

The number of hardship awards in 2011/12

September 2012

DWP Department for
Work and Pensions

Background

A Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) hardship award is an award of Income Based JSA (JSA(IB)) made at a reduced rate to give a minimum level of financial support.

A JSA hardship award can only be made if one of the following prescribed circumstances applies:

- the claimant has received an adverse decision on labour market entitlement conditions, but all other conditions of entitlement to JSA(IB) are satisfied;
- a sanction has been imposed on the claimant, but all other conditions of entitlement to JSA(IB) are satisfied;
- the claimant is waiting for a decision about whether they satisfy certain labour market entitlement conditions at the start of their claim to JSA; or
- the claimant's JSA is suspended, but all other conditions of entitlement to JSA(IB) are satisfied.

Hardship is paid at 60% of the claimant's normal award of Jobseeker's Allowance or 80% for claimants who are vulnerable.

Results

The number of hardship awards made between April 2011 and March 2012 was about 64 thousand.

This number has been collated from aggregate DWP MISP Management Information. This data is a combination of system and clerically sourced Management Information so it cannot be deemed as validated and is subject to potential revision.

Department for Work and Pensions