

Housing Benefit by level of awards

March 2011

Background

Eligibility to claim Housing Benefit (HB) is determined by ability to pay rent, and income and capital (savings and investments) being below a certain level. People can qualify if they are out of work, or in work and earning a wage.

You can't usually get HB if you either:

- have savings of over £16,000, unless you are getting the 'guarantee credit' of Pension Credit;
- live in the home of a close relative;
- are a full-time student (unless you're disabled or have children); or
- are an asylum seeker or are sponsored to be in the UK.

Further information is available at:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/MoneyTaxAndBenefits/BenefitsTaxCreditsAndOtherSupport/On_a_low_income/DG_10018926

Information about forthcoming changes to the housing benefit system is available at:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/NI1/Newsroom/DG_192415

Methodology

Data is collected on a monthly basis and released as the Single Housing Benefit Extract 100% level data (SHBE). This provides the weekly housing benefit amount for each individual household. The annualised amounts are then calculated by multiplying by 52.18.

Results

DWP publish regular statistics on HB caseloads and amounts which can be found at:

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=hbctb>

The analysis shows that the majority (96% in November 2010) of HB claimants are entitled to less than £200 per week (roughly equating to £10,000 per year) and 99% less than £400 per week. There are however cases where the level of HB is higher and these are due to both location and household size.

Housing Benefit caseload breakdown - March 2011

Table 1: Housing Benefit caseload by average weekly award bands.

Average weekly amount of HB	November 2010 Caseload		November 2009 Caseload		November 2008 Caseload	
£0-£50	594,680	12%	597,810	13%	742,540	18%
£50-£100	3,123,090	65%	3,023,810	66%	2,767,830	66%
£100-£200	908,360	19%	799,590	17%	543,950	13%
£200-£300	113,950	2%	92,400	2%	69,720	2%
£300-£400	28,860	1%	36,010	1%	29,040	1%
£400-£500	6,250	0%	5,780	0%	4,300	0%
£500-£600	2,220	0%	1,750	0%	860	0%
£600-£700	700	0%	690	0%	420	0%
£700-£800	870	0%	470	0%	160	0%
£800-£900	100	0%	110	0%	40	0%
£900-£1000	80	0%	70	0%	40	0%
£1000+	130	0%	70	0%	10	0%
Missing HB values	19,050	0%	20,620	0%	13,040	0%
Total	4,798,340	100%	4,579,180	100%	4,171,950	100%

Source: Single Housing Benefit Extract 100% individual level data (SHBE) November 08, November 09 and November 10.

Table 2: Housing Benefit caseload by average yearly award bands.

Average yearly amount of HB	November 2010 Caseload		November 2009 Caseload		November 2008 Caseload	
£0-£5,000	3,602,090	75%	3,515,530	77%	3,428,740	82%
£5,000-£10,000	1,001,800	21%	886,990	19%	613,770	15%
£10,000-£15,000	128,960	3%	106,110	2%	77,680	2%
£15,000-£20,000	34,610	1%	39,810	1%	31,970	1%
£20,000-£25,000	6,460	0%	6,090	0%	4,890	0%
£25,000-£30,000	3,250	0%	2,470	0%	1,100	0%
£30,000-£35,000	820	0%	730	0%	440	0%
£35,000-£40,000	920	0%	470	0%	180	0%
£40,000-£45,000	150	0%	200	0%	70	0%
£45,000-£50,000	70	0%	50	0%	40	0%
£50,000+	160	0%	100	0%	20	0%
Missing HB values	19,050	0%	20,620	0%	13,040	0%
Total	4,798,340	100%	4,579,180	100%	4,171,950	100%

Source: Single Housing Benefit Extract 100% individual level data (SHBE) November 08, November 09 and November 10.

Notes:

1. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month.
2. Components may not sum to total due to independent rounding.
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
4. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical

Housing Benefit caseload breakdown - March 2011

returns. The data is available monthly from November 2008 and November 2010 is the latest available.

Alan Machacek (alan.machacek@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)
Department for Work and Pensions
March 2011