# UK Carmakers Reach Milestone Sales of Over One Million Vehicles in First Half of 2024



Carmakers have sold over one million cars in the UK during the first half of 2024, marking the first time this milestone has been reached since before the COVID-19 pandemic, according to data from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT). This represents a 6% increase from the 949,000 vehicles sold during the same period last year. The growth in sales is primarily attributed to business and fleet buyers, with the share of electric vehicles reaching 19% in June, the highest for the year.

However, sales to private buyers have declined for the ninth consecutive month, down 12% compared to the first half of 2023. The SMMT projects total annual sales to approximately 2 million vehicles, still below the pre-pandemic benchmark. Notably, electric cars have seen stagnant market share growth, with 16.6% of new car sales in the first half of 2024, up slightly from 16.1% in 2023.

Amid these changes, Stellantis, owner of brands including Vauxhall and Peugeot, has indicated it might stop selling petrol and diesel models to comply with the UK government's Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) mandate, which sets increasing targets for EV sales. Failure to meet these targets could lead to substantial fines for the manufacturer. This development follows similar statements from other major carmakers like Ford.