid (alternative fuel) vehicles accounted for 11.8pc of all new private cars licensed, up from 6.5pc in the same period in 2018.

Overall, Volkswagen had 11.5pc of new car sales in H1, followed by Toyota (9.9pc), Hyundai (9.5pc), Ford (8.2pc), Skoda (7.8pc) and other car makes (53.1pc).

For electric vehicles, Wicklow had the largest proportion of new private cars licensed in the first half of 2019 (4.7pc). This was followed by Kildare (3.6pc) and Leitrim (3.5pc).

For hybrid vehicles, Longford had the highest proportion (14.6pc), followed by Galway (13.1pc) and Cavan (12.5pc).

Five makes (Hyundai, Nissan, Renault, Volkswagen and BMW) represented 93.4pc of new electric private cars licensed in the first six months of 2019.

Toyota represented 82.8pc of all new hybrid private cars licensed in the same period.

According to the CSO, Volkswagen (8,939) was the most popular make of new private cars licensed in the first half of 2019, followed by Toyota (7,700), Hyundai (7,387), Ford (6,339) and Skoda (6,069). Together these five makes represent 46.9pc of all new private cars licensed.

There was an 8.1pc decrease in the number of new goods vehicles licensed in the first six months of 2019 compared with the same period last year bringing the total to 14,305.

Combined, goods vehicles (both new and used) in 2019 (21,946) are at their lowest level since 2015 (17,788), the CSO reported.

Written by John Kennedy

Published: 10 July 2019

Pictured above: Hyundai Kona. Image: [Grzegorz Czapski/Shutterstock.com](#)