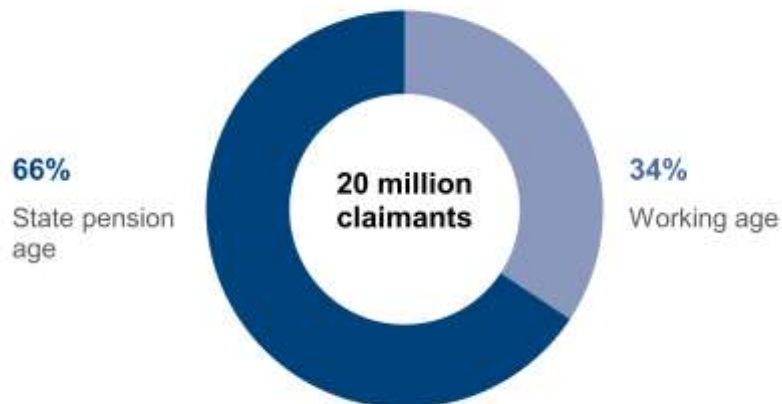


This release aims to give users a structured overview of National Statistics on DWP administered benefits and sanctions. To provide a more complete picture of DWP responsibility, statistics on Housing Benefit (administered by Local Authorities) are also included.

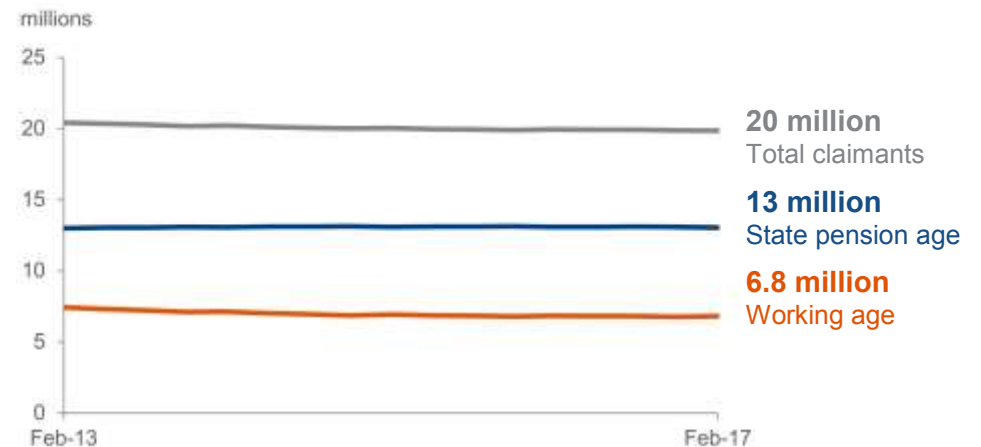
Statistics of interest

- Experimental statistics show that there were 20 million DWP benefit claimants at February 2017. A third were working age claimants and the remaining two-thirds were of state pension age*.
- The number of working age benefit claimants has fallen slightly by 32 thousand in the year to February 2017 to stand at 6.8 million.
- There are now 13 million state pension age claimants of DWP benefits. This is a decrease of 63 thousand compared to February 2016.

Two thirds of DWP benefit claimants were of state pension age at February 2017



20 million DWP benefit claimants at February 2017



* Those of State Pension age, at the end February 2017, will include all men aged 65 and over and all women born before 6 June 1953 - between around 63½ and 63¾ at this date

At a glance

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Comments? Feedback is welcome

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What you need to know

In this release

This release aims to give users a high level summary of the latest National Statistics available on DWP administered benefits and sanctions. DWP administers benefits to a range of claimants who may, or may not have more than one interaction with the department. The publication provides an overview of individual benefit statistics and a high-level summary of working age benefits.

Users should note that the DWP tabulation tool, the previous dissemination tool, has been decommissioned and can no longer be used. Instead users can produce their own tabulations using:

- Stat-Xplore: click [here](#) to access
- NOMIS: click [here](#) to access

Further tables covering the benefits in this release can be found on the [DWP statistical summaries page on gov.uk](#), or visit '[Where to find out more](#)'.

Previous editions of this document contained information on Jobseeker's Allowance, Widow's Benefit and Bereavement Benefit, Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit, Child Support Agency cases and Maternity Allowance. This information is still published, but not as part of this document:

- Data for Jobseeker's Allowance, Widow's Benefit and Bereavement Benefit are available on the [DWP statistical summaries page](#)
- Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit statistics are published [here](#)
- Child Support Agency statistics are published [here](#)
- Maternity Allowance statistics are published [here](#)

Further in-depth benefit information can be viewed via this link: [Benefits page on gov.uk](#).

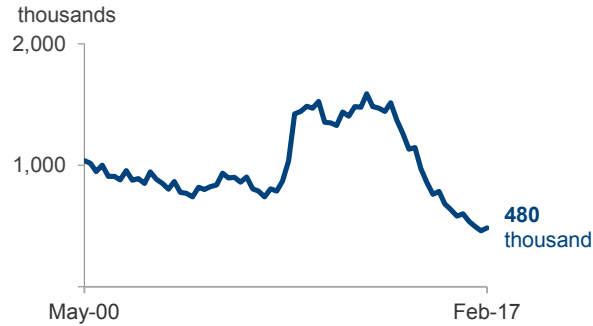
About these statistics

The statistics are released quarterly in February, May, August and November and are primarily sourced from data originally collected via administrative systems. All regular series are full National Statistics **except** Personal Independence Payments and sanctions (which are official statistics), and Universal Credit and Benefit Combinations statistics (which are experimental). Further information is available [here](#).

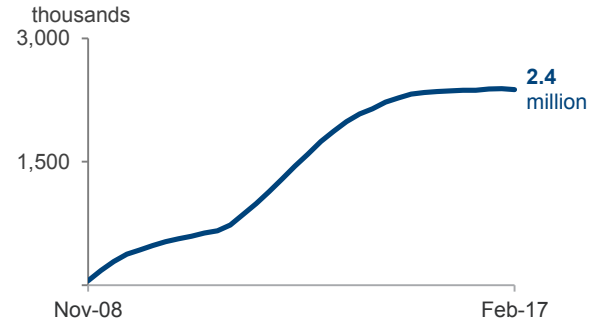
The UK Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Overview of numbers claiming benefits as at February 2017 (unless otherwise stated)

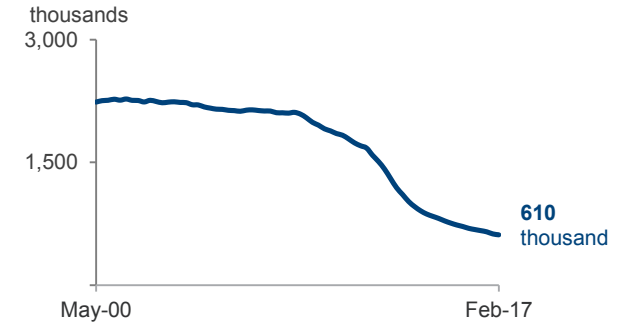
Jobseeker's allowance



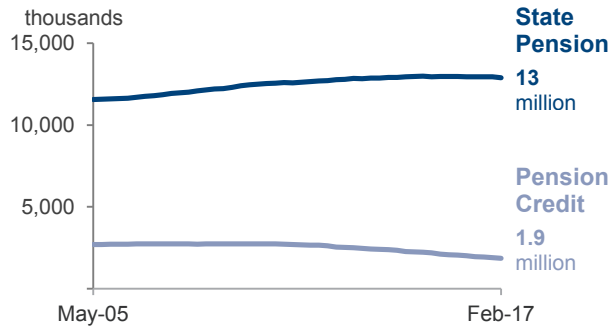
Employment and Support Allowance



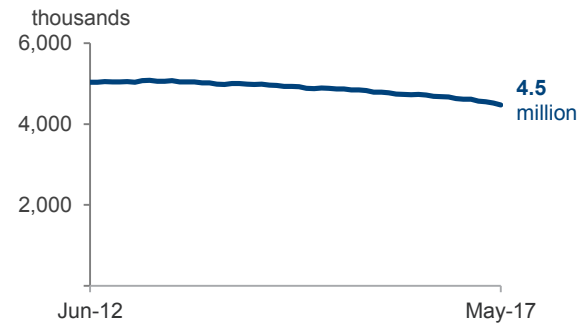
Income support



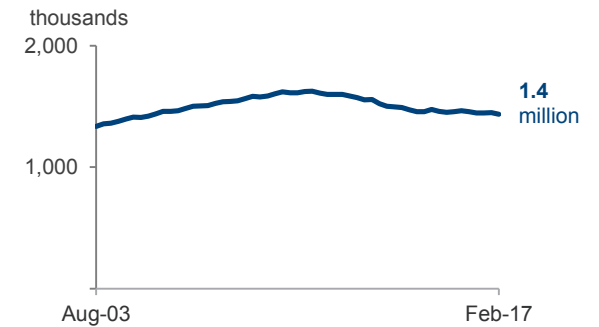
Pensions



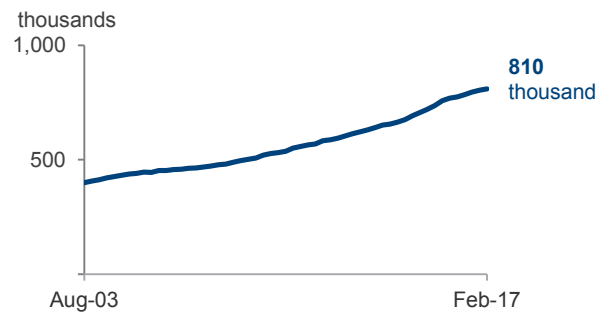
Housing Benefit



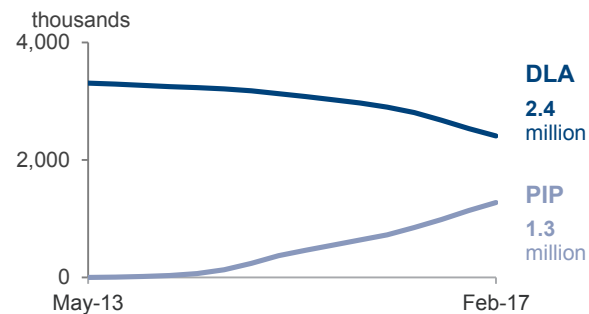
Attendance allowance



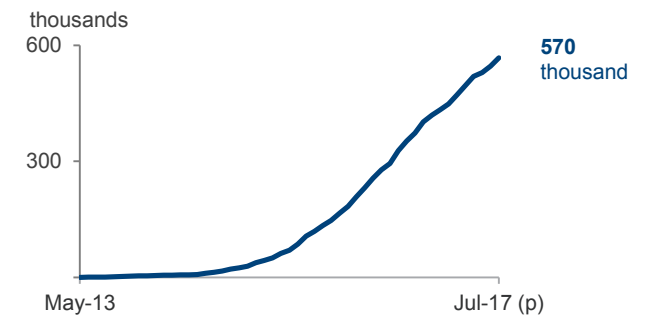
Carer's Allowance



PIP and DLA



Universal Credit

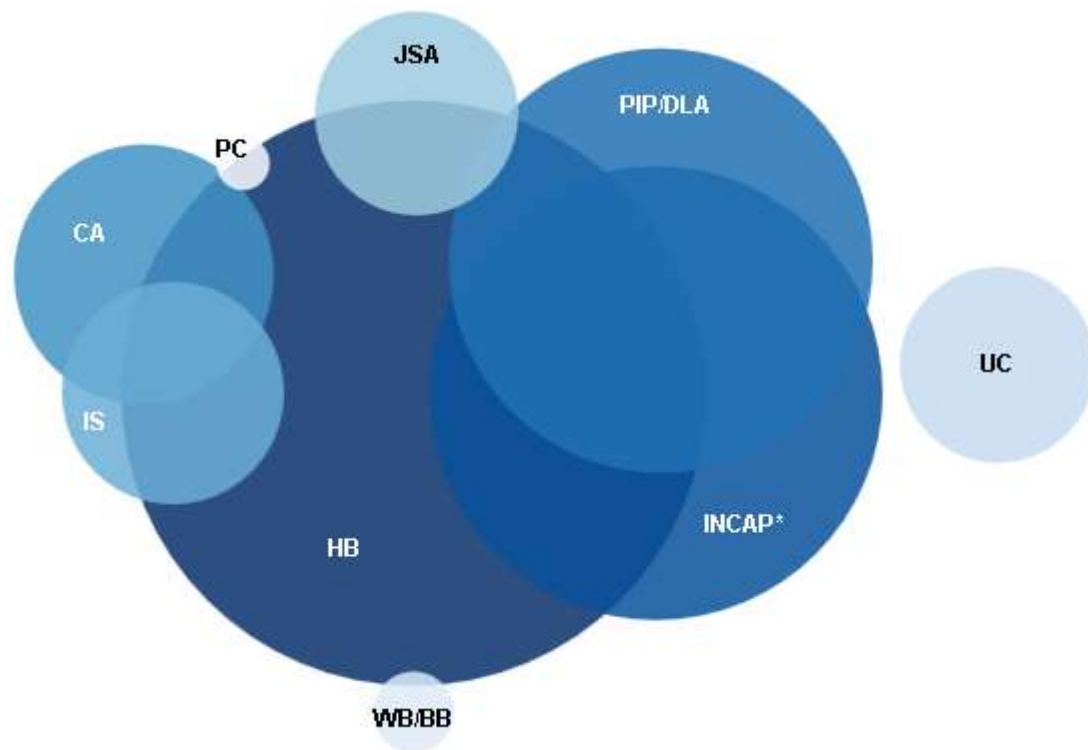


1.1 Benefit Combinations – Experimental Statistics

DWP administers benefits to a range of different claimants, many of whom have different interactions with the Department. Many of these claimants are eligible for more than one benefit.

These new experimental statistics bring together existing DWP benefit statistics, Housing Benefit (HB), Personal Independent Payment (PIP), and Universal Credit (UC). This allows us to measure the total number of people claiming benefits (across all DWP benefits), and the number of people on various different combinations of benefits.

This section focuses on working age benefit claimants at February 2017. Working age claimants are defined as all men born between 28 February 1952 and 28 February 2001, and all women born between 6 June 1953 and 28 February 2001.



A worked example – Jobseeker’s Allowance

There were **6.8 million** working age benefit claimants at February 2017. Of which;

480 thousand claimed Jobseeker’s Allowance (JSA).
Of which;

210 thousand claimed JSA only

280 thousand claimed JSA and another benefit;

38 thousand also claimed PIP/DLA

260 thousand also claimed HB

24 thousand also claimed HB and
PIP/DLA

* INCAP includes claimants of Employment and Support Allowance, Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance, and Income Support on the grounds of incapacity

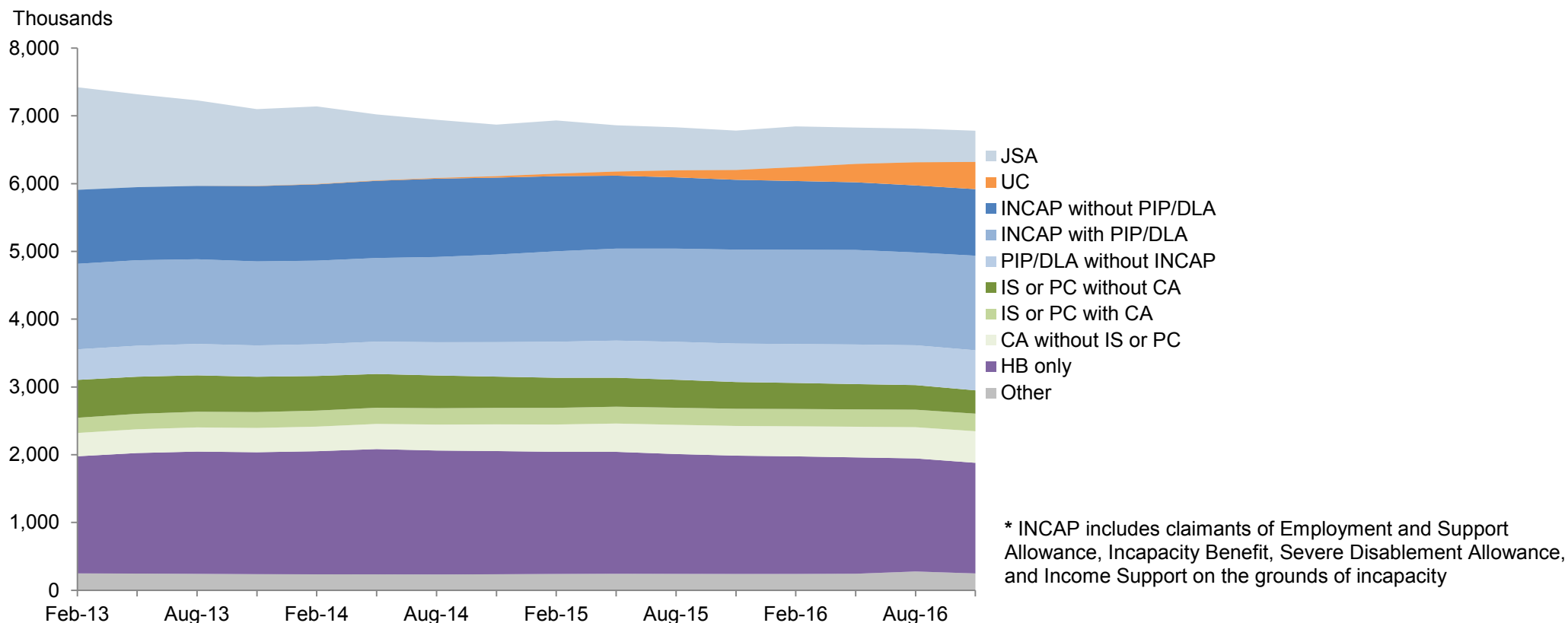
The diagram above gives an indication of the number of claimants on each benefit combination. The size of each circle shows how many individuals are on each benefit. Where circles overlap, individuals are claiming more than one benefit. The size of the overlap between the circles shows how many individuals are claiming each combination of benefits. For example, the overlap between Jobseeker’s Allowance, PIP/DLA and Housing Benefit shows that 24 thousand claimed this combination.

This is a representative diagram. Not all benefit combinations are shown here. Some smaller combinations have been omitted and some benefits have been combined where a new one has directly replaced an existing one.

Please see the [supporting tables](#) (table ben_combs_aug2017) published with this release for a full breakdown of the benefit combinations. This includes both working age, and state pension age claimants, and benefit combinations for all DWP benefits.

1.1 Benefit Combinations – Experimental Statistics

The number of working age claimants has slowly decreased over time



There were **6.8 million working age claimants at February 2017**. Most of these claimants received only one benefit. 3.7 million (54%) claimed one benefit only, 2 million (29%) were on two benefits, and a further 1 million (15%) were on three.

More people claimed Housing Benefit than any other benefit. Nearly 60% (4 million) of the 6.8 million working age claimants were on HB. A large number of claimants also claimed Incapacity Benefits (2.4 million), and PIP/DLA (2.1 million). Only 1.2 million claimants (18%) were not on HB, PIP/DLA, or Incapacity Benefits at February 2017.

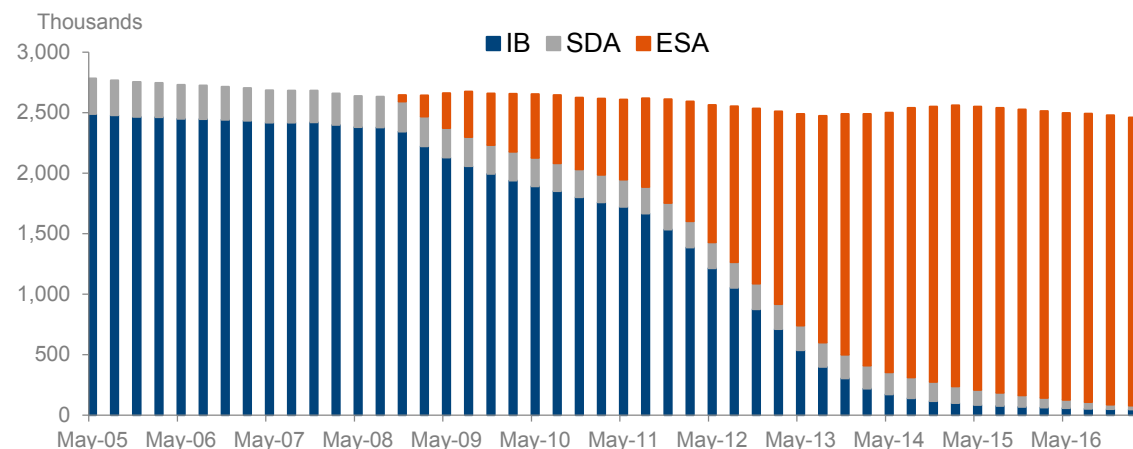
The number of people on Jobseeker’s Allowance has been steadily decreasing since February 2013. In the last two years (February 2015 to February 2017) the number of people on UC has increased. We expect this trend to continue, as UC will gradually replace most working age benefits over the next few years. The overall number on Incapacity Benefits has remained constant at 2.4 million.

See the [supporting tables](#) (table ben_combs_aug2017) and [background information and methodology document](#) for further data and information.

1.2 Employment and Support Allowance and Incapacity Benefits – National Statistics

The number of people on Employment and Support Allowance and incapacity benefits is falling

Employment and Support Allowance / Incapacity benefits claimants since May 2005

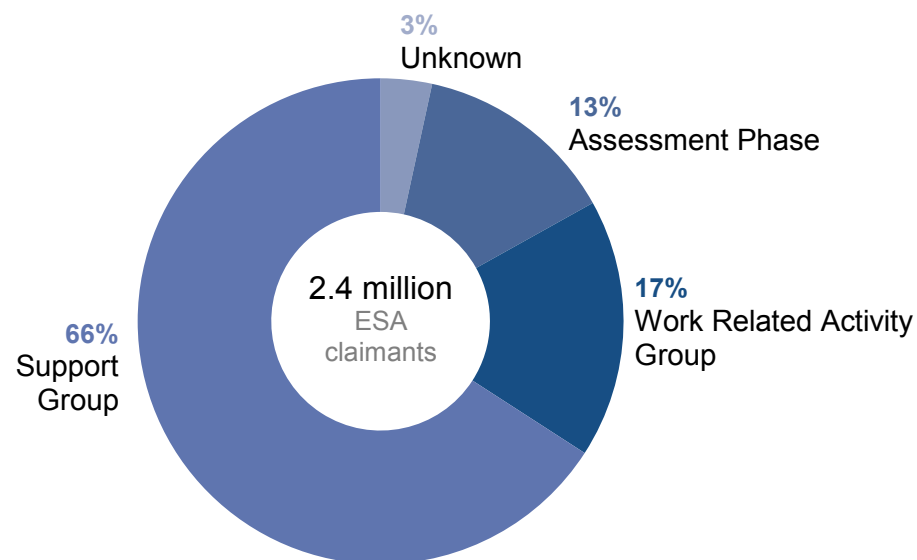


There were 2.4 million people on Employment and Support Allowance and incapacity benefits (Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disability Allowance) at February 2017, a decrease of 51 thousand on a year earlier.

The number of people on Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) is now at 2.4 million. This is 11 thousand more than the year before, but a decrease of 11 thousand compared to November 2016.

There were 80 thousand people on incapacity benefits at February 2017. The number of people on incapacity benefits has been steadily decreasing over time, due to incapacity benefits being replaced by ESA from October 2008. Numbers will decrease further as Universal Credit rolls out and gradually replaces income-related ESA.

ESA Claims by phase at February 2017



At February 2017, almost two-thirds (66%) of ESA claimants were in the support group, 17% were in the work-related activity group, and 13% were still in the assessment phase. The phase could not be determined for the remaining 3%.

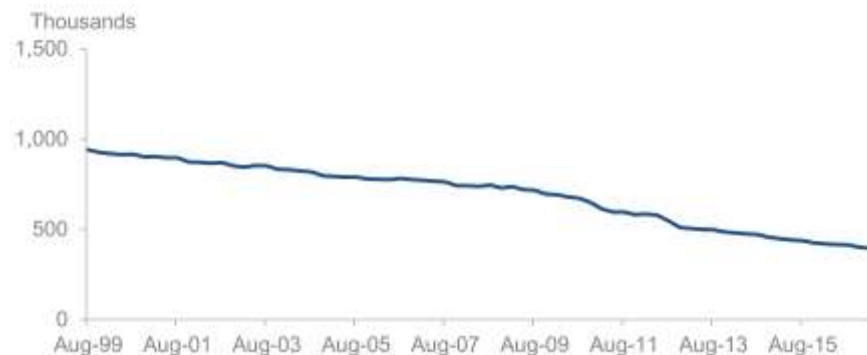
See the [supporting tables](#) (tables esa_aug17 and ibsda_aug17) and [Stat-Xplore](#) for further data.

1.3 Income Support – National Statistics

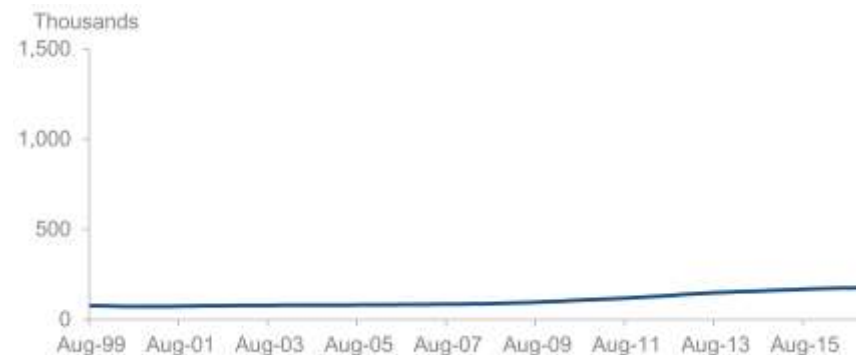
The number of people on Income Support continues to decrease

Income support claimants by statistical group: August 1999 to February 2017

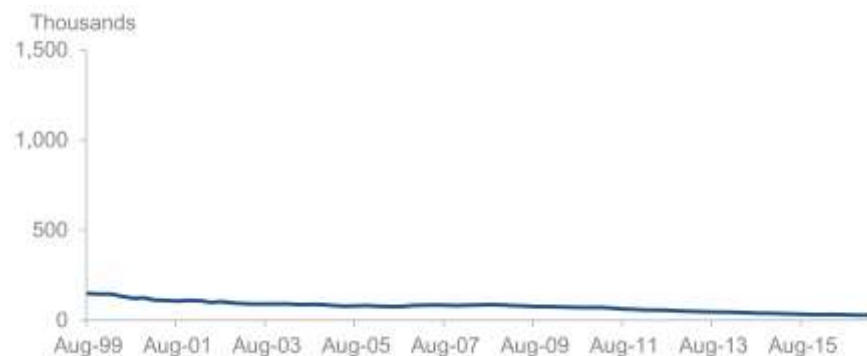
Lone parents



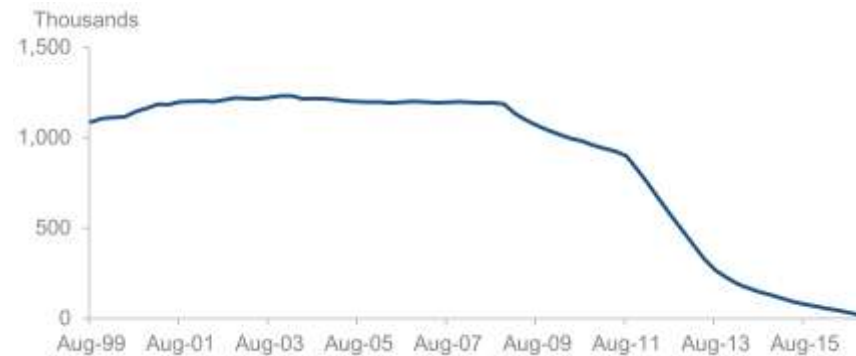
Carers



Others



Incapacity benefits



At February 2017, the total number of Income Support claimants was 610 thousand

Lone Parents (all single claimants with dependants under 16, excluding claimants of incapacity benefits) represented 64% of the IS caseload (390 thousand). The number of lone parents claiming Income Support has been affected by the [Lone Parent Obligations](#) policy changes which came into effect from 24 November 2008.

Claimants of incapacity benefits represented 2% of the IS caseload (15 thousand), while Carers and Others represented 33% of the caseload (180 thousand and 28 thousand respectively).

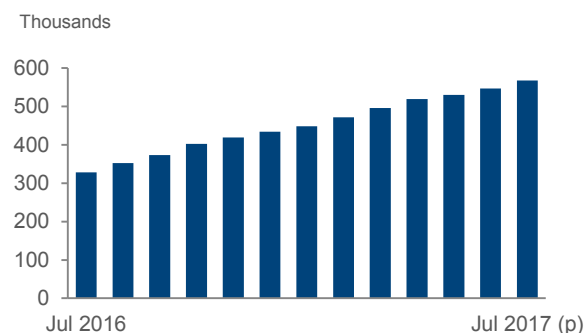
Numbers on income-related Income Support will reduce over time as Universal Credit rolls out and gradually replaces income-related Income Support.

See the [supporting tables](#) (table is_aug17) for further data.

1.4 Universal Credit – Official Experimental Statistics

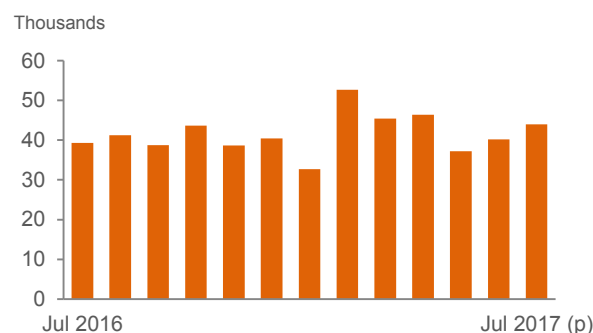
Three Universal Credit measures are shown in the charts below. **Claims** made counts the number of applications submitted for Universal Credit. Some of these people will go on to **Start** receiving Universal Credit. **People on Universal Credit** includes all those who have started and are still on 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.

People on Universal Credit by month



The number of people on Universal Credit rose to **570 thousand** as of 13 July 2017. Of these, 220 thousand (39 per cent) were in employment.

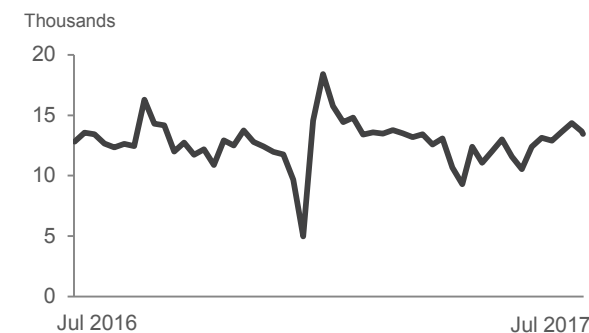
Monthly Starts to Universal Credit



The total number of starts that have been made since Universal Credit began is **950 thousand**. 51 thousand starts to Universal Credit were in the most recent month, to 13th July 2017.

The figures in this chart have been standardised, to make months of different length more comparable. Please see the Background Information and Methodology document for more detail.

Weekly Claims to Universal Credit



1.3 million claims have been made for Universal Credit up to 13 July 2017. 68 thousand claims have been made for Universal Credit in the last five weeks at an average of 14 thousand per week.

See [full release](#) for latest statistical data on Universal Credit. Please note the figures for the latest month (July 2017) are provisional (p) and will be finalised in the next full release of Universal Credit statistics.

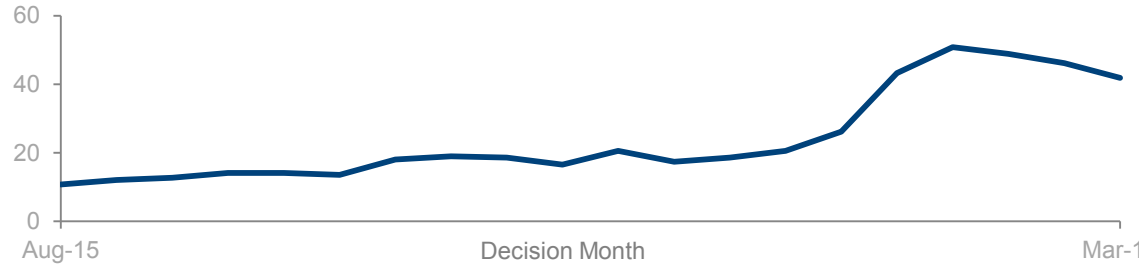
The [March 2017 release](#) includes statistics for the number of households on Universal Credit. This contains additional breakdowns, such as information on the family type (i.e. single, couple, with / without dependent children) and the costs (e.g. housing) the household is entitled to receive as part of their Universal Credit award. The households breakdowns will be updated bi-annually, with the next update being in September 2017.

1.5 Experimental Official Statistics: Sanction decisions and reasons: Universal Credit

Failure to meet one or more conditions of a UC claim without good reason could lead to reductions in the standard allowance for a period; this is a UC sanction.

The number of monthly decisions has risen since August 2015

Total Number of UC sanction decisions (thousands): Great Britain: August 2015 to March 2017



Trends have been driven by Work Focused Interview sanction decisions



These statistics have been developed using guidelines set out by the UK Statistics Authority, and are undergoing evaluation. They have, therefore, been designated as Experimental Statistics and may be subject to revision.

What is a sanction decision?

Each occasion that a condition of benefit claim is not met can result in a decision. This can happen more than once during a claim. The trends on this page include decisions that resulted in no sanction.

Universal Credit (UC) Sanctions Background

These statistics cover UC live service only. UC 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. We anticipate that additional information will be included on UC as quality assurance of data progresses.

Multiple sanction decisions can be made during the course of a claim, where there has been more than one occasion where a claimant has failed to meet the conditions of their benefit claim. All such decisions are included in the figures on this page. They also include original decisions and decisions in respect of reconsiderations and appeals, including decisions not to apply a sanction. These different types are shown individually on the following page.

UC covers a wider range of claimants than JSA, ESA or IS and sanctions policy is different to reflect this. They are also recorded in different systems, however these statistics have been developed to achieve consistency. For further information see our Background Information and Methodology document.

Main Messages

The number of decisions made in any month depends on a number of factors, such as the number and complexity of referrals, the number of people on UC and the resource available to undertake the decision making process.

In the first three months of 2017 the number of decisions each month has decreased following the peak in December 2016. The trend in sanction decisions is driven by Work Focused Interviews reason. The policy regarding Work Focused Interview sanctions differs for UC, compared to JSA. Please see Methodology document for more information and categories.

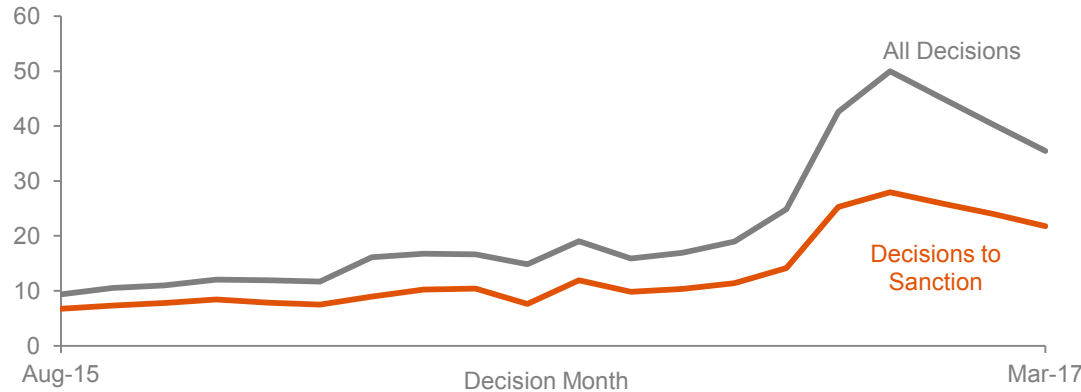
1.5 Experimental Official Statistics: Sanction Decisions: Universal Credit

Failure to meet one or more conditions of a UC claim without good reason could lead to reductions in the standard allowance for a period; this is a UC sanction.

All decisions and decisions to apply a sanction by stage

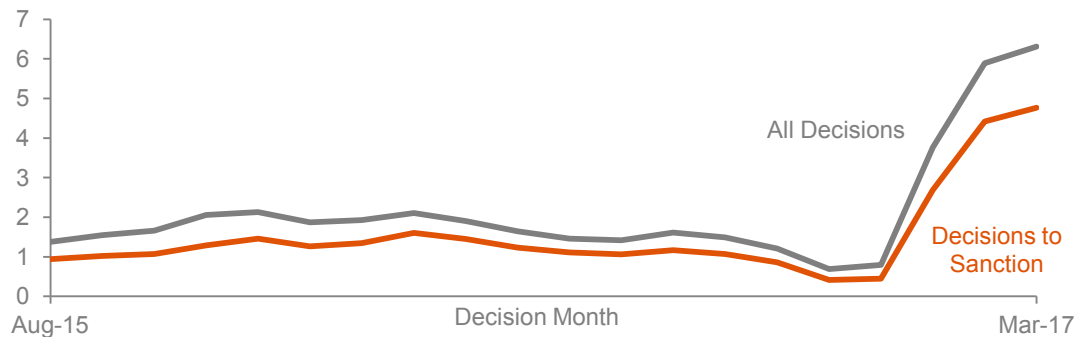
Stage 1 Original Decisions (thousands)

An independent DWP decision maker makes the original decision.



Stage 2 Mandatory Reconsiderations (thousands)

Claimants can ask DWP to reconsider the original decision.



Stage 3 Appeals

Claimants can appeal to a Tribunal after formal reconsideration.

Chart not shown due to low numbers, figures are accessible via [Stat-Xplore](#)

Not all UC decisions result in a sanction

Each sanction decision can go through two further stages, reconsideration and appeal, after the original decision is made, up to first tier tribunal. These statistics include only the most recent stage in the process for each decision. Not all decisions go through all three stages before reaching a final outcome. Both the stage and decision outcome numbers may be updated in future releases.

Main Messages

There have been 483 thousand decisions in total since August 2015. The trends illustrate both the movement through the process and the rise in decisions as the number of people on UC rise.

There have been a total of 296 thousand decisions to apply a sanction.

Other parts of a claimant's entitlement, such as housing and child care, are not affected. Where a claimant's standard allowance is reduced the claimant may be eligible for hardship payments.

Users should be aware that there are differences between sanctions policy in UC and the other benefits that will affect comparisons.

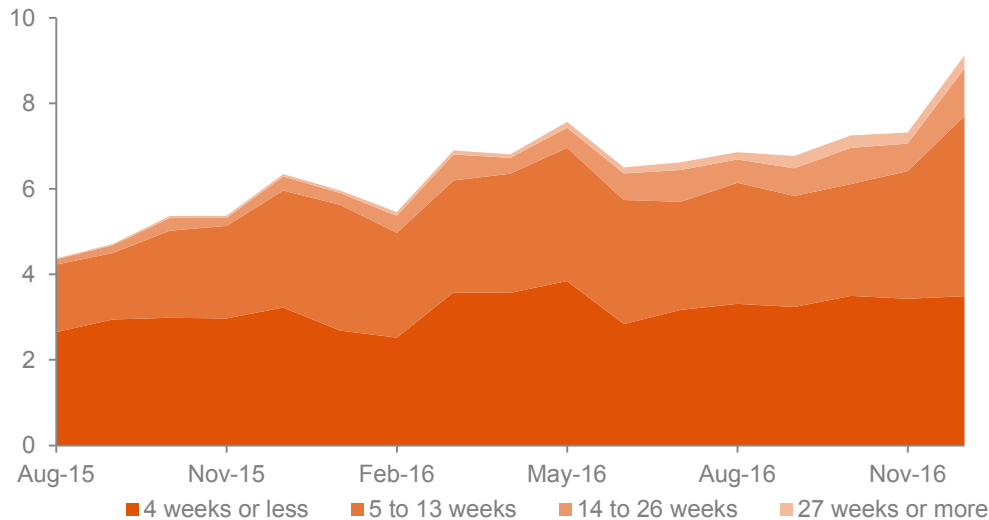
These statistics are experimental. We will continue to develop these statistics and include additional measures in future releases.

More detailed UC sanctions figures, including appeals, can be accessed through [Stat-Xplore](#) or via [gov.uk](#)

1.5 Experimental Statistics: Universal Credit Sanction Durations and Rate

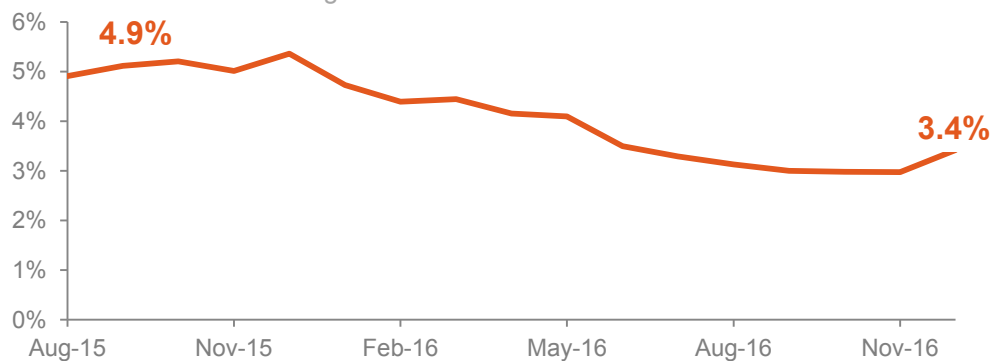
Since Aug-15 (90%) of ended sanctions lasted 13 weeks or less

Ended UC sanction durations by month (Thousands): Great Britain Aug-15 to Dec-16



The experimental monthly rate of UC claimants with a sanction deduction has decreased steadily over the past year

UC claimants, with a sanction deduction, as an experimental rate of UC claims: Great Britain: August 2015 to December 2016



Universal Credit (UC) Sanction Duration and Rate Background

These statistics look at length of time that people on UC receive deductions from their award as a result of a sanction. If someone has multiple sanctions which are served without a break in deductions then they will only be counted as one sanction in these statistics. Deductions can end for a number of reasons, such as a claimant earning enough on UC that they no longer have any standard allowance in which a deduction can be taken or they are no longer claiming UC.

From these deductions it is possible to work out a sanction rate, that is the proportion of people on UC at a point in time that have a deduction taken from their award due to a sanction. These statistics cover all of UC, both live and full service

The figures used for both the durations and experimental rate can be found in the [Supporting Tables](#). For more information please see the [Background and Methodology](#) document.

Since August 15 nearly a half (49%) of all sanctions that ended lasted 4 weeks or less, a further 41% ended between 5 and 13 weeks.



Median UC sanction duration: (Aug 15 to Dec 16)

29 calendar days

In December 2016, 3.4% of people on UC had a deduction taken from their standard allowance as a result of a sanction. In the last six months of 2016 this rate has changed little. Those with a deduction may be eligible for hardship payments.

Note: Sanctions policy differs across benefits, these differences should be considered when comparing across benefits. These statistics include those sanctions which subsequently go on to be overturned. They are counted up to and including the last month in which a deduction is taken. Claimants whose sanction is overturned will be repaid any deduction. Care must be taken in interpreting the duration charts and figures, as for fair comparisons, sufficient time must have passed before longer duration categories can be achieved e.g. sanctions lasting 27 weeks or more starting in Jan-16 would not begin to be cleared until Jul-16.

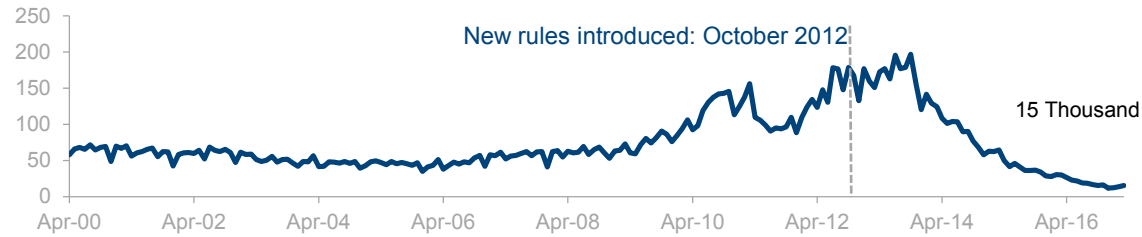
These statistics have been developed using guidelines set out by the UK Statistics Authority, and are undergoing evaluation. They have, therefore, been designated as [Experimental Statistics](#) and may be subject to revision.

1.5 Official Statistics: Sanction decisions and reasons: Jobseeker's Allowance

Failure to meet one or more conditions of a benefit claim without good reason could lead to payments being stopped for a period (this is known as a benefit sanction).

Jobseeker's Allowance sanctions decisions have been declining

Total Number of JSA sanction decisions (thousands): Great Britain: April 2000 to March 2017



Main Messages

Over the last two years the number of decisions per month has been declining.

This partly reflects the fall in Jobseeker's Allowance claimants; although there are also other factors which may be driving this. The trend in JSA sanction decisions coincides with lower numbers of JSA claimants joining the Work Programme.

The trend in JSA sanction decisions coincided with lower numbers of JSA claimants joining the Work Programme.

Currently the main reasons for sanction decisions (see notes section for details of groupings) are associated with lower level sanctions (see box below)

New rules :- From October 2012, new sanctions rules were introduced, aligning broadly with Universal Credit rules. Read an [overview of the new JSA sanctions rules](#).

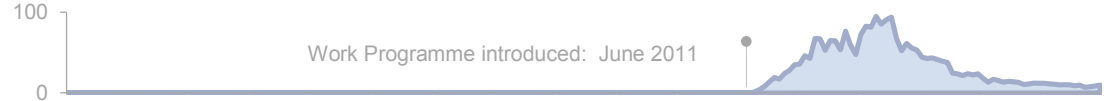
Sanction levels (under the new regulations)

- **Lower**, 4 or 13 weeks (e.g. Work Programme and Work Focused Interviews)
- **Intermediate**, 4 or 13 weeks; claim may be ended
- **Higher** 13-156 weeks (e.g. reason for leaving previous employment)

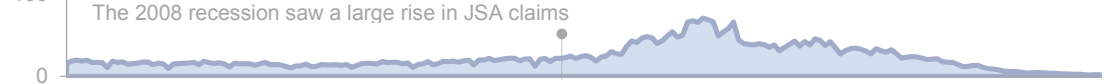
For more information see [guidance](#).

Trends have been driven by Work Programme sanction decisions

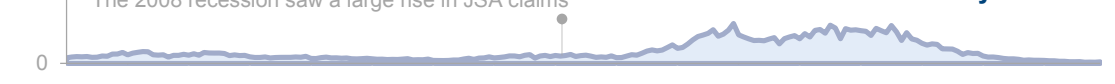
Total Number of Sanctions decisions (thousands) relating to **Work Programme**



Total Number of Sanctions decisions (thousands) relating to **Work focused interviews**



Total Number of Sanctions decisions (thousands) relating to **Availability for work**



Total Number of Sanctions decisions (thousands) relating to **Other Employment Programmes**



Total Number of Sanctions decisions (thousands) relating to **Reason for leaving previous employment**



1.5 Official Statistics: Sanction decisions process: Jobseeker's Allowance (new rules)

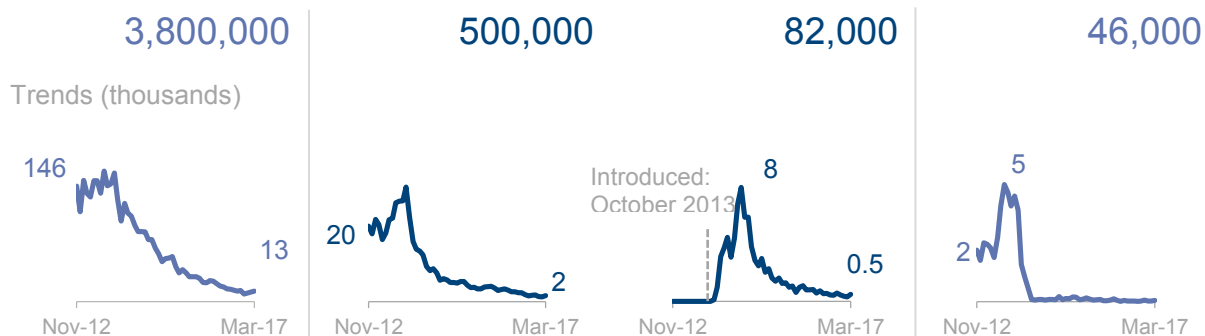
The following charts show a breakdown of the process that is in place when claimants don't agree that their benefit payment should be stopped or claim ended

Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
Original Decisions	Decision review	Mandatory Reconsideration
An independent DWP decision maker makes the original decision.	Claimants can ask the Department to reconsider the original decision.	Claimants can appeal to a Tribunal after formal reconsideration.

Not all JSA decisions result in a sanction

Each sanction decision has a maximum of three sequential stages (up to first tier tribunal). These statistics show each decision at the most recent stage in that process. Not all decisions go through all three stages before reaching a final outcome. Both the stage and decision outcome may be updated in future releases.

All decisions under new rules



Main Messages

There have been 4.4 million decisions in total under the new rules (between 22 Oct 2012 and 31 Mar 2017). The trends illustrate both the movement through the process and the recent fall in volume of decisions.

Summary of decision outcomes at each stage

22 Oct 2012 to 31 Mar 2017

(thousands)	Sanction	No Sanction
Original Decisions	1,782	789
Decision review	190	298
Mandatory Reconsideration	60	22
Appeal	35	10
Total	2,067	1,119

Decisions that are reserved or cancelled are not included in this table.

Decisions to apply a sanction under new rules



There have been 2.1 million decisions to apply a sanction under the new rules. The trends illustrate the impact of the introduction of Mandatory Reconsiderations.

Where a claimant's benefit is reduced the claimant may be eligible for Hardship payments.

More detailed JSA and ESA sanctions figures can be accessed through [Stat-Xplore](#) or via [gov.uk](#)

The [Background and Methodology](#) document contains information about changes to our rounding policy

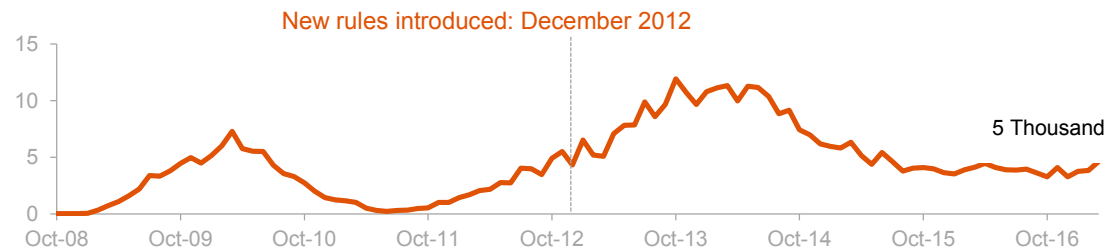
We are currently not including JSA duration and point-in-time statistics in this publication. We calculate these statistics by linking data on sanctions decisions to separate data on time on benefit. As people on JSA can flow on and off benefit quickly even a small error in linking can lead to a big error in the statistics. Because of this we think the statistics need more development and are not currently robust enough to publish.

1.5 Sanction decisions and reasons: Employment and Support Allowance

Failure to meet one or more conditions of a benefit claim without good reason could lead to a reduction in payment for a period (this is known as a benefit sanction)

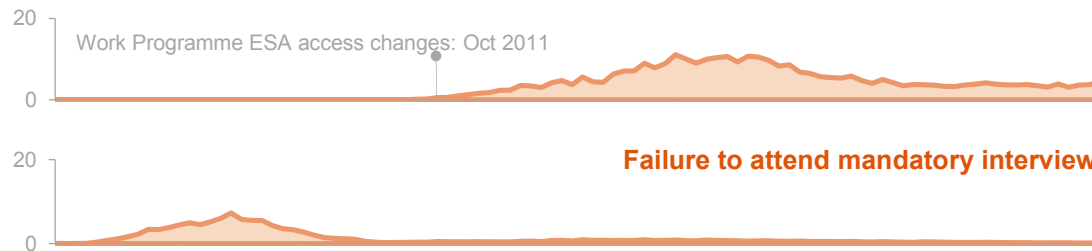
ESA sanction decisions were decreasing until January 2016 since when they have remained relatively stable

Total Number of ESA sanction decisions (thousands): Great Britain: October 2008 to March 2017



Trends have been driven by work related activity sanction decisions

Sanctions decisions (thousands) relating to **Failure to participate in work related activity**



Main Messages

ESA sanction decisions were decreasing until January 2016; since when they have remained relatively stable.

A sanction referral can pass through several decision-making stages before a final decision is made. The latest months will always contain a higher proportion of sanctions which have not yet “had the chance” to be reviewed or appealed, and may be challenged in subsequent months.

The outcome of the sanction may change between publications due to retrospection (the updating of all changes to previous decisions with every publication). The main impact will be seen over the last three months compared to the previous publication, where the total number of decisions and the total number of decisions to apply a sanction will reduce significantly. This also applies to JSA Sanctions but the retrospection is much lower.

The process means that the outcome of a sanction is subject to retrospective changes which should be considered when using the data

Since Dec 15, more than 90% of sanction decisions for ESA relate to failure to participate in work related activity.

What is a sanction decision?

A sanction decision may happen every time a condition of benefit claim is not met. This can happen more than once during a claim. The trends on this page include decisions that resulted in no sanction.

Sanction decisions only apply to ESA claimants in the work related activity group. They do not apply to those in the support group.

New rules

From December 2012, new sanctions rules were introduced. For more information, see [here](#).

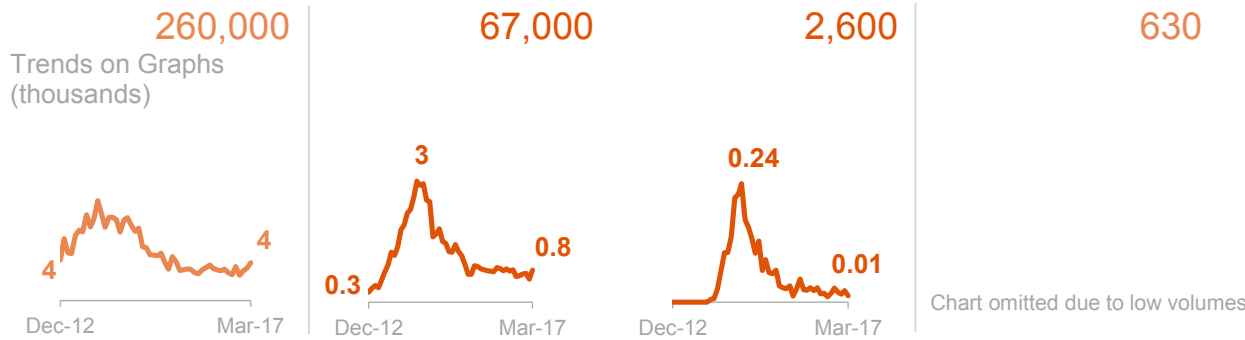
1.5 Sanction decisions process: Employment and Support Allowance (new rules)

The following charts show a breakdown of the process that is in place when claimants don't agree that their benefit payment should be reduced

Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
Original Decisions	Decision Review Mandatory Reconsideration	Appeal
An independent DWP decision maker makes the original decision.	Claimants can ask the Department to reconsider the original decision.	Claimants can appeal to a Tribunal after formal reconsideration.

Not all ESA decisions result in a sanction
 Each sanction decision has a maximum of three sequential stages (up to first tier tribunal). These statistics show each decision at the most recent stage in that process. Not all decisions go through all three stages before reaching a final outcome. Both the stage and decision outcome may be updated in future releases.

All decisions under new rules



Decisions to apply a sanction under new rules



Main Messages

There have been 330 thousand decisions in total under the new rules (between 3 Dec 2012 and 31 Mar 2017). The trends illustrate both the movement through the process and the recent fall in volume of decisions with a consistent level over the past year.

Summary of decision outcomes at each stage

3 Dec 2012 to 31Mar 2017

(thousands)	Sanction	No Sanction
Original Decisions	52	78
Decision review	36	30
Mandatory Reconsideration	1.1	1.5
Appeal	0.4	0.2
Total	90	110

Decisions that are cancelled are not included in this table.

There have been a total of 90 thousand decisions to apply a sanction under the new rules.

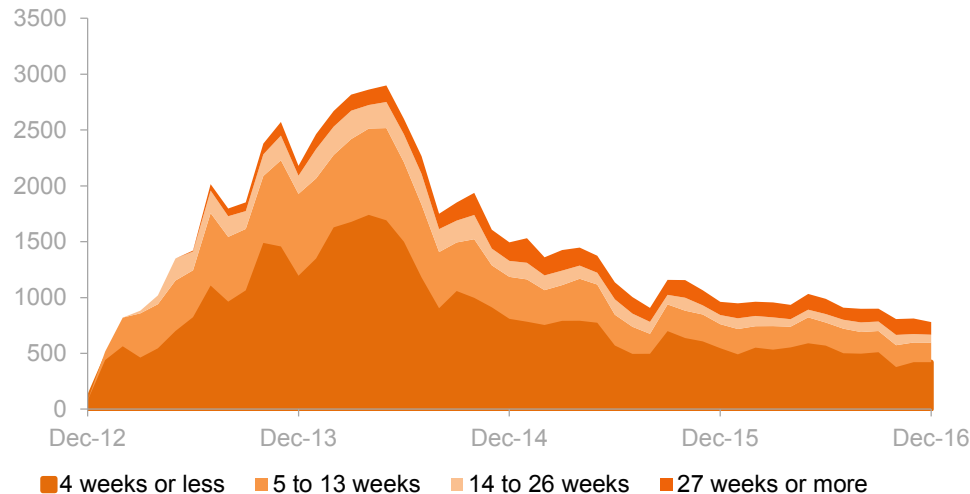
Where a claimant's benefit is reduced the claimant may be eligible for Hardship payments.

More detailed JSA and ESA sanctions figures can be accessed through [Stat-Xplore](#) or via gov.uk

1.5 Experimental Statistics: ESA Sanction Durations and Rate

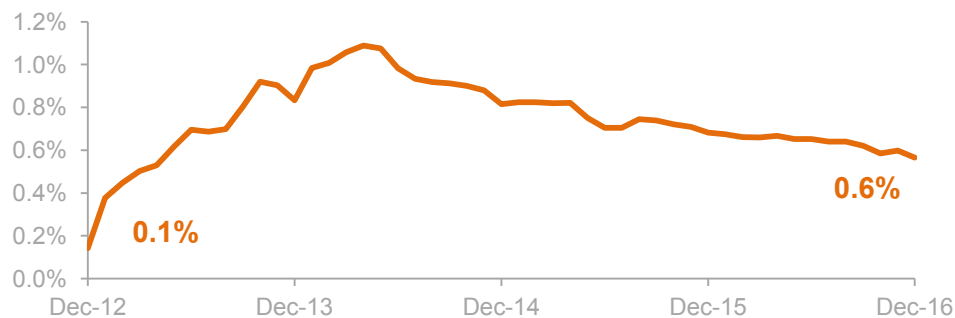
Since the start of the new regime in Dec-12 83% of ended sanctions lasted 13 weeks or less

Ended ESA sanction durations by month: Great Britain Dec-12 to Dec-16



The experimental monthly rate of ESA WRAG claimants with a sanction deduction has fallen slightly then remained stable of the past 2 years

ESA WRAG claimants, with a sanction deduction, as an experimental rate of ESA WRAG claims: Great Britain: December 2012 to December 2016



These statistics have been developed using guidelines set out by the UK Statistics Authority, and are undergoing evaluation. They have, therefore, been designated as Experimental Statistics and may be subject to revision.

Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) Sanction Duration and Rate Background

These statistics look at length of time that people on ESA receive deductions from their payment as a result of a sanction. If someone has multiple sanctions which are served without a break in deductions then they will only be counted as one sanction in these statistics. Deductions can end for a number of reasons, such as the claimant is no longer claiming ESA. ESA sanctions involve the removal of the personal allowance aspect of the benefit and are open-ended until the claimant complies with the interview requirement or work-related activity. A fixed-length sanction of 1, 2 or 4 weeks is then applied to the claim.

From these deductions it is possible to work out a sanction rate, that is the proportion of people on ESA at a point in time that have a deduction taken from their payment due to a sanction.

The figures used for both the durations and experimental rate can be found in the Supporting Tables. For more information please see the Background and Methodology document.

Since the start of the new regime in December 2012 56% of all sanctions that ended lasted 4 weeks or less, a further 26% ended between 5 and 13 weeks.



Median ESA sanction duration: (Dec 12 to Dec 16)

28 calendar days

In December 2016, 0.6% of people in the ESA WRAG had a deduction taken from their payment as a result of a sanction. In the last six months of 2016 this rate has remained stable.

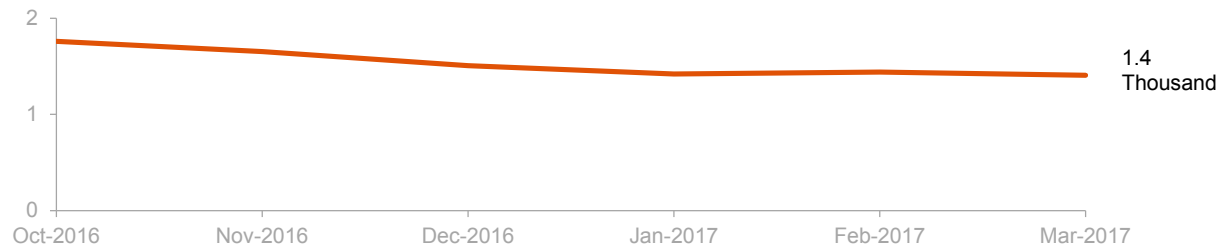
Note: Sanctions policy differs across benefits, these differences should be considered when comparing across benefits. These statistics include those sanctions which subsequently go on to be overturned. They are counted up to and including the last month in which a deduction is taken. Claimants whose sanction is overturned will be repaid any deduction. Care must be taken in interpreting the duration charts and figures, as for fair comparisons, sufficient time must have passed before longer duration categories can be achieved e.g. sanctions lasting 27 weeks or more starting in Jan-16 would not begin to be cleared until Jul-16.

1.5 Experimental Statistics for Income Support Sanction decisions and reasons

Failure to meet one or more conditions of a benefit claim without good reason could lead to a reduction in payment for a period (this is known as a benefit sanction)

All Income Support sanction decisions (Experimental)

Total Number of IS sanction decisions by month (Thousands): Great Britain: October 2016 to March 2017



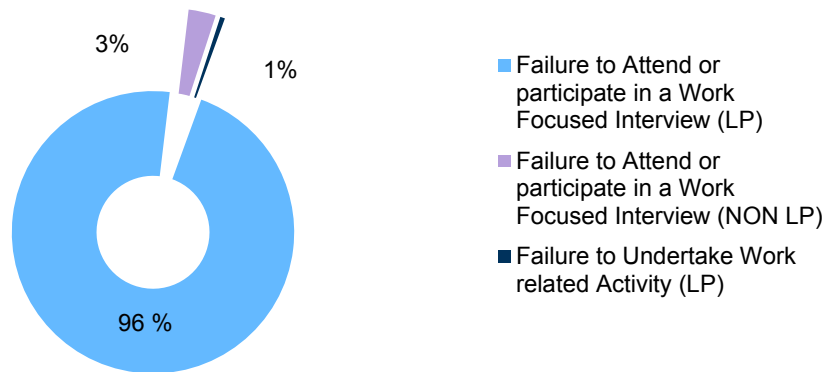
Income Support Sanctions Background

From April 2016, IS sanction decisions have started to go through the same system as ESA and JSA sanctions decisions allowing standardisation across the benefits. This has enabled data on IS sanctions to be presented in a similar way to that for JSA and ESA for the first time. From October 2016, all decisions should be recorded in DMAS (Decision Making and Appeals System, the system where JSA and ESA sanctions decisions are recorded).

Main Messages

These figures are classified as Experimental as there are only 6 months' worth of data available. This means that there is little indication at this point in time of effects of retrospective changes in the next publication. Early indications are that IS sanction decisions are slowly decreasing. At this stage no further conclusions can be made from the data

All IS Decisions by Referral Reason



The majority of IS sanctions are imposed on IS Lone Parents (97%)

Summary of decision outcomes at each stage

Oct 2016 to Mar 2017 (Thousands)

	Sanction	No Sanction
Original Decisions	7.8	0.22
Decision review	0.04	0.07
Mandatory Reconsideration	0.01	0
Appeal	0	0
Total	7.9	0.29

Decisions that are cancelled are not included in this table.

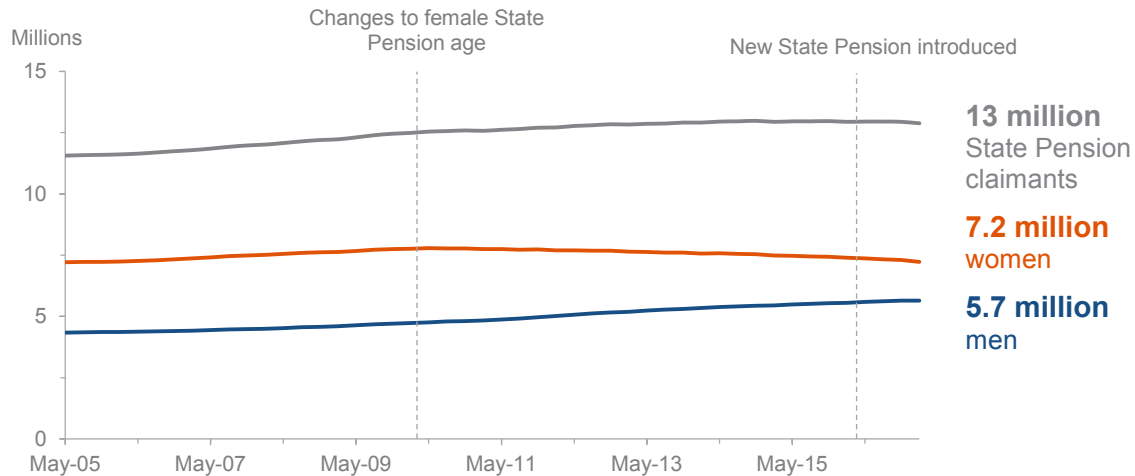
There have been a total of 7.9 thousand decisions to apply a sanction over the last 2 Quarters. Trends are driven by Lone Parent Failed to Attend or Participate in a Work Focused Interview sanction decisions with 96% of sanctions falling into this category.

Previously IS Lone Parent Sanctions have been published using a different methodology and therefore are not comparable. More information about the new methodology can be found here

2.1 State Pension and Pension Credit – National Statistics

The number of people on State Pension has decreased over the last year

Pensioner client group and State Pension recipients May 2005 to February 2017



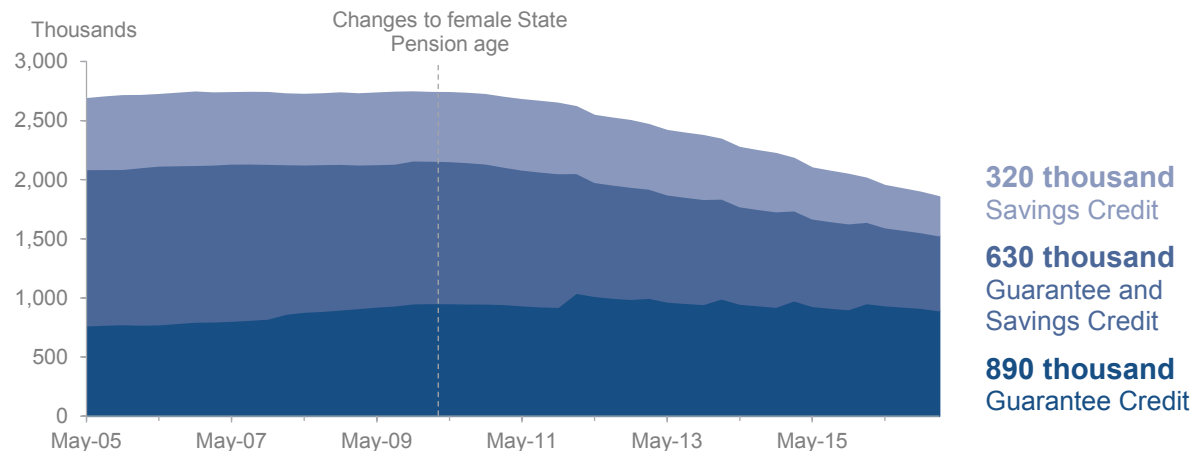
There were 13 million recipients of State Pension at February 2017, a fall of 62 thousand on a year earlier. This fall was largely driven by a decrease in the number of female State Pension recipients. Due to increases in women's State Pension age the number of women reaching State Pension age has decreased. The average weekly State Pension amount in payment at February 2017 was £134.71, a rise of £3.82 since February 2016.

The new State Pension (nSP) was introduced for people reaching State Pension age from 6 April 2016. **At February 2017 there were 330 thousand nSP recipients** with an average weekly amount in payment of £146.80 (including any Protected Payments).

See the [supporting tables](#) (table sp_aug17) for further data.

The number of people on Pension Credit is falling

Pension Credit recipients: May 2005 to February 2017



At February 2017, there were 1.9 million claimants of Pension Credit (2.2 million including partners), a fall of 160 thousand on the previous year. Nearly two thirds of claimants (63%) were women.

The number of people on Pension Credit has been decreasing since November 2009. While the number of people receiving Guarantee Credit has remained constant, the number of people getting Savings Credit payments has been decreasing.

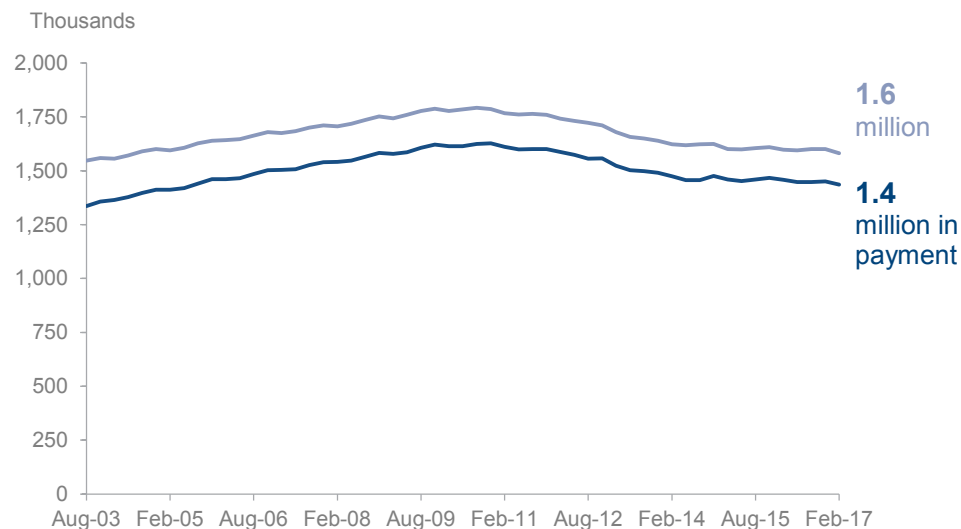
The downward trend in overall Pension Credit caseload is partly due to equalisation of State Pension age, which results in the Pension Credit qualifying age increasing; partly due to changes to the Savings Credit element of Pension Credit, including the abolition of Savings Credit for those that reach State Pension age after 6th April 2016; and partly due to the introduction of new State Pension, which was introduced in April 2016.

See the [supporting tables](#) (table pc_aug17) for further data.

3.1 Attendance Allowance and Carer's Allowance – National Statistics

The number of people on Attendance Allowance has fallen slightly in the last year

Attendance Allowance claimants: August 2003 to February 2017



At February 2017, the number of people on Attendance Allowance has decreased by 17 thousand on a year earlier and is now 1.6 million.

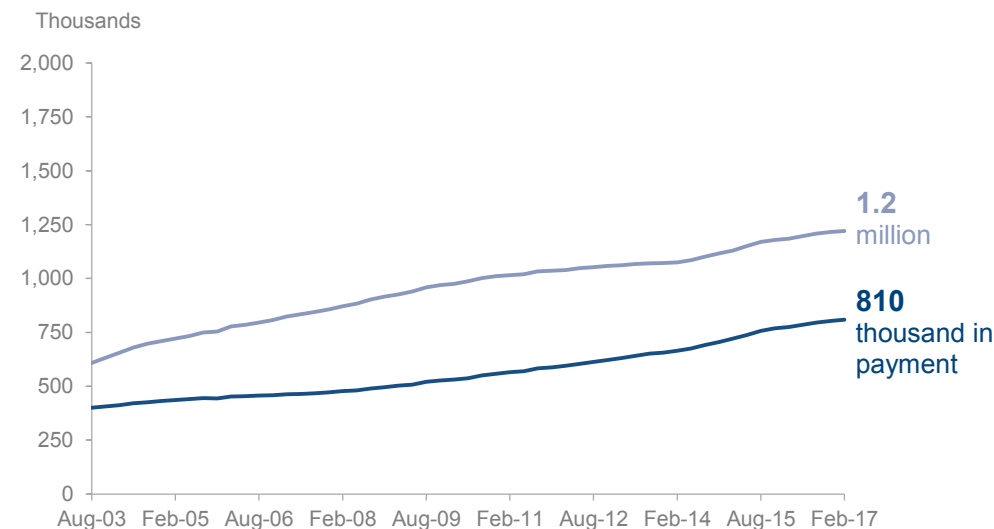
Of these Attendance Allowance claimants, 35% (550 thousand) are male, an increase of 1 thousand from February 2016. 65% (1 million) are female, a decrease of 18 thousand from February 2016.

There were 140 thousand (9%) claimants who were entitled to the benefit but receiving no payment.

See the [supporting tables](#) (tables aa_ent_aug17, aa_aug17) and [Stat-Xplore](#) for further data.

The number of people receiving Carer's Allowance continues to rise

Carer's Allowance claimants: August 2003 to February 2017



The total number claiming Carer's Allowance at February 2017 is 1.2 million, a rise of 35 thousand from February 2016. Increases in women's State Pension age and in the number of people claiming disability benefits, as well as an ageing population, may have contributed to this rise.

32%, or 390 thousand, of Carer's Allowance claimants are male and 68%, or 830 thousand, are female.

Of the total number claiming Carers Allowance (1.2 million), 34% (410 thousand) were entitled to the benefit but receiving no payment.

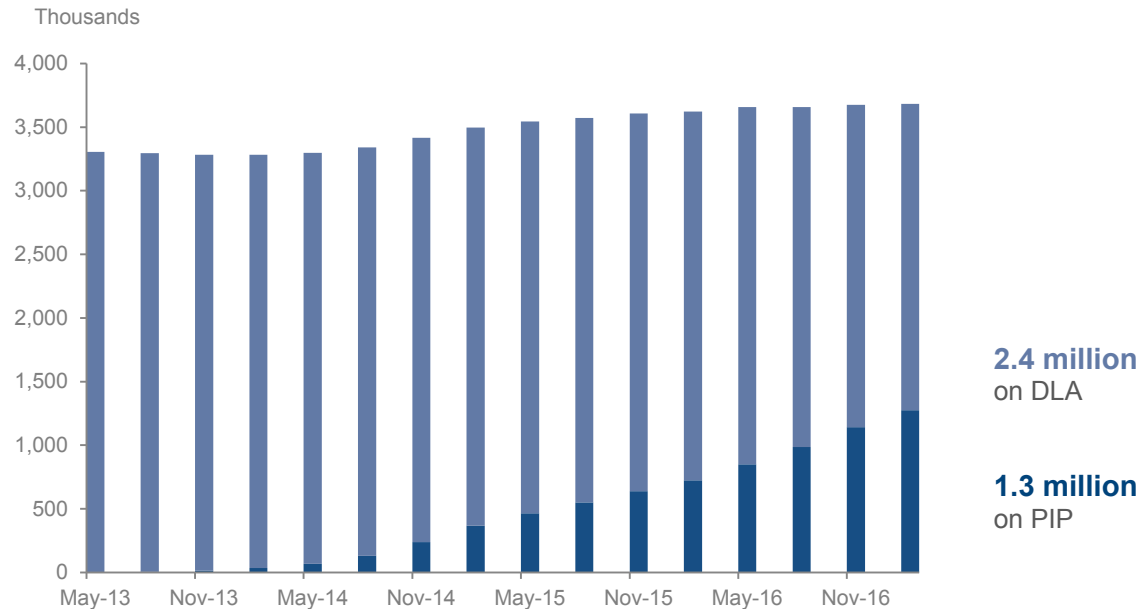
See the [supporting tables](#) (tables ca_ent_aug17, ca_aug17) and [Stat-Xplore](#) for further data.

Note: Some claimants are eligible for Attendance Allowance or Carer's Allowance but do not receive a payment. These individuals are still counted as claimants. For example, payments can be temporarily suspended if the claimant is in hospital.

3.2 Personal Independence Payment and Disability Living Allowance – National Statistics

The number of people on PIP is rising as the number of people on Disability Living Allowance continues to fall

Personal Independence Payment/Disability Living Allowance claimants since May 2013



There were a total of 3.7 million claimants of Personal Independence Payment and Disability Living Allowance at February 2017, an increase of 56 thousand (2%) on a year earlier.

The number of people claiming Disability Living Allowance has fallen (by 490 thousand) in the year to February 2017 to 2.4 million. During the same period the number of people claiming Personal Independence Payment has increased (by 550 thousand) to 1.3 million. 570 thousand of these claims were reassessed Disability Living Allowance claims.

At the end of April 2017 (the latest PIP data available), there were 1.4 million Personal Independence Payment claims in payment. Up until this point there had been 2.8 million registrations, 2.5 million clearances and 260 thousand claims were still outstanding.

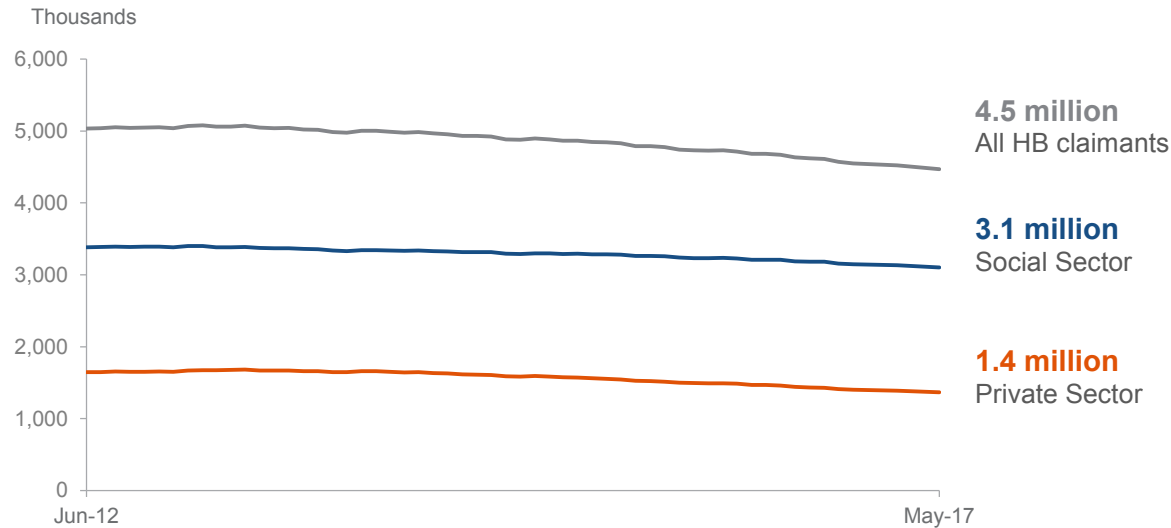
Further PIP information and breakdowns are available via the latest statistical [first release](#) and via [Stat-Xplore](#). Note PIP statistics are Official Experimental.

Further DLA breakdowns are available via the [supporting tables](#) (table dla_aug17).

4.1 Housing Benefit – National Statistics

The number of people on Housing Benefit is generally decreasing

Housing Benefit recipients: June 2012 to May 2017



Overall numbers claiming housing benefit have been gradually decreasing and will continue to fall as Housing Benefit is replaced by Universal Credit. **At May 2017, there were 4.5 million recipients of Housing Benefit.**

The majority of HB recipients (69%, 3.1 million) were tenants in the social sector and the rest in the private sector (1.4 million). Of those in the private sector, 87% received the local housing allowance, due to being on a low income.

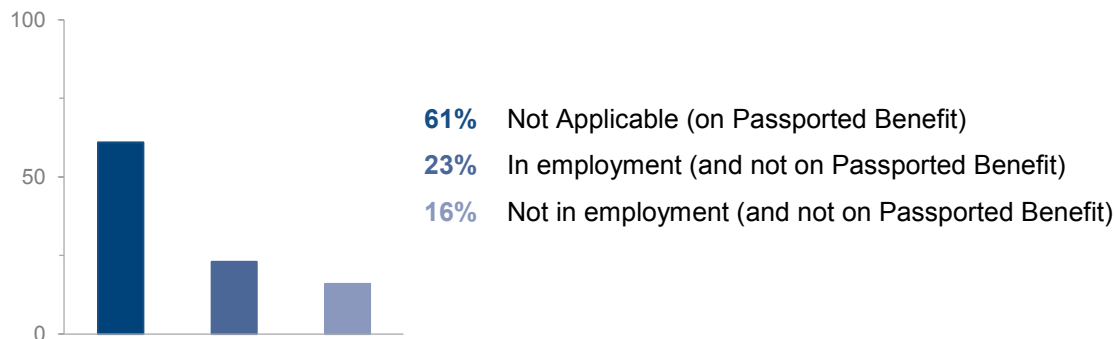
The majority (61.0%) of Housing benefit recipients entitlement was due to being in receipt of a passported benefit: Income Support, income-based Jobseekers Allowance, income-based Employment and Support Allowance or Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit).

As at May 2017 only 9% (410 thousand) recipients of Housing Benefit (which were of working age) had a reduction to their weekly award amount due to the spare room subsidy scheme, whereby tenants in social housing whose accommodation is larger than they need may lose part of their Housing Benefit.

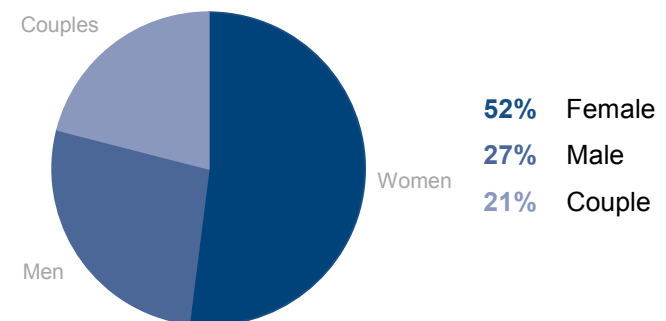
Further Housing Benefit information and breakdowns are available via [Stat-Xplore](#).

Percentage of Housing Benefit recipients at May 2017

Employment (and benefit status)



Gender (single claimants only)



About these statistics

The statistics in this publication are affected by the introduction of Universal Credit. Universal Credit was introduced in 2013 and is now available for all new claims from single jobseekers wherever they are in Great Britain. Universal Credit will be replacing income-related Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Housing Benefit, Income Support, Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. 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. Please see the [background information](#) document for more detail.

A background and methodology document can be found on the Jobseeker's Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance sanctions statistics collection page [here](#)

Where to find out more

Full details of where to find more detailed statistical information on DWP benefits can be found [here](#).

In summary more detailed statistical tables covering all National Statistics benefits can be found via:

- [Stat-Xplore](#)
- [Nomis](#)
- [Supporting tables](#)

[Stat-Xplore](#) is an interactive way for users to create their own statistical tables and related breakdowns. It currently holds statistics on:

- Housing Benefit claimant data
- Sanction decisions for Jobseeker's Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance
- National Insurance number allocations to adult overseas nationals
- Personal Independence Payment
- Benefit cap
- Universal Credit
- Attendance Allowance
- Disability Living Allowance
- Carer's Allowance
- State Pension
- Work Programme

[Nomis](#) is an on-line tool that allows you to create and download customised statistical tables. Its functionality allows users to produce tables by personal and benefit characteristics for the following benefits:

- Working age client group (not updated after May 2017)*
- Employment and support allowance*
- Incapacity benefit / severe disablement*
- Income support*
- Jobseeker's allowance*
- Carer's allowance
- Disability living allowance by disabling condition
- Disability living allowance*
- Pension credits*

- State pension*

* Benefits where lower-level geographical statistics (down to Ward, Lower Super Output area and Data zone) are also available in Nomis.

Additional [supporting tables](#) for the latest release exist for each benefit. This includes local authority and parliamentary constituency breakdowns.

DWP Benefits Statistics

Our **Uses and users**, **Methodology**, **Quality** and **Background information** notes provide further information on DWP National and official benefit statistics, including some of the processes involved in developing and releasing these statistics: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/dwp-statistical-summary-policies-and-statements>

Other National and Official Statistics

Details of other National and Official Statistics produced by the Department for Work and Pensions can be found via the following link:

- A schedule of statistical releases and a list of the most recent releases: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/about/statistics>

Known issues, changes and revisions

This release includes Experimental Statistics for the duration and rate of a UC and ESA sanction. The rate differs from previous reported methodologies as the point in time figure is now available through the duration development. Users should be aware that there are differences between sanctions policy across benefits that will affect comparisons.

The UC sanctions statistics now include UC live service and full service for the duration and point in time statistics. Data on sanction decisions is only for live service; full service will be added as quality assurance of the data progresses.

The next release of the Quarterly Summary of Statistics will not include Sanctions Statistics. The Benefit Sanctions Statistics (BSS) will be a separate publication in which we aim to publish further Experimental Statistics for duration, rates and some destination statistics

Contact information and feedback

For more information, please contact Tanimola Obasaju at tanimola.obasaju@dwp.gsi.gov.uk.

DWP would like to hear your views on our statistical publications. If you use any of our statistics publications, we would be interested in hearing what you use them for and how well they meet your requirements. Please email DWP at stats-consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk.

An on-going questionnaire, enabling DWP to target future consultations at interested users; shaping the future direction of statistics development to address user needs; and helping ensure value for money, whilst giving users a structured way of expressing their views is available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/205190/statistical_summary_questionnaire.doc

Completed questionnaires can be returned by e-mail to stats-consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk or by post to the following address:

Dissemination Team, Data and Analytics, Department for Work and Pensions, Room BP5201, Benton Park Road, Longbenton, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, NE98 1YX

Users can also join the “Welfare and Benefit Statistics” community at: <http://www.statsusernet.org.uk> DWP announces items of interest to users via this forum, as well as replying to users’ questions.