

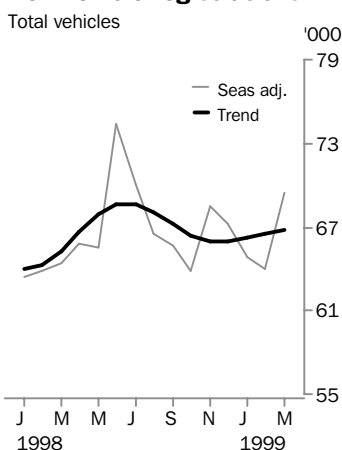


NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS

AUSTRALIA
PRELIMINARY

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) FRI 30 APR 1999

New vehicle registrations



MARCH KEY FIGURES

TREND ESTIMATES

	Mar 1999	% change Feb 1999 to Mar 1999	% change Mar 1998 to Mar 1999
Total new motor vehicle registrations	66 773	0.5	2.4
Passenger vehicles	55 908	0.5	1.6
Other vehicles	10 865	0.0	6.8

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	Mar 1999	% change Feb 1999 to Mar 1999	% change Mar 1998 to Mar 1999
Total new motor vehicle registrations	69 444	8.6	7.9
Passenger vehicles	58 611	9.7	7.7
Other vehicles	10 833	3.4	9.0

ORIGINAL ESTIMATES

	Mar 1999	% change Feb 1999 to Mar 1999	% change Mar 1998 to Mar 1999
Total new motor vehicle registrations	76 232	26.4	11.6
Passenger vehicles	64 073	26.2	11.0
Other vehicles	12 159	27.2	15.1

MARCH KEY POINTS

TREND ESTIMATES

- The trend for new motor vehicle registrations has risen this month by 0.5%. Registrations of passenger vehicles in March 1999 rose by 0.5% while other vehicles remained at the previous level.

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

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATES

- Seasonally adjusted new motor vehicle registrations for March 1999 increased by 8.6% compared with last month. Passenger vehicle registrations increased by 9.7% and other vehicle registrations increased by 3.4%.

ORIGINAL ESTIMATES

- Original total new motor vehicle registrations increased for March 1999 by 26.4% compared with last month. Passenger vehicle registrations increased by 26.2% and other vehicle registrations increased by 27.2%.

- 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

<i>ISSUE</i>	<i>RELEASE DATE</i>
April 1999	28 May 1999
May 1999	25 June 1999
June 1999	30 July 1999
July 1999	27 August 1999
August 1999	24 September 1999
September 1999	29 October 1999



CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

There are no changes in this issue.



TREND REVISIONS

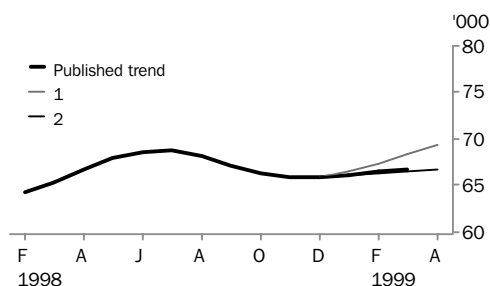
The most recent trend estimates are likely to be revised when new seasonally adjusted estimates become available.

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

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

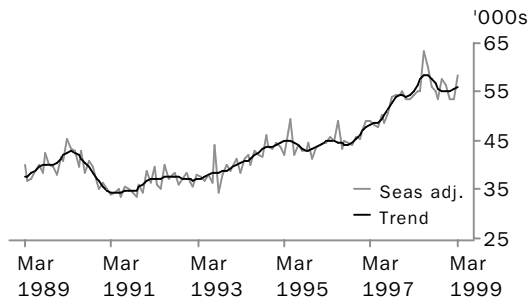


W. McLennan
Australian Statistician

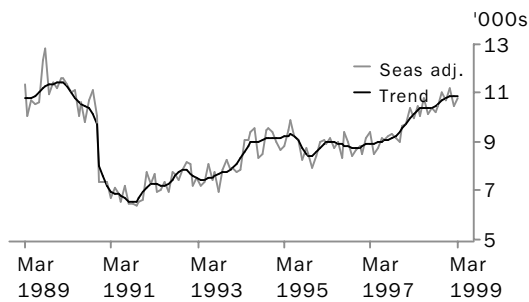
VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS BY TYPE(a)

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED AND TREND

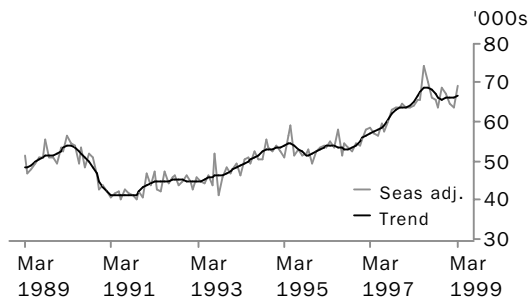
PASSENGER VEHICLES



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			
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	42 137	7 954	50 091
February	50 775	9 557	60 332
March	64 073	12 159	76 232
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED			
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	53 657	11 228	64 884
February	53 440	10 477	63 916
March	58 611	10 833	69 444
TREND ESTIMATES			
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	57 722	10 397	68 119
September	56 710	10 480	67 190
October	55 731	10 588	66 319
November	55 187	10 704	65 890
December	55 188	10 797	65 985
1999			
January	55 362	10 848	66 209
February	55 610	10 862	66 472
March	55 908	10 865	66 773

(a) Trend estimates for September 1998 to February 1999 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
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	42 137	6 823	625	207	43	256	50 091	2 178
February	50 775	7 996	942	247	57	315	60 332	2 451
March	64 073	10 201	1 210	310	113	325	76 232	2 767

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									
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	17 168	12 677	9 449	3 045	5 402	976	442	932	50 091
February	20 483	15 786	11 371	3 923	6 104	928	650	1 087	60 332
March	26 243	19 532	14 807	4 809	7 396	1 227	916	1 302	76 232
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED									
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	22 177	17 392	11 825	4 111	6 228	1 372	620	1 159	64 884
February	21 504	16 544	12 409	4 037	6 339	1 149	761	1 173	63 916
March	23 604	17 722	13 344	4 372	7 171	1 306	756	1 170	69 444
TREND ESTIMATES									
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	23 332	17 011	12 844	4 569	6 967	1 349	694	1 354	68 119
September	23 105	16 904	12 757	4 419	6 710	1 304	681	1 309	67 190
October	22 807	16 849	12 675	4 278	6 491	1 269	678	1 272	66 319
November	22 587	16 904	12 650	4 190	6 384	1 250	685	1 241	65 890
December	22 520	17 045	12 707	4 153	6 389	1 247	700	1 223	65 985
1999									
January	22 527	17 177	12 739	4 147	6 448	1 249	713	1 209	66 209
February	22 576	17 283	12 750	4 157	6 537	1 250	725	1 194	66 472
March	22 595	17 361	12 797	4 189	6 655	1 255	739	1 182	66 773

(a) Trend estimates for September 1998 to February 1999 have been revised.

NEW PASSENGER VEHICLES, Top Make/models: **Original**—March 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>	Australia
Holden									
Commodore/Calais	2 518	2 346	1 408	629	670	102	100	150	7 923
Vectra	342	296	192	69	49	8	4	39	999
Barina	403	206	148	72	70	12	1	21	933
Other	584	513	341	115	195	30	3	33	1 814
Total	3 847	3 361	2 089	885	984	152	108	243	11 669
Toyota									
Camry/Vienta	1 540	1 029	684	183	427	62	53	78	4 056
Corolla	1 337	804	510	136	296	71	61	77	3 292
Landcruiser	397	245	342	100	181	16	43	12	1 336
Other	1 112	569	639	157	291	42	45	53	2 908
Total	4 386	2 647	2 175	576	1 195	191	202	220	11 592
Ford									
Falcon/Fairmont	2 017	2 141	1 189	394	616	67	83	134	6 641
Festiva	534	475	377	211	128	32	15	21	1 793
Laser	343	336	177	69	83	25	6	12	1 051
Other	263	290	131	59	71	12	4	16	846
Total	3 157	3 242	1 874	733	898	136	108	183	10 331
Hyundai									
Excel	1 507	1 155	1 001	247	707	113	56	72	4 858
Lantra	236	126	129	42	139	23	10	12	717
Sonata	95	58	60	10	46	4	1	3	277
Other	21	12	18	4	3	1	1		60
Total	1 859	1 351	1 208	303	895	141	68	87	5 912
Mitsubishi									
Magna	530	464	346	458	143	28	48	64	2 081
Lancer	398	395	278	72	101	24	12	26	1 306
Pajero	180	85	129	30	62	10	3	5	504
Other	395	231	175	104	49	11	5	25	995
Total	1 503	1 175	928	664	355	73	68	120	4 886
Nissan									
Pulsar	865	603	514	93	204	30	25	56	2 390
Patrol	331	197	251	50	146	10	21	5	1 011
Pathfinder	148	96	93	12	36	2			387
Other	79	114	121	12	26	4	1	8	365
Total	1 423	1 010	979	167	412	46	47	69	4 153
Honda									
CRV	402	251	144	35	79	14	12	9	946
Civic	271	182	114	33	71	8	3	10	692
Accord	124	110	69	18	28	3	2	6	360
Other	268	162	85	34	47	6	4	8	614
Total	1 065	705	412	120	225	31	21	33	2 612

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.

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