

JobKeeper reporting – Summary of key dates and actions

Date	Event
30 March 2020	JobKeeper Payment announced by the Prime Minister and Treasurer.
9 April 2020	JobKeeper receives Royal Assent.
20 April 2020	<p>JobKeeper enrolments open.</p> <p>Employers were required to self-assess their eligibility and then enrol in the scheme via an online form.</p> <p>One question on the enrolment form asked employers to estimate the number of their employees who would be eligible for the scheme.</p> <p>This estimate was used for analytical purposes and had no future bearing on payments made to businesses. Employers would be asked to identify specific employees and their Tax File Numbers during the second stage of their applications.</p>
21 April 2020	The ATO commenced a daily report for stakeholders including Treasury and the Treasurer's Office which included data from enrolments.
23 April 2020	<p>The daily report began including the total number of estimated eligible employees, as provided by employers.</p> <p>The report flagged that the actual number of employees covered through JobKeeper would be known once applications were able to be finalised after 4 May.</p> <p>At 23 April, the daily report showed 326,442 JobKeeper enrolments and 1.73 million estimated eligible employees.</p>
4 May 2020	<p>JobKeeper applications could be finalised from this date, with employers asked to identify their eligible employees (step two of process) and make a monthly business declaration (step three of process). Payments would begin to flow to businesses after these steps were completed.</p> <p>At 4 May, the daily report showed 728,640 JobKeeper enrolments and 4.73 million estimated eligible employees.</p>
5 May 2020	<p>From this date, the daily report continued to include cumulative JobKeeper enrolments and estimated eligible employee numbers, and now also commenced reporting on newly available JobKeeper applications and payments.</p> <p>At 5 May, the daily report showed 747,946 JobKeeper enrolments and 4.83 million estimated eligible employees, as well as 148,670 JobKeeper applications and 440,000 employee payments made per fortnight.</p>
13 May 2020	The ATO now had enough data from the first week of applications to compare the initial enrolment data with finalised applications to date. This preliminary analysis identified that the number of JobKeeper applicants (final stage) with large numbers of employees was significantly

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	<p>lagging the number of JobKeeper enrolments (initial stage) with large numbers of employees.</p> <p>This analysis was provided to Treasury and other stakeholders that day, and a campaign contacting large employers was established to provide further insight into the data.</p>
15 May 2020	<p>The ATO finalised its engagement with large employers to understand why these businesses were yet to finalise their applications.</p> <p>Indications from large employers was that their intent was to finalise their applications, but the complexity and scale of their operations meant they needed additional time to do so.</p> <p>This indicated there would likely be late surge in applications from large employers towards the end of May. This intelligence was provided to Treasury and other stakeholders that day.</p>
18 May 2020	<p>At 18 May, the daily report showed 888,249 JobKeeper enrolments and 6.30 million estimated eligible employees, as well as 722,455 JobKeeper applications and 2.75 million employee payments made per fortnight.</p>
20 May 2020	<p>With the discrepancy still emerging between employers' estimates and actual payments, the ATO undertook line-by-line analysis on the data.</p> <p>Interim findings showed that during enrolment, businesses with 500+ employees indicated JobKeeper coverage for 3.6M employees to date, while applications for businesses with 500+ employees had claimed for 270,000 employees.</p> <p>This represented a difference of 3.33M employees nominated by businesses between enrolment and application. The difference was greatest for the businesses that enrolled for 500+ employees but actually applied for 1-4 employees. 577 businesses fell in that category</p> <p>We discussed this analysis with Treasury that day</p>
21 May 2020	<p>The ATO conducted further line by line analysis on 159,370 entities that had a JobKeeper enrolment but had not yet moved to complete a JobKeeper application.</p> <p>This showed there were 549 entities that had enrolment estimates of 500 or more employees however, when comparing Single Touch Payroll data against those estimates, only 78 of these entities had correctly estimated their employees at enrolment. This meant there was an additional 471 entities that were likely to have significantly mis-estimated their employee numbers.</p> <p>This intelligence was provided to Treasury and other stakeholders, including the Treasurer's Office that evening.</p> <p>Combined with the prior day's analysis, it was established that the most common error made by applicants was that instead of reporting the number of employees they expected to be eligible, around 1000 employers reported</p>

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	<p>the amount of assistance they expected to receive, or reported other large numbers, typically rounded, for which there was no obvious explanation. For example, more than 500 businesses with '1' eligible employee reported a figure of '1500'. In addition, amongst the other 900,000 enrolments, there were also overestimates, but these appear to more of the nature of "rounding up" or including total employee numbers which were subsequently reduced on nomination and declaration.</p>
22 May 2020	<p>The ATO and Treasury issued a joint media statement on the reporting error. ATO Commissioner Chris Jordan co-signed a letter with Treasury Secretary Dr Steven Kennedy to the Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 chair to advise the committee of the issue.</p>