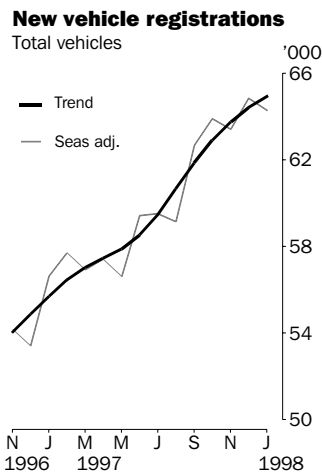


NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS

AUSTRALIA
PRELIMINARY

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) FRI 27 FEB 1998



JANUARY KEY FIGURES

TREND ESTIMATES

	Jan 98	monthly % change	annual % change
Total new motor vehicle registrations	64 939	0.8	16.6
Passenger vehicles	55 490	0.8	18.3
Other vehicles	9 448	1.0	7.5

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	Jan 98	monthly % change	annual % change
Total new motor vehicle registrations	64 274	-0.9	13.5
Passenger vehicles	54 808	-0.4	14.2
Other vehicles	9 466	-3.8	9.7

ORIGINAL ESTIMATES

	Jan 98	monthly % change	annual % change
Total new motor vehicle registrations	51 335	-24.4	11.2
Passenger vehicles	44 201	-24.1	11.6
Other vehicles	7 134	-26.3	8.7

JANUARY KEY POINTS

TREND ESTIMATES

- The trend for total new motor vehicle registrations has continued to increase each month since September 1996. Passenger vehicle registrations in January 1998 rose by 0.8% and other vehicle registrations rose by 1.0% compared with the previous month. The trend rose in all States and Territories.

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

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATES

- Total new motor vehicle registrations for January 1998 decreased by 0.9% compared with December 1997. Passenger vehicles decreased by 0.4% and other vehicles decreased by 3.8%. All States and Territories fell this month except for New South Wales which rose by 3.5% and the Northern Territory by 3.4%.

ORIGINAL ESTIMATES

- Total new motor vehicle registrations for January 1998 showed a decrease of 24.4% compared with December 1997, with passenger vehicles down by 24.1% and other vehicles down by 26.3%. All States and Territories recorded drops. Registrations decreased for all vehicle types except buses.

For further information about these and related statistics, contact Robin Walden on 07 3222 6181, or any ABS Office.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE	RELEASE DATE
February 1998	27 March 1998
March 1998	24 April 1998
April 1998	29 May 1998

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

There are no changes in this issue.

TREND REVISIONS

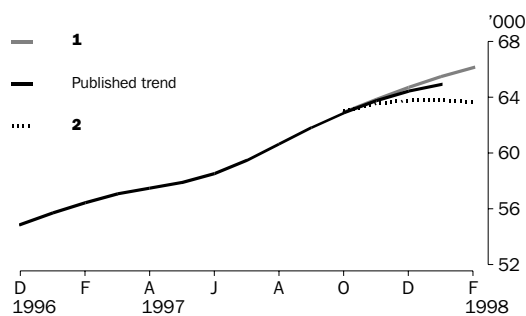
The most recent trend estimates are likely to be revised when new seasonally adjusted estimates become available.

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

- 1** The February seasonally adjusted estimate for total vehicle registrations is higher than the January seasonally adjusted estimate by 4.6%.
- 2** The February seasonally adjusted estimate for total vehicle registrations is lower than the January seasonally adjusted estimate by -4.6%.

The percentage change of 4.6 was chosen because the average absolute percentage change, based on the last 11 years, has been 4.6%.

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

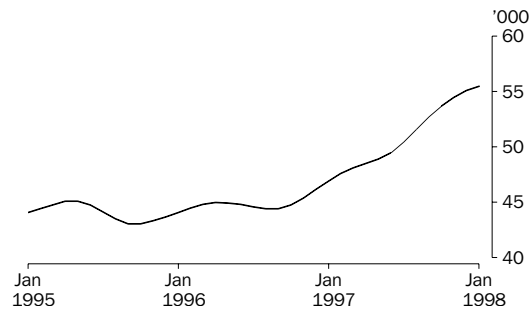


W. McLennan
Australian Statistician

VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS BY TYPE: Trend series

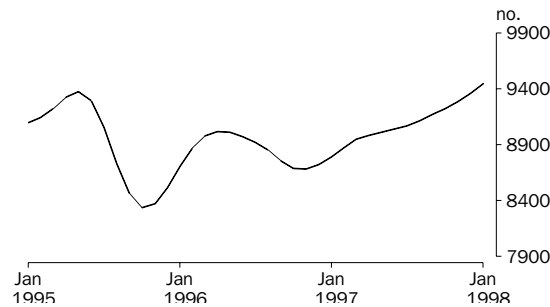
PASSENGER VEHICLES

The trend for new passenger vehicle registrations has risen in each of the last seventeen months. The trend level is now 24.9% above the most recent low in August 1996.



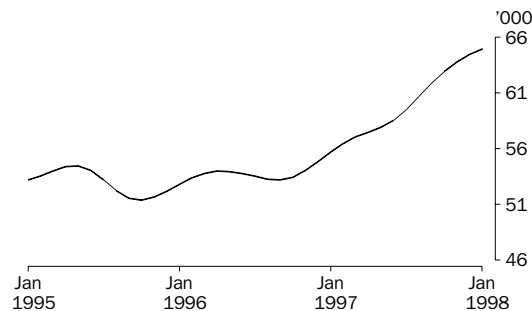
OTHER VEHICLES

The trend for other vehicle registrations has continued to rise to be now 13.4% above the October 1995 low and 8.8% above the most recent low of November 1996.



TOTAL VEHICLES (EXCLUDING MOTOR CYCLES)

Following a low in September 1996 the trend for total new motor vehicle registrations has risen consecutively over the last sixteen months. The trend level is now 26.5% above the low in October 1995 and 22.1% above the most recent low in September 1996.





NEW MOTOR VEHICLES, Registrations by Type: All series

Month	Passenger vehicles	Other vehicles	Total
ORIGINAL			
1996			
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	49 235	8 348	57 583
September	53 726	8 789	62 515
October	57 471	9 180	66 651
November	52 945	8 521	61 466
December	58 253	9 675	67 928
1998			
January	44 201	7 134	51 335
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED			
1996			
November	45 627	8 503	54 131
December	44 718	8 688	53 406
1997			
January	48 011	8 626	56 637
February	48 487	9 237	57 724
March	47 739	9 183	56 921
April	48 657	8 738	57 394
May	47 915	8 685	56 600
June	50 096	9 319	59 415
July	50 414	9 094	59 508
August	50 076	9 082	59 158
September	53 465	9 230	62 695
October	54 573	9 328	63 901
November	54 708	8 700	63 408
December	55 013	9 839	64 852
1998			
January	54 808	9 466	64 274
TREND ESTIMATES (a)			
1996			
November	45 353	8 682	54 035
December	46 140	8 719	54 860
1997			
January	46 902	8 787	55 689
February	47 574	8 870	56 444
March	48 103	8 947	57 050
April	48 475	8 983	57 459
May	48 879	9 013	57 892
June	49 486	9 038	58 525
July	50 399	9 069	59 467
August	51 551	9 114	60 665
September	52 688	9 170	61 858
October	53 677	9 221	62 898
November	54 471	9 286	63 757
December	55 057	9 358	64 414
1998			
January	55 490	9 448	64 939

(a) Trend estimates for July 1997 to December 1997 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
1996								
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	49 235	6 672	935	306	131	304	57 583	2 021
September	53 726	7 172	881	308	140	288	62 515	2 101
October	57 471	7 311	952	425	151	341	66 651	2 850
November	52 945	6 927	891	328	120	255	61 466	2 452
December	58 253	7 926	1 019	351	103	276	67 928	2 549
1998								
January	44 201	6 032	570	197	39	296	51 335	2 236

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									
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	18 647	15 249	10 749	3 876	5 937	1 314	589	1 222	57 583
September	21 330	15 552	11 712	4 174	6 297	1 503	632	1 315	62 515
October	21 813	17 462	11 998	4 335	7 489	1 387	712	1 455	66 651
November	21 056	15 252	11 265	4 199	6 533	1 108	619	1 434	61 466
December	21 879	17 038	13 153	4 483	6 977	2 153	644	1 601	67 928
1998									
January	17 342	12 272	9 896	3 364	5 860	925	575	1 101	51 335
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED									
1996									
November	18 288	13 737	10 422	3 454	5 526	1 228	593	883	54 131
December	17 773	13 508	10 172	3 584	5 756	1 168	607	838	53 406
1997									
January	19 895	13 708	10 648	3 694	5 848	1 248	672	924	56 637
February	19 820	14 407	10 739	3 881	6 138	1 084	652	1 003	57 724
March	19 598	14 707	10 538	3 713	5 548	1 184	665	967	56 921
April	19 831	13 926	10 348	3 936	6 178	1 265	829	1 081	57 394
May	19 694	13 977	10 362	3 637	5 961	1 260	660	1 049	56 600
June	20 706	13 556	11 910	3 951	6 203	1 200	674	1 216	59 415
July	20 141	14 622	11 372	3 766	6 379	1 381	635	1 211	59 508
August	19 709	15 390	11 039	3 848	6 128	1 237	619	1 187	59 158
September	21 165	15 757	11 991	4 064	6 500	1 265	677	1 276	62 695
October	21 650	16 108	11 775	4 110	6 935	1 268	668	1 387	63 901
November	21 507	15 996	11 873	4 167	6 563	1 144	650	1 507	63 408
December	21 335	16 179	12 333	4 537	6 726	1 400	762	1 581	64 852
1998									
January	22 082	15 913	12 018	4 297	6 566	1 268	788	1 342	64 274
TREND ESTIMATES(a)									
1996									
November	18 481	13 377	10 318	3 454	5 741	1 205	591	868	54 035
December	18 781	13 714	10 354	3 553	5 766	1 190	615	887	54 860
1997									
January	19 113	13 978	10 394	3 660	5 802	1 178	647	917	55 689
February	19 452	14 099	10 467	3 749	5 859	1 181	679	958	56 444
March	19 734	14 106	10 581	3 801	5 925	1 197	701	1 007	57 050
April	19 897	14 081	10 702	3 813	5 987	1 219	705	1 054	57 459
May	19 992	14 118	10 870	3 810	6 058	1 247	696	1 100	57 892
June	20 094	14 297	11 082	3 815	6 149	1 267	677	1 143	58 525
July	20 276	14 637	11 310	3 848	6 271	1 274	657	1 194	59 467
August	20 555	15 091	11 528	3 919	6 400	1 271	646	1 256	60 665
September	20 860	15 538	11 699	4 017	6 509	1 264	652	1 319	61 858
October	21 169	15 861	11 831	4 126	6 596	1 263	673	1 380	62 898
November	21 458	16 060	11 955	4 230	6 658	1 266	699	1 430	63 757
December	21 699	16 183	12 056	4 318	6 693	1 273	726	1 467	64 414
1998									
January	21 932	16 198	12 180	4 400	6 708	1 276	753	1 492	64 939

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

4

NEW PASSENGER VEHICLES, Selected Make/Models: **Original**—January 1998

Make/Model	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Territory	Australia
Ford									
Falcon/Fairmont	1 014	885	629	171	380	47	19	101	3 246
Festiva	480	369	366	142	141	26	13	23	1 560
Laser	283	219	155	57	70	18	4	16	822
Other	228	186	139	43	73	14	5	12	700
Total	2 005	1 659	1 289	413	664	105	41	152	6 328
Holden									
Commodore/Calais	1 497	1 216	936	302	472	68	29	185	4 705
Barina	255	156	118	47	61	13	1	22	673
Statesman/Caprice	76	99	30	25	46	1	1	5	283
Other	353	274	198	90	145	16	7	21	1 104
Total	2 181	1 745	1 282	464	724	98	38	233	6 765
Hyundai									
Excel	945	696	491	191	438	71	32	50	2 914
Lantra	221	138	112	35	140	22	10	10	688
Sonata	90	51	51	16	41	5	4	1	259
Other	44	40	36	9	17	1	3	..	150
Total	1 300	925	690	251	636	99	49	61	4 011
Mazda									
323	374	311	180	54	99	10	5	22	1 055
121	192	128	76	22	59	6	6	9	498
626	180	139	63	22	33	6	..	10	453
Other	16	14	7	..	3	1	41
Total	762	592	326	98	194	22	11	42	2 047
Mitsubishi									
Magna	482	470	349	289	186	35	23	133	1 967
Lancer	433	347	264	94	155	16	15	40	1 364
Mirage	472	139	111	35	47	15	6	24	849
Other	281	184	149	79	73	19	13	19	817
Total	1 668	1 140	873	497	461	85	57	216	4 997
Nissan									
Pulsar	375	276	256	53	145	23	12	32	1 172
Patrol	175	186	202	57	142	7	9	8	786
Maxima	45	57	36	9	26	2	1	2	178
Other	90	84	66	12	34	4	4	3	297
Total	685	603	560	131	347	36	26	45	2 433
Toyota									
Corolla	593	358	230	88	132	23	23	51	1 498
Camry	355	254	162	44	98	19	18	13	963
Landcruiser	208	131	264	47	130	16	15	8	819
Other	1 146	743	609	201	351	62	55	37	3 204
Total	2 302	1 486	1 265	380	711	120	111	109	6 484

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 <i>continued</i>	<p>8 Irregular influences that are highly volatile can make it difficult to interpret the series even after adjustment for seasonal variation.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>11 Seasonal adjustment factors are analysed and revised as necessary annually.</p>
TREND ESTIMATES	<p>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.</p> <p>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 <i>A Guide to Interpreting Time Series — Monitoring 'Trends': an Overview</i> (Cat. no. 1348.0) or contact the Assistant Director, Time Series Analysis on (02) 6252 6345.</p>
RELATED PUBLICATIONS	<p>14 For a more detailed break-up of the monthly figures presented here, inquiries should be made to Robin Walden on 07 3222 6181 or to any ABS office. Data on total vehicle registrations, both new and re-registrations, is available in <i>Motor Vehicle Census, Australia, 31 October 1996</i> (Cat. no. 9309.0).</p>
SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES	<p>n.p. not available for publication, but included in totals.</p>

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.

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