



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

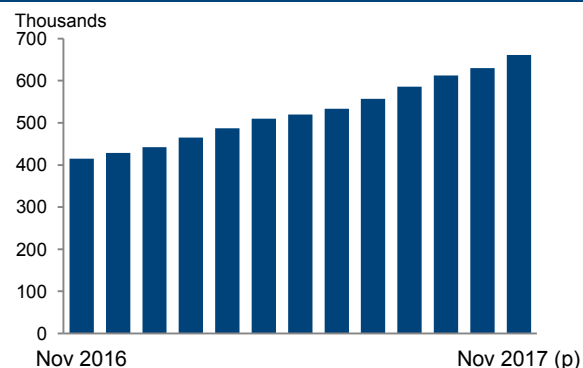
Universal Credit was introduced in April 2013 in certain pathfinder areas of North West England. Since October 2013, it has progressively been rolled out to other areas. It is now available in all Jobcentre Plus areas to single claimants, and is being expanded across the country to include all claimant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

## Main story

The number of people on Universal Credit as of 9 November 2017 was 660 thousand. Of these people 270 thousand (40% per cent) were in employment. Please note, provisional data for employment indicator in November 2017 may be subject to a higher degree of revision than usual and therefore should be treated with caution.

### 660 thousand claimants

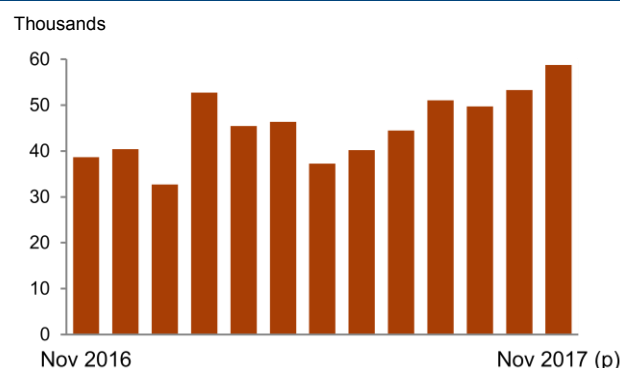
At 9 November 2017



The number of people on Universal Credit rose to 660 thousand in November 2017. This is a 4 per cent increase from last month.

### Starts at 54 thousand

Month to 9 November 2017

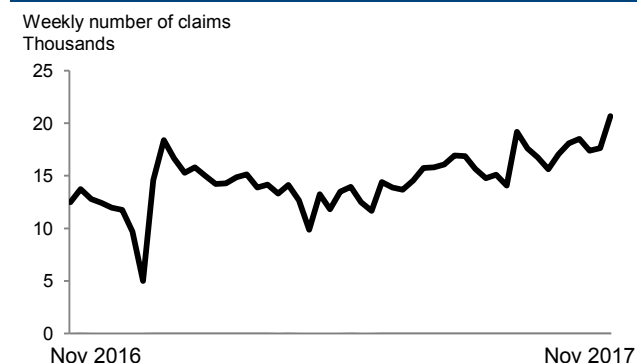


The total number of starts that have been made since Universal Credit began is 1.2 million. The number of starts made to Universal Credit was 54 thousand in the month up to 9 November 2017.

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.

### Claims at 1.6 million

Up to 9 November 2017



1.6 million claims have been made for Universal Credit up to 9 November 2017. 74 thousand claims have been made for Universal Credit in the last four weeks at an average of 19 thousand per week.

Please note, figures for the number of claims to Universal Credit have been revised from 13 January 2017 onwards, and are not comparable to the figures in previous publications. Work is underway to restore the revised series to Stat-Xplore.

## At a glance

Page

Claims at 1.6 million

3

54 thousand started Universal Credit

4

660 thousand people on Universal Credit

5

45 per cent of claimants are female

6

Where you live

7

**Lead Statistician:** Glenn Covacic

[glenn.covacic@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:glenn.covacic@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

**DWP Press Office:** 0203 267 5144

Thoughts? We welcome feedback

Published 13 December 2017

Next edition 24 January 2018

ISBN: 978-1-78425-975-4

## What you need to know

This summary contains statistics on Universal Credit covering the period to 9 November 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 three measures. **Claims** made counts the number of applications submitted for Universal Credit. Some of these people will go on to **Start** on 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.

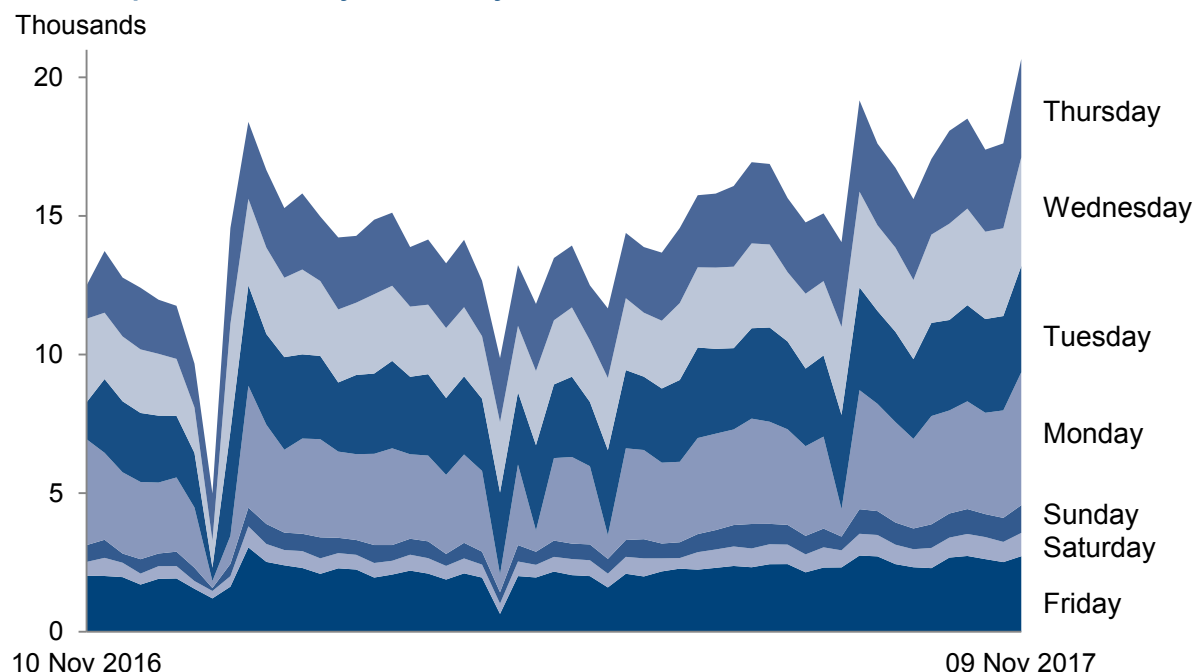
Biannually, this report will include the number of households on Universal Credit. Further breakdowns will also be published, such as information on the family type and the elements the household is entitled to receive as part of their Universal Credit award. The latest figures from September 2017 are available [here](#).

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 1.6 million

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



The total number of claims made for Universal Credit in the four weeks up to 9 November 2017 was 74 thousand, with an average of 19 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 4,800 on Monday 6 November 2017, and a weekly peak of 21 thousand in the week ending 9 November 2017. The number of claims has seen an increasing trend over the last few months, in line with the expanded rollout of UC Full Service.

The total number of claims made for Universal Credit has now reached 1.6 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 (please note, at time of publication figures for 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017 onwards are not available. Work is underway to restore a revised series to Stat-Xplore)

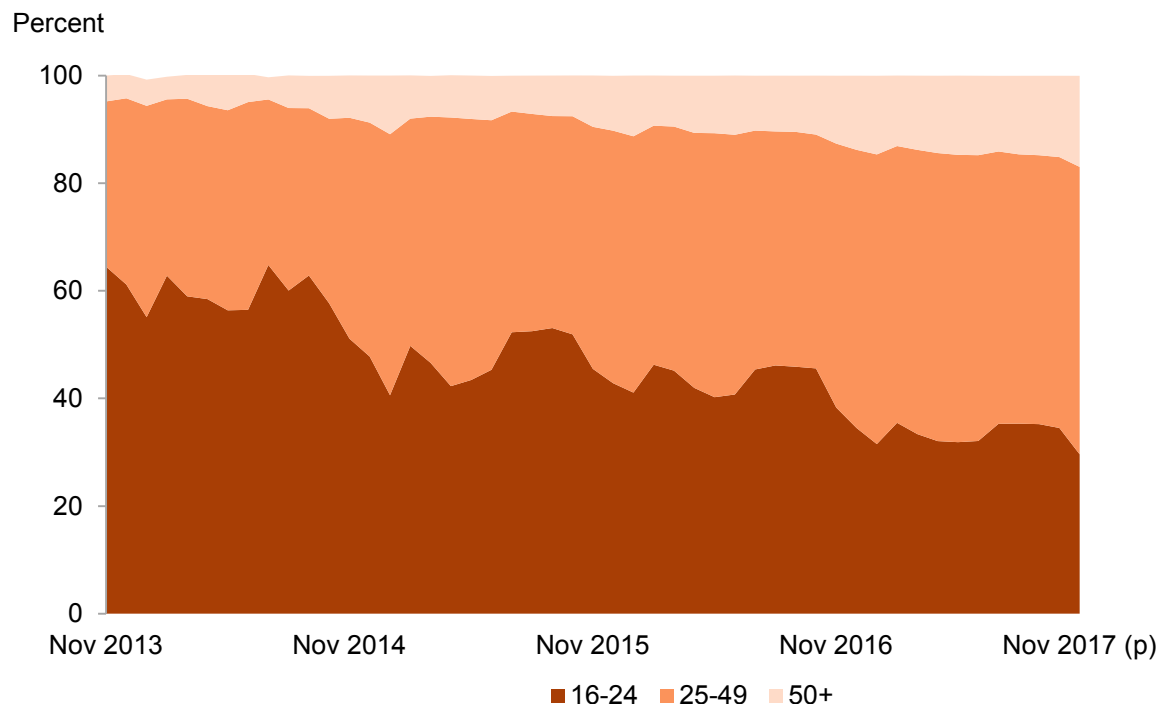
## How people claim Universal Credit

People will usually make a claim for Universal Credit online, during which initial claim verification will take place. The claim date is the date that a claimant completes this process and submits their claim. 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

## 53 percent of starts to Universal Credit in November were from 25-49 year olds

Starts to Universal Credit by age group, up to 9 November 2017



A total of 54 thousand starts were made to Universal Credit in the month up to 9 November 2017.

Over the same month, 30 per cent of starts were from 16-24 year olds, compared to 38 per cent in the equivalent month in 2016.

Over the intervening year there has been some fluctuation in the proportion of starters in the 16-24 age group, which appears to be due to seasonality, particularly around the Christmas period. The overall 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 12 months, the proportion of starters aged 50 and over has increased from 13 per cent to 17 per cent.

Of all starts in the month up to 9 November 2017, 53 per cent were by males and 47 per cent were by females.

The total number of starts that have been made since Universal Credit began is 1.2 million. The North West Jobcentre Plus group has the highest cumulative number of starts, at 270 thousand.

In the month to 9 November 2017, 20 per cent of starts were in London and the Home Counties. Oldham Jobcentre Plus office had more starts than any other, with 1,100 people starting on Universal Credit, of whom 51 per cent were female. This was followed by Southampton, with 1,000 starts.

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.

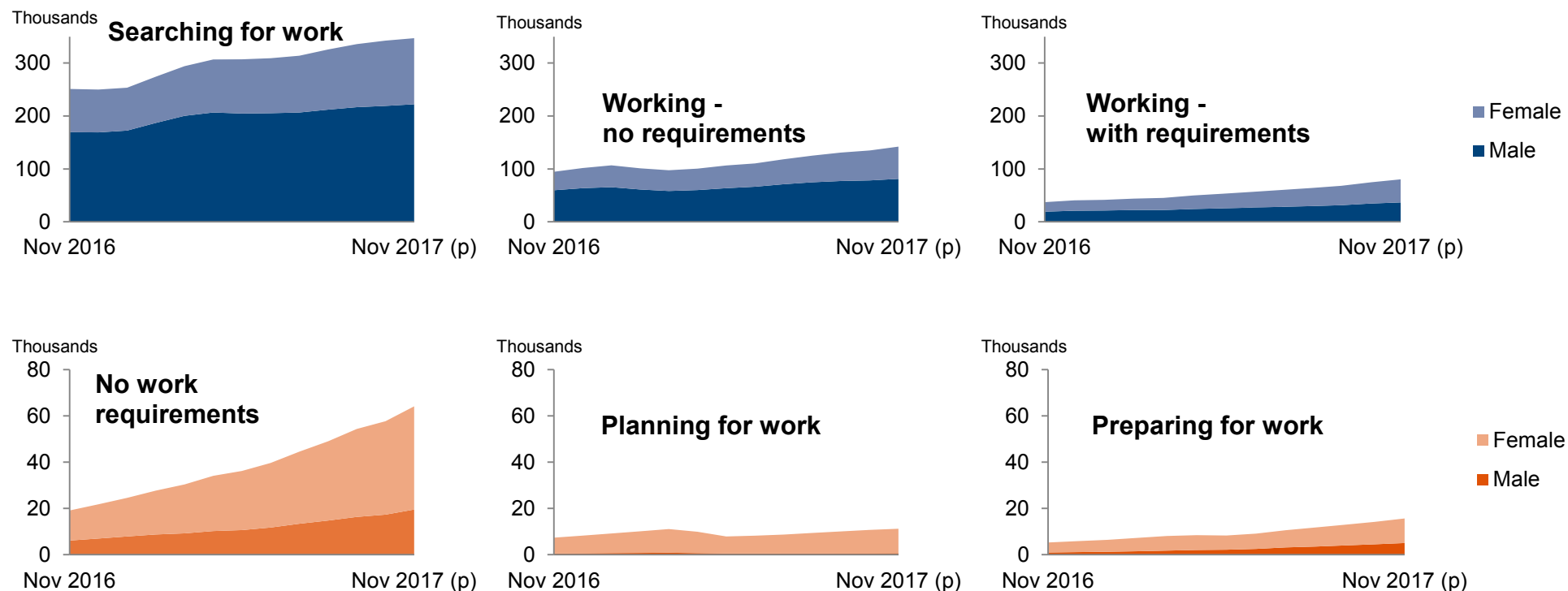
Please note the figures for the latest month (November 2017) are provisional (p) and will be finalised in the next release. See the Background Information and Methodology document for more details. See **table 2.1** for summary statistics and [Stat-Xplore](#) for the complete data series.

Please also note that the number of starts in October 2017 has been subject to a larger than usual degree of revision, of around 5%. The reasons for this are being investigated.

# 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 November 2017



**There were 660 thousand people on Universal Credit as of 9 November 2017.** This is a 4 per cent increase in the number of people on Universal Credit, compared to October 2017.

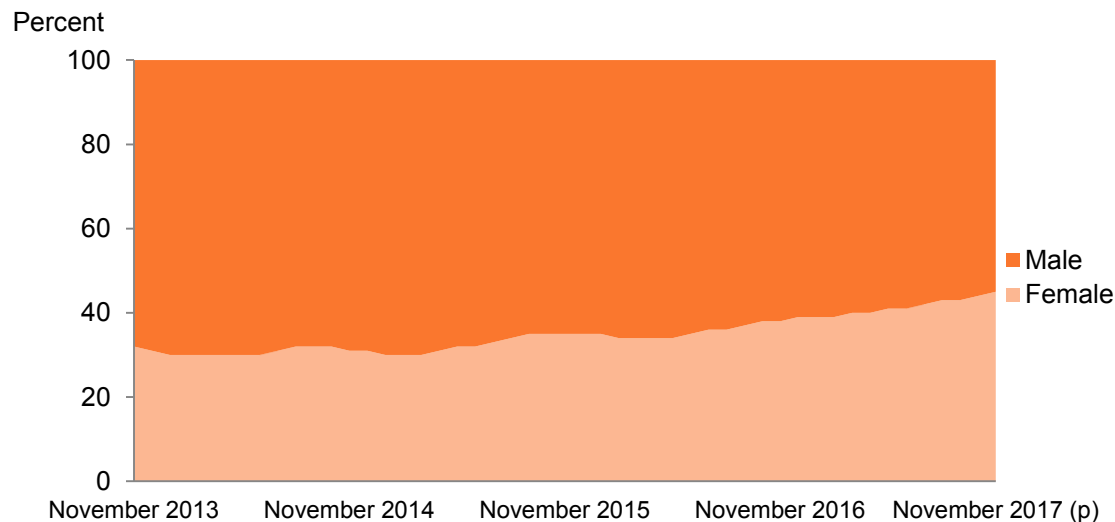
In April 2017, changes were made to conditionality for lone parents/lead carers of young children. See the Background and Methodology document for more details. The fall in the number of people, particularly females, in the planning for work conditionality regime around May is likely to be linked to this change. From June, the number of people in the planning for work conditionality regime continues to grow, in line with the number of people on Universal Credit.

Please note that the conditionality breakdown measures what regime an individual is in on the count date. This may not be representative of the entire assessment period for that individual. 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.

## The proportion of females on Universal Credit is increasing over time

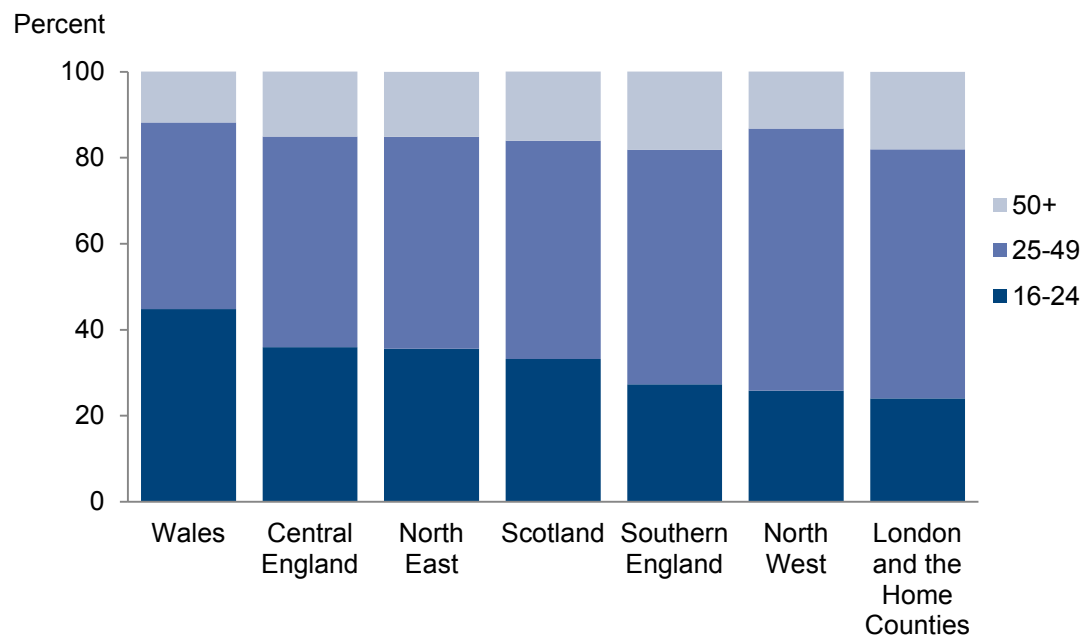
Percentage of people on Universal Credit by gender, up to 9 November 2017



In November 2017, 45 per cent (300 thousand) of the people on Universal Credit were female, compared to 32 per cent in November 2013. This is in line with the roll out of Universal Credit full service.

Regions where Universal Credit is more widely available to all claimant types tend to have a higher proportion of females on Universal Credit compared to other areas. For example, in the London and North West regions, around half of people on Universal Credit were female as of 9 November 2017.

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



Overall, 55 per cent of people on Universal Credit as of 9 November 2017 were aged 25-49. Males aged 25-49 made up 30 per cent of the total figure.

The age profile of people on Universal Credit also varies between Jobcentre Plus groups. Compared to other areas, the North West, Southern England and London and the Home Counties Jobcentre Plus groups have a smaller proportion of people on Universal Credit in the 16-24 age group, whilst Wales has a higher proportion in the same group.

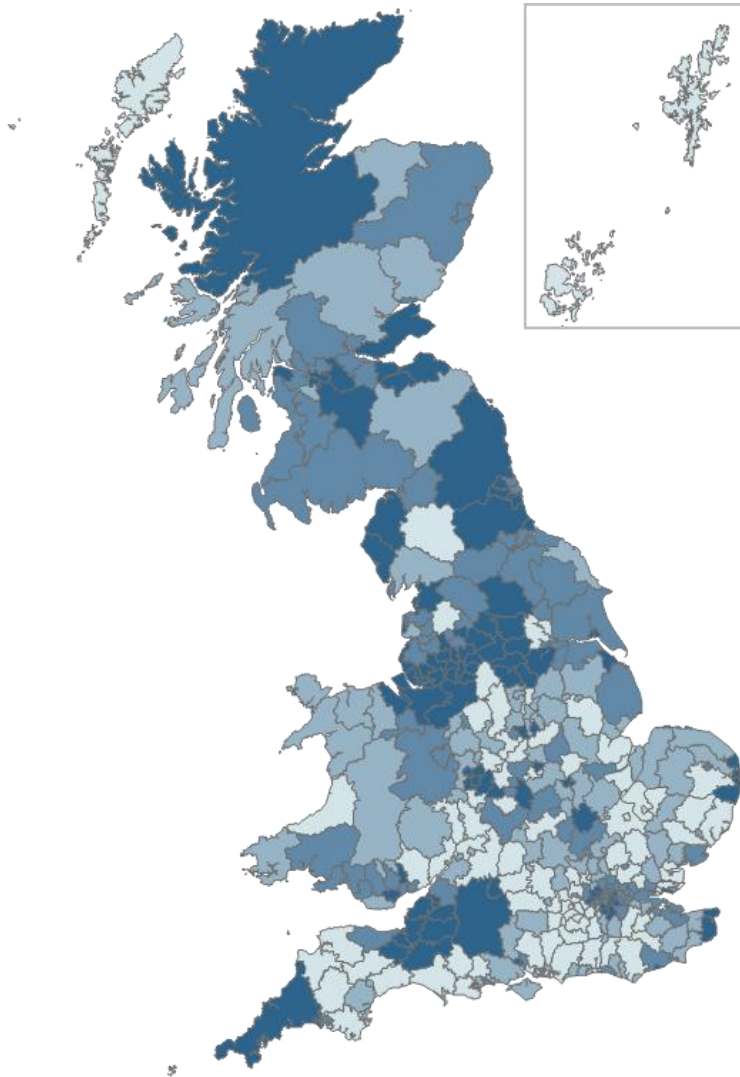
Breakdowns of people on Universal Credit by Jobcentre Plus office, local authority and parliamentary constituency are available on [Stat-Xplore](#). This month the data series for Bexleyheath has been removed from the Kent district and placed in its correct district of South London, and the back series has been revised to reflect this change.

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

Please note figures for the latest month (November 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 November 2017.

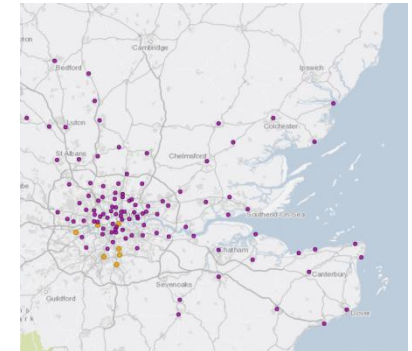
The darker areas of the map are local authorities with higher numbers of Universal Credit claimants, while the lighter areas are the local authorities with fewer Universal Credit claimants.

### 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 23 January 2018 until 9:30 a.m. on 24 January 2018, 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>



## 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.

An issue with the data meant that information on claims could not be included in the November 2017 publication of these statistics. This issue has now been resolved. Figures for the number of claims to Universal Credit have been revised from 13<sup>th</sup> January 2017 onwards, and are not comparable to the figures in previous publications.

These 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 2013 and is now available for all new claims from single jobseekers wherever they are in Great Britain. The expansion of Universal Credit to the full range of claimants was started in May 2016, and rollout will be completed in 2018. By 2022, all existing legacy claimants will have moved on to Universal Credit.

## 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/> which also contains data on households on Universal Credit.

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>

Information on Universal Credit Sanctions can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/jobseekers-allowance-sanctions>

## Contact us

**Lead Statistician:** Glenn Covacic - [glenn.covacic@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:glenn.covacic@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

**DWP Press Office:** 0203 267 5144

Comments? Feedback is welcome