

Centre for Transformative Innovation

Appendix A - The ABS Data

Our empirical analysis uses an unpublished, confidential Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) dataset of 2,765 Australian large and SME businesses for the period 2005/06 to 2011/12. This dataset is called the Extended Analytic Business Longitudinal Dataset (EABLD). It has been created by linking the Business Characteristics Survey data to the corresponding Business Income Taxation and Business Activity Taxation data. The unit of analysis is the Type of Activity Unit (TAU). To contain respondent burden, SMEs are rotated out of the survey after five years and replaced by a new cohort. Large firms are included in each wave. The response rate for the survey was approximately 95 per cent in all years.¹⁸ After we exclude firms from agriculture, forestry and fishing, we are left with 5630 TAU-year observations. For the analysis of these data, the data extraction and execution of our programs was undertaken by officers of the ABS who removed all identifiers from the outputs before release.

¹⁸ Firms are directed by the Australian Government to complete the survey and the response rate is very high.

