

Official statistics on vehicle lifetime in the European Union and in Japan

March 2025

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Vehicle lifetime in the EU


The image features a light blue gradient background at the top. Below this, the text "Vehicle lifetime in the EU" is centered in a bold, dark grey font. The bottom half of the image is a solid teal color, featuring a large, semi-transparent teal semi-circle graphic that is centered horizontally and partially overlaps the teal background.

Official statistics on vehicle age at the point of recycling indicate an average vehicle lifetime of 19 to 24 years

Country	Year	Age	Source	Link
Belgium	2022	18.5	Febelauto (2023), rapport annuel 2023 (<i>Febelauto is the extended producer responsibility organization for vehicles in Belgium</i>)	https://www.febelauto.be/rapportannuel2023/chiffres-cles-vehicules-hors-d-usage.html
Finland	2024	22.8	Finnish Information Centre of Automobile Sector (2025), based on Statistics Finland	https://www.aut.fi/en/statistics/statistics_of_scrapped_vehicles/average_scrapping_age_of_passenger_cars
France	2022	19.8	Agence de l'environnement et de la maîtrise de l'énergie (2024), Véhicules : données 2022	https://librairie.ademe.fr/economie-circulaire-et-dechets/7602-vehicules-donnees-2022.html
Germany	2022	18.6	Federal Ministry for the Environment and Umweltbundesamt (2024), Jahresbericht über die Altfahrzeug-Verwertungsquoten in Deutschland im Jahr 2022	https://www.bmu.de/download/jahresberichte-ueber-die-altfahrzeug-verwertungsquoten-in-deutschland
Netherlands	2023	19.6	Auto Recycling Nederland (2024), Highlights of the Sustainability Report 2023 (<i>ARN covers 84% of vehicles recycled in the Netherlands</i>)	https://duurzaamheidsverslag2023.arn.nl/en/
Portugal	2022	23.8	Portuguese Environment Agency (2024), Reporte de Qualidade VFV 2022	https://apambiente.pt/residuos/reporte-comunitario
Spain	2023	21.1	SIGRAUTO (<i>Spanish Association for the Environmental Treatment of End-of-Life Vehicles</i>)	https://www.sigrauto.com/cuantos-vehiculos-fuera-de-uso-se-tratan-al-ano/antiguedad-vehiculos

In comparison, estimates on vehicle age at the point of export or recycling do not cover a full vehicle life

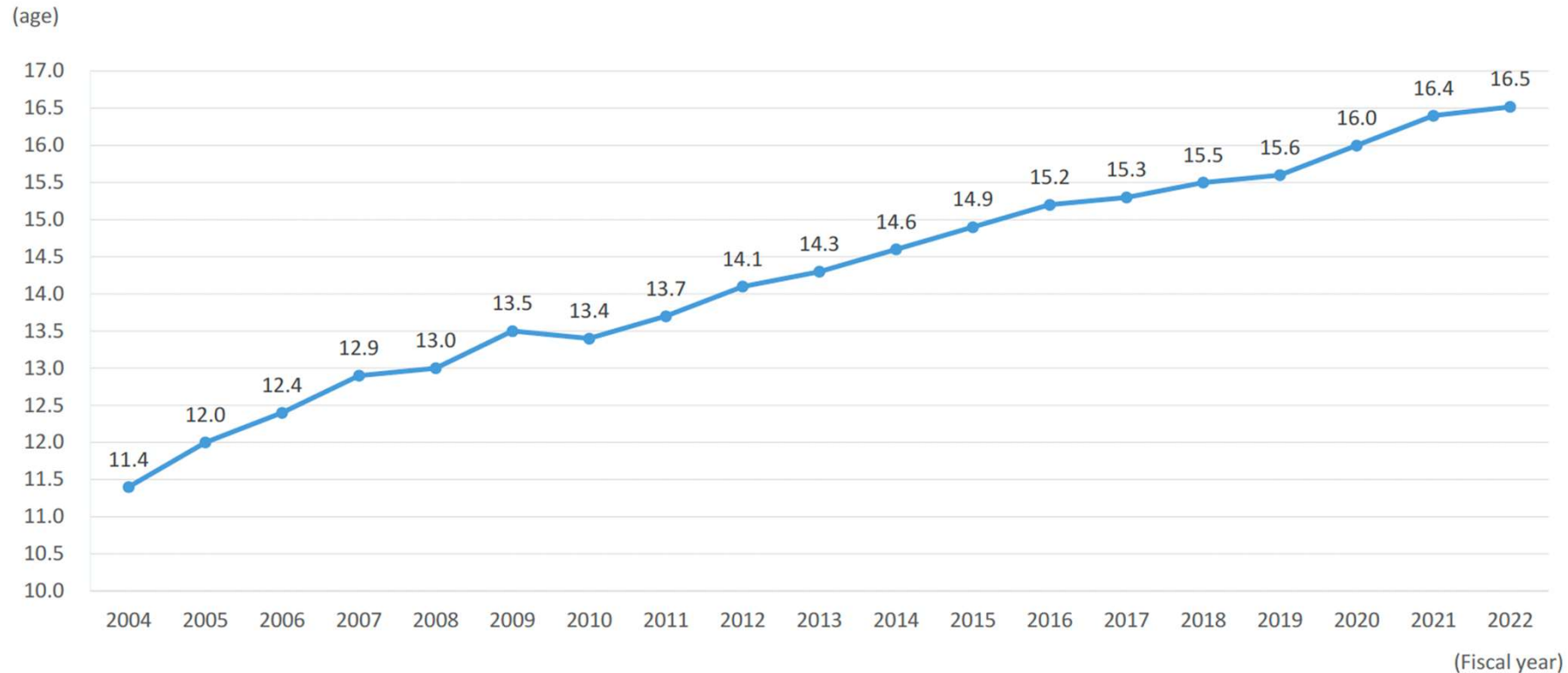
Country	Year	Age	Source	Link
EU, UK, EFTA	-	8.0-35.1	Held et al. (2021) Lifespans of passenger cars in Europe: empirical modelling of fleet turnover dynamics ⇒ Estimation of age of vehicles when leaving the fleet of a country , based on stock, new registration, and import/export data ⇒ Estimates for 31 European countries , with means of 18.1/28.4 years in Western/Eastern European countries	https://doi.org/10.1186/s12544-020-00464-0
UK	2023	17.8	Nguyen-Tien et al. (2025) The closing longevity gap between battery electric vehicles and internal combustion vehicles in Great Britain ⇒ Estimation based of vehicle age at annual conformity tests (MOT)	https://www.nature.com/articles/s41560-024-01698-1

 In contrast to the recycling statistics, these estimates refer to the average age of vehicles when leaving the fleet of a country, **which often also is due to the export to other European and to non-European countries.**

Vehicle lifetime in Japan

The image features a light blue gradient background at the top. The title 'Vehicle lifetime in Japan' is centered in a bold, dark grey font. Below the title, the background transitions to a solid teal color. A large, semi-transparent teal semi-circle is positioned in the lower half of the image, overlapping the teal background.

Japan: Official statistics on vehicle age at the point of recycling indicate an average vehicle lifetime of 16.5 years in 2022



Eiji Hosoda, **Japan Automobile Recycling Promotion Center** (2024) [End-of-Life Vehicle Recycling in Japan](#) (slide 31)
Source: Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (2023) [The Current Situation of Automobile Recycling](#) (figure 2)



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Thank you!
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