

Person—source of cash income (principal), code N

Exported from METEOR (AIHW's Metadata Online Registry)

© Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2024

This product, excluding the AIHW logo, Commonwealth Coat of Arms and any material owned by a third party or protected by a trademark, has been released under a Creative Commons BY 4.0 (CC BY 4.0) licence. Excluded material owned by third parties may include, for example, design and layout, images obtained under licence from third parties and signatures. We have made all reasonable efforts to identify and label material owned by third parties.

You may distribute, remix and build on this website's material but must attribute the AIHW as the copyright holder, in line with our attribution policy. The full terms and conditions of this licence are available at <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.

Enquiries relating to copyright should be addressed to info@aihw.gov.au.

Enquiries or comments on the METEOR metadata or download should be directed to the METEOR team at meteor@aihw.gov.au.

Person—source of cash income (principal), code N

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Source of principal income
Synonymous names:	Main income source
METEOR identifier:	367880
Registration status:	Community Services (retired) , Recorded 01/07/2009
Definition:	The source from which a person derives the greatest proportion of his/her income, as represented by a code.
Context:	An indicator of the needs and circumstances of individuals and sometimes used in assessment of income equity.

Data element concept attributes

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element concept:	Person—source of cash income (principal)
METEOR identifier:	321061
Registration status:	Community Services (retired) , Standard 29/04/2006 Disability , Superseded 28/09/2016 Housing assistance , Standard 10/02/2006
Definition:	The source from which a person derives the greatest proportion of his/her income.
Object class:	Person
Property:	Source of cash of income

Value domain attributes

Identifying and definitional attributes

Value domain:	Source of cash income code N
METEOR identifier:	368023
Registration status:	Community Services (retired) , Recorded 01/07/2009
Definition:	A code set representing a person's source of cash income.

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Code	
Data type:	Number	
Format:	N	
Maximum character length:	4	
	Value	Meaning
Permissible values:	1	Employee cash income
	3	Government cash pensions and allowances
	4	Other income
Supplementary values:	8	Nil income

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:

A person with more than one source of income should be categorised only to the value domain category, which best describes their primary source of income.

The value domain categories shown above can be linked to broad sources of cash income specified in the Statistical Concepts Library of the Australian Bureau of Statistics. 'Sources of cash income' and 'Principal source of cash income' are classified to the Standard classification of sources of cash income. This is a three level hierarchical classification and is described in detail at the broad (one-digit), narrow (two-digit) and detailed (four-digit) levels.

Code 1 Primary cash income:

Payments from an employer or own limited liability company, including wages or salary, tips, piece rates, penalty rates, loadings, regular bonuses, payment for time not worked (sick leave, recreation leave, public holidays etc.) and director's fees. An employee is classed as receiving cash from an employer or his/her own incorporated enterprise.

Code 3 Government cash pensions and allowances

All government cash pensions, benefits and allowances.

Code 4 Other income:

Includes cash income deriving from the ownership of assets (comprising returns from financial assets, physical assets and from intellectual assets), superannuation/annuities, transfers from private organisations (e.g. workers compensation), transfers from other households (e.g. child support payments) and scholarships. This code also includes [unincorporated business cash income](#).

Collection methods:

Please note that the ABS classification on which this is based has a separate code for [unincorporated business cash income](#).

Source and reference attributes

Reference documents:

Statistical concepts library, Standards for Social, Labour and Demographic Variables, Cash Income Variables, Framework for Standard Cash Income Variables, Classification and Coding, Canberra: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Reference online through:

[Ausstats Standards for Social, Labour and Demographic Variables, Cash Income Variables](#)

Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:

If the person has multiple sources of income and none equal to or greater than 50%, the one, which contributes the largest percentage, should be counted.

If there is more than one source and they are exactly equal, list the source of income which the person most identifies as receiving from the primary occupation.

Included is cash income that may be received from employment (Employee cash income), as a profit or loss from an unincorporated enterprise (Unincorporated business cash income), from the ownership of assets (Property cash income). Income may also be derived from current transfers from government (pensions and benefits) or from private sources, such as superannuation funds. An individual may receive cash income from more than one source.

Excluded from this concept is income in kind e.g. barter for goods or services.

Please note when using this item in comparison with the ABS income cash variables standards, [unincorporated business cash income](#) is coded to Code 4 'other income'.

Collection methods:

This question is not asked of person's aged less than 15 years because they are generally dependants.

While this standard specifies the collection of data at the 1-digit level, individual community services data collections may use more detailed categories for one or more of the above for program or service-specific purposes. For example, the Commonwealth State Disability Agreement National Minimum Data Set separately identifies disability support pension recipients and other pension/benefit recipients.

It is permissible for agencies to collect at 2- or 4-digit as well, if this suits their purposes.

The 2- and 4-digit levels are described below:

Narrow 2 digit representation

- 11 Employee cash income
- 21 Unincorporated business cash income
- 31 Allowances for students and the unemployed
- 32 Centrelink pensions for the aged and persons with a disability
- 39 Other Government cash pensions and allowances
- 41 Property cash income
- 42 Superannuation/annuities
- 43 Transfers from private organisations
- 44 Transfers from other households
- 43 Scholarships
- 49 Other cash income
- 88 Nil income
- 99 Not stated/not known/inadequately described

Detailed (four-digit) representation

- 1101 Employee cash income
- 2101 [Unincorporated business](#) cash income
- 3101 Newstart allowance
- 3102 Youth allowance
- 3103 Mature age allowance
- 3104 Sickness allowance
- 3105 Austudy payment
- 3106 ABSTUDY payment
- 3201 Age pension
- 3202 Disability support pension
- 3901 Family Tax Benefit (Parts A and B)
- 3902 Parenting Payment
- 3903 Double Orphan Pension
- 3904 Carer Allowance
- 3905 Wife Pension
- 3906 Bereavement Allowance
- 3907 Widow Allowance (Widow B Pension)
- 3908 Carer Payment
- 3911 Service pension (DVA)

3912 Disability pension (DVA)
3913 Partner Allowance
3914 War Widow's Pension (DVA)
3915 Special Benefit
3916 Mobility Allowance
3917 CDEP Participant Supplement
3918 Pensions and allowances from overseas governments
3999 Other Government cash pensions and allowances, nec
4101 Interest
4102 Dividends
4103 Rent
4104 Royalties
4199 Other property cash income, nec
4201 Superannuation/annuities
4301 Workers compensation/sickness/accident insurance
4399 Other transfers from private organisations, nec
4401 Child support
4402 Gifts from relatives
4499 Other cash transfers from other households, nec
4501 Scholarships
4999 Other cash income, nec
8888 Nil income
9999 Not stated/not known/inadequately described

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare for the National Community Services Data Committee.

Reference documents: Statistical

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: Supersedes [Person—source of cash income \(principal\), code N Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 29/04/2006
See also [Person—source of cash income \(all\) code NN Community Services \(retired\)](#), Recorded 01/07/2009