

ABS' Integrated Business Characteristics Survey – Past, Present and Future

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Abstract

In the mid-2000s the growing demand by policymakers and decision makers for statistics based on information that is interlinked across multiple subjects required a large-scale redevelopment of the ABS' approach to the collection and dissemination of data related to Innovation, Business Use of IT and other business characteristics.

This paper discusses the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) experiences in gathering interlinked information in demand by policymakers through the method of an integrated collection. It also discussed the ABS' recent transitioned away from using an integrated omnibus style collection for the collection of information pertaining to Innovation and Business Use through its Business Characteristics Survey (BCS). In using the BCS as an example, the paper will discuss the drivers surrounding the move to introduce an integrated BCS collection, the benefits of this approach and the changing policy and information needs landscape which has led it to return to a subject specific collection approach.

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