

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio  
Budget Estimates Hearing 2013-14  
3 and 4 June 2013

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, CLIMATE CHANGE, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

**TOPIC:** Food manufacturing industry

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard, 4 June 2013, page 34)

**QUESTION No.:** BI-39

**Senator URQUHART:** I want to follow on with some issues around the food industry. I want to know how many people work directly in food manufacturing in Australia?

**Ms Bray:** As of 2011-12 the manufacturing employment four-quarter average over the financial year was 225,500.

**Senator URQUHART:** That is direct. How many people work throughout the supply chain?

**Ms Bray:** I do not have those figures. That is for the food and beverage manufacturing employment. Of course the supply chain includes all sorts of people from farmers, to logistics firms, to service industries that might provide—

**Senator URQUHART:** Are you able to take that on notice?

**Ms Bray:** We will take it on notice and I will see whether I can make that information available.

**ANSWER**

There is no simple generally accepted definition of the food supply chain but the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's estimate of employment in the food industry in Australia – ranging from farm and fisheries production to food and beverage service – is 1.64 million in 2011-12, which is approximately 15 per cent of total employment in Australia.