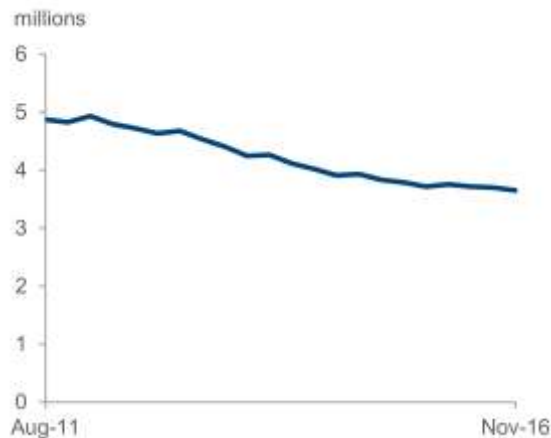


This release aims to give users a structured overview of National Statistics on DWP administered benefits and sanctions. To provide a more complete picture of DWP responsibility, statistics on Housing Benefit (administered by Local Authorities) are also included.

## Statistics of interest

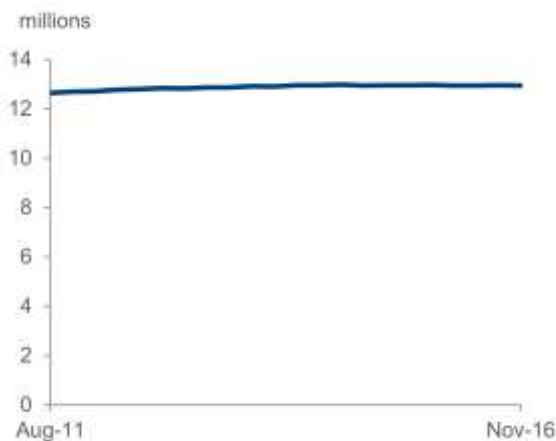
- Numbers on key Working Age benefits have continued to fall and numbers fell by 66,000 in the year to November 2016 to stand at 3.7 million.
- The number of State Pension recipients has fallen slightly over the last year and stands at 13 million in November 2016.
- At February 2017 there were 4.5 million recipients of housing benefit. Numbers increased to 5.1 million at May 13 but since then have gradually fallen.

**3.7 million** on key out of work benefits at November 2016



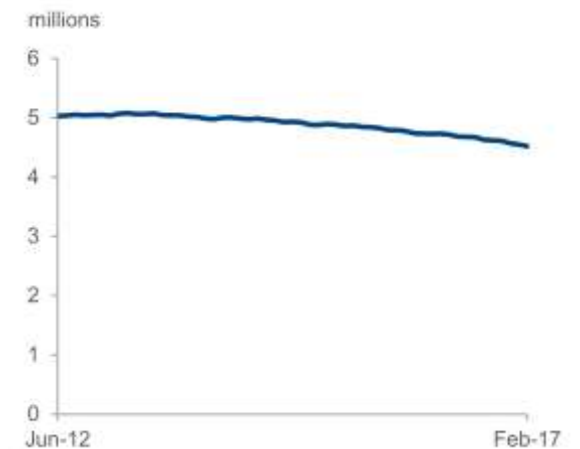
A decrease of **66 thousand** compared to November 2015

**13 million** state pension recipients at November 2016



This includes **250 thousand** on the new State Pension

**4.5 million** on housing benefit at February 2017



A decrease of **210 thousand** compared to February 2016

## At a glance

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**Lead Statistician:** Tanimola Obasaju

[tanimola.obasaju@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:tanimola.obasaju@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

**DWP Press Office:** 0203 267 5144

Comments? Feedback is welcome

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## What you need to know

### In this release

This release aims to give users a high level summary of the latest National Statistics available on DWP administered benefits and sanctions. DWP administers benefits to a range of claimants who may, or may not have more than one interaction with the department. The publication provides an overview of individual benefit statistics and a high-level summary of out of work working age and pensionable age client groups.

Users should note that the DWP tabulation tool, the previous dissemination tool, has been decommissioned and can no longer be used. Instead users can produce their own tabulations using:

- Stat-Xplore: click [here](#) to access
- NOMIS: click [here](#) to access

Further tables covering the benefits in this release can be found on the [DWP statistical summaries page on gov.uk](#), or visit '[Where to find out more](#)'.

Previous editions of this document contained information on Jobseeker's Allowance, Widow's Benefit and Bereavement Benefit, Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit, Child Support Agency cases and Maternity Allowance. This information is still published, but not as part of this document:

- Data for Jobseeker's Allowance, Widow's Benefit and Bereavement Benefit are available on the [DWP statistical summaries page](#)
- Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit statistics are published [here](#)
- Child Support Agency statistics are published [here](#)
- Maternity Allowance statistics are published [here](#)

Further in-depth benefit information can be viewed via this link: [Benefits page on gov.uk](#).

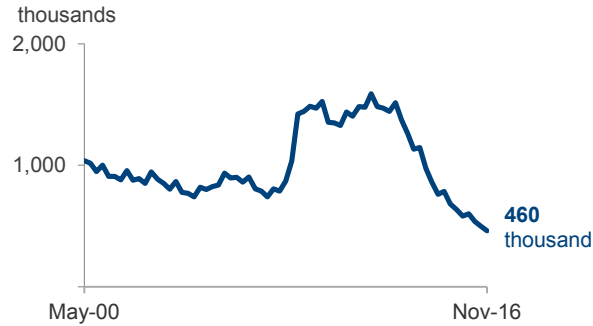
### About these statistics

The statistics are released quarterly in February, May, August and November and are primarily sourced from data originally collected via administrative systems. All regular series are full National Statistics **except** working age inactive benefit early estimates, Personal Independence Payments and sanctions (which are official statistics) and Universal Credit statistics (which are experimental). Further information is available [here](#).

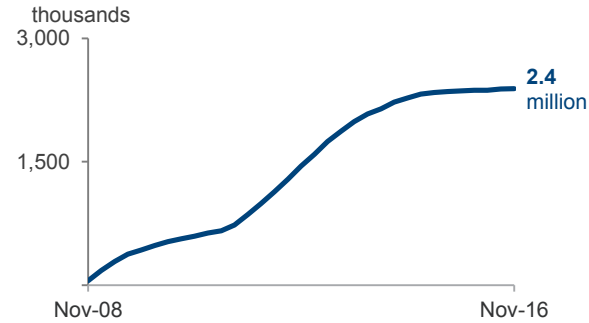
The UK Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

# Overview of numbers claiming benefits as at November 2016 (unless otherwise stated)

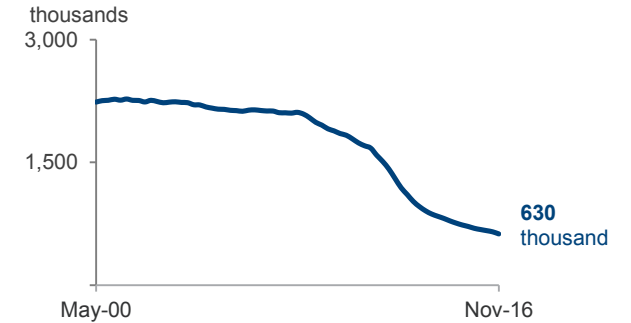
## Jobseeker's allowance



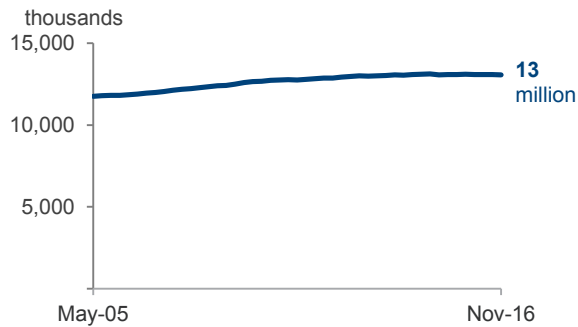
## Employment and Support Allowance



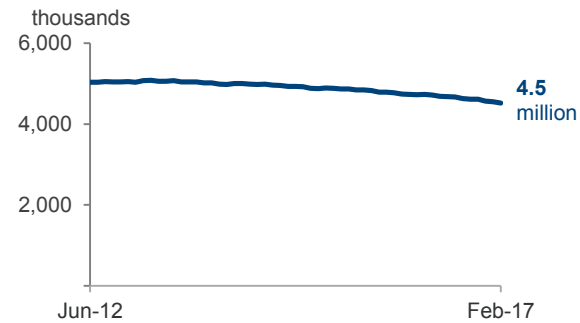
## Income support



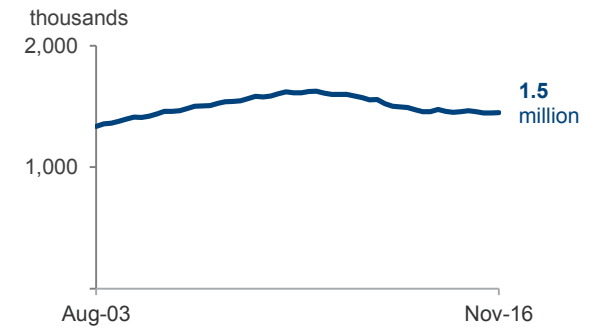
## Pension age client group



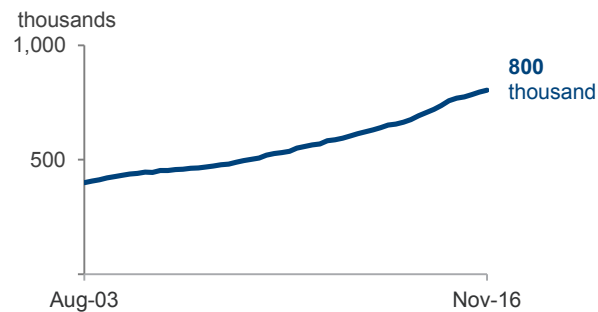
## Housing Benefit



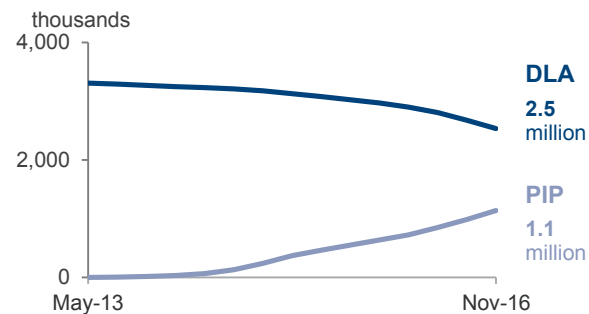
## Attendance allowance



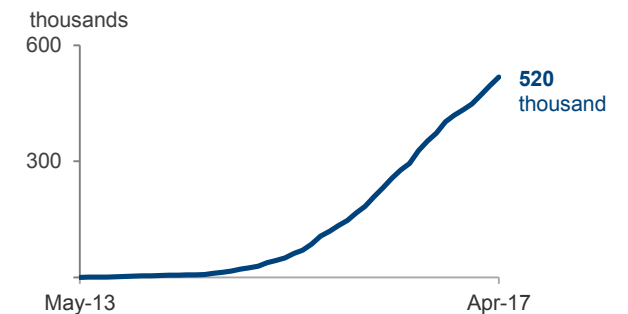
## Carer's Allowance



## PIP and DLA



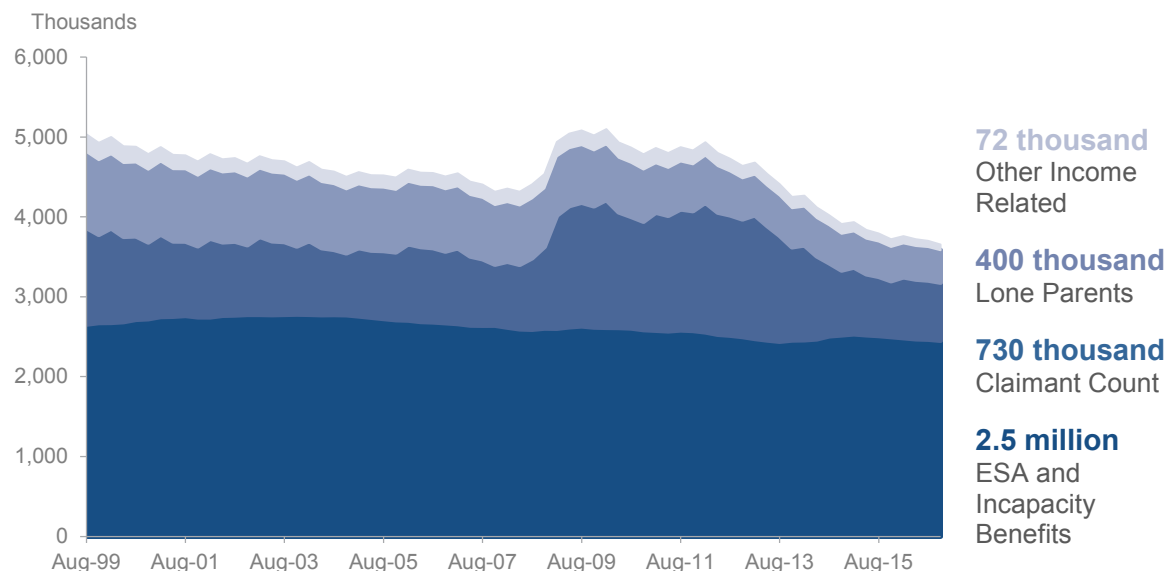
## Universal Credit



# 1.1 Key Out-of-Work Benefits<sup>1</sup> – Experimental Statistics

## Key Out-of-Work benefits have decreased slightly over time

Working age claimants by statistical group between August 1999 and November 2016



This page aims to set the headline Claimant Count<sup>2</sup> numbers published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in context of the wider group of other out of work benefit claimants. This reflects the wider DWP welfare to work agenda, which while maintaining help for those claiming JSA, also extends employment support to those claiming other out of work benefits such as Incapacity Benefit and Lone Parents on Income Support.

**The Claimant Count and Lone Parent groups are decreasing over time.** The Claimant Count reached a peak of just over 1.6 million at February 2010. Since then, numbers remained broadly steady until a fall to under 1 million at August 2014. At November 2016 the claimant count was 730 thousand, 28 thousand more than at November 2015.

The number of claimants in the Lone Parent client group fell from 950 thousand to 400 thousand between August 1999 and November 2016.

**The ESA and incapacity benefits client group has continued to fall slightly over the past year.** The number of working age claimants of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and incapacity benefits totals 2.5 million at November 2016. This is a decrease of 46 thousand since last year.

See the [supporting tables](#) (table oow\_Nov16) for further data.

## More information

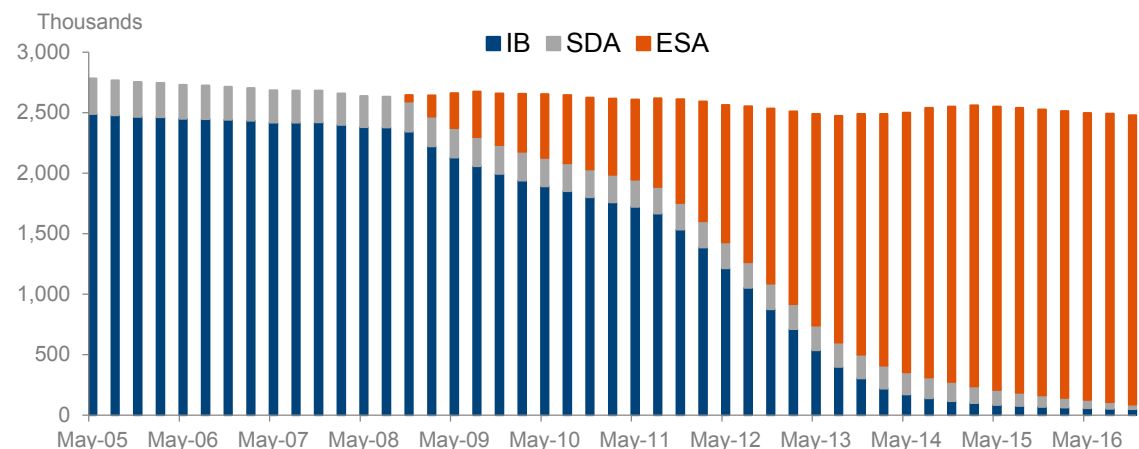
<sup>1</sup> The Key-out-of-Work benefits data provides counts of working age claimants of the following key benefits; Bereavement Benefit, Disability Living Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Incapacity Benefit, Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance, Universal Credit, Carer's Allowance and Widow's Benefit. The groups that comprise the key-out-of-work benefits are based on the concept of Statistical Groups presenting each person by the main reason they are in contact with the Department. See the [supporting tables](#) for more information.

<sup>2</sup> The Claimant Count is the number of people claiming benefits principally for the reason of being unemployed. The claimant count combines data collected for DWP working age benefits and the [ONS Experimental Claimant Count](#). From May 2013 the Claimant Count includes people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance and out of work Universal Credit claimants. See [about these statistics](#) for further information about Universal Credit.

# 1.2 Employment and Support Allowance and Incapacity Benefits – National Statistics

The number of people on Employment and Support Allowance is rising, as the number on incapacity benefits falls

Employment and Support Allowance / Incapacity benefits claimants since May 2005

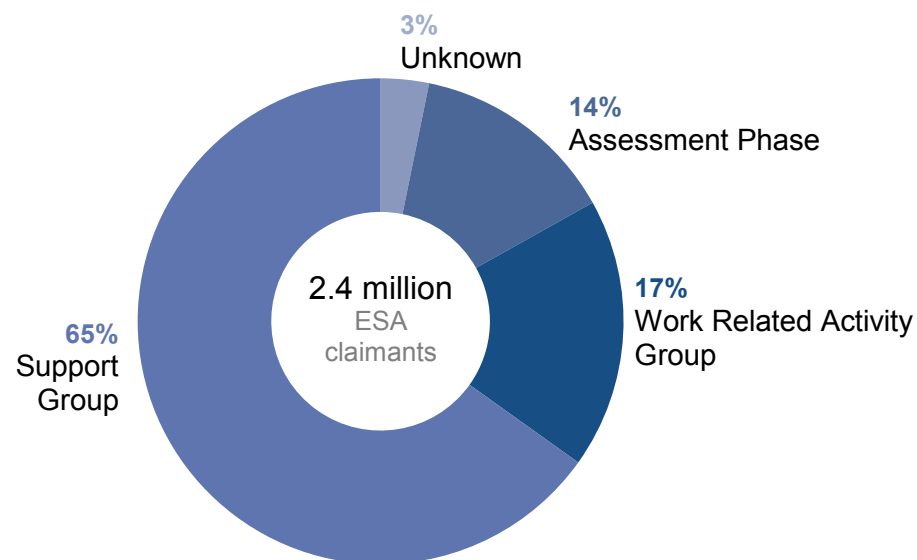


There were 2.5 million people on Employment and Support Allowance and incapacity benefits (Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance) at November 2016, a decrease of 46 thousand on a year earlier.

The number of people on Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) continues to increase; there were 2.4 million claimants at November 2016. This is 28 thousand more than the year before.

There were 89 thousand people on incapacity benefits at November 2016. The number of people on incapacity benefits has been steadily decreasing over time, due to incapacity benefits being replaced by ESA from October 2008. Numbers will decrease further as Universal Credit rolls out and gradually replaces income-related ESA.

ESA Claims by phase at November 2016



At November 2016, almost two-thirds (65%) of ESA claimants were in the support group, 17% were in the work-related activity group, and 14% were still in the assessment phase. The phase could not be determined for the remaining 3%.

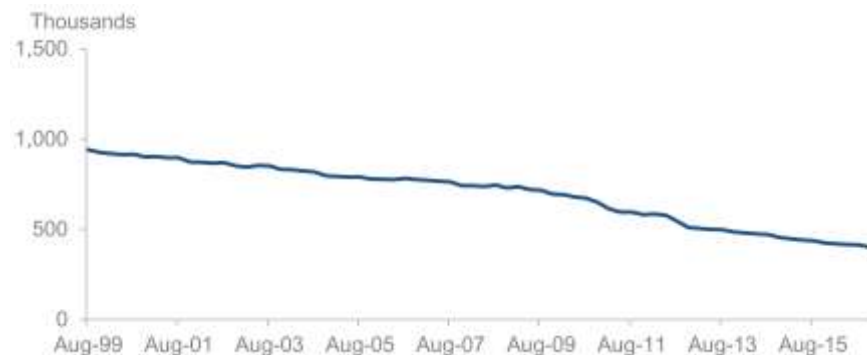
See the [supporting tables](#) (tables esa\_may17 and ibsda\_may17) and [Stat-Xplore](#) for further data.

## 1.3 Income Support – National Statistics

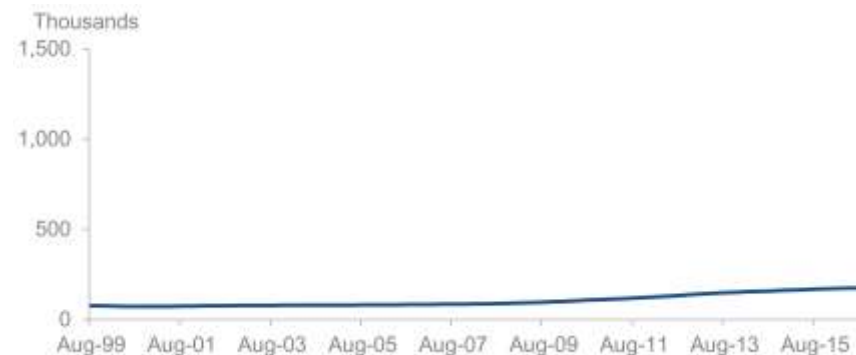
### The number of people on Income Support continues to decrease

Income support claimants by statistical group: August 1999 to November 2016

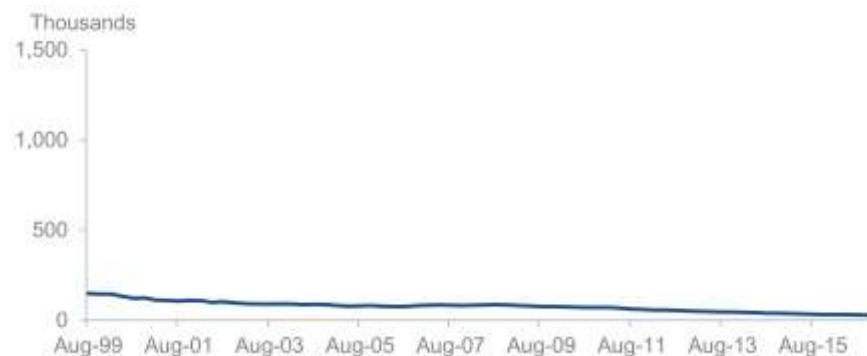
#### Lone parents



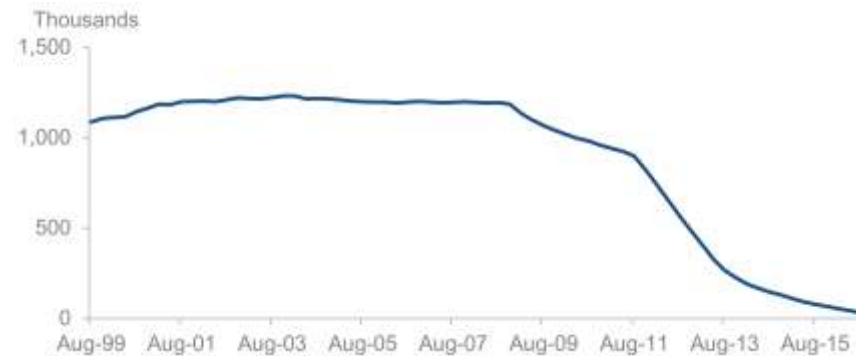
#### Carers



#### Others



#### Incapacity benefits



**At November 2016, the total number of Income Support claimants was 630 thousand.**

Lone Parents (all single claimants with dependants under 16, excluding claimants of incapacity benefits) represented 64% of the IS caseload (400 thousand). 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.

Claimants of incapacity benefits represented 3% of the IS caseload (20 thousand), while Carers and Others represented 33% of the caseload (180 thousand and 29 thousand respectively).

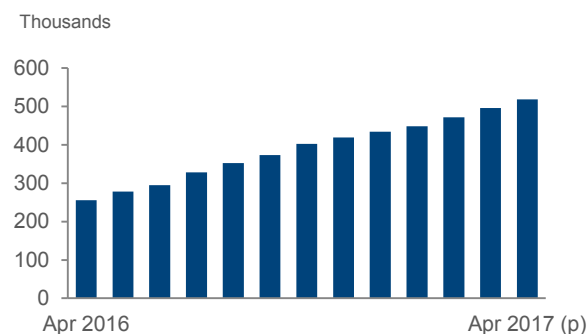
Numbers on income-related Income Support will reduce over time as Universal Credit rolls out and gradually replaces income-related Income Support.

See the [supporting tables](#) (table is\_may17) for further data.

## 1.4 Universal Credit – Official Experimental Statistics

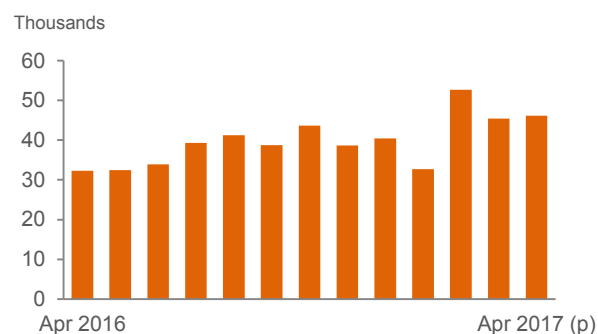
Three Universal Credit measures are shown in the charts below. **Claims** made counts the number of applications submitted for Universal Credit. Some of these people will go on to **Start** receiving Universal Credit. **People on Universal Credit** includes all those who have started and are still on 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.

**People on Universal Credit by month**



The number of people on Universal Credit rose to **520 thousand** as of 13 April 2017. Of these, 190 thousand (37 per cent) were in employment.

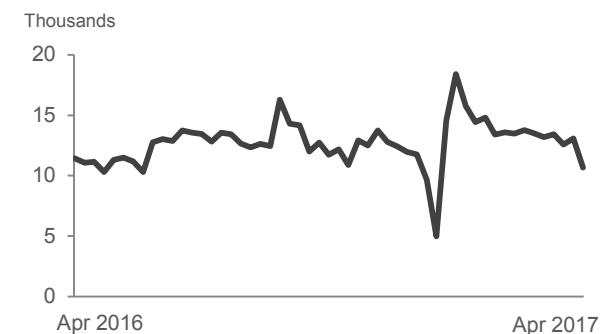
**Monthly Starts to Universal Credit**



The total number of starts that have been made since Universal Credit began is **830 thousand**. 53 thousand starts to Universal Credit were in the most recent month, to 13<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

The figures in this chart have been standardised, to make months of different length more comparable. Please see the Background Information and Methodology document for more detail.

**Weekly Claims to Universal Credit**



**1.1 million** claims have been made for Universal Credit up to 13 April 2017. 63 thousand claims have been made for Universal Credit in the last five weeks at an average of 13 thousand per week.

See [full release](#) for latest statistical data on Universal Credit. Please note the figures for the latest month (April 2017) are provisional (p) and will be finalised in the next full release of Universal Credit statistics.

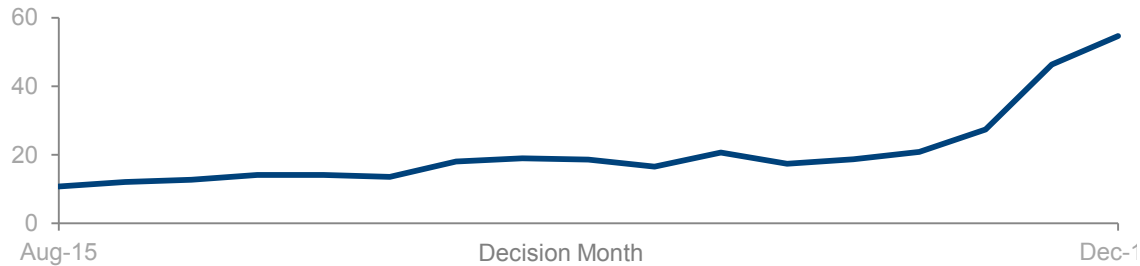
The [March 2017 release](#) includes statistics for the number of households on Universal Credit. This contains additional breakdowns, such as information on the family type (i.e. single, couple, with / without dependent children) and the costs (e.g. housing) the household is entitled to receive as part of their Universal Credit award. The households breakdowns will be updated bi-annually, with the next update being in September 2017.

# 1.5 Experimental Official Statistics: Sanction decisions and reasons: Universal Credit

Failure to meet one or more conditions of a UC claim without good reason could lead to reductions in the [standard allowance](#) for a period; this is a UC sanction.

## The number of monthly decisions has risen since August 2015

Total Number of UC sanction decisions (thousands): Great Britain: August 2015 to December 2016



## Trends have been driven by Work Focused Interview sanction decisions

Total Number of Sanctions decisions (thousands) relating to: **Work Focused Interviews**



### Universal Credit (UC) Sanctions Background

These statistics cover UC [live service](#) only. UC is now available in all Jobcentre Plus areas to single claimants, and is being expanded across the country to include all claimant types via the full service. We anticipate that additional information will be included on UC as quality assurance of data progresses.

Multiple sanction decisions can be made during the course of a claim, where there has been more than one occasion where a claimant has failed to meet the conditions of their benefit claim. All such decisions are included in the figures on this page. They also include original decisions and decisions in respect of reconsiderations and appeals, including decisions not to apply a sanction. These different types are shown individually on the following page.

UC covers a wider range of claimants than JSA, ESA or IS and sanctions policy is different to reflect this. They are also recorded in different systems, however these statistics have been developed to achieve consistency. For further information see our [Background Information and Methodology](#) document.

### Main Messages

**These statistics have been developed using guidelines set out by the UK Statistics Authority, and are undergoing evaluation. They have, therefore, been designated as [Experimental Statistics](#) and may be subject to revision.**

The number of decisions made in any month depends on a number of factors, such as the number and complexity of referrals, the number of people on UC and the resource available to undertake the decision making process.

As such, since August 2015 the number of decisions per month has shown an upward trend with a significant increase from October 2016. These increases will be influenced by one or more of the factors mentioned above.

The trend in sanction decisions is driven by Work Focused Interviews reason. The policy regarding Work Focused Interview sanctions differs for UC, compared to JSA. Please see [Methodology](#) document for more information and categories.



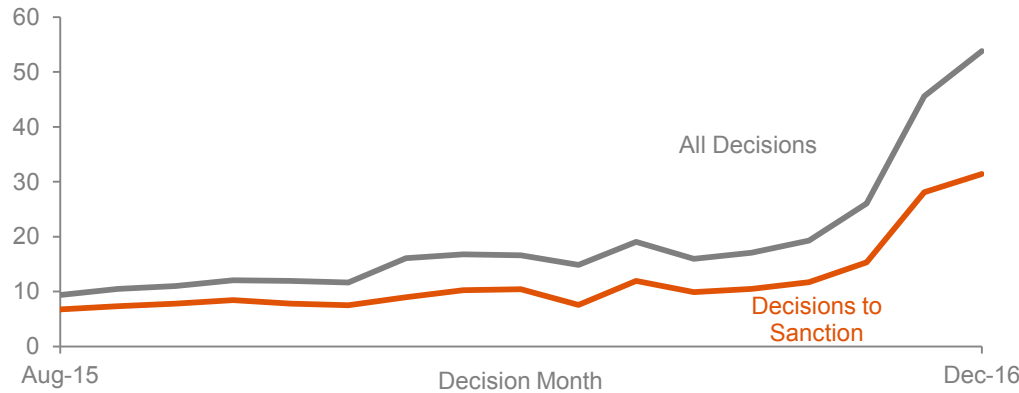
# 1.5 Experimental Official Statistics: Sanction Decisions: Universal Credit

Failure to meet one or more conditions of a UC claim without good reason could lead to reductions in the [standard allowance](#) for a period; this is a UC sanction.

## All decisions and decisions to apply a sanction by stage

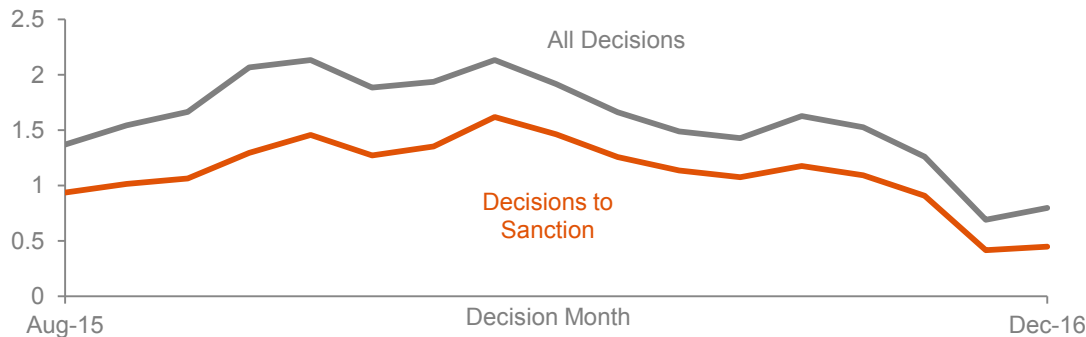
### Stage 1 Original Decisions (thousands)

An independent DWP decision maker makes the original decision.



### Stage 2 Mandatory Reconsiderations (thousands)

Claimants can ask DWP to reconsider the original decision.



### Stage 3 Appeals

Claimants can appeal to a Tribunal after formal reconsideration.

Chart not shown due to low numbers, figures are accessible via [Stat-Xplore](#)

### Not all UC decisions result in a sanction

Each sanction decision can go through two further stages, reconsideration and appeal, after the original decision is made, up to first tier tribunal. These statistics include only the most recent stage in the process for each decision. Not all decisions go through all three stages before reaching a final outcome. Both the stage and decision outcome numbers may be updated in future releases.

### Main Messages

**There have been 360 thousand decisions in total since August 2015.** The trends illustrate both the movement through the process and the rise in decisions as the number of people on UC rise.

There have been a total of 220 thousand decisions to apply a sanction.

Not all decisions with an outcome to apply a sanction will result in a claimant's standard allowance being reduced. Other parts of a claimant's entitlement, such as housing and child care, are not affected. Where a claimant's standard allowance is reduced the claimant may be eligible for hardship payments.

**Users should be aware that there are differences between sanctions policy in UC and the other benefits that will affect comparisons.**

These are the first UC sanction statistics. We will continue to develop these statistics, including the inclusion of a rate of sanctions to give an indication of the number of sanctions decisions relative to the number who could be sanctioned.

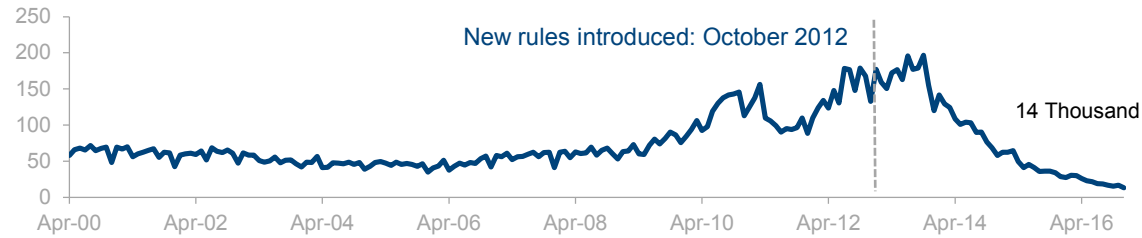
More detailed UC sanctions figures, including appeals, can be accessed through [Stat-Xplore](#) or via [gov.uk](#)

# 1.5 Official Statistics: Sanction decisions and reasons: Jobseeker's Allowance

Failure to meet one or more conditions of a benefit claim without good reason could lead to payments being stopped for a period (this is known as a benefit sanction).

## Jobseeker's Allowance sanctions decisions have been declining

Total Number of JSA sanction decisions (thousands): Great Britain: April 2000 to December 2016

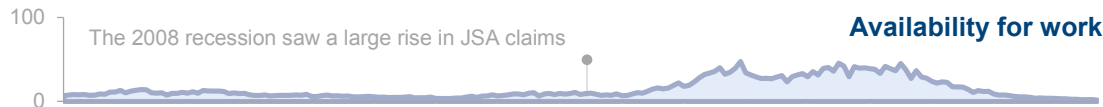
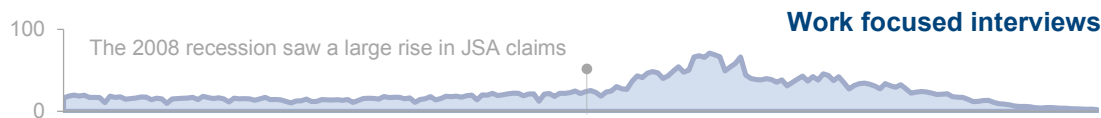
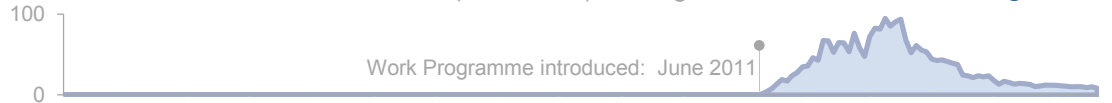


### What is a sanction decision?

Each occasion that a condition of benefit claim is not met can result in a decision. This can happen more than once during a claim. The trends on this page include decisions that resulted in no sanction.

## Trends have been driven by Work Programme sanction decisions

Total Number of Sanctions decisions (thousands) relating to



## Main Messages

**Over the last two years the number of decisions per month has been declining.** This partly reflects the fall in Jobseeker's Allowance claimants; although there are also other factors which may be driving this. DWP are looking to enhance the information we make available on the relationship between these two volumes and have developed an experimental monthly rate of claimants undergoing a sanction.

The trend in JSA sanction decisions coincides with lower numbers of JSA claimants joining the Work Programme. Currently the main reasons for sanction decisions (see notes section for details of groupings) are associated with lower level sanctions (see box below)

### New rules

From October 2012, new sanctions rules were introduced, aligning broadly with Universal Credit rules.

Read an [overview of the new JSA sanctions rules](#).

### Sanction levels (under the new regulations)

- **Lower**, 4 or 13 weeks (e.g. Work Programme and Work Focused Interviews)
- **Intermediate**, 4 or 13 weeks; claim may be ended
- **Higher** 13-156 weeks (e.g. reason for leaving previous employment)

For more information see [guidance](#).

# 1.5 Sanction decisions process: Jobseeker's Allowance (new rules)

The following charts show a breakdown of the process that is in place when claimants don't agree that their benefit payment should be stopped or claim ended

Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
<b>Original Decisions</b>	<b>Decision review</b>	<b>Mandatory Reconsideration</b>
An independent DWP decision maker makes the original decision.	Claimants can ask the Department to reconsider the original decision.	Claimants can appeal to a Tribunal after formal reconsideration.

**Not all JSA decisions result in a sanction**

Each sanction decision has a maximum of three sequential stages (up to first tier tribunal). These statistics show each decision at the most recent stage in that process. Not all decisions go through all three stages before reaching a final outcome. Both the stage and decision outcome may be updated in future releases.

### All decisions under new rules



### Main Messages

**There have been 4.4 million decisions in total under the new rules (between 22 Oct 2012 and 31 Dec 2016).** The trends illustrate both the movement through the process and the recent fall in volume of decisions.

### Summary of decision outcomes at each stage

22 Oct 2012 to 31 Dec 2016

(thousands)	Sanction	No Sanction
Original Decisions	1,764	782
Decision review	190	294
Mandatory Reconsideration	59	22
Appeal	35	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,048</b>	<b>1,109</b>

Decisions that are reserved or cancelled are not included in this table.

### Decisions to apply a sanction under new rules



There have been 2 million decisions to apply a sanction under the new rules. The trends illustrate the impact of the introduction of Mandatory Reconsiderations.

Not all decisions with an outcome to apply a sanction will result in a claimant's benefit being reduced. Where a claimant's benefit is reduced the claimant may be eligible for Hardship payments.

More detailed JSA and ESA sanctions figures can be accessed through [Stat-Xplore](#) or via [gov.uk](#)

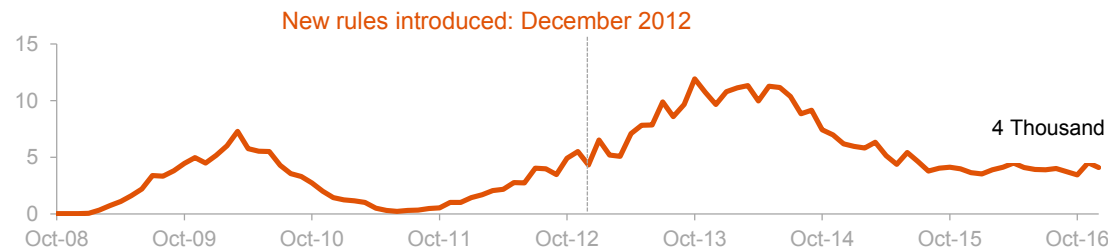
The [Background and Methodology](#) document contains information about changes to our rounding policy

# 1.5 Sanction decisions and reasons: Employment and Support Allowance

Failure to meet one or more conditions of a benefit claim without good reason could lead to a reduction in payment for a period (this is known as a benefit sanction)

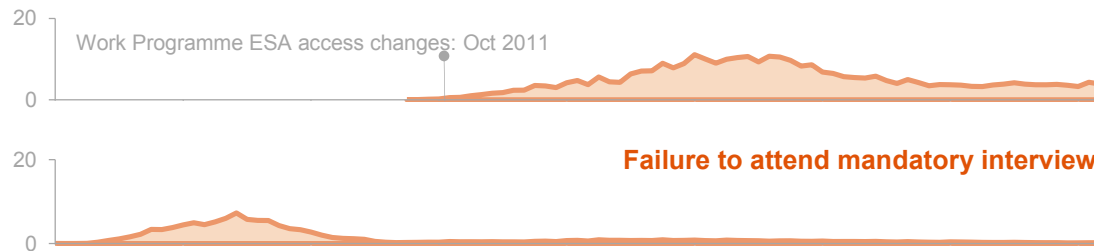
## ESA sanction decisions were decreasing until January 2016 since when they have remained relatively stable

Total Number of ESA sanction decisions (thousands): Great Britain: October 2008 to December 2016



## Trends have been driven by work related activity sanction decisions

Sanctions decisions (thousands) relating to **Failure to participate in work related activity**



## Main Messages

### ESA sanction decisions were decreasing until January 2016; since when they have remained relatively stable.

A sanction referral can pass through several decision-making stages before a final decision is made. The latest months will always contain a higher proportion of sanctions which have not yet “had the chance” to be reviewed or appealed, and may be challenged in subsequent months.

The outcome of the sanction may change between publications due to retrospection (the updating of all changes to previous decisions with every publication). The main impact will be seen over the last three months compared to the previous publication, where the total number of decisions and the total number of decisions to apply a sanction will reduce significantly. This also applies to JSA Sanctions but the retrospection is much lower.

The process means that the outcome of a sanction is subject to retrospective changes which should be considered when using the data

Since Jan 16, more than 90% of sanction decisions for ESA relate to failure to participate in work related activity.

### What is a sanction decision?

A sanction decision may happen every time a condition of benefit claim is not met. This can happen more than once during a claim. The trends on this page include decisions that resulted in no sanction.

Sanction decisions only apply to ESA claimants in the work related activity group. They do not apply to those in the support group.

### New rules

From December 2012, new sanctions rules were introduced. For more information, see [here](#).

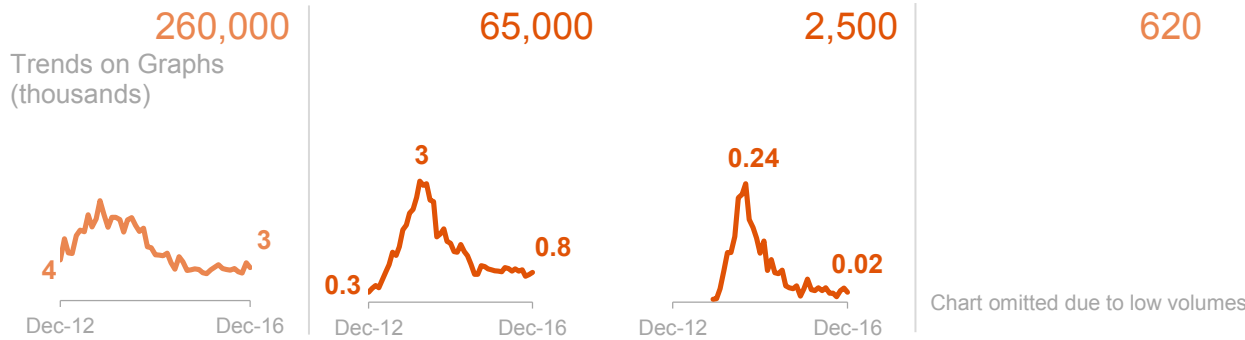
# 1.5 Sanction decisions process: Employment and Support Allowance (new rules)

The following charts show a breakdown of the process that is in place when claimants don't agree that their benefit payment should be reduced

Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
<b>Original Decisions</b>	<b>Decision Review</b>	<b>Appeal</b>
An independent DWP decision maker makes the original decision.	Claimants can ask the Department to reconsider the original decision.	Claimants can appeal to a Tribunal after formal reconsideration.

**Not all ESA decisions result in a sanction**  
 Each sanction decision has a maximum of three sequential stages (up to first tier tribunal). These statistics show each decision at the most recent stage in that process. Not all decisions go through all three stages before reaching a final outcome. Both the stage and decision outcome may be updated in future releases.

## All decisions under new rules



## Decisions to apply a sanction under new rules



## Main Messages

**There have been 320 thousand decisions in total under the new rules (between 3 Dec 2012 and 31 Dec 2016).** The trends illustrate both the movement through the process and the recent fall in volume of decisions with a consistent level over the past year.

### Summary of decision outcomes at each stage

3 Dec 2012 to 31 Dec 2016

(thousands)	Sanction	No Sanction
Original Decisions	51	73
Decision review	35	29
Mandatory Reconsideration	1.1	1.5
Appeal	0.4	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>104</b>

Decisions that are cancelled are not included in this table.

**There have been a total of 88 thousand decisions to apply a sanction under the new rules.**

Not all decisions with an outcome to apply a sanction will result in a claimant's benefit being reduced. Where a claimant's benefit is reduced the claimant may be eligible for Hardship payments.

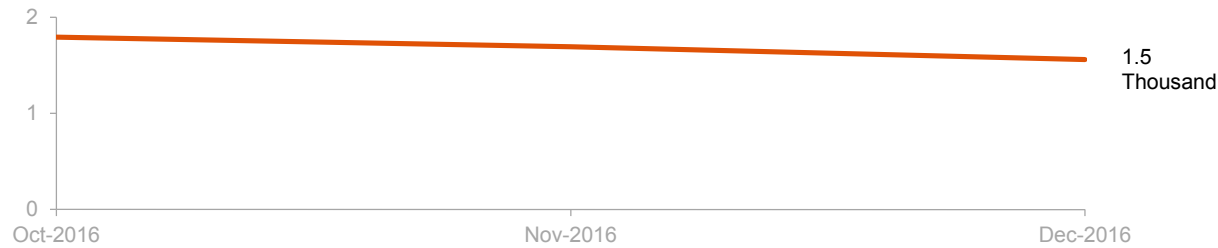
More detailed JSA and ESA sanctions figures can be accessed through [Stat-Xplore](#) or via [gov.uk](#)

# 1.5 Experimental Statistics for Income Support Sanction decisions and reasons

Failure to meet one or more conditions of a benefit claim without good reason could lead to a reduction in payment for a period (this is known as a benefit sanction)

## All Income Support sanction decisions (Experimental)

Total Number of IS sanction decisions by month (Thousands): Great Britain: October 2016 to December 2016



### Income Support Sanctions Background

From April 2016, Income Support sanction decisions have started to go through the same system as ESA and JSA sanctions decisions allowing standardisation across the benefits. This has enabled data on IS sanctions to be presented in a similar way to that for JSA and ESA for the first time.

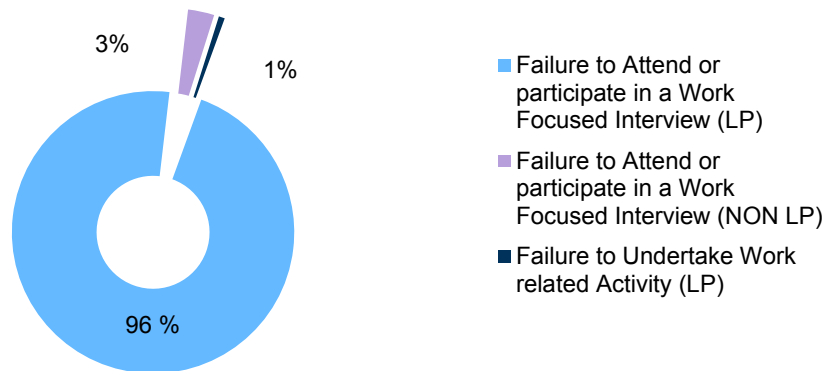
From October 2016, all decisions should be recorded in DMAS (Decision Making and Appeals System, the system where JSA and ESA sanctions decisions are recorded).

### Main Messages

**These figures are classified as Experimental as there are only 3 months' worth of data available. This means that there is no indication at this point in time of effects of retrospective changes in the next publication.**

Early indications are that IS sanction decisions are decreasing. At this stage no further conclusions can be made from the data

## All IS Decisions by Referral Reason



The majority of IS sanctions are imposed on IS Lone Parents (97%)

### Summary of decision outcomes at each stage

Oct 2016 to Dec 2016 (Thousands)

	Sanction	No Sanction
Original Decisions	4.3	0.14
Decision review	0.02	0.04
Mandatory Reconsideration	0	0
Appeal	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>0.18</b>

Decisions that are cancelled are not included in this table.

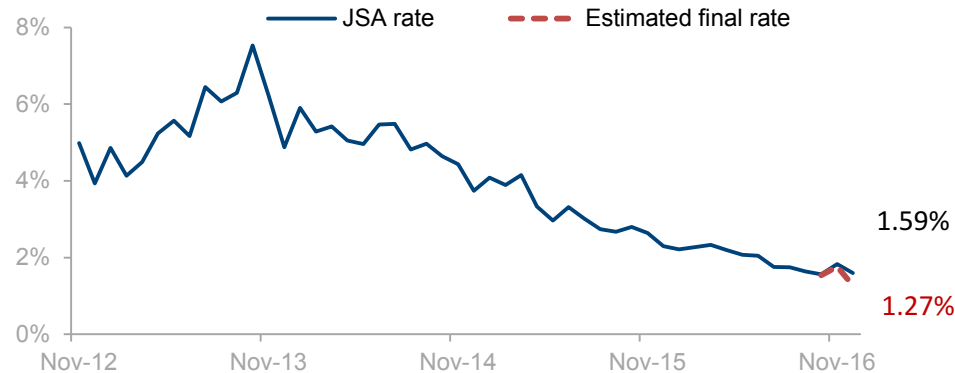
**There have been a total of 4.3 thousand decisions to apply a sanction over the last Quarter.** Trends are driven by Lone Parent Failed to Attend or Participate in a Work Focused Interview sanction decisions with 96% of sanctions falling into this category.

Previously IS Lone Parent Sanctions have been [published](#) using a different methodology and therefore are not comparable. More information about the new methodology can be found [here](#)

# 1.5 Experimental Monthly Rate of Claimants Sanctioned: Jobseeker's Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance Work Related Activity Group (WRAG)

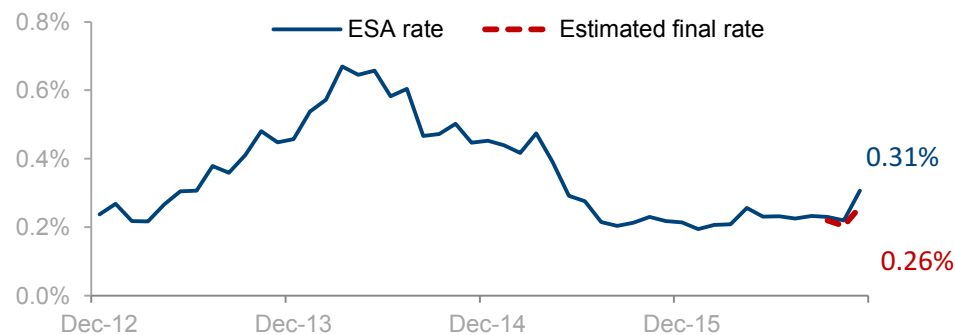
**The experimental monthly rate of JSA claimants undergoing a sanction has been falling over the last two and a half years**

Jobseekers Allowance decisions to sanction as an experimental rate of Jobseekers Allowance claims: Great Britain: November 2012 to December 2016



**The experimental monthly rate of ESA WRAG claimants undergoing a sanction has remained under 1% since the new regime was introduced despite rising slightly in the last 9 months**

Employment and Support Allowance decisions to sanction as an experimental rate of Employment and Support Allowance WRAG claims: Great Britain: December 2012 to November 2016



Background and Methodology documents for JSA, ESA and IS and for UC sanctions Official Statistics can be found on the Sanctions statistics collection page [here](#)

## Main Messages

**The experimental monthly rate of JSA claimants undergoing a sanction each month fluctuates but has shown a steady decrease over the last two and a half years.**

Overall since its peak in March 2014, the experimental monthly rate of ESA Work Related Activity Group (WRAG) claimants undergoing a sanction reached a new low in January 2016, but has since seen a slight rise.

**The Experimental Monthly Rates of Claimants Sanctioned** for ESA and JSA aim to estimate the scale of sanctions relative to the number of ESA and JSA claimants in a given month.

The JSA and ESA rates are calculated by dividing the number of decisions to apply a sanction (adverse) in a month by the JSA or ESA WRAG claimant count at a particular point in the same month.

The claimant count for ESA WRAG has changed from a quarterly ESA WRAG claimant count to a more accurate monthly ESA WRAG claimant count from September 2015. The ESA WRAG monthly counts are now published as part of the [ESA Supporting Tables](#) (14).

As an additional development, we have used previous changes in the quarterly figures to estimate what the effect of the retrospective changes will be on this quarter's statistics (estimated final rate).

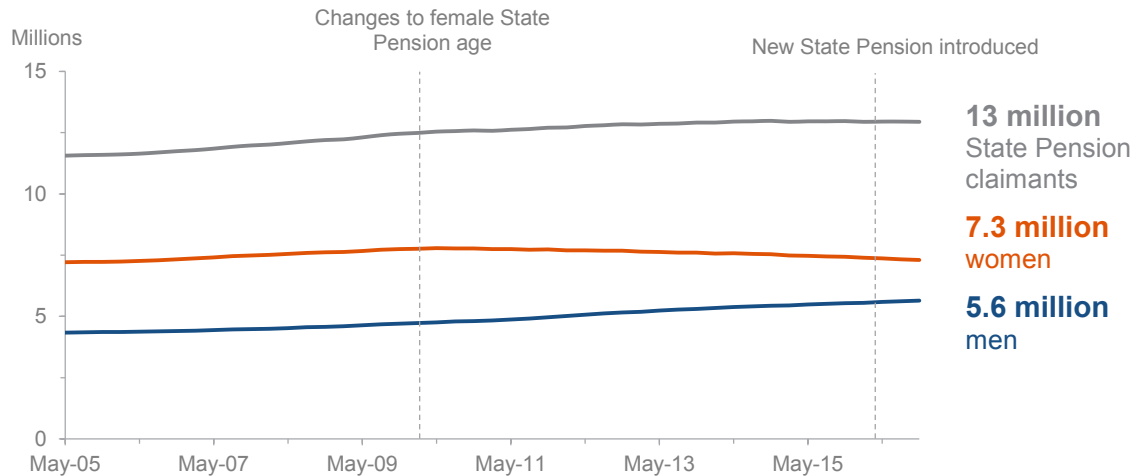
More detailed information on the new ESA count and the exact calculation of the rate as well as the methodology for producing the estimated final rate can be found [here](#)



## 2.1 State Pension and Pension Credit – National Statistics

### The number of people on State Pension has decreased over the last year

#### Pensioner client group and State Pension recipients May 2005 to November 2016



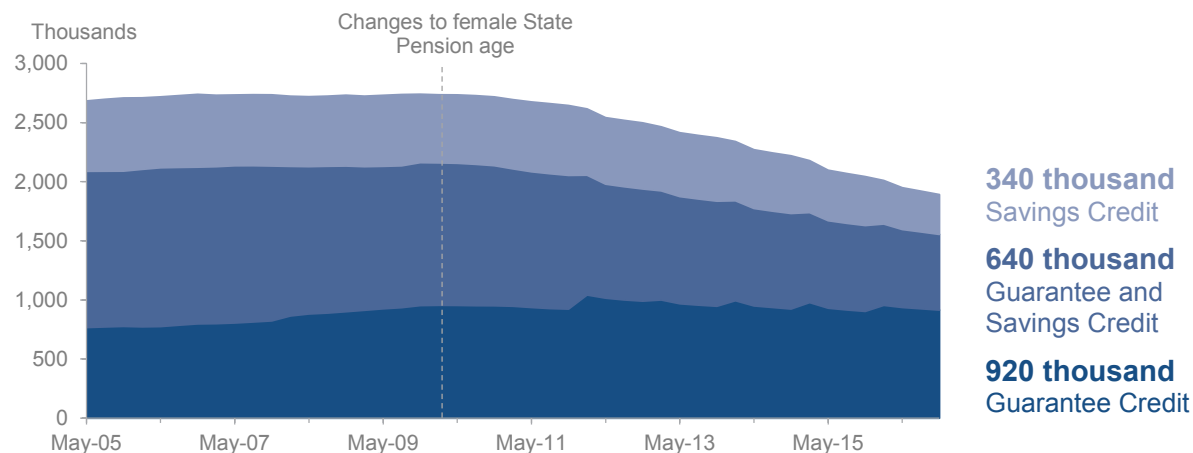
**There were 13 million recipients of State Pension at November 2016**, a fall of 30 thousand on a year earlier. This fall was largely driven by a decrease in the number of female State Pension recipients. The number of women eligible for State Pension has been decreasing since the Government began to increase the female State Pension age in 2010. The average weekly State Pension amount in payment at November 2016 was £134.53, a rise of £3.82 since November 2015.

The new State Pension (nSP) was introduced for people reaching State Pension age from 6 April 2016. **At November 2016 there were 250 thousand nSP recipients** with an average weekly amount in payment of £146.72 (including any Protected Payments).

See the [supporting tables](#) (table sp\_may17) for further data.

### The number of people on Pension Credit is falling

#### Pension Credit recipients: May 2005 to November 2016



**At November 2016, there were 1.9 million claimants of Pension Credit (2.2 million including partners)**, a fall of 150 thousand on the previous year. Nearly two thirds of claimants (63%) were women.

The number of people on Pension Credit has been decreasing since November 2009. While the number of people receiving Guarantee Credit has remained constant, the number of people getting Savings Credit payments has been decreasing.

The downward trend in overall Pension Credit caseload is partly due to equalisation of State Pension age, which results in the Pension Credit qualifying age increasing; partly due to changes to the Savings Credit element of Pension Credit, including the abolition of Savings Credit for those that reach State Pension age after 6th April 2016; and partly due to the introduction of new State Pension, which was introduced in April 2016.

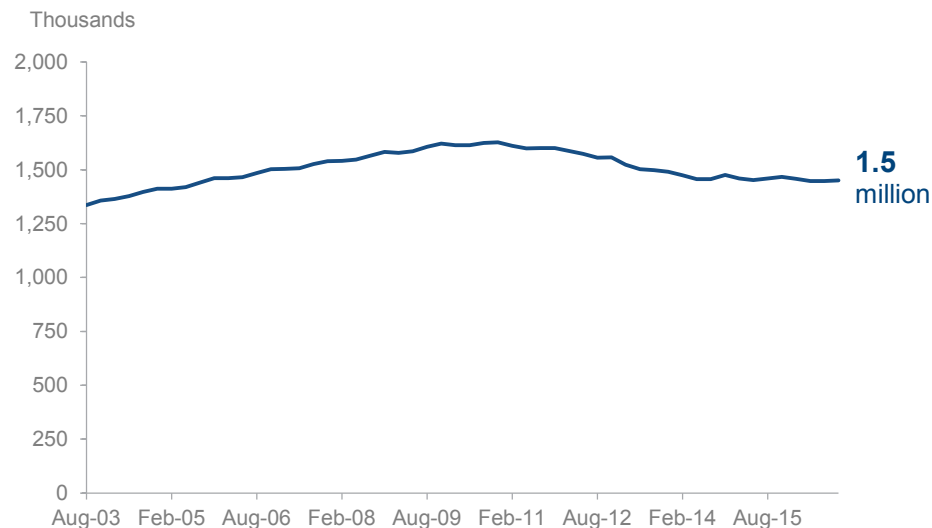
See the [supporting tables](#) (table pc\_may17) for further data.



## 3.1 Attendance Allowance and Carer's Allowance – National Statistics

**The number of people on Attendance Allowance has fallen slightly in the last year**

**Attendance Allowance recipients: August 2003 to November 2016**



**At November 2016, the number of people on Attendance Allowance has decreased by 16 thousand on a year earlier and is now 1.5 million.**

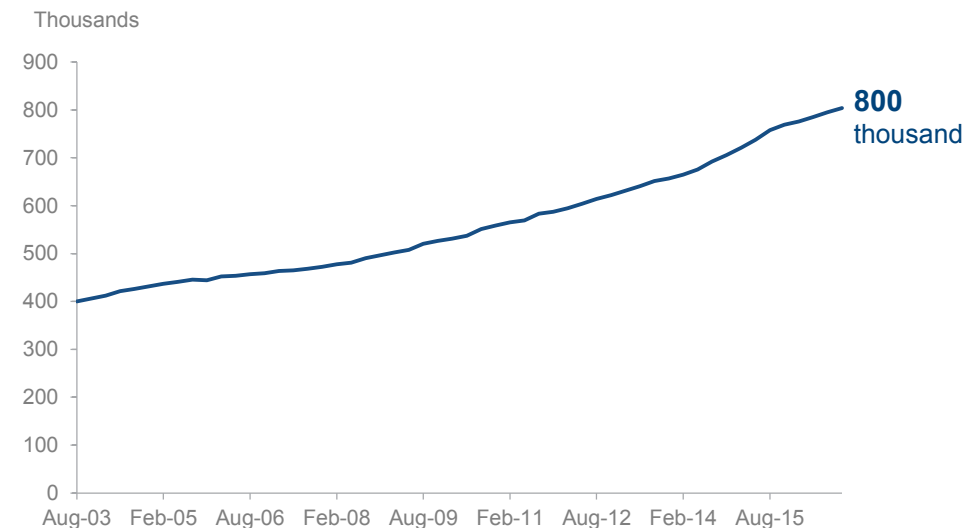
Of these Attendance Allowance claimants, 35% (510 thousand) are male, an decrease of 1 thousand from November 2015.

65% (940 thousand) are female, a decrease of 15 thousand from November 2015.

See the [supporting tables](#) (table aa\_may17) for further data.

**The number of people receiving Carer's Allowance continues to rise**

**Carer's Allowance recipients: August 2003 to November 2016**



**The total number claiming Carer's Allowance at November 2016 is 800 thousand, a rise of 35 thousand from November 2015.** Increases in the State Pension age and in the number of people claiming disability benefits, as well as an ageing population, may have contributed to this rise.

Of the total number claiming Carers Allowance (800 thousand), 51% (410 thousand) were entitled to the benefit but receiving no payment.

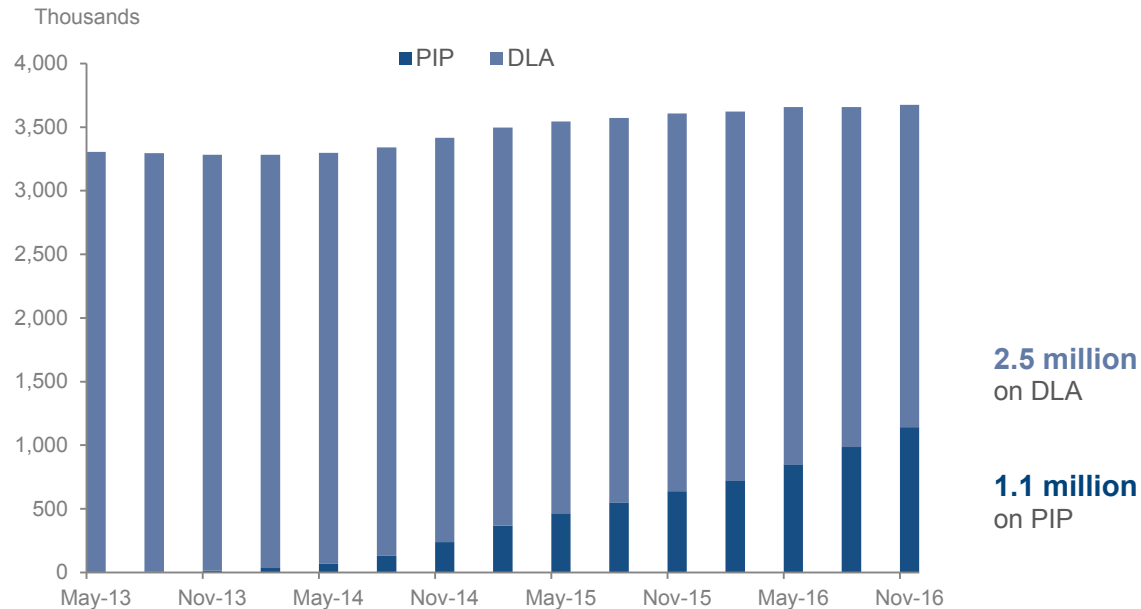
28%, or 220 thousand, of Carer's Allowance claimants are male and 72%, or 580 thousand, are female.

See the [supporting tables](#) (table ca\_may17) for further data.

## 3.2 Personal Independence Payment and Disability Living Allowance – National Statistics

The number of people on PIP is rising as the number of people on Disability Living Allowance continues to fall

Personal Independence Payment/Disability Living Allowance claimants since May 2013



There were a total of 3.7 million claimants of Personal Independence Payment and Disability Living Allowance at November 2016, an increase of 70 thousand (2%) on a year earlier.

The number of people claiming Disability Living Allowance has fallen (by 430 thousand) in the year to November 2016 to 2.5 million. During the same period the number of people claiming Personal Independence Payment has increased (by 500 thousand) to 1.1 million. 480 thousand of these claims were reassessed Disability Living Allowance claims.

At the end of January 2017 (the latest PIP data available), there were 1.2 million Personal Independence Payment claims in payment. Up until this point there had been 2.6 million registrations, 2.3 million clearances and 270 thousand claims were still outstanding.

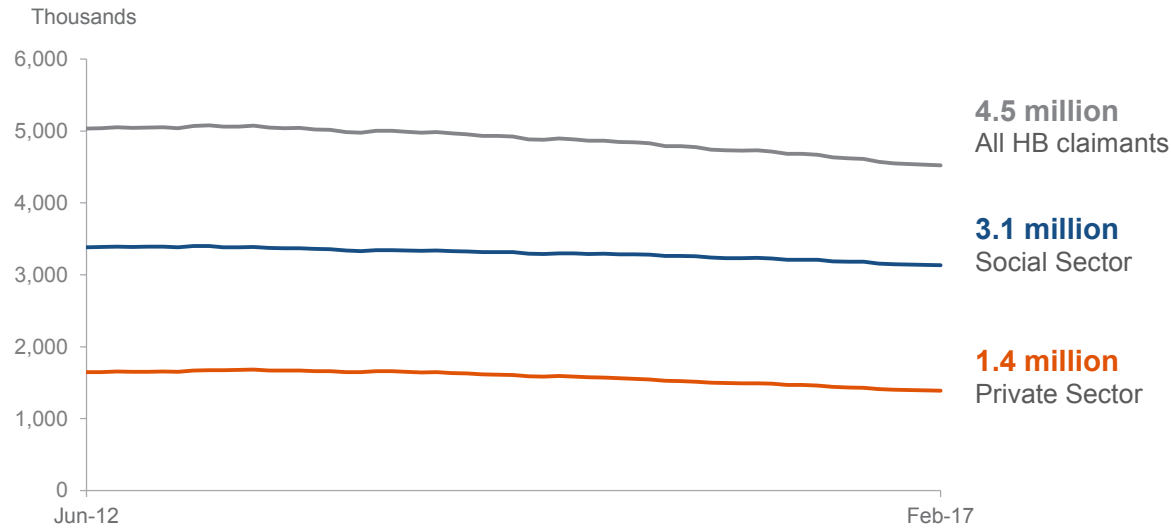
Further PIP information and breakdowns are available via the latest statistical [first release](#) and via [Stat-Xplore](#). Note PIP statistics are Official Experimental.

Further DLA breakdowns are available via the [supporting tables](#) (table dla\_may17).

# 4.1 Housing Benefit – National Statistics

The number of people on Housing Benefit is generally decreasing

Housing Benefit recipients: June 2012 to February 2017



Overall numbers claiming housing benefit have been gradually decreasing and will continue to fall as Housing Benefit is replaced by Universal Credit. **At February 2017, there were 4.5 million recipients of Housing Benefit.**

The majority of HB recipients (69%, 3.1 million) were tenants in the social sector and the rest in the private sector (1.4 million). Of those in the private sector, 87% received the local housing allowance, due to being on a low income.

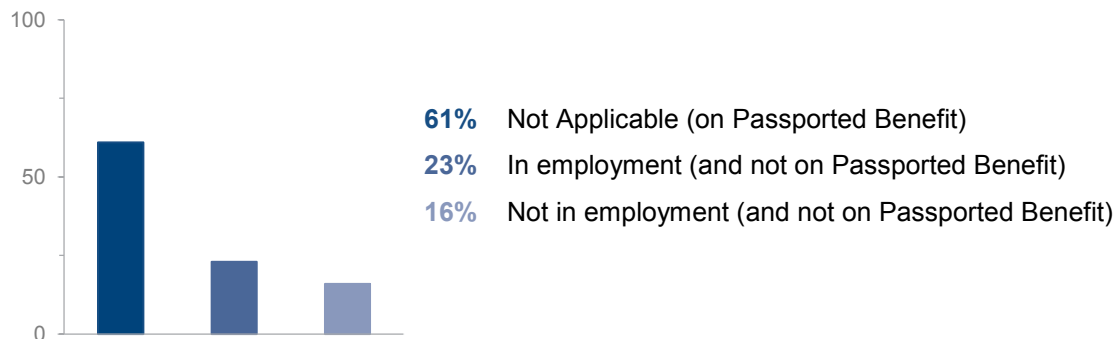
The majority (61.0%) of Housing benefit recipients entitlement was due to being in receipt of a passported benefit: Income Support, income-based Jobseekers Allowance, income-based Employment and Support Allowance or Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit).

As at November 2016 only 9% (410 thousand) recipients of Housing Benefit (which were of working age) had a reduction to their weekly award amount due to the spare room subsidy scheme, whereby tenants in social housing whose accommodation is larger than they need may lose part of their Housing Benefit.

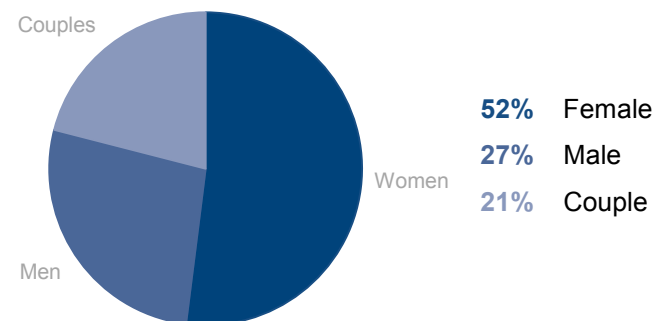
Further Housing Benefit information and breakdowns are available via [Stat-Xplore](#).

Percentage of Housing Benefit recipients at February 2017

Employment (and benefit status)



Gender (single claimants only)



## About these statistics

The statistics in this publication are affected by the introduction of Universal Credit. 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. Universal Credit will be replacing income-related Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Housing Benefit, Income Support, Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. It is now available in all Jobcentre Plus areas to single claimants, and is being expanded across the country to include all claimant types via the full service. Please see the [background information](#) document for more detail.

A background and methodology document can be found on the Jobseeker's Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance sanctions statistics collection page [here](#)

## Where to find out more

Full details of where to find more detailed statistical information on DWP benefits can be found [here](#).

In summary more detailed statistical tables covering all National Statistics benefits can be found via:

- [Stat-Xplore](#)
- [Nomis](#)
- [Supporting tables](#)

[Stat-Xplore](#) is an interactive way for users to create their own statistical tables and related breakdowns. It currently holds statistics on:

- Housing Benefit claimant data
- Sanction decisions for Jobseeker's Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance
- National Insurance number allocations to adult overseas nationals
- Personal Independence Payment Benefit cap
- Universal Credit
- Attendance Allowance
- Disability Living Allowance
- Carer's Allowance
- State Pension
- Work Programme

[Nomis](#) is an on-line tool that allows you to create and download customised statistical tables. Its functionality allows users to produce tables by personal and benefit characteristics for the following benefits:

- Working age client group\*
- Employment and support allowance\*
- Incapacity benefit / severe disablement\*
- Income support\*
- Job seekers allowance\*
- Carer's allowance
- Disability living allowance by disabling condition
- Disability living allowance\*
- Pension credits\*

- State pension\*

\* Benefits where lower-level geographical statistics (down to Ward, Lower Super Output area and Data zone) are also available in Nomis.

Additional [supporting tables](#) for the latest release exist for each benefit. This includes local authority and parliamentary constituency breakdowns.

## DWP Benefits Statistics

Our **Uses and users**, **Methodology**, **Quality** and **Background information** notes provide further information on DWP National and official benefit statistics, including some of the processes involved in developing and releasing these statistics: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/dwp-statistical-summary-policies-and-statements>

## Other National and Official Statistics

Details of other National and Official Statistics produced by the Department for Work and Pensions can be found via the following link:

- A schedule of statistical releases and a list of the most recent releases: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/about/statistics>

## Known issues, changes and revisions

From October 2016 the IS sanction decisions should be going through the same system as the ESA and JSA which has allowed us to standardise Sanctions Methodologies across the benefits. The IS Sanctions Statistics are included in this publication and we plan to include further analysis of the Income Support Sanctions in the August publication.

The UC sanctions statistics cover UC live service only. Data on sanction decisions under the full service will be added as quality assurance of the data progresses.

The next release will include a new statistical series covering all individuals in receipt of a DWP benefit at a point in time – i.e. UC, PIP, and all legacy benefits (JSA, ESA, DLA, CA etc) and including Housing Benefit.

## Feedback

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@dpw.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:stats-consultation@dpw.gsi.gov.uk).

An on-going 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@dpw.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:stats-consultation@dpw.gsi.gov.uk) or by post to the following address:

Dissemination Team, Data and Analytics, 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 announces items of interest to users via this forum, as well as replying to users’ questions.