



AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

Canberra



CATALOGUE NO. 9301.0

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11.30 A.M. 17 MARCH 1988

REGISTRATIONS OF NEW MOTOR VEHICLES, AUSTRALIA JANUARY 1988, PRELIMINARY

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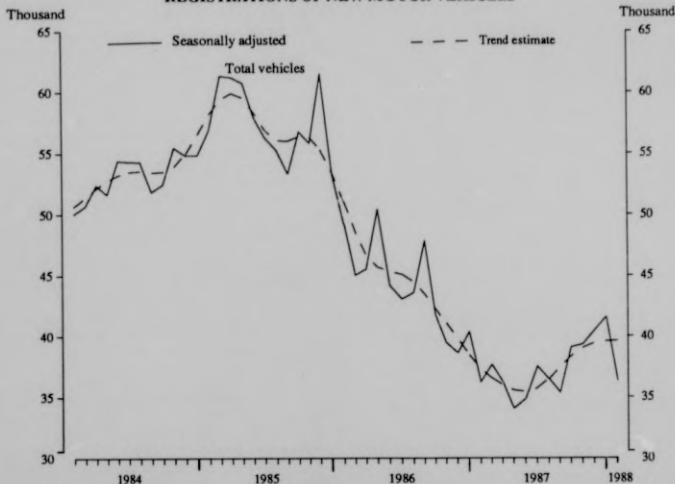
ELECTRONIC SERVICES • on VIATEL — key *656#. • on AUSSTATS — phone (062) 52 6017.
• on TELESTATS — phone (062) 52 5404.

NOTE: Previous issues have carried a cautionary note about an unusually large carryover of registrations in Victoria from December 1986 to January 1987 and from November to December 1987. This abnormal carryover makes it difficult to correctly interpret the month to month movements in the original and seasonally adjusted figures, particularly with the January 1988 figures. To assist users, an amended set of figures has been produced for total vehicles, and is shown on page 3 together with the unamended totals. However, it is not possible, for various reasons, to amend all the figures in Tables 1, 2 and 3, and the statistics in those tables have NOT been amended.

The main features which follow are based on the amended figures shown on page 3.

MAIN FEATURES

REGISTRATIONS OF NEW MOTOR VEHICLES



From September 1985 until May 1987, the trend estimate for total vehicle registrations has fallen continuously, but since May it has risen, more recently at a slowing rate, to a level comparable with November 1986. (The unusually high carryovers mentioned in the note above have little impact on the trend estimates.)

The original and seasonally adjusted estimates of total vehicle registrations in January 1987, December 1987 and January 1988 are:

	Jan. 1987	Dec. 1987	Jan. 1988
Original	30,839	42,051	29,687
Seasonally adjusted	36,211	41,545	36,321

In seasonally adjusted terms, total vehicle registrations in January 1988 were 12.6% lower than in December 1987, but were 0.3% higher than in January 1987.

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 Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania, Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory the figures shown depart little from actual registrations during the period. In New South Wales and Victoria, 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. This smoothed seasonally adjusted series is called a trend estimate. There are a number of ways of accomplishing this, depending on the intended uses of the trend estimate. 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 trend estimate, 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, the trend estimate of motor vehicle registration statistics are shown in Table 1. The trend estimate (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 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. Details of other trend-cycle weighting patterns can be found in Appendix A of *A Guide to Smoothing Time Series — Estimates of "Trend"* (1316.0).

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, 1986-87 (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

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.

For further information phone the AUSSTATS Help Desk on (062) 52 6017.

TELESTATS. This service provides foreign trade statistics tailored to users' requirements.

Further information is available on (062) 52 5404.

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NEW MOTOR VEHICLES, MONTHLY TOTALS, AUSTRALIA
AMENDED FOR UNUSUALLY LARGE CARRYOVERS (a)

	Unamended			Amended		
	Original	Seasonally adjusted	Trend estimate	Original	Seasonally adjusted	Trend estimate
1986-87 —						
November	35,565	38,598	39,678	35,565	38,598	39,778
December	38,091	37,865	38,472	40,591	40,350	38,439
January	33,339	39,147	37,487	30,839	36,211	37,315
February	34,464	37,619	36,801	34,464	37,619	36,538
March	39,327	36,222	36,243	39,327	36,222	35,973
April	32,015	34,038	35,732	32,015	34,038	35,540
May	35,773	34,838	35,553	35,773	34,838	35,432
June	40,674	37,483	35,706	40,674	37,483	35,713
1987-88 —						
July	40,335	36,455	36,319	40,335	36,455	36,444
August	35,308	35,339	37,223	35,308	35,339	37,399
September	40,672	39,079	38,097	40,672	39,079	38,332
October	38,947	39,282	38,788	38,947	39,282	39,002
November	35,417	37,769	39,308	37,917	40,435	39,572
December	44,551	44,015	39,617	42,051	41,545	39,572
January p	29,687	36,321	39,824	29,687	36,321	39,602

(a) Further investigation has revealed that the estimated excess carryovers from December 1986 to January 1987 and from November to December 1987 were 2,500, not 3,000 as reported in previous issues.

TABLE 1. NEW MOTOR VEHICLES, MONTHLY TOTALS, 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
1986-87—									
November	28,723	30,796	31,729	6,842	7,802	7,949	35,565	38,598	39,678
December(b)	31,547	30,631	31,109	6,544	7,234	7,363	38,091	37,865	38,472
January(b)	27,566	32,098	30,590	5,773	7,050	6,898	33,339	39,147	37,487
February	28,198	30,789	30,190	6,266	6,830	6,611	34,464	37,619	36,801
March	32,039	29,686	29,792	7,288	6,536	6,451	39,327	36,222	36,243
April	26,205	28,315	29,378	5,810	5,722	6,354	32,015	34,038	35,732
May	29,273	28,639	29,219	6,500	6,199	6,734	35,773	34,838	35,553
June	32,583	30,288	29,328	8,091	7,195	6,378	40,674	37,483	35,706
1987-88—									
July	32,608	29,968	29,800	7,727	6,487	6,519	40,335	36,455	36,319
August	29,076	29,126	30,497	6,232	6,213	6,726	35,308	35,339	37,223
September	33,979	32,321	31,168	6,693	6,758	6,929	40,672	39,079	38,097
October	31,847	31,905	31,703	7,100	7,377	7,085	38,947	39,282	38,788
November(b)	28,975	30,648	32,110	6,442	7,121	7,198	35,417	37,769	39,308
December(b)	36,986	35,589	32,370	7,565	8,426	7,247	44,551	44,015	39,617
January p	24,889	30,242	32,543	4,798	6,079	7,280	29,687	36,321	39,824

(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			Trucks		Other truck type vehicles(a)	Buses	Total (excludes motor cycles)	Motor cycles
	Utilities	Panel vans		Rigid	Articulated				
1986-87—									
November	28,723	2,360	1,428	2,130	250	202	472	35,565	2,085
December(b)	31,547	2,305	1,265	1,984	263	171	556	38,091	2,048
January(b)	27,566	2,015	1,154	1,919	171	114	400	33,339	1,723
February	28,198	2,136	1,570	1,868	163	96	433	34,464	2,101
March	32,039	2,694	1,673	2,155	224	107	435	39,327	1,667
April	26,205	2,058	1,182	1,825	201	99	445	32,015	1,355
May	29,273	2,325	1,314	2,011	282	101	467	35,773	1,400
June	32,583	2,618	1,655	2,696	419	120	583	40,674	1,689
1987-88—									
July	32,608	2,366	1,615	2,814	289	138	505	40,335	1,499
August	29,076	2,093	1,322	2,128	185	149	355	35,308	1,225
September	33,979	2,347	1,475	2,067	207	99	498	40,672	1,413
October	31,847	2,489	1,552	2,285	239	150	385	38,947	1,633
November(b)	28,975	2,339	1,311	2,045	245	115	387	35,417	1,533
December(b)	36,986	2,393	1,436	2,782	303	158	493	44,551	1,894
January p	24,889	1,589	932	1,652	162	117	346	29,687	1,346

(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
1986-87—									
November	12,338	10,135	4,960	2,887	3,473	738	323	711	35,565
December(b)	13,482	8,303	6,363	3,107	3,831	1,980	277	748	38,091
January(b)	10,360	10,990	4,894	2,316	3,305	735	269	470	33,339
February	11,641	9,535	5,432	2,840	3,287	766	374	589	34,464
March	13,612	11,359	5,903	3,113	3,420	888	363	669	39,327
April	11,241	8,726	5,166	2,341	2,918	721	422	480	32,015
May	12,800	10,235	5,108	2,726	3,232	675	333	664	35,773
June	14,107	10,713	6,929	2,948	3,920	892	391	774	40,674
1987-88—									
July	14,035	11,078	6,107	3,032	3,843	940	405	895	40,335
August	12,964	8,640	5,615	2,753	3,628	820	324	564	35,308
September	14,257	11,247	6,429	2,886	3,792	1,060	348	653	40,672
October	13,293	11,151	5,529	3,010	3,978	933	392	661	38,947
November(b)	13,400	7,343	5,814	3,210	3,808	882	306	654	35,417
December(b)	15,076	12,872	6,788	3,138	4,164	1,503	368	642	44,551
January p	10,395	8,457	4,428	2,156	2,974	617	205	455	29,687

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



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