

Commonwealth banking policy

Since Federation many agencies have performed the Commonwealth's 'banking' function, the most important being the Department of the Treasury. Significant records of the Treasury and of other key government departments are listed in this fact sheet. Unless otherwise indicated the records are held by the National Archives in Canberra.

Department of the Treasury records

Most files relating to the Commonwealth's banking policy are found in Treasury series A571. This was the department's general correspondence file series from 1901 to 1976. It is an annual single number series which means that items (files) were sequentially numbered each year. For example, 1919/25 is the 25th file created in 1919. The series can be searched using RecordSearch or by using the indexes and registers listed below.

Indexes to the main Treasury series

| Title or description of record | Date range | Series number |
|--|------------|---------------|
| <u>Indexes to registers</u> | 1901–18 | A573 |
| <u>Register of subjects, annual single number series</u> | 1901–10 | A574 |
| <u>Correspondence registers with indexes</u> | 1901–18 | A572 |
| <u>Name and subject index cards</u> | 1919–59 | A2466 |
| <u>Nominal index cards for classified files</u> | 1940–63 | A7309 |
| <u>Subject index cards</u> | 1954–65 | A3288 |
| <u>Nominal index cards</u> | 1959–66 | A3298 |
| <u>Subject index cards for classified files</u> | 1964–86 | A7310 |
| <u>Nominal index cards for classified files</u> | 1964–86 | A7311 |
| <u>Subject index cards</u> | 1965–76 | A3716 |
| <u>Nominal index cards</u> | 1966–76 | A3714 |

Other relevant Treasury records

| Title or description of record | Date range | Series number |
|---|------------|---------------|
| <u>Commerce and Industry Branch – papers on banking legislation</u> | 1938–63 | AA1967/482 |
| <u>Agenda, minutes and papers of banking establishments</u> | 1959–65 | AA1967/480 |
| <u>Files of the Secretary to the Treasury</u> | 1916–52 | A11857 |
| <u>Papers of Rt Hon RG Casey as Treasurer</u> | 1930–36 | CP503/1 |
| <u>Papers of Rt Hon RG Casey as Treasurer</u> | 1935–41 | CP4/5 |

Other departments' records relating to banking policy

- [Royal Commission on Monetary and Banking Systems \(CA 1332\)](#)
- [Attorney-General's Department \(CA 5\)](#)
- [Prime Ministers Department \(CA 12\)](#)

Royal Commission on Monetary and Banking Systems, CA 1332

| Title or description of record | Date range | Series number |
|---|------------|---------------------|
| <u>Minute book</u> | 1936–37 | A1920, whole series |
| <u>Personal Papers of Mr WT Harris relating to banking and monetary policy affecting national economy (held in Melbourne)</u> | 1935–45 | MP578/1 |

Attorney-General's Department, CA 5

| Title or description of record | Date range | Series number |
|---|------------|---------------|
| <u>Bill files – contains draft of Acts of the Commonwealth – Banking Act 1959 (Act No. 6 of 1959) and Reserve Bank Act 1959 (Act No. 4 of 1959)</u> | 1901– | A2863 |
| <u>Special correspondence files</u> | 1905–51 | A467 |
| <u>Correspondence files</u> | 1929– | A432 |
| <u>Correspondence files, W (War)</u> | 1939–49 | A472 |

Prime Ministers Department, CA 12

| Title or description of record | Date range | Series number |
|--|------------|---------------|
| <u>Correspondence files</u> | 1904–20 | A2 |
| <u>Correspondence files, Class 5 – Royal Commissions (items A5/56–I5/56: Monetary and Banking Systems)</u> | 1921–50 | A460 |

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|---|---------|------|
| <u>Correspondence files, multiple number series (class 230/- financial)</u> | 1923-34 | A458 |
| <u>Correspondence files, multiple number series (class 344/- financial)</u> | 1934-50 | A461 |

Other sources

Many changes, including deregulation, took place in the banking industry during the 1980s. Some Parliamentary Papers referring to banking policy include the Campbell (1978) and Martin (1981) reports. These reports discuss the banking industry and its deregulation in the light of the changing domestic and international financial environments.