

MGBGTV8 market and price review – November 2024

Overview

The major concern for most people in the UK and elsewhere continues to be the increased cost of living caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the current tensions and uncertainties in the Middle East. Crude oil prices have eased which have passed through to UK fuel pumps and the concern over a possible increase in fuel duty might be announced in the recent Autumn Budget was eased as the fuel duty freeze continues. The UK economy is recovering with easing of UK domestic inflation and interest rates show signs of falling a little. UK Government debt remains very high with the burden of higher interest costs. Significantly increased costs are hitting people in the UK causing a real focus for many on managing tighter household budgets with reduced discretionary spending, not least on motoring purchases. The key question is "are those increased costs and domestic budget constraints having an impact on the classic car market?" Will some owners decide they need to sell their classic car, possibly leading to an increase in the supply of classics offered for sale, whilst others with deeper pockets might sense an opportunity to buy a classic MG like an MGBGTV8 they have always wanted to own and enjoy? There are signs that even though the high tax increases and public sector spending and borrowing announced in the recent Autumn Budget were eye-watering, to some extent the uncertainties ahead of the long pre-Budget period have been reduced. On the demand side there are signs potential buyers see MGBGTV8 prices are growing again, particularly for good condition examples, and that it's time to buy. Several members with cars advertised for sale on the V8 website have mentioned they have had a significant increase in the call rate from enthusiasts interested in getting an MGBGTV8.

Key features seen over the six months to November 2024

Over the last six months during the "late Spring and Summer" period we have seen:

- **Continuing concerns over the higher cost of living** – although Consumer Price Inflation peaked in the period October 2022 (9.6%) to February 2023 (9.2%), with rates falling to 2.6% in September 2024, the higher cost of living have continued to be a burden for consumers into the 6 months to the end of October 2024.
- **Slow start in classic car use in the UK** – with the very wet conditions earlier in 2024 many owners were not willing to see their car soaked by the exceptionally high rainfall levels in the UK, however the classic car turnout for "Drive it Day" was good plus many local events too. Later in September there was very heavy rain and flooding in parts of England, some described as "biblical rain"!
- **Uncertainties in the UK from a General Election announced in May 2024** and then around 7 weeks of campaigning with the Labour winning the election with a landslide 174 seat majority. Parliament returned on 9th July, so for over two months of what is usually an active time in the year, when classic car enthusiasts are attending various shows and events and those thinking of getting an MGV8 would normally be following up adverts posted by private and trade sellers and also auction listings and results, there were those uncertainties.

- **Post-election concerns** - Labour announced their Autumn Budget would be on Wednesday 30th October 2024 and there then followed a drip feed of leaks and announcements on Labour's likely tax changes and other measures. Again it created concerns and uncertainties for both businesses and the public. For people in the classic car community, both those owning a classic like an MGV8 and enthusiasts thinking of getting one, they were inevitably feeling concerned over what they were hearing and seeing about significant tax rises. Assessing the possible effects of rumoured tax changes and other rumours was difficult and inevitably created some uncertainty and concerns for MGV8 enthusiasts.
- **Budget Statement announcements** – with eye watering £40 billion of tax hikes, fortunately the fuel duty freeze was extended and standard vehicle excise duty rates were uprated in line with the RPI from 1st April 2025. The rise in National Insurance for employers will see additional costs passed on in increased prices across a range of goods and services. [See our Autumn Budget report](#)

Buying and selling activity

- **Buyer activity in the MGV8 market** - for most MGV8 enthusiasts owning an MGV8 is a discretionary purchase made using their available funds. The typical MGBGTV8 purchaser or owner tends to be someone in their mid to late fifties or in retirement, often with a longstanding desire to get an MGBGTV8 for the pleasure of driving it and meeting up at events with fellow MGV8 enthusiasts. The uncertainties created by cost of living pressures on domestic budgets and the rumours over the last 6 months of a number of Labour's unwelcome tax changes created a delay in buyers actively looking for an MGV8 or possibly their having to rethink the timing and size of the investment they could use for a purchase.
- **Return of "alternative investor" activity in the classic car market?**
Also announced in the Autumn Budget was an increase in Capital Gains Tax (CGT) on the sale of assets with the lower rate changing from 10% to 18% and the higher rate increasing from 18% to 24%. With cars for personal use exempt from CGT, as they are seen as 'wasting assets' for CGT purposes, it's likely we will see the return of "alternative investors" in the classic car market with some aiming for the affordable segment of the market like MGV8s?
- **Auctions have been active with both face to face auctions and a continuation of the significant move to online auctions** as both buyers and sellers of classic cars have grown more familiar with them, particularly as many auction houses have continued further development of their effective online auction systems. But from our spots of MGV8s seen for sale only 16% to 19% were listed for auction. With the exceptionally wet months in Spring and late Summer 2024 there are signs some potential buyers have delayed responding to adverts and making inspections of cars offered for sale.
- **Classic car press have reported online auctions continue to be active** particularly in the sub £20,000 segment of the classic car market. Classics from the

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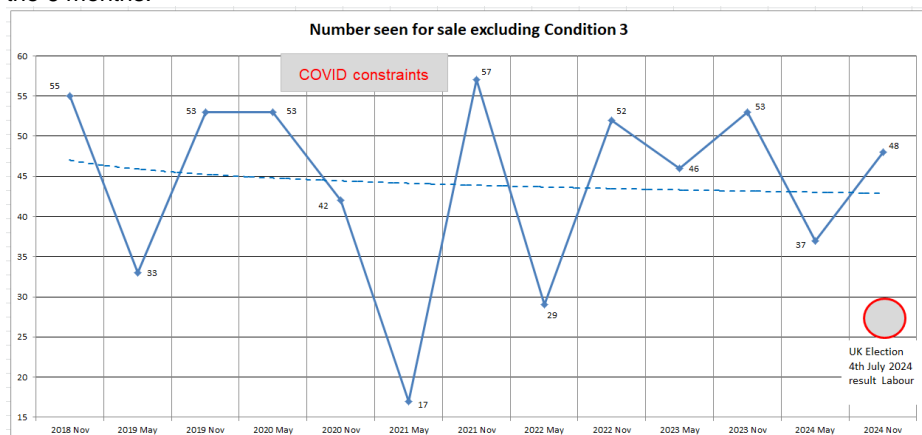
1980s and 1990s, like “hot hatchbacks”, are increasingly a “key part of classic car life”, particularly with younger enthusiasts.

- **Rolling 40 year Historic vehicle VED exemption continues** as a real benefit for classic car owners. MGBGTV8s have been eligible for the saving since 2013.

MGBGTV8 market activity over the last 6 months

Continued activity has been seen in the UK market with a **flow of MGBGTV8s advertised for sale, on offer in traders' showrooms or listed for auction**. In the 6 months to November 2024 the MGBGTV8s (excluding Condition 3) seen for sale (**48**) were 9% lower than in November 2024 (**53**) when we saw the return to the level seen in 2018 and 2019 before the Covid disruption - see the chart below.

The number of cars offered for sale is usually higher in the 6 months to the end October covering the “Summer and Autumn months” and lower over the 6 months to the end of April covering the “Winter and early Spring months”. In November 2021 we had seen an encouraging 36% recovery to **57** from the low point in November 2021 of **42** and in the 6 months to November 2023 we saw **53** and in the 6 months to November 2024 **48** for sale. So the lower modest 9% reduction in the number of MGBGTV8s seen offered for sale of cars seen in the 6 months to November 2024 is a sign of the impact of the combination of bad weather and the political uncertainties over the 6 months.

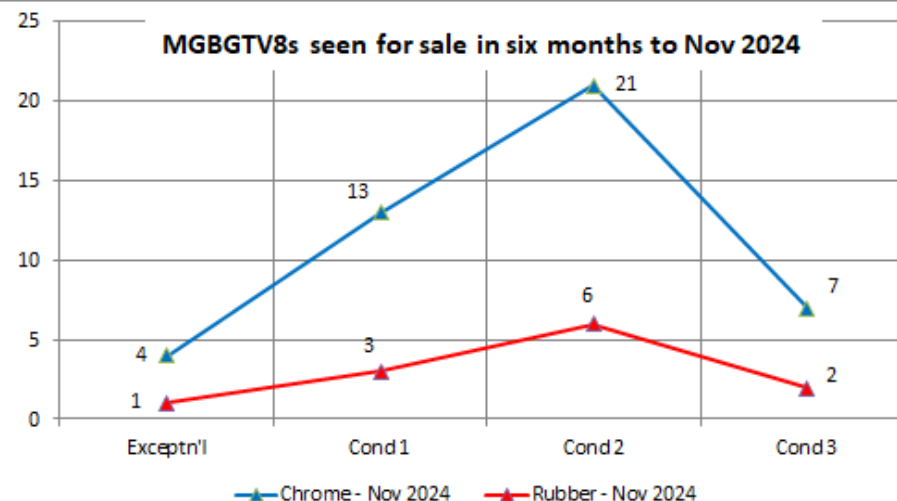


MGBGTV8s seen for sale in 6 months to November 2024

	Exceptn'l	Cond 1	Cond 2	Cond 3	Total
Chrome	4	13	21	7	45
Rubber	1	3	6	2	12
Total	5	16	27	9	57
	9%	28%	47%	16%	100%

MGBGTV8 market

In the 6 months to November 2024 we have seen **5 “Exceptional” condition MGBGTV8s for sale and 16 “Condition 1”** (usually seen as the “marker value” for the model), together accounting for **37%** of MGBGTV8s offered for sale. Condition 2 (**27**) was **47%**.



Price movements for **Condition 1 and 2 chrome bumper cars have seen modest rises of 8.9% and 5.4%** in the 6 months to November 2024 with rubber bumper cars showing a mixed rise and fall. In their anniversary year in 2024, rubber bumper cars are continuing to show growing prices so the chrome bumper premium is modest at 7.6% and 5.1% for Conditions 1 & 2 suggesting the former disdain for rubber bumper MGBGTV8s in earlier years has reduced considerably as buyers have had a greater focus on condition. An Exceptional rubber bumper model was spotted on offer at £44,995.

Condition 1 price changes May 2024 to November 2024

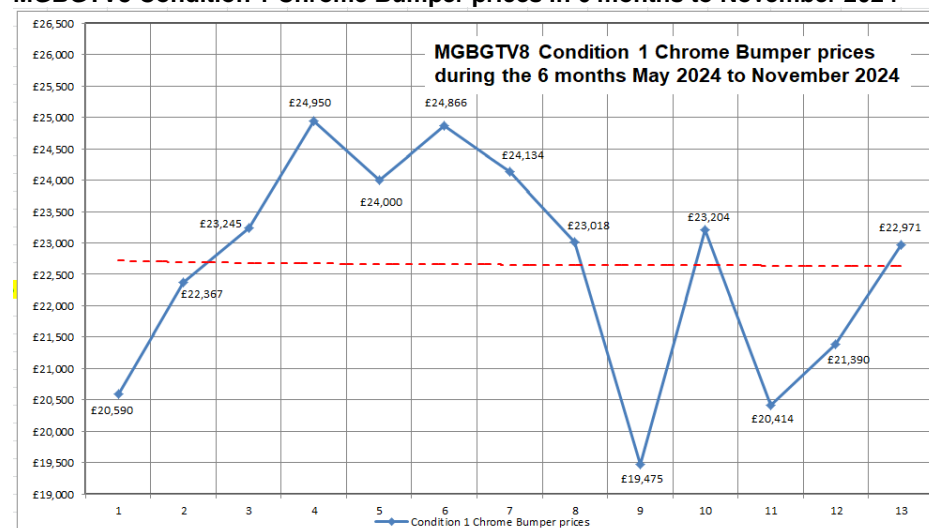
MGBGTV8	May-24	Nov-24	Change
Chrome	£20,809	£22,663	8.9%
Rubber	£17,812	£21,061	18.2%

Condition 2 price changes May 2024 to November 2024

MGBGTV8	May-24	Nov-24	Change
Chrome	£13,981	£14,741	5.4%
Rubber	£16,260	£14,031	-13.7%

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MGBGTV8 Condition 1 Chrome Bumper prices in 6 months to November 2024



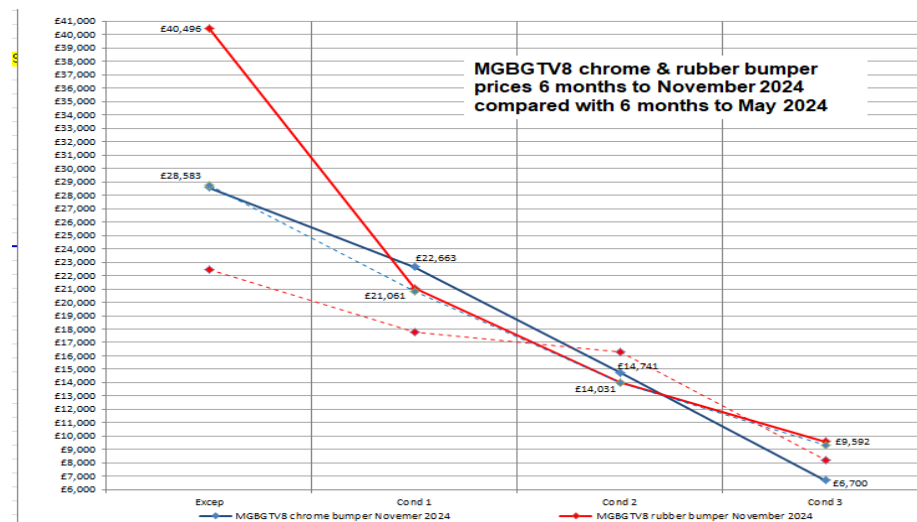
The Condition 1 prices are usually seen as the “marker price” for the MGBGTV8 model.

Impact of significantly increased MGV8 refurbishment and restoration costs

With the higher cost of both replacement parts and refurbishment labour costs, the attraction of buying a Condition 2 or 3 MGV8 in need of refurbishment work is reducing considerably because of serious concerns over those costs. It's likely prices of MGV8s in need of refurbishment, or more serious restoration, will tend to fall because of those increased costs and buyers may focus more on buying an MGV8 in a better condition at a higher price than they might have done before when choosing to buy a car in need of refurbishment. Choosing a Condition 1 car will avoid a serious outlay on refurbishment costs, which in most cases will be greater than the resulting uplift in the value of the car. That change in choice of condition could see growing interest in Condition 1 cars and a consequent rise in prices driven by that higher level of demand.

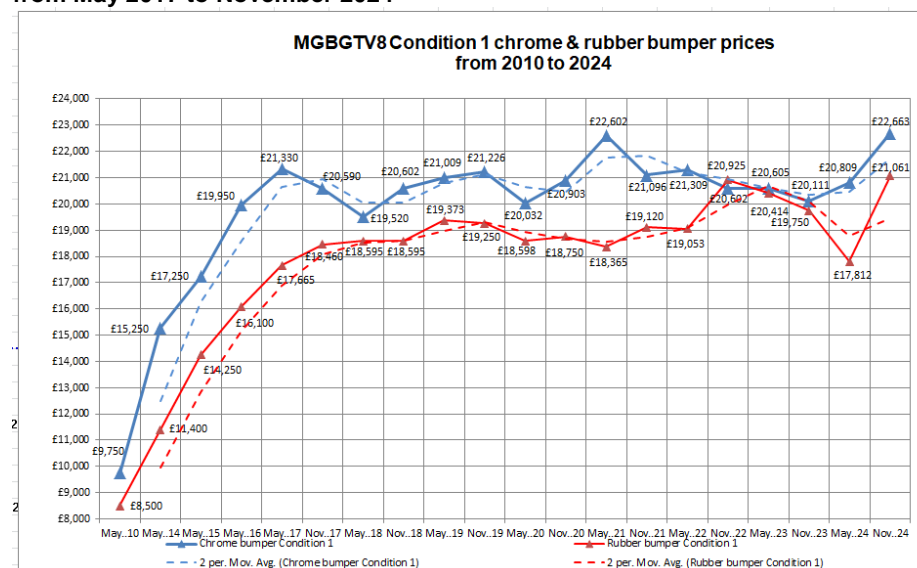
MGBGTV8 prices over the 6 months from May 2024 to November 2024

Price guide table - MGBGTV8				
as at 1st November 2024				
Chrome bumper	Excep	Cond 1	Cond 2	Cond 3
Rubber bumper	£28,583	£22,663	£14,741	£6,700
	£40,496	£21,061	£14,031	£9,592
Price changes May 24 to Nov 24				
Chrome bumper	-£176	£1,854	£760	-£2,661
Rubber bumper	£18,041	£3,249	-£2,229	£1,342
Chrome Bumper premium (£)	-£11,912	£1,602	£710	-£2,891
Chrome Bumper premium (%)	-29.4%	7.6%	5.1%	-30.1%



Price chart above is for the four MGBGTV8 condition classes with the prices for **November 2024 as solid lines** and those for **May 2024 as dashed lines** alongside. **Blue line** (chrome bumper) and **Red line** (rubber bumper).

MGBGTV8 Condition 1 chrome & rubber bumper prices for the 6 month periods from May 2017 to November 2024



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Lines on the chart above are: **Blue line** (chrome bumper) and **Red line** (rubber bumper). Prior to May 2017 the data and trends are indicative only.

The chart above indicates that from November 2017 to 2023 **prices of both chrome and rubber bumper Condition 1 MGBGTV8s nearly flat-lined** if you ignore the chrome bumper spike in May 2021. **But both chrome and rubber bumper prices have risen over the last 6 to 12 months.**

Earlier from May 2010 to November 2017 prices had risen considerably with Condition 1 chrome bumper cars rising by **111%** and rubber bumper cars by **117%**. Rubber bumper prices had risen strongly in the six months to May 2022 but then fell in both May and November 2023 and heavily in the six months to May 2024 to a low of **£17,812**. Far fewer rubber bumper MGBGTV8s have been coming up for sale but of course over the years many original rubber bumper cars have been converted to chrome bumpers.

In 2024 with the 50th anniversary of the launch of the rubber bumper model in 1974 there were signs of a growing recognition of the attraction of the rubber bumper model (having previously suffered many years of disdain with the strong preference for chrome bumpers), and over the last 6 months we have seen a **18.2% price growth of the marker Condition 1 price for rubber bumper cars.**

What might we see in the MGBGTV8 market over the next 6 and 12 months?

The current uncertainties and international tensions from the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the hostilities in the Middle East have created serious cost of living burdens for most people and increased costs for businesses. With inflation rates reducing and clarification of the Autumn Budget uncertainties, there are signs that demand for MGBGTV8s is growing. Our Pricewatch spotter Keith Belcher has noted that at a recent ACA auction a Condition 2 MGBGTV8, which had remained unsold for many months with bids only reaching £8,000 on several occasions, was sold for £10,692 (including the buyer's premium and VAT) – **up 34%**, a significant change.

On the **demand side** there are signs potential buyers see MGBGTV8 prices are growing again, particularly for good condition examples, and that it's time to buy. Several members with cars advertised for sale on the V8 website have mentioned they have had a significant increase in the call rate from enthusiasts interested in getting an MGBGTV8.

Return of “alternative investors”?

A demand factor seen in the classic car market for a decade before Covid arrived in Europe was the activity of “**alternative investors**”. That was a period with low interest rates and a buoyant classic car market when some investors saw buying a classic car as an attractive asset with the prospect of growth in value with the added benefit of no capital gains tax as cars are seen as a depreciating asset for tax purposes. With the rise in interest rates there was then a cooling of “alternative investor” activity in the mainstream classic car market, but following the significant capital gains tax changes announced in the recent Autumn Budget and the hint of slightly lower interest rates,

observers feel alternative investors may well move back into the classic car market.

Focus on condition has become important for potential buyers

A clear factor in buyers' minds are the higher restoration costs, so a greater focus on condition will grow and surely some of the good quality rubber bumper examples will become recognised as both exceptionally good value and increasingly popular.

The market activity over next two 6 month periods will be interesting to follow.