

Lone Parent claimants of Jobseekers Allowance – Duration of JSA claim by Local Authority

Administrative Data Release

October 2011

Background

Jobseekers Allowance

Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) was introduced on 7 October 1996. It replaced Unemployment Benefit and Income Support for unemployed people and brought them together in a unified benefit with two routes of entry. It can be claimed by people who are available for and actively seeking employment, including those in remunerative work for less than 16 hours a week on average, and by people on a government training scheme.

More information on JSA is available on the DirectGov website at: http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/MoneyTaxAndBenefits/BenefitsTaxCreditsAndOtherSupport/Employedorlookingforwork/DG_10018757

Lone parent benefit claimants

From 24th 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. Although these Lone Parents will not be automatically transferred to JSA, many are expected to make a claim for JSA.

More information on this policy change is available on the DirectGov website at: http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/MoneyTaxAndBenefits/BenefitsTaxCreditsAndOtherSupport/On_a_low_income/DG_175842

Publication

The Department regularly publishes official statistics on the number of lone parents in receipt of JSA. This includes statistics on the number of claimants each month by age of youngest child; gender; age; ethnic group and region. The latest statistics (data to July 2011) can be found at the link below:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/jsa/lone_parents/index.php?page=jsalp

This analysis provides a breakdown of the local authority of residence of lone parents claiming JSA in July 2011 broken down by duration of JSA claim and gender.

Methodology

Source Data

The statistics presented in this publication are based upon ONS Claimant Count data and HMRC Child Benefit data. Lone parents are identified by considering whether a JSA claimant has their marital status recorded as "single"; "widowed"; "divorced" or "separated", and whether they have an open Child Benefit claim for at least one child aged under 16.

Rounding

All volumes are rounded to the nearest five and “-” indicates a nil or negligible value. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Results

At July 2011, there were 121,950 JSA Lone Parent claimants, of which:

- 69,595 had been claiming JSA for less than 6 months;
- 34,985 had been claiming JSA for 6 to 12 months;
- 16,470 had been claiming JSA for 12 to 24 months;
- 900 had been claiming JSA for over 24 months.

The table within the accompanying spreadsheet breaks these figures down by local authority area.

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