



Annual Report
2001-02

Australian Bureau of Statistics

**Annual Report
2001–02**

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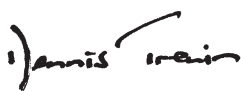
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Senator the Hon. Ian Campbell
Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer

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 2002.

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Dennis Trewin'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'D'.

Dennis Trewin
Australian Statistician

23 August 2002

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Access to guides to ABS services, and other selected documents, including a comprehensive range of ABS statistics, are available on the ABS web site
[<www.abs.gov.au>](http://www.abs.gov.au).

The 2001–02 ABS Annual Report is located at:
[<http://www.abs.gov.au>](http://www.abs.gov.au).

ABS Mission Statement

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

SECTION I

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

Chapter 1 — Executive Summary

Chapter 2 — How the ABS Operates

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

2001–02 has been a very successful year for the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) with the successful conduct of the 2001 Census of Population and Housing being the highlight of the year. Other key issues and outcomes for the ABS during the year have been:

- introduction of a range of new statistical products and services including the release of *Measuring Australia's Progress* (cat. no. 1370.0) and a number of other thematic publications;
- significant progress in expanding the range of information and statistics relating to environmental issues;
- further enhancement of the ABS web site as one of the primary means of releasing ABS information;
- completion of a major review of the ABS prices statistics program, including the Consumer Price Index;
- significant progress in developing protocols and guidelines for the national statistical service;
- significant contribution in the international statistical arena, particularly in respect of the provision of technical assistance programs in the Asia Pacific region;
- continued reduction in reporting load on businesses by incorporating administrative data into statistical processes;
- continued work on identifying and implementing the statistical opportunities from the introduction of The New Tax System;
- the opening by the Treasurer, the Hon. Peter Costello, MP, of the purpose built ABS House as the new headquarters of the ABS;
- consolidation of the quarterly economic activity surveys and the first release of the new quarterly Business Indicators publication; and
- the release of the *Information Paper: Measures of Labour Underutilisation* (cat. no. 6296.0) which provided a comprehensive range of labour underutilisation measures.

These developments are expanded upon further below.

A key objective of the ABS is to provide a statistical service that is timely, relevant, responsive and respected for its integrity and quality. We also want to increase the informed use of our statistics. The attached reports show that we have been successful in these endeavours. The range of statistics available to Australians, and their use of these statistics, continues to increase.

We are also at the early stages of developing what we refer to as the National Statistical Service in consultation with key stakeholders. This recognises that a lot of useful statistics are produced outside the ABS or the key data sources (for example, administrative systems) exist outside the ABS. Given this situation, there is scope for the ABS to play an important statistical leadership role. Discussions to date have been very supportive of the concept so the National Statistical Service will be a focus for development over the next few years.

For the ABS to continue to be successful in its endeavours, let alone deliver on the necessary productivity improvements, it must encourage learning, innovation, performance and excellence in all it does. This is a major focus of our work and several very important initiatives have commenced during the year which are described in this report. The Business Statistics Innovation Program is the most significant.

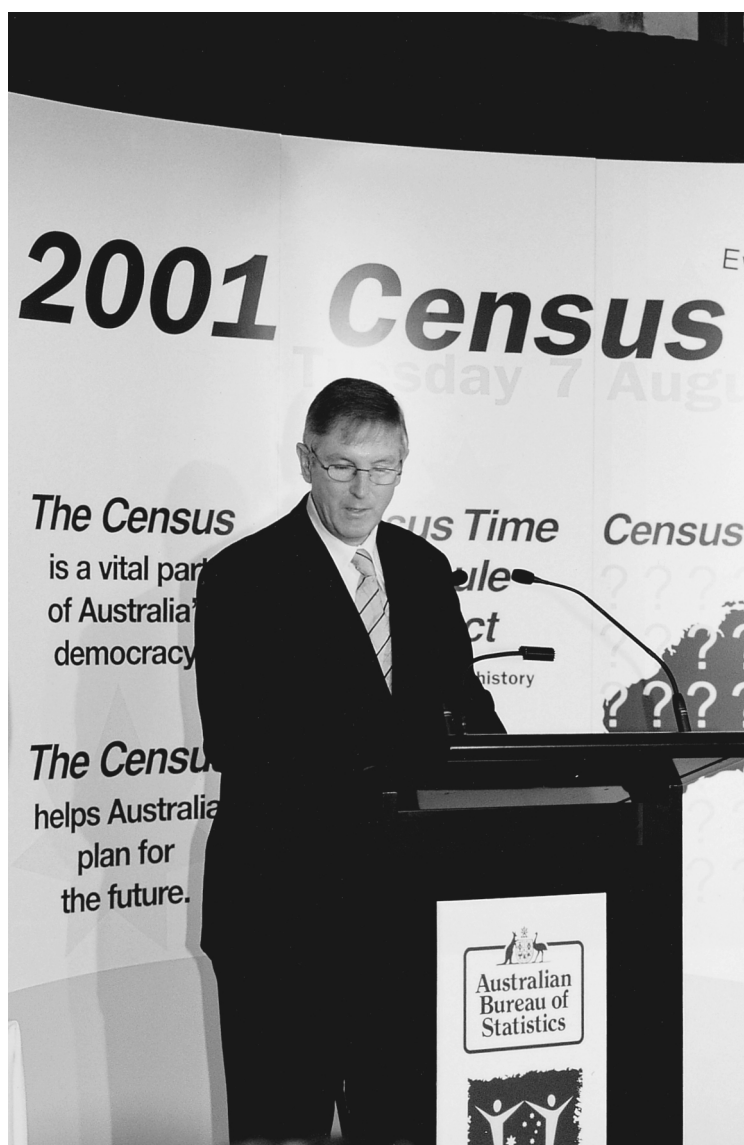
Our work relies fundamentally on the cooperation of businesses, households and others who provide the data we need to compile official statistics. Unless we have their trust and confidence, cooperation will deteriorate rapidly. We believe we have their confidence and response rates have been maintained at a high level. We have also continued our endeavours to reduce the load placed on businesses, particularly small businesses. I would like to express my gratitude to all businesses and households who have contributed to our work by providing data.

THE 2001 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING

The five-yearly Census of Population and Housing, conducted on 7 August 2001, was the most successful Census undertaken by the ABS with first results released in June 2002 — under budget and one month ahead of schedule, the earliest Census results ever. Conducting the Census was a major logistical achievement with some 40,000 temporary staff employed and approximately 7.8 million households visited.

One of the contributing factors to the success of the 2001 Census was the development of a focused media campaign to increase public awareness of the Census and encourage participation. Evaluation of the campaign indicates that awareness of the Census and the ABS in general was considerably higher than in 1996.

The ABS census media campaign collected two Public Relations Institute of Australia awards in 2001–02. The annual awards recognise outstanding public relations practice and professionalism in both the public and private sectors. The ABS won a national Golden Target Award in the category of Multimedia Communications for the census communications project that centres on the CD-ROM, *A Tale of Two Worlds*, developed for Australian schools. The ABS was also highly commended in the Institute's ACT Awards for Excellence in the Marketing Communications Category for the extensive bank of media resources developed for the public communication campaign for the 2001 Census of Population and Housing. *A Tale of Two Worlds* also won a national Australian Teachers of Media award in the multimedia category.



Australian Statistician Dennis Trewin at the launch of the first results, released in June 2002, of the five-yearly 2001 Census of Population and Housing.

This Census was unique in a number of ways. The Centenary of Federation Time Capsule Project provided Australians with the option of having copies of their name-identified 2001 Census records stored by the National Archives of Australia for public release after 99 years. Over 50 per cent of Australians agreed to have their Census forms retained until the year 2100. The Census processing systems were streamlined using leading edge technology and for the first time intelligent character recognition was used to capture information from Census forms. A major aspect of the 2001 Census output strategy is the large amount of information available free of charge on the ABS web site. All Australians can access information about their statistical local area for free. Since launching the results on 17 June 2002, web access to Census data has been as high as 568,000 hits on the day of release, compared with around 71,000 hits normally. Additionally, as a result of ABS's membership of the Interdepartmental Committee on Commonwealth Spatial Data Access and Pricing Policy, the ABS will provide low cost Australian Standard Geographical Classification boundaries on CD-ROM.

Launching the 2001 Census results, Mr Hugh Mackay, well known social commentator and analyst, praised the ABS as providing one of the world's leading statistical services. Mr Mackay's major observations related to Australia's ageing population and shrinking household size. One hundred years ago 4 per cent of the population was over 65 years of age, compared to 13 per cent now. While in the past 30 years the average size of Australian households has fallen from 3.3 persons to 2.6 persons. In introducing Mr Mackay, the Australian Statistician acknowledged with gratitude the special effort of the Australian people to the success of the Census.

The Treasurer, the Hon. Peter Costello, MP, speaking in Parliament, also thanked the people of Australia for taking part in the Census, and observed that the ABS leads the world in relation to the collection of statistics. Mr Costello stated that the Census will provide the Government with the basis for the development of policy and long-term planning for the future of Australia.

STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN 2001–02

In 1999 the ABS undertook a significant expansion of its research and analysis capability by creating an Analysis Branch. Since then the Branch has delivered a number of significant outcomes. One of the most significant outcomes in 2001–02 was the publication of *Measuring Australia's Progress* (cat. no. 1370.0), which presented a compact set of indicators depicting economic, social and environmental aspects of national progress. The publication was launched at the 2002 Economic and Social Outlook Conference — Towards Opportunity and Prosperity — and has been well received by the majority of users. Other important research work conducted by the Analysis Branch during 2001–02 included the development of experimental estimates of the value of human capital in Australia which looks at expressing the economic value of individuals' human capital as the present-day value of the lifetime income streams that they can earn by applying their knowledge and skills. The other major research work undertaken has been the development of estimates of the distribution of household assets and liabilities by stage of household lifecycle.

During 2001–02 experimental volume estimates of Australia's National Balance Sheets were published in *Australian System of National Accounts* (cat. no. 5204.0). Additionally, feature articles were published in *Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product* (cat. no. 5206.0) detailing improved methods adopted by the ABS in respect of productivity statistics, and the introduction of new Real Net National Disposal Income and Real Gross State Domestic Income measures.

A significant initiative in International and Financial Accounts statistics in 2001–02 was the development of a survey of the services provided abroad by the foreign branches and subsidiaries of Australian businesses, which will be conducted triennially from 2002–03. A review of the statistical codes for exports and imports reflecting changes in the Harmonized Commodity Coding and Description System was completed in 2001–02. The new codes were implemented by the Australian Customs Service from 1 January 2002. A description of these changes was presented in a feature article published in *International Merchandise Trade, Australia* (cat. no. 5422.0). Another feature article analysing Australia's export markets between 1991–92 and 2000–01 was also published in this publication. Additionally, a feature article on Measuring Australia's Foreign Currency Exposure was published in *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position, Australia* (cat. no. 5302.0).

During the year the ABS has extensively reviewed its business statistics arrangements. Flowing from that review will be the implementation of the Business Statistics Innovation Program (BSIP) from July 2002. The purpose of BSIP is to re-engineer the ABS's business statistics processes through the use of innovative technologies and methodologies, so as to improve the quality and relevance of our business statistics in a manner that is most efficient for both the ABS and its providers. Outcomes of BSIP will include: improved data quality; improved provider relations; improved reporting mechanisms; reduced provider load; more effective use of tax data for statistical purposes; increased capacity to respond to emerging statistical demands; stronger statistical leadership to provide a better national statistical service; significant operating efficiencies so that we can expand the statistical service and sustain competitive pay and conditions for our staff; and enhanced opportunities for staff. BSIP will help position the ABS, in regard to its business statistics program, for the foreseeable future.

The ABS contributed to the development of an International Monetary Fund publication *A Manual on Government Finance Statistics*, released in December 2001, aimed at improving the measurement and international comparability of accruals-based government finances.

A major review of prices statistics was undertaken by the ABS in 2001–02 focusing on improving the efficiency of operations. The review also recommended that work should continue on developing spatial comparisons within Australia, initially for the capital cities based on data already collected for the Consumer Price Index. In July 2001 ten prices publications containing the quarterly producer price indexes were consolidated into two — one covering the price indexes for exports and imports, while the other contains all the remaining producer price indexes compiled by the ABS. A feature article presenting experimental seasonally adjusted estimates of the Wage Cost Index was published in *Australian Economic Indicators* (cat. no. 1350.0) in April 2002. These experimental estimates will be published in *Wage Cost Index, Australia* (cat. no. 6345.0) from the June quarter 2002 onwards. The ABS presented a paper to the G-20 Workshop hosted by the Reserve Bank of Australia and the Department of Treasury in May 2002. The paper set out the statistical issues underlying international comparisons of poverty and global income inequality.

During 2001–02 the ABS released a new publication *Business Indicators, Australia* (cat. no. 5676.0), which replaced three existing publications and presented a more comprehensive and coherent picture of business activity with consolidated estimates of company profits, sales, inventories and wages and salaries.

Estimates from the inaugural Business Generosity Survey, run in conjunction with the 2000–01 Economic Activity Survey, were published in *Generosity of Australian Business, 2000–01* (cat. no. 8157.0) and provided information on business giving — not just in monetary terms, but also the giving of goods and services.

The ABS continued its focus on expanding the amount of information available in respect of the information technology sector. In particular, during 2001–02 the ABS made significant contributions to the development by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) of statistical standards for science and technology indicators, particularly in relation to standards for research and development statistics and biotechnology statistics, electronic commerce, and measuring household and business use of information technology. Work on a draft framework for measuring the Knowledge-based Economy and Society continued in 2001–02 with a discussion paper expected to be released in early 2002–03.

In response to ongoing demand for a broader range of environmental information, the ABS developed a Salinity and Land Management Survey whereby farmers were asked how salinity issues were affecting them, how they managed or prevented salinity, and the factors that influence land management decisions on farms. Additionally, an Environmental Management Survey for the manufacturing and mining sectors was conducted during 2001–02. That survey collected a range of information on environmental practices, including expenditure by businesses on environment management and protection.

Arrangements were finalised during 2001–02 allowing the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics to collect farm finance statistics on behalf of the ABS, reducing the total reporting load placed on farm businesses.

A new transport publication, entitled *Freight Movements, Australia, Summary* (cat. no. 9220.0), was released in March 2002. The publication presented estimates of freight movements by road, rail, sea and air in respect of the 12 months ending 31 March 2001. In February 2002 *Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia* (cat. no. 9314.0) was released for the first time. The publication, which is only available electronically, replaces *New Motor Vehicle Registrations, Australia: Preliminary* (cat. no. 9301.0), with data being sourced from the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries.

Based on the 2001 Census of Population and Housing results, revised state, territory and national Estimated Resident Populations from 1996 to 2001 were published in *Australian Demographic Statistics, December 2001* (cat. no. 3101.0).

A comprehensive range of labour underutilisation measures were released in *Information Paper: Measures of Labour Underutilisation* (cat. no. 6296.0). The new underutilisation measures include persons with a marginal attachment to the labour force, such as discouraged jobseekers, and those persons who work part-time but would prefer to work more hours and are available to do so. Another development in labour statistics was the release of a new publication in October 2001 entitled *Work-Related Injuries, Australia* (cat. no. 6324.0).

A major study undertaken by the ABS on behalf of the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs taskforce was completed during 2001–02. The study investigated the feasibility of including questions on school enrolment forms to enable information to be derived on socioeconomic and demographic characteristics.

A major outcome in social statistics in 2001–02 was the development of the publication *Measuring Wellbeing: Frameworks for Australian Social Statistics* (cat. no. 4160.0). The publication presented both an overall framework as well as various conceptual models used in each of the nine main areas of social concern that make up ABS social statistics. It has received wide acclaim internationally and is being adopted by many other countries.

Under a funding partnership with the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing the ABS conducted a National Health Survey (NHS) in respect of 2001. The survey sought information about the health status of Australians of all ages, focusing on the National Health Priority Areas of asthma, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer, mental health and injuries. An Indigenous supplement to the NHS will provide detailed and comparable information about the health of Indigenous people.

The ABS released two major classifications in 2001–02 on education, and culture and leisure. The *Australian Standard Classification of Education, 2001* (cat. no. 1272.0) was developed for use in the collection, storage and dissemination of statistical and administrative data relating to educational activity undertaken in Australia. The classification reflects the needs of government agencies, private sector, and education and training organisations to describe the range of education and training offered in Australia. The other major development was *Australian Culture and Leisure Classifications* (cat. no. 4902.0), which consisted of an industry, product and occupation classification of the culture and leisure sectors. The development of the Australian Culture and Leisure Classifications was the first stage in the preparation of a wider framework for developing and managing culture and leisure data. Future plans include the development of an information model, an information plan, additional classifications and a data directory.

The ninth edition of *Australian Social Trends* (cat. no. 4102.0) was released in June 2002. This publication, which provided a range of articles on a number of social issues, was concurrently released in *Australia Now* on the ABS web site.

During 2001–02 the ABS completed development and field collection for the first General Social Survey (GSS). The GSS surveyed people from 15,000 households across Australia using computer assisted personal interviewing techniques. It will provide information on the relationships between different aspects of people's lives including measuring the extent of multiple disadvantage across a number of areas of social concern.

The ABS also completed in 2001–02 the design and development of the first Indigenous Social Survey (ISS) since the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey (NATSIS). The ISS will survey 12,000 Indigenous Australians, including those living in discrete Indigenous communities in remote areas of Australia, and will go into the field in August 2002. While there is significant overlap with the content included in the GSS, allowing comparisons between the personal and social circumstances of Indigenous and other Australians, the ISS will also collect a large amount of information in common with the 1994 NATSIS so that comparisons in the circumstances of Indigenous Australians can be analysed over time.

THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SERVICE

Under section 6(c) of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*, a key function for the ABS is to improve coordination of the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics produced by other official bodies.

In accordance with the Act, the ABS has continued to develop the concept of the National Statistical Service by broadening the concept of ABS statistical responsibilities to include not only statistics collected by the ABS, but also data produced or available from other government and non-government agencies. The ABS has an important leadership role in relation to Commonwealth and state agencies in assisting them to make better use of their administrative data so that it can provide another source of quality data for statistical purposes.

During the course of the year, the ABS has been trying to develop the concept of a National Statistical Service in collaboration with key stakeholders. Our proposals are still under development but we see there is scope to increase cohesion in statistical outputs through:

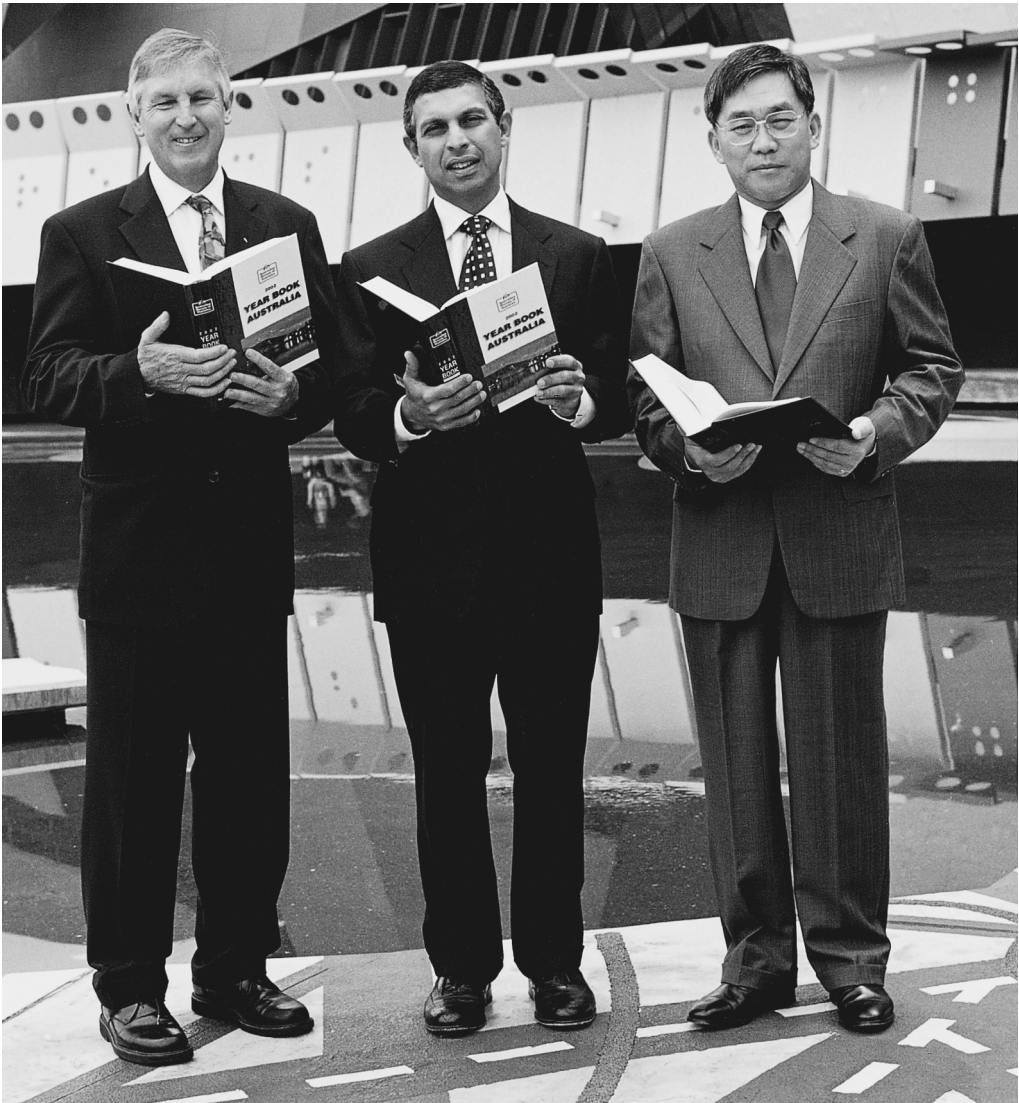
- a Directory of Statistical Sources that covers both ABS and non-ABS data;
- comparable, good quality data using common definitions, and classifications for common variables as well as sound methodologies; and
- ABS support to ensure statistical work is of a good standard through networks, workshops, guidelines on good practice, manuals, specialist consultancy services, etc.

Our activities will be a mixture of cross-cutting activities along the lines described above and collection specific activities where ABS input could make a difference to the quality or availability of statistical information.

DISSEMINATION SERVICES

On 25 January 2002 the *2002 Year Book Australia* (cat. no. 1301.0) was launched by the Chief Statistician of the Republic of Singapore and President of the International Association of Official Statistics, Dr Paul Cheung. Launching the Year Book at the National Museum of Australia, Dr Cheung praised the ABS for playing a major role in shaping official statistics in the Asian region.

The final report for the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Cost Recovery by Government Agencies was released by the Government, after tabling in Parliament, in March 2002. Current ABS policy and practice for cost recovery compares favourably with the recommendations of the report. However, in response to the recommendations of the Productivity Commission report, the ABS is reviewing its basic product set.



Australian Statistician Dennis Trewin with Dr Paul Cheung, Chief Statistician of Singapore, and His Excellency Asbok Mirpuri, Singapore High Commissioner, at the launch of the 2002 Year Book Australia.

A major dissemination initiative in 2001–02 was the release of 2001 Census of Population and Housing Basic Community Profile data on the ABS web site, available free of charge. The number of accesses to the ABS web site increased by over 30 per cent during 2001–02 with the average number of documents accessed on the web exceeding 75,000 per day. This increased significantly to average over 120,000 documents accessed daily since the release of Census data on the web site on 17 June 2002.

Free access to ABS data on the web site through AusStats — a subscriber service to ABS publications and time series data — has also been extended to the media and certain libraries. The Library Extension Program (LEP) enables free community access to ABS products and services at LEP member libraries. In August 2001 the ABS commenced its electronic Library Extension Program whereby a whole suite of ABS statistics are available electronically to LEP member libraries.

Other significant developments in dissemination included the introduction of e-commerce in March 2002 which provided users with a platform for ad hoc purchasing of downloadable files and the ordering of Census Maps from the ABS web site. Additionally, a Directory of Statistical Sources was released into production on 7 June 2002. The 'Topics Framework' of the Directory is being used to support a 'Catalogue by Topics' view of ABS products on the web site and to organise the statistical theme pages. The Directory is seen as an important component in the National Statistical Service Best Practice Guidelines developments. The National Statistical Service is discussed in more detail on pages 9 and 10.

REPORTING LOAD ON BUSINESSES

The total reporting load on businesses, as measured by hours taken to complete statistical forms, decreased by over 4 per cent in 2001–02, to 418,000 hours.

During 2001–02 the ABS continued the rationalisation of data collection from the financial sector in cooperation with the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority, the Reserve Bank of Australia and other data providers in order to reduce reporting load on businesses. Reductions in reporting load on businesses were also achieved as a result of changes in collection strategies arising from the introduction of The New Tax System. The changes included the use of business income tax data for the production of mining and manufacturing estimates. Additional reductions in reporting load and costs were achieved in the building collections through the increased use of sampling.

A number of initiatives are in place to further reduce the load in 2002–03. A key input into these will be a series of focus group sessions the ABS is holding with businesses.

HUMAN RESOURCE ISSUES

The past year has been one of implementation and consolidation of agreement making in the ABS. Ratification of the Population Survey Operations Interviewers Certified Agreement 2002–2003 by the Australian Industrial Relations Commission in May 2002 means that the ABS has three operational Certified Agreements:

- the ABS Certified Agreement 2001–2003 which covers the majority of ABS staff employed under the Public Service Act 1999;
- the ABS Census Data Processing Centre Certified Agreement 2001–2002; and
- the Population Survey Operations Interviewers Certified Agreement 2002–2003.

Effective performance management is a key strategy in ABS working conditions and arrangements. The current Performance Management Scheme was introduced some three years ago. In order to ensure its continued relevance to the needs of the ABS and its staff, a review was conducted of the scheme during 2001–02. While a number of improvements were identified which are aimed at making the scheme more effective, the outcomes of the review reinforced the value of the scheme in meeting objectives in areas such as:

- recognising and improving individual and organisational performance against corporate goals;
- improving staff's understanding of their roles and responsibilities and the context in which they operate;
- identifying development needs; and
- providing a sound basis for input into remuneration decisions.

During 2001–02 the National Forum was instituted as part of the wider ABS Certified Agreement consultation framework which includes separate Divisional and regional office consultative forums. The inaugural National Forum meeting was held in March 2002. The National Forum considered a range of issues including the Business Statistics Innovation Program, the recognition and reward scheme, consultative arrangements, and early ideas about the next certified agreement.

Work was undertaken during 2001–02 on the development of an ABS Workforce Planning model for the ABS. The model is designed to provide information on workforce supply and demand, including analysis based on scenarios characterised by various expectations of retention rates, promotion probabilities, exit rates, and recruitment issues.

The ABS continues to provide high quality staff learning and development opportunities across three streams, namely, statistical skills, information technology, and leadership and management. These are delivered through various means including online, formal programs (delivered both internally and externally), and well equipped resource centres.

DEVELOPMENTS IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The ABS Information Technology (IT) environment continued to provide a robust and cost-effective platform for ABS operations. The ABS enjoys a global reputation as a leader in good practice in the effective application of IT.

Several significant initiatives were undertaken during 2001–02. The move of the ABS Central Office to ABS House required relocation of the Corporate Data Centre as well as the seamless commissioning of new IT infrastructure to support the 1,600 staff involved. The move went smoothly and the new facilities are working successfully. Good progress was made on implementation of the new ABS Enterprise Architecture with the successful development of ‘proof of concept’ applications in the areas of input data warehousing, process control, and survey provider management. The new census processing systems functioned well and the ABS web site was significantly upgraded to support the increased use generated by the release of 2001 Census data. Work required to roll-out a new ‘desktop’ (Desktop@ABS) featuring improved software management, new knowledge management facilities, and the Windows XP operating system, was completed to schedule.

ABS HOUSE

Early 2002 saw a major milestone in the history of the ABS with Central Office staff moving into purpose built accommodation. ABS House provides a modern, professional and well-equipped office environment in keeping with our standing as a leading national statistical agency. The design is compact and concentrates access through two main entries. In addition to ensuring appropriate security of the building and workplace, these arrangements have provided greater opportunity for informal staff interaction.

The interior has been designed to make the most efficient use of space, with a layout designed to take advantage of emerging technologies, and to accommodate future changes. It does this by providing a high degree of commonality between general workpoints in open plan areas close to windows and enclosed rooms located around the core of the building. The workspace has been designed to offer varying environments for ensuring effective working arrangements for staff.

During January and February 2002, 1,600 staff moved in to ABS House over six consecutive weekends. There was minimal disruption to the work of the ABS. In most instances staff were operating at their desks by mid morning on the Monday following their move, with downtime being the preceding Friday afternoon.



The Treasurer, the Hon. Peter Costello, MP, with the Australian Statistician, Dennis Trewin, officially opens ABS House.



Australian Statistician Dennis Trewin, with two former Australian Statisticians, Ian Castles (left) and Bill McLennan (right), at the opening of ABS House.

The opening of ABS House on 21 February 2002 by the Treasurer, the Hon. Peter Costello, MP, was a particular highlight for the ABS. The Treasurer emphasised the importance of the work done by the ABS for Australia. In opening the building the Treasurer observed that the move to ABS House was achieved within budget and ahead of schedule and would do much to strengthen the Bureau's ability to undertake its work.

ABS House has already won two significant awards — the first was the 2002 ACT Master Builders Association Project of the Year Award (builders — Bovis Lend Lease Pty Ltd), and the second was the 2002 Royal Australian Institute of Architects, ACT Chapter, Canberra Medallion (architects — Woods Bagot Pty Ltd). ABS House is now eligible for the national judging of both awards.

INTERNATIONAL INVOLVEMENT

The ABS continued its role as an important and active member of the international statistical community in 2001–02. It is regarded as one of the world's best international statistical citizens. The main activities of the ABS during the year, in terms of international involvement, were contributing to the development of international statistical classifications, frameworks and standards in a variety of international forums, and providing technical assistance to overseas statistical agencies, particularly developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Key international meetings attended during the year included the United Nations (UN) Statistical Commission (the peak intergovernmental body for official statistics) where Australia is represented by the ABS. At this year's session, the Commission reviewed progress and set directions for further action on several topics on which Australia had been active. These included: the International Comparison Program which produces purchasing power parities to enable cross-country comparison of gross domestic product and other economic aggregates; harmonization and rationalisation of indicators stemming from major UN conferences and other development indicators; and the importance of UN regional commissions in regional statistical capacity building and implementation of global programs.

The ABS also made contributions to the development of statistical standards through a number of international groups specialising in individual fields of statistics, whose work is coordinated by the UN Statistical Commission. Further, the Australian Statistician was invited to address several international meetings on key elements of a national statistical service.

During the year, the ABS held bilateral management meetings with two other national statistical agencies, Statistics New Zealand and Statistics Netherlands. They provided opportunities for the chief executives and senior executives to pursue management issues of common concern and improve working arrangements between the agencies. In addition, during the year the ABS hosted visits by heads of the national statistical services of the Philippines, Singapore and Pakistan, and a high level delegation from Japan led by a former Director-General of the Statistics Bureau of Japan. There were also other exchanges of visits with a number of national statistical agencies to share knowledge on specific topics.

Several senior ABS staff participated in the August 2001 biennial session of the International Statistical Institute (ISI), the peak professional body for statisticians in all fields. At the session, the Australian Statistician became President of the ISI until 2003. In addition, the session formally accepted an invitation from the Australian Government for the 2005 session to be held in Sydney.

Australia, represented by the ABS, is also an active participant in the Committee on Statistics of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). The Australian representative is currently the Chairperson. During the year ESCAP changed its structure (effective from 2003), and Australia (with briefing by the ABS to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) was a strong influence in maintaining appropriate provision for statistical work.

The ABS continued to provide a valuable contribution to international statistical training through the UN Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific. Australia is a member of the Governing Board, and the Australian representative (from the ABS) was re-elected as Chairman in 2001.

Following the signing in April 2001 of an updated Memorandum of Understanding with the Indonesian statistical agency, BPS — Statistics Indonesia (BPS), the ABS continued its program of technical cooperation. The Australian Statistician visited BPS in June 2002 to review priorities.

Also during 2001–02 a twelve month activity to assist the Philippines improve its national accounts commenced, and arrangements were concluded for a second phase (thirty months) of assistance to Thailand to strengthen its macro-economic statistics. The ABS has also provided officers for workshops to assist developing countries in various priority fields of statistics, including several workshops organised by the UN Statistics Division for the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries. Other technical assistance was also provided for a number of countries, including Bhutan, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, North Korea, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

ABS technical assistance in the Asia-Pacific region is undertaken in cooperation with the Australian Agency for International Development which provides funding for some activities. The ABS is grateful for that support.



Pictured from left, Australian Statistician, Dennis Trewin; Peter Harper, Acting Deputy Australian Statistician; Professor Setsuo Suoh, Professor in Computer Science, Information Systems Centre, Kobe University of Commerce; Sandanori Nagayama, Vice President, Japan Statistical Association; and former Australian Statistician Bill McLennan. The Japanese delegation was here to study the collection, compilation and analysis of statistical data on arts and culture in Australia.

FINANCIAL POSITION

Within the context of the Portfolio Budget Statements, the ABS has two outputs: (i) Economic Statistics; and (ii) Population and Social Statistics. The table below provides, for 2001–02, a financial summary of ABS outputs and price of outputs against the budgeted figures, and also provides details for 2002–03. The full financial statements are provided in Chapter 8, while a detailed summary of outputs by program component is provided in Appendix 2. The ABS Budget is prepared under an accrual framework, consistent with the whole Commonwealth Budget.

Total output (equivalent to operating expenses plus capital use charge) for 2001–02, at \$370.7m, was \$0.3m (0.1%) higher than the budgeted amount of \$370.4m as presented in the Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements. Total price of outputs for 2001–02, at \$374.5m, was \$1.6m (0.4%) higher than the budgeted amount of \$372.9m. The decrease of \$90m in the budget for 2002–03 reflects the move back towards more normal operations after the cost of conducting and processing the 2001 Census of Population and Housing.

Table 1: FINANCIAL RESOURCES SUMMARY (\$'000)

	Budget 2001–02(a)	Actual 2001–02	Variance	Budget 2002–03(b)
Administered Expenses				
Discretionary Grants(c)	—	—	—	—
Total Administered Expenses	—	—	—	—
Price of Departmental Outputs				
Output group 1.1 — National Statistical Service				
Output group 1.1.1 — Economic statistics	151 860	151 976	–116	146 539
Output group 1.1.2 — Population and social statistics	218 531	218 697	–166	133 152
Total output	370 391	370 673	–282	279 691
Revenue from Government appropriation	354 920	355 010	–90	253 104
Revenue from other sources	18 012	19 535	–1 523	29 519
Total Price of Outputs	372 932	374 545	–1 613	282 623
Total for Outcome 1	372 932	374 545	–1 613	282 623
Staff years (number)	3 524	3 550	—	2 902

(a) Budget 2001–02 — Full-year budget, including additional estimates. (b) Budget 2002–03 — Budget prior to additional estimates.

(c) The ABS does not administer any discretionary grants.

The ABS commenced the year with a cash position much lower than desirable. We planned our activities to improve that situation. We were more successful than anticipated because the Census of Population and Housing came in under budget as did the fitout of ABS House.

In terms of revenue raised from other sources the ABS has again recorded a small reduction. The breakdown of revenue raised from other sources is shown below.

Table 2: REVENUE RAISED FROM OTHER SOURCES (\$'000)

	1999–2000	2000–01	2001–02
Revenue raised from statistics			
Publications			
Subscriptions	1 746	1 239	1 110
Other	1 226	684	487
Other Standard Products	2 553	2 949	2 619
Information Consultancy	4 394	4 198	3 591
Statistical Consultancy	1 208	947	1 955
User Funded Surveys	5 277	4 438	3 737
Other Products and Services	5 064	4 361	4 587
<i>Total revenue raised from statistics</i>	<i>21 468</i>	<i>18 816</i>	<i>18 087</i>
Other revenue	1 737	2 021	1 448
Total	23 205	20 837	19 535

The table shows that revenue in 2001–02 declined in most categories. A significant contributor to the decline has been the greater availability of data on the ABS web site and through libraries and other intermediaries. This result is consistent with the ABS policy of encouraging self-help facilities and intermediaries and reducing the costs of dissemination for the ABS. At the same time, the ABS has significantly increased revenue raised from statistical consultancy in 2001–02.

AUSTRALIAN STATISTICS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Professor Sandra Harding was appointed as Chairperson of the Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC) in March 2002 replacing Mr John MacLeod whose appointment as Chairman concluded in September 2001. I take this opportunity to thank Mr MacLeod for his significant contributions to the work of the ABS over 18 years as a member of ASAC.

Professor Harding is Dean, Faculty of Business at the Queensland University of Technology. At the same time Senator the Hon. Ian Campbell, Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer, made a number of other new appointments to Council. We look forward to working with Professor Harding and other members in improving the overall value of the statistical service.

Dennis Trewin
Australian Statistician



*Participants at the first Australian Statistics Advisory Council meeting in ABS House,
May 2002.*

2 HOW THE ABS OPERATES

INTRODUCTION

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

ROLE AND OPERATION OF THE ABS

Outcome and Objectives

ABS Outcome

The ABS Outcome, as set out in the Portfolio Budget Statements 2001–02, is as follows:

Informed decision making, research and discussion within governments and the community based on the provision of a high quality, objective and responsive national statistical service.

This outcome is consistent with the ABS Mission as described in the ABS Corporate Plan.

ABS Output

Within the context of the Portfolio Budget Statements, the *Australian Bureau of Statistics — National Statistical Service*, produces and disseminates statistics in two key areas to meet the above outcome; viz:

Output 1 — Economic Statistics; and

Output 2 — Population and Social Statistics.

The process of producing and disseminating these statistics is, in turn, assisted by a wide range of support services.

ABS Objectives

To achieve the ABS Mission, the ABS will be pursuing the following objectives over the next three to five years in respect of both the Economic Statistics and Population and Social Statistics Outputs:

- an expanded and improved national statistical service;
- an ABS statistical service that is timely, relevant, responsive, and respected for its integrity and quality;
- informed and increased use of statistics;
- an active contributor to international statistical activities that are important to Australia or our region;

- an organisation that encourages learning, innovation, performance and excellence in all it does;
- the trust and cooperation of our providers; and
- strong recognition and support for the ABS amongst decision makers and the community.

Organisational Structure and Senior Management

The ABS is headed by the Australian Statistician — a statutory office. Appendix 3 lists the senior management team which supports the Australian Statistician, and their program responsibilities.

The statistical operations of the ABS are divided into two groups: the Economic Statistics Group and the Population Statistics Group. Each group is headed by a Deputy Australian Statistician. These two groups represent the key dichotomy of ABS statistics between economic statistics and population and social statistics.

Each of the Deputy Australian Statisticians is supported by a First Assistant Statistician, one for the Economic Accounts Division, and one for the Social and Labour Division. Other First Assistant Statisticians are responsible for the Technology Services, Methodology, Information Management, and Corporate Services Divisions, all of which support the statistical operations.

The ABS has a central office in Canberra and eight regional offices — one in each state and territory. The regional offices have operational responsibility for particular statistical collections, but overall program responsibility remains in Central Office. Regional offices have a key role in maintaining close contact with state clients, particularly state government agencies, and ABS data providers.

Operation

The ABS maintains close contact with its users through a variety of mechanisms, including advisory committees, user groups, outposted statistical officers, conferences and seminars, and day-to-day contact in the course of disseminating statistical information. The Australian Statistician determines which statistics are to be collected, after full discussion with users, clients and the Australian Statistics Advisory Council, and makes the results widely available. The independent status of the Australian Statistician is specified in law, and the ABS has always received strong Parliamentary and community support.

In order to provide official statistics, the ABS undertakes a large number of collections. These include the five-yearly Census of Population and Housing, monthly and quarterly surveys that provide current economic indicators, and less frequent collections from industry and households that provide detailed information on specific economic and social issues. The ABS also devotes considerable effort, in close cooperation with Commonwealth, state and territory administrative agencies, to producing statistics as a by-product of administrative systems. The ABS also works to ensure that its statistical standards and concepts are applied as widely as possible to ensure that statistical outputs from all agencies are consistent and of good quality.

In releasing statistics, the ABS adheres to long established principles that results of statistical collections should be made available as soon as practicable and should be available to all users at the same time. Most Australians find out about official statistics through the media. Over 69,000 copies of ABS publications were provided at no cost to media organisations in 2001–02, and the principal results from ABS publications were highlighted daily in the print and electronic media, and via the ABS web site. A large core set of statistics was made available through public, technical and tertiary libraries across Australia, and around 15,000 complimentary copies of ABS publications were provided to members of Parliament. The ABS@ and AusStats subscription services provided users with ready access to ABS material in electronic format, including all ABS publications and a range of multi-dimensional datasets.

Under the *Statistics (Arrangements with States) Act 1956*, Commonwealth and state statistical services have been integrated in all states since 1958 (in Tasmania since 1924). Although not covered by the Act, similar arrangements apply in both territories. In Western Australia, South Australia, and Tasmania, the Regional Director administering the ABS Regional Office is also the State Government Statistician. A government statistical coordination and consultative mechanism operates in most states and territories. There is regular consultation with state and territory governments on statistical priorities.

Major documents providing additional information on the operations of the ABS include:

- ABS Corporate Plan;
- Forward Work Program 2002–03 to 2004–05;
- Client Service Charter; and
- Business Surveys Charter.

These documents are available on the ABS web site or on request.

A wide range of additional information is available on the ABS web site including statistical data, news releases, and conceptual and technical information. More detailed information can be accessed by users through our subscription services including ABS@ and AusStats.

AUTHORITY AND LEGISLATION

Principal legislation determining the functions and responsibilities of the ABS are the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* and the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

The functions of the ABS are defined in section 6 of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* as follows:

- (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; and
 - (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.

The *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* also established the Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC). Subsection 18(1) of the Act specifies that the functions of the Council are to advise the Minister and the Australian 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.

All state and territory governments are represented on ASAC, and the remaining Council members are drawn from a wide variety of organisations and interests.

The *Census and Statistics Act 1905* provides the Australian Statistician with the authority to conduct statistical collections, including the Census of Population and Housing and, when necessary, to direct a person to provide statistical information. Information on Notices of Direction and prosecutions which follow from them is shown in Appendix 14. The *Census and Statistics Act 1905* requires the ABS to publish and disseminate compilations and analyses of statistical information and to maintain the secrecy of information collected under the Act.

The Statistics Determination made by the Minister under section 13 of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* enables the Statistician to disclose certain classes of information. Lists of names and addresses disclosed under clause 6 of the Statistics Determination are tabled in Parliament and are shown in Appendix 12. Details of disclosures of unidentified information under clause 7 of the Statistics Determination are shown in Appendix 13.

ABS CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

ABS corporate governance arrangements ensure transparency in decision making and operation, and accountability to stakeholders by promoting strong leadership, sound management and effective planning and review. The operations and performance of the ABS are subject to both internal and external scrutiny. The results of this scrutiny inform senior management discussion. The scope of internal management and review and external advisory and review bodies is described below.

Internal Scrutiny

Internal scrutiny takes the form of:

- periodic reviews of statistical collections and service functions. In reviews of statistical collections, external users are widely consulted and, in some instances, external users assist the review team. Internal reviews cover both the effectiveness and efficiency of various ABS activities;
- benchmarking, which is a key part of the ABS strategy to assess the value for money of its statistical outputs, to understand and learn from best practice, and to improve performance;
- annual reports from all Assistant Statisticians and Regional Directors to the Executive Meetings as discussed below; and
- an internal audit program, conducted by external service providers, covering different facets of ABS operations and overseen by the Audit Committee. Internal audits undertaken during 2001–02 included reviews of: 2001 Census Field System; Procedures Associated with Recording, Dispatching and Valuation of Bookshop Inventory; Mobile Phones; Credit Cards; Travel, Cabcharge and Australian Government Corporate Credit Card Incidental Payments; Interviewer Claims for Travelling Time and Motor Vehicle Allowance; Fringe Benefits Tax; E-Commerce; End User Personal Computer Fleet Management; and Information Technology Purchasing.

An important feature of ABS corporate governance is the role played by senior management committees, which are active in identification of ABS priorities, ensuring appropriate planning and implementation to address those priorities, and effective monitoring of ABS activities. These major senior management committees are as follows:

- **ABS Management Meetings**

ABS Management Meetings involve the Australian Statistician, the Deputy Australian Statisticians, First Assistant Statisticians and Regional Directors. Expert advisers are also called as required. The Management Meetings play a major role in determining ABS strategic directions, priorities and resource allocations. The meetings occur at least twice a year. Among other things, the Management Meeting agrees on the ABS forward work program which is taken to ASAC for comment and approval before finalisation.

- **Executive Meetings**

Executive Meetings are held weekly and involve the Australian Statistician, the Deputy Australian Statisticians and all First Assistant Statisticians. Regional Directors also provide written input to each meeting. Each Assistant Statistician and Regional Director in the ABS reports to the Executive Meeting annually in respect of their area of functional responsibility. Their reports cover matters such as significant achievements, indicators of performance, emerging issues, strategies adopted to manage them, and resource management. In addition, the meetings address emerging corporate issues.

- **Protective Security Management Committee**

The ABS maintains a comprehensive security framework, overseen by a Protective Security Management Committee chaired by the Deputy Australian Statistician, Economic Statistics Group.

- **Audit Committee**

The ABS Audit Committee is chaired by a Deputy Australian Statistician, and includes senior management representatives from the Corporate, Technology, and Statistical areas of the ABS. An external, independent member (Mr Len Early) has been appointed to the Audit Committee during 2001–02. Also, a new Charter has been developed for the Committee. The Committee sets a work program for reviews drawing on recommendations from ABS managers and the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO). The work program is undertaken by external audit contractors and covers compliance and risk management issues. A broader review program, involving internal and external reviewers, looks at other issues of efficiency and effectiveness. The Committee meets at least 4 times a year and reports to each ABS Management Meeting on internal and external reviews undertaken, and the outcomes of those reviews. It also reports to the Executive Meetings as appropriate.

- Information Resources Management Committee

The Information Resources Management Committee is chaired by the Deputy Australian Statistician, Population Statistics Group, and consists of the Deputy Australian Statistician, Economic Statistics Group, all First Assistant Statisticians, a nominated Regional Director and appropriate Assistant Statisticians. The Committee considers matters of strategic significance concerning data and information management and related policy, and major issues relating to the application of information and communication technology in the ABS. It also has responsibility for the strategic management of cost recovery activities of the information technology and technology services areas of the ABS. The Committee meets a number of times each year, and reports to each Management Meeting and the Executive Meeting as appropriate.

- Human Resource Strategy Committee

The Human Resource Strategy Committee is chaired by the First Assistant Statistician, Corporate Services Division. The Committee involves all First Assistant Statisticians, a nominated Regional Director and the Assistant Statistician, Business Strategies Branch. This Committee provides the ABS with high level guidance on key human resource issues. Policy issues that are considered by this Committee include work force planning, staff development and training, remuneration, occupational health and safety, and workplace diversity. The Committee meets several times each year, and reports to each Management Meeting and the Executive Meeting as appropriate. Its activities have been strengthened during the course of the year.

External Scrutiny

External scrutiny takes the form of:

- consideration by ASAC of ABS priorities and proposals for the forward work program. Council advises the Australian Statistician and the Minister, and produces its own annual report on issues considered and advice given;
- audits by the ANAO, either of ABS operations specifically or as part of cross-agency audits. Audits conducted by the ANAO which involved the ABS included: Internal Budgeting (ANAO Audit Report No. 52); Senate Order of 20 June 2001 (ANAO Audit Report No. 33); an Analysis of the Chief Financial Officer Function in Commonwealth Organisations — Benchmark Study (ANAO Audit Report No. 28); and Internet Security within Commonwealth Government Agencies (ANAO Audit Report No. 13);
- review of statistical activity by various advisory committees and user groups. These include:

- standing and ad hoc expert advisory groups, comprising key government, business, academic and community representatives. The groups provide advice on statistical priorities and developments in fields such as labour, Indigenous health and welfare, agriculture, economics, housing, environment, mining, statistical methodology, housing, crime and justice, tourism, transport, research and development;
- user groups established to advise the ABS on the concepts, content and dissemination programs of individual major household surveys;
- Commonwealth/State working groups or committees, often attached to Ministerial Councils, which provide advice on emerging needs, priorities and areas for cooperation; and
- advisory boards established for the National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics, the National Centre for Culture and Recreation Statistics, the National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics, the National Education and Training Statistical Unit, and the National Centre for Rural and Regional Statistics. The boards provide advice on statistical priorities and data standards, and monitor and support the implementation of agreed collections. The forward work program for each statistical centre is agreed between the Australian Statistician and the board.

During 2001–02, the ABS Fraud Risk Assessment and revised ABS Fraud Control Plan were endorsed by the Attorney General's Department. The ABS has also drafted a fraud control policy which covers fraud prevention, detection, investigation and reporting procedures. In addition, annual fraud data was provided to the Attorney General's Department.

There were no adverse comments from the ANAO, the Ombudsman, the courts or the tribunals during 2001–02.

Information on Freedom of Information is provided in Appendix 10. Information on inquiries by Parliamentary Committees and reports by the Auditor General are provided in Appendix 11. Information on documents tabled in Parliament is provided in Appendix 12.

The Australian Statistics Advisory Council

As described above, ASAC was established by the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* to assist the ABS to fulfil its role. The Council is the key advisory body to the ABS and provides valuable input to the directions and priorities of the ABS work program and reports annually to Parliament.

Planning

The provision of a high quality national statistical service is a complex management exercise because of the diverse nature of user requirements and, in most instances, the lead time required to develop statistical collections. While the ABS recognises that it is impossible to satisfy all demands, in order to maintain relevance it seeks to react positively and responsibly to the demonstrated needs of its users. At the same time, the ABS is conscious of the constraints on public spending and on the workload placed on providers of information for its collections. Continued effort is made to review and, where possible, reduce provider load.

The ABS maintains a three-year forward work program which is rolled forward on an annual basis. The program is based on the set of components described in Appendix 1. Work programs are developed, resources are allocated, and performance indicators are established at these and lower levels.

Each year relative priorities and competing resource requirements of all program components are formally and extensively considered by senior management. Particular attention is given to:

- the extent to which particular statistical activities continue to be justified vis-a-vis other work for which a demand has been expressed by users;
- the cost imposed on respondents to collections, in terms of time and effort;
- prospective total resources available to the ABS within the three-year period;
- the market potential and revenue implications of the various initiatives proposed;
- productivity gains which have been achieved or which might be possible in the future; and
- the relative share of resources spent on statistical and non-statistical work.

Proposals from managers of program components are considered by senior management, generally following consultation with major users. The proposed forward work program and resource estimates which emerge are then considered by ASAC. The work program is finalised in the light of ASAC advice.

The culmination of the year's planning cycle is a comprehensive document, the ABS Forward Work Program, which describes for each ABS program, the outputs, clients and uses of the statistical information, and the main medium term developments. The document is available for public scrutiny and comment. A copy can be located on the ABS web site.

Security

The ABS would not be able to operate effectively without the trust and confidence of data providers. The legal requirement not to divulge identifiable information, and the strong confidentiality and security ethos which permeates the attitudes of ABS staff, are the most important elements of the ABS security screen. They are reinforced by a range of measures relating to the perimeter security of all offices, the security measures protecting the computing environment from any external access, and the security measures implemented for individual data holdings.

Some features of the major elements of the security framework are described below.

Undertakings of Fidelity and Secrecy Under the Census and Statistics Act 1905

The *Census and Statistics Act 1905* obliges ABS staff to maintain the secrecy and security of all data reported to, and held by, the ABS. Staff sign an undertaking of fidelity and secrecy under the terms of the Act. The personal responsibility of all staff is a crucial element of ABS culture. It is the foundation upon which the security of ABS data holdings is built.

The ABS has an enviable reputation for the preservation of the secrecy of reported information, and for the protection of its statistical data holdings from unauthorised release. There have been no known cases of any ABS officer breaching the undertaking of fidelity and secrecy.

Physical Security

All ABS premises are physically secure against unauthorised access. Entry is through electronically controlled access systems activated by individually coded access cards and monitored by closed circuit television. Anyone entering ABS premises is required to wear an identity pass. Particularly sensitive output data are subject to further physical security measures, including additional access control, supervision and secure storage.

Computer Security

Access to ABS computing systems is based on personal identifiers that are password protected. The computer systems are regularly monitored and usage audited.

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

The ABS computer network has a secure gateway which allows connection to some Internet services. The secure gateway has been established in accordance with Commonwealth guidelines and has been accredited by the national communications and computer security advisory authority, Defence Signals Directorate.

Security Audits

The ABS has an ongoing program of security audits and reviews of computer systems and the physical environment.

STATISTICAL CLEARING HOUSE

The Small Business Deregulation Task Force recommended in its 1996 report *More Time for Business* that statistical collections affecting 50 or more businesses and run by, or on behalf of, Commonwealth government departments and agencies, be subject to a central clearance process. The purpose of the recommendation was to ensure that all such surveys were necessary, and if so, were well designed to minimise respondent load and maximise benefit. The clearance process would also be an effective means of monitoring the load imposed on business respondents. In view of its statistical expertise and statutory coordination role, the ABS was asked to administer the clearance process.

The Statistical Clearing House was set up on 1 July 1997 for this purpose. Survey Liaison Officers were identified in each Commonwealth government agency known to have significant business survey activity. The primary role of these liaison officers is to ensure that all Commonwealth government statistical collections are vetted by the Statistical Clearing House, and that the clearance procedures are well understood by survey managers. A Statistical Clearing House User Group was established to obtain feedback from survey managers and other stakeholders, and to help streamline clearance procedures.

Clearance operations began on 1 December 1997, with the aim of examining every Commonwealth government statistical collection of businesses (including ABS collections) by June 1999, starting with the largest repeating surveys, and reviewing them periodically.

All repeating collections, other than those currently being re-evaluated, have now been reviewed by the Statistical Clearing House. All new surveys identified during 2001–02 have been reviewed, or are in the process of review.

A significant by-product of the Statistical Clearing House program is the Commonwealth Register of Surveys of Businesses (available on the Internet at <www.sch.abs.gov.au>). The register lists the statistical collections subject to clearance, and information about them provided to the Statistical Clearing House during the clearance process. The register has become an important element of the clearance process as it is the primary means through which organisations with particular data needs can identify collections that have already been conducted, reducing the potential for duplication. To assist those developing surveys, the register site is also used to provide access to information on survey design standards and best practices. There are 537 surveys currently on the web site.

OTHER ASPECTS OF ORGANISATIONAL MANAGEMENT/MONITORING

Implementing Australian Public Service Values in the ABS

The ABS is a strongly value driven organisation. This is fundamental to it performing its role as an independent provider of statistical information for Australia. The strength of these values within the ABS has been confirmed by independent studies.

The core values are outlined in the ABS Corporate Plan. Their shorthand description is relevance, integrity, access for all, professionalism and trust of providers.

These core values are continually reinforced particularly by ABS senior managers. More formally, awareness is strengthened by promotion of the Corporate Plan at induction and other relevant development programs. In particular, a video featuring both the Australian Statistician and the Public Service Commissioner focussing on both ABS principles and Australian Public Service (APS) values and code of conduct has been produced for use on such programs and for other purposes.

In a sense the development of APS core values provided a particular challenge for the ABS as it already had a strongly held set of values. However, most of the APS values are implicit in the ABS core values. For those which are not implicit we have developed, in consultation with staff, a mutual obligation statement between the ABS and its staff. The purpose of the statement is to highlight that the ABS values its staff and has obligations to them but in turn staff have obligations to the ABS and therefore the APS. This statement is also outlined in the Corporate Plan.

The ABS continues to strongly promote its own complementary values and the mutual obligation statement. These together cover the APS values but are expressed in language and a context that is more relevant to ABS.

The ABS has also promoted, in a more limited way, the APS Values and the Code of Conduct. In particular they are promoted through the inclusion of relevant modules in our range of leadership and management development programs, lodgement of information on our electronic bulletin board, and with posters hung in strategic positions around the building.

ABS Service Charters

The ABS had two service charters during 2001–02.

The *Client Service Charter* describes the relationship between the ABS and users of its products and services. The Charter was developed in consultation with a representative sample of clients. Copies of the Charter are available on the ABS web site and through bookshops located in each ABS office.

The Client Service Charter also offers guidance to clients wishing to provide compliments or register complaints on any aspect of client relationship or services.

The *Business Surveys Charter* sets out the relationship between the ABS and businesses which provide it with information for statistical purposes. The Charter explains how businesses can seek help from the ABS. The Charter also provides for businesses to ask for a review of the complaints handling process.

The Charter was developed in consultation with representatives of small business and is reviewed annually. Changes were made to the Charter in 2001 to clarify the procedures for obtaining information about ABS collections and for seeking exemptions from completing individual surveys. The Charter is provided to new respondents in collections involving businesses. It is available in English, Mandarin, Vietnamese, Greek and Arabic. The Charter is also available on the ABS web site.

Both the Client Service and Business Surveys Charters include performance standards for the relationships between the ABS and its clients, and its service delivery. Performance against these standards is the subject of ongoing review, as are the Charters themselves.

Social Justice and Equity

ABS support for the *Charter for Public Service in a Culturally Diverse Society* is demonstrated primarily through the provision of statistical information available to government and community groups to assist in developing and monitoring access strategies in relevant fields, and by taking action to overcome linguistic and cultural barriers in the collection of data.

The ABS work program takes account of the Charter principles, and meets government needs for information to support social justice policies, by the identification of specific population groups of policy interest (such as Indigenous Australians, immigrants, people with disabilities, unemployed people, older Australians, women and children) in censuses and surveys concerned with various aspects of social wellbeing. In 2001–02, the ABS continued to provide data on population, health and welfare, education, employment, unemployment and other topics relating to labour force participation, earnings and income, housing, and recorded crime and justice administration.

The five-yearly Census of Population and Housing, which enables analysis of many aspects of social wellbeing for a wide range of population groups and for small geographical areas, was conducted in August 2001. Enumeration of the first General Social Survey commenced in 2002. A key feature of this new survey is the capacity to relate a wide range of social information in ways not previously possible. Recognising the particular health concerns of the Indigenous population, a supplementary survey of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was conducted during the second half of 2001 in association with the National Health Survey. Development work on comparable international measures of disability was also undertaken during 2001–02.

In 2001–02, the ABS released a range of statistical publications relevant to social justice and equity, including the first issue of *Measuring Australia's Progress* (cat. no. 1370.0) which describes progress in several areas of social concern (such as economic disadvantage, housing and health) alongside economic and environmental areas of concern, and the ninth edition of *Australian Social Trends, 2002* (cat. no. 4102.0), the annual series which draws on the ABS and other official sources of social statistics to inform on social conditions and wellbeing in Australia.

Other publications of particular relevance to social justice and equity, released by the ABS in 2001–02, include *Population Distribution, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2001* (cat. no. 4705.0); *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, 2001* (cat. no. 4704.0) which updates information on the health status, service utilisation and housing conditions of Indigenous Australians; *Government Benefits, Taxes and Household Income, Australia 1998–99* (cat. no. 6537.0) a study which examines the effect that government benefits and taxes have on the distribution of resources across Australian households; and, *Housing and Infrastructure in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities, Australia, 2001* (cat. no. 4710.0), the first report from the Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey, 2001 which provides information on the condition of housing, the quality of infrastructure services (such as electricity, water and sewerage) and access to health and community services.

Commonwealth Disability Strategy

In the context of the Commonwealth Disability Strategy the ABS performs two roles — it is a provider of statistical services and an employer.

In its role as a provider, the ABS has ensured that the ABS web site and its related domains meet, as required by the National Office for the Information Economy, Priority 1 of the World Wide Web Consortium's (W3C) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines. Due to the high number of tables on the ABS web site it has not been possible to meet Priority 2. Throughout the year opportunities have been sought to meet Priority 2 compliance but these attempts have not proved successful to date.

As an employer, the ABS has implemented a range of initiatives relevant to the Disability Strategy, including:

- active participation in a newly created Public Service-wide network ('Employing People with Disabilities') convened by the Australian Public Service Commission designed to assist in addressing issues of employment related disadvantage for people with disabilities;
- participation in a workshop entitled 'Opening the Door for People with a Disability' to provide advice and support to the ABS;
- developing a Disability Action Plan to be finalised during 2002;
- continued use of the comprehensive Reasonable Workplace Adjustment Guidelines;

- information about issues relating to Reasonable Workplace Adjustment which is presented through various internal training programs: the ABS Workplace Diversity Online Learning Program; Introduction to Management; Management Development Program; and Orientation. Manager responsibilities in relation to Reasonable Workplace Adjustment and inclusion of all staff are discussed in these programs; and
- guidelines to ensure that recruitment practices follow relevant legislation are available to all staff through the ABS Manual of Personnel Management.

In addition to its role as a provider and employer, the ABS also has an important role in terms of providing information about disabilities, to assist informed decision making by policy advisers. Information on the nature and extent of disability and associated needs for care and support, as well as the impact of the caring role on carers, is available in *Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings* (cat. no. 4430.0). Another publication of relevance to the issue is *Disability and Long Term Health Conditions, Australia, 1998* (cat. no. 4433.0). Additionally, information about people with disabilities in New South Wales is presented in *Disability, New South Wales* (cat. no. 4443.1).

Ecologically Sustainable Development

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* requires agencies to report on aspects of its performance as it relates to ecologically sustainable development. The ABS has two key roles in respect of this issue. The first of these is in relation to the ABS mission/outcome and providing statistics on the environment and environmental issues to enable informed decision making. The second role is in relation to ABS operations and its impact on the environment and the steps being taken by the ABS to minimise that impact.

The environment component of the ABS Economic Statistics program collects and publishes information about environment and energy statistics, including environment accounts. The component is involved in the coordination of data collection, research and analysis and implementing international accounting and environmental frameworks.

During 2001–02 the ABS released a range of publications relevant to environmental issues. These included, *Environmental Issues: People's Views and Practices* (cat. no. 4602.0); *Environmental Expenditure, Local Government* (cat. no. 4611.0); and *Australia's Environment: Issues and Trends* (cat. no. 4613.0). The ABS also conducted an Environment Management Survey in respect of 2001–02 for the manufacturing and mining sectors which collected information on expenditure by businesses on environment management and protection. In addition, a Salinity and Land Management Survey was developed, asking farmers about salinity and land management issues.

Whilst the operations of the ABS result in the production of greenhouse gases through energy, gas and fuel consumption, and waste, the ABS is actively seeking to implement measures that minimise the effect of its operations on the environment. These initiatives include:

- the ongoing implementation of recommendations (including refinement) from energy audits of all offices to reduce the level of energy usage;
- purchase of 2.8 per cent of green energy for ABS Central Office for the period 1 July 2001 to 31 August 2002 under the Australian Greenhouse energy agreement;
- continuation of policy for recycling paper, bottles, cans, and cartons with recycling bins being readily accessible to all ABS staff;
- increased use of liquefied petroleum gas powered vehicles in the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria and New South Wales; and
- regular monitoring and reporting on ABS energy accounts.

Energy efficiency was one of the prime considerations in the design of ABS House (the new ABS Central Office) with energy usage expected to decline as a result of energy and environmental initiatives undertaken. These initiatives include:

- energy modelling during the design process, to achieve a high level of building energy efficiency;
- monitoring of energy consumption to assist in formulating energy action plans;
- provision of facilities to encourage staff in the use of bicycles to travel to and from work;
- full market testing for the development and implementation of an Environmental Management System in ABS Central Office, and for replication to all other ABS regional office sites;
- installation of Power Factor Correction equipment on the tenant distribution boards and efficiency enhancement of the lighting system; and
- environmental specifications written into the paper recycling contract for ABS Central Office.

SECTION II

SPECIAL ARTICLES

**Chapter 3 — Measuring Australia's
Progress**

**Chapter 4 — The International Comparison
Program**

Special Articles in Earlier Annual Reports

3 MEASURING AUSTRALIA'S PROGRESS

INTRODUCTION

The analysis of data is an increasingly important function of statistical agencies. As Ivan Fellegi, Chief Statistician of Canada, noted, one of the main purposes of analysis is to convert data into information. More and more users are seeking information from statistical agencies not just data. In response to the demands of users for information, the ABS has made a conscious effort over the last 15 years to move from merely providing statistics, to a situation where it is increasing the analytical content to improve understanding of its outputs. This is consistent with the legislation controlling the operations of the ABS, i.e. section 6(1)(b) of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* which states that the functions of the ABS include 'to collect, compile, analyse and disseminate statistics and related information'. This shift to an increasingly analytical role has been demonstrated in a number of ways including:

- the publication of seasonally adjusted and trend data in more publications;
- more commentary in presenting the key findings in ABS publications;
- the continued development of the analytical content of *Australian Social Trends* (cat. no. 4102.0), an annual flagship publication that presents a range of data and analysis to increase understanding and knowledge of key social issues;
- increased analysis of the topics presented in the ABS's major publication — *Year Book Australia* (cat. no. 1301.0);
- the increasing use of feature articles in publications such as *Australian Economic Indicators* (cat. no. 1350.0) to assist users in understanding particular data series or changes in concepts, sources and methods; and
- the establishment in 1999 of an Analysis Branch to increase the research and analysis capability of the ABS, and to increase the number of outputs derived by analytical methods. An article 'Research and Analysis in the ABS' published in last year's ABS Annual Report, discusses the role of the Analysis Branch in more detail. Some of the major research work conducted by the Analysis Branch in 2001–02 is outlined in the Executive Summary.

Of course, it is paramount that the ABS be objective in its analysis work. The ABS decides what to publish, and then does so in ways which explains and informs, without advocating a particular position, so that it cannot be rightly accused of political bias.

As part of that analysis work, two years ago the ABS began developing a new publication to help Australians address the question, 'Has life in our country got better?' This work culminated in April 2002 with the release of *Measuring Australia's Progress* (cat. no. 1370.0). It displays, and comments on, ninety indicators that span thirty key aspects of the Australian economy, society and environment.

This article provides some background to the development of this landmark publication; the processes that were followed in developing the new publication; developing the content of the publication; the reaction to the publication; and finally, how it might evolve in the future.

WHY THE ABS DEVELOPED *MEASURING AUSTRALIA'S PROGRESS*

Increasingly there has been demand from analysts and researchers for a more comprehensive view of national progress. Gross domestic product is generally regarded as an important or even essential element of progress but it is not sufficient to capture all aspects of interest. This entails understanding the interrelationships between the economic, social and environmental aspects of national life. In response, many statistical agencies are developing new suites of indicators and other approaches to provide a more holistic understanding of progress. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development has been doing work in this area but has not reached any definitive conclusions.

The ABS mission is to assist and encourage informed decision making and the development of *Measuring Australia's Progress* was seen as a significant step in achieving that outcome, with the expectation that it will enhance Australians' discussion of national progress. Its intent was to encourage discussion and analysis based on evidence rather than anecdote.

Of course, for almost a hundred years the ABS has been publishing a multitude of statistics about Australia's economy, society and environment. Three of our annual flagship publications — the *Australian System of National Accounts* (cat. no. 5204.0), *Australian Social Trends* (cat. no. 4102.0) and *Australia's Environment: Issues and Trends* (cat. no. 4613.0) — draw the available statistics together with supporting analyses and interpretation. But, for the most part, these publications have focussed on the economic, social or environmental aspect of national life in isolation.

It is within this context that the ABS developed *Measuring Australia's Progress*.

PROCESSES IN DEVELOPING *MEASURING AUSTRALIA'S PROGRESS*

The ABS developed *Measuring Australia's Progress* in accord with key principles for the National Statistical Service — access for all, relevance, integrity and professionalism.

When developing *Measuring Australia's Progress*, the ABS drew on the expertise of economic, social and environmental statisticians in Australia and abroad. The ABS also examined the dozens of framework documents and indicator suites relating to progress, wellbeing and sustainability that have been published or are under development. No one of these has yet emerged as the definitive standard for measuring progress, and some matters are still the subject of vigorous debate.

The new publication was developed over a two year period, much of which was taken up in consultation with several hundred government agencies, other organisations and individuals. The form of the new publication, the range of indicators it was to include, and much of its analytical content, were exposed to public review for almost a year before its release in April 2002.

The consultation process itself commenced during the second half of 2000 when the ABS gathered ideas (chiefly from experts in government and universities) regarding the feasibility and focus of a suite of national progress indicators. During the development period, we had three meetings with a Reference Group. They provided a number of useful ideas which we took on board but there were many proposals from the group which were not taken up. In November 2000 and April 2001, papers describing the objectives, audience and style of the publication were considered by the Economic Statistics User Group and the Australian Statistics Advisory Council. These bodies together include representatives of Commonwealth and state policy agencies, business, and academic and community organisations, and a number of useful suggestions were made.

Toward the end of April 2001, the ABS released a 50 page discussion paper that described the philosophy and proposed design of the publication. This paper also provided:

- the complete preliminary list of proposed dimensions and indicators;
- commentary explaining why each headline indicator was proposed and how it would be constructed;
- draft analytical essays for one economic dimension (national income), one social dimension (health) and one environmental dimension (water); and
- a proposal for including social attachment among the dimensions of progress, and a list of indicators that might be used.

The ABS invited all who read the discussion paper to send us their comments. The paper was sent to 450 organisations and individuals, and the ABS received around 60 written submissions and comments.

Additional oral comments on the schema for the publication and the proposed dimensions and indicators were received at the open consultation seminars that the ABS conducted in all eight state and territory capitals during May 2001. These seminars were attended by several hundred participants. Between November 2001 and January 2002, the entire draft manuscript was submitted for review by senior economic, social and environmental analysts in government, research agencies and the private sector.

There was an overwhelmingly favourable response to the ABS plan to develop such a publication. The ABS received a large volume of diverse and valuable suggestions regarding its content — and, although not all suggestions were adopted, the quality of the final publication benefited immeasurably from the ideas of the people who were consulted or asked to review the drafts. The final decision on the content was with the Australian Statistician.

DEVELOPING THE CONTENT OF *MEASURING AUSTRALIA'S PROGRESS*

Within the context of the consultation process the key issue in respect of *Measuring Australia's Progress* was developing the content of the publication. The content design work proceeded in four steps:

- choosing a presentational model;
- identifying the dimensions of progress;
- selecting the ninety or so indicators that would give statistical expression to those dimensions; and
- deciding on the more compact subset of fifteen 'headline' indicators.

Choosing the presentational model

The ABS considered three possible models for presenting the measures of national progress — the one-number approach; the integrated accounting approach; and the suite-of-indicators approach.

One-number approaches combine information about multiple aspects of progress (such as, health, income and pollution) into a single composite indicator. Trends in the composite indicator may then be compared with more traditional measures such as gross domestic product. Combining multiple variables inevitably requires the compiler of the composite indicator to assign weights or values to different aspects of progress. So, for example, should a one-year extension of life expectancy be weighted more or less heavily than a 10 per cent increase in average income? The ABS believes that it should leave valuations of this kind to the users of its statistics, rather than imposing its own valuations.

Integrated accounting framework approaches present social, economic and environmental data in one integrated system of accounts. This is a powerful tool for analysis, but is complex and designed for use by experts. And, while the ABS is working toward integrated accounts, it will be some years before it will be possible for them to span all three domains.

Suite-of-indicators approaches display key measures of national progress side-by-side and discuss the links between them. Readers make their own evaluations of whether the indicators together imply that the nation is, on balance, progressing and at what rate. This is the approach used in *Measuring Australia's Progress*.

Identifying the dimensions of progress

The ABS considered four main sources of suggestions regarding which aspects of progress to measure — international practice, national statistical frameworks, current policy issues, and the views of key stakeholders including the Australian community.

In identifying the dimensions of progress, it was recognised that international and national statistical agencies are undertaking a great deal of work to develop measures of progress (and of allied concepts such as wellbeing and sustainability). As part of the process, the ABS examined the several dozen frameworks and indicator sets emerging from this work, and distilled valuable insights from them. But none has yet emerged as the definitive approach and moreover it was important that the indicators be relevant to Australian concerns.

Some statistical initiatives aim to choose measures which relate directly to government policy — the European System of Social Indicators, for example. Many of the indicators shown in *Measuring Australia's Progress* may assist the design and evaluation of government programs. But the indicator suite has not been chosen with that application in mind. The publication is meant to inform general public discussion of national progress, not to be used as a scorecard for government.

As noted above, the key ingredient in forming the dimensions of progress has been the extensive consultation process with key stakeholders and the Australian community.

Within this context, the following framework of indicators was formed:

Figure 1: DIMENSIONS OF PROGRESS

Economy

Key economic stocks and flows

- national income
- national wealth
- consumption
- capital formation
- saving

Other expressions of (or influences on) economic performance

- productivity
- inflation
- competitiveness
- openness
- knowledge and innovation

Society

Key areas of social concern

- health
- education and training
- work
- economic disadvantage (poverty)
- economic resources of households
- housing
- crime
- culture and leisure

Other expressions of (or influences on) social progress

- communication and transport
- social attachment
- governance, democracy and citizenship

Environment

Key environmental subsystems

- land — land clearance and land quality
- marine ecosystems
- inland waters
- atmosphere — air quality
- plants and animals — biodiversity and invasive species

Other expressions of (or influences on) environmental quality

- greenhouse gases
- waste

Selecting the progress indicators

When sieving through the thousands of potential indicators of national progress, the ABS had regard to several criteria, including the following:

- the need for a measure of outcome for each aspect of progress, rather than measures of the inputs or processes that generate the outcome. For example, when developing measures for the health dimension of national progress, indicators of the health status of the Australian population were sought, rather than, say, indicators of diet or smoking habits or public expenditures on hospitals;
- the need for indicators that encapsulated as comprehensively as possible the given dimension of progress for the whole of Australia, rather than being confined to particular aspects, regions, subpopulations or industries;
- the need for indicators that were sensitive to the underlying phenomenon expressed by the dimension of progress;
- the need for indicators for which there were annual data covering the past decade;
- the need for indicators that could be disaggregated, where possible, by region or population subgroup, so that it was possible to detect any heterogeneous trends underlying that national trend; and
- the need for indicators whose meaning would be intelligible to the general reader.

For some dimensions of progress, it has not yet been possible to compile an indicator that satisfies all these criteria. In such circumstances the best available proxy or several proxy indicators as interim progress measures have been used, pending further statistical development work.

The above process resulted in a suite of around ninety indicators that, in the view of the ABS, would allow readers to formulate their own judgments about whether and how Australia has progressed during the past decade. To further assist readers it was decided to develop a subset of fifteen 'headline indicators'.

Choosing the headline indicators

To be eligible for inclusion in the headline subset, an indicator was required to satisfy a further criterion, namely that most Australians would agree that movements in the indicator can be unambiguously associated with progress, other things being equal. The reason for imposing this additional criterion was to allow readers to run their eyes over a compact suite of headline indicators and form a quick summary judgment about which aspects of national life (taken individually) have shown progress and which have shown regress.

Inevitably the selection of the headline indicators using the above criterion was a difficult process. Distilling all the indicators down to the more compact headline set was easier for some dimensions of progress than for others:

- Economic progress can be encapsulated fairly well in just one stock indicator (national wealth per capita) and one flow indicator (national income per capita). Money provides a common measuring instrument that allows economic indicators to be consolidated in this way. This is not to say that the other economic indicators — such as investment, productivity and competitiveness — are unimportant, but their influence is in a sense encompassed by, or manifests itself, in the income and wealth indicators.
- But it is not possible to select just a couple of indicators that encapsulate social progress. There is no measuring instrument that will consolidate progress across the key areas of social concern, such as health, education, work and crime, so separate headline indicators have been included for each.
- Nor is it possible to select just a couple of indicators that encapsulate environmental progress. Thus, the ABS has included separate indicators for the key environmental subsystems, such as the land, the seas, inland waters and the atmosphere.

The upshot of this is that the headline suite shows just two economic dimensions, seven social dimensions and six environmental dimensions. These numbers have been misinterpreted by one commentator as a signal that the ABS attaches much greater importance to social progress or environmental protection than to economic growth. That is not the case as was explained explicitly in the publication.

REACTION TO THE PUBLICATION

Measuring Australia's Progress is deliberately experimental, and the Australian Statistician's foreword invites readers to comment on it. Informing the discussion about national progress is one of the most important tasks that a statistical agency can take on. But it is also likely to provoke vigorous debate, because there is no universal agreement regarding what dimensions of progress are most important, or what indicators best encapsulate those dimensions.

Comments received so far have been predominantly favourable. Noted commentator Ross Gittins in the Sydney Morning Herald of 24 April 2002 observed that "the Bureau of Statistics, for instance, issues some new stats most days, many of which get a lot of media attention, but rarely does it issue anything as remotely important as *Measuring Australia's Progress*".

However the comments have not all been favourable. Some commentators have argued that *Measuring Australia's Progress* should be underpinned by a more overt conceptual framework. As explained earlier, the ABS choice of progress dimensions and indicators has been informed first by key indicators that appear in the ABS flagship economic, social and environmental statistics and second by views gathered during our wide ranging consultation. Nevertheless, the ABS will consider the possibility of setting out a framework for progress measurement per se and mapping the correspondences between our indicator framework and those developed by other analysts — developments in other national and international statistical agencies may inform this work, and we are keeping abreast of these developments.

As well, some commentators have expressed disappointment that the ABS has not presented indicators for some dimensions of progress (such as the quality of national, business and community governance), and have urged the need for statistical development work in these fields. The ABS will consider work in this area.

The most strident criticism of *Measuring Australia's Progress* has been made by Professor Peter Saunders of the Centre for Independent Studies who amongst other things claimed that:

- the publication was biased heavily toward indicators of environmental sustainability;
- ABS selection of indicators was overly influenced by the members of the 'left/green establishment'; and
- the publication was biased toward egalitarian politics because it equates social progress with reduced income inequality.

In concluding, Professor Saunders alleged that "There is clearly a danger of the ABS compromising its political neutrality".

The ABS has responded, both publicly and privately, vigorously denying Professor Saunders' allegations. The first two points are covered previously. With respect to income inequality we deliberately excluded it as a headline indicator because it did not satisfy the criteria 'that movements in the indicator can be unambiguously associated with progress, other things being equal'. It was included in the analysis component of the publication because of the interest in the topic, but there was no suggestion that reduced income inequality implied social progress.

THE FUTURE

The development of *Measuring Australia's Progress* involved an extensive program of consultation, and the ABS will similarly be undertaking a wide ranging process of consultation and review during the second half of 2002.

Between May and September 2002, there are open consultation seminars in all eight state and territory capitals.

In October 2002, there will be a full day workshop in which government, academic, community and other representatives will be asked to review the publication and to offer their views on the future course of progress measurement.

At the end of this consultation and review process, the ABS will assess whether it should continue developing the suite of progress measures and, if so, what course that development should follow and what form any future publication might take.

CONCLUSION

The development of a publication about national progress requires an element of judgement and inevitably there will be disagreement as to the measures presented to demonstrate that there has been progress or otherwise. The ABS encourages all Australians to read the indicators and analysis in *Measuring Australia's Progress* and to form their own assessment. The publication is available in printed form and on the ABS web site <www.abs.gov.au>. The ABS also encourages readers to send us their comments.

4 THE INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

Economists and policy makers are increasingly interested in analysing living standards across countries and changes in their relative rankings over time. The different social and institutional arrangements that exist in countries around the world create difficulties for such international comparisons. Comparisons of economic data are further complicated because economic variables are expressed in different currencies. One method of comparing economic data from a national currency to a common currency such as the \$US is to convert them using exchange rates. However, this simplistic approach is not appropriate for comparisons of standards of living and other similar comparisons and can lead to quite misleading conclusions. For comparisons of this nature a more robust and appropriate method is to use Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs), which directly reflect differences in the prices of goods and services in different countries.

The International Comparison Program (ICP), originally called the International Comparison Project, is a global effort to produce PPP estimates. The next round of the ICP is scheduled for 2003 and Australia is strongly committed to it. The Australian Bureau of Statistics has played an active role in the planning of the 2003 round, and expects to support the program through representation on key governing bodies and through the provision of technical assistance in the Asia-Pacific region.

This article explains why PPPs are preferred as the basis for making international comparisons of living standards and describes the ICP, including plans for the 2003 round.

THE BASIS FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS — EXCHANGE RATES OR PPPs?

Much economic analysis concentrates on what is happening within an individual country and, because economic statistics produced by the national statistical agency are expressed in the domestic currency, comparisons can be made easily between different sets of domestic data. However, from time to time, economists are interested in comparing economic data from different countries. In some cases, (e.g. such as comparing the recent growth rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Australia with that in the United States of America (USA)) it is fairly easy to do so. In this case, the monetary units in which the underlying data are expressed are not important because it is the rate of growth rather than the level of activity that is being compared. Other types of comparisons are less straightforward. For example, there is often interest in the relative levels of activity between countries or in obtaining an overall total measure of activity for a group of countries such as those in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). It is common to see figures quoted for the level of GDP per capita in countries, as a rough measure of relative economic wellbeing, or an overall growth rate for, say, the whole of the 30 OECD countries. In the former case, the main problem in making the comparison is in adjusting the data expressed in national currency units to a common currency such as the \$US. In the latter case, it is necessary to aggregate across different currencies (\$A, euro, British pound etc.).

One method of converting economic data from a national currency to a common currency such as the \$US is to simply use exchange rates. An exchange rate represents the 'price' of a foreign currency (i.e. the number of units of the domestic currency required to purchase one unit of a foreign currency). As such, it is clear it is appropriate to use exchange rates for applications such as calculating the amount of goods and services that could be imported with the proceeds of a particular level of exports or calculating the domestic currency costs of purchasing foreign goods and services abroad. However, in assessing relative standards of living, what is required is a means of comparing the volumes of goods and services actually available to residents of different countries in their own countries. Using exchange rates to convert the national currency values can be misleading because exchange rates are influenced by factors other than relative domestic price levels (e.g. financial flows and interest rate differentials can have a significant effect on exchange rates). In practice, exchange rate based comparisons of poor countries with economically developed countries are systematically biased downwards which has the effect of exaggerating their apparent differences in income. PPPs are specifically designed to provide rates of currency conversion that equalise the internal purchasing power of different currencies. Converting national currencies using PPPs eliminates the effects of different price levels between countries.

The simplest example of a PPP is regularly presented by *The Economist* magazine, which shows the relative levels of the prices of Big Mac hamburgers between various countries. This form of presentation provides an indication of which countries are 'expensive' (i.e. those whose PPP for a Big Mac is higher than the equivalent price based on exchange rates) and those that are 'cheap'. More sophisticated PPPs are constructed by reference to the relative prices of a much broader range of goods and services.

To calculate PPPs, it is necessary to identify identical goods and services in the countries involved in the comparison and for which prices can be collected. The goods and services concerned need to be representative of the expenditures in each country as well as being comparable between the countries. Tensions arise in identifying products that meet these two criteria, so compromises have to be made in the process.

However, if the quality of a country's national accounts and/or prices information is poor, then the quality of the PPP statistics for that country will also be poor. It should be noted that poor quality national accounts data will also adversely impact on the quality of exchange rate based comparisons, in addition to the other concerns with this method of comparison that are set out below.

INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK

The internationally accepted framework underlying the national accounts and which therefore influences standards for most economic statistics (including PPPs) is the *System of National Accounts, 1993* (commonly referred to as 'SNA93'). SNA93, in paragraph 1.38, strongly recommends using PPPs in international comparisons of real production and consumption; paragraphs 16.82 to 16.104 of SNA93 provide a detailed description of PPPs and the methods of calculating them.

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS OF GDP

The OECD and Eurostat (the European Union Statistical Office) jointly run a Program which provides international comparisons of GDP volumes and the associated price measures. It is commonly referred to as the 'OECD-Eurostat PPP Program'. Currently this Program is run every three years, with the latest completed round being in respect of 1999. It provides an important input into the ICP because it covers all 30 OECD Member Countries (which include all 15 countries in the European Union).

As stated previously, making international comparisons of levels of activity, income etc., using exchange rates can produce misleading results. In its publication *Purchasing Power Parities and Real Expenditures — 1999 Benchmark Year* (OECD, Paris, 2002), the OECD showed that PPP-converted GDPs make better economic sense than do exchange rate converted GDPs for tracking trends in real production or living standards. The following table is based on data from that publication. It shows the GDP for Japan as a percentage of that for the USA in 1985, 1990, 1993, 1996 and 1999.

Japan's GDP to USA's GDP (%)

	1985	1990	1993	1996	1999
Converted using:					
Exchange rates	33	52	67	60	49
PPPs	35	39	40	40	34

Average annual growth in GDP volumes (%)

	1985–1999	1985–1990	1990–1993	1993–1996	1996–1999
Japan	2.6	4.9	1.5	2.0	0.4
USA	3.2	3.2	1.7	3.5	4.3

The average annual growth in GDP volumes between 1985 and 1999 was 2.6% in Japan and 3.2% in the USA so, in the absence of significant structural change, the Japanese economy would be expected to have become somewhat smaller relative to the USA over the whole period shown above. As can be seen from the above table, this is in fact the case when the comparisons are based on PPPs (a decline in the Japanese economy from 35% of the size of that of the USA to 34%) but not with the exchange rate based comparison, which shows the Japanese economy increasing its size relative to the USA economy by about 50% (from 33% to 49%). In addition, the PPP-converted data show a fairly plausible relationship between the GDP for the two countries for each benchmark year when the relative rates of GDP volume growth are taken into account. There is a fairly sharp rise between 1985 and 1993 in the size of the Japanese economy relative to the USA's when Japan's growth rates were stronger than the USA's, followed by a large fall from 1996 to 1999 when Japan's growth rate was substantially lower than that of the USA. On the other hand, the exchange rate converted data show changes in the relationship of GDP between the two countries that are economically implausible, with the Japanese economy apparently doubling in size compared with the USA in only 8 years between 1985 and 1993. This was followed by a sharp reversal between then and 1999 but still leaving its size compared to the USA at an implausible level given the relative growth rates between 1985 and 1999.

A report¹ to the March 2001 United Nations Statistical Commission stated that the statistical problems involved in using PPPs when making international comparisons are of a much smaller magnitude than those associated with using exchange rates in such analyses. The report presented an analysis of comparisons using physical measures of output and the usage of goods and services. It showed that, despite the data problems so often referred to when PPPs are mentioned, the PPP data at the level of GDP provide a much more plausible comparison between various pairs of countries than does a comparison based on exchange rates. The report reaffirmed SNA93 by recommending that PPPs rather than exchange rates should be used in international comparisons of real production and living standards because exchange rates produce distorted results. This report has been a very important step in gaining broad acceptance by both international institutions and national statistical offices of the need to use PPPs rather than exchange rates in international comparisons.

CALCULATING PPP STATISTICS

The calculation of high quality PPP statistics requires high quality national accounts and price data for each of the countries for which PPPs are being calculated. Price data are weighted using national accounts data to form PPPs which are then normally divided into national accounts aggregates to convert them to a common currency.

1 *United Nations Development Program Human Development Report: Report of the "Friends of the Chair" of the Statistical Commission* (Item 6(e) of the provisional agenda of the 32nd session of the United Nations Statistical Commission, 6–9 March 2001).

PPPs are calculated in two stages. First, at the most detailed level for which weighting data are available (the 'basic heading' e.g. Bread), PPPs are derived based on the price ratios for all the items representative of each country's expenditure and which can be matched between each pair of countries in the comparison. The second stage is to combine the basic heading PPPs using national accounts data as the weights to provide PPPs for each level of aggregation (e.g. household final consumption expenditure) up to GDP. There are several formulas available for use in this stage of the process. As is common with index number formulas, there is no 'perfect' choice of formula. It has been demonstrated that the formula used in the OECD-Eurostat PPP Program since 1990 produces unbiased results, although the downside is that additivity between the national accounts components and higher level aggregates such as GDP is lost in the aggregation process. The aggregation formula used prior to the 1990 round (and used in all rounds of the ICP to date) produced additive results but they could be biased in certain circumstances. The bias was particularly severe when a comparison was being made between countries at significantly different stages of economic development, with the per capita volume of activity being overstated for the less developed countries when they were being compared with the more economically advanced ones.

On the other hand, exchange rate comparisons are significantly biased and systematically understate per capita GDP in less economically developed countries compared with those with relatively high GDP per capita. The reason is based on the productivity differentials between high and low income countries and is described as follows by the architects of the ICP:

"International trade tends to drive the prices of traded goods, mainly commodities, towards equality in different countries (based on exchange rates). With equal or nearly equal prices, wages in the traded goods industries in each country will depend upon productivity. Wages established in the traded goods industries within each country will prevail in the country's nontraded goods industries. In nontraded goods industries, however, international productivity differentials tend to be smaller. Consequently, in a high productivity country high wages lead to high prices of services and other nontraded goods, whereas in a low productivity country low wages produce low prices. The lower a country's income, the lower will be the prices of its home goods and the greater will be the tendency for exchange rate conversions to underestimate its real income relative to that of richer countries."²

2 Page 9 of *International comparisons of real product and purchasing power* (Irving B Kravis, Alan Heston, and Robert Summers) — John Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, 1978.

How the biases associated with comparisons of volumes of activity based on exchange rates translate into assessments of changes in inequality is difficult to establish with any precision. It is clear, however, that exchange rates do not provide a suitable starting point for assessing changes over time because they are such a fundamentally flawed means of comparison. Based on exchange rates, the gap in per capita income between the countries with the richest fifth of the world's population and those with the poorest fifth increased from a factor of 30 to 1 in 1960 to 74 to 1 in 1995. Ian Castles (a former Australian Statistician) pointed out in a report³ criticising the inappropriate use of exchange rates in making international comparisons that, based on PPPs, this ratio was about 12 to 1 in 1960, 18 to 1 in 1990 and 16 to 1 in 1995. The differences observed above in the two sets of time series indicate that per capita volumes based on exchange rates are not able to be used as an indicator of changes over time either, because they are so (implausibly) different from the PPP-based measures. In other words, not only do exchange rate based comparisons produce extreme and meaningless estimates of relative levels but they also produce meaningless results over time. In addition, the table on page 52 which shows the comparison between the USA and Japan based on exchange rates and on PPPs, demonstrates empirically that time series of comparisons based on exchange rates produce results which are economically implausible, even when they are between two high-income countries. In practice, the only certainty with exchange rate based comparisons is that, for any point in time, they will significantly overstate the difference in per capita GDP volumes between high and low income countries. It is impossible to provide a definitive answer to the question of the extent of the change in this bias over time because it will depend on the countries being compared, the extent of the differences in the structure of their economies at each point in the time series under consideration and other factors which affect exchange rates (e.g. financial flows or interest rates).

THE INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON PROGRAM

PPPs were first calculated on an experimental basis in the 1960s by the University of Pennsylvania, which was working on the ICP jointly with the United Nations Statistics Division. The ICP output was benchmark PPPs for various years, with 1970 being the first year of the ongoing, or production, series. The benchmarks were produced for 1975, 1980, 1985 and 1993, with the World Bank assuming the role of global coordinator for non-OECD countries in 1993; 118 countries were covered in the 1993 round, compared with 10 in 1970. In 1980 the OECD, in collaboration with the statistical office of the European Union (Eurostat), commenced a PPP program for its member countries. The OECD-Eurostat PPP Program was integrated within the ICP for those years in which the two overlapped. However, the OECD-Eurostat Program has been run more frequently, providing benchmark data for Western European countries and the non-European OECD countries for 1980, 1985, 1990, 1993, 1996 and 1999. (In 1999, Eastern European non-OECD countries were also included).

3 *The mismeasurement of nations: A review essay on the Human Development Report 1998* (Ian Castles) — Paper published in the Population and Development Review 24(4), December 1998.

The last round of the ICP, conducted in respect of 1993, was dogged by problems. The funding available was insufficient to handle a project of the scope envisaged, the data supplied was often of poor quality, there was little understanding by many countries of the statistical implications of the data they were supplying, quality control of the data was poor, and the results took many years to compile. Major reviews⁴ of the OECD-Eurostat PPP Program and of the ICP were carried out in the late 1990s. Following these reviews and discussions within the United Nations Statistical Commission, the World Bank has been planning to revitalise the ICP, with a new round covering 117 countries being planned for reference year 2003. The Australian Bureau of Statistics has participated actively in the planning for a revitalised ICP through a 'Friends of the Chair' group which has provided advice to the United Nations Statistical Commission and the World Bank on planning for the 2003 round. The Statistical Commission has given strong support to the 2003 ICP.

The World Bank is currently raising the funds required to run a 2003 round designed to avoid the pitfalls of the 1993 round. It has also been planning how to strengthen the round. Broadly, the overall 2003 ICP will be conducted by a team at the World Bank, and run on a regional basis with a coordinator being located in each of five major regions around the world. The OECD and Eurostat, in conjunction with the Economic Commission for Europe, will be responsible for about 45 countries which currently participate in their PPP Program. The ICP will be overseen by a high-level Executive Board which will be responsible for ensuring the project remains on track and that high quality results are delivered. It is expected that the Australian Statistician will be a member of the Executive Board.

Apart from the cost associated with establishing the international team to conduct the ICP, there will also be costs associated with providing technical assistance to countries to enable them to improve the quality of their national accounts and/or prices statistics, as well as the costs of collecting the necessary additional prices, which some less developed countries cannot afford. The World Bank is preparing a handbook for participating countries and software that will assist countries in collecting and editing prices. Therefore, an important spin-off to the 2003 ICP will be an improvement in the underlying statistical infrastructure in many less developed countries. The World Bank has also initiated a number of research projects to establish the conceptual approaches to be adopted in areas such as the survey framework, the lists of products to be priced, the index number formula to be used in aggregation and the method(s) to be used in linking countries and regions. The ABS is likely to be providing technical assistance to countries in the Asia-Pacific region, as well as contributing to the overall coordination of the ICP within the region.

4 *Review of the OECD-Eurostat PPP Program, 1997* — Report commissioned by the OECD and produced by Ian Castles; *Evaluation of the International Comparison Programme (ICP), 1998* — Report commissioned by the United Nations Statistical Division, produced by Jacob Ryten, and presented to the 1999 meeting of the United Nations Statistical Commission.

SPECIAL ARTICLES IN EARLIER 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 earlier annual reports is given below. The year of the annual report in which the article appeared and the part of the report where it can be found, are shown in brackets.

What the ABS Does (1975–76, Section 2)

The Collection of Information (1976–77, Section 2)

Forward Planning in the ABS (1977–78, Section 2)

Preparations for the 1981 Census of Population and Housing (1978–79, Section 2)

The Accuracy and Reliability of Estimates of National Income and Expenditure (1979–80, Section 2)

Minimising Reporting Burden (1980–81, Section 2)

A Decade's Work Program (1981–82, Section 2)

The ABS Program of Population Surveys (1983–84, pages 7 to 11, supplemented by Appendix 5)

The ABS Program of Industry Collections (1984–85, pages 8 to 13, supplemented by Appendix 5)

Dissemination of Statistics by the ABS (1985–86, pages 9 to 14)

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)

Statistics and Privacy (1987–88, Chapter 3)

Media Liaison for ABS Health Survey (1987–88, Appendix 12)

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)

The ABS in the Marketplace (1989–90, Chapter 2)

The 1991 Census of Population and Housing (1990–91, Chapter 2, Population Census)

Security of ABS Data Holdings (1992–93, Chapter 3)

Reducing Respondent Load (1992–93, Chapter 2)

The 1996 Census of Population and Housing (1993–94, Chapter 2)

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)

Developments in the Australian National Accounts (1995–96, Chapter 2)

The Destruction of Census Forms (1995–96, Chapter 3)

The Pint Pot Revisited (1996–97, Chapter 2)

The 1996 Census of Population and Housing (1996–97, Chapter 3)

The Destruction of Census Forms (1997–98, Chapter 2)

Recent Developments in Price and Labour Cost Indexes (1997–98, Chapter 3)

Review of the ABS Household Survey Program (1998–99, Chapter 2)

ABS Experience in Workplace Relations (1998–99, Chapter 3)

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)

Research and Analysis in the ABS (2000–01, Chapter 3)

The 2001 Census of Population and Housing (2000–01, Chapter 4)

SECTION III

PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

Chapter 5 — Performance Information

5 PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

This Chapter outlines the performance of the ABS in 2001–02, in terms of its outcomes and outputs as specified in the 2001–02 Portfolio Budget Statements as presented to Parliament in May 2001.

ABS OUTCOME

Informed decision-making, research and discussion within governments and the community based on the provision of a high quality, objective and responsive national statistical service.

OUTCOME MEASURES

1: Integrity in statistical operations

Performance Measure 1.1: An objective statistical service, as demonstrated by:

Performance Indicator 1.1.1: Release of reliable/accurate statistics

Performance Indicator 1.1.2: Open statistical process

Performance Indicator 1.1.3: Trust and cooperation of providers

2: Relevance of ABS output

Performance Measure 2.1: Statistical output which meets the needs of key users of economic and social data in terms of:

Performance Indicator 2.1.1: Support to decision making

Performance Indicator 2.1.2: Demonstrated by a high level of use

Performance Measure 2.2: Openness of planning process

3: Appropriate use of statistical standards, frameworks and methodologies

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

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

4: Improving coordination of the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics produced by other official bodies

Performance Measure 4.1: Statistical Clearing House activity

Performance Measure 4.2: Assisting other official bodies with the integration of administrative and statistical data, including outposting ABS officers, and providing training on statistical standards, frameworks and methodologies

Performance Measure 4.3: Identifying, storing, and disseminating statistics from other official bodies

OUTPUT MEASURES

5: Increase the quantity of output

Performance Measure 5.1: Increase the range of statistics disseminated

Performance Measure 5.2: Innovative outputs

6: Improve the quality of outputs

Performance Measure 6.1: Achieve or exceed timeliness, statistical reliability, response rates and accuracy objectives

Performance Indicator 6.1.1: Timeliness

Performance Indicator 6.1.2: Statistical reliability

Performance Indicator 6.1.3: Response rates

Performance Indicator 6.1.4: Accuracy

Performance Measure 6.2: Conduct ongoing research and reviews of quality, and implement their recommendations

Performance Indicator 6.2.1: Outline of ABS statistical reviews

Performance Indicator 6.2.2: Innovative practices — improvements to existing collections as a result of research and development

7: Achievement of cost effective outputs

Performance Measure 7.1: Conduct efficiency reviews and audits, and implement their recommendations

Performance Measure 7.2: Test operating efficiencies of statistical activities by benchmarking internally and externally

Performance Measure 7.3: Market test a number of non-statistical activities to identify possible outsourcing opportunities

Performance Measure 7.4: Minimise respondent load

OUTCOME MEASURES

1: Integrity in statistical operations

ABS data, analysis, and interpretations are always objective, and the ABS always publishes its statistics. The ABS decides what to publish, and then does so in ways which explain and inform, without advocating a particular position.

The ABS statistical system is open. The ABS sets and publishes, in advance, the dates for the release of all its statistics. Pre-embargo access to statistics is strictly controlled under publicly known arrangements. The methodologies and approaches followed are based on sound statistical principles and practices, disseminated widely, and open to scrutiny.

Performance Measure 1.1: An objective statistical service, as demonstrated by:

Performance Indicator 1.1.1: Release of reliable/accurate statistics

Performance Indicator 1.1.2: Open statistical process

Performance Indicator 1.1.3: Trust and cooperation of providers

Performance Indicator 1.1.1: Release of reliable/accurate statistics

Key measures for demonstrating reliable/accurate statistics include high response rates, low sample errors, and the timeliness of ABS statistics. Performance Measure 6.1 demonstrates that the ABS has maintained high response rates in its major economic and social surveys, and provided statistics which are subject to low sample errors. The timeliness of ABS quarterly main economic indicators was similar to that achieved in 2000–01, however the averages presented in table 4 are significantly influenced by the discontinuation of a number of publications.

A key element of this performance indicator is the availability of information to enable users to make their own assessment of quality. Information on these aspects of reliability and accuracy, as well as extensive information on the statistical methods used in collections, are routinely provided in concepts, sources and methods publications, the explanatory notes in publications, and are also available at the Statistical Clearing House web site <www.scb.gov.au>.

Performance Indicator 1.1.2: Openness of the statistical process

The Australian Statistician determines which statistics are to be collected, after full discussion with users, clients and the Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC).

The ABS continues to maintain close contact with its users through a variety of mechanisms, including:

- user groups;

- bilateral discussions with key clients;
- standing committees;
- outposted statistical officers;
- conferences and seminars; and
- day-to-day contact in the course of disseminating data.

The ABS Forward Work Program for 2002–03 to 2004–05 was published in hard copy and is also available on the ABS web site. The Forward Work Program demonstrates the open statistical process of the ABS by describing for each ABS program the resources, outputs, clients and uses of the statistical information, and the proposed main medium term developments over the next three years.

The ABS regularly publishes information about new statistical standards, frameworks, concepts, sources and methodologies in a range of information papers and other publications in hard copy, or electronically. Their publication is one element in ensuring that the public are informed about the statistical process. Many of these publications are listed in this Annual Report, including new and updated versions. Details of major revisions to published data are described in the explanatory notes of the relevant publication.

The ABS continues to advertise all scheduled release dates for publications up to twelve months in advance. Daily press and media releases inform users of publications being released each day. This information is also available on the ABS web site. Release of all publications is subject to a strict embargo policy that ensures impartiality, an essential element of integrity.

In addition the ABS has contributed its own policies on collection and dissemination of statistics to the United Nations web site on Good Practices in Official Statistics.

Performance Indicator 1.1.3: Trust and cooperation of providers

The *Census and Statistics Act 1905* (C&S Act) obliges ABS staff to maintain the secrecy and security of all data provided to the ABS under the C&S Act, and held by the ABS. Staff sign an undertaking of fidelity and secrecy under the terms of the Act to ensure that they are fully aware of the requirements on them. There have been no known cases of an ABS officer breaching the undertaking of fidelity and secrecy.

The ABS has an enviable reputation for the preservation of the secrecy of reported information, whether it is provided in response to an ABS survey or as administrative data, and for the protection of its statistical data holdings from unauthorised release. The ABS also audits the use of confidentialised unit record files (released under the provisions of Clause 7 of the Ministerial Determination) to ensure that the requirements relating to the management and use of the files (which are agreed to by users in a legally binding undertaking), are complied with.

The efficiency of ABS operations and the quality of the data collected are enhanced through maintaining the trust and cooperation of the providers of data. Integral to that process has been the development of the Business Surveys Charter, careful form design and close liaison with business and other representative groups. ABS is conscious however, that the needs of users for information must be balanced against the load placed on businesses in providing that information. The ABS has actively and successfully worked to reduce the reporting load on businesses during 2001–02 through the increasing use of administrative data and by consolidating a number of business surveys into a single survey. More information on provider load is outlined under Performance Measure 7.4.

In spite of these initiatives, in the past year 550 of the 100,000 businesses selected in ABS economic surveys wrote to the ABS about respondent load issues. This was down from 748 complaints from businesses in 2000–01. A response was sent to each of the complaints. Two businesses further requested, as provided for in the ABS Business Surveys Charter, that the Complaints Review Officer review either the process or the outcome of the initial complaint. As a result of these reviews, revised arrangements were negotiated for the suitable delivery of information to the ABS.

TABLE 1: COMPLAINTS FROM DATA PROVIDERS

	1999–2000	2000–01	2001–02
Number of complaints	665	748	550

A recent survey following up perception issues after the 2001 Census indicates that levels of community trust in the Census, and therefore the ABS, remain high. In addition, the ABS enjoys a very positive relationship with the Office of the Federal Privacy Commissioner.

2: Relevance of ABS output

The ABS directs its efforts to the best interests of the Australian community. To aid this, it ensures that data needed for policy and research purposes are available when required. Good statistical planning, which requires a keen understanding of the current and future needs of users, is essential.

The ABS also recognises that, in order to be relevant to informed decision making, debate, and discussions, its statistics must be timely and relatable to other data. To support this, they are placed in an appropriate statistical framework. The ABS also provides analyses and explanations to help the interpretation of its statistics.

Performance Measure 2.1: Statistical output which meets the needs of key users of economic and social data in terms of:

- Performance Indicator 2.1.1: Support to decision making*
- Performance Indicator 2.1.2: Demonstrated by a high level of use*

Performance Indicator 2.1.1: Support to decision making

The ABS provides official statistics across a wide range of economic and social matters, for government, business and the Australian community.

Collections undertaken by the ABS include:

- the five-yearly Census of Population and Housing;
- monthly and quarterly surveys providing key economic indicators; and
- collections from industry and households that provide users with information on specific economic and social issues.

In addition, as part of the national statistical service the ABS cooperates with other Commonwealth, state and territory agencies, to release statistics required by key users which are collected as a by-product of administrative systems.

Apart from the extensive range of existing publications and data which provide support to decision makers on a range of ongoing policy issues, the ABS continues to monitor and anticipate users' needs in terms of new surveys, statistics, and research. The ABS is assisted in this regard by ASAC identifying major social, economic, and environmental issues of policy significance over the coming three to five years. This priority list is used as one check on the ABS priorities as identified in the forward work program.

Ensuring ABS outputs provide support to decision making is also achieved by extensive consultation with state/territory governments and other program-specific user groups. A number of key outcomes were completed in 2001–02 as a result of these processes and are listed in Performance Measure 2.2.

Some of the key areas where the ABS has responded to current and emerging issues and conducted research or new surveys include:

- *Measuring Australia's Progress* publication (cat. no. 1370.0) — in response to a growing public interest in the interrelationships between the economic, social and environmental aspects of life;
- innovation and the knowledge-based economy — the aim is to develop a comprehensive set of statistical indicators to describe knowledge in the Australian economy and society which will facilitate policy development; and
- *Information Paper: Measures of Labour Underutilisation* (cat. no. 6296.0) — developed in response to differing views in the community as to the suitability of the unemployment rate as the only measure of labour underutilisation. The labour underutilisation rates presented were developed by the ABS in consultation with the Labour Statistics User Group.

An important component of the ABS output strategy, particularly in respect of social surveys, has been to support secondary analysis of ABS data through access to Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs). In 2001–02 the ABS released 178 CURFs. The ABS recognises the continuing and very important role that secondary data analysis has in terms of research and policy analysis, and hence has established a small project team to identify a range of release practices which will enhance ongoing analysis of microdata.

Chapters 6 and 7 contain detailed information about the many components of the ABS statistical work program, and improvements to the coverage of official statistics.

Performance Indicator 2.1.2: Demonstrated by a high level of use

The ABS delivers results from all statistical collections, as soon as practicable after the reference period, and makes them available to all users at the same time.

The ABS provides statistics and related information to users via many mechanisms, including:

- printed publications, available for purchase at ABS bookshops or by request from the ABS national subscription service;
- free access to all published statistics via national, state, university and many public libraries across the nation as part of the ABS Library Extension Program (LEP);
- free provision of ABS publications to media organisations recognising that the media is the means by which many Australians find out about official statistics;
- a free national telephone inquiry service for brief information requests;
- free access via the ABS web site to key statistics, summary publications, explanatory and conceptual material on ABS statistics, and a growing number of information directories; and
- ABS@ and AusStats subscription services to provide users with ready access to ABS publications and to a range of multi-dimensional datasets in electronic format.

Access to ABS statistical information continues to increase with significant rises in the use of the ABS web site and the web site-based AusStats subscription service. The ABS web site had over 2 million 'hits' per month in 2001–02, a threefold increase since 1998–99. Particular emphasis has been given to the expansion of data that is available on the ABS web site free of charge, such as basic community profiles derived from the 2001 Census of Population and Housing. The AusStats service has also expanded with the media and LEP member libraries granted access to the service. Subscribers to ABS@ now total eight with the addition of Parliament House, Canberra. The service, which is replicated daily into the intranets of key client organisations which have paid an annual fee for that service, enables staff in those organisations to access ABS information. The information presented reflects the move from traditional paper-based publications to electronically disseminated information, justifying the resources allocated to further developing and improving this medium in the future.

Table 2: ACCESSES TO SELECTED DISSEMINATION SERVICES

	Type of Access	1998–99	1999–2000	2000–01	2001–02
Internet Site	Accesses	8 931 056	14 884 419	20 946 456	27 659 711
AusStats(a)	Downloads	—	26 795	225 585	355 810
ABS@(b)	Subscribers	—	2	7	8
Internet Inquiry Service	Email	5 654	6 114	7 625	15 636
National Information & Referral Service	Calls completed	193 208	170 000	120 165	119 020
Publications(c)	Subscribers	11 658	11 101	11 045	9 654
Dial-a-Statistic—0055/1900	Calls	32 081	23 300	15 465	8 452
CPI Infoline(d)	Calls	2 149	13 300	9 182	7 333
Library Extension Program	Libraries	515	516	516	515
Secondary Providers(e)	Number	65	57	69	65

(a) Service commenced in April 2000. (b) Relates to total number of organisations using the service (including some state and territory governments). (c) Where the number of subscribers is shown this refers to 30 June. (d) Service commenced on 1 October 1998. (e) Various organisations which are licensed to re-sell ABS data.

The ABS provides free access to much of its data through the ABS web site, public libraries, media releases, media enquiries, and the distribution of ABS reports to media offices and to Members of Parliament. Table 3 below shows the level of media reporting (by medium) over recent years. In 2001–02, there was a significant increase in reporting on radio, television and the Internet and in newspapers and magazines. This increase in activity is predominantly attributed to the conduct of, and subsequent launch of results for, the 2001 Census of Population and Housing.

Table 3: MEDIA REPORTING, BY PLACEMENT

<i>Year</i>	<i>Radio, television and Internet news placements</i>	<i>Newspaper and magazine placements</i>	<i>News releases issued</i>
1998–99	4 900	7 200	156
1999–2000	4 600	6 900	144
2000–01	4 800	9 300	383
2001–02	7 088	11 138	156

The ABS conducts small client satisfaction surveys as part of its collection benchmarking studies. The satisfaction surveys assess a number of attributes of the outputs from ABS business surveys, including:

- understanding and responding to information needs;
- providing clear information to enable the user to understand the data;
- data quality and reliability;
- comparability of data over time;
- accessibility; and
- timeliness.

Recent client satisfaction surveys confirm that the ABS is performing well in meeting the needs of its clients.

The ABS maintains a Client Service Charter which describes the relationship between the ABS and users of its products and services. During 2001–02 three complaints from clients were recorded in response to the charter. The complaints related to the ABS charging policy (two) and the late delivery of consultancy material (one). Each complaint was responded to in a timely manner.

Performance Measure 2.2: Openness of planning process

ABS planning processes and decisions are open, relevant and independent. The ABS manages this by maintaining a rolling three-year forward work program, published on the ABS web site, which develops and allocates resources to program outputs. The external dialogue which forms such an important element of the ABS planning process is also critical to ensuring the relevance of ABS statistical output. In establishing its forward work program, the ABS is advised by the following user groups:

- ASAC;
- state government advisory groups; and

- various other formal user groups comprising, as relevant, Commonwealth and state government agencies, academics, business organisations, unions, community groups.

These include:

- Economic Statistics User Group;
- Labour Statistics Advisory Group;
- Environmental Statistics Advisory Group;
- Rural and Regional Statistics Advisory Group; and
- National Advisory Group on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Information and Data.

Extensive consultation is also undertaken with key users in the development of specific collections once a decision has been made to include the collection in the forward work program. The information obtained through these forums is supplemented with information gathered from bilateral discussions with key clients, conferences and seminars, outposted statistical officers, and day-to-day contact with clients in the course of disseminating and advising on the use of data.

Some of the key outcomes in 2001–02 from the user consultation process include:

- the first phase of the development of a future collection strategy for Agriculture statistics;
- development of an Information Paper highlighting a range of measures of labour underutilisation;
- development of a draft framework to measure social capital; and
- development of *Australian Culture and Leisure Classifications* (cat. no. 4902.0).

3: Appropriate use of statistical standards, frameworks and methodologies

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

An important ABS activity is the development and implementation of national statistical standards, frameworks and methodologies, which are applied, as appropriate, to all ABS statistical collections, including business and household surveys. A number of publications outlining statistical standards were issued during the course of the year.

The ABS is active in encouraging other Commonwealth and state government agencies to adopt these standards, frameworks and methodologies in their statistical activities.

Activities and achievements during 2001–02 included:

- review of the statistical codes for exports and imports to reflect changes in the international Harmonized Commodity Coding and Description System. The new codes were implemented by the Australian Customs Service from January 2002;
- release of *Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (cat. no. 6102.0), providing a comprehensive description of the concepts and methods underpinning ABS labour statistics;
- release of *Australian Culture and Leisure Classifications* (cat. no. 4902.0) providing industry, product and occupation classifications on the culture and leisure sectors;
- release of *Australian Standard Geographical Classification* (cat. no. 1216.0), based on the 2001 Census for use in the collection and dissemination of geographically classified statistics. This edition contained a classification of remoteness for the first time; and
- the adoption by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs of the *Standards for Statistics on Cultural and Language Diversity* (cat. no. 1289.0) as a framework for reporting in the Australian Public Service Access and Equity Annual Report.

In addition, as part of its plan to develop a National Statistical Service, the ABS is in the process of promulgating best practice guidelines to:

- assist government organisations, at Commonwealth, state/territory and local levels, to exercise their responsibilities with respect to producing and publishing important statistical information that results (or could result) from their own activities; and
- promote principles and ‘best practice’ to guide the achievement of high standards in the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics.

The guidelines will also describe how the ABS can help organisations in these tasks.

To ensure a strong professional statistical focus at senior levels in its work, the ABS established a Methodology Division in 1995–96. The Methodology Division has three key roles in ensuring the adoption of professional statistical principles/methods:

- establishing standards and advising statistical areas on appropriate statistical methods and being our ‘conscience’ on the quality of statistical outputs;

- participating in reviews of existing statistical collections and methods; and
- keeping abreast of professional (methodological) developments through presentation of professional papers and attendance at relevant conferences.

Supporting the work of the Methodology Division has been the formation of a Methodology Advisory Committee consisting of professional statisticians external to the ABS, which meets twice-yearly and provides a forum for peer review of statistical developments in the ABS. Other subject specific advisory boards are also often consulted about methodology issues related to their main focus.

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

The ABS is an active member of the international statistical community, contributing significantly to the development of key international statistical standards, frameworks and methodologies, and their implementation, where appropriate, in Australia. Some of the involvement that the ABS has had during 2001–02 includes contributions to:

- the work of the London Group on Environmental Accounting, including the draft manual *System of Environmental and Economic Accounts*;
- the work of the International Monetary Fund's Balance of Payments Statistics Committee;
- the Technical Expert Group on the *International Producer Price Indexes Manual*;
- the Washington City Group on Disability Statistics;
- the development of the OECD's *Manual on Globalisation Indicators*;
- the work on the International Monetary Fund's *A Manual on Government Finance Statistics*;
- the development of statistical standards for science and technology indicators, including biotechnology, by the OECD;
- the review of the statistical measurement of household income and expenditure, under the auspices of the International Labour Office;
- international discussions on the development of standards for the measurement of disability; and

- the work of a group of 'Friends of the Chair' of the United Nations Statistical Commission for the harmonization of development indicators.

In addition to contributing to the development of new international standards and frameworks, the ABS has also implemented, or is in the process of implementing, several of these including:

- a statistical framework to describe and measure innovation and the knowledge-based economy, consistent with the findings of the OECD Growth Project; and
- a revised Labour Force Survey collection form to reflect latest international standards.

The ABS also provides assistance to statistical agencies in developing nations in implementing the latest international standards. Assistance in 2001–02 included:

- commencement of a twelve-month activity to assist the Philippines improve its national accounts;
- provision of resource persons for workshops to assist developing countries in various priority fields of statistics, including several workshops organised by the UN Statistics Division for ASEAN countries; and
- other technical assistance to a number of countries, including Bhutan, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, North Korea, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

ABS officers held prominent positions on a number of international committees and steering groups during 2001–02. These included:

- the Australian Statistician as President of the International Statistical Institute, from August 2001;
- the First Assistant Statistician, Information Management Division, as Vice President of the International Association for Official Statistics;
- the Australian Statistician as Vice-Chairman of the United Nations (UN) Statistical Commission, to December 2001;
- the Australian representative (initially the Deputy Australian Statistician, Population Statistics Group, and subsequently the Australian Statistician) as Chairperson of the Committee on Statistics of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; and
- the Deputy Australian Statistician, Population Statistics Group, elected as Chairperson of the Governing Board of the UN Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific.

4: Improving coordination of the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics produced by other official bodies

Performance Measure 4.1: Statistical Clearing House activity

The primary objective of the Statistical Clearing House (SCH) is to reduce the reporting burden placed on business providers by Commonwealth agencies (including the ABS). The SCH pays particular attention to eliminating duplication in business surveys, and ensures that surveys conducted follow good statistical methodologies and practices. In view of its statistical expertise and statutory coordination role, the ABS was empowered to administer the clearance process.

The number of survey reviews at various stages of completion on 30 June 2002, for the 2001–02 financial year, is presented in the table below. Of the 115 completed reviews, all but five have resulted in approval to proceed. However, SCH intervention has resulted in 44 instances of improved survey design and/or reduced provider load. For 2001–02, the annual load imposed on providers by non-ABS surveys reviewed by the SCH has been estimated at 21,700 hours.

Table 4: STATISTICAL CLEARING HOUSE — REVIEW OF STATISTICAL COLLECTIONS, 2001–02

	Completed	In progress	In scope — not to be reviewed(a)
ABS	38	9	8
Other	77	13	36
Total	115	22	44

(a) Smaller surveys such as product evaluation surveys are not considered necessary to review.

The SCH's Commonwealth Register of Surveys of Businesses (available on the Internet at <www.sch.abs.gov.au>) provides access to information on collections that have already been conducted, including survey design standards and best practices for organisations developing surveys. There are 537 surveys currently on the Statistical Clearing House web site.

Performance Measure 4.2: Assisting other official bodies with integration of administrative and statistical data, including outposting ABS officers and providing training on statistical standards, frameworks and methodologies

Under section 6(c) of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*, a key function for the ABS is to improve coordination of the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics produced by other official bodies.

In accordance with the Act, the ABS continues to develop the concept of the National Statistical Service by broadening the concept of ABS statistical responsibilities to include not only statistics collected by the ABS, but also data produced or available from other government and non-government agencies. The ABS provides leadership to Commonwealth and state agencies in making better use of their administrative data so that it can provide another source of quality data for statistical purposes. The ABS encourages agencies to adopt a holistic approach to improving the quality of statistics available to users through the application of similar methodologies to administrative and statistical data.

One of the ways the ABS achieves its objective of providing leadership is by outposting statistical officers to state/territory and Commonwealth Government departments and agencies with a view to facilitating the access to, and the understanding of, statistics, and strengthening statistical coordination across these bodies. Seven Commonwealth agencies were assisted by nine outposted statistical officers during 2001–02. ABS regional offices provide outposted officers, usually in the form of short term secondments, to give statistical and technical assistance in particular projects undertaken by state/territory governments. In most regional offices, state/territory government agencies were assisted by outposted ABS officers in 2001–02.

Table 5: ABS OUTPOSTED OFFICERS, 2001–02

	<i>Long term</i>	<i>Short term</i>
Commonwealth	9	—
State	7	22

Examples of new partnerships with Commonwealth, state and local government agencies to identify and utilise a greater range of administrative data currently under way are:

- the development of experimental estimates of wage and salary earners in regions of Australia for the first time using unidentifiable Australian Taxation Office individual income tax return data;
- assessments of state agency data holdings in South Australia, Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory, including datasets about transition of youth to adulthood (South Australia); supported accommodation assistance (Northern Territory); and road safety (Tasmania);
- identification of data sources in priority policy areas including a study of the Western Australia resource industry; and sources of regional statistics (New South Wales);
- undertaking joint research with the Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) to analyse labour and income dynamics using unidentifiable customer records in the FaCS’ databanks, and to assess the suitability of the data and the metadata for analytical applications; and

- a project working with Commonwealth and state/territory government agencies to assist them to implement statistical protocols prepared by the ABS, aimed at improving the quality and comparability of administrative data.

Some of the key achievements in assisting state/territory government agencies through statistical consultation, statistical analysis, modelling of existing ABS or client data, and statistical training or seminars for clients and users, during the year included:

- the conduct of various household surveys including Crime and Safety (New South Wales); Teleworking (New South Wales); and Safety in the Home (Queensland); as well as assistance with the development and conduct of a Survey of Aboriginal Child Health (Western Australia);
- assistance to the states with strategic indicator projects including a framework for indicators of regional wellbeing for *Growing Victoria Together*; and statistical information management for *Tasmania Together*; and
- statistical analysis including Perth housing density; gross value of Western Australia fisheries; small area measures on non-standard census districts (New South Wales); and estimations for the Survey of Recreational Fishing (New South Wales).

Performance Measure 4.3: Identifying, storing, and disseminating statistics from other official bodies

As part of its commitment to provide an expanded and improved national statistical service, the ABS plays a significant role in identifying, storing and disseminating statistics from other official bodies.

The release of *Information Paper: Improvements in ABS Economic Statistics [Arising from The New Tax System]* (cat. no. 1372.0) details changes to the scope of ABS business frames and the effect that has on economic statistics, resulting from tax reform related developments. The changes were implemented in June 2002.

A number of information papers were released in 2001–02 detailing the uses of, and experimental estimates arising from, the combination of Australian Taxation Office data with ABS data. These papers were:

- *Information Paper: The Use of Individual Income Taxpayer Data for ABS Regional Statistics — Wage and Salary Indicators for Small Areas* (cat. no. 5673.0);
- *Information Paper: Use of Business Income Tax Data for Regional Small Business Statistics — Experimental Estimates, Selected Regions, Australia* (cat. no. 5675.0); and
- *Information Paper: Experimental Estimates, Australian Industry, a State Perspective* (cat. no. 8156.0).

The *Integrated Regional Data Base (IRDB), Australia* (cat. no. 1353.0), provides clients with access to a broad range of information about Australia's regions. The Integrated Regional Data Base (IRDB) contains over 15,000 data items of which over 1,900 are sourced from 34 non-ABS statistical series. In the year 2001–02 the IRDB was expanded with the inclusion of several new data series, two of which are on land use and salinity risk from the National Land and Water Resources Audit, and updates to existing data on agriculture, income, health and aged care.

In 2001–02 the New South Wales, Victorian, South Australian, Tasmanian and Northern Territory ABS Regional Offices published updates of *Regional Statistics* (cat. nos 1362.1–8 series) bringing together data from a large range of sources.

The ABS has established a number of National Centres covering specific areas of statistical activity. The Centres coordinate data collection activities within the ABS, and across other public agencies, and provide a statistical service which includes provision of statistical information, training of data providers, advice on statistical standards and development of quality control procedures.

National Centres have been established for:

- rural and regional statistics;
- education and training statistics;
- crime and justice statistics;
- culture and recreation statistics; and
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander statistics.

Some of the key achievements of the National Centres during 2001–02 were:

- the development of a framework for education and training statistics;
- the release of a standard classification for use in the collection, storage and dissemination of statistical and administrative educational activity data;
- the release of industry, product and occupation classifications for the culture and leisure sectors; and
- commencement of the production of an Information Development Plan for rural and regional statistics and the subsequent development of a statistical framework.

In recent years, the ABS has also produced a range of statistical directories to provide users with information on sources of statistics (both from the public and private sectors) for particular topics. Such directories include:

- agriculture and rural statistics;
- electricity, gas, water and sewerage statistics;
- superannuation related statistics;
- industrial relations;
- education and training;
- Census statistics;
- child and family statistics;
- energy;
- tourism;
- mining; and
- transport.

OUTPUT MEASURES

5: Increase the quantity of output

Performance Measure 5.1: Increase the range of statistics disseminated

The ABS continues to increase the range of statistics disseminated by releasing a range of new publications, expanding the data released in existing publications, and increasing the range of electronic releases.

During 2001–02 a range of new statistics were released in a number of new publications or products, of which the notable ones are:

- *State and Regional Indicators, Victoria* (cat. no. 1367.2), which is a major monthly and quarterly statistical series covering a large range of key state indicators including State final demand, population and vital statistics, employment and unemployment, wages and prices;

- *Population Projections, Tasmania* (cat. no. 3222.6), contains alternative projections (based on different assumptions as to future fertility, mortality and migration) of the resident population of Tasmania, the Statistical Local Areas and Local Government Areas at five-yearly intervals from 1999 to 2021;
- *Population Projections, Northern Territory* (cat. no. 3222.7), contains alternative projections (based on different assumptions as to future fertility, mortality and migration) of the resident population of the Northern Territory at yearly and five-yearly intervals from 1999 to 2021. It also includes alternative projections of the resident populations for Darwin/Balance of Northern Territory, Statistical Subdivisions, Statistical Local Areas and Local Government Areas;
- *Population Mobility, Queensland* (cat. no. 3237.3), provides data on characteristics of people moving to and within Queensland in the last three years and the factors influencing their movements. It also presents information on moves planned within the next three years;
- *Disability, New South Wales* (cat. no. 4443.1), presents information about people with disabilities in New South Wales. The major themes covered in this report include: disability prevalence and restriction; carer information and assistance provided by family and friends; population patterns; housing and living arrangements; education, employment and income; community participation; and transport;
- *Venture Capital, Australia* (cat. no. 5678.0), provides details of venture capital activity from venture capital fund managers. The information includes, in broad terms, fund commitments and drawdowns by source of funds, assets and liabilities of the venture capital fund and financing flows between the fund and its investors and investee companies;
- *Work-Related Injuries, Australia* (cat. no. 6324.0), provides information on persons who worked at some time in the previous 12 months and who suffered a work-related injury or illness. Estimates are cross-classified with labour force characteristics and demographics such as state, sex, relationship in household, marital status, birthplace, occupation, industry;
- *Superannuation: Coverage and Financial Characteristics, Australia* (cat. no. 6360.0), presents superannuation coverage and financial information from the Survey of Employment Arrangements and Superannuation. It also contains socio-demographic and employment characteristics of people with and without superannuation and reasons for not contributing to, or not having superannuation;
- *Generosity of Australian Businesses* (cat. no. 8157.0), contains a snapshot of the extent of giving by the business sector to the community sector in Australia during 2000–01. Data include the value of donations made, sponsorships provided and community projects undertaken by business;

- *Television Services, Australia* (cat. no. 8559.0), contains information about the television services industry. Data include: industry size; employment; income; expenses; and net operating surplus and information on in-house television productions;
- *Museums, Australia* (cat. no. 8560.0), contains information about the number and type of museums; employment; income; expenses and selected performance ratios, with breakdowns of key characteristics by size and by state. It also includes information on admissions; artefacts; art works; special exhibitions; hours open; use of information technology; and other museum/gallery activity;
- *Veterinary Services, Australia* (cat. no. 8564.0), contains information about the veterinary services industry and includes industry size; employment; income; expenses and industry value added;
- *Business Events Venues Industry, Australia* (cat. no. 8566.0), summarises information about the business events venues industry and includes industry size; employment; income; expenses and selected performance ratios, with breakdowns of key characteristics by business size and by state;
- *Hire Industries, Australia* (cat. no. 8567.0), details information about the plant and equipment and household goods hire industry and includes industry size; employment; income; expenses; and net operating surplus;
- *Freight Movements, Australia, Summary* (cat. no. 9220.0), provides statistics on tonnes and tonne-kilometres of freight moved in Australia between selected statistical divisions by mode (rail, sea, air and selected road). Information on tonnes moved by broad commodity grouping (based on the Australian Transport Freight Commodity Classification) and dissections of freight classified by liquid bulk, solid bulk, containerised, dangerous or refrigerated are also included;
- *Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia (Electronic Publication)* (cat. no. 9314.0), contains monthly information on sales of new motor vehicles in each state/territory sourced from the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries. This publication is released electronically only; and
- *Australian Business Expectations; State by Industry Data* (cat. no. 5255.055.001), in Excel spreadsheet form, is a companion to *Australian Business Expectations* (cat. no. 5250.0). The spreadsheet contains detailed state breakdowns on the expectations of businesses in both the short term (the next three months) and the medium term (the current quarter of the following year) for a range of business performance indicators. This product is released electronically only.

Performance Measure 5.2: Innovative outputs

In addition to the new statistics released in the publications listed in Performance Measure 5.1, the ABS has conducted research which has led to the release of innovative new estimates, classifications and publications. Also released were a number of information papers informing users about conceptual issues, new methodologies and pending changes to current ABS collections.

Some of the innovative outputs released by the ABS in 2001–02 were:

- *Information Paper: Outcomes of ABS Views on Remoteness Consultation, Australia* (cat. no. 1244.0.00.001), which summarises the feedback received from the first paper and responds to some commonly asked questions and suggestions. The paper also describes the changes which ABS will make in response to that feedback and further clarifies the purposes for which the new remoteness classification should, and should not, be used;
- *Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)* (cat. no. 1272.0), which is a new Australian standard classification, replacing the ABS Classification of Qualifications. It provides a basis for comparable administrative and statistical data on educational activities and attainment classified by level and field;
- *Measuring Australia's Progress* (cat. no. 1370.0), which considers some of the key aspects of progress. It provides a national summary of many of the most important areas of progress, presenting them in a way which can be quickly understood by all Australians. It informs and stimulates public debate and encourages all Australians to assess the bigger picture when contemplating progress;
- *Information Paper: Improvements in ABS Economic Statistics [Arising from The New Tax System]* (cat. no. 1372.0), which considers implications for economic statistics of the new units model and changes to the scope of business frames, implemented in June 2002, resulting from tax reform related developments;
- *Teleworking, New South Wales* (cat. no. 1373.1), which contains data on the frequency and characteristics of teleworking in New South Wales;
- *Australia's Environment: Issues and Trends* (cat. no. 4613.0), presents a broad selection of environmental statistics and information which illustrate topical environmental issues. Examples of specific issues covered in the second edition include: environmental accounts, eco-efficiency and indicators; land degradation; genetically modified organisms; uses and values of forests and woodlands; the environmental impacts of mining; and waste generation and minimisation;

- *Illicit Drug Use, Sources of Australian Data* (cat. no. 4808.0), provides a comprehensive overview of sources of national data measuring the impact of illicit drug use in Australia. The publication examines data available on economic, social, crime and health impacts of illicit drug use on the community. Gaps in current data collections are also identified;
- *Australian Culture and Leisure Classifications* (cat. no. 4902.0), presents three separate classifications for culture and leisure data, covering industries, occupations and products. The development of these three classifications is the first stage in the preparation of a wider framework for managing culture and leisure data;
- *Information Paper: A Methodology for Estimating Regional Merchandise Exports — Including Experimental Estimates for Three Queensland Regions* (cat. no. 5492.0), proposing a methodology for estimating merchandise exports for regions of Australia. The methodology is applied for three regions of Queensland and experimental estimates of merchandise exports provided for 1994–95, 1995–96 and 1996–97;
- *Information Paper: The Use of Individual Income Taxpayer Data for ABS Regional Statistics — Wage and Salary Indicators for Small Areas* (cat. no. 5673.0), which contains experimental estimates of the total number of wage and salary earners and their average wage and salary income for Local Government Areas, Statistical Local Areas, Statistical Subdivisions and Statistical Divisions in each state and territory of Australia for the years 1995–96 to 1998–99;
- *Information Paper: Use of Business Income Tax Data for Regional Small Business Statistics — Experimental Estimates, Selected Regions, Australia* (cat. no. 5675.0), contains experimental estimates of regional business economic activity using the Australian Taxation Office business income tax data. This paper presents experimental estimates for statistical divisions for 1995–96, 1996–97, 1997–98, 1998–99 and 1999–2000;
- *Business Indicators, Australia* (cat. no. 5676.0), which summarises quarterly estimates of profits, income from the sale of goods and services, wages and salaries, and the book value of inventories. Volume measures are published for sales and inventories;
- *Information Paper: Improvements to Australian Bureau of Statistics Quarterly Business Indicators* (cat. no. 5677.0), describes improvements to ABS quarterly business indicators implemented in 2001. These improvements resulted from the integration of the surveys of Company Profits; Inventories, Sales and Services; and the private sector component of Employment and Earnings into a single survey called the Quarterly Economic Activity Survey. The information paper also details future developments, along with implications for time series and the publication and release strategy.

- *Information Paper: Measures of Labour Underutilisation* (cat. no. 6296.0), describes the extent of underutilisation of labour resources in the economy, such as information on discouraged jobseekers and underemployed workers. While the ABS continues its commitment to producing employment statistics based on internationally accepted definitions, it also recognises that the headline unemployment rate cannot satisfy all the purposes for which such data are required;
- *Producer Price Indexes, Australia* (cat. no. 6427.0), summarises a range of producer price indexes within a stage of production framework, and a set of partial, stand-alone measures relating to specific industry sectors of the economy;
- *Information Paper: Price Index of Domestic Final Purchases, Australia* (cat. no. 6428.0), introduces experimental index numbers for a new economy-wide price index of Domestic Final Purchases. It represents the last major element of the system of price indexes articulated in the earlier *Information Paper: An Analytical Framework for Price Indexes in Australia* (cat. no. 6421.0). The focus of this system of indexes is on the analysis of inflation;
- *International Trade Price Indexes, Australia* (cat. no. 6457.0), which contains indexes measuring changes in the prices of imports of merchandise that are landed in Australia each quarter (the Import Price Index), and exports of merchandise that are shipped from Australia each quarter (the Export Price Index);
- *Information Paper: Experimental Estimates, Australian Industry, a State Perspective* (cat. no. 8156.0), presents some experimental estimates produced at state level from data derived using a combination of data from the ABS Annual Economic Activity Survey and business income tax data provided to the Australian Taxation Office;
- *Information Paper: Developments in New Motor Vehicle Statistics* (cat. no. 9313.0), sets out the future role of the ABS in the release of new motor vehicle statistics;
- *Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Digital Boundaries, Australia on CD-ROM* (cat. no. 1259.0.30.002), provides digital boundaries for the Australian Standard Geographical Classification edition for the 2001 Census of Population and Housing;
- *Census of Population and Housing: Basic Community Profile* (cat. no. 2001.0), provides a set of standard tables which contain key social, demographic and economic characteristics of people, families and dwellings;
- *Census of Population and Housing: Indigenous Profile* (cat. no. 2002.0), presents a set of standard tables which contain key social, demographic and economic characteristics of Indigenous people, families and dwellings;

- *Census of Population and Housing: Census Basics, Australia* (cat. no. 2045.0.30.001), is a data-only CD-ROM containing first release basic community profile data and digital boundaries in MapInfo;
- *Voluntary Work, Australia — Confidentialised Unit Record File on CD-ROM* (cat. no. 4441.0.30.001), provides confidentialised unit record data on rates of participation in unpaid voluntary work through an organisation or group. It includes data about the types of organisation with which the voluntary work is associated, the types of activities carried out, time spent volunteering, the characteristics of the volunteer, and the reason for volunteering;
- *Australian Business Register — Counts of Australian Business Numbers (ABNs), Electronic Delivery* (cat. no. 1369.0.55.001), presenting information provided by the Australian Taxation Office, based on data from the Australian Business Register (ABR). The ABR has been developed as part of the introduction of The New Tax System. Data relates to business entities in Australia at 30 June 2001;
- *Census of Population and Housing: 2001 Census Snapshots* (cat. no. 2046.0.55.001), which generally comprises text, tables and maps comparing data from the 2001, 1996, 1991 and some from the 1901 Census years. This is a free web based service aimed at the general community and media;
- *Regional Population Growth, Australia, Electronic Delivery* (cat. no. 3218.0.55.001), which contains the estimated resident population for each statistical local area, statistical subdivision and statistical division in Australia at 30 June of the reference year. Estimates for local government and other areas using statistical local areas as a base can be derived from these estimates. Estimates for postal areas and for population census collection districts are available on request;
- *Industry Concentration Statistics, Data Report — Electronic Delivery* (cat. no. 8140.0.55.001), which provides tables showing the proportion of sales, persons employed, and industry gross product that are concentrated among the 20 largest enterprise groups operating in each industry.

6: Improve the quality of outputs

Performance Measure 6.1: Achieve or exceed timeliness, statistical reliability, response rate and accuracy objectives

Performance Indicator 6.1.1: Timeliness

Performance Indicator 6.1.2: Statistical reliability

Performance Indicator 6.1.3: Response rates

Performance Indicator 6.1.4: Accuracy

Performance Indicator 6.1.1: Timeliness

The timeliness of ongoing series is measured by the gap between the reference period and the date of publication of results. The ABS continues to adhere to preannounced release dates and make improvements, where possible, to the timeliness achieved. Table 6 presents information on timeliness for ABS monthly and quarterly publications for Main Economic Indicator (MEI) statistics, and other general releases.

All the MEI publications in 2001–02 were released with similar timing to that achieved in 2000–01. The apparent decline in the timeliness of the quarterly MEI publications is almost completely due to a change in the make-up of the publications forming the MEI group.

In 2000–01 there were 18 quarterly MEI publications. However, this decreased to 15 in 2001–02 due to the consolidation of some publications so as to provide a more comprehensive and coherent picture of business economic activity. In particular, four separate price index publications were consolidated into two publications. The publications discontinued had a very short lead time and their exclusion in 2001–02 has led to an apparent increase in the average time between the end of the reference period and the release of data.

**Table 6: TIME BETWEEN END OF REFERENCE PERIOD AND RELEASE OF DATA
(average number of elapsed days)**

	1998–99	1999–2000	2000–01	2001–02
Main economic indicator statistics				
Monthly	29	29	29	29
Quarterly	46	46	45	51
Other general releases				
Monthly	36	37	33	34
Quarterly	93	83	75	78

Performance Indicator 6.1.2: Statistical reliability

One measurable component of reliability is revisions to data. Revisions are generally measured by their size and frequency over time. The ABS aims to minimise revisions as much as possible through effective sample and methodological design. It is also ABS policy to inform users of any significant revisions and where appropriate to revise past time series and advise users accordingly.

Improvements to ABS quarterly business indicators were implemented in 2001–02. A number of surveys, Company Profits; Inventories; Sales and Services; and the private sector component of Employment and Earnings, were integrated into a single survey called the Quarterly Economic Activity Survey. These improvements and the effects on the historical time series were outlined in the *Information Paper: Improvements to Australian Bureau of Statistics Quarterly Business Indicators* (cat. no. 5677.0) released in July 2001.

The Information Paper: Improvements in ABS Economic Statistics [Arising from The New Tax System] (cat. no. 1372.0) released in May 2002, provides information about changes to ABS statistical series as a result of The New Tax System. The changes arise from the removal of the wholesale sales tax and the introduction of the goods and services tax, as well as changes to the infrastructure used by the ABS to support compilation of statistical series. Whilst these changes may cause some short-term disruption to statistical series, they will result in a much more effective statistical system.

The table below describes the revisions to quarterly GDP over the past several years. In particular it shows the difference between the first estimate of GDP, and that estimate one year later in terms of the mean revision, and the mean absolute revision, expressed as percentage points. The figures show that revisions to quarterly GDP are relatively small (mean absolute revision) and largely offsetting (mean revision).

TABLE 7: REVISIONS TO GDP, PERCENTAGE CHANGE(a)

	<i>Difference between first estimate and estimate one year later</i>	
	<i>Mean absolute revision % points</i>	<i>Mean revision % points</i>
1993–94	0.4	–0.1
1994–95	0.4	—
1995–96	0.1	—
1996–97	0.4	—
1997–98	0.6	–0.2
1998–99	0.2	0.1
1999–2000	0.1	—
2000–01(b)	0.2	–0.1

(a) Seasonally adjusted chain volume measure. (b) Figures based on three quarters of GDP data.

Performance Indicator 6.1.3: Response rates

The ABS has consistently had very high response rates, and as past international benchmarking studies have shown these response rates compare favourably with other international statistical organisations.

Since response rates vary little over time, it is more appropriate to report against target response rates rather than changes in the rates from year to year. Table 8 shows that response rates for key economic and social collections generally exceed the target response rates set by the ABS. Response rates for the Business Operations and Industry Performance survey for 2001–02 are not currently finalised. However, past experience has shown this figure rises when the survey is finalised. Target response rates for selected social surveys listed in table 9 were all comfortably exceeded.

Table 8: ABS RESPONSE RATES FOR MAJOR ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Survey	Target response rate (%)	2000–01 actual response rate (%) ^(a)	2001–02 actual response rate (%) ^(a)
<i>Labour Force, Australia</i> (cat. no. 6203.0)	97	97	97
<i>Wage Cost Index, Australia</i> (cat. no. 6345.0)	98	99	99
<i>Retail Trade, Australia</i> (cat. no. 8501.0)	95	97	96
<i>Business Operations and Industry Performance, Australia</i> (cat. no. 8140.0)	85	85	^(b) 84
<i>Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia</i> (cat. no. 5625.0)	80	87	87
<i>Business Indicators, Australia</i> (cat. no. 5676.0)	80	^(c)	83

(a) Average response rates over the year. (b) Response rates were not finalised as at the end of June 2002. (c) The survey commenced full collection from the June quarter 2001.

Table 9: ABS RESPONSE RATES FOR SELECTED SOCIAL SURVEYS

Survey	Target response rate (%)	Previous survey actual response rate (%) ^(b)	2001–02 actual response rate (%)
National Health Survey	85	92	92
National Health Survey — Indigenous component ^(a)	85	—	91
<i>Education and Training Experience, Australia</i> (cat. no. 6278.0)	85	91	92

(a) National Health Survey — Indigenous component only enumerated households in non-sparse areas. (b) The National Health Survey was previously conducted in 1995–96, while the Education and Training Survey was previously conducted in 1996–97. Note the Indigenous component of the National Health Survey was not conducted previously.

Performance Indicator 6.1.4: Accuracy

While all ABS outputs maintain high levels of accuracy in all tables, graphs and text, two types of error are possible in estimate based sample surveys: sampling error and non-sampling error. Sampling error occurs because a sample rather than the entire population is surveyed. One measure of the likely difference resulting from not including all units in the population in the survey is given by the standard error. It is ABS policy that standard errors are included in survey publications, along with descriptions of other types of errors to which outputs may be subject. Non-sampling error arises from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data and can occur in any statistical collection. The ABS ensures non-sampling error is minimised by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient data processing and editing procedures.

Included below are indicators of accuracy for key aggregates from a number of major ABS publications. The relative standard error, obtained by expressing the standard error as a percentage of the estimate to which it refers, is a useful measure in that it provides an immediate indication of the percentage errors likely to have occurred due to sampling, and thus avoids the need to refer also to the size of the estimate. The tables below present a summary view only. More details are available from the publications, or the concepts, sources, and methods publications associated with the collections themselves.

Table 10: RANGE OF RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS(a) FOR MAJOR ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Survey	Key aggregate	2000–01 relative standard error (%)	2001–02 relative standard error (%)
<i>Labour Force, Australia, June 2002</i> (cat. no. 6203.0)	Unemployed persons in Australia	1.4	1.5
<i>Retail Trade, Australia, May 2002</i> (cat. no. 8501.0)	Total retail turnover in Australia	1.0	1.0
<i>Business Operations and Industry Performance, Australia, 1999–2000</i> (cat. no. 8140.0)	Total income (all industries).	1.0	1.0
<i>Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia, March 2002</i> (cat. no. 5625.0)	Actual new capital expenditure, Australia.	1.7	1.7
<i>Business Indicators, Australia, March 2002</i> (cat. no. 5676.0)	Company gross operating profit	(b)	1.0

(a) The relative standard error is obtained by expressing the standard error as a percentage of the estimate to which it refers. (b) The survey commenced full collection from June quarter 2001.

Table 11: RANGE OF RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS(a) FOR SELECTED SOCIAL SURVEYS

Survey	Key aggregate	Previous survey relative standard error (%)(b)	2001–02 relative standard error (%)
National Health Survey	Persons recently consulting a doctor	0.6	n.a.
National Health Survey — Indigenous component	n.a.	—	n.a.
<i>Education and Training Experience, Australia</i> (cat. no. 6278.0)	Number of persons aged 15–64 who have completed a non-school qualification	0.5	0.8

(a) The relative standard error is obtained by expressing the standard error as a percentage of the estimate to which it refers. (b) The National Health Survey was previously conducted in 1995–96, while the Survey of Education and Training was previously conducted in 1996–97. Note the Indigenous component of the National Health Survey was not conducted previously.

n.a. not available — at time of publishing the relative standard errors for the National Health Survey and the Indigenous component were not available.

Performance Measure 6.2: Conduct ongoing research and reviews of quality, and implement their recommendations

Performance Indicator 6.2.1: Outline of ABS statistical reviews

Performance Indicator 6.2.2: Innovative practices — improvements to existing collections as a result of research and development

Performance Indicator 6.2.1: Outline of ABS statistical reviews

The ABS reviews its statistical collections regularly to ensure that its statistics are of good quality. Some reviews cover all aspects of a particular collection, from user requirements, through to data collection, processing, analysis and dissemination. Other reviews focus on particular elements of collections, such as the methodology.

In reviews of statistical collections, external users are widely consulted and, in some instances, external users assist the review team. Internal reviews cover both the effectiveness and efficiency of various ABS activities.

A number of reviews of statistical collections and programs commenced, or were completed, in 2001–02, including:

- the prices program, including the consumer price index;
- the household surveys program, in particular the program's finances;
- the public finance program;
- the public sector Survey of Employment and Earnings;
- the agriculture collection; and
- the ABS strategy for the collection of business statistics — the Business Statistics Innovation Program.

The main outcome of the public finance review was the progressive centralisation of the program over a number of years.

The public sector Survey of Employment and Earnings will continue to be collected but in a reduced form to meet national accounts requirements only.

The Business Statistics Innovation Program is a major development which will be implemented over the next three years and will deliver significant operating efficiencies and improvements to operational processes as a result of technological, methodological and organisational changes to data collection, processing and dissemination.

Performance Indicator 6.2.2: Innovative practices — improvements to existing collections as a result of research and development

Apart from the ongoing reviews of ABS statistical collections, research and development in subject matter areas continues to result in innovative practices for the collection and compilation of data. The results of innovative practices is twofold. Firstly it will lead to more reliable and accurate statistics. And secondly, it may lead to reduced provider load.

A number of statistical collection areas are continuing to investigate ways of using taxation data to supplement or replace existing data. The most significant development in 2001–02 is the use of information arising from the introduction of The New Tax System to benchmark statistical series. *Information Paper: Improvements in ABS Economic Statistics [Arising from The New Tax System]* (cat. no. 1372.0) outlines the improvements to ABS economic statistics as a result of using tax data. During 2001–02 a review was undertaken to identify a range of statistical collections which could benefit from the incorporation of tax data.

The ABS introduced Computer Assisted Interviewing (CAI) for the General Social Survey which went into the field in 2001–02. It is expected that CAI will lead to improvements in the efficiency and data quality of surveys. Currently development work is underway to facilitate the use of CAI for other social surveys and the monthly population survey in the near future.

Improvements were made to several business surveys by integrating them into a single survey called the Quarterly Economic Activity Survey. The improvements were outlined in *Information Paper: Improvements to Australian Bureau of Statistics Quarterly Business Indicators* (cat. no. 5677.0).

Research and development in the national accounts has led to improved methods adopted by the ABS in respect of productivity statistics, and the introduction of new national and state income measures in real terms.

7: Achievement of cost effective outputs

Performance Measure 7.1: Conduct efficiency reviews and audits, and implement their recommendations

Efficiency reviews and audits may be initiated by senior management and by the ABS Audit Committee so as to assess whether resources are being used effectively and efficiently to achieve the ABS's objectives.

Major reviews addressing efficiency issues, were completed during 2001–02 in the following areas:

- the prices program, including the consumer price index;
- the public finance program;
- large business unit and business register;
- significance editing practices in business surveys;
- statistical consultancy; and
- the National Information Referral Service.

These reviews resulted in:

- improvements to the efficiency of collections and processes due to methodological improvements;

- improvements to collections through more efficient use of staffing resources;
- improvements to operations as a result of centralising functions in a single office; and
- assessments of performance against the original business case for particular functions.

A number of other efficiency reviews are in progress for a range of statistical collections and corporate service functions. These reviews aim to achieve efficiency gains via improvements to collection strategies, methodologies, use of information technology, use of contractors, and/or substituting/complementing existing data with administrative data sources.

Performance Measure 7.2: Test operating efficiencies of statistical activities by benchmarking internally and externally

Benchmarking is a key part of the ABS strategy to assess the value for money of its statistical and non-statistical outputs, to understand and learn from best practice, and to improve performance. The ABS views the process of benchmarking as an ongoing exercise, which enables the organisation to achieve continuous improvement across a variety of its outputs.

Benchmarking currently being undertaken at the ABS includes comparisons between ABS statistical collections; comparisons between the operations of other international statistical agencies and the ABS; and comparisons of corporate service functions between other Australian Government agencies and the ABS. These are outlined below.

Comparisons between ABS statistical collections

Internal benchmarking studies during 2001–02 involved the following collections:

- Service Industries Surveys;
- Economic Activity Survey;
- Mining and Utilities;
- Survey of Motor Vehicle Use;
- Business Expectations Survey;
- Mineral and Petroleum Exploration;
- Survey of International Investment;
- Job Vacancies Survey;

- Wage Cost Index; and
- Retail Sales Survey.

These studies broadened the base of benchmarked economic collections, and allowed for continued development of the financial framework and performance measures. They also allowed for collection areas to share elements of better practice, including more cost effective ways of undertaking collection activities. Future internal benchmarking of collections in the Economic Statistics Group will be assisted by the requirement for all collections to report basic financial and performance information on an annual basis.

Comparisons between the operations of a number of international statistical agencies and the ABS

International benchmarking studies during 2001–02 involved the following ABS activities:

- Monthly Retail Survey;
- Labour Force Survey;
- Population Health Surveys; and
- Corporate Governance.

Aside from the population health surveys, these studies are currently nearing completion; as such the outcomes will be reported in next year's Annual Report.

Comparisons of corporate services functions between other Australian Government departments

The ABS continues to conduct benchmarking studies with other Australian Government departments. In 2001–02 the ABS began benchmarking studies with the Australian Taxation Office which looked into the accounts payable and personnel corporate services functions. These studies are not complete and the outcomes will therefore be reported in next year's Annual Report.

In addition to the corporate services benchmarking activities being coordinated by the ABS, the ABS has been involved in three benchmarking activities conducted by the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO). These include:

- “Managing People for Business Outcomes — Benchmarking Study” (ANAO Audit Report No. 61);
- “An Analysis of the Chief Financial Officer Function in Commonwealth Organisations: (ANAO Audit Report No. 28); and

- “Benchmarking the Finance Function — Follow up Report” (ANAO Audit Report No. 62).

The ABS has provided input into these studies in the form of survey participation and by providing comments on drafts. The studies have been finalised and reports have been issued by the ANAO.

Performance Measure 7.3: Market test a number of non-statistical activities to identify possible outsourcing opportunities

The ABS is currently benchmarking several corporate service functions with a view to market testing and outsourcing as appropriate. The organisation has outsourced a number of key functions in recent years including printing and distribution services, a range of training courses related to information technology, leadership and management training, internal audit, and the supply and distribution of stationery supplies. The ABS will continue to investigate additional outsourcing opportunities as they arise.

Performance Measure 7.4: Minimise respondent load

The following table shows the provider load (measured in thousands of hours taken to complete statistical forms) imposed on businesses for 1995–96 and from 1998–99 to 2001–02.

TABLE 12: PROVIDER LOAD IMPOSED ON BUSINESSES BY THE ABS (HOURS '000)

	1995–96	1998–99	1999–2000	2000–01	2001–02
Small businesses(a)	343	202	202	201	167
Other businesses	336	236	228	235	251
Total all businesses	679	438	430	436	418

(a) Defined as businesses with less than 20 employees.

While the Commonwealth Government’s 1996 Small Business Deregulation Task Force found that the ABS accounts for only about 1% of total business compliance costs, the ABS agreed to a 20% reduction in provider load on small businesses. Instead, since then total provider load on small businesses has decreased by around 44%.

Two of the major initiatives which led to a continued reduction in provider load during 2001–02 were:

- the replacement of several individual business surveys with a single survey, Quarterly Economic Activity Survey; and
- the increasing use of administrative data, in particular tax data, to provide more efficient sample sizes, resulting in smaller sample sizes.

SECTION IV

ABS OUTPUTS

Chapter 6 — Economic Statistics Output

**Chapter 7 — Population and Social
Statistics Output**

6 ECONOMIC STATISTICS OUTPUT

DESCRIPTION

The Economic Statistics program responds to the statistical needs of governments and the wider community, taking into account the public and private costs associated with collecting, processing and disseminating statistical information.

At the broad level, the activities undertaken within the Economic Statistics program include:

- collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of economic statistics;
- coordination of the statistical activities of other agencies (through the Statistical Clearing House, participation in national and state statistical committees, and through ABS outposted officers and statistical consultancy services);
- provision of professional statistical support; and
- development, maintenance and promotion of statistical standards, classifications and frameworks for the collection of economic statistics.

The work schedule of the Economic Statistics program is determined after extensive consultation with governments, businesses and community groups, and with the advice of the Australian Statistics Advisory Council. In determining the work program, account is taken of the needs of users, the benefit of statistics to decision makers and researchers, the load on providers, the availability of skilled resources to undertake the work, and the costs associated with the activities.

Individual components within the Economic Statistics program have close links with a wide range of government agencies providing data; users of statistical information; and with clients of the statistical coordination and consultancy services. The statistical activities of other agencies complement the activities of the Economic Statistics program, resulting in a comprehensive national statistical service.

The effectiveness and efficiency of the Economic Statistics program is enhanced by significant and wide ranging input from the ABS corporate and statistical support areas. These inputs include methodological, technological, dissemination, human resource and financial support.

Appendix 1 lists the components of the Economic Statistics program.

OUTPUTS

The Economic Statistics program disseminates its statistical information through a range of printed and electronic products and services.

During 2001–02 the Economic Statistics program produced over 150 publication titles directly related to economic statistics, which equated to over 470 individual publication releases. A range of electronic releases, concepts, sources and methods publications, information papers, and statistical directories were also produced.

The output measures in Chapter 5 present an aggregated record of achievements of the Economic Statistics program against identified performance indicators of quality, effectiveness and efficiency during 2001–02.

REVIEW OF COMPONENTS

The remainder of this Chapter reviews the activities and achievements of each component of the Economic Statistics program during 2001–02.

National Accounts

The national accounts component produces statistics which form the core of the Australian system of national accounts. These statistics summarise, in a systematic and comprehensive way, the economic transactions that take place within the Australian economy and between Australia and the rest of the world. The usefulness of the accounts derives largely from the way in which data from a number of sources are brought together and presented in a conceptually consistent way, both for a given period and over time. Australia's national accounts essentially accord with the recommendations contained in the 1993 issue of the System of National Accounts (SNA93), which is the international standard for national accounts statistics.

Senior staff of the component attend meetings of the Joint Economic Forecasting Group (comprising major Commonwealth Government economic policy agencies) to provide advice on the statistics used as input to the forecasting process.

Achievements during the year included:

- publication of the second edition of *Australian National Accounts: Tourism Satellite Account, 2000–01* (cat. no. 5249.0);
- publication for the first time in *Australian System of National Accounts* (cat. no. 5204.0) of an experimental national balance sheet expressed in volume terms;
- publication of a feature article in the *Australian System of National Accounts* (cat. no. 5204.0) regarding the measurement of national and sectoral saving, income and wealth;

- publication of feature articles in the *Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product* (cat. no. 5206.0) on improved methods adopted by the ABS in respect of productivity statistics; and the introduction of new Real Net National Disposal Income and Real Gross State Domestic Income measures;
- continued contributions to the work of the London Group on Environmental Accounting, including the draft manual, *System of Environmental and Economic Accounts*;
- participation in a number of international working parties which have been formed to consider various matters of current importance in a national accounting context. These include task forces on the treatment of software and financial and insurance services. A number of papers were also prepared and presented in a variety of forums both domestically and internationally; and
- provision of technical assistance to the statistical agencies of Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines in relation to the compilation of national accounts statistics.

International Accounts

The international accounts component produces statistics and related information on the balance of payments, international trade in services and the international investment position. Balance of payments and international investment position statistics are published quarterly and annually, while the international trade in goods and services statistics are published monthly.

Achievements during the year included:

- publication of a special article, 'Measuring Australia's Foreign Currency Exposure', in the December 2001 issue of *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position, Australia* (cat. no. 5302.0). The article presented results of an ABS survey that collected quantitative and qualitative data about Australian enterprises' foreign currency exposure and the risk management practices associated with that exposure;
- publication of special articles on 'International Trade in Educational Services' and 'Foreign Ownership of Equity' in the September 2001 issue of *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position, Australia* (cat. no. 5302.0);
- significant progress with data comparisons between the Survey of International Investment and the Survey of Financial Institutions leading to convergence of the two sets of data;
- publication of a special article, 'Foreign Ownership Characteristics of Information Technology Businesses', in the March 2002 issue of *Australian Economic Indicators* (cat. no. 1350.0);
- provision of assistance to the Productivity Commission's Offshore Investment Survey 2001;

- contribution to the development of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's manual on *Globalisation Indicators* and further development of globalisation indicators for Australia;
- development of a survey of outward foreign affiliates trade in services for the reference year 2001–02; and
- contribution to the presentation of a seminar on International Investment Position Statistics in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, organised by the International Monetary Fund and the Bank of Indonesia for the Association of South East Asian Nation countries.

International Trade

The international trade component produces statistics on the value, composition, destination and source of Australia's merchandise exports and imports. These statistics are available on a range of output media, including publications, magnetic cartridge, email, floppy disk and paper reports, and can be tailored to the needs of individual clients. A theme page for international trade on the ABS web site provides users with an extensive set of reference material.

Achievements during the year included:

- publication of special articles in *International Merchandise Trade, Australia* (cat. no. 5422.0), including an analysis of Australia's export markets, 1991–92 to 2000–01 (in June quarter 2001), a description of the changes in the Harmonized Commodity Coding and Description System (in September quarter 2001), or Harmonized System, and an analysis of Australia's trade in wine (in December quarter 2001);
- completion of a review of the statistical codes for exports and imports to reflect changes in the International Harmonized System, and their implementation in entries lodged with the Australian Customs Service (Customs) from 1 January 2002;
- continued participation with Customs in its Cargo Management Re-engineering project, in particular the Accredited Client Program, which will allow selected importers and exporters to report to Customs monthly, rather than for each transaction; and
- substantial progress with investigations into the use of the Australian Business Number to expand the range of information available about Australian businesses engaged in exporting and importing activity.

Financial Accounts

The financial accounts component produces, as part of the Australian system of national accounts, statistics on the financial profile of each sector of the economy, and the markets for various categories of financial instruments. Information on inter-sectoral financial transactions is also provided. Extensive reference material relating to financial statistics is available from the finance theme page on the ABS web site.

The component also produces statistics on the lending activity and balance sheets of financial institutions such as banks, building societies, finance companies, credit unions, unit trusts and superannuation funds.

A significant stream of work for the year was continued cooperation with the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA), the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) and data providers for rationalised and harmonized data collection from the financial sector. During the year this project saw:

- commencement, on the new basis of operational data collection and dissemination by APRA, of Authorised Depository Corporation statistics (banks, building societies and credit unions) for use by APRA, RBA and the ABS;
- changes to legislation to assist APRA to collect data from regulated institutions, and registered institutions not otherwise regulated (such as money market corporations and finance companies) in place of ABS collections;
- agreement on the design of data collection for lending activity for all registered and regulated institutions, and for other financial reports from registered institutions; and
- continued cooperation with APRA on collection and production of superannuation statistics, in conjunction with the Australian Taxation Office.

Other achievements during the year included the release of a new publication *Venture Capital, Australia* (cat. no. 5678.0).

Public Sector Accounts

The public sector accounts component provides government finance statistics for the Australian Commonwealth Government, state and territory governments, their public non-financial and financial corporations, local governments, and universities. In addition to a range of annual publications, quarterly statistics are compiled for inclusion in the national accounts, and detailed financial statistics about individual local government authorities are provided on request. The component provides advice on the statistics used as input to the forecasting work of the Public Sector Subcommittee of the Joint Economic Forecasting Group.

Achievements during the year included:

- contribution to the development of the International Monetary Fund's publication *A Manual on Government Finance Statistics* released in December 2001, which is aimed at improving the measurement and international comparability of accrual-based government finances;
- completion of a major review of local government statistics, which resulted in a number of new initiatives in respect of the compilation and dissemination of local government statistics;

- a review of the public finance program to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the operations. Work commenced on implementing the recommendations in January 2002; and
- preparation of the *Australian System of Government Finance Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods* manual, which is planned for publication in early 2002–03.

Prices

The prices component is responsible for compiling the Consumer Price Index (CPI), a range of producer and international trade price indexes, and the Wage Cost Index (WCI).

The CPI measures the change each quarter in the cost of purchasing a fixed basket of consumer goods and services. The producer and international trade price indexes include price indexes of inputs and outputs of manufacturing industry; materials used in the building industry; outputs of selected service industries; and exports and imports. The WCI measures the change in wage and salary costs in the Australian labour market, in isolation of changes in the quality and quantity of work performed.

Achievements during the year included:

- a major review of the prices program which was carried out in the second half of 2001. The review recommended a number of ways of improving the efficiency of the operations of the program. Work commenced on implementing the recommendations in June 2002;
- presentation of a paper 'Improving our Knowledge and Analysis of Changes in Poverty and Inequality: The International Statistical Architecture' to the G-20 Workshop hosted by the Reserve Bank of Australia and the Department of Treasury in May 2002. The paper set out the statistical issues underlying international comparisons of poverty and income inequality;
- amalgamating ten publications containing the quarterly producer price indexes into two publications in July 2001; one covers the price indexes for exports and imports, while the other contains all the remaining producer price indexes compiled by the ABS;
- a feature article on seasonally adjusting the WCI which was published in the April 2002 issue of *Australian Economic Indicators* (cat. no. 1350.0); and
- an article on purchasing power parities and real expenditures in Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development countries which was published in the March 2002 issue of *Australian Economic Indicators* (cat. no. 1350.0).

Business Statistics

The business statistics program produces indicators of current economic activity through the publication of quarterly estimates of company profits, sales, inventories and wages, and current and future economic activity, in respect of new capital expenditure.

Achievements during the year included:

- introducing a new publication *Business Indicators, Australia* (cat. no. 5676.0) which consolidated estimates of company profits, sales, inventories and wage and salaries and replaced two existing publications;
- presenting an increased range of data including:
 - original, seasonally adjusted and trend estimates of income from sales of goods and services (in both current price and chain volume terms) for an expanded range of industries;
 - state/territory data for income from sales of goods and services in original current price terms;
 - wages and salaries (in original current price terms) at both the national and state/territory level; and
 - seasonally adjusted and trend estimates by industry for the new profits measure introduced in the previous financial year.
- increasing the coverage of the company profits series to companies with 20–30 employees;
- introducing the concurrent seasonal adjustment methodology for inventories and income from sales of goods and services;
- the earlier release of state estimates of new capital expenditure by including the state data in the national publication; and
- commencing the collection of expenditure on computer software as part of the quarterly Survey of New Capital Expenditure.

Economy Wide Statistics

The economy wide statistics component is responsible for a range of annual statistics on the financial operations and performance of businesses in the Australian economy. The component also conducts a quarterly survey of expectations of short and medium term business performance, which covers the whole economy except agriculture and general government.

Achievements during the year included:

- conduct of the inaugural Business Generosity Survey which was undertaken in conjunction with the 2000–01 Economic Activity Survey. Estimates were released in *Generosity of Australian Businesses, 2000–01* (cat. no. 8157.0);
- release of experimental estimates at the 4 digit Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) class level for a range of industries in *Australian Industry, 1999–2000* (cat. no. 8155.0); and
- release of *Experimental Estimates, Australian Industry, 1999–2000* (cat. no. 8156.0) which presents experimental state estimates at the 2 digit ANZSIC class level for selected industries.

Small Business Statistics

The small business statistics component produces data about the size, structure and performance of small and medium sized businesses, to assist policy makers, researchers and the community to understand the behaviour of the sector.

Achievements during the year included:

- preparation of a publication of summary data updating estimates of the number and employment of small businesses in Australia in *Small Business in Australia, 2001* (cat. no. 1321.0), which is due for release in August 2002;
- release of a fourth publication from a household survey of small business operators: *Characteristics of Small Business, Australia, 2001* (cat. no. 8127.0), as well as preparatory work for the next edition; and
- completion of a number of research topics for clients on small and medium sized business performance using data from the Business Longitudinal Survey and Characteristics of Small Business Survey.

Science and Technology

The science and technology component provides statistics on innovation, research and experimental development, and information technology. The latter include statistics on the demand for information technologies by businesses, government, households and farms, and on the supply and distribution of information technology and telecommunications goods and services.

Achievements during the year included:

- publication of *Research and Experimental Development, Higher Education Organisations, Australia, 2000* (cat. no. 8111.0);

- publication of statistics measuring government information technology expenditure and employment in *Government Use of Information Technology 1999–2000, Australia* (cat. no. 8119.0);
- publication of information on the use of information technology on farms, including regional statistics on the use of computers and the internet in *Use of Information Technology on Farms, Australia, June 2000* (cat. no. 8150.0);
- continued work on a draft framework for measuring the Knowledge-based Economy and Society, for which a discussion paper is scheduled for release in early 2002–03; and
- contributions to the development, by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, of statistical standards for science and technology indicators particularly in relation to standards for research and development statistics and biotechnology statistics, electronic commerce, and measuring household and business use of information technology.

Agriculture

The agriculture component provides statistics on the structure, performance and production of the agriculture industry. Data collected and disseminated include monthly information on livestock slaughterings, quarterly information on poultry slaughterings and wool receivals by brokers and dealers, and detailed annual information on the operations of farm businesses including commodity production and other characteristics such as land management practices. Every five years a census of farm businesses, rather than a sample, is undertaken to provide a comprehensive picture of the sector and to provide detailed regional and commodity data.

A range of derived statistics, including estimates of the value of agricultural commodities produced, is also provided by the agriculture component.

Achievements during the year included:

- development of the 2001–02 Agricultural Coverage Survey;
- further refinement of the agricultural statistics theme page on the ABS web site to provide users with better access to a range of statistical advice, information, and issues important to providers and clients, as well as details on the products and services available;
- completion of coordination arrangements with the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics for collection of farm finance statistics;
- in consultation with key stakeholders, the first phase of the development of the future collection strategy for the ABS agricultural statistics program and a national agricultural statistics system;

- successful conduct of the five-yearly 2000–01 Agricultural Census, the final results of which will be released in November 2002;
- development work on aspects of geocoding of agricultural census data; and
- development work associated with the transition to a register of farms based on the Australian Business Register.

Mining

The mining component conducts annual surveys of the mining, electricity, gas, water and sewerage industries to provide statistics on the structure, performance and production of these industries. The component also conducts quarterly collections of actual and expected mineral and petroleum exploration.

Achievements during the year included:

- making available, for the first time, current and historical mineral and petroleum exploration statistics on ABS AusStats;
- development of a collection strategy to optimise the benefits in terms of outputs and reducing the reporting load of businesses, resulting from the introduction of The New Tax System. The changes include the use of business income tax data for the production of mining estimates;
- development of procedures for the handling of unincorporated joint ventures in all economic statistics collections; and
- completion of the feasibility study into the collection of cost of land access in mineral exploration.

Manufacturing

The manufacturing component provides statistics on the structure, performance and production of the manufacturing industry. Data collected and disseminated include commodity production statistics, and extensive statistics on the structure, financial operations, performance, and other characteristics of the manufacturing industry. The latter set of statistics is obtained from an annual manufacturing industry survey.

Achievements during the year included:

- further development of a collection strategy to optimise the benefits in terms of outputs and reducing the reporting load on businesses resulting from the introduction of The New Tax System. The changes include the use of business income tax data for the production of manufacturing estimates; and
- implementation of the recommendations from the review of the annual manufacturing industry survey.

Construction

The construction component produces statistics on the structure, performance and other characteristics of the construction industry, and timely indicators of activity for the three components of construction: residential building; non-residential building; and engineering construction. Sources of data include monthly building approvals reported by approving authorities, and quarterly surveys of building activity and engineering construction. The component also conducts a construction industry survey on an irregular basis to provide measures of the structure of the construction industry as a whole.

Achievements during the year included:

- increased use of sampling techniques in building collections which significantly reduced costs and provider load, without significantly impinging on statistical quality;
- development and release of a building and construction theme page on the ABS web site; and
- expansion of a research program that resulted in the production of a number of research and feature articles that explored issues with building statistics, the community and the economy, such as 'The Relationship Between Changes in Interest Rates and Building Approvals' published in the November 2001 issue of *Australian Economic Indicators* (cat. no. 1350.0) and 'Largest and Fastest Growing Areas in Australia' published in the November 2001 issue of *Building Approvals, Australia* (cat. no. 8731.0).

Transport

The transport component provides monthly analytical statistics on sales of new motor vehicles, annual statistics of motor vehicle use, together with the associated motor vehicle censuses which provide data on the characteristics of the Australian vehicle population and a periodic collection of freight movements for road, rail, sea and air modes. Other activities include maintenance of the transport theme page and transport newsletter updates on the ABS web site, irregular production of a directory of transport statistics, occasional compendium publications, and the development and promotion of statistical frameworks and classifications.

Achievements during the year included:

- first release of the publication *Freight Movements, Australia, Summary* (cat. no. 9220.0) presenting results, using a new survey methodology, of estimates of freight movements by road, rail, sea and air for the 12 months ended 31 March 2001;
- release of *Information Paper: Developments in New Motor Vehicle Statistics* (cat. no. 9313.0) which provided an outline of the future role of the ABS in relation to statistics on new motor vehicles; and

- the introduction of the monthly electronic publication *Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia* (cat. no. 9314.0) in February 2002 following the cessation of *New Motor Vehicle Registrations, Australia: Preliminary* (cat. no. 9301.0) in January 2002. This publication presents information on sales of new motor vehicles in each state/territory in original, seasonally adjusted and trend terms with original data sourced from the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries.

Service Industries

The service industries component produces statistics on the size, structure, operations and output of a range of Australian service industries.

Achievements during the year included:

- completion of the 1999–2000 round of publications: *Community Services, Australia* (cat. no. 8696.0); *Television Services, Australia* (cat. no. 8559.0); *Film and Video Production and Distribution, Australia* (cat. no. 8679.0); *Performing Arts Industries, Australia* (cat. no. 8697.0); *Commercial Art Galleries, Australia* (cat. no. 8651.0); *Hire Industries, Australia* (cat. no. 8567.0); and *Veterinary Services, Australia* (cat. no. 8564.0);
- publication of 2000–01 publications *Clubs, Pubs, Taverns and Bars, Australia* (cat. no. 8687.0); *Casinos, Australia* (cat. no. 8683.0); *Selected Amusement and Leisure Industries, Australia* (cat. no. 8688.0); and *Business Events Venues Industry, Australia* (cat. no. 8566.0);
- methodological research into surveys of the private practice medical industry, legal services, accounting services, employment placement and contract staff services, market research services and consulting engineering services industries; and
- user consultations undertaken in relation to proposed surveys of the real estate, film and video production and distribution, television services, hire, music and theatre production and waste disposal services industries to be conducted in respect of 2002–03.

Retail Survey

The component also covers the retail survey which produces monthly retail turnover statistics. As well as being important in its own right as an indicator of economic activity, retail turnover forms a substantial component of private final consumption expenditure measures in the Australian national accounts.

Achievements during the year included:

- refining the seasonal adjustment process to take account of Easter occurring in late March or early April when some or all pre-Easter shopping is undertaken in March;

- reviewing and implementing revised collection strategy and operational procedures arising from The New Tax System; and
- coordinating the comparative benchmarking of processes and costs for monthly retail collections across a number of international statistical agencies.

Tourism

The tourism component produces quarterly statistics on capacity and demand for tourist accommodation in Australia. Other activities include the development and promotion of statistical frameworks and classifications, production of a quarterly analytical publication *Tourism Indicators, Australia* (cat. no. 8634.0), and irregular production of a directory of tourism statistics.

Achievements during the year included:

- a review of the Survey of Tourist Accommodation involving extensive user consultation to assess the appropriateness of the current survey collection and dissemination strategy and to identify improvements; and
- release of feature articles in *Tourism Indicators, Australia* (cat. no. 8634.0) covering topics such as the Tourism Satellite Account and tourist accommodation developments since 1998.

Environment

The environment component collects and publishes environment and energy statistics, including environment accounts. Within these fields, the component plays a coordinating role in the collection of data, undertakes research, and implements international accounting frameworks for new collections and current data holdings.

Achievements during the year included:

- development and dispatch of the first Salinity and Land Management Survey (as a follow-up to the 2001 Agricultural Census). Farmers were asked how salinity issues are affecting them, how they manage or prevent salinity, and the factors that influence land management decisions on farms;
- further progress and exploratory work associated with Water Accounts, Forest Accounts, Waste Accounts and Land Accounts; and
- conduct of an Environment Management Survey in respect of 2000–01 for the manufacturing and mining sectors. The survey collected information on expenditure by businesses on environment management and protection, and information on a range of other environmental practices. Results from the survey will be published in early 2002–03.

Statistical Consultancy

The statistical consultancy component helps the ABS and external users to meet their information needs through the provision of sample design, statistical methods, methodological reviews, data analysis and statistical training services.

Achievements during the year included:

- provision of methodological advice to the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO), including a review of the completeness of the electoral role and the Centrelink Aged Pension Survey;
- assistance to the Department of Health and Ageing on analysis of data from the Survey of Aged Care Homes;
- development of a data collection assessment framework for the Department of Education, Science and Training;
- analytical service to the Australia and New Zealand Food Authority, for estimation of nutrition adjustment factors using data from the ABS National Nutrition Survey;
- provision of advice on sampling methodology for valuations of the Australian National Library, and a review of GST compliance by the ANAO;
- advice on developing a comprehensive data strategy for the Management Advisory Committee on the Organisational Renewal Project; and
- assistance to the Productivity Commission for the Survey of Offshore Investment.

Statistical Coordination

The statistical coordination component is responsible for the development and operation of the Commonwealth Government Statistical Clearing House. The Statistical Clearing House was established in July 1997 in response to a recommendation of the Small Business Deregulation Task Force. All surveys conducted by, or on behalf of, the Commonwealth Government, involving 50 or more businesses, are subject to review and approval by the Statistical Clearing House prior to data collection.

The Statistical Clearing House has three main objectives: to reduce the load imposed by the Commonwealth Government on business, particularly small business, by eliminating duplication, and ensuring that the design and conduct of business surveys follow good practices; to improve the value of survey outputs by improving the quality of survey methods used; and to improve the use of survey outputs by improving access to documentation of these outputs.

Achievements during the year included:

- completion of 115 reviews, of which 37% have resulted in an improvement to the survey or a reduction in respondent load;
- implementation of the recommendations from the review of the performance of the Statistical Clearing House;
- the development of new marketing material to publicise the Statistical Clearing House to government agencies; and
- the development of enhanced networks with non-ABS agencies to enable identification of non-ABS surveys which are in scope of the Statistical Clearing House review.

Australian Economic Indicators

The Australian economic indicators sub-component publishes *Australian Economic Indicators* (cat. no. 1350.0), a monthly compendium of key national, state and international economic time series. It also contains feature articles, provides a quarterly economic review of the economy, and reports an experimental composite leading indicator of the Australian business cycle.

Achievements during the year included:

- a review of the Australian Economic Indicators to assess the usefulness of the publication and areas for improvement; and
- commencement of a review of the experimental composite leading indicator of the Australian business cycle.

Statistical Services and User Liaison

This component provides a flexible and responsive service to meet priority statistical needs of state and territory governments, additional to those met by ongoing statistical activities of the ABS. The work is undertaken by ABS regional offices and generally takes the form of statistical consultation (such as design, development and conduct of a survey), statistical analysis, modelling of existing ABS or client data, statistical training, and the presentation of seminars for a broad range of clients. Officers are also outposted to state or territory government agencies to carry out specific short-term statistical assignments.

Through this component, the ABS participates in bodies established by state or territory governments to coordinate their statistical activities and requirements in line with national statistical service objectives. This component also maintains bilateral contact with state and territory government departments and agencies in order to be aware of their needs for statistics, their statistical activities and their use of information from existing collections, and to encourage the adoption of uniform statistical standards and practices.

Achievements during the year included:

- development and release of statistical products including: small area population projections by age and sex (New South Wales, Tasmania and the Northern Territory); regional profiles (New South Wales, South Australia, and Western Australia); Indigenous population profiles (South Australia); new datasets (state and sub-state) have been identified in several states (for example, Victoria has identified 67 new state level datasets and 26 new sub-state datasets); and regional small business (Queensland) and disability (New South Wales) data;
- conduct of various household surveys including Crime and Safety (New South Wales); Teleworking (New South Wales); and Safety in the Home (Queensland); as well as assistance with the development and conduct of a Survey of Aboriginal Child Health (Western Australia);
- reviews and/or assessments of state agency data holdings in South Australia, Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory, including datasets about transition of youth to adulthood (South Australia); supported accommodation assistance (Northern Territory); and road safety (Tasmania);
- assistance to the states with strategic indicator projects including a framework for indicators of regional wellbeing for Growing Victoria Together; and statistical information management for Tasmania Together;
- identification of data sources in priority policy areas including a study of the Western Australia resource industry; and sources of regional statistics (New South Wales);
- statistical analysis including Perth housing density; gross value of Western Australia fisheries; small area measures of non-standard census districts (New South Wales); and estimations for the Survey of Recreational Fishing (New South Wales); and
- continuing engagement with state and territory governments about their strategic statistical requirements and their contribution to further development of the national statistical service.

National Centre for Rural and Regional Statistics

The National Centre for Rural and Regional Statistics is responsible for providing leadership for, and coordination and integration of, rural and regional statistics specifically through:

- the development of new regional statistics that are nationally comparable;
- the development of new regional statistics from Commonwealth Government administrative data;

- the production of an Information Development Plan for rural and regional statistics and the subsequent development of a statistical framework; and
- improving access to ABS and non-ABS statistics.

The main achievement of the National Centre, which was in its first year of operation, was the production of experimental estimates of wage and salary earners in regional Australia using Australian Taxation Office individual income tax return data. These estimates were released in *Information Paper: Use of Individual Income Tax Data for ABS Regional Statistics — Wage and Salary Indicators for Small Areas* (cat. no. 5673.0) in November 2001.

7 POPULATION AND SOCIAL STATISTICS OUTPUT

DESCRIPTION

ABS population and social statistics are concerned with describing the social wellbeing of the population. Underlying the notion of social wellbeing is a range of fundamental human needs and aspirations, each of which can be linked to an area of social concern. These have been encapsulated as they have evolved over the years by the United Nations, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, and others. Not surprisingly, governments have implicitly identified with this range of needs and aspirations and they have become the focus of social policy and program and service delivery, and are reflected in many of the structures of government.

The ABS framework for social statistics is built around a number of areas of social concern: health, family and community, housing and neighbourhood, education and training, work, income, crime and justice, culture-leisure and population. The population statistics framework also includes a second dimension which focuses on population groups which are of particular interest to the community and to governments, including because of their special need or disadvantage. This dimension of the framework includes: older people, children, youth, families with children, long-term unemployed, lone parents, people with disabilities, carers, recipients of various government benefits, low income earners, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, and people whose language background is other than English.

The Population and Social Statistics program operates in response to the statistical needs of governments and the wider community, taking into account the public and private costs associated with collecting, processing and disseminating statistical information on population and social issues.

At the broad level, the activities undertaken within the Population and Social Statistics program include:

- collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of population, social, and labour statistics;
- coordination of the statistical activities of other agencies (through participation in national and state statistical committees, through ABS outposted officers, and statistical consultancy services);
- provision of professional statistical support; and
- development, maintenance and promotion of statistical standards, classifications and frameworks for the collection of population, social and labour statistics.

The work schedule of the Population and Social Statistics program is determined after extensive consultation with governments, businesses and community groups, and with the advice of the Australian Statistics Advisory Council. In determining the work program, account is taken of the needs of users, the benefit of statistics to decision makers and researchers, the load on providers, the availability of skilled resources to undertake the work, and the costs associated with the activities.

Individual components within the Population and Social Statistics program have close links with a wide range of government agencies providing data; users of statistical information; and with clients of the statistical coordination and consultancy services. The statistical activities of other agencies complement the activities of the Population and Social Statistics program, resulting in a comprehensive national statistical service.

The effectiveness and efficiency of the Population and Social Statistics program is enhanced by significant and wide ranging input from the corporate and statistical support areas. These inputs include methodological, technological, dissemination, human resource, and financial support.

Appendix 1 lists the components of the Population and Social Statistics program.

OUTPUTS

The Population and Social Statistics program disseminates its statistical information through a range of printed and electronic products and services.

During 2001–02 the Population and Social Statistics program produced over 100 publication titles directly related to population and social statistics, which equated to over 200 individual publication releases. A range of electronic releases, concepts, sources and methods publications, information papers and statistical directories were also produced.

Output measures in Chapter 5 present an aggregated record of achievements of the Population and Social Statistics program against identified performance indicators of quality, effectiveness and efficiency during 2001–02.

REVIEW OF COMPONENTS

The remainder of this Chapter reviews the activities and achievements of each component of the Population and Social Statistics program during 2001–02.

Census

The census component develops and conducts the five-yearly Census of Population and Housing. The results are used to revise population estimates for each of the states and territories, and to provide detailed statistics on the population and its housing within small geographic areas and for small groups within the population. These statistics are used for electoral purposes, for the distribution of government funds, and for a variety of planning, administration and policy activities of government, business and other users.

The 14th national Census of Population and Housing was conducted on 7 August 2001. Detailed final results of the 2001 Census were released on 17 June 2002, only 10 months following the collection phase, and at least one month earlier than for any previous Census.

Within that context, key achievements during the year included:

- highly successful public relations campaigns for the collection and subsequent release of information that resulted in a high level of public cooperation, media and community awareness and access;
- successful recruitment of over 40,000 staff to deliver Census forms to, and then collect from, over 7.8 million households;
- introduction of new technologies during the collection, processing and dissemination phases, in particular the use of intelligent character recognition and automated coding technologies;
- implementation of continuous improvement strategies to ensure data quality; and
- a significant increase in the range of Census products available from the ABS web site free of charge.

Work has commenced on the development of the 2006 Census, leveraging off our experiences during the development and conduct of the 2001 Census. It is anticipated that some data will be collected via the Internet. We will work closely with several other national statistical agencies to assist us with the development of effective procedures in time for the next Census.

Demography

The demography component produces estimates of the population by age, sex, country of birth, Indigenous status, registered marital status, geographical distribution and estimates of families and households. Projections of the population, families and households, according to specified demographic assumptions, are published on a regular basis and produced for individual clients. Statistics are also regularly produced on births, deaths, marriages, divorces, overseas arrivals and departures, and internal migration.

Achievements during the year included:

- working closely with the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs to recover the delay in processing of passenger cards from August 2000 onwards, with a focus on July to December 2001, for use in preparing population estimates pursuant to the requirements of *A New Tax System (Commonwealth-State Financial Arrangements) Act 1999*. Final statistics based on passenger cards for July 2001 to March 2002 were released in quarterly issues of *Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia* (cat. no. 3401.0);
- the conduct, processing and analysis of the results of the 2001 Census of Population and Housing Post Enumeration Survey to evaluate the quality of the 2001 Census results;
- compilation of revised state, territory and national Estimated Resident Populations from September quarter 1996 to December quarter 2001 based on the results of the 2001 Census of Population and Housing and released in *Australian Demographic Statistics, December 2001* (cat. no. 3101.0);
- review and consultation on issues related to the proposed inclusion of unauthorised arrivals in ABS Estimated Resident Population statistics — released for consultation in *ABS Demography Working Paper 2001/8 — Incorporating Unauthorised Arrivals into Population Estimates*;
- release of *ABS Demography Working Paper 2001/6 — Rebasing Australia's Demographic Estimates Using the 2001 Census of Population and Housing*;
- advice and comments on demographic trends and projections to Treasury and the Intergenerational Report Consultative Group;
- continued redevelopment of the ABS processing system to facilitate the timely processing of registered birth, death, marriage and divorce data, and provide the flexibility to respond quickly and effectively to changing client demand; and
- increasing the extent of data available electronically to clients through AusStats.

Labour Statistics

The labour component provides information on the composition and characteristics of the labour force; operations of the labour market; labour costs, earnings and other conditions of employment; and issues relating to education and training.

A senior officer is outposted to the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) and the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR), in recognition of their needs for labour market and education statistics, and the importance of facilitating their access to, and understanding of, these statistics.

Labour market information

Labour force statistics are collected in a monthly survey of households. These statistics provide timely estimates of employment and unemployment, together with basic demographic data, enabling various characteristics of the employed and unemployed to be analysed. In addition, supplementary surveys are run in conjunction with the labour force survey to collect more detailed data on specific labour market issues.

Topics covered by supplementary surveys in 2001–02 included job search experience of unemployed persons, retrenchment and redundancy, multiple job holders, employee earnings, employee benefits, trade union membership, persons not in the labour force, underemployment, forms of employment, labour mobility, and education and work.

The component also conducts a range of employer surveys which provide quarterly data on average weekly earnings, job vacancies, and public sector wage and salary earners. The component also produces: biennial data on the distribution and composition of employee earnings, hours paid for, and methods of setting pay; periodic data on employers' labour costs and training practices; and monthly statistics on industrial disputes.

Achievements during the year included:

- release of *Information Paper: Measures of Labour Underutilisation* (cat. no. 6296.0), which provided a comprehensive array of labour underutilisation measures including two new measures;
- release of a labour theme page on the ABS web site. The theme page has been designed to provide easier access to the wide range of ABS information about the labour market; and
- release of a new publication *Work-Related Injuries, Australia* (cat. no. 6324.0).

National Centre for Education and Training Statistics

Statistics on schools, students and staff are compiled by the ABS from collections conducted in cooperation with the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA). For government schools, the data are collected initially by state and territory education departments; for non-government schools, the data are initially collected by DEST. Statistics on educational attainment, participation in education, and transition from education to work, are produced from regular household surveys and from the Census of Population and Housing.

The Centre also has a major role in statistical leadership and coordination across all sectors of education and training, and is represented on each sector's peak statistical discussion forum.

Achievements during the year included:

- development of an *Occasional Paper: Measuring Learning in Australia — A Framework for Education and Training Statistics* (cat. no. 4213.0) to be released in early 2002–03;
- release of *Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001* (cat. no. 1272.0). This classification has been developed for use in the collection, storage and dissemination of statistical and administrative data relating to educational activity in Australia;
- publication of *Education and Training Experience, Australia, 2001* (cat. no. 6278.0); and
- on behalf of the MCEETYA taskforce, completion of a major study into the feasibility of including questions on school enrolment forms to enable the derivation of information about socioeconomic status, socioeconomic disadvantage, and language background other than English.

Social Conditions Statistics

The social conditions statistics component provides information about the social wellbeing of Australia's population, within a framework of areas of social concern and population groups at risk of disadvantage. This includes statistics relating to the housing, economic and general social wellbeing of the population as well as for subgroups such as Indigenous Australians, women, children, youth, older people, social security beneficiaries, people living in rural and regional areas, and people whose first language is not English.

The component produces statistics from a range of social surveys in the areas of housing, income, superannuation and household expenditure. Reports are also produced, drawing widely on ABS and other data, to address a range of contemporary social issues and to monitor changes in Australian social conditions over time.

Achievements during the year included:

- a series of seminars for external clients to look more closely at the analyses and issues in the eighth edition of *Australian Social Trends* (cat. no. 4102.0);
- publication of the ninth edition of *Australian Social Trends* (cat. no. 4102.0), and its concurrent release in *Australia Now* on the ABS web site;
- publication of *Measuring Wellbeing: Frameworks for Australian Social Statistics* (cat. no. 4160.0), which describes the conceptual frameworks underpinning ABS work in social statistics;
- publication of *Government Benefits, Taxes and Household Income, Australia* (cat. no. 6537.0);

- publication of *Superannuation: Coverage and Financial Characteristics, Australia* (cat. no. 6360.0);
- completion of the development and field collection phases of the 2002 General Social Survey, which focused on different aspects of personal and family wellbeing; and
- contribution as a member of a small international expert group to review, under the auspices of the International Labour Office, the statistical measurement of household income and expenditure.

National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics

The National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics has responsibility for national leadership in the production and dissemination of statistics about Australia's Indigenous population. The Centre works closely with other areas of the ABS, and with a wide range of external agencies, to provide expertise on these statistics and advice on related statistical issues. It coordinates initiatives to improve the quality, use and availability of Indigenous data from a range of sources, and assists Indigenous organisations to improve their capacity to use statistics effectively.

Achievements during the year included:

- completion of the field collection for the 2001 Indigenous Supplement to the National Health Survey, collecting information on: long-term medical conditions; recent injuries; visits to hospitals; consultations with health professionals; use of medications; immunisation status; health-related aspects of lifestyle; and for women aged 18 years and over, information on women's health issues such as breast and cervical cancer screening and the use of contraception;
- publication of *Housing and Infrastructure in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities, Australia, 2001* (cat. no. 4710.0) and related products and services;
- publication of *Population Distribution, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2001* (cat. no. 4705.0);
- publication of *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, 2001* (cat. no. 4704.0);
- publication of a summary of publications 4704.0 and 4705.0 for returning information in an appropriate manner back to Indigenous communities;
- preparation of the 2000 national summary from the jurisdictional reports, against the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health performance indicators. The summary was commissioned by the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council, and compiled on behalf of the National Health Information Management Group;

- preparation of the draft 2001 reporting protocols to be presented to the Steering Committee of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Indicators; and
- completion of the design and development for the 2002 Indigenous Social Survey, collecting information across a range of areas of social concern for Indigenous Australians so that relationships across different aspects of personal and family wellbeing can be explored and information collected in the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey can be updated.

Health and Community Statistics

This component is responsible for social analysis and for providing information on health, family and the community. It is also responsible for developing and promoting standard statistical concepts, definitions and classifications in these areas. The component produces reports describing social conditions in Australia, and the social wellbeing of the population and special population groups (such as women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, aged persons and families). The component produces statistics on health (including causes of death, health status and risk factors, use of health services by the population, and statistics about private health establishments), family and community welfare and wellbeing (including statistics about disability, ageing and carers, voluntary work, child care and time use) and population groups such as persons with a disability, aged persons, families, women and children.

Achievements during the year included:

- conduct of the 2001 National Health Survey (NHS) as the first of a 3-yearly program, under a funding partnership with the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing;
- resolution of threshold issues for the conduct of an Australian Health Measurement Survey (AHMS) in association with the 2004–05 NHS, and the conduct of an initial skirmish for AHMS to provide some indicative data on the achievable response rate. The AHMS is being developed by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare;
- a major contribution to improving analysis of drug-related statistics in Australia by producing and publishing *Illicit Drug Use: Sources of Australian Data* (cat. no. 4808.0) which provides sources of national data measuring the economic, social, health and crime impact of illicit drug use in Australia, and *Information Paper: Drug-Induced Deaths — A Guide to Causes of Death Data* (cat. no. 4809.0.55.001), which outlines the definition of drug-induced deaths to be used in ABS output;
- development of a draft framework to measure social capital and wide user community consultation on the framework;
- release of *Voluntary Work, Australia — Confidentialised Unit Record File on CD-ROM* (cat. no. 4441.0.30.001);

- contribution to international discussions on the development of standards for the measurement of disability; and
- successful development of the Child Care Survey conducted in June 2002.

National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics

The National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics is responsible for producing national statistics about the crime and justice system including reported and unreported crime, criminal court processes and resulting imprisonment in correctional institutions, or alternative arrangements. It coordinates data collection activities within the ABS, and across other public agencies relating to this field, and provides a statistical service which includes provision of statistical information, training of data providers, advice on statistical standards, and development of quality control procedures.

Achievements during the year included:

- the development of an offender based series for the Recorded Crime collection;
- the addition of experimental data for educational attainment in the Prisoner Census collection;
- the addition of experimental data for offence and penalty information for the Higher Criminal Courts collection; and
- agreement to develop National Information Development Plans in the areas of illicit drugs (with the Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence), and sexual assault (with the Office of the Status of Women).

National Centre for Culture and Recreation Statistics

The National Centre for Culture and Recreation Statistics has responsibility for the coordination of national statistical activity in the fields of culture and recreation. It provides expertise within the ABS regarding the collection and analysis of data related to culture and recreation, as well as informing external users about culture and recreation statistics, relevant classifications and standards, and appropriate data analysis.

Achievements during the year included:

- release of the *Australian Culture and Leisure Classifications* (cat. no. 4902.0) which consists of an industry, product and occupation classification of the culture and leisure sectors. These classifications are expected to be adopted widely by users of culture and leisure data in Australia as a basis for future data collection, dissemination and analysis;

- the launch of a culture and recreation theme page on the ABS web site;
- development of a directory of ABS data sources of relevance to the culture and recreation sector which will be made available on the ABS web site;
- development of a collection of statistics on sport and recreation funding by the Government; and
- release of *Work in Selected Culture and Leisure Activities, Australia* (cat. no. 6281.0), and *Involvement in Organised Sport and Physical Activity, Australia* (cat. no. 6285.0).

Geography

The geography component is responsible for developing and maintaining geographic products and services for use by the ABS and its clients. Activities include the production of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) and associated products, provision of a geographic information system, geocoding, and mapping services to the ABS, and continuing development of the Integrated Regional Data Base — an annual regional statistics CD-ROM product.

Achievements during the year included:

- release of the 2002 edition of the *Integrated Regional Data Base (IRDB), Australia* (cat. no. 1353.0), providing clients with access to a broad range of information about Australia's regions;
- release of the *Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)* (cat. no. 1216.0), 2001 (Census) edition, incorporating, for the first time, a classification of remoteness;
- release of digital boundary files for the ASGC 2001 edition including Census Collection Districts;
- release of digital boundary files for non-ASGC 2001 Census of Population and Housing geographic output units;
- release, in consolidated form, of digital boundary files for previous editions of the ASGC from 1996 to 2000, providing a continuous time series of digital boundaries which are now available at the cost of transfer pursuant to the Commonwealth Spatial Data Pricing and Access Policy;
- release of *Statistical Geography: Volume 2 — Census Geographic Areas, Australia* (cat. no. 2905.0) describing 2001 Census of Population and Housing geographic output units such as Postal Areas, Commonwealth and State Electoral Divisions and the Australian Indigenous Geographical Classification; and
- production, for distribution to libraries in electronic format, of 2,700 maps describing the geographic output units of the 2001 Census.

SECTION V

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Chapter 8 — Financial Statements

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

CONTENTS

1. Audit Report
2. Chief Executive Statement
3. Statement of Financial Performance
4. Statement of Financial Position
5. Statement of Cash Flows
6. Schedule of Commitments
7. Schedule of Contingencies
8. Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements



INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To the Treasurer

Scope

I have audited the financial statements of the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the year ended 30 June 2002. The financial statements comprise:

- Statement by the Australian Statistician;
- Statements of Financial Performance, Financial Position and Cash Flows;
- Schedules of Contingencies and Commitments; and
- Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements.

The Australian Statistician is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements and the information they contain. I have conducted an independent audit of the financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to you.

The audit has been conducted in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards, to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. Audit procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia and statutory requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the Bureau's financial position, its financial performance and its cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.



Audit Opinion

In my opinion the financial statements:

- (i) have been prepared in accordance with Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*; and
- (ii) give a true and fair view, in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia and the Finance Minister's Orders, of the financial position of the Australian Bureau of Statistics as at 30 June 2002, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

Australian National Audit Office

Mashelle Parrett
Executive Director

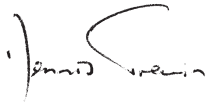
Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra
9 August 2002

GPO Box 707 CANBERRA ACT 2601
Centenary House 19 National Circuit
BARTON ACT
Phone (02) 6203 7300 Fax (02) 6203 7777

STATEMENT BY THE AUSTRALIAN STATISTICIAN

In my opinion, the attached financial statements give a true and fair view of the matters required by Schedule 1 of the Financial Management and Accountability (Financial Statements 2001-2002) Orders made under Section 63 of the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*.



Dennis Trewin
Australian Statistician

9 August 2002

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
For period ended 30 June 2002

	Notes	2002 \$'000	2001 \$'000
Revenues from ordinary activities			
Revenues from Government	3A	355,010	264,092
Sales of goods and services	3B	18,087	18,816
Interest revenue	3C	793	1,027
Net gains from sales of assets	3D	213	343
Other operating revenue		442	651
Total revenues from ordinary activities		374,545	284,929
Expenses from ordinary activities (excluding borrowing cost expense)			
Employees	4A	242,477	179,685
Suppliers	4B	83,519	64,576
Depreciation and amortisation	4C	27,234	22,036
Net loss from sale of assets	3D	968	169
Write-down of assets	4D	4,871	7,332
Other operating expenses		4,204	3,265
Total expenses from ordinary activities (excluding borrowing cost expense)		363,273	277,063
Borrowing costs expense	5	689	427
Net operating surplus (deficit) from ordinary activities		10,583	7,439
Net surplus (deficit)		10,583	7,439
Net surplus (deficit) attributable to the Commonwealth		10,583	7,439
Net credit (debit) to asset revaluation reserve		68	(2,800)
Total revenues, expenses, and valuation adjustments attributable to the Commonwealth and recognised directly in equity		10,651	(2,800)
Total changes in equity other than those resulting from transactions with owners as owners		10,651	4,639

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
As at 30 June 2002

	Notes	2002 \$'000	2001 \$'000
ASSETS			
Financial assets			
Cash	6A	23,036	1,730
Receivables	6B	6,688	5,027
Accrued revenues	6C	148	553
Total financial assets		29,872	7,310
Non-financial assets			
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	7A,7B	53,294	45,232
Inventories	7D	48	2,602
Intangibles	7E	74,425	76,109
Other	7F	6,855	8,451
Total non-financial assets		134,622	132,394
Total assets		164,494	139,704
LIABILITIES			
Interest bearing liabilities			
Loans	8A	12,201	-
Leases	8B	4,835	6,641
Other	8C	735	1,088
Total interest bearing liabilities		17,771	7,729
Provisions			
Employees	9A	68,001	63,217
Total provisions		68,001	63,217
Payables			
Suppliers	10A	11,726	8,724
Unearned Revenue	10B	5,717	2,996
Other	10C	371	70
Total payables		17,814	11,790
Total liabilities		103,586	82,736
NET ASSETS		60,908	56,968
EQUITY			
Parent entity interest			
Retained surpluses or accumulated deficits		40,973	37,101
Contributed equity		11,250	11,250
Asset Revaluation Reserve		8,685	8,617
Total parent entity interest equity		60,908	56,968
Total Equity		60,908	56,968
Current assets		36,775	18,363
Non-current assets		127,719	121,341
Current liabilities		53,709	41,253
Non-current liabilities		49,877	41,483

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS
STATEMENT OF AGENCY CASH FLOWS
for the year period ended 30 June 2002

	Notes	2002 \$'000	2001 \$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Sales of goods and services		22,613	21,445
GST refunds		8,268	4,899
Appropriations for outputs		354,920	264,001
Interest		739	1,027
Total cash received		386,540	291,372
Cash used			
Employees		(237,522)	(180,218)
Suppliers		(91,764)	(85,061)
Borrowing costs		(689)	(427)
Total cash used		(329,975)	(265,706)
Net cash from/(used by) operating activities	12	56,565	25,666
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment		643	457
Total cash received		643	457
Cash used			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(28,075)	(22,231)
Capitalisation of internally generated software		(11,096)	(13,770)
Total cash used		(39,171)	(36,001)
Net cash from/(used by) investing activities		(38,528)	(35,544)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Loans from Department of Finance and Administration		13,200	-
Total cash received		13,200	-
Cash used			
Repayment of debt		(999)	-
Repayment of lease liability		(2,158)	-
Capital use charge paid		(6,774)	(11,111)
Total cash used		(9,931)	(11,111)
Net cash from/(used by) financing activities		3,269	(11,111)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		21,306	(20,989)
Cash at the beginning of the reporting period		1,730	22,719
Cash at the end of the reporting period	6A	23,036	1,730

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS
SCHEDULE OF COMMITMENTS

As at 30 June 2002

	2002	2001
	\$'000	\$'000
BY TYPE		
CAPITAL COMMITMENTS		
Infrastructure, plant and equipment ¹	4,416	1,102
Total capital commitments	4,416	1,102
OTHER COMMITMENTS		
Operating leases ²	247,062	266,123
Other commitments	23,508	9,750
Total other commitments	270,570	275,873
COMMITMENTS RECEIVABLE	(410)	(945)
Net commitments	274,576	276,030
BY MATURITY		
All net commitments		
One year or less	33,747	29,159
From one to five years	79,912	76,658
Over five years	160,917	170,213
Net commitments	274,576	276,030
Operating lease commitments		
One year or less	20,422	19,252
From one to five years	72,813	76,658
Over five years	153,827	170,213
Net commitments	247,062	266,123

NB: Commitments are GST inclusive where relevant.

¹Plant and equipment commitments are primarily for purchase of fitout for new building.

²Operating leases included are effectively non cancellable & comprise:

<i>Nature of lease</i>	<i>General description of leasing arrangement</i>
lease for office accommodation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lease payments are subject to annual increase in accordance with upward movements in the consumer price index; - the initial periods of office accommodation leases are still current and each may be renewed for up to 5 years at the ABS's option, following a once off adjustment of rentals to current market levels.
agreements for the provision of motor vehicles to senior executive officers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - no contingent rentals exist - there are no renewal or purchase options available to the ABS

On 29 June 2001, the Bureau signed a loan agreement with the Department of Finance. It was for the sum of \$13.2 million and was used to partially fund the fitout of a new leasehold office building in Canberra. This loan was drawn down in the 2001/2002 year.

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS
SCHEDULE OF CONTINGENCIES**

As at 30 June 2002

	2002	2001
	\$'000	\$'000
CONTINGENT LOSSES		
Claims for damages/costs ¹	33	26
Net contingencies	33	26

¹The amount represents an estimate of legal claims against the Australian Bureau of Statistics for alleged discrimination. The Australian Bureau of Statistics has denied liability and is defending the claims.

SCHEDULE OF UNQUANTIFIABLE CONTINGENCIES

At 30 June 2002, the Australian Bureau of Statistics had a legal claim against it for alleged unfair dismissal. The Australian Bureau of Statistics has denied liability and is defending the claim. It is not possible to estimate the amount of any eventual payment that may be required in relation to this claim.

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2002

Note

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AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2002

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Objectives of the Australian Bureau of Statistics

The mission and outcome of the ABS is to assist and encourage informed decision making, research and discussion within governments and the community, by providing 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. Support Services consist of overheads, which have been allocated to the Economic and Population and Social statistical areas in these Financial Statements.

A comparison of Budget and Actual figures by outcome specified in the Appropriations Acts relevant to the ABS is presented in Note 22. The net cost to Budget outcomes shown includes intra-government costs that are eliminated in calculating the actual outcomes for the Government overall.

Further information on ABS outcomes and outputs can be found in this Annual Report.

(b) Basis of Accounting

The financial statements are required by section 49 of the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* (FMA Act) and are a general-purpose financial report.

The statements have been prepared in accordance with

- Finance Minister's Orders (being the "*Financial Management and Accountability (Financial Statements 2001-2002) Orders*");
- Australian Accounting Standards and Accounting Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board;
- Other authoritative pronouncements of the Boards; and
- Consensus Views of the Urgent Issues Group.

The statements have also been prepared having regard to the Explanatory Notes to Schedule 1, and Finance Briefs issued by the Department of Finance and Administration.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and are in accordance with historical cost convention, except for certain assets that, as noted, are at valuation. Except where stated, no allowance is made for the effect of changing prices on the results or the financial position.

Assets and liabilities are recognised in the Statement of Financial Position when and only when it is probable that future economic benefits will flow and the amounts of the assets or liabilities can be reliably measured. Assets and liabilities arising under agreements equally proportionately unperformed are however not recognised unless required by an Accounting Standard. Liabilities and assets, which are unrecognised, are reported in the Schedule of Commitments and the Schedule of Contingencies (other than remote contingencies, which are reported at Note 13).

Revenues and expenses are recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance when and only when the flow or consumption or loss of economic benefits has occurred and can be reliably measured.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The continued existence of the Agency in its present form, and with its present programs, is dependent on Government policy and on continuing appropriations by Parliament for the Agency's administration and programs.

Administered revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities and cash flows reported in Note 19 are accounted for on the same basis and using the same policies as for Agency items.

(c) Changes in Accounting Policy

The accounting policies used in the preparation of these financial statements are consistent with those used in 2000-01, except in respect of:

Output appropriations (refer to Note 20)

Equity injections (refer to Note 11)

Presentation and disclosure of administered items (refer to Note 19).

(d) Agency and Administered Items

Agency assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses are those items that are controlled by the Agency and are used by the Agency to produce its outputs.

Administered items are those items that are controlled by the Government and managed or overseen by the Agency on behalf of the Government. In the ABS, administered items are no longer held, however notes are included for comparison. Administered items are distinguished from agency items in the financial statements by shading.

(e) Revenue

Revenues from Government

Revenues from Government are revenues relating to the core operating activities of the Agency. Amounts and other details are given in Note 3A "Revenue from Government".

Appropriations to ABS for its departmental outputs are recognised as revenue to the extent that they have been received into the Agency's bank account or are entitled to be received by the Agency at year-end.

Appropriations to ABS for departmental capital items are recognised directly in equity, to the extent that the appropriations have been received into the Agency's bank account or are entitled to be received by the Agency at year end.

The ABS has not, to date, required or received administered appropriations.

Resources Received Free of Charge

Resources received free of charge are recognised as revenue where the amounts can be reliably measured and the services would have been purchased if they had not been donated (Note 3A). Use of those resources is recognised as an expense.

Contributions of assets at no cost of acquisition or for nominal considerations are recognised at their fair value when the asset qualifies for recognition, unless received from another government agency as a consequence of a restructuring of administrative arrangements.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Revenue from other sources

Sales of goods and services include revenue from the sale of publications and other products and the provision of statistical services. Revenue from sale of goods is recognised upon delivery of goods to customers. Revenue from the rendering of a service is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of contracts or other agreements to provide services.

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable for the financial assets.

Revenue from sale of assets is recognised when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.

Other revenues include contributions from officers towards the provision of communications services and motor vehicles and contributions and fees associated with conferences and seminars. Revenues controlled by the ABS are recognised as departmental revenue. Other revenues are classified as administered.

(f) Administered Revenue

The ABS leases premises for the purpose of processing Census forms. In non-Census years the premises has been sublet and the net revenue from the sublease is returned to the Commonwealth. As the Census was conducted this year the premises was not sublet and no revenue was received.

(g) Unearned Revenue

Unearned revenue includes revenue from subscriptions to statistical publications through various points including the Internet, provision of statistical consultancies and revenue from other agencies for statistical surveys. It is recognised on a proportional basis as the service is provided (Note 10B).

(h) Transactions by the Government as Owner

From 1 July 2001, Appropriations designated as 'Capital – equity injections' are recognised directly in Contributed equity according to the following rules determined by the Finance Minister:

- to the extent that the appropriation is not dependent on future events, as at 1 July; and
- to the extent that it is dependent on specified future events requiring future performance, on draw down.

(In 2000-01, all equity injections were recognised as contributed equity on draw down).

The change in policy has no financial effect in 2001-02 because the full amounts of the equity injections in both 2000-01 and 2001-02 met the criteria now required by the Finance Minister.

(i) Employee Entitlements

Leave

The liability for employee entitlements 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 expected to be taken in future years by employees of the ABS is estimated to be less than the annual entitlement for sick leave.

The liability for annual leave reflects the value of total annual leave entitlements of all the employees at 30 June 2002 and is recognised at the nominal amount.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The non-current portion of the liability for long service leave is recognised and measured at the present value of the estimated future cash flows to be made in respect of all employees at 30 June 2002. In determining the present value of the liability, the ABS has taken into account attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation. Related on-costs have also been included in the liability.

The employee entitlement provision includes superannuation on-costs payable to those employees who take their annual and long service leave prior to resignation or retirement. No superannuation is payable by the Agency when leave is cashed out on resignation or retirement.

Separation and Redundancy

Provision is also made for separation and redundancy payments in circumstances where the ABS has formally identified positions as excess to requirements and a reliable estimate of the amount of the payments can be determined.

Superannuation

Staff of the ABS contribute to the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme or the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme. Employer contributions amounting to \$18,290,805 (2000-2001: \$18,378,544) in relation to these schemes have been expensed in these financial statements. No liability is shown for superannuation in the Agency Statement of Financial Position as the employer contributions extinguish fully the accruing liability that is assumed by the Commonwealth.

Employer Superannuation Productivity Benefit contributions totalled \$5,503,164 (2000-2001: \$4,256,043).

(j) Leases

A distinction is made between finance leases which effectively transfer from the lessor to the lessee substantially all of the risks and benefits incidental to ownership of leased non-current assets and operating leases under which the lessor effectively retains substantially all such risks and benefits.

Where a non-current asset is acquired by means of a finance lease, the asset is capitalised at the present value of minimum lease payments at the inception of the lease and a liability recognised for the same amount. Leased assets are amortised over the period of the lease. Lease payments are allocated between the principal component and the interest expense.

Operating lease payments are expensed on a basis, which is representative of the pattern of benefits derived from the leased assets. The net present value of future net outlays in respect of surplus space under non-cancelable lease agreements is expensed in the period in which the space becomes surplus.

Lease incentives taking the form of 'free' leasehold improvements and rent holidays are recognized as liabilities. These liabilities are reduced by allocating lease payments between rental expense, and reduction of the liability.

(k) Borrowing Costs

All borrowing costs are expensed as incurred except to the extent that they are directly attributable to qualifying assets, in which case they are capitalised. The amount capitalised in a reporting period does not exceed the amounts of costs incurred in that period.

ABS has one qualifying asset for which funds were borrowed specifically in 2000-01.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(l) Cash

Cash means notes and coins held, and any deposits held at call with a bank or financial institution.

(m) Receivables

A provision is made for any doubtful debts based on a review of all outstanding accounts as at year end (refer Note 6B). Bad debts are written off during the year in which they are identified.

(n) Financial Instruments

Accounting policies for financial instruments are stated in Note 18.

(o) Accrued Revenue

The ABS accrues revenue at the time that the goods are provided and/or the services are performed.

(p) Acquisition of Assets

Assets are recorded at cost on acquisition except as stated below. The cost of acquisition includes the fair value of assets transferred in exchange and liabilities undertaken.

Assets acquired at no cost, or for nominal consideration, are initially recognised as assets and revenues at their fair value at the date of acquisition, unless acquired as a consequence of restructuring 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.

(q) Property (Infrastructure, Furniture and Fittings, Leasehold Improvements), Plant and Equipment

Asset Recognition Threshold

Non-current assets that have a limited useful life (depreciable assets) are stated at cost, except as indicated in Note 7. Assets originally costing \$2,000 or more (\$1,000 for IT assets and purchased software, and all Internally Generated software assets) are capitalised in the year of acquisition. Component items purchased separately but which are configured into larger items such as office work stations and personal computer workstations and associated software are considered to be depreciable assets if the aggregate cost is \$2,000 or more.

Revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment

Schedule 1 requires that property, plant and equipment be progressively revalued in accordance with the 'deprival' method of valuation in successive three-year cycles. From 1 July 2002 the fair value method must be adopted.

ABS has implemented its progressive revaluations as follows:

- (i) in 2001/02 all computer hardware assets were revalued;
- (ii) in 2000/01 furniture and fittings, and leasehold improvements held at the Data Processing Centre had their lives adjusted to be fully depreciated by the disposal date of December 2002;
- (iii) leasehold improvements, whether at cost or as part of a lease incentive, were initially revalued over the financial years 1998/99 to 1999/00 on a geographical basis; and
- (iv) plant and equipment assets, whether at cost or as part of a lease incentive, were initially revalued over the financial years 1998/99 to 1999/00 by type of asset and on a geographical basis.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Assets in each class acquired after the commencement of the progressive revaluation cycle are reported at cost for the duration of the progressive revaluation then in progress.

The application of the deprival method by ABS values assets at their depreciated replacement cost. Any assets that would not be replaced or are surplus to requirements are valued at net realisable value. All valuations are independent.

Recoverable Amount Test

Schedule 1 requires the application of the recoverable amount test to departmental non-current assets in accordance with AAS 10 *Recoverable Amount of Non-Current Assets*. The carrying amount of the non-current assets have been reviewed to determine whether they are in excess of their recoverable amounts. In assessing the recoverable amounts the relevant cash flows have not been discounted to their present value.

Depreciation

Depreciable assets are written off over their estimated useful lives. Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method that is consistent with the consumption of the service potential of the ABS' depreciable assets.

The estimated useful lives of the major asset classes are as follows:

	2001/02	2000/01
	Life in Years	Life in Years
Computer hardware	3 to 10	3 to 5
Furniture & fittings	10	10
Plant	10	10
Office equipment	5	5

The lives of assets located at the Census Data Processing Centre will end in December 2002 at which time they will be disposed of. As the salvage value is expected to be minimal, the assets are being depreciated at an accelerated rate.

The aggregate amount of depreciation allocated for each class of asset during the reporting period is disclosed in Note 4C.

(r) Intangibles*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 7E). The costing methodology capitalises direct salary and on costs, applicable information technology costs and some direct external costs. General, administration and overhead costs relating to software development have not been capitalised. The data capture systems in place were further refined to collect data in line with the requirements of *Schedule 1*.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In accordance with AASB 1041 IGSW that had previously been revalued in 1996, was deemed to be at cost as at 1 July 2001.

Purchased Software

Purchased software assets are stated at cost where the asset cost more than \$1,000. Assets below this threshold are expensed at the time of purchase.

Depreciation

The ABS has long term commitments to surveys 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. The maximum useful life of some relevant packages is currently 28 years.

The estimated useful lives of the major asset classes are as follows:

	2001/02	2000/01
	Life in Years	Life in Years
Computer software – proprietary	5	5
Computer software – internally generated	2 to 28	2 to 19

The aggregate amount of depreciation allocated for each class of asset during the reporting period is disclosed in Note 4C.

(s) Historical Statistical Data

Statistical data have accumulated over many years and are stored for reference purposes. While having no value for accounting purposes 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.

(t) Capital Work in Progress

Capital work in progress represents two main asset types, software assets under development and office refurbishments including the fitout for ABS House. Work in progress is disclosed in the Infrastructure, 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 this date.

(u) Inventories

Inventories comprise significant items held for resale and are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value (Note 7D). As part of the rationalisation of product delivery services physical inventory items held have been reduced. Most products are now available electronically or printed on request. The method for calculating and recording the value of these items has been reviewed and now will not be reflected in the financial statements until sold.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Consumable stores and supplies are considered to be immaterial and are not recognised as inventories.

(v) Other Non-Financial Assets

Other non-financial assets include prepayments for maintenance contracts, office rent, rights to childcare places at Bluebell Childcare Centre, security and subscriptions (Note 7F).

(w) Insurance

ABS has insured for risks through the Government's insurable risk managed fund called 'Comcover'. Workers compensation is insured through Comcare Australia.

(x) Taxation

The ABS' activities are exempt from all forms of taxation except Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) and Goods and Services Tax (GST).

(y) Capital Usage Charge

A capital usage charge of 11% is imposed by the Commonwealth on the net departmental assets of the ABS. The charge is adjusted to take account of asset gifts and revaluation increments/decrements during the financial year.

(z) Rounding

Amounts have been rounded to the nearest \$1,000 except in relation to the following notes:

- (i) act of grace payments and waivers;
- (ii) agency appropriations;
- (iii) remuneration of executives; and
- (iv) remuneration of auditors.

(aa) Comparative Figures

Where necessary and practicable, comparable figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation in these financial statements.

(ab) Foreign Currency

Transactions denominated in a foreign currency are converted at the exchange rate at the date of the transaction. Foreign currency receivables and payables are translated at the exchange rates current as at balance date. Associated currency gains and losses are not material.

Note 2: Events Occurring After Balance Date

There have been no events occurring subsequent to balance date that would affect the Australian Bureau of Statistics Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2002.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2002 \$'000	2001 \$'000
Note 3: Operating Revenues		
<u>Note 3A - Revenues from Government</u>		
Appropriations for outputs	354,920	264,001
Resources received free of charge	90	91
Total	<u>355,010</u>	<u>264,092</u>
<u>Note 3B - Sales of Goods and Services</u>		
Goods	4,212	4,872
Services	13,875	13,944
Total	<u>18,087</u>	<u>18,816</u>
Goods and services were sold as follows:		
Government	10,083	7,835
Non-Government	8,004	10,981
Total	<u>18,087</u>	<u>18,816</u>
<u>Note 3C - Interest</u>		
Interest on deposits	<u>793</u>	<u>1,027</u>
<u>Note 3D - Net Gains and Losses from Sales of Assets</u>		
Infrastructure, plant and equipment and hardware equipment:		
Proceeds from sale	643	343
Netbook value at sale	<u>(1,398)</u>	<u>(169)</u>
Net Loss	<u>(755)</u>	<u>174</u>
Net gain from sales of assets	213	343
Net loss on sale of assets	<u>(968)</u>	<u>(169)</u>
	<u>(755)</u>	<u>174</u>

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2002 \$'000	2001 \$'000
Note 4: Operating Expenses		
<u>Note 4A- Employee Expenses</u>		
Remuneration (for services provided)	174,986	153,815
Superannuation	24,341	23,742
Motor vehicle expenses for SES	172	-
Interviewers' wages and superannuation	7,516	7,552
Census wages and superannuation	38,752	3,611
Separation and redundancy	4,000	583
Total remuneration	249,767	189,303
Other employee expenses	3,800	3,962
Total	253,567	193,265
Less amounts capitalised in respect of internally generated software	(11,090)	(13,580)
Total	242,477	179,685
<u>Note 4B - Suppliers Expense</u>		
Supply of goods and services	65,257	47,897
Operating lease rentals ¹	18,262	16,679
Total	83,519	64,576

¹These comprise minimum lease payments less SES motor expenses disclosed in previous note.

<u>Note 4C - Depreciation and Amortisation</u>		
Depreciation of infrastructure property, plant and equipment	4,870	3,296
Depreciation of computer hardware	8,227	6,797
Amortisation of leased assets, intangibles and prepayments	14,137	11,943
Total	27,234	22,036

The aggregate amount of depreciation or amortisation expensed during the reporting period for each class of depreciable asset are as follows:

Leasehold improvements	1,518	-
Infrastructure, plant and equipment, furniture and fittings	4,986	4,971
Computer hardware	8,227	6,797
Intangibles	12,461	10,226
Prepayments	42	42
Total	27,234	22,036

No depreciation or amortisation was allocated to the carrying amounts of other assets.

<u>Note 4D - Write Down of Assets</u>		
Bad and doubtful debts expense	57	15
Inventory-write off on disposal	2,861	4,816
Hardware-write off on disposal	13	-
Software-write off on disposal	1,940	2,501
Total	4,871	7,332

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2002 \$'000	2001 \$'000
Note 5: Borrowing Cost Expenses		
Loans	340	-
Leases	349	427
Total	<u>689</u>	<u>427</u>

Note 6: Financial Assets

Note 6A - Cash

Cash at bank and on hand	23,036	1,730
	<u>23,036</u>	<u>1,730</u>

All cash recognised is a current asset.

Note 6B - Receivables

Goods and services	6,245	2,327
Less: Provision for doubtful debts	(54)	(30)
	<u>6,191</u>	<u>2,297</u>
 GST receivable (net)	 289	 1,145
Sundry Receivables	87	1,585
Other	121	-
	<u>497</u>	<u>2,730</u>
Total Receivables	<u>6,688</u>	<u>5,027</u>

All receivables are current assets.

Receivables (gross) are aged as follows:

Not overdue	5,728	1,907
Overdue by:		
Less than 30 days	473	287
30 to 60 days	13	31
60 to 90 days	25	47
More than 90 days	6	55
	<u>6,245</u>	<u>2,327</u>
Total receivables (gross)	<u>6,245</u>	<u>2,327</u>

Note 6C - Accrued Revenue

Accrued Interest	54	17
Other	94	536
	<u>148</u>	<u>553</u>

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2002 \$'000	2001 \$'000
Note 7: Non-financial Assets		
<u>Note 7A - Infrastructure, Plant and equipment, (excluding Computer hardware)</u>		
Office refurbishments in progress	465	1,875
Fitout ABS House - in progress	579	6,933
	<u>1,044</u>	<u>8,808</u>
Plant and equipment - at cost	27,070	3,450
Accumulated depreciation	(2,577)	(1,439)
	<u>24,493</u>	<u>2,011</u>
Plant and equipment - at 1999-02 valuation ¹	15,294	25,827
Accumulated depreciation	(10,013)	(18,085)
	<u>5,281</u>	<u>7,742</u>
Plant and equipment - at 1997 - 1999 valuation	1,192	2,757
Accumulated depreciation	(1,107)	(2,353)
	<u>85</u>	<u>404</u>
Plant and equipment - transferred in - out of cycle under lease - at cost	3,091	3,364
Accumulated depreciation	(1,959)	(1,722)
	<u>1,132</u>	<u>1,642</u>
Plant and equipment under lease - at 1999-02 valuation	13,725	13,738
Accumulated depreciation	(10,861)	(9,542)
	<u>2,864</u>	<u>4,196</u>
Total Plant and Equipment, Furniture and Fittings (excluding Computer Hardware)	<u><u>34,899</u></u>	<u><u>24,803</u></u>

- 1 During the 2001/2002 financial year the ABS vacated Cameron Offices in Canberra. The fitout assets for Cameron Offices were reduced in value by \$2.8 million in June 2001 to bring the carrying value of these assets into line with their remaining useful life and residual value, given that the assets were not to be transferred to the new building. These assets have been disposed of & the ledger adjusted accordingly.
- 2 Census Data Processing Centre assets excluding PCs were brought to account with accelerated depreciation to coincide with the expiry of the buildings operating lease.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2002 \$'000	2001 \$'000
<u>Note 7B - Computer hardware</u>		
Computer hardware received free of charge - at 1997-99 valuation	108	122
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(105)</u>	<u>(87)</u>
	<u>3</u>	<u>35</u>
Computer hardware - at cost	5,840	26,043
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(674)</u>	<u>(9,450)</u>
	<u>5,166</u>	<u>16,593</u>
Computer hardware - at 1999-02 valuation	37,356	983
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(24,220)</u>	<u>(776)</u>
	<u>13,136</u>	<u>207</u>
Computer hardware - at 1997-99 valuation	2,814	22,952
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(2,724)</u>	<u>(19,358)</u>
	<u>90</u>	<u>3,594</u>
Computer hardware - under lease	-	200
Accumulated depreciation	<u>-</u>	<u>(200)</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Computer Hardware	<u>18,395</u>	<u>20,429</u>
Total Infrastructure, Plant and Equipment and Computer Hardware	<u>53,294</u>	<u>45,232</u>

The 2001-02 revaluations were in accordance with the revaluation policy stated at Note 2 and were completed by an independent valuer - John Armatys AAPI (Certified Practising Property, Plant & Machinery Valuer)

AVO. Revaluation decrements were as follows:

- Hardware \$64,736.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 7C - Analysis of Property, Infrastructure, Plant, Equipment and Intangibles

TABLE A - Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment and intangibles irrespective of valuation basis

Item	Total Infrastructure, Plant & Equipment, Furniture & Fittings	Computer Hardware	Computer Software - Total Intangibles	TOTAL
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Gross Value as at 1 July 2001	57,944	50,300	137,520	245,764
Additions: purchases of assets	17,581	6,398	12,833	36,812
Revaluations: write ups/(write downs)	151	(4,286)	-	(4,135)
Assets transferred in/(out)	(32)	358	17	343
Write-offs	-	(13)	(5,280)	(5,293)
Disposals	(14,229)	(6,637)	(1,113)	(21,979)
Gross value as at 30 June 2002	61,415	46,120	143,977	251,512
Accumulated Depreciation/ Amortisation as at 1 July 2001	33,141	29,871	61,411	124,423
Disposals	(13,174)	(6,129)	(977)	(20,280)
Depreciation/amortisation charge for the year	6,507	8,227	12,457	27,191
Revaluations: write ups/(write downs)	(0)	(4,201)	-	(4,201)
Assets transferred in /(out)	43	(44)	1	-
Write-offs	-	-	(3,340)	(3,340)
Accumulated Depreciation / Amortisation as at 30 June 2002	26,517	27,724	69,552	123,793
Net book value as at 30 June 2002	34,898	18,396	74,425	127,719
Net book value as at 1 July 2001	24,803	20,429	76,109	121,341

Cameron Office assets not transferred to ABS House were disposed of.

All assets purchased in relation to ABS House have been categorised in the Fixed Asset Register or expensed in accordance with asset policy. The useful lives of Census Data Processing Centre assets have been brought in to line with the lease end date being 31 December 2002.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

TABLE B - Summary of balances of Assets at valuation as at 30 June 2002

Item	Total Infrastructure, Plant & Equipment, Furniture & Fittings	Computer Hardware	Computer Software - Total Intangibles	TOTAL
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
As at 30 June 2002				
Gross value	30,211	40,278	0	70,489
Accumulated depreciation /amortisation	21,981	27,049	0	49,030
Net Book Value	8,230	13,229	0	21,459
As at 30 June 2001				
Gross value	42,322	24,057	25,861	92,240
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation	29,980	20,221	24,628	74,829
Net Book Value	12,342	3,836	1,233	17,411

TABLE C - Summary of balances of Assets held under finance lease as at 30 June 2002 irrespective of valuation

Item	Total Infrastructure, Plant & Equipment, Furniture & Fittings	Computer Hardware	Computer Software - Total Intangibles	TOTAL
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
As at 30 June 2002				
Gross value	16,816	0	0	16,816
Accumulated depreciation/ amortisation	12,820	0	0	12,820
Net Book Value	3,996	0	0	3,996
As at 30 June 2001				
Gross value	17,102	200	0	17,302
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation	11,264	200	0	11,464
Net Book Value	5,838	0	0	5,838

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

TABLE D - Assets under lease at valuation

Item	Total Infrastructure, Plant & Equipment, Furniture & Fittings	Computer Hardware	Computer Software - Total Intangibles	TOTAL
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
As at 30 June 2002				
Gross value	13,725	0	0	13,725
Accumulated depreciation /amortisation	10,861	0	0	10,861
Net Book Value	2,864	0	0	2,864
As at 30 June 2001				
Gross value	13,738	0	0	13,738
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation	9,542	0	0	9,542
Net Book Value	4,196	0	0	4,196

TABLE E -Work-in-progress

Item	Total Infrastructure, Plant & Equipment, Furniture & Fittings	Computer Hardware	Computer Software - Total Intangibles	TOTAL
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
As at 30 June 2002				
Gross value	1,044	0	8,977	10,021
Accumulated depreciation /amortisation	0	0	0	0
Net Book Value	1,044	0	8,977	10,021
As at 30 June 2001				
Gross value	8,808	0	4,362	13,170
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation	0	0	0	0
Net Book Value	8,808	0	4,362	13,170

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2002 \$'000	2001 \$'000
Note 7: Non-financial Assets (cont.)		
<u>Note 7D - Inventories</u>		
Inventories held for sale	48	2,602
	<u>48</u>	<u>2,602</u>

Total Inventories

All Departmental inventories are current assets.

All inventory held for sale is expected to be sold within twelve months of the reporting date.

Note 7E - Intangibles

Computer software:

Internally developed - in progress	8,977	4,362
At cost	135,000	107,297
Accumulated amortisation	(69,552)	(36,783)
	<u>65,448</u>	<u>70,514</u>
Total Intangibles	<u>74,425</u>	<u>74,876</u>

Note 7F - Other Non-Financial Assets

Prepayments	6,855	8,451
	<u>6,855</u>	<u>8,451</u>

All other non-financial assets are current assets.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2002 \$'000	2001 \$'000
Note 8: Interest Bearing Liabilities		
<u>Note 8A - Loans</u>		
Loans from Government	12,201	-
Maturity schedule for loans:		
Payable:		
Within one year	1,775	-
In one to five years	7,099	-
In more than five years	7,089	-
	15,963	-
Deduct: future interest charges	(3,762)	-
Loan Liability	12,201	-
Loan liability is represented by:		
Current	1,051	-
Non-current	11,150	-
	12,201	-
Loan Principal movement		
Opening Balance	13,200	-
Repaid during the year	(999)	-
Total Loan Liability	12,201	-
 <u>Note 8B - Leases</u>		
Finance lease fitout incentive commitments		
Payable:		
Within one year	2,154	2,154
In one to five years	3,153	5,261
In more than five years	26	72
Minimum lease payments	5,333	7,487
Deduct: future finance charges	(498)	(846)
Lease Liability	4,835	6,641
Lease fitout incentive liability is represented by:		
Current	1,897	1,805
Non-current	2,938	4,836
	4,835	6,641
Finance leases exist in relation to certain major office equipment assets. The leases are non-cancellable and for fixed terms averaging ten years, with a maximum of ten years. The Agency guarantees the residual values of all assets leased. There are no contingent rentals.		
 <u>Note 8C-Other Interest Bearing Liabilities</u>		
Lease rental incentives	735	1,088
Other interest bearing liabilities are represented by:		
Current	353	353
Non-current	382	735
	735	1,088
 Total Interest Bearing Liabilities	17,771	7,729

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2002 \$'000	2001 \$'000
Note 9: Provisions		
<u>Note 9A - Employee Provisions</u>		
Salaries and wages	4,778	4,762
Long service leave	38,612	38,761
Recreation leave	19,661	18,984
Superannuation	718	670
Separation and redundancies	4,232	40
Aggregate employee entitlement liability	<u>68,001</u>	<u>63,217</u>
Current	32,594	27,710
Non-current	35,407	35,507
Note 10: Payables		
<u>Note 10A - Suppliers Payables</u>		
Trade creditors	11,414	8,381
Sundry creditors	228	340
Operating lease rentals	84	3
Total	<u>11,726</u>	<u>8,724</u>
Supplier payables are represented by:		
Current	11,726	8,724
Non-current	-	-
	<u>11,726</u>	<u>8,724</u>
<u>Note 10B - Unearned revenue</u>		
Receipts in advance	5,717	2,996
Total	<u>5,717</u>	<u>2,996</u>
<u>Note 10C - Other</u>		
Provision for surplus lease space - Current	70	65
Provision for surplus lease space - Non Current	298	-
Other	3	5
Total	<u>371</u>	<u>70</u>
Total Payables	<u>17,814</u>	<u>11,790</u>

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 11: Equity

Note 11A - Analysis of Equity

Item	Accumulated Results		Asset Revaluation Reserves		Total Reserves		Contributed Equity		TOTAL EQUITY	
	2002 \$'000	2001 \$'000	2002 \$'000	2001 \$'000	2002 \$'000	2001 \$'000	2002 \$'000	2001 \$'000	2002 \$'000	2001 \$'000
Opening balance as at 1 July	37,101	36,772	8,617	11,417	8,617	11,417	11,250	11,250	56,968	59,439
Net result and extraordinary items	10,583	7,439	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,583	7,439
Net revaluation increment/(decrement)	-	-	68	(2,800)	68	(2,800)	-	-	68	(2,800)
Capital Use Charge (CUC)	(6,711)	(7,110)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(6,711)	(7,110)
Dividends	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contribution of equity: appropriation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Closing balance as at 30 June	40,973	37,101	8,685	8,617	8,685	8,617	11,250	11,250	60,908	56,968
<i>Less: outside equity interests</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total equity attributable to the Commonwealth	40,973	37,101	8,685	8,617	8,685	8,617	11,250	11,250	60,908	56,968

Transactional banking arrangements introduced from 1 July 1999 enabled agencies to manage their surplus cash balances and earn interest on them. Reviews are being conducted by the Department of Finance and Administration with each agency to determine whether interest earned to 30 June 2002 was consistent with the Governments Budget-neutrality condition for the arrangements. The view in this agency indicated excess interest amounting to \$955,000. However, as at the date of signing these financial statements, no decision had been made by the Government of the amount, if any, of the distribution of equity to be made to it by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2002 \$'000	2001 \$'000
Note 12: Cash Flow Reconciliation		
Reconciliation of cash per Statement of Financial Position to Statement of Cash Flows		
Cash at year end per Statement of Cash Flows	23,036	1,730
Statement of Financial Position items comprising above cash: 'Financial Asset - Cash'	23,036	1,730
Reconciliation of net surplus to net cash from operating activities:		
Net surplus (deficit)	10,583	7,439
Depreciation/amortisation	27,234	22,036
Profit/loss on sale of non-current items	2,695	(174)
Write down of non-current assets	2,931	2,501
(Increase)/decrease in net receivables	(1,451)	(2,707)
(Increase)/decrease in inventories	2,554	295
(Increase) decrease in prepayments	1,596	-
Increase/(decrease) in prepayments received	-	(3,845)
Decrease in lease debt	-	(1,755)
Increase (decrease) in employee liabilities	4,784	(534)
Increase in suppliers liability for operating expenditure	3,213	1,127
Increase (decrease) in other liabilities	2,426	1,283
Net cash from/(used by) operating activities	<u>56,565</u>	<u>25,666</u>

Note 13: Remote Contingencies

There have been no remote contingencies identified by the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the financial year 2001/02.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
Note 14: Executive Remuneration		
The number of Executives who received or were due to receive total remuneration of \$100,000 or more:		
	Number	Number
\$100,000 to \$110,000	1	1
\$110,001 to \$120,000	3	2
\$120,001 to \$130,000	2	2
\$130,001 to \$140,000	14	12
\$140,001 to \$150,000	7	8
\$150,001 to \$160,000	2	2
\$160,001 to \$170,000	4	3
\$170,001 to \$180,000	-	1
\$180,001 to \$190,000	1	-
\$190,001 to \$200,000	-	2
\$200,001 to \$210,000	1	-
\$220,001 to \$230,000	-	1
\$280,001 to \$290,000	-	1
\$320,001 to \$330,000	1	-
The aggregate amount of total remuneration of Executives shown above		
	\$5,313,397	\$5,524,600

The aggregate amount of separation and redundancy payments during the year to Executives shown above	Nil	Nil
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Total remuneration includes the actual salary earned by SES officers, actual employer superannuation contributions and an actual cost of the non-salary component of the SES packages (e.g. provision of a car). Note that the basis for calculation of the aggregate amount of total remuneration of Executives has changed to exclude SES who did not meet the \$100,000 threshold. The comparative has not been amended.

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
	\$	\$

Note 15: Remuneration of Auditors

Financial statement audit services are provided free of charge to the Bureau.

The fair value of the services provided was:

90,000	90,000
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No other services were provided by the Auditor-General.

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
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Note 16: Average staffing levels

The average staffing levels for the ABS during the year, measured on a full time equivalent basis were:

3,550	3,223
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NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 17: Act of Grace Payments and Waivers and Defective Administration Scheme

No 'Act of Grace' payments were made during the reporting period. (2000/01:Nil)

No waivers of amounts owing to the Commonwealth were made pursuant to subsection 34(1) of the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*.

No payments were made under the 'Defective Administrations Scheme' during the reporting period. (2000/01:Nil)

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 18: Financial Instruments

a) Terms, conditions and accounting policies

Financial Instrument	Notes	Accounting Policies and Methods (including recognition criteria and measurement basis)	Nature of underlying instrument (including significant terms & conditions affecting the amount, timing and certainty of cash flows)
Financial Assets		Financial assets are recognised when control over future economic benefits is established and the amount of the benefit can be reliably measured.	
Cash	6A	Deposits are recognised at their nominal amounts. Interest is credited to revenue as it accrues.	Monies in the ABS' bank accounts are swept into the Official Public Account nightly and interest is earned on the daily balances at rates advised by the Department of Finance and Administration. Rates have averaged 2.0% for the year (2000-01: 2.0%). Interest is paid quarterly.
Investments		Investments are recognised at their nominal amounts. Interest is credited to revenue as it accrues.	The ABS invests funds with the Reserve Bank of Australia at call. Rates have averaged 4.38% for the year. (2000-01: 5.82%). Interest is paid on maturity.
Receivables for goods and services	6B	These receivables are recognised at the nominal amounts due less any provision for bad and or doubtful debts. Collectability of debts is reviewed at balance date. Provisions are made when collection of the debt is judged to be less rather than more likely.	All receivables are with entities internal and external to the Commonwealth. Credit terms are 30 days (2001:30 days).
Accrued Revenue	6C	Revenue accrues and is recognised at the time the goods are provided and/or the services are performed.	As for receivables.
Financial liabilities		Financial liabilities are recognised when a present obligation to another party is entered into and the amount of the liability can be reliably measured.	
Loans	8A	Liabilities are recognised at the present value of the minimum loan payments. Interest is charged at a daily rate.	At the reporting date, the ABS had a loan to the Department of Finance and Administration for 9 years with the weighted averaged interest rate of 6.1%. (2000-01: Nil)

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 18 : Financial Instruments (cont.)

a) Terms, and conditions and accounting policies

Financial Instruments	Notes	Accounting Policies and Methods (including recognition criteria and measurement basis)	Nature of underlying instrument (including significant terms & conditions affecting the amount, timing and certainty of cash flows)
Lease incentive liabilities	8B	Liabilities are recognised at the nominal values of the minimum lease payments at the beginning of the lease. The discount rates used are estimates of the interest rates implicit in the leases.	At reporting date, the ABS had finance leases with terms averaging three years and a maximum term of five years. The interest rate implicit in the leases averaged 6.0% (2000-01: 6%) The lease assets secure the lease liabilities.
Surplus lease space	10C	A liability for surplus lease space is recognised at the time it is first determined that the leased space will be of no future benefit to the ABS. The liability is measured as the total expected outlay relating to the surplus space. The amount of the liability is reduced on a straight line basis over the life of the lease by allocating lease payments between rental expense and reduction of the liability.	The liability arises under the ABS's non cancellable operating leases for office accommodation.
Trade creditors	10A	Creditors and accruals are recognised at their nominal amounts, being the amounts at which the liabilities will be settled. Liabilities are recognised to the extent that the goods or services have been received (and irrespective of having been invoiced).	All creditors are entities both external and internal to the ABS that are not part of the Commonwealth legal entity. Settlement is usually made net 30 days.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 18: Financial Instruments (cont.)

(b) Interest Rate Risk: Agency

Financial Instrument	Notes	Floating Interest Rate		Fixed Interest Rate						Non-Interest Bearing		Total		Weighted Average Effective Interest	
				1 year or less		1 to 5 years		Greater than 5							
		2002 \$'000	2001 \$'000	2002 \$'000	2001 \$'000	2002 \$'000	2001 \$'000	2002 \$'000	2001 \$'000	2002 \$'000	2001 \$'000	2002 \$'000	2001 \$'000	2002 %	2001 %
Financial Assets															
Cash at Bank	6A	23,036	1,730	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23,036	1,730	2.0	2.0
Cash on deposit	6A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.4	5.8
Receivables for goods and services	6B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,245	2,327	6,245	2,327	n/a	n/a
Less: provision for doubtful debts	6B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(54)	(30)	(54)	(30)	n/a	n/a
Accrued revenue	6C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	148	553	148	553	n/a	n/a
Total		23,036	1,730	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,339	2,850	29,375	4,580		
Total assets												164,494	139,704		
Financial Liabilities															
Loans	8A	-	-	1,051	-	4,905	-	6,245	-	-	-	12,201	-	6.1	n/a
Finance Lease liabilities	8B	-	-	1,897	1,805	2,913	4,768	25	67	735	1,088	5,570	7,728	6.0	6.0
Trade creditors	10A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,414	8,381	11,414	8,381	n/a	n/a
Surplus lease space	10C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	368	65	368	65	n/a	n/a
Total		-	-	2,948	1,805	7,818	4,768	6,270	67	12,517	9,534	29,553	16,174		
Total liabilities												103,586	82,736		

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 18: Financial Instruments (Cont.)

c) Net Fair Values of Financial Assets and Liabilities

		2002		2001	
		Total Carrying Amount	Aggregate Net Fair Value	Total Carrying Amount	Aggregate Net Fair Value
	Note	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Departmental Financial Assets					
Cash at Bank	6A	23,036	23,036	1,730	1,730
Receivables for Goods and Services (net)	6B	6,191	6,191	2,297	2,297
Accrued revenue	6C	148	148	553	553
Total Financial Assets		29,375	29,375	4,580	4,580
Financial Liabilities					
Loans	8A	12,201	12,201	-	-
Finance lease incentives liabilities	8B	5,570	5,570	7,728	7,728
Trade Creditors	10A	11,414	11,414	8,381	8,381
Surplus Lease Space	10C	368	368	65	65
Total Financial Liabilities		29,553	29,553	16,174	16,174

Financial Assets

The net fair value of cash and non-interest bearing monetary financial assets approximate their carrying amounts.

Financial Liabilities

The net fair values of the finance lease, lease incentives and surplus lease space liabilities, and guarantees are based on discounted cash flows using current interest rates for liabilities with similar risk profiles.

The net fair value for trade creditors are approximated by their carrying amounts.

d) Credit risk exposures

The ABS's maximum exposure to credit risk at reporting date in relation to each class of recognised financial assets is the carrying amount of those assets as indicated in the Statement of Financial Position.

The ABS has no significant exposures to any concentrations of credit risk.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2002 \$'000	2001 \$'000
Note 19: Administered Items Revenues		
<u>Note 19A - Revenues Administered on Behalf of Government for the year ended 30 June 2002</u>		
Revenues		
Other sources of non taxation revenue	-	269
Total Revenues Administered on Behalf of Government	<u>-</u>	<u>269</u>
 <u>Note 19B- Expenses Administered on Behalf of Government for the year ended 30 June 2002</u>		
Expenses	-	-
Total Expenses Administered on Behalf of Government	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
 <u>Note 19C - Administered Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June 2002</u>		
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Cash received	-	1,283
Total cash received	<u>-</u>	<u>1,283</u>
 Cash used	-	1,283
Total cash used	<u>-</u>	<u>1,283</u>
 Net cash (used in) operating activities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash held	-	-
Cash at the beginning of the reporting period	-	-
Cash at the end of the reporting period	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 20: Appropriations

Note 20A- Appropriations Acts (No.1/3) 2001-2002

Particulars	Departmental Outputs	Total
Year ended 30 June 2002	\$	\$
Balance carried from previous year	3,251,261	3,251,261
Appropriation for reporting period (Act 1)	354,920,000	354,920,000
Appropriation for reporting period (Act 3)	-	-
Refunds credited (FMA s30)	-	-
GST credits (FMA s 30A)	7,013,513	7,013,513
Annotations to 'net appropriations' (FMA s31)	23,994,080	23,994,080
Administered expenses lapsed (expended)	-	-
Available for payments	389,178,854	389,178,854
Payments made	(365,875,720)	(365,875,720)
Balance carried to next year	23,303,134	23,303,134
Year ended 30 June 2001		
Available for payments 2001	303,536,453	303,536,453
Payments made 2001	(300,285,192)	(300,285,192)
Balance carried forward to 1 July 2001	3,251,261	3,251,261

FMA = Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997

Act 1 = Appropriations Act (No.1) 2001-2002

Act 3 = Appropriations Act (No.3) 2001-2002

There were no savings offered up during the year and there have been no savings offered up in previous years that are still ongoing.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 20B-Appropriations Acts (No.2/4) 2001-2002

Particulars	Capital		Total
	Departmental		
	Loans	Carry over	
Year ended 30 June 2002	\$	\$	\$
Balance carried forward from previous year	-	11,250,000	11,250,000
Current appropriation (Act 4)	13,200,000	-	13,200,000
Available for payment	13,200,000	11,250,000	24,450,000
Payments made	(13,200,000)	-	(13,200,000)
Balance carried forward to next year	-	11,250,000	11,250,000
Year ended 30 June 2001			
Available for payments 2001	-	11,250,000	11,250,000
Payments made	-	-	-
Balance carried forward to 1 July 2001	-	11,250,000	11,250,000

Act 2 = Appropriations Act (No.2) 2001-2002

Act 4 = Appropriations Act (No.4) 2001-2002

There were no savings offered up during the year and there have been no savings offered up in previous years that are still ongoing.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 21 - Assets Held in Trust

Comcare Trust Account

Purpose - monies held in trust and advanced to the Australian Bureau of Statistics by COMCARE for the purpose of distributing compensation payments made in accordance with the *Safety Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1998*.

	Trust Money	
	Comcare Trust Account	
	2002	2001
	\$	\$
Balance carried forward from previous period	30,000	30,000
Receipts during the year	661,751	471,216
Available for payments	691,751	501,216
Payments made	(661,751)	(471,216)
Balance carried forward to next year	30,000	30,000

Trust Fund Other Trust Money

Purpose - for the receipt of monies temporarily held on trust or otherwise for the benefit of a person other than the Commonwealth.

Legal authority *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997 Section 20*.

	Trust Money	
	Trust Fund Other Trust Money	
	2002	2001
	\$	\$
Balance carried forward from previous period	15,846	10,896
Receipts during the year	1,630	4,960
Available for payments	17,476	15,856
Payments made	(3,941)	(10)
Balance carried forward to next year	13,535	15,846

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 22 - Reporting of Outcomes

(A) TOTAL COST/CONTRIBUTION OF OUTCOMES (WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT)

Reporting of Outcomes

	Outcome 1 2001/2002		Total	
	Actual \$'000	Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Budget \$'000
Net taxation, fees & fines revenues	-	-	-	-
Other administered revenues	-	-	-	-
Net Subsidies, benefits & grant expenses	-	-	-	-
Other administered expenses	-	-	-	-
Add Net cost of departmental outputs	344,427	345,843	344,427	345,843
Cost of Outcome before extraordinary items	344,427	345,843	344,427	345,843
Extraordinary items	-	-	-	-
Net Cost to Budget Outcome	344,427	345,843	344,427	345,843

(B) Major Departmental Revenues and Expenses by outcome

	Outcome 1 Output Group 1		Total	
	2002 \$'000	2001 \$'000	2002 \$'000	2001 \$'000
Operating Revenues				
Revenues from government	355,010	264,092	355,010	264,092
Sale of goods and services	18,087	18,816	18,087	18,816
Other non-taxation revenues	1,448	2,021	1,448	2,021
Total operating revenues	374,545	284,929	374,545	284,929
Operating expenses				
Employees	242,477	179,685	242,477	179,685
Suppliers	83,519	64,576	83,519	64,576
Depreciation & amortisation	27,234	22,036	27,234	22,036
Other	10,043	10,766	10,043	10,766
Total operating expenses	363,273	277,063	363,273	277,063

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(C) Major Classes of Departmental Assets and Liabilities by Output Group

	Outcome 1		Total	
	Output Group 1			
	2002	2001	2002	2001
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Output specific departmental assets				
Goods and services receivable	6,453	3,912	6,453	3,912
Net GST receivable	289	1,145	289	1,145
Less: provision for doubtful debts	(54)	(30)	(54)	(30)
Plant & Equipment	53,294	45,232	53,294	45,232
Internally developed & Purchased software	74,425	76,109	74,425	76,109
Inventories held for sale	48	2,602	48	2,602
Total output specific departmental assets	134,455	128,970	134,455	128,970
Other departmental assets				
Cash at bank and on hand	23,036	1,730	23,036	1,730
Other	7,003	9,004	7,003	9,004
Total other departmental assets	30,039	10,734	30,039	10,734
Output specific departmental liabilities				
Leases	5,570	7,729	5,570	7,729
Employees	68,001	63,217	68,001	63,217
Suppliers	11,726	8,724	11,726	8,724
Total output specific departmental liabilities	85,297	79,670	85,297	79,670
Other departmental liabilities				
Loans	12,201	-	12,201	-
Capital use charge	-	-	-	-
Other	6,088	3,066	6,088	3,066
Total other departmental liabilities	18,289	3,066	18,289	3,066

SECTION VI

APPENDIXES

ABS PROGRAM STRUCTURE, 2001–02

	<i>Program components</i>
Economic Statistics Output(a)	National Accounts International Accounts International Trade Financial Accounts Public Sector Accounts Prices Business Statistics Economy Wide Statistics Small Business Statistics Science and Technology Agriculture Mining Manufacturing Construction Transport Service Industries Tourism Environment Statistical Consultancy Statistical Coordination Australian Economic Indicators Statistical Services and User Liaison
Population and Social Statistics Output(a)	Census of Population and Housing Demography Labour Statistics Social Conditions Statistics Health and Community Statistics Geography

For footnote see end of table.

...continued

ABS PROGRAM STRUCTURE, 2001–02 — *continued*

	<i>Program components</i>
Corporate and Statistical Support	Mathematical Statistics Business Register Business Methods Analytical Services and Time Series Analysis Economic Standards Population Statistics Standards Population Surveys Dissemination Marketing and Public Affairs Client Services Library Services Information Technology Bureau Technology Application Data Management Technology Research SPEED Executive Human Resources Management Financial Management Corporate Planning and Secretariat Property and Facilities Management International Relations Economic Statistics Group Support Population Statistics Group Support Methodology Division Business Office Information Management Division Business Office Technology Services Division Support Corporate Services Division Support

(a) The outputs of the ABS are generated using inputs from both the corporate and statistical support components. The statistical components contributing to each output are listed under the relevant Output heading. The support components contribute to both the Economic Statistics and Population and Social Statistics Outputs.

ESTIMATES OF COST BY OUTPUT AND COMPONENT Appendix 2

ESTIMATES OF COST BY OUTPUT AND COMPONENT, 2001–02 (\$'000)

<i>Outputs</i>	<i>Direct Costs</i>	<i>Allocated Costs</i>	<i>Full Costs</i>	
	(A)	(B)	(A+B=C)	%(b)
Economic Statistics Output				
National Accounts	4 610	6 625	11 235	4.8
International Accounts	4 470	5 156	9 626	4.1
International Trade	2 071	3 819	5 890	2.5
Financial Accounts	2 026	2 716	4 742	2.0
Public Sector Accounts	3 877	3 157	7 034	3.0
Prices(a)	10 298	10 312	20 610	8.8
Business Statistics	3 075	3 797	6 872	2.9
Economy Wide Statistics	3 136	6 661	9 797	4.2
Small Business Statistics	315	489	804	0.3
Science and Technology	2 619	3 348	5 967	2.6
Agriculture	4 219	4 160	8 379	3.6
Mining	500	1 027	1 527	0.7
Manufacturing	2 720	2 812	5 532	2.4
Construction	2 804	3 831	6 635	2.8
Transport	2 987	3 009	5 996	2.6
Service Industries	5 443	7 956	13 399	5.7
Tourism	836	1 336	2 172	0.9
Environment	1 507	1 928	3 435	1.5
Statistical Consultancy	691	824	1 515	0.6
Statistical Coordination	471	660	1 131	0.5
Australian Economic Indicators	223	733	956	0.4
Statistical Services and User Liaison	4 084	2 832	6 916	3.0
Total Economic Statistics Output	62 982	77 188	140 170	60.1
Population and Social Statistics Output				
Census of Population and Housing	113 118	17 570	130 688	n.a.
Demography	2 857	3 883	6 740	2.9
Labour Statistics(a)	9 171	33 373	42 544	18.2
Social Conditions Statistics(a)	5 127	14 312	19 439	8.3
Health and Community Statistics(a)	7 367	11 848	19 215	8.2
Geography	2 811	2 356	5 167	2.2
Total Population and Social Statistics Output	140 451	83 342	223 793	39.9
Total ABS Outputs excluding Census(b)	90 315	142 960	233 275	100.0
Total ABS Outputs	203 433	160 530	363 963	—

For footnotes see end of table.

...continued

ESTIMATES OF COST BY OUTPUT AND COMPONENT, 2001–02 (\$'000) — *continued*

	Direct Costs	Allocated Costs	Full Costs	
<i>Outputs</i>	(A)	(B)	(A+B=C)	%(b)
Corporate and Statistical Support				
Mathematical Statistics	4 660	-4 660	—	—
Business Register(a)	6 017	-6 017	—	—
Business Methods(a)	5 289	-5 289	—	—
Analytical Services and Time Series Analysis	3 414	-3 414	—	—
Economic Standards	1 607	-1 607	—	—
Population Statistics Standards	1 391	-1 391	—	—
Population Surveys	24 486	-24 486	—	—
Dissemination	15 013	-15 013	—	—
Marketing and Public Affairs	2 399	-2 399	—	—
Client Services	2 617	-2 617	—	—
Library Services	1 896	-1 896	—	—
Information Technology Bureau(c)	273	-273	—	—
Technology Application(c)	859	-859	—	—
Data Management	3 681	-3 681	—	—
Technology Research	1 240	-1 240	—	—
SPEED	2 087	-2 087	—	—
Executive	5 606	-5 606	—	—
Human Resources Management(d)	15 873	-15 873	—	—
Financial Management(d)	13 831	-13 831	—	—
Corporate Planning and Secretariat	1 518	-1 518	—	—
Property and Facilities Management(a)(d)	33 043	-33 043	—	—
International Relations	774	-774	—	—
Economic Statistics Group Support	5 188	-5 188	—	—
Population Statistics Group Support	3 560	-3 560	—	—
Methodology Division Business Office	1 000	-1 000	—	—
Information Management Division Business Office	1 832	-1 832	—	—
Technology Services Division Support	1 190	-1 190	—	—
Corporate Services Division Support	186	-186	—	—
<i>Total Statistical Support</i>	<i>160 530</i>	<i>-160 530</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>
Program total	363 963	0	363 963	—

(a) The program structure is slightly different from last year. One area of Labour Statistics is now classified under Prices; the National Centres for Crime and Justice Statistics and Culture and Recreation Statistics are now reported under Health and Community Statistics; the National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics is now reported under Social Conditions; some parts of Social Statistics are now reported under Health and Community Statistics and the remainder is reported under Social Conditions Statistics; Taxation Reform is now reported under Business Methods and this includes some components which were reported under Business Register last year; Property and Facilities Management is a new category this year — last year this was included with Financial Management. (b) The cost of the Census of Population and Housing component varies so widely over the five-yearly Census cycle that it distorts the percentages applying to other statistical components. Accordingly, the full cost of the Census of Population and Housing has been excluded from the calculation of percentages. (c) The majority of costs of this component were directly charged to other components and are not included here. (d) Includes corporately managed expenses.

n.a. not applicable

TOP STRUCTURE, STAFF AND PROGRAM COMPONENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Appendix 3

TOP STRUCTURE, STAFF AND PROGRAM COMPONENT RESPONSIBILITIES — as at 30 June 2002

<i>Top structure and staff responsibilities</i>	<i>Program component</i>
AUSTRALIAN STATISTICIAN	
<i>Dennis Trewin</i>	Executive
ECONOMIC STATISTICS GROUP	
<i>Peter Harper</i>	Economic Statistics Group Support Environment
Economic Accounts Division	
<i>Ivan King</i>	Public Sector Accounts Business Statistics
National Accounts Branch	
<i>Charles Aspden</i>	National Accounts
International and Financial Accounts Branch	
<i>Michael Davies</i>	International Accounts International Trade Financial Accounts
New Economy Statistics Branch	
<i>Eden Brinkley</i>	Small Business Statistics Science and Technology Construction Transport Services Industries Tourism
Production Statistics Branch	
<i>Robin Slater</i>	Economy Wide Statistics Agriculture Mining Manufacturing SPEED
Integration Branch	
<i>Bronwyn Driscoll</i>	Business Register Economic Standards Taxation Reform
Prices Statistics Branch	
<i>Paul McCarthy</i>	Prices
POPULATION STATISTICS GROUP	
<i>Rob Edwards</i>	Population Statistics Group Support Population Statistics Standards
Social and Labour Division	
<i>Barbara Dunlop</i>	Social and Labour Division Support
Labour Statistics Branch	
<i>Garth Bode</i>	Labour Statistics National Centre for Education and Training Statistics

...continued

TOP STRUCTURE, STAFF AND PROGRAM COMPONENT RESPONSIBILITIES — continued

<i>Top structure and staff responsibilities</i>	<i>Program component</i>
Social Conditions Statistics Branch <i>Bob McColl</i>	Social Statistics National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics
Health and Community Statistics Branch <i>Alan Mackay</i>	Health and Community Statistics National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics National Centre for Culture and Recreation Statistics
Census, Demography and Geography Branch <i>John Struik</i>	Census of Population and Housing Demography Geography
OTHER DIVISIONS	
Methodology Division <i>Geoff Lee</i>	Methodology Division Business Office Statistical Coordination
Analytical Services Branch <i>Ken Tallis</i>	Analytical Services
Statistical Services Branch <i>Frank Yu</i>	Mathematical Statistics Statistical Consultancy Australian Economic Indicators Time Series Analysis
Information Management Division <i>Siu-Ming Tam</i>	Information Management Division Business Office Marketing and Public Affairs
Information Services Branch <i>Dick Crockett</i>	Dissemination Client Services
Data Management Branch <i>Graeme Oakley</i>	Data Management Library Services
Population Surveys Branch <i>Glenn Cocking</i>	Population Surveys
Technology Services Division <i>Jonathan Palmer</i>	Technology Services Division Support
Technology Infrastructure Branch <i>Chris Duffy</i>	Information Technology Bureau
Technology Application Branch <i>Jenine Borowik</i>	Technology Application
Technology Research Branch <i>Bryan Fitzpatrick</i>	Technology Research

...continued

TOP STRUCTURE, STAFF AND PROGRAM COMPONENT RESPONSIBILITIES — *continued*

<i>Top structure and staff responsibilities</i>	<i>Program component</i>
Corporate Services Division <i>Graeme Hope</i>	Corporate Services Division Support Financial Management
Policy Secretariat Branch <i>Marion McEwin</i>	Corporate Planning and Secretariat International Relations
Human Resources Branch <i>Denis Farrell</i>	Human Resources Management
Financial Resources Branch <i>Kerrie Duff</i>	Property and Facilities Management
REGIONAL OFFICES (a)	
New South Wales <i>Greg Bray</i>	
Victoria <i>Vince Lazzaro</i>	
Queensland <i>Brian Doyle</i>	
Western Australia <i>Colin Nagle</i>	
South Australia <i>Steve Crabb</i>	
Tasmania <i>Steve Matheson</i>	
Northern Territory <i>Robyn Elliott</i>	
Australian Capital Territory <i>Tracy Stewart</i>	

(a) Includes the Statistical Services and User Liason component.

STAFFING OVERVIEW

Appendix 4

4.1 NUMBER OF FULL TIME EQUIVALENT(a) STAFF EMPLOYED UNDER THE PUBLIC SERVICE ACT 1999: BY PROGRAM COMPONENTS(b) AND LOCATION (staff years)

	1999– 2000	2000– 01	2001–02										
<i>Program components</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>CO</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>DPC</i>	<i>Total</i>
National Accounts	57	59	55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	55
International Accounts	53	52	53	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	53
International Trade	28	25	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23
Financial Accounts	26	27	18	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26
Public Sector Accounts	56	55	22	4	6	8	2	3	2	1	—	—	48
Prices	117	118	54	25	9	4	5	4	3	2	—	—	105
Business Statistics	53	56	5	55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	59
Economy Wide Statistics	37	39	36	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	36
Small Business Statistics	5	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Science and Technology	31	35	17	—	18	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	37
Agriculture	50	46	10	—	—	1	—	—	54	—	—	—	64
Mining	11	11	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	2	—	—	8
Manufacturing	58	51	1	44	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	47
Construction	50	46	2	—	—	—	—	44	—	—	—	—	46
Transport	47	48	4	—	—	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	30
Service Industries	120	81	33	—	32	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	69
Tourism	15	16	3	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
Environment	14	18	16	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22
Statistical Consultancy	10	11	5	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Statistical Cordination	6	5	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Australian Economic Indicators	4	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Statistical Services and User Liaison	70	67	—	7	10	12	4	14	8	4	5	—	63
Census of Population and Housing	94	188	66	11	10	8	9	6	3	6	2	636	755
Demography	46	45	21	3	1	9	3	4	2	1	—	—	44
Labour Statistics	163	167	61	—	1	—	103	—	—	—	—	—	166
Health and Community Statistics	111	111	86	—	—	16	4	—	—	—	—	—	107
Social Conditions Statistics	51	52	—	—	22	1	1	13	1	17	—	—	55
Geography	30	28	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21
Mathematical Statistics	64	69	41	5	5	2	5	4	3	—	—	—	65

For footnotes see end of table

...continued

4.1 NUMBER OF FULL TIME EQUIVALENT(a) STAFF EMPLOYED UNDER THE PUBLIC SERVICE ACT 1999: BY PROGRAM COMPONENTS(b) AND LOCATION (staff years) — continued

Program components	1999–2000	2000–01	2001–02										Total
	Total	Total	CO	NSW	Vic.	Qld	WA	SA	Tas.	NT	ACT	DPC	
Business Register	66	59	8	4	28	—	2	—	8	—	—	—	49
Business Methods	55	71	18	15	23	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	60
Analytical Services and Time Series Analysis	26	35	40	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	40
Economic Statistics Standards	19	20	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19
Population Statistics Standards	25	23	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18
Population Surveys	192	201	56	32	21	24	15	20	8	7	—	—	182
Dissemination	68	68	45	—	18	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	67
Marketing and Public Affairs	38	35	19	—	—	2	4	1	—	—	—	—	26
Client Services	141	128	20	37	21	9	12	6	5	3	3	—	115
Library Services	23	22	13	3	3	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	21
Information Technology Bureau	220	238	208	8	7	10	7	7	7	2	—	—	256
Technology Application	220	210	143	7	7	11	10	9	12	—	—	—	198
Data Management	12	13	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
Technology Research	7	6	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
SPEED	10	16	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Executive	46	47	1	8	7	5	5	6	5	5	2	—	45
Human Resources Management	143	145	86	12	8	16	8	7	5	2	—	—	145
Property and Facilities Management	77	75	36	5	10	5	5	3	2	2	—	—	69
Financial Management	35	36	18	2	4	1	1	2	—	1	—	—	29
Policy Secretariat	14	14	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13
International Relations	4	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Economic Statistics Group Support	52	53	14	9	9	4	11	4	3	1	—	—	53
Population Statistics Group Support	36	39	19	7	—	2	—	3	1	2	—	—	34
Methodology Division Business Office	5	4	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Information Management Division Business Office	11	12	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
Technology Services Division Support	10	12	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Corporate Services Division Support	12	19	10	—	1	1	3	1	—	—	1	—	16
Total Operative Staff	3 045	3 139	1 523	310	287	197	220	172	134	57	13	635	3 550
Paid Inoperative Staff(b)	68	84	44	6	6	5	7	5	2	3	2	1	81
Total Staff	3 113	3 223	1 567	316	293	202	227	177	136	60	15	636	3 631

(a) Comprises full time staff and part time staff at their full time equivalent. Excludes unpaid inoperative staff. (b) Includes staff on periods of leave greater than 12 weeks, for example, staff on long service leave and annual leave.

Note: Differences between totals and sums of components are due to rounding.

4.2 NUMBER OF ABS STAFF EMPLOYED UNDER THE PUBLIC SERVICE ACT 1999: BY LOCATION, GENDER AND CLASSIFICATION, AT 30 JUNE (headcount)(a)

<i>Year and classification</i>	<i>CO</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>DPC</i>	<i>Total</i>
MALES											
2000											
Total staff	952	203	167	124	130	111	85	19	2	—	1 793
2001											
Total staff	914	191	170	118	128	103	84	31	9	53	1 801
2002											
Operative and paid inoperative staff											
Australian Statistician	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Senior Executive Service (SES)	26	1	1	2	1	2	1	—	—	—	34
Executive Officer											
Executive Officer Level 2	113	6	6	3	6	5	6	1	—	4	150
Executive Officer Level 1	187	18	14	10	13	9	9	4	1	11	276
Australian Public Service											
APS Level 6	269	28	30	23	21	28	18	3	3	13	436
APS Level 5	100	28	34	19	25	18	16	5	2	5	252
APS Level 4	98	42	41	12	20	19	12	—	1	3	248
APS Level 3	36	35	16	15	22	11	10	1	—	59	205
APS Level 2	15	5	4	5	6	6	12	2	—	3	58
APS Graduate	7	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	9
APS Level 1	1	2	—	1	2	—	3	—	—	293	302
APS Cadet	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Total operative and paid inoperative staff	856	165	146	90	117	98	88	16	7	391	1 974
Unpaid inoperative staff	27	2	5	1	4	2	1	—	—	—	42
Total staff	883	167	151	91	121	100	89	16	7	391	2 016

For footnote see end of table.

...continued

4.2 NUMBER OF ABS STAFF EMPLOYED UNDER THE PUBLIC SERVICE ACT 1999: BY LOCATION, GENDER AND CLASSIFICATION, AT 30 JUNE (headcount)(a) — continued

Year and classification	CO	NSW	Vic.	Qld	WA	SA	Tas.	NT	ACT	DPC	Total
FEMALES											
2000											
Total staff	840	142	151	144	140	82	44	37	12	—	1 592
2001											
Total staff	816	178	177	131	125	91	60	47	11	46	1 682
2002											
Operative and paid inoperative staff											
Senior Executive Service	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Executive Officer											
Executive Officer Level 2	39	1	2	2	1	2	—	2	1	1	51
Executive Officer Level 1	136	5	13	6	6	9	2	4	1	7	189
Australian Public Service											
APS Level 6	199	12	31	14	11	5	10	8	—	17	307
APS Level 5	151	33	30	15	26	15	13	8	—	3	294
APS Level 4	121	41	29	16	26	20	6	6	2	1	268
APS Level 3	68	30	18	35	24	11	6	3	1	36	232
APS Level 2	31	12	8	11	14	12	21	—	—	3	112
APS Graduate	17	—	—	—	1	3	2	—	—	—	23
APS Level 1	1	15	13	11	10	8	12	2	—	210	282
APS Cadet	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	6
Total operative and paid inoperative staff	772	149	144	110	119	85	72	35	5	278	1 769
Unpaid inoperative staff	41	9	11	9	4	5	—	1	2	—	82
Total staff	813	158	155	119	123	90	72	36	7	278	1 851

For footnote see end of table.

...continued

4.2 NUMBER OF ABS STAFF EMPLOYED UNDER THE PUBLIC SERVICE ACT 1999: BY LOCATION, GENDER AND CLASSIFICATION, AT 30 JUNE (headcount)(a) — continued

<i>Year and classification</i>	<i>CO</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>DPC</i>	<i>Total</i>
TOTAL											
2000											
Total staff	1 792	345	318	268	270	193	129	56	14	—	3 385
2001											
Total staff	1 730	369	347	249	253	194	144	78	20	99	3 483
2002											
Operative and paid inoperative staff											
Australian Statistician	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Senior Executive Service	31	1	1	2	1	2	1	—	—	—	39
Executive Officer											
Executive Officer Level 2	152	7	8	5	7	7	6	3	1	5	201
Executive Officer Level 1	323	23	27	16	19	18	11	8	2	18	465
Australian Public Service											
APS Level 6	468	40	61	37	32	33	28	11	3	30	743
APS Level 5	251	61	64	34	51	33	29	13	2	8	546
APS Level 4	219	83	70	28	46	39	18	6	3	4	516
APS Level 3	104	65	34	50	46	22	16	4	1	95	437
APS Level 2	46	17	12	16	20	18	33	2	—	6	170
APS Graduate	24	—	—	—	2	3	3	—	—	—	32
APS Level 1	2	17	13	12	12	8	15	2	—	503	584
APS Cadet	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	9
Total operative and paid inoperative staff	1 628	314	290	200	236	183	160	51	12	669	3 743
Unpaid inoperative staff	68	11	16	10	8	7	1	1	2	—	124
Total staff	1 696	325	306	210	244	190	161	52	14	669	3 867

(a) Being paid at the classification shown at 30 June each year. Includes the Australian Statistician, who is a statutory office holder appointed under the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*. Excludes casual staff employed for short periods for population surveys.

4.3 NUMBER OF ABS STAFF EMPLOYED UNDER THE PUBLIC SERVICE ACT 1999: BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS, GENDER AND CLASSIFICATION, AT 30 JUNE (headcount)(a)

Year and classification	Ongoing			Non-Ongoing			Gender		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
FULL TIME EMPLOYEES									
2000									
Total staff	1 670	1 235	2 905	67	101	168	1 737	1 336	3 073
2001									
Total staff	1 621	1 247	2 868	125	116	241	1 746	1 363	3 109
2002									
Operative and paid inoperative staff									
Australian Statistician	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Senior Executive Service	34	5	39	—	—	—	34	5	39
Executive Officer									
Executive Officer Level 2	144	45	189	1	—	1	145	45	190
Executive Officer Level 1	268	155	423	1	1	2	269	156	425
Australian Public Service									
APS Level 6	416	250	666	4	2	6	420	252	672
APS Level 5	244	249	493	2	3	5	246	252	498
APS Level 4	229	216	445	8	12	20	237	228	465
APS Level 3	120	124	244	72	63	135	192	187	379
APS Level 2	30	37	67	25	58	83	55	95	150
APS Graduate	9	23	32	—	—	—	9	23	32
APS Level 1	3	5	8	295	213	508	298	218	516
APS Cadet	3	6	9	—	—	—	3	6	9
Total operative and paid inoperative staff	1 501	1 115	2 616	408	352	760	1 909	1 467	3 376
Unpaid inoperative staff	40	63	103	1	—	1	41	63	104
Total staff	1 541	1 178	2 719	409	352	761	1 950	1 530	3 480

For footnote see end of table.

...continued

4.3 NUMBER OF ABS STAFF EMPLOYED UNDER THE PUBLIC SERVICE ACT 1999: BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS, GENDER AND CLASSIFICATION, AT 30 JUNE (headcount)(a) — continued

Year and classification	Ongoing			Non-Ongoing			Gender		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
PART TIME EMPLOYEES									
2000									
Total staff	38	221	259	18	35	53	56	256	312
2001									
Total staff	39	285	324	16	34	50	55	319	374
2002									
Operative and paid inoperative staff									
Executive Officer									
Executive Officer Level 2	3	6	9	2	—	2	5	6	11
Executive Officer Level 1	7	33	40	—	—	—	7	33	40
Australian Public Service									
APS Level 6	16	53	69	—	2	2	16	55	71
APS Level 5	6	42	48	—	—	—	6	42	48
APS Level 4	10	39	49	1	1	2	11	40	51
APS Level 3	7	37	44	6	8	14	13	45	58
APS Level 2	1	10	11	2	7	9	3	17	20
APS Level 1	2	56	58	2	8	10	4	64	68
Total operative and paid inoperative staff	52	276	328	13	26	39	65	302	367
Unpaid inoperative staff	1	19	20	—	—	—	1	19	20
Total staff	53	295	348	13	26	39	66	321	387

**4.3 NUMBER OF ABS STAFF EMPLOYED UNDER THE PUBLIC SERVICE ACT 1999: BY
EMPLOYMENT STATUS, GENDER AND CLASSIFICATION, AT 30 JUNE (headcount)(a) — continued**

Year and classification	Ongoing			Non-Ongoing			Gender		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
TOTAL									
2000									
Total staff	1 708	1 456	3 164	85	136	221	1 793	1 592	3 385
2001									
Total staff	1 660	1 532	3 192	141	150	291	1 801	1 682	3 483
2002									
Operative and paid inoperative staff									
Australian Statistician	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Senior Executive Service	34	5	39	—	—	—	34	5	39
Executive Officer									
Executive Officer Level 2	147	51	198	3	—	3	150	51	201
Executive Officer Level 1	275	188	463	1	1	2	276	189	465
Australian Public Service									
APS Level 6	432	303	735	4	4	8	436	307	743
APS Level 5	250	291	541	2	3	5	252	294	546
APS Level 4	239	255	494	9	13	22	248	268	516
APS Level 3	127	161	288	78	71	149	205	232	437
APS Level 2	31	47	78	27	65	92	58	112	170
APS Graduate	9	23	32	—	—	—	9	23	32
APS Level 1	5	61	66	297	221	518	302	282	584
APS Cadet	3	6	9	—	—	—	3	6	9
Total operative and paid inoperative staff	1 553	1 391	2 944	421	378	799	1 974	1 769	3 743
Unpaid inoperative staff	41	82	123	1	—	1	42	82	124
Total staff	1 594	1 473	3 067	422	378	800	2 016	1 851	3 867

(a) Being paid at the classification shown at 30 June each year. Includes the Australian Statistician, who is a statutory office holder appointed under the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*. Excludes casual staff employed for short periods for population surveys.

4.4 REPRESENTATION OF EEO GROUPS: ONGOING ABS STAFF AT 30 JUNE 2002(a)

<i>Number of ongoing staff and percentage of total ongoing staff</i>								
<i>Level</i>	<i>Total Ongoing Staff</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>NESB1</i>	<i>NESB2</i>	<i>ATSI</i>	<i>PWD</i>	<i>EEO Coverage</i>	
Australian Public Service Level 1 and equivalent classifications	76	68	1	2	5	5	19	
%	—	89.5	1.3	2.6	6.6	6.6	25.0	
Australian Public Service Level 2 and equivalent classifications	116	73	9	12	1	14	113	
%	—	62.9	7.8	10.3	0.9	12.1	97.4	
Australian Public Service Level 3 and equivalent classifications	298	168	39	37	3	14	290	
%	—	56.4	13.1	12.4	1.0	4.7	97.3	
Australian Public Service Level 4 and equivalent classifications	517	270	56	57	3	17	508	
%	—	52.2	10.8	11.0	0.6	3.3	98.3	
Australian Public Service Level 5 and equivalent classifications	573	316	59	52	2	16	560	
%	—	55.1	10.3	9.1	0.3	2.8	97.7	
Australian Public Service Level 6 and equivalent classifications	762	320	87	53	1	29	727	
%	—	42.0	11.4	7.0	0.1	3.8	95.4	
Executive Level 1 and equivalent classifications	474	197	35	24	—	21	453	
%	—	41.6	7.4	5.1	—	4.4	95.6	
Executive Level 2 and equivalent classifications	206	55	17	8	—	6	198	
%	—	26.7	8.3	3.9	—	2.9	96.1	
Senior Executive Service	45	6	2	1	—	3	45	
%	—	13.3	4.4	2.2	—	6.7	100.0	
Total	3 067	1 473	305	246	15	125	2 913	
<i>% of total ongoing staff</i>	—	48.0	9.9	8.0	0.5	4.1	95.0	

(a) Inoperative staff are included in each category.

Note: Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) coverage is the number of ongoing staff who have elected to provide EEO information. EEO groups are not mutually exclusive and any individual officer may be included in more than one group. Percentages are based on total ongoing staff.

Key

NESB1 — People with non-English speaking background, first generation.

NESB2 — People with non-English speaking background, second generation.

PWD — People with disabilities.

ATSI — Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

4.5 STAFF ENGAGED UNDER THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS ACT 1905 (staff years)

<i>Purpose</i>	<i>1999–2000</i>	<i>2000–01</i>	<i>2001–02</i>
Interviewer enumerated statistical collections (mainly household surveys)	217	214	193
Census of population and housing (including preparations for the census)	19	61	1 345
Total	236	275	1 538

4.6 ABS INTAKE AND SEPARATIONS OF ONGOING STAFF 2001–02(a) (number)

<i>Method of intake and type of separation</i>	<i>SES</i>	<i>Non SES</i>	<i>Total</i>
Intake			
Engagement—National Graduate Recruitment Campaign	—	89	89
Engagement—Other	—	74	74
Movement from outside the ABS	—	6	6
Total Intake	—	169	169
Separations			
Movement to outside the ABS	—	51	51
Resignation	—	179	179
Death	—	3	3
Dismissal	—	10	10
Retirement—Invalidity	—	1	1
Retirement—Age 55–59 years	2	15	17
Retirement—Age 60–64 years	—	8	8
Retirement—Age 65 years and over	—	2	2
Retirement—Other(b)	—	31	31
Total Separations	2	300	302

(a) Excludes non-ongoing inward and outward movements. (b) Includes staff retired under Section 29 and Section 30 of the *Public Service Act 1999*.

4.7 NUMBER OF ABS SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE STAFF BY SALARY LEVEL, GENDER AND LOCATION AT 30 JUNE

Year and location	Salary Band			Gender		
	1	2	3	Male	Female	Total
2000 Total	26	5	2	28	5	33
2001 Total	27	6	2	30	5	35
2002						
Australian Capital Territory	20	6	1	22	5	27
New South Wales	1	—	—	1	—	1
Victoria	1	—	—	1	—	1
Queensland	1	—	—	1	—	1
South Australia	—	—	—	—	—	—
Western Australia	1	—	—	1	—	1
Tasmania	1	—	—	1	—	1
Total	25	6	1	27	5	32

4.8 ABS STAFF TRAINING(a) (number)

	1999–2000	2000–01	2001–02
Total ABS operative staff(b)	3 045	3 139	(c)3 550
Staff attendances at training	17 637	14 850	17 826
Attendance days	17 691	15 731	14 911
Average training days	5.8	5.0	4.2

(a) Excludes on-the-job training. (b) Comprises full time and part time staff at their full time equivalent. (c) Operative staff number includes 611 DPC non ongoing staff who received on-the-job training as a primary source of skilling.

The concerted efforts by ABS Learning and Development to align the training opportunities offered with workplace needs has continued this year and is reflected in the increase in the number of staff attending training opportunities and a reduction in the number of attendance days required to deliver that training. The trend has been towards fewer days duration for programs which are designed to meet specific business needs. With an increase in the involvement of subject matter experts in instructional design and course facilitation in both statistical training and information technology streams, there has been a stronger delivery of skills required in the workplace. Again this year the ABS has sponsored a Graduate Certificate in Statistics — a professional tertiary qualification specifically designed to develop the statistical skills base of the ABS.

New modes of delivery have resulted in learning opportunities being offered as online learning programs and computer based training programs. These attendances are not included in the above figures.

A lower intake during 2001–02 has reduced the number of induction and orientation places required.

NUMBER OF ABS STAFF COVERED BY A CERTIFIED AGREEMENT OR AN AUSTRALIAN WORKPLACE AGREEMENT (AWA), BY THE SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE (SES) AND NON-SES:

Number of SES staff covered by an AWA at 30 June 2002 = 36

Number of ABS staff covered by an AWA at 30 June 2002 = 411

Number of ABS staff covered by the *ABS Certified Agreement 2001–2003* at 30 June 2002 = 2,687

Number of interviewers covered by the *ABS Interviewers Certified Agreement 2002–2003* at 30 June 2002 = 587

Number of non-ongoing staff covered by the *ABS Census Data Processing Centre Certified Agreement 2001–2002* at 30 June 2002 = 608

4.9 SALARY RANGES AVAILABLE BY CLASSIFICATION STRUCTURE FROM 4 JULY 2001

<i>Level</i>	<i>Minimum \$</i>	<i>Maximum \$</i>
APS1 — Adult	27 566	31 701
Graduate	30 467	35 673
APS2	31 199	35 878
APS3	35 533	40 863
APS4	39 605	45 545
APS5	44 174	50 800
APS6	49 140	56 511
Executive Level 1	61 114	70 281

4.10 SALARY RANGES AVAILABLE BY CLASSIFICATION STRUCTURE FROM 3 JANUARY 2002

<i>Level</i>	<i>Minimum \$</i>	<i>Maximum \$</i>
Executive Level 2	70 712	85 561
SES1	96 723	n.a.
SES2	117 964	n.a.
SES3	141 233	n.a.

n.a. not applicable

DESCRIPTION OF THE ABS REMUNERATION SYSTEM

The ABS remuneration system is two tiered. There is a percentage based general increase (2.75 per cent in 2001–02) which includes a component of productivity. All staff who perform capably or better receive this salary increase. Employees can receive a further salary increase based upon their performance rating and depending where they are in the salary range for their APS level. Both components are a permanent increase to an employee's salary. These arrangements provided an average pay increase of 4.49 per cent across all levels in 2001–02. The overall increase in the ABS salary budget is about 3.6 per cent because there are more departures at the higher end of the salary scales and promotions are at the lower end of the salary scales.

The tables below provide information in respect of staff who received the additional performance based salary increase.

4.11 STAFF PAID PERFORMANCE BASED SALARY INCREASES IN JULY 2001

<i>Level</i>	<i>Number</i>
APS1	71
Graduate	10
APS2	84
APS3	326
APS4	528
APS5	568
APS6	470
Executive Level 1	446

4.12 STAFF PAID PERFORMANCE BASED SALARY INCREASES IN JANUARY 2002

<i>Level</i>	<i>Number</i>
Executive Level 2	165
SES1	29
SES2 and 3	8

4.13 AGGREGATED PERFORMANCE BASED SALARY INCREASES MADE TO ABS STAFF IN JULY 2001

<i>Level</i>	<i>\$</i>
APS1	50 671
Graduate	6 081
APS2	43 410
APS3	232 816
APS4	472 530
APS5	560 346
APS6	599 398
Executive Level 1	555 308

4.14 AGGREGATED PERFORMANCE BASED SALARY INCREASES MADE TO ABS STAFF IN JANUARY 2002

<i>Level</i>	<i>\$</i>
Executive Level 2	288 082
SES1	80 484
SES2 and 3	30 560

4.15 AVERAGE PERFORMANCE BASED SALARY INCREASES MADE TO ABS STAFF IN JULY 2001

<i>Level</i>	<i>\$</i>
APS1	714
Graduate	608
APS2	517
APS3	714
APS4	895
APS5	987
APS6	1 275
Executive Level 1	1 245

4.16 AVERAGE PERFORMANCE BASED SALARY INCREASES MADE TO ABS STAFF IN JANUARY 2002

<i>Level</i>	<i>\$</i>
Executive Level 2	1 746
SES1	2 775
SES2 and 3	3 820

As prescribed by the ABS Certified Agreement, employees on the specified maximum for each salary range who are rated as outstanding are eligible for a non-superannuable bonus of \$500 in each year for which an outstanding rating is achieved. In the July 2001 remuneration process 37 APS6 employees and one APS4 employee received a bonus payment of \$500. The aggregate bonus payment for the ABS as a whole was \$19,000.

REWARD AND RECOGNITION

The ABS operates a reward and recognition scheme to recognise exceptional one-off achievements by individuals or workgroups. Rewards under the scheme may be in the form of certificates, hospitality (such as workgroup lunches), prepaid vouchers and cash bonuses. Total expenditure on the scheme in 2001–02 was \$146,031.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Appendix 5

The ABS is committed to the health, safety and welfare of all its employees. A dedicated unit in Central Office, complemented by individual employees in regional offices, ensures the requirements of the relevant legislation are observed. A network of occupational health and safety committees is the vehicle for consultation on Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) issues affecting staff.

As a result of the move to ABS House in early 2002, 21 new Designated Work Groups were formed. During 2001–02, 71 employees were selected/elected (31 of whom required and were trained as Health and Safety Representatives (HSRs)) under the *Occupational Health and Safety (Commonwealth Employment) Act 1991*. Additionally, there were 22 HSRs elected and trained for the Census Data Processing Centre (DPC) and the Census Field Group.

There were 25 notifiable accidents reported to Comcare for the period. Three notifiable accidents were also reported by the DPC and the Census Field Group.

A National Occupational Health and Safety Committee was established in 2001–02. The committee, which meets twice a year, addresses OH&S issues of national significance to the ABS.

Investigations

Comcare conducted a planned investigation of ABS Regional Offices in South Australia, Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales, between August and September 2001. A number of strategies have been introduced to address the identified issues.

Accidents

There were 459 accidents and incidents at the ABS in 2001–02 compared with 370 in 2000–01. Additionally there were 677 accidents and incidents in the census field and the DPC in 2001–02. The reported accidents and incidents fall into the following broad categories:

5.1 REPORTED ACCIDENTS AND INCIDENTS (number)

	2000-01 (ABS)	2001-02 (ABS)	Census Field and DPC 2001-02
Motor vehicle/journey related accidents	92	103	72
Accidents as a result of sporting injuries	18	19	5
Back injuries	25	29	19
Computer related overuse injuries	26	40	36
Stress	1	9	6
Slips, trips and falls(a)	n.a.	45	170
Sprains and strains(a)	n.a.	6	26
Other work-based incidents and accidents	208	(b)208	343
Total	370	459	677

(a) Extra categories have been added in 2001-02 to improve reporting. (b) During the period 2001-02, there were 52 reports of food poisoning effects from a single incident in Central Office. Additionally, there were 33 reports in the Queensland Office resulting from a single incident of smoke and fumes emanating from the air conditioning system.

n.a. not applicable

Rehabilitation

5.2 REHABILITATION CASE MANAGEMENT (number)

	2000-01 (ABS)	2001-02 (ABS)	Census Field and DPC 2001-02
Compensation claims submitted	93	120	206
Compensation claims closed	50	69	158
Return to work plans	33	14	15
Non compensable (fitness) cases	70	136	4
Non compensable (fitness) cases closed	121	74	4

Comcare Premiums

The Comcare premium for 2002-03 has been set at 1.37% of total salary (including GST).

5.3 COMCARE WORKERS COMPENSATION PREMIUM RATE (% of wage and salary expenditure)

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
ABS	1.84	1.47	1.00	0.92	0.98	(a)1.21	1.37
Agency Pool Average	1.60	1.20	1.00	1.03	0.98	1.02	1.13

(a) Combined ABS and census rate.

Achievements

Measures taken to ensure the health, safety and welfare of employees during 2001-02 included:

- the review of Comcare data to identify and manage high cost claims and trends;

- Central Office Health and Safety Unit managers have visited a number of regional offices to discuss accident and injury trends and various preventative and intervention strategies;
- a national program of rehabilitation for ill and injured employees which has achieved positive rehabilitation and return to work outcomes;
- continuing the focus on safety in all offices including individual workstation assessments and training in the correct adjustment to workstations and use of ergonomic furniture;
- promoting health and fitness by providing information sessions on a range of health and safety topics;
- ongoing trials of computer equipment and software to reduce strain and improve comfort for employees; and
- implementation of an intensive injury prevention program for Census DPC staff involving training and education, safety audits, regular rest breaks and health and wellbeing advice.

Nevertheless, it is a concern that the ABS premium is higher than the agency pool average. The reasons will be investigated more closely with the objective of bringing the premium rate in line with other agencies.

ABS House

A number of initiatives were developed in relation to the design, fitout and relocation to ABS House. These included:

- the formation of the ABS House Committee which was comprised of ABS management and HSRs who had input into issues relating to the new building;
- an occupational health and safety specialist consultant who provided professional advice to the project team;
- pre and post occupancy inspections by ABS management and HSRs;
- evaluation by ABS management and HSRs on furniture and equipment for ABS House; and
- conducting workstation assessments for employees post relocation.

CONSULTANCY SERVICES

Appendix 6

Policy on selection and engagement of consultants

ABS policy on selection and engagement of consultants is consistent with Commonwealth Procurement Guideline No. 13, Contracting for Consultancy Services, and is contained in the ABS Purchasing Manual.

Selection procedures

The ABS selects and engages consultants in a way that is consistent with the objectives of 'open and effective competition' and 'value for money'. The ABS identifies qualified and available consultants on the basis of open tender, selective tender, successful tender for a similar project, previous work done and known or assessed capability, as appropriate in each case.

Purposes for which consultants were engaged in 2001–02

The purposes for which consultants were engaged by the ABS in 2001–02 have been classified into nine main categories. These are shown in the table below. In all categories, the predominant reasons for the use of consultancy services were the need for specialised skills and to allow efficiency and flexibility in operations by making additional personnel available.

Total consultancies under engagement in 2001–02

The total number of consultancy services engaged during 2001–02 was 40, of which 32 were let in 2001–02. The total value of these consultancy services was approximately \$1.0m, a considerable reduction on recent years. The number of consultancies engaged and the total expenditure, with subtotals for the main purpose for which they were engaged, during 2001–02, are shown in the following table:

6.1 CONSULTANCY SERVICES CONTRACTS ENGAGED BY THE ABS, 2001–02: SUMMARY

<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Consultancies number</i>	<i>Expenditure in 2001–02 \$</i>
Accounting Services	3	75 123
Audit	1	3 250
Human Resources	1	18 876
Information Technology	10	298 206
Management	4	132 859
Publishing	2	45 520
Statistical	13	292 078
Training and Development	3	43 423
Marketing/Public Relations	3	109 318
Total	40	1 018 653

6.2 CONSULTANCY SERVICES CONTRACTS ENGAGED BY THE ABS, 1998–99 TO 2001–02

	1998–99	1999–2000	2000–01	2001–02
Expenditure (\$)	2 371 704	3 038 568	1 861 149	1 018 653
Consultancies (number)	88	59	45	40

Consultancies let in 2001–02 with expenditure of \$10,000 or more

Consultants engaged for consultancy services contracts let in 2001–02 with expenditure of \$10,000 or more are listed in the following table. The project for which each was engaged and the expenditure are also shown. The consultants are listed under the main purpose for which they were engaged. The justification for recourse to consultancy arrangements, and the type of tender used, is indicated in each case by an alphabetic and a numeric symbol, which is explained in a key at the end of the table.

6.3 CONSULTANCY SERVICES CONTRACTS LET TO THE VALUE OF \$10,000 OR MORE

	Expenditure in 2001–02 \$	Justification and type of tender
Accounting Services		
Assist Pty Ltd		
Defining and documenting accounts receivable and subscription management business processes	41 251	(a,b,c) (5)
Australian Valuation Office		
ABS hardware assets revaluation	21 800	(a) (3)
Sinclair Knight Merz		
Development of a detailed data specification for inclusion in new contracts	12 073	(a) (5)
Human Resources		
Quality Management Solutions		
Consultancy associated with a breach of the APS Code of Conduct	18 876	(a) (5)
Information Technology		
AST Operations Pty Ltd		
Advice and assistance on software	14 520	(b) (2)
Dimension Data		
Consultancy service in relation to security monitoring and auditing	48 840	(d) (3)
Project management consultancy in relation to Windows 2000	124 250	(a) (3)
Eucalypt Software Partners		
Consultancy on software	16 630	(a) (5)
Power Quality Technologies Pty Ltd		
Consultancy in regard to the new data centre in ABS House	59 090	(a) (5)
Management		
Australian Government Solicitor		
Update of ABS Purchasing Manual	14 054	(c) (2)

For footnotes see end of table.

...continued

**6.3 CONSULTANCY SERVICES CONTRACTS LET TO THE VALUE OF
\$10,000 OR MORE — continued**

	Expenditure in 2001-02 \$	Justification and type of tender
Management — (continued)		
Value Creating Environments Pty Ltd		
Design and facilitation of Business Statistics Innovation Program Workshop	112 073	(a,d,e) (5)
Marketing/Public Relations		
Jim Payne and Associates Pty Ltd		
Provision of inhouse public relations consultancy services	46 716	(a) (5)
User Insite Pty Ltd		
Consultancy to provide AusStats product research	29 854	(a,d) (2)
Publishing		
von Reibnitz, Fred		
Editorial service	37 520	(a) (5)
Statistical		
Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute		
Review of existing Australian and international measures of urban density	37 488	(d) (3)
Cunneen, Chris		
Review of the National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics	44 825	(a) (2)
Geoff Minter and Associates — Research		
Cognitive research of form design for the 2006 Census of Population and Housing	27 844	(c) (3)
South Australian Centre for Economic Studies		
Develop an Information Model of the demand for rural and regional statistics	22 110	(a) (5)
Imhoff, Trevor		
Consultancy Services for Census and Geography work program	49 586	(a) (6)
University of Wollongong		
Research project on seasonal adjustment	22 000	(a) (5)
Training and Development		
D'Arcy Consulting Group		
Provision of Professional Efficiency Program training	35 750	(a) (5)

Key

Justification for recourse to consultancy arrangements:

- (a) Need for specialised skills.
- (b) Need for access to the latest technology and experience in its application.
- (c) Lack of available in-house resources.
- (d) Need for an independent study.
- (e) Need for a change agent or facilitator.

Type of Tender

- (1) Public tender
- (2) Restricted tender
- (3) Request for quotation
- (4) Staged procurement process
- (5) Direct Negotiation
- (6) Verbal quotation

Table excludes standard services such as:

- internal audit
- scribes
- medical counselling, and other individual consultations
- presentation of standard/pre-existing training courses
- travel contracts, IT Help Desk and IT maintenance contracts

ADVERTISING AND MARKET RESEARCH

Appendix 7

AMOUNTS PAID BY, OR ON BEHALF OF THE ABS(a), 2001–02

<i>Name of organisation paid</i>	<i>Amount \$</i>
Advertising	
Stroudgate Australasia	4 675
Market Research Society	523
Strongo Production	110
Executive Media	2 195
National Business Bulletin	4 620
South Pacific Press	2 168
Eryl Morgan Publications	2 200
Starcom Worldwide Pty Ltd	165 363
Mitchell & Partners Australia	4 382 409
<i>Sub total</i>	4 564 263
Market Research	
User Insite Pty Ltd	29 854
Courage Partners	5 566
<i>Sub total</i>	35 420
Direct Mail Organisations	
Pirie Printers	48 632
Drake List Management	15 317
Canberra Mailing	3 870
National Mailing & Marketing	60 185
Startrack Express	483
Morris Walker	26 741
<i>Sub total</i>	155 228
Total	4 754 911

(a) Advertising expenditure increased significantly in 2001–02 due to the running of the 2001 Census of Population and Housing.

COMPETITIVE TENDERING AND CONTRACTING

Appendix 8

The ABS conducts its contracting and administrative arrangements in accordance with the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines to ensure it receives value for money. During 1999–2000 the ABS signed a three year combined contract for printing and freight distribution services. In 2001–02 the ABS outsourced some activities relating to the supply of stationery at a national level.

These contracts meet the requirements for providing the Auditor General with access to the contractor's premises.

Purchasing

ABS procurement activities represent an important part of our strategic focus and direction. Significant items are either purchased through the Commonwealth's Endorsed Supplier Arrangement or through a process which ensures the attainment of value for money. The ABS actively applies the Commonwealth's core purchasing policies and principles, and through this approach ensures participation of Australian and New Zealand enterprises and small/medium businesses.

The ABS has a devolved procurement environment and ensures that all staff have access to appropriate training, or support from procurement experts, when undertaking procurement projects.

Assets management

Depreciation management forms an integral part of the organisation's Financial and Resource Management programs. In accordance with government requirements, the ABS revalues all physical fixed assets such as property, plant and equipment on a three year cycle. Assets that have become obsolete, or excess to requirements, are disposed of in a manner consistent with sound disposal practices.

In addition to physical assets, ABS operations are supported by a large asset base of internally generated software. Long term strategic planning and judicious management has ensured that these assets have supported the organisation well in achieving its outcomes. The ABS views its information technology assets as another major resource for its business operations, and actively pursues a policy of ongoing management to ensure maximum return from these assets.

As part of its overall management strategy, the ABS actively manages its disposals program to ensure it receives value for money from assets no longer required. Where it is decided to dispose of items by auction, the ABS has established national arrangements with auctioneers under the Endorsed Supplier Arrangements. Streamlined disposal processes were applied during the move to the new corporate headquarters in ABS House. This involved auction-based disposal and direct sales, providing a good return for the Commonwealth.

As required by section 8 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, the following statement is provided on the structure of the ABS, and how members of the public can gain access to information held by the ABS.

Establishment, organisation and functions

Chapter 2 and Appendixes 1 and 3 of this report provide details on the role, structure and functions of the ABS.

Powers

The decision making powers of the ABS and other powers associated with the discharge of its functions affecting members of the public are:

- the power to collect statistics, including the powers to request, or direct, persons to provide information, and to enter into premises other than private accommodation for the purpose of collecting statistics;
- the power to initiate prosecutions against persons for failing to supply information if directed; and
- the power to publish statistics and release information.

Consultative arrangements

The role of the Australian Statistics Advisory Council, which is the peak consultative body for the ABS, is described in Chapter 2.

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 for sale through its bookshops. The ABS also provides free access to its key publications through ABS libraries and major public libraries and access to key statistical aggregates through its web site.

Other documents in the possession of the ABS are:

Government and Parliament: various policy-related documents, ministerial briefings, ministerial correspondence, replies to Parliamentary questions, and tabling documents.

Conferences, etc.: agenda papers, submissions, and records of proceedings of internal and external conferences, management meetings and workshops.

Statistical and statistical service projects: 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: work program and planning documents, finance, staff and establishment papers and manuals, personnel files, files relating to recruitment, selection and promotion of staff, staff development and training papers, office services documents and tenders.

Privacy: 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: correspondence, papers, etc. filed by subject, manuals on more general subjects, reviews and administrative circulars.

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*.

ABS Freedom of Information (FOI) Activities

Matters relating to the operation of the Act within the ABS are the responsibility of the Policy Secretariat Branch in Central Office, and authority for decision making under the Act has been delegated to the Deputy Australian Statistician, Population Statistics Group, and the First Assistant Statistician, Corporate Services Division. Policy Secretariat Branch staff attend meetings of the FOI Practitioners' Forum run by the Australian Government Solicitor's Office.

The following table provides details of FOI activities during the years 1997–98 to 2001–02 inclusive. No requests were made to the ABS under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* during 2001–02.

FOI ACTIVITIES, 1997-98 TO 2001-02 (number)

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Requests received for:					
Statistical information	—	—	—	1	—
Personal papers	—	—	—	—	—
Administrative documents	—	—	2	—	—
Total	—	—	2	1	—
Decisions made:					
Access granted in full	—	—	1	—	—
Access granted in part	—	—	1	—	—
Request transferred to another agency	—	—	—	—	—
Request withdrawn	—	—	—	1	—
Access refused	—	—	—	—	—
Documents not in existence	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	2	1	—
Decisions outstanding at end of year	—	—	—	—	—
Review of decisions by principal officer	—	—	—	—	—
Appeals to Administrative Appeals Tribunal	—	—	—	—	—

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 the Freedom of Information Contact Officer, Australian Bureau of Statistics, ABS House, 45 Benjamin Way, Belconnen, ACT, 2616 (Locked Bag 10, Belconnen, ACT, 2616); telephone 02 6252 5557.

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, 1041

INQUIRIES BY PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES AND REPORTS BY THE AUDITOR GENERAL

Appendix 11

Listed below are inquiries by Parliamentary Committees which involved the ABS during 2001–02, including a summary of significant comments and recommendations relating to the ABS and a summary of action taken by the ABS.

Parliamentary Committees

Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit: Review of Accrual Budget Documentation

The ABS provided further information to the Committee in July 2001, in addition to a submission provided in May 2001.

The Committee's report was tabled in Parliament on 19 June 2002. The Committee made eleven recommendations aimed at improving the transparency and accountability of government agencies and the Government's accounts. There were no recommendations specific to the ABS.

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade: Australia's Relations with the Middle East

In November 2001 the ABS provided information to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) for inclusion in a response to the Committee in relation to a recommendation that DFAT and the Department of Defence discuss the use of the category 'Confidential Item' for both imports and exports with the ABS, to produce more meaningful trade statistics. The Government's response to the Committee has yet to be finalised.

Reports by the Auditor General

There were no adverse reports or comments made by the Auditor General during 2001–02.

DOCUMENTS TABLED IN PARLIAMENT

Appendix 12

Proposals for the collection of information
for statistical purposes

In accordance with section 6 of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*, the following proposals for collection of information for statistical purposes were tabled in both Houses of Parliament during 2001–02.

12.1 TABLING — PROPOSALS FOR COLLECTION OF INFORMATION FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES, 2001–02

<i>Date tabled(a)</i>	<i>Statistical collection(b)</i>
7 August 2001	New Topics in the Monthly Population Survey: Teleworking (New South Wales); Safety in the Home (Queensland).
28 August 2001	Survey of Financial Information: Venture Capital Supplement
20 September 2001	Survey of Book Retailers
26 September 2001	General Social Survey
12 February 2002	2001–02 Private Medical Practice Industry Survey
12 February 2002	Manufacturing Material Inputs Survey
12 February 2002	Crime and Safety Survey
12 February 2002	Training Expenditure and Practices Survey 2001–02
12 February 2002	Freight Movements Survey—Air and Rail
11 March 2002	Survey of New Capital Expenditure
19 March 2002	Land Management and Salinity Survey
14 May 2002	Agricultural Survey 2001–02
24 June 2002	Quarterly Producer Price Indexes
25 June 2002	Indigenous Social Survey
25 June 2002	Job Search Experience Survey
25 June 2002	2001–02 Service Industries Survey

(a) If the proposal was tabled on different dates in the two Houses of Parliament, the earlier of the two 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 (Statutory Rules 1983 No. 19) made under section 13 of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, details of the following disclosures of lists of names, addresses and other information to be provided to the specified Department or Authority, were tabled in both Houses of Parliament in 2001–02.

12.2 TABLING — DISCLOSURE OF LISTS OF NAMES AND ADDRESSES, 2001–02

<i>Date tabled(a)</i>	<i>Information released</i>
23 August 2001	List of Establishments for the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (Fuel and Electricity Survey)
11 March 2002	Lists of Agricultural Establishments for the Australian 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 two dates is shown.

DISCLOSURE OF UNIDENTIFIED INFORMATION

Appendix 13

The Statistics Determination (Statutory Rules 1983 No. 19) made by the Minister under section 13 of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, provides for the disclosure, with the approval in writing of the Statistician, of specified classes of information. Clause 7 of the Determination provides for the disclosure of unidentified individual statistical records in a manner that is not likely to enable the identification of the person or organisation to which they relate.

Disclosures of unidentified information under clause 7 of the Statistics Determination are shown in the following table.

13.1 STATISTICAL COLLECTIONS — DISCLOSURE OF UNIDENTIFIED INFORMATION, 2001–02

<i>Survey title</i>	<i>Survey date</i>
Aspects of literacy survey	1996
Australian housing survey	1994
Australian housing survey	1999
Australians' employment and unemployment patterns survey	1994–97
Business growth and performance survey	1994–95, 1995–96, 1996–97, 1997–98 (combined)
Census 1% sample file	1981
Census 1% sample file	1986
Census 1% sample file	1991
Census 1% sample file	1996
Child care survey	1993
Child care survey	1996
Disability, ageing and carers survey	1993
Disability, ageing and carers survey	1998
Education and training survey	1997
Education and training experience survey	1989
Forms of employment survey	1998
Household expenditure survey	1975–76
Household expenditure survey	1984
Household expenditure survey	1988–89
Household expenditure survey	1993–94
Household expenditure survey	1998–99
Household expenditure survey (second fiscal incidence study edition)	1998–99
Income and housing costs and amenities survey (Consolidated Files)	1989–90
Income and housing costs survey	1994–95
Income and housing costs survey	1995–96
Income and housing costs survey	1996–97

...continued

13.1 STATISTICAL COLLECTIONS—DISCLOSURE OF UNIDENTIFIED INFORMATION, 2001–02 — *continued*

<i>Survey title</i>	<i>Survey date</i>
Income and housing costs survey	1997–98
Income and housing costs survey	1999–2000
Income and housing survey	1982
Income distribution survey (Consolidated Files)	1986
Labour mobility survey	1994
National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander survey	1994
National health survey	1977–78
National health survey	1989–90
National health survey	1995
National nutrition survey	1995
National survey of mental health and wellbeing of adults (Western Australia)	1997
National survey of mental health and wellbeing of adults (2nd revised)	1997
Rental tenants survey	1994
Time use survey	1992
Time use survey	1997
Training and education survey	1993
Voluntary work in Australia survey	2000
Women's safety survey	1996

Total number of disclosures of unidentified information under clause 7 of the Statistics Determination between 1999–2000 and 2001–02 are shown in the following table.

13.2 DISCLOSURE OF UNIDENTIFIED INFORMATION, 1999–2000 TO 2001–02 — SUMMARY

<i>Clause 7 — number of individual disclosures(a)</i>	<i>1999–2000</i>	<i>2000–01</i>	<i>2001–02</i>
Universities	228	154	132
Other	29	40	46
Total	257	194	178

(a) Does not include renewals of previously released files.

NOTICES OF DIRECTION ISSUED AND PROSECUTION ACTIONS APPROVED

Appendix 14

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 to complete a form or answer a question. Under section 14 of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, a person who fails to comply with a notice of direction without reasonable excuse is guilty of an offence.

The number of notices of direction issued and the number of prosecution actions approved in recent years are shown in the following table.

NOTICES OF DIRECTION ISSUED AND PROSECUTION ACTIONS APPROVED						
Type of statistical collection	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Notices of direction issued						
Census of Population and Housing	946	—	—	—	—	595
Household surveys	1	—	1	—	4	13
Business censuses and surveys	20	21	13	6	36	21
Total	967	21	14	6	40	629
Prosecution actions approved(a)						
Census of Population and Housing	48	—	—	—	—	104
Household surveys	—	—	—	—	—	2
Business censuses and surveys	3	2	2	—	5	—
Total	51	2	2	—	5	106

(a) Approved by the Australian Statistician for referral to the relevant office of the Director of Public Prosecutions or the Australian Government Solicitor. Any particular prosecution approval may pertain to a number of notices of direction. Each prosecution action approval is counted under the year in which the corresponding notices of direction are issued. Not every prosecution action approved proceeds to court (for example, because of subsequent receipt of the required information, or lack of sufficient information to serve a summons).

PROFESSIONAL PAPERS BY ABS OFFICERS

Appendix 15

Officers of the ABS prepared the following professional papers which were presented or published between 1 July 2001 and 30 June 2002.

- Bill Allen *Qualifying quality — issues of presentation and education.* Presented to the International Symposium on Data Quality, Quebec, Canada, 16–19 October 2001.
- Ian Bobbin *The SNA93 definition of basic prices with particular reference to transport margins: is the SNA definition flawed?* Presented to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Meeting of National Accounts, Paris, 9–12 October 2001.
- Merry Branson *Overview of Australian government policies concerning electronic transactions and security.* Presented to United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Electronic Data Reporting (EDR) Work Session, Geneva, 13–15 February 2002.
- Merry Branson *Using XBRL for data reporting.* Presented to UNECE EDR Work Session, Geneva, 13–15 February 2002.
- Derek Byars *Identification of biotechnology research and development — field of science and socio-economic objective.* Presented to the 3rd Ad Hoc Meeting on Biotechnology Statistics, Helsinki, 13–15 May 2002.
- Derek Byars *Results of the testing of the provisional biotechnology definitions by Australia.* Presented to the 3rd Ad Hoc Meeting on Biotechnology Statistics, Helsinki, 13–15 May 2002.
- Siddhartha De *Estimation of holdings of, and transactions in, listed equity by Australian households: A national accounting approach.* Presented to the 14th Annual Australasian Finance and Banking Conference, Sydney, 17–19 December 2001.
- Doris de Silva *Energy and greenhouse gas emissions: input-output multipliers, Australia, 1994–95 and 1996–97.* Presented to the 30th Conference of Economists, Perth, 24–26 September 2001.
- Rob Edwards *Some perspectives on data quality and analysis in the Australian Bureau of Statistics.* Presented to the Annual Conference of the Philippines Statistical Research and Training Centre, October 2001.
- Bob Harrison *Development of headline sustainability indicators in Australia.* Presented to the UNECE/Eurostat Work Session, Ottawa, 1–4 October 2001.

- Bob Harrison *Environment and natural resource statistics to monitor and manage ecologically sustainable development in Australia.* Published in The Statistics Newsletter: for the Extended OECD Statistical Network, Number 3, July 2001.
- Bob Harrison and Michael Vardon *Environmental accounting: concepts, practices and assessment of sustainable development.* Presented to the 46th Annual Conference of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society, Canberra, 12–14 February 2002.
- Tony Johnson *Volume balance sheet for Australia.* Published in The Statistics Newsletter: for the Extended OECD Statistical Network, Number 5, November 2001.
- Ivan King *A statistical analysis of Australia's exports.* Presented to the Strategic Management for Export Markets — Developing Best Practices for Expanding Your Targeted Customer Base Through Foreign Markets Conference, Sydney, 3–4 October 2001.
- Geoff Lee and Bill Allen *Educated use of information about data quality.* Presented to the International Statistical Institute (ISI), 53rd Session, Seoul, 22–29 August 2001.
- Paul McCarthy, Keith Woolford, Leon Pietsch and Peter Harper *Improving our knowledge and analysis of changes in poverty and inequality: the international statistical architecture.* Presented to the G–20 Workshop on Globalisation, Living Standards and Inequality: Recent Progress and Continuing Challenges, Sydney, 26–28 May 2002.
- Mike McGrath *Australian customs developments and their impact on Australia's international trade statistics.* Presented to the 3rd OECD Expert Meeting on Trade Statistics, Paris, 5–7 December 2001.
- Kristen Northwood, Tony Johnson, Terry Rawnsley and Lujuan Chen *Developments in Australian wealth statistics.* Presented to the 30th Conference of Economists, Perth, 24–26 September 2001.
- Kristen Northwood, Tony Johnson, Terry Rawnsley and Lujuan Chen *Wealth statistics for Australia: recent developments.* Presented to the OECD Meeting of National Accounts, Paris, 9–12 October 2001.
- Graeme Oakley *New strategies for metadata at the Australian Bureau of Statistics.* Presented to the Joint UNECE/Eurostat Work Session on Statistical Metadata, Luxembourg, 6–8 March 2002.
- Leon Pietsch, Bob McColl and Jan Gatenby *Household income, living standards and financial stress.* Presented to the National Social Policy Conference, Sydney, 4–6 July 2001.

Tim Power	<i>ABS electronic commerce statistics and methodological issues.</i> Presented to the 53rd Session, ISI, Seoul, 22–29 August 2001.
Tim Power	<i>Australian Bureau of Statistics paper on developing an Australian Information Technology and Telecommunication (IT&T) satellite account.</i> Presented to the Working Party on Indicators for the Information Society meeting, OECD, Stockholm, 25–26 April 2002.
Tim Power	<i>Developments in official statistics on the adoption of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Australia.</i> Presented to the International Association for Official Statistics Satellite Meeting on Statistics for the Information Society, Tokyo, 30–31 August 2001.
Sheridan Roberts	<i>A statistical framework for measuring knowledge in the Australian economy and society.</i> Presented to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Working Group of Experts Meeting, Bangkok, 27–30 November 2001.
Sheridan Roberts	<i>Measuring e-commerce: Australian Bureau of Statistics experience.</i> Presented to the UN Statistical Commission Meeting, New York, 5–8 March 2002.
Sheridan Roberts	<i>Measurement of information technology use by households and individuals: revised proposal for a model questionnaire.</i> Presented to the 16th Meeting of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics, Örebro, Sweden, 17–21 September 2001.
Sheridan Roberts	<i>Asia-Pacific statisticians meeting on IT&T statistics in Brisbane.</i> Published in The Statistics Newsletter: for the Extended OECD Statistical Network, Number 5, November 2001.
Luisa Ryan, Tony Johnson and Jai Singh	<i>Adjusting the national income accounts for the depletion of natural resources.</i> Presented to the 30th Conference of Economists, Perth, 24–26 September 2001.
Dennis Trewin	<i>Foreman Lecture: the Australian population census.</i> Presented to the Statistical Society of Australia, Canberra, 3 July 2001.
Dennis Trewin	<i>Cooperation in official statistics in the Asia/Pacific region.</i> Presented to the ISI, 53rd Session, Seoul, 22–29 August 2001.
Dennis Trewin	<i>The Importance of a Quality Culture.</i> Address to Symposium 2001, Statistics Canada's XVIIIth International Symposium on Methodological Issues, Hull, Quebec, Canada, 16–19 October 2001.
Dennis Trewin	<i>Corporate Governance Arrangements in the Australian Bureau of Statistics.</i> Presented to the Consultative Seminar on Governance of National Statistical Systems, Singapore, May 2002.

- Dennis Trewin *An Australian Perspective on the Conference of European Statisticians.* Presented to the Conference of European Statisticians, Paris, June 2002.
- Andrew Webster *Some features of evidence-based policy making for Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders.* Presented to 'Setting the Agenda': Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission National Policy Conference, Canberra, 25–27 March 2002.
- Fred Wensing and
Brett Martin *Case management for Blaise using Lotus Notes.* Presented to the 7th International Blaise Users Conference, Washington D.C., 12–14 September 2001.
- Keith Woolford *Electronic commerce and the Consumer Price Index.* Presented to the Joint Economic Commission for Europe/International Labour Organisation Meeting on Consumer Price Indices, Geneva, 1–2 November 2001.

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GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Appendix 17

ABN	Australian Business Number
ABR	Australian Business Register
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ABS@	Information service to provide users with ready access to ABS publications and to a range of multi-dimensional datasets in electronic format
AHMS	Australian Health Measurement Survey
ANAO	Australian National Audit Office
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
APRA	Australian Prudential Regulation Authority
APS	Australian Public Service
ASAC	Australian Statistics Advisory Council
ASCED	Australian Standard Classification of Education
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
ATSI	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
AusStats	An online subscription service to the ABS standard product range
AWA	Australian Workplace Agreement
BSIP	Business Statistics Innovation Program
CAI	Computer Assisted Interviewing
cat. no.	ABS catalogue number
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CURFs	Confidentialised Unit Record Files
DEST	Department of Education, Science and Training
DEWR	Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DPC	Data Processing Centre
EDR	Electronic Data Reporting
EEO	Equal Employment Opportunity

ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
EUROSTAT	European Union Statistical Office
FaCS	Department of Family and Community Services
FOI	Freedom of Information
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GSS	General Social Survey
HSR	Health and Safety Representative
ICP	International Comparison Program
IRDB	Intergrated Regional Data Base
ISI	International Statistical Institute
ISS	Indigenous Social Survey
IT	Information Technology
LEP	Library Extension Program
MCEETYA	Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs
MEI	Main Economic Indicator
NATSIS	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey
NESB	People with Non-English Speaking Background
NHS	National Health Survey
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OH&S	Occupational Health and Safety
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
PWD	People With Disabilities
RBA	Reserve Bank of Australia
SCH	Statistical Clearing House
SES	Senior Executive Service
SNA93	System of National Accounts — 1993 Issue
UN	United Nations
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
USA	United States of America
WCI	Wage Cost Index

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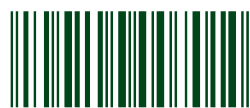
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