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REGISTRATIONS OF NEW MOTOR VEHICLES : SEPTEMBER 1978 (PRELIMINARY)

INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics ring Mr R. Martyn on Canberra 526068 or our State office or, write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616
For copies of this publication contact Information Services, Canberra 526627 or State offices.

MAIN FEATURES

- On an original basis, registrations of new motor vehicles (excluding motor cycles, tractors, plant and equipment etc.) during September 1978 (51,456) fell 7.1% when compared to August 1978 but are 15.1% higher than September 1977.
- Seasonally adjusted, the September 1978 figure (53,855) rose 6.2% from August 1978, and is the highest since December 1976 (59,157).

EXPLANATORY NOTES

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 1 below.

Introduction

In these statistics, 'registrations' mean registrations processed by the motor vehicle registration authorities in the States and Territories during the period. In Victoria, Queensland 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. In other States and the Australian Capital Territory, the figures depart little from actual registrations during the period. A table showing a monthly series of actual and processed registrations has been included in the quarterly bulletin *Motor Vehicle Registrations* (9303.0).

2. The quarterly bulletin *Motor Vehicle Registrations* (9303.0) shows quarterly statistics of new motor vehicle registrations by make for cars and station wagons, by make and tare for utilities and panel vans, and by make and gross vehicle mass/gross combination mass for rigid and articulated trucks.

Seasonal adjustment

3. 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. Details of the methods used in seasonally adjusting the component series are shown in *Seasonally Adjusted Indicators*, 1978 (1308.0).

Classification of vehicles

4. From July 1976, a revised motor vehicle classification has been used for new motor vehicle registration statistics. This was also used in the 30 September 1976 Motor Vehicle Census. This classification, which replaced that introduced from 1 January 1972, has as its main features:

- adoption of the principle of accepting vehicle-type data as recorded by the registration authority;
 - allocation of commercial vehicles to the categories 'utilities', 'panel vans', or 'rigid trucks' solely on the basis of recorded body-type; under the previous classification system, these commercial vehicles were classified as 'light commercial type' (if having less than 1 tonne carrying capacity) or as 'rigid' (if having a carrying capacity of 1 tonne or more), the light commercial type being then further sub-divided into "open" or "closed";
 - the inclusion in 'other truck types' of ambulances and hearses (previously classified as 'light commercial, closed') and motorised caravans (but see paragraph 5 below).
5. A change in the registration system in Queensland has meant that, from October 1976, all commercial vehicles and motorised caravans registered with a gross vehicle mass of 4 tonnes or less are recorded as either utilities or panel vans. Thus from October, figures for utilities, panel vans, trucks and other truck types are not comparable with those for earlier periods.

6. Legislation to provide for the compulsory registration of recreation vehicles (e.g. trailbikes, minibikes, sand dune buggies) intended for use in public places came into force in Victoria on 17 September 1973 and in Queensland on 1 January 1977. Particulars of these registrations are regarded as outside the scope of new motor vehicle registration statistics and are accordingly excluded from statistics contained in this statement.

7. Particulars of registrations of new tractors, plant and equipment, and caravans and trailers are shown in Table 5. Many tractors (particularly the agricultural types) and items of plant and equipment are not registered, and therefore are not included in this table. The extent to which they are included varies from State to State.

8. The figures in this statement include vehicles with diplomatic and consular plates and Government-owned new vehicles other than those belonging to the defence services.

Classification by area

9. In all States, 'capital city' registrations refer to vehicles for which the address of the registered owner is located within the capital city statistical division. These statistical divisions are re-defined from time to time, usually as the result of information available from periodic censuses of population and housing.

Related publications

(a) Users may also wish to refer to the following motor vehicle registration publications which are available on request:

Motor Vehicle Registrations — (9303.0) (quarterly)

Motor Vehicle Registrations — (9304.0) (annual)

(b) Other ABS publications which may be of interest include:

Production Bulletin No. 7: Motor Vehicles, Parts and Accessories — (8361.0) (monthly).

Imports of Assembled New Passenger Motor Cars, Australia (Preliminary) — (5416.0) (monthly)

All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publications 1978* (1101.0) which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

- p preliminary — Figure or series subject to revision
 r revised — Figure or series revised since previous issue
 .. not applicable
 — break in continuity of series (where drawn across a column between two consecutive figures)
 — nil or less than half the final digit shown

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 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	Original	Seasonally adjusted	Original	Seasonally adjusted
	1977-78 —					
August	40,057	37,097	11,899	10,837	51,956	47,934
September	34,516	35,112	10,189	10,367	44,705	45,479
October	33,975	33,716	10,536	10,439	44,511	44,155
November	36,450	35,408	10,566	10,172	47,016	45,580
December	35,177	36,530	10,295	10,872	45,472	47,402
January	30,126	35,951	8,406	10,402	38,532	46,353
February	33,615	36,862	9,767	11,166	43,382	48,028
March	34,880	34,091	10,251	10,699	45,131	44,790
April	37,108	37,830	11,223	11,109	48,331	48,939
May	40,279	35,603	12,808	11,135	53,087	46,738
June	38,133	36,889	13,364	12,455	51,497	49,344
1978-79 —						
July	38,175	37,444	12,194	11,546	50,369	48,990
August r	44,459	40,620	10,948	10,087	55,407	50,707
September p	41,604	43,623	9,852	10,232	51,456	53,855

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

TABLE 2. NEW MOTOR VEHICLES, BY TYPE: AUSTRALIA

Year —	Motor cars	Station wagons	Utilities	Panel vans	Trucks		Other truck type vehicles	Buses	Total (excludes motor cycles)	Motor cycles
					Rigid	Articulated				
1974-75	433,244	69,476	45,151	36,647	32,675	3,545	409	3,040	624,187	67,563
1975-76	380,713	73,924	43,500	38,296	39,574	4,139	474	3,743	584,363	60,017
1976-77	365,624	81,478	48,420	39,532	36,051	4,752	2,749	3,205	581,811	50,321
1977-78	359,472	72,967	45,946	40,312	35,034	4,000	2,474	3,712	563,917	43,049
1977-78 —										
August	32,849	7,208	4,256	3,760	2,978	375	215	315	51,956	4,467
September	28,410	6,106	3,361	3,369	2,607	326	213	313	44,705	3,367
October	28,617	5,358	3,675	3,392	2,702	309	192	266	44,511	3,768
November	30,331	6,119	3,752	3,159	2,765	352	250	288	47,016	4,309
December	29,424	5,753	3,723	2,977	2,693	281	301	320	45,472	3,102
January	25,202	4,924	3,088	2,462	2,190	265	144	257	38,532	2,821
February	28,143	5,472	3,575	2,899	2,471	294	165	363	43,382	3,028
March	29,365	5,515	3,655	3,102	2,681	318	171	324	45,131	2,970
April	31,000	6,108	3,839	3,500	3,061	318	198	307	48,331	3,135
May	33,568	6,711	4,287	4,042	3,554	361	230	334	53,087	3,242
June	31,570	6,563	4,288	3,866	4,239	425	200	346	51,497	2,601
1978-79 —										
July	31,590	6,585	3,987	3,160	3,695	508	201	343	50,369	2,776
August r	36,969	7,490	3,623	3,199	3,179	443	229	275	55,407	3,153
September p	34,530	7,074	3,216	3,011	2,857	354	155	259	51,456	2,957

TABLE 3. NEW MOTOR VEHICLES (a)

Year —	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1974-75	228,668	159,236	82,616	62,424	55,167	20,077	4,628	11,371	624,187
1975-76	198,015	147,159	89,740	58,406	56,201	18,381	5,832	10,629	584,363
1976-77	195,417	146,345	88,656	56,168	61,725	18,781	4,705	10,014	581,811
1977-78	197,527	143,616	83,949	49,164	57,528	18,054	4,918	9,161	563,917
1977-78 —									
August	18,039	13,143	7,703	4,606	5,477	1,704	399	885	51,956
September	15,959	11,156	5,641	4,373	5,080	1,385	354	757	44,705
October	14,454	12,132	7,266	3,818	4,195	1,484	563	599	44,511
November	16,232	12,296	6,415	4,328	4,784	1,658	444	859	47,016
December	16,044	10,922	6,561	4,074	4,867	2,117	223	664	45,472
January	12,521	11,080	5,633	3,278	4,005	1,079	254	682	38,532
February	15,183	10,969	6,603	3,846	4,587	1,268	214	712	43,382
March	16,216	10,783	6,665	4,326	4,441	1,454	419	827	45,131
April	17,697	11,663	7,765	4,114	4,478	1,454	490	670	48,331
May	19,700	13,798	7,240	3,903	5,458	1,601	543	844	53,087
June	18,220	12,932	8,034	4,128	5,231	1,381	688	883	51,497
1978-79 —									
July	18,726	12,731	7,907	3,891	4,518	1,336	363	897	50,369
August r	19,864	13,434	8,953	4,732	5,411	1,727	307	979	55,407
September p	18,364	13,283	7,853	4,564	4,652	1,377	477	886	51,456

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

TABLE 4. NEW MOTOR VEHICLES, BY TYPE : STATES, SEPTEMBER 1978 p

Type of vehicle	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia	
									Capital cities (a)	Total
Motor cars	12,241	9,498	5,009	3,174	2,800	958	178	672	23,403	34,530
Station wagons	2,622	1,761	1,004	646	720	157	63	101	4,782	7,074
Utilities	875	561	1,005	237	293	80	130	35	1,450	3,216
Panel vans	1,274	472	499	218	380	89	44	35	1,698	3,011
Trucks -										
rigid	1,094	820	230	203	369	68	45	28	1,506	2,857
articulated	127	84	52	26	35	11	9	10	164	354
Other truck type vehicles	64	28	12	36	9	5	1	-	101	155
Buses	67	59	42	24	46	9	7	5	163	259
Capital cities (a)	11,372	9,855	3,957	3,282	3,412	503	..	886	33,267	33,267
Other areas	6,992	3,428	3,896	1,282	1,240	874	477	18,189
Total (excl. motor cycles)	18,364	13,283	7,853	4,564	4,652	1,377	477	886	33,267	51,456
Motor cycles	1,115	486	666	326	206	67	37	54	1,402	2,957

(a) All registrations in the A.C.T. are included in 'capital cities'; all registrations in the Northern Territory are included in 'other areas'.

TABLE 5. NEW TRACTORS, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT, CARAVANS AND TRAILERS : SEPTEMBER 1978 p

Type of vehicle	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia	
									Capital cities (a)	Total
Tractors	13	146	114	9	30	15	2	1	47	330
Plant and equipment	88	47	25	12	24	14	12	2	105	224
Caravans	460	714	181	310	188	71	6	28	1,237	1,958
Trailers	2,566	1,129	1,824	909	1,094	335	44	89	4,689	7,990
Capital cities (a)	1,874	1,168	1,038	845	912	121	..	120	6,078	6,078
Other areas	1,253	868	1,106	395	424	314	64	4,424
Total	3,127	2,036	2,144	1,240	1,336	435	64	120	6,078	10,502

(a) All registrations in the A.C.T. are included in 'capital cities'; all registrations in the Northern Territory are included in 'other areas'.

TABLE 6. NEW MOTOR VEHICLES, BY TYPE : STATES
THREE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 1978-79p AND 1977-78

Type of Vehicle	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia	
									Capital cities (a)	Total
Motor cars	37,528	26,968	15,388	9,162	8,630	3,003	436	1,974	70,053	103,089
Station wagons	7,975	5,145	3,136	1,649	2,150	557	171	366	14,388	21,149
Utilities	3,105	1,945	3,447	620	977	284	313	135	4,721	10,826
Panel vans	3,992	1,607	1,595	662	1,330	247	96	141	5,847	9,670
Trucks -										
rigid	3,431	3,086	815	745	1,231	244	99	80	5,313	9,731
articulated	415	364	168	174	94	43	14	33	607	1,305
Other truck type vehicles	251	121	48	72	47	35	3	8	360	585
Buses	257	212	116	103	122	27	15	25	546	877
Capital cities (a)	35,665	28,939	12,574	9,574	10,576	1,745	..	2,762	101,835	101,835
Other areas	21,289	10,509	12,139	3,613	4,005	2,695	1,147	55,397
Total (excl. motor cycles) -										
1978-1979p July-September	56,954	39,448	24,713	13,187	14,581	4,440	1,147	2,762	101,835	157,232
1977-1978 July-September	51,260	37,041	21,767	13,349	15,482	4,558	1,080	2,421	94,182	146,958
Motor cycles -										
1978-1979p July-September	3,164	1,584	2,097	923	645	189	147	137	4,028	8,886
1977-1978 July-September	3,247	1,496	2,250	1,494	907	280	171	168	4,678	10,013

(a) All registrations in the A.C.T. are included in 'capital cities'; all registrations in the Northern Territory are included in 'other areas'.