

NEW ZEALAND

Sources and definitions

Data originate from Statistics New Zealand. The source of all data is the Annual Enterprise Survey (AES).

The AES provides financial information by industry and sector groups. This includes measures of financial performance and financial position. Output variables include income, expenditure, profit, purchases of fixed assets, and equity. From this data, economic ratios such as the return on assets and profit margin on sales can be derived. The AES data also forms the basis of national accounting variables such as value added, gross output and gross fixed capital formation.

The population for AES is all economically significant businesses (see definition below) operating within New Zealand. In addition several industries are excluded from AES. In total AES is estimated to cover approximately 90% of New Zealand's GDP.

An enterprise is economically significant if it meets at least one of the following criteria:

It has greater than NZD 30 000 annual GST expenses or sales

It has more than two full-time equivalent paid employees

It is in a GST-exempt industry except residential property leasing and rental

It is part of a group of enterprises

It is a new GST registration that is compulsory, special or forced

It is registered for GST and is involved in agriculture or forestry.

Sample (1999 AES example)

The AES 1999 population includes approximately 339 000 kind of activity units (KAU). This is a subdivision of an enterprise consisting of a set of one or more activity units for which a single set of accounting records are available. From these units, data from approximately 250 000 units were collected: 20 756 KAUs were directly surveyed, 230 000 KAUs were surveyed using tax data from the Inland Revenue Department, and 4 438 units were surveyed using other data sources.

Tax data has been used for sole proprietor and partnership businesses to reduce respondent compliance costs. This data source was used for the first time in 1998. Prior to this these small units were surveyed in the normal manner. The total sample size was 30 000.

For the AES 1999 direct survey, a response rate of 88% (by total income) was achieved. The response rate for IRD administrative data was 69% and the response rate for other surveys used in AES was 99%. This was an improvement on the AES 1998 survey where response rates were 87%, 52% and 99% respectively.

The following changes occurred over the period 1995–1999:

AES 1995: population definition changed to exclude compulsory GST registrations that fall below the threshold of economic significance.

AES 1998: sample based on the ANZSIC classification, replacing NZSIC. Tax data used for all individual and partnership business types (instead of direct surveying).

AES 1999: survey was redesigned and sample reselected.

Variables

Production is defined as gross output, following the national accounts definition of the value of the total output.

Value added is defined as sales of goods and services less purchases and other operating expenses.

Employment corresponds to the number of full-time equivalent persons engaged, which is defined as the total number of full-time employees and working proprietors plus half the number of part-time employees and working proprietors.

Enterprise is defined as a single business entity operating in New Zealand either as a legally constituted body such as a company, partnership, trust, local or central government trading organisation, incorporated society, or self employed individual.

Other variables correspond to the OECD SSIS database standard definition.

Composition of the ICT sector

The ICT sector is in line with the OECD definition (see the concordance table), with the following exceptions:

ISIC 6420 (Telecommunication services) industry is confidential and has not been included in any of the tables.

ICT wholesale activities include the following industries from the Australia and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC):

ANZSIC 461200 (Professional equipment wholesaling)

ANZSIC 461300 (Computer wholesaling)

ANZSIC 461400 (Business machine wholesaling n.e.c.)

ANZSIC 461500 (Electrical and electronic equipment wholesaling n.e.c.)

See also the column on New Zealand in the concordance table.