

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Supplementary Budget Estimates

20-21 November 2013

**Question: SBT 1012**

**Topic: Productivity Growth**

**Written: 28 November 2013**

**Senator WONG asked:**

1012. Please provide data on labour productivity growth (by quarter) for the last decade. What factors, including government policies, are behind the labour productivity growth of the last ten quarters?

**Answer:**

1012. Historical quarterly labour productivity data are available in the Australian Bureau of Statistics' publication *5206.0 Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product*.

Caution should be exercised in interpreting short-run productivity movements as data are volatile and subject to revision. As noted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, it is therefore advisable to examine productivity changes over an extended period to look through some of the short-term volatility.

Growth in labour productivity arises from changes in the efficiency with which labour and capital are combined in the production process (multifactor productivity growth) as well as changes in the amount of capital available per hour worked (capital deepening).