

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

**Australian Bureau of Statistics**

2020

**Division:** Australian Bureau of Statistics  
**Topic:** **5206.0 – Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product, Jun 2020**  
**Reference:** Written  
**Senator:** Nick McKim

**Question:**

1. Across income deciles (or quintiles), what was the change in household disposable income from March 2020 to June 2020? If possible: across income deciles, what contributed to changes in household income (e.g. compensation of employees, social assistance payments, etc.)?
2. Across income deciles (or quintiles), what was the change in household consumption from March 2020 to June 2020?
3. Across income deciles (or quintiles), what was the change in the household saving to income ratio from March 2020 to June 2020?

**Answer:**

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) does not produce estimates of the distribution (by deciles, quintiles etc) of national accounts aggregates on a quarterly frequency.

The ABS however will soon be releasing a new quarterly publication of select, high-level, preliminary estimates of household income, wealth, housing costs and financial stress by quintile. This data, sourced from the Survey of Income and Housing, will commence with a release of quarterly estimates from the 2019-20 financial year in late October 2020.

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**Division:** Australian Bureau of Statistics  
**Topic:** 4940.0 – Household Impacts of COVID-19 Survey  
**Reference:** Written  
**Senator:** Nick McKim

#### **Question:**

1. Across income deciles (or quintiles), what data has been collected on the receipt and use of government stimulus payments? Please provide any such data.

#### **Answer:**

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has run a series of collections to help understand the impacts of COVID-19 on Australian households.

The Multi Purpose Household Survey was run in May and June 2020 and included questions on the receipt and use of government stimulus payments and household income.

Data is provided for May (Table 1) and June (Table 2) separately below. More details about the survey methodology, definitions etc can be found on the ABS website (<https://www.abs.gov.au/methodologies/household-impacts-covid-19-survey-methodology/detailed-release-june-2020>).

Other surveys included in the Household Impacts of COVID-19 suite collected information about receipt and use of government stimulus payments but did not collect income information.

More extensive information will be collected via the 2020-21 Survey of Income and Housing (SIH). Results from this survey will be progressively released through 2021-22.

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<b>Table 1 Persons aged 18 years and over, Personal receipt and use of Government stimulus payments in response to COVID-19, May 2020 by household income quintile: Proportion</b>							
	<b>Household Income Quintile</b>						<b>Total</b>
	<b>Lowest quintile</b>	<b>Second quintile</b>	<b>Third quintile</b>	<b>Fourth quintile</b>	<b>Highest quintile</b>	<b>Not known/not stated</b>	
	<b>PROPORTION (%)</b>						
<b>Whether received a Government stimulus payment in response to COVID-19</b>							
Received a stimulus payment	53.8	67.5	28.7	12.3	8.9	28.1	31.8
Did not receive a stimulus payment	45.5	31.8	69.8	87.0	90.8	68.6	66.6
Don't know	0.7	0.7	1.5	0.7	0.3	3.3	1.4
<i>Total persons aged 18 years and over</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
<b>Main use of Government stimulus payment</b>							
Added to savings	26.9	26.4	28.1	30.0	27.0	33.7	28.9
Paid mortgage/rent, household bills, other personal debt	39.0	33.4	33.0	32.9	44.6	30.2	38.2
Other uses	34.1	40.2	38.9	37.1	28.4	36.1	33.5
<i>Total persons aged 18 years and over who received a stimulus payment</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>

Source: Household Impacts of COVID-19, May 2020

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<b>Table 2 Persons aged 18 years and over, Personal receipt and use of Government stimulus payments in response to COVID-19, June 2020 by household income quintile: Proportion</b>							
	<b>Household Income Quintile</b>						<b>Total</b>
	<b>Lowest quintile</b>	<b>Second quintile</b>	<b>Third quintile</b>	<b>Fourth quintile</b>	<b>Highest quintile</b>	<b>Not known/not stated</b>	
	<b>PROPORTION (%)</b>						
<b>Whether received a Government stimulus payment in response to COVID-19</b>							
Received a stimulus payment	63.4	62.5	35.4	14.4	13.0	32.8	35.5
Did not receive a stimulus payment	34.8	33.0	64.1	84.9	86.4	64.1	62.7
Don't know	1.8	4.5	0.5	0.7	0.6	3.1	2.0
<i>Total persons aged 18 years and over</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
<b>Main use of Government stimulus payment</b>							
Added to savings	22.2	36.4	22.8	17.6	40.6	24.2	27.3
Paid mortgage/rent, household bills, other personal debt	46.9	30.6	41.7	50.6	41.0	40.6	42.5
Other uses	30.9	33.0	35.5	31.9	18.4	35.2	29.8
<i>Total persons aged 18 years and over who received a stimulus payment</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>

Source: Household Impacts of COVID-19, June 2020