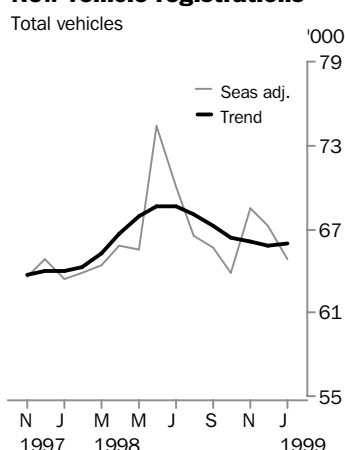


NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS

AUSTRALIA
PRELIMINARY

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) FRI 26 FEB 1999

New vehicle registrations



JANUARY KEY FIGURES

TREND ESTIMATES

	Jan 1999	% change Dec 1998 to Jan 1999	% change Jan 1998 to Jan 1999
Total new motor vehicle registrations	65 917	0.2	3.1
Passenger vehicles	54 890	0.0	1.3
Other vehicles	11 027	1.5	13.0

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	Jan 1999	% change Dec 1998 to Jan 1999	% change Jan 1998 to Jan 1999
Total new motor vehicle registrations	64 890	-3.4	2.3
Passenger vehicles	53 686	-5.0	-0.1
Other vehicles	11 204	4.9	15.2

ORIGINAL ESTIMATES

	Jan 1999	% change Dec 1998 to Jan 1999	% change Jan 1998 to Jan 1999
Total new motor vehicle registrations	50 097	-29.5	-2.4
Passenger vehicles	42 160	-30.2	-4.5
Other vehicles	7 937	-25.6	10.8

JANUARY KEY POINTS

TREND ESTIMATES

- The total new motor vehicle registrations trend for this month has risen by 0.2%. This reverses the downward trend over the previous five months since the record high in July 1998. The passenger vehicle registrations trend in January 1999 remained at the previous level while the other vehicle registrations trend rose by 1.5% compared with December 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 3.4% compared with last month. Seasonally adjusted passenger vehicle registrations decreased by 5.0% while other vehicle registrations increased by 4.9%.

ORIGINAL ESTIMATES

- Original total new motor vehicle registrations decreased this month by 29.5% compared with last month. Original passenger vehicle registrations decreased by 30.2% and other vehicle registrations decreased by 25.6%.

- 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
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
July 1999	27 August 1999

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CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

There are no changes in this issue.

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TREND REVISIONS

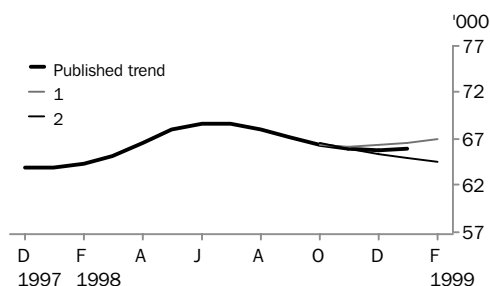
The most recent trend estimates are likely to be revised when new seasonally adjusted estimates become available.

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

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

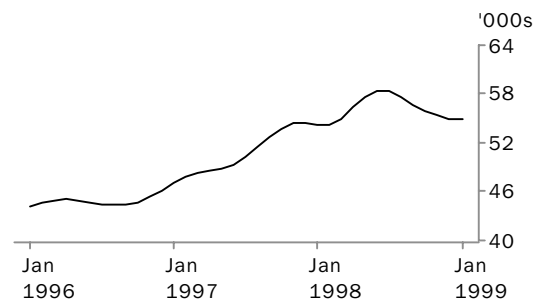
TAKE CARE!
Trend estimates are revised as new monthly data become available.



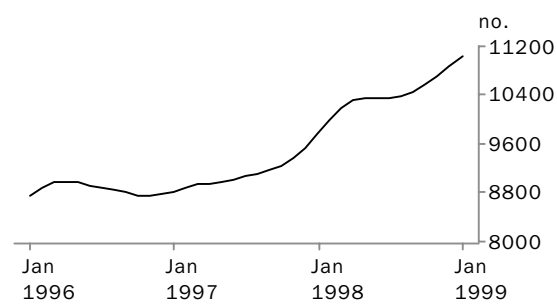
W. McLennan
Australian Statistician

VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS BY TYPE: Trend series

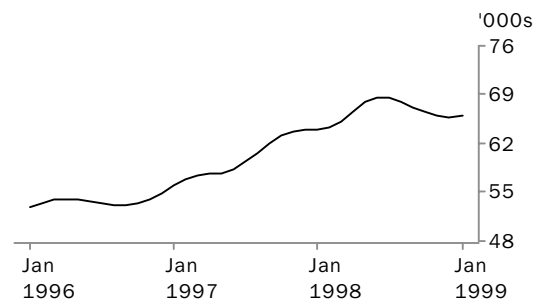
PASSENGER VEHICLES



OTHER VEHICLES



TOTAL VEHICLES (EXCLUDING MOTOR CYCLES)



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

Month	Passenger vehicles	Other vehicles	Total
ORIGINAL			
1997			
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	60 418	10 667	71 085
1999			
January	42 160	7 937	50 097
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED			
1997			
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	56 523	10 680	67 203
1999			
January	53 686	11 204	64 890
TREND ESTIMATES			
1997			
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	58 312	10 356	68 667
July	58 323	10 359	68 682
August	57 669	10 389	68 057
September	56 711	10 461	67 173
October	55 859	10 578	66 437
November	55 316	10 723	66 038
December	54 910	10 864	65 774
1999			
January	54 890	11 027	65 917

(a) Trend estimates for July 1998 to December 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								
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	60 418	8 732	1 222	295	111	307	71 085	2 740
1999								
January	42 160	6 813	621	208	39	256	50 097	2 215

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									
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	23 041	18 902	13 934	4 342	7 060	1 773	684	1 349	71 085
1999									
January	17 169	12 682	9 450	3 044	5 402	976	442	932	50 097
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED									
1997									
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	23 117	17 385	12 946	4 092	6 436	1 118	759	1 352	67 203
1999									
January	22 178	17 398	11 825	4 110	6 228	1 372	620	1 159	64 890
TREND ESTIMATES									
1997									
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	23 390	17 077	12 889	4 665	7 163	1 388	711	1 399	68 682
August	23 302	16 993	12 837	4 564	6 966	1 346	696	1 353	68 057
September	23 076	16 886	12 762	4 420	6 730	1 303	686	1 310	67 173
October	22 832	16 862	12 697	4 291	6 530	1 272	682	1 272	66 437
November	22 659	16 943	12 670	4 195	6 391	1 255	682	1 242	66 038
December	22 530	17 066	12 618	4 124	6 288	1 248	680	1 219	65 774
1999									
January	22 470	17 263	12 698	4 073	6 253	1 264	689	1 208	65 917

(a) Trend estimates for July 1998 to December 1998 have been revised.

NEW PASSENGER VEHICLES, Top Make/models: **Original**—January 1999

<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>	<i>Australia</i>
Toyota									
Camry/Vienta	1 069	556	413	87	251	41	25	59	2 501
Corolla	956	464	306	112	199	51	23	63	2 174
Landcruiser	213	164	200	51	144	26	19	12	829
Other	707	418	316	85	124	30	31	36	1 747
Total	2 945	1 602	1 235	335	718	148	98	170	7 251
Ford									
Falcon/Fairmont	1 020	1 018	699	172	365	79	20	82	3 455
Festiva	778	594	545	246	173	51	11	37	2 435
Laser	250	296	135	50	61	23	3	12	830
Other	134	139	72	34	50	7	3	9	448
Total	2 182	2 047	1 451	502	649	160	37	140	7 168
Holden									
Commodore/Calais	1 392	1 154	691	352	472	79	24	78	4 242
Barina	301	174	100	63	62	18	5	16	739
Vectra	191	187	69	25	38	12	2	13	537
Other	295	279	153	68	91	8	5	24	923
Total	2 179	1 794	1 013	508	663	117	36	131	6 441
Mitsubishi									
Magna	485	489	354	194	142	42	22	67	1 795
Lancer	281	328	183	51	113	13	13	33	1 015
Mirage	211	64	71	15	25	8	2	16	412
Other	263	120	187	33	80	11	4	8	706
Total	1 240	1 001	795	293	360	74	41	124	3 928
Hyundai									
Excel	635	350	351	144	338	48	7	22	1 895
Lantra	143	106	83	16	90	12	6	6	462
Sonata	132	65	51	16	36	5	1	1	307
Other	17	16	10	2	4	2	1	1	53
Total	927	537	495	178	468	67	15	30	2 717
Nissan									
Pulsar	463	335	301	61	99	16	6	30	1 311
Patrol	212	172	219	47	155	12	8	10	835
Maxima	44	47	37	10	19	1		4	162
Other	61	63	28	11	13	7		3	186
Total	780	617	585	129	286	36	14	47	2 494
Honda									
Civic	255	187	96	33	73	16	1	6	667
CRV	194	149	81	17	85	11	4	4	545
Accord	79	93	38	19	47	1		2	279
Other	194	158	49	18	39	3	2	10	473
Total	722	587	264	87	244	31	7	22	1 964

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* (Cat. no. 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. Additional statistics, including registrations of trailers and caravans, are also available in the Special Data Service, *New Motor Vehicle Registrations, Australia (9303.0.40.003)*. Data on total vehicle registrations are published annually in *Motor Vehicle Census, Australia, 31 October 1997* (Cat. no. 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.