

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Additional Estimates 2012

15 – 17 February 2012

**Question: AET 860 - 866**

**Topic: Staffing (ABS)**

**Hansard Page: Written**

**Senator BUSHBY asked:**

860. How many ongoing staff recruited this financial year to date?
- a. What classification are these staff?
861. How many non-ongoing positions exist or have been created this financial year to date?
- a. What classification are these staff?
862. This financial year to date, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?
863. How many ongoing staff left in the year 2010-11?
- a. What classification were these staff?
864. How many non-ongoing staff left in the year 2010-11?
- a. What classification were these staff?
865. Are there any plans for staff reduction?
- a. If so, please advise details ie. reduction target, how this will be achieved, services/programs to be cut etc.
866. If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening.

**Answer:**

860. For the financial year to date (to 31 January 2012) the Australian Bureau of Statistics has engaged 166 ongoing employees, 153 of these were at APS levels and 13 at Executive levels.
- a) see answer to AET 860.
861. For the FYTD (to 31 January 2012) 1130 non-ongoing positions were active. 1092 of these positions were at the APS level. This includes 686 non-ongoing staff employed on short-term contracts at the Census of Population and Housing Data Processing Centre (DPC). There were 38 non-ongoing positions at Executive level.
- a) see answer to AET 861.

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862. The number of ABS non-ongoing numbers employed since 1 July 2011 is skewed by the large temporary workforce recruited to work at the DPC this financial year.

	ABS non-ongoing employees (excluding DPC employees)	ABS non-ongoing employees (including DPC employees)
Discrete number who commenced employment between 1/7/11 and 31/1/12	461	1187
Average length of their employment contract	134.0 days	187.6 days

863. During 2010-11, there were 337 ongoing staff who left the ABS. Of these departures, 272 were at APS levels, 62 at Executive levels and 3 at Senior Executive Service levels.

a) see answer to Question on Notice 863

864. During 2010-11, there were 171 non-ongoing staff who left the ABS. Of these departures, 163 were at APS levels and 8 at Executive levels.

a) see answer to Question on Notice 864

865. Yes. On 16/1/2012 the ABS placed a freeze on external ongoing recruitment (other than in exceptional circumstances), and required any new non-ongoing recruitment contracts to cease on or before 30 June 2012 (unless senior management approval was given on a case by case basis to provide an extension). In addition:

i) ongoing: a Voluntary Redundancy program was introduced in mid February 2012, to assist in managing the ABS' response to the additional efficiency dividend, and reductions to the ABS capital budget that was implemented via the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook. Expressions of interest have been sought, but final numbers of VRs have yet to be decided.

ii) non-ongoing: towards the end of the 2011-12 financial year, processing of the Population Census will begin to phase down. Over the period May 2012 to December 2012, temporary employment contracts for some 700 non-ongoing staff working at the Census Data Processing Centre will conclude, as scheduled.

866. See response to AET 865.