

Grattan's 2026 Budget cheat sheet: How much do Australians earn?

	Income measure	10% make less than...	20% make less than...	The typical Australian makes...	The average is...	80% make less than...	90% make less than...	95% make less than...	99% make less than...	Source
TAXPAYERS	Total income	\$13,000	\$26,000	\$66,000	\$87,000	\$123,000	\$166,000	\$216,000	\$419,000	ATO 2022-23 2% sample of tax returns (inflated to 2026 dollars)
	Taxable income	\$12,000	\$25,000	\$62,000	\$83,000	\$117,000	\$159,000	\$207,000	\$407,000	
WORKERS	Employee earnings (full-time adults)	\$63,000	\$71,000	\$100,000	\$113,000	\$145,000	\$178,000	NA	NA	ABS 2025 <i>Employee Earnings and Hours</i>
	Employee earnings (all workers)	\$20,000	\$38,000	\$75,000	\$84,000	\$122,000	\$154,000	NA	NA	
ADULTS	Total income	\$8,000	\$22,000	\$57,000	\$78,000	\$115,000	\$156,000	\$203,000	NA	
HOUSEHOLDS	Total gross income	\$32,000	\$53,000	\$127,000	\$161,000	\$233,000	\$310,000	\$387,000	NA	Household, Income, and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) 2024
	Total disposable income	\$32,000	\$51,000	\$106,000	\$129,000	\$183,000	\$235,000	\$292,000	NA	
HOUSEHOLDS (ADJUSTED FOR SIZE)	Equivalised gross income	\$32,000	\$44,000	\$81,000	\$98,000	\$133,000	\$171,000	\$209,000	NA	
	Equivalised disposable income	\$31,000	\$40,000	\$67,000	\$78,000	\$103,000	\$128,000	\$153,000	NA	

Notes: Income data from the ATO 2% file have been inflated to 2026 dollars using parameters from the Parliamentary Budget Office SMART model. Data from HILDA are in 2024 dollars and are based upon partly-imputed variables. Amounts are rounded to nearest \$1,000. 'Typical Australian' refers to the median. 'Adults' are people aged 15+. 'Full-time adult workers' refers to full-time workers paid at an adult rate of pay. 'Gross income' is income from all sources including transfer payments, before income tax is deducted. 'Disposable income' is gross income less income tax. 'Households adjusted for size' (equivalised income) is household income divided by an equivalising factor, calculated using the number of adults (aged 15+) and children in the household: $1 + ((\text{adults} - 1) \times 0.5) + (\text{children} \times 0.3)$, with values weighted by number of people multiplied by household weights. All ABS figures are weekly and have been annualised. For further information, you can reach Matthew Bowes (matthew.bowes@grattaninstitute.edu.au) or Thomas Shortridge (thomas.shortridge@grattaninstitute.edu.au) or contact Grattan Institute by phone on 03 9035 9881.

Grattan's 2026 Budget cheat sheet: How do taxable incomes vary between the states?

Tax bracket (tax rate)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	Aus
Less than \$18,200 (0%)	14.3%	14.2%	13.8%	13.2%	13.9%	13.9%	9.3%	10.4%	13.9%
\$18,200 to \$45,000 (15%)	22.1%	22.3%	22.2%	21.1%	23.4%	23.7%	18.9%	16.7%	22.1%
\$45,000 to \$135,000 (30%)	47.8%	49.3%	50.7%	47.4%	52.3%	53.9%	56.4%	52%	49.3%
\$135,000 to \$190,000 (37%)	8.6%	8.1%	8.0%	10.5%	6.3%	5.7%	10.8%	11.8%	8.4%
More than \$190,000 (45%)	7.2%	6.2%	5.4%	7.9%	4.1%	2.8%	4.6%	9.1%	6.4%

Grattan's 2026 Budget cheat sheet: Who benefits from CGT and negative gearing concessions?

Income group	Proportion who reported a capital gain	Typical capital gain amount	Proportion who reported a net rental loss	Typical net rental loss
Bottom 50%	5.0%	\$1,400	3.9%	\$4,800
Next 40%	7.0%	\$1,300	8.3%	\$5,200
Top 10%	16.7%	\$7,700	16.5%	\$7,200
Top 1%	28.2%	\$54,200	20.9%	\$12,900
All taxpayers	7.0%	\$1,900	6.9%	\$5,500

Notes: Negative gearing refers to the process of deducting a net rental loss against other income. Income (including capital gain and net rental loss amounts) data are presented in 2023 dollars. Income groups based upon total income. 'Typical amount' and 'typical loss' refer to the median (among those who registered a gain or loss). Only 71% of individuals who reported a net capital gain in 2022-23 benefited from the capital gains tax discount (see Treasury 2025-26 *Tax Expenditures and Insights Statement*, p. 19). For further information, you can reach Matthew Bowes (matthew.bowes@grattaninstitute.edu.au) or Thomas Shortridge (thomas.shortridge@grattaninstitute.edu.au) or contact Grattan Institute by phone on 03 9035 9881.

Source: Grattan Institute analysis of the ATO 2022-23 2% sample file.

Grattan's 2026 Budget cheat sheet: How much do Australians own?

Wealth type	Measure	Age group	25% have less than...	The typical level is...	The average level is...	75% have less than...	95% have less than...
TOTAL NET WEALTH	Total households	Young (25 to 40)	\$81,000	\$330,000	\$655,000	\$814,000	\$2,454,000
		Middle-aged (41 to 64)	\$351,000	\$959,000	\$1,526,000	\$1,970,000	\$4,898,000
		Retired (65+)	\$470,000	\$1,067,000	\$1,604,000	\$1,981,000	\$4,820,000
	Equivalentised households	Young (25 to 40)	\$63,000	\$233,000	\$397,000	\$497,000	\$1,354,000
		Middle-aged (41 to 64)	\$221,000	\$531,000	\$827,000	\$1,056,000	\$2,687,000
		Retired (65+)	\$360,000	\$740,000	\$1,123,000	\$1,432,000	\$3,360,000
SUPER	Total households	Young (25 to 40)	\$30,000	\$80,000	\$140,000	\$170,000	\$397,000
		Middle-aged (41 to 64)	\$95,000	\$240,000	\$392,000	\$490,000	\$1,253,000
		Retired (65+)	\$0	\$90,000	\$364,000	\$435,000	\$1,510,000
	Individuals	Young (25 to 40)	\$12,000	\$39,000	\$63,000	\$80,000	\$200,000
		Middle-aged (41 to 64)	\$30,000	\$140,000	\$237,000	\$300,000	\$800,000
		Retired (65+)	\$0	\$0	\$212,000	\$250,000	\$1,000,000
HOME EQUITY	Total households	Young (25 to 40)	\$0	\$0	\$242,000	\$344,000	\$1,000,000
		Middle-aged (41 to 64)	\$0	\$410,000	\$603,000	\$855,000	\$2,000,000
		Retired (65+)	\$275,000	\$620,000	\$751,000	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000
	Equivalentised households	Young (25 to 40)	\$0	\$64,000	\$149,000	\$225,000	\$583,000
		Middle-aged (41 to 64)	\$0	\$227,000	\$326,000	\$472,000	\$1,067,000
		Retired (65+)	\$183,000	\$419,000	\$518,000	\$667,000	\$1,467,000

Notes: Values rounded to the nearest \$1,000 and are in 2022 dollars. All calculations done for households aside from those for superannuation. 'Age group' refers to the age of the household reference person, except for superannuation figures. 'Typical Australian household' refers to the median. 'Equivalentised' is household values divided by an equalising factor, calculated using the number of adults (aged 15+) and children in the household: $1 + ((adults - 1) \times 0.5) + (children \times 0.3)$, with values weighted by number of people multiplied by household weights. Primary home wealth is the estimated sale price of the primary dwelling minus outstanding debt against the dwelling. For further information, you can reach Matthew Bowes (matthew.bowes@grattaninstitute.edu.au) or Thomas Shortridge (thomas.shortridge@grattaninstitute.edu.au) or contact Grattan Institute by phone on 03 9035 9881.

Source: Household, Income, and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey wave 22.