HILDA key finding fact sheet.

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Household incomes grew substantially despite GFC.

Average household incomes increased substantially in the 2008-2009 financial year, despite the economic downturn that began in the latter stages of 2008, according to data from the *Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey, Volume 7.*

The HILDA Survey found that the fiscal **stimulus** policies implemented by the Australian Government in late 2008 and early 2009 **counteracted the negative effects of the global financial crisis**, as they had sizeable effects on income distribution, increasing median household income by $2,802.

The HILDA Survey data also show that the **biggest beneficiaries of these bonus payments were people in lone parent families**, who averaged $2,681 in equivalised payments.

This data is contained in the ***Incomes and Economic Wellbeing* section** of the HILDA Survey's Annual Statistical Report, which presents analysis of the many and varied aspects of household and family life covered by the HILDA Survey over the period 2001 and 2009.

The *Incomes and Wellbeing* section also includes an analysis on relative income poverty, welfare reliance, financial stress and household consumption expenditure. Some additional findings within these sections include

- **Average living standards have increased** over the nine-year period since HILDA began in 2001..
- There has been a substantial decline in the rate of receipt of income support payments since 2001; however, there are indications that **the economic downturn** commencing in late 2008 has **led to a sizeable increase in welfare** reliance.
- The **most commonly reported financial problem is inability to pay utility bills on time**, followed by the need to ask for financial help from friends or family followed by the inability to pay the mortgage or rent on time.

Author of the study, Associate Professor Roger Wilkins, commented: "The HILDA Survey provides powerful insights that increase Australia's knowledge capital on a wide variety of subjects. This particular data shows that household incomes have increased substantially over the last decade, and this continued in 2008-09, despite the economic downturn and the associated increase in unemployment."

***HILDA Volume 7 (2012)* will be available online at http://www.melbourneinstitute.com.au/hilda/**

HILDA Survey's Annual Statistical Report; Families, Incomes and Jobs, Volume 7 (2012)
Section A: Incomes and Economic Wellbeing

— EXTRACT —

Average household incomes have grown quite strongly for the in-scope population since 2002–03, with mean household annual disposable income expressed at December 2009 prices increasing by approximately $17,200 to 2008–09, or $2,866 per year, and the median increasing by $16,100. In the absence of substantial changes to household composition over the period—and the last two columns of Table 6.1 would indicate there has been little change—this translates to a significant increase in average material living standards. Significantly, average household income grew substantially between 2007–08 and 2008–09, despite the economic downturn that began in the later months of 2008.

Table 6.1: Household annual disposable incomes (December 2009 prices)

	Mean ($)	*Median ($)*	*Number of households*	*Number of persons*
2001	57,717	49,968	7,425,697	18,986,818
2002	57,679	50,021	7,535,509	19,218,072
2003	57,432	49,566	7,630,313	19,454,807
2004	59,690	51,314	7,696,203	19,684,566
2005	62,384	54,318	7,792,815	19,955,825
2006	65,392	56,667	7,929,610	20,265,863
2007	69,091	58,747	8,044,503	20,634,376
2008	72,384	61,880	8,195,377	21,069,248
2009	74,626	65,694	8,354,183	21,513,705