

# Universal Credit – experimental official statistics to April 2014

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*If you have any comments or suggestions regarding this publication, please contact DWP via [stats-consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:stats-consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk).*

## Introduction

Universal Credit is a new benefit that has started to replace six existing benefits and tax credits with a single monthly payment. Universal Credit will eventually replace:

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

The main differences between Universal Credit and the current welfare system 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'll get ongoing 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

Universal Credit, which is already available in a number of areas across England, Scotland and Wales, will continue its roll out across the North West of England from 23rd June 2014.

Universal Credit will roll out to Jobcentres in the North West until the whole region is covered. In total 90 Jobcentres, or 1 in 8 Jobcentres in Britain, will offer the service once the North West expansion has been completed.

## Key findings

### Starters

- Between April 2013 and 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014, a total of 6,960 people have started on Universal Credit.
- Gender breakdowns of starters to Universal Credit show that the majority are males, with a male to female ratio around 7:3.
- The majority of new claims are for unemployed people aged under 25;

### Caseload

- On the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014, a total of 5,880 people were on the Universal Credit caseload.
- Over 6 in 10 of the Universal Credit caseload on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014 are younger people, under the age of 25.

## In this Summary

This Summary contains data on Universal Credit on the benefits starters and caseload to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014. These have been developed and released in accordance with the Code of Practice for statistics and its supporting principles.

This report contains two measures:

- A **starter** to Universal Credit is defined as an individual who has completed the Universal Credit claim process, attended a Universal Credit interview with a work coach, and has received at least one Universal Credit payment. The reporting month in relation to **starts** to Universal Credit relates to the calendar month, i.e. the first day of the month up to and including the last day of the month.
- The caseload of Universal Credit claimants includes those who have started Universal Credit (as above) and have not had a termination recorded for this spell, up to the reporting point. The Universal Credit caseload figure reported here relates to the last day of the month, e.g. for November 2013, the measure is Universal Credit claimants on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

This report covers the period up to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014 and includes summary statistics for the ten Jobcentre Plus offices, Ashton-under-Lyne, Oldham, Warrington, Wigan, Hammersmith, Rugby, Inverness, Harrogate, Bath and Shotton who had implemented Universal Credit up to this reporting period. Please note that Shotton went live on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2014 therefore these statistics will only cover the first few weeks of Universal Credit in this office.

**It is important to note that the Universal Credit statistics currently include all people claiming this benefit, both those people in work and out-of-work. People on Universal Credit who are in employment may or may not be receiving a Universal Credit payment. As new claims for Universal Credit in the Pathfinder stage have been restricted to single, unemployed people without children then most claimants will be unemployed. Work is being undertaken within DWP to publish statistics that distinguish between these two groups by Autumn 2014. The unemployed UC claimant information will be supplied to ONS but it is a matter for ONS to decide how they include them within the Claimant Count.**

## Future Releases

The next release of Universal Credit statistics will be in August 2014 and will contain data to 31 May 2014.

DWP plans to expand the range of statistics included in future editions of this release as their reliability is confirmed.

## Table of Contents

<b>SECTION 1. OFFICIAL STATISTICS AND COMMENTARY .....</b>	<b>3</b>
1A. ANALYSIS OF STARTERS .....	3
1B: ANALYSIS OF CASELOAD .....	4
<b>SECTION 2. TABLES ON UNIVERSAL CREDIT STARTERS .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>SECTION 3. TABLES ON UNIVERSAL CREDIT CASELOAD .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>SECTION 4. METHODOLOGY .....</b>	<b>7</b>
4A. DATA SOURCE .....	7
4B. DEFINITIONS USED .....	8
<b>SECTION 5. FURTHER ROLL OUT .....</b>	<b>8</b>

# Section 1. Official statistics and commentary

\*\* Further breakdowns are available for some of the charts below in the accompanying Excel tables.

## 1a. Analysis of starters

Chart 1.1 Universal Credit starters, cumulative to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014, by age band

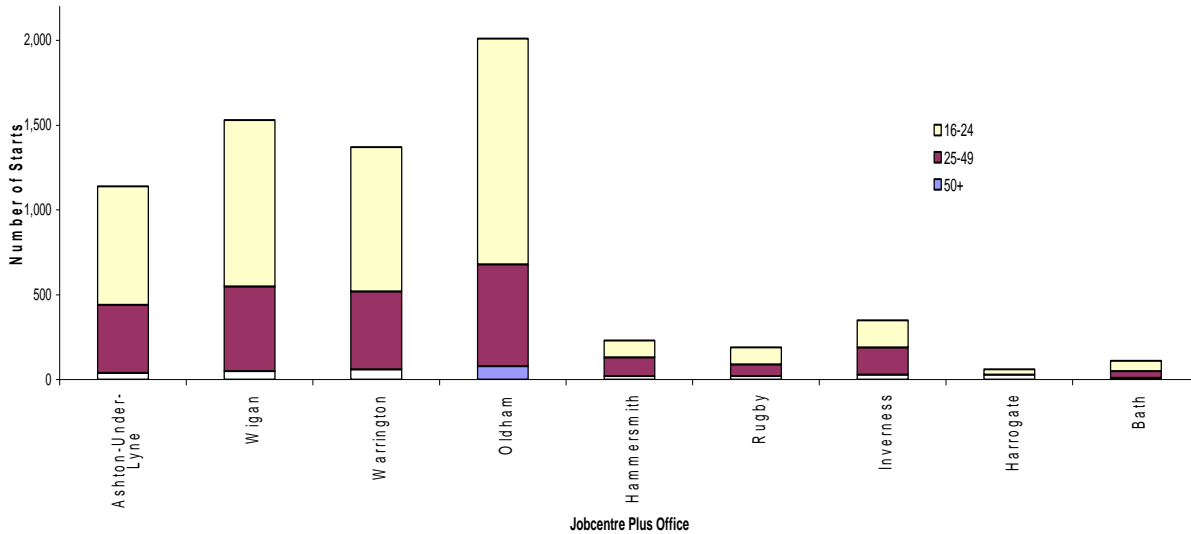
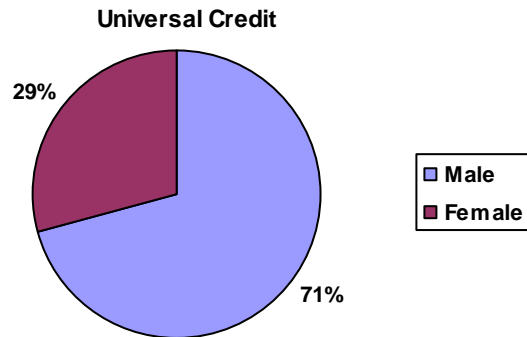


Chart 1.2: Universal Credit starters, cumulative to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014, by gender



## Key messages

- Between April 2013 and 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014, a total of 6,960 people have started on Universal Credit;
- Over 6 in 10 of new claims are for people aged under 25 and reflect the initial take-on for Universal Credit, of single, non home owning, unemployed people without children;
- The ratio of male to female starters to Universal Credit is around 7:3.

Table 2.1 and Supplementary Table 1.1 show a time series of monthly starts to Universal Credit, split by office.

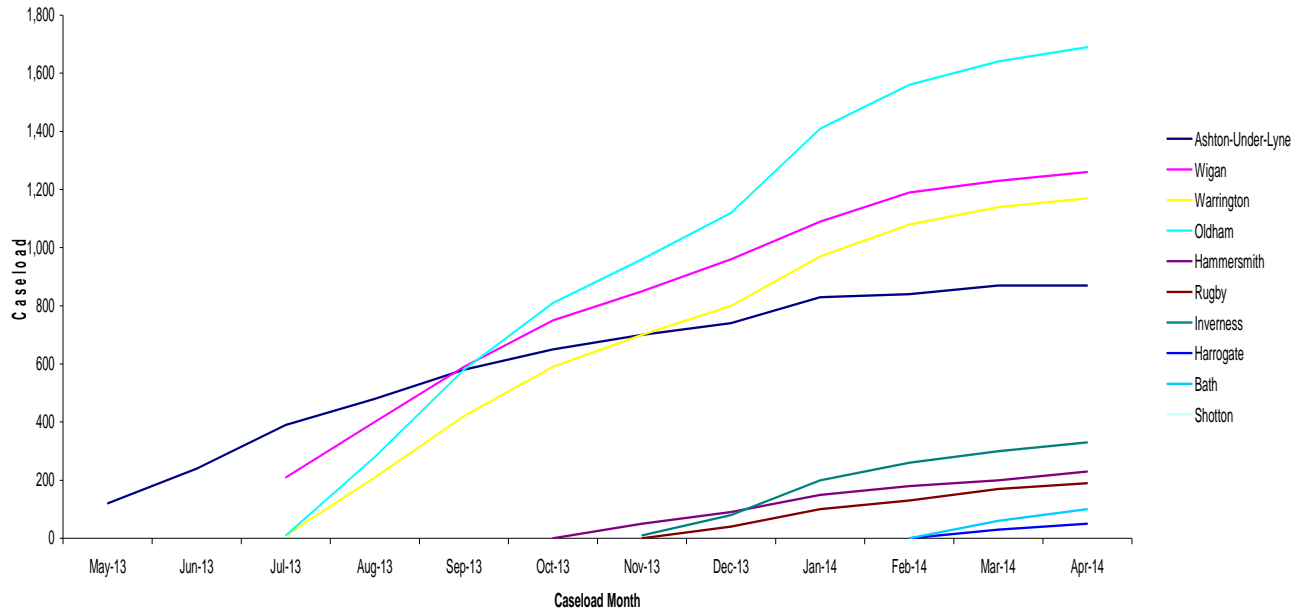
- These show that although in general each office showed an initial increase of new on-flows in the first few months of going live these numbers have decreased in the last three months.
- By April 2014 the highest number of new starters, in that month, were in Oldham, followed by Warrington and then Wigan.

Chart 1.1, Table 2.2 and Supplementary Tables (1.2 to 1.4) show the cumulative number of new starters. During the period May 2013 to April 2014 6,960 people started on the benefit.

Chart 1.2, Table 2.2 and Supplementary Tables 1.2 and 1.4 show the proportion of the cumulative Universal Credit starters by gender, in the period looked at by this release you can see that the ratio of male to female starters is around 7:3.

## 1b: Analysis of caseload

Chart 1.3: Universal Credit caseload, as at end of month, by Jobcentre Plus office



### Key messages

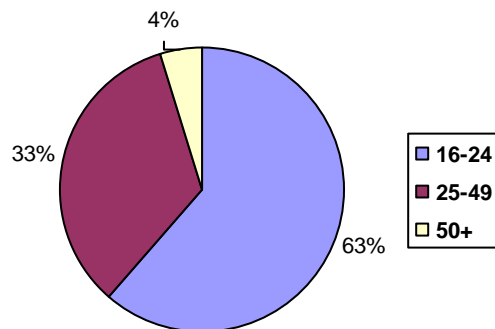
- On the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014, the total caseload of Universal Credit claimants was 5,880 people;
- Over 6 in 10 claimants of the Universal Credit caseload on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014 are younger people, less than the age of 25.

Chart 1.3, Table 3.1 and Supplementary Table 2.1 show the time series of the monthly caseloads of Universal Credit. The highest caseload at end of April 2014 is in Oldham, followed by Wigan.

Chart 1.4, Table 3.1 and Supplementary Table 2.1 show the percentage of April 2014's caseload of Universal Credit, split by age. These show that over 6 in 10 claimants of Universal Credit in the latest month were under 25.

Table 3.2, Table 3.3 and Supplementary Tables (2.2 to 2.7) break the Universal Credit caseload, at 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014, down by further geographies (based on the latest held address of the claimant).

Chart 1.4: Universal Credit caseload, at 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014, by age band



## Section 2. Tables on Universal Credit starters

*\*\* Further breakdowns of statistics in the tables below are available in the accompanying Excel tables \*\**

The following definitions and conventions are used in the next two sections

"-" Nil or Negligible;

"." Not applicable;

Figures are rounded to the nearest ten.

Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Figures are refreshed each time they are published and are subject to change.

Local Authorities and Parliamentary Constituencies are assigned by matching the claimant's postcode against the relevant postcode directory and may therefore differ to those given by Jobcentre Office.

**Table 2.1 Monthly numbers of starters to Universal Credit, November 2013 to April 2014**

		Nov-13	Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14	Apr-14
<b>Total</b>		<b>660</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>1,010</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>380</b>
<b>Gender</b>	Male	470	460	710	470	410	280
	Female	190	170	300	160	170	100
<b>Age</b>	16-24	400	340	580	380	340	200
	25-49	230	250	370	230	210	150
	50+	30	40	60	30	40	30
<b>Jobcentre Office</b>	Ashton-Under-Lyne	90	60	100	60	70	40
	Wigan	150	130	160	130	90	70
	Warrington	140	110	190	120	100	60
	Oldham	210	180	330	180	130	80
	Hammersmith	50	40	60	30	30	30
	Rugby	-	40	50	40	40	20
	Inverness	10	70	120	70	40	30
	Harrogate	.	.	.	-	30	20
	Bath	.	.	.	-	50	40
	Shotton	.	.	.	.	.	10

**Table 2.2 Cumulative numbers of starters to Universal Credit, November 2013 to April 2014**

		Nov-13	Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14	Apr-14
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,720</b>	<b>4,350</b>	<b>5,370</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>6,580</b>	<b>6,960</b>
<b>Gender</b>	Male	2,600	3,060	3,770	4,240	4,650	4,930
	Female	1,120	1,290	1,600	1,760	1,930	2,030
<b>Age</b>	16-24	2,460	2,800	3,390	3,760	4,100	4,300
	25-49	1,160	1,400	1,770	2,000	2,210	2,360
	50+	110	150	210	230	270	300
<b>Jobcentre Office</b>	Ashton-Under-Lyne	810	880	980	1,030	1,100	1,140
	Wigan	960	1,090	1,250	1,370	1,460	1,530
	Warrington	780	890	1,080	1,200	1,310	1,360
	Oldham	1,110	1,290	1,610	1,790	1,920	2,000
	Hammersmith	60	90	150	180	210	240
	Rugby	-	50	100	140	180	200
	Inverness	10	80	200	270	310	350
	Harrogate	.	.	.	-	30	50
	Bath	.	.	.	-	60	100
	Shotton	.	.	.	.	.	10

## Section 3. Tables on Universal Credit caseload

Table 3.1 Caseload of Universal Credit, November 2013 to April 2014

		Nov-13	Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14	Apr-14
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,280</b>	<b>3,820</b>	<b>4,730</b>	<b>5,250</b>	<b>5,640</b>	<b>5,880</b>
<b>Gender</b>	Male	2,310	2,710	3,340	3,730	3,990	4,180
	Female	970	1,120	1,390	1,520	1,650	1,700
<b>Age</b>	16-24	2,160	2,450	2,970	3,280	3,510	3,610
	25-49	1,020	1,240	1,570	1,760	1,890	2,000
	50+	100	140	190	220	250	280
<b>Jobcentre Office</b>	Ashton-Under-Lyne	700	740	830	840	870	870
	Wigan	850	960	1,090	1,190	1,230	1,260
	Warrington	700	800	970	1,080	1,140	1,170
	Oldham	960	1,120	1,410	1,560	1,640	1,690
	Hammersmith	50	90	150	180	200	230
	Rugby	-	40	100	130	170	190
	Inverness	10	80	200	260	300	330
	Harrogate	.	.	.	-	30	50
	Bath	.	.	.	-	60	100
	Shotton	.	.	.	.	.	10
<b>Duration</b>	Up to 3 months	2,120	1,890	2,180	2,210	2,200	1,670
	3 - 6 months	1,070	1,730	2,030	1,990	1,740	2,030
	More than 6 months	90	210	530	1,050	1,710	2,190

Table 3.2 Universal Credit Caseload by Local Authority: at the end of April 2014

	30 <sup>th</sup> April
<b>Oldham</b>	1,670
<b>Wigan</b>	1,200
<b>Warrington</b>	1,120
<b>Tameside</b>	840
<b>Highland</b>	330
<b>Hammersmith &amp; Fulham</b>	210
<b>Rugby</b>	180
<b>Bath &amp; North East Somerset</b>	100
<b>Harrogate</b>	50
<b>St. Helens</b>	40
<b>West Lancashire</b>	20
<b>Halton</b>	10
<b>Manchester</b>	10
<b>Kensington &amp; Chelsea</b>	10
<b>Flintshire</b>	10
<b>Other local authority<sup>1</sup></b>	90

**Table 3.3 Universal Credit Caseload by Parliamentary Constituency: at the end of April 2014**

	<b>30<sup>th</sup> April</b>
<b>Oldham West and Royton</b>	880
<b>Ashton-under-Lyne</b>	790
<b>Wigan</b>	710
<b>Oldham East and Saddleworth</b>	660
<b>Warrington North</b>	590
<b>Warrington South</b>	530
<b>Makerfield</b>	480
<b>Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey</b>	300
<b>Hammersmith</b>	210
<b>Rugby</b>	180
<b>Denton and Reddish</b>	110
<b>Bath</b>	70
<b>Stalybridge and Hyde</b>	70
<b>Harrogate and Knaresborough</b>	40
<b>St Helens North</b>	40
<b>Ross, Skye and Lochaber</b>	30
<b>North East Somerset</b>	30
<b>West Lancashire</b>	20
<b>Kensington</b>	10
<b>Leigh</b>	10
<b>Weaver Vale</b>	10
<b>Skipton and Ripon</b>	10
<b>Bolton West</b>	10
<b>Halton</b>	10
<b>Manchester Central</b>	10
<b>Alyn and Deeside</b>	10
<b>Other constituency<sup>1</sup></b>	100

<sup>1</sup>Note the “Other” categories will contain claimants that were originally based in Universal Credit areas when their claim started but have since moved to another area.

## **Section 4. Methodology**

### **4a. Data Source**

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

The initial systems based on manually captured data are being de-commissioned. It was announced in June 2014 that this set of statistics would be based on new, more automated data sources. This has now been delayed until next month (August 2014) to allow for further quality assurance work to take place. These new data sources will, in time, allow a progressively wider range of breakdowns to be published as the new IT systems are introduced. The methodology used and definitions of the official statistics will be updated within subsequent releases, along with information on the impact of any changes to the time series already released.

These statistics have been developed using guidelines set out by the UK Statistics Authority, and are new official statistics undergoing evaluation they have accordingly been badged as being Experimental Statistics<sup>2</sup>. Users are invited to comment on the development and relevancy of these statistics at this stage

<sup>2</sup> For further details of experimental statistics, see: <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/news/assessment-and-designation-of-experimental-statistics.html>

## **4b. Definitions used**

A starter to Universal Credit is defined as an individual who has completed the Universal Credit claim process, attended a Universal Credit interview with a personal adviser, and has received a Universal Credit payment.

Figures show the first successful claim per individual.

A Universal Credit claimant is recorded as being on the caseload if they have started Universal Credit and are not recorded (up to the reporting point) as having terminated their Universal Credit spell.

## **Section 5. Further roll out**

The expansion of Universal Credit to couples and the whole of the north west of England will start in June 2014.

Further information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/north-west-universal-credit-expansion>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/universal-credit-to-take-the-first-new-claims-for-couples>