



CATALOGUE NO. 9301.0

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11.30 A.M. 9 JANUARY 1989

REGISTRATIONS OF NEW MOTOR VEHICLES, AUSTRALIA NOVEMBER 1988, PRELIMINARY

PHONE INQUIRIES

• *about these statistics* — contact Greg Carr on Canberra (062) 52 6062 or any ABS State office.

• *about other statistics and ABS services* — contact Information Services on Canberra (062) 52 6627, 52 5402, 52 6007 or any ABS State office.

MAIL INQUIRIES

• *write to Information Services*, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616 or any ABS State office.

ELECTRONIC SERVICES

• on **VIATEL** — key *656#.

• on **AUSSTATS** — phone (062) 52 6017.

• on **TELESTATS** — phone (062) 52 5404.

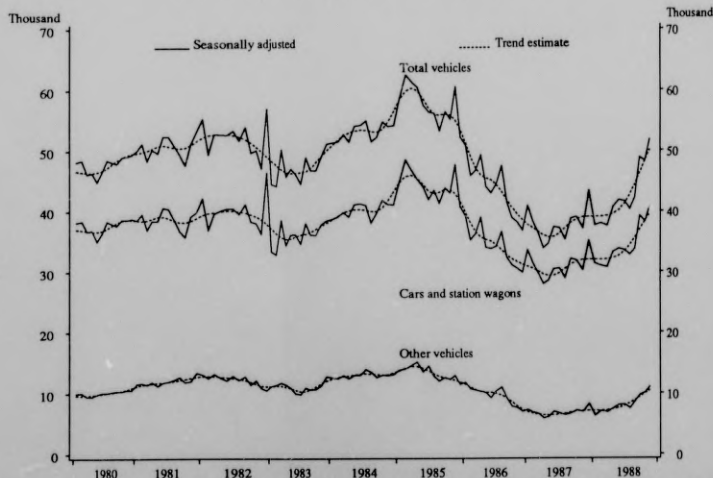
NOTE: Statistics of motor vehicle registrations are affected by variations in the rate of processing of records in the respective state registration systems (see Paragraph 3 of the Explanatory Notes). This is one reason for exercising caution when interpreting month to month movements in the original and seasonally adjusted series. Such variations have been especially marked in Victoria recently. In particular an unusually large carryover of registrations occurred from November to December 1987. Also, in August 1988, following the introduction of a new processing system, a higher proportion of registrations was processed than in previous months and this may have affected the continuity of the series

MAIN FEATURES

The original and seasonally adjusted estimates of total motor vehicle registrations for November 1987, October 1988 and November 1988 (See Note above) are:

	Nov. 1987	Oct. 1988	Nov. 1988	Nov. '87-Nov. '88 % change	Oct. '88-Nov. '88 % change
Original	35,417	46,066	52,960	49.5	15.0
Seasonally adjusted	37,102	48,277	51,812	39.6	7.3

REGISTRATIONS OF NEW MOTOR VEHICLES



The upward trend in total registrations has continued since May 1987 and has now reached its highest point since November 1985.

TABLE 1. NEW MOTOR VEHICLES BY TYPE OF VEHICLE,
ORIGINAL, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED AND TREND ESTIMATE: AUSTRALIA, LATEST 15 MONTHS

	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
1987-88—									
September	33,979	32,056	31,120	6,693	6,678	6,882	40,672	38,734	38,002
October	31,847	31,836	31,624	7,100	7,175	7,017	38,947	39,012	38,641
November(b)	28,975	30,211	31,874	6,442	6,891	7,073	35,417	37,102	38,947
December(b)	36,986	35,079	31,944	7,565	8,263	7,080	44,551	43,342	39,024
January	24,886	31,313	31,941	4,800	6,264	7,088	29,686	37,577	39,028
February	28,764	30,949	31,952	6,709	7,037	7,113	35,473	37,986	39,064
March	35,060	30,697	31,992	7,843	6,827	7,183	42,903	37,524	39,175
April	29,708	33,177	32,189	7,037	7,504	7,330	36,745	40,681	39,519
May	35,518	33,757	32,570	8,817	8,062	7,557	44,335	41,818	40,127
June	36,796	33,528	33,300	9,652	8,102	7,892	46,448	41,629	41,192
1988-89—									
July	32,315	32,768	34,344	7,925	7,506	8,314	40,240	40,275	42,658
August(b)	37,120	33,699	35,568	9,067	8,561	8,810	46,187	42,260	44,378
September	40,515	39,151	36,956	9,556	9,660	9,371	50,071	48,811	46,327
October r	36,428	38,208	38,342	9,638	10,069	9,930	46,066	48,277	48,272
November p	42,188	40,849	39,626	10,772	10,963	10,433	52,960	51,812	50,058

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

TABLE 2. NEW MOTOR VEHICLES BY TYPE OF VEHICLE: AUSTRALIA
LATEST 15 MONTHS

	Motor cars and station wagons		Trucks		Other truck type vehicles(a)	Buses	Total (excludes motor cycles)	Motor cycles
	Utilities	Panel vans	Rigid	Articulated				
1987-88—								
August	29,076	2,093	1,322	2,128	185	149	355	35,308
September	33,979	2,347	1,474	2,068	207	99	498	40,672
October	31,847	2,489	1,552	2,285	239	150	385	38,947
November(b)	28,975	2,339	1,311	2,045	245	115	387	35,417
December(b)	36,986	2,393	1,436	2,782	303	158	493	44,551
January	24,886	1,589	932	1,654	162	117	346	29,686
February	28,764	2,382	1,441	2,148	188	142	408	35,473
March	35,060	2,782	1,801	2,405	186	154	515	42,903
April	29,708	2,558	1,445	2,317	194	121	402	36,745
May	35,518	3,214	1,781	2,847	281	140	554	44,335
June	36,796	3,269	2,182	3,102	333	119	647	46,448
1988-89—								
July	32,315	2,760	1,897	2,418	r242	132	476	r40,240
August (b)	37,120	3,352	1,948	2,848	r262	154	503	r46,187
September	40,515	3,344	2,239	r2,943	r380	144	506	r50,071
October	36,428	3,538	2,172	2,943	r311	141	533	r46,066
November p	42,188	3,944	2,390	3,327	338	170	603	52,960

(a) Non-freight carrying vehicles. (b) See Note on page 1.

TABLE 3. NEW MOTOR VEHICLES(a), ORIGINAL, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED AND TREND ESTIMATE:
STATE/TERRITORY, LATEST 15 MONTHS

	N.S.W.			Vic.			Qld		
	Original	Seasonally adjusted	Trend estimate	Original	Seasonally adjusted	Trend estimate	Original	Seasonally adjusted	Trend estimate
1987-88—									
September	14,257	13,497	13,467	11,247	10,683	9,927	6,429	6,035	5,975
October	13,293	13,864	13,747	11,151	10,659	10,203	5,529	5,784	6,018
November	13,400	13,972	13,920	7,343	7,763	10,403	5,814	6,408	6,001
December	15,076	14,990	14,014	12,872	13,357	10,499	6,788	6,137	5,969
January	10,395	13,120	14,077	8,456	10,768	10,484	4,428	5,728	5,966
February	13,420	14,135	14,207	9,123	9,945	10,326	5,183	5,665	5,995
March	16,028	14,027	14,347	9,615	8,497	10,120	7,396	6,224	6,087
April	13,447	14,926	14,499	10,007	10,702	10,017	5,677	6,250	6,243
May	15,923	15,060	14,711	11,739	10,826	10,012	7,091	6,741	6,475
June	17,455	15,408	15,054	10,890	10,167	10,225	7,807	6,687	6,787
1988-89—									
July	15,495	15,222	15,534	9,237	9,152	10,643	6,735	6,889	7,136
August	15,130	13,815	16,146	13,655	12,711	11,104	7,936	7,320	7,509
September	19,182	18,605	16,852	12,012	11,634	11,637	8,334	8,102	7,891
October	16,889	18,209	17,547	11,169	11,133	12,193	7,824	8,629	8,244
November	18,507	18,157	18,174	14,443	14,293	12,771	8,460	8,433	8,527

TABLE 3. NEW MOTOR VEHICLES (a), ORIGINAL, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED AND TREND ESTIMATE:
STATE / TERRITORY, LATEST 15 MONTHS — *continued*

	S.A.			W.A.			Tas (b)	
	Original	Seasonally adjusted	Trend estimate	Original	Seasonally adjusted	Trend estimate	Original	Trend estimate
	1987-88—							
September	2,886	2,727	2,869	8,792	3,766	3,796	1,060	946
October	3,010	2,893	2,902	3,978	3,748	3,813	933	945
November	3,210	3,118	2,922	3,808	3,969	3,776	882	922
December	3,138	3,012	2,939	4,164	3,884	3,721	1,503	891
January	2,156	2,798	2,963	2,974	3,454	3,698	617	862
February	2,773	2,854	2,995	3,332	3,552	3,736	719	840
March	3,546	3,097	3,011	4,263	3,830	3,834	862	824
April	2,657	3,103	3,015	3,470	3,966	3,965	660	825
May	3,220	3,080	3,010	4,487	4,322	4,098	887	840
June	3,309	3,096	3,002	4,918	4,386	4,227	820	874
1988-89—								
July	2,713	2,808	3,002	4,182	4,244	4,354	831	921
August	2,920	2,737	3,029	4,330	4,233	4,505	945	971
September	3,549	3,421	3,085	4,642	4,597	4,693	1,202	1,017
October	3,095	3,086	3,154	5,028	5,011	4,900	936	(c)
November	3,649	3,325	3,223	5,546	5,444	5,090	1,112	(c)
	N.T. (b)			A.C.T. (b)			Australia	
	Original	Trend estimate		Original	Trend estimate	Original	Seasonally adjusted	Trend estimate
1987-88—								
September	348	358	653	664	40,672	38,734	r	38,002
October	392	364	661	650	38,947	39,012	r	38,641
November	306	363	654	641	35,417	37,102	r	38,947
December	368	352	642	640	44,551	43,342	r	39,024
January	205	336	455	643	29,686	37,577	r	39,028
February	282	319	641	645	35,473	37,586	r	39,064
March	383	306	810	646	42,903	37,524	r	39,175
April	308	305	519	652	36,745	40,681	r	39,519
May	329	319	659	663	44,335	41,818	r	40,127
June	366	344	883	678	46,448	41,629	r	41,192
1988-89—								
July	420	372	627	698	40,240	40,275	r	42,658
August	420	394	851	721	46,187	42,260	r	44,378
September	440	(c)	710	(c)	50,071	48,811	r	46,327
October	435	(c)	690	(c)	46,066	48,277	r	48,272
November	352	(c)	891	(c)	52,960	51,812	r	50,058

(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

1. 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, 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 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 Tables 1 and 3. In this issue the seasonally adjusted series have been revised. The revision is the result of the annual reanalysis, details of which, together with information regarding the methods used in seasonally adjusting these statistics are

available on request. State seasonally adjusted figures are included, in Table 3, for the first time in this issue. 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. With the availability of individual State/Territory seasonally adjusted figures there has been a change in the way that the Australian seasonally adjusted figures are calculated. Previously, the Australian figures for "Motor cars and station wagons" and "Other vehicles" were seasonally adjusted and summed to derive "Total vehicles". Now, 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". While these two methods produce slightly different results, the most significant revisions to the seasonally adjusted series result from the annual reanalysis.

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 series. The trend estimates of motor vehicle registration statistics for Australia are shown in Table 1 and, from this issue, State/Territory trend estimates are shown in Table 3. These trend estimates 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 (\$5.00).

Motor Vehicle Registrations, Australia, 1987-88 (9304.0) (\$5.00).

12. 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.

Floppy disk service

Selected ABS statistics are available on floppy disk. Further information is available on (062) 52 6684.

W. McLENNAN
Acting Australian Statistician

