



# NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS

AUSTRALIA  
PRELIMINARY

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) FRI 29 OCT 1999

## SEPTEMBER KEY FIGURES

### TREND ESTIMATES

	Sep 1999	% change Aug 1999 to Sep 1999	% change Sep 1998 to Sep 1999
Total new motor vehicle registrations	59 982	-2.3	-10.7
Passenger vehicles	49 258	-3.0	-13.1
Other vehicles	10 724	0.8	2.3

### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	Sep 1999	% change Aug 1999 to Sep 1999	% change Sep 1998 to Sep 1999
Total new motor vehicle registrations	59 190	-1.8	-9.8
Passenger vehicles	48 756	-1.1	-12.0
Other vehicles	10 434	-5.2	1.7

### ORIGINAL ESTIMATES

	Sep 1999	% change Aug 1999 to Sep 1999	% change Sep 1998 to Sep 1999
Total new motor vehicle registrations	59 214	-1.1	-9.2
Passenger vehicles	49 126	-1.1	-11.2
Other vehicles	10 088	-1.3	2.0

## SEPTEMBER KEY POINTS

### TREND ESTIMATES

- The September 1999 trend estimate for total new motor vehicle registrations of 59 982 was the lowest since the July 1997 estimate of 59 295 and has continued to fall since its most recent peak in February 1999. The downward trend reflects a continued fall for new passenger vehicle registrations since March 1999, offset partly by a continued rise in the registration of other vehicles since May 1999.

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

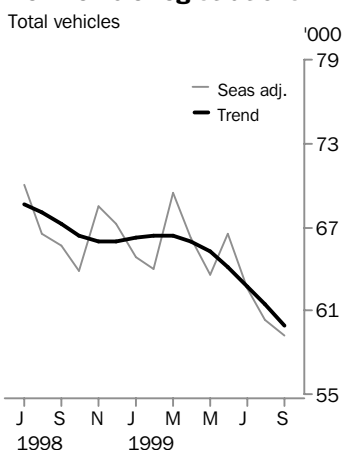
### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATES

- The seasonally adjusted estimates for total new motor vehicle registrations fell by 1.8% in September 1999 compared with August 1999. Passenger vehicle registrations fell by 1.1% and those for other vehicles fell by 5.2% this month.

### ORIGINAL ESTIMATES

- In original terms, the September 1999 estimates for new motor vehicle registrations continued to fall since June 1999. Passenger vehicles fell by 1.1% from the previous month, other vehicles fell by 1.3% and total vehicles fell by 1.1%.

### New vehicle registrations



- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Robin Walden on Brisbane 07 3222 6180, or Client Services in any ABS office as shown on the back cover of this publication.

# NOTES

## FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE	RELEASE DATE
October 1999	26 November 1999
November 1999	24 December 1999
December 1999	28 January 2000
January 2000	25 February 2000
February 2000	31 March 2000
March 2000	1 May 2000

## CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

There are no changes in this issue.

## TREND REVISIONS

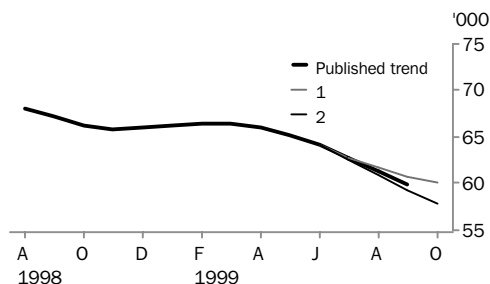
The most recent trend estimates are likely to be revised when new seasonally adjusted estimates become available.

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

- 1** The October seasonally adjusted estimate for total vehicle registrations is higher than the September seasonally adjusted estimate by 4.5%.
- 2** The October seasonally adjusted estimate for total vehicle registrations is lower than the September 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%.

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

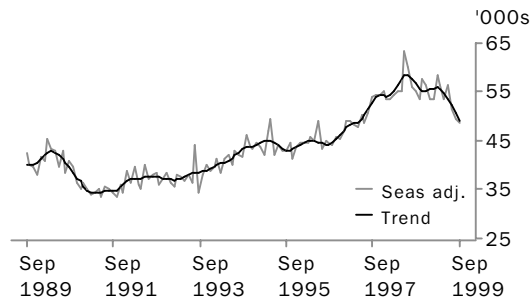


T. J. Skinner  
Acting Australian Statistician

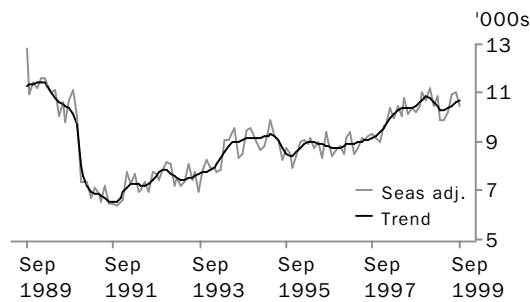
# VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS BY TYPE(a)

## SEASONALLY ADJUSTED AND TREND

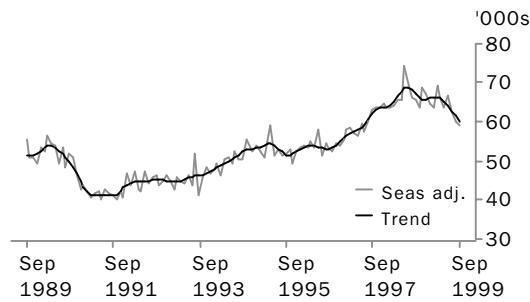
### PASSENGER VEHICLES



### OTHER VEHICLES



### TOTAL VEHICLES (EXCLUDING MOTOR CYCLES)



(a) A break in series occurred in December 1990—see paragraph 2 of Explanatory Notes.

NEW MOTOR VEHICLES, Registrations By Type: All series(a)

Month	Passenger vehicles	Other vehicles	Total
ORIGINAL			
<b>1998</b>			
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
<b>1999</b>			
January	42 137	7 954	50 091
February	50 775	9 557	60 332
March	64 011	12 190	76 201
April	50 963	9 005	59 968
May	53 036	10 862	63 898
June	65 067	14 428	79 495
July	53 161	11 253	64 414
August	49 668	10 224	59 892
September	49 126	10 088	59 214
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED			
<b>1998</b>			
July	59 925	10 154	70 079
August	56 044	10 411	66 455
September	55 385	10 255	65 640
October	53 456	10 429	63 885
November	57 457	11 079	68 536
December	56 522	10 679	67 201
<b>1999</b>			
January	53 658	11 228	64 886
February	53 441	10 476	63 917
March	58 556	10 860	69 416
April	56 370	9 881	66 251
May	53 592	9 921	63 513
June	56 278	10 214	66 492
July	51 605	10 956	62 561
August	49 293	11 005	60 298
September	48 756	10 434	59 190
TREND ESTIMATES			
<b>1998</b>			
July	58 324	10 359	68 683
August	57 723	10 397	68 120
September	56 712	10 480	67 192
October	55 710	10 607	66 317
November	55 153	10 753	65 906
December	55 115	10 842	65 957
<b>1999</b>			
January	55 449	10 810	66 259
February	55 767	10 650	66 417
March	55 906	10 458	66 364
April	55 651	10 323	65 974
May	54 926	10 308	65 234
June	53 738	10 387	64 125
July	52 255	10 509	62 764
August	50 770	10 635	61 405
September	49 258	10 724	59 982

(a) Trend estimates for March 1999 to August 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
<b>1998</b>								
July	63 188	8 760	1 178	372	110	361	<b>73 969</b>	2 333
August	54 789	7 700	1 040	413	85	313	<b>64 340</b>	2 276
September	55 336	8 012	1 132	327	127	295	<b>65 229</b>	2 681
October	54 632	7 987	1 077	401	176	345	<b>64 618</b>	2 692
November	57 161	8 853	1 099	358	107	262	<b>67 840</b>	2 869
December	60 418	8 732	1 222	295	111	307	<b>71 085</b>	2 740
<b>1999</b>								
January	42 137	6 823	625	207	43	256	<b>50 091</b>	2 178
February	50 775	7 996	942	247	57	315	<b>60 332</b>	2 451
March	64 011	10 230	1 215	310	111	324	<b>76 201</b>	2 720
April	50 963	7 434	976	265	79	251	<b>59 968</b>	2 195
May	53 036	8 988	1 200	342	80	252	<b>63 898</b>	2 437
June	65 067	12 053	1 476	436	108	355	<b>79 495</b>	2 498
July	53 161	9 364	1 047	363	137	342	<b>64 414</b>	2 656
August	49 668	8 456	1 099	302	139	228	<b>59 892</b>	2 578
September	49 126	8 185	1 224	322	78	279	<b>59 214</b>	2 936

## NEW MOTOR VEHICLES, Registrations By State: All series(a)

Month	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Territory	Australia
ORIGINAL									
<b>1998</b>									
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
<b>1999</b>									
January	17 168	12 677	9 449	3 045	5 402	976	442	932	50 091
February	20 483	15 786	11 371	3 923	6 104	928	650	1 087	60 332
March	26 240	19 529	14 784	4 809	7 395	1 227	916	1 301	76 201
April	20 664	17 003	9 460	3 815	6 069	1 098	826	1 033	59 968
May	23 163	16 427	11 134	3 966	6 203	1 113	772	1 120	63 898
June	27 343	20 672	14 796	4 694	8 577	1 129	884	1 400	79 495
July	24 236	17 591	10 264	4 118	5 010	1 349	634	1 212	64 414
August	21 102	16 298	9 852	3 851	5 807	1 270	613	1 099	59 892
September	20 645	16 569	9 564	3 651	5 628	1 458	693	1 006	59 214
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED									
<b>1998</b>									
July	24 797	17 351	12 371	4 911	7 147	1 368	630	1 504	70 079
August	22 355	16 584	12 695	4 588	6 871	1 314	700	1 348	66 455
September	23 217	16 610	12 139	4 103	6 459	1 273	614	1 225	65 640
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	1 370	672	1 214	68 536
December	23 116	17 384	12 946	4 091	6 435	1 118	759	1 352	67 201
<b>1999</b>									
January	22 177	17 393	11 825	4 111	6 228	1 372	620	1 160	64 886
February	21 504	16 544	12 409	4 038	6 339	1 149	761	1 173	63 917
March	23 601	17 720	13 323	4 372	7 170	1 306	755	1 169	69 416
April	22 410	18 967	10 468	4 223	6 663	1 490	869	1 161	66 251
May	21 927	16 706	11 454	4 168	6 214	1 169	692	1 183	63 513
June	23 432	17 672	11 232	3 948	7 372	1 104	595	1 137	66 492
July	23 486	16 970	9 802	4 097	5 065	1 290	642	1 209	62 561
August	21 306	15 925	10 593	3 737	5 854	1 189	665	1 029	60 298
September	21 219	16 134	9 474	3 570	5 776	1 294	720	1 003	59 190
TREND ESTIMATES									
<b>1998</b>									
July	23 391	17 077	12 888	4 665	7 164	1 388	711	1 399	68 683
August	23 332	17 012	12 845	4 568	6 967	1 349	693	1 354	68 120
September	23 105	16 904	12 758	4 420	6 710	1 305	681	1 309	67 192
October	22 811	16 816	12 720	4 275	6 485	1 264	675	1 271	66 317
November	22 597	16 863	12 734	4 179	6 372	1 241	681	1 239	65 906
December	22 491	17 042	12 749	4 144	6 364	1 247	702	1 218	65 957
<b>1999</b>									
January	22 467	17 288	12 689	4 155	6 460	1 267	728	1 205	66 259
February	22 493	17 510	12 432	4 180	6 582	1 281	745	1 194	66 417
March	22 567	17 652	12 070	4 196	6 665	1 283	748	1 183	66 364
April	22 663	17 654	11 647	4 182	6 648	1 273	735	1 172	65 974
May	22 705	17 503	11 241	4 134	6 520	1 257	713	1 161	65 234
June	22 637	17 227	10 836	4 043	6 310	1 238	689	1 145	64 125
July	22 434	16 874	10 436	3 930	6 075	1 227	669	1 119	62 764
August	22 160	16 525	10 077	3 817	5 855	1 226	658	1 087	61 405
September	21 788	16 144	9 772	3 699	5 647	1 220	655	1 057	59 982

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

NEW PASSENGER VEHICLES, Top Make/models: **Original**—September 1999

<i>Make/Model</i>	<i>New South Wales</i>	<i>Victoria</i>	<i>Queensland</i>	<i>South Australia</i>	<i>Western Australia</i>	<i>Tasmania</i>	<i>Northern Territory</i>	<i>Australian Capital Territory</i>	<b>Australia</b>
<b>Holden</b>									
Commodore/Calais	2 250	2 162	815	713	742	176	65	122	<b>7 045</b>
Vectra	360	371	83	55	46	8	4	18	<b>945</b>
Statesman/Caprice	182	179	60	41	57	10	1	5	<b>535</b>
Other	454	339	184	89	108	15	4	15	<b>1 208</b>
Total	3 246	3 051	1 142	898	953	209	74	160	<b>9 733</b>
<b>Ford</b>									
Falcon/Fairmont	1 744	1 992	975	309	451	97	30	91	<b>5 689</b>
Festiva	367	266	190	99	61	23	6	12	<b>1 024</b>
Laser	224	213	119	35	64	18	4	9	<b>686</b>
Other	164	198	78	38	67	10	2	6	<b>563</b>
Total	2 499	2 669	1 362	481	643	148	42	118	<b>7 962</b>
<b>Toyota</b>									
Camry/Vienta	1 459	977	655	227	443	62	42	78	<b>3 943</b>
Corolla	459	349	226	64	200	62	32	18	<b>1 410</b>
Landcruiser	267	156	157	41	99	10	36	5	<b>771</b>
Other	618	353	292	80	126	28	30	24	<b>1 551</b>
Total	2 803	1 835	1 330	412	868	162	140	125	<b>7 675</b>
<b>Mitsubishi</b>									
Magna	517	542	210	237	248	70	32	41	<b>1 897</b>
Lancer	351	363	182	44	130	80	16	33	<b>1 199</b>
Pajero	193	98	106	25	36	11	11	9	<b>489</b>
Other	319	217	88	56	67	8	5	26	<b>786</b>
Total	1 380	1 220	586	362	481	169	64	109	<b>4 371</b>
<b>Nissan</b>									
Pulsar	650	717	521	66	164	91	11	49	<b>2 269</b>
Patrol	219	181	205	65	108	3	10	7	<b>798</b>
Pathfinder	130	113	50	15	29	4	3	9	<b>353</b>
Other	55	45	81	14	14	4	3		<b>216</b>
Total	1 054	1 056	857	160	315	102	27	65	<b>3 636</b>
<b>Hyundai</b>									
Excel	469	343	244	81	169	37	7	17	<b>1 367</b>
Lantra	323	162	117	51	153	28	6	9	<b>849</b>
Sonata	134	103	66	33	49	4	2	3	<b>394</b>
Other	26	27	22	14	26	2			<b>117</b>
Total	952	635	449	179	397	71	15	29	<b>2 727</b>
<b>Subaru</b>									
Impreza	282	137	88	28	40	13	4	18	<b>610</b>
Liberty	280	134	75	21	28	17		14	<b>569</b>
Forester	203	102	85	29	58	14	7	11	<b>509</b>
Other	202	96	49	12	31	10	4	10	<b>414</b>
Total	967	469	297	90	157	54	15	53	<b>2 102</b>

## 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 6180 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 1998* (Cat. no. 9309.0).

### SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

n.p. not available for publication, but included in totals.

## G L O S S A R Y

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<b>Articulated trucks</b>	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.
<b>Buses</b>	Vehicles constructed for the carriage of passengers. Included are all passenger vehicles with 10 seats or more, including the driver's seat.
<b>Light commercial vehicles</b>	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).
<b>Motor cycles</b>	Includes 2 and 3 wheeled mopeds, scooters, motor tricycles and motor cycles with side cars.
<b>Non-freight carrying trucks</b>	Includes specialist vehicles such as ambulances, mobile cranes or vehicles fitted with special purpose equipment and having no goods carrying capacity.
<b>Passenger vehicles</b>	Includes cars, station wagons, four-wheel drive passenger vehicles and forward control passenger vehicles with up to nine seats (including the driver).
<b>Registrations</b>	This includes all registrations processed by the motor vehicle registration authorities in the States and Territories during the relevant period.
<b>Rigid trucks</b>	Vehicles constructed primarily for load carrying with a gross vehicle mass of 3.5 tonnes or more.
<b>VIN</b>	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

- CPI INFOLINE* For current and historical Consumer Price Index data, call 1902 981 074 (call cost 75c per minute).
- DIAL-A-STATISTIC* For the latest figures for National Accounts, Balance of Payments, Labour Force, Average Weekly Earnings, Estimated Resident Population and the Consumer Price Index call 1900 986 400 (call cost 75c per minute).
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	Melbourne	03 9615 7755	03 9615 7798
	Brisbane	07 3222 6351	07 3222 6283
	Perth	08 9360 5140	08 9360 5955
	Adelaide	08 8237 7400	08 8237 7566
	Hobart	03 6222 5800	03 6222 5995
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