

Understand it!

Place value can be used to add and subtract large numbers.

Adding and Subtracting Large Numbers

How can you add and subtract large numbers?

What was the total number of motor vehicles produced in Australia in the first quarter of 2009?

Choose an Operation

Add to join groups.

$$11\,937 + 20\,404 + 21\,310$$

Estimate:

$$12\,000 + 20\,000 + 21\,000 = 53\,000$$

Month	2009	2008	2007
January	11 937	21 152	18 666
February	20 404	32 303	29 376
March	21 310	26 393	29 433
April	12 792	28 721	22 633
May	16 842	35 180	33 274
June	18 674	29 884	29 195

Step 1

Line up numbers by place value.
Add the ones, tens and hundreds.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 11\,937 \\
 20\,404 \\
 + 21\,310 \\
 \hline
 651
 \end{array}$$

Step 2

Continue adding.
Regroup if needed.
Leave a space to separate the thousands.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 11\,937 \\
 20\,404 \\
 + 21\,310 \\
 \hline
 53\,651
 \end{array}$$

The sum is reasonable since the estimate was 53 000.

In the first quarter of 2009, 53 651 vehicles were made in Australia.

