



Australian Statistician

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Mr Nick Champion, MP
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT, 2600

Dear Mr Champion,

Re: Inquiry into IT pricing

With the rise of internet retailing there have been concerns raised that ABS estimates do not accurately cover the importation of products purchased from overseas retailers, these concerns were noted in the Productivity Commission Report No. 56. The ABS has been working with the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service to develop indicators for this activity based on Customs audits and numbers of parcels. The ABS monthly retail trade survey and Quarterly Business Indicators measures all sales from Australian retailers regardless of the mode of purchase.

The ABS does not measure prices paid for IT goods and services which are purchased overseas. As such the ABS does not have the data required to enable a comparison of prices paid for IT products in Australia and overseas.

The ABS does have data available showing price change over time for IT products purchased in Australia. These data are available through our suite of price indexes including the Consumer Price Index, the Producer Price Indexes, and the Import Price Index.

Yours Sincerely

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Brian Pink
Australian Statistician
July, 2012

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