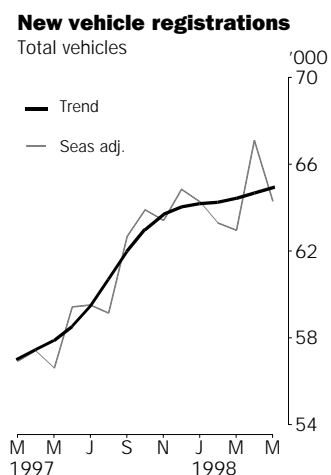


NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS

AUSTRALIA
PRELIMINARY

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) FRI 26 JUNE 1998



MAY KEY FIGURES

TREND ESTIMATES

	May 98	monthly % change	annual % change
Total new motor vehicle registrations	64 908	0.4	12.1
Passenger vehicles	54 571	0.3	11.6
Other vehicles	10 337	0.9	14.7

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	May 98	monthly % change	annual % change
Total new motor vehicle registrations	64 314	-4.2	13.6
Passenger vehicles	54 418	-3.3	13.6
Other vehicles	9 895	-8.6	13.9

ORIGINAL ESTIMATES

	May 98	monthly % change	annual % change
Total new motor vehicle registrations	65 050	7.3	11.0
Passenger vehicles	54 231	6.9	10.8
Other vehicles	10 819	9.2	11.7

MAY KEY POINTS

TREND ESTIMATES

- The trend for total new motor vehicle registrations has risen this month by 0.4%. Registrations of passenger vehicles in May 1998 rose by 0.3% and other vehicles rose by 0.9% compared with last month.

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

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATES

- Seasonally adjusted total new motor vehicle registrations for May 1998 decreased by 4.2% compared with April 1998. This fall follows a significant rise in April 1998 which had been preceded by slight falls over the months of the first quarter this year. Registrations fell in all States and Territories except Western Australia where they rose by 6.7%.

ORIGINAL ESTIMATES

- Total registrations of new motor vehicles for May 1998 increased by 7.3% compared with April 1998. Passenger vehicles rose by 6.9% and other vehicles rose by 9.2%. All States and Territories except Queensland and Australian Capital Territory recorded rises.

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

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE

June 1998

July 1998

August 1998

RELEASE DATE

31 July 1998

28 August 1998

25 September 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.

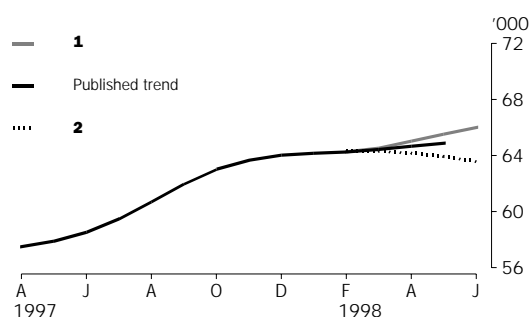
The graph below presents the effect of two possible scenarios on the previous trend estimates:

1 The June seasonally adjusted estimate for total vehicle registrations is higher than the May seasonally adjusted estimate by 4.5%.

2 The June seasonally adjusted estimate for total vehicle registrations is lower than the May 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.

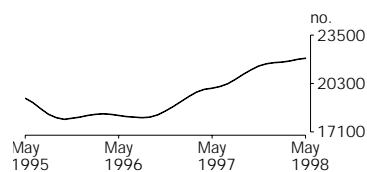


T.J. Skinner

Acting Australian Statistician

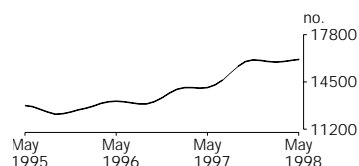
VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS BY STATE: Trend series

NEW SOUTH WALES



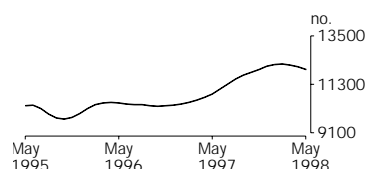
The trend has continued to rise steadily to be 21.8% above the August 1996 low.

VICTORIA



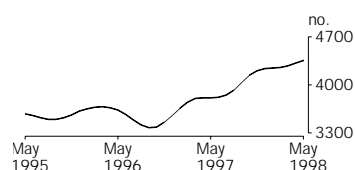
The trend has flattened over the last seven months and it is now 0.4% above the November 1997 high.

QUEENSLAND



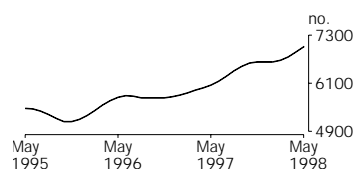
After rising generally for the previous sixteen months, the trend peaked in February 1998. From then to May 1998 it has fallen by 2.0%.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA



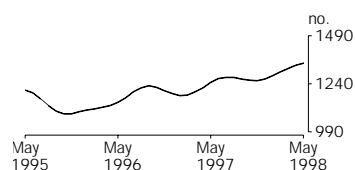
The trend has generally risen to be 29.2% above the low in September 1996.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA



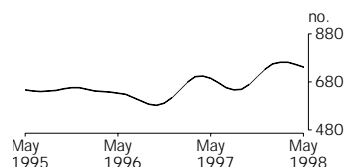
The trend has risen over the last five months and it is now 5.8% above the high in November 1997.

TASMANIA



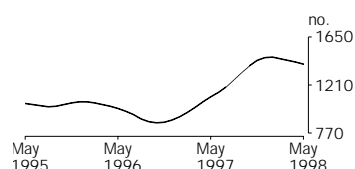
The trend has continued to rise and it is now 7.2% above the low in November 1997.

NORTHERN TERRITORY



The trend has fallen 2.9% from the last high in February 1998 and it is now 14.6% above the low in August 1997.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY



The trend has fallen 4.6% since the high in January 1998 and it is now 62.2% above the low in October 1996.

NEW MOTOR VEHICLES, Registrations by Type: All series

Month	Passenger vehicles	Other vehicles	Total
ORIGINAL			
1997			
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	7 163	51 327
February	50 794	9 424	60 218
March	57 735	10 567	68 302
April	50 735	9 912	60 647
May	54 231	10 819	65 050
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED			
1997			
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	9 503	64 265
February	52 813	10 492	63 305
March	53 351	9 617	62 968
April	56 294	10 828	67 123
May	54 418	9 895	64 314
TREND ESTIMATES(a)			
1997			
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	52 855	9 139	61 994
October	53 807	9 200	63 007
November	54 363	9 318	63 681
December	54 517	9 510	64 027
1998			
January	54 434	9 737	64 172
February	54 311	9 947	64 258
March	54 322	10 117	64 439
April	54 426	10 240	64 666
May	54 571	10 337	64 908

(a) Trend estimates for November 1997 to April 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								
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	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	54 231	8 977	1 041	355	101	345	65 050	2 049

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									
1997									
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	5 862	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	22 353	16 076	11 488	4 379	7 455	1 242	784	1 273	65 050
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED									
1997									
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	6 569	1 268	787	1 342	64 265
February	21 760	15 503	12 190	4 033	6 464	1 206	758	1 390	63 305
March	20 725	15 604	12 342	3 961	6 667	1 338	788	1 542	62 968
April	22 791	16 465	12 740	4 597	6 895	1 448	762	1 425	67 123
May	21 919	16 212	11 066	4 472	7 354	1 276	669	1 344	64 314
TREND ESTIMATES(a)									
1997									
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	20 897	15 586	11 711	4 036	6 526	1 265	649	1 324	61 994
October	21 206	15 912	11 837	4 138	6 602	1 258	670	1 384	63 007
November	21 448	16 030	11 973	4 207	6 632	1 257	702	1 433	63 681
December	21 600	15 993	12 111	4 237	6 627	1 265	732	1 460	64 027
1998									
January	21 673	15 917	12 204	4 244	6 632	1 283	754	1 465	64 172
February	21 711	15 894	12 214	4 250	6 671	1 303	762	1 452	64 258
March	21 787	15 929	12 173	4 274	6 759	1 320	761	1 435	64 439
April	21 883	15 997	12 091	4 316	6 875	1 335	752	1 418	64 666
May	21 991	16 087	11 967	4 361	7 017	1 348	740	1 398	64 908

(a) Trend estimates for November 1997 to April 1998 have been revised.

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

Make/Model	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Territory	Australia
Ford									
Falcon/Fairmont	1 569	1 455	772	313	578	78	39	147	4 951
Festiva	483	313	277	174	125	24	18	20	1 434
Laser	308	268	135	44	106	24	6	14	905
Other	327	289	162	71	138	17	6	20	1 030
Total	2 687	2 325	1 346	602	947	143	69	201	8 320
Holden									
Commodore/Calais	2 393	1 965	1 365	651	785	122	86	217	7 584
Barina	246	158	115	49	50	15	6	10	649
Statesman/Caprice	97	169	99	28	39	3	..	2	437
Other	467	500	224	106	149	31	5	23	1 505
Total	3 203	2 792	1 803	834	1 023	171	97	252	10 175
Hyundai									
Excel	916	561	452	202	773	51	29	47	3 031
Lantra	312	141	112	45	160	29	7	10	816
Sonata	120	82	43	5	41	4	2	9	306
Other	46	20	15	7	21	1	2	1	113
Total	1 394	804	622	259	995	85	40	67	4 266
Mazda									
323	311	239	114	52	81	7	4	21	829
626	169	142	51	21	46	5	1	10	445
121	107	108	57	21	36	4	6	6	345
Other	66	42	17	5	11	4	145
Total	653	531	239	99	174	16	11	41	1 764
Mitsubishi									
Magna	643	614	399	391	231	47	36	101	2 462
Lancer	475	394	267	95	141	17	19	34	1 442
Mirage	401	135	85	22	33	8	2	24	710
Other	375	227	209	71	93	20	15	17	1 027
Total	1 894	1 370	960	579	498	92	72	176	5 641
Nissan									
Pulsar	398	305	248	58	147	21	25	46	1 248
Patrol	278	189	222	52	180	6	17	10	954
Maxima	49	83	37	7	14	4	1	4	199
Other	90	79	73	11	24	6	..	4	287
Total	815	656	580	128	365	37	43	64	2 688
Toyota									
Camry	632	518	315	106	204	56	55	45	1 931
Corolla	607	306	216	118	190	58	52	31	1 578
Vienta	621	414	189	62	124	24	9	41	1 484
Other	1 429	769	774	226	379	47	71	59	3 754
Total	3 289	2 007	1 494	512	897	185	187	176	8 747

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>

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 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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