

Administrative and Conditionality Earnings Thresholds

Administrative Earnings Threshold

The Administrative Earnings Threshold (AET) has been introduced to highlight those claimants with no income or on a very low income below AET, so they can receive the most intensive support. The AET is set at an individual or household level and the threshold has been set at:

AET rates	2020-21	2021-22
Single	£343.00	£345.00
Couple	£549.00	£552.00

Unlike the Conditionality Earnings Threshold (CET), the individual or household AET are static amounts but may be adjusted when benefits are updated, usually in April. Whilst both the CET and AET thresholds are based on gross taxable pay, only employed earnings can contribute to meeting the AET (self-employed earnings will not count towards this).

For more guidance about the AET, see Labour Market conditionality and regimes.

Conditionality Earnings Threshold

The Conditionality Earnings Threshold (CET) ensures that claimants earning above a certain level will not be asked to carry out work-related activity. It is calculated on an individual basis by multiplying the National Minimum Wage or National Living Wage by the number of a claimant's expected hours of work.

The CET for a household is a combination of the individual expected CET of each of the adults in the household (joint claimants or including an ineligible partner of a claimant) and varies between different households. In a couple household, if one of the adults has earnings above the household CET, both claimants are placed in the Working Enough regime regardless of whether they are both working or not.

For more guidance about the CET, see Labour Market conditionality and regimes