



ANNUAL REPORT

2009-10



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Guides to ABS services, and other selected documents, including a comprehensive range of ABS statistics, are available on the ABS website: <http://www.abs.gov.au>

The 2009–10 ABS Annual Report can be found at: <http://www.abs.gov.au>



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The Hon Bill Shorten, MP
Assistant Treasurer

In accordance with the provisions of subsection 24(1) of the Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975, I hereby submit to you, for presentation to the Parliament, this report on the operations of the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the year ended 30 June 2010.


This report complies with subsection 63(1) of the Public Service Act 1999, which requires that I, as Agency Head, must give a report to the Agency Minister, for presentation to the Parliament.

The report is dated on the day I approved the finalised text for printing.

Brian Pink

21 September 2010

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SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION



Chapter 1

Australian Statistician's review of 2009–10



In the past 12 months, the ABS has continued to build a modern statistical organisation, with a focus on corporate realignment, technology investment and a statistical program that is growing in complexity.

Significant achievements were posted across our statistical divisions, with a focus on meeting complex information demands in the economic, social, population and environment spheres – the four pillars of the ABS statistics program.

Operational environment

Funding outcomes

The financial picture for the ABS improved in 2009–10, after additional appropriation was received from the Federal Government for our core work program. With this appropriation, the ABS was able to reinstate a significant proportion of the work program cuts applied in 2008–09, including restoring the full sample for the monthly Labour Force Survey.

The ABS also received additional appropriations to address a number of emerging statistical priorities, and these are described in this review.

Enterprise Agreement

The ABS went through a particularly difficult period in 2009–10 in order to find the productivity savings required for pay rises. After much effort, the necessary savings were secured and staff voted in December 2009 in favour of the new *ABS Enterprise Agreement 2009–2011*. The ABS also successfully concluded the *ABS Interviewers Certified Agreement 2005–2011* in January 2010.

Chief Operating Officer

In late 2009, the ABS introduced a new Deputy Australian Statistician role. The position of Chief Operating Officer has responsibility for the leadership, strategic direction and management of the organisation's corporate, technology and information collection and dissemination services.

Creation of this position followed the review into the provision of corporate services in the ABS, and after discussions within senior management on our experience of the new corporate governance model that was introduced in the latter half of 2008 as part of the broader Strategic Alignment Program.

Technical investment

In October 2009, the ABS Executive formally agreed on Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) and Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) as the standards that will form the core of the ABS's future directions and developments with regard to statistical information management.

Following on from this decision, in February 2010 the ABS formally established the ABS Information Management Transformation Program (IMTP). The IMTP has the potential to be the most significant transformation of our information infrastructure in over 30 years. It will seek to modernise the information management systems within the ABS, and to support its data management and business process standardisation strategies.

The IMTP will help to have metadata-driven, end-to-end business processes that are conducted within a common data management framework.

In concert with the IMTP, the ABS has been instrumental in forming a network of a small number of other international statistics agencies with the combined mission to '*work together with pace and passion to better meet their societies' information needs while driving down costs*'. The other members of the network are the National Statistical Organisations (NSOs) of Sweden, Norway, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

In addition to performing the role of network secretariat for the first year, the ABS will lead a collaborative project to operationalise a common information management framework including the use of agreed metadata standards.

Four other key collaboration projects were agreed upon, for which individual network members have agreed to take the lead. These projects are integral to the success of developing an end-to-end data management framework.

Long term sustainability

The key driver of our long term sustainability is the capability of our management and staff. The ABS invests significant resources in the training and development of its people, and will continue to search out new ways of raising the skills of its workforce.

Nonetheless, the ABS is facing an underlying shortage of skilled staff, and like many other organisations, has experienced difficulty in finding suitable staff in a tight labour market.

The shortage of qualified young mathematics graduates has been well publicised and the ABS is facing the prospect of an ever-ageing workforce.

We also face underlying challenges to ensure future productivity savings can be delivered. Investment in our statistical infrastructure is aimed at generating significant efficiencies and the Information Management Transformation Program is an important step in this direction.

New statistical initiatives

Supporting COAG measurement

In the 2009–10 Budget, the Australian Government provided \$14.2m over four years to the ABS, to help implement the performance reporting framework required to measure the progress of key Council of Australian Governments (COAG) initiatives. The ABS will develop data for a range of performance indicators specified in the National Agreements on health care, education, affordable housing, disability, skills and workforce development, and Indigenous reform. It is envisaged that the ABS will also play a lead role as advisor to other agencies in respect of the quality of non-ABS data being used for COAG performance reporting.

Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index

In August 2009, the ABS published the first Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index (PBCLI). This index was funded by the Australian Government to ensure there was a reliable measure to index pensions such as the Age Pension, Disability Support Pension and Carer's Payment.

The PBCLI has initially been constructed as a by-product of the quarterly Consumer Price Index, but over time the ABS will progressively improve the index to better reflect the price changes experienced by pensioners and beneficiaries.

Australian Health Survey

The 2011–2013 Australian Health Survey (AHS) was announced in May 2010. The AHS, which builds on the long running ABS health survey program, will be the most comprehensive health survey ever undertaken by the ABS. Around 50,000 people across Australia will be asked to take part in the survey.

New components of the survey will address key health information gaps in nutrition, physical activity and health risk factors. Results from the survey will support health research, the development of preventative health strategies, and the evaluation of health programs. Separate results will also be available for the Indigenous population of Australia.

Other significant statistical achievements

A centenary of Census

In November 2009, the Prime Minister and Assistant Treasurer, Senator the Hon. Nick Sherry, announced that the next Australian Census of Population and Housing will be held on Tuesday, 9 August, 2011. The Census is the largest peacetime operation undertaken in Australia and requires significant planning to ensure its success. The 2011 collection will be Australia's sixteenth Census and, importantly, will mark the Centenary of national censuses in Australia. Please see the special article '100 years of Census' in Chapter 4.

The ABS has been working hard on its preparation to conduct the Census. Towards the end of 2009–10, we conducted a test of Census procedures. This test involved a sample of 20,000 dwellings in urban and semi-urban areas as well as in several remote Indigenous communities. The results will provide valuable knowledge and experience to help ensure procedures are right for the full Census in 2011.

2011 will see the continued rollout of the eCensus that allows Australians to fill out their Census forms online. The eCensus is a convenient and easy-to-use method for households to complete the Census, while still ensuring data is secure.

The ABS has always relied on the participation of the Australian public to make the Census a success. We want to continue that great tradition in 2011.

Northern Australia Enumeration Strategy for Census 2011

One of the significant challenges for the ABS is data collection in remote areas of the Northern Territory, and the northern parts of Western Australia and Queensland. A Northern Australia Enumeration Strategy is being implemented to address these challenges for the next Census.

The strategy aims to significantly improve the count of the Indigenous population across the region, with a focus on addressing issues in relation to the dispersed and mobile population; the significant Indigenous population living both in remote communities and in urban areas, including taking into account cross-border Indigenous population flows; the large number of tourists in the winter months when the Census takes place; and the significant number of mining establishments and associated fly in/fly out workforce in the region.

Macroeconomic statistics in a time of global financial crisis

ABS economic statistics held up well during the global financial crisis. The release of timely, accurate and relevant statistics helped the Australian Government develop responses to the crisis and then enabled the monitoring of the effectiveness of those responses.

System of National Accounts

In 2009–10, the ABS was the first national statistical organisation to implement revised international standards for the System of National Accounts, the Balance of Payments and the International Investment Position. The ABS also applied the new Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC 2006) to its series of key economic statistics, including the National Accounts.

Review of the Consumer Price Index

The ABS announced the sixteenth series review of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in December 2009. Over 50 written submissions were received from the public and key clients,

and public forums were well attended in each capital city. A blog was also established on the ABS website to receive further feedback and comments.

The CPI Advisory Group is expected to announce the results of the review in December 2010. Subsequent changes to the CPI will ensure it remains a relevant, robust, and reliable measure of inflation that continues to serve Australia well.

Aggregate hours worked

A new measure was introduced into the monthly Labour Force publication in August 2009. The measure of aggregate hours worked brings together a broader range of labour force indicators into the same monthly ABS release. These new measures better reflect the changed structure and complex nature of Australia's labour market.

Statistical data integration

Data integration is an emerging priority for the ABS. Linking data sets in the economic, social and environmental fields will provide expanded information for governments to assess policies and their outcomes. However, data linking also comes with risks, especially when greater volumes and more complex information passes across jurisdictions.

The ABS has extensive experience in the data management field and in addressing challenges related to information quality, sharing and privacy. The ABS is well positioned to coordinate the strong need for consistent governance, methods, policies and protocols around data integration.

A major advance was made during 2010 when Commonwealth Portfolio Secretaries endorsed a set of high level principles for statistical data integration across Australian Government departments and agencies. The second phase of the work of the Committee is to develop a governance and institutional framework to support Australian Government statistical data integration activities.

More information is presented in Chapter 3, Developments in Data Integration.

Conclusion

It has been a tough, but successful year for the ABS, and that success is a reflection of the commitment and enthusiasm of our people – both office-based staff and interviewers.

Additional funding from the Australian Government allowed us to reintroduce much of the work program cut in 2008–09, and was a welcome endorsement for the role of the ABS and the crucial work we undertake on behalf of the community.

Our economic statistics faced their biggest test in 2009–10. The global financial crisis placed added importance on timely and accurate measures of the economy to enable the Australian Government to monitor the effectiveness of its measures to address the crisis.

The next twelve months will be extremely busy for the ABS as preparations continue for two of our largest-ever collections: the 2011 Census of Population and Housing, and the Australian Health Survey. Work will also continue on some of our key priority areas, such as: international collaboration; supporting the measurement of progress of COAG initiatives; IMTP; data integration; and ensuring the long term sustainability of the ABS.

One key challenge is to attract and retain suitable, high quality staff in the ABS. I have always regarded the ABS as a family and our future rests clearly with ensuring our people are well trained and well equipped to ensure we remain relevant in the future.

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to every Australian household and business that has contributed to our statistics. Their contribution is vital to the success of the ABS, and ensures the best possible information is available for decision-makers.

Members of the Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC) and its Chairman, Mr Geoff Allen, should also be recognised. The high quality advice of ASAC has been instrumental in advancing our work program and raising awareness of the role of official statistics in government and the broader community.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the support of the Assistant Treasurer, Senator the Hon. Nick Sherry. His support ensures the ABS can continue as an independent producer of high quality statistics for government and the Australian community, and lead the nation's statistical service.

Chapter 2

Overview of the ABS



The ABS is Australia's official national statistical agency. It was established as the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, following enactment of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*. The agency became the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 1975 with the passing of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*. This Act also established the role of the Australian Statistician and defined the functions of the ABS.

The role of the ABS

The ABS provides statistics on a wide range of economic, social, population and environmental matters, covering government, business and the community. It also has an important coordination function with respect to the statistical activities of other official bodies, both in Australia and overseas.

The ABS mission

We assist and encourage informed decision making, research and discussion within governments and the community, by leading a high quality, objective and responsive national statistical service.

The ABS Corporate Plan can be found on the ABS website at <http://www.abs.gov.au>. The plan outlines the strategies the ABS is using to achieve its mission, and sets out the direction for the ABS to meet future challenges.

Authority and legislation

The *Census and Statistics Act 1905* provides the Statistician with the authority to conduct statistical collections and, when necessary, to direct a person or an organisation to provide statistical information. The Act imposes obligations on the ABS to publish and disseminate compilations and analyses of statistical information, and to maintain the confidentiality of information collected under the Act.

The *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* sets out the functions and responsibilities of the Statistician and the ABS:

- (a) to constitute the central statistical authority for the Australian Government and, by arrangements with the governments of the states, provide statistical services for those governments
- (b) to collect, compile, analyse and disseminate statistics and related information
- (c) to ensure coordination of the operations of official bodies in the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics and related information, with particular regard to:
 - (i) the avoidance of duplication in the collection by official bodies of information for statistical purposes
 - (ii) the attainment of compatibility between, and the integration of, statistics compiled by official bodies
 - (iii) the maximum possible utilisation, for statistical purposes, of information, and means of collection of information, available to official bodies
- (d) to formulate, and ensure compliance with, standards for the carrying out by official bodies of operations for statistical purposes
- (e) to provide advice and assistance to official bodies in relation to statistics, and
- (f) to provide liaison between Australia, on the one hand, and other countries and international organisations, on the other hand, in relation to statistical matters.

Section 6 of the Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975

The *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* also established the Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC) to provide input to the directions and priorities of the ABS work program (see the ASAC section in this chapter for more information).

Under the *Statistics (Arrangements with States) Act 1956*, Australian and state government statistical services have been integrated since 1958 (from 1924 for Tasmania). Although not covered by legislation, similar arrangements apply in both territories.

There were no amendments made to the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* or the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* during 2009–10.

Organisational structure

The ABS is led by the Australian Statistician – a statutory office established by the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*.

The ABS has three statistical groups, each reporting to a Deputy Australian Statistician. These groups are:

- Macroeconomics and Integration
- Population, Labour, Industry and Environment Statistics, and
- Social Statistics.

The ABS also has three divisions reporting to the Chief Operating Officer, a position established in late 2009 (see Chapter 10, ABS Corporate Governance):

- Integrated Collection and Dissemination Services
- Technology Services, and
- Corporate Services.

The Methodology and Data Management Division reports directly to the Australian Statistician.

The ABS has a central office in Canberra and regional offices located in the eight state and territory capitals. All regional offices, apart from the ACT Office, have some responsibilities for national statistical activities.

Regional offices are also primarily responsible for the delivery of statistical services to their state or territory. These offices have ongoing engagement with state and territory governments on statistical services and priorities, generally through state and territory committees set up for that purpose. In Western Australia and Tasmania, the Regional Director administering the ABS Regional Office is also the State Government Statistician.

All Regional Directors have a direct reporting line to a Deputy Australian Statistician (see the organisational chart in this chapter for more detail).

Australian Statistics Advisory Council

The Australian Statistics Advisory Council is the ABS's key advisory body and was established by the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*. It provides valuable input to the directions and priorities of the ABS work program and reports annually to Parliament. ASAC meets twice yearly.

As set out in the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*, the role of the Council is to advise the Minister and the Statistician in relation to:

- (a) the improvement, extension and coordination of statistical services provided for public purposes in Australia
- (b) annual and longer term priorities and programs of work that should be adopted in relation to major aspects of the provision of those statistical services, and
- (c) any other matters relating generally to those statistical services.

The Chairperson of ASAC is Mr Geoff Allen, Director, The Allen Consulting Group. ASAC members include nominees from each of the State Premiers and the Territory Chief Ministers. The other members are appointed by the Minister responsible for the ABS, and are chosen to represent a broad cross-section of perspectives, including business, government, academic and community interests.

The ASAC mission

ASAC's mission, in keeping with its statutory charter, is to ensure that the advice furnished to the Minister and the Statistician in relation to the collection and dissemination of statistics has due regard to relative priorities, is objective, relevant, timely, constructive and practical, and that it is sensitive to the needs of both suppliers and users of statistical data.

Further information on ASAC can be found at <http://www.asac.gov.au> or by contacting the ASAC Secretariat by mail to: ABS, Locked Bag 10, Belconnen, ACT, 2616 or by phone on 02 6252 5533. The Council's annual report can also be found on its website.



Australian Statistics Advisory Council members attending the May 2010 meeting in Canberra

Responsible Minister

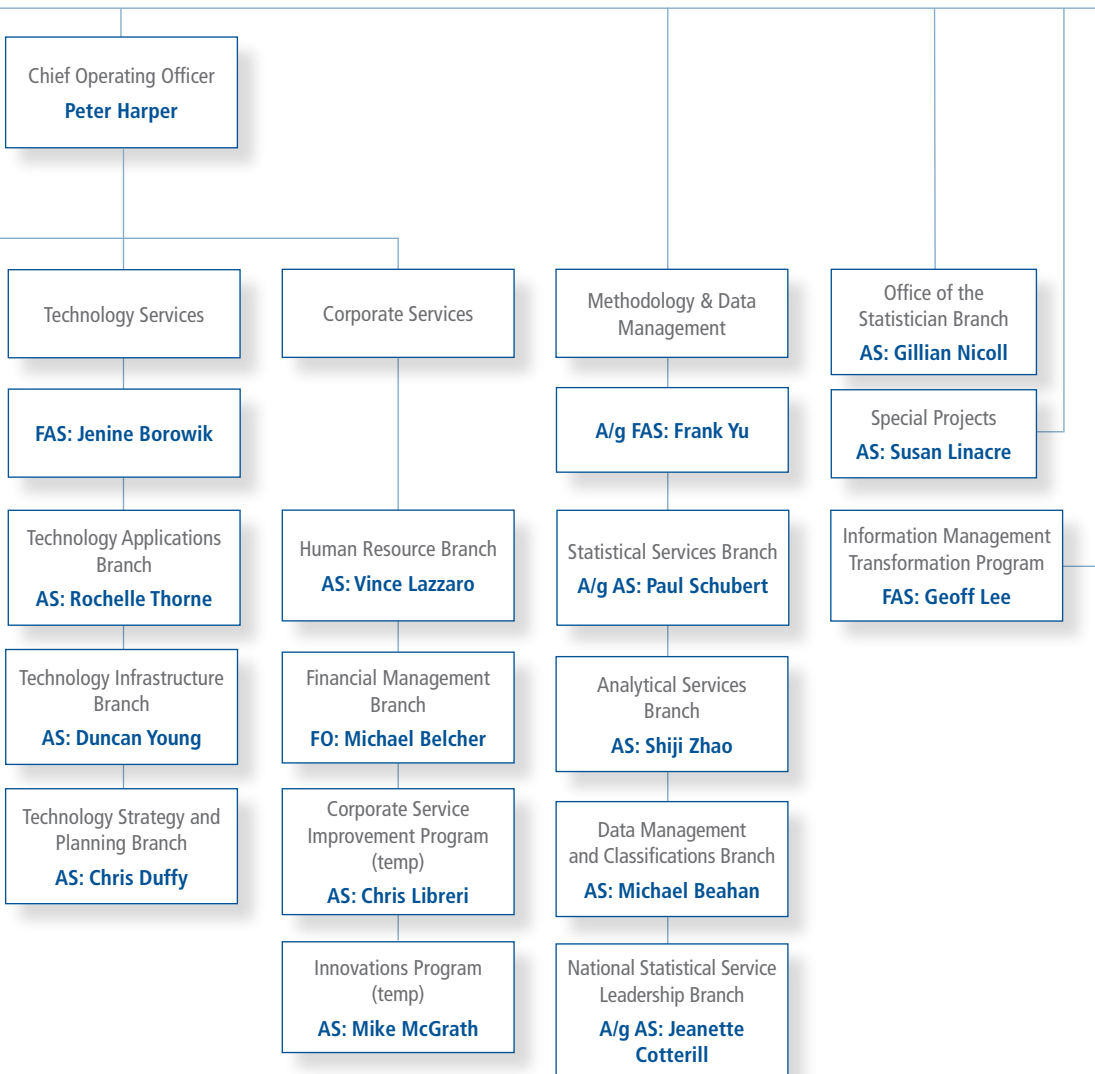


The ABS is an agency under the Treasury portfolio. Between June 2009–September 2010, the Minister responsible for the Australian Bureau of Statistics was Senator the Hon Nick Sherry, Assistant Treasurer.

Senator the Hon Nick Sherry, Assistant Treasurer

Organisational Chart (as at 30 June 2010)



**Key**

DAS: Deputy Australian Statistician

FAS: First Assistant Statistician

AS: Assistant Statistician

RD: Regional Director

CFO: Chief Financial Officer

A/g: Acting

Outcome and program structure

ABS outcome

In the Portfolio Budget Statements 2009–10, the ABS has one outcome:

Informed decisions, research and discussion within governments and the community by leading the collection, analysis and provision of high quality, objective and relevant statistical information.

ABS program

Within the context of the Portfolio Budget Statements, Program 1.1 (Australian Bureau of Statistics), the ABS produces and disseminates statistics to meet the above outcome.

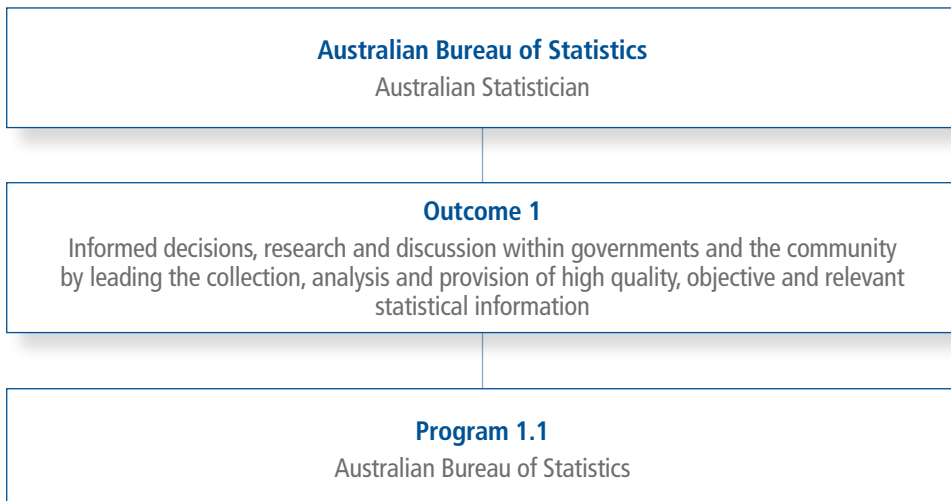
Economic statistics are produced predominantly from the ABS business survey program. They include an extensive range of statistical outputs relating to the structure and performance of the Australian economy.

Population and social statistics are produced mainly through the ABS household survey program. They include statistical information relating to the Australian population, including census and demographic statistics, as well as information relating to the social and economic wellbeing of the population.

Program 1.1 – Australian Bureau of Statistics – provides an objective source of information that is used by governments and the community to inform their decisions. The provision of statistics involves extensive data collection through censuses, surveys and from administrative data sources.

The ABS statistical programs are supported by service areas that deliver assistance and advice on statistical methods, data and metadata management, information technology, client management, dissemination, human resources and other corporate services.

Outcome and program groups



Financial position

As noted above, the ABS has one outcome. Table 2.1 provides, for 2009–10, a financial summary of the ABS outcome and the price of the outcome. The full financial statements are provided in Section 5.

Table 2.1: Summary of financial resources

	2009–10 \$m	2008–09 \$m
Price of Departmental programs		
Outcome 1	352.3	326.0
Total Outcome	352.3	326.0
Revenue from Government appropriations	327.9	282.6
Revenue from other sources ^(a)	28.5	29.2
Total for Outcome 1	356.4	311.8

(a) Note that Revenue from other sources excludes gains. Exclusion of gains is consistent with the reporting of the Outcome in Note – 22 of the Financial Statements (Section 5).

The ABS conducts a discretionary grant program, which is a scholarship program, in conjunction with four Australian universities. A list of grant recipients can be found on the ABS website, <http://www.abs.gov.au>.

Table 2.2: Summary of financial performance

	2009–10 \$m	2008–09 \$m	Change \$m
Appropriation revenue	327.9	282.6	45.3
Other revenue and gains	28.6	29.6	(1.0)
Total income	356.5	312.2	44.3
Employee expenses	237.7	219.5	18.2
Supplier expenses	84.2	67.0	17.2
Other expenses	30.4	39.5	(9.1)
Total expenses	352.3	326.0	26.3
(Deficit)/Surplus	4.2	(13.8)	18.0

In 2009–10, the ABS reported an operating surplus of \$4.2 million. The surplus is largely due to an underspend in employee expenses due to difficulties experienced in recruiting suitably experienced and qualified staff.

Total income available in 2009–10 increased by \$44.3 million, due mainly to the increase in activity arising from the cyclical nature of Census of Population and Housing and government measures announced in, and since, the 2009–10 Budget.

Table 2.3: Summary of financial position

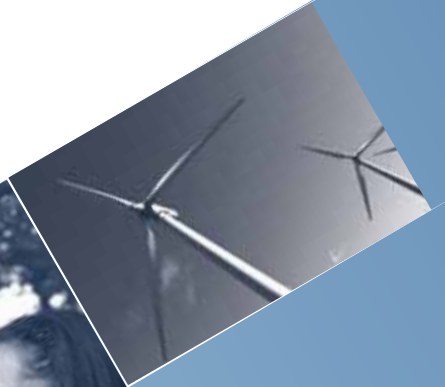
	2009–10 \$m	2008–09 \$m	Change \$m
Financial assets (A)	45.2	33.9	11.3
Non-financial assets (B)	138.6	136.9	1.7
Liabilities (C)	128.9	121.1	7.8
Net assets (A+B-C)	54.9	49.7	5.2

The operating surplus has positively contributed to the \$5.2 million increase in the ABS's net assets.

The ABS's commitment to financial management is reflected through its unqualified financial statements. The ABS has continued its focus on compliance with the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*, and is implementing systems and procedures to enhance its financial management and accountability compliance framework.

SECTION 2

SPECIAL ARTICLES



Chapter 3

Developments in data integration

Why is data integration important?

Wouldn't it be good if we knew more about the impact of policy interventions on short and long term outcomes; across different population groups; and delivered by different programs in different arms of government? Or if we knew more about the likely costs of new programs; or how people transition between government support programs.

Wouldn't it be good if we had the information base to foster effective research and innovation to solve some of the really hard problems that we face? Problems like how to reduce crime, substance abuse, family breakdown, homelessness or obesity, or how to improve educational outcomes, mental health, employment or nutrition.

Substantial resources are directed to research in areas like these, and even more substantial resources are invested in interventions based on this research, in the hope of at least partial solutions and some improvements in outcomes. Both investment by government, and failure to invest, have the potential to be very costly.

Information is a key input to high quality research on which to base interventions, and with which to measure the effectiveness of such interventions. Where there is a particular issue, for example juvenile crime, researchers need information to develop and test theories. Policy developers need information to assess costs and benefits of alternative strategies. Service delivery needs information to optimise service and minimise cost.

Information needs include:

- information on the extent of the problem (its cost, both social and economic)
- the population groups for whom it is a particular problem and the behaviours as well as the social and economic conditions that typically occur in conjunction with it (clues on where to intervene, and some of the immediate implications of intervention)
- the pathways that typically precede the problem (possible explanatory variables providing clues for points of early intervention), and
- the pathways and consequences that typically follow on from it (costs, both social and economic). Also needed is information relating to the costs and implications of any alternative interventions considered.

Information is needed not only for those directly caught up in the issue, in this example juvenile crime, but also for those, particularly those sharing similar social and economic conditions, who manage to avoid it. This provides the potential to identify any conditions that may help protect against otherwise negative influences and also to provide a realistic understanding of variability in outcomes and mechanisms across the population.

Data gathered accurately over time for individuals (longitudinal data) are of particular value to assess pathways and consequences.

So where does all this information come from? The two main alternatives are direct collection of new information, and the use of data already available from administrative systems or previous statistical collections.

Direct collection of new information

Direct collection of new information has both advantages and disadvantages. The main advantages of direct collection are that it can be designed specifically to cover the information needed, and the respondents know that they are supplying the data specifically for a given use, namely the research proposed. However, there are three main disadvantages to direct collection.

The first disadvantage is that direct collection imposes a response load on the public, particularly when they are asked to provide the information on a longitudinal basis. The second is that it is extremely expensive if the direct collection is to be longitudinal and with sufficient sample to be able to detect common patterns for small groups amongst the noise of natural variability in outcomes. The third is the long time-lag between the start of collection and the time when a sufficient longitudinal sample has built up to enable assessment of characteristic pathways.

Data from administrative systems or previous collections

Using data already available, generally collected as part of administrative activities, has the potential advantage of being relatively inexpensive for large sample sizes. It also imposes no further respondent load, although it does have privacy implications and confidentiality of the data needs to be carefully managed. It can also provide more timely data, through the use of historical longitudinal information where that is available.

There are two major disadvantages of the use of administrative data for statistical purposes. The first is the potential concern of the public that their data is being reused, albeit for community benefit. The second is the concern of the researcher that the data available may not be rich enough to answer the research question, and is not the data that researchers may have collected by choice.

In terms of the first disadvantage, qualitative research indicates that most members of the public are supportive of their data being used for research purposes and to improve social and economic outcomes for the Australian community, as long as the data is well managed and the individual's confidentiality is maintained. For example, qualitative research commissioned by the ABS as part of the 2006 Census, and more recently the 2011 Census, indicates general public acceptance of the ABS making Census data more useful by combining it with a limited range of other datasets in order to assist understanding of major issues, such as factors affecting people's health over time. Public acceptance grew when assurances were given that name and address information is deleted and criminal penalties exist if information likely to identify an individual is released.

In terms of the second disadvantage, individual administrative datasets, on their own, often do not provide the level or quality of information needed to address research issues. However the joint use of relevant and related data, in the form of integrated datasets, can provide very rich sources for statistical purposes.

If we consider the example of research into juvenile crime, some relevant data sources that might relate to pathways into crime include information on maternal as well as individual health at birth, individual and maternal health through early childhood, family income and employment characteristics through early childhood, family structure and family cohesion or breakdown, parent and sibling criminal convictions, as well as the individual's early childhood development index and school performance scores.

Data relating to the consequences of being involved in juvenile crime for future life courses might similarly be provided by a number of datasets relating to employment and income, family formation and breakdown, and health, with similar datasets possibly throwing light on the impact of effective or less effective interventions.

What is 'data integration for statistical purposes'?

Data integration involves the bringing together of relevant datasets, generally at the unit level or micro level, based on information common to both datasets. For the integration of information relating to individuals, the common information might be name and address, or it might be demographic information such as date of birth, gender and locality. In some instances, common identifiers might be available for use across datasets, and these, or encoded versions of them, used. For business information, the common information may similarly be name and address or some form of available identifier such as an Australian Business Number (ABN).

Given that the integrated data is to be used for statistical rather than administrative purposes, some level of error in the linkage is acceptable, and while the data might be brought together by exact matching where there is a clear one-to-one correspondence, probabilistic linkage might also be used where a link is made between records with common data items considered sufficiently similar to be a probable match.

Using data for statistical purposes means using it to describe characteristics of groups within the population, and relationships that might exist between variables such as social and economic conditions, behaviours and outcomes. Data for statistical purposes cannot be used in a way that has a direct effect on the individual other than in relation to developing statistical outputs. For example, it cannot be used in administrative processes to identify individuals who are, or are not, eligible for services, nor to facilitate services to a particular individual, nor assess compliance with requirements.

Issues to be addressed to progress data integration for statistical purposes

There are clear benefits to the public from the effective use of information to improve research, through improved government policy and service delivery, and, in the case of health information, clinical outcomes. However, there are a number of issues that need to be addressed in realising this benefit. These issues are discussed below.

Managing individual and business privacy and confidentiality requirements

The *Privacy Act 1988* sets out the rights of individuals in relation to the collection, use and sharing of access to data they provide to government. In addition, more specific legislation generally governs the use of particular sets of data collected for specific government activities, for example the *Social Security (Administration) Act 1999*, the *National Health Act 1953*, the *Health Insurance Act 1973*, and the *The Aged Care Act 1997*.

In the case of the ABS, data is governed by the provisions of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*. The secrecy provisions of this Act prohibit the disclosure of any information collected under that Act except for the purposes of the Act; in accordance with a determination; or to the person from whom the information was obtained. The *Census and Statistics Act 1905* has the effect that the ABS is not allowed to publish or disseminate statistics in a manner that is likely to enable the identification of a particular person or organisation.

As well as the requirements set out in legislation, commitments are often made by government to data providers at the time data is collected. Arrangements set up across government to support the integration of datasets for statistical purposes must facilitate compliance with all relevant legislation, as well as any specific agreements made with the providers of information at the time of collection.

Facilitating cross-government development of integrated datasets for statistical purposes

Complex policy issues and research questions do not tend to fall neatly within departmental boundaries, and the information needed to address them is often spread across a number of agencies in different sectors and even different jurisdictions. However, each agency remains responsible for the safe use of its own data and can be very risk averse to sharing. Agency culture may need to change, and skills and infrastructure to support data integration across agencies may need to be fostered.

The shared use of data across government may be facilitated by jointly agreeing to the principles and governance mechanisms that should apply to such use of data, and building a supporting framework as well as appropriate skills and infrastructure.

The Population Health Research Network (PHRN) is an initiative of the Australian Government to support the development of a research-oriented network across Australian jurisdictions to improve infrastructure related to the effective use of data related to health, including integrated health data. The network includes representatives of each state and territory. The PHRN builds on activities underway within each of the jurisdictions to support their increased development and use of integrated datasets for statistical purposes.

An initiative of the Australian Government in relation to the effective use of Commonwealth data across all sectors is the development of a framework for the integration of data sets for statistical purposes. The framework consists of a set of principles and a set of governance and institutional arrangements to support them. The principles (presented in Table 3.1) were endorsed by Portfolio Secretaries on the 3rd February 2010. The governance and institutional arrangements to support the principles are currently being developed.

Table 3.1: Principles for the integration of data sets for statistical purposes

Strategic resource	Principle 1: Responsible agencies should treat data as a strategic resource and design and manage administrative data to support their wider statistical and research use.
Custodian's accountability	Principle 2: Agencies responsible for source data used in statistical data integration remain individually accountable for their security and confidentiality.
Integrator's accountability	Principle 3: A responsible 'integrating authority' will be nominated for each statistical data integration proposal, and held responsible for the sound conduct of the statistical data integration project.
Public benefit	Principle 4: Statistical integration should only occur where it provides significant overall benefit to the public
Statistical and research purposes	Principle 5: Statistical data integration must be used for statistical and research purposes only
Preserving privacy and confidentiality	Principle 6: Policies and procedures used in data integration must minimise any potential impact on privacy and confidentiality
Transparency	Principle 7: Statistical data integration will be conducted in an open and accountable way

ABS role

The *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* sets out a core activity of the ABS: to ensure coordination of official bodies in relation to statistics and related information to avoid duplication, attain compatibility, and maximise use of information and means of collecting data for statistical purposes. The ABS also has, as another core activity, the development of datasets to provide a picture of social, economic and environmental conditions in Australia and how they vary across the population and are changing over time.

In both these activities the ABS has a strong interest in maximising the statistical value of government information assets through data integration. The Australian Statistics Advisory Council, which advises the ABS on its priorities and work program and includes representatives from all jurisdictions, academia, business and the community, has been strongly supportive of the two data integration roles that the ABS has proposed.

Leadership and co-ordination role

The first ABS role is to lead the development of a safe and effective environment for integrating government data for statistical purposes. The ABS has done this by engaging at the jurisdictional level, and across jurisdictions, to support the development of clear frameworks to support data integration for statistical purposes, while safely managing privacy and confidentiality issues. In the case of the Australian Government, the ABS has jointly chaired the Cross Portfolio Statistical Integration Committee (CPSIC) overseeing the development of the principles and the governance and institutional arrangements to support them.

In addition, the ABS will support the cross-government development of best practice guidelines for agencies undertaking data integration, and for researchers accessing integrated data. The ABS also proposed to support training and awareness-raising to ensure that all involved in data integration for statistical purposes are aware of their obligations, and able to fulfil them.

The ABS is also actively developing infrastructure that supports data integration for statistical purposes, and in particular infrastructure that provides safe access by researchers to integrated datasets through virtual data laboratories that can be accessed from their desktops. It is hoped that this infrastructure can be used across government agencies to support access to integrated data.

Role as an integrator of data for statistical purposes

The ABS is an organisation that has been set up solely for statistical purposes, and has no conflict of interest in the safe keeping of data from government sources and its use for statistical purposes. It has a very strong reputation in the Australian community in terms of its care in managing the privacy and confidentiality of information it acquires, and it benefits from a very high level of public trust.

The ABS is a natural home for the data integration for statistical purposes of significant government data assets that address key areas of social or economic concern and have the potential to provide statistics giving rich insight to some of the difficult issues within these areas of concern.

In 2006, the ABS embarked on a program of enhancing the value of the five-yearly Census of Population and Housing by bringing it together over time, and with other data, to inform decision making among governments and the community. A Statistical Longitudinal Census Dataset is being formed using a 5% sample of the Australian population from the 2006, 2011, and subsequent Censuses to provide insight into pathways for particular population groups.

Exploratory work by the ABS in integrating information relating to migrants from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship's Settlement Database with the 2006 Census data has shown promise. Experimental statistics for Humanitarian Program migrants were released

in June 2010 (ABS cat. no. 3416.0), based on an integrated Census-Settlements Database dataset. Future work will focus on employment outcomes and skilled migrants.

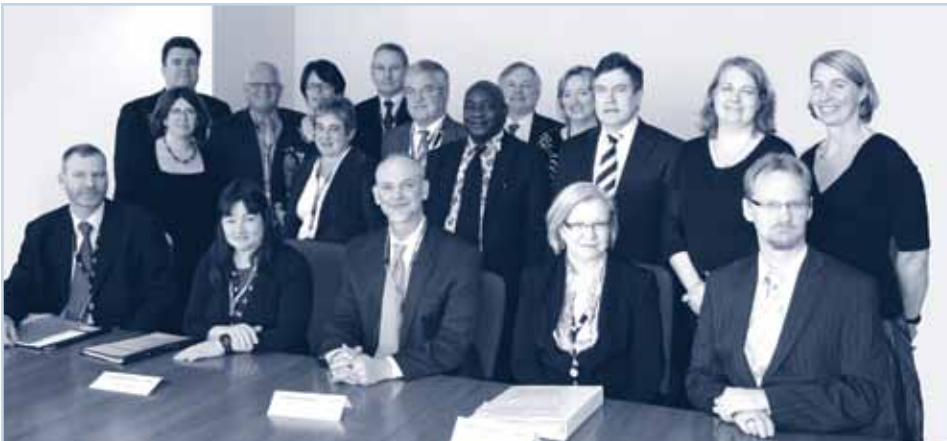
Through the Government's *Closing the Gap* strategy, the ABS has been funded to deliver information to improve the measurement of Indigenous life expectancy by integrating data from the 2011 Census with death registration records. This project builds on a similar project which used 2006 Census data.

Conclusion

Many high priority public policy challenges do not fit neatly within one ministerial portfolio or a single agency's set of responsibilities. Successfully tackling these complex policy issues requires governments to find the appropriate balance between maximising the inherent value of data assets it holds, while minimising privacy and confidentiality concerns associated with the use of integrated data.

Greater statistical data integration can enable significant cost-effective improvements in evidence-based advice and the development of a new range of official statistics. This information could inform initiatives such as COAG performance indicators, matching government services with areas of need relevant to social inclusion policies, and identifying issues within the health system.

The ABS will continue to provide leadership to facilitate the integration of existing social, economic and environmental data to support government, business and the community for research, policy development and program monitoring in ways that balance the public benefit of data integration with the risk of misuse and unauthorised disclosure of data. The ABS will also develop additional capability and capacity to expand its role as an integrator of data for statistical purposes to provide the evidence base needed to successfully tackle complex policy issues.



The Cross Portfolio Statistical Integration Committee meet in 2010

First Row: (From left to right, seated at the table) – David Turvey (PM&C), Christina Williams (FaHCSIA), Trevor Sutton (ABS)(Co-Chair), Kerry Flanagan (DoHA)(Co-Chair), Geoff Richardson (DEWHA),

Second Row: (From left to right) – Gemma Van Halderen (ABS), Judith Winternitz (DBCDE), Godfrey Lubulwa (DoHA), Mike Waslin (Treasury), Fiona Spencer (DRET), Susan Linacre (ABS)

Third row: (From left to right) – Richard Barrington-Knight (DVA), Ian McDougall (Defence), Di White (DHS), Danny O'Dea (DoFD), Scott Matheson (DEEWR), Greg Coombs (DoHA), Julia Evans (DIISR)

Chapter 4

100 years of Census

A shifting context for the Australian Census – 1911 and today

The Census gives us not only a vivid photograph of the present, but with past Censuses, shows also the direction in which we are travelling and the rate of progress we are making ...

Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics (CBCS), *The First Commonwealth Census, 3rd April 1911*, Notes by G.H.Knibbs.

Australia's sixteenth national Census of Population and Housing will be held on 9 August 2011 and will mark the centenary of national Censuses in Australia. In the lead-up to the 2011 Census, this article explores changes in the Census and Australia since the first national Census in 1911.

The first national Census was taken in Australia between 2nd and 3rd April 1911. This was in line with the Census in the United Kingdom and other parts of the British Empire. Around 7,300 people were employed to collect and count the first Census. Collectors worked mainly on foot, but also used horses and bicycles to travel around their assigned areas. Police were also enlisted to undertake part of the collection in remote areas in several states, and in all states they also provided details of tramps and campers.

For the 2011 Census, approximately 40,000 people will be employed as collectors. While they will still be working mainly on foot, many will also use motor vehicles to get around their areas and some will even travel by helicopter or boat to get to remote parts of Australia. Tailored strategies will also be implemented to ensure that populations such as diverse ethnic groups, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the homeless are enumerated effectively in the Census. As in the 2006 Census, the Australian public will be able to complete and submit their Census form online.

A shifting context

Australia in 1911 was vastly different from contemporary society. In line with advances in technology at that time, use of the telephone was rapidly growing. In 1911, there were 85,000 telephone connections nationally, and the first inter-capital trunk line had been established between Sydney and Melbourne. Users were still reliant on switchboard operators at manual exchanges – the first automatic exchange for public use was not opened until the following year in Geelong. In addition, the advent of mass production of automobiles in the late 19th century meant that cars were becoming affordable for a wider range of the Australian population.

Since that time, a multitude of technological advances in communications and transportation have created a changed social and working environment in Australia. According to the Australian Communications and Media Authority's *Communications Report 2008–09*, there were more than 24 million mobile phone services in operation at the end of June 2009, outnumbering the number of people in Australia. By the end of December 2009, there were over nine million active Internet subscribers. The number of motor vehicles in Australia has also increased dramatically. There are now over 12 million motor vehicles (excluding trucks and buses) currently registered in Australia.

A century of changes

Considerations for data comparisons

The remainder of this article aims to present a broad analysis of some changes in Australian society between 1911 and today.

However, it should be noted that there have been fluctuations in definitions and classifications over time, and therefore the magnitude of change cannot be measured precisely.

In addition, under the Australian Constitution at Federation, 'Aboriginal natives' were not to be counted in the Census. This restriction was removed following a referendum in 1967. From 1971, the ABS has attempted to conduct as full a count of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as possible. However the exclusion of this important population group should be taken into consideration when looking at Census results from earlier years.

Population

Over the past century Australia's population has increased steadily from 4.5 million in 1911 to 22.2 million at 31 December 2009.

The only exception to this steady growth occurred in 1916 and 1917 during World War I, when the population declined slightly. This may have been due to defence force personnel leaving Australia being regarded as emigrants and being excluded from population counts. For more recent Censuses, any military personnel on vessels or overseas on Census night have been included in the count.

Some of the highest annual population growth rates were recorded in the period 1947–65, known as the 'Baby Boom' years. Annual population growth rates over this period fluctuated between 1.6% and 3.3% with increases in births the main component. High levels of immigration following World War II also contributed to strong population growth in this period.

Increasing proportion of females

At the time of the 1911 Census, there were 103.8 males per 100 females. The tendency for the population to have more males than females (referred to as the 'masculinity of the population' in early Census publications) remained a consistent trend until the late 1970s. However, at 30 June 2009, this trend reversed and the sex ratio of the total population for Australia was 99.1 males per 100 females.

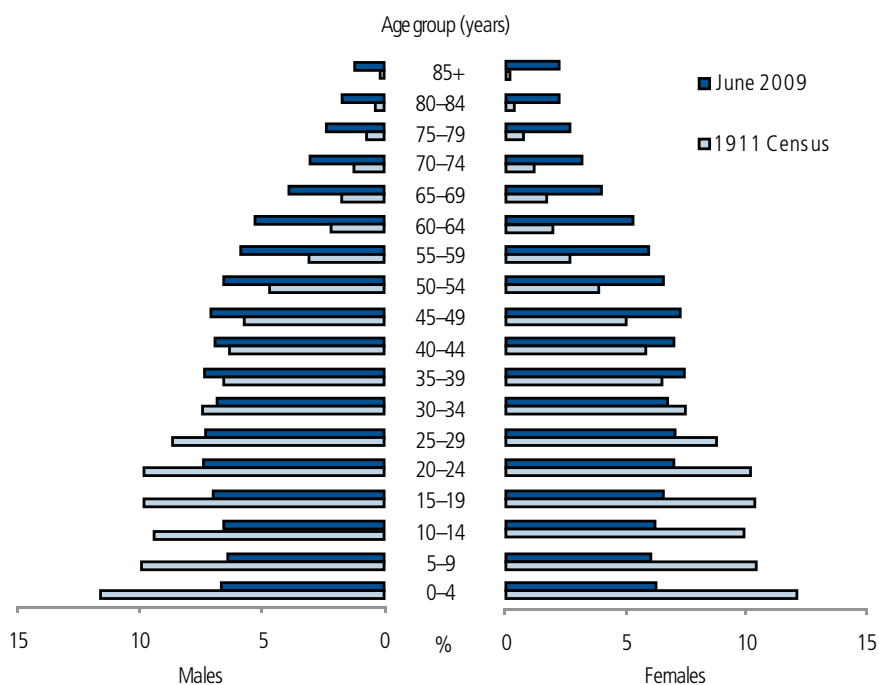
An ageing population

A question on age has been asked in each national Census. This has always been an important Census topic to determine the age structure of the Australian population. The 1911 Statistician's Report identified two age groups of particular interest – the number of males eligible for military service, as demanded by Section 125 of the *Defence Act 1903*; and the number of persons eligible for age pensions.

The age structure of Australia's population has changed considerably over the last century. During this time the proportion of children aged less than 15 years declined from 31.6% in 1911 to 19.1% in 2009, while the proportion of older people aged 65 years and over increased from 4.3% to 13.3%. These changes reflect: increased life expectancy of infants, resulting in the survival of more people into old age; declining fertility from the 1970s; and improvements in life expectancy at older ages in recent decades.

In line with the changing population age structure, the median age of the population has increased from 24.0 years in 1911 to 36.9 years at June 2009.

Graph 4.1: Age by sex – 1911 Census and June 2009



Sources: Australian historical population statistics (ABS cat. no. 3105.0.65.001); Population by age and sex, Australian states and territories, June 2009 (ABS cat. no. 3201.0)

Birthplace

The overseas-born population in Australia is increasing in number as well as diversity. Between 1911 and 2006, the number of Australians born overseas grew from 17.1% to nearly a quarter of the population (24%).

The overseas-born population in 1911 largely originated from Anglo-Celtic countries. However, in recognition of the substantial Chinese population in Australia at that time (numbering over 20,000 people and predominately male), notices were placed in Chinese newspapers to ensure that the community was aware of the Census.

Of the top ten countries of birth from the 2006 Census, people born in Italy were the oldest, with half of this group aged 66 years or over. People born in India were the youngest (half aged 35 years or younger). Differences in the age profiles of birthplace groups help to explain variations in their socioeconomic status, in terms of labour force participation rates, unemployment rates and educational attainment.

Table 4.1: Top ten countries of birth, 1911 Census and 2006 Census

	1911 Census	No. ('000)	%	2006 Census	No. ('000)	%
1	Australia	3,668	82.3	Australia	14,073	70.9
2	England	346	7.8	England	857	4.3
3	Ireland	139	3.1	New Zealand	390	2.0
4	Scotland	93	2.1	China (a)	207	1.0
5	Germany	33	0.7	Italy	199	1.0
6	New Zealand	32	0.7	Viet Nam	160	0.8
7	China	21	0.5	India	147	0.7
8	Wales	12	0.3	Scotland	130	0.7
9	Italy	7	0.2	Philippines	121	0.6
10	British India	7	0.1	Greece	110	0.6

(a) Excludes Special Administrative Regions and Taiwan Province

Sources: *Australian historical population statistics* (ABS cat. no. 3105.0.65.001); unpublished data, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Religion

Religion has been included in all national Censuses since 1911, accompanied by the caveats that response to the question is voluntary and that there is no penalty for non-response. The voluntary nature of the question is influenced by the Australian Constitution, which states that no person should be discriminated against on the grounds of their religion.

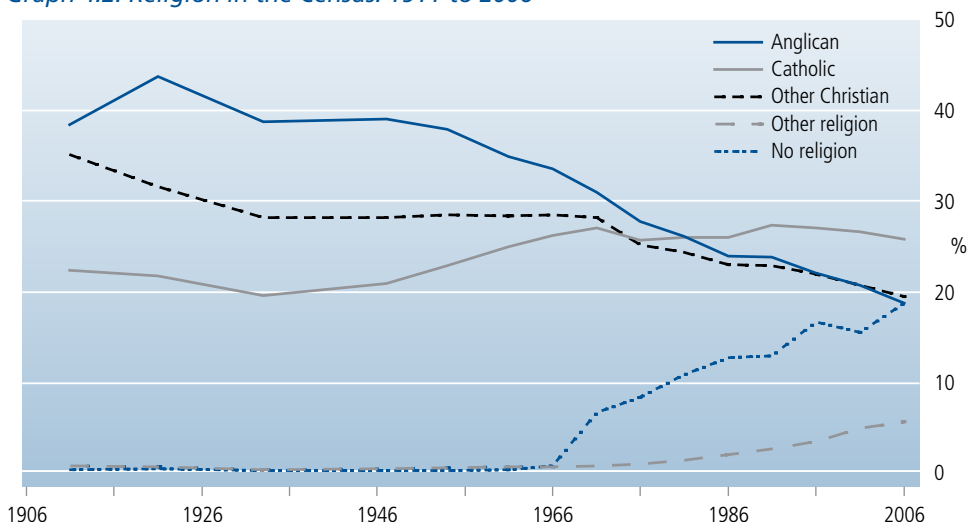
At the first national Census in 1911, 96% of people stated their religion as Christian. By 1933, more people became aware of the voluntary nature of the religion question and 13% did not respond. The proportion of people stating Christian as their religion remained reasonably stable until the 1970s, but then declined to 64% in 2006. The decline over the last three decades is partly associated with an explicit instruction, included on the Census form from 1971 onwards, for people with no religion to indicate as such.

The two most common denominations, Catholic and Anglican, have experienced notably different changes over the last century. Between 1911 and 2006, Catholics steadily grew from 22% to 26% of the population, but the proportion of Anglicans declined from 38% to 19%. These changes in Australia's Christian profile are due in part to the decline in the proportion of migrants coming from the United Kingdom, and the increase from countries with predominantly Catholic populations.

Recent migration from Asia and the Middle East has led to higher counts for the main non-Christian religions. In particular, the ongoing growth in arrivals from Asia has resulted in large increases in the number of Buddhists, Muslims, and Hindus.

The number of people indicating 'No Religion' on their Census form has increased from 6.7% of the population in 1971 to 18.7% in 2006. This shift is largely the result of younger members of the population being more likely to state no religion than older people. In 2006, 7.9% of Australians aged 65 years and over stated 'No Religion', compared to 23.5% of those aged 15–34 years.

Graph 4.2: Religion in the Census: 1911 to 2006



Sources: 'Religious affiliation', *Year Book Australia 2006* (ABS cat. no. 1301.0); *A Picture of the nation: the Statistician's report on the 2006 Census* (ABS cat. no. 2070.0).

Better educated

In 1911, there were concerns about the level of adult literacy and its possible impact on completion of the Census. The Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics (CBCS) arranged for booklets to go out to teachers to explain the details of the Census so children could assist their families when the parents were unable to read and write.

Reflecting this concern, a question was included in the 1911 Census aimed at determining literacy levels. Changes made to the education questions over respective Censuses reflect a trend of greater importance being attached to education over the period. From an initial concern with literacy and compulsory school attendance for the 6–13 year age group, the Census has seen a change to an interest in the general educational attainment of the population, as well as an awareness of the value of tertiary qualifications.

In 1911, less than one in three (31%) 14 to 15 year olds still attended school. Rates of participation in education were very low for older teenagers (3% of those aged 18 or 19 years) and negligible for those aged 20 years or older (less than 1%). Only 2,465 students attended university.

Extension of the compulsory school age, and the need to undertake post-school education to acquire further skills to compete in the job market, has resulted in teenagers staying in education for longer periods and older Australians being more likely to be studying. In 2006, over half of all 18–19 year olds (51.6%) were attending an educational institution, along with 7.5% of all Australians aged 20 years or older.

Income

Income was not a topic required by the original *Census and Statistics Act 1905*. A question on income was first included in the 1933 Census to measure the impact of the depression. Regarded as a topic of great sensitivity, income was not asked again until the 1976 Census and has been included in every Census since.

Although income was not asked in the 1911 Census, some information is available from the findings of a special inquiry undertaken by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, covering the period from 1 July 1910 to 30 June 1911. The inquiry into the cost of living in Australia found that the average income for an Australian family at that time was four pounds, thirteen shillings and one penny per week (equivalent at that time to approximately AUD\$9.31).

From the bush to the coast: increasing urbanisation

Over the past century, while remaining sparsely settled, Australia has emerged as a highly urbanised nation. Throughout this period, there has been a consistent, general trend for a greater proportion of the population to live in Australia's cities and towns.

At the 1911 Census, the main focus of the Australian economy was primary production and 42% of the population were living in rural areas. This strong rural settlement pattern came about because of the settlement of inland areas primarily for agricultural use and the large amount of employment created by the labour-intensive farming practices of the day. Other factors encouraging rural settlement were the gold rushes, the development of other mining industries, and the establishment of road and rail infrastructure.

By 2006, only 12% of Australians were located in rural areas, while just over three quarters (77%) lived in towns and cities of over 1,000 people within 50 km of the coast. This pattern reflects the attraction of coastal environments to contemporary Australians, but perhaps more importantly it highlights the fact that the large coastal towns and cities are now the major centres of employment and provide many other desirable opportunities.

An evolving Census

From before Federation, the Census has been seen as crucial, not only to democracy, but also to good government. The Census is a key source of information available to the Commonwealth government and the state and territory governments to determine the progress of the nation and to support policy development. It is as important today as it was in 1911.

The nation has changed greatly over the past century. Contemporary Australia is older, more culturally diverse, more densely populated and much more urbanised. A larger proportion of women are participating in the work force and greater value is placed on education. In tandem with shifts in the population, technology is advancing at an unprecedented rate and bringing its own impacts into the environment in which Australians live and work.

In journeying from its inception in 1911, the national Census has also evolved. Topics have altered to accommodate emerging data needs, providing more suitable and valuable information to governments and decision makers.

The Census has also become more accurate, with technological innovations revolutionising data processing and output. Published results are more timely, accessible throughout the community and available in a range of increasingly flexible formats, adding to the relevance of the Census in the 21st century.

One key change we can expect in the 2011 and future Censuses is an increasing proportion of people completing and submitting the census form via the Internet. This option – termed the 'eCensus' – was first introduced for the 2006 Census and will continue in 2011 and beyond.

The timeline that follows presents significant developments in the Census of Population and Housing, and the circumstances in which it has been collected, over the past 100 years.

Figure 4.1: ABS Census timeline

1910 ▶	1920 ▶	1930 ▶	1940 ▶	1950 ▶	1960 ▶
<p>1901</p> <p>Federation of Australia. First Census after Federation run separately within each state</p>	<p>1911</p> <p>First Census developed by the Bureau</p>	<p>1921</p> <p>Census employment policy of employing returned soldiers first used. Census data required by government to determine impact of war</p>	<p>1931</p> <p>Census delayed by government due to impact of the Great Depression on government finances</p>	<p>1945</p> <p>World War II ended</p>	<p>1954</p> <p>For the first time the Bureau consulted on the timing of this Census with national statistical agencies of countries other than those in the Commonwealth</p>
<p>1905</p> <p>Assent to the Census and Statistics Act 1905 (Commonwealth)</p>	<p>1914</p> <p>World War I began</p>	<p>1929</p> <p>New York stock exchange collapse heralded world wide economic depression</p>	<p>1933</p> <p>Census undertaken as information on impact of the Depression was desperately needed. The Census recognised as a means of providing work to a significant number of people in the unemployment crisis</p>	<p>1946</p> <p>United Nations established</p>	
<p>1906</p> <p>Creation of the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics</p>	<p>1915</p> <p>War Census undertaken</p>		<p>1939</p> <p>National Register Census undertaken just prior to the outbreak of World War II. World War II began</p>	<p>1947</p> <p>Census data needed after the Census was delayed due to the war</p>	



1970 ▶	1980 ▶	1990 ▶	2000 ▶	2010 ▶	
<p>1961 First computers brought into the Bureau</p> <p>1966 First computers used for the Census</p> <p>1967 Referendum passed allowing the Commonwealth government to legislate for Indigenous Australians (including allowing them to be counted in the Census)</p>	<p>1971 First time Indigenous Australians were included in the published Census counts</p> <p>1972 Change of government</p> <p>1975 Change of government</p> <p>1976 Census attacked in media over privacy fears. Significant extra 'social' questions added during development phase, but the Census itself was run under a different government. Only occasion when data from the Census were never fully processed, with a 50% sample used to produce estimates</p>	<p>1981 First full information campaign prior to and during the Census to encourage Australians to understand why the Census is important</p> <p>1986 Ongoing industrial action in several state electoral offices. Major change in collection methodology as for the first time some of the Bureau's state offices undertook the Census collection themselves rather than relying on the state electoral offices.</p> <p>Question on ancestry included in the Census for the first time.</p> <p>Census data made available electronically for use on personal computers (PCs)</p>	<p>1991 Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) used to process Census forms</p> <p>1996 Census criticised in some of the media over destruction of Census forms</p>	<p>2001 For the first time, householders and individuals can volunteer to have their Census form retained for 99 years and then made publicly available.</p> <p>Questions about and computer and Internet use asked in the Census Intelligent Character Recognition (ICR) used to process Census forms</p> <p>2006 Householders given the option of completing an Internet version of the Census form, the eCensus. Nearly 10% of people in Australia chose this option.</p> <p>For the first time, a wide range of Census data made available to the public free-of-charge via the Bureau's website</p>	<p>2011 Centenary of national censuses in Australia eCensus option widely promoted. It is anticipated that at least a quarter of the population will complete their Census form via the Internet</p>



SECTION 3

REPORT ON PERFORMANCE



Chapter 5

Programs reports



Introduction

The ABS Forward Work Program 2009–10 to 2012–13 (FWP) sets out the strategic directions the ABS has chosen to pursue, to meet its broad objectives. The FWP was established in response to the statistical priorities of users, and in the context of the ABS mission.

Strategic Directions 2009–10 to 2012–13

1. Build and maintain an adequate resource base to support our core work program.
2. Actively build relationships and target specific areas to progress the National Statistical Service (NSS).
3. Determine our next generation of statistical requirements and information management infrastructure requirements and secure the necessary funding to enable this to occur. This includes an investment in innovation.
4. Develop a set of scenarios with regard to the organisation of the work of the ABS, including: work design; organisational design; how best to secure our future workforce; and the implications of supporting an expanding NSS.
5. As a key information agency, maintain our strategic knowledge base by investing in future workforce needs that will build on core capability and capacity.
6. Continued standardisation and harmonisation of data collection requirements and methods across the Australian government, including through e-data initiatives, with the aim of simplifying businesses' interactions with government and reducing duplication of data collection.
7. Influence the development and implementation of statistical standards and frameworks of relevance to our region through the implementation of the 'ABS's leadership role in International Statistics' strategy.

The Australian Statistician identified a number of key priority areas for the ABS in 2009–10 to meet these strategic directions. They are:

- The 2011 Census of Population and Housing
- Supporting COAG measurement issues
- Environmental Statistics Programs
- Renewal of core business systems infrastructure
- Engaging on data integration issues
- Progressing the National Statistical Service

The planned developments for individual program areas to meet the Strategic Directions are also set out in the FWP. Details of the achievements and performance of each program during in 2009–10 is presented in more detail in this chapter.

Statistical Programs

National Accounts

The National Accounts program provides data about the level of economic activity in, and the structure of, the Australian and state and territory economies. These statistics summarise the economic transactions that take place within the Australian economy and between Australia and the rest of the world in a systematic and comprehensive way.

National accounts information is used to: formulate and assess government macro-economic policies, both fiscal and monetary; assist in allocating Australian government funds to state governments; formulate industry development policies; measure productivity; undertake financial and business planning; and facilitate international economic comparisons. The main clients of the program are Australian federal and state governments, the Reserve Bank of Australia, international organisations such as the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, analysts in the private sector, the media and academics.

Key achievements

- National Accounts implemented the revised industry classifications – Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) 2006 – into statistical processes for 2009–10. This change ensured a more precise and timely breakdown of industries in the System of National Accounts data, and greater comparability with international standards.
- A wide range of time series statistics were back-cast following the adoption of new classifications in the National Accounts (ANZSIC 2006 and System of National Accounts 2008) and International and Financial Accounts (Balance of Payments Manual, sixth edition).
- Over the course of 2009–10, the ABS National Accounts program provided a series of seminars, training courses and other information to assist economic analysts, policymakers, the media and other stakeholders in better understanding and using national accounts.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product</i> (ABS cat. no. 5206.0)	Main economic indicator that is released quarterly. The national income, expenditure and product accounts reflect key economic flows – production, the distribution of incomes, consumption, saving and investment.
<i>Australian National Accounts: Financial Accounts</i> (ABS cat. no. 5232.0)	The financial accounts show the financial assets and liabilities of the nation and of each institutional sector, the market for financial instruments and inter-sectoral financial transactions.
<i>Australian System of National Accounts, 2008–09</i> (ABS cat. no. 5204.0)	Detailed yearly presentation of annual national accounts data.
<i>Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, 2008–09</i> (ABS cat. no. 5220.0)	Annual release that produces dissections of various national accounting aggregates by state and territory.

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Australian National Accounts: Non-Profit Institutions Satellite Account, 2006–07</i> (ABS cat. no. 5256.0)	New publication, first released in September 2009. Presents estimates of the direct contribution of the non-profit sector to the Australian economy within the context of a satellite account linked to the Australian System of National Accounts.
<i>Australian National Accounts: Input-Output Tables (electronic publication)</i> (ABS cat. no.5209.0.55.001)	Detailed articulation of the structure of economic production by detailing the flow of products into and between industries and their use for consumption, investment or export.

International Accounts

The International Accounts program provides statistics on Australia's Balance of Payments, International Investment Position and Merchandise Trade. The statistics are compiled from a range of surveys and administrative data sources with merchandise trade statistics derived from records lodged with Australian Customs and Border Protection Service.

The statistics are used to analyse Australia's external performance; formulate and evaluate macro-economic policy (including trade policy, trade treaties and foreign investment policy); analyse trends in income, capital flows and patterns of investment into and out of the economy; and undertake international comparisons. The International Accounts are inputs to the Australian National Accounts, providing the external transactions accounts and the external assets and liabilities components of the national balance sheet.

Key achievements

- A survey of foreign currency exposure in respect of March 2009 was conducted, with the results released in 2009–10. The survey provides important information on the hedging practices of Australian firms and the net foreign currency exposure after hedging. This survey was previously conducted in 2005.
- A new method of confidentialising trade in services estimates was introduced in 2009–10. The new method enables the release of more detailed data on trade in services with partner countries, enhancing the evaluation of bilateral trade agreements.

New international statistical standards

The national and international accounts are compiled within a strict system of concepts and classifications defined in international standards. Key international statistical standards, the System of National Accounts 2008 and the sixth edition of the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, were revised in 2009. As a result, the International Accounts program reviewed and changed methods for key statistical releases.

The ABS *Information Paper: Implementation of New International Statistical Standards in ABS National and International Accounts, September 2009* (ABS cat. no. 5310.0.55.002) presented a detailed report on the changes. The paper described the key changes to these standards and the impact on selected key aggregates from the Australian System of National Accounts and the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Balance of Payments and International Investment Position, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 5302.0)	A comprehensive set of quarterly international accounts statistics including chain volume measures for trade in goods and services and seasonally adjusted data for the current account.
<i>International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 5368.0)	Monthly information on exports and imports of goods and services on a balance of payments basis. Also includes a selection of tables showing merchandise exports and imports on a recorded trade basis.
<i>International Merchandise Imports, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 5439.0)	A monthly summary of information on Australia's merchandise imports on a recorded trade basis.
<i>Foreign Currency Exposure, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 5308.0)	Information on the value of foreign currency exposure, the value of hedging to mitigate the exposure, and qualitative information on hedging policies and practices.
<i>International Investment Position, Australia: Supplementary Statistics</i> (ABS cat. no. 5352.0)	Calendar year international investment position, financial account and primary income data by partner country. International investment position and financial account by industry for direct investment.
<i>International Trade in Services by Country, by State and by Detailed Services Category</i> (ABS cat. no. 5368.0.55.003 – Financial Year 2008–09) (ABS cat. no. 5368.0.55.004 – Calendar Year 2009)	International trade in services data by partner country and by state on a financial year basis and on a calendar year basis.

Prices

The Prices program compiles a number of main economic indicators – the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the House Price Index, the Wage Price Index, an annual Labour Price Index which includes non-wage price indexes, and a range of Producer Price Indexes and International Trade Price Indexes. The program also produces a Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Costs Index, and Analytical Living Cost Indexes for Selected Australian Household Types.

The program promotes, through provision of information papers, seminars and other means, a greater understanding in the community of concepts, methods and uses of price indexes.

The main clients for the program's outputs are the Reserve Bank of Australia; the Treasury; the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations; the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs; Australian government and state government agencies whose payments are indexed; economic analysts; and the general business community.

Key achievements

- The publication of the Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index commenced in August 2009. The government funded the ABS to develop an index which is designed to better reflect the out-of-pocket expenses of households whose primary income is from the aged pension or other government transfer payments.
- A review and update of the CPI Concepts, Sources and Methods publication was undertaken. This publication provides a comprehensive description of price index theory and methodology, focusing on the Australian CPI and the concepts, sources and methods behind its compilation. It also provides some insight into the kinds of conceptual and practical difficulties that ABS encounters in compiling the CPI, and how it deals with these challenges.
- The Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006 was implemented in both the Producer Price Indexes and the Labour Price Index, September quarter 2009.
- Support was provided for the production of the Measure of Housing Affordability indicator that is being produced by the ABS for the Council of Australian Governments (COAG). The indicator is developed using, as one of its principal inputs, dwelling sales data provided by the House Price Index section. The performance indicator relating to 2008–09 was provided to COAG in November 2009. Since then work has progressed on providing historical data to enable the calculation of a time series of housing affordability measures for the 2010 issue of *Measures of Australia's Progress* (ABS cat. no. 1370.0)
- Methods to improve price indexes were developed. This includes the stratification approach for house price series, and treatment of outliers in Consumer Price Indexes. The feasibility of using spatial indexes for expenditure adjustments and the lead-lag relationship between the producer price index and consumer price index were explored.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Consumer Price Index, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 6401.0)	The CPI provides a general measure of changes in prices of consumer goods and services purchased by Australian households: for production of volume estimates of components of the Australian National Accounts; as a basis for indexing pensions, superannuation payments and government taxes and charges; as an input into salary and wage negotiations; and for indexation of government bonds and business contracts.
<i>House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities</i> (ABS cat. no. 6416.0)	The main uses of the HPI are as a measure of price changes for established houses and for project homes; for analysis of trends in the housing market; and for production of estimates of the value of the housing stock.
<i>Labour Price Index, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 6345.0)	The main uses of the LPI are as a measure of wage inflation; to inform wage setting negotiations; for production of volume estimates of components of the Australian National Accounts; and for the indexation of business contracts.
<i>Producer Price Indexes, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 6427.0)	The main uses of the PPI are for production of volume estimates of components of the Australian National Accounts; as a guide to future inflationary trends; and for indexation of business contracts. Stage of production indexes are used to assess industry inflation impacts as commodities move through the economy.

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>International Trade Price Indexes, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 6457.0)	The main uses of the ITPI are for production of volume estimates of components of the Australian National Accounts; as a guide to 'rest of the world' inflationary impacts for Australia; and for indexation of business contracts.
<i>Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 6467.0)	The main uses of the PBLCI are as a measure of the impact of changes in prices on the out-of-pocket living costs experienced by pensioners and other government transfer recipient households, and as a basis for indexing pensions and other payments to government benefit recipients.
<i>Analytical Living Costs Index for Selected Australian Household types, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 6463.0)	The ALCI are supplementary analytical series to the CPI. The main uses of the ALCI are as a measure of the impact of changes in prices on the out-of-pocket living costs experienced by employee households, age pensioner households, other government transfer recipient households and self-funded retiree households.

Public Sector Accounts

The Public Sector Accounts program provides Government Finance Statistics (GFS) in respect of: the Australian government; state and territory governments, and their public non-financial corporations and public financial corporations; universities; and local governments. The statistics are compiled predominantly from government accounting systems.

GFS are used to monitor the financial performance of governments, to inform on the economic impact of government activities, and as an important input into Australian National Accounts. They are also used to assist in the distribution of Australian Government grants to state governments.

Key achievements

- The production of GFS incorporated reporting by governments according to new whole-of-government accounting standards.
- Significant improvements were made to state level data, leading to higher quality estimates.
- Work with government agencies ensured that the GFS framework is the primary framework used for the analysis of government finances.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Government Finance Statistics, Australia</i> , (ABS cat. no. 5512.0)	GFS operating statement, balance sheet and cash flow statement for the most recent year for each of the Australian Government, and state, territory and local governments for the following sectors: general government; public non-financial corporations; non-financial public; public financial corporations; and total public. Annual publication.
<i>Taxation Revenue, Australia</i> , (ABS cat. no. 5506.0)	Annual statistics of taxation revenue collected by all levels of government in Australia.

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Government Finance Statistics, Education, Australia</i> , (ABS cat. no. 5518.0.55.001)	Annual statistics on expenditure on education by the general government sector.
<i>Government Financial Estimates, Australia, 2009–10</i> (ABS cat. no. 5501.0.55.001)	Initial budget forecasts for the general government operating statement and cash flow statement compiled by each jurisdiction on a GFS basis.
<i>Government Finance Statistics, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 5519.0.55.001)	Quarterly GFS operating statements for general government and public non-financial corporations sectors.
<i>Australian System of Government Finance Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods</i> (ABS cat. no. 5514.0)	A description of the conceptual and analytical framework underlying GFS in Australia. It also provides an overview of data sources and the compilation methodology used.

Business Indicators

The Business Indicators program is responsible for the provision of a range of monthly, quarterly and bi-annual main economic indicators. These data are essential inputs to the compilation of Australian National Accounts and the corresponding supply-use and input-output tables.

The main clients of the program include the Treasury, the Reserve Bank of Australia, various state and territory departments, banks, industry associations, and other financial analysts. These clients use the statistics as partial indicators of the national accounts and as important measures of economic activity in their own right.

Key achievements

Business Indicators implemented the revised Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) 2006 into statistical processes for 2009–10. This change ensured a more precise and timely breakdown of industries in the System of National Accounts data, and greater comparability with international standards.

Key international statistical standards, the System of National Accounts 2008 and the sixth edition of the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, were revised in 2009. As a result, the Business Indicators program reviewed and changed methods for key statistical releases.

A feature article 'The Application of Realisation Ratios to the Survey of New Capital Expenditure' was included in the September quarter 2009 release of *Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure* (ABS cat. no. 5625.0).

Expanded coverage

In September, 2009, the coverage of the economy was expanded to include the non-employing units on the Australian Business Register for quarterly business indicators and capital expenditure publications. This increased the share of surveyed economic activity in the relevant industries by an estimated 10% to 12%, up to a coverage rate of around 98% in these industries. The higher increased coverage was introduced at the same time as the adoption of the new international statistical standards noted above.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Retail Trade, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 8501.0)	Monthly estimates on the value of retail turnover. In the final month of each quarter, estimates of quarterly chain volume measures are produced.
<i>Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 5625.0)	Quarterly estimates of private sector capital expenditure activity and expectations of future expenditure. The publication also includes derived realisation ratios which may be used to assist forecasts of investment activity.
<i>Business Indicators, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 5676.0)	Quarterly data on sales, labour costs, company profits and inventories. The publication contains both national and state level data and estimates in original, seasonally adjusted and trend terms. In addition data is presented as current price data by industry and, where appropriate, estimates are presented as chain volume measures.
<i>Mineral and Petroleum Exploration, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 8412.0)	Quarterly data on mineral and petroleum exploration activity classified by state, mineral, and type of lease, with petroleum data also classified by onshore and offshore activity. The publication also includes biannual data on expected exploration activity.

Innovation and Technology

The Innovation and Technology program provides data to assist the understanding of research, experimental development, innovation and new technologies, including their impact on economic and social outcomes. It provides measures of the penetration and use of selected new technologies within Australian businesses and households, particularly information and communication technology.

The program provides measures of innovation for Australian businesses; these outputs are now an integral part of the Business Characteristics Survey and in turn the Business Longitudinal Database. These measures assist the understanding of business activity and possible links to business performance and productivity.

Statistics for expenditure on research and experimental development are important inputs to Australia's national accounts. The program also contributes to the work of national and international agencies, through input into the review and development of statistical standards and frameworks in relevant fields of statistics.

Key achievements

- The Innovation and Technology program is reviewing the Research and Experimental Development suite of surveys and the Integrated Business Characteristics Strategy (IBCS). The reviews will ensure that the outputs continue to address existing and emerging policy needs and that the processes used to produce outputs are robust and efficient.
- The first Business Longitudinal Database Confidentialised Unit Record File was released in October 2009. Following the release and as part of the IBCS review, user consultations were initiated to ensure the production of an output which adequately supports robust performance and productivity microdata analysis.
- Introduction of web-based data collection for the Internet Activity Survey which has reduced provider load and improved quality and timeliness.

Business Longitudinal Database Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF)

The first Business Longitudinal Database CURF (BLD CURF) was released in October 2009. Following significant demand from a range of users, funding for the development of the BLD was included in the 2004–05 Federal Budget. The BLD comprises several longitudinal datasets containing both characteristics and financial data for small and medium businesses. The BLD CURF facilitates analyses of changes in the performance over time of a cohort of small and medium businesses. The BLD is designed for longitudinal purposes and not to produce accurate aggregated/population information. The BLD aims to increase understanding of:

- the activities or factors that are relevant to business performance
- the business characteristics that are associated with these activities or factors.

Information included in the BLD CURF is drawn from business characteristics data sourced from an ABS survey and financial data sourced from two main administrative sources: the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) and the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (Customs). The ABS acknowledges the assistance of both of these organisations in the development of the BLD and the BLD CURF.

The first release of the BLD CURF includes information for the first two panels included in the BLD. Panel One contains three reference periods of data (2004–05, 2005–06 and 2006–07) and Panel Two contains two reference periods of data (2005–06 and 2006–07).

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Research and Experimental Development, Businesses</i> (ABS cat. no. 8104.0)	This annual release presents measures of expenditure and human resources devoted to research and experimental development (R&D) carried out by businesses in Australia. It is classified by industry, type of expenditure, source of funds, type of employee, enterprise employment size, research field, socioeconomic objective and location of expenditure.
<i>Summary of IT Use and Innovation in Australian Business</i> (ABS cat. no. 8166.0)	This annual release presents key indicators on the incidence of use of information technology and innovation in Australian business, as collected by the Business Characteristics Survey
<i>Business Use of Information Technology</i> ABS cat. no. 8129.0)	This biennial release presents detailed IT indicators in Australian business, as collected by the Business Characteristics Survey.
<i>Selected Characteristics of Australian Business</i> (ABS cat. no. 8167.0)	This annual release presents business characteristics data for a selection of topics including; the nature of business ownership, collaborative arrangements, franchising agreements, performance measures, barriers, government financial assistance, finance sought, innovation, business use of information technology, skills, markets and competition.
<i>Internet Activity, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 8153.0)	This biannual release contains details of Internet activity supplied by Internet service providers in Australia. It includes information on Internet subscribers and their type of connection, the type of user (business/household), the volume of data downloaded, the speed of the Internet connection and the location of the subscriber (by state or territory).

Business Demographics

The Business Demographics program is responsible for the provision of information about the structure, characteristics and performance of businesses in the Australian economy. A specific direction of the work is on conceptual developments regarding business definitions and classifications. This information is part of a consistent framework for all ABS business statistics. The program provides detailed information about small businesses.

Key achievements

- Methods for future ABS business counts statistics were improved. Improvements include refinement of the scope of business covered, and industry level business counts using Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) 2006 imputation methods.
- New outputs for future ABS business counts statistics, such as the growth of business survivals tables, were developed.
- A memorandum of understanding with the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research was signed, for the provision of aggregate financial statistics for the purposes of assessing the impact of government assistance programs.
- Provision of a customised business and business operator counts consultancy service continued.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits</i> (ABS cat. no. 8165.0)	During 2009–10, the ABS business demography work program focused on enhancing methods for future editions. A new publication is expected to be released in October 2010. Further enhancements to the publication and related products are expected to be made during 2010–11.

Economic Analysis and Reporting

The Economic Analysis and Reporting program contributes to a consolidated program of statistical research and development in the ABS. This program includes macroeconomic and price research functions, productivity and human capital measurement, as well as innovation and digital economy research and coordination functions. The program is designed to bring together micro- and macroeconomic analysis functions.

The program enhances the value of ABS microdata holdings in relation to ABS economic statistics by conducting policy relevant analyses. The program publishes market sector and industry level estimates of productivity, and conducts ongoing research into the measurement and interpretation of productivity and human capital measurement. The program publishes the *Australian Economic Indicators* series (ABS cat. no. 1350.0).

The work program is developed in consultation with internal and external stakeholders. Consultations are conducted with the wider analytical community and policy agencies to keep pace with evolving analytical imperatives. A key objective of the consolidated program is to ensure cohesion and relevance of prices, national accounts, balance of payments, financial sector and innovation and digital economy statistics.

Key achievements

- The 16th Series Review of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) is well underway and key achievements to date include the release of a public discussion paper and a significant program of consultations with the community.
- The first release of multifactor productivity statistics under the new international standards System of National Accounts 2008 and the new industry classifications set out in Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) 2006 was made.
- The ABS has made two submissions and provided evidence at public hearings to inform the 'Inquiry into Raising the Level of Productivity Growth in the Australian Economy'.
- Several feature articles were published on the findings from business microdata analyses, including 'Characteristics and Performance of SMEs in Australia', 'Business Characteristics of Australian SME exporters' and 'Portrait of Australian Businesses, 2005–06 and 2006–07'.
- A research paper was presented at the 2009 Australian Conference of Economists, analysing factors underlying exporting patterns of Australian small and medium-size firms.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Australian System of National Accounts, Productivity Measures – Selected Industries</i> (ABS cat. no. 5204.0)	Annual release of productivity measures including labour productivity, capital productivity and multifactor productivity, as well as growth accounting measures on both an hours worked and quality adjusted hours worked basis.
<i>Experimental Estimates of Industry Multifactor Productivity</i> (ABS cat. no. 5260.0.55.002)	Annual release of experimental industry level estimates of multifactor productivity along with aggregate measures.

Industry Statistics

The Industry Statistics program provides information about the structure, financial operations, performance and production of Australian industries, including construction activity. The information is used to monitor the economy and the business cycle, and support the compilation of the Australian National Accounts.

The program consists of annual economy-wide financial statistics, a rolling collection program, modelling and analytical work covering specific industries or activities. Also included are construction statistics on levels of residential building, non-residential building and engineering works.

Program outputs are widely used for economic monitoring and forecasting, as input to the Australian National Accounts, international industry statistics, construction industry, finance and investment sector analysis, and in estimating population change, an essential input to regional planning.

Key achievements

- The first release of the information paper *Experimental Estimates for the Manufacturing Industry, 2006–07 and 2007–08* (ABS cat. no. 8159.0) was published. The estimates use directly-collected ABS data and data sourced from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) to produce experimental estimates at the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) class level.
- The annual Industry Statistics program review was completed and a long-term view of priorities for the core and rolling program was formulated. Industries will be covered systematically based on their contribution to the economy, and industry volatility. The work program will focus on producing only those data items that have clear high priority user requirements.
- Case studies were explored as an alternative approach and supplementary means for providing product information in the National Accounts Input-Output data around intermediate use and production.
- Autocoder was introduced into Building Approvals monthly processing cycle.
- Review of Building and Construction Business Statistics Centre's objectives and activities was completed. Recommendations will be progressed during 2010–2011.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Australian Industry</i> (ABS cat. no. 8155.0)	Presents annual estimates for most industry divisions and subdivisions at a national level for: income; expenses; industry value added; operating profit before tax; capital expenditure; and selected components of these aggregates and derivations. State/territory estimates of income, employment, and wages and salaries, at division level also included.
<i>Mineral and Petroleum Exploration, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 8412.0)	Quarterly release on actual and expected expenditure by private organisations exploring for minerals and petroleum (classified by state and commodity), and data provided on metres drilled. Petroleum exploration expenditure classified by onshore/offshore, and from the September quarter 1994, by region.
<i>Mining Indicators, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 8417.0)	Presents quarterly and annual key performance indicators of the mining industry, including income from sales, inventories, employment, exploration expenditure, lost time injuries and overseas mineral exploration expenditure.

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Manufacturing Indicators, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 8229.0)	Presents monthly, quarterly and annual key performance indicators of the manufacturing industry, including income from sales, inventories, employment, capital expenditure, the Performance of Manufacturing Index, and value of manufacturing exports and imports.
<i>Building Approvals, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 731.0)	Provides the number and value of dwelling units approved by sector and state, number and value of new other residential dwelling units approved by building type, and the number and value of non-residential building jobs. Produced monthly.
<i>Construction Work Done, Australia, Preliminary</i> (ABS cat. no. 8755.0)	Presents quarterly preliminary statistics for the value of building work done and engineering work done, for private and public sectors.
<i>Building Activity, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 8752.0)	Presents building activity statistics for states and territories, and private and public sectors. Includes number of dwelling units commenced and completed and value of building work commenced, completed, done and to be done. Released quarterly.
<i>Engineering Construction Activity, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 8762.0)	This quarterly product contains value of engineering construction work done, commenced and yet to be done, classified by state or territory, commodity (roads, bridges, pipelines etc), sector (public/private) undertaking the work, and sector for whom the work is being done.
<i>Dwelling Unit Commencements, Australia, Preliminary</i> (ABS cat. no. 8750.0)	A quarterly release with preliminary estimates of the number of dwelling units (new houses, new other residential and conversions, etc.) commenced for private sector and public sector, by state. Total number of dwelling units commenced by state in seasonally-adjusted and trend terms.

Agriculture

The Agriculture program aims to meet the statistical needs of agricultural policy makers and other key users of agricultural statistics by providing reliable and relevant information on commodity production, economic performance, and environmental practices. The main collections include an annual agricultural survey, a five-yearly agricultural census, and a range of monthly, quarterly and ad hoc surveys covering specific aspects of agriculture and related activities such as water use and resource management practices.

Key achievements

- A variety of outputs have been created based on the geocoded 2005–06 Agricultural Census to showcase the usefulness of spatial agricultural data. These include consultancies undertaken for ‘user defined’ geographies e.g. state irrigation regions, CSIRO sustainable yield regions, and experimental estimates at the mesh block level.
- Substantial research work was undertaken in the field of Agriculture Industry Finance Statistics to advance ABS’s understanding of how to best collect, generate, use and promote these statistics.
- A survey of the land management practices in the Great Barrier Reef Catchment was undertaken. In partnership with ABS methodology programs, a land-parcels based sample design was developed for the user-funded Land Management Practices Survey to collect information using a spatial, land-based area frame. This methodology enabled the release of land management practices adopted by farmers operating in the catchments which drain into the Great Barrier Reef Lagoon.
- Efficiencies in the collection of agriculture commodity data resulted in the release of final commodity estimates from the 2009 Agriculture Survey collection in April 2010, an improvement of two months on previous agriculture commodity surveys.

Agricultural Census

The Agricultural Census is held every five years, with the next collection being undertaken for the 2010–11 reference period. This is the second largest ABS collection after the Census of Population and Housing, and it plays a vital role in supporting the development and monitoring of Australia's agricultural, natural resources and water policies.

As part of the preparation for the 2010–11 Agricultural Census, the ABS initiated a wide-ranging consultative process with key data users, providers and stakeholders. The information paper *Agricultural Census: ABS Views on Content and Procedures, 2010–11* (ABS cat. no. 7103.0.80.002) outlines the procedures, new developments and the proposed content of the upcoming collection. Following the release of this information paper, the ABS met with key users at the end of 2009 and held an Agriculture and Land Statistics Workshop at the ABS House in Canberra in March 2010 to discuss the outcomes of these consultations.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Agricultural Commodities, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 7121.0)	This publication contains final estimates for the main commodities collected in the 2008–09 Agricultural Survey. Included are statistics on land use, industry activity, crop and horticultural area and production, and livestock numbers. Data will be available for a range of sub-state geographic levels, including Natural Resource Management (NRM) region and Statistical Division (SD).
<i>Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 7503.0)	Contains final estimates of gross and local values of production of major agricultural commodities for all states, territories and Australia, for 2008–09. Gross value of production data are provided for selected broad acre crops, fruit and vegetable crops, livestock slaughterings, and livestock products.
<i>Wheat Use and Stocks, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 7307.0)	Monthly data on the stocks, use and commitments of wheat grain in Australia. These data are obtained from surveys of bulk grain handlers, businesses that use wheat grain in Australia, and wheat grain exporters. The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE) uses these data to compile a monthly report on the Australian wheat industry.
<i>Livestock Products, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 7215.0)	Provides information on livestock slaughterings; meat production; exports of live sheep and cattle; exports of fresh, chilled, frozen and processed meat; whole milk intake by factories; market milk sales by factories and receipt of taxable wool by wool brokers and dealers.
<i>Land Management Practices in the Great Barrier Reef Catchments</i> (ABS cat. no. 4619.0.55.001)	This publication contains information on a range of land management practices undertaken in the catchments of the Great Barrier Reef. These practices include: soil testing for nutrients; fertiliser use; chemical use (including weed, pest and disease control); riparian management; surface water management and irrigation water management.

Transport

The Transport program encompasses a range of statistical collections, and supports improvements in the relevance, availability and quality of national transport data. Statistics from the transport collections are used to assist in policy and planning deliberations, particularly in the areas of long term planning, the regulation of road transport operators, for accident exposure and analysis of fuel use. Information about the vehicle fleet provides a measure of the stock of vehicles registered for road use at a point in time and supports the study of links between demographic change and vehicle ownership and use. Statistics on new motor vehicle sales provide an economic indicator of consumer confidence.

The main clients of the program are various Australian government agencies, in particular: the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government; the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics; the Commonwealth Grants Commission; the Commonwealth Treasury; state and territory government agencies; the National Road Transport Commission; and industry and academic organisations.

The ABS provides national leadership in transport statistics through its role as chair/secretariat for the Australian Transport Data Action Network.

Key achievements

- The Transport Metadata Portal has been developed. The portal has a dual purpose: it increases the visibility of strategically-important national transportation data, while providing information that assists in the identification of priorities for harmonisation and quality improvements.
- Initial consultation with transport stakeholders has been undertaken to gauge interest in developing a Transport Satellite Account in Australia. This account would improve understanding of the economic impacts of transport activity. Detailed options for developing a Transport Satellite Account will be discussed via a reference group in 2010. A business case for funding will be compiled in 2011 for the Standing Committee on Transport (SCOT) – a body that brings together the heads of state and territory transport agencies.
- Engagement was completed with transport data users to understand policy drivers and user requirements for a potential survey of freight movements. Research has commenced on options for data collection, with work expected to culminate in a business case for SCOT in late 2010.
- Research has been completed on methods for linking vehicles with industry through data matching. Recommendations on mandating the collection of Australian Business Number (ABN) at the time of vehicle registration/transfer have been provided to the Network Performance Standing Sub-Committee, a group that reports to SCOT.
- The Survey of Motor Vehicle Use was re-commenced in late 2009 following cessation of the collection in 2007. The first publication of results from the 2009–10 cycle will be in 2011.
- The systems and processes for the Motor Vehicle Census have been brought into line with corporately-supported end-to-end infrastructure. This project has included the development of a generic corporate tool for bulk-amending administrative data that can be adapted for use with other collections.

The Australian Transport Data Action Network (ATDAN)

ATDAN was formed in November 2009 to continue work started by the Strategic Research and Technology Working Group on implementing the Australian Transport Council's Data Action Plan. ATDAN reports through the Network Performance Standing Sub-Committee to the Standing Committee On Transport and the Australian Transport Council. The role of ATDAN is to progress the Australian Transport Council's Data Action Plan.

The Data Action Plan focuses on identifying key transportation data, filling data gaps, improving data visibility, harmonising jurisdictional collections and improving data accuracy and currency. The ABS is working with ATDAN on key projects, including:

- development of business cases for a Freight Movement Survey and a Transport Satellite Account
- investigations into linking registered vehicles with industries
- development of a website that holds metadata for transport collections identified as being of national significance.

The ABS will provide leadership through ATDAN in identifying and defining standards and classifications that will improve the consistency of key jurisdictional data collections.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Information Paper: Experimental Estimates of Motor Vehicle Usage, 12 months ended 31 October 2008</i> (ABS cat. no. 9222.0)	Contains experimental estimates of motor vehicle usage. It includes total distance travelled, laden business distance, tonne-kilometres and fuel consumption for passenger vehicles, motor cycles, trucks and buses registered in Australia. The conceptual and methodological issues underpinning the experimental estimates are also outlined.
<i>Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 9314.0)	This monthly publication contains seasonally-adjusted and trend data on sales of new motor vehicles in Australia. These data are based on the Vehicle Facts series produced by the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries.
<i>Motor Vehicle Census, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 9309.0)	This publication contains statistics relating to vehicles registered at 31 March 2009 with a motor vehicle registration authority. Motor vehicle registration statistics are compiled from data made available by various state and territory motor vehicle registration authorities and reflect the information in registration documents.

Tourism

The Tourism program is responsible for producing regular, timely and coherent statistics on tourism activities. It also undertakes a coordination and liaison role between tourism statistics users and other areas of the ABS that produce related statistics. The program is also responsible for the development and maintenance of tourism frameworks, standards and concepts.

Tourism statistics are used to assist in economic analysis and policy formation relating to tourism, to measure the size and structure of tourism-related industries, to allocate state government funding to regional areas, and for local government planning and investment. The Survey of Tourist Accommodation statistics are an input into the policy and planning activities of government and industry, particularly in relation to tourism activity in regional areas.

The main clients of the program are: the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism; state and territory tourism departments; tourism industry associations; academic and research groups; as well as marketing and consultancy bodies.

Key achievements

- A statistical program was finalised for the collection of supply side statistics to underpin future benchmarking of the Tourism Satellite Account.
- The Tourism Satellite Account was re-benchmarked and the new international statistical standards and related classifications were implemented, including the *Tourism Satellite Account: Recommended Methodological Framework 2008* (United Nations World Tourism Organisation et al, 2008) and the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) 2006.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Australian National Accounts: Tourism Satellite Account</i> (ABS cat. no. 5249.0)	Annual estimates of the direct contribution of the tourism industry to the Australian economy within the context of a satellite account linked to the Australian System of National Accounts. Contains information about the contribution of tourism to major economic aggregates, such as GDP, as well as details by type of visitor, what products were purchased by tourists, and which industries supplied those products.
<i>Tourist Accommodation, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 8635.0)	Quarterly releases provide information on the supply of, and demand for, tourist accommodation facilities. Data include number of establishments, capacity and employment for the quarter and occupancy and takings from accommodation for each month, by type of establishment and by star grading.
<i>Overseas Arrivals and Departures</i> (ABS cat. no. 3401.0)	Comprises a summary of monthly data by category of movement. For visitors arriving and residents departing short term, the intended length of stay, main purpose of journey, principal destination (departures) or country of usual residence (arrivals) and state and territory in which most time was spent.

Environment

The ABS Environment statistics program contributes to the growing need for comprehensive and coordinated information about Australia's environment, focusing on key themes such as water, energy, land and waste management. The program focuses on the complex inter-relationships between the environment, society and the economy, particularly through the development and production of Environmental Accounts which link availability, use and management of natural resources and economic activity.

Given the emergence of challenging issues in the environmental field, a significant component of the work program involves active engagement with partners to understand key information needs, and to coordinate the development of statistics.

Key achievements

- Significant changes and advancements to the production of environmental accounts were instituted. These include a move to integrate existing accounts covering different environmental themes, expanding the breadth and depth of account production to incorporate new themes, and stronger alignment with the System of National Accounts. The introduction of a regular release schedule is an improvement on previous accounts (which have been irregular releases).
- International contributions were made to the further research and development of the System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA).
- Development of national information for measuring biodiversity and waste management practices is ongoing.
- Further work has been done to strengthen the spatial referencing of environment data. This includes the release of Land Management Practices in the Great Barrier Reef catchment survey output. This was the first full-scale ABS survey collecting information using an area-based sampling frame.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Land Management Practices in the Great Barrier Reef catchments, 2008–09</i> (ABS cat. no. 4619.0)	This release contains land management practice information at the catchment level, for holdings undertaking agricultural activities identified as impacting on the quality of water discharging onto the Great Barrier Reef. This information is a necessary plank in the evidence framework forming the strategy for assessing progress towards long-term improvement in reef condition.
<i>Environmental Issues: Waste Management and Transport Use, March 2009</i> (ABS cat. no. 4602.0.55.002)	The annual environmental household survey focused on waste management and transport use in 2009. It presents data on household recycling and reuse of waste, methods of disposal of hazardous waste and use/non-use of private and public transport. Where relevant, results from past surveys (1996, 2000, 2003 and 2006) have been included for comparison.
<i>Australia's Environment: Issues and Trends, 2010</i> (ABS cat. no. 4613.0)	Presents a broad selection of environmental statistics and information that inform topical environmental issues. The issue for this edition was climate change. The publication aims to meet the information needs of a general readership.

Energy

The ABS Energy statistics program supports the integration of information about energy resources, such as supply and use, with a particular emphasis on highlighting the relationships between energy, the economy and society. The program actively engages with partners to coordinate energy information needs and the developments of energy statistics.

Key achievements

- The range of statistical information available on energy expenditure and use has been expanded. With the development and successful implementation of the Energy, Water and Environment Survey, physical information was collected alongside financial information. This will enable the development of energy indicators along with price information, both of which are in high demand.
- Energy Supply activity-based statistics have been developed and released, to complement existing industry-based statistics, in the form of the *Alternative View of Electricity and Gas Supply Activity* (ABS cat. no. 4647.0).
- Substantive input was made to the development of the Energy Statistics Review Report. The report considers the energy data needs of the key bodies responsible for developing national energy and environment policies, as well as the key statistical and research agencies responsible for informing governments and the community on energy and environment issues.
- Contribution to the development of international standards and frameworks for energy statistics was achieved through the compilation of 'International Recommendations on Energy Statistics'.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Alternative View of Electricity and Gas Supply Activity</i> (ABS cat. no. 4647.0)	This publication presents information based on an alternative view of electricity supply and gas supply activity in Australia for the reference years 2006–07 to 2007–08. Estimates are provided for: electricity supply, including generation, transmission, distribution, and on-selling activities; gas supply, including extraction, pipeline transport and distribution (including wholesaling and retail) activities.
<i>Energy Account, 2006–07</i> (ABS cat. no. 4604.0)	This publication represents the third edition of the ABS Energy Account, and responds to ongoing demand for information about energy products within Australia's economy. In particular, it contains estimates of the physical supply and use of energy products in Australia over the period 2001–02 to 2006–07, and introduces experimental monetary use estimates in respect of 2004–05. It also provides a time series of energy intensity measures for selected Australian industries. Finally, it includes energy resource stock estimates for the calendar years 2002 to 2007 in both physical and monetary terms.
<i>Australian Industry – Energy Supply Industry Data Cubes</i> (ABS cat. no. 8155.0)	Financial and quantity data relating to Energy Supply for the 2007–08 reference year are available with the release of this publication. These were collected from all electricity and natural gas producers, transmitters and distributors.
<i>Energy in Focus</i> (ABS cat. no. 4614.0.55.001)	This publication presents an ongoing series of small articles on topical energy-related issues highlighting ABS statistics in the field.

Water

The ABS Water statistics program supports the integration of information about water resources, such as availability and use. There is a particular emphasis on highlighting the relationships between water and society, the economy and the environment.

The program actively engages with partners to coordinate water information needs and the developments of water statistics.

Clients of the program include Commonwealth Departments and agencies: Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts; Bureau of Rural Sciences; Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics; National Water Commission; Murray–Darling Basin Authority and Bureau of Meteorology; as well as state/territory government departments with water responsibilities; research organisations; and businesses.

Data usage is varied and includes the formulation of policies, economic analysis, research and forecasting as well as meeting international reporting obligations.

Key achievements

- During 2009–10, the ABS conducted three survey collections to gather water supply and use information from water service providers and business. These surveys were: Energy, Water and Environment Survey, the Electricity Generators Survey and the Water Supply Survey. Data on water use and management collected from the Agricultural Survey will also contribute to the water account. Results of these surveys will be compiled and released in December 2010.
- The ABS continues to work with the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) on the development of a National Water Account and National Water Information Standards under the *Water Act 2007*. In 2009–10, the focus was around water information, including work to articulate respective roles and understand the relationships between different water statistics products, and to minimise duplication of data collection from providers. The ABS is represented on BoM's National Water Account Committee and interdepartmental committee on water information. Also, an ABS officer was outposted to BoM during 2009–10. This was done in order to assist in the development of water use accounting standards, and to contribute to planning water resource assessments and other information products to be produced by BoM.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Water Use on Australian Farms</i> (ABS cat. no. 4618.0)	This annual publication presents estimates of agricultural water use (including pastures and crops irrigated), irrigation water sources, methods, water management, expenditure and assets. Estimates are presented at Australia, state/territory, Statistical Division, Natural Resource Management region and Murray–Darling Basin geographic levels. Additional data cubes will be released at a later time as necessary.
<i>Experimental Estimates of the Gross Value of Irrigated Agricultural Production</i> (ABS cat. no. 4610.0.55.008)	Gross Value of Irrigated Agricultural Production (GVIAP) refers to the gross value of agricultural commodities that are produced with the assistance of irrigation. A set of experimental estimates has been created for the reference period 2000–01 to 2006–07 at a national, state and Murray–Darling Basin level. Additional data cubes, including chain volume measures at the national level and some further regional breakdown, will be released at a later date. The ABS plans to release GVIAP estimates on an annual basis from 2007–08.

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Water Account, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 4610)	The four-yearly ABS Water Account, Australia provides statistics on the physical flow (supply and use) of water in the Australian economy, and economic statistics relating to water suppliers (e.g. the water supply industry) and water users (e.g. farms that irrigate, manufacturers that use water as an input into production).

Demography

The key objectives of the Demography program are to produce estimates of the recent and projected population, and to analyse the components of population growth and demographic trends.

The program produces population estimates and projections for households, families and Indigenous populations, as well as mortality statistics.

These statistics are produced to meet a range of legislative requirements that make reference to population estimates. Demography data assists in the formulation of government policies, and in the planning and administration of government programs. The information enables planning, analysis and research by all those interested in the causes and consequences of population change. This includes governments, businesses, community organisations and academic institutions.

Key achievements

- Developing and implementing improvements to preliminary Net Overseas Migration (NOM) estimation methodology, through working closely with ABS methodology areas and the Department of Immigration and Citizenship.
- Conduct of the annual Population Estimates Technical Workshop with representatives of each state and territory government to explain and discuss methodological issues associated with the compilation of population estimates.
- Release of 2006 Census-based experimental estimates and projections of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population for states/territories. Improvements in age disaggregation, mortality estimation and broad user consultation on projection assumptions allowed better aggregation of remoteness areas and Indigenous regions.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Australian Demographic Statistics</i> (ABS cat. no. 3101.0)	Quarterly releases of population estimates for Australia, states and territories.
<i>Information Paper: Improving Net Overseas Migration Estimation, Mar 2010</i> (ABS cat. no. 3412.0.55.001)	Information paper providing an overview of the changes made to improve preliminary NOM estimation and reduce the large revisions to estimated resident population.
<i>Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 1991 to 2021</i> (ABS cat. no. 3238.0)	Release of experimental estimates and projections for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, based on the 2006 Census results.

Labour

The Labour statistics program provides information about the structure and performance of the labour market. The program produces statistics on labour supply (such as labour force participation, unemployment, employment conditions and broader measures of labour under-utilisation); labour demand (such as employee earnings, job vacancies and labour costs); and industrial relations. These data are used extensively in the analysis and monitoring of the economy, the labour market, government policies and programs, and population groups of particular interest.

Statistics on labour force participation, employment and unemployment, as well as more detailed information covering age, country of birth, family status, industry, occupation, hours of work, duration of unemployment and under-employment is released either monthly or quarterly.

Statistics on particular aspects of the Australian labour market, including labour force experience, working arrangements, forms of employment, labour mobility, under-employment, job search experience, independent contracting, labour hire, working time arrangements, retirement, barriers and incentives to labour force participation, are published periodically.

Key achievements

- Enhancements have been made to the regular monthly and quarterly information available from the Labour Force Survey. A new measure of aggregate monthly hours worked, which is the total number of hours worked in Australia in a calendar month, was introduced in the July 2009 edition of *Labour Force, Australia* (ABS cat. no. 6202.0). Additional information about month to month transitions, referred to as 'gross flows' data, was incorporated into the regular monthly releases, as were measures of labour force under-utilisation.
- Restoring the full sample for the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and reinstating the Job Vacancies Survey (JVS). The LFS sample was restored progressively over four reference months, from September to December 2009. The December 2009 estimates, released in January 2010, were the first under the fully restored sample. The JVS was reinstated for the November 2009 reference period, and the first results covering the November and February quarters were released in April 2010.
- The ABS released a new reference product, *Labour Force Survey Standard Products and Data Item Guide* (ABS cat. no. 6103.0), in December 2009. This guide provides a useful reference for all users of labour force survey statistics on the range of standard products available, including time series spreadsheets and data cubes, and the data items available from these products.
- The updated industry classification, Australia and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) 2006, was introduced in the Average Weekly Earnings and Job Vacancies collections in the August 2009 and November 2009 survey cycles respectively. Details about the new classification and other statistical changes were provided in advance through Information Papers. The new classification provides a more contemporary breakdown of industries and greater comparability with international standards.
- Developed a new method for constructing a coherent set of seasonally-adjusted series for total hours of work for 19 industries.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Labour Force, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 6202.0)	This publication provides key summary results from the monthly Labour Force Survey including the unemployment rate and labour force participation rate. Information on numbers of employed and unemployed persons classified by sex, full-time/part-time status, states and territories and some age groups, and persons not in the labour force are presented. Additional information on aggregate hours worked, gross flows and labour force under-utilisation has been incorporated.
<i>Average Weekly Earnings, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 6302.0)	This quarterly publication contains estimates of average weekly earnings classified by sector, state or territory, and by industry for males, females and all persons.
<i>Information Paper: Changes to Average Weekly Earnings, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 6302.0.55.002)	This information paper summarises changes that were introduced to the Average Weekly Earnings, Australia, August 2009 issue of the publication. The paper advises the timing of the proposed changes, the reasons behind the changes and provides access to a mock-up of the proposed publication and the time series spreadsheets that will be available from the ABS website.
<i>Employee Earnings and Hours, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 6306.0)	This publication contains distributional data on employee earnings and hours, occupational earnings, and data on pay-setting instruments. The survey from which the information is produced is run every two years with the latest data relating to August 2008.
<i>Job Vacancies, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 6354.0)	Released every quarter with some information being available for sector, state and territory, and industry.
<i>Information Paper: Reinstatement of Job Vacancies Survey</i> (ABS cat. no. 6354.0.55.001)	This paper describes changes to Job Vacancies statistics, as a result of the Job Vacancies Survey being suspended during 2008–09 and reinstated for the November 2009 survey.
<i>Industrial Disputes, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 6321.0.55.001).	Data on industrial disputes, including working days lost, cause of dispute and reason work resumed, published quarterly.
<i>Australian Labour Market Statistics</i> (ABS cat. no. 6105.0)	The quarterly publication brings together a wide range of ABS labour data. It includes feature articles on current labour market issues. Articles in 2009–10 covered topics including labour under-utilisation, methods of setting pay, independent contractors, labour hire workers, and retrenched unemployed people.
<i>Forms of Employment, Australia</i> (ABS Cat. no. 6359.0) and Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs)	The Forms of Employment Survey (FOES) provides data about the nature of employment arrangements in the Australian workforce. The FOES provides information on a range of employment characteristics, including fixed-term contracts, casual work, job flexibility and security, independent contracting, and the use of labour hire firms. In January 2010, Basic and Expanded CURFs for FOES were released using data from the November 2008 survey.

Rural and Regional Statistics

The Rural and Regional Statistics program aims to improve the availability of regional data including data at metropolitan, non-metropolitan, urban and rural levels. Activities undertaken under the program include improving access to, and dissemination of, ABS data and data from other sources, and developing new indicators where feasible. A particular focus of this work is on utilising administrative data maintained by Australian Government and state/territory government agencies, where data have a location identifier with the potential to be used in presenting data geographically. The activities of the Rural and Regional Statistics program are undertaken by the Rural and Regional Statistics National Centre.

The Rural and Regional Statistics program provides leadership across the National Statistical Service. It coordinates, produces and disseminates statistics that will assist policy analysts and researchers understand change across rural, regional and remote areas of Australia; meet the regional policy priority needs of Australian government agencies; and meet the needs of other researchers and policy analysts interested in comparative assessment between regions in different states and territories.

Key achievements

- In April 2010 ABS released an enhanced National Regional Profile product which included some important new data items and a new map interface. New data was provided showing small area counts of persons receiving government benefits, sourced from Centrelink and other relevant Australian Government agencies. The product has adopted a simple Google Map interface, with better search functions for data users. In addition, the Rural and Regional Statistics National Centre made significant improvements to the production systems behind the scenes, thereby providing greater efficiency.
- In February 2010, the ABS management team endorsed a new ABS Geospatial Infrastructure Strategy, to be implemented over 2010–11 to 2012–13. The aim of the strategy will be to improve access to geospatial statistics across the ABS.

Socio-economic context for the Murray–Darling Basin, September 2009

Under the *Water Act 2007*, the Murray–Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) has responsibility for developing and implementing a Basin Plan for the Murray–Darling Basin. There are a number of elements within the Basin Plan that require regional socio-economic information – either as a specific mandatory component of the Basin Plan, or as inputs to analysis used to develop the Basin Plan. In 2009, the ABS managed a collaborative project to provide extensive regional socio-economic data and analyses for the Basin and sub-regions within it. The report published in September 2009 is an important first step in providing a description of the context in which Basin water resources are used. Since then, the ABS has continued to provide relevant data and advice to the MDBA to support its requirements for a regional socio-economic assessment of the Basin. A copy of the report can be found at <http://www.mdba.gov.au>.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>National Regional Profile</i> (ABS cat. no. 1379.0.55.0010)	Annual release. Provides a statistical profile for over 2,000 regions across Australia, including all Local Government Areas (LGAs) and Statistical Local Areas (SLAs). The profiles contain over 300 data items covering key social, economic and environment data. Data in the profiles are from ABS and non-ABS sources. Where possible, a five year time series has been presented for each region.
<i>Wage and Salary Earner Statistics for Small Areas, Time Series, 2003–04 to 2006–07</i> (ABS cat. no. 5673.0.55.03)	Annual release. These data are detailed characteristics of wage and salary earners in cross-tabulations by age, sex, occupation and income for the years 2003–04 to 2006–07. Most of these data are presented for each SLA and LGA in Australia. The estimates have been compiled using aggregated individual income tax data from the ATO.
<i>Estimates of Income for Small Areas, Time Series, 2003–04 to 2006–07</i> (ABS cat. no. 6524.0.55.002)	Annual release. Data are provided on the number of individuals and the amount of income received from wage and salary, own unincorporated business, investment, superannuation and annuities, and other income (excluding government pensions and allowances). An estimate of total income (excluding government pensions and allowances) is also provided. The estimates have been compiled using aggregated individual income tax data from the ATO.

Census of Population and Housing

The Census of Population and Housing (Census) is the largest statistical collection undertaken by the ABS, and one of the most important. Its objective is to accurately measure the number and key characteristics of people in Australia on Census night, and the dwellings in which they live. This provides a reliable basis for the estimation of the population of each of the states, territories and local government areas, primarily for electoral purposes and the distribution of government funds.

The Census also provides the characteristics of the Australian population and its housing within small geographic areas, and for small population groups. Census data is used to support the planning, administration, policy development and evaluation activities of governments and other users.

Key achievements

- A wide-ranging review and consultation process was conducted with clients on the proposed products for the 2011 Census.
- A new Indigenous Enumeration Strategy was developed to improve the quality of information collected for this important population group.
- A new Northern Australia Enumeration Strategy was developed to overcome the challenges associated with this region of Australia.
- Improvements were made to the eCensus application which will further enable Australians to participate in the next Census via the Internet.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
Census TableBuilder	This product is an online tool which allows clients to create their own tables of confidentialised census data by accessing all variables in the Census Output Record File for all ABS geographic areas.

Centenary of census taking

The Census is held every five years and will next be conducted on 9 August 2011. This marks a significant milestone – 100 years of national census taking in Australia. The ABS has four key goals for the 2011 Census. These are to:

1. improve coverage, which is the primary goal of the census
2. ensure the relevance of the census data to users and providers
3. use resources effectively and efficiently, and
4. protect the privacy of the public.

Health and Disability

The Health and Disability program includes the development and compilation of statistics focusing on health status and risk factors, medical actions, patient experience with health services and the prevalence of disabilities in the community and how that affects their functioning in society.

The information is used by Commonwealth and state and territory governments for performance assessment, policy making and program evaluation. The data is applied by non-government organisations in designing programs to support community groups and by academics to better understand the health outcomes of the population and what drives them. The program has worked closely with the Department of Health and Ageing in meeting their information needs, supporting this relationship through the work of an ABS outposted officer.

Key achievements

- The Australian Health Survey for 2011–2013 was designed and agreed.
- Data was collected for the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2009.
- A new program was developed for measuring patient experience with a wide range of health services, and the first round of the Patient Experience Survey was undertaken.
- The provision of information that supports the National Healthcare and National Disability Agreements reporting requirements for COAG, particularly performance data, was continued. These results were also presented to the community.

Australian Health Survey

In 2009–10, the ABS commenced the development of a new health survey program that combines the National Health Survey, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey together with two new elements – a National Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey and a National Health Measures Survey.

The new Australian Health Survey, to be conducted in 2011–2013, is being planned in close consultation with the Department of Health and Ageing and the Heart Foundation, which have provided supporting funding for the new components of the survey. This will be the largest national health survey undertaken in Australia and will include, for the first time, an option for respondents to participate voluntarily in a pathology collection of blood, urine and saliva to test key health indicators such as cholesterol, sodium and folate levels.

This combined survey approach will fill significant data gaps in the health information sector.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>National Health Survey: Summary of Results, Australia, 2007–08</i> (ABS cat. no. 4364.0)	This product was reissued in August 2009 with improved usefulness of data. It provides an overview of Australian's health, health risk factors and health related actions – national tables.
<i>National Health Survey: Summary of Results, State Tables, 2007–08</i> (ABS cat. no. 4362.0)	An overview of Australian's health, health risk factors and health related actions – state and territory tables. Reissued in September 2009 with improved usefulness of data.
<i>National Health Survey – Confidentialised Unit Record Files, 2007–08, Basic and Expanded</i> (ABS cat. no. 4324.0.55.001)	A confidentialised unit record file of the National Health Survey to support researchers.

Education and Training

The Education and Training statistics program covers the activities of the National Centre for Education and Training Statistics. This includes the development and compilation of statistics from early childhood education and care, through to formal and non-formal adult learning. The information is used by Commonwealth and state and territory governments for performance assessment and policy making.

Key elements of the program include the development of an Australian Longitudinal Learning Database; management of the National Schools Statistics Collection; establishment of the National Early Childhood Education and Care Data Collection; and the regular conduct of a number of surveys related to education, training and work.

Key achievements

- The Education and Training program area led the development of a new National Early Childhood Education and Care Data Collection, which will support an information base required for the Council of Australian Governments' (COAG) early childhood reform agenda. The database will facilitate assessment of the commitment to universal access to early childhood education for all children in the year before formal schooling.
- A review of the quality and procedures for Indigenous status reporting in school enrolment data was undertaken for the 2009 National Schools Statistics Collection. The review highlighted varying practices in the reporting of this information by jurisdiction and sector, including variability in the questions on enrolment forms and means for recording and storing the data. The ABS is continuing to work with data providers to harmonise the collection of Indigenous status information, supporting data coherence across jurisdictions and sector.
- The program area engaged with the COAG Reform Council to assist with national reporting of education and training statistics forming baseline measures in the COAG National Education Agreement and the National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development.
- Methods were developed for pooling data from multiple surveys to improve accuracy of estimates for the Survey of Education and Work.

Australian Longitudinal Learning Database

The Education and Training statistics program is leading the development of an Australian Longitudinal Learning Database, which will support a student-centred view on progress and pathways through the education and training sectors, from early childhood through to higher education and adult learning.

With the assistance of education departments in several jurisdictions, the program area has successfully trialled the collection of confidentialised unit record level data on school enrolments, with a view to establishing a linked longitudinal database. This database would link student records over time with other information on student outcomes. It would support a better understanding of student transitions through the education system and ultimately provide information on the outcomes for students following education and training, such as entry into the labour market.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Education and Work, Australia</i> , (ABS cat. no. 6227.0)	This annual publication supports ongoing monitoring of information about the educational experiences of persons aged 15–64 years, along with data on people's transition between education and work. It is published along with a series of data cubes that cover key national, state and territory education and training performance information.
<i>Education and Training Experience, 2009</i> (ABS cat. no. 6278.0)	The four-yearly publication provides detailed information on educational participation, attainment and learning. This includes completed qualifications; level and field of educational attainment; details of training courses completed; training outcomes; difficulties, barriers and employer support to education and training. The publication also includes information on work-related learning.

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Schools, Australia, 2009</i> (ABS cat. no. 4221.0)	Detailed annual presentation of information on Australian schools, students and staff. The 2009 report includes a summary of the quality of Indigenous school student enrolment data for each state and territory education department and the non-government education sector.
<i>Childhood Education and Care, Australia, June 2008</i> (ABS cat. no. 4402.0)	This three-yearly publication was reissued in October 2009. The Childhood Education and Care Survey provides information on child care including the type, cost and hours of care, together with information on early childhood education and learning. This includes information on types of preschool programs attended, the usual hours of attendance and cost. The survey also explores parental involvement in selected informal learning activities for children.

Crime and Justice

The Crime and Justice statistics program leads national statistical activity aimed at developing and improving the information available in this field. The program covers the activities of the National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics (NCCJS), which comprises three separate user-funded statistical units: the National Crime Statistics Unit; the National Criminal Courts Statistics Unit; and the National Corrective Services Statistics Unit. These units compile and publish national statistics on recorded crime, courts and corrections, and work to improve the quality of these collections in cooperation with statistical practitioners in the jurisdictions.

The ABS also oversees a survey program in the field of crime and justice statistics. This includes both special purpose surveys aimed at producing rates of victimisation for personal and household crimes, and information on the experience and consequences of crime, as well as more general surveys aimed at understanding the experience of crime within a broader social context.

The main clients of this program include the Australian Attorney-General's Department and the state and territory agencies responsible for police services, courts administration and corrective services. Agencies responsible for criminal justice research and policy are also significant users of program outputs.

Key achievements

- The *Australian Standard Offence Classification (ASOC) 2008* (ABS cat. no. 1234.0) and the *National Offence Index 2009* (ABS cat. no. 1234.0.55.001) were implemented across the crime and justice administrative collections for most jurisdictions. ASOC 2008 was adopted to provide a more contemporary classification of offences, taking into account significant legislative changes that have occurred at state and territory level since the first edition was released.
- Continued quality assurance of Indigenous status data across the three criminal justice sectors resulted in expanded dissemination of Indigenous status data across the victim and offender collections.
- A feasibility study was conducted into the collection of data on sentence quantum for defendants found guilty in Australia's criminal courts. The study proved the viability of collecting national sentence quantum information using a number of different counting rules, each with the potential to inform various user and policy needs relating to sentencing. The results from the feasibility study and recommendations for the project were presented to the National Criminal Courts Statistics Unit Board of Management in May 2010 with a view to conducting a pilot test of Higher Criminal Court data in 2011.

- The assessment of Federal Defendants information and data held within the courts sector concluded in 2009 and resulted in the first release of *Federal Defendants, Selected States and Territories* (ABS cat. no. 4515.0).
- Release of the first results from the redesigned national ABS Crime Victimization Survey for 2008–09 (ABS cat. no. 4530.). This survey employed new methods for pooling data from multiple surveys to improve accuracy and estimates.

Recorded Crime – Offenders

Following extensive development spanning a number of years and involving consultation with key data users and providers, the first issue of the Recorded Crime – Offenders publication was released in August 2009.

The publication presents characteristics of alleged offenders who have been proceeded against by police, including youth offenders, who in 2008–09 comprised nearly a third (30%) of the total offender population.

With the release of this publication, ABS national statistical collections sourced from police, criminal courts and corrective services administrative agencies now provide a snapshot of victims and offenders flowing through the four main stages or processes of the criminal justice system.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Recorded Crime – Offenders, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 4519.0)	New publication, first released in August 2009 (selected states and territories only), second issue released March 2010 (National data available). Future issues will be presented annually.
<i>Recorded Crime – Victims, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 4510.0)	Provides annual indicators of the level and nature of recorded crime victimisation in Australia.
<i>Crime Victimization, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 4530.0)	New publication, first released in February 2010. Presents annual survey data on feelings of personal safety, and victimisation information for selected personal and household offences.
<i>Criminal Courts, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 4513.0)	Annual publication which presents characteristics of defendants, including information on their offences and sentence outcomes.
<i>Prisoners in Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 4517.0)	Includes annual information from the National Prisoner Census on persons held in adult prisons, including their characteristics, sentence lengths, and offences for which they are imprisoned.
<i>Corrective Services, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 4512.0)	Presents quarterly information on numbers and rates of persons in custody and those serving community-based corrections orders.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics program aims to provide a range of information to monitor the social and economic circumstances of Indigenous Australians. It aims to support the development, implementation and evaluation of relevant policies and programs of Australian federal, state and territory governments.

An overriding goal of the program is to enhance the quality and utility of Indigenous data sets and data collection systems across the national statistical system.

Key users of the information produced by the program are Australian and state and territory government agencies, Indigenous communities and organisations, and academic and research institutions.

Key achievements

- Results and analysis from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey 2008 were disseminated, including a summary publication, state/territory data cubes, comprehensive users' guide, and CURFs.
- Data for the performance indicators of the COAG National Indigenous Reform Agreement were provided.
- A framework for measuring the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples was published.
- COAG-funded work was undertaken, to assess the quality of Indigenous identification information in key administrative data sets, as described in Schedule F of the National Indigenous Reform Agreement. This work will continue in 2010–11.
- An Indigenous Community Engagement Strategy to facilitate the return of information to Indigenous communities and organisations and maintain dialogue on data collection and use was implemented.
- Focus continued on Indigenous enumeration in the five-yearly Census of Population and Housing and improving estimates of the Indigenous population and associated life-expectancy.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2008</i> (ABS cat. no. 4714.0)	This survey was conducted from August 2008 to April 2009, collecting information from approximately 13,300 Indigenous Australians living in remote and non-remote areas, including discrete communities. The publication was released in October 2009 and provides information on a range of demographic, social, environmental and economic indicators.
<i>Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 1991 to 2021</i> (ABS cat. no. 3238.0)	This publication contains experimental estimates and projections (based on assumptions on past and future fertility, mortality and migration) of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population for the period 1986 to 2021. Includes projections for Indigenous Regions and Remoteness Areas by sex and five-year age groups, for the period 2007 to 2021.
<i>The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, 2010</i> (ABS cat. no. 4704.0)	This release aims to provide a comprehensive statistical overview, largely at the national level, of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and welfare. Analysis is released on a topic by topic basis as it is available. The releases to date include analysis about health status and risk factors, education and health, and mothers and children.

Publications – Product	Explanation
<p><i>Framework for Measuring Wellbeing: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, 2010</i> (ABS cat. no. 4703.0)</p>	<p>This publication describes a framework to measure the wellbeing of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It will be used to guide the development of ABS Indigenous statistics, by providing an organisational structure to aid the identification of data gaps and areas for statistical improvements. It will provide a useful structure for ABS reporting and analysis of Indigenous wellbeing.</p>

Social Conditions

The fields that the Social Conditions program cover are:

- Family and Community Statistics
- Living Conditions Statistics.

The Family and Community Statistics program provides leadership and information on statistics related to family and community wellbeing. It provides statistics from collections based on registration systems (such as for marriages and divorces), the Census of Population and Housing, and the monthly population survey (including topics on families, pregnancy and employment transitions, and child care). There are also surveys relating to time use, volunteering, work and family balance, social capital and personal safety. Statistics are provided for women, men, couples, one-parent families, children, youth, older people, carers and other population subgroups.

The Living Conditions Statistics program provides information about the material living conditions of the population, including household income, wealth, expenditure, housing, superannuation and other aspects of material living conditions. Related areas of measurement and analysis include economic hardship and financial stress, which help to provide a wider picture of the material circumstances and living conditions of Australians.

Social Conditions statistics are used to support the development and evaluation of government programs as well as to inform planning and program delivery decisions. Academics and other analysts use the statistics for analysing a range of social and economic characteristics that impact on the wellbeing of Australian society. These analyses include international comparisons which show Australia's relative progress amongst other nations.

Key achievements

- New ABS standards for micro level household income statistics were released in March 2010 following an extensive review of the collection and dissemination of income statistics. This also aligned the Australian standards with the new international standards for these statistics.
- The ABS developed and provided a series of Affordable Housing Indicators, for COAG reporting purposes, to be used in the annual performance report from 2010 onwards. Some of the indicators were developed by combining dwelling sales data obtained from the Valuer General of each state or territory with income data from the ABS Survey of Income and Housing to create new 'Affordable House Sales' indicators for housing across Australia. Other new housing measures were created from the 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey results.
- The May 2009 budget provided increased funding for the ABS to implement a new Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Costs Index (PBLCI) for indexing pensions. The weighting component of the new index required a 44% increase in the size of the 2009–10 Household Expenditure Survey, using a new sample design targeted at pensioner and beneficiary households. Information on outlet and product differentiation between pensioners and other households will now also be captured from the shopper dockets

reported by all responding households to support assessment of product basket specification needs for the new index. The sample design was completed, new field procedures developed, and new technical support infrastructure created to allow the sample augmentation to go into the field in September 2009.

- ABS involvement with the Longitudinal Survey of Australian Children (LSAC) was advanced in 2009–10. The ABS is now responsible for: the management of the LSAC sample; the design, development and testing of data collection instruments; undertaking data collection; and the preparation of output data. This further strengthens the ABS's long-term support for this crucial study. The arrangements were confirmed in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on 9 September 2009 by the ABS, the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and the Australian Institute of Family Studies.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia, 2007–08</i> (ABS cat. no. 6523.0)	This publication presents results from the 2007–08 Survey of Income and Housing. It includes the income and housing characteristics for Australian households and persons. New child care content was published in this edition.
<i>Microdata: Income and Housing, Basic and Expanded CURF on CD-ROM/RADL, Australia, 2007–08</i> (ABS cat. no. 6541.0.30.001) and <i>Technical Manual</i> (ABS cat. no. 6541.0).	These Confidentialised Unit Record Files provide microdata from the 2007–08 Survey of Income and Housing. This edition includes new content on child care and expanded housing content including housing mobility, intentions to move and dwelling characteristics.
<i>Household Occupancy and Costs, Australia, 2007–08</i> (ABS cat. no. 4130.0)	This publication presents results from the 2007–08 Survey of Income and Housing on housing occupancy and costs, and relates these to various other socio-economic characteristics of the households. This publication was released in November 2009 and includes a feature article on first home buyers, and new information on deposits used to finance first home purchases, and sources of monetary assistance for purchases.
<i>Household Mobility and Conditions, Australia, 2007–08</i> (ABS cat. no. 4130.0.55.002)	This six-yearly publication presents results from the 2007–08 Survey of Income and Housing. Released in November 2009 it includes information on housing mobility, intentions to move and dwelling characteristics.

Culture and Recreation

The Culture and Recreation program has responsibility for the leadership and coordination of national statistical activity in the fields of culture, sport and leisure. Activities include understanding current and emerging policy issues and debates, and determining what statistics might be appropriate to inform decision making. Expertise within the ABS is also provided regarding the collection of relevant data, as well as informing governments and the community about culture, sport and leisure statistics, relevant classifications and standards, and appropriate data analysis.

The main clients of the program are the Cultural Ministers Council, the Sport and Recreation Ministers Council, Australian government agencies (including the Department of Health and Ageing; the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts; the Australia Council; Screen Australia; and the Australian Sports Commission), state and territory government departments (in both the culture and sport sectors), and industry bodies.

Key achievements

- The Survey of Participation in Sport and Physical Activity (2009–10), as well as the Survey of Attendance at Selected Culture and Leisure and Sports Venues (2009–10) have been enumerated during the year. Survey results will be released progressively during the latter part of 2011.
- Results from the Survey of Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities, conducted in April 2009, were released in October 2009. The results covered participation of children aged 5 to 14 years in cultural, sporting and other leisure activities, as well as details on their use of the Internet and mobile phones.

Cultural Participation

Development work for a new survey on Cultural Participation, to be conducted in 2010–11, has been undertaken. The survey will provide information about people participating in cultural activities with a focus on creative participation. The results are due to be published in late 2011.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Arts and Culture in Australia: A Statistical Overview</i> (ABS cat. no. 4172.0)	Contains information on a range of topics including employment in culture, time spent on cultural activities, attendances at cultural venues and events, expenditure on culture, and imports and exports of cultural goods and services. It also provides profiles of the cultural sectors, grouped according to the Australian Culture and Leisure Industry Classification.
<i>Sports and Physical Recreation: A Statistical Overview, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 4177.0)	Topics covered include output of the sports and physical recreation sector, employment in sports and physical recreation, government outlays on recreation, international trade in sports and physical recreation goods, attendances at sporting events, and participation in sports and physical recreation activities.
<i>Perspectives on Sport</i> (ABS cat. no. 4156.0.55.001)	The latest release addresses the issues of children's participation in organised sport, migrants and sport, and participation in sport by people with a disability.

Social and Progress Reporting

The Social and Progress Reporting program informs government and the community about social conditions and progress in Australia. It draws together data and analysis both from within the ABS and from a range of other sources, and produces reports covering a wide range of issues. The reports include analysis of current circumstances, how circumstances have changed over time, how different groups of people have been affected, and how various factors may have accounted for observed trends. The reports provide information on the wellbeing of the population, the extent of need and disadvantage in society, contemporary social issues, the interrelationships between economic, social and environmental aspects of life, and whether life in Australia is getting better.

Key achievements

- Two papers were delivered for the 3rd OECD World Forum on 'Statistics, Knowledge and Policy' held in Busan, Korea in October 2009: (i) 'Maintaining the momentum in Australia: From measures of a nation's progress to measures of a people's progress'; (ii) 'Measuring time use and wellbeing'.
- Two papers were presented at a seminar on 'Reporting on the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights' in Guilin, China, in February 2010. The seminar was one in a series organised by the Australian Human Rights Commission and the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It aimed to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry and other agencies to implement the Covenant and enhance the quality of China's periodic reports under that treaty. The papers presented were on the collection and use of comparatively classified statistics, and Australia's response to United Nations reporting requirements.
- The program expanded the reach and value of ABS statistics through the release of four editions of *Australian Social Trends* (ABS cat. no. 4102.0).

Is life in Australia getting better?

Measures of Australia's Progress (MAP) was first produced in 2002 as a groundbreaking and innovative product that helps Australians answer the question: 'Is life getting better?' MAP draws together a wide range of data to present a national summary of economic, social and environmental progress through headline indicators and descriptive text.

The upcoming September 2010 release of MAP (ABS cat. no. 1370.0) has been significantly redeveloped in a new and improved electronic format that allows the presentation of key information in a visually appealing and high impact manner. The electronic format also allows the interactive interrogation of data using web technology. In this release;

- A number of new indicators have been added relating to housing, and to crime and justice.
- The environment domain has been significantly restructured.
- There is an accompanying essay, 'What is progress?', that invites community comment and debate via a blog. The aim is to find out exactly what progress means to Australians. This will form a key part of broader community consultation that will contribute to the development of a conceptual framework to underpin the question of whether life in Australia is getting better.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Australian Social Trends</i> (ABS cat. no. 4102.0)	This quarterly publication contains articles on contemporary social issues in an easily digestible format to meet the needs of a wide range of users. Articles produced over the last year focused on population growth, health risk factors, obesity in children, under-employment, labour market in recent economic downturns, expanding links with China and India, and environmental awareness and action.

Migrants

The Migrant statistics program aims to address a broad range of statistical needs with respect to the settlement outcomes of temporary and permanent migrants to Australia. The program provides data relevant to migrant populations, and involves the development and compilation of a range of survey and administrative data outputs relevant to migrants. There is a focus on understanding current and emerging policy issues and debates, and determining what statistics might be appropriate to inform decision making relevant to migrants. The program also provides leadership regarding the collection of relevant data, as well as informing governments and the community about migrant and ethnicity statistics, relevant classifications and standards, and appropriate data analysis.

The major stakeholders of the program are the Department of Immigration and Citizenship, and the various government agencies providing services to migrants, including state and territory government departments.

Key achievements

- A stronger relationship with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship was established through the signing of a new three year partnership agreement.
- An outpostted officer role was created within the Department of Immigration and Citizenship.
- Topical material relevant to migrant and settlement issues was released.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Perspectives on Migrants</i> (ABS cat. no. 3416.0)	This publication covers issues and topics relating to migrants, ethnicity and migration programs. Recent topics include the job search experience of migrants and a comparison of Australian- and overseas-born persons in the context of their forms of employment.

State and Territory Statistical Services

The State and Territory Statistical Services (STSS) program operates within each state and territory office. The program aims to contribute to the development of well informed policy and decisions within states and territories. STSS seeks to increase availability of good quality state and territory and regional data from ABS and non-ABS sources that meet high priority state and territory statistical needs. STSS works closely with state and territory governments and ABS program areas to develop strategies to meet state and territory statistical requirements that are beyond those that can be satisfied by the ABS national program.

Key achievements

Outposting ABS officers to state and territory government departments and agencies is a key strategy adopted to meet the program's objectives. An outposting can be a strategic or technical role or a combination of both. In 2009–10 successful outpostings occurred in all states and territories. These include:

- An outposting with the Australian Capital Territory's (ACT) Chief Minister's Department which assisted with population projections for the ageing population, and the demographics for the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.
- In the Northern Territory (NT), an outposting commenced with the Department of Health and Families to undertake a data scoping project to contribute to the development of a strategy for improving the quality, consistency and reliability of domestic and family violence data in the NT.
- The South Australia (SA) office outposted an officer to the State Government, providing strategic coordination between the ABS and SA state organisations to ensure the timely delivery of high quality inputs into the ABS Water Account 2008–09. This project identified data gaps and data sources for information required to be reported by the SA government to the Bureau of Meteorology under the *Water Act 2007*.

A particular area of focus for the STSS program over the past year has been to improve the availability and quality of statistics relating to Indigenous Australians, a high priority theme for governments at all levels. Among achievements across all jurisdictions:

- A recently formed Victorian Indigenous Statistics Network brings together key users and data custodians across the Victorian state government with the aim of increasing the quality of data relating to Victorian Indigenous statistics through whole-of-government discussion and action. ABS has agreed to chair and provide secretariat services for the quarterly network meetings.
- Queensland STSS, in partnership with the National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics (NCATSIS), coordinated and conducted an Indigenous Geography Workshop for Queensland government agencies. The workshop explored issues around small Indigenous communities in large geographic areas, such as Torres Strait, and the need to group these communities appropriately to allow for planning and evaluation of service provision and to effectively report policy outcomes for individual Indigenous communities.
- In the NT, the STSS coordinated a national project on behalf of NCATSIS to assess the processes for the collection, storage and reporting of the Indigenous status information collected by schools through their enrolment processes; results are currently being collated.
- Among initiatives to improve statistical capability, the Queensland STSS and Queensland Indigenous Engagement Manager (IEM) provided statistical support to the Cherbourg Aboriginal community and the Torres Strait Regional Authority to undertake and develop their own community surveys and Development Plans as part of the requirements under the Local Government Reform program. The STSS/IEM partnered with the Office of Economic and Statistical Research to undertake survey design, collector training, data analysis and key performance indicator development. As a result, STSS is currently scoping the development of 'Community Tool-Kits' which can be used by Indigenous and non-Indigenous authorities across the state.
- In Victoria, the ABS developed the content for a pilot module 'Understanding and Presenting Information' for a Certificate IV course (developed by Aboriginal Affairs Victoria, the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations and Consumer Affairs Victoria) called 'Managing in Two Worlds – Governance Training Program' for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants. A review has recommended the module become a core unit, with further content to be developed for a Diploma course.

All STSS areas have worked within their jurisdictions to promote the use of national indicators and frameworks such as COAG indicator sets, assisting state and territory agencies to understand reporting requirements and identify data gaps.

- In Western Australia, the ABS is working with the Environmental Directorate of Health to design and run a census of food prices across the state as part of the COAG Closing the Gap – Food Security agenda, as well as assisting the Department of Indigenous Affairs with COAG reporting.
- The STSS area in NSW, following on from a successful outposting to the COAG Reform Council (CRC) has developed and extended the ABS relationship with the CRC, including undertaking an analytical role with regard to CRC reports.
- In Tasmania, an outposting to the Tasmanian Department of Premier and Cabinet has led to the ABS being asked to play a role in nominating areas for Indigenous data improvement as part of the COAG Overarching Bilateral Indigenous Plan between Tasmania and the Commonwealth.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Tasmanian State and Regional Indicators</i> (ABS cat. no. 1307.6)	Contains state summary economic and social information presented by topic, with commentary, tables, maps and graphs. Released quarterly.
<i>InfACT</i> (ABS cat. no. 1308.8)	Contains key social and economic information on the ACT and the surrounding region and provides statistical analysis drawing on both ABS and non-ABS information.
<i>Qld Stats</i> (ABS cat. no. 1318.3)	An electronic magazine presenting an overview of Queensland's key economic and social indicators presented in graphs, tables and analytical summaries with links to more detailed products.
<i>NSW State and Regional Indicators</i> (ABS cat. no. 1338.1)	Provides summary NSW economic and social information in commentary, tables and graphs. Released quarterly in electronic format only but planning to move to a 'rolling release' portal style by September quarter 2010.
<i>SA Stats</i> (ABS cat. no. 1345.0)	Provides a monthly overview of the South Australian population and economy. Most releases also feature an article that provides a South Australian focus on economic, social and environmental issues.
<i>Regional Statistics, Northern Territory</i> (ABS cat. no. 1362.7)	Released four times per year, presenting a wide range of key economic, social and environmental data about the NT and its regions. It includes links to non-ABS statistics.
<i>State and Regional Indicators Victoria</i> (ABS cat. no. 1367.2)	A quarterly publication containing recently released statistical information about the whole of Victoria. Data is sourced from ABS and non-ABS collections. It provides measures of economic, social and environmental elements.
<i>Western Australian Statistical Indicators</i> (ABS cat. no. 1367.5)	A portal to the most recent statistics on Western Australia, including links to previously published data, brief topic overviews and analytical feature articles on the state's economy, society and environment. The portal is progressively updated as new data are released on the ABS website.

Infrastructure Programs

Survey Design and Methods

The Survey Design and Methods program provides specialist services to meet new and ongoing demands in statistics. Much of the work has the goal of ensuring the methods underlying ABS outputs are based on sound, defensible statistical principles.

The program has specific responsibilities for supporting the statistical collection process. It provides advice on survey design and methods, and on data quality, through all stages of the survey cycle. It provides leadership in developing the future methodological infrastructure of the ABS. The program also undertakes research on statistical methods to improve the efficiency and accuracy of ABS work.

Key achievements

- Assisted ABS staff in managing the quality of statistical collections through the rollout of the new 'Managing Statistical Risk' half-day course, and delivery of 'Quality Concepts and Frameworks' and 'Reporting Quality in the ABS' training courses.
- Reviewed travel costs structures of interviewers for household surveys. Nearly completed development of a framework that models the relationship between survey costs, response rates, and potential biases in survey estimates – this explains how survey estimates and costs are affected if a target response rate is varied. These methods, supported by live trials, are aimed at improving cost efficiency of ABS survey operations.
- Developed significance editing methodology for Labour Price Index, leading to a reduction in resources required through more effective targeting of quality assurance activities while maintaining high quality outputs. Extension of methodology to other price indexes to be evaluated.
- Completed a range of new or updated form design standards for use across the ABS, leading to higher quality data and enhanced provider experience.
- Improved organisational capability for the design and testing of survey questionnaires through delivery and support of numerous training courses and workshops on questionnaire development. These include newly developed video-based courses on Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing for business survey interviewers.
- Developed sample and estimation methods for new household surveys and business surveys including
 - A new sample design targeting pensioners and government benefit recipients for the pensioner component of the Household Expenditure Survey. (This survey is collecting data to support the new Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index.)
 - A sample design targeting 'multiple social disadvantaged' population for the upcoming General Social Survey.
 - A methodology using scores to detect and prioritise anomalous estimates for use in survey output quality assurance processes. This helps survey areas to identify and focus on those estimates which may need further investigation and/or confirmation before they are fit for publication.
 - Improved methods of treatment, in producing survey estimates, of non-response in business surveys.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>ABS Forms Design Standards Manual, 2010</i> (ABS cat. no. 1530.0)	These standards, developed for and used in ABS statistical collections, have been made available on the ABS website to be used by other agencies in the design and preparation of self-administered collection forms and Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing interfaces.
<i>Methodological News</i> (ABS cat. no. 1504.0)	The Methodological News is a quarterly information bulletin from the Methodology and Data Management Division. The newsletter features articles and developments in relation to work done within the division.

Data Collection

This program provides data collection services for the ABS across business, household and administrative data collections. In doing so, it supports the ABS corporate mission and objectives by providing a high quality, timely and cost effective service while maintaining the trust and cooperation of providers.

This is achieved by maintaining a skilled and committed home and office-based interviewer workforce, and upholding the confidentiality of information provided to the ABS. The program delivers efficiencies in collection activities by applying improvements in technology and process. The Data Collection program also works with providers of ABS data to minimise the impact of ABS collection activities on households and businesses.

Key achievements

- Data Collection provided collection services for a range of surveys over 2009–10 with target response rates achieved in nearly all cases. Approximately 400,000 household survey interviews were conducted, and approximately 300,000 returns were received from business providers in 2009–10.
- Key household surveys undertaken include the Monthly Labour Force Survey; the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers; the Household Income and Expenditure Survey; the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children; and a major trial of the Survey of Adult Competencies. Key business surveys conducted include the Retail Business Survey; Quarterly Business Indicators Survey; the Survey of Financial Information; Survey of Capital Expenditure; the Survey of Average Weekly Earnings; Job Vacancies Survey; and the Survey of Motor Vehicle Usage.
- Release of the ABS Surveys Charter which outlines the relationship between the ABS and providers of data, whether householders or businesses. The charter provides easy-to-understand information on the obligations of providers, outlines what providers can expect of the ABS in regards to the professionalism of ABS interviewers, and highlights the organisational commitment to maintaining provider confidentiality. The Surveys Charter also outlines ABS responsibilities in regards to dealing with complaints in a timely and professional manner.
- The program progressed the modernisation of field collection technology. Improvements have enhanced data collection capability, improved communication with field-based interviewers and delivered savings in relation to postage and telecommunication costs, while increasing the efficiency, quality and cost effectiveness of training.
- Meeting increased collection requirements for household surveys including reinstatement of the full sample for the Labour Force Survey and an increased sample for the Household Expenditure Survey, facilitating the production of the new Pensioner Beneficiary Living Cost Index.
- Implementation of new sample methodologies leading to improved coverage for ABS business statistics, as well as improved sampling efficiency and reduced provider load.

Collection of data via the Internet

The ABS places a very high value on the trust and cooperation it receives from households and businesses selected to participate in statistical surveys. The ABS is committed to ensuring the process of reporting data is as convenient for providers as possible. In line with this, the ABS is moving towards providing secure electronic reporting options for its providers. Implementation of a web-based data collection system for business providers commenced in 2009–10. This allows businesses selected in particular ABS surveys to log in securely through the ABS website, complete an Internet form, and submit it electronically. Respondents for the Survey of Tourist Accommodation, Quarterly Business Indicators and Internet Activity Surveys were given the option of utilising electronic reporting in 2009–10 with additional surveys being added in 2010–11.

Provider Engagement Strategy for business collections

The ABS has continued its key focus on maximising the quality and timeliness of data collected from businesses. This has been achieved through careful review of the load placed on businesses by virtue of their selection in a range of economic collections, and the implementation of new strategies to streamline and maximise the effectiveness of all contact the ABS has with businesses. In early 2009–10 ABS implemented an enhanced Provider Engagement Strategy which utilises different strategies for follow-up of overdue survey forms based on individual provider's previous reporting history. This enhanced strategy has ensured that ABS interviewer resources are best utilised and has resulted in reductions in expenditure and improvements in the timeliness of collection activities. The ABS is currently trialling a number of other provider engagement strategies, such as identification of best time of day or day of the week to call certain businesses. If successful, these strategies will be rolled out more widely in 2010–11.

Data Management and Classifications

The Data Management and Classifications program provides essential support functions that underpin the ABS mission. The program is responsible for promoting the comparability, integration and quality of ABS statistics, through the use of standard concepts, definitions, classifications and procedures. It is also responsible for the infrastructure used to hold key definitional metadata and to store statistical data from which ABS outputs are sourced.

Data Management and Classifications sets and reviews ABS policies and principles for key statistical standards and classifications, and for data and metadata management best practice. The program provides leadership and support to subject matter areas on the implementation of key standards, practices and procedures. It also develops, maintains and reviews related statistical infrastructure.

The program provides advice and assistance on the application of Australian statistical and data management standards to official bodies.

Key achievements

- Ongoing exploration of new data and metadata exchange formats to provide a conceptual framework and practical facilities. This supports a coherent and integrated environment for the life cycle management of statistical data.
- The ANZSIC 2006 Implementation Program Evaluation Report was finalised.
- An internal review of concepts relating to the market/non-market boundary was completed.
- The Australian Standard Classification of Drugs of Concern (ASDCD) was reviewed and subsequently endorsed.

ANZSIC 2006 Implementation

The Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) 2006 has been jointly developed by the ABS and Statistics New Zealand. It provides a basis for the standardised collection, analysis and dissemination of economic data on an industry basis for Australia and New Zealand.

The implementation of a new edition of a major classification, such as the ANZSIC 2006, poses a number of significant issues for statistical agencies and users of the statistics. Business registers need to incorporate the new classification, statistical collections need to be redesigned and new outputs produced, and consideration needs to be given to back-casting statistical series on the new basis.

In September quarter 2009, ABS economic statistics underwent the largest single change in over a decade. The ABS aligned all of its sub-annual collections and National Accounts with recently updated international standards. There were changes to many of the concepts output in ABS publications, the structure of industry and the coverage of our collections.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) Coder, 2010</i> (ABS cat. no. 1220.0.30.001)	The ANZSCO Coder is a Windows-based structured coding system on CD-ROM which provides a quick and efficient way to code occupation information to ANZSCO First Edition Revision 1. The ANZSCO Coder incorporates a detailed coding index (an extensive list of occupation titles) which enables coding to the occupation (6-digit) level of ANZSCO with a higher degree of accuracy and consistency than is possible when using just the classification structure and definitions.
<i>Standards for Income Variables, 2010</i> (ABS cat. no. 1287.0)	Specifies ABS standards for the collection, processing, storage and dissemination of statistics on income. Topics covered include the ABS recommended definitions of concepts, classification criteria, code structures, questionnaire modules and output categories. Issues related to these standards are also discussed.

Geography

The Geography program provides leadership and services in statistical geography and spatial applications within the ABS. The knowledge and technology is applied in the acquisition, analysis and dissemination of statistics for informed decision-making.

The program sets, maintains and promotes ABS standards as they relate to statistical geography, mapping and the Geographic Information System (GIS).

Key achievements

- Mesh block (the finest level of geography) boundaries have been revised throughout the year, as development has taken place. There are approximately 340,000 mesh blocks, compared to about 39,000 census collection districts. The implementation of mesh-block-based geography in 2011 will result in more accurate small area statistics.
- The preparation of Census Collector Workload boundaries was completed ready for review by regional offices. Systems were developed and tested ready for the production of the Collector maps for the 2011 Census of Population and Housing.
- A new process to produce mesh-block-based geographic correspondences has been developed. This will improve the ability to compare statistics across differing geographic areas.
- A Geography Web Portal was developed and released on the ABS website. This brings together information on statistical geography classifications and will provide resources to assist users in the conversion to the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS).

Development of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS)

The ABS has undertaken a review of the current Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), to incorporate mesh blocks (the finest level of geography) into a new standard and to ensure continued relevance to contemporary requirements. Significant progress was made during the year in finalising the Statistical Area Level 1 and 2 boundaries (replacing Census Collector District and Statistical Local Area) and consultation on the development of the higher level boundaries. An information paper *The Australian Statistical Geography Standard, Design of the Statistical Areas Level 4, Capital Cities and Statistical Areas Level 3* (ABS cat. no. 1216.0.55.003) was released in May 2010.

The new ASGS will become effective from July 2011 and will be used in the 2011 Census of Population and Housing and other ABS collections.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Australian Standard Geographical Classification, July 2009</i> (ABS cat. no. 1216.0)	This is the current standard used by ABS and many external users to define geographic areas used for the interpretation of sub-state statistics.
<i>ASGC Correspondences, July 2009</i> (ABS cat. no. 1216.0.15.002)	This publication provides the necessary correspondences to enable users to understand the relationships of different geographic units within the ASGC and to enable comparisons as geographical areas change over time.

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>ASGC Digital Boundaries (intercensal) Australia, July 2009</i> (ABS cat. no. 1259.0.30.001)	This publication contains all the ASGC boundaries in a digital format suitable for use in a GIS system.
<i>Information Paper on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard, Design of the Statistical Areas Level 4, Capital Cities and Statistical Areas Level 3.</i> (ABS cat. no. 1216.0.55.003)	This information explains the concepts behind the development of the higher-level ASGC boundaries. Draft boundaries are also made available for comment.

Analytical Support

The Analytical Support program develops new analytical products and provides more complex analytical services to producers and users of social and economic data. Its major areas of focus include time series analysis (including seasonal adjustment), improvement of price indexes and methodology, the development of data confidentialisation methodology, data integration and linkage, econometric and statistical modelling, and the construction and interpretation of socio-economic indexes.

An important contribution of the Analytical Support program is the provision of new and innovative analytical products, such as modelled estimates, indexes and other analysis. These products improve ABS processes, as well inform policy development and decision making. Data confidentialisation methods, especially when applied to microdata files, provide researchers outside the ABS with greater flexibility to transform data and undertake analyses that are not possible with data at aggregate levels.

Key achievements

Analytical Support works closely with statistical program areas throughout the ABS to identify areas of methodological priority and improvement. Achievements for 2009–10 are listed in the relevant Statistical programs, and these include:

- adoption of new classifications – Australian and New Zealand Standard Industry Classification (ANZSIC) 2006, System of National Accounts 2008 and Balance of Payment Manual Sixth Edition – for ABS economic statistics (see National Accounts)
- methods developed to improve the accuracy of ABS Price indexes (see Prices)
- methods developed for pooling data from multiple surveys in the Survey of Education and Work, and the Crime Victimization Survey
- within the Labour Program, implementation of new methods to construct a coherent series for total hours worked by industry
- new method used to improve the preliminary estimation of Net Overseas Migration (see Demography).

Enhancing user access to microdata in Australia

Access to microdata enables wider use of ABS data for research and analysis into social and economic fields. Since 1985, the ABS has been making some business microdata available, under certain conditions, in the form of Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs). In response to demand for more flexible access to a wider array of datasets, while safeguarding confidential information, the ABS has commenced development of a new Remote Execution Environment for Microdata (REEM).

The key components of the REEM are the development of a Survey TableBuilder (similar to the Census TableBuilder) and an analysis service, which will enable users to analyse microdata that will be confidentialised before it is disclosed. REEM will use internationally recognised standards for the exchange of data and metadata, such as Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) and Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) and machine to machine interfaces (APIs). These will bring the ABS to the forefront of international efforts of developing new analytical tools and statistical practice in the area of microdata access.

As the first stage of REEM, development of a Survey TableBuilder for household collections commenced during 2009–10. Stage one of the Survey TableBuilder will be rolled out in 2010–11. In parallel, research has commenced into exploring future directions for the analysis service, and development will commence in 2010–11.

Statistical publications and products

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Research Paper: A Linkage Method for the Formation of the Statistical Longitudinal Census Dataset</i> (ABS cat. no. 1351.0.55.025)	This paper describes the methods and processes used to simulate the formation of the Statistical Longitudinal Census Dataset (SLCD). This simulation has been carried out by linking 2006 Census and 2006 Census Dress Rehearsal data. Released August 2009.
<i>Research Paper: Assessing the Likely Quality of the Statistical Longitudinal Census Dataset, August 2009</i> (ABS cat. no. 1351.0.55.026)	This paper simulates the formation of the Statistical Longitudinal Census Dataset (SLCD) by linking 2006 Census and 2006 Census Dress Rehearsal data. It explores a variety of methods that have been used to examine the quality of the data linked without name and address and extends those findings to predict the quality that can be expected when the first two waves of the SLCD are linked. Released August 2009.
<i>Research Paper: Assessing the Quality of Linking Migrant Settlement Records to Census Data</i> (ABS cat. no. 1351.0.55.027)	This paper assesses the feasibility of linking the Department of Immigration and Citizenship's Settlement Database (SDB) to the Statistical Longitudinal Census Dataset (SLCD), without the use of name and address as linking variables. This paper briefly describes the linking process and provides a thorough evaluation of the quality of the linked data and some insights on how the linked data may be used for analysis. Released August 2009.
<i>Research Paper: Children's Participation in Organised Sporting Activity</i> (ABS cat. no. 1351.0.55.028)	In 2000, 2003 and 2006, the ABS conducted surveys on children's participation in cultural and leisure activities. The paper analysed the data from these surveys to identify factors which may have influenced children's participation in organised sporting activities. Released in October 2009.

Publications – Product	Explanation
<i>Research Paper: Linking Census Records to Death Registrations</i> (ABS cat. no. 1351.0.55.030)	This paper describes the probabilistic method of linking data from 2006 Census and records from Death Registration and evaluates the quality of the linked dataset. Released March 2010.
<i>Research Paper: Estimating Population Totals by Combining Household Surveys</i> (ABS cat. no. 1352.0.55.102)	This paper describes an application of combining the Labour Force Survey and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey to estimate employment characteristics of the Indigenous population. Released in October 2009.
<i>Research Paper: Small Area Estimation Using a Multinomial Logit Mixed Model with Category Specific Random Effects</i> (ABS cat. no. 1351.0.55.029)	This paper describes a model-based approach to producing small area estimates of counts for different categories of the Australian labour force based on a multinomial logit mixed model with category-specific random effects. Released in January 2010.

Customer Services

The Customer Services program assists the ABS to effectively communicate official statistics by utilising leading edge communication and dissemination technology. It aspires to showcase best practice communication through a range of high quality information products and services, and by optimising dissemination channels. It provides a variety of information solutions for customers – from a telephone referral service, through user-pays consultancies, to supporting the complex needs of clients through improved access to, and use of, microdata.

Customer Services is responsible for developing a national approach to improving statistical literacy and capability across selected areas of the Australian population. The program aims to maximise the informed use of ABS statistics in the community.

Key achievements

- Creative Commons licensing was introduced to the National Statistical Service website in October 2009. From 1 July 2010 the ABS will extend the use of Creative Commons to be the default licence for most ABS customised data outputs (except microdata). Consequently, secondary providers of ABS data will no longer be required to enter into a separate distribution licence with the ABS.
- The ABS is actively contributing to the development of policies and standards on the use of social media channels within the broader Australian Public Service (APS). During 2009–10, a number of blogs and Twitter accounts were established allowing the community to contribute to designs, review statistical collections or participate in ABS events. ABS BetaWorks, the ABS's first external design consultation blog, was officially trade-marked in February 2010. BetaWorks provides an avenue for community input to building an improved ABS website and, to date, over twenty design elements have been released and reviewed by ABS customers.
- In November 2009, the ABS hosted a forum on web analytics across the Australian Government, drawing participants from all levels of government and key private sector experts. The forum established a community of users and a working group to promote the ongoing development of concepts and ideas for Australian Government websites. Agreement was reached on the need for a standard set of definitions which will enable comparisons of performance across all levels of government.
- The development of new ABS Statistical Literacy web pages where customers can find resources and information to help develop statistical capability. Expansions in web infrastructure will allow the international CensusAtSchools program to occur on an annual basis from 2010 onwards.

- The National Information and Referral Service continues to provide a first point of reference to incoming calls and emails from ABS customers. Over 70,000 transactions were completed during 2009–10, mainly related to access to recent ABS statistical results via the ABS website. Incoming telephone requests are normally answered within 30 seconds and the vast majority of such requests are completed within 5 minutes.

National Curriculum

Influencing the development of the new National Curriculum to ensure adequate and appropriate statistical content in a range of subjects has been a high priority for the ABS since 2009. Ongoing engagement with the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority, including numerous senior level meetings, has done much to ensure that statistical literacy is at the forefront of curriculum development. The ABS is continuing to work closely with the Statistical Society of Australia Inc. and various academics to influence the content of the Mathematics curriculum in particular.

Year Book Australia 2009–10

Year Book Australia 2009–10 was released on 4 June 2010 (ABS cat. no. 1301.0). The theme for this year was the International Year of Biodiversity and the Rapprochement of Cultures. Features included articles relevant to the theme as well as an article in recognition of the Australian Year of the Girl Guide. The Year Book provides opportunities for content to be obtained from a range of external contributors.



Governor-General Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC and Australian Statistician Brian Pink launch Year Book Australia 2009–10.

ABS/Universities Australia Agreement

The ABS has provided the Australian university sector with a range of statistical products and services since the early 1990s via a sector-wide agreement. Thirty five universities participate in the current ABS/Universities Australia Agreement, under which university staff and students are not individually invoiced for their use of priced ABS products and services. Instead, Universities Australia, the sector's peak body has paid for access on behalf of the universities.

Under the agreement, staff and students of these universities may use the products and services for the purposes of research, teaching and for permitted commercial uses. Included in the current 2009–11 agreement is access to ABS Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs), the ABS on-site Data Laboratory, Census TableBuilder, and Luxembourg Income Study data.

Technology Services

Information and communication technology (ICT) is fundamental to the ABS achieving its mission of leading a high quality and responsive national statistical service. Effective management of information technology allows the ABS to continually improve the access to, and capability of, statistical data and services, while maintaining security and integrity standards.

The Technology Services Division (TSD) supports all areas of the ABS in the delivery of business outcomes through the effective and innovative application of information technology solutions. In 2009–10, TSD continued to support existing ABS programs, while strategically supporting the ABS to meet its future direction and business requirements. TSD provides these services nationally, to staff in the ABS's central and regional offices, to ABS interviewers who work from home, and to ABS data providers and clients.

The ABS also works closely with other Australian government agencies, statistical organisations and key stakeholders to identify and develop information technology best practice approaches. The ABS is able to utilise these collaborative efforts to support its objectives and those of the Australian Government. The ABS has continued to be actively engaged in whole-of-government information technology work programs and the implementation of the 2008 Review of the Australian Government's Use of Information and Communications Technology.

Key projects

Specific projects worked on by TSD during 2009–10 include:

- enhancing, maintaining and preparing a range of IT systems, hardware, and software infrastructure and environments, including those for the forthcoming 2011 Census
- continuing work to improve processing of taxation data for business substitution purposes
- enhancing the International Trade in Services system
- continuing development of macro-editing capabilities
- continuing to enhance input-output systems
- commenced development of new systems supporting ABS work on progress indicators for COAG National Agreements in the areas of health, disability, education and housing
- began development of new systems to support the creation of a new index to measure expenses in pensioner households, and
- enhancing secure network remote access options for staff productivity and field data capture.

Key achievements

- Work commenced to support and drive the ABS Information Management Transformation Program (IMTP). This program is a modernisation of the information management infrastructure within the ABS to support its data management and business process standardisation strategies. There is a strong international collaborative element to this work, as the ABS works across National Statistical Offices to develop working examples of statistical systems which can be used in a number of countries.
- A key achievement of 2009–10 has been strengthening the function for ICT Planning and ICT Professional Practice to improve ICT service delivery to the ABS. The focus of this work is in the areas of strategy, policy, planning, standards, compliance measurement and change management in the ICT sphere. A key outcome has been an ICT Strategic Management Framework and updated ICT Strategy. These strategies will support statistical, technology, methodology and business outcomes in the ABS over the coming years. The ABS ICT Strategic Management Framework provides the guidance to develop, document, communicate and agree those strategies. There are four key streams of ABS ICT Strategies:
 - ICT Strategy and Governance: strategy and governance
 - Portfolio Strategies: more specific plans for applications, services, finances and calendar
 - Enabling Strategies: specific and more detailed strategies
 - Delivery Strategies: strategies which support delivery of change in the environment.
- The Working@ABS program completed a significant upgrade to desktop services for staff, primarily aimed at improving their personal productivity. The program further developed the collaboration, knowledge management and enterprise searching capabilities of ABS staff. TSD has continued to develop and promote the ABS's existing video conferencing, telephony and internet services.

Corporate Services

Corporate Services Division (CSD) provides a range of services to support the ABS and its employees in the achievement of business objectives. Some require direct delivery of services; others involve a support and coordination role. Within an environment of continuous improvement, CSD:

- provides timely, relevant, high quality corporate services to meet the changing needs of internal and external clients
- provides leadership to the ABS in the areas of culture, leadership capability development and financial and people management
- positions the ABS to meet its current and future workforce needs, by providing a full range of services to support the HR life cycle, from recruitment through to retirement
- provides leadership, support and guidance to ensure the ABS is maximising individual employees' potential
- engages and influences stakeholders to ensure the ABS's interests are accommodated, including in whole-of-government initiatives
- offers services to support the physical working environment, including implementing changes associated with the strategic use of property and space management
- provides leadership and consultancy on workforce planning, budgeting, business continuity and financial reporting and support, and
- maintains and develops corporate support systems and services.

Key achievements

- Reviewing the Corporate Service delivery model and governance saw the introduction of a new vision for Corporate Services and implementation of the Corporate Services Improvement Program (see box below).
- An upgrade of the existing HR and financial systems to provide improved capability and management of information was commenced.
- HR and financial reporting processes and outputs were streamlined and improved.
- The new ABS Enterprise Agreement 2009–2011 was negotiated and implemented, and the ABS Interviewers' Certified Agreement 2005–2011 was concluded.
- Terms and conditions of employment were set for Census Field employees engaged for the 2010 Census of Population and Housing Dress Rehearsal and the 2011 Census itself.
- A number of Regional Offices were refurbished and ACT office staff relocated to ABS House in Belconnen.
- A national staff survey was conducted in March 2010. The results of the survey are now being considered by managers and staff, with a particular focus on leadership and people management issues. The 2010 survey will provide a benchmark for the next survey which will be conducted in early 2011

Corporate Services Improvement Program

A review of ABS Corporate Services was completed in late 2009 which resulted in the ABS developing a new vision for the delivery of Corporate Services across the organisation.

A Corporate Services Improvement Program (CSIP) was established to support this vision and implement the recommendations from the review. A new Corporate Services business model has been implemented, together with the relocation of some functions, to achieve a nationally-integrated program which better utilises the capability in our regional offices, and recognises the strong business partner role played by our local corporate service units and divisional support units. This model also supports the national business areas to provide stronger strategic support and improve the quality of employee self-help information.

Under CSIP, a number of 'priority' projects have been established to inform ABS strategic directions in the corporate services area. These include the development of an ABS People Plan, Learning and Development Strategy and the improvement of our performance management culture. Other priority projects aim to improve the quality and consistency of information to support our internal decision-making through improvements to corporate reporting and business planning templates, and the development of indicators to measure effectiveness. In addition to the new business model, a number of 'enabling' projects have been established to assist staff within Corporate Services Division in managing the change with aim of improving staff capability, and corporate services systems and infrastructure. Implementation on these projects has commenced and their benefits will mainly be realised in 2010–11.

Chapter 6

National Statistical Service



Introduction

The National Statistical Service (NSS) is a community of government agencies, led by the ABS as Australia's national statistical organisation, building a rich statistical picture for a better informed Australia. The objectives of the NSS are to:

- deliver a high quality, up-to-date, comprehensive, coherent statistical picture of Australia's economy, society and the environment, in order to assist and encourage informed decision making, as well as research and discussion within governments and the wider community
- provide a world class official statistical service that retains the confidence and trust of the Australian society
- maximise the use, for official statistical purposes, of data available within government administrative systems
- minimise the burden of statistical reporting at all levels of the Australian community
- document and retain, as an enduring national resource, key statistical outputs and their underlying data sources.

The NSS Pyramid

The ABS has identified four essential elements of a successful NSS: valuing statistics, statistical capability, statistical infrastructure, and statistical content.

The NSS outcomes for each element are:

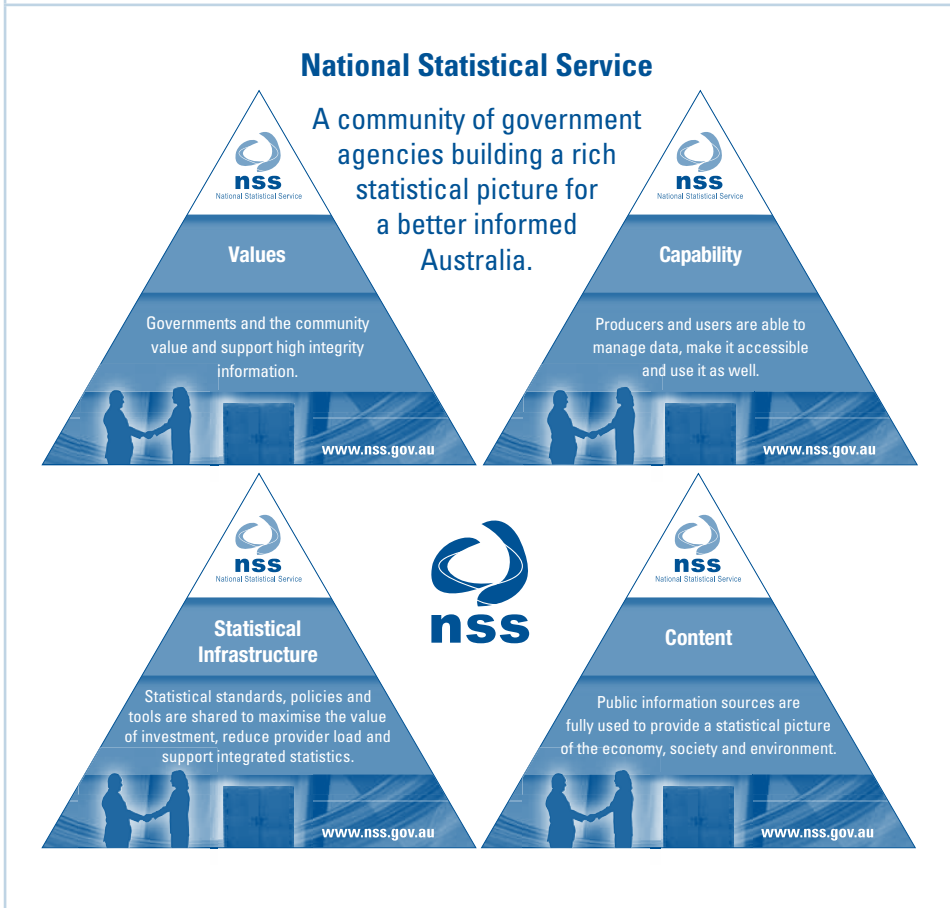
Valuing statistics – Governments and the community value and support high-integrity information.

Statistical infrastructure – Statistical standards, policies and tools are shared to maximise the value of investment, reduce provider load and support integrated statistics.

Statistical capability – Producers and users are able to manage data, make it accessible and use it well.

Statistical content – Public information sources are fully used to provide a statistical picture of the economy, society and the environment.

The NSS Pyramid with the four essential elements of a successful National Statistical Service.



National Statistical Service initiatives

The ABS expanded and improved the NSS in 2009–10. Activities included:

- playing a key role in collaborative projects with Commonwealth, state and territory government agencies
- making statistical resources easily accessible on the NSS website, such as video presentations of NatStats08 and the Community Indicators Summit. These are available on <http://www.nss.gov.au>
- producing online versions of the Data Fitness Brochure, Data Sharing Guide and NSS Handbook
- developing capability through the extensive ABS outposted officer program
- hosting seminars, workshops and conferences to share information on statistical activities
- providing statistical training across all levels of government
- promoting government statistical initiatives through the NSS newsletter.

Valuing statistics

Council of Australian Governments

The ABS has been active in supporting the reporting requirements of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) for the purposes of the National Agreements. These agreements specify the performance outcomes and benchmarks that Commonwealth, state and territory governments have set.

The National Agreements are in the areas of Healthcare, Indigenous Reform, Affordable Housing, Skills and Workforce Development, Education and Disability. This work has entailed significant interaction with Ministerial bodies, the Productivity Commission, the COAG Reform Council and other key stakeholders in defining indicators, receiving and coordinating data, building data quality statements and providing advice.

The ABS work will be combined with information from other agencies, as input to a series of COAG reports prepared by the COAG Reform Council. Work will continue through 2010 and beyond to refine indicators, address data gaps and definitions, and to seek better data sources to report against key performance indicators. The ABS has a clear leadership role in improving the statistical measures required to support reporting to COAG.

Measuring community trust in official statistics

In 2009, the Committee on Statistics of the OECD established a working group to develop an instrument to measure community trust in official statistics, with a view to providing national and international benchmarks on trust in official statistics.

As an active member of the working group, the ABS has provided leadership to this project in the development of a trust framework. The ABS has also given support in the development of question modules for measuring trust under this framework.

To ensure that the questionnaire is relevant in the Australian context, the ABS has conducted cognitive testing of the questionnaire in Australia. The ABS has asked the OECD to encourage other countries, especially non-English speaking countries, to also undertake cognitive testing of the questionnaire. To date, the ABS has provided support to both the Korean and Canadian national statistical offices, on methods and processes for conducting cognitive testing.

Following the finalisation of the questionnaire in late May 2010, the Australian survey was conducted in June 2010. It covered a random sample of about 2,200 Australians, aged 15 and above, measuring the level of community trust in ABS statistics and in the ABS as an institution. The result will become available to the ABS early in the 2010–11 financial year.

Developing statistical capability

Community Indicators Summit

The Community Indicators Summit, held in Brisbane in July 2009, provided the opportunity for practitioners involved in the development of frameworks and platforms for community indicators to share their knowledge and experience. Delegates were able to see, first hand, projects shaping the future of measurements of well-being.

The summit showcased community indicator initiatives which:

- provide education and build skills in statistical management, provision, use and interpretation of data

- strengthen collaborative approaches to the development of our national statistical system, especially between users and producers of statistics
- develop better practical statistical applications to inform public policy and stimulate debate
- provide forums to share ideas and experiences, consider common problems, develop standards and compare best practice models.

Delegates participated in the development of a Summit Declaration, highlighting the need for national coordination and leadership from all sectors of society. The final document was presented and discussed as part of a broad global discussion at the 3rd OECD World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge and Policy in Busan, Korea in October, 2009.

NatStats10 Conference

Preparations are underway for the NatStats 2010 conference, which will be held in September 2010, in Sydney. NatStats 2010 will build on the enthusiasm generated throughout the last NatStats conference in November 2008. NatStats 2010 will provide a unique opportunity for key stakeholders from across the statistical community to help build a strong and vibrant National Statistical Service in Australia. Over 500 delegates from government, business, community, and research sectors are expected to attend.

The overall theme for NatStats 2010 is 'Measuring what counts: economic development, wellbeing and progress in 21st century Australia'. The subject will explore drivers of economic, social and environmental changes that are shaping Australia's future development. The conference will focus on the information required to understand current trends, and develop a relevant and effective public policy response.

Australian Government Statistical Forum

The Australian Government Statistical Forum (AGSF) encourages communication among senior staff of Australian Government agencies who are important partners in the National Statistical Service. The forum aims to: promote NSS initiatives among agencies; identify and promote partnerships and collaborations; and encourage the use of best practice in data collection and management.

The AGSF meets biannually to discuss key national and international statistical developments. Initiatives considered at meetings held in November 2009 and May 2010 included; the Principles for Statistical Integration across Australian Government Agencies; Government 2.0 Taskforce recommendations; and outcomes from the Review of the 3rd OECD World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge and Policy held in Korea in October, 2009.

State Statistical Forum

Each year the ABS hosts two meetings of the State Statistical Forum (SSF), with the state and territory government members of the Australian Statistics Advisory Council coming together to discuss their statistical priorities, with an emphasis on regional data issues.

During 2009–10, the SSF has continued to focus on agreed priority areas – improving statistics about Indigenous Australians, children and youth statistics, and demographic and economic development measures at the local level. In addition, the SSF has discussed the impact of COAG on data priorities, the measurement of State Action Plans and the potential to unlock administrative datasets.

Statistical infrastructure

Data integration

Data integration is an emerging priority for the ABS and wider National Statistical Service as the demand for linking social, economic and environmental datasets increases across Australian Governments.

Greater statistical data integration across government organisations would enable significant cost-effective improvements in evidence-based advice and the development of a new range of official statistics. Well organised integrated datasets, with supporting analytical capacity, have the potential to provide new insights for policy, highlighting key issues for government response.

For example, key integrated datasets have the potential to provide information on the short and long term impacts of policy across Australian businesses, population groups and geographic areas. They can assist in costing new government-based programs and in simulating the impact of changes in policy. These rich datasets can help understand the transitions of the population between government support programs over time, and identify factors that influence these transitions, including the influence of business-based programs on particular population groups. They provide opportunities to address the social inclusion agenda by examining various facets of social interaction and economic support captured by Commonwealth data systems.

There is a strong need for consistent governance, methods, principles, policies and protocols around data integration. A major advance was made during 2010 with Commonwealth Portfolio Secretaries endorsing a set of high level principles for statistical data integration across Australian Government departments and agencies. Developed by a Cross Portfolio Statistical Integration Committee (CPSIC) chaired jointly by the ABS and the Department of Health and Ageing, the principles form the basis of an Australian Government approach to the linkage of social, economic and environmental data, while maintaining confidentiality. The ABS recognises these principles as providing a generic best practice model regardless of the level of government or jurisdiction in which the data integration is occurring.

The second phase of the work of the Committee is to develop a governance and institutional framework to support Australian Government statistical data integration activities.

ABS data integration activities, including the CPSIC endorsed principles, are outlined further in Chapter 3, Developments in data integration.

Data quality online

As indicated earlier in this chapter, the ABS has been assisting in developing the data framework for the quality statements of the COAG National Agreement performance indicators. An online assistant was designed and launched in March 2010 to help data suppliers apply the framework when preparing data quality statements. This free online assistant is available on the NSS website (<http://www.nss.gov.au>) and is based on a series of prompting questions for each dimension of quality.

The website is being expanded to support a wider range of user groups and to encourage data collectors and custodians to declare and publicise quality information relating to their data.

Commonwealth spatial data integration

The ABS worked with the Department of Human Services and Geosciences Australia during 2009–10 developing a proposal to share aggregated, non-confidential data for use in mapping applications. Within this program, the ABS led the work developing three frameworks: one for

data sharing, one for metadata standards and one for overall governance. These frameworks were developed with the cooperation of several Commonwealth agencies.

The ABS is continuing to work with Geosciences Australia to develop techniques and tools to enable easier sharing of data between the statistical and geospatial worlds. This work is currently focused on bridging two standards – the standard used by the geospatial community, Spatial Information Council of Australia and New Zealand (formerly ANZLIC), and the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) standard used in statistical agencies.

Statistical Clearing House

The Statistical Clearing House (SCH) was established in response to a recommendation in 1996 by the Small Business Deregulation Task Force. A central clearance process was established for business surveys conducted by the Australian Government to ensure that surveys are necessary, well designed and place minimum burden on business respondents. All surveys conducted by, or on behalf of, any Australian Government agency (including the ABS) and directed to business, are subject to clearance by the SCH. In view of its statistical expertise and statutory coordination role, the ABS is empowered to administer this clearance process.

The SCH pays particular attention to eliminating duplication and ensuring that business surveys conducted by Australian Government agencies follow sound statistical methodologies and practices. During the period July 2009 to April 2010, there were 116 surveys submitted to the SCH for clearance. Of these, 60 were approved, 13 were classified as 'In scope – not to be reviewed', 29 were out of scope and 14 were in the review process at the end of April 2010. Surveys categorised as 'In scope – not to be reviewed' are those where the respondent burden is minimal, and total time taken to complete the survey is considered low.

Statistical content

Australian Health Survey

The ABS has commenced work on conducting the largest and most complex health survey ever undertaken in Australia. The Australian Health Survey (AHS) will commence in 2011 and be completed in 2013, and involve approximately 50,000 people. It will measure health status, health conditions, health risk factors (with particular emphasis on physical activity), health-related actions and medications, nutrition and physical measures.

The Australian Health Survey was formed from the ABS's long standing three-yearly National Health Survey and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey.

The expanded AHS will include two new components – one on nutrition and physical activity and a voluntary health measures component. The Department of Health and Ageing and the Heart Foundation have provided support funding for these new components.

The survey results will meet the information needs of government, non-government, the health sector, community and academic researchers. The statistics will support policy and program development and evaluation, research into health issues and assist community education.

The collection of such comprehensive health information has not been undertaken in Australia on this scale, however similar surveys have been implemented in other countries such as New Zealand, the United States and Canada.

For more information please visit <http://www.abs.gov.au/australianhealthsurvey>.

Chapter 7

International engagement

As established in the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*, one of the ABS's functions is to 'provide liaison between Australia, on the one hand, and other countries and international organisations, on the other hand, in relation to statistical matters', section 6(f). During 2009–10, the ABS continued to meet its international responsibilities through active and high level involvement in the international statistical community.

Involvement in the international statistical community

The ABS's involvement in the international statistical community takes a number of forms, including:

- participation in international meetings and conferences, including those that develop international statistical standards, frameworks and methodologies
- collaboration with National Statistical Offices and inter-governmental organisations of developed countries, and
- statistical training and technical assistance to developing countries, especially those in the Asia-Pacific region.

International meetings and conferences

The ABS participated in a number of important international meetings and conferences during 2009–10, including:

- 41st Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission, New York, USA
- Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Committee on Statistics (CSTAT) Meetings, Busan, South Korea and Paris, France
- 66th Session of the Committee on Statistics, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Seoul, South Korea
- Executive Bureau of European Statisticians Meetings, Washington DC, USA and New York, USA
- OECD Global Project Advisory Board Meetings, Busan, South Korea and New York, USA
- World Bank International Comparison Project Executive Board Meeting, Washington DC, USA
- ESCAP Regional Forum on Vital Statistics and Civil Registration in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Meeting on the Human Development Report, New York, USA, and
- International Statistical Institute Satellite Meeting on Agriculture Statistics, Maputo, Mozambique.

During 2009–10, the ABS Executive Leadership Group held the following positions on international bodies:

The Australian Statistician, **Mr Brian Pink**:

- Vice Chairperson, United Nations Statistical Commission
- Chairperson, OECD Committee on Statistics
- Vice Chairperson, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Committee on Statistics
- Member of the Executive Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians, and
- Technical Adviser to the OECD Global Project Advisory Board on 'Measuring the Progress of Societies'.

Mr Peter Harper, Deputy Australian Statistician, Population, Labour, Industry and Environment Statistics Group:

- Chair, United Nations Committee of Experts on Economic and Environmental Accounting.

Dr Ian Ewing, Deputy Australian Statistician, Macroeconomics and Integration Group:

- Member of the Executive Board of the World Bank International Comparison Project.

Mr Trevor Sutton, Deputy Australian Statistician, Social Statistics Group:

- Member, Taskforce Committee on Improvement of Vital Statistics and Civil Registrations in Asia–Pacific.

Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

The Australian Statistician was a keynote speaker at a special event to mark the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP). This event was held as part of the 66th Session of Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, which took place from 13–19 May 2010 in Incheon, Republic of Korea.

At this time, Australia was elected to the Governing Council of SIAP. The ABS has a long history of assisting countries in the Asia–Pacific region to develop and strengthen their statistical systems, and Australia's election to the Governing Council will provide an excellent opportunity to further strengthen the focus on statistical capacity building in the region.

International collaboration

In addition to participating in international meetings and conferences, the ABS maintains close relationships with a number of National Statistical Offices and inter-governmental organisations. These relationships provide opportunities for sharing experiences on the latest developments or benchmarking specific activities.

Countries which the ABS maintains a close relationship with include: New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States of America, Italy, Indonesia, Sweden, the Netherlands, Norway and, most recently, Brazil.

The ABS also received a number of visits from other National Statistical Offices, statistical agencies and international statistical organisations during the year, including the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Brazil, China, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Mongolia, Vietnam, the Netherlands and New Zealand.

The duration and purpose of these visits varied, but all acted to build stronger relationships and share knowledge.

Brazil

The ABS continued to provide high-level, strategic assistance to the Brazilian national statistical office. This took the form of a visit to the ABS by senior officials from Brazil, as well as three visits by senior ABS staff to Brazil. Relevant documentation was also exchanged and email contact facilitated the sharing of information.

The key areas for collaboration were population Censuses, agricultural statistics, environmental-economic accounting and reengineering business statistics processes.

Statistical training and technical assistance

The ABS continues to contribute to international statistical capability building through organisations such as the United Nations, ESCAP, the World Bank, the Asia Development Bank, SIAP, the Secretariat of the Pacific Communities and the International Monetary Fund.

The ABS aims to provide training and technical assistance to encourage developing countries to establish good statistical policies and methodologies. The ABS does not normally undertake statistical work for other countries; rather, the aim is to assist by transferring ABS knowledge and practical skills to the relevant country. An important principle for the ABS, and a key component of the design of any technical assistance program, is the expected long term benefit that will be derived from this assistance.

The ABS provides much of its international statistical assistance to countries in the Asia-Pacific region with the support of the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID).

Indonesia

The ABS has had a long association with Badan Pusat Statistik (BPS) – Statistics Indonesia. The two agencies have signed a number of Memoranda of Understanding on cooperation in statistics, the most recent being in February 2010. The majority of work undertaken in Indonesia is completed with the assistance of AusAID under their Government Partnership Fund (GPF).

Specifically, the goal of the ABS's involvement in the GPF is to assist the BPS to improve its statistical system and to establish greater coordination and a stronger relationship between Australia and BPS.

In 2009–10, a number of missions were undertaken to provide: assistance with the Indonesian Social Economic Survey; training in project management and corporate governance; training in managing data and the Data Warehouse; and training in regards to a specific BPS project. Further missions under the program are planned for 2010–11.



Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between Badan Pusat Statistik (Statistics Indonesia) and the Australian Bureau of Statistics, February 2010.

Mongolia

In April 2010, a new Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Mongolian National Statistical Office for a further three years.

In November 2009, an ABS officer visited Mongolia for assistance and training in relation to the Post Enumeration Survey for the 2010 Mongolian Census. Two officers from Mongolia visited the ABS in June 2010 for follow-up training.

Pacific

In September 2009, an ABS officer visited the Kiribati National Statistical Office to provide assistance and training on project management for the Kiribati national census.

Iraq

As a member of the International Technical Advisory Board for Iraq Census (ITAB-IC), the ABS joins other international experts to provide technical assistance and advice in regards to the Iraq Census. Organised by the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD), the board meets quarterly.

Chapter 8

Key performance indicators



The ABS is required to report against the outcome and key performance indicators specified in the 2009–10 Portfolio Budget Statements, presented to the Parliament in May 2009.

The Treasury's Portfolio Budget Statements set out the performance indicators used to evaluate the Program 1.1: Australian Bureau of Statistics, against its one outcome.

Table 8.1: Outcome and key performance indicators for the ABS

Outcome 1: Informed decisions, research and discussion within governments and the community by leading the collection, analysis and provision of high quality, objective and relevant statistical information.	
ABS key performance indicators	
1. An objective statistical service as demonstrated by:	1.1 Release of reliable and accurate statistics
	1.2 Transparent statistical process
	1.3 Trust and cooperation of providers
2. Statistical output which meets the needs of key users of economic and social data in terms of:	2.1 Support for decision-making
	2.2 A high level of use
3. Appropriate use of statistical standards, frameworks and methodologies by:	3.1 Leading the development of national statistical standards, frameworks and methodologies, and their implementation within the broader Australian statistic system
	3.2 Contributing to the development of key international standards, frameworks and methodologies, and implementing them as appropriate

1. An objective statistical service

1.1 Release of reliable and accurate statistics

To ensure the continued high-level accuracy of ABS statistics, the ABS continues to conduct reviews and implement risk mitigation strategies to ensure that survey methodologies and processes are sound, and any weaknesses are addressed. During 2009–10, the ABS implemented a range of measures aimed at maintaining a low incidence of statistical errors.

Reviews in progress during 2009–10 include: a review of the Annual Integrated Collection (AIC) as a data source for the Australian National Accounts; a review of the methodology for the calculation of Net Overseas Migration; a review of Quality Management of the Consumer Price Index collection; and a review of the Business Survey Frame creation process.

Throughout 2009–10, the ABS also continued a systematic process for assuring the quality of business surveys and household surveys. The strategy, which is known as ‘quality gates’, involves explicit assessment of the statistical risks at strategic points of the survey process. Training on quality gates – ‘Managing Statistical Risk’ – has been developed and was delivered across a number of ABS Regional Offices during 2009–10. The adoption of quality gates is gradually becoming more widespread across the ABS.

Non-sampling error is a general term that describes all sources of error other than the error introduced by the sampling process. Some sources of non-sampling error that are most relevant to statistical surveys include: non-response bias; errors in identifying and contacting the population of interest for a survey; errors introduced by the questionnaire design, such as misunderstanding or inadvertently missing questions, or phrasing questions that predispose a respondent to answer in a particular way; and data capture, processing and coding errors.

The ABS minimises the impact of non-sampling errors in its own surveys by the use of best practice procedures in questionnaire design, interview procedures, data validation and repair, and processing. Any significant changes to questionnaire wording or data collection methods are carefully trialled and evaluated before they are implemented.

As a means of reducing non-sample errors in non-ABS surveys, the *ABS Forms Design Standards Manual* (ABS cat. no. 1530.0) was released on the ABS website in January 2010. These standards, developed for and used in ABS statistical collections, have been made available on the ABS website to be used by other agencies in the design and preparation of self-administered collection forms (paper and electronic) and computer assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) interfaces. A good working knowledge of these standards should aid the development of forms that collect accurate data, ease the burden of respondents and ensure efficient processing.

Measure: Relative standard errors

The accuracy of statistical information is one dimension of quality, and assesses the degree to which the information correctly describes the phenomena it was designed to measure. The relative standard error (RSE) is a measure of the sampling error associated with an estimate. The magnitude of standard errors varies between collections and between data items within a collection due to factors such as the responding sample size and the nature of the data item. The RSE is a useful indicator for comparing the accuracy of estimates between surveys. Table 8.2 presents a summary view of the estimated RSEs for key statistics from a number of major ABS surveys. Further detailed information is included with each ABS publication, as well as in the concepts, sources and methods publications released by the ABS.

Table 8.2: Relative standard errors (RSEs) for selected indicators (a)

Publication	Indicator	RSE (%) 2007–08	RSE (%) 2008–09	RSE (%) 2009–10
Economic indicators				
<i>Retail Trade, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 8501.0)	Total turnover for the retail industry, Australia	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%
<i>Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 5625.0)	Actual private new capital expenditure, Australia	1.4% (b)	1.3% (b)	2.4%
<i>Business Indicators, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 5676.0)	Company gross operating profit, Australia	1.6%	1.6%	1.9%
<i>Building Activity, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 8752.0)	Value of building work done, Australia	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%
<i>Average Weekly Earnings, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 6302.0)	Full-time adult ordinary time earnings, Australia	0.8%	0.7%	0.8%
<i>Job Vacancies, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 6354.0)	Job vacancies, Australia	4.3%	4.6% (c)	5.3%
Social indicators				
<i>Labour Force Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 6202.0)	Total number of persons employed (aged 15 and over), Australia	0.6%	0.4%	0.3%
<i>Household Use of Information Technology</i> (ABS cat. no. 8146.0)	Number of persons accessing the Internet at home	0.6%	0.7%	0.7%

(a) RSEs are presented for surveys conducted in respect of the reference periods for 2007–08, 2008–09 and 2009–10.

(b) These figures were misstated in previous versions of the ABS Annual Report. The 2008–09 figure had been 0.9% and the 2007–08 figure was 1.6%.

(c) The Job Vacancies Survey was suspended for the most of 2008–09 and reinstated in the early part of 2009–10.

The rise in the RSEs for the Capital Expenditure indicator in 2009–10 is due to a survey redesign and the inclusion of non-employers into the Quarterly Economy Wide Survey from which it is produced. Some design efficiency has been lost due to having to sample non-employers without increasing the total sample size. The ABS is reviewing the design of this survey, and aims to adjust the allocation for some industries, which will help reduce the total level of RSE.

The reason for the increase in the RSE of the Job Vacancies Survey in 2009–10 is due to the re-instatement of this survey after it was suspended in 2008–09. This reinstatement involved a new sample design. There has been a small reduction in sample size, and sample was shifted from the large states to the small states to improve their RSEs, at some minor expense to the Australia-level RSE.

Table 8.3 provides an international comparison of Australian RSEs for two key statistical indicators with those of selected countries.

Table 8.3: Relative standard errors (RSEs) for selected indicators, with selected international comparisons

Publication	Indicator	RSE (%)	RSE (%) for comparable indicator in selected country		
		Australia	New Zealand	United States of America	Canada
<i>Retail Trade, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 8501.0)	Total turnover for the retail industry, Australia	0.7%	1.6% (a)	0.6% (c)	0.7% (e)
<i>Labour Force Survey</i> (ABS cat. no. 6202.0)	Total number of persons employed (aged 15 and over), Australia	0.4%	0.5% (b)	0.2% (d)	0.2% (f)

(a) Source: Statistics New Zealand: *Retail Trade Survey*, ISSN 1178-0355 (<http://www.stats.govt.nz>).

(b) Source: Statistics New Zealand: *Labour Market Statistics*, ISSN 1177-8040 (<http://www.stats.govt.nz>).

(c) Source: US Bureau of Census *Monthly Retail Trade Survey* (<http://www.census.gov/mrts/www/data/text/nrelys.txt>).

(d) Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics *Current Population Survey* (<http://www.bls.gov/bls/empisitquickguide.htm>).

(e) Source: Statistics Canada *Retail Trade* cat.no. 63-005-X (<http://www.statcan.gc.ca>).

(f) Source: Statistics Canada *Labour Force Information*, cat. no. 71-001-X (<http://www.statcan.gc.ca>).

1.2 Transparent statistical process

The ABS statistical system is open to outside scrutiny. Its methodologies are based on sound statistical principles and practices, and methodological developments are disseminated widely, through the release of information papers.

The key forum for peer expert review of methodological developments in the ABS is the Methodological Advisory Committee (MAC). MAC meets twice a year, and consists of professional statisticians external to the ABS from organisations such as the Australian National University, the University of Wollongong, the University of New South Wales, the University of Queensland and Statistics Research Associates Ltd (New Zealand). Most MAC papers are published on the ABS website, where they can be located from the *Methods & Standards* page. Topics presented in the past year include treatment of non-response in business surveys, the use of scores to detect and prioritise anomalous estimates, composite estimators for business surveys with changing survey frames, and sample design frameworks for ABS household surveys.

In addition to having transparent methodologies, the ABS also has an open process for key users and providers to forward input and feedback on statistical collections and products, to ensure they remain fit for purpose.

A major review of the Australian Consumer Price Index was announced to the public on 15 December 2009. This announcement coincided with the publication of the information paper *Issues to be considered during the 16th Series Australian CPI Review* (ABS cat. no. 6468.0).

The review focused on: the principal purpose of the CPI; compilation frequency; evaluation of the deposit and loan facilities index; maintaining the relevance of the CPI; commodity classification; and analytical series. In addition to an external advisory group consulting with the ABS, a public engagement process was undertaken. This process included: a request for public submissions; a public forum in each capital city; a blog on the ABS website, and a YouTube video presented by Australian Statistician Brian Pink. Comments from submissions, forums and the blog were evaluated ahead of the second advisory group meeting on 24 March, 2010.

The ABS was pleased to receive over 50 submissions by official organisations and private individuals who took the opportunity for user involvement in the evolution of the CPI. The CPI Advisory Group for the sixteenth series review will evaluate the submissions, with results of the CPI review due out in December 2010. The process will result in a CPI which remains a relevant, robust and reliable measure of inflation that continues to serve Australia well.

Information on statistical concepts, sources and methods for individual statistical collections is available through the explanatory notes and technical notes of each relevant publication on the ABS website.

1.3 Trust and cooperation of providers

The ABS recognises its obligation to respondents in statistical collections, and has produced service charters relating to both business surveys and household surveys.

The *Census and Statistics Act 1905* requires the ABS to publish and disseminate compilations and analysis of statistical information, and to maintain the confidentiality of information collected under the Act. The ABS meets the confidentiality requirements of the Act by ensuring that information provided is securely maintained, used only for statistical purposes, and used only in unidentifiable microdata files to support research and analysis. In addition, the ABS ensures that identifying information provided by a household is not revealed.

ABS Surveys Charter

The ABS Surveys Charter was released in February 2010. The Charter sets out the relationship between the ABS and survey participants, such as businesses and members of the public who provide information about themselves, their household or their business for statistical purposes. The Charter includes information on the way surveys are conducted, the way complaints are handled, and invites comments and other feedback. The Charter also explains what people can expect when dealing with the ABS and ABS interviewers, and how participants can request a review of the handling of any complaints.

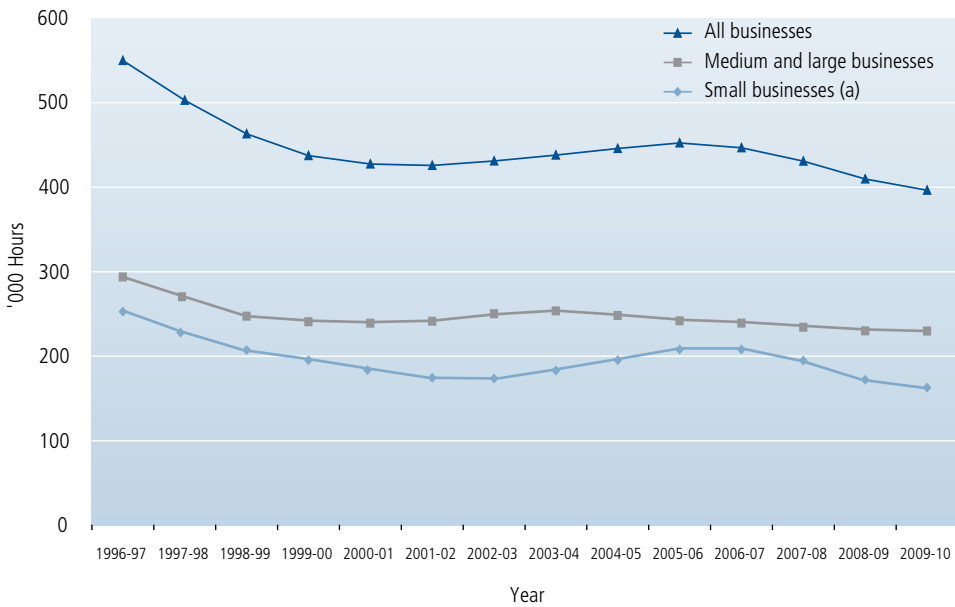
The ABS Surveys Charter is available on the ABS website at <http://www.abs.gov.au> and in a printed version upon request. Translation services are also available.

Measure: Provider load in business surveys

The total ABS provider load on businesses fell to its lowest level of 367,000 hours in 2009–10. This was down from 370,000 hours in 2008–09 and 425,000 hours in 2007–08. This is the unadjusted provider load and measures the number of hours taken by providers to complete the business survey forms.

Provider load figures from 1997–98 to 2009–10 have also been smoothed using an 11-term Henderson moving average to reveal the underlying trend. This smooths the effect of irregular and regular contributors to provider load, such as the five-yearly Agricultural Census last conducted in 2006–07. As shown in Graph 8.1, total provider load for all businesses has continued to decline in 2009–10.

Graph 8.1: Smoothed provider load imposed on business by the ABS



(a) Defined as business with employees (or derived estimate of employees) of less than twenty.

Measure: Response rates

Continuing high response rates demonstrate a good level of cooperation by providers.

The excellent response rates for selected business collections can be attributed to the high regard the business community has for the ABS, and the follow-up procedures used by the ABS to help providers. These procedures are developed to target those businesses that are most significant to the estimates of the collection. Typically, these are businesses with high turnover or employment relative to the rest of the industry.

However, it is important to note that the activities of small businesses are just as important as large businesses, as they have different characteristics from large businesses and make an important contribution to the Australian economy, especially at state and territory levels. Usually, a sample of smaller businesses is selected to represent other like businesses and as such, their impact on the survey results is important.

Maintaining high response rates is also a major focus for the household survey program. This is becoming more difficult due to the increased tendency towards dual income families, and hence reduced opportunities for interviews to be held outside of evening hours.

The ABS's high response rates for both household and business surveys as shown in Table 8.4.

Table 8.4: Response rates for selected surveys (a)

	Target response rate (%) (b)	Final Response rate 2007–08 (%)	Final Response rate 2008–09 (%)	Final Response rate 2009–10 (%)
Business Surveys				
Retail Business Survey (c)	95	97	96	96
Quarterly Business Indicators Survey (c)	85	92	92	90
Capital Expenditure Survey (c)	90	95	95	94
Economic Activity Survey	90	90	90	89
Survey of Tourist Accommodation (c)	90	92	90	92
Business Characteristics Survey	95	97	96	93
Survey of Average Weekly Earnings (c)	98	97	98	97
Survey of International Trade in Services (c)	90	95	95	96
Household Surveys				
Labour Force Survey	97	97	97	97
Multi-purpose Household Survey (d)	87	89	86	87
Longitudinal Survey of Australian Children	85	(e)	88	not available – start of enumeration
National Health Survey	90	91	(e)	(e)
Survey Income and Housing	85	86	(e)	85
Survey of Disability and Carers	89	(f)	(f)	90
Household Expenditure Survey	75	(f)	(f)	79
Pensioner Household Expenditure Survey	75	(g)	(g)	72

(a) Response rates apply to the year in which the data are collected.

(b) Target response rate can reflect differing measures (i.e. a form receipt rate or a live response rate).

(c) Average response rate over the year.

(d) The results for the Multipurpose Household Survey are used in several ABS publications. The survey is enumerated monthly and the response rates are a simple average.

(e) Survey not conducted in this year.

(f) Survey last run in 2003–04.

(g) Survey not run prior to 2009–10.

Measure: Complaints from providers

The majority of businesses and households selected in ABS surveys understand and support the need for high quality statistics.

Only a very small percentage (less than 0.5%) of the 200,000 businesses and 400,000 households selected in ABS surveys each year complain in writing to the ABS. Households and businesses have a number of avenues available to them if they have queries or complaints about being selected in a survey, or about the processes involved.

Free call contact numbers are provided with all information sent to survey participants and, for the majority of cases, when participants call these numbers their concerns are resolved by the ABS officers receiving the calls. In addition, there are a range of other complaint mechanisms which can be used by householders and businesses, including writing to or emailing the ABS, writing to the ABS Complaints Review Officer, approaching a parliamentarian, or contacting the Commonwealth Ombudsman.

For 2009–10, the ABS received a total of 791 written complaints from businesses. This is an increase of 164 (26.2 %) complaints and notably larger compared to reported complaints for the previous year. This increase reflects greater awareness amongst providers of their rights to lodge complaints (as outlined in the ABS Surveys Charter), and improved processes for identifying written complaints with survey forms. No complaints about business surveys were submitted to the ABS Complaints Review Officer, although one complaint was received from the Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman.

Information about written complaints to the ABS and ministerial correspondence is summarised in Table 8.5.

Table 8.5: Written complaints received within the financial year from providers in ABS surveys.

	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10
Complaints direct to ABS survey areas					
Business surveys	360	290	283	627 (a)	791 (a) (b) (c)
Household surveys	(d)	(d)	37	14	49
Letter to politicians (ministerial correspondence)					
Household surveys	14	15	18	14	31
Business surveys	9	11	5	5	12
Census (e)	-	85	-	-	-

(a) Increase from previous years is a result of introduction of improved processes for identifying written complaints included with survey forms.

(b) Increase from previous year reflects increased awareness of complaints procedures and impact of global financial crisis on businesses.

(c) Total written complaints include ministerial correspondence.

(d) Information is not available due to separate recording processes in regional offices, making it difficult to compile accurate total figures for years prior to 2007–08.

(e) The Census of Population and Housing is conducted every five years.

The ABS also received 97 other complaints relating to payment for data, provider load, ministerial and other miscellaneous reasons.

The ABS occasionally provides general exemptions from surveys to small businesses which have both a good history of providing information and where the small business' contribution to the key estimates is not significant. Additionally, temporary exemptions on compassionate grounds can be provided where exceptional circumstances exist.

The ABS received 694 requests for exemption during 2009–10, of which 219 compassionate and 77 general exemptions were granted. Furthermore, 395 general and 3 compassionate exemptions were denied due to the providers' criteria not fulfilling the exemption guidelines.

Measure: Complaint resolution

As outlined in the ABS Surveys Charter, every complaint receives a response either in writing or by telephone contact. Performance against these standards is reported in Table 8.6.

Table 8.6: Performance against ABS Surveys Charter complaint resolution standards for 2009–10: targets and actual performance

Performance standard – responding to correspondence from businesses	Target (calendar days)	Actual performance (average calendar days)	Actual performance (% of total where target achieved)
Send written acknowledgment	7.0	1.0	96.8%
Send written advice of outcome	28.0	28.5	64.6%

Measure: Notices of Direction and prosecution actions

Under sections 10(4) and 11(2) of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, the Australian Statistician may, by notice in writing, direct a person/business to complete a survey form or answer a question that is necessary to obtain statistical information.

Under section 14 of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, a person/business commits an offence if they fail to comply with a Notice of Direction. The penalty for this is set at one penalty unit (\$110 in 2009–10) in respect of each day after the Notice of Direction is served until the person/business complies with the direction. The application of this penalty is at the discretion of the Court.

Section 15 of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* provides that, if a person/business knowingly gives the Australian Bureau of Statistics false or misleading statements or information as a result of the Direction, they can be fined an amount of \$1,100 (10 penalty units).

These provisions are used sparingly, as the ABS prefers to seek the willing cooperation of respondents. However, it is sometimes necessary to use the legislative provisions, in order to maintain the integrity of ABS statistics.

The number of Notices of Direction issued and the number of prosecution actions approved in recent years are shown in Table 8.7. The number of Notices of Direction and prosecution actions approved is higher every five years, when the Census of Population and Housing is conducted (as shown for 2006–07).

Table 8.7: Notices of Direction issued and prosecution actions approved

	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10
Notices of direction issued					
Census of Population and Housing	-	4,955	-	-	-
Household surveys	8	86	66	83	62
Business censuses and surveys	4	19	2	4	17
Total	12	5,060	68	87	79
Prosecution actions approved (a)					
Census of Population and Housing	-	253	25	0	0
Household surveys	-	-	5	0	0
Business censuses and surveys	1	5	-	0	0
Total	1	258	30	0	0

(a) Approved by the Australian Statistician for referral to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions. Any particular prosecution approval may relate to a number of Notices of Direction. Each prosecution action approval is counted in the year in which the corresponding Notices of Direction are issued. Not every prosecution action approved proceeds to court.

2. Statistical output which meets the needs of key users of economic and social data

2.1 Support for decision making

In 2009–10, the ABS continued to assist and encourage informed decision making, research and discussion by increasing accessibility to the outputs of statistical activities.

Statistics produced by the ABS are widely used to support decision making and research including:

- formulating and assessing government macroeconomic policies
- assisting with allocation of Australian Government funds to state and territory governments
- formulating industry development policies
- supporting policy development, program delivery and evaluation of key government and non-government agencies involved in health, community and family services, and
- carrying out electoral distribution.

ABS macroeconomic statistics are widely understood and used by policy makers and analysts in Australia and around the world. The strength of these measures is their consistency and relevance across different periods of the economic cycle, and in comparison with other countries. A particular focus in 2009–10 has been in ensuring coherence in ABS economic indicators, to ensure our statistics provided a clear picture for decision makers during the global financial crisis.

Key clients and stakeholders of ABS macroeconomic statistics include the Commonwealth Treasury, the Reserve Bank of Australia, financial institutions, state and territory governments, employee organisations, the media and academia.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics was one of the first national statistical organisations to implement the new international statistical standards – System of National Accounts 2008 and the sixth edition of the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual. This will ensure that statistics produced as part of the National and International Accounts will continue to be relevant, accurate and recognised as amongst the best in the world.

Headline indicators such as monthly employment and unemployment data are important contributors to the analysis of economic conditions in Australia. A number of statistical series have been added to the monthly *Labour Force, Australia* (ABS cat. no. 6202.0) release. A new measure, aggregate monthly hours worked, was introduced in August 2009. The inclusion of this series now brings together a broader range of labour force indicators into the same monthly headline ABS release. This will better measure the changed structure and complex nature of Australia's labour force, providing key information to decision makers.

In 2009–10, the ABS also initiated a major review of the Consumer Price Index, inviting submissions from key stakeholders and the public. Submissions included those from the Reserve Bank, the Commonwealth Treasury, the Australian Council of Trade Unions, financial institutions, community groups and private individuals. The CPI will continue to be a robust and responsive measure of prices, and of vital importance to decision makers.

Some other key initiatives with which the ABS is improving support to decision makers in 2009–10 include:

- The Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index (PBLCI) was first published in August 2009 for the June 2009 quarter. The Government will use the PBLCI as a new measure of price change to index base pension rates.
- The ABS has developed data for a range of performance indicators specified in the COAG National Agreements on health care, education, affordable housing, disability, skills and workforce development, and Indigenous reform. The ABS is also playing a lead role as advisor to other agencies in respect of the quality of non-ABS data being used for COAG performance reporting.
- Experimental estimates and projections of Australia's Torres Strait Islander peoples covering the period 1991 to 2021 were released in September and October 2009. In the absence of annual estimates of the population of Indigenous Australians between the 2006 and 2011 Population Censuses, the projections will be the denominator provided for use in calculating various rates for COAG reporting.

More details on how the ABS supports informed decision making is available in Chapter 5, Program reports. This chapter focuses on the achievements, new developments, key products and user consultations of ABS statistical programs for 2009–10.

Measure: Outposted officers for key clients

Outposting statistical officers in a range of Australian and state and territory government agencies is an important means for ABS to engage with key users and producers of statistics. The primary objectives of longer term outpostings are to:

- identify opportunities for the ABS to assist with identifying or providing information for policy development, implementation or evaluation purposes
- keep the ABS informed about emerging issues, so the ABS forward work program remains relevant and useful
- develop statistical capability in government agencies, to improve understanding and use of statistics
- enhance cooperation between government departments, and
- support agencies' current and future information and analytical needs.

In addition, ABS outposted officers assist with coordinating statistical activities, including collection and dissemination of data, so that duplication is reduced and quality is improved. Coordination reduces costs and provider load associated with information collection, as well as improving comparability of data.

During 2009–10, an ABS officer was seconded to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC), with a focus on enhancing the National Migrant Statistics Unit's capacity to engage strategically with DIAC on emerging issues and identify opportunities to improve decision making. The outposting will also facilitate future statistical collaboration between DIAC and the ABS.

Table 8.8: Government departments and agencies with outposted officers, 2009–10.

Level of government	Number 2008–09	Number 2009–10	List of ABS outposted officers in 2009–10
Australian	14	11	
			Australian Taxation Office (a)
			Bureau of Meteorology
			Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
			Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (a)
			Department of Health and Ageing
			Department of Immigration and Citizenship
			Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
			Productivity Commission
			Treasury
State and Territory	22	27	
			ACT Government Chief Minister's Department
			New South Wales Department of Aboriginal Affairs
			New South Wales Department of Environment, Climate Change & Water
			New South Wales Department of Planning
			New South Wales Department of Premier and Cabinet
			New South Wales Department of Services, Technology and Administration
			New South Wales Department of Transport & Infrastructure
			New South Wales Treasury
			Northern Territory Department of Health and Families – Domestic & Family Violence Policy Unit
			Victorian Department of Justice
			Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development
			Victorian Department of Premier & Cabinet
			Victorian Department of Primary Industries
			Victorian Department of Transport
			Victorian Department of Treasury and Finance
			Queensland Department of Education and Training
			South Australian Government
			South Australian Department of Education and Children Services
			Tasmanian Department of Premier and Cabinet
			Western Australian Department of Culture and the Arts
			Western Australian Department of Health
			Western Australian Department of Health – Data Linkage Unit
			Western Australian Department of Indigenous Affairs
			Western Australian Department of State Development
			Western Australian Department of Treasury and Finance
			Western Australian Office of Crime Prevention
			Western Australian Public Sector Commission

(a) Two outposted officers during 2009–10

The ABS regularly consults with a range of user groups that includes all levels of government, industry, researchers, policy makers and community organisations in order to guide the ABS work program, and to ensure ABS statistics inform decision making. A full list of user groups active in 2009–10 is available in Appendix 2, User groups advising the ABS.

2.2 A high level of use

Measure: Service delivery

The ABS Service Delivery Charter outlines the ABS's commitment to providing quality customer service, and describes the products and services that users can expect when they approach the ABS for information. The Charter offers guidance to customers wishing to provide compliments, or register complaints, on any aspect of customer relationships or service. A quality customer service experience is crucial to the ABS maintaining a high level of use and confidence in its products. The Customer Services program report in Chapter 5 contains further information on ABS initiatives to improve the distribution of and engagement with ABS products.

Informing Decisions – Australian Bureau of Statistics Service Delivery Charter 2008–2011 (ABS cat. no. 1007.0) outlines the service standards for the ABS, and can be accessed on the ABS website at <http://www.abs.gov.au>.

Performance against these service standards for 2009–10 can be found in Table 8.9.

Table 8.9: Target and actual performance against service standards for 2009–10

Performance standard	Target (%)	2008–09 Actual performance (%)	2009–10 Actual Performance (%)
General enquiries			
Answer 85% of calls to our telephone enquiry service within 30 seconds (between the hours of 8:30am and 5:00pm (EST), Monday to Friday)	85	87	85
Acknowledge the receipt of 99% of email enquiries within five working days	99	99	99
Respond to 90% of Enquiry Form correspondence within five working days	90	99	99
Consultancy services			
Provide 90% of quotes for information consultancy services within three working days of receiving the customer's final specifications	90	88	86
Provide 90% of information consultancy services within five working days, or to a timeframe negotiated between the customer and the consultant	90	72 (a)	72 (a)
Complaints			
Acknowledgment of a service delivery complaint within one working day of receipt	100	75	75
Response from the Director, Client Services in the relevant ABS office, within five working days	100	75	75

Table 8.9: Target and actual performance against service standards for 2009–10 cont.

Performance standard	Target (%)	2008–09 Actual performance (%)	2009–10 Actual Performance (%)
Website			
Commence publishing to website at 11:30am (EST) Monday to Friday	100	100	100
Ensure the website is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, subject to events out of our control	100	100	100
Advertise website unavailability for maintenance purposes one working day prior to the website being unavailable	100	100	100
Fix 99% of broken web page links within 3 working days of notification by a customer	99	99	99
Refer 99% of requests for translation of any web product which is not suitably accessible for visually impaired users to an appropriate translation service within three working days	99	n.a. (no requests received)	n.a. (no requests received)
CURF microdata			
Acknowledge the receipt of 99% of microdata enquiries within one working day	99	99	93
Provide a full response to 85% of microdata enquiries within five working days	85	84	96
Dispatch 90% of CURF microdata products within 20 working days of receipt of the completed application form	90	60	90
Provide 90% of new CURF users with access within five working days to a CURF already approved for use in that organisation	90	95	85

(a) based on sample for Central Office and New South Wales service only. National service level unavailable due to data quality issues.

The use of ABS statistics has continued to grow as a result of high levels of customer service, innovative delivery mediums and high quality outputs that inform discussion and decision making.

Measure: Use of ABS products

ABS website

The ABS website is the primary access point for the majority of users of ABS information, with website users accessing ABS web pages 55 million times in 2009–10. This is an increase of 8% from 2008–09 and 49% from 2007–08.

Please note that website use figures from previous years have been rebased in 2009–10. Rebasing ensures that the time series are comparable with the latest estimates made using the latest available tools. For more information, see footnote (a) in Table 8.10, which presents ABS product access figures.

National Information and Referral Service (NIRS)

The National Information and Referral Service is a free service that provides the main entry point for those seeking basic information and statistical information from the ABS. The number of emails received by the NIRS was 15% higher in 2009–10 than in 2008–09, based on data for the 11 months to May for each year. This increase in the email volume for 2009–10 reflects the growing use of our website. Details are presented in Table 8.10.

The number of calls answered increased by 9% based on the 11 months to May. The increase in call volume for 2009–10 reflects the provision of the NIRS 1300 phone number as the nominated contact point for a growing number of ABS releases. Overall, NIRS has undertaken engagement internally and externally and this has led to an increasing awareness of our services.

Confidentialised unit record files (CURFs)

Confidentialised unit record files (CURFs) are special data for special research. CURFs provide valuable source of data for researchers in government, universities and for organisations in the not-for-profit and private sectors.

CURFs consist of records of individual responses to ABS surveys from persons, households or organisations. These records have been modified to protect respondent confidentiality. In all cases, information such as names and addresses has been removed, and a variety of statistical techniques have been applied to further ensure respondent confidentiality is maintained.

Basic CURFs are the most confidentialised CURFs available and are provided on CD-ROM. Expanded CURFs provide more detailed data than Basic CURFs, are slightly less confidentialised and hence are available only in the more secure environments of the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL™) and the ABS Data Laboratory (ABSDL). Specialist (customised) CURFs are produced to client requirements and are only available in the ABSDL.

The RADL™ enables approved users to submit statistical queries to be run on CURFs. Users do not access the data directly, and there are checks and controls in the system to maintain the security of the data. During 2009–10, 254 researchers from 70 organisations completed 28,849 jobs in RADL™, up from 16,160 jobs in 2008–09. Details are presented in Table 8.10.

The ABSDL is a microdata processing environment located in ABS premises. It provides a more interactive processing environment than the RADL™ for the analysis of Expanded and Specialist CURFs.

In 2009–10, 13 new CURFs were released, to bring the total available to 131.

Table 8.10: Number of accesses by types of access, 2005–06 to 2009–10

Type of Access	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10
Website					
Pages viewed (a)	20,533,345	26,751,755	36,844,298	50,907,654	54,983,668
Pages published	23,015	148,144 (b)	45,371 (c)	45,371 (d)	84,716
Products downloaded (a)	877,404	2,114,062	3,301,444	1,479,636	1,823,852
National Information and Referral Service					
Emails	12,588	14,278	15,772	16,293	18,388
Calls completed	56,257	58,040	56,739	50,716	55,893
Information Consultancy Service					
Consultancies dispatched	3,464	3,380	3,751	2,968 (e)	2,396
Secondary Providers					
Number	172	126	245 (f)	33	32
Remote Access Data Laboratory (g)					
Organisations active on RADL™ (h)	32	41	60	73	70
Individuals active on RADL™ (i)	98	131	173	189	254
Statistical programs executed (j)	8,998	15,955	19,305	16,160	28,849

(a) Data for pages viewed and products downloaded have been rebased. Rebasing refers to the process by which ABS uses the most recent results (in this case, 2009–10) to revise all prior estimates. Rebasing ensures that the time series are comparable with the latest estimates made using the latest available tools. The rebasing of page views embraces current web analytic methodologies in that it excludes the influence of internal staff web access, indexing/spidering and robots, and single-session page revisits. The rebasing of downloads was necessary due to the decommissioning of legacy infrastructure and implementation of a new web analytics tool.

(b) Includes approximately 100,000 Census first release pages.

(c) The 2007–08 and 2008–09 ABS Annual Report published this figure as 193,515. This was a cumulative total and has been corrected in this edition.

(d) The 2008–09 ABS Annual Report published this figure as 238,886. This was a cumulative total and has been corrected in this edition.

(e) The 2008–09 ABS Annual Report had this figure incorrectly listed as 3,968.

(f) Includes 32 secondary distributors who incur a licence fee for on-selling purchased data.

(g) Re-calculation of the RADL™ usage figures has shown that slightly fewer organisations and individuals actively used RADL™ in 2005–06 than was shown in previous issues of the ABS Annual Report. The number of statistical programs executed remains unchanged over the same period.

(h) Organisations active on RADL™ refers to organisations with users who executed statistical programs in RADL™ during the period shown.

(i) Individuals active on RADL™ refers to registered RADL™ users who executed statistical programs in RADL™ during the period shown.

(j) Statistical programs executed refers to jobs run in RADL™ during the period shown.

3. Appropriate use of statistical standards, frameworks and methodologies

The ABS has a lead role in avoiding duplication in the collection of statistics, attaining comparability between collections undertaken by different agencies, and maximising the utilisation of statistics.

Coherent data gives all citizens and governments the ability to compare different aspects of Australia's society and economy, and to assess Australia's progress. The ABS produces a range of widely-adopted statistical standards that enable a meaningful statistical picture of society and the economy to be presented. As the real world changes, statistics can lose their relevance, leading to a reduction in the quality and usefulness of the statistical information. In maintaining standards, the ABS must balance the potential for decreasing relevance of statistics against the significant cost of introducing new standards and the desire for comparability over time.

3.1 Lead the development of national statistical standards, frameworks and methodologies, and their implementation within the broader Australian statistical system

The ABS develops national statistical standards, frameworks and methodologies which are applied, as appropriate, to all ABS statistical collections, including business and household surveys. The ABS takes a leading role by encouraging other Australian, state and territory government agencies to adopt these standards, frameworks and methodologies in their statistical activities. The ABS also works closely with other agencies involved in the development of standards and frameworks.

These standards are developed and implemented on the basis of consultation and input from a range of stakeholders and interest groups in the statistical and user community.

During 2009–10, the ABS developed a number of new standards, frameworks and methodologies, as described below.

Standards for Income Variables, 2010

The new standard for income variables was released in March 2010. This publication specifies the ABS standards for the collection, processing, storage and dissemination of statistics on income. Topics covered include the ABS recommended definitions of concepts, classification criteria, code structures, questionnaire modules and output categories.

Key topics covered include:

- a conceptual framework for income
- total income
- sources of income
- equalised household income, and
- main sources of income.

Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations Coder, 2010

The Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) Coder is a Windows-based structured coding system on CD-ROM which provides a quick and efficient way to code occupation information to ANZSCO First Edition Revision 1. The ANZSCO Coder incorporates a detailed coding index (an extensive list of occupation titles) which enables coding to the occupation (6-digit) level of ANZSCO with a higher degree of accuracy and consistency than is possible when using just the classification structure and definitions.

Using the ANZSCO Coder does not require a detailed knowledge of the ANZSCO structure, nor of the composition of the labour force. The ANZSCO Coder assigns codes according to strictly prescribed rules, most of which are incorporated into the Coder.

Review of the Australian Standard Classification of Drugs of Concern

The Australian Standard Classification of Drugs of Concern (ASCDC) was created to meet a growing statistical and administrative need for data on the prevalence and use of drugs of concern in Australia. It was developed after extensive research of Australian and overseas literature, the advice of academics and drug experts, and consultation with community, health care and law enforcement groups. It was originally published in July 2000, and this is the first time it has been reviewed.

The need for periodic reviews of the ASCDC to reflect the changes in the types of drugs of concern being used and the prevalence of drug usage in Australia was foreshadowed when the ASCDC was released. Feedback from key users of the ASCDC has highlighted the need for a review of the ASCDC to ensure it is up to date.

Through research in the field and stakeholder consultation the aims are to:

- capture changes in drug misuse and abuse in Australia, incorporate new drugs of concern that have emerged, reflect the growth and decline of others, and address any errors in the classification, and
- improve the Coding Index used to map the actual responses provided to Drugs of Concern.

There was no attempt to review the conceptual model underpinning the classification or to make major structural changes.

Three rounds of consultation were undertaken with a range of users, stakeholders, and experts in the field. They included those who were originally involved in the classification's development in the late 1990s, as well as users who had expressed an interest in the classification or provided suggestions for improving it since it was released. The objective was to ensure known drug experts, key users in the health and law enforcement areas and peak bodies were included.

The revised standard is scheduled for release in late 2010.

3.2 Contribute to the development of key international standards, frameworks and methodologies, and implement them as appropriate

The ABS is at the forefront of National Statistical Organisations in adopting international standards, either by adopting the published standards or by developing Australian derivatives which facilitate international comparability. All national statistical standards, frameworks and methodologies can be aligned with international equivalents. The ABS assists in the development of many key international statistical standards, frameworks and methodologies.

In September 2009, the ABS was represented at the United Nations Expert Group on Classifications and Standards meeting in New York, where the technical details of international statistical standards are discussed and agreed. The Expert Group on Classifications and Standards meeting covered the following:

- review of the International Standard Industry Classification (ISIC) Implementation Guide
- review of the Companion Guide to ISIC and the Central Product Classification (CPC)
- revision of Health Classifications / International Classification of Diseases (ICD)
- revision of the International Standards Classification of Occupation (ISCO)

- revision plans for ISIC and CPC
- classifications of waste
- classifications of Resource Management Expenditures
- definitions of an 'environment industry'
- classification of energy products
- review of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED).

The ABS leads the development of the revised terms of reference for this Expert Group which will be presented to the 2011 UN Statistical Council meeting held in New York.

Macroeconomic statistics

Key international macroeconomic statistical standards, the System of National Accounts 2008 and the sixth edition of the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, were revised in 2009. As a result, the National and International Accounts programs at the ABS reviewed and changed methods for key statistical releases. The ABS *Information Paper: Implementation of New International Statistical Standards in ABS National and International Accounts, September 2009* (ABS cat. no. 5310.0.55.002) presented a detailed report on the changes.

Key developments in macroeconomic standards, frameworks and methodologies for 2009–10 include:

ANZSIC 2006

The ABS implemented the revised macro-economic standards, in conjunction with the implementation of *Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification, 2006*, for the 2008–09 release of the annual national accounts in November 2009. The various quarterly releases (including the national accounts, balance of payments and financial accounts) were released on the basis of the new standards, beginning with the September quarter 2009 releases. Changes required to the monthly balance of payments and international trade series were introduced with the August 2009 release.

The ABS and Statistics New Zealand are co-owners of two major statistical classifications, Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) and Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO). The ABS meets with Statistics New Zealand biannually to ensure that the classifications remain relevant to the economies of both countries. In addition, best practice on the development and implementation is also shared between to the two organisations.

Balance of Payments Manual

The ABS adopted the sixth edition of the *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual* (BPM6) in the August 2009 issue of *International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia* (ABS cat. no. 5368.0) and the September quarter 2009 issue of *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position, Australia* (ABS cat. no. 5302.0).

An information paper *Revisions to International Standards in Quarterly Balance of Payments and International Investment Statistics* (ABS cat. no. 5302.0.55.002) released on 22 July 2009, describes, in respect of *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position, Australia* (ABS cat. no. 5302.0), the main changes to the international standards, the timing for implementing the changes in Australian statistics, and the impact on the presentation of statistics.

A second information paper *Impact of revised International Standards on Monthly International Trade in Goods and Services* was released on 2 October 2009 (ABS. cat. no. 5368.0.55.014) and describes the impact on key aggregates.

A third information paper, *Implementation of New International Statistics Standards in ABS National and International Accounts* (ABS cat. no. 5310.0.55.002) released on 28 October 2009, describes the impact of the new standards on Australia's macroeconomic accounts including key aggregates for the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position.

Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services

The *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services* is published by a consortium of international agencies consisting of the United Nations, the European Commission, the IMF, the OECD, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the World Trade Organisation (WTO). A task force supported by the OECD has been working on revising the Manual to ensure continued consistency with the *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual*. The ABS has contributed to the revision process by providing comments on drafts of the revised Manual.

The ABS currently publishes information according to the more detailed service categories defined in the Manual. The ABS adopted the revised classification as at August 2008, and the new classifications were first incorporated into the August 2009 issue of *International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia* (ABS cat. no. 5368.0) and the September quarter 2009 issue of *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position, Australia* (ABS cat. no. 5302.0). Since August 2008, there have been changes to the classification and once finalised, the revised classification will be adopted by the ABS.

System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting

Environmental-economic accounting brings together economic and environmental information in a common framework to measure the contribution of the environment to the economy and the impact of the economy on the environment. The revised System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA) will be the statistical standard for environmental-economic accounting just as the System of National Accounts is the statistical standard for economic accounts. SEEA will provide an internationally agreed set of recommendations expressed in terms of concepts, definitions, classifications, accounting rules and standard tables in order to obtain international comparability of environmental-economic accounts and related statistics.

The UN London Group on Environmental Accounting is now finalising the revision of the SEEA prior to its release as an internationally recognised statistical standard in 2012. In 2009–10 the ABS continued its significant contribution to the London Group, including attending the 15th meeting of the Group in December 2009.

Challenges on managing the ABS's standards and classifications

A major initiative during 2009–10 has been the investigation of data standards in support of the ABS's Metadata Management Strategy. In addition, the ABS has identified a common purpose amongst statistical agencies, particularly those in OECD countries, to jointly develop and share the outcomes of this development. Initial work has centred on a number of key developments including:

- establishment of an agreed business process model – the General Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM)
- articulation of an information architecture as part of overall enterprise architecture
- identification of information standards which support business processes. In order to further understand the relative strengths and weaknesses of existing standards, the ABS has engaged a panel of international experts including Mr Arofan Gregory, Ms Wendy Thomas and Mr Achim Wackerow.

As it continues to evolve, this strategy will have increasing benefits for users of ABS statistics, making it easier for them to find, understand and use ABS statistics effectively. It will also align the ABS metadata environment with the associated international standards for metadata, such as the standard for data element definitions.

The ABS is an active participant in the Government 2.0 taskforce and the establishment of the www.data.gov.au website. The initiatives the ABS has instigated in developing and implementing data and metadata standards will improve our capacity to contribute to these developments. In addition, they lay a foundation for other agencies in the broader government and statistical community to enhance the value of their individual contributions.

Information Management Transformation Program

In October 2009, the ABS Executive formally agreed on SDMX (Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange) and DDI (Data Documentation Initiative) as the standards that will form the core of the ABS's future directions and developments with regard to statistical information management.

Following on from this agreement, the ABS formally established the ABS Information Management Transformation Program (IMTP) in February 2010. The IMTP will be undertaken in several phases and has the potential to be the most significant modernisation of information management infrastructure within the ABS since the mid- to late 1970s. The IMTP aims to renew core business systems within the ABS and support its data management and business process standardisation strategies, well into the future.

The DDI and SDMX standards are increasingly used internationally to support dissemination and exchange of aggregate statistics. Users within and beyond the ABS will realise a range of benefits from data and metadata that is structured in a standard, well designed, and well supported form.

In the months since this decision, there has been an emphasis on building understanding and capabilities within the ABS about SDMX and DDI, from both the technical and business perspectives. This included arranging visits from international experts in these standards, and initiating early 'pathfinder' projects applying SDMX to support future ABS dissemination channels.

In adopting the DDI metadata standard, the ABS has also joined the international DDI Alliance, opening the way for participation in the DDI Expert Committee. This allows the ABS to have a role in brokering stakeholder priorities and interests, recommending strategic directions and informing technical directions.

The ABS also recognised the need to engage with the development and directions of the SDMX initiative. This includes engagement with the increasingly extensive and active informal user community associated with SDMX. The ABS is also seeking to engage as much as possible with the organisations and processes that specify and prioritise future development of the various elements of the SDMX technical standards and content guidelines.

International collaboration

A central element of the IMTP and the adoption of the new DDI and SDMX standards is international collaboration, specifically:

- collaborations with other organisations in the development of new methods and systems to support the production and use of statistics, and
- more effective sharing of existing leading-practice solutions among agencies.

In 2009–10 the ABS was instrumental in forming a statistical network of six international statistics agencies to 'work together with pace and passion to better meet their societies' information needs while driving down costs'. The members of the network are the National Statistical Organisations (NSOs) of Sweden, Norway, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Australia.

The first critical goal is to harmonise statistical methods, systems and capabilities across the statistical agencies in the network. There are five key collaboration projects to achieve this goal, for which individual network members agreed to take the lead. In addition to performing the role of network secretariat for the first year, the ABS will lead a project to operationalise a common information management framework including the use of agreed metadata standards.

The ABS's interest in having greater involvement in the governance and decision making processes for SDMX was supported by a number of other National Statistical Organisations at the Joint OECD and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Expert Group meeting in Geneva March 2010.

Consistent with the suggestions from the Expert Group, the ABS expects to gain further NSO support for, and adoption of, SDMX. This in turn, should:

- lead NSOs to deliver and share utilities, tools, applications that may be of value to other adopters – effectively delivering additional resources to support wider adoption and use of SDMX, and
- extend the pool of people with an interest in SDMX who can be drawn on by the sponsors to assist in developing and reviewing proposals for extending the standard and guidelines.

SECTION 4

HOW THE ABS OPERATES



Chapter 9

ABS corporate governance



The ABS's corporate governance framework ensures transparency in decision making, operation and accountability, by promoting strong leadership, sound management and effective planning and review processes.

The key features of the ABS's corporate governance framework are:

- a planning cycle to ensure that the ABS work program reflects current and emerging statistical priorities of users, and is consistent with the ABS mission and overall strategic directions
- senior management committees involved in developing policies and strategies, identifying priorities and monitoring the ABS's performance
- advisory bodies and user groups, which enable the ABS to consult widely with the user community about the ABS work program (see Appendix 2, User groups advising the ABS)
- an audit and review program covering the different facets of ABS operations, overseen by the ABS Audit Committee
- a risk management framework to assist in identifying and managing risks at organisational, operational and project level, and
- instructions and manuals to ensure staff have access to ABS policies and practices.

ABS values

Underlying the corporate governance framework are the Australian Public Service (APS) and ABS values, which are the basis for the ethical standards for ABS employees.

As an APS agency, ABS employees are required to abide by the APS Values and the Code of Conduct. In addition, the ABS Corporate Plan sets out values specific to the ABS, which are essential to the ABS's role as a trusted and independent provider of information for Australia.

These values are promoted through training courses and awareness raising. They are used as a reference for the actions and decisions of ABS staff, from senior management down.

The ABS values are:

- integrity
- service
- professionalism
- relevance
- trust of providers, and
- access for all.

For more information on ABS values, see Chapter 10, Management of human resources.

Establishment of the Chief Operating Officer

In late 2009, the ABS established a Chief Operating Officer (COO) position at the Deputy Australian Statistician level. The COO is responsible for the leadership, strategic direction and management of the organisation's corporate, technology and information collection and dissemination services, and also chairs meetings of the Senior Management Group (SMG).

Senior management committees

An important feature of ABS corporate governance is the role played by senior management committees, which are active in developing policies and strategies, identifying ABS priorities, assessing and responding to risks and opportunities, and monitoring ABS performance.

The major senior management committees in place during 2009–10 are outlined in table 9.1.

Table 9.1: Senior Management Committees for 2009–10

Executive Leadership Group meetings	The Executive Leadership Group (ELG) consists of the Australian Statistician (chair) and the four Deputy Australian Statisticians. ELG meetings are held fortnightly to ensure that ongoing attention is given to strategic issues that affect the future of the organisation, including giving high-level focus to the National Statistical Service and strategic client engagement.
Senior Management Group meetings	Senior Management Group (SMG) meetings are held weekly to provide tactical management oversight of ABS operations and to advise the ELG on strategic and policy issues. The meetings ensure the ABS is a well-run organisation with well formulated work programs that are reviewed appropriately with proper consideration of cross-cutting issues. The SMG also addresses other issues, including information resource management, publishing and dissemination, human resources and accountability. The COO chairs SMG meetings and the First Assistant Statisticians, two Regional Directors (on a rotating basis), the Chief Financial Officer and the Assistant Statisticians of the Office of the Statistician and Human Resources branch attend. Other senior officers attend as required for particular items. The ELG and the SMG meet jointly on a quarterly basis to discuss strategic and policy issues.
ABS Management Meetings	The Management Meetings play a major role in determining ABS strategic directions, priorities and resource allocations. The Management Meeting is held twice a year, and takes formal decisions on ABS strategic directions, considers planning and budgeting issues, and discusses issues of corporate importance. The Australian Statistician chairs these meetings and the Deputy and First Assistant Statisticians, Regional Directors, Chief Financial Officer and the Assistant Statistician of the Office of the Statistician attend.
Capital Strategy Committee	The Capital Strategy Committee (CSC) contributes to ABS planning and budgeting processes by ensuring ABS capital expenditure and funding are aligned with strategic directions in the longer term. The CSC is responsible for working with the Chief Financial Officer in developing and executing an ABS capital plan that is aligned with strategic directions and approved by the ABS Management Meeting.

	<p>The CSC ensures the ABS has robust internal mechanisms for planning and managing capital assets and technology applications funding over the medium to long term.</p> <p>The COO chairs the CSC meetings and SMG members attend. Meetings are held quarterly, with additional meetings scheduled as required for the planning and budgeting cycle.</p>
Audit Committee	<p>The Australian Statistician has established an Audit Committee in accordance with section 46 of the <i>Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997</i>.</p> <p>The Audit Committee provides assurance to the Australian Statistician that the ABS has in place a comprehensive control framework for all its business systems, including those used to support statistical activities, and that this framework is working effectively.</p> <p>The committee also assures the Australian Statistician that the ABS complies with all its legislative and other obligations.</p> <p>A Deputy Australian Statistician chairs the committee, which meets four times a year. It consists of seven members, two of whom are external. Their appointment is based on their personal qualities, experience and skills, including their ability to demonstrate independence on matters before the committee.</p>
Protective Security Management Committee	<p>The ABS maintains a comprehensive security framework, overseen by a Protective Security Management Committee chaired by a Deputy Australian Statistician. This security framework ensures that both physical and computer security are maintained.</p> <p>The committee is a key means of ensuring that the ABS meets its legal requirement not to divulge identifiable information and to ensure that there is policy to meet the security- and privacy-related requirements of legislation including the <i>Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997</i>, <i>Census and Statistics Act 1905</i>, <i>Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975</i>, <i>Privacy Act 1988</i> and <i>Crimes Act 1914</i>.</p>

Planning

The ABS mission statement and the corporate plan provide the context for decision making on the forward work program.

While much of the ABS work program remains constant from year to year, each year the ABS examines the external environment to assess the likely statistical needs for the next four years.

The annual planning cycle comprises a series of high level meetings and forums, where senior managers consider the relative priorities and competing resource requirements of program components. In doing this, particular attention is given to:

- input from user consultations
- strategic directions the ABS has set for the next four years
- the cost imposed on respondents to collections, in terms of time and effort
- consideration of enterprise opportunities and risks

- prospective total resources available to the ABS within the next four years
- productivity gains that have been achieved, or which may be possible to achieve in the future
- the contribution statistical activities make to meeting National Statistical Service objectives, and
- the extent to which particular statistical activities continue to be justified in relation to other work, with respect to user demand.

Aspects of the proposed forward work program, and resource estimates that emerge, are considered by the Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC). The statistical work program is then finalised, taking into consideration the advice provided by ASAC.

The Forward Work Program is published every year in hard copy, and is also available on the ABS website at <http://www.abs.gov.au>.

Audit and risk management

The ABS has a robust Risk Management Framework, which provides the basis for identifying, assessing and mitigating risks at all levels within the organisation. The framework is set out in the ABS's Risk Management Strategy. The strategy and framework undergo continuous review, based on feedback from many sources including internal audits, external risk reviews, better practice guides, and the outcomes of the annual Comcover Risk Management Benchmarking exercise.

Since 2008–09 there has been a strong focus on the integration of risk identification and prioritisation within the ABS business planning cycle. In developing business plans, managers at all levels are expected to identify key risks to their work programs. Significant risks identified at section level are elevated or integrated into business plans at the Branch and Division level to provide a more comprehensive and consistent picture of the ABS risk profile.

On an annual basis, the ABS reviews and identifies strategic risks that have the potential to significantly impact on the organisation. These are known as enterprise risks. The key benefit of this annual review is the strengthening of risk identification and analysis through a coordinated examination of organisational threats. For each of the enterprise risks, members of the ABS Executive have been designated as Risk Owners, treatment strategies have been determined, and the Risk Owners have been allocated responsibility for monitoring their implementation. This approach provides clear ownership of risk mitigation responsibilities and the opportunity for the Executive to review the success of risk mitigation.

The ABS conducts operational risk workshops to assist program managers to identify and manage risks that have the potential to impact on program objectives.

The ABS runs an annual Internal Review Program as a complement to the ABS Internal Audit Program. Internal reviews primarily focus on statistical programs to address issues including program effectiveness, efficiency and statistical quality.

Each year, a work program of internal audits is developed to address performance and compliance risks to the ABS. These internal audits are undertaken by an external audit provider.

Business continuity in the ABS

The ABS Business Continuity Plan (BCP) provides the framework to assist the ABS to plan for, and manage, any significant business disruption. Supported by several key sub-plans, the BCP is designed to assist the ABS, during and following a business disruption, to return to 'business as usual' as soon as possible.

The ABS BCP is a living document that is amended annually, or as incidents occur or as issues are identified. The BCP incorporates all aspects of business continuity including emergency management, crisis management and business resumption.

Over the last few years, the ABS Business Continuity Plan has been tested on several occasions by real events for which the plans have held up well. The ABS activated its Business Continuity Plan in 2009 to deal with the emerging H1N1 Swine Flu situation. In line with our BCP, the ABS Crisis Management Team met on several occasions to determine the most appropriate strategy for the organisation, to minimise the impact on ABS operations and ensure the health and safety of its employees.

All of the ABS business continuity plans are reviewed annually and are tested.

Communication has been a focus over the last year. To keep staff informed during a crisis, the ABS uses email, a 1800 toll free message bank, SMS messaging services to all official ABS mobile phone holders, and can publish a message on its website for staff only. Testing of the message bank and website was undertaken in 2009 to ensure its capacity to deal with large scale usage.

Fraud control

As required by the Commonwealth Fraud Control Guidelines, the Australian Statistician has certified that the ABS has prepared appropriate fraud risk assessments and fraud control plans, and has in place appropriate fraud prevention, detection, investigation, reporting and data collection procedures and processes that meet the specific needs of the ABS and comply with the guidelines.

The ABS Fraud Control Plan was reviewed in the first half of 2010. This showed the ABS has a relatively low exposure to fraud, but there are some aspects where mitigation actions could be taken to provide increased protection. Progress will be monitored and reported to the Audit Committee over the coming year.

Security of premises

The ABS relies on the trust and confidence of data providers to enable it to operate effectively and to fulfil the ABS mission statement.

The security of ABS premises and of the information technology environment are key aspects of maintaining that trust and confidence, and are vital to minimising risks in a number of areas, including fraud.

All ABS premises are physically secured against unauthorised access. Entry is through electronically-controlled access systems activated by individually-coded access cards, and monitored by closed circuit television. Areas of the ABS producing particularly sensitive data, such as main economic indicators, are subject to further physical security measures.

The ABS computer network has a secure gateway, which allows connection to some Internet services only. The secure gateway has been established in accordance with Australian Government guidelines and is subject to annual accreditation by the National Communications and Computer Security Advisory Authority, Defence Signals Directorate.

Internal access to ABS computing systems is based on personal identifiers that are password protected. Databases are accessible only by approved users. The computer systems are regularly monitored and usage audited. There were no incidents of unauthorised access into the ABS computing systems during 2009–10.

Additional access control systems are used to protect any data designated 'sensitive'. Access to sensitive data is granted only under the authority of area line management (the 'owners' of the data), on the basis that access is required by authorised staff members to carry out their duties.

Included in the ABS strategic audit plan is an ongoing program of security audits, and reviews of computer systems and the physical environment.

External scrutiny

The ABS is subject to external scrutiny from a range of bodies. These include the Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC) and other advisory groups which comment on the ABS work program. For more information on ASAC, please refer to Chapter 2, Overview of the ABS.

A number of bodies established by the Australian Government can examine the operations of the ABS. The ABS assisted in providing information to the Commonwealth Auditor General and the Commonwealth Ombudsman during 2009–10.

ABS obligations under Freedom of Information are examined in Appendix 5. Information on submissions made to Parliamentary Committees, and documents tabled in Parliament by the ABS are available in Appendices 7 and 8 respectively.

There were no adverse comments relating to the ABS from the Commonwealth Auditor General, the Commonwealth Ombudsman, Parliamentary Committees, or courts or tribunals during 2009–10.

Privacy

As an Australian Government agency, the ABS must comply with the *Privacy Act 1988*, and the associated Information Privacy Principles. These obligations govern the way information about staff, clients and respondents should be collected, stored, used and disclosed. Information provided by respondents also has the protection of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

The ABS has a privacy officer who, providing the perspective of a privacy advocate, advises on privacy issues internally, and monitors the external environment to keep up-to-date on privacy issues that could impact upon ABS operations.

The ABS maintains a close relationship with the Australian Government's Office of the Privacy Commissioner (OPC), advising the Commissioner regularly of the ABS forward work program, attending OPC quarterly privacy officer network meetings, and seeking advice on any new ABS initiatives about which privacy advocates may have concerns. Every year the ABS contributes to the Commissioner's Personal Information Digest, which is published to inform the general public of the types of personal information that Government departments hold.

Chapter 10

Management of human resources



Introduction

The ABS Corporate Plan recognises and values ABS employees as the key to delivering on our mission. The ABS depends on capable and motivated employees to achieve its objectives, and human resource management is a critical function within the agency. The ABS needs employees

- who understand Australia's evolving information needs, and can assist the ABS to meet these needs
- who recognise the changes to the ABS operating environment, and can help the ABS to adapt to those changes, and
- with professional competencies and a commitment to both Australian Public Service (APS) and ABS values.

Proficient management of human resources is the key to ensuring the attraction and retention of a workforce that has the skills to deliver the ABS work program now and into the future.

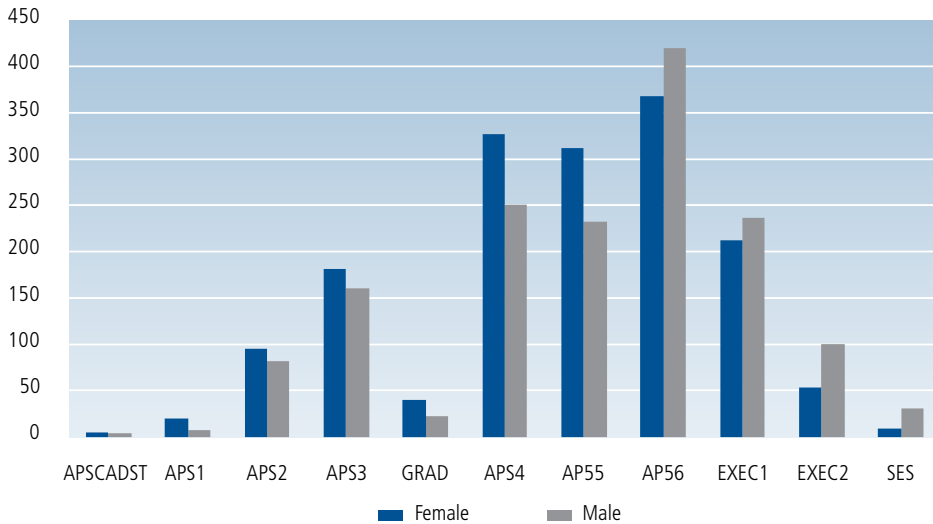
At 30 June 2010, there were 3289 staff employed at the ABS under the *Public Service Act 1999* – 1583 males and 1706 females. This includes operative, paid inoperative and unpaid inoperative staff.

The ABS had 3168 operative and paid inoperative staff, at 30 June 2010, and 121 unpaid inoperative staff. There were also 627 staff employed to assist with data collection under Regulation 3 of the Statistics Regulations, and appointed as authorised officers under Section 16 of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*. These staff are not employed under the *Public Services Act*.

Graph 10.1 and Tables 10.1 and 10.2 present the profile of ABS staff by employment classification and sex, and by location and type of employment for operative and paid inoperative staff.

Staff employed under the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* (interviewers) and 121 unpaid inoperative staff are excluded from the tables.

Graph 10.1: Employment classification by sex, 30 June 2010 (a)



(a) Operative and paid inoperative staff

(b) Includes Australian Statistician (Statutory appointment)

Table 10.1 Number of ABS staff by location and status, at 30 June 2010 (a)

	Ongoing		Non-ongoing		Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	
Central Office (ACT)	1263	218	127	135	1743
NSW	246	48	16	77	387
VIC	189	41	14	6	250
QLD	138	24	9	6	177
WA	140	23	47	15	225
SA	149	39	21	5	214
TAS	75	17	20	3	115
NT	35	5	4	1	45
ACT	9	1	2		12
Total	2244	416	260	248	3168

(a) includes operative and paid inoperative staff

At 30 June 2010 there were 8 women in the ABS Senior Executive Service (SES), representing 22% of the total number of SES officers in the ABS.

Table 10.2 Number of ABS Senior Executive Staff (SES) by level, sex and year (a)

Year (at 30 June)	SES Level			Sex		Total
	1	2	3	Male	Female	
2007	28	5	2	22	13	35
2008	33	6	3	27	15	42
2009	26	7	3	26	10	36
2010	27	6	4	29	8	37

(a) Includes only operative, substantive SES officers as at 30 June, but excludes the Australian Statistician, who is a statutory office holder appointed under the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*. Excludes SES at another department.

Australian Public Service values in the ABS

Australian Public Service (APS) values are widely promoted and strongly observed throughout the ABS. The ABS Mission Statement reflects the independent nature of the ABS, as well as its commitment to the provision of comprehensive, accurate and timely advice.

The ABS has long-established and strongly upheld agency values that are fundamental to the ABS performing its role as an independent provider of statistical information. The ABS values are complementary to APS values and include:

- **Integrity** – data, analysis and interpretation are always independent with the highest standards of integrity upheld.
- **Service** – the ABS understands its service role and seeks to understand and meet its clients' statistical needs.
- **Professionalism** – the professionalism of employees is actively supported to ensure the ABS has the technical and leadership skills required for the future.
- **Relevance** – all information provided by the ABS is relevant in terms of timeliness and content.
- **Trust of providers** – the ABS maintains provider trust by adhering to the highest level of data protection and privacy standards.
- **Access for all** – the ABS ensures its statistics can be easily accessed and used by the community, business and governments.

The importance of the APS values is acknowledged and integrated into the management and operations of the ABS. The obligations of employees to uphold the APS and ABS values and abide by the APS Code of Conduct are:

- promoted in learning and development activities across all levels from the induction of new starters through to senior management development programs
- actively applied through human resource processes
- supported by a suite of guidelines, policies and procedures, which themselves acknowledge the APS values
- reflected as appropriate throughout ABS corporate documents, which are readily accessible to all employees through the ABS Intranet, and
- advertised through promotional material including posters and the distribution of bookmarks to all employees and new starters.

Recruitment

Effective and targeted recruitment continues to be a priority area for the ABS. Recruitment projects in 2009–10 included:

- commencing the centralisation of 'end-to-end' recruitment functions in the ABS NSW office as part of the Corporate Services Improvement Program
- targeting recruitment strategies to strengthen selection fields for critical positions
- strengthening partnerships with business areas across the ABS to enable improvements in recruitment services
- reviewing recruitment methodologies to identify system efficiencies, streamline recruitment processes and improve management information
- continuing to focus on Indigenous recruitment, with participation in the Australian Public Service Commission (APSC) Indigenous recruitment processes.

Graduate recruitment

The ABS Graduate Development Program is extremely valuable to the agency in identifying new talent and helping to secure our future. Graduate recruitment forms a significant part of the ABS's succession planning and entry-level recruitment strategy.

In 2009–10, the ABS welcomed 82 graduates into the ABS Graduate Program. The 2011 graduate recruitment campaign is well underway, with 176 successful applicants expected to commence with the ABS in January 2011.

A refreshed National Graduate Development Program for 2010 included a two day induction program in Central Office Canberra and nationally-coordinated training events over the ten month program.



2010 ABS graduates at the two day induction event in Canberra in January 2010

ABS People Plan

The development of an ABS People Plan was identified as one of the priority projects for the Corporate Services Improvement Program. A draft plan has been developed and will be ratified in July 2011. The People Plan has been developed to support ongoing organisational performance and sustainability via an integrated, consistent and focused implementation of people-related initiatives across the ABS. The essence of the plan is highlighted in the motto 'Our People, Our Future'.

The ABS People Plan is a results-oriented framework which:

- identifies the key people-related priorities, strategies, deliverables and performance indicators for the ABS
- provides an integrated platform for developing local level strategies, in support of the national priorities
- embeds the plan within the current corporate governance and planning framework, ensuring integration with other relevant corporate strategies and establishing clear lines of reporting and accountability
- supports other corporate initiatives for achieving organisational sustainability, and
- outlines the main roles and responsibilities for senior leaders, line managers and staff under the plan.

The key objective of the plan is to ensure that we can continue to meet our mission, through our people. Four high-level national strategies have been identified to achieve this. These are:

1. Attract and retain the right people.
2. Strengthen leadership.
3. Build capability at all levels to improve organisational and individual performance.
4. Understand and monitor our workforce and external environment.

These strategies reflect the people-related priorities articulated in ABS Strategic Framework documents (Corporate Plan and Strategic Direction Statements). They are also very closely aligned with the 'Key Focus Areas for Commonwealth Agencies' that were identified in the APSC report into the *State of the Service 2008–09*.

Consultation in the ABS

The ABS is committed to communication, cooperation and effective consultation with employees and, where they choose, their representatives, about matters that affect their workplace.

The ABS consultative framework includes:

- line managers, who are important conduits for communication and consultation in the workplace
- consultative forums in each resource centre, including each regional office. These forums provide employees with a mechanism to participate in deliberations and decision making processes on issues affecting their jobs and workplace
- national and resource centre occupational health and safety consultative forums
- employee representatives meeting with management as necessary
- the annual ABS National Forum, which includes participants from each consultative forum, management and employee organisations.

The 2010 National Forum was held in March 2010. A wide range of issues were discussed, including the Information Management Transformation Program, the review of the ABS

Performance Management scheme, the ABS Great Innovations competition, the 2009 ABS Productivity exercise and sustainable environment initiatives.

A National Employee Survey was conducted in March 2010 with results delivered progressively from May 2010. The survey provided an opportunity for ABS employees to have a direct say about what is important to them and what drives individual motivation. Consultation has occurred both at the local level through specially convened team meetings, and at the national level where survey results and follow up initiatives have been discussed by the ABS senior leadership.

Agreement making

The ABS has two enterprise agreements in place which cover the majority of employees: the *ABS Enterprise Agreement 2009–2011* (ABS EA), and the *ABS Interviewers Certified Agreement 2005–2011* (Interviewers CA). At the end of June 2010, the ABS is planning the bargaining process for two new enterprise agreements to cover these workforces in 2011.

The ABS is in the process of finalising a Determination to cover non-ongoing employees for the 2011 Census Data Processing Centre Dress Rehearsal. Bargaining for an enterprise agreement to cover non-ongoing employees for the 2011 Census Data Processing Centre is expected to commence in the second half of 2010.

A Determination setting the terms and conditions of employment for Census Field employees, engaged for the purpose of assisting with the taking of the 2010 Census Dress Rehearsal and the 2011 Census of Population and Housing, was made in February 2010.

As required by Australian Government policy, Australian Workplace Agreements (AWAs) are no longer offered to employees, and existing AWAs have been terminated or replaced by section 24(1) determinations.

Details of the number of employees covered by an Enterprise Agreement, or a section 24(1) determination at 30 June 2010 are as follows:

- ABS employees covered by a Section 24(1) determination:
 - Senior Executive Service (SES): 37
 - Non-SES employees: 0
- ABS employees covered by the *ABS Enterprise Agreement 2009–2011*: 3252
- ABS employees covered by the *ABS Interviewers Certified Agreement 2005–2011*: 627.

The ABS salary system

The *ABS Enterprise Agreement 2009–2011* outlines the salary arrangements for ABS employees.

In 2009–2010, salary increases for APS1 to EL2 employees were paid from 1 October 2009, with components of the salary increases being:

1. a general salary increase of 4% for all employees. Table 10.3 shows the salary ranges for ABS employees with the general salary increase factored in
2. a performance-based increase equivalent to a one pay point movement (2% of the minimum of the relevant salary range) for all employees rated as **effective** or better, subject to the maximum of the salary range not being exceeded
3. for employees rated as **outstanding**, a one-off lump sum bonus payment of 2% of the minimum of the relevant salary range after the general salary increase was applied. During 2009–10, the total amount paid as one-off lump sum bonus payments was \$256,527. It was paid to 183 employees. Table 10.4 shows the performance bonus payments by employee classification for 2009–10.

In February 2010, the Australian Statistician introduced a new salary system for SES employees via individual determinations made under section 24 (1) of the *Public Service Act 1999*. The main feature of the new system, which came into effect from 8 July 2010, invokes a new six-point graduated performance assessment scale with performance-based increases in the range of 3% to 5.25% for employees rated **effective** or better.

Table 10.3: Salary ranges by classification as at 30 June 2010

Classification	Minimum (\$)	Maximum (\$)
Australian Public Service (APS) Level		
APS1 (Adult)	36,593	40,252
APS2	41,416	45,558
APS3	47,169	51,886
APS4	53,100	58,410
APS5	59,227	65,150
APS6	67,368	74,105
Executive Officer Level (EL)		
EL1	82,448	90,693
EL2	104,237	114,661
Senior Executive Service (SES) Level		
SES Band 1	137,891	166,279
SES Band 2	166,279	198,486
SES Band 3	198,486	N/A (b)

(a) The APS1 to EL2 salary ranges took effect from 1 October 2009. SES Band 1 to SES Band 3 salary ranges took effect from 18 February 2010.

(b) Not applicable (as there is not a maximum level for this classification).

Table 10.4: Annual performance bonus payments by level, 2009–10 (a)

Classification	Number of employees at each level who received a one-off bonus	Amount (b) paid to employees at each level who received a bonus (\$)	Aggregate (\$)
Australian Public Service (APS) level			
APS1	0	N/A	0
APS2	1	828	828
APS3	8	943	7,544
APS4	33	1062	35,046
APS5	23	1185	27,255
APS6	52	1347	70,044
Executive Officer (EL)			
EL1	50	1649	82,450
EL2	16	2085	33,360
Senior Executive Service (SES) level			
SES1, SES2, SES3	0	N/A	0
Total	183		256,527

(a) In previous ABS annual reports performance pay tables included performance-linked advancements to a higher pay point. The 2009–10 figures represent just the one-off bonus payment component, and not the increases that become a part of an employee's nominal salary.

(b) All eligible staff receive a bonus payment of 2% of the minimum of the relevant salary range, therefore all bonus payments were of the same amount.

Reward and recognition

The ABS operates a Reward and Recognition Scheme, which recognises exceptional one-off achievements by individual employees and work groups. Rewards may be made in the form of hospitality (such as work group morning teas), gift certificates, prepaid vouchers and cash bonuses. Total ABS expenditure for the scheme in 2009–10 was \$84,576.

Performance management in the ABS

ABS is committed to being a high-performing public agency and recognises that effective management of individual employee performance is key to organisational success. To this end, the ABS requires all ongoing employees to participate in our performance management arrangements. This includes formal reviews twice a year, regular ongoing discussions between employees and their managers regarding performance, and participation in relevant development activities that enhance capability.

In the last year the ABS has invested in improving our performance management process. A joint review between the ABS and the Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU) was conducted into the ABS performance management scheme. The recommendations were announced in March 2010 and have been largely adopted by the ABS. The result will be a number of key changes to our performance management processes starting in July 2010, including:

- a new Development and Performance Framework that has staff development at its core. The framework also involves cascading ABS goals from the most senior levels of management, through line-managers and teams to individuals. This will ensure that all employees are connected to the strategic directions of the ABS
- promoting a culture where our leaders develop talent, to promote innovation and continuous improvement, and demonstrate our corporate values through action, and
- new Development and Performance Agreements that are easy to use, with an increased focus on people management accountability.

Employees are encouraged to demonstrate insight and thinking beyond current practice. The innovation of its people is crucial for the ABS to find ways to increase business performance, identify productivity savings and maintain organisational sustainability.

Learning and development

Training activities across the ABS are designed to enhance organisational capabilities, ensuring the ABS can respond to business challenges. The training focus is on statistical capability, people management, leadership and information technology skills.

The ABS has continued to review and align the development of management programs by introducing programs to help managers fulfil their roles, and embed understanding of accountabilities and responsibilities within the organisation. In 2009–10, backed by an increased investment in learning and development, the primary development focus was on the Executive Officer 1 and 2 levels (middle management). The ABS also invested in programs designed to raise the awareness of managers and employees in developing capability.

Demand for information technology training has increased significantly, and the ABS invested in more training to increase skills in software packages commonly used by business areas.

Table 10.5: ABS employee training (a)

	Total ABS Operative Staff (b)	Attendance Days	Average Training Days
2005–06	2,865	16,163 (c)	5.6
2006–07	3,065	13,491 (c) (d)	4.4
2007–08	2,733	9,907	3.6
2008–09	2,489	6,179	2.5
2009–10	2,593	7,397	2.9

(a) Excludes on-the-job training

(b) Excludes all inoperative and non-ongoing temporary staff.

(c) Figures revised down since first published, as more accurate information has since become available

(d) Excludes Census Data Processing Centre Training

After a review in 2008, the Organisational, People and Learning System is now being decommissioned and a new system to manage learning is being implemented as a temporary step prior to investing in a broader human resources system.

The ABS is committed to providing opportunities for all employees to develop and enhance their skills and qualifications, to meet current and future skill requirements. As part of this commitment, the Graduate Certificate in Statistics (GCS) has been initiated for 2010, providing an opportunity for selected staff to enhance their statistical skills. In addition, the ABS continues to fund a Study Support Program offering paid study leave and financial assistance to approved students outside the GCS program.

Statistical skills continue to be further developed through the National Statistical Training Institute (NSTI), now part of the National Training and Development Section. The NSTI provides a cohesive, statistical skills development program for ABS employees, as well as a program of external training for key clients and partners. The NSTI program covers three key learning streams:

1. **General statistical skills** focus on developing overview knowledge of ABS systems and processes; general statistical principles such as data quality and confidentiality; and broad skills such as project management and statistical writing.
2. **Collection cycle training** aims to cover training across the data collection cycle and forms the basis of the NSTI curriculum. It is ultimately intended that NSTI will develop and run a complete series of courses across this cycle. The delivery schedule for collection cycle training is largely determined by the priorities and resourcing from ABS business divisions.
3. **Concepts, sources and methods training** relates to the conceptual and client engagement infrastructure that supports collection cycle work. Delivery of this training is fully determined by the priorities and resourcing from divisional client areas.

Chapter 11

Management of assets

The ABS's assets are integral to the cost-effective conduct of its business, and are part of the combination of resources required to enable delivery of services. This chapter outlines the asset management principles, including the approach to purchasing, used by the ABS during 2009–2010.

The ABS directly manages its non-financial assets in accordance with Chief Executive Instructions and Australian Accounting Standards. The total value of these assets are \$138.6 million. Most of the assets are intangible (internally-generated software), and were valued at \$82.6 million in 2009–2010. Tangible assets (property, plant and equipment) were valued at \$48.3 million with other non-financial assets (prepayments and accrued revenue) valued at \$7.7 million. Tangible asset values are maintained with the assistance of an independent valuer.

Asset management in the ABS

Principles

Overall, the ABS asset management principles are designed to ensure that asset management practices and decisions support the service delivery requirements and business demands of the organisation, and that capital expenditure decisions address the full life-cycle costs, benefits and risks of the assets.

The ABS's approach to asset management encompasses the following principles:

- asset management activities are undertaken within an integrated government asset management framework
- service delivery needs to guide asset management practices and decisions
- asset planning and management are integrated with corporate and business plans, as well as budgetary and reporting processes
- capital expenditure decisions are based on evaluations of alternatives that take into account full life-cycle costs, benefits and risks of assets, and
- ownership, control, accountability and reporting requirements for assets are established, clearly communicated and implemented.

Strategic issues

The major strategic issue currently being addressed with respect to ABS assets is the effective management of its information and technology assets. Information and technology assets in the ABS are supported by strong governance arrangements.

These arrangements define how the overall direction, goals, investments and outcomes of information technology in supporting ABS outcomes will be achieved. The current strategies implemented to manage these investments are:

- using strategic direction and oversight by the Senior Management Group, and Capital Strategy Committee, comprising heads of all business areas (see Chapter 9, ABS Corporate governance)
- developing a corporate information technology budget and work program every year, and carrying out regular monitoring
- enhancing and/or replacing existing software and hardware, on a rolling program, where justified by business demands and where investments can be afforded
- continuing an active internal auditing program, and
- ensuring that full costs are attributed and balanced against benefits by using internal cost recovery.

Planning and managing information and technology assets

Information technology asset plans are developed each financial year and inform the development of the annual asset plan. In 2009–10, the ABS created a corporate investment pool from existing budgets to fund cross-cutting corporate, internally-generated assets. The pool funded \$3 million of internally-generated assets, and funding was prioritised on the basis of outcome benefits, costs, savings and return on investment. The investment window is four years, with an annual rolling program reviewing and re-prioritising investments as required.

The review of the health of statistical and business applications in the ABS was completed late in 2009. It provides a good baseline of the business value and technical fit of the ABS applications portfolio. The information from this portfolio is already informing the planning for investment and replacement of information and communications technology intangible assets over the medium to long-term. An annual cycle of review will ensure the information in the application portfolio maintains its currency.

Gershon Review outcomes

In 2009–10, the ABS continued to participate in the Government's Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Reform Program, which arose from the Gershon Review of 2008. The ABS continues to benchmark well for the efficiency and effectiveness of its ICT operations, and has given a number of best practice presentations.

A detailed review by the Department of Finance and Deregulation's ICT Efficiency Review Team showed the ABS operating effectively, with the majority of savings options tabled by the Review Team having already been adopted and achieved in the ABS.

The ABS participates actively on ICT Reform working groups including whole-of-government ICT procurement, ICT staffing and careers, Green IT and project management to ensure the best outcome for government and the ABS.

Asset measurement

The ABS maintains an asset register to address management, statutory reporting and user requirements.

The ABS's assets are integral to the conduct of its business, and are part of the combination of resources required to enable cost effective service delivery.

The asset register underpins planning policies, analysis of financial programs, capitalisation, and reviews of performance against defined objectives.

For recognition as an asset, the ABS has an expenditure capitalisation threshold of \$2,000 for general assets and \$1,000 for information and technology assets, including software. Asset expenditure greater than, or equal to, these amounts is capitalised and recorded on the assets register.

Purchasing

Purchasing and competitive tendering and contracting

The ABS undertakes a wide variety of procurement and contracting activities, with the majority of purchases being classed as low value and low complexity.

The ABS conducts its procurement and contracting activities in accordance with Chief Executive Instructions and the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines. The ABS advertises an annual procurement plan on AusTender, and the plan is reviewed and updated as required throughout the year. The ABS has a centralised area of expertise, which provides procurement and contracting support to operational areas, and provides direct support for more complex procurement projects. Information on procurement policy and practices is disseminated to staff through an internal procurement portal.

Through the use of efficient processes and effective application of the ABS and Australian Government policies and principles, the ABS is satisfied that its approach to market testing and contracting is highly effective, resulting in value-for-money outcomes for the ABS. The ABS continues to invest in developing procurement skills and reviewing processes, to ensure that efficiency and value-for-money outcomes are achieved.

The ABS has not undertaken any competitive tendering and contracting activities during the year that have resulted in the contracting out of government activities previously performed by the ABS.

Information relating to expenditure on contracts and consultancies is available on the AusTender website: <http://www.tenders.gov.au>.

Exempt contracts

During the 2009–2010 financial year, the ABS did not exempt any contracts from publication by AusTender, under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

SECTION 5

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS





INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Assistant Treasurer

Scope

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the year ended 30 June 2010, which comprise: a Statement by the Australian Statistician and Chief Financial Officer; Statement of Comprehensive Income; Balance Sheet; Statement of Changes in Equity; Cash Flow Statement; Schedule of Commitments; Schedule of Contingencies; Schedule of Asset Additions; Schedule of Administered Items and Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements, including a Summary of Significant Accounting Policies.

The Responsibility of the Australian Statistician for the Financial Statements

The Australian Statistician is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*, including the Australian Accounting Standards (which include the Australian Accounting Interpretations). This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on my audit. I have conducted my audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. These auditing standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Australian Bureau of Statistics' preparation and

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fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Australian Statistician, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Independence

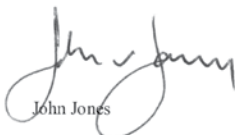
In conducting the audit, I have followed the independence requirements of the Australian National Audit Office, which incorporate the requirements of the Australian accounting profession.

Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements of the Australian Bureau of Statistics:

- (a) have been prepared in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*, including the Australian Accounting Standards; and
- (b) give a true and fair view of the matters required by the Finance Minister's Orders including the Australian Bureau of Statistics' financial position as at 30 June 2010 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

Australian National Audit Office



John Jones

Executive Director


Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra

10 August 2010

**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS
STATEMENT BY THE AUSTRALIAN STATISTICIAN AND
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2010 are based on properly maintained financial records and give a true and fair view of the matters required by the Finance Minister's Orders made under the Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997, as amended.

Signed 

Brian Pink
Australian Statistician

9 August 2010

Signed 

Michael Belcher
Chief Financial Officer

9 August 2010

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

for the period ended 30 June 2010

	Notes	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
EXPENSES			
Employee benefits	3A	237,708	219,450
Supplier expenses	3B	84,212	67,009
Depreciation and amortisation	3C	27,305	30,826
Finance costs	3D	167	261
Write-down and impairment of assets	3E	2,768	8,282
Other		132	142
Total expenses		352,292	325,970
LESS:			
OWN-SOURCE INCOME			
Own-source revenue			
Sale of goods and rendering of services	4A	28,012	28,009
Other		453	1,180
Total own-source revenue		28,465	29,189
Gains			
Sale of assets	4B	16	53
Other	4C	126	410
Total gains		142	463
Total own-source income		28,607	29,652
Net cost of services		323,685	296,318
Revenue from Government	4D	327,928	282,568
Surplus/(Deficit)		4,243	(13,750)
Surplus/(Deficit) attributable to the Australian Government		4,243	(13,750)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE LOSS			
Changes in asset revaluation reserves		-	(1,055)
Total other comprehensive loss		-	(1,055)
Total comprehensive income (loss) attributable to the Australian Government		4,243	(14,805)

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

BALANCE SHEET

as at 30 June 2010

	Notes	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
ASSETS			
Financial Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5A	3,561	1,285
Trade and other receivables	5B	41,604	32,596
Total financial assets		<u>45,165</u>	<u>33,881</u>
Non-Financial Assets			
Leasehold improvements	6A,6B	27,437	28,166
Property, plant and equipment	6A,6B	20,852	17,492
Intangibles	6C,6D	82,638	84,278
Inventories	6E	-	29
Other	6F	7,710	6,945
Total non-financial assets		<u>138,637</u>	<u>136,910</u>
Total Assets		<u>183,802</u>	<u>170,791</u>
LIABILITIES			
Payables			
Suppliers	7A	30,964	23,234
Unearned revenue	7B	5,671	9,753
Other	7C	6,976	4,906
Total payables		<u>43,611</u>	<u>37,893</u>
Interest Bearing Liabilities			
Loans	8	1,699	3,308
Total interest bearing liabilities		<u>1,699</u>	<u>3,308</u>
Lease Incentives			
Lease incentives	9	7,321	8,293
Total lease incentives		<u>7,321</u>	<u>8,293</u>
Provisions			
Employee provisions	10	76,296	71,590
Total provisions		<u>76,296</u>	<u>71,590</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>128,927</u>	<u>121,084</u>
Net Assets		<u>54,875</u>	<u>49,707</u>
EQUITY			
Contributed equity		19,218	18,293
Reserves		17,188	17,188
Retained surplus		18,469	14,226
Total Equity		<u>54,875</u>	<u>49,707</u>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

for the period ended 30 June 2010

	Retained earnings		Asset revaluation reserves		Contributed equity/capital		Total equity	
	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
Opening balance								
Balance carried forward from previous period	14,226	27,976	17,188	18,243	18,293	20,534	49,707	66,753
Adjusted opening balance	14,226	27,976	17,188	18,243	18,293	20,534	49,707	66,753
Comprehensive income								
Other comprehensive (loss) – Changes in asset revaluation reserves	-	-	-	(1,055)	-	-	-	(1,055)
Surplus (Deficit) for the period	4,243	(13,750)	-	-	-	-	4,243	(13,750)
Total comprehensive income (loss)	4,243	(13,750)	-	(1,055)	-	-	4,243	(14,805)
Of which:								
Attributable to the Australian Government	4,243	(13,750)	-	(1,055)	-	-	4,243	(14,805)
Transactions with owners								
Distributions to owners								
Returns on capital:								
Restructuring (Note 11)	-	-	-	-	(378)	-	(378)	-
Return of appropriation	-	-	-	-	-	(7,606)	-	(7,606)
Contributions by owners								
Appropriation (equity injection)	-	-	-	-	1,303	5,365	1,303	5,365
Subtotal transactions with owners	-	-	-	-	925	(2,241)	925	(2,241)
Closing balance as at 30 June	18,469	14,226	17,188	17,188	19,218	18,293	54,875	49,707
Closing balance attributable to the Australian Government	18,469	14,226	17,188	17,188	19,218	18,293	54,875	49,707

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

for the period ended 30 June 2010

	Notes	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Goods and services		26,833	37,707
Appropriations		320,454	269,539
Net GST received		5,947	4,634
Total cash received		<u>353,234</u>	<u>311,880</u>
Cash used			
Employees		230,932	215,200
Suppliers		87,813	75,675
Borrowing costs		167	261
Total cash used		<u>318,912</u>	<u>291,136</u>
Net cash from operating activities	12	<u>34,322</u>	<u>20,744</u>
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment		89	100
Total cash received		<u>89</u>	<u>100</u>
Cash used			
Leasehold improvements		3,176	3,405
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		11,395	6,757
Purchase of intangibles		16,908	13,934
Total cash used		<u>31,479</u>	<u>24,096</u>
Net cash used by investing activities		<u>(31,390)</u>	<u>(23,996)</u>
FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Contributed equity		952	2,211
Total cash received		<u>952</u>	<u>2,211</u>
Cash used			
Repayment of borrowings		1,608	1,513
Transfer to Official Public Account		-	2,967
Total cash used		<u>1,608</u>	<u>4,480</u>
Net cash used by financing activities		<u>(656)</u>	<u>(2,269)</u>
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held		2,276	(5,521)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		1,285	6,806
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	5A	<u>3,561</u>	<u>1,285</u>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

SCHEDULE OF COMMITMENTS

as at 30 June 2010

	2010	2009
	\$'000	\$'000
BY TYPE		
Commitments receivable		
GST recoverable on commitments	<u>(15,199)</u>	<u>(16,959)</u>
Total commitments receivable	<u>(15,199)</u>	<u>(16,959)</u>
Commitments payable		
Capital commitments		
Property, plant and equipment	<u>5,710</u>	<u>1,773</u>
Total capital commitments	<u>5,710</u>	<u>1,773</u>
Other commitments		
Operating leases	150,075	173,710
Other commitments	<u>11,407</u>	<u>11,069</u>
Total other commitments	<u>161,482</u>	<u>184,779</u>
Net commitments by type	<u>151,993</u>	<u>169,593</u>
BY MATURITY		
Commitments receivable		
Other commitments receivable		
One year or less	(3,819)	(3,315)
From one to five years	<u>(10,155)</u>	<u>(10,404)</u>
Over five years	<u>(1,225)</u>	<u>(3,240)</u>
Total other commitments receivable	<u>(15,199)</u>	<u>(16,959)</u>
Commitments payable		
Capital commitments		
One year or less	<u>5,710</u>	<u>1,773</u>
Total capital commitments	<u>5,710</u>	<u>1,773</u>
Operating lease commitments		
One year or less	24,894	23,621
From one to five years	<u>111,702</u>	<u>114,449</u>
Over five years	<u>13,479</u>	<u>35,640</u>
Total operating lease commitments	<u>150,075</u>	<u>173,710</u>
Other commitments		
One year or less	<u>11,407</u>	<u>11,069</u>
Total other commitments	<u>11,407</u>	<u>11,069</u>
Net commitments by maturity	<u>151,993</u>	<u>169,593</u>

NB: Commitments are GST inclusive where relevant. Commitments receivable relate to GST.

The nature of capital commitments relates to committed purchases of property, plant and equipment. The majority relates to computer hardware and purchased software.

The nature of other commitments relates to general purchases committed to as at 30 June 2010.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics in its capacity as a lessee has entered into a number of operating leases. The operating leases are effectively non-cancellable and comprise:

Nature of Lease	General Description of Leasing Arrangement
Leases for office accommodation	Lease payments are subject to annual increases which are either fixed as outlined in the rental agreement or in accordance with upwards movements in the Consumer Price Index. Office accommodation leases may be renewed for up to five years at the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) option, following a one-off adjustment of rentals to current market levels.
Agreements for the provision of motor vehicles to senior executive officers	No contingent rentals exist. There are no renewal or purchase options available to the ABS.

The above schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

SCHEDULE OF CONTINGENCIES

as at 30 June 2010

	2010	2009
	\$'000	\$'000
Contingent assets		
Indemnities	-	-
Claims for damages or costs	-	245
Total contingent assets	<u>-</u>	<u>245</u>
Contingent liabilities		
Indemnities	-	-
Claims for damages or costs	3,435	3,465
Total contingent liabilities	<u>3,435</u>	<u>3,465</u>
Net contingent liabilities	<u>(3,435)</u>	<u>(3,220)</u>

Details of each class of contingent liabilities and contingent assets listed above are disclosed in Note 13. Contingent liabilities and assets along with information on significant remote contingencies and contingencies that cannot be quantified.

The above schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

SCHEDULE OF ASSET ADDITIONS

for the period ended 30 June 2010

The following non-financial non-current assets were added in 2009-10:

	Leasehold improvements	Property, plant and equipment	Computer software internally developed	Computer software purchased	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
By purchase - appropriation equity	-	-	952	-	952
By purchase - appropriation ordinary annual services	3,176	11,395	8,702	7,254	30,527
Total additions	3,176	11,395	9,654	7,254	31,479

The following non-financial non-current assets were added in 2008-09:

	Leasehold improvements	Property, plant and equipment	Computer software internally developed	Computer software purchased	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
By purchase - appropriation equity	-	-	2,211	-	2,211
By purchase - appropriation ordinary annual services	3,405	6,757	8,649	3,074	21,885
Total additions	3,405	6,757	10,860	3,074	24,096

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS
SCHEDULE OF ADMINISTERED ITEMS

	Notes	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
Income administered on behalf of Government			
<i>for the period ended 30 June 2010</i>			
Revenue			
Non-taxation revenue			
Fines ¹	17	-	1
Other ²	17	<u>49</u>	<u>-</u>
Total non-taxation revenue		<u>49</u>	<u>1</u>
Total revenues administered on behalf of Government		<u>49</u>	<u>1</u>
Total income administered on behalf of Government		<u>49</u>	<u>1</u>
Administered Cash Flows			
<i>for the period ended 30 June 2010</i>			
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Fines		-	1
Other		<u>49</u>	<u>-</u>
Total cash received		<u>49</u>	<u>1</u>
Net cash from operating activities		<u>49</u>	<u>1</u>
Net Increase In Cash Held		<u>49</u>	<u>1</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		-	-
Cash to Official Public Account for:			
- Fines		-	1
- Other		<u>49</u>	<u>-</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	17	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

¹The Census and Statistics Act 1905 provides the Australian Statistician with the authority to conduct statistical collections and, when necessary, to direct a person or an organisation to provide statistical information. Where information is not provided, the ABS can impose a fine on the person or organisation. Such fines are reported in the Financial Statements as Administered Revenue.

²Unidentified receipts returned to the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

The above schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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Australian Bureau of Statistics

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**1.1 Objectives of the Australian Bureau of Statistics**

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is an Australian Government controlled entity. The mission and outcome of the ABS is to assist and encourage informed decision making, research and discussion within Governments and the community, by leading a high quality, objective and responsive national statistical service.

The ABS is structured to produce the aforementioned outcome through its economic statistics, and population and social statistics groups. Indirect costs for support services have been allocated to the economic, population and social statistical groups in Note 22 Reporting of Outcomes in the Financial Statements.

ABS activities contributing to this outcome are classified as either departmental or administered. Departmental activities involve the use of assets, liabilities, income and expenses controlled or incurred by the ABS in its own right. Administered activities involve the management or oversight by the ABS, on behalf of Government, of items controlled or incurred by the Government.

Further information on ABS outcomes and outputs can be found in this Annual Report.

The continued existence of the ABS in its present form and with its present programs is dependent on Government policy and on continuing appropriations by Parliament for the ABS' programs and administration.

1.2 Basis of Preparation of the Financial Statements

The financial statements are required by section 49 of the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* and are general purpose financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- Finance Minister's Orders (or FMO) for reporting periods ending on or after 1 July 2009; and
- Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that apply for the reporting period.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and in accordance with the historical cost convention, except for certain assets and liabilities at fair value. Except where stated, no allowance is made for the effect of changing prices on the results or the financial position.

The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars unless otherwise specified.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Unless an alternative treatment is specifically required by an accounting standard or the FMO, assets and liabilities are recognised in the balance sheet when and only when it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the entity or a future sacrifice of economic benefits will be required and the amounts of the assets or liabilities can be reliably measured. However, assets and liabilities arising under Agreements Equally Proportionately Unperformed are not recognised unless required by an accounting standard. Liabilities and assets that are unrecognised are reported in the schedule of commitments or the schedule of contingencies.

Unless alternative treatment is specifically required by an accounting standard, income and expenses are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income when and only when the flow, consumption or loss of economic benefits has occurred and can be reliably measured.

Administered revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities and cash flows reported in the Schedule of Administered Items and related notes are accounted for on the same basis and using the same policies as for departmental items.

1.3 Significant Accounting Judgements and Estimates

In the process of applying the accounting policies listed in this note, the ABS has made the following judgements that have the most significant impact on the amounts recorded in the financial statements:

Internally Generated Software

In calculating the cost of Internally Generated Software (IGSW) the costs capitalised included those attributable costs necessary to create, produce and prepare IGSW assets for use by the ABS. In 2009-10 it was determined that a portion of these cost components could not be capitalised as the attribution could not be proven. These costs were therefore expensed.

This change in accounting estimates has been accounted for prospectively in accordance with AASB 108 – Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors. The impact of the change in estimates in 2009-10 is an increase of \$2.1m in employee benefits expenditure in the statement of comprehensive income and a reduction to IGSW capitalised as reported in the balance sheet.

It is impracticable to estimate the amount of the effect in future periods.

Inventories

Each financial year a small number of publications are produced in hard copy on an annual and quarterly basis. With the majority of statistical information now freely available via the internet, the requirement for hardcopy publications has decreased and the ABS has significantly reduced the number of hard copy publications available.

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

With a continuing reduction in the volume of hardcopy publications produced, the cost of such publications will be expensed from 2009-10. The impact of this adjustment in 2009-10 is an increase of \$29,000 to supplier expenditure in the statement of comprehensive income and the removal of inventory from the balance sheet.

No other accounting assumptions or estimates have been identified that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next accounting period.

1.4 New Australian Accounting Standards*Adoption of New Australian Accounting Standard Requirements*

No accounting standard has been adopted earlier than the application date as stated in the standard. The following new standards, amending standards, and interpretations were issued prior to the signing of the statement by the Australian Statistician and Chief Financial Officer and are applicable to the current reporting period and did not have a financial impact, and are not expected to have a future financial impact on the entity.

Standard	Nature of Change	Financial Impact
AASB 7	Financial Instruments: Disclosures – June 2009 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 101	Presentation of Financial Statements – June 2009 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 102	Inventories – June 2009 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 107	Statement of Cash Flows – June 2009 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 108	Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors – July 2008 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 110	Events after the Reporting Period – June 2009 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 116	Property, Plant and Equipment – June 2009 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 117	Leases – June 2009 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 118	Revenue – August 2008 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 119	Employee Benefits – June 2009 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 123	Borrowing Costs – June 2009 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 132	Financial Instruments: Presentation – June 2009 (compilation)	No impact

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Standard	Nature of Change	Impact
AASB 136	Impairment of Assets – June 2009 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 137	Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets – June 2009 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 138	Intangible Assets – June 2009 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 139	Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement – October 2009 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 1031	Materiality – December 2007 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 1048	Interpretation of Standards – June 2010 (principal)	No impact
Interpretation 115	Operating Leases – Incentives – June 2009 (compilation)	No impact
Interpretation 1031	Accounting for Goods and Services Tax (GST) – December 2007 (compilation)	No impact

Future Australian Accounting Standard Requirements

The following new standards, amending standards, and interpretations were issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board prior to the signing of the statement by the Australian Statistician and the Chief Financial Officer and are applicable to the future reporting periods are not expected to have a future financial impact on the entity.

Standard	Nature of Change	Impact
AASB 7	Financial Instruments: Disclosures – February 2010 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 108	Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors – December 2009 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 110	Events after the Reporting Period – December 2009 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 118	Revenue – May 2009 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 119	Employee Benefits – December 2009 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 132	Financial Instruments: Presentation – October 2009 (compilation)	No impact

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Standard	Nature of Change	Impact
AASB 137	Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets – December 2009 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 139	Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement – December 2009 (compilation)	No impact
AASB 2009-11	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9	No impact
AASB 2010-2	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from Reduced Disclosure Requirements	No impact
AASB 2010-3	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Annual Improvements Project	No impact
AASB 2010-4	Further amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Annual Improvements Project	No impact

1.5 Revenue**Revenue from Government**

Amounts appropriated for departmental outputs for the year (adjusted for any formal additions and reductions) are recognised as revenue when the ABS gains control of the appropriation, except for certain amounts that relate to activities that are reciprocal in nature, in which case revenue is recognised only when it has been earned.

Appropriations receivable are recognised at their nominal amounts.

Other Types of Revenue

Sales of goods and services includes revenue from the sale of publications, other products, and the provision of statistical services. Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when:

- the risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred to the buyer;
- the agency retains no managerial involvement or effective control over the goods;
- the revenue and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured; and
- it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the entity.

Revenue from rendering of services is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of contracts at the reporting date. The revenue is recognised when:

- the amount of revenue, stage of completion and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured; and
- the probable economic benefits with the transaction will flow to the entity.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

The stage of completion of contracts at the reporting date is determined by reference to the proportion of work completed.

Other revenue includes all miscellaneous revenue such as NatStats conference fees and Comcover recoveries.

Receivables for goods and services, which have 30 day terms, are recognised at the nominal amounts due less any impairment allowance account. Collectability of debts is reviewed at the end of the reporting period. Allowances are made when collectability of the debt is no longer probable.

1.6 Gains

Resources Received Free of Charge

Resources received free of charge are recognised as gains when, and only when, a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would have been purchased if they had not been donated. Use of those resources is recognised as an expense. Resources received free of charge are recorded as either revenue or gains depending on their nature.

Contributions of assets at no cost of acquisition or for nominal consideration are recognised as gains at their fair value when the asset qualifies for recognition, unless received from another Government agency or authority as a consequence of a restructuring of administrative arrangements.

Sale of Assets

Gains from disposal of non-current assets are recognised when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.

1.7 Unearned Revenue

Unearned revenue includes revenue from subscriptions to statistical publications, provision of statistical consultancies, and revenue from other agencies for statistical surveys. The unearned revenue is recognised on a stage of completion basis over the period of subscriptions or the provision of services as provided (Note 7B).

1.8 Transactions with the Government as Owner

Equity Injections

Amounts appropriated which are designated as 'equity injections' for a year (less any formal reductions) are recognised directly in contributed equity in that year.

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements*Restructuring of Administrative Arrangements*

Net assets received from or relinquished to another Australian Government agency or authority under a restructuring of administrative arrangements are adjusted at their book value directly against contributed equity. In 2009-10 the ABS relinquished to the Australian Taxation Office assets in relation to the Standard Business Reporting Program (SBR). Refer Note 11.

Return of Appropriation

In 2008-09 the ABS returned appropriation funding to Government in relation to the reallocation of Departmental resourcing for the Standard Business Reporting Program (SBR). This included the return of unspent SBR funding for 2007-08 and 2008-09. (Refer Statement of Changes In Equity).

1.9 Employee Benefits

Liabilities for services rendered by employees are recognised at the reporting date to the extent that they have not been settled.

Liabilities for 'short term employee benefits' (as defined in AASB 119 *Employee Benefits*) and termination benefits due within twelve months of balance date are measured at their nominal amounts.

The nominal amount is calculated with regard to the rates expected to be paid on settlement of the liability.

All other employee benefit liabilities are measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date.

Leave

The liability for employee benefits includes provision for annual leave and long service leave. No provision has been made for sick leave as all sick leave is non-vesting and the average sick leave taken in future years by employees of the ABS is estimated to be less than the annual entitlement for sick leave.

The leave liabilities are calculated on the basis of employees' remuneration at the estimated salary rates that applied at the time the leave is taken, including the ABS' employer superannuation contribution rates, to the extent that the leave is likely to be taken during service rather than paid out on termination.

The liability for long service leave has been determined by reference to the work of an actuary as at 30 June 2009. The ABS obtains an actuarial assessment every three years. The estimate of the present value of the liability takes into account attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation.

Separation and Redundancy

A provision is made for separation and redundancy benefit payments. The ABS recognises a provision for termination when it has developed a detailed formal plan for the terminations and has informed those employees affected that it will carry out the terminations.

Superannuation

The majority of staff of the ABS are members of the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS), the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (PSS) or the PSS accumulation plan (PSSap).

In 2009-10 the ABS also made employer contributions to commercial accumulation superannuation funds as directed by its employees.

The CSS and PSS are defined benefit schemes for the Australian Government. The PSSap is a defined contribution scheme.

The liability for defined benefits is recognised in the financial statements of the Australian Government, and is settled by the Australian Government in due course. This liability is reported by the Department of Finance and Deregulation as an administered item.

The ABS makes employer contributions to the employee superannuation scheme at rates determined by an actuary to be sufficient to meet the current cost to the Government of the superannuation entitlements of the ABS' employees. The ABS accounts for the contributions as if they were contributions to defined contribution plans.

The liability for superannuation recognised as at 30 June represents outstanding contributions that have yet to be paid.

1.10 Provision for 'Make good'

Provisions for make good obligations are recognised when the ABS has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation and the amount has been reliably estimated. The ABS makes an assessment as to whether a make good provision is required at the commencement of each new lease and at reporting date, in accordance with the aforementioned recognition criteria contained within AASB 137 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the present obligation at the reporting date. Provisions are reviewed at each reporting date and adjusted to reflect the current best estimate. In 2009-10 the balance of the make good provision is nil. (2008-09: nil).

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

1.11 Leases

A distinction is made between finance leases and operating leases. Finance leases effectively transfer from the lessor to the lessee substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of leased assets. An operating lease is a lease that is not a finance lease. In operating leases, the lessor effectively retains substantially all such risks and benefits.

The ABS has entered into a number of accommodation leases, which include lease incentives taking the form of 'free' leasehold improvements. Under Interpretation 115 Operating Lease Incentives, all incentives in relation to operating leases are required to be classified as an integral part of the net consideration of the lease for the leased asset, irrespective of the incentive's nature, form or timing of payments.

Where a non-current asset is acquired by means of an incentive under an operating lease, the asset is capitalised at the fair value of the lease incentive at the inception of the contract, and a liability is recognised at the same time, for the same amount.

Operating lease payments are expensed on a straight line basis, which is representative of the pattern of benefits derived from the leased assets. The straight-line basis takes into account fixed escalation clauses (with the exception of escalation in accordance with the CPI).

1.12 Borrowing Costs

All borrowing costs are expensed as incurred.

1.13 Financial assets

The ABS classifies its financial assets in the following categories:

- cash and cash equivalents, and
- trade and other receivables.

The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the financial assets and is determined at the time of initial recognition.

Financial assets are recognised and derecognised upon 'trade date'.

Cash

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, cash held with outsiders and demand deposits in bank accounts with an original maturity of 3 months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and subject to insignificant risk of changes in value. Cash is recognised at its nominal amount.

Trade and Other Receivables

Trade receivables, loans and other receivables that have fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market are classified as 'trade and other receivables'. Trade and other receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less impairment. Interest is recognised by applying the effective interest rate.

Impairment of Financial Assets

Financial assets are assessed for impairment at the end of each reporting period.

Financial assets held at amortised cost - if there is objective evidence that an impairment loss has been incurred for loans and receivables, the amount of the loss is measured as the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The carrying amount is reduced by way of an allowance account. The loss is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

1.14 Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are classified as either financial liabilities 'at fair value through profit or loss' or other financial liabilities.

Financial liabilities are recognised and derecognised upon 'trade date'.

The ABS classifies its financial liabilities in the following categories:

- supplier and other payables, and
- other financial liabilities.

Supplier and Other Payables

Supplier and other payables are recognised at amortised cost. Liabilities are recognised to the extent that the goods or services have been received (and irrespective of having been invoiced).

Other Financial Liabilities

Other financial liabilities, including borrowings, are initially measured at fair value, net of transaction costs. Other financial liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, with interest expense recognised on an effective yield basis. The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial liability and of allocating interest expense over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments through the expected life of the financial liability, or, where appropriate, a shorter period.

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Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements**1.15 Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets**

Contingent liabilities and contingent assets are not recognised in the balance sheet but are reported in the relevant schedules and notes. They may arise from uncertainty as to the existence of a liability or asset or represent an asset or liability in respect of which the amount cannot be reliably measured. Contingent assets are disclosed when settlement is probable but not virtually certain and contingent liabilities are recognised when settlement is greater than remote.

1.16 Acquisition of Assets

Assets are recorded at cost on acquisition except as stated below. The cost on acquisition includes the fair value of assets transferred in exchange and liabilities undertaken. Financial assets are initially measured at their fair value plus transaction costs where appropriate.

Assets acquired at no cost, or for nominal consideration, are initially recognised as assets and income at their fair value at the date of acquisition, unless acquired as a consequence of restructuring of administrative arrangements. In the latter case, assets are initially recognised as contributions by owners at the amounts at which they were recognised in the transferor agency's accounts immediately prior to the restructuring.

1.17 Property, Plant and Equipment**Asset Recognition Threshold**

Purchases of property, plant and equipment are recognised initially at cost in the balance sheet, except for purchases costing less than \$2,000 (\$1,000 for IT assets and purchased software, and all internally generated software assets), which are expensed in the year of acquisition (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total).

Revaluations

Fair values for each class of asset are determined as shown below:

<i>Asset Class</i>	<i>Fair Value Measured at:</i>
Leasehold improvements	Depreciated replacement cost
Property, plant and equipment	Market selling price

Following initial recognition at cost, property, plant and equipment are carried at fair value less subsequent accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Valuations are conducted with sufficient frequency to ensure that the carrying amounts of assets do not differ materially from the assets' fair values as at the reporting date. The regularity of independent valuations depends upon the volatility of movements in market values for the relevant assets.

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Revaluation adjustments are made on a class basis. Any revaluation increment is credited to equity under the heading of asset revaluation reserve except to the extent that it reverses a previous revaluation decrement of the same asset class that was previously recognised in the surplus/deficit. Revaluation decrements for a class of assets are recognised directly in the surplus/deficit except to the extent that they reverse a previous revaluation increment for that class.

Any accumulated depreciation as at the revaluation date is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the asset restated to the revalued amount.

Depreciation

Depreciable property, plant and equipment assets are written-off to their estimated residual values over their estimated useful lives to the ABS using, in all cases, the straight-line method of depreciation.

Leasehold improvements are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the lesser of the estimated useful life of the improvements, or the unexpired period of the lease.

Depreciation rates (useful lives), residual values and methods are reviewed at each reporting date and necessary adjustments are recognised in the current, or current and future reporting periods, as appropriate.

Depreciation rates applying to each class of depreciable assets are based on the following useful lives:

	2010	2009
	Life In Years	Life In Years
Leasehold improvements	Lease term	Lease term
Property, plant and equipment	5-10 *	5-10*

* Within this class, Artwork and Curios has a useful life between 10-100 years.

The aggregate amount of depreciation allocated for each class of asset during the reporting period is disclosed in Note 3C.

Impairment

All assets were assessed for impairment at 30 June 2010. Where indications of impairment exist, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated and an impairment adjustment made if the asset's recoverable amount is less than its carrying amount.

The recoverable amount of an asset is the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. Value in use for ABS assets is taken to be its depreciated replacement cost (where the ABS would replace the asset if it was deprived of it) as future economic benefit is not primarily dependent on the asset's ability to generate future cash flows.

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

All property, plant and equipment were assessed for indications of impairment as at 30 June 2010. No indications of impairment were found.

1.18 Intangibles

The ABS' intangibles comprise internally generated software and purchased software. These assets are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

Software is amortised on a straight-line basis over its anticipated useful life.

All software assets were assessed for indications of impairment as at 30 June 2010.

Internally Generated Software

In its role as Australia's national statistical agency, the ABS builds and maintains a significant set of internally generated software (IGSW) assets. These assets are added to over time, in line with the increasing range of statistical information sought by Government, business and the general community, and the increasing use of technology, particularly in relation to collection, analysis and dissemination activities.

All software developed in-house since 1 July 1994 has been capitalised (Note 6C). The costing methodology capitalises direct salary and on costs for programmers. General administration, and overhead costs relating to software development have not been capitalised. The data capture systems in place to collect data for programmers are in line with the requirements of the FMO.

In accordance with the requirements of AASB 138 Intangible Assets, IGSW is stated at cost. All IGSW assets were assessed for indications of impairment as at 30 June 2010. Impairment on intangibles is recognised in Note 3E.

Purchased Software

Purchased software assets are stated at cost where the asset costs more than \$1,000. Purchased software below this threshold is expensed at the time of purchase. The cost of purchased software includes the purchase price and any directly attributable costs.

Amortisation

The ABS has long term commitments to survey and data collection programs. These are supported by software packages that are required to be maintained for the same time period as the data collection and analysis programs, to ensure consistency in approach and of data treatment.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

The estimated useful lives of the major asset classes are as follows:

	<u>2010</u> <u>Life in Years</u>	<u>2009</u> <u>Life in Years</u>
Computer software – proprietary	5	5
Computer software – internally generated	1 to 15	1 to 15

The above table outlines the range of life in years for computer software, however, the average life is currently 8 years (2008-09: 7 years).

The aggregate amount of amortisation allocated for each class of asset during the reporting period is disclosed in Note 3C.

1.19 Capital Work in Progress

Capital work in progress represents two main asset types: software assets under development, and office refurbishments. Work in progress is disclosed in the property, plant and equipment, and intangibles balances.

Software assets are not depreciated until the year in which the development phase is completed and the asset is operational. Where use of the asset commences after substantial completion of the development phase, but some improvements or enhancements to the system continue to be made, the date of substantial completion is treated as the date of completion and depreciation commences from that date.

1.20 Inventories

Inventories comprise items held for sale that are considered significant and are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value (Note 6E).

With a continuing reduction in the volume of hardcopy publications produced, the cost of such publications will be expensed from 2009-10.

Consumable stores and supplies are considered to be immaterial and have been expensed at the time of purchase.

1.21 Historical Statistical Data

Statistical data accumulated over many years is stored for reference purposes. This historical time series data plays an important part in the operations of the ABS as Australia's official statistical provider. The cost of storing and maintaining this data is treated as an operating expense.

1.22 Other Non-Financial Assets

The ABS classifies its non-financial assets in the following categories:

- prepayments and
- accrued revenue.

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Notes to and forming part of the Financial StatementsPrepayments

Prepayments primarily relate to maintenance contracts, office rent and subscriptions.

Accrued Revenue

The ABS accrues revenue at the time when goods are provided and/or the services are performed.

1.23 Taxation

The ABS is exempt from all forms of taxation except Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) and the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of GST except for:

- where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office; and
- for receivables and payables.

1.24 Reporting Of Administered Activities

Administered revenues, assets, and cash flows are disclosed in the schedule of administered items and related notes. There are no administered expenses, liabilities, contingencies or commitments in 2009-10, nor were there any in 2008-09.

Except where otherwise stated below, administered items are accounted for on the same basis and using the same policies as for departmental items, including the application of Australian Accounting Standards.

Administered Cash Transfers to Official Public Account

Revenue collected by the ABS for use by the Government rather than the ABS is administered revenue. Collections are transferred to the Official Public Account (OPA) maintained by the Department of Finance and Deregulation. These transfers to the OPA are adjustments to the administered cash held by the ABS on behalf of the Government and reported as such in the statement of cash flows in the schedule of administered items and in the administered reconciliation table in Note 17.

Revenue

All administered revenues are revenues relating to the core operating activities performed by the ABS on behalf of the Australian Government.

Revenue is generated from fines applied by the courts, which is recognised upon payment. Court costs awarded against the ABS, as opposed to fines, are recorded as a departmental expense.

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Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Note 2: Events after the Balance Sheet Date

There have been no events occurring subsequent to balance date that would affect the ABS Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2010.

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

	2010	2009
	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>
Note 3: Expenses		
<u>Note 3A: Employee Benefits</u>		
Wages and salaries	184,722	177,435
Superannuation:		
Defined contribution plans	8,203	5,739
Defined benefit plans	23,348	30,128
Leave and other entitlements	10,513	4,582
Interviewers wages	12,502	8,838
Interviewers superannuation:		
Defined contribution plans	1,280	823
Defined benefit plans	854	621
Census field staff wages	249	60
Census field staff superannuation:		
Defined contribution plans	21	5
Defined benefit plans	1	-
Separation and redundancies	4,606	1,349
Other employee expenses	1,063	730
Total employee benefits	<u>247,362</u>	<u>230,310</u>
Less amounts capitalised for IGSW (refer Note 6D)	<u>(9,654)</u>	<u>(10,860)</u>
Total employee benefits	<u>237,708</u>	<u>219,450</u>

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
Note 3B: Suppliers		
Goods and services		
Consultants	2,998	1,353
Contractors	4,877	2,327
IT related	10,275	9,583
Printing and subscriptions	5,959	1,337
Property related	6,314	5,850
PSO interviewer related	4,665	6,094
Recruitment and employment related	2,806	2,204
Stationary and postage	3,334	1,881
Training and travel	12,671	8,506
Other	2,633	2,223
Total goods and services	56,532	41,358
Goods and services are made up of:		
Provision of goods - related entities	482	569
Provision of goods - external parties	17,536	10,655
Rendering of services - related entities	5,231	3,970
Rendering of services - external parties	33,283	26,164
Total goods and services	56,532	41,358
Other supplier expenses		
Operating lease rentals - external entities		
Minimum lease payments	24,495	23,420
Workers compensation expenses	3,185	2,231
Total other supplier expenses	27,680	25,651
Total supplier expenses	84,212	67,009

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

	2010	2009
	\$'000	\$'000
Note 3C: Depreciation and Amortisation		
Depreciation		
Property, plant and equipment	11,810	13,093
Total depreciation	11,810	13,093
Amortisation		
Intangibles:		
Computer software	15,495	17,733
Total amortisation	15,495	17,733
Total depreciation and amortisation	27,305	30,826
Note 3D: Finance Costs		
Loan from Government	167	261
Total finance costs	167	261
Note 3E: Write-Down and Impairment of Assets		
Asset write-downs and impairments from:		
Impairment on intangible assets – write downs	80	94
Impairment on financial instruments - bad debts	3	29
Asset write-offs	2,685	7,838
Revaluation decrement - plant	-	321
Total write-down and impairment of assets	2,768	8,282

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

	2010	2009
	\$'000	\$'000

Note 4: Revenue

Note 4A: Sale of Goods and Rendering of Services

Provision of goods - related entities	1,530	1,050
Provision of goods - external parties	5	72
Rendering of services - related entities	26,385	25,166
Rendering of services - external parties	92	1,721
Total sale of goods and rendering of services	28,012	28,009

GAINS

Note 4B: Sale of Assets

Property, Plant and Equipment

Proceeds from sale	89	100
Carrying value of assets sold	(40)	(17)
Selling expense	(33)	(30)
Net gain from sale of assets	16	53

Note 4C: Other Gains

Resources received free of charge	125	125
Other	1	285
Total other gains	126	410

Note 4D: Revenue from Government

Appropriations:

Departmental outputs	327,928	282,568
Total revenue from Government	327,928	282,568

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

	2010	2009
	\$'000	\$'000

Note 5: Financial Assets**Note 5A: Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Special Accounts ¹	-	138
Cash on hand or on deposit	<u>3,561</u>	<u>1,147</u>
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>3,561</u>	<u>1,285</u>

¹ Refer also Note 19**Note 5B: Trade and Other Receivables****Goods and services:**

Goods and services - related entities	2,518	2,008
Goods and services - external parties	<u>950</u>	<u>1,316</u>
Total receivables for goods and services	<u>3,468</u>	<u>3,324</u>

Appropriations receivable:

For existing outputs	<u>36,861</u>	29,036
Total appropriations receivable	<u>36,861</u>	<u>29,036</u>

Other receivables:

GST receivable from the Australian Taxation Office	489	-
Sundry receivables	<u>786</u>	<u>236</u>
Total other receivables	<u>1,275</u>	<u>236</u>
Total trade and other receivables (net)	<u>41,604</u>	<u>32,596</u>

Receivables are expected to be recovered in:

No more than 12 months	41,604	32,596
More than 12 months	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total trade and other receivables (net)	<u>41,604</u>	<u>32,596</u>

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

	2010	2009
	\$'000	\$'000
Note 5B: Trade and Other Receivables		
Receivables are aged as follows:		
Not overdue	41,478	31,939
Overdue by:		
Less than 30 days	77	226
31 to 60 days	19	240
61 to 90 days	11	10
More than 90 days	19	181
Total receivables (net)	41,604	32,596

All trade receivables are current assets. Credit terms are net 30 days (2008-09: 30 days). The ABS has no provision for doubtful debts and all receivables are expected to be recovered.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

	2010	2009
	\$'000	\$'000
Note 6: Non-Financial Assets		
<u>Note 6A: Property, Plant and Equipment</u>		
Leasehold improvements		
Fair Value	28,567	26,780
Work in progress	3,012	1,388
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(4,142)</u>	<u>(2)</u>
Total leasehold improvements	<u>27,437</u>	<u>28,166</u>
Other property, plant and equipment		
Fair value	33,962	24,382
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(13,110)</u>	<u>(6,890)</u>
Total other property, plant and equipment	<u>20,852</u>	<u>17,492</u>
Total property, plant and equipment	<u>48,289</u>	<u>45,658</u>

The ABS reviewed the fair value of property, plant and equipment assets as at 30 June 2010, and found that the fair value of those assets was not materially different to the carrying value as reported. No revaluation adjustment was made to the carrying value of property, plant and equipment assets in 2009-10.

All revaluations are independent and are conducted in accordance with the revaluation policy stated at Note 1.17. On 30 June 2009, the Australian Valuation Office conducted a revaluation on the furniture and fittings, plant, office equipment, artwork and curios, leasehold improvements and lease incentives classes of assets.

In 2008-09 a revaluation decrement of \$13,317 for office equipment, a decrement of \$153,966 for furniture and fittings including artwork and curios, an increment of \$356,860 for lease incentives, and a decrement of \$1,362,251 for leasehold improvements was adjusted to the asset revaluation reserve by asset class and included in the equity section of the balance sheet.

In 2008-09 a revaluation decrement of \$202,795 for plant was expensed and a prior year decrement of \$118,243 for plant was discharged from the asset revaluation reserve and expensed.

No indicators of impairment were for property, plant and equipment. No property, plant or equipment is expected to be sold or disposed of within the next 12 months.

Note 6B: Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Property, Plant and Equipment (2009-10)

	Leasehold improvements	Property, plant and equipment	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
As at 1 July 2009			
Gross book value	28,168	24,382	52,550
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(2)	(6,890)	(6,892)
Net book value 1 July 2009	28,166	17,492	45,658
Additions:			
By purchase	3,176	11,395	14,571
Revaluations and impairments recognised in other comprehensive income	-	-	-
Revaluations recognised in the operating result	-	-	-
Impairments recognised in the operating result	-	-	-
Reclassification	226	(226)	-
Depreciation expense	(4,131)	(7,679)	(11,810)
Disposals:			
Write-offs	-	(90)	(90)
Other disposals	-	(40)	(40)
Net book value 30 June 2010	27,437	20,852	48,289
Net book value as of 30 June 2010 represented by:			
Gross book value	31,579	33,962	65,541
Accumulated depreciation	(4,142)	(13,110)	(17,252)
	27,437	20,852	48,289

Note 6B: Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Property, Plant and Equipment (2008-09)

	Leasehold improvements \$'000	Property, plant and equipment \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2008			
Gross book value	40,252	22,528	62,780
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(9,582)	(2,783)	(12,365)
Net book value 1 July 2008	30,670	19,745	50,415
Additions:			
By purchase	3,405	6,757	10,162
Revaluations and impairments recognised in other comprehensive income	(1,001)	(172)	(1,173)
Revaluations recognised in the operating result	-	(203)	(203)
Impairments recognised in the operating result	-	-	-
Reclassification	(73)	(51)	(124)
Depreciation expense	(4,812)	(8,281)	(13,093)
Disposals:			
Write-offs	(23)	(286)	(309)
Other disposals	-	(17)	(17)
Net book value 30 June 2009	28,166	17,492	45,658
Net book value as of 30 June 2009 represented by:			
Gross book value	28,168	24,382	52,550
Accumulated depreciation	(2)	(6,890)	(6,892)
	28,166	17,492	45,658

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

	2010	2009
	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>
Note 6C: Intangibles		
Computer software:		
Internally developed - in progress	6,854	6,878
Internally developed - in use	148,768	151,836
Purchased	<u>17,553</u>	<u>12,358</u>
Total computer software (gross)	<u>173,175</u>	<u>171,072</u>
Accumulated amortisation	(90,019)	(86,256)
Accumulated impairment losses	<u>(518)</u>	<u>(538)</u>
Total computer software (net)	<u>82,638</u>	<u>84,278</u>
Total intangibles	<u>82,638</u>	<u>84,278</u>

Indicators of impairment were found for intangibles. No intangibles are expected to be sold or disposed of within the next 12 months.

Note 6D: Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Intangibles (2009-10)

	Computer software internally developed	Computer software purchased	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
As at 1 July 2009			
Gross book value	158,714	12,358	171,072
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(80,179)	(6,615)	(86,794)
Net book value 1 July 2009	78,535	5,743	84,278
Additions:			
By purchase	-	7,254	7,254
Internally developed	9,654	-	9,654
Impairments recognised in the statement of comprehensive income	(80)	-	(80)
Reclassification	-	-	-
Amortisation	(13,139)	(2,356)	(15,495)
Disposals:			
From disposal of operations	-	(378)	(378)
Write-offs	(2,410)	(185)	(2,595)
Net book value 30 June 2010	72,560	10,078	82,638
Net book value as of 30 June 2010 represented by:			
Gross book value	155,622	17,553	173,175
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(82,544)	(7,475)	(90,019)
Accumulated impairment losses	(518)	-	(518)
	72,560	10,078	82,638

Note 6D: Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Intangibles (2008-9)

	Computer software internally developed	Computer software purchased	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
As at 1 July 2008			
Gross book value	171,836	9,406	181,242
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(81,018)	(4,648)	(85,666)
Net book value 1 July 2008	90,818	4,758	95,576
Additions:			
By purchase	-	3,074	3,074
Internally developed	10,860	-	10,860
Impairments recognised in the statement of comprehensive income	(94)	-	(94)
Reclassification	-	124	124
Amortisation	(15,703)	(2,030)	(17,733)
Disposals:			
From disposal of operations	(7,346)	(183)	(7,529)
Write-offs	78,535	5,743	84,278
Net book value 30 June 2009			
Net book value as of 30 June 2009 represented by:			
Gross book value	158,714	12,358	171,072
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(79,641)	(6,615)	(86,256)
Accumulated impairment losses	(538)	-	(538)
	78,535	5,743	84,278

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

	2010	2009
	\$'000	\$'000
Note 6E: Inventories		
Inventories held for sale		
Finished goods	-	29
Total inventories	-	29

Note 6F: Other Non-Financial Assets

Accrued revenue	423	273
Prepayments	7,287	6,672
Total other non-financial assets	7,710	6,945

No indicators of impairment were found for other non-financial assets.

Total other non-financial assets - are expected to be recovered in:

Less than 12 months	5,480	4,833
More than 12 months	2,230	2,112
Total other non-financial assets	7,710	6,945

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

	2010	2009
	\$'000	\$'000

Note 7: Payables

Note 7A: Suppliers

Trade creditors and accruals	15,568	7,361
Sundry creditors	130	53
Operating lease rentals	15,266	15,713
GST payable to the Australian Taxation Office	-	107
Total supplier payables	30,964	23,234

Supplier payables expected to be settled within 12 months:

Related entities	714	254
External parties	16,424	8,210
Total	17,138	8,464

Supplier payables expected to be settled in greater than 12 months:

Related entities	-	-
External parties	13,826	14,770
Total	13,826	14,770

Total supplier payables **30,964** **23,234**

Settlement is usually made within 30 days.

Note 7B: Unearned Revenue

Unearned revenue	5,671	9,753
Total unearned revenue	5,671	9,753

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

	2010	2009
	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>

Note 7: Payables

Note 7C: Other Payables

Salaries and wages	5,601	3,929
Superannuation	875	632
Separations and redundancies	<u>500</u>	<u>345</u>
Total other payables	<u>6,976</u>	<u>4,906</u>

Total other payables are expected to be settled in:

Less than 12 months	6,976	4,906
More than 12 months	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total other payables	<u>6,976</u>	<u>4,906</u>

Note 8: Interest Bearing Liabilities

Note 8: Loans

Loans from Government	<u>1,699</u>	<u>3,308</u>
Total loans	<u>1,699</u>	<u>3,308</u>

Payable:

Within one year	1,699	1,608
In one to five years	<u>-</u>	<u>1,700</u>
Total loans	<u>1,699</u>	<u>3,308</u>

The loan was issued in 2001-02 and is repayable in quarterly instalments beginning in 2001-02 and ending in 2010-11. The interest rate on the loan is 6.12%.

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

	2010	2009
	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>

Note 9: Lease Incentives

Note 9: Lease Incentives

Lease Incentives	<u>7,321</u>	<u>8,293</u>
Total lease incentives	<u>7,321</u>	<u>8,293</u>

Payable:

Less than one year	<u>1,210</u>	<u>1,181</u>
In one to five years	<u>5,774</u>	<u>5,903</u>
In more than five years	<u>337</u>	<u>1,209</u>
Total lease incentives	<u>7,321</u>	<u>8,293</u>

Note 10: Provisions

Note 10: Employee Provisions

Leave	<u>76,296</u>	<u>71,590</u>
Total employee provisions	<u>76,296</u>	<u>71,590</u>

Employee provisions are expected to be settled in:

Less than 12 months	<u>19,353</u>	<u>18,279</u>
More than 12 months	<u>56,943</u>	<u>53,311</u>
Total employee provisions	<u>76,296</u>	<u>71,590</u>

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

	2010	2009
	\$'000	\$'000
Note 11: Restructuring		

Note 11: Departmental Restructuring

As a result of a restructuring of administrative arrangements, the Australian Bureau of Statistics relinquished responsibility for the following function: (Refer Note 1.8)
Standard Business Reporting

In respect of functions relinquished, the following assets were transferred by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Assets relinquished:

Purchased software	378	-
Net assets relinquished	378	-

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
Note 12: Cash Flow Reconciliation		
Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents as per Balance Sheet to Cash Flow Statement		
Cash and cash equivalents as per:		
Cash flow statement	3,561	1,285
Balance Sheet	<u>3,561</u>	<u>1,285</u>
Difference	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash from operating activities:		
Net cost of services	323,685	296,318
Add revenue from Government	327,928	282,568
Adjustments for non-cash items		
Depreciation / amortisation	27,305	30,826
Net write down of non-financial assets	2,765	8,135
Revaluation decrement	-	118
Reduction in appropriation	-	(1,485)
Gain on disposal of assets	(49)	(83)
Changes in assets / liabilities		
(Increase) / decrease in net receivables	(8,658)	(10,645)
(Increase) / decrease in inventories	29	9
(Increase) / decrease in other non financial assets	(765)	328
Increase / (decrease) in employee provisions	4,706	2,784
Increase / (decrease) in supplier payables	7,730	(288)
Increase / (decrease) in unearned revenue	(4,082)	4,510
Increase / (decrease) in other payables	2,070	1,466
Increase / (decrease) in lease incentives	(972)	(1,181)
Net cash from (used by) operating activities	<u>34,322</u>	<u>20,744</u>

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Note 13: Contingent Liabilities and Assets

Contingent assets	Claims for costs		Total	
	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
Balance from previous period	245	669	245	669
New	-	-	-	-
Re-measurement	-	(104)	-	(104)
Assets recognised	(245)	(270)	(245)	(270)
Expired	-	(50)	-	(50)
Total contingent assets	-	245	-	245

Contingent liabilities	Claims for costs		Total	
	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
Balance from previous period	3,465	4,944	3,465	4,944
New	-	40	-	40
Re-measurement	(5)	(1,323)	(5)	(1,323)
Liabilities recognised	(16)	(50)	(16)	(50)
Obligations expired	(9)	(146)	(9)	(146)
Total contingent liabilities	3,435	3,465	3,435	3,465
Net contingent (liabilities) assets	(3,435)	(3,220)	(3,435)	(3,220)

Quantifiable Contingencies

The schedule of contingencies reports contingent liabilities in respect of a number of leases with make good clauses in them of \$3,400,000 (2009: \$3,400,000), and in relation to claims for damages of \$35,000 (2009: \$65,000). The amounts represent an estimate of the ABS' liability based on reasonable expectations.

The schedule has no contingent assets in respect of claims for costs (2009: \$245,000).

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Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

	2010	2009
Note 14A: Senior Executive Remuneration		
The number of senior executives who received or were due:		
less than \$145,000*	1	2
\$145,000 to \$159,999	1	1
\$160,000 to \$174,999	1	1
\$175,000 to \$189,999	5	8
\$190,000 to \$204,999	7	10
\$205,000 to \$219,999	7	4
\$220,000 to \$234,999	6	5
\$235,000 to \$249,999	-	2
\$250,000 to \$264,999	2	1
\$265,000 to \$279,999	2	2
\$280,000 to \$294,999	-	2
\$295,000 to \$309,999	1	1
\$310,000 to \$324,999	2	1
\$355,000 to \$369,999	-	2
\$520,000 to \$534,999	1	1
Total	36	43

*Excluding acting arrangements and part-year service.

Total expense recognised in relation to Senior Executive employment

	\$	\$
Short-term employee benefits:		
Salary (including annual leave taken)	5,797,765	6,619,822
Changes in annual leave provisions	39,902	136,869
Performance bonus	2,085	68,266
Other ¹	843,023	970,513
Total Short term employee benefits	<u>6,682,775</u>	<u>7,795,470</u>
Superannuation (post employment benefits)	1,033,480	1,432,085
Other long-term benefits	348,535	155,555
Total	<u>8,064,790</u>	<u>9,383,110</u>

During the year the ABS paid \$330,431 in termination benefits to senior executives (2009: \$324,271).

Notes

1. "Other" includes motor vehicle allowances and other allowances.

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Note 14B: Salary Packages for Senior Executives

Average annualised remuneration packages for substantive Senior Executives

Total remuneration:*	As at 30 June 2010			As at 30 June 2009		
	No. SES	Base Salary (including annual leave)	Total remuneration package ¹	No. SES	Base Salary (including annual leave)	Total remuneration package ¹
\$160,000 to \$174,999	-	-	-	2	128,409	171,576
\$175,000 to \$189,999	6	138,730	185,535	11	133,614	182,384
\$190,000 to \$204,999	12	142,373	194,093	8	143,050	198,062
\$205,000 to \$219,999	6	160,608	214,488	4	147,663	212,971
\$220,000 to \$234,999	6	169,733	227,409	5	168,324	227,990
\$235,000 to \$249,999	1	175,536	237,701	1	171,904	248,385
\$250,000 to \$264,999	2	195,028	261,345	3	184,181	261,086
\$265,000 to \$279,999	2	198,486	265,540	-	-	-
\$280,000 to \$294,999	-	-	-	2	222,158	282,310
\$295,000 to \$309,999	3	234,158	301,560	-	-	-
\$310,000 to \$324,999	-	-	-	2	222,158	311,079
\$490,000 to \$504,999	1	343,690	494,578	1	292,710	499,232
Total	39			39		

*Senior Executives who were employed by the ABS as at 30 June 2010 have been included in the above note. The following have been excluded from the note: acting arrangements, 7 SES staff who left the ABS during 2009-10 (2008-09: 7) and 3 SES staff on long term leave without pay (2008-09: Nil).

Notes:

¹ Non-Salary elements available to Senior Executives include: Performance bonus and motor vehicle allowance. The superannuation included reflects the differing contribution rates for the various superannuation schemes. Long service leave is excluded from the above calculations.

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

	2010	2009
	\$	\$

Note 15: Remuneration of Auditors

Financial statement audit services were provided free of charge to the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

The fair value of the services provided by the Australian National Audit Office was:	<u>125,000</u>	<u>125,000</u>
	<u>125,000</u>	<u>125,000</u>

No other services were provided by the Auditor General.

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

	2010	2009
	\$'000	\$'000
Note 16: Financial Instruments		

Note 16A: Categories of Financial Instruments**Financial Assets**

Loans and Receivables

Cash and cash equivalents	3,561	1,285
Trade and other receivables*	4,254	3,560

Carrying amount of financial assets	7,815	4,845
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Financial Liabilities at Amortised Cost

Loans from Government	1,699	3,308
Trade and sundry creditors	15,698	7,414

Carrying amount of financial liabilities	17,397	10,722
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Note 16B: Net Income and Expense From Financial Assets**Financial Assets**

Bad debts written off	3	29
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Net loss from financial assets	3	29
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Note 16C: Net Income and Expense From Financial Liabilities**Financial Liabilities at Amortised Cost**

Interest Expense	167	261
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Net loss from financial liabilities	167	261
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Note 16D: Fair Value Of Financial Instruments

The carrying value of the financial instruments of the ABS is a reasonable approximation of the fair value of those financial instruments.

*For the purposes of Note 16 Financial Instruments, trade and other receivables excludes appropriation receivable and GST receivable from the Australian Tax Office.

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Note 16E: Credit Risk

The ABS is a 100% owned Australian Government entity, which is primarily funded for its activities through the budget process.

The majority of services provided by the ABS are delivered to other Government entities and therefore represent minimal credit exposure for the agency.

The maximum exposure to credit risk is the risk that arises from potential default of a debtor. This amount is equal to the total amount of trade and other receivables (2010: \$4,254,103 and 2009: \$3,559,717).

The ABS has policies and procedures in relation to debt recovery techniques, that are applied as appropriate. The ABS holds no collateral to mitigate against credit risk.

Credit quality of financial instruments not past due or individually determined as impaired				
	Not past due nor impaired 2010	Not past due nor impaired 2009	Past due or impaired 2010	Past due or impaired 2009
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Loans and receivables				
Cash and cash equivalents	3,561	1,285	-	-
Trade receivables	3,342	2,667	126	657
Total	6,903	3,952	126	657

Aging of financial assets that are past due but not impaired for 2010					
	0 to 30 days	31 to 60 days	61 to 90 days	90 + days	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Loans and receivables					
Trade receivables	77	19	11	19	126
Total	77	19	11	19	126

Aging of financial assets that are past due but not impaired for 2009					
	0 to 30 days	31 to 60 days	61 to 90 days	90 + days	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Loans and receivables					
Trade receivables	226	240	10	181	657
Total	226	240	10	181	657

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Note 16F: Liquidity Risk

The ABS receives appropriation funding from the Australian Government. The ABS manages its cash to ensure it is able to make payments as they fall due. In addition, the ABS undertakes cash forecasting to ensure it can meet future liabilities as they fall due. The ABS has policies in place to ensure payments are made on time.

The financial liabilities of the ABS are government loans and trade and sundry creditors.

The exposure to liquidity risk is based on the notion that the ABS will encounter difficulty in meeting its obligations associated with financial liabilities. This is highly unlikely due to appropriation funding and mechanisms available to the ABS (e.g. Advance to the Finance Minister) and internal policies and procedures put in place to ensure there are appropriate resources to meet its financial obligations.

The ABS has no derivative financial liabilities in both the current and prior year.

	On demand \$'000	Within 1 year \$'000	1 to 2 years \$'000	2 to 5 years \$'000	> 5 years \$'000	Total \$'000
Other liabilities						
Loans from Government	-	1,699	-	-	-	1,699
Trade and sundry creditors	-	15,698	-	-	-	15,698
Total	-	17,397	-	-	-	17,397

	On demand \$'000	Within 1 year \$'000	1 to 2 years \$'000	2 to 5 years \$'000	> 5 years \$'000	Total \$'000
Other liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	-
Government loans	-	1,608	1,700	-	-	3,308
Trade and sundry creditors	-	7,414	-	-	-	7,414
Total	-	9,022	1,700	-	-	10,722

Note 16G: Market Risk

The ABS holds basic financial instruments that do not expose the ABS to “currency risk” or “other price risk”.

Interest Rate Risk

The only interest-bearing item on the balance sheet is the Government Loan. The Government Loan bears interest at a fixed interest rate and will not fluctuate due to changes in the market interest rate.

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Notes to the Schedule of Administered Items

	2010	2009
	\$'000	\$'000
Note 17: Administered Reconciliation Table		
Opening administered assets less administered liabilities as at 1 July	-	-
Plus: Administered income	49	1
Administered transfers to/from Australian Government:		
Transfers to Official Public Account	(49)	(1)
Closing administered assets less administered liabilities as at 30 June	-	-

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Note 18: Appropriations

Note 18A: Acquittal of Authority to Draw Cash from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for Ordinary Annual Services Appropriations

Particulars	Departmental Outputs		Total	
	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
Balance brought forward from previous period (<i>Appropriation Act</i>)	30,321	21,796	30,321	21,796
<i>Appropriation Act:</i>				
<i>Appropriation Act (No.1) 2009-2010 as passed</i>	321,906	282,775	321,906	282,775
<i>Appropriation Act (No.3) 2009-2010 as passed</i>	6,022	982	6,022	982
Departmental appropriations reduced (<i>Appropriation Act</i> section 10)	-	(1,189)	-	(1,189)
Departmental appropriations reduced (<i>Appropriation Act</i> section 10)	-	(1,485)	-	(1,485)
<i>FMA Act:</i>				
Repayments to the Commonwealth (<i>FMA Act</i> section 30)	946	1,811	946	1,811
Appropriations to take account of recoverable GST (<i>FMA Act</i> section 30A) ¹	8,903	10,407	8,903	10,407
Relevant agency receipts (<i>FMA Act</i> section 31)	26,922	34,299	26,922	34,299
Total appropriations available for payments	395,020	349,396	395,020	349,396
Cash payments made during the year (GST inclusive)	(354,949)	(319,075)	(354,949)	(319,075)
Appropriations credited to special accounts (GST exclusive)	-	-	-	-
Balance of authority to draw cash from the consolidated revenue fund for ordinary annual services appropriations and as represented by:	40,071	30,321	40,071	30,321
Cash at bank and on hand	3,561	1,285	3,561	1,285
Departmental appropriations receivable	36,510	29,036	36,510	29,036
Total as at 30 June	40,071	30,321	40,071	30,321

1. The amounts in this line item are calculated on an accrual basis to the extent that an expense may have been incurred that includes GST but has not been paid by year end.

Note 18B: Acquittal of Authority to Draw Cash from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for other than Ordinary Annual Services Appropriations

Particulars	Non-operating			Total
	Equity			
	2010	2009	2010	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Balance carried from previous period (<i>Appropriation Acts</i>)	-	2,967	-	2,967
<i>Appropriation Act:</i>				
<i>Appropriation Act (No.2) 2009 – 10</i> as passed	-	5,365	-	5,365
<i>Appropriation Act (No.4) 2009 – 10</i> as passed	1,303	-	1,303	-
Departmental appropriations reduced (<i>Appropriation Act</i> section 13)	-	(6,121)	-	(6,121)
Advance to the Finance Minister (<i>Appropriation Act</i> section 15)	-	-	-	-
<i>FMA Act:</i>				
Repayments to the Commonwealth (<i>FMA Act</i> section 30)	-	-	-	-
Appropriations to take account of recoverable GST (<i>FMA Act</i> section 30A) ¹	-	-	-	-
Adjustment of appropriations on change of agency function (<i>FMA Act</i> section 32)	-	-	-	-
Total appropriations available for payments	1,303	2,211	1,303	2,211
Cash Payments made during the year (GST inclusive)	(952)	(2,211)	(952)	(2,211)
Appropriations credited to special accounts (GST exclusive)	-	-	-	-
Balance of Authority to Draw Cash from the consolidated revenue fund for Other Than Ordinary Annual Services Appropriations and as represented by:				
Cash at bank and on hand	-	-	-	-
Appropriations receivable	351	-	351	-
Total as at 30 June	351	351	351	351

1. The amounts in this line item are calculated on an accrual basis to the extent that an expense may have been incurred that includes GST but has not been paid by year end.

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Note 19: Special Accounts

Trust Fund and Other Trust Moneys (Departmental)	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
Appropriation: Section 20 of the FMA Act 1997.		
Establishing Instrument: Determination 1997/01. Determination 2008/15 varied the initial determination.		
Abolishing Instrument: Determination 2010/03		
<i>Purpose:</i> For the receipt of moneys temporarily held on trust or otherwise for the benefit of persons or entities other than the Commonwealth.		
Balance brought forward from previous period	138	109
Receipts	3	29
Total increase	3	29
Payments made	(141)	-
Total decrease	(141)	-
Balance carried to next period and represented by:		
Cash - held by the ABS	-	138
Total balance carried to the next period	-	138

Services for Other Entities and Trust Moneys (Departmental)	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
Appropriation: Section 20 of the FMA Act 1997.		
Establishing Instrument: Determination 2010/04.		
<i>Purpose:</i> Disburse amounts held on trust or otherwise for the benefit of a person other than the Commonwealth.		
Balance brought forward from previous period	-	-
Receipts	49	-
Total increase	49	-
Payments made	(49)	-
Total decrease	(49)	-
Balance carried to next period and represented by:		
Cash - held by the ABS	-	-
Total balance carried to the next period	-	-

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

	2010	2009
	\$	\$
Note 20: Compensation and Debt Relief		
Departmental		
No 'Act of Grace' expenses were incurred during the reporting period (2009: No expenses).	-	-
No waivers of amounts owing to the Australian Government were made pursuant to subsection 34(1) of the Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997. (2009: No waivers).	-	-
No payments were provided under the Compensation for Detriment caused by Defective Administration (CDAA) Scheme during the reporting period. (2009: No payments).	-	-
No ex-gratia payments were provided for during the reporting period. (2009: No payments).	-	-
One payments were provided in special circumstances relating to APS employment pursuant to section 73 of the Public Service Act 1999 (PS Act) during the reporting period. (2009: No payments).	25,000	-

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Note 21: Assets Held in Trust

Financial Assets

Financial assets held in trust include the Special Accounts; Trust Funds Other Trust Moneys, and Services for Other Entities and Trust Moneys. These assets held in trust are disclosed in Note 19: Special Accounts.

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
Trust Fund Other Trust Moneys		
Total amount at the beginning of the reporting period	138	109
Receipts	3	29
Payments	(141)	-
Total amount held at the end of the reporting period	-	138
Services for Other Entities and Trust Moneys		
Total amount at the beginning of the reporting period	-	-
Receipts	49	-
Payments	(49)	-
Total amount held at the end of the reporting period	-	-
Total	-	-

Non-monetary assets

ABS has no non-monetary assets held in trust in both the current and prior years.

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Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Note 22: Reporting of Outcomes

Note 22A: Net Cost of Outcome Delivery

	Outcome 1		Total	
	2010	2009	2010	2009
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Expenses				
Departmental	352,292	325,970	352,292	325,970
Total	352,292	325,970	352,292	325,970
Income from non government sector				
Departmental				
Activities subject to cost recovery	97	1,793	97	1,793
Total	97	1,793	97	1,793
Other own-source income				
Administered	49	1	49	1
Departmental	28,510	27,859	28,510	27,859
Total	28,559	27,860	28,559	27,860
Net Cost of Outcome	323,636	296,317	323,636	296,317

Outcome 1 is described in Note 1.1.

Net costs shown include intra-government costs that are eliminated in calculating the actual Budget outcome.

SECTION 6

APPENDICES



Appendix 1

Contact details

For enquiries about the ABS Annual Report, please contact:

Director, Corporate Communications, Australian Bureau of Statistics

Locked Bag 10, Belconnen, ACT, 2616

Telephone: 02 6252 7197

Email: richard.burgess@abs.gov.au

Access to ABS documents (including the ABS Annual Report) and statistics is available through the ABS website: <http://www.abs.gov.au>.

For any queries about statistical information, contact the National Information and Referral Service from anywhere in Australia between 9.00am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday on:

1300 135 070 (Australian residents)

International clients may call +61 2 9268 4909

Alternatively, you can email your query to client.services@abs.gov.au

For media requests, contact ABS Corporate Communications on 1300 175 070.

The ABS has offices in every state and territory, as listed below:

Office	Street Address	Postal Address
Central Office (Canberra)	ABS House 45 Benjamin Way Belconnen ACT 2617	Locked Bag 10 Belconnen ACT 2616
New South Wales	5th Floor St Andrews House, Sydney Square Sydney NSW 2000	GPO Box 796 Sydney NSW 2001
Victoria	5th Floor Commercial Union Tower 485 La Trobe Street Melbourne VIC 3000	GPO Box 2796Y Melbourne VIC 3001
Queensland	Level 3 639 Wickham Street Fortitude Valley QLD 4006	GPO Box 9817 Brisbane QLD 4001
South Australia	Level 9 ANZ House, 11 Waymouth St Adelaide SA 5000	GPO Box 2272 Adelaide SA 5001
Western Australia	Level 15 Exchange Plaza, Sherwood Court Perth WA 6000	GPO Box K881 Perth WA 6842
Tasmania	200 Collins Street Hobart TAS 7000	GPO Box 66A Hobart TAS 7001
Northern Territory	Level 3 Civitas Building, 22 Harry Chan Avenue Darwin NT 0800	GPO BOX 3796 Darwin NT 0801
Australian Capital Territory	ABS House Ground floor, 45 Benjamin Way Belconnen ACT 2617	Locked Bag 10 Belconnen ACT 2616

Appendix 2

User groups advising the ABS

The following is a list of user groups that advise the ABS work program, and were active throughout 2009–10.

National Groups for 2009–10

- Advisory Committee on Australian and International Disability Data
- Advisory Group on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics
- Agriculture Statistics Forum
- Analytical Community Reference Group
- Australasian Mortality Data Interest Group
- Australia – New Zealand Population Workshop
- Australian Bureau of Statistics – Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources High Level Liaison Committee
- Australian Government Statistical Forum
- Australian Health Survey Biomedical Advisory Group
- Australian Health Survey Data Users Group
- Australian Health Survey Indigenous Technical Group
- Australian Health Survey Nutrition Advisory Group
- Australian Health Survey Reference Group
- Australian Health Survey Physical Activity Advisory Group
- Australian Health Survey Steering Committee
- Australian Transport Data Action Network
- Census – Indigenous Enumeration Strategy Working Group
- Census – Northern Australia Enumeration Strategy Working Group
- Consumer Price Index Advisory Group – 16th Series Review
- Cultural Ministers' Council Statistics Working Group
- Demography Statistics Advisory Group
- Economic Statistics User Group
- Energy Statistics Forum
- Energy Statistics Steering Committee
- General Social Survey Reference Group
- Household Income and Expenditure Statistics User Advisory Group
- Information and Communication Technology Statistics Reference Group
- Innovation (incl. R&D) Statistics Reference Group
- Input-Output Statistics User Group
- International Trade in Services User Group

- Labour Statistics Advisory Group
- Longitudinal Studies Advisory Group
- Measures of Australia's Progress Expert Reference Group
- Methodology Advisory Committee
- Migrant Statistics Advisory Group
- Migrant Statistics Reference Group
- Mining User Advisory Group
- National Advisory Group on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Information and Data
- National Corrective Services Statistics Advisory Group
- National Crime Statistics Advisory Group
- National Criminal Courts Statistics Advisory Group
- National Housing and Homelessness Information Management Group
- Population Estimates Technical Workshop
- Private Hospital Statistics User Group
- Productivity Measurement Reference Group
- Standing Committee on Recreation and Sport Research Group
- State Accounts User Group
- Statistical Clearing House User Group
- Steering Committee for the Review of Commonwealth/State Service Provision
- Survey of Adult Competencies Reference Group
- Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers Advisory Group
- Survey of Education and Training Reference Group
- Time Use Survey Advisory Group
- Water Statistics Forum

State and Territory Government Groups for 2009–10

- Government Agencies Statistical Committee (South Australia)
- Northern Territory Statistical Liaison Committee
- Queensland Statistical Table
- Social Statistics Consultative Groups (Western Australia)
- State Statistical Forum (all states and territories)
- Statistical Coordination and User Forum (New South Wales)
- Statistical Policy Committee (Tasmania)
- Statistical Policy Committee (Western Australia)
- Tasmanian Statistical Advisory Committee
- Victorian Statistics Advisory Forum

Appendix 3

Consultancy services

Policy on selection and engagement of consultants

ABS policy on the selection and engagement of consultants is consistent with ABS Chief Executive Instructions, and the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines. The ABS selects and engages consultants in a way that provides value for money.

Total consultancies let in 2009–10

During 2009–10, thirty eight new consultants were engaged to carry out projects or provide professional and technical advice that could not be provided by ABS staff. The total expenditure of the thirty eight new consultancies during 2009–10 was \$2,494,920. Expenditure on fifteen consultancies which had been let in previous years, and continued into 2009–10, was \$803,090.

Appendix Table 3.1 shows the total expenditure on all consultancies, covering both payments made on new contracts let in 2009–10, and payments made on contracts let in previous years. The larger consultancy contracts (those to the value of \$10,000 or more) are detailed in Appendix Table 3.2 along with brief notes on the procurement method used.

Appendix Table 3.1: Consultancy services contracts engaged by the ABS

	Consultancies (number)	Expenditure (\$) including GST
2005–06	37	941,861
2006–07	23	794,618
2007–08	30	677,999
2008–09	43	1,353,005
2009–10	53	3,298,010

Appendix Table 3.2: Consultancy services contracts let in 2009–10 to the value of \$10,000 or more

Key

Justification for recourse to consultancy arrangements:

(a) Skills currently unavailable within the agency

(b) Need for specialised or professional skills.

(c) Need for an independent study.

1 Public tender

2 Restricted tender

3 Direct source

Name	Amount	Services performed	Reason for engagement	Procurement method
Burson-Marsteller Pty Ltd	\$44,358.96	Professional fees for research into Gen Y behaviours	c	3
Colliers International Projects Services Pty Ltd	\$99,131.00	Tenancy services review & efficiency recommendations	b	3
Data#3 Ltd	\$272,010.82	Desktop asset management	b	1
Debra Jane Foggin	\$125,945.25	Corporate Services Improvement Program performance management consultancy services	b	3
Deloitte Australia Pty Ltd	\$239,567.02	Review of ABS Corporate Services	c	2
Deloitte Touche Tomatsu	\$59,548.65	Implementation of review of ABS Corporate Services	b	3
Dr Nicholas Biddle	\$11,200.00	Project on measuring socioeconomic status	b	3
Enterprise Intelligence Pty Ltd	\$13,970.00	Advice and assistance with the ABS International Collaboration Initiative	b	3
Fianian Pty Ltd	\$53,762.50	Planning and designing internal and external communication and engagement strategies for Technical Services Division	c	3
Food Standards Australia New Zealand	\$154,545.00	Preparation of survey Nutrient Database	b	3
Forcefield Services Pty Ltd	\$12,721.37	Technical advice on electronic security systems	b	3
Fujitsu Australia Ltd	\$83,545.00	Review of the Technology Application Software Development	c	2
Fusion GMS Pty Ltd	\$32,505.00	Development of training modules for the 2010 graduate development program	b	2
Gray Puksand	\$11,055.00	Concept design/design drawings for Data Processing Centre (Census 2011)	b	3
HBA Consulting	\$15,125.00	Independent review of ABS workplace relations issue	b	3

Name	Amount	Services performed	Reason for engagement	Procurement method
Hinds Workforce Research Pty Ltd	\$279,149.03	Design and conduct a national employee survey, analyse and present findings and provide action planning support – ABS1083	b	2
In Totality Pty Ltd	\$24,200.00	Information Technology Service Management requirements and platform review	b	3
Link Learning Pty Ltd	\$18,980.14	Development of Technical Services Division team strategy	b	3
Mark Dignam & Associates Pty Ltd	\$113,740.31	Focus group and cognitive testing services for the 2011 Census	c	1
Market Attitude Research Services	\$166,047.05	Focus group and cognitive testing services for the 2011 Census	c	1
Metadata Technologies North America	\$47,717.29	DDI and SDMX technical advice and training	b	3
Nous Group	\$155,735.30	Developing and implementing the change management process for Corporate Services Improvement Program	b	3
Nous Group	\$96,140.00	Establish Technical Applications Identity	b	3
Oakton AA Services Pty Ltd	\$247,291.68	Internal audit services	b	1
Oakton Services Pty Ltd	\$132,007.02	Independent review of internally-generated software	c	3
Oakton Services Pty Ltd	\$167,860.02	Enterprise architecture refresh	c	3
Oakton Services Pty Ltd	\$24,846.25	Review and development of system security plans	b	3
Oakton Services Pty Ltd	\$16,533.00	Review of ABS Source Human Resource Data	b	3
Oakton Services Pty Ltd	\$19,604.20	Capability Maturity Model Integration (CMMI) Improvement	b	2
Pattison Consulting	\$36,600.00	Review of energy statistics	b	2
Peter Collins and Associates Pty Ltd	\$28,706.15	Strategic alignment services	b	2
Rapanea Consulting Ltd	\$74,400.00	Technical training and advice on SDMX & DDI statistical business processes	b	3

Name	Amount	Services performed	Reason for engagement	Procurement method
Robert Brennan and Associates	\$88,279.75	Integrated Collection & Dissemination Services Division (ICDSD) capability assessment	b	1
RPM Solutions Pty Ltd	\$54,862.50	Business availability centre software Discovery Dependency Management implementation	b	3
Softscape Solutions	\$10,448.35	Human Resources Indicator reporting – Interim Solutions project	b	2
Stratsec.net Pty Ltd	\$33,000.00	Review of Electronic Forms Processing System	b	3
Stratsec.net Pty Ltd	\$63,058.05	Security review 2011 Census	b	1
Stratsec.net Pty Ltd	\$19,896.80	Procurement & deployment of a Web Application Firewall	b	1
Stratsec.net Pty Ltd	\$28,424.00	Developing a strategy to implement Security Operations Groups	b	2
Symantec Asia Pacific Pty Ltd	\$16,169.15	Software packaging processes and standards	b	3
Taylor Nelson Sofres Pty Ltd	\$32,505.00	Secondary providers research	c	3
Terry Offner	\$18,519.60	Technical assistance on the revaluation of CPI in Vanuatu	b	3
William P McLennan	\$10,050.00	Review of ABS legislation	b	3
Total	\$3,253,761.21			

Appendix 4

Advertising and market research



The ABS paid \$30,825.44 (GST exclusive) for advertising and \$246,988.31 (GST exclusive) for market research in 2009–10. There was no expenditure for marketing or public relations consultancies for the year.

The increase in expenditure from 2008–09 for advertising was due to increased spending on media advertising for CPI public comment. Market research expenditure incurred in 2009–10 is in relation to secondary providers of ABS data, Generation Y behaviours and focus group testing for the Census 2011. The organisations that supplied these services included Burson-Marsteller, Taylor Nelson Sofres, Market Attitude Research Services and Mark Dignam and Associates.

Appendix 5

Freedom of information requests

Section 8 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* requires the ABS to provide detail on the structure of the ABS, and how members of the public can gain access to information held by the ABS.

Detail on the structure of the ABS can be found in Chapter 2, Overview of the ABS.

Information held by the ABS

Appendix Table 5.1: Categories of documents in the possession of the ABS

Documents open to public access upon payment of a fee	The ABS does not hold any of these types of documents.
Documents available for purchase or customarily available free of charge	The ABS has a wide range of statistical publications available free of charge on its website: http://www.abs.gov.au , and through major public libraries. Charged publications can be purchased via the ABS National Information Referral Service (Ph: 1300 135 070).
Government and Parliament	The ABS holds policy-related documents, ministerial briefings, ministerial correspondence, replies to parliamentary questions, and tabling documents.
Meetings and conferences	The ABS holds agenda papers, submissions, and records of proceedings of internal and external conferences, management meetings and workshops.
Statistical and statistical services projects	The ABS holds research, development and evaluation papers; records of consultations with suppliers and users of data; statistical classifications; lists of businesses; maps; data collection, processing and publication manuals and instructions; and mailing lists.
Administration and management	The ABS holds work program and planning documents; finance, staff and establishment papers and manuals; personnel files; recruitment files; files on selection and promotion of staff; staff development and training papers; officer services documents; and tenders.
Privacy	The ABS holds a record of the extent and nature of ABS holdings of personal information, as contained in the Personal Information Digest published by the Privacy Commissioner.
General	The ABS holds correspondence, manuals on general subjects, internal reports and administrative circulars.

ABS freedom of information activities

Matters relating to the operation of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* within the ABS are the responsibility of the Office of the Statistician, which is located in Central Office. Authority for decision making under this Act has been delegated to the Deputy Australian Statisticians, the First Assistant Statistician of Corporate Services Division, and the Assistant Statistician in the Office of the Statistician.

A significant part of ABS information holdings is information collected under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*. This information is exempt from the provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

The following table provides details of FOI activities during the years 2004–05 to 2009–10 inclusive. Six requests were made to the ABS under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* during 2009–10.

Appendix Table 5.2: Freedom of information activities, 2004–05 to 2009–10 (number)

	2004–05	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10
Requests received	3	1	3	3	6**
Decisions made					
Access granted in full	3	-	0*	-	-
Access granted in part	-	1	0*	1	4
Access not granted				2	1

*No information was released to the requestors under the FOI Act during 2007–08. However, the ABS released some information to the requestors separately to the FOI Act, where the Census and Statistics Act 1905 allows for such a release.

** One request was received at the end of the financial year and was in progress at the time of printing.

Where to get information

Freedom of information inquiries

All inquiries concerning access to documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* may be directed to:

Freedom of Information Contact Officer
 Australian Bureau of Statistics
 Locked Bag 10, Belconnen, ACT, 2616
 Ph: 02 6252 6449
 Email: freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au

General information

The ABS offers an initial contact point for all information requests:

Telephone: 1300 135 070
 Email: client.services@abs.gov.au
 Facsimile: 1300 135 211
 Mail: Client Services, ABS
 GPO Box 796,
 Sydney, NSW, 2001

Appendix 6

Professional papers by ABS officers

Officers of the ABS prepared the following professional papers which were presented or published between 1 July 2009 and 30 June 2010.

Brian Pink, 'Maintaining the momentum in Australia: From measures of a nation's progress to measures of a people's progress.' Presented to the 3rd OECD World Forum on 'Statistics, Knowledge and Policy', Busan, Korea, 27–30 October 2009

Jenine Borowik, Geoff Lee and Brian Pink, 'The case for an international statistical innovation program – Transforming national and international statistics systems', *Statistical Journal of the IAOS*, vol. 26 (2009/10) 125–33

Peter Comisari, 'Other issues for volume 2 of the revised SEEA.' Presented to the 15th meeting of the London Group on Environmental Accounting, Germany, 30 November – 4 December 2009

Peter Comisari, 'Recording land in the national balance sheet.' Presented to the 15th meeting of the London Group on Environmental Accounting, Germany, 30 November – 4 December 2009

Peter Comisari, 'Draft annotated outline of volume 1 of the revised system of integrated environmental and economic accounting (SEEA).' Presented to the 5th meeting of United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting, New York, 2009

Beidar Cho and Gemma Van Halderen, 'Climate change and implications for statistics', *Statistical Journal of the IAOS* vol. 26, number 1–2 (2009)

Derick Cullen and Bernard Williams, 'Managing the implementation of SNA, BPM and related international standards in an NSO context.' Presented to the 57th Session of the International Statistical Institute, Durban, South Africa, 16–22 August 2009

Michael Davies, 'The measurement of financial services in the National Accounts and the financial crisis'. Presented to the 57th Session of International Statistical Institute, Durban South Africa, 16–22 August 2009

Denis Farrell, 'Communication to data suppliers: strategies and tactics – Experience of Australian Bureau of Statistics'. Presented to the Eighth Management Seminar for the Heads of the National Statistical Offices in Asia and the Pacific, Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), 3–5 November 2009, New Delhi, India

Peter Harper, 'Water accounting for Australian agriculture – understanding the economic impact of a scarce resource on a critical industry.' Presented to the 57th session of the International Statistical Institute, Durban, South Africa, August 2009

Andrew Mair, 'Big numbers and small screens: challenges and opportunities of the mobile web for national statistical offices', *Statistical Journal of the IAOS* vol. 26, number 1–2 (2009)

Tony Marion, 'Virtualisation and public/private cloud computing – supporting agility and services for Statistical Institutions.' Presented to United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Conference of European Statisticians – Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Systems, Republic of Korea, 26–29 April 2010

Wendy Raedt, 'The ABS Securitised Collection.' Presented to the OECD Working Party on Financial Statistics – Workshop on Securitisation, Madrid, 27 and 28 May 2010

Jason Russo and Dr Hui Wei, 'Developments in the estimation of the value of human capital for Australia.' Presented to the UNECE / EUROSTAT / OECD Task Force on Measuring Sustainable Development, Geneva, 23–24 September 2009)

Brian Studman, 'A collaborative development approach to agile statistical processing architecture – Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Experience and Aspirations.' Presented to United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Conference of European Statisticians – Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Systems, Republic of Korea, 26–29 April 2010

Siu-Ming Tam, 'Official statistics and microdata – access and confidentiality,' *Statistical Journal of the IAOS*, vol.26 (2009/2010) pp. 55–56

Siu-Ming Tam, 'Lockups, slap downs and building trust in official statistics.' Submitted to United Nations Statistical Commission and Economic Commission For Europe Conference of European Statisticians, Paris, 30 June – 2 July 2010

Siu-Ming Tam, 'Informing the nation – open access to statistical information in Australia', *Statistical Journal of the IAOS*, vol. 25

Siu-Ming Tam, 'Web 2.0 editorial', *Statistical Journal of the IAOS*, vol. 25


Siu-Ming Tam, 'Supporting research and protecting confidentiality. ABS microdata access: current strategies and future directions', *Statistical Journal of the IAOS*, vol. 26 (2009/2010)

Sue Taylor, 'The collection and use of compatibly classified statistics'. Presented at the Seminar on Reporting on the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, in Guilin, China, on February 25, 2010

Sue Taylor, 'UN requirements of reporting – the Australian Government's response'. Presented at the Seminar on Reporting on the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, in Guilin, China, on February 26, 2010

Appendix 7

Submissions to Parliamentary Committees



Committee/Inquiry	Description of submission/information provided
<p>House of Representatives Standing Committee on Economics</p> <p>Inquiry into raising the level of productivity growth in the Australian economy</p>	<p>In August 2009, the ABS provided a submission to the Inquiry that focused on the adequacy of ABS statistics as measures of productivity growth for the Australian economy. The submission outlined current ABS approaches to measuring productivity and future research priorities.</p> <p>In March 2010, the ABS provided a supplementary submission, which provided updates on ABS productivity statistics following the implementation of new international standards, and detailed the coverage of ABS productivity statistics for the Australian economy.</p>
<p>Senate Community Affairs References Committee Inquiry into Suicide in Australia</p>	<p>In November 2009, the ABS provided a submission to the Inquiry which outlined the main issues in relation to providing accurate statistics on suicide. The submission also outlined the work the ABS had undertaken to improve the quality of suicide data and indicated areas for further work.</p> <p>In May 2010, the ABS appeared before the Committee to answer follow-up questions from Senators.</p>

Appendix 8

Documents tabled in Parliament

In accordance with section 6 of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*, the ABS tabled, in both Houses of Parliament, 11 proposals for the collection of information for statistical purposes. Details of the proposals are shown in the following table.

Appendix Table 8.1: Tabling – proposals for the collection of information for statistical purposes, 2009–10

Date tabled (a)	Statistical collection (b)
10 September 2009	New Topics in the Monthly Population Survey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water and Energy Use and Conservation (Victoria and Queensland) • Housing Choices Related to Water and Energy (Western Australia)
10 September 2009	Electricity Generators Survey of Water Use
9 March 2010	Agricultural Resource Management Survey
17 March 2010	Vineyards Census
16 June 2010	General Social Survey
16 June 2010	Multipurpose Household Survey
16 June 2010	Health Care Services
16 June 2010	Waste Management Survey
16 June 2010	Economic Activity Survey
22 June 2010	Livestock Slaughtered Survey
22 June 2010	Livestock Coverage Survey

(a) If the proposal was tabled on different dates in the two Houses of Parliament, the earlier of the dates is shown.

(b) Unless otherwise indicated by the title, the statistical collection is a national project.

Disclosure of lists of names and addresses

In accordance with clause 6 of the Statistics Determination 1983 made under section 13 of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, the ABS tables, in both Houses of Parliament, details of the disclosure of lists of names, addresses and other information provided to a specified department or authority. The information released is shown in the following table.

Appendix Table 8.2: Tabling – disclosure of lists of names and addresses, 2009–10

Date tabled (a)	Information released
22 February 2010	Lists of Agricultural Farm Businesses for the Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics

(a) If the proposal was tabled on different dates in the two Houses of Parliament, the earlier of the dates is shown.

Appendix 9

Special articles in previous annual reports

Special articles have been included in most ABS annual reports to present information and views on important longer-term or broad issues affecting the national statistical service. A list of the articles in previous annual reports is presented below. The year of the annual report in which the article appeared and the relevant section of the report are shown in brackets.

The Role of a National Statistical Agency in a Global Financial Crisis (2008–09, Chapter 3)

Climate Change and Official Statistics (2008–09, Chapter 4)

The Role of Official Statistics in COAG Information-related Initiatives for Measuring Outcomes (2008–09, Chapter 5)

Australia's National Statistical Service in the 21st Century (2007–08, Chapter 3)

100 Years of International Trade Statistics (2007–08, Chapter 4)

Retirement of the Australian Statistician, Mr Dennis Trewin (2006–07, Chapter 6)

2006 Census of Population and Housing (2006–07, Chapter 7)

Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (2006–07, Chapter 8)

Communicating Statistics to the Nation (2005–06, Chapter 6)

Development and Implementation of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification 2006 (ANZSIC 2006) (2005–06, Chapter 7)

International Engagement (2004–05, Chapter 3)

History of Australian Censuses of Population and Housing (2004–05, Chapter 4)

Progress on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics (2003–04, Chapter 3)

Developments in Regional Statistics (2003–04, Chapter 4)

Access to ABS Microdata: Issues and Developments (2002–03, Chapter 3)

Population Estimates: Importance, Complexity and Controversy (2002–03, Chapter 4)

Measuring Australia's Progress (2001–02, Chapter 3)

The International Comparison Program (2001–02, Chapter 4)

Research and Analysis in the ABS (2000–01, Chapter 3)

The 2001 Census of Population and Housing (2000–01, Chapter 4)

Retirement of Mr Bill McLennan CBE, AM, Australian Statistician, 1995–2000 (1999–2000, Chapter 2)

Servicing Regional Data Requirements (1999–2000, Chapter 3)

Statistical Benchmarking as a Means of Improving Performance (1999–2000, Chapter 4)

Review of the ABS Household Survey Program (1998–99, Chapter 2)

ABS Experience in Workplace Relations (1998–99, Chapter 3)

The Destruction of Census Forms (1997–98, Chapter 2)

Recent Developments in Price and Labour Cost Indexes (1997–98, Chapter 3)

The Pint Pot Revisited (1996–97, Chapter 2)

The 1996 Census of Population and Housing (1996–97, Chapter 3)

Developments in the Australian National Accounts (1995–96, Chapter 2)

The Destruction of Census Forms (1995–96, Chapter 3)

Retirement of Mr Ian Castles, AO, Australian Statistician, 1986–1994 (1994–95, Chapter 1)

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey (1994–95, Chapter 2)

The 1996 Census of Population and Housing (1993–94, Chapter 2)

Reducing Respondent Load (1992–93, Chapter 2)

Security of ABS Data Holdings (1992–93, Chapter 3)

The 1991 Census of Population and Housing (1990–91, Chapter 2, Population Census)

The ABS in the Marketplace (1989–90, Chapter 2)

A Quart out of a Pint Pot (1988–89, Chapter 2). This article examines how the ABS increased significantly the range, timeliness and quality of its statistical products and services over the preceding 13 years, with a static level of resources.

Household Expenditure Surveys in Australia: A Chronology (1988–89, Appendix 15)

Complaints to the Australian Press Council (1988–89, Appendix 16)

Statistics and Privacy (1987–88, Chapter 3)

Media Liaison for ABS Health Survey (1987–88, Appendix 12)

ABS Corporate Plan (1986–87, Chapter 2)

Health Statistics and the Report of the Better Health Commission (1986–87, Chapter 3)

The Role of a National Statistical Office (1986–87, Appendix 10)

Dissemination of Statistics by the ABS (1985–86, pages 9 to 14)

The ABS Program of Industry Collections (1984–85, pages 8 to 13, supplemented by Appendix 5)

The ABS Program of Population Surveys (1983–84, pages 7 to 11, supplemented by Appendix 5)

A Decade's Work Program (1981–82, Section 2)

Minimising Reporting Burden (1980–81, Section 2)

The Accuracy and Reliability of Estimates of National Income and Expenditure (1979–80, Section 2)

Preparations for the 1981 Census of Population and Housing (1978–79, Section 2)

Forward Planning in the ABS (1977–78, Section 2)

The Collection of Information (1976–77, Section 2)

What the ABS Does (1975–76, Section 2)

Appendix 10

Legal services expenditure

Paragraph 11.1 (ba) of the Legal Services Directions 2005 (issued by the Attorney-General under section 55ZF of the *Judiciary Act 1903*) requires the ABS to make records of its legal services expenditure available to the public.

For the period 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010, legal services expenditure by the Australian Bureau of Statistics is shown in the following table.

Appendix Table 10.1: Summary of legal services expenditure 2009–10 (inclusive of GST)

Total external legal services expenditure	\$343,029.25
Total number of Counsel briefed	1
Total number of Counsel direct briefed	0
Total value of Counsel briefs	\$19,096.00
Total of disbursements (excl. Counsel)	\$12,966.49
Total of professional fees paid	\$310,966.76
Total internal legal services expenditure	\$0.00
Total costs recovered	\$325,000.00

Appendix Table 10.2: External legal services expenditure 2009–10 (inclusive of GST)

Counsel	
Total number of Counsel briefed	1
Male counsel briefed	1
Female counsel briefed	0
Total number of Counsel direct briefed	0
Male counsel direct briefed	0
Female counsel direct briefed	0
Total value of Counsel briefs	\$19,096.00
Male counsel briefs	\$19,096.00
Female counsel briefs	0
Disbursements (excluding Counsel)	\$12,966.49
Professional fees	
Total professional fees paid	\$310,966.76
Breakdown of professional fees paid	
Australian Government Solicitor	\$259,737.50
Blake Dawson	\$27,159.28
Minter Ellison	\$23,937.98
Sparke Helmore, Solicitors	\$132.00

Appendix 11

Access for people with disabilities

The ABS has undertaken a review of the Disability Action Plan and is incorporating the findings into a broader strategy under the Workplace Diversity Plan.

Reporting requirements under the Employer Role have been transferred from the ABS to the Australian Public Service Commission (APSC). The ABS has reported on its activities for disability through the APSC's State of the Service survey for 2009–10.

Commonwealth Disability Strategy

The ABS has the following public statement of commitment in its current Disability Action Plan:

To provide:

1. Access to ABS products and services for clients with disabilities, and
2. Equal employment opportunity for employees with disabilities.

The ABS Disability Action Plan incorporates the principles of the Commonwealth Disability Strategy, and consolidates ABS policies and programs to assist in the prevention of discrimination on the basis of disability. The plan includes a checklist to assist all ABS employees in the prevention of disability discrimination.

The ABS has conducted a review of the effectiveness of the current plan, and seeks to ensure that business areas are able to assist clients and employees with disabilities through a variety of mechanisms, ranging from policies to work practices.

Appendix Table 11.1 assesses ABS's performance against the indicators set out in the Commonwealth Disability Strategy.

Appendix Table 11.1: Commonwealth Disability Strategy – Provider Role

Performance indicator	Assessment
1. Providers have established mechanisms for quality improvement and assurance.	The ABS operates in accordance with the Australian Government Information Management Office guidelines relating to accessibility, and is working to ensure that the ABS website meets the minimum government standards of the World Wide Web Consortium's (W3C) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0. The ABS website will be assessed by an external provider to identify areas requiring attention, a first step towards meeting the 2012 target standard set by the Australian Government. The ABS is committed to having a website that is accessible to all members of the community. However, due to technological limitations, it is not possible to make the website entirely accessible in a cost-effective manner. If any of the web products are not suitably accessible, the ABS will make arrangements for translation of the product into a more appropriate format. This service is provided on request, and at no additional cost to the user.
2. Providers have an established service charter that specifies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the role of the provider and consumer and, - service standards which address accessibility for people with disabilities. 	The <i>ABS Surveys Charter</i> describes the relationship between the ABS and survey respondents, who provide the information that contributes to creating statistics for quality informed decision making. The Charter specifies what respondents can expect when included in ABS household or business surveys.
3. Complaints/grievance mechanisms, including access to external mechanisms, are in place to address concerns raised about performance.	Respondents' concerns regarding the performance of the ABS during the collection of statistical information from the community are addressed through the complaints resolution process as set out in the <i>ABS Surveys Charter</i> .

Measuring disability

The ABS has three measures relating to disability. These are: the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC); the ABS Short Disability Module; and the Census of Population and Housing. Methodologies for the collection of disability-related measures from each of these sources differ, but they are conceptually related to each other.

Of the three measures, the SDAC, with a 75 question set, provides the largest and most comprehensive collection of disability data on the Australian population. Information is collected on three population groups – people with a disability, older people (aged 60 years and over) and people who provide assistance to others because of a disability or the effects of old age.

The Short Disability Module comprises a limited number of questions based on the SDAC. The module was developed to be incorporated into social surveys, so that disability can be investigated alongside other socioeconomic factors.

The Census of Population and Housing includes four questions related to disability which provide information on people who needed assistance with the core activities of self care, mobility and communication because of a disability, long-term health problem (lasting six months or more) or the effects of old age.

Appendix 12

Ecological and environmental sustainability

During 2009–10, the ABS has remained committed to the principles of Ecological Sustainable Development as outlined in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999*.

In accordance with the EPBC Act, which requires agencies to report on aspects of their performance relating to ecologically sustainable development, the ABS has two key roles. The first of these is in relation to the ABS's responsibility for providing statistics on the environment and environmental issues, to enable informed decision making. The second role relates to the impact of the ABS's operations on the environment and the action being taken by the ABS to minimise that impact.

The ABS's response to the five components of sub-section 516A(6), as required by the EPBC Act, is described below.

516A (6) (a) How do the activities of the organisation, and the administration of legislation by the organisation, accord with the principles of ecologically sustainable development?

The ABS Environmental Management System (EMS) provides evidence of the ABS's commitment to ecological sustainable development. The ABS operates primarily in an office-based environment and is increasingly moving from paper to electronic products. This is being achieved by:

- making free publications available on the ABS website and increasing the number of publications available electronically, to reduce demand for hard copies of publications
- the use of duplex printing and copying
- a knowledge framework, incorporating digital recordkeeping rather than paper records and automatic recordkeeping facilities for ABS workgroup databases, and
- computer-assisted interviewing to replace paper forms.

Other matters relating to ecologically sustainable development at the ABS include:

- the use of automatic shutdown of computer workstations overnight and the virtualisation of servers to allow for more efficient use of resources, resulting in energy savings
- consideration of environmental issues in the market-testing process for new office accommodation, and
- inclusion of the Green Lease Schedules in new tenancy leases.

516A (6) (b) How do the outcomes specified in a relevant Appropriations Act contribute to ecologically sustainable development?

The ABS receives appropriation for the purpose of producing statistics that inform decision making. The four pillars of the ABS statistical program are economic, social, population and environmental statistics.

ABS environment statistics are produced from a combination of business and household surveys. These include the collection and publishing of environment and energy statistics, including environmental accounts. The coordination of data collection, research and analysis, and the development and implementation of international environmental accounting and energy standards, are also part of the statistics program. The ABS also collects and publishes household environmental and energy statistics.

For more information on ABS statistical publications and developments, please see the Program Reports in Chapter 5 for:

- Agriculture
- Rural and Regional Statistics
- Environment
- Energy
- Water.

516A (6) (c) What is the effect of the organisation's activities on the environment?

The effects on the environment of the ABS operations fall into five main categories:

- energy consumption and greenhouse gas pollution
- paper use
- waste generation
- water use, and
- transportation.

516A (6) (d) What measures are taken by the organisation to minimise the impact of its activities on the environment?

The ABS has sought to minimise its impact by:

- installing lighting sensors in tenanted areas, and upgrading lights in some areas, of ABS House to reduce energy, which is estimated to realise a saving of 650,000 KW/h per year
- stating its environmental commitment in the current enterprise agreement
- lowering the automatic shutdown period on most ABS printers
- setting duplex printing and copying as a default throughout the organisation.
- using re-manufactured and recycled cartridges for photocopiers, faxes and printers, and recycling used printer cartridges wherever possible
- recycling paper, bottles, aluminium cans, steel cans, plastic and cardboard products in all offices
- introducing three new recycling streams in central office in Canberra: batteries, polystyrene and plastic shopping bags
- using A4 paper with an 80 per cent recycled content

- introducing digital recordkeeping, and where possible, computer-assisted interviewing to replace paper forms
- increasing the number of publications available electronically
- establishing a communications strategy which promotes good practices amongst all staff at all levels and supports the work of the Green Teams throughout the ABS
- promoting and participating in Earth Hour in ABS offices
- celebrating World Environment Day and presenting Environment Awards to recognise the commitment of staff or teams who have been actively working on environmental solutions and contributed to improving ABS environmental sustainability
- heavily weighting energy ratings, when making purchasing decisions for white goods, and
- considering the Greenhouse Vehicle Guide when leasing government vehicles.

ABS is one of the leading organisations in relation to their Green IT policy. In 2009–10 the ABS:

- continued with the automatic shutdown of computer workstations across the ABS
- completed server virtualisation
- further upgraded video conferencing equipment and introduced new software and hardware to support virtual teams
- undertook a consultancy review of the ABS House Data Centre to identify energy saving strategies
- introduced benchmarking of ICT components of energy consumption, and
- prepared and submitted an ICT Energy Management Plan.

ABS is committed to working collaboratively with its landlords to address environmental concerns.

The ABS is:

- reviewing 'green energy' consumption in all tenancies and wherever possible introducing or increasing green energy purchase: ABS House is part of the whole-of government energy contract and procures 10% approved green energy; Victorian office sourced 10% green energy from January 2010
- reviewing energy usage and management to ensure the ABS will be well positioned to meet the Energy Efficiency in Government Operations targets in 2011–12
- addressing environmental efficiency measures in ABS lease negotiations and incorporating amenities during fit-out that encourage staff to save water, cycle to work, and to recycle items
- reviewing business support contracts to include environment criteria, and
- considering whole-of-life purchasing in relation to furniture and fitting.

516A (6) (e) What are the mechanisms for reviewing and increasing the effectiveness of these measures?

The ABS has implemented an Environmental Management System (EMS) at its primary site, ABS House, and continues to monitor the aspects of the organisation that have an environmental impact. Objectives and targets are set each year to manage and reduce the impact.

The application of the EMS and the environmental performance of the ABS are overseen by the ABS Environment and Energy Board.

Appendix 13

Occupational health and safety



The ABS is committed to providing and maintaining a safe and healthy workplace and meeting its responsibilities under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 1991* (OH&S Act) and the *Safety Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* (SRC Act). The ABS continues to meet its commitments under the ABS Health and Safety Management Arrangements (HSMA). This provides a framework for the day-to-day management of OH&S in the ABS to secure significant improvements in OH&S over time.

A dedicated section in the Victorian Office, complemented by representatives in all the other ABS offices, ensures the requirements of the OH&S Act and SRC Act are met. A network of OH&S committees is the vehicle for consultation on OH&S issues affecting employees. Under the HSMA, the ABS has National Health and Safety Committee and Regional Health and Safety Committees (RHSC) in all ABS offices. There were five employees selected as Employee Representatives for RHSC. A total of 48 committee members, consisting of management, employee and union representatives, received Health and Safety Committee training during the year.

During 2009–10, 16 employees were selected or elected as Health and Safety Representatives (HSRs) under the OH&S Act, with 14 staff receiving initial or refresher training during the year.

There were three notifiable incidents reported by ABS to Comcare in 2009–10.

Investigations

During 2009–10, no Comcare OH&S investigations were undertaken in the ABS and no Provisional Improvement Notices, Improvement Notices or Prohibition Notices were issued.

Workplace injuries and illness

The ABS continued to invest in a risk management approach to the prevention of work-related illness and injuries. Key features of this approach included:

- the annual National Hazards Inspection Program, which involved OH&S inspections of all ABS workplaces
- increased employee awareness and compliance reporting of hazards in the workplace
- investigations of accidents, incidents and near misses in the workplace, and
- immediate preventative interventions to address pain, discomfort or other signs of potential injury reported by employees.

A comparison of workers' compensation claims for the periods 2007–08 to 2009–10 is detailed in Appendix Table 13.1.

Appendix Table 13.1: ABS Premium Group claims incidence (number)

Financial year	Number of accepted claims
2007–08	45
2008–09	42
2009–10	34

(a) The ABS has amended the previously published figures for 2007–08 and 2008–09. This is due to improvements in data sourcing and reporting, which more accurately reflects the number of accepted claims during the financial year.

Rehabilitation

The ABS implements early intervention and rehabilitation in both compensable and non-compensable cases. Training for 17 ABS rehabilitation case managers and OH&S Coordinators was provided during the year, to enhance ABS rehabilitation performance.

Comcare premium

Comcare provided notification that the ABS's premium rate for 2009–10 has been set at 1.37% of total salary (including GST). The details of the ABS and the agency pool average premium rates are presented in Appendix Table 13.2.

Appendix Table 13.2: Comcare workers' compensation premium rate (a)

	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10
ABS	1.30	1.69	1.42	1.37
All agencies combined average	1.77	1.55	1.36	1.25

(a) Figures taken as a percentage of wage and salary expenditure.

Achievements

Measures taken to ensure the health, safety and welfare of employees during 2009–10 included:

- ongoing review and development of the ABS's OH&S policy framework based on risk management principles
- education and awareness of employees and managers of OH&S responsibilities, injury prevention, and OH&S risk management
- conducting the annual National Hazard Inspection Program. This resulted in greater awareness by employees and managers of their OH&S roles and responsibilities, identified workplace hazards and enabled risk mitigation strategies to be effectively implemented
- the use and continual improvement of systems to promote early intervention and improve the management of rehabilitation in the ABS, and
- ongoing implementation of the ABS National Health Promotion Program.

ABS National Health Promotion Program

During 2009–10, the ABS arranged various workplace health seminars which included topics such as healthy eating, mental health awareness, goal setting and happiness seminars, with 1,314 employees viewing these seminars.

The ABS also held its first National Health Assessment Program during May and June 2010 with 1,361 staff completing health assessments. Each assessment included cholesterol, blood sugar, and blood pressure screenings, and a fitness assessment. The objective of the program was to support ABS staff in making positive health and lifestyle choices by raising awareness and an understanding of health risk factors. This program will also establish a baseline for the health risk profile of ABS staff generally and will assist the ABS to develop a targeted Workplace Health Program in 2010–11.

The national flu vaccination program was also conducted during April and May 2010, with 590 employees participating.

Attendance management

In 2009–10, the ABS took a proactive approach to the management of unscheduled leave in order to improve attendance management. Initiatives included:

- senior management accountability for organisational performance through inclusion of unscheduled leave data in the ABS Quarterly Human Resources Indicators Report
- devolved accountability at manager level via quarterly unscheduled leave performance reports for all (15) ABS resource centres. These reports provide detailed information on the amount and type of unscheduled leave taken within each resource centre, and help to identify high areas of incidence for further consideration and action
- increased awareness of managers at all levels of their roles and responsibilities in the effective management of leave, and ongoing advice and support to managers and staff provided by Human Resources staff in Central Office and Regional Offices.

The unscheduled absence rate for 2009–10 was 11.5 days per full-time equivalent employee, down from 12.7 days in 2008–09. This compares with the APS median rate of 12.4 days for large agencies for 2008–09, and 10.2 days APS-wide. The 2009–10 APS figures were not available at the time of production of the 2009–10 ABS annual report.

Appendix 14

Agency resource statement and resources for outcomes

Agency resource statement 2009–10	Actual Available Appropriation for 2009–2010 \$'000 (a)	Payments Made 2009–2010 \$'000 (b)	Balance Remaining 2009–2010 \$'000 (a-b)
Ordinary Annual Services			
Prior year departmental appropriation	29,036	29,036	-
Departmental appropriation Act 1	321,906	291,418	30,488
Departmental appropriation Act 3	6,022	-	6,022
S.31 Relevant agency receipts	26,922	23,361	3,561
S.30 Repayments to the Commonwealth	946	946	-
Total	384,832	344,761	40,071
Total ordinary annual services	384,832	344,761	40,071
Other than Ordinary Annual Appropriations Departmental non-operating			
2009–10 Departmental appropriation Act 4	1,303	952	351
Total	1,303	952	351
Total other than ordinary annual services	1,303	952	351
Special Accounts			
Opening balance	138	138	-
Non-appropriation receipts	52	52	-
Closing balance	190	190	-
Total Resourcing	386,325	345,903	40,422

Resources for outcomes

Expenses and Resources for Outcome 1 (a)	Budget 2009–10 \$'000 (A)	Actual Expenses 2009–10 \$'000 (B)	Variation 2009–10 \$'000 (A-B)
Outcome 1			
Informed decisions, research and discussion within governments and the community by leading the collection, analysis and provision of high quality, objective and relevant statistical information			
Outcome 1			
Departmental expenses			
Ordinary Annual Services (Appropriation Bill No. 1) ^b	321,906	321,906	
Ordinary Annual Services (Appropriation Bill No. 3) ^c	6,022	1,921	
Revenues from independent sources (section 31) ^c	28,189	28,465	
Total Expenses for Outcome 1	356,117	352,292	3,825*

	2008–09	2009–10
Average staffing level (number)	2,575	2,637

Notes:

a The ABS has one outcome and one program, therefore this table should be used for both outcome and program purposes.

b Budget Source: 2009–10 Portfolio Budget Statements

c Budget Source: 2009–10 Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements

* Note: The variance of \$3.8m is due to:

Additional revenue from independent sources and other gains	\$0.4
2009–2010 Operating Surplus	(\$4.2)

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SECTION 7

GLOSSARY AND INDEX



Glossary



ABARE	Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ABS cat. no.	ABS catalogue number
ABN	Australian Business Number
ABSDL	Australian Bureau of Statistics Data Laboratory
AGIMO	Australian Government Information Management Office
AGSF	Australian Government Statistical Forum
AHS	Australian Health Survey
AIC	Annual Integrated Collection
ANAO	Australian National Audit Office
ANZSCO	Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
APRA	Australian Prudential Regulation Authority
APS	Australian Public Service
APSC	Australian Public Service Commission
ASAC	Australian Statistics Advisory Council
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
ASDCD	Australian Standard Classification of Drugs of Concern
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
ASGS	Australian Statistical Geography Standard
ASOC	Australian Standard Offence Classification
ATO	Australian Taxation Office
ATDAN	Australian Transport Data Action Network
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
AWA	Australian Workplace Agreement
BCP	Business Continuity Plan
BLD	Business Longitudinal Database
BoM	Bureau of Meteorology
BPM	Balance of Payments Manual

BPS	Badan Pusat Statistik (Statistics Indonesia)
CA	Certified Agreement
CATI	Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing
CDE	Census Data Enhancement
CDS	Commonwealth Disability Strategy
CO	Central Office
COO	Chief Operating Officer
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CPRS	Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme
CPSIC	Cross Portfolio Statistical Integration Committee
CPSU	Community and Public Sector Union
CRC	COAG Reform Council
CSIP	Corporate Services Improvement Program
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
CSC	Capital Strategy Committee
CURF	Confidentialised Unit Record File
DBCDE	Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
DDI	Data Documentation Initiative
DEEWR	Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
DEST	Department of Education, Science and Training
DEWHA	Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
DoHA	Department of Health and Ageing
DoFD	Department of Finance and Deregulation
DHS	Department of Human Services
DIAC	Department of Immigration and Citizenship
DIISR	Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research
DRET	Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism
DVA	Department of Veterans' Affairs
EA	Enterprise Agreement
EEO	equal employment opportunity
ELG	Executive Leadership Group
EMS	Environmental Management Statement
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FaHCSIA	Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

FOES	Forms of Employment Survey
FOI	freedom of information
GDP	gross domestic product
GPF	Government Partnership Fund
GFC	global financial crisis
GIS	Geographic Information System
GST	goods and services tax
GVIAP	gross value of irrigated agricultural production
IBCS	Integrated Business Characteristics Strategy
ICT	information and communication technology
IDP	Information Development Plan
IDSC	Information Development Steering Committee
IEM	Indigenous Engagement Manager
IDWG	Information Development Working Group
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMTP	Information Management Transformation Program
IT	information technology
JVS	Job Vacancies Survey
LFS	Labour Force Survey
LGA	local government area
LSAC	Longitudinal Study of Australian Children
MAC	Methodological Advisory Committee
MAP	Measure of Australia's Progress
MDBA	Murray-Darling Basin Authority
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NATSISS	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey
NCATSIS	National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics
NCCJS	National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics
NCCRS	National Centre for Culture and Recreation Statistics
NDN	National Data Network
NEIS	National Environmental Information System
NIRS	National Information and Referral Service
NOM	Net Overseas Migration
NSO	National Statistical Organisation
NSS	National Statistical Service
NSTI	National Statistical Training Institute

OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OHS	occupational health and safety
OHS Act	<i>Occupational Health and Safety Act 1991</i>
OPALS	Organisational, People and Learning Systems
OPC	Office of the Privacy Commissioner
PBLCI	Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index
PHRN	Population Health Research Network
PM&C	The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
RADL	Remote Access Data Laboratory
RBA	Reserve Bank of Australia
RHSC	Regional Health and Safety Committees
REEM	Remote Execution Environment for Microdata
RSE	Relative Standard Error
SCH	Statistical Clearing House
SCOT	Standing Committee on Transport
SDAC	Survey of Disability Ageing and Carers
SDMX	Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange
SEEA	System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting
SES	Senior Executive Service
SIAP	Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
SLA	statistical local area
SLCD	Statistical Longitudinal Census Dataset
SMG	Senior Management Group
SNA	System of National Accounts
SNZ	Statistics New Zealand
SSF	State Statistical Forum
STSS	State and Territory Statistical Services
TSD	Technology Services Division
UNSD	United Nations Statistical Divisions

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