

A black and white photograph of a car on a production line, with teal overlays and geometric shapes. The car is a dark-colored sedan, shown from the side profile. It is positioned on a conveyor belt or assembly line. In the background, there are various mechanical components and parts of the factory environment. The image is partially covered by a large teal triangle on the left and a smaller teal rectangle at the top right. The overall design is modern and industrial.

Industry Pulse **Automotive** **industry**

Mauritius

May 19, 2026

Mauritius Automotive Sector in Focus: Emerging Trends

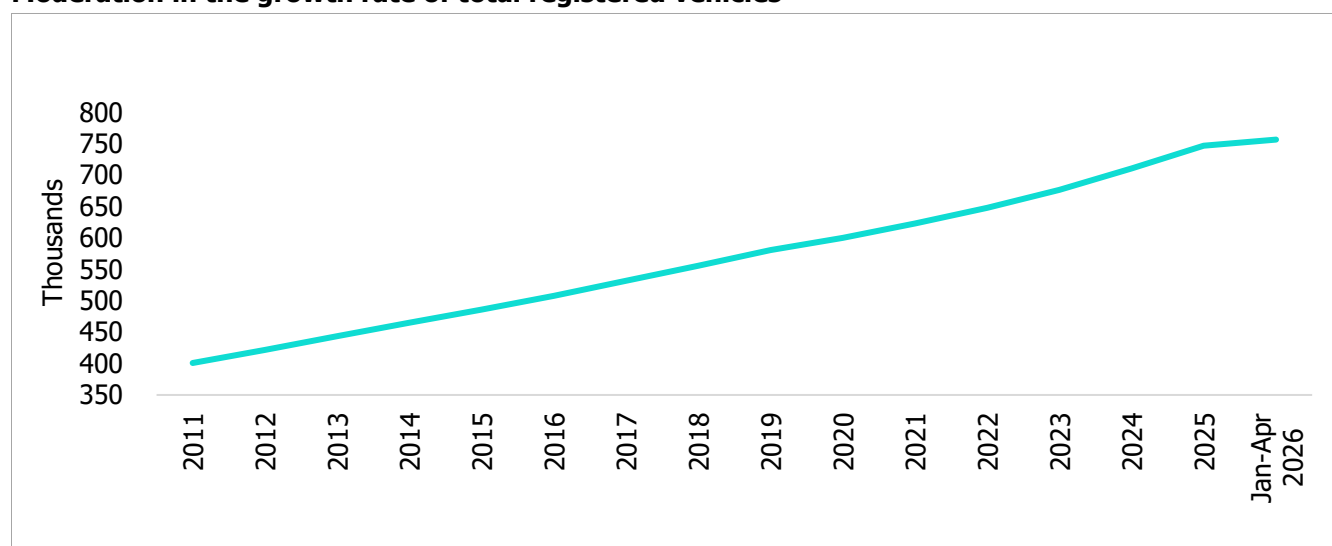
Summary

- Total vehicle registrations reached 756,673 units in April 2026, reflecting sustained growth in vehicle ownership in Mauritius.
- New vehicle registrations stayed strong despite a slowdown in the second half of 2025. Buyers bought early to avoid new excise duties.
- Strong growth in electric and hybrid vehicle registrations reflects evolving consumer preferences for fuel-efficient mobility.
- Expanding motor vehicle leasing activity highlighted how financing supports vehicle ownership.
- Japan remained the leading source of automotive imports, though imports from China increased significantly in 2025, especially in the EV and hybrid segments.

Hybrids and EVs steer growth

Over the past decade, the Mauritian automotive market underwent structural expansion and technological transition, supported by macroeconomic and infrastructure growth. Steady economic growth, rising disposable incomes, and broader access to financing strengthened household spending capacity, making vehicle ownership accessible to more consumers. Concurrently, ongoing road infrastructure upgrades enhanced mobility, further stimulating demand for private vehicles. Consequently, vehicle registrations increased significantly. More recently, the market has been reshaped by accelerating demand for hybrid and electric vehicles, evolving mobility preferences, and the growing presence of new international automotive brands.

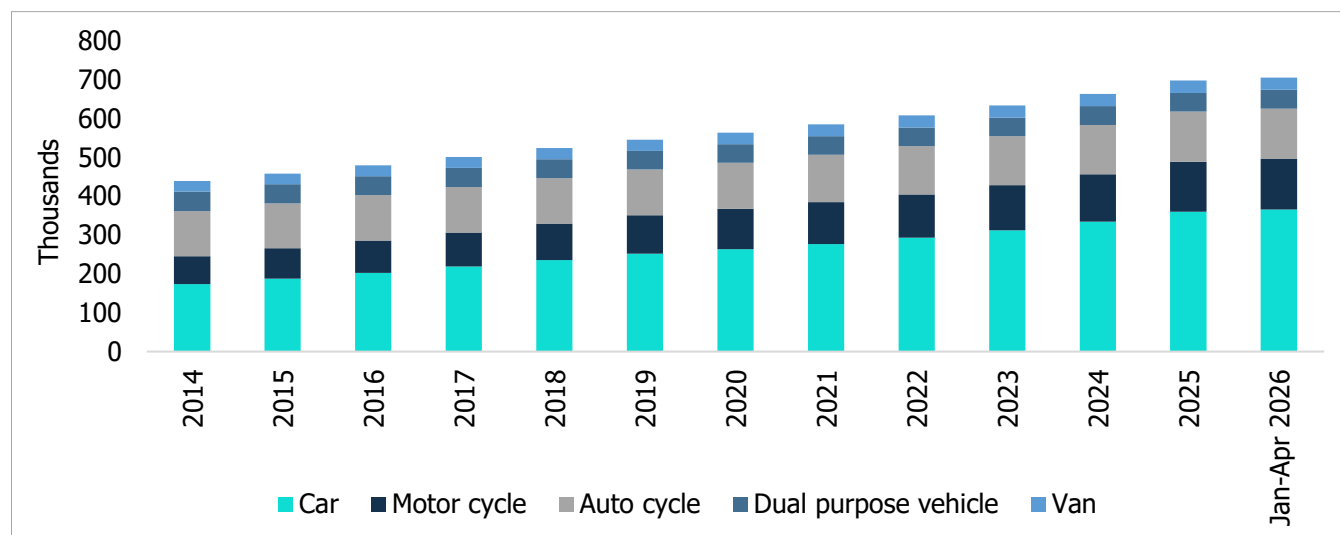
Moderation in the growth rate of total registered vehicles



Source: National Land Transport Authority

During the first four months of 2026, 756,673 vehicles were registered compared with 746,961 in 2025, reflecting an annual increase of 1.3%. While the total number of registered vehicles has expanded steadily over the past decade, the composition of the national vehicle fleet provides an important insight into evolving mobility patterns and consumer preferences within the Mauritian automotive market.

Top 5 vehicles registered



Source: National Land Transport Authority

Cars led vehicle registrations in Mauritius from January to April 2026, accounting for 365,603 units, or 48.3% of total registrations, reflecting the continued reliance on private passenger vehicles as the primary mode of transport. Motorcycles and auto cycles followed with 131,065 and 129,121 registered units, respectively, highlighting growing demand for relatively affordable and fuel-efficient mobility alternatives.

Commercial and utility fleets remained robust. Dual-purpose vehicles (47,595), vans (32,244), and lorries and trucks (21,164) showed sustained logistics sector activity. Dual-cab pickups totalled 16,741 units as buyers favored multi-purpose passenger-commercial hybrids.

Over 2014-2025, cars recorded the strongest growth among the top five vehicle categories, increasing from approximately 174,000 registered units to 360,000 units, at a CAGR of 6.8%. This sustained expansion is a result of rising household mobility needs, expanding access to vehicle financing, and consumer preference for private vehicle ownership. Motorcycles also expanded significantly, at a CAGR of 5.4%, while auto cycles and vans recorded comparatively moderate growth. In contrast, dual-purpose vehicles remained relatively stable.

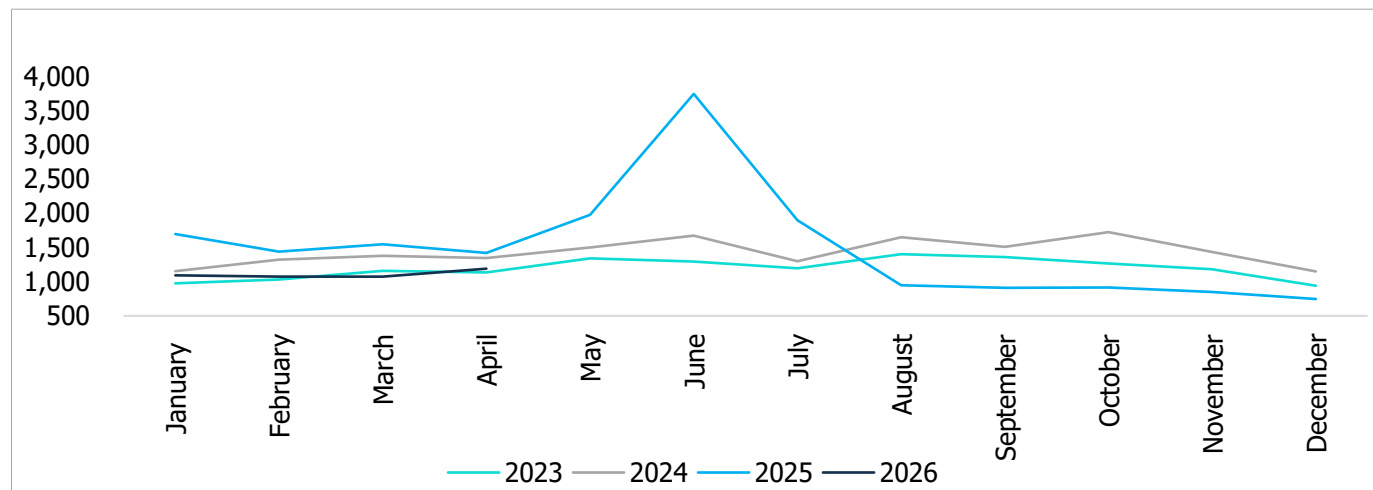
Overall, the continued dominance of passenger vehicles is quite evident in Mauritius, alongside the gradual expansion of alternative and utility mobility segments.

Slowdown in demand for new vehicles post Budget 2025/26

Registration of new vehicles

Although the national vehicle fleet has expanded steadily over time, trends in new vehicle registrations provide a clearer indication of current market dynamics and the pace of activity in the automotive sector.

Month-wise new vehicle registrations



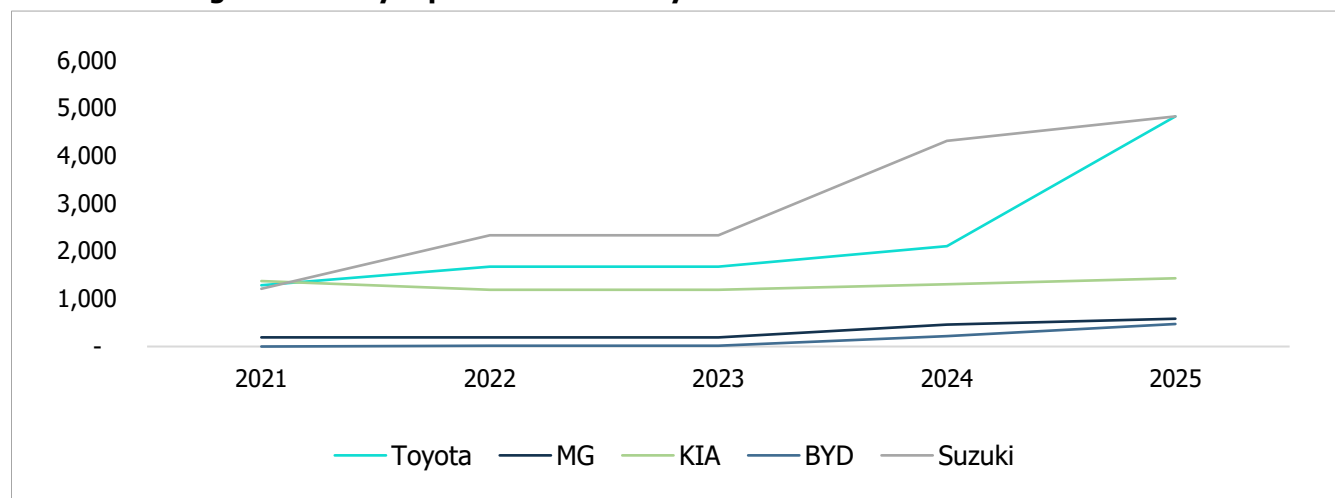
Source: National Land Transport Authority

Compared with previous years, 2025 exhibited significantly higher volatility in new vehicle registrations. Registrations surged sharply during the first half of the year, peaking at approximately 3,743 units in June, more than double the monthly averages recorded in both 2023 and 2024.

The sharp increase in registrations during June 2025 was followed by a significant decline during the second half of the year, with monthly registrations stabilising below 1,000 units between August and December. This moderation partly reflects the impact of fiscal measures announced under the 2025 national budget, including a 30% increase in registration fees for new vehicles and revisions to incentives and excise duty structures applicable to electric and hybrid vehicles. Anticipation of higher vehicle acquisition costs accelerated purchases and registrations during the first half of the year, subsequently weighing on consumer demand in the months that followed.

Early 2026 figures indicate that new vehicle registrations remained relatively stable during the first four months of the year, averaging approximately 1,107 units per month. Registration levels nevertheless remained below the elevated figures recorded during the first half of 2025, suggesting continued moderation in vehicle demand following the exceptional volatility observed in 2025.

New vehicle registrations by top 5 car brands: Toyota tails Suzuki

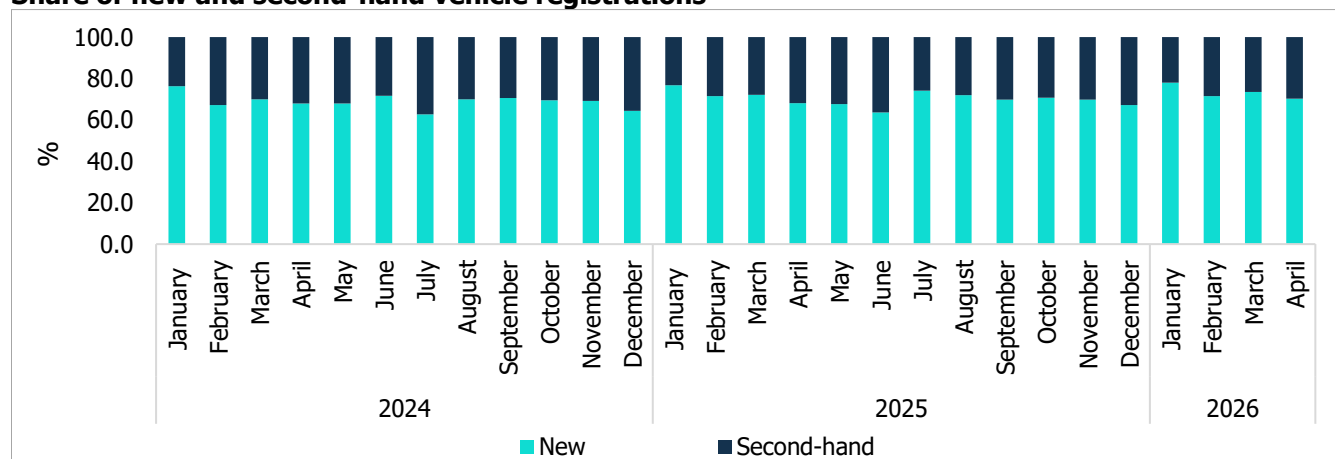


Source: National Land Transport Authority

Trends among the top car brands highlight evolving competitive dynamics in the Mauritian automotive market. Suzuki and Toyota recorded the strongest expansion among established brands over 2021-2025, at CAGR of 41.3% and 39.2%, respectively, reflecting robust consumer demand and increasing market penetration.

Emerging brands also continued to strengthen their presence in Mauritius. BYD recorded the fastest growth during the review period, at a CAGR of 126.3%, while MG registered a CAGR of 32.0%, showing the growing penetration of Chinese automotive manufacturers in Mauritius, particularly within the hybrid and EV segments.

Share of new and second-hand vehicle registrations



Source: National Land Transport Authority

The Mauritian automotive market remained predominantly driven by new vehicles throughout 2024, 2025 and the first four months of 2026, with new vehicles accounting for approximately 63%–78% of total monthly registrations. This reflects sustained consumer preference for new vehicles, supported by expanding access to vehicle financing, dealership competition and wider diversification in vehicle offerings across the local market.

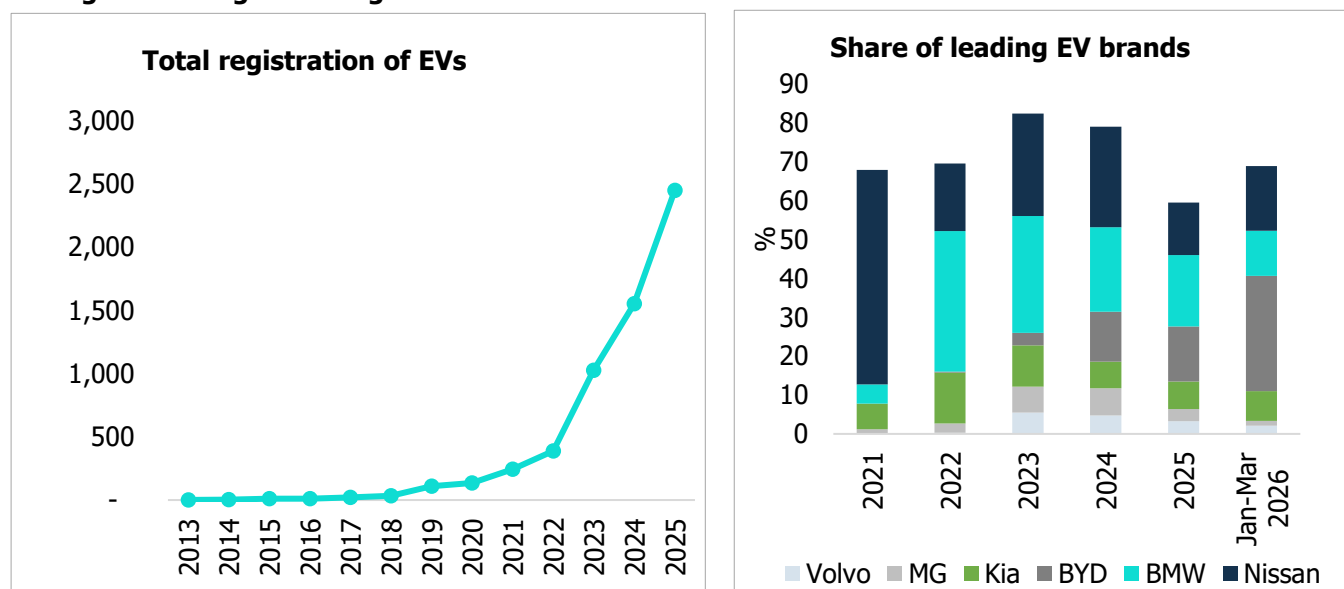
Second-hand vehicles nevertheless continued to represent a structurally significant share of the market during the review period, accounting for approximately 22%–37% of total monthly registrations. The relatively stable presence

of second-hand vehicles reflects persistent demand for more affordable mobility options, particularly amid rising vehicle acquisition costs.

Recent policy measures introduced under the 2025 budget framework provided additional support to the second-hand vehicle market. The abolition of registration fees on the sale or transfer of second-hand domestic vehicles encouraged buyers seeking more cost-efficient vehicle ownership alternatives amid rising costs associated with imported new vehicles. Despite these supportive measures for the second-hand vehicle segment and higher acquisition costs associated with new vehicles, new vehicle registrations continued to dominate during early 2026, suggesting relatively resilient consumer demand.

Overall, the continued dominance of new vehicle registrations underscores the strong position of authorised dealerships in Mauritius, supported by financing and leasing facilities, manufacturer warranties and increasing consumer preference for technologically advanced and fuel-efficient vehicles, including hybrid and electric models.

EV registrations gain strong momentum



Source: National Land Transport Authority

A defining trend in the Mauritian midsize car market is the increasing demand for EVs. Over the past decade, the EV segment has evolved significantly, driven by increasing consumer preference for electric mobility and the entry of new international brands such as BYD. In 2025, 2,449 EVs were registered, up 57.7% year-on-year.

In recent years, the mix of leading EV brands has changed significantly, reflecting market diversification and shifting consumer demand. In the early stages of EV adoption, established automotive manufacturers dominated the market. Nissan accounted for 55.1% of EV registrations in 2021, while BMW represented 36.1% in 2022, highlighting strong initial preference for established international brands. Kia maintained a stable market presence throughout the review period, securing between 6% and 13% of EV registrations between 2021 and January-March 2026.

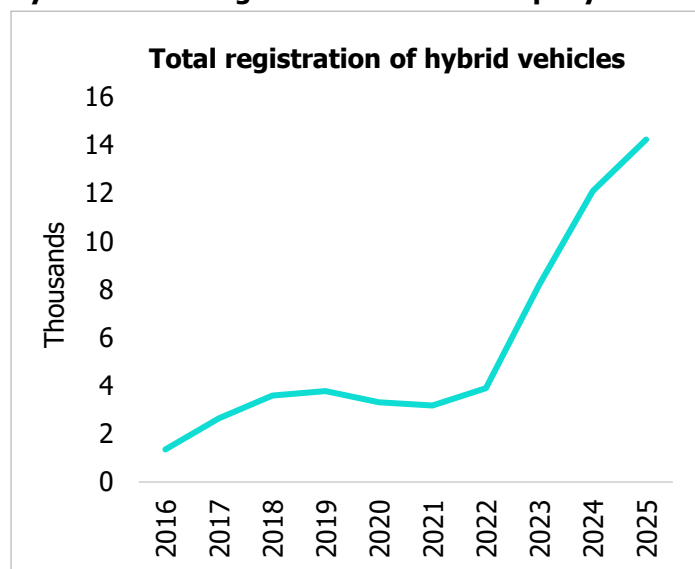
Consumer preference has been progressively shifting towards newer and relatively more affordable EVs, particularly Chinese brands. BYD recorded the most significant expansion in Mauritius, increasing its market share from only

0.3% in 2022 to 14.2% in 2025, before surging to 29.6% in the first quarter of 2026, emerging as the leading EV brand in the country. Other Chinese manufacturers, such as MG, have also strengthened their presence.

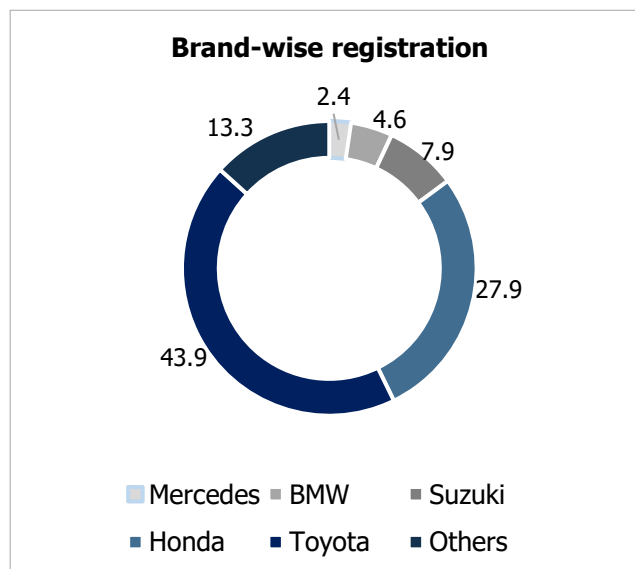
The growth of leading EV brands highlights the rapid transformation of the Mauritian EV market, with consumer preferences increasingly shifting from traditional premium EV manufacturers towards newer entrants offering relatively affordable and technologically advanced EVs.

Although EV registrations have gained considerable momentum in recent years, the pace of growth may moderate going forward because of fiscal measures introduced in the 2025 budget. The Rs 200,000 Negative Excise Duty Scheme for EVs was removed effective June 30, 2025, significantly increasing acquisition costs for prospective buyers. The 50% discount on Motor Vehicle Licence fees for EVs was also abolished.

Hybrid vehicle registrations also rise rapidly



Source: National Land Transport Authority



Hybrid vehicles have gained significant traction in the Mauritian automotive market in recent years, driven by growing environmental awareness and increasing preference for more fuel-efficient options. The combination of a conventional fuel engine with an electric motor allows hybrid vehicles to provide improved fuel efficiency while reducing the reliance on a single energy source, representing a key selling point for prospective buyers.

The rapid adoption of hybrids and EVs is supported by fiscal incentives introduced by the Mauritian government in recent years. Under the 2022-23 national budget, EVs became duty-free from July 1, 2022, while a Negative Excise Duty Scheme of 10% capped at MUR 200,000 was introduced to reduce acquisition costs and encourage adoption of EVs. Excise duty concessions on hybrid vehicles also boosted demand for fuel-efficient vehicles.

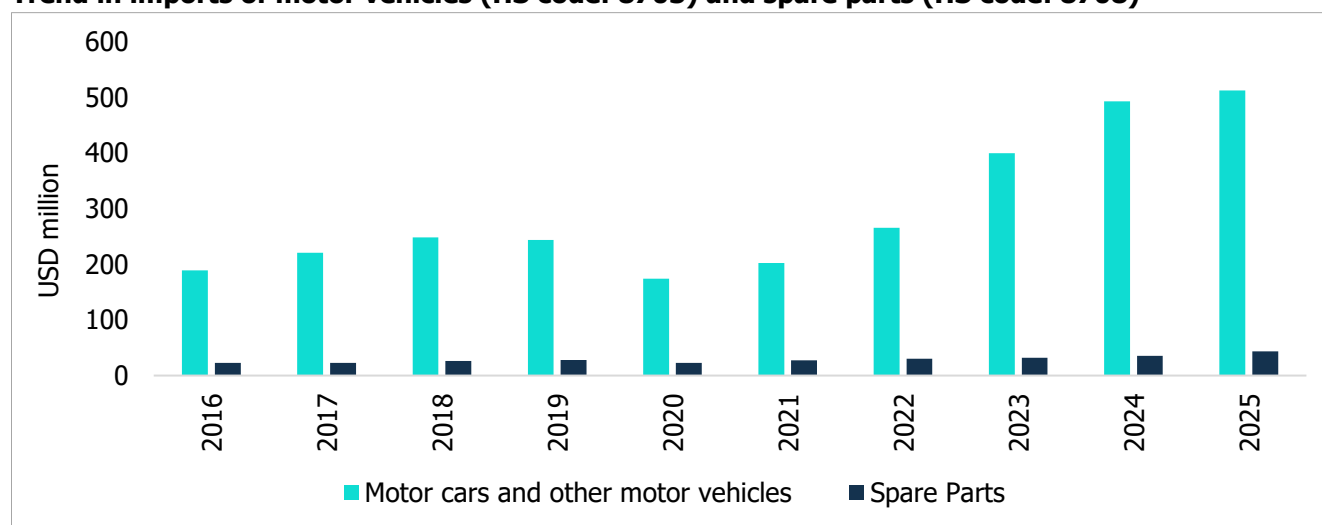
In 2025, 14,225 hybrid vehicles were registered, about five times higher than a decade earlier. This rapid expansion has been supported by increasing model availability, fiscal incentives, and rising fuel costs. Notably, most hybrid vehicles registered in Mauritius consist of second-hand imported units.

Between 2010 and 2024, Toyota and Honda were the top two brands of hybrid vehicles registered at the National Land Transport Authority. In fact, Toyota hybrid models such as RAV4, Corolla Cross Hybrid, Prius along with CR V, Accord and Civic from Honda are very popular among the masses.

Nevertheless, the pace of growth in the hybrid segment may moderate going forward following fiscal measures introduced in the 2025 budget. Non-plug-in hybrid vehicles are now subject to excise duties ranging 25-75% depending on engine capacity, while plug-in hybrid vehicles face 15-55%. The increase in acquisition costs associated with these policy changes may partly weigh on future demand for hybrid vehicles in Mauritius.

Mauritius is highly dependent on automotive imports

Trend in imports of motor vehicles (HS code: 8703) and spare parts (HS code: 8708)



Source: ITC, Trade Map

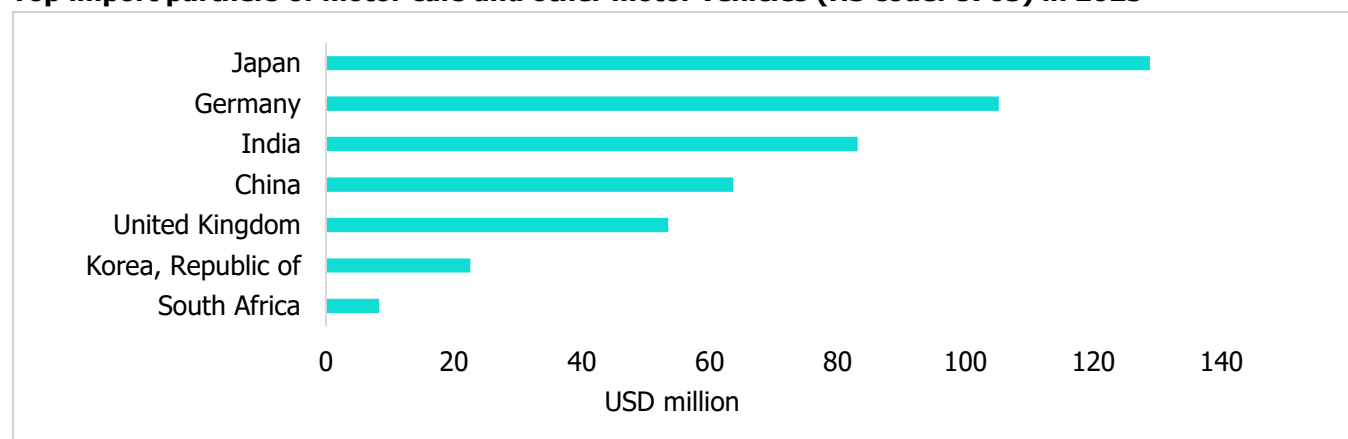
Imports of motor cars and other motor vehicles into Mauritius displayed a strong upward trend over 2016-2025, highlighting firm demand. Following steady growth between 2016 and 2019, imports declined noticeably in 2020, likely reflecting the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, global supply-chain disruption, and weaker demand.

Vehicle imports recovered significantly in 2021 and accelerated sharply between 2022 and 2025. Imports of motor cars and other motor vehicles increased particularly strongly from 2023 onwards, reaching their peak over the review period in 2025. The sustained increase reflects recovering economic activity, rising consumer purchasing power, expanding vehicle financing and leasing activity, and robust demand for hybrids and EVs in Mauritius.

In comparison, imports of automotive spare parts rose gradually over the period, albeit at a considerably lower scale relative to vehicle imports. The continued growth in imports of spare parts, or auto components, reflects the expansion of the domestic vehicle fleet, increasing vehicle maintenance requirements, and the growing importance of the automotive aftersales and servicing market in Mauritius.

Overall, the upward trajectory in both vehicle and spare parts imports highlights the structural importance of the automotive sector in the Mauritian economy, while also underscoring the country's continued dependence on imported automotive products and international supply chains.

Top import partners of motor cars and other motor vehicles (HS code: 8703) in 2025



Source: ITC, Trade Map

Beyond domestic vehicle registrations, imports of motor cars, and other motor vehicles provide important insight into the external structure of the Mauritian automotive market.

In 2025, Japan remained the leading source of automotive imports into Mauritius, accounting for 27% of total imports of motor cars and vehicles, equivalent to approximately USD 130 million. Germany and India followed with market shares of 22% and 17% respectively, while China accounted for 13% of total automotive imports.

The continued dominance of Japan reflects longstanding consumer preference for Japanese automotive brands, which are widely perceived as reliable, fuel-efficient and relatively affordable within the Mauritian market. Meanwhile, China's growing share highlights the increasing penetration of Chinese automotive manufacturers, particularly within the hybrid and EV segments.

Imports from Germany and the United Kingdom also remained significant, reflecting sustained demand for premium vehicles, specialised automotive products, and spare parts. Overall, the import structure underscores high external dependence of the Mauritian automotive sector on international trade flows and global manufacturing markets.

Country-wise comparison (USD thousands)

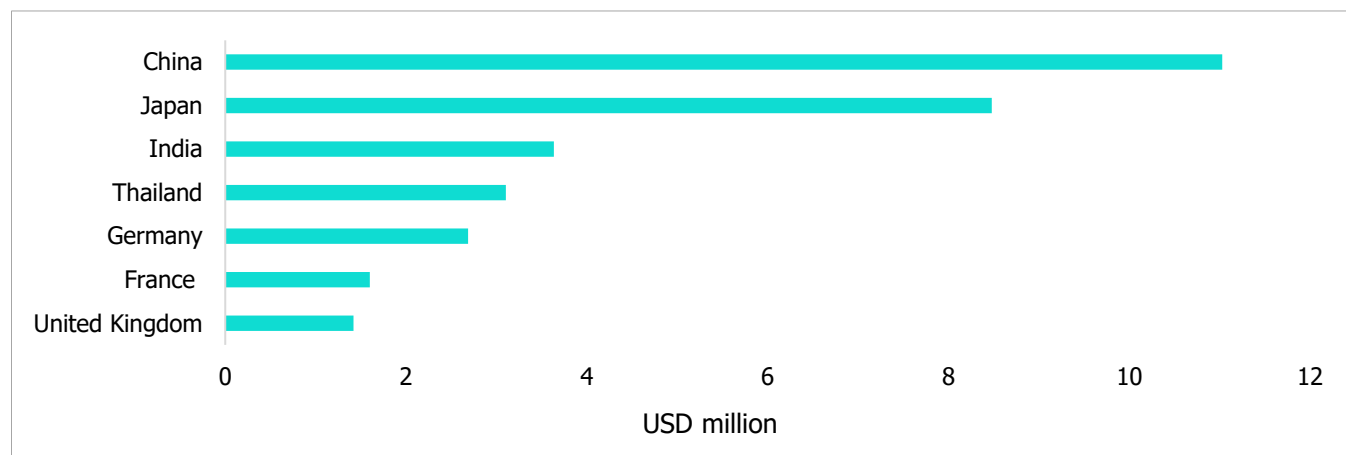
Country	2024	2025	% change
Japan	141,452	128,831	-8.9
Germany	108,135	105,211	-2.7
India	80,507	83,149	3.3
China	44,624	63,686	42.7
United Kingdom	24,971	53,526	114.4
Korea, Republic of	21,948	22,564	2.8
South Africa	12,380	8,327	-32.7

Source: ITC, Trade Map

A comparison between 2024 and 2025 automotive imports highlights evolving sourcing patterns in the Mauritian automotive market, although the hierarchy of leading import partners was broadly unchanged.

Despite maintaining its dominant position, imports from Japan declined by 8.9% in 2025, while Germany also recorded a slight contraction of 2.7% over the same period. By contrast, imports from China increased significantly by 42.7%, reflecting the growing penetration of Chinese automotive manufacturers within Mauritius, particularly within the hybrid and EV segments. Imports from the United Kingdom more than doubled in 2025, increasing by 114.4%, while India continued to record steady growth of 3.3%. These developments suggest increasing diversification beyond traditional Asian suppliers.

Top import partners of spare parts (HS code: 8708) in 2025

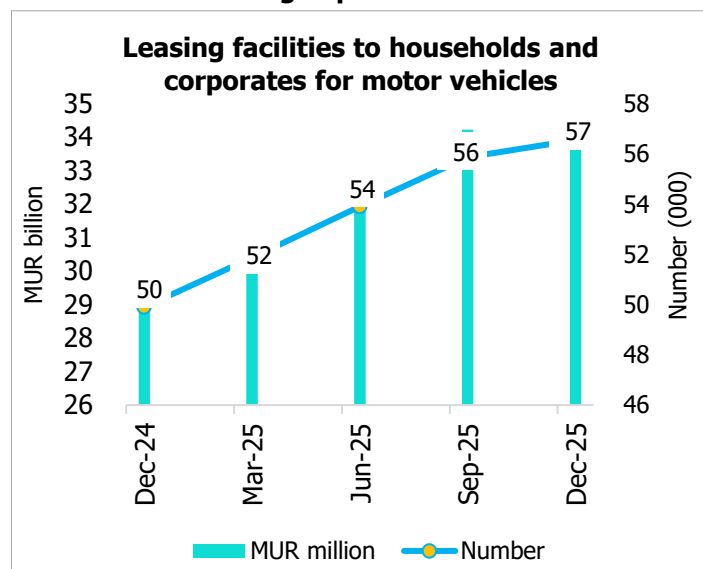


Source: ITC, Trade Map

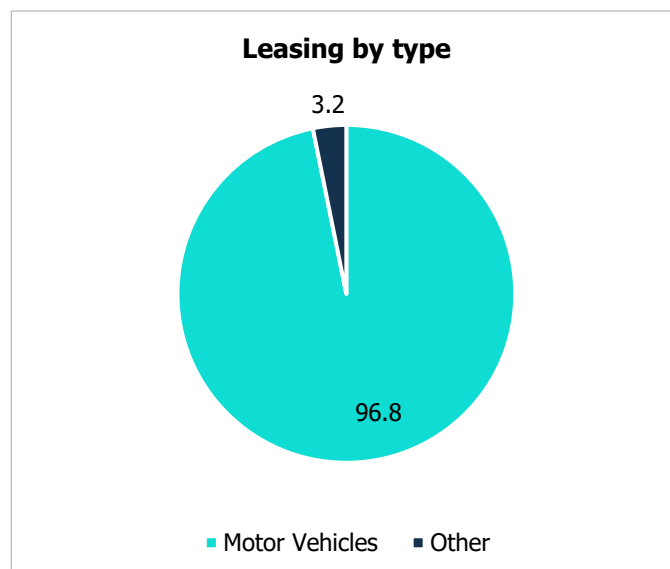
Mauritius' imports of automotive spare parts (HS Code: 8708) were highly concentrated among a few major trading partners in 2025. China emerged as the leading source, supplying approximately USD 11 million and accounting for around 35% of the total. Japan followed with imports valued at ~USD 8 million (27% market share), reflecting the continued importance of Japanese vehicles within the Mauritian fleet. India and Thailand captured smaller but significant shares, of approximately USD 4 million (11%) and USD 3 million (10%), respectively.

The dominance of Asian suppliers mirrors the composition of Mauritian vehicle fleet, which is heavily concentrated around Japanese, Korean, Indian, and increasingly, Chinese manufacturers. Competitive pricing, the broad availability of aftermarket components and established supply chain connectivity have reinforced Mauritius' dependence on Asian automotive imports and spare parts imports. China's expanding footprint in the spare parts segment aligns with the increasing penetration of Chinese automotive brands within Mauritius, particularly within the hybrid and EV market.

Motor vehicle leasing expands



Source: Bank of Mauritius



Leasing activity within the Mauritian automotive sector expanded steadily throughout 2025, highlighting the critical role of financing in supporting vehicle ownership for households and corporates. By December 2025, outstanding leasing facilities related to motor vehicles reached approximately MUR 34.4 billion, while the number of motor vehicle lease contracts climbed to around 57,000.

On a quarter-on-quarter basis, motor vehicle leasing activity moderated during the second half of 2025. Outstanding motor vehicle leasing facilities increased by 3.6% between Q2 2025 and Q3 2025, before slowing significantly to 0.4% in Q4 2025, reaching MUR 34,357 million. Similarly, the number of motor vehicle leases rose by 3.6% in Q3 2025 before moderating to 1.2% in Q4 2025, reaching 56,556 contracts. The slowdown could partly be because of softer vehicle demand following the fiscal measures in the 2025 budget and rising vehicle acquisition costs.

Motor vehicles continued to dominate the leasing market, accounting for most total leasing facilities granted to households and corporates. Sustained growth in motor vehicle leasing reflects resilient consumer demand, increasing vehicle acquisition costs, and the rising reliance on financing solutions to support vehicle purchases.

The sustained rise in leasing activity underscores the link between the automotive sector and household credit dynamics in Mauritius.

Industry outlook and emerging risks

Looking ahead, geopolitical tensions in the Middle East introduce additional uncertainty for the Mauritian automotive sector, particularly given the country's high dependence on imported motor vehicles, spare parts and fuel. An escalating conflict could trigger higher global oil prices, increase shipping and logistics costs and disrupt international supply chains, particularly for vehicles and components imported from Asia and Europe through Middle East-linked trade routes. These developments would likely increase vehicle acquisition and operating costs within the domestic market.

Persistently higher fuel prices may further accelerate the shift towards fuel-efficient mobility solutions such as hybrid and electric vehicles. Rising fuel costs have increasingly influenced consumer purchasing behaviour across Africa, particularly within smaller import-dependent markets where affordability and fuel efficiency remain important considerations. This trend may further support the growing penetration of hybrid and electric vehicle brands within Mauritius, particularly relatively affordable Chinese EV manufacturers, which have continued to expand their presence across emerging and smaller markets globally.

Nevertheless, higher vehicle prices, rising financing costs and reduced fiscal incentives for hybrid and electric vehicles following the 2025 budget measures will moderate the pace of vehicle demand and financing activity over the near term.

For leasing companies and financial institutions, higher vehicle prices and rising financing costs may weigh on vehicle affordability and moderate growth in vehicle financing activity over the near term. Concurrently, the continued transition towards hybrid and electric mobility is expected to create new financing opportunities for banks, leasing companies and other industries linked to the broader automotive ecosystem.

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