



**Annual Report  
2000-01**

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Annual Report

2000–01

© Commonwealth of Australia 2001

ISSN 0314-0008

ISBN 0 642 47736 1

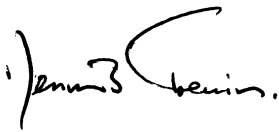
This work is copyright. Apart from any use as permitted under the *Copyright Act 1968*, no part may be reproduced by any process without prior written permission from the Commonwealth available from Info Products, Department of Finance and Administration. Requests and inquiries concerning reproduction and rights should be addressed to the Manager, Legislative Services, Department of Finance and Administration, GPO Box 1920, Canberra ACT 2601 or by email to <[Cwealthcopyright@finance.gov.au](mailto:Cwealthcopyright@finance.gov.au)>.

The Honourable Joe Hockey, MP  
Minister for Financial Services and Regulation

In accordance with the provisions of subsection 24(1) of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*, I hereby submit to you, for presentation to the Parliament, this report on the operations of the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the year ended 30 June 2001.

This report complies with subsection 63(1) of the *Public Service Act 1999*, which requires that I, as Agency Head, must give a report to the Agency Minister, for presentation to the Parliament.

The report is dated on the day I approved the finalised text for printing.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dennis Trewhin.', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Dennis Trewhin  
Australian Statistician

19 August 2001

# CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
<b>Section I — Summary of Operations</b>	
Chapter	
1 Executive Summary	2
Introduction	2
Statistical Developments in 2000–01	3
Dissemination Services	9
Human Resource Issues	11
Developments in Information Technology	11
ABS House	12
International Involvement	12
Financial Position	15
Australian Statistics Advisory Council	16
2 How the ABS Operates	17
Introduction	17
Role and Operation of the ABS	17
Authority and Legislation	20
ABS Corporate Governance	21
Statistical Clearing House	26
Other Aspects of Organisational Management/Monitoring	27
<b>Section II — Special Articles</b>	
3 Research and Analysis in the ABS	33
4 The 2001 Census of Population and Housing	44
Special Articles in Earlier Annual Reports	52
<b>Section III — Performance Information</b>	
5 Performance Information	55
<b>Section IV — ABS Outputs</b>	
6 Economic Statistics Output	83
Description	83
Outputs	84
Review of Components	84
7 Population and Social Statistics Output	102
Description	102
Outputs	103
Review of Components	103
<b>Section V — Financial Statements</b>	
8 Financial Statements	113
<b>Section VI — Appendixes</b>	

<b>Appendix</b>	<b>Page</b>
1	Program structure 160
2	Estimates of cost by output and component 162
3	Top structure, staff and program component responsibilities 164
4	Staffing overview 167
5	Occupational health and safety 181
6	Consultancy services 184
7	Advertising and market research 188
8	Competitive tendering and contracting 190
9	Purchasing and assets management 191
10	Freedom of information 192
11	Inquiries by Parliamentary Committees and Reports by the Auditor General 195
12	Documents tabled in Parliament 197
13	Disclosure of unidentified information 199
14	Notices of direction issued and prosecution actions approved 201
15	Professional papers by ABS officers 202
16	Compliance index 207
<b>Index</b>	<b>208</b>

## Note

After the first reference in this report, the Australian Bureau of Statistics is generally referred to as the ABS, and the Australian Statistics Advisory Council as Council or ASAC.

## Further information

For any inquiries about the content of this report, please contact: Director, Secretariat Section, Australian Bureau of Statistics, PO Box 10, Belconnen, ACT, 2616.

Telephone 02 6252 7809 Facsimile 02 6252 5824

Email <[paul.sullivan@abs.gov.au](mailto:paul.sullivan@abs.gov.au)>.

Access to guides to ABS services, and other selected documents, including a comprehensive range of ABS statistics, are available on the ABS website <[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)>.

The 2000–01 ABS Annual Report is located at:  
<<http://www.abs.gov.au>>.

## **ABS Mission Statement**

*We assist and encourage informed decision-making, research and discussion within governments and the community, by providing a high quality, objective and responsive national statistical service.*

# **SECTION I**

## **SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS**

**Chapter 1 — Executive Summary**

**Chapter 2 — How the ABS Operates**



# 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

2000–01 has been a most successful year for the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Key issues and outcomes for the ABS during the year have been:

- preparation for the 2001 Census of Population and Housing;
- significant progress in expanding and improving the national statistical service particularly in the area of rural and regional statistics;
- significant changes to statistical systems to measure the impact of The New Tax System (TNTS) and to take full advantage of the statistical opportunities arising from the introduction of TNTS;
- introduction of the 14th series Consumer Price Index;
- introduction of a range of new statistical products and services, and extending information and products available via the ABS website;
- publication of a special Federation issue of the Year Book;
- release of a number of important reference publications on concepts, sources and methods;
- participation in, and significant contribution to, a range of international statistical developments and issues including the discussions of the United Nations Statistical Commission, and provision of technical assistance programs to the Asia-Pacific region; and
- successful negotiation with staff for a new Certified Agreement for human resource arrangements for the next two years.

These developments are expanded upon below.

## STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN 2000–01

The five-yearly Census of Population and Housing is the ABS's largest single collection. Preparation for the 2001 Census conducted on 7 August was a major focus of 2000–01. Key aspects of development were finalisation of the data content and proposed outputs from the Census. The user community was advised of the outcomes with the release of the publication *2001 Census of Population and Housing, Proposed Products and Services* (Cat. no. 2011.0). A key outcome during the year has been the systems development for the processing of the Census including the introduction of intelligent character recognition techniques for capturing the information from the Census forms. Linked to that were the arrangements for ensuring that appropriate measures were in place to transfer Census records (for those persons who have consented) to the National Archives for retention for a non-access period of 99 years, after which they will be released for those individuals who indicated they wanted their records retained, that is, the *Time Capsule Project*. Given its importance a feature article, on the 2001 Census of Population and Housing, is provided in Chapter 4.

As part of the developmental work for the 2001 Census, the ABS produced an award winning Census CD-ROM based product which provides primary school students with an interactive learning device on the benefits of the five-yearly Census of Population and Housing.

The introduction of The New Tax System from 1 July 2000 affected a range of ABS economic collections. During 2000–01, the ABS published two special articles on the impact of TNTS on ABS price series. The first, 'Measuring the Impact of The New Tax System on the September Quarter 2000 Consumer Price Index', was released in the December 2000 issue of *Australian Economic Indicators* (Cat. no. 1350.0). The second article, 'Analytical Living Cost Indexes for Selected Australian Household Types' was included in the June 2001 issue. This article presented living cost indexes for four household subgroups — employees, age pensioners, other government transfer recipients, and self-funded retirees. The indexes are designed to assess the impact of changes in prices on the disposable income of households.

The transition to TNTS has also provided the ABS with an opportunity to incorporate a number of improvements into the quality and efficiency of statistical operations. In particular, changes were made to the ABS Business Register to include Australian Business Numbers (ABN), which have improved details and coverage on the register, and have enabled better identification and communication with businesses recorded on the register. Taxation data, including Business Activity Statements (BAS) continued to be analysed as possible alternatives to direct collection or to improve sample efficiency and reduce provider load. Further, the ABS continued investigations into strategies to improve and expand the range of State/regional statistics available through utilisation of State/regional BAS data.

The 14th Series Consumer Price Index (CPI) was introduced in the September quarter 2000 publication. A major motivation for the introduction of the 14th Series was to ensure that the CPI continued to be a reliable measure of price inflation after the introduction of TNTS. Key changes in the 14th series included a new utility-based commodity classification to better address possible consumer substitution between commodities as prices change, and the updating of weights to take into account the results from the 1998–99 Household Expenditure Survey. A *Guide to the Consumer Price Index, 14th Series* (Cat. no. 6440.0) was subsequently released in December 2000. The ABS also released an experimental constant rate tax measure in the November 2000 edition of *Australian Economic Indicators* (Cat. no. 1350.0). The indicator assessed the direct or first round effects of TNTS on the prices of consumer goods and services.

A new Producers' Price Index publication, entitled *Stage of Production Producer Price Indexes, Australia* (Cat. no. 6426.0), was released in July 2000 in respect of the June quarter 2000. The indexes were compiled using the stage of production concept which enables the sequential impacts of inflation through the economy to be analysed.

A major launch in October 2000 accompanied the release of *Australian National Accounts: Tourism Satellite Account, 1997–98* (Cat. no. 5249.0), which presented the first ABS estimates of the contribution of tourism to the Australian economy. Another key release was *Unpaid Work and the Australian Economy, 1997* (Cat. no. 5240.0), which presented estimates of unpaid work relative to gross domestic product.

There were a number of significant developments in International and Financial Accounts statistics in 2000–01. Two reference publications were released during the year. These include a revised edition of *A Guide to Australian Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Statistics* (Cat. no. 5362.0.55.001), and a new publication, *International Merchandise Trade, Australia: Concepts, Sources and Methods, 2001* (Cat. no. 5489.0). Special articles were published in the quarterly *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position, Australia* (Cat. no. 5302.0) on the foreign ownership of equity, and an updated article on the effects of the Sydney Olympic Games on the balance of payments estimates. Improving State statistics is a high priority for the ABS. One important initiative was the release of an Information Paper analysing the investment of private new capital expenditure in Western Australia by ownership group (foreign owned or Australian owned enterprises) (Cat. no. 5674.5), and a special article on the same topic (for Australia and all States and Territories) in *Australian Economic Indicators* (Cat. no. 1350.0).

The ABS continued consultation with the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA), the Reserve Bank of Australia, and data providers on updated data requirements from regulated financial institutions, and the new APRA information systems to support revised collections. The objective is to reduce the workload on businesses by making greater use of APRA datasets. The ABS, with support from the Department of Industry, Science and Resources, also released, for the first time, statistics on venture capital investments in a special article in *Managed Funds, Australia* (Cat. no. 5655.0).

Statistics on the take-up and use of information technology continued to be a high priority for the ABS in 2000–01. A number of information technology publications were released in 2000–01 including the first in a new series presenting annual statistics measuring business use of information technology including use of the Internet and e-commerce: *Business Use of Information Technology 1999–2000, Australia* (Cat. no. 8129.0). Also released during the year were statistics on the use of information technology on farms, *Use of Information Technology on Farms, Australia, 1998–99* (Cat. no. 8150.0), which included regional statistics on use of computers and the Internet; and, expanded details of household use of information technology through *Household Use of Information Technology, 1999, Australia* (Cat. no. 8146.0); and results from a new quarterly survey of Internet Service Providers in *Internet Activity, Australia* (Cat. no. 8153.0).

Commencing from the March quarter 2001, the Quarterly Economic Activity Survey replaced the existing quarterly surveys of inventories and sales, and company profits. These changes will significantly reduce provider load for small businesses, as well as improving the coherence of these statistics.

In response to ongoing demand for statistics on rural and regional Australia, the ABS established a National Centre for Rural and Regional Statistics in the South Australian Office. The centre has four main tasks: to promote better understanding of rural and regional issues and to coordinate statistical information on the topic; to investigate and tap Commonwealth departments as sources of rural and regional data to complement available State data; to develop a statistical framework, and new regional indicators, which would facilitate comparison across different regions in Australia; and to make regional data more accessible to the general public.

The eighth edition of *Australian Social Trends* (Cat. no. 4102.0) was released in July 2000. As in previous years, this publication provided a range of articles on social issues and received extensive media coverage. Developmental work is well advanced on a new publication *Measuring Social Wellbeing* (Cat. no. 4160.0), which will describe the conceptual frameworks underpinning ABS work in social statistics. The ABS also prepared a discussion paper on *Measuring Social Capital: Current Collections and Future Directions* which has been circulated to a wide range of users to engender discussion and to seek input on options for future work on this issue.

Work commenced on the first stage of the rolling ten-year Household Survey Program. This program will increase the flexibility and capacity of the ABS to provide statistics to inform debate on key social policy issues. 2000–01 saw the development and conduct of the first of a three-yearly program of national health surveys under a funding partnership with the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care. Developmental work is also well advanced on the 2002 General Social Survey, the 2002 Indigenous Social Survey, and the 2001 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey.

Following on from the establishment of a National Centre for Education and Training Statistics, the ABS formed an Education and Training Statistics Advisory Group to provide the ABS with expert advice on

matters such as user requirements and priorities for education and training statistics. The ABS also completed development and started the enumeration of a Survey of Education, Training and Information Technology. This household survey will provide detailed information about education and training in Australia, with results expected to be published in May 2002.

The ABS continues to expand its analytical capability. During the year considerable progress was made in the development of a major new suite of statistical indicators — Measuring Australia's Progress. More information on this and other research work undertaken by the ABS is presented in a feature article, Research and Analysis in the ABS, which is included in Chapter 3.

Significant progress was made during the year in developing a program of Indigenous statistics which will enable users to monitor the social wellbeing of Indigenous Australians. In 2000–01, the ABS prepared a report on Community Services Principles and Standards for Indigenous Client Data, endorsed by the Community Services Ministerial Advisory Council. The ABS has worked towards improving the quality, availability and use of Indigenous administrative data on births, deaths, and hospital separations, as part of the plan for improving Indigenous statistics from administrative collections. Experimental labour force estimates for Indigenous Australians were published in *Labour Force Characteristics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians* (Cat. no. 6287.0), while the third edition of *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples* (Cat. no. 4704.0), is to be released in August 2001. In conjunction with the release of the 1999 Australian Housing Survey, *Housing Characteristics, Costs and Conditions, 1999* (Cat. no. 4182.0), *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Results* (Cat. no. 4712.0), were also published.

There were a number of developments in labour statistics in 2000–01. An important new release was *Employment Arrangements and Superannuation* (Cat. no. 6361.0), which provided information about the diversity of employment arrangements in the Australian labour market, and about superannuation coverage in Australia. During the year, a redesigned questionnaire for the labour force survey was implemented which resulted in consequent revisions to core labour force series, and publication of two Information Papers: *Implementing the Redesigned Labour Force Survey Questionnaire* (Cat. no. 6295.0), and *Questionnaires Used in the Labour Force Survey* (Cat. no. 6232.0). The ABS also released the reference publication *Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (Cat. no. 6102.0) on the ABS website (to be published in hard copy in August 2001). This publication provides a comprehensive description of the concepts underpinning ABS labour statistics, and the methods used in compiling these statistics from various sources. Two Occasional Papers containing in-depth analyses of selected data from the Longitudinal Survey of Employment and Unemployment Patterns (Cat. no. 6293.0 series) were also published.

Publications on crime released in 2000–01 included *Recorded Crime, Australia, 2000* (Cat. no. 4510.0), *Higher Criminal Courts, Australia 1999–2000* (Cat. no. 4513.0), and *Prisoners in Australia, 2000* (Cat. no. 4517.0). The latter was a new publication which contained a range of information on prisoner characteristics by type of prisoner,

such as sentenced prisoners, unsentenced prisoners (remandees), Indigenous prisoners, federal prisoners and periodic detainees.

During 2000–01 the ABS continued to make significant progress in terms of its role in the coordination, standardisation, collection and dissemination of environment and energy statistics. In 2000–01, the ABS released *Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emission Accounts for Australia, 1992–93 to 1997–98* (Cat. no. 4604.0). In addition to comprehensive information on direct energy consumption and generation of selected greenhouse gas emissions by industries and households, the publication contained information on the indirect impacts of household consumption, Australia's exports, capital formation and government final consumption. Further, significant progress was made towards the redevelopment of the Environment Management Survey which will be conducted in 2001–02 in respect of the Manufacturing and Mining industries.

During the year the ABS was involved in the review activities of the State of the Environment Report which is to be published by Environment Australia in the second half of this year. I am a member of the Australian State of the Environment Committee.

The *Australian and New Zealand Standard Product Classification* (Cat. no. 1254.0.55.001) was released in June 2001. This classification was derived from the international Central Product Classification, published by the United Nations, and included a substantially improved coverage of services, as well as commodities. It can be accessed via the ABS website. The ABS and Statistics New Zealand also commenced a review of the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC)*, (Cat. no. 1292.0). Since the last review of ANZSIC some ten years ago, many changes have occurred in the fabric of the economy, particularly in the rapid growth and diversification of services industries. Work on the Australian Standard Classification of Education was also completed and agreement reached with various educational institutions and agencies to use the classifications in their future data collections.



*Australian Statistician Dennis Trewin handing over the first ever Australian Tourism Satellite Account to Tourism Minister Jackie Kelly. The account presents the first ABS estimates of the contribution of tourism to the Australian economy.*

## DISSEMINATION SERVICES

On the eve of Australia Day 2001, Senator Margaret Reid launched the Centenary of Federation edition of the *2001 Year Book, Australia* (Cat. no. 1301.0) at Old Parliament House. This special edition of the ABS flagship publication represented the ABS contribution to the celebration of the Centenary of Federation. The edition provided a 'whole of century' view and included special centenary articles by prominent Australians distinguished in their field.

The ABS continued to expand the content of its website <[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)> during 2000–01. The main contents of nearly all ABS publications are now available free of charge. Also, the content of key publications such as the Year Book and Social Trends are available free of charge. At the same time there was steep growth in the website use, with the average number of documents accessed daily rising from around 41,000 in July 2000 to over 57,000 in June 2001. The ABS has met the requirements of the Government On-line Strategy (April 2000) in terms of accessibility and website standards. The ABS On-line Action Plan is available from the ABS website.

The AusStats service, which provides subscribers with easy access, via the ABS website, to ABS publications, time series tables and census community profiles, continued its success in 2000–01. This service provides a major step forward in the information made available via our website by making the full content of publications, census community profiles, spreadsheets and data cubes available to universities and to registered private subscribers. Enhancements were made to AusStats functionality and content during the year including improvements in useability.





*Australian Statistician Dennis Trewin with Senator Margaret Reid at the launch of the 2001 Year Book Australia.*

## HUMAN RESOURCE ISSUES

Following extensive consultation on the draft second round ABS Certified Agreement (CA) a formal offer was released to staff in August 2000. In September 2000 a valid majority of eligible ABS employees voted to reject the offer. A comprehensive review was subsequently undertaken, resulting in a revised formal offer being accepted by a valid majority of staff in March 2001. The ABS CA 2001 to 2003 was subsequently certified by the Australian Industrial Relations Commission on 1 June 2001. The new Certified Agreement builds on the changes introduced in the first ABS agreement and is expected to support continued productivity and performance improvement and provide greater flexibility to meet the needs of the ABS, its clients and employees.

The ABS Certified Agreement 2001 to 2003 formally provided for a national employee consultative framework which includes Divisional and State office consultative forums. The current Divisional and State consultative forums have provided an effective vehicle for communication about key issues affecting the work and conditions of employees. Some of the issues which have been discussed include the draft Certified Agreement, the performance management scheme/remuneration, the new central office building, and human resource planning. The forums comprise members from each Division/Office executive, staff elected representatives, and union nominees.

2000–01 saw the ABS continue its commitment to the provision of high quality staff development activities. Training in statistics, information technology, leadership and management courses continues to improve and develop the skills of ABS staff. Staff also have the opportunity to participate in on-line learning courses on a range of human resource, workplace diversity, technology and statistical issues.

## DEVELOPMENTS IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The ABS continues to exploit rapid advances in Information Technology (IT) capability in key areas such as the Internet, knowledge management, mobile computing, data warehousing and data analysis. Independent benchmark studies continue to show that ABS IT operations rate well above world average in most areas. The ABS enjoys a global reputation with both other statistical agencies and IT vendors, as a leader in good practice in the effective application of IT.

Several enhancements were made to the ABS IT environment during 2000-01. These included changes to processing systems in response to The New Tax System and the commissioning of additional infrastructure for processing of the 2001 Census. Significant progress was made in the development and presentation of a coherent IT architecture with an emphasis on improved effectiveness through use of e-business approaches. Migration to a new network operating system (Windows 2000) was achieved with minimal disruption to end-users. Knowledge management facilities were significantly enhanced to further improve communication and the management and access of information resources. There was also substantial progress in the development of facilities to support the management, flexibility and quality control of ABS dissemination activities.

## ABS HOUSE

Construction of ABS House in Canberra is well advanced. Significant planning has been undertaken for the fitout and occupation to ensure the transition is a smooth process, both for ABS staff and all our clients. The new central office accommodation is expected to be fully operational in early 2002 and will be delivered on time and within budget.

## INTERNATIONAL INVOLVEMENT

The ABS continued its role as an important and active member of the international statistical community in 2000–01. It is regarded as one of the world's best international statistical citizens. The main activities of the ABS during the year in terms of international involvement, were contributing to the development of international statistical classifications, frameworks and standards in a variety of international fora, and providing technical assistance to overseas statistical agencies, particularly developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Key international meetings attended during the year included the United Nations (UN) Statistical Commission (the peak intergovernmental body for official statistics) where Australia is represented by the ABS. At this year's session, the Commission reviewed progress and set directions for further action on several topics on which Australia had been active. It included the International Comparison Programme which publishes purchasing power parities to enable cross-country comparison of gross domestic product and other economic aggregates, improvements in the accuracy of the Human Development Report, and environment statistics. This year, I was elected as a Vice-Chairman of the Commission.

The ABS is also an active participant in the Committee on Statistics of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. At the Committee session during the year, Tim Skinner, (Deputy Australian Statistician, Population Statistics Group), was elected to be the Chairperson of the Committee for the next two years. The ABS also participated in a Regional Meeting of Heads of Statistics of Pacific Island Countries organised by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

The ABS continued to provide a valuable contribution to international statistical training through the UN Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP). Tim Skinner is Australia's representative, and in 2000–01 was re-elected as Chairman of the SIAP Governing Board.

In May 2001 the ABS hosted a meeting on price indexes for experts from national and international statistical agencies and academic institutions around the world (known as the International Working Group on Price Indices, or the 'Ottawa Group'), to consider and address issues relating to the development of statistical standards in this field. The main topics considered were the use of scanner data, pricing of financial services and telecommunication services. In addition, the ABS made contributions through a number of other international groups specialising in individual fields of statistics.

ABS technical assistance in the Asia-Pacific region is undertaken in cooperation with the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) which provides funding for some activities. The ABS is grateful for that support.

A major development in 2000–01 was the signing of an updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Indonesian statistical agency, BPS-Statistics Indonesia (BPS) on ABS-BPS cooperation. The updated MOU reflects the new and continuing statistical priorities which the BPS will need to address to assist policy development and planning in Indonesia.

The ABS continued its technical assistance program to the statistical agency in Papua New Guinea, by assisting in its population census in July 2000, and in post-census evaluation. 2000–01 also saw the completion of an 18-month program of technical assistance to Thailand to strengthen its macro-economic statistics. Technical assistance was also provided to statistical agencies in Cambodia, China, India, Mongolia, the Philippines, South Africa, Vanuatu and Vietnam.



*Dr Soedarti, Director General of BPS-Statistics Indonesia, and Dennis Trewin, Australian Statistician, sign the MOU in the presence of Indonesian and Australian Officials*

## FINANCIAL POSITION

Within the context of the Portfolio Budget Statements, the ABS has two outputs: (i) Economic Statistics and (ii) Population and Social Statistics. The table below provides a financial summary of ABS outputs and price of outputs against the budgeted figures, and also provides details for 2001–02. The full financial statements are provided in Chapter 8, while a detailed summary of outputs by program component is provided in Appendix 2. The ABS Budget is prepared under an accrual framework, consistent with the whole Commonwealth Budget.

Total output (equivalent to operating expenses plus capital use charge) for 2000–01, at \$284.6m, was \$1.2m (0.4%) lower than the budgeted amount of \$285.8m as presented in the Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements. Total price of outputs for 2000–01, at \$284.9m, was \$0.8m (0.3%) lower than the budgeted amount of \$285.8m. The large increase in the budget for 2001–02 reflects the cost of conducting and processing the 2001 Census.

Table 1: FINANCIAL RESOURCES SUMMARY (\$'000)

	Budget 2000–01(a)	Actual 2000–01	Variance	Budget 2001–02(b)
<b>Administered Expenses</b>				
Discretionary Grants(c)	—	—	—	—
<b>Total Administered Expenses</b>	—	—	—	—
<b>Price of Departmental Outputs</b>				
<b>Output group 1.1 — National Statistical Service</b>				
Output group 1.1.1 — Economic statistics	132 879	132 305	574	131 219
Output group 1.1.2 — Population and social statistics	152 882	152 295	587	240 973
<b>Total output</b>	<b>285 761</b>	<b>284 600</b>	<b>1 161</b>	<b>372 192</b>
Revenue from Government appropriation	264 092	264 092	—	355 011
Revenue from other sources	21 669	20 837	832	17 181
<b>Total Price of Outputs</b>	<b>285 761</b>	<b>284 929</b>	<b>832</b>	<b>372 192</b>
<b>Total for Outcome 1</b>	<b>285 761</b>	<b>284 929</b>	<b>832</b>	<b>372 192</b>
Staff years (number)		3 223		3 635

(a) Budget 2000–01 — Full-year budget, including additional estimates. (b) Budget 2001–02 — Budget prior to additional estimates.

(c) The ABS does not administer any discretionary grants.

In terms of revenue raised from other sources the ABS has recorded a small reduction. The breakdown of revenue raised from other sources is shown below.

**Table 2: REVENUE RAISED FROM OTHER SOURCES  
(\$'000)**

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
Revenue raised from statistics			
Publications			
Subscriptions	1 805	1 746	1 239
Other	1 547	1 226	684
Other Standard Products	2 982	2 553	2 949
Information Consultancy	5 500	4 394	4 198
Statistical Consultancy	944	1 208	947
User Funded Surveys	5 539	5 277	4 438
Other Products and Services	4 385	5 064	4 361
<i>Total revenue raised from statistics</i>	<i>22 702</i>	<i>21 468</i>	<i>18 816</i>
Other revenue	444	1 737	2 021
<b>Total</b>	<b>23 146</b>	<b>23 205</b>	<b>20 837</b>

The table shows that revenue in 2000-01 declined in most categories. A significant contributor to the decline has been the greater availability of data on the ABS website and through libraries and other intermediaries. This result is consistent with the ABS policy of encouraging self-help facilities and intermediaries and reducing the costs of dissemination for the ABS.

AUSTRALIAN STATISTICS ADVISORY COUNCIL

I would like to put on record my appreciation for the significant services provided by John Macleod as a member of the Australian Statistics Advisory Council for the past 18 years, including the last five years as Chairman. John will retire as Chairman in September 2001.

Dennis Trewin  
Australian Statistician

## 2 HOW THE ABS OPERATES

### INTRODUCTION

The Australian Bureau of Statistics is Australia's official national statistical agency. It provides statistics on a wide range of economic and social matters, covering government, business and the population in general. It also has an important coordination function with respect to the statistical activities of other official bodies, both in Australia and overseas.

### ROLE AND OPERATION OF THE ABS

#### Outcome and Objectives

##### *ABS Outcome*

The ABS Outcome, as set out in the Portfolio Budget Statements 2000–01, is as follows:

*Informed decision-making, research and discussion within governments and the community based on the provision of a high quality, objective and responsive national statistical service.*

This outcome is consistent with the ABS mission as described in the ABS Corporate Plan.

##### *ABS Output*

Within the context of the Portfolio Budget Statements, the *Australian Bureau of Statistics — National Statistical Service*, produces and disseminates statistics in two key areas to meet the above outcome; viz:

*Output 1* — Economic Statistics; and

*Output 2* — Population and Social Statistics.

The process of producing and disseminating these statistics is, in turn, assisted by a wide range of support services.

##### *ABS Objectives*

To achieve the ABS Mission, the ABS will be pursuing the following objectives over the next three to five years in respect of both the Economic Statistics and Population and Social Statistics Outputs:

- an expanded and improved national statistical service;
- an ABS statistical service that is timely, relevant, responsive, and respected for its integrity and quality;
- informed and increased use of statistics;
- an active contributor to international statistical activities that are important to Australia or our region;



- an organisation that encourages learning, innovation, performance and excellence in all it does;
- the trust and cooperation of our providers; and
- strong recognition and support for the ABS amongst decision makers and the community.

#### Organisational Structure and Senior Management

The ABS is headed by the Australian Statistician — a statutory office. Appendix 3 lists the senior management team which supports the Australian Statistician, and their program responsibilities.

The Statistical Operations of the ABS are divided into two groups: the Economic Statistics Group and the Population Statistics Group. Each group is headed by a Deputy Australian Statistician. These two groups represent the key dichotomy of ABS statistics between economic statistics and, population and social statistics.

Each of the Deputy Australian Statisticians is supported by a First Assistant Statistician, one for the Economic Accounts Division, and one for the Social and Labour Division. Other First Assistant Statisticians are responsible for the Technology Services, Methodology, Information Management, and Corporate Services Divisions, all of which support the statistical operations.

The ABS has a central office in Canberra and eight regional offices — one in each State and Territory. The regional offices have operational responsibility for particular statistical collections, but overall program responsibility remains in central office. Regional offices have a key role in maintaining close contact with State clients, particularly State government agencies, and ABS data providers.

#### Operation

The ABS maintains close contact with its users through a variety of mechanisms, including advisory committees, user groups, outposted statistical officers, conferences and seminars, and day-to-day contact in the course of disseminating statistical information. The Australian Statistician determines which statistics are to be collected, after full discussion with users, clients and the Australian Statistics Advisory Council, and makes the results widely available. The independent status of the Australian Statistician is specified in law, and the ABS has always received strong Parliamentary and community support.

In order to provide official statistics, the ABS undertakes a large number of collections. These include the five-yearly Census of Population and Housing, monthly and quarterly surveys that provide current economic indicators, and less frequent collections from industry and households that provide detailed information on specific economic and social issues. The ABS also devotes considerable effort, in close cooperation with Commonwealth, State and Territory administrative agencies, to producing statistics as a by-product of administrative systems. The ABS also works to ensure that its statistical standards and concepts are applied as widely as possible to ensure that statistical outputs from all agencies are consistent and of good quality.

In releasing statistics, the ABS adheres to long established principles that results of statistical collections should be made available as soon as practicable and should be available to all users at the same time. Most Australians find out about official statistics through the media. Over 92,000 copies of ABS publications were provided at no cost to media organisations in 2000–01, and the principal results from ABS publications were highlighted daily in the print and electronic media, and via the ABS website. A large core set of statistics was made available through public, technical and tertiary libraries across Australia, and around 14,000 complimentary copies of ABS publications were provided to members of Parliament. The ABS@ and AusStats subscription services provided users with ready access to ABS material in electronic format, including all ABS publications and a range of multi-dimensional datasets.

Under the *Statistics (Arrangements with States) Act 1956*, Commonwealth and State statistical services have been integrated in all States since 1958 (in Tasmania since 1924). Although not covered by the Act, similar arrangements apply in both Territories. In Western Australia, South Australia, and Tasmania, the Regional Director administering the ABS Office is also the State Government Statistician. A government statistical coordination and consultative mechanism operates in most States and Territories. There is regular consultation with State and Territory governments on statistical priorities.

Major documents providing additional information on the operations of the ABS include:

- ABS Corporate Plan;
- Forward Work Program 2001–02 to 2003–04;
- Client Service Charter; and
- Business Surveys Charter.

These documents are available on the ABS website or on request.

A wide range of additional information is available on the ABS website <[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)> including statistical data, news releases, and conceptual and technical information. More detailed information can be accessed by users through our subscription services including ABS@ and AusStats.

## AUTHORITY AND LEGISLATION

The principal legislation determining the functions and responsibilities of the ABS is the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* and the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

The functions of the ABS are defined in section 6 of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* as follows:

- '(a) to constitute the central statistical authority for the Australian Government and, by arrangements with the Governments of the States, provide statistical services for those Governments;
- (b) to collect, compile, analyse and disseminate statistics and related information;
- (c) to ensure coordination of the operations of official bodies in the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics and related information, with particular regard to:
  - (i) the avoidance of duplication in the collection by official bodies of information for statistical purposes;
  - (ii) the attainment of compatibility between, and the integration of, statistics compiled by official bodies; and
  - (iii) the maximum possible utilisation, for statistical purposes, of information, and means of collection of information, available to official bodies;
- (d) to formulate, and ensure compliance with, standards for the carrying out by official bodies of operations for statistical purposes;
- (e) to provide advice and assistance to official bodies in relation to statistics; and
- (f) to provide liaison between Australia, on the one hand, and other countries and international organisations, on the other hand, in relation to statistical matters'.

The *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* also established the Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC). Subsection 18(1) of the Act specifies that the functions of the Advisory Council are to advise the Minister and the Australian Statistician in relation to:

- '(a) the improvement, extension and coordination of statistical services provided for public purposes in Australia;
- (b) annual and longer term priorities and programs of work that should be adopted in relation to major aspects of the provision of those statistical services; and
- (c) any other matters relating generally to those statistical services'.

All State and Territory governments are represented on ASAC, and the remaining Council members are drawn from a wide variety of organisations and interests.

The *Census and Statistics Act 1905* provides the Australian Statistician with the authority to conduct statistical collections, including the Census of Population and Housing and, when necessary, to direct a person to provide statistical information. Information on Notices of Direction and prosecutions which follow from them is shown in Appendix 14. *The Census and Statistics Act 1905* requires the ABS to publish and disseminate compilations and analyses of statistical information and to maintain the secrecy of information collected under the Act.

The Statistics Determination made by the Minister under section 13 of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* enables the Statistician to disclose certain classes of information. Lists of names and addresses disclosed under clause 6 of the Statistics Determination are tabled in Parliament and are shown in Appendix 12. Details of disclosures of unidentified information under clause 7 of the Statistics Determination are shown in Appendix 13.

## ABS CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

ABS corporate governance arrangements ensure transparency in decision making and operation, and accountability to stakeholders by promoting strong leadership, sound management and effective planning and review. The scope of internal management and review and external advisory and review bodies is described below.

### The Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC)

As described above, the Australian Statistics Advisory Council was established by the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* to assist the ABS to fulfil its role. The Council is the key advisory body to the ABS and provides valuable input to the directions and priorities of the ABS work program and reports annually to Parliament.

### Senior Management Committees

An important feature of ABS corporate governance is the role played by senior management committees, which are active in identification of ABS priorities, ensuring appropriate planning and implementation to address those priorities, and effective monitoring of ABS activities. These major senior management committees are as follows:

- ABS Management Meetings

ABS Management Meetings involve the Australian Statistician, the Deputy Australian Statisticians, First Assistant Statisticians and Regional Directors. Expert advisers are also called as required. The Management Meetings play a major role in determining ABS strategic directions, priorities and resource allocations. The meetings occur at least twice a year. Among other things, the Management Meeting agrees on the forward work program which is taken to ASAC for comment and approval before finalisation.

- Executive Meetings

Executive Meetings are held weekly and involve the Australian Statistician, the Deputy Australian Statisticians and all First Assistant Statisticians. Regional Directors also provide written input to each meeting. Each Assistant Statistician and Regional Director in the ABS reports to the Executive Meeting annually in respect of their area of functional responsibility. Their reports cover matters such as significant achievements, indicators of performance, emerging issues, strategies adopted to manage them, and resource management. In addition, the meetings address emerging corporate issues.

- Protective Security Management Committee

The ABS maintains a comprehensive security framework, overseen by a Protective Security Management Committee chaired by the Deputy Australian Statistician, Economic Statistics Group.

- Audit Committee

The ABS Audit Committee is chaired by the First Assistant Statistician, Corporate Services Division and includes 3 other First Assistant Statisticians from the Technology, Dissemination and Statistical areas of the ABS. Other members are called as required. The Committee sets a work program for reviews drawing on recommendations from ABS managers and the Australian National Audit Office. The work program is undertaken by external audit contractors and primarily covers compliance issues. A broader review program, involving internal and external reviewers, looks at other issues of efficiency and effectiveness. The Committee meets at least twice each year and reports to each ABS Management Meeting on internal and external reviews undertaken, and the outcomes of those reviews. It also reports to the Executive Meeting as appropriate.

- Information Resources Management Committee

The Information Resources Management Committee is chaired by the Deputy Australian Statistician, Population Statistics Group, and consists of the Deputy Australian Statistician, Economic Statistics Group, all First Assistant Statisticians, a nominated Regional Director and appropriate Assistant Statisticians. The Committee considers matters of strategic significance concerning data and information management and related policy, and major issues relating to the application of information and communication technology in the ABS. It also has responsibility for the strategic management of cost recovery activities of the Information Technology and Technology Services areas of the ABS. The Committee meets a number of times each year, and reports to each Management Meeting and the Executive Meeting as appropriate.

- Human Resource Strategy Committee

The Human Resource Strategy Committee is chaired by the First Assistant Statistician, Corporate Services Division. The Committee involves all First Assistant Statisticians, a nominated Regional Director and the Assistant Statistician, Human Resources Branch. This Committee

provides the ABS with high level guidance on key human resource issues. Policy issues that are considered by this Committee include work force planning, staff development and training, remuneration, occupational health and safety, and workplace diversity. The Committee meets several times each year, and reports to each Management Meeting and the Executive Meeting as appropriate.

#### Other Internal and External Scrutiny

The operations and performance of the ABS are subject to both internal and external scrutiny. The results of this scrutiny inform senior management discussion.

Internal scrutiny takes the form of:

- periodic reviews of statistical collections and service functions. In reviews of statistical collections, external users are widely consulted and, in some instances, external users assist the review team. Internal reviews cover both the effectiveness and efficiency of various ABS activities;
- benchmarking, which is a key part of the ABS strategy to assess the value for money of its statistical outputs, to understand and learn from best practice, and to improve performance;
- annual reports from all Assistant Statisticians and Regional Directors to the Executive Meetings as discussed above; and
- an internal audit program, conducted by external service providers, covering different facets of ABS operations and overseen by the Audit Committee.

External scrutiny takes the following forms:

- consideration by the Australian Statistics Advisory Council of ABS priorities and proposals for the forward work program. Council advises the Australian Statistician and the Minister, and produces its own annual report on issues considered and advice given;
- audits by the Australian National Audit Office, either of ABS operations specifically or as part of cross-agency audits;
- review of statistical activity by various advisory committees and user groups. These include:
  - standing and ad hoc expert advisory groups, comprising key government, business, academic and community representatives. The groups provide advice on statistical priorities and developments in fields such as labour, Indigenous health and welfare, agriculture, economics, housing, environment, mining, statistical methodology, housing, crime and justice, tourism, transport, research and development;

- user groups established to advise the ABS on the concepts, content and dissemination programs of individual major household surveys;
- Commonwealth/State working groups or committees, often attached to Ministerial Councils, which provide advice on emerging needs, priorities and areas for cooperation; and
- advisory boards established for the National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics, the National Centre for Culture and Recreation Statistics, the National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics and the National Education and Training Statistical Unit. The boards provide advice on statistical priorities and data standards, and monitor and support the implementation of agreed collections. The forward work program for each statistical centre is agreed between the Australian Statistician and the board.

During 2000–01, the ABS forwarded its Fraud Risk Assessment and revised Fraud Control Plan to the Commonwealth Law Enforcement Board for endorsement.

There were no adverse comments from the Australian National Audit Office, the Ombudsman, the courts or the tribunals during 2000–01.

Information on Freedom of Information is provided in Appendix 10. Information on inquiries by Parliamentary Committees and reports by the Auditor General are provided in Appendix 11. Information on documents tabled in Parliament is provided in Appendix 12.

## Planning

The provision of a high quality national statistical service is a complex management exercise because of the diverse nature of user requirements and, in most instances, the lead time required to develop statistical collections. While the ABS recognises that it is impossible to satisfy all demands, in order to maintain relevance it seeks to react positively and responsibly to the demonstrated needs of its users. At the same time, the ABS is conscious of the constraints on public spending and on the workload placed on providers of information for its collections. Continued effort is made to review and, where possible, reduce provider load.

The ABS maintains a three-year forward work program which is rolled forward on an annual basis. The program is based on the set of components described in Appendix 1. Work programs are developed, resources are allocated, and performance indicators are established at these and lower levels.

Each year relative priorities and competing resource requirements of all program components are formally and extensively considered by senior management. Particular attention is given to:

- the extent to which particular statistical activities continue to be justified vis-a-vis other work for which a demand has been expressed by users;
- the cost imposed on respondents to collections, in terms of time and effort;
- prospective total resources available to the ABS within the three-year period;
- the market potential and revenue implications of the various initiatives proposed;
- productivity gains which have been achieved or which might be possible in the future; and
- the relative share of resources spent on statistical and non-statistical work.

Proposals from managers of program components are considered by senior management, generally following consultation with major users. The proposed forward work program and resource estimates which emerge are then considered by the Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC). The work program is finalised in the light of ASAC advice.

The culmination of the year's planning cycle is a comprehensive document, the ABS Forward Work Program, which describes for each ABS program, the outputs, clients and uses of the statistical information, and the main medium term developments. The document is available for public scrutiny and comment. A copy can be located on the ABS website.

## Security

The ABS would not be able to operate effectively without the trust and confidence of data providers. The legal requirement not to divulge identifiable information, and the strong confidentiality and security ethos which permeates the attitudes of ABS staff, are the most important elements of the ABS security screen. They are reinforced by a range of measures relating to the perimeter security of all offices, the security measures protecting the computing environment from any external access, and the security measures implemented for individual data holdings.

Some features of the major elements of the security framework are described below.

### *Undertakings of Fidelity and Secrecy Under the Census and Statistics Act 1905*

The *Census and Statistics Act 1905* obliges ABS staff to maintain the secrecy and security of all data reported to, and held by, the ABS. Staff sign an undertaking of fidelity and secrecy under the terms of the Act. The personal responsibility of all staff is a crucial element of ABS culture. It is the foundation upon which the security of ABS data holdings is built.



The ABS has an enviable reputation for the preservation of the secrecy of reported information, and for the protection of its statistical data holdings from unauthorised release. There have been no known cases of any ABS officer breaching the undertaking of fidelity and secrecy.

*Physical Security*

All ABS premises are physically secure against unauthorised access. Entry is through electronically controlled access systems activated by individually coded keys and monitored by closed circuit television. Anyone entering ABS premises is required to wear an identity pass. Particularly sensitive output data are subject to further physical security measures, including additional access control, supervision and secure storage.

*Computer Security*

Access to ABS computing systems is based on personal identifiers that are password protected. The computer systems are regularly monitored and usage audited.

Additional access control systems are used to protect any data designated 'sensitive'. Access to sensitive data is only granted under the authority of area line management (the 'owners' of the data) on the basis that access is required by the staff member to carry out their duties.

The ABS computer network has a secure gateway which allows connection to some Internet services. The secure gateway has been established in accordance with Commonwealth guidelines and has been accredited by the national communications and computer security advisory authority, Defence Signals Directorate.

*Security Audits*

ABS has an ongoing program of security audits and reviews of computer systems and the physical environment.

STATISTICAL CLEARING HOUSE

The Small Business Deregulation Task Force recommended in its 1996 report *More Time for Business* that statistical collections affecting 50 or more businesses and run by, or on behalf of, Commonwealth government departments and agencies, be subject to a central clearance process. The purpose of the recommendation was to ensure that all such surveys were necessary, and if so, were well designed to minimise respondent load and maximise benefit. The clearance process would also be an effective means of monitoring the load imposed on business respondents. In view of its statistical expertise and statutory coordination role, the ABS was asked to administer the clearance process.

The Statistical Clearing House was set up on 1 July 1997 for this purpose. Survey Liaison Officers were identified in each Commonwealth government agency known to have significant business survey activity. The primary role of these liaison officers is to ensure that all Commonwealth government statistical collections are vetted by the Statistical Clearing House, and that the clearance procedures are well understood by survey managers. A Statistical Clearing House User Group was established to obtain feedback from survey managers and other stakeholders, and to help streamline clearance procedures.

Clearance operations began on 1 December 1997, with the aim of examining every Commonwealth government statistical collection of businesses (including ABS collections) by June 1999, starting with the largest repeating surveys, and reviewing them periodically.

All repeating collections, other than those currently being re-evaluated, have now been reviewed by the Statistical Clearing House, or are in the process of review. All new surveys identified during 2000–01 have been reviewed.

A significant by-product of the Statistical Clearing House program is the Commonwealth Register of Surveys of Businesses (available on the Internet at [www.scb.abs.gov.au](http://www.scb.abs.gov.au)). The register lists the statistical collections subject to clearance, and information about them provided to the Statistical Clearing House during the clearance process. The register has become an important element of the clearance process as it is the primary means through which organisations with particular data needs can identify collections that have already been conducted, reducing the potential for duplication. To assist those developing surveys, the register site will also be used to provide access to information on survey design standards and best practices. There are 407 surveys currently on the website.

## OTHER ASPECTS OF ORGANISATIONAL MANAGEMENT/MONITORING

### ABS Service Charters

The ABS had two service charters during 2000–01.

The Client Service Charter describes the relationship between the ABS and users of its products and services. The Charter was developed in consultation with a representative sample of clients. Copies of the Charter are available on the ABS website and through bookshops located in each ABS office.

The Client Service Charter also offers guidance to clients wishing to provide compliments or register complaints on any aspect of client relationship or services. During 2000–01, three complaints from clients were recorded. The subjects of these complaints were: the ABS charging policy (two), and lack of notification of changes to outputs (one). All complaints were responded to.

The Business Surveys Charter sets out the relationship between the ABS and businesses which provide it with information for statistical purposes. The Charter explains how businesses can seek help from the ABS. During 2000–01, there were 748 complaints from businesses which

had been selected in ABS economic surveys, out of approximately 100,000 businesses surveyed during the year. A response was sent to all of these businesses. The Charter also provides for businesses to ask for a review of the complaints handling process. Three businesses requested the Complaints Review Officer to review either the process or the outcome. This year, the ABS has reviewed its procedures for managing issues raised by businesses selected in ABS surveys to improve its management of respondents.

The Charter was developed in consultation with representatives of small business. The Charter is provided to new respondents in collections involving businesses. It is available in English, Mandarin, Vietnamese, Greek and Arabic. The Charter is available on the ABS website.

Both the Client Service and Business Surveys Charters include performance standards for the relationships between the ABS and its clients, and its service delivery. Performance against these standards is the subject of ongoing review, as are the Charters themselves.

## Social Justice and Equity

ABS support for the *Charter for Public Service in a Culturally Diverse Society* is demonstrated primarily through the provision of statistical information available to government and community groups to assist in developing and monitoring access strategies in relevant fields, and by taking action to overcome linguistic and cultural barriers in the collection of data.

The ABS work program takes account of the Charter principles, and meets government needs for information to support social justice policies, by the identification of specific population groups of policy interest (such as Indigenous Australians, immigrants, people with disabilities, unemployed people, older Australians, women and children) in censuses and surveys concerned with various aspects of social wellbeing. In 2000–01, the ABS continued to provide data on population, health and welfare, education, employment, unemployment and other topics relating to labour force participation, earnings and income, housing, and recorded crime and justice administration. The Survey of Voluntary Work was completed during the year and information on how employees' pay was set was published for the first time in March 2001.

In 2000–01, the ABS released a wide range of statistical publications relevant to social justice and equity. These include various new issues such as *Prisoners in Australia, 2000* (Cat. no. 4517.0), *Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities, Australia, April 2000* (Cat. no. 4901.0), *Caring in the Community, Australia, 1998* (Cat. no. 4436.0), and *Australian Housing Survey: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Results, 1999* (Cat. no. 4712.0). The ABS also released experimental estimates of the labour force status of Indigenous Australians in an Occasional Paper *Labour Force Characteristics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians* (Cat. no. 6287.0).

Other publications of particular relevance to social justice and equity, released by the ABS in 2000–01, included *Voluntary Work, Australia, 2000* (Cat. no. 4441.0), *Unpaid Work and the Australian Economy, 1997* (Cat. no. 5240.0), *Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants, Australia, November 1999* (Cat. no. 6250.0), *Locations of Work, Australia, June 2000* (Cat. no. 6275.0), which provides results from the latest in a series of surveys on people who work from home, *Disability and Long Term Health Conditions, Australia, 1998* (Cat. no. 4433.0), *Australian Housing Survey: Housing Characteristics, Costs and Conditions, 1999* (Cat. no. 4182.0), *Household Expenditure Survey: Detailed Expenditure Items, Australia, 1998–99* (Cat. no. 6535.0), and *Australian Social Trends, 2001* (Cat. no. 4102.0), the eighth issue in the annual series of broad ranging social reports drawing on the ABS and other official sources of social statistics. The ABS also provided a detailed statistical appendix for a publication on women in Australia to be released by the Commonwealth Office of the Status of Women.

### Commonwealth Disability Strategy

In the context of the Commonwealth Disability Strategy the ABS performs two roles — it is a provider of statistical services and an employer.

In its role as a provider, the ABS has ensured that the ABS website meets, as required by the National Office for the Information Economy (NOIE), Priority 1 of the World Wide Web Consortium's (W3C) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines. Due to the high number of tables on the ABS website it has not been possible to meet Priority 2. The ABS has been working with a range of parties including the Royal Institute for the Blind and other government agencies to make our website more accessible. This project has included work with Worcester Polytechnic Institute (Mass.) on 'Educational Web Page Accessibility for Blind and Low Vision Users'.

As an employer, the ABS has implemented a range of initiatives relevant to the Disability Strategy, including:

- the development of comprehensive 'Reasonable Workplace Adjustment Guidelines';
- information on issues of reasonable workplace adjustment in the ABS On-line Learning Program about Workplace Diversity. All staff will be encouraged to undertake this On-line Learning Program;
- in the ABS internal training programs, Introduction to Management; Management Development Program; and Orientation, sessions on workplace diversity. These sessions include discussion of management responsibilities in relation to reasonable workplace adjustment, and the inclusion of all staff;
- the conduct of a pilot training program on 'Recruiting for the ABS' earlier this year. This program was developed in full consultation with the National Workplace Diversity Adviser to ensure that people responsible for recruiting are fully aware of their responsibilities in

ensuring that opportunities are provided for all people to apply for, and be selected for, recruitment into the ABS;

- an invitation to the Director of the Office of Disability to talk to the Workplace Diversity Team in central office to provide information about the Commonwealth Disability Strategy and its application in the ABS;
- ensuring the ABS in recruiting staff follows the relevant legislation and no discriminatory practices take place. These issues are addressed in the ABS Manual of Personnel Management; and
- the development of training facilities, including information technology training equipment in ABS House, which have been designed to be accessible by all. Training rooms will be immediately adjacent to lifts to facilitate safe and appropriate access and egress.

In addition to its role as a provider and employer, the ABS also has an important role in terms of providing information about disabilities, to assist informed decision making by policy advisers. Information on the nature and extent of disability and associated needs for care and support, as well as the impact of the caring role on carers, is available in *Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings* (Cat. no. 4430.0). The next ABS collection on this topic is scheduled for September 2003. Another recent publication of relevance to the issue is *Disability and Long Term Health Conditions, Australia, 1998* (Cat. no. 4433.0).

#### Ecologically Sustainable Development

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* requires agencies to report on aspects of its performance as it relates to ecologically sustainable development. The ABS has two key roles in respect of this issue. The first of these is in relation to the ABS mission/outcome and providing statistics on the environment and environmental issues to enable informed decision making. The second role is in relation to ABS operations and its impact on the environment and the steps being taken by the ABS to minimise that impact.

The environment component of the ABS Economic Statistics Program collects and publishes information about environment and energy statistics, including environment accounts. The component is involved in the coordination of data collection, research and analysis and implementing international accounting and environmental frameworks.

During 2000–01 the ABS released a range of publications relevant to environmental issues. These included, *Environmental Issues: People's Views and Practices* (Cat. no. 4602.0); *Environmental Expenditure, Local Government (Experimental Estimates), 1997–98* (Cat. no. 4611.0); and *Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emission Accounts for Australia, 1992–93 to 1997–98* (Cat. no. 4604.0). The ABS is also progressing towards the development of Forest Accounts, Waste Accounts, Land Accounts and enhanced Water Accounts.

The operations of the ABS do result in the production of greenhouse gases through energy and gas consumption, fuel consumption and

waste. Measures the ABS is taking to manage and minimise the effect of its operations on the environment include:

- the conduct of energy audits of all offices in 1999 and the subsequent implementation of recommendations to reduce the level of energy usage;
- purchase of 10 per cent of green energy for ABS central office;
- implementation of a policy of recycling paper, bottles, cans, and cartons — recycling bins are readily accessible to all ABS staff;
- increased use of LPG powered vehicles;
- regular monitoring of energy accounts; and
- developing a plan to join the Greenhouse Challenge.

Energy efficiency has been one of the prime considerations in the design of ABS House, the new central office of the ABS. Energy usage is expected to decline with the move to this new accommodation.

## **SECTION II**

### **SPECIAL ARTICLES**

**Chapter 3 — Research and Analysis in the  
ABS**

**Chapter 4 — The 2001 Census of  
Population and Housing**

**Special Articles in Earlier Annual Reports**

### 3 RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS IN THE ABS

#### INTRODUCTION

The ABS has a long history of significant investment in research and analysis of data. This investment is consistent with the legislation controlling the operations of the ABS, for example Section 6(1)(b) of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* which states that the functions of the ABS include 'to collect, compile, analyse and disseminate statistics and related information'. Among the strategies in the latest ABS Corporate Plan is 'strengthening our analytical capability so that we can develop new measures from existing data, add value to the data we collect, and improve quality'.

The ABS pursues a diverse program of research into such matters as:

- concepts and frameworks that can give the best statistical expression to important aspects of the Australian economy, society and environment;
- ways of gathering data from households and businesses that deliver the most valuable information while imposing the lowest possible cost; and
- emerging techniques and technologies that can enhance the value of statistical products or improve the efficiency of statistical processes.

In 1999, the ABS made a significant resource commitment to expanding and re-focussing its research and analysis capacity. This was in response to the increasing complexity of the demands of users and the availability to analysts of a wider range of datasets, both ABS and non-ABS.

Key aims of the expanded program include developing new socioeconomic indicators and other analytical products from existing datasets, and providing analytical services to the producers and users of socioeconomic data. This article concentrates on the analytical methods being developed and applied by the ABS to fill gaps in its suite of statistical products or to otherwise enhance the service that the ABS gives to its users.

#### UNDERSTANDING AND MEETING DECISION-MAKERS' NEEDS

Through considering the potential demand for information in particular fields and carefully analysing the available datasets, both ABS and non-ABS, the ABS devises 'information development plans' that specify the statistical development activity to be undertaken. Important aspects to be addressed in such plans include the identification of:

- Data Gaps — where important demands for statistics cannot be met immediately from existing data repositories. The ABS, in consultation with other stakeholders, assesses priorities, costs and benefits to decide which gaps should be filled, by whom and how. In some cases, the ABS might establish a new statistical collection or add a topic to an existing collection. But these are not the only ways of filling gaps in the suite of statistics; it may be possible to transform



the raw contents of existing data repositories into statistical products. Often this entails the application of analytical techniques such as modelling to extract information from the raw data; and

- Data Overlaps — where there are multiple sources of statistics bearing upon a given policy decision or research question. In these circumstances, the ABS might undertake a data confrontation project. The focus of such a project is to understand any differences between the statistical pictures painted by the multiple sources and, if possible, to construct estimates that best exploit the information that is latent in all the sources.

Finding analytical solutions to data gaps and overlaps is a key component of the ABS research and analysis program.

## THE RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS PROGRAM

The current ABS research and analysis program addresses a broad range of issues, as outlined below.

### New measures of socioeconomic concepts

Policy-makers and researchers appeal to a wide variety of socioeconomic concepts, not all of which can be measured directly in statistical surveys. In many cases, the survey data must be transformed or modelled to meet users' needs. The ABS already publishes statistical measures for many concepts that arise in economic or social theory and underlie policy design — these include aggregate economic activity, productivity, inflation, income distribution, life expectancy, the energy intensity of production and so on.

Much of the ABS research and analysis program aims to expand the range of measures and to enhance the measures that are already published. Some projects currently underway are discussed below.

*Human capital* refers to the stock of knowledge and skills embodied in a nation's people. The concept arises in theories of economic growth, educational choice and the labour market. At present, only proxy measures of human capital are available to Australian policy-makers and researchers — they can examine, for example, the numbers of people with particular educational qualifications. During 2001, the ABS has been developing experimental measures of the value of human capital for Australia. The key notion (one of several that might have been used) is that the economic value of individuals' human capital can be expressed as the present-day value of the lifetime income streams that they can earn by applying their knowledge and skills. Initially, the main product of this research will be an aggregate time series which can be used to analyse trends and augment the existing estimates of Australia's wealth. In the future, it may be possible to embed the human capital stock estimates in an integrated set of accounts that also display flows (such as migration, natural population growth and education) and link these with the labour accounts and other systems of socioeconomic data.

*Productivity improvement* is the growth in a nation's output over and above that explained by growth in the inputs to production. Measures

of productivity are important to an understanding of long term improvements in Australians' living standards and to changes in such key variables as Australia's international competitiveness. The ABS currently publishes estimates of multifactor productivity for the market sector of the economy (Cat. no. 5204.0) which take into account labour and capital inputs. In recent years, considerable research effort has been devoted to enhancing the quality of the estimates. For example, the ABS has developed better measures of output for service industries such as Finance, Property and Business Services and Health. The input estimates have also been improved — the productivity calculations now take account of the flow of capital services into production rather than the former proxy measure based on the stock of capital; and experimental estimates of labour inputs have been developed that incorporate adjustments for changes in the quality of labour. Future work will be focussed on exploring ways of constructing productivity estimates for individual industries, based on the annual series of input-output tables that is now compiled.

Other projects related to measuring socioeconomic concepts include:

- applying 'hedonic' methods to compile computer price indexes. These methods allow one to take account of the rapid changes in the features and power of computers; and
- assessing the feasibility of compiling 'spatial price indexes' or some other way of comparing price levels in different locations. The Consumer Price Index allows one to compare the rates of price change in the eight capital cities, but does not allow a comparison of price levels. A key issue that arises when compiling spatial indexes is the dissimilarity of some goods and services purchased in different places (such as heaters in Hobart and air conditioners in Darwin).

#### Statistics for 'small domains'

Statistics compiled at the whole-of-Australia level satisfy the needs of many decision-makers and researchers. But other users need data dissected by geographic areas (for example, States or regions), by subpopulations (for example, age-sex groups or household types) or by industry or other dimensions. The ABS already publishes a wide variety of disaggregated data — the outputs from the Census, for example, include estimates for small geographic areas and population subgroups; many economic survey estimates are dissected by State and industry; and many social survey estimates are dissected by State and population subgroup. It is not possible to run a census for all socioeconomic topics, owing to the prohibitive financial cost and the load on households and businesses that provide the data. While ABS sample surveys can deliver somewhat disaggregated estimates, there is an ever growing user demand for more and finer dissections.

A current project is ascertaining whether it is possible to satisfy these user demands by applying modelling and other analytical techniques to existing datasets. Several projects are currently underway which aim to dissect published estimates across new dimensions or to generate finer dissections across existing dimensions. Two of these projects are discussed below.

*Household wealth* estimates are provided in the household balance sheet, which shows the value of the household sector's net worth dissected by a number of assets and liabilities, such as dwellings, shares and loans (Cat. no. 5204.0). There is considerable interest in understanding how wealth is distributed across household types. This includes questions about whether wealth is more (or less) evenly distributed than income, and how the composition of assets and liabilities evolves during households' life cycles. For some years, the ABS has been working toward a more integrated suite of income and wealth statistics (Cat. no. 6549.0). The ABS runs regular surveys of households' incomes — but not of households' wealth, owing to the cost, the burden on data providers and concerns about the quality of the data that would be obtained. During 2001–02, the ABS will be developing experimental estimates of household wealth dissected by household type using a range of indicators such as the stock indicators that are available for some assets and liabilities and the income/expense flow indicators that are available for other assets and liabilities. In the future, these estimates may be used to refine and extend the household balance sheet, and may be integrated with existing estimates of household income distribution.

*Crime statistics* are compiled from a variety of sources, including the National Crime and Safety Survey (NCSS) which presents estimates of crime victimisation and other variables at the State level (Cat. no. 4509.0). There is considerable interest in analysing the pattern of crime victimisation for smaller areas, but the NCSS sample is not large enough to support further geographic disaggregations. During 2001, the ABS is experimenting with model-based approaches for estimation of small area statistics. One procedure being investigated is to model the relationship between crime victimisation (from NCSS) and the characteristics of people and locations (from the Census) at a fairly coarse level of geography, and then to apply that model to the Census data at a finer level of geography.

Both the wealth and the crime estimates rely on assumptions about the relationships between variables. Some of these assumptions can be tested, but for others only broad plausibility checks are possible. Thus it will be important that the models, assumptions and experimental findings of these and similar projects are subjected to stringent peer review before the estimates could be regarded as anything other than experimental.

More generally, modelling the relationships between sample survey data and a Census or administrative databank may be a fruitful method of estimating for small domains. Similar strategies may help the ABS address the needs of users who want estimates at higher frequencies than are published at present such as monthly rather than quarterly, or annual rather than triennial).

#### Using alternative data sources

Traditionally, national statistical agencies such as the ABS have relied largely on their own censuses and sample surveys when compiling economic and social statistics. Such direct collections will remain a major element of ABS operations. However, other government agencies and businesses are accumulating large databanks that potentially have considerable value for statistical purposes. These databanks provide an

opportunity to replace or supplement directly collected data. Alternatively they might allow the extension of existing estimates to smaller geographic areas or subpopulations or to more frequent time periods. There may also be the opportunity to use such data to support the measurement of socioeconomic concepts for which a direct collection would be too difficult or expensive.

Before by-product data can be used to generate ABS statistical products, many questions about analytical methods and quality must be addressed. The questions that arise in a few exploratory projects are discussed below.

*Scanner datasets* record the prices and quantities of goods purchased through certain outlets, such as supermarkets. In the short to medium run, ABS analyses are concentrating on using the datasets to model and refine current compilation practices for the Consumer Price Index (CPI), such as the selection of outlets and commodities for which CPI price collectors gather data and the index formulae applied at various levels of aggregation. In the longer term, the possibility of using scanner data directly in the compilation of price indexes or indicators of the value and volume of business activity may be considered. Before any such direct use could be contemplated, the ABS would have to achieve a thorough understanding of such issues as: what proportions of outlets, commodities and transactions are covered by the scanner data and how the coverage may vary over time; whether the barcodes are assigned in such a way as to permit consistent tracking of commodities; and what costs may be entailed by acquiring and processing the very large scanner datasets.

*Administrative databanks* have been assembled by many government agencies. Their main purpose is to assist management of the agencies' business and customers, although some agencies such as the Australian Taxation Office and Centrelink are now extracting performance information and statistics. The ABS has been, and continues, to explore possibilities for using administrative by-product data to enhance the national statistical service. It may be possible, for example, to develop a better statistical picture of business demographics (such as patterns of business formation, growth, decline and closure) or of household income and labour dynamics (such as patterns of labour market experience, earnings and other sources of income). Statistics of this kind can be difficult and expensive to collect directly by survey. Before any such use of administrative data could be contemplated, there are a number of issues which would have to be addressed, including:

- how the confidentiality of individuals' data can be protected; and
- how analyses can deal with the fact that the data may be partial (because the databank covers only the customers of an agency, not the whole population) or otherwise imperfect (because the variables in the databank were designed for business management purposes, not for statistical purposes).

Other projects in the research and analysis program, where consideration is being given to alternative data sources, include:

- assessing the feasibility of deriving a more timely indicator of the pulse of economic activity from Electronic Funds Transfer Point-of-Sale (EFTPOS) and other by-product datasets;
- using administrative data to estimate the value and volume of services (such as education, health and police services); and
- using administrative data to enhance the range and quality of Indigenous statistics.

Over the years, the ABS has developed a large array of tools (mathematics, procedures and software) to analyse datasets collected through the Bureau's own censuses and sample surveys. The question arises, however, whether those tools are the most appropriate for dealing with very large by-product datasets. Issues that are, or need to be, addressed include:

- how might traditional models and methods have to change to deal with datasets that have not been assembled using ABS classifications, definitions and collection methods? For example, what methods are needed to assess the quality of the datasets (and especially to detect any drift in quality as time passes)?
- how might traditional research strategies have to change? For example, might the bulk of the exploratory analyses be done on sampled datasets, and the preferred or final model be validated against the full dataset? and
- what computing tools are needed to store, transport, browse and transform these very large (and rapidly growing) datasets?

As well as seeking to add value to (or extract the value latent in) particular by-product datasets available today, the ABS research program is gathering intelligence about possible future changes to the national data environment and to statistical systems.

#### Drawing statistical threads together

The ABS publishes a rich suite of statistical products describing major aspects of Australian life — the economy, society and environment. There is, however, a growing demand for statistical products that draw information together, regardless of source. Such 'integrating' statistical products help decision-makers and the community form a more comprehensive view of some aspect of life; they also help researchers analyse the interactions between key variables.

One important objective of the ABS analysis program is to develop products that draw statistical threads together. Areas of current research include:

*Compendium publications* present data relating to a whole field of national life. Prominent examples are *Australian Social Trends* (Cat. no. 4102.0), and *Australia's Environment: Issues and Trends* (Cat. no. 4613.0). During 2001–02, the ABS is developing a new publication *Measuring Australia's Progress (MAP)* which is a major

project that will present an array of indicators encapsulating key aspects and indicators of national progress, together with analyses of historical trends and linkages. A first issue of MAP is scheduled for release in April 2002. Publications of this kind do more than just repackage tables available in other ABS publications. They bring in data relating to an economic, social or environmental issue regardless of the source. They can also cast light on gaps, overlaps and inconsistencies in the data, and hence act as a spur to further statistical development activity.

*Satellite accounts* are a more systematic way of drawing statistical threads together. They are an adjunct to the Australian national accounts and can be used to:

- highlight a particular aspect of economic life (such as tourism, which is not recognised as an industry in standard classifications);
- display the results of different statistical treatments (such as household accounts, which treat the household as a producing, not just a consuming, unit; or income accounts adjusted for the depletion of natural resources);
- analyse macro-micro links (such as dissected wealth matrices that link the aggregate balance sheet for the household sector with the distribution of wealth across types of household); and
- analyse links between the economy and society and the environment (such as the link between the volume and composition of production and the emission of atmospheric pollutants).

Satellite accounts are a very powerful tool for analysis, but constructing them is expensive and time consuming. Key determinants in deciding whether to develop a new satellite account include: the strength of user demand; the availability of international standard concepts, frameworks and procedures; and the quantity and quality of data.

In late 2000, the ABS published a tourism satellite account for Australia, which was the culmination of extensive research and statistical analysis, and resulted in a product that presented aggregate activity, the supply and use of commodities and employment associated with tourism activities (Cat. no. 5249.0). On a similar basis the ABS has recently released *Water Account for Australia* (Cat. no. 4610.0), and *Energy Accounts* (Cat. no. 4604.0). The ABS has also developed experimental estimates of national income adjusted for the depletion and some discoveries of subsoil assets. Satellite accounts that are being developed or contemplated include: household wealth distribution; non-profit institutions; household production and consumption; information technology and telecommunications.

*Confronting multiple data sources* is an important aspect of the ABS analysis program because it allows one to understand the nature of differences between the statistical pictures painted by the multiple sources, and in doing so it may also allow one to construct estimates that make best use of the information embodied in all the sources. During 2000–01, the ABS has undertaken several projects of this kind, for example:

- experimental indexes of socioeconomic disadvantage for Indigenous areas. These indexes distil information available from the Census and some surveys (such as the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey) to provide summary comparisons of socioeconomic conditions in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander regions and some other Indigenous geographic areas. The experimental indexes are intended partly as a testbed for better understanding the nature of Indigenous data and the need for further statistical development. Later stages of the project may incorporate Indigenous-coded data available from administrative sources in some States — these will both test the validity of the experimental indexes and provide more comprehensive coverage of some aspects for which Census and survey data are rather thin (such as Indigenous health status); and
- comparisons of survey vehicles for disability data. The ABS has used a variety of means to collect data on the incidence and severity of disability — ranging from the comprehensive Survey of Disability and Aged Care (SDAC) to smaller modules incorporated in surveys that focus on other topics (Cat. no. 4430.0). Given the multiple sources, the significant issues include: what is the most cost-effective way of collecting data on disability; and whether it is possible to combine the various survey results to assemble a time series of disability estimates.

Other projects of this kind include using datasets from multiple sources to better understand life-long patterns of both formal and informal education and training; and the melding of police and ABS survey data to analyse the prevalence of crime.

## ISSUES REGARDING ANALYTICAL WORK

### Emerging technical issues

Much of the ABS analytical program relies on traditional techniques from mathematical statistics, econometrics, time series analysis and other disciplines. However, some of the technical matters arising in the research and analysis program are novel (not having been addressed until fairly recently in the literature) or at least are new to the ABS (not yet having been applied to the development of the Bureau's statistical products). Some of the technical issues that have emerged in the research program to date, and are relevant to a wide range of ABS work, are discussed below.

*Analyses that take account of complex survey design.* ABS surveys are designed to yield accurate estimates of headline variables (say, the unemployment rate or the quarterly change in retail sales) while keeping the cost and the load on data providers as low as possible; they are not usually designed to deliver, for example, sets of household or business data that are most convenient for modelling. To enhance the accuracy and reduce the cost of surveys, ABS mathematical statisticians apply a variety of techniques such as stratification and clustering of the sample. Thus the sampling designs for some ABS surveys can be quite complex. When it later comes to analysis, however, many standard techniques for fitting and testing models ignore the complex sample design — in effect, it is assumed that the data have

been drawn by simple random sampling. This expedient can lead to invalid inferences about the explanatory power of one's models.

*Multilevel analyses.* Some ABS projects are trying to estimate socioeconomic variables or analyse data patterns at multiple geographic levels (say, both States and statistical local areas) or for multiple units (say, both persons and households). The relationships between variables can be quite complex. For example, the probability of falling victim to a crime may be influenced both by the characteristics of individual people and by the characteristics of the areas in which they live. Moreover, the strength of the various influences may rise or fall as one changes the unit of analysis from individuals to households or as one moves from coarse to fine geography. For problems of this kind, so-called 'multilevel-effects modelling' may provide a natural framework in which to test hypotheses and develop new analytical products.

*Analyses of huge datasets.* The datasets being used in some analytical projects, especially the transactional and customer databanks, are very large. As discussed earlier, exploiting the statistical potential of such datasets may prompt some reconsideration of ABS research strategies, analytical techniques and software tools.

An important task for a national statistical agency is to find methodologies that both deliver defensible statistical products and are robust and economical enough to permit their application to satisfying a wide range of users' needs. The ABS is building its knowledge by designing pilot projects that will exercise promising new analytical approaches and will deliver product prototypes for users' scrutiny. Joint projects with researchers in universities and other organisations will also improve our understanding of the emerging issues.

#### Quality and validation of analytical products

Over the years, the ABS has developed an array of tools for monitoring, managing and enhancing the quality of estimates derived from its traditional data collections. For example, the Census includes a rigorous program of pre-enumeration testing and post-enumeration validation, and survey outputs are accompanied by statements regarding sampling and non-sampling errors. But quality management for analytical products can pose different and difficult problems.

First, many analytical products are derived from models or other elaborate transformations of data. The assumptions underlying the models may be contested by other analysts, or they may be inconsistent with the applications that some users have in mind. To ensure that its analytical methods are professionally defensible, the ABS submits its projects to peer review by experts in both the subject matter and the statistical techniques. To ensure that users understand the applications for which ABS analytical products have been developed (and applications which the products will not support), such products are accompanied by detailed information about the models or transformations that have been applied and the assumptions that have been invoked.

Second, the quality of the administrative and business by-product datasets being used in some analytical projects is not yet well



understood. Some projects may be applying ABS survey data to purposes for which they were not originally designed. To assist users, the ABS is developing quality statements for its analytical products. The statements describe the sampling and non-sampling errors in the original datasets and how those errors may flow through the models and transformations to the analytical product; it may be possible in some cases to estimate confidence bounds around key transformed statistics. The quality statements also give users information about the consequences of the models themselves being inappropriate to the task at hand.

Third, most analytical products are initially released to users as 'prototypes' or 'experimental statistics'. The intention is that the user community should have time to scrutinise and comment on the prototypes before they become part of the suite of official statistics. The ABS has found that this practice can elicit valuable suggestions for improving the content and presentation of new products.

#### Collaborative research and development

Developing a new analytical product can demand an understanding of abstruse concepts (such as human capital theory or environmental economics), sophisticated techniques (such as multilevel modelling or time series signal extraction) and refractory data. The ABS does not yet have the expertise or resources needed to cover all emerging areas of user demand; and unless some skill is likely to have fairly wide application to the Bureau's work, it may not be sensible to develop in-house expertise. Thus, the ABS is keen to establish collaborative working relationships with analysts and users in government agencies, universities and other organisations. Such relationships may take a variety of forms, such as:

- *Joint projects.* The project team would include members from both the ABS and a partner organisation. Joint projects are among the most valuable ways of pooling expertise and transferring knowledge. Before such an arrangement is established, issues to be addressed include: how to define a research topic that will both enhance the national statistical service and interest the partner organisation; how to protect data confidentiality; and how to negotiate rights over publications and other products flowing from the joint work; and
- *Project board membership and peer review.* All substantial analytical projects in the ABS are governed by a project board. A partner organisation may provide board members who will oversee key decisions such as the scope and aims of the research project, the choice of data and methods, and quality standards. Alternatively the partner may provide members of the peer review panel that examines the prototype.

#### CONCLUSION

The analysis and research program of the ABS has already delivered a number of significant outcomes such as the tourism satellite accounts and improvements in the quality of a number of existing products. However the full impact of the significant increase in resources in this area will only begin to emerge in 2001–02 with the release of a number of significant products including Measuring Australia's Progress.

The ABS envisages a significantly increased role for research and analytical techniques in the future so as to meet the increasingly complex needs of users. Examples where the use of analytical techniques have the potential to fill gaps in the suite of statistical products include:

- developing measures of concepts that are not susceptible to direct observation;
- providing estimates for smaller areas or subpopulations or for more frequent time periods;
- tapping the latent value of administrative and business databanks to enhance (or reduce the cost of) statistics; and
- drawing together the statistical threads to encapsulate a major aspect of the Australian economy, society and environment.

If the ABS analysis program is to deliver the best possible value to users, it must be based on a thorough understanding of the decisions that users are making and the research that they are undertaking. It also demands an understanding of the quality (and other characteristics) of statistical products that are most crucial to supporting users' activities. The ABS is keen to collaborate with analysts and other users to develop that understanding.

## 4 THE 2001 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING

*“..... in planning a better future we’re counting on you”.*

(2001 Census, public awareness campaign theme)

### BACKGROUND

On Tuesday 7 August 2001 the Australian Bureau of Statistics conducted Australia’s fourteenth national Census. The 2001 Census had particular historical significance, coinciding as it did with the Centenary of Federation and the start of a new century and millennium.

This article presents information on the background, lead up to, and processing of, the 2001 Census — the largest data collection operation ever undertaken by the ABS.

### INTRODUCTION

Planning and preparations for the Census started over six years ago and it will be the end of 2002 before the full array of statistics compiled from Census forms is available for release. The Census results will be used to compile the December quarter 2001 State/Territory population estimates. Detailed statistics for all geographic areas will become available from July 2002.

### CENSUS OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the Census is to measure the number and key characteristics of people in Australia on Census night. This provides a reliable basis for estimating the population of each State, Territory and local government area, primarily for electoral purposes (including the determination of the number of seats allocated to each State and Territory in the House of Representatives) and for the distribution of government funds. About \$35 billion per year will be distributed in Commonwealth financial assistance grants between the States and Territories using figures resulting from the 2001 Census.

### USES OF CENSUS DATA

However, there are many other purposes served by the Census. At a time when there is growing demand for rural, regional and remote data, the five-yearly Census provides a comprehensive picture of Australia for small geographic areas. Detailed information is also available for small population groups. The Census complements the other sources of information gathered by the ABS from other surveys and collections for which the results are generally only available at national, state and broad regional levels. This wealth of information supports the planning, administration, policy development and evaluation activities by governments, businesses and community organisations.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has handled over 100,000 requests for data from the 1996 Census, in addition to the access made through libraries and other organisations that disseminate Census data. It is anticipated that demand for 2001 Census data will be even greater.

## CENSUS OUTPUTS

2001 Census data will be available in many formats and through a variety of channels. 2001 Census data will be available from printed publications, CD-ROM, the Internet, the ABS website <[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)>, the AusStats service and via email. Full details of the Census outputs are contained in the publication *2001 Census of Population and Housing, Proposed Products and Services* (Cat. no. 2011.0).

There will be a significant increase in the amount of data from the 2001 Census that is available free of charge as a community service. As in the past, many of these products and publications will be available in most public libraries. In addition, for the 2001 Census much free data will be provided via the Internet including basic community profiles down to statistical local area level, and the main findings from the publications *Selected Social and Housing Characteristics* (Cat. nos. 2015.0–8), *Selected Education and Labour Force Characteristics* (Cat. nos. 2017.0–8), and *Selected Characteristics for Urban Centres/Localities* (Cat. nos. 2016.0–7). Extensive reference information about the Census will also be available on the Internet.

## THE CENSUS TIME CAPSULE

A feature of the 2001 Census was the opportunity given to people to choose to have their name-identified Census information kept for release after 99 years. The ABS will microfilm the full Census records of those people who chose to have their information retained and then pass the microfilm to the National Archives of Australia for retention. On 7 August 2100 the records will be made available to the public. The name-identified records for those who do not choose to have their forms retained, or who do not answer the relevant question, will be destroyed. The project is known as the *Census Time Capsule*.

The *Census Time Capsule* project originated in 1999 with an inquiry into the treatment of Census forms by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs. The Government agreed with the Committee's recommendation that saving name-identified information from the 2001 Census 'for future research, with appropriate safeguards, will make a valuable contribution to preserving Australia's history for future generations'.

The ABS was concerned that the quality of the Census would be affected if all Census forms were retained even with appropriate safeguards. It was far more comfortable with the final decision to allow Australians a choice of whether their Census records should be retained or not.

The *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, and the *Archives Act 1983*, have been amended to provide for the retention of information for those who elect to do so and to ensure that the name-identified Census information is retained from the 2001 Census, and that the name-identified information will not be available for any purpose within the 99 year closed access period, including access by a court or tribunal.

The Census question (question 50) which provides the opportunity for individuals to indicate that they wish to have their name-identified information retained, the associated supporting material, and the *Census Time Capsule* project procedures were developed in close consultation with the Federal Privacy Commissioner.

In collaboration with historical and genealogical organisations, the ABS developed an extensive education campaign, to be conducted as part of the 2001 Census communications campaign. The focus was on ensuring that people were aware of and understood all aspects of the *Census Time Capsule* project so that their decision on form retention was an informed one. While not advocating a particular position, the education and general public relations campaigns were designed to encourage people to participate. The Minister for Financial Services and Regulation and the Australian Federation of Family History Organisations participated in this campaign.

The ABS has endeavoured to make the project a success and, at the time of writing this article, the *Census Time Capsule* project has not caused significant privacy concerns. However, the real test of its success will be:

- (a) whether sufficient Australians have elected to have their form retained to justify the cost of the project; and
- (b) whether the quality of the Census data has been affected — the major concern is anecdotal evidence that some people have enhanced their 'status' as a result of the *Time Capsule Project*.

The ABS will be able to analyse whether there has been any significant deterioration in quality when Census outputs become available in 12–18 months' time.

#### PUBLIC AWARENESS AND ASSISTANCE

Prior to the 2001 Census the Australian Bureau of Statistics conducted a comprehensive communications campaign to ensure high levels of awareness and participation in the Census. As well as paid media advertising and briefings for community and other opinion leaders, the campaign included a comprehensive program of media contact to inform journalists and commentators about the Census and to encourage accurate and timely coverage of relevant issues.

An important aspect of the communications strategy was to raise awareness of procedures available to obtain help, especially for people who may have been disadvantaged through language or other difficulties (such as the deaf and hearing impaired, the sight impaired) in acquiring information about the Census or in completing the form. Extensive liaison was undertaken with relevant organisations and community resources identified as being able to assist people in understanding the Census or completing the form.

A principal avenue for assistance was the telephone Census Inquiry Service which operated throughout Australia during the Census period. The inquiry service answered inquiries ranging from questions about the Census itself, through delivery and collection issues, to requests for help

in completing the Census form. Brochures providing information about the inquiry service were produced in 22 languages and a telephone interpreter service was available for those who required it.

A significant development in the 2001 Census has been the supplementation to the Census Inquiry Service with a separate Census website <[www.abs.gov.au/census](http://www.abs.gov.au/census)>. This was the first time an externally developed and hosted website has supported an ABS activity and has provided the opportunity for learning in a wide range of areas within the ABS. In the week leading up to and including Census day 2001, 27,025 users sought advice/information on the 2001 Census or previous Censuses.

**2001 CENSUS: INDIVIDUAL INQUIRIES HANDLED IN THE WEEK PRECEDING (AND INCLUDING) CENSUS DAY**

	1996	2001
Telephone Census Inquiry Service calls	159 644	215 660
Internet — individual users	—	27 025
<b>Total</b>	<b>159 644</b>	<b>242 685</b>

These channels of assistance were additional to the Census Guide, a copy of which was distributed to every household along with their Census form.

As a result of the comprehensive communications campaign, the ABS found that nearly all individuals approached by Census collectors were aware of the 2001 Census. The coverage by the media was very extensive with saturation coverage achieved across Australia in the lead up to and on Census day. The coverage was very supportive to the ABS with around 95 per cent of messages either positive in tone or reporting key Census messages as news content.

LEGISLATIVE BASIS

Since the 1961 Census, Australia has had a Census every five years. A 1977 amendment to the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* requires that 'the Census shall be taken in the year 1981 and in every fifth year thereafter'.

All Census information is collected under the authority of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* and is, in turn, protected by its secrecy provisions.

In seeking Census information, the ABS relies on the willing cooperation of households in its initial approach. Traditionally, the ABS has always found widespread community support for the Census and most people participate willingly. The *Census and Statistics Act 1905* does provide the Australian Statistician with the power to direct persons to provide the information sought in the Census but it has only been necessary to use these powers sparingly in the past — there were less than 50 prosecutions in the 1996 Census.

## CHANGES IN CENSUS CONTENT

Consultation with users of Census statistics about the content of the 2001 Census commenced in March 1998 with the publication of an Information Paper *2001 Census: Australian Bureau of Statistics Views on Content and Procedures* (Cat. no. 2007.0). Public consultation on possible topics was undertaken throughout 1998, with meetings in all States and Territories. Specialist user groups were established to examine in detail the ethnicity questions (such as language, birthplace and ancestry), transport questions (such as mode of transport to work and workplace address) and the possibility of including questions on disability. Extensive field and focus group testing on possible new questions, changes to current questions and overall form design was undertaken.

Valuable advice on possible topics was obtained from the Australian Statistics Advisory Council.

The outcome of the above process was that the 2001 Census comprised 50 questions, three more than in 1996. Two questions were included for the first time: use of the Internet; and home use of personal computers. A question on ancestry was included for the first time since 1986. The purpose of this question was to provide a better picture of the ethnic origins of the Australian population, particularly where this does not correspond with the person's country of birth or parent's country of birth. As a consequence, the 1996 question on country of birth of parents was able to be simplified in 2001 to ask only whether parents were born in Australia or overseas.

One topic, the number of children ever born, is justified only every ten years so it was omitted from the 2001 Census. Another topic from 1996, whether a dwelling is rented furnished or unfurnished, was not considered of sufficient priority for inclusion in 2001.

Despite a strong need for disability data, testing of a variety of disability questions showed that these did not produce reliable results using a Census methodology. This topic was, therefore, not included in the 2001 Census, however the ABS will continue to investigate the options for developing suitable questions for future censuses.

The Government announced the 2001 Census topics on 6 April 2000.

## FIELD OPERATIONS

A relatively small group of permanent ABS staff undertake the planning of each Census, however the actual event calls for a very large temporary work force. For the 2001 Census nearly 23,000 collectors took to the roads and footpaths to deliver and pick up forms from every household in the country. In addition, several thousand special collectors were required to cover all those people who were staying in accommodation establishments and institutions, camping out or travelling overnight on the night of 7 August. The field operation was supervised by about 3,000 supervisors and coordinators employed for several months to organise recruitment, training, distribution and collection of forms. In total, over 850 tonnes of material were distributed by a convoy of trucks to the field operators.

Special attention was given during the Census to ensuring an accurate count of Indigenous people, whether living in Indigenous communities or in urban areas. In many communities, a specially designed form was used which was completed by an Indigenous interviewer. Indigenous collectors were also appointed in urban areas with high concentrations of Indigenous people. As well, Indigenous Assistants were available to assist collectors if required, bringing the proportion of Indigenous people in the Census work force to five per cent.

Another feature of the 2001 Census was the increased attention to identifying and counting the homeless, wherever they were on the night. The 2001 procedures were built on the pilot work undertaken in the 1996 Census. As in 1996, the 2001 Census data will be used to estimate the extent of homelessness in Australia.

The Census field operations always present a number of unusual situations. A special delivery of forms was sent with the Antarctic supply ship in late 2000 to ensure those spending the winter on Australian bases in Antarctica are counted. These forms were completed by expeditioners on Census night — 7 August, and will be returned with the first boat back.

## DATA PROCESSING

About 10 million completed Census forms will be delivered to the Data Processing Centre (DPC) in Ultimo, New South Wales. Processing of the forms is being undertaken by a workforce of about 900, including 800 temporary staff recruited solely for this purpose.

The 2001 Census is being processed using the latest technology. Scanners are being used to take images of the forms which are being moved via the DPC's computing network, to workstations as required. Answers to questions, both marks and numerical and alphabetic characters, are being automatically recognised by intelligent character recognition software and automatically coded by ABS developed software. Workstation operators will only be required to examine the images of forms where characters are either not recognised or when answers on the Census form cannot be automatically coded.

So that basic Census data can be released as soon as possible, processing is being split into two stages. In the first stage topics such as age, sex and religion, for which a high degree of automatic coding can be achieved, are processed. This covers eighty per cent of the topics on the Census form and first results for these topics will be released in July 2002. The second stage of processing deals with topics such as industry, qualifications and occupation, which require a large degree of manual intervention to code responses to the appropriate categories in the standard classification schemes. This will be done via Computer Assisted Coding developed by the ABS. Output products containing these more complex data items will be released progressively throughout the remainder of 2002.

Once all Census data are processed the paper forms will be pulped and converted to cardboard. Once microfilmed copies of the name-identified information for those consenting to retention are supplied to the



National Archives of Australia, all ABS computer records containing names and addresses will be destroyed.

## INNOVATION

A number of innovations have been introduced in the 2001 Census:

- improvements were made to field procedures to ensure that collection activities were focused on the primary task of collecting a completed form from every household and that, at all stages, the best available practices and technologies were employed;
- the ABS spatial database was upgraded to a more advanced Geographic Information System (GIS) data model. This enabled the ABS to capitalise on its investment in GIS both in the Collection District (CD) design process and in the production of field maps for use by Census collectors. CD design was completed in a distributed GIS environment which fed seamlessly into the map production process. State of the art GIS technology was then used to produce two copies of each of the 40,200 full colour field maps. The map authoring and printing system enabled three to four people to produce up to 1,000 high quality maps per day;
- a new system was developed to simplify administration and payment of collection staff;
- in the Census Inquiry Service, Interactive Voice Recognition was used to provide a direct link between householders who have a concern about delivery or collection of their Census form and the Census field staff in their area. While this combined a number of existing technologies, the solution was a world first, which will have a number of other applications. For the Census, it greatly increased the capacity of the Census Inquiry Service so that it was able to handle a much larger volume of calls than was possible in 1996;
- an Internet site was established to provide information about the Census, and to allow householders to inform the ABS that they had either not received a Census form or the Census form had not been collected;
- imaging of Census forms will greatly reduce the volume of paper handling during processing;
- intelligent character recognition and automatic coding are all new applications enabling faster, more efficient and more accurate coding of responses provided by householders; and
- much greater emphasis will be given to the dissemination, including free dissemination, of data via the Internet. In particular, a Census table specification service will be provided on the Internet which will allow users to design their own customised tables at times convenient to them.

## EVALUATION

A post-enumeration survey will be conducted two weeks after the Census to ascertain what proportion of the population was missed in

the Census and what proportion was double counted. Historically, the net undercount in the Census has been of the order of 1.6 per cent, one of the lowest rates in the world.

An evaluation program has been designed as an integral part of the planning, development and operations of the 2001 Census. The objective of the evaluation program will be to ensure that all aspects of the Census perform as they have been designed to do, and that any lessons learned are captured and provide input to planning for the 2006 Census. The first phase, which will evaluate the development and collection phases of the Census, will be completed by late 2002. The remaining two phases of the evaluation, which will cover processing and dissemination, are scheduled to be completed in 2003 and 2004 respectively.

## SPECIAL ARTICLES IN EARLIER ANNUAL REPORTS

Special articles have been included in most ABS annual reports to present information and views on important longer-term or broad issues affecting the national statistical service. A list of the articles in earlier annual reports is given below. The year of the annual report in which the article appeared and the part of the report where it can be found, are shown in brackets.

*What the ABS Does* (1975–76; Section 2)

*The Collection of Information* (1976–77; Section 2)

*Forward Planning in the ABS* (1977–78; Section 2)

*Preparations for the 1981 Census of Population and Housing* (1978–79; Section 2)

*The Accuracy and Reliability of Estimates of National Income and Expenditure* (1979–80; Section 2)

*Minimising Reporting Burden* (1980–81; Section 2)

*A Decade's Work Program* (1981–82; Section 2)

*The ABS Program of Population Surveys* (1983–84; pages 7 to 11, supplemented by Appendix 5)

*The ABS Program of Industry Collections* (1984–85; pages 8 to 13, supplemented by Appendix 5)

*Dissemination of Statistics by the ABS* (1985–86; pages 9 to 14)

*ABS Corporate Plan* (1986–87; Chapter 2)

*Health Statistics and the Report of the Better Health Commission* (1986–87; Chapter 3)

*The Role of a National Statistical Office* (1986–87; Appendix 10)

*Statistics and Privacy* (1987–88; Chapter 3)

*Media Liaison for ABS Health Survey* (1987–88; Appendix 12)

*A Quart out of a Pint Pot* (1988–89; Chapter 2). This article examines how the ABS increased significantly the range, timeliness and quality of its statistical products and services over the preceding 13 years, with a static level of resources.

*Household Expenditure Surveys in Australia: A Chronology* (1988–89; Appendix 15)

*Complaints to the Australian Press Council* (1988–89; Appendix 16)

*The ABS in the Marketplace* (1989–90; Chapter 2)

*The 1991 Census of Population and Housing* (1990–91; Chapter 2, Population Census)

*Security of ABS Data Holdings* (1992–93; Chapter 3)

*Reducing Respondent Load* (1992–93; Chapter 2)

*The 1996 Census of Population and Housing* (1993–94; Chapter 2)

*Retirement of Mr Ian Castles, AO, Australian Statistician, 1986–1994* (1994–95; Chapter 1)

*National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey* (1994–95; Chapter 2)

*Developments in the Australian National Accounts* (1995–96; Chapter 2)

*The Destruction of Census Forms* (1995–96; Chapter 3)

*The Pint Pot Revisited* (1996–97; Chapter 2)

*The 1996 Census of Population and Housing* (1996–97; Chapter 3)

*The Destruction of Census Forms* (1997–98; Chapter 2)

*Recent Developments in Price and Labour Cost Indexes* (1997–98; Chapter 3)

*Review of the ABS Household Survey Program* (1998–99; Chapter 2)

*ABS Experience in Workplace Relations* (1998–99; Chapter 3)

*Retirement of Mr Bill McLennan, CBE, AM, Australian Statistician, 1995–2000* (1999–2000; Chapter 2)

*Servicing Regional Data Requirements* (1999–2000; Chapter 3)

*Statistical Benchmarking as a Means of Improving Performance* (1999–2000; Chapter 4)

## **SECTION III**

# **PERFORMANCE INFORMATION**

### **Chapter 5 — Performance Information**

## 5 PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

This Chapter outlines the performance of the ABS in 2000–01, in terms of its outcomes and outputs as specified in the 2000–01 Portfolio Budget Statements as presented to Parliament in May 2000.

---

### ABS OUTCOME

*Informed decision-making, research and discussion within governments and the community based on the provision of a high quality, objective and responsive national statistical service.*

### OUTCOME MEASURES

#### 1: Relevance of ABS output

*Performance Measure 1.1: Statistical output which meets the needs of key users of economic and social data in terms of:*

Performance Indicator 1.1.1: Coverage

Performance Indicator 1.1.2: Delivery method

Performance Indicator 1.1.3: Demonstrated by a high level of use

*Performance Measure 1.2: Effectiveness of the planning process, as demonstrated by:*

Performance Indicator 1.2.1: Extensive client contact

Performance Indicator 1.2.2: Benchmarking ABS outputs against other agencies

#### 2: Integrity in statistical operations

*Performance Measure 2.1: An objective statistical service, as demonstrated by:*

Performance Indicator 2.1.1: Release of reliable/accurate statistics based on sound professional statistical principles/methods

Performance Indicator 2.1.2: Openness of the statistical process

Performance Indicator 2.1.3: Adherence to the secrecy provisions of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*

#### 3: Appropriate use of statistical standards, frameworks and methodologies

*Performance Measure 3.1: Lead the development of national statistical standards, frameworks and methodologies, and their implementation within the broader Australian statistical system*

*Performance Measure 3.2: Contribute to the development of key international statistical standards, frameworks and methodologies, and implement them as appropriate*

#### 4: Improving coordination of the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics produced by other official bodies

*Performance Measure 4.1: Statistical Clearing House (SCH) activity*

*Performance Measure 4.2: Assisting other official bodies with integration of administrative and statistical data, including outposting ABS officers and the provision of relevant training*

*Performance Measure 4.3: Identifying, storing, and disseminating statistics from other official bodies*

## **OUTPUT MEASURES**

**5: Increase the quantity of output, including improving client access to ABS and other statistical information by improving dissemination methods**

*Performance Measure 5.1: Increase the range of statistics disseminated.*

*Performance Measure 5.2: Develop new products and services*

*Performance Measure 5.3: Ensure public accessibility through libraries, the media, etc.*

*Performance Measure 5.4: Enhance delivery options using new technology to improve accessibility*

**6: Improve the quality of outputs**

*Performance Measure 6.1: Achieve or exceed timeliness, statistical reliability, response rate and accuracy objectives*

Performance Indicator 6.1.1: Timeliness

Performance Indicator 6.1.2: Statistical reliability

Performance Indicator 6.1.3: Response rates

Performance Indicator 6.1.4: Accuracy

*Performance Measure 6.2: Conduct quality reviews, and implement their recommendations*

Performance Indicator 6.2.1: Outline of ABS statistical reviews

Performance Indicator 6.2.2: Innovative practices — improvements to existing collections as a result of research and development

**7: Achievement of cost effective outputs**

*Performance Measure 7.1: Conduct efficiency reviews and audits, and implement their recommendations*

*Performance Measure 7.2: Test operating efficiencies of statistical activities by benchmarking internally and externally*

*Performance Measure 7.3: Market test a number of non-statistical activities to identify possible outsourcing opportunities*

*Performance Measure 7.4: Continual reductions in the aggregate load placed on businesses*

---

## OUTCOME MEASURES

---

### 1: Relevance of ABS output

The ABS directs its efforts to the best interests of the Australian community. To aid this, it ensures that data needed for policy and research purposes is available when required. Good statistical planning, which requires a keen understanding of the current and future needs of users, is essential.

The ABS also recognises that, in order to be relevant to informed decision making, debate, and discussions, its statistics must be timely and relatable to other data. To support this, they are placed in an appropriate statistical framework. The ABS also provides analyses and explanations to help the interpretation of its statistics.

#### **Performance Measure 1.1: Statistical output which meets the needs of key users of economic and social data in terms of:**

*Performance Indicator 1.1.1: Coverage*

*Performance Indicator 1.1.2: Delivery method*

*Performance Indicator 1.1.3: Demonstrated by a high level of use*

*Performance Indicator 1.1.1: Coverage*

The ABS provides official statistics across a wide range of economic and social matters, for government, business and the Australian community.

Collections undertaken by the ABS include:

- the five-yearly Census of Population and Housing;
- monthly and quarterly surveys providing key economic indicators; and
- collections from industry and households that provide users with information on specific economic and social issues.

In addition, the ABS cooperates with other Commonwealth, State and Territory agencies, to release statistics collected as a by-product of administrative systems.

Apart from the extensive range of existing publications and data which provide support to decision makers on a range of on-going policy issues, the ABS continues to monitor and anticipate users' needs in terms of new surveys, statistics, and research. The ABS is assisted in this regard by the Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC) identifying major social, economic, environmental and political issues of policy significance over the coming three to five years. This priority list is used as one check on the ABS priorities as identified in the forward work program.



Chapters 6 and 7 contain detailed information about the many components of the ABS statistical work program, and improvements to the coverage of official statistics. Areas of particular interest may be the increase in coverage of regional statistics and information technology statistics. Further, the household survey program has been redesigned to enable the ABS to improve the coverage of household based statistics.

*Performance Indicator 1.1.2: Delivery method*

The ABS delivers results from all statistical collections, as soon as practicable after the reference period, and makes them available to all users at the same time.

The ABS provides statistics and related information to users via many mechanisms, including:

- free access to all published statistics via National, State, university and many public libraries across the nation as part of the ABS's Library Extension Program;
- free provision of ABS publications to media organisations;
- a free national telephone inquiry service for brief information requests;
- free access via the ABS website to key statistics, the main summaries of most publications, explanatory and conceptual material on ABS statistics, and a growing number of information directories; and
- ABS@ and AusStats subscription services to provide users with ready access to ABS publications and to a range of multi-dimensional datasets in electronic format.

See Performance Indicator 5.4 for details on how the ABS makes use of new technology to enhance delivery options and to improve accessibility of ABS statistics. Particular emphasis has been given to the expansion of data that is available on the ABS website.

*Performance Indicator 1.1.3: Demonstrated by a high level of use*

Use of ABS statistical information continued to increase in 2000–01. As shown in Table 1, users are moving away from more traditional forms of data access, to electronic access of ABS data. The table demonstrates that access to the ABS website has risen dramatically in recent years to over 1.75 million 'hits' per month, and since the start of the new website-based AusStats subscription service in April 2000, users have downloaded over 250,000 documents. An agreement with the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee delivers AusStats access to Australian universities for academic and teaching purposes. These strategies allow for a high level of use of ABS statistical information.

Use of ABS@ has also increased significantly. The service, which is replicated daily into the Intranets of key client organisations which have paid an annual fee for that service, enables staff in those organisations to access ABS information. During 2000–01, another four Commonwealth Government departments and the South Australian

Government subscribed to, or are currently trialing, the new ABS@ service.

**Table 1: ACCESSES TO SELECTED DISSEMINATION SERVICES**

	Type of Access	1997–98	1998–99	1999–2000	2000–01
Internet Site	Accesses	4 274 154	8 931 056	14 884 419	20 946 456
AusStats(a)	Downloads	—	—	26 795	225 585
ABS@(b)	Subscribers	—	—	2	7
Internet Inquiry Service	Email	5 124	5 654	6 114	7 625
Telephone Inquiry Service	Calls completed	189 020	193 208	170 000	120 165
Publications(c)	Subscribers	11 015	11 658	11 101	11 045
Dial-a-Statistic—0055/1900	Calls	42 004	32 081	23 300	15 465
CPI Infoline(d)	Calls	—	2 149	13 300	9 182
Library Extension Program	Libraries	528	515	516	516
Secondary Providers(e)	Number	43	65	57	69

(a) Service commenced in April 2000. (b) Relates to total number of organisations using the service (including some State and Territory governments). (c) Where the number of subscribers is shown this refers to 30 June. (d) Service commenced on 1 October 1998. (e) Various organisations which are licensed to re-sell ABS data.

## **Performance Measure 1.2: Effectiveness of the planning process, as demonstrated by:**

*Performance Indicator 1.2.1: Extensive client contact*

*Performance Indicator 1.2.2: Benchmarking ABS outputs against other agencies*

*Performance Indicator 1.2.1: Extensive client contact*

ABS planning processes and decisions are open and objective and are summarised at pages 24–25 of Chapter 2. The external dialogue which forms such an important element of the ABS planning process is critical to ensuring the relevance of ABS statistical output.

In establishing its forward work program, the ABS is advised by the following user groups:

- ASAC;
- State Government Advisory Groups; and
- various other formal user groups comprising, as relevant, Commonwealth and State government agencies, academics, business organisations, unions, community groups.

These include:

- Economic Statistics User Group;
- Labour Statistics Advisory Group;

- Agriculture Statistics User Group;
- Income and Expenditure Advisory Group; and
- National Advisory Group on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Information and Data.

Extensive consultation is also undertaken with key users in the development of specific collections once a decision has been made to include the collection in the forward work program. The information obtained through these forums is supplemented with information gathered from bilateral discussions with key clients, conferences and seminars, outposted statistical officers, and day-to-day contact with clients in the course of disseminating and advising on the use of data.

Some of the key outcomes in 2000–01 from the user consultation process include:

- changes to the content of the upcoming Agriculture Census to reflect contemporary user needs, particularly on environment data;
- conduct of a range of surveys on various fields of social concern including education and training and the use of information technology, health, and the Indigenous community with the user groups providing advice on the choice, depth of content, and frequency of the data;
- advice on the content of the new producer price index publications;
- increasing the focus on service industries and in particular information technology;
- extension of the Survey of Employee Earnings and Hours to collect data on industrial coverage;
- discontinuing the preliminary Average Weekly Earnings publication, while bringing forward the timing of the quarterly Wage Cost Index;
- additional research and information on Australia's ageing population, rural and regional statistics, and social capital;
- conduct of the first ABS survey of venture capital;
- advice on shaping the ABS's analytical agenda, in particular, a reference group has been established to provide advice on the upcoming release *Measuring Australia's Progress*; and
- valuable input on measuring productivity provided by the Economic Statistics User Group.

*Performance Indicator 1.2.2: Benchmarking ABS outputs against other agencies*

As part of its planning and review process, the ABS has established an international benchmarking network of statistical agencies to compare output effectiveness and efficiency, and to identify and learn from areas of best practice. This benchmarking is in addition to the ongoing internal review of ABS statistical and service activities aimed at ensuring their relevance and efficiency. For more information on testing the ABS's operating efficiencies, see Performance Measure 7.2.

**2: Integrity in statistical operations**

ABS data, analysis, and interpretations are always objective, and the ABS always publishes its statistics. The ABS decides what to publish, and then does so in ways which explain and inform, without advocating a particular position.

The ABS statistical system is open. The ABS sets and publishes, in advance, the dates for the release of all its statistics. Pre-embargo access to statistics is strictly controlled under publicly known arrangements. The methodologies and approaches followed are based on sound statistical principles and practices, disseminated widely, and open to scrutiny.

**Performance Measure 2.1: An objective statistical service, as demonstrated by:**

*Performance Indicator 2.1.1: Release of reliable/accurate statistics based on sound professional statistical principles/methods*

*Performance Indicator 2.1.2: Openness of the statistical process*

*Performance Indicator 2.1.3: Adherence to the secrecy provisions of the Census and Statistics Act*

*Performance Indicator 2.1.1: Release of reliable/accurate statistics based on sound professional statistical principles/methods*

Key measures for demonstrating reliable/accurate statistics include high response rates and low sample errors (see Performance Measure 6.1). Information on these aspects of reliability and accuracy, as well as extensive information on the statistical methods used in collections, are routinely provided in concepts, sources and methods publications, the explanatory notes in publications, and also available at the Statistical Clearing House website <[www.scb.gov.au](http://www.scb.gov.au)>.

To ensure a strong professional statistical focus at senior levels in its work, the ABS established a Methodology Division in 1995–96. The Methodology Division has three key roles in ensuring the adoption of professional statistical principles/methods:

- establishing standards and advising statistical areas on appropriate statistical methods and being our 'conscience' on quality of statistical outputs;
- participating in reviews of existing statistical collections and methods; and

- keeping abreast of professional (methodological) developments through presentation of professional papers and attendance at relevant conferences.

Supporting the work of the Methodology Division has been the formation of a Methodology Advisory Group consisting of professional statisticians external to the ABS, which provides a forum for peer review of statistical developments in the ABS. Other subject specific advisory boards are also often consulted about methodology issues related to their main focus.

*Performance Indicator 2.1.2: Openness of the statistical process*

The Australian Statistician determines which statistics are to be collected, after full discussion with users, clients and ASAC.

The ABS continues to maintain close contact with its users through a variety of mechanisms, including:

- user groups (see Performance Indicator 1.2.1 for more details);
- bilateral discussions with key clients;
- standing committees;
- outposted statistical officers;
- conferences and seminars; and
- day-to-day contact in the course of disseminating data.

The ABS Forward Work Program for 2001–02 to 2003–04 was published in hard copy and is also available at the ABS website. The Forward Work Program describes for each ABS program the resources, outputs, clients and uses of the statistical information, and the proposed main medium term developments over the next three years.

The ABS regularly publishes information about new statistical standards, frameworks, concepts, sources and methodologies in a range of information papers and other publications in hard copy, or electronically. Their publication is one element in ensuring that the public are informed about the statistical process. Many of these publications are listed in this Annual Report, including new and updated versions.

The ABS has continued to advertise all scheduled release dates for publications up to twelve months in advance. Daily press and media releases inform users of publications being released each day. This information is also available on the website. Release of all publications is subject to a strict embargo policy that ensures impartiality, an essential element of integrity.

*Performance Indicator 2.1.3: Adherence to the secrecy provisions of the Census and Statistics Act 1905*

The *Census and Statistics Act 1905* (C&S Act) obliges ABS staff to maintain the secrecy and security of all data provided to the ABS under the C&S Act, and held by the ABS. Staff sign an undertaking of fidelity and secrecy under the terms of the Act to ensure that they are fully aware of the requirements on them. There have been no known cases of an ABS officer breaching the undertaking of fidelity and secrecy.

The ABS has an enviable reputation for the preservation of the secrecy of reported information, whether it is provided in response to an ABS survey or as administrative data, and for the protection of its statistical data holdings from unauthorised release. The ABS also audits the use of confidentialised unit record files to ensure that the requirements relating to the management and use of the files (which are agreed to by users in a legally binding undertaking), are complied with.

### **3: Appropriate use of statistical standards, frameworks and methodologies**

#### **Performance Measure 3.1: Lead the development of national statistical standards, frameworks and methodologies, and their implementation within the broader Australian statistical system**

An important ABS activity is the development and implementation of national statistical standards, frameworks and methodologies, which are applied, as appropriate, to all ABS statistical collections, including business and household surveys. A number of publications outlining statistical standards were issued during the course of the year. One such publication is the *Statistical Concepts Library* (Cat. no. 1361.0.30.001), which contains a comprehensive reference library of ABS publications describing the concepts, sources and methods used to compile Australia's major economic and social statistics.

The ABS is active in encouraging other Commonwealth and State Government agencies to adopt these standards, frameworks and methodologies in their statistical activities.

Activities and achievements during 2000–01 included:

- release of a range of new statistical classifications and standards for cultural and ethnic groups; drugs of concern; and remoteness;
- the establishment of a Rural and Regional Statistics National Centre to develop a statistical framework, including relevant classifications and standards, to provide a conceptual basis for comparisons between different regions, and across the same region over time; and
- using the National Centre to promote the use of ABS and other standards such as the Australian Standard Geographical Classification and the new Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia.

The ABS has also been active in promoting standards and statistics for a culturally diverse society. Achievements during the year included the

production of statistical standards for cultural and language diversity. The standards were designed to provide a basis for comparison across Australia for government and non-government agencies when collecting data on cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

**Performance Measure 3.2: Contribute to the development of key international statistical standards, frameworks and methodologies, and implement them as appropriate**

The ABS is an active member of the international statistical community, contributing significantly to the development of key international statistical standards, frameworks and methodologies, and their implementation, where appropriate, in Australia.

Pages 12–13 provide a review of the Bureau’s contributions to various international fora in this field.

ABS officers held prominent positions on a number of international committees and steering groups during 2000–01.

These included:

- the Australian Statistician as President-elect of the International Statistical Institute;
- the Australian Statistician elected as Vice-Chairman of the United Nations (UN) Statistical Commission;
- the Deputy Australian Statistician, Population Statistics Group, elected as Chairperson of the Committee on Statistics for the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP); and
- the Deputy Australian Statistician, Population Statistics Group, elected as Chairperson of the Governing Board of the UN Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific.

The ABS continues to implement new international statistical standards in a timely and thorough manner. Whenever new international standards are implemented, the ABS revises historical data to ensure continuity in the time series. Performance Indicator 6.1.2 describes the impact of such changes to the labour force survey.

The ABS also provides assistance to statistical agencies in developing nations in implementing the latest international standards.

Assistance in 2000–01 included:

- completion of an 18-month program of technical assistance to Thailand to strengthen its macro-economic statistics;
- advice to the statistical agency in Papua New Guinea in relation to its population census;

- a training course on collecting data on violence against women and children, for officials from the Philippines and Indonesia; and
- various other technical assistance programs to statistical agencies in Cambodia, China, India, Mongolia, the Philippines, South Africa, Vanuatu and Vietnam.

#### **4: Improve coordination of the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics produced by other official bodies**

##### **Performance Measure 4.1: Statistical Clearing House (SCH) activity**

The primary objective of the Statistical Clearing House is to reduce the reporting burden placed on business providers by Commonwealth agencies. The SCH pays particular attention to eliminating duplication in business surveys, and ensures that surveys conducted follow good statistical methodologies and practices. In view of its statistical expertise and statutory coordination role, the ABS was empowered to administer the clearance process.

The table below shows the number of survey reviews at various stages of completion on 30 June 2001, for the 2000–01 financial year. Of the 110 completed reviews, all but seven have resulted in approval to proceed. However, Statistical Clearing House intervention has resulted in 57 instances of improved survey design and/or reduced provider load.

**Table 2: STATISTICAL CLEARING HOUSE — REVIEW OF STATISTICAL COLLECTIONS, 2000–01**

	<i>Completed</i>	<i>In progress</i>	<i>In scope — not to be reviewed(a)</i>
ABS	40	1	9
Other	70	11	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>54</b>

(a) Smaller surveys such as product evaluation surveys are not considered necessary to review.

This is the third year the Statistical Clearing House has been able to assess the annual load imposed by surveys conducted by non-ABS Commonwealth agencies. For 2000–01, the annual load imposed on providers by non-ABS surveys reviewed by the Statistical Clearing House has been estimated at 25,200 hours, a 2.9 per cent increase on the 1999–2000 non-ABS survey load.

The SCH's Commonwealth Register of Surveys of Businesses (available on the Internet at <[www.sch.abs.gov.au](http://www.sch.abs.gov.au)>) provides access to information on collections that have already been conducted, including survey design standards and best practices for organisations developing surveys. There are 407 surveys currently on the website.

##### **Performance Measure 4.2: Assisting other official bodies with integration of administrative and statistical data, including outposting ABS officers and the provision of relevant training**



Under Section 6(c) of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*, a key function for the ABS is improve coordination of the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics produced by other official bodies. In describing the functions of the Bureau, Section 6(c) of the ABS Act states: “to ensure coordination of the operations of official bodies in the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics and related information...”.

In accordance with the Act, the ABS continues to broaden the concept of ABS statistical responsibilities to include not only statistics collected by the ABS, but also data produced or available from other government and non-government agencies. The ABS provides leadership to Commonwealth and State agencies in making better use of their administrative data so that it can provide another source of quality data for statistical purposes. The ABS encourages agencies to adopt a holistic approach to improving the quality of statistics available to users through the application of similar methodologies to administrative and statistical data.

The ABS outposts statistical officers to State and Federal Government departments and agencies to facilitate access to, and understanding of, statistics, and to strengthen statistical coordination across these bodies. Seven Commonwealth agencies were assisted by outposted statistical officers during 2000–01. ABS regional offices provide outposted officers, usually in the form of short term secondments, to give statistical and technical assistance in particular projects undertaken by State and Territory Governments. In each regional office, State government agencies were assisted by outposted ABS officers in 2000–01.

Examples of new partnerships with Commonwealth, State and local government agencies to identify and utilise a greater range of administrative data currently under way are:

- studies examining the potential of data, compiled at a low level of regional aggregation from the Workcover Authority (South Australia), for measures of regional economic activity;
- a study to identify possible regional indicators from a large administrative dataset maintained by the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services;
- review of the administrative data holdings of the Department of Primary Industry, Water and the Environment (Tasmania);
- in partnership with a number of State and Territory governments, development of a framework of regional indicators of wellbeing, and the identification of data sources from which such wellbeing indicators could be sourced; and
- a project working with Commonwealth Government and State Government agencies to assist them to implement statistical protocols prepared by the ABS, aimed at improving the quality and comparability of administrative data.

Page 98 outlines key achievements in assisting State and Territory Government agencies through statistical consultation, statistical analysis, modelling of existing ABS or client data, and statistical training or seminars for clients and users.

Achievements during the year included:

- conduct of various household surveys, including crime and safety (South Australia, Western Australia and New South Wales); managing caring responsibilities and paid employment (New South Wales); and leisure and culture participation (Tasmania);
- conduct of a data management project for Territory Housing (Northern Territory) to improve information for policy development and evaluation; and national reporting requirements for the National Housing Data Agreement, and the Agreement on National Indigenous Housing Information;
- statistical and methodological support for the development of a Victorian Hospital Costs Index, and resource allocation formula in child protection services;
- assistance to the TVW Telethon Institute for Child Health Research with the development and conduct of a Survey of Aboriginal Child Health in Western Australia; and
- advice on appropriate measures, and identification of benchmark data sources, for 'Tasmania Together'. This initiative, which involves the ABS working closely with the Department of Premier and Cabinet in Tasmania, involves an extensive community consultation process being used to establish a vision and goals for Tasmania, along with indicators to measure progress.

Pages 105–106, and 108–111 outline ABS initiatives in integrating administrative and other data in demography, social statistics, and in the ABS National Centres for Indigenous, crime and recreation statistics.

#### **Performance Measure 4.3: Identifying, storing, and disseminating statistics from other official bodies**

The ABS plays a significant role in identifying, storing and disseminating statistics from other official bodies.

The *Integrated Regional Data Base, Australia* (Cat. no. 1353.0), provides clients with access to a broad range of information about Australia's regions. At the end of June 2001, the database contained over 930 non-ABS statistical series, from around twenty different organisations. A broad range of topics are covered including agriculture, income, health, aged care and defence.

Seven of the ABS regional offices have released a publication on Regional Profiles which bring together data from a large range of sources (Cat. no. 1362.0 series). The ABS office in Western Australia has

also coordinated data on regional statistics in its publication *StatSearch: A Reference Guide to Western Australian Statistics* (Cat. no. 1359.5).

The ABS has established a number of National Centres covering specific areas of statistical activity. The Centres coordinate data collection activities within the ABS, and across other public agencies, and provide a statistical service which includes provision of statistical information, training of data providers, advice on statistical standards and development of quality control procedures.

National Centres have been established for:

- rural and regional statistics (established in 2000–01 in the South Australian office to improve the coordination of statistical information on rural and regional statistics, and to investigate and tap Commonwealth departments as sources of rural and regional data to complement available State data);
- education and training statistics (established in 2000–01 to coordinate statistical developments across the various education and training sectors to improve data quality and comparability);
- crime and justice statistics;
- culture and recreation statistics; and
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander statistics.

Chapter 7 provides more details on the functions and achievements of all the ABS National Centres.

In recent years, the ABS has also produced a range of statistical directories to provide users with information on sources of statistics (both from the public and private sectors) for particular topics.

Statistical directories have been produced on the following topics:

- agriculture and rural statistics (released in 2000–01);
- electricity, gas, water and sewerage statistics (released in 2000–01);
- superannuation related statistics;
- industrial relations;
- education and training;
- Census statistics;
- child and family statistics;
- energy;
- tourism;
- mining; and
- transport.

---

**OUTPUT MEASURES**


---

**5: Increase the quantity of output, including improving client access to ABS and other statistical information by improving dissemination methods**
**Performance Measure 5.1: Increase the range of statistics disseminated**

The ABS continues to increase the range of statistics disseminated by releasing a range of new publications, expanding the data released in existing publications (see Statistical Developments section of Chapter 1), and increasing the range of electronic releases (see Performance Measure 5.2).

Notable new releases in 2000–01 included:

- *Internet Activity, Australia* (Cat. no. 8153.0), which contains details of Internet activity facilitated by Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in Australia. Statistics include, the number of business and private Internet subscribers, the volume of traffic through ISPs to Internet subscribers, and the number of lines providing Internet connectivity to subscribers;
- *Use of Information Technology on Farms, Australia* (Cat. no. 8150.0), which provides statistics on farm use of information technology on a regional basis;
- *Australian National Accounts: Tourism Satellite Account* (Cat. no. 5249.0), which presents the first ABS estimates of the direct contribution of tourism to the Australian economy;
- *International Merchandise Trade, Australia: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (Cat. no. 5489.0), which provides a comprehensive description of the concepts underlying Australian international merchandise trade statistics and the data sources and methods used to compile these statistics;
- *Stage of Production Producer Price Indexes, Australia* (Cat. no. 6426.0), which presents producer price index numbers for the supply of commodities (goods and services) to the Australian economy in a 'stage of production' framework as discussed in the *Information Paper: Producer Price Index Developments*, (Cat. no. 6422.0) released in March 1999;
- *Information Paper: Introduction of the 14th Series Australian Consumer Price Index* (Cat. no. 6456.0), which summarises the major changes that occurred in the 14th series CPI, along with item weights and the revised publication format;
- *Australia's Environment: Issues and Trends* (Cat. no. 4613.0), which presents a broad selection of environmental statistics and information

which illustrate topical environmental issues that affect the future of Australia as a nation;

- *Australian Industry* (Cat. no. 8155.0), which presents estimates (such as total income and expenses) derived using a combination of data from the Economic Activity Survey and business income tax data provided to the Australian Taxation Office;
- *Occasional Paper: Australian Business Register — A Snapshot* (Cat. no. 1369.0), which presents information provided by the Australian Taxation Office, based on data from the Australian Business Register;
- *Information Paper: ABS Views on Remoteness* (Cat. no. 1244.0), which deals with the concept of ‘remoteness’ in Australia, and details options for the introduction of a classification of remoteness into the *Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)* (Cat. no. 1216.0);
- *Australian Standard Classification of Drugs of Concern* (Cat. no. 1248.0), which primarily aims to ensure the compatibility and comparability of data on problem drugs derived from a range of different statistical and administrative systems;
- *Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups (ASCCEG)* (Cat. no. 1249.0), which is a national standard for use by the ABS and other government and non-government agencies for the collection, aggregation and dissemination of data relating to ancestry, ethnicity and cultural diversity;
- *Australian Housing Survey — Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Results* (Cat. no. 4712.0), which presents information on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing from the Australian Housing Survey;
- *Caring in the Community, Australia* (Cat. no. 4436.0), which provides information on informal carers from the 1998 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers;
- *Children’s Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities, Australia* (Cat. no. 4901.0), which presents data on a range of cultural and recreational activities, including participation in organised sports and use of computers, by children aged from 5 to 14 years inclusive;
- *Occasional Paper: Labour Force Characteristics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, Experimental Estimates from the Labour Force Survey* (Cat. no. 6287.0), which contains experimental estimates of the labour force characteristics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians using data from the Labour Force Survey;
- *Information Paper: Implementing the Redesigned Labour Force Survey Questionnaire* (Cat. no. 6295.0), which details the changes and additions to labour force statistics resulting from the questionnaire redesign;

- *Employment Services, Australia* (Cat. no. 8558.0), which provides information on businesses involved in providing employment placement services and/or contract staff (labour hire) services in Australia;
- *Employment Arrangements and Superannuation, Australia* (Cat. no. 6361.0), which presents information about people's employment and superannuation arrangements in the workplace;
- *Prisoners in Australia* (Cat. no. 4517.0), which contains details on prisoners in custody on 30 June each year;
- *Experimental Estimates of Foreign and Domestic Investment in Private New Capital Expenditure, Western Australia* (Cat. no. 5674.5), which presents a set of experimental estimates for Western Australia which show private new capital expenditure by Australian and foreign owned businesses for the 1998–99 financial year;
- *Directory of Electricity, Gas, Water and Sewerage Statistics* (Cat. no. 1140.0), which contains comprehensive information on sources of electricity, gas, water and sewerage statistics (ANZSIC Subdivisions 36–37) in the public and the private sectors;
- *Occasional Paper: Labour Market Dynamics in Australia — An Application Using the Survey of Employment and Unemployment Patterns* (Cat. no. 6392.0.00.006), which provides a description of how labour market dynamics vary across the Australian population depending on different characteristics such as age, sex, industry and occupation; and
- *A Portrait of Australian Exporters: A Report Based on the Business Longitudinal Survey* (Cat. no. 8154.0), a joint publication with Austrade, provides a detailed picture of Australia's exporting businesses and how they compare with non-exporting businesses.

#### **Performance Measure 5.2: Develop new products and services**

In addition to the publications mentioned above, the ABS developed several new products and services during 2000–01 including:

- directories of agriculture and rural statistics, and electricity, gas, water and sewerage statistics;
- a number of new statistical standards covering topics such as drugs, education and culture, and ethnic groups; and
- a number of information papers informing users about conceptual issues or pending changes such as the redesigned labour force questionnaire, ABS views on remoteness, and the introduction of the 14th Series Australian Consumer Price Index.

The ABS has also had some important releases of new electronic products and services in 2000–01.

These include:

- the *2001 Year Book, Australia* (1301.0), which in its electronic form includes the first ABS Year Book as well as a selection of special Year Book articles published in earlier editions;
- previous editions (1994–2000) of *Australian Social Trends* (Cat. no. 4102.0) were made available for free at the ABS website;
- *Information Paper: An Introductory Course on Time Series Analysis — Electronic Delivery* (Cat. no. 1346.0.55.001), which describes issues that are relevant to time series analysis in the ABS. It includes a range of exercises and solutions;
- *New Motor Vehicle Registration (NMVR), Australia, Main Data* (Cat. no. 9303.0.55.001) on SuperTABLE Cube, which contains details of new motor vehicles registered over the previous 36 months. The details include State of registration, vehicle type, make (model and submodel) of vehicle, fuel used, and tare weight;
- *New Motor Vehicle Registration (NMVR), Australia, Motorcycles Data on SuperTABLE* (Cat. no. 9303.0.55.002), which contains details of new motorcycles registered over the previous 36 months. The details include State of registration, postcode of motorcycle owner and make (model and submodel) of motorcycle;
- *Summary of Industry Performance, Australia, Preliminary — Data Report, Electronic Delivery* (Cat. no. 8142.0.55.002), which presents a summary of industry performance indicators (that is, selected aggregates, industry ratios and business averages) based on profit and loss and balance sheet accounts of public trading and private employing businesses for all industries;
- *Small Business in Australia, Electronic Spreadsheets* (Cat. no. 1321.0.55.001), which provides an update of the key tables from *Small Business in Australia 1999* (Cat. no. 1321.0). Data includes estimates of businesses and employment by industry and state;
- website releases of *Directories for Tourism* (Cat. no. 1130.0.55.001), *Transport* (Cat. no. 1132.0.55.001), and *Energy Statistics* (Cat. no. 1107.0.55.001);
- *Australian Historical Population Statistics — on AUSSTATS* (Cat. no. 3105.0.65.001), which contains a wide range of historical time series demographic data going back as far, where possible, to the beginnings of European settlement; and
- *A Guide to the Australian Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Statistics* (Cat. no. 5362.0.55.001), which presents a brief outline of the general concepts and practices

involved in the Australian balance of payments and international investment position statistics. More detail can be found in *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position, Australia: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (Cat. no. 5331.0).

More generally, the range of data available on the ABS website, both free of charge and at cost, has increased substantially with over 36,000 web pages now available.

**Performance Measure 5.3: Ensure public accessibility through libraries, the media, etc.**

The ABS provides free access to much of its data through the ABS website, public libraries, media releases, media enquiries, and the distribution of ABS reports to media offices and to Members of Parliament. Table 3 below shows the level of media reporting (by medium) over recent years. In 2000–01, there was an increase in reporting across all media. This increase in activity reflects, in part, ABS awareness raising seminars, pre-release notices and media releases/launches on the day of release, keeping in mind that much of the Australian public find out about official statistics through the media.

**Table 3: ESTIMATES OF MEDIA REPORTING, BY PLACEMENT**

Year	Radio, television and Internet news placements	Newspaper and magazine placements	News releases issued (actual)
1997–98	4 100	6 700	103
1998–99	4 900	7 200	156
1999–2000	4 600	6 900	144
2000–01	4 800	9 300	(a)383

(a) This includes 211 media releases, to 30 June 2001, relating to the 2001 Census of Population and Housing.

A specific project during the year involved the facilitation of a joint project between the National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics and the Victorian Office of the ABS, which produced an Internet resource, allowing students to easily access Indigenous statistics.

**Performance Measure 5.4: Enhance delivery options using new technology to improve accessibility**

ABS promotes the use of new technology to enhance delivery options and to improve accessibility to ABS statistics. The ABS@ and AusStats subscription services provide users with ready access to ABS publications, and to a range of multidimensional datasets in electronic format. The ABS website <[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)> is one of the most accessed websites in Australia. Its content is continually expanding, with theme and State pages added in 2000–01 which provide easy access to statistical resources related to subjects such as educational services, environment and families.



During 2000–01 the ABS conducted a useability study of the ABS website using cognitive techniques. The study involved a number of people with varying levels of knowledge of the ABS and its website, being asked to complete a range of tasks on the ABS website. While the results were encouraging, the report made some recommendations for improvements to ABS web design. Procedures are in place to follow through on the recommendations.

The ABS has regularly reviewed its client servicing and dissemination strategies in order to maintain pace with technology developments and changing client expectations. In particular, the ABS is meeting changing customer needs by developing new dissemination methods and products which will exploit technological advances including warehousing facilities. The ABS is also improving service delivery and effectiveness through the development of self-help facilities and partnerships with information intermediaries.

During 2000–01, new subscribers to ABS@ were:

- the Department of Industry, Science, and Resources;
- the South Australian government;
- the Commonwealth Treasury (on a trial basis);
- the Department of Health and Aged Care; and
- the Department of Family and Community Services.

In addition, a number of other State and Territory governments and Commonwealth departments have also shown interest in the service.

## **6: Improve the quality of outputs**

### **Performance Measure 6.1: Achieve or exceed timeliness, statistical reliability, response rate and accuracy objectives**

#### *Performance Indicator 6.1.1: Timeliness*

The timeliness of ongoing series is measured by the gap between the reference period and the date of publication of results.

The ABS continues to adhere to preannounced release dates and make improvements in the timeliness achieved. Table 4 presents information on timeliness for ABS monthly and quarterly publications for main economic indicator statistics, and other general releases. It indicates that the ABS maintained or improved the average timeliness of monthly and quarterly releases.

**Table 4: TIME BETWEEN END OF REFERENCE PERIOD AND RELEASE OF DATA  
(average number of elapsed days)**

	1997–98	1998–99	1999–2000	2000–01
Main economic indicator statistics				
Monthly	31	29	29	29
Quarterly	48	46	46	45
Other general releases				
Monthly	38	36	37	33
Quarterly	85	93	83	75

*Performance Indicator 6.1.2: Statistical reliability*

One measurable component of reliability is revisions to data. Revisions are generally measured by their size and frequency over time. The ABS aims to minimise revisions as much as possible through effective sample and methodological design. It is also ABS policy to inform users of the potential impact of any significant revisions.

During 2000–01, larger than normal revisions were made to core labour force series. These revisions were the result of the implementation of a redesigned questionnaire for the labour force survey to incorporate new international standards.

The impacts of the labour force revisions were presented in two information papers:

- *Implementing the Redesigned Labour Force Survey Questionnaire* (Cat. no. 6295.0); and
- *Questionnaires Used in the Labour Force Survey* (Cat. no. 6232.0).

The information papers explain that the redesigned questionnaire obtains new or extended information on job tenure, underemployment, hours worked, duration of unemployment, and marginal attachment to the labour force. The format of the questionnaire has been improved, and some question wording updated to improve the efficiency of the survey, enhance the quality of the data collected, and reflect current terminology and labour market conditions. To ensure continuity of time series, selected labour force series have been revised from April 1986 to March 2001 to reflect the impact of the more significant definitional changes. Details of these revisions are contained in the information papers.

In addition, details of any significant revisions to series can be found in ABS publications. More detailed revisions for particular series are also available on request.

*Performance Indicator 6.1.3: Response rates*

The ABS has consistently had very high response rates in its collections, with the organisation comparing very favourably on this criterion against other international statistical offices. Recent international benchmarking

results for the manufacturing survey, the consumer price index, and the household expenditure survey, all demonstrated that the ABS is achieving very good response rates.

Response rates do not vary much over time, so it is appropriate to identify targets for response rates, rather than be concerned with small changes in levels over time. In 2000–01, key ABS economic and social collections met or bettered the very high target response rates set by the organisation. The choice of surveys reflects a cross section of regular key economic indicator series and a range of irregular social surveys.

**Table 5: ABS RESPONSE RATES FOR MAJOR ECONOMIC INDICATORS**

Survey	Target response rate (%)	1999–2000 actual response rate (%) <sup>(a)</sup>	2000–01 actual response rate (%) <sup>(a)</sup>
Labour Force, Australia (Cat. no. 6203.0)	97	97	97
Wage Cost Index, Australia (Cat. no. 6345.0)	98	99	99
Retail Trade, Australia (Cat. no. 8501.0)	95	97	97
Business Operations and Industry Performance, Australia (Cat. no. 8140.0)	85	84	(b)84
Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure (Cat. no. 5625.0)	80	81	87

(a) Average response rates over the year. (b) Response rates were not finalised as at the end of June 2001.

**Table 6: ABS RESPONSE RATES FOR SELECTED SOCIAL SURVEYS**

Survey	Target response rate (%)	2000–01 actual response rate (%)
Income Distribution, Australia (Cat. no. 6523.0)	85	85
Survey of Employment Arrangements and Superannuation (Cat. no. 6361.0)	85	87
Australian Housing Survey (Cat. no. 4182.0)	85	88

#### *Performance Indicator 6.1.4: Accuracy*

All ABS outputs maintain high levels of accuracy in all tables, graphs and text. It is ABS policy that relative standard errors are included in survey publications, along with descriptions of other types of errors to which outputs may be subject.

Included below are descriptions of some indicators of accuracy for a number of major ABS publications. The relative standard error is a useful measure in that it provides an immediate indication of the percentage errors likely to have occurred due to sampling, and thus avoids the need to refer also to the size of the estimate. The tables below present a summary view only, with more details available from the publications, or the concepts, sources, and methods publications associated with the collections themselves.

**Table 7: RANGE OF RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS(a) FOR MAJOR ECONOMIC INDICATORS**

<i>Survey</i>	<i>Key aggregate</i>	<i>Relative standard error (%)</i>
<i>Labour Force, Australia</i> (Cat. no. 6203.0)	Unemployed persons in Australia	1.4
<i>Retail Trade, Australia, May 2001</i> (Cat. no. 8501.0)	Total retail turnover in Australia	1.0
<i>Business Operations and Industry Performance, Australia, 1998–99</i> (Cat. no. 8140.0)	Total income (all industries)	1.0
<i>Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, March 2001</i> (Cat. no. 5625.0)	Actual new capital expenditure, Australia.	1.7

(a) The relative standard error is obtained by expressing the standard error as a percentage of the estimate to which it refers.

**Table 8: RANGE OF RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS(a) FOR SELECTED SOCIAL SURVEYS**

<i>Survey</i>	<i>Key aggregate</i>	<i>Relative standard error (%)</i>
<i>Income Distribution, Australia</i> (Cat. no. 6523.0)	Average gross weekly income	0.7
<i>Survey of Employment Arrangements and Superannuation</i> (Cat. no. 6361.0)	Number of employees with paid leave and not working on a fixed term contract	1.0
<i>Australian Housing Survey</i> (Cat. no. 4182.0)	Average weekly housing costs, all households	0.6

(a) The relative standard error is obtained by expressing the standard error as a percentage of the estimate to which it refers.

## **Performance Measure 6.2: Conduct quality reviews, and implement their recommendations**

### *Performance Indicator 6.2.1: Outline of ABS statistical reviews*

The ABS reviews its statistical collections regularly to ensure that its statistics are of good quality. Some reviews cover all aspects of a particular collection, from user requirements, through to data collection, processing, analysis and dissemination. Other reviews focus on particular elements of collections, such as the methodology.

In reviews of statistical collections, external users are widely consulted and, in some instances, external users assist the review team. Internal reviews cover both the effectiveness and efficiency of various ABS activities.

Several reviews commenced, or were completed, in 2000–01, including reviews of:

- the manufacturing, mining and agriculture collections;
- the private health establishments collection;
- the public finance program; and

- local government statistics collection.

The reviews have led to revised collection strategies for each of the programs.

*Performance Indicator 6.2.2: Innovative practices — improvements to existing collections as a result of research and development*

Apart from the ongoing reviews of ABS statistical collections, research and development in subject matter areas continues to result in innovative practices for the collection and compilation of data.

Two significant developments in 2000–01 relate to:

- the benchmarking of statistical series using new taxation data; and
- plans to progressively introduce Computer Assisted Interviewing (CAI) to the Monthly Populations Survey from late 2003 or early 2004.

During 2000–01, a number of ABS statistical collections and classification systems benefited from the introduction of The New Tax System and the associated changes to statistical reporting that it allowed.

Improvements were made to:

- the ABS business register, to accord with the new Australian Business Numbers; and
- a number of statistical collection areas are investigating ways of using the taxation data to supplement or replace existing data.

These developments have reduced provider load during 2000–01. More details on the impact of taxation data on economic statistics can be found in Chapter 6.

The benefits of the CAI methodology are that it provides for improved workload management and the ability to conduct multiple supplementary surveys.

## **7: Achievement of cost effective outputs**

### **Performance Measure 7.1: Conduct efficiency reviews and audits, and implement their recommendations**

Pages 22–24 discuss the role of the ABS Audit Committee and the nature of internal and external scrutiny of ABS operations.

Major reviews completed during 2000–01 which addressed efficiency issues included:

- implications of taxation reform;

- the annual mining collection;
- agriculture census strategy and resources;
- the annual manufacturing collection;
- review of the large business unit and business register; and
- National Accounts Information Technology (IT).

These reviews resulted in:

- improvements to the ABS business register (using Australian Business Numbers);
- identification of savings due to methodological improvements;
- achieving savings from refining collection processes; and
- identifying efficiency gains from more effective use of IT resources and architecture.

A number of other efficiency reviews are in progress for a range of statistical collections and corporate service functions. These reviews aim to achieve efficiency gains via improvements to collection strategies, methodologies, use of IT, and/or substituting/complementing existing data with administrative data sources.

**Performance Measure 7.2: Test operating efficiencies of statistical activities by benchmarking internally and externally**

Benchmarking is a key part of the ABS strategy to assess the value for money of its statistical and non-statistical outputs, to understand and learn from best practice, and to improve performance. The ABS views the process of benchmarking as an ongoing exercise, which enables the organisation to achieve continuous improvement across a variety of its outputs.

A number of benchmarking studies are currently being undertaken in the ABS, including:

- comparisons between ABS statistical collections; and
- comparisons between the operations of a number of international statistical agencies and the ABS.

*Comparisons between ABS statistical collections*

Internal benchmarking studies during 2000–01 involved the following collections:

- annual manufacturing collection;

- Consumer Price Index;
- Producer Price Index;
- Service Industry Surveys (Gambling Survey);
- Agricultural Finance Survey;
- Monthly Retail Survey;
- Survey of Financial Information (Superannuation);
- Average Weekly Earnings; and
- New Capital Expenditure Survey.

These studies produced two main outcomes: the first being the formulation of the financial framework and performance measures, and the development of a framework for future benchmarking exercises; the second was the opportunity for collection areas to share elements of better practice, including more cost effective ways of undertaking collection activities.

*Comparisons between the operations of a number of international statistical agencies and the ABS*

International benchmarking studies during 2000–01 involved the following collections:

- Household Expenditure Survey;
- Consumer Price Index; and
- the annual Manufacturing Survey.

Outcomes from the studies were:

- more detailed examination of the ABS Household Expenditure Survey to assess possible efficiencies in processing; and
- the establishment of a review of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) collection to assess possible collection efficiencies and to investigate the use of administrative datasets for the CPI.

The studies also showed the ABS put more effort into data quality than the organisations it was comparing with.

In addition, the ABS is currently involved in human resource and financial services benchmarking studies conducted by the Australian National Audit Office. Further, the Technology Services Division is continuing to be involved in a range of Gartner Group benchmarking studies. They show the ABS is very efficient in its management and use of technology.

**Performance Measure 7.3: Market test a number of non-statistical activities to identify possible outsourcing opportunities**

The ABS is currently benchmarking several corporate service functions with a view to market testing and outsourcing as appropriate. The organisation, has outsourced a number of key functions in recent years including printing and distribution services, a range of training courses related to information technology, leadership and management training, and internal audit. The ABS will continue to investigate additional outsourcing opportunities as they arise.

**Performance Measure 7.4: Continual reductions in the aggregate load placed on all businesses**

The following table shows the provider load (measured in thousands of hours taken to complete statistical forms) imposed on businesses from 1997–98 to 2000–01.

**Table 9: PROVIDER LOAD IMPOSED ON BUSINESSES BY THE ABS  
(hours '000)**

	1997–98	1998–99	1999–2000	2000–01
Small businesses(a)	254	202	202	197
Other businesses	276	236	228	231
<b>Total all businesses</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>428</b>

(a) Defined as businesses with less than 20 employees.

Under the Commonwealth Government's 1996 Small Business Deregulation Task Force, the ABS was committed to a 20% reduction in provider load. This target has been substantially exceeded. The overall reduction since 1995–96 is 43% for all businesses and 45% for the small business sector.

These reductions have been achieved through the introduction of a wide range of long term initiatives affecting nearly all business collections. The most notable of these include:

- increasing use of administrative data available from other government agencies, and in particular from the Australian Taxation Office;
- reducing the frequency of some collections, for example, the agricultural census, manufacturing census, producer price indexes, and waste management and environmental expenditure collections; and
- reducing the sample size for some collections, including the retail industry survey and the wholesale industry survey.



## **SECTION IV**

### **ABS OUTPUTS**

**Chapter 6 — Economic Statistics Output**

**Chapter 7 — Population and Social  
Statistics Output**

## 6 ECONOMIC STATISTICS OUTPUT

### DESCRIPTION

The Economic Statistics program responds to the statistical needs of governments and the wider community, taking into account the public and private costs associated with collecting, processing and disseminating statistical information.

At the broad level, the activities undertaken within the Economic Statistics program include:

- collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of economic statistics;
- coordination of the statistical activities of other agencies (through the Statistical Clearing House, participation in national and State statistical committees, and through ABS outposted officers and statistical consultancy services);
- provision of professional statistical support; and
- development, maintenance and promotion of statistical standards, classifications and frameworks for the collection of economic statistics.

The work schedule of the Economic Statistics program is determined after extensive consultation with governments, businesses and community groups, and with the advice of the Australian Statistics Advisory Council. In determining the work program, account is taken of the needs of users, the benefit of statistics to decision makers and researchers, the load on providers, the availability of skilled resources to undertake the work, and the costs associated with the activities.

Individual components within the Economic Statistics program have close links with a wide range of government agencies providing data; users of statistical information; and with clients of the statistical coordination and consultancy services. The statistical activities of other agencies complement the activities of the Economic Statistics program, resulting in a comprehensive national statistical service.

The effectiveness and efficiency of the Economic Statistics program is enhanced by significant and wide ranging input from the corporate and statistical support areas. These inputs include methodological, technological, dissemination, human resource and financial support.

Appendix 1 lists the components of the Economic Statistics program.

## OUTPUTS

The Economic Statistics program disseminates its statistical information through a range of printed and electronic products and services.

During 2000–01 the Economic Statistics Group produced over 140 publication titles directly related to economic statistics, which equated to over 340 individual publication releases. A range of electronic releases, concepts, sources and methods publications, information papers, and statistical directories were also produced.

## REVIEW OF COMPONENTS

The remainder of this chapter reviews the activities and achievements of each component of the Economic Statistics program during 2000–01.

Chapter 5 presents an aggregated record of achievements of the Economic Statistics program against identified performance indicators of quality, effectiveness and efficiency during 2000–01.

## National Accounts

The national accounts component produces statistics which form the core of the Australian system of national accounts. These statistics summarise, in a systematic and comprehensive way, the economic transactions that take place within the Australian economy and between Australia and the rest of the world. The usefulness of the accounts derives largely from the way in which data from a number of sources are brought together and presented in a conceptually consistent way, both for a given period and over time. Australia's national accounts essentially accord with the recommendations contained in the 1993 issue of the *System of National Accounts* (SNA93), which is the international standard for national accounts statistics.

Senior staff of the component attend meetings of the Joint Economic Forecasting Group (comprising major Commonwealth Government economic policy agencies) to provide advice on the statistics used as input to the forecasting process.

Achievements during the year included:

- publication of *Unpaid Work and the Australian Economy, 1997* (Cat. no. 5240.0). This was the second such publication (the first was in respect of 1992), compiled on a comparable basis, enabling comparison between the two time periods;
- publication of *Australian National Accounts: Tourism Satellite Account, 1997–98* (Cat. no. 5249.0). This was the first satellite account prepared by the ABS;
- release of a revised edition of *Australian National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (Cat. no. 5216.0);

- continued contributions to the work of the Expert Group on Capital Stock Statistics, the Expert Group on Productivity Statistics and the London Group on Environmental Accounting. This included major contributions to the manuals, *Measuring Capital* and the *System of Environmental and Economic Accounts* (SEEA) and a lesser, but still significant, contribution to the *OECD Productivity Manual*;
- publication of feature articles on the impact of the Sydney Olympic Games, and the impact of The New Tax System on the Australian National Accounts, in the July and August 2000 editions of *Australian Economic Indicators* (Cat. no. 1350.0);
- publication of feature articles in the March quarter 2001 issue of the quarterly publication *Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product* (Cat. no. 5206.0) on: the introduction into the national accounts of new chain volume estimates for the services sector, the treatment of third generation radio wave spectrum licences in the national accounts, and the development of a real/volume balance sheet for Australia;
- presentation of papers on national accounts issues at a number of international conferences on technical topics including the use of national and sectorial balance sheets, the treatment of payment to employees in the form of shares and share options and the development of an information technology satellite account; and
- provision of technical assistance to the statistical agencies of Thailand and Vietnam in relation to the compilation of national accounts statistics.

#### International Accounts

The international accounts component produces statistics and related information on the balance of payments, international trade in services and the international investment position. It also participates with other government agencies in the work of the Joint Economic Forecasting Group, through its Balance of Payments Sub-committee. Balance of payments and international investment position statistics are published quarterly and annually, while the international trade in goods and services statistics are published monthly.

Achievements during the year included:

- release of a new brochure, *Finance Australia in Brief* (Cat. no. 5611.0.00.001); and a revised reference publication, *A Guide to Australian Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Statistics* (Cat. no. 5362.0.55.001);
- expansion of published information to include more international comparisons of financial data in *Finance, Australia* (Cat. no. 5611.0) and publication of special articles on equity capital raisings on the Australian Stock Exchange, business and communications services in the finance industry, and on information technology and telecommunications in Australia;

- publication of special articles in the quarterly *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position, Australia* (Cat. no. 5302.0) on the foreign ownership of equity, and an article on the effects of the Sydney Olympic Games on the balance of payments estimates;
- development of a supplement to the Survey of International Investment to collect data on the extent of foreign currency hedging by Australian enterprises. This collection, the results of which will be published during 2001–02, is partially funded by the Reserve Bank of Australia;
- analysis of private new capital expenditure estimates by ownership characteristics (foreign-owned or Australian-owned). The results were released in an Information Paper (data for Western Australia only, Cat. no. 5674.5) and a special article (for Australia and all States/Territories) in *Australian Economic Indicators* (Cat. no. 1350.0);
- incorporation of a new reporting classification, arising from updated international standards, for derivatives in balance of payments and international investment statistics, and improvements to the method of classifying residual maturity of foreign debt;
- improving the dissemination of statistics to meet updated requirements of the International Monetary Fund's Special Data Dissemination Standard to which Australia and 49 other countries have subscribed; and
- providing technical assistance to the statistical agencies of Thailand and Vietnam on balance of payments and international investment statistics.

## International Trade

The international trade component produces statistics on the value, composition, destination and source of Australia's merchandise exports and imports. These statistics are available on a range of output media, including publications, magnetic cartridge, email, floppy disk and paper reports, and can be tailored to the needs of individual clients. A theme page for International Trade has been created on the ABS website which provides users with an extensive set of reference material.

Achievements during the year included:

- release of *International Merchandise Trade, Australia: Concepts, Sources and Methods, 2001* (Cat. no. 5489.0). This new publication describes the concepts used for Australia's international merchandise trade statistics and the data sources and methods used to compile them. It explains the classifications used, describes how the data are edited and confidentialised, and analyses different aspects of the quality of trade data;

- publication of special articles in *International Merchandise Trade, Australia* (Cat. no. 5422.0), including the outcomes of a review of the international trade program (in June quarter 2000), a bilateral reconciliation of merchandise trade flows between Australia and New Zealand (in September quarter 2000), an analysis of the major commodities traded by Australia in the past decade (in December quarter 2000), and an examination of export and import currencies used (in March quarter 2001);
- commencement of a review of the statistical codes for exports and imports to reflect changes in the international Harmonized Commodity Coding and Description System, or Harmonized System, to be implemented on 1 January 2002; and
- continued participation with the Australian Customs Service, in its Cargo Management Re-engineering project, which aims to speed cargo clearances and reduce costs to businesses. The ABS is particularly involved in the development of the Accredited Client Program, which will allow selected importers and exporters to report to Customs monthly, rather than for each transaction.

#### Financial Accounts

The financial accounts component produces, as part of the Australian system of national accounts, statistics on the financial profile of each sector of the economy, and on the markets, for various categories of financial instruments. Information on inter-sectoral financial transactions is also provided.

The component also produces statistics on the lending activity and balance sheets of financial institutions such as banks, building societies, finance companies, credit unions, unit trusts and superannuation funds.

Achievements during the year included:

- continued consultation with the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA), the Reserve Bank of Australia, and data providers on updated data requirements from regulated financial institutions, and the new APRA information systems to support revised collections;
- working with APRA and the Australian Taxation Office to improve data quality of estimates of insurance technical reserves and pension funds;
- release of statistics on venture capital investments in a special article in *Managed Funds, Australia* (Cat. no. 5655.0);
- further technical assistance to staff from agencies in Thailand on improvements in their financial accounts; and
- a reduction in provider load through the collection of housing loans data from a small number of securitisers, rather than collection from a large number of mortgage managers and mortgage originators.

## Public Sector Accounts

The public sector accounts component provides Government Finance Statistics for the Australian Commonwealth Government, State and Territory Governments, their public non-financial and financial corporations, local governments, and universities. In addition to a range of annual publications, quarterly statistics are compiled for inclusion in the national accounts, and detailed financial statistics about individual local government authorities are provided on request. The component provides advice on the statistics used as input to the forecasting work of the Public Sector Sub-committee of the Joint Economic Forecasting Group.

Achievements during the year included:

- release of five annual government finance statistics related publications on an accruals basis;
- continued strengthening of relationships with all Treasuries and the Department of Finance and Administration, through regular meetings in various forums to discuss broad government finance statistics issues;
- continued contribution to the work of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) government finance statistics section, particularly in respect of the IMF Draft Government Finance Statistics Manual which is aimed at improving the measurement and international comparability of accruals-based government finances; and
- drafting of the Australian System of Government Finance Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods manual, which is in the final editorial stages.

## Prices

The prices component is responsible for compiling the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and a range of producer and international trade price indexes.

The CPI measures the change each quarter in the cost of purchasing a fixed basket of consumer goods and services. The producer and international trade price indexes include price indexes of inputs and outputs of manufacturing industry, materials used in the building industry, outputs of selected service industries, and exports and imports.

Achievements during the year included:

- the introduction of the 14th Series CPI, with the first results being released in the September quarter 2000 publication. A major motivation for the introduction of the 14th Series was to ensure that the CPI continues to be a reliable measure of price inflation after the introduction of The New Tax System in July 2000. Two major aspects associated with the 14th series are:
  - a new utility-based commodity classification, to better address possible consumer substitution between commodities in response to relative price changes; and
  - updated weights, based on results from the 1998–99 Household Expenditure Survey.

*A Guide to the Consumer Price Index, 14th Series* (Cat. no. 6440.0) was released in December 2000;

- two feature articles in *Australian Economic Indicators* (Cat. no. 1350.0). The first titled 'Measuring the Impact of The New Tax System on the September Quarter 2000 Consumer Price Index' was released in the December 2000 issue. The second special article was included in the June 2001 issue. It presented living cost indexes for four household subgroups — employee, age pensioner, other government transfer recipient, and self-funded retiree. The ABS intends to update these price indexes each year;
- the ABS successfully hosting, in Canberra, the sixth meeting of the 'Ottawa Group on Price Indexes'. Twenty-two countries, including a number from this region, were represented as well as four international organisations. The issues discussed included quality adjustment, the use of scanner data, how to handle new goods and disappearing goods, pricing financial services and pricing telecommunication services;
- a new Producers' Price Index (PPI) publication, entitled *Stage of Production Producer Price Indexes, Australia* (Cat. no. 6426.0), was released in July 2000 in respect of the June quarter 2000. It is a key element in implementing a model articulated by the ABS in 1997 for making the PPIs more relevant and useful. The indexes are compiled by stage of production (preliminary, intermediate and final) which enables the sequential impacts of inflation through the economy to be analysed; and
- work on the rationalisation of the range of producer price indexes publications to provide a more integrated presentation.



## Business Statistics

The business statistics program, by way of the investment and profits surveys, produces indicators of current economic activity through the publication of quarterly estimates of company profits, inventories and sales, and current and future economic activity, in respect of new capital expenditure.

Achievements during the year included:

- significant system, methodological, procedural and organisational development, resulting in the commencement from March quarter 2001, of a single survey (the Quarterly Economic Activity Survey), replacing the existing quarterly surveys of inventories and sales, company profits and, from 2002, employment and earnings;
- transition to the The New Tax System which had, amongst other things, implications for comparing current price estimates of new capital expenditure over time and complicated early estimates of expected expenditure for the 2000–01 financial year;
- inclusion of a number of recently privatised marketing authorities in the data included in *Inventories and Sales, Selected Industries, Australia* (Cat. no. 5629.0) from June quarter 2000;
- publication of experimental estimates on income from sales of goods and services for service industries in *Inventories and Sales, Selected Industries, Australia* (Cat. no. 5629.0) from June quarter 2000; and
- a reduction in provider load from March quarter 2001 through the cessation of the collection of inventories from small businesses with less than 20 employees. Instead, estimates will be derived using quarterly sales information for small businesses and an estimated sales to inventories ratio.

## Economy Wide Statistics

The economy wide statistics component is responsible for a range of annual statistics on the financial operations and performance of businesses in all of the Australian economy. The component also conducts a quarterly survey of expectations of short and medium term business performance, which covers all business sizes and all industries and sectors of the economy except agriculture and general government.

Achievements during the year included:

- developing and pilot testing the inaugural Business Generosity Survey which will be run in conjunction with the 2000–01 Economic Activity Survey. The survey will present results at the most detailed level ever published in the Economy Wide collections;
- inclusion of additional business profitability and time series data in *Business Operations and Industry Performance, Australia* (Cat. no. 8140.0);

- release of *Australian Industry, 1998–99* (Cat. no. 8155.0) which presents experimental estimates at the 4 digit ANZSIC class level for selected service industries;
- conduct of the tenth annual Economic Activity Survey, in respect of 1999–2000. Preliminary estimates were released in *Business Operations and Industry Performance, Australia, Preliminary* (Cat. no. 8142.0), and *Summary of Industry Performance, Australia, Preliminary* (Cat. no. 8142.0.55.001); and
- electronic release of time series spreadsheets for *Australian Business Expectations* (Cat. no. 5250.0).

### Small Business Statistics

The small business statistics component produces data about the size, structure and performance of small and medium sized businesses, to assist policy makers, researchers and the community to understand the behaviour of the sector.

Achievements during the year included:

- publication of summary data updating estimates on the number and employment of small businesses in Australia in *Small Business in Australia, 1999–2000 Update* (Cat. no. 1321.0.40.001 and Cat. no. 1321.0.55.001);
- release of a third publication from a household survey of small business operators: *Characteristics of Small Businesses* (Cat. no. 8122.0);
- release of a joint publication with Austrade based on the Business Longitudinal Survey: *A Portrait of Australian Exporters* (Cat. no. 8154.0); and
- completion of a number of research topics for clients on small and medium sized business performance using data from the Business Longitudinal Survey.

### Science and Technology

The science and technology component provides statistics on innovation, research and experimental development, and information technology. The latter include statistics on the demand for information technologies by businesses, government, households and farms, and on the supply and distribution of information technology and telecommunications goods and services.

Achievements during the year included:

- publication of *Research and Experimental Development, Businesses, Australia, 1998–99* (Cat. no. 8104.0);

- implementation of the revised (1998 edition) Australian Standard Research Classification (ASRC) in surveys of research and experimental development;
- publication of the first in a new series of annual statistics measuring business use of information technology including use of the Internet and e-commerce: *Business Use of Information Technology 1999–2000, Australia* (Cat. no. 8129.0);
- publication of information on the use of information technology on farms, including regional statistics on the use of computers and the Internet: *Use of Information Technology on Farms, Australia, 1998–99* (Cat. no. 8150.0);
- publication of expanded details of household use of information technology: quarterly details released in *Use of the Internet by Householders, Australia* (Cat. no. 8147.0); and more detailed annual statistics in *Household Use of Information Technology, 1999, Australia* (Cat. no. 8146.0);
- publication of results from a new quarterly survey of Internet Service Providers (ISPs) providing regional statistics on the take-up of the Internet by householders and businesses as well as details of the types of services provided by ISPs: *Internet Activity, Australia* (Cat. no. 8153.0), first issue being September Quarter 2000;
- the preparation of a draft framework for Knowledge Based Economy indicators for discussion with stakeholders; an Information Paper is scheduled for release in the second half of 2001;
- contributions to the development of statistical standards for science and technology indicators by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, particularly in relation to standards for research and development statistics and biotechnology statistics, defining electronic commerce, and measuring household and business use of information technology; and
- hosting a meeting of statisticians from Singapore, Japan, Republic of Korea, Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region Government of China), New Zealand and Australia, with expertise in information technology statistics. Proposals were developed for promoting consistency in application of standards with a view to improving comparability of data from respective countries.

## Agriculture

The agriculture component provides statistics on the structure, performance and production of the agriculture industry. Data collected and disseminated include detailed annual information on commodity production statistics, monthly information on livestock slaughterings, and quarterly information on poultry slaughterings and wool receivals by brokers and dealers. A large range of statistics on the structure, financial operations, performance and other characteristics of agriculture businesses is also obtained. Every five years commodity production statistics are collected from a census rather than a sample.

A range of derived statistics, including estimates of the value of agricultural commodities produced and the apparent consumption of foodstuffs, is also produced by the agriculture component.

Achievements during the year included:

- development of the five-yearly Agricultural Census questionnaire;
- further development of a theme page on agricultural statistics on the ABS website. The page provides users with ready access to details on the products and services available, a noticeboard containing issues important to providers and clients, contact information, and a range of other statistical advice and information;
- in consultation with key stakeholders, finalisation of the future collection strategy for the agricultural statistics program;
- some development work on the use of geocoding of agricultural data;
- publication of *Agriculture, Australia* (Cat. no. 7113.0), a compendium publication on the structure of the Australian farming sector; and
- publication of *Directory of Agricultural and Rural Statistics* (Cat. no. 1142.0).

## Mining

The mining component conducts annual surveys of the mining, electricity, gas, water and sewerage industries to provide statistics on the structure, performance and production of these industries. The component also conducts quarterly collections of actual and expected mineral and petroleum exploration as well as supplementary collections of details of drilling methods in mineral exploration.

Achievements during the year included:

- development of a simpler survey strategy which will reduce complexity for the ABS and, for many businesses, will reduce reporting load;
- development of a strategy to reduce the reporting load on businesses by substituting administrative by-product data for survey data;
- publication of the first edition of the *Directory of Electricity, Gas and Water Supply Statistics* (Cat. no. 1140.0);
- further development of a theme page on mining statistics on the ABS website; and
- completion of a review of the objectives, operations and outputs of the mining collection.

## Manufacturing

The manufacturing component provides statistics on the structure, performance and production of the manufacturing industry. Data collected and disseminated include commodity production statistics, and extensive statistics on the structure, financial operations, performance, and other characteristics of the manufacturing industry. The latter set of statistics is obtained from an annual manufacturing industry survey.

Achievements during the year included:

- further development of a strategy to reduce the reporting load on businesses by substituting administrative by-product data for survey data. Data from non-ABS sources will be used to minimise business reporting load in the 2001–02 Manufacturing Census;
- development of a simpler survey strategy for non-census years which will reduce the number of businesses included in the survey and, for most businesses, will reduce reporting load;
- inclusion of the annual manufacturing industry survey in a benchmarking exercise in which its cost structures were compared with those from similar collections in other overseas statistical agencies; and
- completion of a review of the objectives, operations and outputs of the annual manufacturing collection.

## Construction

The construction component produces statistics on the structure, performance and other characteristics of the construction industry, and timely indicators of activity for the three components of construction: residential building, non-residential building and engineering construction. Sources of data include monthly building approvals reported by approving authorities, and quarterly surveys of building activity and engineering construction. The component also conducts a construction industry survey on an irregular basis to provide measures of the structure of the construction industry as a whole.

Achievements during the year included:

- the expansion of the publication, *Construction Work Done, Australia* (Cat. no. 8755.0) to include preliminary estimates of both building and engineering construction activity;
- management of the operational and statistical impacts of The New Tax System on the range of building and construction statistics;
- implementation of a refined functional classification of buildings; and
- enhancements to data quality and production through the successful introduction of a redeveloped processing system.

## Transport

The transport component provides monthly statistics on new motor vehicle registrations, annual statistics of motor vehicle use, together with the associated motor vehicle censuses which provide data on the characteristics of the Australian vehicle population and a periodic collection of Freight Movements for road, rail, sea and air modes. Other activities include maintenance of the transport page on the ABS website, compilation of occasional compendium publications, and data on the Australian motor vehicle fleet on CD-ROM.

Achievements during the year included:

- improved timeliness in the release of the Survey of Motor Vehicle Use publication, with estimates for the 12 months ended 31 October 2000 being available within 8 months of the end of the reference period;
- release of new electronic outputs: *Motor Vehicles on GSP* (Cat. no. 9312.0.001), a CD-ROM product that combines results of the motor vehicle census with other related transport and demographic statistics using the new Geographic Statistics Platform on the Integrated Regional Data Base; and an improved range of statistics from the motor vehicle census and new motor vehicle registrations; and
- introduction of a new collection methodology for road freight in the Freight Movements Survey 2000.

## Service Industries

The service industries component produces statistics on the size, structure, operations and output of a range of Australian service industries.

Achievements during the year included:

- completion of the 1998–99 round of publications: *Computer Services, Australia* (Cat. no. 8669.0), *Legal Services Industry, Australia* (Cat. no. 8667.0), *Cafes and Restaurants Industry, Australia* (Cat. no. 8655.0), and *Employment Services, Australia* (Cat. no. 8558.0);
- publication of the first in-depth surveys since 1991–92 on the Wholesale and Retail industries: *Wholesale Industry, Australia* (Cat. no. 8634.0), *Retail Industry, Australia* (Cat. no. 8622.0), and *Retail Industry, Commodity Sales, Australia* (Cat. no. 8624.0);
- publication of a range of cultural industries surveys in respect of the reference year 1999–2000: *Botanic Gardens, Australia* (Cat. no. 8563.0), *Motion Picture Exhibition, Australia* (Cat. no. 8654.0), *Video Hire Industry, Australia* (Cat. no. 8562.0), *Public Libraries, Australia* (Cat. no. 8561.0), and *Museums, Australia* (Cat. no. 8560.0);

- publication of 1999–2000 publications *Casinos, Australia* (Cat. no. 8683.0), and *Hire Industries, Australia, Preliminary* (Cat. no. 8565.0); and
- methodological research and user-consultation in relation to proposed surveys of the sport, recreation, pubs, clubs, accommodation, gambling and business event venues industries to be conducted in respect of 2000–01.

#### Retail Survey

The component also covers the retail survey which produces monthly retail turnover statistics. As well as being important in its own right as an indicator of economic activity, retail turnover forms a substantial component of private final consumption expenditure measures in the Australian national accounts.

Achievements during the year included:

- managing the impact on the series of the transition to The New Tax System (particularly one-off changes in prices, unusual shopping behaviour and the complicating effect of the Olympics);
- successfully collecting retail turnover inclusive of GST from July 2000 reference month onwards; and
- successfully collecting information on direct retail activity within Olympic and Para-Olympic venues.

#### Tourism

The tourism component produces quarterly statistics on capacity and demand for tourist accommodation in Australia. Other activities include the development and promotion of statistical frameworks and classifications, production of a quarterly analytical publication *Tourism Indicators, Australia* (Cat. no. 8634.0), and irregular production of a directory of tourism statistics.

Achievements during the year included:

- expansion of the scope of the Survey of Tourist Accommodation for each quarter of 2000 to produce statistics on capacity and occupancy characteristics of significant caravan parks, visitor hostels and holiday flats and units in addition to the standard quarterly data for hotels, motels and serviced apartments;
- continued strengthening of relationships with stakeholders and providers through active participation at industry conferences and seminars, convening quarterly tourism industry meetings, and participation at major tourism forums including regular meetings between the ABS and the Department of Industry, Science and Resources, to discuss broad tourism statistics issues;

- assisting with the preparation and seminar program associated with the release of *Australian National Accounts: Tourism Satellite Account* (Cat. no. 5249.0); and
- release of feature articles in *Tourism Indicators* (Cat. no. 8634.0) covering topics such as tourist accommodation in Australia over the Olympic period; the Tourism Satellite Account; and occupancy characteristics of holiday flats, caravan parks and hostels.

## Environment

The environment component collects and publishes environment and energy statistics, including environment accounts. Within these fields, the component plays a coordinating role in the collection of data, undertakes research, and implements international accounting frameworks for new collections and current data holdings.

Achievements during the year included:

- publication of the sixth edition of *Environmental Issues: People's Views and Practices* (Cat. no. 4602.0);
- publication of *Environmental Expenditure, Local Government (Experimental Estimates), 1997–98* (Cat. no. 4611.0);
- the release of *Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emission Accounts for Australia, 1992–93 to 1997–98* (Cat. no. 4604.0);
- further progress and exploratory work associated with Forest Accounts, Waste Accounts, Land Accounts and enhanced Water Accounts;
- redevelopment of the Environment Management Survey which will be conducted in 2001–02 in respect of the Manufacturing and Mining sectors. The survey will collect information on expenditure by businesses on environment management and protection, including costs associated with the management of solid waste, liquid waste and air emissions. The survey will also collect information on a range of environmental practices including factors influencing, and savings from, reductions in the use of energy, water and materials, and waste minimisation; and
- participation in the review of the United Nations environment accounting framework, System of Integrated Economic and Environment Accounts.



## Statistical Consultancy

The statistical consultancy component helps the ABS and external users to meet their information needs through the provision of sample design, statistical methods, methodological reviews, tender evaluations, data analysis and statistical training services.

Achievements during the year included:

- provision of methodological advice on the evaluation of tenders for AusAID and the Department of Family and Community Services;
- methodological advice relating to the development of the Survey of Household Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia, for the Department of Family and Community Services;
- assistance in applying a quality framework to developing standards for performance indicators, for the Australian National Audit Office;
- partnership with the Australian National Audit Office to supply methodological and training services;
- analytical services to the Australian National Audit Office, the Australian National Library, the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research and the Commonwealth Ombudsman;
- provision of advice on methodology for valuations of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, the Australian National Library, the National Archives of Australia and the Australian War Memorial;
- provision of sample design advice to the Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business; Australia Post; the Australian Taxation Office; the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts; and the New South Wales State Transit Authority; and
- assistance to the Information Technology Skills Hub for the Survey of Information Technology Skills in Australia.

## Statistical Coordination

The statistical coordination component is responsible for the development and operation of the Commonwealth Government Statistical Clearing House. The Statistical Clearing House was established in July 1997 in response to a recommendation of the Small Business Deregulation Task Force. All surveys conducted by, or on behalf of, the Commonwealth Government, involving 50 or more businesses, are subject to review and approval by the Statistical Clearing House prior to data collection.

The Statistical Clearing House has three main objectives: to reduce the load imposed by the Commonwealth Government on business, particularly small business, by eliminating duplication, and ensuring that the design and conduct of business surveys follows good practices; to improve the value of survey outputs by improving the quality of survey methods used; and to improve the use of survey outputs by improving access to documentation of these outputs.

Achievements during the year included:

- the release of the new Statistical Clearing House website with improved functionality and a wealth of reference materials aimed at encouraging good collection design practices;
- considerable progress on the implementation of the recommendations from the review of the performance of the Statistical Clearing House;
- dissemination of agency reports to agency heads and survey liaison officers;
- continuous improvement of the survey clearance process, review criteria and information template through stakeholder consultations;
- continuous improvement on identification of non-ABS surveys through enhanced networks with non-ABS agencies;
- a continued large number of reviews completed annually. Of the reviews completed in the year, 39% (42 reviews) have resulted in an improvement to the survey or a reduction in respondent burden; and
- the continued loading of survey information to the Commonwealth Business Surveys Register.

#### Australian Economic Indicators

The Australian economic indicators sub-component publishes *Australian Economic Indicators* (Cat. no. 1350.0), a monthly compendium of key national, State and international economic time series. It also contains feature articles, provides a quarterly economic review of the economy, and reports an experimental composite leading indicator of the Australian business cycle.

The February 2001 issue contained longer time spans of data than the regular monthly issue. For example, it contained the last forty observations of quarterly national accounts data (complementing *Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product* (Cat. no. 5206.0) that contains only the last nine observations).

## Statistical Services and User Liaison

The statistical services and user liaison component provides a flexible and responsive service to meet priority statistical needs of State and Territory Governments, additional to those met by ongoing statistical activities of the ABS. The work is undertaken by ABS regional offices and generally takes the form of statistical consultation (such as design, development and conduct of a survey), statistical analysis, modelling of existing ABS or client data, statistical training and the presentation of seminars for a broad range of clients. Officers are also outposted to State or Territory government agencies to carry out specific short-term statistical assignments.

Through this component, the ABS participates in bodies established by State or Territory Governments to coordinate their statistical activities and requirements. This component also maintains bilateral contact with State and Territory government departments and agencies in order to be aware of their needs for statistics, their statistical activities and their use of information from existing collections, and to encourage the adoption of uniform statistical standards and practices.

An important role is to be closely involved in the development and conduct of annual State-specific household surveys, the topics of which vary from State to State.

Achievements during the year included:

- conduct of various household surveys, including crime and safety (South Australia, Western Australia and New South Wales); managing caring responsibilities and paid employment (New South Wales); leisure and culture participation (Tasmania);
- development of a set of interpretive guidelines for users of statistics relating to child protection and substitute care for the New South Wales Department of Community Services;
- development of a regional statistical framework to support the measurement of economic, environment and social wellbeing in Victoria;
- a review of the availability and quality of information about Indigenous students for the Northern Territory Department of Education to enable improved monitoring and reporting of educational measures and outcomes;
- conduct of a data management project for Territory Housing (Northern Territory) to improve information for policy development and evaluation; and national reporting requirements for the National Housing Data Agreement, and the Agreement on National Indigenous Housing Information;
- assistance to the South Australian Government in the conduct of surveys of the environment and spatial industries, and of the labour force participation of school students in South Australia;

- investigation of the feasibility of producing quantifiable risk factors for the occurrence of personal injury of persons attending large outdoor events;
- statistical and methodological support for the development of a Victorian Hospital Costs Index, and resource allocation formula in child protection services;
- development of a draft alternative view of the food industry which provides statistical framework for the measurement of outputs and inputs for the industry, and completed investigative work on an alternative view of the defence industry;
- conduct of an audit of data on Indigenous deaths in the Australian Capital Territory;
- assistance to the TVW Telethon Institute for Child Health Research with the development and conduct of a Survey of Aboriginal Child Health in Western Australia;
- advice on appropriate measures, and identification of benchmark data sources, for Tasmania Together; and
- review of the administrative data holdings of the Department of Primary Industry, Water and the Environment (Tasmania).

# 7 POPULATION AND SOCIAL STATISTICS OUTPUT

## DESCRIPTION

ABS population and social statistics are concerned with describing the social wellbeing of the population. Underlying the notion of social wellbeing is a range of fundamental human needs and aspirations, each of which can be linked to an area of social concern. These have been encapsulated as they have evolved over the years by the United Nations, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, and others. Not surprisingly, governments have implicitly identified with this range of needs and aspirations and they have become the focus of social policy and program and service delivery, and are reflected in many of the structures of government.

The ABS framework for social statistics is built around a number of areas of social concern: health, family and community, housing and neighbourhood, education and training, work, income, crime and justice, culture-leisure, and population. The population statistics framework also includes a second dimension which focuses on population groups which are of special interest to the community and to governments, including because of their special need or disadvantage. This dimension of the framework includes: older people, children, youth, families with children, long-term unemployed, lone parents, people with disabilities, carers, recipients of various government benefits, low income earners, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, and people whose language background is other than English.

The Population and Social Statistics program operates in response to the statistical needs of governments and the wider community, taking into account the public and private costs associated with collecting, processing and disseminating statistical information on population and social issues.

At the broad level, the activities undertaken within the Population and Social Statistics program include:

- collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of population, social and labour statistics;
- coordination of the statistical activities of other agencies (through participation in national and State statistical committees, through ABS outposted officers, and statistical consultancy services);
- provision of professional statistical support; and
- development, maintenance and promotion of statistical standards, classifications and frameworks for the collection of population, social and labour statistics.

The work schedule of the Population and Social Statistics program is determined after extensive consultation with governments, businesses and community groups, and with the advice of the Australian Statistics Advisory Council. In determining the work program, account is taken of the needs of users, the benefit of statistics to decision makers and

researchers, the load on providers, the availability of skilled resources to undertake the work, and the costs associated with the activities.

Individual components within the Population and Social Statistics program have close links with a wide range of government agencies providing data; users of statistical information; and with clients of the statistical coordination and consultancy services. The statistical activities of other agencies complement the activities of the Population and Social Statistics program, resulting in a comprehensive national statistical service.

The effectiveness and efficiency of the Population and Social Statistics program is enhanced by significant and wide ranging input from the corporate and statistical support areas. These inputs include methodological, technological, dissemination, human resource, and financial support.

Appendix 1 lists the components of the Population and Social Statistics program.

## OUTPUTS

The Population and Social Statistics program disseminates its statistical information through a range of printed and electronic products and services.

During 2000–01 the Population and Social Statistics Group produced over 80 publication titles directly related to population and social statistics, which equated to over 240 individual publication releases. A range of electronic releases, concepts, sources and methods publications, information papers, and statistical directories were also produced.

## REVIEW OF COMPONENTS

The remainder of this chapter reviews the activities and achievements of each component of the Population and Social Statistics program during 2000–01.

Chapter 5 presents an aggregated record of achievements of the Population and Social Statistics program against identified performance indicators of quality, effectiveness and efficiency during 2000–01.

## Census

The census component develops and conducts the five-yearly Census of Population and Housing. The results are used to revise population estimates for each of the States and Territories, and to provide detailed statistics on the population and its housing within small geographic areas and for small groups within the population. These statistics are used for electoral purposes, for the distribution of government funds, and for a variety of planning, administration and policy activities of government, business and other users. The 2001 Census of Population and Housing was conducted on 7 August 2001.

In December 1999, the Government decided that people will be able to choose to have their name-identified 2001 Census information stored under secure conditions by the National Archives of Australia. Information stored will be made publicly available after 99 years. An appropriate question for the Census form giving people the choice of having their name-identified information kept or not, and accompanying explanatory material, have been developed in association with the Privacy Commissioner. Methods for capturing and storing the information have been developed in consultation with the National Archives of Australia.

Achievements during the year included:

- completion of user consultations on the 2001 Census output with the release of the publication *2001 Census of Population and Housing, Proposed Products and Services* (Cat. no. 2011.0). This includes plans for significantly extending the range of census material available through the Internet, and significant enhancement of mechanisms for electronic communication with users of Census information;
- completion of the detailed design of CD-ROM based output products, and the interactive table specification service for client specific Census tabulation requirements;
- establishment of Regional Office Census Management Units to manage the 2001 Census field operations;
- preparation of census field material completed, including census maps, and printing of Census forms;
- implementation of infrastructure to support enumeration activities including procedures, training, recruitment and pay systems, field communications and transport of materials;
- recruitment of approximately 3,000 staff for field management and collector supervisory roles, and 23,000 Census collectors;
- preparation of advertising and other public relations material to support Census enumeration activities, including an award winning interactive CD-ROM for schools; and
- successful application of the 2001 Census processing systems, using intelligent character recognition and automated coding, in the Census dress rehearsal.

Demography

The demography component produces estimates of the population by age, sex, country of birth, Indigenous status, registered marital status, geographical distribution and estimates of families and households. Projections of the population, families and households, according to specified demographic assumptions, are published on a regular basis and produced for individual clients. Statistics are also regularly produced on births, deaths, marriages, divorces, overseas arrivals and departures and internal migration.

Achievements during the year included:

- publication of *Population Projections, Australia 1999 to 2101* (Cat. no. 3222.0). For the first time ABS projections have been extended out for a century which enables the impact of current trends to be fully assessed. The publication also contains an enhanced analysis on the impact of alternative scenarios;
- arrangements made for the ABS to publish statistical local area population projections for Tasmania and the Northern Territory. For statistical consultancy purposes, 1999–2019 population, family and household projections for statistical local areas and postal areas throughout Australia, consistent with Series II in *Population Projections, Australia 1999 to 2101* (Cat. no. 3222.0), were completed. These small area projections take account of the latest demographic trends and land use indicators available to the ABS;
- release of *Australian Historical Population Statistics* (Cat. no. 3105.0.65.001). This is an electronic product in AusStats which contains a wide range of time series demographic data going back, where possible, to the beginnings of European settlement of Australia;
- an upgraded analysis of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mortality data in *Deaths, Australia* (Cat. no. 3302.0);
- support for a study of net overseas migration by the Australian National University for the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs and the ABS;
- with the support of the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, completion of a survey of passenger cards to enable estimation of net overseas migration in the August–December 2000 period, in the absence of full passenger card information which has been delayed in the department. The net overseas migration estimates were one input to the December 2000 State and Territory populations;
- conduct of a dress rehearsal for the 2001 Census of Population and Housing post-enumeration survey;
- continuing the redevelopment of the major demographic processing system which will facilitate the timely processing of registered birth,



death, marriage and divorce data and provide the flexibility to respond quickly and effectively to changing client demand; and

- increasing the extent of data available electronically to clients through AusStats. This includes population by age and sex at the statistical local area level, interstate migration and deaths.

## Labour Statistics

The labour component provides information on the composition and characteristics of the labour force, operations of the labour market, labour costs, earnings and other conditions of employment, and issues relating to education and training.

A senior officer is outposted to the Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs (DETYA) and the Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business (DEWRSB), in recognition of their needs for labour market and education statistics, and the importance of facilitating their access to, and understanding of, these statistics.

## Labour market information

Labour force statistics are collected in a monthly survey of households. These statistics provide timely estimates of employment and unemployment, together with basic demographic data, and enable various characteristics of the employed and unemployed to be analysed. In addition, supplementary surveys are run in conjunction with the labour force survey to collect more detailed data on specific labour market issues.

Topics covered by supplementary surveys in 2000–01 included job search experience of unemployed persons, successful and unsuccessful job search experience, employee earnings, employee benefits, trade union membership, persons not in the labour force, underemployment, working arrangements, labour force experience, work-related injuries, and transition from education to work.

The component also conducts a range of employer surveys which provide quarterly data on wage and salary earners, average weekly earnings, and job vacancies. Price indexes of wage and salary costs for employee jobs are compiled quarterly. The component also produces biennial data on the distribution and composition of employee earnings and hours, periodic data on employers' labour costs, and monthly statistics on industrial disputes.

Achievements during the year included:

- release of a new publication *Employment Arrangements and Superannuation* (Cat. no. 6361.0), providing information about the diversity of employment arrangements in the Australian labour market, and about superannuation coverage in Australia;
- release of *Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (Cat. no. 6102.0) on the ABS website. This publication provides a comprehensive description of the concepts underpinning ABS labour

statistics, and the methods used in compiling these statistics from various sources;

- publication of two Occasional Papers containing in-depth analyses of selected data from the longitudinal survey of employment and unemployment patterns (Cat. no. 6293.0 series);
- implementation of a redesigned questionnaire for the labour force survey, including revisions to core labour force series, and publication of two Information Papers: *Implementing the Redesigned Labour Force Survey Questionnaire* (Cat. no. 6295.0), and *Questionnaires Used in the Labour Force Survey* (Cat. no. 6232.0);
- publication of *Employee Earnings and Hours, 2000* (Cat. no. 6306.0), including information for the first time on pay-setting mechanisms for employees; and
- publication of experimental labour force estimates for Indigenous Australians in *Labour Force Characteristics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians* (Cat. no. 6287.0).

#### Education and training information

Statistics on schools, students and staff are compiled by the ABS from collections conducted in cooperation with the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA). For government schools, the data are collected initially by State and Territory education departments; for non-government schools, the data are initially collected by DETYA.

Statistics on educational attainment, participation in education, and transition from education to work, are produced from regular household surveys and from the Census of Population and Housing.

Achievements during the year included:

- establishment of the National Centre for Education and Training Statistics in the ABS, incorporating a unit which is jointly funded by the ABS, DETYA, the Australian National Training Authority, and all States and Territories. The main aim of this unit is to coordinate statistical developments across the various education and training sectors to improve data quality and comparability;
- establishment of an Education and Training Statistics Advisory Group to provide the ABS with expert advice on matters such as user requirements and priorities for education and training statistics;
- development and conduct of the Survey of Education, Training and Information Technology. This survey will provide detailed information about education and training in Australia, with results expected to be published in May 2002;
- publication of *Schools, Australia* (Cat. no. 4221.0);

- publication of *Transition from Education to Work* (Cat. no. 6227.0); and
- at the request of MCEETYA, preparation of a report on the educational participation and attainment of 15–24 year olds.

## Social Statistics

The social statistics component is responsible for social analysis and for providing information on health, welfare, housing, and household income and expenditure. It is also responsible for developing and promoting standard statistical concepts, definitions and classifications in these areas. The component produces reports describing social conditions in Australia, and the social wellbeing of the population and special population groups (such as women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, aged persons and families). The component produces statistics on the income, expenditure and other characteristics of households, and on the economic and social aspects of housing. It also produces statistics on health (including causes of death, health status and risk factors, use of health services by the population, and statistics about private health establishments), and welfare (including statistics about disability, ageing and carers, voluntary work, child care, time use, and population groups such as people with a disability, aged persons, families and children).

Achievements during the year included:

- production of the eighth edition of *Australian Social Trends* (Cat. no. 4102.0);
- development of a publication *Measuring Social Wellbeing* (Cat. no. 4160.0), which describes the conceptual frameworks underpinning ABS work in social statistics;
- circulation of a discussion paper outlining possible directions for the measurement of the concept of social capital in ABS surveys;
- release of the results of the 1999 Australian Housing Survey, *Housing Characteristics, Costs and Conditions, 1999* (Cat. no. 4182.0), and *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Results* (Cat. no. 4712.0);
- publication of *Income Distribution, Australia* (Cat. no. 6523.0);
- release of detailed results from the 1998–99 Household Expenditure Survey;
- contribution to the Final Report and Recommendations: Expert Group on Household Income Statistics (The Canberra Group). The final report of this international expert group established at the initiative of the ABS to develop standards and guidelines for the compilation of household income statistics was accepted by the United Nations Statistics Commission in March 2001;

- development and implementation of the first of a three-yearly program of national health surveys under a funding partnership with the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care (DHAC);
- development of a proposal, and establishment of a working party, between DHAC and the ABS, with input from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, to explore the feasibility of linking the 2004 national health survey with relevant administrative datasets;
- publication of *Causes of Death, Australia, 1999* (Cat. no. 3303.0) incorporating the tenth revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD), the first country to achieve this. Data for 1997 and 1998 have been coded to both ICD-9 and ICD-10 to provide a bridge with previous series;
- publication of *Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Disability and Long Term Health Conditions* (Cat. no. 4433.0), and *Caring in the Community, Australia* (Cat. no. 4436.0);
- publication of *Voluntary Work, Australia* (Cat. no. 4441.0) to coincide with the International Year of the Volunteer; and
- release of a working paper on Social and Labour Statistics, Accounting for Change in Disability and Severe Restriction, 1981–1998 (Working paper No. 2001/1); and release of 1998 Synthetic Predictors of Disability to provide estimates of disability for small areas.

## National Centres

### *National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics*

The National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics is responsible for producing national statistics about the crime and justice system. It coordinates data collection activities within the ABS, and across other public agencies relating to this field, and provides a statistical service which includes provision of statistical information, training of data providers, advice on statistical standards, and development of quality control procedures.

Achievements during the year included:

- release of *Recorded Crime, Australia, 2000* (Cat. no. 4510.0), *Higher Criminal Courts, Australia 1999–2000* (Cat. no. 4513.0), and *Prisoners in Australia, 2000* (Cat. no. 4517.0);
- the addition of community based corrections statistics to the quarterly Corrective Services collection;
- collection and analysis of offence information for the Higher Criminal Courts collection; and

- outposting to the Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence, and the collection of a national minimum dataset on illicit drugs in accordance with the National Illicit Drugs Statistics Framework.

*National Centre for Culture and Recreation  
Statistics*

The National Centre for Culture and Recreation Statistics has responsibility for the coordination of national statistical activity in the fields of culture and recreation. It is a centre of expertise and statistical leadership, providing an information, coordination and analytical service for culture and recreation data. It also advises external organisations on statistical standards, the availability of relevant data, and collection and analysis methodologies.

Achievements during the year included:

- development of industry, product and occupation classifications of the culture and leisure sectors as a basis for future data collection, dissemination and analysis;
- development of a directory of ABS data sources of relevance to the culture and recreation sector, and commencing the development of a directory of non-ABS data sources;
- release of results from *Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities* (Cat. no. 4901.0), *Participation in Sport and Physical Activities* (Cat. no. 4177.0), and *Cultural Funding* (Cat. no. 4183.0);
- updating the national database and directory on the sport and recreation industry; and
- the conduct of a survey of book publishers, and development of a survey of book retailers, as part of the Book Industry Assistance Plan.

*National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres  
Strait Islander Statistics*

The National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics has responsibility for national leadership in the production and dissemination of statistics about Australia's Indigenous population. The Centre works closely with other areas of the ABS, and with a wide range of external agencies, to provide expertise on these statistics and advice on related statistical issues. It coordinates initiatives to improve the quality, use and availability of Indigenous data from a range of sources, and assists Indigenous organisations to improve their capacity to use statistics effectively.

Achievements during the year included:

- wide ranging consultation in relation to a new Indigenous Social Survey to be undertaken in 2002;

- completion of data collection for the 2001 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey;
- preparation of a report on Community Services Principles and Standards for Indigenous Client Data, endorsed by the Community Services Ministerial Advisory Council. This report contains separate reviews of recording and reporting of the Indigenous identifier in the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program and in Child Protection and Welfare collections, as well as a draft Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Services Information Plan. A similar review of Disability Services has been completed and is awaiting endorsement;
- preparation for the Third Edition of *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples* (Cat. no. 4704.0), due for release in August 2001; and
- significant progress on improving the quality, availability and use of Indigenous administrative data on births, deaths, and hospital separations, as part of the plan for improving Indigenous statistics from administrative collections. Extension of this project into the areas of schools statistics, police records and prison census data.

## Geography

The geography component is responsible for developing and maintaining geographic products and services for use by the ABS and its clients. Activities include the production of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) and associated products, provision of geographic information system, geocoding, and mapping services to the ABS, and continuing development of the annual regional statistics CD-ROM product, the Integrated Regional Data Base.

Achievements during the year included:

- release of the 2001 Edition of the *Integrated Regional Data Base (IRDB), Australia* (Cat. no. 1353.0), providing clients with access to a broad range of information about Australia's regions;
- release of the *Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)* (Cat. no. 1216.0), 2000 edition, and associated digital boundary files;
- development of a classification of geographical remoteness for inclusion in the ASGC 2001 edition;
- quarterly updates of the National Localities Index;
- derivation of a variety of geographic output units for the 2001 Census of Population and Housing such as Postal Areas and Commonwealth and State Electoral Divisions;
- development, for the 2001 Census of Population and Housing, of an index for coding people who are away from home on Census night to the Census Collection District where they usually live; and
- production of 40,000 maps required for the management of the 2001 Census.

## **SECTION V**

# **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

### **Chapter 8 — Financial Statements**

# **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

## **CONTENTS**

1. Audit Report
2. Chief Executive Statement
3. Statement of Financial Performance
4. Statement of Financial Position
5. Statement of Cash Flows
6. Schedule of Commitments
7. Schedule of Contingencies
8. Schedule of Administered Revenue and Expenses
9. Schedule of Administered Assets and Liabilities
10. Administered Cash Flows
11. Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements.





## INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

### To the Treasurer

#### Scope

I have audited the financial statements of the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the year ended 30 June 2001. The financial statements comprise:

- Statement by the Australian Statistician;
- statements of Financial Performance, Financial Position and Cashflows;
- schedules of Contingencies and Commitments;
- schedules of administered Revenues and Expenses, Assets and Liabilities, Cashflows, Contingencies and Commitments; and
- Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements.

The Australian Statistician is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements and the information they contain. I have conducted an independent audit of the financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to you.

The audit has been conducted in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards, to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. Audit procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, other mandatory professional reporting requirements and statutory requirements in Australia so as to present a view of the Bureau which is consistent with my understanding of its financial position, its operations and its cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

### **Audit Opinion**

In my opinion,

- (i) the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Schedule 1 of the Financial Management and Accountability (Financial Statements 2000-2001) Orders;
- (ii) the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards, other mandatory professional reporting requirements and Schedule 1 of the Financial Management and Accountability (Financial Statements 2000-2001) Orders, of:
  - the financial position of the Australian Bureau of Statistics as at 30 June 2001 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended; and
  - the Commonwealth assets and liabilities as at 30 June 2001 and the revenue, expenses and cash flows of the Commonwealth for the year then ended, which have been administered by the Bureau.

Australian National Audit Office



Puspá Dash  
Senior Director

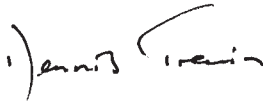
Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra  
10 August 2001

**STATEMENT BY THE AUSTRALIAN STATISTICIAN**

---

In my opinion, the attached financial statements give a true and fair view of the matters required by Schedule 1 of the Financial Management and Accountability (Financial Statements 2000-2001) Orders made under section 63 of the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis Trewin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'D'.

Dennis Trewin  
Australian Statistician

10 August 2001

**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**

*for the period ended 30 June 2001*

	Notes	2000-01 \$'000	1999-00 \$'000
<b>Revenues from ordinary activities</b>			
Revenues from government	4A	264,092	241,936
Sales of goods and services	4B	18,816	21,468
Interest revenue		1,027	789
Proceeds from disposals of assets	4C	343	95
Other		651	831
<b>Total revenues from ordinary activities</b>		<b>284,929</b>	<b>265,119</b>
<b>Expenses from ordinary activities</b>			
Employees	5A	179,685	168,549
Suppliers	5B	64,576	58,737
Depreciation and amortisation	5C	22,036	21,955
Disposals of assets	4C	169	125
Write-down of assets	5D	7,332	2,946
Other		3,265	2,802
<b>Total expenses from ordinary activities</b>		<b>277,063</b>	<b>255,114</b>
<b>Borrowing costs expense</b>	6	<b>427</b>	<b>507</b>
<b>Net operating surplus (deficit) from ordinary activities</b>		<b>7,439</b>	<b>9,499</b>
<b>Net surplus (deficit)</b>		<b>7,439</b>	<b>9,499</b>
<b>Equity interests</b>			
<b>Net surplus (deficit) attributable to the Commonwealth</b>		<b>7,439</b>	<b>9,499</b>
Debit to asset revaluation reserve		(2,800)	-
<b>Total revenues, expenses and valuation adjustments recognised directly in equity</b>		<b>(2,800)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total changes in equity other than those resulting from transactions with owners</b>		<b>4,639</b>	<b>9,499</b>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

as at 30 June 2001

	Notes	2000-01 \$'000	1999-00 \$'000
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Financial assets</b>			
Cash		1,730	4,719
Investments		-	18,000
Receivables	7A	5,027	2,180
Accrued revenue		553	693
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>7,310</b>	<b>25,592</b>
<b>Non-financial assets</b>			
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	8A-C	45,232	38,153
Inventories	8D	2,602	2,896
Intangibles	8E	76,109	73,124
Other	8F	8,451	4,606
<b>Total non-financial assets</b>		<b>132,394</b>	<b>118,779</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>139,704</b>	<b>144,371</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Interest bearing liabilities</b>			
Leases	9A	6,641	8,368
Other	9B	1,088	1,114
<b>Total debt</b>		<b>7,729</b>	<b>9,482</b>
<b>Provisions</b>			
Capital use charge		-	3,978
Employees	10A	63,217	63,750
<b>Total provisions</b>		<b>63,217</b>	<b>67,728</b>
<b>Payables</b>			
Suppliers	11A	8,529	5,745
Unearned revenue	11B	2,996	1,608
Other	11C	265	369
<b>Total payables</b>		<b>11,790</b>	<b>7,722</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>82,736</b>	<b>84,932</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
<b>Parent entity interest</b>			
Capital	12	11,250	11,250
Reserves	12	8,617	11,417
Accumulated surpluses (deficits)	12	37,101	36,772
<b>Total parent entity interest</b>		<b>56,968</b>	<b>59,439</b>
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>56,968</b>	<b>59,439</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>		<b>41,253</b>	<b>39,891</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>		<b>41,483</b>	<b>45,041</b>
<b>Current assets</b>		<b>18,363</b>	<b>33,094</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>		<b>121,341</b>	<b>111,277</b>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**

*for the period ended 30 June 2001*

	Notes	2000-01 \$'000	1999-00 \$'000
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Cash received</b>			
Appropriations for outputs		264,001	241,819
Sales of goods and services		21,445	23,231
GST refunds		4,899	-
Interest		1,027	577
<b>Total cash received</b>		<b>291,372</b>	<b>265,627</b>
<b>Cash used</b>			
Employees		(180,218)	(162,298)
Suppliers		(85,061)	(60,836)
Borrowing costs		(427)	(507)
<b>Total cash used</b>		<b>(265,706)</b>	<b>(223,641)</b>
<b>Net cash from (used by) operating activities</b>	13	<b>25,666</b>	<b>41,986</b>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Cash received</b>			
Proceeds from sales of property plant and equipment		457	234
Other		-	11,250
<b>Total cash received</b>		<b>457</b>	<b>11,484</b>
<b>Cash used</b>			
Purchase of property plant and equipment		(22,231)	(10,245)
Capitalisation of internally generated software		(13,770)	(17,049)
<b>Total cash used</b>		<b>(36,001)</b>	<b>(27,294)</b>
<b>Net cash from (used in) investing activities</b>		<b>(35,544)</b>	<b>(15,810)</b>
<b>FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Cash used</b>			
Capital use charge paid		(11,111)	(3,678)
<b>Total cash used</b>		<b>(11,111)</b>	<b>(3,678)</b>
<b>Net cash from (used by) financing activities</b>		<b>(11,111)</b>	<b>(3,678)</b>
<b>Net increase (decrease) in cash held</b>		<b>(20,989)</b>	<b>22,498</b>
Cash at the beginning of the reporting period		22,719	221
<b>Cash at the end of the reporting period</b>		<b>1,730</b>	<b>22,719</b>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS  
SCHEDULE OF COMMITMENTS**  
as at 30 June 2001

	Notes	2000-01 \$'000	1999-00 \$'000
<b>BY TYPE</b>			
<b>CAPITAL COMMITMENTS</b>			
Infrastructure, plant and equipment <sup>1</sup>		<u>1,102</u>	<u>1,879</u>
<b>Total capital commitments</b>		<u><b>1,102</b></u>	<u><b>1,879</b></u>
<b>OTHER COMMITMENTS</b>			
Operating leases <sup>2</sup>		<u>266,123</u>	<u>263,440</u>
Other commitments		<u>9,750</u>	<u>20,027</u>
<b>Total other commitments</b>		<u><b>275,873</b></u>	<u><b>283,467</b></u>
<b>COMMITMENTS RECEIVABLE</b>			
<b>Net commitments</b>		<u><b>(945)</b></u>	<u><b>(2,835)</b></u>
		<u><b>276,030</b></u>	<u><b>282,511</b></u>
<b>BY MATURITY</b>			
<b>All net commitments</b>			
One year or less		<u>29,159</u>	<u>37,410</u>
From one to five years		<u>76,658</u>	<u>71,488</u>
Over five years		<u>170,213</u>	<u>173,613</u>
<b>Net commitments</b>		<u><b>276,030</b></u>	<u><b>282,511</b></u>
<b>Operating lease commitments</b>			
One year or less		<u>19,252</u>	<u>18,339</u>
From one to five years		<u>76,658</u>	<u>71,488</u>
Over five years		<u>170,213</u>	<u>173,613</u>
<b>Net commitments</b>		<u><b>266,123</b></u>	<u><b>263,440</b></u>

NB: Commitments are GST inclusive where relevant

1) Plant and equipment commitments are primarily contracts for purchase of furniture and fittings for new building.

2) Operating leases included are effectively non-cancellable and comprise:

<i>Nature of lease</i>	<i>General description of leasing arrangement</i>
Leases for office accommodation	- lease payments are subject to annual increase in accordance with upwards movements in the consumer price index; - the initial periods of office accommodation leases are still current and each may be renewed for up to 5 years at the ABS's option, following a once off adjustment of rentals to current market levels.

3) On 29 June 2001, the Bureau signed a loan agreement with the Department of Finance. It is for the sum of \$13.2 million and will be used to partially fund the fitout of a new leasehold office building in Canberra. This loan will be drawn down in the 2001/2002 year.

The above schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS  
SCHEDULE OF CONTINGENCIES**

as at 30 June 2001

	Notes	2000-01 \$'000	1999-00 \$'000
<b>CONTINGENT LOSSES</b>			
Claims for damages/costs <sup>1</sup>		<u>26</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total contingent losses</b>		<u>26</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>CONTINGENT GAINS</b>			
Claims for damages/costs		<u>-</u>	<u>8</u>
<b>Net contingencies</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>8</u>

Remote contingencies are disclosed in Note 14.

<sup>1</sup>The amount represents an estimate of the ABS's liability based on precedent cases. The ABS is defending the claims.

The above schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS  
SCHEDULE OF ADMINISTERED REVENUES AND EXPENSES**

*for the period ended 30 June 2001*

	Notes	2000-01 \$'000	1999-00 \$'000
<b>Revenues from ordinary activities</b>			
<b>Non-taxation</b>			
Other Sources of non taxation revenue	20	269	1,014
<b>Total non-taxation</b>		269	1,014
<b>Total revenues from ordinary activities</b>		269	1,014
<b>Cash transferred to Official Public Account</b>	22	1,283	-
<b>Net Increase (decrease) in administered net assets</b>		(1,014)	1,014

The above schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS**  
**SCHEDULE OF ADMINISTERED ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**  
*as at 30 June 2001*

	Notes	2000-01 \$'000	1999-00 \$'000
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Financial assets</b>			
Receivables	21	-	1,014
<b>Total assets</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>1,014</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Payables</b>			
Other		-	-
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Accumulated results	22	1,014	-
Net decrease in accumulated results		(1,014)	1,014
<b>Total equity</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>1,014</u>
<b>Current liabilities</b>		-	-
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>		-	-
<b>Current assets</b>		-	1,014
<b>Non-current assets</b>		-	-

The above schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS  
ADMINISTERED CASH FLOWS**

*for the period ended 30 June 2001*

	Notes	2000-01 \$'000	1999-00 \$'000
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Cash received</b>			
Other non taxation revenue		1,283	
<b>Total cash received</b>		<b>1,283</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Cash used</b>			
Cash to Official Public Account	22	1,283	
<b>Total cash used</b>		<b>1,283</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net cash from (used by) operating activities</b>	23	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net increase (decrease) in cash held</b>			
Cash at the beginning of the reporting period		-	-
Cash at the end of the reporting period		-	-
<b>Cash at the end of the reporting period</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS  
SCHEDULE OF ADMINISTERED COMMITMENTS**

*as at 30 June 2001*

There are no administered commitments.

**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS  
SCHEDULE OF ADMINISTERED CONTINGENCIES**

*as at 30 June 2001*

There are no administered contingencies.

The above schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
*for the year ended 30 June 2001*

---

<b>Note</b>	
1	Objectives of the Australian Bureau of Statistics
2	Summary of Significant Accounting Policies
3	Events Occurring After Balance Date
4	Operating Revenues
5	Operating Expenses
6	Borrowing Cost Expenses
7	Financial Assets
8	Non-financial Assets
9	Interest Bearing Liabilities
10	Provisions
11	Payables
12	Equity
13	Cash Flow Reconciliation
14	Remote Contingencies
15	Executive Remuneration
16	Remuneration of Auditors
17	Average Staffing Levels
18	Act of Grace Payments and Waivers and Defective Administration Scheme
19	Financial Instruments
20	Administered Revenues
21	Administered Financial Assets
22	Administered Equity
23	Appropriations
24	Trust Moneys
25	Reporting of Outcomes

**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
*for the year ended 30 June 2001*

**Note 1: Objectives of the Australian Bureau of Statistics**

The mission and outcome of the ABS is to assist and encourage informed decision making, research and discussion within governments and the community, by providing a high quality, objective and responsive national statistical service.

The ABS is structured to produce the aforementioned outcome through its Economic statistics and Population and Social statistics groups. Support Services consist of overheads, which have been allocated to the Economic and Population and Social statistical areas in these Financial Statements. Further information on ABS outcomes and outputs can be found in this Annual Report.

**Note 2: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

**(a) Basis of accounting**

The financial statements are required by section 49 of the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* (FMA Act) and are a general purpose financial report.

The statements have been prepared in accordance with Schedule 1 to the Financial Management and Accountability (Financial Statements 2000-2001) Orders made by the Minister for Finance for financial years ending on or after 30 June 2001.

The financial statements are prepared in compliance with Australian Accounting Standards and Accounting Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board, other authoritative pronouncements of the Boards, Urgent Issues Group consensus views, and having regard to Statements of Accounting Concepts and Explanatory Notes to Schedule 1 and Guidance Notes issued by the Department of Finance and Administration. All references to Schedule 1 refer to Schedule 1 of the *Financial Management and Accountability (Financial Statements 2000-2001) Orders*. The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and are in accordance with historical cost convention, except for certain assets which, as noted, are at valuation. Except where stated, no allowance is made for the effect of changing prices on the results or the financial position.

**(b) Changes in accounting policy**

Changes in accounting policy have been identified in this note under their appropriate headings.

**(c) Agency and administered items**

Agency assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses are those items that are controlled by the Agency and are used by the Agency to produce its outputs.

Administered items are those items which are controlled by the Government and managed or overseen by the Agency on behalf of the Government. In the ABS, administered items are minimal. Administered items are distinguished from agency items in the financial statements by shading.

**(d) Reporting by outcomes**

A comparison of Budget and Actual figures by outcome specified in the Appropriations Acts relevant to the Agency, is presented in Note 25. The net cost to Budget outcomes shown includes intra-government costs that are eliminated in calculating the actual outcomes for the Government overall.

**(e) Revenues from government**

Revenues from Government are revenues relating to the core operating activities of the Agency. Amounts and other details are given in Note 4A "Revenue from Government".

Appropriations to ABS for its departmental outputs are recognised as revenue to the extent that they have been received into the Agency's bank account or are entitled to be received by the Agency at year end.

Appropriations to ABS for departmental capital items are recognised directly in equity, to the extent that the appropriations have been received into the Agency's bank account or are entitled to be received by the Agency at year end.

The ABS has not, to date, required or received administered appropriations.

*Resources Received Free of Charge*

Resources received free of charge are recognised as revenue where the amounts can be reliably measured and the services would have been purchased if they had not been donated (Note 4A).

Use of those resources is recognised as an expense.

Contributions of assets at no cost of acquisition or for nominal considerations are recognised at their fair value when the asset qualifies for recognition, unless received from another government agency as a consequence of a restructuring of administrative arrangements.

**(f) Revenue from other sources**

Sales of goods and services includes revenue from the sale of publications and other products and the provision of statistical services. Revenue from sale of goods is recognised upon delivery of goods to customers. Revenue from the rendering of a service is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of contracts or other agreements to provide services. Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable for the financial assets. Revenue from sale of assets is recognised when control of the asset has passed to the buyer. Other revenues include contributions from officers towards the provision of communications services and motor vehicles and contributions and fees associated with conferences and seminars. Revenues controlled by the ABS are recognised as departmental revenue. Other revenues are classified as administered.

**(g) Administered Revenue**

The ABS leases premises for the purpose of processing Census forms. In non Census years the premises has been sublet and the net revenue from the sublease is returned to the Commonwealth.

**(h) Unearned revenue**

Unearned revenue includes revenue from subscriptions to statistical publications, provision of statistical consultancies and revenue from other agencies for statistical surveys. It is recognised on a proportional basis as the service is provided (Note 11B).

**(i) Employee entitlements**

*Leave*

The liability for employee entitlements includes provision for annual leave and long service leave. No provision has been made for sick leave as all sick leave is non-vesting and the average sick leave expected to be taken in future years by employees of the ABS is estimated to be less than the annual entitlement for sick leave.

The liability for annual leave reflects the value of total annual leave entitlements of all the employees at 30 June 2001 and is recognised at the nominal amount.

The non-current portion of the liability for long service leave is recognised and measured at the present value of the estimated future cash flows to be made in respect of all employees at 30 June 2001. In determining the present value of the liability, the ABS has taken into account attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and other pay increases. Related on-costs have also been included in the liability.

The employee entitlement provision includes superannuation on-costs payable to those employees who take their annual and long service leave prior to resignation or retirement. No superannuation is payable by the Agency when leave is cashed out on resignation or retirement.

*Separation and redundancy*

Provision is also made for separation and redundancy payments in circumstances where the ABS has formally identified positions as excess to requirements and a reliable estimate of the amount of the payments can be determined.

*Superannuation*

Staff of the ABS contribute to the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme or the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme. Employer contributions amounting to \$18,378,544 (1999-2000: \$17,785,445) in relation to these schemes have been expensed in these financial statements. No liability is shown for superannuation in the Agency Statement of Financial Position as the employer contributions extinguish fully the accruing liability which is assumed by the Commonwealth.

Employer Superannuation Productivity Benefit contributions totalled \$4,256,043 (1999-2000: \$3,956,419).

**(j) Leases**

Operating lease payments are charged to the Statement of Financial Performance on a basis which is representative of the pattern of benefits derived from the leased asset.

The fitout component of the Operating Leases is accounted for under Urgent Issues Group (UIG) Abstract 3 Lessee Accounting for Lease Incentives Under a Non-Cancellable Operating Lease (Note 9). A lease incentive, in the form of a rent free period and/or a contribution to fit-out costs, is a financing of the lessee's entry into the lease and is repaid by the lessee out of future lease payments that are higher than they would be if no incentive was provided.

In these financial statements, the lease incentive is recognised as a liability, which is reduced by allocating lease rental payments between interest (calculated by applying the interest rate implicit in the lease to the outstanding amount of the liability), rental expense and reduction of the liability. The allocation of lease

rental payments is made such that rental expense is recognised on a basis which is representative of the pattern of benefits derived from the rental property.

The net present value of future net outlays in respect of surplus space under non-cancellable lease agreements is expensed in the period in which the space becomes surplus. (Note 11C).

**(k) Cash and investments**

Cash includes cash at bank, cash on hand and investments (short-term deposits with the Reserve Bank of Australia).

**(l) Receivables**

A provision is made for any doubtful debts based on a review of all outstanding accounts as at year end (refer Note 7A). Bad debts are written off during the year in which they are identified.

**(m) Financial instruments**

Accounting policies for financial instruments are stated in Note 19.

**(n) Accrued revenue**

The ABS accrues revenue at the time that the goods are provided and/or the services are performed.

**(o) Depreciable assets**

*Asset recognition threshold*

Non-current assets that have a limited useful life (depreciable assets) are stated at cost, except as indicated in Note 8. Assets originally costing \$2,000 or more (\$1,000 for IT assets and all software assets) are capitalised in the year of acquisition. Component items purchased separately but which are configured into larger items such as office work stations and personal computer workstations and associated software are considered to be depreciable assets if the aggregate cost is \$2,000 or more.

*Revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment*

Schedule 1 requires that property, plant and equipment be progressively revalued in accordance with the 'deprival' method of valuation in successive three year cycles.

ABS has implemented its progressive revaluations as follows:

- (i) leasehold improvements, whether at cost or as part of a lease incentive, were initially revalued over the financial years 1998/99 to 1999/00 on a geographical basis;
- (ii) plant and equipment assets, whether at cost or as part of a lease incentive, were initially revalued over the financial years 1998/99 to 1999/00 by type of asset and on a geographical basis.
- (iii) in 1998/99 all computer hardware assets were revalued.

Assets in each class acquired after the commencement of the progressive revaluation cycle are reported at cost for the duration of the progressive revaluation then in progress.

The application of the deprival method by ABS values assets at their depreciated replacement cost. Any assets that would not be replaced or are surplus to requirements are valued at net realisable value. All valuations are independent.



*Internally generated software*

In its role as Australia's national statistical agency, the ABS builds and maintains a significant set of internally generated software (IGSW) assets. These assets are added to over time in line with the increasing range of statistical information sought by government, business and the general community, and the increasing use of technology, particularly in relation to collection, analysis and dissemination activities.

All software developed in-house since 1 July 1994 has been capitalised (Note 8E). The costing methodology capitalises direct salary and on costs, applicable information technology costs and some direct external costs. General, administration and overhead costs relating to software development have not been capitalised. The data capture systems in place were further refined to collect data in line with the requirements of *Schedule 1*.

*Recoverable amount test*

Schedule 1 requires the application of the recoverable amount test to departmental non-current assets in accordance with AAS 10 *Recoverable Amount of Non-Current Assets*. The carrying amount of the non-current assets have been reviewed to determine whether they are in excess of their recoverable amounts. In assessing the recoverable amounts the relevant cashflows have not been discounted to their present value.

**(p) Historical statistical data**

Statistical data have accumulated over many years and are stored for reference purposes. While having no value for accounting purposes historical time series data play an important part in the operations of the ABS as Australia's official statistical provider. The cost of storing and maintaining this data is treated as an operating expense.

**(q) Depreciation**

Depreciable assets are written off over their estimated useful lives. Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method which is consistent with the consumption of the service potential of the ABS' depreciable assets.

The estimated useful lives of the major asset classes are as follows:

	<b>2000/01</b>	1999/00
	<b>Life in Years</b>	Life in Years
Computer hardware	<b>3 to 10</b>	3 to 5
Computer software – proprietary	<b>5</b>	5
Computer software – internally generated	<b>2 to 28</b>	2 to 19
Furniture & fittings	<b>10</b>	10
Plant	<b>10</b>	10
Office equipment	<b>5</b>	5

The actual useful lives are revised at revaluation and may differ from those indicated above based on current information.

The ABS has long term commitments to surveys and data collection programs. These are supported by software packages that are required to be maintained for the same time period as the data collection and

analysis programs to ensure consistency in approach and of data treatment. The maximum useful life of some relevant packages is currently 28 years.

The aggregate amount of depreciation allocated for each class of asset during the reporting period is disclosed in Note 5C.

**(r) Capital work in progress**

Capital work in progress represents two main asset types, software assets under development and office refurbishments including the fitout for ABS House. Work in progress is disclosed in the Infrastructure, plant and equipment and Intangibles balances.

Software assets are not depreciated until the year in which the development phase is completed and the asset is operational. Where use of the asset commences after substantial completion of the development phase, but some improvements or enhancements to the system continue to be made, the date of substantial completion is treated as the date of completion and depreciation commences from this date.

**(s) Inventories**

Inventories comprise significant items held for resale and are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value (Note 8D). As part of the implementation of Print on Demand and supply of data via the internet, the inventory held has been rationalised.

Consumable stores and supplies are considered to be immaterial and are not recognised as inventories.

**(t) Other non-financial assets**

Other non-financial assets include prepayments for maintenance contracts, office rent, rights to childcare places at Bluebell Childcare Centre, security and subscriptions (Note 8F).

**(u) Insurance**

ABS has insured for risks through the Government's insurable risk managed fund called 'Comcover'. Workers compensation is insured through Comcare Australia.

**(v) Taxation**

The ABS' activities are exempt from all forms of taxation except Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) and Goods and Services Tax (GST).

**(w) Capital use charge**

A capital usage charge of 12% is imposed by the Commonwealth on the net departmental assets of the agency. The charge is adjusted to take account of asset gifts and revaluation increments/decrements during the financial year.

**(x) Rounding**

Amounts have been rounded to the nearest \$1,000 except in relation to the following notes:

- (i) act of grace payments and waivers;
- (ii) agency appropriations;
- (iii) remuneration of executives; and
- (iv) remuneration of auditors.

**(y) Comparative figures**

Where necessary and practicable, comparable figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation in these financial statements.

**(z) Foreign currency**

Transactions denominated in a foreign currency are converted at the exchange rate at the date of the transaction. Foreign currency receivables and payables are translated at the exchange rates current as at balance date. Associated currency gains and losses are not material.

**Note 3: Events Occurring After Balance Date**

There have been no events occurring subsequent to balance date that would affect the Australian Bureau of Statistics Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2001.

*Financial Statements*

	2000-01 \$'000	1999-00 \$'000
<b>Note 4: Operating Revenues</b>		
<u>Note 4A - Revenues from Government</u>		
Appropriations for outputs	264,001	241,845
Resources received free of charge	91	91
Total	264,092	241,936
 <u>Note 4B - Sales of Goods and Services</u>		
Goods	4,872	5,525
Services	13,944	15,943
Total	18,816	21,468
 <u>Note 4C - Proceeds and Expense from Sales of Assets</u>		
Non-financial assets - Infrastructure, plant and equipment:		
Revenue (proceeds) from sale	343	95
Expense from sale	( 169)	( 125)
Total	174	( 30)

	2000-01 \$'000	1999-00 \$'000
<b>Note 5: Operating Expenses</b>		
<u>Note 5A- Employee Expenses</u>		
Remuneration (for services provided)	153,815	149,557
Superannuation	23,742	22,415
Interviewers' wages and superannuation	7,552	8,039
Census wages and superannuation	3,611	157
Separation and redundancy	583	1,706
Total remuneration	<u>189,303</u>	<u>181,874</u>
Other employee expenses	3,962	3,169
Total	<u>193,265</u>	<u>185,043</u>
Less amounts capitalised in respect of internally generated software	<u>(13,580)</u>	<u>(16,494)</u>
Total	<u><u>179,685</u></u>	<u><u>168,549</u></u>

<u>Note 5B - Suppliers Expense</u>		
Supply of goods and services	47,897	43,084
Operating lease rentals <sup>1</sup>	16,679	15,653
Total	<u>64,576</u>	<u>58,737</u>

<sup>1</sup>These comprise minimum lease payments only.

<u>Note 5C - Depreciation and Amortisation</u>		
Depreciation of infrastructure, plant and equipment	3,296	3,893
Depreciation of computer hardware	6,797	7,072
Amortisation of leased assets, intangibles and prepayments	11,943	10,990
Total	<u>22,036</u>	<u>21,955</u>

The aggregate amount of depreciation or amortisation expensed during the reporting period for each class of depreciable asset are as follows:

Infrastructure, plant and equipment, furniture and fittings	4,971	5,053
Computer hardware	6,797	7,071
Intangibles	10,226	9,788
Prepayments	42	43
Total	<u>22,036</u>	<u>21,955</u>

No depreciation or amortisation was allocated to the carrying amounts of other assets.

<u>Note 5D - Write down of assets</u>		
Financial assets		
Receivables	15	12
Non-financial assets		
Inventory - write off	4,816	2,894
Software -write off	2,501	40
Total	<u>7,332</u>	<u>2,946</u>

*Financial Statements*

	2000-01 \$'000	1999-00 \$'000
<b>Note 6: Borrowing Cost Expenses</b>		
Leases	<u>427</u>	<u>507</u>
Total	<u><u>427</u></u>	<u><u>507</u></u>
<b>Note 7: Financial Assets</b>		
<u>Note 7A - Receivables</u>		
Goods and services	2,327	1,867
Less: Provision for doubtful debts	<u>(30)</u>	<u>(30)</u>
	<u>2,297</u>	<u>1,837</u>
<u>Note 7B - Other</u>		
GST receivable	1,145	199
Sundry Receivables	<u>1,585</u>	<u>144</u>
	<u>2,730</u>	<u>343</u>
Total Receivables	<u><u>5,027</u></u>	<u><u>2,180</u></u>
Receivables (gross) are aged as follows:		
Not overdue	1,907	1,566
Overdue by:		
Less than 30 days	287	259
30 to 60 days	31	21
60 to 90 days	47	9
More than 90 days	<u>55</u>	<u>12</u>
	<u>2,327</u>	<u>1,867</u>

	2000-01 \$'000	1999-00 \$'000
<b>Note 8: Non-financial Assets</b>		
<u>Note 8A - Infrastructure, Plant and equipment, (excluding Computer hardware)</u>		
Office refurbishments in progress	1,875	-
Fitout ABS House - in progress	6,933	-
	<u>8,808</u>	<u>-</u>
Plant and equipment - at cost	3,450	2,986
Accumulated depreciation	(1,439)	(1,151)
	<u>2,011</u>	<u>1,835</u>
Plant and equipment - at 1999-02 valuation <sup>1</sup>	25,827	28,650
Accumulated depreciation	(18,085)	(15,561)
	<u>7,742</u>	<u>13,089</u>
Plant and equipment - at 1997 - 1999 valuation	2,757	2,978
Accumulated depreciation	(2,353)	(2,270)
	<u>404</u>	<u>708</u>
Plant and equipment under lease - at cost	3,364	822
Accumulated amortisation	(1,722)	(344)
	<u>1,642</u>	<u>478</u>
Plant and equipment under lease - at 1999-02 valuation	13,738	16,470
Accumulated amortisation	(9,542)	(9,366)
	<u>4,196</u>	<u>7,104</u>
<b>Total Plant and Equipment, Furniture and Fittings (excluding Computer Hardware)</b>	<u><u>24,803</u></u>	<u><u>23,214</u></u>

<sup>1</sup> During the 2001/2002 financial year the ABS will vacate Cameron Offices in Canberra. The fitout assets for Cameron Offices have been reduced in value by \$2.8 million to bring the carrying value of these assets into line with their remaining useful life and residual value, given the assets will not be transferred to the new building.

*Financial Statements*

	2000-01 \$'000	1999-00 \$'000
<u>Note 8B - Computer hardware</u>		
Computer hardware received free of charge - at 1997-99 valuation	122	123
Accumulated depreciation	<u>( 87)</u>	<u>(57)</u>
	<u>35</u>	<u>66</u>
Computer hardware - at cost	26,043	7,560
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(9,450)</u>	<u>( 1,020)</u>
	<u>16,593</u>	<u>6,540</u>
Computer hardware - at 1999-02 valuation	983	983
Accumulated depreciation	<u>( 776)</u>	<u>(694)</u>
	<u>207</u>	<u>289</u>
Computer hardware - at 1997-99 valuation	22,952	34,437
Accumulated depreciation	<u>( 19,358)</u>	<u>(26,393)</u>
	<u>3,594</u>	<u>8,044</u>
Computer hardware - under lease	200	200
Accumulated depreciation	<u>( 200)</u>	<u>(200)</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Computer Hardware</b>	<u><u>20,429</u></u>	<u><u>14,939</u></u>
<b>Total Infrastructure, Plant and Equipment and Computer Hardware</b>	<u><u>45,232</u></u>	<u><u>38,153</u></u>



Note 8C - Analysis of Infrastructure, Plant, Equipment and Intangibles

TABLE A - Movement summary 2000-01 for all assets irrespective of valuation basis

Item	Infrastructure, Plant & Equipment, Furniture & Fittings	Computer Hardware	Computer Software - Total Intangibles	TOTAL
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Gross Value as at 1 July 2000</b>	51,906	43,303	127,434	<b>222,643</b>
Additions:	9,581	12,277	15,773	<b>37,631</b>
Revaluations: write ups/(write downs)	( 2,800)	-	-	<b>( 2,800)</b>
Assets transferred in/(out)	14	164	27	<b>205</b>
Write-offs	-	-	( 5,625)	<b>( 5,625)</b>
Disposals	( 757)	( 5,444)	( 89)	<b>( 6,290)</b>
<b>Gross value as at 30 June 2001</b>	<b>57,944</b>	<b>50,300</b>	<b>137,520</b>	<b>245,764</b>
<b>Accumulated Depreciation Amortisation as at 1 July 2000</b>	<b>28,692</b>	<b>28,364</b>	<b>54,310</b>	<b>111,366</b>
Depreciation/amortisation charge for the year	4,971	6,797	10,226	<b>21,994</b>
Revaluations: write ups/(write downs)	-	-	-	-
Assets transferred in /(out)	-	( 4)	4	-
Write-offs	-	-	( 3,124)	<b>( 3,124)</b>
Disposals	( 522)	( 5,286)	( 5)	<b>( 5,813)</b>
<b>Accumulated Depreciation / Amortisation as at 30 June 2001</b>	<b>33,141</b>	<b>29,871</b>	<b>61,411</b>	<b>124,423</b>
<b>Net book value as at 30 June 2001</b>	<b>24,803</b>	<b>20,429</b>	<b>76,109</b>	<b>121,341</b>
<b>Net book value as at 1 July 2000</b>	<b>23,214</b>	<b>14,939</b>	<b>73,124</b>	<b>111,277</b>

TABLE B - Summary of balances of assets at valuation as at 30 June 2001

Item	Infrastructure, Plant & Equipment, Furniture & Fittings	Computer Hardware	Computer Software - Total Intangibles	TOTAL
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>As at 30 June 2001</b>				
Gross value	42,322	24,057	25,861	92,240
Accumulated Depreciation /Amortisation	29,980	20,221	24,628	74,829
Net Book Value	12,342	3,836	1,233	17,411
<b>As at 30 June 2000</b>				
Gross value	48,098	35,543	27,921	111,562
Accumulated Depreciation/Amortisation	27,197	27,144	25,271	79,612
Net Book Value	20,901	8,399	2,650	31,950

TABLE C - Summary of balances of assets held under lease as at 30 June 2001 irrespective of valuation

Item	Infrastructure, Plant & Equipment, Furniture & Fittings	Computer Hardware	Computer Software - Total Intangibles	TOTAL
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>As at 30 June 2001</b>				
Gross value	17,102	200	-	17,302
Accumulated Depreciation /Amortisation	11,264	200	-	11,464
Net Book Value	5,838	-	-	5,838
<b>As at 30 June 2000</b>				
Gross value	17,292	200	-	17,492
Accumulated Depreciation/Amortisation	9,710	200	-	9,910
Net Book Value	7,582	-	-	7,582

**TABLE D - Summary of assets balances held under lease as at 30 June at valuation**

Item	Infrastructure, Plant & Equipment, Furniture & Fittings	Computer Hardware	Computer Software - Total Intangibles	TOTAL
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>As at 30 June 2001</b>				
Gross value	13,738	-	-	13,738
Accumulated Depreciation /amortisation	9,542	-	-	9,542
Net Book Value	4,196	-	-	4,196
<b>As at 30 June 2000</b>				
Gross value	16,470	-	-	16,470
Accumulated Depreciation/amortisation	9,366	-	-	9,366
Net Book Value	7,104	-	-	7,104

**TABLE E - Summary of work-in-progress as at 30 June 2001**

Item	Infrastructure, Plant & Equipment, Furniture & Fittings	Computer Hardware	Computer Software - Total Intangibles	TOTAL
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>As at 30 June 2001</b>				
Gross value	8,808	-	4,362	13,170
Accumulated Depreciation /amortisation	-	-	-	-
Net Book Value	8,808	-	4,362	13,170
<b>As at 30 June 2000</b>				
Gross value	-	-	11,525	11,525
Accumulated Depreciation/amortisation	-	-	-	-
Net Book Value	-	-	11,525	11,525

	2000-01 \$'000	1999-00 \$'000
--	-------------------	-------------------

**Note 8: Non-financial Assets (cont.)**

Note 8D - Inventories

All Departmental inventories are current assets.

Inventories held for sale	2,602	5,062
Less: Provision for obsolescence	-	(1,930)
Less: Provision for community service obligations	-	(236)
<b>Total Inventories</b>	<b>2,602</b>	<b>2,896</b>

All inventory held for sale is expected to be sold within twelve months of the reporting date.

Note 8E - Intangibles

Computer software:

Internally developed - in progress	4,362	11,525
At cost	107,297	87,988
Accumulated amortisation	( 36,783)	(29,039)
	70,514	58,949
Internally developed - at 1996 valuation	25,861	27,921
Accumulated amortisation	( 24,628)	(25,271)
	1,233	2,650
<b>Total Intangibles</b>	<b>76,109</b>	<b>73,124</b>

Note 8F - Other

Prepayments	8,451	4,606
	8,451	4,606

	2000-01 \$'000	1999-00 \$'000
<b>Note 9: Interest Bearing Liabilities</b>		
<u>Note 9A - Leases</u>		
Lease fitout incentive commitments		
Not later than 1 year	2,154	2,154
Later than one year and not later than five years	5,261	7,210
Later than five years	72	262
Minimum lease payments	<u>7,487</u>	<u>9,626</u>
Deduct: future finance charges	<u>( 846)</u>	<u>( 1,258)</u>
Lease Liability	<u><u>6,641</u></u>	<u><u>8,368</u></u>
Lease fitout incentive liability is represented by:		
Current	1,805	1,727
Non-current	<u>4,836</u>	<u>6,641</u>
	<u><u>6,641</u></u>	<u><u>8,368</u></u>
Lease fitout incentive movement		
Balance at 1 July	8,368	10,015
Repaid during the year	<u>( 1,727)</u>	<u>( 1,647)</u>
<b>Total Lease Fitout Incentive Liability</b>	<u><u>6,641</u></u>	<u><u>8,368</u></u>
<u>Note 9B - Other Debt</u>		
Lease rental incentives	<u>1,088</u>	<u>1,114</u>
<b>Total Interest Bearing Liabilities</b>	<u><u>7,729</u></u>	<u><u>9,482</u></u>

*Financial Statements*

	2000-01	1999-00
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Note 10: Provisions</b>		
<u>Note 10A - Employee Provisions</u>		
Salaries and wages	4,762	4,478
Long service leave	38,761	40,562
Recreation leave	18,984	17,969
Superannuation	670	649
Separation and redundancies	40	92
Total Employee provisions	63,217	63,750
Current	27,710	26,599
Non-current	35,507	37,151
<b>Note 11: Payables</b>		
<u>Note 11A - Suppliers Payables</u>		
Trade creditors	8,186	4,626
Sundry creditors	340	1,119
Operating lease rentals	3	-
Total	8,529	5,745
<u>Note 11B - Unearned revenue</u>		
Receipts in advance	2,996	1,608
Total	2,996	1,608
<u>Note 11C - Other</u>		
Provision for surplus lease space	65	180
GST payable	195	189
Other	5	-
Total	265	369
Total Payables	11,790	7,722

**Note 12: Equity**

Note 12A - Equity Table

Item	Accumulated results		Asset revaluation reserves		Capital		TOTAL EQUITY	
	2000-01 \$'000	1999-00 \$'000	2000-01 \$'000	1999-00 \$'000	2000-01 \$'000	1999-00 \$'000	2000-01 \$'000	1999-00 \$'000
Balance 1 July	36,772	39,055	11,417	8,127	11,250	11,250	59,439	58,432
Net surplus/(deficit) after extraordinary items		9,499	-	-	-	-	7,439	9,499
Equity injection: Appropriation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Changes in Accounting Policies	-	(4,125)	-	-	-	-	-	(4,125)
Dividends	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Use Charge	(7,110)	(7,657)	-	-	-	-	(7,110)	(7,657)
Net revaluation increments/decrements	-	-	(2,800)	3,290	-	-	(2,800)	3,290
Balance 30 June	37,101	36,772	8,617	11,417	11,250	11,250	56,968	59,439

	2000-01	1999-00
	\$'000	\$'000

**Note 13: Cash Flow Reconciliation**

Reconciliation of cash per Statement of Financial  
Position to Statement of Cash Flows

Cash at year end per Statement of Cash Flows	1,730	22,719
Statement of Financial Position items comprising above cash: 'Financial Asset - Cash'	1,730	22,719

Reconciliation of operating surplus to net cash provided by operating activities:

Operating surplus (deficit)	7,439	9,499
Depreciation/amortisation	22,036	21,955
Profit/loss on sale of non-current items	( 174)	30
Write down of assets	2,501	40
Increase in receivables	( 2,707)	( 785)
Decrease in inventories	295	1,322
(Increase) decrease in prepayments	( 3,845)	2,101
Increase in other assets	-	( 466)
Decrease in lease debt	( 1,755)	( 1,647)
Increase (decrease) in employee liabilities	( 534)	6,205
Increase in suppliers liability for operating expenditure	1,127	4,520
Increase (decrease) in other liabilities	1,283	( 788)
Net cash provided (used) by operating activities	25,666	41,986

**Note 14: Remote Contingencies**

There have been no remote contingencies identified by the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the financial year 2000/01.



2000-01

1999-00

**Note 15: Executive Remuneration**

The number of Executives who received or were due to receive total remuneration of \$100,000 or more:

	Number	Number
\$100,000 to \$110,000	1	-
\$110,001 to \$120,000	2	4
\$120,001 to \$130,000	2	10
\$130,001 to \$140,000	12	11
\$140,001 to \$150,000	8	1
\$150,001 to \$160,000	2	5
\$160,001 to \$170,000	3	3
\$170,001 to \$180,000	1	-
\$180,001 to \$190,000	2	-
\$220,001 to \$230,000	1	-
\$280,001 to \$290,000	1	1
\$570,001 to \$580,000	-	1

The aggregate amount of total remuneration of Executives shown above

**\$5,524,600**

\$5,532,946

The aggregate amount of separation and redundancy payments during the year to Executives shown above

Nil

\$572,790

Executive remuneration has been reported on an individual basis as compared to the prior year when it was reported on a position basis. The comparative has not been restated on a consistent basis as it is impractical to do so. Total remuneration includes the actual salary earned in the SES position, actual employer superannuation contributions and an actual cost of the non-salary component of the SES packages (e.g. provision of a car). It also includes performance pay and separation and redundancy expenses including associated leave/long service leave expenses.

**Note 16: Remuneration of Auditors**

\$

\$

Financial statement audit services are provided free of charge to the Bureau. The fair value of the services provided was:

**90,000**

90,000

No other services were provided by the Auditor-General.

Number

Number

**Note 17: Average staffing levels**

The average staffing levels for the ABS during the year, measured on a full time equivalent basis were:

**3,223**

3,115

**Note 18: Act of Grace Payments and Waivers and Defective Administration Scheme**

Note 18A - Act of grace payments

There were no Act of Grace payments made in accordance with section 33 of the FMA Act 1997 during the financial year 2000/01. (1999/00: Nil)

Note 18B - Waivers

There were no waivers of rights to payments to the Commonwealth made under section 34(1) of the FMA Act 1997 during the financial year 2000/01. (1999/00: Nil).

Note 18C - Defective Administration Scheme

There were no payments of compensation made under the Defective Administration scheme during the financial year 2000/01. (1999/00: Nil).

**Note 19: Financial Instruments**

a) Terms, conditions and accounting policies

<b>Financial Instruments</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Accounting Policies and Methods (including recognition criteria and measurement basis)</b>	<b>Nature of underlying instrument (including significant terms &amp; conditions affecting the amount, timing and certainty of cash flows)</b>
<i>Financial Assets</i>		Financial assets are recognised when control over future economic benefits is established and the amount of the benefit can be reliably measured.	
Cash		Deposits are recognised at their nominal amounts. Interest is credited to revenue as it accrues.	Monies in the ABS' bank accounts are swept into the Official Public Account nightly and interest is earned on the daily balances at rates advised by the Department of Finance and Administration. Rates have averaged 2.0% for the year (1999-00: 4.3%). Interest is paid quarterly.
Investments		Investments are recognised at their nominal amounts. Interest is credited to revenue as it accrues.	The ABS invests funds with the Reserve Bank of Australia at call. Rates have averaged 5.82% for the year. (1999-00: 5.98%). Interest is paid on maturity.
Receivables for goods and services	7A	The receivables are recognised at nominal amounts due less any provision for bad or doubtful debts. Collectability of debts is reviewed at balance date. Provisions are made when collection of the debt is judged to be less rather than more likely.	Receivables are with entities internal and external to the Commonwealth. Credit terms are 30 days (1999/00: 30 days).
Accrued Revenue		Revenue accrues and is recognised at the time the goods are provided and/or the services are performed.	As for Receivables.

Note 19 : Financial Instruments (cont.)

a) Terms, and conditions and accounting policies

Financial Instruments	Notes	Accounting Policies and Methods (including recognition criteria and measurement basis)	Nature of underlying instrument (including significant terms & conditions affecting the amount, timing and certainty of cash flows)
<i>Financial Liabilities</i>		Financial liabilities are recognised when a present obligation to another party is entered into and the amount of the liability can be reliably measured.	
Lease incentive liabilities	9A	Liabilities are recognised at the present value of the minimum lease payments at the beginning of the lease. The discount rates used are estimates of the interest rates implicit in the leases.	At the reporting date, the ABS had lease incentives with terms averaging 10 years and a maximum of 10 years. The interest rate implicit in the leases averaged 6% (1999/00: 6%)
Surplus lease space	11C	A liability for surplus lease space is recognised at the time it is first determined that the leased space will be of no future benefit to the ABS. The liability is measured as the total expected outlay relating to the surplus space. The amount of the liability is reduced on a straight line basis over the life of the lease by allocating lease payments between rental expense and reduction of the liability.	The liability arises under the ABS's non cancellable operating leases for office accommodation.
Trade creditors	11A	Creditors and accruals are recognised at their nominal amounts, being the amounts at which the liabilities will be settled. Liabilities are recognised to the extent that the goods and services have been received.	Creditors are entities both external and internal to the Commonwealth legal entity. Settlement is usually made net 30 days.

Note 19: Financial Instruments (cont.)

(b) Interest Rate Risk: Agency

Financial Instrument	Notes	Floating Interest Rate		Fixed Interest Rate						Non-Interest Bearing		Total		Weighted Average Effective Interest			
		Rate		1 to 2 years		2 to 5 years		Greater than 5 years		Bearing		Total		%			
		00-01 \$'000	99-00 \$'000	00-01 \$'000	99-00 \$'000	00-01 \$'000	99-00 \$'000	00-01 \$'000	99-00 \$'000	00-01 \$'000	99-00 \$'000	00-01 \$'000	99-00 \$'000	00-01 %	99-00 %		
<b>Financial Assets</b>																	
Cash at Bank		1,730	4,719	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,730	4,719	1,730	4,719	2.0	4.3
Investments		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18,000	5.82	5.9
Receivables for goods and services	7A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,327	1,867	2,327	1,867	2,327	1,867	n/a	n/a
Accrued revenue		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	553	693	553	693	553	693	n/a	n/a
<b>Total Financial Assets (recognised)</b>		<b>1,730</b>	<b>4,719</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,880</b>	<b>2,560</b>	<b>4,610</b>	<b>25,279</b>	<b>4,610</b>	<b>25,279</b>		
<b>Total assets</b>												<b>139,704</b>	<b>144,371</b>				
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>																	
Lease liabilities	9A	-	-	1,897	1,812	2,871	4,590	-	-	1,088	1,114	7,728	9,482	7,728	9,482	6.0	6.0
Trade creditors	11A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,189	4,626	8,189	4,626	n/a	8,189	4,626	n/a	n/a
Surplus lease space	11C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	65	180	65	180	n/a	65	180	n/a	n/a
<b>Total Financial Liabilities (recognised)</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,897</b>	<b>1,812</b>	<b>2,871</b>	<b>4,590</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>9,342</b>	<b>5,920</b>	<b>15,982</b>	<b>14,288</b>	<b>82,736</b>	<b>15,982</b>	<b>14,288</b>		
<b>Total liabilities</b>														<b>82,736</b>	<b>84,932</b>		

Note 19: Financial Instruments (Cont.)

c) Net Fair Values of Financial Assets and Liabilities

	Note	2000/01		1999/00	
		Total Carrying Amount	Aggregate net fair value	Total carrying amount	Aggregate net fair value
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Departmental Financial Assets</b>					
Cash at Bank		1,730	1,730	4,719	4,719
Investments		-	-	18,000	18,000
Receivables for Goods and Services	7A	2,327	2,327	1,867	1,867
Accrued revenue		553	553	693	693
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>		<b>4,610</b>	<b>4,610</b>	<b>25,279</b>	<b>25,279</b>
<b>Financial Liabilities (recognised)</b>					
Lease Incentives Liabilities	9	7,728	7,728	9,482	9,482
Trade Creditors	11A	8,189	8,189	4,626	4,626
Surplus Lease Space	11C	65	65	180	180
<b>Total Financial Liabilities (recognised)</b>		<b>15,982</b>	<b>15,982</b>	<b>14,288</b>	<b>14,288</b>

*Financial Assets*

The net fair value of cash and non-interest bearing monetary financial assets approximate their carrying amounts.

*Financial Liabilities*

The net fair value of the lease incentives and surplus lease space are based on discounted cash flows using current interest rates for liabilities with similar risk profiles. (Where the liability is on a floating rate of interest, the method returns the principal amount).

The net fair value for trade creditors are approximated by their carrying amounts.

**d) Credit risk exposures**

The ABS's maximum exposure to credit risk at reporting date in relation to each class of recognised financial assets is the carrying amount indicated in the Statement of Financial Position.

The ABS has no significant exposures to any concentrations of credit risk.

	2000-01	1999-00
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Note 20: Administered Revenues</b>		
<u>Note 20 - Other Administered</u>		
Revenue	269	1,014
Total	<u>269</u>	<u>1,014</u>

	2000-01 \$'000	1999-00 \$'000
<b>Note 21: Financial Assets</b>		
<u>Note 21 - Receivables</u>		
Goods and services	-	1,014
GST receivable	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,014</u>



**Note 22: Administered equity**

**Note 22 - Movements in Equity**

Item	Accumulated net change in administered net assets from operations		Administered investment reserve		Total reserves		Capital		TOTAL EQUITY	
	2000-01 \$'000	1999-00 \$'000	2000-01 \$'000	1999-00 \$'000	2000-01 \$'000	1999-00 \$'000	2000-01 \$'000	1999-00 \$'000	2000-01 \$'000	1999-00 \$'000
Balance 1 July	1,014	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,014	-
Net change in Administered net assets from operations	269	1,014	-	-	-	-	-	-	269	1,014
Amount to Official Commonwealth Public Account	(1,283)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1,283)	-
Restructuring transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Appropriations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance 30 June	-	1,014	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,104

**Note 23: Appropriations**

## Note 23A - Agency appropriations

<u>Annual appropriations for Departmental items (outputs)</u>	<b>2000-01</b>	1999-00
	\$	\$
Appropriation Acts No 1 & 3 credits:		
Section 7 - Act 1 - basic appropriations (budget)	<b>263,188,000</b>	243,716,000
Section 7 - Act 3 - basic appropriations	<b>813,000</b>	(1,697,000)
Section 10 - adjustments	-	-
Section 11 - Advance to the Finance Minister	-	-
Section 12 - Comcover receipts	-	-
Total Current Appropriation Acts	<b>264,001,000</b>	242,019,000
Add: FMA Act appropriations		
s30 appropriations	-	-
s30A appropriations (GST recoverable)	<b>6,641,359</b>	-
s31 appropriations	<b>22,660,343</b>	23,028,217
Total appropriations for the year	<b>29,301,702</b>	23,028,217
Balance brought forward from the previous period	<b>10,233,751</b>	-
Total appropriations available for payments	<b>303,536,453</b>	265,047,217
Appropriation not drawn	-	(200,000)
Payments during the year	<b>(300,285,192)</b>	(254,613,466)
Balance of appropriations (unspent) at 30 June carried to next period	<b>3,251,261</b>	10,233,751

Note 23B - Annual Appropriations for Department Capital Items

	Equity Injections		Loans		Carryovers		Total	
	2000-01 \$	1999-2000 \$	2000-01 \$	1999-2000 \$	2000-01 \$	1999-2000 \$	2000-01 \$	1999-2000 \$
Appropriation Act No 2 & 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Section 10 - Act No 2 (Budget)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Section 10 - Act No 4	-	-	-	-	-	11,250,000	-	11,250,000
Advance to Finance Minister	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Advance to Finance Minister	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Current Appropriations Acts	-	-	-	-	-	11,250,000	-	11,250,000
Add: FMA Act appropriations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
s30 appropriations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
s30A appropriations (GST recoverable)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total appropriated in the year	-	-	-	-	-	11,250,000	-	11,250,000
Balance available at 1 July brought forward from the previous period	-	-	-	-	11,250,000	-	11,250,000	-
Total appropriated available for payments	-	-	-	-	11,250,000	11,250,000	11,250,000	-
payments during the year	-	-	-	-	11,250,000	-	-	-
Balance of appropriations at 30 June carried to next period	-	-	-	-	-	11,250,000	-	11,250,000

**Note 24 - Trust Moneys**

Comcare Trust Fund

*Purpose* - monies held in trust and advanced to the Australian Bureau of Statistics by COMCARE for the purpose of distributing compensation payments made in accordance with the *Safety Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1998*.

	Trust Money	
	Comcare Trust Account	
	2000-01	1999-2000
	\$	\$
Balance carried forward from previous period	30,000	30,000
Receipts during the period	471,216	475,663
Available for payments	<u>501,216</u>	<u>505,663</u>
Payments made	<u>( 471,216)</u>	<u>(475,663)</u>
Balance carried forward to next period	<u><u>30,000</u></u>	<u><u>30,000</u></u>

Trust Fund Other Trust Money

*Purpose* - for the receipt of monies temporarily held on trust or otherwise for the benefit of a person other than the Commonwealth.

Legal authority *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997 Section 20*.

	Trust Money	
	Trust Fund Other Trust Money	
	2000-01	1999-2000
	\$	\$
Balance carried forward from previous period	10,896	10,379
Receipts during the period	4,960	517
Available for payments	<u>15,856</u>	<u>10,896</u>
Payments made	<u>(10)</u>	<u>-</u>
Balance carried forward to next period	<u><u>15,846</u></u>	<u><u>10,896</u></u>

Note 25 - Reporting of Outcomes

Reporting of Outcomes

	Outcome 1 2000/2001		Total	
	Actual \$'000	Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Budget \$'000
Net Subsidies, benefits and grants expenses	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other administered expenses				
Total net administered expenses	Nil	Nil		
Add Net cost of departmental outputs	256,653	256,959	256,653	256,959
Outcome before extraordinary items	-	-	-	-
Extraordinary items	-	-	-	-
<b>Net Cost to Budget Outcome</b>	<b>256,653</b>	<b>256,959</b>	<b>256,653</b>	<b>256,959</b>

Outcome - specific assets deployed as at 30/6/01	139,704	144,229	139,704	144,229
Assets that are not outcome specific deployed as at 30/6/01			-	-

Major Agency Revenues and Expenses by outcome

	Outcome 1	Total
	Output/Output Group 1	

	Actual \$'000	Actual \$'000
<b>Operating Revenues</b>		
Revenues from government	264,092	264,092
Sale of goods and services	18,816	18,816
Other non-taxation revenues	2,021	2,021
<b>Total operating revenues</b>	<b>284,929</b>	<b>284,929</b>
<b>Operating expenses</b>		
Employees	179,685	179,685
Suppliers	64,576	64,576
Other	32,802	32,802
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	<b>277,063</b>	<b>277,063</b>

**SECTION VI**

**APPENDIXES**

# PROGRAM STRUCTURE

## Appendix 1

### ABS PROGRAM STRUCTURE, 2000–01

	<i>Program components</i>
Economic Statistics Output(a)	National Accounts International Accounts International Trade Financial Accounts Public Sector Accounts Prices Business Statistics Economy Wide Statistics Small Business Statistics Science and Technology Agriculture Mining Manufacturing Construction Transport Service Industries Tourism Environment Statistical Consultancy Statistical Coordination Australian Economic Indicators Statistical Services and User Liaison
Population and Social Statistics Output(a)	Census of Population and Housing Demography Labour Statistics Social Statistics National Centres for Crime and Justice Statistics, Culture and Recreation Statistics, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics Geography

For footnote see end of table.

...continued

---

**ABS PROGRAM STRUCTURE, 2000–01 — continued**


---

	<i>Program components</i>
Corporate and Statistical Support	Mathematical Statistics Business Register Taxation Reform Analytical Services and Time Series Analysis Economic Standards Population Statistics Standards Population Surveys Dissemination Marketing and Public Affairs Client Services Library Services Information Technology Bureau Technology Application Data Management Technology Research SPEED Executive Human Resources Management Financial Resources Corporate Planning and Secretariat International Relations Economic Statistics Group Support Population Statistics Group Support Methodology Division Business Office Information Management Division Business Office Technology Services Division Support Corporate Services Division Support

---

(a) The outputs of the ABS are generated using inputs from both the corporate and statistical support components. The statistical components contributing to each output are listed under the relevant Output heading. The support components contribute to both the Economic Statistics and Population and Social Statistics Outputs.



## ESTIMATES OF COST BY OUTPUT AND COMPONENT Appendix 2

### ESTIMATES OF COST BY OUTPUT AND COMPONENT, 2000–01 (\$'000)

<i>Outputs</i>	<i>Direct Costs</i>	<i>Allocated Costs</i>	<i>Full Costs</i>	<i>%(a)</i>
	(A)	(B)	(A+B=C)	
Economic Statistics Output				
National Accounts	4 621	5 690	10 311	4.6
International Accounts	4 236	3 864	8 100	3.7
International Trade	2 112	3 331	5 443	2.5
Financial Accounts	2 000	1 968	3 968	1.8
Public Sector Accounts	4 084	2 997	7 081	3.2
Prices	8 008	8 500	16 508	7.4
Business Statistics	2 927	4 037	6 964	3.1
Economy Wide Statistics	2 894	5 706	8 600	3.9
Small Business Statistics	294	511	805	0.4
Science and Technology	2 150	2 737	4 887	2.2
Agriculture	3 268	4 395	7 663	3.5
Mining	738	1 082	1 820	0.8
Manufacturing	2 727	3 214	5 941	2.7
Construction	2 966	2 711	5 677	2.6
Transport	2 980	3 035	6 015	2.7
Service Industries	5 854	8 117	13 971	6.3
Tourism	931	879	1 810	0.8
Environment	1 225	1 471	2 696	1.2
Statistical Consultancy	773	989	1 762	0.8
Statistical Coordination	521	602	1 123	0.5
Australian Economic Indicators	322	555	877	0.4
Statistical Services and User Liaison	4 270	2 707	6 977	3.1
<i>Total Economic Statistics Output</i>	<i>59 901</i>	<i>69 098</i>	<i>128 999</i>	<i>58.2</i>
Population and Social Statistics Output				
Census of Population and Housing	41 586	14 140	55 726	n.a.
Demography	3 001	3 781	6 782	3.1
Labour Statistics	11 114	32 909	44 023	19.9
Social Statistics	7 163	18 608	25 771	11.6
National Centres for Crime and Justice Statistics, Culture and Recreation Statistics and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics	4 772	6 310	11 082	5.0
Geography	2 636	2 471	5 107	2.3
<i>Total Population and Social Statistics Output</i>	<i>70 272</i>	<i>78 219</i>	<i>148 491</i>	<i>41.8</i>
<i>Total ABS Outputs</i>	<i>130 173</i>	<i>147 317</i>	<i>277 490</i>	<i>—</i>
<i>Total ABS Outputs excluding Census(a)</i>	<i>88 587</i>	<i>133 177</i>	<i>221 764</i>	<i>100.0</i>

For footnotes see end of table.

...continued

## ESTIMATES OF COST BY OUTPUT AND COMPONENT, 2000-01 (\$'000) — continued

<i>Outputs</i>	<i>Direct Costs</i>	<i>Allocated Costs</i>	<i>Full Costs</i>	<i>%(a)</i>
	(A)	(B)	(A+B=C)	
Corporate and Statistical Support				
Mathematical Statistics	4 769	-4 769	—	—
Business Register	9 043	-9 043	—	—
Taxation Reform	1 417	-1 417	—	—
Analytical Services and Time Series Analysis	3 005	-3 005	—	—
Economic Standards	1 434	-1 434	—	—
Population Statistics Standards	1 601	-1 601	—	—
Population Surveys	24 720	-24 720	—	—
Dissemination	15 710	-15 710	—	—
Marketing and Public Affairs	2 908	-2 908	—	—
Client Services	1 459	-1 459	—	—
Library Services	1 834	-1 834	—	—
Information Technology Bureau(b)	265	-265	—	—
Technology Application(b)	1 108	-1 108	—	—
Data Management	2 995	-2 995	—	—
Technology Research	870	-870	—	—
SPEED	2 054	-2 054	—	—
Executive	5 467	-5 467	—	—
Human Resources Management(c)	15 825	-15 825	—	—
Financial Resources(c)	34 507	-34 507	—	—
Corporate Planning and Secretariat	1 496	-1 496	—	—
International Relations	752	-752	—	—
Economic Statistics Group Support	4 767	-4 767	—	—
Population Statistics Group Support	3 607	-3 607	—	—
Methodology Division Business Office	793	-793	—	—
Information Management Division Business Office	1 824	-1 824	—	—
Technology Services Division Support	1 151	-1 151	—	—
Corporate Services Division Support	1 936	-1 936	—	—
<i>Total Statistical Support</i>	<i>147 317</i>	<i>-147 317</i>	—	—
<b>Program total</b>	<b>277 490</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>277 490</b>	—

(a) The cost of the Population Census component varies so widely over the five-yearly Census cycle that it distorts the percentages applying to other statistical components. Accordingly, the full cost of the Population Census has been excluded from the calculation of percentages. (b) The majority of costs of this component were directly charged to other components and are not included here. (c) Includes corporately managed expenses.

# TOP STRUCTURE, STAFF AND PROGRAM COMPONENT RESPONSIBILITIES

## Appendix 3

TOP STRUCTURE, STAFF AND PROGRAM COMPONENT RESPONSIBILITIES — as at 30 June 2001

<i>Top structure and staff responsibilities</i>	<i>Program component</i>
<b>AUSTRALIAN STATISTICIAN</b>	
<i>Dennis Trewin</i>	Executive
<b>ECONOMIC STATISTICS GROUP</b>	
<i>Rob Edwards</i>	Economic Statistics Group Support Environment
Economic Accounts Division	
<i>Peter Harper</i>	Public Sector Accounts Business Statistics
National Accounts Branch	
<i>Charles Aspden</i>	National Accounts
International and Financial Accounts Branch	
<i>Ivan King</i>	International Accounts International Trade Financial Accounts
New Economy Statistics Branch	
<i>Russell Rogers</i>	Small Business Statistics Science and Technology Construction Transport Services Industries Tourism
Production Statistics Branch	
<i>Robin Slater</i>	Economy Wide Statistics Agriculture Mining Manufacturing SPEED
Integration Branch	
<i>Alan Mackay</i>	Business Register Economic Standards Taxation Reform
Prices Statistics Branch	
<i>Paul McCarthy</i>	Prices
<b>POPULATION STATISTICS GROUP</b>	
<i>Tim Skinner</i>	Population Statistics Group Support Population Statistics Standards
Social and Labour Division	
<i>Barbara Dunlop</i>	Social and Labour Division Support
Labour Statistics Branch	
<i>Garth Bode</i>	Labour Statistics

...continued

**TOP STRUCTURE, STAFF AND PROGRAM COMPONENT RESPONSIBILITIES** — *continued*

<i>Top structure and staff responsibilities</i>	<i>Program component</i>
Social Conditions Statistics Branch <i>Bob McColl</i>	Social Statistics National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics
Health and Community Statistics Branch <i>Marion McEwin</i>	National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics National Centre for Culture and Recreation Statistics
Census, Demography and Geography Branch <i>John Struik</i>	Census of Population and Housing Demography Geography
<b>OTHER DIVISIONS</b>	
Methodology Division <i>Geoff Lee</i>	Methodology Division Business Office Statistical Coordination
Analytical Services Branch <i>Ken Tallis</i>	Analytical Services
Statistical Services Branch <i>Frank Yu</i>	Mathematical Statistics Statistical Consultancy Australian Economic Indicators Time Series Analysis
Information Management Division <i>Siu-Ming Tam</i>	Information Management Division Business Office Marketing and Public Affairs
Information Services Branch <i>Dick Crockett</i>	Dissemination Client Services
Data Management Branch <i>Graeme Oakley</i>	Data Management Library Services
Population Surveys Branch <i>Glenn Cocking</i>	Population Surveys
Technology Services Division <i>Jonathan Palmer</i>	Technology Services Division Support
Technology Infrastructure Branch <i>Jenine Borowik</i>	Information Technology Bureau
Technology Application Branch <i>Dave Bennison</i>	Technology Application
Technology Research Branch <i>Bryan Fitzpatrick</i>	Technology Research

...continued

**TOP STRUCTURE, STAFF AND PROGRAM COMPONENT RESPONSIBILITIES — *continued***

<i>Top structure and staff responsibilities</i>	<i>Program component</i>
Corporate Services Division <i>Graeme Hope</i>	Corporate Services Division Support
Policy Secretariat Branch <i>Bronwyn Driscoll</i>	Corporate Planning and Secretariat International Relations
Human Resources Branch <i>Denis Farrell</i>	Human Resources Management
Financial Resources Branch <i>Kerrie Duff</i>	Financial Resources
<b>REGIONAL OFFICES</b> (a)	
New South Wales <i>Greg Bray</i>	
Victoria <i>Zia Abbasi</i>	
Queensland <i>Brian Doyle</i>	
Western Australia <i>Colin Nagle</i>	
South Australia <i>Ian Crettenden</i>	
Tasmania <i>Steve Matheson</i>	
Northern Territory <i>Robyn Elliott</i>	
Australian Capital Territory <i>Tracy Stewart</i>	

(a) Includes the Statistical Services and User Liason component.

# STAFFING OVERVIEW

## Appendix 4

### 4.1 NUMBER OF FULL TIME EQUIVALENT(a) STAFF EMPLOYED UNDER THE PUBLIC SERVICE ACT 1999: BY PROGRAM COMPONENTS(b) AND LOCATION (staff years)

Program components	1998–	1999–	2000–01											
	99	2000	Total	CO	NSW	Vic.	Qld	WA	SA	Tas.	NT	ACT	DPC	Total
National Accounts	63	57	59	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	59
International Accounts	52	53	52	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	52
International Trade	31	28	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25
Financial Accounts	26	26	17	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	27
Public Sector Accounts	57	56	24	5	7	5	4	4	3	2	—	—	—	55
Prices	107	117	65	26	8	6	5	4	3	2	—	—	—	118
Business Statistics	50	53	3	53	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	56
Economy Wide Statistics	36	37	39	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	39
Small Business Statistics	11	5	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Science and Technology	15	31	16	—	14	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	35
Agriculture	50	50	9	—	—	1	—	—	37	—	—	—	—	46
Mining	11	11	1	—	—	—	—	8	—	3	—	—	—	11
Manufacturing	62	58	2	47	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	51
Construction	56	50	2	—	—	—	—	45	—	—	—	—	—	46
Transport	37	47	4	—	—	44	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	48
Service Industries	92	120	38	1	36	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	81
Tourism	13	15	3	—	—	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16
Environment	10	14	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18
Statistical Consultancy	10	10	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
Statistical Coordination	6	6	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Australian Economic Indicators	4	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Statistical Services and User Liaison	70	70	—	10	12	14	5	9	10	3	5	—	—	67
Census of Population and Housing	67	94	87	18	17	11	13	7	4	8	3	20	—	188
Demography	47	46	24	4	—	10	3	4	2	1	—	—	—	45
Labour Statistics	158	163	60	—	4	—	103	—	—	—	—	—	—	167
Social Statistics	94	111	88	2	—	17	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	111
National Centres for Crime and Justice Statistics, Culture and Recreation Statistics, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics	54	51	—	1	20	1	2	12	—	16	—	—	—	52
Geography	24	30	28	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28
Mathematical Statistics	64	64	46	4	5	2	5	5	3	—	—	—	—	69
Business Register	84	66	6	6	37	—	2	—	8	—	—	—	—	59

For footnotes see end of table.

...continued

**4.1 NUMBER OF FULL TIME EQUIVALENT(a) STAFF EMPLOYED UNDER THE PUBLIC SERVICE ACT 1999: BY PROGRAM COMPONENTS(b) AND LOCATION (staff years) — continued**

Program components	1998–	1999–	2000–01											
	99	2000	Total	CO	NSW	Vic.	Qld	WA	SA	Tas.	NT	ACT	DPC	Total
Taxation Reform	47	55	22	15	25	4	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	71
Analytical Services and Time Series Analysis	22	26	35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	35
Economic Standards	16	19	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20
Population Statistics Standards	21	25	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23
Population Surveys	204	192	68	29	23	26	18	23	8	6	—	—	—	201
Dissemination	68	68	44	—	20	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	68
Marketing and Public Affairs	43	38	26	2	—	3	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	35
Client Services	133	141	25	35	24	12	13	7	5	4	3	—	—	128
Library Services	24	23	13	3	3	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	22
Information Technology Bureau	192	220	187	9	7	10	9	6	8	2	—	—	—	238
Technology Application	213	220	150	8	8	12	12	9	13	—	—	—	—	210
Data Management	13	12	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13
Technology Research	7	7	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
SPEED	6	10	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16
Executive	45	46	1	8	8	5	5	6	5	5	2	—	—	47
Human Resources Management	138	143	89	11	8	15	8	7	4	3	—	—	—	145
Financial Resources	109	112	64	8	15	6	7	5	3	3	—	—	—	111
Corporate Planning and Secretariat	14	14	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14
International Relations	4	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Economic Statistics Group Support	48	52	12	9	12	3	10	4	3	2	—	—	—	53
Population Statistics Group Support	47	36	20	7	—	3	—	5	2	2	—	—	—	39
Methodology Division Business Office	5	5	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Information Management Division Business Office	11	11	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
Technology Services Division Support	7	10	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
Corporate Services Division Support	15	12	12	—	—	1	3	2	—	—	1	—	—	19
<b>Total Operative Staff</b>	<b>2 911</b>	<b>3 045</b>	<b>1 626</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>139</b>
Paid Inoperative Staff(c)	74	70	46	11	7	5	6	4	2	2	—	—	—	84
<b>Total Staff</b>	<b>2 985</b>	<b>3 115</b>	<b>1 672</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>223</b>

(a) Comprises full time staff and part time staff at their full time equivalent. Excludes unpaid inoperative staff. (b) Figures for 1998–99 and 1999–2000 have been revised to reflect changes to the program structure for 2000–01. (c) Includes staff on periods of leave longer than 12 weeks, for example, staff on long service leave, extended sick leave etc.

Note: Any differences between totals and sums of components are due to rounding.

**4.2 NUMBER OF ABS STAFF EMPLOYED UNDER THE PUBLIC SERVICE ACT 1999: BY LOCATION, GENDER AND CLASSIFICATION, AT 30 JUNE (headcount)(a)**

<i>Year and classification</i>	<i>CO</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>DPC</i>	<i>Total</i>
MALES											
<b>1999</b>											
Total staff	888	187	152	116	116	114	93	19	4	—	1 689
<b>2000</b>											
Total staff	952	203	167	124	130	111	85	19	2	—	1 793
<b>2001</b>											
Operative and paid inoperative staff											
Australian Statistician	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Senior Executive Service	24	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	30
Executive Officer											
Executive Officer Level 2	108	6	6	5	7	5	5	—	—	4	146
Executive Officer Level 1	190	21	18	8	7	12	9	4	2	12	283
Australian Public Service											
APS Level 6	267	33	37	28	35	27	19	8	—	11	465
APS Level 5	116	36	32	27	30	18	14	10	3	3	289
APS Level 4	110	45	40	18	16	22	18	4	3	3	278
APS Level 3	32	36	23	19	19	12	8	2	1	4	156
APS Level 2	20	8	10	8	5	6	7	1	—	6	71
APS Graduate	13	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	15
APS Level 1	1	2	—	2	3	—	1	—	—	10	19
APS Cadet	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	7
Total operative and paid inoperative staff	888	188	167	116	125	103	82	30	9	52	1 760
Unpaid inoperative staff	25	3	3	2	3	1	2	1	—	—	40
<b>Total staff</b>	<b>913</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>1 800</b>

For footnote see end of table.

...continued



**4.2 NUMBER OF ABS STAFF EMPLOYED UNDER THE PUBLIC SERVICE ACT 1999: BY LOCATION, GENDER AND CLASSIFICATION, AT 30 JUNE (headcount)(a) — continued**

Year and classification	CO	NSW	Vic.	Qld	WA	SA	Tas.	NT	ACT	DPC	Total
FEMALES											
<b>1999</b>											
Total staff	787	128	137	119	118	83	58	34	9	—	1 473
<b>2000</b>											
Total staff	840	142	151	144	140	82	44	37	12	—	1 592
<b>2001</b>											
Operative and paid inoperative staff											
Senior Executive Service	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Executive Officer											
Executive Officer Level 2	35	2	2	1	—	2	—	3	1	1	47
Executive Officer Level 1	145	7	16	8	8	7	2	6	1	8	208
Australian Public Service											
APS Level 6	182	15	32	12	12	4	9	7	1	17	291
APS Level 5	167	43	31	19	21	19	9	9	2	3	323
APS Level 4	108	34	35	21	32	18	10	12	4	2	276
APS Level 3	74	45	28	36	25	15	8	4	2	7	244
APS Level 2	37	10	8	12	9	10	7	2	—	8	103
APS Graduate	15	—	—	3	2	3	2	—	—	—	25
APS Level 1	1	14	16	13	11	8	12	2	—	—	77
APS Cadet	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	6
Total operative and paid inoperative staff	774	170	168	125	120	86	59	47	11	46	1 606
Unpaid inoperative staff	44	8	9	6	5	5	1	—	—	—	78
<b>Total staff</b>	<b>818</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>1 684</b>

For footnote see end of table.

...continued

**4.2 NUMBER OF ABS STAFF EMPLOYED UNDER THE PUBLIC SERVICE ACT 1999: BY LOCATION, GENDER AND CLASSIFICATION, AT 30 JUNE (headcount)(a) — continued**

Year and classification	CO	NSW	Vic.	Qld	WA	SA	Tas.	NT	ACT	DPC	Total
	TOTAL										
<b>1999</b>											
Total staff	1 675	315	289	235	234	197	151	53	13	—	3 162
<b>2000</b>											
Total staff	1 792	345	318	268	270	193	129	56	14	—	3 385
<b>2001</b>											
Operative and paid inoperative staff											
Australian Statistician	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Senior Executive Service	30	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	36
Executive Officer											
Executive Officer Level 2	143	8	8	6	7	7	5	3	1	5	193
Executive Officer Level 1	335	28	34	16	15	19	11	10	3	20	491
Australian Public Service											
APS Level 6	449	48	69	40	47	31	28	15	1	28	756
APS Level 5	283	79	63	46	51	37	23	19	5	6	612
APS Level 4	218	79	75	39	48	40	28	16	7	4	554
APS Level 3	106	81	51	55	44	27	16	6	3	11	400
APS Level 2	57	18	18	20	14	16	14	3	—	14	174
APS Graduate	28	—	—	3	4	3	2	—	—	—	40
APS Level 1	2	16	16	15	14	8	13	2	—	10	96
APS Cadet	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	13
Total operative and paid inoperative staff	1 662	358	335	241	245	189	141	77	20	98	3 366
Unpaid inoperative staff	69	11	12	8	8	6	3	1	—	—	118
<b>Total staff</b>	<b>1 731</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>3 484</b>

(a) Being paid at the classification shown at 30 June each year. Includes the Australian Statistician, who is a statutory office holder appointed under the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*. Excludes casual staff employed for short periods for population surveys.

**4.3 NUMBER OF ABS STAFF EMPLOYED UNDER THE PUBLIC SERVICE ACT 1999: BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS, GENDER AND CLASSIFICATION, AT 30 JUNE (headcount)(a)**

Year and classification	Ongoing			Non-Ongoing			Gender		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
<b>FULL TIME EMPLOYEES</b>									
<b>1999</b>									
Total staff	1 604	1 147	2 751	45	111	156	1 649	1 258	2 907
<b>2000</b>									
Total staff	1 670	1 235	2 905	67	101	168	1 737	1 336	3 073
<b>2001</b>									
Operative and paid inoperative staff									
Australian Statistician	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Senior Executive Service	30	6	36	—	—	—	30	6	36
Executive Officer									
Executive Officer Level 2	142	39	181	1	1	2	143	40	183
Executive Officer Level 1	272	171	443	5	4	9	277	175	452
Australian Public Service									
APS Level 6	452	242	694	3	4	7	455	246	701
APS Level 5	260	269	529	25	10	35	285	279	564
APS Level 4	254	235	489	15	9	24	269	244	513
APS Level 3	115	153	268	29	41	70	144	194	338
APS Level 2	30	34	64	36	48	84	66	82	148
APS Graduate	15	25	40	—	—	—	15	25	40
APS Level 1	3	7	10	10	—	10	13	7	20
APS Cadet	7	5	12	—	—	—	7	5	12
Total operative and paid inoperative staff	1 581	1 186	2 767	124	117	241	1 705	1 303	3 008
Unpaid inoperative staff	39	62	101	—	—	—	39	62	101
<b>Total staff</b>	<b>1 620</b>	<b>1 248</b>	<b>2 868</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>1 744</b>	<b>1 365</b>	<b>3 109</b>

For footnote see end of table.

...continued

**4.3 NUMBER OF ABS STAFF EMPLOYED UNDER THE PUBLIC SERVICE ACT 1999: BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS, GENDER AND CLASSIFICATION, AT 30 JUNE (headcount)(a) — continued**

Year and classification	Ongoing			Non-Ongoing			Gender		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
PART TIME EMPLOYEES									
<b>1999</b>									
Total staff	32	191	223	8	24	32	40	215	255
<b>2000</b>									
Total staff	38	221	259	18	35	53	56	256	312
<b>2001</b>									
Operative and paid inoperative staff									
Executive Officer									
Executive Officer Level 2	2	7	9	1	—	1	3	7	10
Executive Officer Level 1	5	30	35	1	3	4	6	33	39
Australian Public Service									
APS Level 6	9	45	54	1	—	1	10	45	55
APS Level 5	4	44	48	—	—	—	4	44	48
APS Level 4	9	32	41	—	—	—	9	32	41
APS Level 3	5	41	46	7	9	16	12	50	62
APS Level 2	3	13	16	2	8	10	5	21	26
APS Level 1	2	56	58	4	14	18	6	70	76
APS Cadet	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
Total operative and paid inoperative staff	39	269	308	16	34	50	55	303	358
Unpaid inoperative staff	1	16	17	—	—	—	1	16	17
<b>Total staff</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>375</b>

For footnote see end of table.

...continued

**4.3 NUMBER OF ABS STAFF EMPLOYED UNDER THE PUBLIC SERVICE ACT 1999: BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS, GENDER AND CLASSIFICATION, AT 30 JUNE (headcount)(a) — continued**

Year and classification	Ongoing			Non-Ongoing			Gender		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
TOTAL									
<b>1999</b>									
Total staff	1 636	1 338	2 974	53	135	188	1 689	1 473	3 162
<b>2000</b>									
Total staff	1 708	1 456	3 164	85	136	221	1 793	1 592	3 385
<b>2001</b>									
Operative and paid inoperative staff									
Australian Statistician	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Senior Executive Service	30	6	36	—	—	—	30	6	36
Executive Officer									
Executive Officer Level 2	144	46	190	2	1	3	146	47	193
Executive Officer Level 1	277	201	478	6	7	13	283	208	491
Australian Public Service									
APS Level 6	461	287	748	4	4	8	465	291	756
APS Level 5	264	313	577	25	10	35	289	323	612
APS Level 4	263	267	530	15	9	24	278	276	554
APS Level 3	120	194	314	36	50	86	156	244	400
APS Level 2	33	47	80	38	56	94	71	103	174
APS Graduate	15	25	40	—	—	—	15	25	40
APS Level 1	5	63	68	14	14	28	19	77	96
APS Cadet	7	6	13	—	—	—	7	6	13
Total operative and paid inoperative staff	1 620	1 455	3 075	140	151	291	1 760	1 606	3 366
Unpaid inoperative staff	40	78	118	—	—	—	40	78	118
<b>Total staff</b>	<b>1 660</b>	<b>1 533</b>	<b>3 193</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>1 800</b>	<b>1 684</b>	<b>3 484</b>

(a) Being paid at the classification shown at 30 June each year. Includes the Australian Statistician, who is a statutory office holder appointed under the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*. Excludes casual staff employed for short periods for population surveys.

## 4.4 REPRESENTATION OF EEO GROUPS: ONGOING ABS STAFF AT 30 JUNE 2001(a)

Level	Number of staff and percentage of total staff						
	Total Ongoing Staff	Women	NESB1	NESB2	ATSI	PWD	EEO Coverage
Australian Public Service Level 1 and equivalent classifications	81	69	2	2	5	5	51
%	—	85.2	2.5	2.5	6.2	6.2	63.0
Australian Public Service Level 2 and equivalent classifications	121	73	12	14	3	11	118
%	—	60.3	9.9	11.6	2.5	9.1	97.5
Australian Public Service Level 3 and equivalent classifications	331	207	38	39	4	20	324
%	—	62.5	11.5	11.8	1.2	6.0	97.9
Australian Public Service Level 4 and equivalent classifications	553	281	68	56	4	22	548
%	—	50.8	12.3	10.1	0.7	4.0	99.1
Australian Public Service Level 5 and equivalent classifications	600	332	61	54	4	14	591
%	—	55.3	10.2	9.0	0.7	2.3	98.5
Australian Public Service Level 6 and equivalent classifications	776	308	79	54	4	38	771
%	—	39.7	10.2	7.0	0.5	4.9	99.4
Executive Level 1 and equivalent classifications	490	207	37	24	1	19	482
%	—	42.2	7.6	4.9	0.2	3.9	98.4
Executive Level 2 and equivalent classifications	200	49	17	9	—	7	198
%	—	24.5	8.5	4.5	—	3.5	99.0
Senior Executive Service	41	7	2	1	—	3	41
%	—	17.1	4.9	2.4	—	7.3	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 193</b>	<b>1 533</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>3 124</b>
% of total staff	—	48.0	9.9	7.9	0.8	4.4	97.8

(a) Inoperative staff are included in each category.

Note: EEO groups are not mutually exclusive and any individual officer may be included in more than one group. Percentages are based on total staff. Salary groupings are based on maximum salary for classification. EEO coverage is the number of staff who have elected to provide EEO information.

**Key**

NESB1 — People with non-English speaking background, first generation.

NESB2 — People with non-English speaking background, second generation.

ATSI — Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander people.

PWD — People with disabilities.

**4.5 STAFF ENGAGED UNDER THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS ACT 1905  
(staff years)**

<i>Purpose</i>	<i>1998–99</i>	<i>1999–2000</i>	<i>2000–01</i>
Interviewer enumerated statistical collections (mainly household surveys)	201	217	214
Census of population and housing (including preparations for the census)	—	19	61
<b>Total</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>275</b>

**4.6 ABS INTAKE AND SEPARATIONS OF ONGOING STAFF 2000–01(a)  
(number)**

<i>Method of intake and type of separation</i>	<i>SES</i>	<i>Non SES</i>	<i>Total</i>
<b>Intake</b>			
Appointment—National Graduate Recruitment Campaign	—	121	121
Appointment—Other	—	117	117
Promotion or transfer from outside the ABS	—	36	36
<b>Total Intake</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>274</b>
<b>Separations</b>			
Promotion or transfer to outside the ABS	—	70	70
Resignation	—	179	179
Death	—	2	2
Dismissal	—	2	2
Retirement—Invalidity	—	5	5
Retirement—Age 55–59 years	—	13	13
Retirement—Age 60–64 years	—	12	12
Retirement—Age 60 years and over	—	3	3
Retirement—Other(b)	—	17	17
<b>Total Separations</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>303</b>

(a) Excludes non-ongoing inward and outward movements. (b) Includes staff retired under Section 76R and Section 76W of the *Public Service Act 1922*, and Section 29 and Section 30 of the *Public Service Act 1999*.

#### 4.7 NUMBER OF ABS SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE STAFF BY SALARY LEVEL, GENDER AND LOCATION AT 30 JUNE

Year and location	Salary Band			Gender		
	1	2	3	Male	Female	Total
1999 Total	25	6	2	29	4	33
2000 Total	26	5	2	28	5	33
2001						
Australian Capital Territory	21	6	2	24	5	29
New South Wales	1	—	—	1	—	1
Victoria	1	—	—	1	—	1
Queensland	1	—	—	1	—	1
South Australia	1	—	—	1	—	1
Western Australia	1	—	—	1	—	1
Tasmania	1	—	—	1	—	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>35</b>

#### 4.8 ABS STAFF TRAINING(a) (number)

	1998–99	1999–2000	2000–01
Total ABS operative staff(b)	2 911	3 045	3 139
Staff attendances at training	15 272	17 673	14 850
Attendance days	15 363	17 691	15 731
Average training days	5.3	5.8	5.0

(a) Excludes on-the-job training. (b) Comprises full time and part time staff at their full time equivalent.

In previous annual reports, this table included a measure of ‘trainer days’. This has been replaced by a more meaningful measure, ‘average training days’ which is the average number of training days undertaken by ABS staff members.

There are a number of reasons for the apparent decline in attendances at training in 2000–01. Additional courses and training opportunities were offered in 1999–2000 to catch up with a backlog of demand and the previous year’s numbers also included 500 people on security awareness training. More on-line training was offered in 2000–01 which is not included in the above figures. Generally, the ABS has restructured course content to better focus on business needs and, where possible, to reduce the length of courses. A number of courses were offered less frequently than in 1999–2000. There were no national Information Technology (IT) rollout training campaigns which required formal classroom training. The release of Notes R5 was achieved through information sessions conducted by the IT area (not included in the above figures) together with the placement of local experts to impart knowledge and assist users.



**NUMBER OF STAFF COVERED BY A CERTIFIED AGREEMENT OR AN AUSTRALIAN WORKPLACE AGREEMENT (AWA), BY THE SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE (SES) AND NON-SES**

Number of SES staff covered by an AWA at 30 June 2001 = 35

Number of ABS staff covered by an AWA at 30 June 2001 = 407

Number of ABS staff covered by the *ABS Certified Agreement 2001–2003* at 30 June 2001 = 2923

Number of interviewers covered by the *ABS (Interviewers) Certified Agreement 1998–2000* at 30 June 2001 = 638

Number of non-ongoing staff covered by the *ABS Census Data Processing Centre Certified Agreement 2001–2002* at 30 June 2001 = 36

**4.9 SALARY RANGES AVAILABLE BY CLASSIFICATION STRUCTURE FROM 6 JULY 2000**

<i>Level</i>	<i>Minimum</i> \$	<i>Maximum</i> \$
APS1 — Adult	25 662	29 685
APS2	27 633	33 707
APS3	31 474	37 367
APS4	35 079	41 897
APS5	39 126	45 637
APS6	42 259	53 397
Executive Level 1	51 950	64 299

**4.10 SALARY RANGES AVAILABLE BY CLASSIFICATION STRUCTURE FROM 4 JANUARY 2001**

<i>Level</i>	<i>Minimum</i> \$	<i>Maximum</i> \$
Executive Level 2	60 208	83 271
SES1	94 134	n.a.
SES2	114 807	n.a.
SES3	137 453	n.a.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE ABS REMUNERATION SYSTEM**

The ABS remuneration system is two tiered. There is a percentage based general salary increase which includes a component of productivity. All staff who perform satisfactorily or better receive this salary increase. Employees can receive a further salary increase based upon a performance rating. Both components are a permanent increase to an employee's salary. These arrangements provided an average pay increase of 3.5 per cent in 2000–01.

The tables below provide information in respect of staff who received the additional performance based salary increase.

#### 4.11 STAFF PAID PERFORMANCE PAY IN JULY 2000

<i>Level</i>	<i>Number</i>
APS1	129
APS2	68
APS3	327
APS4	457
APS5	462
APS6	591
Executive Level 1	373

#### 4.12 STAFF PAID PERFORMANCE PAY IN JANUARY 2001

<i>Level</i>	<i>Number</i>
Executive Level 2	152
SES1	20
SES2 and 3	5

#### 4.13 AGGREGATED PERFORMANCE PAYMENTS MADE TO ABS STAFF IN JULY 2000

<i>Level</i>	<i>\$</i>
APS1	112 970
APS2	64 780
APS3	316 374
APS4	428 270
APS5	456 768
APS6	665 968
Executive Level 1	494 000

#### 4.14 AGGREGATED PERFORMANCE PAYMENTS MADE TO ABS STAFF IN JANUARY 2001

<i>Level</i>	<i>\$</i>
Executive Level 2	215 838
SES1	37 790
SES2 and 3	16 790

**4.15 AVERAGE PERFORMANCE PAYMENTS MADE TO ABS STAFF IN JULY 2000**

<i>Level</i>	\$
APS1	876
APS2	953
APS3	968
APS4	937
APS5	989
APS6	1 127
Executive Level 1	1 324

**4.16 AVERAGE PERFORMANCE PAYMENTS MADE TO ABS STAFF IN JANUARY 2001**

<i>Level</i>	\$
Executive Level 2	1 420
SES1	1 890
SES2 and 3	3 358

**REWARD AND RECOGNITION**

The ABS operates a reward and recognition scheme to recognise exceptional one-off achievements by individuals or workgroups. Rewards under the scheme may be in the form of certificates, hospitality (such as workgroup lunches), prepaid vouchers and cash bonuses. Total expenditure on the scheme in 2000–01 was \$121,645.

# OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

## Appendix 5

The ABS is committed to the health, safety and welfare of all its employees. A dedicated unit in Central Office, complemented by individual employees in Regional Offices, ensures the requirements of the relevant legislation are observed.

A network of Occupational Health and Safety Committees is the vehicle for consultation on issues affecting staff.

During 2000–01, 269 staff were selected and trained as Health and Safety Representatives (HSRs) under the *Occupational Health and Safety (Commonwealth Employment) Act 1991 (the Act)*.

### Investigations

An Improvement Notice under section 47(1) of the Act was issued to the ABS by a Comcare appointed investigator on 15 December 2000. The notice stated that the ABS failed to consult with HSRs, as requested, and provide them with information related to health and safety issues. The investigator ceased the notice on 14 February 2001 on the grounds that the ABS had developed a method to allow information to be available to HSRs.

On 8 February 2001 a Provisional Improvement Notice was issued to the ABS by a HSR. The notice stated that the ABS failed to consult under section 30(1)(a) of the Act about changes at the workplace, and the implementation of new accommodation standards, and failed to consult with HSRs, as requested, on matters relating to accommodation standards, guidelines, and/or fit out specifications for ABS House. The ABS requested an investigation into the matter. The investigator cancelled the Provisional Improvement Notice on 15 February 2001 on the basis that the ABS had not contravened paragraph 30(1)(a) and subsection 47(6) of the Act.

### Accidents

There were 370 reported accidents and incidents in 2000–01 (compared with 316 in 1999–2000). The reported accidents fall into the following broad categories:

#### 5.1 REPORTED ACCIDENTS AND INCIDENTS

	1999–2000	2000–01
Motor vehicle/journey related accidents	56	92
Accidents as a result of sporting injuries	13	18
Back injuries	24	25
Occupational overuse syndrome	29	26
Stress	1	1
Other work-based incidents and accidents	193	208
<b>Total</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>370</b>

Injury types are categorised according to the major injury type or cause. The 'other' category includes sprains and strains, trips and slips, and injury types not specifically diagnosed by a medical practitioner.

There were 81 lost time injuries in 2000–01 (compared to 62 lost time injuries in 1999–2000).

#### Compensation Claims

During 2000–01, 93 compensation claims (compared with 116 in 1999–2000) were submitted, 33 (50 in 1999–2000) of which required implementation of a Return to Work Plan. There were 50 (40 in 1999–2000) compensation case closures for the period. Under the Fitness for Duty Guidelines, 70 cases required case management in 2000–01 and 121 cases were closed.

#### Staff Counselling

The ABS continues to provide all staff, and their immediate families, with access to a staff counselling service.

#### Comcare Premiums

As a result of a small number of high cost journey and legal claims the Comcare premium for 2001–02 has been set at 1.23% of total salary (including GST).

### 5.2 COMCARE WORKERS COMPENSATION PREMIUM RATE (% of wage and salary expenditure)

	1995–96	1996–97	1997–98	1998–99	1999–2000	2000–01	2001–02
ABS	1.61	1.84	1.47	1.00	0.92	0.98	1.23
Agency Pool Average	1.75	1.60	1.20	1.00	1.03	0.98	1.02

#### Achievements

Major achievements and measures taken to ensure the health, safety and welfare of employees during 2000–01 included:

- training for ABS Occupational Health and Safety employees and some Health and Safety Representatives on SafetyMAP to enable occupational health and safety self auditing in the ABS;
- continuing to review Comcare data to identify potential high cost claims and trends, and to allow effective reporting to relevant areas;
- conducting national network meetings to discuss accident and injury trends and the various preventative and intervention strategies implemented in each office;
- continuing a strong national program of rehabilitation for ill and injured employees, which has achieved positive rehabilitation and return to work outcomes;

- continuing the focus on safety in all offices including individual workstation assessments and training in the correct adjustment to workstations and the correct use of ergonomic furniture;
- ongoing involvement in matters relating to the occupational health and safety aspects of ABS House including regular meetings with health and safety representatives and risk assessments for identified areas;
- ongoing trials of computer equipment and software to reduce strain and improve comfort for clients with an injury;
- centralising national health and safety contacts on the ABS Intranet Welcome Page;
- conducting Electromagnetic Field (EMF) testing to determine whether there was any relationship between EMF readings and Visual Display Unit flicker. EMF outputs were within the current acceptable range; and
- testing air quality in Central Office (wings 7 and 9) between February 2001 and June 2001 to determine the levels of temperature, humidity, air borne particulates, carbon dioxide and fungal spores. The levels were within the current acceptable range.

## CONSULTANCY SERVICES

## Appendix 6

### Policy on selection and engagement of consultants

ABS policy on selection and engagement of consultants is consistent with Commonwealth Procurement Guideline No. 13, Contracting for Consultancy Services, and is contained in the ABS Purchasing Manual.

### Selection procedures

The ABS selects and engages consultants in a way that is consistent with the objectives of 'open and effective competition' and 'value for money'. The ABS identifies qualified and available consultants on the basis of open tender, selective tender, successful tender for a similar project, previous work done and known or assessed capability, as appropriate in each case.

### Purposes for which consultants were engaged in 2000–01

The purposes for which consultants were engaged by the ABS in 2000–01 have been classified into nine main categories. These are shown in the table below. In all categories, the predominant reasons for the use of consultancy services were the need for specialised skills and to allow efficiency and flexibility in operations by making additional personnel available.

### Consultants under engagement in 2000–01

The total number of consultants engaged in 2000–01 and the value of services provided during the year, with subtotals for the main purpose for which they were engaged, are shown in the following table:

#### 6.1 CONSULTANTS UNDER ENGAGEMENT BY THE ABS, 2000–01: SUMMARY

<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Consultancies no.</i>	<i>Expenditure in 2000–01 \$</i>
Accounting Services	4	222 472
Audit	3	268 287
Human Resources	1	17 400
Information Technology	24	1 281 193
Management	4	64 387
Publishing	2	44 354
Statistical	7	120 989
Support Services	4	110 354
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>2 129 436</b>

#### 6.2 CONSULTANTS UNDER ENGAGEMENT BY THE ABS, 1996–97 to 2000–01

	1996–97	1997–98	1998–99	1999–2000	2000–01
Expenditure (\$)	3 153 000	2 856 000	2 798 964	3 330 719	2 129 436
Consultancies (no.)	133	126	90	61	49

Consultants engaged in 2000–01 are listed in the following table. The project for which each was engaged and the expenditure in 2000–01 are also shown. The consultants are listed under the main purpose for which they were engaged. The justification for recourse to consultancy arrangements, and the type of tender used, is indicated in each case by an alphabetic and a numeric symbol, which is explained in a key at the end of the table.

### 6.3 PURPOSE, CONSULTANT AND PROJECT

	<i>Expenditure in 2000–01</i>	<i>Justification and whether advertised</i>
	\$	
<b>Accounting Services</b>		
Acumen Alliance		
Provision of accountancy services	23 163	(c) (5)
2000–01 accrual budget advice	92 372	(c) (2)
Assist Pty Ltd		
Scoping study report for financial management system upgrade	12 000	(a) (5)
CWM Management Solutions		
Accountancy services for budget development	21 246	(a) (5)
Ernst & Young		
Advice on financial statement issues and GST	73 691	(a,c) (5)
<b>Audit</b>		
Acumen Alliance		
Internal audit services	101 326	(a) (2)
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu		
Internal audit services	34 917	(a) (2)
Acceptance testing of Census Field System	58 365	(a) (2)
Ernst & Young		
Compliance and efficiency auditing	73 679	(a) (2)
<b>Human Resources</b>		
Occupational Services Australia Pty Ltd		
Staff perception survey	17 400	(a,d) (2)
<b>Information Technology (IT)</b>		
Candle IT & IT Recruitment		
Consultancy into TRACE	114 408	(a) (5)
Computer Associates Pty Ltd		
Services for EMS & scoping study for Business Register	18 700	(a,b,c) (1,5)
ComTech Integration Services Pty Ltd		
Windows 2000 consulting services	12 500	(a,b,c,d) (2)
Credenza		
ABS Statistical Clearing House website	32 591	(a) (3)
Datfor Communications		
Advice and assistance on voice cost recovery	31 231	(a) (5)
Delphi Consulting Pty Ltd		
2nd phase of the Delphi KM survey	18 108	(a,d) (5)
Dialog Information Technology		
Lotus Notes programming services	38 384	(a) (5)
EGIS Consulting		
Assistance with the design of IT, Communications for new building	37 569	(a) (3)

For footnotes see end of table

...continued



6.3 PURPOSE, CONSULTANT AND PROJECT — *continued*

	Expenditure in 2000–01	Justification and whether advertised
	\$	
<b>Information Technology (IT) — <i>continued</i></b>		
ESRI		
Integrated Regional Data Base development	37 500	(a) (1)
Eucalypt Software Partners		
Proof of Concept consultancy	22 000	(a) (3,5)
Hermes Precisa Australia		
Data capture for the 2001 Census	217 546	(a) (1)
HCI		
Provision of technical writing services	19 539	(a) (5)
Icon Recruitment Pty Ltd		
Systems design and Centura programming	66 060	(a,c) (2)
Integrated Software Design		
Census form retention and electronic transfer	33 921	(a) (5)
Interim Technology Solutions Pty Ltd		
Systems operator	48 056	(a,c) (2)
Programming services for Lotus Notes	40 472	(a,c) (2)
Manpower Services (Aust) Pty Ltd		
Programming services for Lotus Notes	57 552	(a,c) (2)
Mastech Asia Pacific		
ASA analyst for Household Surveys Facilities Dev. Project	21 063	(a,c) (2)
SAS programming services	94 661	(a,c) (1)
Open Software Association Ltd		
Advice on Proof of Concept project	13 376	(a) (1)
Paxus People		
Lotus Notes analyst/programmer	66 870	(c) (1)
PC Smart Australia Pty Ltd		
Advice on Learning Space course development and evaluation	11 700	(a) (5)
Rational Software Group		
IT Specialist skills — test process improvement	16 115	(a) (3)
Richards, Wayne		
Development of dissemination management and publications system	103 350	(a,c) (1)
Visual Purple Interactive		
2001 Census website	60 803	(a,c) (3)
Wizard Information Services Pty Ltd		
Implementation of the Centred Design Suite	47 118	(a,c) (1)
<b>Management</b>		
Ernst & Young		
Tax rulings in relation to census workers	18 820	(e) (5)
Frameworks International Pty Ltd		
Review of effectiveness of Senior Management meetings	15 305	(d) (5)
Sigma Management Science Pty Ltd		
Advice and assistance on project management	17 513	(a) (5)
Walter and Turnbull		
Advice on internal reporting requirements and processes	12 750	(a) (5)

For footnotes see end of table

...continued

6.3 PURPOSE, CONSULTANT AND PROJECT — *continued*

	Expenditure in 2000–01	Justification and whether advertised
	\$	
<b>Publishing</b>		
Murphy, Elizabeth M		
Editing service	10 190	(a) (3)
vonReibnitz, Fred		
Editorial services	34 164	(a) (5)
<b>Statistical</b>		
AME Consulting Pty Ltd		
Extraction costs for sub-soil assets	18 500	(a) (5)
Centre for the Economics of Education and Training		
Advice on development of framework on training finance statistics	28 576	(a) (2)
Efford, D C		
Consultancy on GFS with Northern Territory Treasury and occasional paper	12 125	(a) (5)
Rider Hunt Canberra Pty Ltd		
Development of price index	15 750	(a) (3)
Simpson Norris International		
Develop framework for principles in relation to population data	19 374	(a) (3)
Statistical Access		
Developing manual of concepts, sources and methods	11 210	(a) (5)
University of Sydney		
Supply of classification of medical conditions	15 455	(a) (5)
<b>Support Services</b>		
Aima Training & Consulting Services Ltd		
Assist in the development of a Business Classification System	55 350	(a) (3)
Australian Government Actuary		
Provision of advice — Memorandum of Understanding	15 941	(a) (5)
Green, Robin		
ABS History project and editing services	16 083	(a) (5)
ABS Oral History	10 950	(a) (5)
Hays Accountancy Personnel		
Provide senior level support to Financial Management Section	12 030	(a) (5)

**Key**

Justification for recourse to consultancy arrangements:

- (a) Need for specialised skills.
- (b) Need for access to the latest technology and experience in its application.
- (c) Lack of available in-house resources.
- (d) Need for an independent study.
- (e) Need for a change agent or facilitator.

Type of Tender:

- (1) Public tender
- (2) Restricted tender
- (3) Request for quotation
- (4) Staged procurement process
- (5) Direct negotiation
- (6) Verbal quotation

The above table includes consultants where total payments, or total value of contract awarded, are more than \$10,000 in the reference period.

Excludes standard services such as:

- scribes
- medical, counselling, and other individual consultations
- presentation of standard/pre-existing training courses
- travel contracts, IT Help Desk and IT maintenance contracts.

# ADVERTISING AND MARKET RESEARCH

## Appendix 7

### AMOUNTS PAID BY, OR ON BEHALF OF, THE ABS(a)

<i>Name of organisation paid</i>	<i>Amount</i>
	\$
Advertising	
24/7 Media Australia Pty Ltd	1 100
E-Commerce Today Pty Ltd	660
Executive Media Pty Ltd	980
John Fairfax Publications	8 635
Market Research Society of Australia	462
National Business Magazine Pty Ltd	8 701
Nicholson Media Group Pty Ltd	4 950
Real Estate Institute of Queensland	920
Walkley Media Magazine	2 874
Snowy Times	870
South Australia Police Journal	515
On Dit (University of Adelaide)	630
Volunteers SA Inc	1 500
Ethnic Radio 5EBI	220
Riverland Multicultural Forum	670
Advertiser Newspapers Ltd	1 755
Empire Times (Flinders University)	700
Entropy (University of South Australia)	800
Channel 31	10 000
Western Councillor	400
Radio Advertising	1 700
Minor Regional Papers	35
Cong Dong	150
Islamic Women's Association of Queensland	44
Local Government Manager	2 310
Worthington Di Marzio	22 000
AIS Media	188 416
Powerlan	385
<i>Sub total</i>	<i>262 382</i>
For footnote see end of table.	<i>...continued</i>

**AMOUNTS PAID BY, OR ON BEHALF OF, THE ABS(a) — continued**

<i>Name of organisation paid</i>	<i>Amount</i>
	\$
Market Research	Nil
Direct Mail Organisations	
Canberra Mailing	7 217
Federal Facilities Management Pty Ltd	9 438
Pirie Printers	148
Drake List Management	11 709
<i>Sub total</i>	28 512
<b>Total</b>	<b>290 894</b>

(a) Advertising expenditure increased significantly in 2000–01 due to the lead up to the 2001 Census.

**COMPETITIVE TENDERING AND CONTRACTING**

**Appendix 8**

The ABS has not completed any Competitive Tendering and Contracting projects for this financial year.

### Purchasing

ABS procurement activities represent an important part of our strategic focus and direction. Procurement of significant items are either purchased through the Commonwealth's Endorsed Supplier Arrangement or through a competitive process to ensure the attainment of best value for money. The ABS actively applies the Commonwealth's core purchasing policies and principles, and through this approach ensures participation of Australian and New Zealand enterprises and small/medium businesses.

### Assets management

The ABS's operations are supported by a large asset base of internally generated software. Long term strategic planning and judicious management has ensured that these assets have supported the organisation well in achieving its outcomes. The ABS views its information technology assets as another major resource for its business operations, and actively pursues a policy of ongoing management to ensure maximum return from these assets. Furthermore, depreciation management forms an integral part of the organisation's financial management program. In accordance with government requirements, the ABS revalues all physical fixed assets such as property, plant and equipment on a three year cycle. Assets that have become obsolete, or excess to requirements, are disposed of in a manner consistent with sound disposal practices.

The ABS considers its asset management program to be effective.

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

## Appendix 10

As required by section 8 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, the following statement is provided on the structure of the ABS, and how members of the public can gain access to information held by the ABS.

### Establishment, organisation and functions

Chapter 2 and Appendixes 1 and 3 of this report provide details on the role, structure and functions of the ABS.

### Powers

The decision making powers of the ABS and other powers associated with the discharge of its functions affecting members of the public are:

- the power to collect statistics, including the powers to request, or direct, persons to provide information, and to enter into premises other than private accommodation for the purpose of collecting statistics;
- the power to initiate prosecutions against persons for failing to supply information if directed; and
- the power to publish statistics and release information.

### Consultative arrangements

The role of the Australian Statistics Advisory Council, which is the peak consultative body for the ABS, is described in Chapter 2.

### Categories of documents in the possession of the ABS

*Documents open to public access upon payment of a fee:* the ABS does not hold any of these types of documents.

*Documents available for purchase or customarily available free of charge:* the ABS has a wide range of statistical publications available for sale through its bookshops. The ABS also provides free access to its key publications through ABS libraries and major public libraries and access to key statistical aggregates through its website.

Other documents in the possession of the ABS are:

*Government and Parliament:* various policy-related documents, ministerial briefings, ministerial correspondence, replies to Parliamentary questions, and tabling documents.

*Conferences, etc.:* agenda papers, submissions, and records of proceedings of internal and external conferences, management meetings and workshops.

*Statistical and statistical service projects:* research, development and evaluation papers, records of consultations with suppliers and users of data, statistical classifications, lists of businesses, maps, data collection, processing and publication manuals and instructions and mailing lists.

*Administration and management:* work program and planning documents, finance, staff and establishment papers and manuals, personnel files, files relating to recruitment, selection and promotion of staff, staff development and training papers, office services documents and tenders.

*Privacy:* a record of the extent and nature of ABS holdings of personal information, as contained in the Personal Information Digest published by the Privacy Commissioner.

*General:* correspondence, papers, etc. filed by subject, manuals on more general subjects, reviews and administrative circulars.

A significant part of ABS information holdings is information collected under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*. This information is exempt from the provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

#### ABS Freedom of Information (FOI) Activities

Matters relating to the operation of the Act within the ABS are the responsibility of the Policy Secretariat Branch in Central Office, and authority for decision making under the Act has been delegated to the Deputy Australian Statistician, Population Statistics Group, and the First Assistant Statistician, Corporate Services Division. Policy Secretariat Branch staff attend meetings of the FOI Practitioners' Forum run by the Australian Government Solicitor's Office.

The following table provides details of FOI activities during the years 1996–97 to 2000–01 inclusive. One request was made to the ABS under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* during 2000–01.



**FOI ACTIVITIES, 1996–97 to 2000–01 (number)**

	1996–97	1997–98	1998–99	1999–2000	2000–01
Requests received for:					
Statistical information	1	—	—	—	1
Personal papers	1	—	—	—	—
Administrative documents	—	—	—	2	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
Decisions made:					
Access granted in full	2	—	—	1	—
Access granted in part	—	—	—	1	—
Request transferred to another agency	—	—	—	—	—
Request withdrawn	—	—	—	—	1
Access refused	—	—	—	—	—
Documents not in existence	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
Decisions outstanding at end of year	—	—	—	—	—
Review of decisions by principal officer	—	—	—	—	—
Appeals to Administrative Appeals Tribunal	—	—	—	—	—

Where to get information

*Freedom of Information Inquiries*

All inquiries concerning access to documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* may be directed to the Freedom of Information Contact Officer, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Unit 5, Cameron Offices, Chandler Street, Belconnen, ACT (PO Box 10, Belconnen, ACT 2616); telephone 02 6252 5557.

*General Information*

The ABS offers an initial contact point for all information requests:

Telephone 1300 135 070

Email <[client.services@abs.gov.au](mailto:client.services@abs.gov.au)>

Facsimile 1300 135 211

Mail Client Services, ABS, GPO Box 796, Sydney, NSW, 1041

## INQUIRIES BY PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES AND REPORTS BY THE AUDITOR GENERAL

### Appendix 11

Listed below are inquiries by Parliamentary Committees which involved the ABS during 2000–01, including a summary of significant comments and recommendations relating to the ABS and a summary of action taken by the ABS.

#### Parliamentary Committees

##### *Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works*

The proposed fitout of new leased accommodation for the ABS in Belconnen, ACT, was referred to the Committee on 29 June 2000.

On 8 September 2000, the Committee inspected the current ABS accommodation and the proposed building site. The Committee was also briefed by representatives of the ABS about the proposed fitout. Following the inspection, the Committee held a public hearing at Parliament House, Canberra.

On 11 October 2000, the Committee tabled its report entitled 'Fitout of New Leased Premises for the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Belconnen, ACT'. The Committee made two recommendations:

- that the fitout proceed, noting that the arrangements entered into by the ABS to acquire the fitout represented value for money and met the needs of the ABS; and
- that an audit of the builder's margin component of the fitout price be undertaken to demonstrate competitiveness.

The ABS accepted both recommendations. The audit has been completed.

On 8 November 2000, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration moved an Expediency Motion in response to the Committee's report, proposing that the fitout proceed.

##### *Public Accounts and Estimates Committee, Victoria: Follow-up inquiry into environmental accounting and reporting*

The ABS provided a submission to the Inquiry in July 2000. ABS officers also appeared before the Committee in October 2000. The Committee's report has yet to be finalised.

*House of Representatives Standing Committee on Economics, Finance and Public Administration*

In its report entitled 'Review of the Reserve Bank of Australia: Interim Report: The Wagga Wagga Hearing' the Committee recommended that the ABS investigate methods for ensuring the sample used for calculating the Consumer Price Index includes regional areas and implement the appropriate changes to achieve this.

The Government's response to the Committee has yet to be finalised.

*Senate Select Committee on Superannuation and Financial Services*

ABS officers appeared before the Committee in February 2001 and subsequently provided it with additional information. The Committee's report has yet to be finalised.

*House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs: Inquiry into Substance Abuse in Australian Communities*

The ABS provided a statement to the Inquiry and attended a round table discussion in May 2001. The Committee's report has yet to be finalised.

*Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit: Review of Accrual Budget Documentation*

The ABS provided a submission to the Review in May 2001. ABS officers also appeared before the Committee in June 2001. The Committee's report has yet to be finalised.

*Ministerial Committee on Government Communications*

The ABS provided information on the proposed media campaign for the 2001 Census of Population and Housing to the Committee in June 2001.

Reports by the Auditor General

There were no adverse reports or comments made by the Auditor General during 2000–01.

## DOCUMENTS TABLED IN PARLIAMENT

## Appendix 12

Proposals for the collection of information  
for statistical purposes

In accordance with section 6 of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*, the following proposals for collection of information for statistical purposes were tabled in both Houses of Parliament during 2000–01.

### TABLING—PROPOSALS FOR THE COLLECTION OF INFORMATION FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES 2000–01

<i>Date tabled(a)</i>	<i>Statistical collection(b)</i>
14 August 2000	Survey of business registrations
28 August 2000	Government technology survey
29 August 2000	1999–2000 Survey of book publishers
5 September 2000	New topics in the monthly population survey: Managing caring responsibilities and paid employment (NSW); Population mobility (Qld); Crime and safety (WA); Leisure participation (Tas.).
1 November 2000	National health survey
8 November 2000	Survey of financial information: venture capital supplement
28 November 2000	Survey of education, training and information technology
4 December 2000	Topic to be included as a supplement to the monthly population survey: Work in selected culture and leisure activities
5 March 2001	Quarterly economic activity survey
22 May 2001	2001 Census and post enumeration survey
22 May 2001	Agricultural census and surveys
22 May 2001	Culture and recreation funding by local government
22 May 2001	2000–01 Service industries surveys
22 May 2001	National Health Survey Indigenous supplement
18 June 2001	Environment management survey
18 June 2001	Business generosity survey 2000–01

(a) If the proposal was tabled on different dates in the two Houses of Parliament, the earlier of the two dates is shown. (b) Unless otherwise indicated by the title, the statistical collection is a national project.

Disclosure of lists of names and addresses

In accordance with clause 6 of the Statistics Determination (Statutory Rules 1983 No. 19) made under section 13 of the *Census and Statistics Act*, details of the following disclosures of lists of names, addresses and other information to be provided to the specified Department or Authority, were tabled in both Houses of Parliament in 2000–01.

**TABLING — DISCLOSURE OF LISTS OF NAMES AND ADDRESSES, 2000–01**

<i>Date tabled(a)</i>	<i>Information released</i>
6 March 2001	Lists of agricultural establishments for the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics

(a) If the proposal was tabled on different dates in the two Houses of Parliament, the earlier of the two dates is shown.

## DISCLOSURE OF UNIDENTIFIED INFORMATION

## Appendix 13

The Statistics Determination (Statutory Rules 1983 No. 19) made by the Minister under section 13 of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, provides for the disclosure, with the approval in writing of the Statistician, of specified classes of information. Clause 7 of the Determination provides for the disclosure of unidentified individual statistical records in a manner that is not likely to enable the identification of the person or organisation to which they relate.

Disclosures of unidentified information under clause 7 of the Statistics Determination are shown in the following table.

### STATISTICAL COLLECTIONS — DISCLOSURE OF UNIDENTIFIED INFORMATION, 2000–01

<i>Survey title</i>	<i>Survey date</i>
Aspects of literacy survey	1996
Australian housing survey	1999
Australians' employment and unemployment patterns survey	1994–97
Business growth and performance survey	1994–95, 1995–96, 1996–97, 1997–98 (combined)
Census 1% sample file	1981
Census 1% sample file	1986
Census 1% sample file	1991
Census 1% sample file	1996
Child care survey	1993
Child care survey	1996
Disability, ageing and carers survey	1993
Disability, ageing and carers survey	1998
Education and training survey	1997
Families in Australia survey	1992
Forms of employment survey	1998
Household expenditure survey	1975–76
Household expenditure survey	1984
Household expenditure survey	1988–89
Household expenditure survey	1993–94
Household expenditure survey	1998–99
Income and housing costs and amenities survey	1989–90
Income and housing costs survey	1994–95
Income and housing costs survey	1995–96
Income and housing costs survey	1996–97
Income and housing costs survey	1997–98
Income and housing survey	1981–82
Income distribution survey	1986
Labour mobility survey	1984

...continued

**STATISTICAL COLLECTIONS — DISCLOSURE OF UNIDENTIFIED INFORMATION,  
2000–01 — *continued***

---

<i>Survey title</i>	<i>Survey date</i>
Labour mobility survey	1991
Labour mobility survey	1994
National health survey	1977–78
National health survey	1983
National health survey	1989–90
National health survey	1995
National survey of mental health and wellbeing of adults	1997
National survey of mental health and wellbeing of adults (WA)	1997
National survey of mental health and wellbeing of adults (2nd revised)	1997
Population survey monitor	August 1994–May 1995
Population survey monitor	February and May 1998
Rental investors survey	1993
Rental investors survey	1997
Time use survey	1992
Time use survey	1997
Training and education survey	1993

---

## NOTICES OF DIRECTION ISSUED AND PROSECUTION ACTIONS APPROVED

### Appendix 14

Under sections 10(4) and 11(2) of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, the Australian Statistician may, by notice in writing, direct a person to complete a form or answer a question. Under section 14 of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* a person who fails to comply with a notice of direction without reasonable excuse is guilty of an offence.

The number of notices of direction issued and the number of prosecution actions approved in recent years are shown in the following table.

#### NOTICES OF DIRECTION ISSUED AND PROSECUTION ACTIONS APPROVED

<i>Type of statistical collection</i>	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
Notices of direction issued					
Census of Population and Housing	946	—	—	—	—
Household surveys	1	—	1	—	4
Business censuses and surveys	20	21	13	6	36
<b>Total</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>40</b>
Prosecution actions approved(a)					
Census of Population and Housing	48	—	—	—	—
Household surveys	—	—	—	—	—
Business censuses and surveys	3	2	2	—	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>5</b>

(a) Approved by the Australian Statistician for referral to the relevant office of the Director of Public Prosecutions or the Australian Government Solicitor. Any particular prosecution approval may pertain to a number of notices of direction. Each prosecution action approval is counted under the year in which the corresponding notices of direction are issued. Not every prosecution action approved proceeds to court (for example, because of subsequent receipt of the required information, or lack of sufficient information to serve a summons).



## PROFESSIONAL PAPERS BY ABS OFFICERS

## Appendix 15

Officers of the ABS prepared the following professional papers which were presented or published between 1 July 2000 and 30 June 2001.

- Catherine Andersson *Assault figures in Australia: A comparison of recorded crime statistics and the 1998 crime and safety survey.* Presented to the Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology 15th Annual Conference, Melbourne, Victoria, 21–23 February 2001.
- Charles Aspden *Relevance and quality of official statistics: Implementation of SNA93: educating the user: the Australian Bureau of Statistics experience: emerging issues in Australian official statistics (Appendix C).* Presented to the Heads of National Statistical Offices of East Asian Countries, Ninth Meeting, Gotenba, Japan, 23–25 August 2000.
- David Bartie *Production of post-censal small area estimates of households — A preliminary investigation.* Presented to the 10th Biennial Conference of the Australian Population Association, ‘Current Issues in Population Studies Session’, Melbourne, Victoria, 28 November–1 December 2000.
- Frank J Blanchfield and Anthony Grubb *From spatial database to paper map: Automated map production for the 2001 Census of Population and Housing.* Presented to the Mapping Sciences Institute Australia National Conference, Sydney, New South Wales, 3–6 December 2000.
- Glenn Cocking *The Development of the Australian Population Surveys Program.* Presented to the International Seminar celebrating the Indian Golden Jubilee of Collecting Socioeconomic Information through Sample Surveys, New Delhi, 12–13 May 2001.
- Michael J. Colledge and Rosslyn Starick *Australian Commonwealth Government Statistical Clearing House: Vehicle for reducing response load and improving survey quality.* Published in International Statistical Review, Volume 68, Number 2, August 2000.
- Jessica Enders *Measuring community awareness and preparedness for emergencies in Victoria.* Published by the Office of the Emergency Service Commissioner, Department of Justice, Melbourne, Victoria, July 2000.
- Bruce Fraser *Indicators of wellbeing in regional and rural communities.* Presented to SEGRA 2000: Sustainable Economic Growth for Regional Australia Conference, Fourth Meeting, Ballarat, Victoria, 20–22 November 2000.
- Stephen Frost *The construction of price indexes for deposit and loan facilities.* Presented to the International Working Group on Price Indices (Ottawa Group), Sixth Meeting, Canberra, 2–6 April 2001.

- Karen R. Gelb *The future of crime and justice statistics: Where to from here?* Presented to the Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology Annual Conference, Melbourne, 21–23 February 2001.
- Badr Hanna *Medicare, a source for migration statistics.* Presented to the Tenth Biennial Conference of the Australian Population Association, ‘Population and Globalisation: Australia in the 21st Century’, Melbourne, Victoria, 29 November–1 December 2000.
- Ross Harvey *Implementation of SNA93: The Australian Bureau of Statistics experience.* Presented to the Inter-Regional Workshop on the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA). Tagaytay City, Philippines, 7–11 May 2001.
- Ross Harvey *Introduction of chain volume and price measures: The Australian approach.* Presented to the Inter-Regional Workshop on the 1993 System of National Accounts. Tagaytay City, Philippines, 7–11 May 2001.
- Ross Harvey *Compilation of balance sheets for Australia.* Presented to the Inter-Regional Workshop on the 1993 System of National Accounts. Tagaytay City, Philippines, 7–11 May 2001.
- Christina Jackson *Water Account for Australia: The analysis of water usage data.* Published in *Water*, November–December 2000.
- Shailendra Kumar Jain *Birth order specific rates in Australia, 1986–1999.* Presented to the Australian Population Association Tenth Biennial Conference, Melbourne, 29 November–1 December 2000.
- David Jayne *Mortality coding and the uses of multiple cause data.* Presented to the Australian Population Association Tenth Biennial Conference, Melbourne, 29 November–1 December 2000.
- Tony Johnson *Employee share and option plans and their treatment in the national accounts.* Presented to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Meeting of National Accounts Experts, Paris, France, 26–29 September 2000.
- Tony Johnson *Non-market output — Recent work by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.* Presented to the OECD Meeting of National Accounts Experts, Paris, France, 26–29 September 2000.
- Ian Jones *Expanding your IT service vision.* Presented at the Computer Management Group Australia 2000 Conference, Gold Coast, Queensland, 7 September 2000.

- David Lawrence and Richard McKenzie *The general application of significance editing.* Published in *Journal of Official Statistics*, Volume 16, Number 3, 2000.
- David Lengyel *Disseminating data quality information via metadata — the ABS experience.* Presented to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Work Session on Statistical Metadata, Washington, D.C., 28–30 November 2000.
- Paul Mahoney *Quality of business registers for sampling purposes.* Presented to the 14th International Round Table on Business Surveys Frames, Auckland, 29 October–3 November 2000.
- Eddie Maitland and Ros Higgins *Collection and publication of reliable measures of the freight task: The Australian experience in the 1990s.* Presented to the Ninth International Association for Travel Behaviour Research Conference, Gold Coast, 2–7 July 2000.
- Allan Nicholls *Development of rural statistics in Australia.* Presented to the 25th Centre for International Research on Economic Surveys Congress, Paris, France, 9–13 October 2000.
- Kristen Northwood *Dissecting the Australian household balance sheet by household type.* Presented to the OECD Meeting of National Accounts Experts, Paris, France, 26–29 September 2000.
- John Paice and David Steel *Census adjustment in Australia.* Published in *Chance*, Volume 13, Number 3, Summer 2000.
- Horst Posselt *Socio-economic disadvantage across urban, rural and remote areas.* Presented to the Australian Population Association Tenth Biennial Conference, Melbourne, 29 November–1 December 2000.
- Horst Posselt *Social trends in Australia: a statistical view of social conditions and directions of change.* Presented to the Catholic School Planning and Facilities Conference, Brisbane, 16 October 2000.
- Dennis Robson *14th international round table on business survey frames — Progress report for Australia.* Presented to the 14th International Round Table on Business Surveys Frames, Auckland, 29 October–3 November 2000.
- Russell Rogers *Measurement of the rapid economic changes: A strategy for information technology and telecommunications statistics: emerging issues in Australian official statistics (Appendix B).* Presented to the Heads of National Statistical Offices of East Asian Countries, Ninth Meeting, Gotenba, Japan, 23–25 August 2000.

- Paul Sheedy *Business demographic information and analyses from ABS business register data.* Presented to the 14th International Round Table on Business Surveys Frames, Auckland, 29 October–3 November 2000.
- Tim Skinner *Building the evidence base: new research, new thinking.* Presented to the ACOSS National Congress, 17 November 2000.
- Robin Slater *Standards for official statistics.* Presented to the Conference on Agricultural and Environmental Statistical Applications in Rome (CAESAR), Rome, Italy, 5–7 June 2001.
- Sean Thompson *Making use of national and sectoral balance sheets.* Presented to the 26th General Conference of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth, Cracow, Poland, 27 August–2 September 2000.
- Michael Toole *Creating a statistical application with embedded mapping.* Presented to the AURISA 2000 Conference, Coolool, Queensland, 20–24 November 2000.
- Dennis Trewin *Statistics and The New Tax System.* Presented to the Australian Business Economists, Sydney, 8 September 2000.
- Dennis Trewin *Coping with the changing environment for data collection: Emerging issues in Australian official statistics (Appendix A).* Presented to the Heads of National Statistical Offices of East Asian Countries, Ninth Meeting, Gotenba, Japan, 23–25 August 2000.
- Dennis Trewin *Measuring Australia's Progress — More Than Economic.* Presented to the South Australian Centre for Economic Studies, Adelaide, 29 March 2001.
- Dennis Trewin *Can A Statistician Deliver?* Journal of Official Statistics, Volume 17, Number 1, 2001, pages 107 to 112.
- Sophie Vassiliou *Consumer Price Indexes for telecommunications services based on a sample of customer bills: Summary of progress.* Room document prepared for the International Working Group on Price Indices (Ottawa Group), Sixth Meeting, Canberra, 2–6 April 2001.
- Andrew Webster *Divorce rates by length of marriage — summary of methods and results.* Presented to the Australian Population Association Conference, Melbourne, 28 November–1 December 2000.
- Maryann Wood and Jamie Stewart *Effect of causes of death query action — an Australian study.* Presented to the 13th International Health Records Congress, Melbourne, 2–6 October 2000.

- Keith Woolford      *Financial services in the Consumer Price Index*. Presented to the International Working Group on Price Indices (Ottawa Group), Sixth Meeting, Canberra, 2–6 April 2001.
- Frank Yu              *Relevance and quality of official statistics: towards a high quality and relevant statistical service: emerging issues in Australian official statistics (Appendix D)*. Presented to the Heads of National Statistical Offices of East Asian Countries, Ninth Meeting, Gotenba, Japan, 23–25 August 2000.

## COMPLIANCE INDEX

## Appendix 16

Requirement	Page
Letter of transmittal	iii
Table of contents	iv–v
Alphabetical index	208
Glossary	Not applicable
Contact details	v
Internet home page	v
Internet address for Annual Report	v
Executive summary	2–16
Description of the ABS	17–21 164–166
Report on performance	55–81
Corporate governance	21–26 164–166
External scrutiny	23–24 195
Management of human resources	11 167–180
Purchasing	191
Assets management	191
Consultants and competitive tendering and contracting	
• Number of consultancy services contracts let and total expenditure on consultancy services	184–187
• Competitive tendering and contracting contracts let and outcomes, including any net savings	190
Commonwealth Disability Strategy	29–30
Financial statements	113–158
Other information	
• Occupational health and safety	181–183
• Freedom of information	192–194
• Advertising and market research	188–189
• Discretionary grants	15
• Ecologically sustainable development environmental reporting	30–31

# Index

- A**  
ABNs, 78  
Aboriginal Australians, *see* Indigenous Australians  
ABS business register, 78, 163, 164, 167  
ABS Certified Agreement, 11, 178  
ABS Fraud Control Plan, 24  
ABS House, 12, 31, 183  
ABS Library Network, 163, 165, 168  
ABS Management Meetings, 21  
ABS@, 58–9, 74  
accessibility, 73  
    *see also* dissemination  
accidents, *see* injuries and accidents  
accommodation, 67, 100, 108, 111  
    ABS, 12, 31, 183, 195  
    tourist, 96, 97  
accounting services (ABS), 184, 185  
Accredited Client Program, 87  
accuracy of statistics, 61–2, 76–7  
addresses and names, disclosure of lists of, 198  
administrative data/databanks, 37–8, 66, 81, 101, 109, 111  
adverse comments, 24, 27–8  
advertising and market research, 188–9  
advisory committees and groups, 23–4, 27, 48, 59–60, 62, 107  
ageing, 60, 109  
aggregate bonus payment for Agency as whole, 180  
Agreement on National Indigenous Housing Information, 100  
agriculture, 60, 92–3, 162, 164, 167  
air quality in Central Office, 183  
alternative data sources, 36–8  
    *see also* administrative data/databanks  
analytical services and time series analysis, 33–43, 98, 163, 165, 168  
ANAO, 22, 23, 80, 98  
ancestry, 48  
annual reports, 23  
    compliance index, 207  
    inquiries about, v  
    special articles in earlier, 52–3  
Antarctica, 49  
ANZSIC, 7  
appointment and recruitment, 176  
APRA, 87  
Archives Act 1983, 45  
ASAC, 16, 20–1, 23  
ASGS, 111  
Asia-Pacific region, 12, 13, 65, 85  
ASRC, 92  
assets management, 191  
Audit Committee, 22  
    audits and reviews, 23, 24, 77–9  
    consultancy services, 184, 185  
    energy, 31  
    export and import statistical codes, 87  
    manufacturing collection, 94  
    peer, of projects, 42, 62  
    security, 26  
    *see also* benchmarking  
AusStats, 9, 58, 59  
AUSTRADE, 91  
Australia Post, 98  
Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), 13, 98  
Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification, 7  
Australian and New Zealand Standard Product Classification, 7  
Australian Antarctic Territory, 49  
Australian Broadcasting Corporation, 98  
Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence, 110  
Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975, 20–1  
    proposals for collection of information for statistical purposes, 197  
Australian Business Numbers, 78  
Australian Capital Territory, 101  
    *see also* regional offices  
Australian Customs Service, 87  
Australian Economic Indicators, 85, 89, 99  
Australian economic indicators, 99, 162, 165, 167  
    relative standard errors, 77  
    response rates, 76  
Australian Federation of Family History Organisations, 46  
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 109  
Australian national accounts, 84–5, 99, 162, 164, 167  
Australian National Audit Office, 22, 23, 80, 98  
Australian National Library, 98  
Australian National Training Authority, 107  
Australian National University, 105  
Australian Postal Corporation, 98  
Australian Prudential Regulation Authority, 87  
Australian Standard Classification of Education, 7  
Australian Standard Geographic Classification, 111  
Australian Standard Research Classification, 92  
Australian State of the Environment Committee, 7  
Australian Statistician, 18, 21, 22, 64, 164  
    executive summary by, 2–16  
Australian Statistics Advisory Council, 16, 20–1, 23  
Australian Stock Exchange, 85  
Australian Taxation Office, 81, 87, 98  
    *see also* New Tax System  
Australian Trade Commission (AUSTRADE), 91  
Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee, 58

- Australian War Memorial, 98  
 Australian Workplace Agreements (AWAs), 178  
 authority, *see* legislation  
 Average Weekly Earnings, 60
- B**
- back injuries (ABS staff), 181  
 balance of payments, 85, 86  
 banks, 87  
 benchmarking, 61, 67, 78, 79–81  
   manufacturing, 94  
   response rates, 75–6  
 biotechnology statistics, 92  
 birth statistics, 105, 111  
 bonuses (ABS staff), 180  
 Book Industry Assistance Plan, 110  
 BPS-Statistics Indonesia, 13  
 broadcast news placements, 73  
 Budget, 15  
 building and construction, 94, 162, 164, 167  
 Business Generosity Survey, 90  
 business register, 78, 163, 164, 167  
 business statistics, 27–8, 90–1, 92, 162, 164, 167  
   notices of direction issued and prosecution  
   actions approved, 201  
   provider loads, 65, 81, 87, 90  
   *see also* small business  
 Business Surveys Charter, 27–8
- C**
- CAI, 78  
 Canberra Group on Household Income Statistics, 108  
 capital expenditure estimates, 86, 90  
 capital stock, 85  
 cargo (freight), 87, 95  
 carers, 109  
 caring responsibilities and paid employment, 67  
 cars, *see* motor vehicles  
 CD-ROMs, 104  
 Census and Statistics Act 1905, 45, 47, 198–201  
   staff employed under, 176  
   undertakings of fidelity and secrecy, 25–6, 63  
 Census Guide, 47  
 Census Inquiry Service, 46–7, 50  
 Census of Population and Housing, 68, 162, 165, 167  
   notices of direction issued and prosecution  
   actions approved, 201  
 Census of Population and Housing 2001, 44–51,  
 103–4, 105, 111  
   notices of direction issued, 201  
 Census Time Capsule, 45–6  
 Central Office, 18, 31  
   ABS House, 12, 31, 183  
   air quality, 183  
   staff, 167–71  
 Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, 98  
 Certified Agreement, 11, 178  
 charging policy, 27  
 Charter for Public Service in a Culturally Diverse  
 Society, 28  
 children, 48, 68, 100, 101, 110, 111  
 classification, 7  
   ABS job structures, 169–75, 177, 178–80  
   buildings, 94  
   diseases and mortality statistics, 109  
   geography, 111  
   research and experimental development, 92  
 client complaints, 27–8  
 client contact, 59–60  
 Client Service Charter, 27, 28  
 client services, 163, 165, 168  
 collaborative research and development (ABS), 42  
 collection response rates, 75–6  
 Comcare premiums, 182  
 committees, 21–3  
 Commonwealth Disability Strategy, 29  
 Commonwealth Government Statistical Clearing  
 House, 26–7, 65, 98–9  
 Commonwealth Ombudsman, 24, 98  
 Commonwealth Register of Surveys of Businesses, 27  
 communications, 85  
   Census campaign, 46–7  
 community-based corrections, 109  
 community housing, 111  
 community services, *see* health and welfare statistics  
 Community Services Ministerial Advisory Council, 111  
 Community Services Principles and Standards for  
 Indigenous Client Data, 111  
 compendium publications, 38–9  
 compensation claims (ABS), 182  
 competitive tendering and contracting (ABS), 190  
 complaints from clients, 27–8  
 compliance index, 207  
 Computer Assisted Interviewing (CAI), 78  
 computer services, 95  
 computing, *see* information technology  
 confidentiality, 25–6, 37, 63, 198–200  
 confronting multiple data sources, 39–40  
 construction, 94, 162, 164, 167  
 consultancy services, 184–7  
   ABS, 16, 98, 162, 165, 167  
 consultation with clients, 59–60  
 Consumer Price Index, 37, 80, 88–9  
   CPI Infoline, 59  
 contact with clients, 59–60  
 contracts (ABS), 190  
 coordination of statistics, 65–8, 98–9, 162, 165, 167  
 corporate and statistical support, 163  
 corporate documents, 19  
 corporate governance, 21–6



corporate planning, 24–5  
corporate planning and secretariat, 163, 166, 168  
Corporate Services Division, 18, 22, 163, 166, 168  
Corrective Services collection, 109–10  
cost effectiveness of outputs, 78–81  
costs, *see* finance  
counselling, for staff, 182  
country of birth, 48  
courts, 109  
    comments by, 24  
coverage of statistics, 57–8  
CPI, 37, 80, 88–9  
CPI Infoline, 59  
crime and justice statistics, 36, 100, 109–10  
cultural diversity, 28–9, 63–4, 175  
cultural statistics, 67, 95, 110, 165

## **D**

data analysis and research, 33–43, 98, 163, 165, 168  
Data Gaps, 33–4  
data management, 100, 163, 165, 168  
Data Overlap, 34  
data processing of Census forms, 49–50  
data quality, 41–2, 61–2, 74–8  
    construction, 94  
    financial accounts, 87  
death statistics, 101, 105, 106, 109, 111  
decision-making powers, 192  
defence industry, 101  
delivery methods/options, 58, 73–4  
    *see also* dissemination  
demography, 105–6, 162, 165, 167  
Department of Communications, Information  
    Technology and the Arts, 98  
Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs  
    (DETYA), 106, 107  
Department of Employment, Workplace Relations  
    and Small Business, 98, 106  
Department of Family and Community Services, 66,  
    74, 98  
Department of Finance and Administration, 88  
Department of Health and Aged Care, 74, 109  
Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs,  
    105  
Department of Industry, Science and Resources, 74,  
    96  
Department of the Treasury, 74  
depository institutions, 87  
Deputy Australian Statisticians, 12, 18, 21, 22  
Dial-a-Statistic, 59  
direct mail organisations, 189  
disability, 29–30, 40, 46, 48, 109, 111  
    staff members with, 175  
Disability Strategy, 29–30  
disclosure of information, 25–6, 37, 63, 198–200

Census Time Capsule, 45–6  
dissemination, 9, 22, 163, 165, 168  
    IMF Special Data Dissemination Standard, 86  
    outcome measures, 58, 67–8  
    output measures, 73–4  
    *see also* release of statistics  
diversity, 28–30, 63–4, 175  
divorce data, 106  
documents, 19, 192–4  
    tabled in Parliament, 197–8  
    *see also* publishing  
drugs, 110

## **E**

e-commerce, business use of, 92  
earnings, *see* income  
ecologically sustainable development, 30–1  
Economic Accounts Division, 18, 164  
Economic Activity Survey, 90  
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the  
    Pacific, Committee on Statistics, 12  
economic indicators, *see* Australian economic  
    indicators  
economic standards, 163, 164, 168  
Economic Statistics Group, 18, 22, 162, 163, 164, 168  
Economic Statistics Output, 15, 17–18, 83–101  
Economic Statistics User Group, 60  
economic surveys, 28, 76, 77  
economy wide statistics, 90–1, 162, 164, 167  
education and training statistics, 7, 68, 100, 107–8  
Education and Training Statistics Advisory Group, 107  
education campaign, for Census, 46  
EEO, 175  
effectiveness of planning process, 59–61  
efficiency reviews and audits, 78–9  
electricity industry, 68, 93  
Electromagnetic Field (EMF) testing, 183  
electronic commerce, business use of, 92  
Electronic Funds Transfer Point-of-Sale (EFTPOS), 38  
electronic products and services, 58–9, 72–5, 91, 95,  
    104  
email, delivery of publications by, 59  
employment statistics, 90, 95, 100, 106–8, 109  
    caring responsibilities and paid employment, 67  
    labour costs, 60  
    labour statistics component, 106–8, 162, 164, 167  
    revisions to core series, 75  
    small business, 91  
    socioeconomic concepts, 34–5  
energy efficiency (ABS), 31  
energy statistics, 68, 97  
engineering construction, 94  
environment, 7, 85, 97, 100, 162, 164, 167  
    ABS, 30–1  
Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO), 175

equity and social justice, 28–30, 46, 63–4, 175  
 ESCAP, Committee on Statistics, 12  
 ethnicity, 48  
 evaluation of 2001 Census, 50–1  
 executive, 163, 164, 168  
 Executive Meetings, 22  
 Executive Officers, 169–75, 178–80  
 expenditure, *see* finance  
 Expert Group on Capital Stock Statistics, 85  
 Expert Group on Household Income Statistics, 108  
 Expert Group on Productivity Statistics, 85  
 external benchmarking, *see* benchmarking  
 external debt data, 86  
 external scrutiny, 23–4, 192–8

**F**

families, 68  
 farming and agriculture, 60, 92–3, 162, 164, 167  
 female staff, 170, 172–5, 177  
 field operations (Census), 48–9, 50  
 finance (ABS), 15–16, 24, 113–58  
   advertising and market research, expenditure, 188–9  
   consultancy services expenditure, 184–7  
   cost estimates, 162–3  
   remuneration of staff, 178–80  
 finance statistics, 84–90, 108, 110  
   environmental expenditure, 97  
   *see also* income  
 financial accounts, 87, 162, 164, 167  
 financial institutions, 87  
 financial resources component, 163, 166, 168  
 financial statements, 113–58  
 First Assistant Statisticians, 18, 21, 22  
 food industry, 101  
 foreign debt data, 86  
 foreign ownership, 86  
 foreign trade, 85, 86–7, 162, 164, 167  
 Forest Accounts, 97  
 forward work programs, 24–5, 28, 57, 59–60  
 frameworks, 63–5, 66, 98, 100  
 fraud control, 24  
 freedom of information, 192–4  
 freight (cargo), 87, 95  
 full time staff, 167–8, 172  
 functions, 20–1

**G**

gambling, 96  
 Gartner Group, 80  
 gas industry, 68, 93  
 gender of staff, 169–75, 177  
 geocoding, 93  
 geography, 111, 162, 165, 167

Geographic Information System (GIS), 50  
 governance, 21–6  
 government finance statistics (public sector accounts), 88, 162, 164, 167  
 green energy, 31  
 greenhouse gas emissions, 97

**H**

Harmonized System, 87  
 health and welfare statistics, 100, 108, 109, 111, 165  
 Health and Safety Representatives, 181  
 Higher Criminal Courts collection, 109  
 hire industries, 95  
 historical population statistics, 105  
 home use of personal computers, 48  
 homeless people, 49  
 Hong Kong, 92  
 hospital data, 100, 111  
 hospitality industries, 95, 96  
 Household Expenditure Survey, 80, 108  
 household information technology use, 92  
 household surveys, 5, 67, 91, 92, 100  
   notices of direction issued and prosecution actions approved, 201  
 household wealth, 36  
 housing, 100, 108, 111  
 housing loans, 87  
 huge datasets, analyses of, 41  
 human capital, 34  
 Human Resource Strategy Committee, 22–3  
 human resources management component, 22–3, 163, 166, 168, 185  
   *see also* staff

**I**

identification of statistics, 67–8  
 illicit drugs, 110  
 immigration, 105, 106  
 income (earnings), 60, 90, 107, 108  
   ABS staff, 178–80  
 Indigenous Australians, 60, 100, 101, 105, 107, 108, 110–11, 165  
   Census of Population and Housing, 49  
   Internet resource, 73  
   research and analysis, 38, 40  
   staff, 175  
 Indigenous statistics  
 Indonesia, 13, 65  
 industrial relations, 68  
   ABS, 11, 178  
 industry, 60, 90, 91, 92–7, 101  
   classification, 7  
   *see also* service industries  
 information development plans, 33–4  
 information disclosure, *see* disclosure of information

- Information Management Division, 18, 163, 165, 168  
information products, *see* publishing and publications  
Information Resources Management Committee, 22  
information security, 25–6  
Information Services Branch, 165  
information technology, 60, 85, 107  
    computer services, 95  
    use, 48, 92  
information technology (ABS), 11, 22, 80, 183  
    Census, 49–50, 104  
    Computer Assisted Interviewing (CAI), 78  
    consultancy services, 184, 185–6  
    electronic products and services, 58–9, 72–3, 91, 95, 104  
    security, 26  
Information Technology Bureau, 163, 165, 168  
Information Technology Skills Hub, 98  
injuries and accidents  
    at large outdoor events, 101  
    reported by ABS staff, 181–2  
innovation, 91–2  
    ABS, 50, 78  
insurance reserves, 87  
Integrated Regional Data Base, 67, 95  
‘integrating’ statistical products, 38–40  
integrity in statistical operations, 61–3  
Interactive Voice Recognition, 50  
internal audit, 23  
internal benchmarking, 79–80  
internal scrutiny, 21–3, 77–9  
international accounts, 85–6, 162, 164, 167  
international benchmarking, *see* benchmarking  
International Classification of Diseases, 109  
International Comparison Programme, 12  
International Harmonized Community Coding and Description System, 87  
international investment position, 85, 86  
international involvement, 12–13, 64–5  
    environment, 97  
    financial accounts, 87  
    international accounts, 86  
    national accounts, 85  
    prices, 89  
    public sector accounts, 88  
    science and technology, 92  
    social statistics, 108  
International Monetary Fund, 86, 88  
international relations component, 163, 166, 168  
international standards, frameworks and methodologies, 64–5  
International Statistical Institute, 64  
international trade, 85, 86–7, 162, 164, 167  
International Working Group on Price Indexes, 12, 89  
International Year of the Volunteer, 109  
Internet, 48, 59, 92  
    *see also* websites  
Internet Inquiry Service, 59  
Internet Service Provider (ISP) survey, 92  
interstate migration, 106  
inventories, 90  
investment  
    capital expenditure, 86, 90  
    international, 85, 86  
    venture capital, 60, 87
- J**  
Japan, 92  
job classification standards (ABS), 169–75, 177, 178–80  
Joint Economic Forecasting Group, 84, 85, 88  
joint projects (ABS), 42  
justice and crime statistics, 36, 100, 109–10
- K**  
Knowledge Based Economy indicators, 92  
Korea, 92
- L**  
labour statistics, *see* employment statistics  
Land Accounts, 97  
legal services industry, 95  
legislation, 19, 20–1, 25, 197–201  
    Census of Population and Housing 2001, 45, 47  
    compliance with secrecy provisions, 63  
leisure statistics, 95–6, 100, 110, 165  
Library Extension Program, 59  
library services (ABS), 163, 165, 168  
linguistic diversity, 28–9, 63–4, 175  
local government, 97  
London Group on Environmental Accounting, 85
- M**  
major documents, 19  
male staff, 169, 172–4, 177  
management committees, 21–3  
management consultancy services, 184, 186  
manufacturing, 80, 94, 97, 162, 164, 167  
map production (ABS), 50, 111  
market research and advertising, 188–9  
market testing, 81  
marketing and public affairs, 163, 165, 168  
    Census of Housing and Population, 46–7  
marriage data, 106  
mathematical statistics, 163, 165, 167  
Measuring Australia’s Progress (MAP), 38–9, 60  
media reporting, 73  
Memorandum of Understanding, 13  
men staff, 169, 172–4, 177  
merchandise trade, 86–7

methodology, 61–2, 63–5, 95, 96  
 statistical consultancy, 98

Methodology Advisory Group, 62

Methodology Division, 18, 61–2, 163, 165, 168

migration, 105, 106

mining, 68, 93, 97, 162, 164, 167

Minister for Financial Services and Regulation, 46

Ministerial Council on Education, Employment,  
 Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA), 107, 108

mission statement, vi

Monthly Population Survey, 78

More Time for Business, 26

mortality data, 101, 105, 106, 109, 111

motor vehicles, 95  
 accidents reported by ABS staff, 181

multilevel analyses, 41

multiple data sources, 39–40

**N**

names and addresses, disclosure of lists of, 198

national accounts, 84–5, 162, 164, 167

National Archives of Australia, 98, \*104

National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait  
 Islander Statistics, 24, 73, 110–11, 165

National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics, 24,  
 109–10, 165

National Centre for Culture and Recreation Statistics,  
 24, 110, 165

National Centre for Education and Training Statistics,  
 107

National Centre for Rural and Regional Statistics, 5, 63

National Centres, 162, 167

National Education and Training Statistical Unit, 24,  
 107

National Housing Data Agreement, 100

National Illicit Drugs Statistics Framework, 110

National Library of Australia, 98

National Localities Index, 111

national standards, frameworks and methodologies,  
 63–4

new products and services, 69–73  
*see also* publishing and publications

New South Wales, 98, 100  
*see also* regional offices

New Tax System, 3, 85, 94, 96  
 capital expenditure estimates, 90  
 taxation reform components, 163, 164, 168

New Zealand, 87, 92

newspaper and magazine placements, 73

non-English speaking backgrounds, people from, 28  
 staff, 175

non-ongoing staff, 172–4, 178

Northern Territory, 100, 105  
*see also* regional offices

notices of direction issued, 201

**O**

objective service (outcome measure), 61–3

objectives, 17–18  
 Census of Population and Housing, 44

occupational health and safety, 181–3

occupational overuse syndrome (ABS staff), 181

office accommodation, 12, 31, 183, 195

Olympic Games, 85, 86, 96, 97

Ombudsman, 24, 98

ongoing staff, 172–4, 176

openness of statistical process, 62

operation, 18–19, 30–1, 61–3  
 Census, 48–9, 50

organisation, 18, 160–1, 164–6  
*see also* Central Office; regional offices

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and  
 Development (OECD), 85, 92

Ottawa Group, 12, 89

outdoor events, risk of injury at, 101

outcome, 17  
 measures, 57–68

outposted officers, 66, 106, 110

outputs, 17, 83–111  
 cost estimates, 162–3  
 measures, 69–81  
 price, 15  
 relevance, 57–61

outsourcing opportunities, 81

overseas migration, 105

overseas trade, 85, 86–7, 162, 164, 167

ownership (foreign/Australian), 86

**P**

Pacific island countries, 12, 13

Papua New Guinea, 13

Parliament, documents tabled in, 197–8

parliamentary committee inquiries, 195–6

part time employees, 175

peer review (ABS projects), 42, 62

pensions and superannuation, 68, 87, 106

performance information (ABS), 55–81

performance pay (ABS staff), 179–80

personal computers, home use of, 48

Philippines, 65

physical security, 26

planning, 24–5, 59–61

Population and Social Output, 15, 17–18, 102–11, 162

population projections, 105

Population Statistics Group, 12, 18, 22, 163, 164–5,  
 168

population statistics standards, 163, 164, 168

population surveys, 78, 163, 165, 168

powers, 192

price indexes, 12, 35, 60, 89

prices, 88–9, 162, 164, 167

- CPI Infoline, 59
  - scanner datasets, 37
  - prisoners, 109
  - privacy, 25–6, 198–200
    - Census data, 45–6, 49–50
  - procurement (ABS), 190–1
  - Producers' Price Index, 89
  - product classification, 7
  - productivity improvement, 34–5
  - productivity statistics, 85
  - professional papers by ABS officers, 202–6
  - profits, 90
  - program structure, 160–1, 164–6
  - project management, 42
  - promotions, 176
  - prosecution actions approved, 201
  - protective security, 22, 25–6
  - Protective Security Management Committee, 22
  - provider loads, 65, 81, 87, 90
  - public accessibility, 73
    - see also* dissemination
  - public affairs, *see* marketing and public affairs
  - public sector accounts, 88, 162, 164, 167
  - Public Service Act staff, 167–75
  - publishing and publications, 110
  - publishing and publications (ABS), 7, 9, 62, 69–74, 84–97, 99, 104–11
    - Census of Population and Housing, 45, 47, 48, 104
    - consultancy services, 184, 187
    - 'integrating' statistical products, 38–9
    - labour force series, revisions to, 75
    - national standards, frameworks and methodologies, 63
    - regional statistics, 67–8
    - relevant to disability, 30
    - relevant to ecologically sustainable development, 30
    - relevant to social justice and equity, 28–9
    - revenue raised, 16
    - subscribers, 59
    - see also* dissemination; release of statistics
  - purchasing (ABS), 190–1
- Q**
- quality of output, 74–8
    - see also* data quality
  - quantity of output, 69–74
    - see also* publishing and publications
  - Quarterly Economic Activity Survey, 90
  - Queensland, *see* regional offices
  - questionnaires, 93, 107
- R**
- recreation and leisure statistics, 95–6, 100, 110, 165
  - recruitment, 177
  - reengineering, 87
  - Regional Directors, 19, 21, 22, 166
  - regional indicators, 66
  - Regional Meeting of Heads of Statistics of Pacific Island Countries, 12
  - regional offices, 18, 19, 66, 100–1, 104
    - publications, products and services, 67–8, 73
    - staff, 166, 167–71, 177
  - regional statistics, 5, 60, 63, 67–8
  - rehabilitation case management, 182
  - relative standard errors, 76–7
  - release of statistics, 19, 49
    - timeliness, 74–5, 95
  - relevance of ABS output, 57–61
  - reliability of statistics, 61–2, 75
  - remuneration, *see* income
  - Republic of Korea, 92
  - research and analysis (ABS), 33–43
  - research and experimental development, 91–2
  - Reserve Bank of Australia, 86, 87
  - resources (ABS), *see* finance; staff
  - response rates, 75–6
  - retail industry, 95, 96, 110
  - Return to Work Plans, 182
  - revenue, *see* finance
  - reviews, *see* audits and reviews; scrutiny
  - revisions to data, 75
  - reward and recognition scheme, 180
  - road transport, 95
  - role of ABS, 17–18
  - rural statistics, 5, 60, 63, 68
    - agriculture, 60, 92–3, 162, 164, 167
- S**
- sales data, 90, 95
  - sample design, 40–1
  - satellite accounts, 39, 84, 85, 97
  - scanner datasets, 37
  - schools, 107
  - science and technology, 91–2, 162, 164, 167
  - scrutiny, 21–4, 192–8
    - see also* audits and reviews
  - secondary providers, 59
  - secrecy provisions of Census and Statistics Act, 25–6, 63
  - security, 22, 25–6
  - Senior Executive Service (SES), 169–75, 177, 178–80
  - senior management, 18, 164–6
  - senior management committees, 21–3
  - separations of ongoing staff, 176
  - service charters, 27–8
  - service industries, 38, 60, 85, 95–7, 162, 164, 167
    - sales data, 90, 95
  - SESA, 85, 97
  - sewerage industry, 68, 93

- sex of staff, 169–75, 177
- SIAP, 12
- Singapore, 92
- small business, 91, 162, 164, 167  
     provider loads, 81, 90
- Small Business Deregulation Task Force, 26, 81
- small domain statistics, 35–6
- Social and Labour Division, 18, 164–5
- social capital, 60, 108
- social justice and equity, 28–30, 46, 63–4, 175
- social statistics, 108–9, 162, 165  
     quality, 76, 77
- socioeconomic concepts, new measures of, 34–5, 40
- South Australia, 19, 58–9, 66, 74, 100  
     *see also* regional offices
- South Korea, 92
- spatial data, 50  
     price indexes, 35
- special articles, 52–3
- SPEED, 163, 164, 168
- sport, 96, 110
- staff, 164–80  
     outposted, 66, 106, 110  
     professional papers by, 202–6  
     undertakings of fidelity and secrecy, 25–6
- staff counselling, 182
- staff management, 11, 22–3, 163, 166, 168, 178–83  
     2001 Census, 48, 50
- staff training and development, 177  
     about disability, 29–30  
     occupational health and safety, 181, 182  
     statistical consultancy, 98
- standards, 63–5, 92
- State of the Environment Report, 7
- States and Territories, 19, 66, 67, 68, 98, 100–1  
     finance statistics, 88  
     *see also* regional offices
- statistical benchmarking, *see* benchmarking
- Statistical Clearing House, 26–7, 65, 98–9
- statistical consultancy, 16, 98, 162, 165, 167  
     services used, 184, 187
- statistical coordination, 65–8, 98–9, 162, 165, 167
- statistical developments, 3–7
- statistical directories, 68
- Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, 12
- statistical local area population statistics, 105, 106
- statistical reliability, 61–2, 75
- statistical reviews, 77–8
- statistical services and user liaison, 100–1, 162, 167
- Statistical Services Branch, 165
- statistical training, 65, 98  
     international, 65
- Statistics (Arrangements with States) Act 1956, 19
- Statistics Determination, 198–200
- Statistics Indonesia, 13
- stress (ABS staff), 181
- structure and organisation, 18, 160–1, 164–6  
     *see also* Central Office; regional offices
- subscribers and subscriptions, 16, 59
- superannuation and pension statistics, 68, 87, 106
- Supported Accommodation Assistance Program, 111
- survey design, 40–1, 65, 98
- Survey of Education, training and Information Technology, 107
- Survey of Employee Earnings and Hours, 60, 107
- Survey of Household Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia, 98
- Survey of Information Technology Skills in Australia, 98
- survey quality, 75–7
- Sydney Olympic and Paralympic Games, 85, 86, 96, 97
- System of Integrated Economic and Environment Accounts (SESA), 85, 97
- T**
- Tasmania, 19, 66, 67, 100, 101, 105  
     *see also* regional offices
- Taxation Office, 81, 87, 98
- taxation reform, 163, 164, 168  
     *see also* New Tax System
- technical issues in analytical work, 40–1
- technology application, 163, 165, 168
- technology research, 163, 165, 168
- Technology Services Division, 18, 22, 80, 163, 165, 168
- telecommunications, 85, 89
- telephone inquiry services, 46–7, 50, 59
- tendering and contracting (ABS), 190–1
- Thailand, 13, 85, 86, 87
- third party interests, 59
- time capsule, 45–6
- time series analysis, 90, 91, 99
- timeliness, 74–5, 95
- TNTS, *see* New Tax System
- Torres Strait Islanders, *see* Indigenous Australians
- tourism, 68, 84, 96–7, 162, 164, 167
- trade, 85, 86–7, 162, 164, 167
- training, *see* education and training statistics; staff training and development; statistical training
- transport, 48, 68, 95, 162, 164, 167
- Treasury, 74
- tribunal comments, 24
- TVW Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, 101
- U**
- unemployment, *see* employment statistics
- unidentifiable information, disclosure of, 199–200
- United Nations, 12, 97, 108
- unpaid work, 84

useability of website, 73–4  
use of statistics, 58–9  
user groups, 24, 27, 48, 59–60

**V**

validation of analytical products, 41–2  
venture capital, 60, 87  
Victoria, 73, 100  
    *see also* regional offices  
Vietnam, 85, 86  
voice recognition, 50  
voluntary work, 109

**W**

Wage Cost Index, 60  
wages, 60, 97  
    *see also* income  
waste management, 97

water, 68, 93  
wealth, household, 36  
websites, 9, 73–4  
    accesses, 58, 59  
    Census, 47  
    theme pages, 93  
Western Australia, 19, 100, 101  
    *see also* regional offices  
wholesale industry, 95  
women staff, 170, 172–5, 177  
work programs, 24–5, 28, 57, 59–60  
workers compensation, 182  
workplace diversity, 28–30, 175  
workplace relations, 11, 178  
workplace safety, 181–3

**Y**

Year Book Australia, 9



**2100100007003**

**ISBN 0 642 47736 1**

© Commonwealth of Australia 2001

Produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics