

# Quarterly Benefits Summary - Great Britain statistics to November 2015

This release aims to give users a structured overview of National Statistics on DWP administered benefits and sanctions, together with early estimates of inactive benefit caseload statistics. To provide a more complete picture of DWP responsibility, statistics on Housing Benefit (administered by Local Authorities), Universal Credit and Child Support are also included.

## Main findings (at November 2015 unless otherwise stated) Yearly Trend

<b>Jobseeker's Allowance*</b> 581 thousand claimants	↓	down 181 thousand since November 2014
<b>Employment and Support Allowance / Incapacity Benefits (ESA/IB)</b> 2.50 million claimants (of which 2.36 million on ESA)	↓	down 21 thousand since November 2014
<b>Income Support (IS)</b> 694 thousand claimants (of which 425 thousand IS lone parents)	↓	down 91 thousand since November 2014
<b>State Pension (SP)</b> 12.97 million claimants	↓	down 12 thousand since November 2014
<b>Pension Credit (PC)</b> 2.04 million claimants (2.44 million including partners)	↓	down 176 thousand since November 2014
<b>Housing Benefit (HB) at February 2016</b> 4.73 million claimants	↓	down 154 thousand since February 2015
<b>Carer's Allowance (CA)</b> 769 thousand claimants (further 410 thousand people entitled)	↑	up 63 thousand since November 2014
<b>Attendance Allowance (AA)</b> 1.47 million claimants	↓	down 9 thousand since November 2014
<b>Disability Living Allowance (DLA)</b> 2.97 million claimants	↓	down 211 thousand since November 2014
<b>Personal Independence Payment (PIP)**</b> 639 thousand claimants	↑	Up 402 thousand since November 2014
<b>Universal Credit (UC)</b> 248 thousand people on UC (of which 98 thousand were in employment)		at April 2016
<b>Decisions to apply an ESA sanction</b> 77 thousand new regime sanction decisions		To December 2015
<b>Decisions to apply an JSA sanction</b> 1.93 million new regime sanction decisions		To December 2015



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\*The preferred source of JSA figures is the Office for National Statistics (ONS) [claimant count measure](#) which from May 2013 includes Universal Credit.

\*\*The latest available PIP data is at January 2016 when there were 692 thousand claims in payment. November 2015 is provided in this publication for comparative purposes.

# Introduction

This release contains the latest Department for Work and Pensions National and Official Statistics.

## In this document

DWP has traditionally administered benefits to a range of claimants who may, or may not have more than one interaction with the department. These benefits include Attendance Allowance, Bereavement Benefit, Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Housing Benefit, Income Support, Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance, Jobseeker's Allowance, Maternity Allowance, Pension Credit, State Pension, Personal Independence Payments and Widow's Benefit. As well as providing users with an overview of individual benefit statistics, this release attempts to provide a summary of out of work working age and pensionable age client groups and statistical group breakdowns such as Jobseekers, Employment and Support Allowance/incapacity benefits, Lone Parents, and Other income related benefits.

The statistics are released quarterly in February, May, August and November and are primarily sourced from data originally collected via administrative systems. All regular series are full National Statistics **except** working age inactive benefit early estimates, Personal Independence Payments and sanctions (which are official statistics) and Universal Credit statistics (which are experimental). Further information is available [here](#).

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 18<sup>th</sup> May 16 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 release, but links to these are given throughout.

The UK 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.

## Future Releases

The next release will be on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2016. This will contain benefits data to February 2016. For more details see our [background information note](#).

## Supplementary statistics

National benefit data (from 100% sources) underlying the charts and figures featured in this summary are available via our internet-based [100% tabulation tool](#).

The 100% tabulation tool includes further breakdowns by age, gender, duration of benefit, ethnicity and lower level geography e.g. region, local authority, parliamentary constituency.

Statistics on Housing Benefit claimants/weekly amounts, Personal Independence Payments, JSA/ESA sanction decisions and Universal Credit are now available via [Stat-Xplore](#), an interactive way for users to create their own statistical tables and related breakdowns.

If you need a more detailed breakdown for a particular benefit (for example the type of JSA in payment) you may need to use our [5% sample data](#) which has more detail but less comprehensive coverage.

**However, 100% data should always be used in preference to 5% estimates** (where available), as they are more accurate and form DWP's headline statistics.

Statistics are also released via the NOMIS website and lower geographical statistics are available via the Neighbourhood Statistics [website](#).

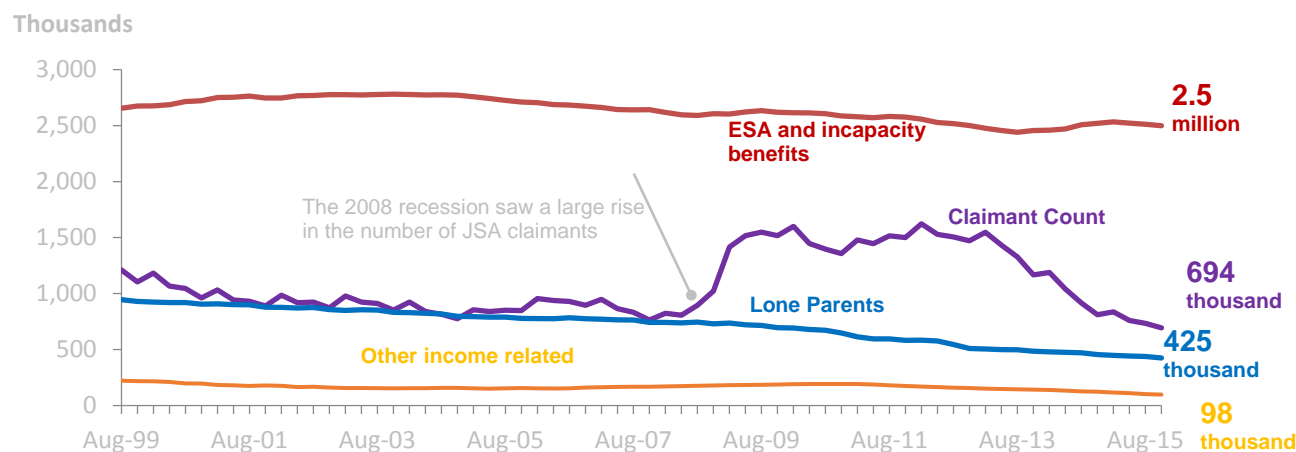
## 1.1 Experimental Statistics - Working age client group

Combines data collected for DWP working age benefits\* and the [ONS Experimental Claimant Count](#) for the first time in this release. The Claimant Count is the headline indicator of the number of people claiming benefits principally for the reason of being unemployed. From May 2013 the Claimant Count includes people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance plus those who claim Universal Credit who are out of work. The information in this section focuses on claimants of out of work benefits excluding carers (as carers are not generally subject to labour market activation policies). While most people claiming these benefits will be out of work a small number will be in employment. See [about these statistics](#) for further information.

The client group data does not include Personal Independence Payment.

### Main out of work benefits continue to follow their most recent trends

Working age claimants by statistical group between August 1999 and November 2015



\*Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), Incapacity Benefit, Employment and Support Allowance, Severe Disablement Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Carer's Allowance, Widow's Benefit, Bereavement Allowance and Income Support for working age claimants (including Pension Credit for males under State Pension age).

### Main Messages

**The Claimant Count and Lone Parent group are decreasing over time (the Claimant Count at a much faster rate). The ESA and incapacity benefits client group has continued to rise slightly over the past year.**

Between August 1999 and May 2008, the Claimant Count in Great Britain fell from 1.21 million to 807 thousand. However, it rose to over 1.60 million at February 2010. Since then, numbers remained broadly steady until a fall to under 1 million at August 2014.

In the last year the Claimant Count fell 118 thousand to **694 thousand in November 2015**.

**The number of claimants in the Lone Parent client group fell from 945 thousand to 425 thousand between August 1999 and November 2015.**

The number of working age claimants of **Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and incapacity benefits totals 2.5 million at November 2015**. This shows a decrease of 21 thousand since last year.

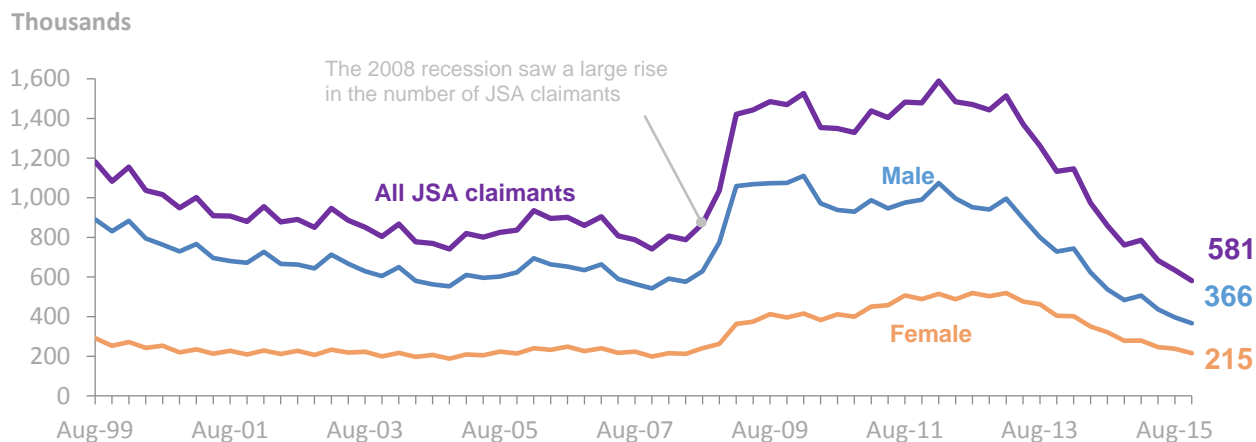
The [Tabulation Tool](#) Client group data does not include Universal Credit.

## 1.2 National Statistics – Jobseekers Allowance

Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) was introduced on 7th October 1996 and has both contributory and income-related elements. It is paid to people under state pension age who are available for and actively seeking work. Universal Credit was introduced in April 2013 and will abolish income-based Jobseeker's Allowance as it is rolled out.

### The number of people on Jobseeker's Allowance is decreasing. Males account for almost two thirds of all Jobseeker's Allowance claims

Jobseeker's Allowance claimants by Gender: August 1999 to November 2015



### Main Messages

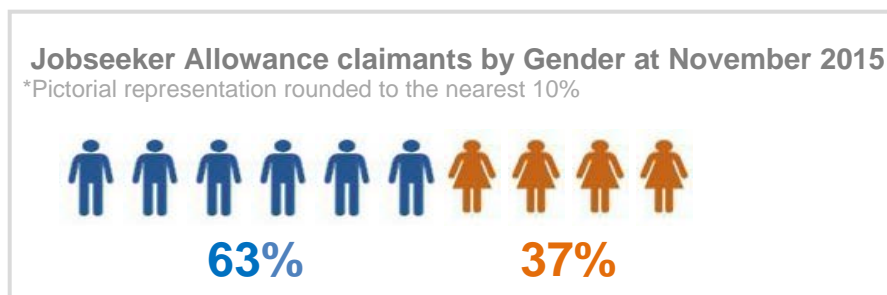
The DWP figures show the **total number of Jobseeker's Allowance claimants at November 2015 was 581 thousand. Female claimants represented 37% of the total number of JSA claimants (215 thousand), while males represented 63% (366 thousand).**

**The total number of JSA claimants has decreased by 181 thousand since November 2014, with men decreasing by 118 thousand and women decreasing by 63 thousand.**

See [Tabulation](#) for full supporting JSA data.

The preferred source of JSA figures is the Office for National Statistics (ONS) [claimant count measure](#) which from May 2013 includes Universal Credit.

DWP produce a separate set of Jobseeker's Allowance figures to enable cross-benefit analysis and supply a wider range of breakdowns, and these are provided in this release.



## 1.3 National Statistics – Employment and Support Allowance and incapacity benefits

From October 2008, Employment & Support Allowance (ESA) replaced Incapacity Benefit (IB) and Income Support (IS) paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims. Incapacity benefits consist of Incapacity Benefit (introduced on 13th April 1995 and paid to people who are incapable of work and who have paid sufficient contributions throughout their working life) and Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA). This section includes a small number of claimants over State Pension age; therefore figures may differ to those in section 1.1 which refers to working age claimants only.

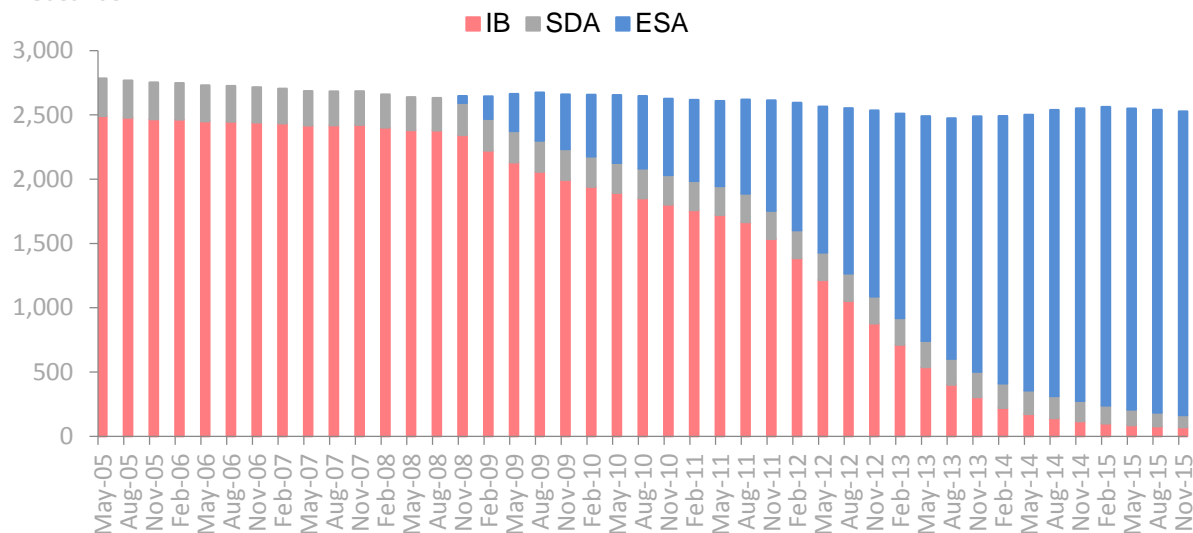
Between October 2010 and spring 2014 most claimants who received IB, SDA and IS paid on the grounds of illness or disability were assessed to see if they qualified for ESA. If they qualified for ESA their IB, SDA or IS claim was converted into an ESA claim. For claimants who were previously in receipt of IB or SDA, their benefit was converted to contributory ESA; if they were previously in receipt of IS their benefit was converted to income-related ESA. In the same way as with IB, contributory ESA can be paid with an income-related top up and a transitional addition if appropriate. The government has limited the period for which contribution-based ESA can be paid in some circumstances. These changes came into effect on 1 May 2012. Claimants who have already received 365 days of contribution-based ESA saw their entitlement end on 30 April 2012.

Universal Credit was introduced in April 2013 and will abolish income-related Employment and Support Allowance as it is rolled out.

### The number of people on ESA is rising, as the number on Incapacity Benefit falls

Employment and Support Allowance/Incapacity benefits claimants since May 2005

Employment and Support Allowance and Incapacity Benefit caseload proportions  
Thousands



### Main Messages

**At November 2015, there were 2.50 million claimants of Employment and Support Allowance and incapacity benefits** (Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance), a decrease of 21 thousand on a year earlier. 53% of claimants were men and 47% women. The male caseload has decreased by 26 thousand and the female caseload has increased by 5 thousand in the year to November 2015. See [Tabulation](#) for full supporting data.

In November 2015, approximately **92.6%** were in receipt of benefit payments from Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Income Support, Pension Credit. **The remaining 7.4% received National Insurance credits only** (i.e. no payment of IB, SDA, ESA, IS or PC). This compares to 5.8% receiving no benefit payments in February 2012. This change is because the government has limited the period for which contribution-based ESA can be paid in some circumstances (see information above). Additional breakdowns can be seen in Table 1.3a.

**Table 1.3a: Employment and Support Allowance and incapacity benefits claimants aged under State Pension age: 2000 - 2015**

	<i>Thousands</i>														
	Claiming ESA, IB or SDA					Claiming ESA				Claiming IB				Claiming SDA	
	<b>Total</b>	Receiving contributory based benefit or SDA only (2)	Receiving contributory based benefit or SDA, with income based benefit (2)	Receiving income based benefit (2)	National Insurance credits only (2)	Receiving contributory based benefit only (3)	Receiving contributory and income based benefit (3)	Receiving income based benefit (3)	National Insurance credits only (3)	Receiving contributory based benefit only (3)	Receiving contributory and income based benefit (3)	Receiving income based benefit (3)	National Insurance credits only (3)	Receiving SDA only	Receiving SDA and IS/PC
May-00	2,686.31	1,365.48	534.29	677.69	108.85	..	..	..	..	1,267.49	297.24	677.69	108.85	97.99	237.05
May-01	2,753.66	1,351.79	561.70	725.55	114.62	..	..	..	..	1,257.57	322.32	725.55	114.62	94.21	239.38
May-02	2,765.73	1,333.96	550.15	759.42	122.19	..	..	..	..	1,253.33	335.48	759.42	122.19	80.63	214.67
May-03	2,773.61	1,306.80	548.32	790.78	127.71	..	..	..	..	1,233.83	341.96	790.78	127.71	72.97	206.36
May-04	2,772.85	1,301.01	517.19	815.58	139.08	..	..	..	..	1,233.71	319.95	815.58	139.08	67.30	197.25
May-05	2,741.65	1,275.63	492.38	832.12	141.52	..	..	..	..	1,212.88	304.00	832.12	141.52	62.76	188.38
May-06	2,688.13	1,237.69	471.42	839.10	139.92	..	..	..	..	1,179.62	291.17	839.10	139.92	58.08	180.25
May-07	2,643.29	1,193.65	457.06	855.29	137.29	..	..	..	..	1,141.34	283.61	855.29	137.29	52.32	173.44
May-08	2,595.83	1,151.25	442.02	866.41	136.15	..	..	..	..	1,103.33	275.94	866.41	136.15	47.92	166.07
May-09	2,621.43	1,133.55	431.20	918.94	137.74	113.04	12.52	125.06	37.32	976.39	259.36	793.88	100.42	44.13	159.32
Aug-09	2,632.74	1,121.56	429.81	933.33	148.04	138.64	18.13	162.96	54.07	939.68	253.95	770.37	93.97	43.24	157.73
Nov-09	2,618.38	1,105.35	427.59	937.54	147.89	156.35	22.66	188.10	57.88	906.60	248.85	749.44	90.02	42.39	156.08
Feb-10	2,614.76	1,095.48	426.45	943.94	148.88	175.46	27.69	212.61	62.79	878.49	244.34	731.33	86.09	41.53	154.42
May-10	2,613.10	1,083.39	426.22	953.79	149.70	188.81	33.15	239.11	65.26	853.74	240.09	714.68	84.44	40.83	152.98
Aug-10	2,606.61	1,071.09	425.44	962.21	147.85	198.65	37.02	262.15	65.56	832.21	236.44	700.06	82.29	40.24	151.99
Nov-10	2,586.42	1,049.71	420.94	965.23	150.55	200.77	39.65	282.73	70.12	809.25	230.75	682.49	80.43	39.69	150.55
Feb-11	2,578.66	1,032.83	417.34	983.44	145.06	205.80	42.31	316.34	66.31	787.87	225.90	667.10	78.75	39.16	149.13
May-11	2,570.22	1,019.79	413.35	993.75	143.33	212.07	45.36	339.13	64.94	768.87	220.50	654.62	78.39	38.86	147.49
Aug-11	2,582.18	1,014.90	410.71	1,013.81	142.76	233.53	51.45	381.76	64.52	742.66	213.24	632.06	78.24	38.70	146.02
Nov-11	2,575.60	1,004.37	406.63	1,023.96	140.64	278.83	64.32	453.07	60.94	686.77	198.02	570.89	79.70	38.78	144.29
Feb-12	2,557.68	984.20	401.45	1,023.18	148.86	322.10	76.18	522.52	69.78	623.26	182.62	500.66	79.08	38.84	142.64
May-12	2,528.14	872.04	375.94	1,096.73	183.44	284.48	70.10	670.19	108.62	549.06	164.88	426.54	74.81	38.50	140.95
Aug-12	2,517.07	855.90	375.14	1,106.90	179.11	339.41	88.96	752.19	104.86	478.13	146.77	354.71	74.25	38.36	139.41
Nov-12	2,499.96	823.03	374.96	1,117.30	184.84	393.52	115.64	821.54	116.12	391.30	121.65	295.59	68.71	38.21	137.68
Feb-13	2,475.67	786.22	372.40	1,126.54	190.51	437.02	137.40	893.10	122.53	311.18	99.10	233.44	67.98	38.01	135.90
May-13	2,456.47	731.34	367.05	1,166.81	191.27	465.05	155.06	998.04	128.28	228.37	77.81	168.78	62.98	37.92	134.18
Aug-13	2,440.80	688.72	360.13	1,206.39	185.55	488.64	170.83	1,085.12	125.49	162.26	57.20	121.28	60.06	37.82	132.10
Nov-13	2,456.36	649.99	357.88	1,259.58	188.92	501.69	188.75	1,163.86	131.71	111.30	39.59	95.71	57.20	37.00	129.54
Feb-14	2,459.30	619.30	353.34	1,293.32	193.35	514.83	205.78	1,220.22	138.12	69.21	23.37	73.11	55.23	35.25	124.19
May-14	2,470.21	585.58	354.46	1,335.36	194.80	505.92	220.02	1,275.87	142.59	46.02	15.47	59.49	52.22	33.64	118.97
Aug-14	2,508.08	572.35	357.20	1,380.77	197.76	508.96	236.85	1,332.24	147.23	31.85	9.80	48.53	50.53	31.53	110.55
Nov-14	2,520.27	554.88	364.49	1,404.03	196.87	505.03	256.22	1,363.65	148.41	21.96	6.22	40.38	48.46	27.89	102.05
Feb-15	2,533.22	544.03	369.39	1,426.03	193.77	505.20	277.48	1,392.60	146.73	15.32	4.06	33.43	47.04	23.51	87.86
May-15	2,521.16	528.11	375.73	1,426.24	191.08	497.78	298.00	1,398.59	145.74	11.07	2.44	27.65	45.34	19.26	75.29
Aug-15	2,512.09	518.08	381.74	1,423.01	189.25	492.72	316.13	1,400.00	145.36	8.59	1.81	23.01	43.90	16.76	63.80
Nov-15	2,498.79	504.91	390.52	1,418.32	185.04	484.45	334.57	1,398.96	142.67	6.40	1.35	19.36	42.37	14.06	54.60

1. Claimants include those beneficiaries plus, those receiving National Insurance Credits and no monetary payment (many credits-only claimants of Incapacity Benefit (IB) or Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA) will also receive Income Support (IS)/ Pension Credit (PC)).

2. This table focuses on the following out-of-work benefits: Incapacity Benefit (IB), Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA), Income Support (IS) and Employment and Support Allowance (ESA). Claimants are classified as follows:

- ESA (Contributory), SDA or IB/SDA payments, without IS/PC = "Receiving contributory based benefit or SDA only"
- ESA (Contributory and Income based); or SDA or IB/SDA payments, with IS/PC = "Receiving contributory based benefit or SDA, with income based benefit"
- ESA (Income Based) or IB/SDA credits only with IS/PC = "Receiving income based benefit"
- ESA (Credits only) or IB/SDA credits only without IS/PC = "National Insurance credits only"

3. This table focuses on the following out-of-work benefits: Incapacity Benefit (IB), Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA), Income Support (IS) and Employment and Support Allowance (ESA). Claimants are classified as follows:

- ESA (Contributory), or IB/SDA payments, without IS/PC = "Receiving contributory based benefit only"
- ESA (Contributory and Income Based) or IB/SDA payments with IS/PC = "Receiving contributory and income based benefit"
- ESA (Income Based) or IB/SDA credits only with IS/PC = "Receiving income based benefit"
- ESA (Credits only) or IB/SDA credits only without IS/PC = "National Insurance credits only"

4. Some claimants (including those receiving "National Insurance credits only") are receiving payments from other benefits; such as Housing Benefit or Disability Living Allowance.

5. This table includes claimants under State Pension age. 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. 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.

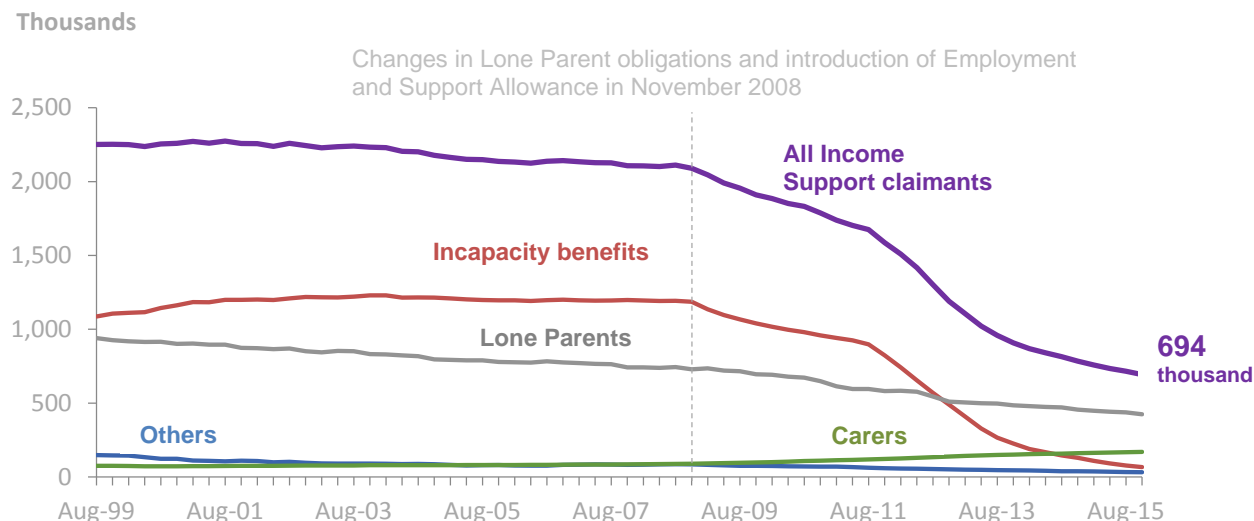


## 1.4 National Statistics – Income Support

Income Support (IS) was introduced on 11th April 1988 and is an income-related benefit that can be claimed by adults under state pension age that work fewer than 16 hours a week and have insufficient income to meet their needs. Prior to the introduction of Pension Credit in October 2003, IS was available to people aged 60 and over. From 27th October 2008, Employment & Support Allowance (ESA) replaced Incapacity Benefit and Income Support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims. 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 are eligible to claim Income Support until their youngest child is five years old. Universal Credit was introduced in April 2013 and will abolish Income Support as it is rolled out.

### The number of people on Income Support continues to decrease, largely due to the decrease in those claiming incapacity benefits

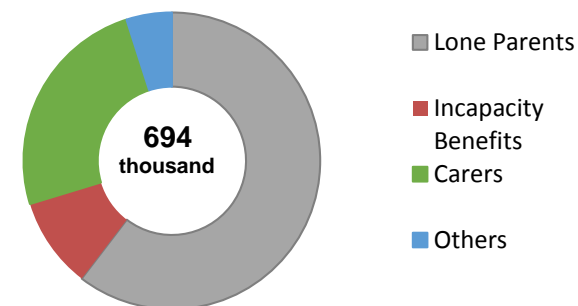
Income support claimants by statistical group: August 1999 to November 2015



### Main Messages

**At November 2015, the total number of Income Support claimants was 694 thousand. Lone Parents (all single claimants with dependants under 16, excluding claimants of incapacity benefits) represented 61% of the IS caseload (425 thousand). Claimants of incapacity benefits represented 10% of the IS caseload (67 thousand), while Carers and Others represented 29% of the caseload (170 thousand and 32 thousand respectively).**

Income Support claimants at November 2015



See [Tabulation](#) for full Lone Parent by Age data.

Pension Credit (PC) replaced Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG) in Income Support on 6 October 2003. MIG claimants have been excluded from this data prior to November 2003.

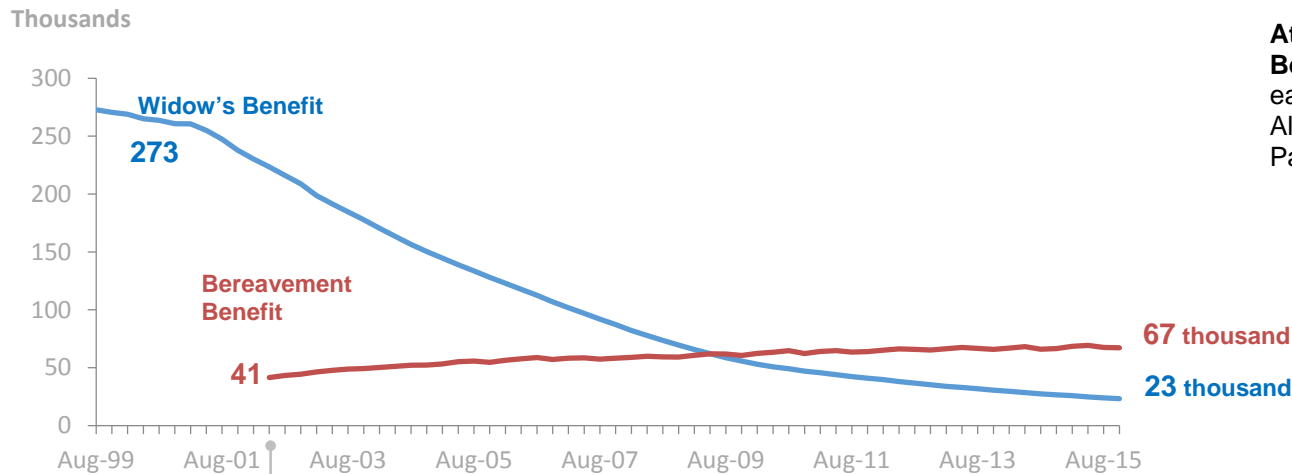
## 1.5 National Statistics – Widow’s Benefit and Bereavement Benefit

Widow’s Benefit (WB) was introduced on 6th July 1948 and is payable to women widowed between 11th April 1988 and 8th April 2001 inclusive. There are three types of WB: Widow’s Payment, Widowed Mother’s Allowance and Widow’s Pension. Women widowed before 11th April 1988 continue to receive Widow’s Benefit based on the rules that existed before that date.

Bereavement Benefit (BB) was introduced on 9th April 2001 as a replacement for Widow’s Benefit. It is payable to both men and women widowed on or after 9th April 2001. There are three types of BB: Bereavement Payment, Widowed Parent’s Allowance and Bereavement Allowance.

### The number of people on Widow’s Benefit continues to fall as those on Bereavement Benefit has gradually risen

Widow’s Benefit and Bereavement Allowance claimants: August 1999 to November 2015



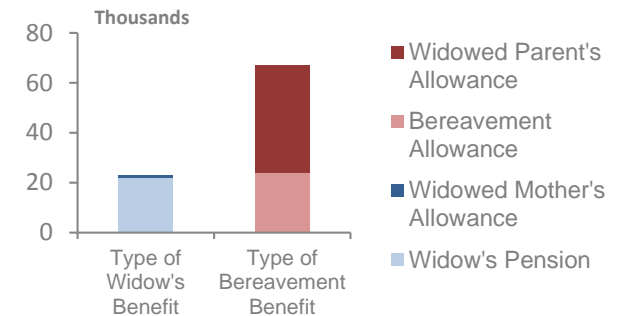
Bereavement Benefit was introduced in April 2001. Figures are available from May 2002 onwards

### Main Messages

**At November 2015, there were 23 thousand claimants of Widow’s Benefit**, a fall of 3 thousand on a year earlier. Of these, 22 thousand were in receipt of Widow’s Pension and 1 thousand received Widowed Mother’s Allowance.

**At November 2015, there were 67 thousand claimants of Bereavement Benefit**, an increase of 1 thousand on a year earlier. Of these, 24 thousand were in receipt of Bereavement Allowance and 43 thousand were in receipt of Widowed Parent’s Allowance.

WB and BB claimants by Type (November 2015)



See **Tabulations** for supporting **WB** and **BB** data.

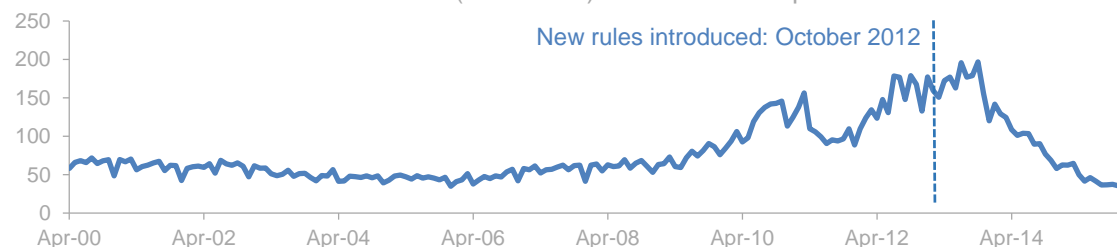


## 1.6 Official Statistics: Sanction decisions and reasons: Jobseeker's Allowance

Failure to meet one or more conditions of a benefit claim without good reason could lead to payments being stopped for a period (this is known as a benefit sanction).

### The recent fall in decisions reflects a fall in Jobseeker's Allowance claimants

Number of decisions to sanction JSA (thousands): Great Britain: April 2000 to December 2015



### What is a sanction decision?

Each occasion that a condition of benefit claim is not met can result in a decision. This can happen more than once during a claim. **The trends on this page include decisions that resulted in no sanction.** Decisions for Universal Credit are not included.

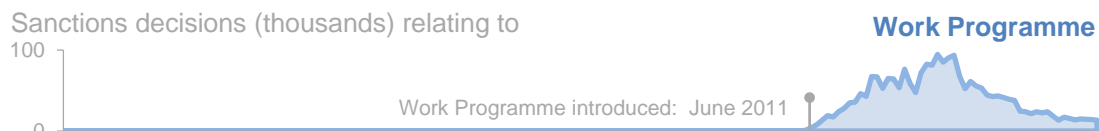
### Main Messages

**The number of sanction decisions reflects the number of JSA claimants. As such, over the last year the number of decisions per month has been declining with a small rise in the last quarter.** DWP are looking to enhance the information we make available on the relationship between these two volumes.

**The recent fall in JSA sanction decisions coincides with lower numbers of JSA claimants joining the Work Programme.** Currently the main reasons for sanction decisions (see notes section for details of groupings) are associated with lower level sanctions (see box below)

### Recent trends have been driven by Work Programme sanction decisions

Sanctions decisions (thousands) relating to



### New rules

From October 2012, new sanctions rules were introduced, aligning broadly with Universal Credit rules.

Read an [overview of the new JSA sanctions rules](#).

### Sanction levels (under the new regulations)

- Lower, 4 or 13 weeks (e.g. Work Programme and Work Focused Interviews)
- Intermediate, 4 or 13 weeks; claim may be ended
- Higher 13-156 weeks (e.g. reason for leaving previous employment)

For more information see [guidance](#).

## 1.6 Sanction decisions process: Jobseeker's Allowance (new rules)

There is a process in place when claimants don't agree that their benefit payment should be stopped or claim ended.

Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
<b>Original Decisions</b>	<b>Decision review</b>	<b>Mandatory Reconsideration</b>
An independent DWP decision maker makes the original decision.	Claimants can ask the Department to reconsider the original decision.	Claimants can appeal to a Tribunal after formal reconsideration.

### Not all decisions result in a sanction

Each sanction decision has a **maximum of three sequential stages** (up to first tier tribunal). These statistics show each decision at the most recent stage in that process. Not all decisions go through all three stages **before reaching a final outcome**. Both the stage and decision outcome may be updated in future.

### All decisions under new rules



### Main Messages

**There have been 4.13 million decisions in total under the new rules (between 22 Oct 2012 and 31 Dec 2015).** The trends illustrate both the movement through the process and the recent fall in volume of decisions.

### Summary of decision outcomes at each stage

22 Oct 2012 to 31 December 2015

(thousands)	Sanction	No Sanction
Original Decisions	1,651	739
Decision review	189	267
Mandatory Reconsideration	53	21
Appeal	34	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,927</b>	<b>1,036</b>

Decisions that are reserved or cancelled are not included in this table.

### Decisions to apply a sanction under new rules



**There have been 1.93 million decisions to apply a sanction under the new rules.** The trends illustrate the impact of the introduction of Mandatory Reconsiderations.

Not all decisions with an outcome to apply a sanction will result in a claimant's benefit being reduced. Where a claimant's benefit is reduced the claimant may be eligible for Hardship payments.

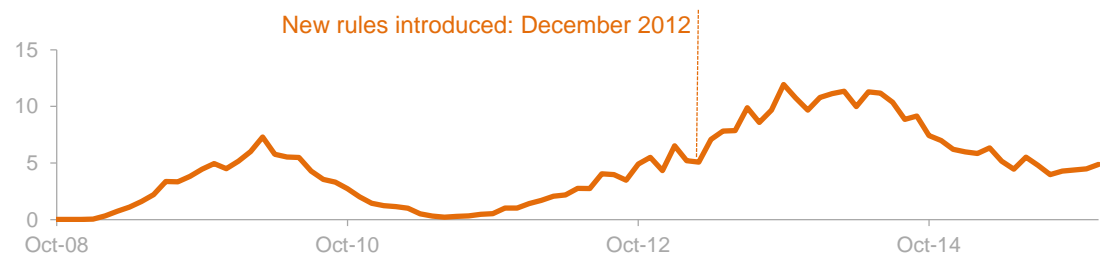
More detailed JSA and ESA sanctions figures can be accessed through [Stat-Xplore](#) or via [gov.uk](#)

## 1.6 Sanction decisions and reasons: Employment and Support Allowance

Failure to meet one or more conditions of a benefit claim without good reason could lead to payments being stopped for a period (this is known as a benefit sanction)

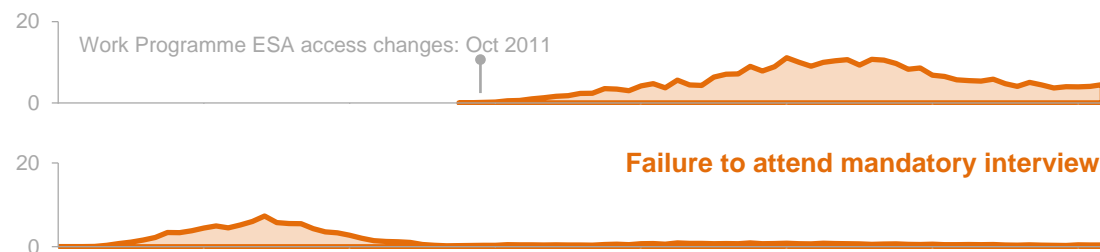
### ESA sanction decisions have been decreasing for the last year, however the latest month showed a small increase

Number of decisions to sanction ESA (thousands): Great Britain: October 2008 to December 2015



### Recent trends have been driven by work related activity sanction decisions

Sanctions decisions (thousands) relating to **Failure to participate in work related activity**



### What is a sanction decision?

Each occasion that a condition of benefit claim is not met can result in a decision. This can happen more than once during a claim. **The trends on this page include decisions that resulted in no sanction.** Sanction decisions only apply to ESA claimants in the work related activity group. They do not apply to those in the support group.

### Main Messages

**Over the last 12 months the number of ESA sanction decisions per month has been declining.** A sanction referral can pass through several decision-making stages before a final decision is made. The latest months will always contain a higher proportion of sanctions which have not yet “had the chance” to be reviewed/appealed, and may be challenged in subsequent months. Therefore the total number of decisions will always be reduced downwards, and so will the total number of decisions to apply a sanction.

The recent trend is almost entirely driven by decisions related to failure to participate in a work related activity. The increase in decisions of this nature coincides with access changes to the Work Programme for ESA claimants.

### New rules

From December 2012, new sanctions rules were introduced.

For more information see [here](#).

# 1.6 Sanction decisions process: Employment and Support Allowance (new rules)

There is a process in place when claimants don't agree that their benefit payment should be stopped or claim ended.

Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
<b>Original Decisions</b>	<b>Decision Review</b>	<b>Mandatory Reconsideration</b>
An independent DWP decision maker makes the original decision.	Claimants can ask the Department to reconsider the original decision.	Claimants can appeal to a Tribunal after formal reconsideration.

**Not all decisions result in a sanction**  
 Each sanction decision has a **maximum of three sequential stages** (up to first tier tribunal). These statistics show each decision at the most recent stage in that process. Not all decisions go through all three stages **before reaching a final outcome**. Both the stage and decision outcome may be updated in future releases.

## All decisions under new rules



## Main Messages

**There have been 279 thousand decisions in total under the new rules (between 3 Dec 2012 and 31 December 2015).** The trends illustrate both the movement through the process and the recent fall in volume of decisions.

### Summary of decision outcomes at each stage

3 Dec 2012 to 31 December 2015

(thousands)	Sanction	No Sanction
Original Decisions	45	54
Decision review	30	25
Mandatory Reconsideration	0.9	1.4
Appeal	0.4	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>80</b>

Decisions that are cancelled are not included in this table.

## Decisions to apply a sanction under new rules



**There have been a total of 77 thousand decisions to apply a sanction under the new rules.**

Not all decisions with an outcome to apply a sanction will result in a claimant's benefit being reduced. Where a claimant's benefit is reduced the claimant may be eligible for Hardship payments.

More detailed JSA and ESA sanctions figures can be accessed through [Stat-Xplore](#) or via [gov.uk](#)

# 1.6 Experimental Monthly Rate of Claimants Sanctioned: Jobseeker's Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance Work Related Activity Group (WRAG)

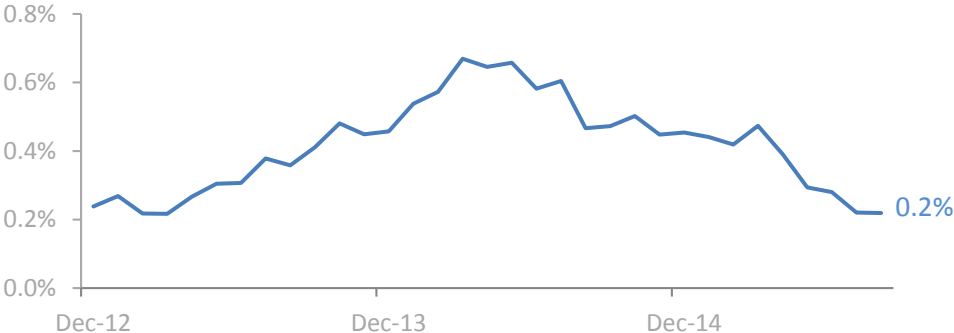
## The experimental monthly rate of JSA claimants undergoing a sanction has been falling over the last two years

Jobseekers Allowance decisions to sanction as an experimental rate of Jobseekers Allowance claims: Great Britain: November 2012 to December 2015



## The experimental monthly rate of ESA WRAG claimants undergoing a sanction has remained under 1% since the new regime was introduced and is slowly decreasing

Employment and Support Allowance decisions to sanction as an experimental rate of Employment and Support Allowance WRAG claims: Great Britain: December 2012 to September 2015



### Main Messages

The experimental monthly rate of **JSA** claimants undergoing a sanction each month fluctuates but has shown a steady decrease over the last 2 years.

Overall since its peak in March 2014, the experimental monthly rate of **ESA Work Related Activity Group (WRAG)** claimants undergoing a sanction has slowly decreased.

**The Experimental Monthly Rates of Claimants Sanctioned** for ESA and JSA aim to **estimate** the scale of sanctions relative to the number of ESA and JSA claimants in a given month.

The JSA rate is calculated by dividing the number of decisions to apply a sanction (adverse) in a month by the JSA claimant count at a particular point in the same month. The ESA rate is calculated by dividing the number of decisions to apply a sanction (adverse) in a month by the number of ESA WRAG claimants at a particular point in a quarter.

More detailed information on the exact calculation of the rate can be found [here](#)

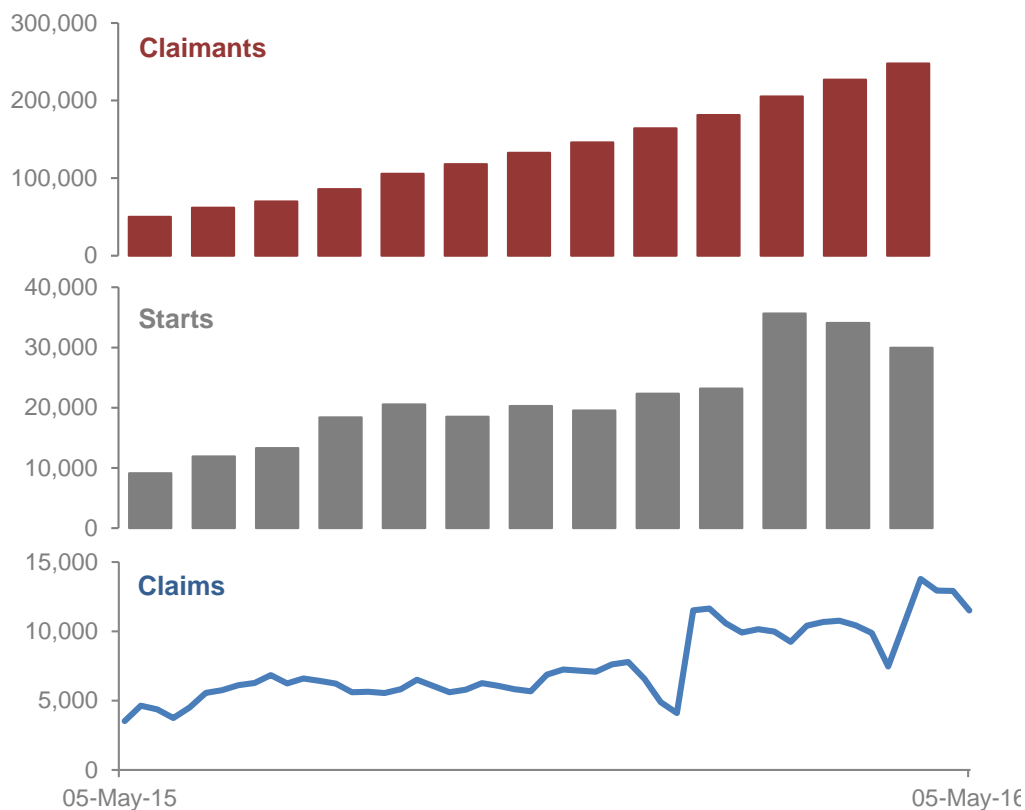
## 1.7 Official Experimental Statistics – Universal Credit

Universal Credit was introduced in pathfinder areas of North West England in April 2013. Since October 2013, it has progressively been rolled out to other areas. Universal Credit will be replacing income-related Employment and Support Allowance, income-related Jobseeker's Allowance, Housing Benefit, Income Support, Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. It is now available in all Jobcentre Plus offices to single claimants, and is being expanded across the country to include all claimant types via the full service. We do not currently include statistics of the Full Service.

- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Income Support
- Working Tax Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Housing Benefit

### The number of people on Universal Credit continues to rise

People on Universal Credit and Starts by month, Claims made per week



### Main Messages

**247,801** people were on Universal Credit, as of **14<sup>th</sup> April 2016**. Of these, **97,504** (or 39 per cent) were in employment and **150,299** (or 61 per cent) were not in employment.

**333,170** people have started their claim, i.e. signed a claimant commitment, up to **14<sup>th</sup> April 2016**. **34,574** starts to Universal Credit were in the last month.

**505,096** claims have been made for Universal Credit up to **5<sup>th</sup> May 2016**. **51,150** claims have been made for Universal Credit in the last four weeks at an average of **12,788** per week.

See [full release](#) for latest statistical data on **Universal Credit**. In March improvements were made to the people on Universal Credit and starts measures. Therefore it is advisable to obtain new time series for these measures.

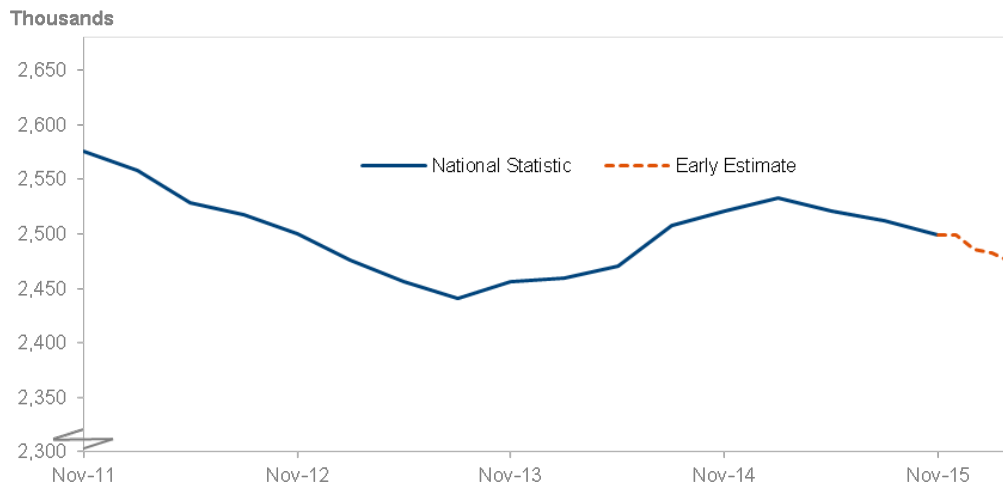


## 2.1 Early estimates for working age inactive benefit client group

An estimate of the number of working age people claiming Employment and Support Allowance/Incapacity Benefits (in advance of formal National Statistics publication).

### Early estimates suggest a fall in the number of working age people claiming ESA/Incapacity Benefits

National Statistics to November 2015 and early estimates: December 2015 to March 2016



**Table 1.1:** Working-age ESA/IB client group November 2014 to March 2016

Time Series	National Statistic	Early Estimate
	Number of Claimants (Thousands)	Number of Claimants (Thousands)
Nov-14	2,520.27	
Feb-15	2,533.22	
May-15	2,521.17	
Aug-15	2,512.09	
Nov-15	<b>2,498.79</b>	
Dec-15		2,500.00
Jan-16		2,485.00
Feb-16		2,485.00
Mar-16		<b>2,475.00</b>

The working-age ESA/IB early estimate for March 2016 is 2.475 million to the nearest 5,000. This represents a decrease of around 24,000 (1.0 per cent) since November 2015 (the latest National Statistic).

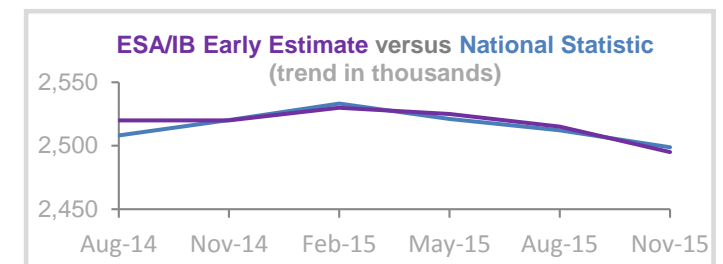
From October 2008 ESA replaced Incapacity Benefit (IB) and Income Support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims. Prior to this the "incapacity benefits group" referred to claimants of IB or Severe Disablement Allowance including working age people claiming Income Support on the grounds of incapacity. From April 2013, [Universal Credit](#) was introduced and will replace income-related Employment and Support Allowance as it is rolled out.

When the next quarterly National Statistics are published they will be included in Table 1.1, and the monthly early estimates from this quarter will be removed.

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 0.2 per cent. See [here](#) for more information.

These figures are likely to be affected by changes to State Pensions age. Please see the Welfare Reform section of the notes for further information.

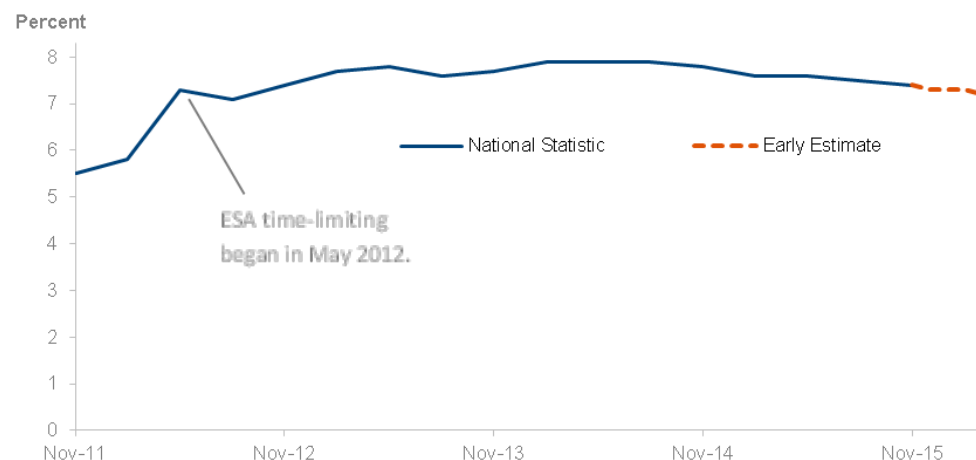
The orange dotted line in the charts emphasises that the figures are estimates and official statistics.



## 2.1 Early estimates for working age inactive benefit client group

### Early estimates suggest a fall in the proportion of working age people claiming National Insurance (NI) credits only

National Statistics to November 2015 and early estimates: December 2015 to March 2016



The working-age ESA/IB early estimate for March 2016 has decreased by around 24 thousand since November 2015 (the latest National Statistic).

In March 2016 approximately 92.8% of claimants were in receipt of benefit payments from Incapacity Benefit (IB), Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA), Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), Income Support (IS) or Pension Credit (PC).

The remaining **7.2% received National Insurance credits only** (i.e. no payment of IB, SDA, ESA, IS, 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

When the next quarterly National Statistics figure is available it will be included in Table 1.2, and the monthly early estimates from this quarter will be removed.

The orange dotted line in the charts emphasises that the figures are estimates and official statistics.

**Table 1.2:** Working-age ESA/IB client group claiming NI credits only November 2014 to March 2016

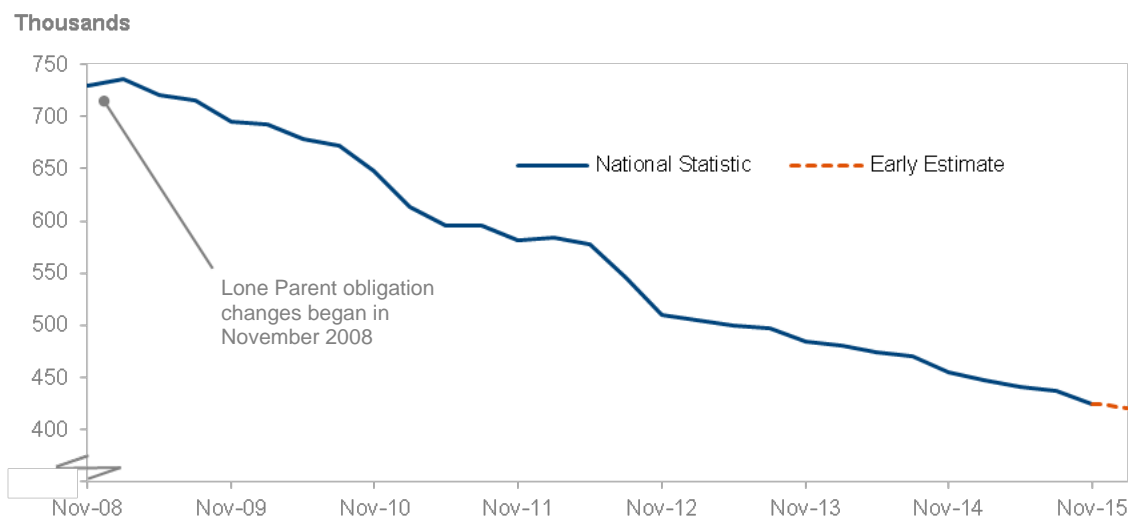
Time Series	National Statistic	Early Estimate
	Source Data	
	National Insurance Credits Only (Percentage)	National Insurance Credits Only (Percentage)
Nov-14	7.8%	
Feb-15	7.6%	
May-15	7.6%	
Aug-15	7.5%	
Nov-15	7.4%	
Dec-15		7.3%
Jan-16		7.3%
Feb-16		7.3%
Mar-16		7.2%

## 2.2 Early estimates for Income Support Lone Parent (ISLP) client group

An estimate of the number of working age people claiming Income Support (with a child under 16 and no partner) in advance of formal National Statistics publication.

### Early estimates suggest a continued fall in the number of people in the Income Support Lone Parent client group

National Statistics to November 2015 and early estimates: December 2015 to March 2016



#### Main Messages

The working age ISLP early estimate for March 2016 is **420 thousand to the nearest 5,000**. This represents a fall of 1.1 per cent since November 2015 (the latest National Statistic).

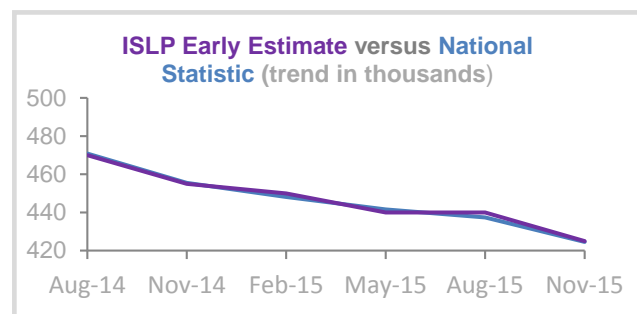
The figures are estimates of the final National Statistic, to give an indication of their accuracy, over the past year the early estimates have been revised by an average of **0.2 per cent**. See graph (at left) and the notes section for more information.

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.

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

**Table 2.1:** ISLP client group November 2014 to March 2016

Time Series	National Statistic Number of Claimants (Thousands)	Early Estimate Number of Claimants (Thousands)
Nov-14	455.53	
Feb-15	448.11	
May-15	441.62	
Aug-15	437.38	
Nov-15	<b>424.56</b>	
Dec-15		425.00
Jan-16		420.00
Feb-16		420.00
Mar-16		<b>420.00</b>



### 3.1 National Statistics – Pensioner client group and State Pension

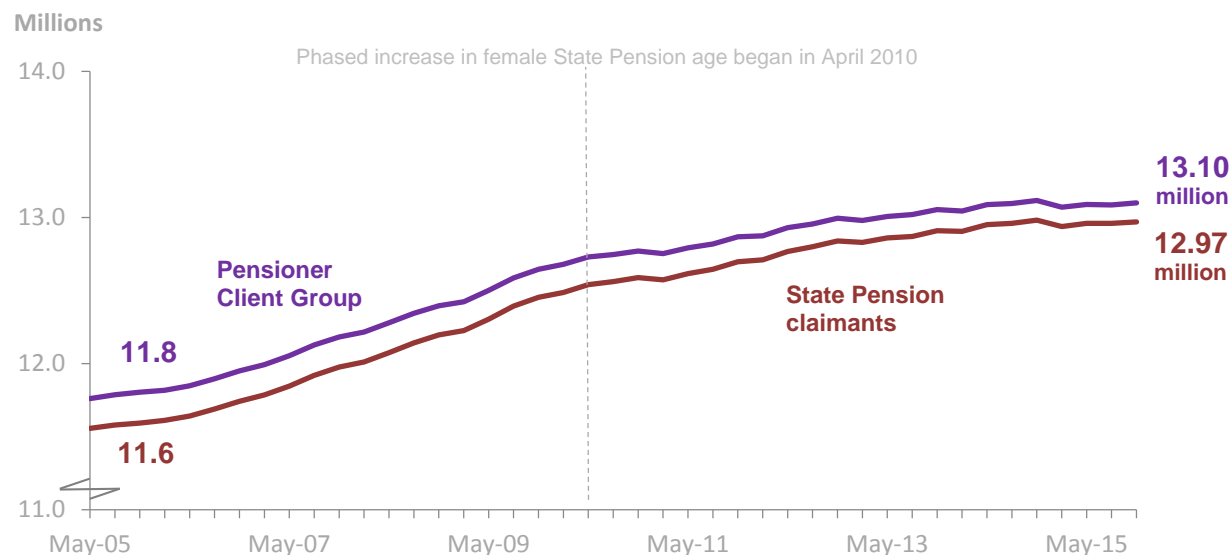
The Pensioner client group covers claimants, over State Pension age, of at least one of the following benefits: State Pension, Pension Credit, Attendance Allowance, Widow’s Benefit, Disability Living Allowance, Incapacity Benefit, and Severe Disablement Allowance. They are split into statistical groups that reflect their main reason for claiming benefit.

State Pension (SP) was introduced on 1st January 1909 and is paid to people who have reached the state pension age and who fulfil the residency and contributions conditions. 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 number of people within the Pensioner client group (and on State Pension) is generally increasing

The Pensioner client group is predominately made up of State Pension recipients

Pensioner client group and State Pension recipients May 2005 to November 2015



#### Main Messages

**At November 2015, there were 13.10 million claimants in the Pensioner client group**, a decrease of 16 thousand since November 2014. Of these, 14.9% were in receipt of Pension Credit. 50.4% of these Pension Credit claimants were also claiming Attendance Allowance or Disability Living Allowance.

See [Tabulation](#) for supporting data.

**At November 2015, there were 12.97 million claimants of State Pension**, a fall of 12 thousand on a year earlier.

The average weekly amount in payment at November 2015 was **£130.71**, a rise of £3.82 since November 2014.

#### State Pension claimants by Gender at November 2015\*

\*Pictorial representation rounded to the nearest 10%



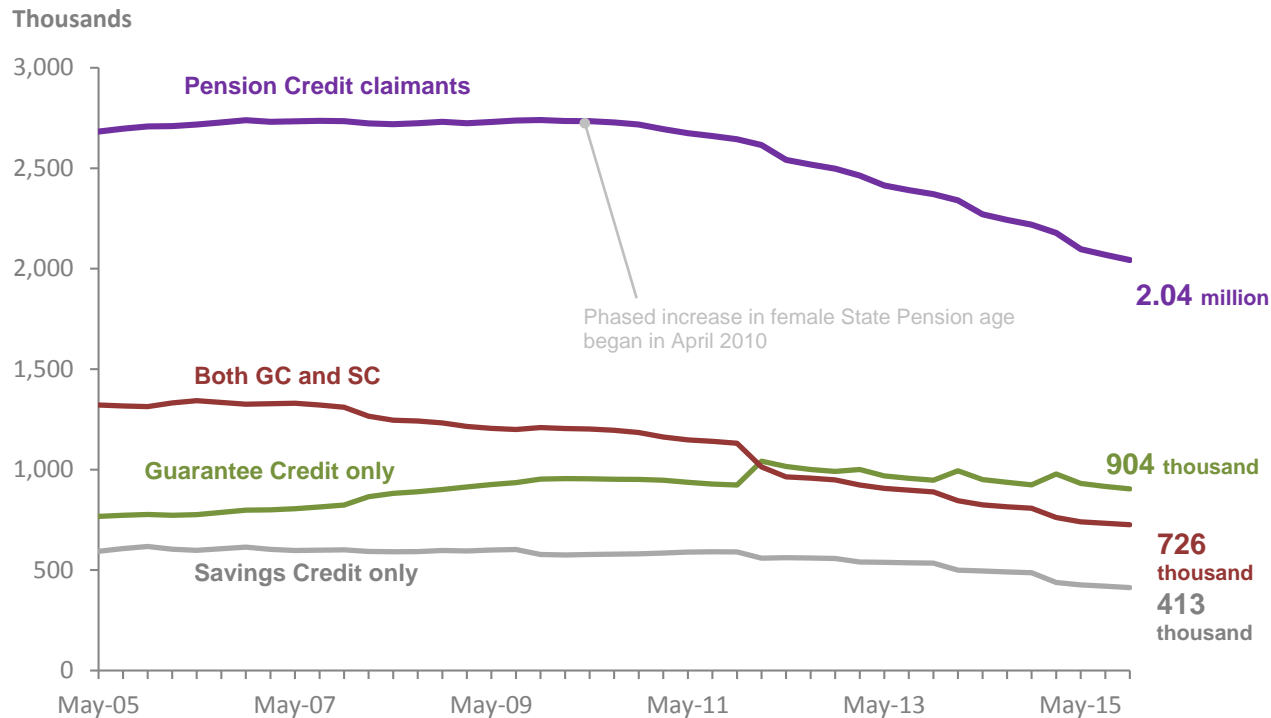
See [Tabulation](#) for supporting **State Pension** data and additional breakdowns.

## 3.2 National Statistics – Pension Credit

Pension Credit (PC) was introduced on 6th October 2003 and replaced Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG). For people aged over the female state pension age, the Guarantee Credit element guarantees an income at a set level. People aged 65 or over (and couples where one member is 65 or over) may also be entitled to Savings Credit if they have modest income from savings, investments or a second pension.

### The number of people on Pension Credit is falling

Pension Credit recipients: May 2005 to November 2015



### Main Messages

**At November 2015, there were 2.04 million claimants of Pension Credit (2.44 million including partners), a fall of 176 thousand on the previous year.**

This fall is due to the increase in the female State Pension age, which is also the age at which people become eligible for Pension Credit, see background note for further details.

Of these Pension Credit claimants, **904 thousand claimed Guarantee Credit only, 726 thousand claimed Guarantee and Savings Credit, and 413 thousand were claiming Savings Credit only.**

The average weekly amount of Pension Credit in payment at November 2015 was **£56.39**, a fall of £0.05 since November 2014.

#### Pension Credit claimants by Gender at November 2015\*

\*Pictorial representation rounded to the nearest 10%



See [Tabulation](#) for supporting Pension Credit data and additional breakdowns.

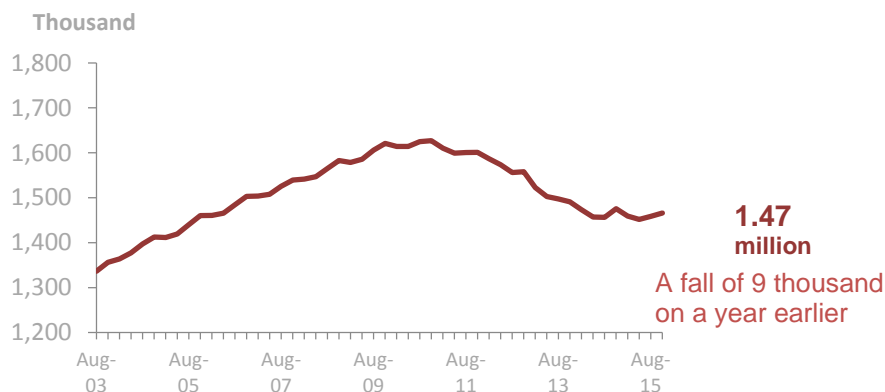
## 4.1 National Statistics – Attendance Allowance and Carer’s Allowance

Attendance Allowance (AA) was introduced on 6th December 1971 and is a benefit for people over the age of 65 who are so severely disabled, physically or mentally, that they need a great deal of help with personal care or supervision. Those requiring constant help receive the higher rate of benefit.

Carer’s Allowance (CA) was introduced on 5th July 1976; it is paid to carers who look after a severely disabled person for at least 35 hours a week. The severely disabled person must be getting either higher or middle rate Disability Living Allowance (DLA) care component or AA or maximum rate Constant Attendance Allowance with their War Pension or Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit.

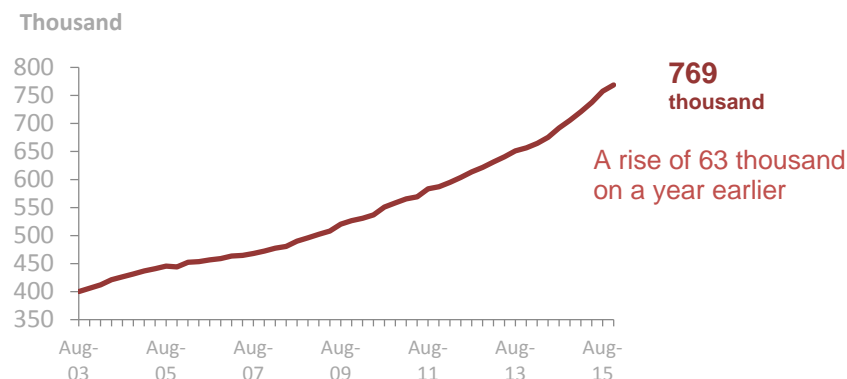
### The number of people on Attendance Allowance has fallen slightly in the last year

**Attendance Allowance recipients:**  
August 2003 to November 2015



### The number of people receiving Carers Allowance continues to rise

**Carers Allowance recipients:**  
August 2003 to November 2015



**35%**



**65%**

Increased by 4 thousand in the year to November 2015

Decreased by 13 thousand in the year to November 2015

Of the total number claiming Carers Allowance (1,178 thousand), 35% (410 thousand) were entitled to the benefit but receiving no payment.



**28%**



**72%**

See [Tabulation](#) for supporting **AA** data and additional breakdowns.

See [Tabulation](#) for supporting **CA** data and additional breakdowns.

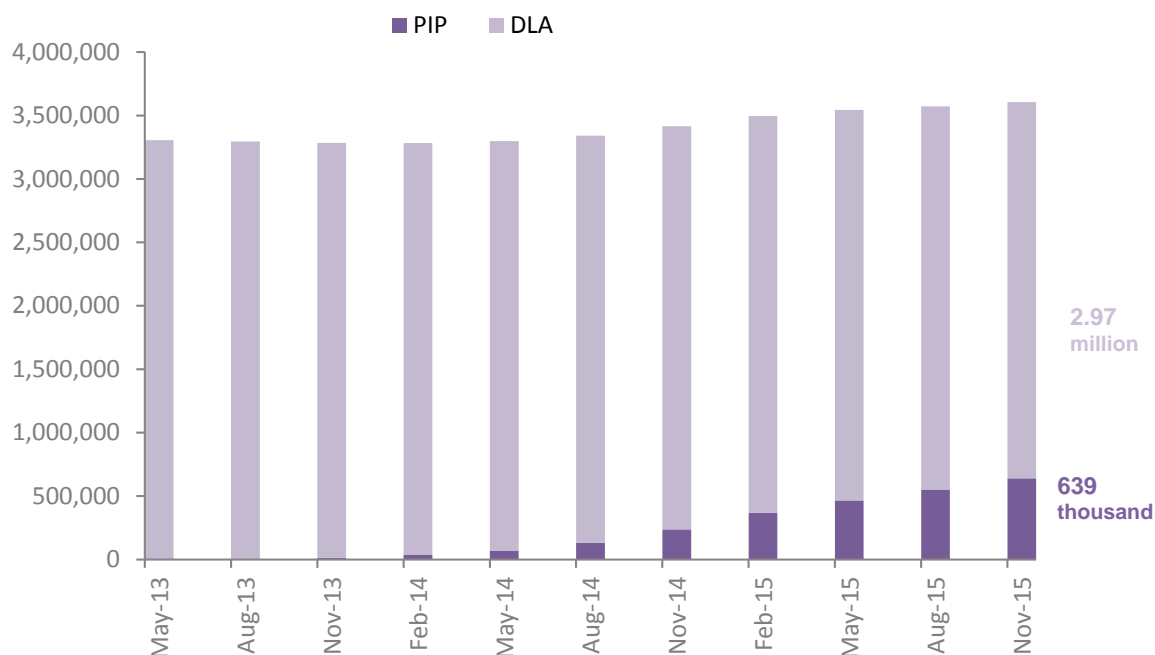


## 4.2 Official Experimental Statistics - Personal Independence Payment and Disability Living Allowance

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) was introduced on 1st April 1992 and is a benefit for people who became disabled before the age of 65 and who need assistance with personal care or mobility. From 8 April 2013, Disability Living Allowance for people of working age was replaced by Personal Independence payment (PIP) for new claims. PIP is also gradually replacing existing DLA claims for people of working age. PIP helps with some of the extra costs caused by long-term disability, ill-health or terminal ill-health.

### The number of people on PIP is rising as the number of people on Disability Living Allowance continues to fall

Personal Independence Payment/Disability Living Allowance claimants since May 2013



**Note:** The DLA caseload includes 409 thousand (14%) children, 1.52 million (51%) working age and 1.04 million (35%) pension age (a very small number were of unknown age). PIP includes a small number of claims over working age. During reassessment, a small number of DLA claims (currently less than 1% of all cases) may be included in both the DLA and PIP caseload figures - this is due to timing differences within the 2 separate benefit reporting systems.

### Main Messages

At November 2015 (the latest comparable time period), there were a **total of 3.61 million claimants of Personal Independence Payment and Disability Living Allowance**, an increase of 191 thousand (6%) on a year earlier.

The number of people claiming **Disability Living Allowance has fallen (by 211 thousand) in the year to November 2015 to 2.97 million**, whereas the number of people claiming **Personal Independence Payment has increased (by 402 thousand) to 639 thousand**, of which **163 thousand were reassessed Disability Living Allowance claims**.

See [Tabulation](#) or [Stat-Xplore](#) for full supporting data.

At the end of January 2016 (the latest PIP data available), there were **692 thousand Personal Independence Payment claims in payment**. Up until this point there had been **1.53 million registrations, 1.32 million clearances and 216 thousand PIP claims were still outstanding**.

Further PIP information and breakdowns are available via the latest statistical [first release](#). Note PIP statistics are Official Experimental.

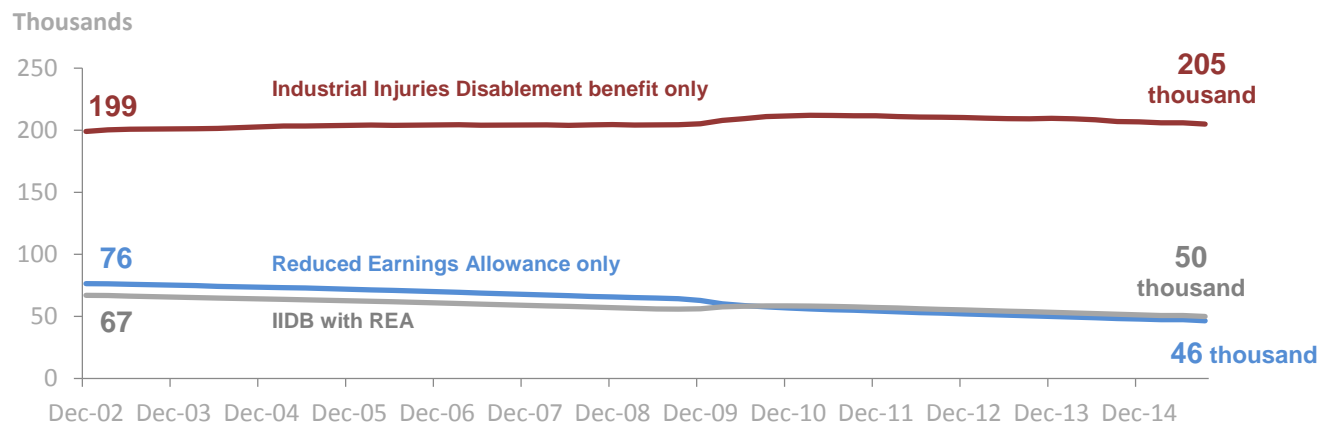
Statistical disclosure control has been applied to PIP Statistics in order to avoid the release of confidential data

## 4.3 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.

### The number of people on IIDB and/or Reduced Earnings Allowance is changing at a very slow rate

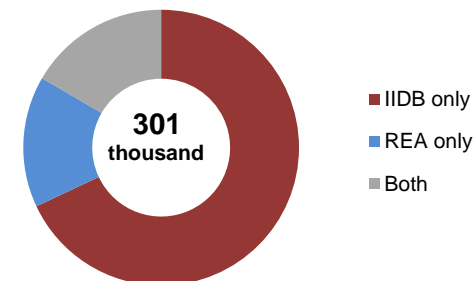
Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit and Reduce Earnings Allowance in payment by type assessments payable: December 2002 to September 2015



### Main Messages

There were just over **301 thousand people claiming under the Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit scheme** (in total) in September 2015, of whom 68% received **Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit only (205 thousand)**, 15.4% received **Reduced Earnings Allowance only (46 thousand)**, and 16.6% received **both (50 thousand)**.

IIDB recipients at September 2015



The number of people claiming IIDB benefit has dropped slightly (by 1.8%) since September 2014. The average weekly payment at September 2015 was **£54.02**.

See **Tables** for supporting **IIDB** data and additional breakdowns.

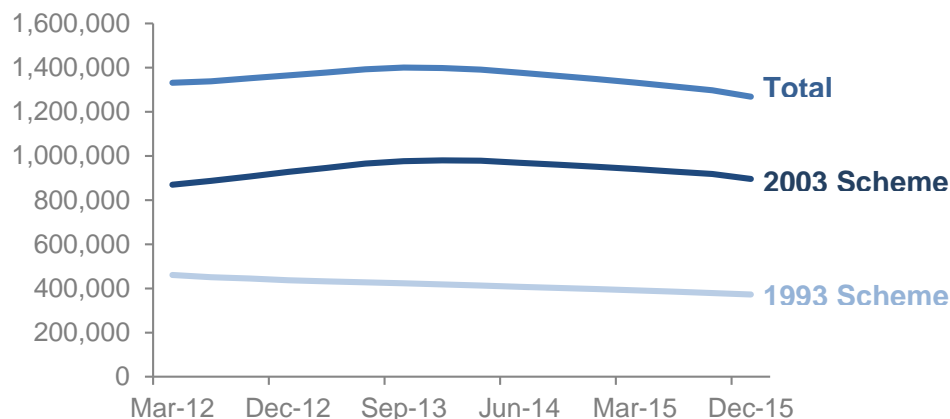
## 5.1 National Statistics – Child Support Agency cases

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is responsible for the child maintenance system in Great Britain. It funds information and support for separating parents and runs the statutory child maintenance schemes, currently operated through the Child Support Agency (CSA).

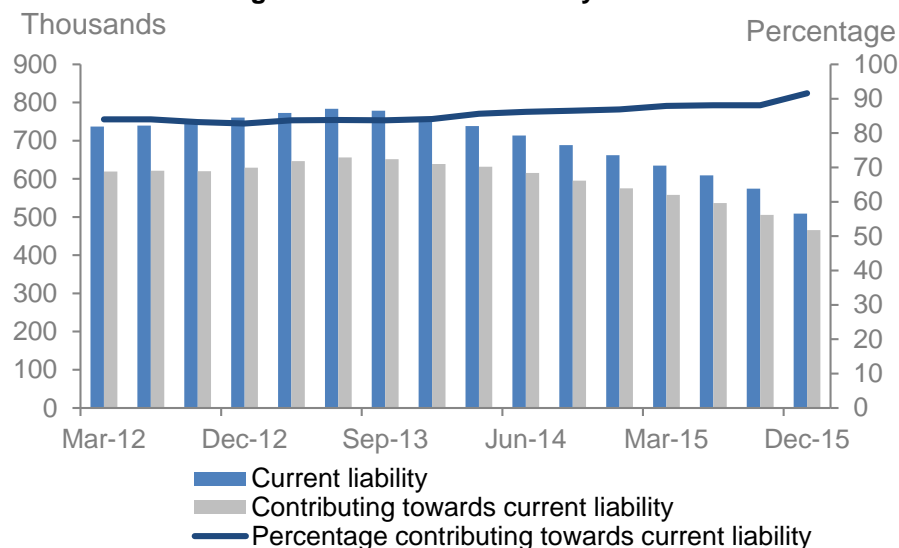
DWP assumed responsibility for the CSA from the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission on the 1 August 2012, following an announcement on 14 October 2010 that the Commission would become an executive agency of DWP as part of the Public Bodies Reform. The Commission had responsibility for the CSA between the 1 November 2008 and the 31 July 2012, prior to that DWP had responsibility for the CSA.

On the 10 December 2012 a new Child Maintenance Scheme was launched. The scheme was introduced on a pathfinder approach. All new applications are now being accepted onto the 2012 scheme. The CSA QSS excludes cases on the 2012 scheme. [Experimental statistics](#) on the 2012 scheme are published separately.

**Live Caseload by Scheme:** March 2012 to December 2015



**Cases Contributing Towards Current Liability:** March 2012 to December 2015



### Main Messages

- At the end of December 2015, the **CSA live caseload stood at 1.27 million.**
- In the quarter ending December 2015, **91.6%** 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.

From 25 November 2013, **all new applications** for child maintenance are made under the [2012 Scheme](#). Consequently, the 1993 and 2003 Scheme caseloads will steadily reduce as no new intake is received and cases close. For this reason the data on Uncleared work has not been updated and will no longer be included. See [full release](#) for latest available **CSA statistics**.



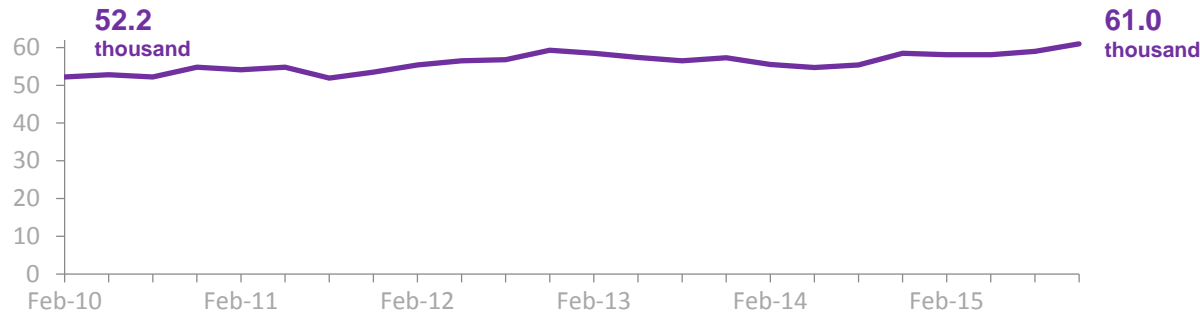
## 5.2 National Statistics – Maternity Allowance

Maternity Allowance (MA) is usually paid to women who have worked and paid full National Insurance (NI) contributions in the relevant test period, and who don't qualify for Statutory Maternity Pay. Maternity Allowance is paid for 39 weeks, at the earliest starting 11 weeks before the baby is due. If the woman does any paid work during this period, she cannot get the allowance for that time. It is payable at various rates, dependent on circumstances.

### The number of people on Maternity Allowance varies slightly throughout the year, but is fairly consistent over time

All Maternity Allowance cases (current spells): February 2010 to November 2015

Thousands

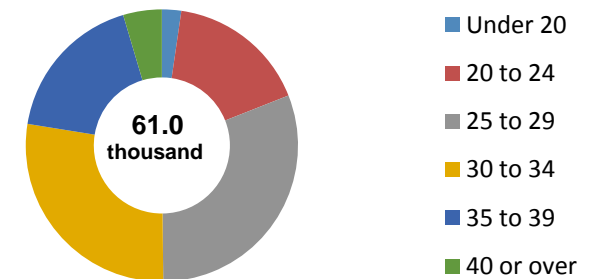


The average weekly payment in November 2015 for those spells (across All rates) commencing in the period 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015 was **£139.58**.

### Main Messages

At November 2015, there were **61.0 thousand current spells of Maternity Allowance** across all areas (including Overseas) of whom 2% of claimants were aged under 20, 17% were aged 20-24, 31% were aged 25-29, 28% were aged 30-34, 18% were aged 35-39 and 5% were aged 40 or over.

Maternity Allowance spells by age at November 2015



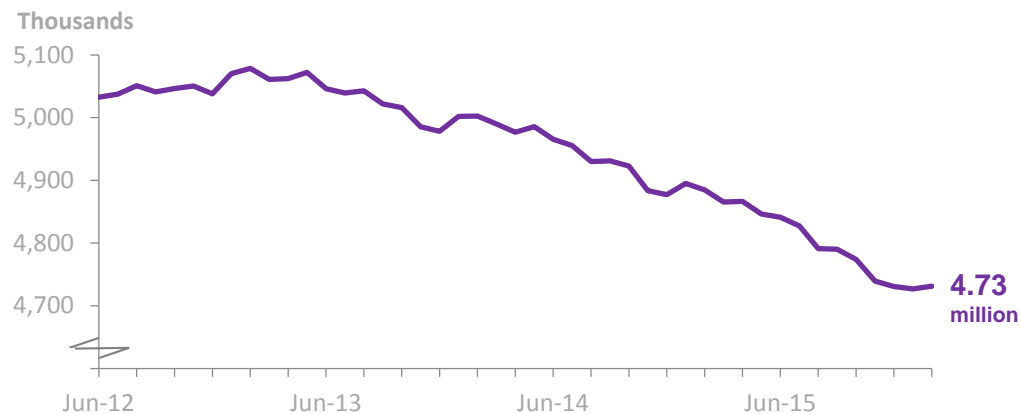
See **Tables** for supporting **Maternity Allowance** data and additional breakdowns.

## 6.1 National Statistics – Housing 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. Universal Credit was introduced in April 2013 and will abolish Housing Benefit as it is rolled out.

### The number of people on Housing Benefit has generally decreased over the last year

Housing Benefit recipients: June 2012 to February 2016



### Housing Benefit claimants by Gender at February 2016\*

\*Pictorial representation rounded to the nearest 10%

27%



51%



22%



Couples

### Main Messages

At February 2016, there were **4.73 million recipients of Housing Benefit**, of whom almost three-quarters were aged under 65. **The average weekly amount of Housing Benefit was £95.77.**

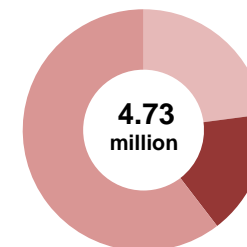
**68.4%** of Housing Benefit recipients were **tenants in the Social Sector.**

**86.9%** of the 1.49 million Private Sector Housing Benefit recipients were **receiving the Local Housing Allowance.**

**60.9%** of Housing 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).**

As at February 2016, **441 thousand** Housing Benefit claimants (of working age) **had a reduction to their Housing Benefit weekly award amount as a result of the removal of the spare room subsidy.** This represents less than 10 per cent of the total Housing Benefit caseload.

### Housing Benefit claimants by Employment status at February 2016



- In employment (and not on passported benefit)
- Not in employment (and not on passported benefit)
- Not Applicable(on Passported benefit)

Further information on **Housing Benefit** can be found via [Stat-Xplore](#) which provides users with an interactive visualisation tool to produce charts, graphs and tables, downloadable in a number of different formats. A set of summary tables on **Housing Benefit** claimants can also be found [here](#).

## About these statistics

[Universal Credit](#) was introduced in pathfinder areas of North West England in April 2013. Since October 2013, it has progressively been rolled out to other areas. Universal Credit will be replacing income-related Employment and Support Allowance, income-related Jobseeker's Allowance, Housing Benefit, Income Support, Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. It is now available in all Jobcentre Plus offices to single claimants, and is being expanded across the country to include all claimant types via the full service. We do not currently include statistics of the Full Service.

The [ONS Experimental Claimant Count](#) is the headline indicator of the number of people claiming benefits principally for the reason of being unemployed. From May 2013 the Claimant Count includes people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance plus those who claim Universal Credit who are out of work. The experimental Claimant Count series includes Universal Credit claimants from May 2013. Prior to May 2013 the Claimant Count is Jobseeker's Allowance only. From May 2013 to October 2013, the Universal Credit figures represent all claimants of in work and those not seeking work. The overall Universal Credit figure is likely to overstate the number of unemployed Universal Credit, including those Universal Credit claimants at this point in time. From November 2013 onwards, the Universal Credit figures represent those claimants who had not worked in the reference period. This is an improved estimate of unemployed Universal Credit claimants at a point in time, but will still overstate the number as it includes some non-jobseekers who are not in employment.

The age at which men and women reach State Pension age is gradually increasing. There are also changes to the way users can analyse benefit recipients as a proportion of the working population. The changes will introduce a small increase to the number of working age benefit recipients and a small reduction to the number of pension age recipients. More information can be found in the [State Pension age methodological note](#).

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. As a result, new and repeat claimants with the following conditions were no longer 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.

## Notes

### Known issues, changes and revisions

A summary out of work working age client group, which combines data collected for DWP working age benefits and the [ONS Experimental Claimant Count](#), is included in this release for the first time.

An Experimental Monthly Rate of Claimants Sanctioned for both Jobseeker's Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance Working Related Activity Group claimants is included in this release.

A background and methodology document can be found on the Jobseeker's Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance sanctions statistics collection page [here](#)



## DWP Benefits Statistics

Our **Uses and users**, **Methodology**, **Quality** and **Background information** notes provide further information on DWP National and official **benefit statistics**, including some of the processes involved in developing and releasing these statistics: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/dwp-statistical-summary-policies-and-statements>

## Other National and Official Statistics

Details of other National and Official Statistics produced by the Department for Work and Pensions can be found via the following link:

- A schedule of statistical releases and a list of the most recent releases: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/about/statistics>

## Feedback

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@dpw.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:stats-consultation@dpw.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](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@dpw.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:stats-consultation@dpw.gsi.gov.uk) or by post to the following address:

Dissemination Team, Data and Analytics, 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> DWP announces items of interest to users via this forum, as well as replying to users' questions.