NEW MOTOR VEHICLE
AUSTRALIA REGISTRATIONS

PRELIMINARY

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) FRI 26 MAR 1999

## New vehicle registrations <br> 

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Robin Walden on Brisbane
073222 6181, or any ABS office shown on the back cover of this publication.


## FEBRUARY KEY FIGURES



| ORIGINALESTIMATES | Feb 1999 | \% change Jan 1999 to Feb 1999 | \% change <br> Feb 1998 to <br> Feb 1999 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total new motor vehicle registrations | 60330 | 20.4 | 0.2 |
| Passenger vehicles | 50792 | 20.5 | 0.0 |
| Other vehicles | 9538 | 19.9 | 1.2 |

## FEBRUARY KEY POINTS

## TREND ESTIMATES

- The trend for new motor vehicle registrations has fallen this month by $0.3 \%$. This continues the downward trend over the previous six months since the record high in July 1998. Registrations of passenger vehicles in February 1999 fell by $0.4 \%$ while other vehicles rose by $0.1 \%$.


## SEASONALLYADJUSTED ESTIMATES

- Seasonally adjusted new motor vehicle registrations for February 1999 decreased by $1.5 \%$ compared with last month. Seasonally adjusted passenger vehicle registrations decreased by $0.4 \%$ while other vehicle registrations decreased by $6.9 \%$.


## ORIGINAL ESTIMATES

- Original total new motor vehicle registrations increased for February 1999 by $20.4 \%$ compared with last month. Original passenger vehicle registrations increased by $20.5 \%$ and other vehicle registrations increased by $19.9 \%$.


## N O T E S

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

TREND REVISIONS

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

ISSUE
March 1999
April 1999
May 1999
June 1999
July 1999
August 1999

RELEASE DATE
30 April 1999
28 May 1999
25 June 1999
30 July 1999
27 August 1999
24 September 1999

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 March seasonally adjusted estimate for total vehicle registrations is higher than the February seasonally adjusted estimate by $4.5 \%$.
2 The March seasonally adjusted estimate for total vehicle registrations is lower than the February seasonally adjusted estimate by $-4.5 \%$.

The percentage change of $4.5 \%$ was chosen because the average absolute percentage change, based on the last 11 years, has been $4.5 \%$.


[^0]
## VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS BY STATE:Trend series

NEW SOUTH WALES


VICTORIA


QUEENSLAND

SOUTH AUSTRALIA


WESTERN AUSTRALIA


TASMANIA


NORTHERN TERRITORY


AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY


| Month | Passenger vehicles | Other vehicles | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ORIGINAL |  |  |  |
| 1997 |  |  |  |
| December | 58252 | 9675 | 67927 |
| 1998 |  |  |  |
| January | 44164 | 7163 | 51327 |
| February | 50794 | 9424 | 60218 |
| March | 57735 | 10567 | 68302 |
| April | 50735 | 9912 | 60647 |
| May | 54185 | 10868 | 65053 |
| June | 73153 | 14901 | 88054 |
| July | 63188 | 10781 | 73969 |
| August | 54789 | 9551 | 64340 |
| September | 55336 | 9893 | 65229 |
| October | 54632 | 9986 | 64618 |
| November | 57161 | 10679 | 67840 |
| December | 60418 | 10667 | 71085 |
| 1999 |  |  |  |
| January | 42137 | 7954 | 50091 |
| February | 50792 | 9538 | 60330 |
| SEASONALLY ADJUSTED |  |  |  |
| 1997 |  |  |  |
| December | 55178 | 9645 | 64822 |
| 1998 |  |  |  |
| January | 53738 | 9723 | 63462 |
| February | 53502 | 10347 | 63849 |
| March | 54396 | 9942 | 64338 |
| April | 55315 | 10432 | 65747 |
| May | 55372 | 10095 | 65467 |
| June | 63566 | 10809 | 74375 |
| July | 59927 | 10153 | 70080 |
| August | 56044 | 10411 | 66455 |
| September | 55385 | 10254 | 65639 |
| October | 53456 | 10429 | 63885 |
| November | 57457 | 11079 | 68536 |
| December | 56523 | 10680 | 67203 |
| 1999 |  |  |  |
| January | 53657 | 11228 | 64884 |
| February | 53458 | 10456 | 63913 |
| TREND ESTIMATES |  |  |  |
| 1997 |  |  |  |
| December | 54379 | 9542 | 63921 |
| 1998 |  |  |  |
| January | 54161 | 9760 | 63921 |
| February | 54262 | 9983 | 64245 |
| March | 55039 | 10176 | 65214 |
| April | 56347 | 10303 | 66650 |
| May | 57599 | 10349 | 67948 |
| June | 58312 | 10356 | 68667 |
| July | 58323 | 10359 | 68682 |
| August | 57722 | 10397 | 68119 |
| September | 56784 | 10479 | 67263 |
| October | 55883 | 10587 | 66471 |
| November | 55275 | 10702 | 65976 |
| December | 54919 | 10795 | 65714 |
| 1999 |  |  |  |
| January | 54619 | 10859 | 65478 |
| February | 54405 | 10873 | 65278 |
|  | (a) Trend estimates for August 1998 to January 1999 have been revised. |  |  |

$\qquad$

| Month | Passenger vehicles | Light commercial vehicles | Rigid trucks | Articulated trucks | Non-freight carrying trucks | Buses | Total (excludes motor cycles) | Motor cycles |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1997 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| December | 58252 | 7926 | 1019 | 351 | 103 | 276 | 67927 | 2549 |
| 1998 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January | 44164 | 6068 | 562 | 197 | 42 | 294 | 51327 | 2181 |
| February | 50794 | 7909 | 859 | 270 | 77 | 309 | 60218 | 2231 |
| March | 57735 | 8800 | 994 | 354 | 85 | 334 | 68302 | 2123 |
| April | 50735 | 8153 | 1003 | 341 | 105 | 310 | 60647 | 2185 |
| May | 54185 | 9031 | 1038 | 353 | 101 | 345 | 65053 | 2013 |
| June | 73153 | 12702 | 1275 | 418 | 104 | 402 | 88054 | 2145 |
| July | 63188 | 8760 | 1178 | 372 | 110 | 361 | 73969 | 2333 |
| August | 54789 | 7700 | 1040 | 413 | 85 | 313 | 64340 | 2276 |
| September | 55336 | 8012 | 1132 | 327 | 127 | 295 | 65229 | 2681 |
| October | 54632 | 7987 | 1077 | 401 | 176 | 345 | 64618 | 2692 |
| November | 57161 | 8853 | 1099 | 358 | 107 | 262 | 67840 | 2869 |
| December | 60418 | 8732 | 1222 | 295 | 111 | 307 | 71085 | 2740 |
| 1999 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January | 42137 | 6823 | 625 | 207 | 43 | 256 | 50091 | 2178 |
| February | 50792 | 7977 | 941 | 249 | 57 | 314 | 60330 | 2492 |



SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

| 1997 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| December | 22044 | 16281 | 11951 | 4264 | 6683 | 1330 | 734 | 1535 | 64822 |
| 1998 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January | 21065 | 15872 | 12235 | 4293 | 6559 | 1284 | 779 | 1376 | 63462 |
| February | 21898 | 15721 | 12212 | 4100 | 6536 | 1240 | 752 | 1390 | 63849 |
| March | 21609 | 15757 | 12526 | 4067 | 6708 | 1381 | 777 | 1512 | 64338 |
| April | 22275 | 16366 | 12117 | 4526 | 6871 | 1376 | 733 | 1483 | 65747 |
| May | 21952 | 16506 | 11832 | 4653 | 7220 | 1296 | 707 | 1300 | 65467 |
| June | 24258 | 18201 | 15194 | 4804 | 7902 | 1623 | 881 | 1513 | 74375 |
| July | 24796 | 17351 | 12371 | 4911 | 7147 | 1368 | 630 | 1504 | 70080 |
| August | 22355 | 16584 | 12695 | 4588 | 6872 | 1313 | 700 | 1348 | 66455 |
| September | 23217 | 16610 | 12139 | 4102 | 6459 | 1273 | 614 | 1225 | 65639 |
| October | 21731 | 16347 | 11940 | 4232 | 6478 | 1198 | 726 | 1233 | 63885 |
| November | 23212 | 17208 | 14123 | 4340 | 6397 | 1371 | 672 | 1214 | 68536 |
| December | 23117 | 17385 | 12946 | 4092 | 6436 | 1118 | 759 | 1352 | 67203 |
| 1999 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January | 22177 | 17392 | 11825 | 4111 | 6228 | 1372 | 620 | 1159 | 64884 |
| February | 21503 | 16544 | 12409 | 4035 | 6339 | 1149 | 761 | 1173 | 63913 |

TREND ESTIMATES

| 1997 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| December <br> 1998 | 21538 | 16008 | 12072 | 4208 | 6656 | 1263 | 724 | 1454 | 63921 |
| January | 21561 | 15905 | 12135 | 4211 | 6630 | 1276 | 743 | 1460 | 63921 |
| February | 21647 | 15935 | 12231 | 4241 | 6677 | 1306 | 756 | 1452 | 64245 |
| March | 21936 | 16148 | 12413 | 4336 | 6825 | 1344 | 766 | 1447 | 65214 |
| April | 22415 | 16484 | 12647 | 4474 | 7033 | 1384 | 764 | 1449 | 66650 |
| May | 22903 | 16818 | 12812 | 4605 | 7203 | 1407 | 752 | 1449 | 67948 |
| June | 23248 | 17028 | 12890 | 4679 | 7249 | 1410 | 731 | 1433 | 68667 |
| July | 23390 | 17077 | 12889 | 4665 | 7163 | 1388 | 711 | 1399 | 68682 |
| August | 23332 | 17011 | 12844 | 4569 | 6967 | 1349 | 694 | 1354 | 68119 |
| September | 23126 | 16914 | 12772 | 4425 | 6728 | 1307 | 682 | 1310 | 67263 |
| October | 22852 | 16873 | 12701 | 4291 | 6527 | 1273 | 680 | 1272 | 66471 |
| November | 22613 | 16917 | 12666 | 4197 | 6403 | 1252 | 687 | 1242 | 65976 |
| December | 22433 | 17002 | 12652 | 4132 | 6336 | 1241 | 697 | 1221 | 65714 |
| 1999 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1233 | 709 | 1206 |

(a) Trend estimates for August 1998 to January 1999 have been revised.

| Make/Model | New <br> South <br> Wales | Victoria | Queensland | South Australia | Western Australia | Tasmania | Northern Territory | Australian <br> Capital <br> Territory | Australia |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Holden |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Commodore/Calais | 1910 | 1898 | 1154 | 496 | 576 | 60 | 60 | 142 | 6296 |
| Barina | 303 | 191 | 162 | 82 | 87 | 14 | 4 | 18 | 861 |
| Astra | 281 | 164 | 148 | 36 | 68 | 10 |  | 15 | 722 |
| Other | 374 | 511 | 178 | 111 | 171 | 18 | 5 | 28 | 1396 |
| Total | 2868 | 2764 | 1642 | 725 | 902 | 102 | 69 | 203 | 9275 |
| Ford |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Falcon/Fairmont | 1709 | 1803 | 957 | 261 | 544 | 116 | 34 | 112 | 5536 |
| Festiva | 647 | 528 | 438 | 238 | 198 | 45 | 27 | 35 | 2156 |
| Laser | 219 | 256 | 104 | 49 | 62 | 9 | 2 | 13 | 714 |
| Other | 165 | 199 | 112 | 24 | 60 | 13 | 4 | 3 | 580 |
| Total | 2740 | 2786 | 1611 | 572 | 864 | 183 | 67 | 163 | 8986 |
| Toyota |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Corolla | 1133 | 733 | 457 | 160 | 238 | 57 | 39 | 49 | 2866 |
| Camry/Vienta | 1068 | 629 | 539 | 117 | 291 | 39 | 39 | 61 | 2783 |
| Landcruiser | 276 | 188 | 240 | 65 | 153 | 14 | 34 | 14 | 984 |
| Other | 730 | 402 | 339 | 95 | 136 | 19 | 42 | 26 | 1789 |
| Total | 3207 | 1952 | 1575 | 437 | 818 | 129 | 154 | 150 | 8422 |

## Mitsubishi

| Magna | 570 | 578 | 358 | 429 | 172 | 22 | 26 | 90 | $\mathbf{2} 245$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Lancer | 392 | 388 | 228 | 80 | 161 | 11 | 22 | 36 | $\mathbf{1} 318$ |
| Pajero | 157 | 83 | 98 | 26 | 48 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 427 |
| Other | 462 | 217 | 234 | 73 | 71 | 16 | 24 | 24 | $\mathbf{1} 121$ |
| Total | 1581 | 1266 | 918 | 608 | 452 | 54 | 78 | 154 | 5111 |

## Nissan

| Pulsar | 648 | 482 | 335 | 70 | 157 | 23 | 7 | 57 | 1779 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Patrol | 243 | 186 | 224 | 50 | 139 | 6 | 17 | 11 | 876 |
| Maxima | 54 | 60 | 28 | 7 | 7 | 3 |  | 164 |  |
| Other | 76 | 59 | 41 | 16 | 29 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 230 |
| Total | 1021 | 787 | 628 | 143 | 332 | 35 | 25 | 78 | 3049 |

## Hyundai

| Excel | 635 | 524 | 343 | 129 | 336 | 31 | 11 | 26 | 2035 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Lantra | 152 | 100 | 82 | 20 | 67 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 432 |
| Sonata | 114 | 93 | 51 | 19 | 43 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 337 |
| Other | 16 | 15 | 17 | 3 | 4 |  |  | 55 |  |
| Total | 917 | 732 | 493 | 171 | 450 | 44 | 16 | 36 | 2859 |

Subaru

| Forester | 266 | 164 | 138 | 40 | 88 | 28 | 5 | 12 | 741 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Impreza | 288 | 154 | 141 | 33 | 54 | 20 | 3 | 17 | $\mathbf{7 1 0}$ |
| Liberty | 209 | 113 | 54 | 12 | 22 | 18 | 4 | 4 | 400 |
| Other | 128 | 61 | 52 | 12 | 32 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 298 |
| Total | 891 | 492 | 385 | 97 | 196 | 72 | 13 | 43 | $\mathbf{2 1 8 9}$ |

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT

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 system are not strictly comparable with data processed prior to December 1990.

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).

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

TREND ESTIMATES

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

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.
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 more information, see A Guide to Interpreting Time Series-Monitoring 'Trends'-an Overview (Cat. no. 1348.0) or contact the Assistant Director, Time Series Analysis on (02) 62526345.

14 For a more detailed break-up of the monthly figures presented here, enquiries should be made to Robin Walden on 0732226181 or to any ABS office. Additional statistics, including registrations of trailers and caravans, are also available in the Special Data Service, New Motor Vehicle Registrations, Australia (9303.0.40.003). Data on total vehicle registrations are published annually in Motor Vehicle Census, Australia, 31 October 1997 (Cat. no. 9309.0).
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 seats or more, 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.

## SELF-HELP ACCESS TO STATISTICS

DIAL-A-STATISTIC For current and historical Consumer Price Index data, call 1902981074.
For the latest figures for National Accounts, Balance of Payments, Labour Force, Average Weekly Earnings,
Estimated Resident Population and the Consumer Price Index call 1900986400.
These calls cost 75 c per minute.

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| Melbourne | 0396157755 | 0396157798 |  |
| Brisbane | 0732226351 | 0732226283 |  |
| Perth | 0893605140 | 0893605955 |  |
| Adelaide | 0882377400 | 0882377566 |  |
| Hobart | 0362225800 | 0362225995 |  |
| Darwin | 0889432111 | 0889811218 |  |


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