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## DWP QUARTERLY STATISTICAL SUMMARY: MAY 2014

This Statistical Summary aims to give users a structured overview of the National and Official benefit statistics published by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). Statistics are grouped by component area of DWP and, for each statistic; links are given for users to access more detailed information.

*Key benefit statistics from 100% sources are available on an internet-based tabulation tool. A similar tabulation tool derived from 5% sample data is also available, however wherever possible 100% data should be used in preference to 5% estimates, as they are more accurate and form DWP's headline statistics. Statistics are also released via the NOMIS website and the Neighbourhood Statistics website.*



All regular series are full National Statistics;

### EXCEPT:

The working age inactive benefit early estimates are official statistics and Universal Credit statistics are experimental [See: <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/national-statistician/types-of-official-statistics>]

The early estimates for working age inactive benefit client groups are released monthly and are designed to give indicative, timely information; they are not a substitute for the National Statistics. They will be replaced by the quarterly National Statistics covering the same period when they are published. The National Statistics are the finalised figures.

These statistics were released on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2014 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority. Not all DWP National Statistics are covered by this release. Some statistics have their own first release, but links to these are given throughout.

## Key Findings

- There were 5.2 million working age benefit claimants at May 2014. This is a decrease of 391 thousand in the year to May 2014.
- Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) was introduced on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2008. There were around 2.15 million people claiming Employment and Support Allowance at the end of May 2014.
- The number of working age claimants of ESA and incapacity benefits totals 2.47 million in May 2014. This is an increase of 14 thousand from May 2013.
- The number of lone parents claiming Income Support (IS) decreased by 25 thousand to 475 thousand in the year to May 2014.
- At May 2014, there were 13 million claimants of State Pension (SP), a rise of 90 thousand on a year earlier. Of these 42% were male and 58% were female.
- At May 2014, there were 2.27 million claimants of Pension Credit (2.74 million including partners) a fall of 69 thousand on the previous quarter.



- At the end of June 2014, the CSA live caseload stood at 1.38 million. In the quarter ending June 2014, 86.2% of all cases in which maintenance was due had either received maintenance via the CSA collection service, or had a maintenance direct arrangement in place.
- At May 2014, there were 3.23 million recipients of Disability Living Allowance (DLA), 1.46 million recipients of Attendance Allowance and 675 thousand recipients of Carer's Allowance (CA).
- There were a total of 16 thousand Maternity Allowance spells commencing in the period 1<sup>st</sup> March 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2014. The average paid weekly amount of Maternity Allowance relating to these cases was £138.18. At May 2014, there were almost 55 thousand current Maternity Allowance spells.
- At August 2014, the total number of people claiming Housing Benefit was 4.93 million, a decrease of 2.2 per cent on the previous year.
- There were a total of 6.26 million decisions to apply a JSA sanction (i.e. an adverse sanction decision) between April 2000 and June 2014, including 1.44 million under the new sanctions regime, introduced in October 2012.
- There were a total of 113 thousand decisions to apply an ESA sanction (i.e. an adverse sanction decision) between October 2008 and June 2014, including just over 49 thousand under the new sanctions regime, introduced in December 2012.

#### **Statistics on benefit flows show:**

- There were 1.03 million new claims to Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and incapacity benefits, this includes people moving to ESA through Incapacity Benefit re-assessment; 29 thousand new claims to Bereavement Benefit/Widows Benefit (BB/WB); 263 thousand to Income Support (IS); 561 thousand new claims to State Pension (SP); and 131 thousand new claims to PC in the year to May 2014.
- There were 1.00 million benefit exits for Employment and Support Allowance and incapacity benefits (632 thousand for ESA, 366 thousand for IB/SDA), this includes people leaving IB through Incapacity Benefit re-assessment; 34 thousand for Bereavement Benefit/Widows Benefit (BB/WB); 445 thousand for Income Support (IS); 501 thousand benefit exits for State Pension (SP); and 275 thousand benefit exits for Pension Credit (PC) in the year to May 2014.

#### **[OFFICIAL STATISTICS]: Early estimates show:**

- At the end of September 2014, the working age Income Support lone parents (ISLP) early estimate was 465 thousand.
- The Employment and Support Allowance / incapacity benefits (ESA/IB) early estimate for September 2014 is 2.515 million. Of these, approximately 92.1% were in receipt of benefit payments from IB, SDA, ESA or Income Support/ Pension Credit. The remaining 7.9% percent received National Insurance credits only.

*If you have any comments or requests regarding this publication, please contact DWP via [stats-consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:stats-consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk), or join the "Welfare and Benefit Statistics" community at [www.statsusernet.org.uk](http://www.statsusernet.org.uk).*



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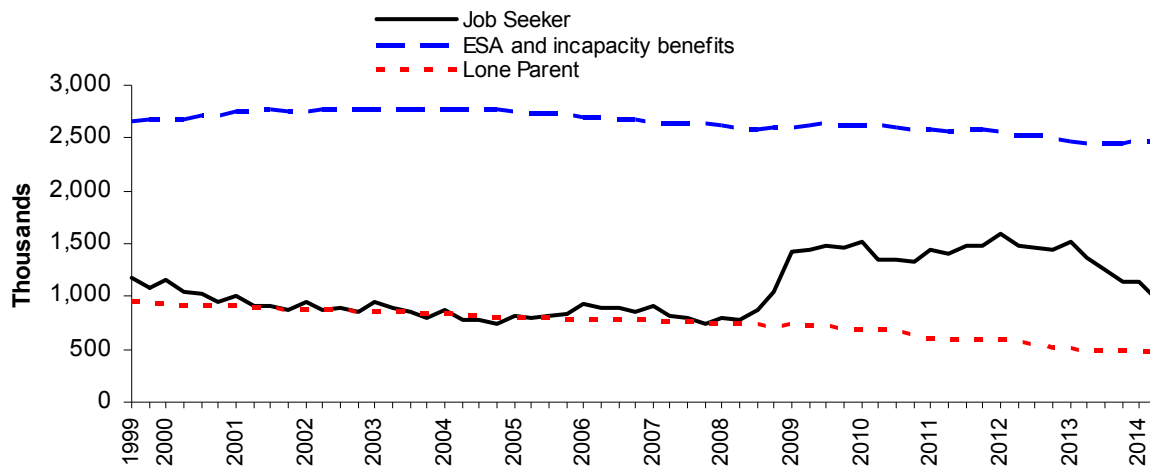
## 1. Working Age

### 1.1 National Statistics: Working Age client group

Combines data collected for Jobseeker's Allowance, Incapacity Benefit, Employment and Support Allowance, Severe Disablement Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Carer's Allowance, Widow's Benefit, Bereavement Allowance and Income Support for working age claimants (including Pension Credit for males under State Pension age).

See Notes, section 7 for information on Welfare Reform, including the introduction of Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payment which is replacing Disability Living Allowance for eligible working age people aged 16 to 64.

**Working Age Claimants by Statistical Group:  
August 1999 to May 2014**



The age at which men and women reach State Pension age is gradually increasing. Under current legislation, State Pension age for women will equalise with State Pension age for men at 65 in 2018. Both men's and women's State Pension age will increase from 65 to 66 between December 2018 and October 2020. The Pensions Bill 2013-14 contains provision for a State Pension age of 67 to be reached by 2028. The changes will introduce a small increase to the number of working age benefit recipients and a small reduction to the number of pension age recipients. There are also changes to the way users can analyse benefit recipients as a proportion of the working population. More information can be found in the [State Pension age methodological note](#)

Between August 1999 and February 2008, the number of jobseekers in GB fell from 1.18 million to 807 thousand. However, rose to almost 1.53 million at February 2010. Since then, numbers have been broadly steady until a fall in the last year of 398 thousand to 974 thousand in May 2014. The preferred source of JSA figures is the ONS claimant count measure (which is seasonally adjusted). This can be found at: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/lms/labour-market-statistics/index.html>.

The lone parent caseload fell from 930 thousand to 475 thousand between November 1999 and May 2014.

The number of working age claimants of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and incapacity benefits totals 2.47 million at May 2014. This shows a recent yearly increase of 14 thousand.

**Table 1.1 Working Age claimants by Statistical Group: November 1999 – May 2014**

	Total	Job Seeker <sup>2</sup>	Employment and Support Allowance and incapacity benefits <sup>3</sup>	Lone Parent <sup>4</sup>	Carer <sup>5</sup>	Other Income Related <sup>6</sup>	Disabled <sup>7</sup>	Thousands Bereaved <sup>8</sup>
Nov -99	..	1,083.03	2,674.71	930.24	316.50	218.37	..	..
Feb -00	..	1,154.97	2,676.39	923.47	313.58	216.97	..	..
May -00	..	1,037.01	2,686.30	919.43	310.88	210.80	..	..
Aug -00	..	1,015.83	2,714.85	920.10	309.67	197.95	..	..
Nov -00	..	948.66	2,722.57	905.76	311.56	196.69	..	..
Feb -01	..	1,001.08	2,750.45	908.21	313.96	182.81	..	..
May -01	..	909.15	2,753.66	900.43	319.59	180.15	..	..
Aug -01	..	907.68	2,763.62	900.22	323.83	175.41	..	..
Nov -01	..	880.36	2,746.02	878.59	328.62	179.08	..	..
Feb -02	..	955.45	2,745.58	877.11	332.02	176.62	..	..
May -02	<b>5,455.75</b>	877.38	2,765.73	870.95	335.79	165.60	245.27	195.02
Aug -02	<b>5,481.48</b>	890.54	2,769.36	875.04	339.91	167.19	249.72	189.71
Nov -02	<b>5,428.63</b>	850.05	2,776.56	856.23	343.72	161.36	256.58	184.13
Feb -03	<b>5,514.28</b>	946.16	2,776.54	848.85	346.17	156.33	260.92	179.31
May -03	<b>5,459.68</b>	885.78	2,773.61	855.81	347.94	155.96	266.25	174.33
Aug -03	<b>5,425.85</b>	851.37	2,777.06	851.73	350.41	155.26	270.15	169.88
Nov -03	<b>5,363.74</b>	803.88	2,780.49	831.75	353.25	154.20	275.51	164.67
Feb -04	<b>5,426.42</b>	867.42	2,777.53	830.25	355.81	155.20	280.12	160.09
May -04	<b>5,327.35</b>	777.40	2,772.85	823.27	359.25	155.42	283.33	155.83
Aug -04	<b>5,321.26</b>	769.25	2,774.93	818.10	360.08	158.20	289.12	151.59
Nov -04	<b>5,270.77</b>	741.06	2,772.18	796.53	361.42	157.94	294.15	147.49
Feb -05	<b>5,327.77</b>	819.68	2,757.65	793.13	362.04	153.93	297.23	144.11
May -05	<b>5,289.13</b>	800.66	2,741.62	789.32	363.76	151.09	300.96	141.73
Aug -05	<b>5,302.72</b>	825.11	2,725.47	789.35	365.08	153.71	305.84	138.17
Nov -05	<b>5,287.66</b>	836.71	2,710.50	778.56	363.34	155.74	309.31	133.51
Feb -06	<b>5,384.74</b>	935.20	2,705.47	777.09	368.66	153.06	313.85	131.40
May -06	<b>5,325.77</b>	895.88	2,688.02	774.86	368.50	152.70	317.04	128.78
Aug -06	<b>5,335.22</b>	900.92	2,683.00	783.18	369.81	153.12	319.13	126.06
Nov -06	<b>5,288.34</b>	860.22	2,672.96	775.62	371.71	161.10	326.64	120.09
Feb -07	<b>5,321.68</b>	904.04	2,662.13	771.35	373.83	163.32	329.75	117.26
May -07	<b>5,207.27</b>	807.27	2,643.21	765.62	374.84	167.05	335.13	114.15
Aug -07	<b>5,187.14</b>	788.45	2,641.11	763.55	376.03	167.84	340.61	109.55
Nov -07	<b>5,124.68</b>	741.10	2,641.70	741.83	379.35	167.29	346.16	107.25
Feb -08	<b>5,174.88</b>	806.70	2,617.88	741.71	384.49	169.95	349.38	104.78
May -08	<b>5,142.63</b>	787.87	2,595.83	738.64	387.56	173.33	356.50	102.90
Aug -08	<b>5,232.88</b>	868.73	2,590.61	744.68	392.73	176.23	360.08	99.81
Nov -08	<b>5,404.12</b>	1,036.48	2,605.51	728.98	396.80	178.84	360.47	97.04
Feb -09	<b>5,802.48</b>	1,421.60	2,603.54	736.04	400.12	181.88	363.82	95.49
May -09	<b>5,836.50</b>	1,443.00	2,621.43	720.48	405.56	183.22	368.94	93.87
Aug -09	<b>5,895.65</b>	1,485.32	2,632.74	715.73	412.97	184.46	373.10	91.33
Nov -09	<b>5,857.13</b>	1,469.92	2,618.38	695.72	418.53	188.23	377.95	88.40
Feb -10	<b>5,917.56</b>	1,526.01	2,614.76	692.02	422.08	191.35	383.28	88.06
May -10	<b>5,747.83</b>	1,354.62	2,613.10	679.15	430.23	192.19	390.81	87.74
Aug -10	<b>5,744.64</b>	1,349.71	2,606.61	672.35	439.43	191.38	396.81	88.36
Nov -10	<b>5,685.60</b>	1,328.91	2,586.42	648.30	445.44	192.03	399.38	85.11
Feb -11	<b>5,765.34</b>	1,438.67	2,578.66	613.78	450.42	191.76	406.31	85.75
May -11	<b>5,709.55</b>	1,404.14	2,570.22	595.40	456.06	187.18	411.01	85.55
Aug -11	<b>5,802.82</b>	1,482.86	2,582.18	595.29	465.99	180.08	413.11	83.30
Nov -11	<b>5,778.16</b>	1,478.43	2,575.60	581.62	470.96	174.91	413.84	82.79
Feb -12	<b>5,881.70</b>	1,589.64	2,557.68	584.17	477.15	169.11	420.70	83.25
May -12	<b>5,753.88</b>	1,484.07	2,528.14	577.08	486.94	164.96	429.51	83.17
Aug -12	<b>5,708.22</b>	1,471.07	2,517.07	545.24	495.71	159.90	437.17	82.06
Nov -12	<b>5,636.79</b>	1,443.54	2,499.96	510.06	504.13	156.01	442.20	80.89
Feb -13	<b>5,695.38</b>	1,514.37	2,475.67	504.89	513.61	151.26	454.31	81.26
May -13	<b>5,541.49</b>	1,371.62	2,456.47	499.73	523.64	147.79	460.53	81.70
Aug -13	<b>5,423.68</b>	1,262.53	2,440.80	497.54	532.94	144.39	464.97	80.51
Nov -13	<b>5,293.46</b>	1,132.78	2,456.36	485.00	537.97	142.24	460.21	78.89
Feb -14	<b>5,309.58</b>	1,145.63	2,459.30	480.09	544.93	138.72	461.53	79.37
May -14	<b>5,150.21</b>	973.66	2,470.21	474.73	556.02	134.00	461.89	79.69



## Notes relating to Table 1.1

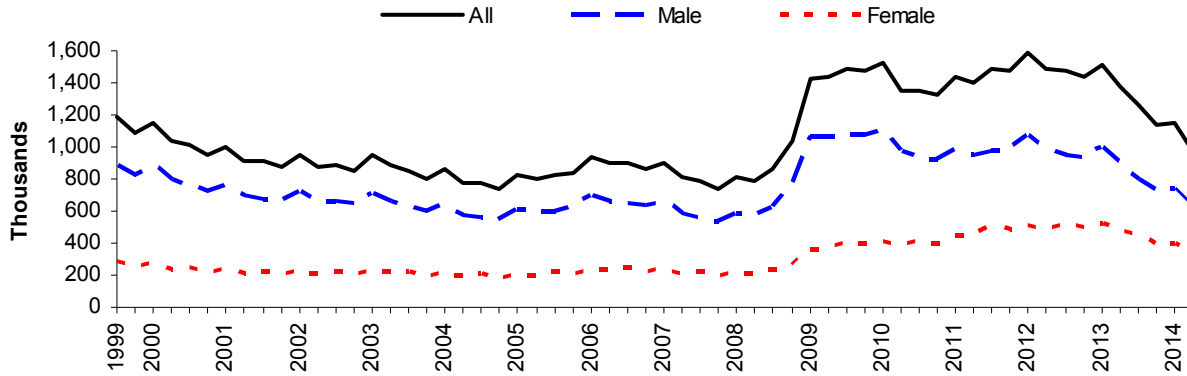
1. Claimants have been assigned to a statistical group according to a hierarchy. The order is shown in the table, i.e. 'Job Seekers' followed by 'Employment and Support Allowance and incapacity benefits'.
2. 'Job Seekers' are recipients of Jobseeker's Allowance.
3. 'From November 2008 the "incapacity benefits group" includes Employment and Support Allowance (ESA). ESA replaced Incapacity Benefit and Income Support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27th October 2008. Prior to this the "incapacity benefits group" referred to claimants of Incapacity Benefit (including credits only) or Severe Disablement Allowance including people claiming IS on the grounds of Incapacity.
4. 'Lone Parents' are single recipients of Income Support with a child under 16.
5. 'Carers' are recipients of Carers Allowance.
6. 'Others on Income Related Benefit' are other recipients of Income Support (including Income Support Disability Premium) or Pension Credit.
7. 'Disabled' are recipients of Disability Living Allowance. Industrial Injuries benefits data is not available.
8. 'Bereaved' are recipients of Widow's Benefit or Bereavement Benefit.
9. Totals are not shown prior to May 2002 as complete data is not available for 'Disabled' and 'Bereaved' statistical groups.
10. Housing Benefit data is not included in the client group hierarchy but is published separately (see section 1.5).
11. See Notes, section 7 for information on Welfare Reform, including the introduction of Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payment which is replacing Disability Living Allowance for eligible working age people aged 16 to 64.

Latest statistical data available from: <http://tabulation-tool.dwp.gov.uk/100pc/tabtool.html>

## 1.2 National Statistics: Jobseeker's Allowance

*Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) was introduced on 7th October 1996 and has both contributory and income-related elements. It is paid to people under state pension age who are available for and actively seeking work.*

**Jobseekers Allowance by Gender: August 1999 to May 2014**



The preferred source of JSA figures is the ONS claimant count measure (which is seasonally adjusted).

DWP produce a separate set of Jobseeker's Allowance figures to enable cross-benefit analysis and supply a wider range of breakdowns, and these are provided in this release.

The DWP figures at May 2014 show the total number of Jobseeker's Allowance claimants was 974 thousand. Female claimants represented 36% of the JSA caseload (350 thousand), while males represented 64% (623 thousand). The total caseload has decreased by 398 thousand since May 2013, with men decreasing by 272 thousand and women decreasing by 126 thousand.

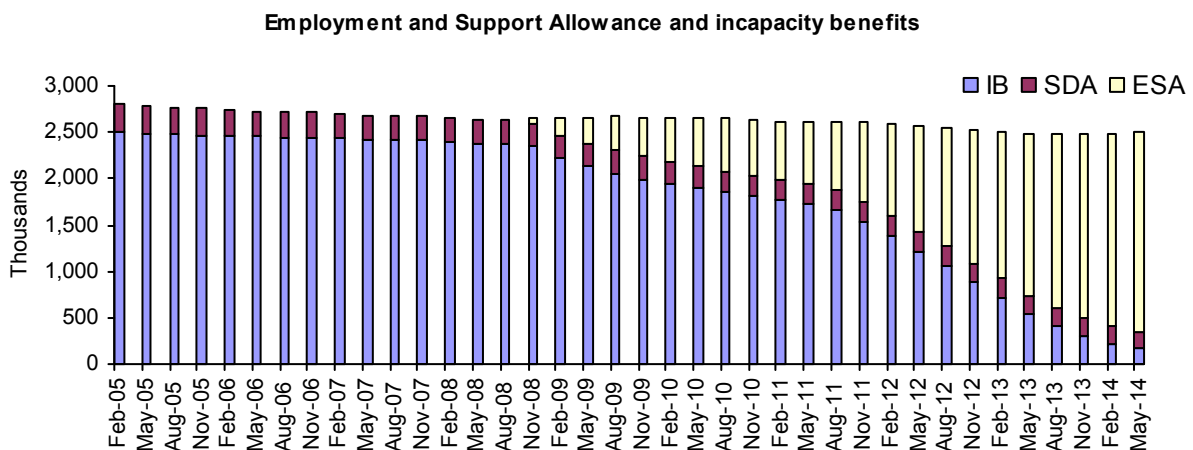
Latest statistical data available from: <http://tabulation-tool.dwp.gov.uk/100pc/tabtool.html>

### 1.3 National Statistics: Employment and Support Allowance and incapacity benefits

From 27th October 2008, Employment & Support Allowance (ESA) replaced Incapacity Benefit (IB) and Income Support (IS) paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims. Incapacity benefits consist of Incapacity Benefit (introduced on 13th April 1995 and paid to people who are incapable of work and who have paid sufficient contributions throughout their working life) and Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA). This section includes a small number of claimants over State Pension age; therefore figures may differ to those in Table 1.1 which refers to working age claimants only.

Between October 2010 and Spring 2014 most claimants who received IB, SDA and IS paid on the grounds of illness or disability were assessed to see if they qualified for ESA. If they qualified for ESA their IB, SDA or IS claim was converted into an ESA claim. For claimants who were previously in receipt of IB or SDA, their benefit was converted to contributory ESA; if they were previously in receipt of IS their benefit was converted to income-related ESA. In the same way as with IB, contributory ESA can be paid with an income-related top up and a transitional addition if appropriate.

The government has limited the period for which contribution-based Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) can be paid in some circumstances. These changes came into effect on 1 May 2012. Claimants who have already received 365 days of contribution-based ESA saw their entitlement end on 30 April 2012.



At May 2014, there were 2.47 million claimants of Employment and Support Allowance and incapacity benefits (Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance), an increase of 14 thousand on a year earlier. 54% of claimants were men and 46% women. The male caseload has decreased by 11 thousand and the female caseload has increased by 25 thousand in the year to May 2014.

There were 226 thousand new Employment and Support Allowance claimants in the May 2014 quarter, which represents 10.6% of the May 2014 caseload. Over the same period, 161 thousand claimants left the benefit, 7.5% of the caseload at May 2014. These numbers include IB claimants who have been re-assessed for ESA. More information on this process and the numbers involved can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/series/employment-and-support-allowance-outcomes-of-work-capability-assessment>

In the year to May 2014, there were a total of 1.03 million new claims for Employment and Support Allowance and incapacity benefits and 1.00 million claims were closed.

Table 1.2a shows the payment status of all working age Employment and Support Allowance and incapacity benefits claimants. In May 2014 approximately 92.1% were in receipt of benefit payments from Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Income Support, Pension Credit. The remaining 7.9% percent received National Insurance credits only (i.e. no payment of IB, SDA, ESA, IS or PC). This compares to 5.8% receiving no benefit payments in February 2012. This change is because the government has limited the period for which contribution-based Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) can be paid in some circumstances. These changes came into effect on 1 May 2012. Claimants who had already received 365 days of contribution-based ESA saw their entitlement end on 30 April 2012.





**Table 1.2 Employment and Support Allowance and incapacity benefits claimants<sup>1</sup>: November 2000 – May 2014**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Employment and Support Allowance</b>	<b>Incapacity Benefits</b>	<b>Severe Disablement Allowance</b>	<i>Thousands</i>
Nov-00	2,764.14	.	2,387.86	376.28	
Feb-01	2,792.03	.	2,415.02	377.00	
May-01	2,795.34	.	2,420.88	374.45	
Aug-01	2,805.45	.	2,435.42	370.03	
Nov-01	2,787.71	.	2,425.57	362.14	
Feb-02	2,787.22	.	2,427.22	360.00	
May-02	2,807.63	.	2,471.14	336.48	
Aug-02	2,811.43	.	2,478.84	332.58	
Nov-02	2,818.48	.	2,489.91	328.56	
Feb-03	2,818.57	.	2,493.87	324.70	
May-03	2,815.66	.	2,494.89	320.76	
Aug-03	2,819.05	.	2,502.06	316.99	
Nov-03	2,822.27	.	2,509.01	313.26	
Feb-04	2,819.16	.	2,509.67	309.49	
May-04	2,814.71	.	2,508.77	305.94	
Aug-04	2,817.01	.	2,514.27	302.73	
Nov-04	2,814.41	.	2,514.73	299.67	
Feb-05	2,799.87	.	2,503.53	296.34	
May-05	2,783.72	.	2,490.85	292.87	
Aug-05	2,767.74	.	2,478.16	289.59	
Nov-05	2,752.90	.	2,466.20	286.70	
Feb-06	2,747.49	.	2,464.24	283.25	
May-06	2,730.00	.	2,449.99	280.01	
Aug-06	2,724.98	.	2,447.96	277.02	
Nov-06	2,714.95	.	2,441.03	273.91	
Feb-07	2,704.10	.	2,433.40	270.70	
May-07	2,685.32	.	2,417.71	267.61	
Aug-07	2,683.16	.	2,418.65	264.51	
Nov-07	2,683.75	.	2,422.01	261.74	
Feb-08	2,659.65	.	2,401.06	258.59	
May-08	2,637.56	.	2,382.00	255.56	
Aug-08	2,632.00	.	2,379.46	252.53	
Nov-08	2,646.78	53.77	2,343.25	249.76	
Feb-09	2,644.43	175.81	2,221.89	246.73	
May-09	2,662.49	288.27	2,130.13	244.09	
Aug-09	2,674.02	374.44	2,058.02	241.56	
Nov-09	2,659.65	425.77	1,994.95	238.93	
Feb-10	2,655.96	479.43	1,940.30	236.23	
May-10	2,653.81	527.12	1,892.98	233.71	
Aug-10	2,646.54	563.98	1,851.01	231.55	
Nov-10	2,625.86	593.93	1,802.93	229.00	
Feb-11	2,617.27	631.35	1,759.62	226.30	
May-11	2,608.43	662.23	1,722.39	223.81	
Aug-11	2,619.67	731.95	1,666.21	221.52	
Nov-11	2,612.52	857.89	1,535.38	219.25	
Feb-12	2,593.86	991.19	1,385.64	217.03	
May-12	2,563.96	1,134.29	1,215.30	214.38	
Aug-12	2,552.34	1,286.41	1,053.87	212.06	
Nov-12	2,534.80	1,447.98	877.26	209.56	
Feb-13	2,509.60	1,591.04	711.71	206.85	
May-13	2,489.93	1,747.61	537.94	204.38	
Aug-13	2,473.42	1,871.07	400.80	201.55	
Nov-13	2,488.38	1,986.94	303.81	197.63	
Feb-14	2,490.58	2,079.74	220.91	189.93	
May-14	2,501.47	2,145.70	173.20	182.57	

**Notes:**

1. Claimants include those beneficiaries plus, those receiving National Insurance Credits and no monetary payment (many credits-only claimants of Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance will also receive Income Support).

2. This table replaces table 1.2 in the November 2010 Statistical Summary. This table no longer includes beneficiaries but still includes all claimants of Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance. This provides a consistent time series. Numbers of Working Age claimants of 'ESA and incapacity benefits' are shown in the Working Age Client Group section of this release. Those figures differ from this table due to the inclusion of a small number of claimants over state pension age in table 1.2 and minor methodological differences.



**Table 1.2a: Employment and Support Allowance and incapacity benefits claimants aged under State Pension age: 2000 - 2014**

	Claiming ESA, IB or SDA				Claiming ESA			Claiming IB			Claiming SDA			
	Receiving contributory based benefit or SDA only with income based benefit (2)	Receiving contributory based benefit or SDA, based on income based benefit (2)	Receiving income based benefit (2)	National Insurance credits only (2)	Receiving contributory based benefit only (3)	Receiving contributory and income based benefit (3)	Receiving income based benefit (3)	National Insurance credits only (3)	Receiving contributory based benefit only (3)	Receiving contributory and income based benefit (3)	Receiving income based benefit (3)	National Insurance credits only (3)	Receiving SDA only	Receiving SDA and IS/PC
May-00	1,365.48	534.29	677.69	108.85	..	..	..	..	1,267.49	297.24	677.69	108.85	97.99	237.05
May-01	2,753.66	1,351.79	725.55	114.62	..	..	..	..	1,257.57	322.32	725.55	114.62	94.21	239.38
May-02	2,765.73	1,333.96	759.42	122.19	..	..	..	..	1,253.33	335.48	759.42	122.19	80.63	214.67
May-03	2,773.61	1,306.80	790.78	127.71	..	..	..	..	1,233.83	341.96	790.78	127.71	72.97	206.36
May-04	2,772.85	1,301.01	815.58	139.08	..	..	..	..	1,233.71	319.95	815.58	139.08	67.30	197.25
May-05	2,741.65	1,275.63	832.12	141.52	..	..	..	..	1,212.88	304.00	832.12	141.52	62.76	188.38
May-06	2,688.13	1,237.69	839.10	139.92	..	..	..	..	1,179.62	291.17	839.10	139.92	58.08	180.25
May-07	2,643.29	1,193.65	855.29	137.29	..	..	..	..	1,141.34	283.61	855.29	137.29	52.32	173.44
May-08	2,595.83	1,151.25	866.41	136.15	..	..	..	..	1,103.33	275.94	866.41	136.15	47.92	166.07
May-09	2,621.43	1,133.55	918.94	137.74	113.04	12.52	125.06	37.32	976.39	259.36	793.88	100.42	44.13	159.32
Aug-09	2,632.74	1,121.56	933.33	148.04	138.64	18.13	162.96	54.07	939.68	253.95	770.37	93.97	43.24	157.73
Nov-09	2,618.38	1,105.35	937.54	147.89	156.35	22.66	188.10	57.88	906.60	248.85	749.44	90.02	42.39	156.08
Feb-10	2,614.76	1,095.48	943.94	148.88	175.46	27.69	212.61	62.79	878.49	244.34	731.33	86.09	41.53	154.42
May-10	2,613.10	1,083.39	953.79	149.70	188.81	33.15	239.11	65.26	853.74	240.09	714.68	84.44	40.83	152.98
Aug-10	2,606.61	1,071.09	962.21	147.85	198.65	37.02	262.15	65.56	832.21	236.44	700.06	82.29	40.24	151.99
Nov-10	2,586.42	1,049.71	965.23	150.55	200.77	39.65	282.73	70.12	809.25	230.75	682.49	80.43	39.69	150.55
Feb-11	2,578.66	1,032.83	963.44	145.06	205.80	42.31	316.34	66.31	787.87	225.90	667.10	78.75	39.16	149.13
May-11	2,570.22	1,019.79	993.75	143.33	212.07	45.36	339.13	64.94	768.87	220.50	654.62	78.39	38.86	147.49
Aug-11	2,582.18	1,014.90	1,013.81	142.76	233.53	51.45	381.76	64.52	742.66	213.24	632.06	78.24	38.70	146.02
Nov-11	2,575.60	1,004.37	1,023.96	140.64	278.83	64.32	453.07	60.94	686.77	198.02	570.89	79.70	38.78	144.29
Feb-12	2,557.68	984.20	1,023.18	148.86	322.10	76.18	522.52	69.78	623.26	182.62	500.66	79.08	38.84	142.64
May-12	2,528.14	975.94	1,096.73	183.44	284.48	70.10	670.19	108.62	549.06	164.88	426.54	74.81	38.50	140.95
Aug-12	2,517.07	955.90	1,106.90	179.11	339.41	88.96	752.19	104.86	478.13	146.77	354.71	74.25	38.36	139.41
Nov-12	2,499.96	923.03	1,117.30	184.84	393.52	115.64	821.54	116.12	391.30	121.65	295.59	68.71	38.21	137.68
Feb-13	2,475.67	886.22	1,126.54	190.51	437.02	137.40	893.10	122.53	311.18	99.10	233.44	67.98	38.01	135.90
May-13	2,456.47	868.72	1,166.81	191.27	465.05	155.06	998.04	128.28	228.37	77.81	168.78	62.98	37.92	134.18
Aug-13	2,440.80	849.99	1,206.39	185.55	488.64	170.83	1,085.12	125.49	162.26	57.20	121.28	60.06	37.82	132.10
Nov-13	2,456.36	849.99	1,259.58	188.92	501.69	188.75	1,163.86	131.71	111.30	39.59	95.71	57.20	37.00	129.54
Feb-14	2,459.30	819.30	1,293.32	193.35	514.83	205.78	1,220.22	138.12	69.21	23.37	73.11	55.23	35.25	124.19
May-14	2,470.21	585.58	1,335.36	194.80	505.92	220.02	1,275.87	142.59	46.02	15.47	59.49	52.22	33.64	118.97

1. Claimants include those beneficiaries plus, those receiving National Insurance Credits and no monetary payment (many credits-only claimants of Incapacity Benefit (IB) or Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA) will also receive Income Support (IS)/ Pension Credit (PC)).

2. This table focuses on the following out-of-work benefits: Incapacity Benefit (IB), Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA), Income Support (IS) and Employment and Support Allowance (ESA). Claimants are classified as follows:  
 - ESA (Contributory), SDA or IB/SDA payments, without IS/PC = "Receiving contributory based benefit or SDA only"  
 - ESA (Contributory and Income based), or SDA or IB/SDA payments, with IS/PC = "Receiving contributory based benefit or SDA, with income based benefit"  
 - ESA (Income based) or IB/SDA credits only with IS/PC = "Receiving income based benefit"  
 - ESA (Credits only) or IB/SDA credits only without IS/PC = "National Insurance credits only"

3. This table focuses on the following out-of-work benefits: Incapacity Benefit (IB), Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA), Income Support (IS) and Employment and Support Allowance (ESA). Claimants are classified as follows:  
 - ESA (Contributory), or IB/SDA payments, without IS/PC = "Receiving contributory based benefit only"  
 - ESA (Contributory and Income based) or IB/SDA payments with IS/PC = "Receiving contributory and income based benefit"  
 - ESA (Income based) or IB/SDA credits only with IS/PC = "Receiving income based benefit"  
 - ESA (Credits only) or IB/SDA credits only without IS/PC = "National Insurance credits only"

4. Some claimants (including those receiving "National Insurance credits only") are receiving payments from other benefits, such as Housing Benefit or Disability Living Allowance.

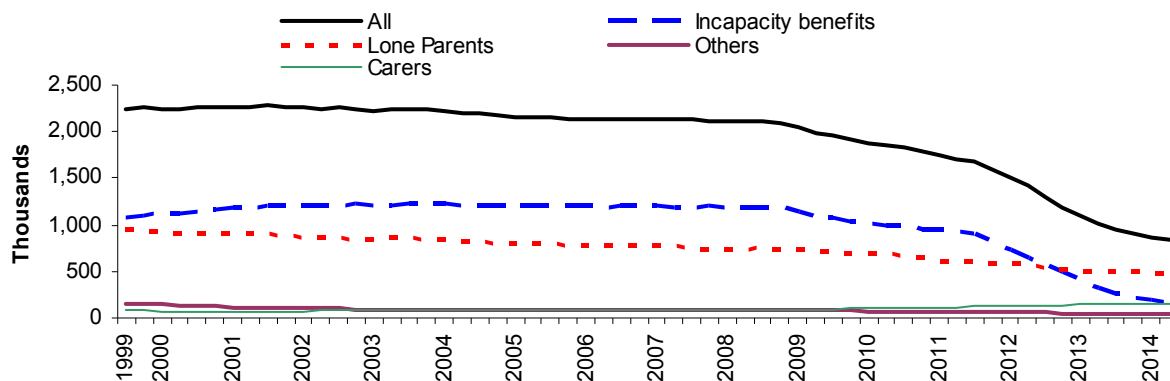
5. This table includes claimants under State Pension age. The age at which women reach State Pension age is gradually increasing from 60 to 65 between April 2010 and April 2016 to November 2018. Under current legislation, State Pension age for men and women is planned to increase to: 66 between November 2018 and October 2020; 67 between 2020 and 2036; 68 between 2036 and 2044. These changes introduce a small increase to the number of working age benefit recipients and a small reduction to the number of pension age recipients.



## 1.4 National Statistics: Income Support

Income Support (IS) was introduced on 11th April 1988 and is an income-related benefit that can be claimed by adults under state pension age that work fewer than 16 hours a week and have insufficient income to meet their needs. Prior to the introduction of Pension Credit in October 2003, IS was available to people aged 60 and over. From 27th October 2008, Employment & Support Allowance (ESA) replaced Incapacity Benefit and Income Support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims. The Lone Parent Obligation policy came into effect from 24 November 2008; Lone Parents (LPs) with a youngest child aged 12 or over were no longer able to make a new or repeat claim for Income Support (IS) solely on the basis of their parental status. Existing IS LPs with a youngest child aged 12 or over had their eligibility removed over a period of time commencing 2nd March 2009. From October 2009 this policy was extended to LPs with a youngest child aged 10 or 11 and from October 2010 the policy was extended to LPs with a youngest child aged 7 or over. The Welfare Reform Act 2012 introduced further changes and from 21 May 2012 lone parents are eligible to claim Income Support until their youngest child is five years old.

**Income Support by Statistical Group:  
August 1999 to May 2014**



Pension Credit (PC) replaced Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG) in Income Support on 6 October 2003. **MIG claimants have been excluded from this data prior to November 2003.**

At May 2014, the total number of Income Support (IS) claimants was 841 thousand. Claimants of incapacity benefits represented 20% of the IS caseload (168 thousand). Lone Parents (all single claimants with dependants under 16, excluding claimants of incapacity benefits) represented 56% of the IS caseload (475 thousand), while Carers and Others represented 24% of the caseload (198 thousand).

There were 62 thousand new claimants of Income Support in the May 2014 quarter, which represents 7% of the May 2014 caseload. Over the same period, 90 thousand claimants left the benefit, 11% of the caseload at end of May 2014. In the year to May 2014 there were a total of 263 thousand new claims for Income Support and 445 thousand claims were closed.

**Table 1.3 Income Support Lone Parents claimants<sup>1</sup>: May 2014**

	<i>Thousands</i>		
	Total	Female	Male
<b>All Ages</b>	<b>474.73</b>	462.80	11.93
Unknown Age	-	-	-
Under 18	<b>3.25</b>	3.24	0.01
18-24	<b>139.86</b>	138.69	1.17
25-34	<b>209.40</b>	205.20	4.20
35-44	<b>94.98</b>	91.20	3.78
45-54	<b>24.56</b>	22.24	2.32
55-64	<b>2.68</b>	2.22	0.46

1. Lone Parents are all single claimants with dependants aged under 16, but excluding claimants of incapacity benefits. Totals may not sum due to rounding.





## 1.6 National Statistics: Jobseekers Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance Sanction Decisions

### Mandatory reconsiderations

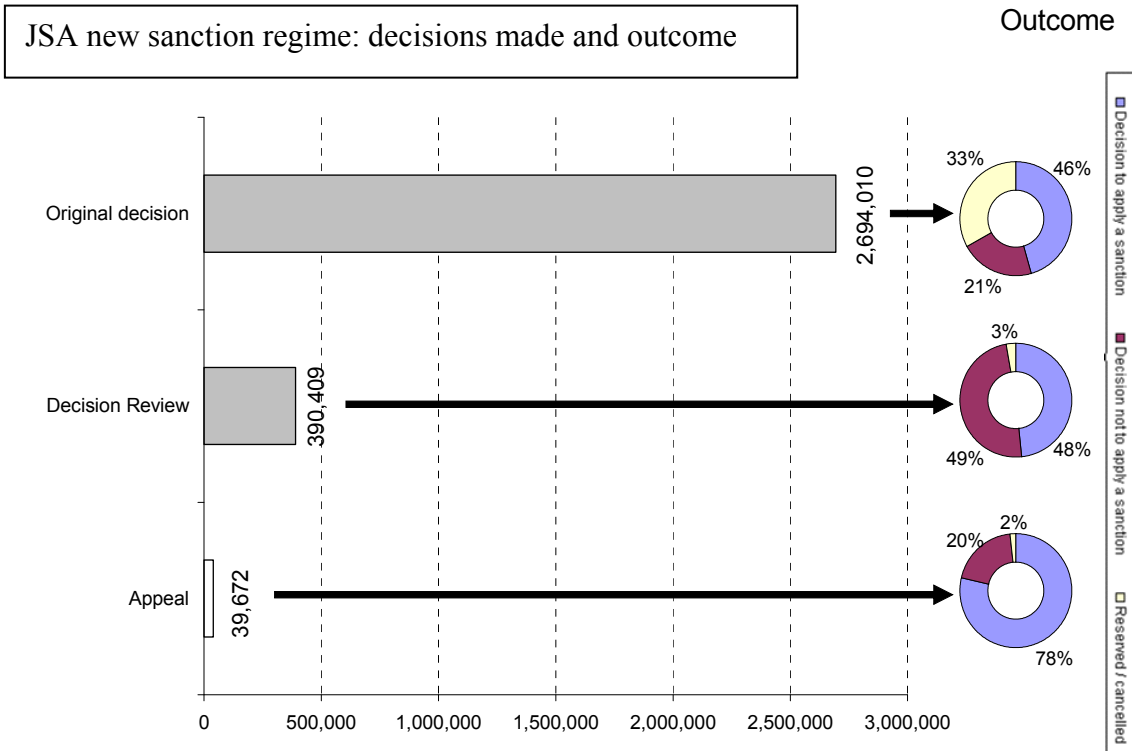
Please see note 8 for information on mandatory reconsiderations and how they affect these statistics.

### For Jobseeker's Allowance:

A total of 6.26 million decisions to apply a sanction<sup>1</sup> were made between April 2000 and June 2014.

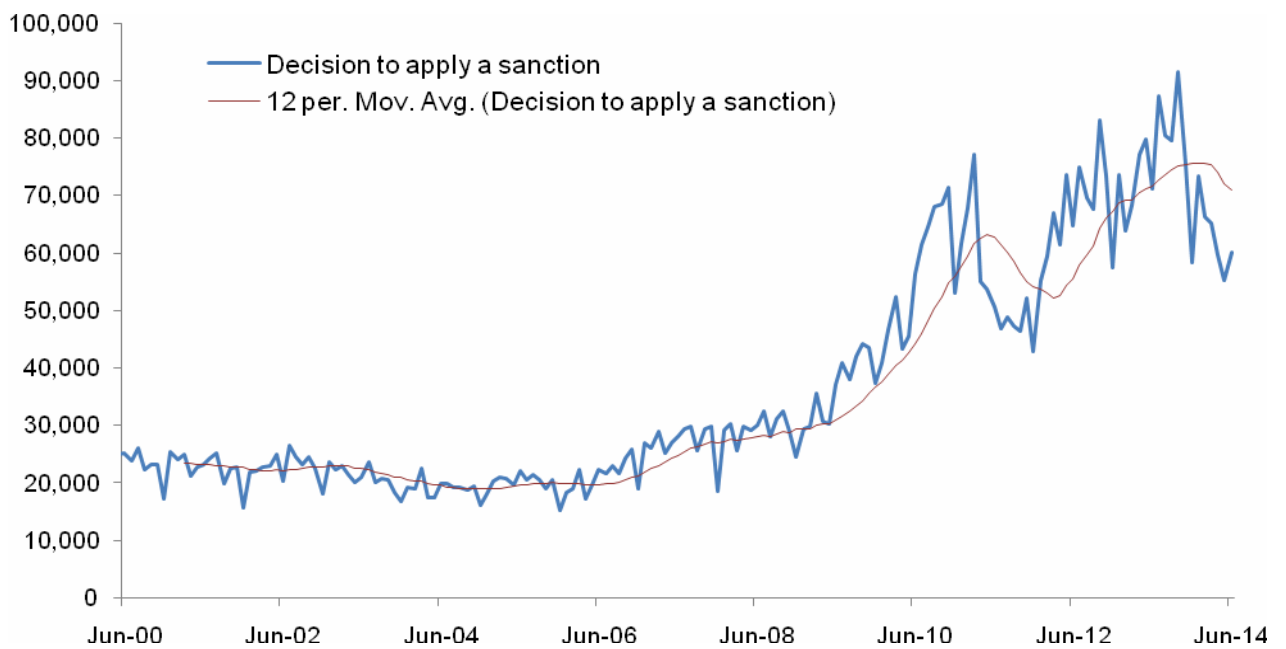
Under the new sanctions regime, introduced on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2012:

- a total of 1.44 million decisions to apply a sanction were made.
- a total of 1.68 million decisions resulted in no reduction or withdrawal of JSA. In just under half of these (46 per cent) there was a decision not to apply a sanction; 45 per cent as a result of the referral being cancelled (results in no sanction decision being made); and just under one in ten (9 per cent) where it was decided that a sanction would be appropriate but the claimant was no longer claiming JSA (reserved decision).
- a total of 191 thousand decisions following a review resulted in no sanction being applied. This represented under half (49 per cent) of all cases that went to a decision review stage, and less than one in ten (6 per cent) of all decisions in which a sanction decision was made.
- a total of 8 thousand decisions following an appeal resulted in no sanction being applied. This represented one in five (20 per cent) of all cases that went to the appeal stage, and less than half of one per cent (0.3 per cent) of all decisions in which a sanction decision was made.



<sup>1</sup> Includes a decision to end a claim because of a failure to comply with benefit entitlement conditions.

- over half (56 per cent) of all decisions to apply a sanction were in the lower level group, and just under one in ten (8 per cent) in the higher group.
- just under one third (28 per cent) of all decisions to apply a sanction was because of a failure to participate in the Work Programme, and 23 per cent because of a failure to attend an adviser interview.
- over one third (34 per cent) of all decisions were to close the JSA claim because the claimant was not entitled to claim JSA, mainly because the claimant was not actively seeking employment (these are recorded as intermediate level decisions).
- a total of 834 thousand individuals had received a decision to apply a sanction.



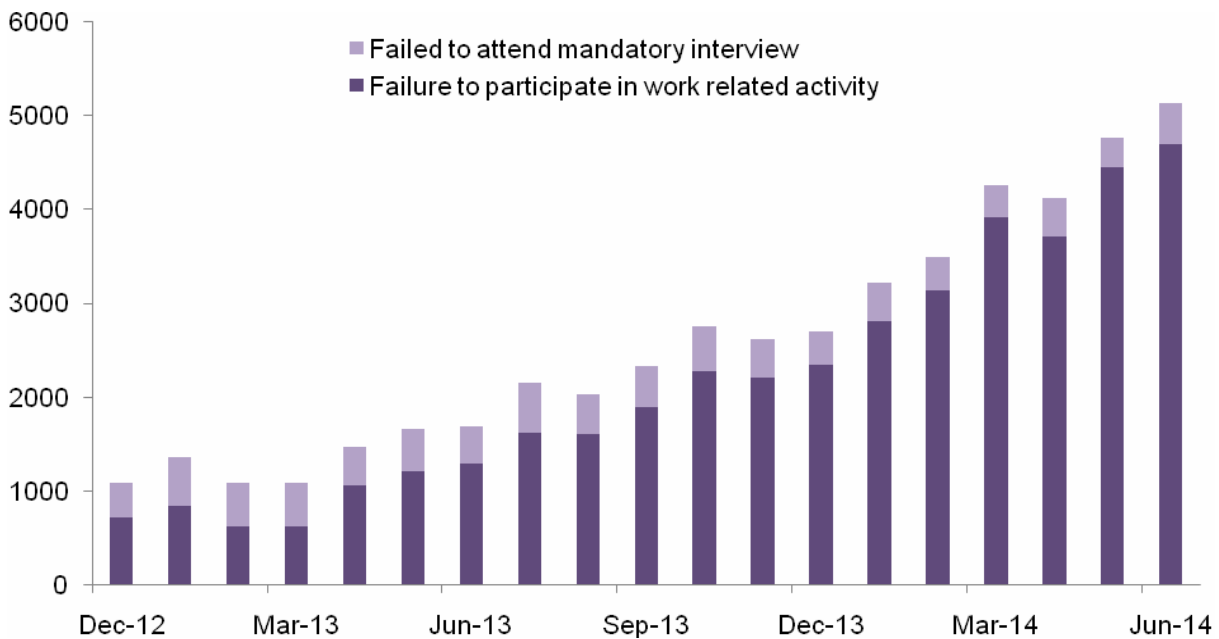
## For Employment and Support Allowance:

A total of 113 thousand decisions to apply a sanction were made between April 2008 and June 2014.

**Under the new sanctions regime**, introduced on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2012:

- just over 49 thousand decisions to apply a sanction were made.
- over three-quarters (84 per cent) decisions to apply a sanction were made because of a failure to participate in work related activity (this includes failure to participate in the Work Programme), with the remaining due to a failure to attend a mandatory interview.

### Referral reason for decisions to apply an ESA sanction



More detailed figures can be accessed through Stat-Xplore at: <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/> or via gov.uk at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/jobseekers-allowance-sanctions>

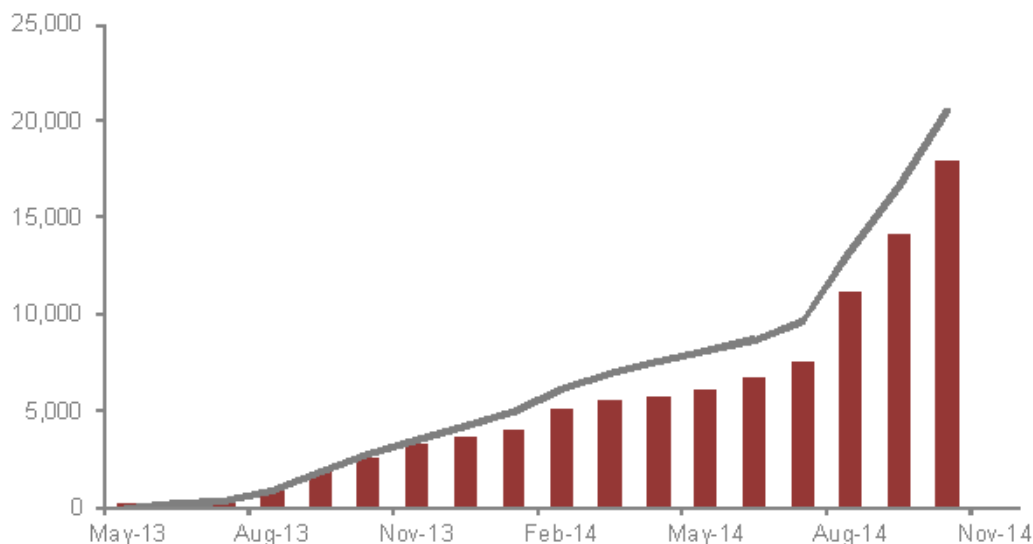
## 1.7 Official Experimental Statistics: Universal Credit (UC)

Universal Credit is a new benefit that has started to replace six existing benefits and tax credits with a single monthly payment. Universal Credit will eventually replace:

- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Income Support
- Working Tax Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Housing Benefit

### Universal Credit

Starts and Caseload on Universal Credit by month



- **20,540** have, up to 9th October 2014, attended an initial interview, accepted their claimant commitment, and gone on to start Universal Credit.
- As at October 2014, **17,850** people were on the Universal Credit caseload. Of these, **4,350** (or **24 per cent**) were in employment and **13,500** (or **76 per cent**) were not in employment.
- **59 per cent** of the Universal Credit caseload in October 2014 had been on for less than three months, this compares to **54 per cent** in September 2014, **45 per cent** in August 2014 and **27 per cent** in July 2014.
- There are more males on the Universal Credit caseload than females (**68 per cent** compared to **32 per cent**).
- Males aged 20-24 make up **27 per cent** of the total Universal Credit caseload.

Latest statistical data available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/universal-credit-statistics>



## 2. Early Estimates for Working Age Inactive Benefit Client Group

### 2.1 Employment and Support Allowance / incapacity benefits (ESA/IB) client group

Table 2.1: Working-age ESA/IB client group May 2011 to September 2014

Time Series	National Statistic	Early Estimate
	Number of Claimants (thousands)	Number of Claimants (thousands)
May-11	2,570.22	
Aug-11	2,582.18	
Nov-11	2,575.60	
Feb-12	2,557.68	
May-12	2,528.14	
Aug-12	2,517.07	
Nov-12	2,499.96	
Feb-13	2,475.67	
May-13	2,456.47	
Aug-13	2,440.80	
Nov-13	2,456.36	
Feb-14	2,459.31	
May-14	2,470.21	
Jun-14		2,495
Jul-14		2,510
Aug-14		2,515
Sep-14		2,515

Table 2.2: Working-age ESA/IB client group claiming NI credits only May 2011 to September 2014

Time Series	National Statistics Source Data	Early Estimate
	National Insurance Credits only (percentage)	National Insurance Credits only (percentage)
May-11	5.6%	
Aug-11	5.5%	
Nov-11	5.5%	
Feb-12	5.8%	
May-12	7.3%	
Aug-12	7.1%	
Nov-12	7.4%	
Feb-13	7.7%	
May-13	7.8%	
Aug-13	7.6%	
Nov-13	7.7%	
Feb-14	7.9%	
May-14	7.9%	
Jun-14		7.9%
Jul-14		7.9%
Aug-14		7.9%
Sep-14		7.9%

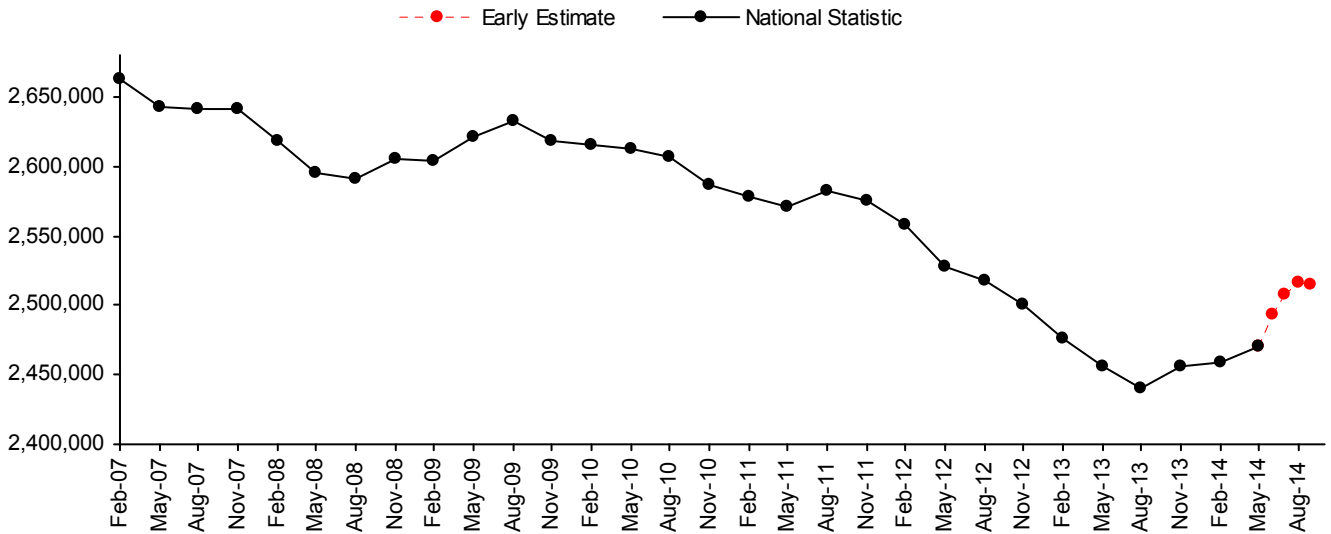
The working-age **ESA/IB** early estimate for September 2014 is **2.515 million** to the nearest 5,000. This represents an increase of 1.8 per cent since May 2014 (the latest National Statistic). As the Incapacity Benefit reassessment continues, users should be aware that there may be increased uncertainty around these early estimates.

In September 2014 approximately 92.1% were in receipt of benefit payments from Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Income Support, Pension Credit. The remaining 7.9% percent received National Insurance credits only (i.e. no payment of IB, SDA, ESA, IS or PC). A noticeable rise in the proportion of claimants receiving National Insurance credits was seen in May 2012. This is due to the introduction of a 365 day limit on receipt of contribution based ESA for those in the Work Related Activity Group on 1 May 2012.

These figures are estimates of the final National Statistic, to give an indication of their accuracy, over the past year the early estimates in Table 2.1 have been revised by an average of 0.4 per cent. See notes section for more information. Further details on the accuracy of the early estimates in Table 2.2 can also be found there.

The age at which men and women reach State Pension age is gradually increasing. Under current legislation, State Pension age for women will equalise with State Pension age for men at 65 in 2018. Both men's and women's State Pension age will increase from 65 to 66 between December 2018 and October 2020. The Pensions Bill 2013-14 contains provision for a State Pension age of 67 to be reached by 2028. Please see the Welfare Reform section of the notes for further information.

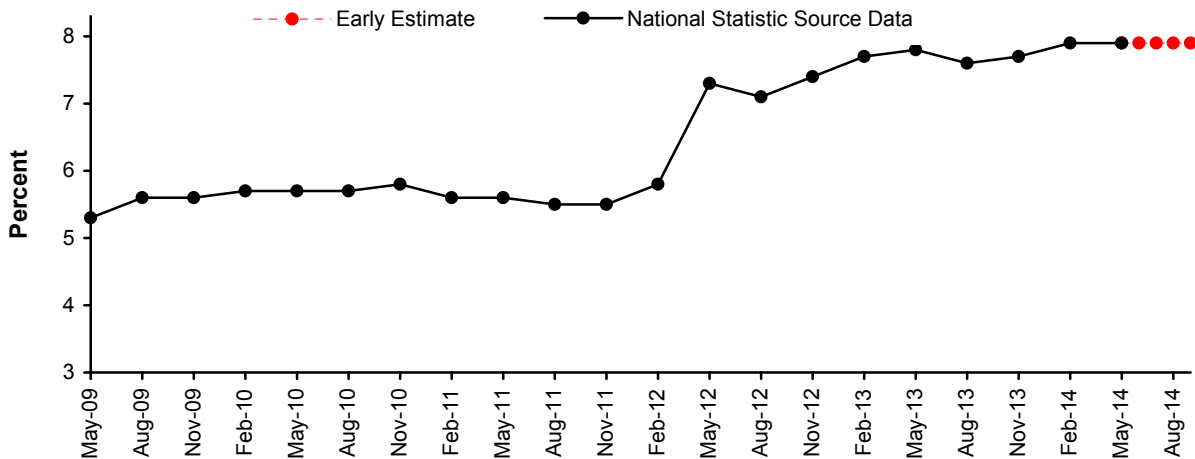
**Figure 2.1: National Statistics to May 2014 and early estimates of numbers in working age ESA/IB client group: June 2014 to September 2014**



**Notes relating to figure 2.1 and table 2.1:**

1. ESA/IB: From November 2008 ESA replaced Incapacity Benefit (IB) and Income Support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008. Prior to this the "incapacity benefits group" referred to claimants of IB or Severe Disablement Allowance including people claiming Income Support on the grounds of incapacity.
2. The red dotted line in the chart above emphasises that the figures are estimates and official statistics.
3. Source data: *DWP Information Exploitation and Security: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study*
4. When the next quarterly National Statistics are published they will be included as a National Statistic in Table 2.1, and the monthly early estimates for this quarter will be removed from Table 2.1.

**Figure 2.2: National Statistics to May 2014 and Early estimates of the proportion of working age inactive benefit claimants in the ESA/IB client group claiming NI credits only: June 2014 to September 2014**



**Notes relating to figure 2.2 and table 2.2:**

1. ESA/IB: From November 2008 ESA replaced Incapacity Benefit (IB) and Income Support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008. Prior to this the "incapacity benefits group" referred to claimants of IB or Severe Disablement Allowance including people claiming Income Support on the grounds of incapacity.
2. On 1 May 2012, a 365 day limit on the receipt of contribution based ESA for those in the Work Related Activity Group was introduced.
3. Source data: *DWP Information, Exploitation and Security: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study*
4. When the next quarterly National Statistics figure is available they will be included in Table 2.2, and the monthly early estimates for this quarter will be removed from Table 2.2. This indicator has formed a new National Statistics table at table 1.3.

## 2.2 Income Support lone parent (ISLP) client group

Table 2.3 ISLP client group August 2012 to September 2014

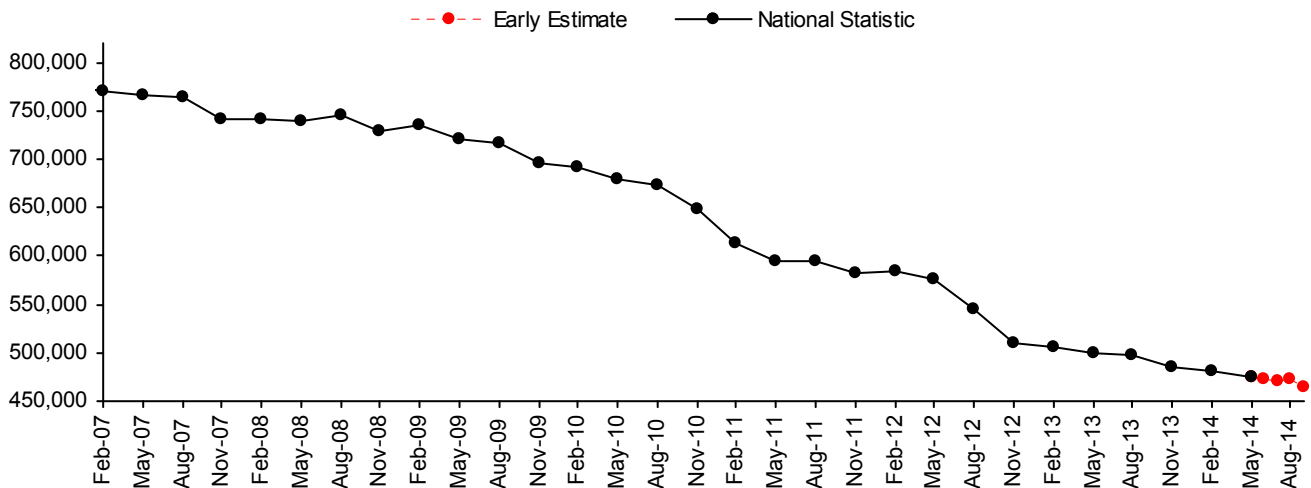
Time Series	Thousands	
	National Statistics Number of Claimants	Early Estimate Number of Claimants
Aug-12	545.24	
Nov-12	510.06	
Feb-13	504.89	
May-13	499.73	
Aug-13	497.54	
Nov-13	485.00	
Feb-14	480.09	
May-14	474.73	
Jun-14		470
Jul-14		470
Aug-14		470
Sep-14		465

The working-age **ISLP** early estimate for September 2014 is **465 thousand** to the nearest 5,000. This represents a fall of 2.0 per cent since May 2014 (the latest National Statistic).

The number of lone parents claiming Income Support has been affected by the Lone Parent Obligations policy changes which came into effect from 24 November 2008. For more information see the notes section. The figures are estimates of the final National Statistic, to give an indication of their accuracy, over the past year the early estimates have been revised by an average of 0.2 per cent. See the notes section for more information.

The age at which men and women reach State Pension age is gradually increasing. Under current legislation, State Pension age for women will equalise with State Pension age for men at 65 in 2018. Both men's and women's State Pension age will increase from 65 to 66 between December 2018 and October 2020. The Pensions Bill 2013-14 contains provision for a State Pension age of 67 to be reached by 2028. This will introduce a small increase to the number of working age benefit recipients and a small reduction to the number of pension age recipients. Please see the Welfare Reform section of the Notes for further information.

Figure 2.3: National Statistics to May 2014 and early estimates of numbers in working age ISLP client group: June 2014 to September 2014



### 2.3 and table 2.3:

- ISLP: claimants on IS with child under 16 and no partner.  
New and repeat customers with the following conditions will no longer be entitled to Income Support:
  - A youngest child aged 12 or over from November 2008;
  - A youngest child aged 10 or over from October 2009;
  - A youngest child aged 7 or over from October 2010.
The Welfare Reform Act 2012 introduced further changes and from May 2012 lone parents are only eligible to claim Income Support until their youngest child is five years old.
- The red dotted line in the chart above emphasises that the figures are estimates and official statistics.
- Source data: *DWP Information, Exploitation and Security Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study*
- When the next quarterly National Statistics are published they will be included as a quarterly National Statistic in Table 2.2, and the monthly early estimates for this quarter will be removed from Table 2.2.

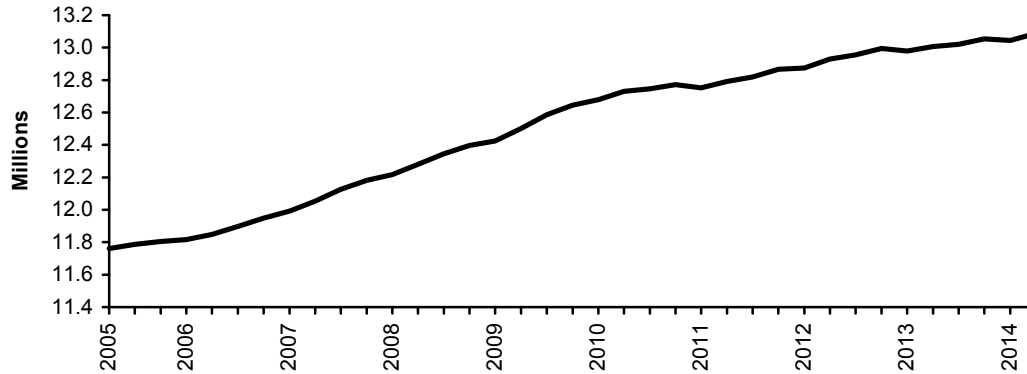
Latest statistical data available from:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-estimates-for-working-age-inactive-benefit-client-groups>

### 3. Pensioners

#### 3.1 National Statistics: Pensioner client group

The Pensioner client group covers claimants, over State Pension age (see notes section 7), of at least one of the following benefits: State Pension, Pension Credit, Attendance Allowance, Widow's Benefit, Disability Living Allowance, Incapacity Benefit, and Severe Disablement Allowance. They are split into statistical groups that reflect their main reason for claiming benefit.

Pensioner Client Group: May 2005 to May 2014



At May 2014 there were 13.09 million claimants in the Pensioner Client Group, an increase of 81 thousand since May 2013. Of these, 16% were in receipt of Pension Credit. 50% of these Pension Credit claimants were also claiming Attendance Allowance or Disability Living Allowance.

Table 3.1 Pensioner Client Group recipients: November 2006 – May 2014

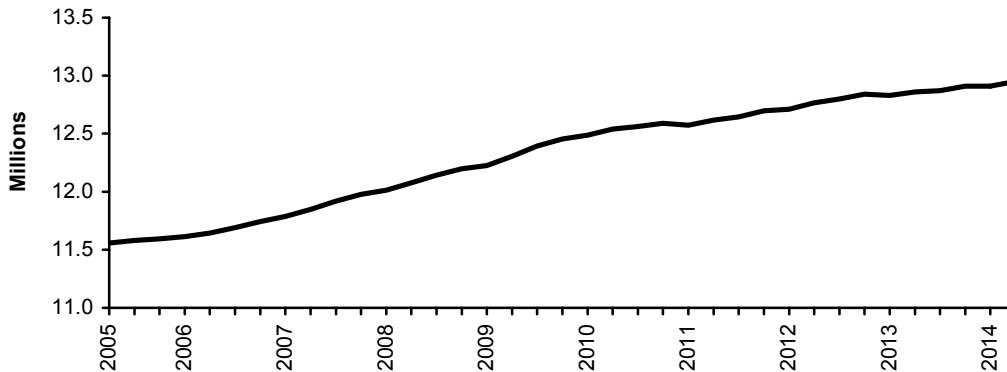
		Thousands							
	Total	SP and PC: Disabled	SP and PC: Not Disabled	SP but not PC: Disabled	SP but not PC: Not Disabled	PC but not SP: Disabled	PC but not SP: Not Disabled	Neither SP nor PC: Disabled	Neither SP nor PC: Not Disabled
Nov-06	11,949.62	1,113.70	1,269.09	1,351.57	8,004.82	74.87	74.34	38.69	22.54
Feb-07	11,992.45	1,114.06	1,260.09	1,356.42	8,052.20	74.56	74.19	38.60	22.33
May-07	12,053.77	1,122.36	1,252.29	1,370.93	8,097.85	74.82	74.26	38.97	22.29
Aug-07	12,127.16	1,133.46	1,243.25	1,389.71	8,152.28	74.55	73.62	38.92	21.37
Nov-07	12,182.27	1,140.25	1,234.23	1,403.83	8,197.32	74.21	73.15	38.72	20.56
Feb-08	12,216.39	1,139.13	1,223.86	1,410.21	8,237.94	73.56	72.92	38.75	20.02
May-08	12,279.39	1,144.14	1,214.40	1,428.68	8,287.34	73.68	72.69	38.97	19.50
Aug-08	12,344.41	1,155.40	1,206.30	1,448.69	8,331.36	73.72	72.04	38.76	18.14
Nov-08	12,396.06	1,164.55	1,201.42	1,464.57	8,365.41	73.51	71.41	38.17	17.02
Feb-09	12,423.79	1,159.85	1,193.82	1,469.67	8,402.45	73.03	70.86	37.81	16.31
May-09	12,500.78	1,167.68	1,189.05	1,489.12	8,457.71	73.20	70.59	37.76	15.66
Aug-09	12,586.92	1,177.58	1,184.10	1,512.11	8,519.54	72.79	69.22	36.72	14.88
Nov-09	12,645.64	1,182.96	1,178.49	1,526.14	8,565.92	72.63	68.50	36.54	14.46
Feb-10	12,679.66	1,177.97	1,175.36	1,528.61	8,604.63	72.79	68.75	37.27	14.29
May-10	12,729.68	1,180.95	1,171.73	1,541.77	8,645.79	72.14	67.70	36.16	13.44
Aug-10	12,746.19	1,184.76	1,166.81	1,550.51	8,658.69	70.41	66.85	35.34	12.82
Nov-10	12,770.78	1,182.21	1,161.68	1,553.01	8,691.37	69.42	66.18	34.45	12.47
Feb-11	12,752.59	1,170.17	1,156.78	1,545.78	8,699.91	68.39	65.61	34.06	11.89
May-11	12,792.21	1,165.18	1,149.43	1,552.17	8,748.95	66.97	64.89	33.14	11.49
Aug-11	12,818.47	1,164.34	1,144.77	1,561.19	8,775.04	66.04	63.85	32.42	10.82
Nov-11	12,867.40	1,159.36	1,141.73	1,568.53	8,827.17	64.99	63.10	32.06	10.47
Feb-12	12,875.02	1,146.95	1,136.04	1,566.70	8,857.40	64.08	62.63	31.32	9.89
May 12	12,930.13	1,123.25	1,096.63	1,587.22	8,959.39	62.41	61.29	30.56	9.39
Aug-12	12,955.72	1,116.76	1,093.83	1,590.65	8,996.69	60.13	59.06	29.80	8.80
Nov-12	12,995.34	1,108.65	1,090.09	1,592.67	9,050.82	58.27	57.38	29.16	8.30
Feb-13	12,979.39	1,090.87	1,084.54	1,580.33	9,073.45	56.86	56.57	28.88	7.89
May-13	13,006.99	1,070.26	1,065.13	1,581.31	9,143.74	55.56	55.51	28.02	7.46
Aug-13	13,020.68	1,060.02	1,060.25	1,577.95	9,171.76	57.04	55.39	31.17	7.10
Nov-13	13,053.77	1,053.65	1,056.15	1,583.44	9,219.09	53.47	54.45	26.66	6.86
Feb-14	13,044.11	1,038.93	1,049.88	1,578.83	9,237.24	52.70	53.90	26.09	6.54
May-14	13,088.35	1,016.23	1,011.44	1,599.87	9,323.27	52.11	53.51	25.68	6.24



### 3.2 National Statistics: State Pension

State Pension (SP) was introduced on 1st January 1909 and is paid to people who have reached the state pension age and who fulfil the residency and contributions conditions. The age at which men and women reach State Pension age is gradually increasing. Under current legislation, State Pension age for women will equalise with State Pension age for men at 65 in 2018. Both men's and women's State Pension age will increase from 65 to 66 between December 2018 and October 2020. The Pensions Bill 2013-14 contains provision for a State Pension age of 67 to be reached by 2028.

State Pension Recipients: May 2005 to May 2014



At May 2014, there were almost 13 million claimants of State Pension, a rise of 90 thousand on a year earlier. Of these, 42% were male and 58% were female.

The average weekly amount in payment at May 2014 was £126.46, a rise of £4.49 since May 2013.

In the quarter to May 2014, there were a total of 164 thousand new claims for State Pension which represents 1.3% of the caseload. Over the same period, 124 thousand claimants left the benefit, representing 1.0% of the caseload at May 2014. In the year to May 2014 there were a total of 561 thousand new claims for State Pension and 501 thousand claims were closed.

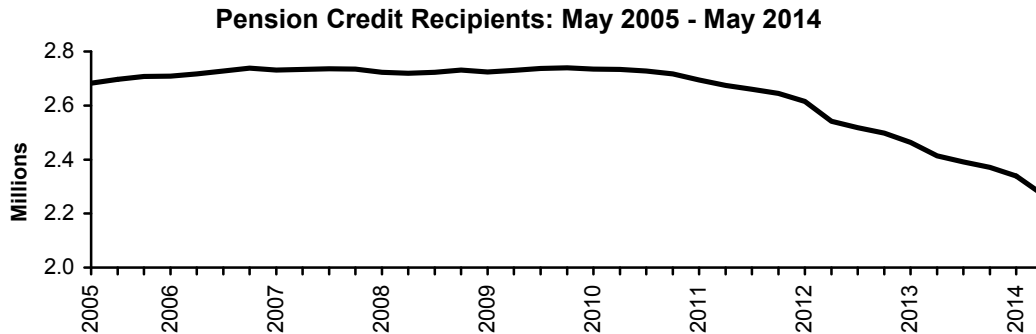
Table 3.2 State Pension recipients: February 2008 – May 2014

	All	Male	Female
Feb-08	12,011.54	4,499.53	7,512.02
May-08	12,074.99	4,526.79	7,548.20
Aug-08	12,142.20	4,555.63	7,586.57
Nov-08	12,196.44	4,578.74	7,617.70
Feb-09	12,226.26	4,594.18	7,632.08
May-09	12,304.07	4,633.62	7,670.44
Aug-09	12,393.84	4,678.30	7,715.54
Nov-09	12,453.99	4,709.50	7,744.49
Feb-10	12,487.07	4,728.18	7,758.89
May-10	12,540.75	4,759.36	7,781.39
Aug-10	12,561.26	4,791.10	7,770.16
Nov-10	12,588.75	4,814.08	7,774.67
Feb-11	12,573.11	4,832.31	7,740.80
May-11	12,616.24	4,871.26	7,744.98
Aug-11	12,645.85	4,919.06	7,726.79
Nov-11	12,697.31	4,966.20	7,731.11
Feb-12	12,707.64	5,012.17	7,695.46
May-12	12,767.07	5,068.96	7,698.12
Aug-12	12,798.53	5,121.54	7,676.99
Nov-12	12,842.82	5,162.65	7,680.17
Feb-13	12,829.80	5,191.31	7,638.49
May-13	12,861.09	5,233.15	7,627.94
Aug-13	12,870.65	5,272.65	7,597.99
Nov-13	12,913.00	5,309.82	7,603.18
Feb-14	12,905.55	5,337.61	7,567.95
May-14	12,951.50	5,379.68	7,571.82

Latest statistical data available from: <http://tabulation-tool.dwp.gov.uk/100pc/tabtool.html>

### 3.3 National Statistics: Pension Credit

*Pension Credit (PC) was introduced on 6th October 2003 and replaced Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG). For people aged over the female state pension age (see Notes, section 7), the Guarantee Credit element guarantees an income at a set level. People aged 65 or over (and couples where one member is 65 or over) may also be entitled to Savings Credit if they have modest income from savings, investments or a second pension.*



At May 2014, there were 2.27 million claimants of Pension Credit (2.74 million including partners), a fall of 144 thousand on the previous year. This fall is due to the increase in the female State Pension age, which is also the age at which people become eligible for Pension Credit, see Notes, section 7 for details. Of these Pension Credit claimants, 950 thousand claimed Guarantee Credit only, 824 thousand claimed Guarantee and Savings Credit, and 496 thousand were claiming Savings Credit only. The average weekly amount of Pension Credit in payment at May 2014 was £56.31, a fall of £0.81 since May 2013.

Statistics on benefit flows show there were 131 thousand new claims to Pension Credit in the year to May 2014. A small number of claims take a long time to process and are still outstanding at the cut off point for producing these statistics. This means that the statistics undercounts the final number of claims by a small percentage. There were 275 thousand claims closed in the year to May 2014.

**Table 3.3 Pension Credit claimants: February 2008 – May 2014**

		<i>Thousands</i>			
	<b>Total</b>	Guarantee Credit only	Guarantee Credit & Savings Credit	Savings Credit only	Still on Minimum Income Guarantee
Feb-08	<b>2,723.14</b>	865.19	1,265.43	592.50	0.02
May-08	<b>2,719.14</b>	882.07	1,246.24	590.80	0.03
Aug-08	<b>2,723.53</b>	889.74	1,241.62	592.15	0.03
Nov-08	<b>2,731.37</b>	901.23	1,232.25	597.86	0.03
Feb-09	<b>2,723.61</b>	913.40	1,214.69	595.49	0.03
May-09	<b>2,730.56</b>	925.71	1,205.23	599.59	0.03
Aug-09	<b>2,737.29</b>	935.59	1,199.61	602.05	0.03
Nov-09	<b>2,739.86</b>	953.04	1,209.00	577.79	0.03
Feb-10	<b>2,735.16</b>	955.39	1,204.66	575.08	0.03
May-10	<b>2,734.17</b>	954.36	1,202.41	577.37	0.03
Aug-10	<b>2,727.56</b>	952.16	1,195.80	579.57	0.03
Nov-10	<b>2,717.28</b>	951.53	1,184.88	580.84	0.03
Feb-11	<b>2,693.96</b>	947.51	1,162.01	584.42	0.02
May-11	<b>2,674.67</b>	936.96	1,148.09	589.59	0.03
Aug-11	<b>2,659.82</b>	927.74	1,140.70	591.35	0.02
Nov-11	<b>2,644.45</b>	923.37	1,130.93	590.13	0.02
Feb-12	<b>2,615.54</b>	1,042.38	1,013.68	559.46	0.02
May-12	<b>2,541.54</b>	1,015.90	964.26	561.36	0.02
Aug-12	<b>2,518.47</b>	1,000.68	957.62	560.14	0.02
Nov-12	<b>2,497.45</b>	990.63	948.74	558.06	0.02
Feb-13	<b>2,463.75</b>	1,000.32	922.97	540.44	0.02
May-13	<b>2,413.87</b>	968.42	906.60	538.83	0.02
Aug-13	<b>2,391.26</b>	957.03	897.68	536.53	0.02
Nov-13	<b>2,370.77</b>	947.47	888.83	534.45	0.02
Feb-14	<b>2,339.52</b>	994.27	845.49	499.74	0.02
May-14	<b>2,270.32</b>	950.19	824.32	495.79	0.01

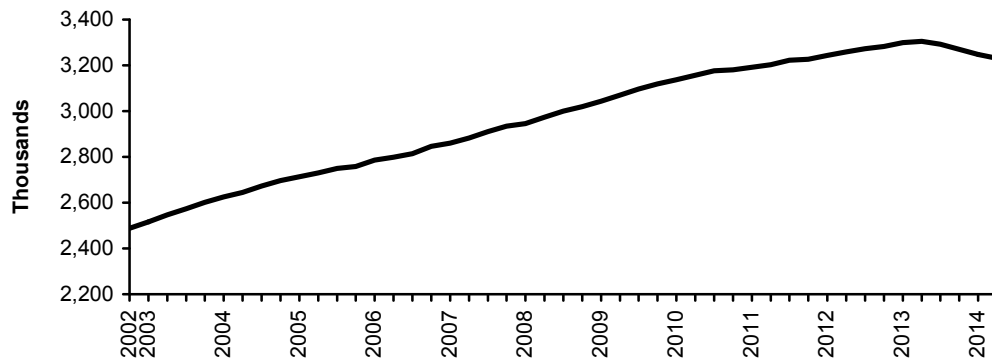
1. Pension Credit replaced MIG on the 6<sup>th</sup> Oct 2003, however a small number of residual cases remain on MIG.

## 4. Disabled and Carers

### 4.1 National Statistics: Disability Living Allowance

*Disability Living Allowance (DLA) was introduced on 1st April 1992 and is a benefit for people who have become disabled before the age of 65 and who need assistance with personal care or mobility. From 8 April 2013, Disability Living Allowance for people aged 16-64 was replaced by Personal Independence payment (PIP) for new claims. PIP will also gradually replace existing DLA claims for people aged 16-64 (see Notes, section 7).*

**Disability Living Allowance Recipients: November 2002 to May 2014**



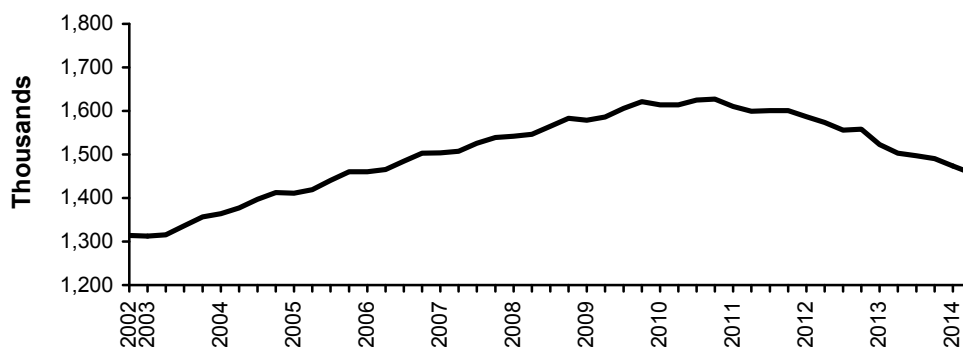
At May 2014, 3.23 million people were receiving Disability Living Allowance (not including suspended cases), a fall of 17 thousand on the previous quarter. Of these claimants 50.3% were male. The fall in the caseload in recent quarters is due to the introduction of Personal Independence Payments (PIP) (see Notes, section 7).

At May 2014, 12% of recipients were children, 55% were working age and 33% were pension age (a small number are an unknown age).

### 4.2 National Statistics: Attendance Allowance

*Attendance Allowance (AA) was introduced on 6th December 1971 and is a benefit for people over the age of 65 who are so severely disabled, physically or mentally, that they need a great deal of help with personal care or supervision. Those requiring constant help receive the higher rate of benefit.*

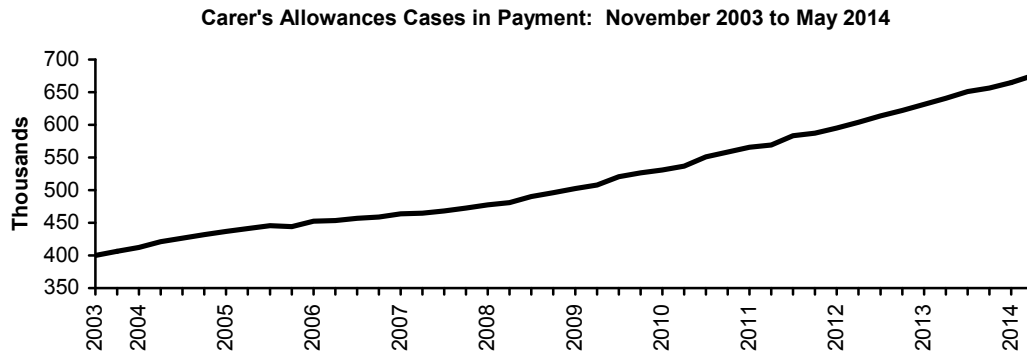
**Attendance Allowance Cases in Payment: November 2002 to May 2014**



At May 2014 there were 1.46 million people receiving Attendance Allowance (excluding suspended cases), a fall of 46 thousand on a year earlier. Of these, 34% were male and 66% were female. The male caseload has decreased by 11 thousand and the female caseload has decreased by 35 thousand in the year to May 2014. At May 2014, 70% of recipients were aged 80 or over.

### 4.3 National Statistics: Carer's Allowance

Carer's Allowance (CA) was introduced on 5th July 1976; it is paid to carers who look after a severely disabled person for at least 35 hours a week. The severely disabled person must be getting either higher or middle rate DLA care component or AA or maximum rate Constant Attendance Allowance with their War Pension or Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit.



At May 2014, there were 675 thousand people receiving Carer's Allowance (not including underlying entitlement cases). 28% of claimants were male, and 72% female. At May 2014, there were a further 410 thousand people entitled to Carer's Allowance but not receiving any payment due to overlapping benefit provisions (i.e. underlying entitlement cases).

**Table 4.1 Awards currently in payment for Disability Living Allowance, Carer's Allowance and Attendance Allowance: February 2006 – May 2014**

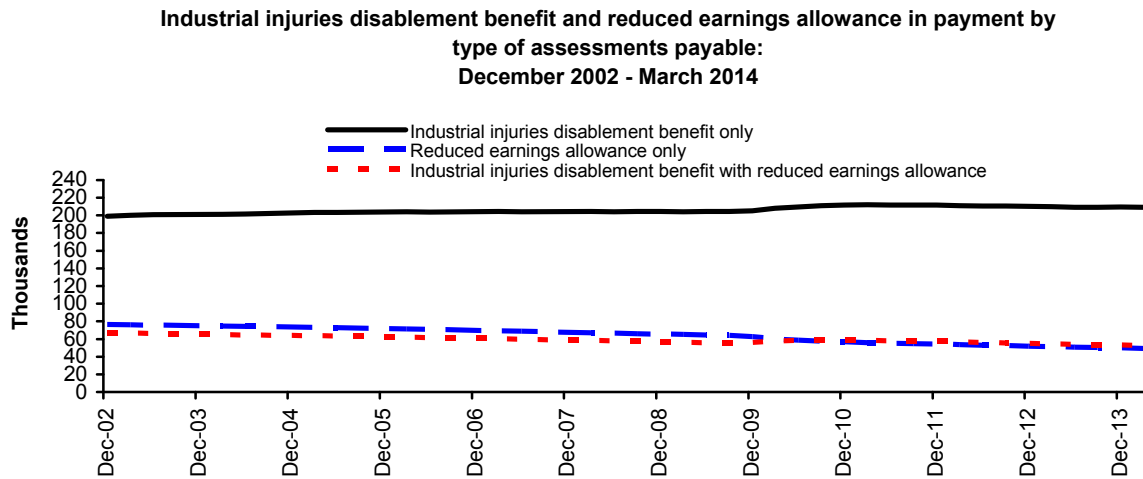
	Disability Living Allowance	Attendance Allowance	Carer's Allowance <sup>1</sup>
Feb-06	2,785.68	1,460.57	452.54
May-06	2,799.16	1,465.59	453.54
Aug-06	2,814.29	1,484.58	456.70
Nov-06	2,845.75	1,503.05	458.93
Feb-07	2,860.79	1,503.85	463.50
May-07	2,881.83	1,507.50	464.67
Aug-07	2,909.98	1,525.61	468.06
Nov-07	2,934.44	1,539.32	472.42
Feb-08	2,945.57	1,541.58	477.66
May-08	2,973.54	1,546.68	480.73
Aug-08	2,999.65	1,565.00	490.03
Nov-08	3,019.70	1,582.81	496.14
Feb-09	3,043.99	1,578.64	502.50
May-09	3,070.61	1,585.79	507.97
Aug-09	3,096.30	1,605.92	520.35
Nov-09	3,119.01	1,621.03	526.62
Feb-10	3,137.73	1,614.17	530.89
May-10	3,157.31	1,614.27	536.90
Aug-10	3,176.20	1,624.66	550.86
Nov-10	3,181.08	1,626.91	558.47
Feb-11	3,192.09	1,610.29	565.50
May-11	3,202.91	1,599.12	569.24
Aug-11	3,222.69	1,600.67	583.33
Nov-11	3,226.79	1,601.09	587.07
Feb-12	3,243.53	1,586.55	594.86
May-12	3,258.44	1,573.63	603.77
Aug-12	3,272.12	1,556.00	613.65
Nov-12	3,282.64	1,557.79	621.86
Feb-13	3,298.85	1,552.68	631.47
May-13	3,305.20	1,502.77	640.52
Aug-13	3,292.36	1,497.27	651.15
Nov-13	3,269.99	1,490.77	656.48
Feb-14	3,248.11	1,473.56	664.61
May-14	3,231.32	1,457.16	675.39

Latest statistical data available from: <http://tabulation-tool.dwp.gov.uk/100pc/tabtool.html>



#### 4.4 National Statistics: Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit

*Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit (IIDB) was introduced on 5th July 1948 and is a benefit for people who are disabled because of an industrial accident or prescribed industrial disease. Since 1st October 1986 any claim resulting in an assessment of less than 14% disabled does not normally attract benefit.*



There were just over 311 thousand people claiming under the Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit scheme in March 2014, of whom 67% received Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit only, 16% received Reduced Earnings Allowance only, and 17% received both. The number of people claiming benefit has dropped slightly (by just over 1.4%) since March 2013. The average weekly payment at March 2014 was £52.36.

Latest statistical data available from:

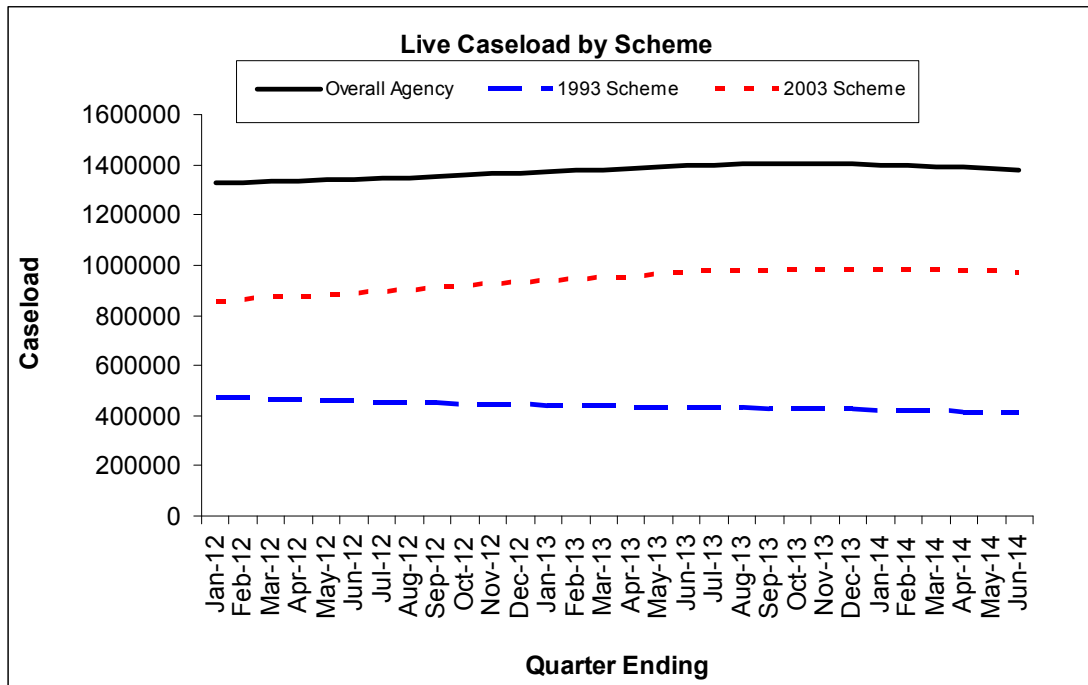
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/series/industrial-injuries-disablement-benefit-quarterly-statistics>

5.1 National Statistics: Child Support Agency cases

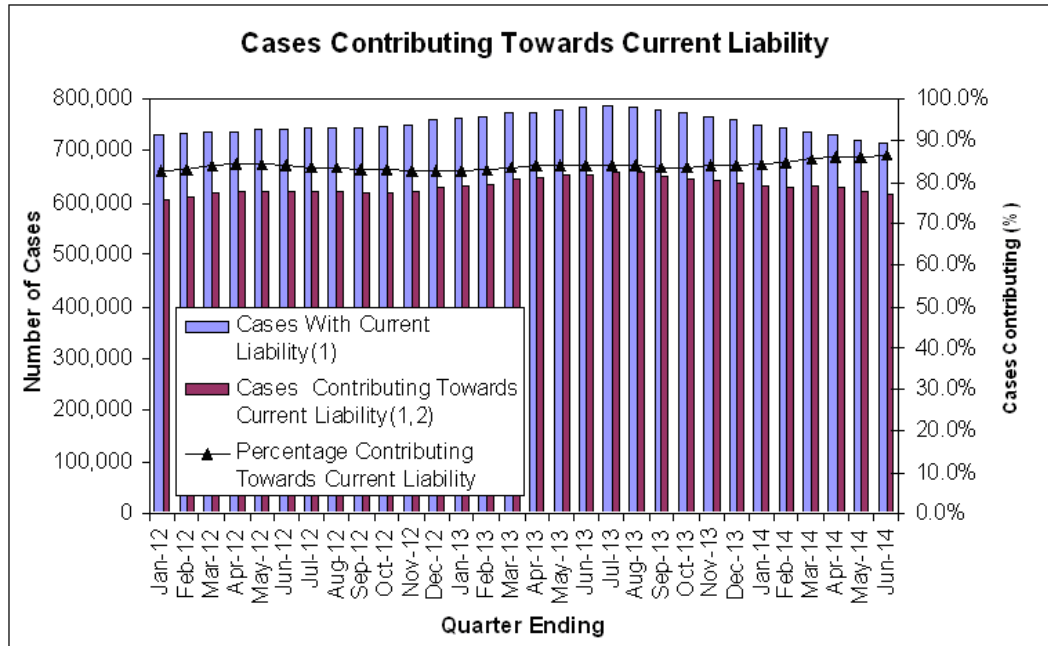
The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is responsible for the child maintenance system in Great Britain. It funds information and support for separating parents and runs the statutory child maintenance schemes, currently operated through the Child Support Agency (CSA).

DWP assumed responsibility for the CSA from the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission on the 1 August 2012, following an announcement on 14 October 2010 that the Commission would become an executive agency of DWP as part of the Public Bodies Reform. The Commission had responsibility for the CSA between the 1 November 2008 and the 31 July 2012, prior to that DWP had responsibility for the CSA.

On the 10 December 2012 a new Child Maintenance Scheme was launched. The scheme was introduced on a pathfinder approach. All new applications are now being accepted onto the 2012 scheme. The CSA QSS excludes cases on the 2012 scheme.



- At the end of June 2014, the CSA live caseload stood at 1.38 million.



- In the quarter ending June 2014, 86.2% of all cases in which maintenance was due had either received maintenance via the CSA collection service, or had a maintenance direct arrangement in place.

From 25 November 2013, all new applications for child maintenance are made under the [2012 Scheme](#). Consequently, the 1993 and 2003 Scheme caseloads will steadily reduce as no new intake is received and cases close. For this reason the data on Uncleared work has not been updated and will no longer be included.

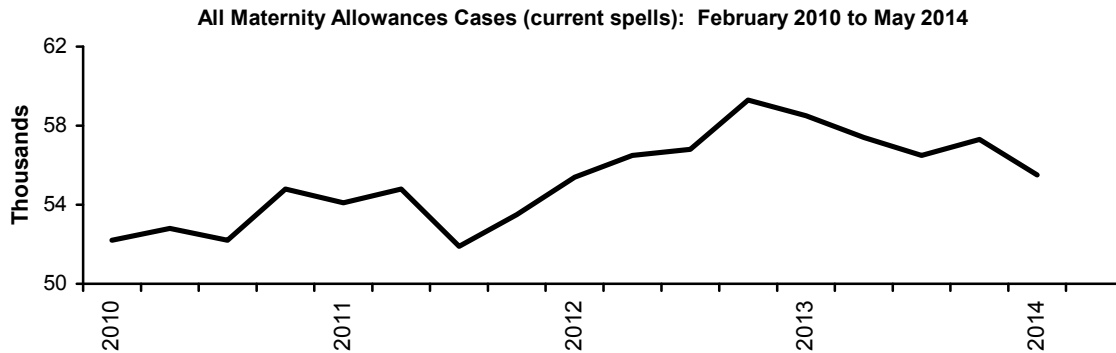
Latest statistical data available from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/series/child-support-agency-quarterly-summary-statistics--2>



## 5.2: National Statistics: Maternity Allowance cases

Maternity Allowance (MA) is usually paid to women who have worked and paid full National Insurance (NI) contributions in the relevant test period, and who don't qualify for Statutory Maternity Pay. Maternity Allowance is paid for 39 weeks, at the earliest starting 11 weeks before the baby is due. If the woman does any paid work during this period, she cannot get the allowance for that time. It is payable at various rates, dependent on circumstances.



At May 2014, there were almost 55 thousand current spells of Maternity Allowance across all areas (including Overseas) of whom 2% of claimants were aged under 20, 17% were aged 20-24, 29% were aged 25-29, 30% were aged 30-34, 17% were aged 35-39 and 5% were aged 40 or over.

The average weekly payment in May 2014 for those spells (across All rates) commencing in the period 1<sup>st</sup> March 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2014 was £138.18.

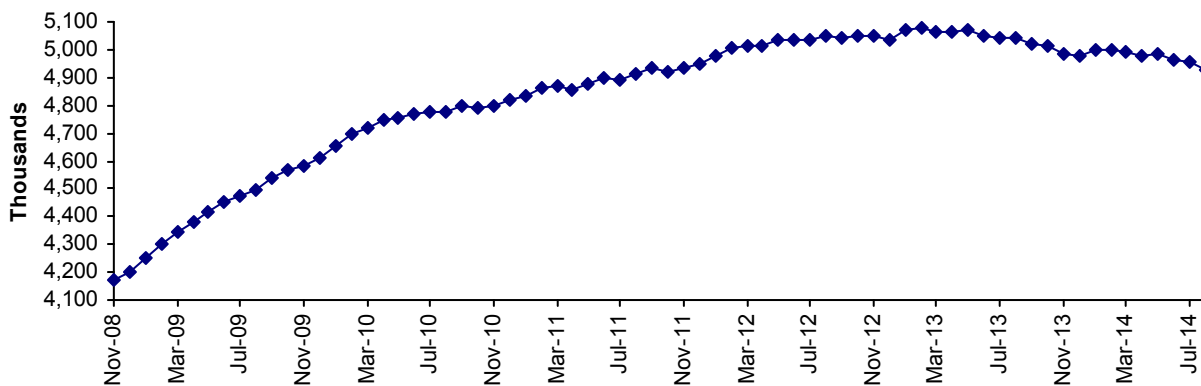
Further information, breakdowns and latest statistical data is available from:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/maternity-allowance-quarterly-statistics>

## 6. Housing Benefit

### 6.1 National Statistics: Housing Benefit

*Housing Benefit (HB) was introduced on 1st April 1983 and is an income-related benefit designed to help people on low incomes pay for rented accommodation whether in or out-of-work.*

**Housing Benefit Recipients: November 2008 to August 2014**



At August 2014 there were 4.93 million recipients of Housing Benefit, of whom almost three-quarters were aged under 65. The average weekly amount of Housing Benefit was £93.05.

67% of Housing Benefit recipients were tenants in the Social Sector. 86% of the 1.61 million Private Sector Housing Benefit recipients were receiving the Local Housing Allowance.

Around 62% of Housing Benefit recipients were also in receipt of Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, income-based Employment and Support Allowance or Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit).

As at August 2014, 472 thousand Housing Benefit claimants (of working age) had a reduction to their Housing Benefit weekly award amount as a result of the removal of the spare room subsidy. This represents just under 10 per cent of the total Housing Benefit caseload.

Further information on Housing Benefit can be found via [Stat-Xplore](#), which provides users with an interactive visualisation tool to produce charts, graphs and tables, downloadable in a number of different formats. A set of summary tables on Housing Benefit claimants can also be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/housing-benefit-and-council-tax-benefit-caseload-statistics--2>

Latest statistical data available from: <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/>



## NOTES

### 1. The Statistical Summary

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) publish a Statistical Summary document each month. It is used for the release of a wide range of DWP statistics.

The DWP Statistical Summary brings together key National Statistics on DWP administered benefits and JSA (Jobseeker's Allowance) sanctions. To provide a more complete picture of DWP responsibility, statistics on Housing Benefit (administered by Local Authorities) and the Child Support Agency are also included.

The Summary is published monthly, containing Official Statistics giving early estimates of inactive benefit caseloads. Each quarter (in May, August, November and February), the Summary is a larger document containing the detail of DWP administered benefits, Housing Benefit, JSA sanctions and the Child Support Agency.

Alongside the Statistical Summary, there are a large number of tables which enable the user to delve in to the detail. These are provided to the user as:

- The DWP Tabulation Tool – for DWP administered benefits and employment programmes the Tabulation Tool provides the user with an interactive tool to select one of thousands of possible tabulations. This is available for caseloads and on/off flows at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/series/dwp-statistics-tabulation-tool>. A similar Tabulation Tool, derived from 5% sample data, is also available. Whenever possible, 100% data should be used in preference to 5% estimates, as these are both more accurate and form DWP's headline statistics. Some statistics remain outside the scope of the Tabulation Tool but will continue to be available via the internet as pre-defined summary tables.
- Identical numbers via Nomis (<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/Default.asp>)
- Stat-Xplore – Stat-Xplore provides a guided way to explore DWP benefit statistics, currently holding data relating to Housing Benefit claimants and in future will include data on a wider set of DWP benefits and programmes. Using Stat-Xplore you can: create customised tabulations; view results in interactive charts; share outputs via social networking tools; or download into common file formats. The tool contains data on Housing Benefit claimants, JSA and ESA Sanctions, National Insurance number allocations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK, Personal Independence Payment (PIP) and Benefit Cap statistics. (<https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/>)
- Separate detailed tables on Claimants on out-of-work benefits (via the [Working Age Client Group Tabulation Tool](#), use first "Useful Resources and Sites" link)
- Tables broken down by [Lower Super Output Area \(LSOA\)](#) and [Census Output Area \(COA\)](#).
- Other tables and background information via links on the Tabulation Tool pages (e.g. links to long time series spreadsheets; descriptions of the benefit.)
- Universal Credit tables with breakdowns by Jobcentre Plus office, local authority and parliamentary constituency. (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/universal-credit-statistics>)
- Separate detailed tables on Maternity Allowance spells (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/maternity-allowance-quarterly-statistics>)

The National Statistics paper "DWP statistics transformed: the modernisation of the DWP's data sources and statistical publications" announced major changes to the National Statistics the Department publishes in 2005. Much of this content is still relevant and is available from:

[http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130107093842/http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/stats\\_consultation/modstats.pdf](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130107093842/http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/stats_consultation/modstats.pdf)

On 23 January 2013, DWP opened a consultation on "People and households claiming Universal Credit, Personal Independence Payment and other benefits: Plans for 2013-2017". The outcome of this consultation will shape the content and format of the Statistical Summary through to 2017 and beyond. The full consultation can be found at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/183265/dwp\\_stats2013\\_17.pdf.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/183265/dwp_stats2013_17.pdf.pdf). This consultation is now closed.



## 2. National Statistics Code of Practice

DWP complies with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics and supporting Principles. Detailed policy statements and statement of compliance with the pre-release access to official statistics order 2008 are given below:

[DWP policy statements](#)

Detailed policy and methodology relating to the Statistical Summary can be found at:

- [Quality](#)
- [Methodology](#)
- [Uses and Users](#)

The UK Statistics Authority report on the compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics for the Statistical Summary is report number 66 at:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment-reports/index.html>

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

DWP would like to hear your views on our statistical publications. If you use any of our statistics publications, we would be interested in hearing what you use them for and how well they meet your requirements. Please email DWP at [stats-consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:stats-consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk).

An ongoing questionnaire, enabling DWP to target future consultations at interested users; shaping the future direction of statistics development to address user needs; and helping ensure value for money, whilst giving users a structured way of expressing their views is available at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/205190/statistical\\_summary\\_questionnaire.doc](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/205190/statistical_summary_questionnaire.doc)

Completed questionnaires can be returned by e-mail to [stats-consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:stats-consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk) or by post to the following address:

Katie Dodd  
Information Exploitation and Security Directorate  
Department for Work and Pensions  
Room BP5201  
Benton Park Road  
Longbenton  
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE  
NE98 1YX

Users can also join the “Welfare and Benefit Statistics” community at: <http://www.statsusernet.org.uk>. DWP announce items of interest to users in this forum, as well as reply to users’ questions.

## 3. Statistical groups

DWP has a typology to define Statistical Groups within the client group classifications. The aim of the Statistical Group typology is to present each person by the main reasons they are in contact with the Department. Like the client group classification, each client is classified just once, permitting the estimation of the total number of people claiming one or more benefits. The Statistical Group hierarchy is:



a] Jobseeker	e] Other income-related benefits
b] Employment and Support Allowance and incapacity benefits	f] Disabled
c] Lone parents	g] Bereaved
d] Carers	h] Housing Benefit
	i] State Pension only recipients

From November 2008 the "incapacity benefits statistical group" includes Employment and Support Allowance (ESA). ESA replaced Incapacity Benefit and Income Support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27th October 2008. Prior to this the "incapacity benefits group" covered people on Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance, including people claiming Income Support on the grounds of incapacity.

#### 4. Jobseeker's Allowance figures at ONS

The preferred source of numbers for Jobseeker's Allowance is the ONS claimant count figure; these are more up to date and contain clerical cases. However, the reason we use the DWP JSA figures is that they are consistent with the other benefits used to produce DWP National Statistics, and permit a wider set of breakdowns. The ONS figures are available from Nomis and <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/>.

#### 5. Flows on and off benefit

The flows Tabulation Tools show a full back series for on-flow and off-flow. Pension Credit information is available via a one-click table: [http://tabulation-tool.dwp.gov.uk/100pc/pc/tabtool\\_pc.html](http://tabulation-tool.dwp.gov.uk/100pc/pc/tabtool_pc.html). User guidance on the flows series can be found at: [http://tabulation-tool.dwp.gov.uk/flows/flows\\_on/Guidance%20for%20Users.pdf](http://tabulation-tool.dwp.gov.uk/flows/flows_on/Guidance%20for%20Users.pdf)

#### 6. Early Estimates

The DWP benefit National Statistics have a gap of around five and a half months between the publication and reference dates.

The early estimates are official statistics (see: <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/national-statistician/types-of-official-statistics>) and published monthly to give indicative, timely information ahead of the publication of full National Statistics. The Office for National Statistics publish the Jobseeker's Allowance claimant count every month, one month in arrears. Consequently, the Early Estimates focus on the economically inactive groups of "incapacity benefits and Employment and Support Allowance" and "Income Support lone parents".

The main reason for the lag in the National Statistics release is because we have to wait three months for a small but significant number of late claims to be processed. Waiting for these late claims makes the National Statistics figures more accurate than the early estimates where we simply predict the number of late claims based on historical levels.

The early estimates are not a substitute for the National Statistics and will be replaced when the final quarterly National Statistics covering the same period are published. However, the estimates are fairly close to the final National Statistics figures. To give an indication of their accuracy, over the past year the early estimates for ESA/IB have been revised by an average of 0.4%, with the biggest revision being 1.07% and the smallest being 0.07%. The early estimates for ISLP have been revised by an average of 0.2%, with the biggest revision being 0.51% and the smallest being 0.03%.

During the re-assessment of Incapacity Benefit claimants for Employment and Support Allowance, users should be aware that there may also be increased uncertainty around these early estimates. As level of late claims is estimated using historical data, any change in the structure of the flows on and off benefit can affect the accuracy of the methodology. DWP plan to review the methodology each month to ensure that the estimates are as good as possible.

More detailed information can be accessed via the following links:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/204838/tech-doc-early-estimates-working-age-inactive.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/204838/tech-doc-early-estimates-working-age-inactive.pdf)

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/204837/QandA\\_Early\\_Estimates\\_fin\\_al.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/204837/QandA_Early_Estimates_fin_al.pdf)





## 7. Welfare Reform

The Lone Parent Obligation policy came into effect from 24 November 2008; Lone Parents (LPs) with a youngest child aged 12 or over were no longer able to make a new or repeat claim for Income Support (IS) solely on the basis of their parental status. Existing IS LPs with a youngest child aged 12 or over had their eligibility removed over a period of time commencing 2nd March 2009. From October 2009 this policy was extended to LPs with a youngest child aged 10 or 11 and from October 2010 the policy was extended to LPs with a youngest child aged 7 or over. The Welfare Reform Act 2012 introduced further changes and from 21 May 2012 lone parents have been eligible to claim Income Support until their youngest child is five years old.

Most affected LPs will leave IS and claim Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). However, there are exceptions to these rules where the youngest child can legitimately be over the ages mentioned above. Similarly, some former LPs remain on IS for other reasons (e.g. they have a long term caring responsibility and claim Carer's Allowance). The IS LP series will continue to be defined as 'single IS claimants with a child under 16'.

Referrals to the new employment programme "Work Programme" began from June 2011

(<https://www.gov.uk/moving-from-benefits-to-work/job-search-programmes>). In the run up to that launch, a new package of Get Britain Working support measures were introduced. In tandem with these changes, referrals to legacy employment programmes ceased. Final statistics for these programmes have now been released. The existing Tabulation Tools will remain available for historical analysis. For statistics relating to these new programmes see:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pre-work-programme-support> and

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/series/work-programme-statistics--2>

The age at which men and women reach State Pension age is gradually increasing. Under current legislation, State Pension age for women will equalise with State Pension age for men at 65 in 2018. Both men's and women's State Pension age will increase from 65 to 66 between December 2018 and October 2020. The Pensions Bill 2013-14 contains provision for a State Pension age of 67 to be reached by 2028. The first quarterly statistical summary to be affected was the November 2010 publication and the first early estimates to be affected were released in June 2010. These changes introduce a small increase to the number of working age benefit recipients and a small reduction to the number of pension age recipients. There are also changes to the way we report benefit recipients as a proportion of the working population. More information can be found at:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130513082300/http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/espa.pdf>. For general information about the change to State Pension age, please see: <https://www.gov.uk/browse/working/state-pension>.

Universal Credit (UC) is a new benefit that has started to replace six existing benefits and tax credits with a single monthly payment and will eventually replace:

- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Income Support
- Working Tax Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Housing Benefit

Universal Credit, which is already available in a number of areas across England, Scotland and Wales, continued its roll out across the North West of England from 23rd June 2014. From 30th June 2014 Universal Credit also expanded to include claims from couples.

Universal Credit will continue its roll out to Jobcentres in the North West until the whole region is covered and then to all Jobcentre Plus offices and local authorities across the country from February 2015.

Statistics relating to UC can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/universal-credit-statistics>

A new three tier sanctions regime was introduced and came into force in October 2012 for JSA and December 2012 for ESA which seeks to broadly align the JSA & ESA sanctions regimes with the model to be introduced under UC. In the new regime the consequences of failure will be clearer for claimants. The new system will be more robust, particularly for claimants who repeatedly fail to meet their most important responsibilities. Sanctions will also be applied more quickly – specifically by the next payment date. For more details see:

JSA: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/adviser/updates/jsa-sanction-changes/>

ESA: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/adviser/updates/esa-sanction-changes/>

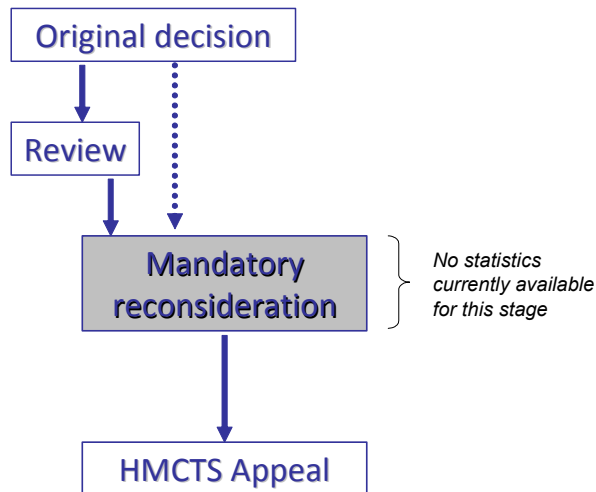
From 8 April 2013, the government introduced a new benefit called Personal Independence Payment to replace Disability Living Allowance for eligible working age people aged 16 to 64. Further information on statistics relating to PIP can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/personal-independence-payment-statistics>

## 8. Known Issues, Changes and Revisions to the Statistical Summary

### **Mandatory reconsiderations - JSA and ESA sanction decisions**

Please note that these official statistics do not contain data on mandatory reconsiderations, which must occur before a claimant can appeal to Her Majesty's Court and Tribunal Service (HMCTS). Mandatory reconsiderations were introduced in October 2013.

Mandatory reconsiderations are recorded on a separate administrative system and work is underway to incorporate data from this system into these official statistics.



The overall effect of the non inclusion of mandatory reconsiderations is to slightly overestimate the number of decisions to apply a sanction (adverse decisions) and underestimate the number of decisions not to apply a sanction (non-adverse). This is because a proportion of mandatory reconsiderations will have resulted in a previous adverse decision changing to a non-adverse decision. In this situation, the statistics will still hold the decision following an initial review. The gap in data for the mandatory reconsideration stage only affect overall decision outcomes which result in a sanction not being applied at this stage – if a decision subsequently proceeds to a HMCTS appeal then the result of this will be included in the statistics.

In relation to the overall number of adverse and non-adverse decisions, the effect is estimated to be:

- **Negligible** (less than 0.25 per cent) for the complete period covered in this release (i.e. April 2000 to June 2014);
- **Very Small** (less than 1 per cent) for the period covering the new sanctions regime (i.e. November 2012 to June 2014);
- **Small** (less than 2.5 per cent) for the final nine months covered in this release (i.e. October 2013 to June 2014 – when mandatory reconsiderations were introduced).

**However, it is recommended that users do not calculate individual monthly 'rates' of decisions to apply a sanction (from overall decisions made) for the final seven months (Dec13 to Jun14) of this statistical series.**



## 9. Notification of future changes to the Summary

The following changes are planned for future releases.

- Following further customer feedback we now intend to change the 'Age of Youngest Child Dependant' breakdown for claimants of Income Support to include additional categories of '1 year' and '2 years'. However, there will now need to be a further period of review to understand timeline requirements and impacts on other Tabulation Tool benefit breakdowns for comparison purposes. Updates will be provided here once available.
- We are always keen to improve our service to users and as such, we would like the titles of our monthly and quarterly DWP statistical summaries to provide a meaningful indication of statistical content and coverage. Therefore we would welcome any suggestions from our users on future publication titles. Please provide any such suggestions by 4<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

If you have any comments or questions about either of these changes then, please email [consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk).

## Current consultations

**Universal Jobmatch** launched on 19 November 2012. This is DWP's new, free online job posting and matching service. Universal Jobmatch replaces the current vacancy management services, Employer Direct and Employer Direct Online for companies, and it replaces the Jobcentre Plus jobs and skills search facility for jobseekers. As a result, there have been fundamental changes in the associated statistical series. User comments have been received as part of a consultation, which can be found on page 4 of: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/206444/stats\\_summary\\_jun13.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/206444/stats_summary_jun13.pdf). The consultation is now closed. Results are available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-jobcentre-plus-vacancies-statistics> The Department continues to receive a regular stream of user concerns about the limitations of the new Universal Jobmatch vacancy data. These are currently under consideration by the project team.

On 23 January 2013, DWP opened a consultation on **People and households claiming Universal Credit, Personal Independence Payment and other benefits: Plans for 2013-2017**. The outcome of this consultation will shape the content and format of the Statistical Summary through to 2017 and beyond. This consultation can be found at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/183265/dwp\\_stats2013\\_17.pdf.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/183265/dwp_stats2013_17.pdf.pdf).

This consultation is now closed. Results will be published in due course.

## 10. Northern Ireland Statistics

The statistics in this Summary cover Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) only. Comparable benefit statistics for Northern Ireland can be found at:

[http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/stats\\_and\\_research/benefit\\_publications.htm](http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/stats_and_research/benefit_publications.htm)

and

[http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/stats\\_and\\_research/geographical\\_data\\_on\\_ss\\_benefits.htm](http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/stats_and_research/geographical_data_on_ss_benefits.htm) for geographical breakdowns

Currently, the Northern Ireland statistics use extracts from the benefit systems very similar to those used to create the 5% sample numbers for Great Britain (although the Northern Ireland sample size is usually greater than 5%). The directly equivalent GB numbers can be found at: <http://tabulation-tool.dwp.gov.uk/5pc/tabtool.html>. However, Northern Ireland statistics are shortly due to move to extracts from the benefit systems very similar to those used to create the WPLS/100% sample numbers (<http://tabulation-tool.dwp.gov.uk/100pc/tabtool.html>) for Great Britain. However, Northern Ireland statistics will ignore the effect of retrospection.

Comparisons between the Great Britain 5% samples and 100% samples, plus the effect of retrospection can be seen in documents entitled "Differences between WPLS and 5% sample data" in the "Useful Resources and Sites" section of each single benefit 100% sample Tabtool (e.g. [http://tabulation-tool.dwp.gov.uk/100pc/is/tabtool\\_is.html](http://tabulation-tool.dwp.gov.uk/100pc/is/tabtool_is.html))



Housing Benefit is a social security benefit paid by the Housing Executive. It helps people on a low income pay their rent and rates. In Northern Ireland, rates are paid instead of Council Tax. Limited Housing Benefit numbers are available in the summary bulletin at:

[http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/publications/summary\\_statistics\\_bulletin.htm](http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/publications/summary_statistics_bulletin.htm). For people who own their own property and need help with rates only, Land and Property Services (LPS) provide rates relief payments. Statistics on those receiving rates relief only are not available.

Employment Programmes are different in Northern Ireland. Hence, statistics are not directly comparable. However, numbers on the various schemes are available from:

<http://www.delni.gov.uk/index/statsandresearch/training-and-employment-stats.htm>.

Vacancy statistics for Northern Ireland are available at <http://www.detini.gov.uk/deti-stats-index/stats-surveys/stats-vacancy-stats.htm> and at <http://www.delni.gov.uk/index/statsandresearch/labour-market-information-stats/vacancies.htm>. Statistics on Jobcentre Plus Sanctions and Child Maintenance are not currently published for Northern Ireland.

## 11. Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service

Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service was created on 1 April 2011. It brings together Her Majesty's Courts Service and the Tribunals Service into one integrated agency providing support for the administration of justice in courts and tribunals.

Responsibility for publishing statistics on the appeals now resides with Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service and they publish statistical information via their website <http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/hmcts>

## 12. Fraud and Error statistics

National Statistics are published presenting six-monthly estimates of fraud and error in claims for Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance, Pension Credit and Housing Benefit, along with an annual estimate of the level of fraud and error in the benefit system as a whole. One-off benefit reviews have been carried out from time to time to estimate fraud and error in claims for other benefits. Reports can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/series/fraud-and-error-in-the-benefit-system>

## 13. Take-Up of Income-Related Benefits

Publications contain information on the take-up of the main income-related benefits in Great Britain: Income Support, Pension Credit, Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit, Employment and Support Allowance (income related) and Jobseeker's Allowance (income based). Take-up is measured in two ways. Expenditure take-up compares the total amount of benefit received in the course of a year with the total amount that would have been received if everyone took up their entitlement for the full period of entitlement. Caseload take-up compares the number of benefit claimants – averaged over the year – with the number who would be receiving if everyone took up their entitlement for the full period of entitlement. Data is sourced from the Family Resources Survey and administrative benefit records. Latest published figures are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/series/income-related-benefits-estimates-of-take-up--2>

## 14. Other National and Official Statistics issued by the Department for Work and Pensions

Details of other National and Official Statistics produced by the Department for Work and Pensions can be found on the DWP website at the following links:

- A list of DWP statistics: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/about/statistics> ;
- A schedule of statistical releases over the next 12 months: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/about/statistics> ;
- And a list of the most recent releases: [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?keywords=&publication\\_filter\\_option=statistics&topics\[\]=all&departments\[\]=department-for-work-pensions&world\\_locations\[\]=all](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?keywords=&publication_filter_option=statistics&topics[]=all&departments[]=department-for-work-pensions&world_locations[]=all).
- In accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, all DWP National Statistics are also announced via the UK Statistics Authority publication hub at: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/release-calendar>. In addition,



users can find links to DWP additional statistical analyses that have not been included in our standard publications at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/ad-hoc-statistical-publications-list>.