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

The total appropriations for the ABS in the 2000-01 Budget are $263.2 million (see Table 1.1 on the following page).

Australian Bureau of Statistics — Appropriations 2000-01

Table 1.1: Appropriations ($'000)

Outcomes	Agency (Price of Outputs)					Administered				
	Revenue from Government (Appropriations)			Revenue from Other Sources[(a)]	Price of Outputs	Annual Appropriations		Special Approps	Total Administered Appropriations	Total Appropriations
	Bill No. 1	Special Approps	Total			Bill No. 1	Bill No. 2 (SPPs & NAOs)			
	(A)	(B)	(C=A+B)	(D)	(E= C+D)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I=F+G+H)	(J=C+I)
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	263,188	-	263,188	24,060	287,248	-	-	-	-	263,188
Total	263,188	-	263,188	24,060	287,248	-	-	-	-	263,188
Agency Capital (Equity Injections and Loans)										-
Administered Capital										-
Total Appropriations										263,188

(a) Revenue from Other Sources includes other revenue from government (for example, resources free of charge) and revenue from sources other than government (for example, sales of goods and services).

BUDGET MEASURES — AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

Table 1.2: Summary of Measures in the 2000-01 Budget

Measure	Outcome	Output Groups Affected	Appropriations Budget 2000-01 ($'000)			Appropriations Forward Estimate 2001-02 ($'000)			Appropriations Forward Estimate 2002-03 ($'000)			Appropriations Forward Estimate 2003-04 ($'000)		
			Administ'd Expenses	Agency Outputs	Total	Administ'd Expenses	Agency Outputs	Total	Administ'd Expenses	Agency Outputs	Total	Administ'd Expenses	Agency Outputs	Total
Retention of name identified census forms	1	1.1	-	800	800	-	5,800	5,800	-	4,000	4,000	-	-	-
Reduction in departmental resourcing	1	1.1	-	-3,000	-3,000	-	-3,000	-3,000	-	-3,000	-3,000	-	-3,000	-3,000

ADMINISTERED CAPITAL AND AGENCY CAPITAL (EQUITY INJECTIONS AND LOANS)

The ABS does not have an appropriation for an equity injection or loan, or an appropriation for administered capital in 2000-01.

Section 2: Outcomes and Outputs Information

OUTCOMES AND OUTPUT GROUPS

The map below shows the relationship between Government outcomes and the contributing outputs for the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Financial details for Outcome 1 by output appear in Table 2.1 while non-financial information for Outcome 1 appears in Table 2.2.

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Statistician: Mr Bill McLennan

Overall Outcome

Strong, sustainable economic growth and the improved wellbeing of Australians

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

Total Price of Outputs: $287.2 million
Agency Outcomes Appropriation: $263.2 million

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

CHANGES TO OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS

There are no proposed changes in outcomes or outputs since the previous year.

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

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'.

MEASURES AFFECTING OUTCOME 1

Retention of name identified census forms

The Government is providing the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) with additional funding to develop a Centenary of Federation gift to the nation in the form of name-identified census information. If the household agrees, the name identified census data will be transferred by the ABS to the National Archives of Australia for a closed access period of 99 years and made available to the community in 2100.

Reduction in departmental resourcing

The Australian Bureau of Statistics will deliver savings of $3 million per annum from reductions in departmental expenses. These funds will be used to offset the cost of a number of other high priority measures in the Treasury portfolio.

OUTCOME 1 — RESOURCING

Table 2.1 shows how the 2000-01 appropriations relate to total resourcing for Outcome 1.

Table 2.1: Total Resources for Outcome 1

	Estimated Actual 1999-00 ($'000)	Budget Estimate 2000-01 ($'000)
Agency appropriations		
Output group 1.1 — National Statistical Service		
Output 1.1.1 — Economic statistics	132,121	141,556
Output 1.1.2 — Population and social statistics	131,501	145,692
Total output group 1.1	263,622	287,248
Total revenue from Government (appropriations)	242,019	263,188
contributing to price of agency outputs	91.8%	91.6%
Revenue from other sources		
Output group 1.1 — National Statistical Service		
Output 1.1.1 — Economic statistics	9,311	10,370
Output 1.1.2 — Population and social statistics	12,292	13,690
Total revenue from other sources	21,603	24,060
Total price of agency outputs *(Total revenue from Government and from other sources)*	263,622	287,248
Total estimated resourcing for outcome 1 *(Total price of outputs and administered expenses)*	263,622	287,248

	1999-00	2000-01
Average staffing levels (number)	3,050	3,075

OUTCOME 1 — CONTRIBUTION OF OUTPUTS

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 information 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 information relating to the Australian population, including census and demographic statistics, as well as information 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 2.2: Performance Information 2000-01

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.

Outcome measures

1 **Relevance** of ABS output.	1.1 Statistical output which meets the needs of key users of economic and social data in terms of: • coverage (breadth); • delivery method; and • demonstrated by a high level of use. 1.2 Effectiveness of planning process: • extensive client contact to assist in developing the work program, including with the Australian Statistics Advisory Council; and • a statistical work program which reflects emerging as well as on-going policy issues.
2 **Integrity** in statistical operations.	2.1 An objective statistical service through: • release of reliable/accurate statistics based on sound professional statistical principles/methods; • openness of the statistical process: - publication of forward work program - published methodologies - predetermined release dates - release of statistics from all collections - regular forums for consulting client representatives on the methods underlying statistical products; and • adherence to the secrecy provisions of the Census and Statistics Act.
3 Appropriate use of statistical **standards**, **frameworks and methodologies.**	3.1 Lead the development and implementation of national statistical standards, frameworks and methodologies, within the broader Australian statistical system. 3.2 Contribute to the development of key international statistical standards, frameworks and methodologies, and implement them as appropriate.

Table 2.2: Performance Information 2000-01 (continued)

4	**Coordination** of the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics produced by other official bodies.	4.1	Statistical Clearing House activity.
		4.2	Assisting other official bodies with the integration of administrative and statistical data, including out-posting ABS officers, and the provision of relevant training.
		4.3	Identifying, storing, and disseminating statistics from other official bodies.
Output measures			
Output 1.1.1 — Economic statistics.			
Output 1.1.2 — Population and social statistics.			
1	Increase the **quantity** of output, including improved client access to ABS and other statistical information by improved **dissemination methods.**	1.1	Increase the range of statistics disseminated.
		1.2	Develop new products and services.
		1.3	Ensure public accessibility by release of statistics through libraries, media, etc.
		1.4	Enhance delivery options using new technology to improve accessibility.
2	Improve the **quality** of outputs.	2.1	Achieve or exceed timeliness, statistical reliability, response rate and accuracy objectives.
		2.2	Conduct quality reviews, and implement recommendations.
3	Achievement of **cost** effective outputs.	3.1	Conduct efficiency reviews and audits, and implement recommendations.
		3.2	Test operating efficiencies of statistical activities by benchmarking internally and externally.
		3.3	Market test a number of non-statistical activities to identify possible outsourcing opportunities.
		3.4	Continual reductions in the aggregate load placed on all businesses.

Evaluations

Information on planned evaluation activity that relates to this outcome is in Table 2.2 above and the results will be shown in the ABS Annual Report.

Competitive Tendering and Contracting

ABS is developing a business plan for market testing appropriate Corporate Services activities. ABS has already market-tested a range of Corporate Services and other activities, many of which are now managed and serviced by external suppliers following competitive tendering and contracting processes. These include printing and publishing, training, internal audit, payroll services, health and safety case management, staff counselling and welfare services, and a range of building and office services functions.

Section 3: Budgeted Financial Statements

The budgeted financial statements will form the basis of the financial statements that will appear in the ABS 2000-01 Annual Report, and also form the basis for the input into the Whole of Government Accounts. The financial statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Budget Statement of Revenues 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 highlight 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 Statement

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 2000-01.

Table 3.1: Agency Budget Statement of Revenues and Expenses (for the period ended 30 June)

	Estimated Actual 1999-00 $'000	Budget Estimate 2000-01 $'000	Forward Estimate 2001-02 $'000	Forward Estimate 2002-03 $'000	Forward Estimate 2003-04 $'000
Operating revenue					
Revenues from government	242,019	263,188	352,662	249,823	246,912
Sales of goods and services	21,096	23,247	24,235	35,753	28,727
Interest	432	439	447	455	463
Net gains from sales of assets	-	299	278	171	188
Other	75	75	75	75	75
Total operating revenues	263,622	287,248	377,697	286,277	276,365
Operating expenses					
Employees	163,302	163,849	261,331	178,313	172,938
Suppliers	59,364	79,508	74,108	64,755	68,604
Depreciation and amortisation	32,901	36,266	34,824	35,825	27,596
Write-down of assets	34	133	27	67	5
Other	507	427	342	252	157
Total operating expenses	256,108	280,183	370,632	279,212	269,300
Operating surplus or deficit after abnormal and extraordinary items	7,514	7,065	7,065	7,065	7,065
Capital use charge paid	7,072	7,065	7,065	7,065	7,065
Operating surplus or deficit after abnormal and extraordinary items and CUC	442	-	-	-	-

Table 3.2: Agency Budget Statement of Assets and Liabilities (as at 30 June)

	Estimated Actual 1999-00 $'000	Budget Estimate 2000-01 $'000	Forward Estimate 2001-02 $'000	Forward Estimate 2002-03 $'000	Forward Estimate 2003-04 $'000
Assets					
Financial assets					
Cash	19,604	21,845	7,416	13,841	17,945
Receivables	1,721	1,665	1,708	3,171	1,973
Accrued revenues	200	200	200	200	200
Total financial assets	21,525	23,710	9,324	17,212	20,118
Non-financial assets					
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	33,711	34,054	54,745	46,014	39,260
Inventories	3,578	3,285	3,145	6,190	5,626
Intangibles	59,548	53,394	47,878	41,522	45,289
Other	6,896	7,387	7,250	7,042	7,142
Total non-financial assets	103,733	98,120	113,018	100,768	97,317
Total assets	125,258	121,830	122,342	117,980	117,435
Liabilities					
Debt					
Leases	9,321	7,382	5,370	3,268	1,076
Total debt	9,321	7,382	5,370	3,268	1,076
Provisions and payables					
Employees	52,705	50,545	52,016	50,903	52,618
Suppliers	1,370	1,947	1,832	1,233	1,265
Other	2,988	3,082	4,250	3,702	3,602
Total provisions and payables	57,063	55,574	58,098	55,838	57,485
Total liabilities	66,384	62,956	63,468	59,106	58,561
Equity					
Capital	11,250	11,250	11,250	11,250	11,250
Reserves	8,127	8,127	8,127	8,127	8,127
Accumulated surplus or deficit	39,497	39,497	39,497	39,497	39,497
Total equity	58,874	58,874	58,874	58,874	58,874
Current liabilities	29,904	29,697	31,608	30,002	28,668
Non-current liabilities	36,480	33,259	31,860	29,104	29,893
Current assets	31,999	34,382	19,719	30,444	32,886
Non-current assets	93,259	87,448	102,623	87,536	84,549

Table 3.3: Agency Budget Cash Flow Statement (for the period ended 30 June)

	Estimated Actual 1999-00 $'000	Budget Estimate 2000-01 $'000	Forward Estimate 2001-02 $'000	Forward Estimate 2002-03 $'000	Forward Estimate 2003-04 $'000
Operating activities					
Cash received					
Appropriations for outputs	242,019	263,188	352,662	249,823	246,912
Sales of goods and services	21,261	23,264	25,334	33,675	29,820
Interest	432	439	447	455	463
Other	11,250	-	-	-	-
Total cash received	274,962	286,891	378,443	283,953	277,195
Cash used					
Employees	164,006	166,009	259,860	179,426	171,223
Suppliers	59,388	79,482	74,214	68,368	68,190
Total cash used	223,394	245,491	334,074	247,794	239,413
Net cash from operating activities	51,568	41,400	44,369	36,159	37,782
Investing activities					
Cash received					
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment	-	301	278	171	188
Total cash received	-	301	278	171	188
Cash used					
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	23,218	30,456	49,999	20,738	24,609
Total cash used	23,218	30,456	49,999	20,738	24,609
Net cash from investing activities	-23,218	-30,155	-49,721	-20,567	-24,421
Financing activities					
Cash received					
Total cash received	-	-	-	-	-
Cash used					
Repayments of debt	1,895	1,939	2,012	2,102	2,192
Capital use and dividends	7,072	7,065	7,065	7,065	7,065
Total cash used	8,967	9,004	9,077	9,167	9,257
Net cash from financing activities	-8,967	-9,004	-9,077	-9,167	-9,257
Net increase in cash held	19,383	2,241	14,429	16,425	4,104
Cash at the beginning of the reporting period	221	19,604	21,845	7,416	13,841
Cash at the end of the reporting period	19,604	21,845	7,416	13,841	17,945

Table 3.4: Agency Capital Budget Statement (for the period ended 30 June)

	Estimated Actual 1999-00 $'000	Budget Estimate 2000-01 $'000	Forward Estimate 2001-02 $'000	Forward Estimate 2002-03 $'000	Forward Estimate 2003-04 $'000
Purchase of non-funded current assets					
Funded by capital appropriations	-	-	-	-	-
Funded internally by agency resources	23,218	30,456	49,999	20,738	24,609

Table 3.5: Agency Non-financial Assets — Summary of Movement

	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 2000 (opening)	-	-	-	86,462	86,462	124,249	210,711
Additions	-	-	-	14,303	14,303	16,153	30,456
Disposals	-	-	-	-9,974	-9,974	-	-9,974
Other movements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
As at 30 June 2001 (closing)	-	-	-	90,791	90,791	140,402	231,193
Accumulated depreciation							
As at 1 July 2000 (opening)	-	-	-	52,751	52,751	64,701	117,452
Disposals	-	-	-	-9,973	-9,973	-	-9,973
Charge for the reporting period	-	-	-	13,959	13,959	22,307	36,266
Other movements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
As at 30 June 2001 (closing)	-	-	-	56,737	56,737	87,008	143,745
Net book value as at 30 June 2001 (Closing book value)	-	-	-	34,054	34,054	53,394	87,448
Net book value as at 1 July 2000 (Opening book value)	-	-	-	33,711	33,711	59,548	93,259

Total additions							
Self funded	-	-	-	14,303	14,303	16,153	30,456
Appropriations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	14,303	14,303	16,153	30,456

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Basis of Accounting

The agency budget statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and are in accordance with historical cost convention, except for certain assets which are at valuation.

Agency and Administered Financial Statements

Under the Commonwealth's accrual budgeting framework, and consistent with Australian Accounting Standards, transactions that agencies control (agency transactions) are budgeted and reported separately from transactions agencies do not have control over (administered transactions). This ensures that agencies are only held fully accountable for the transactions over which they have control.

- Agency assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses in relation to an agency are those which are controlled by the agency. Agency expenses include employee and supplier expenses and other administrative costs, which are incurred by the agency in providing its goods and services.

- Administered items are revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities which are managed by an agency on behalf of the Government according to set Government directions. Administered expenses include subsidies, grants and personal benefit payments and administered revenues include taxes, fees, fines and excises.

Agency Budget Statement of Revenues and Expenses

Revenues

Appropriations in the Accrual Budgeting Framework

Under the Commonwealth's accrual budgeting framework, ABS is appropriated only for the price of its outputs, which represent the Government's purchase of these agreed outputs.

Revenue from Government

The increase in appropriation in 2001-02 is due to additional costs associated with conducting the census.

Other

This category includes resources received free of charge.

Expenses

Employees

This includes wages and salaries, superannuation, provision for annual leave and long service leave, and workers compensation. 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.

Other

This category includes finance charges for lease incentives.

Capital Use Charge

A capital use charge is levied on agencies to reflect the cost of the Commonwealth's investment in those entities. It is levied on the closing agency net assets (equity) at a rate of 12 per cent.

Funding for the capital use charge is accounted for as a 'below operating result line' dividend payment.

Agency Budget Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Financial Assets

Cash

The decrease in cash in 2001-02 is a result of purchasing fitout for the new central office building.

Non-financial Assets

Intangibles

These include software developed in-house.

Other

This category includes prepayments.

Debt

Leases

These include lease incentives in the form of a rent-free period and / or a contribution to fitout costs. Lease incentives are recognised as a liability, which is reduced by allocating lease rental payments between interest, rental expense and reduction of the liability.

Provisions and Payables

Employees

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.

The non-current portion of the liability for long-service leave is recognised and measured at the present value of the estimated future cash flows in respect of all employees.

Other

This category includes unearned revenue.

Asset Valuation

Commonwealth agencies and authorities are required to value property, plant and equipment and other infrastructure assets using the deprival method of valuation. This essentially reflects the current cost the entity would face in replacing that asset.

Capital Budget

All proposed capital expenditure on non-financial assets is funded internally. There is no capital expenditure funded through capital appropriations.

Purchase of Non-financial Assets

These include: 2000-01 the purchase of intangibles of $16 million, plant and equipment (P&E) of $14 million; 2001-02 intangibles of $14 million, P&E of $9 million, Central Office fitout of $27 million; 2002-03 intangibles of $13 million, P&E of $8 million; 2003-04 intangibles of $17 million, P&E of $8 million.

Section 4: Purchaser/Provider Arrangements

Cross Agency Overview

ABS's goods and services are purchased by several Commonwealth Government agencies. Some of our material clients are as follows:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission
- Australian Agency for International Development (AusAid)
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
- Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry — Australia
- Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs
- Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts
- Department of Employment Workplace Relations and Small Business
- Department of Family and Community Services
- Department of Health and Aged Care
- Department of Transport and Regional Services