

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

Section 1: Overview, Appropriations and Budget Measures Summary

OVERVIEW

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS):

- is the central statistical authority for the Australian Government;
- provides statistical services for the State and Territory Governments;
- collects, compiles, analyses and disseminates statistics and related information;
- ensures the coordination of the statistical activities of, and provides advice and assistance to, other federal agencies; and
- provides liaison between Australia and other countries and international organisations on statistical matters.

APPROPRIATIONS

Total appropriations for the ABS in the 1999-2000 Budget are \$243.7 million (see Table 1.1).

Australian Bureau of Statistics — Appropriations 1999-2000

Table 1.1: Appropriations (\$'000)

Outcomes	Administered Expenses				Price of Outputs					Total Appropriations ^(e)	Total Estimated Expenses
	Special Appropriations ^(a)	Annual Appropriations		Total Administered Appropriations	Total Price of Outputs ^(c)	Revenue from Other Sources ^(d)	Revenue from Government (Appropriations)				
		Bill 1	Bill 2 (SPPs & NAOs) ^(b)				Special	Annual Bill 1	Total		
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D=A+B+C)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H=E-F-G)	(I= G+ H)	(J=D+I)	(K=J+F)
Outcome 1 — Informed decision making, research and discussion within governments and the community based on the provision of a high quality, objective and responsive national statistical service	-	-	-	-	270,834	27,118	-	243,716	243,716	243,716	270,834
Total	-	-	-	-	270,834	27,118	-	243,716	243,716	243,716	270,834
Bill 2 Administered Capital ^(b)										-	
Bill 2 Agency Equity Injections and Loans ^(b)										-	
Total appropriations										243,716	

(a) Estimated expenses from individual Special Appropriations are shown in Appendix 2.

(b) Under the proposed Appropriation Structure, Bill 2 includes Specific Purpose Payments (SPPs), New Agency Outcomes (NAOs), Administered Capital and Agency Capital via Agency Injections and Loans.

(c) Refer to Budget Statement of Revenue and Expenses for Application of Agency Revenue (see Table 3.1).

(d) Other Revenue includes other revenue from Government (eg resources free of charge) and revenue from other sources (eg sales of goods and services).

(e) Links from Appropriations to Budget Financial Statements include Budget Statement of Revenue and Expenses (see Table 3.1); and Capital Budget (see Tables 3.4 & 3.5).

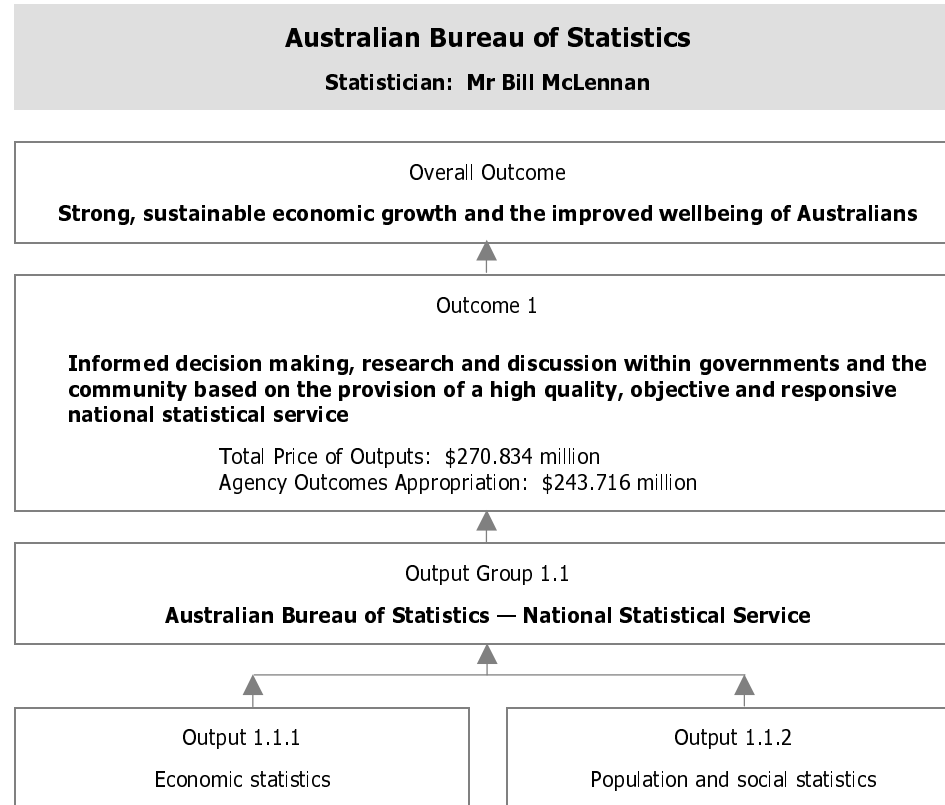
ADMINISTERED CAPITAL AND EQUITY INJECTIONS AND LOANS

The ABS does not have an appropriation for an equity injection or loan or an appropriation for administered capital in 1999-2000.

Section 2: Outcomes and Outputs Information

OUTCOMES AND OUTPUT GROUPS

The map on the following page shows the relationship between Government outcomes and the contributing outputs for the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Financial detail for Outcome 1 by output appears in Table 2.2 while non-financial information for Outcome 1 appears in Table 2.3.



OUTCOME 1

There is a single government outcome relating to the ABS, defined as ‘Informed decision making, research and discussion within Governments and the community based on the provision of a high quality, objective and responsive national statistical service’.

Table 2.1 shows the relationship between the programme structure for 1998-99 and the new outcome structure for the 1999-2000 Budget for Outcome 1.

Table 2.1: Relationship between Programme and Outcome Structure for Outcome 1

Programme Management Budgeting	Accrual Budgeting
Programme 3 — Australian Bureau of Statistics To assist and encourage informed decision making, research and discussion within governments and the community by providing a high quality, user-oriented and dynamic statistical service.	Outcome 1 Informed decision making, research and discussion within governments and the community based on the provision of a high quality, objective and responsive national statistical service
Sub-programmes Sub-programme 3.1 — Statistical Operations Sub-programme 3.2 — Corporate Services	Output Groups Output Group 1.1 — Australian Bureau of Statistics — National Statistical Service
Appropriations for Programme 3	Appropriations for Outcome 1
Sub-programme 3.1 Appropriation Bill 1 Running Costs, including Section 31 receipts (671-1) Appropriation Bill 2 Capital Works and Services, plant and equipment (979-1-01)	Output Group 1.1
Sub-programme 3.2 Appropriation Bill 1 Running Costs, including Section 31 receipts (671-1) Other Services — Compensation and legal expenses (671-2-01)	Outcome 1 Appropriation Bill 1 Agency Outputs

RESOURCES FOR OUTCOME 1

Table 2.2 shows how the 1998-99 appropriation and programming structure relates to total resourcing for Outcome 1.

Table 2.2: Total Resources for Outcome 1

	Estimated Actual	Estimated Actual	Budget
	1998-99 CASH \$'000	1998-99 ACCRUAL \$'000	1999-00 \$'000
Price of Agency Outputs			
Output Group 1.1 — Australian Bureau of Statistics			
— National Statistical Service			
Output 1.1.1 — Economic Statistics	127,069	126,112	135,735
Output 1.1.2 — Population and Social Statistics	122,086	125,854	135,099
Appropriation Structure 1998-99 (a)			
Sub-programme 3.1 — Statistical Operations			
Sub-programme 3.2 — Corporate Services			
Subtotal Output Group 1.1	249,155	251,966	270,834
Revenue from Government (Appropriation) for Agency Outputs	223,095	223,669	243,716
Revenue from Other Sources	26,060	28,297	27,118
Total Price of Outputs	249,155	251,966	270,834
Total for Outcome 1	249,155	251,966	270,834
		1998-99	1999-00
Staff Years (Number)		2,909	2,920

(a) See Table 2.1 for details.

CONTRIBUTION OF OUTPUTS TO OUTCOME 1

Official statistics are collected by government to inform debate, decision making and research both within government and by the wider community. They provide an objective perspective of the changes taking place in national life and allow comparisons between periods of time and geographical areas.

Open access to official statistics provides the citizen with more than a picture of society. It offers a window on the work and performance of government itself, showing the scale of government activity in every area of public policy and allowing the impact of public policies and actions to be assessed.

The ABS achieves its outcome by the provision of two outputs: (i) Economic Statistics; and (ii) Population and Social Statistics.

The economic statistics output contains an extensive range of statistical outputs relating to the structure and performance of the Australian economy. It provides an objective source of information that is used by governments and the community to inform their decisions. For example, economic statistics are used to formulate government macroeconomic policies, to assist in allocating Commonwealth funds to State Governments, to formulate industry development policies, in financial and business planning, and in wage determination.

The population and social statistics output contains statistical outputs relating to the Australian population, including census and demographic statistics, as well as outputs relating to the social and economic wellbeing of the population. It provides an objective source of information that is used by governments and the community to inform their decisions. For example, census data are used extensively to plan for communities; labour statistics are used in the formulation of macroeconomic policy and in developing government labour market policies and programmes; and social statistics are used to support policy development in areas such as health, social security, taxation, and community and family services.

Reliable social and economic statistics are fundamental to open government and it is the responsibility of government to provide them and to maintain public confidence in them.

PERFORMANCE INFORMATION FOR OUTCOME 1

Table 2.3: Performance Information 1999-2000

Effectiveness — Overall Achievement of the Outcome

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

The ABS maintains close contact with its users through a variety of mechanisms in order to understand, and be responsive to, their emerging needs for information. The Australian Statistician determines which statistics are to be collected, after full discussion with users, clients and the Australian Statistics Advisory Council, and makes the results widely available. The statistical programme provides an objective perspective on the economic and social changes taking place in Australia.

In the last decade, the effectiveness of the ABS outcome has been enhanced by improved ABS outputs and methods of dissemination. The ABS has made significant advances in terms of the range, timeliness and quality of its products and services on a resource base that has been essentially static.

Increased productivity in the ABS's use of its resources has enabled an increased number of products (covering new subject matter as well as quarterly publications of key indicators that were previously produced annually) and series (such as time series and seasonally adjusted series) to be released to satisfy user demands. Existing products, especially main economic indicators, are released more quickly and using more user friendly dissemination methods, and the relevance, coherence and accuracy of products has been enhanced through adherence to contemporary international standards and by the conduct of major reviews.

Table 2.3: Performance Information 1999-2000 (continued)**Performance Information for Agency Outputs****Output Group 1.1 — Australian Bureau of Statistics — National Statistical Service**

Output 1.1.1 — Economic Statistics

Output 1.1.2 — Population and Social Statistics

Detailed information on performance in terms of ABS outputs is reported in the 1997-98 Annual Report. Performance information for 1998-99 will be published in the 1998-99 Annual Report to be tabled in Parliament late in 1999.

The ABS is committed to improving the quality of its outputs. It has established a benchmarking network of national statistical agencies to compare output effectiveness and efficiency, to the degree possible, between agencies, and to identify and learn from areas of best practice. Other countries involved in the network are New Zealand, Canada, USA, UK, Sweden and the Netherlands. In addition, ABS is actively pursuing benchmarking comparisons with private sector organisations in the next round.

The outputs initially being benchmarked are:

- the Consumer Price Index, representing a prices collection;
- the Annual Manufacturing Survey, representing a survey of businesses; and
- the Household Expenditure Survey, representing a survey of households.

Outputs will be priced and performance assessed in terms of:

- quality (timeliness, statistical reliability, accuracy, provider load);
- effectiveness (including relevance and responsiveness to client needs); and
- efficiency (costs of comparable processes and outputs).

Evaluations

Information on planned evaluation activity that relates to this outcome is in Table 2.3 above and the results will be shown in the ABS Annual Report.

Competitive Tendering and Contracting

The ABS has a number of performance reviews planned for 1999-2000. These reviews are for activities with expenditures totaling \$60 million in 1999-2000, some of which may lead into competitive tendering and contracting reviews.

Section 3: Budget Financial Statements

The budget financial statements will form the basis of the financial statements that will appear in the Australian Bureau of Statistics' 1999-2000 Annual Report, and also form the basis for the input into the Whole of Government Accounts.

Budget Statement of Revenue and Expenses (Budget Operating Statement)

This statement provides a picture of the expected financial results for the ABS by identifying full accrual expenses and revenues, which highlights whether the ABS is operating at a sustainable level.

Budget Statement of Assets and Liabilities (Budget Balance Sheet)

This statement shows the financial position of the ABS. It enables decision makers to track the management of the ABS's assets and liabilities.

Budget Cash Flow Statement

This statement identifies expected cash flows from operating activities, investing activities and financing activities.

Capital Budget

This statement shows all proposed capital expenditure funded either through the Budget as appropriations or from internal sources.

Non-financial Assets — Summary of Movement

This statement shows the movement in the ABS's non-financial assets over the Budget year 1999-2000.

Table 3.1: Budget Statement of Revenue and Expenses

	Estimated Actual		Estimated		
	1998-99 \$'000	1999-00 \$'000	2000-01 \$'000	2001-02 \$'000	2002-03 \$'000
Agency Revenue and Expenses					
Revenues					
Revenue from government					
Ordinary annual appropriations (net appropriations)	214,951	243,716	268,934	354,238	251,876
Resources received free of charge	75	75	75	75	75
Revenue from other sources					
Sales of goods and services	27,897	26,444	26,238	25,595	36,862
Other revenue from other sources	325	599	429	188	98
Total Revenue	243,248	270,834	295,676	380,096	288,911
Expenses					
Employees	163,285	164,787	165,366	253,065	169,769
Depreciation and amortisation	30,613	29,932	32,800	31,677	33,343
Other costs of providing goods and services	57,460	72,425	93,901	91,831	82,368
Other	608	535	454	368	276
Total Expenses	251,966	267,679	292,521	376,941	285,756
Operating Result Before Capital User Charge	(8,718)	3,155	3,155	3,155	3,155
Capital User Charge	-	3,155	3,155	3,155	3,155
Transfers and Dividends	-	-	-	-	-
Accumulated Results at Year End	(8,718)	-	-	-	-
Net contribution to government	-	-	-	-	-

Note: The ABS does not have any Administered items.

Table 3.2: Budget Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Estimated Actual	Estimated			
	1998-99 \$'000	1999-00 \$'000	2000-01 \$'000	2001-02 \$'000	2002-03 \$'000
Agency Assets and Liabilities					
Debt					
Leases	11,696	9,756	7,735	5,628	3,430
Total Debt	11,696	9,756	7,735	5,628	3,430
Provisions and Payables					
Employees	54,965	59,227	61,536	66,606	67,040
Suppliers	794	1,152	1,017	4,580	1,258
Other	3,491	3,154	3,119	4,202	4,198
Total Provisions and Payables	59,250	63,533	65,672	75,388	72,496
Equity					
Accumulated results	7,021	7,021	7,021	7,021	7,021
Reserves	19,273	19,273	19,273	19,273	19,273
Total Equity	26,294	26,294	26,294	26,294	26,294
Total Liabilities and Equity	97,240	99,583	99,701	107,310	102,220
Financial Assets					
Cash	-	11,795	16,019	6,961	11,196
Receivables	4,209	109	1,917	1,937	3,004
Total Financial Assets	4,209	11,904	17,936	8,898	14,200
Non-financial Assets					
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	32,890	30,999	32,962	55,710	48,553
Intangibles	50,483	45,518	39,365	33,849	27,493
Other	9,658	11,162	9,438	8,853	11,974
Total Non-financial Assets	93,031	87,679	81,765	98,412	88,020
Total Assets	97,240	99,583	99,701	107,310	102,220

Note: The ABS does not have any Administered items.

Table 3.3: Budget Cash Flow Statement

	Estimated Actual	Estimated			
	1998-99 \$'000	1999-00 \$'000	2000-01 \$'000	2001-02 \$'000	2002-03 \$'000
Agency Cash Flows					
Operating Activities					
Cash Received					
Appropriations	223,095	243,716	268,934	354,237	251,876
Sales of goods and services	28,689	26,319	26,226	26,673	35,733
Total Cash Received	251,784	270,035	295,160	380,910	287,609
Cash Used					
Employees	177,229	173,773	177,588	260,402	191,453
Suppliers	73,417	83,858	110,621	99,599	88,864
Other	(30,847)	(25,160)	(33,906)	(24,016)	(22,030)
Total Cash Used	219,799	232,471	254,303	335,958	258,287
Net Cash from Operating Activities	31,985	37,564	40,857	44,925	29,322
Investing Activities					
Cash Received					
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	325	599	429	188	98
Other	(1,947)	1,947	-	-	-
Total Cash Received	(1,622)	2,546	429	188	98
Cash Used					
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	29,024	23,220	31,885	48,909	19,832
Total Cash Used	29,024	23,220	31,885	48,909	19,832
Net Cash from Investing Activities	(30,646)	(20,674)	(31,456)	(48,721)	(19,734)
Financing Activities					
Cash Received					
Total Cash Received	-	-	-	-	-
Cash Used					
Capital user charge paid	-	3,155	3,155	3,155	3,155
Repayment of borrowings	1,823	1,941	2,021	2,107	2,198
Total Cash Used	1,823	5,095	5,176	5,262	5,353
Net Cash from Financing Activities	(1,823)	(5,095)	(5,176)	(5,262)	(5,353)
Net increase/decrease in cash held	(484)	11,795	4,225	(9,058)	4,235
Add cash as at 1 July	484	1,947	11,795	16,019	6,961
Cash as at 30 June	-	11,795	16,019	6,961	11,196

Note: The ABS does not have any Administered items.

CAPITAL BUDGET

The ABS will not receive a Capital Appropriation, but will internally fund the purchase of non-current assets, including finance leases from its Agency resources.

Table 3.4: Capital Budget

Purchase of Non-current Assets	Estimated			
	1999-00 \$'000	2000-01 \$'000	2001-02 \$'000	2002-03 \$'000
Funded by capital appropriations	-	-	-	-
Funded internally by Agency resources	23,220	31,885	48,909	19,832
Total	23,220	31,885	48,909	19,832

Table 3.5: Non-financial Assets — Summary of Movement
Budget Year 1999-2000

	Land	Buildings	Total Land and Buildings	Other Infrastructure, Plant and Equipment	Total Infrastructure, Plant and Equipment	Intangibles	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Gross Value							
As at 1 July 1999 (opening)	-	-	-	94,019	94,019	100,925	194,944
Additions ^(a)	-	-	-	7,131	7,131	16,089	23,220
Disposals	-	-	-	-12,272	-12,272	-	-12,272
Other movements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
As at 30 June 2000	-	-	-	88,878	88,878	117,014	205,892
Accumulated Depreciation							
As at 1 July 1999 (opening)	-	-	-	61,129	61,129	50,442	111,571
Disposals	-	-	-	-12,128	-12,128	-	-12,128
Charge for the reporting period	-	-	-	8,878	8,878	21,054	29,932
Other movements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
As at 30 June 2000	-	-	-	57,879	57,879	71,496	129,375
Net Book Value as at 30 June 2000 (Closing Book Value)	-	-	-	30,999	30,999	45,518	76,517
Net Book Value as at 1 July 1999 (Opening Book Value)	-	-	-	32,890	32,890	50,483	83,373
Total Additions							
	Land	Buildings	Total Land and Buildings	Other Infrastructure, Plant and Equipment	Total Infrastructure, Plant and Equipment	Intangibles	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Self funded	-	-	-	7,131	7,131	16,089	23,220
Appropriations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	7,131	7,131	16,089	23,220

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Basis of Accounting

The agency budget statements are prepared in compliance with Australian Accounting Standards, Accounting Guidance Releases and having regard to Statements of Accounting Concepts.

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

Budget Statement of Revenues and Expenses

Revenues

Revenue from government - Ordinary annual appropriations

The increase in appropriation in 2001-2002 is due to additional costs associated with conducting the census.

Other revenues from other sources

Other revenues from other sources include proceeds from the sale of assets and resources received free of charge.

Expenses

Employee entitlements

The liability for employee entitlements includes provision for annual leave and long service leave. No provision has been made for sick leave as all sick leave is non-vesting.

Employee entitlements were based on leave patterns of ABS employees. Accrued salaries and employer superannuation contributions were based on daily salary expense and the number of days owing at 30 June in each budget year.

Depreciation

Depreciable assets are written off over their estimated useful lives. Depreciation is calculated using the straight line method which is consistent with the consumption of the service potential of the depreciable assets of the ABS. The sum of both, assets recognised for the first time in 1998-99 and asset revaluations, amounted to \$19.273 million. This had a significant impact on depreciation and amortisation charges.

Other costs of providing goods and services

Other costs of providing goods and services is essentially Suppliers' expenses.

Other

This category includes finance charges for finance leases and credit card fees.

Budget Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Debt

Leases

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

Provisions and Payables

Other

This category includes unearned revenue.

Financial Assets

Cash

The decrease in cash in 2001-2002 is a result of purchasing fitout for the new central office building.

Non-financial Assets

Intangibles

Software developed in-house is capitalised where the direct development costs amount to \$50,000 or more. This threshold applies to costs incurred in developing software commencing 1 July 1995.

The reduction in recognition threshold for software developed in-house (previously \$500,000) has resulted in software assets to the value of \$14.1 million being first recognised in 1998-99, which were previously expensed.

Other

Other non-financial assets comprise prepayments, inventory and deferred acquisition costs.

Budget Cash Flow Statement

Operating Activities

Cash used — other

In the cash budget environment, administration dollars were used for the purchase of assets and the repayment of financing activities. Under the accrual budgeting framework, adjustments had to be made to accurately reflect these transactions. The negative adjustment figure (\$25,160) has the effect of reducing the total cash used under operating activities, thereby accurately showing actual monies used under this category. The adjustment amount has subsequently been reflected under investing and financing categories.

Investing Activities

Cash received — other

This amount relates to the 1998-99 carryover.

Capital Budget

Purchase of Non-current Assets

ABS capital expenditure programmes in the budget and forward years are funded internally. These include: 1999-2000 the purchase of intangibles of \$16 million, plant and equipment (P&E) of \$7 million; 2000-01 intangibles of \$16 million, P&E of \$16 million; 2001-02 intangibles of \$14 million, P&E of \$8 million, Central Office fitout of \$27 million; 2002-03 intangibles of \$13 million, P&E of \$7 million.