



Statistical UPDATE

An Information Newsletter from the Queensland Office

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From the Regional Director

This bumper issue of the Queensland *Statistical Update* marks the beginning of a new direction for the Queensland ABS. We are forging ahead with an array of new collections, surveys and opportunities. Exciting initiatives of interest and great benefit to our clients include:

- The commencement of the **Freight Movements Survey** in early 2000 — this survey will measure regional freight flows in Australia by road, rail, sea and air.
- A quarterly **Survey of Internet Providers** commencing in June 2000, which will measure participation of Australians in internet activities. *Brian Doyle*
- Increased focus and funding for **Regional Statistics**.
- The ABS has just finalised (late November) a large user consultation phase. This phase sought views on the proposed strategic goals and directions for the **2001 Census output Program**.
- **Indigenous statistics** continuing to be a major focus with the release of data from the Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey from March 2000 onwards. The improvement in quality and availability of Indigenous data from administrative collections remains a high priority.
- The introduction of **The New Tax System** providing opportunities for enhancing the range of ABS economic statistics.
- An **Expo** will be staged at the ABS Queensland Office on **25 February 2000**. Open to ABS clients, the Expo will be a great opportunity to find out about the future directions of the ABS and to talk to the ABS staff who deliver our training and consultancy services as well as our sales and client management teams.
- We will finish 1999 with the launch of a **social report on older persons**, *Older People, Australia: A Social Profile* 4109.0, to celebrate the Year of the Older Persons in 1999.

This is just an indication of the directions that the ABS is taking. Future issues of the Queensland *Statistical Update* will bring you progress reports on these initiatives and inform you of other data opportunities that will be of benefit to you as our valued clients.

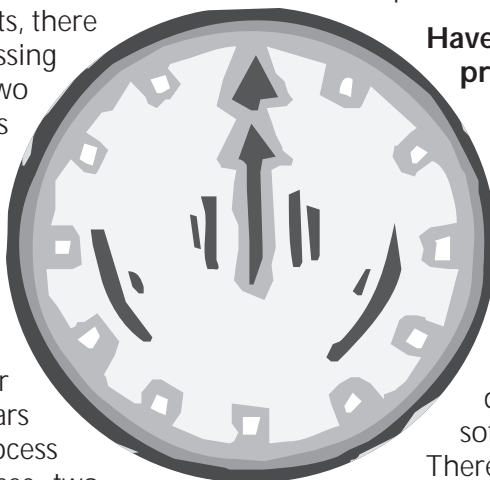
Are ABS data Y2k compliant?

Some ABS clients have expressed concern about whether or not ABS data is year 2000 compliant.

The short answer to this is that the concept of compliance does not apply to data. This is the case regardless of whether dates use 2 digits or 4 to represent the year. The Y2k problem is entirely related to how computer programs use year representations in calculations, and has nothing to do with the data.

Where years are represented by 4 digits, there is no ambiguity. Problems in processing dates may occur in cases where two digit years are used, and the programs processing them regard "00" as being something other than 2000.

There are two approaches being taken in dealing with the year 2000 problem. The obvious solution is to use 4 digit years. The other is to build inference rules into computer programs, so that when two digit years are encountered, the program can process them with predictable results. (These two approaches are not mutually exclusive, and both can be used at the same time – as is the case with Windows 3.11.) To be able to process two digit dates in a predictable way, programs need to have a rule built in which effectively says two digit years greater than xx are to be regarded as being in the 20th century, while dates less than or equal to xx are dates in the 21st century. The year chosen is called the "pivot date". For example, with a pivot date of "50", all years from 51 to 99 would be treated as if they had "19" in front of them, and all dates from 00 to 50 would be handled as if they had "20" in front of them.



There are two reasons why the use of 4 digit years is to be preferred: firstly, the use of pivot dates only puts the problem off for another generation of programmers to deal with, and secondly different programs may use different years as the pivot date, which could introduce other problems. Nevertheless, both approaches are being used.

The question you need to ask is not "Are ABS data Y2K compliant?" but rather "How do the programs I use to manipulate ABS data deal with dates?"

Have you tested ABS electronic products for year 2000 compliance?

The ABS strongly recommends that clients not rely solely on ABS testing and advice about the year 2000 compliance of products such as CDATA96. As noted above, some software may not handle dates predictably. The ABS has consistently warned against using ABS data and products with hardware or software which is not Y2k compliant.

There is simply no way we can know what products our clients use, or test our products or data with all of them.

If you have tested ABS products or data and are willing to share information about your findings, we would appreciate the feedback. No one has contacted us to say they have found any problems with ABS products or data - which we might expect if any had occurred. However, if you have successfully tested our products or data, we would like to know that and let others know, too!

For further information, contact Chris Bridgland on 02 6252 5023 or chris.bridgland@abs.gov.au

Cultural Identity Standards - a New Release

Standards for Statistics on Cultural and Language Diversity, 1999 (Cat.no. 1289.0) was released 22nd November 1999.

This publication presents the standards for a set of variables which measure various aspects of cultural identity, including First Language Spoken, Religion, Australian Citizenship, Indigenous Status and Year of Arrival in Australia.

The ABS uses these standards in its publications and encourages their use by other government departments and community bodies generally.

For further information contact John Hodgson 02 6252 7074 or john.hodgson@abs.gov.au

The Australian Bureau of Statistics presents...

StatsExpo

Come mingle with ABS staff and develop an awareness of the capability of the ABS to service your statistical needs.

Guest Speaker Jonathan Palmer, Head of the Information Services Division, will address the future directions in access and delivery of ABS data. This will be followed by an opportunity to talk to ABS staff covering all services that the ABS offers.

StatsExpo will showcase some of the products and services offered by the ABS through colourful and interactive displays.

StatsExpo stalls will cover the following areas:

- *What you need to know about running a survey and data analysis*

- *View the ABS Website and discover it's uses*

- *The best way for you to access ABS data both published and unpublished*

- *How and who to discuss your statistical needs with so they are presented to the various ABS planning bodies*

- *How do ABS information consultants deal with your data request*

- *See and use various electronic products such as CDATA96, IRDB, PCAUSSTATS and Transtats that demonstrate ways of presenting and mapping statistical data.*

These demonstrations and displays will be accompanied by a light lunch served from 12.00 noon. There is no charge for attendance.

A Date for your Diary

25 February, 11.00am to 2.00pm

StatsExpo

If you have any queries, please contact Terry O'Hagan on 07 3222 6424 or terry.ohagan@abs.gov.au

Tax Reform Changes and the ABS

Federal Government Taxation Reform means many changes to the tax system. The most significant from the ABS point of view are the introduction of a Goods and Services Tax (GST), introduction of an Australian Business Register (ABR) and Australian Business Number (ABN), the Review of Business Taxation (sometimes referred to as the Ralph Review) and introduction of a new Pay As You Go system for the consolidated payment of income and other taxes.

ABS is already working to maximise statistical benefits of the major taxation reforms taking effect next year. A Tax Reform Project Team has been established to handle statistical implications of the taxation changes.

The statistical implications will be very significant, and provide opportunities for enhancing the range of ABS economic statistics and State data. The Australian Statistician said that "these developments provide the ABS with the most significant opportunity we have had during my time at the ABS to change the way we design and conduct our business surveys."

The GST will be introduced from 1 July 2000. From that date wholesale sales tax will be replaced by a 10 per cent tax on all goods and services purchased in Australia. Businesses will be required to provide a Business Activity Statement (BAS) to the tax office each month or quarter depending on the size of the business.

It is expected that some of the data included on the BAS will be a valuable source of administrative by-product data which may be used to either substitute for, or supplement, data available from ABS collections. As a new source of economic data, it is also expected to provide opportunities for the ABS to produce new series which will satisfy unmet demand from our users. For example, data from the BAS for large businesses will be available on a monthly basis. The BAS data may also be used for more efficient estimation methodologies and more efficient sample designs that enable smaller samples. Smaller samples will contribute to further reduction in reporting burden placed on ABS providers.

The GST will have an impact on many of our existing series. For instance, reductions in wholesale sales tax

rate will begin impacting on the CPI from September quarter 1999, due to the transitional reduction in the tax rate on selected goods, including televisions and stereos. The main impact will be reflected in September quarter 2000 with changes in price levels due to GST introduction. Any changed spending pattern by households will be reflected in our Household Expenditure Survey. In time, CPI weights will change as a result of changed household spending patterns.

In short, Tax Reform will affect most of our economic collections in one way or another.

For further information contact Judy Henson on 02 6252 7326 or judy.henson@abs.gov.au

ABS Develops the Australian Standard Classification of Drugs of Concern

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has developed the Australian Standard Classification of Drugs of Concern (ASCDC) in response to increasing community recognition of the economic, health and social impacts of both licit and illicit drug use and the consequent wider interest in constructing statistical profiles relating to drug activity in Australia.

The ASCDC has been developed in consultation with relevant Commonwealth and State government departments, academics and other experts and organisations that are significant producers or users of drug-related data.

The ASCDC will assist government planners, policy analysts and social researchers by providing a consistent methodology for the classification of drug-related data. The use of standard classifications, frameworks and definitions will help to ensure the comparability and compatibility of data derived from a range of different statistical systems.

The draft classification structure and an information paper which briefly addresses the conceptual basis of the classification are available upon request in either hardcopy or electronic format. It is anticipated that the final version of the classification structure, explanatory material, and alphabetical and numerical order coding indexes will be incorporated in a publication to be released in May 2000.

For further information contact Cathy Williams on (02) 6252 7996 or cathy.williams@abs.gov.au

Advances in Australian Mortality Reporting and Analysis

Prior to 1997, the ABS only coded the underlying cause of death, but since January 1997, the ABS coded all causes of death reported by the certifier (multi-cause coding).

The ABS is further enhancing causes of death data by introducing the 10th revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10) for mortality coding. ICD-10 will roughly double the number of codes available for classificatory purposes and will assist in providing data which is more suited to the exacting task of analysing trends in causes of death.

ICD-10 is being used to code all deaths in Australia registered on or after 1 January 1999. Output based on ICD-10 is expected to be published late in 2000. To lengthen the time series and provide a link between

statistics the ABS will 'back code' 1997 and 1998 data.

In conjunction with the introduction of ICD-10, the ABS produced an updated complimentary booklet "Cause of Death Certification, Australia" to provide current guidelines for Doctors completing Medical Certificates of Cause of Death. Copies can be obtained by telephoning 1800 620 963 or email maryann.wood@abs.gov.au

The introduction of ICD-10 is a further step in making Australian mortality data more useful as an analytical and statistical tool. The ABS continues to work with the State and Territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages and other stakeholders to update the Certificate of Cause of Death so that it better facilitates accurate reporting of mortality information.

For further information contact Maryann Wood on 07 3222 6076 or maryann.wood@abs.gov.au

Social Report on Older Persons: Out Now

A Social report on older persons was released in a major launch by the ABS on 15 December to celebrate the 1999 International Year of Older Persons.

Older People, Australia: A Social Report 4109.0 covers most aspects of the lives of people aged 65 and over and includes national data and key social indicators. The major themes include:

- Population and Cultural Diversity
- Living Arrangements and Care
- Health and Disability
- Use of Technology
- Physical Environment
- Activities and Lifestyle
- Economic Environment

State and Territory differences are included, as are summary tables which show the changes which have occurred over the last decade.

For further information contact Andrew Webster on (02) 6252 7030 or andrew.webster@abs.gov.au

Changes to Government Finance Statistics

An Information Paper titled *Accrual-based Government Finance Statistics 1999* (Cat. no. 5517.0) will be released in the first half of 2000. The information paper will help users of Government Finance Statistics (GFS) understand the changed nature and presentation of the statistics. The paper will outline the conceptual changes to be reflected in government finance statistics and the changed format for the tables.

The ABS expects to publish the first accrual-based GFS in the next *Government Financial Estimates* (cat. no. 5501.0) in respect of data for 1998–99 and 1999–2000. This publication is expected to be released shortly after the Information Paper.

The ABS will also prepare a new edition of *Government Finance Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (Cat. no. 5514.0), which will contain detailed descriptions of the new concepts, classifications, data sources and methodology used in compiling the Australian GFS. This document is expected to be released in the latter half of 2000.

For further information contact Betty Gruber 02 6252 6178 betty.gruber@abs.gov.au or Tuls Ram 02 6252 6117 t.ram@abs.gov.au

Census 2001 update

Although the next Australian Census of Population and housing will not take place until 7 August 2001, planning for this massive operation is already well underway.

Qualitative market research into census clients' views on both the overall 1996 Census output strategy and specific 1996 Census products and services was conducted in April this year. A number of important issues were identified in this research including general endorsement of the data being released in two phases, the need for strict adherence to published release dates and the growing demand for on-line access to data.

The ABS is in the final stages of a large user consultation phase. This phase sought views on the proposed strategic goals and directions for the 2001 Census output Program. Based on the results of this consultation, the ABS will develop specific proposals for the 2001 Census Output program, including the development of

prototypes for 2001 Census products and services. These prototypes will be circulated for comment in July 2000.

In other 2001 Census developments, the first major test of the main systems and procedures used in conducting a census has already taken place. The first major census 'test', in which 20,000 people participated, occurred on 10 August 1999. Forms from this test are currently being processed and the answers received will help to identify and iron out any bugs before the 'dress rehearsal' to be conducted in May 2000.

For regular Census Updates:

- email census2001@abs.gov.au
- visit the ABS web site at www.abs.gov.au (select Census)
- call 1800 813 939

For further information contact Greg Lawrence on 07 3222 6497 or g.lawrence@abs.gov.au

Freight Movements Survey to Meet Need for Transport Statistics

The ABS Freight Movements Survey (FMS) will collect information on goods transported by rail, sea, air and road within Australia on an annual basis. The new survey can be regarded as a hybrid census/sample survey collection. This is because while rail, sea and air movements are collected from all major operators in what is essentially a census, a sample survey methodology will be used to collect information on goods transported by road.

Data items to be collected in the survey include:

- Origin (town or suburb)
- Destination (town or suburb)
- Trip distance
- Description of goods moved, based on the Australian Transport Freight Commodity Classification (ATFCC) and whether the goods are classified as dangerous
- Weight carried
- Method i.e. solid bulk, liquid bulk, refrigerated, or containerised

The survey has been developed in response to demands made to the ABS for more data about the size and characteristics of the transport task. In 1997 major users of ABS freight statistics were asked to provide comments on

their current and future needs as input into the new survey framework. The review confirmed that the availability of key statistics relating to freight flows between geographic areas (whether they are inter-regional or intra-urban) is a high priority unmet need.

Strong demand exists for statistical information to assist in the following areas:

- understanding and estimation of the demand for transport services
- efficiently planning infrastructure investment expenditure
- determination of road construction and maintenance priorities
- assessing the impact of changes in competition policy following the Hilmer reforms
- development of strategic transport system plans
- transport modelling

The availability of freight statistics for the development of transport policies and the efficient allocation of resources is considered by senior transport planners to be essential.

The FMS will be conducted initially for one year from April 2000. Initial results from the first survey are expected to be available in late 2001.

For further information contact Eddie Maitland on 07 3222 6336 or eddie.maitland@abs.gov.au

Review of State Building and Construction Publications results

Recently the Australian Bureau of Statistics conducted a review of the publication program of the State Building and Construction Publications. The main reason behind the review was the need to reallocate resources within the construction program to tackle pressing quality control issues associated with the introduction of private certification.

Outcomes from the consultation phase

There was a widespread view that moving from a monthly to a quarterly release was acceptable, although there were a number of concerns about the timeliness of approvals releases if we moved to combine the Building Activity and Building Approvals publications.

We propose converting the State Building Approvals publications from a monthly to a quarterly issue, whilst still intending to move to a combined publication in the longer term.

When will the changes be implemented?

The exact timing of the changes still requires confirmation. The March issue is anticipated to be the first of the quarterly issues. The main tables will still show monthly data but the Statistical Local Area (SLA) table will contain data for the quarter. Subscribers will be individually advised before changes are made.

How much more will it cost?

For subscribers to the State publications the cost will drop with the fewer number of issues. The price of the Australian publication will increase marginally to reflect the increase in the number of pages.

How do we get monthly SLA data if we still require it?

A monthly SLA table will still be prepared and will be made available free of charge to subscribers for the remainder of the 2000 subscription year.

What additional State data will be included in the monthly Australian Building Approvals publication?

It is proposed to include additional time series for each State in the Australian publication. The series we are currently considering are:

- the number of private sector houses approved, original, seasonally adjusted and trend, including percentage changes;
- the value of total building approved, original, seasonally adjusted and trend, including percentage changes;
- the value of non-residential building approved, original, seasonally adjusted and trend, including percentage changes; and
- the number of total dwellings approved for the capital city SD

Only original data is available for Tasmania, NT and the ACT.

We require financial year SLA approvals data. How do we get it?

This data has always been available as a Special Data Service and will continue to be. There are no plans to include this table in the publications.

Will SLA level Building Activity data (including commencements and completions) now be available?

SLA Building Activity data will not be released in the monthly publication. This is because the Building Activity Survey is a sample survey and SLA level data is not available for the sampled sector ie houses and alterations and additions to residential buildings. It is however available for the completely enumerated strata i.e. other residential dwellings and non-residential building.

For further information contact Richard Mason on 08 8237 7663 or richard.mason@abs.gov.au



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Import and Export Price Indexes Review – Client Input Wanted

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is undertaking a review of the Import Price Index (IPI) and the Export Price Index (EPI). The IPI and EPI are published in *Import Price Index, Australia* (Cat. no. 6414.0) and *Export Price Index, Australia* (Cat. no. 6405.0) respectively. The ABS is inviting client comment on the use and usefulness of the IPI and EPI. Comments are due back to the ABS by December 1999.

The key objective of the index reviews is to ensure that the ABS continues to compile measures of import and export prices appropriate for the main purposes for which they are used. With this in mind, the ABS is seeking input from clients on:

- key uses of the IPI and EPI

- the extent to which the IPI and EPI satisfy these uses
- the suitability of the range of classifications provided in the IPI and EPI publications
- other proposed technical changes

Major known uses of the IPI include the estimation of national accounts and balance of payments volume aggregates and the analysis of inflation. The EPI is used for volume estimation and economic analysis. The ABS is very interested in being advised of any other major uses of the indexes. Feedback on a range of proposed technical changes to the indexes would also be appreciated.

In line with established practice, clients will be informed of the review outcomes. Results of the review are expected to be implemented in the September quarter 2000 release of each of the index publications.

For further information contact David Collins on 02 6252 6248 or david.collins@abs.gov.au

HOUSEHOLD AND FAMILY PROJECTIONS

Household and Family Projections Now Available

A new publication, *Household and Family Projections, Australia 1996 to 2021* (Cat no. 3236.0) contains projections about the living arrangements for Australian families and households from 1996 to 2021. It contains national, state and territory, capital city and balance of state information and covers:

- household growth and average size
- the living arrangements of children, young adults and older people
- the changing importance of family types

Analysis is presented at the individual, family and household levels.

Household and family projections are based on assumptions about changing living arrangements of the population. These projections are not intended to predict where we will be in 2021, but rather where we are currently heading.

Queensland projections include:

Second Highest Household Growth in Australia

- between 1996 and 2021, Queensland is projected to experience household growth second only to the Northern Territory. Increasing by between 61% and 74%, Queensland household growth is projected to be considerably faster than the projected national

figure (between 38% and 46%).

Fastest Population Growth

- Queensland's population is projected to grow by 45% over the projected period, compared to an increase of 24% for Australia.

Decreasing Average Household Size

- Average household size in Queensland is projected to decline from 2.6 persons per household in 1996 to between 2.2 and 2.4 in 2021.

Increase in Lone Persons Households

- lone persons households are projected to increase quickly in Queensland, growing by between 78% and 157% which is considerably faster than the projected national figure (between 52% and 113%).

High Growth Rate for Families

- number of families in Queensland is projected to have an increase of between 45% and 58%, a much higher growth than the growth projected for Australia (between 24% and 34%).

Couple Families Without Children Increase Rapidly

- Couple families without children are projected to become the most common family type in Queensland by 2006.

For further information contact Sue Taylor on 02 6252 6141 or sue.taylor@abs.gov.au

Electronic Access to Detailed Labour Force Data

For more than 20 years, Labour Force data has been sent out to clients each month on microfiche. After the release of December 1999 data, this service will stop. For a long time, clients have been asking for a more modern form of detailed data and we are pleased to be able to provide data in the most modern way - electronically, via the Internet.

Data 'cubes' containing a wide range of detailed monthly Labour Force estimates will be available through PC Ausstats and will be in SuperTABLE format.

SuperTABLE is table creation software which allows clients to create tables using any or all of the fields in a cube. Tables can be manipulated, rearranged, printed, saved or exported to a spreadsheet. SuperTABLE is *very* user friendly and easy to learn.

The data cubes will be updated every month with the most recent Labour Force estimates, and a long time series of historical data will also be available. The system is currently under development and example cubes will be available shortly.

For further information contact Donna Maurer on 02 6252 5276 or donna.maurer@abs.gov.au

2000–2001 Labour Force Supplementary Survey Program

The following labour force topics will be collected through the Monthly Population Supplementary Survey program in 2000 and 2001. Output from these surveys is generally available about 6 months after the data collection phase of each survey.

	2000	2001
February		Labour Force Experience/ ATSI Identifier
March		Environment: Water Use & Conservation
April		Work in Selected Culture/Leisure Activities
May		Transition from Education to Work
June		Disability
July	Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons/ Successful & Unsuccessful Job Search Experience/ Multiple Jobholders	Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons/ Retrenchment & Redundancy/ Multiple Jobholders
August	Weekly Earnings of Employees/ Leave Entitlements etc.	(Census) Leave Entitlements etc.
September	Persons Not in the Labour Force/ Underemployed Workers Work injuries	Persons Not in the Labour Force/ Underemployed Workers/ Small Businesses
October	State topic	State topic
November	Working Arrangements	Forms of Employment

For further information contact Greg Lawrence on 07 3222 6497 or g.lawrence@abs.gov.au

New Data on Indigenous Community Housing Infrastructure Needs

The Community Housing Infrastructure Needs Survey (CHINS) was conducted on behalf of ATSIC from August to October 1999. The survey included all known Indigenous organisations that manage or own community housing, with additional infrastructure information collected for all identified discrete Indigenous communities.

Housing information includes the number, condition and size of community houses, repairs and maintenance expenditure and amount of rent collected. Infrastructure information includes details of water supply and quality, power supply, sewerage, drainage and solid waste. Transport and communication issues, as well as access to education, health and other community facilities were also included.

An ABS publication is expected to be released by end March 2000 presenting summary information at the National and State levels (including Northern Territory), as well as containing maps showing the distribution of Indigenous housing organisations and discrete communities across Australia. Other products are being developed for ATSIC which will present data at the community and ATSIC Region levels. These products will also be available to other organisations.

For further information contact Trevor Imhoff on 02 6252 7769 or trevor.imhoff@abs.gov.au

Indigenous Community Boundaries Improvements for Census 2001

As part of the Queensland review of Collector District (CD) geographic boundaries for the 2001 Census, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Community CD's are being redesigned to different criteria.

For the 2001 Census, most communities will be given a physical boundary around the actual community centre. This CD will include only those persons staying within the boundary on census night. A point CD is then created to include all persons at the outstations of that community on census night. A point CD would also be created for any outstations of that community in a different Local Government Area (LGA). If an outstation is large enough, that is greater than 50 persons, a bounded CD would be created for that outstation.

Previously, communities were represented by a point CD which included all persons associated with that

community including outstations. If the CD met population criteria, it was then allocated a Section of State code. Communities with a population of greater than 200 persons but less than 1000 were given a Locality Code, and those with a population greater than 1000 were given Other Urban Centre code.

These changes will allow users to get a more accurate estimate of residents in the community with a separate figure for outstations.

For further information contact Keith Venton on 07 3222 6387 or keith.venton@abs.gov.au

New Developments in Estimates for Torres Strait Islander Population.

In recent years, there has been growing demand from a variety of research organisations, government departments and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations for estimates of the size of the Torres Strait Islander population as separate from the Aboriginal population.

To meet some of this need, the ABS has offered to retrospectively produce experimental estimates of the Torres Strait Islander population for census years.

In the first instance estimates, by sex and age groups, will be produced as at 30 June 1996.

For further information contact Phil Browning on (02) 6252 7083 or phil.browning@abs.gov.au

The ABS encourages responses to articles in this newsletter and welcomes your suggestions for future issues

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The Geography Dimension

What is the ASGC?

The Australian Standard Geographic Classification (ASGC) is a hierarchical classification system used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the collection and dissemination of a wide range of statistics for various geographic areas within each State. The main purpose of the ASGC is to provide statistics with a "where" dimension.

The ASGC is composed of various geographical areas, or spatial units, which aggregate to higher level units. Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) are small general purpose spatial units which are either Local Government Areas (LGAs), or aggregate to form an LGA. The 449 SLAs within Queensland aggregate to form 30 Statistical Subdivisions (SSD) and 12 Statistical Divisions (SD) which cover the entire state.

On 1 July each year a new edition of the ASGC comes into effect. Queensland boundaries have changed in the 1999 Edition of the ASGC at a number of spatial levels. Changes may or may not be of statistical significance, depending on whether or not there is a significant transfer of households or economic units from one spatial unit to another.

Significant Changes between ASGC Editions 1998 and 1999

- There were adjustments to the boundaries between the City of Ipswich, the Shires of Boonah, Esk and Laidley. There are no changes to ASGC codes or names. There are also consequential changes to the boundaries of lower and higher level spatial units. More detail regarding these changes can be found in *Australian Standard Geographical Classification* (ASGC) 1999 (Cat. No. 1216.0).

- The Statistical Local Areas of Burleigh Waters, Carrara-Merrimac, Kerrydale-Stephens, Mermaid Waters and Robina-Clear Island Waters in the LGA of Gold Coast (C) have been altered to align with redefined suburb boundaries. SLAs have been abolished, created and altered and there are changes to both codes and names. There are no changes at the LGA level or to any higher level spatial units. More detail regarding these changes can be found in *Australian Standard Geographical Classification* (ASGC) 1999 (Cat. No. 1216.0).

Why have the boundaries changed?

The ASGC is updated in response to two types of changes:

- Legislative changes such as changes to local government boundaries made by State and Territory Governments. These changes usually require consequential changes to related ASGC spatial units such as Statistical Local Areas (SLAs).
- All other changes. These changes are made to ABS-defined spatial units eg. SLAs within Local Government Areas (LGAs) or changes to Statistical Subdivision (SSD) boundaries. Changes of this type may occur due to administrative or political changes, ad hoc or systematic reviews, or to correct mapping errors.

What do these changes mean for the user?

- Improved data access eg. data for Gold Coast suburbs is more readily obtainable as suburbs and SLAs are more comparable.
- Time series data may be affected eg. population shifts with boundary changes.

For further information contact Lynne Peterson on 07 3222 6405 or lynne.peterson@abs.gov.au

Internet Access

For 24 hour statistics, access the ABS Statsite at
www.abs.gov.au

Interesting hotlinks include:

- ABS Statsite
- What's New
- Latest Media Release
- Today's Release Advice
- Access to ABS Products and Services
- Australia Now - A Statistical Profile of Australia

ABS website self adhesive computer terminal stickers are available from
Graham Thomas on (02) 6252 6364; graham.thomas@abs.gov.au



Notice of Christmas/New Year Closure

The public access areas of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), in all States and Territories, will **close at 4.30pm Christmas Eve and re-open at 8.30am Tuesday, 4 January, 2000**. There are no ABS releases scheduled during this time.

During this temporary closure there will not be access to:

- ABS Reception
- ABS Bookshops
- ABS Telephone Inquiry Services
- ABS Libraries

Although we will be closed, ABS clients will still be able to access a range of ABS data sources.

These include:

- the ABS website at **www.abs.gov.au**
- ABS 24 hour Dial-A-Statistic and CPI Infoline service
- selected ABS publications for perusal at many public libraries.

The **Dial-A-Statistic** service **1900 986 400** (call cost 75c per minute) offers data on key national indicators such as:

- National Accounts
- Balance of Payments
- Labour Force Estimates
- Average Weekly Earnings
- Estimated Resident Population
- Consumer Price Index

The **CPI Infoline 1902 981 074** (call cost 75c per minute) provides current and historical CPI data.

For further information contact Mark Chalmers on 07 3222 6307 or mark.chalmers@abs.gov.au

ABS QLD CONTACT POINTS



Telephone Inquiry Service

Telephone 07 3222 6351 or for Deaf Clients TTY 07 3222 6325
Consultants will assist with your statistical inquiries and consultancies.



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State Government Contact

Debra McDonald
Telephone 07 3222 6083
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Sally Barrett
Telephone 07 3222 6068
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