

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS Canberra

CATALOGUE NO. 5326.0

NOON 17 MARCH 1978

FOREIGN CONTROL OF GENERAL INSURANCE BUSINESS, 1975-76

NEW ISSUE

INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics ring Ms Joanne Robertson Canberra 526327 or our State office, or write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616.

For copies of this publication contact Information Services, Canberra 526627 or State offices.

MAIN FEATURES

NOTE: Foreign control is defined in paragraph 6.

- Based on total premiums, foreign control of general insurance business in Australia fell from 44.7% in 1972-73 to 37.8% in 1975-76. The reduction in foreign control was largely attributable to a reduction in the proportion of compulsory third party and employers' liability insurance handled by foreign controlled businesses. Government insurance businesses handled an increased proportion of these classes of insurance.
- Private Australian control also fell over this period, from 34.5% to 30.3%, while the share of government insurance businesses in total premiums rose from 20.8% to 31.9%.
- The main country of foreign control was the U.K. (26.0% of total premiums in 1975-76).

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

1. This bulletin presents results of a study of foreign control of general insurance business in Australia in 1975-76, with some comparative statistics for 1972-73. Detailed statistics for 1972-73 were published in the bulletin *Foreign Ownership and Control of General Insurance Business, 1972-73* (5309.0); some revisions have been made to 1972-73 figures in this bulletin. This study is part of a program of ABS studies of foreign control of key industries and economic activities in Australia.

Scope and units

2. The scope of this study is the same as that of the statistics published in the ABS bulletin *General Insurance: Australia, 1975-76* (5620.0). These statistics relate to general insurance (including reinsurance) business written in Australia by bodies corporate and other enterprises, including general insurance business written by life insurance companies and Commonwealth and State government instrumentalities, and general insurance business placed with foreign resident insurers by brokers in Australia.

3. The statistical unit used in this study is termed a *business*, and is defined as a group of enterprises in the study that, at 30 June 1976, were related in terms of Section 6 of the uniform companies legislation or were branches and/or subsidiaries of a common foreign resident company, or any enterprise in the study that, at 30 June 1976, was not related in either of these ways to another enterprise in the study. (In the 1972-73 study, a business was similarly defined in terms of relationships at 30 June 1973.)

Measurement of foreign control and foreign influence

4. To measure the levels of foreign control and foreign influence in general insurance business, each business in the study has been classified to a particular control and influence category, and general insurance data of each business have then been allocated wholly to the control and influence categories to which the business has been classified.

5. Businesses have been classified to control and influence categories using data on holdings of voting shares in enterprises at 30 June 1976, derived mainly from the ABS Surveys of Overseas Investment. The strength of a holding of voting shares in an enterprise has been measured by the percentage that the paid-up value of that shareholding represented of the total paid-up value of voting shares in the enterprise.

6. A business has been classified to the control category to which the top enterprise (and hence each other enterprise) in that business unit has been classified. An enterprise has been classified to *foreign control* if a foreign resident investor (individual, company or group of related companies) or foreign controlled enterprise held at least 25 per cent of the paid-up value of voting shares in the enterprise, provided that there was no larger holding by an Australian controlled enterprise or Australian resident individual. This definition of foreign control includes cases where there was an equal holding by an Australian controlled enterprise or Australian resident individual. There were cases of joint foreign and Australian control in this study but details are confidential. All enterprises not classified to foreign control have been classified to *Australian control*.

7. In Table 2, the classification of foreign controlled businesses by *country of control* is based on the country of domicile of the foreign resident investor who held the immediate controlling interest. This is not necessarily the country of "ultimate" control, since an immediate foreign resident investor may be a company that is controlled by residents of another country.

8. In Table 3, the *degree of influence of largest foreign investor* is defined as the strength of the strongest chain of shareholdings from a foreign resident investor to the top enterprise in a business, where the strength of a chain of shareholdings is measured by the strength of the weakest shareholding link in that chain.

General insurance data

9. The general insurance data used in the study are the major items compiled from the ABS general insurance collection for 1975-76. Definitions of the items are given below.

Premiums. The full amount receivable in respect of policies issued or renewed during the period, less returns, rebates and bonuses paid or credited to policy holders during the period. No adjustments have been made to provide for premiums unearned at the end of the period, and consequently the amounts differ from earned premium income appropriate to the period. Excludes stamp duty collected with premiums (see paragraph 10 below).

Fire insurance. Insurance against loss of, or damage to, goods or property by fire or other perils (including explosion, earthquake, riot, storm, wind, flood and sprinkler leakage). However, insurance of dwellings against these risks is usually covered by homeowners' and householders' insurance (see below).

Homeowners' and householders' insurance. Insurance against loss of, or damage to, dwellings only, or to dwellings plus contents, by fire, explosion, lightning, burglary, housebreaking, etc. (In the 1972-73 study, this item was termed "householders' comprehensive insurance".)

Marine (hull and cargo) insurance. Insurance against loss of, or damage to, cargo (including inland cargo), loss of, or damage to, vessels (and fittings), and insurance in respect of liability for loss or damage caused by vessels (i.e. third party property and bodily injury liability).

Motor vehicle-compulsory third party insurance. Insurance against liability of drivers and owners of vehicles for injury to other persons.

Motor vehicle-comprehensive insurance. Insurance against loss of, or damage to, vehicles (including motor cycles) by fire, theft or accident, and loss of, or damage to property caused by vehicles. Excludes compulsory third party insurance. (In the 1972-73 study, this item was termed "motor vehicle - other insurance".)

Employers' liability insurance. Insurance in respect of employers' liability for bodily injury or disease suffered by employees as a consequence of their employment. Excludes employers' liability insurance in coal-mining. (In the 1972-73 study, this item was termed "workers' compensation insurance".)

Personal accident insurance. Personal insurance against bodily injury or accident, including special schemes (e.g. travellers' short-term policies).

Other general insurance. General insurance other than fire, homeowners' and householders', marine, motor vehicle, employers' liability and personal accident insurance. Includes crop, loss of profits, public liability, burglary and all risks/baggage insurance.

Investment income (net of expenses). Interest, dividends, rent, etc. received during the period, net of expenses. (In the 1972-73 study, this item was termed "interest, dividends, rents, etc. (net of expenses)".)

Claims. Payments made during the period, plus the estimated amount of outstanding claims at the end of the period, less the estimated amount of outstanding claims at the beginning of the period. Salvage and other amounts recoverable have been deducted.

Selected items of expenditure. Comprises contributions to fire brigades and similar statutory charges; commission and agents' charges; expenses of management (e.g. wages, rent, advertising, stationery); taxation other than stamp duty and income tax (e.g. payroll tax, licence fees); and other underwriting expenses. Excludes claims and expenses not associated with underwriting. (This item is not comparable with the item termed "total selected items of expenditure" in the 1972-73 study, which included claims payable and income tax and stamp duty paid.)

Adjustment to 1972-73 premiums data

10. Between 1972-73 and 1975-76, the definition of premiums in the ABS general insurance collection was changed to exclude stamp duty collected with premiums. In order to provide a comparison, in Table 1, of the levels of foreign control in 1972-73 and 1975-76 measured in terms of premiums, the 1972-73 premiums data have been adjusted approximately to the basis used for 1975-76.

Rounding

11. Any discrepancies between sums of components and totals in tables are due to rounding.

Symbols

- .. Nil or less than 0.05.
- r Revised.

RELATED ABS PUBLICATIONS

General insurance statistics

- General Insurance, 1975-76 (5620.0)

Foreign participation statistics

- Foreign Ownership and Control of General Insurance Business, 1972-73 (5309.0)
- Foreign Control of Life Insurance Business, 1976 (5325.0)
- Foreign Control of Finance Companies, 1976 (5324.0)

- . *Foreign Ownership and Control of the Mining Industry, 1973-74 and 1974-75* (5317.0)
- . *Foreign Control in Mineral Exploration, 1975-76* (5323.0)
- . *Foreign Control in Manufacturing Industry, Study of Large Enterprise Groups, 1972-73* (5315.0)
- . *Foreign Ownership and Control in Manufacturing Industry, 1972-73* (5322.0)
- . *Foreign Ownership and Control of Tourist Accommodation Establishments, 1973-74* (5319.0)
- . *Foreign Ownership and Control of Accredited Advertising Agencies, 1974-75* (5318.0)

All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publications, 1977* (1101.0) which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

R. J. CAMERON
Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. GENERAL INSURANCE BUSINESS, 1972-73 AND 1975-76 : CONTROL SUMMARY

	Foreign control		Australian control						Total	
	1972-73	1975-76	Government		Private		Total		1972-73	1975-76
			1972-73	1975-76	1972-73	1975-76	1972-73	1975-76		
Businesses at end June	102	107	16	20	98	88	114	108	216	215
	— number —									
	— \$ million —									
Premiums —										
Fire	95.3(a)	153.4	12.3(a)	22.2	38.8(a)	63.5	51.1(a)	85.7	146.4(a)	239.1
Houseowners' and householders'	50.2(a)	87.9	14.0(a)	35.1	36.5(a)	72.8	50.5(a)	107.9	100.7(a)	195.8
Marine (hull and cargo)	39.8(a)	59.5	1.5(a)	3.3	10.0(a)	15.2	11.5(a)	18.4	51.3(a)	78.0
Motor vehicle —										
Compulsory third party	28.7(a)	2.7	115.7(a)	364.7	34.7(a)	77.4	150.4(a)	442.2	179.1(a)	444.8
Comprehensive (including motor cycles)	99.7(a)	188.8	44.5(a)	119.4	174.4(a)	296.8	218.9(a)	416.2	318.6(a)	605.0
Employers' liability	128.5(a)	366.8	68.2(a)	345.7	84.8(a)	238.2	153.0(a)	583.9	281.5(a)	950.7
Personal accident	25.9(a)	40.2	1.1(a)	3.1	16.9(a)	24.5	18.0(a)	27.6	43.9(a)	67.8
Other	103.9(a)	177.0	9.2(a)	15.0	46.0(a)	72.4	55.2(a)	87.4	159.1(a)	264.4
Total premiums	571.9(a)	1,076.2	266.4(a)	908.4	442.2(a)	861.0	708.6(a)	1,769.4	1,280.5(a)	2,845.6
Investment income (net of expenses)	30.7	67.2	r37.7	89.0	27.3	74.3	r65.0	163.3	r95.7	230.5
Claims	359.4	625.3	r255.0	637.9	291.7	538.0	r546.7	1,175.9	r906.1	1,801.3
Selected items of expenditure	(b)	325.1	(b)	73.9	(b)	202.7	(b)	276.6	(b)	601.7
	— per cent —									
Businesses at end June	47.2	49.8	7.4	9.3	45.4	40.9	52.8	50.2	100.0	100.0
Premiums —										
Fire	65.1(a)	64.1	8.4(a)	9.3	26.5(a)	26.6	34.9(a)	35.9	100.0	100.0
Houseowners' and householders'	49.9(a)	44.9	13.9(a)	17.9	36.2(a)	37.2	50.1(a)	55.1	100.0	100.0
Marine (hull and cargo)	77.6(a)	76.4	2.9(a)	4.2	19.5(a)	19.5	22.4(a)	23.6	100.0	100.0
Motor vehicle —										
Compulsory third party	16.0(a)	0.6	64.6(a)	82.0	19.4(a)	17.4	84.0(a)	99.4	100.0	100.0
Comprehensive (including moto. cycle)	31.3(a)	31.2	14.0(a)	19.7	54.7(a)	49.1	68.7(a)	68.8	100.0	100.0
Employers' liability	45.6(a)	38.6	24.2(a)	36.4	30.1(a)	25.1	54.4(a)	61.4	100.0	100.0
Personal accident	59.0(a)	59.3	2.5(a)	4.5	38.5(a)	36.2	41.0(a)	40.7	100.0	100.0
Other	65.3(a)	66.9	5.8(a)	5.7	28.9(a)	27.4	34.7(a)	33.1	100.0	100.0
Total premiums	44.7(a)	37.8	20.8(a)	31.9	34.5(a)	30.3	55.3(a)	62.2	100.0	100.0
Investment income (net of expenses)	r32.1	29.2	r39.4	38.6	r28.5	32.2	r67.9	70.8	100.0	100.0
Claims	r39.7	34.7	r28.1	35.4	r32.2	29.9	r60.3	65.3	100.0	100.0
Selected items of expenditure	(b)	54.0	(b)	12.3	(b)	33.7	(b)	46.0	(b)	100.0

(a) Adjusted to a basis comparable with 1975-76. See paragraph 10 page 2. (b) Not available on a basis comparable with 1975-76.

TABLE 2. GENERAL INSURANCE BUSINESS, 1975-76 : CONTROL BY COUNTRY

	Foreign control				Australian control	Total
	U.K.	U.S.A.	Other	Total		
				- number -		
Businesses at end June	52	14	41	107	108	215
				- \$ million -		
Premiums -						
Fire	97.9	14.4	41.1	153.4	85.7	239.1
Houseowners' and householders'	57.2	3.0	27.6	87.9	107.9	195.8
Marine (hull and cargo)	40.7	2.0	16.8	59.5	18.4	78.0
Motor vehicle -						
Compulsory third party	2.1	0.1	0.4	2.7	442.2	444.8
Comprehensive (including motor cycles)	130.1	12.1	46.7	188.8	416.2	605.0
Employers' liability	274.2	11.8	80.8	366.8	583.9	950.7
Personal accident	18.7	14.8	6.6	40.2	27.6	67.8
Other	119.4	18.2	39.5	177.0	87.4	264.4
Total premiums	740.2	76.4	259.6	1,076.2	1,769.4	2,845.6
Investment income (net of expenses)	40.7	6.4	20.1	67.2	163.3	230.5
Claims	441.9	36.6	146.8	625.3	1,175.9	1,801.3
Selected items of expenditure	213.8	28.8	82.5	325.1	276.6	601.7
				- per cent -		
Businesses at end June	24.2	6.5	19.1	49.8	50.2	100.0
Premiums -						
Fire	40.9	6.0	17.2	64.1	35.9	100.0
Houseowners' and householders'	29.2	1.5	14.1	44.9	55.1	100.0
Marine (hull and cargo)	52.2	2.6	21.5	76.4	23.6	100.0
Motor vehicle -						
Compulsory third party	0.5	..	0.1	0.6	99.4	100.0
Comprehensive (including motor cycles)	21.5	2.0	7.7	31.2	68.8	100.0
Employers' liability	28.8	1.2	8.5	38.6	61.4	100.0
Personal accident	27.6	21.9	9.8	59.3	40.7	100.0
Other	45.1	6.9	14.9	66.9	33.1	100.0
Total premiums	26.0	2.7	9.1	37.8	62.2	100.0
Investment income (net of expenses)	17.7	2.8	8.7	29.2	70.8	100.0
Claims	24.5	2.0	8.2	34.7	65.3	100.0
Selected items of expenditure	35.5	4.8	13.7	54.0	46.0	100.0

TABLE 3. GENERAL INSURANCE BUSINESS, 1975-76 : CONTROL BY DEGREE OF INFLUENCE OF LARGEST FOREIGN INVESTOR

	Foreign controlled businesses				Australian controlled businesses			All businesses				
	Degree of influence of largest foreign investor				Degree of influence of largest foreign investor			Degree of influence of largest foreign investor				
	25% to 50% inclusive	Over 50% but not over 90%	Over 90%	Total	Under 10%	10% and under 50%	Total	Under 10%	10% to 50% inclusive	Over 50% but not over 90%	Over 90%	Total
- number -												
Businesses at end June	13	13	81	107	102	6	108	102	19	13	81	215
- \$ million -												
Premiums -												
Fire	4.7	29.3	119.4	153.4	81.0	4.7	85.7	81.0	9.4	29.3	119.4	239.1
Houseowners' and householders'	0.8	16.0	71.0	87.9	102.0	6.0	107.9	102.0	6.8	16.0	71.0	195.8
Marine (hull and cargo)	1.6	17.7	40.2	59.5	17.5	1.0	18.4	17.5	2.6	17.7	40.2	78.0
Motor vehicle -												
Compulsory third party	0.5	0.8	1.4	2.7	442.1	0.1	442.2	442.1	0.6	0.8	1.4	444.8
Comprehensive (including motor cycles)	31.2	42.6	115.0	188.8	399.4	16.7	416.2	399.4	48.0	42.6	115.0	605.0
Employers' liability	43.9	53.7	269.2	366.8	573.9	10.0	583.9	573.9	53.9	53.8	269.2	950.7
Personal accident	0.3	7.0	32.8	40.2	25.6	2.0	27.6	25.6	2.3	7.0	32.8	67.8
Other	9.9	41.0	126.1	177.0	81.0	6.4	87.4	81.0	16.3	41.0	126.1	264.4
Total premiums	92.9	208.1	775.1	1,076.2	1,722.4	47.0	1,769.4	1,722.4	139.9	208.1	775.1	2,845.6
Investment income (net of expenses)	4.8	13.2	49.2	67.2	160.4	2.9	163.3	160.4	7.7	13.2	49.2	230.5
Claims	47.0	145.6	432.7	625.3	1,149.8	26.2	1,175.9	1,149.8	73.1	145.6	432.7	1,801.3
Selected items of expenditure	16.6	60.2	248.3	325.1	258.1	18.5	276.6	258.1	35.2	60.2	248.3	601.7
- per cent -												
Businesses at end June	6.0	6.0	37.7	49.8	47.4	2.8	50.2	47.4	8.8	6.0	37.7	100.0
Premiums -												
Fire	2.0	12.3	49.9	64.1	33.9	2.0	35.9	33.9	3.9	12.3	49.9	100.0
Houseowners' and householders'	0.4	8.2	36.2	44.9	52.1	3.1	55.1	52.1	3.5	8.2	36.2	100.0
Marine (hull and cargo)	2.1	22.6	51.6	76.4	22.4	1.3	23.6	22.4	3.4	22.6	51.6	100.0
Motor vehicle -												
Compulsory third party	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.6	99.4	..	99.4	99.4	0.1	0.2	0.3	100.0
Comprehensive (including motor cycles)	5.2	7.0	19.0	31.2	66.0	2.8	68.8	66.0	7.9	7.0	19.0	100.0
Employers' liability	4.6	5.6	28.3	38.6	60.4	1.1	61.4	60.4	5.7	5.6	28.3	100.0
Personal accident	0.5	10.4	48.4	59.3	37.8	3.0	40.7	37.8	3.4	10.4	48.4	100.0
Other	3.7	15.5	47.7	66.9	30.6	2.4	33.1	30.6	6.2	15.5	47.7	100.0
Total premiums	3.3	7.3	27.2	37.8	60.5	1.7	62.2	60.5	4.9	7.3	27.3	100.0
Investment income (net of expenses)	2.1	5.7	21.4	29.2	69.6	1.3	70.8	69.6	3.3	5.7	21.4	100.0
Claims	2.6	8.1	24.0	34.7	63.8	1.5	65.3	63.8	4.1	8.1	24.0	100.0
Selected items of expenditure	2.8	10.0	41.3	54.0	42.9	3.1	46.0	42.9	5.8	10.0	41.3	100.0

TABLE 4. GENERAL INSURANCE BUSINESS, 1975-76 : CONTROL BY SIZE OF BUSINESS

	Foreign controlled businesses				Australian controlled businesses				All businesses			
	Size of business (total premiums)				Size of business (total premiums)				Size of business (total premiums)			
	Under \$1m	\$1m and under \$10m	\$10m and over	Total	Under \$1m	\$1m and under \$10m	\$10m and over	Total	Under \$1m	\$1m and under \$10m	\$10m and over	Total
- number -												
Businesses at end June	43	39	25	107	51	31	26	108	94	70	51	215
- \$ million -												
Premiums -												
Fire	3.3	18.6	131.5	153.4	1.9	14.4	69.4	85.7	5.2	33.1	200.8	239.1
Houseowners' and householders'	0.3	6.6	81.0	87.9	2.7	21.3	84.0	107.9	2.9	27.8	165.0	195.8
Marine (hull and cargo)	2.3	14.3	43.0	59.5	1.5	3.2	13.7	18.4	3.8	17.5	56.7	78.0
Motor vehicle -												
Compulsory third party	..	0.2	2.5	2.7	..	11.0	431.2	442.2	..	11.2	433.7	444.8
Comprehensive (including motor cycles)	0.1	23.2	165.5	188.8	2.9	39.7	373.6	416.2	3.0	62.9	539.1	605.0
Employers' liability	0.1	25.3	341.4	366.8	1.1	42.5	540.4	583.9	1.2	67.8	881.7	950.7
Personal accident	0.7	16.3	23.1	40.2	1.3	2.3	24.1	27.6	2.0	18.6	47.2	67.8
Other	4.2	47.4	125.4	177.0	3.5	22.5	61.3	87.4	7.7	70.0	186.7	264.4
Total premiums	10.9	152.0	913.3	1,076.2	14.8	156.9	1,597.7	1,769.4	25.7	308.9	2,511.0	2,845.6
Investment income (net of expenses)	2.2	13.4	51.7	67.2	1.5	10.4	151.3	163.3	3.7	23.8	203.0	230.5
Claims	4.1	77.3	543.9	625.3	6.9	88.8	1,080.2	1,175.9	11.0	166.1	1,624.1	1,801.3
Selected items of expenditure	4.1	45.8	275.2	325.1	4.0	35.3	237.3	276.6	8.1	81.1	512.5	601.7
- per cent -												
Businesses at end June	20.0	18.1	11.6	49.8	23.7	14.4	12.1	50.2	43.7	32.6	23.7	100.0
Premiums -												
Fire	1.4	7.8	55.0	64.1	0.8	6.0	29.0	35.9	2.2	13.8	84.0	100.0
Houseowners' and householders'	0.1	3.3	41.4	44.9	1.4	10.9	42.9	55.1	1.5	14.2	84.3	100.0
Marine (hull and cargo)	2.9	18.3	55.1	76.4	1.9	4.1	17.6	23.6	4.8	22.5	72.7	100.0
Motor vehicle -												
Compulsory third party	..	..	0.6	0.6	..	2.5	96.9	99.4	..	2.5	97.5	100.0
Comprehensive (including motor cycles)	..	3.8	27.4	31.2	0.5	6.6	61.8	68.8	0.5	10.4	89.1	100.0
Employers' liability	..	2.7	35.9	38.6	0.1	4.5	56.8	61.4	0.1	7.1	92.7	100.0
Personal accident	1.1	24.1	34.1	59.3	1.9	3.3	35.5	40.7	3.0	27.4	69.6	100.0
Other	1.6	17.9	47.4	66.9	1.3	8.5	23.2	33.1	2.9	26.5	70.6	100.0
Total premiums	0.4	5.3	32.1	37.8	0.5	5.5	56.1	62.2	0.9	10.9	88.2	100.0
Investment income (net of expenses)	0.9	5.8	22.4	29.2	0.7	4.5	65.7	70.8	1.6	10.3	88.1	100.0
Claims	0.2	4.3	30.2	34.7	0.4	4.9	60.0	65.3	0.6	9.2	90.2	100.0
Selected items of expenditure	0.7	7.6	45.7	54.0	0.7	5.9	39.4	46.0	1.3	13.5	85.2	100.0