



# Generalised Backcasting Facility

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Frank Masci & Ben Mulder

# Outline

- Backcast Facility v1.0 status
- User-acceptance testing / feedback re: v1.0
- Cost and priorities for v2.0
- Summary of planned v2.0 enhancements



# Backcasting Facility v1.0

- Oct/Nov 2006 - Economic Conditions and QEWS undertook User Acceptance Testing
- v1.0 performance was "ok" but lack of GUI and volume of diagnostic material reduced useability (more later)
- Requested enhancements already identified
- All bugs resolved and v1.0 released into ABS production environment in December 2006
- Use of v1.0 requires that series be first defined SEASABS

# Backcast Facility v1.0 Feedback

- Difficulty obtaining inputs:
  - series characteristics: e.g. directly vs indirectly seasonally adjusted
  - pre-backcast originals
  - SEASABS vs ABSDB series identifiers
- Interpreting output diagnostic tables:
  - rearrange/highlight important columns
  - more revision diagnostics (means/medians)
- Other:
  - Omission of subspans/timepoints from diagrams.
  - GUI driven



# Backcasting Facility v1.0

- Labour Surveys, QEWS and Economic Conditions only, have a requirement to backcast their series
- All three have expressed a need for functionality to backcast lower than publication level series to some degree
- Backcasting Facility v2.0 was planned to accomodate additional functionality and improvements from v1.0 feedback



# Backcasting Facility v2.0

- Business Case submitted for approval to use additional \$107k to complete development of some enhancements to v 1.0. and 'lower level series' functionality.
- Funding is from 06/07 ANZSIC06 Project budget
- Inclusion of essential user enhancements identified in business case will be funded from remaining budget (\$43,500)



# Backcasting Facility v2.0

Planned enhancements would include:

- Graphical User Interface (GUI) with ability to view series identifiers and adjustment properties on ABSDB
- Optimise b'cast length selection using revision constraints for indirect (aggregate) series
- Allow omission of timepoints/spans from revision diagnostics
- Store post-backcasted estimates to another location. Now: originals over-written on ABSDB





# Backcast Facility v2.0

- Handling of "hollow" aggregation structures (ie. when only two marginal aggregates exist)
- Handling of spliced series: from classification categories split over time
- Internally execute "Time Series Update" s/w to avoid contaminating revision diagnostics by rounding errors.
- More revision diagnostics and better ordering of outputs.





# Backcasting Facility v2.0

Support for lower level functionality from BSCs is weak:

- LES - "Industrial Disputes" only
- Retail have all series stored on SEASABS
- No current backup methods for doing backcasting - a manual backup has to be performed.



# Backcasting Facility v2.0

Issue:

- Available resources in the remaining financial year to complete the identified work

Where to....

- Presentation of Business case to the AIPB
- Meeting with 3 BSCs to discuss planned enhancements and prioritise



# Backcasting Facility v2.0

Questions.....

