

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

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BY

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

SURVEY OF AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has previously conducted a survey of Average Weekly Earnings on a quarterly basis. From November 2012, the Australian Bureau of Statistics will conduct the Average Weekly Earnings Survey on a biannual basis, for the November and May reference periods.

Information is collected by mail from a representative sample of approximately 5,500 employers from both the public and private sectors in respect of the number of employees, total gross weekly earnings, overtime earnings and salary sacrificed earnings. From the May 2013 reference period, the Australian Bureau of Statistics will also collect information by e-form.

Reduction in frequency of the collection will significantly reduce the reporting burden placed on businesses. The Australian Bureau of Statistics expects no adverse respondent reaction.

Results from the survey are used by Commonwealth and State government bodies, employer associations and trade unions to develop and review wages and labour market policies. Examples of agencies which use the information include:

- Reserve Bank of Australia;
- Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations;
- Department of Treasury;
- Australian Tax Office; and
- Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

While average weekly earnings data is referenced within various legislation, the Australian Bureau of Statistics has liaised with relevant government departments advising of the change.

Results of the collection will be published twice a year in *Average Weekly Earnings, Australia* (catalogue no. 6302.0).

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