

# JobKeeper 2.0

JobKeeper from 28 September 2020



# Inside

- JobKeeper from 28 September 2020.....4**
- 1. Eligible businesses .....5**
  - Eligible employers.....5**
  - Business owners .....6**
    - What about the directors who work in the business? .....6
  - The decline in turnover test.....7**
    - Calculating GST turnover..... 7
    - What if you don't have a comparison period or there was a one-off event?.....8
      - Irregular turnover ..... 8
      - Example irregular turnover ..... 8
      - New business starting before 1 March 2020..... 9
      - Example new business..... 9
      - Disposals, acquisitions and restructures ..... 10
      - Example restructure ..... 11
      - Substantial increase in turnover..... 11
      - Example substantial increase ..... 12
      - Drought and natural disaster ..... 12
      - Example drought ..... 13
      - Sole trader or small partnership with sickness, injury or leave..... 13
      - Example sole trader..... 14
    - Groups ..... 14
    - Special test for service entities..... 14
    - Not-for-profits ..... 14
  - Wage condition .....14**
- 2. Eligible employees .....16**
- 3. JobKeeper payments.....17**
  - What's a reference period? .....17**
    - Eligible employees.....17
      - Example – fortnightly pay cycle..... 18
      - Example – monthly pay cycle ..... 19
      - What happens if the reference period does not represent the employee's typical arrangements?20
      - Example – alternative payroll period ..... 21
      - What happens if employee salary is not linked to hours? ..... 22
    - Business owners and sole traders ..... 22
    - Religious practitioners..... 23
- JobKeeper fortnights .....24**

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V4 of JobKeeper 2.0 from 28 September 2020 28 September 2020

# JobKeeper from 28 September 2020

**The first tranche of JobKeeper ended on 27 September 2020.** Those needing further support will need to reassess their eligibility and prove an actual decline in turnover.

To receive JobKeeper from 28 September 2020, eligible employers need to assess their decline in turnover with reference to actual GST turnover for the September 2020 quarter (for JobKeeper payments between 28 September to 3 January 2021), and again for the December 2020 quarter (for payments between 4 January 2021 to 28 March 2021).

From 28 September 2020, the JobKeeper payment rate will reduce and split into a higher and lower rate based on the number of hours the employee worked in a specific 28 day period prior to 1 March 2020 or 1 July 2020.

To access JobKeeper payments from 28 September 2020, there are three questions that need to be assessed:

- 1. Is my business eligible?**
- 2. Am I and/or my employees eligible? and**
- 3. What JobKeeper rate applies?**

We've summarised the key details in this update.

Let us know if we can assist you in any way.

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From 28 September 2020, the eligibility tests to access JobKeeper for employers changed, along with the amount of the JobKeeper payment for employees and business participants. To receive JobKeeper from 4 January 2021, employers will need to assess their eligibility again.

Eligibility for one JobKeeper period does not entitle you to, or exclude you from, payments in another period. Each eligibility period is addressed separately. That is, there might be businesses that qualified for the first tranche of JobKeeper, don't qualify for the second tranche but qualify for the third.

# 1. Eligible businesses

## Eligible employers

An eligible employer is an employer that:

- On 1 March 2020, carried on a business in Australia or was a non-profit body pursuing its objectives principally in Australia; and
- before the end of the JobKeeper fortnight, it met the original decline **in turnover test\***:

| 15% or more  | 50% or more  | 30% or more                   |
|--|--|-------------------------------|
| ACNC-registered charity (excluding universities, or schools within the meaning of the GST Act – these entities need to meet the basic turnover test) | <p>Large businesses where aggregated turnover for the test period is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• likely to be \$1 billion or more; or</li> <li>• aggregated turnover for the previous year to the test period was \$1 billion or more</li> </ul> <p>A small business that forms part of a group that is a large business must have a <math>\geq 50\%</math> decline in turnover to satisfy the test.</p> | All other qualifying entities |

- And, was not:
  - on 1 March 2020, subject to Major Bank Levy for any quarter ending before this date, a member of a consolidated group and another member of the group had been subject to the levy; or
  - a government body of a particular kind, or a wholly-owned entity of such a body; or
  - at any time in the fortnight, a provisional liquidator or liquidator has been appointed to the business or a trustee in bankruptcy had been appointed to the individual's property.

1 March 2020 is an absolute date. An employer that had ceased trading before 1 March, commenced after 1 March 2020, or was not pursuing its objectives in Australia at that date, is not eligible.

*\*Additional tests apply from 28 September 2020.*

## Business owners

Business owners:

- sole traders with an ABN, and
- **one** partner in a partnership, adult beneficiary of a trust, director or shareholder who works in the business (i.e., only one person in a partnership, one beneficiary of a trust, or one director / shareholder are eligible for JobKeeper payments).

will be eligible for the JobKeeper payment if the following conditions are met:

- The entity carried on a business on 1 March 2020 and is **not** a not-for-profit entity; and
- Had an ABN on 12 March 2020; and
- Had some business income in the 2018-19 income year included in a tax return that was lodged by 12 March 2020; or made some supplies connected with Australia in a tax period that started on or after 1 July 2018 and ended before 12 March 2020 and notified the ATO of this (e.g. on an activity statement lodged with the ATO) by 12 March 2020. *The Commissioner can potentially extend the deadline for holding an ABN, lodging the 2019 tax return or lodging a relevant activity statement.*
- Passed the decline in turnover test; and
- The individual **was not**:
  - employed by the business at any time in the relevant fortnight; or
  - a permanent employee of another entity at the time the individual gives the nomination notice (i.e., they do not hold a full time or part time role with another employer); or
  - a nominated JobKeeper employee of any other business; or
  - entitled to parental leave pay or dad and partner pay or workers' compensation payments for being totally incapacitated for work.
- **As at 1 March 2020**, the individual satisfied all of the following:
  - Aged 16 years or over; and
  - If they are aged 16 or 17 years, they are either financially independent or are not undertaking full-time study;
  - Actively engaged in the business; and
  - An Australian resident under the Social Security Act or an Australian tax resident who holds a special category visa \*\*

If the criteria have been met, the individual is eligible if they were actively engaged in the business in the fortnight of the JobKeeper payment, and they agreed to be nominated for JobKeeper payments and confirmed they pass the eligibility criteria.

## What about the directors who work in the business?

If more than one director wants to access JobKeeper payments, they need to meet the eligibility criteria of an employee (see *Eligible employees*). To be an employee a director would have received salary/wages and this has been reported as salary/wages on activity statements, payment summaries, tax returns etc. If a director merely receives a distribution from the business then they are unlikely to be an employee.

## The decline in turnover test

For businesses already enrolled in JobKeeper, to receive payments from 28 September 2020, you need to meet an extended decline in turnover test based on **actual GST turnover**.

Businesses that are enrolling for the first time, need to meet the basic eligibility test and the decline in turnover test/s for the relevant period.

|                                 | <b>30 March to 27 September 2020</b>   | <b>28 September to 3 January 2021</b>  | <b>4 January 2021 to 28 March 2021</b>  |
|---------------------------------|--|--|---|
| <b>Decline in turnover test</b> | Projected GST turnover for a relevant month or quarter is expected to fall by at least 30% (15% for ACNC-registered charities, 50% for large businesses) compared to the same period in 2019.* | Actual GST turnover in the <b>September 2020 quarter</b> (July, August & September) fell by at least 30% (15% for ACNC-registered charities, 50% for large businesses) compared to the same period in 2019.* | Actual GST turnover in the <b>December 2020 quarter</b> (October, November & December) fell by at least 30% (15% for ACNC-registered charities, 50% for large businesses) compared to the same period in 2019.* |

\* *Alternative tests may apply*

Most businesses will generally use their Business Activity Statement (BAS) reporting to assess eligibility. However, as the BAS deadlines are generally not until the month after the end of the quarter, **eligibility for JobKeeper will need to be assessed in advance of the BAS reporting deadlines** to meet the wage condition for eligible employees.

The ATO has the power to extend the time an entity has to pay employees in order to meet the wage condition. For the JobKeeper fortnights starting 28 September 2020 and 12 October 2020 the ATO is allowing employers until 31 October 2020 to meet the wage condition for all employees included in the JobKeeper scheme.

### Calculating GST turnover

Calculating GST turnover for tranches 2 and 3 of JobKeeper is different to the original JobKeeper requirements as entities will only be using current GST turnover figures (not projected GST turnover).

When applying the new turnover reduction tests for the September 2020 quarter and December 2020 quarter, entities that are registered for GST must use the same method that is used for GST reporting purposes. That is, if the entity is registered for GST on a cash basis then a cash basis needs to be used to calculate current GST turnover for the purpose of these new tests. Entities that are not registered for GST can choose whether to calculate GST turnover using a cash or accruals basis, but must use a consistent method.

Current GST turnover includes proceeds from the sale of capital assets, unless the sale is input taxed. Current GST turnover includes taxable and GST-free supplies, but should exclude input taxed supplies such as residential rental income and financial supplies like dividends, interest etc. JobKeeper and ATO cash flow boost payments should be excluded from the calculation along with other payments that don't represent consideration for a supply made by the entity such as certain State based grants.

### What if you don't have a comparison period or there was a one-off event?

Alternative decline in turnover tests might be available if your business fails the original decline in turnover test or the extended Jobkeeper decline in turnover test for the fortnights starting on or after 28 September 2020.

### Irregular turnover

The irregular turnover test is for businesses that cannot pass the decline in turnover tests because their GST turnover is irregular or 'lumpy', for example what often occurs in the building and construction industry, but not because of seasonal variations.

To understand if your turnover is irregular, look at the 12 months before the test period and divide the 12 months into 3 month periods. If the lowest GST turnover for any of these 3 month periods is no more than 50% of the highest of the 3 month periods then the test can be applied as long as the entity turnover is not cyclical. Alternatively, you can look at the 12 months before 1 March 2020 instead of the 12 months immediately before the test period.

If your GST turnover is irregular you can compare your current GST turnover for the test period with the average current GST turnover for the 12 months immediately before the applicable test period or 1 March 2020, multiplied by 3.

#### Example irregular turnover

Red Co received JobKeeper previously and needs to pass the extended decline in turnover test if it is to receive JobKeeper from 28 September 2020 for its employees.

Red Co's current GST turnover for the quarter ending 30 September 2020 (July, August and September 2020) is \$88,000.

Red Co cannot pass the basic version of the decline in turnover test for the quarter ending 30 September 2020. Using the 1 March 2020 test date, Red Co works out if its turnover is irregular and it is able to apply the alternative test for irregular income.

To do this, Red Co takes the highest GST turnover for the 3 months pre 1 March 2020 (\$200,000) and its lowest (\$75,000). \$75,000 is 38% of \$200,000, which is no more than 50% of the highest turnover for a qualifying 3 month period. As a result, Red Co can apply the alternative irregular income test.

*Continued over...*



| <b>3 month periods pre 1 March 2020</b>         | <b>GST turnover</b> |
|---|---------------------|
| March, April, May 2019                          | \$ 75,000           |
| June, July, August 2019                         | \$ 100,000          |
| September, October, November 2019               | \$ 150,000          |
| December 2019, January, February 2020           | \$ 200,000          |
| <b>Total current GST turnover</b>               | <b>\$ 525,000</b>   |
| Average monthly GST turnover ( $\$525,000/12$ ) | \$ 43,750           |
| Average monthly GST turnover multiplied by 3    | \$ 131,250          |

Red Co finds the average monthly GST turnover for each of the whole months in the 12 month period pre 1 March 2020 by dividing the total GST turnover by 12 ( $(\$525,000/12 = \$43,750)$ ). This average monthly GST turnover is then multiplied by 3 to find the GST turnover comparison period figure ( $\$43,750 \times 3 = \$131,250$ ).

Red Co's decline in turnover is 32.2% ( $(\$131,250 - \$89,000)/\$131,250 = 32.2\%$ ). Red Co passes the alternative irregular income decline in turnover test.

*Adapted from Explanatory Statement Coronavirus Economic Response Package (Payments and Benefits) Alternative Decline in Turnover Test Rules (No. 2) 2020*

### **New business starting before 1 March 2020**

There are two alternative tests that may apply to businesses that were in operation on or before 1 March 2020 but do not have the trading history for the comparison period:

- Comparing actual GST turnover for the test period (for example, September quarter 2020) with the average turnover since the entity commenced (using whole months); or
- Comparing the actual GST turnover for the test period with the turnover of the 3 months immediately before 1 March 2020 (for example, comparing the September quarter 2020 with the 3 months prior to 1 March 2020).

### **Example new business**

Creative Enterprise Company (CEC) incorporated on 4 November 2019 and commenced trading two weeks later. CEC cannot use the basic decline in turnover test as it does not have a comparison period.

CEC's current GST turnover for the quarter ending 30 September 2020 (July, August and September 2020) is \$5 million. Its current GST turnover for the comparison period is:

*Continued over...*

| Month         | GST turnover       |
|---------------|--------------------|
| December 2019 | \$2,800,000        |
| January 2020  | \$2,700,000        |
| February 2020 | \$3,500,000        |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>\$9,000,000</b> |

December 2019 is the first whole month after CEC commenced trading.

When the comparison period for pre 1 March 2020 (December 2019 to February 2020) is compared to current GST turnover for the quarter ending 30 September 2020, the decline in turnover is 44.4% ( $(\$9,000,000 - \$5,000,000) / \$9,000,000 = 44.4\%$ ). CEC passes the alternative new business decline in turnover test.

If CEC had commenced on 4 December 2019 and only had two whole months of trading prior to 1 March 2020, it would average its GST turnover for January and February 2020 and multiply the average by 3.

| Month  | GST turnover       |
|--|--------------------|
| January 2020                                       | \$2,700,000        |
| February 2020                                      | \$3,500,000        |
| <b>Total</b>                                       | <b>\$6,200,000</b> |
| Average monthly GST Turnover ( $\$6,200,000 / 2$ ) | <b>\$3,100,000</b> |
| Average monthly GST turnover multiplied by 3       | <b>\$9,300,000</b> |

When pre 1 March 2020 GST turnover (\$9,300,000) is compared to current GST turnover for the quarter ending 30 September 2020, the decline in turnover is 46.2% ( $(\$9,300,000 - \$5,000,000) / \$9,300,000 = 46.2\%$ ). CEC passes the alternative new business decline in turnover test.

*Adapted from Explanatory Statement Coronavirus Economic Response Package (Payments and Benefits) Alternative Decline in Turnover Test Rules (No. 2) 2020*

## Disposals, acquisitions and restructures

An alternative test is available where there has been a disposal or acquisition of part of the business, or restructure in the business, or combinations of those, during the comparison period and this changed the entity's current GST turnover.

The alternative test compares the GST turnover for the test period with the current GST turnover for the relevant month immediately after the disposal, acquisition or restructure, multiplied by 3. If there is not a whole month after the last acquisition, disposal or restructure, and before the turnover test period, then the month immediately before the turnover test period is used.

Where there have been multiple disposals, acquisitions or restructures, you can use the whole month immediately after any of the disposals, acquisitions or restructures, multiplied by 3 for the alternative test.

### Example restructure

First Co's GST turnover for the quarter ending 30 September 2020 (July, August and September 2020) was \$200,000.

First Co acquired another business in December 2019. Because the acquisition took place during December 2019, First Co cannot use the 2019 September quarter as its comparison period. The first whole trading month after December 2020 is January 2020 which had GST turnover of \$100,000.

The alternative test enables First Co to use the GST turnover from January 2020 of \$100,000 and multiply this by 3 to determine its GST turnover for the comparison period.

| Month                                | GST turnover |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| January 2020                         | \$100,000    |
| Comparison period (January 2020 x 3) | \$300,000    |

First Co's decline in turnover is 33.3% ( $(\$300,000 - \$200,000) / \$300,000 = 33.3\%$ ). First Co passes the alternative new business decline in turnover test.

*Adapted from Explanatory Statement Coronavirus Economic Response Package (Payments and Benefits) Alternative Decline in Turnover Test Rules (No. 2) 2020*

If the business restructured during July 2020, then use the first month after the restructure to determine the comparison period. For example, August 2020 turnover multiplied by 3 and compare this to the September 2020 quarter.

### Substantial increase in turnover

This alternative test applies to businesses that were on a strong growth path before the pandemic hit.

The test can be applied if turnover increased:

- by 50% or more in the 12 months before the turnover test period or before 1 March 2020, or
- by 25% or more in the 6 months before the turnover test period or before 1 March 2020, or
- by 12.5% or more in the 3 months before the turnover test period or before 1 March 2020.

If the entity is using the period immediately before the turnover test period to determine whether there is a substantial increase in turnover, then the alternative test compares GST turnover for the test period (for example, the September 2020 quarter) with turnover for the 3 months immediately before the test period.

If the entity is using the period immediately before 1 March 2020 to determine whether there is a substantial increase in turnover, then the alternative test compares GST turnover for the test period (for example, the September 2020 quarter) with turnover for the 3 months immediately before 1 March 2020.

### Example substantial increase

Blue Co was on a strong growth trajectory before the pandemic hit.

In February 2019, Blue Co's GST turnover was \$50,000 and \$80,000 in February 2020. Over the 12 months between February 2019 and February 2020, Blue Co grew by 60% and is able to apply the substantial growth alternative test using 1 March 2020 as the reference point (as over the 12 month period, Blue Co grew by 50% or more).

Blue Co's current GST turnover for the quarter ending 30 September 2020 was \$150,000.

Blue Co's GST turnover for the comparison period was:

| Month               | GST Turnover     |
|---------------------|------------------|
| December 2019       | \$70,000         |
| January 2020        | \$75,000         |
| February 2020       | \$80,000         |
| <b>GST turnover</b> | <b>\$225,000</b> |

Blue Co's decline in turnover is 33.3%  $((\$225,000 - \$150,000) / \$225,000 = 33.3\%)$ . Blue Co passes the alternative substantial increase decline in turnover test.

*Adapted from Explanatory Statement Coronavirus Economic Response Package (Payments and Benefits) Alternative Decline in Turnover Test Rules (No. 2) 2020*

### Drought and natural disaster

This test is for businesses that were in (or partially in) a declared drought or natural disaster zone in 2019 as a result, do not have an appropriate comparison period.

Assuming the drought or disaster impacted GST turnover, the alternative test enables you to use a period in the year immediately preceding the year in which the drought or natural disaster was declared for the decline in turnover test comparison.

A declared drought zone includes an area subject to a formal declaration of drought by a Commonwealth, State, Territory or local government agency. It also includes an area for which there has been a public identification or acknowledgment that the area is drought affected by one of these agencies. See:

- [National Drought Map](#)
- [Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology](#) Monthly Drought Statements, maps, rainfall and rainfall deficiency statistics
- [Queensland drought situation map](#)
- [NSW Combined Drought Indicator map](#), and
- [South Australia Drought Affected Areas](#) map.

For disasters, see the [ATO's Specific disasters](#) page.

### Example drought

Manu's business was impacted by drought in 2019 and the area where his business is located was declared a drought zone.

His current GST turnover for the September 2020 quarter is \$260,000.

However, as his business was severely impacted by drought in the September quarter of 2019, he does not have a relevant comparison period. In 2018, his business was not in a declared drought zone and he uses the September 2018 quarter for his comparison period.

| Month               | GST Turnover     |
|---------------------|------------------|
| July 2018           | \$120,000        |
| August 2018         | \$120,000        |
| September 2018      | \$140,000        |
| <b>GST turnover</b> | <b>\$380,000</b> |

The decline in turnover for Manu's business is 31.6% ( $(\$380,000 - \$260,000) / \$380,000 = 31.6\%$ ). Manu's business passes the alternative drought/disaster decline in turnover test.

If the September quarter in 2018 was also in drought, Manu would look back to the 2017 September quarter. Manu's comparison period is the closest year in which he wasn't in a declared drought or natural disaster zone.

*Adapted from ATO example*

### Sole trader or small partnership with sickness, injury or leave

For sole traders and small partnerships (i.e., 4 or fewer partners) with no staff, this test provides an alternative where the sole trader or partner has been sick, injured or was on leave during the comparison period.

In these cases, the month immediately before the month with sickness, injury or leave is used, then multiplied by 3. For example, if a sole trader was away in September 2019 and the time away has impacted on turnover, August 2019 is used instead and then multiplied by 3.

### **Example sole trader**

Alex is a sole trader with no employees. His GST turnover for September 2020 was \$150,000.

Alex wants to know if he can pass the decline in turnover test. However, Alex was sick and could not work for most of September 2019 and his illness had a major impact on his turnover - with no work, no money was coming in. Because his illness impacted his turnover, he cannot use the 2019 September quarter as his comparison period. Instead, he uses the turnover from August 2019 of \$75,000, the month immediately before he got sick. He multiplies this amount by 3 (\$225,000) and compares this to the September 2020 quarter's GST turnover.

Alex's decline in turnover is 33.3%  $((\$225,000 - \$150,000) / \$225,000 = 33.3\%)$ . Alex passes the alternative decline in turnover test.

*Adapted from Explanatory Statement Coronavirus Economic Response Package (Payments and Benefits) Alternative Decline in Turnover Test Rules (No. 2) 2020*

## **Groups**

If your business is part of a group, each entity and its employees need to meet the eligibility tests in their own right.

## **Special test for service entities**

In circumstances where an employment entity is used within a business group and that employment entity is unable to demonstrate a sufficient decline in its own turnover, the employment entity can potentially refer to the decline in turnover of the operating entities it services. While this allows some special purpose service entities that provide employee labour to group members to access the JobKeeper scheme, access to this test does depend on the way the group is structured. The detail of this test is complex so please contact us if you think this test is likely to apply to your business.

If the test applies it will refer to the combined GST turnovers of the related group members using the services of the employer entity.

## **Not-for-profits**

A number of modifications apply to not-for-profit entities when it comes to calculating GST turnover under the original decline in turnover test. It appears that the same modifications will generally also apply when determining whether a not for profit entity passes the new decline in turnover tests for the September 2020 and December 2020 quarters.

## **Wage condition**

To be eligible to receive JobKeeper payments, the employer must meet a wage condition. That is, employers must have paid the eligible employee at least the applicable JobKeeper payment for the relevant fortnight.

The ATO reimburses the employer for the JobKeeper payment monthly in arrears.

As noted above, for the JobKeeper fortnights starting 28 September 2020 and 12 October 2020 the ATO is allowing employers until 31 October 2020 to meet the wage condition for all employees included in the JobKeeper scheme.

## 2. Eligible employees

From 3 August 2020, the eligibility tests for employees were changed to enable a greater number of employees to access JobKeeper.

Previously, an employee had to be employed by the relevant entity on 1 March 2020 to be eligible for JobKeeper payments. Someone employed as a casual on that date also must have been employed on a regular and systematic basis for the 12 month period leading up to 1 March 2020.

Now, employees who were previously ineligible for JobKeeper because they were not employed by the entity on 1 March 2020 may be able to receive JobKeeper payments if they were employed by the entity on 1 July 2020 and can fulfil all of the other eligibility requirements. If an employee already passed all the relevant conditions at 1 March 2020 then they don't need to be retested using the 1 July 2020 test date.

- On **1 July 2020** (previously 1 March 2020):
  - Was aged 16 years and over; and
    - If the individual was aged 16 or 17, was either financially independent or was not undertaking full-time study;
  - Was an employee other than a casual, or was a long-term casual\*<sup>•</sup>; and
  - Was an Australian resident (under the meaning of the [Social Security Act 1991](#)), or a resident for tax purposes and held a Subclass 444 (Special category) visa\*\*.
- And, at any point during the JobKeeper fortnight:
  - Was an employee of the employer (including employees that have been stood down or rehired); and
  - Was **not** an excluded employee:
    - An employee receiving parental leave pay or dad and partner pay; or
    - An employee receiving workers compensation payments in relation to total incapacity.
- And, has provided the [JobKeeper Payment Employee Nomination](#) to the employer:
  - Agreeing to be nominated by the employer as an eligible employee under the JobKeeper scheme; and
  - Confirming that they have not agreed to be nominated by another employer; and
  - If they are a long-term casual, they do not have permanent employment with another employer.

*\*A 'long term casual employee' is a person who has been employed by the business on a regular and systematic basis during the period of 12 months that ended on the applicable testing date (previously 1 March 2020, but changing to 1 July 2020). These are likely to be employees with a recurring work schedule or a reasonable expectation of ongoing work.*



### 3. JobKeeper payments

From 28 September 2020, the payment rate for JobKeeper will taper from the flat rate of \$1,500 and split into a higher and lower rate.

| JobKeeper payment  | 30 March to 27 September 2020  | 28 September to 3 January 2021   | 4 January 2021 to 28 March 2021  |
|--|--|--|--|
| Worked 80 hours or more in the <i>reference period</i>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$1,500 per fortnight per employee</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$1,200 per fortnight per employee or business participant</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$1,000 per fortnight per employee or business participant</li> </ul> |
| Worked less than 80 hours in the <i>reference period</i> |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$750 per fortnight per employee or business participant</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$650 per fortnight per employee or business participant</li> </ul>   |

#### What’s a reference period?

|                                | Reference period  | Hours  |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| Eligible employees             | The 28 days finishing on the last day of the last pay period that ended before either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 March 2020, or</li> <li>1 July 2020.</li> </ul> | Actual hours worked including any hours for which they received paid leave (e.g., annual, long service, sick, carers and other forms of paid leave) or paid absence for public holidays. An employee’s ‘actual’ hours might be different to their contracted, ordinary hours or hours they are paid for. |
| Eligible business participants | February 2020 (29 days)   | Active engagement in the business.   |
| Religious practitioners        | February 2020 (29 days)   | Activities in pursuit of your vocation for your institution.   |

#### Eligible employees

Eligible employees that have been employed on a full time basis since 1 March 2020 or 1 July 2020 will generally receive the higher JobKeeper rate (as full time employees work more than 80 hours in 28 days) .

Businesses however will need to determine the rate applicable to eligible part-time and casual employees.

The reference period is the 28 day ending at the end of the most recent pay cycle for the employee ending before:

- 1 March 2020; or
- 1 July 2020.

For eligible employees who have been employed since 1 March 2020, employers need to choose the reference period that provides the best outcome for the employees. For many employers, this will be the pre COVID-19, 1 March 2020 reference date.

For eligible employees employed since 1 July 2020, use the pay periods prior to 1 July 2020.

If the pay cycle is longer than 28 days, a pro-rata calculation needs to be done to determine the average hours worked and on paid leave across an equivalent 28 day period. For example, if the relevant monthly pay cycle has 31 days, you take the total hours for the month and multiply this by 28/31.

In order for an employer to receive JobKeeper payments from 28 September 2020 onwards they must notify the ATO of the payment rates for all eligible employees. The employer must then notify its employees within 7 days of advising the ATO of the payment rate.

**Example – fortnightly pay cycle**

Emma has been a permanent part-time employee of a bus company since 2010.

The company has a fortnightly pay cycle ending on Fridays. The bus company is an eligible employer as they have suffered a decline in turnover of more than 30%.

Using the company’s payroll cycle, Emma’s hours for the **1 July 2020 reference period** are:

| Payroll period              | Week   | Hours                  |
|-----------------------------|--------|------------------------|
| 23 May 2020 to 5 June 2020  | Week 1 | 20                     |
|                             | Week 2 | 19.5                   |
| 6 June 2020 to 19 June 2020 | Week 3 | 20                     |
|                             | Week 4 | 19 <i>annual leave</i> |
| <b>Total hours</b>          |        | <b>78.5</b>            |

Emma’s annual leave in February is included in her total hours as any hours for which an employee received paid leave (e.g., annual, long service, sick, carers and other forms of paid leave) or paid absence for public holidays, are included.

*Continued over...*

Emma’s hours for **the 1 March 2020 reference period** are:

| Payroll period                       | Week   | Hours     |
|--------------------------------------|--------|-----------|
| 1 February 2020 to 14 February 2020  | Week 1 | 20        |
|                                      | Week 2 | 22        |
| 15 February 2020 to 28 February 2020 | Week 3 | 20        |
|                                      | Week 4 | 19        |
| <b>Total hours</b>                   |        | <b>81</b> |

Assuming the bus company continues to be eligible for JobKeeper payments, the company is eligible to receive the higher rate of \$1,200 per fortnight between 28 September 2020 to 3 January 2021 for Emma, and \$1,000 per fortnight for 4 January 2021 to 28 March 2021 assuming Emma remains employed. This is because Emma worked 80 hours or more for the 1 March 2020 reference period. Had she worked less than 80 hours, she would be eligible for the lower rate of JobKeeper.

*Adapted from the Explanatory Statement*

### Example – monthly pay cycle

Antonio has been a permanent employee of a Lai Industries since 2010.

The company has a monthly pay cycle that ends of the 15th of each month. The company is an eligible employer as they have suffered a decline in turnover of more than 30%.

Using the company’s payroll cycle, Antonio’s hours for the **1 July 2020 reference period** are:

| Payroll period                                  | Hours       |
|---|-------------|
| 16 May 2020 to 15 June 2020 (31 days)           | 85          |
| <b>Total hours over payroll period</b>          | <b>85</b>   |
| <b>Total hours over 28 day reference period</b> | <b>76.8</b> |

As the reference period is 28 days, Lai Industries need to pro-rata Antonio’s hours.

$$28 \text{ days} / 31 \text{ day payroll period} \times 85 \text{ (total hours worked over payroll period)} = 76.8 \text{ hours.}$$

*Continued over...*

Antonio's hours for the **1 March 2020 reference period** are:

| <b>Payroll period</b>                           | <b>Hours</b>          |
|---|-----------------------|
| 16 January 2020 to 15 February 2020 (31 days)   | 85 worked<br>80 leave |
| <b>Total hours over payroll period</b>          | <b>165</b>            |
| <b>Total hours over 28 day reference period</b> | <b>149</b>            |

$28 \text{ days} / 31 \text{ day payroll period} \times 165 \text{ (total hours worked over payroll period)} = 149 \text{ hours.}$

Assuming the Lai Industries continues to be eligible for JobKeeper payments, the company is eligible to receive the higher rate of \$1,200 per fortnight between 28 September 2020 to 3 January 2021 for Antonio, and \$1,000 per fortnight for 4 January 2021 to 28 March 2021 assuming Antonio remains employed.

*Adapted from the Explanatory Statement*

## **What happens if the reference period does not represent the employee's typical arrangements?**

Alternative tests are available where:

- There reference period is not typical of the employee's hours or you use a rostering system and there is no typical pattern in a 28 day period; or
- The employee started work during the reference period.

### **Reference period not typical**

Where the reference period is not typical of an employee's hours, for example they took unpaid leave, or your business was in a drought or bushfire zone, or the employee was stood down etc., you can use an earlier 28 day period or multiple 28 day periods that more accurately represent the employee's typical arrangements.

The reference period becomes the 28 day period ending at the end of the most recent pay cycle for the employee before 1 March 2020 or 1 July 2020 in which the employee's total number of hours of work, of paid leave and of paid absence on public holidays was representative of a typical 28-day period. That is, you select the next 28 day period before 1 March 2020 or 1 July 2020 that represents the employee's typical employment pattern.

### Example – alternative payroll period

George has been a permanent part-time employee of a restaurant since 2018.

The company has a fortnightly pay cycle ending on Fridays. The restaurant is an eligible employer as they have suffered a decline in turnover of more than 30%. George did not work in May or June 2020.

Using the company's payroll cycle, George's hours for **the 1 March 2020 reference period** are:

| Payroll period                       | Week   | Hours          |
|--------------------------------------|--------|----------------|
| 1 February 2020 to 14 February 2020  | Week 1 | 18             |
|                                      | Week 2 | 22             |
| 15 February 2020 to 28 February 2020 | Week 3 | 0 unpaid leave |
|                                      | Week 4 | 24             |
| <b>Total hours</b>                   |        | <b>64</b>      |

George typically works a minimum of 18 hours in any given week. However, in week 3, George took unpaid leave. As week 3 is not typical of George's arrangement, the restaurant uses another 28 day period before 1 March 2020 that is typical of his arrangements.

| Payroll period                     | Week   | Hours     |
|------------------------------------|--------|-----------|
| 4 January 2020 to 17 January 2020  | Week 1 | 24        |
|                                    | Week 2 | 18        |
| 18 January 2020 to 31 January 2020 | Week 3 | 22        |
|                                    | Week 4 | 24        |
| <b>Total hours</b>                 |        | <b>88</b> |

Using the alternative test, George is eligible for the higher JobKeeper rate.

For workers that don't have a typical pattern because of a rostering system like fly-in-fly-out workers, an average of the hours worked over the employee's rostering schedule and proportionally adjusted over 28 days can be used to work out a typical 28-day period.

### Employee started work during the reference period

Where an employee started work during the 28 days prior to either 1 March 2020 or 1 July 2020, you can use a forward-looking alternative test. In these circumstances, use the pay cycle immediately on or after 1 March 2020 or 1 July 2020. For employers with fortnightly or weekly pay cycles, you must use consecutive weeks.

Where an employee was stood down, use the first 28 day period starting on the first day of a pay cycle on or after 1 March 2020 or on or after 1 July 2020 in which they were not stood down.

### **Sale of business or changes within a group**

Where the business changed hands or the employee changed employment within a wholly owned group, the hours worked with the previous employer cannot be counted. Instead, use the pay cycle immediately on or after 1 March 2020 or 1 July 2020. For employers with fortnightly or weekly pay cycles, you must use consecutive weeks.

If the employee has been stood down, use the first 28 day period starting on the first day of a pay cycle on or after 1 March 2020 or on or after 1 July 2020 in which they were not stood down.

### **What happens if employee salary is not linked to hours?**

Some employees will automatically qualify for the higher JobKeeper payment rate. Broadly, this applies if the employer has incomplete records of total hours of work and paid leave, including where salary, wages, commissions, bonuses etc are not tied to an hourly rate or contracted rate.

The employee must also fall within specific categories, including:

- They were paid at least \$1,500 in the reference period;
- They were required to work at least 80 hours under an industrial award, enterprise agreement or contract; or
- It is reasonable to assume that they worked at least 80 hours during the applicable period.

### **Business owners and sole traders**

The reference period for business participants is the month of February 2020 (the whole 29 days).

A business participant is a sole trader or self-employed with an ABN, or one partner in a partnership, adult beneficiary of a trust, director or shareholder who works in the business (i.e., only one person in a partnership, one beneficiary of a trust, or one director / shareholder can be eligible for JobKeeper payments for a particular entity).

The test to determine eligibility is based on the hours of active engagement in the business carried on by the entity. This requires an assessment of the hours that the business participant was actively operating the business or undertaking specific tasks in business development and planning, regulatory compliance or similar activities in an applicable reference period.

Other than sole traders and self-employed, a business participant must provide a declaration to the business entity confirming their hours worked over the reference period.

For JobKeeper payments from 28 September 2020, the business must notify the Tax Commissioner about whether the higher or lower rate applies to the business participant and notify the participant within 7 days of providing this notice to the Commissioner.

Where February 2020 was not typical of the participant's hours, an alternative test can be used:

- Not typical - use the next typical 29 day period
- Commenced work during February 2020 – use March 2020
- Not employed by the employer but still an eligible religious practitioner for JobKeeper purposes - use March 2020

## Religious practitioners

The reference period for eligible religious practitioners is the month of February 2020.

A religious practitioner is a minister of religion or a full time member of a religious order who undertakes activities in pursuit of their vocation as a member of a religious institution.

The payment rates are based on the number of hours they spent doing an activity, or series of activities, in pursuit of their vocation as a religious practitioner as a member of the religious institution in the reference period. For example:

- Performance of the rituals or practices of the religious institution (including participation in services, prayer, contemplation or meditation, insofar as they constitute such rituals or practices); and
- Furtherance of the objectives of the religious organisation (including missionary or charitable work, insofar as they constitute such an objective).

The religious practitioner must provide a declaration to their institution confirming their hours worked over the reference period.

For JobKeeper payments from 28 September 2020, religious institutions must notify the Tax Commissioner about whether the higher or lower rate applies to each of their eligible religious practitioners and notify the practitioner within 7 days of providing this notice to the Commissioner.

Where February 2020 was not typical of the practitioner’s hours, an alternative test can be used:

- Not typical - use the next typical 29 day period
- Commenced work during February 2020 – use March 2020
- Not employed by the employer but still an eligible religious practitioner for JobKeeper purposes - use March 2020

## JobKeeper fortnights

|    | JobKeeper fortnight                   |               | Payment rate                          |
|----|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1  | 30 March 2020 – 12 April 2020         | JobKeeper 1.0 | \$1,500 per fortnight                 |
| 2  | 13 April 2020 – 26 April 2020         |               |                                       |
| 3  | 27 April 2020 – 10 May 2020           |               |                                       |
| 4  | 11 May 2020 – 24 May 2020             |               |                                       |
| 5  | 25 May 2020 – 7 June 2020             |               |                                       |
| 6  | 8 June 2020 – 21 June 2020            |               |                                       |
| 7  | 22 June 2020 – 5 July 2020            |               |                                       |
| 8  | 6 July 2020 – 19 July 2020            |               |                                       |
| 9  | 20 July 2020 – 2 August 2020          |               |                                       |
| 10 | 3 August 2020 – 16 August 2020        |               |                                       |
| 11 | 17 August 2020 – 30 August 2020       |               |                                       |
| 12 | 31 August 2020 – 13 September 2020    |               |                                       |
| 13 | 14 September 2020 – 27 September 2020 |               |                                       |
| 14 | 28 September 2020 – 11 October 2020   | JobKeeper 2.0 | High rate: \$1,200<br>Low rate: \$750 |
| 15 | 12 October 2020 – 25 October 2020     |               |                                       |
| 16 | 26 October 2020 – 8 November 2020     |               |                                       |
| 17 | 9 November 2020 – 22 November 2020    |               |                                       |
| 18 | 23 November 2020 – 6 December 2020    |               |                                       |
| 19 | 7 December 2020 – 20 December 2020    |               |                                       |
| 20 | 21 December 2020 – 3 January 2021     |               |                                       |
| 21 | 4 January 2021 – 17 January 2021      | JobKeeper 2.0 | High rate: \$1,000<br>Low rate: \$650 |
| 22 | 18 January 2021 – 31 January 2021     |               |                                       |
| 23 | 1 February 2021 – 14 February 2021    |               |                                       |
| 24 | 15 February 2021 – 28 February 2021   |               |                                       |
| 25 | 1 March 2021 – 14 March 2021          |               |                                       |
| 26 | 15 March 2021 – 28 March 2021         |               |                                       |