

## Bill Rosenberg

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**From:** Bill Rosenberg  
**Sent:** Friday, 25 October 2013 10:44 a.m.  
**To:** 'wesley.thompson@stats.govt.nz'  
**Cc:** evan.blackie@stats.govt.nz  
**Subject:** RE: QES feedback requested

Hi Wesley

Thanks for the opportunity to respond on this. I'm happy to have a conversation about the matters below.

We support using LEED data, as long as the resulting statistics are not less timely than at present (i.e. quarterly). We would welcome expansion of QES statistics to agriculture and other currently uncovered industries, as long as the detail is available to maintain continuity with current series.

However we would be very concerned if we lost the various average hourly earnings statistics we now have (ordinary, overtime and total hourly) and would strongly oppose that.

We monitor these series as they appear and make regular use of them for a variety of purposes. While recognising their weaknesses (as do all statistics) they are reasonably well understood by the public and well known. They are also one of the most appropriate in wage and productivity comparisons. (The most appropriate would be a full compensation measure such as Compensation of Employees per hour worked but this is available only annually, sometimes several years late and appropriate actual hours worked series are lacking, as noted below.)

Average hourly earnings is one of the longest wages series available in New Zealand, with the current QES series going back to 1989 and its predecessor to 1980. There are various indices that allow estimates considerably earlier. The NZIS is only annual and goes back to only 1998; HES goes back to the early 1980s (with one predecessor in 1973/74), but until relatively recently, income data was only available every 3-4 years. SNZ's own advice is that they are not comparable with the QES series.

In addition, the average wage series is one that tends to be available in many countries, so is useful for international comparability. The ILO conventions 63 (outdated) and 160 both cover average hourly wages, which is presumably one reason for their wide availability.

Regarding the loss of hours paid statistics, SNZ's products are very weak on working hours measures. Hours paid is only available from QES as far as we are aware, though hours paid series have been constructed for your productivity series. Some of these differ markedly from the QES series, indicating we need a variety of measures to ensure validity. The HLFS has an actual hours worked series, but it is not available in industry breakdowns (and while it may be on special request, our experience is that your staff are reluctant to go very far back because of industry identification problems); and not available by employment status (employee vs self-employed etc) or other breakdowns except on special request. We note that actual hours worked is used for Australian productivity statistics and conceptually is a more valid series to use. The difference between hours paid and actual hours worked is obviously of significance, so both series are of importance

Rather than drop the hours paid series, we suggest there should be an effort to produce reliable economy-wide hours paid and hours worked series with breakdown by the usual variables including industry, gender and employment status.

We understand that usual hours worked is not going to be collected in the HLFS with the review of the NZIS.

While full-time and part-time employment is available in the HLFS, relating it to wages is useful so its availability there is only a partial substitute.

Ordinary and over-time hours continue to be useful indicators of the state of the labour force. Again, we would be very reluctant to lose them.

Regards

Bill

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**Sent:** Friday, 18 October 2013 12:09 p.m.  
**To:** Bill Rosenberg  
**Cc:** [evan.blackie@stats.govt.nz](mailto:evan.blackie@stats.govt.nz)  
**Subject:** RE: QES feedback requested

Hi Bill

Written feedback by close of business day, Friday 25th October - if you would like to discuss in person then end of business day Friday 1st November would be great. Hopefully enough time for good feedback.

Regards  
Wesley

Bill Rosenberg ---18/10/2013 11:12:13 AM---Hi Wesley I'm happy to respond. What's your deadline?

From: Bill Rosenberg <[billr@nzctu.org.nz](mailto:billr@nzctu.org.nz)>  
To: "[wesley.thompson@stats.govt.nz](mailto:wesley.thompson@stats.govt.nz)" <[wesley.thompson@stats.govt.nz](mailto:wesley.thompson@stats.govt.nz)>  
Cc: "[evan.blackie@stats.govt.nz](mailto:evan.blackie@stats.govt.nz)" <[evan.blackie@stats.govt.nz](mailto:evan.blackie@stats.govt.nz)>  
Date: 18/10/2013 11:12 AM  
Subject: RE: QES feedback requested

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Hi Wesley

I'm happy to respond. What's your deadline?

Regards

Bill

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**From:** [wesley.thompson@stats.govt.nz](mailto:wesley.thompson@stats.govt.nz) [mailto:[wesley.thompson@stats.govt.nz](mailto:wesley.thompson@stats.govt.nz)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 15 October 2013 5:02 p.m.  
**To:** Bill Rosenberg

Cc: [evan.blackie@stats.govt.nz](mailto:evan.blackie@stats.govt.nz)

Subject: QES feedback requested

Hi Bill

Thanks for the feedback you provided last year for our QES consultation. We are undertaking another round of consultation and would like to hear from you and/or your colleagues.

We would really like to hear your views about current QES statistics, but also what you might need to better understand labour demand by firms.

This information will feed into the redevelopment of our Quarterly Employment Survey (QES). This project has three main goals:

- Improving the quality and coverage of the earnings and employment data we currently provide.
- Reducing the cost (to both us and respondents) of producing this information with an emphasis on using data already available in administrative data sources.
- Understanding the opportunities this may then give us for expanding the range of labour market information from businesses, for example skills demand or vacancies.

Please see the consultation document on our website ([http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse\\_for\\_stats/income-and-work/employment\\_and\\_unemployment/labour-demand-measure-consul.aspx](http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/income-and-work/employment_and_unemployment/labour-demand-measure-consul.aspx)).

Happy to have you respond via email, or if you'd like to discuss your feedback we could meet either at your office or at our office (fingers crossed this can happen this time).

Kind regards

Wesley Thompson  
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Work Knowledge & Skills || Te Mahi, te Mōhiotanga me nga Pūkenga  
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