



# First Release

15<sup>th</sup> February 2012  
IGS150212SSFEB12

Coverage: Great Britain (unless otherwise stated)

Theme: People and Places

## DWP STATISTICAL SUMMARY

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

Users were notified on 19 January that it would not be possible to publish quarterly benefit statistics as part of the February 2012 DWP Statistical Summary as planned. This was due to a technical issue within the production process. This issue has now been resolved and the quarterly benefit statistics will be published at 9:30am on 14 March 2012.

This release contains:

- The pages in the Statistical Summary document relating to Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit, Jobseeker's Allowance Sanctions and Disallowances, New Deals and Employment Zones, Vacancies held by Jobcentre Plus, Early Estimates, Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit, Child Support Agency.
- Tabulation Tools relating to New Deals and Employment Zones and Jobseeker's Allowance Sanctions and Disallowances
- Detailed tables relating to Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit
- "One-click" tables relating to New Deals

The following products will be released on 14 March:

- The pages relating to benefits (excluding HB/CTB) within the Statistical Summary document
- Updated Tabulation Tools relating to benefit caseloads and flows (including those tables based on a 5% sample)
- Updates of Nomis relating to benefit caseloads
- "One-click" tables relating to benefit caseloads (e.g. Claimants of out of work benefits, Income Support claimants by ethnicity)
- Small area benefit caseload tables (i.e. by Lower Super Output Area, Ward and Census Output Area)

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**Next publication:**

14<sup>th</sup> March 2012



All regular series are full National Statistics;

**EXCEPT:**

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

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

The latest National Statistics on employment programmes, labour market decisions and Jobcentre Plus vacancies produced by DWP were released on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2012 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority. Not all DWP National Statistics are covered by this release. Some statistics have their own first releases, but links to these are given throughout.



## Key Findings

### Housing Benefit /Council Tax Benefit

- At November 2011, the total number of people claiming Housing Benefit was 4.94 million, with 5.87 million claiming Council Tax Benefit.
- The total number of people claiming either Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit was 6.44 million at November 2011, with 4.36 million claiming both benefits.
- At November 2011, 3.90 million Housing Benefit recipients were single, with almost two-thirds of these being female. Of the 1.69 million recipients with at least one child dependant, 1.15 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](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 December 2011 is 2.565 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 2.570 million claimants in May 2011.
- Official statistics show that the working-age Income Support lone parent (ISLP) early estimate is 580 thousand as at the end of December 2011. The latest National Statistic caseload figure for this client group stands at 595 thousand in May 2011.

Further information can be viewed at:

[http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=early\\_ests](http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=early_ests)

### New Deals and Employment Zones

- This Summary marks the final release of statistics relating to legacy New Deals and the Employment Zones scheme. More detail on successor schemes can be found at section 7 of the Notes.
- 3.72 million individuals have started on a New Deal programme up to August 2010 (most up to date data for all New Deal programmes).
- Up to November 2009, some 2.29 million people have gained a job through the New Deal programme, with an additional 123 thousand people gaining a job through Employment Zones up to October 2010.

### Jobseeker's Allowance Sanctions

- New statistics show 28 thousand referrals for JSA sanctions were made and completed by the end of October where claimants failed to participate in the Work Programme. Of these, 10 thousand resulted in an adverse decision; 12 thousand received a favourable decision and 6 thousand were cancelled or reserved to be reviewed/ applied on a future benefit claim.
- New statistics show 4 thousand referrals for JSA sanctions were made and completed by the end of October where claimants failed to participate in Mandatory Work Activity. Of these, 1 thousand resulted in an adverse decision; 2 thousand received a favourable decision and 1 thousand were cancelled or reserved to be reviewed/ applied on a future benefit claim.

### Child Support Agency (CSA)

- At the end of December 2011, the total Child Support Agency (CSA) live and assessed caseload stood at 1.14 million cases, of which 71% were current scheme cases.

If you have any comments or requests regarding this publication, please contact DWP via [stats-consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:stats-consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk).

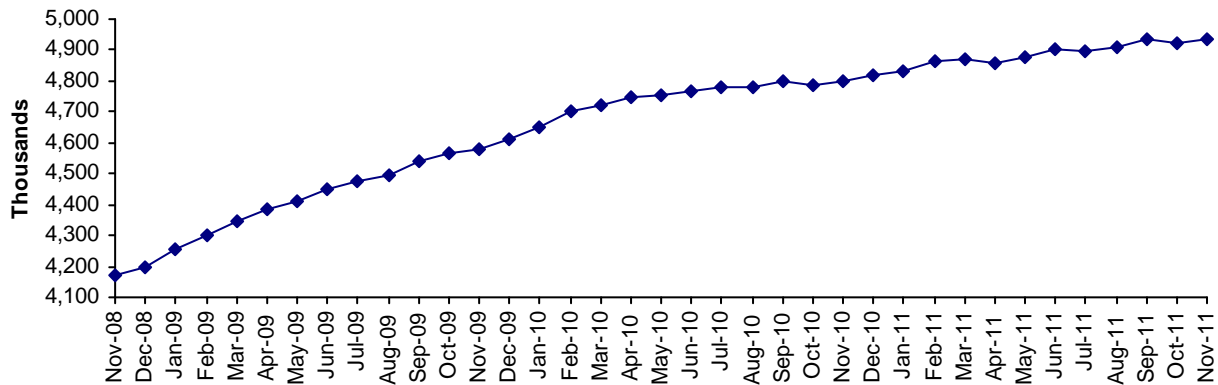


<b>Contents</b>	<i>Page</i>
<b>1. Housing Benefit / Council Tax Benefit</b>	
1.1 Housing Benefit / Council Tax Benefit	4
<b>2. Jobseeker's Allowance sanctions and disallowances</b>	
2.1 Jobseeker's Allowance sanctions and disallowances	6
<b>3. New Deals &amp; Employment Zones</b>	
3.1 New Deals & Employment Zones	7
<b>4. Vacancies handled by Jobcentre Plus</b>	
4.1 Vacancies handled by Jobcentre Plus	8
<b>5. Early Estimates for Working Age Inactive Benefit Client Group</b>	
5.1 Employment and Support Allowance / incapacity benefits (ESA/IB) client group	9
5.2 Income Support Lone Parent (ISLP) client group	10
<b>6. Disabled and Carers</b>	
6.1 National Statistics: Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit	11
<b>7. Families &amp; Children</b>	
7.1 Child Support Agency cases	12
Notes	14

## 1. 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 November 2011**



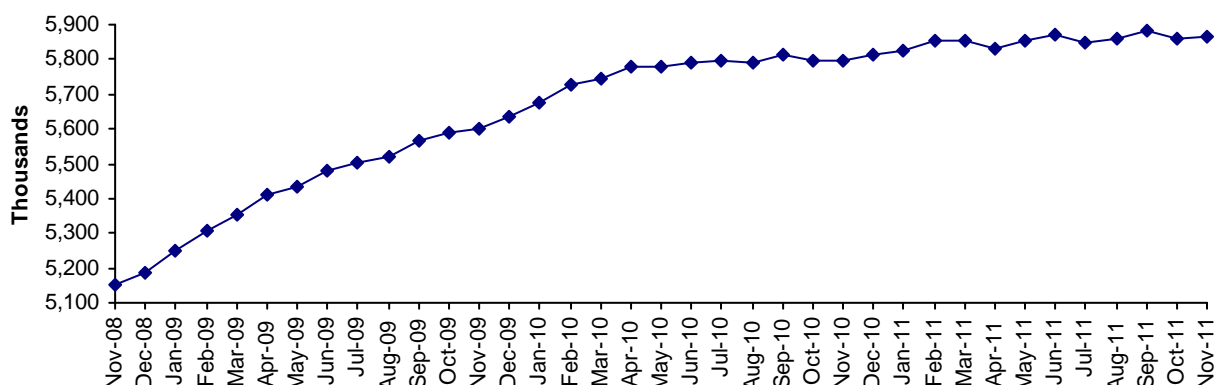
At November 2011 there were 4.94 million recipients of Housing Benefit, of whom almost three-quarters were aged under 65. The average weekly amount of Housing Benefit was £86.98.

68% of Housing Benefit recipients were tenants of Social Sector with 79% of Private Sector tenants receiving the Local Housing Allowance.

66% 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 November 2011**



At November 2011 there were 5.87 million recipients of Council Tax Benefit (figure excludes second adult rebates), of whom 3.65 million were aged under 65. The average weekly amount of Council Tax Benefit was £15.70.

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 1.1 Housing Benefit (HB) / Council Tax Benefit (CTB) recipients<sup>1,2</sup>: November 2008 – November 2011**

	All Housing Benefit (HB) recipients			All Council Tax Benefit (CTB) recipients		
	Total	Tenure Type		Total	Age Group <sup>3</sup>	
		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

Source: Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE)

**Notes:**

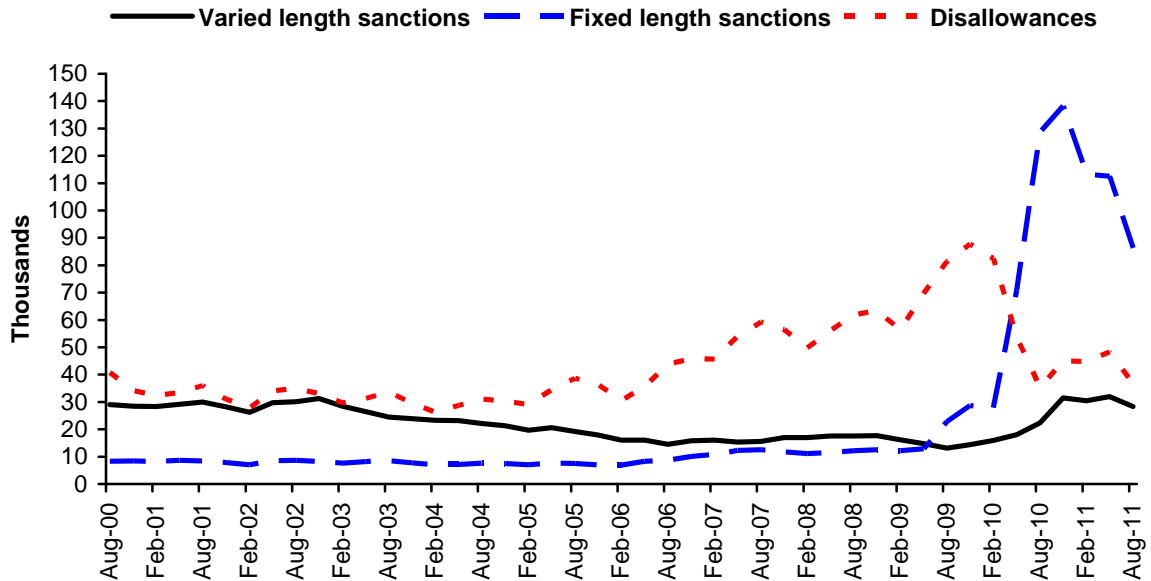
1. Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit recipients are individual claimants who had a live in payment claim on the second Thursday in each month. Council Tax Benefit recipients exclude Second Adult Rebate cases.
2. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Components may not sum to total due 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. Jobseeker's Allowance sanctions and disallowances

A JSA claimant can have their claim sanctioned (payment is temporarily suspended) or disallowed (entitlement ends) if they are deemed not to have just cause for failing to fulfil the conditions of their claim. Sanctions can be 'Varied length' or 'Fixed length' and last between 1 and 26 weeks in duration. Disallowances result in the claim ending.

**Adverse decisions for JSA Labour Market questions for Sanctions and Disallowances per quarter: August 2000 to August 2011**



In the quarter ending August 2011 there were 293 thousand referrals for JSA sanctions and disallowance decisions. 265 thousand decisions were made; of which 151 thousand were adverse (i.e. a sanction or disallowance was applied).

New statistics show 28 thousand referrals for JSA sanctions were made and completed by the end of October where claimants failed to participate in the Work Programme. Of these, 10 thousand resulted in an adverse decision; 12 thousand received a favourable decision and 6 thousand were cancelled or reserved to be reviewed/applied on a future benefit claim.

New statistics show 4 thousand referrals for JSA sanctions were made and completed by the end of October where claimants failed to participate in Mandatory Work Activity. Of these, 1 thousand resulted in an adverse decision; 2 thousand received a favourable decision and 1 thousand were cancelled or reserved to be reviewed/applied on a future benefit claim.

*Please Note: This summary includes data on decisions made for sanction referrals only, not opinions.*

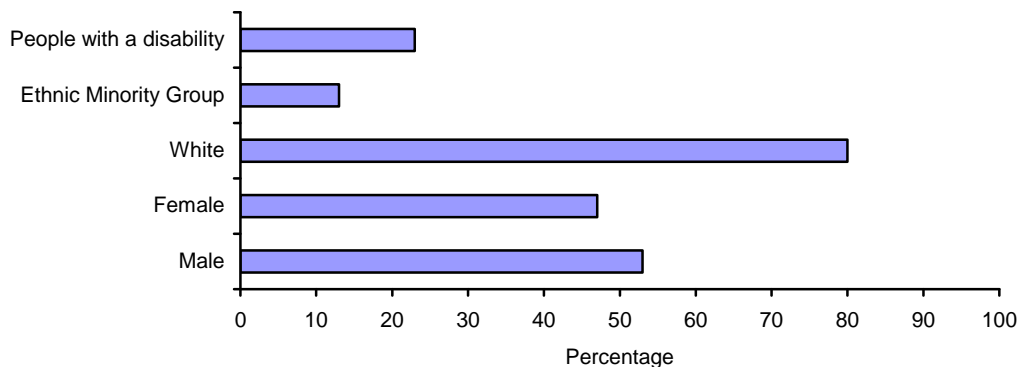
Latest statistical data available from: <http://83.244.183.180/sanction/sanction/LIVE/tabtool.html>

### 3. New Deals & Employment Zones

New Deal for Young People was established in 1998 aimed at people aged 18 to 24 unemployed for at least 6 months. Since then a range of other mandatory and voluntary New Deal programmes have been established aimed at specific client groups. Since Flexible New Deal (FND) was introduced in October 2009 there have been no new starts on existing JSA employment programmes in FND areas. Flexible New Deal has now ceased. Statistics on the Flexible New Deal can be found in previous issues of this publication.

Referrals to the new employment programme "Work Programme" began from June 2011. 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. Hence, this is the final release of this statistical series. See section 7 of the Notes section for more details.

People Starting a New Deal, Cumulative to August 2010



3.72 million individuals have started on a New Deal programme up to August 2010 (most up to date data for all New Deal programmes).

Up to November 2009, some 2.29 million people have gained a job through the New Deal programme, with an additional 123 thousand people gaining a job through Employment Zones up to October 2010.

Table 3.1 Summary of New Deal and Employment Zones

	New Deal for:						Employment Zones
	Young People	25+	Lone Parents	Disabled People <sup>3</sup>	50+ <sup>4,6</sup>	Partners <sup>5</sup>	
<i>latest data</i> <sup>1</sup>							
People Starting <sup>2</sup>	1,570.51	894.08	1,118.81	372.39	118.24	24.02	256.94
Currently Participating	58.40	43.27	100.75	..	10.98	5.72	7.86
People gaining a Job	935.63	378.31	748.40	240.44	207.38	10.05	126.44

1. Latest data relates to end of August 2010 for people starting NDYP and ND25+, March 2011 for people starting NDLP & NDDP, to May 2011 for people starting NDP and to August 2011 for people starting ND50+. For current participants of NDLP, latest data relates to end of June 2011 and for ND50+ and NDP, latest data relates to the end of August 2011. For those people gaining a job through NDYP and ND25+, latest data relates to end of November 2009. For those people gaining a job through NDLP and NDDP, latest data relates to end of June 2011 and for those people gaining a job through ND50+ and NDP, latest data relates to end of August 2011. Latest Employment Zone data for people starting, currently participating and gaining a job is from August 2011.

2. The sum of people starting and gaining a job for each separate New Deal will not equal the number of people starting and gaining a job through the New Deal as a whole (as indicated above) because some people will start and gain a job through more than one New Deal programme.

3. Statistics relating to current participants from NDDP have been withdrawn for quality reasons.

4. Starts for ND50+ are from January 2004 onwards. The jobs figures for ND50+ also include 98,040 individuals who had received Employment Credit up to March 2003.

5. Starts for NDP also include 7,820 individuals from starts up to March 2004 and jobs for NDP also include a further 1,860 jobs from up to March 2004.

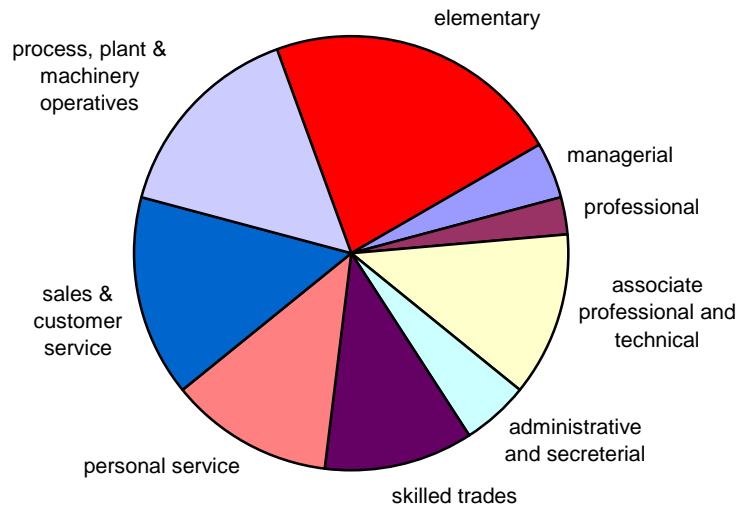
6. For reporting purposes we are still counting starts to the in-work training grant as an ND50plus start in FND phase one areas for the period from April 2009, although the ND50plus programme has officially ended in these areas. We estimate there are 2,400 such starts up to the end of December 2010.



#### 4. Vacancies handled by Jobcentre Plus

As the public employment service for Great Britain, Jobcentre Plus handle a significant share of all vacancies advertised by employers, albeit that vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus do not represent the total number of vacancies in the whole economy.

Vacancies notified by occupation: January 2011 to December 2011



On average, 330 thousand vacancies a month were notified to Jobcentre Plus between January 2011 and December 2011. Most commonly these are for elementary occupations (22%) and sales/customer services or process, plant and machinery operatives (both 15%). 13% of notified vacancies are in the North West region compared to 10% in London, 5% in Wales and 7% in Scotland.

As at December 2011, the number of unfilled vacancies available to jobseekers was 269 thousand.

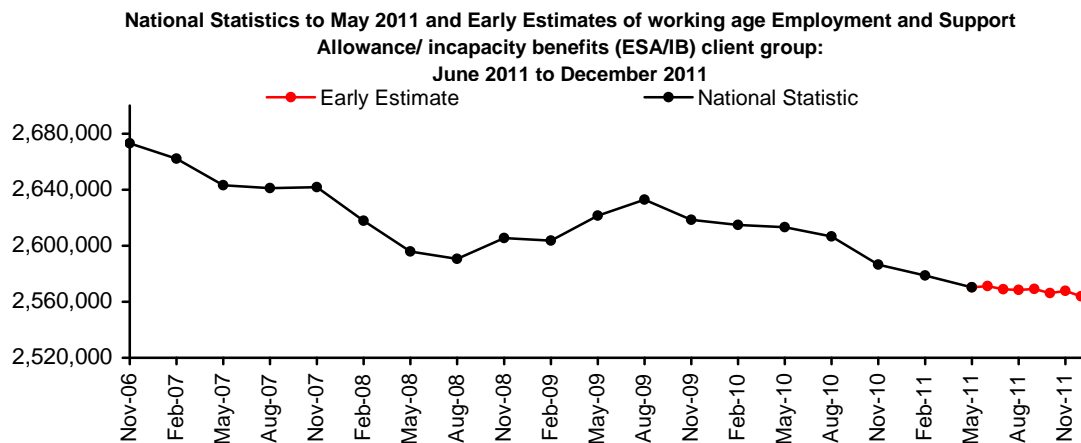
Latest statistical data available from: <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk>



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

### 5.1 Official Statistics: Employment and Support Allowance / incapacity benefits (ESA/IB) client group

The early estimates for working age inactive benefit client groups are released monthly and are designed to give indicative, timely information ahead of the publication of full National Statistics. They are not a substitute for the National Statistics and will be replaced when the final quarterly National Statistics covering the same period are published.



The working-age Employment and Support Allowance and incapacity benefits (ESA/IB) early estimate for December 2011 is 2.565 million to the nearest 5,000. This indicates a decrease since May 2011 (the latest National Statistic).

National Statistics are available for quarters up to the end of May 2011. Final figures for the quarter ending August 2011 will be released on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2012. The most recent National Statistics show 2.57 million individuals were in the ESA/IB client group at May 2011. The figures are estimates of the final National Statistic, to give an indication of their accuracy, over the past year the early estimates have been revised by an average of 0.2%. See 'Notes' for more information.

**Table 5.1 Point estimate for the Early Estimates of numbers in working age ESA/IB client group: June 2011 to December 2011**

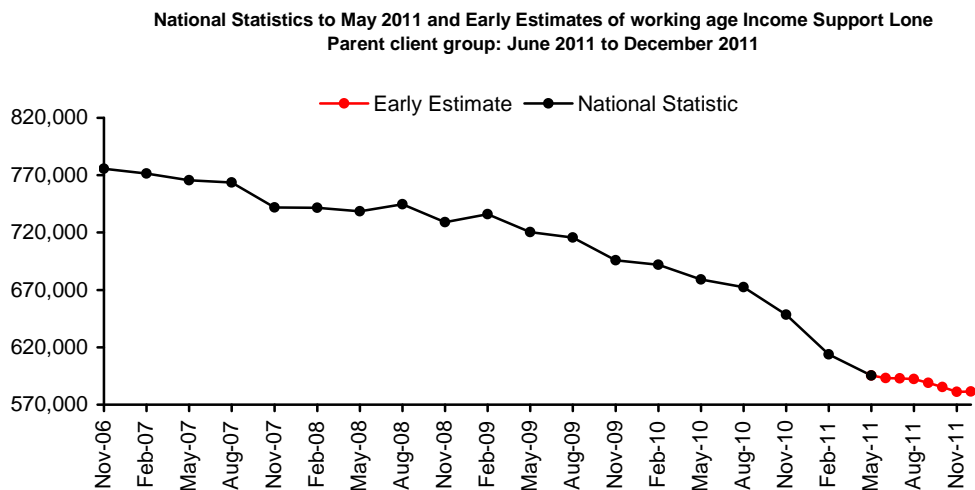
	<i>Thousands</i>	
	National Statistics Number of Claimants	Early Estimate Number of Claimants
Aug-09	2,632.74	
Nov-09	2,618.38	
Feb-10	2,614.76	
May-10	2,613.10	
Aug-10	2,606.61	
Nov-10	2,586.42	
Feb-11	2,578.66	
May-11	2,570.23	
Jun-11		2,570
Jul-11		2,570
Aug-11		2,570
Sep-11		2,570
Oct-11		2,565
Nov-11		2,570
Dec-11		2,565

**Notes:**

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

## 5.2 Official Statistics: Income Support Lone Parent (ISLP) client group

The early estimates for working age inactive benefit client groups are released monthly and are designed to give indicative, timely information ahead of the publication of full National Statistics. They are not a substitute for the National Statistics and will be replaced when the final quarterly National Statistics covering the same period are published.



The working-age Income Support Lone Parent (ISLP) early estimate for December 2011 is 580 thousand to the nearest 5,000. This represents a fall of 2.3% since May 2011 (the latest full National Statistic figure). National Statistics are available for quarters up to the end of May 2011. Final figures for the quarter ending August 2011 will be released on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2012. The most recent National Statistics show 595 thousand individuals were in the ISLP client group at May 2011. The figures are estimates of the final National Statistic, to give an indication of their accuracy, over the past year the early estimates have been revised by an average of 0.2%. See 'Notes' for more information.

**Table 5.2 Point estimate for the Early Estimates of numbers in working age ISLP client group June 2011 to December 2011**

	<i>Thousands</i>	
	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	
Jun-11		595
Jul-11		595
Aug-11		590
Sep-11		590
Oct-11		585
Nov-11		580
Dec-11		580

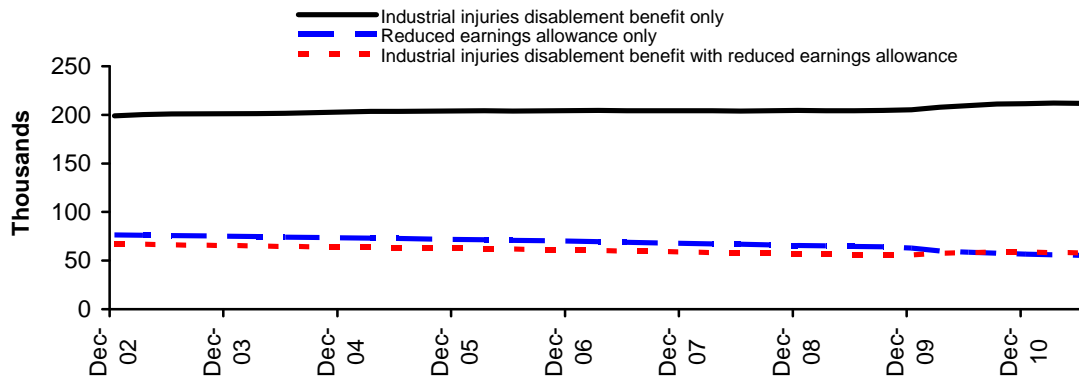
**Notes:** From 24th November 2008 lone parent obligations (LPOs) were introduced and lone parents with a youngest child aged 12 or over were no longer able to make a new or repeat claim for Income Support (IS) solely on the basis of their parental status. Existing IS LPs with a youngest child aged 12 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. Subject to the passage of the Welfare Reform Bill, lone parents will be eligible to claim Income Support until their youngest child is five years old.

Latest statistical data available from: [http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=early\\_ests](http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=early_ests)

## 6. National Statistics: Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit

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

**Industrial injuries disablement benefit and reduced earnings allowance in payment  
by type of assessments payable:  
December 2002 - June 2011**



There were 325 thousand people claiming under the Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit scheme in June 2011, of whom 65% received Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit only, 17% received Reduced Earnings Allowance only, and 18% received both. The number of people claiming benefit was broadly the same as in June 2010. The average weekly payment was £49.65.

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

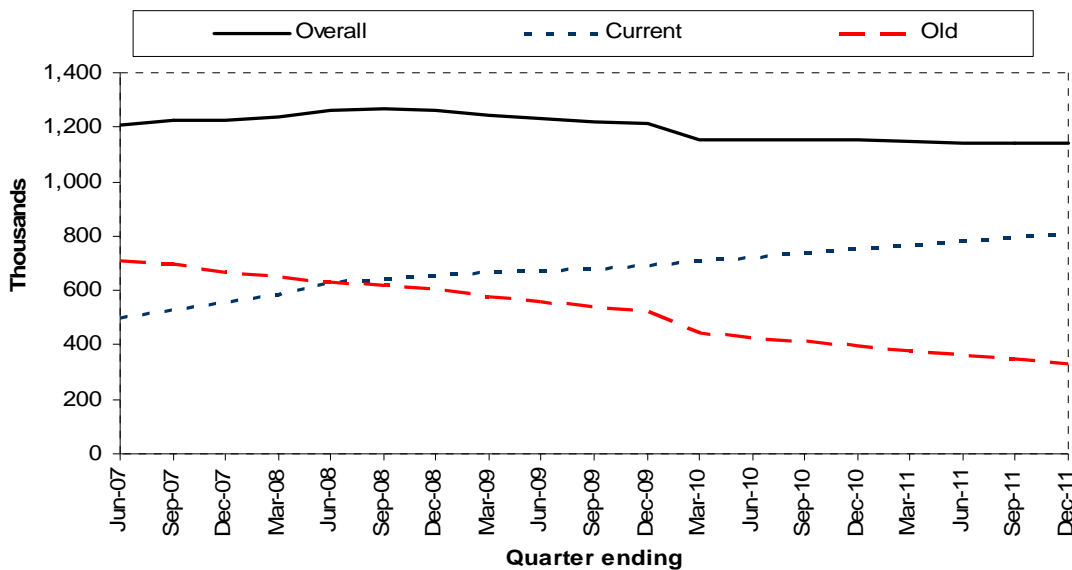
## 7. National Statistics: Child Support Agency cases

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (CMEC), established as a non-departmental public body under the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008, is responsible for the child maintenance system in Great Britain. The Commission assumed responsibility for the Child Support Agency (CSA) from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) on 1 November 2008.

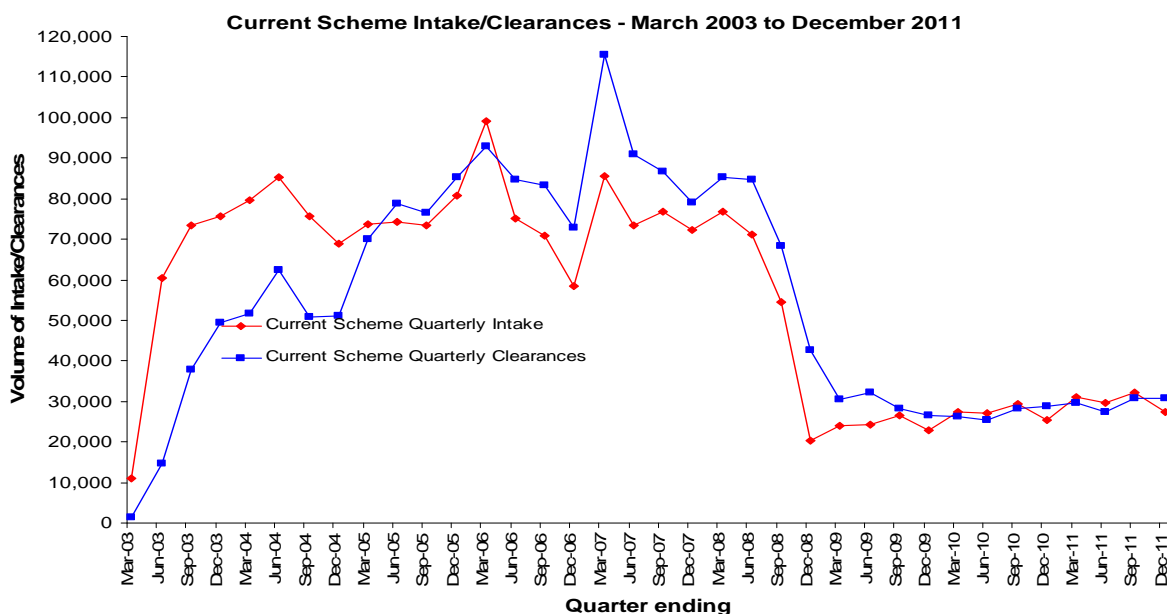
On 14 October 2010 the Government announced as part of the Public Bodies Reform that the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission would become an executive agency of DWP.

These statistics, produced by the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission in conjunction with the DWP Information, Governance and Security Directorate, contain the most up-to-date tables and breakdowns on the CSA's two existing statutory child maintenance schemes. The CSA statistics presented here were released on 25 January 2012.

### Overall Caseload by Scheme

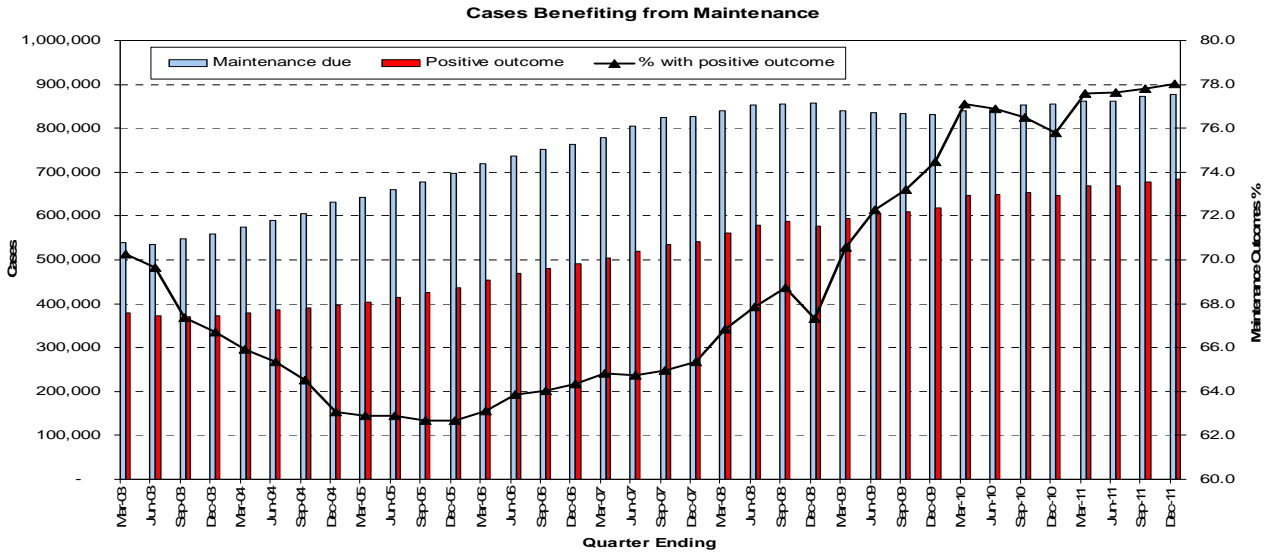


At the end of December 2011, the CSA live and assessed caseload stood at 1.14 million.





The volume of uncleared current scheme applications decreased by 3,700 since September 2011, and is currently at 13,300. This represents a decrease of 21.8% since September 2011.



In the quarter ending December 2011, 78% of all cases in which maintenance was due had either received maintenance via the CSA collection service, or had a maintenance direct arrangement in place.

Latest statistical data available from: <http://www.childmaintenance.org/en/publications/index.html>



## 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, some employment programmes and 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, some employment programmes, 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 and employment programmes the Tabulation Tool provides the user with an interactive tool to select one of thousands of possible tabulations. This is available for caseloads and on/off flows at: <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
- Separate numbers regarding [Flexible New Deal](#)
- 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](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/assessment-reports/index.html>

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



Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

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

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

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

Stuart Grant  
 Information, Governance and Security Directorate  
 Department for Work and Pensions  
 Room BP5201  
 Benton Park Road  
 Longbenton  
 NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE  
 NE98 1YX

### 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](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 0.2%, with the biggest revision being 0.49% and the smallest being 0.10%. The early estimates for ISLP have been revised by an average of 0.2%, with the biggest revision being 0.49% 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 affect the accuracy of the methodology. DWP plan to review the methodology each month to ensure that the estimates are as good as possible.

More detailed information can be accessed via the following links:

[http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/early\\_ests/technical\\_document\\_final.pdf](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](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. Subject to the passage of the Welfare Reform Bill, lone parents will be eligible to claim Income Support until their youngest child is five years old.

Most effected 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 effected 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](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. From December 2018, the State Pension age for both men and women will start to increase to reach 66 in October 2020. 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](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Pensionsandretirementplanning/StatePension/DG_4017919)

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

Users were notified on 19 January that it would not be possible to publish quarterly benefit statistics as part of the February 2012 DWP Statistical Summary as planned. This was due to a technical issue within the production process. This issue has now been resolved and the quarterly benefit statistics will be published at 9:30am on 14 March 2012.

As previously stated, the following products have been released on 15 February:

- The pages in the Statistical Summary document relating to Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit, Jobseeker's Allowance Sanctions and Disallowances, New Deals and Employment Zones, Vacancies held by Jobcentre Plus, Early Estimates, Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit, Child Support Agency.
- Tabulation Tools relating to New Deals and Employment Zones and Jobseeker's Allowance Sanctions and Disallowances
- Detailed tables relating to Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit
- "One-click" tables relating to New Deals

Also:

- Final legacy employment programme statistics are released. See: Annex E for details.
- The February release of National Statistics on JSA sanctions will include the following new sets of adjudication reasons for the period to October 2011: Work Programme, Mandatory Work Activity, Work Experience, Skills Conditionality, Sector Based Work Academies and New Enterprise Allowance. National Statistics on JSA referrals and subsequent sanctions for these new adjudication reasons will be available for the first time as separate reasons in the February 2012 Release.
- Corrections have been made to the Jobcentre Plus district breakdown in the New Deal for Disabled People Tabulation Tool
- Resolution to a few minor problems selecting "subset" tables using the Tabulation Tool

Official Statistics on referrals and attachments to the Work Programme will be published on 21 February 2012 via the Tabulation Tool. The following breakdowns will be available on those referred to the Work Programme and attached by a provider: age, gender, disability indicator, ethnicity, primary health condition (for ESA customers), lone parent status (for JSA and IS claimants), payment group, contract and contract package area. Geography breakdowns will also be available by region, Local Authority, Parliamentary Constituency and Jobcentre Plus district. Statistics on job outcomes and sustainment payments will be released from autumn 2012. More details will be announced at: <http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=wp>.

## 9. Notification of future changes to the Summary

On 14th March 2012, the remainder of the Quarterly Statistical Summary will be produced:

- The pages relating to benefits (excluding HB/CTB) within the Statistical Summary document
- Updated Tabulation Tools relating to benefit caseloads and flows (including those tables based on a 5% sample)
- Updates of Nomis relating to benefit caseloads
- "One-click" tables relating to benefit caseloads (e.g. Claimants of out of work benefits, Income Support claimants by ethnicity)
- Small area benefit caseload tables (i.e. by Lower Super Output Area, Ward and Census Output Area)



## 10. Northern Ireland Statistics

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

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

and

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

Currently, the Northern Ireland statistics use extracts from the benefit systems very similar to those used to create the 5% sample numbers for Great Britain (although the Northern Ireland sample size is usually greater than 5%). The directly equivalent GB numbers can be found at: <http://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](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](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](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](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=\\*%&source=agency=Work+and+Pensions&pagetype=release-landing-page](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/statistics-producers/publications/index.html?newquery=*%&source=agency=Work+and+Pensions&pagetype=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](http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=adhoc_analysis).