

## Privacy Impact Assessment – Summary Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages in Australia

July 2020

This project aims to produce a new statistical product to provide up-to-date information on the economic impact of the COVID-19 coronavirus on job holders, including changes in payroll jobs, changes in total wages paid, and changes in average weekly wages per job. This project places no provider burden on householders or businesses as it draws on administrative data collected through the Single Touch Payroll (STP) system managed by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). This information is provided to the ATO by businesses with STP-enabled payroll or accounting software each time the business runs its payroll system. STP data includes both business and job level tax information and superannuation information.

To enhance the statistics produced from this data, additional classification attributes such as the sex of the jobholder, higher quality address information and industry of employment are merged onto this file from other administrative data provided to the ABS by the Australian taxation system.

The STP data are provided electronically by the ATO to the ABS via the ATO's secure Data Transfer Facility (DTF). The process of downloading the data from the DTF, merging additional variables to the tables and then aggregating the information into an analytical dataset is automated. Security controls within the ABS processing system ensure access to data containing personal identifiers is restricted to a limited number of staff on a 'need to know' basis. Data are encrypted within the ABS IT infrastructure to protect against unauthorised access.

Reports are generated which contain aggregate counts and tables. The data in these reports are made available to a broader range of analysts to produce the publication outputs. This minimises the number of staff with access to the personal information.

The statistics produced from this project are currently being published in Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages in Australia (cat no 6160.0.55.001) released fortnightly. The estimates in this publication are considered experimental and use an index to provide an indication of movements in total jobs and total wages (rather than level estimates).

The ATO has agreed to supply the STP data for this project through until the end of September 2020.