DWP STATISTICAL SUMMARY

This Statistical Summary aims to give users a structured overview of Official Statistics published by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). Statistics are grouped by component area of DWP and, for each statistic; links are given for users to access more detailed information.

The working age inactive benefit early estimates are official statistics; [See: http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/national-statistic/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.

These statistics were released on 18th March 2015 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

Key Statistics:

Early estimates:

- At the end of January 2015, the working age Income Support lone parents (ISLP) early estimate was 450 thousand.

- The Employment and Support Allowance / incapacity benefits (ESA/IB) early estimate for January 2015 is 2.520 million. Of these, approximately 92.4% were in receipt of benefit payments from Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance or Income Support/ Pension Credit. The remaining 7.6% percent received National Insurance credits only.

If you have any comments or requests regarding this publication, please contact DWP via stats-consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk, or join the “Welfare and Benefit Statistics” community at www.statsusernet.org.uk.
1. Early Estimates for Working Age Inactive Benefit Client Group

1.1 Employment and Support Allowance / incapacity benefits (ESA/IB) client group 3
1.2 Income Support Lone Parent (ISLP) client group 5

Notes 7
1. Early Estimates for Working Age Inactive Benefit Client Group

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Series</th>
<th>National Statistic</th>
<th>Early Estimate</th>
<th>National Insurance Credits only (percentage)</th>
<th>Early Estimate</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>7.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan-15</td>
<td>2,520</td>
<td>Jan-15</td>
<td></td>
<td>7.6%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

The working-age ESA/IB early estimate for January 2015 is 2.520 million to the nearest 5,000. This represents an increase of 0.5 per cent since August 2014 (the latest National Statistic). As the Incapacity Benefit reassessment continues, users should be aware that there may be increased uncertainty around these early estimates.

In January 2015 approximately 92.4% were in receipt of benefit payments from Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Income Support, Pension Credit. The remaining 7.6% percent received National Insurance credits only (i.e. no payment of IB, SDA, ESA, IS or PC). A noticeable rise in the proportion of claimants receiving National Insurance credits was seen in May 2012. This is due to the introduction of a 365 day limit on receipt of contribution based ESA for those in the Work Related Activity Group on 1 May 2012.

These figures are estimates of the final National Statistic, to give an indication of their accuracy, over the past year the early estimates in Table 1.1 have been revised by an average of 0.5 per cent. See notes section for more information. Further details on the accuracy of the early estimates in Table 1.2 can also be found there.
The age at which men and women reach State Pension age is gradually increasing. Under current legislation, State Pension age for women will equalise with State Pension age for men at 65 in 2018. Both men’s and women’s State Pension age will increase from 65 to 66 between December 2018 and October 2020. The Pensions Bill 2013-14 contains provision for a State Pension age of 67 to be reached by 2028. Please see the Welfare Reform section of the notes for further information.

**Figure 1.1:** National Statistics to August 2014 and early estimates of numbers in working age ESA/IB client group: September 2014 to January 2015

Notes relating to Figure 1.1 and Table 1.1

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.

Source data: DWP Information Exploitation and Security: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

**Figure 1.2:** National Statistics to August 2014 and Early estimates of the proportion of working age inactive benefit claimants in the ESA/IB client group claiming NI credits only: September 2014 to January 2015

Notes relating to Figure 1.2 and Table 1.2

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. On 1 May 2012, a 365 day limit on the receipt of contribution based ESA for those in the Work Related Activity Group was introduced.

3. The red dotted line in the chart above emphasises that the figures are estimates and official statistics.

Source data: DWP Information Exploitation and Security: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study
1.2 Income Support lone parent (ISLP) client group

Table 1.3 ISLP client group February 2010 to January 2015

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<th>Time Series</th>
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<th>Early Estimate</th>
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<td>May-10</td>
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<td>Aug-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov-10</td>
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<tr>
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<td>May-11</td>
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<td>Nov-11</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Aug-12</td>
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<td>May-13</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan-15</td>
<td>450</td>
<td></td>
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The working-age ISLP early estimate for January 2015 is 450 thousand to the nearest 5,000. This represents a fall of 4.1 per cent since August 2014 (the latest National Statistic).

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 new figures published here 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 men and women reach State Pension age is gradually increasing. Under current legislation, State Pension age for women will equalise with State Pension age for men at 65 in 2018. Both men’s and women’s State Pension age will increase from 65 to 66 between December 2018 and October 2020. The Pensions Bill 2013-14 contains provision for a State Pension age of 67 to be reached by 2028. 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 1.3 and Table 1.3:

1. 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 May 2012 lone parents are only eligible to claim Income Support until their youngest child is five years old.

2. The red dotted line in the chart above emphasises that the figures are estimates and official statistics.

Source data: DWP Information Exploitation and Security Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

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 and JSA (Jobseeker’s Allowance) and ESA (Employment and Support Allowance) sanction decisions. To provide a more complete picture of DWP responsibility, statistics on Housing Benefit and the Child Support Agency are also included.

The Summary is published monthly, containing Official Statistics giving early estimates of inactive benefit caseloads. Each quarter (in May, August, November and February), the Summary is a larger document containing the detail of DWP administered benefits, Housing Benefit, JSA and ESA Sanction Decisions, Universal Credit 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: https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/series/dwp-statistics-tabulation-tool. 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)
- Stat-Xplore – Stat-Xplore provides a guided way to explore DWP benefit statistics. Using Stat-Xplore you can: create customised tabulations; view results in interactive charts; share outputs via social networking tools; or download into common file formats. The tool contains data on Housing Benefit claimants, JSA and ESA sanction decisions, overseas nationals registering for a National Insurance Number (NINo) and Personal Independence Payment (PIP) and Benefit Cap (https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/). In the future Stat-Xplore will include data on a wider set of DWP benefits.
- Separate detailed tables on Claimants on out-of-work benefits (via the Working Age Client Group Tabulation Tool, use first “Useful Resources and Sites” link)
- Tables broken down by Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) and Census Output Area (COA).
- Other tables and background information via links on the Tabulation Tool pages (e.g. links to long time series spreadsheets; descriptions of the benefit.)


2. National Statistics Code of Practice

DWP complies with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics 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

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.

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: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/205190/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:
Dissemination Team
Information Exploitation and Security Directorate
Department for Work and Pensions
Room BP5201
Benton Park Road
Longbenton
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
NE98 1YX

Users can also join the “Welfare and Benefit Statistics” community at: http://www.statsusernet.org.uk.

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
5. Flows on and off benefit

The flows Tabulation Tools show a full back series for on-flow and off-flow. Pension Credit information is available via a one-click table: http://83.244.183.180/100pc/pc/tabtool_pc.html. User guidance on the flows series can be found at: http://83.244.183.180/flows/flows_on/Guidance%20for%20Users.pdf

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 publishes 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 period August 2013 to August 2014 the early estimates for ESA/IB have been revised by an average of 0.5%, with the biggest revision being 1.07% and the smallest being 0.07%. The early estimates for ISLP have been revised by an average of 0.3%, with the biggest revision being 0.54% and the smallest being 0.03%.

During the re-assessment of Incapacity Benefit claimants for Employment and Support Allowance, 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:

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 have been 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). The IS LP series will continue to be defined as ‘single IS claimants with a child under 16’.

978-1-78425-371-4 9
Referrals to the new employment programme “Work Programme” began from June 2011 (https://www.gov.uk/moving-from-benefits-to-work/job-search-programmes). In the run up to that launch, a new package of Get Britain Working support measures was 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: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pre-work-programme-support and https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/series/work-programme-statistics--2

The age at which men and women reach State Pension age is gradually increasing. Under current legislation, State Pension age for women will equalise with State Pension age for men at 65 in 2018. Both men’s and women’s State Pension age will increase from 65 to 66 between December 2018 and October 2020. The Pensions Bill 2013-14 contains provision for a State Pension age of 67 to be reached by 2028. 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: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/207966/espa.pdf. For general information about the change to State Pension age, please see: https://www.gov.uk/browse/working/state-pension.

Universal Credit is a new benefit which aims to reduce poverty, by making work pay, and to help claimants and their families to become more independent. It also aims to simplify the benefits system by providing a single payment based upon the circumstances of the household. Support for housing costs, children and childcare costs are integrated in the new benefit. It also provides additions for disabled people and carers. The following benefits will be abolished 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

Universal Credit, which is available in a number of areas across England, Scotland and Wales, completed its roll out to the whole of the North West of England on 15th December 2014. From 30th June 2014 Universal Credit expanded to include new claims from couples and from 24th November 2014 to new claims from families. Universal Credit continued its roll out to all Jobcentre Plus offices and local authorities across the country on 16th February 2015. Statistics relating to Universal Credit can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/universal-credit-statistics

A new three tier sanctions regime was introduced and came into force in October 2012 for JSA and December 2012 for ESA which seeks to broadly align the JSA & ESA sanctions regimes with the model to be introduced under UC. In the new regime the consequences of failure will be clearer for claimants. The new system will be more robust, particularly for claimants who repeatedly fail to meet their most important responsibilities. Sanctions will also be applied more quickly – specifically by the next payment date. Statistics relating to JSA and ESA Sanctions can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/jobseekers-allowance-sanctions

From 8 April 2013, the government introduced a new benefit called Personal Independence Payment to replace Disability Living Allowance for eligible working age people aged 16 to 64. Further information on statistics relating to PIP can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/personal-independence-payment-statistics

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

No known issues.
9. Notification of future changes to the Summary

The following changes are planned for future releases:

- Based on further assessment, we now intend to change the ‘Age of Youngest Child Dependant’ groupings within Income Support, Jobseeker’s Allowance and the Working Age Client Group 100% tabulation tools (see earlier DWP Summary editions for more information on suggested breakdowns). Further implementation updates will be provided here, once available.

If you have any comments or questions about either of these changes then, please email stats-consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk.

Consultations

Universal Jobmatch

- Results are available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-jobcentre-plus-vacancies-statistics

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:


11. Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service

Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service was created on 1 April 2011. It brings together Her Majesty's Courts Service and the Tribunals Service into one integrated agency providing support for the administration of justice in courts and tribunals.

Responsibility for publishing statistics on the appeals now resides with Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service and they publish statistical information via their website http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/hmcts.

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 https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/series/fraud-and-error-in-the-benefit-system.

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 https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/series/income-related-benefits-estimates-of-take-up--2.

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 DWP statistics: https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/about/statistics;
- A schedule of statistical releases over the next 12 months: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?keywords=&publication_filter_option=statistics&topics[]=all&departments[]=department-for-work-pensions&world_locations[]=all;
- And a list of the most recent releases: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?keywords=&publication_filter_option=statistics&topics[]=all&departments[]=department-for-work-pensions&world_locations[]=all.
- In addition, users can find links to DWP additional statistical analyses that have not been included in our standard publications at https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/ad-hoc-statistical-publications-list.