



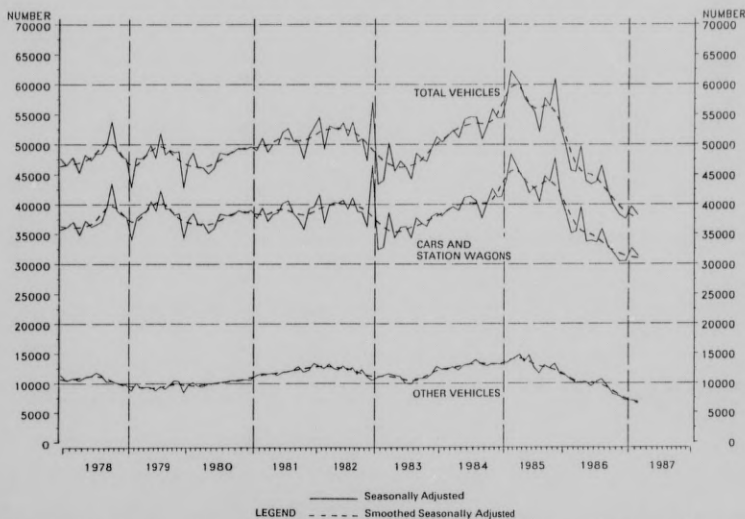
REGISTRATIONS OF NEW MOTOR VEHICLES, AUSTRALIA FEBRUARY 1987, PRELIMINARY

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MAIN FEATURES REGISTRATIONS OF NEW MOTOR VEHICLES



NOTE: Statistics of new motor vehicle registrations refer to the number of registrations processed by the central motor vehicle registration authority in each State and Territory each month. Consequently each month's figure contains some vehicles which were actually registered in a previous month (see paragraphs 1 and 3 of Explanatory Notes). In particular, the January 1987 figure for Victoria includes an unusually large number of vehicles (over 3,000) which were actually registered in December 1986 but not processed until January 1987. For this reason, particular care should be taken in using January 1987 registration statistics.

Registrations of new motor vehicles (excluding motor cycles, tractors, plant and equipment etc.), during February 1987 (34,359) rose 3.1% when compared with January 1987 (33,339) but fell 16.7% when compared with February 1986 (41,259).

Seasonally adjusted, the February 1987 figure (38,156) is 3.8% lower than January 1987 (39,645) and 16.5% lower than February 1986 (45,696).

As the original and seasonally adjusted new motor vehicle registration series contain irregular influences that can be highly volatile, short-term movements cannot be assumed to indicate changes in underlying trends. The smoothed seasonally adjusted series provide a clearer picture of underlying trends. The smoothed series for total vehicles has declined continuously since September 1985.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

Because of lags in registry processing, statistics of new motor vehicle registrations for periods as short as one month can vary significantly from actual sales of new motor vehicles for the same period. See also paragraph 3

and coverage

Motor vehicle registration statistics are obtained from data made available by the various State and Territory motor vehicle registration authorities and reflect the information as recorded in registration documents.

3. In these statistics *registrations* mean registrations processed by the motor vehicle registration authorities in the States and Territories during the period. In New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory the figures shown depart little from actual registrations during the period. In the other States and the Northern Territory, advice of some registrations is often not received by the central motor vehicle registration authority until some time after the actual date of registration. For this reason a considerable number of registrations recorded in a month actually relate to vehicles registered prior to that month.

4. The statistics include vehicles with diplomatic and consular plates and State and Commonwealth government owned vehicles other than those belonging to the defence services.

5. Recreation vehicles such as trail bikes and sand dune buggies intended for use in public places are required to be registered in Victoria and Queensland. Particulars of these registrations are regarded as outside the scope of new motor vehicle registration statistics.

Seasonal adjustment

6. Original and seasonally adjusted registrations of new motor vehicles are shown in Table 1. The two component series 'Motor cars and station wagons' and 'Other vehicles' are each adjusted separately, and the adjusted figures for total registrations are obtained by adding together the two component series. In the seasonally adjusted series, account has been taken of normal seasonal factors and 'trading day' effects (arising from the varying numbers of Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays etc. in the month) and the effect of movement in the date of Easter which may in successive years, affect figures for different months.

7. Seasonal adjustment may be carried out by various methods and the results may vary slightly according to the procedure adopted. Accordingly, seasonally adjusted statistics should not be regarded as in any way definitive. In interpreting particular seasonally adjusted statistics it is important to bear in mind the methods by which they have been derived and the limitations to which the methods used are subject.

8. Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so that the effects of other influences on the series may be more clearly recognised. Seasonal adjustment procedures do not aim to remove the irregular or non-seasonal influences which may be present in any particular month, such as the effect of introducing new models or of industrial disputes. Irregular influences that are highly volatile can make it difficult to interpret the movement of the series even after adjustment for seasonal variation.

9. The seasonally adjusted series can, however, be smoothed to reduce the impact of the irregular component in the adjusted series. There are a number of ways of accomplishing this, depending on the intended uses of the smoothed series. If importance is attached to measuring the underlying change in the most recent periods, moving averages employing appropriate weighting patterns should be adopted; the choice of averaging technique will determine in part the degree of smoothness of the derived series. For example, a 23-term moving average will generally even out more of the short term fluctuation in a series (and therefore appear 'smoother') than will a 13-term moving average. However, the longer the term of the moving average the longer the time series affected by revisions resulting from more recent data. In order to ensure that the underlying trend-cycle of a series is reflected in the smoothed seasonally adjusted series, the degree of smoothness alone cannot always be used as the sole criterion in determining which moving average is appropriate.

10. Commencing with the November 1985 issue of this publication, smoothed seasonally adjusted motor vehicle registration statistics are shown in Table 1. The smoothed seasonally adjusted estimates (often referred to as trend-cycle estimates) have been derived by applying a 13-term Henderson-weighted moving average to the series.

11. While this technique enables smoothed data for the latest period to be produced, it does result in revisions to the smoothed series for the most recent months as additional observations become available. There may also be revisions as a result of changes in the original data, and as a result of the re-estimation of the seasonal factors. Details of other trend-cycle weighting patterns can be found in Appendix D of *Seasonally Adjusted Indicators, Australia 1983* (1308.0).

Related publications

12. Users may also wish to refer to the following motor vehicle registration publications which are available on request:

Motor Vehicle Registrations, Australia (9303.0)—issued monthly

Motor Vehicle Registrations, Australia, 1985-86 (9304.0).

13. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The *Catalogue* and *Publications Advice* are available from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

- p preliminary figure or series subject to revision
- r figures or series revised since previous issue.

Electronic services

14. VIATEL. Key *656# for selected current economic, social and demographic statistics.

AUSSTATS. Thousands of up-to-date time series are available on this ABS on-line service through CSIRONET.

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IAN CASTLES
Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. NEW MOTOR VEHICLES, MONTHLY TOTALS, ORIGINAL AND SEASONALLY ADJUSTED : AUSTRALIA

	Motor cars and station wagons			Other vehicles(a)			Total(a)		
	Original	Seasonally adjusted	Smoothed seasonally adjusted	Original	Seasonally adjusted	Smoothed seasonally adjusted	Original	Seasonally adjusted	Smoothed seasonally adjusted
1985-86—									
December	40,545	41,362	41,685	10,023	11,550	11,838	50,568	52,912	53,523
January	33,674	38,496	39,787	9,807	11,267	11,336	43,481	49,763	51,126
February	31,507	35,121	37,865	9,752	10,575	10,761	41,259	45,696	48,626
March	34,320	35,431	36,350	9,763	10,044	10,306	44,083	45,475	46,556
April	40,369	39,495	35,495	11,586	10,145	10,092	51,955	49,640	45,587
May	36,285	33,764	35,114	11,069	10,170	10,061	47,354	43,934	45,176
June	34,507	33,923	34,868	10,291	9,462	10,091	44,798	43,385	44,958
1986-87—									
July	36,956	33,633	34,348	11,831	10,184	10,008	48,787	43,817	44,356
August	37,400	35,840	r33,622	10,719	10,665	r9,732	48,119	46,505	r43,354
September	33,173	33,111	r32,872	8,964	9,516	r9,234	42,137	42,627	r42,105
October	32,417	31,831	r32,269	8,093	8,078	r8,599	40,510	39,909	r40,868
November	28,723	30,470	r31,729	6,842	7,777	r7,949	35,565	38,247	r39,678
December	31,547	30,470	r31,334	6,545	7,060	r7,374	38,092	37,530	r38,708
January(b) r	27,566	32,646	31,126	5,773	6,999	6,906	33,339	39,645	38,032
February p	28,100	31,364	30,985	6,259	6,792	6,550	34,359	38,156	37,534

(a) Excludes motor cycles, tractors, plant and equipment, caravans and trailers. (b) See Note on page 1.

TABLE 2. NEW MOTOR VEHICLES, BY TYPE : AUSTRALIA

	Motor cars and station wagons		Panel vans	Trucks		Other truck type vehicles(a)	Buses	Total (excludes motor cycles)	Motor cycles
	Utilities			Rigid	Articulated				
1985-86—									
December	40,545	3,471	2,440	2,727	293	202	890	50,568	2,893
January	33,674	3,455	2,279	2,770	307	199	799	43,481	2,980
February	31,507	3,446	2,433	2,715	238	121	799	41,259	2,958
March	34,320	3,392	2,701	2,533	259	142	736	44,083	2,750
April	40,369	3,922	2,869	3,338	297	203	957	51,955	3,029
May	36,285	3,669	2,919	3,231	322	195	733	47,354	2,253
June	34,507	3,660	2,349	3,094	341	165	682	44,798	2,104
1986-87—									
July	36,956	4,124	2,930	3,459	327	169	822	48,787	2,234
August	37,400	3,714	2,388	3,378	297	171	771	48,119	2,320
September	33,173	3,236	1,917	2,764	264	168	615	42,137	2,277
October	32,417	2,900	1,667	2,504	288	146	588	40,510	2,300
November	28,723	2,360	1,428	2,130	250	202	472	35,565	2,085
December	31,547	2,306	1,265	1,984	263	171	556	38,092	2,048
January(b)	r27,566	2,015	1,154	1,919	171	114	400	r33,339	1,723
February p	28,100	2,134	1,568	1,866	163	96	432	34,359	2,100

(a) Non-freight carrying vehicles. (b) See Note on page 1.

TABLE 3. NEW MOTOR VEHICLES(a)

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia
1985-86—									
December	18,004	11,925	8,197	3,986	4,998	2,180	455	823	50,568
January	15,156	12,182	6,578	3,319	3,897	1,027	520	802	43,481
February	13,056	11,622	6,778	3,658	3,892	1,056	440	757	41,259
March	16,092	10,710	7,347	3,425	4,237	1,127	452	693	44,083
April	18,937	14,982	7,358	3,927	4,162	1,078	525	986	51,955
May	17,277	11,466	7,535	3,760	4,629	1,255	586	846	47,354
June	14,523	13,407	7,150	3,479	3,805	1,093	565	776	44,798
1986-87—									
July	18,529	12,603	7,245	3,453	4,344	1,112	592	909	48,787
August	17,040	13,076	7,338	3,703	4,264	1,236	511	951	48,119
September	15,998	10,682	5,937	3,485	3,802	1,071	391	771	42,137
October	13,398	11,916	5,671	3,299	4,044	1,059	430	693	40,510
November	12,338	10,135	4,960	2,887	3,473	738	323	711	35,565
December	13,482	8,304	6,363	3,107	3,831	1,980	277	748	38,092
January(b)	10,360	10,990	4,894	2,516	3,305	735	269	470	r33,339
February p	11,641	9,430	5,432	2,840	3,287	766	374	589	34,359

(a) Excludes motor cycles, tractors, plant and equipment, caravans and trailers. (b) See Note on page 1.