



Technical Manual

Business Longitudinal Database, Expanded CURF

Australia

2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07

Technical Manual

**Business Longitudinal
Database, Expanded
CURF**

Australia

2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07

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AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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OVERVIEW

This Technical Manual provides information on the first release of the Business Longitudinal Database (BLD) Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF). The BLD is made available through a CURF released with the approval of the Australian Statistician. The 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 BLD CURF is accessible through the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL).

The BLD CURF comprises two independent samples (referred to as panels) drawn from the in-scope Australian business population. Panel One contains three reference periods of data (2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07) for 2,732 business records. Panel Two contains two reference periods of data (2005-06 and 2006-07) for 3,432 business records.

BACKGROUND TO THE
BUSINESS LONGITUDINAL
DATABASE

The BLD follows the earlier ABS development of a Business Longitudinal Survey, which ran from 1994 to 1999. Following significant demand from a range of users, specific funding for the development of the BLD was included in the 2004-05 Federal Budget. This funding also specified a requirement for the development of a longitudinal study of businesses in the food industry. These requirements were combined into a single new statistical initiative, the Business Longitudinal Database.

Once fully implemented, the BLD will comprise several longitudinal datasets containing both characteristics and financial data. The BLD will allow analyses of changes in the performance over time of a cohort of small and medium businesses. The BLD is specifically designed for longitudinal purposes and not to produce accurate aggregated/population information.

The BLD aims to increase understanding of:

- the activities or factors that are relevant to business performance;
- the business characteristics that are associated with these activities or factors.

The BLD design was determined through user consultations conducted in the period leading up to its implementation in 2005. The sample design is based on the use of consecutive panels that represent the Australian business population at the point in time that each panel is introduced into the BLD. A new panel is added each year and remains in the BLD for five years.

Information included in the BLD is drawn from business characteristics data sourced from an ABS survey and financial data sourced from two main administrative sources: the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) and the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (Customs). The ABS wishes to acknowledge the assistance of both of these organisations in the development of the BLD and the BLD CURF.

*Inclusion of data from the
ATO*

ATO data included in the BLD CURF have been supplied to the ABS under the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1936* which requires that such data are only used for statistical purposes. No individual information collected under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* is provided back to the ATO for administrative or regulatory purposes. Any discussion of data limitations or weaknesses are in the context of using the data for statistical purposes, and are not related to the ability of the data to support the ATO's core operational requirements.

Legislative requirements to ensure privacy and secrecy of these data have been followed. Only people authorised under the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* have been allowed to view data about any particular organisation and/or person in conducting these analyses. No information about individual taxpayers (persons) has been released to the ABS. Aggregated personal income tax data are confidentialised by the ATO before release to the ABS. In accordance with the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, results have been confidentialised to ensure that they are not likely to enable identification of a particular person or organisation.

FOOD INDUSTRY
COMPONENT

The requirement for information in relation to the food industry arose in 2003 when the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) was commissioned to undertake a longitudinal study into small and medium businesses in the Australian Food Industry. Consultation between DAFF and the ABS determined that the best approach was to incorporate these requirements into the broad structure of the BLD. It was considered that the proposed content of the broader BLD, with its focus on business performance and productivity would be appropriate to largely meet the information needs specific to the food industry. Based on this, the Food Industry component of the BLD was developed and essentially involved the inclusion of additional sample in the three relevant industries: Agriculture, forestry and fishing; Manufacturing; and, Wholesale trade.

FEEDBACK ON THE FIRST
RELEASE OF THE BLD
CURF

As this is the first release of the BLD CURF, user feedback is sought specifically in relation to:

- the range of content in the BLD CURF;
- the usability of the BLD CURF (including data quality);
- the usefulness of this Technical Manual;
- suggestions for improvements to this Technical Manual;
- suggestions for future BLD CURF content.

Comments and suggestions can be provided to the contact shown in this manual or via email to innovation.technology@abs.gov.au

STATISTICAL UNITS USED

In analysing the data in the BLD CURF, it is important to understand how the ABS classifies businesses for statistical purposes. Statistical units are those entities from which statistics are collected, or about which statistics are compiled. In ABS economic statistics, the statistical unit is generally the business. The ABS Business Register (ABSBR) is used to record information about statistical units and is used to create the frames for most ABS economic collections.

The ABS uses an economic statistics units model on the ABSBR to describe the characteristics of businesses, and the structural relationships between related businesses. Within large, complex and diverse business groups, the units model is used to define reporting units that can provide data to the ABS at suitable levels of detail.

This units model allocates businesses to one of two sub-populations:

- *Businesses with a simple structure* - Most businesses and organisations in Australia need to obtain an Australian Business Number (ABN). They are then included on the whole-of-government register of businesses, the Australian Business Register (ABR), which is maintained by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Most of these businesses have simple structures, therefore the unit registered for an ABN will satisfy ABS statistical requirements. For these businesses, the ABS has aligned its statistical units structure with the ABN unit. The businesses with simple structures constitute the ATO maintained population (ATOMP), and the ABN unit is used as the statistical unit for all integrated ABS economic collections.
- *Businesses with a complex structure* - For the population of businesses where the ABN unit is not suitable for ABS statistical requirements, the ABS maintains its own units structure through direct contact with the business. These businesses constitute the ABS maintained population (ABSMP). This population consists typically of large, complex and diverse businesses. For businesses in the ABSMP, statistical units comprise the Enterprise Group, the Enterprise and the Type of Activity Unit (TAU). The range of activities across the Enterprise Group can be very diverse. The TAU represents a grouping of one or more business entities within the Enterprise that cover all of the operations within an industry subdivision and for which a basic set of financial, production and employment data can be reported.

Together these two sub-populations (of ABN units and TAUs) make up the ABSBR population.

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

The scope of the BLD is restricted to the ATOMP, i.e. businesses with a simple structure. This facilitates the confidentialisation process as larger businesses may be more easily identified and avoids difficulties in dealing with matching ATO data for businesses with a complex structure. On this basis, the statistical unit for the BLD is the ABN unit. For the purposes of the BLD, the term business is interchangeable with the ABN unit.

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

continued

The businesses that are included in the BLD are classified:

- by institutional sector, in accordance with the Standard Institutional Sector Classification of Australia (SISCA), which is detailed in *Standard Economic Sector Classifications of Australia (SESCA)* (cat. no. 1218.0)
- by industry, in accordance with the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 1993 edition* (cat. no. 1292.0).

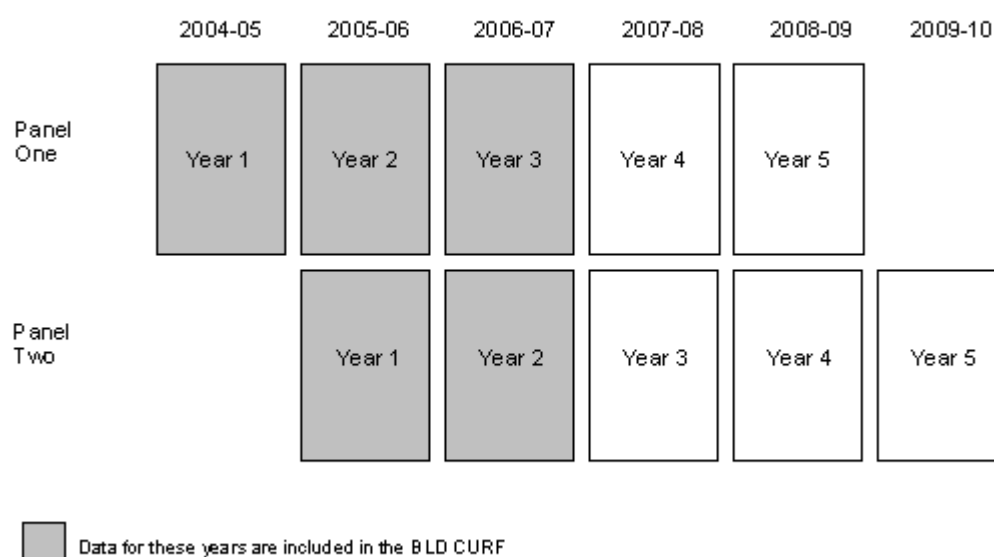
The scope of the BLD is actively trading businesses in the Australian economy. An actively trading business is one which is registered for an ABN and remits Goods and Services Tax (GST). The BLD includes both non-employing and employing businesses in the Australian economy except for:

- large businesses, i.e. with 200 or more employees or complex businesses (those which comprise multiple ABNs);
- all units classified to Financial corporations (SISCA Sector 2), General Government (SISCA Sector 3), Not-for-profit Institutions Serving Households (SISCA Sector 5) and Rest of the World (SISCA Sector 6);
- businesses with Income Tax Instalment Payer (ITIP) role only and/or Trusts without an active Income Tax Withholding (ITW) role;
- non-employing businesses which report \$50,000 or less for sales of goods and/or services in their Business Activity Statement (BAS) return annually;
- businesses classified to the following ANZSIC93 industries:
 - ANZSIC93 Division D Electricity, Gas and Water Supply
 - ANZSIC93 Division K Finance and Insurance
 - ANZSIC93 Division M Government Administration and Defence
 - ANZSIC93 Division N Education
 - ANZSIC93 Division O Health and Community Services
 - ANZSIC93 Sub-division 96 Other Services
 - ANZSIC93 Sub-division 97 Private Households Employing Staff
 - ANZSIC93 Group 921 Libraries
 - ANZSIC93 Group 922 Museums
 - ANZSIC93 Group 923 Parks and Gardens

For detailed information on ANZSIC93 classes included in the Food Industry component - see Appendix.

SAMPLE DESIGN

The sample design involves the use of panels that represent the Australian business population at the point in time that each panel is initiated into the BLD. Panel One is representative of the in-scope business population as at 30 June 2005. Panel Two is representative of the in-scope business population as at 30 June 2006 (see diagram below). Each panel is directly surveyed once a year for a period of five years. A new panel is normally initiated each year.

BLD STRUCTURE: Panel One and Panel Two

The sample for each BLD panel is stratified by industry division and business size. Industry is based on ANZSIC 1993 division, and business size is based on a derived employment size indicator - derived size benchmark (DSB). DSB is a derived item using ATO data which models employment and forms a part of stratification for all ABS business surveys. Once included in a panel, and irrespective of changes to business size or industry division, the selected business remains in the stratum for which it was originally selected. However, as employment is collected in the survey component, users will be able to observe businesses which have changed size ranges over time. As DSB is created at the time the business first appears on the ABSBR, elapsed time can lead to reported employment differing from DSB. Changes to industry division, however, are not recorded.

There are four business size ranges used:

- non-employed businesses (i.e. businesses without an active ITW role);
- businesses with 0-4 employees;
- businesses with 5-19 employees;
- businesses with 20-199 employees.

State/territory is not included in stratification and no level of geography is available on the BLD CURF.

SAMPLE DESIGN

continued

The intent of the BLD design is to maximise longitudinal, micro level comparisons across the five years during which each panel remains in the BLD. While the sample is stratified on the basis of business size and industry division, the sample is not allocated to enable the creation of population or cross-sectional estimates within any reasonable accuracy constraint. The major consideration in allocating the sample in the current BLD design is ensuring that enough sample is included to facilitate longitudinal analysis, i.e. that sufficient live sample remains in each stratum at the end of five years.

During the development of the BLD, consultation with users determined that the minimum number of businesses considered to be viable for longitudinal analysis was approximately 30 businesses per stratum still live at the end of five years. As part of BLD design, expected death rates for each panel over the five years were calculated for each individual stratum. To achieve the endpoint number of 30 live businesses per stratum, taking death rates into consideration, a starting point of 40 businesses per stratum, on average, was required. Therefore, the sample size for the entire BLD (excluding the Food Industry component), is approximately 2,000 businesses per panel.

Two factors have impacted on the intention of having approximately 30 live businesses per stratum in each panel at the end of five years, these are:

- *Insufficient population:* Some strata will have less than 30 businesses selected at the commencement of each panel due to there being insufficient population in the frame stratum from which to select the sample. This is a result of the frame being structured so that future panels can be selected without overlap in selected businesses, i.e. a business can only be selected in one panel at a time. This has had an impact on both Panels One and Two.
- *Coverage change for Panel One:* Following the dispatch of Panel One, the ABS reviewed the inclusion on the ABSBR of businesses which had only an Income Tax Instalment Payer role as these were not considered to be economically active. The outcome was that these businesses were removed from the ABSBR and a decision was made to retrospectively adjust the scope of BLD Panel One to reflect this decision. This resulted in approximately 500 businesses being removed from the Panel One sample prior to finalising the data for the first year, 2004-05 (and have been removed from all subsequent reference periods). This is also the reason that the sample for Panel One is smaller than the sample for Panel Two.

Food Industry Component

The Food Industry component is defined by ANZSIC93 classes predominantly associated with food for human consumption in the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing; Manufacturing; and Wholesale Trade industry divisions. Consequently, there are "Food Industry" and "Non-Food Industry" flags for these three Divisions. The definition of the Food Industry component was determined through user consultation during the initial BLD development.

In addition to the core BLD sample, extra sample of approximately 1,000 businesses per panel has been included for the Food Industry (i.e. approximately a third of selections in each panel are Food Industry additional sample). The original Food Industry stratification was based on food industry class by employment size. As part of the confidentialising process, the original Food Industry stratification has been collapsed to food industry division in the BLD CURF. The Food Industry additional sample was allocated on a similar basis to that of the core sample, on average an equal number of

*Food Industry Component
continued*

selections per stratum. Unlike in the core BLD, resource limitations did not permit an initial allocation of approximately 40 businesses per stratum. Therefore, in the Food Industry component, the allocation was reduced to a maximum of 20 businesses in total for each class, i.e. for the combination of the four business employment size ranges.

POPULATION COUNTS AND
PANEL SAMPLE SIZE

Panel One sample was selected from a survey frame created in June 2005 and includes 2,732 businesses. The Panel One frame contained 1,563,857 businesses. In this BLD CURF, Panel One contains three reference periods of data (2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07).

Panel Two sample was selected from a survey frame created in June 2006 and includes 3,432 businesses. The Panel Two frame contained 1,336,515 businesses. In this BLD CURF, Panel Two contains two reference periods of data (2005-06 and 2006-07).

POPULATION COUNTS AND
PANEL SAMPLE SIZE
continued

BLD PANEL ONE, Business Population Counts(a)

| <i>Industry Division</i> | <u>BUSINESS EMPLOYMENT SIZE</u> | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | <i>Non-employed businesses(b)</i> | <i>0-4 persons</i> | <i>5-19 persons</i> | <i>20-199 persons</i> | <i>All business size groups</i> |
| | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. |
| Agriculture, forestry and fishing(c) | | | | | |
| Food Industry | 100 918 | 33 743 | 17 066 | 2 938 | 154 665 |
| Non-food industry | 24 008 | 6 567 | 3 087 | 1 093 | 34 755 |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>124 926</i> | <i>40 310</i> | <i>20 153</i> | <i>4 031</i> | <i>189 420</i> |
| Mining | 3 123 | 1 871 | 397 | 118 | 5 509 |
| Manufacturing(c) | | | | | |
| Food Industry | 2 343 | 2 438 | 1 037 | 383 | 6 201 |
| Non-food industry | 41 589 | 38 549 | 12 053 | 3 581 | 95 772 |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>43 932</i> | <i>40 987</i> | <i>13 090</i> | <i>3 964</i> | <i>101 973</i> |
| Construction | 175 385 | 102 392 | 11 769 | 1 608 | 291 154 |
| Wholesale trade(c) | | | | | |
| Food Industry | 4 201 | 4 680 | 1 467 | 358 | 10 706 |
| Non-food industry | 28 829 | 28 504 | 8 671 | 2 127 | 68 131 |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>33 030</i> | <i>33 184</i> | <i>10 138</i> | <i>2 485</i> | <i>78 837</i> |
| Retail trade | 83 250 | 94 136 | 26 335 | 4 374 | 208 095 |
| Accommodation, cafes and restaurants | 13 334 | 25 867 | 10 678 | 2 994 | 52 873 |
| Transport and storage | 72 636 | 31 632 | 4 164 | 900 | 109 332 |
| Communication services | 14 909 | 7 868 | 319 | 68 | 23 164 |
| Property and business services | 237 335 | 133 407 | 27 659 | 6 477 | 404 878 |
| Cultural and recreational services | 27 131 | 13 142 | 2 885 | 638 | 43 796 |
| Personal and other services | 29 191 | 21 573 | 3 590 | 472 | 54 826 |
| Total in-scope population | 858 182 | 546 369 | 131 177 | 28 129 | 1 563 857 |

(a) Population count as at 30 June 2005. Includes in-scope population on frame only.

(b) Non-employed businesses are those without an active ATO Income Tax Withholding role.

(c) See text for an explanation of the Food Industry component of the BLD.

POPULATION COUNTS AND
PANEL SAMPLE SIZE
continued

BLD PANEL ONE, Business Sample Counts(a)

BUSINESS EMPLOYMENT SIZE

| <i>Industry Division</i> | <i>Non-employing businesses(b)</i> | <i>0-4 persons</i> | <i>5-19 persons</i> | <i>20-199 persons</i> | <i>All</i> |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | | | | <i>business size groups</i> |
| | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. |
| Agriculture, forestry and fishing(c) | | | | | |
| Food Industry | 107 | 127 | 121 | 107 | 462 |
| Non-food industry | 31 | 44 | 43 | 42 | 160 |
| <i>Total</i> | 138 | 171 | 164 | 149 | 622 |
| Mining | 34 | 41 | 30 | 15 | 120 |
| Manufacturing(c) | | | | | |
| Food Industry | 70 | 100 | 73 | 60 | 303 |
| Non-food industry | 29 | 44 | 37 | 36 | 146 |
| <i>Total</i> | 99 | 144 | 110 | 96 | 449 |
| Construction | 22 | 43 | 38 | 39 | 142 |
| Wholesale trade(c) | | | | | |
| Food Industry | 31 | 40 | 32 | 28 | 131 |
| Non-food industry | 39 | 43 | 36 | 36 | 154 |
| <i>Total</i> | 70 | 83 | 68 | 64 | 285 |
| Retail trade | 42 | 50 | 43 | 39 | 174 |
| Accommodation, cafes and restaurants | 28 | 64 | 50 | 41 | 183 |
| Transport and storage | 33 | 44 | 40 | 39 | 156 |
| Communication services | 36 | 50 | 33 | 20 | 139 |
| Property and business services | 29 | 45 | 41 | 43 | 158 |
| Cultural and recreational services | 15 | 46 | 38 | 42 | 141 |
| Personal and other services | 27 | 54 | 44 | 38 | 163 |
| Total in-scope sample | 573 | 835 | 699 | 625 | 2 732 |

(a) Sample count as at 30 June 2005.

(b) Non-employing businesses are those without an active ATO Income Tax Withholding role.

(c) See text for an explanation of the Food Industry component of BLD.

POPULATION COUNTS AND
PANEL SAMPLE SIZE

BLD PANEL TWO, Business Population Counts(a)

continued

| <i>Industry Division</i> | <u>BUSINESS EMPLOYMENT SIZE</u> | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | <i>Non-employed businesses(b)</i> | <i>0-4 persons</i> | <i>5-19 persons</i> | <i>20-199 persons</i> | <i>All business size groups</i> |
| | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. |
| Agriculture, forestry and fishing(c) | | | | | |
| Food Industry | 103 723 | 34 573 | 17 451 | 2 972 | 158 719 |
| Non-food industry | 25 886 | 6 536 | 3 054 | 1 075 | 36 551 |
| <i>Total</i> | 129 609 | 41 109 | 20 505 | 4 047 | 195 270 |
| Mining | 2 510 | 2 068 | 395 | 108 | 5 081 |
| Manufacturing(c) | | | | | |
| Food Industry | 1 633 | 2 454 | 989 | 379 | 5 455 |
| Non-food industry | 27 141 | 37 837 | 11 786 | 3 469 | 80 233 |
| <i>Total</i> | 28 774 | 40 291 | 12 775 | 3 848 | 85 688 |
| Construction | 134 662 | 104 213 | 12 103 | 1 586 | 252 564 |
| Wholesale trade(c) | | | | | |
| Food Industry | 3 306 | 4 622 | 1 444 | 343 | 9 715 |
| Non-food industry | 19 929 | 28 824 | 8 559 | 2 042 | 59 354 |
| <i>Total</i> | 23 235 | 33 446 | 10 003 | 2 385 | 69 069 |
| Retail trade | 61 179 | 94 600 | 25 644 | 4 168 | 185 591 |
| Accommodation, cafes and restaurants | 10 135 | 26 165 | 10 701 | 2 922 | 49 923 |
| Transport and storage | 37 749 | 31 673 | 4 188 | 905 | 74 515 |
| Communication services | 9 167 | 8 190 | 342 | 71 | 17 770 |
| Property and business services | 163 269 | 134 992 | 27 090 | 6 372 | 331 723 |
| Cultural and recreational services | 13 349 | 13 308 | 2 801 | 620 | 30 078 |
| Personal and other services | 13 409 | 21 878 | 3 501 | 455 | 39 243 |
| Total in-scope population | 627 047 | 551 933 | 130 048 | 27 487 | 1 336 515 |

(a) Population count as at 30 June 2006. Includes in-scope population available on frame only.

(b) Non-employed businesses are those without an active ATO Income Tax Withholding role.

(c) See text for an explanation of the Food Industry component of the BLD.

POPULATION COUNTS AND
PANEL SAMPLE SIZE
continued

BLD PANEL TWO, Business Sample Counts(a)

BUSINESS EMPLOYMENT SIZE

| <i>Industry Division</i> | <i>Non-employing businesses(b)</i> | <i>0-4 persons</i> | <i>5-19 persons</i> | <i>20-199 persons</i> | <i>All</i> |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | | | | <i>business size groups</i> |
| | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. |
| Agriculture, forestry and fishing(c) | | | | | |
| Food Industry | 156 | 128 | 119 | 103 | 506 |
| Non-food industry | 53 | 54 | 53 | 52 | 212 |
| <i>Total</i> | 209 | 182 | 172 | 155 | 718 |
| Mining | 59 | 41 | 30 | 11 | 141 |
| Manufacturing(c) | | | | | |
| Food Industry | 127 | 96 | 70 | 56 | 349 |
| Non-food industry | 61 | 44 | 37 | 36 | 178 |
| <i>Total</i> | 188 | 140 | 107 | 92 | 527 |
| Construction | 55 | 53 | 38 | 39 | 185 |
| Wholesale trade(c) | | | | | |
| Food Industry | 48 | 40 | 32 | 27 | 147 |
| Non-food industry | 58 | 43 | 36 | 36 | 173 |
| <i>Total</i> | 106 | 83 | 68 | 63 | 320 |
| Retail trade | 89 | 70 | 63 | 59 | 281 |
| Accommodation, cafes and restaurants | 91 | 64 | 50 | 41 | 246 |
| Transport and storage | 55 | 44 | 40 | 39 | 178 |
| Communication services | 82 | 60 | 33 | 9 | 184 |
| Property and business services | 67 | 55 | 51 | 53 | 226 |
| Cultural and recreational services | 63 | 56 | 48 | 52 | 219 |
| Personal and other services | 71 | 54 | 44 | 38 | 207 |
| Total in-scope sample | 1 135 | 902 | 744 | 651 | 3 432 |

(a) Sample count as at 30 June 2006.

(b) Non-employing businesses are those without an active ATO Income Tax Withholding role.

(c) See text for an explanation of the Food Industry component of the BLD.

WEIGHTING

Weights are provided for each panel separately with both design and longitudinal weights included. Longitudinal weights are design weights adjusted for businesses which have failed to respond in all periods.

In the BLD CURF, weights are based on the stratum (i.e. Industry division by business employment size) with the exception of units in Agriculture, forestry and fishing; Manufacturing; and Wholesale trade. For units in the Food Industry component of these three industries, weights are based on the original stratification (food industry class by business employment size). For the non-food industry units in these three industries, weight is based on "Non-food industry part of division by business employment size". Users should be aware that food industry class is not available on the BLD CURF as an indicative item.

Use of the BLD CURF to calculate population or cross-sectional estimates is not recommended as the BLD sample is not allocated to enable the creation of such estimates with reasonable accuracy, and as each BLD panel is selected independently (i.e. each is designed to represent the Australian business population at the time of initiation), combining panels is difficult.

Users are advised that combining panels for the purpose of linear modelling can be valid under certain circumstances. For example, it can be valid to perform linear modelling using data for businesses from both panels provided that users ensure:

- the weights are not used;
- the stratification variables (SIZE, DIV93 and FIS) are included as explanatory variables.

DATA SOURCES

The BLD is populated from administrative data provided to the ABS for statistical purposes by other government agencies and data directly collected via the ABS Business Characteristics Survey (BCS).

Administrative data

Administrative data included in the BLD are:

- *ATO BAS data* - Business Activity Statements are submitted by businesses in respect of their GST obligations. Activity statements are submitted to the ATO on either a monthly, quarterly or annual basis, depending on the size and, to some degree, preference of the business. BAS data included in the BLD are as provided by the ATO. The *Income Tax Assessment Act 1936* provides for the ATO to pass information to the Australian Statistician for the purposes of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*. See the data item list which is available from the ABS website as a datacube for the BAS variables and the Glossary for definitions of these variables. Users of the BLD CURF are advised to refer to the ATO website (www.ato.gov.au) for more information about BAS reporting requirements.
- *Customs administrative data* - Value of imports and exports of goods are drawn from information provided to the ABS by Customs. These data also provide the source for ABS Merchandise Trade statistics. More information about import and export reporting requirements is available at the Customs website (www.customs.gov.au).

*Business Characteristics
Survey*

The BCS is an annual ABS survey and is conducted via a mail-out/mail-back questionnaire. It is designed to collect characteristics data. It is intended that each year the survey will contain a consistent set of core questions to allow longitudinal analysis. There have been some changes to the core content of the survey in these early iterations as its purpose and scope has been refined.

CONTENT

In developing the BCS instrument, as with all ABS surveys, it has been necessary to achieve the appropriate balance between developing a survey which enables the collection of comprehensive, integrated data with the responsibility of managing the reporting load of businesses.

One of the key aims of the BLD is to enable analysis of business performance, including the capacity of businesses to undertake activities which lead to performance growth and the relative importance of these activities in driving that growth. To better meet this objective, the scope of the questions included in the 2004-05 BCS was refined in the 2005-06 survey. The 2005-06 survey reflected these changes through a greater focus on aspects of business characteristics or operations which may have an impact on business performance generally and, in particular, productivity. Therefore, some of the BCS data items available for the first year of Panel One (2004-05) were only collected once and are not available for the first year of Panel Two.

The BCS is also used as the survey vehicle for the collection of detailed ABS Business Use of Information Technology (BUIIT) and Innovation outputs. Some of the BLD sample is also used in compiling these outputs. Detailed BUIIT and Innovation data are collected in alternate years via additional questions relating to these topics included in the BCS. To meet this additional purpose, a second form type was introduced for the 2006-07 BCS.

Most of the items included in the BCS are categorical in nature (i.e. require a yes/no response).

REFERENCE PERIOD

The reference period for the data included in the BCS is the year ended 30 June or as at 30 June of the relevant year.

DATA QUALITY

The volume of data included in the BLD is substantial and resource constraints mean it is not possible to quality assure each individual item. Users should take the following into consideration when using the BLD CURF.

*Business Activity
Statement*

BAS data are supplied by the ATO to the ABS. Users should take into consideration that any discussion of the data limitations or weaknesses is in the context of using the data for statistical purposes (i.e. this BLD CURF), and is not related to the ability of the data to support the ATO's core operational requirements.

In some cases, BAS data may be partially missing for an individual business (for example, data may be available for three out of four quarters). No imputation is applied for missing data. The impact of this approach is somewhat mitigated by the timing of compiling these data. BAS data included in the BLD were compiled in February 2009, therefore, the

*Business Activity
Statement continued*

time that has elapsed since the end of the latest included reference period (June 2007) has resulted in BAS records that are predominantly complete.

Any BAS data items which are either missing or have not been reported have been assigned the missing value code of 999999999 within the BLD CURF. Users should ensure that they do not inadvertently use the missing value code as a numeric value. This will ensure that these missing value codes do not incorrectly contribute to BLD CURF usage or outputs.

BLD CURF users should also be aware that there are specific reporting requirements for businesses with Pay As You Go withholding payments. For example, these requirements may impact on values for wages and salaries as shown in BAS data included in the BLD CURF. For this reason, missing values for this item should not necessarily be interpreted as nil payment of wages and salaries. The ABS is investigating how this can be rectified for future BLD CURF releases.

*Business Characteristics
Survey (BCS)*

The approach to quality assurance for the BCS aims to make the best use of ABS resources to meet user prioritised requirements - both in terms of data quality and timing of release. The approach specifies the level and degree to which each data item is quality assured, noting that only some of the total number of items in the BCS are able to be quality assured to the highest standards. Most of the data contained in the BLD CURF are 'as reported' by businesses with limited editing and cross-validation being applied. The qualitative nature of most of the categorical information included in the BCS also contributes to the difficulty of quality assuring these items.

While every effort is made to aid reporting accuracy through form design and checking of a selection of the "more important" items (such as employment and innovation indicators), the BCS is subject to reporting error.

For example, there are a small number of items where businesses have been asked to 'tick one box only' yet multiple responses may have been provided. In these cases, contact would need to be made with the respondent to ascertain the correct response, however, it has not been possible to make contact with all businesses that may have reported in this way in all instances. These responses have been appropriately flagged.

MISSING DATA

There are three reasons why data may be missing in the BLD CURF: question not completed; question not required to be completed (i.e. sequencing); or question not asked.

Question not completed

It is common in mail-out surveys for there to be some degree of missing information as a result of forms not being completed. Forms which are received without being completed at all (i.e. blank forms) are returned to respondents for completion. Forms which are received partly completed are not returned and may have some missing data in the BLD CURF. The ABS has not imputed for missing data and, where a response could be expected, the variable has been flagged as missing. Users should be aware that investigations by the ABS into non-response at particular questions indicates that, in the majority of cases, non-response equates to a negative response.

*Business Characteristics
Survey (BCS) continued*

Question not required to be completed

There are a number of topics included in the BCS for which filter questions are used and a negative response usually results in the respondent being sequenced past other questions for that topic. Businesses for which this is a legitimate scenario will have the relevant variables flagged as not requiring a response.

Question not asked

The BCS serves the dual purpose of collecting information to populate the BLD and to replace previously separate collections related to Innovation and IT use in Australian business. To meet this dual purpose, and to minimise provider load and remain within available resources, different form types were introduced into the BCS from the 2006-07 reference period. A long form is used for the component of the BLD panel sample that also contributes to the alternating Innovation and IT use outputs; and a short form is used for businesses that are only included in the BLD panels. The difference between the long and short forms is the more detailed Innovation or IT related questions used to produce these outputs. Specifically for 2006-07, the use of different form types has resulted in some businesses (in both Panels One and Two) not being asked the more detailed Innovation questions. Businesses for which this is a legitimate scenario will have the relevant variables flagged as not being asked.

Data related to imports and exports of goods (i.e. trade items)

Data included in the BLD CURF related to imports and exports of goods are available from three sources:

- BCS: respondents to the BCS are asked to report if they have received income from the exports of goods or have imported any goods during the reference period. The responses to these items require the respondent to self identify via a categorical response;
- Export Sales as reported on BAS: the free on board (f.o.b.) value of sales of exported goods that meet the GST-free export rules; sourced from data reported to the ATO. These data are matched to sampled businesses using the ABN;
- Merchandise trade information originally from Customs: Merchandise trade statistics on a recorded trade basis (Australian Customs Value for imports and f.o.b. value for exports) are compiled from information submitted by exporters and importers or their agents to Customs. These data are matched to sampled businesses using the ABN.

The reporting requirements for data collected by the ATO and Customs are detailed and there are differences in requirements between the two. As the information from each of the three sources is collected on a different basis, it may result in some inconsistencies between the trade data items included in the BLD CURF. For example, a business may have self-identified as an exporter on the BCS yet no corresponding BAS export sales and/or value of exports from merchandise trade data are available. The differences between the three sources relate to:

- the scope of the exporting activity and whether it includes both export of goods and of services, or goods alone;
- whether any financial threshold is applied to the inclusion of the activity;

*Business Characteristics
Survey (BCS) continued*

Data related to imports and exports of goods (i.e. trade items) continued

- the degree of subjectivity involved in the method of identification of exporting status, for example a business which produces goods for export but on-sells them to an exporter may incorrectly self-identify as an exporter in the BCS.

The ABS has not contacted businesses in the sample to clarify specific reasons for the differences. BLD CURF users are advised to use the source best suited to their specific analytical needs.

Other quality considerations

Some additional information related to quality of reporting for selected BCS data items is included in *Chapter Three: Using the BLD CURF*.

SAMPLE LOSS

The business population in Australia is not static, changing constantly as a result of new businesses being created (often referred to as births), businesses which cease operation (deaths) and businesses which undergo structural change. As each panel in the BLD represents the business population at the time of selection, it is these latter two changes (deaths and structural change) that need to be dealt with in the BLD.

No action is taken to adjust for births as this would be inconsistent with the principle that each panel represents the business population at the time of initiation and not the population as it may be after five years (i.e. when the panel lapses).

Deaths

The statistical unit for the BLD is the ABN and it is the operations of the business represented by that ABN that are followed for the life of the panel. ABNs (i.e. businesses) which cease to operate during the life of the panel are considered to be deaths. Businesses may cease to operate for a variety of reasons, for example, they may be wound up or they may be sold to or taken over by another businesses entity. For the purposes of the BLD, businesses (as represented by ABNs) which cease to operate or are wound up during the life of the panel remain in the sample and are appropriately flagged. Any data for that business prior to it ceasing to operate is included in the BLD. As noted above in SAMPLE DESIGN, each BLD panel includes an allowance for expected deaths.

Structural Change

There are a number of reasons why a selected business will change in structure over the life of the panel. A business may merge with another business; be wholly or partly taken over; split into multiple new businesses; take over part or all of another business; or, any combination of these. For the purposes of the BLD, if the original ABN continues to operate, the business will remain in the sample without having any flags incorporated to indicate change. It is recognised that this may create a difficulty for the analyst as the business has undergone a change and should be treated as such, but such change is not easily identifiable. Businesses which undergo structural change and cease using the original ABN are treated as deaths.

*Businesses which are out
of scope*

It is possible that businesses which have been selected in a BLD panel may have incorrect structural information (industry and/or employment size) on the ABSBR. Part of initialising each panel includes checking the structural information to ensure that the business is actually in scope of the BLD, for example, not a large business or part of a

Businesses which are out of scope continued

business with a complex structure. Businesses may be made out of scope during the life of the panel if they become part of a complex business structure. These will be flagged appropriately and no subsequent data will be present in the BLD CURF. Businesses which, at the time of initiation, were below the employment size cut-off but grow to have 200 or more employees remain in scope and continue to have data collected and included in the BLD CURF.

Businesses with a "live" ABN but no operations

There are businesses in the BLD panels which have become dormant and are flagged as nils. These are businesses which retain their ABN but no longer operate in the market. Nils include businesses which have temporarily ceased their operations or operate on an ad-hoc basis only.

Non-response

While every effort has been made to achieve full response for businesses selected in each BLD Panel, there is a small level of non-response. Non-response rates for the survey component are presented in the table below. In combining survey data with that from administrative sources, it is possible for a business which did not respond to the BCS to have ATO or Customs sourced data present. All non-responding businesses have been confirmed as live and operating.

BCS NON-RESPONSE RATES, BLD Panels One and Two

| | PANEL 1 | | | PANEL 2(a) | | |
|---------|--------------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| | <i>Number of businesses selected</i> | <i>Number of businesses with no BCS response</i> | <i>Proportion of sample with no response</i> | <i>Number of businesses selected</i> | <i>Number of businesses with no BCS response</i> | <i>Proportion of sample with no response</i> |
| | No. | No. | % | No. | No. | % |
| 2004-05 | 2 732 | 53 | 2 | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. |
| 2005-06 | 2 732 | 137 | 5 | 3 432 | 140 | 4 |
| 2006-07 | 2 732 | 137 | 5 | 3 432 | 136 | 4 |

(a) n.a. = Not Applicable

CONFIDENTIALISING THE DATA

The BLD CURF is released under the provisions of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*. The Act allows for the release of data in the form of unit records where the information is not likely to enable the identification of a particular person or organisation. Accordingly, there are no names or addresses of survey respondents on the BLD CURF, and other steps have been taken to protect the confidentiality of respondents. These include:

- Perturbing (value adjustment) of BAS data for all businesses.
- Reducing the level of detail shown on the BLD CURF for some data items. For example, some data items collected in the survey have been omitted, collapsed with other data items, or presented in ranges.
- Sub-sampling of businesses in the Food Industry component to ensure that each business on the BLD CURF represents at least 3 businesses in the population. Businesses sub-sampled for inclusion on the BLD CURF have been selected in a manner such that they are largely representative (in regards to their business industry and size) of the businesses excluded during sub-sampling.

CONFIDENTIALISING THE
DATA *continued*

- Changes to some other data item values of a very small number of businesses with rare characteristics.

Users should be aware that the methodology applied to perturb financial data does not impact on the comparability between selected businesses within a time period or over time.

ABOUT THE MICRODATA

The 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 BLD CURF contains two separate files. One for each of the two panels included in this version of the BLD. The BLD CURF enables users to manipulate the data and perform both point-in-time and longitudinal unit record analysis.

The 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 BLD microdata are released under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, which has provision for the release of data in the form of unit records where the information is not likely to enable the identification of a particular person or organisation. Accordingly, there are no names or addresses of survey respondents on the BLD CURF, and other steps have been taken to protect the confidentiality of respondents - see *Chapter Two: About the Business Longitudinal Database*.

Steps to confidentialise the data made available on the BLD CURF are designed to ensure the integrity of the dataset and optimise its content, while maintaining the confidentiality of respondents. Intending users should ensure that the data they require, at the level of detail they require, are available on the BLD CURF. A full list of the data items on the BLD CURF is provided in Excel Spreadsheet format on the ABS web site entry for this manual.

USING THE INDICATIVE ITEMS

The BLD CURF includes several indicative items which will assist users in their analysis. For background information about these - see *Chapter Two: About the Business Longitudinal Database*.

Design Weight (DWEIGHT): The sample weight at time of selection.

Longitudinal Weight (LWEIGHT): The final weight at the end of the latest time period. This is the sample weight adjusted for non-response in all included periods.

- For Panel One, LWEIGHT is the DWEIGHT adjusted for businesses that have not responded in all of the reference periods included in the BLD CURF (2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07).
- For Panel Two, LWEIGHT is the DWEIGHT adjusted for businesses that have not responded in all of the reference periods included in the BLD CURF (2005-06 and 2006-07).

USING THE INDICATIVE
ITEMS *continued*

ANZSIC 1993 Division (DIV93)

- A = Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing
- B = Mining
- C = Manufacturing
- E = Construction
- F = Wholesale Trade
- G = Retail Trade
- H = Accommodation, Cafes and Restaurants
- I = Transport and Storage
- J = Communication Services
- L = Property and Business Services
- P = Cultural and Recreational Services
- Q = Personal and Other Services

Food industry sample indicator (FIS)

- 0 = No
- 1 = Yes

Type Of Legal Organisation (TYPEOFLO)

- 1 = Registered Company
- 2 = Sole Proprietor
- 3 = Partnership
- 4 = Other

Size (based on Derived Size Benchmark employment) (SIZE)

- 0 = Non-employing
- 1 = DSB greater than 0 to less than 5 persons
- 2 = DSB greater than or equal to 5 persons to less than 20 persons
- 3 = DSB greater than or equal to 20 persons to less than 200 persons

Form type (FORM)

- 1 = form sent to BLD & cross-sectional units
- 2 = form sent to BLD units only

Unit live status (STAT)

- 1 = Normal Unit
- 2 = Nil
- 3 = Death (part-period)
- 4 = Death (full-period)
- 5 = Out of scope
- 6 = Outstanding

Stratum

The stratum is not included in the BLD CURF but can be recreated by using the Size, Industry Division and Food Industry Sample indicator variables. For counts of these combinations of indicators - see *Chapter Two: About the Business Longitudinal Database*.

DATA ITEM NAMING
CONVENTION

Each data item has been assigned a variable number, for example, V001 (Number of locations operated). Each variable number is then appended with the reference period to which it applies, for example, V001_06 (Number of locations operated as collected in the 2005-06 BCS).

SPECIAL CODES

Special codes are assigned to variables in the following circumstances:

999999999 = missing due to respondent omission

888888888 = missing due to sequencing

7777777 = ticked no and yes

666666 = question not asked

CAUTION: USERS SHOULD ENSURE THAT THEY DO NOT INADVERTENTLY USE THE MISSING VALUE CODE AS A NUMERIC VALUE. THIS WILL ENSURE THAT THESE MISSING VALUE CODES DO NOT INCORRECTLY CONTRIBUTE TO BLD CURF USAGE OR OUTPUTS.

SELECTED BCS DATA
ITEMS - CONSIDERATIONS
FOR BLD CURF USERS

When using the following set of BCS (i.e. directly collected) data items, users should take the information provided here into consideration. BLD CURF users are able to access copies of BCS forms upon request.

Employment (Variable Numbers V006 to V009)

The reference period for these items is the last pay period ending in June of the relevant reference year. For example, for the 2004-05 reference year, the last pay period in June 2005 is used to collect these data. These data items do not measure employment during the reference year and it is possible for a business that normally has employees to have no employees in the last pay period. Users should also be aware that while the business may have initially been selected in a non-employed stratum (i.e. did not have an ITW role when included in the ABSBR), it is possible for the business to report employees in the first or any subsequent survey iteration.

For confidentiality reasons, reported employment data are presented in ranges. Every effort is made to ensure that these data are of the highest quality.

Years of operation, current owner and regardless of changes in ownership (Variable Numbers V033 and V034)

While the questions are asked annually, these data are only quality assured in the first year that the business is included in its respective panel. For this reason, data for these items in subsequent survey periods has been removed from the BLD CURF.

Comparisons to the previous year (Variable Numbers V057, V059 and V060)

For these items, respondents are asked to report if there had been changes in "income from sales of goods or services", "profitability" and "productivity". These data are presented as self-reported by the respondent and no effort is made to confront the veracity of the responses with other data items. For example, checks are not undertaken to compare an actual increase in the value of BAS total sales with a reported increase in "income from sales of goods or services" ticked as a response to this question.

SELECTED BCS DATA
ITEMS - CONSIDERATIONS
FOR BLD CURF USERS

continued

Debt and equity finance topic (2005-06 and 2006-07 BCS) (Variable Numbers V120 to V132)

For confidentiality reasons, the data items included in the BLD CURF for this topic have been reduced from the set originally collected. Excluded from the BLD CURF are responses for whether debt or equity finance sought was not obtained or was still in progress.

Main source of income (Variable Numbers V161 to V165)

The question for this item asks the respondent to identify, by ticking one box only, the main source of income from sales of goods and services. The respondent can choose from a specified list. In practice, a small number of respondents found it difficult to report one main source of income only, i.e. the income was equally split between two or more of the response options. As these responses are valid, in the BLD CURF this item has been treated as "tick all that apply". The vast majority of businesses included in the BLD CURF only show one response for this item.

Innovation - development and degree of novelty (2006-07 Long Form) (Variable Numbers V205 to V211)

For confidentiality reasons, the data items included in the BLD CURF for this topic have been reduced from the set originally collected in respect of 2006-07. All businesses which received a long form and reported introducing innovation were asked for each type of innovation (goods and services; operational processes; organisational/managerial processes; and, marketing methods) who developed the innovation and the degree of novelty.

For who developed the innovation, respondents were able to choose all that applied from the following set of response options:

- This business or related company only
- This business in cooperation with other business(es) or institution(s)
- Other business(es) or institution(s)

The items included in the BLD CURF for who developed the innovation are:

- This business or related company only - separate item for goods and services; and a combined item for operational processes, organisational/managerial processes and marketing methods
- This business in cooperation with other business(es) or institution(s) - separate item for goods and services; and a combined item for operational processes, organisational/managerial processes and marketing methods
- Other business(es) or institution(s) - combined item for all types of innovation

For the degree of novelty, respondents were able to choose all that applied from the following set of response options:

- New to the world
- New to Australia but not new to the world
- New to the industry within Australia but not new to Australia or the world
- New to this business only i.e. none of the above

Users are reminded that these items were only included on the 2006-07 Long Form.

SELECTED BCS DATA
ITEMS - CONSIDERATIONS
FOR BLD CURF USERS
continued

The items included in the BLD CURF for degree of novelty are:

- New to this business only i.e. none of the above - separate item for goods and services; and a combined item for operational processes, organisational/managerial processes and marketing methods.

Users are reminded that these items were only included on the 2006-07 Long Form.

Skills and innovation (2006-07 Long Form) (Variable Numbers V252 to V265)

For 2006-07, businesses that reported innovation were asked which of a specified list of skills were used to develop or introduce the business innovation and, whether the business had experienced a shortage or deficiency in those skills. The complete list of skills used for innovation are included in the BLD CURF. However, the list of skills used for innovation for which the business had experienced a shortage or deficiency has been reduced for confidentiality reasons. Included in the BLD CURF are: Engineering; Information Technology; Trades skills; and the "none of the above" data items.

HOW TO DERIVE ABS
INNOVATION INDICATORS

In releasing Innovation statistics, the ABS produces two main indicators: proportion of innovating businesses and proportion of innovation-active businesses. The derived items used to produce these indicators have not been included in the BLD CURF. However, users may derive these ABS innovation indicators using the following:

Innovating businesses = yes (value=1) to any of V189, V194, V199 and/or V204.

Innovation-active businesses = yes (value=1) to any of V189, V194, V199, V204, V217 and/or V223.

These derivations can only be performed using data from 2005-06 onwards as the 2004-05 BCS did not include the full suite of innovation status and type questions.

BLD CURF FILES

The 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 BLD CURF contains the files listed below which are available through the RADL.

- BLDP1.SAS7BDAT: the BLD Panel One file in SAS for Windows format.
- BLDP2.SAS7BDAT: the BLD Panel Two file in SAS for Windows format.
- FORMATS.SAS7BDAT: the format file that provides the labels for associated codes in the SAS version of the BLD CURF.
- BLDP1.SAV: the BLD Panel One file in SPSS format.
- BLDP2.SAV: the BLD Panel Two file in SPSS format.
- BLDP1.DTA: the BLD Panel One file in STATA format.
- BLDP2.DTA: the BLD Panel Two file in STATA format.

INFORMATION FILES

- *8168.0.55.002 Business Longitudinal Database, CURF: Data item list.xls* (cat. no. 8168.0.55.002) contains documentation relating to content including data item names. The file is an Excel spreadsheet and is available from the ABS website.
- *8168.0.55.002 Business Longitudinal Database, Expanded CURF, Australia, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, Technical Manual* (cat. no. 8168.0.55.002). The file is a pdf and is available on the ABS website.
- BLDP1 Frequencies.TXT: for selected variables on the BLD CURF Panel One, the variable values (including formatted values) with the unweighted frequencies of each value. This file is in plain text format and is available on the ABS website.
- BLDP2 Frequencies.TXT: for selected variables on the BLD CURF Panel Two, the variable values (including formatted values) with the unweighted frequencies of each value. This file is in plain text format and is available on the ABS website.

CONDITIONS OF RELEASE

ABS CURFs are released in accordance with the Statistics Determination 1983 (Reg 7) in pursuance of section 13 of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*. As required by the Determination, CURFs are designed so that the information on they contain is not likely to enable the identification of the particular person or organisation to which it relates.

The Australian Statistician's approval is required for the release of each CURF. In addition, and prior to being granted access to the CURF, all organisations and individuals within organisations seeking access to a CURF must sign a Deed of Undertaking to abide by ABS terms and conditions of CURF access. These Deeds of Undertaking legally bind those accessing CURFs to:

- use the data only for a specified Statistical Purpose;
- not attempt to identify particular persons or organisations;
- not disclose, either directly or indirectly, the data to any other person or organisation other than members of their organisation who have been approved by the ABS to have individual access to the information;
- not attempt to match, with or without using identifiers, the data with any other list of persons or organisations;
- in relation to data made available via the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) or the ABS Data Laboratory (ABSDL), access the data only in a manner specifically authorised in writing by the ABS; and
- not attempt to access the data after the term of their authorisation expires, or after their authorisation is rescinded by the organisation which provided it, or after they cease to be a member of that organisation.

Use of the data for statistical purposes means use of the content of the CURF to produce information of a statistical nature; that is, the arrangement and classification of numerical facts or data, including statistical analyses. Examples of statistical purposes are:

- manipulation of the data to produce means, correlations or other descriptive or summary measures;
- use of data as input to mathematical models or for other types of analysis (e.g. factor analysis);
- providing graphical or pictorial representations of the characteristics of the population or subsets of the population.

All CURF users are required to read and abide by the instructions of the ABS publication 1406.0.5.003 - *Responsible Access to CURFs Training Manual*.

CONDITIONS OF SALE

All ABS products and services are provided subject to the ABS conditions of sale available on the ABS website.

PRICE CURF access is priced according to ABS Pricing Policy (see www.abs.gov.au, About Us, ABS Pricing Policy) and Commonwealth Cost Recovery Guidelines. For details, please use the relevant link upon the ABS website (www.abs.gov.au, Services, CURF Microdata, Applying for CURF Microdata).

ACCESSING THE BLD CURF All clients wishing to access this or other ABS CURFs should refer to the CURF Microdata Entry Page (www.abs.gov.au, Services, CURF Microdata).

Australian universities University clients should refer to the ABS/Universities Australia CURF Agreement page (www.abs.gov.au, Services, CURF Microdata, ABS/Universities Australia CURF Agreement) for an understanding of their entitlements under that agreement.

FURTHER INFORMATION Please use our CURF contacts page (www.abs.gov.au, Services, CURF Microdata, CURF contacts) for further information on accessing this and other ABS CURFs.

THE FOOD INDUSTRY
COMPONENT: DEFINITION

The Food Industry Component of the BLD CURF is defined using the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 1993 edition. The scope definitions for the BLD provided in *Chapter Two: About the Business Longitudinal Database* apply to the Food Industry Component, however, the industry scope is refined to only include businesses on the ABS Business Register classified to:

- A Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing
 - 01 Agriculture
 - 011 Horticulture and Fruit Growing
 - 0113 Vegetable Growing
 - 0114 Grape Growing
 - 0115 Apple and Pear Growing
 - 0116 Stone Fruit Growing
 - 0117 Kiwi Fruit Growing
 - 0119 Fruit Growing not elsewhere classified (n.e.c.)
 - 012 Grain, Sheep and Beef Cattle Farming
 - 0121 Grain Growing
 - 0122 Grain-Sheep and Grain-Beef Cattle Farming
 - 0123 Sheep-Beef Cattle Farming
 - 0124 Sheep Farming
 - 0125 Beef Cattle Farming
 - 013 Dairy Cattle Farming
 - 0130 Dairy Cattle Farming
 - 014 Poultry Farming
 - 0141 Poultry Farming (Meat)
 - 0142 Poultry Farming (Eggs)
 - 015 Other Livestock Farming
 - 0151 Pig Farming
 - 0153 Deer Farming
 - 0159 Livestock Farming n.e.c.
 - 016 Other Crop Growing
 - 0161 Sugar Cane Growing
 - 0169 Crop and Plant Growing n.e.c.
 - 02 Services to Agriculture; Hunting and Trapping
 - 022 Hunting and Trapping
 - 0220 Hunting and Trapping
 - 04 Commercial Fishing
 - 041 Marine Fishing
 - 0411 Rock Lobster Fishing
 - 0412 Prawn Fishing
 - 0413 Finfish Trawling
 - 0414 Squid Jigging
 - 0415 Line Fishing
 - 0419 Marine Fishing n.e.c.
 - 042 Aquaculture
 - 0420 Aquaculture

THE FOOD INDUSTRY
COMPONENT: DEFINITION
continued

- C Manufacturing
 - 21 Food, Beverage and Tobacco Manufacturing
 - 021 Meat and Meat Product Manufacturing
 - 2111 Meat Processing
 - 2112 Poultry Processing
 - 2113 Bacon, Ham and Smallgood Manufacturing
 - 212 Dairy Product Manufacturing
 - 2121 Milk and Cream Processing
 - 2122 Ice Cream Manufacturing
 - 2129 Dairy Product Manufacturing n.e.c.
 - 213 Fruit and Vegetable Processing
 - 2130 Fruit and Vegetable Processing
 - 214 Oil and Fat Manufacturing
 - 2140 Oil and Fat Manufacturing
 - 215 Flour Mill and Cereal Food Manufacturing
 - 2151 Flour Mill Product Manufacturing
 - 2152 Cereal Food and Baking Mix Manufacturing
 - 216 Bakery Product Manufacturing
 - 2161 Bread Manufacturing
 - 2162 Cake and Pastry Manufacturing
 - 2163 Biscuit Manufacturing
 - 217 Other Food Manufacturing
 - 2171 Sugar Manufacturing
 - 2172 Confectionery Manufacturing
 - 2173 Seafood Processing
 - 2179 Food Manufacturing n.e.c.
 - 218 Beverage and Malt Manufacturing
 - 2181 Soft Drink, Cordial and Syrup Manufacturing
 - 2182 Beer and Malt Manufacturing
 - 2183 Wine Manufacturing
 - 2184 Spirit Manufacturing
 - F Wholesale Trade
 - 47 Personal and Household Good Wholesaling
 - 471 Food, Drink and Tobacco Wholesaling
 - 4711 Meat Wholesaling
 - 4712 Poultry and Smallgood Wholesaling
 - 4713 Dairy Produce Wholesaling
 - 4714 Fish Wholesaling
 - 4715 Fruit and Vegetable Wholesaling
 - 4716 Confectionery and Soft Drink Wholesaling
 - 4717 Liquor Wholesaling
 - 4719 Grocery Wholesaling n.e.c.

GLOSSARY

| | |
|--|---|
| ABN unit | The statistical unit used by the ABS to represent businesses, and for which statistics are reported. The ABN unit is the business unit which has registered for an ABN, and appears on the ATO administered Australian Business Register. In most cases, the ABN unit represents the legal entity. This unit is suitable for ABS statistical needs when the business is simple in structure. For more significant and diverse businesses where the ABN unit is not suitable for ABS statistical needs, the statistical unit used is the type of activity unit (TAU). |
| Business | A business is generally considered to be a person, partnership, or corporation engaged in business or commerce. In the BLD CURF, the term business is interchangeable with the ABN unit. |
| Business Activity Statement items | <p>Total Sales: This is the gross amount of income for the business from the sales of goods or services. (Item G1 on the Business Activity Statement).</p> <p>Export sales: The free on board value of exported goods (that meet the GST-free export rules) which are GST-free. (Item G2 on the Business Activity Statement). All amounts reported at G2 should also have been reported at G1.</p> <p>Other GST-free sales: The value of supplies that do not attract GST. GST credits are able to be claimed for goods purchased in producing these supplies. (Item G3 on the Business Activity Statement). Amounts reported at G3 should also have been reported at G1.</p> <p>Capital purchases: The value of capital items purchased. This figure should include capital purchases that are imports. (Item G10 on the Business Activity Statement).</p> <p>Non-capital purchases: The values of other purchases and expenses made in the supply of goods and services. Non-capital purchases include trading stock and normal running expenses. (Item G11 on the Business Activity Statement).</p> <p>Total salary, wages and other payments: Includes gross payments from which businesses are usually required to withhold tax, such as payments to employees; payments made by labour hire firms to individual workers under a labour hire arrangement; and payments made under a voluntary agreement and gross attributed to personal services income of an individual. (Item W1 on the Business Activity Statement).</p> |
| Broadband | Defined by the ABS as an 'always on' Internet connection with an access speed equal to or greater than 256kbps. |
| Employment at end of June | Number of persons working for the business during the last pay period ending in June of the given year. Includes working proprietors and partners, employees absent on paid or prepaid leave, employees on workers' compensation who continue to be paid through the payroll, and contract workers paid through the payroll. Excludes persons paid by commission only, non-salaried directors, volunteers and self-employed persons such as consultants and contractors. |
| Internet | A world-wide public computer network. Organisations and individuals can connect their computers to this network and exchange information across a country and/or across the world. The Internet provides access to a number of communication services including the World Wide Web and carries email, news, entertainment and data files. |
| Types of innovation | Four types of innovation are included in this release: |

Types of innovation *continued*

Goods or services - Any good or service or combination of these which is new (to a business) or significantly improved. Its characteristics or intended uses differ significantly from those previously produced/offered.

Operational processes - New or significantly improved methods of producing or delivering goods or services of a business (including significant change in techniques, equipment and/or software).

Organisational/managerial processes - New or significantly improved strategies, structures or routines of a business which aim to improve performance.

Marketing methods - New or significantly improved design, packaging or sales methods aimed to increase the appeal of goods or services of a business or to enter new markets.

Web presence

Web presence includes a website, home page or presence on another entity's website. A website or home page is an electronic document that is accessed via a unique address on the World Wide Web. The document provides information in a textual, graphical or multimedia format. Web presence excludes on-line listings or directories.

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