

CHARACTERISTICS OF SMALL BUSINESS

AUSTRALIA

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I N Q U I R I E S

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Helen Harkin on Canberra (02) 6252 6531.

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication presents the results of the Characteristics of Small Business Operators Survey which was conducted in June 2004 as a supplementary topic in the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) monthly Labour Force Survey. This survey of households addressed a number of aspects of the operations of small business as well as identifying the characteristics of small business operators. The survey covers all private sector, non-agricultural small businesses. Similar surveys were previously conducted in February 1995, February 1997, November 1999, June 2001 and June 2003. The ABS plans to conduct an expanded version of the survey in June 2005. Data are presented mainly for the June 2003 and June 2004 surveys. Where it is appropriate to do so, broad comparisons with earlier surveys' results are included in commentary.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

Other publications which may be of interest are:

- *Small Business in Australia, 2001* (cat. no. 1321.0)
- *Business Use of Information Technology, 2003-04* (cat. no. 8129.0)
- *Australian Industry, 2001-02 and 2002-03* (cat. no. 8155.0)
- *Australian Bureau of Statistics Business Register, Counts of Businesses, June 2004* (cat. no. 8161.0.55.001) expected release June 2005
- *Experimental Series, Entries and Exits of Business Entities, Australia, 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04* (cat. no. 8160.0), expected release June 2005.

CAUTION ON USE OF ESTIMATES

The counts of businesses and business operators presented in this publication should be used with caution. Their main purpose is to derive proportions of businesses and operators with selected characteristics. They should not be used to determine level, nor growth or decline in the number of small businesses over time because of the sampling error associated with each year's estimate (see paragraphs 23 to 25 of Explanatory Notes). The ABS advises that business-based surveys (as opposed to household surveys) are a better source for small business growth figures (e.g. Cat.nos. 8155.0, 8161.0.55.001, 8160.0).

COMPARISONS WITH OTHER ABS DATA

Estimates of the number of businesses operating in Australia can be derived from a number of sources. They may relate to a particular point in time or may be presented as an annual figure. However, these estimates will not always show the same results. Variations will occur because of differing data sources, statistical units, scope and coverage definitions between surveys, as well as variations due to sampling and non-sampling error. These terms are described in the Explanatory Notes.

The estimates of the number of business operators provided in this publication include own account workers (sole proprietors and partners of non-employed businesses); employers (operators of unincorporated employing sole proprietorships and partnerships); as well as working directors of incorporated companies. In other ABS publications, information can be found on numbers of own account workers and employers, but working directors of incorporated companies are generally treated as employees of the business and are not identified as business owners or operators.

Users comparing these results to those of other ABS series, should do so with care, as some other series only relate to employing businesses and do not include details of non-employed businesses.

STATE AND TERRITORY
DATA

Care should be taken in the interpretation of estimates for states and territories with relatively small household populations such as Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. These populations generally have commensurately smaller sample sizes and smaller data estimates. As such, the estimates are generally subject to higher relative standard errors and can lead to the exaggeration of percentage change movements.

UNPUBLISHED STATISTICS

More detailed small business statistics from the survey are available on request from the ABS. For example, many of the statistics presented here may be available by different cross classifications from the data presented in the publication.

COMMENTS ON THIS
PUBLICATION

The ABS welcomes comments and suggestions from users on for future surveys. These should be addressed to the Director, Business Demographics and Frames Section, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Locked Bag 10, Belconnen ACT 2616

ROUNDING

Where figures have been rounded discrepancies may occur between the sum of component items and the total.

ABBREVIATIONS

- ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics
- ANZSIC Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
- FTE full-time equivalent
- RSE relative standard error
- SE standard error

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CHAPTER 1

CHARACTERISTICS OF SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents information on the characteristics of Australian small business operators, including their sex, age, location, hours worked and place of birth.

NUMBER OF OPERATORS

In June 2004 there were 1,660,000 operators of the 1,269,000 non-agricultural small businesses in Australia.

At June 2004:

- small businesses with only one operator accounted for 72.6% of all small businesses up from 68.5% in 2003
- the proportion of small businesses with two operators was 25.1%, down from 29.0% at June 2003.

NUMBER OF BUSINESSES OPERATED

At June 2004, the majority of small business operators were involved in one business only (92.5%), a proportion which remained relatively unchanged from the June 2003 estimate.

By sex

The majority of both male and female small business operators ran a single business at June 2004. Incidence of operation of multiple businesses by males and females was 7.8% and 6.9% respectively.

By state and territory

The proportions of operators involved in only one business were similar across all states and territories (between 91.6% and 94.0%).

SEX OF OPERATORS

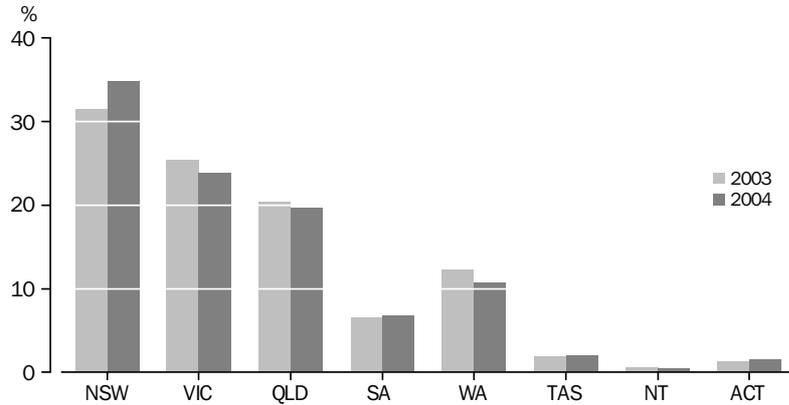
Males comprised 1,131,000 (68.1%) of all non-agricultural small business operators. There were 529,000 (31.9%) female small business operators. These proportions have remained relatively unchanged since 1995.

LOCATION OF OPERATORS

The graph below illustrates the distribution of small business operators across states and territories. This distribution generally reflected the population distribution.

LOCATION OF OPERATORS
continued

PROPORTION OF SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS (a), by State: June 2003 - June 2004



(a) Excludes agriculture

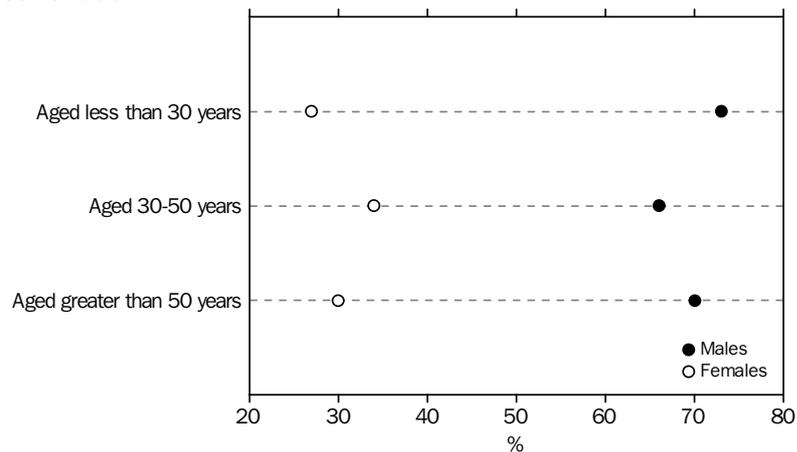
AGE OF OPERATORS

Table 1.1 shows that the majority of small business operators (59.4%) were aged between 30 and 50 years at June 2004, an increase of 1.8 percentage points. The proportion of operators aged greater than 50 years fell by 2.0 percentage points. Since 1995 there has been an increase in the proportion of operators aged greater than 50 years (7.0 percentage points) and a decrease in operators aged 30 to 50 years (-5.3 percentage points).

By sex

The distribution of small business operators at June 2004 by sex across age categories is shown in the following graph. Male operators made up the largest proportion in all age categories.

PROPORTION OF SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS, by age and by sex - June 2004



The most significant change in the overall distributions was in the group of small business operators aged less than 30 years, where the proportion of male operators rose from 65.2% at June 2003 to 72.6% at June 2004, resulting in a commensurate drop in the proportion of female operators.

For male small business operators, the proportions of those aged less than 30 years and 30 to 50 years increased by 1.0 and 1.3 percentage points respectively.

By sex continued

For female small business operators, the proportion of those aged 30 to 50 years increased (2.9 percentage points), whilst those aged less than 30 years recorded the largest decrease (-1.7 percentage points).

By state and territory

In all states and territories the majority of small business operators were in the 30 to 50 year age category. This proportion ranged from 50.6% in Northern Territory to 61.2% in Western Australia. Business operators aged less than 30 years comprised the smallest proportion of operators in all states and territories (ranging from 6.8% to 12.9%).

New South Wales and Western Australia both recorded significant increases in the proportion of operators aged 30 to 50 years, 3.1 and 7.0 percentage points respectively. They also both recorded corresponding decreases in the proportion of operators aged greater than 50 years, -3.6 percentage points in New South Wales and -4.2 percentage points in Western Australia.

USUAL HOURS WORKED
BY OPERATORS

Full-time operators

The 1,660,000 non-agricultural small business operators in Australia at June 2004 included 1,114,000 (67.1%) full-time operators.

The 1.1 million full-time small business operators comprised:

- 65.1% who usually worked between 35 and 50 hours each week
- 30.2% who usually worked between 51 and 75 hours each week
- 4.7% who usually worked more than 75 hours each week.

This reflected a rise of 3.3 percentage points in full-time operators working between 35 and 50 hours each week and decreases in the other categories. The proportion of full-time operators working between 35 and 50 hours each week has gradually increased since 1995, rising from 59.9% to 65.1% in 2004.

By Sex

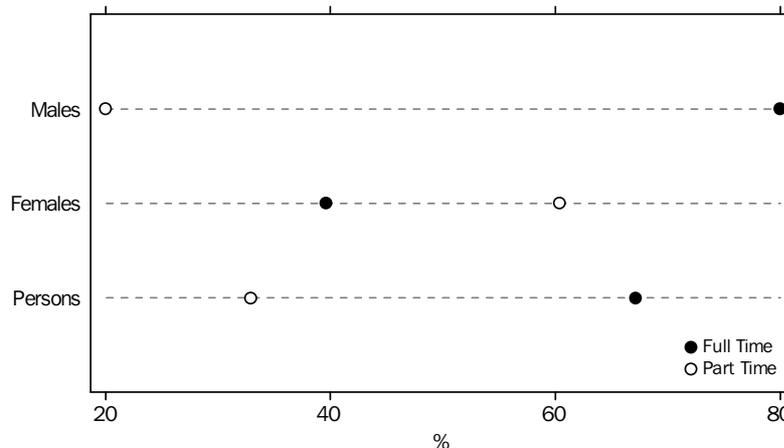
An estimated 80.0% of male small business operators worked full-time. Of these, 36.6% worked more than 50 hours a week. These proportions remained relatively unchanged from June 2003.

However, only 39.6% of female operators worked full-time. Of these, 27.5% worked more than 50 hours a week.

The proportions of both male and female full-time small business operators working between 51 and 75 hours a week decreased by 2.4 and 4.1 percentage points respectively.

By Sex continued

PROPORTION OF BUSINESS OPERATORS, by employment status and sex - June 2004



By State and Territory

Across the states, the proportions of operators working full-time in their business remained largely unchanged between June 2003 and June 2004. The exceptions were Western Australia which increased 3.4 percentage points to 65.0%, and South Australia which decreased by 3.4 percentage points to 61.2%, the lowest proportion of any state. The highest proportion (86.2%) of full time operators was in the Northern Territory which recorded an increase of 10.0 percentage points.

Part-time operators

In June 2004, part-time operators constituted 32.9% (546,000) of the 1,660,000 small business operators in Australia.

Female operators comprised the majority of all operators working part-time (58.6%), down from 61.6% at June 2003, and 66.6% in 1995.

The proportion of female small business operators working part-time fell by 2.0 percentage points to June 2004 whilst the proportion of male operators rose slightly (0.7 percentage points).

OPERATORS BORN IN AUSTRALIA OR BORN OVERSEAS

In June 2004, 30.2% (500,900) of all small business operators were born overseas, a rise of 0.8 percentage points from June 2003.

By sex

Proportions of overseas born male (31.1%) and female (28.2%) operators both increased in the twelve months to June 2004 by 0.5 and 1.2 percentage points respectively.

By state and territory

The states and territories with the highest proportions of small business operators who were born overseas were Western Australia (38.7%), Northern Territory (34.5%) and New South Wales (31.0%). Tasmania continued to record the lowest proportion of overseas born small business operators (22.2%).

1.1**SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS, By sex and age for states and territories(a)**

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	
.....					
AUSTRALIA					
Males					
Aged less than 30 years	97.5	9.2	114.9	10.2	1.0
Aged 30–50 years	599.3	56.4	653.1	57.7	1.3
Aged greater than 50 years	366.1	34.4	363.0	32.1	-2.3
Total	1 063.0	100.0	1 131.0	100.0	—
Females					
Aged less than 30 years	52.1	9.9	43.4	8.2	-1.7
Aged 30–50 years	318.0	60.2	333.6	63.1	2.9
Aged greater than 50 years	158.5	30.0	151.9	28.7	-1.3
Total	528.6	100.0	529.0	100.0	—
Persons					
Aged less than 30 years	149.6	9.4	158.3	9.5	0.1
Aged 30–50 years	917.3	57.6	986.7	59.4	1.8
Aged greater than 50 years	524.6	33.0	514.9	31.0	-2.0
Total	1 591.5	100.0	1 659.9	100.0	—
.....					
NEW SOUTH WALES					
Males					
Aged less than 30 years	^ 31.5	9.1	44.8	10.9	1.8
Aged 30–50 years	191.8	55.6	237.5	57.8	2.2
Aged greater than 50 years	121.7	35.3	128.8	31.3	-4.0
Total	345.1	100.0	411.1	100.0	—
Females					
Aged less than 30 years	^ 15.4	9.9	^ 12.7	7.6	-2.3
Aged 30–50 years	93.1	59.5	109.2	65.0	5.5
Aged greater than 50 years	47.9	30.6	46.1	27.4	-3.2
Total	156.4	100.0	168.0	100.0	—
Persons					
Aged less than 30 years	47.0	9.4	57.5	9.9	0.5
Aged 30–50 years	284.9	56.8	346.7	59.9	3.1
Aged greater than 50 years	169.6	33.8	174.9	30.2	-3.6
Total	501.4	100.0	579.1	100.0	—

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

1.1**SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS, By sex and age for states and territories(a)***continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	
VICTORIA					
Males					
Aged less than 30 years	^ 23.0	8.6	^ 27.6	10.2	1.6
Aged 30–50 years	156.9	58.6	156.8	58.0	—
Aged greater than 50 years	87.7	32.8	85.9	31.8	-1.0
Total	267.6	100.0	270.3	100.0	—
Females					
Aged less than 30 years	^ 10.9	7.9	^ 10.9	8.7	0.8
Aged 30–50 years	86.2	62.9	79.8	63.2	0.3
Aged greater than 50 years	^ 40.0	29.2	^ 35.6	28.2	-1.0
Total	137.1	100.0	126.3	100.0	—
Persons					
Aged less than 30 years	^ 33.9	8.4	^ 38.5	9.7	1.3
Aged 30–50 years	243.1	60.1	236.6	59.7	-0.4
Aged greater than 50 years	127.7	31.6	121.4	30.6	-1.0
Total	404.7	100.0	396.6	100.0	—
QUEENSLAND					
Males					
Aged less than 30 years	^ 18.1	8.8	^ 22.0	10.2	1.4
Aged 30–50 years	116.8	57.0	124.7	57.8	0.8
Aged greater than 50 years	69.9	34.1	69.2	32.1	-2.0
Total	204.9	100.0	215.9	100.0	—
Females					
Aged less than 30 years	^ 13.9	11.6	^ 9.7	8.8	-2.8
Aged 30–50 years	72.0	60.0	69.6	63.0	3.0
Aged greater than 50 years	34.0	28.4	^ 31.2	28.2	-0.2
Total	119.9	100.0	110.5	100.0	—
Persons					
Aged less than 30 years	^ 32.0	9.9	^ 31.6	9.7	-0.2
Aged 30–50 years	188.8	58.1	194.3	59.5	1.4
Aged greater than 50 years	103.9	32.0	100.4	30.8	-1.2
Total	324.8	100.0	326.4	100.0	—

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

1.1**SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS, By sex and age for states and territories(a)***continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	
SOUTH AUSTRALIA					
Males					
Aged less than 30 years	^ 5.7	7.8	^ 6.6	9.1	1.3
Aged 30–50 years	42.2	58.0	38.6	53.3	-4.7
Aged greater than 50 years	24.8	34.1	27.2	37.5	3.4
Total	72.7	100.0	72.4	100.0	—
Females					
Aged less than 30 years	^ 3.6	11.4	*2.9	7.1	-4.3
Aged 30–50 years	^ 18.1	56.6	23.6	58.0	1.4
Aged greater than 50 years	^ 10.2	32.1	^ 14.2	34.9	2.8
Total	32.0	100.0	40.7	100.0	—
Persons					
Aged less than 30 years	^ 9.3	8.9	^ 9.5	8.4	-0.5
Aged 30–50 years	60.3	57.6	62.3	55.0	-2.6
Aged greater than 50 years	35.1	33.5	41.4	36.6	3.1
Total	104.7	100.0	113.2	100.0	—
WESTERN AUSTRALIA					
Males					
Aged less than 30 years	^ 15.1	11.6	^ 9.2	7.9	-3.7
Aged 30–50 years	68.1	52.4	71.2	61.1	8.7
Aged greater than 50 years	46.7	36.0	36.1	31.0	-5.0
Total	129.9	100.0	116.5	100.0	—
Females					
Aged less than 30 years	^ 6.6	10.3	^ 5.7	9.2	-1.1
Aged 30–50 years	36.9	58.0	38.0	61.4	3.4
Aged greater than 50 years	^ 20.2	31.7	^ 18.1	29.3	-2.4
Total	63.6	100.0	61.9	100.0	—
Persons					
Aged less than 30 years	^ 21.7	11.2	^ 14.9	8.4	-2.8
Aged 30–50 years	105.0	54.2	109.2	61.2	7.0
Aged greater than 50 years	66.9	34.6	54.3	30.4	-4.2
Total	193.5	100.0	178.3	100.0	—

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

1.1

SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS, By sex and age for states and territories(a)

continued

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	
TASMANIA					
Males					
Aged less than 30 years	*1.2	5.7	*1.7	7.8	2.1
Aged 30–50 years	^ 11.8	57.6	^ 12.3	56.8	-0.8
Aged greater than 50 years	^ 7.6	36.8	^ 7.6	35.4	-1.4
Total	20.6	100.0	21.6	100.0	—
Females					
Aged less than 30 years	*0.6	5.9	*0.8	6.4	0.5
Aged 30–50 years	^ 6.1	59.4	^ 8.1	67.5	8.1
Aged greater than 50 years	^ 3.6	34.7	^ 3.1	26.1	-8.6
Total	^ 10.2	100.0	^ 12.0	100.0	—
Persons					
Aged less than 30 years	*1.8	5.7	^ 2.5	7.3	1.6
Aged 30–50 years	^ 17.9	58.2	20.3	60.6	2.4
Aged greater than 50 years	^ 11.1	36.1	^ 10.7	32.1	-4.0
Total	30.8	100.0	33.5	100.0	—
NORTHERN TERRITORY (b)					
Males					
Aged less than 30 years	**0.5	6.3	*0.5	8.5	2.2
Aged 30–50 years	^ 4.8	65.9	^ 3.1	50.0	-15.9
Aged greater than 50 years	*2.0	27.9	^ 2.6	41.5	13.6
Total	^ 7.3	100.0	^ 6.2	100.0	—
Females					
Aged less than 30 years	**0.2	9.1	—	—	na
Aged 30–50 years	*1.8	68.0	*0.8	52.9	-15.1
Aged greater than 50 years	*0.6	22.9	*0.7	47.1	24.2
Total	^ 2.7	100.0	*1.6	100.0	—
Persons					
Aged less than 30 years	*0.7	7.0	*0.5	6.8	-0.2
Aged 30–50 years	^ 6.6	66.4	^ 4.0	50.6	-15.8
Aged greater than 50 years	^ 2.6	26.5	^ 3.3	42.6	16.1
Total	^ 9.9	100.0	^ 7.8	100.0	—

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

na not available

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

(b) Refers to mainly urban areas only.

1.1

SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS, By sex and age for states and territories(a)

continued

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY					
Males					
Aged less than 30 years	^ 2.5	16.6	^ 2.5	15.0	-1.6
Aged 30-50 years	^ 6.9	46.1	^ 8.9	52.6	6.5
Aged greater than 50 years	^ 5.6	37.4	^ 5.5	32.5	-4.9
Total	15.0	100.0	17.0	100.0	—
Females					
Aged less than 30 years	*0.9	12.8	*0.7	8.6	-4.2
Aged 30-50 years	^ 3.8	56.6	^ 4.4	55.4	-1.2
Aged greater than 50 years	^ 2.1	30.6	^ 2.9	36.0	5.4
Total	^ 6.8	100.0	^ 7.9	100.0	—
Persons					
Aged less than 30 years	^ 3.3	15.4	^ 3.2	12.9	-2.5
Aged 30-50 years	^ 10.7	49.4	13.3	53.5	4.1
Aged greater than 50 years	^ 7.7	35.3	^ 8.4	33.6	-1.7
Total	21.8	100.0	24.9	100.0	—

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

1.2 SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS, By sex and usual hours worked per week for states and territories(a)

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	
AUSTRALIA					
Males					
1–10 hours worked	58.6	5.5	62.6	5.5	—
11–20 hours worked	66.4	6.3	75.5	6.7	0.4
21–34 hours worked	80.3	7.6	88.1	7.8	0.2
Total part-time	205.3	19.3	226.2	20.0	0.7
35–50 hours worked	519.3	48.9	573.7	50.7	1.8
51–75 hours worked	292.9	27.6	288.1	25.5	-2.1
More than 75 hours worked	45.4	4.3	42.9	3.8	-0.5
Total full-time	857.6	80.7	904.7	80.0	-0.7
Total	1 063.0	100.0	1 131.0	100.0	—
Females					
1–10 hours worked	141.4	26.8	145.2	27.4	0.6
11–20 hours worked	97.4	18.4	99.8	18.9	0.5
21–34 hours worked	90.8	17.2	74.7	14.1	-3.1
Total part-time	329.6	62.4	319.7	60.4	-2.0
35–50 hours worked	134.0	25.3	151.7	28.7	3.4
51–75 hours worked	53.9	10.2	48.1	9.1	-1.1
More than 75 hours worked	^ 11.1	2.1	^ 9.4	1.8	-0.3
Total full-time	199.0	37.6	209.2	39.6	2.0
Total	528.6	100.0	529.0	100.0	—
Persons					
1–10 hours worked	200.0	12.6	207.8	12.5	-0.1
11–20 hours worked	163.9	10.3	175.3	10.6	0.3
21–34 hours worked	171.1	10.8	162.8	9.8	-1.0
Total part-time	535.0	33.6	546.0	32.9	-0.7
35–50 hours worked	653.3	41.0	725.5	43.7	2.7
51–75 hours worked	346.7	21.8	336.2	20.3	-1.5
More than 75 hours worked	56.6	3.6	52.3	3.2	-0.4
Total full-time	1 056.6	66.4	1 114.0	67.1	0.7
Total	1 591.5	100.0	1 659.9	100.0	—

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

1.2SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS, By sex and usual hours worked per week for states and territories(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	
NEW SOUTH WALES					
Males					
1–10 hours worked	^ 19.9	5.8	^ 21.4	5.2	-0.6
11–20 hours worked	^ 19.9	5.8	^ 26.2	6.4	0.6
21–34 hours worked	^ 23.9	6.9	^ 31.1	7.6	0.7
Total part-time	63.7	18.5	78.7	19.1	0.6
35–50 hours worked	169.1	49.0	209.1	50.9	1.9
51–75 hours worked	94.1	27.3	103.0	25.1	-2.2
More than 75 hours worked	^ 18.2	5.3	^ 20.3	4.9	-0.4
Total full-time	281.4	81.5	332.4	80.9	-0.6
Total	345.1	100.0	411.1	100.0	—
Females					
1–10 hours worked	^ 38.2	24.5	^ 41.9	24.9	0.4
11–20 hours worked	^ 25.1	16.1	^ 31.2	18.6	2.5
21–34 hours worked	^ 26.4	16.9	^ 22.5	13.4	-3.5
Total part-time	89.8	57.4	95.5	56.9	-0.5
35–50 hours worked	^ 41.2	26.3	51.6	30.7	4.4
51–75 hours worked	^ 20.9	13.4	^ 16.3	9.7	-3.7
More than 75 hours worked	*4.4	2.8	*4.6	2.7	-0.1
Total full-time	66.5	42.6	72.5	43.1	0.5
Total	156.4	100.0	168.0	100.0	—
Persons					
1–10 hours worked	58.1	11.6	63.3	10.9	-0.7
11–20 hours worked	45.0	9.0	57.4	9.9	0.9
21–34 hours worked	50.4	10.0	53.6	9.3	-0.7
Total part-time	153.5	30.6	174.3	30.1	-0.5
35–50 hours worked	210.3	41.9	260.7	45.0	3.1
51–75 hours worked	115.0	22.9	119.3	20.6	-2.3
More than 75 hours worked	^ 22.6	4.5	^ 24.9	4.3	-0.2
Total full-time	347.9	69.4	404.9	69.9	0.5
Total	501.4	100.0	579.1	100.0	—

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

1.2 SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS, By sex and usual hours worked per week for states and territories(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	
VICTORIA					
Males					
1–10 hours worked	^ 12.7	4.7	^ 13.5	5.0	0.3
11–20 hours worked	^ 13.4	5.0	^ 18.5	6.8	1.8
21–34 hours worked	^ 20.1	7.5	^ 25.0	9.2	1.7
Total part-time	46.2	17.2	57.0	21.1	3.9
35–50 hours worked	139.0	52.0	139.6	51.7	-0.3
51–75 hours worked	71.5	26.7	67.4	24.9	-1.8
More than 75 hours worked	^ 10.9	4.1	^ 6.3	2.3	-1.8
Total full-time	221.5	82.8	213.3	78.9	-3.9
Total	267.6	100.0	270.3	100.0	—
Females					
1–10 hours worked	^ 36.4	26.5	^ 37.1	29.4	2.9
11–20 hours worked	^ 29.7	21.7	^ 24.1	19.1	-2.6
21–34 hours worked	^ 23.8	17.4	^ 14.8	11.7	-5.7
Total part-time	89.9	65.6	76.0	60.2	-5.4
35–50 hours worked	^ 33.2	24.2	^ 37.7	29.9	5.7
51–75 hours worked	^ 11.1	8.1	^ 11.8	9.3	1.2
More than 75 hours worked	*2.9	2.1	**0.8	0.6	-1.5
Total full-time	47.2	34.4	50.3	39.8	5.4
Total	137.1	100.0	126.3	100.0	—
Persons					
1–10 hours worked	49.0	12.1	50.7	12.8	0.7
11–20 hours worked	43.1	10.6	42.5	10.7	0.1
21–34 hours worked	43.9	10.9	^ 39.8	10.0	-0.9
Total part-time	136.0	33.6	133.0	33.5	-0.1
35–50 hours worked	172.2	42.6	177.3	44.7	2.1
51–75 hours worked	82.6	20.4	79.2	20.0	-0.4
More than 75 hours worked	^ 13.8	3.4	^ 7.0	1.8	-1.6
Total full-time	268.7	66.4	263.6	66.5	0.1
Total	404.7	100.0	396.6	100.0	—

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

1.2SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS, By sex and usual hours worked per week for states and territories(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	
QUEENSLAND					
Males					
1–10 hours worked	^ 7.3	3.6	^ 12.6	5.8	2.2
11–20 hours worked	^ 15.0	7.3	^ 15.3	7.1	-0.2
21–34 hours worked	^ 17.1	8.4	^ 14.1	6.5	-1.9
Total part-time	39.5	19.3	42.0	19.5	0.2
35–50 hours worked	93.3	45.5	105.4	48.8	3.3
51–75 hours worked	64.9	31.7	57.9	26.8	-4.9
More than 75 hours worked	^ 7.2	3.5	^ 10.6	4.9	1.4
Total full-time	165.4	80.7	173.9	80.5	-0.2
Total	204.9	100.0	215.9	100.0	—
Females					
1–10 hours worked	^ 28.0	23.4	^ 27.8	25.2	1.8
11–20 hours worked	^ 23.1	19.3	^ 20.2	18.3	-1.0
21–34 hours worked	^ 21.2	17.7	^ 20.4	18.5	0.8
Total part-time	72.4	60.3	68.4	61.9	1.6
35–50 hours worked	^ 31.2	26.1	32.3	29.3	3.2
51–75 hours worked	^ 15.1	12.6	^ 7.8	7.1	-5.5
More than 75 hours worked	*1.2	1.0	*2.0	1.8	0.8
Total full-time	47.6	39.7	42.1	38.1	-1.6
Total	119.9	100.0	110.5	100.0	—
Persons					
1–10 hours worked	35.3	10.9	40.4	12.4	1.5
11–20 hours worked	38.2	11.7	35.5	10.9	-0.8
21–34 hours worked	38.3	11.8	34.5	10.6	-1.2
Total part-time	111.8	34.4	110.4	33.8	-0.6
35–50 hours worked	124.5	38.3	137.7	42.2	3.9
51–75 hours worked	80.0	24.6	65.7	20.1	-4.5
More than 75 hours worked	^ 8.4	2.6	^ 12.6	3.9	1.3
Total full-time	212.9	65.6	216.0	66.2	0.6
Total	324.8	100.0	326.4	100.0	—

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

1.2 SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS, By sex and usual hours worked per week for states and territories(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	
SOUTH AUSTRALIA					
Males					
1–10 hours worked	^ 5.7	7.8	^ 6.0	8.3	0.5
11–20 hours worked	^ 5.0	6.9	^ 5.5	7.6	0.7
21–34 hours worked	^ 6.1	8.3	^ 6.9	9.6	1.3
Total part-time	^ 16.7	23.0	^ 18.4	25.5	2.5
35–50 hours worked	36.7	50.5	36.7	50.7	0.2
51–75 hours worked	^ 17.3	23.7	^ 15.5	21.4	-2.3
More than 75 hours worked	* 2.0	2.7	* 1.7	2.4	-0.3
Total full-time	56.0	77.0	54.0	74.5	-2.5
Total	72.7	100.0	72.4	100.0	—
Females					
1–10 hours worked	^ 9.9	30.9	^ 9.4	23.0	-7.9
11–20 hours worked	^ 5.0	15.6	^ 9.3	22.9	7.3
21–34 hours worked	^ 5.5	17.2	^ 6.7	16.5	-0.7
Total part-time	^ 20.3	63.6	25.4	62.4	-1.2
35–50 hours worked	^ 10.0	31.1	^ 11.1	27.1	-4.0
51–75 hours worked	* 1.5	4.7	^ 3.7	9.0	4.3
More than 75 hours worked	** 0.2	0.6	** 0.6	1.5	0.9
Total full-time	^ 11.6	36.4	^ 15.3	37.6	1.2
Total	32.0	100.0	40.7	100.0	—
Persons					
1–10 hours worked	^ 15.5	14.8	^ 15.4	13.6	-1.2
11–20 hours worked	^ 10.0	9.5	^ 14.8	13.1	3.6
21–34 hours worked	^ 11.5	11.0	^ 13.6	12.1	1.1
Total part-time	37.1	35.4	43.9	38.8	3.4
35–50 hours worked	46.7	44.6	47.8	42.2	-2.4
51–75 hours worked	^ 18.8	17.9	^ 19.2	16.9	-1.0
More than 75 hours worked	* 2.2	2.1	* 2.4	2.1	—
Total full-time	67.6	64.6	69.3	61.2	-3.4
Total	104.7	100.0	113.2	100.0	—

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

1.2SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS, By sex and usual hours worked per week for states and territories(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	no.
WESTERN AUSTRALIA					
Males					
1–10 hours worked	^ 9.9	7.6	^ 5.0	4.3	-3.3
11–20 hours worked	^ 9.6	7.4	^ 8.7	7.5	0.1
21–34 hours worked	^ 10.0	7.7	^ 8.0	6.9	-0.8
Total part-time	29.4	22.6	^ 21.7	18.6	-4.0
35–50 hours worked	62.2	47.9	58.9	50.6	2.7
51–75 hours worked	33.0	25.4	33.2	28.5	3.1
More than 75 hours worked	^ 5.4	4.1	* 2.7	2.3	-1.8
Total full-time	100.6	77.4	94.8	81.4	4.0
Total	129.9	100.0	116.5	100.0	—
Females					
1–10 hours worked	22.6	35.6	^ 21.2	34.3	-1.3
11–20 hours worked	^ 11.2	17.7	^ 11.8	19.1	1.4
21–34 hours worked	^ 11.1	17.4	^ 7.7	12.5	-4.9
Total part-time	44.9	70.6	40.7	65.9	-4.7
35–50 hours worked	^ 13.7	21.5	^ 14.3	23.1	1.6
51–75 hours worked	* 3.5	5.5	^ 5.8	9.4	3.9
More than 75 hours worked	* 1.5	2.4	** 1.0	1.6	-0.8
Total full-time	^ 18.7	29.4	^ 21.1	34.1	4.7
Total	63.6	100.0	61.9	100.0	—
Persons					
1–10 hours worked	32.5	16.8	26.2	14.7	-2.1
11–20 hours worked	^ 20.8	10.7	^ 20.5	11.5	0.8
21–34 hours worked	^ 21.0	10.9	^ 15.7	8.8	-2.1
Total part-time	74.3	38.4	62.4	35.0	-3.4
35–50 hours worked	75.9	39.2	73.2	41.1	1.9
51–75 hours worked	36.5	18.8	39.0	21.9	3.1
More than 75 hours worked	^ 6.9	3.6	* 3.7	2.1	-1.5
Total full-time	119.2	61.6	115.9	65.0	3.4
Total	193.5	100.0	178.3	100.0	—

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

1.2 SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS, By sex and usual hours worked per week for states and territories(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	no.
TASMANIA					
Males					
1–10 hours worked	*1.8	8.9	*1.6	7.4	–1.5
11–20 hours worked	*1.7	8.2	*0.8	3.5	–4.7
21–34 hours worked	*1.2	6.0	*1.8	8.6	2.6
Total part-time	^ 4.7	23.0	^ 4.2	19.5	–3.5
35–50 hours worked	^ 8.7	42.5	^ 11.7	54.2	11.7
51–75 hours worked	^ 6.2	30.0	^ 5.1	23.5	–6.5
More than 75 hours worked	*0.9	4.4	*0.6	2.8	–1.6
Total full-time	^ 15.8	77.0	^ 17.4	80.5	3.5
Total	20.6	100.0	21.6	100.0	—
Females					
1–10 hours worked	^ 3.3	32.7	^ 4.5	37.6	4.9
11–20 hours worked	*1.5	14.3	*1.7	14.0	–0.3
21–34 hours worked	*1.4	13.2	*1.5	12.2	–1.0
Total part-time	^ 6.2	60.2	^ 7.6	63.8	3.6
35–50 hours worked	^ 3.0	29.2	^ 2.8	23.4	–5.8
51–75 hours worked	*0.6	6.2	*1.4	12.0	5.8
More than 75 hours worked	**0.4	4.3	**0.1	0.8	–3.5
Total full-time	^ 4.1	39.8	^ 4.3	36.2	–3.6
Total	^ 10.2	100.0	^ 12.0	100.0	—
Persons					
1–10 hours worked	^ 5.2	16.8	^ 6.1	18.2	1.4
11–20 hours worked	^ 3.1	10.2	^ 2.4	7.2	–3.0
21–34 hours worked	^ 2.6	8.4	^ 3.3	9.9	1.5
Total part-time	^ 10.9	35.4	^ 11.8	35.3	–0.1
35–50 hours worked	^ 11.7	38.1	^ 14.5	43.2	5.1
51–75 hours worked	^ 6.8	22.1	^ 6.5	19.4	–2.7
More than 75 hours worked	*1.3	4.4	*0.7	2.1	–2.3
Total full-time	19.9	64.6	21.7	64.7	0.1
Total	30.8	100.0	33.5	100.0	—

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

1.2SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS, By sex and usual hours worked per week for states and territories(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	
NORTHERN TERRITORY (b)					
Males					
1–10 hours worked	**0.2	2.4	**0.1	2.3	-0.1
11–20 hours worked	*0.7	10.3	—	—	na
21–34 hours worked	**0.3	4.0	**0.2	2.8	-1.2
Total part-time	*1.2	16.7	**0.3	5.1	-11.6
35–50 hours worked	^ 3.2	43.9	^ 2.8	44.9	1.0
51–75 hours worked	*2.2	30.7	^ 3.0	47.6	16.9
More than 75 hours worked	*0.6	8.6	**0.2	2.4	-6.2
Total full-time	^ 6.0	83.3	^ 5.9	94.9	11.6
Total	^ 7.3	100.0	^ 6.2	100.0	—
Females					
1–10 hours worked	**0.4	15.2	**0.3	18.0	2.8
11–20 hours worked	*0.5	20.3	**0.3	19.0	-1.3
21–34 hours worked	**0.2	7.4	**0.2	11.3	3.9
Total part-time	*1.1	43.0	*0.8	48.3	5.3
35–50 hours worked	**0.4	14.7	*0.5	32.3	17.6
51–75 hours worked	*0.8	31.3	**0.3	19.4	-11.9
More than 75 hours worked	**0.3	11.1	—	—	na
Total full-time	*1.5	57.0	*0.8	51.7	-5.3
Total	^ 2.7	100.0	*1.6	100.0	—
Persons					
1–10 hours worked	*0.6	5.8	**0.4	5.4	-0.4
11–20 hours worked	*1.3	13.0	**0.3	3.8	-9.2
21–34 hours worked	*0.5	4.9	**0.4	4.5	-0.4
Total part-time	*2.4	23.8	*1.1	13.8	-10.0
35–50 hours worked	^ 3.6	36.1	^ 3.3	42.4	6.3
51–75 hours worked	^ 3.1	30.9	^ 3.3	41.9	11.0
More than 75 hours worked	*0.9	9.3	**0.2	1.9	-7.4
Total full-time	^ 7.6	76.2	^ 6.7	86.2	10.0
Total	^ 9.9	100.0	^ 7.8	100.0	—

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

na not available

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

(b) Refers to mainly urban areas only.

1.2 SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS, By sex and usual hours worked per week for states and territories(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY					
Males					
1–10 hours worked	*1.2	8.0	^ 2.3	13.7	5.7
11–20 hours worked	*1.2	7.7	*0.6	3.5	-4.2
21–34 hours worked	*1.6	10.7	*0.9	5.5	-5.2
Total part-time	^ 4.0	26.4	^ 3.9	22.7	-3.7
35–50 hours worked	^ 7.0	47.0	^ 9.5	56.0	9.0
51–75 hours worked	^ 3.6	24.3	^ 3.1	18.0	-6.3
More than 75 hours worked	**0.3	2.2	*0.6	3.3	1.1
Total full-time	^ 11.0	73.6	13.1	77.3	3.7
Total	15.0	100.0	17.0	100.0	—
Females					
1–10 hours worked	^ 2.5	37.4	^ 3.0	37.3	-0.1
11–20 hours worked	*1.2	18.4	*1.2	15.7	-2.7
21–34 hours worked	*1.2	18.3	*1.0	12.6	-5.7
Total part-time	^ 5.0	74.0	^ 5.2	65.6	-8.4
35–50 hours worked	*1.3	19.6	*1.4	18.1	-1.5
51–75 hours worked	**0.3	4.6	*1.0	12.0	7.4
More than 75 hours worked	**0.1	1.7	**0.3	4.2	2.5
Total full-time	*1.8	26.0	^ 2.7	34.4	8.4
Total	^ 6.8	100.0	^ 7.9	100.0	—
Persons					
1–10 hours worked	^ 3.7	17.2	^ 5.3	21.2	4.0
11–20 hours worked	^ 2.4	11.0	*1.8	7.4	-3.6
21–34 hours worked	^ 2.8	13.1	*1.9	7.8	-5.3
Total part-time	^ 9.0	41.3	^ 9.1	36.4	-4.9
35–50 hours worked	^ 8.4	38.4	^ 10.9	43.9	5.5
51–75 hours worked	^ 4.0	18.2	^ 4.0	16.1	-2.1
More than 75 hours worked	**0.5	2.1	*0.9	3.6	1.5
Total full-time	12.8	58.7	15.9	63.6	4.9
Total	21.8	100.0	24.9	100.0	—

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

1.3**SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS, By sex and Australian born and overseas born for states and territories(a)**

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	<i>Number of operators</i>	<i>Proportion of operators</i>	<i>Number of operators</i>	<i>Proportion of operators</i>	
	'000	%	'000	%	
AUSTRALIA					
Males					
Born in Australia	737.8	69.4	779.4	68.9	-0.5
Born overseas	325.2	30.6	351.5	31.1	0.5
Total	1 063.0	100.0	1 131.0	100.0	—
Females					
Born in Australia	385.6	73.0	379.6	71.8	-1.2
Born overseas	143.0	27.0	149.4	28.2	1.2
Total	528.6	100.0	529.0	100.0	—
Persons					
Born in Australia	1 123.4	70.6	1 159.0	69.8	-0.8
Born overseas	468.1	29.4	500.9	30.2	0.8
Total	1 591.5	100.0	1 659.9	100.0	—
NEW SOUTH WALES					
Males					
Born in Australia	223.0	64.6	278.6	67.8	3.2
Born overseas	122.1	35.4	132.5	32.2	-3.2
Total	345.1	100.0	411.1	100.0	—
Females					
Born in Australia	111.3	71.2	120.9	71.9	0.7
Born overseas	45.1	28.8	47.2	28.1	-0.7
Total	156.4	100.0	168.0	100.0	—
Persons					
Born in Australia	334.3	66.7	399.5	69.0	2.3
Born overseas	167.2	33.3	179.7	31.0	-2.3
Total	501.4	100.0	579.1	100.0	—
VICTORIA					
Males					
Born in Australia	193.2	72.2	191.2	70.7	-1.5
Born overseas	74.5	27.8	79.1	29.3	1.5
Total	267.6	100.0	270.3	100.0	—
Females					
Born in Australia	101.2	73.9	91.2	72.2	-1.7
Born overseas	^ 35.8	26.1	^ 35.2	27.8	1.7
Total	137.1	100.0	126.3	100.0	—
Persons					
Born in Australia	294.4	72.7	282.3	71.2	-1.5
Born overseas	110.3	27.3	114.3	28.8	1.5
Total	404.7	100.0	396.6	100.0	—

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

1.3 SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS, By sex and Australian born and overseas born for states and territories(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	
QUEENSLAND					
Males					
Born in Australia	154.3	75.3	153.3	71.0	-4.3
Born overseas	50.5	24.7	62.5	29.0	4.3
Total	204.9	100.0	215.9	100.0	—
Females					
Born in Australia	93.8	78.2	79.7	72.1	-6.1
Born overseas	^ 26.1	21.8	^ 30.9	27.9	6.1
Total	119.9	100.0	110.5	100.0	—
Persons					
Born in Australia	248.1	76.4	233.0	71.4	-5.0
Born overseas	76.7	23.6	93.4	28.6	5.0
Total	324.8	100.0	326.4	100.0	—
SOUTH AUSTRALIA					
Males					
Born in Australia	52.6	72.3	53.1	73.3	1.0
Born overseas	^ 20.1	27.7	^ 19.3	26.7	-1.0
Total	72.7	100.0	72.4	100.0	—
Females					
Born in Australia	25.5	79.7	32.3	79.4	-0.3
Born overseas	^ 6.5	20.3	^ 8.4	20.6	0.3
Total	32.0	100.0	40.7	100.0	—
Persons					
Born in Australia	78.1	74.6	85.4	75.5	0.9
Born overseas	26.6	25.4	27.7	24.5	-0.9
Total	104.7	100.0	113.2	100.0	—
WESTERN AUSTRALIA					
Males					
Born in Australia	80.4	61.9	70.2	60.3	-1.6
Born overseas	49.5	38.1	46.3	39.7	1.6
Total	129.9	100.0	116.5	100.0	—
Females					
Born in Australia	38.2	60.0	39.1	63.2	3.2
Born overseas	25.4	40.0	22.7	36.8	-3.2
Total	63.6	100.0	61.9	100.0	—
Persons					
Born in Australia	118.6	61.3	109.3	61.3	—
Born overseas	74.9	38.7	69.0	38.7	—
Total	193.5	100.0	178.3	100.0	—

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

1.3**SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS, By sex and Australian born and overseas born for states and territories(a) continued**

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	
TASMANIA					
Males					
Born in Australia	^ 17.8	86.6	^ 16.4	76.1	-10.5
Born overseas	^ 2.8	13.4	^ 5.1	23.9	10.5
Total	20.6	100.0	21.6	100.0	—
Females					
Born in Australia	^ 8.9	87.1	^ 9.6	80.7	-6.4
Born overseas	* 1.3	12.9	^ 2.3	19.3	6.4
Total	^ 10.2	100.0	^ 12.0	100.0	—
Persons					
Born in Australia	26.7	86.8	26.1	77.8	-9.0
Born overseas	^ 4.1	13.2	^ 7.5	22.2	9.0
Total	30.8	100.0	33.5	100.0	—
NORTHERN TERRITORY (b)					
Males					
Born in Australia	^ 5.7	79.2	^ 4.0	63.6	-15.6
Born overseas	* 1.5	20.8	* 2.3	36.4	15.6
Total	^ 7.3	100.0	^ 6.2	100.0	—
Females					
Born in Australia	* 2.2	84.8	* 1.2	73.0	-11.8
Born overseas	** 0.4	15.2	** 0.4	27.0	11.8
Total	^ 2.7	100.0	* 1.6	100.0	—
Persons					
Born in Australia	^ 8.0	80.7	^ 5.1	65.5	-15.2
Born overseas	* 1.9	19.3	^ 2.7	34.5	15.2
Total	^ 9.9	100.0	^ 7.8	100.0	—
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY					
Males					
Born in Australia	^ 10.7	71.8	^ 12.6	74.4	2.6
Born overseas	^ 4.2	28.2	^ 4.3	25.6	-2.6
Total	15.0	100.0	17.0	100.0	—
Females					
Born in Australia	^ 4.5	66.0	^ 5.7	71.3	5.3
Born overseas	^ 2.3	34.0	^ 2.3	28.7	-5.3
Total	^ 6.8	100.0	^ 7.9	100.0	—
Persons					
Born in Australia	15.2	70.0	18.3	73.4	3.4
Born overseas	^ 6.5	30.0	^ 6.6	26.6	-3.4
Total	21.8	100.0	24.9	100.0	—

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

(b) Refers to mainly urban areas only.

1.4 SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS, By sex and number of businesses operated for states and territories(a)

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	
AUSTRALIA					
Males					
One business	984.5	92.6	1 042.2	92.2	-0.4
Two businesses	55.1	5.2	61.6	5.4	0.2
Three businesses or more	^ 23.4	2.2	^ 27.2	2.4	0.2
Total	1 063.0	100.0	1 131.0	100.0	—
Females					
One business	492.5	93.2	492.4	93.1	—
Two businesses	^ 28.8	5.5	^ 27.2	5.1	-0.4
Three businesses or more	^ 7.3	1.4	^ 9.3	1.8	0.4
Total	528.6	100.0	529.0	100.0	—
Persons					
One business	1 477.0	92.8	1 534.7	92.5	-0.3
Two businesses	83.9	5.3	88.8	5.3	—
Three businesses or more	^ 30.7	1.9	^ 36.4	2.2	0.3
Total	1 591.5	100.0	1 659.9	100.0	—
NEW SOUTH WALES					
Males					
One business	319.4	92.5	374.5	91.1	-1.4
Two businesses	^ 19.8	5.7	^ 25.3	6.1	0.4
Three businesses or more	*5.9	1.7	^ 11.3	2.8	1.1
Total	345.1	100.0	411.1	100.0	—
Females					
One business	146.4	93.6	157.6	93.8	0.2
Two businesses	*7.5	4.8	*7.5	4.5	-0.3
Three businesses or more	*2.5	1.6	*3.0	1.8	0.2
Total	156.4	100.0	168.0	100.0	—
Persons					
One business	465.7	92.9	532.1	91.9	-1.0
Two businesses	^ 27.3	5.4	^ 32.8	5.7	0.3
Three businesses or more	^ 8.4	1.7	^ 14.3	2.5	0.8
Total	501.4	100.0	579.1	100.0	—

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

1.4**SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS, By sex and number of businesses operated for states and territories(a) *continued***

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	
VICTORIA					
Males					
One business	250.5	93.6	251.3	93.0	-0.6
Two businesses	^ 10.7	4.0	^ 13.9	5.2	1.2
Three businesses or more	^ 6.5	2.4	*5.0	1.8	-0.6
Total	267.6	100.0	270.3	100.0	—
Females					
One business	129.6	94.5	117.5	93.0	-1.5
Two businesses	^ 6.5	4.7	^ 6.5	5.2	0.5
Three businesses or more	**1.0	0.7	*2.3	1.9	1.2
Total	137.1	100.0	126.3	100.0	—
Persons					
One business	380.0	93.9	368.8	93.0	-0.9
Two businesses	^ 17.2	4.2	^ 20.5	5.2	1.0
Three businesses or more	^ 7.5	1.8	^ 7.3	1.8	—
Total	404.7	100.0	396.6	100.0	—
QUEENSLAND					
Males					
One business	188.5	92.0	200.4	92.8	0.8
Two businesses	^ 12.0	5.8	^ 10.1	4.7	-1.1
Three businesses or more	*4.3	2.1	^ 5.4	2.5	0.4
Total	204.9	100.0	215.9	100.0	—
Females					
One business	109.3	91.1	103.2	93.4	2.3
Two businesses	^ 8.7	7.3	*5.0	4.5	-2.8
Three businesses or more	*2.0	1.6	*2.3	2.1	0.5
Total	119.9	100.0	110.5	100.0	—
Persons					
One business	297.8	91.7	303.7	93.0	1.3
Two businesses	^ 20.7	6.4	^ 15.1	4.6	-1.8
Three businesses or more	^ 6.3	1.9	^ 7.7	2.3	0.4
Total	324.8	100.0	326.4	100.0	—

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** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

1.4 SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS, By sex and number of businesses operated for states and territories(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	
SOUTH AUSTRALIA					
Males					
One business	67.2	92.4	65.3	90.2	-2.2
Two businesses	^ 3.8	5.3	^ 4.9	6.8	1.5
Three businesses or more	*1.7	2.3	*2.2	3.0	0.7
Total	72.7	100.0	72.4	100.0	—
Females					
One business	29.4	92.0	38.3	94.0	2.0
Two businesses	*2.2	6.8	*1.8	4.5	-2.3
Three businesses or more	**0.4	1.2	**0.6	1.4	0.2
Total	32.0	100.0	40.7	100.0	—
Persons					
One business	96.6	92.3	103.6	91.6	-0.7
Two businesses	^ 6.0	5.7	^ 6.8	6.0	0.3
Three businesses or more	*2.1	2.0	*2.8	2.4	0.4
Total	104.7	100.0	113.2	100.0	—
WESTERN AUSTRALIA					
Males					
One business	119.0	91.6	109.0	93.6	2.0
Two businesses	^ 7.2	5.6	^ 5.3	4.6	-1.0
Three businesses or more	*3.7	2.8	*2.1	1.8	-1.0
Total	129.9	100.0	116.5	100.0	—
Females					
One business	59.7	93.9	56.1	90.7	-3.2
Two businesses	*3.0	4.7	^ 4.9	7.9	3.2
Three businesses or more	**0.9	1.4	**0.9	1.4	—
Total	63.6	100.0	61.9	100.0	—
Persons					
One business	178.7	92.4	165.1	92.6	0.2
Two businesses	^ 10.2	5.3	^ 10.3	5.7	0.4
Three businesses or more	^ 4.6	2.4	*3.0	1.7	-0.7
Total	193.5	100.0	178.3	100.0	—

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— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

1.4**SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS, By sex and number of businesses operated for states and territories(a) continued**

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	
TASMANIA					
Males					
One business	19.2	93.6	20.1	93.2	-0.4
Two businesses	**0.4	2.0	*1.1	5.1	3.1
Three businesses or more	*0.9	4.4	**0.4	1.7	-2.7
Total	20.6	100.0	21.6	100.0	—
Females					
One business	^ 9.6	93.6	^ 10.7	89.5	-4.1
Two businesses	**0.4	4.3	*1.0	8.6	4.3
Three businesses or more	**0.2	2.1	**0.2	1.9	-0.2
Total	^ 10.2	100.0	^ 12.0	100.0	—
Persons					
One business	28.8	93.6	30.8	91.9	-1.7
Two businesses	*0.8	2.7	^ 2.1	6.3	3.6
Three businesses or more	*1.1	3.7	*0.6	1.8	-1.9
Total	30.8	100.0	33.5	100.0	—
NORTHERN TERRITORY (b)					
Males					
One business	^ 6.8	93.6	^ 5.8	92.4	-1.2
Two businesses	**0.4	4.9	**0.3	4.8	-0.1
Three businesses or more	**0.1	1.5	**0.2	2.7	1.2
Total	^ 7.3	100.0	^ 6.2	100.0	—
Females					
One business	*2.2	83.1	*1.6	100.0	16.9
Two businesses	**0.2	8.8	—	—	na
Three businesses or more	**0.2	8.0	—	—	na
Total	^ 2.7	100.0	*1.6	100.0	—
Persons					
One business	^ 9.0	90.8	^ 7.3	94.0	3.2
Two businesses	*0.6	5.9	**0.3	3.9	-2.0
Three businesses or more	**0.3	3.3	**0.2	2.2	-1.1
Total	^ 9.9	100.0	^ 7.8	100.0	—

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— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

na not available

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

(b) Refers to mainly urban areas only.

1.4 SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS, By sex and number of businesses operated for states and territories(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY					
Males					
One business	13.9	93.1	15.7	92.6	-0.5
Two businesses	*0.8	5.4	*0.6	3.4	-2.0
Three businesses or more	**0.2	1.5	*0.7	3.9	2.4
Total	15.0	100.0	17.0	100.0	—
Females					
One business	^ 6.3	93.3	^ 7.5	94.7	1.4
Two businesses	**0.4	5.2	**0.4	5.3	0.1
Three businesses or more	**0.1	1.6	—	—	na
Total	^ 6.8	100.0	^ 7.9	100.0	—
Persons					
One business	20.3	93.1	23.3	93.3	0.2
Two businesses	*1.2	5.4	*1.0	4.0	-1.4
Three businesses or more	**0.3	1.5	*0.7	2.7	1.2
Total	21.8	100.0	24.9	100.0	—

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** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

na not available

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

CHAPTER 2

CHARACTERISTICS OF SMALL BUSINESSES

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents selected characteristics of small businesses including details of the ownership structure, length of operation, the use of computers and Internet access. Data are classified by state and territory and business size, and by sex of operators.

Estimates of businesses from the June 2003 and June 2004 surveys are presented in the tables, together with estimates of the annual change in percentage points to assist analysis.

NUMBER OF BUSINESSES

There were an estimated 1,269,000 small businesses operating in Australia in June 2004.

At June 2004:

- 56.3% (715,000) were non-employing businesses, down from 56.5 in June 2003
- 32.8% (416,000) employed 1-4 people, a slight drop from 33.0% in June 2003
- 10.9% (139,000) employed 5-19 people, up from 10.5% in June 2003.

EMPLOYER SIZE GROUP

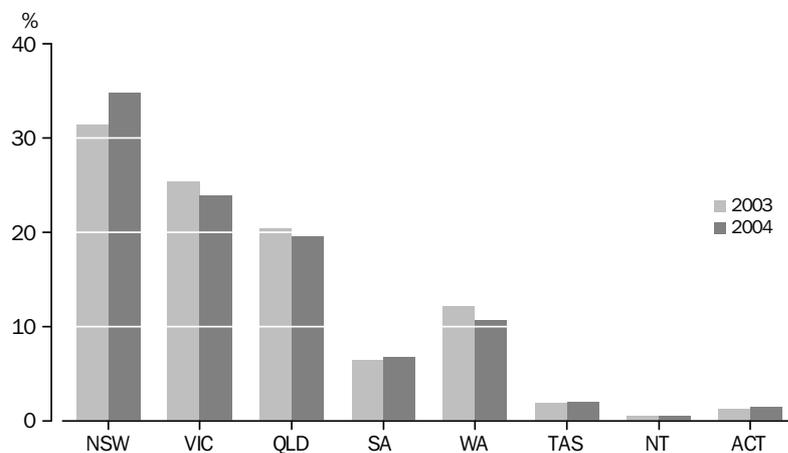
There was little change in the relative proportions of small businesses classified by employer size over the last 12 months. The majority of small businesses (56.3%) were non-employing businesses. The proportions of businesses with 1-4 employees (32.8%) and 5-19 employees (10.9%) remained stable.

The proportion of non-employing businesses (58.3%) has increased since February 1995 (48.3%). Consequently, the proportion of businesses with 5-19 employees decreased from 17.8% in 1995 to 10.9% in 2004.

LOCATION OF OPERATION

The distribution of small businesses across states and territories at June 2004 reflected the general population distribution within Australia at that time.

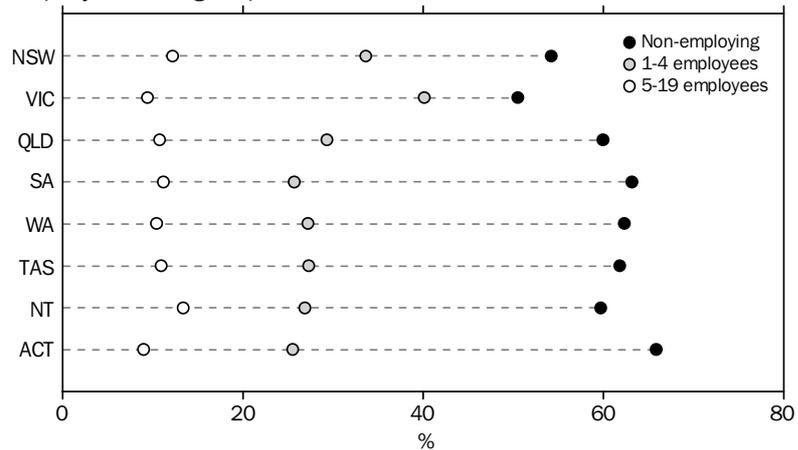
PROPORTION OF TOTAL SMALL BUSINESSES, by State: June 2003 - June 2004



By employer size group

Non-employing businesses comprised the majority of small businesses in all states. However, there were considerable differences in the proportions; the Australian Capital Territory recorded the largest proportion of non-employing businesses (65.8%) followed by South Australia (63.1%). In Victoria (50.5%) and New South Wales (54.2%) non-employing businesses comprised a smaller proportion of all small businesses.

PROPORTION OF SMALL BUSINESSES, by State and by business employer size group - June 2004



LENGTH OF OPERATION

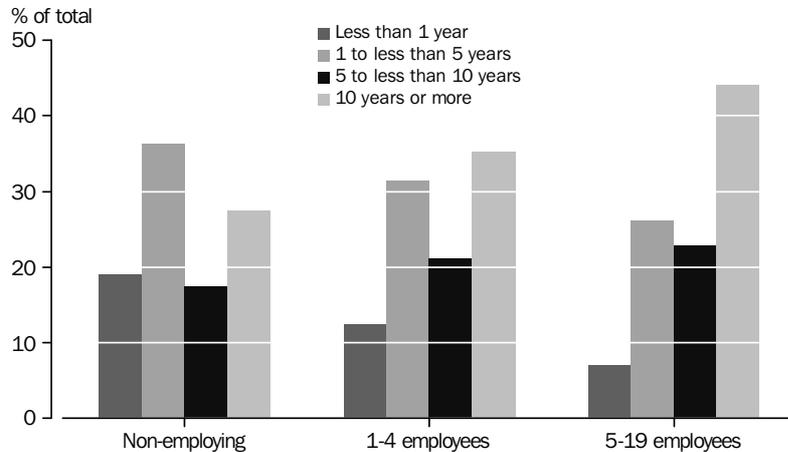
At June 2004 the majority of small businesses had been in operation from one to less than five years (33.5%), a proportion largely unchanged from 2003.

The largest proportional change at June 2004 was for businesses aged less than one year which increased by 2.6 percentage points to 15.5%.

By size of business

The majority of non-employing businesses, 36.2%, had been in operation from one to less than five years. For businesses employing 1-4 people, the majority had been in operation for ten years or more (35.2%). The majority of businesses (44.1%) in the 5-19 employee size category had also been in operation for ten years or more.

PROPORTION OF BUSINESSES, by employment size group and by length of operation - June 2004



OPERATORS PER BUSINESS

At June 2004, 72.6% (921,000) of all small businesses were operated by a single operator, an increase of 4.1 percentage points. The percentage of businesses with two operators decreased to 25.1%, a drop of 3.9 percentage points.

By size of business

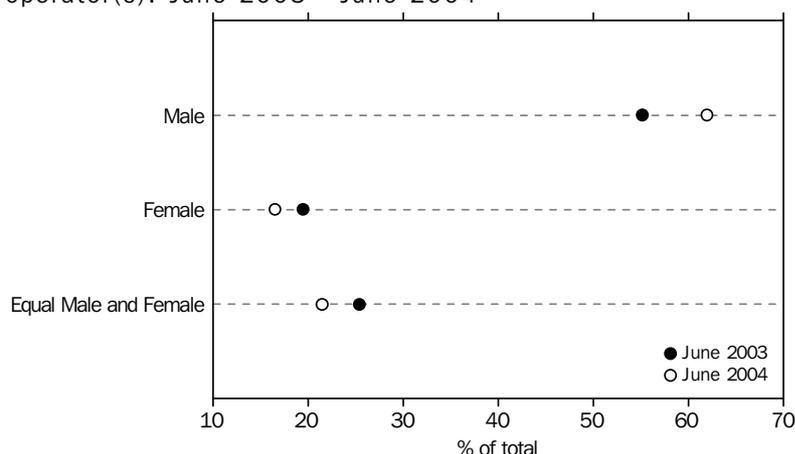
On average the number of operators per small business increased commensurately with the business employer size.

PREDOMINANT SEX OF OPERATORS

There were 1,269,000 small businesses in Australia in June 2004, of which (62.0%) were operated by an individual male or predominantly by males, a significant increase from June 2003 (55.1%).

There were 21.5% (273,000) of businesses operated by equal numbers of males and females. The proportion of businesses in this category declined by 3.9 percentage points. There were 16.5% of businesses operated predominantly by females, a drop of 3.0 percentage points on the June 2003 estimate.

PROPORTION OF SMALL BUSINESSES, by predominant sex of operator(s): June 2003 - June 2004



By size of business

The non-employed business category was the most common business size group for both predominantly male operated businesses (57.7%) and for predominantly female operated businesses (83.2%). However, businesses operated by equal numbers of males and females recorded a significantly smaller proportion of non-employed businesses (31.7%).

USE OF COMPUTERS AND THE INTERNET

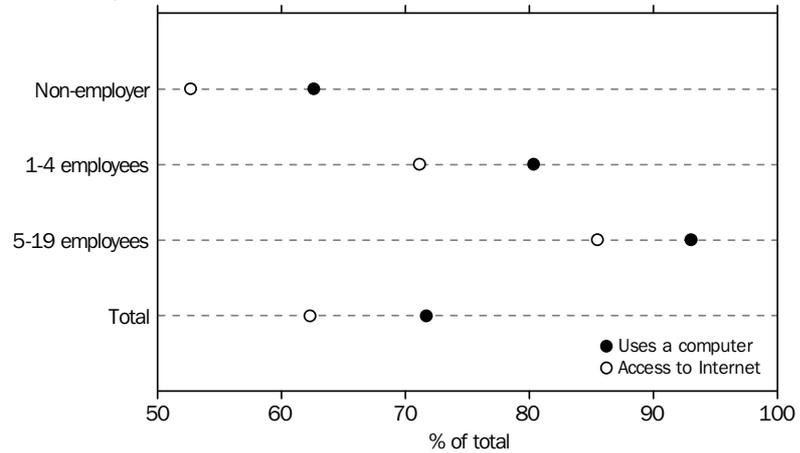
When comparing these results to those of other ABS series, it should be noted that some series only measure the use of computers and the Internet by employing businesses.

In June 2004, 71.7% of small businesses reported that they were using computers in their business operations, a similar proportion to that recorded in June 2003. The proportion of businesses with access to the Internet (62.3%) also remained relatively unchanged from that recorded in June 2003. There was no significant change in the proportions of small businesses using computers in the twelve months to June 2004 for any of the employer size categories.

USE OF COMPUTERS AND THE INTERNET *continued*

As the size of the business increased so too did the likelihood that the business used a computer, with 93.0% of businesses which employed 5-19 people, using a computer, compared to only 62.6% of non-employing businesses. Access to the Internet was more common in larger businesses.

PROPORTION OF SMALL BUSINESSES, by employer size group which use computers and access the Internet - June 2004



For businesses which access the Internet, the most common usage was for email (86.9%), research (82.6%), and 'other' (89.1%).

The Internet was used by 34.4% of all small businesses for 'making or receiving payments', an increase of 5.1 percentage points from June 2003.

It should be noted that 'making or receiving payments', is not a measure of E-commerce or I-commerce, as these are defined as ordering goods and services electronically or via the Internet, not on the method of making/receiving payments.

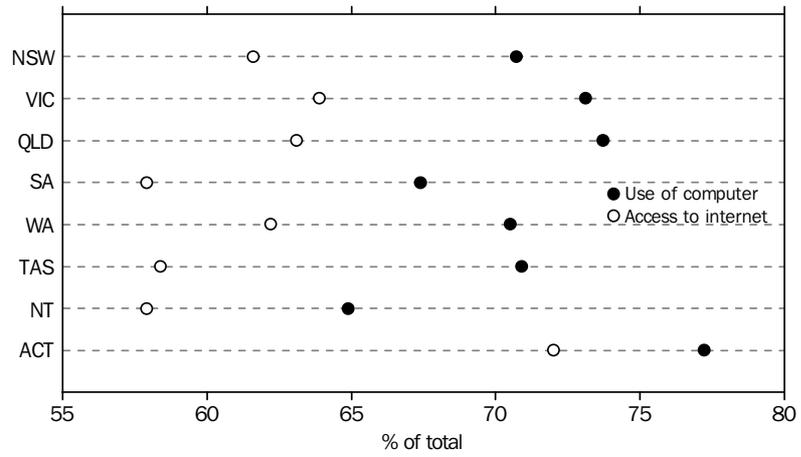
By state and territory

The proportion of small businesses across states and territories using computers in their business operations ranged from 64.9% to 77.2%, the national average being 71.7%. The Australian Capital Territory recorded the highest proportion of businesses with computers for all business size ranges.

Access to the Internet across states and territories followed a similar pattern to that of computer usage, with levels highest in the Australian Capital Territory (72.0%) and lowest in the Northern Territory (57.9%).

By state and territory
continued

PROPORTION OF SMALL BUSINESSES, by State, which use computers and access the Internet - June 2004



2.1 SMALL BUSINESSES, By employer size group and length of operation by current owner for states and territories(a)

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	
AUSTRALIA					
Non-employed businesses					
Less than 1 year	112.4	16.9	135.6	19.0	2.1
1 to less than 5 years	247.8	37.2	258.4	36.2	-1.0
5 to less than 10 years	124.4	18.7	124.0	17.4	-1.3
10 or more years	181.6	27.3	196.5	27.5	0.2
Total	666.2	100.0	714.5	100.0	—
1-4 employees					
Less than 1 year	34.2	8.8	51.4	12.4	3.6
1 to less than 5 years	123.4	31.7	130.0	31.3	-0.4
5 to less than 10 years	85.3	21.9	87.9	21.1	-0.8
10 or more years	146.3	37.6	146.5	35.2	-2.4
Total	389.1	100.0	415.8	100.0	—
5-19 employees					
Less than 1 year	^ 6.1	4.9	^ 9.7	7.0	2.1
1 to less than 5 years	27.3	22.1	36.3	26.2	4.1
5 to less than 10 years	29.5	23.8	31.6	22.8	-1.0
10 or more years	61.0	49.2	61.1	44.1	-5.1
Total	124.0	100.0	138.7	100.0	—
Total					
Less than 1 year	152.7	12.9	196.7	15.5	2.6
1 to less than 5 years	398.5	33.8	424.7	33.5	-0.3
5 to less than 10 years	239.2	20.3	243.5	19.2	-1.1
10 or more years	388.9	33.0	404.0	31.8	-1.2
Total	1 179.3	100.0	1 269.0	100.0	—

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

2.1**SMALL BUSINESSES, By employer size group and length of operation by current owner for states and territories(a) *continued***

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	
NEW SOUTH WALES					
Non-employed businesses					
Less than 1 year	^ 30.4	14.8	38.8	16.1	1.3
1 to less than 5 years	77.4	37.7	94.0	39.1	1.4
5 to less than 10 years	^ 35.6	17.3	42.4	17.7	0.4
10 or more years	62.0	30.2	65.0	27.1	-3.1
Total	205.4	100.0	240.2	100.0	—
1-4 employees					
Less than 1 year	^ 7.7	5.7	^ 17.5	11.8	6.1
1 to less than 5 years	42.8	31.8	45.6	30.7	-1.1
5 to less than 10 years	^ 30.0	22.3	^ 31.5	21.2	-1.1
10 or more years	53.9	40.2	54.0	36.3	—
Total	134.4	100.0	148.6	100.0	—
5-19 employees					
Less than 1 year	*2.4	6.5	*4.9	9.1	2.6
1 to less than 5 years	*5.3	14.3	^ 13.4	24.8	10.5
5 to less than 10 years	^ 8.8	24.1	^ 13.0	24.0	-0.1
10 or more years	^ 20.2	55.1	^ 22.8	42.1	-13.0
Total	^ 36.8	100.0	54.1	100.0	—
Total					
Less than 1 year	40.4	10.7	61.2	13.8	3.1
1 to less than 5 years	125.5	33.3	153.0	34.5	1.2
5 to less than 10 years	74.5	19.8	86.9	19.6	-0.2
10 or more years	136.2	36.2	141.8	32.0	-4.2
Total	376.5	100.0	442.8	100.0	—

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

2.1 SMALL BUSINESSES, By employer size group and length of operation by current owner for states and territories(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	
VICTORIA					
Non-employed businesses					
Less than 1 year	^ 26.8	16.6	^ 29.9	19.7	3.1
1 to less than 5 years	59.7	37.0	52.4	34.6	-2.4
5 to less than 10 years	^ 31.4	19.5	^ 25.7	16.9	-2.6
10 or more years	43.3	26.9	43.6	28.8	1.9
Total	161.3	100.0	151.6	100.0	—
1-4 employees					
Less than 1 year	^ 12.1	11.4	^ 16.6	13.8	2.4
1 to less than 5 years	^ 33.7	31.8	36.9	30.7	-1.1
5 to less than 10 years	^ 18.6	17.6	^ 23.7	19.7	2.1
10 or more years	41.6	39.3	43.0	35.8	-3.5
Total	105.9	100.0	120.3	100.0	—
5-19 employees					
Less than 1 year	*1.6	4.5	*1.0	3.6	-0.9
1 to less than 5 years	^ 6.8	18.7	^ 7.6	26.9	8.2
5 to less than 10 years	^ 8.6	23.8	^ 4.6	16.2	-7.6
10 or more years	^ 19.3	53.1	^ 15.2	53.4	0.3
Total	^ 36.4	100.0	^ 28.4	100.0	—
Total					
Less than 1 year	40.5	13.3	47.5	15.8	2.5
1 to less than 5 years	100.2	33.0	97.0	32.3	-0.7
5 to less than 10 years	58.7	19.3	54.0	18.0	-1.3
10 or more years	104.2	34.3	101.8	33.9	-0.4
Total	303.5	100.0	300.3	100.0	—

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

2.1**SMALL BUSINESSES, By employer size group and length of operation by current owner for states and territories(a) *continued***

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	
QUEENSLAND					
Non-employed businesses					
Less than 1 year	27.5	19.8	37.9	24.9	5.1
1 to less than 5 years	51.3	37.0	51.4	33.8	-3.2
5 to less than 10 years	23.3	16.8	27.6	18.1	1.3
10 or more years	36.6	26.4	35.3	23.2	-3.2
Total	138.7	100.0	152.1	100.0	—
1-4 employees					
Less than 1 year	^ 7.4	10.5	^ 9.2	12.3	1.8
1 to less than 5 years	^ 21.8	30.6	24.1	32.3	1.7
5 to less than 10 years	^ 18.3	25.8	^ 14.8	19.9	-5.9
10 or more years	23.6	33.2	26.4	35.5	2.3
Total	71.0	100.0	74.5	100.0	—
5-19 employees					
Less than 1 year	*1.1	4.4	*2.7	9.9	5.5
1 to less than 5 years	^ 7.7	30.6	^ 6.7	24.6	-6.0
5 to less than 10 years	^ 6.5	25.8	^ 7.0	25.5	-0.3
10 or more years	^ 9.8	39.1	^ 10.9	40.0	0.9
Total	25.0	100.0	27.3	100.0	—
Total					
Less than 1 year	36.0	15.3	49.8	19.6	4.3
1 to less than 5 years	80.7	34.4	82.2	32.4	-2.0
5 to less than 10 years	48.1	20.5	49.3	19.4	-1.1
10 or more years	69.9	29.8	72.6	28.6	-1.2
Total	234.7	100.0	254.0	100.0	—

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

2.1 SMALL BUSINESSES, By employer size group and length of operation by current owner for states and territories(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	
SOUTH AUSTRALIA					
Non-employed businesses					
Less than 1 year	^ 6.5	14.0	^ 9.0	16.7	2.7
1 to less than 5 years	^ 17.2	36.9	19.6	36.2	-0.7
5 to less than 10 years	^ 8.2	17.6	^ 8.9	16.5	-1.1
10 or more years	^ 14.7	31.5	^ 16.6	30.7	-0.8
Total	46.7	100.0	54.2	100.0	—
1-4 employees					
Less than 1 year	*2.6	10.9	*1.5	6.9	-4.0
1 to less than 5 years	^ 6.8	28.6	^ 7.0	31.8	3.2
5 to less than 10 years	^ 5.8	24.6	^ 5.8	26.0	1.4
10 or more years	^ 8.5	35.9	^ 7.8	35.3	-0.6
Total	23.6	100.0	22.1	100.0	—
5-19 employees					
Less than 1 year	**0.3	3.3	**0.3	3.1	-0.2
1 to less than 5 years	*1.8	23.3	*2.8	29.1	5.8
5 to less than 10 years	*2.1	27.2	*2.4	25.1	-2.1
10 or more years	^ 3.6	46.2	^ 4.1	42.7	-3.5
Total	^ 7.7	100.0	^ 9.6	100.0	—
Total					
Less than 1 year	^ 9.3	12.0	^ 10.9	12.6	0.6
1 to less than 5 years	25.8	33.0	29.4	34.3	1.3
5 to less than 10 years	^ 16.1	20.7	^ 17.1	19.9	-0.8
10 or more years	26.8	34.3	28.5	33.2	-1.1
Total	78.0	100.0	85.9	100.0	—

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

2.1**SMALL BUSINESSES, By employer size group and length of operation by current owner for states and territories(a) *continued***

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	
WESTERN AUSTRALIA					
Non-employed businesses					
Less than 1 year	^ 17.6	20.5	^ 14.5	17.4	-3.1
1 to less than 5 years	31.4	36.6	28.5	34.1	-2.5
5 to less than 10 years	^ 19.0	22.1	^ 13.0	15.6	-6.5
10 or more years	^ 17.8	20.8	27.5	33.0	12.2
Total	85.8	100.0	83.5	100.0	—
1-4 employees					
Less than 1 year	*2.7	6.7	^ 5.1	13.9	7.2
1 to less than 5 years	^ 13.8	34.9	^ 11.6	31.7	-3.2
5 to less than 10 years	^ 9.5	23.9	^ 9.5	26.0	2.1
10 or more years	^ 13.6	34.5	^ 10.4	28.4	-6.1
Total	39.5	100.0	36.5	100.0	—
5-19 employees					
Less than 1 year	**0.6	3.9	*0.6	4.4	0.5
1 to less than 5 years	^ 4.7	33.2	^ 4.2	29.8	-3.4
5 to less than 10 years	*2.6	18.4	^ 3.0	21.9	3.5
10 or more years	^ 6.3	44.5	^ 6.1	43.9	-0.6
Total	^ 14.1	100.0	^ 13.9	100.0	—
Total					
Less than 1 year	^ 20.8	14.9	^ 20.2	15.1	0.2
1 to less than 5 years	49.9	35.8	44.2	33.0	-2.8
5 to less than 10 years	31.0	22.2	25.6	19.1	-3.1
10 or more years	37.8	27.1	44.0	32.8	5.7
Total	139.5	100.0	134.0	100.0	—

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

2.1 SMALL BUSINESSES, By employer size group and length of operation by current owner for states and territories(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	
TASMANIA					
Non-employed businesses					
Less than 1 year	*1.3	9.2	^ 2.3	14.4	5.2
1 to less than 5 years	^ 4.3	31.2	^ 5.7	35.9	4.7
5 to less than 10 years	^ 3.9	28.7	^ 3.0	18.7	-10.0
10 or more years	^ 4.2	30.9	^ 4.9	31.1	0.2
Total	13.7	100.0	15.8	100.0	—
1–4 employees					
Less than 1 year	*0.9	12.6	*1.0	14.6	2.0
1 to less than 5 years	*1.9	25.8	^ 2.4	33.9	8.1
5 to less than 10 years	*1.4	18.9	*1.4	20.3	1.4
10 or more years	^ 3.1	42.6	^ 2.2	31.2	-11.4
Total	^ 7.3	100.0	^ 7.0	100.0	—
5–19 employees					
Less than 1 year	—	—	**0.1	3.7	—
1 to less than 5 years	*0.4	21.4	*0.9	31.3	9.9
5 to less than 10 years	*0.5	28.3	*0.9	31.4	3.1
10 or more years	*1.0	50.3	*0.9	33.6	-16.7
Total	*1.9	100.0	^ 2.8	100.0	—
Total					
Less than 1 year	^ 2.2	9.5	^ 3.4	13.3	3.8
1 to less than 5 years	^ 6.6	28.6	^ 8.9	34.8	6.2
5 to less than 10 years	^ 5.8	25.6	^ 5.2	20.5	-5.1
10 or more years	^ 8.3	36.3	^ 8.0	31.4	-4.9
Total	22.9	100.0	25.6	100.0	—

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

2.1**SMALL BUSINESSES, By employer size group and length of operation by current owner for states and territories(a) *continued***

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	
NORTHERN TERRITORY (b)					
Non-employed businesses					
Less than 1 year	*0.7	14.1	*0.5	13.1	-1.0
1 to less than 5 years	^2.6	50.4	*1.7	41.3	-9.1
5 to less than 10 years	*0.9	17.1	*1.0	23.8	6.7
10 or more years	*0.9	18.4	*0.9	21.7	3.3
Total	^5.1	100.0	^4.0	100.0	—
1-4 employees					
Less than 1 year	**0.1	6.4	**0.1	8.5	2.1
1 to less than 5 years	*0.9	42.6	**0.2	13.1	-29.5
5 to less than 10 years	*0.6	29.8	*0.4	25.0	-4.8
10 or more years	*0.5	21.3	*0.9	53.5	32.2
Total	*2.1	100.0	*1.8	100.0	—
5-19 employees					
Less than 1 year	**0.1	13.7	—	—	na
1 to less than 5 years	*0.5	56.9	**0.2	17.7	-39.2
5 to less than 10 years	**0.1	9.3	**0.4	47.4	38.1
10 or more years	**0.2	20.2	**0.3	35.0	14.8
Total	*0.8	100.0	*0.9	100.0	—
Total					
Less than 1 year	*1.0	12.0	*0.7	10.1	-1.9
1 to less than 5 years	^3.9	48.9	*2.1	30.7	-18.2
5 to less than 10 years	*1.6	19.7	*1.8	27.3	7.6
10 or more years	*1.6	19.4	*2.1	31.8	12.4
Total	^8.0	100.0	^6.7	100.0	—

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

na not available

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

(b) Refers to mainly urban areas only.

2.1 SMALL BUSINESSES, By employer size group and length of operation by current owner for states and territories(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY					
Non-employed businesses					
Less than 1 year	^ 1.8	18.4	^ 2.6	20.5	2.1
1 to less than 5 years	^ 3.8	39.7	^ 5.2	40.5	0.8
5 to less than 10 years	^ 2.1	21.6	^ 2.4	18.8	-2.8
10 or more years	^ 2.0	20.4	^ 2.6	20.2	-0.2
Total	^ 9.7	100.0	12.9	100.0	—
1-4 employees					
Less than 1 year	*0.8	14.4	*0.3	6.8	-7.6
1 to less than 5 years	^ 1.8	34.9	^ 2.1	42.6	7.7
5 to less than 10 years	*1.1	20.8	*0.8	16.1	-4.7
10 or more years	*1.6	29.9	^ 1.7	34.6	4.7
Total	^ 5.2	100.0	^ 5.0	100.0	—
5-19 employees					
Less than 1 year	—	—	—	—	na
1 to less than 5 years	**0.3	21.3	*0.5	30.9	9.6
5 to less than 10 years	**0.2	19.8	*0.3	19.7	-0.1
10 or more years	*0.7	55.3	*0.8	46.6	-8.7
Total	*1.3	100.0	^ 1.7	100.0	—
Total					
Less than 1 year	^ 2.6	15.9	^ 3.0	15.5	-0.4
1 to less than 5 years	^ 5.9	36.7	^ 7.9	40.2	3.5
5 to less than 10 years	^ 3.4	21.2	^ 3.6	18.2	-3.0
10 or more years	^ 4.2	26.2	^ 5.1	26.2	—
Total	16.1	100.0	19.6	100.0	—

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

na not available

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

2.2**SMALL BUSINESSES, By employer size group and number of business operators for states and territories(a)**

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	
AUSTRALIA					
Non-employed businesses					
1 operator	539.5	81.0	611.3	85.6	4.6
2 operators	121.6	18.3	99.5	13.9	-4.4
3 or more operators	^ 5.1	0.8	*3.6	0.5	-0.3
Total	666.2	100.0	714.5	100.0	—
1-4 employees					
1 operator	227.3	58.4	261.5	62.9	4.5
2 operators	153.2	39.4	146.2	35.2	-4.2
3 or more operators	^ 8.7	2.2	^ 8.1	2.0	-0.2
Total	389.1	100.0	415.8	100.0	—
5-19 employees					
1 operator	41.5	33.5	48.0	34.6	1.1
2 operators	67.8	54.7	73.1	52.7	-2.0
3 or more operators	^ 14.7	11.8	^ 17.5	12.6	0.8
Total	124.0	100.0	138.7	100.0	—
Total					
1 operator	808.3	68.5	920.9	72.6	4.1
2 operators	342.6	29.0	318.8	25.1	-3.9
3 or more operators	28.4	2.4	29.3	2.3	-0.1
Total	1 179.3	100.0	1 269.0	100.0	—
NEW SOUTH WALES					
Non-employed businesses					
1 operator	167.4	81.5	205.5	85.5	4.0
2 operators	^ 36.6	17.8	^ 33.9	14.1	-3.7
3 or more operators	*1.4	0.7	**0.8	0.3	-0.4
Total	205.4	100.0	240.2	100.0	—
1-4 employees					
1 operator	81.4	60.6	97.2	65.4	4.8
2 operators	49.7	37.0	48.3	32.5	-4.5
3 or more operators	*3.2	2.4	*3.1	2.1	-0.3
Total	134.4	100.0	148.6	100.0	—
5-19 employees					
1 operator	^ 14.7	40.0	^ 18.3	33.8	-6.2
2 operators	^ 17.8	48.5	^ 29.7	54.9	6.4
3 or more operators	*4.2	11.4	*6.1	11.2	-0.2
Total	^ 36.8	100.0	54.1	100.0	—
Total					
1 operator	263.5	70.0	321.0	72.5	2.5
2 operators	104.2	27.7	111.9	25.3	-2.4
3 or more operators	^ 8.9	2.4	^ 9.9	2.2	-0.2
Total	376.5	100.0	442.8	100.0	—

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

2.2 SMALL BUSINESSES, By employer size group and number of business operators for states and territories(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	
VICTORIA					
Non-employed businesses					
1 operator	134.6	83.4	127.8	84.3	0.9
2 operators	^ 26.2	16.3	^ 23.3	15.4	-0.9
3 or more operators	**0.5	0.3	**0.5	0.3	—
Total	161.3	100.0	151.6	100.0	—
1–4 employees					
1 operator	66.8	63.1	78.0	64.8	1.7
2 operators	37.6	35.5	39.0	32.4	-3.1
3 or more operators	*1.6	1.5	*3.3	2.7	1.2
Total	105.9	100.0	120.3	100.0	—
5–19 employees					
1 operator	^ 10.2	28.0	^ 9.7	34.2	6.2
2 operators	^ 22.4	61.6	^ 14.2	50.1	-11.5
3 or more operators	*3.8	10.4	^ 4.5	15.7	5.3
Total	^ 36.4	100.0	^ 28.4	100.0	—
Total					
1 operator	211.5	69.7	215.5	71.8	2.1
2 operators	86.2	28.4	76.6	25.5	-2.9
3 or more operators	^ 5.8	1.9	^ 8.2	2.7	0.8
Total	303.5	100.0	300.3	100.0	—
QUEENSLAND					
Non-employed businesses					
1 operator	109.4	78.9	134.4	88.4	9.5
2 operators	27.7	19.9	^ 16.6	10.9	-9.0
3 or more operators	*1.7	1.2	*1.1	0.7	-0.5
Total	138.7	100.0	152.1	100.0	—
1–4 employees					
1 operator	37.8	53.2	43.5	58.4	5.2
2 operators	30.9	43.5	30.6	41.0	-2.5
3 or more operators	*2.4	3.3	**0.5	0.7	-2.6
Total	71.0	100.0	74.5	100.0	—
5–19 employees					
1 operator	^ 8.2	32.5	^ 10.7	39.3	6.8
2 operators	^ 13.9	55.7	^ 13.8	50.4	-5.3
3 or more operators	*3.0	11.8	*2.8	10.3	-1.5
Total	25.0	100.0	27.3	100.0	—
Total					
1 operator	155.3	66.2	188.7	74.3	8.1
2 operators	72.5	30.9	60.9	24.0	-6.9
3 or more operators	^ 7.0	3.0	^ 4.4	1.7	-1.3
Total	234.7	100.0	254.0	100.0	—

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

2.2**SMALL BUSINESSES, By employer size group and number of business operators**
for states and territories(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	
SOUTH AUSTRALIA					
Non-employed businesses					
1 operator	37.3	80.0	45.6	84.1	4.1
2 operators	^ 8.9	19.0	^ 8.2	15.2	-3.8
3 or more operators	**0.5	1.0	**0.4	0.7	-0.3
Total	46.7	100.0	54.2	100.0	—
1-4 employees					
1 operator	^ 13.8	58.5	^ 13.5	61.1	2.6
2 operators	^ 9.4	40.0	^ 8.3	37.4	-2.6
3 or more operators	**0.4	1.5	**0.3	1.4	-0.1
Total	23.6	100.0	22.1	100.0	—
5-19 employees					
1 operator	^ 3.0	39.0	*2.8	29.4	-9.6
2 operators	^ 3.5	45.0	^ 5.3	55.2	10.2
3 or more operators	*1.2	16.0	*1.5	15.4	-0.6
Total	^ 7.7	100.0	^ 9.6	100.0	—
Total					
1 operator	54.2	69.5	61.9	72.1	2.6
2 operators	21.8	27.9	21.8	25.4	-2.5
3 or more operators	*2.1	2.6	*2.2	2.6	—
Total	78.0	100.0	85.9	100.0	—
WESTERN AUSTRALIA					
Non-employed businesses					
1 operator	67.7	78.9	69.5	83.2	4.3
2 operators	^ 17.1	19.9	^ 13.4	16.0	-3.9
3 or more operators	*1.0	1.1	*0.7	0.8	-0.3
Total	85.8	100.0	83.5	100.0	—
1-4 employees					
1 operator	^ 19.0	48.1	^ 20.5	56.1	8.0
2 operators	^ 19.5	49.3	^ 15.4	42.0	-7.3
3 or more operators	*1.0	2.6	*0.7	1.8	-0.8
Total	39.5	100.0	36.5	100.0	—
5-19 employees					
1 operator	^ 4.4	31.2	^ 4.5	32.0	0.8
2 operators	^ 7.8	55.2	^ 7.5	54.3	-0.9
3 or more operators	*1.9	13.6	*1.9	13.7	0.1
Total	^ 14.1	100.0	^ 13.9	100.0	—
Total					
1 operator	91.1	65.4	94.4	70.5	5.1
2 operators	44.4	31.8	36.3	27.1	-4.7
3 or more operators	^ 3.9	2.8	^ 3.3	2.4	-0.4
Total	139.5	100.0	134.0	100.0	—

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

2.2 SMALL BUSINESSES, By employer size group and number of business operators for states and territories(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	
TASMANIA					
Non-employed businesses					
1 operator	^ 10.4	76.3	13.0	82.1	5.8
2 operators	^ 3.2	23.5	^ 2.7	17.0	-6.5
3 or more operators	—	—	**0.1	0.9	0.9
Total	13.7	100.0	15.8	100.0	—
1–4 employees					
1 operator	^ 4.2	57.6	^ 4.6	65.9	8.3
2 operators	^ 3.0	41.8	^ 2.3	32.4	-9.4
3 or more operators	—	—	**0.1	1.8	1.8
Total	^ 7.3	100.0	^ 7.0	100.0	—
5–19 employees					
1 operator	*0.7	37.1	*1.0	37.7	0.6
2 operators	*0.9	48.2	*1.4	49.7	1.5
3 or more operators	**0.3	14.8	**0.3	12.6	-2.2
Total	*1.9	100.0	^ 2.8	100.0	—
Total					
1 operator	15.3	67.0	18.6	72.9	5.9
2 operators	^ 7.2	31.4	^ 6.3	24.7	-6.7
3 or more operators	**0.4	1.5	*0.6	2.4	0.9
Total	22.9	100.0	25.6	100.0	—
NORTHERN TERRITORY (b)					
Non-employed businesses					
1 operator	^ 4.6	91.1	^ 3.7	92.4	1.3
2 operators	*0.5	8.9	**0.3	7.6	-1.3
3 or more operators	—	—	—	—	na
Total	^ 5.1	100.0	^ 4.0	100.0	—
1–4 employees					
1 operator	*1.5	72.3	*1.4	77.8	5.5
2 operators	*0.6	27.7	**0.4	22.2	-5.5
3 or more operators	—	—	—	—	na
Total	*2.1	100.0	*1.8	100.0	—
5–19 employees					
1 operator	**0.1	12.3	*0.5	57.8	45.5
2 operators	*0.6	75.7	**0.3	35.6	-40.1
3 or more operators	**0.1	11.9	**0.1	6.6	-5.3
Total	*0.8	100.0	*0.9	100.0	—
Total					
1 operator	^ 6.3	78.3	^ 5.6	84.0	5.7
2 operators	*1.6	20.5	*1.0	15.2	-5.3
3 or more operators	**0.1	1.2	**0.1	0.9	-0.3
Total	^ 8.0	100.0	^ 6.7	100.0	—

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

na not available

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

(b) Refers to mainly urban areas only.

2.2SMALL BUSINESSES, By employer size group and number of business operators
for states and territories(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY					
Non-employed businesses					
1 operator	^ 8.1	84.0	^ 11.8	91.5	7.5
2 operators	*1.5	15.3	*1.1	8.2	-7.1
3 or more operators	**0.1	0.7	—	—	na
Total	^ 9.7	100.0	12.9	100.0	—
1-4 employees					
1 operator	^ 2.7	52.2	^ 2.8	55.7	3.5
2 operators	^ 2.4	46.5	^ 2.0	40.4	-6.1
3 or more operators	**0.1	1.3	**0.2	4.0	2.7
Total	^ 5.2	100.0	^ 5.0	100.0	—
5-19 employees					
1 operator	**0.2	17.9	*0.4	26.0	8.1
2 operators	*0.8	66.0	*0.9	52.4	-13.6
3 or more operators	**0.2	16.1	*0.4	21.6	5.5
Total	*1.3	100.0	^ 1.7	100.0	—
Total					
1 operator	^ 11.1	68.6	15.0	76.6	8.0
2 operators	^ 4.7	29.3	^ 4.0	20.3	-9.0
3 or more operators	*0.3	2.1	*0.6	3.1	1.0
Total	16.1	100.0	19.6	100.0	—

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

na not available

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

2.3 SMALL BUSINESSES, By predominance of male and female operators and selected characteristics(a)

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	
PREDOMINANTLY MALE					
Total small businesses	649.6	100.0	786.6	100.0	—
Home based small business					
Operated at home	116.3	17.9	131.4	16.7	-1.2
Operated from home	440.6	67.8	542.3	69.0	1.2
Employer size group					
Non-employed businesses	383.5	59.0	453.6	57.7	-1.3
1-4 employees	206.7	31.8	263.7	33.5	1.7
5-19 employees	59.3	9.1	69.3	8.8	-0.3
Length of operation					
Less than 1 year	78.1	12.0	127.2	16.2	4.2
1 to less than 5 years	235.5	36.3	270.7	34.4	-1.9
5 to less than 10 years	136.0	20.9	146.6	18.6	-2.3
10 or more years	200.0	30.8	242.1	30.8	—
Number of operators					
1 operator	587.9	90.5	722.1	91.8	1.3
2 operators	40.5	6.2	44.4	5.6	-0.6
3 or more operators	^ 21.2	3.3	^ 20.0	2.5	-0.8
Use of computers					
Uses a computer	447.2	68.8	545.5	69.3	0.5
Does not use a computer	202.4	31.2	241.1	30.7	-0.5
Internet use					
Has access to the Internet	380.3	58.5	470.3	59.8	1.3
Internet used for					
Email	318.1	49.0	404.6	51.4	2.4
Research	288.0	44.3	384.9	48.9	4.6
Making or receiving payments	176.7	27.2	264.3	33.6	6.4
Other	326.0	50.2	424.4	54.0	3.8
State					
New South Wales	218.9	33.7	281.6	35.8	2.1
Victoria	163.0	25.1	190.1	24.2	-0.9
Queensland	118.6	18.3	156.8	19.9	1.6
South Australia	46.0	7.1	49.4	6.3	-0.8
Western Australia	76.8	11.8	76.3	9.7	-2.1
Tasmania	12.1	1.9	14.6	1.9	—
Northern Territory(b)	^ 5.1	0.8	^ 5.4	0.7	-0.1
Australian Capital Territory	^ 9.1	1.4	^ 12.3	1.6	0.2

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution
 — nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2
 (b) Refers to mainly urban areas only.

2.3**SMALL BUSINESSES, By predominance of male and female operators and selected characteristics(a) continued**

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	
PREDOMINANTLY FEMALE					
Total small businesses	230.2	100.0	209.5	100.0	—
Home based small business					
Operated at home	98.6	42.8	81.9	39.1	-3.7
Operated from home	156.8	68.1	139.4	66.5	-1.6
Employer size group					
Non-employed businesses	173.4	75.3	174.3	83.2	7.9
1-4 employees	46.4	20.1	27.1	13.0	-7.1
5-19 employees	^ 10.4	4.5	^ 8.1	3.9	-0.6
Length of operation					
Less than 1 year	51.1	22.2	46.4	22.2	—
1 to less than 5 years	90.3	39.2	81.4	38.9	-0.3
5 to less than 10 years	38.9	16.9	38.3	18.3	1.4
10 or more years	49.8	21.6	43.3	20.7	-0.9
Number of operators					
1 operator	220.4	95.8	198.7	94.8	-1.0
2 operators	^ 8.1	3.5	^ 6.6	3.1	-0.4
3 or more operators	*1.6	0.7	^ 4.2	2.0	1.3
Use of computers					
Uses a computer	154.0	66.9	140.5	67.1	0.2
Does not use a computer	76.2	33.1	69.0	32.9	-0.2
Internet use					
Has access to the Internet	137.3	59.6	122.6	58.5	-1.1
Internet used for					
Email	116.7	50.7	109.6	52.3	1.6
Research	112.7	48.9	108.1	51.6	2.7
Making or receiving payments	53.0	23.0	55.5	26.5	3.5
Other	117.7	51.1	105.2	50.2	-0.9
State					
New South Wales	68.6	29.8	68.2	32.5	2.7
Victoria	66.7	29.0	44.5	21.2	-7.8
Queensland	49.5	21.5	43.9	21.0	-0.5
South Australia	^ 13.0	5.7	^ 17.6	8.4	2.7
Western Australia	23.5	10.2	25.6	12.2	2.0
Tasmania	^ 4.1	1.8	^ 5.0	2.4	0.6
Northern Territory(b)	*1.5	0.7	*0.7	0.3	-0.4
Australian Capital Territory	^ 3.2	1.4	^ 4.2	2.0	0.6

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

(b) Refers to mainly urban areas only.

2.3 SMALL BUSINESSES, By predominance of male and female operators and selected characteristics(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	no.
EQUAL MALE AND FEMALE					
Total small businesses	299.6	100.0	272.9	100.0	—
Home based small business					
Operated at home	65.7	21.9	54.4	19.9	-2.0
Operated from home	150.8	50.3	138.1	50.6	0.3
Employer size group					
Non-employed businesses	109.3	36.5	86.5	31.7	-4.8
1-4 employees	136.0	45.4	125.0	45.8	0.4
5-19 employees	54.3	18.1	61.3	22.5	4.4
Length of operation					
Less than 1 year	^ 23.5	7.8	^ 23.2	8.5	0.7
1 to less than 5 years	72.7	24.3	72.5	26.6	2.3
5 to less than 10 years	64.2	21.4	58.6	21.5	0.1
10 or more years	139.2	46.5	118.6	43.5	-3.0
Number of operators					
1 operator	—	—	—	—	na
2 operators	293.9	98.1	267.8	98.1	—
3 or more operators	^ 5.6	1.9	^ 5.1	1.9	—
Use of computers					
Uses a computer	245.4	81.9	224.1	82.1	0.2
Does not use a computer	54.2	18.1	48.8	17.9	-0.2
Internet use					
Has access to the Internet	210.2	70.2	198.1	72.6	2.4
Internet used for					
Email	175.5	58.6	173.2	63.5	4.9
Research	167.5	55.9	160.1	58.7	2.8
Making or receiving payments	115.9	38.7	116.2	42.6	3.9
Other	182.4	60.9	175.5	64.3	3.4
State					
New South Wales	88.9	29.7	93.0	34.1	4.4
Victoria	73.9	24.7	65.8	24.1	-0.6
Queensland	66.6	22.2	53.3	19.5	-2.7
South Australia	18.9	6.3	18.9	6.9	—
Western Australia	39.2	13.1	32.1	11.8	-1.3
Tasmania	^ 6.7	2.2	^ 6.1	2.2	—
Northern Territory(b)	*1.5	0.5	*0.6	0.2	-0.3
Australian Capital Territory	^ 3.9	1.3	^ 3.1	1.1	-0.2

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

na not available

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

(b) Refers to mainly urban areas only.

2.3SMALL BUSINESSES, By predominance of male and female operators and selected characteristics(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	
TOTAL					
Total small businesses	1 179.3	100.0	1 269.0	100.0	—
Home based small business					
Operated at home	280.6	23.8	267.7	21.1	-2.7
Operated from home	748.2	63.4	819.8	64.6	1.2
Employer size group					
Non-employing businesses	666.2	56.5	714.5	56.3	-0.2
1-4 employees	389.1	33.0	415.8	32.8	-0.2
5-19 employees	124.0	10.5	138.7	10.9	0.4
Length of operation					
Less than 1 year	152.7	12.9	196.7	15.5	2.6
1 to less than 5 years	398.5	33.8	424.7	33.5	-0.3
5 to less than 10 years	239.2	20.3	243.5	19.2	-1.1
10 or more years	388.9	33.0	404.0	31.8	-1.2
Number of operators					
1 operator	808.3	68.5	920.9	72.6	4.1
2 operators	342.6	29.0	318.8	25.1	-3.9
3 or more operators	28.4	2.4	29.3	2.3	-0.1
Use of computers					
Uses a computer	846.5	71.8	910.1	71.7	-0.1
Does not use a computer	332.8	28.2	358.8	28.3	0.1
Internet use					
Has access to the Internet	727.7	61.7	791.0	62.3	0.6
Internet used for					
Email	610.3	51.8	687.4	54.2	2.4
Research	568.2	48.2	653.1	51.5	3.3
Making or receiving payments	345.6	29.3	436.0	34.4	5.1
Other	626.2	53.1	705.1	55.6	2.5
State					
New South Wales	376.5	31.9	442.8	34.9	3.0
Victoria	303.5	25.7	300.3	23.7	-2.0
Queensland	234.7	19.9	254.0	20.0	0.1
South Australia	78.0	6.6	85.9	6.8	0.2
Western Australia	139.5	11.8	134.0	10.6	-1.2
Tasmania	22.9	1.9	25.6	2.0	0.1
Northern Territory(b)	^ 8.0	0.7	^ 6.7	0.5	-0.2
Australian Capital Territory	16.1	1.4	19.6	1.5	0.1

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution
 — nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2
 (b) Refers to mainly urban areas only.

2.4 SMALL BUSINESSES, By employer size group and use of computers and Internet access for states and territories(a)

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	no.
AUSTRALIA					
Non-employed businesses					
Uses a computer	412.0	61.9	447.4	62.6	0.7
Does not use a computer	254.1	38.1	267.1	37.4	-0.7
Has access to the Internet	343.4	51.5	376.6	52.7	1.2
Does not have access to the Internet	322.8	48.5	337.9	47.3	-1.2
Total	666.2	..	714.5
1-4 employees					
Uses a computer	318.1	81.7	333.8	80.3	-1.4
Does not use a computer	71.0	18.3	82.1	19.7	1.4
Has access to the Internet	278.2	71.5	295.9	71.1	-0.4
Does not have access to the Internet	110.9	28.5	120.0	28.9	0.4
Total	389.1	..	415.8
5-19 employees					
Uses a computer	116.4	93.9	129.0	93.0	-0.9
Does not use a computer	^ 7.6	6.1	^ 9.7	7.0	0.9
Has access to the Internet	106.1	85.6	118.6	85.5	-0.1
Does not have access to the Internet	^ 17.9	14.4	^ 20.0	14.5	0.1
Total	124.0	..	138.7
Total					
Uses a computer	846.5	71.8	910.1	71.7	-0.1
Does not use a computer	332.8	28.2	358.8	28.3	0.1
Has access to the Internet	727.7	61.7	791.0	62.3	0.6
Does not have access to the Internet	451.6	38.3	477.9	37.7	-0.6
Total	1 179.3	..	1 269.0

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

.. not applicable

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

2.4SMALL BUSINESSES, By employer size group and use of computers and Internet access for states and territories(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	
NEW SOUTH WALES					
Non-employed businesses					
Uses a computer	124.9	60.8	144.8	60.3	-0.5
Does not use a computer	80.5	39.2	95.5	39.7	0.5
Has access to the Internet	105.3	51.3	120.0	49.9	-1.4
Does not have access to the Internet	100.1	48.7	120.3	50.1	1.4
Total	205.4	..	240.2
1-4 employees					
Uses a computer	110.0	81.9	119.9	80.7	-1.2
Does not use a computer	^ 24.4	18.1	^ 28.6	19.3	1.2
Has access to the Internet	97.2	72.4	107.6	72.5	0.1
Does not have access to the Internet	^ 37.1	27.6	40.9	27.5	-0.1
Total	134.4	..	148.6
5-19 employees					
Uses a computer	^ 34.5	93.7	48.6	89.9	-3.8
Does not use a computer	* 2.3	6.3	* 5.5	10.1	3.8
Has access to the Internet	^ 32.3	87.9	45.4	83.9	-4.0
Does not have access to the Internet	* 4.4	12.1	^ 8.7	16.1	4.0
Total	^ 36.8	..	54.1
Total					
Uses a computer	269.3	71.5	313.3	70.7	-0.8
Does not use a computer	107.2	28.5	129.6	29.3	0.8
Has access to the Internet	234.8	62.4	272.9	61.6	-0.8
Does not have access to the Internet	141.7	37.6	169.9	38.4	0.8
Total	376.5	..	442.8

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

.. not applicable

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

2.4**SMALL BUSINESSES, By employer size group and use of computers and Internet access for states and territories(a) *continued***

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	
VICTORIA					
Non-employed businesses					
Uses a computer	96.6	59.9	97.3	64.2	4.3
Does not use a computer	64.6	40.1	54.3	35.8	-4.3
Has access to the Internet	78.1	48.5	83.4	55.0	6.5
Does not have access to the Internet	83.1	51.5	68.2	45.0	-6.5
Total	161.3	..	151.6
1-4 employees					
Uses a computer	85.6	80.8	94.4	78.4	-2.4
Does not use a computer	^ 20.3	19.2	^ 26.0	21.6	2.4
Has access to the Internet	74.0	69.9	82.5	68.5	-1.4
Does not have access to the Internet	^ 31.9	30.1	37.9	31.5	1.4
Total	105.9	..	120.3
5-19 employees					
Uses a computer	^ 34.4	94.5	^ 28.0	98.4	3.9
Does not use a computer	* 2.0	5.5	** 0.4	1.6	-3.9
Has access to the Internet	^ 29.8	81.9	^ 26.0	91.4	9.5
Does not have access to the Internet	^ 6.6	18.1	* 2.4	8.6	-9.5
Total	^ 36.4	..	^ 28.4
Total					
Uses a computer	216.6	71.4	219.6	73.1	1.7
Does not use a computer	87.0	28.6	80.7	26.9	-1.7
Has access to the Internet	182.0	59.9	191.8	63.9	4.0
Does not have access to the Internet	121.6	40.1	108.5	36.1	-4.0
Total	303.5	..	300.3

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

.. not applicable

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

2.4SMALL BUSINESSES, By employer size group and use of computers and Internet access for states and territories(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	
QUEENSLAND					
Non-employed businesses					
Uses a computer	89.3	64.4	100.1	65.8	1.4
Does not use a computer	49.4	35.6	52.0	34.2	-1.4
Has access to the Internet	75.5	54.4	84.5	55.6	1.2
Does not have access to the Internet	63.2	45.6	67.6	44.4	-1.2
Total	138.7	..	152.1
1-4 employees					
Uses a computer	59.1	83.2	61.6	82.7	-0.5
Does not use a computer	^ 12.0	16.8	^ 12.9	17.3	0.5
Has access to the Internet	51.0	71.8	52.7	70.8	-1.0
Does not have access to the Internet	^ 20.0	28.2	^ 21.8	29.2	1.0
Total	71.0	..	74.5
5-19 employees					
Uses a computer	23.6	94.4	25.5	93.6	-0.8
Does not use a computer	*1.4	5.6	*1.8	6.4	0.8
Has access to the Internet	^ 21.8	87.1	23.0	84.4	-2.7
Does not have access to the Internet	^ 3.2	12.9	^ 4.3	15.6	2.7
Total	25.0	..	27.3
Total					
Uses a computer	172.0	73.3	187.3	73.7	0.4
Does not use a computer	62.8	26.7	66.7	26.3	-0.4
Has access to the Internet	148.3	63.2	160.3	63.1	-0.1
Does not have access to the Internet	86.5	36.8	93.7	36.9	0.1
Total	234.7	..	254.0

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

.. not applicable

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

2.4**SMALL BUSINESSES, By employer size group and use of computers and Internet access for states and territories(a) *continued***

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	
SOUTH AUSTRALIA					
Non-employed businesses					
Uses a computer	29.0	62.2	32.3	59.6	-2.6
Does not use a computer	^ 17.7	37.8	21.9	40.4	2.6
Has access to the Internet	23.9	51.3	26.5	48.9	-2.4
Does not have access to the Internet	22.7	48.7	27.7	51.1	2.4
Total	46.7	..	54.2
1-4 employees					
Uses a computer	^ 18.7	79.1	^ 16.7	75.4	-3.7
Does not use a computer	^ 5.0	20.9	^ 5.5	24.6	3.7
Has access to the Internet	^ 16.4	69.5	^ 15.3	69.2	-0.3
Does not have access to the Internet	^ 7.2	30.5	^ 6.8	30.8	0.3
Total	23.6	..	22.1
5-19 employees					
Uses a computer	^ 7.2	94.0	^ 8.9	92.9	-1.1
Does not use a computer	**0.5	6.0	*0.7	7.1	1.1
Has access to the Internet	^ 6.9	89.9	^ 7.9	82.7	-7.2
Does not have access to the Internet	*0.8	10.1	*1.7	17.3	7.2
Total	^ 7.7	..	^ 9.6
Total					
Uses a computer	54.9	70.4	57.9	67.4	-3.0
Does not use a computer	23.1	29.6	28.0	32.6	3.0
Has access to the Internet	47.3	60.6	49.8	57.9	-2.7
Does not have access to the Internet	30.7	39.4	36.2	42.1	2.7
Total	78.0	..	85.9

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

.. not applicable

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

2.4SMALL BUSINESSES, By employer size group and use of computers and Internet access for states and territories(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	
WESTERN AUSTRALIA					
Non-employed businesses					
Uses a computer	54.0	63.0	52.0	62.2	-0.8
Does not use a computer	31.7	37.0	31.6	37.8	0.8
Has access to the Internet	44.9	52.4	44.5	53.3	0.9
Does not have access to the Internet	40.9	47.6	39.0	46.7	-0.9
Total	85.8	..	83.5
1-4 employees					
Uses a computer	33.3	84.3	29.2	80.0	-4.3
Does not use a computer	^ 6.2	15.7	^ 7.3	20.0	4.3
Has access to the Internet	29.7	75.1	26.9	73.6	-1.5
Does not have access to the Internet	^ 9.8	24.9	^ 9.6	26.4	1.5
Total	39.5	..	36.5
5-19 employees					
Uses a computer	^ 13.3	93.9	^ 13.2	94.9	1.0
Does not use a computer	*0.9	6.1	*0.7	5.1	-1.0
Has access to the Internet	^ 12.1	85.8	^ 11.9	85.4	-0.4
Does not have access to the Internet	*2.0	14.2	*2.0	14.6	0.4
Total	^ 14.1	..	^ 13.9
Total					
Uses a computer	100.6	72.2	94.4	70.5	-1.7
Does not use a computer	38.8	27.8	39.6	29.5	1.7
Has access to the Internet	86.8	62.2	83.3	62.2	—
Does not have access to the Internet	52.7	37.8	50.7	37.8	—
Total	139.5	..	134.0

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

.. not applicable

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

2.4 SMALL BUSINESSES, By employer size group and use of computers and Internet access for states and territories(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	
TASMANIA					
Non-employed businesses					
Uses a computer	^ 8.8	64.4	^ 10.0	63.2	-1.2
Does not use a computer	^ 4.9	35.6	^ 5.8	36.8	1.2
Has access to the Internet	^ 7.1	52.0	^ 7.9	49.6	-2.4
Does not have access to the Internet	^ 6.6	48.0	^ 8.0	50.4	2.4
Total	13.7	..	15.8
1-4 employees					
Uses a computer	^ 5.8	79.2	^ 5.8	83.0	3.8
Does not use a computer	* 1.5	20.8	* 1.2	17.0	-3.8
Has access to the Internet	^ 4.6	63.3	^ 4.9	69.6	6.3
Does not have access to the Internet	^ 2.7	36.7	^ 2.1	30.4	-6.3
Total	^ 7.3	..	^ 7.0
5-19 employees					
Uses a computer	* 1.6	84.8	^ 2.3	84.6	-0.2
Does not use a computer	** 0.3	15.2	* 0.4	15.4	0.2
Has access to the Internet	* 1.4	70.7	^ 2.2	80.2	9.5
Does not have access to the Internet	* 0.6	29.3	* 0.5	19.8	-9.5
Total	* 1.9	..	^ 2.8
Total					
Uses a computer	16.2	70.8	18.1	70.9	0.1
Does not use a computer	^ 6.7	29.2	^ 7.4	29.1	-0.1
Has access to the Internet	13.1	57.2	14.9	58.4	1.2
Does not have access to the Internet	^ 9.8	42.8	^ 10.6	41.6	-1.2
Total	22.9	..	25.6

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

.. not applicable

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

2.4SMALL BUSINESSES, By employer size group and use of computers and Internet access for states and territories(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	
NORTHERN TERRITORY (b)					
Non-employed businesses					
Uses a computer	^ 2.7	53.2	*2.1	52.1	-1.1
Does not use a computer	^ 2.4	46.8	*1.9	47.9	1.1
Has access to the Internet	^ 2.5	49.9	*1.7	42.8	-7.1
Does not have access to the Internet	^ 2.5	50.1	*2.3	57.2	7.1
Total	^ 5.1	..	^ 4.0
1-4 employees					
Uses a computer	*1.4	64.8	*1.5	86.0	21.2
Does not use a computer	*0.8	35.2	**0.2	14.0	-21.2
Has access to the Internet	*1.4	64.8	*1.4	81.0	16.2
Does not have access to the Internet	*0.8	35.2	**0.3	19.0	-16.2
Total	*2.1	..	*1.8
5-19 employees					
Uses a computer	*0.7	86.3	*0.7	81.1	-5.2
Does not use a computer	**0.1	13.7	**0.2	18.9	5.2
Has access to the Internet	*0.6	80.5	*0.7	81.1	0.6
Does not have access to the Internet	**0.2	19.5	**0.2	18.9	-0.6
Total	*0.8	..	*0.9
Total					
Uses a computer	^ 4.8	59.6	^ 4.3	64.9	5.3
Does not use a computer	^ 3.2	40.4	*2.3	35.1	-5.3
Has access to the Internet	^ 4.6	56.9	^ 3.9	57.9	1.0
Does not have access to the Internet	^ 3.5	43.1	^ 2.8	42.1	-1.0
Total	^ 8.0	..	^ 6.7

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

.. not applicable

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

(b) Refers to mainly urban areas only.

2.4**SMALL BUSINESSES, By employer size group and use of computers and Internet access for states and territories(a) *continued***

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY					
Non-employed businesses					
Uses a computer	^ 6.7	69.4	^ 8.8	68.3	-1.1
Does not use a computer	^ 3.0	30.6	^ 4.1	31.7	1.1
Has access to the Internet	^ 6.0	62.1	^ 8.1	62.8	0.7
Does not have access to the Internet	^ 3.7	37.9	^ 4.8	37.2	-0.7
Total	^ 9.7	..	12.9
1-4 employees					
Uses a computer	^ 4.3	81.8	^ 4.6	92.3	10.5
Does not use a computer	* 0.9	18.2	* 0.4	7.7	-10.5
Has access to the Internet	^ 3.8	72.9	^ 4.5	90.1	17.2
Does not have access to the Internet	* 1.4	27.1	* 0.5	9.9	-17.2
Total	^ 5.2	..	^ 5.0
5-19 employees					
Uses a computer	* 0.1	10.5	^ 1.7	100.0	89.5
Does not use a computer	** —	—	—	—	—
Has access to the Internet	* 1.1	89.5	* 1.5	87.3	-2.2
Does not have access to the Internet	** 0.1	10.5	** 0.2	12.7	2.2
Total	* 1.3	..	^ 1.7
Total					
Uses a computer	^ 12.1	75.0	15.2	77.2	2.2
Does not use a computer	^ 4.0	25.0	^ 4.5	22.8	-2.2
Has access to the Internet	^ 10.9	67.8	14.1	72.0	4.2
Does not have access to the Internet	^ 5.2	32.2	^ 5.5	28.0	-4.2
Total	16.1	..	19.6

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

.. not applicable

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

2.5

SMALL BUSINESSES, By employer size group and major uses of the Internet for states and territories(a)

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	
AUSTRALIA					
Non-employed businesses					
Email	277.4	41.6	317.9	44.5	2.9
Research	258.7	38.8	316.2	44.3	5.5
Making or receiving payments	139.8	21.0	177.4	24.8	3.8
Other	285.6	42.9	326.0	45.6	2.7
Total	666.2	..	714.5
1-4 employees					
Email	238.7	61.3	260.6	62.7	1.4
Research	224.2	57.6	245.0	58.9	1.3
Making or receiving payments	140.2	36.0	171.9	41.3	5.3
Other	241.8	62.1	268.2	64.5	2.4
Total	389.1	..	415.8
5-19 employees					
Email	94.2	76.0	108.8	78.5	2.5
Research	85.4	68.9	91.9	66.3	-2.6
Making or receiving payments	65.6	52.9	86.7	62.5	9.6
Other	98.7	79.6	110.9	80.0	0.4
Total	124.0	..	138.7
Total					
Email	610.3	51.8	687.4	54.2	2.4
Research	568.2	48.2	653.1	51.5	3.3
Making or receiving payments	345.6	29.3	436.0	34.4	5.1
Other	626.2	53.1	705.1	55.6	2.5
Total	1 179.3	..	1 269.0
NEW SOUTH WALES					
Non-employed businesses					
Email	82.8	40.3	101.6	42.3	2.0
Research	78.4	38.2	102.8	42.8	4.6
Making or receiving payments	38.3	18.6	54.4	22.7	4.1
Other	86.5	42.1	101.3	42.2	0.1
Total	205.4	..	240.2
1-4 employees					
Email	83.3	62.0	95.8	64.5	2.5
Research	77.0	57.3	89.2	60.0	2.7
Making or receiving payments	47.3	35.2	57.9	39.0	3.8
Other	86.1	64.1	97.5	65.7	1.6
Total	134.4	..	148.6
5-19 employees					
Email	^ 29.3	79.7	41.7	77.1	-2.6
Research	^ 25.1	68.2	^ 34.2	63.3	-4.9
Making or receiving payments	^ 18.2	49.4	^ 32.5	60.1	10.7
Other	^ 31.4	85.3	40.9	75.6	-9.7
Total	^ 36.8	..	54.1
Total					
Email	195.4	51.9	239.1	54.0	2.1
Research	180.4	47.9	226.2	51.1	3.2
Making or receiving payments	103.7	27.5	144.8	32.7	5.2
Other	203.9	54.2	239.7	54.1	-0.1
Total	376.5	..	442.8

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

.. not applicable

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

2.5 SMALL BUSINESSES, By employer size group and major uses of the Internet for states and territories(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	
VICTORIA					
Non-employed businesses					
Email	64.1	39.7	69.0	45.5	5.8
Research	55.8	34.6	68.7	45.3	10.7
Making or receiving payments	^ 31.2	19.4	37.4	24.7	5.3
Other	63.8	39.5	71.6	47.2	7.7
Total	161.3	..	151.6
1-4 employees					
Email	64.3	60.7	71.6	59.5	-1.2
Research	60.0	56.6	66.7	55.4	-1.2
Making or receiving payments	^ 33.8	31.9	43.6	36.3	4.4
Other	61.5	58.0	72.9	60.6	2.6
Total	105.9	..	120.3
5-19 employees					
Email	^ 25.5	70.0	^ 24.0	84.4	14.4
Research	^ 24.4	67.2	^ 19.6	68.9	1.7
Making or receiving payments	^ 17.4	48.0	^ 18.5	65.0	17.0
Other	^ 26.3	72.2	^ 24.9	87.5	15.3
Total	^ 36.4	..	^ 28.4
Total					
Email	153.8	50.7	164.6	54.8	4.1
Research	140.2	46.2	155.0	51.6	5.4
Making or receiving payments	82.5	27.2	99.5	33.1	5.9
Other	151.5	49.9	169.4	56.4	6.5
Total	303.5	..	300.3

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

.. not applicable

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

2.5

SMALL BUSINESSES, By employer size group and major uses of the Internet for states and territories(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	
QUEENSLAND					
Non-employed businesses					
Email	61.0	44.0	72.7	47.8	3.8
Research	56.6	40.8	72.4	47.6	6.8
Making or receiving payments	35.1	25.3	42.1	27.7	2.4
Other	64.4	46.5	76.0	50.0	3.5
Total	138.7	..	152.1
1-4 employees					
Email	43.6	61.4	44.7	60.0	-1.4
Research	40.9	57.5	44.6	59.9	2.4
Making or receiving payments	28.1	39.6	37.6	50.5	10.9
Other	43.5	61.2	48.8	65.4	4.2
Total	71.0	..	74.5
5-19 employees					
Email	^ 19.4	77.6	^ 20.0	73.3	-4.3
Research	^ 18.2	72.5	^ 18.9	69.1	-3.4
Making or receiving payments	^ 14.4	57.5	^ 17.6	64.5	7.0
Other	^ 20.6	82.1	^ 22.6	83.0	0.9
Total	25.0	..	27.3
Total					
Email	124.1	52.9	137.5	54.1	1.2
Research	115.6	49.2	135.8	53.5	4.3
Making or receiving payments	77.7	33.1	97.4	38.3	5.2
Other	128.5	54.7	147.5	58.1	3.4
Total	234.7	..	254.0
SOUTH AUSTRALIA					
Non-employed businesses					
Email	19.6	42.0	21.7	40.0	-2.0
Research	19.8	42.3	20.2	37.2	-5.1
Making or receiving payments	^ 10.5	22.6	^ 12.4	22.8	0.2
Other	20.6	44.0	22.7	41.8	-2.2
Total	46.7	..	54.2
1-4 employees					
Email	^ 14.2	60.0	^ 13.0	58.6	-1.4
Research	^ 14.3	60.3	^ 13.1	59.1	-1.2
Making or receiving payments	^ 7.7	32.5	^ 10.0	45.3	12.8
Other	^ 15.7	66.4	^ 13.7	62.0	-4.4
Total	23.6	..	22.1
5-19 employees					
Email	^ 6.1	79.4	^ 7.7	80.3	0.9
Research	^ 6.0	77.8	^ 6.4	66.8	-11.0
Making or receiving payments	^ 5.0	65.6	^ 6.5	67.6	2.0
Other	^ 6.6	86.2	^ 7.4	76.6	-9.6
Total	^ 7.7	..	^ 9.6
Total					
Email	39.9	51.2	42.3	49.3	-1.9
Research	40.0	51.3	39.7	46.2	-5.1
Making or receiving payments	23.3	29.8	28.9	33.6	3.8
Other	42.9	55.0	43.7	50.9	-4.1
Total	78.0	..	85.9

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

.. not applicable

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

2.5 SMALL BUSINESSES, By employer size group and major uses of the Internet for states and territories(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	
WESTERN AUSTRALIA					
Non-employed businesses					
Email	38.1	44.5	37.5	44.9	0.4
Research	36.0	42.0	37.8	45.3	3.3
Making or receiving payments	^ 18.4	21.5	23.0	27.5	6.0
Other	38.2	44.5	38.6	46.3	1.8
Total	85.8	..	83.5
1-4 employees					
Email	24.9	63.0	25.3	69.3	6.3
Research	24.0	60.6	22.2	60.8	0.2
Making or receiving payments	^ 17.9	45.3	^ 16.0	43.9	-1.4
Other	27.0	68.2	25.4	69.6	1.4
Total	39.5	..	36.5
5-19 employees					
Email	^ 11.1	78.3	^ 11.5	82.4	4.1
Research	^ 9.0	63.9	^ 9.4	67.9	4.0
Making or receiving payments	^ 8.5	60.1	^ 8.6	61.7	1.6
Other	^ 10.9	77.0	^ 11.2	80.9	3.9
Total	^ 14.1	..	^ 13.9
Total					
Email	74.1	53.1	74.3	55.4	2.3
Research	69.1	49.5	69.5	51.9	2.4
Making or receiving payments	44.9	32.2	47.6	35.5	3.3
Other	76.0	54.5	75.3	56.2	1.7
Total	139.5	..	134.0

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

.. not applicable

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

2.5SMALL BUSINESSES, By employer size group and major uses of the Internet for states and territories(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	
TASMANIA					
Non-employed businesses					
Email	^ 4.6	33.6	^ 7.0	44.1	10.5
Research	^ 5.0	36.8	^ 6.2	39.3	2.5
Making or receiving payments	^ 2.6	19.1	^ 3.7	23.6	4.5
Other	^ 5.1	37.0	^ 7.1	44.7	7.7
Total	13.7	..	15.8
1-4 employees					
Email	^ 3.8	52.8	^ 4.4	63.1	10.3
Research	^ 3.6	49.6	^ 4.2	60.1	10.5
Making or receiving payments	^ 2.4	32.8	^ 2.4	33.7	0.9
Other	^ 3.6	49.9	^ 4.3	61.3	11.4
Total	^ 7.3	..	^ 7.0
5-19 employees					
Email	*1.1	58.8	*1.8	64.9	6.1
Research	*1.1	58.0	*1.6	58.7	0.7
Making or receiving payments	*0.6	30.3	*1.4	52.1	21.8
Other	*1.3	65.2	*1.9	67.5	2.3
Total	*1.9	..	^ 2.8
Total					
Email	^ 9.6	41.8	13.2	51.5	9.7
Research	^ 9.8	42.7	12.0	47.0	4.3
Making or receiving payments	^ 5.6	24.4	^ 7.5	29.4	5.0
Other	^ 9.9	43.5	13.2	51.7	8.2
Total	22.9	..	25.6

- ^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution .. not applicable
 (a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2
- * estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

2.5 SMALL BUSINESSES, By employer size group and major uses of the Internet for states and territories(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	
NORTHERN TERRITORY (b)					
Non-employed businesses					
Email	*2.1	41.2	*1.4	34.4	-6.8
Research	*1.9	37.2	*1.6	38.7	1.5
Making or receiving payments	*0.9	18.2	*0.9	22.8	4.6
Other	*2.1	41.5	*1.4	35.2	-6.3
Total	^ 5.1	..	^ 4.0
1-4 employees					
Email	*1.2	55.7	*1.2	70.5	14.8
Research	*1.2	56.7	*0.8	46.5	-10.2
Making or receiving payments	*0.8	38.3	*1.0	57.1	18.8
Other	*1.1	51.3	*1.4	81.0	29.7
Total	*2.1	..	*1.8
5-19 employees					
Email	*0.6	77.9	*0.7	81.1	3.2
Research	*0.6	74.4	*0.7	81.1	6.7
Making or receiving payments	*0.6	77.9	*0.5	53.9	-24.0
Other	*0.6	80.5	*0.7	81.1	0.6
Total	*0.8	..	*0.9
Total					
Email	^ 3.9	48.7	^ 3.4	50.1	1.4
Research	^ 3.7	46.1	^ 3.1	46.4	0.3
Making or receiving payments	^ 2.4	29.5	^ 2.4	35.9	6.4
Other	^ 3.9	48.0	^ 3.6	53.3	5.3
Total	^ 8.0	..	^ 6.7

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

.. not applicable

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

(b) Refers to mainly urban areas only.

2.5SMALL BUSINESSES, By employer size group and major uses of the Internet for states and territories(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY					
Non-employed businesses					
Email	^ 5.2	53.3	^ 7.1	55.3	2.0
Research	^ 5.1	53.2	^ 6.5	50.7	-2.5
Making or receiving payments	^ 2.6	27.3	^ 3.5	27.0	-0.3
Other	^ 5.0	52.1	^ 7.3	56.2	4.1
Total	^ 9.7	..	12.9
1-4 employees					
Email	^ 3.4	64.5	^ 4.5	88.8	24.3
Research	^ 3.3	62.9	^ 4.2	83.2	20.3
Making or receiving payments	^ 2.1	40.9	^ 3.3	65.7	24.8
Other	^ 3.4	64.6	^ 4.2	82.7	18.1
Total	^ 5.2	..	^ 5.0
5-19 employees					
Email	* 1.1	85.4	* 1.4	83.9	-1.5
Research	* 1.0	79.0	* 1.0	60.3	-18.7
Making or receiving payments	* 0.9	67.7	* 1.1	64.0	-3.7
Other	* 1.1	89.5	* 1.4	78.7	-10.8
Total	* 1.3	..	^ 1.7
Total					
Email	^ 9.6	59.5	13.0	66.4	6.9
Research	^ 9.4	58.3	^ 11.8	59.9	1.6
Making or receiving payments	^ 5.6	34.9	^ 7.9	40.2	5.3
Other	^ 9.5	59.0	12.8	65.0	6.0
Total	16.1	..	19.6

- ^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution .. not applicable
(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2
- * estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

INTRODUCTION

Home based businesses have been identified based on two definitions:

- where most of the work of the business was carried out at the home(s) of the operator(s) — these businesses are referred to as 'Businesses operated at home'
- where the business has no other premises owned or rented other than the home(s) of the operator(s) — these businesses are referred to as 'Businesses operated from home'.

When combining figures for the two groups it should be noted that some overlap does occur.

In the first edition of this publication (1995), businesses were considered home based if 'one or more of the operators of the business worked more hours at home than away from home'. This definition is similar to the category 'Businesses operated at home' (as defined above), but is not strictly comparable.

NUMBER OF HOME BASED BUSINESSES

Home based businesses make up a very large proportion of the total small business population in Australia. At June 2004, it was estimated that 67.5% of all small businesses were home based, compared to 58.3% in February 1997. These businesses were operated by 1,040,000 people, representing 62.6% of all small business operators. This reflected annual increases in the proportions of home based businesses and operators, 1.0 and 0.5 percentage points respectively.

At June 2004, 95.8% of all home based small businesses were operated from home, a proportion similar to that recorded for June 2003 and February 1997. There were 31.3% (268,000) of all home based small businesses which were operated at home. This was a decrease of 4.4 percentage points from June 2003. As noted above, overlap can occur between the 'operated at home' and 'operated from home' categories as businesses can operate without premises and also have most of the work carried out at the home of the operator(s), therefore satisfying both definitions. In June 2004, 27.0% (231,000) of all home based businesses were such businesses, involving 27.7% of all home based business operators.

HOME BASED SMALL BUSINESSES, June 2004

	<i>Number of businesses</i>	<i>Number of operators</i>
	'000	'000
Operated from home	820	991
Operated at home	268	337
Operated both from home and at home	231	288
Total home based, operating either from home or at home	856	1 040

By Size

There were 856,000 home based small businesses operating at June 2004, of which the majority (68.8%) were non-employing businesses. Of the remainder, 240,000 (28.1%) businesses employed 1-4 people and 26,000 (3.1%) employed 5-19 people.

By Length of Operation

In terms of length of business operation, home based businesses followed a similar distribution pattern to that of total small business with:

- 16.9% in operation for less than one year old
- 36.2% in operation for one year to less than five years
- 17.6% in operation for five years to less than ten years
- 29.3% in operation for ten years or more

The most significant annual increase occurred in the proportion of home-based businesses in operation for less than one year which rose by 2.1 percentage points to 16.9%.

Operators per Business

The majority (79.8%) of home based small businesses were single operator businesses. This proportion was higher than that recorded for small businesses overall, where 72.6% were single operator businesses.

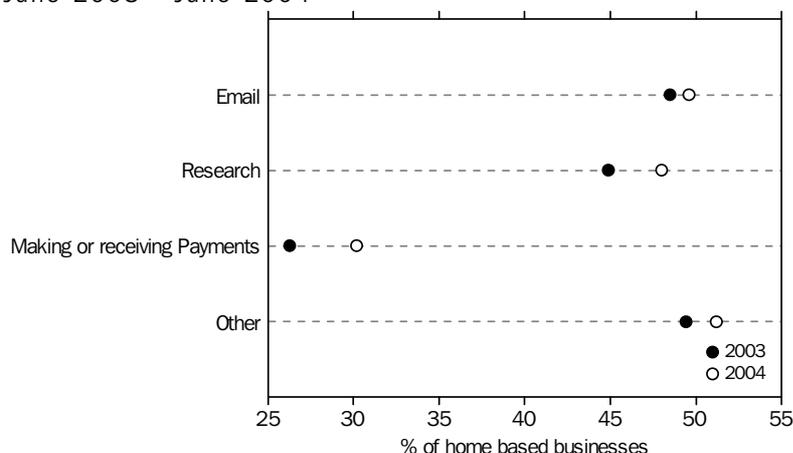
Predominant Gender of Operators

Most home based small businesses (65.5%) were operated predominantly by males, a significant increase from the proportion recorded at June 2003 (58.2%). Consequently, the proportion of home based businesses operated predominantly by females decreased from 21.0% in June 2003 to 17.3% in June 2004. The proportion of businesses operated by equal numbers of males and females dropped by 3.6 percentage points to 17.2%.

Use of Computers and the Internet

At June 2004, 68.2% of Australia's home based businesses were using computers in their business operations, compared to 71.7% for all small businesses. The majority of these home based businesses (86.2%), had access to the Internet. The most common use of the Internet by home based businesses was for email and 'other' purposes. Use of the Internet for all purposes increased, but particularly for 'making or receiving payments'.

PROPORTIONS OF HOME BASED BUSINESSES, by Internet usage:
June 2003 - June 2004



**OPERATORS OF HOME
BASED BUSINESSES***By sex*

At June 2004, 70.7% (736,000) of all home based business operators were male, this represented a proportional increase of 2.9 percentage points. The proportion of female operators fell to 29.3% (304,000 operators).

By age

The age distribution of home based small business operators was similar to the overall distribution for all small businesses, with 10.9% aged less than 30 years, 58.4% aged between 30 and 50 years, and 30.7% aged more than 50 years. These proportions remained relatively unchanged since June 2003.

By hours worked

At June 2004, home based operators were more likely to be working part time than all small business operators, with 39.6% usually working less than 35 hours a week. This compares with 32.9% for all small business operators.

*Born in Australia or born
overseas*

The proportion of home based small business operators who were born overseas (29.8%) was relatively consistent with the proportion for all small business operators.

*Number of businesses
operated*

At June 2004, 93.9% of home based small business operators were involved in one business only. This compared with 92.5% for all small businesses.

By state and territory

Home based small business operators were distributed across states and territories in a proportion similar to small business operators overall. Both proportions generally reflected the general population distribution within Australia.

3.1 HOME BASED SMALL BUSINESSES, By states and territories and selected characteristics(a)

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	
AUSTRALIA					
Total home based small businesses	784.8	100.0	856.2	100.0	—
Home based business					
Operated at home	280.6	35.7	267.7	31.3	-4.4
Operated from home	748.2	95.3	819.8	95.8	0.5
Gender Predominance					
Predominantly male	456.5	58.2	561.1	65.5	7.3
Predominantly female	165.1	21.0	148.0	17.3	-3.7
Equal male and female	163.2	20.8	147.1	17.2	-3.6
Employer size group					
Non-employing businesses	550.4	70.1	589.4	68.8	-1.3
1-4 employees	214.5	27.3	240.3	28.1	0.8
5-19 employees	^ 20.0	2.5	26.4	3.1	0.6
Length of operation					
Less than 1 year	116.1	14.8	144.5	16.9	2.1
1 to less than 5 years	276.7	35.3	310.1	36.2	0.9
5 to less than 10 years	154.8	19.7	151.0	17.6	-2.1
10 or more years	237.3	30.2	250.6	29.3	-0.9
Number of operators					
1 operator	592.7	75.5	683.6	79.8	4.3
2 operators	184.1	23.5	165.6	19.3	-4.2
3 or more operators	^ 8.0	1.0	^ 7.0	0.8	-0.2
Use of computers					
Uses a computer	529.6	67.5	583.6	68.2	0.7
Does not use a computer	255.2	32.5	272.6	31.8	-0.7
Internet use					
Has access to the Internet	460.5	58.7	503.1	58.8	0.1
Internet used for					
Email	380.9	48.5	424.5	49.6	1.1
Research	352.3	44.9	410.9	48.0	3.1
Making or receiving payments	206.3	26.3	258.6	30.2	3.9
Other	387.7	49.4	438.5	51.2	1.8

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

3.1 HOME BASED SMALL BUSINESSES, By states and territories and selected characteristics(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	
NEW SOUTH WALES					
Total home based small businesses	249.4	100.0	282.4	100.0	—
Home based business					
Operated at home	93.2	37.4	87.8	31.1	-6.3
Operated from home	236.4	94.8	269.4	95.4	0.6
Gender Predominance					
Predominantly male	154.8	62.1	189.0	66.9	4.8
Predominantly female	45.7	18.3	45.6	16.1	-2.2
Equal male and female	48.8	19.6	47.9	17.0	-2.6
Employer size group					
Non-employed businesses	165.6	66.4	190.7	67.5	1.1
1-4 employees	76.7	30.8	82.3	29.1	-1.7
5-19 employees	^ 7.1	2.8	^ 9.4	3.3	0.5
Length of operation					
Less than 1 year	^ 29.0	11.6	40.6	14.4	2.8
1 to less than 5 years	87.3	35.0	111.1	39.3	4.3
5 to less than 10 years	49.3	19.8	49.9	17.7	-2.1
10 or more years	83.8	33.6	80.8	28.6	-5.0
Number of operators					
1 operator	188.2	75.5	224.6	79.5	4.0
2 operators	58.2	23.4	55.7	19.7	-3.7
3 or more operators	* 2.9	1.2	* 2.1	0.8	-0.4
Use of computers					
Uses a computer	170.8	68.5	191.8	67.9	-0.6
Does not use a computer	78.6	31.5	90.7	32.1	0.6
Internet use					
Has access to the Internet	150.1	60.2	166.5	59.0	-1.2
Internet used for					
Email	125.1	50.2	139.3	49.3	-0.9
Research	115.4	46.3	136.6	48.4	2.1
Making or receiving payments	66.1	26.5	78.4	27.8	1.3
Other	126.6	50.8	142.2	50.3	-0.5

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

3.1 HOME BASED SMALL BUSINESSES, By states and territories and selected characteristics(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	
VICTORIA					
Total home based small businesses	195.6	100.0	198.7	100.0	—
Home based business					
Operated at home	71.3	36.4	61.5	31.0	-5.4
Operated from home	187.7	96.0	190.3	95.8	-0.2
Gender Predominance					
Predominantly male	107.5	54.9	133.5	67.2	12.3
Predominantly female	49.8	25.5	[^] 29.6	14.9	-10.6
Equal male and female	38.3	19.6	[^] 35.6	17.9	-1.7
Employer size group					
Non-employing businesses	133.7	68.4	122.6	61.7	-6.7
1-4 employees	57.0	29.1	69.8	35.2	6.1
5-19 employees	[^] 4.8	2.5	[^] 6.2	3.1	0.6
Length of operation					
Less than 1 year	[^] 28.4	14.5	[^] 32.9	16.6	2.1
1 to less than 5 years	68.2	34.9	69.7	35.1	0.2
5 to less than 10 years	37.4	19.1	[^] 32.4	16.3	-2.8
10 or more years	61.6	31.5	63.7	32.1	0.6
Number of operators					
1 operator	151.8	77.6	156.7	78.9	1.3
2 operators	42.5	21.7	40.2	20.2	-1.5
3 or more operators	*1.4	0.7	*1.8	0.9	0.2
Use of computers					
Uses a computer	127.0	64.9	139.5	70.2	5.3
Does not use a computer	68.6	35.1	59.2	29.8	-5.3
Internet use					
Has access to the Internet	108.9	55.7	121.6	61.2	5.5
Internet used for					
Email	89.5	45.8	104.2	52.5	6.7
Research	79.9	40.8	98.4	49.5	8.7
Making or receiving payments	45.9	23.5	60.7	30.6	7.1
Other	88.8	45.4	105.5	53.1	7.7

[^] estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

3.1 HOME BASED SMALL BUSINESSES, By states and territories and selected characteristics(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	
QUEENSLAND					
Total home based small businesses	157.3	100.0	185.5	100.0	—
Home based business					
Operated at home	56.9	36.2	58.3	31.4	-4.8
Operated from home	150.1	95.4	177.8	95.8	0.4
Gender Predominance					
Predominantly male	84.5	53.7	119.9	64.6	10.9
Predominantly female	35.3	22.4	35.2	19.0	-3.4
Equal male and female	37.5	23.9	30.4	16.4	-7.5
Employer size group					
Non-employed businesses	114.0	72.5	133.6	72.0	-0.5
1-4 employees	39.2	24.9	47.2	25.4	0.5
5-19 employees	^ 4.2	2.6	^ 4.7	2.6	—
Length of operation					
Less than 1 year	28.9	18.4	41.4	22.3	3.9
1 to less than 5 years	55.1	35.1	63.5	34.2	-0.9
5 to less than 10 years	29.2	18.6	33.1	17.8	-0.8
10 or more years	44.0	28.0	47.6	25.7	-2.3
Number of operators					
1 operator	115.2	73.2	150.8	81.2	8.0
2 operators	40.3	25.6	33.6	18.1	-7.5
3 or more operators	* 1.9	1.2	* 1.2	0.6	-0.6
Use of computers					
Uses a computer	108.2	68.8	129.8	70.0	1.2
Does not use a computer	49.1	31.2	55.7	30.0	-1.2
Internet use					
Has access to the Internet	95.1	60.4	111.1	59.9	-0.5
Internet used for					
Email	77.3	49.1	93.5	50.4	1.3
Research	70.3	44.7	92.9	50.1	5.4
Making or receiving payments	46.0	29.2	63.9	34.5	5.3
Other	81.0	51.5	100.3	54.0	2.5

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

3.1HOME BASED SMALL BUSINESSES, By states and territories and selected characteristics(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	
SOUTH AUSTRALIA					
Total home based small businesses	53.3	100.0	56.8	100.0	—
Home based business					
Operated at home	19.5	36.6	20.6	36.3	-0.3
Operated from home	49.2	92.4	54.7	96.3	3.9
Gender Predominance					
Predominantly male	32.3	60.6	35.3	62.0	1.4
Predominantly female	^ 9.8	18.4	^ 11.6	20.4	2.0
Equal male and female	^ 11.2	21.0	^ 10.0	17.6	-3.4
Employer size group					
Non-employed businesses	39.5	74.1	43.8	77.0	2.9
1-4 employees	^ 12.3	23.0	^ 11.8	20.7	-2.3
5-19 employees	* 1.5	2.9	* 1.3	2.3	-0.6
Length of operation					
Less than 1 year	^ 7.4	13.9	^ 9.0	15.8	1.9
1 to less than 5 years	^ 18.6	35.0	20.8	36.5	1.5
5 to less than 10 years	^ 10.0	18.7	^ 10.4	18.2	-0.5
10 or more years	^ 17.3	32.4	^ 16.7	29.4	-3.0
Number of operators					
1 operator	40.3	75.6	45.5	80.0	4.4
2 operators	^ 12.6	23.6	^ 11.0	19.3	-4.3
3 or more operators	** 0.4	0.8	** 0.4	0.6	-0.2
Use of computers					
Uses a computer	35.8	67.2	34.6	61.0	-6.2
Does not use a computer	^ 17.5	32.8	22.2	39.0	6.2
Internet use					
Has access to the Internet	30.9	57.9	28.7	50.5	-7.4
Internet used for					
Email	25.3	47.5	22.8	40.2	-7.3
Research	25.7	48.2	21.4	37.7	-10.5
Making or receiving payments	^ 14.2	26.6	^ 14.7	25.8	-0.8
Other	26.9	50.4	24.3	42.8	-7.6

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

3.1 HOME BASED SMALL BUSINESSES, By states and territories and selected characteristics(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	
WESTERN AUSTRALIA					
Total home based small businesses	100.0	100.0	97.0	100.0	—
Home based business					
Operated at home	28.5	28.5	26.2	27.0	-1.5
Operated from home	96.9	97.0	93.4	96.3	-0.7
Gender Predominance					
Predominantly male	60.1	60.2	59.8	61.7	1.5
Predominantly female	^ 18.7	18.7	^ 18.6	19.1	0.4
Equal male and female	21.2	21.2	^ 18.6	19.2	-2.0
Employer size group					
Non-employed businesses	75.8	75.8	71.0	73.2	-2.6
1-4 employees	22.3	22.3	22.5	23.2	0.9
5-19 employees	*1.8	1.9	^ 3.5	3.6	1.7
Length of operation					
Less than 1 year	^ 18.5	18.5	^ 15.3	15.8	-2.7
1 to less than 5 years	36.3	36.3	32.0	33.0	-3.3
5 to less than 10 years	22.1	22.1	^ 18.7	19.2	-2.9
10 or more years	23.1	23.1	31.0	31.9	8.8
Number of operators					
1 operator	75.2	75.2	76.0	78.3	3.1
2 operators	23.5	23.5	^ 20.0	20.6	-2.9
3 or more operators	*1.2	1.2	*1.0	1.1	-0.1
Use of computers					
Uses a computer	68.4	68.5	63.8	65.8	-2.7
Does not use a computer	31.5	31.5	33.1	34.2	2.7
Internet use					
Has access to the Internet	58.5	58.5	54.7	56.4	-2.1
Internet used for					
Email	50.2	50.2	46.5	48.0	-2.2
Research	47.7	47.8	45.2	46.6	-1.2
Making or receiving payments	26.8	26.8	30.2	31.1	4.3
Other	51.1	51.1	47.9	49.4	-1.7

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution — nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

3.1HOME BASED SMALL BUSINESSES, By states and territories and selected characteristics(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	
TASMANIA					
Total home based small businesses	13.2	100.0	16.7	100.0	—
Home based business					
Operated at home	^ 5.6	42.0	^ 6.7	39.8	-2.2
Operated from home	12.4	93.9	15.9	95.0	1.1
Gender Predominance					
Predominantly male	^ 7.2	54.3	^ 10.3	61.4	7.1
Predominantly female	^ 2.6	19.6	^ 3.7	22.1	2.5
Equal male and female	^ 3.5	26.1	^ 2.8	16.5	-9.6
Employer size group					
Non-employed businesses	^ 9.5	71.4	13.2	78.6	7.2
1-4 employees	^ 3.5	26.1	^ 3.0	17.7	-8.4
5-19 employees	**0.3	2.5	*0.6	3.6	1.1
Length of operation					
Less than 1 year	*1.5	11.4	^ 2.5	14.8	3.4
1 to less than 5 years	^ 4.1	31.3	^ 5.5	32.7	1.4
5 to less than 10 years	^ 3.8	28.8	^ 2.9	17.1	-11.7
10 or more years	^ 3.8	28.5	^ 5.9	35.4	6.9
Number of operators					
1 operator	^ 9.5	71.9	13.6	81.2	9.3
2 operators	^ 3.7	27.9	^ 2.9	17.1	-10.8
3 or more operators	—	-12.0	**0.3	1.7	13.7
Use of computers					
Uses a computer	^ 8.8	66.7	^ 11.2	67.1	0.4
Does not use a computer	^ 4.4	33.3	^ 5.5	32.9	-0.4
Internet use					
Has access to the Internet	^ 7.2	54.7	^ 8.8	52.5	-2.2
Internet used for					
Email	^ 5.2	39.2	^ 7.7	46.0	6.8
Research	^ 5.3	40.3	^ 6.5	39.1	-1.2
Making or receiving payments	^ 2.9	21.7	^ 4.2	24.9	3.2
Other	^ 5.2	39.6	^ 7.9	47.3	7.7

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

3.1 HOME BASED SMALL BUSINESSES, By states and territories and selected characteristics(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	
NORTHERN TERRITORY (b)					
Total home based small businesses	^ 4.7	100.0	^ 5.0	100.0	—
Home based business					
Operated at home	*1.0	21.7	*1.1	22.8	1.1
Operated from home	^ 4.6	97.7	^ 4.8	96.0	-1.7
Gender Predominance					
Predominantly male	^ 3.4	73.1	^ 4.0	80.8	7.7
Predominantly female	*0.8	16.8	*0.7	13.2	-3.6
Equal male and female	*0.5	10.1	**0.3	6.0	-4.1
Employer size group					
Non-employing businesses	^ 3.9	83.6	^ 3.8	76.5	-7.1
1–4 employees	*0.8	16.4	*0.8	16.1	-0.3
5–19 employees	—	—	**0.4	7.4	—
Length of operation					
Less than 1 year	*0.5	10.5	*0.5	10.7	0.2
1 to less than 5 years	^ 2.4	51.9	*1.5	30.5	-21.4
5 to less than 10 years	*0.8	17.4	*1.3	25.7	8.3
10 or more years	*1.0	20.2	*1.7	33.2	13.0
Number of operators					
1 operator	^ 4.0	86.0	^ 4.7	94.0	8.0
2 operators	*0.7	14.0	**0.3	6.0	-8.0
3 or more operators	—	—	—	—	na
Use of computers					
Uses a computer	^ 2.4	51.9	^ 2.6	52.8	0.9
Does not use a computer	*2.3	48.1	*2.3	47.2	-0.9
Internet use					
Has access to the Internet	^ 2.4	50.1	*2.2	45.2	-4.9
Internet used for					
Email	*2.0	43.1	*1.9	38.4	-4.7
Research	*1.7	35.1	*1.9	37.9	2.8
Making or receiving payments	*0.9	19.5	*1.4	27.2	7.7
Other	*1.9	39.6	*1.9	39.0	-0.6

- ^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution
- * estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution
- ** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use
- nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
- na not available
- (a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2
- (b) Refers mainly to urban areas only.

3.1HOME BASED SMALL BUSINESSES, By states and territories and selected characteristics(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	Number of businesses	Proportion of businesses	
	'000	%	'000	%	
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY					
Total home based small businesses	^ 11.3	100.0	14.0	100.0	—
Home based business					
Operated at home	^ 4.6	40.5	^ 5.5	39.1	-1.4
Operated from home	^ 10.7	95.1	13.5	96.2	1.1
Gender Predominance					
Predominantly male	^ 6.7	59.0	^ 9.3	66.5	7.5
Predominantly female	^ 2.4	21.4	^ 3.2	22.6	1.2
Equal male and female	^ 2.2	19.7	* 1.5	10.9	-8.8
Employer size group					
Non-employed businesses	^ 8.3	73.8	^ 10.8	76.7	2.9
1-4 employees	^ 2.8	24.5	^ 3.0	21.1	-3.4
5-19 employees	** 0.2	1.6	* 0.3	2.2	0.6
Length of operation					
Less than 1 year	^ 1.9	16.6	^ 2.4	17.2	0.6
1 to less than 5 years	^ 4.5	39.8	^ 6.1	43.3	3.5
5 to less than 10 years	^ 2.1	18.9	^ 2.4	16.9	-2.0
10 or more years	^ 2.8	24.7	^ 3.2	22.6	-2.1
Number of operators					
1 operator	^ 8.5	75.5	^ 11.9	84.7	9.2
2 operators	^ 2.6	23.3	^ 1.9	13.8	-9.5
3 or more operators	** 0.1	1.1	** 0.2	1.4	0.3
Use of computers					
Uses a computer	^ 8.2	72.2	^ 10.2	72.4	0.2
Does not use a computer	^ 3.1	27.8	^ 3.9	27.6	-0.2
Internet use					
Has access to the Internet	^ 7.4	65.3	^ 9.5	67.4	2.1
Internet used for					
Email	^ 6.3	55.6	^ 8.5	60.5	4.9
Research	^ 6.3	55.6	^ 8.0	56.8	1.2
Making or receiving payments	^ 3.5	31.1	^ 5.1	36.3	5.2
Other	^ 6.2	54.7	^ 8.5	60.6	5.9

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

3.2 HOME BASED SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS, By sex and selected characteristics(a)

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	no.
MALES					
Total home based small business operators	669.6	100.0	735.5	100.0	—
Home based business					
Operated at home	194.9	29.1	188.8	25.7	-3.4
Operated from home	638.2	95.3	707.2	96.2	0.9
Age of operator					
Aged less than 30 years	72.8	10.9	84.9	11.5	0.6
Aged 30–50 years	369.7	55.2	418.5	56.9	1.7
Aged greater than 50 years	227.0	33.9	232.1	31.6	-2.3
Hours worked by operators, per week					
1–10 hours worked	53.0	7.9	56.1	7.6	-0.3
11–20 hours worked	52.8	7.9	61.8	8.4	0.5
21–34 hours worked	68.8	10.3	74.8	10.2	-0.1
35–50 hours worked	338.1	50.5	383.9	52.2	1.7
51–75 hours worked	136.9	20.4	136.3	18.5	-1.9
More than 75 hours worked	^ 20.0	3.0	^ 22.6	3.1	0.1
Australian born and overseas born operators					
Born in Australia	465.9	69.6	507.4	69.0	-0.6
Born overseas	203.7	30.4	228.1	31.0	0.6
Number of businesses operated					
One business	630.3	94.1	692.4	94.1	—
Two businesses	^ 29.8	4.5	^ 31.2	4.2	-0.3
Three businesses or more	^ 9.4	1.4	^ 11.8	1.6	0.2
State					
New South Wales	221.0	33.0	253.0	34.4	1.4
Victoria	158.4	23.7	176.7	24.0	0.3
Queensland	130.5	19.5	149.7	20.4	0.9
South Australia	46.6	7.0	46.4	6.3	-0.7
Western Australia	87.3	13.0	80.0	10.9	-2.1
Tasmania	^ 11.7	1.7	^ 13.5	1.8	0.1
Northern Territory(b)	^ 4.3	0.6	^ 4.6	0.6	—
Australian Capital Territory	^ 9.8	1.5	^ 11.7	1.6	0.1

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

(b) Refers to mainly urban areas only.

3.2**HOME BASED SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS, By sex and selected characteristics(a) continued**

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	
FEMALES					
Total home based small business operators	318.1	100.0	304.2	100.0	—
Home based business					
Operated at home	165.2	51.9	147.9	48.6	-3.3
Operated from home	296.9	93.3	283.4	93.2	-0.1
Age of operator					
Aged less than 30 years	^ 32.3	10.1	^ 28.6	9.4	-0.7
Aged 30–50 years	188.0	59.1	188.6	62.0	2.9
Aged greater than 50 years	97.9	30.8	87.0	28.6	-2.2
Hours worked by operators, per week					
1–10 hours worked	112.6	35.4	109.3	35.9	0.5
11–20 hours worked	63.6	20.0	66.7	21.9	1.9
21–34 hours worked	55.6	17.5	42.8	14.1	-3.4
35–50 hours worked	62.1	19.5	67.3	22.1	2.6
51–75 hours worked	^ 21.2	6.7	^ 14.4	4.7	-2.0
More than 75 hours worked	*2.9	0.9	*3.7	1.2	0.3
Australian born and overseas born operators					
Born in Australia	236.6	74.4	223.0	73.3	-1.1
Born overseas	81.5	25.6	81.2	26.7	1.1
Number of businesses operated					
One business	298.6	93.9	283.9	93.3	-0.6
Two businesses	^ 15.5	4.9	^ 16.1	5.3	0.4
Three businesses or more	*3.9	1.2	*4.2	1.4	0.2
State					
New South Wales	92.8	29.2	90.8	29.8	0.6
Victoria	83.1	26.1	66.7	21.9	-4.2
Queensland	72.0	22.6	72.6	23.9	1.3
South Australia	^ 20.2	6.4	22.3	7.3	0.9
Western Australia	39.2	12.3	39.5	13.0	0.7
Tasmania	^ 5.3	1.7	^ 6.9	2.3	0.6
Northern Territory(b)	*1.1	0.3	*0.7	0.2	-0.1
Australian Capital Territory	^ 4.4	1.4	^ 4.7	1.6	0.2

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(b) Refers to mainly urban areas only.

3.2 HOME BASED SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS, By sex and selected characteristics(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	no.
PERSONS					
Total home based small business operators	987.7	100.0	1 039.7	100.0	—
Home based business					
Operated at home	360.1	36.5	336.7	32.4	-4.1
Operated from home	935.1	94.7	990.7	95.3	0.6
Age of operator					
Aged less than 30 years	105.1	10.6	113.5	10.9	0.3
Aged 30–50 years	557.7	56.5	607.1	58.4	1.9
Aged greater than 50 years	324.8	32.9	319.1	30.7	-2.2
Hours worked by operators, per week					
1–10 hours worked	165.6	16.8	165.4	15.9	-0.9
11–20 hours worked	116.3	11.8	128.5	12.4	0.6
21–34 hours worked	124.4	12.6	117.7	11.3	-1.3
35–50 hours worked	400.3	40.5	451.2	43.4	2.9
51–75 hours worked	158.1	16.0	150.7	14.5	-1.5
More than 75 hours worked	^ 22.9	2.3	^ 26.3	2.5	0.2
Australian born and overseas born operators					
Born in Australia	702.5	71.1	730.4	70.2	-0.9
Born overseas	285.2	28.9	309.3	29.8	0.9
Number of businesses operated					
One business	929.0	94.1	976.3	93.9	-0.2
Two businesses	45.3	4.6	47.4	4.6	—
Three businesses or more	^ 13.4	1.4	^ 16.0	1.5	0.1
State					
New South Wales	313.8	31.8	343.8	33.1	1.3
Victoria	241.4	24.4	243.4	23.4	-1.0
Queensland	202.4	20.5	222.3	21.4	0.9
South Australia	66.9	6.8	68.7	6.6	-0.2
Western Australia	126.5	12.8	119.5	11.5	-1.3
Tasmania	^ 17.0	1.7	20.4	2.0	0.3
Northern Territory(b)	^ 5.4	0.5	^ 5.3	0.5	—
Australian Capital Territory	14.3	1.4	16.4	1.6	0.2

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

(b) Refers to mainly urban areas only.

3.3**HOME BASED SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS, By states and territories and selected characteristics(a)**

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	
AUSTRALIA					
Total home based small business operators	987.7	100.0	1 039.7	100.0	—
Home based business					
Operated at home	360.1	36.5	336.7	32.4	-4.1
Operated from home	935.1	94.7	990.7	95.3	0.6
Sex of operators					
Males	669.6	67.8	735.5	70.7	2.9
Females	318.1	32.2	304.2	29.3	-2.9
Age of operators					
Aged less than 30 years	105.1	10.6	113.5	10.9	0.3
Aged 30–50 years	557.7	56.5	607.1	58.4	1.9
Aged greater than 50 years	324.8	32.9	319.1	30.7	-2.2
Hours worked by operators, per week					
1–10 hours worked	165.6	16.8	165.4	15.9	-0.9
11–20 hours worked	116.3	11.8	128.5	12.4	0.6
21–34 hours worked	124.4	12.6	117.7	11.3	-1.3
35–50 hours worked	400.3	40.5	451.2	43.4	2.9
51–75 hours worked	158.1	16.0	150.7	14.5	-1.5
More than 75 hours worked	^ 22.9	2.3	^ 26.3	2.5	0.2
Born in Australia or born overseas					
Born in Australia	702.5	71.1	730.4	70.2	-0.9
Born overseas	285.2	28.9	309.3	29.8	0.9
Number of businesses operated					
One business	929.0	94.1	976.3	93.9	-0.2
Two businesses	45.3	4.6	47.4	4.6	—
Three businesses or more	^ 13.4	1.4	^ 16.0	1.5	0.1

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

3.3 HOME BASED SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS, By states and territories and selected characteristics(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of operators '000	Proportion of operators %	Number of operators '000	Proportion of operators %	
NEW SOUTH WALES					
Total home based small business operators	313.8	100.0	343.8	100.0	—
Home based business					
Operated at home	117.5	37.5	111.8	32.5	-5.0
Operated from home	296.3	94.4	325.7	94.7	0.3
Sex of operators					
Males	221.0	70.4	253.0	73.6	3.2
Females	92.8	29.6	90.8	26.4	-3.2
Age of operators					
Aged less than 30 years	^ 33.3	10.6	^ 40.4	11.7	1.1
Aged 30–50 years	179.0	57.0	201.7	58.7	1.7
Aged greater than 50 years	101.5	32.3	101.7	29.6	-2.7
Hours worked by operators, per week					
1–10 hours worked	49.5	15.8	49.4	14.4	-1.4
11–20 hours worked	^ 30.5	9.7	^ 42.1	12.2	2.5
21–34 hours worked	^ 36.9	11.8	^ 38.0	11.1	-0.7
35–50 hours worked	133.0	42.4	156.1	45.4	3.0
51–75 hours worked	54.4	17.3	47.4	13.8	-3.5
More than 75 hours worked	^ 9.4	3.0	^ 10.8	3.1	0.1
Born in Australia or born overseas					
Born in Australia	216.5	69.0	240.9	70.1	1.1
Born overseas	97.3	31.0	102.9	29.9	-1.1
Number of businesses operated					
One business	294.4	93.8	321.9	93.6	-0.2
Two businesses	^ 14.6	4.7	^ 16.7	4.9	0.2
Three businesses or more	* 4.8	1.5	* 5.3	1.5	—

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution — nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

3.3**HOME BASED SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS, By states and territories and selected characteristics(a) continued**

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	
VICTORIA					
Total home based small business operators	241.4	100.0	243.4	100.0	—
Home based business					
Operated at home	91.6	37.9	79.1	32.5	-5.4
Operated from home	230.2	95.3	231.7	95.2	-0.1
Sex of operators					
Males	158.4	65.6	176.7	72.6	7.0
Females	83.1	34.4	66.7	27.4	-7.0
Age of operators					
Aged less than 30 years	^ 20.1	8.3	^ 27.4	11.3	3.0
Aged 30–50 years	144.4	59.8	142.1	58.4	-1.4
Aged greater than 50 years	77.0	31.9	73.9	30.4	-1.5
Hours worked by operators, per week					
1–10 hours worked	^ 40.9	16.9	^ 37.8	15.5	-1.4
11–20 hours worked	^ 29.5	12.2	^ 30.8	12.6	0.4
21–34 hours worked	^ 31.9	13.2	^ 28.7	11.8	-1.4
35–50 hours worked	99.9	41.4	108.1	44.4	3.0
51–75 hours worked	^ 34.6	14.3	^ 32.9	13.5	-0.8
More than 75 hours worked	*4.7	1.9	*5.2	2.1	0.2
Born in Australia or born overseas					
Born in Australia	172.3	71.4	177.5	72.9	1.5
Born overseas	69.1	28.6	65.9	27.1	-1.5
Number of businesses operated					
One business	229.5	95.1	230.9	94.9	-0.2
Two businesses	^ 9.4	3.9	^ 9.2	3.8	-0.1
Three businesses or more	*2.5	1.0	*3.3	1.4	0.4

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

3.3 HOME BASED SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS, By states and territories and selected characteristics(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of operators '000	Proportion of operators %	Number of operators '000	Proportion of operators %	
QUEENSLAND					
Total home based small business operators	202.4	100.0	222.3	100.0	—
Home based business					
Operated at home	74.2	36.6	72.0	32.4	-4.2
Operated from home	191.0	94.3	213.1	95.9	1.6
Sex of operators					
Males	130.5	64.5	149.7	67.3	2.8
Females	72.0	35.5	72.6	32.7	-2.8
Age of operators					
Aged less than 30 years	^ 23.3	11.5	^ 24.7	11.1	-0.4
Aged 30–50 years	113.7	56.2	130.5	58.7	2.5
Aged greater than 50 years	65.4	32.3	67.1	30.2	-2.1
Hours worked by operators, per week					
1–10 hours worked	^ 29.1	14.4	33.8	15.2	0.8
11–20 hours worked	^ 28.2	13.9	^ 25.7	11.6	-2.3
21–34 hours worked	^ 27.6	13.6	^ 26.8	12.0	-1.6
35–50 hours worked	76.1	37.6	92.2	41.5	3.9
51–75 hours worked	38.4	19.0	37.4	16.8	-2.2
More than 75 hours worked	*3.1	1.5	^ 6.5	2.9	1.4
Born in Australia or born overseas					
Born in Australia	154.2	76.2	156.0	70.2	-6.0
Born overseas	48.2	23.8	66.3	29.8	6.0
Number of businesses operated					
One business	188.5	93.1	208.7	93.9	0.8
Two businesses	^ 11.1	5.5	^ 9.9	4.5	-1.0
Three businesses or more	*2.9	1.4	*3.7	1.7	0.3

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

3.3**HOME BASED SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS, By states and territories and selected characteristics(a) *continued***

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	
SOUTH AUSTRALIA					
Total home based small business operators	66.9	100.0	68.7	100.0	—
Home based business					
Operated at home	25.3	37.9	25.7	37.4	-0.5
Operated from home	61.2	91.5	65.6	95.6	4.1
Sex of operators					
Males	46.6	69.7	46.4	67.5	-2.2
Females	^ 20.2	30.3	22.3	32.5	2.2
Age of operators					
Aged less than 30 years	^ 6.4	9.6	^ 6.9	10.1	0.5
Aged 30–50 years	37.2	55.7	35.8	52.2	-3.5
Aged greater than 50 years	23.2	34.7	25.9	37.7	3.0
Hours worked by operators, per week					
1–10 hours worked	^ 13.4	20.1	^ 13.0	18.9	-1.2
11–20 hours worked	^ 7.4	11.1	^ 10.7	15.6	4.5
21–34 hours worked	^ 8.0	12.0	^ 9.0	13.1	1.1
35–50 hours worked	28.2	42.2	26.5	38.5	-3.7
51–75 hours worked	^ 8.8	13.1	^ 8.5	12.4	-0.7
More than 75 hours worked	* 1.0	1.5	* 1.0	1.5	—
Born in Australia or born overseas					
Born in Australia	50.5	75.6	52.0	75.8	0.2
Born overseas	^ 16.3	24.4	^ 16.6	24.2	-0.2
Number of businesses operated					
One business	62.8	93.9	63.8	92.9	-1.0
Two businesses	^ 3.6	5.3	* 3.2	4.6	-0.7
Three businesses or more	* * 0.5	0.8	* 1.7	2.5	1.7

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

3.3 HOME BASED SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS, By states and territories and selected characteristics(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	no.
WESTERN AUSTRALIA					
Total home based small business operators	126.5	100.0	119.5	100.0	—
Home based business					
Operated at home	37.5	29.7	32.4	27.1	-2.6
Operated from home	122.0	96.5	114.5	95.8	-0.7
Sex of operators					
Males	87.3	69.0	80.0	66.9	-2.1
Females	39.2	31.0	39.5	33.1	2.1
Age of operators					
Aged less than 30 years	^ 18.1	14.3	^ 9.7	8.1	-6.2
Aged 30–50 years	63.9	50.5	73.9	61.8	11.3
Aged greater than 50 years	44.6	35.2	36.0	30.1	-5.1
Hours worked by operators, per week					
1–10 hours worked	25.3	20.0	22.2	18.6	-1.4
11–20 hours worked	^ 16.2	12.8	^ 15.9	13.3	0.5
21–34 hours worked	^ 16.1	12.7	^ 11.4	9.6	-3.1
35–50 hours worked	48.4	38.3	49.9	41.8	3.5
51–75 hours worked	^ 17.1	13.5	^ 17.6	14.8	1.3
More than 75 hours worked	*3.4	2.7	*2.5	2.1	-0.6
Born in Australia or born overseas					
Born in Australia	78.8	62.3	71.1	59.5	-2.8
Born overseas	47.7	37.7	48.4	40.5	2.8
Number of businesses operated					
One business	117.9	93.2	111.2	93.0	-0.2
Two businesses	^ 6.3	5.0	^ 7.0	5.8	0.8
Three businesses or more	*2.2	1.8	*1.3	1.1	-0.7

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

3.3 HOME BASED SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS, By states and territories and selected characteristics(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	
TASMANIA					
Total home based small business operators	^ 17.0	100.0	20.4	100.0	—
Home based business					
Operated at home	^ 7.4	43.5	^ 7.8	38.4	-5.1
Operated from home	^ 15.6	91.8	19.3	94.6	2.8
Sex of operators					
Males	^ 11.7	68.6	^ 13.5	66.2	-2.4
Females	^ 5.3	31.4	^ 6.9	33.8	2.4
Age of operators					
Aged less than 30 years	* 1.1	6.7	* 1.3	6.5	-0.2
Aged 30–50 years	^ 9.0	52.9	^ 12.2	59.8	6.9
Aged greater than 50 years	^ 6.9	40.4	^ 6.9	33.6	-6.8
Hours worked by operators, per week					
1–10 hours worked	^ 3.5	20.4	^ 4.9	24.3	3.9
11–20 hours worked	^ 1.9	11.4	* 1.5	7.4	-4.0
21–34 hours worked	* 1.5	8.8	^ 2.0	9.7	0.9
35–50 hours worked	^ 6.9	40.9	^ 9.1	44.6	3.7
51–75 hours worked	^ 2.4	14.4	^ 2.8	13.5	-0.9
More than 75 hours worked	* 0.7	4.2	** 0.1	0.5	-3.7
Born in Australia or born overseas					
Born in Australia	^ 15.1	88.6	^ 16.5	80.9	-7.7
Born overseas	^ 1.9	11.4	^ 3.9	19.1	7.7
Number of businesses operated					
One business	^ 16.8	98.6	19.4	95.2	-3.4
Two businesses	** 0.1	0.8	* 0.6	3.1	2.3
Three businesses or more	** 0.1	0.6	** 0.3	1.7	1.1

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

3.3 HOME BASED SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS, By states and territories and selected characteristics(a) *continued*

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	
NORTHERN TERRITORY (b)					
Total home based small business operators	^ 5.4	100.0	^ 5.3	100.0	—
Home based business					
Operated at home	*1.2	22.6	*1.3	24.3	1.7
Operated from home	^ 5.3	97.9	^ 5.1	96.2	-1.7
Sex of operators					
Males	^ 4.3	79.3	^ 4.6	87.6	8.3
Females	*1.1	20.7	*0.7	12.4	-8.3
Age of operators					
Aged less than 30 years	**0.3	5.7	**0.4	6.7	1.0
Aged 30–50 years	^ 3.5	65.2	^ 3.1	58.9	-6.3
Aged greater than 50 years	*1.6	29.1	*1.8	34.5	5.4
Hours worked by operators, per week					
1–10 hours worked	**0.5	8.8	**0.1	2.7	-6.1
11–20 hours worked	*1.0	19.4	**0.3	5.7	-13.7
21–34 hours worked	**0.4	6.6	**0.4	6.7	0.1
35–50 hours worked	*2.0	37.6	*1.9	35.2	-2.4
51–75 hours worked	*1.1	20.9	^ 2.5	46.8	25.9
More than 75 hours worked	**0.4	6.7	**0.2	2.9	-3.8
Born in Australia or born overseas					
Born in Australia	^ 4.3	80.1	^ 3.5	66.7	-13.4
Born overseas	*1.1	19.9	*1.8	33.3	13.4
Number of businesses operated					
One business	^ 5.4	100.0	^ 5.0	94.3	-5.7
Two businesses	—	—	**0.3	5.7	—
Three businesses or more	—	—	—	—	na

- ^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution
- * estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution
- ** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use
- nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
- na not available
- (a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2
- (b) Refers to mainly urban areas only.

3.3**HOME BASED SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS, By states and territories and selected characteristics(a) *continued***

	JUNE 2003		JUNE 2004		Percentage points change
	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	Number of operators	Proportion of operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY					
Total home based small business operators	14.3	100.0	16.4	100.0	—
Home based business					
Operated at home	^ 5.3	37.4	^ 6.7	40.8	3.4
Operated from home	13.6	95.4	15.7	95.9	0.5
Sex of operators					
Males	^ 9.8	69.0	^ 11.7	71.2	2.2
Females	^ 4.4	31.0	^ 4.7	28.8	-2.2
Age of operators					
Aged less than 30 years	^ 2.4	17.2	^ 2.8	16.9	-0.3
Aged 30–50 years	^ 7.0	49.2	^ 7.8	47.4	-1.8
Aged greater than 50 years	^ 4.8	33.7	^ 5.8	35.7	2.0
Hours worked by operators, per week					
1–10 hours worked	^ 3.5	24.4	^ 4.2	25.9	1.5
11–20 hours worked	* 1.5	10.7	* 1.5	9.4	-1.3
21–34 hours worked	^ 2.1	14.6	* 1.5	8.9	-5.7
35–50 hours worked	^ 5.6	39.1	^ 7.4	45.4	6.3
51–75 hours worked	* 1.4	9.6	* 1.6	9.6	—
More than 75 hours worked	** 0.2	1.7	** 0.1	0.7	-1.0
Born in Australia or born overseas					
Born in Australia	^ 10.7	75.4	12.9	78.6	3.2
Born overseas	^ 3.5	24.6	^ 3.5	21.4	-3.2
Number of businesses operated					
One business	13.7	95.9	15.6	95.1	-0.8
Two businesses	** 0.3	1.8	** 0.5	2.8	1.0
Three businesses or more	** 0.3	2.3	** 0.3	2.1	-0.2

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See 'Caution on use of Estimates' page 2

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

- 1** The Characteristics of Small Business Operators Survey, Australia, was conducted in June 2004 as a supplementary topic to the Labour Force Survey.
- 2** The Labour Force Survey is a household based survey, designed to regularly collect specific data on demographic and labour force characteristics of the Australian population. From time to time supplementary and special surveys of particular aspects of the labour force or other subjects are carried out.

DATA COLLECTION METHOD

- 3** The data were collected by trained interviewers over a two week period. When completing the Labour Force Survey, those people whose main job or second job was operating a small business with less than 20 employees were asked some additional questions relating to the operations of that business.
- 4** The supplementary survey asked small business operators to provide details on themselves as operators of small businesses and on the operations of their particular business. If there was more than one operator of the same small business in a household only one of the operators was asked to complete the questions relating to the operations of that business.
- 5** The above method enabled the estimation of two discrete populations:
 - (i) Small business operators and their characteristics.
 - (ii) Small businesses and their characteristics.

SCOPE OF THE SURVEY

Business size

- 6** Only those businesses which employ less than 20 people and their operators are included in the survey results.

Industry

- 7** All businesses identified were classified according to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) (cat. no. 1292.0), a detailed description of which appears in ANZSIC 1993.

The survey included businesses in the following industries:

- Mining
- Manufacturing
- Construction
- Wholesale trade
- Retail trade
- Accommodation, cafes and restaurants
- Transport and storage
- Communication services
- Finance and insurance
- Property and business services
- Education, Health and community services
- Cultural and recreational services
- Personal and other services.

Geographical areas

- 8** The survey covered both rural and urban areas in all states and territories, excluding some 175,000 persons living in remote and sparsely settled parts of Australia. The exclusion of these persons will have only a minor impact on any aggregate estimates that are produced for individual states or territories, with the exception of the Northern Territory where such persons account for over 20% of the population.

Persons

- 9** The population for the survey includes all persons aged 15 years or over except:
- diplomatic personnel of overseas governments
 - overseas residents temporarily in Australia
 - members of non-Australian defence forces and their dependants stationed in Australia
 - members of the permanent Australian defence forces
 - boarding school students
 - people in institutions such as hospitals, sanatoria and inmates of jails, reformatories etc.

10 While these categories of people have an effect on the measurement of labour force levels, their exclusion is not expected to have significant impact on the identification of small businesses.

SURVEY DESIGN

11 As the Characteristics of Small Business Operators Survey is a supplementary survey to the Labour Force Survey, it has the same basic design. The survey was based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (about 30,000 houses and flats), and covered about one-half of one per cent of the population of Australia.

COVERAGE OF THE SURVEY

12 Coverage rules are applied which aim to ensure that each person is associated with only one dwelling, and hence has only one chance of selection. The chance of a person being enumerated at two separate dwellings in the one survey is considered to be negligible.

13 Persons who are away from their usual residence for six weeks or less at the time of the interview are enumerated at their usual residence.

PREVIOUS ESTIMATES

14 Where comparative data are available, this publication presents estimates from the June 2003 Characteristics of Small Business Operators Survey.

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

15 The estimates provided in this publication are subject to two types of error: sampling error and non-sampling error.

Sampling error

16 As the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings they are subject to sampling variability. That is, the estimates may differ from those that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey.

17 One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard errors (SEs) (see the tables in the Appendix), which indicate the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included. There are about two chances in three (67%) that a sample estimate will vary by less than one SE from the estimate that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about nineteen chances in twenty (95%) that the difference will be less than two SEs.

18 Another measure of the sampling variability is the relative standard error (RSE), which is obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate to which it refers. The RSE is a useful measure in that it provides an immediate indication of the error likely to have occurred due to sampling expressed as a percentage of the estimate.

19 As the Appendix shows, the size of the SE increases with the size of the estimate. However, the smaller the estimate the higher the RSE. Thus, larger estimates will be relatively more reliable than smaller estimates.

20 Very small estimates are subject to large RSEs, so for most practical purposes are unreliable. In the tables in this publication, only estimates with RSEs of less than 25% are considered reliable for most purposes. Estimates with RSEs greater than 25% but less than or equal to 50% are preceded by an asterisk (e.g. *3.4) to indicate they are subject to high SEs and should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs of greater than 50%,

Sampling error continued

preceded by a double asterisk (e.g. **0.3), are considered too unreliable for general use and should only be used to aggregate with other estimates to provide derived estimates with RSEs of 25% or less.

21 Space does not allow for separate indication of the standard errors of all estimates in this publication. As a guide, the Appendix provides an average standard error applicable for estimates of the number of small business operators and the number of small businesses for any classification. Each SE Appendix is derived from a mathematical model, referred to as the 'SE model', which is created using data from the survey. It should be noted that the SE model only gives an approximate value for the SE for any particular estimate, since there is some minor variation between SEs for different estimates of the same size.

22 If the actual value for a particular estimate is not shown in the Appendix, an approximate SE can be derived by taking the SEs shown for estimates on either side of the required value and interpolating a figure within that range.

CALCULATIONS OF STANDARD ERROR (SE)

23 An example of the calculation and the use of SEs in relation to estimates of the number of small business operators is as follows. Table 2.1 shows that the estimated number of male small business operators in New South Wales is 411,100. Since this estimate is between 300,000 and 500,000, Appendix A shows that the SE for New South Wales will be between 10,400 and 12,900, and can be approximated by interpolation using the following general formula:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{SE of estimate} &= \text{lower SE} + ((\text{size of estimate} - \text{lower estimate}) / (\text{upper estimate} - \\ &\quad \text{lower estimate})) \times (\text{upper SE} - \text{lower SE}) \\ &= 10,400 + (((411,100 - 300,000) / (500,000 - 300,000)) \times (12,900 - 10,400)) \\ &= 11,789 \\ &= 11,800 \text{ (rounded to the nearest 100)} \end{aligned}$$

24 Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey will fall in the range 399,300 to 422,900 and about 19 chances in 20 that the value will fall in the range 387,500 to 434,700.

25 Similarly, SEs are calculated for estimates of the number of small businesses using the Appendix. For example, table 3.1 shows that the estimated total number of small businesses in Australia is 1,269,900. This estimate is between 1,000,000 and 2,000,000, so the SE for this estimate will be between 18,100 and 26,200, and can be approximated using the same interpolation formula as above, with the resulting SE being 20,300 (rounded to the nearest 100).

PROPORTIONS AND PERCENTAGES

26 Proportions and percentages formed from the ratio of two estimates are also subject to sampling errors. The size of the error depends on the accuracy of both the numerator and the denominator. A formula to approximate the RSE of a proportion is given below. This formula is only valid when x is a subset of y.

$$RSE\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) = \sqrt{[RSE(x)]^2 - [RSE(y)]^2}$$

27 For example, in table 2.1, the estimate for the total number of small business operators in NSW is 579,100. The estimated number of male small business operators in NSW is 411,100, so the proportion of small business operators in NSW who are male is 411,100/579,100 or 71.0%. The SE of the total number of small business operators in NSW may be calculated by interpolation as 13,600. To convert this to a RSE we express the SE as a percentage of the estimate, or 13,600/579,100 = 2.3%. The SE for the number of male small business operators in NSW was calculated above as 11,800, which

Sampling error continued

converted to a RSE is $11,800/411,100 = 2.9\%$. Applying the above formula, the RSE of the proportion is:

$$RSE = \sqrt{(2.9)^2 - (2.3)^2} = 1.8\%$$

giving a SE for the proportion (71.0%) of 1.3 percentage points ($= (71.0/100) * 1.8$).

28 Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the proportion of small business operators in NSW who are male is between 69.7% and 72.3% and 19 chances in 20 that the proportion is within the range 68.4% to 73.6%.

29 Similarly, SEs can be calculated for estimates of the proportion of small businesses using the same formula.

DIFFERENCES

30 Published estimates may also be used to calculate the difference between two survey estimates (of numbers or percentages). Such an estimate is subject to sampling error. The sampling error of the difference between two estimates depends on their SEs and the relationship (correlation) between them. An approximate SE of the difference between two estimates ($x-y$) may be calculated by the following formula:

$$SE(x-y) = \sqrt{[SE(x)]^2 + [SE(y)]^2}$$

31 While this formula will only be exact for differences between separate and uncorrelated characteristics or sub-populations, it is expected to provide a good approximation for all differences likely to be of interest in this publication.

Non-sampling errors

32 The imprecision due to sampling variability, which is measured by the SE, should not be confused with inaccuracies that may occur due to non-sampling errors.

33 Non-sampling errors can occur whether the estimates are derived from a sample or from a complete enumeration. Three major sources of non-sampling error are:

- Inability to obtain comprehensive data from all people included in the sample. These errors arise because of differences which exist between the characteristics of respondents and non-respondents.
- Errors in reporting on the part of both respondents and interviewers. These reporting errors may arise through inappropriate wording of questions, misunderstanding of what data are required, inability or unwillingness to provide accurate information and mistakes in answers to questions.
- Errors arising during processing of the survey data. These processing errors may arise through mistakes in coding and data recording.

34 Non-sampling errors are difficult to measure in any collection. However, every effort was made to minimise these errors. In particular, the effect of the reporting and processing errors described above was minimised by careful questionnaire design, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, asking respondents to refer to records whenever possible and extensive editing and quality control checking at all stages of data processing.

SURVEY ESTIMATION AND
WEIGHTING PROCEDURES

35 Estimates derived from the survey are obtained by using a calibrated weighting procedure which ensures that the survey estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of the population by area of residence, age and sex.

36 Two separate weights were used for the survey:

- a person weight used in the estimation of small business operators
- a business weight used in the estimation of small businesses.

37 Each person in the sample is assigned a 'weight' which takes into account their probability of selection in the sample from their region, with adjustments to account for under-enumeration (e.g. non-response) at the age and sex level.

SURVEY ESTIMATION AND
WEIGHTING PROCEDURES
continued

38 The 'weights' are also adjusted to reduce the bias introduced by varying levels of non-response in different sub-groups of the population.

39 Business weights are derived from the person weights using partner per business information.

APPENDIX

STANDARD ERROR TABLES

STANDARD ERROR TABLES

STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES, Number of small business operator: **Estimates**

.....

Size of estimate ('000)									AUST.	
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Standard error	Relative standard error
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	%
0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	200.0
0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	145.0
0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	116.7
0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.5	90.0
0.7	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5	77.1
1.0	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.6	64.0
1.5	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.8	52.0
2.0	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.9	45.0
2.5	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.6	1.0	40.0
3.0	1.2	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.7	0.6	1.1	36.7
3.5	1.3	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.7	1.2	34.3
4.0	1.4	1.3	1.2	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.7	1.3	31.3
5.0	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.0	1.1	0.9	1.0	0.8	1.4	28.0
7.0	1.9	1.7	1.5	1.2	1.3	1.0	1.2	1.0	1.7	23.6
10	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.5	1.1	2.0	19.5
15	2.7	2.5	2.3	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.9	1.4	2.4	16.0
20	3.1	2.9	2.6	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.4	1.6	2.8	13.8
30	3.7	3.5	3.1	2.6	2.6	2.5	3.1	2.0	3.4	11.2
40	4.2	4.1	3.6	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.8	2.4	3.9	9.6
50	4.7	4.6	4.0	3.4	3.4	3.5	4.4	2.7	4.3	8.6
100	6.4	6.6	5.4	4.9	5.0	5.7	7.2	3.9	6.0	6.0
150	7.7	8.1	6.4	6.1	6.3	7.5	9.6	4.9	7.3	4.9
200	8.7	9.4	7.2	7.1	7.4	9.2	11.9	5.7	8.4	4.2
300	10.4	11.6	8.5	8.9	9.4	12.4	—	7.2	10.2	3.4
500	12.9	15.2	10.4	11.8	12.8	18.0	—	—	13.0	2.6
1000	17.2	21.8	13.6	17.5	19.9	—	—	—	18.1	1.8
2000	22.8	31.4	17.4	26.0	31.3	—	—	—	25.1	1.3
5000	32.6	51.0	23.6	—	—	—	—	—	38.8	0.8
10000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	53.8	0.5

.....

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

STANDARD ERROR TABLES

*continued*STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES, Number of small business:
Estimates

Size of estimate ('000)	AUST.									Standard error '000	Relative standard error %
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT			
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000		
0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	150.0
0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	105.0
0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	86.7
0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	66.0
0.7	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	57.1
1.0	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.5	48.0
1.5	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.6	39.3
2.0	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7	34.5
2.5	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.8	30.0
3.0	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.9	28.3
3.5	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.9	25.7
4.0	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7	1.0	25.0
5.0	1.4	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8	1.1	22.0
7.0	1.7	1.5	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.9	1.1	0.9	0.9	1.3	18.6
10	2.0	1.8	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.1	1.4	1.1	1.1	1.6	16.0
15	2.5	2.2	1.9	1.7	1.8	1.3	1.7	1.4	1.4	2.0	13.0
20	2.8	2.6	2.2	2.0	2.1	1.5	2.0	1.6	1.6	2.3	11.5
30	3.4	3.3	2.7	2.4	2.5	1.7	2.5	2.0	2.0	2.8	9.3
40	3.9	3.9	3.1	2.7	2.9	1.9	2.9	2.3	2.3	3.3	8.3
50	4.3	4.4	3.4	3.0	3.2	2.0	3.2	2.6	2.6	3.7	7.4
100	5.8	6.4	4.9	4.0	4.5	2.6	4.7	3.6	3.6	5.3	5.3
150	6.8	8.0	6.0	4.8	5.4	2.9	5.8	4.4	4.4	6.6	4.4
200	7.6	9.4	6.9	5.4	6.1	3.2	6.7	5.0	5.0	7.7	3.8
300	8.9	11.7	8.5	6.3	7.3	3.5	—	6.0	6.0	9.5	3.2
500	10.6	15.4	10.9	7.6	9.0	4.0	—	—	—	12.5	2.5
1000	13.4	22.3	15.2	9.7	12.0	—	—	—	—	18.1	1.8
2000	16.4	32.0	21.1	12.2	15.7	—	—	—	—	26.2	1.3
5000	20.9	51.4	32.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	42.8	0.9
10000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	62.2	0.6

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

GLOSSARY

Business operator(s)	<p>There is no standard definition of a small business operator and other ABS publications do not use the term, or provide statistics about small business operators as a group. However, the expression 'small business operator' is one that is often used in research and policy debate and is generally taken to include the following group of people:</p> <p>The person or persons who own and run the business. Generally these business operators can be identified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ the proprietor of a sole proprietorship■ the partners of a partnership■ the working director(s) of an incorporated company.
Computer	<p>Includes personal computers (PCs), laptops, note books, mainframes and mini-computers.</p>
Email	<p>Electronic mail is a facility which allows network users to exchange messages (including text and attachments).</p>
Full-time operator(s)	<p>A full time operator is one who usually works 35 hours or more a week in the business.</p>
Home based businesses	<p>Where the person(s) usually conducts most of their work at or from their residential address. Refer also to Chapter 3 — Introduction, for additional clarification.</p>
Internet	<p>A world-wide collection of computers which are linked together to form a repository of stored information and to provide a range of communication services. These services include, but are not limited to, the World Wide Web (www), Internet Electronic Data Interchange and Simple Mail Transport Protocol (SMTP).</p>
Length of operation	<p>The length of time the business has been operated by the current operator.</p>
Operated at home	<p>A home based business where most of the work of the business was carried out at the home(s) of the operator(s).</p>
Operated from home	<p>A home based business where the business had no other premises owned or rented other than the home(s) of the operator(s).</p>
Part-time operator(s)	<p>A part time operator is one who usually works less than 35 hours a week in the business.</p>
Small business	<p>Small businesses (excluding agricultural businesses) are those businesses employing less than 20 people. The categories presented in this publication are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ non-employing businesses — sole proprietors and partnerships without employees■ businesses with 1–4 employees■ businesses with 5–19 employees. <p>Together, these three groups form the small business category — those businesses employing less than 20 people.</p> <p>Note that because operators of all incorporated businesses are considered employees of that corporation, all incorporated businesses will be classified as employing businesses.</p>

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