

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

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BY

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES COLLECTION

The Australian Bureau of Statistics proposes to continue conducting an Industrial Disputes collection on a monthly basis.

The ABS has been collecting information about industrial disputes since 1913. The current industrial disputes collection produces a number of series including:

- Disputes which occurred during the period:
 - number of disputes;
 - number of employees involved;
 - number of working days lost; and,
 - number of working days lost per 1000 employees.

- Disputes which ended during the period classified by:
 - cause of dispute;
 - working days lost per employee involved; and,
 - reason work resumed.

The information are collected using both a paper form and an electronic form, from a list of organisations identified as likely to have employees who were involved in industrial disputation activity during the reference period. Disputation activities are identified through a range of sources including media reports, industrial relations commission listings, and contact with government, businesses and employer organisations and trade unions. As the collection is a census of identified organisations, the number of respondents varies each month depending on the level of disputation activity which occurred during the reference period. Approximately 200-250 organisations are sent a form each month.

The data are used by various employer and employee associations and Commonwealth and State government bodies to support the analysis and monitoring of industrial disputation in Australia. Examples of agencies which use the information include the Department of Employment, Fair Work Commission and the Australian Council of Trade Unions.

Results from the monthly collection are published in *Industrial Disputes, Australia* (catalogue no. 6321.0.55.001) on a quarterly basis.

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