



Universal Credit is a payment to help with living costs for those on a low income or out of work. Eligibility for Universal Credit depends on individual circumstances and location.

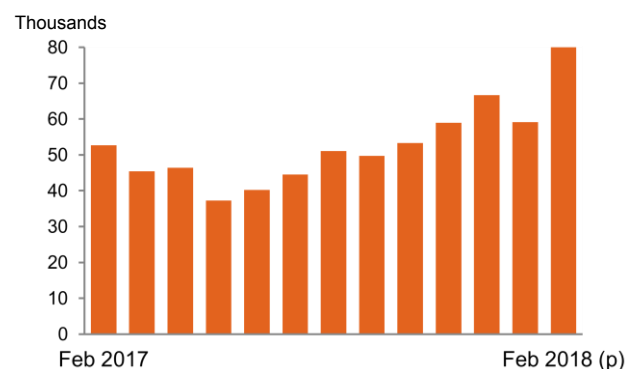
Universal Credit was introduced in April 2013 in certain pathfinder areas of North West England. It is now available to all types of claimants in certain areas of Great Britain and is being introduced in stages by postcode area.

## Main story

The number of people on Universal Credit as of 8 February 2018 was 770 thousand. Of these people 300 thousand (39 per cent) were in employment. In December 2017, 660 thousand households were on Universal Credit. The average amount of Universal Credit paid to households on Universal Credit was £580 per month

### Starts at 74 thousand

Month to 8 February 2018

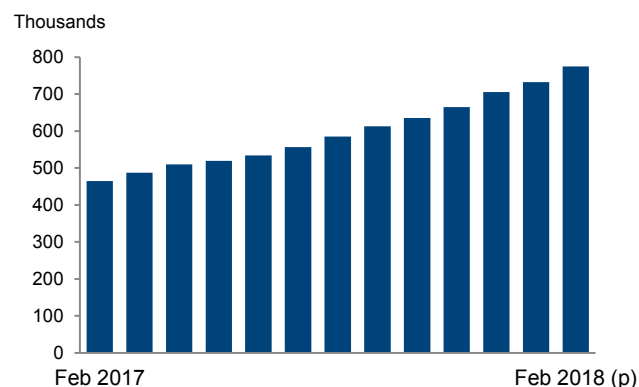


The total number of starts that have been made since Universal Credit began is 1.4 million. The number of starts made to Universal Credit was 74 thousand in the month up to 8 February 2018.

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.

### 770 thousand claimants

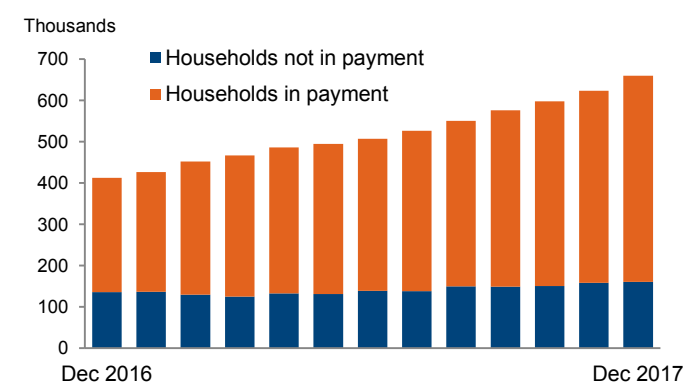
At 8 February 2018



The number of people on Universal Credit rose to 770 thousand in February 2018. This is a 6 per cent increase from last month.

### 660 thousand households

At December 2017



In December 2017, 660 thousand households were on Universal Credit. Of these households, 500 thousand (76 per cent) were receiving a Universal Credit payment.

There are a number of reasons why a household may not be in receipt of a payment, one being when someone moves into work and their level of earnings means that they no longer receive a payment.

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Thoughts? We welcome feedback

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## What you need to know

This summary contains statistics on Universal Credit covering the period to 8 February 2018. Universal Credit is now available to all types of claimants in certain areas of Great Britain and is being introduced in stages across the country.

Universal Credit provides a single payment based upon the circumstances of the household. Support for housing costs, children and childcare costs are integrated into Universal Credit, and 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 four measures. **Claims made** counts the number of applications submitted for Universal Credit. Some of these people will go on to **Start** on Universal Credit. **People on Universal Credit** include 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.

This month, information about **households on Universal Credit**, which is published bi-annually is also included. A household is counted as being on Universal Credit where entitlement has been calculated for an assessment period spanning the count date. It includes those who receive a payment, as well as those that don't.

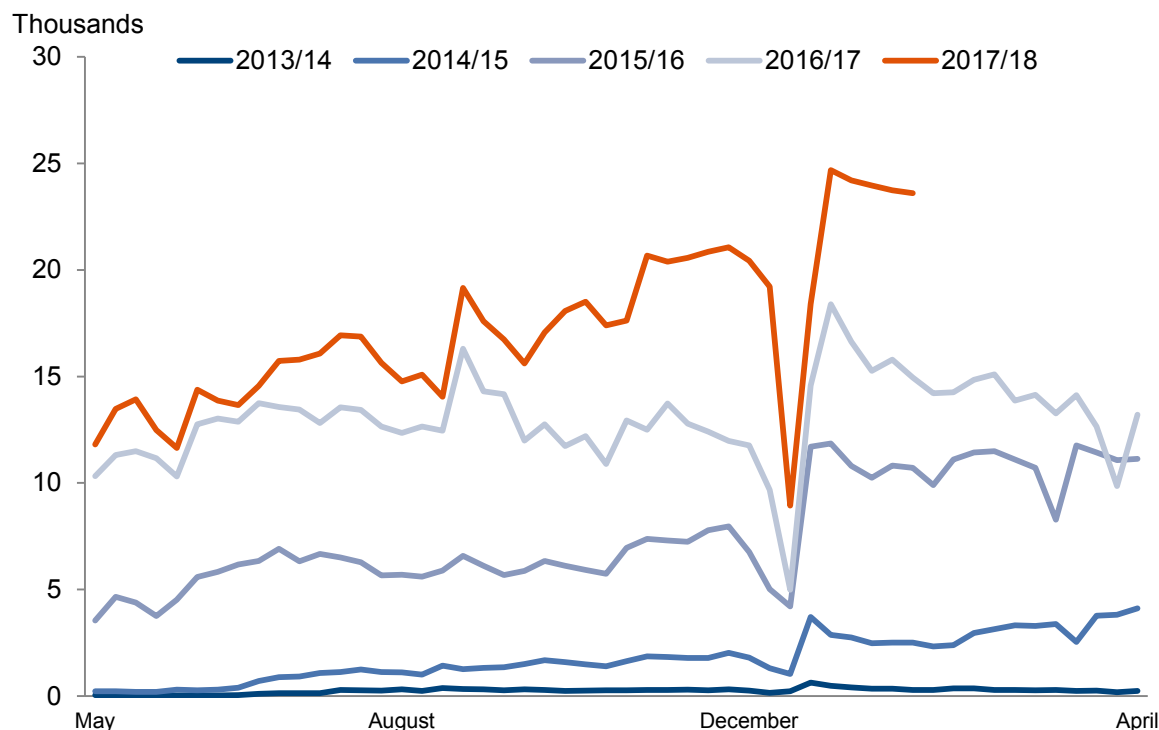
See the Background Information and Methodology document for more detail on the definitions used in this publication.

# Claiming Universal Credit

## Total claims made have reached 1.9 million

New claims per week, May to April of each year up to 8 February 2018

Weekly number of claims



The total number of claims made for Universal Credit in the four weeks up to 8 February 2018 was 95 thousand, with an average of 24 thousand claims per week. Generally, more claims are made for Universal Credit on weekdays, compared to weekends. The total number of claims made for Universal Credit has now reached 1.9 million.

Since Universal Credit began, there has been a seasonal trend involving a large drop in the number of claims around the Christmas period. A similar yet smaller dip is also noticeable over the Easter period of each year. The second half of 2017 saw an increase in the number of claims in line with the expanded rollout of Universal Credit full service.

Claims made for Universal Credit reached a daily peak of 5,400 on Monday 8 January 2018, and a weekly peak of 25,000 thousand in the week ending 11 January 2018.

Claims to Universal Credit are being accepted from all types of claimants in certain areas of Great Britain. This service is being expanded across the country.

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

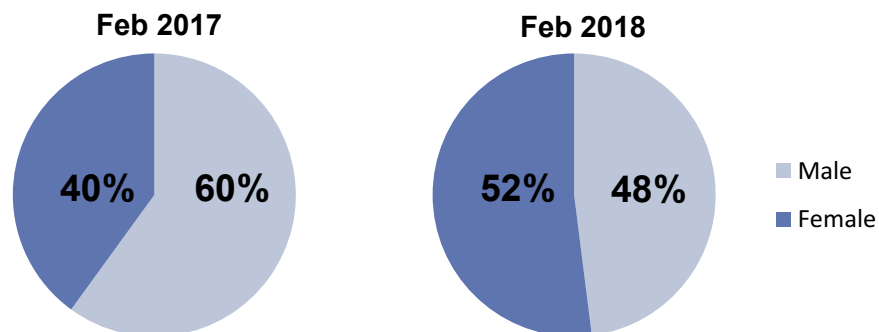
## How people claim Universal Credit

People will usually make a claim for Universal Credit online, during which initial claim verification will take place. The claim date is the date that a claimant completes this process and submits their claim. After making a claim, an initial interview will take place with the claimant, where 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, however the statistics for claims used in this publication include all claims made to Universal Credit.

# Starts to Universal Credit

## 52 per cent of starts to Universal Credit in February were from females

Starts per month to Universal Credit by gender, at 9 February 2017 and 8 February 2018



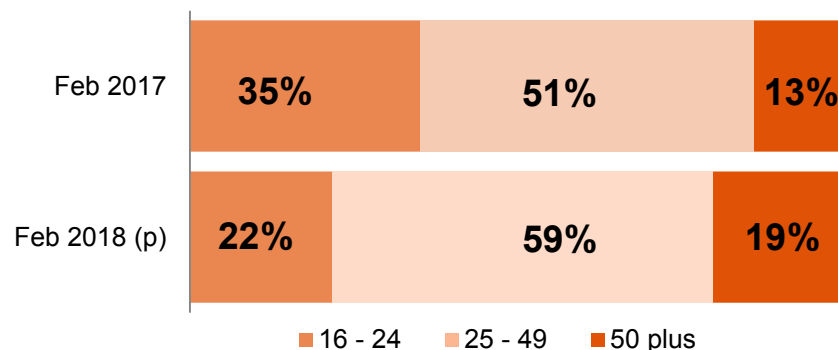
A total of 74 thousand starts were made to Universal Credit in the month up to 8 February 2018.

Of all starts in the month up to 8 February 2018, 52 per cent were by females and 48 per cent were by males. This was the first month since April 2013 in which there have been more starts by females than males.

In the month to 8 February 2018, the Central England Jobcentre Plus group accounted for 19 per cent of the total number of starts, followed closely by London and the Home Counties and the Southern England Jobcentre Plus groups which each accounted for 18 per cent of the total number of starts.

There has historically been seasonal fluctuation in the number of starts to Universal Credit over the Christmas period. The increase in the number of starts in the month up to 8 February 2018 will likely have been impacted by the roll out of Universal Credit full service towards the end of 2017. For example since November 2017, 20 Jobcentre Plus offices in Central England rolled out Universal Credit full service.

Starts per month to Universal Credit by age band, at 9 February 2017 and 8 February 2018



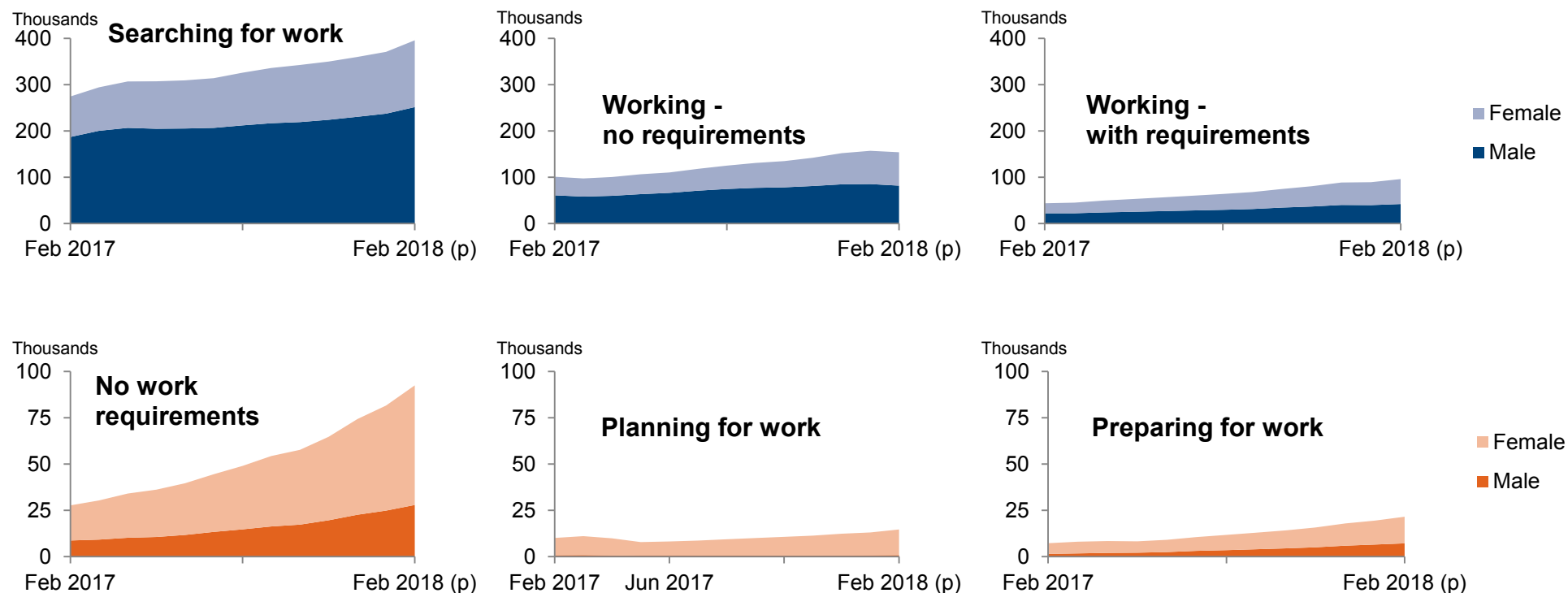
Of all starts in the month up to 8 February 2018, the 25-49 age group had the most starts at 59 per cent. The proportion of starters aged 50 and over in the month up to 8 February 2018 was 19 per cent, compared to 13 per cent in the equivalent month in 2017.

Please note the figures for the latest month (February 2018) 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 February 2018



**Of the 770 thousand people on Universal Credit as of 8 February 2018, 51 per cent (400 thousand) were in the Searching for Work conditionality regime.**

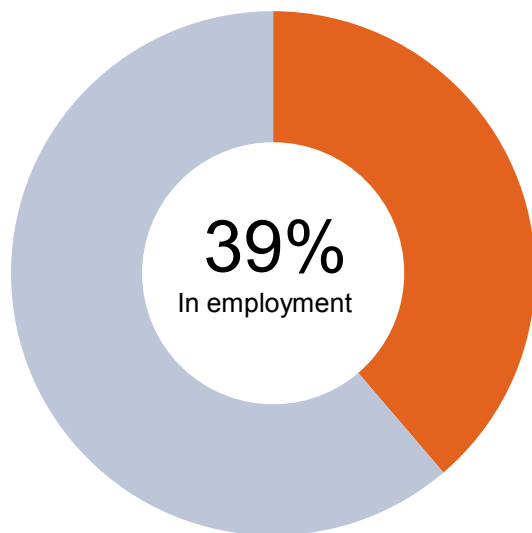
In April 2017, changes were made to conditionality for lone parents/lead carers of young children. The fall in the number of people, particularly females, in the planning for work conditionality regime around May 2017 is likely to be linked to this change. **From June 2017, the number of people in the Planning for Work conditionality regime continues to grow**, in line with the number of people on Universal Credit.

Please note that the conditionality breakdown measures what regime an individual is in on the count date. This may not be representative of the entire assessment period for that individual. 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.

## Two in five people on Universal Credit are in employment

Percentage of people on Universal Credit who are in employment, 8 February 2018

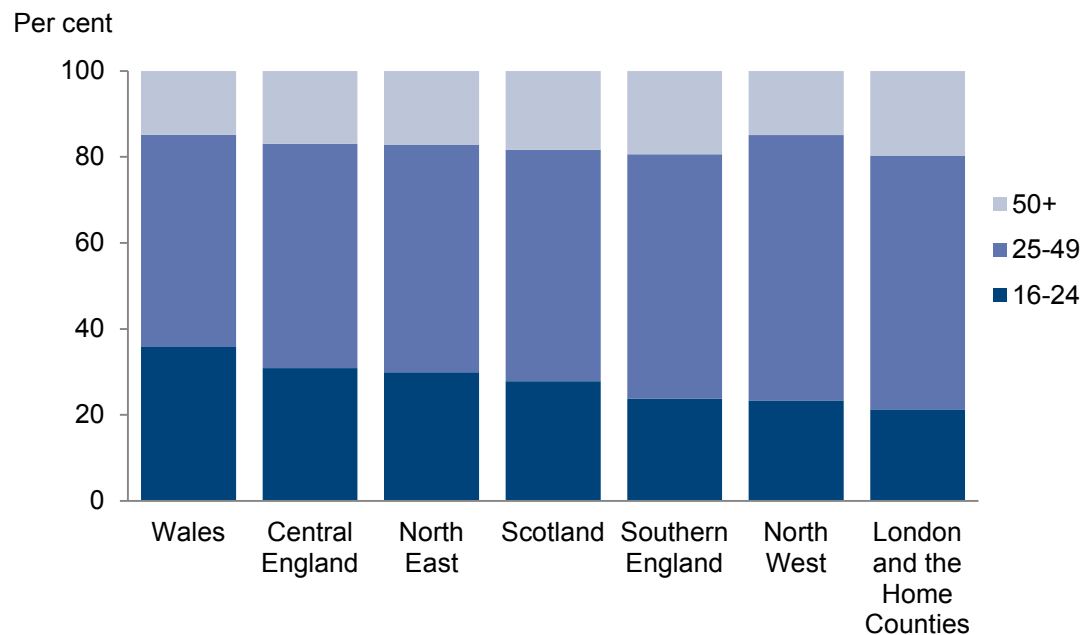


Of the 770 thousand people on Universal Credit as of 8 February 2018, 39 per cent (300 thousand) were in employment.

In February 2018, 47 per cent (360 thousand) of the people on Universal Credit were female, compared to 30 per cent in February 2014. This is in line with the roll out of Universal Credit full service.

Regions where Universal Credit is more widely available to all claimant types tend to have a higher proportion of females on Universal Credit compared to other areas. For example, in the North West, South West and London regions, just over half of the people on Universal Credit as of 8 February 2018 were female.

## People on Universal Credit by Jobcentre Plus group and age group, 8 February 2018



Overall, 56 per cent of people on Universal Credit as of 8 February 2018 were aged 25-49. Males aged 25-49 made up 30 per cent of the total figure.

The age profile of people on Universal Credit also varies between Jobcentre Plus groups, due to Universal Credit being introduced in stages across Great Britain by postcode area. Compared to other areas, Southern England, the North West and London and the Home Counties Jobcentre Plus groups have a smaller proportion of people on Universal Credit in the 16-24 age group. The North West had the highest proportion of 25-49 year olds as of 8 February 2018, at 62 per cent.

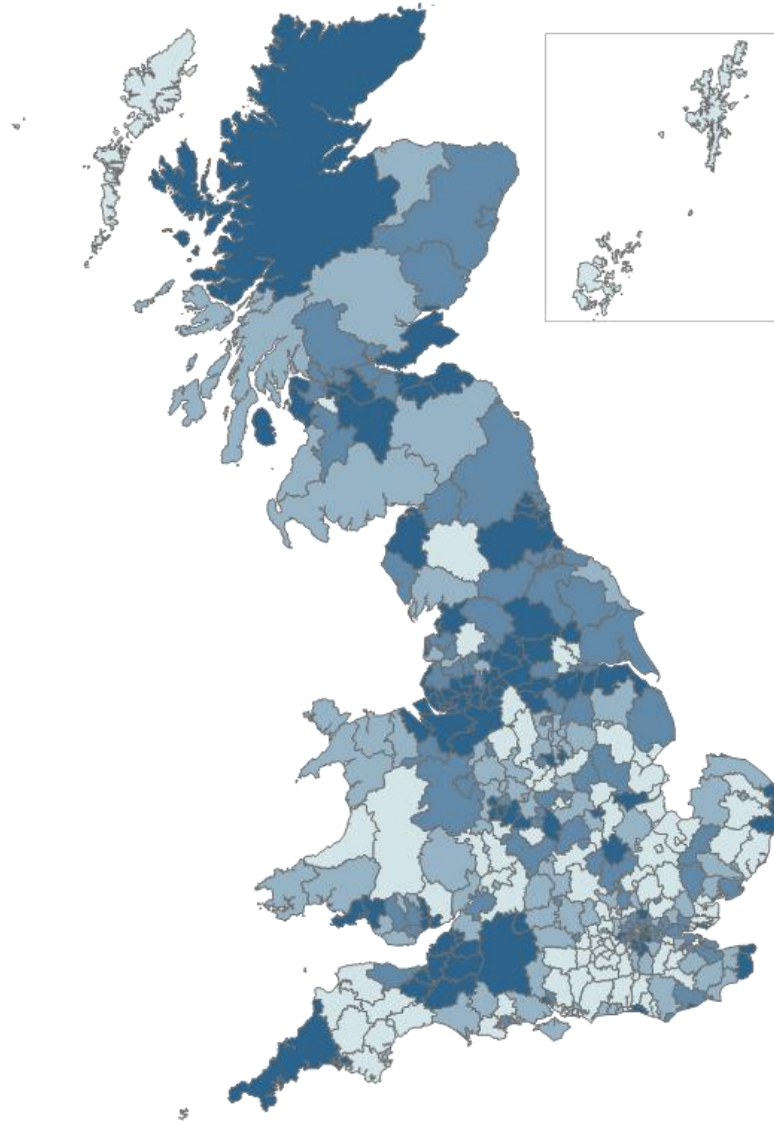
Breakdowns of people on Universal Credit by Jobcentre Plus office, local authority and parliamentary constituency are available on [Stat-Xplore](#).

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

Please note figures for the latest month (February 2018) 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 region, 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 February 2018.

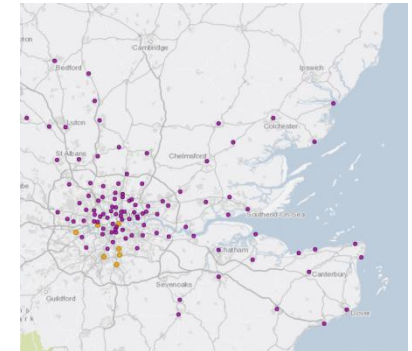
The darker areas of the map are local authorities with higher numbers of Universal Credit claimants, while the lighter areas are the local authorities with fewer Universal Credit claimants.

### 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 16 April 2018 until 9:30 a.m. on 17 April 2018, 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>



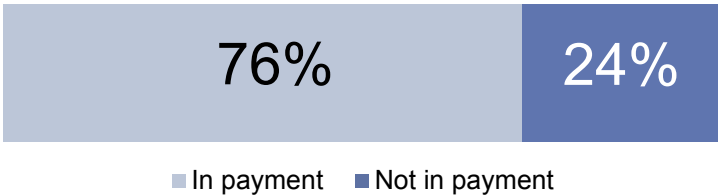
# Households receiving Universal Credit

## 660 thousand households were on Universal Credit at December 2017

In December 2017, 660 thousand households were on Universal Credit. Over three-quarters of these households (500 thousand) were receiving a payment.

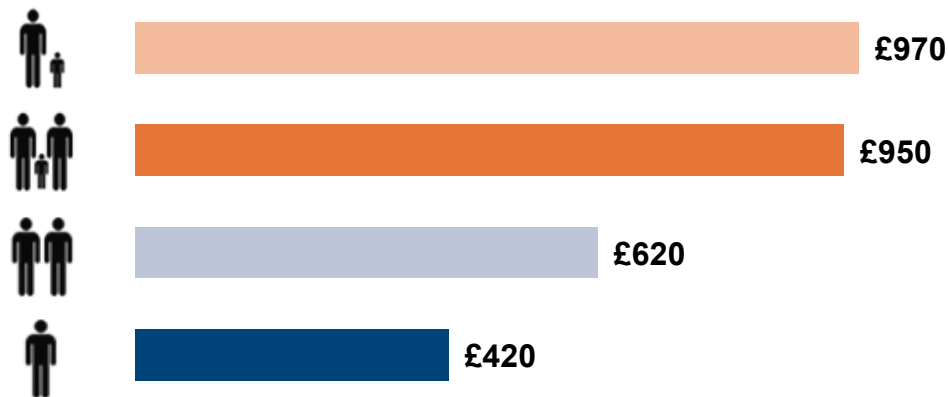
There are a number of reasons why a household may not be in receipt of a payment, one being when someone moves into work and their level of earnings means that they no longer receive a payment. Universal Credit is responsive to changing circumstances, and provides support to people both in and out of work. Universal Credit payments can easily be restarted up to six months after a household's last payment.

### Percentage of Households on Universal Credit who are receiving a payment, 14 December 2017



## The average amount of Universal Credit paid to households is £580 per month

### Mean monthly amount of Universal Credit paid by family type, 14 December 2017



In December 2017, the average amount of Universal Credit paid to households on Universal Credit was £580 per month. This is the mean award for households where Universal Credit is in payment.

For households with children, higher average payments are a result of entitlement to support for one or more child, and a higher proportion with entitlement to support for housing.

The mean is affected by a small number of households receiving relatively large payments of Universal Credit: In December 2017; 17,000 households received a monthly payment of over £1,500. This was 3 per cent of all households in payment.

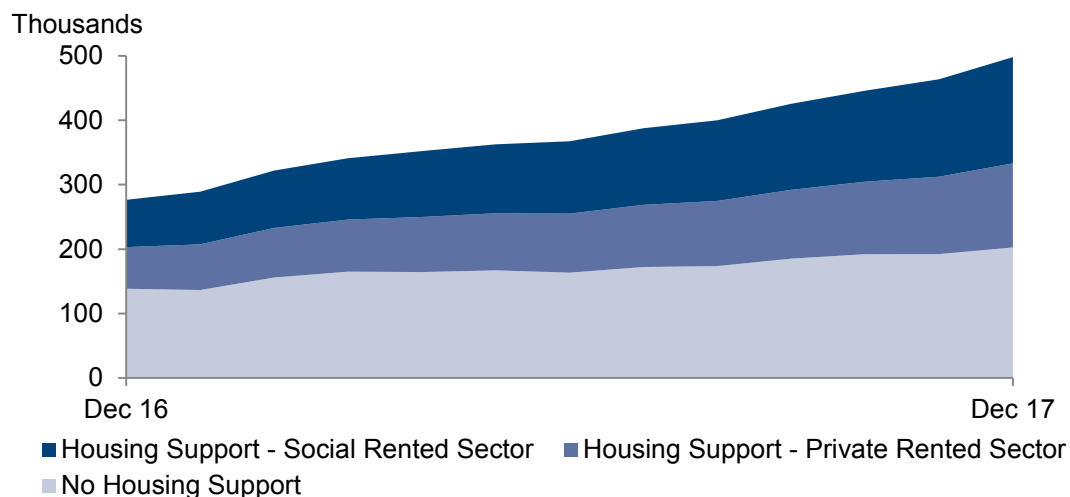
69 per cent of Universal Credit awards are paid to single people without children. In December 2017, 350 thousand awards were paid to single people without children, whilst just 11,000 awards were paid to couples without children.

Over time, a growing proportion of Universal Credit awards have been paid to households with children. In December 2016, 18 per cent of awards were paid to households with children. By December 2017, this had risen to 29 per cent. This is due to the continuing roll out of Universal Credit to a wider range of claimant types, and fewer Jobcentre Plus offices only accepting claims from single people without children.



# More than half of all households receiving a payment of Universal Credit are entitled to support for housing

Number of households receiving a payment of Universal Credit by Housing Support entitlement and Tenure, December 2016 - December 2017



Universal Credit pays for different sorts of support required by the household, but in order to be entitled to this support certain conditions have to be met. More information can be found here:

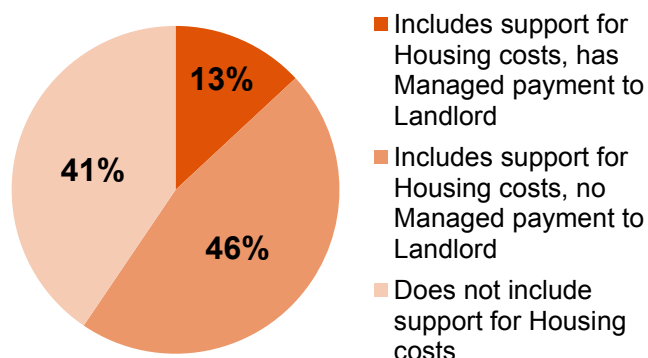
<https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit/what-youll-get>.

Support for housing helps households with costs such as rent or the interest charged on a mortgage. Around 300 thousand households that received a payment of Universal Credit in December 2017 were entitled to support for housing - 59 per cent of all households in payment.

In December 2017, 55 per cent of households receiving a payment of Universal Credit with entitlement to support for housing were in the Social Rented Sector, compared to 44 per cent in the Private Rented Sector.

Less than 1 per cent of households fall in to the 'other or unknown' category for tenure. This includes households in owner occupied accommodation receiving support for mortgage interest.

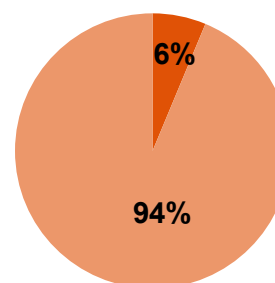
Proportion of households receiving a payment of Universal Credit with entitlement to support for housing costs and Managed Payment to Landlords, by Tenure, 14 December 2017



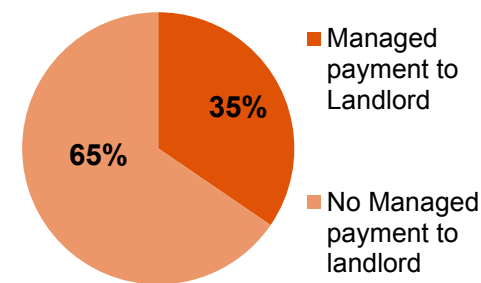
Universal Credit, including support for housing costs, is usually paid directly to the household in a single payment. Where this is not suitable, landlords and claimants can apply for housing costs to be paid directly via Managed Payment to Landlord.

In December 2017, 35 per cent of households in the Social Rented Sector had housing costs paid directly to a landlord, compared to 6 per cent in the Private Rented Sector.

Private Rented Sector



Social Rented Sector



More information about definitions and the methodology behind the statistics can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/universal-credit-statistics>. Further bespoke breakdowns of the figures can be created through [Stat-Xplore](#).

Statistics about households on Universal Credit will next be released in September 2018.

## 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.

These 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 January 2018.

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 being introduced in stages across Great Britain by postcode area to all types of claimants. See **table 4.1** for a full list of Jobcentre Plus offices by the date they implemented Universal Credit Full Service.

## Further roll out

Universal Credit was introduced in 2013 and is now available to all types of claimants in certain areas of Great Britain. Universal Credit is being introduced in stages across Great Britain by postcode area. Information on Universal Credit rollout can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/universal-credit-transition-to-full-service>

## 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/> which also contains data on households on Universal Credit.

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>

Information on Universal Credit Sanctions can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/jobseekers-allowance-sanctions>

## Contact us

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Comments? Feedback is welcome.