

Duration of Employment and Support Allowance, Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance Claims

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Background

Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), Incapacity Benefit (IB) and Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA) are benefits for people who have limited capability for work. IB and SDA have usually been analysed together in the past and are commonly referred to together as IBSDA. ESA was introduced for new claims on 27 October 2008, replacing Incapacity Benefit, Income Support paid because of an illness or disability and Severe Disablement Allowance. ESA and IBSDA statistics are now commonly analysed together within DWP, in order to provide consistent time series analysis of caseloads and durations.

Further information on these benefits is available at:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/FinancialSupport/esa/DG_171894
http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/FinancialSupport/IncapacityBenefit/DG_10016082
http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/MoneyTaxAndBenefits/BenefitsTaxCreditsAndOtherSupport/Disabledpeople/DG_10018894

DWP publishes a range of statistical information on ESA and IBSDA claimants at <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool>, including information on the length of time claimants have been receiving the benefit. This analysis builds on the information in the above link by combining the benefits and breaking down the analysis of those with durations over 5 years into two groups: those with durations of 5 to 10 years and those with durations of 10 years and more.

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ESA, IB and SDA customers by claim duration, May 2010

Duration	Caseload (Working Age)	Caseload (All)
0 to 3 months	158,000	158,000
3 to 6 months	119,000	119,000
6 months to 1 year	164,000	165,000
1 to 2 years	233,000	234,000
2 to 5 years	499,000	500,000
5 to 10 years	580,000	583,000
10 years plus	859,000	895,000
All	2,613,000	2,654,000

SOURCE: DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Notes:

1) Data is rounded to the nearest 1000. Some additional disclosure controls have also been applied

2) STATE PENSION AGE: The age at which women reach State Pension age will gradually increase from 60 to 65 between April 2010 and April 2020. 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. Figures from May 2010 onwards reflect this change. For more information see <http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/espa.pdf>