

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Additional Estimates

26 February 2014

**Question: AET 1635-1638**

**Topic: Small Business Growth**

**Written: 6 March 2014**

**Senator WONG asked:**

Referring to the Government's election commitment on the growth rate in the number of small businesses:

"We will achieve an annual growth rate in the numbers of small businesses of 1.5 per cent – the same rate the Howard Government was achieving. We will then be adding more than 30,000 new small businesses each year. That's double the rate achieved under the current government."

1635 Is the Government on track to achieve this promise?

1636. What statistical data sets are used to measure progress towards this promise?

1637. Since the election (September 7, 2013), what is the growth rate for small businesses?

1638. Since the election (September 7, 2013), how many small businesses have been added?

**Answer:**

1635-1638. The Government's strategic policy agenda for small business is designed to increase the number of small business start-ups, drive economic growth, and improve productivity and competitiveness. The Government is focussed on reducing red tape burdens; improving the business operating environment; and increasing the quality and effectiveness of Government engagement with small business to build capability. Delivering on this policy agenda will create the conditions that support small business to enter into new business ventures, innovate and grow.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is the primary source of statistics which report the count of actively trading businesses in Australia. ABS data confirming small business growth, for the period including 7 September 2013, will not be available until the ABS releases its updated business count publication in the first half of 2015.

The next Count of Australian Businesses, including entries and exits (cat.no. 8165.0) publication is expected to be released on 31 March 2014, however the most current statistics included in this release will be relevant to the period 1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013 (prior to the 2014 Election).