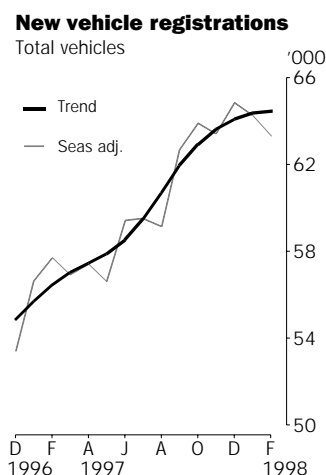


NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS

AUSTRALIA
PRELIMINARY

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) FRI 27 MAR 1998



FEBRUARY KEY FIGURES

TREND ESTIMATES

	Feb 98	monthly % change	annual % change
Total new motor vehicle registrations	64 456	0.1	14.2
Passenger vehicles	54 512	-0.2	14.6
Other vehicles	9 945	2.2	12.1

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	Feb 98	monthly % change	annual % change
Total new motor vehicle registrations	63 302	-1.5	9.7
Passenger vehicles	52 842	-3.5	9.0
Other vehicles	10 460	10.1	13.2

ORIGINAL ESTIMATES

	Feb 98	monthly % change	annual % change
Total new motor vehicle registrations	60 217	17.3	9.7
Passenger vehicles	50 822	15.1	9.1
Other vehicles	9 395	31.1	13.1

FEBRUARY KEY POINTS

TREND ESTIMATES

- The trend for total new motor vehicle registrations has continued to increase each month since September 1996 although the growth rate has slowed considerably over the last four months. Passenger vehicle registrations in February 1998 fell by 0.2% while other vehicle registrations rose by 2.2% compared with the previous month.

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

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATES

- Seasonally adjusted total new motor vehicle registrations for February 1998 decreased by 1.5% compared with January 1998. Passenger vehicle registrations decreased by 3.5% while other vehicle registrations increased by 10.1%. Registrations fell in all States and Territories except Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory which rose by 1.6% and 3.6% respectively this month.

ORIGINAL ESTIMATES

- Total new motor vehicle registrations for February 1998 showed an increase of 17.3% in original terms compared with January 1998, with passenger vehicle registrations rising by 15.1% and other vehicle registrations rising by 31.1%. All States and Territories recorded rises. Registrations increased for all vehicle types.

For further information about these and related statistics, contact Robin Walden on 07 3222 6181, or any ABS Office.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE	RELEASE DATE
March 1998	24 April 1998
April 1998	29 May 1998
May 1998	26 June 1998



CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

There are no changes in this issue.



TREND REVISIONS

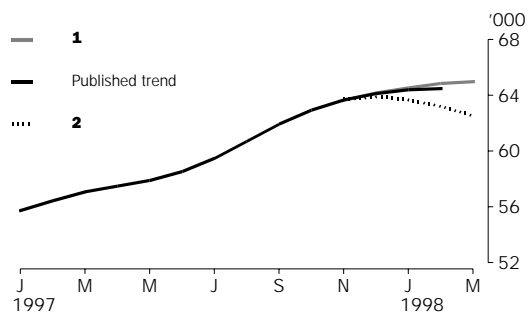
The most recent trend estimates are likely to be revised when new seasonally adjusted estimates become available.

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

- 1** The March seasonally adjusted estimate for total vehicle registrations is higher than the February seasonally adjusted estimate by 4.6%.
- 2** The March seasonally adjusted estimate for total vehicle registrations is lower than the February 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%.

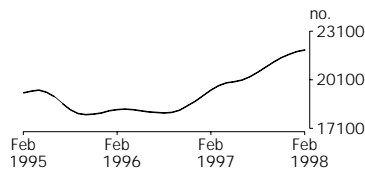
TAKE CARE!
Trend estimates are revised as new monthly data become available.



W. McLennan
Australian Statistician

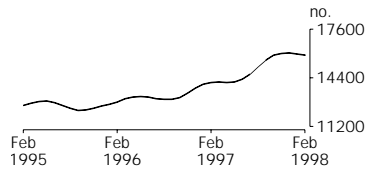
VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS BY STATE: Trend series

NEW SOUTH WALES



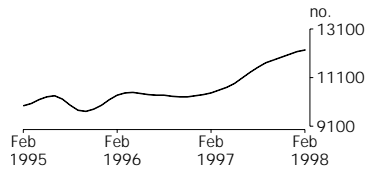
The trend has increased markedly over the past eighteen months to be 21.7% above the August 1996 low.

VICTORIA



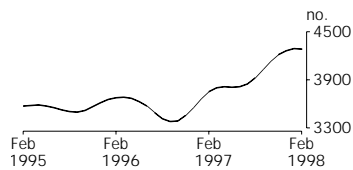
After rising generally for the past two years the trend peaked in December 1997. Since then it has declined by 0.9% to February 1998.

QUEENSLAND



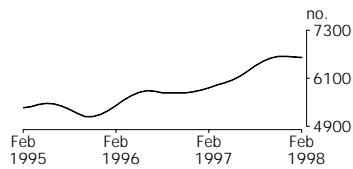
The trend has continued to increase steadily since the low in October 1996 and it is now 16.7% above the previous high recorded in April 1996.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA



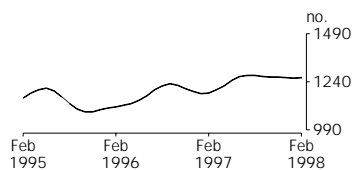
The trend has flattened in February 1998. The level is now 26.8% above the low recorded in September 1996.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA



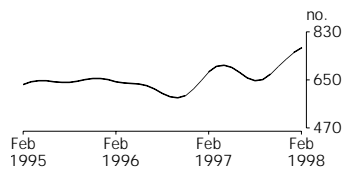
Since peaking in December 1997, the trend has fallen slightly over the last two months. It is now 28.5% above the low recorded in October 1995.

TASMANIA



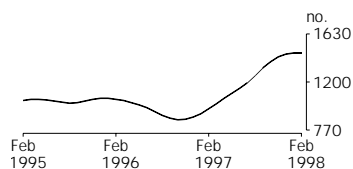
The trend has remained essentially flat for the six months from July 1997. It is now 7.1% above the previous low recorded in January 1997.

NORTHERN TERRITORY



The trend has risen generally since the October 1996 low, tempered by a decline from May 1997 to August 1997. It is now 9.5% above the April 1997 high.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY



The trend has risen steadily from October 1996 to January 1998, flattening in February 1998. It is now 69.3% above the low recorded in October 1996.



NEW MOTOR VEHICLES, Registrations by Type: All series

Month	Passenger vehicles	Other vehicles	Total
ORIGINAL			
1996			
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	58 253	9 675	67 928
1998			
January	44 164	7 164	51 328
February	50 822	9 395	60 217
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED			
1996			
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	55 013	9 839	64 852
1998			
January	54 762	9 504	64 267
February	52 842	10 460	63 302
TREND ESTIMATES(a)			
1996			
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	9 038	58 525
July	50 400	9 068	59 468
August	51 614	9 092	60 706
September	52 804	9 136	61 940
October	53 733	9 207	62 940
November	54 310	9 334	63 643
December	54 581	9 520	64 101
1998			
January	54 630	9 735	64 365
February	54 512	9 945	64 456

(a) Trend estimates for August 1997 to January 1998 have been revised.

2

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								
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	58 253	7 926	1 019	351	103	276	67 928	2 549
1998								
January	44 164	6 068	563	197	42	294	51 328	2 181
February	50 822	7 854	894	270	67	310	60 217	2 281

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									
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	17 038	13 153	4 483	6 977	2 153	644	1 601	67 928
1998									
January	17 342	12 273	9 884	3 366	5 863	925	574	1 101	51 328
February	20 837	14 998	11 177	3 980	6 289	1 007	641	1 288	60 217
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED									
1996									
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	21 335	16 179	12 333	4 537	6 726	1 400	762	1 581	64 852
1998									
January	22 083	15 915	12 002	4 300	6 570	1 268	787	1 342	64 267
February	21 756	15 504	12 191	4 033	6 463	1 206	758	1 390	63 302
TREND ESTIMATES(a)									
1996									
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	20 276	14 637	11 310	3 848	6 271	1 274	657	1 194	59 468
August	20 558	15 108	11 532	3 925	6 406	1 273	646	1 258	60 706
September	20 869	15 571	11 707	4 029	6 522	1 267	650	1 324	61 940
October	21 174	15 881	11 834	4 132	6 602	1 264	672	1 382	62 940
November	21 446	16 009	11 947	4 212	6 643	1 263	700	1 424	63 643
December	21 667	16 022	12 062	4 262	6 650	1 262	727	1 450	64 101
1998									
January	21 840	15 972	12 162	4 287	6 633	1 259	752	1 460	64 365
February	21 960	15 876	12 233	4 282	6 611	1 262	772	1 459	64 456

(a) Trend estimates for August 1997 to January 1998 have been revised.

4

NEW PASSENGER VEHICLES, Selected Make/Models: **Original**—February 1998

Make/Model	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Territory	Australia
Ford									
Falcon/Fairmont	1 513	1 313	775	236	577	59	32	150	4 655
Laser	226	209	144	35	69	11	2	17	713
Festiva	210	159	168	90	43	14	5	16	705
Other	356	310	190	50	120	16	8	19	1 069
Total	2 305	1 991	1 277	411	809	100	47	202	7 142
Holden									
Commodore/Calais	2 398	2 118	1 167	615	605	98	35	217	7 253
Barina	288	132	127	60	73	17	6	15	718
Statesman/Caprice	89	135	56	40	45	4	3	6	378
Other	376	279	214	97	112	23	4	14	1 119
Total	3 151	2 664	1 564	812	835	142	48	252	9 468
Hyundai									
Excel	988	612	449	140	439	42	24	53	2 747
Lantra	242	123	108	33	137	29	9	6	687
Sonata	103	71	57	15	41	5	2	5	299
Other	46	32	36	7	14	2	1	..	138
Total	1 379	838	650	195	631	78	36	64	3 871
Mazda									
323	288	283	146	54	75	8	4	17	875
121	139	141	79	20	54	5	3	9	450
626	129	133	77	16	41	4	5	6	411
Other	20	17	10	2	2	51
Total	576	574	312	92	172	17	12	32	1 787
Mitsubishi									
Magna	775	651	422	338	214	52	28	189	2 669
Lancer	616	473	434	105	158	24	25	37	1 872
Mirage	439	153	120	33	56	6	4	17	828
Other	326	237	185	109	109	12	13	18	1 009
Total	2 156	1 514	1 161	585	537	94	70	261	6 378
Nissan									
Pulsar	464	352	257	66	120	33	15	34	1 341
Patrol	223	149	197	56	151	9	14	7	806
Maxima	53	89	52	4	15	2	1	5	221
Other	92	76	46	17	39	3	..	2	275
Total	832	666	552	143	325	47	30	48	2 643
Toyota									
Camry	567	408	277	92	136	30	31	27	1 568
Corolla	598	385	210	100	152	25	21	49	1 540
Vienta	495	299	163	69	100	15	14	36	1 191
Other	1 284	743	735	214	352	40	76	60	3 504
Total	2 944	1 835	1 385	475	740	110	142	172	7 803

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> (Cat. no. 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 6181 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> (Cat. no. 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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