



Poverty and the distribution of income in Australia



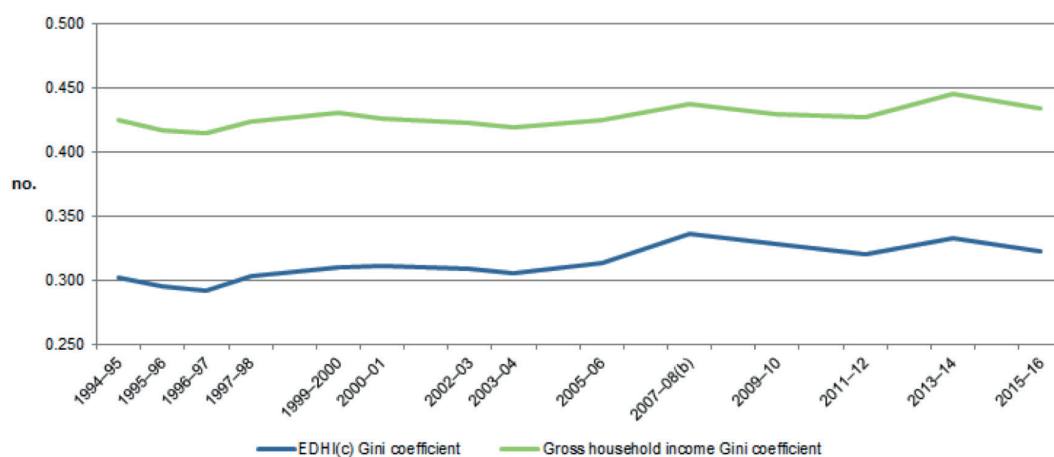
Use this resource to complete the questions on the *Poverty and the distribution of income in Australia – Data analysis worksheet*.

Table 1: Income share of Australian households 2015–16

Income share	%
Lowest quintile	7.7%
Second quintile	12.5%
Third quintile	17.0%
Fourth quintile	23.0%
Highest quintile	39.8%
All households	100.0%

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 6523.0 – Household Income and Wealth, Australia, 2015–16

Figure 1: Income Gini coefficient 1994–95 to 2015–16¹



Source: ABS: 6523.0 - Household Income and Wealth, Australia, 2015–16

**Table 2:** Poverty Lines: Australia, March Quarter, 2018²

Income unit (Head in workforce)	Including housing (\$ per week)	Other than housing (\$ per week)
Couple	\$693.78	\$507.43
Couple plus 1	\$833.96	\$630.75
Couple plus 2	\$974.14	\$754.08
Couple plus 3	\$1,114.32	\$877.41
Couple plus 4	\$1,254.50	\$999.37
Single person	\$518.63	\$349.03
Single person plus 1	\$665.82	\$479.37
Single person plus 2	\$805.90	\$602.7
Single person plus 3	\$946.08	\$726.03
Single person plus 4	\$1,086.26	\$849.35

¹ The top line in figure 2 shows the Gini coefficient for gross household income (income before tax) and the bottom line shows the net household income (income after tax).

² All figures refer to income after tax.

Source: Melbourne Institute: Applied Economic & Social Research, *Poverty Lines: Australia*, March Quarter 2018

**Table 3:** Number of households by income range 2015–16

Equivalised disposable income per week	Number of households	Proportion of total number of households
Negative income	\$19,600	0.22%
No income	\$13,200	0.15%
\$1–99	\$92,400	1.03%
\$100–199	\$48,300	0.54%
\$200–299	\$87,800	0.98%
\$300–399	\$159,200	1.78%
\$400–499	\$598,900	6.68%
\$500–599	\$359,400	4.01%
\$600–699	\$401,600	4.48%
\$700–799	\$398,700	4.45%
\$800–899	\$341,400	3.81%
Total	\$2,520,500	28.1%

Source: ABS: 6523.0 - *Household Income and Wealth, Australia, 2015–16*



Table 4: Comparison of Henderson Poverty Lines with the income of adults who receive maximum welfare payments and have no other income, March Quarter 2018

	Basic payment of person 1	Basic payment of person 2 (Partner)	Family Tax Benefit Part A	Family Tax Benefit Part B	Rent Assistance	Total Income	Poverty Line
Married couple							
Allowee	\$251.70	\$251.70	0.00	0.00	\$63.50	\$566.90	\$693.78
Pensioner	\$342.05	\$342.05	0.00	0.00	\$63.50	\$747.60	\$595.69
Couple plus 1	\$251.70	\$251.70	\$93.17	\$26.24	\$79.17	\$701.98	\$833.96
Couple plus 2	\$251.70	\$251.70	\$186.34	\$26.24	\$79.17	\$795.15	\$974.14
Couple plus 3	\$251.70	\$251.70	\$279.51	\$50.12	\$89.39	\$922.42	\$1,114.32
Couple plus 4	\$251.70	\$251.70	\$400.68	\$50.12	\$89.39	\$1,043.59	\$1,254.50
Single person							
Allowee	\$277.30	-	0.00	0.00	\$67.40	\$344.70	\$518.63
Pensioner	\$453.80	-	0.00	0.00	\$67.40	\$521.20	\$420.54
Single person plus 1	\$382.30	-	\$93.17	\$55.30	\$79.17	\$609.94	\$567.63
Single person plus 2	\$382.30	-	\$186.34	\$55.30	\$79.17	\$703.11	\$707.81
Single person plus 3	\$382.30	-	\$279.51	\$79.17	\$89.39	\$830.37	\$847.89
Single person plus 4	\$382.30	-	\$400.68	\$79.17	\$89.39	\$951.54	\$988.17

Source: Melbourne Institute: Applied Economic & Social Research, Poverty Lines: Australia, March Quarter 2018

**Table 5:** Poverty lines by family type, 2015–16 (\$ per week after tax, including social security payments)

	50% of median income before housing costs	60% of median income before housing costs	50% of median income after housing costs	60% of median income after housing costs
Lone person	\$432.73	\$519.28	\$353.29	\$423.94
Couple only	\$649.10	\$778.92	\$529.93	\$635.91
Sole parent, 2 children	\$692.37	\$830.85	\$565.26	\$678.31
Couple, 2 children	\$908.74	\$1,090.48	\$741.90	\$890.28

Source: Davidson, P., Saunders, P., Bradbury, B. and Wong, M. (2018), *Poverty in Australia, 2018*. ACOSS/UNSW Poverty and Inequality Partnership Report No. 2, Sydney: ACOSS.

Table 6: Number and percentage of people below the 50% and 60% of median income poverty lines in 2015–16

	50% of median poverty line	60% of median poverty line
Percentage of people below the poverty line	13.2%	21.1%
Percentage of children below the poverty line	17.3%	25.5%
Number of people below the poverty line	3,051,500	4,885,200
Number of children below the poverty line	739,300	1,087,500
Average poverty gap for those below the poverty line (\$/week)	\$135.00	\$206.00
Average poverty gap for those below the poverty line (% of poverty line)	38%	49%

Source: Davidson, P., Saunders, P., Bradbury, B. and Wong, M. (2018), *Poverty in Australia, 2018*. ACOSS/UNSW Poverty and Inequality Partnership Report No. 2, Sydney: ACOSS.

**Table 7:** Rates of poverty - percentages of people from different groups living below poverty lines in 2015–16 (%)

All people	50% of median	60% of median
All	13.2%	21.1%
By Age	50% of median	60% of median
Under 15 years	17.3%	25.5%
15-24 years	13.9%	20.2%
25-64 years	12.1%	17.6%
65 years and over	11.6%	28.3%
65 years and over, renting	43.4%	57.9%
Children	50% of median	60% of median
Children in sole parent households	39.4%	52.3%
Children in couple households	13.1%	20.1%
Children in other households	10.0%	21.0%
All children	17.3%	25.5%
By family type	50% of median	60% of median
Single, no children (15-64 years)	26.2%	34.9%
Couple, no children (15-64 years)	18.0%	46.5%
Sole Parent	32.0%	43.2%
Single, no children (64 years and over)	9.6%	13.2%
Couple, no children (64 years and over)	11.1%	26.1%
Couple, children	11.9%	18.3%
Other	7.1%	11.6%
By main income source	50% of median	60% of median
Wage and salary	6.9%	11.5%
Social security payment	34.5%	56.4%
Other income	14.9%	17.5%



By social security payment type	50% of median	60% of median
Newstart allowance	54.6%	66.5%
Youth allowance	63.7%	70.4%
Parenting payment	52.3%	67.6%
Disability support pension	36.4%	56%
Carer payment	17.1%	42.1%
Age pension	12.2%	31.5%
All recipients	25.6%	44.1%

Source: Davidson, P., Saunders, P., Bradbury, B. and Wong, M. (2018), *Poverty in Australia, 2018*. ACOSS/UNSW Poverty and Inequality Partnership Report No. 2, Sydney: ACOSS.