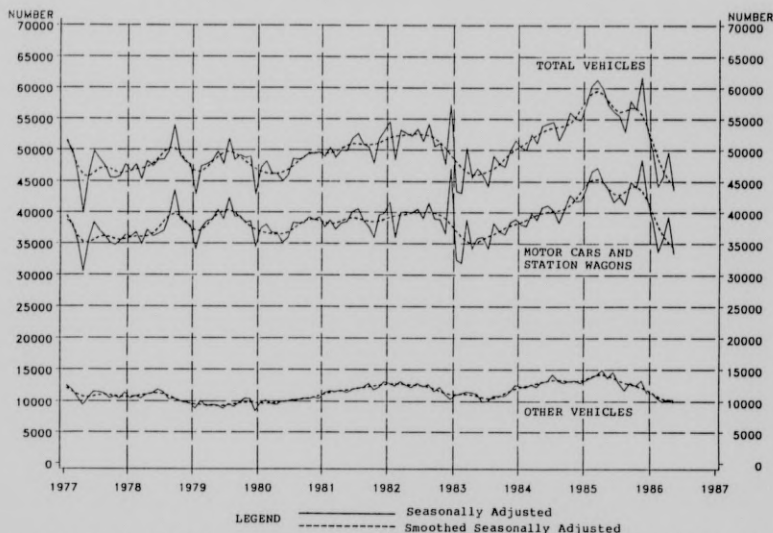


REGISTRATIONS OF NEW MOTOR VEHICLES, AUSTRALIA
MAY 1986, PRELIMINARY

- PHONE INQUIRIES • *about these statistics*—contact Mark Patton on Canberra (062) 52 6243 or any ABS State office.
• *about other statistics and ABS services*—contact Information Services on Canberra (062) 52 6627 or any ABS State office.
- MAIL INQUIRIES • write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616 or any ABS State office.
- ON VIATEL • key *656# for selected economic, social and demographic statistics on VIATEL.

MAIN FEATURES

REGISTRATIONS OF NEW MOTOR VEHICLES



Registrations of new motor vehicles (excluding motor cycles, tractors, plant and equipment etc.), during May 1986 (47,354), fell 8.9% when compared with April 1986 (51,955) and fell 26.6% when compared with May 1985 (64,554). Seasonally adjusted, the May 1986 figure (43,728) is 11.8% lower than April 1986 (49,589) and 23.8% lower than May 1985 (57,353).

As these series contain irregular influences that can be highly volatile, short-term movements cannot be assumed to indicate changes in the underlying trend. Because of this volatility, a smoothed seasonally adjusted series is also published to provide users with a clearer picture of underlying trends.

Despite the significant decrease in May 1986 vehicle registrations, the increases in March and especially April continue to moderate the decline shown by the smoothed seasonally adjusted series. The smoothed series is currently at a level about 24 per cent lower than in May 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 below.

Scope and coverage

2. 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 processed 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, 1984-85 (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.

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)		Smoothed Seasonally adjusted
	Original	Seasonally adjusted	Original	Seasonally adjusted	Original	Seasonally adjusted	
1984-85—							
March	48,787	47,164	15,648	14,155	64,435	61,319	59,514
April	42,027	45,028	14,549	14,967	56,576	59,995	59,092
May	48,970	43,696	15,584	13,657	64,554	57,353	57,957
June	42,086	41,641	15,575	14,599	57,661	56,240	56,730
1985-86—							
July	46,881	42,562	14,792	12,931	61,673	55,493	56,097
August	44,057	41,240	12,137	11,718	56,194	52,958	56,303
September	42,648	44,932	11,899	12,975	54,547	57,907	56,817
October	45,172	44,000	12,427	12,460	57,599	56,460	56,742
November	46,523	48,380	12,180	13,302	58,703	61,682	55,655
December	40,545	41,971	10,023	11,323	50,568	53,294	53,578
January	33,674	38,454	9,807	11,284	43,481	49,738	50,988
February	31,507	33,751	9,752	10,496	41,259	44,247	48,522
March	34,320	35,799	9,763	9,937	44,083	45,736	46,638
April r	40,369	39,282	11,586	10,307	51,955	49,589	45,301
May p	36,285	33,490	11,069	10,238	47,354	43,728	44,217

(a) Excludes motor cycles, tractors, plant and equipment, caravans and trailers.

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				
1984-85—									
March	48,787	5,298	4,422	4,192	336	172	1,228	64,435	4,479
April	42,027	4,694	4,020	4,014	362	172	1,287	56,576	3,897
May	48,970	5,307	4,006	4,656	384	176	1,055	64,554	3,511
June	42,086	5,451	3,980	4,520	382	162	1,080	57,661	2,949
1985-86—									
July	46,881	4,926	3,429	4,701	413	190	1,133	61,673	3,390
August	44,057	4,220	2,832	3,450	354	199	1,082	56,194	3,128
September	42,648	4,065	2,814	3,514	367	166	973	54,547	3,007
October	45,172	4,138	2,915	3,654	447	204	1,069	57,599	3,924
November	46,523	4,135	3,158	3,306	391	173	1,017	58,703	3,490
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	797	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 r	40,369	3,922	2,869	3,338	297	203	957	51,955	3,029
May p	36,285	3,669	2,918	3,232	322	195	733	47,354	2,253

(a) Non-freight carrying vehicles.

TABLE 3. NEW MOTOR VEHICLES(a)

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia
1984-85—									
March	21,483	17,502	10,591	5,364	6,115	1,554	734	1,092	64,435
April	19,649	14,391	9,506	4,498	5,293	1,494	718	1,027	56,576
May	21,611	16,847	10,895	5,290	6,402	1,637	865	1,007	64,554
June	20,109	13,588	9,941	5,038	5,721	1,510	679	1,075	57,661
1985-86—									
July	22,635	15,475	9,975	5,215	5,387	1,364	682	940	61,673
August	20,067	13,751	9,165	4,659	5,297	1,676	612	967	56,194
September	18,876	14,039	8,784	4,716	5,050	1,440	611	1,031	54,547
October	19,517	15,766	8,990	5,045	5,210	1,535	603	933	57,599
November	21,647	13,236	9,178	5,271	5,757	1,949	634	1,031	58,703
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	114,982	7,558	3,927	4,162	1,078	525	986	51,955
May p	17,277	11,466	7,535	3,760	4,629	1,255	586	846	47,354

(a) Excludes motor cycles, tractors, plant and equipment, caravans and trailers.