



The number of claimants on one of the main DWP working-age benefits for at least three out of the previous four years, by local authority

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## Summary

- This analysis is based on the Official Statistics Publication 'Duration on Working Age Benefits'<sup>1</sup>. The most recent version of this was published by the Department for Work & Pensions on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014.
- This statistical publication gives details of the number of claimants who were on one or more of the main DWP working-age benefits<sup>2</sup> as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013, for each local authority in Great Britain. The release also gives the number who had been in receipt of one or more of the main DWP working-age benefits for at least three out of the previous four years. Figures have been further broken down based on the benefit that the claimant was in receipt of as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013.
- The local authority used to break down these figures has been derived based upon the claimant's home address.
- The statistical tables accompanying this document are at the following URL:  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/336153/tables-claimants-working-age-benefits-local-authority-statistics-july-2014.xls](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/336153/tables-claimants-working-age-benefits-local-authority-statistics-july-2014.xls)

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/307634/duration-on-working-age-benefits-may-2014.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/307634/duration-on-working-age-benefits-may-2014.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Employment & Support Allowance, Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance.

# Methodology

This publication looks at a snapshot of claimants on 31 March 2013 and examines the total duration those individuals had spent in receipt of one or more of the main DWP working-age benefits<sup>3</sup> over the preceding four years. To calculate this we:

- Used the National Benefits Database<sup>4</sup> (NBD) to identify claimants who were in receipt of one of the main DWP working-age benefits on 31 March 2013. We then calculated the proportion of the previous four years that these same individuals had been in receipt of any of the main DWP working-age benefits;
- Included only those who were aged 18 to 59 throughout the entire four year period. This means we only include those who were aged 22 to 59 on 31 March 2013. This ensures that no-one was under 18 years old at the start of the four year period so that we only consider those who could have spent the entire four year period on one of the main DWP working-age benefits<sup>5</sup>;
- Ensured that where people were claiming more than one benefit at a time (e.g. Income Support and Incapacity Benefit), we only counted one spell on benefits; and
- Then summed the total period spent on one or more of the main DWP working-age benefits over the four years for each claimant, which might include multiple separate spells on benefit.

Figures were then broken down by local authority area. The local authority used to break down these figures was based on the claimant's home address as recorded on the NBD.

- In some cases it was not possible to resolve the claimant's address to a single local authority area. The number of cases where the local authority is unknown, and cannot be determined based on the information contained in the NBD, is shown in the accompanying tables.
- The address used to break down the figures is that recorded on the NBD. This is the latest (or last) address recorded for that benefit claim at the point that the data was compiled. In a number of cases the claimant may have moved address after 31 March 2013. In such cases the NBD will show the claimant's later address, rather than where they were living on 31 March 2013.

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<sup>3</sup> Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Employment & Support Allowance, Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance.

<sup>4</sup> The NBD is a database of all DWP benefits paid to customers. We have used the September 2013 version of the NBD to calculate the figures for 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013. This is consistent with our official statistical publication – 'Duration on Working Age Benefits', published in May 2014.

<sup>5</sup> Although some 16 and 17 year olds are able to claim DWP benefits in some specific situations, many will not meet the conditions for eligibility. Therefore we assume that most people do not become eligible to claim benefits until they are 18 so the analysis excludes anyone under the age of 22.

**Not all of the time spent on benefit will have been built up during the current benefit claim or on the current benefit.** For example, a lone parent who has moved over from Income Support to JSA in the last six months may have spent all of the last four years claiming benefits, but only the last six months on JSA. Within these statistics this person would be classified as a recipient of JSA on 31 March 2013.

Similarly in table 1, a person currently in the ESA Assessment Phase that has spent at least three of the preceding four years on benefit may have built up the majority of that time claiming IB.

# Results

This statistical publication consists of two tables. These are shown in the spreadsheet accompanying this release at the following URL:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/336153/tables-claimants-working-age-benefits-local-authority-statistics-july-2014.xls](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/336153/tables-claimants-working-age-benefits-local-authority-statistics-july-2014.xls)

- For each local authority table 1 shows as of 31 March 2013:
  - i. The number of claimants recorded as being on Jobseeker's Allowance, in either the Assessment Phase of Employment & Support Allowance, or in the Work Related Activity Group, or lone parents in receipt of Income Support at 31 March 2013.
  - ii. The number of these claimants who have been on one or more of one of the main DWP working-age benefits for a total period equivalent to at least three out of the previous four years.
  - iii. Of (ii), the number in receipt of
    - 1. Jobseeker's Allowance;
    - 2. Employment & Support Allowance (Assessment Phase only)
    - 3. Employment & Support Allowance (Work Related Activity Group only)
    - 4. Income Support, who were also lone parents <sup>6</sup> (excludes claimants on both IS and IB/SDA.);

Indicator 4 in the Social Justice Outcomes Framework <sup>7</sup> is based on this data in Table 1.

- The data in table 2 is also published in the Social Justice Outcomes Framework to add context to the information in table 1. For each local authority in Great Britain, table 2 shows as of 31 March 2013:
  - i. The number of claimants on one or more of the main DWP working-age benefits (for this analysis, this includes Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Employment & Support Allowance, Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance) at 31 March 2013.
  - ii. The number of these claimants who have been on one or more of these benefits for a total period equivalent to at least three out of the previous four years.
  - iii. Of (ii), the number in receipt of
    - 1. Jobseeker's Allowance;
    - 2. Income Support (excludes claimants on both IS and IB/SDA.)

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<sup>6</sup> We have compiled this data to be consistent the DWP's tabtool. This data includes all claimants who are claiming Income Support with a child under 16 and no partner.

<sup>7</sup>[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/192024/v3\\_14.51\\_SJ\\_OUTCOMES\\_FRAMEWORK\\_APRIL\\_2013\\_-\\_FINAL\\_VERSION.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/192024/v3_14.51_SJ_OUTCOMES_FRAMEWORK_APRIL_2013_-_FINAL_VERSION.pdf)

3. Employment & Support Allowance, Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance (includes claimants on both IS and IB/SDA.)

All figures in the spreadsheet have been rounded to the nearest 10. Therefore the totals may not add up.

Each table also includes the population estimates for those aged 22-59 for each Local Authority. This is to enable calculations of these statistics as a percentage of the equivalently aged population. These are estimated using the Labour Force Survey for Q1 2013. For Local Authority level population estimates the recommended source is the ONS Population Estimates<sup>8</sup> publication as it provides more robust estimates. However for consistency with the national 'Duration on Working Age Benefits' publication we have used the Labour Force Survey in this publication. These figures have been rounded to the nearest 100 and any figure less than 5000 has been excluded due to sample data protocols.

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<sup>8</sup> <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/pop-estimate/population-estimates-for-uk--england-and-wales--scotland-and-northern-ireland/2013/index.html>

# Contact Details

Sarah Lowe  
Department for Work and Pensions  
E-mail: [sarah.lowe2@dpw.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.lowe2@dpw.gsi.gov.uk)

Press enquiries should be directed to the Department for Work and Pensions press office: Media Enquiries: 0203 267 5129 Out of hours: 0203 267 5144 Website: [www.dpw.gov.uk](http://www.dpw.gov.uk) Follow us on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/dwppressoffice](https://www.twitter.com/dwppressoffice)

Other National Statistics publications and general information about the official statistics system of the UK, are available from [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)