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DWP STATISTICAL SUMMARY

This Statistical Summary contains statistics produced by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) on Housing Benefit / Council Tax Benefit caseload and inactive benefit early estimates.



The Housing Benefit / Council Tax Benefit caseload statistics are full National Statistics;

The working age inactive benefit early estimates are official statistics;

[See: <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/national-statistician/types-of-official-statistics>]

National Statistics for the main DWP benefits are released on quarterly basis and can be viewed at: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=statistical_summaries

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.

Key findings

Housing Benefit /Council Tax Benefit



- At January 2012, the total number of people claiming Housing Benefit was 4.98 million, with 5.90 million claiming Council Tax Benefit.
- The total number of people claiming either Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit was 6.47 million at January 2012, with 4.40 million claiming both benefits.
- At January 2012, 3.93 million Housing Benefit recipients were single, with almost two-thirds of these being female. Of the 1.71 million recipients with at least one child dependant, 1.16 million of these were single.

Further information can be viewed at:

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=hbctb> and

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/hb_ctb/index.php?page=hbctb_arc

Early estimates for inactive benefits [OFFICIAL STATISTICS]

- Official statistics show that the Employment and Support Allowance/ incapacity benefits (ESA/IB) early estimate for February 2012 is 2.550 million. As the numbers going through Incapacity Benefit reassessment start to increase, users should be aware that there may also be increased uncertainty around these early estimates. The latest National Statistic for this client group stands at 2.582 million claimants in August 2011.
- Official statistics show that the working-age Income Support lone parent (ISLP) early estimate is 580 thousand as at the end of February 2012. The latest National Statistic caseload figure for this client group stands at 595 thousand in August 2011.

Further information can be viewed at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=early_ests

If you have any comments or suggestions regarding this publication, please contact DWP via stats-consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk.

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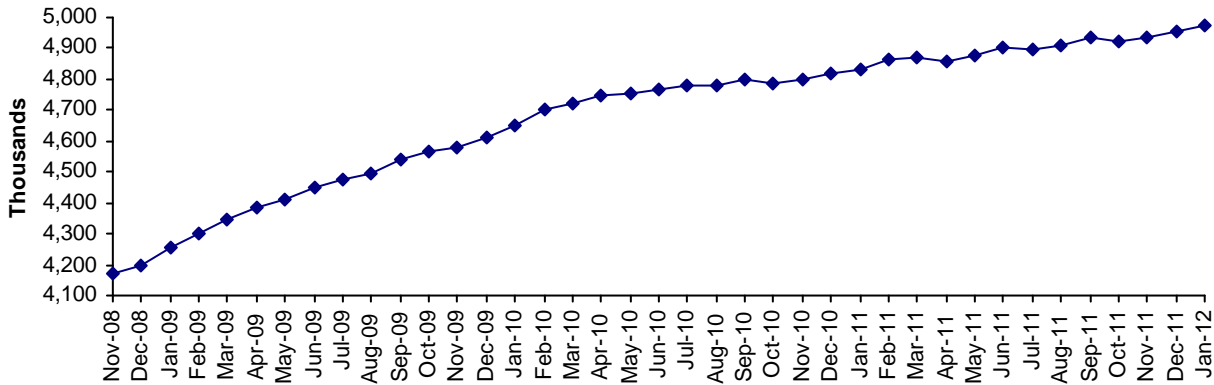
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1. National Statistics: Housing Benefit / Council Tax Benefit

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 January 2012



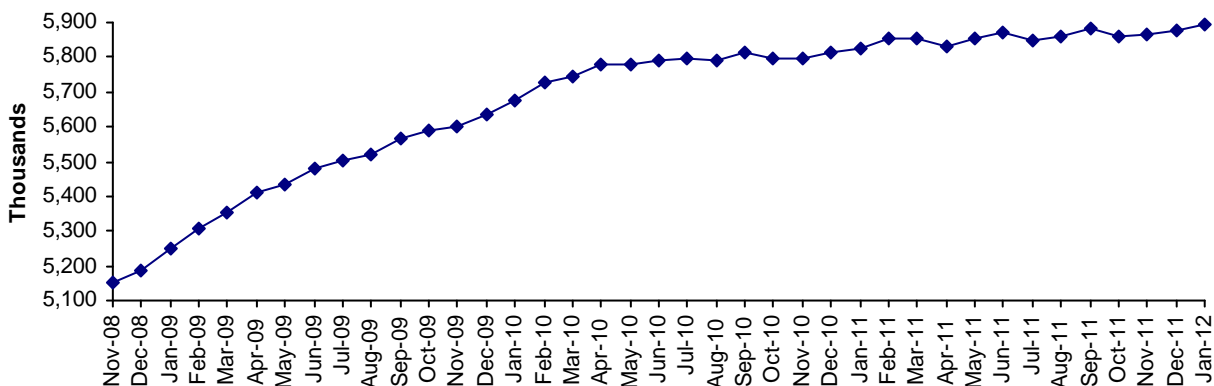
At January 2012 there were 4.98 million recipients of Housing Benefit, of whom almost three-quarters were aged under 65. The average weekly amount of Housing Benefit was £86.86.

68% of Housing Benefit recipients were tenants of Social Sector with 80% of Private Sector tenants receiving the Local Housing Allowance.

65% were also in receipt of Income Support, income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance, income-based Employment and Support Allowance or Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit).

Council Tax Benefit (CTB) was introduced on 1st April 1993 and is an income-related benefit, calculated in a similar way to Housing Benefit, which has been designed to help people on low incomes pay their Council Tax.

Council Tax Benefit Recipients: November 2008 to January 2012



At January 2012 there were 5.90 million recipients of Council Tax Benefit (figure excludes second adult rebates), of whom 3.68 million were aged under 65. The average weekly amount of Council Tax Benefit was £15.69.

66% of Council Tax 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).

Table 1.4 Housing Benefit (HB) / Council Tax Benefit (CTB) recipients^{1,2}: November 2008 – January 2012

Thousands

| | All Housing Benefit (HB) recipients | | | All Council Tax Benefit (CTB) recipients | | |
|--------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--|------------------------|-----------------|
| | Total | Tenure Type | | Total | Age Group ³ | |
| | | Social Rented Sector | Private Rented Sector | | Aged under 65 | Aged 65 or over |
| Nov-08 | 4,171.94 | 3,109.37 | 1,054.81 | 5,149.39 | 2,947.33 | 2,201.97 |
| Dec-08 | 4,200.16 | 3,114.59 | 1,081.25 | 5,188.10 | 2,986.34 | 2,201.34 |
| Jan-09 | 4,252.25 | 3,138.38 | 1,108.59 | 5,250.81 | 3,041.80 | 2,208.70 |
| Feb-09 | 4,301.79 | 3,155.98 | 1,140.04 | 5,305.98 | 3,099.97 | 2,205.48 |
| Mar-09 | 4,343.92 | 3,167.39 | 1,172.42 | 5,352.41 | 3,143.86 | 2,208.03 |
| Apr-09 | 4,382.08 | 3,174.78 | 1,202.52 | 5,408.83 | 3,196.63 | 2,211.72 |
| May-09 | 4,412.99 | 3,186.40 | 1,221.42 | 5,436.19 | 3,223.62 | 2,211.97 |
| Jun-09 | 4,450.41 | 3,198.87 | 1,246.28 | 5,479.12 | 3,262.31 | 2,216.17 |
| Jul-09 | 4,477.25 | 3,204.61 | 1,263.56 | 5,503.79 | 3,284.83 | 2,218.39 |
| Aug-09 | 4,494.56 | 3,193.05 | 1,272.64 | 5,519.39 | 3,301.37 | 2,217.09 |
| Sep-09 | 4,538.56 | 3,195.38 | 1,291.16 | 5,563.92 | 3,344.59 | 2,219.13 |
| Oct-09 | 4,568.73 | 3,203.50 | 1,310.36 | 5,588.29 | 3,366.77 | 2,221.29 |
| Nov-09 | 4,579.18 | 3,234.06 | 1,341.08 | 5,600.83 | 3,381.33 | 2,219.27 |
| Dec-09 | 4,610.73 | 3,243.61 | 1,363.97 | 5,635.24 | 3,413.07 | 2,221.95 |
| Jan-10 | 4,651.10 | 3,261.67 | 1,386.51 | 5,676.83 | 3,453.12 | 2,223.49 |
| Feb-10 | 4,700.16 | 3,283.76 | 1,413.84 | 5,727.14 | 3,502.35 | 2,224.58 |
| Mar-10 | 4,718.94 | 3,288.17 | 1,428.08 | 5,743.60 | 3,517.47 | 2,225.93 |
| Apr-10 | 4,746.32 | 3,294.90 | 1,448.70 | 5,780.20 | 3,549.78 | 2,230.23 |
| May-10 | 4,751.53 | 3,293.63 | 1,455.26 | 5,780.09 | 3,553.83 | 2,226.07 |
| Jun-10 | 4,765.73 | 3,299.64 | 1,463.49 | 5,788.76 | 3,562.14 | 2,226.43 |
| Jul-10 | 4,777.43 | 3,303.69 | 1,471.13 | 5,798.60 | 3,571.76 | 2,226.65 |
| Aug-10 | 4,776.66 | 3,300.37 | 1,473.58 | 5,791.80 | 3,567.83 | 2,223.78 |
| Sep-10 | 4,797.46 | 3,308.46 | 1,486.42 | 5,811.26 | 3,585.36 | 2,225.72 |
| Oct-10 | 4,789.49 | 3,299.63 | 1,487.33 | 5,794.77 | 3,572.29 | 2,222.30 |
| Nov-10 | 4,798.32 | 3,300.61 | 1,495.18 | 5,795.10 | 3,573.80 | 2,221.09 |
| Dec-10 | 4,817.16 | 3,303.78 | 1,510.80 | 5,812.41 | 3,590.74 | 2,221.47 |
| Jan-11 | 4,833.47 | 3,308.90 | 1,521.98 | 5,825.94 | 3,605.59 | 2,220.15 |
| Feb-11 | 4,865.40 | 3,322.56 | 1,540.14 | 5,854.11 | 3,636.24 | 2,217.67 |
| Mar-11 | 4,869.04 | 3,320.35 | 1,545.86 | 5,851.58 | 3,633.82 | 2,217.57 |
| Apr-11 | 4,856.15 | 3,312.52 | 1,540.75 | 5,828.58 | 3,619.00 | 2,209.40 |
| May-11 | 4,879.18 | 3,324.27 | 1,552.09 | 5,852.13 | 3,639.71 | 2,212.26 |
| Jun-11 | 4,901.39 | 3,335.15 | 1,563.24 | 5,868.55 | 3,655.91 | 2,212.47 |
| Jul-11 | 4,893.37 | 3,330.16 | 1,560.41 | 5,850.24 | 3,641.78 | 2,208.31 |
| Aug-11 | 4,909.51 | 3,336.79 | 1,569.73 | 5,860.15 | 3,649.83 | 2,210.16 |
| Sep-11 | 4,934.11 | 3,349.00 | 1,582.13 | 5,883.52 | 3,669.43 | 2,213.91 |
| Oct-11 | 4,921.92 | 3,340.78 | 1,578.21 | 5,860.20 | 3,649.57 | 2,210.45 |
| Nov-11 | 4,935.92 | 3,345.26 | 1,587.72 | 5,865.42 | 3,654.32 | 2,210.93 |
| Dec-11 | 4,952.26 | 3,349.15 | 1,600.08 | 5,877.40 | 3,664.95 | 2,212.28 |
| Jan-12 | 4,976.21 | 3,359.94 | 1,613.20 | 5,895.32 | 3,681.76 | 2,213.40 |

Source: Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE)

Notes:

1. Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit recipients are individual claimants who had a live in payment claim on the second Thursday in each month. Council Tax Benefit recipients exclude Second Adult Rebate cases.
2. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Components may not sum to total due to independent rounding.
3. Age groups are based on the age at count date (second Thursday in each month), of either:
 - (a) the recipient if they are single, or
 - (b) the elder of the recipient or partner if claiming as a couple.

Latest statistical data available from: <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=hbctb>

2. Official Statistics: Early Estimates for Working-Age Inactive Benefit Client Groups

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

Table 2.1: Working-age ESA/IB client group
August 2009 to February 2012

| Time Series | thousands | |
|-------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | National Statistic | Early Estimate |
| | Number of Claimants | Number of Claimants |
| Aug-09 | 2,632.74 | |
| Nov-09 | 2,618.38 | |
| Feb-10 | 2,614.76 | |
| May-10 | 2,613.10 | |
| Aug-10 | 2,606.61 | |
| Nov-10 | 2,586.42 | |
| Feb-11 | 2,578.66 | |
| May-11 | 2,570.22 | |
| Aug-11 | 2,582.18 | |
| Sept-11 | | 2,570 |
| Oct-11 | | 2,565 |
| Nov-11 | | 2,570 |
| Dec-11 | | 2,565 |
| Jan-12 | | 2,550 |
| Feb-12 | | 2,550 |

The working-age **ESA/IB** early estimate for February 2012 is **2.550 million** to the nearest 5,000. This represents a fall of 1.3 per cent since August 2011 (the latest National Statistic). As the numbers going through Incapacity Benefit reassessment start to increase, users should be aware that there may also be increased uncertainty around these early estimates.

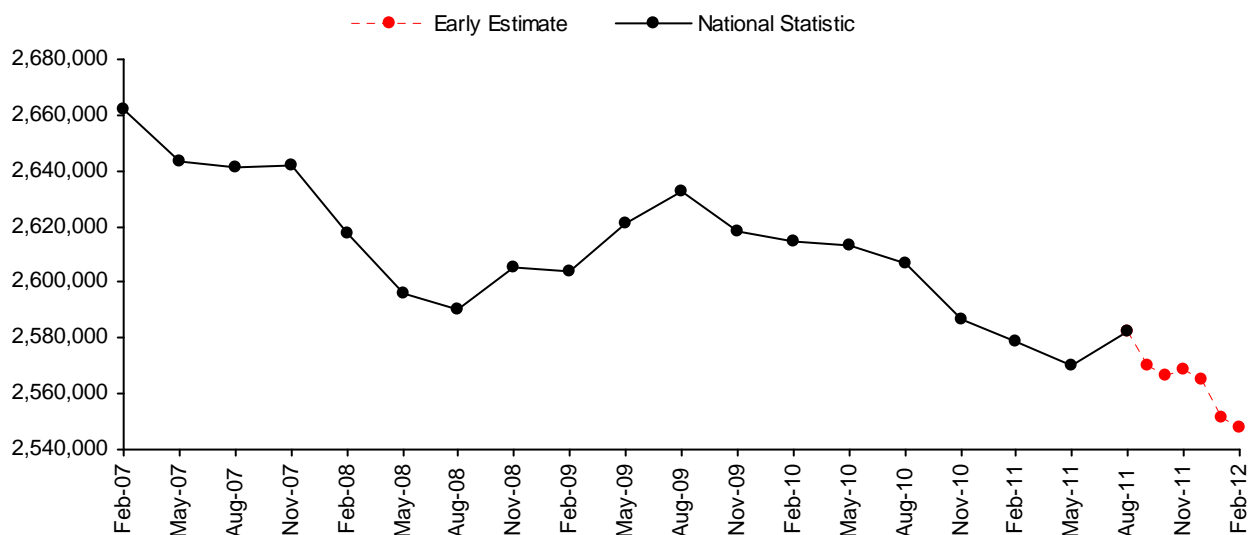
Final figures for the quarter ending November 2011 will be released on 16 May 2012. **The most recent National Statistics show 2.58 million individuals were in the ESA/IB client group at August 2011.**

See: <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool>

These 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 0.3 per cent. See notes section for more information.

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 2034 and 2036; 68 between 2044 and 2046. Please see the Welfare Reform section of the notes for further information.

Figure 2.1: National Statistics to August 2011 and early estimates of numbers in working age ESA/IB client group: September 2011 to February 2012



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, Governance 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.

2.2 Income Support lone parent (ISLP) client group

Table 2.2 ISLP client group August 2009 to February 2012

| Time Series | National Statistics | Early Estimate |
|-------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | Number of Claimants | Number of Claimants |
| Aug-09 | 715.73 | |
| Nov-09 | 695.72 | |
| Feb-10 | 692.02 | |
| May-10 | 679.15 | |
| Aug-10 | 672.35 | |
| Nov-10 | 648.30 | |
| Feb-11 | 613.78 | |
| May-11 | 595.40 | |
| Aug-11 | 595.29 | |
| Sep-11 | | 590 |
| Oct-11 | | 585 |
| Nov-11 | | 580 |
| Dec-11 | | 580 |
| Jan-12 | | 580 |
| Feb-12 | | 580 |

The working-age **ISLP** early estimate for February 2012 is **580 thousand** to the nearest 5,000. This represents a fall of 2.3 per cent since August 2011 (the latest National Statistic).

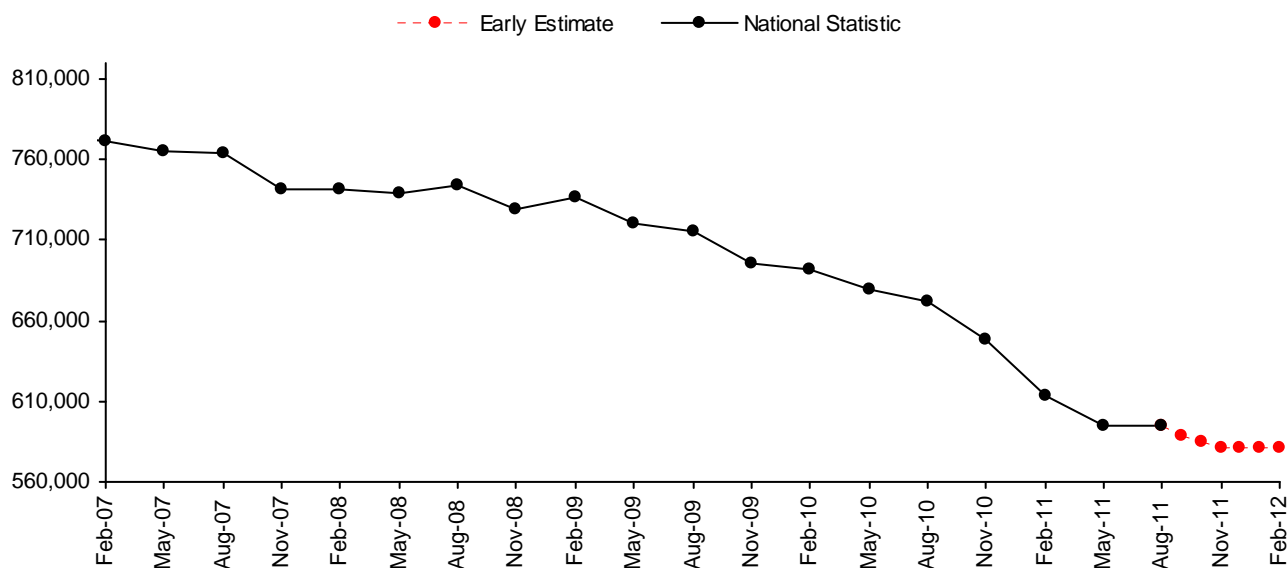
National Statistics are available for quarters up to the end of August 2011. Final figures for the quarter ending November 2011 will be released on 16 May 2012. **The most recent National Statistics show 595 thousand individuals were in the ISLP client group at August 2011.** See: <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool>

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 0.3 per cent. See the notes section for more information.

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,

Figure 2.2: National Statistics to August 2011 and early estimates of numbers in working age ISLP client group: September 2011 to February 2012



State Pension age for men and women is planned to increase to: 66 between November 2018 and October 2020; 67 between 2034 and 2036; 68 between 2044 and 2046. 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.

Notes relating to figure 2.2 and table 2.2:

- 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 21 May 2012 lone parents will only be 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, Governance 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: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=early_ests

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, JSA (Jobseeker's Allowance) sanctions and Jobcentre Plus vacancies. To provide a more complete picture of DWP responsibility, statistics on Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit (administered by Local Authorities) and the Child Support Agency are also included.

The Summary is published monthly, containing National Statistics on Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit together with Official Statistics giving early estimates of inactive benefit caseloads. Each quarter (in May, August, November and February), a larger document also contains the detail of DWP administered benefits, JSA sanctions, Jobcentre Plus vacancies 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, 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: <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool>. 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>)
- Separate detailed tables on Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit; and Claimants on out-of-work benefits
- Tables broken down by Lower Super Output Area (LSOA)
- Other tables and background information via links on the Tabulation Tool pages (e.g. links to long time series spreadsheets; descriptions of the benefit.)

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://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/stats_consultation/modstats.pdf

2. National Statistics Code of Practice

DWP complies with the National Statistics Code of Practice 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](#)
- [Ad hocs and pricing](#)

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. If you would like to receive occasional e-mails from DWP to directly inform you of documents seeking the views of users, please email general.statistics@dwp.gsi.gov.uk giving details of the DWP publications you use.

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:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/statistical_summary_questionnaire.doc

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

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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

This series has now been re-instated, with a full back series. Pension Credit information is available via a one-click table: http://83.244.183.180/100pc/pc/tabtool_pc.html.

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 0.3%, with the biggest revision being 0.63% and the smallest being 0.02%. The early estimates for ISLP have been revised by an average of 0.3%, with the biggest revision being 0.86% and the smallest being 0.10%.

As the numbers going through Incapacity Benefit reassessment start to increase, 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 effect 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:

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/early_ests/technical_document_final.pdf

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/early_ests/QandA_Early_Estimates_final.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 will only be 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). Through analysis of the affected claimants over the next quarters, it can be decided if there is a requirement to change the structure of IS LP statistics. In the meantime, 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 (http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Employment/Jobseekers/programmesandservices/DG_197781). 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:

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/pwp/index.php?page=pwp>

and

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=wp>

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 2034 and 2036; 68 between 2044 and 2046. 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://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/espa.pdf>. For general information about the change to State Pension age, please see: http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Pensionsandretirementplanning/StatePension/DG_4017919

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

On 16th April:-

- No issues, changes or revisions.

9. Notification of future changes to the Summary

On 18th May:-

- The Benefit Caseload National Statistics Tabulation Tools for IB (http://83.244.183.180/100pc/ib/tabtool_ib.html) and IB/ SDA (http://83.244.183.180/100pc/ibsda/tabtool_ibsda.html) will be updated to include statistics for August 2011 and November 2011.
- Some changes to the background information for the Jobseeker's Allowance Sanctions Tabulation Tool
- The methodology for the Pension Credit early estimates (http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/tabtools/pc_early_estimates.xls) assumes a consistent eligibility criteria. Since April 2010, the age at which people are eligible for Pension Credit has been gradually increasing (see Notes section 7). As a result of these changes, the Pension Credit estimates are no longer a good predictor of the forthcoming National Statistics. Hence, these statistics will be suspended until further notice. If you use these statistics and have opinions on how and when we should re-instate, please contact stats-consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk or the postal address in Notes section 2 above.

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

and

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://83.244.183.180/5pc/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://83.244.183.180/100pc/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://83.244.183.180/100pc/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. 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. Social Security and Child Support Appeals Tribunal (SSCSA)

The Independent Tribunal Service was introduced in 1984 to provide an independent appeals system. It was replaced by the Appeals Service (tAS) in April 2000. From 1st April 2006 the Appeals Service, was renamed as the Social Security and Child Support Appeals Tribunal (SSCSA) and became part of The Tribunals Service (an Executive agency within the Department for Justice).

Responsibility for publishing statistics on the appeals now resides with The Tribunals Service and they publish statistical information via their website <http://www.tribunals.gov.uk/>.

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 http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd2/index.php?page=fraud_error

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 <http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=irb>

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 Tabulation Tools: <http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool>;
- An A to Z list of DWP statistics: http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=statistics_a_to_z ;
- A schedule of statistical releases over the next 12 months: <http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=schedule> ;
- And a list of the most recent releases: <http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=recent> .
- 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/statistics-producers/publications/index.html?newquery=*%26source-agency=Work+and+Pensions%26pagetype=release-landing-page'

In addition, users can find links to DWP additional statistical analyses that have not been included in our standard publications at http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=adhoc_analysis.