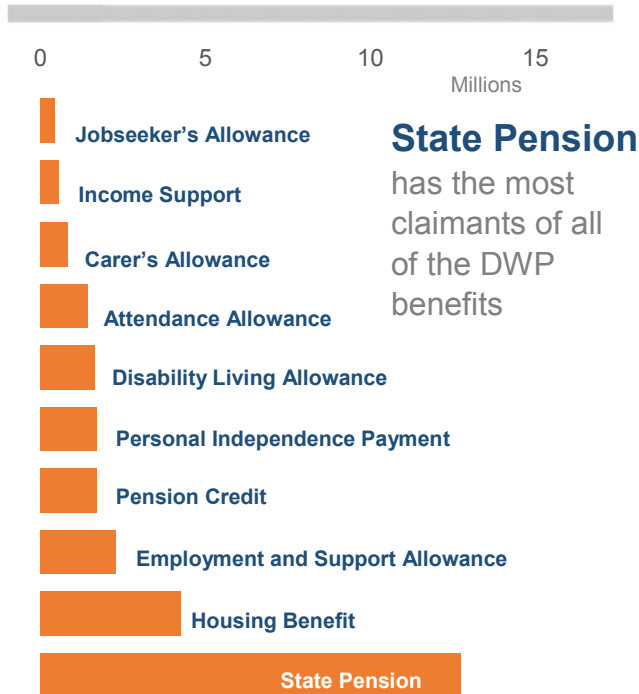


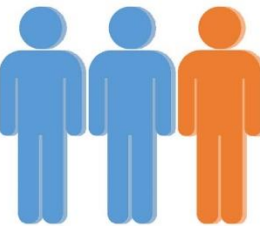
This is a release of National Statistics about DWP administered benefits. This release does not cover all of the DWP's benefits, many of these can be found on [Stat-Xplore](#), as can the majority of the information published in this summary.

There were **20 million** people claiming DWP benefits at August 2018



*Data will not sum to 20 million as people can claim more than one benefit

2 out of 3 people claiming DWP benefits are of **State Pension age**



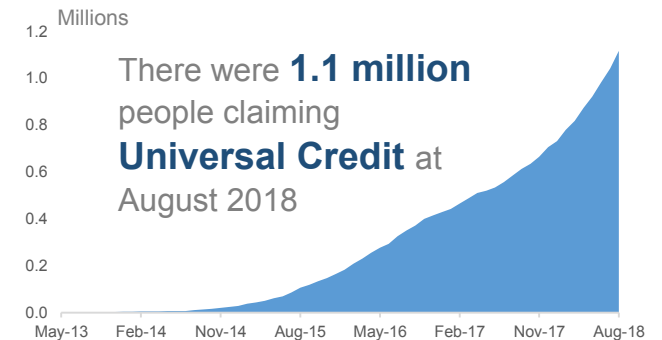
The rollout of **Universal Credit** means that the number of people claiming some **older benefits** is **falling**



In November 2018, the number of people claiming **Housing Benefit** fell **below 4 million**



At August 2018, the **new State Pension** had an average weekly amount of **£154.83**



At a glance

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Lead Statistician: Alan Gibson

alan.gibson@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Comments? Feedback is welcome.

DWP Stats Consultation: stats-consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk.

DWP Press Office: 0203 267 5129

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What you need to know

In this release

We release data on a quarterly basis in February, May, August and November, and this document is released every February and August.. This document is a high-level summary of the latest National Statistics available on DWP administered benefits and sanctions. People can claim more than one DWP benefit at a time.

The main tool for viewing the DWP benefits National Statistics is [Stat-Xplore](#)

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

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

- Benefit Sanctions statistics are published [here](#)
- 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 found here: [Benefits page on gov.uk](#).

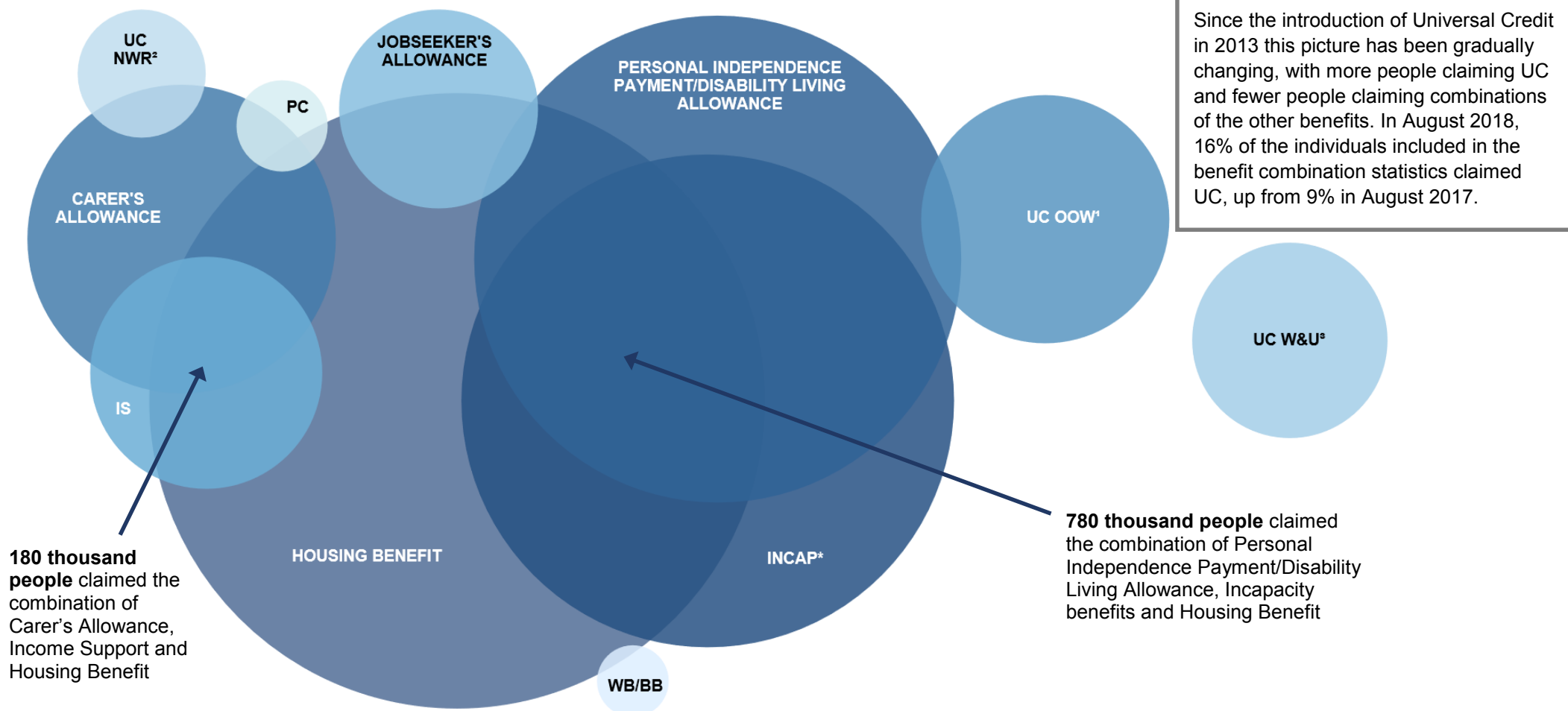
About these statistics

All are National Statistics **except** Personal Independence Payments (which are official statistics), and Universal Credit, Benefit Combinations and Bereavement Support 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 Statistics.

Working Age Benefit Combinations

People can claim more than one DWP benefit at a time. This illustration shows the most common benefit combinations as at August 2018 - the larger the area on the diagram, the more people claim that combination of benefits. Note that it is not always possible for the areas to be exactly proportional to the number of cases for each combination.



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

¹ UC Out of Work (OOW) includes claimants searching for work, planning for work or preparing for work.

² UC No Work Requirements (NWR) includes claimants with no work requirements.

³ UC Working and Unknown (W&U) includes claimants working with requirements, working with no requirements and those where a conditionality is not recorded or available prior to April 2015. Working age claimants are defined as all men born between 31 August 1953 and 31 August 2002, and all women born 6 November 1953 and 31 August 2002.

Health, Disability and Care

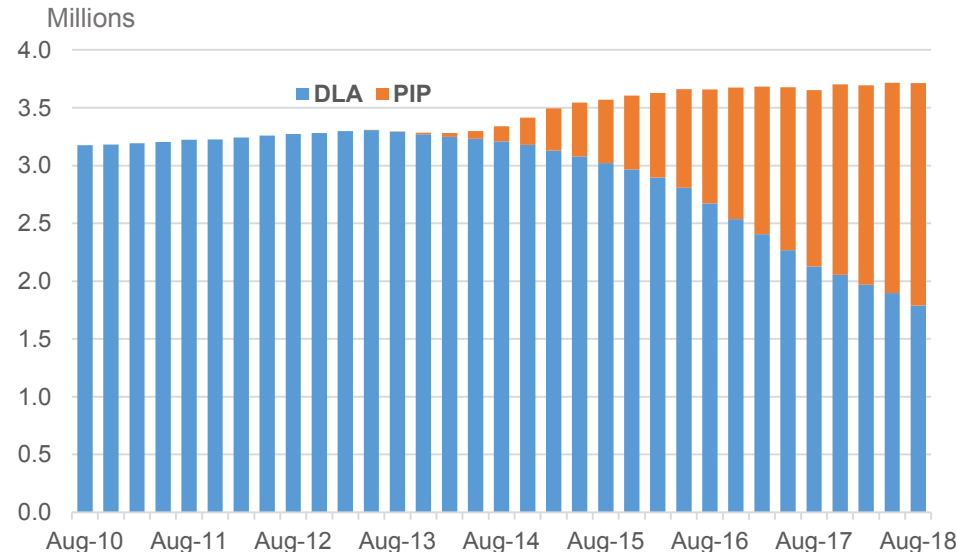
Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and Incapacity Benefits (IB)

There were **2.3 million people** on **Employment and Support Allowance** and **incapacity benefits** (Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance) at August 2018, a decrease of 150 thousand on a year earlier. The number of people claiming income-related Employment and Support Allowance is decreasing as Universal Credit replaces it. Contributory ESA will continue.

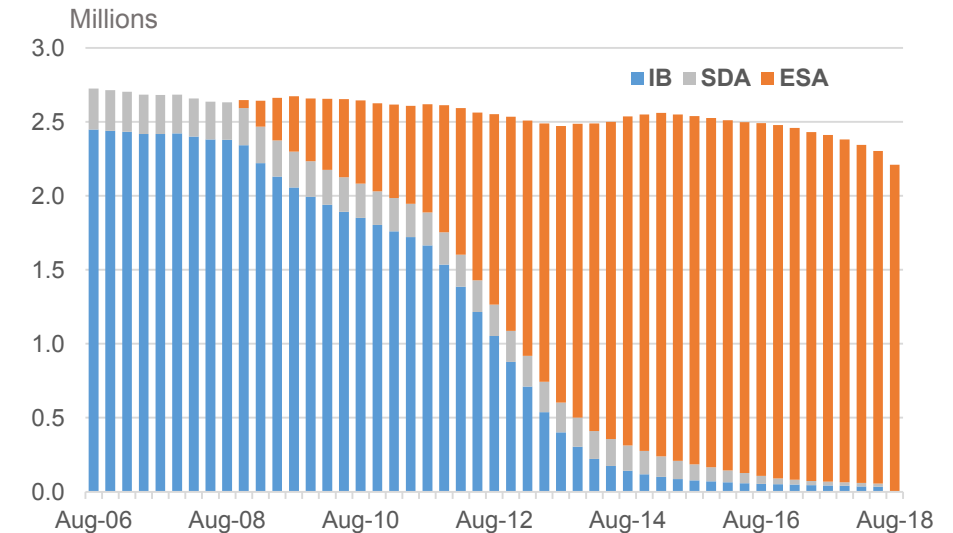
Personal Independence Payment (PIP) and Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

There were **1.8 million people** claiming **Disability Living Allowance** at August 2018, a fall of 340 thousand on the year before. However, there was a rise of 390 thousand in the number of people claiming **Personal Independence Payment** to **1.9 million**. There were 3.7 million people on these disability benefits at August 2018 (59 thousand more than the year before).

The number of people claiming either PIP or DLA has increased since 2013, while PIP replaces DLA



The number of people claiming IB/SDA has decreased since the introduction of ESA in 2008



*ESA began to replace IB/SDA in October 2008

Carer's Allowance (CA)

The total number of people claiming **Carer's Allowance** at August 2018 was **1.3 million**, a rise of 66 thousand from August 2017. Increases in women's State Pension age and in the number of people claiming disability benefits, may have contributed to this rise. Of the total number claiming Carer's Allowance, **33%** (430 thousand) were entitled to the benefit but receiving no payment.

Attendance Allowance (AA)

At August 2018, there were **1.6 million Attendance Allowance** claimants; a reduction of 9 thousand from the August 2017, due to State Pension Age changes. **1.4 million** claimants were receiving a payment and **140 thousand** (9%) were entitled to the benefit but not receiving payment.

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.

Work and Unemployment

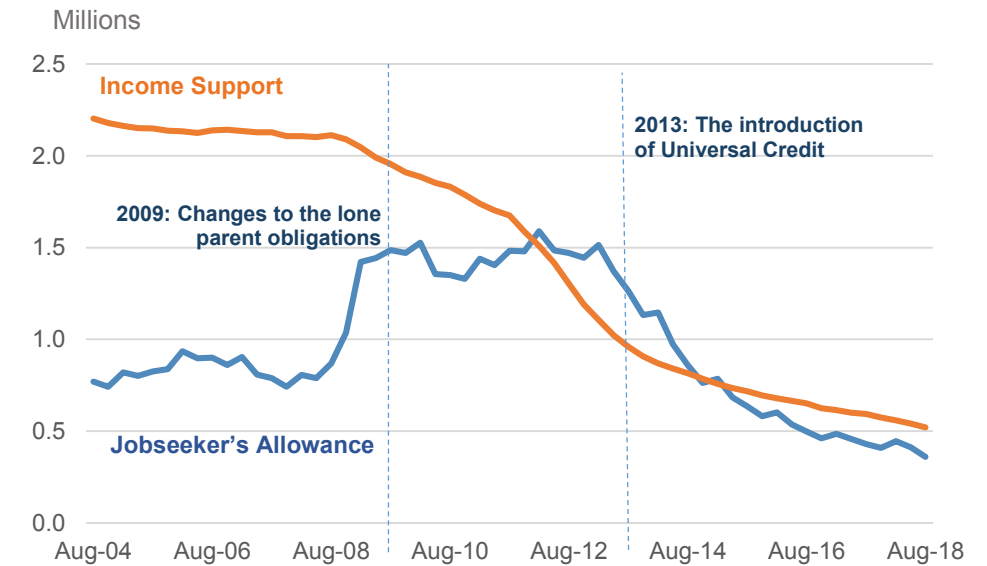
Income Support (IS)

At August 2018, the total number of people claiming **Income Support** was **520 thousand**, a decrease of 72 thousand from the previous year. Lone Parents (all single claimants with dependants under 16, excluding claimants of incapacity benefits) represented 65% of the number of people claiming IS.

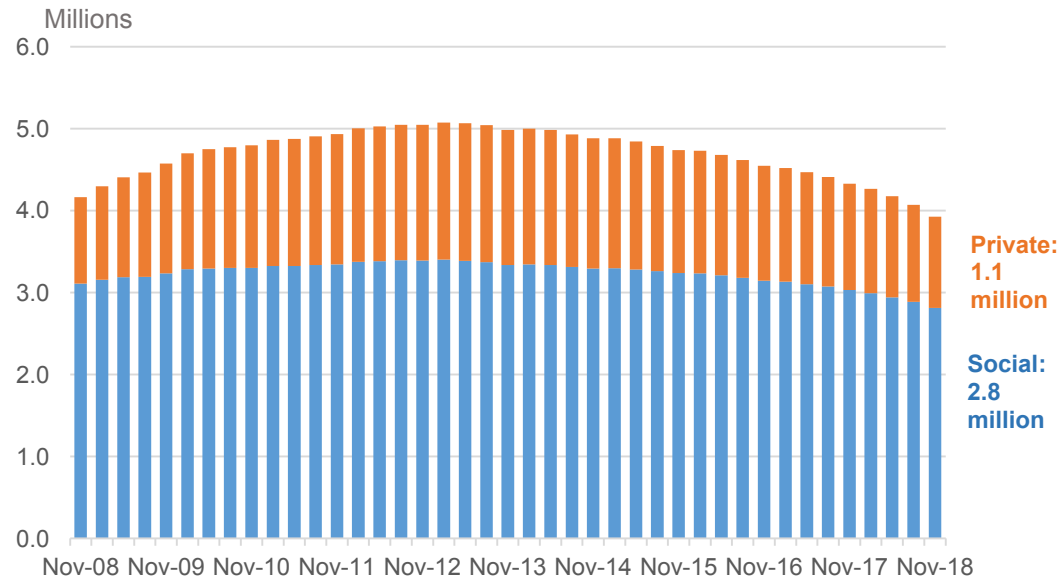
Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)

There were **360 thousand** people claiming **Jobseeker's Allowance** in August 2018, a decrease from 430 thousand in August 2017. The number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance is falling as Universal Credit replaces it. To get a better view of the number of people claiming unemployment benefits, see the Alternative Claimant Count [here](#).

The number of people claiming **Income Support** and **Jobseeker's Allowance** is decreasing



The number of people in **private** and **social** housing who are claiming **Housing Benefit** has decreased since 2013



Housing

Housing Benefit (HB)

Overall, the number of people claiming housing benefit have been gradually decreasing and will continue to fall as Universal Credit rolls out and replaces Housing Benefit for working age claimants. At November 2018, there were **3.9 million** recipients of **Housing Benefit** and **680 thousand** households with a housing element in their UC assessment.

72% of HB recipients (2.8 million) were tenants in the social sector and 28% were in the private sector (1.1 million).

As at November 2018, 13% (350 thousand) working age recipients of Housing Benefit had a reduction to their weekly award amount due to the Removal of Spare Room Subsidy scheme, whereby tenants in social housing whose accommodation is larger than they need may lose part of their Housing Benefit.

Pensions

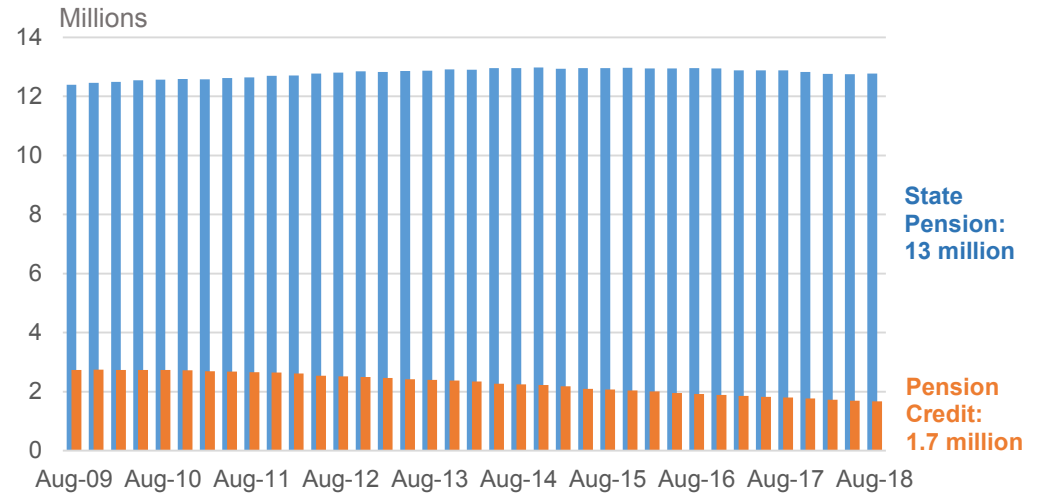
State Pension (SP)

There were **13 million** recipients of **State Pension** at August 2018, a fall of 110 thousand on a year earlier. This fall is mostly because of a decrease in the number of new female claimants of State Pension, relating to rises in State Pensions age.

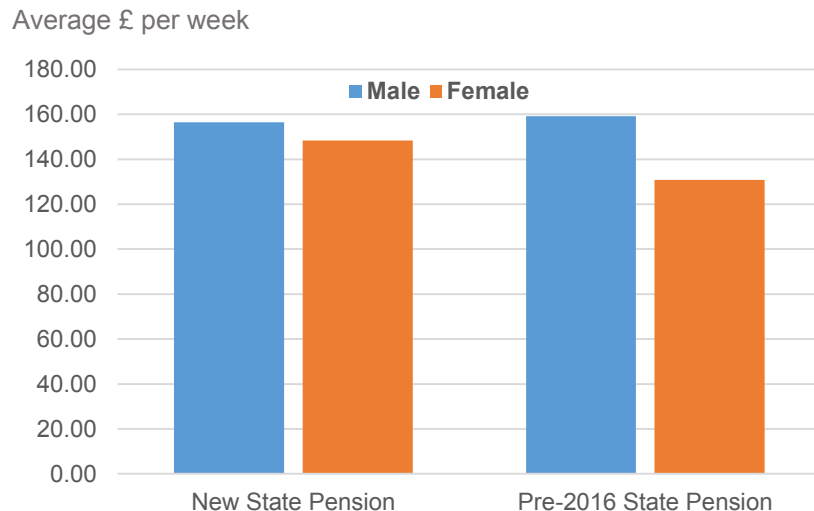
Pension Credit (PC)

At August 2018, there were **1.7 million** recipients of **Pension Credit** (2 million beneficiaries including partners), a fall of 130 thousand on the previous year. Nearly two thirds of recipients (64%) were women. 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, among other factors.

The number of people claiming State Pension and Pension Credit is decreasing slightly



There is a smaller difference between weekly average amounts for men and women claiming new State Pension than pre-2016 State Pension



New State Pension (nSP)

The new State Pension (nSP) was introduced for people reaching State Pension age from 6 April 2016. The average weekly State Pension amount in payment at August 2018 was £143.82, a rise of £5.48 since August 2017.

At August 2018 there were **960 thousand nSP recipients**. At August 2018, nSP recipients received an average weekly amount in payment of £154.83 (including any Protected Payments).

The introduction of nSP has evened out some of the gap between the average weekly amounts for men and women, as women get more under the new rules. However, due to the timetabled increases in women's State Pension age (SPA), fewer women have been reaching State Pension age than men under nSP.

Bereavement

Bereavement Support Payment (BSP)

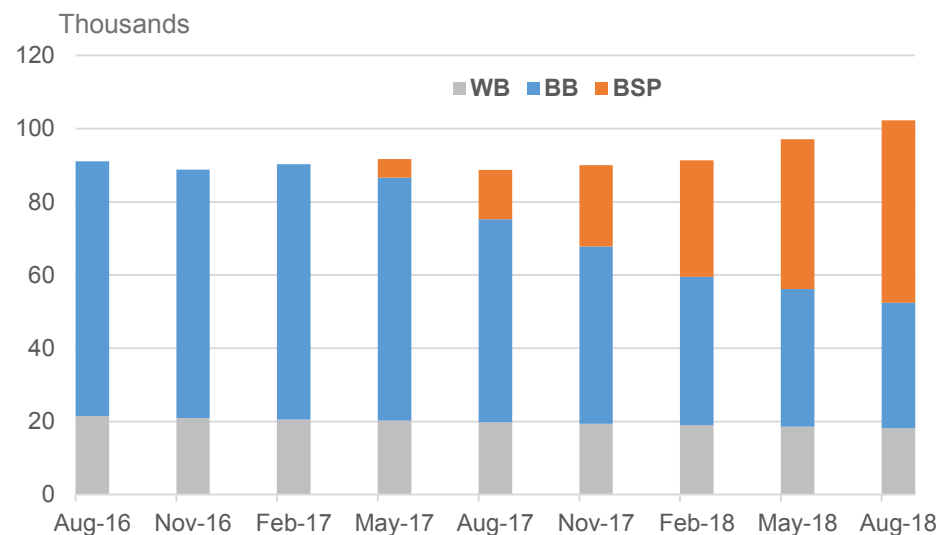
Bereavement Support Payment replaced Bereavement Payment, Bereavement Allowance and Widowed Parents Allowance (Bereavement Benefits). There were **53 thousand BSP claims in payment** at September 2018.

9 thousand (17%) of these claims were paid at the higher rate which is available to current or expecting parents.

Widow's Benefit and Bereavement Benefits (WB and BB)

Widow's Benefit was claimed up to April 2001 when it was replaced by Bereavement Benefits, which has now been replaced by BSP. These benefits are still in payment. At August 2018, there were **34 thousand people claiming BB** and **18 thousand people claiming WB**.

BSP is replacing BB since April 2017, BB had previously replaced WB



About these statistics

The statistics in this publication are affected by the introduction of Universal Credit. 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. 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. Rollout was completed in 2018 and by 2023 all existing legacy claimants will have moved on to Universal Credit. Please see the [Universal Credit statistical release](#) for more detail.

Where to find out more

Full details of where to find more detailed statistical information on DWP benefits can be found at our collection page [DWP Benefit Statistics](#)

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

- [Stat-Xplore](#)
- [Nomis](#)
- [Data tables](#) (where not available on Stat-Xplore or Nomis)

	Stat-Xplore	Nomis	Data tables
Attendance Allowance	x		
Benefit Combinations	x		
Bereavement Benefits	x		
Bereavement Support Payment			x
Carer's Allowance	x	x	
Disability Living Allowance	x	x	
Employment and Support Allowance	x	x	
Housing Benefit	x		
Incapacity Benefit / Severe Disablement Allowance		x	
Income Support	x	x	
Jobseeker's Allowance		x	x (average amounts only)
Pension Credit	x	x	
State Pension	x	x	x (5% sample – published bi-annually)
Widow's Benefit	x		

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>

Details of other National and Official Statistics produced by the Department for Work and Pensions can be found via the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/about/statistics>

Known issues, changes and revisions

For people living in Scotland, responsibility for some social security benefits is transferring to the Scottish Government, under the Scotland Act of 2016. From September 2018, **Carer's Allowance** became the first of these benefits to have executive competency transferred from DWP to Scottish Ministers. From that date DWP is administering Carer's Allowance on behalf of Scottish Ministers through an agency arrangement. Scottish recipients of Carer's Allowance will be

eligible to receive **Carer's Allowance Supplement (CAS)**, paid twice yearly. Social Security Scotland have published information on recipients of CAS for the first eligibility date in April 2018. The publication and further information can be found at: www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Social-Welfare/SocialSecurityforScotland. There will be no change to how DWP publish statistics on Carer's Allowance.

Statistics on **Income Support (IS)** are now available on Stat-Xplore including improvements to the geography information. Figures from February 2013 are currently available, but the timeseries will be extended back to August 1999 over the coming Spring. Read our [DWP statistical geographies note](#) for more information about the improvements.

As part of a routine update, we have refreshed a reference file used to assign **geographies** to our statistics in Stat-Xplore. For most geographical outputs, this change has had no impact. However, for some Scottish Parliamentary Constituencies, the figures for May 2018 on Stat-Xplore have been revised slightly. Approximately 1% of all cases were found to be assigned to an incorrect Scottish Parliamentary Constituency.

We have made a methodological improvement to how we create statistics for **New State Pension (nSP)**. The change from data at August 2018 will be reflected in the number of cases with a Protected Payment status, and account for an increase of approximately 3% in these types of cases.

Read our [background information note](#) for more details about changes and revisions to the release.

Contact information and feedback

For more information, please contact Alan Gibson at alan.gibson@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.

You 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.