

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

Topic: Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 - Written Questions from Senator Gallagher - Question 5

Question reference number: SQ20-000487

Senator: Katy Gallagher

Type of Question: Written. Hansard Page/s:

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 10 July 2020

Question:

For people receiving Youth Allowance (other), Youth Allowance (Student/Apprentice), JobSeeker Payment, Carer Payment, DSP and the Age Pension indicate the reported number of hours worked and income (where available) for each fortnight since February 2020, and compare the current reported income and hours for this time last year. This can be reported in a similar way to how it is displayed in the DSS Demographic Data dataset.

Answer:

Data on employment income and hours worked is only available at monthly intervals. The data is provided at Table 1 in Attachment A. Earnings relate to the employment earnings reported in the last fortnight of the month. Data for June 2019 has been provided for comparison.

Table 1. Selected Payments by Fortnightly Earnings and Hours Worked - Monthly Time Series 28/02/2020 - 26/06/2020, with 28/06/2019 provided for comparison purposes.

		Earnings from employment in last fortnight					Hours worked last fortnight				Total
		No Earnings	>\$0-<\$100	\$100-<\$143	\$143-<\$250	250+	No Hours	>0-14 Hours	15-29 Hours	30+ Hours	
Age Pension	28/06/2019	2,425,138	7,844	5,822	14,354	77,222	2,473,070	18,310	15,530	23,470	2,530,380
	28/02/2020	2,417,267	7,448	5,635	14,027	74,085	2,461,619	18,816	15,515	22,512	2,518,462
	27/03/2020	2,423,884	7,534	5,676	13,842	72,289	2,468,093	18,593	15,021	21,518	2,523,225
	24/04/2020	2,444,819	7,901	5,373	12,718	59,970	2,485,511	16,476	11,415	17,379	2,530,781
	29/05/2020	2,453,761	7,456	5,147	12,011	68,676	2,498,316	16,411	12,512	19,812	2,547,051
	26/06/2020	2,456,727	7,368	5,108	12,063	72,559	2,501,547	17,063	13,636	21,579	2,553,825
Carer Payment	28/06/2019	255,951	1,037	897	2,743	21,474	261,203	5,735	6,704	8,460	282,102
	28/02/2020	260,932	1,005	858	2,678	21,300	266,228	5,703	6,530	8,312	286,773
	27/03/2020	265,198	1,014	945	2,637	20,332	272,135	5,256	5,670	7,065	290,126
	24/04/2020	271,738	1,075	807	2,337	16,809	277,994	4,592	4,465	5,715	292,766
	29/05/2020	270,799	980	690	2,147	19,575	276,816	4,882	5,194	7,299	294,191
	26/06/2020	269,838	925	722	2,177	20,612	275,774	5,067	5,665	7,768	294,274
Disability Support Pension	28/06/2019	687,345	8,742	4,876	10,373	34,337	690,106	13,871	15,848	25,848	745,673
	28/02/2020	694,668	7,363	4,524	10,429	35,063	697,410	13,466	14,639	26,532	752,047
	27/03/2020	696,206	7,516	4,534	10,303	33,632	699,090	13,485	14,038	25,578	752,191
	24/04/2020	704,021	8,252	4,049	9,024	27,990	706,792	12,636	11,663	22,245	753,336
	29/05/2020	703,666	6,623	3,196	7,147	33,569	708,082	11,995	12,374	21,750	754,201
	26/06/2020	701,969	6,750	3,219	7,070	35,173	705,961	12,603	13,008	22,609	754,181
JobSeeker Payment	27/03/2020	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	792,814
	24/04/2020	1,074,632	8,111	6,740	15,329	116,607	1,075,838	46,268	40,793	58,520	1,221,419
	29/05/2020	1,263,185	8,892	7,542	18,492	165,752	1,275,306	58,630	55,298	74,629	1,463,863
	26/06/2020	1,223,295	8,487	8,047	20,382	181,076	1,228,505	62,292	63,042	87,448	1,441,287
Newstart Allowance	28/06/2019	555,397	4,518	4,859	11,658	110,353	555,869	28,984	31,754	70,178	686,785
	28/02/2020	592,438	4,642	5,214	11,791	110,543	592,809	30,499	31,604	69,716	724,628
Youth Allowance (apprentice)	28/06/2019	446	28	13	33	1,769	452	54	101	1,682	2,289
	28/02/2020	426	23	16	37	1,558	430	50	99	1,481	2,060
	27/03/2020	689	14	15	31	1,314	692	48	93	1,230	2,063
	24/04/2020	841	27	28	43	1,597	847	81	126	1,482	2,536
	29/05/2020	886	29	12	37	1,962	979	84	121	1,742	2,926
	26/06/2020	921	29	18	35	1,997	973	75	109	1,843	3,000
Youth Allowance (other)	28/06/2019	68,201	879	818	2,007	10,865	68,232	4,438	4,578	5,522	82,770
	28/02/2020	71,436	1,006	827	1,930	10,537	71,449	4,605	4,411	5,271	85,736
	27/03/2020	79,521	964	819	1,854	10,241	79,538	4,441	4,214	5,206	93,399
	24/04/2020	107,740	1,083	853	1,870	10,071	107,784	4,976	4,125	4,732	121,617
	29/05/2020	143,466	1,558	1,180	2,920	22,299	145,591	8,205	7,603	10,024	171,423
	26/06/2020	138,886	1,678	1,378	3,450	27,733	140,203	9,270	9,686	13,966	173,125
Youth Allowance (student)	28/06/2019	111,679	2,575	2,615	7,691	54,068	112,269	21,100	25,736	19,523	178,628
	28/02/2020	96,633	2,154	1,947	5,388	48,963	97,062	15,153	20,187	22,683	155,085
	27/03/2020	112,412	2,067	2,105	6,108	44,242	112,975	17,390	20,836	15,733	166,934
	24/04/2020	136,711	2,348	2,092	5,308	35,306	137,294	16,268	15,200	13,003	181,765
	29/05/2020	147,998	2,147	1,893	5,269	53,314	154,144	18,535	20,173	17,769	210,621
	26/06/2020	152,586	2,525	2,197	6,169	59,006	157,067	20,813	23,740	20,863	222,483

Data Descriptions

Includes the following recipients:

Recipients of JobSeeker Payment who are determined to be current (i.e. entitled to be paid) on the Centrelink payment system, and not in receipt of zero rate of payment.

JobSeeker Payment is the main income support payment for recipients aged between 22 years and pension age (the minimum qualifying age for Age Pension), who have capacity to work now or in the near future. JobSeeker Payment is available to people who are looking for work, who temporarily cannot work or study because of an injury or illness, or bereaved partners in the period immediately following the death of their partner, subject to meeting eligibility requirements. Data includes recipients who are determined to be current (i.e. entitled to be paid) on the Centrelink payment system and are not in receipt of a zero rate of payment. From 20 March 2020, JobSeeker Payment replaces Newstart Allowance, Bereavement Allowance and Sickness Allowance. Bereavement Allowance closed to new entrants on 20 March 2020 and the payment will cease when all existing recipients have completed their bereavement period. Sickness Allowance closed to new entrants on 20 March 2020 and the payment will cease on 20 September 2020. In other published sources, recipient counts of Newstart Allowance and JobSeeker Payment may include recipients of Bereavement Allowance and Sickness Allowance, as these payments have been subsumed into JobSeeker Payment. This combining of payments allows for a better comparison between the recipient numbers. Further information on the introduction of JobSeeker Payment is available here: <https://www.dss.gov.au/benefits-payments/jobseeker-payment>

In this report each individual payment is shown separately and the numbers of Bereavement Allowance and Sickness Allowance recipients are not shown. This is because the number of Bereavement Allowance and Sickness Allowance recipients in some cells need to be confidentialised due to small numbers (less than 5). As such, a combined JobSeeker Payment number (which sums JobSeeker recipients, Bereavement Allowance recipients and Sickness Allowance recipients) has not been provided as this could result in the actual number in the confidentialised cells being derived if combined with other publicly available data.

Recipients of Parenting Payment and Youth Allowance who are determined to be current (i.e. entitled to be paid) on the Centrelink payment system.

Recipients of Age Pension, Carer Payment and Disability Support Pension who are determined to be current (i.e. entitled to be paid) or suspended on the Centrelink payment system.

Earnings refers to employment earnings reported in the last fortnight of the reported period.

Earnings data for JobSeeker Payment at 27 March 2020 is marked 'n/a' as a full fortnight of data is not available, as JobSeeker Payment was implemented on 20 March 2020.

These data may not be an accurate record of the recipients hours worked per fortnight because it is self reported.

Recipient counts for Age Pension and Carer Payment may not match published data due to different data extraction rules.

Source: Services Australia administrative data (Point in time data for each month).