



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

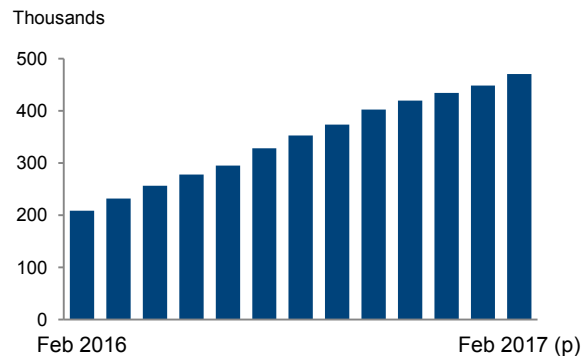
Universal Credit was introduced in April 2013 in certain pathfinder areas of North West England. Since October 2013, it has progressively been rolled out to other areas. It is now available in all Jobcentre Plus areas to single claimants, and is being expanded across the country to include all claimant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

Main story

The number of people on Universal Credit as of 9 February 2017 was 470 thousand. Of these people 180 thousand (39 per cent) were in employment.

470 thousand claimants

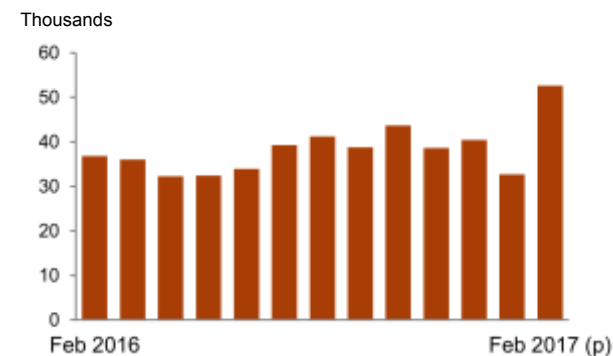
At 9 February 2017



The number of people on Universal Credit rose to 470 thousand in February 2017. This is a 5 per cent increase from last month.

Starts at 49 thousand

Month to 9 February 2017

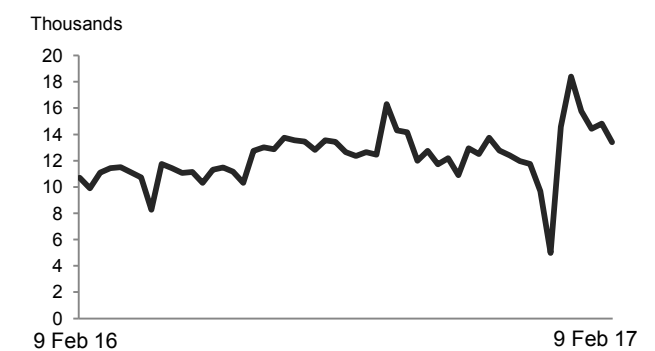


The number of starts made to Universal Credit was 49 thousand in the month to 9 February 2017.

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.

One million claims

Up to 9 February 2017



One million claims have been made for Universal Credit up to 9 February 2017. 58 thousand claims have been made for Universal Credit in the last four weeks at an average of 15 thousand per week.

This month's release has been expanded to include statistics for the number of households on Universal Credit. Further breakdowns have also been made available, such as information on the family type (i.e. single, couple, with / without dependent children) and the elements (e.g. housing) the household is entitled to receive as part of their Universal Credit award. These statistics will be updated on a six monthly basis, during which time we welcome user feedback on the additional data.

Please send your feedback to jon.hyde@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

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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 9 February 2017. Universal Credit is available in all Jobcentre Plus areas to single claimants and is being expanded to all claimant types across the country via 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 into Universal Credit. 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 four 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** include 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.

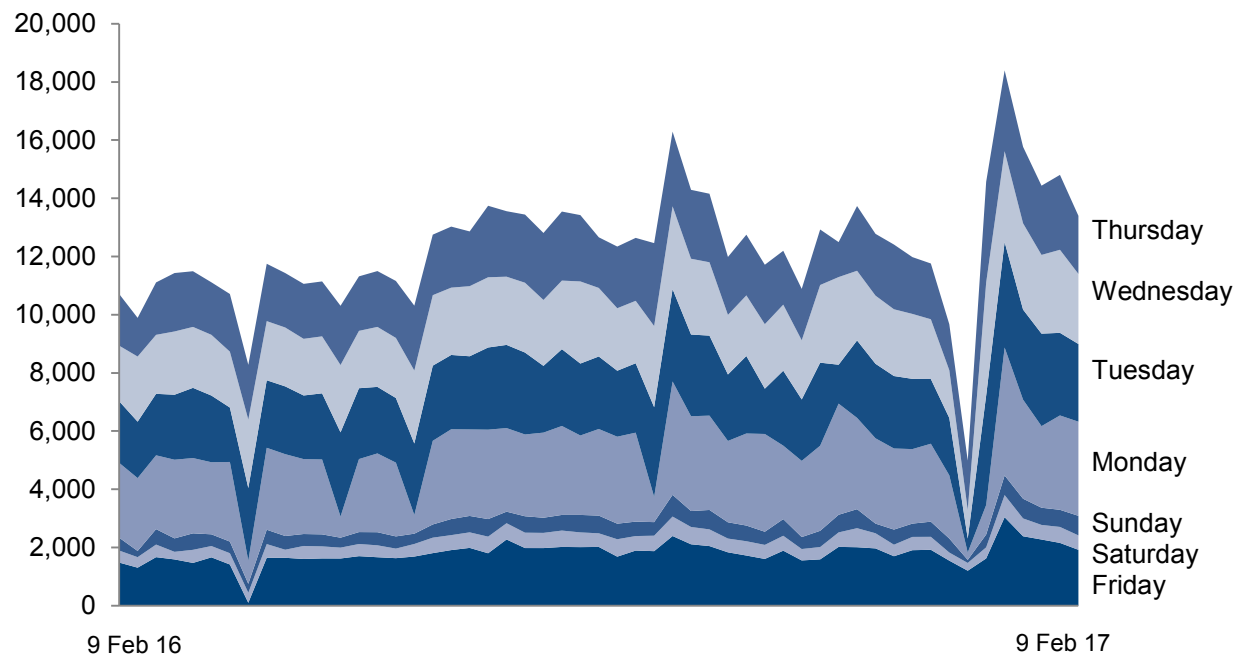
This month, information about **households on Universal Credit** is also included. A household is counted as being on Universal Credit where entitlement has been calculated for an assessment period spanning the count date. It includes those who receive a payment, as well as those that don't.

See the Background Information and Methodology document for more detail on the definitions used in this publication.

Claiming Universal Credit

Total claims made have reached one million

New claims per week and day in the last year to 9 February 2017



The total number of claims made for Universal Credit in the last four weeks was 58 thousand, with an average of 15 thousand claims per week. Generally, more claims are made for Universal Credit on weekdays, compared to weekends.

Claims made for Universal Credit reached a daily peak of 4,400 on Monday 9 January 2017, and a weekly peak of 18 thousand in the week ending 12 January 2017. Previous years have also seen an increase in claims at the start of the New Year, compared to preceding weeks.

The total number of claims made for Universal Credit has now reached one million. All Jobcentre Plus areas are now accepting claims from single claimants for Universal Credit and it is being expanded across the country to include all claimant types via the full service.

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

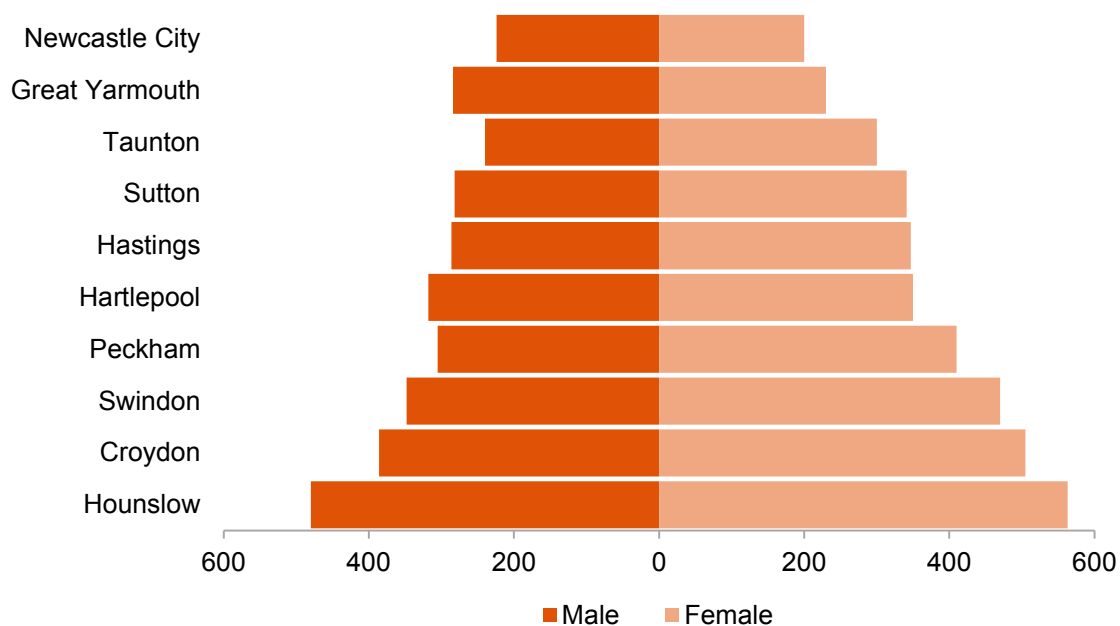
How people claim Universal Credit

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, where 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. Not all people who make a claim for Universal Credit will go on to start, however the statistics for claims used in this publication include all claims made to Universal Credit.

Starts to Universal Credit

London and the Home Counties had the highest number of starts in February

Top 10 Jobcentre Plus offices for starts to Universal Credit in the month to 9 February 2017, by gender



A total of 49 thousand starts were made to Universal Credit in the month up to 9 February 2017.

Of all starts in February 2017, 60 per cent were by males and 40 per cent were by females.

In some areas Universal Credit is available to a wider range of claimant types. The age and gender profile of claimants therefore varies from region to region.

The top ten offices for starts in the month to 9 February deliver Universal Credit to all claimant types. In most of these offices over 50 per cent of starters were female.

22 per cent (10,800) of the total starts to Universal Credit in the month up to 9 February 2017 were in London and the Home Counties.

Hounslow Jobcentre Plus office had more starts than any other, with 1,000 people starting on Universal Credit in the month up to 9 February 2017. This was followed by Croydon with 890.

The total number of starts that have been made since Universal Credit began is 730 thousand. The North West has the highest cumulative number of starts, at 200 thousand.

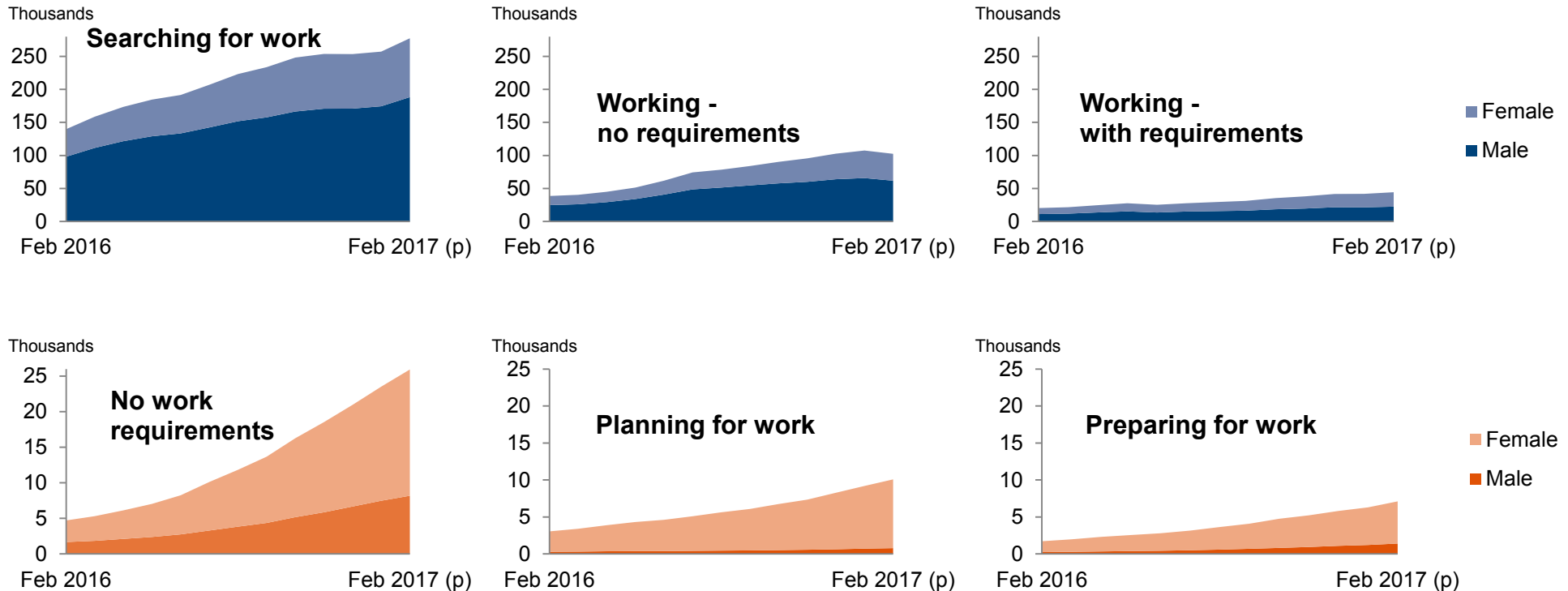
In February 2017, 35 per cent of starts were from 16-24 year olds, compared to 46 per cent in February 2016. The fall in the proportion of starters in this age group is consistent with Universal Credit being gradually made available to a wider range of claimant types through full service. Over the same period, the proportion of starters aged 50 and over has increased from 9 per cent to 13 per cent.

Please note the figures for the latest month (February 2017) 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

Most people on Universal Credit are in the Searching for Work conditionality regime

The number of people on Universal Credit, by conditionality regime and gender, 9 February 2017



There were 470 thousand people on Universal Credit as of 9 February 2017. This is a 5 per cent increase in the number of people on Universal Credit, compared to January 2017.

On 9 February 2017, 59 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 for 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.

Please see the [Background Information and Methodology](#) document for more information on conditionality regimes.

Almost two-fifths of people on Universal Credit are in employment

Percentage of people on Universal Credit who are in employment, 9 February 2017

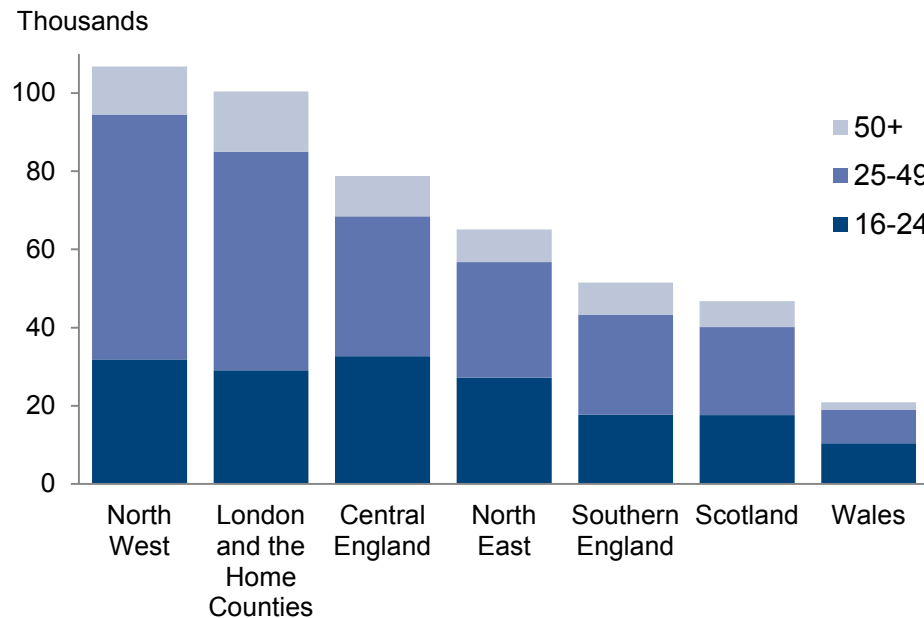


Of the people on Universal Credit as of 9 February 2017, 39 per cent (180 thousand) were in employment, compared to 42 per cent in December 2016. An increase in December followed by a drop in the New Year has occurred in previous years and appears to be a seasonal pattern.

In February 2017, there were more males on Universal Credit than females (61 per cent compared to 39 per cent).

Regions where Universal Credit is available to all claimant types tend to have a higher proportion of females on Universal Credit compared to other areas. For example, in the North West 46 per cent of people on Universal Credit are female.

People on Universal Credit by Jobcentre Plus region and age group, 9 February 2017



Overall, 51 per cent of people on Universal Credit were aged 25-49. Males aged 25-49 made up 31 per cent of the total figure.

The age profile of people on Universal Credit also varies from region to region. Compared to other areas, the North West and London and the Home Counties regions have a smaller proportion of people on Universal Credit in the 16-24 age group.

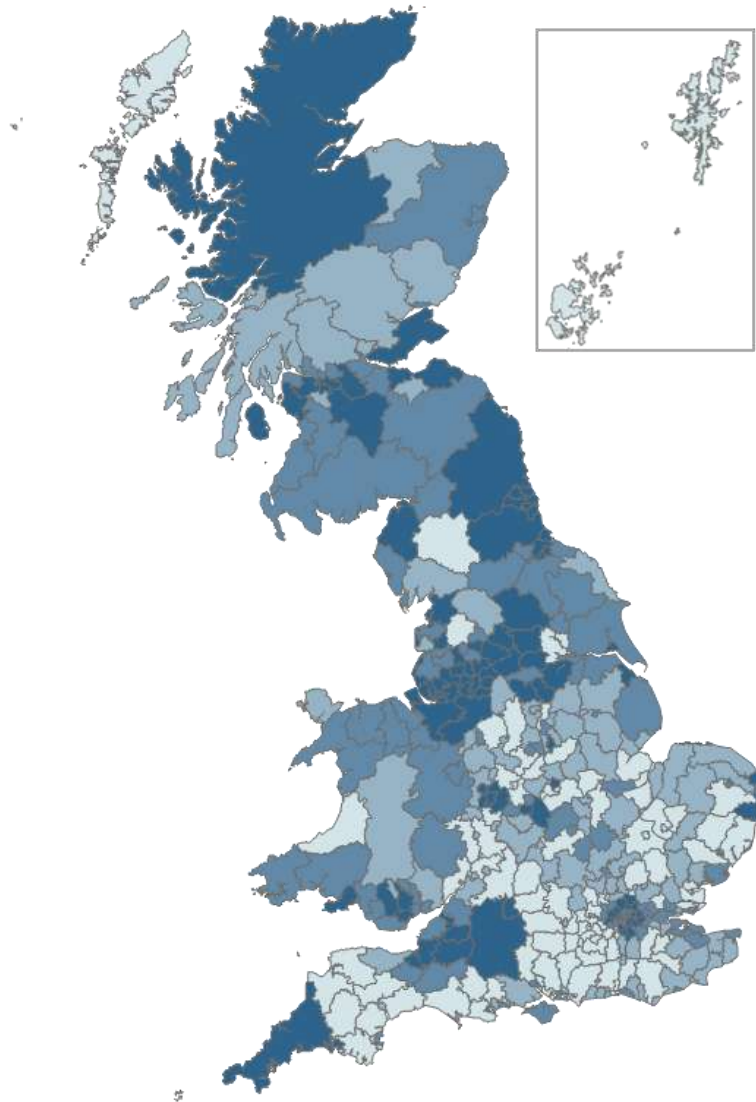
Breakdowns of people on Universal Credit by Jobcentre Plus office, local authority and parliamentary constituency are available on [Stat-Xplore](#).

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

Please note figures for the latest month (February 2017) 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 9 February 2017.

The darker areas of the map are local authorities with higher numbers 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.



Please note that this map will be unavailable from 3:30 p.m. on 11 April 2017 until 9:30 a.m. on 12 April 2017, ahead of the next release.

For further information on supported browsers, please visit the following website: <http://doc.arcgis.com/en/arcgis-online/reference/browsers.htm>

Households receiving Universal Credit

Over 400 thousand households are on Universal Credit

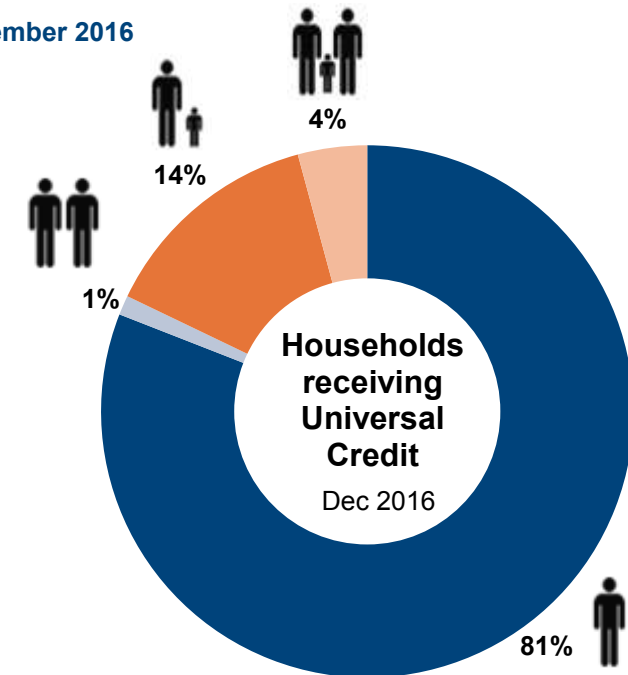
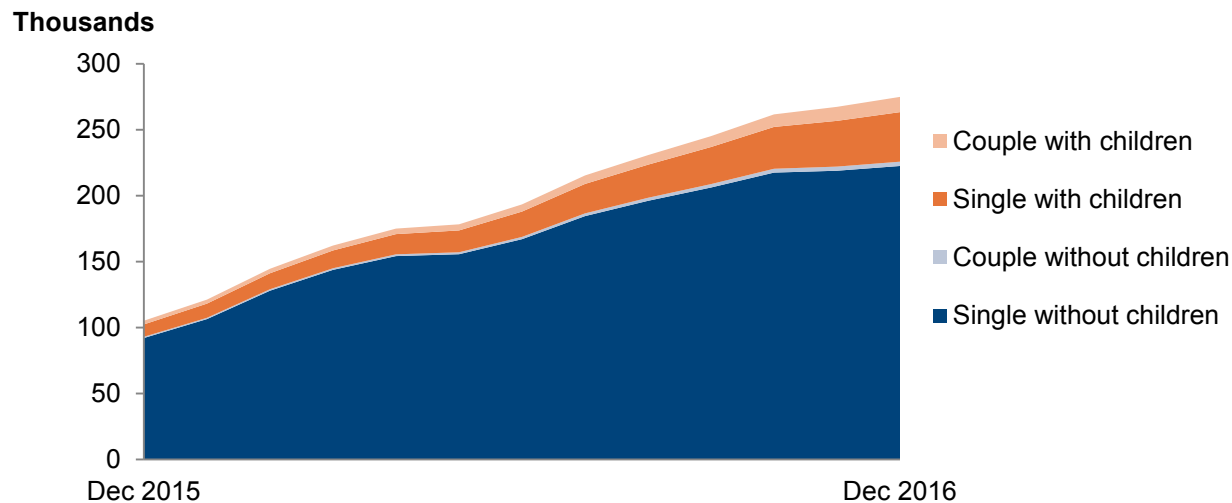
In December 2016, 410 thousand households were on Universal Credit. Two-thirds of these households (270 thousand) were receiving a payment.

There are a number of reasons why a household may not be in receipt of a payment, one being when someone moves into work and their level of earnings means that they no longer receive a payment. Universal Credit is responsive to changing circumstances, and provides support to people both in and out of work. Universal Credit payments can easily be restarted up to six months after a household's last payment.



Most Universal Credit awards are paid to single people without children

Number of households receiving a payment of Universal Credit by family type, December 2015 - December 2016



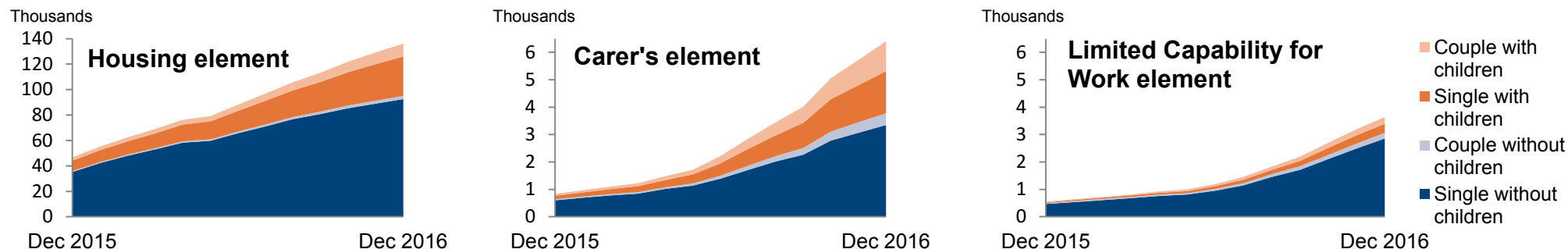
Over 80 per cent of Universal Credit awards are paid to single people without children. In December 2016, 220 thousand awards were paid to single people without children, whilst just 3,300 awards were paid to couples without children.

Since December 2015, a growing proportion of Universal Credit awards have been paid to households with children. In December 2015, 12 per cent of awards were paid to households with children. By December 2016, this had risen to 18 per cent. This is due to the continuing roll out of Universal Credit to a wider range of claimant types, and fewer Jobcentre Plus offices only accepting claims from single people without children.

More information about definitions and the methodology behind the statistics can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/universal-credit-statistics>. Further bespoke breakdowns of the figures can be created through [Stat-Xplore](#).

Nearly half of all households receiving a payment of Universal Credit are entitled to a housing element

Number of households receiving a payment of Universal Credit with entitlement to a housing, carer's, or Limited Capability for Work element, December 2015-December 2016



Universal Credit is made up of a number of different elements. These elements determine how much Universal Credit a household may receive. In order to be entitled to a specific element, certain conditions have to be met. More information can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit/what-youll-get>.

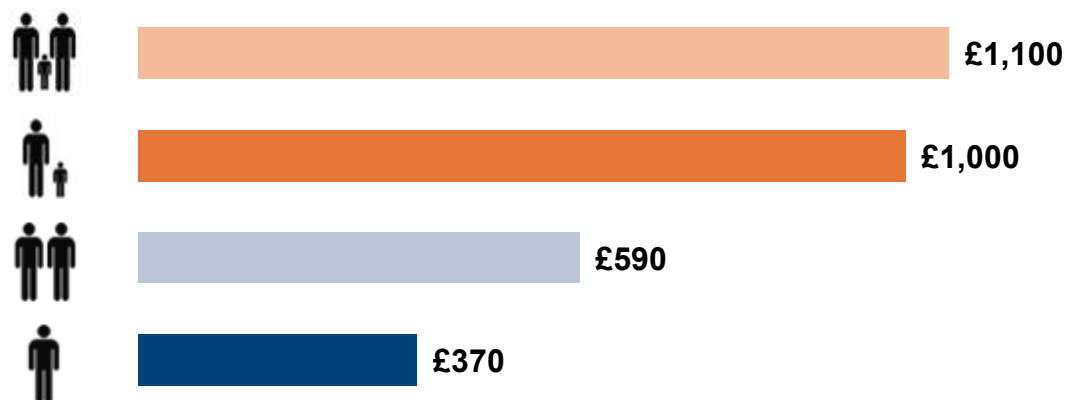
The housing element within Universal Credit helps households with their housing costs - such as rent or the interest charged on a mortgage. Around 140 thousand households that received a payment of Universal Credit in December 2016 were entitled to a housing element - 49 per cent of all households in payment.

Whilst over 80 per cent of households with children receiving a payment of Universal Credit in December 2016 were entitled to a housing element, only 42 per cent of single people without children were.

Couples were more likely than single people to be entitled to a carer's element: 1 in 10 couples who received a payment of Universal Credit in December 2016 were entitled a carer's element, compared to just 1 in 50 single people. Couples were also more likely than single people to be entitled to a Limited Capability for Work element.

The average amount of Universal Credit paid to households is around £500 per month

Mean monthly amount of Universal Credit paid by family type, December 2016



In December 2016, the average amount of Universal Credit paid to households on Universal Credit was £500 per month. This is the mean award for households where Universal Credit is in payment.

For households with children, higher average payments are a result of entitlement to one or more child elements, and a higher proportion with entitlement to a housing element.

The distribution of Universal Credit awards means that an average amount based on the median is lower (£317.82 per month – the standard allowance for a single person aged 25 or over). The mean is affected by a small number of households receiving relatively large payments of Universal Credit: In December 2016, 7,900 households received a monthly payment of over £1,500. This was 3 per cent of all households in payment.

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 first published in September 2013 and last updated in December 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.

Figures contained within this publication are subject to rounding unless otherwise stated. Percentages shown are calculated using figures prior to rounding. Please see the background information document for details on the level of rounding applied, which is dependent on the magnitude of the figure being quoted.

Universal Credit is now available in all Jobcentre Plus areas 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 areas 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 to other parts of London, Scotland and East Anglia between November 2014 and April 2016. From May 2016 Universal Credit full service began its roll out to all other Jobcentre Plus areas 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/MapSeries/index.html?appid=f90fb305d8da4eb3970812b3199cf489>

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>