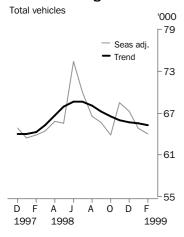


NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS

AUSTRALIA PRELIMINARY

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

New vehicle registrations



FEBRUARY KEY FIGURES

TREND ESTIMATES	Feb 1999	% change Jan 1999 to Feb 1999	% change Feb 1998 to Feb 1999
Total new motor vehicle registrations	65 278	-0.3	1.6
Passenger vehicles	54 405	-0.4	0.3
Other vehicles	10 873	0.1	8.9

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED		% change Jan 1999 to	% change Feb 1998 to
	Feb 1999	Feb 1999	Feb 1999
Total new motor vehicle registrations	63 913	-1.5	0.1
Passenger vehicles	53 458	-0.4	-0.1
Other vehicles	10 456	-6.9	1.0

ORIGINAL ESTIMATES		% change Jan 1999 to	% change Feb 1998 to
	Feb 1999	Feb 1999	Feb 1999
Total new motor vehicle registrations	60 330	20.4	0.2
Passenger vehicles	50 792	20.5	0.0
Other vehicles	9 538	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%.

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

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED 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%.

 For further information about these and related statistics, contact Robin Walden on Brisbane
 07 3222 6181, or any ABS office shown on the back cover of this publication.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE	RELEASE DATE
March 1999	30 April 1999
April 1999	28 May 1999
May 1999	25 June 1999
June 1999	30 July 1999
July 1999	27 August 1999
August 1999	24 September 199

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

There are no changes in this issue.

TREND REVISIONS

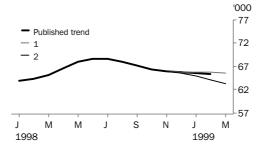
The most recent trend estimates are likely to be revised when new seasonally adjusted estimates become available.

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

- **1** The 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%.





W. McLennan Australian Statistician

VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS BY STATE: Trend series

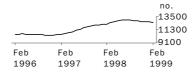
NEW SOUTH WALES



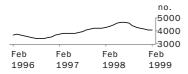
VICTORIA



QUEENSLAND



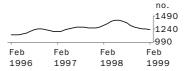
SOUTH AUSTRALIA



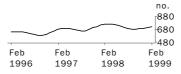
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



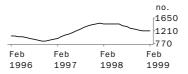
TASMANIA



NORTHERN TERRITORY



AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY



Month	Passenger vehicles	Other vehicles	Total			
• • • • • • • • •		• • • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • • • •			
ORIGINAL						
1997	== ===					
December	58 252	9 675	67 927			
1998	44.464	7.462	E1 227			
January	44 164	7 163	51 327			
February March	50 794 57 735	9 424 10 567	60 218 68 302			
April	50 735	9 912	60 647			
May	54 185	10 868	65 053			
June	73 153	14 901	88 054			
July	63 188	10 781	73 969			
August	54 789	9 551	64 340			
September	55 336	9 893	65 229			
October	54 632	9 986	64 618			
November	57 161	10 679	67 840			
December	60 418	10 667	71 085			
1999	00 120	10 00.	11000			
January	42 137	7 954	50 091			
February	50 792	9 538	60 330			
. 0.5. a.a						
• • • • • • • • • •			• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •			
1007	SEASONA	ALLY ADJUSTED				
1997	EE 170	0.645	64 822			
December	55 178	9 645	64 822			
1998 January	53 738	9 723	63 462			
February	53 502	10 347	63 849			
March	54 396	9 942	64 338			
April	55 315	10 432	65 747			
May	55 372	10 095	65 467			
June	63 566	10 809	74 375			
July	59 927	10 153	70 080			
August	56 044	10 411	66 455			
September	55 385	10 254	65 639			
October	53 456	10 429	63 885			
November	57 457	11 079	68 536			
December	56 523	10 680	67 203			
1999						
January	53 657	11 228	64 884			
February	53 458	10 456	63 913			
•						
• • • • • • • • • • •	TDENE		• • • • • • • • • • •			
1007	IRENL) ESTIMATES				
1997 December	E4 270	9 542	63 921			
1998	54 379	9 342	03 921			
January	54 161	9 760	63 921			
February	54 262	9 983	64 245			
March	55 039	10 176	65 214			
April	56 347	10 303	66 650			
May	57 599	10 349	67 948			
June	58 312	10 356	68 667			
July	58 323	10 359	68 682			
August	57 722	10 397	68 119			
September	56 784	10 479	67 263			
October	55 883	10 587	66 471			
November	55 275	10 702	65 976			
December	54 919	10 795	65 714			
1999						
January	54 619	10 859	65 478			
February	54 405	10 873	65 278			
-						

⁽a) Trend estimates for August 1998 to January 1999 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
• • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • •
1997								
December	58 252	7 926	1 019	351	103	276	67 927	2 549
1998								
January	44 164	6 068	562	197	42	294	51 327	2 181
February	50 794	7 909	859	270	77	309	60 218	2 231
March	57 735	8 800	994	354	85	334	68 302	2 123
April	50 735	8 153	1 003	341	105	310	60 647	2 185
May	54 185	9 031	1 038	353	101	345	65 053	2 013
June	73 153	12 702	1 275	418	104	402	88 054	2 145
July	63 188	8 760	1 178	372	110	361	73 969	2 333
August	54 789	7 700	1 040	413	85	313	64 340	2 276
September	55 336	8 012	1 132	327	127	295	65 229	2 681
October	54 632	7 987	1 077	401	176	345	64 618	2 692
November	57 161	8 853	1 099	358	107	262	67 840	2 869
December	60 418	8 732	1 222	295	111	307	71 085	2 740
1999								
January	42 137	6 823	625	207	43	256	50 091	2 178
February	50 792	7 977	941	249	57	314	60 330	2 492

Month	Wales	Victoria	Queensland	Australia	Australia	Tasmania	Territory	Territory	Australia
1997		• • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • •		• • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • •	• • • • •
				ORIGINAL					
December	21 879	17 038	13 152	4 483	6 977	2 153	644	1 601	67 927
1998									
January	17 342	12 273	9 884	3 366	5 862	925	574	1 101	51 327
February	20 840	14 996	11 176	3 980	6 290	1 007	641	1 288	60 218
March	23 659	17 029	12 646	4 348	6 959	1 224	873	1 564	68 302
April	20 571	14 962	11 760	4 063	6 190	1 033	750	1 318	60 647
May	22 357	16 074	11 489	4 379	7 456	1 242	784	1 272	65 053
June	29 143	21 013	18 552	5 761	8 977	1 600	1 212	1 796	88 054
July	25 440	18 620	13 800	5 092	7 239	1 497	648	1 633	73 969
August	21 692	16 286	12 018	4 540	6 386	1 351	638	1 429	64 340
September	22 314	16 597	12 434	4 166	6 378	1 496	606	1 238	65 229
October	21 881	16 794	12 048	4 237	6 515	1 233	730	1 180	64 618
November	23 924	17 170	12 658	4 475	6 443	1 324	609	1 237	67 840
December	23 041	18 902	13 934	4 342	7 060	1 773	684	1 349	71 085
	23 041	16 902	13 934	4 342	7 000	1113	004	1 349	11 005
1999	17.160	10.677	0.440	2.045	E 400	076	440	022	E0 001
January	17 168	12 677	9 449	3 045	5 402	976	442	932	50 091
February	20 482	15 787	11 371	3 921	6 104	928	650	1 087	60 330
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • •	SEASC	NALLY ADJ	IISTED	• • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • •	• • • • •
1997			JEAGO	MALLI ADJ	OOTED				
December	22 044	16 281	11 951	4 264	6 683	1 330	734	1 535	64 822
1998									
January	21 065	15 872	12 235	4 293	6 559	1 284	779	1 376	63 462
February	21 898	15 721	12 212	4 100	6 536	1 240	752	1 390	63 849
March	21 609	15 757	12 526	4 067	6 708	1 381	777	1 512	64 338
April	22 275	16 366	12 117	4 526	6 871	1 376	733	1 483	65 747
May	21 952	16 506	11 832	4 653	7 220	1 296	707	1 300	65 467
June	24 258	18 201	15 194	4 804	7 902	1 623	881	1 513	74 375
July	24 796	17 351	12 371	4 911	7 147	1 368	630	1 504	70 080
August	22 355	16 584	12 695	4 588	6 872	1 313	700	1 348	66 455
_									
September	23 217	16 610	12 139	4 102	6 459	1 273	614	1 225	65 639
October	21 731	16 347	11 940	4 232	6 478	1 198	726	1 233	63 885
November	23 212	17 208	14 123	4 340	6 397	1 371	672	1 214	68 536
December	23 117	17 385	12 946	4 092	6 436	1 118	759	1 352	67 203
1999									
January	22 177	17 392	11 825	4 111	6 228	1 372	620	1 159	64 884
February	21 503	16 544	12 409	4 035	6 339	1 149	761	1 173	63 913
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • •	TDE	ND ESTIMA	TEC	• • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • •	• • • • •
1997			INL	IND LOTINA	ILS				
December	21 538	16 008	12 072	4 208	6 656	1 263	724	1 454	63 921
1998									
January	21 561	15 905	12 135	4 211	6 630	1 276	743	1 460	63 921
February	21 647	15 935	12 231	4 241	6 677	1 306	756	1 452	64 245
March	21 936	16 148	12 413	4 336	6 825	1 344	766	1 447	65 214
April				4 474					
•	22 415	16 484	12 647		7 033	1 384	764 752	1 449	66 650 67 048
May	22 903	16 818	12 812	4 605	7 203	1 407	752 724	1 449	67 948
June	23 248	17 028	12 890	4 679	7 249	1 410	731	1 433	68 667
July	23 390	17 077	12 889	4 665	7 163	1 388	711	1 399	68 682
August	23 332	17 011	12 844	4 569	6 967	1 349	694	1 354	68 119
September	23 126	16 914	12 772	4 425	6 728	1 307	682	1 310	67 263
October	22 852	16 873	12 701	4 291	6 527	1 273	680	1 272	66 471
November	22 613	16 917	12 666	4 197	6 403	1 252	687	1 242	65 976
December	22 433	17 002	12 652	4 132	6 336	1 241	697	1 221	65 714
1999									
January	22 255	17 069	12 626	4 082	6 297	1 233	709	1 206	65 478
	22 164	17 118	12 523	4 060	6 276	1 225	714	1 198	65 278

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



Make/Model	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Territory	Australia
Holden	• • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • •	• • • • •
Commodore/Calais	1 910	1 898	1 154	496	576	60	60	142	6 296
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	1 396
Total	2 868	2 764	1 642	725	902	102	69	203	9 275
Ford	• • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • • •	• • • • •
Falcon/Fairmont	1 709	1 803	957	261	544	116	34	112	5 536
Festiva	647	528	438	238	198	45	27	35	2 156
Laser	219	256	104	49	62	9	2	13	714
Other	165	199	112	24	60	13	4	3	580
Total	2 740	2 786	1 611	572	864	183	67	163	8 986
Toyota	• • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • • •	• • • • •
Corolla	1 133	733	457	160	238	57	39	49	2 866
Camry/Vienta	1 068	629	539	117	291	39	39	61	2 783
Landcruiser	276	188	240	65	153	14	34	14	984
Other	730	402	339	95	136	19	42	26	1 789
Total	3 207	1 952	1 575	437	818	129	154	150	8 422
Mitsubishi	• • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • • •	• • • • •
Magna	570	578	358	429	172	22	26	90	2 245
Lancer	392	388	228	80	161	11	22	36	1 318
Pajero	157	83	98	26	48	5	6	4	427
Other	462	217	234	73	71	16	24	24	1 121
Total	1 581	1 266	918	608	452	54	78	154	5 111
Nissan	• • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • • •	• • • • •
Pulsar	648	482	335	70	157	23	7	57	1 779
Patrol	243	186	224	50	139	6	17	11	876
Maxima	54	60	28	7	7	3		5	164
Other	76	59	41	16	29	3	1	5	230
Total	1 021	787	628	143	332	35	25	78	3 049
Hyundai	• • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • •
Excel	635	524	343	129	336	31	11	26	2 035
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	2 859
Subaru	• • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • • •	• • • • •
Forester	266	164	138	40	88	28	5	12	741
Impreza	288	154	141	33	54	20	3	17	710
Liberty	209	113	54	12	22	18	4	8	440
Other	128	61	52	12	32	6	1	6	298
Total	891	492	385	97	196	72	13	43	2 189
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •									

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 system 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 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) 6252 6345.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

14 For a more detailed break-up of the monthly figures presented here, enquiries should be made to Robin Walden on 07 3222 6181 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).

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 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.

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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