



**Australian
Bureau of
Statistics**

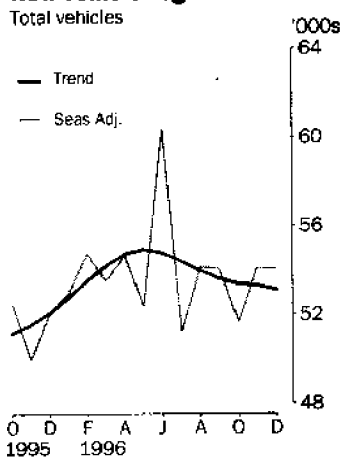
**NEW MOTOR VEHICLE
REGISTRATIONS**

**AUSTRALIA
PRELIMINARY**

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) THURS 30 JAN 1997

DECEMBER KEY FIGURES

New vehicle registrations



TREND ESTIMATES

	Dec 96	monthly % change	annual % change
Total new motor vehicle registrations	53 072	-0.4	1.9
Passenger vehicles	44 498	-0.3	2.2
Other vehicles	8 574	-0.8	0.6

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	Dec 96	monthly % change	annual % change
Total new motor vehicle registrations	54 038	-0.1	3.8
Passenger vehicles	45 155	-1.4	3.4
Other vehicles	8 883	6.8	5.8

ORIGINAL ESTIMATES

	Dec 96	monthly % change	annual % change
Total new motor vehicle registrations	54 586	1.8	7.7
Passenger vehicles	46 191	2.1	7.6
Other vehicles	8 395	0.5	8.7

DECEMBER KEY POINTS

TREND ESTIMATES

- The downward trend for total new motor vehicle registrations continued in December 1996 with a decrease of 0.4% from November 1996. The trend level is now 3.3% lower than the high in May 1996. The trend level for passenger vehicles fell by 0.3% and other vehicles by 0.8% compared with the previous month.

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

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATES

- Total new motor vehicle registrations for December 1996 fell by 0.1% compared with the previous month. Passenger vehicles were down by 1.4% while other vehicles rose by 6.8%. All States and Territories recorded decreases compared with November 1996, except for New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia.

ORIGINAL ESTIMATES

- The number of December 1996 registrations increased over November 1996 for all vehicle types, excluding articulated trucks, buses and motor cycles. All States and Territories recorded rises with the exceptions of New South Wales, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

INQUIRIES

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Clare O'Loughlin on 07 3222 6180, or any ABS Office.

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE	RELEASE DATE
January 1997	28 February 1997
February 1997	27 March 1997
March 1997	24 April 1997

.....

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

There are no changes in this issue.

.....

TREND REVISIONS

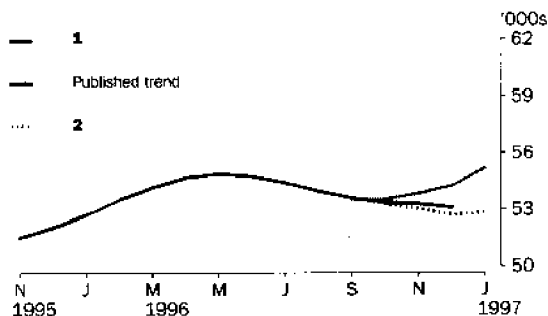
The most recent trend estimates are likely to be revised when new seasonally adjusted estimates become available.

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

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

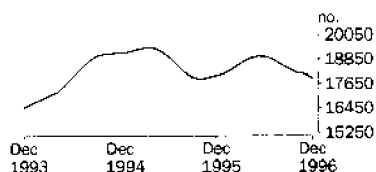


An increase of 5.1% in total seasonally adjusted new motor vehicle registrations in January 1997 would show a strong rise in the revised trend from September 1996. A 5.1% fall in the January 1997 seasonally adjusted figure would result in a levelling in the revised trend since December 1996.

W. McLennan
Australian Statistician

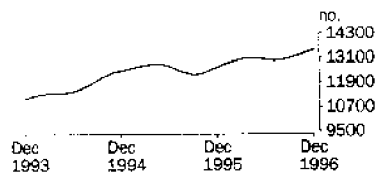
VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS BY STATE: Trend series

NEW SOUTH WALES



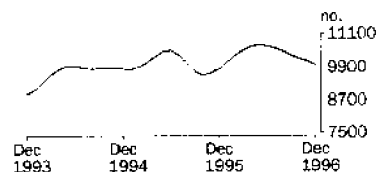
The trend level is now 5.6% below the peak recorded in May 1996 following consecutive falls it has returned to the level recorded in October 1995.

VICTORIA



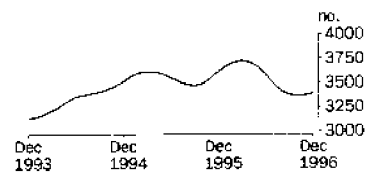
The trend level has generally risen over the past 3 years. After falls in May, June and July 1996 the trend increased in each month for the remainder of 1996.

QUEENSLAND



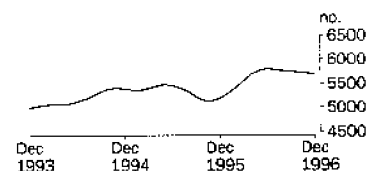
The trend level is now 6.8% lower than the high in May 1996 and is 3.7% above the most recent low in October 1995.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA



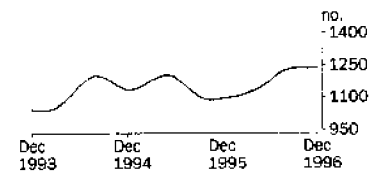
The trend has risen slightly since October 1996 but is still 8.9% below the March 1996 peak.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA



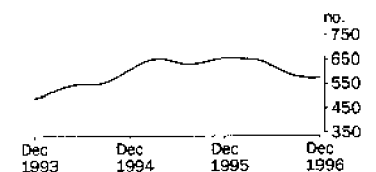
The trend has declined 1.8% since the June 1996 peak, but is still 13.9% above the December 1993 low. It is now comparable with the April 1996 level.

TASMANIA



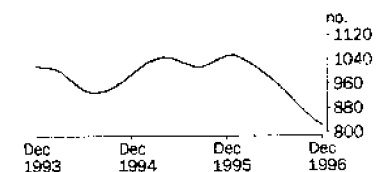
The trend level has remained steady for the last 4 months and is now 14.0% higher than the low recorded in November 1995.

NORTHERN TERRITORY



Since the January 1996 peak, the trend level has declined steadily to November 1996 with a slight rise recorded in December 1996.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY



The trend level has fallen strongly since the peak in January 1996 to be 22.1% lower. This is the lowest level recorded since February 1992.



NEW MOTOR VEHICLES, Registrations By Type: All Series

Month	Passenger vehicles	Other vehicles	Total
ORIGINAL			
1995			
October	45 179	8 310	53 489
November	43 685	8 266	51 951
December	42 944	7 721	50 665
1996			
January	37 422	7 037	44 459
February	44 642	8 590	53 232
March	45 564	9 239	54 803
April	41 606	8 461	50 067
May	47 713	10 131	57 844
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	46 191	8 395	54 586
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED			
1995			
October	44 016	8 458	52 475
November	42 116	7 864	49 980
December	43 683	8 393	52 076
1996			
January	44 033	8 899	52 931
February	45 427	9 342	54 769
March	44 584	8 930	53 514
April	45 573	9 107	54 680
May	43 762	8 624	52 387
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	45 155	8 883	54 038
TREND ESTIMATES ¹			
1995			
October	42 850	8 316	51 166
November	43 165	8 360	51 525
December	43 548	8 519	52 067
1996			
January	44 022	8 734	52 756
February	44 606	8 911	53 517
March	45 174	9 011	54 184
April	45 660	9 043	54 703
May	45 881	9 021	54 902
June	45 783	8 966	54 750
July	45 489	8 911	54 401
August	45 124	8 855	53 980
September	44 813	8 784	53 597
October	44 652	8 709	53 360
November	44 645	8 647	53 292
December	44 498	8 574	53 072

¹ Trend estimates for June 1996 to November 1996 have been revised.

2

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
1995								
October	45 179	6 680	907	273	62	388	53 489	1 775
November	43 685	6 610	871	303	91	391	51 951	2 251
December	42 944	6 250	776	252	81	362	50 665	1 991
1996								
January	37 422	5 867	599	159	83	329	44 459	2 002
February	44 642	7 257	692	202	109	330	53 232	1 851
March	45 564	7 804	743	234	103	355	54 803	2 025
April	41 606	7 082	725	247	74	333	50 067	1 810
May	47 713	8 531	876	278	79	367	57 844	1 893
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	46 191	6 891	842	256	110	296	54 586	2 034



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									
1995									
October	18 775	12 317	10 747	3 647	5 132	1 280	656	935	53 489
November	18 230	13 017	8 456	3 751	5 804	853	688	1 152	51 951
December	16 775	12 067	9 544	3 552	5 410	1 734	539	1 044	50 665
1996									
January	15 632	10 164	9 558	2 829	4 019	873	506	878	44 459
February	18 144	13 257	9 690	3 832	5 780	989	550	990	53 232
March	18 318	13 142	10 992	3 867	5 909	961	666	948	54 803
April	18 348	11 519	9 471	3 286	5 072	818	616	937	50 067
May	19 411	14 868	10 388	3 792	6 252	1 202	823	1 108	57 844
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	17 785	13 730	10 549	3 585	5 910	1 735	501	791	54 586
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED									
1995									
October	18 888	11 874	10 289	3 514	5 111	1 198	647	953	52 475
November	16 917	12 847	8 772	3 479	5 346	870	658	1 091	49 980
December	18 325	12 305	9 450	3 700	5 390	1 177	652	1 075	52 076
1996									
January	18 448	12 726	10 846	3 541	4 502	1 136	672	1 060	52 931
February	18 667	13 344	10 381	3 799	5 727	1 140	651	1 060	54 769
March	17 647	12 851	10 947	3 741	5 684	1 073	632	938	53 514
April	19 594	12 774	10 018	3 738	5 749	1 090	637	1 080	54 680
May	17 185	13 165	9 674	3 621	5 835	1 207	688	1 011	52 387
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	18 525	13 545	10 128	3 566	5 745	1 166	573	790	54 038
TREND ESTIMATES ¹									
1995									
October	17 868	12 298	9 610	3 488	5 142	1 089	644	1 027	51 166
November	17 939	12 442	9 693	3 540	5 134	1 085	652	1 040	51 525
December	18 013	12 622	9 829	3 608	5 193	1 093	657	1 052	52 067
1996									
January	18 149	12 769	10 071	3 666	5 289	1 098	658	1 055	52 756
February	18 370	12 892	10 329	3 708	5 414	1 103	656	1 045	53 517
March	18 607	13 010	10 491	3 725	5 555	1 113	654	1 030	54 184
April	18 832	13 060	10 635	3 709	5 675	1 129	650	1 012	54 703
May	18 980	13 039	10 687	3 658	5 758	1 149	641	990	54 902
June	18 974	12 991	10 648	3 576	5 792	1 174	626	970	54 750
July	18 850	12 956	10 574	3 486	5 776	1 204	609	946	54 401
August	18 625	12 987	10 465	3 415	5 750	1 226	593	919	53 980
September	18 381	13 070	10 327	3 375	5 737	1 236	582	891	53 597
October	18 208	13 195	10 198	3 362	5 719	1 238	576	864	53 360
November	18 128	13 338	10 108	3 371	5 698	1 236	573	841	53 292
December	17 918	13 478	9 965	3 392	5 686	1 237	575	822	53 072

¹ Trend estimates for June 1996 to November 1996 have been revised.



NEW PASSENGER VEHICLES, Selected Make/Models: **Original**— December 1996

Make/Model	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Territory	Australia
Ford									
Falcon/Fairmont	2 166	2 226	1 186	436	690	164	46	116	7 030
Festiva	321	248	300	97	93	14	6	7	1 086
Laser	233	150	131	49	64	11	2	8	648
Other	352	334	187	62	114	15	8	16	1 088
Total	3 072	2 958	1 804	644	961	204	62	147	9 852
Holden									
Commodore/Calais	2 235	1 880	1 400	503	713	187	36	105	7 059
Statesman/Caprice	148	186	77	27	44	3	3	9	497
Barina	137	117	114	35	48	7	1	12	471
Other	150	184	87	41	83	10	1	12	568
Total	2 670	2 367	1 678	606	888	207	41	138	8 595
Hyundai									
Excel	735	436	389	78	439	24	21	39	2 161
Sonata	95	88	49	21	99	9	8	1	370
Lantra	130	67	69	15	48	8	4	5	346
Other	74	66	37	10	33	2	4	4	230
Total	1 034	657	544	124	619	43	37	49	3 107
Mazda									
121	223	136	153	51	76	11	5	14	669
323	198	129	96	38	62	2	6	13	544
626	86	59	33	5	13	3	..	3	202
Other	24	25	9	8	12	2	80
Total	531	349	291	102	163	16	11	32	1 495
Mitsubishi									
Magna	732	731	476	333	321	87	16	66	2 762
Lancer	321	220	152	72	68	17	8	21	879
Mirage	240	67	105	34	43	5	..	18	512
Other	365	229	188	86	100	16	10	16	1 010
Total	1 658	1 247	921	525	532	125	34	121	5 163
Nissan									
Pulsar	242	339	184	44	82	57	3	16	967
Patrol	85	36	101	26	49	5	9	3	314
Maxima	51	58	32	7	6	..	1	..	155
Other	90	80	130	15	25	3	..	5	348
Total	468	513	447	92	162	65	13	24	1 784
Toyota									
Corolla	831	461	487	155	170	45	10	43	2 202
Camry	449	454	362	100	187	133	26	11	1 722
Vienta	468	271	172	51	82	44	8	9	1 105
Other	817	552	561	179	380	54	42	27	2 612
Total	2 565	1 738	1 582	485	819	276	86	90	7 641

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).



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 Clare O'Loughlin 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

- 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.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

The ABS publishes a wide range of information on Australia's economic and social conditions. A catalogue of publications and products is available from any of our offices (see below).

INFORMATION CONSULTANCY SERVICES

Information tailored to special needs of clients can be obtained from the Information Consultancy Service available at ABS Offices (see below).

ABS PRODUCTS

A large number of ABS products is available from the ABS Bookshops (see below). The ABS also provides a subscription service – you can telephone the ABS Subscription Service Australia wide toll free on 1800 0206 08.

ELECTRONIC SERVICES

A large range of data is available via on-line services, diskette, magnetic tape, tape cartridge and CD ROM. For more details about our electronic data services, contact any ABS office (see below) or e-mail us at:

X.400 (C:Australia,PUB:Telememo,O:ABS,FN:STAT,SN:INFO)
Internet Stat.info@abs.telememo.au
Keylink STAT.INFO/ABS

You can visit us on the Internet at: <http://www.abs.gov.au>

GENERAL SALES AND INQUIRIES

- Sydney 02 9268 4611 ✦ Adelaide 08 8237 7100
 - Melbourne 03 9615 7755 ✦ Hobart 03 6220 5800
 - Brisbane 07 3222 6351 ✦ Darwin 08 8943 2111
 - Perth 09 360 5140 ✦ Canberra 06 252 6627
-
- Information Services, ABS
PO Box 10, Belconnen ACT 2616



2930100012963

ISSN 1323-4528

RRP \$13.50