

ABS Service Industry Surveys: collecting data on income for detailed products



Program in operation since 1986-87

- over 100 surveys have been run
- mostly Property and Business Services, Health and Community Services, Cultural and Recreational Services, Personal and Other Services.

Key criteria for inclusion:

- statistics are needed for government policy makers
- industries which are rapidly changing in structure
- not regularly serviced by other ABS collections

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Primary output is dissecting total income by different types of service products provided. Key internal (ABS) clients are:

National Accounts Branch

- for constructing input output tables;
- supply use tables for annual benchmarking of the accounts (first revision)

Producer Price Indexes: establishing PPIs for service industries

- identification of service products within industry - to guide development of new indexes and review of existing industries;
- construct / review weighting patterns for new / existing indexes.

Issues affecting type of income splits by service product that are collected



- **Main requirements of clients**
 - CPC may be a good starting point to aid clients
- **Availability of data by providers**
 - provider load is of paramount importance
 - align with information available from annual accounts
 - degree to which % splits could be estimated

Need to reach a balance between user needs and ease of data availability for providers.

Type of income dissections generally collected



Core service income by type

- income by type of service provided within the industry, generally the key user requirement.

Sale of product information

- mostly concerns Retail and Wholesale industries and is used to estimate margins.
- also hire industries, income by type of good hired.

Type of market sector

- e.g. industry serviced

Type of income dissections generally collected



Type of client

- may be useful for net estimates of turnover, depending on industry outsourcing, e.g. in consultant engineering.
- useful for key contracts to monitor in PPI

Activity dimension

- expenditure by type of service provided - common for industries dominated by not for profit organisations with government subsidies.

Examples of core service income by type



Legal Services industry

property; wills & estates; banking & finance; commercial; family; criminal; environmental; intellectual property; industrial relations; personal injury.

Accounting Services industry

business tax; personal tax; auditing; insolvency & bankruptcy; management consulting; financial planning.

Real Estate industry

property sales commission (by property type); property management commission; leasing fees; consulting fees; property valuation; conveyancing work.

Examples of core service income by type



Consultant Engineering

building / structural; building services; roads & bridges;
urban development; communications and technology;
electronic / power; industrial / process engineering;
material handling; mining; oil & gas.

Accuracy of statistics

- Depends largely on how the categories of income asked for aligns with providers accounts.
 - therefore initial consultation process with providers is very important
- Generally core service income by type data is quite accurate. Data by type of market sector and type of client tends to be more approximate.
- For most industries, PPI find the data extremely useful, as it closely accords with our desired weighting and pricing principles.