

Quarterly Benefits Summary - Great Britain statistics to November 2014

This release aims to give users a structured overview of National Statistics on DWP administered benefits and sanctions, together with early estimates of inactive benefit caseload statistics. To provide a more complete picture of DWP responsibility, statistics on Housing Benefit (administered by Local Authorities), Universal Credit and Child Support are also included.



Department
for Work &
Pensions



Main findings (at November 2014 unless otherwise stated)

Working Age Client Group 5.0 million claimants of working age benefits	↓	down 318 thousand since November 2013	
Employment and Support Allowance / Incapacity Benefits (ESA/IB) 2.52 million claimants (2.27 million on ESA)	↑	up 64 thousand since November 2013	
Lone Parents on Income Support (ISLP) 456 thousand claimants	↓	down 29 thousand since November 2013	
State Pension (SP) 13.0 million claimants	↑	up 68 thousand since November 2013	
Pension Credit (PC) 2.22 million claimants (2.67 million including partners)	↓	down 152 thousand since November 2013	
Disability Living Allowance (DLA) 3.18 million claimants	↓	down 92 thousand since November 2013	
Attendance Allowance (AA) 1.48 million claimants	↓	down 15 thousand since November 2013	
Carer's Allowance (CA) 706 thousand claimants (further 411 thousand people entitled)	↑	up 49 thousand since November 2013	
Housing Benefit (HB) at February 2015 4.88 million claimants	↓	down 118 thousand since February 2014	
Decisions to apply an ESA sanction 125 thousand decisions made (including 60 thousand new regime sanction decisions)		October 2008 to December 2014	
Decisions to apply a JSA sanction 6.48 million decisions made (including 1.66 million new regime sanctions decisions)		April 2000 to December 2014	
Working Age IS Lone Parents - EARLY ESTIMATE 445 thousand claimants		at March 2015	
ESA / Incapacity Benefits - EARLY ESTIMATE 2.535 million claimants (7.5% of these are in receipt of National Insurance Credits)		at March 2015	

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Introduction

This release contains the latest Department for Work and Pensions National Statistics.

In this document

DWP has traditionally administered benefits to a range of claimants who may, or may not have more than one interaction with the department. These benefits include Attendance Allowance, Bereavement Benefit, Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Housing Benefit, Income Support, Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance, Jobseeker's Allowance, Maternity Allowance, Pension Credit, State Pension and Widow's Benefit. As well as providing users with an overview of individual benefit statistics, this release attempts to provide a summary of Working Age and Pensionable Age client groups and statistical group breakdowns such as Jobseekers, Employment and Support Allowance/incapacity benefits, Lone Parents, Carers, Other income related benefits, Disabled, Bereaved.

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** working age inactive benefit early estimates and sanctions (which are official statistics) and Universal Credit statistics (which are experimental). Further information is available [here](#).

The early estimates for working age inactive benefit client groups are released monthly and are designed to give indicative, timely information; they are not a substitute for the National Statistics. They will be replaced by the quarterly National Statistics covering the same period when they are published. The National Statistics are the finalised figures.

These statistics were released on 13th May 2015 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority. Not all DWP National Statistics are covered by this release. Some statistics have their own first release, but links to these are given throughout.

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.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods; and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

Future Releases

The next release will be on 12th August 2015. This will contain data to February 2015 and will be the second release following presentational changes. For more details see our [background information note](#).

Supplementary statistics

National benefit data (from 100% sources) underlying the charts and figures featured in this summary are available via our internet-based [100% tabulation tool](#).

The 100% tabulation tool includes further breakdowns by age, gender, duration of benefit, ethnicity and lower level geography e.g. region, local authority, parliamentary constituency.

Statistics on Housing Benefit claimants/weekly amounts and JSA/ESA Sanction decisions are now available via [Stat-Xplore](#), an interactive way for users to create their own statistical tables and related breakdowns.

If you need a more detailed breakdown for a particular benefit (for example the type of JSA in payment) you may need to use our [5% sample data](#) which has more detail but less comprehensive coverage.

However, 100% data should always be used in preference to 5% estimates (where available), as they are more accurate and form DWP's headline statistics.

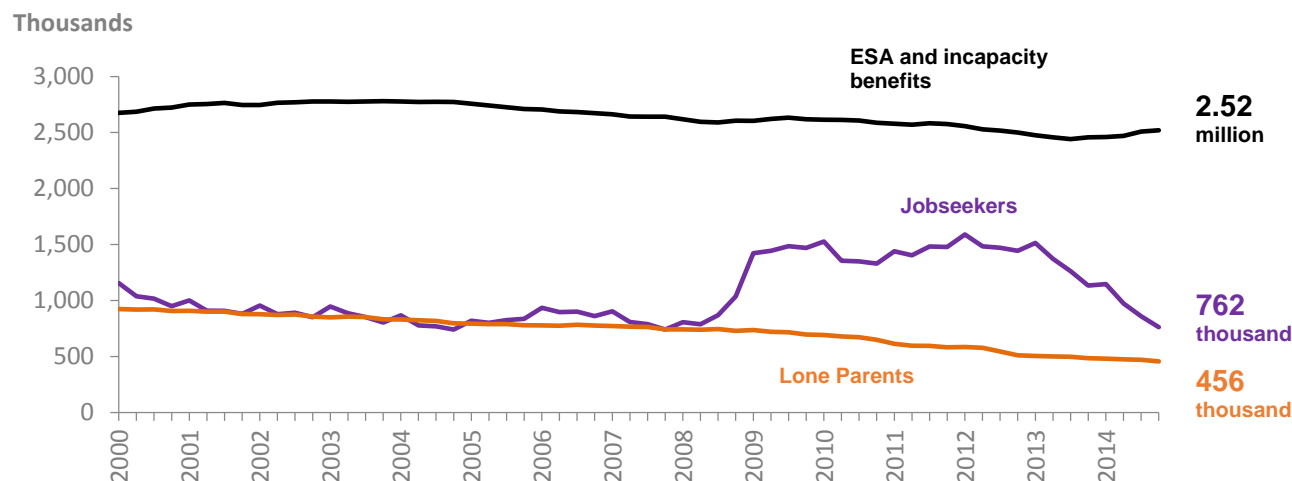
Statistics are also released via the NOMIS website and lower geographical statistics are available via the Neighbourhood Statistics [website](#).

1.1 National Statistics - Working age client group

Combines data collected for DWP working age benefits i.e. Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), Incapacity Benefit, Employment and Support Allowance, Severe Disablement Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Carer's Allowance, Widow's Benefit, Bereavement Allowance and Income Support for working age claimants (including Pension Credit for males under State Pension age). The client group data does not currently include Personal Independence Payment and Universal Credit.

Working age client groups continue to follow their recent, respective trends

Working age claimants by statistical group between August 1999 and November 2014



The age at which men and women reach State Pension age is gradually increasing. Under current legislation, State Pension age for women will equalise with State Pension age for men at 65 in 2018. Both men's and women's State Pension age will increase from 65 to 66 between December 2018 and October 2020. The Pensions Bill 2013-14 contains provision for a State Pension age of 67 to be reached by 2028. The changes will introduce a small increase to the number of working age benefit recipients and a small reduction to the number of pension age recipients. There are also changes to the way users can analyse benefit recipients as a proportion of the working population. More information can be found in the [State Pension age methodological note](#)

Main Messages

Both Jobseekers and Lone Parents client groups are decreasing (the Jobseekers group at a much faster rate). The ESA and incapacity benefits client group has continued to rise slightly over the past year.

Between August 1999 and February 2008, the number of jobseekers in Great Britain fell from 1.18 million to 807 thousand. However, it rose to almost 1.53 million at February 2010. Since then, numbers have been broadly steady until a fall in the last year of 371 thousand to **762 thousand jobseekers in November 2014**. The preferred source of JSA figures is the Office for National Statistics (ONS) [claimant count measure](#) (which is seasonally adjusted).

The number of claimants in the Lone Parent client group fell from 930 thousand to **456 thousand** between November 1999 and **November 2014**.

The number of working age claimants of **Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and incapacity benefits totals 2.52 million at November 2014**. This shows an increase of 67 thousand since last year.

Claimants have been assigned to a statistical group based on a hierarchy. See the background information note for further details.

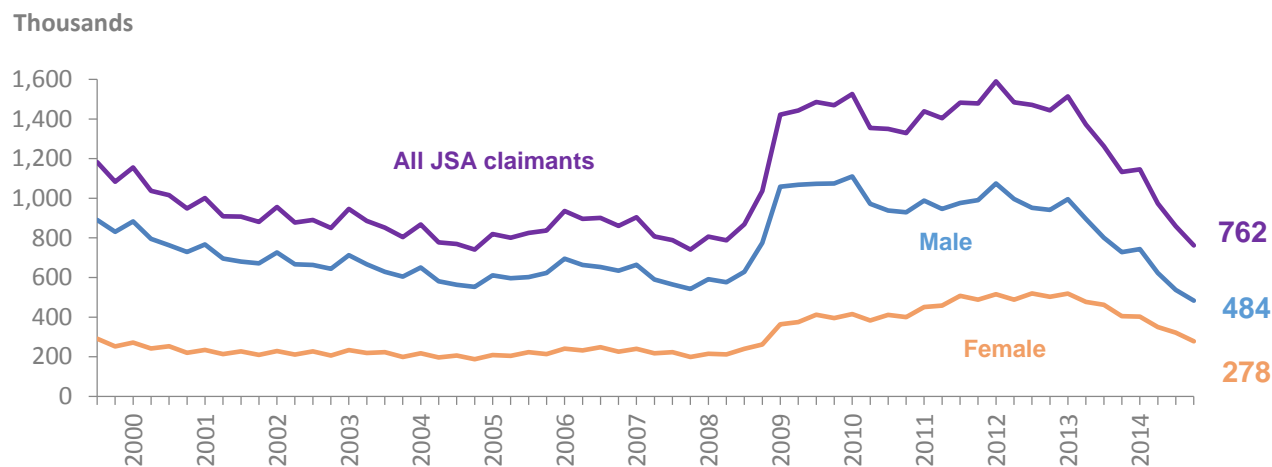
See [Tabulation](#) for full supporting **Client group** data.

1.2 National Statistics – Jobseeker’s Allowance

Jobseeker’s Allowance (JSA) was introduced on 7th October 1996 and has both contributory and income-related elements. It is paid to people under state pension age who are available for and actively seeking work.

The number of people on Jobseeker’s Allowance is falling. Males account for almost two thirds of all claims

Jobseeker’s Allowance claimants by Gender: August 1999 to November 2014



Main Messages

The DWP figures show the **total number of Jobseeker’s Allowance claimants at November 2014 was 762 thousand**. **Female claimants represented 37%** of the total number of JSA claimants (**278 thousand**), while **males represented 63% (484 thousand)**.

The total number of JSA claimants has decreased by 371 thousand since November 2013, with **men decreasing by 245 thousand** and **women decreasing by 126 thousand**.

See [Tabulation](#) for full supporting **JSA** data.

The preferred source of JSA figures is the Office for National Statistics (ONS) claimant count measure (which is seasonally adjusted).

DWP produce a separate set of Jobseeker’s Allowance figures to enable cross-benefit analysis and supply a wider range of breakdowns, and these are provided in this release.

1.3 National Statistics – Employment and Support Allowance and incapacity benefits

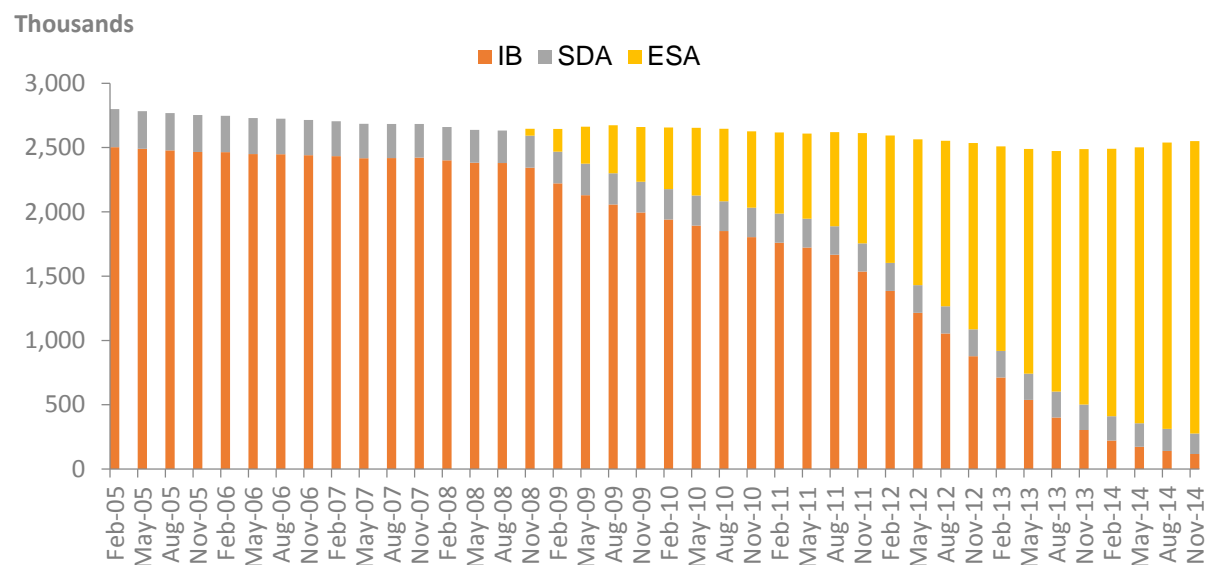
From 27th October 2008, Employment & Support Allowance (ESA) replaced Incapacity Benefit (IB) and Income Support (IS) paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims. Incapacity benefits consist of Incapacity Benefit (introduced on 13th April 1995 and paid to people who are incapable of work and who have paid sufficient contributions throughout their working life) and Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA). This section includes a small number of claimants over State Pension age; therefore figures may differ to those in section 1.1 which refers to working age claimants only.

Between October 2010 and Spring 2014 most claimants who received IB, SDA and IS paid on the grounds of illness or disability were assessed to see if they qualified for ESA. If they qualified for ESA their IB, SDA or IS claim was converted into an ESA claim. For claimants who were previously in receipt of IB or SDA, their benefit was converted to contributory ESA; if they were previously in receipt of IS their benefit was converted to income-related ESA. In the same way as with IB, contributory ESA can be paid with an income-related top up and a transitional addition if appropriate.

The government has limited the period for which contribution-based ESA can be paid in some circumstances. These changes came into effect on 1 May 2012. Claimants who have already received 365 days of contribution-based ESA saw their entitlement end on 30 April 2012.

The number of people on ESA continues to rise, as the number on Incapacity Benefit falls

Employment and Support Allowance/Incapacity benefits claimants since February 2005



Main Messages

At November 2014, there were 2.52 million claimants of Employment and Support Allowance and incapacity benefits (Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance), an increase of 64 thousand on a year earlier. 53% of claimants were men and 47% women. The male caseload has increased by 18 thousand and the female caseload has increased by 46 thousand in the year to November 2014. See [Tabulation](#) for full supporting data.

In November 2014 approximately **92.2%** were in receipt of benefit payments from Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Income Support, Pension Credit. **The remaining 7.8% received National Insurance credits only** (i.e. no payment of IB, SDA, ESA, IS or PC). This compares to 5.8% receiving no benefit payments in February 2012.

This change is because the government has limited the period for which contribution-based ESA can be paid in some circumstances (see information above). Additional breakdowns can be seen in Table 1.3a.

Table 1.3a: Employment and Support Allowance and incapacity benefits claimants aged under State Pension age: 2000 - 2014

Thousands														
Claiming ESA, IB or SDA					Claiming ESA				Claiming IB				Claiming SDA	
Total	Receiving contributory based benefit or SDA only (2)	Receiving contributory based benefit or SDA, with income based benefit (2)	Receiving income based benefit (2)	National Insurance credits only (2)	Receiving contributory based benefit only (3)	Receiving contributory and income based benefit (3)	Receiving income based benefit (3)	National Insurance credits only (3)	Receiving contributory based benefit only (3)	Receiving contributory and income based benefit (3)	Receiving income based benefit (3)	National Insurance credits only (3)	Receiving SDA only	Receiving SDA and IS/PC
May-00	2,686.31	1,365.48	534.29	677.69	108.85	..	..	..	1,267.49	297.24	677.69	108.85	97.99	237.05
May-01	2,753.66	1,351.79	561.70	725.55	114.62	..	..	..	1,257.57	322.32	725.55	114.62	94.21	239.38
May-02	2,765.73	1,333.96	550.15	759.42	122.19	..	..	..	1,253.33	335.48	759.42	122.19	80.63	214.67
May-03	2,773.61	1,306.80	548.32	790.78	127.71	..	..	..	1,233.83	341.96	790.78	127.71	72.97	206.36
May-04	2,772.85	1,301.01	517.19	815.58	139.08	..	..	..	1,233.71	319.95	815.58	139.08	67.30	197.25
May-05	2,741.65	1,275.63	492.38	832.12	141.52	..	..	..	1,212.88	304.00	832.12	141.52	62.76	188.38
May-06	2,688.13	1,237.69	471.42	839.10	139.92	..	..	..	1,179.62	291.17	839.10	139.92	58.08	180.25
May-07	2,643.29	1,193.65	457.06	855.29	137.29	..	..	..	1,141.34	283.61	855.29	137.29	52.32	173.44
May-08	2,595.83	1,151.25	442.02	866.41	136.15	..	..	..	1,103.33	275.94	866.41	136.15	47.92	166.07
May-09	2,621.43	1,133.55	431.20	918.94	137.74	113.04	125.06	37.32	976.39	259.36	793.88	100.42	44.13	159.32
Aug-09	2,632.74	1,121.56	429.81	933.33	148.04	138.64	162.96	54.07	939.68	253.95	770.37	93.97	43.24	157.73
Nov-09	2,618.38	1,105.35	427.59	937.54	147.89	156.35	188.10	57.88	906.60	248.85	749.44	90.02	42.39	156.08
Feb-10	2,614.76	1,095.48	426.45	943.94	148.88	175.46	212.61	62.79	878.49	244.34	731.33	86.09	41.53	154.42
May-10	2,613.10	1,083.39	426.22	953.79	149.70	188.81	239.11	65.26	853.74	240.09	714.68	84.44	40.83	152.98
Aug-10	2,606.61	1,071.09	425.44	962.21	147.85	198.65	262.15	65.56	832.21	236.44	700.06	82.29	40.24	151.99
Nov-10	2,586.42	1,049.71	420.94	965.23	150.55	200.77	282.73	70.12	809.25	230.75	682.49	80.43	39.69	150.55
Feb-11	2,578.66	1,032.83	417.34	983.44	145.06	205.80	316.34	66.31	787.87	225.90	667.10	78.75	39.16	149.13
May-11	2,570.22	1,019.79	413.35	993.75	143.33	212.07	339.13	64.94	768.87	220.50	654.62	78.39	38.86	147.49
Aug-11	2,582.18	1,014.90	410.71	1,013.81	142.76	233.53	381.76	64.52	742.66	213.24	632.06	78.24	38.70	146.02
Nov-11	2,575.60	1,004.37	406.63	1,023.96	140.64	278.83	453.07	60.94	686.77	198.02	570.89	79.70	38.78	144.29
Feb-12	2,557.68	984.20	401.45	1,023.18	148.86	322.10	522.52	69.78	623.26	182.62	500.66	79.08	38.84	142.64
May-12	2,528.14	872.04	375.94	1,096.73	183.44	284.48	670.19	108.62	549.06	164.88	426.54	74.81	38.50	140.95
Aug-12	2,517.07	855.90	375.14	1,106.90	179.11	339.41	752.19	104.86	478.13	146.77	354.71	74.25	38.36	139.41
Nov-12	2,499.96	823.03	374.96	1,117.30	184.84	393.52	821.54	116.12	391.30	121.65	295.59	68.71	38.21	137.68
Feb-13	2,475.67	786.22	372.40	1,126.54	190.51	437.02	893.10	122.53	311.18	99.10	233.44	67.98	38.01	135.90
May-13	2,456.47	731.34	367.05	1,166.81	191.27	465.05	998.04	128.28	228.37	77.81	168.78	62.98	37.92	134.18
Aug-13	2,440.80	688.72	360.13	1,206.39	185.55	488.64	1,085.12	125.49	162.26	57.20	121.28	60.06	37.82	132.10
Nov-13	2,456.36	649.99	357.88	1,259.58	188.92	501.69	1,163.86	131.71	111.30	39.59	95.71	57.20	37.00	129.54
Feb-14	2,459.30	619.30	353.34	1,293.32	193.35	514.83	1,220.22	138.12	69.21	23.37	73.11	55.23	35.25	124.19
May-14	2,470.21	585.58	354.46	1,335.36	194.80	505.92	1,275.87	142.59	46.02	15.47	59.49	52.22	33.64	118.97
Aug-14	2,508.08	572.35	357.20	1,380.77	197.76	508.96	1,332.24	147.23	31.85	9.80	48.53	50.53	31.53	110.55
Nov-14	2,520.27	554.88	364.49	1,404.03	196.87	505.03	1,363.65	148.41	21.96	6.22	40.38	48.46	27.89	102.05

1. Claimants include those beneficiaries plus, those receiving National Insurance Credits and no monetary payment (many credits-only claimants of Incapacity Benefit (IB) or Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA) will also receive Income Support (IS)/ Pension Credit (PC)).

2. This table focuses on the following out-of-work benefits: Incapacity Benefit (IB), Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA), Income Support (IS) and Employment and Support Allowance (ESA). Claimants are classified as follows:

- ESA (Contributory), SDA or IB/SDA payments, without IS/PC = "Receiving contributory based benefit or SDA only"
- ESA (Contributory and Income based); or SDA or IB/SDA payments, with IS/PC = "Receiving contributory based benefit or SDA, with income based benefit"
- ESA (Income Based) or IB/SDA credits only with IS/PC = "Receiving income based benefit"
- ESA (Credits only) or IB/SDA credits only without IS/PC = "National Insurance credits only"

3. This table focuses on the following out-of-work benefits: Incapacity Benefit (IB), Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA), Income Support (IS) and Employment and Support Allowance (ESA). Claimants are classified as follows:

- ESA (Contributory), or IB/SDA payments, without IS/PC = "Receiving contributory based benefit only"
- ESA (Contributory and Income Based) or IB/SDA payments with IS/PC = "Receiving contributory and income based benefit"
- ESA (Income Based) or IB/SDA credits only with IS/PC = "Receiving income based benefit"
- ESA (Credits only) or IB/SDA credits only without IS/PC = "National Insurance credits only"

4. Some claimants (including those receiving "National Insurance credits only") are receiving payments from other benefits; such as Housing Benefit or Disability Living Allowance.

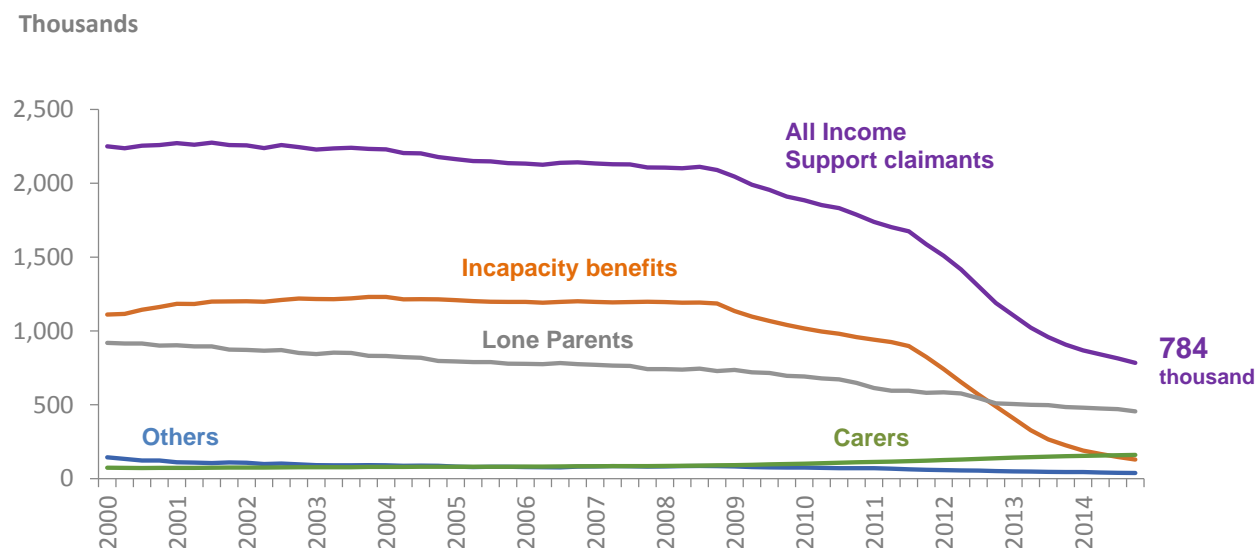
5. This table includes claimants under State Pension age. The age at which women reach State Pension age is gradually increasing from 60 to 65 between April 2010 and April 2016 to November 2018. Under current legislation, State Pension age for men and women is planned to increase to: 66 between November 2018 and October 2020; 67 between 2034 and 2036; 68 between 2044 and 2046. These changes introduce a small increase to the number of working age benefit recipients and a small reduction to the number of pension age recipients.

1.4 National Statistics – Income Support

Income Support (IS) was introduced on 11th April 1988 and is an income-related benefit that can be claimed by adults under state pension age that work fewer than 16 hours a week and have insufficient income to meet their needs. Prior to the introduction of Pension Credit in October 2003, IS was available to people aged 60 and over. From 27th October 2008, Employment & Support Allowance (ESA) replaced Incapacity Benefit and Income Support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims. The Lone Parent Obligation policy came into effect from 24 November 2008; Lone Parents (LPs) with a youngest child aged 12 or over were no longer able to make a new or repeat claim for Income Support (IS) solely on the basis of their parental status. Existing IS LPs with a youngest child aged 12 or over had their eligibility removed over a period of time commencing 2nd March 2009. From October 2009 this policy was extended to LPs with a youngest child aged 10 or 11 and from October 2010 the policy was extended to LPs with a youngest child aged 7 or over. The Welfare Reform Act 2012 introduced further changes and from 21 May 2012 lone parents are eligible to claim Income Support until their youngest child is five years old.

The number of people on Income Support continues to decrease, largely due to the decrease in those claiming Incapacity Benefit

Income support claimants by statistical group: August 1999 to November 2014

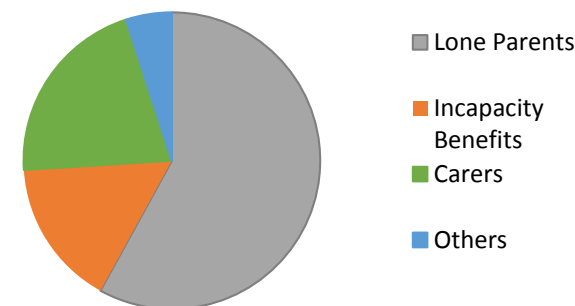


Pension Credit (PC) replaced Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG) in Income Support on 6 October 2003. MIG claimants have been excluded from this data prior to November 2003.

Main Messages

At November 2014, the total number of Income Support claimants was 784 thousand. Lone Parents (all single claimants with dependants under 16, excluding claimants of incapacity benefits) represented 58% of the IS caseload (456 thousand). Claimants of incapacity benefits represented 16% of the IS caseload (129 thousand), while Carers and Others represented 25% of the caseload (161 thousand and 39 thousand respectively).

Income Support claimants at November 2014



See [Tabulation](#) for full Lone Parent by Age data.

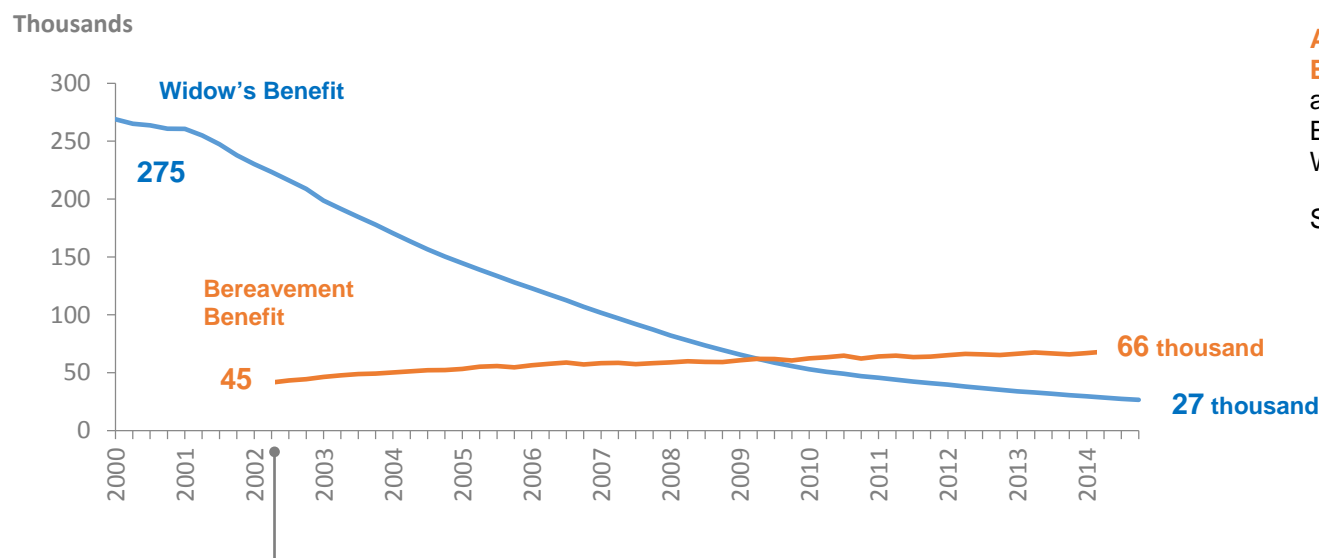
1.5 National Statistics – Widow's Benefit and Bereavement Benefit

Widow's Benefit (WB) was introduced on 6th July 1948 and is payable to women widowed between 11th April 1988 and 8th April 2001 inclusive. There are three types of WB: Widow's Payment, Widowed Mother's Allowance and Widow's Pension. Women widowed before 11th April 1988 continue to receive Widow's Benefit based on the rules that existed before that date.

Bereavement Benefit (BB) was introduced on 9th April 2001 as a replacement for Widow's Benefit. It is payable to both men and women widowed on or after 9th April 2001. There are three types of BB: Bereavement Payment, Widowed Parent's Allowance and Bereavement Allowance.

The number of people on Widow's Benefit continues to fall as those on Bereavement Benefit rises

Widow's Benefit and Bereavement Allowance claimants: August 1999 to November 2014



Bereavement Benefit was introduced in April 2001. Figures are available from May 2002 onwards

Main Messages

At November 2014, there were 27 thousand claimants of Widow's Benefit, a fall of 4 thousand on a year earlier. Of these, 25 thousand were in receipt of Widow's Pension and 2 thousand received Widowed Mother's Allowance.

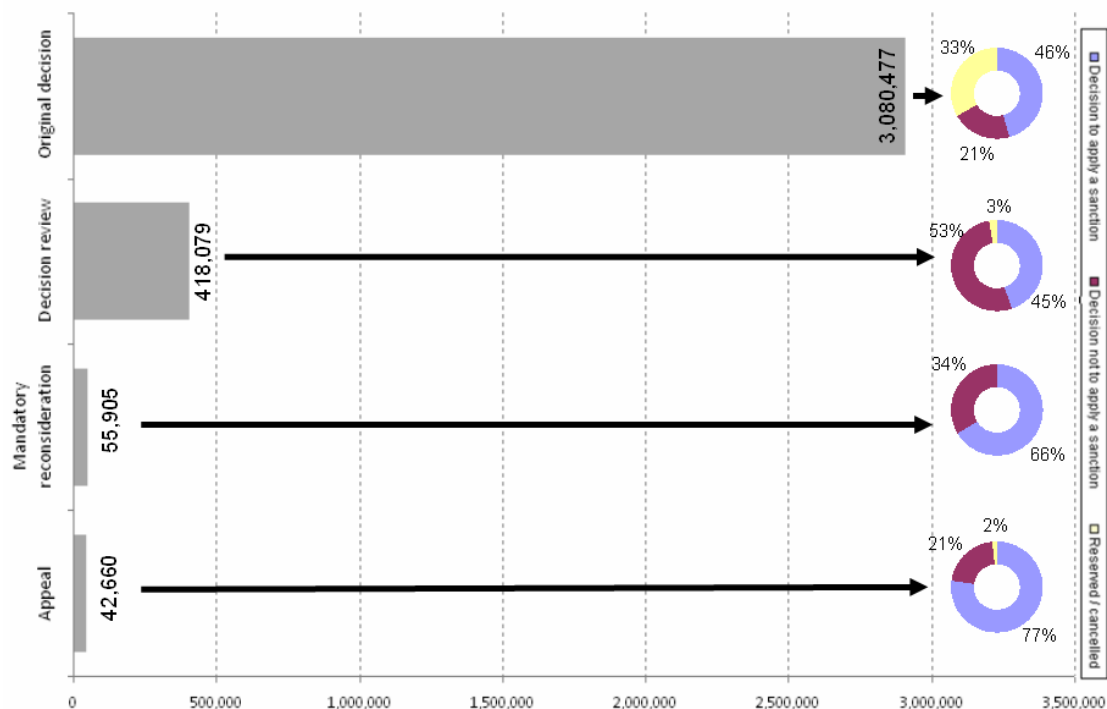
At November 2014, there were 66 thousand claimants of Bereavement Benefit, a decrease of nearly 1 thousand on a year earlier. Of these, 23 thousand were in receipt of Bereavement Allowance and 44 thousand were in receipt of Widowed Parent's Allowance.

See [Tabulation](#) for supporting WB and BB data.

1.6 Official Statistics – Jobseeker’s Allowance sanction decisions

Jobseeker’s Allowance sanctions: A total of 6.48 million decisions to apply a sanction¹

were made between April 2000 and December 2014



¹ Includes a decision to end a claim because of a failure to comply with benefit entitlement conditions

Main Messages

Under the new JSA sanctions regime, introduced on 22nd October 2012:

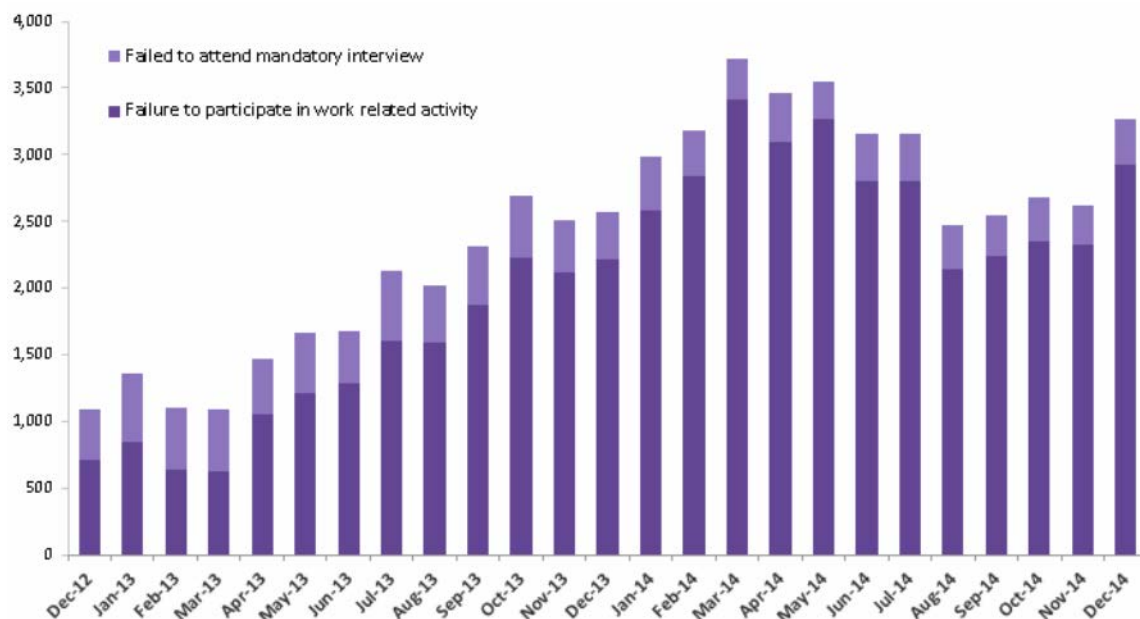
- a total of 1.66 million decisions to apply a sanction were made.
- a total of 1.93 million decisions resulted in no reduction or withdrawal of JSA. In just under half of these (46%) there was a decision not to apply a sanction; 44% as a result of the referral being cancelled (results in no sanction decision being made); and just under one in ten (9%) where it was decided that a sanction would be appropriate but the claimant was no longer claiming JSA (reserved decision).
- a total of 221 thousand decisions following a review resulted in no sanction being applied. This represented just over half (53%) of all cases that had a decision reviewed, and less than one in ten (6%) of all sanction decisions.
- a total of 19 thousand decisions following a mandatory reconsideration resulted in no sanction being applied. This represented one-third of all cases that had a mandatory reconsideration and half of one per cent (0.5%) of all sanctions decisions.
- a total of 9 thousand decisions following an appeal resulted in no sanction being applied. This represented one in five (21%) of all cases that went to the appeal stage, and less than half of one per cent (0.2%) of all sanction decisions.

1.6 Official Statistics – Employment and Support Allowance sanctions decisions

Employment and Support Allowance sanctions: A total of 125 thousand decisions to apply a sanction¹

were made between April 2008 and December 2014

Referral reason for decisions to apply an ESA sanction



¹ Includes a decision to end a claim because of a failure to comply with benefit entitlement conditions

Main Messages

Under the new ESA sanctions regime, introduced on 3rd December 2012:

- **60 thousand decisions to apply a sanction were made.**
- **84% of decisions to apply a sanction were made because of a failure to participate in work related activity** (this includes failure to participate in the Work Programme), with the remaining due to a failure to attend a mandatory interview.

More detailed **JSA and ESA sanctions figures** can be accessed through [Stat-Xplore](#) or via [gov.uk](#)

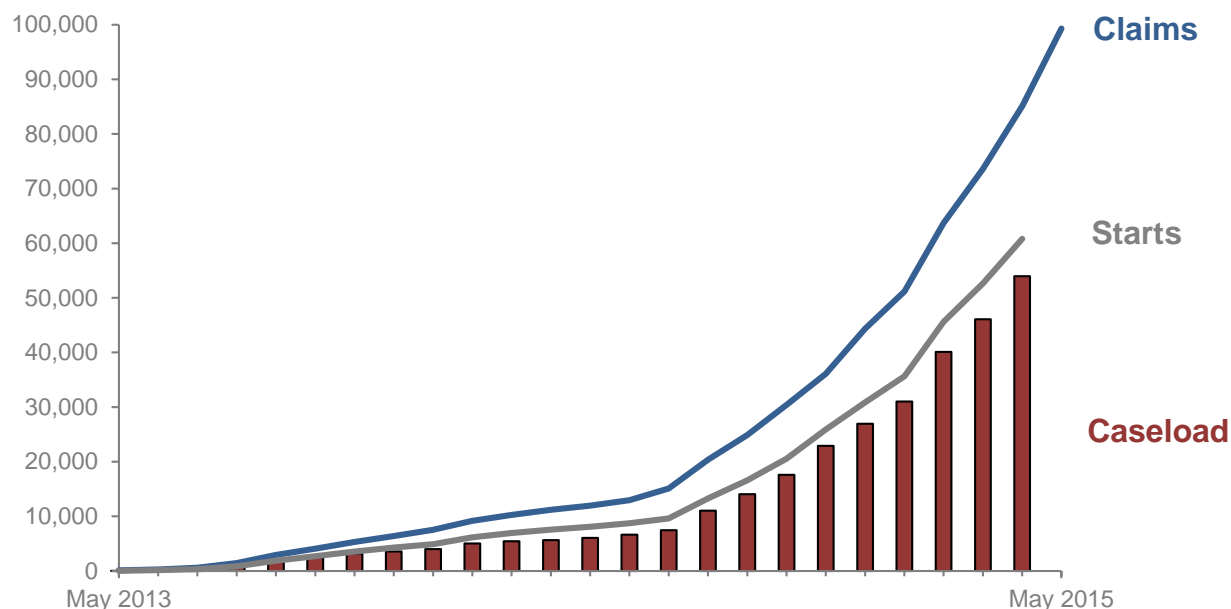
1.7 Official Experimental Statistics – Universal Credit

Universal Credit is a new benefit which 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 in the new benefit. It also provides additions for disabled people and carers. The following benefits will be abolished 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 number of Universal Credit claimants continues to rise

Universal Credit – claims, starts and caseload by month



Main Messages

99,310 people have made a claim for Universal Credit up to 7th May 2015. The rate at which people are claiming continues to increase as the roll out of Universal Credit continues.

60,800 of the people who have made a claim have, up to 9th April 2015, attended an initial interview, accepted their claimant commitment, and gone on to start Universal Credit.

53,970 people were on the Universal Credit caseload, as at 9th April 2015. Of these, **16,740** (or **31%**) were in employment and **37,230** (or **69%**) were not in employment.

See [full release](#) for latest statistical data on **Universal Credit**.

2.1 Early estimates for working age inactive benefit client group

An estimate of the number of working age people claiming Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Income Support or Pension Credit (in advance of formal National Statistics publication).

Table 2.1: Working age ESA/IB client group May 2011 to March 2015

Time Series	National Statistic	Early Estimate
	Number of Claimants (Thousands)	Number of Claimants (Thousands)
May-11	2,570.22	
Aug-11	2,582.18	
Nov-11	2,575.60	
Feb-12	2,557.68	
May-12	2,528.14	
Aug-12	2,517.07	
Nov-12	2,499.96	
Feb-13	2,475.67	
May-13	2,456.47	
Aug-13	2,440.80	
Nov-13	2,456.36	
Feb-14	2,459.31	
May-14	2,470.21	
Aug-14	2,508.08	
Nov-14	2,520.27	
Dec-14		2,530
Jan-15		2,520
Feb-15		2,530
Mar-15		2,535

Table 2.2: Working-age ESA/IB client group claiming NI credits only May 2011 to March 2015

Time Series	National Statistics Source Data	Early Estimate
	National Insurance Credits Only (Percentage)	National Insurance Credits Only (Percentage)
May-11	5.6%	
Aug-11	5.5%	
Nov-11	5.5%	
Feb-12	5.8%	
May-12	7.3%	
Aug-12	7.1%	
Nov-12	7.4%	
Feb-13	7.7%	
May-13	7.8%	
Aug-13	7.6%	
Nov-13	7.7%	
Feb-14	7.9%	
May-14	7.9%	
Aug-14	7.9%	
Nov-14	7.8%	
Dec-14		7.6%
Jan-15		7.6%
Feb-15		7.6%
Mar-15		7.5%

These figures are likely to be effected by changes to State Pensions age. Please see the Welfare Reform section of our background information for further details.

Main Messages

The working age ESA/IB early estimate for March 2015 is 2.535 million to the nearest 5,000. This represents an increase of 0.6 per cent since November 2014 (the latest National Statistic). As Incapacity Benefit reassessment continues, users should be aware that there may be increased uncertainty around these early estimates.

In March 2015 approximately 92.5% were in receipt of benefit payments from Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Income Support, Pension Credit.

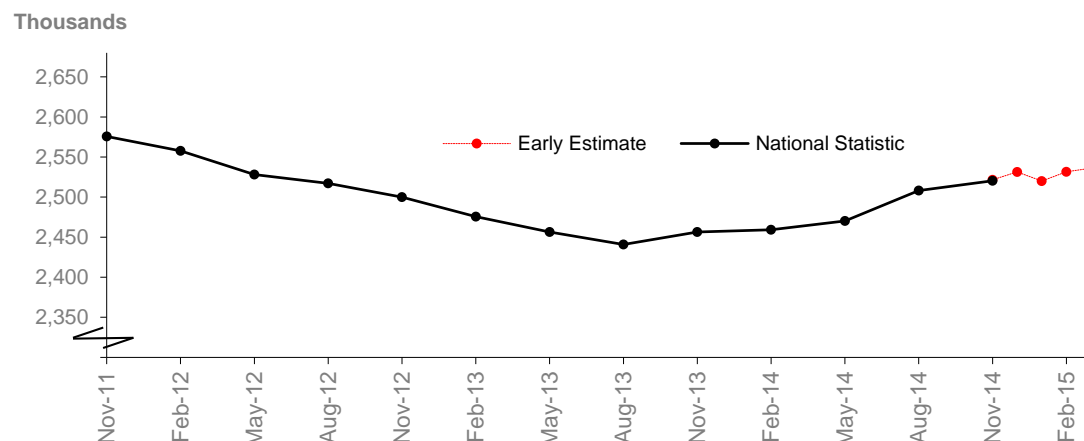
The remaining **7.5% received National Insurance credits only** (i.e. no payment of IB, SDA, ESA, IS or PC). A noticeable rise in the proportion of claimants receiving National Insurance credits was seen in May 2012. This is due to the introduction of a 365 day limit on receipt of contribution based ESA for those in the Work Related Activity Group on 1 May 2012

These figures are estimates of the final National Statistic, to give an indication of their accuracy, over the past year the early estimates in Table 2.1 have been revised by an average of 0.5 per cent. See notes section for more information. Further details on the accuracy of the early estimates in Table 2.2 can also be found there.

2.1 Early estimates for working age inactive benefit client group

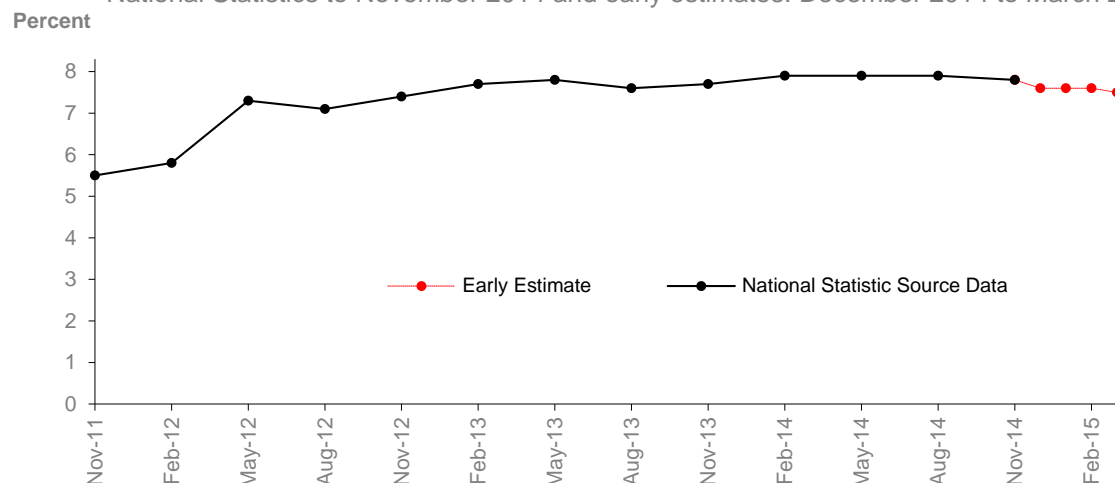
Early estimates suggest a continued rise in the number of working age people claiming ESA/Incapacity benefits

National Statistics to November 2014 and early estimates: December 2014 to March 2015



Early estimates suggest a fall in the proportion of working age people claiming National Insurance credits only

National Statistics to November 2014 and early estimates: December 2014 to March 2015



Main Messages

The working age ESA/IB early estimate for March 2015 continues to rise.

From November 2008 ESA replaced Incapacity Benefit (IB) and Income Support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008. Prior to this the "incapacity benefits group" referred to claimants of IB or Severe Disablement Allowance including people claiming Income Support on the grounds of incapacity.

The red dotted line in the charts emphasises that the figures are estimates and official statistics.

When the next quarterly National Statistics are published they will be included as a National Statistic in Table 2.1, and the monthly early estimates for this quarter will be removed from Table 2.1.

In March 2015 approximately 92.5% were in receipt of benefit payments from Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Income Support, Pension Credit.

The remaining **7.5% received National Insurance credits only** (i.e. no payment of IB, SDA, ESA, IS or PC). On 1 May 2012, a 365 day limit on the receipt of contribution based ESA for those in the Work Related Activity Group was introduced.

When the next quarterly National Statistics figure is available they will be included in Table 2.2, and the monthly early estimates for this quarter will be removed from Table 2.2. This indicator feeds into table 1.3.

2.2 Early estimates for Income Support Lone Parent (ISLP) client group

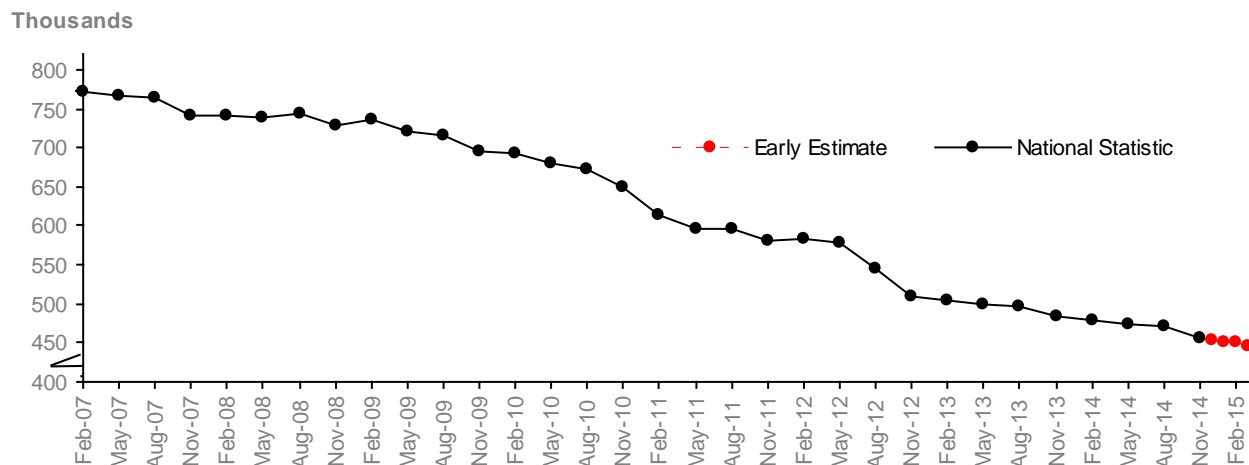
An estimate of the number of working age people claiming Income Support (with a child under 16 and no partner) in advance of formal National Statistics publication.

Table 2.1: ISLP client group November 2013 to March 2015

Time Series	National Statistic Number of Claimants (Thousands)	Early Estimate Number of Claimants (Thousands)
Nov-13	485.00	
Feb-14	480.09	
May-14	474.73	
Aug-14	470.82	
Nov-14	4,55.53	
Dec-14		455
Jan-15		450
Feb-15		450
Mar-15		445

Early estimates suggest a continued fall in the number of people in the Income Support Lone Parent client group

National Statistics to November 2014 and early estimates: December 2014 to March 2015



Main Messages

The working age ISLP early estimate for March 2015 is 445 thousand to the nearest 5,000. This represents a fall of 2 per cent since November 2014 (the latest National Statistic).

The figures are estimates of the final National Statistic, to give an indication of their accuracy, over the past year the early estimates have been revised by an average of 0.2 per cent. See the notes section for more information.

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.

As a result, new and repeat claimants with the following conditions were no longer entitled to Income Support:

- A youngest child aged 12 or over from November 2008;
- A youngest child aged 10 or over from October 2009;
- A youngest child aged 7 or over from October 2010.

The Welfare Reform Act 2012 introduced further changes and from May 2012 lone parents are only eligible to claim Income Support until their youngest child is five years old.

The red dotted line in the chart above emphasises that the figures are estimates and official statistics.

The age at which men and women reach State Pension age is gradually increasing. This will introduce a small increase to the number of working age benefit recipients and a small reduction to the number of pension age recipients.

3.1 National Statistics – Pensioner client group and State Pension

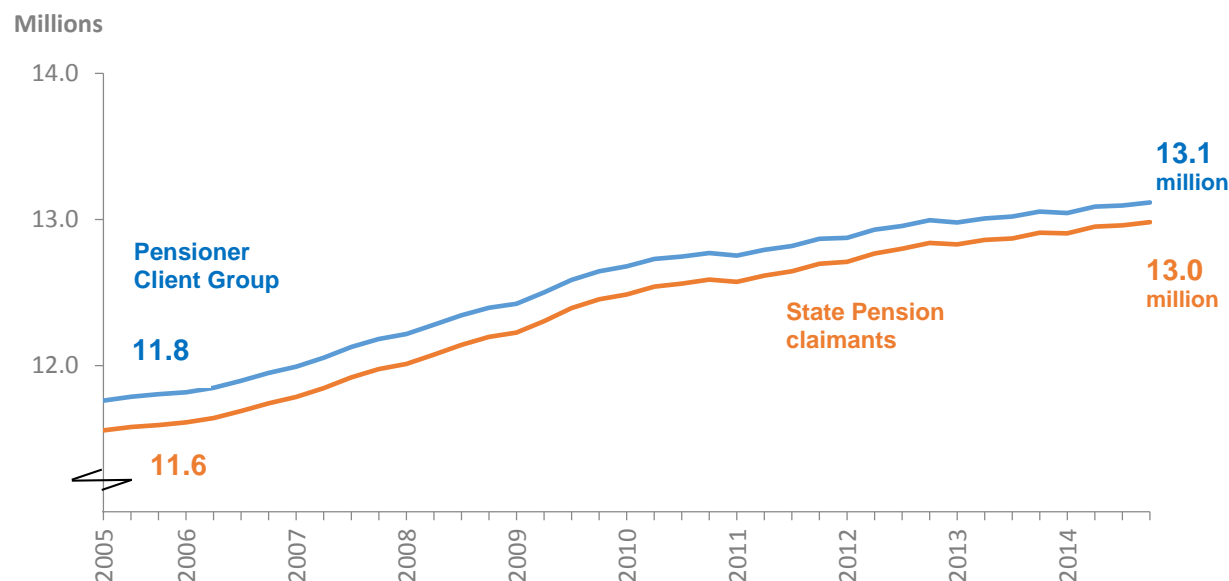
The Pensioner client group covers claimants, over State Pension age, of at least one of the following benefits: State Pension, Pension Credit, Attendance Allowance, Widow's Benefit, Disability Living Allowance, Incapacity Benefit, and Severe Disablement Allowance. They are split into statistical groups that reflect their main reason for claiming benefit.

State Pension (SP) was introduced on 1st January 1909 and is paid to people who have reached the state pension age and who fulfil the residency and contributions conditions. The age at which men and women reach State Pension age is gradually increasing. Under current legislation, State Pension age for women will equalise with State Pension age for men at 65 in 2018. Both men's and women's State Pension age will increase from 65 to 66 between December 2018 and October 2020. The Pensions Bill 2013-14 contains provision for a State Pension age of 67 to be reached by 2028.

The number of people within the Pensioner client group (and on State Pension) continues to rise

The Pensioner client group is predominately made up of State Pension recipients

Pensioner client group and State Pension recipients: May 2005 to November 2014



Main Messages

At November 2014 there were 13.1 million claimants in the Pensioner client group, an increase of 62 thousand since November 2013. Of these, 16% were in receipt of Pension Credit. 50% of these Pension Credit claimants were also claiming Attendance Allowance or Disability Living Allowance.

See [Tabulation](#) for supporting data.

At November 2014, there were almost 13 million claimants of State Pension, a rise of 68 thousand on a year earlier. Of these, 42% were male and 58% were female.

The average weekly amount in payment at November 2014 was **£126.89**, a rise of £4.36 since August 2013.

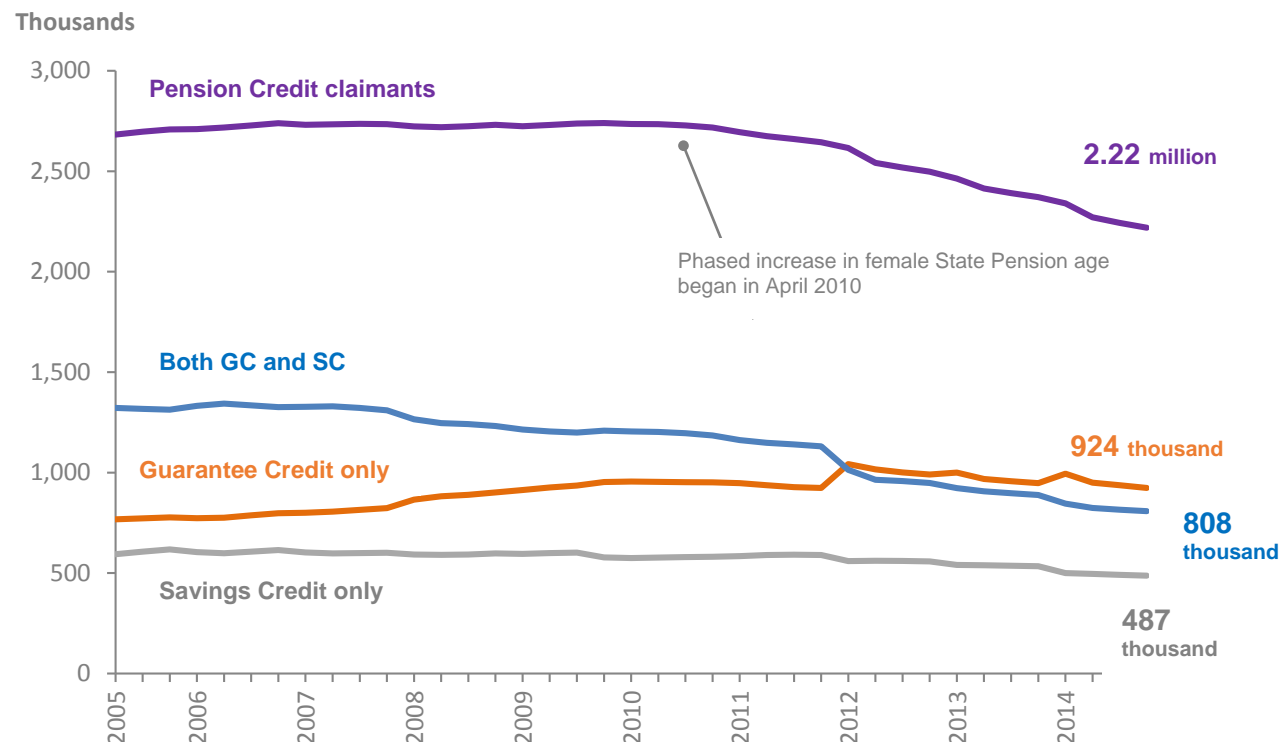
See [Tabulation](#) for supporting **State Pension** data and additional breakdowns.

3.2 National Statistics – Pension Credit

Pension Credit (PC) was introduced on 6th October 2003 and replaced Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG). For people aged over the female state pension age, the Guarantee Credit element guarantees an income at a set level. People aged 65 or over (and couples where one member is 65 or over) may also be entitled to Savings Credit if they have modest income from savings, investments or a second pension.

The number of people on Pension Credit is falling

Pension Credit recipients: May 2005 to November 2014



Main Messages

At November 2014, there were **2.22 million claimants of Pension Credit (2.67 million including partners)**, a fall of 152 thousand on the previous year.

This fall is due to the increase in the female State Pension age, which is also the age at which people become eligible for Pension Credit, see background note for further details.

Of these Pension Credit claimants, **924 thousand claimed Guarantee Credit only**, **808 thousand claimed Guarantee and Savings Credit**, and **487 thousand were claiming Savings Credit only**.

The average weekly amount of Pension Credit in payment at November 2014 was **£56.44**, a fall of £0.22 since November 2013.

See [Tabulation](#) for supporting **Pension Credit** data and additional breakdowns.

4.1 National Statistics – Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Carer's Allowance

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) was introduced on 1st April 1992 and is a benefit for people who have become disabled before the age of 65 and who need assistance with personal care or mobility. From 8 April 2013, Disability Living Allowance for people aged 16-64 was replaced by Personal Independence payment (PIP) for new claims. PIP will also gradually replace existing DLA claims for people aged 16-64 (see background information note).

Attendance Allowance (AA) was introduced on 6th December 1971 and is a benefit for people over the age of 65 who are so severely disabled, physically or mentally, that they need a great deal of help with personal care or supervision. Those requiring constant help receive the higher rate of benefit.

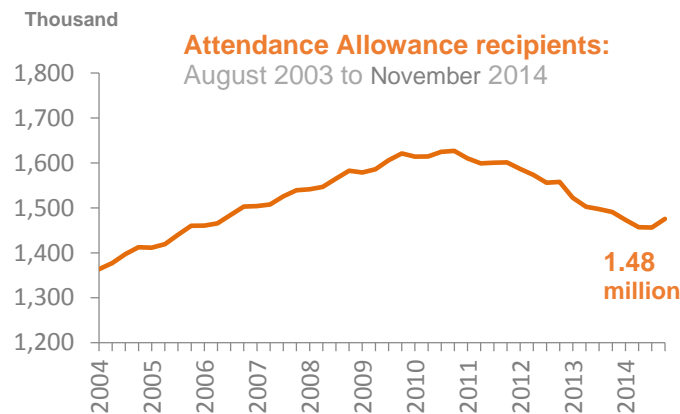
Carer's Allowance (CA) was introduced on 5th July 1976; it is paid to carers who look after a severely disabled person for at least 35 hours a week. The severely disabled person must be getting either higher or middle rate DLA care component or AA or maximum rate Constant Attendance Allowance with their War Pension or Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit.

The number of people on Disability Living Allowance continues to fall



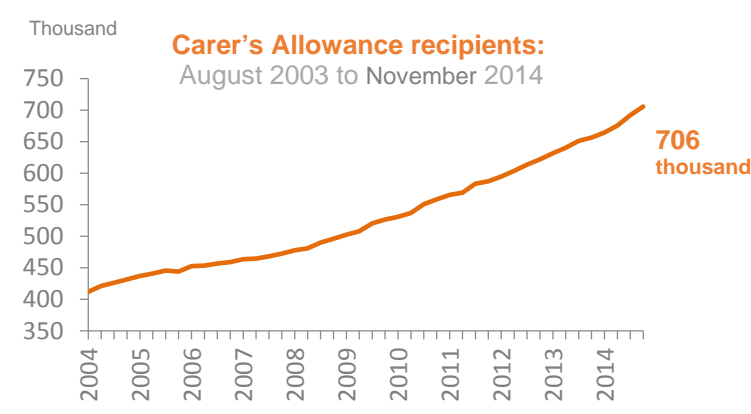
See [Tabulation](#) for supporting **DLA** data and additional breakdowns

The number of people on Attendance Allowance has recently increased



See [Tabulation](#) for supporting **AA** data and additional breakdowns.

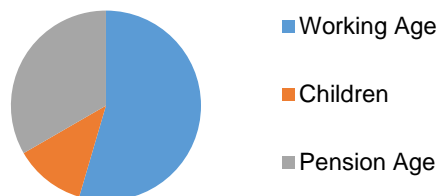
The number of people on Carer's Allowance continues to rise



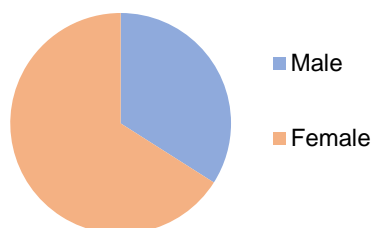
See [Tabulation](#) for supporting **CA** data and additional breakdowns

4.1 National Statistics – Disability Living Allowance (DLA), Attendance Allowance (AA) and Carer's Allowance (AA)

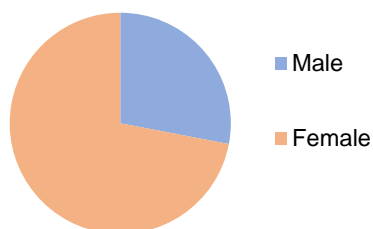
DLA recipients at November 2014



AA recipients at November 2014



CA recipients at November 2014



Main Messages

At November 2014, 3.18 million people were receiving Disability Living Allowance (not including suspended cases), a fall of 92 thousand on the previous year. Of these claimants 50.5% were male. The fall in the caseload in recent quarters is due to the introduction of Personal Independence Payments (PIP) (see background note). At November 2014, 12% of DLA recipients were children, 54% were working age and 33% were pension age (a very small number are of unknown age).

At November 2014 there were 1.48 million people receiving Attendance Allowance (excluding suspended cases), a fall of 15 thousand on a year earlier. Of these, 34% were male and 66% were female.

The male AA caseload has increase by 1 thousand and the female caseload has decreased by 17 thousand in the year to August 2014. At November 2014, 69% of recipients were aged 80 or over.

At November 2014, there were 706 thousand people receiving Carer's Allowance (not including underlying entitlement cases). 28% of claimants were male, and 72% were female.

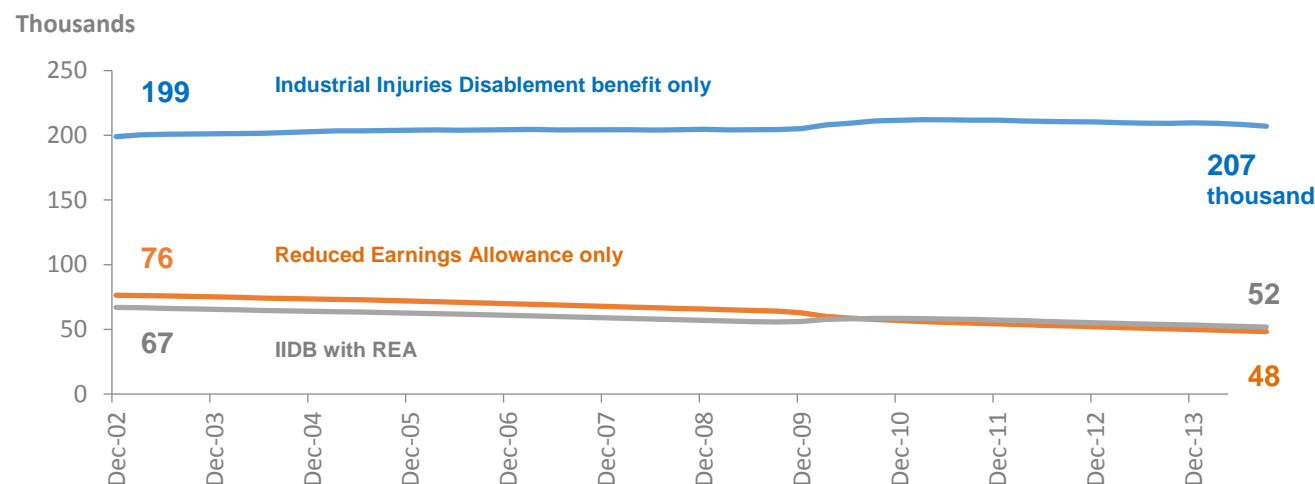
At November 2014, there were a further 411 thousand people entitled to Carer's Allowance but not receiving any payment due to overlapping benefit provisions (i.e. underlying entitlement cases).

4.4 National Statistics – Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit

Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit (IIDB) was introduced on 5th July 1948 and is a benefit for people who are disabled because of an industrial accident or prescribed industrial disease. Since 1st October 1986 any claim resulting in an assessment of less than 14% disabled does not normally attract benefit.

The number of people on IIDB and/or Reduced Earnings Allowance is changing at a very slow rate

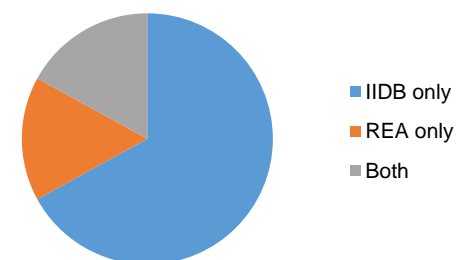
Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit and Reduce Earnings Allowance in payment by type assessments payable:
December 2002 to September 2014



Main Messages

There were just over **307 thousand people claiming under the Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit scheme** (in total) in September 2014, of whom 67% received **Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit only** (**207 thousand**), 16% received **Reduced Earnings Allowance only** (**48 thousand**), and 17% received both (**52 thousand**).

IIDB recipients at September 2014



The number of people claiming IIDB benefit has dropped slightly (by 2%) since September 2013. The average weekly payment at September 2014 was **£53.63**.

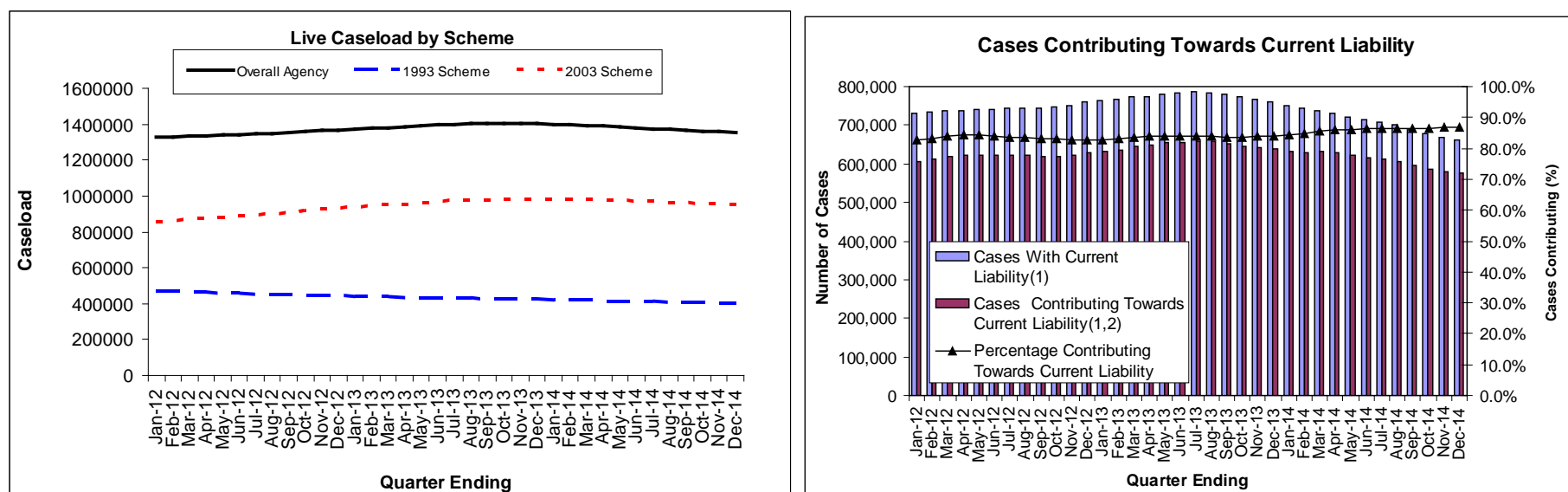
See [Tables](#) for supporting IIDB data and additional breakdowns.

5.1 National Statistics – Child Support Agency cases

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is responsible for the child maintenance system in Great Britain. It funds information and support for separating parents and runs the statutory child maintenance schemes, currently operated through the Child Support Agency (CSA).

DWP assumed responsibility for the CSA from the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission on the 1 August 2012, following an announcement on 14 October 2010 that the Commission would become an executive agency of DWP as part of the Public Bodies Reform. The Commission had responsibility for the CSA between the 1 November 2008 and the 31 July 2012, prior to that DWP had responsibility for the CSA.

On the 10 December 2012 a new Child Maintenance Scheme was launched. The scheme was introduced on a pathfinder approach. All new applications are now being accepted onto the 2012 scheme. The CSA QSS excludes cases on the 2012 scheme.



Main Messages

- At the end of December 2014, the **CSA live caseload stood at 1.35 million**.
- In the quarter ending December 2014, **86.9%** of all cases in which maintenance was due had either received maintenance via the CSA collection service, or had a maintenance direct arrangement in place.

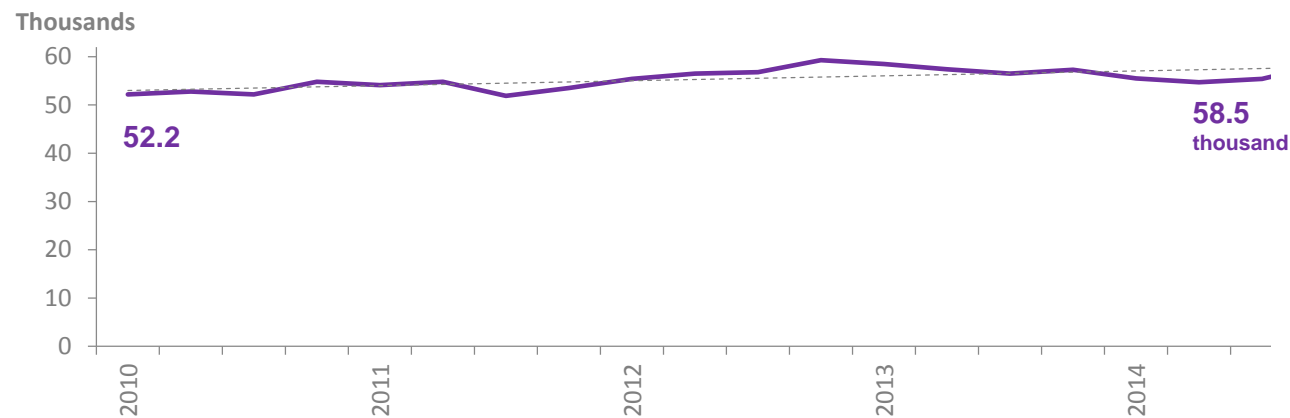
From 25 November 2013, **all new applications** for child maintenance are made under the [2012 Scheme](#). Consequently, the 1993 and 2003 Scheme caseloads will steadily reduce as no new intake is received and cases close. For this reason the data on Uncleared work has not been updated and will no longer be included. See [full release](#) for latest available **CSA statistics**.

5.2 National Statistics – Maternity Allowance

Maternity Allowance (MA) is usually paid to women who have worked and paid full National Insurance (NI) contributions in the relevant test period, and who don't qualify for Statutory Maternity Pay. Maternity Allowance is paid for 39 weeks, at the earliest starting 11 weeks before the baby is due. If the woman does any paid work during this period, she cannot get the allowance for that time. It is payable at various rates, dependent on circumstances.

The number of people on Maternity Allowance varies slightly throughout the year, but is fairly consistent over time

All Maternity Allowance cases (current spells): February 2010 to November 2014

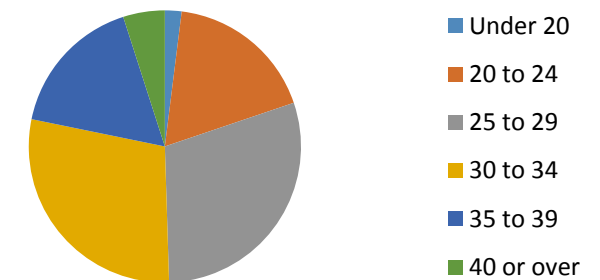


The average weekly payment in November 2014 for those spells (across All rates) commencing in the period 1st September 2014 to 30th November 2014 was **£138.18**.

Main Messages

At November 2014, there were **58.5 thousand current spells of Maternity Allowance** across all areas (including Overseas) of whom 2% of claimants were aged under 20, 18% were aged 20-24, 30% were aged 25-29, 29% were aged 30-34, 17% were aged 35-39 and 5% were aged 40 or over.

Maternity Allowance spells by age at November 2014



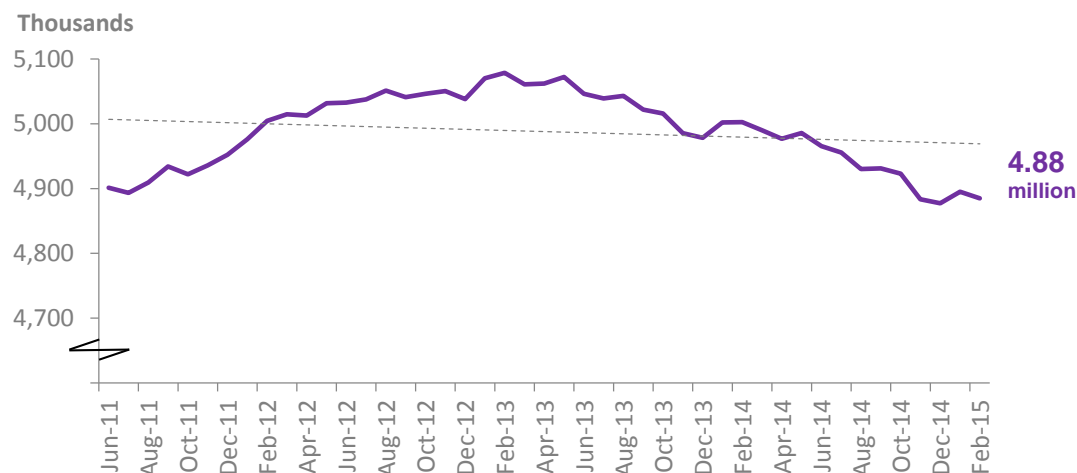
See [Tables](#) for supporting **Maternity Allowance** data and additional breakdowns.

6.1 National Statistics – Housing Benefit

Housing Benefit (HB) was introduced on 1st April 1983 and is an income-related benefit designed to help people on low incomes pay for rented accommodation whether in or out-of-work.

The number of people on Housing Benefit has generally decreased over the last year

Housing Benefit recipients: June 2011 to February 2015



Further information on **Housing Benefit** can be found via [Stat-Xplore](#) which provides users with an interactive visualisation tool to produce charts, graphs and tables, downloadable in a number of different formats. A set of summary tables on **Housing Benefit** claimants can also be found [here](#).

Main Messages

At February 2015 there were **4.88 million recipients of Housing Benefit**, of whom almost three-quarters were aged under 65. **The average weekly amount of Housing Benefit was £93.18.**

67.5% of Housing Benefit recipients were **tenants in the Social Sector**.

86.2% of the 1.59 million Private Sector Housing Benefit recipients were **receiving the Local Housing Allowance**.

61.8% of Housing Benefit recipients were **also in receipt of Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, income-based Employment and Support Allowance or Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit)**.

As at February 2015, **463 thousand** Housing Benefit claimants (of working age) **had a reduction to their Housing Benefit weekly award amount as a result of the removal of the spare room subsidy**. This represents just under 10 per cent of the total Housing Benefit caseload.

Known Issues, Changes and Revisions

Presentational changes have been made to the release.

Notes

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 on the DWP website via the following link:

- A schedule of statistical releases over the next 12 months and a list of the most recent releases: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/about/statistics>

Feedback

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.

An ongoing 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

Completed questionnaires can be returned by e-mail to stats-consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk or by post to the following address:

Dissemination Team
Information Exploitation Directorate
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.

