



# Business Demographic Statistics (BDS)

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## What is BDS?

- Like social statistics but for businesses
- Very different is Economic Census or Admin data based.
- Identifies major life events
- Births
- Deaths
- Size
- Type
- 95% of business are small (less than 5 employees)



# Australian BDS

- Published once a year
- Five year timeseries
- Annual Data
- Data Items
  - ISIC
  - Size (employees & turnover)
  - Location
  - Alive status
  - Registration type's



## Data files

**8165.0 - Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits, Jun 2012 to Jun 2016** [Quality Declaration](#)  
LATEST ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 21/02/2017

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On this page: Data Cubes

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### Data Cubes

Tables 1 - 20 of Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits, Jun 2012 to Jun 2016

Businesses by Main State by Industry Class by Employment Size Ranges, June 2015 and June 2016 [Download](#) [Print](#) [Help](#) Released 23/02/2017

Businesses by Main State by Industry Class by Turnover Size Ranges, June 2015 and June 2016 [Download](#) [Print](#) [Help](#)

Survival of Businesses by Main State by Subdivision by Employment Size Ranges, June 2012 - June 2016 [Download](#) [Print](#) [Help](#)

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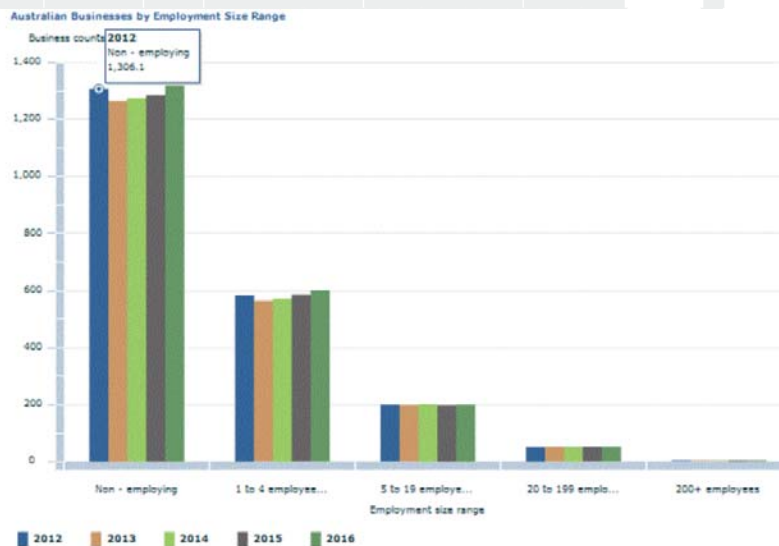
Survival of Entries by Main State by Subdivision by Turnover Size Ranges, June 2013 - June 2015 [Download](#) [Print](#) [Help](#)

Businesses by Industry Division by Statistical Area Level 2 by Employment Size Ranges, June 2014, June 2015 & June 2016 [Download](#) [Print](#) [Help](#)

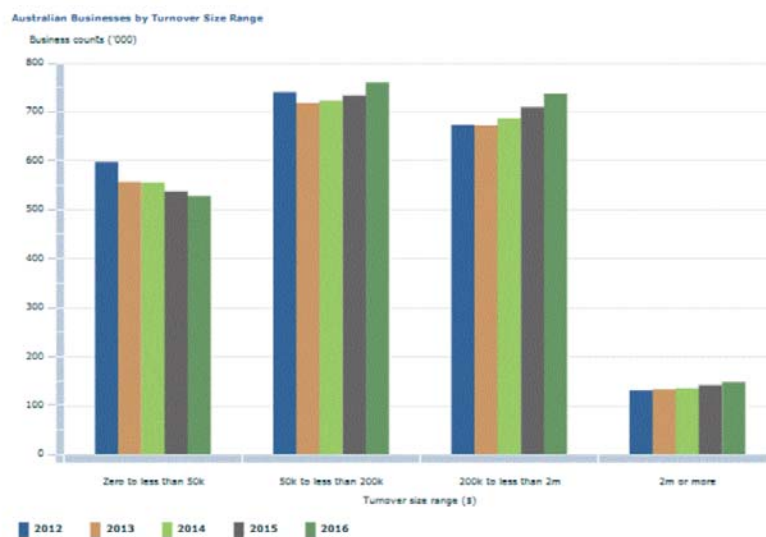
Businesses by Industry Division by Statistical Area Level 2 by Turnover Size Ranges, June 2014, June 2015 & June 2016 [Download](#) [Print](#) [Help](#)



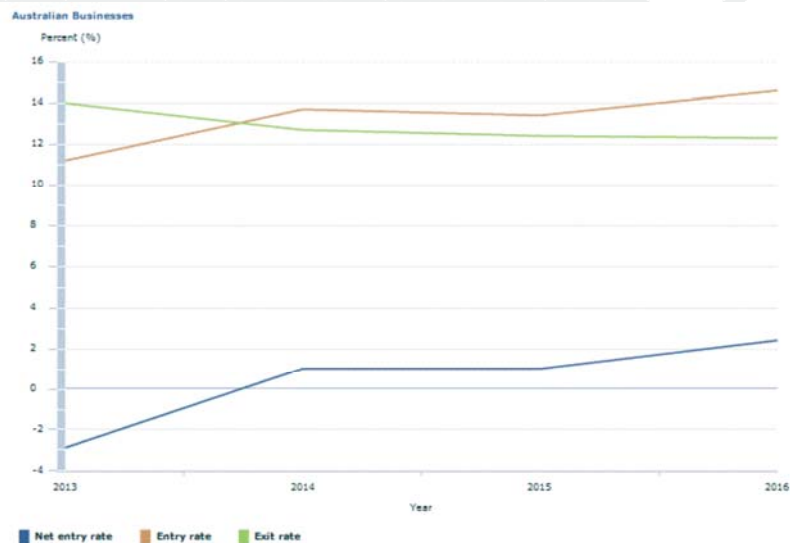
# Size Ranges – Headcount



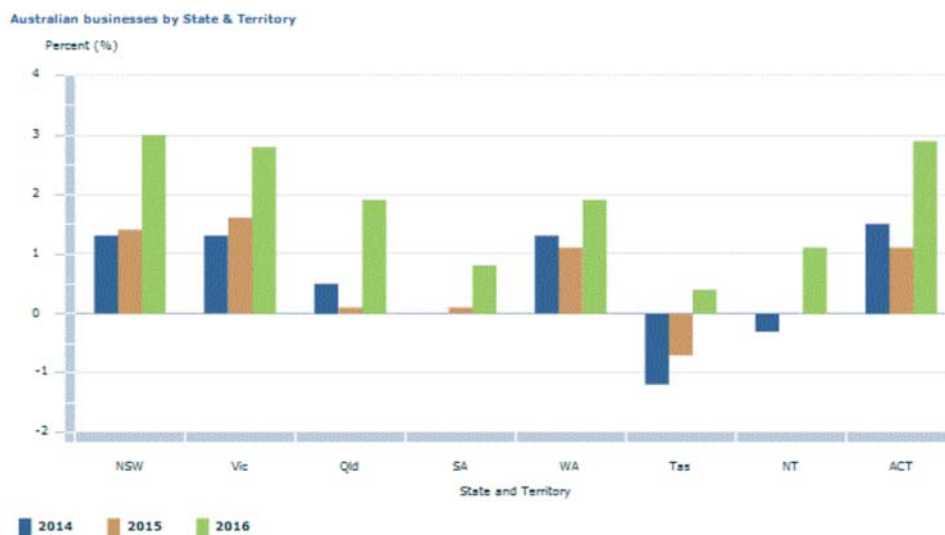
# Size Ranges – Turnover



# Survival Rates



# Locations



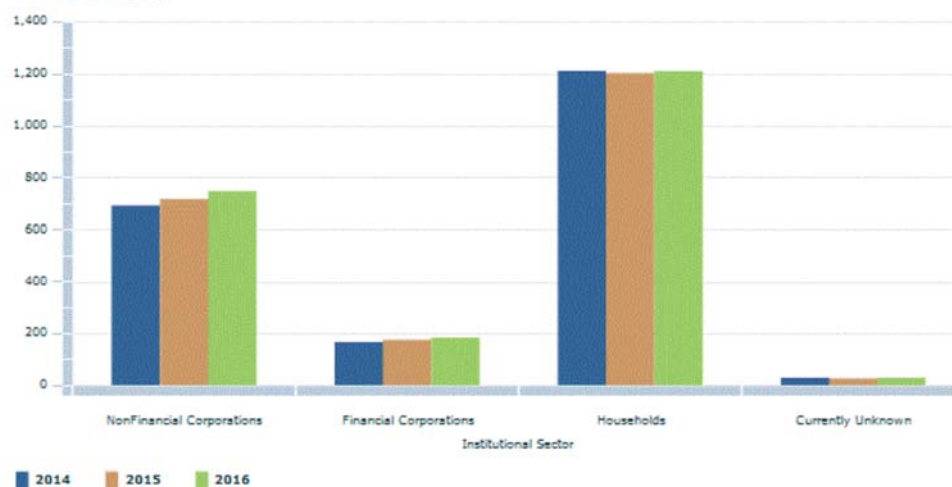
## Location data

- Coded using 'business address'
- Often the headquarters of a business
- Okay for small businesses
- Published at low level geographies
- Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2)
- Approximately 10-20,000 people per SA2

## Type of Businesses

Australian businesses by Institutional Sector

Business counts ('000)



## Why Annual?

- We quarterly frozen frames but...
- People only have to report once a year
- Employment estimates once a year
- Headcount estimates once a year
- Anything sub-annual would be misleading.



## Why Ranges

- Outlier results are common
- Ranges hide data errors
- Financial sector
- Growth rates are difficult to publish in a meaningful manner
  - Part year reporting
  - Change in activity
  - Small base (high growth rates)



# Confidentiality

- Lower concern
- But we have reputation to maintain
- No unit record data should be identifiable
- Rule of 3 - lowest values are (0,3).
  
- Perturbation
- Table-Builder

# Issues with Australian BDS

- Legal entity basis
  - Not establishment
  - Supermarkets
- Location data
  - Not high quality
- Scope
  - Peoples expectations
  - Property investment

## Production methods

- SAS computer code
- Use one Frozen frame per year
- Combined data set has value for each year
- Except ISIC / Type / Location – simplify
- Changes historical data



## Quality checks

- Publication has high error rate
  - Employment estimator
  - Location mapping
  - Scoping (Invalid ISIC)
- Know your data!
- Timeseries analysis
- Compare with other published data





## Feedback from users

- Many errors identified by users
- Communicated to us privately
- Many eyes help quality
  
- Users need help with understanding data
- Explanatory notes have changed often



## Consultancy

- ABS does sell custom data sets on BDS
  - Companies
  - Other government department
  - Minister requests
- Industry analysis
- Often say no
  - Too much confidentiality / perturbation
  - Propose different product to meet client needs
  - Charge by data cell & time



# Should you publish BDS

- Can you track changes over time?
  - Frequency of updates
  - Link units between periods
- What is the quality of your data?
  - Are the changes you see due to real world events or changes in processes or data sources?
- Resources required
  - Can it be done efficiently



## Q&A

- Thank you

