



## Government spending statistics in Australia



Public Procurement Principle: **E-procurement, Transparency**



Procurement Stage: **All stages**



Audience: **Policy maker, Procuring entity, Civil society**

### Description

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The Australian e-procurement system, AusTender, provides centralised publication of Australian government business opportunities, annual procurement plans, multi-use lists and contracts awarded. Agencies are required by the Commonwealth Procurement Rules to publish on AusTender standing-offer arrangements and contracts with a value of AUD 10 000 or more. Since 2005, bodies governed by the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act are also required to publish details of certain contracts and standing offers. On the AusTender website, it is possible to access reports on contract notices, standard offer notices and procurement plans. As an example, the records on contract notices that are available online include information on the procuring entity, the procurement method, the contract value and period, a description of the contract and supplier details. The records are searchable by agency, date range, value range, category, confidentiality, supplier name, supplier's Australian Business Number (ANN) and report type. It is also possible to download summary records that include information on the total count and value. Aggregated information extracted from AusTender is available on the website of the Department of Finance. It includes statistics on:

- Total procurement contracts reported, including a breakdown of total value and number of contracts per financial year.
- Procurement contracts by value threshold, including a breakdown of value, percentage of total value, number of contracts and percentage of total number of contracts.
- Participation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in procurement.

- Overseas procurement contracts (contracts identified by agencies as primarily or entirely based outside Australia).
- Individual business participation in procurement.
- The ratio of goods to services contracts procured.
- The top 20 categories for goods and services procurement contracts, including a breakdown of value, percentage of total value and percentage of SME participation.
- The top 10 procuring Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997 agencies, including a breakdown of value, percentage of total value and rank in previous years compared to the most recent ranking.

Contracting authorities are able to use the information to undertake cooperative procurement through group buying practices such as “clustering” or “piggybacking”. Cooperative procurement may be referred to as collaborative procurement or multi agency access (MAA) in planned procurements, approaches to market (ATMs), multi-use lists (MULs) and standing offer notices (SONs) published on AusTender.

Contract authorities consider cooperative procurement options as part of their procurement planning. This includes determining if another entity’s existing arrangements would provide.

Source: OECD (2019), [Public Procurement in Malta: Re-engineering the department of contracts](#), OECD Publishing, Paris

