

# NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS

AUSTRALIA  
PRELIMINARY

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11:30AM FRI 29 MARCH 1996

## FEBRUARY KEY FIGURES

### TREND ESTIMATES

	Feb 96	monthly % change	annual % change
Total new motor vehicle registrations	53 747	1.6	-0.1
Passenger vehicles	44 872	1.4	0.7
Other vehicles	8 875	2.4	-4.1

### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	Feb 96	monthly % change	annual % change
Total new motor vehicle registrations	55 454	4.1	3.8
Passenger vehicles	46 082	3.9	3.6
Other vehicles	9 371	5.5	4.9

### ORIGINAL ESTIMATES

	Feb 96	monthly % change	annual % change
Total new motor vehicle registrations	53 201	19.7	8.1
Passenger vehicles	44 659	19.3	8.2
Other vehicles	8 542	21.5	8.1

## FEBRUARY KEY POINTS

### TREND ESTIMATES

- The trend for total new registrations has shown consecutive rises since October 1995, with the rate of increase also rising steadily over that period. February 1996 recorded a 1.6 % increase compared with January. These rises have occurred both in passenger vehicle and other vehicle registrations, with the rate of increase generally being greater for other vehicles. Each of the States and Territories have shown an upward trend since November 1995, except for the Northern Territory which recorded a small downward trend from January to February 1996.

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

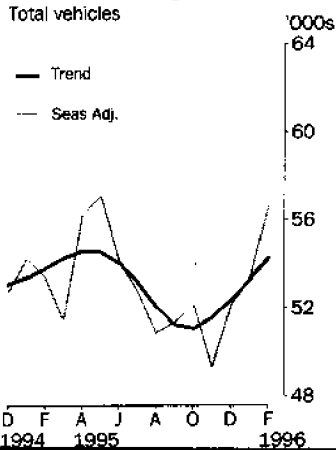
### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATES

- Total new vehicle registrations for February 1996 rose by 4.1 % compared with January 1996. This represents a 12.5 % increase since the low in November 1995. All States and Territories, except Queensland, Tasmania and the Northern Territory recorded increases compared with the previous month.

### ORIGINAL ESTIMATES

- All vehicle types, excluding motor cycles, recorded increases in the number of February 1996 registrations compared with the previous month. Changes to ABS procedures have reduced Queensland processing lags substantially for February 1996. Refer to CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE on page 2 for more detail.

### New vehicle registrations



## INQUIRIES

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Clare Newman on 07 3222 6180, or any ABS Office.

## FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE	RELEASE DATE
March 1996	24 April 1996
April 1996	23 May 1996
May 1996	27 June 1996

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## CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

A significant number of registrations for Queensland have previously been attributed to a period one month later than the actual month of registration, due to lags in processing the data. Changes to ABS procedures have reduced processing lags substantially for February 1996. It is expected that processing lags for Queensland will remain at relatively low levels for future months. Those registrations that would previously have been processed for February 1996 but which related to registrations that actually occurred in January 1996 (901 passenger vehicles and 183 other vehicles) have been excluded from February data, to avoid overstating the number of February registrations in comparison with earlier and subsequent months.

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## TREND REVISIONS

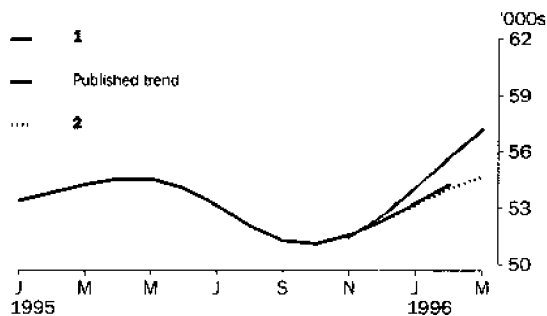
The most recent trend estimates are likely to be revised when new seasonally adjusted estimates become available.

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

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

- 1 The March seasonally adjusted estimate for total vehicle registrations is higher than the February seasonally adjusted estimate by 5.2%.
- 2 The March seasonally adjusted estimate for total vehicle registrations is lower than the February seasonally adjusted estimate by -5.2%.

The percentage change of 5.2% was chosen because the average absolute percentage change, based on the last 11 years, has been 5.2%.



An increase of 5.2 per cent in total seasonally adjusted new motor vehicle registrations in March 1996 would result in the revised trend showing an even more pronounced rise from November 1995 than the current trend.

A similar fall in the March seasonally adjusted figure would lead to a slight lessening, from November 1995 to February 1996, of the current upward trend.

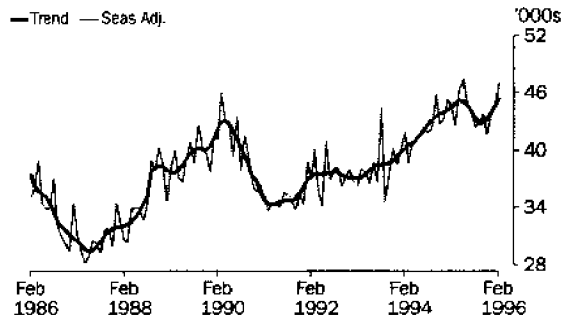
W. McLennan  
Australian Statistician

# VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS BY TYPE

## SEASONALLY ADJUSTED AND TREND

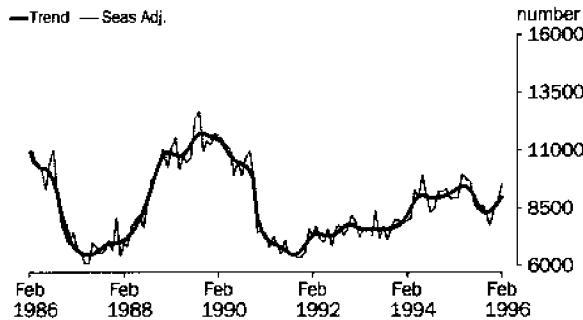
### PASSENGER VEHICLES

The trend rose from a May 1987 trough to peak in April 1990. This was followed by a sharp fall to a low in April 1991. Since October 1995 the growth in the trend has been steadily increasing.



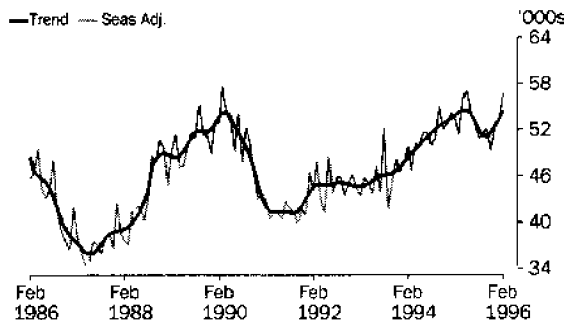
### OTHER VEHICLES

The trend rose gradually from September 1991 to May 1995, but then fell slightly to an October 1995 low before rising again in recent months. The general growth since September 1991 has been less pronounced than for passenger vehicles, and the February 1996 level is well below the October 1989 peak.



### TOTAL VEHICLES (EXCLUDING MOTOR CYCLES)

The movements in the trend largely mirror those in the dominant passenger vehicle segment, peaking in April 1990 followed by a trough in September 1991 and then a general rise. The frequency and the timing of peaks and troughs in the seasonally adjusted estimates also generally reflect those for passenger vehicles.



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



## NEW MOTOR VEHICLES, Registrations By Type: All Series

Month	<i>Passenger vehicles</i>	<i>Other vehicles</i>	<i>Total</i>
ORIGINAL			
<b>1994</b>			
December	43 948	8 850	52 798
<b>1995</b>			
January	36 283	6 657	42 940
February	41 292	7 900	49 192
March	47 264	9 982	57 246
April	39 470	8 250	47 720
May	52 556	11 566	64 122
June	47 511	12 308	59 819
July	43 723	9 196	52 919
August	45 920	8 215	54 135
September	41 305	7 980	49 285
October	45 179	8 310	53 489
November	43 685	8 266	51 951
December	42 944	7 721	50 665
<b>1996</b>			
January	37 423	7 033	44 456
February	44 659	8 542	53 201
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED			
<b>1994</b>			
December	43 334	9 378	52 712
<b>1995</b>			
January	45 312	8 909	54 221
February	44 471	8 931	53 402
March	42 540	8 928	51 468
April	46 219	9 969	56 188
May	47 388	9 696	57 083
June	44 433	9 684	54 116
July	44 032	8 688	52 720
August	42 434	8 427	50 860
September	42 697	8 643	51 340
October	43 792	8 325	52 117
November	41 573	7 724	49 298
December	43 744	8 379	52 123
<b>1996</b>			
January	44 371	8 881	53 252
February	46 082	9 371	55 454
TREND ESTIMATES <sup>1</sup>			
<b>1994</b>			
December	43 998	9 060	53 058
<b>1995</b>			
January	44 226	9 147	53 373
February	44 547	9 252	53 799
March	44 896	9 360	54 255
April	45 122	9 443	54 565
May	45 097	9 451	54 548
June	44 712	9 319	54 031
July	44 101	9 041	53 142
August	43 398	8 682	52 079
September	42 875	8 393	51 269
October	42 814	8 282	51 095
November	43 165	8 332	51 497
December	43 672	8 474	52 146
<b>1996</b>			
January	44 242	8 669	52 911
February	44 872	8 875	53 747

<sup>1</sup> Trend estimates for August 1995 to January 1996 have been revised.

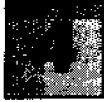
NEW MOTOR VEHICLES, Registrations By Type: Original

Month	Passenger vehicles	Light commercial vehicles	Rigid trucks	Articulated trucks	Non-freight carrying trucks	Buses	Total (excludes motor cycles)	Motor cycles
<b>1994</b>								
December	43 948	6 979	1 017	409	60	385	52 798	1 892
<b>1995</b>								
January	36 283	5 434	592	270	40	321	42 940	1 854
February	41 292	6 365	830	293	28	384	49 192	1 686
March	47 264	8 196	964	360	78	384	57 246	1 848
April	39 470	6 772	723	317	83	355	47 720	1 458
May	52 556	9 477	1 130	429	83	447	64 122	1 960
June	47 511	9 725	1 229	718	98	538	59 819	1 590
July	43 723	7 547	965	229	98	357	52 919	1 686
August	45 920	6 611	870	227	113	394	54 135	1 751
September	41 305	6 434	867	210	124	345	49 285	1 732
October	45 179	6 680	907	273	62	388	53 489	1 775
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
<b>1996</b>								
January	37 423	5 866	598	159	83	327	44 456	2 002
February	44 659	7 244	678	201	88	331	53 201	1 904

## 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									
<b>1994</b>									
December	17 623	12 527	10 918	3 490	5 379	1 363	463	1 035	52 798
<b>1995</b>									
January	15 906	9 628	7 354	2 876	5 016	879	478	803	42 940
February	17 808	11 740	8 868	3 365	5 008	1 003	530	870	49 192
March	20 896	14 066	9 602	4 025	5 593	1 097	774	1 193	57 246
April	17 485	10 211	10 755	2 786	4 359	819	537	768	47 720
May	22 787	15 465	11 568	4 342	6 355	1 356	976	1 273	64 122
June	20 519	15 586	9 555	4 184	6 558	1 214	956	1 247	59 819
July	19 063	10 489	13 234	2 992	4 676	1 029	534	902	52 919
August	18 859	13 678	9 124	3 963	5 416	1 269	680	1 146	54 135
September	16 345	12 123	9 450	3 452	4 986	1 260	604	1 065	49 285
October	18 775	12 317	10 747	3 647	5 132	1 280	656	935	53 489
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
<b>1996</b>									
January	15 628	10 164	9 561	2 829	4 019	873	506	876	44 456
February	18 130	13 248	9 682	3 831	5 781	988	550	991	53 201
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED									
<b>1994</b>									
December	18 628	12 386	10 527	3 510	5 111	907	555	1 087	52 712
<b>1995</b>									
January	19 900	12 602	9 263	3 711	5 797	1 200	678	1 068	54 221
February	19 369	12 430	9 917	3 609	5 267	1 196	642	972	53 402
March	18 375	12 720	8 884	3 602	5 049	1 099	673	1 066	51 468
April	21 028	12 088	11 772	3 430	5 211	1 105	586	967	56 188
May	19 280	13 705	10 456	4 145	6 145	1 411	800	1 140	57 083
June	18 512	13 678	9 426	3 702	5 713	1 194	790	1 101	54 116
July	19 190	10 875	12 000	3 088	5 041	1 081	499	945	52 720
August	17 670	12 523	9 075	3 624	5 162	1 173	639	994	50 860
September	17 512	12 667	9 752	3 419	5 187	1 131	652	1 021	51 340
October	18 904	11 790	10 089	3 448	5 130	1 199	636	939	52 117
November	16 395	12 940	8 575	3 441	5 340	847	663	1 098	49 298
December	18 489	12 184	9 378	3 763	5 407	1 177	650	1 095	52 123
<b>1996</b>									
January	18 481	12 684	11 224	3 508	4 457	1 151	671	1 077	53 252
February	18 894	13 509	10 549	3 879	5 749	1 125	656	1 093	55 454
TREND ESTIMATES <sup>1</sup>									
<b>1994</b>									
December	19 165	12 420	9 848	3 510	5 384	1 128	605	997	53 058
<b>1995</b>									
January	19 268	12 524	9 861	3 577	5 371	1 126	625	1 021	53 373
February	19 398	12 632	9 935	3 622	5 387	1 143	644	1 038	53 799
March	19 522	12 717	10 078	3 638	5 428	1 169	655	1 048	54 255
April	19 508	12 778	10 273	3 628	5 475	1 191	658	1 052	54 565
May	19 346	12 763	10 447	3 594	5 491	1 209	652	1 047	54 548
June	19 013	12 654	10 486	3 543	5 454	1 205	641	1 034	54 031
July	18 602	12 501	10 320	3 493	5 392	1 181	633	1 020	53 142
August	18 191	12 340	10 004	3 455	5 303	1 149	630	1 008	52 079
September	17 896	12 251	9 720	3 444	5 206	1 115	632	1 006	51 269
October	17 823	12 287	9 607	3 472	5 155	1 093	639	1 018	51 095
November	17 907	12 445	9 665	3 534	5 164	1 090	650	1 042	51 497
December	18 066	12 635	9 837	3 602	5 186	1 095	659	1 066	52 146
<b>1996</b>									
January	18 262	12 844	10 060	3 673	5 216	1 103	666	1 087	52 911
February	18 538	12 945	10 441	3 712	5 239	1 110	662	1 100	53 747

<sup>1</sup> Trend estimates for August 1995 to January 1996 have been revised.

NEW PASSENGER VEHICLES, Selected Make/Models: **Original**— February 1996

<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>	<i>Australia</i>
<b>Ford</b>									
Falcon/Fairmont	2 224	2 205	1 082	406	703	98	37	226	6 981
Festiva	399	361	231	145	146	27	15	24	1 348
Laser	164	136	105	32	62	11	7	13	530
Other	252	309	141	51	121	11	5	6	896
Total	3 039	3 011	1 559	634	1 032	147	64	269	9 755
<b>Holden</b>									
Commodore/Calais	2 374	1 797	1 264	563	570	108	56	171	6 903
Barina	266	174	123	58	85	23	9	15	753
Statesman/Caprice	169	117	65	31	32	5	..	3	422
Other	262	206	102	57	88	15	3	19	752
Total	3 071	2 294	1 554	709	775	151	68	208	8 830
<b>Hyundai</b>									
Excel	1 215	689	612	164	501	32	45	70	3 328
Lantra	202	164	71	19	80	17	4	12	569
Sonata	82	71	38	15	58	5	3	3	275
Other	4	7	2	1	3	..	..	..	17
Total	1 503	931	723	199	642	54	52	85	4 189
<b>Mazda</b>									
323	283	194	129	52	51	14	4	18	745
121	295	135	124	51	46	16	11	19	697
626	97	55	26	16	14	2	1	6	217
Other	45	44	29	9	6	1	..	4	138
Total	720	428	308	128	117	33	16	47	1 797
<b>Mitsubishi</b>									
Magna	552	640	337	554	155	49	13	75	2 375
Lancer	288	306	212	59	76	6	6	17	970
Pajero	170	72	149	27	69	7	3	8	505
Other	101	73	34	28	18	5	1	8	268
Total	1 111	1 091	732	668	318	67	23	108	4 118
<b>Nissan</b>									
Pulsar	116	136	94	31	39	27	13	9	465
Patrol	81	58	68	20	53	4	5	..	289
Micra	51	24	57	10	17	5	1	5	170
Other	141	137	121	19	35	5	2	7	467
Total	389	355	340	80	144	41	21	21	1 391
<b>Toyota</b>									
Camry	673	474	373	164	181	45	30	23	1 963
Corolla	788	387	256	140	156	38	13	38	1 816
Landcruiser	216	114	194	40	156	9	29	11	769
Other	775	474	354	93	146	27	20	37	1 926
Total	2 452	1 449	1 177	437	639	119	92	109	6 474

# 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 are based on procedures using the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), adopted by the State and Territory motor vehicle registration authorities. The VIN system 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 the State and Territory motor vehicle registration authorities. The statistics reflect the information recorded in registration documents. With the exception of New South Wales and Queensland, the statistics shown do not depart significantly from actual registrations during the period.

In the case of both New South Wales and Queensland, a number of registrations processed in a month actually relate to vehicles registered prior to that month. Because of the lags from purchase to registration, and processing lags, the published statistics for the period can vary from actual sales of new vehicles for the same period.

**4** 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

**5** 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.

**6** 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).

**7** Irregular influences that are highly volatile can make it difficult to interpret the series even after adjustment for seasonal variation.

**8** 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.

**9** Seasonal adjustment factors are analysed and revised as necessary annually.





TREND ESTIMATES

**10** 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.

**11** 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 *A Guide to Interpreting Time Series — Monitoring Trends: an Overview* (1348.0) or contact the Assistant Director, Time Series Analysis on (06) 252 6345.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

**12** For a more detailed break-up of the monthly figures presented here, inquiries should be made to Clare Newman on 07 3222 6180 or to any ABS office. Data on total vehicle registrations, both new and re-registrations, is available in *Motor Vehicle Census, Australia, 30 June 1993* (9309.0).

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

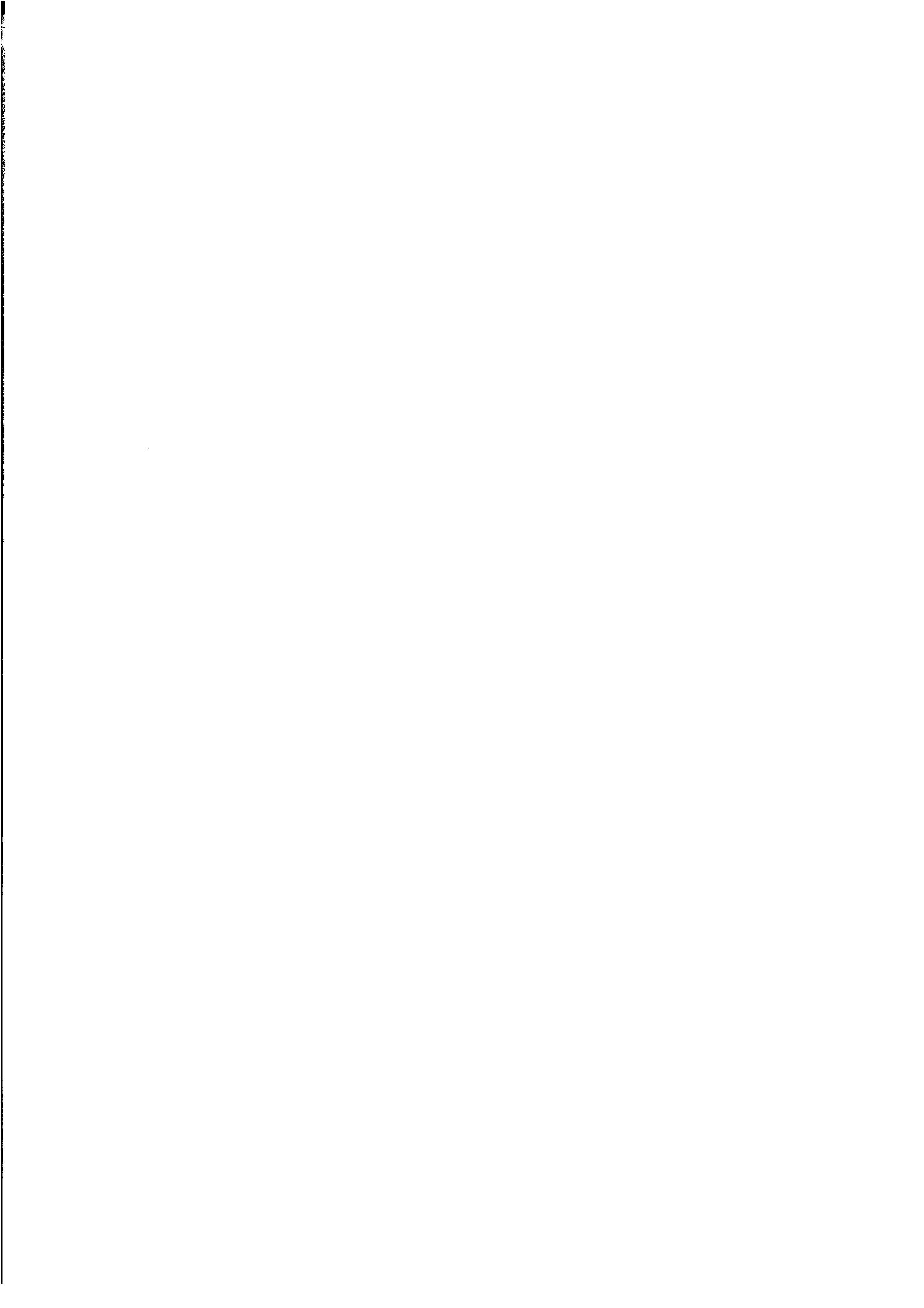
n.p. not available for publication, but included in totals.



## 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** Includes all passenger vehicles having more than nine seats, including the driver.
- 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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