

FYI

22  
ABS Media

22  
----- Forwarded by 22 /LTDACC/ABS on 24/06/2019 11:40 AM -----

From: 22 /Staff/ABS  
To: 22 /LTDACC/ABS@ABS  
Date: 24/06/2019 11:28 AM  
Subject: Re: 6523 Household Income and Wealth

---

Hi 22,

A followup question from me too then....

Are you also the lead for the media arrangements for the release of 4130.0 *Housing Occupancy and Costs 2017-18* being released the following week?

We have had a meeting set up with 22 and 22 tomorrow for that release, and I'm keen to know who has oversight for considering media arrangements from both releases given they are both from the Survey of Income and Housing.

Oh, and a cheeky second question - who from the Comms side needs to 'approve' the media release content in addition to our line management?

Regards,

22

Director - Living Conditions Statistics  
Statistical Services Group | **Australian Bureau of Statistics**  
(P) 22

22

22 22 ---24/06/2019 10:15:10 AM---Hi 22 Thanks for the email asking where I fit in. I am in the ABS media team and have been assigned

From: 22 /LTDACC/ABS  
To: 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS  
Cc: 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS  
Date: 24/06/2019 10:15 AM  
Subject: Re: 6523 Household Income and Wealth

---

Hi 22

Thanks for the email asking where I fit in. I am in the ABS media team and have been assigned the task of organising media arrangements for the release of 6523: *Household Income and Wealth 2017-18* on Friday 12 June 2019.

I have been asked to do it because 22 is on leave.

Cheers

22  
ABS Media  
22

22 ---21/06/2019 07:09:08 PM---Hi 22, Just so I have it straight in my head - how do you fit in with 22 and 22??

From: 22 /Staff/ABS  
To: 22 /LTDACC/ABS@ABS  
Cc: 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS  
Date: 21/06/2019 07:09 PM  
Subject: Re: 6523 Household Income and Wealth

---

Hi 22,

Just so I have it straight in my head - how do you fit in with 22 and 22??

I did request that no social media post be done on the day of release, but following that we were open to ideas. This is more likely to be managed by our NSC so I have copied 22 and 22 into this reply.

Happy to have a meeting, but next week may be a bit hectic for some of us.

Regards  
22

22

*Director*

Household Economic Resource Surveys | Household Surveys Branch | **Australian Bureau of Statistics**

(P) 22 (E) 22 @abs.gov.au (W) [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

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22 22 ---21/06/2019 02:24:46 PM---Hi 22 and 22 I have been asked to get involved in preparations for the release of 6523: House

From: 22 /LTDACC/ABS  
To: 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS  
Date: 21/06/2019 02:24 PM  
Subject: 6523 Household Income and Wealth

---

Hi 22 and 22

I have been asked to get involved in preparations for the release of 6523: *Household Income and*

*Wealth 2017-18* on Friday 12 June 2019.

I am checking with you about social media arrangements for the release; I was told that you have requested no social media on the publication date. Is that correct, please?

**22** and I are taking the comms lead on this release. Could we schedule a quick meeting with you early next week to ensure we are on track, please?

Cheers

**22**  
ABS Media  
**22**

Hello [REDACTED],

Please find attached the draft comms plan, embargoed media access timeline and media release (one with tracked changes and the other a clean version) for the Household Income and Wealth pub on 12 July:

*(See attached file: 6523.0 Income and Wealth Media Release\_V1.2.\_[REDACTED] edits CLEAN.docx)(See attached file: HIW timeline.docx)(See attached file: HIW comms on a page update.docx)(See attached file: 6523.0 Income and Wealth Media Release\_V1.2.\_[REDACTED] edits.docx)*

The embargoed media access timeline is tight. We've liaised initially with Web Pub but that was when we had more time, everything is condensed now.

The media release has no mention of state or territory data as the focus was on the strong national data. I think it's worth including a para on some headline stats but appreciate your advice.

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Director

Media, Digital and Design Communications | Communication and Parliamentary Branch |

**Australian Bureau of Statistics**

T: [REDACTED] M: [REDACTED]

E: [REDACTED] [@abs.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@abs.gov.au) W: [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

F: [@absstats](https://www.facebook.com/absstats) T: [@ABSStats](https://twitter.com/ABSStats)

Hi [22] and [22]



As discussed, just want to start the ball rolling on any media and communications activities for the upcoming Household Income and Wealth release.

Are you planning on a media release and do you think there's scope for us to promote the release to key journalists?

I've also cc'd [22] and [22] from the social media team to discuss any social media potential.

Feel free to give me a call any time if it's easiest to discuss that way.

Cheers

[22]  
Media and Communications  
**Australian Bureau of Statistics**  
 [22]  [22]@abs.gov.au  
W: [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

*The Australian Bureau of Statistics acknowledges the traditional custodians of country throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and elders, both past and present.*



**Fw: Draft media release (6523.0 Income and Wealth)**

22  
22 to: 22, 22, 22

05/07/2019 04:18 PM

Cc: 22, 22  
This message is digitally signed.

Hello all,

Please find attached below the two media releases drafted for Household Income and Wealth. These are not yet final.

22 has requested a Tweet on 12 July on the income inequality media release.

Cheers,

22

22

Director

Media, Digital and Design Communications | Communication and Parliamentary Branch | **Australian Bureau of Statistics**

T: 22 M: 22

E: 22 @abs.gov.au W: www.abs.gov.au

F: @absstats T: @ABSStats

----- Forwarded by 22 /Staff/ABS on 05/07/2019 04:15 PM -----

From: 22 /Staff/ABS  
To: 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS  
Cc: 22 /LTDACC/ABS@ABS, 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 /LTDACC/ABS@ABS, 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 /LTDACC/ABS@ABS  
Date: 05/07/2019 01:46 PM  
Subject: Re: Draft media release (6523.0 Income and Wealth) 22

Thanks 22,

I've left the inequality release as referring to the 2017-18 Survey of Income and Housing, otherwise the sentence becomes too repetitive as as you are referring to the Income and Wealth report and then staking about the measure for income and wealth remaining stable.

I'll send these to 22 and 22.

Cheers

22



6523.0 Inequality Media Release.docx



6523.0 Wealth Media Release.docx

22

Director

Household Economic Resource Surveys | Household Surveys Branch | **Australian Bureau of Statistics**

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22

Hello again, I've made some changes to the i...

05/07/2019 01:05:49 PM

From: 22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS  
To: 22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS@ABS  
Cc: 22 [redacted] /LTDACC/ABS@ABS, 22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS@ABS, [redacted] [redacted] /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS@ABS, [redacted] [redacted] /LTDACC/ABS@ABS  
Date: 05/07/2019 01:05 PM  
Subject: Re: Draft media release (6523.0 Income and Wealth)

---

Hello again,  
I've made some changes to the income media release, largely the same approach but as flagged changed the format for a media release and added a line in from the wealth media release. Also a couple of spaces left blank that I'm hoping you can answer.  
[attachment "6523.0 Inequality Media Release.docx" deleted by 22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS]  
Happy to discuss.  
Cheers,  
22 [redacted]

22 [redacted]  
Director  
Media, Digital and Design Communications | Communication and Parliamentary Branch | **Australian Bureau of Statistics**  
T: 22 [redacted] M: 22 [redacted]  
E: 22 [redacted] @abs.gov.au W: [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)  
F: @absstats T: @ABSStats

22 [redacted] Hi all, As I informed you yesterday we are ha... 05/07/2019 11:38:27 AM

From: 22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS  
To: 22 [redacted] /LTDACC/ABS@ABS  
Cc: 22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS@ABS, [redacted] [redacted] /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS@ABS, [redacted] [redacted] /LTDACC/ABS@ABS  
Date: 05/07/2019 11:38 AM  
Subject: Re: Draft media release (6523.0 Income and Wealth)

---

Hi all,  
As I informed you yesterday we are having two media releases for the Income and Wealth publication due out next week.  
The Wealth one has already been agreed too, the only exception is that we have pulled out the Income story and put it into the new Inequality media release that 22 [redacted] requested. Additionally I have also added in the time comparison to 15-16 in the second paragraph as final validation of the publication has shown that this was a significant movement.

Before I clear through 22 [redacted] and 22 [redacted] today do Comms have any comments on the Inequality media release? Reminder this is the key story that 22 [redacted] wants to present first on the day.

[attachment "6523.0 Inequality Media Release.docx" deleted by 22 [redacted] Staff/ABS]  
[attachment "6523.0 Wealth Media Release.docx" deleted by 22 [redacted] Staff/ABS]

Regards  
22 [redacted]

22 [redacted]  
Director

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22 Hi all, We've met with 22 this morning and... 04/07/2019 12:00:38 PM

From: 22 /Staff/ABS  
To: 22 /LTDACC/ABS@ABS  
Cc: 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 /LTDACC/ABS@ABS  
Date: 04/07/2019 12:00 PM  
Subject: Re: Draft media release (6523.0 Income and Wealth)

Hi all,

We've met with 22 this morning and she has suggested two media release for next week. She is comfortable with the Wealth aspect (which I will send through some updates too), but would like the income data pulled into a second media release where we can present more of a story that inequality is stable. She is also requesting that it is this story (inequality stable) that gets tweeted first on the day of release.

I will work on the updates and send them through.

Regards

22

22

Director

(P) 22 (E) 22 @abs.gov.au (W) [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

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22 Hi I have a query/suggestion: 03/07/2019 02:57:53 PM  
22 Updated release attached: Cheers, 03/07/2019 02:00:31 PM  
22 From: 22 /Staff/ABS To: 22 ... 03/07/2019 01:25:35 PM





**Re: Draft media release (6523.0 Income and Wealth)**

22  
22 to: 22, 22  
Cc: 22

05/07/2019 04:36 PM

This message is digitally signed.

Hello,

I mentioned to the social media team about 22 request for a social media post on the income inequality story and they've suggested that given the lack of time to publication they will probably use this template for the post (ignore the content). It is used for MEI releases and includes only the headline from the media release.



Cheers,

22

22

Director

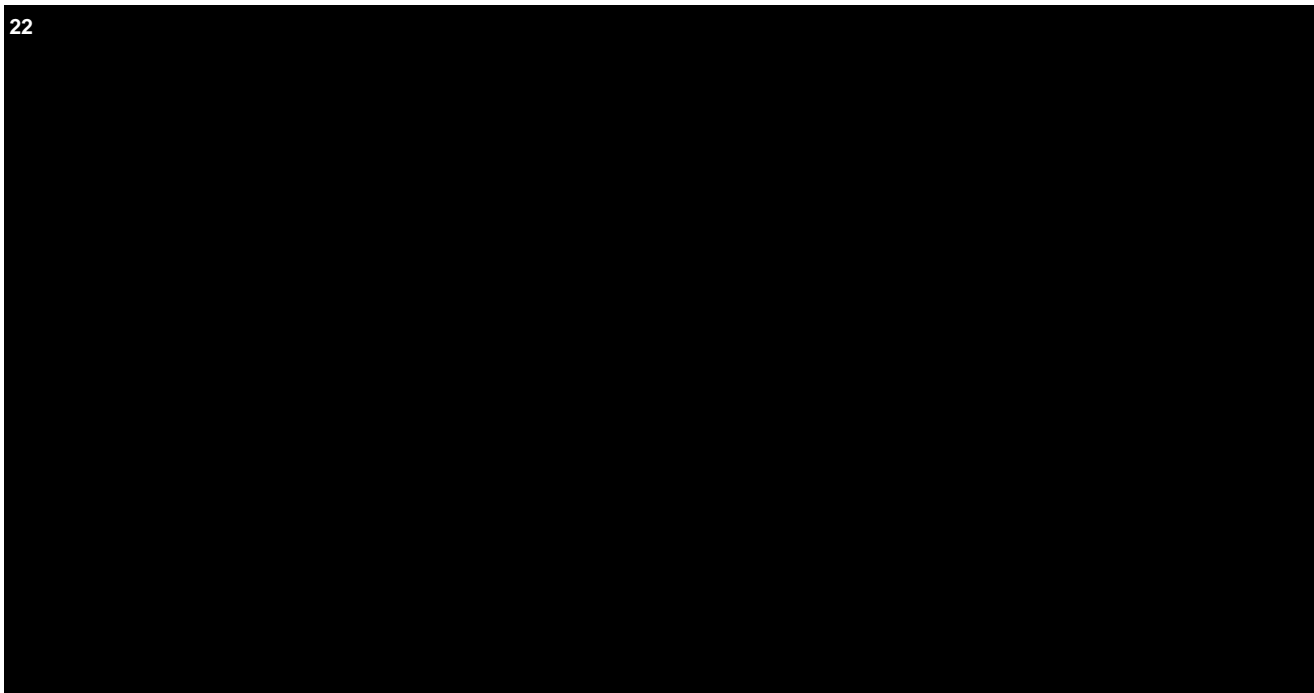
Media, Digital and Design Communications | Communication and Parliamentary Branch | **Australian Bureau of Statistics**

T: 22 M: 22

E: 22 @abs.gov.au W: [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

F: @absstats T: @ABSStats

22



Hello both,  
Please see below for an update on Household Income and Wealth. 22 has asked for a second media release to be prepared based on the income data and for this to be Tweeted when it is released (12 July).  
Happy to keep you updated with the development of the second media release.  
Cheers,  
22

22  
Director  
Media, Digital and Design Communications | Communication and Parliamentary Branch |  
**Australian Bureau of Statistics**  
T: 22 M: 22  
E: 22 @abs.gov.au W: www.abs.gov.au  
F: @absstats T: @ABSStats

----- Forwarded by 22 /Staff/ABS on 04/07/2019 01:19 PM -----

From: 22 /Staff/ABS  
To: 22 /LTDACC/ABS@ABS  
Cc: 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS  
Date: 04/07/2019 12:00 PM  
Subject: Re: Draft media release (6523.0 Income and Wealth)

Hi all,

We've met with 22 this morning and she has suggested two media release for next week. She is comfortable with the Wealth aspect (which I will send through some updates too), but would like the income data pulled into a second media release where we can present more of a story that inequality is stable. She is also requesting that it is this story (inequality stable) that gets tweeted first on the day of release.

I will work on the updates and send them through.

Regards  
22

22

Director

Household Economic Resource Surveys | Household Surveys Branch | **Australian Bureau of Statistics**

(P) 22 (E) 22 @abs.gov.au (W) www.abs.gov.au

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22 ---03/07/2019 02:57:53 PM---Hi I have a query/suggestion:

From: 22 /LTDACC/ABS  
To: 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS  
Cc: 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS  
Date: 03/07/2019 02:57 PM  
Subject: Re: Draft media release (6523.0 Income and Wealth)

---

Hi

I have a query/suggestion:

Average household wealth passed the \$1 million mark in 2017-18, a rise of more than 36 per cent compared to just over a decade ago, according to an Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) report released today.

ABS Chief Economist, [REDACTED], said in 2017-18, average household wealth was just over \$1 million compared to nearly \$749,000 in 2005-06.

Would it be a good idea to have the exact figure in the second par - "...average household wealth was just over \$1 million..."? We have been broad in the first par with reverence to the "\$1 million mark" which is fine in the lead, however, can we be specific of the exact value in the second reference in the second par?

Or is this a rounding issue?

Cheers

[REDACTED]  
ABS Media  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ---03/07/2019 02:00:31 PM---Updated release attached: Cheers,

From: [REDACTED]/Staff/ABS  
To: [REDACTED]/Staff/ABS@ABS  
Cc: [REDACTED]/Staff/ABS@ABS, [REDACTED]/Staff/ABS@ABS, [REDACTED]/Staff/ABS@ABS, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]/LTDACC/ABS@ABS, [REDACTED]/LTDACC/ABS@ABS  
Date: 03/07/2019 02:00 PM  
Subject: Re: Draft media release (6523.0 Income and Wealth)

---

Updated release attached:

[attachment "6523.0 Income and Wealth Media Release\_V1.3.docx" deleted by [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]/Staff/ABS]

Cheers,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Director

Media, Digital and Design Communications | Communication and Parliamentary Branch |

**Australian Bureau of Statistics**

T: [REDACTED] M: [REDACTED]

E: [REDACTED]@abs.gov.au W: [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

F: [@absstats](https://twitter.com/absstats) T: [@ABSStats](https://www.facebook.com/ABSStats)

---

[REDACTED] ---03/07/2019 01:25:35 PM---From: [REDACTED]/Staff/ABS To: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@ABS, [REDACTED]/Staff/ABS@ABS

From: 22 /Staff/ABS  
To: 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS  
Cc: 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 LTDACC/ABS@ABS, 22 LTDACC/ABS@ABS, 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS  
Date: 03/07/2019 01:25 PM  
Subject: Re: Draft media release (6523.0 Income and Wealth) [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

---

Are you able to send through the final version so we can get 22 approval.  
Thanks

22

---

**From:** 22 @abs.gov.au>  
**Date:** 3 July 2019 at 12:23:40 pm AEST  
**To:** 22 @abs.gov.au>  
**Cc:** 22 @abs.gov.au>, @abs.gov.au>, @abs.gov.au>, @abs.gov.au>, @abs.gov.au>, @abs.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Re: Draft media release (6523.0 Income and Wealth)

Sounds good, many thanks both.

22

Director  
Media, Digital and Design Communications | Communication and Parliamentary Branch | **Australian Bureau of Statistics**

**T:** 22 **M:** 22  
**E:** 22 @abs.gov.au **W:** [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)  
**F:** @absstats **T:** @ABSStats

22 ---03/07/2019 10:36:08 AM---That is what we would want to convey. Maybe something like "Recent ABS data has shown a downturn in

From: 22 /Staff/ABS  
To: 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS  
Cc: 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 LTDACC/ABS@ABS, 22 LTDACC/ABS@ABS, 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS  
Date: 03/07/2019 10:36 AM  
Subject: Re: Draft media release (6523.0 Income and Wealth)

---

That is what we would want to convey. Maybe something like "Recent ABS data has shown a downturn in the property market, but there has been sustained longer term growth (36 percent since 2005â€06)."

22

*Chief Economist*

Statistical Services Group | **Australian Bureau of Statistics**

(P) 22 (M) 22

(E) 22 @abs.gov.au (W) www.abs.gov.au

22 ---03/07/2019 10:02:30 AM---Hi 22, What we are trying to say (and 22 correct me if I am wrong) is that despite more rece

From: 22 /Staff/ABS  
To: 22 Staff/ABS@ABS  
Cc: 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 LTDACC/ABS@ABS, 22 /LTDACC/ABS@ABS, 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 Staff/ABS@ABS  
Date: 03/07/2019 10:02 AM  
Subject: Re: Draft media release (6523.0 Income and Wealth)

---

Hi 22,

What we are trying to say (and 22 correct me if I am wrong) is that despite more recent data revealing a downturn in the property market, it doesn't wipe away all the increase that has occurred over many years.

Cheers

22

22

*Director*

Household Economic Resource Surveys | Household Surveys Branch | **Australian Bureau of Statistics**

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22 ---03/07/2019 08:20:23 AM---Hello 22, Thanks for sending through. I broke up the last paragraph into separate ones as it was

From: 22 /Staff/ABS  
To: 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS  
Cc: 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 LTDACC/ABS@ABS, 22 /LTDACC/ABS@ABS, 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS  
Date: 03/07/2019 08:20 AM  
Subject: Re: Draft media release (6523.0 Income and Wealth)

---

Hello 22,

Thanks for sending through. I broke up the last paragraph into separate ones as it was a bit long for a media release. Also, I'm not quite sure that this paragraph is saying:

While recent ABS data revealed a downturn in the property market, it reduces the long term growth (36 percent since 2005-06) in the average total value of property assets owned by households," said.

[attachment "6523.0 Income and Wealth Media Release\_V1.3.docx" deleted by /Staff/ABS]

Appreciate your advice.

Cheers,  
22

22

Director

Media, Digital and Design Communications | Communication and Parliamentary Branch | **Australian Bureau of Statistics**

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E: 22 @abs.gov.au W: [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

F: @absstats T: @ABSStats

22 ---02/07/2019 07:55:06 PM---Hi K22, Please find attached the latest draft of the media release. After meeting with 22 I agr

From: 22 /Staff/ABS

To: 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS

Cc: 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 /LTDACC/ABS@ABS, 22 /LTDACC/ABS@ABS, 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS

Date: 02/07/2019 07:55 PM

Subject: Re: Draft media release (6523.0 Income and Wealth)

---

Hi 22,

Please find attached the latest draft of the media release. After meeting with 22 I agreed to some changes but had to say no to some others which I have explained below.

I have also included 22 and 22 in the reply so they can see the changes post their approval and add their comments if any (need to get this signed off by lunchtime Wednesday if we can).

[attachment "6523.0 Income and Wealth Media Release\_V1.3.docx" deleted by /Staff/ABS]

In response to your marked-up version:

- ) In the second paragraph 22 also wanted a more recent comparison (which would be 2015-16), however the increase is not statistically significant so I would prefer not to add it (note in 2015-16 it was 964,000).
- ) I have left the income data in it's separate section below - this has a different time comparison (the 10 years 2007-08 to 2017-18). Unfortunately we didn't collect extensive wealth data in 2007-08, so our comparisons have to be to 2005-06.
- ) I have kept 22 comment mainly as before (relating to more recent data) as some of the changes suggested changed the context of what he was saying and was incorrect.
- ) I have not put in the comparisons back to 2013-14 (which is now 2011-12) for the distribution as it doesn't make sense to do so. The story is more about the fact that the wealthiest 20% of households continue to hold over 60% of all household wealth (not necessarily the values over time - although we already know that is increasing from the opening para's).

Regards

22

22

Director

Household Economic Resource Surveys | Household Surveys Branch | **Australian Bureau of Statistics**

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22 ---02/07/2019 12:49:03 PM---It's going to be tricky today, the afternoon's backed up with meetings. Are you able to send any ini

From: 22 /Staff/ABS  
To: 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS  
Cc: 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 /LTDACC/ABS@ABS, 22 /LTDACC/ABS@ABS  
Date: 02/07/2019 12:49 PM  
Subject: Re: Draft media release (6523.0 Income and Wealth)

---

It's going to be tricky today, the afternoon's backed up with meetings. Are you able to send any initial feedback in an email?

22

Director

Media, Digital and Design Communications | Communication and Parliamentary Branch | **Australian Bureau of Statistics**

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E: 22 @abs.gov.au W: [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)  
F: @absstats T: @ABSStats

22 ---02/07/2019 12:07:07 PM---Thanks 22, I think it is important that we meet to discuss as the changes proposed aren't going

From: 22 /Staff/ABS  
To: 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS  
Cc: 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 /LTDACC/ABS@ABS, 22 /LTDACC/ABS@ABS  
Date: 02/07/2019 12:07 PM  
Subject: Re: Draft media release (6523.0 Income and Wealth)

---

Thanks 22,

I think it is important that we meet to discuss as the changes proposed aren't going to be accurate and I need to explain a few things.

Are you and your team free this afternoon?

Cheers

22

22

Director

Household Economic Resource Surveys | Household Surveys Branch | **Australian Bureau of Statistics**

(P) (22) (E) 22 @abs.gov.au (W) [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

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22 --02/07/2019 10:26:20 AM--Hello 22, Please find attached below the updated media release, one with tracked changes and the

From: 22 /Staff/ABS  
To: 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS  
Cc: 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 /LTDACC/ABS@ABS, 22 /LTDACC/ABS@ABS  
Date: 02/07/2019 10:26 AM  
Subject: Re: Draft media release (6523.0 Income and Wealth)

---

Hello 22,

Please find attached below the updated media release, one with tracked changes and the other a clean version of the same:

[attachment "Household Income and Wealth MR with media team edits.docx" deleted by 22 /Staff/ABS] [attachment "Household Income and Wealth MR with media team edits CLEAN.docx" deleted by 22 /Staff/ABS]

Happy to talk anything through.

Cheers,

22

22

Director

Media, Digital and Design Communications | Communication and Parliamentary Branch | **Australian Bureau of Statistics**

T: 22 M: 22  
E: 22 @abs.gov.au W: [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)  
F: @absstats T: @ABSStats

22 ---02/07/2019 10:00:02 AM---Hi 22 Just wondering if you and the team have had any progress on this?

From: 22 /Staff/ABS  
To: 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS  
Cc: 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 /LTDACC/ABS@ABS  
Date: 02/07/2019 10:00 AM  
Subject: Re: Draft media release (6523.0 Income and Wealth)

---



Hi [REDACTED],

Just wondering if you and the team have had any progress on this?

As discussed I'm looking to finalise [REDACTED] briefing pack by COB today and would like an 'approved' Comms version to send to her.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Director

Household Economic Resource Surveys | Household Surveys Branch | **Australian Bureau of Statistics**

(P) [REDACTED] (E) [REDACTED] [@abs.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@abs.gov.au) (W) [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

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[REDACTED] ---28/06/2019 12:28:31 PM---Hello [REDACTED], Many thanks. We'll take a look and get back to you.

From: [REDACTED]/Staff/ABS  
To: [REDACTED] Staff/ABS@ABS  
Cc: [REDACTED] Staff/ABS@ABS, [REDACTED] /LTDACC/ABS@ABS  
Date: 28/06/2019 12:28 PM  
Subject: Re: Draft media release (6523.0 Income and Wealth)

---

Hello [REDACTED],

Many thanks. We'll take a look and get back to you.

Nice eye-catching headline!

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Director

Media, Digital and Design Communications | Communication and Parliamentary Branch | **Australian Bureau of Statistics**

T: [REDACTED] M: [REDACTED]  
E: [REDACTED] [@abs.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@abs.gov.au) W: [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)  
F: [@absstats](https://twitter.com/absstats) T: [@ABSStats](https://twitter.com/ABSStats)

[REDACTED] ---28/06/2019 11:15:20 AM---Hi [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], Please find attached the draft media release for the Income and Wealth public

From: [REDACTED]/Staff/ABS  
To: [REDACTED] Staff/ABS@ABS, [REDACTED] /LTDACC/ABS@ABS  
Cc: [REDACTED] Staff/ABS@ABS  
Date: 28/06/2019 11:15 AM  
Subject: Draft media release (6523.0 Income and Wealth)

---

Hi 22 and 22,

Please find attached the draft media release for the Income and Wealth publication due for release on 12 July.

If possible we'd like to have the media release finalised by COB next Tuesday (2nd) ready for a briefing with 22 on Thursday.

After you have had a chance to comment I still need to clear this through 22 and (although 22 has already seen this draft).

Regards

22

[attachment "6523.0 Income and Wealth Media Release\_V1.2.docx" deleted by /Staff/ABS]

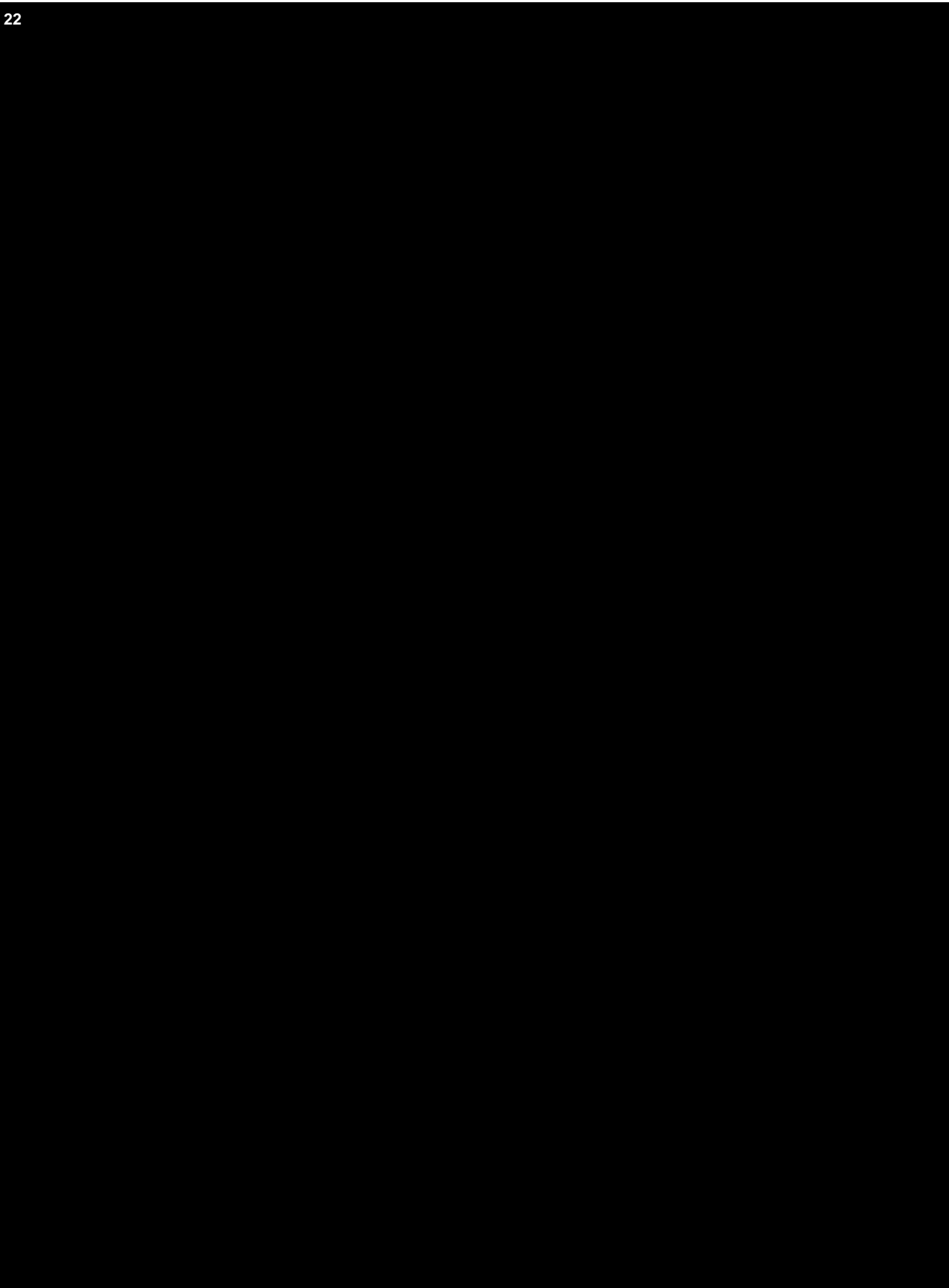
22

*Director*

Household Economic Resource Surveys | Household Surveys Branch | **Australian Bureau of Statistics**

(P) 22 (E) 22 @abs.gov.au (W) [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

The [ABS Privacy Policy](#) outlines how the ABS handles any personal information that you provide to us.



2 22 ---27/06/2019 04:35:19 PM---Thanks 22, I'll chase this up with 22 and 22 and get back to you. I made some changes to t

From: 22 [redacted] Staff/ABS  
To: K 22 [redacted] Staff/ABS@ABS  
Date: 27/06/2019 04:35 PM  
Subject: Re: Media outlets

---

Thanks 22 [redacted]

I'll chase this up with 22 [redacted] and 22 [redacted] and get back to you. I made some changes to the email below.

The media release is just going through the initial line management clearance first, I'm hoping we can send it across tomorrow. We don't have state data as there is a lot of national data stories to get through. However the data is in the Datacubes for people to unpack.

Cheers

22 [redacted]

22 22 [redacted] ---27/06/2019 03:26:12 PM---We haven't drafted the email to journos yet. It'd be something like: On 12 July the Australian Bureau

From: 22 [redacted] Staff/ABS  
To: 22 [redacted] Staff/ABS@ABS  
Date: 27/06/2019 03:26 PM  
Subject: Re: Media outlets

---

We haven't drafted the email to journos yet. It'd be something like:

On 12 July the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is releasing Household Income and Wealth,

22 [redacted]

22 [redacted] Under strict embargo conditions, you will have access to the publication, including media release, and be able to ask questions of our experts. This includes interviews under embargo.

22 [redacted]

**Australian Bureau of Statistics**

T: 22 [REDACTED] M: 22 [REDACTED]  
E: 22 [REDACTED] @abs.gov.au W: [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)  
F: @absstats T: @ABSStats

22 [REDACTED] 22 [REDACTED] ---27/06/2019 03:29:52 PM---Thanks 22 [REDACTED], While there is state data in our publication, it isn't highlighted in the media rele

From: 22 [REDACTED]/Staff/ABS  
To: 22 [REDACTED]/Staff/ABS@ABS  
Date: 27/06/2019 03:29 PM  
Subject: Re: Media outlets

---

Thanks 22 [REDACTED],

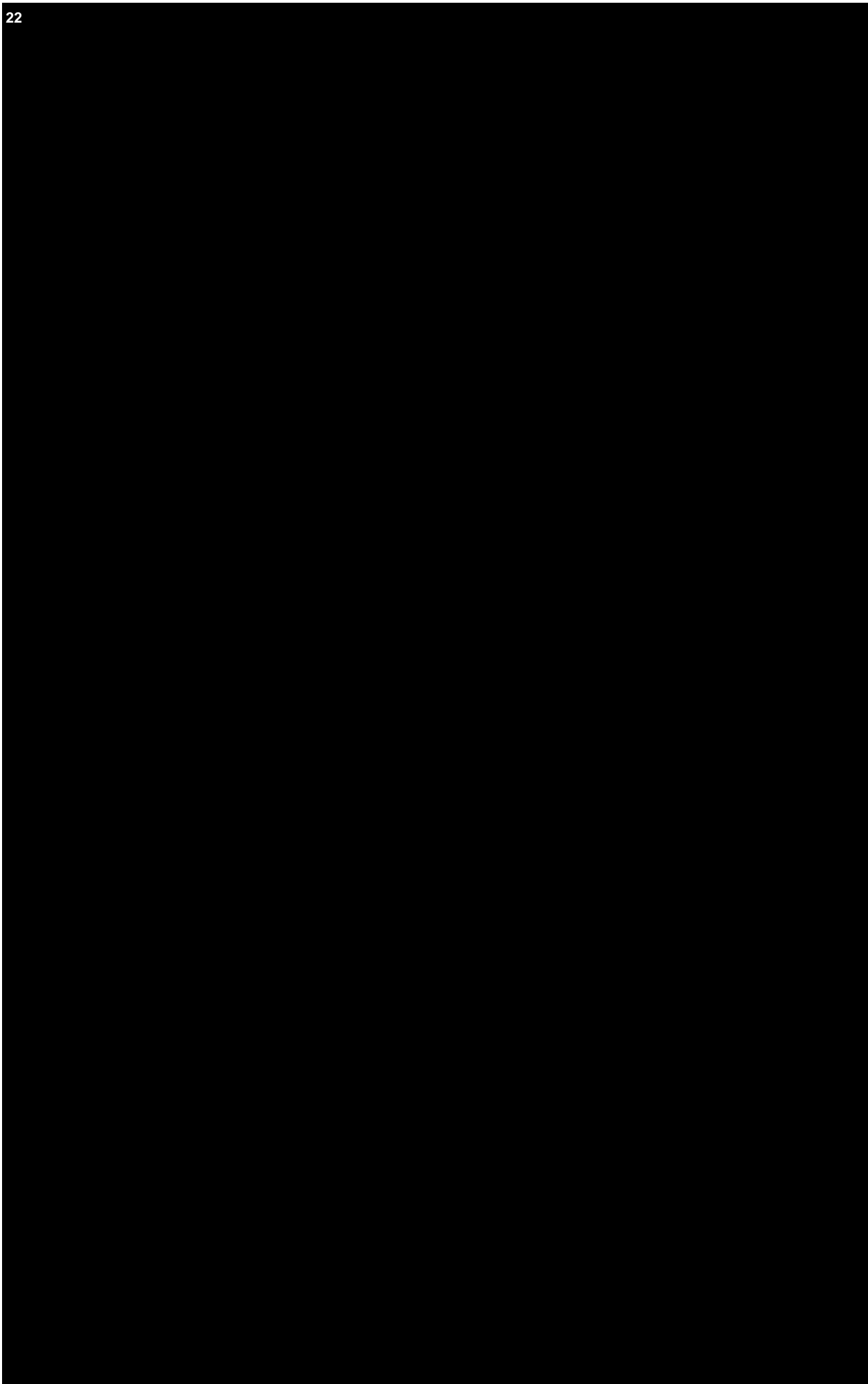
While there is state data in our publication, it isn't highlighted in the media release, so I don't think regional newspapers/coverage will be required. This is something we can manage the day of and after release.

22 [REDACTED]

Cheers

22 [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED]





22



22



----- Forwarded by 22 /Staff/ABS on 25/06/2019 08:54 AM -----

From: 22 /Staff/ABS  
To: 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS  
Cc: 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS  
Date: 21/06/2019 07:02 PM  
Subject: Re: SIH 2017-18 release: PM decision for media access

---

Hi 22,

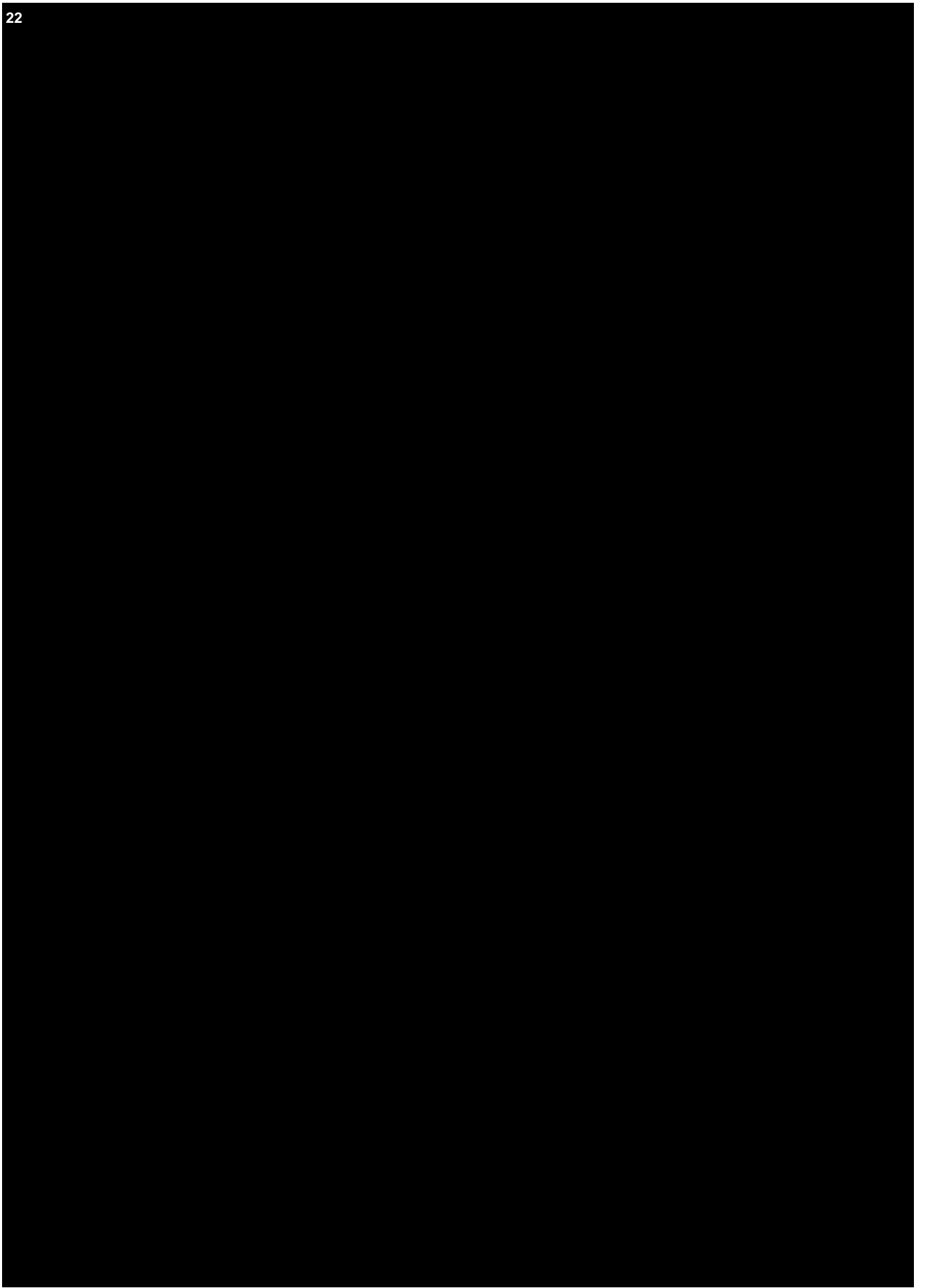
I believe that 22 has already been in contact with Web Publishing about pre-embargo access and at this stage we were planning on providing access to the entire publication as well as the media release.

22









Thanks. This looks fine. A couple of things

- could we not include an attachment to the media release with some state figures?
- can we mention the next SIH is currently in the field
- can we have some figures comparing household wealth from last years SIH or whenever the last one was...I'm always concerned when we just randomly pick a yer to compare to that we are not telling the full picture.

22

22

Program Manager | Communication and Parliamentary Branch

Australian Bureau of Statistics

P: 22 M: 22 E: 22 @abs.gov.au

W [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au) F: @absstats T: @ABSStats

22 22 ---28/06/2019 02:08:44 PM---Hello 22, Please find attached the draft comms plan, embargoed media access timeline and media rel

From: 22 /Staff/ABS  
 To: 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS  
 Cc: 22 /LTDACC/ABS@ABS, 22 /LTDACC/ABS@ABS, 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS  
 Date: 28/06/2019 02:08 PM  
 Subject: ACTION: Household Income and Wealth comms plan and media release

Hello 22,

Please find attached the draft comms plan, embargoed media access timeline and media release (one with tracked changes and the other a clean version) for the Household Income and Wealth pub on 12 July:

[attachment "6523.0 Income and Wealth Media Release\_V1.2.\_22 edits CLEAN.docx" deleted by 22 /Staff/ABS] [attachment "HIW timeline.docx" deleted by 22 /Staff/ABS]  
 [attachment "HIW comms on a page update.docx" deleted by 22 /Staff/ABS] [attachment "6523.0 Income and Wealth Media Release\_V1.2.\_22 edits.docx" deleted by 22 /Staff/ABS]

The embargoed media access timeline is tight. We've liaised initially with Web Pub but that was when we had more time, everything is condensed now.

The media release has no mention of state or territory data as the focus was on the strong national data. I think it's worth including a para on some headline stats but appreciate your advice.

Cheers,

22

22

Director

Media, Digital and Design Communications | Communication and Parliamentary Branch |

**Australian Bureau of Statistics**

T: 22 M: 22

E: 22 @abs.gov.au W: [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

F: @absstats T: @ABSStats

## Inequality stable since 2013–14

Income inequality has remained stable in Australia while income growth has been slow, according to new information released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) today.

ABS Chief Economist Bruce Hockman said data from the 2017-18 Survey of Income and Housing – Australia's largest survey of income and wealth – showed that income and wealth inequality had remained relatively stable since 2013-14.

### Income

While there was a marginal increase in inequality in the period leading up to the Global Financial Crisis in 2007-08, since 2007-08 the distribution of income between households has remained relatively stable," Mr Hockman said.

Mr Hockman added: "Over the past decade income growth has been slow with average weekly household incomes increasing \$44 to \$1,062 in 2017–18. In comparison, in the four years up to 2007–08 average weekly household income grew by \$220 in real terms to \$1,018.

"For low income households there has been an increase of \$28 in average weekly household income over the past decade, while for high income households there was an increase of \$57."

### Wealth

The data published today also showed there was a marginal increase in wealth inequality in 2017-18 and that wealth continues to be less equally distributed between households than income amongst Australians.

Average household wealth passed the \$1 million mark in 2017–18, a rise of more than 36 per cent compared to just over a decade ago (\$749,000 in 2005–06), driven in part by increases in superannuation balances as well as long term growth in house prices.

### Media notes:

- ) The measures of inequality referenced above use the Gini coefficient and which is an internationally accepted summary measure of inequality. Gini coefficient values range between 0 and 1. Values closer to 0 represent higher equality and values closer to 1 represent higher inequality.
- ) Household wealth is the value of all the assets owned by a household less the value of all its liabilities.
- ) Income and wealth estimates are in 2017–18 dollars and have been adjusted using changes in the Consumer Price Index.
- ) Income data is based on equivalised disposable current weekly household income. Equivalence factors standardise income for variations in household size and composition, while taking into account the economies of scale that arise from the sharing of dwellings. Disposable means net of income tax.
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- ) Income, wealth and housing data are from the 2017–18 Survey of Income and Housing – [abs.gov.au/household-income](https://abs.gov.au/household-income) (cat. no. 6523.0)
- ) When reporting ABS data, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (or ABS) must be attributed as the source.
- ) For media requests and interviews, contact the ABS Communications Section on **1300 175 070** (8.30am - 5:00pm Mon-Fri).
- ) Subscribe to our [email notification service](#) and get media releases or products sent to you on release. Email [media@abs.gov.au](mailto:media@abs.gov.au) to receive our fortnightly newsletter for media, Trends & Insights.

## Average household wealth tops \$1 million

Average household wealth passed the \$1 million mark in 2017–18, a rise of more than 36 per cent compared to just over a decade ago, according to an Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) report released today.

ABS Chief Economist, Bruce Hockman, said in 2017–18, average household wealth was \$1.02 million compared to nearly \$749,000 in 2005–06.

The main contributors to household wealth continued to be property and, increasingly superannuation, with average household super balances nearly doubling over the past 12 years.

“While ABS data has shown that there is a recent downturn in the property market, over the longer term there has been sustained growth (36 percent since 2005–06).”

“Over the same time, the average household superannuation balance has almost doubled (90 per cent) from \$112,500 in 2005–06 to \$213,700 in 2017–18”.

“The share of wealth between households in Australia has remained relatively stable since 2011–12”, Mr Hockman said.

“In 2017–18, the wealthiest 20 per cent of households still held over 60 per cent of all household wealth, now averaging \$3.2 million per household.

“By comparison, those in the middle 20 per cent held 11 per cent of all household wealth, averaging \$564,500 per household in 2017–18.

“The lowest 20 per cent controlled less than 1 per cent of all household wealth, with average wealth currently at \$35,200.”

Today’s data also showed that over the past decade income growth has been slow with average weekly household incomes increasing \$44 to \$1,062 in 2017–18. In comparison, in the four years up to 2007–08 average weekly household income grew by \$220 in real terms to \$1,018.

### Media notes:

- ) Household wealth is the value of all the assets owned by a household less the value of all its liabilities.
- ) Wealth estimates are in 2017–18 dollars and have been adjusted using changes in the Consumer Price Index.
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ABS Chief Economist, Bruce Hockman, said in 2017-18, average household wealth was just over \$1 million compared to nearly \$749,000 in 2005–06.

The main contributors to household wealth continued to be property and, increasingly superannuation, with average household balances nearly doubling over the past 12 years.

“Recent ABS data has shown a downturn in the property market, but there has been sustained longer term growth (36 percent since 2005–06).

“Over the same time the average household superannuation balance has almost doubled (90 per cent) from \$112,500 in 2005–06 to \$213,700 in 2017–18”.

“The share of wealth between households in Australia has remained relatively stable since 2011–12”, Mr Hockman said.

“In 2017-18, the wealthiest 20 per cent of households still held over 60 per cent of all household wealth, now averaging \$3.2 million per household.

“By comparison, those in the middle 20 per cent held 11 per cent of all household wealth, averaging \$564,500 per household in 2017-18.

“The lowest 20 per cent controlled less than 1 per cent of all household wealth, with average wealth currently at \$35,200.”

### Income

Over the past decade average weekly household incomes have increased \$44 to \$1,062 in 2017–18. In comparison, in the four years up to 2007–08 average weekly household income grew by \$220 in real terms to \$1,018.

“For low income households there has been an increase of \$28 in average weekly household income over the past decade, while for high income households there was an increase of \$57”.

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The main contributors to household wealth continued to be property and, increasingly superannuation, with average household balances nearly doubling over the past 12 years.

“While recent ABS data revealed a downturn in the property market, it reduces the long term growth (36 percent since 2005–06) in the average total value of property assets owned by households,” Mr Hockman said.

“Over the same time the average household superannuation balance has almost doubled (90 per cent) from \$112,500 in 2005–06 to \$213,700 in 2017–18”.

“The share of wealth between households in Australia has remained relatively stable since 2011–12”, Mr Hockman said.

“In 2017-18, the wealthiest 20 per cent of households still held over 60 per cent of all household wealth, now averaging \$3.2 million per household.

“By comparison, those in the middle 20 per cent held 11 per cent of all household wealth, averaging \$564,500 per household in 2017-18.

“The lowest 20 per cent controlled less than 1 per cent of all household wealth, with average wealth currently at \$35,200.”

### Income

Over the past decade average weekly household incomes have increased \$44 to \$1,062 in 2017–18. In comparison, in the four years up to 2007–08 average weekly household income grew by \$220 in real terms to \$1,018.

“For low income households there has been an increase of \$28 in average weekly household income over the past decade, while for high income households there was an increase of \$57”.

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### Average wealth of Australian households now over \$1 million

Average household wealth has passed the \$1 million mark, a rise of more than 33 per cent compared to a decade ago, according to an Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) report released today.

ABS Chief Economist, Bruce Hockman, said: "In 2017-18, average household wealth was just over \$1 million. This compared to nearly \$749,000 over a decade ago (2005-06)."

"It is important to note that over the same period average weekly household incomes have risen more slowly, by \$44 to \$1,062."

A new report released today by ABS has shown that average household wealth continues to increase and has now passed the 1 million dollar mark. "In 2017-18 average household wealth was just over \$1 million," ABS Chief Economist Bruce Hockman said. "This compares with nearly \$749,000 over a decade ago (2005-06)".

The main contributors to household wealth continue to be property and, increasingly superannuation, with average household balances nearly doubling over the past 12 years.

Mr Hockman said: "Although "While more Rrecent ABS information has shown a downturn in the property market, which has it reduceds the long-term growth (36% since 2005-06) in the average total value of property assets owned by households.

," Mr Hockman said: "However, cOver the same time period, the average household superannuation balance has almost doubled (90%) from \$112,500 in 2005-06 to \$213,700 in 2017-18."

#### Share of wealth distribution

Mr Hockman said "The share of wealth between households in Australia had5 remained stable since 2013-14." ," Mr Hockman said.

"In 2017-18, the wealthiest 20 per cent of households held over 60 per cent of all household wealth, now averaging \$3.2 million per household," Mr Hockman said. "By comparison, those in the middle 20 per cent held 11 per cent of all household wealth, averaging \$564,500 per household in 2017-18.

"The lowest 20 per cent controlled less than 1 per cent of all household wealth, with average wealth currently at \$35,200."

#### **Income**

Over the past decade average weekly household incomes have increased \$44 to \$1,062 in 2017-18. In comparison, in the four years up to 2007-08 average weekly household income grew by \$220 in real terms to \$1,018.

Mr Hockman said: "For low-income households there has been an increase of \$28 in average weekly household income over the past decade e," Mr Hockman said, "while for high-income households there was an increase of \$57."

#### **Media notes:**

- ) Household wealth is the value of all the assets owned by a household less the value of all its liabilities.
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- J Income data is based on equivalised disposable current weekly household income. Equivalence factors standardise income for variations in household size and composition, while taking into account the economies of scale that arise from the sharing of dwellings. Disposable means net of income tax.
- J Estimates are for people who reside in private dwellings in Australia, excluding Very Remote areas.
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- J When reporting ABS data, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (or ABS) must be attributed as the source.
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- J Subscribe to our [email notification service](#) and get media releases or products sent to you on release. Email [media@abs.gov.au](mailto:media@abs.gov.au) to receive our fortnightly newsletter for media, Trends & Insights.

### Average household wealth tops \$1 million

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ABS Chief Economist, Bruce Hockman, said in 2017-18, average household wealth was just over \$1 million compared to nearly \$749,000 in 2005–06.

The main contributors to household wealth continued to be property and, increasingly superannuation, with average household balances nearly doubling over the past 12 years.

“While recent ABS data revealed a downturn in the property market, it reduces the long term growth (36 percent since 2005–06) in the average total value of property assets owned by households,” Mr Hockman said.

“Over the same time the average household superannuation balance has almost doubled (90 per cent) from \$112,500 in 2005–06 to \$213,700 in 2017–18”.

“The share of wealth between households in Australia has remained relatively stable since 2011–12”, Mr Hockman said. “In 2017-18, the wealthiest 20 per cent of households still held over 60 per cent of all household wealth, now averaging \$3.2 million per household. By comparison, those in the middle 20 per cent held 11 per cent of all household wealth, averaging \$564,500 per household in 2017-18. The lowest 20 per cent controlled less than 1 per cent of all household wealth, with average wealth currently at \$35,200.”

### Income

Over the past decade average weekly household incomes have increased \$44 to \$1,062 in 2017–18. In comparison, in the four years up to 2007–08 average weekly household income grew by \$220 in real terms to \$1,018.

“For low income households there has been an increase of \$28 in average weekly household income over the past decade, while for high income households there was an increase of \$57”.

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## Inequality stable since 2013–14

The Survey of Income and Housing (SIH) is Australia's largest survey of income and wealth. A report released today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics reveals that income and wealth inequality remained stable since 2013–14.

### Income

“In the lead up to the Global Financial Crisis, income inequality increased from 0.306 in 2003–04 to 0.336 in 2007–08, as measured by the Gini coefficient,” ABS Chief Economist, Bruce Hockman said. “Since 2007-08, inequality has varied between 0.320 and 0.333. In 2017–18, income inequality remains within that range, at 0.328.”

Over the past decade income growth has been slow with average weekly household incomes increasing \$44 to \$1,062 in 2017–18. In comparison, in the four years up to 2007–08 average weekly household income grew by \$220 in real terms to \$1,018.

“For low income households there has been an increase of \$28 in average weekly household income over the past decade, while for high income households there was an increase of \$57”.

### Wealth

Wealth is less equally distributed than income amongst Australians. Wealth inequality, as measured by the Gini coefficient, was 0.621 in 2017–18. While this is a small increase from 2015–16 (0.605) it is not statistically significant, but it is a significant increase compared to 2011–12 (0.593) and 2003–04 (0.573) when the series was first comprehensively measured.

### Media notes:

- ) The Gini coefficient is the internationally accepted summary measure of inequality. Gini coefficient values range between 0 and 1. Values closer to 0 represent higher equality and values closer to 1 represent higher inequality.
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## Inequality stable since 2013–14

Income inequality has remained stable in Australia while income growth has been slow, according to new information released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) today.

ABS Chief Economist Bruce Hockman said data from the 2017-18 Survey of Income and Housing - Australia's largest survey of income and wealth - showed that income and wealth inequality had remained relatively stable since 2013-14.

**Commented [2.1]:** Is this different from what the pub will listed as?

### Income

"Using a measure called the Gini coefficient we can see that in the lead up to the Global Financial Crisis income inequality increased from 0.306 in 2003-04 to 0.336 in 2007-08," Mr Hockman said.

"Since 2007-08, inequality has varied between 0.320 and 0.333. In 2017-18, income inequality remains within that range, at 0.328."

Mr Hockman added: "Over the past decade income growth has been slow with average weekly household incomes increasing \$44 to \$1,062 in 2017-18. In comparison, in the four years up to 2007-08 average weekly household income grew by \$220 in real terms to \$1,018.

"For low income households there has been an increase of \$28 in average weekly household income over the past decade, while for high income households there was an increase of \$57."

### Wealth

The data published today also showed that wealth was less equally distributed than income amongst Australians.

While the increase in wealth inequality, as measured by the Gini coefficient, from 0.605 in 2015-16 to 0.621 in 2017-18 is not statistically significant, it is when compared to 2011-12 (0.593) and 2003-04 (0.573) when the series was first comprehensively measured.

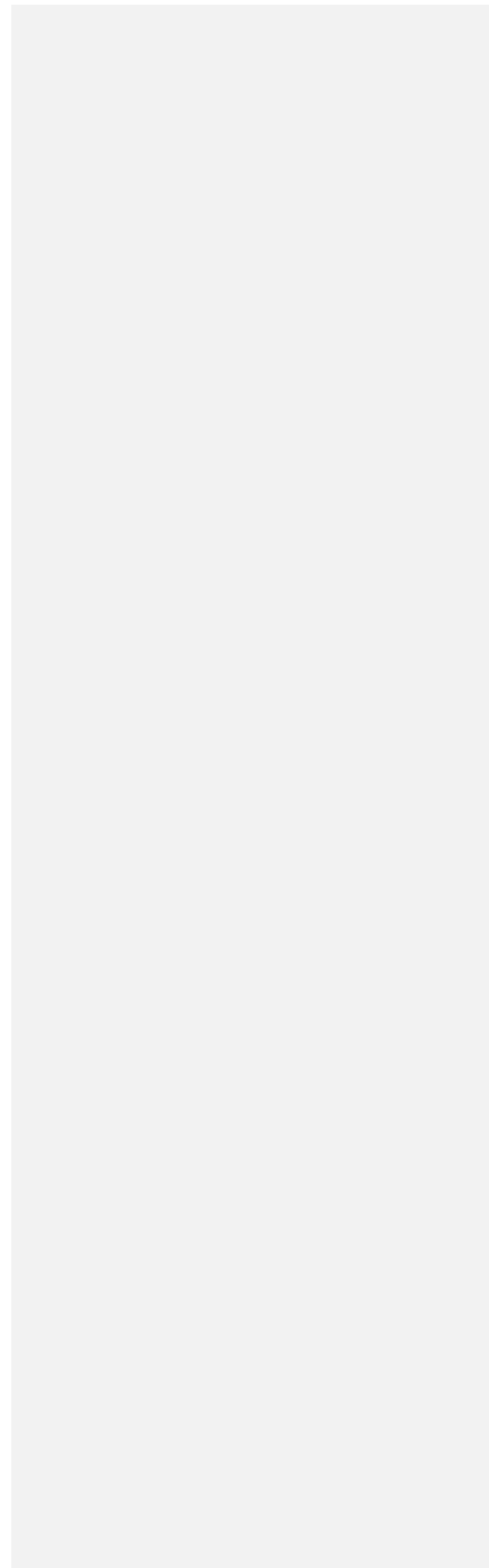
Average household wealth passed the \$1 million mark in 2017-18, a rise of more than 36 per cent compared to just over a decade ago and driven in part by increases in superannuation balances as well as long term growth in house prices (36 percent from 2005-06 to xxxxxx).

**Commented [2.2]:** Please add year.

### Media notes:

- ) The Gini coefficient is the internationally accepted summary measure of inequality. Gini coefficient values range between 0 and 1. Values closer to 0 represent higher equality and values closer to 1 represent higher inequality.
- ) Household wealth is the value of all the assets owned by a household less the value of all its liabilities.
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- ) Subscribe to our [email notification service](#) and get media releases or products sent to you on release. Email [media@abs.gov.au](mailto:media@abs.gov.au) to receive our fortnightly newsletter for media, Trends & Insights.



## Average household wealth tops \$1 million

Average household wealth passed the \$1 million mark in 2017–18, a rise of more than 36 per cent compared to just over a decade ago, according to an Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) report released today.

ABS Chief Economist, Bruce Hockman, said in 2017–18, average household wealth was \$1.02 million compared to nearly \$749,000 in 2005–06 and \$964,000 in 2015–16.

The main contributors to household wealth continued to be property and, increasingly superannuation, with average household super balances nearly doubling over the past 12 years.

“While ABS data has shown that there is a recent downturn in the property market, over the longer term there has been sustained growth (36 percent since 2005–06).”

“Over the same time the average household superannuation balance has almost doubled (90 per cent) from \$112,500 in 2005–06 to \$213,700 in 2017–18”.

“The share of wealth between households in Australia has remained relatively stable since 2011–12”, Mr Hockman said.

“In 2017–18, the wealthiest 20 per cent of households still held over 60 per cent of all household wealth, now averaging \$3.2 million per household.

“By comparison, those in the middle 20 per cent held 11 per cent of all household wealth, averaging \$564,500 per household in 2017–18.

“The lowest 20 per cent controlled less than 1 per cent of all household wealth, with average wealth currently at \$35,200.”

### Media notes:

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- ) Income, wealth and housing data are from the 2017–18 Survey of Income and Housing – [abs.gov.au/household-income](https://abs.gov.au/household-income) (cat. no. 6523.0)
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12 July 2019

## MEDIA RELEASE

Embargo: 11:30am (Canberra Time)

### Average household wealth tops \$1 million

Average household wealth passed the \$1 million mark in 2017–18, a rise of 37 per cent compared to just over a decade ago, according to an Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) report released today.

ABS Chief Economist, Bruce Hockman, said in 2017–18, average household wealth was \$1.02 million compared to nearly \$749,000 in 2005–06.

The main contributors to household wealth continued to be property and, increasingly superannuation, with average household super balances nearly doubling over the past 12 years.

"While ABS data has shown that there is a recent downturn in the property market, over the longer term there has been sustained growth (37 per cent since 2005–06)."

"Over the same time, the average household superannuation balance has almost doubled (90 per cent) from \$112,500 in 2005–06 to \$213,700 in 2017–18".

"The share of wealth between households in Australia has remained relatively stable since 2011–12", Mr Hockman said.

"In 2017–18, the wealthiest 20 per cent of households still held over 60 per cent of all household wealth, now averaging \$3.2 million per household.

"By comparison, those in the middle 20 per cent held 11 per cent of all household wealth, averaging \$564,500 per household in 2017–18.

"The lowest 20 per cent controlled less than 1 per cent of all household wealth, with average wealth currently at \$35,200."

Today's data also showed that over the past decade income growth has been slow with average weekly household incomes increasing \$44 to \$1,062 in 2017–18. In comparison, in the four years up to 2007–08 average weekly household income grew by \$220 in real terms to \$1,018.

#### Media notes:

- Household wealth is the value of all the assets owned by a household less the value of all its liabilities.
- Wealth estimates are in 2017–18 dollars and have been adjusted using changes in the Consumer Price Index.
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12 July 2019

## MEDIA RELEASE

Embargo: 11:30am (Canberra Time)

### Inequality stable since 2013–14

Income inequality has remained stable in Australia while income growth has been slow, according to new information released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) today.

ABS Chief Economist Bruce Hockman said data from the 2017–18 Survey of Income and Housing – Australia’s largest survey of income and wealth – showed that income and wealth inequality had remained relatively stable since 2013–14.

#### Income

"While there was a marginal increase in inequality in the period leading up to the Global Financial Crisis in 2007–08, since 2007–08 the distribution of income between households has remained relatively stable," Mr Hockman said.

Mr Hockman added: "Over the past decade income growth has been slow with average weekly household incomes increasing \$44 to \$1,062 in 2017–18. In comparison, in the four years up to 2007–08 average weekly household income grew by \$220 in real terms to \$1,018."

"For low income households there has been an increase of \$28 in average weekly household income over the past decade, while for high income households there was an increase of \$57."

#### Wealth

The data published today also showed there was a marginal increase in wealth inequality in 2017–18 and that wealth continues to be less equally distributed between households than income amongst Australians.

Average household wealth passed the \$1 million mark in 2017–18, a rise of 37 per cent compared to just over a decade ago (\$749,000 in 2005–06), driven in part by increases in superannuation balances as well as long term growth in house prices.

#### Media notes:

- The measures of inequality referenced above use the Gini coefficient which is an internationally accepted summary measure of inequality. Gini coefficient values range between 0 and 1. Values closer to 0 represent higher equality and values closer to 1 represent higher inequality.
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Notification: Final media documents [redacted]

HERS WDB to: [redacted]

11/07/2019 11:09 AM

Sent by: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted], [redacted], [redacted], [redacted], [redacted]

This message is digitally signed.

History: This message has been forwarded.

Hi [redacted],

Please find attached the documents required for your media preparation for tomorrow.

Please note we did make 1 more small wording change to the media releases that will be released tomorrow. Instead of saying more than 37%, we took out the words more than and just said the increase was 37% (for average net worth since 2005-06). This change did not make the pre-embargo releases unfortunately as we only made this correction late last night

There were no clarifications or questions from the government department pre-embargo access yesterday (although our outposted officer to DSS did pick up some minor formatting issues).

Please let me know if there is anything further required. The publication 6523.0 has been locked down and we are busy locking down the user guide this morning too.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

Director

Household Economic Resource Surveys | Household Surveys Branch | Australian Bureau of Statistics

(P) [redacted] (E) [redacted]@abs.gov.au (W) www.abs.gov.au

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[redacted] Final media documents 03/01/1969 04:53:24 PM

Final media documents HERS WDB [redacted] 11/07/2019 10:45 AM

Basics

Protective Mark	UNCLASSIFIED
Categories	Surveys\SIH 2017-18\7 Disseminate\7.3 Manage release of Dissemination products
Visibility	Limited Readers
Editors	[redacted]/Staff/ABS

<b>Readers</b>	22 /Staff/ABS, 22 /Staff/ABS, 22 /Staff/ABS, 22 /Staff/ABS, 22 /Staff/ABS, 22 LTDACC/ABS, 22 /Staff/ABS, 22 /LTDACC/ABS, /Staff/ABS, 22 /Staff/ABS, CO_PSG_HERS_EL1s, /Staff/ABS, 22 /Staff/ABS
<b>Document Usage</b>	Statistical Collections - determines recordkeeping action
<b>Last modified</b>	11/07/2019 10:58:29 AM By 22 /Staff/ABS
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22	22
Media Release 1 (to be tweeted first)	 12072019 Inequality stable since 2013-14_6523.0.pdf
Media Release 2	 12072019 Average household wealth tops 1 million.pdf
22	22

### Average household wealth tops average wealth of Australian households now over \$1 million

Average household wealth has passed the \$1 million mark in 2017-18, a rise of more than 33 per cent compared to a decade ago, according to an Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) report released today.

ABS Chief Economist, Bruce Hockman, said in: "In 2017-18, average household wealth was just over \$1 million compared to nearly \$749,000 in 2005-06 and \$xxx in xxx over a decade ago (2005-06).

Commented [21]: [redacted] wants a more recent comparison not just 2005-06

"It is important to note that over the same period average weekly household incomes rose have risen more slowly, by \$44 to \$1,062 compared with a rise of \$220 in real terms to \$1,018 in the four years up to 2007-08," he said.

"For low-income households there has been an increase of \$28 in average weekly household income over the past decade while for high-income households there was an increase of \$57."

~~In comparison, in the four years up to 2007-08 average weekly household income grew by \$220 in real terms to \$1,018.~~

"

The main contributors to household wealth continued to be property and, increasingly superannuation, with average household balances nearly doubling over the past 12 years.

"Mr Hockman said: "Recent ABS data revealed information has shown a downturn in the property market, which has has reduced the long-term growth (36 per cent % since 2005-06) in the average total value of property assets owned by households.

"However, over the same period, the average household superannuation balance has almost doubled (90 per cent%) from \$112,500 in 2005-06 to \$213,700 in 2017-18."

### **Household wealth distribution**

Mr Hockman said the share of wealth between households in Australia had remained stable since 2013-14.

"In 2017-18, the wealthiest 20 per cent of households held over 60 per cent of all household wealth, now averaging \$3.2 million per household. In 2013-14, the wealthiest xxx per cent of households held over xxx per cent of all household wealth averaging \$xxx per household.

Commented [22]: need

"Mr Hockman said: "By comparison, those in the middle 20 per cent of households held 11 per cent of all household wealth (xxx in 2013-14), averaging \$564,500 per household in 2017-18 compared to \$xxx in 2013-14."

"The lowest 20 per cent controlled less than 1 per cent of all household wealth (xxx in 2013-14), with average wealth of currently at \$35,200 compared to \$xxx in 2013-14," Mr Hockman said."

### **Income**

~~Over the past decade average weekly household incomes have increased \$44 to \$1,062 in 2017-18. In comparison, in the four years up to 2007-08 average weekly household income grew by \$220 in real terms to \$1,018.~~

Mr Hockman said: "For low-income households there has been an increase of \$28 in average weekly household income over the past decade while for high-income households there was an increase of \$57."



**Household Income and Wealth publication for release on 12 July**

22 to: 22

21/06/2019 12:29 PM

Cc: 22

This message is digitally signed.

22, as discussed I'm attaching some background, the comms on a page (at the end of this email), next steps for the Household Income and Wealth publication.

**Background**

- Data is for the 2017-18 financial year so not as up date as 5232.0 (Mar 2019) Australian National Accounts: Finance and Wealth which comes out on 27 June and for the first time will include a media release with 22 as spokesperson

22

**Media**

22

- Written materials will comprise one overarching media release ; eight fact sheets (one for each state and territory) talking points/FAQs.

- 22 will be the spokesperson with 22 available for straightforward news grabs .

22

**Next steps**

22



### Average wealth of Australian households now over \$1 million

A new report released today by ABS has shown that average household wealth continues to increase and has now passed the 1 million dollar mark. "In 2017–18 average household wealth was just over \$1 million (**\$1,022,200**)," ABS Chief Economist Bruce Hockman said. "This compares with nearly \$660,000 (**\$657,300**) over a decade ago (2003–04)".

The main contributors to household wealth continue to be property and superannuation. "While more recent information has shown a downturn in the property market, it does not discount the long term growth (50% **since 2003–04**) in the average total value of property assets owned by households **since 2003–04**" Mr Hockman said. "Over the same time the average household superannuation balance has more than doubled (**140%**) from \$89,200 in 2003–04 to \$213,700 in 2017–18".

Wealth is less equally distributed than income amongst Australians. Wealth inequality, as measured by the Gini coefficient, is at its **peak now** (0.621) since it was first comprehensively measured in 2003–04 (0.573). However, for income it has been relatively stable in recent years and is currently 0.328.

#### Income

Over the past decade average weekly household incomes have increased \$44 to \$1,062 in 2017–18. In comparison, in the four years up to 2007–08 average weekly household income grew by \$220 in real terms to \$1,018.

"For low income households there has been an increase of \$28 in average weekly household income over the past decade," Mr Hockman said, "while for high income households there was an increase of \$57".

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**Commented [2]:** I used 2003-04 as it is the start of the series and compares with the Gini comparison below. However 2005-06 comparison is made in the key indicators table in commentary (as 2007-08 data is not available and I didn't want half the table to have n.a.)

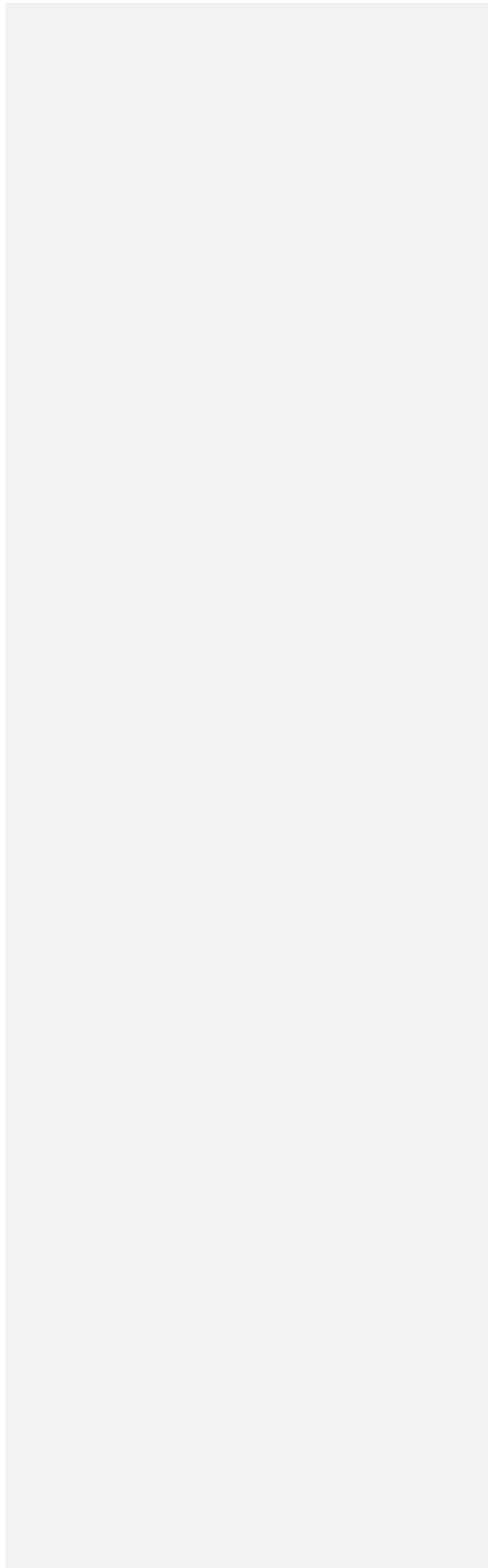
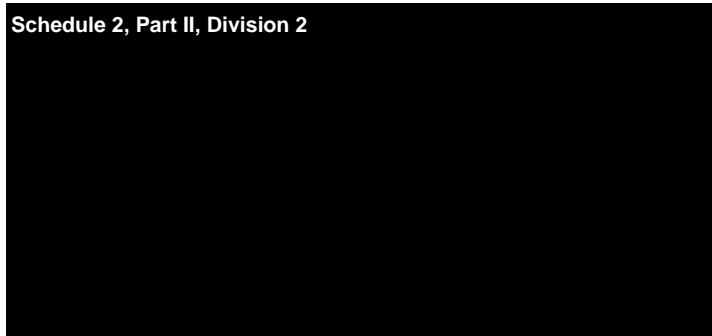
**Commented [2]:** will update text post Nat. Acc. release this Thursday – Finance and Wealth.

**Commented [2]:** I have a table below that shows some other interesting data around super and property assets

**Commented [2]:** Does this sound misleading – in comparison with recent years I think it is not significant – will get team to check ...

Exerts of assets

**Schedule 2, Part II, Division 2**





### Average wealth of Australian households now over \$1 million

A new report released today by ABS has shown that average household wealth continues to increase and has now passed the 1 million dollar mark. "In 2017–18 average household wealth was just over \$1 million (**\$1,022,200**)," ABS Chief Economist Bruce Hockman said. "This compares with nearly \$749,000 (**\$748,900**) over a decade ago (2005–06)".

The main contributors to household wealth continue to be property and superannuation. "While more recent information has shown a downturn in the property market, it ~~does not discount~~ reduces the long term growth (36% since 2005–06) in the average total value of property assets owned by households," Mr Hockman said. "Over the same time the average household superannuation balance has almost doubled (90%) from \$112,500 in 2005–06 to \$213,700 in 2017–18".

"The share of wealth between households in Australia has remained stable since 2013–14", Mr Hockman said. "In 2017-18, the wealthiest 20 per cent of households held over 60 per cent of all household wealth, now averaging \$3.2 million per household. By comparison, those in the middle 20 per cent held 11 per cent of all household wealth, averaging \$564,500 per household in 2017-18. The lowest 20 per cent controlled less than 1 per cent of all household wealth, with average wealth currently at \$35,200."

### Income

Over the past decade average weekly household incomes have increased \$44 to \$1,062 in 2017–18. In comparison, in the four years up to 2007–08 average weekly household income grew by \$220 in real terms to \$1,018.

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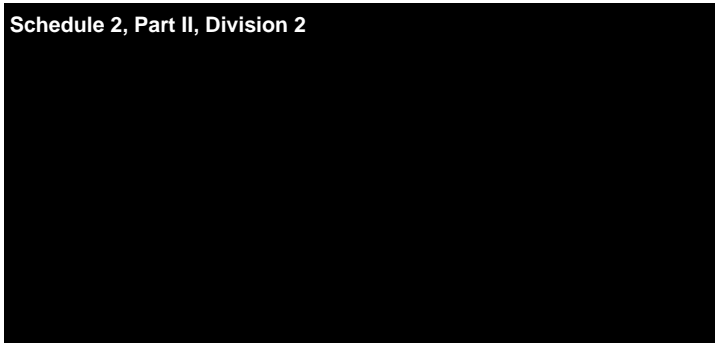
**Commented [2]:** will update text post Nat. Acc. release this Thursday – Finance and Wealth.

**Commented [2]:** I have a table below that shows some other interesting data around super and property assets

**Commented [2]:** Check Significance testing

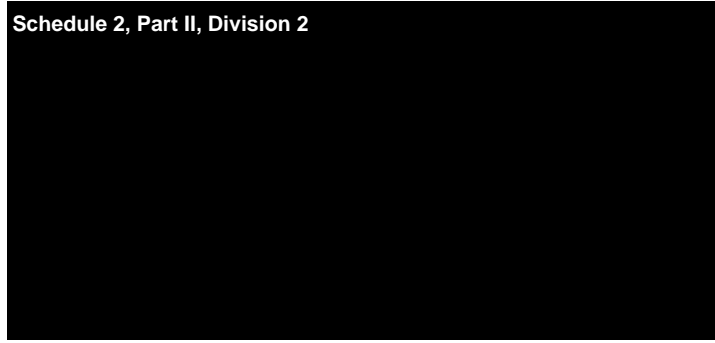
Exerts of assets (Table 2.4)

**Schedule 2, Part II, Division 2**



Exerts of assets (Table 2.4)

**Schedule 2, Part II, Division 2**



**Commented [2]:** I think you mean "Excerpts" ie an abbreviated table rather than one that has been subject to physical exercise.

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ABS Chief Economist, Bruce Hockman, said in 2017-18, average household wealth was just over \$1 million compared to nearly \$749,000 in 2005–06.

The main contributors to household wealth continued to be property and, increasingly superannuation, with average household balances nearly doubling over the past 12 years.

While recent ABS data has shown a downturn in the property market, but there has been sustained longer term growth (36 percent since 2005–06). *that there is a recent*

“Over the same time the average household superannuation balance has almost doubled (90 per cent) from \$112,500 in 2005–06 to \$213,700 in 2017–18”.

“The share of wealth between households in Australia has remained relatively stable since 2011–12”, Mr Hockman said. *I slight tick-up from 2015-16 to 2017-18 but not significant*

“In 2017-18, the wealthiest 20 per cent of households still held over 60 per cent of all household wealth, now averaging \$3.2 million per household.”

“By comparison, those in the middle 20 per cent held 11 per cent of all household wealth, averaging \$564,500 per household in 2017-18.”

“The lowest 20 per cent controlled less than 1 per cent of all household wealth, with average wealth currently at \$35,200.”

### Income

Over the past decade average weekly household incomes have increased \$44 to \$1,062 in 2017–18. In comparison, in the four years up to 2007–08 average weekly household income grew by \$220 in real terms to \$1,018.

“For low income households there has been an increase of \$28 in average weekly household income over the past decade, while for high income households there was an increase of \$57”.

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*draw the conclusion  
ie income growth has been flat.*

*is discussed  
relative  
media  
private*

## Inequality stable since 2013–14

The Survey of Income and Housing (SIH) is Australia's largest survey of income and wealth. A report released today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics reveals that income and wealth inequality remained stable since 2013–14.

### Income

“In the lead up to the Global Financial Crisis, income inequality increased from 0.306 in 2003–04 to 0.336 in 2007–08, as measured by the Gini coefficient,” ABS Chief Economist, Bruce Hockman said. “Since 2007-08, inequality has varied between 0.320 and 0.333. In 2017–18, income inequality remains within that range, at 0.328.”

Over the past decade income growth has been slow with average weekly household incomes increasing \$44 to \$1,062 in 2017–18. In comparison, in the four years up to 2007–08 average weekly household income grew by \$220 in real terms to \$1,018.

“For low income households there has been an increase of \$28 in average weekly household income over the past decade, while for high income households there was an increase of \$57”.

### Wealth

Wealth is less equally distributed than income amongst Australians. Wealth inequality, as measured by the Gini coefficient, was 0.621 in 2017–18. While this is a small increase from 2015–16 (~~0.605 not statistically significant~~), it is a significant increase compared to 2011–12 (0.593) and 2003–04 (0.573) when the series was first comprehensively measured.

### Media notes:

- Household wealth is the value of all the assets owned by a household less the value of all its liabilities.
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Income inequality has remained stable in Australia while income growth has been slow, according to new information released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) today.

ABS Chief Economist Bruce Hockman said data from the 2017-18 Survey of Income and Housing – Australia’s largest survey of income and wealth – showed that income and wealth inequality had remained relatively stable since 2013-14.

### Income

~~While there was a marginal increase in inequality in the period “Using a measure called the Gini coefficient we can see that in the leading up to the Global Financial Crisis in 2007-08, since 2007-08 the distribution of income between households has remained relatively stable income inequality increased from 0.306 in 2003-04 to 0.336 in 2007-08,” Mr Hockman said.~~

~~“Since 2007-08, inequality has varied between 0.320 and 0.333. In 2017–18, income inequality remains within that range, at 0.328.”~~

Mr Hockman added: “Over the past decade income growth has been slow with average weekly household incomes increasing \$44 to \$1,062 in 2017–18. In comparison, in the four years up to 2007–08 average weekly household income grew by \$220 in real terms to \$1,018.

“For low income households there has been an increase of \$28 in average weekly household income over the past decade, while for high income households there was an increase of \$57.”

### Wealth

The data published today also showed that, ~~while there was marginal increase in wealth inequality in 2017-18, wealth continues to be~~ ~~wealth was~~ less equally distributed ~~between households~~ than income amongst Australians.

~~While the increase in wealth inequality, as measured by the Gini coefficient, from 0.605 in 2015-16 to 0.621 in 2017–18 is not statistically significant, it is when compared to 2011–12 (0.593) and 2003–04 (0.573) when the series was first comprehensively measured.~~

Average household wealth passed the \$1 million mark in 2017–18, a rise of more than 36 per cent compared to just over a decade ago (\$749,000 in 2005–06), ~~and~~ driven in part by increases in superannuation balances as well as long term growth in house prices.

### Media notes:

- The Gini coefficient is the internationally accepted summary measure of inequality. Gini coefficient values range between 0 and 1. Values closer to 0 represent higher equality and values closer to 1 represent higher inequality.
- Household wealth is the value of all the assets owned by a household less the value of all its liabilities.
- Income and wealth estimates are in 2017–18 dollars and have been adjusted using changes in the Consumer Price Index.
- Income data is based on equivalised disposable current weekly household income. Equivalence factors standardise income for variations in household size and composition, while taking into account the economies of scale that arise from the sharing of dwellings. Disposable means net of income tax.
- Estimates are for people who reside in private dwellings in Australia, excluding Very Remote areas.
- Income, wealth and housing data are from the 2017–18 Survey of Income and Housing – [abs.gov.au/household-income](http://abs.gov.au/household-income) (cat. no. 6523.0)
- When reporting ABS data, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (or ABS) must be attributed as the source.
- For media requests and interviews, contact the ABS Communications Section on **1300 175 070** (8.30am - 5:00pm Mon-Fri).

- Subscribe to our [email notification service](#) and get media releases or products sent to you on release. Email [media@abs.gov.au](mailto:media@abs.gov.au) to receive our fortnightly newsletter for media, Trends & Insights.

From: 22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS  
To: 22 [redacted] Staff/ABS@ABS  
Cc: 22 [redacted] /LTDACC/ABS@ABS, 22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS@ABS, [redacted] /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS@ABS, [redacted] /LTDACC/ABS@ABS  
Date: 08/07/2019 07:17 PM  
Subject: Re: Draft media release (6523.0 Income and Wealth) 22 [redacted]

Hi all,

Just pasting in the final copies of the media releases for everyone's information.

We will be adding them to WCA tomorrow for sign off.

Regards

22 [redacted]



6523.0 Inequality Media Release.docx

6523.0 Wealth Media Release.docx

22 [redacted]

Director

Household Economic Resource Surveys | Household Surveys Branch | **Australian Bureau of Statistics**

(P) 22 [redacted] (E) 22 [redacted] @abs.gov.au 22 [redacted] @abs.gov.au (W) [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

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From: 22 [REDACTED]/Staff/ABS  
To: 22 [REDACTED]/Staff/ABS@ABS  
Date: 10/07/2019 12:13 PM  
Subject: Fw: Media Release fixes 22 [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED]

Survey of Income and Housing 2017-18 | Household Economic Resource Surveys

Population, Labour and Social Statistics | **Australian Bureau of Statistics**

(P) 22 [REDACTED] (E) 22 [REDACTED] [@abs.gov.au](mailto:22[REDACTED]@abs.gov.au) (W) [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

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----- Forwarded by 22 [REDACTED]/Staff/ABS on 10/07/2019 12:12 PM -----

From: 22 [REDACTED]/Staff/ABS  
To: 22 [REDACTED]/Staff/ABS@ABS  
Date: 10/07/2019 11:24 AM  
Subject: Media Release fixes 22 [REDACTED]

Any questions let me know.



## Average household wealth tops \$1 million

Average household wealth passed the \$1 million mark in 2017–18, a rise of more than 37 per cent compared to just over a decade ago, according to an Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) report released today.

ABS Chief Economist, Bruce Hockman, said in 2017–18, average household wealth was \$1.02 million compared to nearly \$749,000 in 2005–06.

The main contributors to household wealth continued to be property and, increasingly superannuation, with average household super balances nearly doubling over the past 12 years.

“While ABS data has shown that there is a recent downturn in the property market, over the longer term there has been sustained growth (37 percent since 2005–06).”

Income, wealth and housing data are from the 2017–18 Survey of Income and Housing – [abs.gov.au/household-income](https://abs.gov.au/household-income) (cat. no. 6523.0)

↖ full stop

## Income

*No opening quotations*

While there was a marginal increase in inequality in the period leading up to the Global Financial Crisis in 2007–08, since 2007–08 the distribution of income between households has remained relatively stable,” Mr Hockman said.

Mr Hockman added: “Over the past decade income growth has been slow with average weekly household incomes increasing \$44 to \$1,062 in 2017–18. In comparison, in the four years up to 2007–08 average weekly household income grew by \$220 in real terms to \$1,018.”

*No closing quotations*

“For low income households there has been an increase of \$28 in average weekly household income over the past decade, while for high income households there was an increase of \$57.”

Average household wealth passed the \$1 million mark in 2017–18, a rise of **more than** 37 per cent compared to just over a decade ago (\$749,000 in 2005–06), driven in part by increases in superannuation balances as well as long term growth in house prices.

### Media notes:

- The measures of inequality referenced above use the Gini coefficient **and** which is an internationally accepted summary measure of inequality. Gini coefficient values range between 0 and 1. Values closer to 0 represent higher equality and values closer to 1 represent higher inequality.
- Income, wealth and housing data are from the 2017–18 Survey of Income and Housing – [abs.gov.au/household-income](https://abs.gov.au/household-income) (cat. no. 6523.0).

*No fullstop*

From: 22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS  
 To: 22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS@ABS  
 Cc: 22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS@ABS,  
 22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS@ABS  
 Date: 05/07/2019 05:47 PM  
 Subject: Re: 2017–18 Survey of Income and Housing: Briefing documentation 22 [redacted]

Team - Apart from the comments on the inequality release that I sent through in a separate email, I have no more comments. This all looks good.

22 [redacted]

22 [redacted]  
 Deputy Australian Statistician  
 Statistical Services Group | **Australian Bureau of Statistics**  
 (P) 22 [redacted]  
 (E) 22 [redacted]@abs.gov.au (W) www.abs.gov.au

22 [redacted]



From: 22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS  
 To: 22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS@ABS  
 Cc: 22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS@ABS,  
 22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS@ABS  
 Date: 05/07/2019 03:58 PM  
 Subject: 2017–18 Survey of Income and Housing: Briefing documentation 22 [redacted]

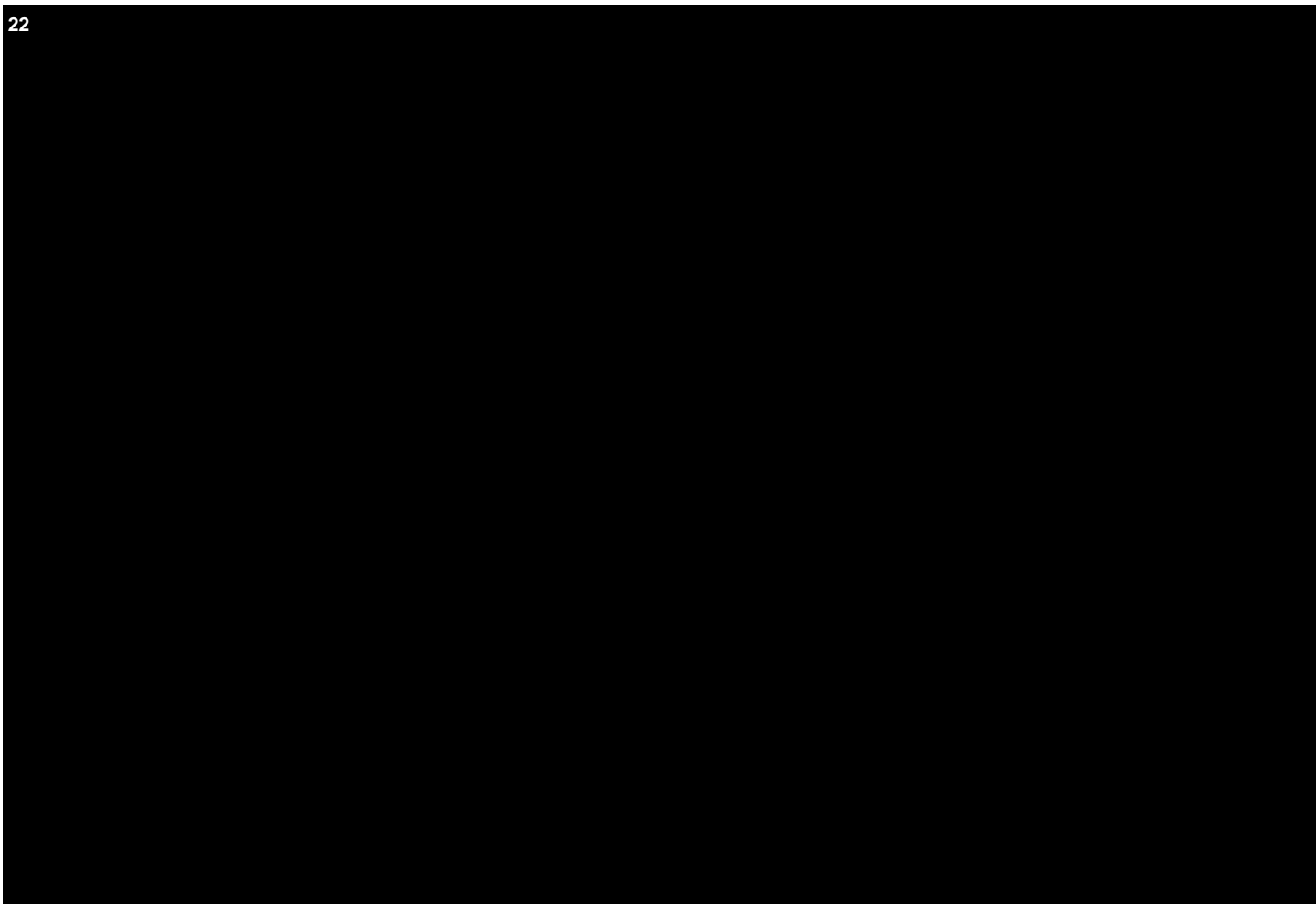
Hi 22 [redacted],

As discussed yesterday, please find attached the 2017-18 Survey of Income and Housing information (updated per your comments).

Please let me know if you have any further comments. We will be locking this down by 11:30am Tuesday ready for the Government Department pre-embargo access on Wednesday and media on the Thursday.

Documents attached are:

22 [redacted]		
<b>Income and Wealth (6523.0 - 12 July) media releases</b>		6523.0
1. Inequality stable since 2013–04	Inequality Media Release.docx	
1.		
2. Average household wealth tops \$1 million		6523.0 Wealth
	Media Release.docx	
22 [redacted]		



Regards

22

22

*Director*

Household Economic Resource Surveys | Household Surveys Branch | **Australian Bureau of Statistics**

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To: 22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS@ABS  
Cc: 22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS@ABS,  
22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS@ABS,  
[redacted] /Staff/ABS@ABS  
Date: 05/07/2019 05:42 PM  
Subject: 6523.0 Inequality Media Release.docx 22 [redacted]

Team - the media release looks good, but too technical for an external audience. Very few people know of or understand what a gini coefficient is. I have attempted to simplify, but you can fix my language if necessary.

22 [redacted]

22 [redacted]  
Deputy Australian Statistician  
Statistical Services Group | **Australian Bureau of Statistics**  
(P) 22 [redacted]  
(E) 22 [redacted]@abs.gov.au (W) www.abs.gov.au

22 [redacted]



- 6523.0 Inequality Media Release.docx

From: 22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS  
To: 22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS@ABS  
Date: 04/07/2019 03:38 PM  
Subject: Re: Revised media release (and Gini information)



6523.0 Inequality Media Release 2.docx

22 [redacted]

Program Manager A/g  
Head of Office (SA)  
Household Survey Branch | **Australian Bureau of Statistics**

(P) 22 [redacted] (M) 22 [redacted]

(E) 22 [redacted] @abs.gov.au (W) [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

From: 22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS  
To: 22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS@ABS  
Date: 04/07/2019 03:21 PM  
Subject: Revised media release (and Gini information)

Hi 22 [redacted],

Here is the information for 22 [redacted] note we'll still need Comms to work with us on the 'Inequality' media release. However I'll get your comments first (note I have re-used words from 2015-16 media release).

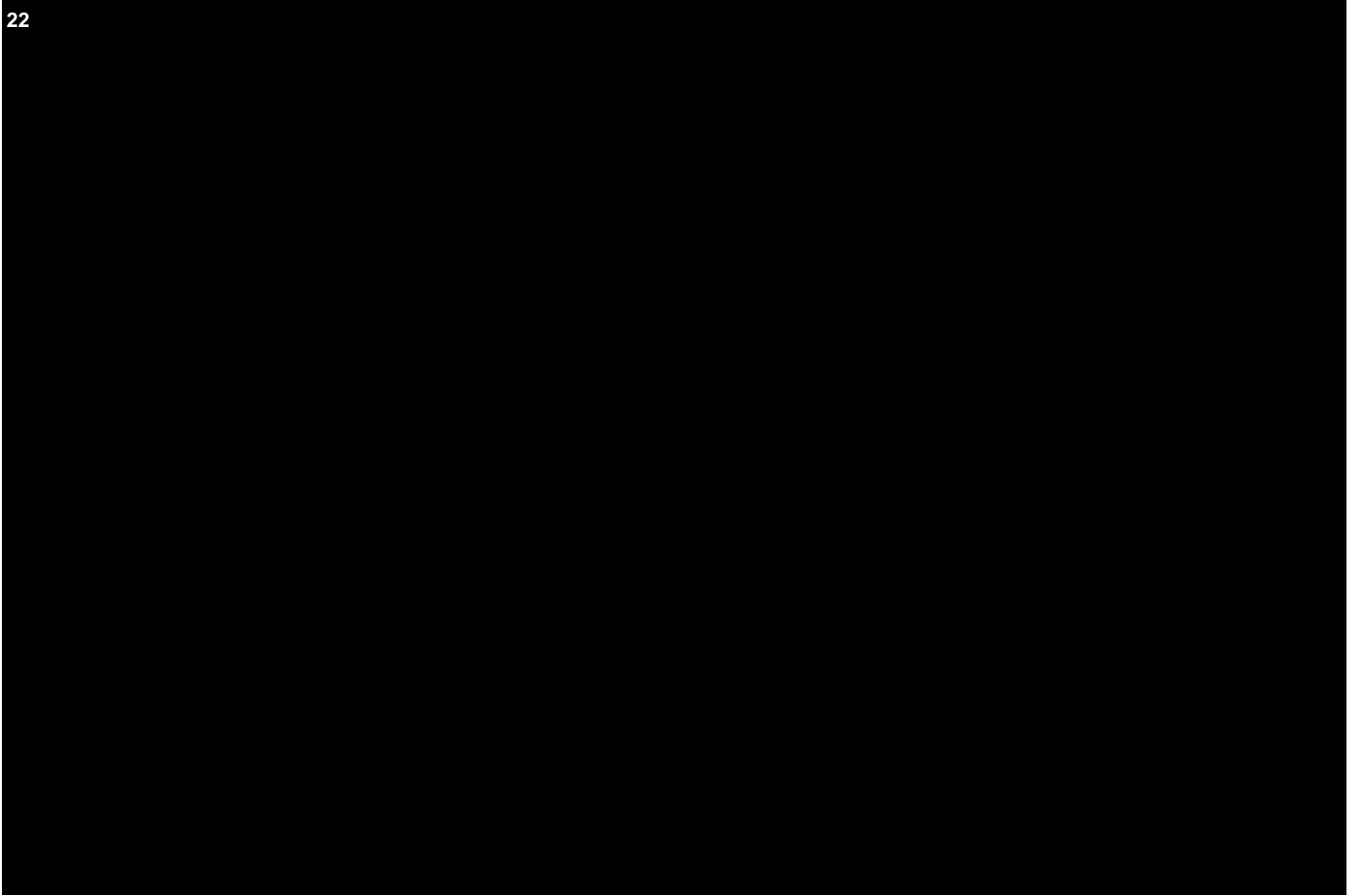
Cheers

22 [redacted]

[attachment "SIH1718\_DAS Briefing.docx" deleted by 22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS]

[attachment "6523.0 Inequality Media Release.docx" deleted by 22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS]

[attachment "6523.0 Wealth Media Release.docx" deleted by 22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS]



From: 22 /Staff/ABS  
To: 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS  
Date: 04/07/2019 11:05 AM  
Subject: 22 annotations to media release

Hi 22,

Please see 22 annotations to the media release.

I have the hard copy on my desk if the scanned copy is hard to read.

Please let me know if I can be of any further information or assistance.

Kind regards

22

Executive Officer to 22

Deputy Australian Statistician

Statistical Services Group | Australian Bureau of Statistics

(P) 22

(E) 22 @abs.gov.au 22 @abs.gov.au (W) [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

----- Forwarded by 22 /Staff/ABS on 04/07/2019 11:03 AM -----

From: 22 @abs.gov.au>  
To: 22 @abs.gov.au  
Date: 04/07/2019 11:02 AM  
Subject: Your scan (Scan to my Email)



scan\_22\_2019-07-04-11-02-11.pdf



From: 22 [REDACTED] /Staff/ABS  
 To: 22 [REDACTED] /Staff/ABS@ABS  
 Cc: 22 [REDACTED] /Staff/ABS@ABS  
 Date: 05/07/2019 09:06 AM  
 Subject: Re: For comment: Revised Media releases - income and wealth 22 [REDACTED]

Only one minor change.



2\_inequality.docx

22 [REDACTED]

*Chief Economist*

Statistical Services Group | **Australian Bureau of Statistics**

(P) 22 [REDACTED] (M) 22 [REDACTED]

(E) 22 [REDACTED] @abs.gov.au (W) [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

From: 22 [REDACTED] /Staff/ABS  
 To: 22 [REDACTED] /Staff/ABS@ABS  
 Cc: 22 [REDACTED] /Staff/ABS@ABS  
 Date: 04/07/2019 04:20 PM  
 Subject: For comment: Revised Media releases - income and wealth 22 [REDACTED]

Hi 22 [REDACTED],

Following the briefing with 22 [REDACTED] this morning I have restructured the media releases.

The new media release is a repeat of the heading in 2015–16 which is 'Inequality stable since 2013–14'.

Please let me know if you have any comments otherwise I shall send onto comms in the morning as is.

Regards

22 [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED]

*Director*

Household Economic Resource Surveys | Household Surveys Branch | **Australian Bureau of Statistics**

(P) 22 [REDACTED] (E) 22 [REDACTED] @abs.gov.au 22 [REDACTED] @abs.gov.au (W) [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

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[attachment "6523.0 Inequality Media Release.docx" deleted by 22 [REDACTED] /Staff/ABS] [attachment "6523.0 Wealth Media Release.docx" deleted by 22 [REDACTED] /Staff/ABS]

From: 22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS  
To: 22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS@ABS  
Cc: 22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS@ABS, 22 [redacted] /Staff/ABS@ABS  
Date: 28/06/2019 10:46 AM  
Subject: 2\_6523.0 Income and Wealth Media Release\_V1.1.docx

22 [redacted]

Just a couple of things - one change and one cheeky note about the tables.

22 [redacted]

*Chief Economist*

Statistical Services Group | **Australian Bureau of Statistics**

(P) 22 [redacted] (M) 22 [redacted]

(E) 22 [redacted] @abs.gov.au (W) [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)



- 22\_6523.0 Income and Wealth Media Release\_V1.1.docx

From: 22 [REDACTED]/Staff/ABS  
To: 22 [REDACTED]/Staff/ABS@ABS  
Date: 28/06/2019 12:15 PM  
Subject: Re: For comment: 1st draft Media release 22 [REDACTED]

Hi again,

I've done the significance testing for the quintiles. The significant changes are listed below for you:

Lowest quintile 13-14 to 17-18  
Second quintile 13-14 to 17-18

Lowest quintile 15-16 to 17-18  
Second quintile 15-16 to 17-18

Lowest quintile 11-12 to 17-18  
Second quintile 11-12 to 17-18  
Third quintile 11-12 to 17-18

I've checked:  
11-12 to 13-14  
13-14 to 15-16  
15-16 to 17-18  
11-12 to 17-18  
13-14 to 17-18

So the only part of the below text that this affects is the reference to the lowest quintile. This has seen a significant change from 15-16 to 17-18, 0.8% down to 0.7% (\$37,900 down to \$35,200). The lowest quintile has been below 1% since 2009-10, but has been decreasing since then. I'm not sure that we want to draw attention to this though??

22 [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED]

Survey of Income and Housing 2017-18 | Household Economic Resource Surveys

Population, Labour and Social Statistics | **Australian Bureau of Statistics**

(P) 22 [REDACTED] (E) 22 [REDACTED] [@abs.gov.au](mailto:22@abs.gov.au) (W) [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

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From: 22 [REDACTED]/Staff/ABS  
To: 22 [REDACTED]/Staff/ABS@ABS  
Date: 27/06/2019 11:57 AM  
Subject: Re: For comment: 1st draft Media release 22 [REDACTED]

Sorry I meant to check you understood what I meant to have significantly checked.

"The share of wealth between households in Australia has remained stable since 2013–14 <check for sig on DC 2.1>", Mr Hockman said. "In 2017-18, the wealthiest 20 per cent of households held over 60 per cent of all household wealth, now averaging \$3.2 million per household. By comparison, those in the middle 20 per cent held 11 per cent of all household wealth, averaging \$564,500 per household in 2017-18. The lowest 20 per cent controlled less than 1 per cent of all household wealth, with average wealth currently at \$35,200."

I need to know that those proportions have remained 'stable' ie not sig diff since 2013-14 (or earlier?)

Cheers

22

(p.s. I'll have a clear run on the publication this afternoon)

From: 22 /Staff/ABS  
To: 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS  
Date: 27/06/2019 11:15 AM  
Subject: Re: For comment: 1st draft Media release 22

Gini coefficient wealth from T2.1

2003–04	2005–06	2009–10	2011–12	2013–14	2015–16	2017–18
0.573	0.593	0.602	0.593	0.605	0.605	0.621

22

22

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Population, Labour and Social Statistics | **Australian Bureau of Statistics**  
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From: 22 /Staff/ABS  
To: 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS  
Cc: 22 /Staff/ABS@ABS  
Date: 27/06/2019 10:18 AM  
Subject: Re: For comment: 1st draft Media release 22

Hi 22,

Hopefully these updates make the years a bit clearer. I've also replaced the Gini text with some other information and I will get 22 to check 'how long' it has remained stable for.

Cheers

22

[attachment "6523.0 Income and Wealth Media Release\_V1.1.docx" deleted by ██████████  
██████████/Staff/ABS]

22

Director

Household Economic Resource Surveys | Household Surveys Branch | **Australian Bureau of  
Statistics**

(P) 22 ██████████ (E) 22 ██████████ @abs.gov.au 22 ██████████ (W) [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

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From: 22 ██████████/Staff/ABS  
To: 22 ██████████ Staff/ABS@ABS  
Cc: 22 ██████████/Staff/ABS@ABS  
Date: 26/06/2019 02:26 PM  
Subject: Re: For comment: 1st draft Media release 22 ██████████

Hi

I had just a few comments in here.

Overall, a couple of things. It does get confusing with all the different time periods and comparison. We also say over a decade ago, which is technically correct, but it is much more than a decade from 2003/4 onwards! Can we use 2005/6 as in your table, noting that we will still have lots of different time periods?

The Gini coefficient is interesting to have in here. Only because most people won't know what it is. If the purpose of a media release is to have something ready to go for them, is this what the media would say? I wondered whether there is an easier way to describe, or whether we could pick something else interesting for the media release.

thanks

22

[attachment "6523.0 Income and Wealth Media Release\_V1.0.docx" deleted by ██████████  
██████████/Staff/ABS]

22

Program Manager A/g

Head of Office (SA)

Household Survey Branch | **Australian Bureau of Statistics**

(P) 22 ██████████ (M) 22 ██████████  
(E) 22 ██████████ @abs.gov.au (W) [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

From: 22 Staff/ABS  
To: 22 Staff/ABS@ABS  
Cc: 22 Staff/ABS@ABS  
Date: 26/06/2019 12:23 PM  
Subject: For comment: 1st draft Media release 22

[attachment "6523.0 Income and Wealth Media Release\_V1.0.docx" deleted by 22 Staff/ABS]

Hi 22,

I thought I would send you the first draft of the media release.

Any comments? 22 is keen to see this too before we involve Comms. Hoping I can get it to him tomorrow.

Cheers  
22

22

*Director*

Household Economic Resource Surveys | Household Surveys Branch | **Australian Bureau of Statistics**

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## Average household income continues to increase for Australian Households

Over the past decade average weekly household incomes have increased \$44 to \$1,062 in 2017–18 according to a new report released by ABS today. [“change in \\$ of employee income over time – stagnant wage growth since GFC](#)

[Lifting prices of the lower quintiles](#)

[15-16 to 17-18 is property prices, but up over xx over previous 5 years –](#)

[house prices have fallen – but still up from xxx from start of the series](#)

## Average wealth of Australian households now over \$1 million

A new report released today by ABS has shown that average household wealth continues to increase and has now passed the 1 million dollar mark. “In 2017–18 average household wealth was just over \$1 million (**\$1,022,200**),” ABS Chief Economist Bruce Hockman said. “This compares with nearly \$660,000 (**\$657,300**) over a decade ago (2003–04)”. [<use 03-04 data to compare with Gini below?, but 05-06 used in key findings table>](#)

The main contributors to household wealth continue to be property and superannuation. “While more recent information has shown a turn in the property market [<NA finance and wealth release this Thursday or House Price Indexes>](#), it does not discount the long term growth (50%) in the average total value of property assets owned by households since 2003–04” Mr Hockman said. Over the same time the average household superannuation balance has more than doubled from \$89,200 in 2003–04 to \$213,700 in 2017–18.

Wealth is less equally distributed than income amongst Australians. Wealth inequality, as measured by the Gini coefficient, is at its peak now (0.621) since it was first comprehensively measured in 2003–04 (0.573). However for income it has been relatively stable in recent years and is currently [0.328](#). [Focus on income over wealth](#)

“The share of wealth between households in Australia has remained stable since [2013–14 <check for sig on DC 2.1>](#)”, Mr Hockman said. “In 2017-18, the wealthiest 20 per cent of households held over 60 per cent of all household wealth, now averaging \$3.2 million per household. By comparison, those in the middle 20 per cent held 11 per cent of all household wealth, averaging \$564,500 per household in 2017-18. The lowest 20 per cent controlled less than 1 per cent of all household wealth, with average wealth currently at \$35,200.”

The main contributors to household wealth continue to be property and superannuation. The average total value of property assets owned by households increased from \$649,800 in 2015–16 to \$680,900 in 2017–18. The average household superannuation balance is up from \$195,400 in 2015–16 to \$213,700 in 2017–18. [Longer term stories / proportion of super in assets v households in assets](#).

## Income

Xxx

## Media notes:

- The Gini coefficient is the internationally accepted summary measure of inequality. Gini coefficient values range between 0 and 1. Values closer to 0 represent higher equality and values closer to 1 represent higher inequality.
- Income data is based on equivalised disposable current weekly household income. Equivalence factors standardise income for variations in household size and composition, while taking into account the economies of scale that arise from the sharing of dwellings. Disposable means net of income tax.

- Household wealth is the value of all the assets owned by a household less the value of all its liabilities.
- Income and wealth estimates are in 2015-16 dollars and have been adjusted using changes in the Consumer Price Index.
- Estimates are for people who reside in private dwellings in Australia, excluding Very Remote areas.
- Income, wealth and housing data are from the 2015-16 Survey of Income and Housing – [abs.gov.au/household-income](http://abs.gov.au/household-income) (cat. no. 6523.0)
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Hi [22],

[22] and I have already met and feel that we are still able to craft a good media story despite more recent data showing a changing picture.

Thanks for the heads-up.

Cheers

[22]

[22] [22] ---19/06/2019 04:47:47 PM---Hello [22], A media release is going to be issued on 27 June for Australian National Accounts: Fin

From: [22] Staff/ABS  
To: [22] /Staff/ABS@ABS  
Cc: [22] /LTDACC/ABS@ABS, [22] Staff/ABS@ABS  
Date: 19/06/2019 04:47 PM  
Subject: Re: SIH 2017-18 release: PM decision for media access

---

Hello [22],

A media release is going to be issued on 27 June for Australian National Accounts: Finance and Wealth (5232.0). I wanted to mention this as it is likely to include data on household wealth that because it references a different time period will differ from SIH.

[22] will most likely be spokesperson for 5232.0. When you talk to him about media lines for SIH could you mention this, or let me know if you'd like me to.

[22]

[22]  
Director

Media, Digital and Design Communications | Communication and Parliamentary Branch |  
**Australian Bureau of Statistics**

T: [22] M: [22]  
E: [22] @abs.gov.au W: [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)  
F: @absstats T: @ABSStats

[22]



