

Rail Freight Transport

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Australian Bureau of Statistics
Informing Australia's important decisions



Industry Classification and Description

- ▶ ANZSIC 471 Rail Freight Transport
- ▶ Primary activities include:
 - Rail freight transport service
 - Suburban rail freight service
- ▶ Main excludes:
 - Repairing rail stock
 - Railway construction or general repair
 - Operating rail freight terminals

Scope

- ▶ Basic prices (exclude taxes, include subsidies)
- ▶ Collecting the margin – value add for rail transport activity
- ▶ Import/export
 - To and from shipping terminals, airports
- ▶ Business to business

Sample Design

- ▶ Non-probability sampling

- ▶ Bulk rail freight
 - Examples: iron ore, grain, coal

- ▶ Non-bulk rail freight
 - Examples: containers

- ▶ Market conditions:
 - Mix of private and Government owned rail tracks
 - Low concentration of rail freight service providers
 - Some government regulation

Collection and Specification

- ▶ Specifications consider freight characteristics including:
 - Geography (distance, source and destination)
 - Type of cargo
 - Quantity of cargo (tonne, wagons, pallets...)
 - Business client information

- ▶ Fuel surcharge

Specification Examples

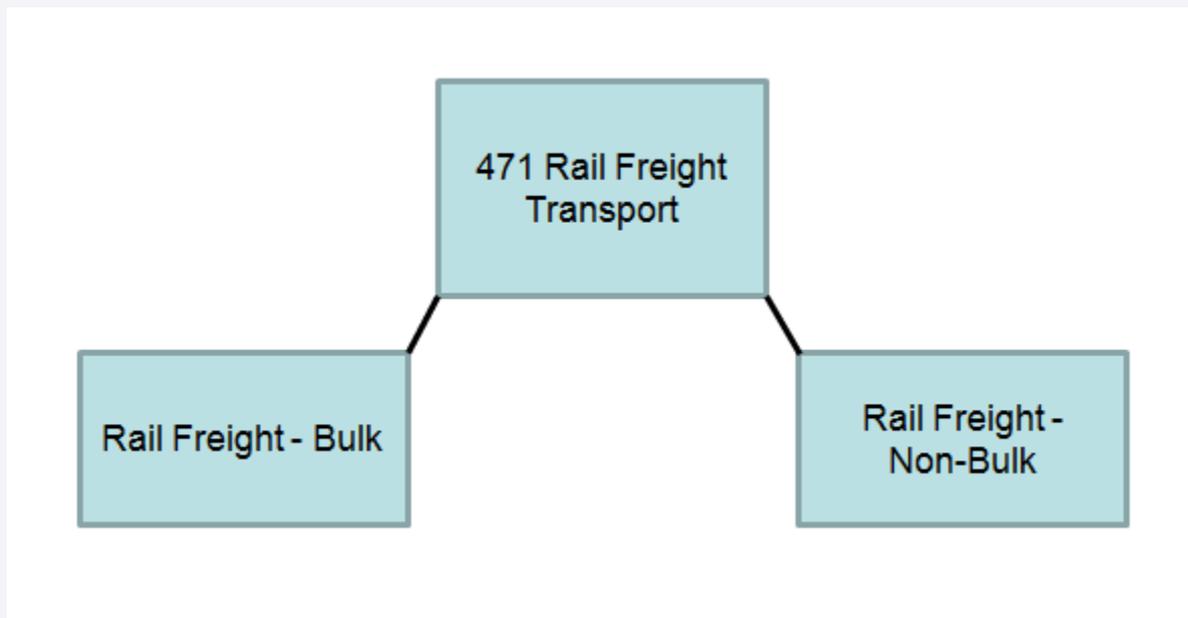
1. Domestic grain freight prices, NSW Customer A. Please include fuel surcharge in price per wagon.
2. Per tonne rate, including fuel surcharge:
 - Adelaide to Perth, Customer A
 - Melbourne to Perth, Customer B

- ▶ Mostly contract pricing
 - Contract between service provider and client
 - Advantages include: real transaction prices, less provider burden
 - Disadvantages include: ensuring representative of industry, quality adjustments
- ▶ List pricing
- ▶ Average unit value pricing

- ▶ Contract pricing
 - Some transported goods have seasonal impacts
 - Climate event impacts
- ▶ Quality adjustment for contract renewals/changes
- ▶ Sample maintenance for contract expiration

- ▶ Upper level weights:
 - National Accounts Input-Output Tables 2012-13
 - Production shares at basic prices
- ▶ Lower level weights:
 - Industry reports, market analysis
 - Revenue information from data providers

Aggregation



Industry Specific Challenges

- ▶ Taxes and subsidies
- ▶ Transport margins
- ▶ Intermodal transport
- ▶ Export markets
 - Global commodity prices
 - Supply and demand factors

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Questions?