

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS

AUSTRALIA
PRELIMINARY

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) THURS 24 APR 1997

MARCH KEY FIGURES

TREND ESTIMATES

	Mar 97	monthly % change	annual % change
Total new motor vehicle registrations	58 382	2.0	8.2
Passenger vehicles	49 164	2.0	9.4
Other vehicles	9 218	2.3	2.3

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	Mar 97	monthly % change	annual % change
Total new motor vehicle registrations	59 321	1.3	10.9
Passenger vehicles	49 775	1.1	11.6
Other vehicles	9 546	2.1	6.9

ORIGINAL ESTIMATES

	Mar 97	monthly % change	annual % change
Total new motor vehicle registrations	54 972	0.2	0.3
Passenger vehicles	46 374	-0.4	1.8
Other vehicles	8 598	3.5	-6.9

MARCH KEY POINTS

TREND ESTIMATES

- The trend for total new motor vehicle registrations has risen in each of the months since September 1996, with the rate of increase remaining steady in recent months.

March 1997 recorded a 2.0% increase compared with February. Most of the States and Territories recorded rises, with only Western Australia and Tasmania showing falls.

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

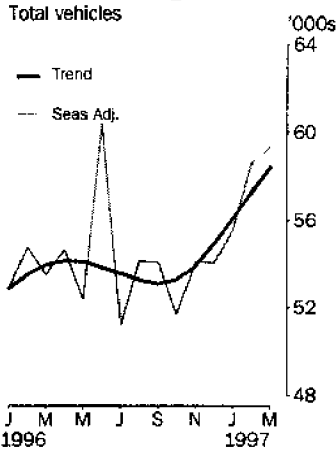
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATES

- Total new motor vehicle registrations for March 1997 increased 1.3% with passenger vehicles up by 1.1% and other vehicles up by 2.1% compared with February 1997. Most of the States and Territories recorded rises, while South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory experienced falls.

ORIGINAL ESTIMATES

- The number of March 1997 registrations increased over February 1997 for most vehicle types. Registrations of passenger vehicles and buses fell slightly.

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
April 1997	30 May 1997
May 1997	27 June 1997
June 1997	25 July 1997

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CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

There are no changes in this issue.

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TREND REVISIONS

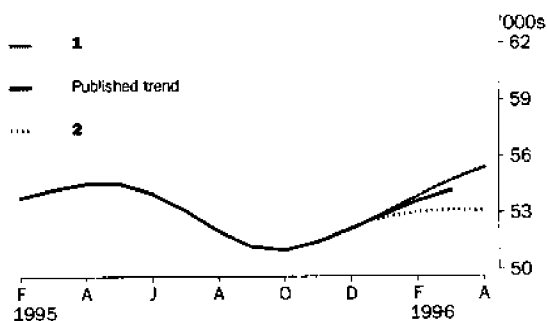
The most recent trend estimates are likely to be revised when new seasonally adjusted estimates become available.

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

- 1** The April seasonally adjusted estimate for total vehicle registrations is higher than the March seasonally adjusted estimate by 5.1%.
- 2** The April seasonally adjusted estimate for total vehicle registrations is lower than the March 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 April 1997 would result in a rise in the rate of increase in the revised trend from December 1996.

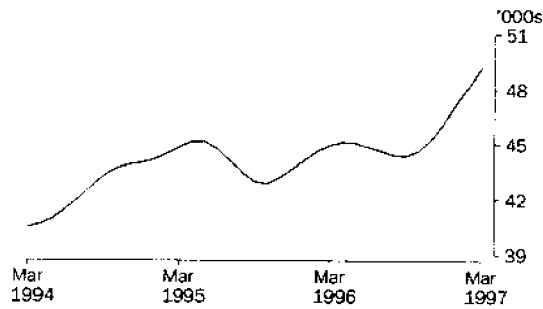
A 5.1% fall in the April 1997 seasonally adjusted figure would produce a slight decrease in the rate of increase in the revised trend since December 1996.

W. McLennan
Australian Statistician

VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS BY TYPE: Trend series

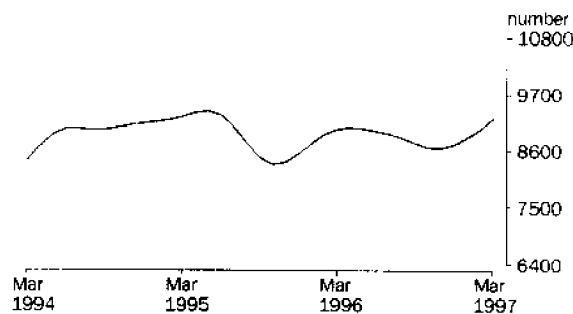
PASSENGER VEHICLES

The trend for new passenger vehicle registrations has been rising steadily since September 1996. The trend level for March 1997 is now 9.0% above the peak recorded in April 1996 and 21.5% above the March 1994 level.



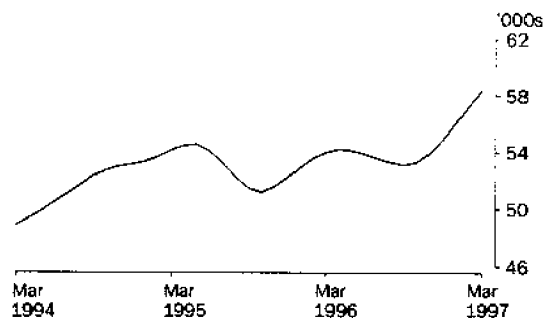
OTHER VEHICLES

The trend estimate has generally maintained a steady level since April 1994 with peaks occurring in May 1995 and April 1996. The trend level for March 1997 is now 6.7% above the recent low of November 1996.



TOTAL VEHICLES (EXCLUDING MOTOR CYCLES)

Since March 1994, the trend for total motor vehicle registrations increased steadily to peak in May 1995 and then dropped to lows in October 1995 and September 1996. The trend level is now 10.0% above the most recent low of September 1996.





NEW MOTOR VEHICLES, Registrations By Type: All Series

<i>Month</i>	<i>Passenger vehicles</i>	<i>Other vehicles</i>	<i>Total</i>
.....			
ORIGINAL			
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	46 563	8 308	54 871
March	46 374	8 598	54 972
.....			
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED			
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	49 231	9 349	58 580
March	49 775	9 546	59 321
.....			
TREND ESTIMATES ¹			
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	44 338	8 746	53 083
October	44 592	8 660	53 252
November	45 236	8 642	53 877
December	46 181	8 712	54 893
1997			
January	47 221	8 848	56 070
February	48 223	9 009	57 233
March	49 164	9 218	58 382

¹ Trend estimates for September 1996 to February 1997 have been revised.

NEW MOTOR VEHICLES, Registrations By Type: Original

<i>Month</i>	<i>Passenger vehicles</i>	<i>Light commercial vehicles</i>	<i>Rigid trucks</i>	<i>Articulated trucks</i>	<i>Non-freight carrying trucks</i>	<i>Buses</i>	<i>Total (excludes motor cycles)</i>	<i>Motor cycles</i>
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	39 604	5 506	515	157	55	333	46 170	1 881
February	46 563	7 069	674	186	58	321	54 871	1 926
March	46 374	7 230	759	240	74	295	54 972	1 945



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									
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	18 926	13 958	9 823	3 827	5 961	898	551	927	54 871
March	19 378	13 552	10 623	3 621	5 223	959	701	915	54 972
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED									
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	20 232	14 533	10 813	4 012	6 234	1 093	664	999	58 580
March	20 588	15 521	11 210	3 744	5 413	1 166	659	1 020	59 321
TREND ESTIMATES ¹									
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	18 026	13 003	10 283	3 344	5 727	1 244	576	880	53 083
October	18 182	13 141	10 141	3 363	5 738	1 241	581	866	53 252
November	18 464	13 402	10 108	3 441	5 763	1 226	600	873	53 877
December	18 849	13 749	10 231	3 553	5 788	1 205	624	895	54 893
1997									
January	19 313	14 123	10 401	3 669	5 807	1 184	647	926	56 070
February	19 787	14 500	10 567	3 773	5 814	1 165	665	961	57 233
March	20 218	14 836	10 824	3 864	5 805	1 149	683	1 003	58 382

¹ Trend estimates for September 1996 to February 1997 have been revised.



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

Make/Model	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Territory	Australia
Ford									
Falcon/Fairmont	1 998	1 837	1 040	393	617	78	49	168	6 180
Festiva	423	296	240	102	162	26	12	24	1 285
Laser	178	180	91	54	64	12	1	11	591
Other	363	315	198	76	101	16	10	20	1 099
Total	2 962	2 628	1 569	625	944	132	72	223	9 155
Holden									
Commodore/Calais	1 814	1 570	1 273	446	429	69	50	112	5 763
Barina	161	114	105	31	38	7	..	8	464
Statesman/Caprice	128	129	81	33	38	4	2	3	418
Other	252	243	145	64	65	24	4	13	810
Total	2 355	2 056	1 604	574	570	104	56	136	7 455
Hyundai									
Excel	1 420	715	557	157	373	63	23	79	3 387
Sonata	404	202	184	41	84	14	12	16	957
Lantra	244	120	85	32	97	11	7	4	600
Other	76	84	47	21	18	3	3	7	259
Total	2 144	1 121	873	251	572	91	45	106	5 203
Mazda									
121	228	137	130	49	55	7	15	11	632
323	237	171	84	36	63	6	..	13	610
626	82	72	30	5	22	2	2	2	217
Other	33	30	8	8	6	1	86
Total	580	410	252	98	146	15	17	27	1 545
Mitsubishi									
Magna	737	765	352	396	182	52	44	58	2 586
Mirage	443	165	138	51	54	13	15	15	894
Lancer	276	221	104	54	68	5	8	14	750
Other	333	206	188	87	86	14	16	17	947
Total	1 789	1 357	782	588	390	84	83	104	5 177
Nissan									
Pulsar	297	257	304	71	68	17	6	35	1 055
Patrol	110	59	88	21	53	6	13	4	354
Maxima	81	36	51	11	9	1	1	3	193
Other	127	86	96	11	33	3	3	8	367
Total	615	438	539	114	163	27	23	50	1 969
Toyota									
Corolla	638	341	292	84	141	32	45	25	1 598
Camry	533	336	371	93	130	31	46	15	1 555
Landcruiser	230	158	225	58	125	15	16	10	837
Other	1 118	583	538	136	243	25	44	32	2 719
Total	2 519	1 418	1 426	371	639	103	151	82	6 709

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).

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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

- 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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