



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

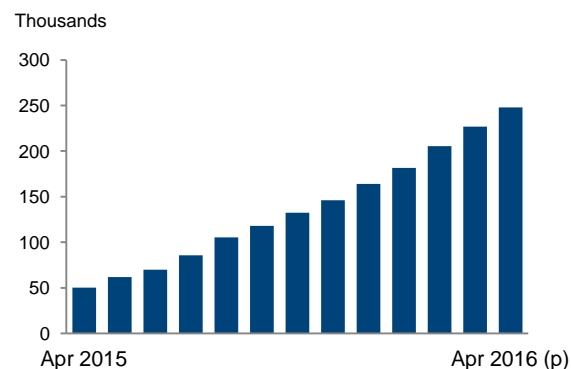
Universal Credit was introduced in April 2013 in certain pathfinder areas of North West England. Since October 2013, it has progressively been rolled out to other areas. It is now available in all Jobcentre Plus offices to single claimants, and is being expanded across the country to include all claimant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

## Main story

The number of people on Universal Credit as of 14 April 2016 was 247,801. The number of people in employment is currently 97,504 (39 per cent).

### 247,801 claimants

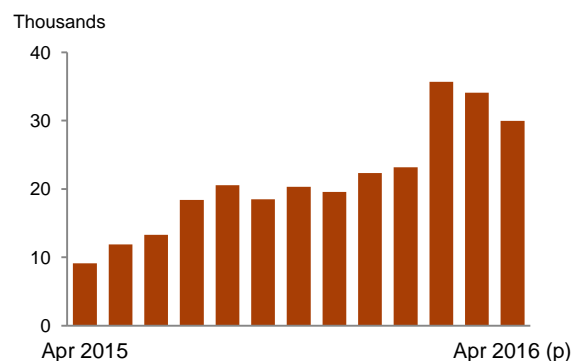
April 2016



Almost a quarter of a million people are currently on Universal Credit, as the number of people rose to 247,801 in April 2016.

### Starts remain high

April 2016

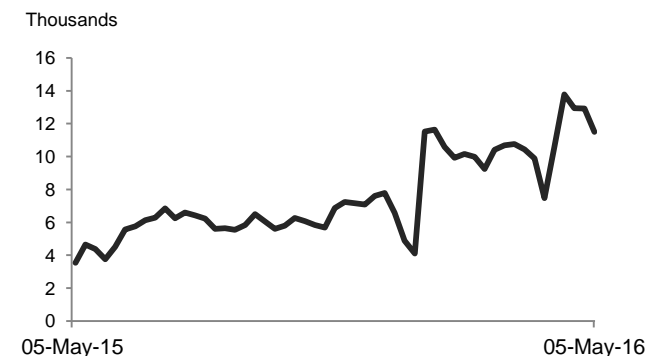


The number of starts made to Universal Credit was 34,574 in April 2016 as roll-out extended to cover the remaining Jobcentre Plus Offices.

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.

### Claims rise after Easter

Up to 5 May 2016



505,096 claims have been made for Universal Credit up to 5 May 2016. 51,150 claims have been made for Universal Credit in the last four weeks at an average of 12,788 per week.

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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 5 May 2016 (for claims made) and 14 April 2016 (for starts and people receiving Universal Credit). As of 5 May 2016 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 include statistics covering the full service in this publication.

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 advantages of Universal Credit are:

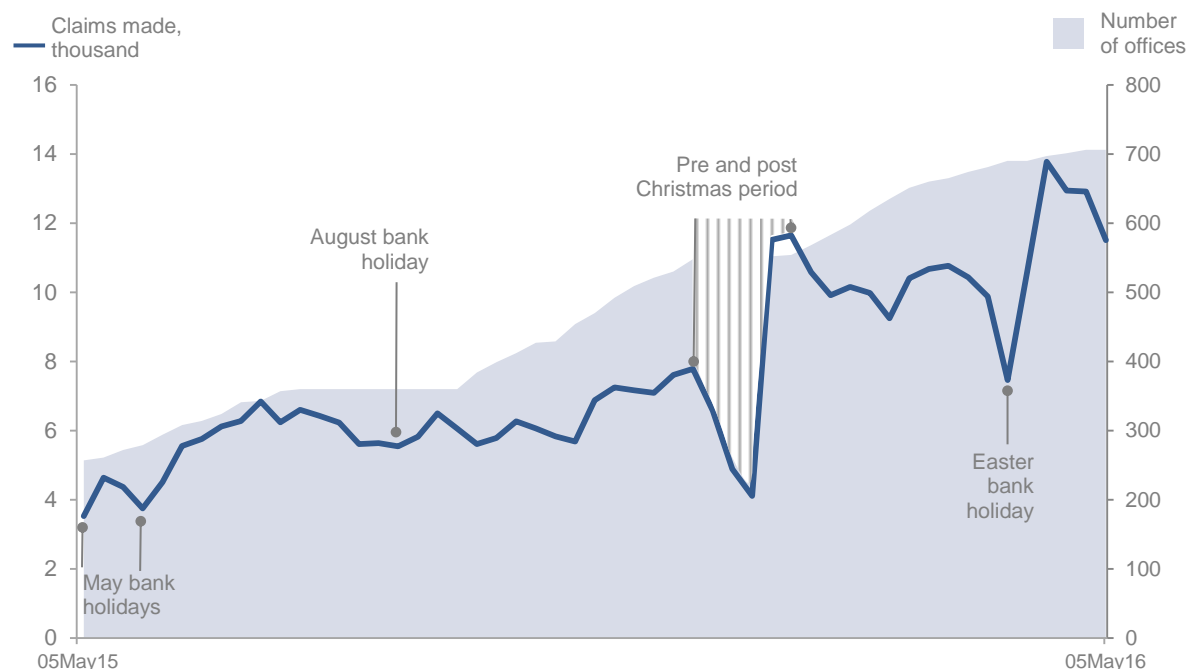
- Universal Credit is available to people who are in work and on a low income, as well as to those who are out-of-work.
- Most people will apply online and manage their claim through an online account.
- Universal Credit will be responsive – as people on low incomes move in and out of work, they will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

## The number of claims made has increased following Easter

New claims per week and number of offices accepting claims in the last year to Thursday 5 May 2016



The total number of claims made for Universal Credit in the last four weeks is 51,150, with an average of 12,788 claims per week, compared to an average of 9,592 claims in the previous four weeks.

Following the Easter period claims made for Universal Credit rose to a new record level. Claims made for Universal Credit reached a daily peak of 3,416 on 11 April 2016, and a weekly peak of 13,779 on the week ending 14 April 2016.

The total number of claims made for Universal Credit has risen to over half a million, 505,096, 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 full data series.

## How people claim Universal Credit

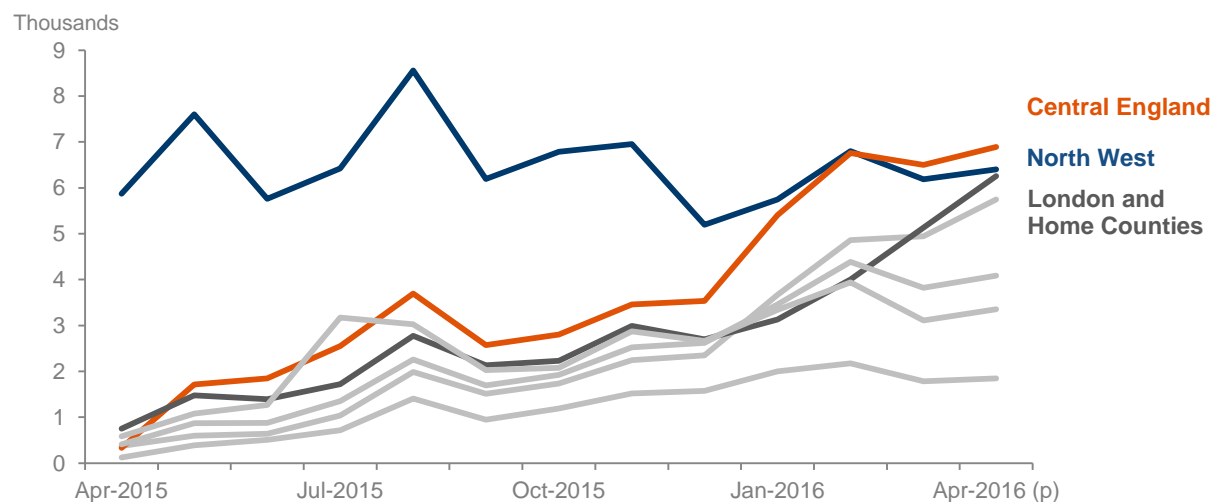
People will usually make a claim for Universal Credit online, during which initial claim verification will take place. After making a claim, an initial interview will take place with the claimant at which the eligibility for Universal Credit will be confirmed, and the claimant will accept a [Claimant 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.

In March's publication improvements to the people on Universal Credit data and starts data at a local level led to both data series being revised. As a result, if not already obtained, it is advisable to get the new data series for starts and people on Universal Credit via [Stat-Xplore](#).

# Starts to Universal Credit

## Proportion of starts to Universal Credit from the North West is decreasing

### Number of starts to Universal Credit by region and month



Since national roll-out in February 2015 the regional picture of starts has changed dramatically.

The proportion of overall starts in the **North West** has decreased as Universal Credit expands to other areas. It has fallen from 70 per cent in April 2015 to 19 per cent in April 2016.

**Central England** is now the largest region in terms of new starts to Universal Credit. In April, 20 per cent of all starts came from this region.

However, since the beginning of the year the largest increase in starts made to Universal Credit has been from **London and the Home Counties**. This has risen to 18 per cent of all starts in April 2016, from 12 per cent in January 2016.

**The total number of starts that have been made to Universal Credit in the month up to 14 April 2016 was 34,574.** The total number of starts that have been made since Universal Credit began is 333,170.

In the past month, there have been more starts to Universal Credit in Bolton, Blackhorse Street, Jobcentre Plus office than any other (232 people starting).

Oldham Jobcentre Plus office still has the highest cumulative number of starts of any Jobcentre Plus office (7,257).

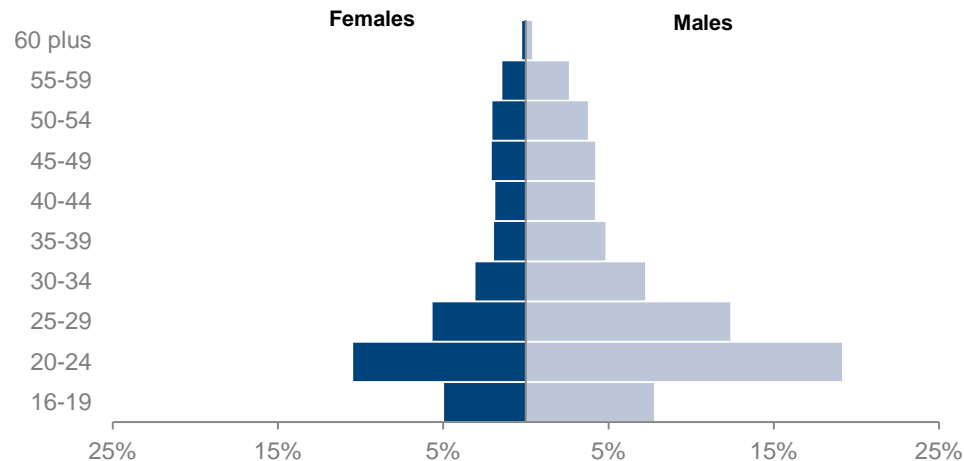
In April there have been more starts to Universal Credit from the 25-49 age group, compared to other age groups. This goes against the trend we were seeing over the last couple of months, when the 16-24 age group was the largest age group.

Please note the figures for the latest month (April 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 full data series.

# People on Universal Credit

## Men aged 20-24 make up one fifth of the total on Universal Credit

Percentage of people on Universal Credit, by age group and gender, April 2016



**There were 247,801 people on Universal Credit as of 14 April 2016.** This represents an increase of 9 per cent when compared to the number of people on Universal Credit in March 2016.

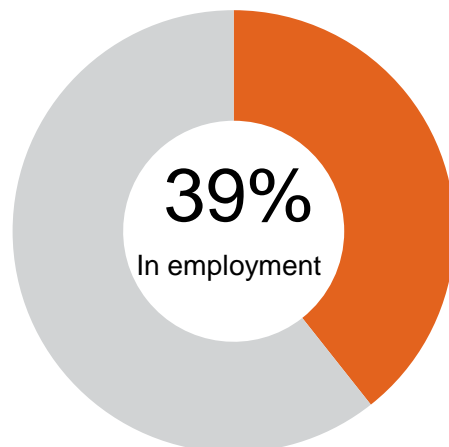
In April, there were more males on Universal Credit than females (66 per cent compared to 34 per cent).

Males aged 20-24 made up 19 per cent of the total Universal Credit figure. However, since last summer there has been a slight decrease in the proportion of 20-24 year old males on Universal Credit.

This month there has been an increase in the proportion of people who have been on Universal Credit for more than six months, rising to 40 per cent.

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

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



Of the people on Universal Credit in April 2016, 39 per cent (97,504) were in employment and 61 per cent (150,299) were not in employment.

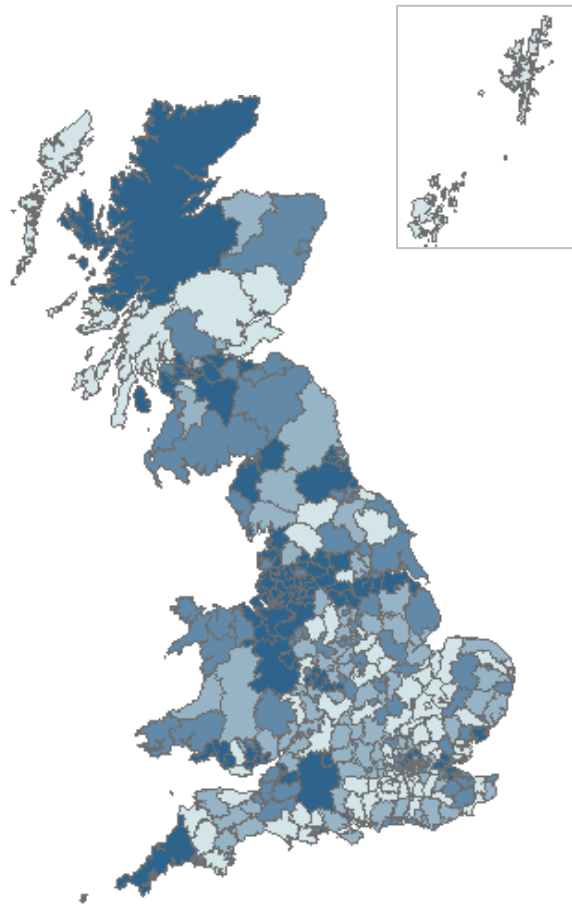
The Jobcentre Plus office with the most people on Universal Credit was Bolton, Blackhorse Street, with 3,141 Universal Credit claimants, followed by Oldham, with 3,101 (breakdowns of people on Universal Credit by Jobcentre Plus office, local authority and parliamentary constituency are available on [Stat-Xplore](#)).

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

Please note figures for the latest month (April 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 at 14 April 2016.

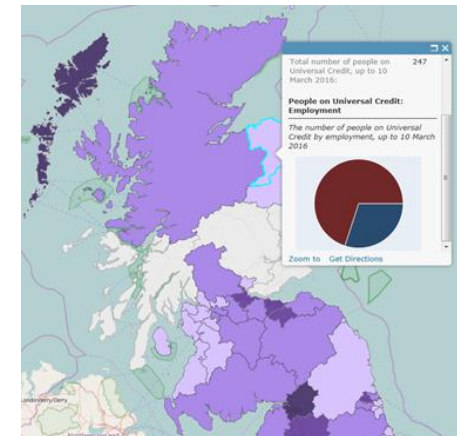
The darker areas of the map are local authorities with high levels of Universal Credit claimants, while the lighter areas are the local authorities with fewer Universal Credit claimants.

### Where you live

Find information about your local authority in our interactive map.

Please click [here](#) to access the interactive map.

The interactive map shows the proportion of Universal Credit claimants who are in employment by local authority. The shading of the local authority depends on the proportion of claimants who are in employment. Key statistics can be viewed by clicking on the local authority, as can be seen in the adjacent example.



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 do not include full service claimants. We anticipate that full service data will be included as quality assurance of data from the Universal Credit systems progresses.

From May 2016 Universal Credit full service will begin its roll out to all other Jobcentre Plus offices and expand 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>