



Universal Credit aims to reduce poverty, by making work pay, and to help claimants and their families to become more independent.

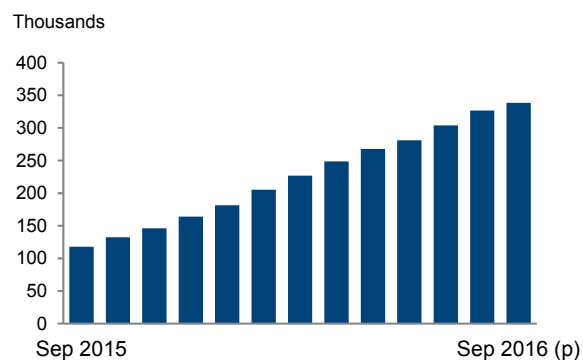
Universal Credit was introduced in April 2013 in certain pathfinder areas of North West England. Since October 2013, it has progressively been rolled out to other areas. It is now available in all Jobcentre Plus offices to single claimants, and is being expanded across the country to include all claimant types via the full service.

## Main story

The number of people on Universal Credit as of 8 September 2016 was 338,519. Of these people 139,870 (41 per cent) were in employment.

### 338,519 claimants

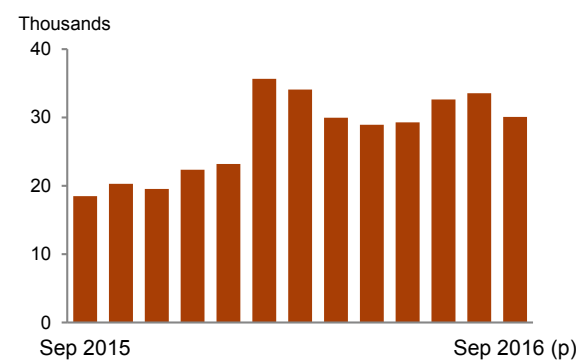
September 2016



The number of people on Universal Credit rose to 338,519 in September 2016. This is a 4 per cent increase from last month.

### Starts at 27,775

September 2016

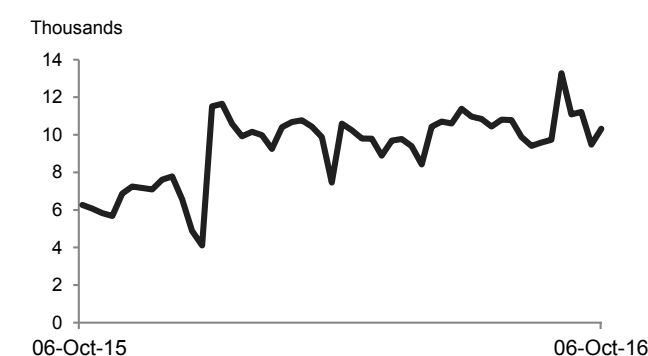


The number of starts made to Universal Credit was 27,775 in September 2016.

The figures in this chart have been standardised, so may not match figures in the document. Please see the Background Information and Methodology document for more detail.

### September claims peak

Up to 6 October 2016



720,958 claims have been made for Universal Credit up to 6 October 2016. **Figures in the publication for claims for the period 8 April 2016 to 1 September 2016 have been revised. Figures are not comparable to last month's publication. Please see the background information and methodology document for more detail.**

In next month's release DWP will be incorporating data on claimants from the full service within the three main measures of claims, starts and people on Universal Credit. Claims figures will also be aligned to the count date for starts and the number of people on Universal Credit.

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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 6 October 2016 (for claims made) and 8 September 2016 (for starts and people receiving Universal Credit). Universal Credit is available in all Jobcentre Plus Offices to single claimants and is being expanded to all claimant types across the country via the full service. Please note we do not currently include statistics covering all of 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 in the new benefit. 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:

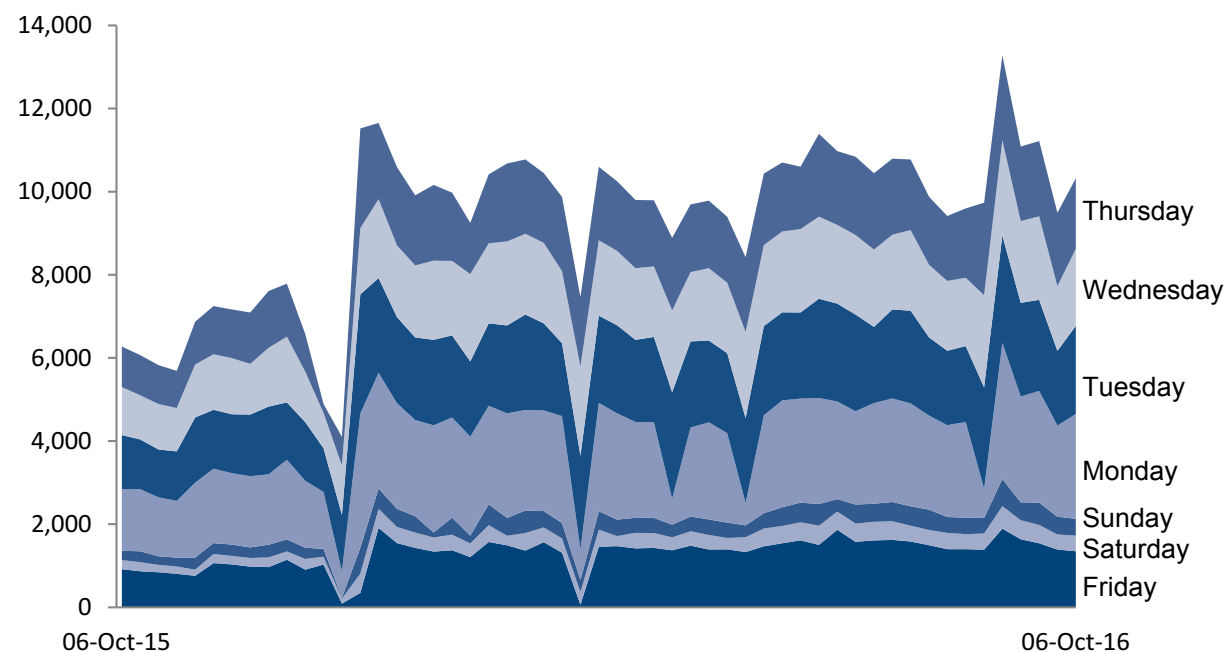
- Universal Credit is available to people who are in work and on a low income, as well as to those who are out-of-work.
- Most people will apply online and manage their claim through an online account.
- Universal Credit will be responsive – as people on low incomes move in and out of work, they will 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** 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.

# Claiming Universal Credit

## Claims made reach a weekly peak in September

New claims per week and day in the last year to Thursday 6 October 2016



The total number of claims made for Universal Credit in the last four weeks was 42,113, with an average of 10,528 claims per week, compared to an average of 10,504 claims in the previous four weeks.

Generally, more claims are made for Universal Credit on weekdays, compared to weekends.

Claims made for Universal Credit reached a daily peak of 3,276 on 5 September 2016, and a weekly peak of 13,277 in the week ending 8 September 2016.

The total number of claims made for Universal Credit has now reached 720,958, as all Jobcentre Plus offices are now accepting claims from single claimants for Universal Credit.

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

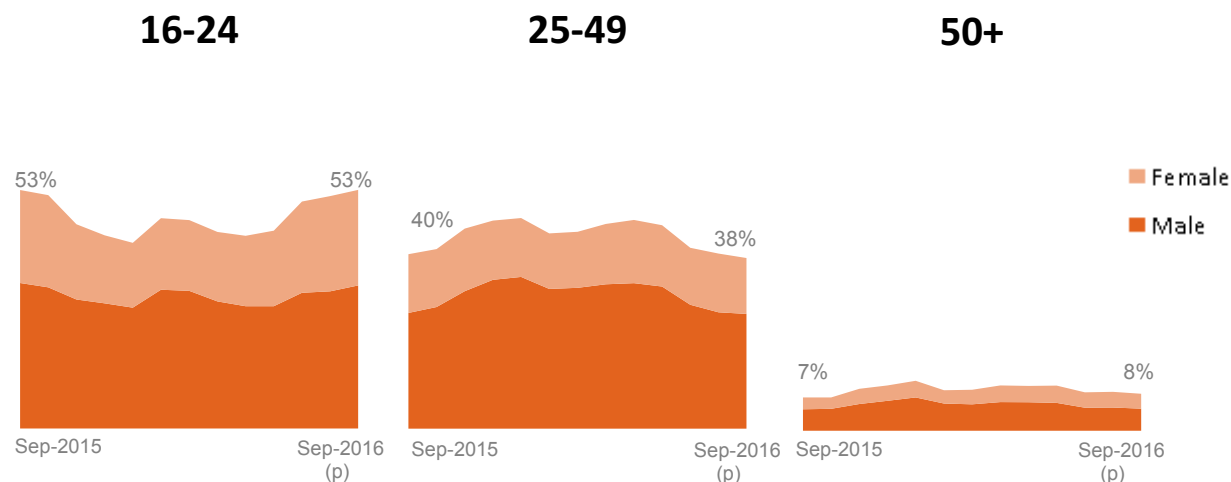
## How people claim Universal Credit

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, at which 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. Users should note that the statistics on claims made are three weeks more up-to-date than statistics on starts and people on Universal Credit. Not all people who make a claim for Universal Credit will go on to start. The statistics for claims and starts used in this publication include all claims and starts to Universal Credit.

# Starts to Universal Credit

## Most starts to Universal Credit in September were by 16-24 year olds

### Starts to Universal Credit in September by age and gender



Of the total starts made in September, 53 per cent were by 16-24 year olds. The rise in the proportion of starts made by 16-24 year olds over the summer seems to be a seasonal trend. This increase can be seen in both males and females.

During 2016 the proportion of starts to Universal Credit from males has slowly decreased. 63 per cent of starts made to Universal Credit in September 2016 were from males, and 37 per cent from females, while in February 2016, 69 per cent of starts were from males and 31 per cent from females.

**The total number of starts that have been made to Universal Credit in the month up to 8 September 2016 was 27,775.** The total number of starts that have been made since Universal Credit began is 483,255.

In the past month, there have been more starts to Universal Credit at Bolton, Blackhorse Street Jobcentre Plus office than any other (202 people starting).

Oldham Jobcentre Plus office still has the highest cumulative number of starts of any Jobcentre Plus office (8,161).

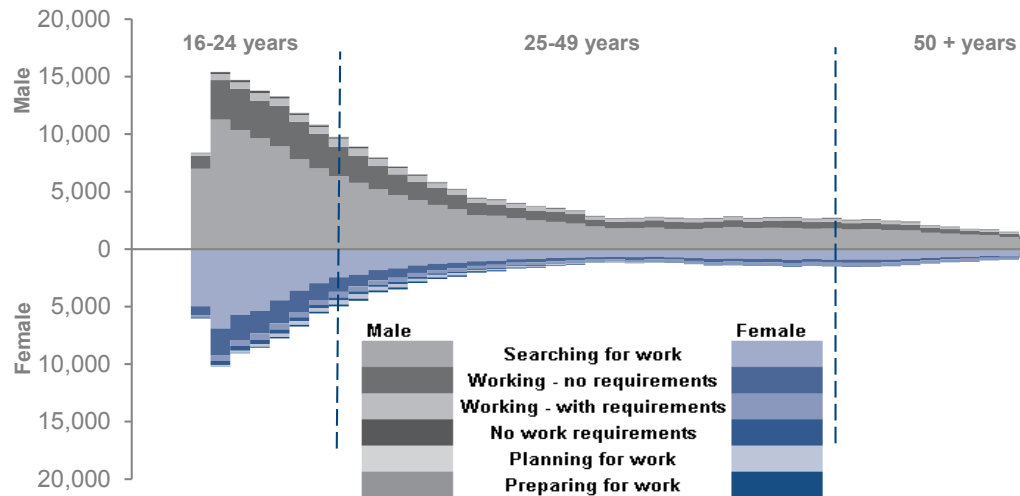
Regionally, Central England saw the most starts this month. The North West still has the highest number of starts overall at 33 per cent, compared to 16 per cent overall from Central England. As Universal Credit is available to a wider group of people in the North West, the age and gender profile of claimants is different from the other regions. For example, in September 55 per cent of starts from the North West are from males, compared to 64 per cent from Central England. Additionally 46 per cent of starts from the North West are from 16-24 year olds compared to 60 per cent from Central England.

Please note the figures for the latest month (September 2016) 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

## Almost two-thirds of people on Universal Credit are in the Searching for Work conditionality regime

The number of people on Universal Credit, by conditionality regime, age group and gender, September 2016



**There were 338,519 people on Universal Credit as of 8 September 2016.** This represents an increase of 4 per cent when compared to the number of people on Universal Credit in August 2016.

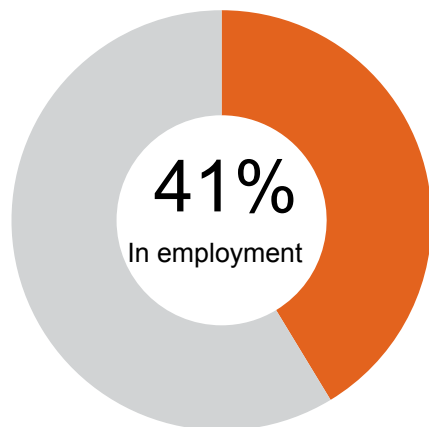
In September 2016, there were more males on Universal Credit than females (65 per cent compared to 35 per cent). Males aged 25-49 made up 32 per cent of the total Universal Credit figure.

On 8 September 2016, 64 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 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.

## Two fifths of people on Universal Credit are in employment

Percentage of people on Universal Credit who are in employment, September 2016



Of the people on Universal Credit in September 2016, 41 per cent (139,870) were in employment and 59 per cent (198,647) were not in employment.

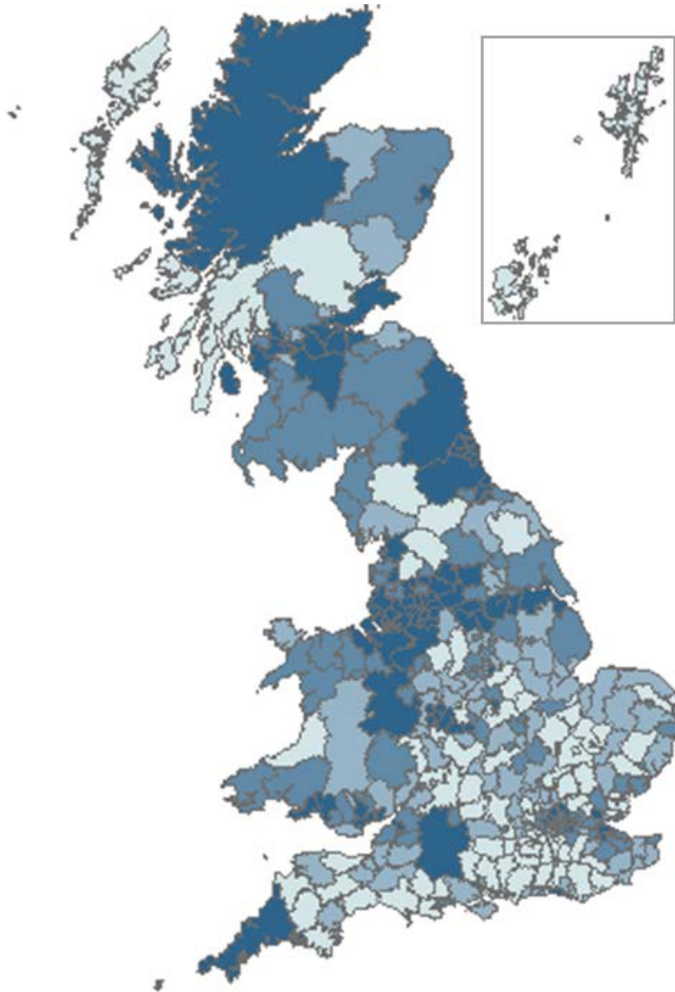
The Jobcentre Plus office with the most people on Universal Credit was Bolton, Blackhorse Street, with 3,625 Universal Credit claimants, followed by Oldham, with 3,378 (breakdowns of people on Universal Credit by Jobcentre Plus office, local authority and parliamentary constituency are available on [Stat-Xplore](#)).

See **tables 3.1-3.3** for summary statistics and [Stat-Xplore](#) for the complete data series.

Please note figures for the latest month (September 2016) 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 8 September 2016.

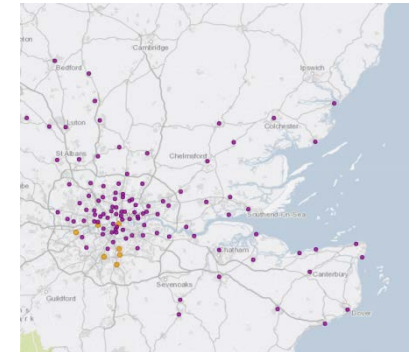
The darker areas of the map are local authorities with high levels of Universal Credit claimants, while the lighter areas are the local authorities with fewer Universal Credit claimants.

### 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.



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 published in September 2013 and updated in February 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.

Universal Credit is now available in all Jobcentre Plus offices 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 offices 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 into Croydon (10 June 2015), Southwark (4 November 2015), Purley (27 April 2016) and Thornton Heath (27 April 2016) in South London and Great Yarmouth (27 April 2016) in East Anglia. Claimants in these areas will manage their Universal Credit claim online to monitor payments, communicate with their work coach and record work search progress. Please note that this publication does not currently include statistics covering these areas.

The full service for Universal Credit was introduced into Hounslow, West London, on 27 January 2016, and Musselburgh, East Scotland, on 23 March 2016. Figures for Hounslow and Musselburgh in this publication include claimants who were on Universal Credit prior to the move to full service and some, but not all who have transferred to full service. The figures do not include claimants who have submitted a new claim via the full service. We anticipate that complete full service data will be included as quality assurance of data from the Universal Credit systems progresses.

From May 2016 Universal Credit full service began its roll out to all other Jobcentre Plus offices 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/>

See our interactive map: <http://dwp-stats.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Viewer/index.html?appid=82116e01690d4e8584014362d67900c6>

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>