



Statistical UPDATE

An Information Newsletter from the Queensland Office

ISSUE NO. 4

AUGUST 2000

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From Debra McDonald, Assistant Director, Government Relations Section

My experience includes working in the Central Office of the ABS, covering surveys in Employer Surveys, Economic Statistics and Social Surveys. After some time away from the workforce and a move to Queensland via Adelaide, I rejoined the ABS in the Brisbane Office as an Assistant Director, and worked on the Tourism, Service Industries and Interstate Trade collections, with a move to Client Services 2 years ago.



Future directions in Government Relations

The Client and Statistical Services Branch is changing to better understand and meet the needs of our clients. The Government Relations Section is responsible for building and maintaining relationships with key clients from Queensland State Government, local government and Commonwealth Government departments and agencies.

The section is also responsible for understanding our clients as individuals and their statistical needs, and responding to State Government needs coordinated by the Office of Economic and Statistical Research. The section delivers information on activities across the ABS to keep our clients informed, and provides a link with the ABS nationally to ensure our clients receive a quality, timely and relevant service. We coordinate outposts of ABS staff and deliver the *Statistical Update* to your door on a regular basis.

One of our aims is to ensure your voice is heard in the ABS planning process, and where it is not possible to fulfil your needs through a national program we will investigate other options within the ABS.

Statistical Update is one of our methods of keeping you up to date with information on ABS capabilities and upcoming reviews to ABS programs. I encourage you to contact the people at the end of each article for more information or contact my team directly. I also encourage you to let us know of any improvements we can make to *Statistical Update*.

— Debra McDonald

ABS Introduces New CPI Series

The ABS has announced that it will introduce the 14th series of the Consumer Price Index from September quarter 2000. The new series, fully detailed in *Information Paper: Price Indexes and the New Tax System* (Cat. no. 6425.0), will enable up-to-date household expenditure patterns to be reflected in the CPI. These changes are being made to maintain the accuracy of the CPI.

As there will be some substitution in expenditure between commodities as a result of tax reforms, a new commodity classification based on an international standard will be introduced. Substitution towards relatively cheaper goods and services can result in an upward bias of the CPI but the new commodity classification will reduce the risk of substitution bias by including substitutable goods in the same commodity class. For example, fresh and processed fruit and vegetables will now be included in the same commodity class.

Subject to further evaluation, the ABS will also introduce a new financial services group to the CPI which would mean that for the first time direct and indirect fees (such as interest rate margins) charged to consumers on deposit and loan facilities will be included in the CPI.

The information paper notes that June quarter 2000 will be the 'link quarter', therefore price changes resulting from tax reform changes on 1 July will be reflected in the September quarter 2000 CPI and not be distorted by the introduction of the 14th series.

Price Indexes and the New Tax System (Cat. no. 6425.0) contains the full details and may be found on the ABS website <http://www.abs.gov.au>. This paper follows a previous, related paper, *ABS Statistics and the New Tax System* (Cat. no. 1358.0). To purchase a copy of this publication, contact the ABS Bookshop in your capital city.

For further information contact Keith Woolford on 02 6252 6673 or keith.woolford@abs.gov.au

Forms of Employment in Australia — A First

A new publication, *Forms of Employment, Australia* (6359.0) and a Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) along with its relevant Information Paper resulted from the Forms of Employment Survey (FOES).

The recently released publication presents data on the nature and extent of various forms of employment in the Australian labour market, sourced from the FOES conducted in August 1998.

Data is presented on employees with leave entitlements, self-identified casuals, other employed persons, owner managers of unincorporated enterprises and owner managers of incorporated enterprises. The data presented includes selected job characteristics (e.g. industry, occupation, continuous duration with current employer or business) and selected socioeconomic characteristics (e.g. age, sex, educational attendance). Information on dependency upon client is also available for owner managers.

The Information Paper describes the data items collected in FOES, its relation to the Labour Force Survey, extra limitations (mainly geographical), exclusions and collection methodology.

It also gives a description of the CURF, the types of files, the conditions of its release binding on the user and some warnings of limitations about its use. Categories within the CURF have been assigned weights to allow estimations based on the CURF to reflect the whole population rather than the sample itself. The CURF, released on CD-ROM, will enable purchasers to tabulate, manipulate and analyse data to their own specifications.

To access the Information Paper, located on the ABS website, at the home page click on **All publications from 1998 onwards**, then **Starting with 6**, then **63**, then **6359.0.00.001**.

For more information contact Kate Nielsen on 02 6252 5759 or kate.nielsen@abs.gov.au

Regional Information at Your Fingertips

One of the best research tools for regional data, the new Integrated Regional Data Base, has just been released. IRDB2000 will let you analyse regional economic and social data from the ABS and other government departments with ease. Whether you are new to statistical data and mapping software or an experienced user, the powerful software in IRDB2000 will give you answers in a flash!

Want to know more? Please contact either Judy Tayt or Gary Allen on 07 3222 6424 or judy.tayt@abs.gov.au or garry.allen@abs.gov.au

Information Paper: Measuring Region of Origin Merchandise Exports

The methodology that can be used for estimating merchandise exports for regions of Australia is discussed in this information paper (Cat. no. 5492.0) to be released shortly. Some experimental estimates of merchandise exports for some selected Queensland regions are included and estimates of regional merchandise exports, for specific regions in Australia, can be produced as part of the consultancy service of the ABS.

Background:

Exports are a significant item in the Australian balance of payments. In 1996–97, exports of goods earned \$80,934m. Over the period from 1994–95 to 1996–97 they have grown 20.6%. This growth has impacted on industry in many ways and has had significant effects on regional economies. Both State and local governments are seeking information at a regional level, which will

enable them to measure this effect over time. Regional information could also be used to measure the response to their policies and initiatives that are designed to stimulate growth. The ABS is the main source of Australia's international trade statistics.

For exports, State statistics are available for State of origin (i.e. the State in which the final stage of manufacture or production occurs) and State and Port of loading (i.e. the State in which the goods are loaded on to the ship or aircraft to be exported—this could differ from the State of origin). Statistics are not available for exports by region of origin. However the method outlined in this paper can provide an estimate of regional exports.

For further information contact Brian Holliday on 07 3222 6132 or brian.holliday@abs.gov.au

Price Indexes and The New Tax System

The New Tax System will result in changes in absolute and relative prices for goods and services. The extent to which these changes impact on ABS price indexes varies from index to index depending on the purpose of the index and hence the pricing basis adopted in their compilation.

The direct impact of The New Tax System on the producer price indexes is limited. A range of complex issues arise, for example, in the case of the Consumer Price Index.

There will be no direct effect on producer price indexes other than for building materials where the removal of sales tax will have a downward influence on some prices and materials used in coal mining, where changes to the diesel rebate scheme are expected to have a downward effect on diesel prices. Indirect effects are expected to have a downward effect on all producer

price indexes, although these effects will not be quantifiable.

The Consumer Price Index will continue to measure final transaction prices inclusive of indirect taxes and will reflect the net effects of the tax changes in The New Tax System. A new utility-based commodity classification is to be introduced with the 14th series of the CPI. This will better address possible consumer substitution between commodities in response to relative price changes occurring as a result of The New Tax System.

Average retail prices published from the September quarter 2000 will reflect the net effect of tax changes in The New Tax System.

House price indexes from September quarter 2000 will reflect the net effect of tax changes in The New Tax System.

Food For Thought ... Creating Alternate Industry Views

The ABS has commenced work on defining an alternate view of the food industry. The proposal is to establish a framework that presents the available data to provide an 'all about' view of the food sector.

Statistics on industry are vital for economic analysis, policy formation and the monitoring of industry trends. It is important that information is captured to be able to describe industries in terms of such characteristics as production values, employment and export activity.

Currently the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) is used to classify businesses to an industry and forms the basis on which ABS industry statistics are presented. The ANZSIC definitions of industry are often different or narrower in scope than the common perceptions of what activities comprise a particular industry. This creates the need to develop an alternate view or framework to effectively capture the scope of an industry, and present statistics to reflect the overall picture of an industry. For example, the mining industry is considered to contain ANZSIC classes from the Mining, Manufacturing and Electricity, Gas and Water Supply Divisions.

Consideration of the purpose and scope of the alternate view is also required. The range of sectors in the economy which could be potentially regarded as being part of the food sector need to be defined and assessed for inclusion in a broader view. The alternate view will involve an extension of the traditionally accepted scope of the food sector as defined in ANZSIC. A broader scope is being considered, including ANZSIC classes from the Transport and Storage, Accommodation, Cafes and Restaurants and Property and Business Services Divisions. For some activities of the food sector, there are sufficient data available to support the framework e.g. agriculture, manufacturing, food retailing and trade. However for other activities, such as wholesale, transport and storage and business services, data are limited.

A number of consultations with Victorian State government agencies with a policy interest in the food sector have been undertaken. Further consultation with a wide range of stakeholders across Australia is planned, following the release of a research paper in late 2000.

If you would like to participate in the planned discussions or would like to receive a draft of the alternate view project for comment contact James Darragh on 03 9615 7476 or Debbie Goodwin on 03 9615 7590.

More on — Household Use of Information Technology

Following on from the review of the quarterly Household Use of Information Technology Survey for 2000, and the resultant changes to the year 2000 surveys questionnaire, increased information about household and individual use of the internet is available.

There are now additional items on internet shopping, as well as new questions on barriers to internet shopping and use of the internet to access government and financial services. The year 2000 surveys also include questions on several newer home technologies such as webcam, DVD, CDMA phones and internet access through set top boxes or mobile phones.

The first release of year 2000 data occurred on 13 June 2000 in the quarterly release *Use of the Internet by Householders, February 2000* (Cat. no. 8147.0). Annual data aggregated for 1999 were released on 6 June 2000 in *Household Use of Information Technology, 1999* (Cat. no. 8146.0). This publication includes more detailed information than that available in the quarterly release. For instance, State and Territory dissections are available for a number of items.

Questions on IT use by children as well as household access to computers and the internet were asked in a supplementary to the April 2000 Monthly Labour Force Survey. The sample population in the Monthly Labour Force Survey is large enough to provide an opportunity to present more detailed regional IT statistics as well as some information about children's IT activities. Results are expected to be released later this year.

For further information contact John Ovington on 02 6252 5189 or john.ovington@abs.gov.au

Accrual-based Government Finance Statistics

Resulting from the adoption of an accrual accounting basis, the ABS implemented major changes to Government Finance Statistics (GFS), which were reflected in the release of the 1998–99 issue of *Government Finance Statistics* (Cat. no. 5512.0) and again in the 1999–2000 issue of *Government Financial Estimates* (Cat. no. 5510.0). The change in the accounting basis from a predominantly cash basis to an accruals approach is fundamental and its major effects are reflected by a shift in focus from analytical measures such as the 'Deficit' to concepts such as 'Net Operating Balance', 'Net Lending/Borrowing' and 'Increase in Net Worth'.

STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENTS

The change in accounting basis has come about as a result of the adoption of accrual accounting by Australian governments and the need to align the Australian GFS to revised international statistical standards. Over recent years, Australian governments have progressively introduced various Australian Accounting Standards that have required the adoption of an accrual basis and have also introduced (in AAS31) the concept of reporting for the whole of government to give an overview of each government's financial performance.

A new conceptual framework in the form of an integrated statement of stocks and flows derived from SNA93 (System of National Accounts, revised in 1993) has been introduced in place of the old cash-based framework. The new GFS framework (like the old one) is designed to facilitate macro-economic analysis, but is based on an integrated recording of stocks and flows. This allows a more comprehensive assessment of the economic impact of government activity and the sustainability of fiscal policy. It also provides an improved basis for monitoring efficiency in the allocation and use of government resources.

The new GFS framework is divided into a number of separate statements. These are Operating Statement, Statement of Stocks and Flows, Balance Sheet and Cash Flow Statement, each of which focuses on analytical aggregates or balances of particular interest to users of GFS.

The new GFS analytical balances are:

- *Net Operating Balance*: This measure reflects the sustainability of government operations.
- *Net Lending/Borrowing*: This measure represents a government's call on the financial sector and reflects the economic impact of government operations.
- *Net Worth*: This is an economic measure of 'wealth'.
- *Increase in Net Worth*: This measure is the difference between Net Worth at the end of the current period less Net Worth at the end of the previous period.
- *Surplus(+)/Deficit(-)*: This measure is similar in concept to the previous cash-based measure, but uses a different sign convention (a positive sign now indicates a surplus) and is not directly comparable to the old measure due to changes in some jurisdictions' methodologies and data sources.

The adoption of the new GFS conceptual framework also required changes to the main classifications used in the compilation of GFS.

The following table summarises the main differences for each GFS sector between cash GFS and accrual GFS.

For further information contact Murray Lyons on 07 3222 6198 or j.m.lyons@abs.gov.au

MAIN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CASH BASED GFS AND ACCRUAL GFS

Cash based GFS	Accrual based GFS	Main differences
GENERAL GOVERNMENT		
Outlays and revenues compiled on a cash basis.	Revenues and expenses compiled on an accrual basis.	Change in accounting basis from cash to accrual.
Deficit(+)/Surplus(-) compiled on a cash basis.	Surplus(+)/Deficit(-) compiled on a cash basis from the cash flow statement.	Change in sign convention.
Partial balance sheet (selected financial assets and liabilities).	Full balance sheet.	Change to full balance sheet (includes non-financial assets).
PUBLIC NON-FINANCIAL CORPORATIONS		
Outlays and revenues compiled on an accrual basis.	Revenues and expenses compiled on an accrual basis.	No change in the accounting basis of revenues and expenses.
Deficit(+)/Surplus(-) compiled on an approximate cash basis.	Surplus(+)/Deficit(-) compiled on a cash basis from the cash flow statement.	Change from an approximate cash to a cash basis. Change in sign convention.
Partial balance sheet (selected financial assets and liabilities).	Full balance sheet.	Change to full balance sheet (includes non-financial assets).
PUBLIC FINANCIAL CORPORATIONS		
Outlays and revenues compiled on an accrual basis.	Revenues and expenses compiled on an accrual basis.	No change in the accounting basis of revenues and expenses.
Deficit(+)/Surplus(-) compiled on an approximate cash basis.	Surplus(+)/Deficit(-) compiled on a cash basis from the cash flow statement.	Change from an approximate cash to a cash basis. Change in sign convention.
Partial balance sheet (selected financial assets and liabilities).	Full balance sheet.	Change to full balance sheet (includes non-financial assets).

Developments in Service Industries Surveys (SIS)

The ABS undertakes a range of surveys of the service industries on an annual basis. In respect of the 1999–2000 financial year the ABS is surveying casinos, community services industries, cultural industries, leasing and hiring industries and the veterinary services industry.

For further information contact Paul Hoffmann on 07 3222 6201 or paul.hoffmann@abs.gov.au

Casino Survey

The Casino Survey is conducted annually. The publication (Cat. no. 8683.0) shows the changing size and structure of the casino industry in Australia and is scheduled for release in January 2001.

Cultural Industries Surveys

The scope of the Cultural Industries Surveys is all units classified to the following ANZSIC classes:

9111	Film and Video Production
9112	Film and Video Distribution
9113	Motion Picture Exhibition
9122	Television Services
9210	Libraries
9220	Museums
9231	Botanic Gardens
9241	Music and Theatre Productions
9252	Performing Arts Venues
9259	Services to the Arts n.e.c.
9511	Video Hire Outlets

In addition to the above, the following units will also be included in order to present a more complete user view of the activities of interest:

- Federal, State and local government units to cover their activities in respect of libraries, museums, botanic gardens and performing arts venues.
- Non-employed feature film production units still receiving income from past productions.
- Museum locations of non-museum units and non-employed museums.
- Major performing art festivals — these units are a significant part of the industry but are often classified to out of scope industries.
- As was the case in 1996–97 it is proposed to include commercial art galleries (ANZSIC class 5259 (part) — retailing n.e.c.) in the survey. The inclusion of these units is proposed as a partial proxy measure of the output of creative artists (i.e. painters). Users, while

recognising the limitations of the data, consider some measure of the output of creative artists, in particular works by indigenous persons, as a key output from the survey.

Eight separate publications are proposed to be released. The publications will be similar in content and structure in that they will contain both structural and activity data about the respective industry. They are:

- *Motion Picture Exhibition, Australia, 1999–2000* (Cat. no. 8654.0)
- *Film and Video Production and Distribution, Australia, 1999–2000* (Cat. no. 8679.0)
- *Television Services, Australia, 1999–2000* (Cat. no. 8680.0)
- *Libraries and Museums, Australia, 1999–2000* (Cat. no. 8649.0)
- *Botanic Gardens, Australia, 1999–2000* (Cat. no. 8699.0)
- *Performing Arts, Australia, 1999–2000* (Cat. no. 8697.0)
- *Commercial Arts Galleries, Australia, 1999–2000* (Cat. no. 8651.0)
- *Video Hire Outlets, Australia, 1999–2000* (Cat. no. to be advised)

All the above publications are ‘repeats’ of 1996–97, except for *Video Hire Outlets, Australia* which will be released for the first time. The eight publications are scheduled for release in the period May to September 2001.

Community Services Survey

The scope of the 1999–2000 Community Services Survey will be similar to that of the 1995–96 survey. It will include all employing organisations, both public and private, mainly engaged in community services or undertaking significant community services activity. The scope of the survey includes organisations classified to ANZSIC Subdivision 87 (Community Services) which covers the following classes:

8710	Child Care Services
8721	Accommodation for the Aged
8722	Residential Care Services n.e.c.
8729	Non-residential Care Services n.e.c.

In addition to the above, a number of organisations classified to non-community services ANZSIC classes, but having significant community service activities will be included. These ANZSIC classes are:

7861	Employment placement services (only organisations supporting disabled persons)
8613	Nursing homes
9629	Interest groups n.e.c.

Various industries — sheltered workshops

Selected government organisations classified to ANZSIC classes 8111, 8112 and 8113 will also be included to collect data on their funding of community service activities and their direct provision of community services activities.

The expectation in respect of the 1999–00 survey is that a single publication (Cat no. 8696.0) will be released in July 2001.

Leasing and Hiring Industries

The survey of Leasing and Hiring Industries is to be undertaken for the first time. It includes both the plant hiring and leasing industry (ANZSIC class 7743) and the personal and household goods hiring industry (ANZSIC class 9519).

It is expected they will show a turnover in excess of \$6,000m, which is similar in magnitude to the clubs or the accommodation industries. One publication is proposed, covering the rent, leasing and hiring industries, and scheduled for release in the period May to June 2001.

Veterinary Services

The veterinary services industry (ANZSIC class 8640) was identified as a significant industry for which there is little available information, so a new survey will be undertaken in respect of the 1999–2000 financial year.

The veterinary services industry (a class within the health services subdivision) was included for consideration in the 1997–98 allied health industries surveys, however, due to resource constraints and the tenuous link of veterinary services to allied health services, it did not proceed. It is expected there will be one publication covering the veterinary services industry and scheduled for release in the period May to June 2001.

Alternate View for the Environment Sector

The NSW office of the ABS is developing an alternative view of the waste management and recycling services industries.

An alternate view refers to the presentation of collected data in a way other than the standard ANZSIC industry based view. The view, which complies with the international standards suggested by Eurostats in The Environmental Goods and Services Industry, Manual for Data Collection and Analysis, will expand on the published data of businesses contributing to the industry and present a format for statistics on the demand for these services in the public, private and household sectors.

It is anticipated that data collected would be available at State and national levels. The view also makes use of data items collected in the waste management industry survey run in 1996–97.

For further information contact Kevin Fagan on 02 9268 4315 or kevin.fagan@abs.gov.au

New Household Expenditure Survey

The latest Household Expenditure Survey started fieldwork in July 1998 and was completed in June 1999. The survey collected details about expenditure, income and a range of demographic and social characteristics of households throughout Australia. Data are now available in the publication *Household Expenditure Survey, Australia: Summary of Results* (Cat. no. 6530.0), and through the special tabulation service.

The 1998–99 survey maintains a very good time series from 1993, with some differences in content and output. Queensland tables are available on request.

New

New questions on financial stress and certain lump sum payments were added to the survey.

A Household Expenditure Classification was introduced to replace the HES Commodity Code List (HESCCL) used in earlier Household Expenditure Surveys. At the detailed level, extra items were created to cover new areas of expenditure, such as mobile phones and new entertainment technologies.

Changes

A computer aided interviewing (CAI) technique was used to collect data from households and individuals; (regular expenses were still collected through a paper diary).

Changed collection and/or processing methods were also introduced for information on taxes and fees on financial institution accounts, education, disability, loans, industry of employment, tenure, landlord type, gambling and income in-kind.

Other survey output

Detailed expenditure tables will be available in the publication *Household Expenditure Survey, Australia: Detailed Expenditure Items* (Cat. no. 6535.0), to be released in September 2000.

State wafers of the bulk of national tables in publications are available for \$40 per State. Capital city sets cost an additional \$40. These tables—available as printed copy or electronically as spreadsheets—replace the 1993–94 publication *Household Expenditure Survey, Australia: States and Territories* (Cat. no. 6533.0).

A 1993–94 to 1998–99 concordance, as well as the complete Household Expenditure Classification, are also available electronically or in hard copy.

For further information contact Shelley Evans on 02 6252 7031 or scp.evans@abs.gov.au

Reducing Provider Load

Many providers of information to the ABS are also required to comply with many other demands for their time and effort by government at all levels. The Federal Government is concerned that all of these tasks are making it harder for small businesses to operate. Although the 1996 report of the Small Business Deregulation Task Force, *More Time for Business*, reported that statistics accounted for only 1% of the time small business spends on paperwork and compliance work, the challenge has been taken up by the ABS to reduce this load and so make things easier, in particular for small businesses.

The ongoing support of providers is vital to the production of quality statistics. The aim of reducing provider load is to maintain good relations between the ABS and providers and to keep them as willing participants in the statistics process. To reduce provider load while maintaining the quality of the output statistics, however, is a real balancing act. A Provider Load Committee meets regularly and a measure of its success is that since 1995–96 the load on business providers has been reduced to some 425,000 hours—35% less than in 1995–96.

This was achieved by a wide range of changes including reduction of the frequency of some collections, reduction of the sample size used in collections, fewer questions asked and improved form design. Further priorities over the next year or so will involve ways of using more tax data as an alternative to direct collection and exploration of better ways to manage the load on providers, especially on medium-sized businesses.

For further information contact Geoff Heffernan on 02 6252 5632 or geoff.heffernan@abs.gov.au

Building Prices Indexes—Coming Soon

The ABS is developing price indexes to measure the quarter to quarter price movement of the outputs of building other than house building and selected categories of engineering construction.

Although these indexes will primarily be produced on a national basis, it is expected that the indexes for building and road construction will also be available for States and Territories.

The ABS will begin disseminating the building price indexes toward the end of 2000, with the other indexes following on a progressive basis.

For further information, contact Mark Dubner on 02 9268 4448 or mark.dubner@abs.gov.au

Centralised Information Service Now Serves All States and Territories

The National Information Service (NIS) is now fully operational. It acts as a gateway to the full range of information and services provided by the ABS. It handles telephone inquiries, internet email inquiries including those received from the ABS website, fax and written inquiries and was created following a decision in August 1999 to centralise the telephone inquiry services, previously located in each State and Territory.

The implementation of the NIS has been staged, with the transfer of functions occurring progressively since 31 January 2000. The final State, Western Australia, transferred at the end of March.

The NIS is located in the New South Wales office of the ABS. The service operates from 8.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. local time for each State and Territory. Consultants in the NIS assess client needs and provide prompt responses to simple inquiries. Data requests which can be serviced from current publications and within 5 minutes are met without charge and the sale of current publications can be arranged over the phone. Where the request cannot be met within these guidelines, clients are referred to the Client Services area in their State or Territory of origin.

A range of self-help options are also available, such as the ABS website, LEP services and the CPI InfoLine.

If you require simple statistical information which might be answerable from a current publication, contact the NIS on:
Telephone: 1300 135 070 (Local call charge only) Fax: 1300 135 211 Email: client.services@abs.gov.au
Write to: Client Services, GPO Box 796, Sydney NSW 1041



Goods and Services Tax (GST) and ABS Products and Services

Introduction

This notice provides a general outline of the impact of the introduction of the GST on prices for ABS products and services. In providing this information, the ABS is not giving legal advice on the operation of the GST and related taxation changes. Customers should obtain appropriate advice on the impact of GST and related taxation changes on their activities.

Setting Prices of ABS Products and Services

The ABS as a supplier is increasing its prices to reflect its GST liability for taxable supplies made on or after 1 July 2000. In revising its pricing, the ABS has estimated likely reductions in costs to the ABS as a result of taxes which are being phased out or abolished. These estimated reductions have been incorporated.

Transition Period Issues

Some supplies made by the ABS will span the commencement of GST (1 July 2000). For those supplies, part of the supply will not be subject to GST (that part of the supply made before 1 July 2000) and part of the supply will be a taxable supply (that part of the supply made on or after 1 July 2000). The ABS is increasing the price charged for supplies on only that part of the supply which is a taxable supply. For example, for a subscription for the 2000 calendar year, the increase to reflect the impact of GST has been calculated on that part of the price relating to the supply of the subscription made on or after 1 July 2000.

Customer's entitlement to full input tax credits

If a customer (recipient of a supply) is entitled to input tax credits, the customer will require certain documentation to entitle the customer to claim the input tax credit. The invoices presently provided by the ABS are set out as a document in a form satisfying the requirements of GST Bulletin 1999/1 *Guidelines for 'tax invoices' issued by suppliers before 1 July 2000*. The ATO has indicated in GSTR 2000/3 that such a document entitles the recipient of a supply to claim an input tax credit even though the recipient has not been issued with a tax invoice.

The ABS has received an Australian Business Number (ABN — 26 331 428 522) and is also registered for GST. Commencing 1 July 2000, the ABS will provide customers with tax invoices which meets the requirements of the GST legislation.

Where to find GST inclusive prices

ABS prices include the GST for all supplies made on and after 1 July, 2000. The prices of some ABS products produced prior to 1 July 2000 will therefore be adjusted to reflect GST on and after 1 July 2000. The GST exclusive prices applying up to 30-6-2000 are displayed in the 1999 *ABS Catalogue of Publications* (Cat. no. 1101.0), on the ABS website, in ABS Bookshops and in other relevant information. The GST inclusive prices applying from 1-7-2000 will be displayed towards the middle of the year in the 2000 *ABS Catalogue of Publications*, on the ABS website, in ABS Bookshops, and in other relevant information about ABS prices.

Prices for year 2000 subscriptions to ABS publications are contained in *A Guide to Subscriptions: Publications to be Released in 2000* (Cat. no. 1109.0).

Outcomes of the Service Industries Survey Program Review

As part of its overall Services Statistics Strategy, the ABS has had in place a program of Service Industry Surveys since 1991–92. The objective of the program has been to provide more comprehensive information about the structure, nature and activities of the different industries that make up the services sector, which is now the largest component of the Australian economy. In the period from 1991–92 to the present, the program has covered most of the service industries including the retail and wholesale industries, gambling industries, community service industry, cultural industries, business services and a range of professions such as the medical, legal, allied health and dental professions.

In early 1999, a major review of the Service Industries Survey Program was undertaken with key Commonwealth and State users. The objective was to identify the highest priority industries for the next round of Service Industries Surveys to be conducted over the next 2–3 years.

As one might expect there was a diverse range of submissions made as part of the review. The five main areas of interest in the submissions covered the following fields: community services and health, tourism, gambling, sport and recreation and cultural industries.

In response to those submissions the ABS is proposing the following program of surveys:

For reference year 1999–2000:

- Community services industries and
- Cultural industries.

For reference year 2000–2001:

- Accommodation industry,
- Cafes and restaurants,
- Clubs, pubs, taverns and bars,
- Sport and recreation industry and
- Gambling industries.

For more information contact Paul Sullivan on 02 6252 5635 or paul.sullivan@abs.gov.au

New Product Classification for Australia—New Zealand

The Australian and New Zealand Standard Commodity Classification (ANZSCC) is being reviewed. ANZSCC has been used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and Statistics New Zealand in the collection and publication of statistics for goods and services since 1993–94. It will be replaced by the Australian and New Zealand Standard Product Classification (ANZSPC).

The ANZSPC, due for publication by the end of 2000, will be based on the Central Product Classification (CPC), published in 1998 by the United Nations Statistics Division.

One of the objectives of this new classification is to achieve comparability with the fifth level of CPC. However, deviations or extensions (lower level items) to suit local requirements will be required. Alignment with CPC will allow Australia and New Zealand product-based statistics to be comparable with those of other countries which are adopting CPC. This will enable the ABS and Statistics New Zealand to contribute to the further refinement of the CPC from first-hand experience, as well as benefit from the experience of other statistical agencies as they also introduce and use CPC.

The development of the ANZSPC will take account of changing requirements for statistics about goods and services and the changing nature of the Australian and New Zealand economies (e.g. growing importance of the service industries), as well as problems that have arisen in the use of ANZSCC. The ANZSPC will also adopt international terminology and definitions.

The revised classification will be designed for easier use, with stand-alone descriptors where possible, which will help users to understand the scope of individual items without reference to the hierarchical levels. Explanatory notes at the most detailed level as well as simplified terminology will also be included.

If you have any queries or comments, please contact Louise Perkins on 02 6252 7724 or louise.perkins@abs.gov.au

The ABS encourages responses to articles in this newsletter and welcomes your suggestions for future issues.

Contact: Doylys Hartridge
 Telephone: 07 3222 6326
 Fax: 07 3222 6283
 Email: doylys.hartridge@abs.gov.au

CURFs Up! 300 and Rising

The ABS/Australian Vice Chancellors' Committee Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) Agreement reached a significant milestone in December 1999 with the lodgement of the 200th application. The total has now risen to 300 applications in June 2000.

The Agreement, signed in February 1999, allows universities, for the purposes of supporting teaching and academic research, access to ABS CURFs which contain unidentifiable unit record data from most of the key ABS social and labour surveys.

The ABS Tertiary Client Management team has provided a service which ensures the high client demand is speedily met. The team works closely with subject matter areas and has had great support from them in meeting the unexpected high demand for ABS CURF data. The Agreement has been successful in supporting major research and results have formed the basis of research papers, been included in publications and discussed at conferences. The data have been used to

build models for ongoing research and analysis and to support evaluation of policy developments across a range of economic and social areas.

Applications for nearly 50 different CURFs have been received from 28 universities. Some of the topics requested were: literacy, census, disability, ageing and carers, child care, business longitudinal surveys, household expenditure, time use, income and housing costs, employment and unemployment patterns, education and training experience, labour mobility, mental health and well-being, rental investors and national health and nutrition.

The ABS website provides all information required by clients including a Guide to Obtaining a CURF, Application Booklet, Frequently Asked Questions and a List of Available CURFs. Access this information at <http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3110129.NSF/ABS-AVCC>

For further information contact Carolyn Kennedy on 02 6252 5853 or carolyn.kennedy@abs.gov.au

LEP Expands Its Web

The web pages of the ABS Library Extension Program (LEP) on the ABS website have been restructured and augmented.

Six pages have been extensively revised and another 23 added. New pages include 'Beginning with CLIB', 'What's New?', and 'Frequently Asked Questions'. 'Beattie's Best' (a series of informal guides to ABS publications for librarians), inside the Librarians' Toolkit has been revised and updated and the latest in the series is available on the ABS website.

More links to other parts of the ABS website have been made to facilitate use of the information there.

To get to the LEP section, from the ABS website <http://www.abs.gov.au> home page select Products and Services, then under the heading ABS Services select the link ABS Library Extension Program.

For further information contact Neil McKellar-Stewart on 07 3222 6364 or neil.mckellar-stewart@abs.gov.au

National Centre for Education and Training Statistics

Since early 1999 the ABS has sought to increase its role in the development of education and training statistics in Australia, to better meet the emerging needs of education policy makers and planners for information in this field.

The creation of the National Centre for Education and Training Statistics (NCETS) is a part of the ABS response in this direction. The NCETS provides for ongoing ABS involvement in the field of education and training such as methods of collection and management of data, and research and analysis of data on education and training.

In addition, a newly created specialist unit within the NCETS will provide leadership for statistics in the field of education and training. This unit, the National

Education and Training Statistics Unit (NETSU) was established by the ABS on 1 July 2000, in partnership with key stakeholders. At its inaugural meeting, the NETSU Management Board agreed to an initial work program of the NETSU that includes the development of an education and training statistics framework and the development of key performance measures of education participation and attainment.

A further initiative of the ABS will be to establish an Education and Training Statistics and Advisory Group (ETSAG) to provide advice to the NCETS on statistical matters in education and training. The ETSAG will comprise representatives with statistical expertise in the field of education and training.

For further information contact Mel Butler on 02 6252 5936 or mel.butler@abs.gov.au

2001 Census: Final Consultations Starting Soon

Since early 1999, the ABS has been undertaking a wide ranging consultation with users of census data. Initially, the ABS conducted focus groups with users to obtain qualitative information on the range and delivery of 1996 Census products and services.

This was followed by a wider consultation with all known census data users to obtain reactions to the broad strategies and directions for developing 2001 Census products and services. This information, summarised in *ABS Views on Census Output Strategy* (Cat. no. 2009.0), was distributed to all Census Update readers last October. This paper and its findings are available from the ABS web site at www.abs.gov.au

Proposed Products and Services

The final phase of the census user consultation process will be commencing shortly. The *Information Paper: 2001 Census of Population and Housing: Proposed Products and Services* (Cat. no. 2011.0) is due for release on 27 July 2000.

The information paper, which incorporates feedback from the second round of consultations, describes the full range of products and services that are proposed for release and their indicative release dates. The paper also aims to inform census users of the changes to census data concepts and classifications.

The information paper will be accompanied by a supplement and questionnaire. The supplement contains detailed information on the proposed format and table content of 2001 Census publications, the Community Profile Series and Internet Services.

The information paper, supplement and questionnaire is available via the ABS web site (select the Census button on the ABS home page and follow the links).

New questionnaire

The questionnaire has been specifically drawn up so we can hear your views on the proposed products and services. After considering the available information, please take the time to complete the questionnaire and return it by 15 September 2000. The questionnaire can be completed in hardcopy or on-line via the ABS web site.

The ABS welcomes comments on other output related issues that users wish to be considered before the ABS finalises its output plans for the next census. It is important that the ABS receive as many comments as possible to ensure that the census products and services are relevant to user's statistical requirements.

The information from this consultation will be used to finalise the design, content and functionality of the full range of 2001 Census products and services.

More information about census products and services

The ABS will continue to deliver more detailed information about the proposed 2001 Census product suite as plans become firmer. As the current ABS pricing policy is undergoing review, indicative prices have not been included in the information paper. However as prices for census products and services are developed, clients will be informed through future editions of Census Update and the ABS web site.

It is also important to note that the release dates shown in the paper are indicative only and are subject to change. The ABS intends to make every effort to release data as soon as possible, and will advise users of firm release dates in the first release of Census Update in 2002, and through the ABS web site.

**For further information contact
Bernie Fitzpatrick on 02 6252 7869 or
census2001@abs.gov.au**



MONITORING TRENDS IN IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

Regular trade reports from the ABS are the ideal way to identify trends in imports and exports. They help you monitor commodity price & volume changes, analyse market share, and track import penetration and export performance.

Import information is available just 12 working days after the end of each month, and exports, 21 days after the end of the month.

If you'd like to get the most comprehensive and accurate picture of import and export activity in Australia, call 1800 802 928 and ask for the commodities that interest you.



CALL 1800 802 928 FOR YOUR TRADE SOLUTION

Optional Data Retention in Census 2001

It was announced in December 1999 that the 2001 census will offer the Australian people a choice of having their names, addresses and census information retained by the National Archives of Australia and released for research purposes after 99 years. This decision was welcomed as the 2001 census has great significance, being the first of the new millennium and coinciding with the Centenary of Federation.

The government's decision means that the census information which people have elected to have retained will be available to genealogists, social historians and other researchers in the 22nd century.

'In a thousand years' time Australians will be able to use this census as a snapshot of how their country looked at the dawn of the past millennium,' the Minister told Parliament.

The census will continue to provide a detailed statistical picture of Australia vital to informed decision making in the future.

Names, addresses and census information will only be retained for those people who explicitly 'opt-in'. These details will be retained by the National Archives of Australia and released in 99 years. A primary role of the Archives is to retain valuable Commonwealth records in a safe and secure environment, so these census records are guaranteed to remain confidential for the next 99 years.

Census staff are incorporating the government decision into all aspects of planning for the next census which will take place on Tuesday night, 7 August 2001.

For further information contact Paul Williams on 02 6252 5940 or paul.williams@abs.gov.au



2001 Census: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Enumeration Strategy

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Enumeration Strategy (IES) for the 2001 Census of Population and Housing is currently being finalised.

The IES is a collection strategy for counting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in nominated discrete communities and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households. It also includes census awareness activities targeted at the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.

The proposed IES for 2001 will recruit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to conduct the census wherever possible and continue use of specially designed forms in discrete communities.

It is anticipated that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enumeration will be more fully integrated with the standard collection than it has been in the past and strategies will also be put in place for homeless enumeration and ethnic enumeration.

For further information, contact Kevin Beere on 08 8943 2141 or kevin.beere@abs.gov.au

Assessing the Need for Intercensal Small Area Data — Your Input Required!!

While intercensal Estimated Resident Population data are published and the ABS currently produces census year estimates for households by SLA as a standard output, household estimates for the intercensal period are not prepared at the SLA level.

It may be feasible to produce household estimates for the intercensal period, but this will depend on the demand that exists as well as methodological concerns. However, it is unlikely that such estimates will be available until at least 2003.

To assist the ABS determine demand for this data information was sought by July this year on:

- (i) policy initiatives affected by the lack of this data,
- (ii) what alternatives are available (if this data is not available),
- (iii) whether or not household estimates would be used and
- (iv) what type of intercensal household data would best suit your needs if the ABS can produce more than just household counts for the intercensal periods.

For more information contact Stefan Johns on 08 8237 7398 or s.johns@abs.gov.au

Corrective Services

The ABS released the latest figures on persons in gaol on 29 June 2000. Details include legal status — sentenced or unsentenced — type of custody (secure, open or periodic detention) type of sentence and receptions of sentenced prisoners into custody and the number of federal prisoners. Data is available at State level with further breakdown by sex.

Interesting snippets of information from *Corrective Services, Australia, March Quarter 2000* (Cat. no. 4512.0) show that:

- There were 8,970 receptions of sentenced prisoners in Australia during the March quarter 2000 and
- Queensland reported the highest number of receptions of sentenced prisoners with 4,002 prisoners during the March quarter 2000.

For further information contact Nick Skondreas on 03 9615 7362 or nick.skondreas@abs.gov.au

Crime Statistics Available

The ABS has released the results from the 1998 Crime and Safety Survey, the first national survey in 5 years, in the publication *Crime and Safety, Australia* (Cat. no. 4509.0). The survey was conducted to obtain the level of victimisation in the community for selected offences. Information on the household crimes of break-in, attempted break-in and motor vehicle theft was collected. For persons aged 15 years and over, information was collected on the personal crimes of robbery and assault. Females aged 18 years and over were asked questions on sexual assault.

Uses of Crime Victimization Data

Crime victimisation data is being increasingly used to guide policy makers in decisions on resource allocation, crime prevention and other law enforcement efforts and to provide performance indicators as a guide to the success of such programs and activities. For example:

- *Interjurisdictional comparisons.* Comparisons are drawn between the States and Territories in law enforcement and methods of best practice in crime prevention.
- *Comparisons of victimisation rates over time.* Time series of data has been used as one measure of trends in 'real' (as opposed to reported) crime rates in some States.

- *As a measure of 'real' crime rates, and reporting behaviour.* Some crimes, e.g. domestic violence or sexual assault, go unreported in the community. for a variety of reasons. Reasons given for not reporting offences to police are seen as a measure of the success of campaigns which encourage reporting to police, as well as a measure of the relative seriousness of unreported offences, e.g. 95% of all motor vehicle thefts were reported to police, as opposed to 28% of all assaults. The survey is of particular use in examining the nature of assault in our community.
- *As a measure of risk factors to guide government policy.* Sociological and behavioural characteristics of victims and non-victims can be identified to 'profile' the typical victim of different offence types, so that crime prevention strategies can be more tightly focused on 'at-risk' groups.

Data from the Crime and Safety Survey, which provides information on crime that does not get reported to police, and on households and persons who experienced repeat victimisation, can be used to complement the statistics in the publication *Recorded Crime, Australia* (Cat. no. 4510.0), which gives details of offences recorded by police.

Data from the publication *Recorded Crime, Australia, 1999*, released on 28 June 2000, show that between 1998 and 1999:

- Murders increased nationally by 57 persons or 20%. In Queensland, murders decreased by one to 63.
- Assaults rose nationally by 2,699 or 2.1%. Assaults in Queensland rose 114, or 0.6% to 18,443 in 1999.
- Robbery victims decreased nationally by 1,211 or 5.1%. Robbery victims in Queensland decreased from 2,531 in 1998 to 2,466 in 1999.
- Victims of unlawful entry with intent and motor vehicle theft offences decreased nationally by 18,777 (4.3%) and 1,722 (1.3%), respectively. Victims of unlawful entry with intent remained relatively stable in Queensland between 1998 and 1999, however, motor vehicle theft offences increased from 15,693 in 1998 to 18,251 in 1999, an increase of 16%.

For further information about:

**The Crime and Safety Survey contact
Christine Holland on 03 9615 7673 or
christine.holland@abs.gov.au**

**Recorded Crime statistics contact Eng Chee on
03 9615 7595 or eng.chee@abs.gov.au**

Queensland Office Launches Landmark Internet Activity Survey

There is a strong demand for regular statistics on internet activity from government departments and industry users. Public and private organisations in Australia will soon have access to reliable measures of internet usage thanks to a quarterly Internet Activity Survey, a first for the ABS and a first for Australia, being conducted by the Queensland office.

A pilot survey was undertaken for the June quarter 2000 and quarterly surveys will be conducted from the September 2000 quarter. The first results from the survey are expected to be available in December 2000.

The survey will include some basic industry and regional data on this important sector which is underpinning the emerging information economy. Information collected in the

survey will include subscriber numbers and churn rates, on-line time and amount of data downloaded, internet Service Provider (ISP) contact locations, infrastructure, and technical support.

For further information contact Sandra Hine on 07 3222 6172 or sandra.hine@abs.gov.au



The Internet Service Provider survey team

FUTURE AUSTRALIAN LABOUR FORCE

Labour Force Projections to 2016

The ABS has recently released a summary of the projections of the Australian Labour Force to 2016.

The projections, in the publication *Labour Force Projections, Australia, 1999–2016* (Cat. no. 6260.0), illustrate what future labour force outcomes might be realised if the assumed labour force and population trends eventuate. The results are neither predictions nor forecasts, they merely extrapolate past labour force trends and apply them to projections of the population.

The projections are available, at the national level only, for labour force and labour force participation rate by age and by sex.

Projections indicate:

- Slowing growth and an ageing profile are likely to characterise the Australian labour force over the period to 2016.

- Annual labour force growth will slow to 0.4% per year by 2016, compared with average growth of 1.9% per year from 1979 to 1998.
- Despite this slowing in growth, over the period 1998 to 2016 the labour force could rise by 16% or 1.5 million, to 10.8 million.
- More than 80% of the growth in the labour force between 1998 and 2016 will be in the 45 years and over age group.

The overall labour force participation rate is projected to fall to 60.6% by 2016. This rate was last experienced in 1984. In 1990, the labour force participation rate peaked at 63.7%—the highest level since it has been measured. It is not projected to reach this level again during the projection period.

For further information contact Don Clark on 02 6252 6018 or don.clark@abs.gov.au

AusStats on ABS Website

AusStats was created in line with the current ABS focus of developing systems and products that exploit new technologies to meet the changing needs of clients. It was released on the ABS website on 17 April 2000 and contains a 'User pays' section and will eventually replace the PC Austats service.

AusStats is more than just a time series as it allows subscribers access to:

- **over 2000 spreadsheets**
- **all ABS publications from 1998 onwards, in Adobe Acrobat format**
- **multidimensional datasets in SuperTABLE format**
- **census Basic Community Profiles to the Statistical Local Area level in Excel spreadsheet format**
- **free summary information including Main Features, Release Advices and Australia Now with extensive linking between related information.**

Check it out at <http://www.abs.gov.au> !

ABS QLD CONTACT POINTS



National Inquiry Service

Telephone 1300 135 070 or for Deaf Clients TTY 3222 6325
Consultants will assist with your statistical inquiries.



Internet Site

www.abs.gov.au
email client.services@abs.gov.au



Bookshop

Current copies of ABS publications and floppy disks for sale. Visit us on the 18th floor at 313 Adelaide St; open 8.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.



Library

The Library is situated alongside our bookshop and provides a complete range of ABS current and historical publications.

Contacts for Queensland State Government Departments

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