



ASIC

Australian Securities & Investments Commission

ASIC Business Names Register

HELP FILE

Version: 1.2

ASIC Business Names Register – Help File

Contributor: Asher Brooks

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Getting Started

1. Purpose

This document is to provide detailed context and understanding of the Business Names register files uploaded to Data.gov.au by ASIC each month.

2. Business Name Register

The ASIC Business Names register file as it appears on data.gov.au is a dataset from ASIC's Business Names register. This dataset does not contain all the information captured on ASIC's register but is a snapshot of Business Names data from a point in time.

The Business Names register dataset contains the following:

- Select fields that are publically available (see data dictionary for field details);
- All currently registered Business Names that are able to be uploaded to data.gov.au; and
- Deregistered Business Names for the 12 months.

2.1. File Format

The Business Names dataset is provided in a file with the extension of csv (comma separated values) and mdb (MS Database file).

Important note: The data contained within the Business Names register csv is **not** separated by commas.

The Business Names register csv uses the 'TAB' character as the delimiter (value separator) between values in the dataset; the 'TAB' character is used in place of a comma separator because business names can contain commas in their name and therefore is not a suitable delimiter for this dataset.

An example of the data in the Business Names register csv is as follows

Business Name	Status	Date of Registration	Date of Cancellation	Renewal Date	Former State
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Number	Previous State of Registration	ABN		
STEFAN ELECTRICAL TM.	Registered	06/08/2014	06/08/2017	27474223588
AtlasCRS	Registered	02/11/2012	02/11/2013	98698681609

2.2. File interaction

The Business Names register data set contains approximately 2.4 million records. Because of the number of records contained in the file, common programs used to view data from CSV's (MS Excel, notepad, etc.) will not work.

Example: Most versions of MS Excel limits the number of rows to approximately 1 million, which means that if that dataset is viewed in Excel, less than half of the actual number of records will be available.

It is recommended users interact with the dataset on data.gov.au via one of the following methods:

- Dataset Preview on data.gov.au;
- Access resource data via a web API with powerful query support (Web API information can be found in the [main CKAN Data API and DataStore documentation](#)); or
- Import csv into an appropriate database (MS Access, Oracle, etc).

A step-by-step data import guide to importing Business Names data into MS Access can be found in the appendix of this help file. ([APPENDIX ITEM 1](#))

2.3. Dataset Fields

The Business Names dataset contains the following fields:

- Business Name
- Status
- Date of Registration
- Date of Cancellation
- Renewal Date
- Former State Number (where applicable)
- Previous State of Registration
- Australian Business Number (ABN)

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A comprehensive description of each field in the dataset is provided in the attached data dictionary (APPENDIX ITEM 2).

3. ASIC Connect

An alternative to searching the data contained in the Business Names Register extract is to use [ASIC Connect](#).

ASIC Connect is our online service for interacting with ASIC's registers.

We have three services currently available through ASIC Connect:

- Business names;
- Self-managed superannuation fund (SMSF) auditors; and
- Search - companies, business names, SMSF auditors and other registers.

You can view both free and paid information about entities such as companies, business name holders and SMSF auditors, check names availability, and purchase register extracts and documents online.

4. Contact

Any further enquiries can be directed to ASIC via email at Access.Request@asic.gov.au

5. Dataset Change Log

Change	Date	Description
Suppressed ABN's	09/09/2016	Added clarification on suppressed ABN's to data dictionary

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Appendices

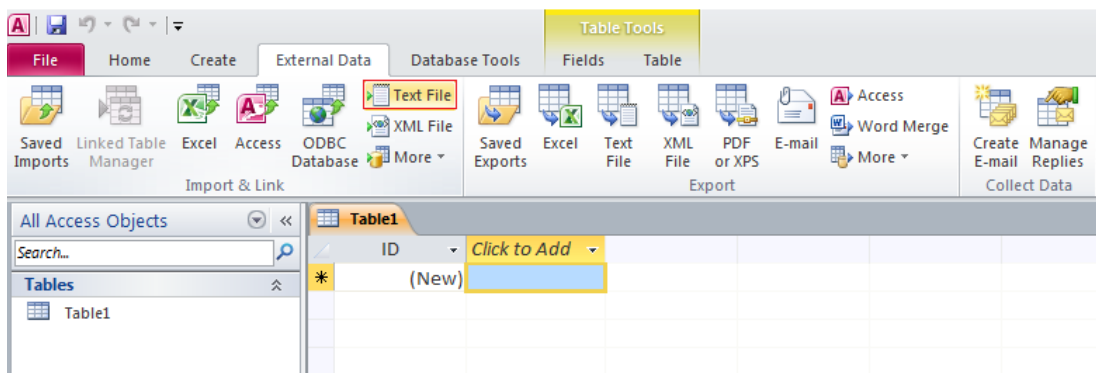
APPENDIX ITEM 1

Business Names Register - MS Access Import Guide

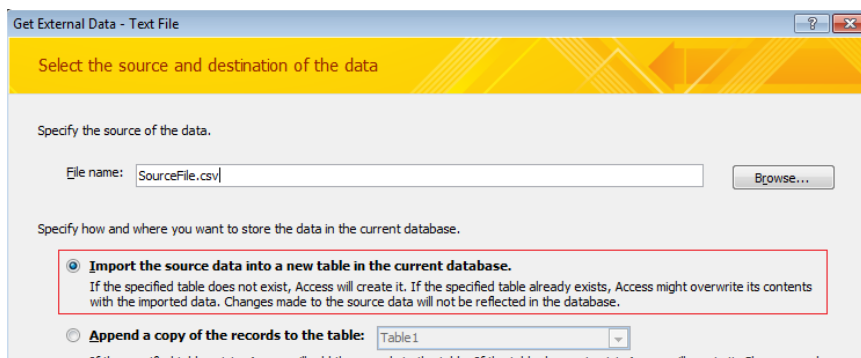
Use the following steps to import csv data into a new MS Access database; similar steps can be used to update an existing database:

Steps are provided using MS Access 2010

1. Download CSV dataset file;
2. Create blank database in MS Access;
3. Select 'Text File' from the Import & Link section of the External Data tab;



4. Browse to the CSV dataset file and choose to import into a new table and select 'Next';



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APPENDIX ITEM 2

Business Names Register – Data Dictionary

Field	Description	Data Type	Max Length	Data Parameters
Business Name	A name used, or to be used, in relation to one or more businesses. Business Name as it appears on ASIC's Business Names register	Text	200	As appears on the ASICs register Allowable characters: A-Z 0-9 . ! () : ; ? ' , - & " = \$ % # \ / _ { } [] @ space
Status	Registration Status for the Business Name	Text	12	Values for this field are limited to the following: Registered: An organisation that is currently registered by ASIC or another government organisation and is listed on ASIC's registers Cancelled: A Business Name that has been cancelled by ASIC (whether voluntarily by its holder, or initiated by ASIC). It ceases to exist as a registered business name. Allowable characters: letters A to Z

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Date of Registration	The date by which the Business Name started	Date/Time	10	All Business Names should have a Date of Registration
Date of Cancellation	The date by which the Business Name ceased	Date/Time	10	<p>Logic: IF Business Name has been cancelled THEN show 'Date of Cancellation' ELSE show NULL</p> <p>Date format: DD/MM/YYYY</p>
Renewal Date	The date by which a business name registration must be renewed. This is dependent on the renewal period chosen during registration or renewal - either 1 or 3 years - and on whether the business name holder aligned their registration period	Date/Time	10	Date format: DD/MM/YYYY
Former State Number	An identifying number allocated to a business name registered by a previous business names regulator in a particular Australian state or territory of Australia, prior to 28 May 2012	text	10	<p>Logic: IF Business Name was registered by the previous Business Names regulator THEN show 'Former State Number' ELSE show NULL</p>
Previous State of Registration	The state the business name was registered in by the previous business names regulator	text	3	<p>State name in abbreviated notation</p> <p>Allowable values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACT NSW NT QLD SA TAS VIC WA <p>Logic: IF Business Name was registered by the</p>

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			previous Business Names regulator THEN show 'Previous State of Registration' ELSE show NULL
ABN	The Australian Business Number (ABN) is a single identifier for all business dealings with the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) and for dealings with other government departments and agencies and is shown in the Australian Business Register. This number is not issued by ASIC. For further information refer to the Australian Business Register .	20	Logic: IF Business Name has an ABN issued from previous regulator and not recorded with ASIC THEN show NULL OR IF Business Name has more than 1 (multiple) ABN ELSE show 'ABN'
			Note: Suppressed ABN's are shown as NULL