



INQUIRIES

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**REGISTRATIONS OF NEW MOTOR VEHICLES : AUSTRALIA, APRIL 1977
(PRELIMINARY)**

EXPLANATORY NOTES

MAIN FEATURES

- Registrations of new motor vehicles (excluding motor cycles, tractors, plant and equipment etc.) during April 1977 (38,192) fell 23.7% when compared with March 1977.
- Registrations of new motor cars and station wagons fell 23.5% to 29,403 in April 1977. This is the lowest monthly figure since January 1972 (28,585).
- Seasonally adjusted, the April 1977 figure (30,388) for new motor cars and station wagons (down 9.4% from March 1977) is the lowest since October 1968 (30,109).

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 2 below.

Introduction

From July 1976, the statistics in this preliminary statement reflect the information as recorded on registration documents. Prior to this date, some adjustment of recorded data was undertaken by the ABS, in particular to maintain a dichotomy between light commercial-type vehicles and trucks, but this became increasingly difficult to maintain. The figures in the statement include vehicles with diplomatic and consular plates and Commonwealth Government-owned new vehicles other than those belonging to the defence services.

2. 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, 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. Figures for Queensland from July 1975 have been

affected by changes in internal processing arrangements at the registration authority; further changes in processing arrangements occurred in late 1975 and early 1976, and these have also affected processings during that period. A table showing a monthly series of actual and processed registrations has been included in the quarterly bulletin *Motor Vehicle Registrations* (Reference No. 14.2).

3. The quarterly bulletin *Motor Vehicle Registrations* (Reference 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

4. 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 this statement the seasonally adjusted series have been revised. The revision is the result of annual re-analysis, details of which, together with information regarding the methods used in seasonally adjusting the component series, will be given in the forthcoming issue of *Seasonally Adjusted Indicators, 1977* (Reference No. 1.10).

Classification of vehicles

5. 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:

- (a) adoption of the principle of accepting vehicle-type data as recorded by the registration authority;
- (b) 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";

(c) the inclusion in 'other truck types' of ambulances and hearses (previously classified as 'light commercial, closed') and mobile caravans.

6. A change in the registration system in Queensland has meant that, from October 1976, all commercial vehicles 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 and trucks are not comparable with those for earlier periods.

7. 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.

8. 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.

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 - Reference No. 14.2 (quarterly)

Motor Vehicle Registrations - Reference No. 14.1 (annual)

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

Production of Motor Bodies, Trained Vehicles, Lift-on Freight Containers, Etc. - Reference No. 12.16.10 (quarterly)

Production of Motor Vehicles - Reference No. 12.16.33 (monthly)

Imports of Assembled New Passenger Motor Cars, Australia (Preliminary) - Reference No. 8.8 (monthly)

All publications produced by the ABS are listed in "Publications of the Australian Bureau of Statistics" (Reference 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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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
1974-75 -						
July	44,371	40,854	11,019	9,772	55,390	50,626
August	43,428	41,194	10,449	9,851	53,877	51,045
September	41,854	43,820	10,595	11,137	52,449	54,957
October	46,263	41,565	11,190	9,978	57,453	51,543
November	40,698	41,193	10,074	9,889	50,772	51,082
December	34,464	37,629	8,864	10,040	43,328	47,669
January	30,445	34,369	7,830	9,066	38,275	43,435
February	44,388	50,307	9,185	10,894	53,573	61,201
March	44,421	45,398	9,554	10,699	53,975	56,097
April	51,553	48,686	11,246	10,077	62,799	58,763
May	42,654	37,300	11,134	9,876	53,788	47,176
June	38,181	40,276	10,327	10,391	48,508	50,667
1975-76 -						
July	43,333	39,452	11,713	10,370	55,046	49,822
August	39,422	39,558	10,753	10,427	50,175	49,985
September	34,028	34,711	9,940	9,982	43,968	44,693
October	39,613	35,834	11,169	10,035	50,782	45,869
November	31,711	32,889	9,299	9,572	41,010	42,461
December	32,875	34,047	8,441	9,025	41,316	43,072
January	30,132	35,472	8,600	10,445	38,732	45,917
February	33,412	37,874	9,016	10,682	42,428	48,556
March	44,789	40,048	12,843	11,639	57,632	51,687
April	40,365	40,605	11,617	12,031	51,982	52,636
May	42,347	38,324	12,656	11,683	55,003	50,007
June	42,610	43,010	13,679	12,772	56,289	55,782
1976-77 -						
July	38,231	36,261	11,855	10,969	50,086	47,230
August	35,549	34,877	10,097	9,595	45,646	44,472
September	37,837	36,698	11,246	11,044	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	29,403	30,388	8,789	9,214	38,192	39,602

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

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

	Motor cars	Station wagons	Utilities	Panel vans	Trucks		Other truck type vehicles	Buses	Total (excludes motor cycles)	Motor cycles
					rigid	articulated				
Year -										
1972-73	373,876	55,863	41,144	28,136	29,176	3,364	365	2,215	534,139	65,551
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
1975-76 -										
March	37,421	7,368	4,563	3,512	3,985	366	57	360	57,632	5,864
April	33,743	6,622	4,004	3,331	3,571	364	48	299	51,982	4,788
May	35,069	7,278	4,330	3,628	3,887	466	51	294	55,003	4,696
June	35,661	6,949	4,494	3,992	4,315	497	43	338	56,289	4,227
1976-77 -										
July	31,422	6,809	3,578	3,300	3,839	594	239	305	50,086	4,279
August	29,033	6,516	3,384	2,857	2,978	413	209	256	45,646	4,264
September	30,714	7,123	3,895	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	24,270	5,133	3,326	2,456	2,380	289	158	180	38,192	2,909

(a) See paragraph 6 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 —									
1972-73	199,533	132,414	77,927	47,687	48,329	15,783	3,780	8,686	534,139
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
1975-76 —									
March	19,338	13,561	9,841	6,143	5,473	1,726	559	991	57,632
April	16,321	13,956	9,301	5,025	4,784	1,442	234	919	51,982
May	18,202	14,749	8,103	5,601	5,153	1,657	420	1,118	55,003
June	19,320	14,254	8,380	5,882	5,140	1,802	465	1,046	56,289
1976-77 —									
July	15,521	12,834	9,248	4,917	4,928	1,413	459	766	50,086
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	13,852	8,598	5,297	3,632	4,366	1,314	455	678	38,192

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

TABLE 4. NEW MOTOR VEHICLES, BY TYPE : STATES, APRIL 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	9,015	5,870	3,156	2,440	2,422	798	125	444	16,454	24,270
Station wagons	1,906	1,060	701	468	646	179	72	101	3,471	5,133
Utilities	929	583	842	242	390	129	165	46	1,442	3,326
Panel vans	958	402	311	174	440	80	45	46	1,599	2,456
Trucks —										
rigid	838	560	200	212	390	109	40	31	1,225	2,380
articulated	82	59	45	59	29	5	4	6	110	289
Other truck type vehicles	59	34	8	24	26	7	..	..	109	158
Buses	65	30	34	13	23	7	4	4	96	180
Capital cities (b)	8,699	6,548	2,658	2,321	3,065	537	..	678	24,506	24,506
Other areas	5,153	2,050	2,639	1,311	1,301	777	455	..	..	13,686
Total (excl. motor cycles)	13,852	8,598	5,297	3,632	4,366	1,314	455	678	24,506	38,192
Motor cycles	1,107	414	612	357	238	77	57	47	1,266	2,909

(a) See paragraph 6 of Explanatory Notes. (b) See paragraph 9 of Explanatory Notes.

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

Type of vehicle	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Tractors	30	122	113	27	167	18	2	2	481
Plant and equipment	106	69	25	35	50	15	6	3	309
Caravans	535	502	173	440	211	61	19	23	1,964
Trailers	2,275	746	1,098	923	1,043	283	80	136	6,584
Capital cities (a)	1,598	692	606	942	936	133	..	164	5,071
Other areas	1,348	747	803	483	535	244	107	..	4,267
Total	2,946	1,439	1,409	1,425	1,471	377	107	164	9,338

(a) See paragraph 9 of Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 6. NEW MOTOR VEHICLES, BY TYPE : STATES TEN MONTHS ENDED APRIL 1976-77p AND 1975-76

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	102,394	79,452	42,872	31,189	29,354	10,133	1,188	5,461	200,275	302,043
Station wagons	24,086	15,799	9,872	6,032	7,205	2,095	677	1,235	43,802	67,001
Utilities	11,277	7,589	9,953	3,036	4,487	1,177	1,280	542	17,240	39,341
Panel vans	11,723	6,505	5,112	2,574	4,430	1,077	460	620	20,326	32,501
Trucks —										
rigid	9,821	6,538	4,772	2,629	4,224	863	330	306	15,073	29,483
articulated	992	980	510	751	358	108	50	50	1,560	3,799
Other truck type vehicles	772	673	174	314	207	163	4	29	1,553	2,336
Buses	904	603	296	268	327	86	34	132	1,545	2,650
Capital cities (b)	100,624	84,802	35,632	30,237	35,587	6,117	..	8,375	301,374	301,374
Other areas	61,345	33,337	37,929	16,556	15,005	9,585	4,023	..	..	177,780
Total (excl. motor cycles) —										
1976-1977 p July—Apr.	161,969	118,139	73,561	46,793	50,592	15,702	4,023	8,375	301,374	479,154
1975-1976 July—Apr.	160,493	118,156	73,257	46,923	45,908	14,922	4,947	8,465	229,121	473,071
Motor cycles —										
1976-1977 p July—Apr.	14,727	6,502	11,102	5,351	3,405	1,241	817	693	19,187	43,838
1975-1976 July—Apr.	15,619	7,046	14,002	6,131	5,026	1,642	918	710	22,081	51,094

(a) See paragraph 6 of Explanatory Notes. (b) See paragraph 9 of Explanatory Notes.