
Data quality information — Early Childhood Education and Training preface B

Data quality information

Data quality information (DQI) has been prepared for the first time for the 2011 Report on Government Services. DQI provides information against the seven ABS data quality framework dimensions, for a selection of performance indicators in the Early Childhood Education and Training preface. DQI for additional indicators will be progressively introduced in future reports.

Where RoGS indicators align with National Agreement indicators, DQI has been sourced from the Steering Committee's reports on National Agreements to the COAG Reform Council.

Technical DQI has been supplied or agreed by relevant data providers. Additional Steering Committee commentary does not necessarily reflect the views of data providers.

DQI are available for the following performance indicators:

Proportion attaining year 12 or equivalent certificate level II or above	2
The proportion of young people participating in post school education or training	5
The proportion of 18 to 24 year olds engaged in full time employment, education or training at or above Certificate III	8
The proportion of 20 to 64 year olds who do not have qualifications at or above a Certificate III level	11

Proportion attaining year 12 or equivalent certificate level II or above

Data quality information for this indicator has been sourced from the Steering Committee's report to the COAG Reform Council on the National Education Agreement (data supplied by ABS) with additional Steering Committee comments.

Indicator definition and description

Indicator	The proportion of the 20-24 year old population (and the 20–24 year old Indigenous and low SES population) having attained at least a year 12 or equivalent or AQF Certificate Level II or above
Measure (computation)	<p>Proportion of the 20–24 year old population having attained at least a year 12 or equivalent or AQF Certificate Level II or above</p> <p><u>Numerator:</u> Number of 20–24 year olds who self-identify as having attained a year 12 or AQF Certificate Level II or above (excluding Certificate nfd, including Certificate I/II nfd), by Indigenous status and SES</p> <p><u>Denominator:</u> Number of 20–24 year olds in the population, by Indigenous status and SES. (Excludes people whose educational attainment is not stated. These data will be provided as supplementary information to inform this measure).</p> <p><u>Computation:</u> The number of 20-24 year olds with a year 12 or AQF Certificate Level II or above divided by the number of 20-24 year olds in the population. Calculated separately for All people, Indigenous people, non-Indigenous people and SES.</p>
Data source/s	<p>Numerator and denominator – (All people, non-Indigenous people and SES) ABS Survey of Education and Work (SEW). Data are available annually.</p> <p>Numerator and denominator – (Indigenous people) National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS).</p>

Data Quality Framework Dimensions

Institutional environment	<p>The Survey of Education and Work (SEW) and National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) are collected by the ABS under the Census and Statistics Act 1905.</p> <p>For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and government arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, see ABS Institutional Environment.</p>
Relevance	<p>SEW data is available by state/territory. Data are available by socioeconomic status. For further information on the Index of Relative Social Disadvantage (CD-based), see: Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas.</p> <p>Data on Indigenous status is available to facilitate non-Indigenous but not Indigenous output. Indigenous output for this indicator comes from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS).</p> <p>The SEW and NATSISS collect information on Year 12 completion and qualifications. The standard classification of qualifications used is the Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED).</p> <p>In the SEW, information may have been supplied by one household resident on behalf of another person. The person reporting may not know all the details of the educational attainment of the other. In the SEW and NATSISS answers to some questions were not supplied. Hence, judgement may be required in classifying people for this measure.</p>
Timeliness	The SEW is conducted annually in May as a supplement to the monthly Labour Force Survey. Results from the 2009 survey were released in November 2009.

Accuracy

NATSISS is conducted every 6 years. The 2008 survey was conducted from August 2008 to April 2009 and results were released in October 2009.

The data for SEW is collected from an ARA (Any Responsible Adult) on behalf of other members of the household and is weighted for non-response. The data is collected in all states and territories excluding very remote areas. This exclusion has a small impact only on national and state estimates, except in the Northern Territory, where such persons comprise over 20 per cent of the population. The 2009 SEW response rate was 96 per cent which constituted 30 440 completed interviews.

The NATSISS is conducted in all states and territories and includes remote and non-remote areas. The 2008 sample was 13,300 persons/6,900 households, with a response rate of 82 per cent of households.

In the 2008 NATSISS there was a relatively large level of undercoverage when compared to other ABS surveys. As a consequence, the analysis undertaken to ensure that results from the survey were consistent with other data sources was more extensive than usual. Potential bias due to undercoverage was addressed by the application of a number of adjustments to the initial weights and an adjustment to geographical areas based on the density of the Indigenous population. As undercoverage can result in variances across population characteristics, as well as across data items, caution should be exercised when interpreting the survey results. For more information see the [2008 NATSISS Quality Declaration](#).

The data is event data that can be used to measure year to year changes provided that the changes are significant enough to account for the RSE of estimates. As a consequence of sample reductions to the LFS, there was a 20 per cent decrease in sample size for SEW in 2009 compared with 2008 resulting in an 11 per cent increase in RSEs. The full LFS sample has been reinstated, and the sample for the 2010 SEW will return to 2008 levels ([see Explanatory Notes](#)).

Coherence

Both the numerator and denominator come from the relevant survey (SEW or NATSISS). Measures based on the 2009 SEW are consistent with data from the 2008 SEW previously supplied for COAG reporting.

While there are a range of differences between the scope, coverage, timing and collection methodologies of the collections, these issues do not affect their broad comparability for this measure. The Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED) has been used in all surveys with education items since 2001 and allows the education and training items between different surveys to be compared

The Survey of Education and Training (SET) and the Census of Population and Housing also provide information on educational attainment.

Accessibility

The data for SEW are available via the ABS website in the publication Education and Work, Australia (Cat. No. 6227.0). This measure is also released as part of a SEW Detailed Education Datacube. Data from NATSISS are available in [National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey](#) (Cat. No. 4714.0)

Additional data is available at cost upon request through the [National Information Referral Service](#) (NIRS) and specialised data tables and Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) are also available on request.

Interpretability

Information on how to interpret and use the data appropriately is available on the ABS website, see [Explanatory Notes](#) in Education and Work, Australia (Cat. No. 6227.0), and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey [Explanatory Notes](#) (Cat. No. 4714.0).

Information on the SEIFA measure of socioeconomic status can also be found on the ABS website: www.abs.gov.au

Data Gaps/Issues Analysis

Key data gaps/ issues The Steering Committee notes the following key data gaps/issues:

- The reduced sample size for the SEW in 2009 resulted in increases in RSEs. These RSEs affect the ability to identify annual change, particularly for disaggregations for selected jurisdictions, as only small year to year movements would be anticipated for this indicator.
- The SEW is generally able to measure small changes in performance against measures at the national level. However, the ABS has advised that the SEW is not designed to measure changes at the jurisdictional level with the same level of accuracy. The Steering Committee understands that the ABS is investigating 'pooling' multiple surveys to increase the ability to detect significant movements in estimates over time.
- Data from the 2008 NATSISS should not be compared with data from the 2006 Census. The second set of survey estimates for Indigenous people for NEA reporting will be sourced from the 2011 NATSIHS.

The proportion of young people participating in post school education or training

Data quality information for this indicator has been sourced from the Steering Committee's report to the COAG Reform Council on the National Education Agreement (data supplied by ABS) with additional Steering Committee comments.

Indicator definition and description

Indicator	The proportion of young people participating in post school education or training six months after school
Measure (computation)	<p><u>Definition</u></p> <p>Proportion of 15 to 19 year olds who have left school (not just in the previous six months) and are full engaged in education or training or employment, by highest level of schooling</p> <p><u>Numerator/s</u></p> <p>Number of persons aged 15 to 19 years who have left school are fully engaged in employment, education and/or training, by highest level of schooling completed</p> <p><u>Denominator/s</u></p> <p>Number of persons aged 15 to 19 years who have left school, by highest level of schooling completed</p> <p>(Excludes persons whose highest level of schooling completed is not stated. These data will be separately reported to provide additional information for this measure. Fully engaged is defined as full time employment, full time education or training, or a mixture of part time/full time employment and part time/full time education or training)</p> <p><u>Computation/s:</u></p> <p>The number of people aged 15-19 years who have left school that are fully engaged in employment, education and/or training divided by the number of people who have left school. Calculated separately for each level of highest schooling.</p>
Data source/s	Numerator and denominator – SEW

Data Quality Framework Dimensions

Institutional environment	<p>The Survey of Education and Work is collected by the ABS under the Census and Statistics Act 1905.</p> <p>For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and government arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, see ABS Institutional Environment.</p>
Relevance	<p>SEW data is available by state/territory. Data are available by socioeconomic status. For further information on the Index of Relative Social Disadvantage (CD-based), see: Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas.</p> <p>The SEW collects information on participation in education. The standard classification of qualifications used is the Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED).</p> <p>In the SEW, information may have been supplied by one household resident on behalf of another person. The person reporting may not know all the details of the educational participation of the other. Furthermore, answers to some questions were not supplied. Hence, judgement may be required in classifying people for this measure.</p>
Timeliness	The SEW is conducted annually in May as a supplement to the monthly Labour

Accuracy	<p>Force Survey. Results from the 2009 survey were released in November 2009.</p> <p>The data for SEW is collected from an ARA (Any Responsible Adult) on behalf of other members of the household and is weighted for non-response. The data is collected in all states and territories excluding very remote areas. This exclusion has a small impact only on national and state estimates, except in the Northern Territory, where such persons comprise over 20 per cent of the population. The 2009 SEW response rate was 96 per cent which constituted 30,440 completed interviews.</p> <p>The data is event data that can be used to measure year to year changes provided that the changes are significant enough to account for the RSE of estimates. As a consequence of sample reductions to the LFS, there was a 20 per cent decrease in sample size for SEW in 2009 compared with 2008 resulting in an 11 per cent increase in RSEs. The full LFS sample has been reinstated, and the sample for the 2010 SEW will return to 2008 levels (see Explanatory Notes).</p> <p>After running data by SEIFA-IRSD quintile, a high number of cells were observed with RSEs greater than 25 per cent, a considerable proportion of which were greater than 50 per cent and/or based on cell counts that required confidentialisation. As specified, therefore, these tables were not fit for the purpose of reporting on the measure by SEIFA. Consequently, categories were combined to enable output of summary information on engagement in education, training or employment by SEIFA quintile.</p>
Coherence	<p>Both the numerator and denominator come from SEW. Measures based on the 2009 SEW are consistent with data from the 2008 SEW previously supplied for COAG reporting.</p> <p>The Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED) has been used in all surveys with education items since 2001 and allows the education and training items between different surveys to be compared</p> <p>The Survey of Education and Training (SET) and the Census of Population and Housing also provide information on educational participation and attainment, and labour force status.</p>
Accessibility	<p>The data for SEW are available via the ABS website in the publication Education and Work, Australia (Cat. No. 6227.0). This measure is also released as part of a SEW Detailed Education Datacube.</p> <p>Additional data is available at cost upon request through the National Information Referral Service (NIRS) and specialised data tables and Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) are also available on request.</p>
Interpretability	<p>Information on how to interpret and use the data appropriately is available on the ABS website, see Explanatory Notes in Education and Work, Australia (Cat. No. 6227.0.)</p> <p>Information on the SEIFA measure of socioeconomic status can also be found on the ABS website: www.abs.gov.au.</p>

Data Gaps/Issues Analysis

Key data gaps/ issues	<p>The Steering Committee notes the following key data gaps/issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disaggregation of this indicator by Indigenous status remains a priority. Further development work is required to identify a suitable method for providing comparative estimates for the Indigenous population. • The reduced sample size for the SEW in 2009 resulted in increases in RSEs. These RSEs affect the ability to identify annual change, particularly for disaggregations for selected jurisdictions, as only small year to year movements would be anticipated for this indicator. • The SEW is generally able to measure small changes in performance against measures at the national level. However, the ABS has advised that the SEW
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is not designed to measure changes at the jurisdictional level with the same level of accuracy. The Steering Committee understands that the ABS is investigating 'pooling' multiple surveys to increase the ability to detect significant movements in estimates over time.

The proportion of 18 to 24 year olds engaged in full time employment, education or training at or above Certificate III

Data quality information for this indicator has been sourced from the Steering Committee's report to the COAG Reform Council on the National Education Agreement (data supplied by ABS) with additional Steering Committee comments.

Indicator definition and description

Indicator	The proportion of 18 to 24 year olds engaged in full time employment, education or training at or above Certificate III.
Measure (computation)	<p><u>Definition</u></p> <p>Proportion of 18 to 24 year olds who are fully engaged in employment, education or training at or above AQF Certificate Level III, by Indigenous status and SES.</p> <p><u>Numerator/s</u></p> <p>Number of persons aged 18 to 24 years who are fully engaged in employment, education and/or training at or above AQF Certificate III, by Indigenous status and SES</p> <p><u>Denominator/s</u></p> <p>Number of persons aged 18 to 24 years</p> <p>(Fully engaged is defined as full time employment, full time education or training, or a mixture of part time/full time employment and part time/full time education or training. The scope of AQF Certificate Level III or above excludes persons whose highest level of education/training is Certificate nfd. Persons who have not identified the level of qualification they are working towards are excluded from the calculations [only applicable to Census data])</p> <p><u>Computation/s:</u></p> <p>The number of people aged 18-24 years who are fully engaged in employment, education and training at or above AQF Certificate III divided by the number of persons aged 18 to 24 years. Calculated separately for All people, Indigenous, non-Indigenous and SES).</p>
Data source/s	Numerator and denominator – (All, non-Indigenous and SES) SEW Numerator and denominator – (Indigenous) NATSISS

Data Quality Framework Dimensions

Institutional environment	<p>The Survey of Education and Work (SEW) and National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) are collected by the ABS under the Census and Statistics Act 1905.</p> <p>For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and government arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, see ABS Institutional Environment.</p>
Relevance	<p>SEW data is available by state/territory. Data are available by socioeconomic status. For further information on the Index of Relative Social Disadvantage (CD-based), see: Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas.</p> <p>Indigenous output for this indicator comes from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS).</p> <p>The SEW and NATSISS collect information on participation in education and the labour force. The standard classification of qualifications used is the Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED).</p> <p>While the SEW collects information on the level of current study, the NATSISS only collects information on whether or not a person is studying but not by level.</p>

	<p>To maximise consistency where Indigenous and non-Indigenous data are compared in the one table, the measures derived from both surveys were based on all students, not just those studying for a Certificate III or above. In all other tables for the total population (i.e. based on SEW only) the table is restricted to students studying at Certificate III or above.</p> <p>In the SEW, information may have been supplied by one household resident on behalf of another person. The person reporting may not know all the details of the educational or labour force participation of the other. In the SEW and NATSISS answers to some questions were not supplied. Hence, judgement may be required in classifying people for this measure.</p>
Timeliness	<p>The SEW is conducted annually in May as a supplement to the monthly Labour Force Survey. Results from the 2009 survey were released in November 2009.</p> <p>NATSISS is conducted every 6 years. The 2008 survey was conducted from August 2008 to April 2009 and results were released in October 2009.</p>
Accuracy	<p>The data for SEW is collected from an ARA (Any Responsible Adult) on behalf of other members of the household and is weighted for non-response. The data is collected in all states and territories excluding very remote areas. This exclusion has a small impact only on national and state estimates, except in the Northern Territory, where such persons comprise over 20 per cent of the population. The 2009 SEW response rate was 96 per cent which constituted 30 440 completed interviews.</p> <p>The NATSISS is conducted in all states and territories and includes remote and non-remote areas. The 2008 sample was 13 300 persons/6 900 households, with a response rate of 82 per cent of households.</p> <p>In the 2008 NATSISS there was a relatively large level of undercoverage when compared to other ABS surveys. As a consequence, the analysis undertaken to ensure that results from the survey were consistent with other data sources was more extensive than usual. Potential bias due to undercoverage was addressed by the application of a number of adjustments to the initial weights and an adjustment to geographical areas based on the density of the Indigenous population. As undercoverage can result in variances across population characteristics, as well as across data items, caution should be exercised when interpreting the survey results. For more information see the 2008 NATSISS Quality Declaration.</p> <p>The data is event data that can be used to measure year to year changes provided that the changes are significant enough to account for the RSE of estimates. As a consequence of sample reductions to the LFS, there was a 20 per cent decrease in sample size for SEW in 2009 compared with 2008 resulting in an 11 per cent increase in RSEs. The full LFS sample has been reinstated, and the sample for the 2010 SEW will return to 2008 levels (see Explanatory Notes).</p> <p>After running data by SEIFA-IRSD quintile, a high number of cells were observed with RSEs greater than 25 per cent, a considerable proportion of which were greater than 50 per cent and/or based on cell counts that required confidentialisation. As specified, therefore, these tables were not fit for the purpose of reporting on the measure by SEIFA. Consequently, categories were combined to enable output of summary information on engagement in education, training or employment by SEIFA quintile.</p>
Coherence	<p>Both the numerator and denominator come from the relevant survey (SEW or NATSISS). Measures based on the 2009 SEW are consistent with data from the 2008 SEW previously supplied for COAG reporting.</p> <p>While there are a range of differences between the scope, coverage, timing and collection methodologies of the collections, these issues do not affect their broad comparability for this measure.</p> <p>The 2008 NATSISS, 2008 SEW and 2009 SEW consider people who participate in Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) as</p>

employed. All CDEP participants are in scope of these collections, but only the NATSISS identifies CDEP participation as a separate category of employment for the total Indigenous population. Possible future changes to the classification of CDEP participation to reflect changes in the administration of this program would have a considerable impact on the labour force characteristics of the Indigenous population and therefore affect the estimates of Indigenous people considered to be fully engaged in education or work according to this indicator.

The Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED) has been used in all surveys with education items since 2001 and allows the education and training items between different surveys to be compared

The Survey of Education and Training (SET) and the Census of Population and Housing also provide information on educational participation and attainment, and labour force status.

Accessibility

The data for SEW are available via the ABS website in the publication Education and Work, Australia (Cat. No. 6227.0). This measure is also released as part of a SEW Detailed Education Datacube. Data from NATSISS are available in National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (Cat. No. 4714.0)

Additional data is available at cost upon request through the National Information Referral Service (NIRS) and specialised data tables and Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) are also available on request.

Interpretability

Information on how to interpret and use the data appropriately is available on the ABS website, see Explanatory Notes in Education and Work, Australia (Cat. No. 6227.0), and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey Explanatory Notes (Cat. No. 4714.0).

Information on the SEIFA measure of socioeconomic status can also be found on the ABS website: www.abs.gov.au.

Data Gaps/Issues Analysis

Key data gaps/ issues

The Steering Committee notes the following key data gaps/issues:

- The reduced sample size for the SEW in 2009 resulted in increases in RSEs. These RSEs affect the ability to identify annual change, particularly for disaggregations for selected jurisdictions, as only small year to year movements would be anticipated for this indicator.
- The SEW is generally able to measure small changes in performance against measures at the national level. However, the ABS has advised that the SEW is not designed to measure changes at the jurisdictional level with the same level of accuracy. The Steering Committee understands that the ABS is investigating 'pooling' multiple surveys to increase the ability to detect significant movements in estimates over time.
- Data from the 2008 NATSISS should not be compared with data from the 2006 Census. The second set of survey estimates for Indigenous people for NEA reporting will be sourced from the 2011 NATSIHS.
- The Steering Committee recommends inclusion of level of study on the NATSISS/NATSIHS, to improve reporting of this indicator.

The proportion of 20 to 64 year olds who do not have qualifications at or above a Certificate III level

Data quality information for this indicator has been sourced from the Steering Committee's report to the COAG Reform Council on the National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development (data supplied by ABS) with additional Steering Committee comments.

Indicator definition and description

Indicator	Proportion of 20–64 year olds who do not have qualifications at or above a Certificate III level
Measure (computation)	<p><u>Definition</u></p> <p>Proportion of people aged 20–64 years who do not have qualifications at or above AQF Certificate Level III, by Indigenous status and SES.</p> <p><u>Numerator/s</u></p> <p>People aged 20–64 years who have not attained post school qualifications at or above AQF Certificate III, by Indigenous status and SES.</p> <p><u>Denominator/s</u></p> <p>Total population of people aged 20–64 years, by Indigenous status and SES ('Certificate III or above' includes Certificate III, IV, Diploma, Advanced Diploma, Bachelors degree and above. Excludes persons whose level of education was not stated)</p> <p><u>Computation/s:</u></p> <p>The number of people aged 20-64 years who have not attained a post school qualification at or above AQF Certificate III divided by the total population of people aged 20-64 years. Calculated separately for total population, Indigenous, non-Indigenous and SES.</p>
Data source/s	<p><u>Numerator and denominator:</u> (Non-Indigenous, Total population by SES) Survey of Education and Work (SEW). Data are collected annually.</p> <p><u>Numerator and denominator:</u> (Indigenous) National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS). Data are collected on an alternating three-yearly cycle.</p>

Data Quality Framework Dimensions

Institutional environment	<p>The Survey of Education and Work (SEW) and National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) are collected by the ABS under the Census and Statistics Act 1905.</p> <p>For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and government arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, see ABS Institutional Environment.</p>
Relevance	<p>SEW data is available by State/Territory. Data are available by socioeconomic status. For further information on the Index of Relative Social Disadvantage (CD-based), see: Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas.</p> <p>Data on Indigenous status is available to facilitate non-Indigenous but not Indigenous output. Indigenous output for this indicator comes from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS).</p> <p>While the SEW collects information on the level of current study, the NATSISS only collects information on whether or not a person is studying but not by level. To maximise consistency where Indigenous and non-Indigenous data are compared in the one table, the measures derived from</p>

both surveys were based on all students, not just those studying for a Certificate III or above. In all other tables for the total population (i.e. based on SEW only) the table is restricted to students studying at Certificate III or above. The SEW and NATSISS collect information on educational participation and attainment. The standard classification of qualifications used is the [Australian Standard Classification of Education](#) (ASCED).

In the SEW, information may have been supplied by one household resident on behalf of another person. The person reporting may not know all the details of the educational participation or attainment of the other. In the SEW and NATSISS answers to some questions were not supplied. Hence, judgement may be required in classifying people for this measure.

Timeliness The SEW is conducted annually in May as a supplement to the monthly Labour Force Survey. Results from the 2009 survey were released in November 2009. NATSISS is conducted every six years. The 2008 survey was conducted from August 2008 to April 2009 and results were released in October 2009.

Accuracy The data for SEW is collected from any responsible adult (ARA) on behalf of other members of the household and is weighted for non-response. The data is collected in all states and territories excluding very remote areas. This exclusion has a small impact only on national and state estimates, except in the Northern Territory, where such persons comprise over 20 per cent of the population. The 2009 SEW response rate was 96 per cent which constituted 30 440 completed interviews.

The NATSISS is conducted in all states and territories and includes remote and non-remote areas. The 2008 sample was 13 300 persons/6 900 households, with a response rate of 82 per cent of households.

In the 2008 NATSISS there was a relatively large level of undercoverage when compared to other ABS surveys. As a consequence, the analysis undertaken to ensure that results from the survey were consistent with other data sources was more extensive than usual. Potential bias due to undercoverage was addressed by the application of a number of adjustments to the initial weights and an adjustment to geographical areas based on the density of the Indigenous population. As undercoverage can result in variances across population characteristics, as well as across data items, caution should be exercised when interpreting the survey results. For more information see the [2008 NATSISS Quality Declaration](#).

The data is event data that can be used to measure year to year changes provided that the changes are significant enough to account for the RSE of estimates. As a consequence of sample reductions to the LFS, there was a 20 per cent decrease in sample size for SEW in 2009 compared with 2008 resulting in an 11 per cent increase in RSEs. The full LFS sample has been reinstated, and the sample for the 2010 SEW will return to 2008 levels ([see Explanatory Notes](#)).

Coherence Both the numerator and denominator come from the relevant survey (SEW or NATSISS). Measures based on the 2009 SEW are consistent with data from the 2008 SEW previously supplied for COAG reporting.

While there are a range of differences between the scope, coverage, timing and collection methodologies of the collections, these issues do not affect their broad comparability for this measure. The ASCED has been used in all surveys with education items since 2001 and allows the education and training items between different surveys to be compared

The Survey of Education and Training (SET) and the Census of also provide information on educational participation and attainment, and labour force status.

Accessibility The data for SEW are available via the ABS website in the publication Education and Work, Australia (cat. no. 6227.0). This measure is also released

as part of a SEW Detailed Education Datacube. Data from NATSISS are available in [National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey](#) (cat. no. 4714.0)

Additional data is available at cost upon request through the [National Information Referral Service](#) (NIRS) and specialised data tables and Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) are also available on request

Interpretability Information on how to interpret and use the data appropriately is available on the ABS website, see [Explanatory Notes](#) in Education and Work, Australia (cat. no. 6227.0), and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey [Explanatory Notes](#) (cat. no. 4714.0).

Information on the SEIFA measure of socioeconomic status can also be found on the ABS website: www.abs.gov.au.

Data Gaps/Issues Analysis

Key data gaps/ issues The Steering Committee notes the following key data gaps/issues:

- The SEW is generally able to measure small changes in performance against measures at the national level. However, the ABS has advised that the SEW is not designed to measure changes at the jurisdictional level with the same level of accuracy. The Steering Committee understands that the ABS is investigating 'pooling' multiple surveys to increase the ability to detect significant movements in estimates over time.
- Data from the 2008 NATSISS should not be compared with Indigenous data from the 2006 Census. The second set of survey estimates for Indigenous people for National Agreement reporting will be sourced from the 2011 NATSIHS.