



REGISTRATIONS OF NEW MOTOR VEHICLES : SEPTEMBER 1977  
(PRELIMINARY)

INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics -

- ring Mr Valdis Juskevics, Canberra 526068 or our State office, or
- write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616

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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. Following the introduction of a revised system of processing new vehicle registrations in Victoria, some vehicle registrations effected in April and May 1977 were not processed until June 1977. This has contributed to the high level of new vehicle registrations in Victoria for June 1977. A table showing a monthly series of actual and processed registrations has been included in the quarterly bulletin *Motor Vehicle Registrations* (Catalogue No. 9303.0. Previously Ref. No. 14.2).

2. The quarterly bulletin *Motor Vehicle Registrations* (Catalogue No. 9303.0. Previously Ref. No. 14.2) 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, 1977* (Catalogue No. 1308.0. Previously Ref. No. 1.10).

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 page 2).

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. From 1 January 1976, the capital city statistical division in New

South Wales was expanded and prior figures for that State are not directly comparable. All registrations in the Australian Capital Territory are included under 'capital cities', while those in the Northern Territory are included under 'other areas'.

#### Related Publications

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

*Motor Vehicle Registrations* - Catalogue No. 9303.0. Previously Ref. No. 14.2 (quarterly)

*Motor Vehicle Registrations* - Catalogue No. 9304.0. Previously Ref. No. 14.1 (annual)

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

*Production Bulletin No. 7 Motor Vehicles, Parts and Accessories* - Catalogue No. 8361.0. Previously Ref. No. 12.45 (monthly).

*Imports of Assembled New Passenger Motor Cars, Australia (Preliminary)* - Catalogue No. 5416.0. Previously Ref. No. 8.8 (monthly)

All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publications 1977* (Catalogue No. 1101.0. Previously Ref. No. 1.8) which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

#### Symbols and other usages

p - preliminary

r - revised

.. - nil or not applicable

— - break in continuity of series (where drawn across a column between two consecutive figures)

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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 |
| 1976-77 -   |                               |                     |                    |                     |           |                     |
| August      | 35,549                        | 34,877              | 10,097             | 9,595               | 45,646    | 44,472              |
| September   | 37,836                        | 36,697              | 11,247             | 11,045              | 49,083    | 47,742              |
| October     | 36,988                        | 36,639              | 10,953             | 10,688              | 47,941    | 47,327              |
| November    | 40,278                        | 40,243              | 12,420             | 12,085              | 52,698    | 52,328              |
| December    | 46,165                        | 47,633              | 12,720             | 13,677              | 58,885    | 61,310              |
| January     | 31,627                        | 38,709              | 9,908              | 12,530              | 41,535    | 51,239              |
| February    | 34,513                        | 39,063              | 10,532             | 12,463              | 45,045    | 51,526              |
| March       | 38,453                        | 33,550              | 11,590             | 10,483              | 50,043    | 44,033              |
| April       | 29,303                        | 30,284              | 8,806              | 9,232               | 38,109    | 39,516              |
| May         | 37,645                        | 34,040              | 11,319             | 10,164              | 48,964    | 44,204              |
| June        | 40,514                        | 39,850              | 13,262             | 12,552              | 53,776    | 52,402              |
| 1977-78 -   |                               |                     |                    |                     |           |                     |
| July r      | 38,123                        | 38,250              | 12,174             | 11,583              | 50,297    | 49,833              |
| August r    | 40,056                        | 36,916              | 11,900             | 10,590              | 51,956    | 47,506              |
| September p | 34,559                        | 34,984              | 10,209             | 10,245              | 44,768    | 45,229              |

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

TABLE 2. NEW MOTOR VEHICLES, BY TYPE: AUSTRALIA (a)

|             | Motor cars | Station wagons | Utilities | Panel vans | Trucks rigid | Trucks articulated | Other truck type vehicles | Buses | Total (excludes motor cycles) | Motor cycles |
|-------------|------------|----------------|-----------|------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|-------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Year -      |            |                |           |            |              |                    |                           |       |                               |              |
| 1973-74     | 407,983    | 57,007         | 41,848    | 29,352     | 29,878       | 3,753              | 398                       | 2,465 | 572,684                       | 85,249       |
| 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       |
| 1976-77 -   |            |                |           |            |              |                    |                           |       |                               |              |
| August      | 29,033     | 6,516          | 3,384     | 2,857      | 2,978        | 413                | 209                       | 256   | 45,646                        | 4,264        |
| September   | 30,714     | 7,122          | 3,896     | 3,362      | 3,146        | 330                | 236                       | 277   | 49,083                        | 4,517        |
| October     | 30,313     | 6,675          | 3,997     | 3,221      | 2,856        | 368                | 220                       | 291   | 47,941                        | 4,788        |
| November    | 32,584     | 7,694          | 4,654     | 3,663      | 3,143        | 382                | 276                       | 302   | 52,698                        | 5,817        |
| December    | 38,118     | 8,047          | 4,605     | 3,994      | 3,070        | 367                | 357                       | 327   | 58,885                        | 5,485        |
| January     | 25,920     | 5,707          | 3,696     | 3,011      | 2,413        | 366                | 210                       | 212   | 41,535                        | 4,250        |
| February    | 28,040     | 6,473          | 3,985     | 3,138      | 2,604        | 338                | 212                       | 255   | 45,045                        | 4,026        |
| March       | 31,629     | 6,824          | 4,221     | 3,499      | 3,054        | 352                | 219                       | 245   | 50,043                        | 3,503        |
| April       | 24,101     | 5,202          | 3,274     | 2,514      | 2,374        | 317                | 149                       | 178   | 38,109                        | 3,007        |
| May         | 30,573     | 7,072          | 4,151     | 3,283      | 2,993        | 417                | 211                       | 264   | 48,964                        | 3,264        |
| June        | 33,177     | 7,337          | 4,979     | 3,690      | 3,581        | 508                | 211                       | 293   | 53,776                        | 3,121        |
| 1977-78 -   |            |                |           |            |              |                    |                           |       |                               |              |
| July        | 30,993     | 7,130          | 4,447     | 3,784      | 3,093        | 376                | 195                       | 279   | 50,297                        | 3,239        |
| August r    | 32,848     | 7,208          | 4,256     | 3,759      | 2,979        | 376                | 215                       | 315   | 51,956                        | 3,407        |
| September p | 28,447     | 6,112          | 3,370     | 3,370      | 2,621        | 321                | 214                       | 313   | 44,768                        | 3,363        |

(a) See paragraph 5 of Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 3. NEW MOTOR VEHICLES (a)

|           | N.S.W.  | Vic.    | Qld    | S.A.   | W.A.   | Tas.   | N.T.  | A.C.T. | Aust.   |
|-----------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|---------|
| Year -    |         |         |        |        |        |        |       |        |         |
| 1973-74   | 213,252 | 144,836 | 80,831 | 51,580 | 52,543 | 16,520 | 3,666 | 9,456  | 572,684 |
| 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 |
| 1976-77 - |         |         |        |        |        |        |       |        |         |
| August    | 15,049  | 11,591  | 7,366  | 4,327  | 4,681  | 1,466  | 383   | 783    | 45,646  |
| September | 16,672  | 11,976  | 7,386  | 5,284  | 5,037  | 1,619  | 290   | 819    | 49,083  |
| October   | 15,791  | 12,670  | 6,573  | 4,673  | 5,532  | 1,538  | 354   | 810    | 47,941  |
| November  | 16,313  | 12,730  | 9,365  | 5,071  | 5,722  | 1,735  | 787   | 975    | 52,698  |
| December  | 21,133  | 14,089  | 8,082  | 5,734  | 5,929  | 2,425  | 273   | 1,220  | 58,885  |
| January   | 13,914  | 10,774  | 6,147  | 3,695  | 4,670  | 1,188  | 432   | 715    | 41,535  |
| February  | 15,121  | 11,030  | 7,176  | 4,440  | 4,934  | 1,341  | 244   | 759    | 45,045  |
| March     | 18,603  | 11,847  | 6,921  | 5,020  | 4,793  | 1,663  | 346   | 850    | 50,043  |
| April     | 13,724  | 8,598   | 5,301  | 3,758  | 4,285  | 1,314  | 453   | 676    | 38,109  |
| May       | 16,474  | 12,146  | 7,270  | 4,471  | 5,791  | 1,558  | 411   | 843    | 48,964  |
| June      | 17,102  | 16,060  | 7,821  | 4,778  | 5,423  | 1,521  | 273   | 798    | 53,776  |
| 1977-78 - |         |         |        |        |        |        |       |        |         |
| July      | 17,262  | 12,742  | 8,423  | 4,370  | 4,925  | 1,469  | 327   | 779    | 50,297  |
| August    | 18,039  | 13,143  | 7,703  | 4,606  | 5,477  | 1,704  | 399   | 885    | 51,956  |
| September | 15,959  | 11,156  | 5,641  | 4,352  | 5,145  | 1,380  | 353   | 782    | 44,768  |

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

TABLE 4. NEW MOTOR VEHICLES, BY TYPE : STATES, SEPTEMBER 1977 p

| Type of vehicle            | N.S.W. | Vic.   | Qld (a) | S.A.  | W.A.  | Tas.  | N.T. | A.C.T. | Australia (a)      |        |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|---------|-------|-------|-------|------|--------|--------------------|--------|
|                            |        |        |         |       |       |       |      |        | Capital cities (b) | Total  |
| Motor cars                 | 10,149 | 7,383  | 3,271   | 2,996 | 3,133 | 863   | 138  | 514    | 19,878             | 28,447 |
| Station wagons             | 2,205  | 1,537  | 802     | 544   | 667   | 168   | 68   | 121    | 4,129              | 6,112  |
| Utilities                  | 1,049  | 730    | 776     | 228   | 364   | 101   | 69   | 53     | 1,644              | 3,370  |
| Panel vans                 | 1,318  | 594    | 481     | 269   | 504   | 135   | 26   | 43     | 2,081              | 3,370  |
| Trucks -                   |        |        |         |       |       |       |      |        |                    |        |
| rigid                      | 954    | 705    | 200     | 204   | 385   | 93    | 44   | 36     | 1,457              | 2,621  |
| articulated                | 101    | 73     | 44      | 43    | 35    | 12    | 6    | 7      | 150                | 321    |
| Other truck type vehicles  | 85     | 56     | 14      | 35    | 18    | 5     | ..   | 1      | 153                | 214    |
| Buses                      | 98     | 78     | 53      | 33    | 39    | 3     | 2    | 7      | 182                | 313    |
| Capital cities (b)         | 10,118 | 8,143  | 3,478   | 2,898 | 3,685 | 570   | ..   | 782    | 29,674             | 29,674 |
| Other areas                | 5,841  | 3,013  | 2,163   | 1,454 | 1,460 | 810   | 353  | ..     | ..                 | 15,094 |
| Total (excl. motor cycles) | 15,959 | 11,156 | 5,641   | 4,352 | 5,145 | 1,380 | 353  | 782    | 29,674             | 44,768 |
| Motor cycles               | 1,146  | 463    | 567     | 661   | 308   | 100   | 41   | 77     | 1,595              | 3,363  |

(a) See paragraph 5 of Explanatory Notes. (b) See paragraph 9 of Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 5. NEW TRACTORS, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT, CARAVANS AND TRAILERS : SEPTEMBER 1977 p

| Type of vehicle     | N.S.W. | Vic.  | Qld   | S.A.  | W.A.  | Tas. | N.T. | A.C.T. | Aust.  |
|---------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|--------|--------|
| Tractors            | 30     | 108   | 40    | 9     | 46    | 11   | ..   | 2      | 246    |
| Plant and equipment | 80     | 90    | 51    | 11    | 31    | 15   | 3    | 5      | 286    |
| Caravans            | 523    | 928   | 258   | 389   | 239   | 77   | 18   | 22     | 2,454  |
| Trailers            | 2,769  | 1,305 | 1,278 | 1,110 | 1,189 | 389  | 143  | 173    | 8,356  |
| Capital cities (a)  | 1,888  | 1,432 | 950   | 1,046 | 1,066 | 169  | ..   | 202    | 6,753  |
| Other areas         | 1,514  | 999   | 677   | 473   | 439   | 323  | 164  | ..     | 4,589  |
| Total               | 3,402  | 2,431 | 1,627 | 1,519 | 1,505 | 492  | 164  | 202    | 11,342 |

(a) See paragraph 9 of Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 6. NEW MOTOR VEHICLES, BY TYPE : STATES  
THREE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 1977-78p AND 1976-77

| Type of Vehicle              | N.S.W. | Vic.   | Qld(a) | S.A.   | W.A.   | Tas.  | N.T.  | A.C.T. | Australia (a)      |         |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|--------|--------------------|---------|
|                              |        |        |        |        |        |       |       |        | Capital cities (b) | Total   |
| Motor cars                   | 32,311 | 24,723 | 12,611 | 8,807  | 8,998  | 2,900 | 337   | 1,601  | 62,760             | 92,288  |
| Station wagons               | 7,191  | 5,092  | 3,037  | 1,793  | 2,172  | 574   | 196   | 395    | 13,646             | 20,450  |
| Utilities                    | 3,634  | 2,192  | 3,324  | 781    | 1,292  | 360   | 331   | 159    | 5,197              | 12,073  |
| Panel vans                   | 4,286  | 1,819  | 1,686  | 871    | 1,647  | 361   | 103   | 140    | 6,415              | 10,913  |
| Trucks -                     |        |        |        |        |        |       |       |        |                    |         |
| rigid                        | 3,021  | 2,527  | 760    | 723    | 1,187  | 271   | 91    | 113    | 4,683              | 8,693   |
| articulated                  | 328    | 278    | 151    | 168    | 89     | 33    | 11    | 15     | 468                | 1,073   |
| Other truck type vehicles    | 232    | 166    | 50     | 88     | 60     | 23    | 1     | 4      | 417                | 624     |
| Buses                        | 257    | 244    | 148    | 97     | 102    | 31    | 9     | 19     | 531                | 907     |
| Capital cities (b)           | 31,745 | 26,815 | 11,358 | 8,869  | 11,030 | 1,854 | ..    | 2,446  | 94,117             | 94,117  |
| Other areas                  | 19,515 | 10,226 | 10,409 | 4,459  | 4,517  | 2,699 | 1,079 | ..     | ..                 | 52,904  |
| Total (excl. motor cycles) - |        |        |        |        |        |       |       |        |                    |         |
| 1977-1978p July-Sept.        | 51,260 | 37,041 | 21,767 | 13,328 | 15,547 | 4,553 | 1,079 | 2,446  | 94,117             | 147,021 |
| 1976-1977 July-Sept.         | 47,242 | 36,401 | 24,000 | 14,528 | 14,646 | 4,498 | 1,132 | 2,368  | 91,581             | 144,815 |
| Motor cycles -               |        |        |        |        |        |       |       |        |                    |         |
| 1977-1978p July-Sept.        | 3,247  | 1,496  | 2,250  | 1,479  | 911    | 280   | 171   | 175    | 4,678              | 10,009  |
| 1976-1977 July-Sept.         | 4,500  | 1,672  | 3,602  | 1,475  | 987    | 370   | 253   | 201    | 5,727              | 13,060  |

(a) See paragraph 5 of Explanatory Notes. (b) See paragraph 9 of Explanatory Notes.