

Freedom of Information request 2773/2011

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Information request

I would like to know how many people started to draw their State Pension later than their State Pension Age in the last complete year for which records are available. I would further like to know of those people, how many decided to a. take the higher pension available or b. take the lump sum and lower pension.

If the information isn't readily available then the total number of people who received a lump sum payment for State pension deferral and what the total amount of these lump sums were in the last year for which records are available.

DWP response

Information to help answer your question is provided in the table below.

State Pension on-flows by deferral status - Great Britain and abroad						
	6 months to March 2010			6 months to September 2010		
	All	Great Britain	Abroad/unkown	All	Great Britain	Abroad/unkown
Total number of on-flows	371,500	326,700	44,800	299,200	268,500	30,700
of which:						
Not Deferred	338,500	300,200	38,200	265,800	238,500	27,300
Deferred receiving:						
Increments only	11,700	7,900	3,800	12,900	10,500	2,500
Lump sum and increments	4,400	3,100	1,300	2,600	2,300	300
Lump sum only	17,000	15,600	1,500	17,800	17,200	600

Source: Information Directorate, 5% sample.

Notes:

1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. The preferred statistics on benefits are now derived from 100% data sources. However, the 5% sample data still provide some detail not yet available from the 100% data sources. DWP recommends that, where the detail is only available on the 5% sample data the proportions derived should be scaled up to the overall 100% total for the benefit. These figures have been scaled up to the overall total.
3. Numbers are based on a 5% and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.
4. State Pension Age: From April 2010, the age at which women reach State Pension age started to gradually increase from 60. Further information is available on Directgov at:
http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Pensionsandretirementplanning/PlanningForRetirement/DG_10027104
5. New rules for deferral came into effect in April 2005 and lump payments became available from April 2006. A person who deferred their State Pension before April 2005 would qualify for increments for the period up to April 2005 and may have a choice of either a lump sum payment or an increment for the period of deferral from April 2005. This means some people may have both an increment and a lump sum payment. The lump sum option is only available to those who have deferred continuously for at least 12 months. The numbers do not include those who deferred for less than 12 months and opted for simple arrears instead of increments.

For information, you may also be interested to be aware that the Department regularly publishes a range of National Statistics on State Pension on its website via the Tabulation Tool at <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool> and on NOMIS, the Office for National Statistics official website of labour market statistics www.nomisweb.co.uk. Both websites allow you to construct tables to your own requirements.

For example, to produce statistics on how many people are in receipt of State Pension, go to <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool>, scroll down and select **Benefit Caseloads National Statistics (WPLS) data** in the **Benefit Data** section then under **Benefit/Scheme**, select **State Pension** then in **Analysis** select **Caseload (Thousands)** in **Row** select **Local Authority of claimant** and make your table selection.

In addition, various research reports on Pensions and older people have been published on the Department's website at:
<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rrs-index.asp>