

At a glance

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Thoughts? We welcome feedback

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What you need to know

This summary contains statistics on Universal Credit covering the period to 9 March 2017. Universal Credit is available in all Jobcentre Plus areas to single claimants and is being expanded to all claimant types across the country via the full service.

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

The following benefits will be replaced as Universal Credit rolls out:

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

The main features of Universal Credit are:

- Universal Credit is available to people who are in work and on a low income, as well as to those who are out-of-work.
- Most people will apply online and manage their claim through an online account.
- Universal Credit will be responsive – as people on low incomes move in and out of work, they will get on-going support.
- Most claimants on low incomes will still be paid Universal Credit when they first start a new job or increase their part-time hours.
- Claimants will receive a single monthly household payment, paid into a bank account in the same way as a monthly salary; support with housing costs will usually go direct to the claimant as part of their monthly payment.

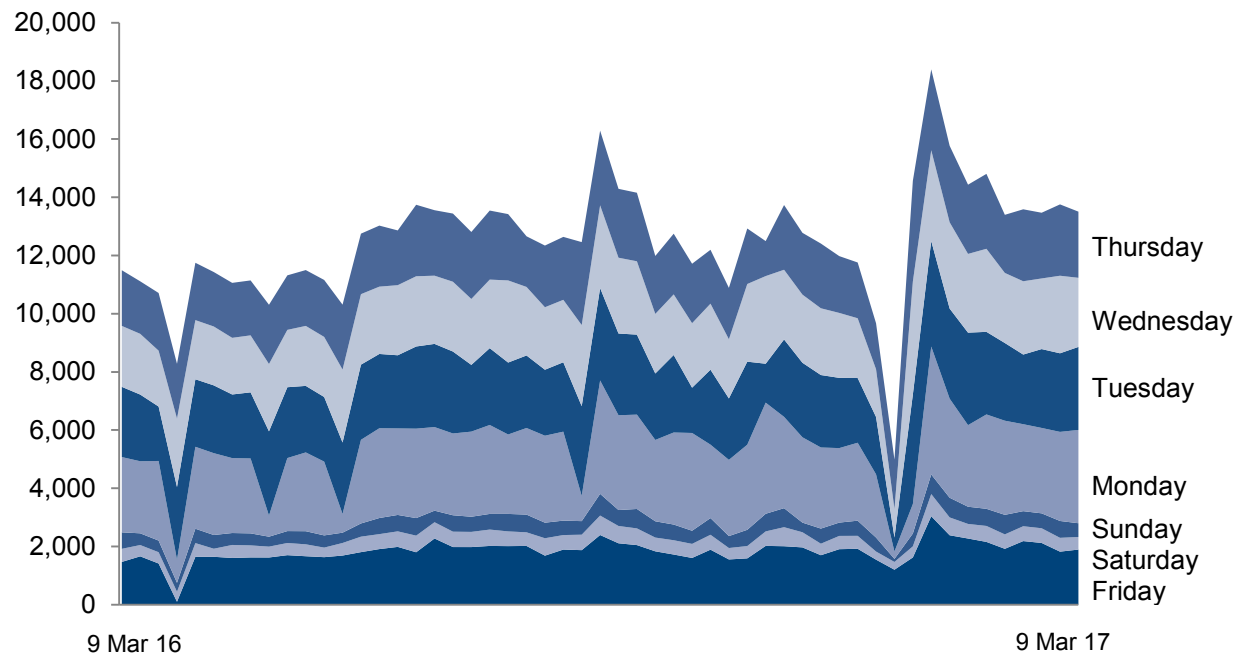
This report contains three measures. **Claims** made counts the number of applications submitted for Universal Credit. Some of these people will go on to **Start** receiving Universal Credit. **People on Universal Credit** include all those who have started and are still on Universal Credit at the count 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.

Claiming Universal Credit

Total claims made have reached 1.1 million

New claims per week and day in the last year to 9 March 2017



The total number of claims made for Universal Credit in the last four weeks was 54 thousand, with an average of 14 thousand claims per week. Generally, more claims are made for Universal Credit on weekdays, compared to weekends.

Claims made for Universal Credit reached a daily peak of 4,400 on Monday 9 January 2017, and a weekly peak of 18 thousand in the week ending 12 January 2017. Previous years have also seen an increase in claims at the start of the New Year, compared to preceding weeks.

The total number of claims made for Universal Credit has now reached 1.1 million. All Jobcentre Plus areas are now accepting claims from single claimants for Universal Credit and it is being expanded across the country to include all claimant types via the full service.

See **Table 1.1** for summary statistics and [Stat-Xplore](#) for the complete data series.

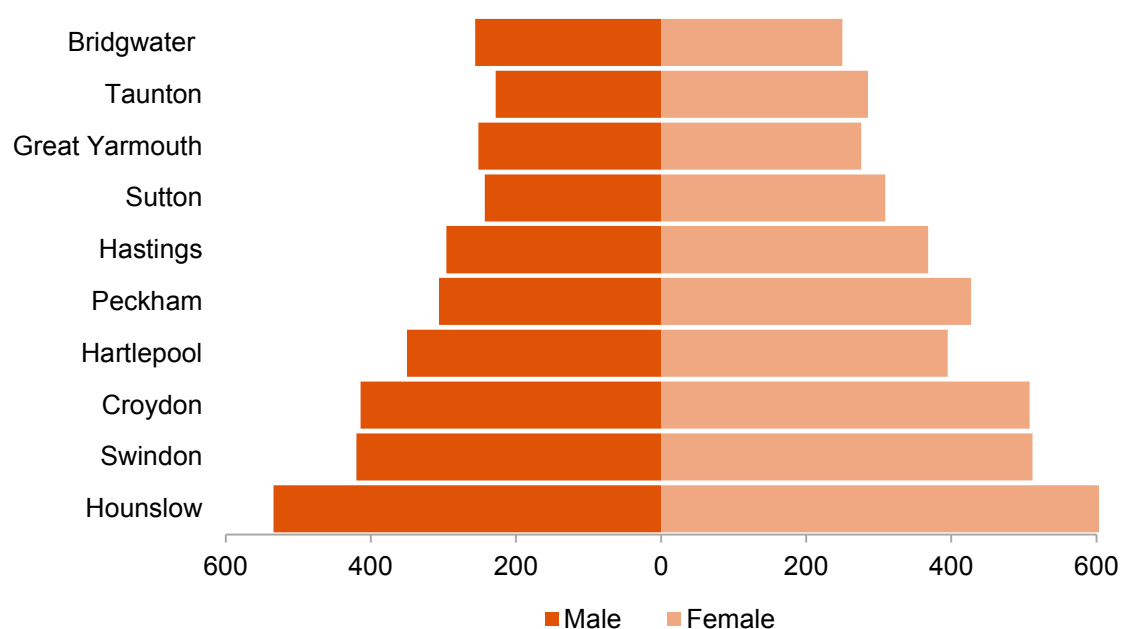
How people claim Universal Credit

People will usually make a claim for Universal Credit online, during which initial claim verification will take place. After making a claim, an initial interview will take place with the claimant, where the eligibility for Universal Credit will be confirmed and the claimant will accept a [Claimant Commitment](#). At this point, a claimant will be recorded as starting Universal Credit. Not all people who make a claim for Universal Credit will go on to start, however the statistics for claims used in this publication include all claims made to Universal Credit.

Starts to Universal Credit

London and the Home Counties had the highest number of starts in March

Top 10 Jobcentre Plus offices for starts to Universal Credit in the four weeks to 9 March 2017, by gender



A total of 42 thousand starts were made to Universal Credit in the four weeks up to 9 March 2017. Of all starts in this period, 58 per cent were by males and 42 per cent were by females.

In some areas Universal Credit is available to a wider range of claimant types. The age and gender profile of claimants therefore varies from region to region.

The top ten offices for starts in the four weeks to 9 March deliver Universal Credit to all claimant types. In most of these offices over 50 per cent of starters were female.

24 per cent (10,000) of the total starts to Universal Credit in the four weeks to 9 March 2017 were in London and the Home Counties.

Hounslow Jobcentre Plus office had more starts than any other, with 1,100 people starting on Universal Credit in the four weeks to 9 March 2017. This was followed by Swindon with 930.

The total number of starts that have been made since Universal Credit began is 770 thousand. The North West has the highest cumulative number of starts, at 200 thousand.

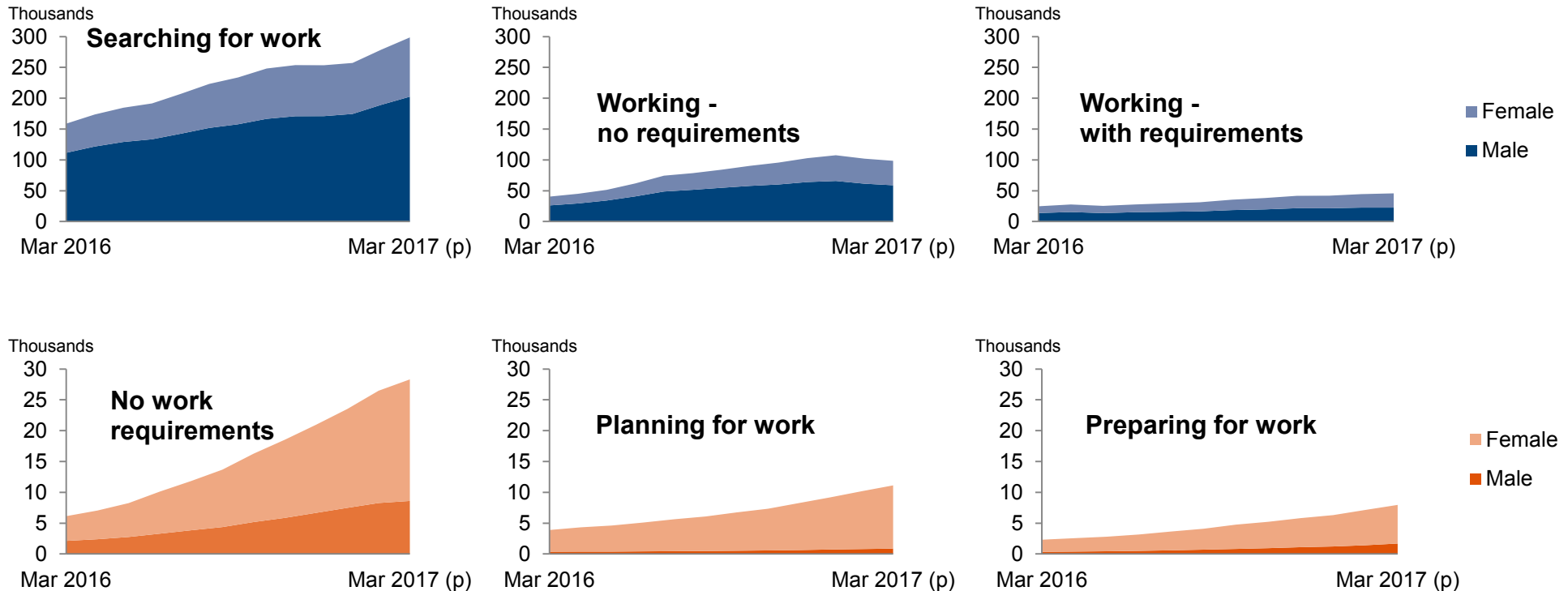
In March 2017, 33 per cent of starts were from 16-24 year olds, compared to 45 per cent in March 2016. Over the intervening year there has been some fluctuation in the proportion of starters in the 16-24 age group which appears to be due to seasonality, particularly around the Christmas period. The overall fall in the proportion of starters in this age group is consistent with Universal Credit being gradually made available to a wider range of claimant types through full service. Over the same period, the proportion of starters aged 50 and over has increased from 9 per cent to 14 per cent.

Please note the figures for the latest month (March 2017) are provisional (p) and will be finalised in the next release. See the Background Information and Methodology document for more details. See **table 2.1** for summary statistics and [Stat-Xplore](#) for the complete data series.

People on Universal Credit

Most people on Universal Credit are in the Searching for Work conditionality regime

The number of people on Universal Credit, by conditionality regime and gender, 9 March 2017



There were 490 thousand people on Universal Credit as of 9 March 2017. This is a 5 per cent increase in the number of people on Universal Credit, compared to February 2017.

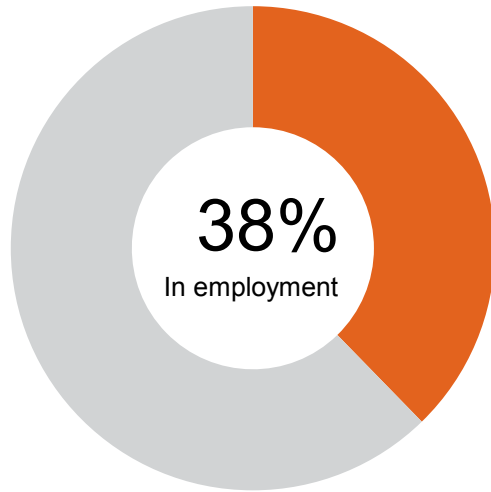
On 9 March 2017, 61 per cent of people on Universal Credit were in the Searching for Work conditionality regime. Searching for Work is the largest conditionality regime for both genders and for all age groups.

Please note that the conditionality breakdown measures what regime an individual is in on the count date. This may not be representative of an individual's entire assessment period. Conditionality regime figures are not the same as the employment breakdown, which shows whether an individual has had earnings during their assessment period. The two breakdowns should only be used together with caution.

Please see the [Background Information and Methodology](#) document for more information on conditionality regimes.

Almost two-fifths of people on Universal Credit are in employment

Percentage of people on Universal Credit who are in employment, 9 March 2017

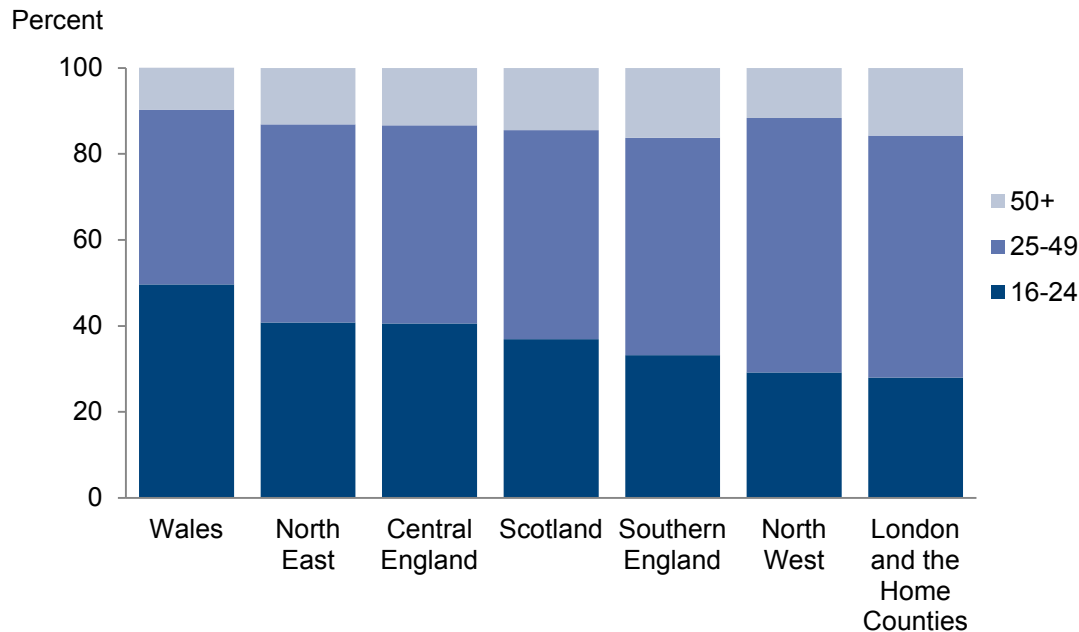


Of the people on Universal Credit as of 9 March 2017, 38 per cent (190 thousand) were in employment.

In March 2017, there were more males on Universal Credit than females (60 per cent compared to 40 per cent).

Regions where Universal Credit is available to all claimant types tend to have a higher proportion of females on Universal Credit compared to other areas. For example, in the North West 47 per cent of people on Universal Credit are female.

People on Universal Credit by Jobcentre Plus region and age group, 9 March 2017



Overall, 52 per cent of people on Universal Credit were aged 25-49. Males aged 25-49 made up 31 per cent of the total figure.

The age profile of people on Universal Credit also varies from region to region. Compared to other areas, the North West and London and the Home Counties regions have a smaller proportion of people on Universal Credit in the 16-24 age group, whilst Wales have a higher proportion in the same group.

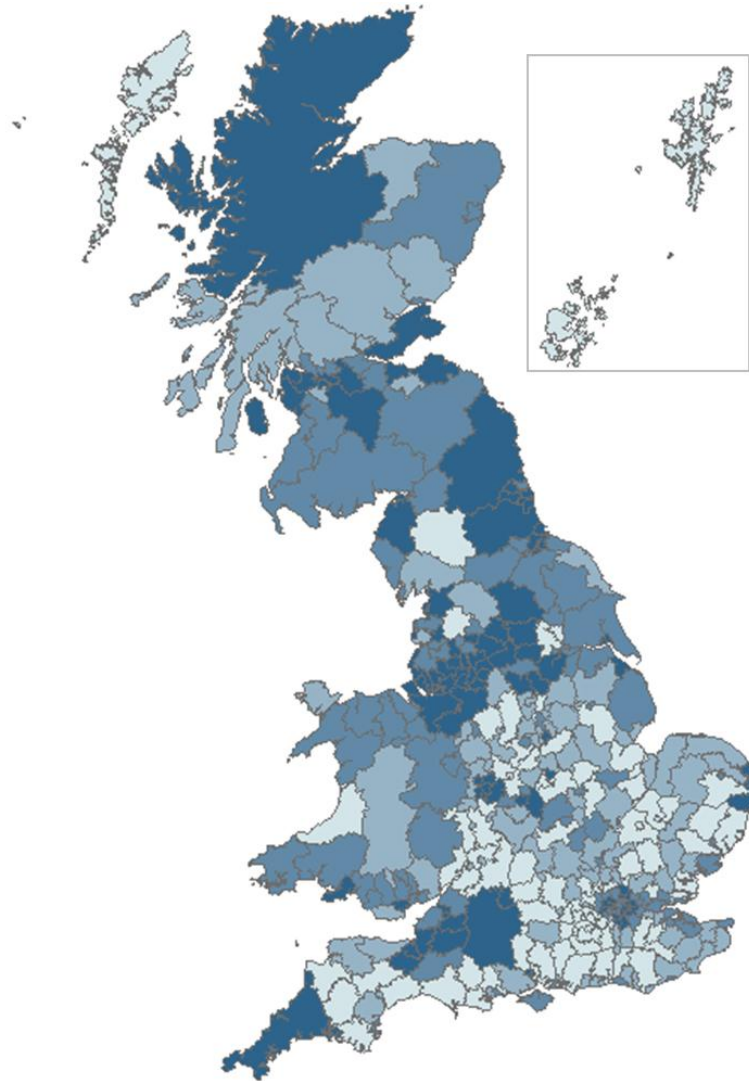
Breakdowns of people on Universal Credit by Jobcentre Plus office, local authority and parliamentary constituency are available on [Stat-Xplore](#).

See **table 3.1** for summary statistics and **Stat-Xplore** for the complete data series.

Please note figures for the latest month (March 2017) are provisional (p) and will be finalised in the next release. See the Background Information and Methodology document for more details.

Where Universal Credit claimants live

The North West, where roll-out started, has the largest number of Universal Credit claimants



The adjacent map shows people on Universal Credit by local authority as of 9 March 2017.

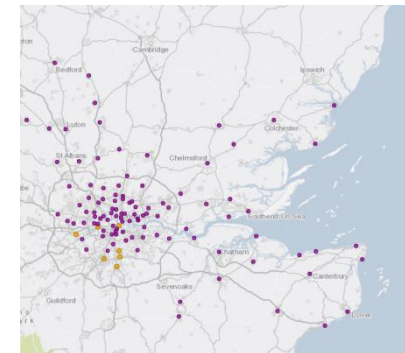
The darker areas of the map are local authorities with higher numbers of Universal Credit claimants, while the lighter areas are the local authorities with fewer Universal Credit claimants.

Where you live

Find information about your Jobcentre Plus office in our interactive map.

Please click [here](#) to access the interactive map.

The interactive map shows the number of people on Universal Credit by Jobcentre Plus office, per region, as can be seen in the adjacent example. Key statistics can be viewed by clicking on the Jobcentre Plus office.



Please note that this map will be unavailable from 3:30 p.m. on 16 May 2017 until 9:30 a.m. on 17 May 2017, ahead of the next release.

For further information on supported browsers, please visit the following website: <http://doc.arcgis.com/en/arcgis-online/reference/browsers.htm>

About these statistics

These official statistics have been compiled using data from systems within local offices and records of Universal Credit benefit payments made by the Department.

This and other new data sources will, in time, allow a progressively wider range of breakdowns to be published as new IT systems are introduced. The methodology used and definitions of the official statistics may be updated within subsequent releases, along with information on the impact of any changes to the time series already released. A [strategy](#) for the release of official statistics on Universal Credit was first published in September 2013 and last updated in December 2016.

These statistics have been developed using guidelines set out by the UK Statistics Authority, and are new official statistics undergoing evaluation. They have, therefore, been designated as [Experimental Statistics](#). Users are invited to [comment](#) on the development and relevance of these statistics at this stage.

Figures contained within this publication are subject to rounding unless otherwise stated. Percentages shown are calculated using figures prior to rounding. Please see the background information document for details on the level of rounding applied, which is dependent on the magnitude of the figure being quoted.

Universal Credit is now available in all Jobcentre Plus areas to single claimants and is being expanded across the country to include all claimant types via the full service. See **table 4.1** for a full list of Jobcentre Plus offices by the date they implemented Universal Credit.

Further roll out

Universal Credit was introduced in April 2013 in certain pathfinder areas of North West England. Since October 2013, it has progressively been rolled out to other areas. It is now available in all Jobcentre Plus areas to single claimants.

A limited test of the full service for Universal Credit was launched in Sutton, South London, on 26 November 2014, and expanded to other parts of London, Scotland and East Anglia between November 2014 and April 2016. From May 2016 Universal Credit full service began its roll out to all other Jobcentre Plus areas and expanded across the country to include all claimant types.

Where to find out more

This document and the summary tables can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/universal-credit-statistics>

Build your own tables using Stat-Xplore: <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/> which also contains data on households on Universal Credit which was released in March 2017.

See our interactive map: <http://dwp-stats.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=f90fb305d8da4eb3970812b3199cf489>

Older releases can be found here but please note that figures are subject to change. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/universal-credit-statistics>

The release strategy for the statistics can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/universal-credit-statistics-background-information>

The background information and methodology document can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/universal-credit-statistics-background-information-and-methodology>