



The spending power of disabled people and their families in 2014/15, and changes since 2012/13

Data from the Family Resources Survey 2012/13 and 2014/15

Ad-hoc

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In 2014/15 disabled people and their families in the UK had an aggregate annual household income of £249 billion, up from £212 billion in 2012/13. The increase is partly due to more disabled people being recorded in the Family Resources Survey, and partly due to a real increase in the average income of disabled households.

In 2014/15, after paying for their housing, disabled people and their families had an average annual household income of £23,900. In real terms this is 7% higher than their incomes were in 2012/13.

Families and / or households (HHs) in the UK with 1 or more disabled members

INCOMES	2012/13	2012/13 (14/15 prices)	2014/15	Nominal increase	Real increase
Total aggregate annual household income (£s billion) - all HHs	£212bn	£219bn	£249bn	18%	14%
Average annual income (£s) - per HH	£21,700	£22,300	£23,900	10%	7%
FAMILIES					
	2012/13	-	2014/15	-	Increase
Disabled HHs (proxy for families) - millions	9.8m	-	10.4m	-	7%

Changes shown are all computed from unrounded numbers. These may differ slightly from estimates of change derived from the rounded numbers shown in table

About these statistics

Data for the 2014/15 calculation are sourced from the Family Resources Survey (FRS) and Households Below Average Income (HBAI) datasets. Total aggregate annual household income for disabled people and their families, after their housing costs had been paid, increased from £212 billion in 2012/13 to £249 billion in 2014/15 in nominal terms. After accounting for inflation, this shows a 14% growth in real terms. Growth is driven by two aspects. Firstly, 2014/15 data shows the number of households with one or more disabled members has increased by 7% (increasing from 9.8 million in 2012/13 to 10.4 million in 2014/15). Secondly, on average, annual household incomes of disabled people and their families increased by a total of 7% over this period in real terms.

The income measure used is annual net (disposable) household income and is not adjusted to reflect household size and composition (i.e. it is 'unequalised'). However, there were comparable rises in household income on the usual published HBAI equivalised income basis with a 7% real increase among households with 1 or more disabled members also seen between 2012/13 and 2014/15. The measure comprises total income from all sources of all household members including dependents. A household is defined as 1 person living alone or a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address who share cooking facilities and share a living room or sitting room or dining area. In this publication the term 'family' is used interchangeably with 'household' although there may be more than one family per household.

For 2014/15, we repeated the method used to derive the earlier 2012/13 estimate. It should be noted that disability status is self-reported to the survey and may not correlate with receipt of disability benefits. In addition, while the disability question is unchanged since 2012/13, observed estimates may also be influenced by sampling variation inherent in sample surveys such as the FRS.

To compute this figure, the annual net (disposable) income has been summed across all households containing an adult or child who is disabled, as classified under the FRS' harmonised definition of disability. In the FRS and other national surveys, a person is defined as being disabled if they have a long-standing illness, disability or impairment which causes substantial difficulty with day-to-day activities a little or a lot.

The previous estimate of £212 billion was released in 2014 but to allow a real comparison with the new 2014/15 estimate, we have adjusted the 2012/13 estimate to reflect inflation between 2012/13 and 2014/15, using standard HBAI inflation factors on an AHC basis. The 2012/13 estimate was £219 billion in 2014/15 prices.

The 2014/15 FRS suggests there are 12.9 million disabled people in the UK in 2014/15, living within the 10.4 million families.

More information on household income in the UK can be found online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/family-resources-survey-financial-year-201415>

and <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/households-below-average-income-199495-to-201415>

Lead analyst:

valerie.christian1@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

DWP Press Office: 0203 267 5129

Comments? Feedback is welcome

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