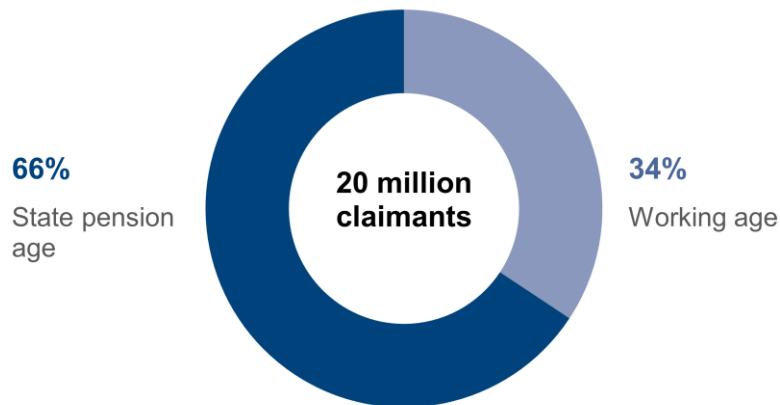


This release aims to give users a structured overview of National Statistics on DWP administered benefits. To provide a more complete picture of DWP responsibility, statistics on Housing Benefit (administered by Local Authorities) are also included.

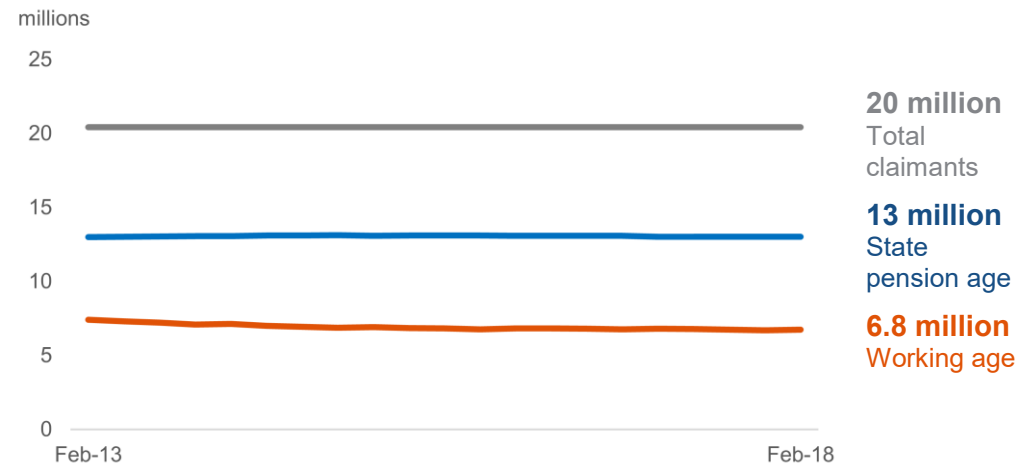
## Statistics of interest

- Experimental statistics show that there were 20 million DWP benefit claimants at February 2018. 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 by 69 thousand in the year to February 2018 to stand at 6.8 million.
- There were 13 million state pension age claimants of DWP benefits; a decrease of 85 thousand compared to February 2017.

**Two thirds of DWP benefit claimants were of state pension age at February 2018**



**20 million DWP benefit claimants at February 2018**



\* Those of State Pension age, at the end February 2018, will include all men aged 65 and over and all women born before 6 September 1953.

## At a glance

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Comments? Feedback is welcome

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Next release of statistical summary document:  
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## What you need to know

### In this release

The DWP benefit statistics are published quarterly but this release document is only published on a six monthly basis (in February and August). It 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.

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](#)
- Bereavement Support Payments (BSP) replaced Bereavement Benefits (Bereavement Payment, Bereavement Allowance and Widow's Allowance) from 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017. Statistics on BSP are published [here](#).
- 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](#).

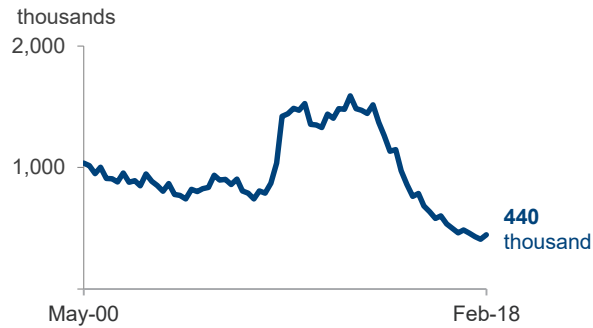
### About these statistics

The statistics are released quarterly in February, May, August and November and are primarily sourced from data originally collected via administrative systems. All are National Statistics **except** Personal Independence Payments (which are official statistics), and Universal Credit, Benefit Combinations and Bereavement Support statistics (which are experimental). Further information is available [here](#).

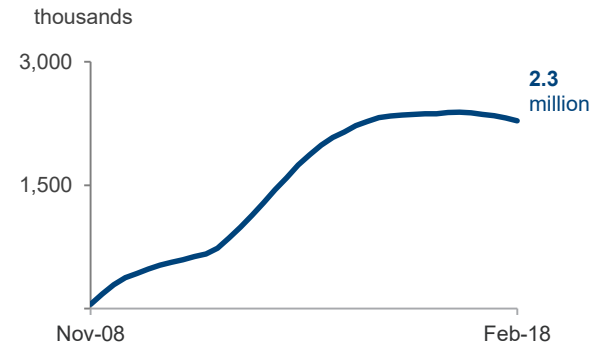
The UK Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

# Overview of numbers claiming benefits as at February 2018 (unless otherwise stated)

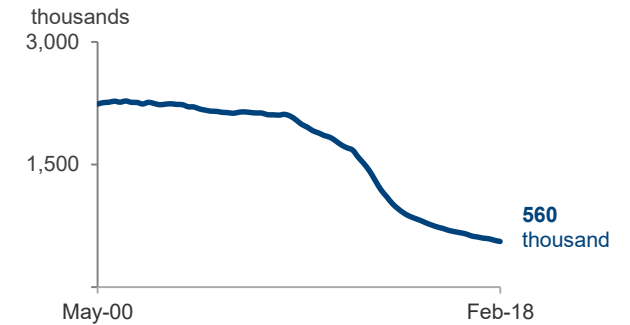
## Jobseeker's allowance



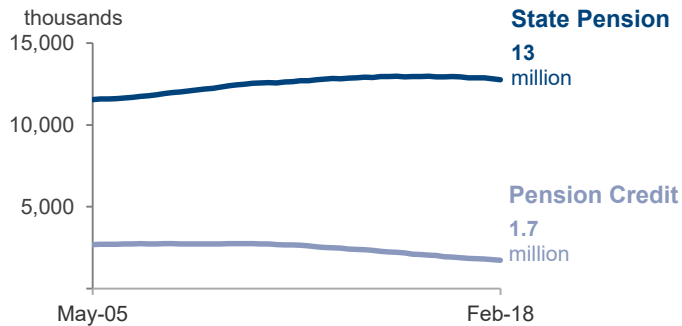
## Employment and Support Allowance



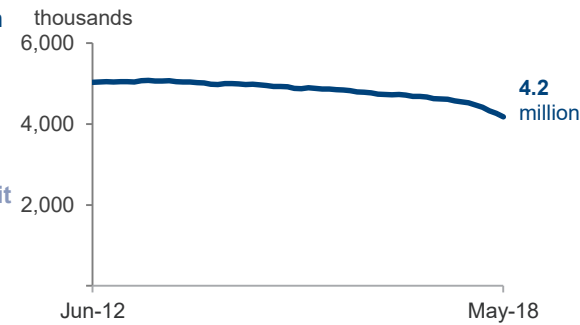
## Income support



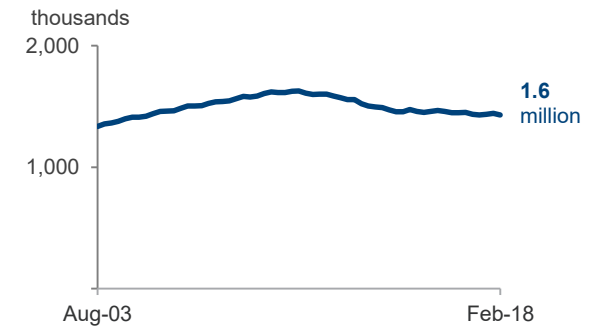
## Pensions



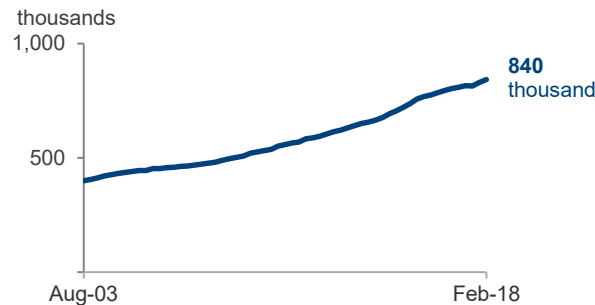
## Housing Benefit



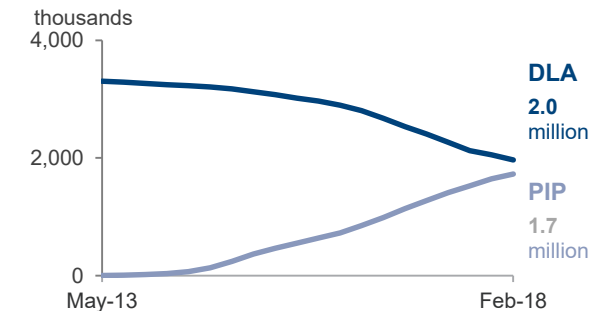
## Attendance allowance



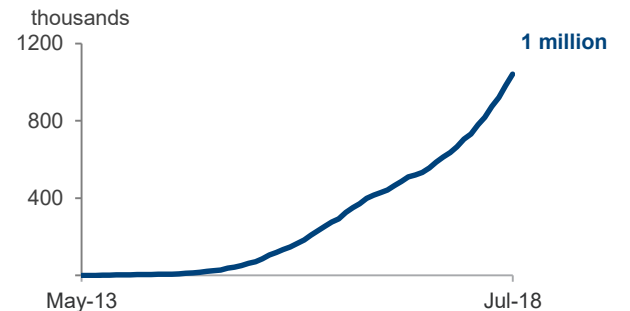
## Carer's Allowance



## PIP and DLA



## Universal Credit

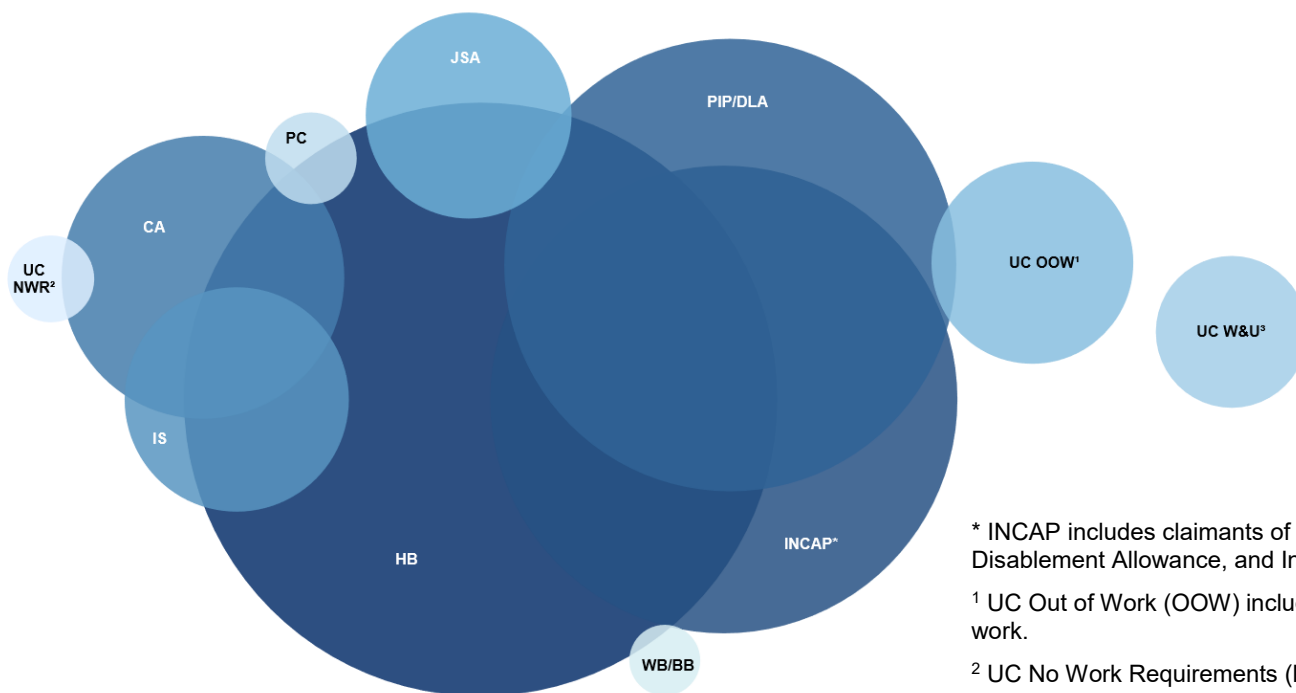


# 1.1 Benefit Combinations – Experimental Statistics

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 February 2018. 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 February 2018. Of which;

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

190 thousand claimed JSA only

260 thousand claimed JSA and another benefit;

12 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.

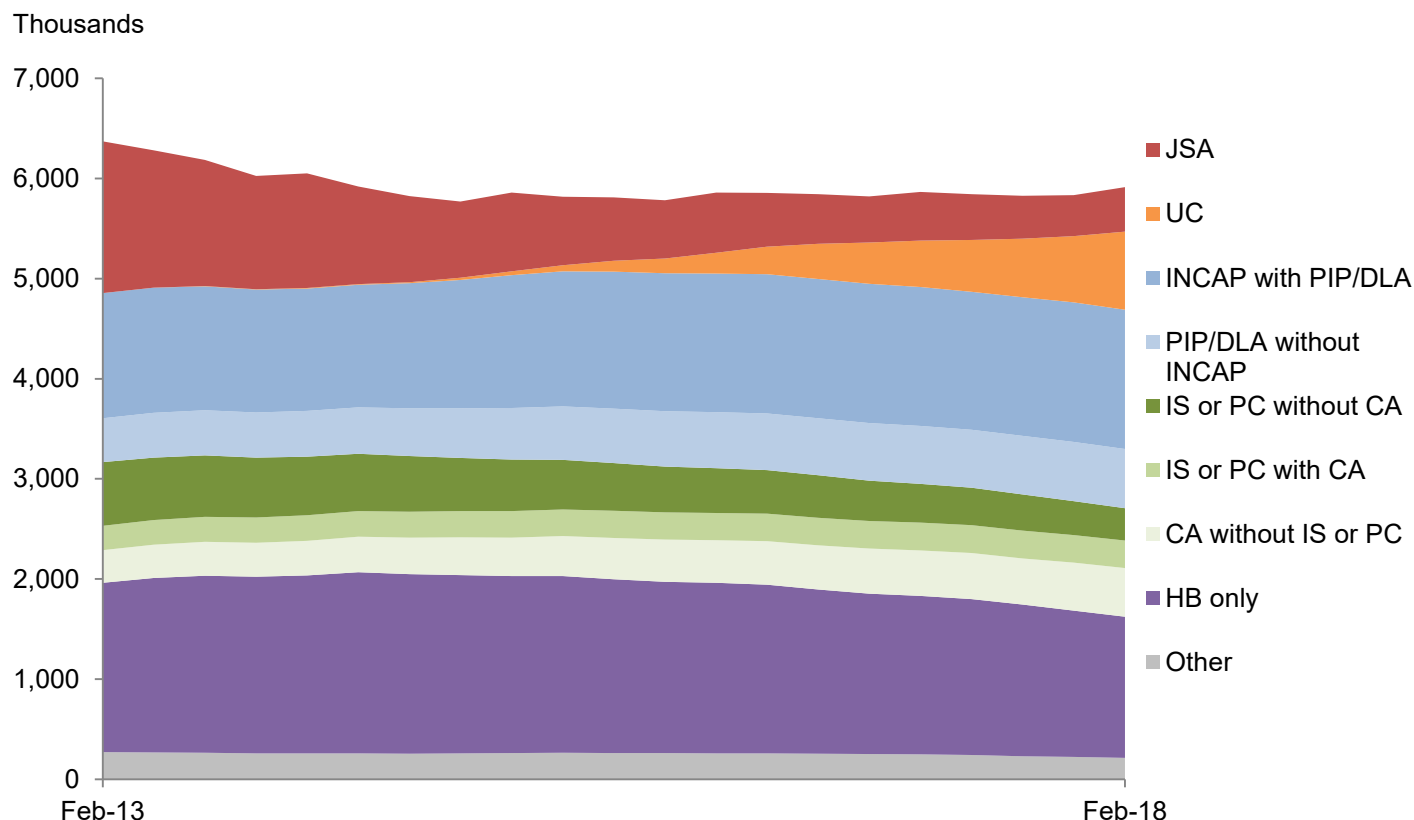
The diagram above gives an indication of the number of claimants on each benefit combination. The size of each circle shows how many individuals are on each benefit. Where circles overlap, individuals are claiming more than one benefit. The size of the overlap between the circles shows how many individuals 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 [Stat-xplore](#) 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 February 2018**. Most of these claimants received only one benefit. 3.7 million (54%) claimed one benefit only, 1.9 million (28%) were on two benefits, and a further 1.0 million (15%) were on three.

More people claimed Housing Benefit than any other benefit. Nearly 54% (3.7 million) of the 6.8 million working age claimants were on HB. A large number of claimants also claimed Incapacity Benefits (2.3 million), and PIP/DLA (2.2 million).

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.

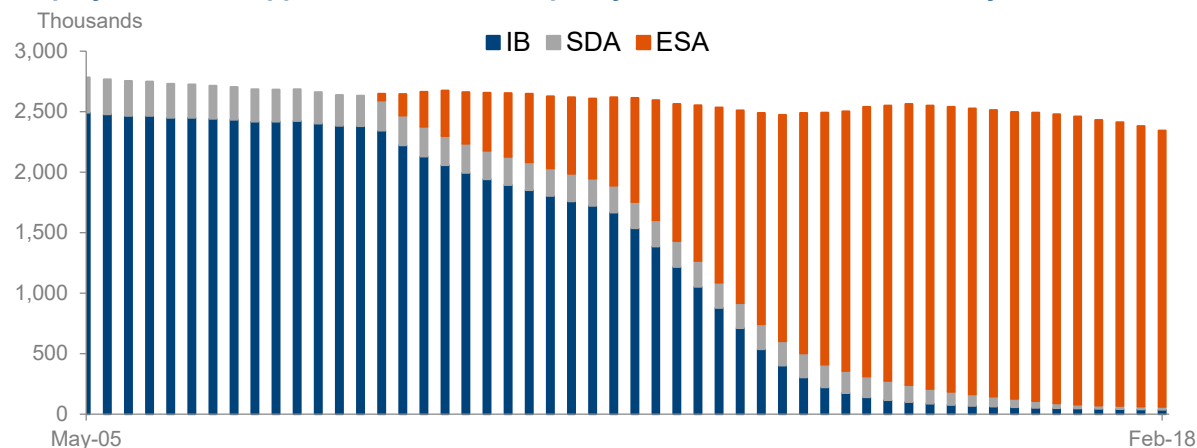
An experimental working age “out-of-work” benefit figure has been introduced recently. This new series shows numbers claiming an “out-of-work” benefit (including UC) have generally fallen over time and have fallen by 84 thousand (2%) in the year to February 2018 to stand at 3.5 million. This is as a 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).

Please see [Stat-xplore](#) for a full breakdown of the benefit combinations

# 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



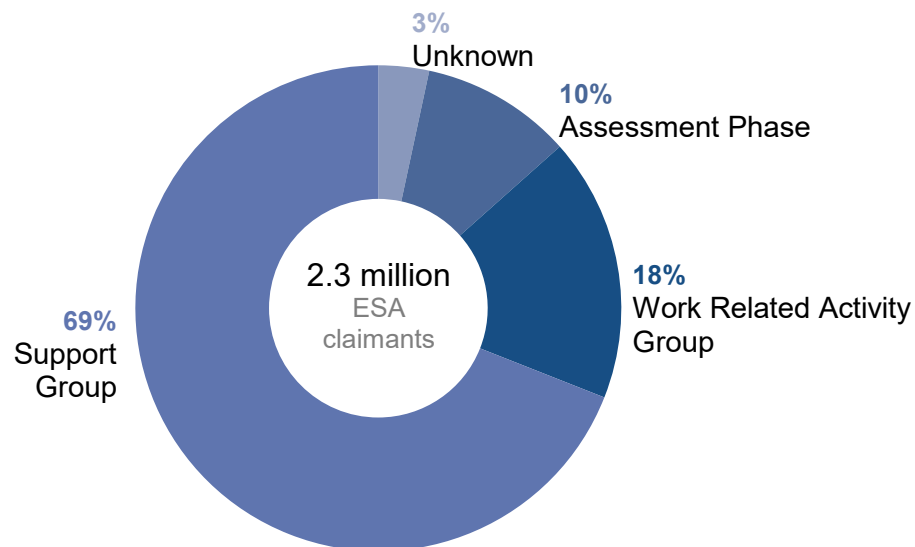
There were 2.3 million people on Employment and Support Allowance and incapacity benefits (Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disability Allowance) at February 2018, a decrease of 110 thousand on a year earlier.

The number of people on Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) is now at 2.3 million. There are 93 thousand fewer than the year before, and 32 thousand fewer when compared to November 2017.

There were 59 thousand people on incapacity benefits at February 2018. 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 February 2018



At February 2018, two-thirds (69%) of ESA claimants were in the support group, 18% were in the work-related activity group, and 10% were still in the assessment phase. The phase could not be determined for the remaining 3%.

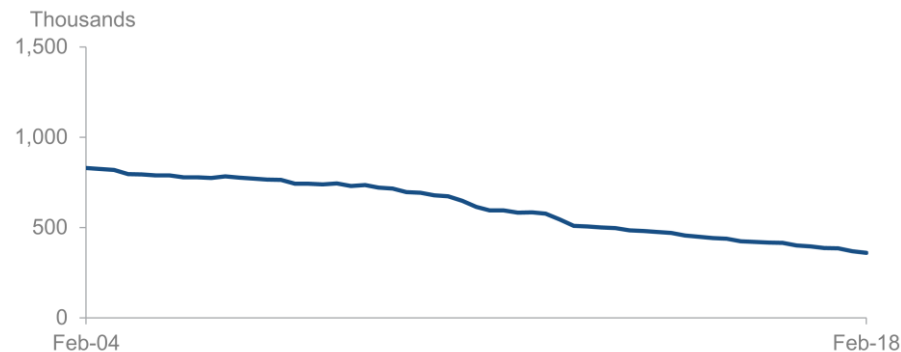
See [Stat-Xplore](#) for further data on ESA and [NOMIS](#) and [data tables](#) for data on IB or SDA

# 1.3 Income Support – National Statistics

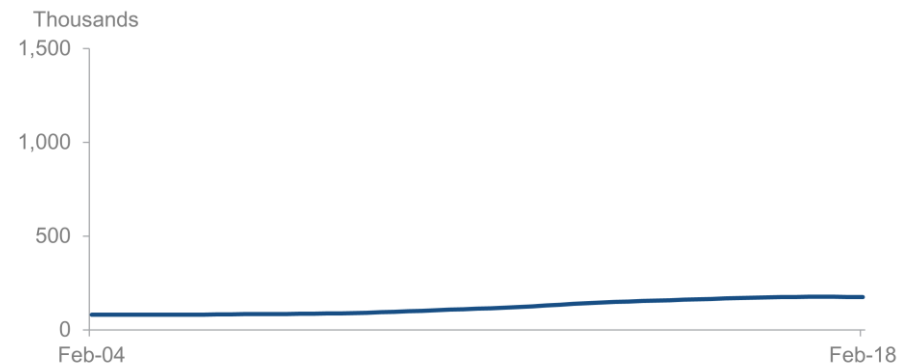
## The number of people on Income Support continues to decrease

Income support claimants by statistical group: February 2004 to February 2018

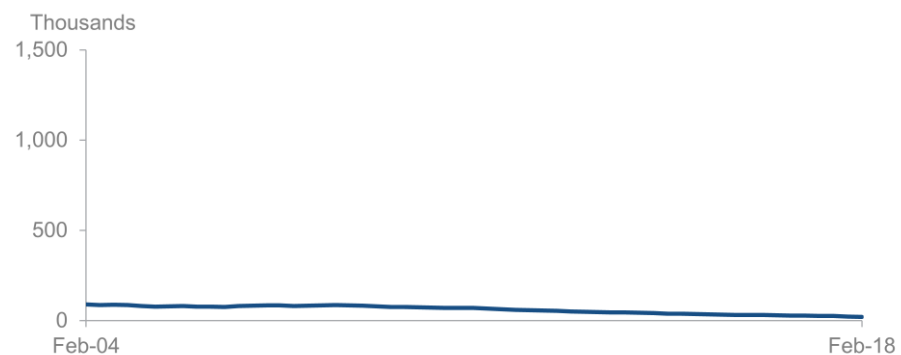
### Lone parents



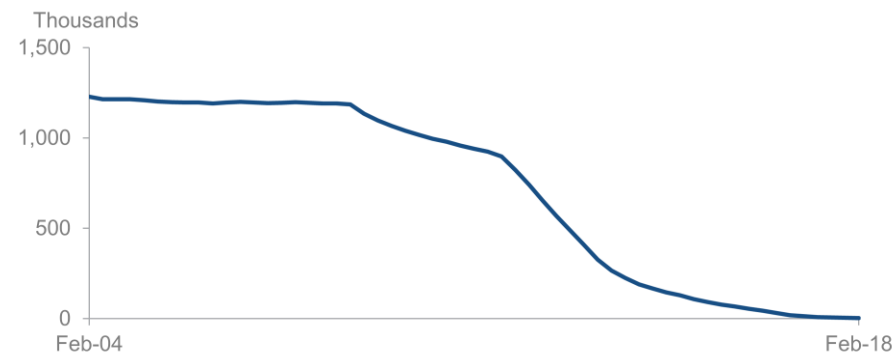
### Carers



### Others



### Incapacity benefits



**At February 2018, the total number of Income Support claimants was 560 thousand.**

Lone Parents (all single claimants with dependants under 16, excluding claimants of incapacity benefits) represented 64% of the IS caseload (360 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 (3 thousand), while Carers and Others represented 35% of the caseload (170 thousand and 21 thousand respectively).

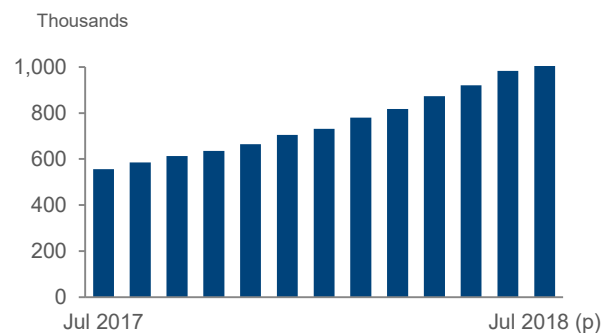
Numbers on income-related Income Support will reduce over time as Universal Credit rolls out and gradually replaces income-related Income Support.

See [Stat-xplore](#) for further data.

## 1.4 Universal Credit – Official Experimental Statistics

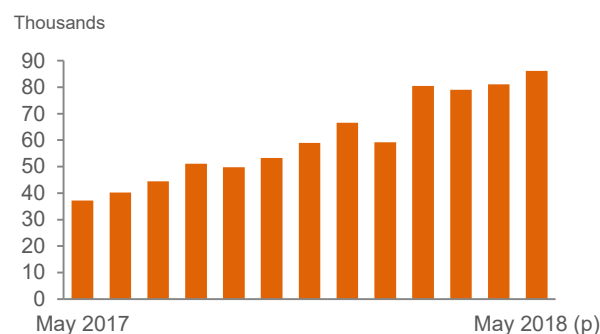
Three Universal Credit measures are shown in the charts below. **Claims** made counts the number of applications submitted for Universal Credit. Some of these people will go on to **Start** on Universal Credit. **People on Universal Credit** includes all those who have started and are still on Universal 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 **1 million** in July 2018.

### Monthly Starts to Universal Credit



The total number of starts that have been made since Universal Credit began is **1.6 million**. 80 thousand starts to Universal Credit were made in the most recent month, to 10 May 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



**2.2 million** claims have been made for Universal Credit up to 10 May 2018. 96 thousand claims have been made for Universal Credit in the last four weeks up to 10 May at an average of 24 thousand per week.

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

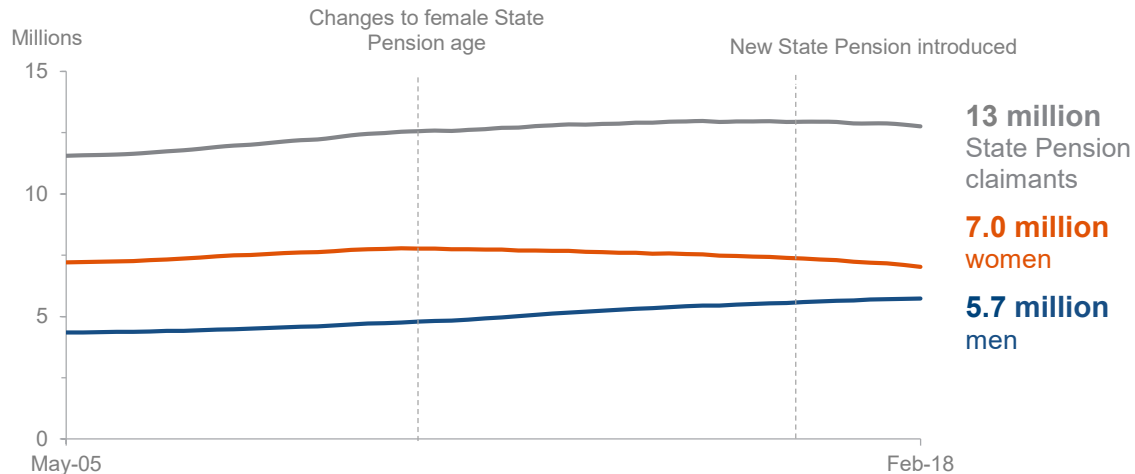
The [March 2018 release](#) includes statistics for the number of households on Universal Credit. This contains additional breakdowns, such as information on the family type (i.e. single, couple, with / without dependent children) and the aspects of Universal Credit (e.g. housing) the household is entitled to receive as part of their Universal Credit award. The households statistics will be updated in September 2018 and will be updated quarterly thereafter from November 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 February 2018



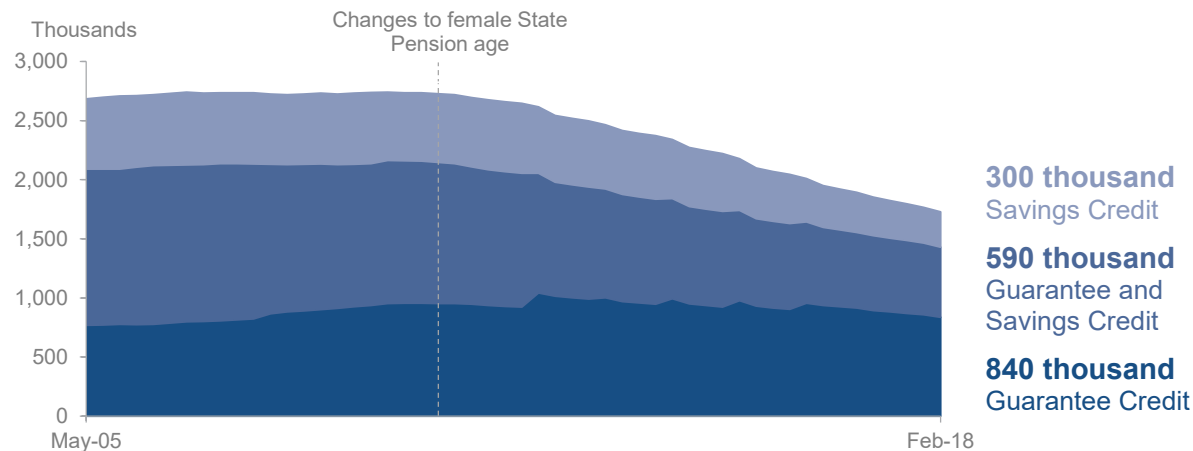
**There were 13 million recipients of State Pension at February 2018**, a fall of 130 thousand on a year earlier. This fall was largely driven by a decrease in the number of female State Pension recipients relating to State Pension Age rises. The average weekly State Pension amount in payment at **February 2018** was £138.96, a rise of £4.25 since **February 2017**.

The new State Pension (nSP) was introduced for people reaching State Pension age from 6 April 2016. **At February 2018 there were 730 thousand nSP recipients** with an average weekly amount in payment of £150.37 (including any Protected Payments).

See [Stat-xplore](#) for further data.

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

#### Pension Credit recipients: May 2005 to February 2018



**At February 2018, there were 1.7 million recipients of Pension Credit (2.0 million including partners)**, a fall of 130 thousand on the previous year. Nearly two thirds of recipients (64%) were women.

The number of people on Pension Credit has been decreasing since November 2009; both for Savings Credit claimants and Guarantee Credit.

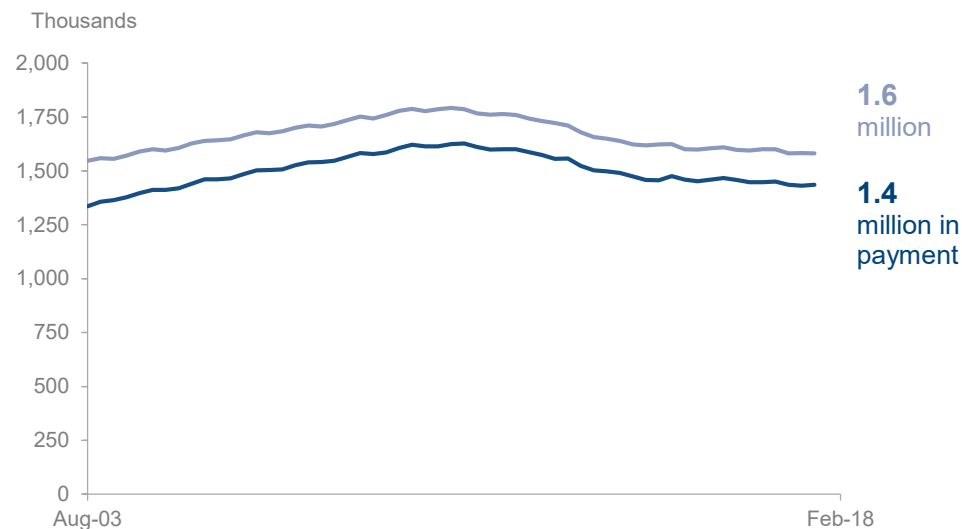
The downward trend in overall Pension Credit caseload is partly due to equalisation of State Pension age, which results in the Pension Credit qualifying age increasing; partly due to changes to the Savings Credit element of Pension Credit, including the abolition of Savings Credit for those that reach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

See [Stat-xplore](#) 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 February 2018



**At February 2018, the number of people on Attendance Allowance has decreased by 17 thousand on a year earlier and is now 1.6 million.**

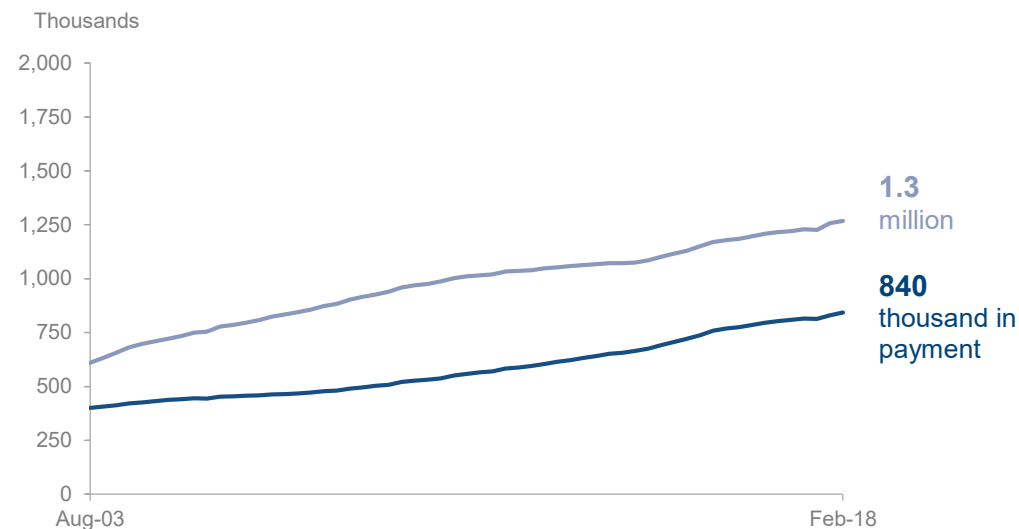
Of these Attendance Allowance claimants, 35% (550 thousand) are male, an increase of 1.4 thousand from February 2017. 65% (1.0 million) are female, a decrease of 19 thousand from February 2017.

There were 130 thousand (8%) claimants who were entitled to the benefit but receiving no payment.

See [Stat-Xplore](#) for further data.

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

Carer's Allowance claimants: August 2003 to February 2018



**The total number claiming Carer's Allowance at February 2018 is 1.3 million, a rise of 48 thousand from February 2017.** 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 410 thousand, of Carer's Allowance claimants are male and 68%, or 860 thousand, are female.

Of the total number claiming Carers Allowance (1.3 million), 33% (420 thousand) were entitled to the benefit but receiving no payment.

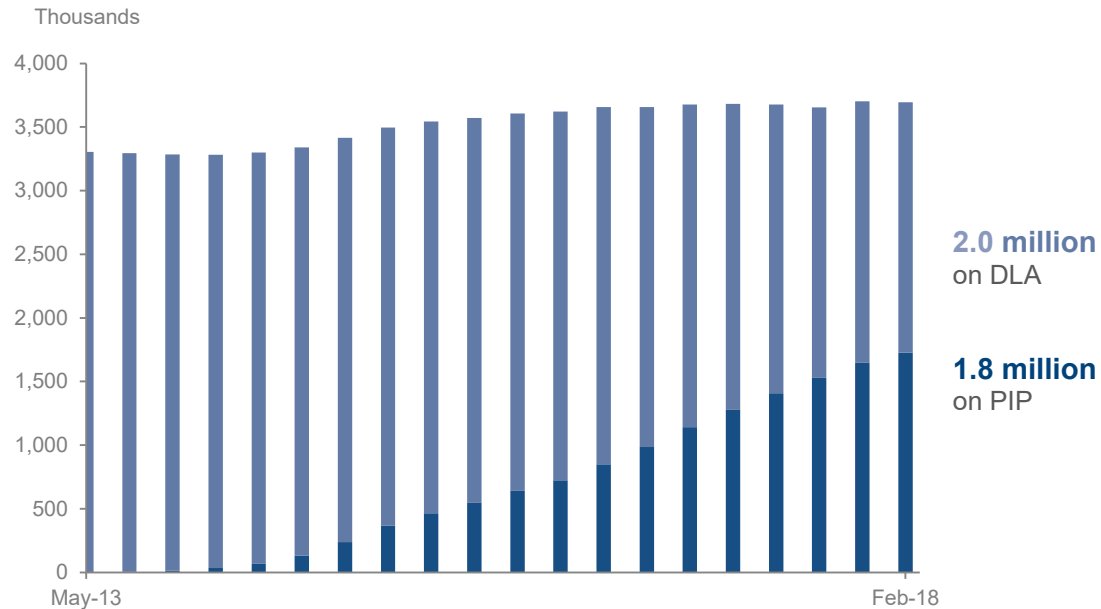
See [Stat-Xplore](#) for further data.

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 February 2018, an increase of 11.5 thousand (0.3%) on a year earlier.

The number of people claiming Disability Living Allowance has fallen (by 440 thousand) in the year to February 2018 to 2.0 million. During the same period the number of people claiming Personal Independence Payment has increased (by 450 thousand) to 1.7 million. 850 thousand of these claims were reassessed Disability Living Allowance claims.

At the end of April 2018 (the latest PIP data available), there were 1.8 million Personal Independence Payment claims in payment. Up until this point there had been 3.4million registrations and 3.2 million clearances.

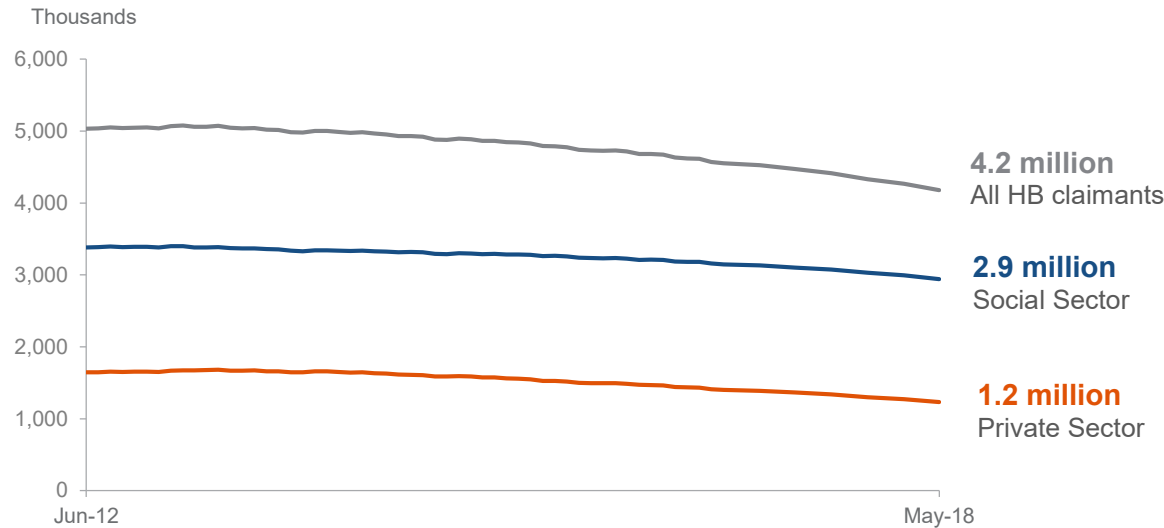
Further PIP information and breakdowns are available via the latest statistical [first release](#) and via [Stat-Xplore](#). Note PIP statistics are Official Experimental.

Further DLA breakdowns are available on [Stat-Xplore](#) and [NOMIS](#).

# 4.1 Housing Benefit – National Statistics

## The number of people claiming Housing Benefit is decreasing

Housing Benefit recipients: June 2012 to May 2018



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 May 2018, there were 4.2 million recipients of Housing Benefit.**

The majority of HB recipients (70%, 2.9 million) were tenants in the social sector and the rest in the private sector (1.2 million). Of those in the private sector, 87% received the local housing allowance, due to being on a low income.

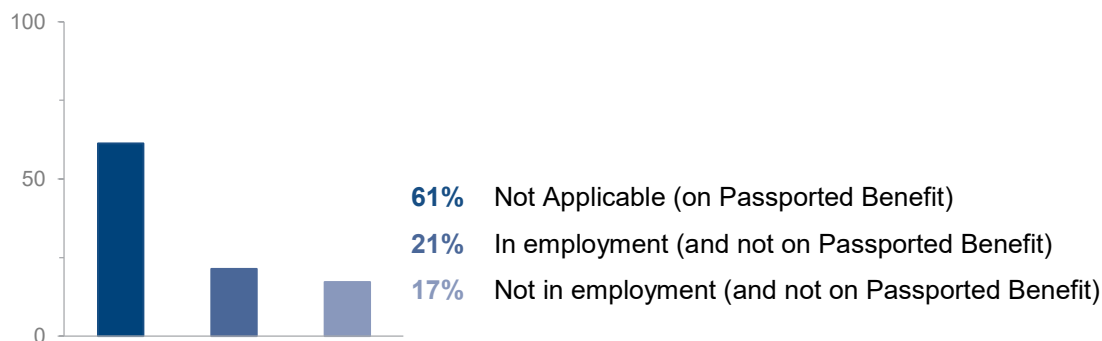
The majority (61%) of Housing benefit recipients entitlement was due to being in receipt of a passported benefit: Income Support, income-based Jobseekers Allowance, income-based Employment and Support Allowance or Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit).

As at May 2018 only 9% (380 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.

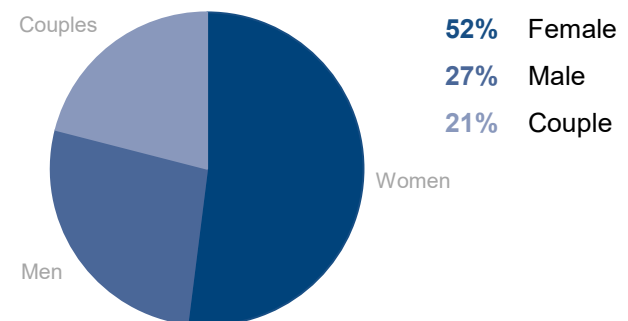
Further Housing Benefit information and breakdowns are available via [Stat-Xplore](#).

Percentage of Housing Benefit recipients at May 2018

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 2023 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 at our collection page [DWP Benefit Statistics](#)

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

- [Stat-Xplore](#)
- [Nomis](#)
- [Data tables](#) (where not available on Stat-Xplore or NOMIS)

[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 [data tables](#) for the latest release exist for data not available elsewhere.

- Bereavement Support Payment (experimental)
- Jobseeker's Allowance by average weekly amount
- State Pension 5% sample (bi-annual)

## 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

**Medical condition statistics to be made available again:** Statistics for ESA, IB/SDA by high-level medical condition are being made available again in this release for data as at February 2018. The statistics were suspended in the spring whilst we investigated a discrepancy with the methodology to map the administrative medical codes to ICD classification codes. As a result the methodology has been improved because some administrative codes were no longer being used or were assigned to other conditions. We have no plans to reproduce a back-series for these benefits as this would be extremely resource intensive, so we believe it is better to use the resource to develop new statistics that have been requested. For further information on the scale of the discrepancy for previous quarters see [background information note](#).

ESA sanction statistics are also publishing high-level medical condition information. Information on this and on the scale of revisions can be found [here](#).

**Housing Benefit geography improvements:** Housing Benefit residency based geographies have been updated in this release to reflect 2011 Census Output Areas for data from April 2018. Statistics are available via [Stat-Xplore](#). We are working towards updating geographies for other benefits later this year. Read the [DWP statistical geographies note](#) for more information.

**Bereavement Support statistics:** Official experimental statistics on the [Bereavement Support Payment \(BSP\)](#) have been extended in this release to include breakdowns by age, gender and geography. Figures are available [here](#).

## 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.