Development of ABS Business Demography Statistics

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Developments of ABS Business Demography Statistics

- What is CABEE
- Client consultation
- Recent changes to the publication
- Further improvements and future steps
- Enabling environment
- Data Sources
Counts of Australian Businesses including Entries and Exits (CABEE) presents five years of counts of actively trading businesses in the Australian economy.

Contains counts by industry, sector, type of legal organisation, size range (turnover and employment) by geographies.
Low-cost publication using existing resources;
- Frozen Frame
- Employment Stratification Benchmarks
- Turnover Stratification Benchmarks
- 99.9% Admin data based

Time for a refresh

Improving administrative data

Stakeholder consultation / Review / Update
To explore

– current user experience with the CABEE publication
– identify the areas meeting user needs, as well as opportunities for improvement or innovation to inform future design.

Key outputs

– CABEE Review, including new publication strategy
– CABEE Roadmap articulating key areas for priority development over the next 5 years.
Feedback was sought from government agencies and private sector organisations who have used the:
- annual CABEE publication
- quarterly Experimental Estimates
- associated customised data

Review participants included:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Australian Business Register</th>
<th>ACT Treasury</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australian Small Busines and Family Ombudsmen</td>
<td>NT Government</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources</td>
<td>Ingenium Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet</td>
<td>Chartered Practicing Accountants Australia</td>
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<td>Commonwealth Treasury</td>
<td>Internal ABS Stakeholders</td>
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## Feedback Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Highest value</th>
<th>Quarterly experimental estimates</th>
<th>Annual CABEE publication</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Timeliness and relevance of release</td>
<td>Comprehensiveness, in particular granular level of industry and location data</td>
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<td>New employment indicator to capture COVID</td>
<td>Timeseries published in data</td>
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<td>Seasonally adjusted data to understand trends</td>
<td>End of financial year view of businesses</td>
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<td>Entries and exits breakdown</td>
<td>Custom data request capabilities</td>
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<tr>
<th>Pain points</th>
<th>Quarterly experimental estimates</th>
<th>Annual CABEE publication</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Lack of granular data for in-depth analysis</td>
<td>Significant lag in publication</td>
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<td>Data not published – some users were not aware they could access it</td>
<td>Format of data resulting in extensive manipulation by users</td>
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<td>Users not aware of its publication who would have otherwise used it</td>
<td>Lack of long time series, particularly at granular level, due to backcasting/changes</td>
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<td>Short timeseries for most data items</td>
<td>Frequency of data</td>
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Key Release Outcomes

- New quarterly data published within 8 weeks of the reference period.
- Splitting publication in two: moving from February release to an August and December release.

**August Release**
- High level aggregate business demography data. This excluded counts by turnover and lower-level geographies.
- High-level quarterly data for selected business demography.

**December Release**
- Counts by low level geographies and industry.
- Counts by turnover.
- Seasonally adjusted graphs for the quarterly.
- Interactive maps.
Unit recorded data to be loaded the Table Builder environment – enabling external users to easily define their own tables / outputs without breaking confidentiality

Users can customise employment and turnover and combine with different levels of geography or other business demographics not currently published in CABEE.
While the ABS SBR is updated monthly
Only recently has it been “viable” for quarterly publication
Need underlying admin data to reflect real world for it to be “viable”
Still not “perfect”
“Fit for purpose”
Data Sources for CABEE

- Australian Business Number (ABN) Registration
- Value Added Tax Registration (GST)
- Employing Business withholding tax registration (PAYG)
- Single Touch Payroll (STP)
  - Reports to Australian Tax Office whenever payroll is done
- Business Activity Statements (M/Q/A) VAT reporting
  - Turnover / Profits / Wages and Salaries
Questions

- Thank you