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## REGISTRATIONS OF NEW MOTOR VEHICLES, AUSTRALIA MARCH 1991, PRELIMINARY

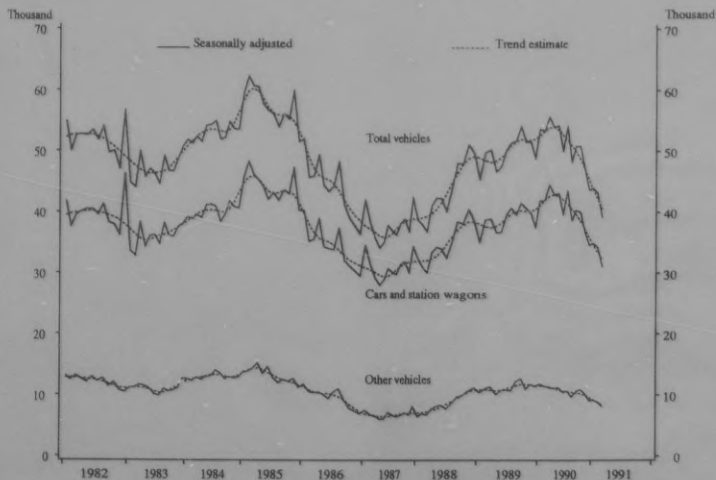
*NOTE: Caution needs to be exercised when interpreting month to month movements in the original and seasonally adjusted statistics of new motor vehicle registrations. The series are affected by variations in the rate of processing of records particularly in the Victorian State registrations system.*

### MAIN FEATURES

The original, seasonally adjusted and trend estimates of total motor vehicle registrations for March 1990, February and March 1991 (See Note above) are:

|                     | March 1990 | February 1991 | March 1991 p | Mar. 90-Mar. 91<br>% change | Feb. 91-Mar. 91<br>% change |
|---------------------|------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Original            | 62,172     | 39,405        | 39,880       | -35.9                       | +1.2                        |
| Seasonally adjusted | 55,656     | 43,113        | 39,077       | -29.8                       | -9.4                        |
| Trend               | 53,900     | 42,093        | 40,568       | -24.7                       | -3.6                        |

### REGISTRATIONS OF NEW MOTOR VEHICLES



### INQUIRIES

- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Kevin Yeadon on Canberra (06) 252 6255 or any ABS State office.
- for information about other ABS statistics and services please see Electronic Services in the Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 1. NEW MOTOR VEHICLES BY TYPE OF VEHICLE,  
ORIGINAL, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED AND TREND ESTIMATE : AUSTRALIA

|           | Motor cars and station wagons |                     |                | Other vehicles(a) |                     |                | Total(a) |                     |                |
|-----------|-------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------|---------------------|----------------|
|           | Original                      | Seasonally adjusted | Trend estimate | Original          | Seasonally adjusted | Trend estimate | Original | Seasonally adjusted | Trend estimate |
| 1989-90—  |                               |                     |                |                   |                     |                |          |                     |                |
| January   | 34,718                        | 41,888              | 41,128         | 9,494             | 11,738              | 11,462         | 44,212   | 53,625              | 52,591         |
| February  | 37,665                        | 41,908              | 41,958         | 10,548            | 11,417              | 11,380         | 48,213   | 53,325              | 53,336         |
| March     | 49,754                        | 44,475              | 42,622         | 12,418            | 11,181              | 11,278         | 62,172   | 55,656              | 53,900         |
| April     | 37,385                        | 42,869              | 42,865         | 9,899             | 11,034              | 11,078         | 47,284   | 53,902              | 53,944         |
| May       | 47,477                        | 43,062              | 42,614         | 12,876            | 11,176              | 10,819         | 60,353   | 54,238              | 53,433         |
| June      | 40,858                        | 39,629              | 42,035         | 11,605            | 10,404              | 10,616         | 52,463   | 50,034              | 52,651         |
| 1990-91—  |                               |                     |                |                   |                     |                |          |                     |                |
| July      | 44,633                        | 43,476              | 41,295         | 11,230            | 10,596              | 10,485         | 55,863   | 54,072              | 51,781         |
| August    | 40,633                        | 38,603              | 40,488         | 10,048            | 9,583               | 10,407         | 50,681   | 48,185              | 50,894         |
| September | 40,401                        | 40,282              | 39,572         | 9,860             | 10,515              | 10,329         | 50,261   | 50,797              | 49,901         |
| October   | 41,902                        | 39,953              | 38,487         | 11,643            | 10,898              | 10,187         | 53,545   | 50,851              | 48,673         |
| November  | 37,246                        | 36,701              | 37,193         | 10,238            | 10,222              | 9,936          | 47,484   | 46,922              | 47,130         |
| December  | 34,270                        | 34,556              | 35,802         | 7,934             | 9,072               | 9,575          | 42,204   | 43,629              | 45,378         |
| January   | 29,020                        | 34,808              | 34,476         | 7,324             | 9,136               | 9,164          | 36,344   | 43,944              | 43,640         |
| February  | 31,147                        | 34,223              | 33,316         | 8,258             | 8,890               | 8,777          | 39,405   | 43,113              | 42,093         |
| March p   | 31,769                        | 30,994              | 32,186         | 8,111             | 8,083               | 8,382          | 39,880   | 39,077              | 40,568         |

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

TABLE 2. NEW MOTOR VEHICLES BY TYPE OF VEHICLE : AUSTRALIA

|           | Motor cars and station wagons |            |       | Truck       |                      |       | Total (excludes motor cycles) | Motor cycle |
|-----------|-------------------------------|------------|-------|-------------|----------------------|-------|-------------------------------|-------------|
|           | Utilities                     | Panel vans | Rigid | Articulated | Non-freight carrying | Buses |                               |             |
| 1989-90—  |                               |            |       |             |                      |       |                               |             |
| January   | 3,612                         | 2,351      | 2,601 | 248         | 123                  | 559   | 44,212                        | 1,726       |
| February  | 3,982                         | 2,554      | 3,155 | 250         | 97                   | 510   | 48,213                        | 1,793       |
| March     | 4,313                         | 3,164      | 3,795 | 367         | 161                  | 618   | 62,172                        | 1,846       |
| April     | 3,616                         | 2,307      | 3,012 | 368         | 114                  | 482   | 47,284                        | 1,722       |
| May       | 4,767                         | 3,165      | 3,803 | 361         | 170                  | 610   | 60,353                        | 1,821       |
| June      | 4,225                         | 2,935      | 3,380 | 353         | 187                  | 525   | 52,463                        | 1,586       |
| 1990-91—  |                               |            |       |             |                      |       |                               |             |
| July      | 3,926                         | 2,872      | 3,395 | 288         | 192                  | 557   | 55,863                        | 1,407       |
| August    | 3,556                         | 2,662      | 2,890 | 214         | 165                  | 561   | 50,681                        | 1,588       |
| September | 3,770                         | 2,575      | 2,675 | 226         | 136                  | 478   | 50,261                        | 1,627       |
| October   | 4,523                         | 2,762      | 3,328 | 230         | 192                  | 608   | 53,545                        | 2,069       |
| November  | 4,088                         | 2,652      | 2,582 | 206         | 166                  | 544   | 47,484                        | 2,106       |
| December  | 2,974                         | 2,318      | 1,865 | 161         | 139                  | 477   | 42,204                        | 1,649       |
| January   | 2,861                         | 1,940      | 1,813 | 119         | 135                  | 456   | 36,344                        | 1,717       |
| February  | 3,159                         | 2,320      | 2,090 | 139         | 92                   | 458   | 39,405                        | 1,800       |
| March p   | 3,116                         | 2,280      | 1,980 | 123         | 106                  | 506   | 39,880                        | 1,703       |

TABLE 3. NEW MOTOR VEHICLES(a), ORIGINAL, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED AND TREND ESTIMATE:  
STATE / TERRITORY

|           | NSW      |                     |                | Vic.     |                     |                | Qld      |                     |                |
|-----------|----------|---------------------|----------------|----------|---------------------|----------------|----------|---------------------|----------------|
|           | Original | Seasonally adjusted | Trend estimate | Original | Seasonally adjusted | Trend estimate | Original | Seasonally adjusted | Trend estimate |
| 1989-90—  |          |                     |                |          |                     |                |          |                     |                |
| January   | 18,218   | 22,148              | 19,201         | 8,440    | 10,633              | 13,491         | 8,003    | 9,484               | 8,725          |
| February  | 17,288   | 18,852              | 19,169         | 12,051   | 13,856              | 14,115         | 8,257    | 9,002               | 8,767          |
| March     | 21,025   | 19,173              | 19,094         | 19,521   | 16,640              | 14,668         | 9,401    | 8,589               | 8,817          |
| April     | 14,715   | 16,850              | 18,916         | 14,863   | 16,307              | 14,886         | 7,433    | 8,682               | 8,894          |
| May       | 23,404   | 20,274              | 18,687         | 15,066   | 14,413              | 14,639         | 10,455   | 9,058               | 9,003          |
| June      | 20,071   | 18,669              | 18,392         | 12,378   | 12,443              | 14,119         | 8,919    | 8,369               | 9,087          |
| 1990-91—  |          |                     |                |          |                     |                |          |                     |                |
| July      | 19,266   | 18,672              | 18,376         | 15,627   | 14,227              | 13,418         | 10,613   | 10,577              | 9,147          |
| August    | 17,614   | 16,914              | 18,330         | 12,055   | 11,606              | 12,661         | 9,987    | 8,401               | 9,146          |
| September | 18,093   | 18,230              | 18,192         | 12,701   | 12,582              | 12,051         | 8,747    | 9,120               | 9,015          |
| October   | 19,580   | 18,804              | 17,972         | 13,310   | 12,610              | 11,469         | 9,614    | 8,978               | 8,777          |
| November  | 18,398   | 18,350              | 17,672         | 10,543   | 10,337              | 10,777         | 8,014    | 8,259               | 8,500          |
| December  | 15,364   | 16,314              | 17,270         | 8,880    | 8,995               | 10,004         | 8,180    | 8,389               | 8,217          |
| January   | 14,124   | 17,209              | 16,766         | 7,460    | 9,376               | 9,264          | 6,767    | 7,935               | 8,020          |
| February  | 14,794   | 16,136              | 16,272         | 8,950    | 9,872               | 8,612          | 7,012    | 7,637               | 7,856          |
| March p   | 15,218   | 15,293              | 15,743         | 7,367    | 6,845               | 7,969          | 8,035    | 7,817               | 7,669          |

TABLE 3. NEW MOTOR VEHICLES (a), ORIGINAL, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED AND TREND ESTIMATE: STATE / TERRITORY — continued

|           | SA       |                     |                | WA       |                     |                | Tas.(b)   |                |
|-----------|----------|---------------------|----------------|----------|---------------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|
|           | Original | Seasonally adjusted | Trend estimate | Original | Seasonally adjusted | Trend estimate | Original  | Trend estimate |
| 1989-90—  |          |                     |                |          |                     |                |           |                |
| January   | 2,924    | 3,677               | 3,683          | 4,609    | 5,187               | 4,863          | 961       | 1,215          |
| February  | 3,769    | 4,008               | 3,771          | 4,536    | 4,938               | 4,882          | 1,105     | 1,259          |
| March     | 4,025    | 3,631               | 3,835          | 5,291    | 4,806               | 4,826          | 1,317     | 1,281          |
| April     | 3,720    | 4,343               | 3,857          | 4,262    | 4,918               | 4,706          | 1,022     | 1,283          |
| May       | 3,793    | 3,533               | 3,860          | 4,888    | 4,457               | 4,558          | 1,271     | 1,269          |
| June      | 3,845    | 3,700               | 3,872          | 4,524    | 4,204               | 4,422          | 1,166     | 1,243          |
| 1990-91—  |          |                     |                |          |                     |                |           |                |
| July      | 3,706    | 3,799               | 3,888          | 4,037    | 4,185               | 4,326          | 1,126     | 1,217          |
| August    | 4,323    | 4,079               | 3,897          | 4,877    | 4,473               | 4,263          | 1,245     | 1,196          |
| September | 4,110    | 4,059               | 3,874          | 4,035    | 4,303               | 4,203          | 1,270     | 1,171          |
| October   | 4,068    | 3,883               | 3,796          | 4,385    | 4,092               | 4,137          | 1,135     | 1,138          |
| November  | 3,776    | 3,398               | 3,666          | 4,186    | 4,092               | 4,058          | 1,121     | 1,098          |
| December  | 3,377    | 3,521               | 3,512          | 3,712    | 3,889               | 3,972          | 1,660     | 1,060          |
| January   | 2,804    | 3,497               | 3,374          | 3,438    | 3,778               | 3,904          | 767       | (c)            |
| February  | 2,992    | 3,181               | 3,254          | 3,677    | 4,006               | 3,852          | 836       | (c)            |
| March p   | 3,232    | 3,134               | 3,160          | 3,899    | 3,823               | 3,828          | 948       | (c)            |
|           | NT(b)    |                     |                | ACT(b)   |                     |                | Australia |                |
|           | Original | Trend estimate      |                | Original | Trend estimate      |                | Original  | Trend estimate |
| 1989-90—  |          |                     |                |          |                     |                |           |                |
| January   | 367      | 459                 | 690            | 951      | 44,212              | 53,625         | 52,591    |                |
| February  | 434      | 455                 | 773            | 920      | 48,213              | 53,325         | 53,338    |                |
| March     | 518      | 459                 | 1,074          | 921      | 62,172              | 55,656         | 53,900    |                |
| April     | 408      | 465                 | 861            | 935      | 47,284              | 53,902         | 53,944    |                |
| May       | 508      | 473                 | 969            | 943      | 60,353              | 54,238         | 53,433    |                |
| June      | 538      | 479                 | 1,022          | 937      | 52,463              | 50,034         | 52,651    |                |
| 1990-91—  |          |                     |                |          |                     |                |           |                |
| July      | 529      | 482                 | 959            | 926      | 55,863              | 54,072         | 51,781    |                |
| August    | 559      | 480                 | 1,021          | 920      | 50,681              | 48,185         | 50,894    |                |
| September | 445      | 470                 | 860            | 925      | 50,261              | 50,797         | 49,901    |                |
| October   | 485      | 449                 | 968            | 935      | 53,545              | 50,851         | 48,673    |                |
| November  | 403      | 421                 | 1,043          | 937      | 47,484              | 46,922         | 47,130    |                |
| December  | 322      | 392                 | 909            | 931      | 42,204              | 43,629         | 45,378    |                |
| January   | 292      | (c)                 | 692            | (c)      | 36,344              | 43,944         | 43,640    |                |
| February  | 283      | (c)                 | 861            | (c)      | 39,405              | 43,113         | 42,093    |                |
| March p   | 366      | (c)                 | 815            | (c)      | 39,880              | 39,077         | 40,568    |                |

(a) Excludes motor cycles, tractors, plant and equipment, caravans and trailers. (b) See paragraph 6 of the Explanatory Notes. (c) Trend estimates for this series for the most recent months are subject to significant revision and are not considered sufficiently reliable to release separately.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

## Introduction

This publication contains preliminary information regarding registrations of new motor vehicles and includes particulars of motor cars and station wagons, utilities, panel vans, buses, rigid and articulated trucks, other truck type vehicles and motor cycles.

## 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 Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania, Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory the figures shown

depart little from actual registrations during the period. In New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland 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. Because of these 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.

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 Tables 1 and 3. Seasonally adjusted series are calculated for each State and Territory for the series "Motor cars and station wagons", "Other vehicles" and "Total vehicles", but those series for Tasmania, Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory are not sufficiently reliable to be released in their own right, though they are included in the Australian aggregate. The component State/Territory "Motor cars and station wagons" and "Other vehicles" seasonally adjusted figures are summed to derive the Australian figures and the two resultant figures are summed to obtain Australian seasonally adjusted "Total vehicles".

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, processing delays, or 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. This smoothed seasonally adjusted series is called a trend estimate. The trend estimates of motor vehicle registration statistics for Australia are shown in Tables 1 and 3 and have been derived by applying a 13-term Henderson-weighted moving average to the seasonally adjusted series.

10. While this technique enables trend estimates for the latest period to be produced, it does result in revisions to the trend estimate 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. Users may wish to refer to the ABS Information Papers, *A Guide to Smoothing Time Series — Estimates of "Trend"* (1316.0) and *Time Series Decomposition — An Overview* (1317.0) for more detailed information on smoothing of seasonally adjusted time series data.

#### Related publications

11. 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, 1988-89* (9304.0)

12. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products, 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.

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