



2011-12

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COUNTS OF AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS OPERATORS

AUSTRALIA

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INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

NOTES

INTRODUCTION

This publication presents selected counts of Australian business operators as sourced from the 2012 Forms of Employment Survey and the 2011 Census of Population and Housing.

The counts presented in this publication are not directly comparable with those presented in previous releases.

STRUCTURE OF THE PUBLICATION

Refer to paragraphs 3–8 of the Explanatory Notes.

CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS RELEASES

There have been some changes to this publication compared to the previous release.

Section One of the 2011–2012 Counts of Australian Business Operators (CABO) uses data on business operators from the 2012 Forms of Employment Survey (FOES). Since the previous release in 2008, the FOES was redeveloped to better capture information of independent contractors, other business operators and employees. Information was also collected of people who found their current job through a labour hire firm/employment agency.

The change has resulted in a break in series for business operators and other employees and users need to exercise caution when comparing data in the 2011 to 2012 publication with the previous release, as data about this population group have changed (See conceptual framework for more details).

A range of enhancements to the data have been made compared to the previous publication to maintain relevance of the publication. This includes the following variables:

- Housing tenure type (House owned outright, being rented, owned with a mortgage, etc);
- Whether living at same address as one year ago;
- Whether living at same address as five years ago; and
- Year of arrival in Australia – customised groups – speaks of familiarity with local (national) trading, cultural factors.

FUTURE RELEASES

The ABS will assess the user demand of this publication prior to forming a decision on future releases.

FEEDBACK

The ABS welcomes feedback from users of these business operator counts to assist the ABS assess the relevance of this publication.

To provide feedback or for further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070, e-mail <client.services@abs.gov.au>.

Brian Pink
Australian Statistician

SECTION **1**

COUNTS OF AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS OPERATORS BY SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS, 2012

OVERVIEW

The data presented in Section One of this publication were sourced from the 2012 Forms of Employment Survey. These data were collected in November 2012 by ABS interviewers from approximately 30,000 Australian households. For further information (including how Forms of Employment Survey data differs from the 2011 Census of Population and Housing data presented in Section Two), please refer to the Explanatory Notes.

SEX

The Forms of Employment Survey estimated there to be 2,016,800 business operators in Australia in November 2012. Of these, 1,345,600 were 'Male business operators' (66.7%) and 671,300 were 'Female business operators' (33.3%).

DURATION WITH BUSINESS

The most common duration in which business operators had been with their current business was '10 to 19 years' (21.7%). This was followed by the '20 years and over' (21.3%) and '3 to 5 years' (18.5%) duration periods. 'Male business operators' (24.0%) were more likely than 'Female business operators' (15.8%) to have been in operation in the '20 years and over' category.

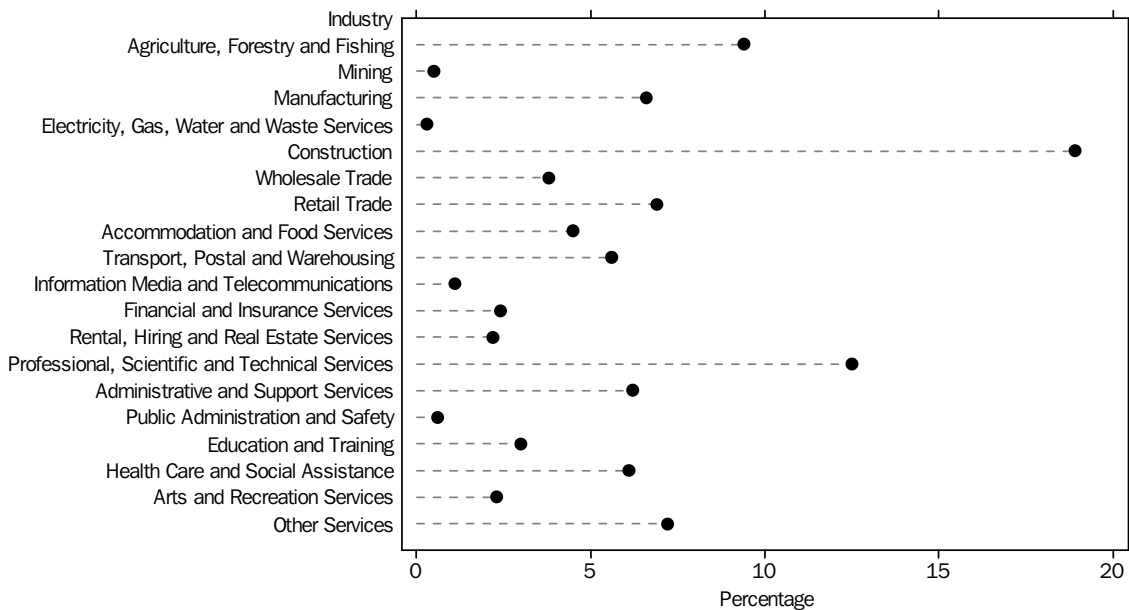
INDUSTRY

'Male business operators' participated in the 'Construction' (25.0%), 'Professional, Scientific and Technical Services' (11.9%) and 'Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing' (9.6%) industries.

'Female business operators' were most common across the 'Professional, Scientific and Technical Services' (13.6%), 'Retail Trade' (10.6%) and 'Health Care and Social Assistance' (10.4%) industries.

INDUSTRY *continued*

PROPORTION OF BUSINESS OPERATORS, BY INDUSTRY – 2012

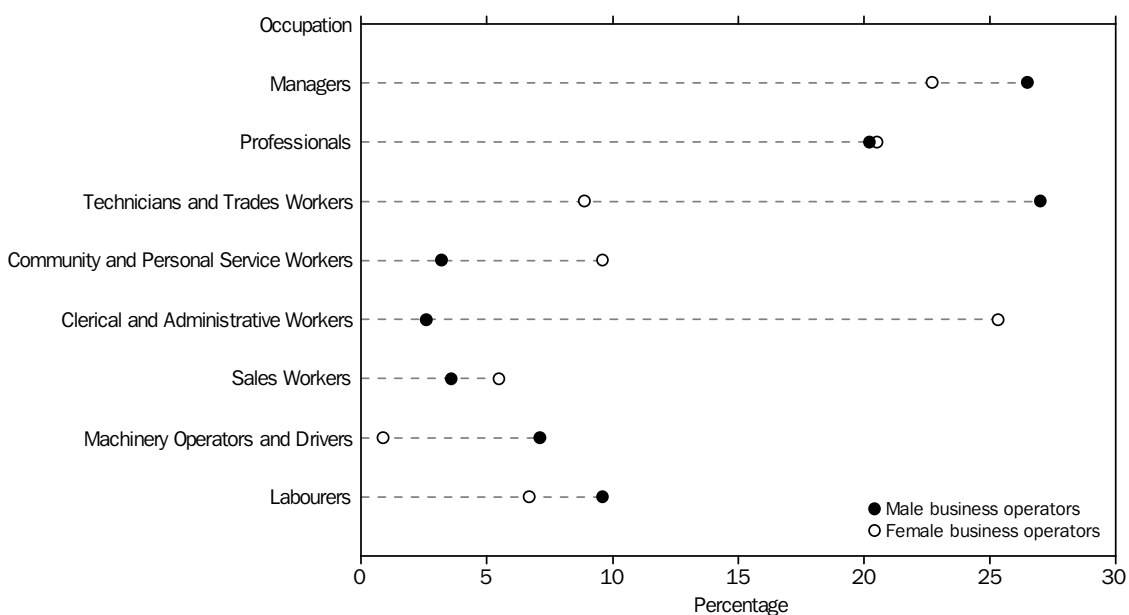


OCCUPATION

The largest occupation group for business operators was 'Managers' (25.3%). This was followed by 'Technicians and Trades Workers' (21.0%), 'Professionals' (20.3%) and 'Clerical and Administrative Workers' (10.2%).

The highest percentage of 'Male business operators' were 'Technicians and Trades Workers' (27.0%), followed by 'Managers' (26.5%), 'Professionals' (20.2%) and 'Labourers' (9.6%). 'Female business operators' were mostly found in the 'Clerical and Administrative Workers' (25.3%), 'Managers' (22.7%), 'Professionals' (20.5%) and 'Community and Personal Service Workers' (9.6%) categories.

PROPORTION OF BUSINESS OPERATORS, BY SEX AND OCCUPATION – 2012



HOURS USUALLY WORKED IN BUSINESS The majority of business operators indicated that they were full-time (66.6%) compared to the (33.4%) that were part-time. In addition, 32.2% (648,900) of business operators indicated they worked '49 or more' hours, followed by 16.9% (340,000) working '40' hours and 10.5% (212,100) working '1-14' hours.

CONTRACT WORK STATUS As at November 2012, 1,036,900 (51.4%) business operators identified themselves as 'Other business operators' whilst the remaining 979,900 (48.6%) identified as 'Independent contractors'.

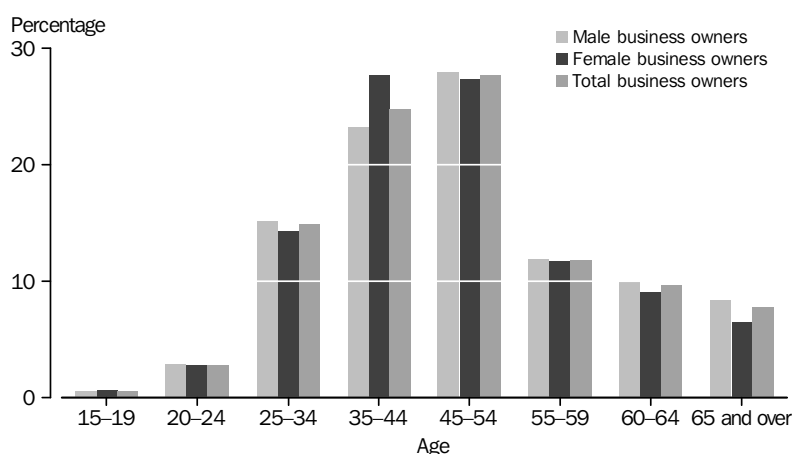
EMPLOYING STATUS A total of 1,296,100 business operators said they 'Did not have employees' (64.3%) whilst 720,700 said they 'Had employees' (35.7%). These percentages were consistent when disaggregated by sex.

EXPECTED DURATION IN BUSINESS The large majority of business operators (1,908,300) (94.6%) indicated that they 'Expected to be with business in 12 months'.

REASONS FOR EXPECTED DURATION IN BUSINESS LESS THAN 12 MONTHS The most popular reason for an expected duration of less than 12 months as a business operator was 'Changing jobs/seeking other employment' (38.1%). This was followed by 'Retiring' (23.6%) and 'Employer/business closing down/downsizing' (15.2%). This trend was consistent across both male and female business operators.

AGE The greatest percentage of business operators were aged in the in the '45-54' years age bracket (27.7%). This was followed by the '35-44' (24.7%), '25-34' (14.9%), '55-59' (11.8%), '60-64' (9.7%), '65 and over' (7.8%) and '20-24' (2.8%) age brackets.

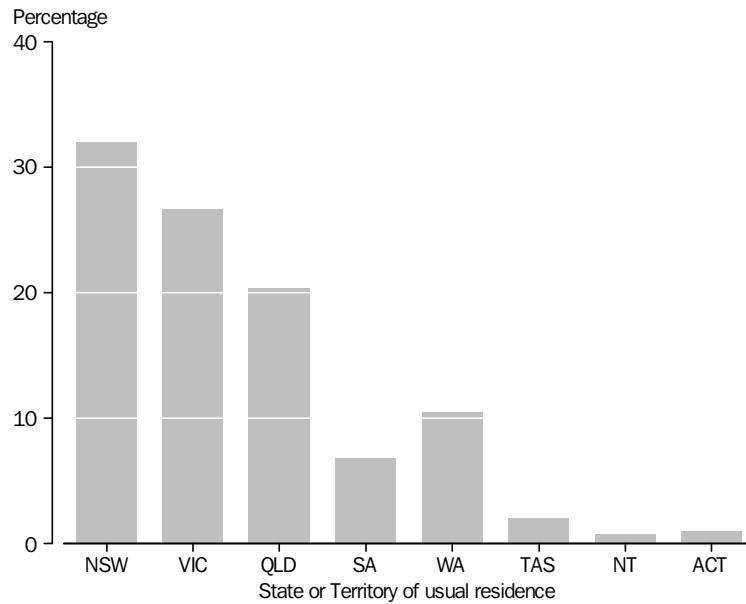
PROPORTION OF BUSINESS OPERATORS, BY AGE – 2012



STATE OR TERRITORY OF USUAL RESIDENCE The state with the highest number of business operators was 'New South Wales' (644,400) (32.0%). This was followed by 'Victoria' (535,700) (26.6%), 'Queensland' (411,900) (20.4%), 'Western Australia' (211,400) (10.5%), 'South Australia' (136,600) (6.8%), 'Tasmania' (40,400) (2.0%), the 'Australian Capital Territory' (21,100) (1.0%) and the 'Northern Territory' (15,200) (0.8%).

STATE OR TERRITORY OF USUAL RESIDENCE PROPORTION OF BUSINESS OPERATORS, BY STATE OR TERRITORY OF USUAL RESIDENCE – 2012

continued



RELATIONSHIP IN HOUSEHOLD

In 2012, most business operators identified themselves as being part of a family (87.4%). Over three quarters of business operators identified themselves as a 'Husband, wife or partner' (78.9%) and of these people, 42.1% identified that they were 'With dependants'.

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1.1 BUSINESS OPERATOR STATUS, by sex—2012

	Male business operators		Female business operators		Total business operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
Business operators	1 345.6	66.7	671.3	33.3	2 016.8	100.0

1.2 BUSINESS OPERATOR STATUS, by sex and duration with business—2012

	Male business operators		Female business operators		Total business operators		Non-business operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
Less than 12 months	139.2	10.3	86.1	12.8	225.2	11.2	2 095.7	22.2
Less than 3 months	39.0	2.9	22.8	3.4	61.8	3.1	569.8	6.0
3 to less than 6 months	37.9	2.8	22.1	3.3	60.0	3.0	586.7	6.2
6 to less than 12 months	62.3	4.6	41.1	6.1	103.4	5.1	939.2	9.9
1 to 2 years	178.8	13.3	100.5	15.0	279.3	13.9	2 195.0	23.2
3 to 5 years	234.5	17.4	138.0	20.6	372.5	18.5	2 010.8	21.3
6 to 9 years	176.8	13.1	96.3	14.4	273.2	13.5	1 145.4	12.1
10 to 19 years	292.7	21.8	144.3	21.5	437.0	21.7	1 290.3	13.7
20 years and over	323.5	24.0	106.1	15.8	429.6	21.3	715.2	7.6
Total	1 345.6	100.0	671.3	100.0	2 016.8	100.0	9 452.5	100.0

1.3 BUSINESS OPERATOR STATUS, by sex and industry—2012

	Male business operators		Female business operators		Total business operators		Non-business operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	128.9	9.6	61.6	9.2	190.5	9.4	130.2	1.4
Mining	7.4	0.5	(a)1.9	(a)0.3	(b)9.2	(b)0.5	250.4	2.6
Manufacturing	91.7	6.8	40.7	6.1	132.4	6.6	834.0	8.8
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	(b)4.8	(b)0.4	(b)1.9	(b)0.3	(b)6.7	(b)0.3	134.7	1.4
Construction	336.7	25.0	44.5	6.6	381.2	18.9	616.2	6.5
Wholesale Trade	47.8	3.5	28.0	4.2	75.7	3.8	354.8	3.8
Retail Trade	67.9	5.0	71.1	10.6	139.0	6.9	1 084.6	11.5
Accommodation and Food Services	51.2	3.8	39.6	5.9	90.8	4.5	677.3	7.2
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	94.7	7.0	17.4	2.6	112.2	5.6	487.8	5.2
Information Media and Telecommunications	14.1	1.0	(b)8.2	(b)1.2	22.3	1.1	199.2	2.1
Financial and Insurance Services	37.0	2.7	11.5	1.7	48.5	2.4	364.5	3.9
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	26.4	2.0	18.8	2.8	45.2	2.2	149.0	1.6
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	160.8	11.9	91.1	13.6	251.9	12.5	645.7	6.8
Administrative and Support Services	72.6	5.4	51.5	7.7	124.1	6.2	271.1	2.9
Public Administration and Safety	10.3	0.8	(b)2.1	(b)0.3	12.4	0.6	677.9	7.2
Education and Training	29.7	2.2	31.8	4.7	61.5	3.0	851.0	9.0
Health Care and Social Assistance	52.5	3.9	69.8	10.4	122.3	6.1	1 264.2	13.4
Arts and Recreation Services	29.2	2.2	16.8	2.5	46.0	2.3	159.4	1.7
Other Services	81.9	6.1	63.0	9.4	144.9	7.2	300.5	3.2
Total	1 345.6	100.0	671.3	100.0	2 016.8	100.0	9 452.5	100.0

(a) Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.

(b) Estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution.

1.4 BUSINESS OPERATOR STATUS, by sex and occupation—2012

	Male business operators		Female business operators		Total business operators		Non-business operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
Managers	357.1	26.5	152.2	22.7	509.3	25.3	924.0	9.8
Professionals	271.9	20.2	137.9	20.5	409.9	20.3	2 120.7	22.4
Technicians and Trades Workers	363.8	27.0	59.6	8.9	423.4	21.0	1 248.4	13.2
Community and Personal Service Workers	43.2	3.2	64.2	9.6	107.5	5.3	1 008.1	10.7
Clerical and Administrative Workers	35.4	2.6	169.6	25.3	205.0	10.2	1 474.9	15.6
Sales Workers	48.8	3.6	37.0	5.5	85.8	4.3	994.4	10.5
Machinery Operators and Drivers	95.4	7.1	(a)5.8	(a)0.9	101.3	5.0	696.2	7.4
Labourers	129.8	9.6	44.9	6.7	174.7	8.7	985.9	10.4
Total	1 345.6	100.0	671.3	100.0	2 016.8	100.0	9 452.5	100.0

(a) Estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution.

1.5 BUSINESS OPERATOR STATUS, by sex and hours usually worked in business—2012

	Male business operators		Female business operators		Total business operators		Non-business operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
1–14	66.1	4.9	146.0	21.8	212.1	10.5	832.6	8.8
15–19	38.5	2.9	56.1	8.4	94.7	4.7	517.8	5.5
20–24	57.3	4.3	86.5	12.9	143.8	7.1	694.6	7.3
25–29	37.5	2.8	47.6	7.1	85.1	4.2	352.4	3.7
30–34	73.7	5.5	63.9	9.5	137.7	6.8	566.7	6.0
Total part-time	273.1	20.3	400.3	59.6	673.3	33.4	2 964.2	31.4
35	48.1	3.6	27.9	4.2	76.0	3.8	279.5	3.0
36–39	65.2	4.8	27.8	4.1	93.0	4.6	2 193.6	23.2
40	267.4	19.9	72.6	10.8	340.0	16.9	2 036.1	21.5
41–44	22.5	1.7	(a)8.4	(a)1.2	30.8	1.5	281.4	3.0
45–48	121.9	9.1	32.9	4.9	154.7	7.7	599.7	6.3
49 or more	547.5	40.7	101.4	15.1	648.9	32.2	1 098.0	11.6
Total full-time	1 072.5	79.7	271.0	40.4	1 343.5	66.6	6 488.3	68.6
Total	1 345.6	100.0	671.3	100.0	2 016.8	100.0	9 452.5	100.0

(a) Estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution.

1.6 BUSINESS OPERATOR STATUS, by sex and contract work status—2012

	Male business operators		Female business operators		Total business operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
Independent contractors	716.5	53.2	263.4	39.2	979.9	48.6
Other business operators	629.1	46.8	407.8	60.8	1 036.9	51.4
Total	1 345.6	100.0	671.3	100.0	2 016.8	100.0

1.7 BUSINESS OPERATOR STATUS, by sex and employing status—2012

	Male business operators		Female business operators		Total business operators		Non-business operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
Had employees	492.9	36.6	227.8	33.9	720.7	35.7	—	—
Did not have employees	852.7	63.4	443.4	66.1	1 296.1	64.3	9 452.5	100.0
Total	1 345.6	100.0	671.3	100.0	2 016.8	100.0	9 452.5	100.0

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

1.8 BUSINESS OPERATOR STATUS, by sex and expected duration in business—2012

	Male business operators		Female business operators		Total business operators		Non-business operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
Expected to be with current business in 12 months	1 277.6	95.0	630.7	94.0	1 908.3	94.6	8 566.8	90.6
Did not expect to be with current business in 12 months	67.9	5.0	40.5	6.0	108.5	5.4	885.6	9.4
Total	1 345.6	100.0	671.3	100.0	2 016.8	100.0	9 452.5	100.0

1.9 BUSINESS OPERATOR STATUS, by sex and reasons for expected duration in business is less than 12 months—2012

	Male business operators		Female business operators		Total business operators		Non-business operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
Changing jobs/seeking other employment	25.1	36.9	16.3	40.3	41.4	38.1	472.3	53.3
Return to study/travel/family reasons	(a)4.9	(a)7.2	(a)2.3	(a)5.8	(a)7.3	(a)6.7	119.2	13.5
Retiring	16.6	24.4	9.0	22.3	25.6	23.6	71.6	8.1
Seasonal/temporary job/fixed contract	(a)2.5	(a)3.6	(a)2.5	(a)6.1	(a)4.9	(a)4.5	100.1	11.3
Employer/business closing down/downsizing	9.7	14.3	(a)6.8	(a)16.7	16.5	15.2	47.6	5.4
Other(b)	9.2	13.5	(a)3.6	(a)8.9	12.8	11.8	74.8	8.4
Total	67.9	100.0	40.5	100.0	108.5	100.0	885.6	100.0

(a) Estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution.

(b) Reasons for expected duration in business not classified elsewhere.

1.10 BUSINESS OPERATOR STATUS, by sex and age—2012

	Male business operators		Female business operators		Total business operators		Non-business operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
15–19	(a)7.7	(a)0.6	(a)4.6	(a)0.7	(a)12.3	(a)0.6	637.9	6.7
20–24	38.4	2.9	18.7	2.8	57.1	2.8	1 130.0	12.0
25–34	203.8	15.1	96.3	14.3	300.2	14.9	2 301.8	24.4
35–44	311.6	23.2	185.9	27.7	497.5	24.7	2 089.0	22.1
45–54	375.6	27.9	183.0	27.3	558.6	27.7	1 900.9	20.1
55–59	159.9	11.9	78.3	11.7	238.2	11.8	708.1	7.5
60–64	135.2	10.0	61.0	9.1	196.2	9.7	459.0	4.9
65 and over	113.3	8.4	43.4	6.5	156.7	7.8	225.7	2.4
Total	1 345.6	100.0	671.3	100.0	2 016.8	100.0	9 452.5	100.0

(a) Estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution.

1.11**BUSINESS OPERATOR STATUS, by sex and State or Territory of usual residence—2012**

	Male business operators		Female business operators		Total business operators		Non-business operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
	New South Wales	436.8	32.5	207.7	30.9	644.4	32.0	2 954.0	31.3
Victoria	360.0	26.8	175.7	26.2	535.7	26.6	2 319.0	24.5
Queensland	260.1	19.3	151.9	22.6	411.9	20.4	1 922.8	20.3
South Australia	92.4	6.9	44.2	6.6	136.6	6.8	677.2	7.2
Western Australia	144.7	10.8	66.7	9.9	211.4	10.5	1 091.0	11.5
Tasmania	27.1	2.0	13.3	2.0	40.4	2.0	189.3	2.0
Northern Territory	9.7	0.7	5.5	0.8	15.2	0.8	112.0	1.2
Australian Capital Territory	14.8	1.1	6.3	0.9	21.1	1.0	187.1	2.0
Australia	1 345.6	100.0	671.3	100.0	2 016.8	100.0	9 452.5	100.0

1.12**BUSINESS OPERATOR STATUS, by sex and relationship in household—2012**

	Male business operators		Female business operators		Total business operators		Non-business operators	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
	Family member	1 170.1	87.0	593.0	88.3	1 763.1	87.4	7 927.2	83.9
Husband, wife or partner	1 067.7	79.3	523.4	78.0	1 591.1	78.9	5 702.7	60.3
With dependants	568.0	42.2	280.8	41.8	848.8	42.1	2 959.1	31.3
Without dependants	499.7	37.1	242.6	36.1	742.3	36.8	2 743.6	29.0
Lone parent	30.2	2.2	40.8	6.1	71.1	3.5	459.3	4.9
With dependants	20.0	1.5	32.5	4.8	52.6	2.6	339.6	3.6
Without dependants	10.2	0.8	(a)8.3	(a)1.2	18.5	0.9	119.7	1.3
Dependent student	(a)4.7	(a)0.3	(a)4.8	(a)0.7	(a)9.4	(a)0.5	497.4	5.3
Non-dependent child	51.0	3.8	20.6	3.1	71.6	3.6	1 053.8	11.1
Other family person	16.5	1.2	(a)3.4	(a)0.5	19.9	1.0	214.1	2.3
Non-family member	160.9	12.0	69.1	10.3	230.0	11.4	1 432.8	15.2
Lone person	116.6	8.7	52.4	7.8	168.9	8.4	868.2	9.2
Not living alone	44.3	3.3	16.7	2.5	61.1	3.0	564.6	6.0
Relationship not determined	14.5	1.1	9.1	1.4	23.7	1.2	92.4	1.0
Total	1 345.6	100.0	671.3	100.0	2 016.8	100.0	9 452.5	100.0

(a) Estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution.

SECTION **2**

COUNTS OF AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS OPERATORS BY SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS, 2011

OVERVIEW

The data presented in Section Two of this publication were sourced from the 2011 Census of Population and Housing. These data were collected on August 9, 2011 (Census night) when Australian households self-reported information on their Census Forms. For further information (including how Census data differs from Forms of Employment Survey data presented in Section One), please refer to the Explanatory Notes.

SEX

In 2011, 68.1% of business operators were 'Male business operators', whilst 31.9% were 'Female business operators'.

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

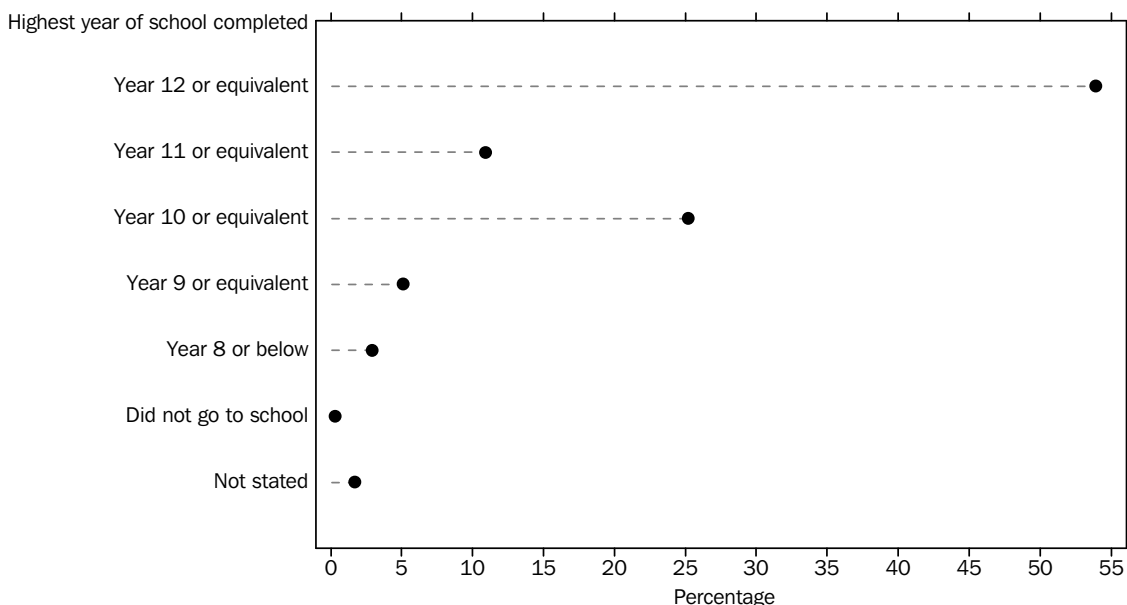
In 2011, 55.8 % of business operators indicated they were 'Owner managers of unincorporated enterprises' with the remaining 44.2% 'Owner managers of incorporated enterprises'.

A higher proportion of 'Female business operators' (59.3%) were 'Owner managers of unincorporated enterprises' than 'Male business operators' (54.1%).

HIGHEST YEAR OF SCHOOL COMPLETED

In 2011, 53.9% of business operators indicated that the highest year of school they completed was 'Year 12 or equivalent'. A higher percentage of business operators completed 'Year 10 or equivalent' (25.2%) than 'Year 11 or equivalent' (10.9%). These figures are comparable when broken down by sex.

PROPORTION OF BUSINESS OPERATORS, BY HIGHEST YEAR OF SCHOOL COMPLETED – 2011



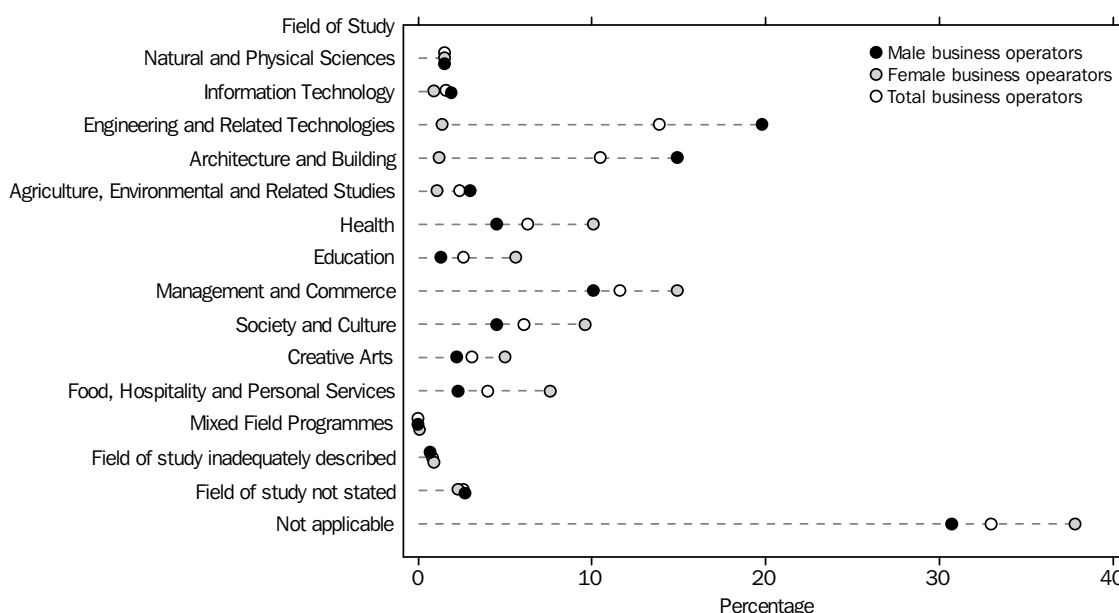
HIGHEST YEAR OF NON-SCHOOL COMPLETED

In 2011, 67% of business operators completed a level of non-school qualification compared to 33% who had not completed a non-school qualification. Approximately 29.4% of business operators achieved the non-school qualification – 'Certificate Level'. This was followed by 'Bachelor Degree Level' (16.6%) and 'Advanced Diploma and Diploma Level' (10.2%). When broken down by sex, 35.6% of 'Male business operators' achieved the 'Certificate Level' compared to 16.0% for 'Female business operators'.

FIELD OF STUDY

In 2011, 67.0% of business operators identified themselves being involved in a field of study, with the most popular being 'Engineering and Related Technologies' (13.9%). The most popular field of study for 'Female business operators' was 'Management and Commerce' (14.9%) compared to 'Engineering and Related Technologies' (19.8%) for 'Male business operators'.

PROPORTION OF BUSINESS OPERATORS, BY SEX AND FIELD OF STUDY – 2011



INDIVIDUAL WEEKLY INCOME

There were differences in the most common income ranges between Male and Female business operators and these differences were also evident between business operators and small business operators. The highest proportion of 'Male business operators' (16.3%) had an individual weekly income in excess of \$2,000. In contrast, the highest proportion of 'Female business operators' (17.4%) had an individual weekly income in the '\$400-\$599' income range category. The largest gap in individual weekly income between 'Male business operators' (16.3%) and 'Female business operators' (9.2%) were in the '\$2,000 or more' income range category.

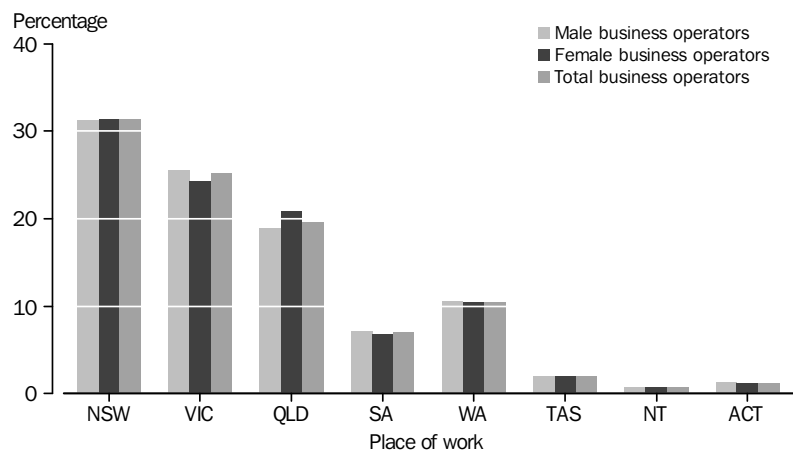
The highest proportion of business operators with an individual weekly income in excess of \$2,000 was 14.0%. This contrasts with the highest proportion of small business operators (14.1%) whose individual weekly income was in the '\$400-\$599' income bracket range. The most common small business operators income range is lower than the most common income range for 'Non-business operators', which is in the '\$600-\$799' income range category.

FAMILY WEEKLY INCOME The differences in the individual income ranges between 'Male business operators' and 'Female business operators' and also between business operators and small business operators, are not evident with family income. The most common range for 'Family weekly income' in all categories was in the '\$1,500–\$1,999' income range.

CHILDCARE PROVISION STATUS In 2011, 39.6% of business operators had indicated they had 'Provided childcare (unpaid)'. There were a higher percentage of 'Female business operators' (46.5%) than 'Male business operators' (36.4%) that 'Provided childcare (unpaid)'.

PLACE OF WORK The largest percentage of business operators were located in 'NSW' (31.3%), followed by, 'VIC' (25.2%), 'QLD' (19.6%), 'WA' (10.5%), 'SA' (7.0%), 'TAS' (2.0%), 'ACT' (1.2%) and 'NT' (0.7%).

PROPORTION OF BUSINESS OPERATORS, BY SEX AND PLACE OF WORK – 2011



REMOTE AREAS The majority (67.7%) of business operators were located in 'Major Cities of Australia'.

CONNECTEDNESS TO WORK AND INTERNET CONNECTION Approximately 18.6% of business operators were identified as 'Worked at home', with 88.9% of these business operators having a 'Broadband connection'.

REGION OF BIRTH The majority (69.9%) of business operators were born in 'Australia (includes External Territories)'. The next most popular birth areas were 'North–West Europe' (8.8%) and 'Southern and Eastern Europe' (3.9%).

YEAR OF ARRIVAL IN AUSTRALIA Of all the business operators not born in Australia, the most common period of arrival was in the 'Arrived 1981–1990' category (22.8%). This was followed by the 'Arrived 1991–2000' (18.3%) and 'Arrived 2001–2010' (17.6%) categories. In contrast, the highest proportion of immigrants in the 'Non–business operators' sub–population (35.1%), arrived between 2001 and 2010.

INDIGENOUS STATUS The majority (98.7%) of business operators identified themselves as 'Non–Indigenous'.

HOUSING TENURE TYPE The most popular type of housing tenure for business operators was 'Owned with a mortgage' (49.4%). This was followed by the 'Owned outright' (31.7%) and 'Rented' (16.1%) categories.

USUAL ADDRESS ONE YEAR AGO The majority (88.9%) of business operators had the 'Same address one year ago'.

USUAL ADDRESS FIVE YEARS AGO In 2011, 63.9% of business operators had the 'Same address five years ago'.

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2.1 BUSINESS OPERATOR STATUS(a), by sex—2011

	<i>Male business operators</i>	<i>Female business operators</i>	<i>Total business operators</i>	<i>Male small business operators</i>	<i>Female small business operators</i>	<i>Total small business operators</i>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Business operators	68.1	31.9	100.0	67.9	32.1	100.0

(a) Cells in this table have been randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data.

2.2 BUSINESS OPERATOR STATUS(a), by sex, sector and number of employees—2011

	<i>Male business operators</i>	<i>Female business operators</i>	<i>Total business operators</i>	<i>Male small business operators</i>	<i>Female small business operators</i>	<i>Total small business operators</i>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Owner managers of unincorporated enterprises						
Nil employees	39.0	43.8	40.6	40.9	45.5	42.4
1–19 employees	14.2	14.9	14.4	14.9	15.5	15.1
20 or more employees	0.8	0.6	0.8	—	—	—
Total	54.1	59.3	55.8	55.8	61.0	57.5
Owner managers of incorporated enterprises						
Nil employees	—	—	—	—	—	—
1–19 employees	42.1	37.5	40.7	44.2	39.0	42.5
20 or more employees	3.8	3.1	3.6	—	—	—
Total	45.9	40.7	44.2	44.2	39.0	42.5
Total						
Nil employees	39.0	43.8	40.6	40.9	45.5	42.4
1–19 employees	56.3	52.5	55.1	59.1	54.5	57.6
20 or more employees	4.6	3.7	4.3	—	—	—
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Cells in this table have been randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data.

2.3 BUSINESS OPERATOR STATUS(a), by sex and highest year of school completed—2011

	<i>Male business operators</i>	<i>Female business operators</i>	<i>Total business operators</i>	<i>Male small business operators</i>	<i>Female small business operators</i>	<i>Total small business operators</i>	<i>Non-business operators</i>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Year 12 or equivalent	51.9	58.2	53.9	51.3	58.3	53.5	61.0
Year 11 or equivalent	11.1	10.4	10.9	11.3	10.4	11.0	10.7
Year 10 or equivalent	26.1	23.2	25.2	26.5	23.2	25.5	20.5
Year 9 or equivalent	5.5	4.1	5.1	5.6	4.0	5.1	3.9
Year 8 or below	3.2	2.2	2.9	3.2	2.2	2.9	1.8
Did not go to school	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Not stated	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.7	1.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Cells in this table have been randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data.

2.4 BUSINESS OPERATOR STATUS(a), by sex and highest year of non-school qualification—2011

	<i>Male business operators</i>	<i>Female business operators</i>	<i>Total business operators</i>	<i>Male small business operators</i>	<i>Female small business operators</i>	<i>Total small business operators</i>	<i>Non-business operators</i>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Postgraduate Degree Level	4.5	5.1	4.7	4.5	5.2	4.7	5.2
Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate Level	1.3	2.6	1.7	1.3	2.7	1.7	2.5
Bachelor Degree Level	15.4	19.3	16.6	14.8	19.2	16.2	18.7
Advanced Diploma and Diploma Level	8.5	13.9	10.2	8.5	14.0	10.3	10.0
Certificate Level	35.6	16.0	29.4	36.4	16.3	29.9	21.4
Level of education inadequately described	1.4	2.2	1.7	1.4	2.2	1.7	1.4
Level of education not stated(b)	2.5	3.1	2.7	2.4	3.0	2.6	2.7
Has not completed a non-school qualification	30.7	37.8	33.0	30.7	37.5	32.9	38.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Cells in this table have been randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data.

(b) Level of education inadequately described.

2.5 BUSINESS OPERATOR STATUS(a), by sex and field of study—2011

	<i>Male business operators</i>	<i>Female business operators</i>	<i>Total business operators</i>	<i>Male small business operators</i>	<i>Female small business operators</i>	<i>Total small business operators</i>	<i>Non-business operators</i>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Natural and Physical Sciences	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	2.1
Information Technology	1.9	0.9	1.6	1.9	0.9	1.6	2.4
Engineering and Related Technologies	19.8	1.4	13.9	20.0	1.4	14.0	10.6
Architecture and Building	14.9	1.2	10.5	15.3	1.2	10.8	3.0
Agriculture, Environmental and Related Studies	3.0	1.1	2.4	3.0	1.2	2.4	1.4
Health	4.5	10.1	6.3	4.5	10.2	6.3	6.6
Education	1.3	5.6	2.6	1.3	5.6	2.7	5.5
Management and Commerce	10.1	14.9	11.6	9.7	14.9	11.4	13.5
Society and Culture	4.5	9.6	6.1	4.2	9.6	6.0	7.6
Creative Arts	2.2	5.0	3.1	2.2	5.1	3.2	2.2
Food, Hospitality and Personal Services	2.3	7.6	4.0	2.3	7.7	4.0	3.3
Mixed Field Programmes	—	0.1	—	—	0.1	—	0.1
Field of study inadequately described	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.8
Field of study not stated	2.7	2.3	2.6	2.6	2.2	2.5	2.7
Not applicable(b)	30.7	37.8	33.0	30.7	37.5	32.9	38.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Cells in this table have been randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data.

(b) Not applicable comprises Persons who have a qualification that is out of scope of this classification; Persons with no qualification and Persons still studying for a first qualification.

2.6 BUSINESS OPERATOR STATUS(a), by sex and individual weekly income—2011 ...

	<i>Male business operators</i>	<i>Female business operators</i>	<i>Total business operators</i>	<i>Male small business operators</i>	<i>Female small business operators</i>	<i>Total small business operators</i>	<i>Non-business operators</i>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Nil or negative income	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.0
\$1–\$199	2.0	6.4	3.4	2.1	6.5	3.5	5.5
\$200–\$299	3.2	7.2	4.5	3.3	7.4	4.6	4.2
\$300–\$399	4.9	9.0	6.2	5.0	9.2	6.4	5.5
\$400–\$599	11.8	17.4	13.6	12.3	17.8	14.1	11.8
\$600–\$799	13.2	14.5	13.6	13.7	14.8	14.0	15.2
\$800–\$999	12.1	10.3	11.5	12.4	10.4	11.8	13.0
\$1,000–\$1,249	12.8	9.2	11.6	13.1	9.2	11.8	12.8
\$1,250–\$1,499	9.3	6.3	8.3	9.4	6.2	8.4	9.1
\$1,500–\$1,999	10.6	6.9	9.4	10.5	6.7	9.3	10.9
\$2,000 or more	16.3	9.2	14.0	14.4	8.3	12.4	9.5
Not stated	2.4	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.0	2.2	1.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Cells in this table have been randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data.

2.7 BUSINESS OPERATOR STATUS(a), by sex and family weekly income—2011

	<i>Male business operators</i>	<i>Female business operators</i>	<i>Total business operators</i>	<i>Male small business operators</i>	<i>Female small business operators</i>	<i>Total small business operators</i>	<i>Non-business operators</i>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Nil or negative income	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.3
\$1–\$199	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.4
\$200–\$299	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2
\$300–\$399	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.5
\$400–\$599	2.7	3.1	2.8	2.8	3.2	2.9	2.1
\$600–\$799	4.8	4.8	4.8	5.0	5.0	5.0	3.7
\$800–\$999	7.3	7.5	7.3	7.6	7.7	7.6	4.9
\$1,000–\$1,249	7.7	6.3	7.2	8.0	6.4	7.5	7.4
\$1,250–\$1,499	9.1	9.0	9.1	9.5	9.2	9.4	8.2
\$1,500–\$1,999	14.4	13.5	14.1	14.9	13.7	14.5	16.1
\$2,000–\$2,499	12.8	12.1	12.6	13.1	12.2	12.8	15.6
\$2,500–\$2,999	9.4	9.1	9.3	9.1	9.1	9.1	11.2
\$3,000–\$3,499	8.1	8.5	8.2	7.8	8.4	8.0	9.0
\$3,500–\$3,999	3.9	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.6	4.5
\$4,000–\$4,999	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.1	3.1	3.1	4.0
\$5,000 or more	4.7	6.1	5.1	3.9	5.4	4.4	2.7
Partial income stated	9.9	10.6	10.1	9.7	10.5	9.9	9.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Cells in this table have been randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data.

2.8 BUSINESS OPERATOR STATUS(a), by sex and childcare provision status—2011 ..

	<i>Male business operators</i>	<i>Female business operators</i>	<i>Total business operators</i>	<i>Male small business operators</i>	<i>Female small business operators</i>	<i>Total small business operators</i>	<i>Non-business operators</i>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Provided childcare (unpaid)	36.4	46.5	39.6	36.2	46.5	39.5	32.2
Did not provide child care	62.4	52.6	59.3	62.7	52.7	59.5	66.6
Not stated	1.2	0.9	1.1	1.1	0.8	1.0	1.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Cells in this table have been randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data.

2.9 BUSINESS OPERATOR STATUS(a), by sex and place of work—2011

	<i>Male business operators</i>	<i>Female business operators</i>	<i>Total business operators</i>	<i>Male small business operators</i>	<i>Female small business operators</i>	<i>Total small business operators</i>	<i>Non-business operators</i>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Sydney	16.4	18.0	16.9	16.3	18.1	16.9	18.9
Other NSW	8.9	10.9	9.6	9.0	11.0	9.6	8.9
NSW – Not categorised(b)	5.9	2.5	4.8	6.1	2.6	5.0	2.1
NSW	31.2	31.4	31.3	31.4	31.6	31.5	30.0
Melbourne	15.3	16.3	15.6	15.1	16.2	15.5	17.8
Other VIC	5.6	6.3	5.8	5.7	6.3	5.9	4.9
VIC – Not categorised(b)	4.6	1.8	3.7	4.7	1.8	3.8	1.5
VIC	25.5	24.3	25.2	25.5	24.3	25.1	24.2
Brisbane	6.9	8.2	7.3	6.8	8.2	7.3	9.5
Other QLD	8.3	10.8	9.1	8.3	10.8	9.1	8.6
QLD – Not categorised(b)	3.8	1.9	3.2	4.0	2.0	3.3	1.7
QLD	19.0	20.9	19.6	19.1	21.0	19.7	19.8
Adelaide	4.1	4.4	4.2	4.0	4.4	4.2	5.4
Other SA	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.3
SA – Not categorised(b)	1.4	0.6	1.2	1.5	0.6	1.2	0.5
SA	7.1	6.8	7.0	7.1	6.8	7.0	7.2
Perth	6.3	7.1	6.6	6.2	7.1	6.5	7.6
Other WA	2.1	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.4	2.2	2.3
WA – Not categorised(b)	2.1	0.9	1.7	2.2	0.9	1.8	0.9
WA	10.6	10.4	10.5	10.6	10.4	10.5	10.8
Hobart	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	1.0
Other TAS	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.0
TAS – Not categorised(b)	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.2
TAS	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.1
Darwin	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.6
Other NT	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.4
NT – Not categorised(b)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
NT	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7	1.0
Greater Canberra/ACT	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.0	2.2
ACT – Not categorised(b)	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	—
ACT	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.2	2.3
Other Territories	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Place of work not stated	2.6	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.0	2.3	2.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(b) Includes offshore, shipping, migratory and no fixed address.

(a) Cells in this table have been randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data.

2.10 BUSINESS OPERATOR STATUS(a), by sex and remote areas—2011

	<i>Male business operators</i>	<i>Female business operators</i>	<i>Total business operators</i>	<i>Male small business operators</i>	<i>Female small business operators</i>	<i>Total small business operators</i>	<i>Non-business operators</i>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Major Cities of Australia	68.2	66.6	67.7	67.9	66.5	67.4	72.1
Inner Regional Australia	19.4	20.4	19.7	19.6	20.4	19.8	17.0
Outer Regional Australia	10.1	10.6	10.2	10.2	10.6	10.4	8.5
Remote Australia	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.4
Very Remote Australia	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.8
Other(b)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Cells in this table have been randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data.

(b) Includes migratory and no usual address.

2.11 BUSINESS OPERATOR STATUS(a), by sex, connectedness to work and Internet connection—2011

	<i>Male business operators</i>	<i>Female business operators</i>	<i>Total business operators</i>	<i>Male small business operators</i>	<i>Female small business operators</i>	<i>Total small business operators</i>	<i>Non-business operators</i>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Worked at home	12.8	31.0	18.6	13.3	31.9	19.3	1.9
<i>No Internet connection</i>	6.2	4.1	5.1	6.1	4.1	5.0	6.3
<i>Broadband connection</i>	87.9	89.8	88.9	88.0	89.9	89.0	87.4
<i>Dial-up connection</i>	2.6	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.5	2.4
<i>Other</i>	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	2.1
<i>Not stated</i>	1.6	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.9	1.8	1.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Travel to work	85.9	67.4	80.0	85.5	66.7	79.5	96.5
Not stated	1.3	1.6	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Cells in this table have been randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data.

2.12 BUSINESS OPERATOR STATUS, by sex and region of birth—2011

	<i>Male business operators</i>	<i>Female business operators</i>	<i>Total business operators</i>	<i>Male small business operators</i>	<i>Female small business operators</i>	<i>Total small business operators</i>	<i>Non-business operators</i>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Australia (includes External Territories)	70.0	69.6	69.9	69.8	69.4	69.7	71.4
New Zealand	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	3.1
Other Oceania	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.8
North-West Europe	8.8	8.6	8.8	8.9	8.7	8.9	7.3
Southern and Eastern Europe	4.2	3.3	3.9	4.3	3.3	4.0	2.3
North Africa and the Middle East	2.2	1.2	1.9	2.2	1.2	1.9	1.0
South-East Asia	2.5	4.1	3.0	2.6	4.1	3.1	4.1
North-East Asia	2.9	4.1	3.3	2.9	4.2	3.3	2.6
Southern and Central Asia	2.1	1.5	1.9	2.1	1.4	1.9	3.3
Americas	1.1	1.5	1.2	1.1	1.5	1.2	1.4
Sub-Saharan Africa	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.6
Not stated	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

2.13 BUSINESS OPERATOR STATUS (a), by sex and year of arrival in Australia—2011

	<i>Male business operators</i>	<i>Female business operators</i>	<i>Total business operators</i>	<i>Male small business operators</i>	<i>Female small business operators</i>	<i>Total small business operators</i>	<i>Non-business operators</i>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Arrived 1895–1960	8.4	6.4	7.8	8.4	6.3	7.7	3.6
Arrived 1961–1970	14.6	12.6	14.0	14.5	12.5	13.9	9.0
Arrived 1971–1980	16.1	16.1	16.1	16.1	16.1	16.1	10.9
Arrived 1981–1990	22.8	22.9	22.8	22.9	22.9	22.9	18.5
Arrived 1991–2000	17.4	20.0	18.3	17.5	20.1	18.3	18.2
Arrived 2001–2010	17.0	18.9	17.6	17.2	19.0	17.8	35.1
Arrived 1 Jan 2011–9 Aug 2011	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.6
Not stated	3.3	2.9	3.1	3.1	2.8	3.0	3.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Cells in this table have been randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data.

2.14 BUSINESS OPERATOR STATUS(a), by sex and indigenous status—2011

	<i>Male business operators</i>	<i>Female business operators</i>	<i>Total business operators</i>	<i>Male small business operators</i>	<i>Female small business operators</i>	<i>Total small business operators</i>	<i>Non-business operators</i>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	1.6
Non-Indigenous	98.7	98.7	98.7	98.8	98.8	98.8	97.7
Not stated	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Cells in this table have been randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data.

2.15 BUSINESS OPERATOR STATUS(a), by sex and housing tenure type—2011

	<i>Male business operators</i>	<i>Female business operators</i>	<i>Total business operators</i>	<i>Male small business operators</i>	<i>Female small business operators</i>	<i>Total small business operators</i>	<i>Non-business operators</i>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Owned outright	31.5	32.3	31.7	31.3	32.1	31.5	21.5
Owned with a mortgage	49.4	49.6	49.4	49.4	49.7	49.5	47.6
Rented	16.4	15.6	16.1	16.6	15.7	16.3	28.2
Other	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.6
Not stated	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Cells in this table have been randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data.

2.16 BUSINESS OPERATOR STATUS(a), by sex and usual address one year ago—2011

	<i>Male business operators</i>	<i>Female business operators</i>	<i>Total business operators</i>	<i>Male small business operators</i>	<i>Female small business operators</i>	<i>Total small business operators</i>	<i>Non-business operators</i>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Same address one year ago	88.8	89.0	88.9	88.8	89.0	88.9	81.4
Elsewhere in Australia one year ago	10.3	10.1	10.2	10.3	10.1	10.2	16.6
Overseas one year ago	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.4
Not stated	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Cells in this table have been randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data.

2.17 BUSINESS OPERATOR STATUS(a), by sex and usual address five years ago—2011

	<i>Male business operators</i>	<i>Female business operators</i>	<i>Total business operators</i>	<i>Male small business operators</i>	<i>Female small business operators</i>	<i>Total small business operators</i>	<i>Non-business operators</i>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Same address five years ago	64.1	63.6	63.9	64.1	63.5	63.9	52.1
Elsewhere in Australia five years ago	32.1	32.3	32.2	32.1	32.4	32.2	39.7
Overseas five years ago	2.8	3.2	3.0	2.9	3.3	3.0	7.0
Not stated	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	1.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Cells in this table have been randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

OVERVIEW

1 This publication presents counts of Australian business operators sourced from the 2012 Forms Of Employment Survey (FOES) and the 2011 Census of Population and Housing (Census).

2 The Census and the FOES are fundamentally different statistical collections (i.e. one is a census and the other is a survey). The Census relies on Australian households to self-report information on Census night, whereas data collected through the FOES are directly collected by trained ABS interviewers. In addition, there are a range of concepts and methodologies particular to each collection. It is therefore important to separately discuss these and other issues, with specific reference to their use in Counts of Australian Business Operators.

STRUCTURE OF THE PUBLICATION

3 This publication has two Sections.

4 Section One includes data sourced from the 2012 FOES. The data presented describe Australian business operators across a range of characteristics, using counts and proportions. These characteristics provide an indication of the distribution of Australia's business operators and also provide further insight into the characteristics of the businesses operated in the Australian economy. For example, data on industry, geography, and employment are relevant to individuals (i.e. business operators) and the businesses they operate. Where possible, data have also been included for 'non-business operators'.

5 Section Two includes data sourced from the 2011 Census. The data presented describe the distribution of Australian business operators (including small business operators) across a range of characteristics, in terms of proportions. The distribution of these characteristics has also been compared with 'non-business operators' where possible.

6 Together, Sections One and Two provide, on a similar conceptual basis, a comprehensive picture of Australia's business operators. For the purposes of this publication, business operators essentially comprise owner managers of incorporated and unincorporated Australian enterprises, while non-business operators mainly comprise all other employed persons (refer to the Glossary for further information). Further, the data sources used in Sections One and Two collect information in regard to individuals and their 'main job', which further enhances the consistency and complementary nature of the data.

7 Additional information is presented towards the end of the publication, including Explanatory and Technical Notes, an Appendix pertaining to the history of ABS business operator counts, and a Glossary of terms used in the publication.

8 The Explanatory Notes which follow have therefore been separated into two parts. Part A describes data sourced from the 2012 FOES. Part B describes data sourced from the 2011 Census.

PART A:

9 *Data Sourced from the 2012 Forms of Employment Survey*

INTRODUCTION

10 The statistics presented in Section One of this publication were compiled using data collected from the 2012 FOES. The FOES was conducted throughout Australia in November 2012 as a supplement to the Monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). Respondents to the LFS who fell within the scope of the supplementary survey were asked further questions.

11 In addition to the information presented in these Explanatory Notes, the publication *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0) contains information about survey design, sample redesign, scope, coverage and population benchmarks relevant to the LFS, which also apply to supplementary surveys. It also contains definitions of demographic and labour force characteristics, and information about telephone interviewing which are relevant to both the LFS and supplementary surveys.

SCOPE

12 The LFS is restricted to people aged fifteen years and over and excludes the following people:

- members of the permanent defence forces;
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from the census and estimated populations;
- overseas residents in Australia;
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants); and
- Students at boarding schools, patients in hospitals, residents of homes (e.g. retirement homes, homes for people with disabilities), Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in very remote parts of Australia and inmates of prisons.

13 The FOES is a supplementary survey used to further refine this population. The FOES was conducted in both urban and rural areas in all states and territories, but excluded persons living in very remote parts of Australia which would otherwise have been within the scope of the survey. The exclusion of these people will have only a minor impact on any aggregate estimates produced for individual states and territories, except the Northern Territory where such people account for approximately 22% of the population.

14 This survey was restricted to employed people aged fifteen years and over who were not contributing family workers in their main job. Questions were asked about employment arrangements in the main job of all employed people.

15 For the purposes of the data included in Section One of this publication, the business operator population comprises all owner managers of incorporated and unincorporated businesses. It excludes persons who are classified to other types of employment status categories [e.g. employees who do not own businesses (excluding owner managers of incorporated enterprises) and contributing family workers].

16 Non-business operators comprise of people who work for a public or private employer and receive remuneration as wages or salaries. Employees are engaged under a contract of service (an employment contract) and take directions from their employer/supervisor/manager/foreman on how the work is performed. It excludes business operators as well as those persons who are also excluded from the scope of the LFS and/or FOES (as described above).

COVERAGE

17 The estimates in this publication relate to people covered by the FOES in November 2012. In the LFS, coverage rules are applied which aim to ensure that each person is associated with only one dwelling and hence has only one chance of selection in the survey: See *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0) for more details.

REFERENCE PERIOD

18 The statistics included in Section One of Counts of Australian Business Operators (CABO) and sourced from the FOES were collected throughout Australia in November 2012 as a supplementary to the LFS.

COLLECTION FREQUENCY

19 The FOES has been collected since August 1998, approximately every three years (1998, 2001 and 2004) and annually from 2006 onwards.

20 Refer to the sections below entitled 'Previous Surveys' and 'Next Surveys' for further information about previous and future releases and how these will impact on future releases of CABO.

SAMPLE SIZE

21 Users should note the issues associated with sample size which impact on the estimates in Section One of CABO and sourced from the 2012 FOES.

22 Supplementary surveys (such as the FOES) are not always conducted on the full LFS sample. Since August 1994 the sample for supplementary surveys has been restricted to no more than seven-eighths of the LFS sample.

23 The sample for FOES is a subsample of the 36,803 private dwelling households and special dwelling units included in the LFS in November 2012. The final sample on which estimates are based is composed of 29,655 persons aged 15 years and over who, in November 2012, were:

- employed;
- employees;
- independent contractors; and
- other business operators.

RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

24 Estimates in this publication are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors:

25 Sampling error is the difference between the published estimate and the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. For more information refer to the Technical Note.

26 Non-sampling errors are inaccuracies that occur because of imperfections in reporting by respondents and interviewers and errors made in coding and processing data. These inaccuracies may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers and effective processing procedures.

SEASONAL FACTORS

27 The estimates in Section One of CABO are based on information collected in the November 2012 FOES, and, due to seasonal factors, may not be representative of other months of the year.

CLASSIFICATIONS

28 CABO utilises a range of classifications which are also used in the FOES. The FOES uses Australian Standard Classifications where available and appropriate.

29 For example, country of birth data are classified according to the *Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 2011* (cat. no. 1269.0). Occupation data are classified according to the *ANZSCO – Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, First Edition, 2006 Revision 1*, (cat. no. 1220.0). Industry data are classified according to the *ANZSIC – Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification, 2006* (cat. no. 1292.0).

CONFIDENTIALITY

30 The data presented in Section One have been confidentialised to ensure no single individual can be identified. The confidentialising process applied maximises the availability of data without introducing bias to the estimates.

COMPARABILITY OF TIME SERIES

31 This is the second release of CABO. As such, time-series analysis is not possible and users should exercise caution making comparisons with previous sources of ABS business operators data. However, data pertaining to owner managers of incorporated and unincorporated businesses are available through the Forms of Employment and other ABS Labour Force Surveys.

COMPARABILITY OF TIME
SERIES *continued*

32 The degree of comparability between data presented in Section One of CABO and the 2012 FOES is high. Refer to the section of the Explanatory Notes entitled 'Scope' for further information. As such, users may refer to the 2012 FOES for additional information regarding the independent contractors and other business operators of Australian businesses.

33 Whilst FOES data are considered a suitable source from which to derive counts of Australian business operators, it should be noted that the FOES forms part of the suite of ABS' Monthly Labour Force Supplementary (sample) Surveys, and as such, is subject to sampling and non-sampling error.

34 It is also important to note that the main function of ABS' LFS (including the FOES) is not to collect information on business operators, but is instead focussed on developing high quality estimates of employment and unemployment.

35 Given these conceptual and methodological limitations of FOES data, care has been taken to present the data at relatively broad levels so as to minimise the potential impact of the conceptual and methodological influences described above.

COMPARABILITY WITH
MONTHLY LABOUR FORCE
STATISTICS

36 Due to difference in the scope and sample size of the FOES (which impacts on estimates included in this publication) and that of the LFS, the estimation procedure may lead to some small variations between estimates provided in Section One of Counts of Australian Business Operators and those from the LFS.

COMPARABILITY WITH THE
CENSUS OF POPULATION AND
HOUSING

37 When comparing ABS Labour Force data (including the data presented in CABO) with Census data, users should be aware of the issue of Census undercount. For further information, refer to the paper entitled *Census of Population and Housing – Details of Undercount, 2011* (cat. no. 2940.0).

PREVIOUS SURVEYS

38 The FOES was first conducted in August 1998 then in November 2001, November 2004 and annually from November 2006. Results of previous surveys on employment arrangement have been published in: *Forms of Employment, Australia* (cat. no. 6359.0) and *Employment Arrangements and Superannuation, Australia* (cat. no. 6361.0).

NEXT SURVEYS

39 The ABS plans to conduct the FOES again in November 2013.

PART B:

40 *Data Sourced from the 2011 Census of Population and Housing*

INTRODUCTION

41 The statistics presented in Section Two of this publication were compiled using data collected from the 2011 Census. The Census is conducted every five years and collects a range of demographic, social and economic information from all people and dwellings (excluding diplomatic personnel and dwellings) in Australia on Census night.

SCOPE

42 The 2011 Census aims to count every person who spent Census night (9 August 2011) in Australia. This includes people in the six states, the Northern Territory, the Australian Capital Territory, Jervis Bay Territory, and the external territories of Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands. The other Australian external territories (Norfolk Island, and minor islands such as Heard and McDonald Islands), are outside the scope of the Australian Census.

43 People who leave Australia but who are not required to undertake migration formalities, for example those on oil and gas rigs off the Australian coast, and expeditioners to the Australian Antarctic Territory are also included in the Census. They are coded to Off-Shore Statistical Areas Level 1.

44 The only groups of people who spend Census night in Australia but are excluded from the Census are foreign diplomats and their families, and foreign crew members on ships who remain on the ship and do not undertake migration formalities.

SCOPE *continued*

45 The Census also includes people on vessels in or between Australian ports and people on board long distance trains, buses or aircraft. People entering Australia before midnight on Census night are counted, while people leaving an Australian port for an overseas destination before midnight on Census night are not. Visitors to Australia are included regardless of how long they have been in the country or how long they plan to stay. However, for people who will be in Australia less than one year, only basic demographic data are available.

46 Detainees under the jurisdiction of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship, in detention centres in Australia, people in police lock-ups or prisons, are in the scope of the Census. For the 2011 Census, details will be sourced from administrative data, so only basic demographic statistics such as age, sex and marital status may be available.

47 All private dwellings, except diplomatic dwellings, are included in the Census, whether occupied or unoccupied. Caravans in caravan parks and manufactured homes in manufactured home estates, are counted only if occupied. For the 2006 and 2011 Censuses, unoccupied residences in retirement villages (self-contained) are included. Occupied non-private dwellings, such as hospitals, prisons, hotels, etc. are also included.

48 The business operator population is a subset of this population. Specifically, the business operator population comprises all owner managers of incorporated and unincorporated businesses. It excludes persons who are classified to other types of employment status categories [e.g. employees who do not own businesses (excluding owner managers of incorporated enterprises), contributing family workers, persons not in the labour force, and the unemployed].

49 Non-business operators comprise employees who do not own businesses and contributing family workers. It excludes business operators as well as persons who were not in the labour force or who were unemployed.

50 In order to produce data on the respective business operator and non-business operator populations, the Census Form was structured such that persons aged fifteen years or more were asked if they had a full or part-time job at any time in the week leading up to the Census. Those persons indicating they did, were then asked if they worked for an employer or in their own business in the 'main job held last week' (i.e. the job where the person usually works the most hours).

51 Persons indicating they worked in their own business were then asked if the business was incorporated or unincorporated. These people were also asked whether the business employed people. Responses were classified according to how many people were employed by the business. It is this question about employee numbers which allows ABS to produce data about small business operators.

52 Persons aged fifteen years or more were also asked a series of other questions pertaining to their individual characteristics, such as their occupation, industry, income, place of usual residence and Indigenous status on the Census Form. This allows ABS to match individual business operator and non-business operator records so that data across a wide range of these characteristics can be included in Counts of Australian Business Operators.

53 Persons who provided insufficient information on Employment Type of Person (EMTP) on their Census Form, were excluded from the business operator population. Where EMTP was stated (business operator or non-business operator) but the variable of interest (for example, income) was not stated, the person was included and left as not stated. Analysis revealed that this adjustment caused minimal change to the proportions being derived from the Census.

CLASSIFICATIONS

54 CABO utilises a range of classifications which are also used in the Census. Specifically, Australian Standard Classifications are used where available and appropriate. Examples of these are the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO) and the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC). These classifications are used as the basis on which to build Census-specific classifications such as Birthplace of Individual (which uses SACC).

55 Classifications such as these are reviewed on an irregular basis to reflect changes in the Australian social environment. Where an Australian Standard Classification is not available, classifications specific to Census variables have been developed.

REFERENCE PERIOD

56 The Census was conducted on the night of 9 August, 2011.

COLLECTION FREQUENCY

57 The Census is collected every five years.

58 Refer to the sections below entitled 'Previous Census' and 'Next Census' for further information about previous and future releases and how these will impact on future releases of *Counts of Australian Business Operators*.

RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

59 The Australian Census is self-enumerated. This means that householders are required to complete the Census form themselves, rather than having the help of a Census Collector. The Census form may be completed by one household member on behalf of others. Error can be introduced if the respondent does not understand the question, or does not know the correct information about other household members. Self-enumeration carries the risk that wrong answers could be given, either intentionally or unintentionally.

60 The data presented in this publication may be subject to non-sampling error.

61 These data are not subject to sampling error as the data represents a complete enumeration of those persons who identified themselves as a business operator. However, users should be aware of the issue of undercount which impacts on Census (estimated at approximately 1.7%).

62 It should be noted that the issue of undercount in the 2011 Census is not an issue particular to the production of business operator counts. It is an issue which relates to Census data per se, and can be associated with the scope, coverage, timing, measurement of underlying concepts and methodologies used in the 2011 Census. The ABS has published an article which examines these issues in more detail.

63 For further information, refer to the paper entitled *Census of Population and Housing – Undercount, 2011* (cat. no. 2940.0).

CONFIDENTIALITY

64 The data presented in CABO have been confidentialised to ensure no single individual can be identified. The confidentialising process applied is expected to maximise the availability of data without introducing any bias to the estimates.

COMPARABILITY OF TIME SERIES

65 This is the second release of CABO. As such, time-series analysis is not possible and users should exercise caution when making comparisons with previous ABS business operators data.

66 Data are however available for a wide range of topics from current and previous Census, much of which may be accessed directly from the ABS website <www.abs.gov.au>. Users are advised to investigate the comparability of data items over time. A useful resource for these purposes is the *Census Dictionary* (cat. no. 2901.0).

COMPARABILITY WITH
MONTHLY LABOUR FORCE
STATISTICS

67 The data presented in Section Two of this publication have been confronted with data from a range of LFS. In most cases, the proportions presented in this publication are broadly comparable with data derived from these surveys. However, users are advised to exercise caution when making data comparisons, and in particular, should consider the scope of each survey before making any comparisons.

68 Users are also reminded of the issue of undercount which impacts on Census estimates. For further information, refer to the paper entitled *Census of Population and Housing – Details of Undercount, 2011* (cat. no. 2940.0).

ROUNDING

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

PREVIOUS CENSUS

70 Information regarding previous Census may be accessed through the ABS website <www.abs.gov.au>.

NEXT CENSUS

71 The next Census of Population and Housing will be conducted in 2016.

FUTURE RELEASES

72 The ABS will assess the user demand of this publication prior to forming a decision on future releases.

ABBREVIATIONS

- '000 thousand
- % percentage
- ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics
- ANZSCO Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations
- ANZSIC Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
- ASCO Australian Standard Classification of Occupations
- cat. no. Catalogue number
- CABO Counts of Australian Business Operators
- FOES Forms of Employment Survey
- LFS Labour Force Survey (Australia)
- m million
- no. number
- OMIE owner manager of incorporated enterprise
- OMUE owner manager of unincorporated enterprise
- RSE relative standard error
- SACC Standard Australian Classification of Countries
- SE standard error

**THE FORMS OF EMPLOYMENT
SURVEY AND CENSUS
CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORKS**

The conceptual framework used in Australia's Labour Force Statistics (LFS) aligns closely with the standards and guidelines set out in Resolutions of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians. Descriptions of the underlying concepts and structure of Australia's labour force statistics, and the sources and methods used in compiling these estimates, are presented in *Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001) which is available on the ABS website <<http://www.abs.gov.au>> (Methods, Classifications, Concepts and Standards).

In addition to the LFS conceptual framework outlined above, the Forms of Employment Survey (FOES) uses an employment type conceptual framework, which classifies jobholders to an employment type category on the basis of their main job, that is, the job in which the most hours are usually worked. This framework allows data presented in Counts of Australian Business Operators (CABO) to be split between business operators and non-business operators.

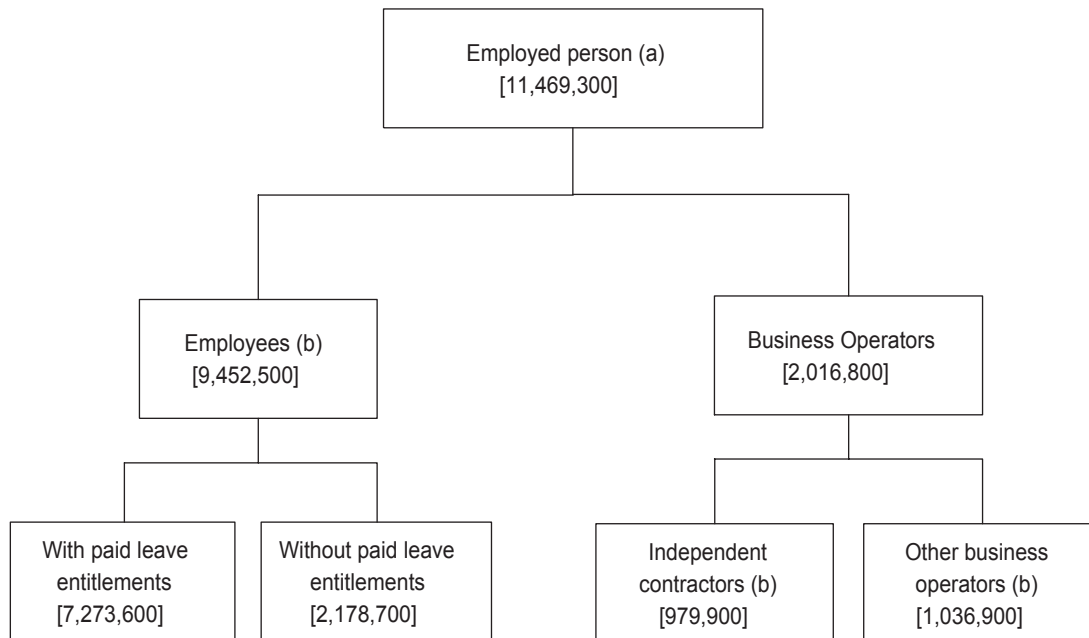
This conceptual framework classifies jobholders to a 'Form of employment' on the basis of their main job, that is, the job in which they usually worked the most hours. The form of employment category groups are:

- Employees;
- Independent contractors; and
- Other business operators.

Employees are then further classified according to whether they had paid leave entitlements, that is, whether they had paid sick and/or paid holiday leave.

THE FORMS OF EMPLOYMENT
SURVEY AND CENSUS
CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORKS
continued

Diagram 1: EMPLOYMENT TYPE CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK, Reference Period November 2012



(a) Excludes persons who are contributing family workers in their main job.

(b) In main job.

Employees in the FOES are defined as people who work for a public or private employer and receive remuneration as wages or salaries. Employees are engaged under a contract of service (an employment contract) and take directions from their employer/supervisor/manager/foreman on how the work is performed. This definition of employees is different from that used in the monthly LFS and other ABS household surveys.

Independent contractors are defined as people who operate their own business and who are contracted to perform services for others without having the legal status of an employee, i.e. people who are engaged by a client, rather than an employer to undertake the work. Independent contractors are engaged under a contract for services (a commercial contract), whereas employees are engaged under a contract of service (an employment contract). Independent contractors' employment may take a variety of forms, for example, they may have a direct relationship with a client or they may work through an intermediary. Independent contractors may have employees, however they spend most of their time directly engaged with clients or on client tasks, rather than managing their staff.

Other business operators are defined as people who operate their own business, with or without employees, but who are not operating as independent contractors. Other business operators are distinguished from independent contractors in that they generally generate their income from managing their staff or from selling goods or services to the public, rather than providing a labour service directly to a client. Other business operators spend little time working on client tasks with most of their time spent on managing their employees and/or business.

CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The concepts, sources and methods underpinning the data presented in Section Two of this publication are guided by the conceptual framework used to support the Census of Population and Housing (Census).

The Census is the largest statistical collection undertaken by the ABS. The Census has two broad objectives. The first of these is to accurately measure the number and key characteristics of people in Australia on Census night (9 August 2011) and the dwellings in which they live. The second is to provide timely, high quality and relevant data for small geographic areas and small population groups, to complement the rich but broad level data provided by ABS surveys.

The 2011 Census Form included questions which collected data on those Australians who operated a business, including a small business in the week before Census night. When matched with data derived from other questions on the 2011 Census Form, this allows ABS to produce business operators data for a range of characteristics.

The conceptual basis of the Census topics included in Section Two of this publication are discussed in further detail in *The Census Dictionary* (cat. no. 2901.0). The Dictionary is a comprehensive reference guide designed to assist users of 2011 Census data to determine and specify their data requirements and to understand the concepts underlying Census data. The Dictionary also provides background information about classifications, a topic index, mnemonic index and data release index for ease of reference, as well as a section on Census data quality.

Table 1: EMPLOYMENT TYPE, NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES AND SEX DETERMINE THE POPULATION OF THE BUSINESS OPERATORS IN CABO

CABO variable name	Label	Census variable	Label
Business operators	Male small business operators	EMTP – Employment type	Owner managers of incorporated businesses
			Owner managers of unincorporated businesses
		EMPP – Number of employees	Nil employees
			1–19 employees
		SEXP – Sex	Male
		Male business operators	EMTP – Employment type
	Owner managers of unincorporated businesses		
	SEXP – Sex		Male
	Female small business operators	EMTP – Employment type	Owner managers of incorporated businesses
			Owner managers of unincorporated businesses
		EMPP – Number of employees	Nil employees
			1–19 employees
SEXP – Sex		Female	
Female business operators		EMTP – Employment type	Owner managers of incorporated businesses
	Owner managers of unincorporated businesses		
	SEXP – Sex	Female	
Non-business operators		EMTP – Employment type	Employee not owning business
			Contributing Family Workers

INTRODUCTION

The following Appendix provides a brief history of ABS business operator counts and discusses planned future developments.

The ABS has been producing business operator counts for many years. These counts have been presented in the form of business demography products, most recently, through this publication, Counts of Australian Business Operators (CABO).

In addition, ABS has been producing data pertaining to owner managers of incorporated and unincorporated enterprises (each being a subset of the Australian business operator population) across a range of other statistical products.

Over time, ABS has been working to improve the quality of business operator counts and has been developing new sources of business operator data.

COUNTS FROM THIS RELEASE

The business operator data presented in this release have been derived from two data sources: the 2012 Forms of Employment Survey and the 2011 Census of Population and Housing (Census).

These data are relevant for users interested in understanding the characteristics of those persons engaged in one or more businesses currently operating within the Australian economy.

The 2012 Forms of Employment Survey was used to derive counts (as well as proportions) of business operators in Australia, while the 2011 Census has been used as a data source to produce a range of proportions relating to Australian business operators (including small business operators).

The decision to use Forms of Employment Survey data to produce count data was taken following detailed analysis which confirmed that the overall counts derived from the Forms of Employment Survey provided for a more reliable and accurate series of estimates compared with data derived from other sources (including from other Monthly Labour Force Supplementary Surveys and the 2011 Census). Specifically, data confrontation exercises confirmed Forms of Employment Survey data compared well with data derived from a range of administrative and survey sources.

This approach is expected to provide a more stable platform upon which users will be able to access data pertaining to the changing demographics of Australia's business operators over time.

DISCONTINUED ABS
BUSINESS COUNTS

Counts from the ABS Business Register (Prior to 2002)

The ABS has maintained an integrated business register (ABSBR) since the development phase of the first Integrated Economic Censuses conducted in respect of 1968–69.

From the amendment of the Income Tax Assessment Act in 1986 until 2002, this was primarily sourced from Group Employer (GE) registrations with the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). When a business commenced employing staff, a GE registration was required to enable the business to deduct income tax from its employees.

No comprehensive register of 'Non-employing' businesses was maintained by any government organisation and the ABS did not seek to create such a register. As such, any business counts produced from the ABSBR prior to 2002 included 'Employing' businesses only.

Counts from the ABS Business Register (Prior to 2002)
continued

A further short coming in these counts was that proper recording of businesses which had commenced, ceased or continued operation did not occur consistently over time. For example, a units survey in 1991 identified a significant number of businesses which had previously been included on the ABSBR but had ceased operation. These businesses were subsequently removed from the ABSBR. In 1996, a survey of businesses which had been removed as a result of feedback from survey processing identified a significant number of businesses which were in fact still operating.

In both these cases and other in similar instances over time, ABS economic statistics were backcast to adjust for these effects over time.

Counts from Small Business in Australia (1988–2001)

The ABS first released *Small Business in Australia* (cat. no. 1321.0) in 1988. This compendium release included a range of statistics about small businesses.

'Non–employing' businesses (such as self employed tradespeople) are a significant component of the small business sector. As such, it was important to include both counts and characteristics of these in *Small Business in Australia* (cat. no. 1321.0).

These counts were derived from the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS) and were progressively updated until the final issue of *Small Business in Australia* (cat. no. 1321.0) in 2001. To produce a comprehensive count of small businesses, the LFS sourced counts of non–employers were added to counts of employing businesses sourced from the Survey of Employment and Earnings (which used the ABSBR as a frame). The counts of small businesses stood at approximately 1.2 million in 2001.

The counts of 'Non–employing' businesses were almost certainly significantly understated for two reasons:

- Those counts did not fully capture businesses operated by people whose predominant labour force status was other than a small business operator; and
- Those counts did not fully capture multiple businesses owned by one operator. It has not been possible to accurately quantify this underestimate.

Counts included in Characteristics of Small Business (1995–2006)

The ABS first released *Characteristics of Small Business* (cat. no. 8127.0) in 1995. This compendium release also included a range of information about small businesses, including counts of small businesses and small business operators.

The decision to discontinue Characteristics of Small Business Operators (COSBO) was driven by the development of superior data sources, and the findings of a methodological review of the 2005 and 2006 COSBO surveys. The review compared data from the 2005 and 2006 COSBO surveys with data from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing and a range of Labour Force Supplementary Surveys. It concluded that, while some data items collected continue to provide an ongoing and accurate picture of the changing nature of the Australian small business and small business operator populations, a more consistent picture was provided by the alternate data sources.

Users should note that since the discontinuation of COSBO, the ABS has developed a publication focussing exclusively on Australian business operators. *Counts of Australian Business Operators* (cat. no. 8175.0) first released in October 2008 and utilises data from the ABS Census of Population and Housing and the ABS Forms of Employment Survey (FOES) to present a range of demographic data. Further information can be obtained from the ABS website <www.abs.gov.au>.

Counts from Australian Bureau of Statistics Business Register, Counts of Businesses (2005)

From 2002, the ABS changed the basis of the ABSBR from GE registrations to ABN registrations sourced from the Australian Business Register (ABR). From the introduction of the new tax system in July 2000, businesses required to remit GST, deduct income tax from employees or to participate in several other aspects of the tax system were required to register for an ABN on the ABR.

Counts from Australian Bureau of Statistics Business Register, Counts of Businesses (2005) continued

The ABS released experimental estimates of business entries and exits and the first counts from the ABR based ABSBR in 2005.

The release of *Australian Bureau of Statistics Business Register, Counts of Businesses* (cat. no. 8161.0.55.001) in October 2005 showed 3.0 million businesses operating as at June 2004, 2.9 million of which were small businesses.

These counts significantly overstated the number of businesses actively producing or distributing goods or providing services in the Australian economy for two reasons:

- They included businesses which did not have a GST role and whose only tax role was to enable the payment of Income Tax Instalment Provisions. Subsequent investigations indicate that these entities tend to be investment vehicles rather than actively trading businesses; and
- They also included businesses with a GST role but which had not remitted GST obligations for at least five successive quarters. These businesses have been termed 'long term non remitters' (LTNRs). Subsequent investigations indicate that the majority of these businesses were no longer active.

Both categories of businesses, which in combination (noting some overlap) contributed over 1 million to these previously released counts, have been excluded from the counts in this release.

CURRENT ABS BUSINESS COUNTS

Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits

Feedback from users since the 2005 release indicated that counts of actively trading businesses, rather than all entities carrying out economic activity, were more valuable for the various uses to which business counts were being put.

This resulted in the development of *Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits* (cat. no. 8165.0), first released in February 2007.

The counts showed that there were approximately 1.9 million actively trading businesses at that time. The differences between the count of 1.9 million and the count of approximately 3.0 million from the 2005 release was due to the exclusion of:

- Entities which had an active ABN but which had not have a GST role. While economically active, these entities were mainly businesses with asset holdings and consequent income flows but had not traded in goods and services; and
- Businesses with a GST role which had not returned a Business Activity Statement (BAS) for more than five quarters or had returned a BAS reporting zero dollar amounts. These businesses were likely to be no longer trading.

In combination (noting some overlap) there were approximately 1 million businesses in the above categories.

Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits (CABEE) was released again in December 2007 and showed that Australia's population of actively trading businesses had exceeded 2 million. A third release of CABEE in October 2010 showed that business counts had dropped slightly, but still remained above 2 million.

In January 2012, a fourth release of CABEE showed that business counts increased over the 2009–10 (3.6%) and 2010–11 (0.4%) years.

In May 2013, a fifth release of CABEE showed that business counts over the 2011–12 (0.4%) year.

The ABS plans to continue releasing CABEE. The publication is expected to provide users with a regular snapshot of Australia's population of actively trading businesses.

Counts Produced from ABS Business Surveys (1968 to current)

Since 1968, several ABS business surveys, using the ABSBR to provide a survey frame, produced counts of businesses as by product from survey processing.

*Counts Produced from ABS
Business Surveys (1968 to
current) continued*

These counts were consistent with business counts sourced directly from the ABSBR except they were adjusted to account for businesses identified in survey processing as no longer operating. However, the scope of these counts aligned with the scope of the respective surveys.

Therefore, counts of business entities derived from ABS surveys may not necessarily be comparable with the counts of actively trading businesses included in CABEE. Users should refer to the Explanatory Notes of the respective publications for further information.

PERSPECTIVES ON REGIONAL
AUSTRALIA: BUSINESS
OWNERS IN REGIONS, 2011
(CAT. NO. 1380.0.55.008)

This publication analyses two sources of regional data about business owners – the Census of Population and Housing and Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas. There are, however, major differences between the two collections, including differences in definitions and timing, which are important to consider when interpreting the data.

This publication focusses on the group of self-employed people who own unincorporated businesses, the regions they live in, the industries they work in and the income they earn from their businesses. There are two sources of regional data about business owners – the Census of Population and Housing and Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas. There are, however, major differences between the two collections, including differences in definitions and timing, which are important to consider when interpreting the data.

Owners of unincorporated businesses represent a small but distinct category of regional labour markets and understanding this group can provide useful information for regional planners and policy makers who seek to address regional employment and economic issues.

Across Australia, more than one in every seven (15%) income earners earned some income from an unincorporated business in 2009–10. In some regions, however, including rural regions in Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and New South Wales, business owners made up over a quarter of income earners. On average, people tended to earn much less from an unincorporated business than from all sources of income. Census data indicates that less than half of the people who earned income from an unincorporated business did so as their main job. Of the people who ran an unincorporated business as their main job in 2011, approximately two-thirds of them (66%) were male and their median age was 47, about 7 years older than the average worker. Business owners who ran their business as a main job tended to work in construction, agriculture, forestry and fishing (especially business owners outside of the greater capital cities), and professional, scientific and technical services (especially those in the greater capital cities).

COUNTS INCLUDED IN OTHER
RELEASES

ABS has been producing data pertaining to owner managers of incorporated and unincorporated enterprises (subsets of the business operator population) across a range of statistical products.

Most notably, numerous publications using Monthly Labour Force Survey data (including the Forms of Employment Survey) have included estimates relating to the owner manager populations, disaggregated by a wide variety of characteristics. Many of these characteristics have also been included in Counts of Australian Business Operators.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The ABS will assess the user demand of this publication prior to forming a decision on future releases.

ABS publications which may be of interest to users of Counts of Australian Business Operators are listed below.

**BUSINESS DEMOGRAPHY
PUBLICATIONS:**

ABS publications which may be of interest to users of *Counts of Australian Business Operators* are listed below.

*Business Demography
Publications:*

- *Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits 2008 to 2012* (cat. no. 8165.0);
- *Australian Industry, 2010–11* (cat. no. 8155.0);
- *Selected Characteristics of Australian Business, 2010–11* (cat. no. 8167.0);
- *Discussion paper: The first iteration of the Business Longitudinal Database, 2004–05* (cat. no. 8164.0);
- *Australian Bureau of Statistics Business Register, Counts of Businesses – Summary Tables, June 2004* (cat. no. 8161.0.55.001) (replaced by 8165.0);
- *Characteristics of Small Business, Australia (Reissue), 2004* (cat. no. 8127.0) (replaced by 8165.0 and 8175.0);
- *Experimental Estimates, Entries and Exits of Business Entities, Australia, 2001–02 to 2003–04* (cat. no. 8160.0.55.001) (replaced by 8165.0);
- *Small Business in Australia, 2001* (cat. no. 1321.0) (replaced by 8165.0);
- *Experimental Estimates, Regional Small Business Statistics, Australia, 1995–96 to 2000–01* (cat. no. 5675.0) (replaced by 8165.0).

*Information Technology
Publications:*

- *Summary of IT Use and Innovation in Australian Business, 2006–07* (cat. no. 8166.0);
- *Business Use of Information Technology, 2005–06* (cat. no. 8129.0);
- *Innovation in Australian Business, 2006–07* (cat. no. 8158.0).

Labour Publications:

- *Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods 2013* (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001);
- *Australian Labour Market Statistics 2013* (cat. no. 6105.0);
- *Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Australia 2012* (cat. no. 6310.0);
- *Employee Earnings and Hours, Australia 2012* (cat. no. 6306.0);
- *Locations of Work, Australia 2008* (cat. no. 6275.0);
- *Labour Force Experience, Australia 2011* (cat. no. 6206.0);
- *Labour Mobility, Australia 2012* (cat. no. 6209.0);
- *Working Time Arrangements, Australia 2012* (cat. no. 6342.0).

Current publications and other products released by the ABS are available from the Statistics Page on the ABS website. The ABS also issues a daily Release Advice on the website which details products to be released in the week ahead.

ADDITIONAL DATA

Further detailed data are available through data cubes which will accompany the release of this publication through the ABS website <www.abs.gov.au>. These data cubes include detailed cross classified information using industry, geographical and business size dimensions.

Users may also be interested in accessing data from other collections. Refer to the section below entitled 'ABS Data Available on Request' for further information.

ABS DATA AVAILABLE ON
REQUEST

As well as the statistics included in this and related publications, the ABS may have other relevant data available on request and for a charge. Inquiries should be made to the ABS National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070. Information is also available online via a selection of economic-specific theme pages. To access these theme pages, go to the ABS website home page <www.abs.gov.au>, open the Economy link shown under 'Key Products' (located in the left side navigator), then select one of the links shown under 'Business Demography'.

The ABS has a range of data available on request from the Forms of Employment Survey. The latest release of the survey includes a section which lists the data items and populations which relate to the survey. More detailed breakdowns of some data items may also be available on request.

For more information about Forms of Employment Survey data available on request, contact Labour Supplementary Survey Section on Canberra (02) 6252 7206, email <labour.statistics@abs.gov.au>.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ABS publications draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated: without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

INTRODUCTION

1 Since the estimates in Section One of this publication are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings, they are subject to sampling variability. That is, they may differ from those estimates that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included. There are about two chances in three (67%) that a sample estimate will differ by less than one SE from the number that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about 19 chances in 20 (95%) that the difference will be less than two SEs.

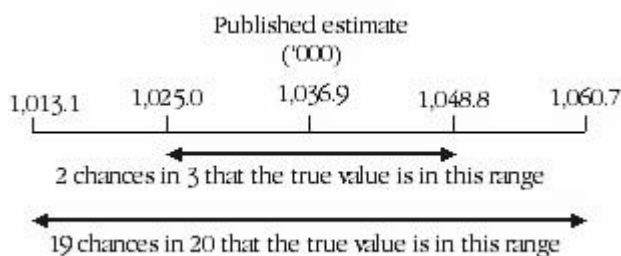
2 Due to space limitations, it is impractical to print the SE of each estimate in the publication. Instead, a table of SEs is provided to enable readers to determine the SE for an estimate from the size of that estimate (see table T1). The SE table is derived from a mathematical model, referred to as the 'SE model', which is created using data from a number of past Labour Force Surveys. It should be noted that the SE model only gives an approximate value for the SE for any particular estimate, since there is some minor variation between SEs for different estimates of the same size.

CALCULATION OF STANDARD ERRORS

3 An example of the calculation and the use of SEs in relation to estimates of people is as follows. Diagram 1 in Appendix 1 shows that the estimated number of persons in Australia who were other business operators was 1,036,900. Since this estimate is between 1,000,000 and 2,000,000, table T1 shows the SE for Australia will be between 11,750 and 17,050 and can be approximated by interpolation using the following general formula:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & SE \text{ of estimate} \\
 &= \text{lower SE} + \left(\left(\frac{\text{size of estimate} - \text{lower estimate}}{\text{upper estimate} - \text{lower estimate}} \right) \times (\text{upper SE} - \text{lower SE}) \right) \\
 &= 11,750 + \left(\left(\frac{1,036,900 - 1,000,000}{2,000,000 - 1,000,000} \right) \times (17,050 - 11,750) \right) \\
 &= 11,900 \text{ (rounded to the nearest 100)}
 \end{aligned}$$

4 There are about two chances in three that the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey will fall in the range 1,025,000 to 1,048,800, and about 19 chances in 20 that the value will fall within the range 1,013,100 to 1,060,700. This example is illustrated in the diagram below:



CALCULATION OF STANDARD ERRORS *continued*

5 In general, the size of the SE increases as the size of the estimate increases. Conversely, the RSE decreases as the size of the estimate increases. Very small estimates are thus subject to such high RSEs that their value for most practical purposes is unreliable. In the tables in this publication, only estimates with RSEs of 25% or less are considered reliable for most purposes. Estimates with RSEs greater than 25% but less than or equal to 50% are preceded by an asterisk (e.g. *3.4) to indicate that they are subject to high SEs and should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs of greater than 50%, preceded by a double asterisk (e.g. **0.3), are considered too unreliable for general use and should only be used to aggregate with other estimates to provide derived estimates with RSEs of 25% or less.

PROPORTIONS AND PERCENTAGES

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

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

7 Considering the example above, of the 1,036,900 persons who were other business operators, 407,800 or 39.3% were female. The SE of 407,800, may be calculated by interpolation as 7,500. To convert this to an RSE we express the SE as a percentage of the estimate, or $7,500/407,800 = 1.8\%$. The SE for 1,036,900 was calculated previously as 11,900, which converted to an RSE is $11,900/1,036,900 = 1.1\%$. Applying the above formulae, the RSE of the proportion is:

$$RSE = \sqrt{(1.8)^2 - (1.1)^2} = 1.4\%$$

8 The SE for the proportion of females who were other business operators, is 0.6 percentage points, calculated as $(39.3/100) \times 1.4$. There are about two chances in three that the proportion of female business operators is between 38.7% and 39.9% and 19 chances in 20 that the proportion is within the range 38.1% to 40.4%.

9 All other estimates produced from population estimates smaller than the values in T2 have RSEs larger than 25% and should be used with caution. T2 also indicates the size of the population estimates that would produce all other estimates with RSEs greater than 50% are considered too unreliable for general use.

DIFFERENCES

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

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

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

STANDARD ERRORS

T1 STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

Size of estimate	NSW no.	Vic. no.	Qld. no.	SA no.	WA no.	Tas. no.	NT no.	ACT no.	AUST. no. %	
									no.	%
100	290	290	220	180	220	110	80	100	110	110.0
200	400	380	320	240	290	160	120	170	190	95.0
300	470	440	390	280	340	190	150	210	260	86.7
500	580	540	500	340	420	240	190	270	380	76.0
700	660	620	580	390	480	270	230	300	480	68.6
1 000	760	710	680	450	550	310	260	330	610	61.0
1 500	900	830	810	530	640	360	310	360	780	52.0
2 000	1 010	930	910	590	710	390	340	390	920	46.0
2 500	1 100	1 000	1 000	650	800	400	350	400	1 050	42.0
3 000	1 200	1 100	1 050	700	850	450	400	450	1 150	38.3
3 500	1 250	1 150	1 100	700	900	450	400	450	1 250	35.7
4 000	1 300	1 200	1 200	750	900	500	450	450	1 350	33.8
5 000	1 450	1 300	1 250	800	1 000	500	450	500	1 500	30.0
7 000	1 650	1 500	1 450	900	1 150	600	550	600	1 700	24.3
10 000	1 850	1 700	1 600	1 050	1 300	700	700	700	2 000	20.0
15 000	2 150	1 950	1 800	1 200	1 500	850	1 000	850	2 350	15.7
20 000	2 400	2 200	1 950	1 350	1 650	1 000	1 250	1 000	2 550	12.8
30 000	2 800	2 550	2 250	1 550	1 900	1 250	1 750	1 250	2 900	9.7
40 000	3 100	2 800	2 500	1 800	2 100	1 500	2 250	1 500	3 150	7.9
50 000	3 350	3 050	2 750	2 000	2 300	1 700	2 650	1 650	3 400	6.8
100 000	4 250	4 000	3 750	3 000	3 400	2 400	4 650	2 250	4 300	4.3
150 000	5 000	4 850	4 600	3 850	4 450	2 850	6 350	2 500	5 000	3.3
200 000	5 750	5 650	5 400	4 550	5 350	3 200	7 950	2 650	5 600	2.8
300 000	7 250	7 250	6 850	5 550	6 750	3 700	10 850	2 800	6 650	2.2
500 000	10 150	10 050	9 250	7 000	8 600	4 250	..	2 800	8 350	1.7
1 000 000	15 100	15 250	13 200	8 900	10 950	4 850	..	..	11 750	1.2
2 000 000	20 350	22 550	17 700	10 600	12 700	..	..	..	17 050	0.9
5 000 000	25 900	36 100	23 900	11 900	13 250	..	..	..	28 450	0.6
10 000 000	27 750	49 750	27 950	..	..	..	..	..	37 950	0.4
15 000 000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	42 850	0.3

.. not applicable

T2 POPULATION LEVELS AT WHICH ESTIMATES HAVE RSES OF 25% AND 50%

	NSW	Vic.	Qld.	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
Relative Standard Error (RSE) of 25%	6 300	5 400	5 100	2 600	3 500	1 400	1 100	1 400	6 800
Relative Standard Error (RSE) of 50%	2 000	1 800	1 700	800	1 200	500	300	600	1 600

GLOSSARY

Business operator	<p>For data in Section One, the business operator population comprises all owner managers of incorporated and unincorporated businesses. It excludes persons who are classified to other types of employment status categories [e.g. persons such as employees who do not own businesses (excluding owner managers of incorporated enterprises) and contributing family workers]. It also excludes persons who are under the age of fifteen and overseas visitors.</p> <p>For data in Section Two, the business operator population comprises all owner managers of incorporated and unincorporated businesses. It excludes persons who are classified to other types of employment status categories [e.g. employees who do not own businesses (excluding owner managers of incorporated enterprises), contributing family workers, persons not in the labour force, and the unemployed]. It also excludes persons who are under the age of fifteen, overseas visitors and those persons who provided insufficient information on their Census of Population and Housing form to be included in the business operator population.</p>
Business size ranges	<p>For the purposes of this publication, business operators are classified according to the size of the main business they operate. The specific business size ranges used are based on the number of persons employed in the business. Small business operators are defined as those operators who employ fewer than 20 persons (including non-employing businesses). This treatment concords with ABS' standard (employment based) definition of "small business".</p>
Census	<p>The Australian Census of Population and Housing (Census) is an official count of population and dwellings, and collects details of age, sex, and other characteristics of that population.</p> <p>Census statistics are used as the basis for estimating the population at the national, state and local government levels, for electoral purposes and the distribution of government funds. They are used by individuals and organisations in the public and private sectors, for planning, administration, research, and decision making.</p> <p>One of the important features of the Census is that it allows different characteristics of an individual, family or household to be related. While information on some characteristics is available from other sources, only a Census can provide information on a standard basis for the country as a whole, as well as for small geographic areas and small population groups.</p>
Childcare provision status	<p>Childcare provision status refers to the various methods persons may organise care for a child or children. This includes instances where persons were caring for their own child/children, another person's child or children, or a combination of both.</p>
Continuous duration with current employer or business	<p>The length of the current period of employment people had with their employer or in their own business. The length of time includes periods of paid leave, unpaid leave or strike.</p>
Contract work status	<p>Refers to whether business operators worked on a contract basis or not during a reference period.</p>
Duration with business	<p>Duration with business is the period of time business operators have been with their businesses. The length of time includes periods of paid leave, unpaid leave or strike.</p>
Employing status	<p>Refers to whether business operators had employees or did not have employees during a reference period.</p>



Expected duration with business	Expected duration with business is the expected period of time business operators expect to be with their businesses before leaving and seeking other employment, retiring, downsizing, return to study, travel, etc.
Family weekly income	The sum of the individual weekly incomes reported by all family members aged fifteen years and over.
Field of Study	Field of Study refers to the subject matter taught in a course, unit, and modules of study. It is also a hierarchical classification and comprises 12 broad fields of study, 71 narrow fields and 356 detailed fields. For more information refer to the <i>Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)</i> (cat. no. 1272.0).
Full-time workers in main job	Employed persons who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in their main job) and others who, although usually worked fewer than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.
Highest year of school completed	Refers to the highest level of primary or secondary schooling a person aged 15 years and over has completed.
Hours usually worked	The number of hours usually worked in a week.
Housing tenure type	The tenure status of a business operator's occupancy of their residence: owned outright, owned with a mortgage or renting.
Incorporated entity	Incorporated Entities are those entities which are given corporate, or separate legal entity status under legislation such as the Corporation Act 2001 and other Parliamentary Acts.
Indigenous status	Indigenous status indicates whether or not an individual is a person of Aboriginal origin and/or Torres Strait Islander origin.
Individual weekly income	The gross weekly income (including pensions and allowances) that the person usually receives each week.
Industry (ANZSIC)	Individuals have been classified according to their description of activities undertaken by their employer/business at the place where they work. Businesses are coded to industries in the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification 2006 (ANZSIC06) which is a classification system for grouping producing businesses (of both goods and services) in Australia and New Zealand to permit comparability of data. Within ANZSIC, there is a structure comprising four levels ranging from industry division (broadest level) to the industry class (finest level). For more information, users should refer to the <i>Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification 2006</i> (cat. no. 1292.0).
Industry division	The main purpose of the industry division level is to provide a limited number of categories which give a broad overall picture of the economy. There are nineteen divisions within ANZSIC06 each identified by an alphabetical letter, that is, 'A' for Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, 'B' for Mining, 'C' for Manufacturing, etc.
Industry of main job	An industry is a group of businesses or organisations that undertake similar economic activities to produce goods and services. In this publication, industry of main job refers to ANZSIC Division as classified according to the <i>Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006</i> (cat. no. 1292.0).
Main job	The business or job in which the most hours were usually worked.
Non-business operator	For data in Section One, non-business operators comprise employed persons not owning their own business and contributing family workers. It excludes business operators and persons who were excluded from the scope of the Monthly Labour Force Survey and/or Forms of Employment Survey. It also excludes persons who are under the age of fifteen and overseas visitors.



Non-business operator <i>continued</i>	For data in Section Two, non-business operators comprise employees who do not own businesses and contributing family workers. It excludes business operators as well as persons who were not in the labour force or unemployed. It also excludes persons who were under the age of fifteen, overseas visitors and those persons who provided insufficient information on the Census of Population and Housing form to be included in the non-business operator population.
Non-school qualification	Non-school qualification describes the level of education of the highest completed non-school qualification (e.g. bachelor degree, diploma).
Occupation of main job	An occupation is a collection of jobs that are sufficiently similar in their title and tasks, skill level and skill specialisation which are grouped together for the purposes of classification. In this publication, occupation refers to Major Group as defined by the ANZSCO – <i>Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, First Edition, 2006 (cat. no. 1220.0)</i> .
Part-time workers in main job	Employed persons who usually worked fewer than 35 hours a week (in their main job) and who did so during the reference week.
Reference week	The week preceding the week in which the interview was conducted.
Relationship in household	The relationship of each person in a family to the family reference person or, where a person is not a part of a family, that person's relationship to the household reference person.
Unincorporated Entity	An unincorporated entity is an entity which has not become a corporation under the Corporation Act 2001. Unincorporated entities can choose to remain 'unincorporated', where by the business does not possess a separate legal identity to that of its owner, or it can choose the limited liability status of a company where the business assets are legally separate to that of the owners.
Worked on a contract basis	Owner managers of incorporated/unincorporated enterprises who were engaged by an organisation to provide a particular service or undertake a particular task at an agreed price or rate, and generally for a specified period.

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