

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

**PROPOSAL NO. 19 OF 2019
BY THE AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS**

MONTHLY POPULATION SURVEY

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) proposes to continue to collect information for the purpose of producing estimates for the Labour Force Survey and supplementary surveys.

The information will be collected:

- on a monthly basis;
- from a sample of approximately 26,000 dwellings;
- by a combination of face-to-face interviews, telephone interviews and self-completed electronic forms;
- across all states and territories.

Information will be collected on a range of characteristics including:

- labour mobility;
- job search experience;
- employment arrangements;
- trade union membership;
- earnings;
- marginal attachment to the labour force;
- education and work;
- the environment;
- energy use and conservation activities;
- childhood education and care;
- participation in cultural and leisure activities; and
- whether recently migrated.

The information collected will be used by the ABS in the compilation of the *Labour Force, Australia* publication and supplementary publications. It will also be used to assist the analysis, evaluation, and monitoring of the economy and the Australian labour market, including the unemployment rate and composition of employment change. Additionally the data will be used in a wide range of government policies and programs relating to labour force participation and in formulating economic policy.

The information collected is at a level suitable for the economic analysis of states and territories. Statistics on hours worked are also used in compiling the Australian National Accounts.

The ABS expects to make statistical and related information from the collection available monthly and quarterly (approximately thirty-nine days after the beginning of enumeration). Results from the supplementary surveys are published with the same frequency with which each of the supplementary surveys are conducted. This varies between 1 and 3 years.

The principal users of the information produced are:

- Commonwealth and state and territory government bodies (including the Reserve Bank of Australia and The Treasury);
- economists;
- academics; and
- financial institutions.

The ABS is improving its collection methods for the monthly population survey and will undertake a compulsory dress rehearsal in 2020.

To assist in determining the feasibility of the collection and to understand and manage respondent burden consistent with the Government's Regulator Performance Framework, the ABS has:

- considered what existing information is available;
- consulted with key users of the data; and
- undertaken field testing to ensure that the required data are readily available and that provider load has been minimised.

This collection was last conducted in August 2019 and was previously tabled in Parliament as Proposal No. 3 of 2014.

Jacqui Jones
General Manager
Macro Economic Statistics Division

September 2019