

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS

AUSTRALIA
PRELIMINARY

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) FRI 28 FEB 1997

JANUARY KEY FIGURES

TREND ESTIMATES

	Jan 97	monthly % change	annual % change
Total new motor vehicle registrations	54 683	1.4	3.7
Passenger vehicles	46 170	1.7	4.9
Other vehicles	8 513	-0.2	-2.5

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	Jan 97	monthly % change	annual % change
Total new motor vehicle registrations	55 591	2.9	5.0
Passenger vehicles	47 227	4.6	7.3
Other vehicles	8 364	-6.2	-6.0

ORIGINAL ESTIMATES

	Jan 97	monthly % change	annual % change
Total new motor vehicle registrations	46 169	-15.4	3.8
Passenger vehicles	39 616	-14.2	5.9
Other vehicles	6 553	-22.2	-6.9

JANUARY KEY POINTS

TREND ESTIMATES

- The trend for total new motor vehicle registrations in January 1997 increased 1.4% over December 1996. The trend rose in all States and Territories with the exception of Tasmania. The passenger vehicle trend has risen in each of the last three months to January 1997, while for other vehicles it has fallen in each of the months since April 1996.

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

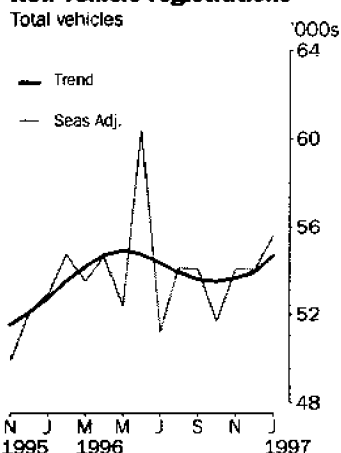
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATES

- In January 1997, total vehicle registrations rose by 2.9%, with passenger vehicles up by 4.6% and other vehicles down by 6.2%. All States and Territories recorded rises with the exception of Queensland.

ORIGINAL ESTIMATES

- Total motor vehicles registrations for January 1997 showed a decrease of 15.4% compared with December 1996, with passenger vehicles down by 14.2% and other vehicles by 22.2%. Registrations decreased for all vehicle types, excluding buses. All States recorded falls in total registrations, with rises occurring in the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

New vehicle registrations



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

February 1997

27 March 1997

March 1997

24 April 1997

April 1997

30 May 1997

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CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

There are no changes in this issue.

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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:

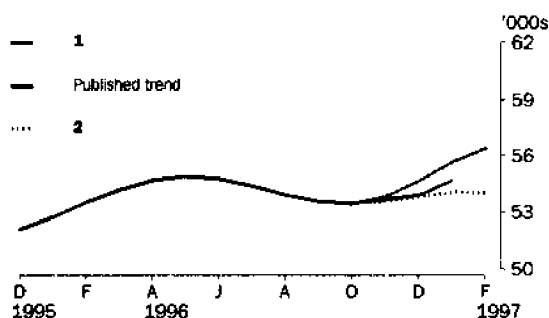
1 The February seasonally adjusted estimate for total vehicle registrations is higher than the January seasonally adjusted estimate by 5.1%.

2 The February seasonally adjusted estimate for total vehicle registrations is lower than the January 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 February 1997 would result in a strong increase in the revised trend from October 1996.

A 5.1% fall in the February 1997 seasonally adjusted figure would result in a flattening in the revised trend.

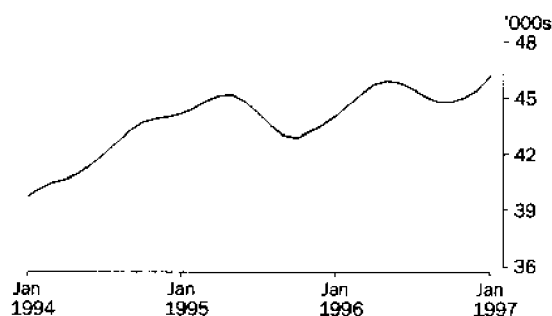
W. McLennan

Australian Statistician

VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS BY TYPE: Trend series

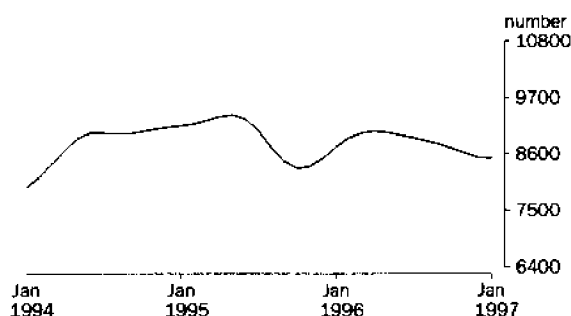
PASSENGER VEHICLES

The trend for new passenger vehicle registrations showed a steady upward movement to reach a peak in May 1995 before falling to a low in October 1995. After peaking again in May 1996, the trend declined to a low in October 1996. Since then it has increased each month to now be 7.7% above the October 1995 low.



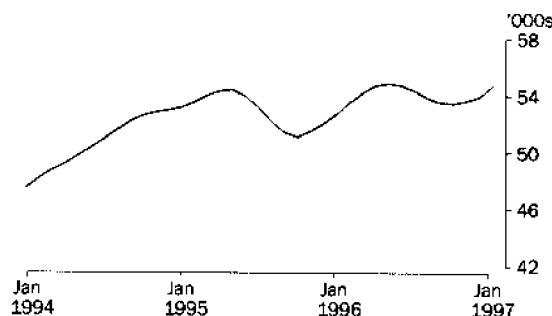
OTHER VEHICLES

The trend estimate for other vehicle registrations has shown consecutive falls over the last nine months but is still 2.4% higher than the low in October 1995. The January 1997 trend level is 7.2% above the level in January 1994.



TOTAL VEHICLES (EXCLUDING MOTOR CYCLES)

Total new motor vehicle registrations showed steady growth from January 1994 to May 1995. Since the May 1996 peak, the trend level fell 2.6% to an October 1996 low and has risen in the last three months to be 2.3% above the October 1996 level.





NEW MOTOR VEHICLES, Registrations By Type: All Series

Month	Passenger vehicles	Other vehicles	Total
ORIGINAL			
1995			
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	46 165	8 423	54 588
1997			
January	39 616	6 553	46 169
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED			
1995			
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	45 129	8 914	54 043
1997			
January	47 227	8 364	55 591
TREND ESTIMATES ¹			
1995			
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	45 784	8 966	54 750
July	45 449	8 915	54 364
August	45 044	8 862	53 906
September	44 771	8 790	53 561
October	44 765	8 702	53 467
November	45 034	8 614	53 648
December	45 387	8 532	53 920
1997			
January	46 170	8 513	54 683

¹ Trend estimates for July 1996 to December 1996 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
1995								
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	46 165	6 893	851	255	128	296	54 588	2 002
1997								
January	39 616	5 493	514	157	54	335	46 169	1 910

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									
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	17 793	13 737	10 544	3 582	5 903	1 737	501	791	54 588
1997									
January	16 047	10 972	8 553	2 942	5 398	935	519	803	46 169
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED									
1995									
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	18 534	13 553	10 123	3 563	5 739	1 169	573	790	54 043
1997									
January	19 425	13 710	9 928	3 673	5 920	1 215	728	991	55 591
TREND ESTIMATES ¹									
1995									
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	18 828	12 949	10 579	3 479	5 775	1 205	606	942	54 364
August	18 586	12 974	10 473	3 402	5 743	1 228	588	913	53 906
September	18 361	13 065	10 330	3 368	5 733	1 237	579	887	53 561
October	18 274	13 208	10 186	3 377	5 729	1 237	583	873	53 467
November	18 328	13 384	10 087	3 417	5 733	1 232	598	869	53 648
December	18 426	13 551	10 004	3 474	5 747	1 228	619	871	53 920
1997									
January	18 804	13 731	10 106	3 546	5 760	1 212	645	879	54 683

¹ Trend estimates for July 1996 to December 1996 have been revised.



NEW PASSENGER VEHICLES, Selected Make/Models: **Original**— January 1997

Make/Model	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Territory	Australia
Ford									
Falcon/Fairmont	1 154	1 038	585	247	454	65	19	99	3 661
Festiva	477	304	239	100	110	24	5	22	1 281
Laser	220	169	120	66	59	14	6	16	670
Other	297	253	183	33	108	15	7	13	909
Total	2 148	1 764	1 127	446	731	118	37	150	6 521
Holden									
Commodore/Calais	1 730	1 348	1 004	371	484	90	38	105	5 170
Barina	213	110	120	34	67	8	3	8	563
Statesman/Caprice	71	80	38	10	26	12	2	13	252
Other	218	147	108	37	85	16	3	14	628
Total	2 232	1 685	1 270	452	662	126	46	140	6 613
Hyundai									
Excel	1 398	835	705	180	568	84	43	62	3 875
Lantra	204	125	113	27	149	14	8	15	655
Sonata	137	124	117	31	95	6	9	3	522
Other	70	39	37	14	22	3	2	1	188
Total	1 809	1 123	972	252	834	107	62	81	5 240
Mazda									
323	330	242	102	46	70	6	1	28	825
121	219	181	153	54	93	12	12	14	738
626	122	85	32	11	33	2	..	3	288
Other	33	35	8	4	8	3	91
Total	704	543	295	115	204	20	13	48	1 942
Mitsubishi									
Magna	630	589	302	287	225	48	38	81	2 200
Lancer	457	303	195	84	98	10	9	22	1 178
Mirage	269	105	73	17	41	4	4	14	527
Other	321	161	173	79	80	18	9	28	869
Total	1 677	1 158	743	467	444	80	60	145	4 774
Nissan									
Pulsar	242	189	187	40	65	13	3	8	747
Patrol	105	35	58	7	58	8	8	6	285
Maxima	61	59	35	3	6	3	..	3	170
Other	101	100	69	15	27	4	2	7	325
Total	509	383	349	65	156	28	13	24	1 527
Toyota									
Corolla	412	246	151	58	97	31	6	16	1 017
Camry	328	238	225	45	119	33	17	6	1 011
Vienta	309	173	136	40	75	10	6	13	762
Other	683	415	378	126	254	32	52	28	1 968
Total	1 732	1 072	890	269	545	106	81	63	4 758

EXPLANATORY NOTES

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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)	<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> (1348.0) or contact the Assistant Director, Time Series Analysis on (06) 252 6345.</p>
RELATED PUBLICATIONS	<p>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 <i>Motor Vehicle Census, Australia, 31 May 1995</i> (9309.0).</p>
SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES	<p>n.p. not available for publication, but included in totals.</p>

GLOSSARY

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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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