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- For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information Service on 1300135070 or Paul W. Taylor on Melbourne 0396157431.

INTRODUCTION

COMMENTS ON THIS
PUBLICATION

ROUNDING

ABBREVIATIONS

This publication presents results, in respect of the 1998-99 financial year, from an Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) survey of businesses in the cleaning services industry. It is the second ABS survey of the industry with the previous survey being conducted in respect of 1987-88.

This publication is one of a series to be issued in respect of 1998-99 for a range of property and business services industries. Other publications in this series are:

Computing Services Industry, Australia, 1998-99 (Cat. no. 8669.0)
Employment Services, Australia, 1998-99 (Cat. no. 8558.0)
Legal Services Industry, Australia, 1998-99 (Cat. no. 8667.0)
Market Research Services, Australia, 1998-99 (Cat. no. 8556.0) - issued 5 June 2000
Real Estate Services Industry, Australia, 1998-99 (Cat. no. 8663.0) - issued 24 May 2000
Security Services, Australia, 1998-99 (Cat. no. 8557.0)

The ABS welcomes comments and suggestions from users recommending industries and data items for inclusion in future surveys. These comments should be addressed to the Director, Service Industries Surveys, Australian Bureau of Statistics, PO Box 10, Belconnen ACT 2616.

Where figures have been rounded discrepancies may occur between the sum of component items and the total.

ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics<br>ANZSIC Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification

[^0]
## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

## INTRODUCTION

SIZE OF INDUSTRY

SOURCES OF INCOME

## EXPENDITURE

This publication presents results, in respect of the 1998-99 financial year, from an Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) survey of businesses in the cleaning services industry. Businesses involved in the cleaning services industry are classified to Class 7866 (Cleaning Services) of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), which consists of businesses mainly engaged in cleaning of windows, building interiors and related cleaning services. Businesses mainly involved in the cleaning of building exteriors or cleaning of carpets and curtains were excluded from the survey.

At the end of June 1999, there were 5,938 businesses in the cleaning services industry, of which $2,864(48 \%)$ were sole proprietorships or partnerships. The cleaning of commercial buildings and offices was the main cleaning activity of 2,899 businesses ( $49 \%$ of all businesses). The cleaning of education premises and domestic premises was the main activity of 776 businesses and 717 businesses respectively.

Cleaning services businesses generated $\$ 2,137$ million during 1998-99 and employed 95,001 persons.

Of the 5,938 businesses, only 101 businesses (less than $2 \%$ of all businesses) employed more than 100 persons. These large businesses accounted for $52 \%$ of industry income and $55 \%$ of industry employment.

In 1998-1999, the operating profit before tax for the industry was $\$ 156$ million, which represented an operating profit margin of $7.3 \%$.

During 1998-99, the total income of the cleaning services industry was $\$ 2,137$ million with $96 \%$ of this income being accrued from general cleaning services. Private sector clients accounted for 76 \% ( $\$ 1,555$ million) and government clients 24\% (\$489 million) of the general cleaning services income.

In terms of income from general cleaning services ( $\$ 2,044$ million), $42 \%$ ( $\$ 854$ million) was sourced from the cleaning of commercial buildings and offices. The other major sources of income were the cleaning of education premises (\$341 million), retail premises ( $\$ 330$ million) and industrial premises ( $\$ 170$ million).

The majority ( $71 \%$ ) of businesses in the industry were involved in the cleaning of commercial buildings and offices, compared to $49 \%$ of businesses which cleaned commercial buildings and offices as their main activity. There were 1,604 businesses ( $27 \%$ of all businesses) with income sourced from the cleaning of domestic premises, but only $12 \%$ cleaned domestic premises as their main activity.

Total expenses for the cleaning services industry during 1998-99 was $\$ 1,981$ million.
Labour costs of $\$ 1,377$ million represented $70 \%$ of total expenses for the industry. The labour cost proportion was generally higher for larger businesses with labour costs being $77 \%$ of the total expenses of businesses employing 100 or more persons compared to $51 \%$ of total expenses for businesses with employment of less than five persons.

The average labour costs per employee for the industry was $\$ 15,200$, which reflected the high incidence of casual and part-time employees working in the industry.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS continued

## EXPENDITURE continued

EMPLOYMENT

STATE AND TERRITORY DIMENSION

Other significant expenses were sub-contract payments to other cleaning businesses ( $\$ 166$ million), purchases of goods ( $\$ 100$ million), motor vehicle running expenses ( $\$ 46$ million), other contract expenses ( $\$ 32$ million), and depreciation and amortisation ( $\$ 31$ million). The major components of purchases were cleaning materials and equipment ( $\$ 67$ million) and consumables such as soap, toilet paper and paper towels ( $\$ 28$ million). Other operating expenses, which were not separately itemised, were $\$ 131$ million and included such expenses as accounting and legal fees, training costs, entertainment and travel expenses, printing, postage, fringe benefits tax and advertising/sponsorship expenses.

At the end of June 1999, total employment in the cleaning services industry was 95,001 persons, of whom 90,267 persons ( $95 \%$ ) worked as cleaners.

Nearly half (48\%) of the persons in the industry worked on a permanent part-time employee basis. Casual employees accounted for $26 \%$ and permanent full-time employees accounted for $22 \%$ of industry employment. The remaining $5 \%$ of employment were working proprietors and partners.

The distribution of employment by gender was relatively even with 47,619 males and 47,382 females. Males accounted for $58 \%$ of permanent full-time employees, while females accounted for $53 \%$ of permanent part-time employees.

At the end of June, there were 2,026 cleaning services businesses ( $34 \%$ of all businesses) operating in New South Wales. These businesses accounted for 34\% of industry employment and $41 \%$ of industry income, compared to New South Wales' proportion of the Australian population of $34 \%$. In contrast, the 1,805 cleaning services businesses operating in Victoria contributed $29 \%$ to industry employment and $26 \%$ to industry income. Victoria's proportion of the Australian population is $25 \%$.

All other States and Territories' proportion of industry income was less than their proportion of the Australian population, except for the Australian Capital Territory. The 80 cleaning businesses operating in the Australian Capital Territory accounted for $3 \%$ of industry income compared to the Australian Capital Territory's proportion of the Australian population of $1.6 \%$. Cleaning businesses operating in the Australian Capital Territory also accounted for $2.6 \%$ of industry employment.

The average income per business was $\$ 359,900$. Businesses operating in the Australian Capital Territory ( $\$ 808,800$ per business) and New South Wales ( $\$ 430,500$ per business) were well above this average income. Businesses operating in South Australia ( $\$ 259,100$ per business) had the lowest average income per business.

The average number of persons working per cleaning business operating in the Australian Capital Territory and Western Australia was 30 persons and 20 persons respectively. This was higher than the industry average of 16 persons per business. In comparison, businesses in the Northern Territory and Queensland averaged 11 persons and 14 persons per business respectively. Businesses in New South Wales and Victoria averaged 16 persons and 15 persons per businesses respectively.
t the end of June 1999, there were 3,374 businesses in the industry with employment of less than 5 persons. These micro businesses accounted for $57 \%$ of all businesses in the

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS continued

SELECTED PERFORMANCE RATIOS
industry, but only $9 \%$ of industry employment and $11 \%$ of industry income. Of the 8,212 persons working for these businesses, $2,584(31 \%)$ were working proprietors and partners. The average income of businesses with employment of less than 5 persons was $\$ 66,500$.

There were 101 businesses ( $2 \%$ of all businesses) employing 100 persons or more. These large businesses accounted for $55 \%$ of industry employment, $52 \%$ of industry income and $21 \%$ of the operating profit before tax of the industry. These 101 large businesses had an average income per business of $\$ 11,082,200$, compared to an average income of business of $\$ 174,400$ for businesses with employment of less than 100 persons.

The operating profit margin of the cleaning services industry in 1998-99 was $7.3 \%$. However, the operating profit margin varied by size of business. Businesses with employment of less than 5 persons and businesses with employment between 5-9 persons recorded an operating profit margin of $21.6 \%$ and $17.1 \%$ respectively. Businesses with employment of 100 or more persons recorded an operating profit margin of $2.9 \%$. However, a significant contributing factor to the operating profit margin of smaller businesses was the fact that some of these businesses are operated by sole proprietors, and the drawings of these persons are not included in business expenses, and thus profit calculations.

Businesses of all sizes received a significant proportion of their cleaning income from commercial buildings and offices ( $42 \%$ being the industry average), but the proportion and the type of other cleaning income received varied by size of business. Businesses with employment of less than five persons received $55 \%$ of their cleaning income from commercial buildings and offices, $11 \%$ from domestic premises and $10 \%$ from education premises. Businesses employing 100 persons or more received $36 \%$ of their cleaning income from commercial buildings and offices, $24 \%$ from education premises and $18 \%$ from retail premises. In comparison, businesses with employment between 20-49 persons and 50-99 persons had a greater cleaning income concentration on commercial buildings and offices ( $46 \%$ and $43 \%$ respectively).

The average labour costs per employee for the industry was $\$ 15,200$, which varied from $\$ 16,100$ for businesses employing 100 persons or more to $\$ 11,800$ for businesses with employment between 5-9 persons.

The proportion of labour costs to total expenses also varied by size of business. The industry average was $70 \%$, with the average being $77 \%$ for businesses employing 100 persons or more compared to $51 \%$ for businesses with employment less than five persons.

## Value

| Businesses at end June |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Sole proprietor or partnership | no. | 2864 |
| Incorporated company | no. | 2415 |
| Trust | no. | 659 |
| Total | no. | 5938 |
| Businesses by main cleaning activity |  |  |
| Commercial buildings/office premises | no. | 2899 |
| Industrial premises | no. | 345 |
| Retail premises | no. | 532 |
| Domestic premises | no. | 717 |
| Event venues | no. | *28 |
| Education premises | no. | 776 |
| Hospitality premises | no. | 449 |
| Health premises | no. | 85 |
| Transport facilities | no. | 38 |
| Other | no. | 69 |
| Total | no. | 5938 |
| Employment at end June |  |  |
| Cleaners | no. | 90267 |
| Other | no. | 4734 |
| Total | no. | 95001 |
| Income |  |  |
| Income from general cleaning services |  |  |
| From the private sector | \$m | 1555.4 |
| From the public (government) sector | \$m | 488.7 |
| Total | \$m | 2044.1 |
| Other income | \$m | 92.9 |
| Total | \$m | 2137.0 |
| Expenses |  |  |
| Labour costs | \$m | 1377.1 |
| Payments to sub-contractors for general cleaning services | \$m | 166.0 |
| Purchases | \$m | 100.2 |
| Other expenses | \$m | 337.9 |
| Total | \$m | 1981.0 |
| Operating profit before tax | \$m | 155.5 |
| Operating profit margin | \% | 7.3 |

* estimate has a relative standard error of between $25 \%$ and $50 \%$ and should be used with caution

|  | Businesses <br> at end <br> June (a) | Value | Proportion of total income |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | no. | \$m | \% |
| Sales of goods and services |  |  |  |
| Income from general cleaning services |  |  |  |
| Commercial buildings/office premises | 4232 | 853.5 | 39.9 |
| Industrial premises | 1210 | 169.9 | 8.0 |
| Retail premises | 1408 | 329.8 | 15.4 |
| Domestic premises | 1604 | 62.5 | 2.9 |
| Event venues | 168 | 36.4 | 1.7 |
| Education premises | 1314 | 341.3 | 16.0 |
| Hospitality premises | 829 | 117.0 | 5.5 |
| Health premises | 374 | 57.2 | 2.7 |
| Transport facilities | 108 | 42.4 | 2.0 |
| Other | 216 | 34.1 | 1.6 |
| Total | 5938 | 2044.1 | 95.7 |
| Other cleaning related income | 923 | 45.1 | 2.1 |
| Income from building/property services other than cleaning | 235 | 12.5 | 0.6 |
| Sales of consumables | 746 | 15.8 | 0.7 |
| Other operating income | 792 | 15.1 | 0.7 |
| Total | 5938 | 2132.6 | 99.8 |
| Other sources of income |  |  |  |
| Interest income | 1184 | 2.0 | 0.1 |
| Other non-operating income | 767 | 2.4 | 0.1 |
| Total | 1640 | 4.4 | 0.2 |
| Total | 5938 | 2137.0 | 100.0 |

(a) Businesses may have more than one source of income. Hence, the counts of businesses for each income source do not sum to the total.

|  | Value | Proportion of total expenses |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | \$m | \% |
| Labour costs |  |  |
| Wages and salaries | 1188.0 | 60.0 |
| Employer contributions to <br> superannuation funds $79.4$ <br> 4.0 |  |  |
| Workers' compensation costs | 64.6 | 3.3 |
| Payroll tax | 45.1 | 2.3 |
| Total | 1377.1 | 69.5 |
| Selected expenses |  |  |
| Payments to sub-contractors for general cleaning services | 166.0 | 8.4 |
| Telecommunication services | 20.0 | 1.0 |
| Rent, leasing and hiring expenses | 28.4 | 1.4 |
| Repair and maintenance expenses | 20.1 | 1.0 |
| Motor vehicle running expenses | 46.3 | 2.3 |
| Other contract, sub-contract and commission expenses | 32.2 | 1.6 |
| Other operating expenses | 131.1 | 6.6 |
| Total | 443.9 | 22.4 |
| Other costs |  |  |
| Purchases |  |  |
| Cleaning materials and equipment | 67.2 | 3.4 |
| Consumables | 28.1 | 1.4 |
| Other | 4.9 | 0.2 |
| Total | 100.2 | 5.1 |
| Insurance premiums | 13.3 | 0.7 |
| Interest expenses | 13.7 | 0.7 |
| Depreciation and amortisation | 31.3 | 1.6 |
| Bad and doubtful debts | 1.7 | 0.1 |
| Total | 160.1 | 8.1 |
| Total | 1981.0 | 100.0 |


|  | Males | Percentage contribution | Females | Percentage contribution | Total | Percentage contribution |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | no. | \% | no. | \% | no. | \% |
| Working proprietors and partners of unincorporated businesses | 2403 | 5.0 | 1926 | 4.1 | 4328 | 4.6 |
| Employees |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Permanent full-time | 11905 | 25.0 | 8778 | 18.5 | 20683 | 21.8 |
| Permanent part-time | 21282 | 44.7 | 23969 | 50.6 | 45251 | 47.6 |
| Total permanent employees | 33187 | 69.7 | 32747 | 69.1 | 65934 | 69.4 |
| Casual | 12029 | 25.3 | 12710 | 26.8 | 24739 | 26.0 |
| Total employees | 45217 | 95.0 | 45456 | 95.9 | 90673 | 95.4 |
| Total | 47619 | 100.0 | 47382 | 100.0 | 95001 | 100.0 |

STATES AND TERRITORIES

|  | Businesses at end June(a) | Employment at end June. . . . . |  | Wages and salaries. . |  | Total income. . . |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | no. | no. | \% | \$m | \% | \$m | \% |
| New South Wales | 2026 | 32123 | 33.8 | 491.3 | 41.4 | 872.2 | 40.8 |
| Victoria | 1805 | 27095 | 28.5 | 311.8 | 26.2 | 563.9 | 26.4 |
| Queensland | 974 | 13709 | 14.4 | 160.1 | 13.5 | 292.1 | 13.7 |
| South Australia | 470 | 8206 | 8.6 | 65.2 | 5.5 | 121.8 | 5.7 |
| Western Australia | 466 | 9199 | 9.7 | 95.2 | 8.0 | 168.0 | 7.9 |
| Tasmania | 93 | 1398 | 1.5 | 12.7 | 1.1 | 27.2 | 1.3 |
| Northern Territory | 73 | 834 | 0.9 | 15.3 | 1.3 | 27.1 | 1.3 |
| Australian Capital Territory | 80 | 2437 | 2.6 | 36.2 | 3.0 | 64.7 | 3.0 |
| Australia | 5938 | 95001 | 100.0 | 1188.0 | 100.0 | 2137.0 | 100.0 |

[^1]|  |  | EMPLO | ENT Sİ |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 0-4 persons | 5-9 persons | $\begin{aligned} & 10-19 \\ & \text { persons } \end{aligned}$ | 20-49 persons | 50-99 persons | 100 or more persons | Total |
| Businesses at end June | no. | 3374 | 1398 | 610 | 348 | 107 | 101 | 5938 |
|  | \% | 56.8 | 23.5 | 10.3 | 5.9 | 1.8 | 1.7 | 100.0 |
| Working proprietors \& partners | no. | 2584 | 1226 | 391 | 121 | **5 | - | 4328 |
|  | \% | 59.7 | 28.3 | 9.0 | 2.8 | 0.1 | - | 100.0 |
| Employees | no. | 5628 | 7735 | 7618 | 10335 | 7156 | 52201 | 90673 |
|  | \% | 6.2 | 8.5 | 8.4 | 11.4 | 7.9 | 57.6 | 100.0 |
| Total employment | no. | 8212 | 8962 | 8009 | 10456 | 7161 | 52201 | 95001 |
|  | \% | 8.6 | 9.4 | 8.4 | 11.0 | 7.5 | 54.9 | 100.0 |
| Wages and salaries | \$m | 80.2 | 81.4 | 89.3 | 127.6 | 97.6 | 711.9 | 1188.0 |
|  | \% | 6.8 | 6.9 | 7.5 | 10.7 | 8.2 | 59.9 | 100.0 |
| Total income | \$m | 224.4 | 190.6 | 171.7 | 262.1 | 169.0 | 1119.3 | 2137.0 |
|  | \% | 10.5 | 8.9 | 8.0 | 12.3 | 7.9 | 52.4 | 100.0 |
| Operating profit before tax | \$m | 48.2 | 32.5 | 18.8 | 16.7 | 7.0 | 32.3 | 155.5 |
|  | \% | 31.0 | 20.9 | 12.1 | 10.7 | 4.5 | 20.8 | 100.0 |

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than $50 \%$ and is considered too unreliable for general use

- nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)



## SELECTED PERFORMANCE RATIOS

EMPLOYMENT SIZE

| $0-4$ | $5-9$ | $10-19$ | $20-49$ | $50-99$ | more <br> persons | persons |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| persons | persons | persons | persons | Total |  |  |


| Total income per person employed | '000 | 27.3 | 21.3 | 21.4 | 25.1 | 23.6 | 21.4 | 22.5 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Income from commercial buildings/office premises to total cleaning income | \% | 54.5 | 46.3 | 46.5 | 46.1 | 42.6 | 36.4 | 41.8 |
| Income from industrial premises to total cleaning income | \% | 6.6 | 8.8 | 15.9 | 9.3 | 7.1 | 7.3 | 8.3 |
| Income from retail premises to total cleaning income | \% | 7.0 | 12.0 | 12.2 | 17.5 | 23.6 | 17.9 | 16.1 |
| Income from domestic premises to total cleaning income | \% | 11.2 | 9.8 | 6.6 | 1.3 | 1.3 | *0.4 | 3.1 |
| Income from education premises to total cleaning income | \% | 10.2 | 10.1 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 7.7 | 23.9 | 16.7 |
| Income from hospitality premises to total cleaning income | \% | 6.9 | 9.1 | 8.6 | *9.6 | *4.9 | 3.6 | 5.7 |
| Total expenses per person employed | '000 | 21.4 | 17.6 | 19.1 | 23.5 | 22.6 | 20.8 | 20.9 |
| Labour costs per employee | '000 | 16.0 | 11.8 | 13.1 | 13.9 | 15.5 | 16.1 | 15.2 |
| Labour costs to total expenses | \% | 51.3 | 57.8 | 65.3 | 58.6 | 68.7 | 77.4 | 69.5 |
| Operating profit before tax per person employed | '000 | 5.9 | 3.6 | 2.3 | 1.6 | 1.0 | 0.6 | 1.6 |
| Operating profit margin | \% | 21.6 | 17.1 | 11.0 | 6.4 | 4.2 | 2.9 | 7.3 |

[^2]1 This publication presents results, in respect of 1998-99, from an Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) survey of 2,944 businesses in the cleaning services industry.

2 The scope of the survey was all employing businesses recorded on the ABS Business Register and classified to Class 7866, Cleaning Services, of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC). Class 7866 consists of businesses mainly engaged in providing window, building (interior), office, domestic or similar general cleaning services. Businesses mainly engaged in cleaning building exteriors or cleaning carpets and curtains were excluded from the survey.

3 Data in this publication have been adjusted to allow for lags in processing new businesses to the ABS business register, and the omission of some businesses from the business register. The majority of businesses affected and to which the adjustments apply are small in size.
4 Adjustments have been made to include new businesses in the estimates in the periods in which they commenced operations, rather than when they were processed to the business register. Adjustments of this type will continue to be applied in future periods.

5 Further adjustments have been made for businesses which had been in existence for several years, but, for various reasons, were not previously added to the ABS register. The ABS is remedying these omissions.
6 For more information on these adjustments, please refer to the ABS publication Information Paper: Improvements to ABS Economic Statistics, 1997 (Cat. no. 1357.0).

7 The unit for which statistics were reported in the survey was the management unit. The management unit is the highest-level accounting unit within a business or organisation, having regard to the required level of industry homogeneity, for which a set of accounts is maintained. In most cases it coincides with the legal entity owning the business (i.e. company, partnership, trust, etc.). However, in the case of large diversified businesses, there may be more than one management unit, with each coinciding with a 'division' or 'line of business'. A division or line of business is recognised where separate and comprehensive accounts are compiled for it.

8 Data contained in the tables in this publication relate to all cleaning services businesses which operated in Australia at any time during the year ended June 1999. Counts of businesses include only those businesses that were operating at 30 June 1999.

9 The estimates in this publication are subject to sampling and non-sampling error.
10 The estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from a sample of businesses in the surveyed population. Consequently, the estimates in this publication are subject to sampling variability, that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been obtained if all units had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of units was included.

11 There are about 2 chances in 3 that a sample estimate will differ by less than one SE from the figure that would have been obtained if a census had been

## EXPLANATORY NOTES continued

RELIABILITY OF THE DATA continued
conducted, and approximately 19 chances in 20 that the difference will be less than two SEs.

12 Sampling variability can be measured by the relative standard error (RSE) which is obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate to which it refers. The RSE is a useful measure in that it provides an immediate indication of the percentage errors likely to have occurred due to sampling, and this avoids the need to refer also to the size of the estimate.

13 The following table contains estimates of RSEs for a selection of the statistics presented in this publication.

RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS FOR TABLE 1, KEY FIGURES

## 

|  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { RSE } \\ & \text { (\%) } \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Businesses at end June |  |  |
| Sole proprietor or partnership | no. | 2 |
| Incorporated company | no. | 2 |
| Trust | no. | 5 |
| Total | no. | 1 |
| Businesses by main cleaning activity |  |  |
| Commercial buildings/office premises | no. | 2 |
| Industrial premises | no. | 7 |
| Retail premises | no. | 6 |
| Domestic premises | no. | 5 |
| Event venues | no. | 26 |
| Education premises | no. | 5 |
| Hospitality premises | no. | 7 |
| Health premises | no. | 15 |
| Transport facilities | no. | 22 |
| Other | no. | 17 |
| Total | no. | 2 |
| Employment at end June |  |  |
| Cleaners | no. | 2 |
| Other | no. | 5 |
| Total | no. | 2 |
| Income |  |  |
| Income from general cleaning services |  |  |
| From the private sector | \$m | 3 |
| From the public (government) sector | \$m | 3 |
| Total | \$m | 2 |
| Other income | \$m | 2 |
| Total | \$m | 2 |
| Expenses |  |  |
| Labour costs | \$m | 2 |
| Payments to sub-contractors for general cleaning services | \$m | 9 |
| Purchases | \$m | 4 |
| Other expenses | \$m | 2 |
| Total | \$m | 2 |
| Operating profit before tax | \$m | 3 |
| Operating profit margin | \% | 3 |

RELIABILITY OF THE DATA continued

14 As an example of the above, an estimate of total income for the cleaning industry is $\$ 2,137.0$ million and the RSE is $2 \%$, giving a SE of $\$ 42.8$ million. Therefore, there would be 2 chances in 3 that, if all units had been included in the survey, a figure in the range of $\$ 2,094$. 2 million to $\$ 2,179.8$ million would have been obtained, and 19 chances in 20 (i.e. a confidence interval of $95 \%$ ) that the figure would have been within the range of $\$ 2,051.4$ million to $\$ 2,222.6$ million.

15 Errors other than those due to sampling may occur because of deficiencies in the register of units from which the sample was selected, non-response, and imperfections in reporting by respondents. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as non-sampling errors and they may occur in any collection, whether it be a census or a sample. Every effort has been made to reduce non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design and testing of questionnaires, efficient operating procedures and systems, and appropriate methodology.

16 ABS publications draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated; without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the Census and Statistics Act 1905.
$\left.\begin{array}{rl}\text { Bad and doubtful debts } & \begin{array}{l}\text { Bad and doubtful debts is the amount of accounts receivable that are either } \\ \text { written off, or estimated to be uncollectible during an accounting period, that are } \\ \text { expensed in a period's profit calculations. }\end{array} \\ \text { Casual employees } & \begin{array}{rl}\text { This item refers to employees not entitled to take paid holidays. }\end{array} \\ \text { Commercial buildings/office } \\ \text { (type of premises) }\end{array} \begin{array}{l}\text { This item refers to general cleaning services undertaken in a range of commercial } \\ \text { premises and office buildings. }\end{array}\right\}$
Interest income This item includes interest from deposits in banks and non-bank financial institutions, loans and advances made to other businesses, interest on finance leases, and earnings on discounted bills. It excludes capital repayments received.

Motor vehicle running expenses

Operating profit before tax (OPBT)

Operating profit margin

Other cleaning related income

Other employment

Other operating expenses

Other operating income

Other non-operating income

Payments to sub-contractors for general cleaning services

Payroll tax

Permanent full-time employees

Permanent part-time
employees

Private sector (income) This item includes income derived from businesses operating in the private corporate trading sector such as incorporated and unincorporated businesses, trusts and incorporated associations.

Public/government sector
(income)
This item includes income derived from Commonwealth, State and Local Government agencies such as government departments, public utilities e.g. gas, water and electricity and government business enterprises such as public transport and communications entities.

Purchases This item refers to the costs of goods and services used in the production/provision of the final output of a business. For the cleaning services industry this includes the purchase of consumables (toilet paper, soap etc.), cleaning materials and non-capitalised equipment.
$\left.\begin{array}{|rl}\begin{array}{rl}\text { Rent, leasing and hiring } \\ \text { (expenses) }\end{array} & \begin{array}{l}\text { This item includes the costs for the rent, leasing (excluding finance leases) and } \\ \text { hiring of vehicles, land, buildings, machinery, equipment and any other property } \\ \text { from other businesses or individuals. }\end{array} \\ \text { Retail (type of premises) }\end{array} \begin{array}{l}\text { This item refers to general cleaning services undertaken in premises such as } \\ \text { retail stores and shopping complexes. }\end{array}\right\}$

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[^0]:    W. McLennan

    Australian Statistician

[^1]:    (a) Multi-State organisations are counted in each State in which they operate. Hence, the counts of businesses for States and Territories do not sum to the total for Australia.

[^2]:    * estimate has a relative standard error of between $25 \%$ and $50 \%$ and should be used with caution

