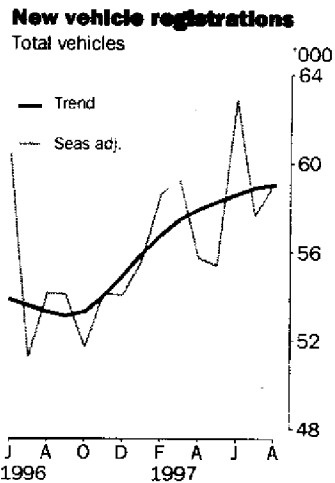


NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS

AUSTRALIA
PRELIMINARY

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) FRI 26 SEPT 1997



AUGUST KEY FIGURES

TREND ESTIMATES

	Aug 97	monthly % change	annual % change
Total new motor vehicle registrations	59 041	0.3	10.9
Passenger vehicles	49 976	0.4	12.5
Other vehicles	9 066	-0.2	2.5

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	Aug 97	monthly % change	annual % change
Total new motor vehicle registrations	59 078	2.5	9.2
Passenger vehicles	49 983	2.8	11.8
Other vehicles	9 095	1.0	-3.3

ORIGINAL ESTIMATES

	Aug 97	monthly % change	annual % change
Total new motor vehicle registrations	57 563	-7.3	5.9
Passenger vehicles	49 279	-5.8	8.1
Other vehicles	8 284	-15.5	-5.7

AUGUST KEY POINTS

TREND ESTIMATES

- The trend for total new motor vehicle registrations increased in August 1997 for the eleventh consecutive month, with the rate of increase continuing to weaken.

Passenger vehicle registrations for August 1997 rose by 0.4% while other vehicle registrations fell by 0.2% compared with the previous month. The trend rose in all States and Territories for August 1997 with the exception of New South Wales, South Australia and the Northern Territory.

TAKE CARE!
Trend estimates are revised as new monthly data become available.

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATES

- Total vehicle registrations rose by 2.5% in August 1997 compared with July, with passenger vehicles up by 2.8% and other vehicles by 1.0%. All States and Territories recorded rises except for Western Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory.

ORIGINAL ESTIMATES

- Total motor vehicle registrations for August 1997 showed a decrease of 7.3% compared with July 1997, with passenger vehicles down by 5.8% and other vehicles by 15.5%. Registrations decreased for all vehicle types except for non-freight carrying trucks and buses. All States and Territories recorded falls.

INQUIRIES

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Robin Walden on 07 3222 6180, or any ABS Office.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE	RELEASE DATE
September 1997	31 October 1997
October 1997	28 November 1997
November 1997	24 December 1997

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CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

There are no changes in this issue.

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TREND REVISIONS

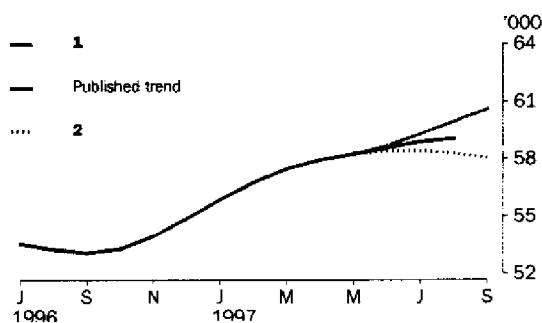
The most recent trend estimates are likely to be revised when new seasonally adjusted estimates become available.

The graph below presents the effect of two possible scenarios on the previous trend estimates:

- 1** The September seasonally adjusted estimate for total vehicle registrations is higher than the August seasonally adjusted estimate by 5.1%.
- 2** The September seasonally adjusted estimate for total vehicle registrations is lower than the August seasonally adjusted estimate by -5.1%.

The percentage change of 5.1% was chosen because the average absolute percentage change, based on the last 11 years, has been 5.1%.

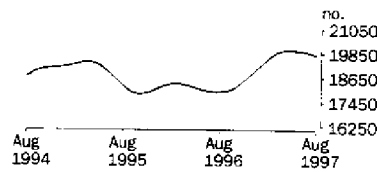
TAKE CARE!
Trend estimates are revised as new monthly data become available.



W. McLennan
Australian Statistician

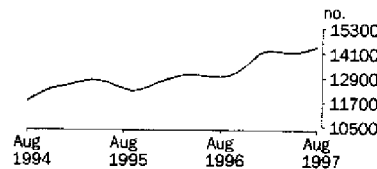
VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS BY STATE: Trend series

NEW SOUTH WALES



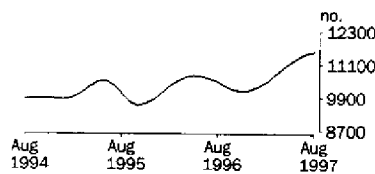
The trend has decreased 1.2% since the high in May 1997 and is 10.6% higher than the last low in October 1995.

VICTORIA



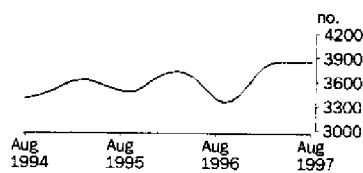
The trend has generally risen over the last three years and is now 2.3% higher than the previous low in May 1997 and 22.9% higher than in August 1994.

QUEENSLAND



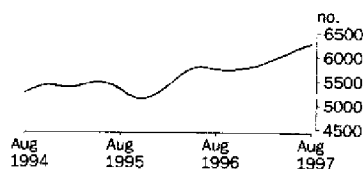
After rising over the last nine months the trend is now 14.2% higher than the last low in November 1996 and 17.6% above the low in January 1995.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA



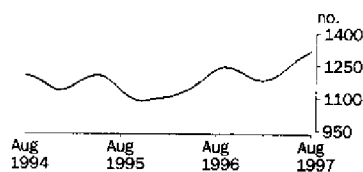
The trend level has flattened over the last four months. The August 1997 level is now 15.2% above the low in September 1996.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA



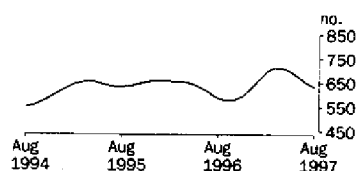
The trend has generally increased since August 1994. The August 1997 trend level is now 22.1% above the low in November 1995.

TASMANIA



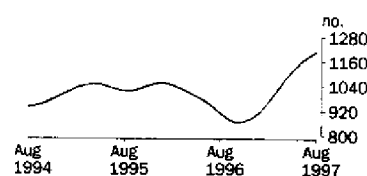
The trend has increased steadily since the low in February 1997 and is now 5.9% above the previous high recorded in September 1996.

NORTHERN TERRITORY



The trend has declined over the last four months to be 11.1% below the high in April 1997 and is now 9.9% above the low in September 1996.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY



The trend has increased markedly over the last ten months to be 39.8% above the low in October 1996.



NEW MOTOR VEHICLES, Registrations by Type: All series

Month	Passenger vehicles	Other vehicles	Total
ORIGINAL			
1996			
June	52 082	11 611	63 693
July	45 971	9 027	54 998
August	45 574	8 783	54 357
September	42 893	8 210	51 103
October	47 131	8 613	55 744
November	45 253	8 355	53 608
December	46 165	8 423	54 588
1997			
January	39 604	6 566	46 170
February	46 563	8 308	54 871
March	46 366	8 628	54 994
April	47 959	9 162	57 121
May	48 932	9 689	58 621
June	55 551	12 126	67 677
July	52 302	9 800	62 102
August	49 279	8 284	57 563
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED			
1996			
June	50 950	9 449	60 398
July	43 012	8 219	51 231
August	44 716	9 405	54 121
September	45 057	9 001	54 058
October	43 292	8 403	51 694
November	45 785	8 320	54 105
December	45 129	8 914	54 043
1997			
January	47 213	8 381	55 594
February	49 231	9 349	58 580
March	49 766	9 579	59 345
April	47 191	8 537	55 728
May	46 696	8 672	55 368
June	53 342	9 550	62 892
July	48 621	9 007	57 627
August	49 983	9 095	59 078
TREND ESTIMATES(a)			
1996			
June	44 863	8 966	53 829
July	44 626	8 915	53 541
August	44 407	8 845	53 252
September	44 338	8 745	53 083
October	44 610	8 668	53 278
November	45 314	8 663	53 977
December	46 167	8 714	54 881
1997			
January	47 059	8 812	55 871
February	47 822	8 918	56 741
March	48 441	9 015	57 457
April	48 855	9 051	57 906
May	49 183	9 055	58 238
June	49 503	9 065	58 568
July	49 789	9 088	58 876
August	49 976	9 066	59 041

(a) Trend estimates for February 1997 to July 1997 have been revised.

NEW MOTOR VEHICLES, Registrations by Type: Original

Month	Passenger vehicles	Light commercial vehicles	Rigid trucks	Articulated trucks	Non-freight carrying trucks	Buses	Total (excludes motor cycles)	Motor cycles
1996								
June	52 082	9 994	834	295	63	425	63 693	1 578
July	45 971	7 361	831	306	174	355	54 998	1 760
August	45 574	7 236	793	304	105	345	54 357	1 653
September	42 893	6 890	727	238	72	283	51 103	1 562
October	47 131	7 100	777	307	96	333	55 744	2 052
November	45 253	6 814	833	275	95	338	53 608	2 369
December	46 165	6 893	851	255	128	296	54 588	2 002
1997								
January	39 604	5 506	515	157	55	333	46 170	1 881
February	46 563	7 069	674	186	58	321	54 871	1 926
March	46 366	7 227	772	241	94	294	54 994	1 913
April	47 959	7 567	886	298	58	353	57 121	1 868
May	48 932	8 067	897	276	96	353	58 621	2 111
June	55 551	10 474	914	302	68	368	67 677	1 745
July	52 302	8 091	978	355	88	288	62 102	1 914
August	49 279	6 629	928	306	117	304	57 563	2 072

NEW MOTOR VEHICLES, Registrations by State: All series

Month	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Territory	Australia
ORIGINAL									
1996									
June	23 395	14 355	13 157	3 932	6 030	994	798	1 032	63 693
July	18 861	13 478	10 585	3 457	5 692	1 341	637	947	54 998
August	18 213	12 880	10 903	3 569	5 753	1 336	599	1 104	54 357
September	17 335	12 553	9 789	3 437	5 338	1 348	535	768	51 103
October	18 877	14 098	10 298	3 365	6 296	1 307	561	942	55 744
November	18 455	13 399	9 823	3 515	5 677	1 267	610	862	53 608
December	17 793	13 737	10 544	3 582	5 903	1 737	501	791	54 588
1997									
January	16 047	10 975	8 552	2 942	5 397	935	519	803	46 170
February	18 926	13 958	9 823	3 827	5 961	898	551	927	54 871
March	19 390	13 559	10 619	3 627	5 224	958	704	913	54 994
April	19 916	14 167	10 521	3 716	5 886	1 047	852	1 016	57 121
May	20 717	14 508	10 546	3 640	6 164	1 211	773	1 062	58 621
June	24 181	14 948	13 961	4 439	6 728	1 128	873	1 419	67 677
July	20 470	15 483	12 345	3 896	6 489	1 476	664	1 279	62 102
August	18 645	15 243	10 748	3 868	5 934	1 314	589	1 222	57 563
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED									
1996									
June	22 129	13 521	12 783	3 668	5 646	1 055	647	949	60 398
July	17 577	12 693	9 079	3 384	5 761	1 299	551	886	51 231
August	18 086	12 572	11 351	3 453	5 740	1 264	627	1 027	54 121
September	18 746	13 194	10 300	3 431	5 776	1 232	571	808	54 058
October	18 025	12 970	9 166	3 077	5 884	1 150	526	895	51 694
November	17 875	13 758	10 749	3 456	5 447	1 344	626	850	54 105
December	18 534	13 553	10 123	3 563	5 739	1 169	573	790	54 043
1997									
January	19 426	13 714	9 928	3 673	5 919	1 215	728	991	55 594
February	20 232	14 533	10 813	4 012	6 234	1 093	664	999	58 580
March	20 602	15 529	11 206	3 750	5 414	1 165	662	1 018	59 345
April	18 917	13 503	10 040	3 935	6 222	1 270	822	1 019	55 728
May	18 918	13 580	10 364	3 600	5 934	1 236	692	1 043	55 368
June	22 409	13 531	13 422	4 066	6 259	1 222	684	1 300	62 892
July	19 113	14 631	10 616	3 729	6 359	1 386	589	1 204	57 627
August	19 269	15 225	11 452	3 921	6 175	1 270	629	1 138	59 078
TREND ESTIMATES(a)									
1996									
June	18 052	12 991	10 648	3 576	5 792	1 174	626	970	53 829
July	18 006	12 949	10 579	3 479	5 775	1 205	606	942	53 541
August	17 989	12 954	10 459	3 389	5 734	1 231	587	910	53 252
September	18 026	13 003	10 283	3 344	5 727	1 244	576	880	53 083
October	18 198	13 162	10 151	3 357	5 729	1 239	578	864	53 278
November	18 526	13 457	10 123	3 437	5 748	1 222	594	868	53 977
December	18 854	13 820	10 166	3 554	5 776	1 202	624	886	54 881
1997									
January	19 223	14 105	10 292	3 679	5 812	1 183	659	917	55 871
February	19 587	14 221	10 455	3 779	5 865	1 179	693	963	56 741
March	19 872	14 206	10 692	3 836	5 933	1 188	712	1 017	57 457
April	20 005	14 141	10 914	3 848	6 007	1 210	712	1 069	57 906
May	20 008	14 109	11 143	3 846	6 078	1 242	698	1 115	58 238
June	19 966	14 159	11 342	3 848	6 152	1 272	677	1 154	58 568
July	19 890	14 289	11 495	3 853	6 219	1 295	652	1 184	58 876
August	19 768	14 430	11 563	3 852	6 271	1 318	633	1 208	59 041

(a) Trend estimates for February 1997 to July 1997 have been revised.



NEW PASSENGER VEHICLES, Selected Make/Models: **Original**—August 1997

Make/Model	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Territory	Australia
Ford									
Falcon/Fairmont	1 799	2 014	1 254	380	722	92	39	253	6 553
Festiva	301	305	226	117	157	35	3	18	1 162
Laser	240	166	123	40	48	9	1	28	655
Other	475	442	220	70	144	18	12	27	1 408
Total	2 815	2 927	1 823	607	1 071	154	55	326	9 778
Holden									
Commodore/Calais	1 346	1 097	781	336	434	174	17	99	4 284
Barina	104	76	61	22	34	8	3	13	321
Statesman/Caprice	57	73	47	17	30	4	2	2	232
Other	295	317	202	108	93	19	2	14	1 050
Total	1 802	1 563	1 091	483	591	205	24	128	5 887
Hyundai									
Excel	794	542	440	122	280	49	14	40	2 281
Lantra	410	249	200	63	102	25	24	28	1 101
Sonata	185	136	106	35	64	5	5	7	543
Other	58	35	17	13	21	2	2	3	151
Total	1 447	962	763	233	467	81	45	78	4 076
Mazda									
323	354	272	141	58	68	6	2	14	915
121	198	174	126	35	71	55	5	11	675
626	228	200	107	43	71	9	2	14	674
Other	24	20	9	6	7	5	71
Total	804	666	383	142	217	70	9	44	2 335
Mitsubishi									
Magna	861	985	530	518	250	57	28	129	3 358
Lancer	378	406	239	85	123	17	17	23	1 288
Mirage	369	174	136	41	42	16	8	18	804
Other	365	265	194	84	86	23	27	19	1 063
Total	1 973	1 830	1 099	728	501	113	80	189	6 513
Nissan									
Pulsar	314	266	252	45	126	19	9	34	1 065
Patrol	95	65	80	13	42	1	8	4	308
Maxima	51	72	48	4	15	1	..	2	193
Other	97	96	69	14	34	3	2	4	319
Total	557	499	449	76	217	24	19	44	1 885
Toyota									
Corolla	574	472	204	120	169	47	34	65	1 685
Camry	238	353	186	61	157	109	29	15	1 148
Landcruiser	159	146	207	33	108	19	22	13	707
Other	1 536	1 087	760	314	483	66	49	58	4 353
Total	2 507	2 058	1 357	528	917	241	134	151	7 893

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

- 1 This publication presents monthly data for registrations of new motor vehicles.
- 2 The statistics in this publication use the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), adopted by the State and Territory motor vehicle registration authorities. The information contained in the VIN allows more accurate classification of vehicles. In the case of some States, data processed using the VIN are not strictly comparable with data processed prior to December 1990.

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

- 3 Motor vehicle registration statistics are obtained from State and Territory motor vehicle registration authorities. The statistics reflect information recorded in registration documents. With the exception of Queensland, the statistics do not depart significantly from actual registrations during the period. In the case of Queensland, a number of registrations processed in a month actually relate to vehicles registered prior to that month.
- 4 New motor vehicle registrations are obtained from New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia registration authorities on a weekly basis. Other registries provide data for each calendar month. The ABS processes the weekly registration data provided for the above-mentioned States and includes data for the relevant month in this publication. Data referring to the next month are withheld and included in the next month's publication. In some months, the ABS processes five weeks of data for the above States, while other months include four weeks of data. In months where five weeks of data are processed and depending on the actual pattern of registration processing, it is possible that there will be a greater number of registrations recorded because the carry forward from the previous month is likely to be greater than the carry over to the next month.
- 5 The scope of the statistics:
 - includes:
 - passenger vehicles
 - light commercial vehicles
 - trucks
 - buses
 - motorcycles (note: not included in totals)
 - vehicles with diplomatic and consular plates
 - State and Commonwealth owned vehicles.
 - excludes:
 - vehicles belonging to the defence forces
 - recreation vehicles such as trail bikes and sand dune buggies (in those States where registration is required).

SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT

- 6 Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so that the effects of other influences can be more clearly recognised.
- 7 Seasonal adjustment does not remove from the series the effect of irregular or non-seasonal influences (e.g. the introduction of new models, processing delays, industrial disputes).

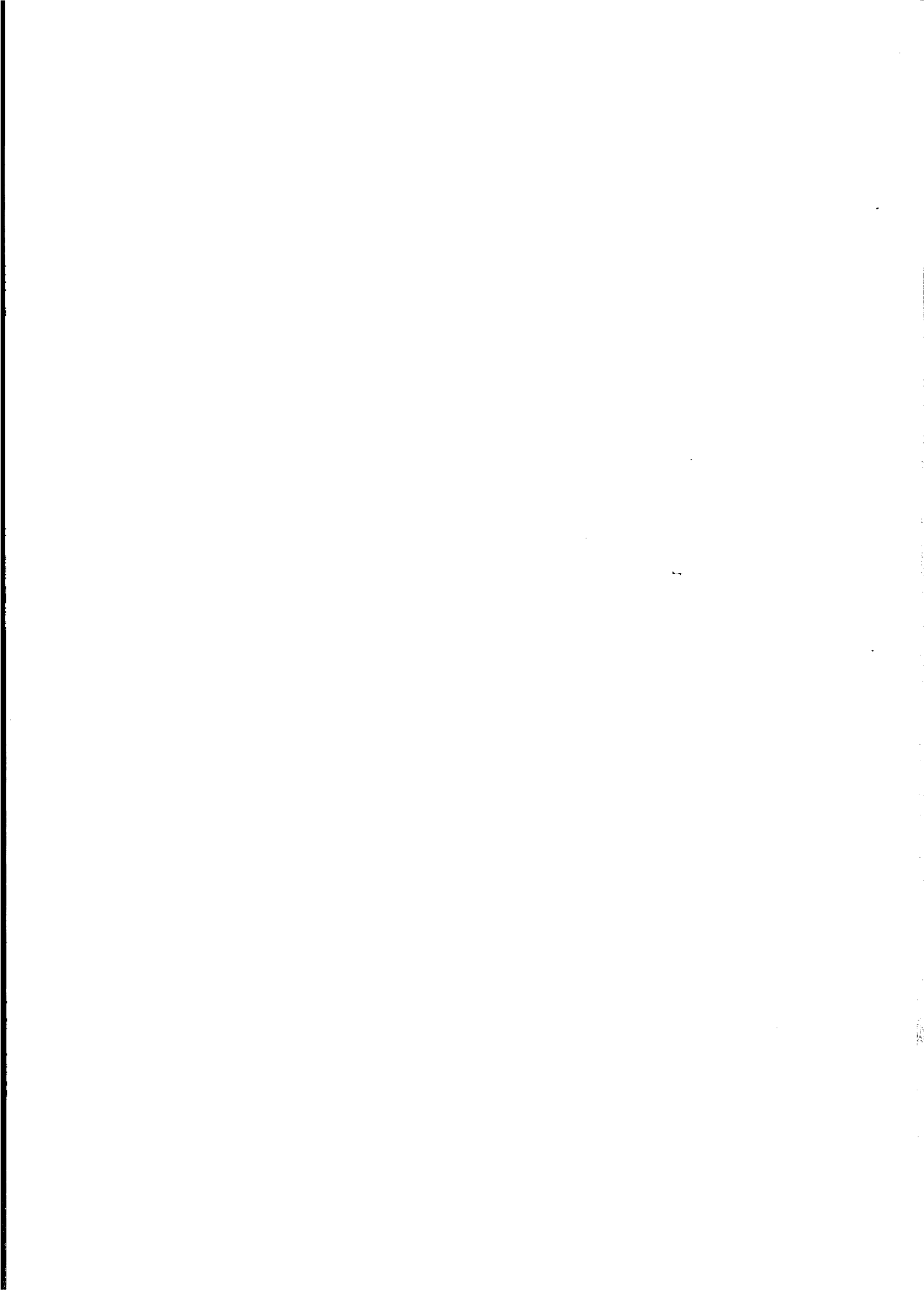
EXPLANATORY NOTES

- SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT *continued*
- 8** Irregular influences that are highly volatile can make it difficult to interpret the series even after adjustment for seasonal variation.
- 9** Extreme care should be exercised in using the seasonally adjusted series for new motor vehicle registrations in Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. The small numbers and volatile nature of these data makes reliable estimation of the seasonal pattern very difficult.
- 10** Seasonally adjusted series are calculated for the 'Passenger vehicles', 'Other vehicles' and 'Total vehicles' series for each State and Territory and are aggregated to obtain the total for Australia.
- 11** Seasonal adjustment factors are analysed and revised as necessary annually.
- TREND ESTIMATES
- 12** The smoothing of seasonally adjusted series to create trend estimates reduces the impact of the irregular component of the seasonally adjusted series. The trend estimates are derived by applying a 13-term Henderson-weighted moving average to the respective seasonally adjusted series. These trend series are used to analyse the underlying behaviour of the series over time.
- 13** While this smoothing technique enables trend estimates to be produced for the latest month, it does result in revisions to the trend estimates for the most recent months as data for subsequent months become available. Generally subsequent revisions become smaller and after three months, usually have a negligible impact on the series. Changes in the original data and re-estimation of seasonal factors may also lead to revisions to the trend. For further information, see *A Guide to Interpreting Time Series — Monitoring 'Trends': an Overview* (1348.0) or contact the Assistant Director, Time Series Analysis on (06) 252 6345.
- RELATED PUBLICATIONS
- 14** For a more detailed break-up of the monthly figures presented here, inquiries should be made to Robin Walden on 07 3222 6180 or to any ABS office. Data on total vehicle registrations, both new and re-registrations, is available in *Motor Vehicle Census, Australia, 31 May 1995* (9309.0).
- SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES
- n.p. not available for publication, but included in totals.

GLOSSARY

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- Articulated trucks** Vehicles constructed primarily for load carrying consisting of a prime mover having no significant load carrying area but with a turn table device which can be linked to a trailer. With or without a trailer the gross combination mass will be 3.5 tonnes or more.
- Buses** Vehicles constructed for the carriage of passengers. Included are all passenger vehicles with 10 or more seats, including the driver's seat.
- Light commercial vehicles** Describes goods carrying vehicles less than 3.5 tonnes gross vehicle mass. Included are utilities, panel vans, cab-chassis and forward control vehicles (whether four-wheel drive or not).
- Motor cycles** Includes 2 and 3 wheeled mopeds, scooters, motor tricycles and motor cycles with side cars.
- Non-freight carrying trucks** Includes specialist vehicles such as ambulances, mobile cranes or vehicles fitted with special purpose equipment and having no goods carrying capacity.
- Passenger vehicles** Includes cars, station wagons, four-wheel drive passenger vehicles and forward control passenger vehicles with up to nine seats (including the driver).
- Registrations** This includes all registrations processed by the motor vehicle registration authorities in the States and Territories during the relevant period.
- Rigid trucks** Vehicles constructed primarily for load carrying with a gross vehicle mass of 3.5 tonnes or more.
- VIN** The Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) uniquely identifies each vehicle. Embedded in the number are details of make and model together with other relevant information about the vehicle. The VIN is collected by the motor vehicle registration authorities at the time of registration.





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