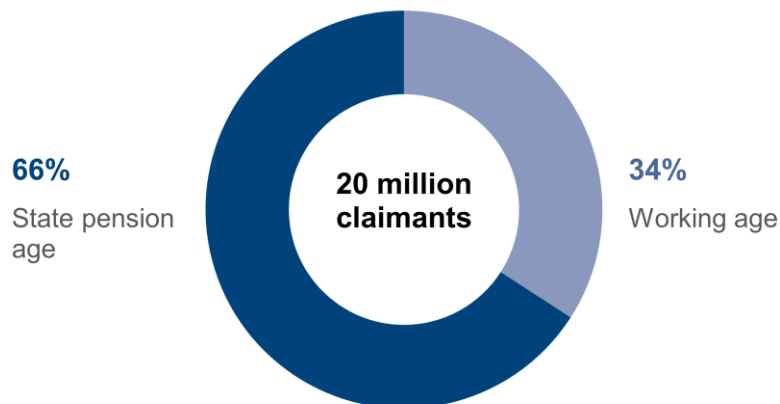


From February 2018 the frequency of this summary document is changing to six monthly. Please see [page 14](#) for further information. This release aims to give users a structured overview of National Statistics on DWP administered benefits. To provide a more complete picture of DWP responsibility, statistics on Housing Benefit (administered by Local Authorities) are also included.

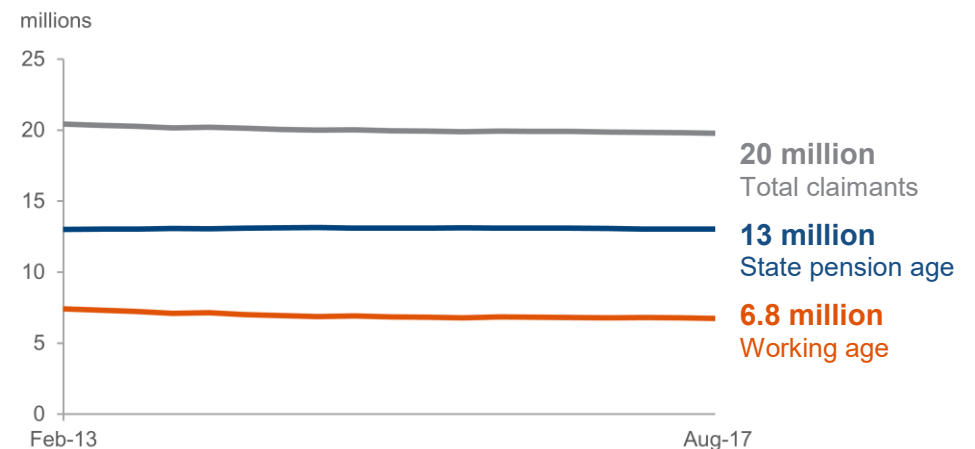
## Statistics of interest

- Experimental statistics show that there were 20 million DWP benefit claimants at August 2017. A third were working age claimants and the remaining two-thirds were of state pension age\*.
- The number of working age benefit claimants has fallen slightly by 85 thousand in the year to August 2017 to stand at 6.8 million.
- There are now 13 million state pension age claimants of DWP benefits. This is a decrease of 73 thousand compared to August 2016.

**Two thirds of DWP benefit claimants were of state pension age at August 2017**



**20 million DWP benefit claimants at August 2017**



\* Those of State Pension age, at the end August 2017, will include all men aged 65 and over and all women born before 6 August 1953.

## At a glance

Page

<a href="#">Benefit Combinations</a>	4
<a href="#">ESA and Incapacity Benefits</a>	6
<a href="#">Income Support</a>	7
<a href="#">Universal Credit</a>	8
<a href="#">Pensions</a>	9
<a href="#">Attendance Allowance and Carer's Allowance</a>	10
<a href="#">Personal Independence Payment and Disability Living Allowance</a>	11
<a href="#">Housing Benefit</a>	12

**Lead Statistician:** Alan Gibson

[alan.gibson@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:alan.gibson@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

**DWP Press Office:** 0203 267 5144

Comments? Feedback is welcome

Published: 21 February 2018

Next edition: May 2018

ISBN: 978-1-78425-991-4

© Crown copyright

## What you need to know

### In this release

This release aims to give users a high level summary of the latest National Statistics available on DWP administered benefits and sanctions. DWP administers benefits to a range of claimants who may, or may not have more than one interaction with the department. The publication provides an overview of individual benefit statistics and a high-level summary of working age benefits.

Users can produce their own tabulations using:

- Stat-Xplore: click [here](#) to access
- NOMIS: click [here](#) to access

Further tables covering the benefits in this release can be found on the [DWP statistical summaries page of gov.uk](#), or visit '[Where to find out more](#)'.

Previous editions of this document contained information on Benefit Sanctions, Jobseeker's Allowance, Widow's Benefit and Bereavement Benefit, Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit, Child Support Agency cases and Maternity Allowance. This information is still published, but not as part of this document:

- Data for Jobseeker's Allowance, Widow's Benefit and Bereavement Benefit are available on the [DWP statistical summaries page](#)
- Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit statistics are published [here](#)
- Child Support Agency statistics are published [here](#)
- Maternity Allowance statistics are published [here](#)
- Benefit Sanctions statistics are published [here](#)

Further in-depth benefit information can be viewed via this link: [Benefits page on gov.uk](#).

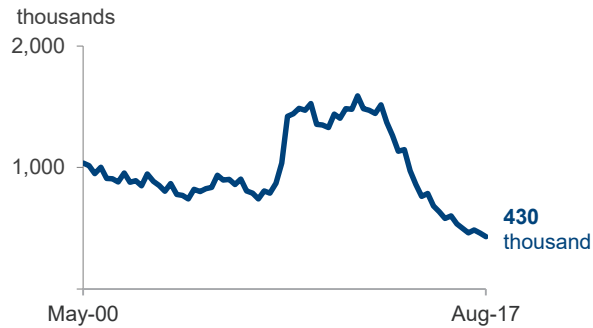
### About these statistics

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** Personal Independence Payments (which are official statistics), and Universal Credit and Benefit Combinations statistics (which are experimental). Further information is available [here](#).

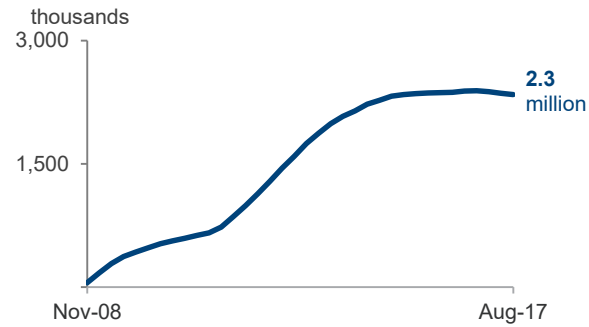
The UK Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

# Overview of numbers claiming benefits as at August 2017 (unless otherwise stated)

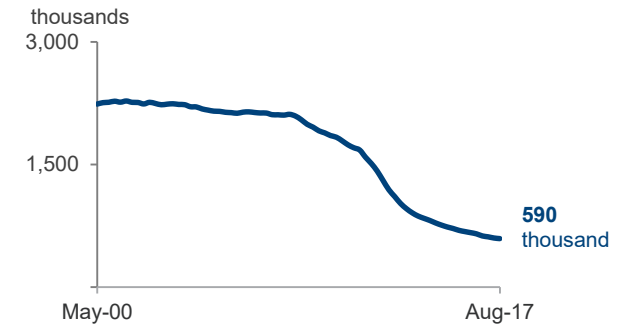
## Jobseeker's allowance



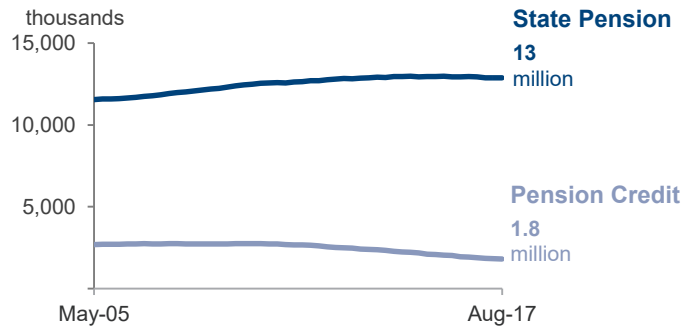
## Employment and Support Allowance



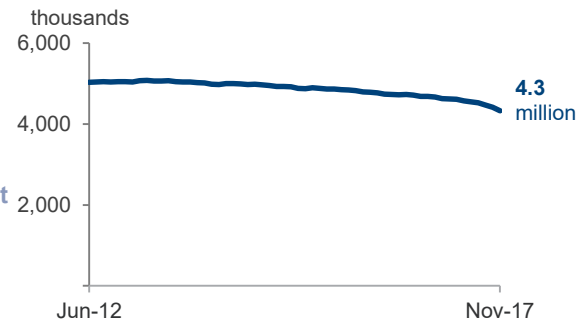
## Income support



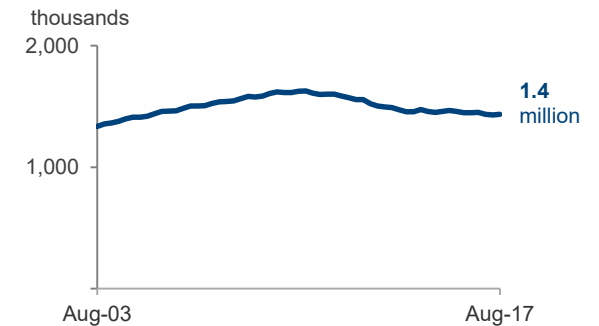
## Pensions



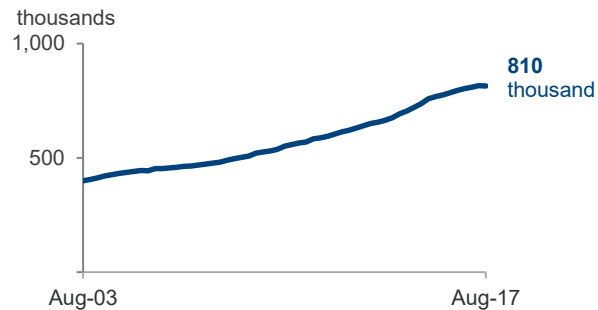
## Housing Benefit



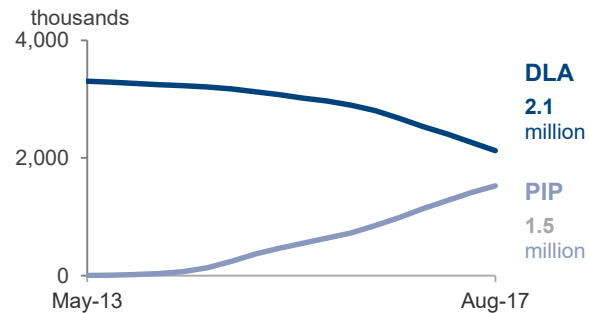
## Attendance allowance



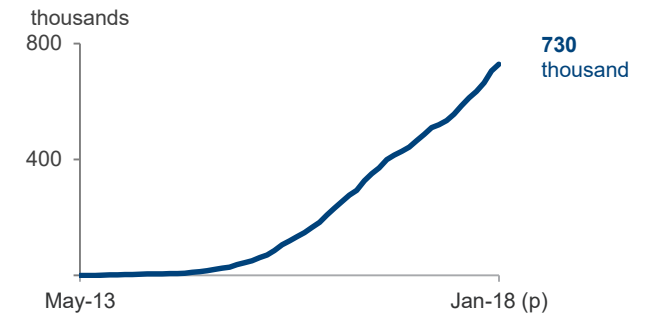
## Carer's Allowance



## PIP and DLA



## Universal Credit

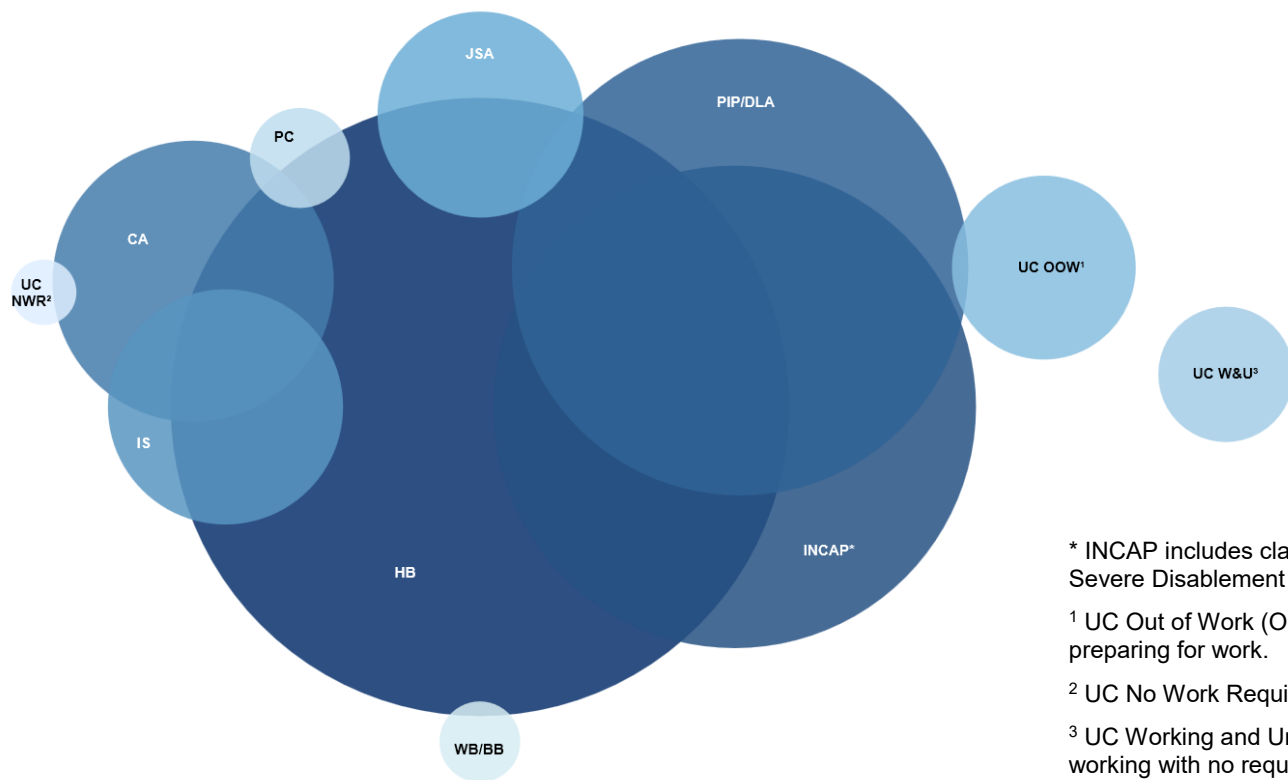


# 1.1 Benefit Combinations – Experimental Statistics

DWP administers benefits to a range of different claimants, many of whom have different interactions with the Department. Many of these claimants are eligible for more than one benefit.

These new experimental statistics bring together existing DWP benefit statistics, Housing Benefit (HB), Personal Independent Payment (PIP), and Universal Credit (UC). This allows us to measure the total number of people claiming benefits (across all DWP benefits), and the number of people on various different combinations of benefits.

This section focuses on working age benefit claimants at May 2017. Working age claimants are defined as all men born between 28 February 1952 and 28 February 2001, and all women born between 6 June 1953 and 28 February 2001.



## A worked example – Jobseeker’s Allowance

There were **6.8 million** working age benefit claimants at August 2017. Of which;

**430 thousand** claimed Jobseeker’s Allowance (JSA). Of which;

170 thousand claimed JSA only

260 thousand claimed JSA and another benefit;

13 thousand also claimed PIP/DLA only

220 thousand also claimed HB only

23 thousand also claimed both HB and PIP/DLA

\* INCAP includes claimants of Employment and Support Allowance, Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance, and Income Support on the grounds of incapacity.

<sup>1</sup> UC Out of Work (OOW) includes claimants searching for work, planning for work or preparing for work.

<sup>2</sup> UC No Work Requirements (NWR) includes claimants with no work requirements.

<sup>3</sup> UC Working and Unknown (W&U) includes claimants working with requirements, working with no requirements and those where a conditionality is not recorded or available prior to April 2015.

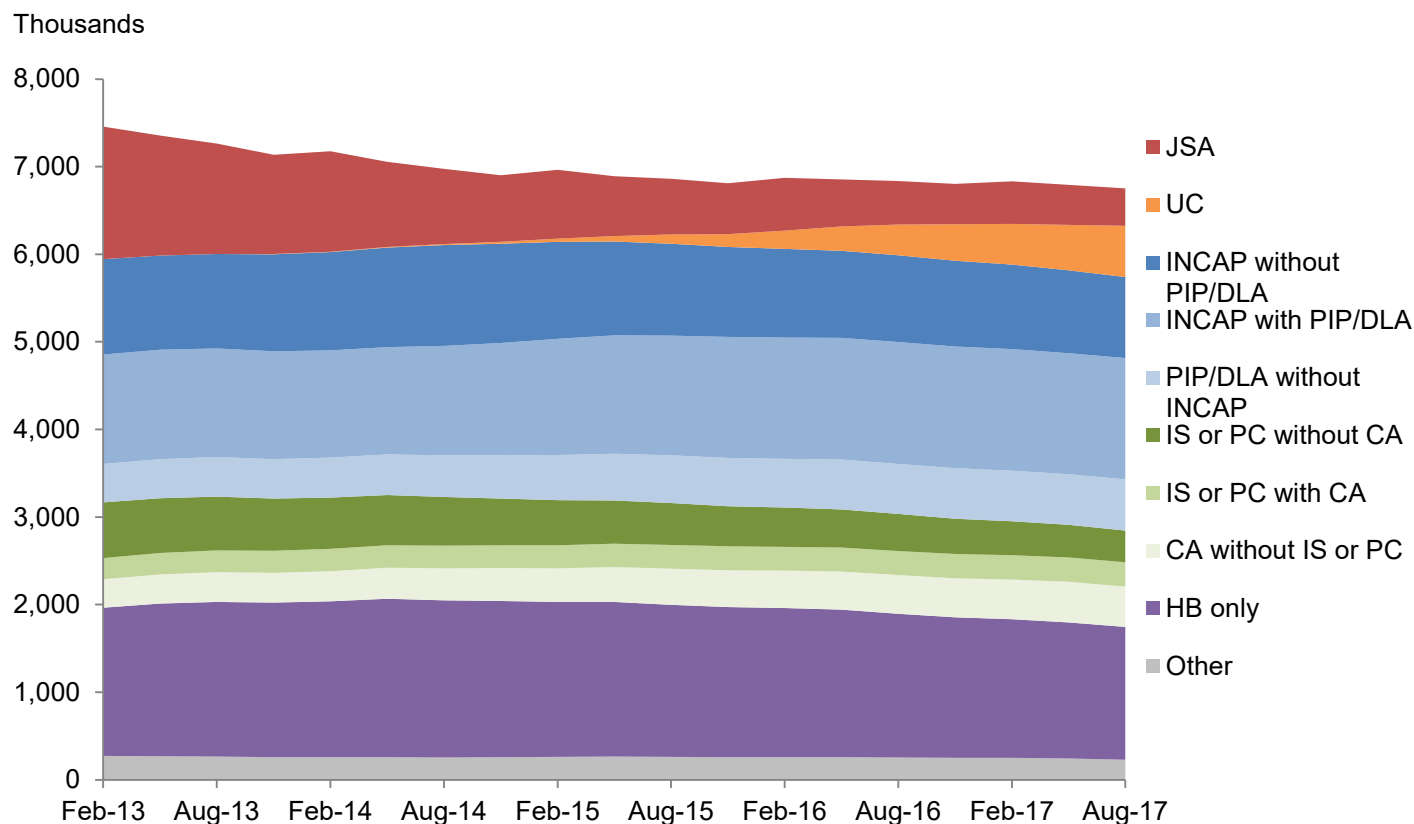
The diagram above gives an indication of the number of claimants on each benefit combination. The size of each circle shows how many individuals are on each benefit. Where circles overlap, individuals are claiming more than one benefit. The size of the overlap between the circles shows how many individuals are claiming each combination of benefits. For example, the overlap between Jobseeker’s Allowance, PIP/DLA and Housing Benefit shows that 23 thousand claimed this combination.

This is a representative diagram. Not all benefit combinations are shown here. Some smaller combinations have been omitted and some benefits have been combined where a new one has directly replaced an existing one.

Please see the [supporting tables](#) (table ben\_combs\_feb2018) published with this release for a full breakdown of the benefit combinations. This includes both working age, and state pension age claimants, and benefit combinations for all DWP benefits.

# 1.1 Benefit Combinations – Experimental Statistics

The number of working age claimants has slowly decreased over time



There were **6.8 million working age claimants at August 2017**. Most of these claimants received only one benefit. 3.7 million (54%) claimed one benefit only, 2.1 million (31%) were on two benefits, and a further 1.0 million (15%) were on three.

More people claimed Housing Benefit than any other benefit. Nearly 60% (3.9 million) of the 6.8 million working age claimants were on HB. A large number of claimants also claimed Incapacity Benefits (2.4 million), and PIP/DLA (2.1 million). Only 1.2 million working age claimants (18%) were not on HB, PIP/DLA, or Incapacity Benefits at August 2017.

The number of people on Jobseeker's Allowance has been steadily decreasing. Over the last two years the number of people on UC has increased and we expect this trend to continue, as UC will gradually replace most working age benefits over the next few years. The number on Incapacity Benefits has remained constant at 2.4 million.

\* INCAP includes claimants of Employment and Support Allowance, Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance, and Income Support on the grounds of incapacity

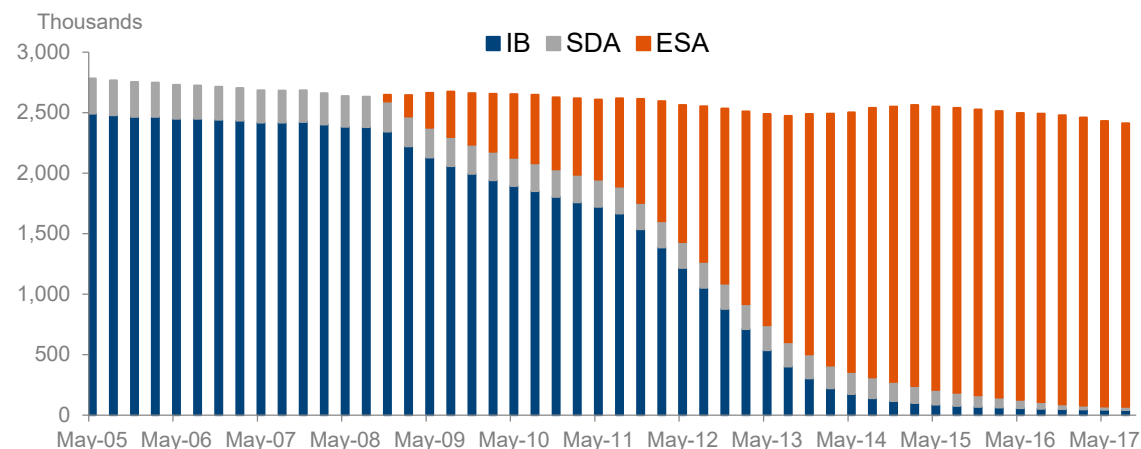
An experimental working age “out-of-work” benefit figure has been introduced recently. This new series shows numbers claiming an “out-of-work” benefit (including UC) have generally fallen over time and have fallen 100 thousand (3%) in the year to August 2017 to stand at 3.6 million. This is as a temporary measure to provide a more complete “out-of-work” benefit figure which includes UC. More detail can be seen in table 6 of the supporting tables in the link provided below. If you have any comments regarding the new measure please email [stats-consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:stats-consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk).

See the [supporting tables](#) (table ben\_combs\_feb2018) and [background information and methodology document](#) for further data and information.

# 1.2 Employment and Support Allowance and Incapacity Benefits – National Statistics

## The number of people on Employment and Support Allowance and incapacity benefits is falling

Employment and Support Allowance / Incapacity benefits claimants since May 2005



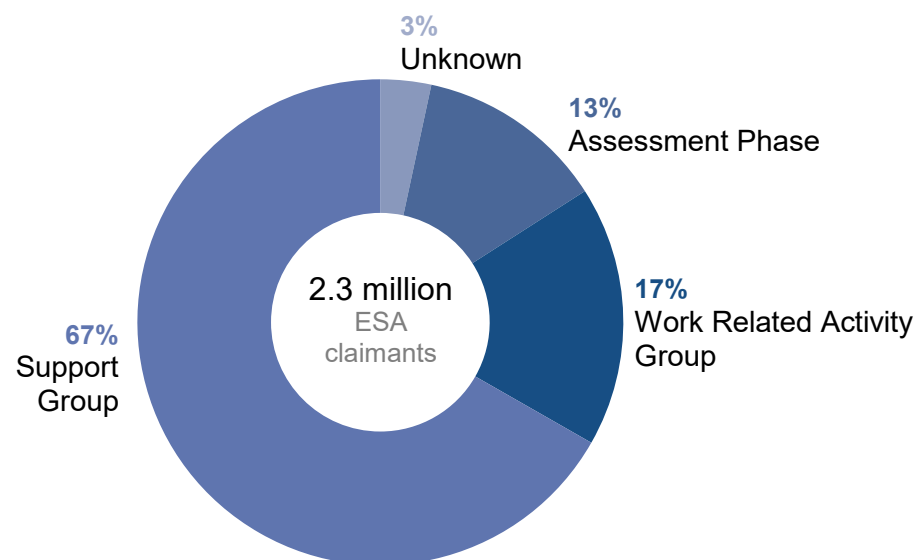
There were 2.4 million people on Employment and Support Allowance and incapacity benefits (Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance) at August 2017, a decrease of 81 thousand on a year earlier.

The number of people on Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) is now at 2.3 million. This is 41 thousand less than the year before, but a decrease of 15 thousand compared to May 2017.

There were 68 thousand people on incapacity benefits at August 2017. The number of people on incapacity benefits has been steadily decreasing over time, due to incapacity benefits being replaced by ESA from October 2008.

The numbers of ESA claimants will gradually decrease as Universal Credit rolls out and replaces income-related ESA.

ESA Claims by phase at August 2017



At August 2017, two-thirds (67%) of ESA claimants were in the support group, 17% were in the work-related activity group, and 13% were still in the assessment phase. The phase could not be determined for the remaining 3%.

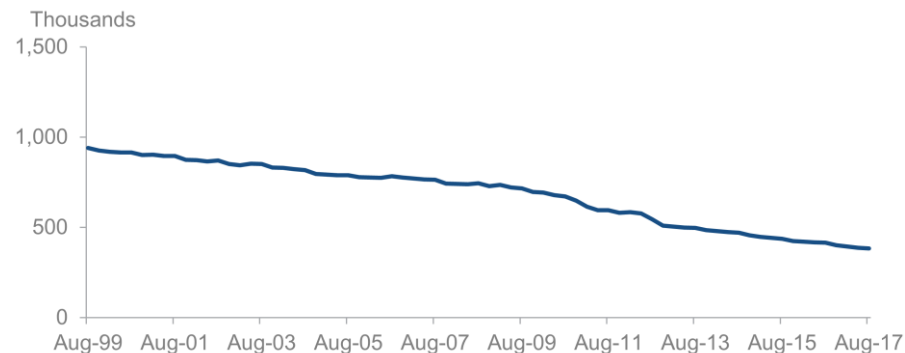
See the [supporting tables](#) (tables esa\_feb18 and ibsda\_feb18) and [Stat-Xplore](#) for further data.

# 1.3 Income Support – National Statistics

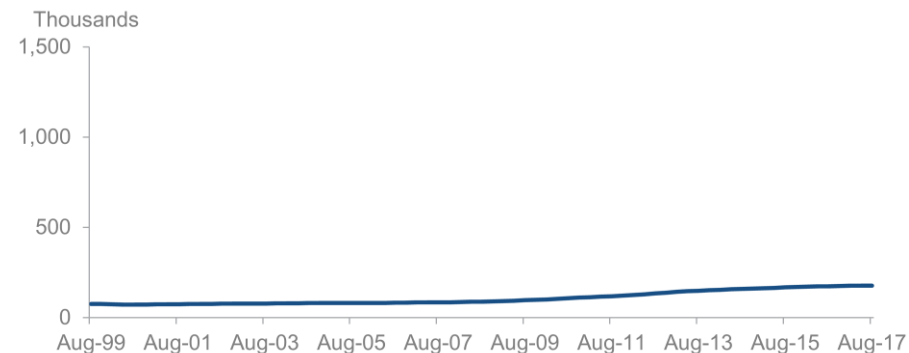
## The number of people on Income Support continues to decrease

Income support claimants by statistical group: August 1999 to August 2017

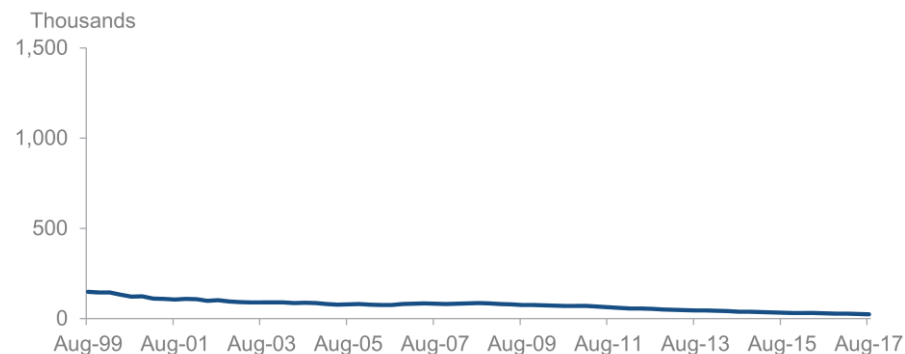
### Lone parents



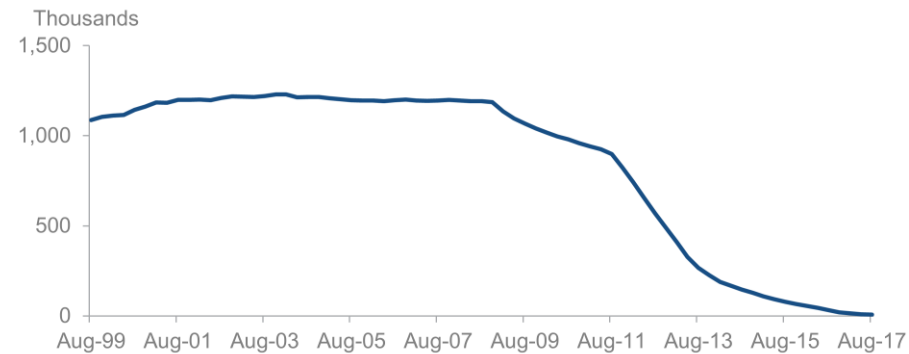
### Carers



### Others



### Incapacity benefits



**At August 2017, the total number of Income Support claimants was 590 thousand**

Lone Parents (all single claimants with dependants under 16, excluding claimants of incapacity benefits) represented 65% of the IS caseload (380 thousand). 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.

Claimants of incapacity benefits represented 1% of the IS caseload (7 thousand), while Carers and Others represented 34% of the caseload (180 thousand and 25 thousand respectively).

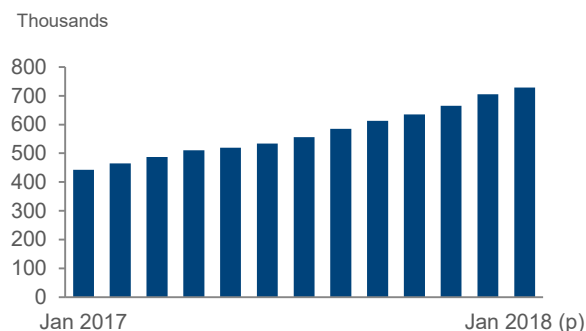
Numbers on income-related Income Support will reduce over time as Universal Credit rolls out and gradually replaces income-related Income Support.

See the [supporting tables](#) (table is\_feb18) for further data.

## 1.4 Universal Credit – Official Experimental Statistics

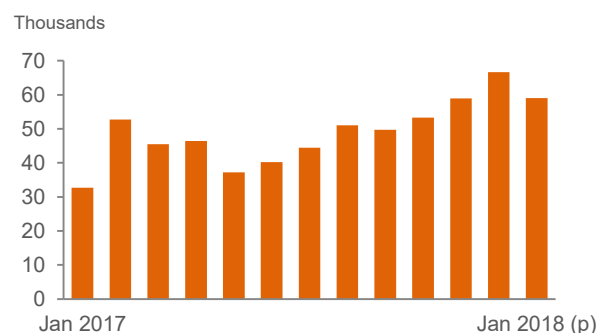
Three Universal Credit measures are shown in the charts below. **Claims** made counts the number of applications submitted for Universal Credit. Some of these people will go on to **Start** on Universal Credit. **People on Universal Credit** includes all those who have started and are still on Universal Credit at the count date (second Thursday of the month). Some people will have their claim terminated either at the request of the individual or if their entitlement to Universal Credit ends. See the [Background Information and Methodology](#) document for more detail on the definitions used in this publication.

### People on Universal Credit by month



The number of people on Universal Credit rose to **730 thousand** in January 2018.

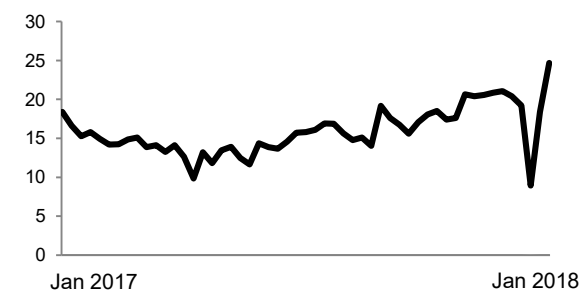
### Monthly Starts to Universal Credit



The total number of starts that have been made since Universal Credit began is **1.3 million**. 54 thousand starts to Universal Credit were made in the most recent month, to 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

The figures in this chart have been standardised, to make months of different length more comparable. Please see the Background Information and Methodology document for more detail.

### Weekly Claims to Universal Credit



**1.8 million** claims have been made for Universal Credit up to 11 January 2018. 71 thousand claims have been made for Universal Credit in the last four weeks at an average of 18 thousand per week.

See the [full release](#) for latest statistical data on Universal Credit. Please note the figures for the latest month (January 2018) are provisional (p) and will be finalised in the next full release of Universal Credit statistics.

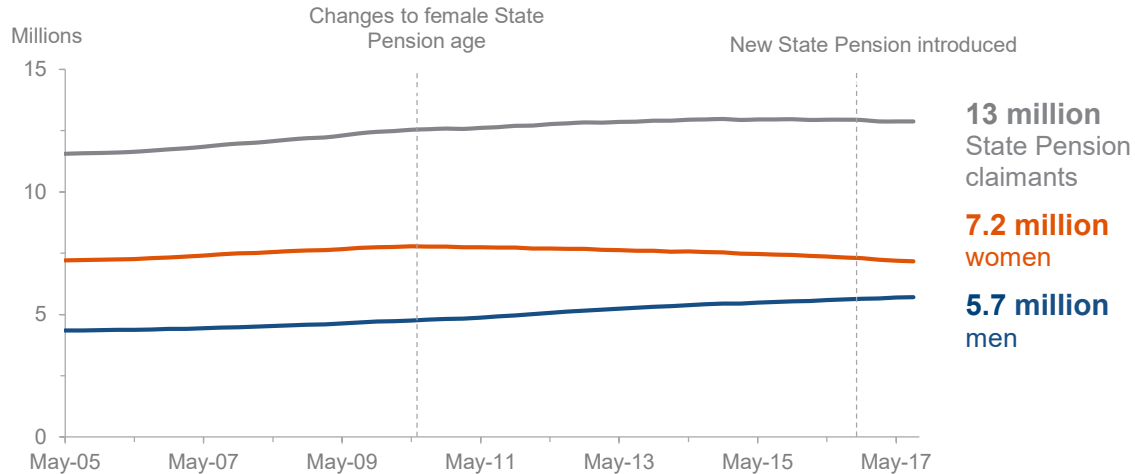
The [September 2017 release](#) includes statistics for the number of households on Universal Credit. This contains additional breakdowns, such as information on the family type (i.e. single, couple, with / without dependent children) and the aspects of Universal Credit (e.g. housing) the household is entitled to receive as part of their Universal Credit award. The households statistics are updated bi-annually, with the next update in March 2018.



## 2.1 State Pension and Pension Credit – National Statistics

### The number of people on State Pension has decreased over the last year

#### Pensioner client group and State Pension recipients May 2005 to August 2017



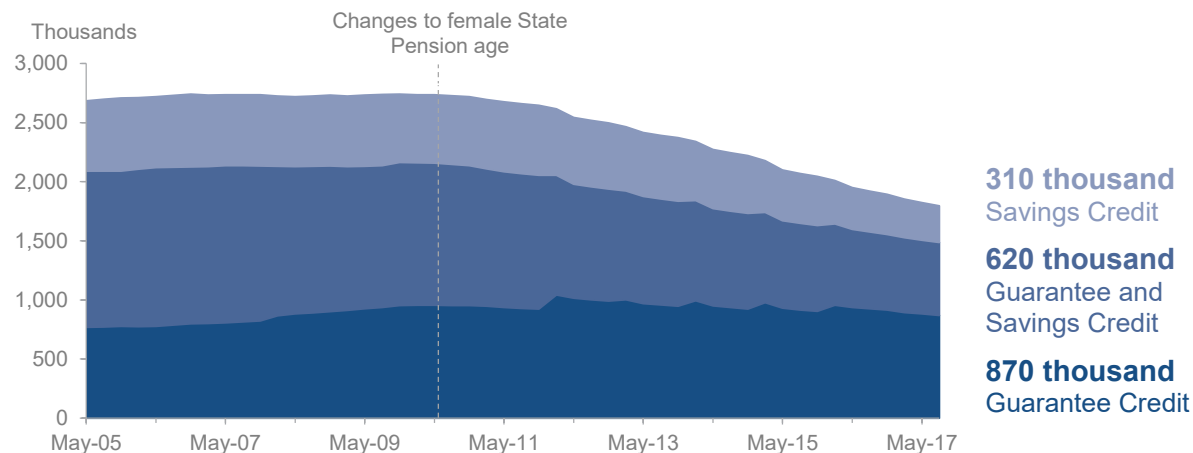
**There were 13 million recipients of State Pension at August 2017**, a fall of 72 thousand on a year earlier. This fall was largely driven by a decrease in the number of female State Pension recipients. Due to increases in women's State Pension age the number of women reaching State Pension age has decreased. The average weekly State Pension amount in payment at **August 2017** was £138.34, a rise of £4.03 since **August 2016**.

The new State Pension (nSP) was introduced for people reaching State Pension age from 6 April 2016. **At August 2017 there were 550 thousand nSP recipients** with an average weekly amount in payment of £150.36 (including any Protected Payments).

See the [supporting tables](#) (table sp\_feb18) for further data.

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

#### Pension Credit recipients: May 2005 to August 2017



**At August 2017, there were 1.8 million recipients of Pension Credit (2.1 million including partners)**, a fall of 120 thousand on the previous year. Nearly two thirds of recipients (63%) were women.

The number of people on Pension Credit has been decreasing since November 2009. While the number of people receiving Guarantee Credit has remained constant, the number of people getting Savings Credit payments has been decreasing.

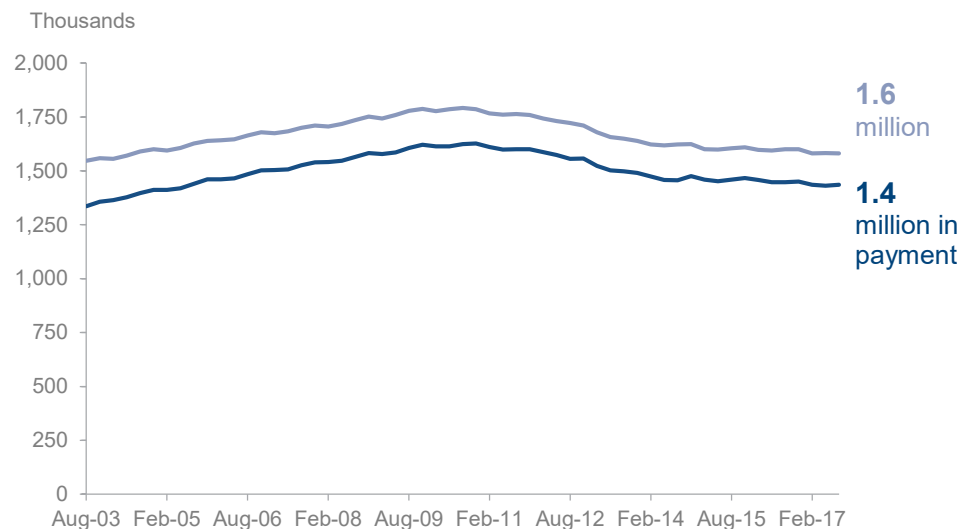
The downward trend in overall Pension Credit caseload is partly due to equalisation of State Pension age, which results in the Pension Credit qualifying age increasing; partly due to changes to the Savings Credit element of Pension Credit, including the abolition of Savings Credit for those that reach State Pension age after 6th April 2016; and partly due to the introduction of new State Pension, which was introduced in April 2016.

See the [supporting tables](#) (table pc\_feb18) for further data.

## 3.1 Attendance Allowance and Carer's Allowance – National Statistics

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

Attendance Allowance claimants: August 2003 to August 2017



**At August 2017, the number of people on Attendance Allowance has decreased by 19 thousand on a year earlier and is now 1.6 million.**

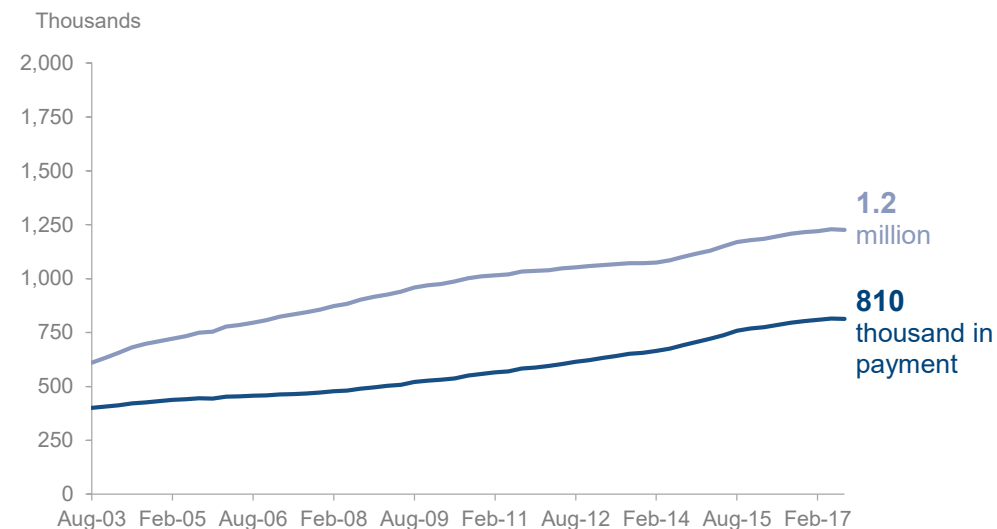
Of these Attendance Allowance claimants, 35% (550 thousand) are male, an increase of 0.47 thousand from August 2016. 65% (1.0 million) are female, a decrease of 19 thousand from August 2016.

There were 150 thousand (9%) claimants who were entitled to the benefit but receiving no payment.

See the [supporting tables](#) (tables aa\_ent\_feb18, aa\_feb18) and [Stat-Xplore](#) for further data.

The number of people receiving Carer's Allowance continues to rise

Carer's Allowance claimants: August 2003 to August 2017



**The total number claiming Carer's Allowance at August 2017 is 1.2 million, a rise of 17 thousand from August 2016.** Increases in women's State Pension age and in the number of people claiming disability benefits, as well as an ageing population, may have contributed to this rise.

32%, or 390 thousand, of Carer's Allowance claimants are male and 68%, or 830 thousand, are female.

Of the total number claiming Carers Allowance (1.2 million), 34% (410 thousand) were entitled to the benefit but receiving no payment.

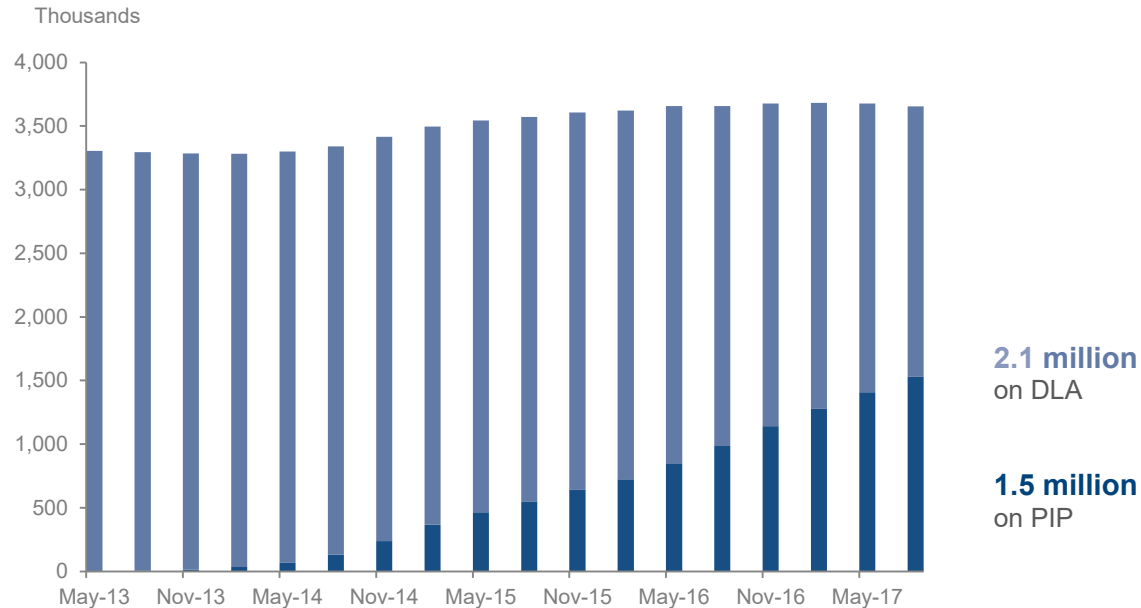
See the [supporting tables](#) (tables ca\_ent\_feb18, ca\_feb18) and [Stat-Xplore](#) for further data.

Note: Some claimants are eligible for Attendance Allowance or Carer's Allowance but do not receive a payment. These individuals are still counted as claimants. For example, payments can be temporarily suspended if the claimant is in hospital.

## 3.2 Personal Independence Payment and Disability Living Allowance – National Statistics

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



There were a total of 3.7 million claimants of Personal Independence Payment and Disability Living Allowance at August 2017, a decrease of 4.1 thousand (0.1%) on a year earlier.

The number of people claiming Disability Living Allowance has fallen (by 550 thousand) in the year to August 2017 to 2.1 million. During the same period the number of people claiming Personal Independence Payment has increased (by 540 thousand) to 1.5 million. 740 thousand of these claims were reassessed Disability Living Allowance claims.

At the end of October 2017 (the latest PIP data available), there were 1.6 million Personal Independence Payment claims in payment. Up until this point there had been 3.2 million registrations and 3.0 million clearances.

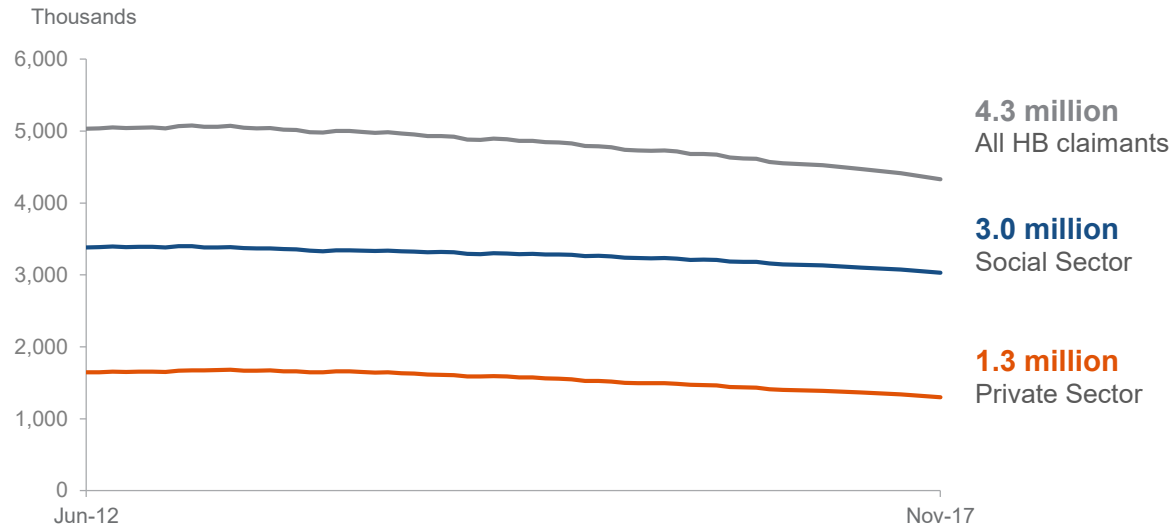
Further PIP information and breakdowns are available via the latest statistical [first release](#) and via [Stat-Xplore](#). Note PIP statistics are Official Experimental.

Further DLA breakdowns are available via the [supporting tables](#) (table dla\_feb18).

## 4.1 Housing Benefit – National Statistics

### The number of people claiming Housing Benefit is decreasing

Housing Benefit recipients: June 2012 to November 2017



Overall numbers claiming housing benefit have been gradually decreasing and will continue to fall as Universal Credit rolls out and replaces Housing Benefit for working age claimants. **At November 2017, there were 4.3 million recipients of Housing Benefit.**

The majority of HB recipients (70%, 3.0 million) were tenants in the social sector and the rest in the private sector (1.3 million). Of those in the private sector, 87% received the local housing allowance, due to being on a low income.

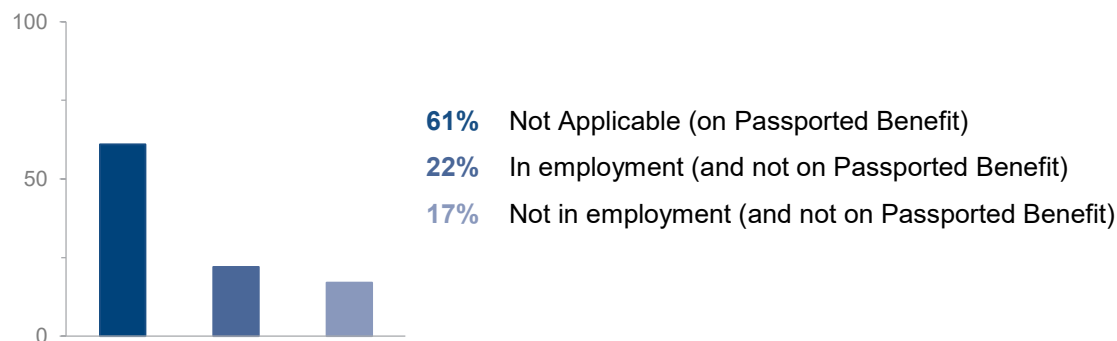
The majority (61%) of Housing benefit recipients entitlement was due to being in receipt of a passported benefit: Income Support, income-based Jobseekers Allowance, income-based Employment and Support Allowance or Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit).

As at November 2017 only 9% (400 thousand) recipients of Housing Benefit (which were of working age) had a reduction to their weekly award amount due to the spare room subsidy scheme, whereby tenants in social housing whose accommodation is larger than they need may lose part of their Housing Benefit.

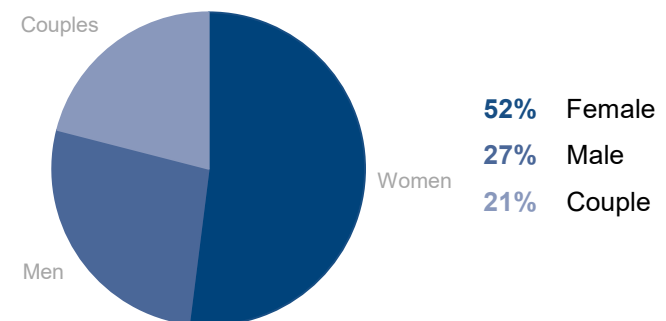
Further Housing Benefit information and breakdowns are available via [Stat-Xplore](#).

Percentage of Housing Benefit recipients at November 2017

Employment (and benefit status)



Gender (single claimants only)



## About these statistics

The statistics in this publication are affected by the introduction of Universal Credit. Universal Credit was introduced in 2013 and is now available to all types of claimants in certain areas of Great Britain. Universal Credit will be replacing income-related Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Housing Benefit, Income Support, Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. Universal Credit is being introduced in stages across Great Britain by postcode area. Rollout will be completed in 2018 and by 2022 all existing legacy claimants will have moved on to Universal Credit. Please see the [background information](#) document for more detail.

## Where to find out more

Full details of where to find more detailed statistical information on DWP benefits can be found [here](#).

In summary more detailed statistical tables covering all National Statistics benefits can be found via:

- [Stat-Xplore](#)
- [Nomis](#)
- [Supporting tables](#)

[Stat-Xplore](#) is an interactive way for users to create their own statistical tables and related breakdowns. It currently holds statistics on:

- Housing Benefit claimant data
- Sanction decisions for Jobseeker's Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance
- National Insurance number allocations to adult overseas nationals
- Personal Independence Payment
- Benefit cap
- Universal Credit
- Attendance Allowance
- Disability Living Allowance
- Carer's Allowance
- State Pension
- Work Programme
- Pension Credit
- Widow's Benefit
- Bereavement Benefits

[Nomis](#) is an on-line tool that allows you to create and download customised statistical tables. Its functionality allows users to produce tables by personal and benefit characteristics for the following benefits:

- Working age client group (not updated after May 2017)\*
- Employment and support allowance\*
- Incapacity benefit / severe disablement\*
- Income support\*
- Jobseeker's allowance\*
- Carer's allowance
- Disability living allowance by disabling condition
- Disability living allowance\*

- Pension credits\*
- State pension\*

\* Benefits where lower-level geographical statistics (down to Ward, Lower Super Output area and Data zone) are also available in Nomis.

Additional [supporting tables](#) for the latest release exist for each benefit. This includes local authority and parliamentary constituency breakdowns.

## 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>

## Known issues, changes and revisions

Changes to the frequency of this document: In the November Quarterly Benefit Summary (QBS) we proposed reducing the frequency of the QBS to six-monthly to enable us to develop and publish higher priority statistics and invited your comments on this. Following feedback we will continue to release data on a quarterly basis via [Stat-Xplore](#) and [NOMIS](#) but will reduce the frequency of the QBS document to a six-monthly release in February and August. We will also stop releasing the Excel supporting tables from February 2018 for data which is already accessible via Stat-Xplore or NOMIS. Therefore February 2018 is the last quarterly iteration of the QBS document. Please email [stats-consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:stats-consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk) if you have any comments.

## Contact information and feedback

For more information, please contact Alan Gibson at [alan.gibson@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:alan.gibson@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

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

An on-going 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@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:stats-consultation@dwp.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.