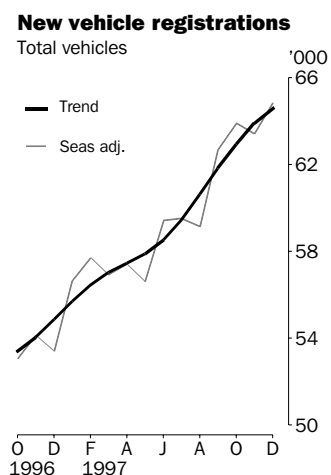


NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS

AUSTRALIA
PRELIMINARY

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) FRI 30 JAN 1998



DECEMBER KEY FIGURES

TREND ESTIMATES

	Dec 97	monthly % change	annual % change
Total new motor vehicle registrations	64 587	1.1	17.7
Passenger vehicles	55 278	1.2	19.8
Other vehicles	9 309	0.4	6.8

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	Dec 97	monthly % change	annual % change
Total new motor vehicle registrations	64 838	2.3	21.4
Passenger vehicles	55 028	0.6	23.1
Other vehicles	9 810	12.8	12.9

ORIGINAL ESTIMATES

	Dec 97	monthly % change	annual % change
Total new motor vehicle registrations	67 915	10.5	24.4
Passenger vehicles	58 269	10.1	26.2
Other vehicles	9 646	13.2	14.5

DECEMBER KEY POINTS

TREND ESTIMATES

- The trend for total new motor vehicle registrations has continued to increase each month since September 1996. Passenger vehicle registrations in December 1997 rose by 1.2% and other vehicle registrations rose by 0.4% compared with the previous month. The trend rose in all States and Territories.

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

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATES

- Total new motor vehicle registrations for December 1997 increased by 2.3% compared with November 1997. Passenger vehicles increased by 0.6% and other vehicles increased by 12.8%. All States and Territories rose this month except for New South Wales which fell by 0.8%.

ORIGINAL ESTIMATES

- Total motor vehicle registrations for December 1997 showed an increase of 10.5% compared with November 1997, with passenger vehicles up by 10.1% and other vehicles up by 13.2%. Registrations increased for all vehicle types except Non-freight carrying trucks. All States and Territories recorded rises.

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

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE

RELEASE DATE

January 1998

27 February 1998

February 1998

27 March 1998

March 1998

24 April 1998

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.

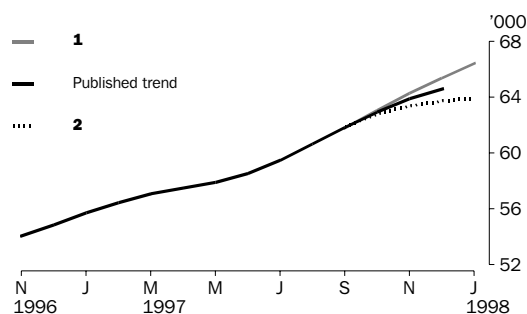
The graph below presents the effect of two possible scenarios on the previous trend estimates:

1 The January seasonally adjusted estimate for total vehicle registrations is higher than the December seasonally adjusted estimate by 4.6%.

2 The January seasonally adjusted estimate for total vehicle registrations is lower than the December seasonally adjusted estimate by -4.6%.

The percentage change of 4.6% was chosen because the average absolute percentage change, based on the last 11 years, has been 4.6%.

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



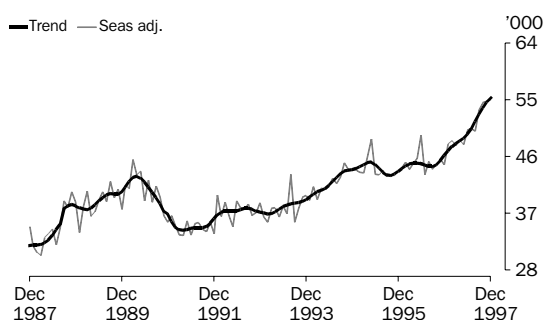
W. McLennan
Australian Statistician

VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS BY TYPE

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED AND TREND

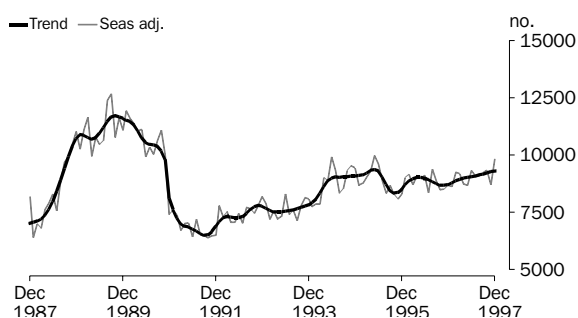
PASSENGER VEHICLES

The strong rise in the trend level for passenger vehicles continued with consecutive increases being recorded since August 1996. The current level is now 22.9% above the previous peak in April 1996.



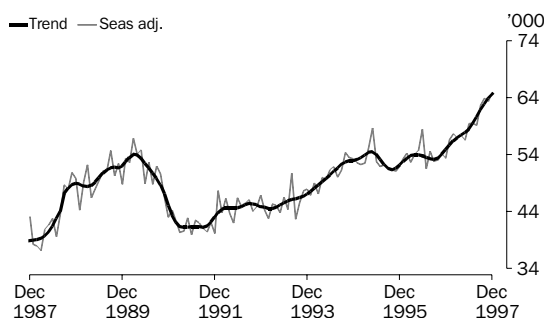
OTHER VEHICLES

The trend for other vehicle registrations has risen consecutively over the last 13 months. The level is now 0.7% below the high in May 1995 and 20.5% below the high in October 1989.



TOTAL VEHICLES (EXCLUDING MOTOR CYCLES)

The trend for new motor vehicle registrations has shown increases for the last 15 months. The trend level is now 19.5% above the high of March 1990 and 56.7% above the low in September 1991.



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			
1996			
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	46 366	8 628	54 994
April	47 959	9 162	57 121
May	48 932	9 689	58 621
June	55 551	12 126	67 677
July	52 302	9 800	62 102
August	49 235	8 348	57 583
September	53 726	8 789	62 515
October	57 471	9 180	66 651
November	52 945	8 521	61 466
December	58 269	9 646	67 915
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED			
1996			
October	44 603	8 480	53 083
November	45 627	8 503	54 131
December	44 718	8 688	53 406
1997			
January	48 011	8 626	56 637
February	48 487	9 237	57 724
March	47 739	9 183	56 921
April	48 657	8 738	57 394
May	47 915	8 685	56 600
June	50 096	9 319	59 415
July	50 414	9 094	59 508
August	50 076	9 082	59 158
September	53 465	9 230	62 695
October	54 573	9 328	63 901
November	54 708	8 700	63 408
December	55 028	9 810	64 838
TREND ESTIMATES(a)			
1996			
October	44 720	8 687	53 406
November	45 353	8 682	54 035
December	46 140	8 719	54 860
1997			
January	46 902	8 787	55 689
February	47 574	8 870	56 444
March	48 103	8 947	57 050
April	48 475	8 983	57 459
May	48 879	9 013	57 892
June	49 486	9 039	58 525
July	50 389	9 072	59 461
August	51 527	9 120	60 647
September	52 672	9 170	61 843
October	53 724	9 216	62 940
November	54 636	9 270	63 906
December	55 278	9 309	64 587

(a) Trend estimates for June 1997 to November 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
1996								
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	46 366	7 227	772	241	94	294	54 994	1 913
April	47 959	7 567	886	298	58	353	57 121	1 868
May	48 932	8 067	897	276	96	353	58 621	2 111
June	55 551	10 474	914	302	68	368	67 677	1 745
July	52 302	8 091	978	355	88	288	62 102	1 914
August	49 235	6 672	935	306	131	304	57 583	2 021
September	53 726	7 172	881	308	140	288	62 515	2 101
October	57 471	7 311	952	425	151	341	66 651	2 850
November	52 945	6 927	891	328	120	255	61 466	2 452
December	58 269	7 901	1 019	351	99	276	67 915	2 602

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									
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	19 390	13 559	10 619	3 627	5 224	958	704	913	54 994
April	19 916	14 167	10 521	3 716	5 886	1 047	852	1 016	57 121
May	20 717	14 508	10 546	3 640	6 164	1 211	773	1 062	58 621
June	24 181	14 948	13 961	4 439	6 728	1 128	873	1 419	67 677
July	20 470	15 483	12 345	3 896	6 489	1 476	664	1 279	62 102
August	18 647	15 249	10 749	3 876	5 937	1 314	589	1 222	57 583
September	21 330	15 552	11 712	4 174	6 297	1 503	632	1 315	62 515
October	21 813	17 462	11 998	4 335	7 489	1 387	712	1 455	66 651
November	21 056	15 252	11 265	4 199	6 533	1 108	619	1 434	61 466
December	21 879	17 032	13 152	4 482	6 975	2 151	643	1 601	67 915
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED									
1996									
October	18 632	13 038	9 793	3 146	5 837	1 181	547	909	53 083
November	18 288	13 737	10 422	3 454	5 526	1 228	593	883	54 131
December	17 773	13 508	10 172	3 584	5 756	1 168	607	838	53 406
1997									
January	19 895	13 708	10 648	3 694	5 848	1 248	672	924	56 637
February	19 820	14 407	10 739	3 881	6 138	1 084	652	1 003	57 724
March	19 598	14 707	10 538	3 713	5 548	1 184	665	967	56 921
April	19 831	13 926	10 348	3 936	6 178	1 265	829	1 081	57 394
May	19 694	13 977	10 362	3 637	5 961	1 260	660	1 049	56 600
June	20 706	13 556	11 910	3 951	6 203	1 200	674	1 216	59 415
July	20 141	14 622	11 372	3 766	6 379	1 381	635	1 211	59 508
August	19 709	15 390	11 039	3 848	6 128	1 237	619	1 187	59 158
September	21 165	15 757	11 991	4 064	6 500	1 265	677	1 276	62 695
October	21 650	16 108	11 775	4 110	6 935	1 268	668	1 387	63 901
November	21 507	15 996	11 873	4 167	6 563	1 144	650	1 507	63 408
December	21 336	16 173	12 329	4 536	6 725	1 398	761	1 581	64 838
TREND ESTIMATES(a)									
1996									
October	18 224	13 105	10 298	3 386	5 729	1 222	582	862	53 406
November	18 481	13 377	10 318	3 454	5 741	1 205	591	868	54 035
December	18 781	13 714	10 354	3 553	5 766	1 190	615	887	54 860
1997									
January	19 113	13 978	10 394	3 660	5 802	1 178	647	917	55 689
February	19 452	14 099	10 467	3 749	5 859	1 181	679	958	56 444
March	19 734	14 106	10 581	3 801	5 925	1 197	701	1 007	57 050
April	19 897	14 081	10 702	3 813	5 987	1 219	705	1 054	57 459
May	19 992	14 118	10 870	3 810	6 058	1 247	696	1 100	57 892
June	20 094	14 297	11 082	3 815	6 149	1 267	677	1 143	58 525
July	20 287	14 631	11 306	3 849	6 266	1 273	659	1 190	59 461
August	20 571	15 079	11 519	3 919	6 391	1 269	650	1 249	60 647
September	20 867	15 530	11 693	4 016	6 503	1 263	654	1 316	61 843
October	21 151	15 891	11 846	4 127	6 606	1 263	668	1 389	62 940
November	21 398	16 162	11 992	4 242	6 696	1 268	686	1 462	63 906
December	21 560	16 366	12 071	4 336	6 753	1 278	702	1 521	64 587

(a) Trend estimates for June 1997 to November 1997 have been revised.

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

Make/Model	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Territory	Australia
Ford									
Falcon/Fairmont	1 652	1 760	1 013	343	665	163	35	217	5 848
Festiva	426	341	380	146	143	26	10	17	1 489
Laser	263	242	142	67	63	12	3	15	807
Other	377	417	243	80	142	16	6	33	1 314
Total	2 718	2 760	1 778	636	1 013	217	54	282	9 458
Holden									
Commodore/Calais	2 763	2 418	1 598	694	793	203	63	255	8 787
Barina	186	123	95	52	58	22	4	9	549
Statesman/Caprice	82	171	39	27	73	5	1	2	400
Other	475	400	249	117	147	45	4	25	1 462
Total	3 506	3 112	1 981	890	1 071	275	72	291	11 198
Hyundai									
Excel	1 122	847	622	258	604	78	35	65	3 631
Lantra	278	126	105	35	93	34	16	13	700
Sonata	87	56	48	16	68	8	2	4	289
Other	46	45	22	9	29	2	1	2	156
Total	1 533	1 074	797	318	794	122	54	84	4 776
Mazda									
323	326	268	162	66	86	11	4	25	948
121	250	153	175	41	67	8	6	20	720
626	140	122	62	31	53	10	2	9	429
Other	16	15	7	1	4	2	45
Total	732	558	406	139	210	29	12	56	2 142
Mitsubishi									
Magna	768	792	641	400	297	195	34	219	3 346
Lancer	262	344	233	69	83	17	10	23	1 041
Mirage	537	187	175	42	54	10	6	28	1 039
Other	375	243	200	70	114	22	16	20	1 060
Total	1 942	1 566	1 249	581	548	244	66	290	6 486
Nissan									
Pulsar	436	419	514	44	171	62	11	32	1 689
Patrol	140	113	166	36	74	8	16	10	563
Maxima	40	61	96	10	26	8	..	5	246
Other	106	65	56	15	19	4	1	6	272
Total	722	658	832	105	290	82	28	53	2 770
Toyota									
Corolla	733	541	315	131	233	152	22	139	2 266
Camry	506	428	272	73	196	141	28	34	1 678
Vienta	492	298	209	59	90	22	5	14	1 189
Other	1 405	806	924	214	377	76	56	56	3 914
Total	3 136	2 073	1 720	477	896	391	111	243	9 047

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).

EXPLANATORY NOTES

SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT <i>continued</i>	<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 (02) 6252 6345.</p>
RELATED PUBLICATIONS	<p>14 For a more detailed break-up of the monthly figures presented here, inquiries should be made to Robin Walden 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 October 1996</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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