

Freedom of Information request 339/2011

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Information request

How many working age households receive weekly benefits amounting to in excess of:

£25,000

£30,000

£35,000

£40,000

£45,000

£50,000

Excess of £50,000 per annum

DWP response

The information requested is included in the table below.

Number of households including at least one working age adult, in receipt of benefits or Tax Credits, 2008-09

Value of benefits and Tax Credits (per year)	Estimate
Over £25,000	100,000
Over £30,000	-
Over £35,000	-
Over £40,000	-
Over £45,000	-
Over £50,000	-

Source: Family Resources Survey, 2008-09

Entitlement to some benefits is based on the circumstances of an individual, whilst others (including tax credits) are based on the circumstances of a benefit unit, defined as "a single adult or a married or cohabiting couple and any dependent children". Benefit and tax credit entitlement is not calculated on the circumstances of a household. There will be some households that contain more than one benefit unit where only one of them is in receipt of benefit. Therefore it is often more appropriate for the analysis requested to be

presented at benefit unit level rather than household level, and this is included in the table below.

Number of benefit units including at least one working age adult, in receipt of benefits or Tax Credits, 2008-09

Value of benefits and Tax Credits (per year)	Estimate
Over £25,000	100,000
Over £30,000	-
Over £35,000	-
Over £40,000	-
Over £45,000	-
Over £50,000	-

Source: Family Resources Survey, 2008-09

Notes:

1. The FRS is a nationally representative sample of approximately 25,000 UK private households.
2. Data for 2008-09, the latest year available, was collected between April 2008 and March 2009.
3. The figures from the FRS are based on a sample of households which have been adjusted for non-response using multi-purpose grossing factors which align the estimates to Government Office Region populations by age and sex. Estimates are subject to sampling error and remaining non-response error.
4. A household is defined as a single person or group of people living at the same address as their only or main residence, who either share one meal a day together or share the living accommodation (i.e. a living room). A benefit unit is defined as a single adult or a married or cohabiting couple and any dependent children. An adult is defined as those individuals aged 16 or over, unless defined as a dependent child. An individual may be defined as a child if aged 16-19 years old and they are not married nor in a Civil Partnership nor living with a partner; and living with parents; and in full-time non-advanced education or in unwaged government training. A working age adult is defined as an adult below state pension age.
5. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100,000. '-' indicates less than 50,000.
6. The FRS is known to under-record benefit receipt and so the estimates presented should be treated with caution. More information can be found at: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/frs/2008_09/chapter7.pdf
7. More information on the FRS can be found at: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/frs/2008_09/index.php?page=intro

You may also find it useful to view information published on the Department's website which shows Housing Benefit caseload by average yearly award: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/adhoc_analysis/2011/hb_awards_march_2011.pdf . The table of estimated annual yearly awards is provided in the annex.

Annex: extract from ad hoc publication on Housing Benefit caseload and amounts.

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