

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates 2012

15 – 17 February 2012

Question: AET 62 - 63

Topic: Foreign Investment in Australia – Collection of Data

Hansard Page: Written

Senator MCKENZIE asked:

62. What data does the ABS collect that provides information on foreign investment in Australia?
63. Is an expansion of data collection of this type being considered by the ABS?

Answer:

62. The ABS compiles a set of statistics on foreign investment in Australia that are based on the international standards outlined in the International Monetary Fund's Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, Sixth Edition. The primary vehicle for the collection of this information is the quarterly Survey of International Investment.

The statistics include the following information:

- Functional category of investment (i.e. Direct investment (10% or more of equity), Portfolio investment (less than 10% of equity), Financial derivatives; Other investment);
- The institutional sector and industry of the resident investee;
- Type of investment instrument (e.g. Equity, Debt securities, Deposits, Financial derivatives, Accounts payable);
- Market values of investment levels (i.e. opening and closing positions);
- Changes to levels represented by transactions, market price changes, exchange rate valuation changes and other valuation changes (e.g. write offs, reclassifications);
- Income data in relation to, operating profit of the resident investee and their equity investments, as well as interest on debt (i.e. non-equity instruments);
- Currency and residual maturity data relating to debt instruments; and
- Resident country of the foreign investor;

Most of the above data are published in [Balance of Payments and International Investment Position, Australia](#) (cat. no. 5302.0). The December quarter 2011 issue was released 6 March 2012.

Information on the resident country of the foreign investor and other supplementary details are published annually in [International Investment Position, Australia: Supplementary Statistics](#) (cat.no. 5352.0). The 2010 issue was released on 3 May 2011.

The ABS collects data on the ownership status of agricultural businesses, land and water entitlements for agricultural purposes in the Agricultural Land and Water Ownership Survey.

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The data was first collected in 2011 and the ABS has been funded to collect comparable data again in 2013, 2016, 2018 and 2021. The data from the 2011 collection was released on 9 September 2011 in [Agricultural Land and Water Ownership, December 2010 \(cat. no.7127.0\)](#)

The ABS collects information on foreign ownership in the Business Characteristics Survey. Businesses are asked to report their percentage of foreign ownership by selecting one of the four options. Data from 2005-06 onwards are available in [Selected Characteristics of Australian Business](#). These data are also included in the Business Longitudinal Database Confidentialised Unit Record File and can be used in the analysis of business performance and productivity

63. There are no plans to expand the foreign investment data collected in the Survey of International Investment or the Business Characteristics Survey. In addition to the data provided through the Agricultural Land and Water Ownership Survey in 2011, future iterations of the survey will provide data regarding the value of agricultural production by ownership status.