

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

29 May – 31 May 2012

Question: BET 173

Topic: Business Statistics by Electorate

Hansard Page: Written

Senator RYAN asked:

173. Using the most recently gazetted electoral boundaries and the most recent statistics available to the ABS, for each federal electorate:
- a) How many businesses are non-employing?
 - b) How many businesses employ 1-4?
 - c) How many businesses employ 5-19?

Answer:

The data that Senator Ryan has asked for is not readily sourced as the ABS does not collect business statistics based on electoral boundaries and our initial investigation into the possibility of obtaining this data has shown that to do so would require collating data from a number of different sources and this raises risks of data matching and may compromise the confidentiality of respondents.

Therefore, the ABS is unable to answer this Question on Notice as to do so would require an unreasonable allocation of time and resources. The ABS would like to invite Senator Ryan to explore the possibility of obtaining this data through our paid information consultancy service. However, due to the risks mentioned previously, the ABS cannot guarantee that this data will, in fact, be available.