

# New Zealand

**New Zealand's** transport sector remains heavily reliant on road transport, with passenger cars accounting for over 95% of travel activity and road freight 87% of freight transport. Transport emissions have risen by 11% since 2015, making it the second-largest GHG emitting sector, contributing 19% of national emissions. Renewable energy, including biofuels and electricity, accounted for a mere 0.4% of New Zealand's transport energy consumption, whereas the carbon intensity of its electricity is rather low, at 104.4 gCO<sub>2</sub>/kWh in 2023.

Beyond climate impacts, transport accounted for 6.8% of national air pollutant emissions in 2019. Transport-induced air pollution, in turn, caused 0.57 premature deaths per 100,000 people in New Zealand in 2019. Road traffic injury is a leading cause of death in New Zealand, having claimed 6.6 lives per 100,000 people and accounting for 2.7% of the country's GDP in 2021. In 2020, an impressive 94.4% of the population had convenient access to public transport. New Zealand supports vehicle electrification, walking, cycling and renewable energy through national climate and sustainability plans.

Income group: High-income

Human Development Index (2023): 0.94

Population size (2023): 4.66 million **+12.9%** (2015 - 2023)

Urban population share (2023): 83.67% **+8.2%** (2015 - 2023)

GDP per capita (2023): 42 306.07 USD **+8.4%** (2015 - 2023)

Share of transport and storage jobs in workforce (2023) **8.2%**

Share of women employed in transport and storage (2023) **31.2%**



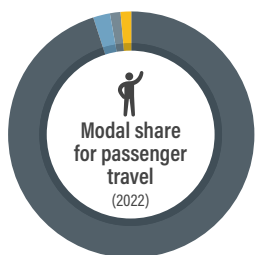
## Transport Demand Trends

### Passenger transport activity

**51 773**

million passenger-km in 2022

**+6.2%**  
(2015 to 2022)



1.1% Rail  
95.2% Road, passenger cars  
2.3% Road, bus  
1.4% Road, other

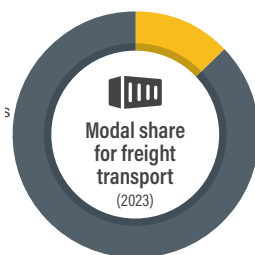
SDG 91

### Freight transport activity

**29 763**

million ton-km in 2023

**+8.5%**  
(2015 to 2023)



12.85% Rail  
87.15% Road

SDG 91

### Transport energy consumption (2022)

**204 820** TJ

**+1.6%**  
(2015 to 2023)

#### Oil products

**99.6%**

of total transport energy consumption

### Per capita fossil fuel subsidies (2022)

**776.0** USD per capita

SDG 12

### Fuel quality standards (2022)

**<15** ppm

### Average light duty vehicle fuel consumption (2022)



### Road traffic fatalities (2021), WHO estimates

SDG 3.6

**6.6**

deaths per 100,000 people

**4.9** Regional  
**15.0** Global

### Road traffic fatality cost as percentage of GDP (2021)

**2.70%**

### Premature deaths linked to transport air pollution (2019)

SDG 11.6

**0.6**

deaths per 100,000 people

**1.7** Regional  
**2.3** Global

### Contribution of transport to air pollution (2019)

**6.8%**

## Transport Emission Trends

### Transport GHG emissions (2023)

**16.2**

million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent

**+11.1%**  
(2015 to 2023)

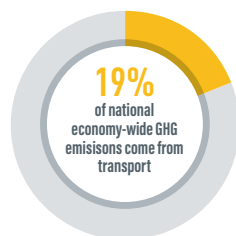
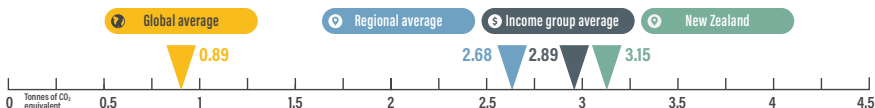
**+7.6%**  
(2022 to 2023)

### Per capita transport GHG emissions (2023)

**3.15**

tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per capita

#### PER CAPITA EMISSION COMPARISON



Transport is the **second-largest** GHG-emitting sector in the country in 2023.

## Transport Decarbonisation Pathways

Transport strategy identifies climate change ☒

Long-term strategy submitted to UNFCCC ☒

NDC submitted: 1st, 2nd and 3rd NDC

NDC highlights transport for GHG mitigation ☒

Transport mitigation targets in NDC ☒

Other non-emission related transport targets in NDC ☒

VNR highlights transport ☒ 2019 VNR with transport linkages to SDG 3, SDG 7, SDG 8, SDG 11 and SDG 13

### Transport actions in VNRs

- ▶ Active transport promotion
- ▶ Road safety improvements
- ▶ Electric vehicles
- ▶ Renewable energy and hydrogen uptake in transport
- ▶ Road freight employment
- ▶ Public transport promotion

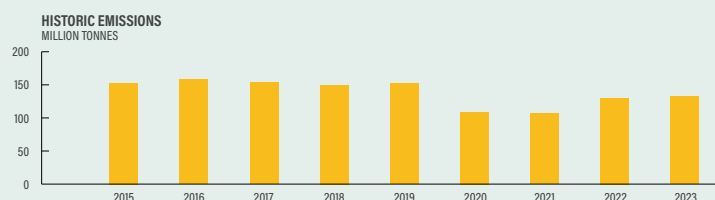
### Transport actions in NDC

#### Mitigation

- ▶ EV purchase incentives
- ▶ Vehicle restrictions (import, age, access, sale, taxation)
- ▶ Vehicle taxes

#### Adaptation

### Transport GHG emissions from 2015 to 2023



## Policy Areas: Indicators and Targets

### Integrated Transport Planning

National urban mobility framework (2024)	✓
Sustainable urban mobility plans (2024)	✓
Number of sustainable urban mobility plans (2022)	5 cities
Low emission zones (2022)	—

### Adaptation and Resilience

ND-GAIN Index (2022)	68.79
Vulnerability score for infrastructure (2022)	0.19

### Walking

Walkability Score (2024)	0.68
National walking strategies (2024)	✓ (combined with cycling)

#### Target

► NZD 1 billion in walking and cycling improvements

### Cycling

Cycling infrastructure in capital (2022)	55 km
Percent near protected bikeways (2024)	20.2%
Bike sharing systems (2024)	3
National cycling strategies (2024)	✓ (combined with walking)

#### Target

► NZD 1 billion in walking and cycling improvements

### Public Transport

Bus rapid transit (2024)	6 km of total length in 1 city
Bus rapid transit daily passenger volume (2024)	22 900 passengers per day
Urban rail (LRT, metro, tram) (2024)	280 km in 2 cities
Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport (2020)	94.42 % <span>SDG 11.2</span>

### Intercity Rail

Rail network (1998)	3 908 km
Rail travel activity (2020)	802.03 million passenger-km
Rail freight activity (2021)	4 444 million ton-km
High-speed rail	—
High-speed rail travel activity	—
National plans for passenger and freight rail expansion (2024)	✓

#### Target

► Establishing a new long-term planning and funding framework  
► Develop a resilient and reliable rail network

### Road Transport

Total road vehicles in use per 1,000 people (2020)	873.4
Road vehicle fleet growth (from 2015 to 2020)	18.64%
Rural Access Index (2019)	— <span>SDG 9.1</span>
Diesel prices (2022)	1.15 USD per litre
Gasoline prices (2022)	1.58 USD per litre

### Aviation

Air passengers carried (2021)	8.7 million people
Air freight activity (2021)	3176 million ton-km
Carbon-accredited airports (2023)	12 airports
of which carbon neutral:	7 airports

### Shipping

Logistics Performance Index (2023)	3.6
Liner shipping connectivity index (Q4 2024)	30.5
Container port traffic (2020)	3174 304.0 TEU

### Transport Energy Sources

Biofuel blend overall mandate (2023)	3.0%
Biofuel blend biodiesel mandate (2023)	70%
Biofuel blend ethanol mandate (2023)	—
Carbon intensity of electricity (2023)	104.42 gCO <sub>2</sub> /kWh
Renewable energy (biofuels and electricity) share in transport (2022)	0.4% of total transport energy consumption <span>SDG 7.2.1</span>
Biofuels (2022)	0.1% of total transport energy consumption
Electricity (2022)	0.3% of total transport energy consumption
Targeted renewable power share	100%

### Vehicle Technologies

Emission standards for LDVs (2024)	Euro 4 and above
CO <sub>2</sub> emissions performance for passenger cars (2024)	109 g CO <sub>2</sub> /km in 2023
Targeted CO <sub>2</sub> emissions performance (2024)	59 g CO <sub>2</sub> /km by 2029
Regulatory environment ranking on used vehicles (2024)	Good
Electric vehicles stock for passenger cars (2024)	78 000 vehicles
Share of electric vehicles in car sales (2024)	11%
ICE phase-out targets	✗
Electric vehicles stock for vans (2024)	2 000 vehicles
Electric vehicles stock for trucks (2024)	—

This fact sheet is part of the SLOCAT Transport, Climate and Sustainability Global Status Report – 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. The country fact sheets have been made possible thanks to financial support from the ClimateWorks Foundation. Information presented in this fact sheet is based on desk research and may not be complete or reflect the most recent status. Data has been collected to the best of our knowledge and availability. Where no information could be retrieved, the indicators are shown in grey. The content does not represent the views of the SLOCAT Partnership on Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport or the ClimateWorks Foundation. For more information, please visit [gsr4.slocat.net](https://gsr4.slocat.net).

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#### List of acronyms

GDP	Gross-domestic product
HDV	Heavy-duty vehicle
ICE	Internal combustion engine
kWh	Kilowatt-hour
LDV	Light-duty vehicle
LRT	Light-rail transit
NDC	Nationally determined contribution
PST	Primary, secondary or tertiary roads

TEU	Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
VNR	Voluntary national review of the Sustainable Development Goals
WLTP	Worldwide harmonised light vehicles test procedure

