



Universal Credit aims to reduce poverty, by making work pay, and to help claimants and their families to become more independent.

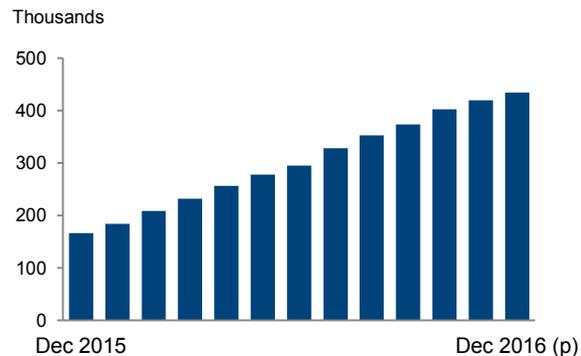
Universal Credit was introduced in April 2013 in certain pathfinder areas of North West England. Since October 2013, it has progressively been rolled out to other areas. It is now available in all Jobcentre Plus offices to single claimants, and is being expanded across the country to include all claimant types via the full service.

## Main story

The number of people on Universal Credit as of 8 December 2016 was 430 thousand. Of these people 190 thousand (43 per cent) were in employment.

### 430 thousand claimants

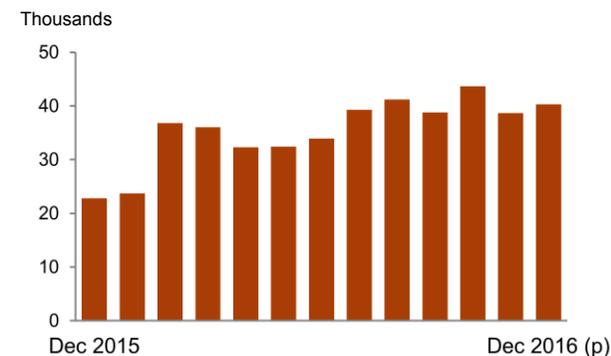
At 8 December 2016



The number of people on Universal Credit rose to 430 thousand in December 2016. This is a 4 per cent increase from last month.

### Starts at 37 thousand

Month to 8 December 2016

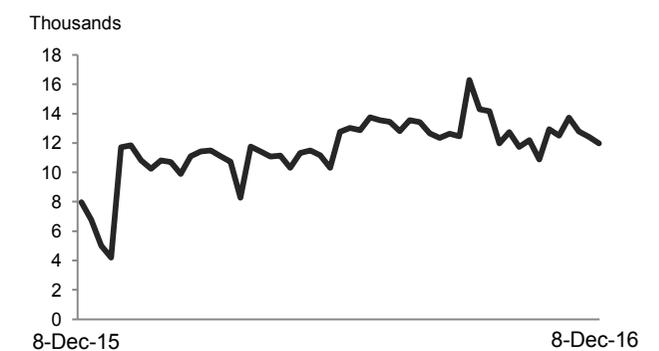


The number of starts made to Universal Credit was 37 thousand in the month to 8 December 2016.

The figures in this chart have been standardised, so may not match figures in the document. Please see the Background Information and Methodology document for more detail.

### 900 thousand claims

Up to 8 December 2016



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Thoughts? We welcome feedback

Published 18 January 2017

Next edition 15 February 2017

## What you need to know

This summary contains statistics on Universal Credit covering the period to 8 December 2016. Universal Credit is available in all Jobcentre Plus Offices to single claimants and is being expanded to all claimant types across the country via the full service.

Universal Credit aims to reduce poverty, by making work pay, and to help claimants and their families to become more independent. It also aims to simplify the benefits system by providing a single payment based upon the circumstances of the household. Support for housing costs, children and childcare costs are integrated into Universal Credit. It also provides additions for disabled people and carers.

The following benefits will be replaced as Universal Credit rolls out:

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

The main features of Universal Credit are:

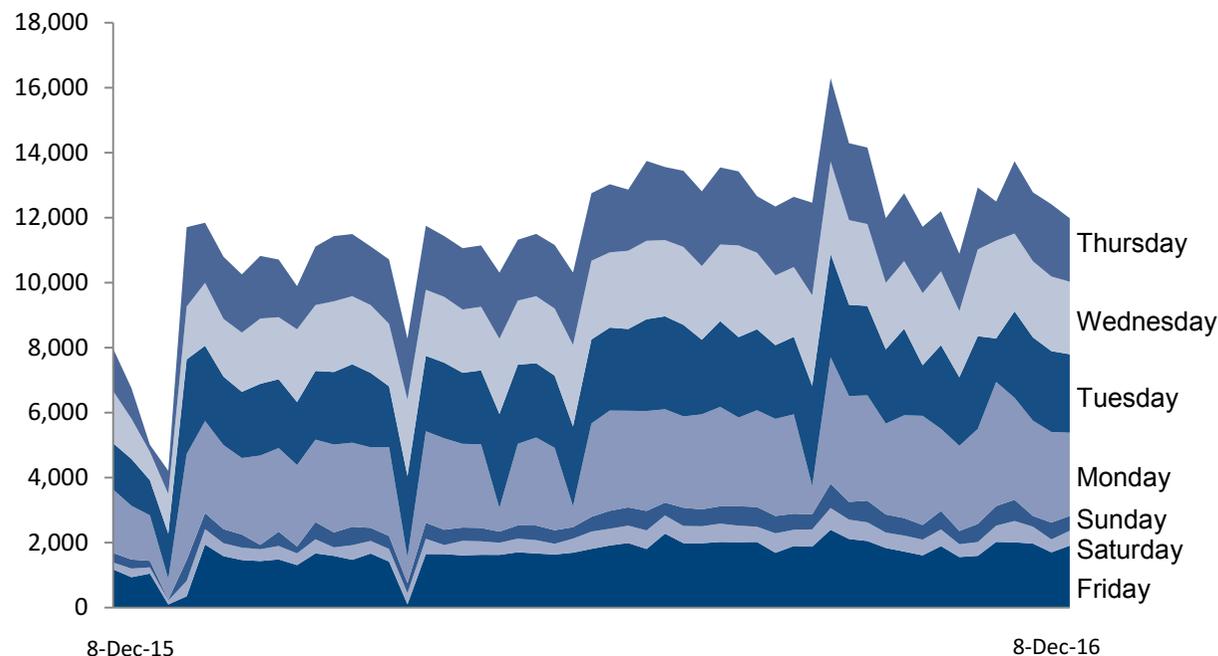
- Universal Credit is available to people who are in work and on a low income, as well as to those who are out-of-work.
- Most people will apply online and manage their claim through an online account.
- Universal Credit will be responsive – as people on low incomes move in and out of work, they will get on-going support.
- Most claimants on low incomes will still be paid Universal Credit when they first start a new job or increase their part-time hours.
- Claimants will receive a single monthly household payment, paid into a bank account in the same way as a monthly salary; support with housing costs will usually go direct to the claimant as part of their monthly payment.

This report contains three measures. **Claims** made counts the number of applications submitted for Universal Credit. Some of these people will go on to **Start** receiving Universal Credit. **People on Universal Credit** includes all those who have started and are still on Universal Credit at the count date (second Thursday of the month). Some people will have their claim terminated either at the request of the individual or if their entitlement to Universal Credit ends. See the Background Information and Methodology document for more detail on the definitions used in this publication.

# Claiming Universal Credit

## Total claims made have reached 900 thousand

New claims per week and day in the last year to 8 December 2016



The total number of claims made for Universal Credit in the last four weeks was 51 thousand, with an average of 13 thousand claims per week.

Generally, more claims are made for Universal Credit on weekdays, compared to weekends.

Claims made for Universal Credit reached a daily peak of 3,900 on 5 September 2016, and a weekly peak of 16 thousand in the week ending 8 September 2016. Previous years have also seen an increase in claims at this time of year, compared to preceding weeks.

The total number of claims made for Universal Credit has now reached 900 thousand. All Jobcentre Plus offices are now accepting claims from single claimants for Universal Credit and it is being expanded across the country to include all claimant types via the full service.

See **Table 1.1** for summary statistics and [Stat-Xplore](#) for the complete data series.

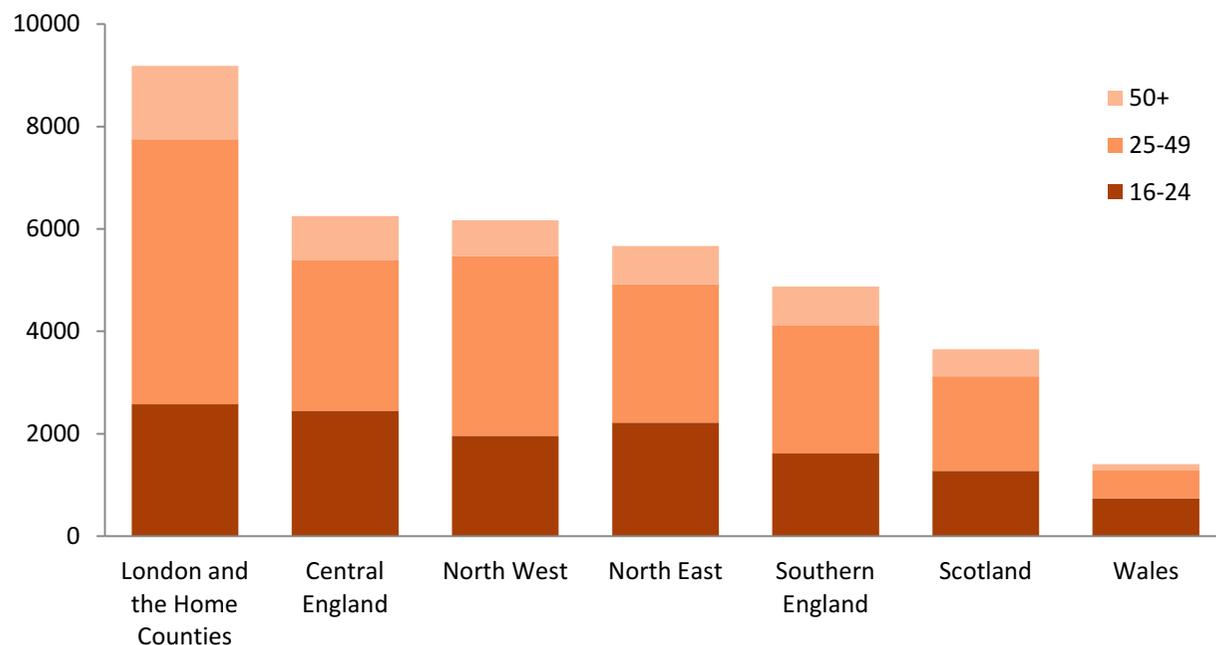
## How people claim Universal Credit

People will usually make a claim for Universal Credit online, during which initial claim verification will take place. After making a claim, an initial interview will take place with the claimant during which the eligibility for Universal Credit will be confirmed and the claimant will accept a [Claimant Commitment](#). At this point, a claimant will be recorded as starting Universal Credit. Not all people who make a claim for Universal Credit will go on to start. The statistics for claims and starts used in this publication include all claims and starts to Universal Credit.

# Starts to Universal Credit

## London and the Home Counties had the highest number of starts in December

Starts to Universal Credit in the month to 8 December, by region and age



The total number of starts that have been made to Universal Credit in the month up to 8 December 2016 was 37 thousand. The total number of starts that have been made since Universal Credit began is 640 thousand.

Of the total starts made in the month up to 8 December, 25 per cent (9,200) were in London and the Home Counties. Hounslow Jobcentre Plus office had more starts than any other, with 900 people starting, followed by Croydon with 890. Hounslow office also has the highest cumulative number of starts of any Jobcentre Plus office (11,000), followed by Croydon (9,600).

In areas where Universal Credit is delivered through the full service and in the North West, it is available to a wider group of people. The age and gender profile of claimants therefore varies from region to region. Of the total starts to Universal Credit in December, 60 per cent were by males and 40 per cent were by females, however in London and the Home Counties and the North West, over 45 per cent of starts were by females.

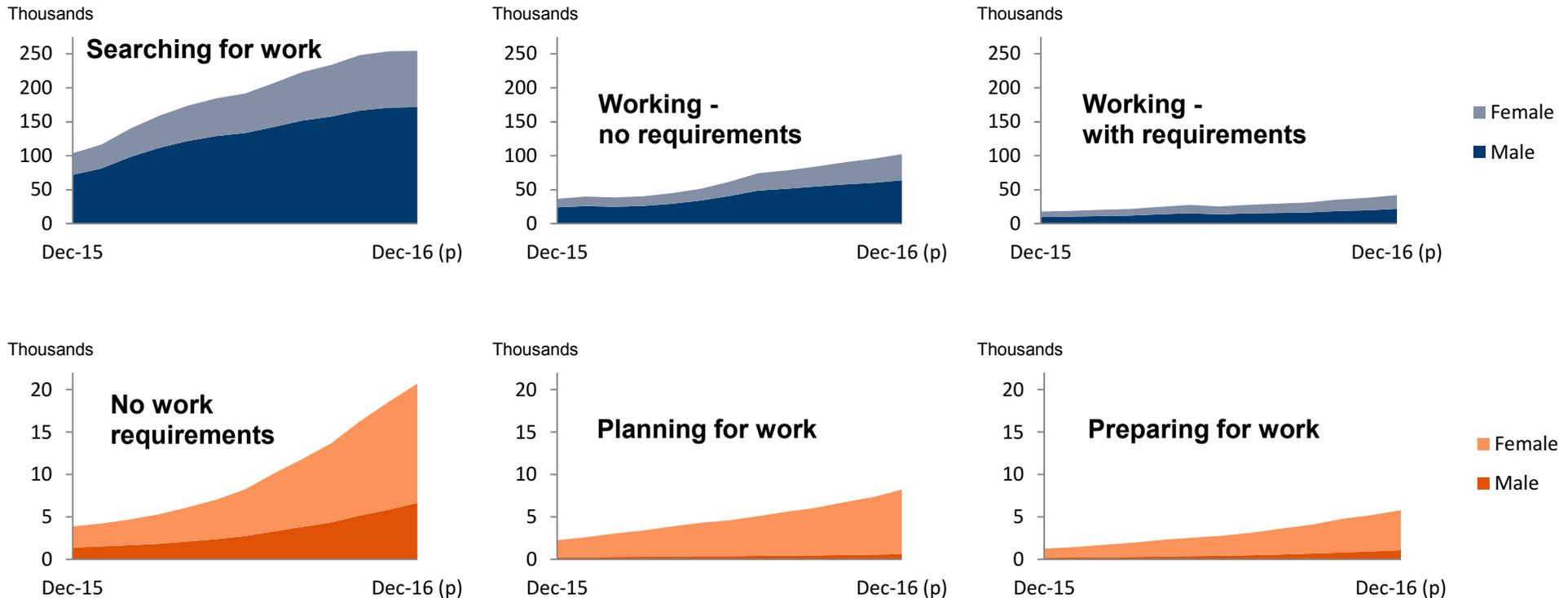
In December, 35 per cent of starts were from 16-24 year olds, compared to 46 per cent on average during the months of July to October. The rise in the proportion of starts by 16-24 year olds during these months was also seen during 2015 and appears to be a seasonal trend in both males and females.

Please note the figures for the latest month (December 2016) are provisional (p) and will be finalised in the next release. See the Background Information and Methodology document for more details. See **table 2.1** for summary statistics and [Stat-Xplore](#) for the complete data series.

# People on Universal Credit

## Most people on Universal Credit are in the Searching for Work conditionality regime

The number of people on Universal Credit, by conditionality regime and gender, 8 December 2016



**There were 430 thousand people on Universal Credit as of 8 December 2016.** This represents an increase of 4 per cent when compared to the number of people on Universal Credit in November 2016.

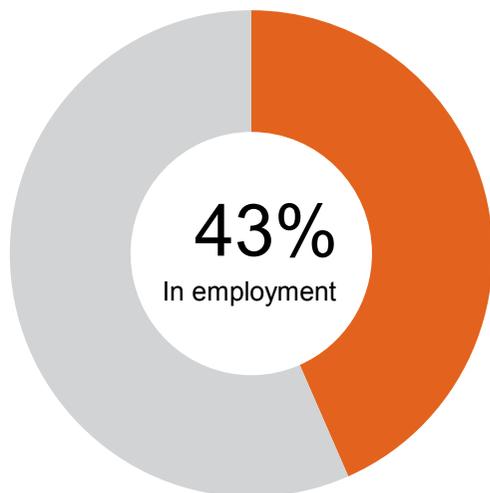
On 8 December 2016, 59 per cent of people on Universal Credit were in the Searching for Work conditionality regime. Searching for Work is the largest conditionality regime for both genders and all age groups.

Please note that the conditionality breakdown measures what regime an individual is in on the count date. This may not be representative of an individual's entire assessment period. Conditionality regime figures are not the same as the employment breakdown, which shows whether an individual has had earnings during their assessment period. The two breakdowns should only be used together with caution.

Please see the [Background Information and Methodology](#) document for more information on conditionality regimes.

## More than two-fifths of people on Universal Credit are in employment

Percentage of people on Universal Credit who are in employment, 8 December 2016

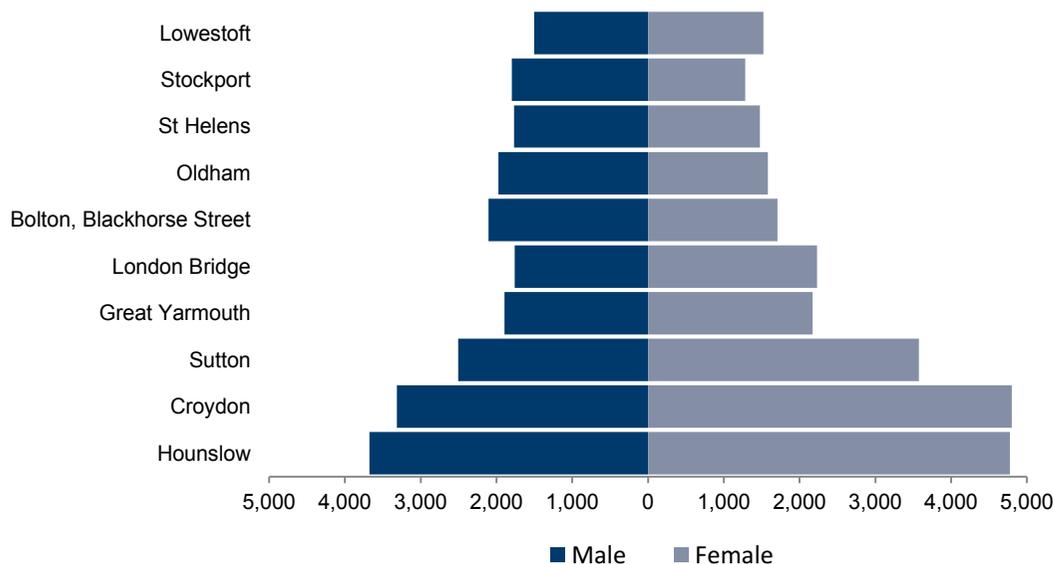


Of the people on Universal Credit as of 8 December 2016, 43 per cent (190 thousand) were in employment, compared to 40 per cent in November. This increase in the month of December has occurred in previous years and appears to be a seasonal trend.

In December 2016, there were more males on Universal Credit than females (61 per cent compared to 39 per cent). Jobcentre Plus offices where Universal Credit is available to couples and families (those in the North West and those that deliver full service) tend to have a higher proportion of females on Universal Credit than other offices. For example, 59 per cent of people on Universal Credit in Croydon and Sutton offices are female.

Overall, 50 per cent of people on Universal Credit were aged 25-49. Males aged 25-49 made up 31 per cent of the total figure.

## Top 10 Jobcentre Plus offices for people on Universal Credit by gender, 8 December 2016



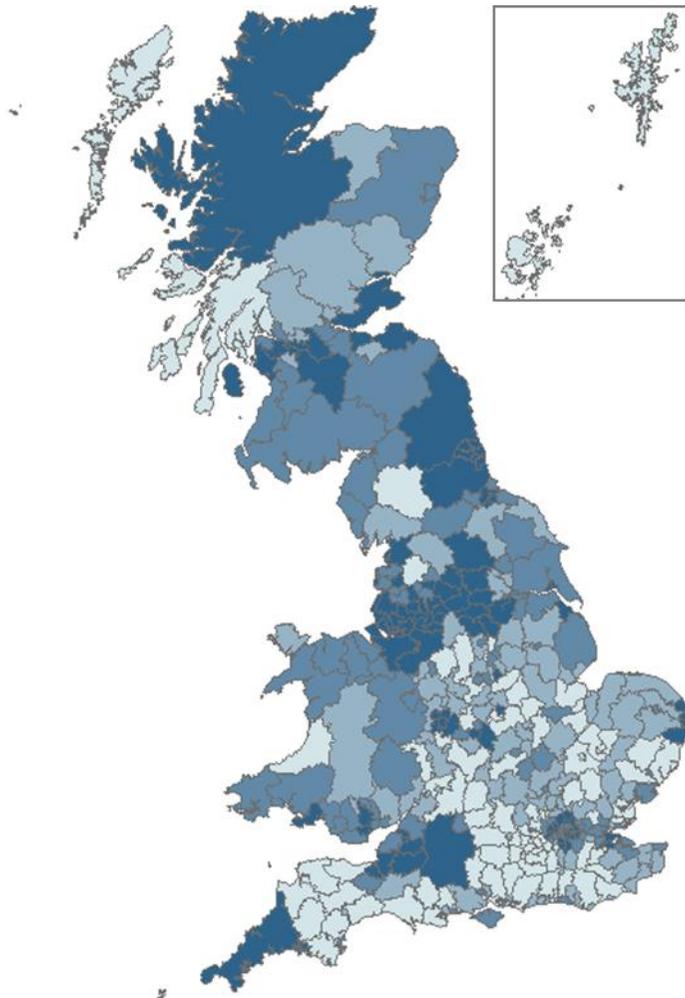
The Jobcentre Plus office with the most people on Universal Credit was Hounslow, with 8,500 Universal Credit claimants, followed by Croydon with 8,100 (breakdowns of people on Universal Credit by Jobcentre Plus office, local authority and parliamentary constituency are available on [Stat-Xplore](#)).

See **tables 3.1-3.3** for summary statistics and [Stat-Xplore](#) for the complete data series.

Please note figures for the latest month (December 2016) are provisional (p) and will be finalised in the next release. See the Background Information and Methodology document for more details.

# Where Universal Credit claimants live

The North West, where roll-out started, has the largest number of Universal Credit claimants



The adjacent map shows people on Universal Credit by local authority as of 8 December 2016.

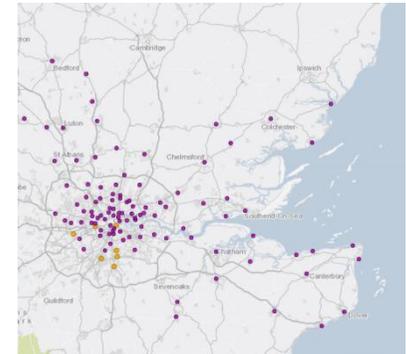
The darker areas of the map are local authorities with high levels of Universal Credit claimants, while the lighter areas are the local authorities with fewer Universal Credit claimants.

## Where you live

Find information about your Jobcentre Plus office in our interactive map.

Please click [here](#) to access the interactive map.

The interactive map shows the number of people on Universal Credit by Jobcentre Plus office, per region, as can be seen in the adjacent example. Key statistics can be viewed by clicking on the Jobcentre Plus office.



Please note that this map will be unavailable from 3:30 p.m. on 14 February 2017 until 9:30 a.m. on 15 February 2017, ahead of the next release.

For further information on supported browsers, please visit the following website: <http://doc.arcgis.com/en/arcgis-online/reference/browsers.htm>

## About these statistics

These official statistics have been compiled using data from systems within local offices and records of Universal Credit benefit payments made by the Department.

This and other new data sources will, in time, allow a progressively wider range of breakdowns to be published as new IT systems are introduced. The methodology used and definitions of the official statistics may be updated within subsequent releases, along with information on the impact of any changes to the time series already released. A [strategy](#) for the release of official statistics on Universal Credit was first published in September 2013 and last updated in December 2016.

These statistics have been developed using guidelines set out by the UK Statistics Authority, and are new official statistics undergoing evaluation. They have, therefore, been designated as [Experimental Statistics](#). Users are invited to [comment](#) on the development and relevance of these statistics at this stage.

Figures contained within this publication are subject to rounding unless otherwise stated. Percentages shown are calculated using figures prior to rounding. Please see the background information document for details on the level of rounding applied, which is dependent on the magnitude of the figure being quoted.

Universal Credit is now available in all Jobcentre Plus offices to single claimants and is being expanded across the country to include all claimant types via the full service. See **table 4.1** for a full list of Jobcentre Plus offices by the date they implemented Universal Credit.

## Further roll out

Universal Credit was introduced in April 2013 in certain pathfinder areas of North West England. Since October 2013, it has progressively been rolled out to other areas. It is now available in all Jobcentre Plus offices to single claimants.

A limited test of the full service for Universal Credit was launched in Sutton, South London, on 26 November 2014, and expanded to other parts of London, Scotland and East Anglia between November 2014 and April 2016. From May 2016 Universal Credit full service began its roll out to all other Jobcentre Plus offices and expanded across the country to include all claimant types.

## Where to find out more

This document and the summary tables can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/universal-credit-statistics>

Build your own tables using Stat-Xplore: <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/>

See our interactive map: <http://dwp-stats.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=f90fb305d8da4eb3970812b3199cf489>

Older releases can be found here but please note that figures are subject to change. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/universal-credit-statistics>

The release strategy for the statistics can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/universal-credit-statistics-background-information>

The background information and methodology document can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/universal-credit-statistics-background-information-and-methodology>