

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS ACT 1975: sub-section 6(3)

PROPOSAL NO. 39 OF 2013

BY

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

BUSINESS CHARACTERISTICS SURVEY

The Australian Bureau of Statistics proposes to conduct the Business Characteristics Survey for the 2012-13 financial year.

The survey will be conducted from December 2013.

The survey will be collected by mail and electronic form from a sample of up to 15,000 businesses across Australia.

Information will be collected on a range of characteristics including:

- the number and nature of business locations;
- employment related issues;
- business age, structure, ownership and competition;
- business operations;
- the introduction of innovative products or practices; and
- the use of information technology.

The primary purpose of the survey will be to assist understanding of the impact of innovation and new technologies, particularly information and communication technologies, on economic and social outcomes. Data from this survey are also included in the Business Longitudinal Database.

The survey has been developed in consultation with key stakeholders including:

- Department of Industry;
- Department of Communications;
- Reserve Bank of Australia;
- The Treasury; and
- Productivity Commission.

Results from the survey will be used for analysis and policy formulation, particularly relating to business performance, innovation, productivity, the digital economy and for international comparison.

The survey has been field tested to ensure that the required data are available and provider load has been minimised. The survey has been cleared through the Statistical Clearing House.

Surveys on this topic have previously been conducted annually since 2005-06, the most recent covering 2011-12. The Australian Bureau of Statistics expects to conduct the survey annually on an ongoing basis.

Results from the survey are expected to be released in mid 2014.

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