

**A MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR**

Over the last six months there have been a number of significant developments which are highlighted in this issue of ABSTRACT:

- ❑ AusStats subscribers are now able to access their data via the ABS website.
- ❑ The annual publication *Regional Statistics, ACT, 2000* was released on 30 March. This is a 73 page summary of the latest available key statistics for each Statistical Local Area (SLA) of the ACT, and surrounds, which contains data on a wide range of topics such as population growth and distribution; employment size; industry classification of businesses; labour market and unemployment rate data; number and value of building approvals; number of schools and student enrolments; number of social security recipients and dependency ratios and mean taxable income by Statistical Sub-Division (SSD). For example, the preliminary estimated resident population of the ACT at 30 June 1999 was 310,174, an increase of 0.7% on the revised June 1998 figure of 308,057. Over the 12 months to June 1999 there were population increases in the SSDs of Gungahlin-Hall (11%); South Canberra (1%); North Canberra (0.4%) and Tuggeranong (0.3%).
- ❑ Each month *ACT Business Indicators* presents useful summaries of business-related statistics for the ACT, with national and State comparisons. This publication is designed to be of assistance to business and other sectors. Each issue highlights an article pertaining to the ACT. The most recent issues: March, April and May 2000 featured Forms of Employment, (Aug 1998); Emergency Services and Public Transport Usage in the ACT, (Oct 1999); and Employee Surveys, Benefits and Trade Union Membership, (Aug 1999) respectively.
- ❑ The ACT Office moved premises at the end of 1999. We have settled into new more spacious accommodation on the 5th floor, QBE Insurance Building, 33-35 Ainslie Avenue, Civic and are certainly enjoying the full utilisation of our improved client service Shopfront and staff facilities. The new Office was officially opened by Chief Minister Kate Carnell on 4 February and the occasion was well represented by a cross-section of ACT ABS clients; ACT Government officers; Industry Peak Bodies; and senior ABS staff.
- ❑ In March the ACT Office was awarded an ABS Information Services Division Award for Excellence in Service in recognition of the office's contribution to the production of the 'ACT State of the Territory Report' and Brochure which has been distributed to every ACT household. This award acknowledges the office's role and the very positive impact that the report has made.

**Dalma Jacobs**  
**Regional Director**  
**ACT Office, Australian Bureau of Statistics**

## **RECENT MAJOR RELEASES** (excluding regular monthly and quarterly releases)

This listing is a selection of ABS products released over recent months. For comprehensive release details, please refer to the *Release Advice* (1105.0) issued each Tuesday and Friday, and the monthly *Publications and Products Released in [Month]* (1102.0). Both are available from the ACT Bookshop, or can be subscribed to and details are also available on the website: [www.abs.gov.au/News/Release Advises](http://www.abs.gov.au/News/Release%20Advises).

### **General**

- 1301.0 Year Book Australia, 2000 (Jan)
- 1301.0.30.001 Year Book Australia on CD-ROM, 2000 (Jan)
- 1353.0 Integrated Regional Data Base (IRDB), Australia, 2000 (May)
- 1358.0 Information Paper: ABS Statistics and the New Tax System, 2000 (May)
- 1405.0.55.001 AusStats, 2000 (May)
- 4158.0 Directory of Child & Family Statistics, 2000 (May)

### **Census of Population and Housing**

- 1261.0.30.001 Historic Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Digital Boundary Files, 2000 (Feb)
- 2008.0 2001 Census of Population and Housing: Nature and Content (May).

### **Demography and Social Statistics**

- 1362.8 Regional Statistics, Australian Capital Territory, 2000 (Mar)
- 3309.0 Suicides, Australia, 1921–1998 (Mar)
- 3315.0 Occasional Paper: Mortality of Indigenous Australians, 1997 (Apr)
- 4221.0 Schools, Australia, 1999 (Apr)
- 4402.0 Child Care, Australia, Jun 1999 (Jun)
- 4710.0 Housing & Infrastructure in A&TSI Communities, Australia, 1999 (May)

### **Economic Statistics**

- 5501.0 Government Financial Estimates. Australia, 1999–2000 (Apr)
- 5506.0 Taxation Revenue, Australia, 1998–99 (Apr)
- 5517.0 Information Paper: Accruals-Based Government Finance Statistics, 2000 (Mar)
- 5611.0 Finance, Australia, 1999 (May)
- 6425.0 Information Paper: Price Indexes and the New Tax System, 2000 (May)

### **Labour Statistics**

- 6272.0 Participation in Education, Australia, September 1999, (May)
- 6281.0 Work in Selected Culture/Leisure Activities, Australia, 1998–99 (Mar)
- 6293.0.00.005 Occasional Paper: Labour Market Outcomes of Low Paid Adult Workers, 1997 (Mar)
- 6294.0 Occasional Paper: Labour Force Survey Questionnaire Redesign, 2000 (Mar)
- 6359.0 Forms of Employment, Australia, Aug 1998 (Feb)

### **Business and Industry**

- 1130.0 Directory of Tourism Statistics, 2000 (Mar)
- 1321.0 Small Business in Australia, 1999 (May)
- 8135.0 Information Paper: Health Research and Experimental Development, Australia, 1996–97 (Mar)
- 8201.0 Manufacturing Industry, Australia, Preliminary, 1998–99 (Mar)
- 8556.0 Market Research Services, Australia 1998–99 (Jun)
- 8663.0 Real Estate Services, Australia, 1998–99 (May).

### Some ABS website developments

PC Ausstats subscribers now are able to access their data via the website using AusStats—a dissemination container which can be delivered directly to a subscriber's intranet location as well from the web. Highlights of the contents of Phase 1 of the AusStats release are:

- availability of all publications from 1998 onwards
- over 90,000 PC Ausstats spreadsheets
- Labour Force datasets in SuperTable format.

For more information and a demonstration of this service contact Nives Marelic on Canberra 02 6207 0315 or [nives.marelic@abs.gov.au](mailto:nives.marelic@abs.gov.au)

A new internet resource designed to introduce school students to facts and figures about Indigenous Australians called Website Indigenous Statistics Education (WISE), has been launched. It is designed as an interactive tutorial and using coloured maps, other visual aids and exercises, shows how the ABS defines the term "Indigenous" and related demographic data about this segment of the population.

To access WISE:

- 1 visit the website:— [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)
- 2 click on the Themes button on the Navigator bar
- 3 click the Education Services link
- 4 click the WISE link

### 2001 Census of Population and Housing: Census Collection District Design

The ABS continues to be involved in the process of designing the geographic areas for the forthcoming 2001 Census of Population and Housing, which entails evaluating and where appropriate re-designing existing Census Collection Districts or creating new ones. Census Collection districts are the smallest geographic area defined in the Australian Standard Geographic Classification (ASGC) and are for use in the Census as the smallest unit for collection, processing and output of data.

This design task also takes into consideration other ASGC geographical areas such as Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) and changes to Local Government Areas (LGAs) that may have occurred since the 1996 Census. The ACT Office is currently involved in this task and is responsible not only for the design of the ACT but also for the Monaro Electoral Division which includes the LGAs/SLAs of Queanbeyan, Yarrowlumla, Tallaganda, Bega Valley, Bombala, Cooma and Snowy River shires. To date this office has completed designing the Canberra Electoral Division (mainly Tuggeranong, Weston Creek, parts of Woden and the southern and westerly rural areas of ACT) and the Monaro Electoral Division and is currently working on the Fraser Electoral Division (Woden, North & South Canberra, Belconnen and Gungahlin-Hall areas) which will include some changes to the growth regions in the newer suburbs at Gungahlin and in the suburb of Dunlop and looking at urban infill with the increase of units in suburbs in inner North & South Canberra and around Bruce and Lyneham.

For further information contact Bill Syms on Canberra 02 6207 0285 or [bill.syms@abs.gov.au](mailto:bill.syms@abs.gov.au)

### Indigenous identification in administrative collections project

The ABS and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) have jointly funded a project to improve indigenous identification in administrative collections. The National Centre for Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander Statistics (NCATSIS) is located in Darwin and coordinates work in each of the States and Territories. In the ACT the improvement of indigenous identification program has focused on improving the recording of indigenous identification for registered deaths.

The project was scoped to improving indigenous deaths recording by undertaking a data quality audit of the notification of deaths information held by the ACT Registry for the 1998 calendar year. Information provided by the ACT Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages is the primary source of such data. In an ideal situation, Indigenous births and deaths reported to the ABS by the ACT Registry should match ABS estimates. There appeared to be under-reporting of these events. The purpose of the exercise was to ascertain the extent and causes of under-reporting and the overall efficacy of the processes used in collecting and collating statistics which include Indigenous status.

The audit found that the introduction of a field for keying in information on Indigenous identification in August 1998 should result in a significant improvement in indigenous identification for registered deaths in the ACT. As a consequence, there should be a significant improvement in the inclusion of indigenous identification for ACT registered deaths in the 1999 year. An audit of the registered deaths for the 1999 year to measure the improvement was recommended.

### 'Understanding Demographic Data' seminar

Following popular demand, another 'Understanding Demographic Data' seminar was conducted on 30 March 2000 at Rydges, Canberra. Chris Mason and Sue Taylor of Demography, ABS, presented this seminar which aims to provide an understanding of the demographic data framework and the processes which shape the population and included practical exercises in the analysis of this data. Feedback from previous participants prove that the seminar is well worth attending. Course notes and a copy of the quarterly publication *Australian Demographic Statistics* (3101.0) are provided. Details of future seminars will be announced in future issues of ABSTRACT.

### 1999 Functional Classification of Buildings

As a result of a wide ranging review of its Building Statistics program, the ABS has recently redeveloped its core classificatory basis—the Functional Classification of Building (FCB). The 1999 FCB review focussed on the retention and improvement of distinctions within the classification, whilst taking into account new and emerging trends in the building industry. As far as possible, a major consideration has been to ensure comparability of data before and after any changes to the previous classification (1986) as a result of this review. The FCB classifies buildings according to the stated predominant function or purpose of the building and is used by the economic collections of the ABS.

## NEWS AND REVIEWS

This classification is applied to new buildings data as supplied monthly to the ABS through building approval administrative by-product. The scope of the data classified using this classification therefore is all new buildings in receipt of a building approval and subsequent building activity. Data is compiled using this classification in a range of ABS publications including:

- *Building Approvals, NSW & ACT* (8731.1)
- *Building Approvals, Australia* (8731.0)
- *Building Activity, Australia: Dwelling Unit Commencements, Preliminary* (8750.0)
- *Building Activity, ACT* (8752.8)
- *Building Activity, Australia* (8752.0)
- *Building Activity, Australia: Building Work Done, Preliminary* (8755.0)

Data will be captured using the new classification from July 2000. The classification used in the publications mentioned above will remain unchanged for some time to ensure that any impacts of the new classification can be fully assessed.

A description of the classification is located on the ABS' *Statistical Concept Library, 2000* CD ROM (1361.0.30.001) for sale from the ACT Bookshop and on the website ([www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)). For more information contact Loucas Harous on Adelaide 08 8237 7585 or [loucas.harous@abs.gov.au](mailto:loucas.harous@abs.gov.au)

### CPI and the GST

The ABS will not be compiling a 'GST-free' CPI. As the CPI measures changes in prices actually paid by Australian households, prices used in the CPI have historically included commodity taxes such as excise duty, wholesale sales tax and stamp duty. Following the introduction of the GST, which replaces most of these existing indirect taxes, the CPI will continue to reflect changes in final transaction prices actually paid by households. This means that the CPI will be inclusive of the GST. Not only will the approach be consistent with the current treatment to include indirect taxes in the CPI but it will be consistent with the compilation of CPIs in other countries where a GST, or similar tax applies.

Further information is available in *Information Paper: ABS Statistics and the New Tax System, 2000* (1358.0) and *Information Paper: Price Indexes and the New Tax System, 2000* (6425.0) or contact Keith Woolford on Canberra 02 6252 6673 or [keith.woolford@abs.gov.au](mailto:keith.woolford@abs.gov.au)

### Quarterly Economic Activity Statistics

The ABS is currently developing a more coordinated approach to the collection of quarterly data of economic activity statistics. The surveys mainly affected by this are:

- Survey of Company Profits
- Survey of Inventories, Sales and Services
- Survey of New Capital Expenditure
- Survey of Employment and Earnings.

While some components of these surveys will remain separate, the result will be a single survey called the Quarterly Economic Activity Survey (QEAS). The

changes will deliver significant benefits to users of economic statistics and businesses which provide the ABS with economic data as they will:

- improve the consistency and coherence of these statistics, particularly for the compilation of the quarterly national accounts;
- enable more analysis and commentary of the reasons for changing patterns of economic activity; and
- position the ABS to make optimal use of the relevant datasets that will become available from the Australian Taxation Office after 1 July 2000. And the changes are in line with the preferred statistical reporting arrangements of most businesses.

QEAS will include the following items by State/Territory: Sales of goods and services (initially for manufacturers and wholesalers sales and then for selected service industries); wages and salaries; and new capital expenditure. While the QEAS will collect national company profits data, collection of similar data at the State/Territory levels is not proposed, because of the difficulty in obtaining State/Territory dissection of sufficient quality and reliability. For more information contact Bernard Williams on Canberra 02 6252 5304 or [bernard.williams@abs.gov.au](mailto:bernard.williams@abs.gov.au)

### Tax Reform and Regional Statistics

Currently the ABS is investigating using wage and salary earners; partnerships and trust income data from the Australian Taxation Office to derive measures of earned income which are useful indicators of regional economic activity. ATO data is annual so provides intercensal information enabling the building of time series and the data provides other useful variables such as occupation which is currently not obtainable for small area levels other than from the Census. The 1998 pilot project was successful however validation has pointed to some known weaknesses with the ATO dataset, but data is considered to be of sufficient quality for release at SLA level.

More information is available in *Information Paper: The Use of Individual Taxpayer Data for ABS Regional Statistics—Wage and Salary, Indicators for Small Areas, 1995–96 & 1996–97* (5673.0) to be released in June 2000 and be available for sale from the ACT Bookshop.

### ACT in Focus 2000

The 2000 edition of the *Australian Capital Territory in Focus* (1307.8) is expected to be released in July. This annual publication is a statistical summary of what has been happening in and around the Nation's Capital. Being the ACT's equivalent of the *Year Book Australia*, it is a major resource tool for ACT businesses, government and the community. This year's edition will provide a wealth of informative and comprehensive insight on the ACT, covering a range of topics such as the economy, people, government, education, health, housing, tourism and transportation. Like last year's edition, an expanded chapter dealing with the Australian Capital Region will be included.

Copies of *ACT in Focus 2000* will be available from the ACT ABS Bookshop, Level 5, QBE Insurance Building, 33 Ainslie Ave, Canberra City, or by calling 02 6207 0326.

### **ACT Business Indicators**

The monthly publication ACT Business Indicators (1303.8) continues in each issue, to feature articles of particular interest to the ACT, often in comparison with national data. The April 2000 release contains the feature article 'Emergency Services and Public Transport Usage in the ACT' and reveals that 31% of an estimated 271,500 persons in the ACT aged 5 years and over used some form of public transport in the

four weeks prior to survey. Information about Mode of transport; Frequency of ACTION usage; Labour force status of ACTION clients; Intentions to use ACTION and Household use of the emergency services phone number are also included. May 2000 issue features Employee Surveys, Benefits and Trade Union Membership.

*ACT Business Indicators* (1303.8) is released in the third week of each month. Issues can be purchased from the ACT Bookshop @ \$15.50. To subscribe contact Subscription Services: fax: 03 9615 7848, ph: 1300 366 323 or email [subscriptions@abs.gov.au](mailto:subscriptions@abs.gov.au)

## NEW RELEASES

### *Regional Statistics, Australian Capital Territory, 2000* (1362.8)

A comprehensive annual summary of key statistics for the ACT and surrounds by Statistical Local Area (SLA).

### *Forms of Employment, Australia, August 1998* (6359.0)

This first issue of the publication provides information on the nature and extent of various forms of employment in the Australian labour market. Data are presented on identified sub-groups by selected job characteristics, selected socio-economic characteristics and dependency upon client or employer.

### *Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Australia, August 1999* (6310.0)

Contains information from 3 survey topics: (1) Weekly earnings data shows the distribution of weekly earnings of all wage and salary earners classified by full-time/part-time status, permanent or casual employee, sector, hours worked and hours paid. (2) Core employment benefits data which includes information relating to sick leave, annual leave, long-service leave and superannuation coverage. And (3) information about the level of trade union membership. For each topic estimates can be cross-classified by demographics such as State, sex, age, marital status, birthplace, and by labour force characteristics. From the August 1998 issue, the publication title has been changed to reflect the permanent inclusion of data relating to employment benefits and trade union membership.

### *Migration, Australia, 1998–99* (3412.0)

Provides information on international and internal migration by State and Territory. Permanent and long-term movement by State and Territory of usual residence, country of birth, occupation and sex are included. The estimated resident population by age, sex and birthplace are also detailed.

### *Information Paper, Accruals-Based Government Finance Statistics, 2000* (5517.0)

This first issue of the publication aims to aid users of government finance statistics (GFS) to understand the changed nature and presentation of the information in the first accrual-based GFS released in *Government Financial Estimates 1999–2000* (5501.0) in April, 2000. The paper describes the conceptual changes and revised table formats which will be introduced when the recording basis of GFS is changed from the predominantly cash to an accrual basis.

### *Government Financial Estimates, Australia, 1999–2000* (5501.0)

Government Finance Statistics (GFS) are compiled for the general government and the consolidated public sector for each jurisdiction in accordance with international statistical standards. The publication contains operating statements featuring the GFS Net Operating Balance and GFS Net Lending/Borrowing measures, balance sheets showing the GFS Net Worth

and Cash flow statements with supplementary data on the Surplus/Deficit measure.

This publication is the first to be produced on an accrual accounting basis with the accruals series commencing with 1998–99. Data available are: (1) Operating Statements containing data for the latest year and budget estimates for the forward year; (2) Balance Sheets containing data for all items for 1998–99 only, with a subset of financial assets and liabilities available for the previous four years. No forward estimates are available; and (3) Cash flow statements containing data for the last five years and budget estimates for the forward year.

### *Taxation Revenue, Australia, 1998–99* (5506.0)

The 1998–99 issue is the first to be produced on an accrual accounting basis. It provides details of taxation revenue of Commonwealth and State and local authorities in Australia, classified by type of tax and compiled in accordance with international statistical standards.

### *Finance, Australia, 1999* (5611.0)

This first issue of the publication includes statistics on the finance sector enterprises; the finance industry and its role and contribution to the economy in terms of financial intermediation, use of the labour force, labour costs, and contribution to GDP; some globalisation indicators; and data about the financial markets. The publication also includes statistics on interest rates, exchange rates and Australian Stock Exchange indexes and selected international comparisons.

### *Work in Selected Culture/Leisure Activities, Australia, 1998–99* (6281.0)

The publication contains data on the number of people working in selected culture/leisure, classified by type of activity, including details on the characteristics of people involved, the nature of that work, whether paid or unpaid, and details of other jobs held.

### *Occasional Paper: Labour Market Outcomes of Low Paid Adult Workers, 1997* (6293.00.005)

Details the incidence of low pay, earnings mobility and transition patterns of low paid adult wage and salary earners. This first issue of the paper examines how recent joblessness impacts on the subsequent labour market transitions of these people.

### *Directory of Tourism Statistics, 2000* (1130.0)

A comprehensive sourcebook for tourism statistics in the public and private sectors. For each identified collection, the directory provides information on the method of collection, data details, geographic coverage, frequency of publication and other information to help the reader identify the type of statistics available and how to access them.

## **EXPECTED MAJOR RELEASES** (excluding regular monthly and quarterly releases)

This listing shows ABS publications which are expected to be released over the coming few months, the expected month of release is shown in brackets.

### **General**

- 1101.0.30.001 Catalogue of Publications & products on CD ROM, 2000 (Jun)
- 1124.0 Historical Publications on CD ROM, 1999 (Jun)

### **Demography and Social Statistics**

- 1248.0 Australian Standard Classification of Drugs of Concern, 2000 (Jul)
- 1249.0 Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups, 2000–01 (Aug)
- 1307.8 Australian Capital Territory in Focus, 2000 (Jun)
- 1314.8 Australian Capital Territory at a Glance, 2000 (Jun)
- 3227.8 Estimated Resident Population by Age and Sex in Statistical Local Areas, Australian Capital Territory: Data on Floppy Disk, 30 Jun 1999 (Jun)
- 4102.0 Australian Social Trends, 2000 (Jul)
- 4119.0.00.001 Australia's Children, 1998–99 (Jun)
- 4390.0 Private Hospitals, Australia 1998–99 (Jun)
- 4390.0.40.001 Private Health Establishments: Acute and Psychiatric Hospitals Data Report on Hardcopy, 1998–99 (Jun)
- 4390.0.40.002 Private Health Establishments: Free Standing Day Hospital Facilities Data Report on Hardcopy, 1998–99 (Jun)
- 6530.0 Household Expenditure Survey, Australia: Summary of Results, 1998–99 (Jun)
- 6530.0.15.001 Household Expenditure survey, Australia: Summary of Results, on Floppy Disk, 1998–99 (Jun)
- 8902.0 Australian Health Trends, 1996 (Jun)
- 8903.0 Australia's Health, 2000 (AIHW) (Jun)
- 8906.0 Australian Hospital Statistics, 1998–99 (AIHW) (Jun)

### **Economic Statistics**

- 1364.0.00.001 Treasury Model of the Australian Economy—Documentation, 2000 (Jun)
- 4604.0 Energy Accounts, Australia, 1992–93 to 1996–97 (Jun)
- 4611.0 Environment Expenditure, Local Government, (Experimental Estimates), Australia, 1998–99 (Jun)
- 5216.0 Australian National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods, 1999 (Aug)
- 5241.0.41.001 Australian National Accounts: National Balance Sheet, 1998–99 (Jun)
- 5338.0 Balance of Payments, Australia—Regional Series, 1998–99 (Jun)
- 5491.0 Information Paper: Implementing New Procedures in ABS International Merchandise Trade Statistics, July 2000 (Jul)
- 5512.0 Government Finance Statistics, Australia, 1998–99 (Jul)
- 5673.0 Information Paper: The Use of Individual Taxpayer Data for ABS Regional Statistics—Wage and Salary Indicators for Small Areas, 1995–96 and 1996–97 (Jun)

### **Labour Statistics**

- 6220.0 Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia, Sep 1999 (Jun)
- 6250.0 Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants, Australia, Nov 1999 (Jun)
- 6265.0 Underemployed workers, Australia, Sep 1999 (Jun)
- 6293.0.00.004 Occasional Paper: The Dynamics of Welfare Receipt and Labour Market Status, 1997 (Jun)

### **Business and Industry**

- 1139.0 Directory of Construction Statistics, 2000 (Jun)
- 8104.0 Research and Experimental Development, Australia, 1998–99 (Jun)
- 8146.0 Household Use of Information Technology, Australia, 1999 (Jun)
- 8150.0 Use of Information Technology on Farms, Australia, 1998–99 (Jun)
- 8154.0 Profiles of Australian Exporters, 1997–98 (Jul)
- 8556.0 Market Research Services, Australia, 1998–99 (Jun)
- 8557.0 Security and Investigative Services, Australia, 1998–99 (Jun)
- 8655.0 Cafes and Restaurants Industry, Australia, 1998–99 (Jun)
- 8672.0 Cleaning Services, Australia, 1998–99 (Jun)

## ENTRY POINTS TO THE ABS ACT OFFICE

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