The Taxicab Fact Book was last published in 2006 by Schaller Consulting. Since then, many changes have occurred, allowing us to take a new look at how yellow taxis operate in New York City. The largest change has been the introduction of the Taxi Passenger Enhancement Program (TPEP), a technology initiative which introduced credit card readers to all taxis in 2008. Along with this came the collection of electronic trip-sheet data, replacing handwritten paper trip-sheets with independent records including information on pick-up and drop-off times and locations and itemized fare amounts. With the new TPEP data, we are able to take a look at taxi patterns from all taxis without having to rely on samples of trip-sheets.

The 2014 Taxicab Fact Book is a quick look at the state of the yellow taxi industry (with a brief look at the other for-hire vehicle industries). This will be the first in a regular summary of taxi trends in New York City. Not only does the 2014 Fact Book contain updated statistics on total trips and fares, but it also provides unique looks at trip patterns by borough, shifts and taxi availability, and driver and passenger demographics.
There are **13,437** medallions, the right to run a yellow taxi.

A typical taxi travels **70,000 miles** per year, enough to travel around the world **2.8** times.

The average age of a taxi vehicle is **3.3 years**.

60% of taxi vehicles are hybrid-electric vehicles and **2%** of taxi vehicles are wheelchair-accessible.

Trips: **485,000** per day | **175 MILLION** per year

The are over **50,000** drivers.

A typical driver shift is **9.5 hours**.

Passengers: **600,000** per day | **236 MILLION** per year

**Models of Operation**

**Fleets**
Run garages that own and operate many taxis
Drivers lease the taxi on a daily or weekly basis
The lease fee is capped according to TLC regulations

**Driver-Owned Vehicles (DOV)**
Driver conditionally owns the car but leases the medallion from an agent who manages it for an owner

**Individual Owner-Operators**
Driver owns car and medallion and is required to drive at least 210 shifts per year

**Regulations**
Street hails or e-hails anywhere in NYC
Accessible vehicles are required to participate in Accessible Dispatch program
TLC sets rate of fare
Specific vehicle standards (TLC inspection 3 times per year)
Closed entry with a fixed supply
Drivers must be able to read, speak, and understand English

Boro Taxis were created as a new class of license to provide legal, yellow-caliber taxi service to the boroughs, since **94%** of yellow taxi pick-ups occur either in Manhattan or at one of the airports.

18,000 Boro Taxi permits are being issued in three groups of **6,000**. The first group of 6,000 has been sold, with the second issuance planned for June 2014.

Boro Taxis are a hybrid service, providing both **street hails** and **prearranged** for-hire vehicle services.

Boro Taxis are not permitted to pick up passengers in Manhattan below **E 96th Street** or **W 110th Street**.

**Boro Taxi Service Areas**

For more on medallions, see p 12
For more on trips, see p 3-6
For more on drivers, see p 9-10
For more on shifts, see p 8
For more on passengers, see p 11
For more on inspections, see p 13
For more on Boro Taxis, including new facts on a brand new service, check out the next Taxicab Fact Book!
Liveries (also known as Car Services or Community Cars)
Provide for-hire service by pre-arrangement

Around 500 base stations located throughout the five boroughs
About 25,000 vehicles
Vehicles must be affiliated with a base
Average age of vehicles is about 7 years
Passengers: about 500,000 per day
Fare: set by base and varies by neighborhood

Regulations
Trip must be prearranged via bases
Street hailing not permitted
Wide variety of vehicle types (TLC inspection once every 2 years)
Open entry

Black Cars
Provide service mostly for corporate clients, setting fares by contracts with clients

Around 80 base stations located throughout the five boroughs
About 10,000 vehicles
Vehicles must be affiliated with a base
Average age of vehicles is about 5.5 years

Regulations
Prearranged contracted service, 90% non-cash basis
Wide variety of vehicle types (TLC inspection once every 2 years)
Open entry

Other Industries
Luxury Limousines
Provide chartered service
About 7,000 vehicles
Over 200 companies

Paratransit
Provide transportation for healthcare facilities
About 2,000 vehicles
Over 200 paratransit providers

Commuter Vans
Provide service for passengers along fixed routes
About 500 vehicles
Around 50 van authorizations
Yellow taxis provide an average of 485,000 trips/day.

The average trip distance is 2.6 miles.

- 20% of all trips are less than 1 mile (about 20 Manhattan blocks)
- 99% of all trips are less than 12 miles
Average daily taxi usage is typically highest in the spring months and lowest in the summer months.

Days with fewer than 350,000 trips can be explained by either holidays or major weather events.

**HOLIDAYS**
- New Year’s Day
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving
- Christmas

Years with under 350,000 trips:
- 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013

**WEATHER EVENTS**
- Blizzard: 12/27/2010, 72,019 trips
- Hurricane Irene: 8/28/2011, 29,029 trips
- Superstorm Sandy: 10/29/2012, 113,794 trips

The most trips between 2008 and 2013 occurred on December 11, 2009, a Friday.

Other top days include February 12, 2011 & February 11, 2012, both Saturdays around Valentine’s Day.

**MONTHS WITH HIGHEST & LOWEST AVERAGE DAILY TRIPS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Average Daily Trips</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Average Daily Trips</th>
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<td>2008</td>
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<td>Dec</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Valentine’s Day
Yellow taxi activity is centered on Manhattan, where 90.3% of taxi pick-ups occur. After Manhattan, the area with the highest percentage of pick-ups is at the airports, which together account for 3.5% of all pick-ups. Taxi activity in the boroughs outside of the airports is scarce: in total, about 6.2% of all pick-ups occur in these areas. The borough with the largest share is Brooklyn, where 3.1% of all taxi pick-ups occur, followed by Queens with 1.5%, the Bronx with 0.9%, and Staten Island with 0.8%.

Looking at trip patterns by time of day and day of week, Manhattan continues to be the primary borough where pick-ups occur. However, there are a few times of day where pick-ups in Brooklyn and Queens and at the airports make up a higher share of all pick-ups than usual. The Brooklyn share of pick-ups reaches its peaks overnight, usually between 10PM and 5AM. The average weekly peak occurs early Sunday mornings when Brooklyn pick-ups make up 8% of all pick-ups between 1:30AM and 2:30AM (representing about 1,800 taxi pick-ups on average for this hour). The Queens share of pick-ups reaches its peaks at the start of the AM shift, likely due to the fact that most taxi garages are located in Northwestern Queens. Most mornings between 4:30AM and 6:00AM, about 5-6% of all pick-ups occur in Queens.

At the airports, daily peaks occur in the AM around 6:30AM and in the evening around 4:30PM, and these peaks range from representing 4% to 7% of all pick-ups. The weekly peak occurs late on Sunday evenings, where taxi traffic is generally low, when pick-ups at the airport represent about 8% of all taxi pick-ups. From 6PM to midnight on Sunday evenings, around 1,250 taxi pick-ups occur each hour, on average. This is not significantly higher than the volumes at the airports during other peaks, but with fewer taxis on the road at this time, these trips make up a higher proportion of all trips. Pick-ups in the Bronx and Staten Island, on average, do not make up more than 1% of all trips at any given point in time during the week.

Weekly peaks in the percentage of trips ending outer boroughs are even higher than for pick-ups. Taxi trips...
ending in Brooklyn peak at about 18% of all trips, on average, on Saturdays at 4:45AM, reaching similar levels early mornings between 2:00AM and 5:00AM. On Saturdays between midnight and 3:00AM, around 3,100 taxi trips end in Brooklyn each hour, on average. In Queens, drop-off peaks occur at similar times, with a weekly average peak in drop-offs representing 13% of all drop-offs on Saturday at 5:15AM. Around 1,650 trips per hour end in Queens, on average, for Saturdays between midnight and 3:00AM. Drop-offs at the airports peak in the AM between 4:30AM and 5:30AM. On Monday AM, around 21% of all taxi trips end at the airports between 5:00AM and 5:30AM, on average. Trips ending in the Bronx peak at about 3% of all trips on Saturday and Sunday mornings between 4:30AM and 5:30AM.

Taxis are an important mode of transportation to and from the New York City airports. Not only do taxi trips to or from the airport represent 5% of all taxi trips, taxis serve a large portion of all airport passengers. From 2011 to 2013, yellow taxis serve, on average, 26% of all passengers arriving to or departing from LaGuardia Airport 1. At JFK Airport, taxis serve about 10% of all arrivals and departures. The AirTrain at JFK, which travels between the terminals and the Howard Beach station on the A subway line and the Jamaica station on the E, J, and Z subway lines and the Long Island Railroad, carries an equal share of airport passengers (an average of about 11% of all passengers).

Some seasonality exists for taxi travel to and from the airports. In July and August of each year from 2011 to 2013, the share of airport passengers traveling by taxi drops a few percentage points.

1 Passenger volumes at airports from annual and monthly Airport Traffic Reports published by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

The average yellow taxi fare in 2013 was $13.40, an increase from 2012, when the average fare was $11.98. This increase of average fares is mostly due to an increase in the rate of fare, which took effect in September 2012.

The average revenue taken in by a taxi driver varies by time of day and day of week. Average hourly gross revenue ranges from around $26 for Wednesdays at 3AM to just over $44 for Thursdays at 10PM. After accounting for hourly expenses, including $1.43 per hour for fuel and amortized lease payments ranging from $3.58 to $11.58 per hour, hourly net revenue ranges from $14 for Wednesday at 3AM to $31 for Thursdays at 10PM. In comparison, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, bus drivers make an average of about $21 per hour, which falls in the middle of the range for taxi drivers. It is important to note, however, that unlike bus drivers, taxi drivers do not receive employer-sponsored benefits.

Before TPEP systems were introduced to all yellow taxis in late 2008, no taxis accepted credit cards. At the time when credit card readers had been installed in all taxis in late 2009, passengers paid by credit card for less than 20% of all trips, and the share of trips paid by credit card has grown steadily since then. Today, paying with a credit card is more popular than paying with cash, as 55% of all trips are paid by credit card.

Tipping

Tipping by taxi passengers has remained rather constant for the last few years, holding at an average tip of 18%. This tip percentage persisted even after the fare increase in late 2012, meaning drivers are making more in tips since the base for the tip is now higher.

Taxi Fares in NYC Compared to Other Cities

While a ride in a New York taxi may cost more than taking one of the city’s buses or trains, the average New York taxi fare ranks relatively in the middle compared to taxi fares nationwide. In a study of the nation’s 60 largest metropolitan areas, New York ranked 42nd for a one-mile cab ride with an average fare of $6.31. For a five-mile cab ride, New York came in at 46th and for a ten-mile ride, it ranked 47th. In each category, New York was less expensive than Boston, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and San Jose. This trend holds true, even after the 2012 fare increase. New York is more expensive than the national average, however2. This represents a change from 2006, when the average New York cab fare at the time was slightly below average, coming in 11th out of 14 major U.S. cities with 1,300 or more metered taxi cabs.3

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1 Assumes an average of 115 miles traveled per hour, the taxi fleet average fuel economy of 29 MPG, and the 2013 average gas price of $3.602 per gallon (from eia.gov)
2 Nationwide comparisons from taxifarefinder.com
TLC Rules require that all mini-fleet medallions must be operated for two shifts each day. Fleet vehicles tend to start their shifts around a centralized time for both the AM and PM shifts. This is especially true on weekdays, when on average, 39% of vehicles operated under this model start their evening shifts in the 5:00-6:00PM hour, with over 10% starting in just the 5:00-5:15 block alone. The morning shift start times are also clustered to a degree, but less so than the evening shift. In the morning shift, 28% of fleet vehicles begin weekday AM shifts in the 6:30-7:30AM hour, on average.

Although independent medallions do not have the same double-shifting requirements, many of the owners of these medallions choose to operate for two shifts anyway, since leasing out their vehicle for a second shift provides a source of additional income. True single-shifters are a rarity today, as only around 10% of all medallions operate for one daily shift on a consistent basis. Those taxis that are single-shifted start their shifts at staggered times (instead of the more clustered shift start times found in the fleet model). No more than 10% of single-shifted owner-drivers begin a shift in the same hour (and no more than 4% start in any single 15-minute interval).

**Taxis on the Road and Taxi Occupancy**

The number of taxis available for service varies considerably by time of day and by day of the week. On average, Monday shifts tend to have slightly fewer available cabs than other days of the week, with an average of 72% of all taxis on the road for the AM shift and an average of 77% of all taxis on the road for the PM shift. Similar patterns of service exist for shifts from Tuesday through Thursday, where AM shifts range from 80-82% of all taxis on the road and PM shifts range between 81-83%. Fewer taxis are available on Friday mornings (79% on average), but more taxis are available in the PM shift (85%), and drivers in the PM shift keep their taxis out later into the night. This pattern is more exaggerated for Saturdays where there is not a morning AM rush hour (AM service runs at 71% and PM service runs at 82%). Sundays have the lowest number of available taxis for the entire week, with both shifts running with about 61% of all taxis.

At the traditional PM shift-change time (from 4PM to 5PM) each day, the number of available taxis on the road drops considerably. On an average weekday, service levels at this time drop 33% from service levels at noon. The large number of taxis changing hands between 4PM and 6PM seems to have a quantifiable effect on a passenger’s ability to hail a taxi when he or she needs one. There is a daily spike in the percentage of available taxis that are occupied between 4PM and 6PM each day. On average, 64% of taxis are occupied during these hours.

Aside from these spikes, other areas of high occupancy occur mostly at peak travel times. For weekday AM rush hours (between 8AM and 9AM), the average occupancy is around 56%. For the PM rush hours following the shift change (between 6PM and 7PM), the average occupancy is around 52%. On Friday and Saturday nights, peaks occur around midnight and again at 4AM, when bars close in NYC. At midnight on weekends, 56% of available taxis are occupied, on average, and at 4AM, about 49% of available taxis are occupied.
Where Drivers Come From

TLC-licensed drivers come from all five New York City boroughs, all 50 U.S. states, and the District of Columbia, and more than 175 countries around the world. A handful of these countries have only one driver in the fleet, whereas other countries have tens of thousands.

The highest concentration of yellow taxi drivers comes from Bangladesh, with over 10,250 drivers. Drivers from Bangladesh now represent 23.1% of all yellow taxi drivers. Pakistan comes in second with 5,850 yellow taxi drivers (about 13.2% of all yellow taxi drivers). This represents a shift from 2005, when the highest concentration came from Pakistan (14.4%), and Bangladesh was second at 13.6%. The concentration of drivers coming from the U.S. and associates territories has also decreased from 9.1% in 2005 to 6.0% today.

For FHV drivers, the number one place of birth is the Dominican Republic. Drivers from this country represent 19.5% of all FHV drivers (over 9,000 drivers in total). The second highest concentration of FHV drivers comes from the U.S., representing 9.6% of all FHV drivers (about 4,500 drivers).

Where Drivers Live

About 88% of TLC-licensed drivers live within the five boroughs that make up New York City. A plurality of yellow taxi drivers live in Queens (about 43%). After Queens, the most popular boroughs are Brooklyn (23%), the Bronx (13%), Manhattan (10%), and Staten Island (7%). In comparison, FHV drivers are more spread out throughout the five boroughs, with 29% of
drivers in Queens, 24% in Brooklyn, 22% in the Bronx, 10% in Manhattan, and just 3% in Staten Island.

Among those drivers who do not live in New York City, most live in New Jersey (around 6,300 or 6% of all drivers) or in New York State on Long Island (about 4%) or in Upstate NY (2%). Less than one percent of all drivers live elsewhere.

Who Drivers Are

Although female drivers have been behind the wheels of New York City cabs since the 1940s, the taxi industry continues to be nearly all male. This trend has held firm for many, many years. Around 49,500 (98.9%) of today’s yellow taxi drivers are male, whereas just 536 are female. The percentage of female FHV drivers is slightly higher, with a total of around 2,300 female drivers (just under 4% of all FHV drivers).

TLC-licensed drivers range in age from 19 years (the youngest age allowed by TLC Rules), to the oldest, who turned 94 in August 2013. The average age for a New York City yellow taxi driver is 46 years old, up from 44 years old in 2005. For FHV drivers, the average age is 47 years. Looking at the age distributions for yellow taxi and FHV drivers, a larger share of yellow taxi drivers are younger in age than FHV drivers, with about 21% of yellow drivers under 35 years old and just 19% of FHV drivers. The largest age cohort for both groups of drivers is those between 50 and 54 years of age. Around 14% of yellow taxi drivers and 15% of FHV drivers fall into this age group.

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Source: NYC TLC Licensing Data, September 2013

2014 Taxicab Fact Book
**Sex of Passengers**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>MALE</th>
<th>FEMALE</th>
<th>PREFER NOT TO ANSWER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>49%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Age**

- 20 or younger: 35%
- 21 to 35: 35%
- 36 to 50: 13%
- 51 to 70: 5%
- 71 or older: 12%

**Income**

- $100K or higher: 42%
- $10K to $50K: 12%
- Under $10K: 11%
- Prefer not to answer: 17%

**Car Ownership**

- Yes: 52%
- No: 48%

**Driver’s License**

- Yes: 56%
- No: 45%
- Prefer not to answer: 9%

**Seat Belts**

- Yes: 39%
- No: 62%
- Prefer not to answer: 9%

**Smart Phones**

- Yes: 67%
- No: 33%

**Source:** NYC TLC In-Taxi Passenger Surveys, 2012-2013

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Over two-thirds of taxi passengers are 35 or under, with 35% of passengers reporting that they are younger than 20 years old, while another 35% report being between 21 and 35 years old. While these age groups are also the largest citywide at 26% and 25%, respectively, they are overrepresented in the taxi passenger population. Those who are 70 and older are also overrepresented at 12% of passengers but just 8% of the city’s population. Passengers between 36 and 50 years old are underrepresented at 13% of the riding public and 21% of the total population, as are passengers who are between 51 and 70, who make up 20% of the city’s population but just 5% of taxi passengers.

42% of taxi passengers have an annual household income of $100,000 or higher while 11% have an annual household income of less than $10,000. Household annual incomes of $10,000 to $50,000 and $50,000 to $100,000 represent 12% and 18% of taxi passengers, respectively (17% declined to answer.) Citywide, 24% of the population has a household income of $100,000 or more per year and 14% have an income of less than $10,000. In Manhattan, where most taxi passengers live and work, 37% have an income of $100,000 or higher, which may explain in part why the income bracket is so overrepresented.

More than half (55%) of New York City taxi passengers have a driver’s license.

Most passengers do not wear seatbelts in the city’s taxicabs. Only 38% of passengers reported they were using the taxi’s seatbelts while taking the passenger survey. Seat belt usage overall in New York State is about 90%.

Two-thirds of New York taxi passengers own or use a Smart phone. 55% say they would like the option of using their phone to locate taxicabs, and 54% say they would pay for their rides with their phone if they could do so.
Types of Medallions

Medallions are small metal plates attached to the hood of a taxi, certifying it for passenger pick-up throughout the city. Yellow taxicabs with medallions are the only vehicles authorized to pick up passengers by street hail anywhere in New York City. There are two different types of taxi medallions, an independent medallion and a mini-fleet medallion. Each has its own set of rules and requirements and transfers at a different price point.

An independent medallion is a class of medallion taxicab license in which the owner may only own one medallion, and often has an obligation to drive a minimum number of shifts annually. Owners of independent medallions typically operate as owner-drivers who own both the medallion and the taxi vehicle. Income for owners of independent medallions is derived from the fares and tips received from passengers less the cost of owning and maintaining a vehicle and medallion. Often, these owner-drivers will lease their taxis to a second driver for additional income.

A mini-fleet medallion is a class of medallion taxicab license that must be owned in groups of at least two. The owners of mini-fleet medallions own multiple medallions and many maintain a fleet of taxi vehicles that are leased to drivers on a per-shift basis. Income for fleet owners are derived from lease fees less the cost of operating and maintaining the vehicle.

The Haas Act

Until the mid-1930s, the taxi industry of New York City had no regulation. There were an unspecified number of taxis and there wasn’t a set standard for the fares that could be charged by a driver. This changed in 1937 with the enactment of the Haas Act, which established the medallion system.

Originally it set a limit of 16,900 taxi medallions. However, that number was decreased to 11,787 after World War II. It remained unchanged until 1996 when it was increased by 133 medallions to a total of 11,900. As of now, there are 13,437 total taxi medallions in New York City.

The Haas Act classified the two types of medallions in use today: independent and mini-fleet

It also set up a nominal “60/40” ratio of mini-fleet to independent medallions

The Price of a Medallion

TLC does not set the price of a medallion; instead, the market sets the price of the medallion. The price of a medallion depends on a number of factors.

- Taxi fares and tips
- Demand for taxi service
- Availability and cost of taxicab medallion financing
- Market for the medallion
- Anticipated return on the investment to acquire a medallion as compared to other investments
- Cost of operating a taxi

When medallions first began being traded after World War II under the Haas Act, the average price was $2,500. It has grown exponentially since then. The average annual price of independent medallions increased 260% between 2004 and 2012 while the average annual price of mini-fleet medallions increased 32% over the same period. When accounting for inflation, prices still increased 24% for independent medallions and 265% for mini-fleet medallions. The annualized return on investment (ROI) for a medallion over this time would be about 19.5%. In comparison, over the same time, the ROI for a similar investment in the S&P 500 would yield a 3.9% annual return.

The value of a mini-fleet medallion is much greater than the value of an independent medallion. In 2013, the average price of an independent medallion (approximately $957,000) was about 94% of the average price of a mini-fleet medallion (approximately $1,150,000). This price differential may be explained by differences in the medallions, such as a requirement for many independent medallions that the owner must drive the taxi, or the fact that mini-fleet medallions are often held by large fleet companies which can more easily lease a taxi for two shifts each day (and thus see a higher return on their investments). TLC data indicates that about 58% of the existing medallions are mini-fleet medallions while 42% are independent medallions.

Historical Medallion Prices

Medallion prices have increased during periods of medallion sales in part due to the fare increases that have accompanied them. During these periods of sales, independent medallion prices rose 22% in 2004 and 22% in 2005. Mini-fleet medallion prices rose 22% in 2004 and 21% in 2005. In 2006, independent medallion prices rose 14% while mini-fleet medallion prices rose 27%. Medallion prices rose in 2007 as well by approximately 16% for independent and 19% for mini-fleet.

In the Future

Two-thousand wheelchair-restricted medallions are slated to be sold over the next several years. Already, 200 mini-fleet wheelchair-restricted medallions have been auctioned off at an average price of $2.27 Million (mini-fleet medallions are sold in pairs, making the average price $1.13 Million per medallion).
A typical New York City cab will drive around 70,000 miles and carry more than 10,000 passengers in a single year. It is important that all medallion cabs and for-hire vehicles receive regular safety and emissions inspections to ensure the safest ride possible for both passengers and drivers. The TLC’s inspection facility in Woodside, Queens, has been responsible for inspecting each and every regulated taxi vehicle operating in New York City for more than 20 years.

The Facility

Before the inspection facility opened its doors, the taxi inspection process was completely decentralized. Inspections would take place in 17 different garages and gas stations around the city. While TLC officers would observe these inspections, they had little control over the rigor of the process and there was very little uniformity across locations. On September 1, 1989, the inspection process for the entire fleet of regulated vehicles became centralized at an official TLC inspection facility in Woodside, Queens. The site inspects upwards of 400 cars per day, and conducted over 51,000 primary inspections last year.

The center is committed to honesty within the taxi industry. Security cameras are installed throughout the facility, and supervisors carefully monitor everyone who comes in and out of the inspection area. On the enforcement side, officers have ramped up their efforts to keep unlicensed taxis off the streets in recent years, seizing 7,830 vehicles in the last year, up from 3,000 the previous year and 1,000 in the year prior.

With tens of thousands of drivers coming through the center every day, the Woodside facility has been described as a “little U.N.” Inspection reports and violation sheets are translated into twelve different languages, but even that falls short of what inspectors need in order to communicate with drivers from all over the world. Often, they rely on signs, symbols, or one-on-one meetings with mechanics to physically point to the part of the car that needs to be fixed.

Looking Ahead

With 18,000 new Boro Taxis set to hit the streets in the next several years, Woodside is preparing for tens of thousands of additional inspections each year. To handle the influx, inspectors have converted one inspection lane into an “express re-inspection” lane and plan to make further adjustments to the inspection process to cut down on the time each car spends in the facility.

The staff at Woodside knows that time out on the streets is crucially important to cab drivers, and so they pride themselves on making the inspection process as quick and efficient as possible. A typical inspection takes only 15-20 minutes, and the average wait time for an inspection today is 55 minutes – down from over an hour in 2012 and from over two hours in years prior.

The Process

Each of the 13,237 yellow medallion taxis on the streets of New York City goes through a rigorous inspection process three times per year. The cabs are equipped with 18 different sensors, each one of which is reviewed in the four-stage inspection process.

1. The vehicle’s VIN (its Vehicle Identification Number) is scanned into the system, and the owner’s information must match the information on file for the VIN when the car is checked in for inspection.

2. The vehicle’s emissions are tested using the On-Board Diagnostic System – Version 2 (ODBII), the standard test for motor vehicles in New York State. The computer test provides a read-out of the emissions control systems in the vehicle to ensure they are working properly.

3. The cab’s meter is inspected to ensure it is running at the proper rate. The car runs in place for one mile while a computer tracks its metered fare, ensuring that customers are not overcharged and that drivers get the full fare. If the meter runs too slowly or quickly, it must be recalibrated before the car is allowed back out on the streets.

4. In this stage, the car’s safety features are inspected, from the lights and locks to the seatbelts and assist straps. Inspectors check and double-check each individual component to ensure maximum safety for both passengers and drivers. To check the brakes, inspectors drive the car forward and stop very suddenly on a brake pad, which can test all three brakes (front, rear, and axle) at once.

5. Finally, inspectors check the car’s undercarriage for leaks and irregularities. Any problem here, no matter how small, is considered a violation and must be repaired and rechecked at the inspection facility before the car and driver can get back to work.

Frequency of Inspections at Woodside

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<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black Cars, Liveries, Limos</td>
<td>1x every 2 years*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boro Taxis</td>
<td>2x every year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow Taxis</td>
<td>3x every year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Black Cars, Liveries, and Limos must be inspected 3 times a year, but these inspections can be performed at any DMV-licensed facility.
The 2014 Taxicab Fact Book was a collaborative effort from the staff at the Taxi & Limousine Commission

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