

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS

AUSTRALIA
PRELIMINARY

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) THURS 27 MAR 1997

FEBRUARY KEY FIGURES

TREND ESTIMATES

	Feb 97	monthly % change	annual % change
Total new motor vehicle registrations	56 468	1.4	5.5
Passenger vehicles	47 691	1.6	6.9
Other vehicles	8 777	0.4	-1.5

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	Feb 97	monthly % change	annual % change
Total new motor vehicle registrations	58 569	5.4	6.9
Passenger vehicles	49 230	4.3	8.4
Other vehicles	9 339	11.4	0.0

ORIGINAL ESTIMATES

	Feb 97	monthly % change	annual % change
Total new motor vehicle registrations	54 861	18.8	3.1
Passenger vehicles	46 562	17.6	4.3
Other vehicles	8 299	26.4	-3.4

FEBRUARY KEY POINTS

TREND ESTIMATES

- The trend for total new motor vehicle registrations increased in February 1997 for the fifth consecutive month, with the rate of increase remaining steady over the latest three months. All States and Territories recorded rises with the exceptions of Queensland and Tasmania. Compared with January 1997, the trend level for total registrations increased by 1.4%, passenger vehicles by 1.6% and other vehicles by 0.4%.

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

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATES

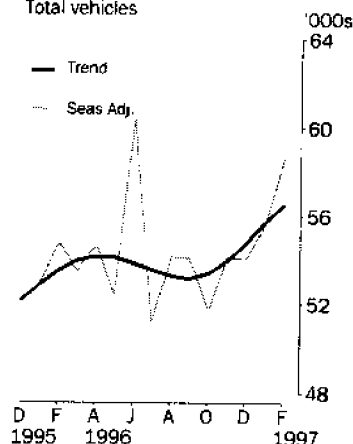
- Total new motor vehicle registrations for February 1997 increased 5.4% compared with January 1997. Passenger vehicles increased by 4.3% while other vehicles rose 11.4%. All States and Territories recorded rises with the exceptions of Tasmania and the Northern Territory.

ORIGINAL ESTIMATES

- Total new motor vehicle registrations for February 1997 showed an increase of 18.8% compared with January 1997. Registrations for all vehicle types increased excluding non-freight carrying trucks and buses. All States and Territories recorded increases with the exception of Tasmania.

New vehicle registrations

Total vehicles



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

March 1997

April 1997

May 1997

RELEASE DATE

24 April 1997

30 May 1997

27 June 1997

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.

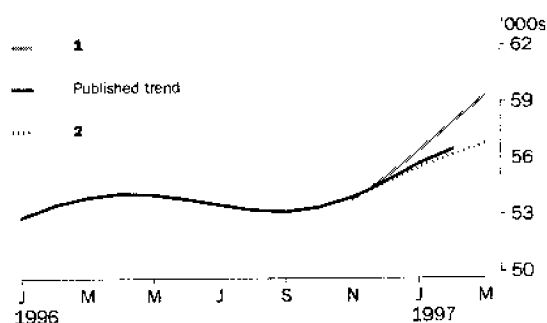
The graph below presents the effect of two possible scenarios on the previous trend estimates:

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

2 The March seasonally adjusted estimate for total vehicle registrations is lower than the February 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 the total seasonally adjusted new motor vehicle registrations in March 1997 would produce a rise in the rate of increase in the revised trend from October 1996.

A 5.1% fall in the March 1997 seasonally adjusted figure would result in slight weakening in the rate of increase in the revised trend since October 1996.

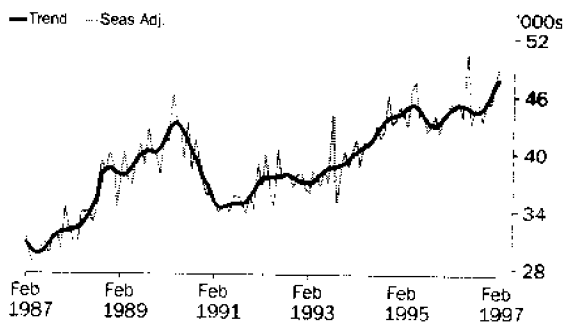
W. McLennan
Australian Statistician

VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS BY TYPE

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED AND TREND

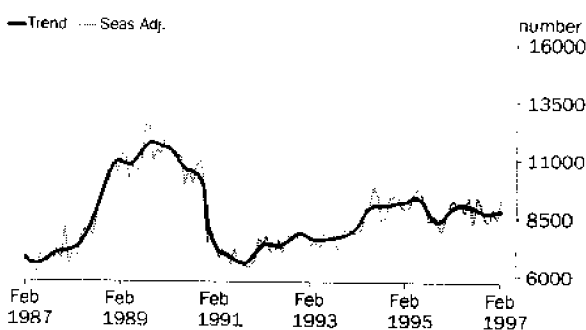
PASSENGER VEHICLES

The trend for passenger vehicle registrations in February 1997 is 62.3% higher than the low in May 1987. The level in February 1997 is the highest recorded over the last 10 years. There has been a steady rise in each of the last 5 months and the level is now 5.8% above the previous high in April 1996.



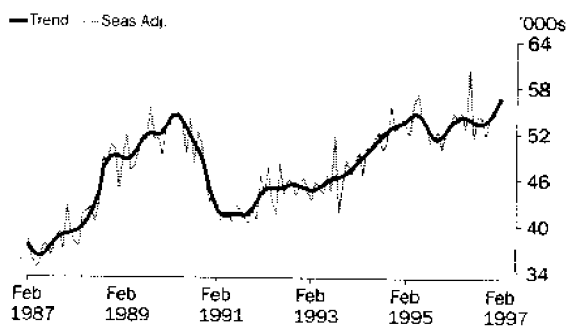
OTHER VEHICLES

The trend for other vehicle registrations has remained substantially flat since April 1994. The February 1997 level is now 25.1% below the October 1989 peak.



TOTAL VEHICLES (EXCLUDING MOTOR CYCLES)

Total motor vehicle registrations trend for February 1997 is now at a record level following consecutive increases over the last 5 months. The trend is now 4.2% above the high of April 1990 and 6.2% above the recent September 1996 low.



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

NEW MOTOR VEHICLES, Registrations By Type: All Series

Month	Passenger vehicles	Other vehicles	Total
ORIGINAL			
1995			
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	39 604	6 566	46 170
February	46 562	8 299	54 861
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED			
1995			
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	47 213	8 381	55 594
February	49 230	9 339	58 569
TREND ESTIMATES ¹			
1995			
December	43 622	8 519	52 141
1996			
January	44 129	8 734	52 863
February	44 606	8 911	53 517
March	44 922	9 011	53 933
April	45 095	9 043	54 137
May	45 058	9 021	54 080
June	44 863	8 966	53 829
July	44 626	8 915	53 541
August	44 407	8 845	53 252
September	44 394	8 762	53 156
October	44 688	8 688	53 376
November	45 278	8 654	53 932
December	46 067	8 673	54 741
1997			
January	46 956	8 743	55 700
February	47 691	8 777	56 468

¹ Trend estimates for August 1996 to January 1997 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								
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	296	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	39 604	5 506	515	157	55	333	46 170	1 881
February	46 562	7 066	677	186	49	321	54 861	1 955

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									
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	10 975	8 552	2 942	5 397	935	519	803	46 170
February	18 921	13 957	9 824	3 823	5 960	898	551	927	54 861
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED									
1995									
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	19 426	13 714	9 928	3 673	5 919	1 215	728	991	55 594
February	20 226	14 532	10 814	4 008	6 233	1 093	664	999	58 569
TREND ESTIMATES ¹									
1995									
December	18 087	12 622	9 829	3 608	5 193	1 093	657	1 052	52 141
1996									
January	18 256	12 769	10 071	3 666	5 289	1 098	658	1 055	52 863
February	18 370	12 892	10 329	3 708	5 414	1 103	656	1 045	53 517
March	18 355	13 010	10 491	3 725	5 555	1 113	654	1 030	53 933
April	18 267	13 060	10 635	3 709	5 675	1 129	650	1 012	54 137
May	18 157	13 039	10 687	3 658	5 758	1 149	641	990	54 080
June	18 052	12 991	10 648	3 576	5 792	1 174	626	970	53 829
July	18 006	12 949	10 579	3 479	5 775	1 205	606	942	53 541
August	17 989	12 954	10 459	3 389	5 734	1 231	587	910	53 252
September	18 053	13 033	10 303	3 348	5 717	1 243	577	882	53 156
October	18 230	13 193	10 173	3 367	5 721	1 239	582	871	53 376
November	18 482	13 427	10 126	3 442	5 754	1 226	600	875	53 932
December	18 799	13 685	10 174	3 550	5 813	1 206	624	890	54 741
1997									
January	19 170	13 936	10 289	3 673	5 889	1 181	648	913	55 700
February	19 506	14 151	10 285	3 788	5 975	1 161	667	935	56 468

¹ Trend estimates for August 1996 to January 1997 have been revised.

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

Make/Model	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Territory	Australia
Ford									
Falcon/Fairmont	1 799	1 930	890	348	600	79	80	136	5 862
Festiva	372	354	172	107	120	27	8	23	1 183
Laser	160	149	124	44	49	11	..	11	548
Other	342	433	198	64	121	13	11	22	1 204
Total	2 673	2 866	1 384	563	890	130	99	192	8 797
Holden									
Commodore/Calais	2 021	1 698	1 081	505	569	80	41	107	6 102
Barina	204	110	107	49	69	11	2	5	557
Statesman/Caprice	157	142	58	47	37	5	1	12	459
Other	222	197	132	59	81	13	..	13	717
Total	2 604	2 147	1 378	660	756	109	44	137	7 835
Hyundai									
Excel	1 574	1 007	640	191	502	88	24	68	4 094
Sonata	297	217	157	36	106	24	6	10	853
Lantra	265	121	103	24	144	23	8	16	704
Other	64	52	37	16	14	3	2	8	196
Total	2 200	1 397	937	267	766	138	40	102	5 847
Mazda									
121	254	156	131	50	84	12	8	12	707
323	267	169	103	27	66	6	2	12	652
626	111	73	28	13	33	..	1	7	266
Other	26	19	3	4	11	1	..	2	66
Total	658	417	265	94	194	19	11	33	1 691
Mitsubishi									
Magna	658	808	301	557	173	35	22	59	2 613
Lancer	379	299	173	66	82	13	12	22	1 046
Mirage	378	133	120	61	54	7	8	16	777
Other	317	175	207	149	91	18	10	12	979
Total	1 732	1 415	801	833	400	73	52	109	5 415
Nissan									
Pulsar	299	301	269	65	64	12	11	26	1 047
Patrol	82	47	80	14	72	1	..	3	299
Maxima	67	48	49	11	16	1	1	3	196
Other	100	95	79	16	33	3	3	3	332
Total	548	491	477	106	185	17	15	35	1 874
Toyota									
Corolla	748	391	295	123	172	38	10	43	1 820
Camry	448	311	239	65	127	39	20	26	1 275
Landcruiser	238	123	205	52	150	11	9	14	802
Other	970	518	429	113	228	22	16	33	2 329
Total	2 404	1 343	1 168	353	677	110	55	116	6 226

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).

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 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

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 *Motor Vehicle Census, Australia, 31 May 1995* (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 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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