Australian Bureau of Statistics

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REGISTRATIONS OF NEW MOTOR VEHICLES, AUSTRALIA FEBRUARY 1993, PRELIMINARY

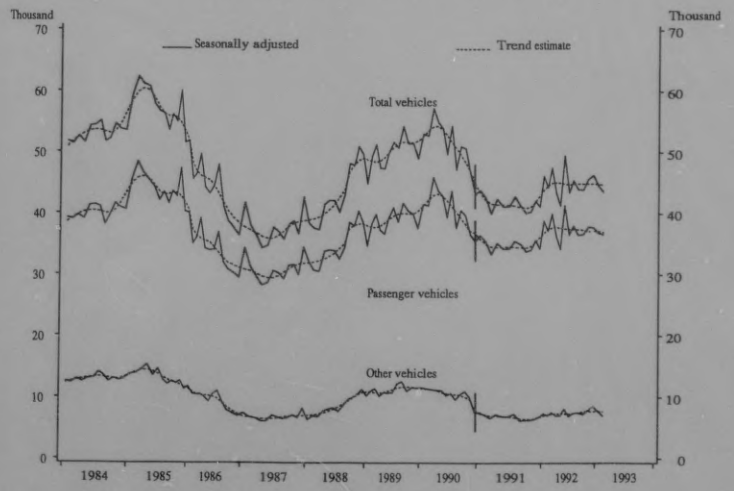
MAIN FEATURES

The trend estimate for February showed a small decrease of 0.5 per cent, while the seasonally adjusted series showed a fall of 2.3 per cent. The unadjusted series showed a 17.6 per cent rise.

The original, seasonally adjusted and trend estimates of total motor vehicle registrations for February 1992, January and February 1993 are:

	February 1992	January 1993	February 1993	Feb 92–Feb 93 % change	Jan 93–Feb 93 % change
Original	41,159	33,931	39,896	-3.1	+17.6
Seasonally adjusted	44,308	44,558	43,553	-1.7	-2.3
Trend	44,643	44,885	44,644	0.0	-0.5

REGISTRATIONS OF NEW MOTOR VEHICLES



INQUIRIES

- *for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics* contact Kevin Yeadon on Canberra (06) 252 6255 or any ABS State office.
- *for information about other ABS statistics and services* please contact Information Services on Canberra (06) 252 6627, 252 5402, 252 6007 or any ABS State office.

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

	Passenger vehicles(a)			*Other vehicles(b)*			*Total(b)*		
	Original	*Seasonally adjusted*	*Trend estimate*	*Original*	*Seasonally adjusted*	*Trend estimate*	*Original*	*Seasonally adjusted*	*Trend estimate*
1991-92 —									
December	35,272	34,308	36,125	6,109	6,855	6,795	41,381	41,163	42,920
January	32,293	38,829	36,887	6,008	7,347	7,014	38,301	46,177	43,900
February	34,478	37,242	37,449	6,681	7,065	7,194	41,159	44,308	44,643
March	43,001	39,974	37,734	8,289	7,546	7,296	51,290	47,520	45,030
April	32,768	36,381	37,791	6,500	7,061	7,347	39,268	43,443	45,139
May	34,685	34,272	37,705	7,623	7,060	7,357	42,308	41,332	45,062
June	43,962	41,377	37,565	9,343	8,137	7,338	53,305	49,513	44,902
1992-93 —									
July	39,578	36,581	37,468	7,623	6,887	7,338	47,201	43,468	44,806
August	37,462	38,044	37,461	7,095	7,405	7,402	44,557	45,449	44,864
September	40,037	36,531	37,421	7,616	7,484	7,512	47,653	44,015	44,933
October	37,115	36,681	37,315	7,328	7,239	7,629	44,443	43,920	44,943
November	36,812	37,863	37,183	7,738	7,841	7,717	44,550	45,703	44,900
December	41,024	37,793	37,143	8,012	8,529	7,757	49,036	46,323	44,900
January	28,155	36,820	37,138	5,776	7,737	7,747	33,931	44,558	44,885
February(p)	33,401	36,597	36,991	6,495	6,956	7,653	39,896	43,553	44,644

(a) See paragraph 8 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) Excludes motor cycles, plant and equipment, caravans and trailers. (p) Preliminary.

TABLE 2. NEW MOTOR VEHICLES BY TYPE OF VEHICLE, AUSTRALIA

			Trucks					
Period	*Passenger vehicles(a)*	*Light commercial vehicles(a)*	*Rigid*	*Articulated*	*Non-freight carrying*	*Buses*	*Total (excludes motor cycles)*	*Motor cycles*
1991-92 —								
December	35,272	4,837	748	131	106	287	41,381	1,599
January	32,293	4,908	675	81	47	297	38,301	1,575
February	34,478	5,438	746	122	59	316	41,159	1,498
March	43,001	6,910	797	148	49	385	51,290	1,356
April	32,768	5,191	815	137	48	309	39,268	1,289
May	34,685	6,297	838	129	63	296	42,308	1,361
June	43,962	7,588	1,012	198	75	463	53,305	1,320
1992-93 —								
July	39,578	6,161	833	175	80	369	47,201	1,326
August	37,462	5,757	821	139	49	326	44,557	1,253
September	40,037	6,181	924	145	62	299	47,653	1,444
October	37,115	5,916	872	183	87	270	44,443	1,529
November	36,812	6,291	874	167	61	345	44,550	1,457
December	41,024	6,451	963	155	74	369	49,036	1,555
January	28,155	4,800	501	125	35	315	33,931	1,509
February(p)	33,401	5,385	641	102	35	332	39,896	1,612

(a) See paragraphs 8 of the Explanatory Notes. (p) Preliminary.

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

	NSW			*Vic.*			*Qld*		
Period	*Original*	*Seasonally adjusted*	*Trend estimate*	*Original*	*Seasonally adjusted*	*Trend estimate*	*Original*	*Seasonally adjusted*	*Trend estimate*
1991-92 —									
December	12,448	13,176	15,713	10,098	9,892	9,567	8,446	8,204	7,834
January	16,187	19,124	16,011	7,626	9,690	9,925	6,187	7,368	8,092
February	14,219	15,454	16,343	10,249	10,921	10,083	7,437	8,072	8,308
March	18,716	17,104	16,653	11,041	10,264	10,089	10,648	10,027	8,383
April	14,281	16,307	16,891	8,891	9,567	9,974	7,177	7,813	8,374
May	15,464	14,332	16,955	9,435	9,413	9,866	8,106	7,971	8,311
June	22,981	20,978	16,794	10,684	9,930	9,854	8,824	8,452	8,268
1992-93 —									
July	17,227	16,002	16,503	10,887	9,813	9,948	8,458	7,426	8,277
August	15,777	15,719	16,166	10,551	10,863	10,122	8,384	8,885	8,376
September	15,894	15,017	15,773	10,258	9,300	10,297	10,312	9,220	8,551
October	14,260	14,325	15,505	11,317	11,332	10,379	8,034	7,879	8,683
November	16,549	16,634	15,406	9,603	9,871	10,384	8,332	9,169	8,728
December	16,284	16,295	15,466	11,307	10,636	10,351	9,433	8,390	8,731
January	11,341	14,471	15,584	7,534	10,433	10,293	7,046	9,359	8,715
February(p)	14,318	15,895	15,626	9,237	9,812	10,191	7,415	8,116	8,611

See footnotes at end of table.

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

	SA			*WA*			*Tas.(b)*	
	Original	*Seasonally adjusted*	*Trend estimate*	*Original*	*Seasonally adjusted*	*Trend estimate*	*Original*	*Trend estimate*
1991-92 —								
December	2,949	2,969	3,126	4,364	4,470	4,365	1,811	1,030
January	2,610	3,324	3,144	3,941	4,371	4,435	773	1,033
February	3,024	3,174	3,152	4,195	4,370	4,465	912	1,026
March	3,489	3,165	3,148	5,013	4,655	4,454	1,049	1,013
April	2,824	3,121	3,142	4,121	4,396	4,442	769	1,002
May	2,851	2,990	3,143	4,333	4,417	4,456	852	1,005
June	3,438	3,210	3,146	4,603	4,316	4,489	1,062	1,026
1992-93 —								
July	3,377	3,288	3,164	4,829	4,628	4,540	1,054	1,055
August	3,101	3,101	3,203	4,487	4,567	4,610	968	1,076
September	3,525	3,205	3,237	4,995	4,949	4,684	1,267	1,081
October	3,500	3,313	3,251	4,796	4,537	4,739	1,192	1,066
November	3,187	3,081	3,239	4,556	4,621	4,766	905	1,037
December	3,699	3,557	3,207	5,284	5,098	4,775	1,633	(c)
January	2,311	3,132	3,159	3,973	4,733	4,770	765	(c)
February(p)	2,646	2,840	3,107	4,325	4,620	4,762	757	(c)

	NT(b)		*ACT(b)*		*Australia*		
	Original	*Trend estimate*	*Original*	*Trend estimate*	*Original*	*Seasonally adjusted*	*Trend estimate*
1991-92 —							
December	403	412	862	874	41,381	41,163	42,920
January	334	425	643	836	38,301	46,177	43,900
February	363	432	760	834	41,159	44,308	44,643
March	491	431	843	858	51,290	47,520	45,030
April	404	425	801	890	39,268	43,443	45,139
May	449	417	818	909	42,308	41,332	45,062
June	489	415	1,224	910	53,305	49,513	44,902
1992-93 —							
July	408	423	961	895	47,201	43,468	44,806
August	471	440	818	870	44,557	45,449	44,864
September	451	461	951	848	47,653	44,015	44,933
October	546	478	798	842	44,443	43,920	44,943
November	502	485	916	857	44,550	45,703	44,900
December	459	(c)	937	(c)	49,036	46,323	44,900
January	305	(c)	656	(c)	33,931	44,558	44,885
February(p)	369	(c)	829	(c)	39,896	43,553	44,644

(a) Excludes motor cycles, plant and equipment, caravans and trailers. (b) See paragraph 9 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. (p) Preliminary.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

The statistics in this publication are based on processing procedures using the new Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) adopted by the motor vehicle registration authorities (see paragraph 6). The VIN system allows more accurate classification of vehicles. As a result, data processed on this system are not strictly comparable with those processed prior to December 1990, for some States.

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 New South Wales, Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania, Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory the figures shown depart little from actual registrations during the period. In Queensland 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. Because of these 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.

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.

Vehicle Identification Number

6. The Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) uniquely identifies each vehicle. Embedded within this number are details of make and model together with other relevant information concerning the vehicle. The VIN is now collected by the various motor vehicle registration authorities at the time each new vehicle is registered. The VIN is passed on to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) as part of the New Motor Vehicles Registrations record.

Vehicle Classification

7. The decoding of the VIN has resulted in better identification of each vehicle's bodycode and consequently classification of vehicles to particular categories. Vehicles such as micro-buses which, in the old system, had been classified to passenger vehicles in some States but to buses in other States, are now consistently classified. Similarly, in the old system utilities and cab-chassis, which were sometimes classified to small trucks, are now consistently classified to light commercial vehicles. In addition, duplicate records, out of scope vehicles and those vehicles not registered for the first time can now be more accurately identified and therefore excluded from the statistics.

8. *Passenger vehicles* include cars, station wagons, 4wd passenger vehicles and forward control passenger vehicles. *Light commercial vehicles* are goods carrying vehicles not exceeding 3.5 tonnes gross vehicles mass. Included are utilities, panel vans, cab-chassis and forward control vehicles (whether 4wd or not).

Seasonal adjustment

9. Original and seasonally adjusted registrations of new motor vehicles are shown in Tables 1 and 3. Seasonally adjusted series are calculated for each State and Territory for the series "Passenger vehicles", "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. The component State/Territory "Passenger vehicles" 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".

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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. The trend estimates of motor vehicle registration statistics for Australia are shown in Tables 1 and 3 and have been derived by applying a 13-term Henderson-weighted moving average to the seasonally adjusted series.

13. 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

14. 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, 1990-91 (9304.0)

15. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products, 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.

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p preliminary figure or series subject to revision.

— break in series.

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