

USE 9,000,000 AUTOMOBILES

Largest Increase in Motor Car Utility Shown in 1920—New York Leading State

STATISTICS recently compiled of automobile use in the United States during 1920 tell a story of more than ordinary interest in respect to the value and utility of the motor car in this country. Figures just compiled by the American Automobile Association indicate that there were 9,180,316 passenger and commercial motor vehicles registered in the United States during 1920, of which 8,234,490 were for passenger use and 945,826 were commercially employed. During the same period 271,230 motorcycles were also registered. The total receipts from registrations amounted to \$99,141,097.

In two States, California and New York, the figures cover only the first eleven months of the registration year ending Feb. 28, 1921. The total registrations for the year will doubtless exceed 9,300,000 cars and receipts will probably reach \$100,000,000.

It thus appears that there is now one motor vehicle for about every eleven persons, and that receipts from registrations and licenses amount to more than one-fifth of the total annual expenditure for all roads and bridges in the United States. The gain in registrations over 1919 amounts to 2,114,870, which is the greatest increase ever recorded in a single year. This expansion is considered remarkable in view of the adverse business conditions during the latter part of the year.

Receipts from registrations and licenses showed a gain of \$34,443,842, or 53 per cent., over 1919, the greatest increase ever recorded in a single year. The registrations include in a few cases, notably in Maryland and the District of Columbia, duplicate registrations, but these do not materially affect the grand total.

New York, which for many years has led all the other States in the number of automobiles owned within its boundaries, maintains its motor supremacy with a total of 683,919 vehicles, of which 559,521 were passenger cars and 124,398 commercial vehicles. In motor truck use New York is also in the lead. Ohio and Pennsylvania were strong competitors for second place, Ohio leading with 620,600 cars and Pennsylvania coming third with 570,164. Ohio with 82,600 trucks is also second in the commercial list. Illinois takes fourth place with 568,914 cars, very close to Pennsylvania, but in the use of commercial cars both Illinois and Massachusetts exceed Pennsylvania, Illinois having 64,674, Massachusetts 51,386, while Pennsylvania's number is 48,329.

California is the fifth State in motor use with a total of 568,892 cars, Iowa sixth, 437,030; Texas seventh, 427,693; Michigan eighth, 412,717. As California figures are for eleven months the chances are that the total for the year will equal or exceed that for Illinois and possibly of Pennsylvania.

In receipts from registrations New York State leads with \$8,817,709. Pennsylvania comes second with \$8,000,973; Iowa third, \$7,487,830; Ohio fourth, \$6,400,000; Illinois fifth, \$5,780,612; California sixth, \$5,554,265; Michigan seventh, \$5,494,498.

Annual automobile statistics compiled through different agencies show minor

variations. The list recently compiled, for instance, by Automotive Industries gave a total for all automobiles of 8,887,572, while the B. F. Goodrich Company's figures gave 9,295,252.

"The difficulty of obtaining accurate registration figures," says Automotive Industries, "has been commented upon

in previous years. Not only does every State law differ from that of every other State, but many States make wholly inadequate provision for administering effectively the laws that they have. The only final remedy for the confusion which now exists, of course, is a uniform national registration law."

These minor discrepancies are not of material importance, and no one will be accused of a serious error in placing the automobile use throughout the United States at fully 9,000,000 cars for 1920.

The following table, as compiled by the American Automobile Association, shows the passenger and commercial car use in each State, with the respective receipts from registration and operators' license fees:

State.	Passenger.	Commercial.	Total.	Receipts.
Alabama	61,941	12,696	74,637	\$832,980
Arizona	30,559	4,000	34,559	191,577
Arkansas	55,582	3,500	59,082	590,820
California	534,814	34,078	568,892	5,554,265
Colorado	121,212	7,728	128,940	818,775
Connecticut	95,150	23,050	119,100	1,852,591
Delaware	16,500	1,800	18,300	320,980
District of Columbia.....	44,855	6,826	51,681	223,588
Florida	64,185	10,439	74,624	554,095
Georgia	132,000	14,000	146,000	1,918,512
Idaho	48,850	2,000	50,850	882,271
Illinois	504,240	64,674	568,914	5,780,612
Indiana	300,226	32,481	332,707	2,029,103
Iowa	407,030	30,000	437,030	7,487,830
Kansas	268,159	26,000	294,159	1,399,272
Kentucky	99,417	13,258	112,675	815,941
Louisiana	65,000	5,000	70,000	400,000
Maine	55,600	7,600	63,200	820,000
Maryland	100,313	12,000	112,313	2,124,925
Massachusetts	253,245	51,386	304,631	3,860,232
Michigan	366,046	45,771	412,717	5,494,498
Minnesota	204,300	19,400	223,700	1,067,737
Mississippi	60,000	4,000	64,000	425,000
Missouri	273,308	23,700	297,008	2,111,697
Montana	59,450	1,200	60,650	416,245
Nebraska	200,000	19,000	219,000	2,039,330
Nevada	9,963	500	10,463	103,318
New Hampshire.....	30,240	4,440	34,680	542,457
New Jersey.....	204,125	23,612	227,737	3,503,936
New Mexico.....	16,100	6,000	22,100	200,000
New York.....	559,521	124,398	683,919	8,817,709
North Carolina.....	127,405	13,455	140,860	1,785,000
North Dakota.....	88,385	1,455	89,840	681,059
Ohio	538,000	82,600	620,600	6,400,000
Oklahoma	204,000	9,000	213,000	230,000
Oregon	93,790	10,000	103,790	2,085,000
Pennsylvania	521,835	48,329	570,164	8,000,973
Rhode Island.....	40,768	9,563	50,331	451,062
South Carolina.....	83,618	9,200	92,818	527,868
South Dakota.....	113,000	9,000	122,000	768,000
Tennessee	90,214	11,638	101,852	1,214,000
Texas	397,693	30,000	427,693	3,500,000
Utah	37,012	5,692	42,704	366,371
Vermont	28,706	2,916	31,622	555,384
Virginia	103,000	13,670	116,670	1,850,000
Washington	154,350	25,864	180,214	2,828,896
West Virginia.....	69,862	10,802	80,664	1,223,448
Wisconsin	277,095	16,205	293,300	3,127,073
Wyoming	22,926	1,000	23,926	267,179
Total	8,234,490	945,826	9,180,316	\$99,141,097