

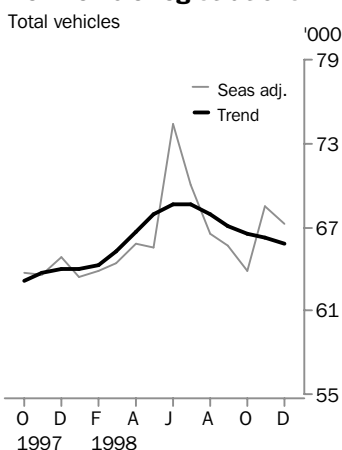


NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS

AUSTRALIA
PRELIMINARY

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) FRI 29 JAN 1999

New vehicle registrations



DECEMBER KEY FIGURES

TREND ESTIMATES

	Dec 1998	% change Nov 1998 to Dec 1998	% change Dec 1997 to Dec 1998
Total new motor vehicle registrations	65 842	-0.6	3.0
Passenger vehicles	55 135	-0.8	1.4
Other vehicles	10 707	0.6	12.2

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	Dec 1998	% change Nov 1998 to Dec 1998	% change Dec 1997 to Dec 1998
Total new motor vehicle registrations	67 203	-1.9	3.7
Passenger vehicles	56 563	-1.6	2.5
Other vehicles	10 640	-4.0	10.3

ORIGINAL ESTIMATES

	Dec 1998	% change Nov 1998 to Dec 1998	% change Dec 1997 to Dec 1998
Total new motor vehicle registrations	71 088	4.8	4.7
Passenger vehicles	60 461	5.8	3.8
Other vehicles	10 627	-0.5	9.8

DECEMBER KEY POINTS

TREND ESTIMATES

- The new motor vehicle registrations trend for this month has fallen by 0.6%. This continues the downward trend over the last six months since the record high in June 1998. The passenger vehicle registrations trend in December 1998 fell by 0.8% while the other vehicle registrations trend rose by 0.6% compared with November 1998.

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

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATES

- Seasonally adjusted new motor vehicle registrations decreased this month by 1.9% compared with last month. Seasonally adjusted passenger vehicle registrations decreased by 1.6% and other vehicle registrations decreased by 4.0%.

ORIGINAL ESTIMATES

- Original total new motor vehicle registrations increased this month by 4.8% compared with last month. Original passenger vehicle registrations increased by 5.8% while other vehicle registrations decreased by 0.5%.

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Robin Walden on Brisbane 07 3222 6181, or any ABS office shown on the back cover of this publication.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE	RELEASE DATE
January 1999	26 February 1999
February 1999	26 March 1999
March 1999	30 April 1999
April 1999	28 May 1999
May 1999	25 June 1999
June 1999	30 July 1999

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

There are no changes in this issue.

TREND REVISIONS

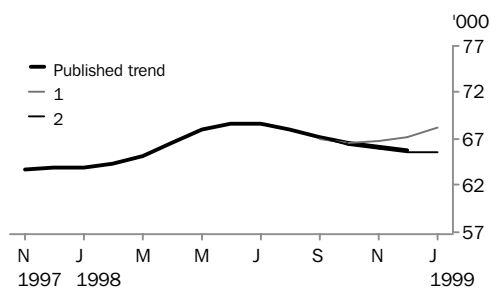
The most recent trend estimates are likely to be revised when new seasonally adjusted estimates become available.

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 4.5%.
- 2 The January seasonally adjusted estimate for total vehicle registrations is lower than the December seasonally adjusted estimate by -4.5%.

The percentage change of 4.5% was chosen because the average absolute percentage change, based on the last 11 years, has been 4.5%.

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

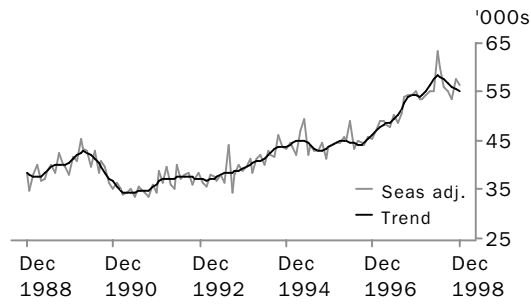


W. McLennan
Australian Statistician

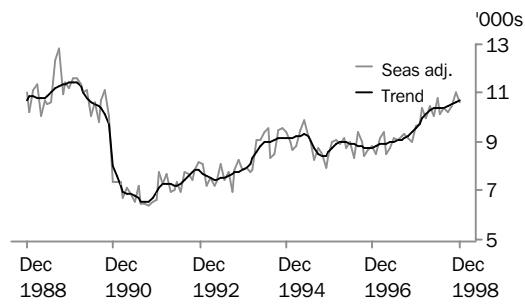
VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS BY TYPE(a)

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED AND TREND

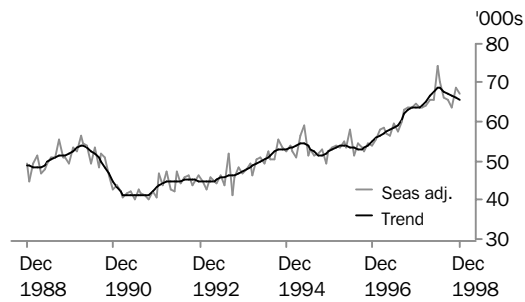
PASSENGER VEHICLES



OTHER VEHICLES



TOTAL VEHICLES (EXCLUDING MOTOR CYCLES)



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

NEW MOTOR VEHICLES, Registrations By Type: All series(a)

Month	Passenger vehicles	Other vehicles	Total
ORIGINAL			
1997			
October	57 471	9 180	66 651
November	52 945	8 521	61 466
December	58 252	9 675	67 927
1998			
January	44 164	7 163	51 327
February	50 794	9 424	60 218
March	57 735	10 567	68 302
April	50 735	9 912	60 647
May	54 185	10 868	65 053
June	73 153	14 901	88 054
July	63 188	10 781	73 969
August	54 789	9 551	64 340
September	55 336	9 893	65 229
October	54 632	9 986	64 618
November	57 161	10 679	67 840
December	60 461	10 627	71 088
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED			
1997			
October	54 533	9 157	63 691
November	54 576	8 981	63 558
December	55 178	9 645	64 822
1998			
January	53 738	9 723	63 462
February	53 502	10 347	63 849
March	54 396	9 942	64 338
April	55 315	10 432	65 747
May	55 372	10 095	65 467
June	63 566	10 809	74 375
July	59 927	10 153	70 080
August	56 044	10 411	66 455
September	55 385	10 254	65 639
October	53 456	10 429	63 885
November	57 457	11 079	68 536
December	56 563	10 640	67 203
TREND ESTIMATES			
1997			
October	53 822	9 254	63 076
November	54 381	9 370	63 751
December	54 379	9 542	63 921
1998			
January	54 161	9 760	63 921
February	54 262	9 983	64 245
March	55 039	10 176	65 214
April	56 347	10 303	66 650
May	57 599	10 349	67 948
June	58 311	10 356	68 667
July	58 248	10 369	68 617
August	57 550	10 405	67 955
September	56 663	10 467	67 130
October	55 970	10 550	66 520
November	55 575	10 645	66 220
December	55 135	10 707	65 842

(a) Trend estimates for June 1998 to November 1998 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
1997								
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	58 252	7 926	1 019	351	103	276	67 927	2 549
1998								
January	44 164	6 068	562	197	42	294	51 327	2 181
February	50 794	7 909	859	270	77	309	60 218	2 231
March	57 735	8 800	994	354	85	334	68 302	2 123
April	50 735	8 153	1 003	341	105	310	60 647	2 185
May	54 185	9 031	1 038	353	101	345	65 053	2 013
June	73 153	12 702	1 275	418	104	402	88 054	2 145
July	63 188	8 760	1 178	372	110	361	73 969	2 333
August	54 789	7 700	1 040	413	85	313	64 340	2 276
September	55 336	8 012	1 132	327	127	295	65 229	2 681
October	54 632	7 987	1 077	401	176	345	64 618	2 692
November	57 161	8 853	1 099	358	107	262	67 840	2 869
December	60 461	8 705	1 216	295	104	307	71 088	2 775

NEW MOTOR VEHICLES, Registrations By State: All series(a)

Month	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Territory	Australia
ORIGINAL									
1997									
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	17 038	13 152	4 483	6 977	2 153	644	1 601	67 927
1998									
January	17 342	12 273	9 884	3 366	5 862	925	574	1 101	51 327
February	20 840	14 996	11 176	3 980	6 290	1 007	641	1 288	60 218
March	23 659	17 029	12 646	4 348	6 959	1 224	873	1 564	68 302
April	20 571	14 962	11 760	4 063	6 190	1 033	750	1 318	60 647
May	22 357	16 074	11 489	4 379	7 456	1 242	784	1 272	65 053
June	29 143	21 013	18 552	5 761	8 977	1 600	1 212	1 796	88 054
July	25 440	18 620	13 800	5 092	7 239	1 497	648	1 633	73 969
August	21 692	16 286	12 018	4 540	6 386	1 351	638	1 429	64 340
September	22 314	16 597	12 434	4 166	6 378	1 496	606	1 238	65 229
October	21 881	16 794	12 048	4 237	6 515	1 233	730	1 180	64 618
November	23 924	17 170	12 658	4 475	6 443	1 324	609	1 237	67 840
December	23 039	18 905	13 934	4 344	7 061	1 773	684	1 348	71 088
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED									
1997									
October	21 632	16 264	11 025	4 178	7 243	1 265	682	1 401	63 691
November	21 099	15 802	12 566	4 270	6 516	1 177	653	1 474	63 558
December	22 044	16 281	11 951	4 264	6 683	1 330	734	1 535	64 822
1998									
January	21 065	15 872	12 235	4 293	6 559	1 284	779	1 376	63 462
February	21 898	15 721	12 212	4 100	6 536	1 240	752	1 390	63 849
March	21 609	15 757	12 526	4 067	6 708	1 381	777	1 512	64 338
April	22 275	16 366	12 117	4 526	6 871	1 376	733	1 483	65 747
May	21 952	16 506	11 832	4 653	7 220	1 296	707	1 300	65 467
June	24 258	18 201	15 194	4 804	7 902	1 623	881	1 513	74 375
July	24 796	17 351	12 371	4 911	7 147	1 368	630	1 504	70 080
August	22 355	16 584	12 695	4 588	6 872	1 313	700	1 348	66 455
September	23 217	16 610	12 139	4 102	6 459	1 273	614	1 225	65 639
October	21 731	16 347	11 940	4 232	6 478	1 198	726	1 233	63 885
November	23 212	17 208	14 123	4 340	6 397	1 371	672	1 214	68 536
December	23 114	17 386	12 944	4 094	6 437	1 117	760	1 351	67 203
TREND ESTIMATES									
1997									
October	21 194	15 908	11 858	4 140	6 657	1 263	675	1 381	63 076
November	21 428	16 056	11 994	4 194	6 690	1 261	702	1 426	63 751
December	21 538	16 008	12 072	4 208	6 656	1 263	724	1 454	63 921
1998									
January	21 561	15 905	12 135	4 211	6 630	1 276	743	1 460	63 921
February	21 647	15 935	12 231	4 241	6 677	1 306	756	1 452	64 245
March	21 936	16 148	12 413	4 336	6 825	1 344	766	1 447	65 214
April	22 415	16 484	12 647	4 474	7 033	1 384	764	1 449	66 650
May	22 903	16 818	12 812	4 605	7 203	1 407	752	1 449	67 948
June	23 248	17 028	12 890	4 679	7 249	1 410	731	1 433	68 667
July	23 365	17 077	12 863	4 660	7 156	1 390	710	1 397	68 617
August	23 262	16 994	12 793	4 556	6 955	1 351	693	1 350	67 955
September	23 058	16 888	12 741	4 417	6 727	1 306	685	1 308	67 130
October	22 870	16 847	12 753	4 292	6 533	1 264	685	1 275	66 520
November	22 757	16 877	12 833	4 192	6 385	1 228	693	1 255	66 220
December	22 612	16 894	12 843	4 109	6 265	1 186	699	1 235	65 842

(a) Trend estimates for June 1998 to November 1998 have been revised.

NEW PASSENGER VEHICLES, Top Make/models: **Original**—December 1998

<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>	Australia
Toyota									
Camry/Vienta	1 591	1 015	762	183	424	91	39	88	4 193
Corolla	1 123	844	500	148	304	245	40	65	3 269
Starlet	640	546	392	133	215	76	26	58	2 086
Other	1 229	762	918	215	457	64	76	54	3 775
Total	4 583	3 167	2 572	679	1 400	476	181	265	13 323
Holden									
Commodore/Calais	2 472	2 664	1 493	580	768	171	53	176	8 377
Barina	327	288	162	96	68	12	8	20	981
Vectra	317	282	95	52	65	8	3	18	840
Other	359	390	202	77	120	19		15	1 182
Total	3 475	3 624	1 952	805	1 021	210	64	229	11 380
Ford									
Falcon/Fairmont	2 003	2 281	1 234	356	683	134	28	185	6 904
Festiva	554	469	511	238	129	35	11	32	1 979
Laser	296	285	178	86	71	32	4	22	974
Other	166	170	114	32	73	5	3	15	578
Total	3 019	3 205	2 037	712	956	206	46	254	10 435
Mitsubishi									
Magna	595	731	565	287	253	106	33	53	2 623
Lancer	354	431	305	96	105	118	18	38	1 465
Mirage	579	169	164	41	49	16	1	35	1 054
Other	274	206	194	53	92	20	6	14	859
Total	1 802	1 537	1 228	477	499	260	58	140	6 001
Nissan									
Pulsar	611	554	519	77	123	106	13	68	2 071
Patrol	269	232	248	51	140	15	15	9	979
Maxima	48	56	25	8	14	2		2	155
Other	62	58	40	15	38	4	1	7	225
Total	990	900	832	151	315	127	29	86	3 430
Hyundai									
Excel	677	578	468	185	394	43	14	41	2 400
Lantra	161	124	97	18	94	16	10	8	528
Sonata	101	67	46	17	49	5	1	1	287
Other	24	7	10	2	5		1		49
Total	963	776	621	222	542	64	26	50	3 264
Honda									
CRV	406	235	154	48	106	14	13	27	1 003
Civic	278	217	152	36	66	8	1	6	764
Accord	112	117	50	15	35	7	1	5	342
Other	126	77	39	10	15	1		4	272
Total	922	646	395	109	222	30	15	42	2 381

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 system 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

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 more information, see *A Guide to Interpreting Time Series—Monitoring 'Trends'—an Overview* (1348.0) or contact the Assistant Director, Time Series Analysis on (02) 6252 6345.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

14 For a more detailed break-up of the monthly figures presented here, enquiries should be made to Robin Walden on 07 3222 6181 or to any ABS office. Data on total vehicle registrations, both new and re-registrations, are available in *Motor Vehicle Census, Australia, 31 October 1997* (9309.0).

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

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

G L O S S A R Y

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 seats or more, 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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POST Client Services, ABS, PO Box 10, Belconnen, ACT 2616

EMAIL client.services@abs.gov.au



2930100012987
ISSN 1323-4528

RRP \$15.00

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Produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics