

Development of ABS Business Demography Statistics

Michael Biddington and Natasha Miller

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Informing Australia's important decisions



Development 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:

Australian Business Register	ACT Treasury
Australian Small Business and Family Ombudsmen	NT Government
Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Ingenium Research
Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet	Chartered Practising Accountants Australia
Commonwealth Treasury	Internal ABS Stakeholders

Feedback Summary

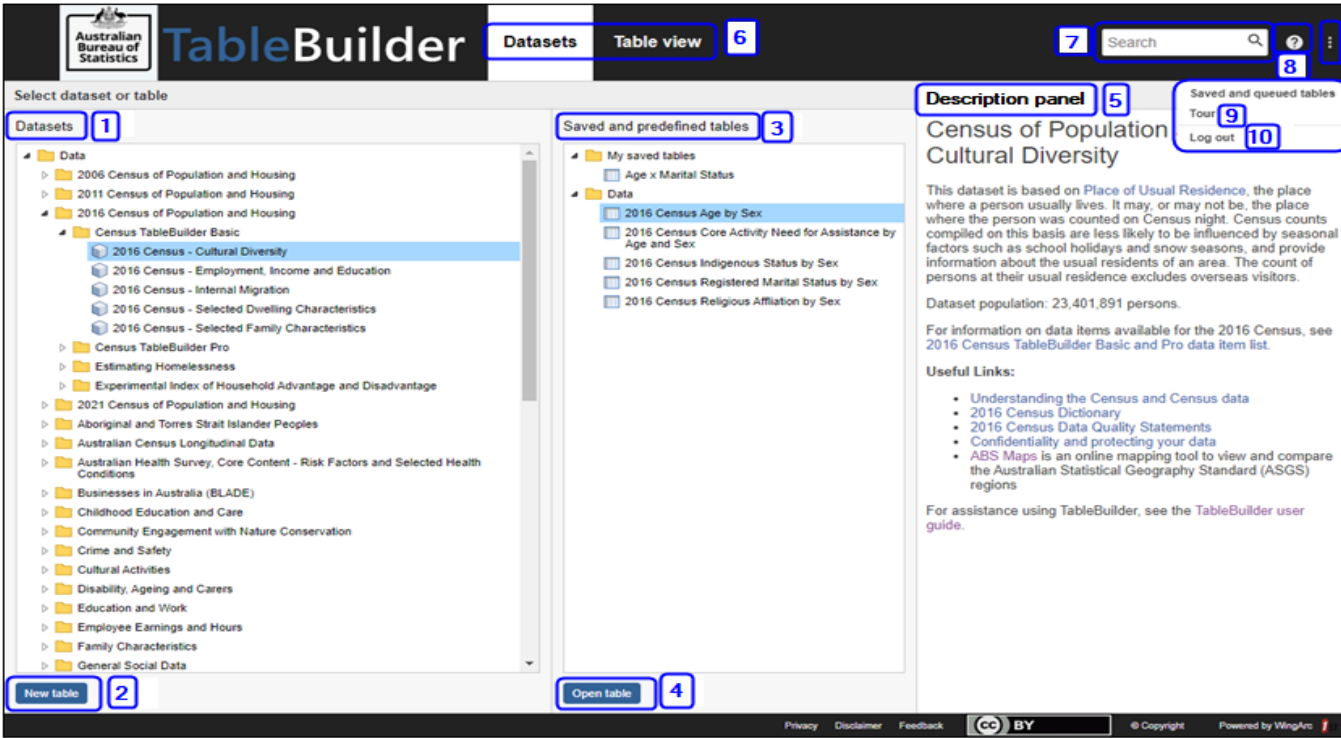
	Quarterly experimental estimates	Annual CABEE publication
Highest value	Timeliness and relevance of release	Comprehensiveness, in particular granular level of industry and location data
	New employment indicator to capture COVID	Timeseries published in data
	Seasonally adjusted data to understand trends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

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.

TableBuilder



The screenshot shows the TableBuilder interface with the following elements and callouts:

- 1**: Datasets list on the left sidebar.
- 2**: New table button at the bottom left.
- 3**: Saved and predefined tables list in the center.
- 4**: Open table button at the bottom center.
- 5**: Description panel on the right.
- 6**: Table view tab at the top.
- 7**: Search bar at the top right.
- 8**: Help icon at the top right.
- 9**: Tour button in the description panel.
- 10**: Log out button in the description panel.

Description panel content:

Census of Population and Cultural Diversity

This dataset is based on [Place of Usual Residence](#), the place where a person usually lives. It may, or may not be, the place where the person was counted on Census night. Census counts compiled on this basis are less likely to be influenced by seasonal factors such as school holidays and snow seasons, and provide information about the usual residents of an area. The count of persons at their usual residence excludes overseas visitors.

Dataset population: 23,401,891 persons.

For information on data items available for the 2016 Census, see [2016 Census TableBuilder Basic and Pro data item list](#).

Useful Links:

- [Understanding the Census and Census data](#)
- [2016 Census Dictionary](#)
- [2016 Census Data Quality Statements](#)
- [Confidentiality and protecting your data](#)
- [ABS Maps](#) is an online mapping tool to view and compare the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) regions

For assistance using TableBuilder, see the [TableBuilder user guide](#).

CABEE Roadmap

2021



Bring forward release of aggregate CABEE data by 6 months (Aug) & detailed data by 2 months (Dec)



Ongoing release of high level quarterly data, more detailed entries and exits split



Explore feasibility of release of annual CABEE data in [TableBuilder](#)



Remove the super funds ANZSIC class from CABEE scope

2022



Standardise employment and turnover size ranges across data cubes



Use of more timely source data to calculate turnover size ranges



Release annual CABEE data in [TableBuilder](#)

2023



5-year timeseries for all data cubes



Remove data cubes 5-7



Introduce alternate survival calculation

2024



Align with international reporting requirements



Publish non-market sector data



Explore options for data on family businesses

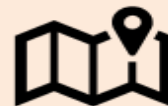


Explore options for data on start-ups

2025+



Reconciliation of CABEE and BLADE



Integration of CABEE and business locations data



More regular, detailed geographic data e.g. Greater Capital City Statistical Area, SA4, SA3



Publication of longer time-series e.g. 10 years

- ▶ 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”

- ▶ 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