



JobKeeper Extension

Due to the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis, the Government has extended the JobKeeper payment scheme for another six months, or 13 JobKeeper fortnights, until 28 March 2021.

There are some significant changes to the **payment rates** and **turnover tests** that will apply from **28 September 2020**. Also, staff who were previously deemed to be ineligible for JobKeeper may now be eligible with the revised eligibility rules (refer 'JobKeeper Changes – Employee Eligibility' available on our website).

What are the changes to the payment rates?

From 28 September 2020 a two-tier payment rate will apply. This two-tier rate will be based on the worker's average weekly work hours during a **reference period**.

The current \$1,500 per fortnight payment rate will be reduced on 28 September 2020 and further reduced on 4 January 2021.

	Full rate	Partial rate
Monday 28 September 2020 to Sunday 3 January 2021	\$1,200 per fortnight	\$750 per fortnight
Monday 4 January 2021 to Sunday 28 March 2021	\$1,000 per fortnight	\$650 per fortnight

What is the reference period used to determine the full or partial payment rates?

The reference period is the four weeks of pay periods before either **1 March 2020** or **1 July 2020**.

Those employees or business participants who worked in or were actively engaged in the business for **20 hours or more per week** on average during the reference period will be eligible for the **full rate**.

Those employees or business participants who worked in or were actively engaged in the business for **less than 20 hours** on average during the reference period will be eligible for the **partial rate**.

Importantly, workers with 1 March 2020 eligibility are able to use the reference period with the **higher** number of hours worked.

What are the changes to the turnover test?

A decline in turnover will be re-tested each quarter and will be based on **actual GST turnover**.

Entities will **only** have to meet the quarterly decline in turnover test for the previous quarter instead of multiple quarters.

Extension 1: 28 September 2020 to 3 January 2021.



Extension 2: 4 January 2021 to 28 March 2021.



What about the timing differences between BAS lodgement and meeting wage conditions?

Businesses will be expected to assess their eligibility for JobKeeper based on the details reported in their Business Activity Statement (BAS) prior to lodgement.

With the deadline to lodge the quarterly BAS after the completion of the quarter, businesses will need to assess their eligibility in **advance of the deadline** so that **wage conditions** for **eligible employees** can still be met.

Please contact our office on 5224 1022 if you have any questions regarding the extension of the JobKeeper scheme.

Please also note that this legislation has not yet been enacted and some minor changes may occur to the above information.