

2021 TARGETED UPDATE OF AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND STANDARD CLASSIFICATION OF OCCUPATIONS (ANZSCO)

What is the 2021 targeted update?

- The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is partnering with several Australian Government agencies to produce a targeted update of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations. This targeted update is due for release by December 2021.
- Changes will be made to some occupations in order to better reflect the contemporary labour market.
- The scope of the changes is limited.
- The ABS and its partners will identify emerging occupations within specific parts of the labour market. These are occupations within agriculture, forestry, and fisheries; cyber security; and naval shipbuilding, and those identified by the National Skills Commission.

What is ANZSCO?

- ANZSCO provides a basis for the standardised collection, analysis and dissemination of occupation data for Australia and New Zealand.
- ANZSCO is a skill-based classification used to classify all occupations and jobs in the Australian and New Zealand labour markets.
- ANZSCO is intended to provide an integrated framework for storing, organising and reporting occupation-related information in both statistical and client-oriented applications, such as matching job seekers to job vacancies and providing career information.

Why does ANZSCO need to be updated?

- While the ANZSCO has had some minor updates, it still largely reflects the original 2006 version of ANZSCO, which was based on the 2001 labour market. While some occupations have not changed much over this period, some have changed considerably, and some occupations have emerged.
- Occupations within scope of the 2021 targeted update that have experienced significant growth since 2001 will be identified, as well as those expected to show significant growth in the future.

How was the scope of the 2021 targeted update determined?

- ABS engaged with a number of Australian Government agencies who identified that the ANZSCO was not meeting requirements within their area of interest. These agencies agreed to partner with the ABS to undertake a targeted update in 2021 to address these areas and to develop a new approach to the classification's maintenance.

What is the scope of the 2021 targeted update?

- The [list of occupations within scope](#) for the targeted update can be found here.

What agencies have partnered with the ABS for the 2021 targeted update?

- The ABS has partnered with five Australian government agencies to address some key priorities and better understand fast-changing elements of the Australian labour market.
- Partner agencies are the National Skills Commission (NSC), Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment (DAWE), Department of Education, Skills and Employment (DESE), Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (DISER), and Department of Defence (ADF). These agencies have contributed a combination of operating budget and specialist expertise.
- At this time, Stats NZ have advised that they are unable to commit to the 2021 targeted update.

What are the impacts on official statistics by doing targeted updates?

- Most occupation data are output at the highest level of the classification (1, 2 or 3-digit level). Targeted updates will aim to maintain stability at these levels to enable analysis of the labour market across time. Occupation data at more granular levels (4 and 6-digit level) are likely to be impacted by targeted updates. Users will be provided with information to help understand the changes in the classification and the impact of those changes on their data.

Will there be changes to skill levels in the 2021 targeted update to reflect labour market changes?

- In ANZSCO, skill level is defined as a function of the range and complexity of the set of tasks performed in a particular occupation. The greater the range and complexity of the set of tasks, the greater the skill level of an occupation. Occupations are assigned a skill level number ranging from Skill Level 5 (least skilled) to Skill Level 1 (most skilled).
- Skill level is one of several factors used to form occupation groups. For example, all occupations with Skill Level 1 are assigned to Major Groups 1 and 2. All occupations with Skill Level 3 are assigned to Major Groups 3, 4, 5, and 6.
- Skill level will only be “updated” in the 2021 targeted update where stability at the highest level of the classification is preserved. For example, “updating” an occupation from Skill Level 3 to Skill Level 1 requires the occupation to “move” across Major Groups. This does not preserve stability at the highest level of the classification.

How will other areas of the ANZSCO be updated?

- The 2021 targeted update will inform development of a new approach to updating the ANZSCO. It will test the feasibility of achieving incremental changes and allow the classification to reflect rapid changes in labour markets, thereby better meeting stakeholder needs.
- This new approach would aim to provide a further targeted update to ANZSCO by December 2022.
- The ABS will seek input from a range of key stakeholders on the development of the new approach and the priority areas to be addressed by subsequent updates. It will also establish mechanisms to obtain detailed information from industry, government and training institutions.
- Further information, including how to be involved, will be released later this year.

How can I provide feedback on the 2021 targeted update?

- The ABS is currently seeking submissions on occupations within scope of the 2021 targeted update.
- [Information on how to participate](#) can be found here. It has also been emailed to key users. If you would like more information, please email anzsco.maintenance@abs.gov.au

What happens after submissions close?

- The ABS will assess the submissions as part of its analysis and determine a set of proposed changes. The ABS will consult on these proposed changes in September 2021.