



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

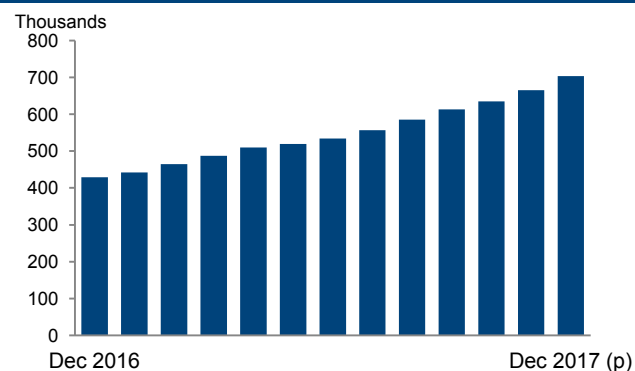
Universal Credit was introduced in April 2013 in certain pathfinder areas of North West England. It is now available to all types of claimants in certain areas of Great Britain and is being introduced in stages by postcode area.

Main story

The number of people on Universal Credit as of 14 December 2017 was 700 thousand. Of these people 300 thousand (42 per cent) were in employment.

700 thousand claimants

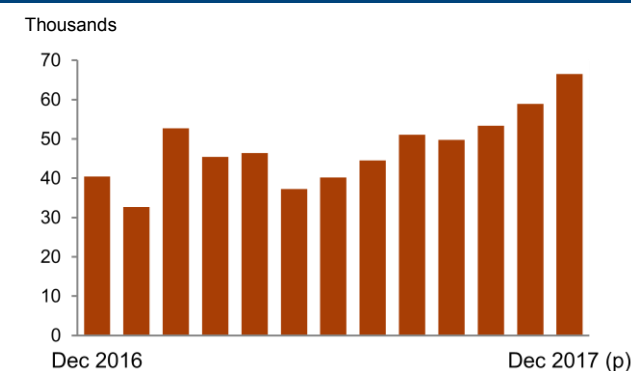
At 14 December 2017



The number of people on Universal Credit rose to 700 thousand in December 2017. This is a 6 per cent increase from last month.

Starts at 77 thousand

Month to 14 December 2017

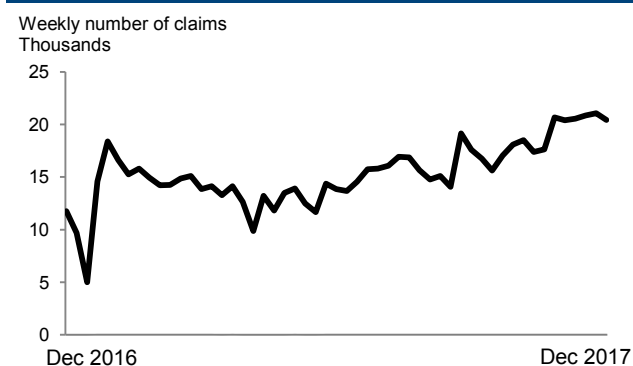


The total number of starts that have been made since Universal Credit began is 1.2 million. The number of starts made to Universal Credit was 77 thousand in the month up to 14 December 2017.

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 1.7 million

Up to 14 December 2017



1.7 million claims have been made for Universal Credit up to 14 December 2017. 100 thousand claims have been made for Universal Credit in the last five weeks at an average of 21 thousand per week.

Please note, the revised claims series for the period 13 January 2017 to 14 September 2017 which we announced in the previous release has now been restored to Stat-Xplore. Users are advised to obtain the new time series for claims made between these dates.

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Thoughts? We welcome feedback

Published 24 January 2018

Next edition 21 February 2018

ISBN: 978-1-78425-976-1

What you need to know

This summary contains statistics on Universal Credit covering the period to 14 December 2017. Universal Credit is now available to all types of claimants in certain areas of Great Britain and is being introduced in stages across the country.

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.

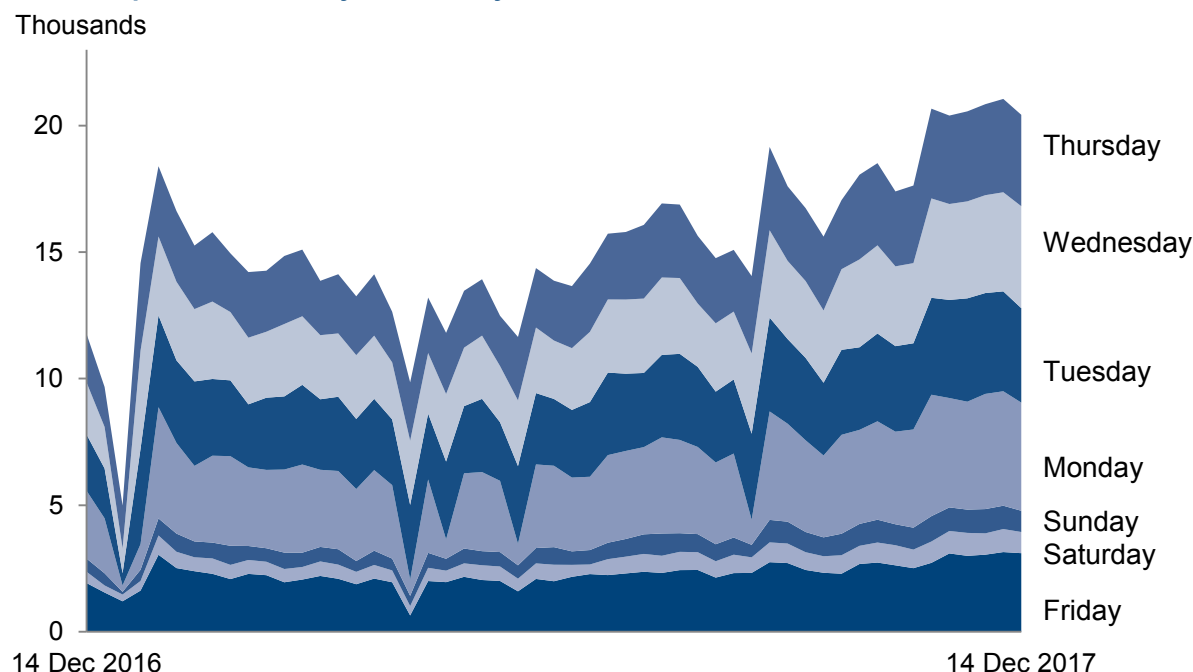
Biannually, this report will include the number of households on Universal Credit. Further breakdowns will also be published, such as information on the family type and the elements the household is entitled to receive as part of their Universal Credit award. The latest figures from September 2017 are 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 1.7 million

New claims per week and day in the last year to 14 December 2017



The total number of claims made for Universal Credit in the five weeks up to 14 December 2017 was 100 thousand, with an average of 21 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 7 December 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 1.7 million. Claims to Universal Credit are being accepted from all types of claimants in certain areas of Great Britain. This service is being expanded across the country with every jobcentre offering the new service by December 2018.

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

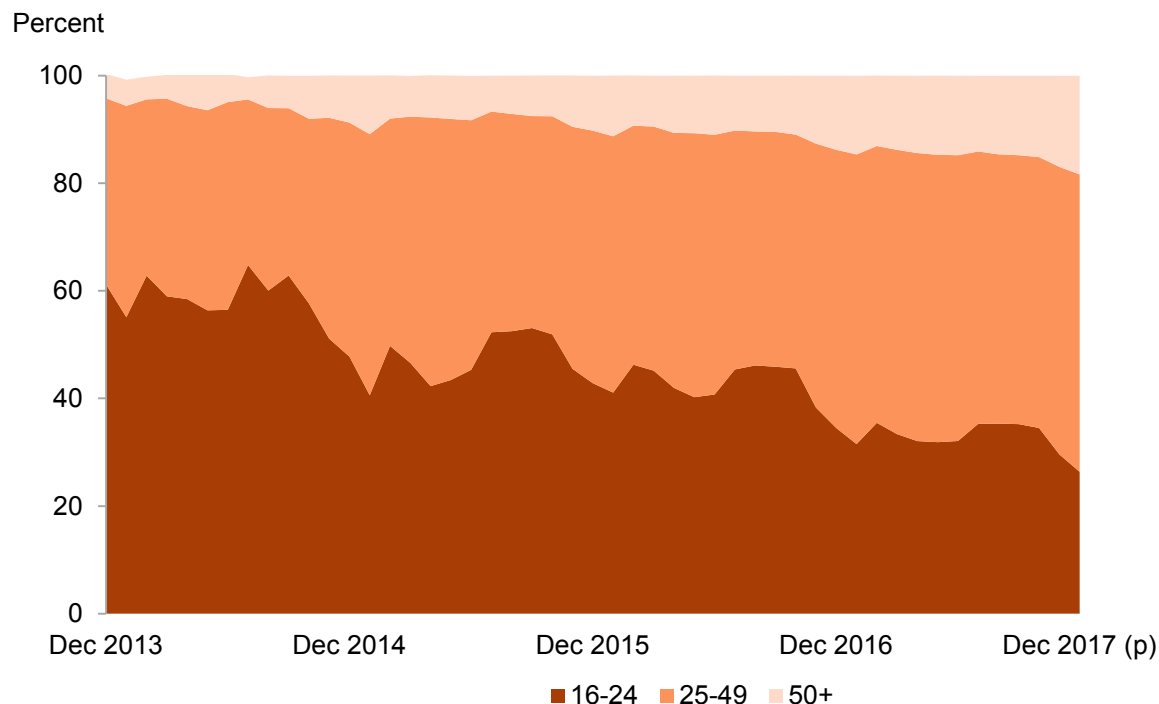
How people claim Universal Credit

People will usually make a claim for Universal Credit online, during which initial claim verification will take place. 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

55 per cent of starts to Universal Credit in December were from 25-49 year olds

Starts to Universal Credit by age group, up to 14 December 2017



A total of 77 thousand starts were made to Universal Credit in the month up to 14 December 2017.

Over the same month, 26 per cent of starts were from 16-24 year olds, compared to 34 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 14 per cent to 18 per cent.

Of all starts in the month up to 14 December 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 280 thousand.

In the month to 14 December 2017, 19 per cent of starts were in London and the Home Counties. Oldham and Doncaster Jobcentre Plus offices had the most starts over this period, each with 1,200 people starting on Universal Credit. In both cases over half of the starts were by females.

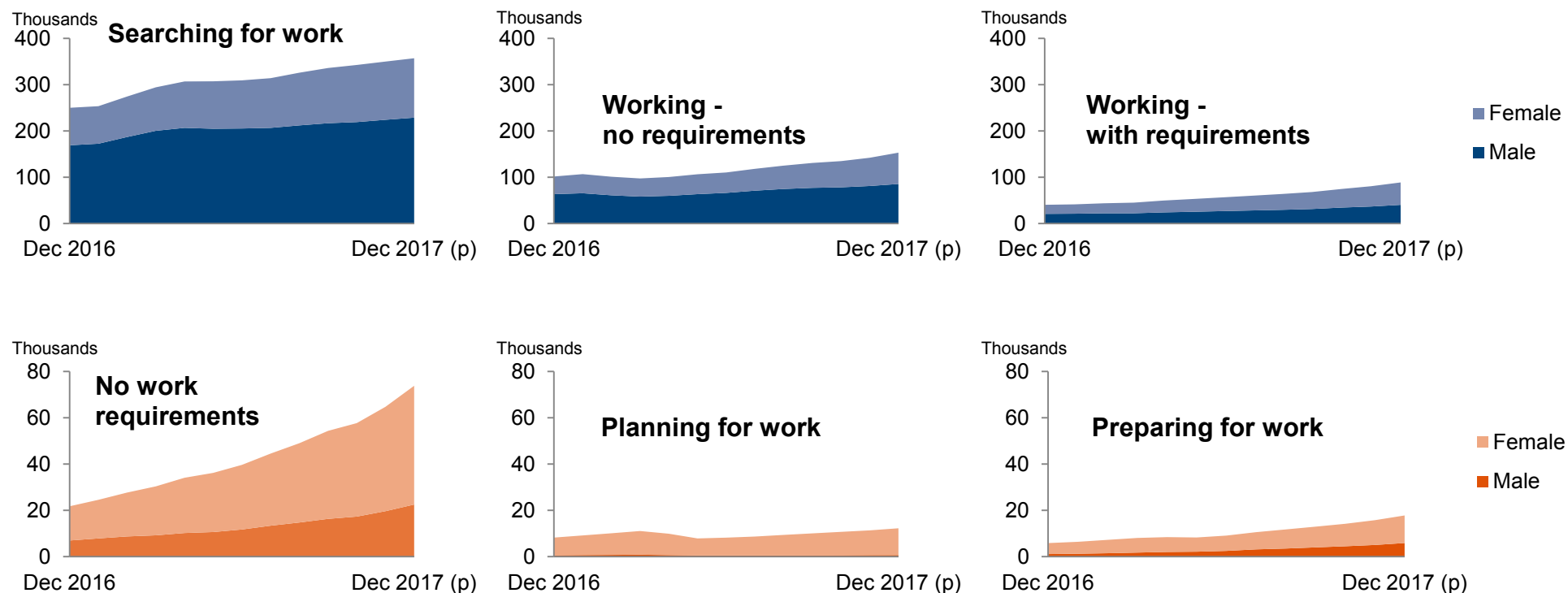
Universal Credit is being introduced to all types of claimants in stages across Great Britain. The age and gender profile of claimants therefore varies from region to region.

Please note the figures for the latest month (December 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, 14 December 2017



There were 700 thousand people on Universal Credit as of 14 December 2017. This is a 6 per cent increase in the number of people on Universal Credit, compared to November 2017.

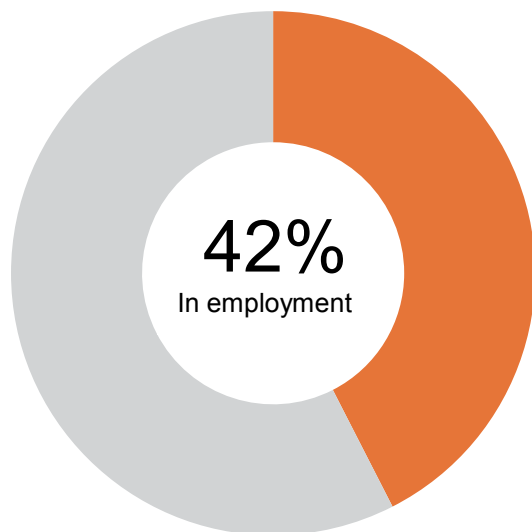
In April 2017, changes were made to conditionality for lone parents/lead carers of young children. See the Background and Methodology document for more details. The fall in the number of people, particularly females, in the planning for work conditionality regime around May is likely to be linked to 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.

Two fifths of people on Universal Credit are in employment

Percentage of people on Universal Credit who are in employment, 14 December 2017

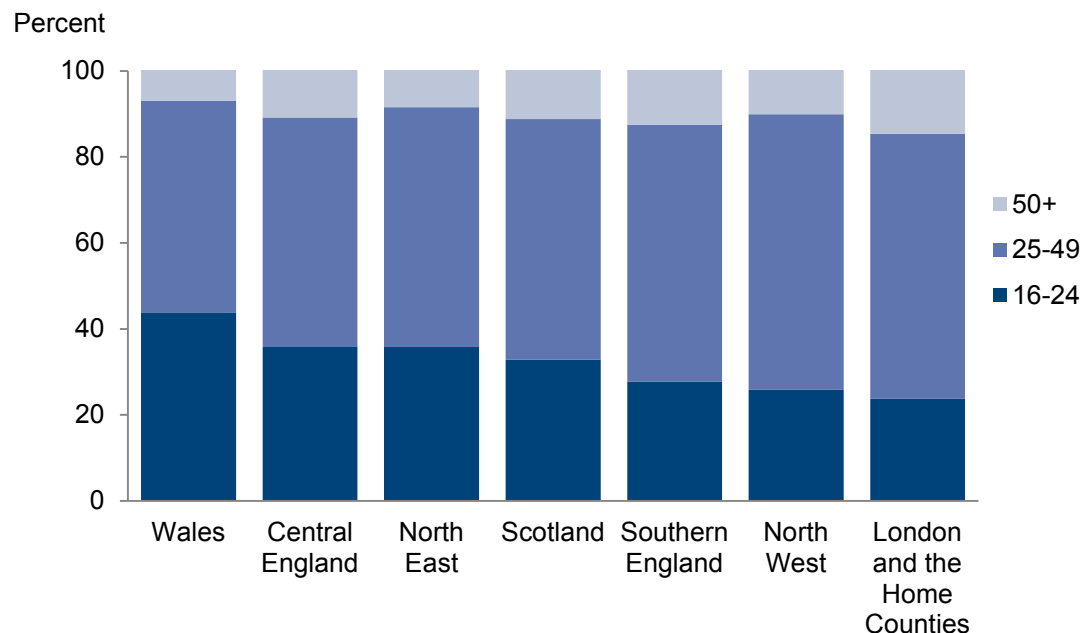


Of the people on Universal Credit as of 14 December 2017, 42 per cent (300 thousand) were in employment.

In December 2017, 45 per cent (320 thousand) of the people on Universal Credit were female, compared to 31 per cent in December 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, just over half of the people on Universal Credit as of 14 December 2017 were female.

People on Universal Credit by Jobcentre Plus group and age group, 14 December 2017



Overall, 55 per cent of people on Universal Credit as of 14 December 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, due to Universal Credit being introduced in stages across Great Britain by postcode area. Compared to other areas, Southern England, the North West 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.

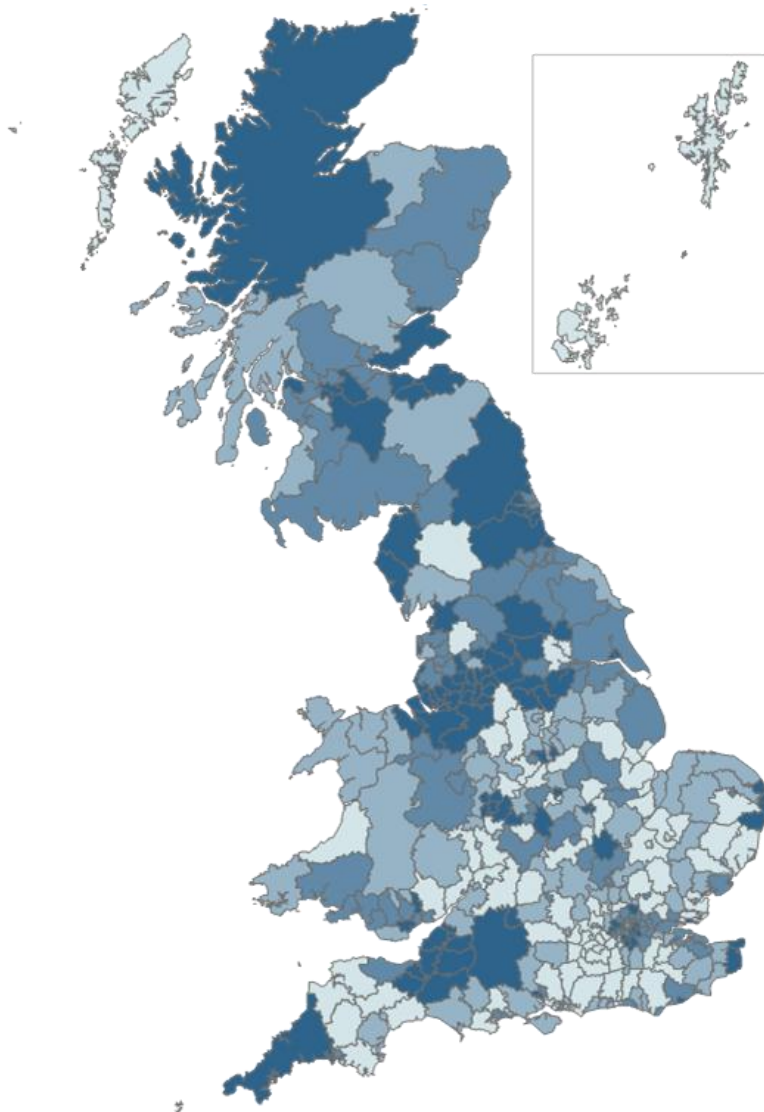
Breakdowns of people on Universal Credit by Jobcentre Plus office, local authority and parliamentary constituency are available on [Stat-Xplore](#).

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

Please note figures for the latest month (December 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 14 December 2017.

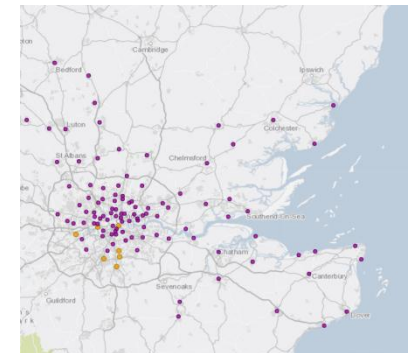
The darker areas of the map are local authorities with higher numbers of Universal Credit claimants, while the lighter areas are the local authorities with fewer Universal Credit claimants.

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 20 February 2018 until 9:30 a.m. on 21 February 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.

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 January 2018.

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 being introduced in stages across Great Britain by postcode area to all types of claimants. 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 to all types of claimants in certain areas of Great Britain. Universal Credit is being introduced in stages across Great Britain by postcode area. Rollout will be completed in 2018 and 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

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Comments? Feedback is welcome