

Pathways to Work: Reforming Benefits and Support to Get Britain Working Green Paper

Published: 02 May 2025

Coverage: As specified in the chapter

Theme: Health and disability benefits

Frequency: Ad hoc publication

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We welcome feedback

Further Information

[Website for this release](#)

1. The number of Working Age people claiming incapacity and disability benefits has risen steadily for the last decade

Chart 1.1: Working Age Claimants of PIP or DLA and Universal Credit on the Health Journey or ESA (England and Wales)

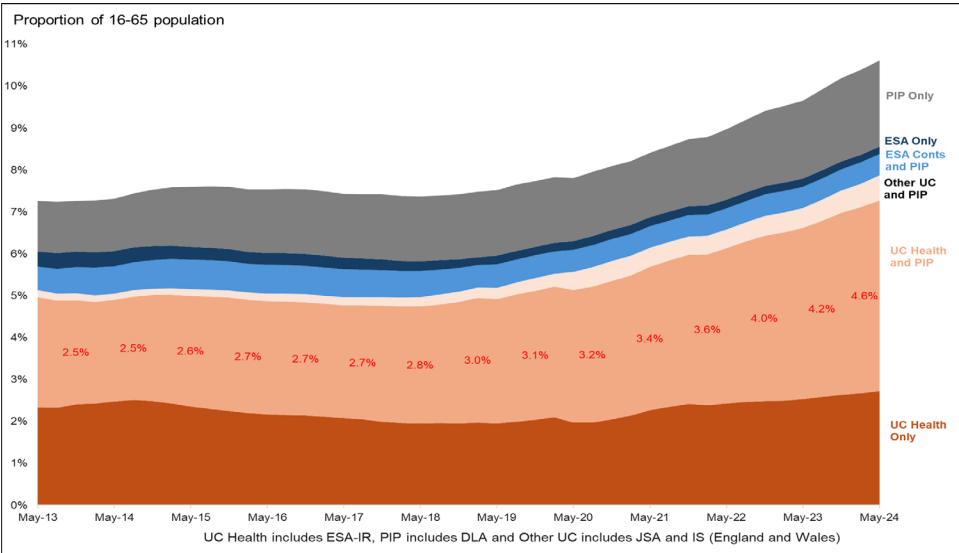


Table 1.1* and this chart show the number of working age people receiving DLA, PIP, ESA, UC and JSA since May 2013 up to May 2024.

The number of people claiming incapacity and disability benefits has risen steadily since 2018, having been broadly flat for the previous five years.

The number of working aged people receiving incapacity and disability benefits has increased from 2.8 million in 2018 to 4.1 million in 2024.

Caseload increases are driven more by PIP claims over the period, the proportion of 16-65 year olds on UC Health only or ESA has risen by 37% over the six years, whereas the number of PIP claimants has risen by 53%; these compare to a rise in the 16-65 population of 5%.

England and Wales only.

Note:

* Table 1.1 is not shown in this document. Please refer to the accompanying Excel tables.

Population figures updated since Interim Evidence Pack release

Source:

DWP administrative data

2. Working Age Claimants of PIP or DLA and Universal Credit on the Health Journey or ESA, by PIP or DLA award level

Table 1.2: Breakdown of caseload in receipt of financial support for a disability or health condition, by PIP/DLA award, England and Wales, May 2024

PIP/DLA Award Breakdown	UC HJ / ESA (IR) - LCWRA / SG	UC HJ / ESA (IR) - LCW / WRAG	UC HJ / ESA (IR) - Pre-WCA	Other UC / JSA / IS	No UC, ESA, JSA or IS	Contributory ESA only	Total
Enhanced Daily Living Award							
Enhanced Mobility Award	621,500	29,300	25,900	45,800	263,400	92,700	1,078,500
Standard Mobility Award	190,900	21,400	9,100	27,200	85,500	14,200	348,500
Nil Mobility Award	71,900	8,300	3,500	11,200	27,200	5,000	127,100
* Standard Daily Living Award							
Enhanced Mobility Award	175,000	18,500	10,300	23,800	88,900	31,500	347,900
Standard Mobility Award	211,800	31,100	14,200	44,500	141,800	28,000	471,500
Nil Mobility Award	210,000	40,300	16,700	60,800	143,400	18,900	490,200
Nil Daily Living Award							
Enhanced Mobility Award	18,200	8,800	2,300	8,300	23,100	2,700	63,400
Standard Mobility Award	20,300	7,400	2,500	9,900	24,900	2,700	67,800

The table shows the number of claimants receiving PIP/DLA awards in England and Wales as of May 2024 along with any award on the UC or ESA health journeys.

Note:

* DLA middle and lower Care awards are combined under Standard Daily Living in the above table.

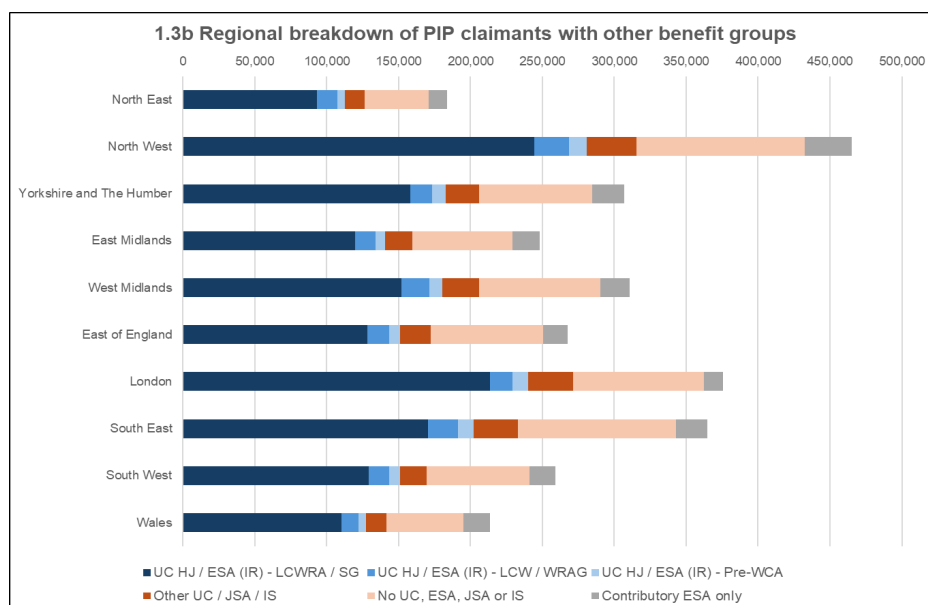
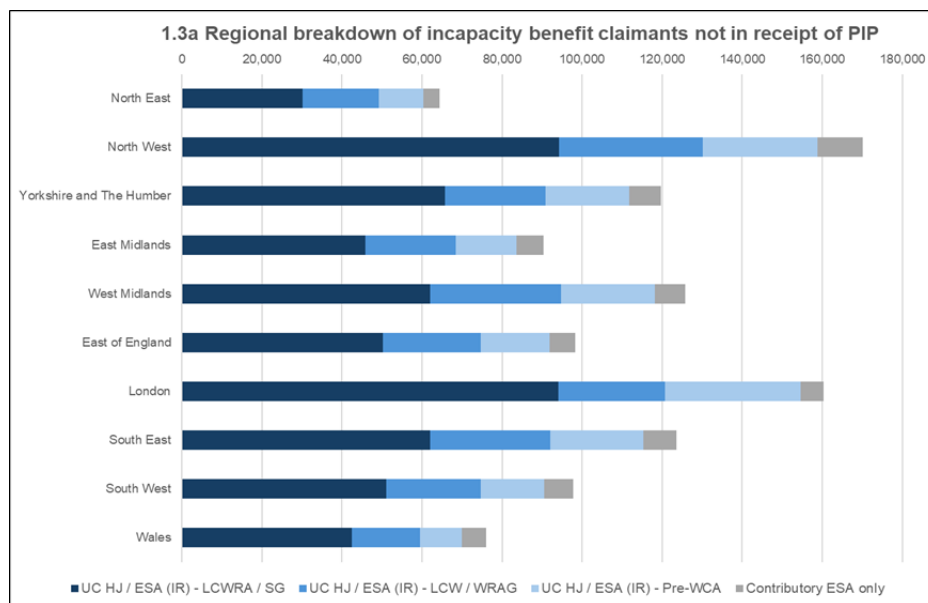
Source: DWP administrative data

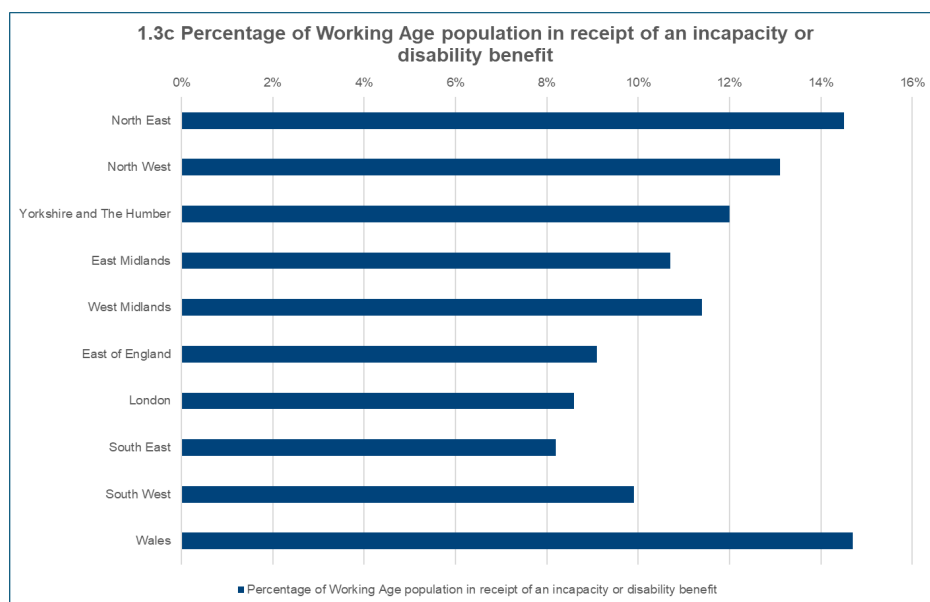
3. The percentage of Working Age population in receipt of an incapacity or disability benefit varies by region

Table 1.3* and the following charts show the regional caseloads of claimants receiving financial support for disabilities or health conditions in England and Wales as of May 2024, including PIP/DLA awards and any UC or ESA health journey awards.

10.4% and 14.9% of working age people in England and Wales respectively claim at least one health-related benefit.

Charts 1.3a, 1.3b, and 1.3c: Working Age Claimants of PIP or DLA and Universal Credit on the Health Journey or ESA, by region, England and Wales





Source:
DWP administrative data

Note:

* Table 1.3 is not shown in this document. Please refer to the accompanying Excel tables.

4. Working Age Claimants of PIP or DLA and Universal Credit on the Health Journey or ESA, by local authority.

Table 1.4* covers the caseloads (by local authority) of working age claimants receiving financial support for disabilities or health conditions in England and Wales as of May 2024, including PIP/DLA awards and any UC or ESA health journey awards.

The percentage of working age claimants in each local authority claiming at least one health-related benefit and ranges from 2.5% in the City of London to 21.9% in Blaenau Gwent.

Note:

* Table 1.4 is not shown in this document. Please refer to the accompanying Excel tables.

Source: DWP administrative data

5. Working Age Claimants of PIP or DLA and Universal Credit on the Health Journey or ESA, by parliamentary constituency

Table 1.5* shows the caseloads (by parliamentary constituency) of claimants receiving financial support for disabilities or health conditions in England and Wales as of May 2024, including PIP/DLA awards and any UC or ESA health journey awards.

The percentage of working age claimants in each parliamentary constituency claiming at least one health-related benefit and ranges from 4.4% in Mid Buckinghamshire to 22.6% in Blaenau Gwent and Rhymney.

Note:

* Table 1.5 is not shown in this document. Please refer to the accompanying Excel tables.

Source: DWP administrative data

6. Between 2019/2020 and 2023/2024, the number of disabled working-age people in England and Wales increased by 17%

Table 1.6* shows the number of people classed as disabled continues to rise across all countries of the UK. Between 2019/20 and 2023/24 the number of disabled people in England and Wales increased by 1.25 million (17%).

Notes:

* Table 1.6 is not shown in this document. Please refer to the accompanying Excel tables.

1. The definition of disability from April 2013 onwards is the Government Statistical Service (GSS) Harmonised Standard definition of disability, in line with the Equality Act 2010 (EA) core definition, and prior to April 2013 is based on the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) definition
2. Employment is defined as one hour or more of paid work per week or temporarily away from work.
3. The disability employment gap is defined as the difference between the percentage of disabled and non-disabled in employment.
4. Financial year starting in April and finishing the following March
5. 9-character Government Statistical Service (GSS) code

Source: Annual Population Survey

7. The number of people reporting a long-term health condition or classed as disabled continues to rise

Over a third (36%) of the working-age population now has a long-term health condition, compared to 29% a decade ago.

Almost a quarter (23%) of the working-age population are disabled. There were almost 10 million disabled adults of working age in 2023/2024, over 40% more than in 2013/2014.

Chart 1.7: Number of people reporting a long-term health condition or classed as disabled, including those limited a lot, aged 16 to 64, UK, by financial year, 2013/14 - 2023/24

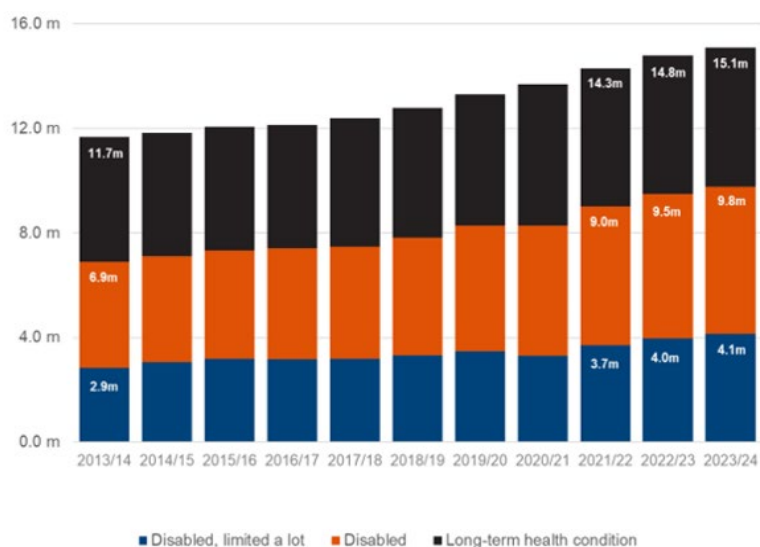


Table 1.7: Number and proportion of people with a long-term health condition, disability (including those limited a lot) by year

Year	Number of people	Number of people with a long-term health condition	Number of disabled people	Number of disabled people, limited a lot	Percentage of people with a long-term health condition	Percentage of people who are disabled	Percentage of people who are disabled, limited a lot
2013/14	40,560	11,673	6,892	2,853	28.8	17.0	7.0
2014/15	40,703	11,815	7,100	3,068	29.0	17.4	7.5
2015/16	40,904	12,069	7,332	3,181	29.5	17.9	7.8
2016/17	41,080	12,117	7,411	3,176	29.5	18.0	7.7
2017/18	41,180	12,390	7,473	3,185	30.1	18.1	7.7
2018/19	41,270	12,772	7,815	3,315	30.9	18.9	8.0
2019/20	41,357	13,299	8,273	3,468	32.2	20.0	8.4
2020/21	41,361	13,680	8,277	3,298	33.1	20.0	8.0
2021/22	41,405	14,289	9,006	3,703	34.5	21.8	8.9
2022/23	41,562	14,796	9,484	3,965	35.6	22.8	9.5
2023/24	41,716	15,096	9,777	4,140	36.2	23.4	9.9

Note:
1. People aged 16 to 64, United Kingdom

Sources:

1. [The employment of disabled people 2024 - GOV.UK](#)
2. Annual Population Survey

8. Over one in four claimants have been on incapacity benefits for longer than ten years.

These tables provide further breakdowns of the total table presented in the ad-hoc publication: Total durations on incapacity benefits for claimants on Universal Credit with Limited Capability for Work, Limited Capability for Work and Work-Related Activity, or on Employment and Support Allowance in August 2024 - GOV.UK and the detailed methodology can be found within that publication.

The tables show that whilst almost half of the two million on UC health have been on the benefit for less than two years, almost half of those on ESA at that time have been on the benefit for over 10 years. One in six on UC health had moved to that benefit from ESA, with an average duration across both benefits of over seven years. Over 55,000 individuals on UC health had previously also been on ESA's predecessors, Incapacity Benefit (IB) or Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA), and remained on incapacity benefits for over 15 years.

Table 1.8a: The number of claimants on UC-H LCWRA, UC-H LCW or ESA in August 2024 by duration of claim, including durations on IB and SDA

Under 2 years	1,082,000	33.2%
Between 2 and up to 5 years	792,000	24.3%
Between 5 and up to 10 years	540,000	16.6%
Between 10 and up to 15 years	360,000	11.0%
15 years and longer	488,000	14.9%
Total	3,262,000	100.0%

Table 1.8b: The number of claimants on Universal Credit Health LCWRA or LCW in August 2024 by duration of claim, including durations on IB and SDA

Under 2 years	948,000	47.5%
2 to 5 years	696,000	34.9%
5 to 10 years	214,000	10.7%
10 to 15 years	71,000	3.5%
15+ years	66,000	3.3%
Total	1,996,000	
Average duration (years)	3.5	

Table 1.8c: The number of claimants on Universal Credit Health LCWRA or LCW in August 2024 by duration of claim for those who did not move to UC directly from ESA

Under 2 years	911,000	57.3%
2 to 5 years	617,000	38.8%
5 to 10 years	61,000	3.8%
10 to 15 years	not applicable	
15+ years	not applicable	
Total	1,589,000	
Average duration (years)	2.0	

Table 1.8d: The number of claimants on Universal Credit Health LCWRA or LCW in August 2024 by duration of claim for those that moved to UC directly from ESA but did not move to ESA directly from IB or SDA

Under 2 years	37,000	10.8%
2 to 5 years	79,000	22.9%
5 to 10 years	153,000	44.3%
10 to 15 years	68,000	19.5%
15+ years	9,000	2.5%
Total	346,000	
Average duration (years)	6.9	

Table 1.8e: The number of claimants on Universal Credit Health LCWRA or LCW in August 2024 by duration of claim for those that moved to UC directly from ESA and moved directly to ESA from IB or SDA

Under 2 years	not applicable	
2 to 5 years	0	0%
5 to 10 years	0	0%
10 to 15 years	3,000	5%
15+ years	58,000	94%
Total	61,000	
Average duration (years)	22.9	

Table 1.8f: The number of claimants on ESA in August 2024 by duration of claim, including durations on IB and SDA

Under 2 years	150,000	10.8%
2 to 5 years	130,000	8.9%
5 to 10 years	360,000	25.9%
10 to 15 years	310,000	22.2%
15+ years	450,000	32.1%
Total	1,400,000	
Average duration (years)	8.6	

Table 1.8g: The number of claimants on ESA in August 2024 by duration of claim for those who did not move to ESA directly from IB or SDA

Under 2 years	150,000	15.7%
2 to 5 years	130,000	13.0%
5 to 10 years	360,000	37.8%
10 to 15 years	300,000	31.5%
15+ years	20,000	2.1%
Total	960,000	
Average duration (years)	7.6	

Table 1.8h: The number of claimants on ESA in August 2024 by duration of claim for those that moved to ESA directly from IB or SDA

Under 2 years	0	0.0%
2 to 5 years	0	0.0%
5 to 10 years	0	0.0%
10 to 15 years	10,000	2.0%
15+ years	430,000	98.0%
Total	440,000	
Average duration (years)	23.9	

Source: [Total durations on incapacity benefits for claimants](#)

Chart 1.9: Proportion of each cohort still on PIP by year

Notes:

1. Year is by 'onflow date'. Data shows proportion of inflow who are still on PIP on 1st January of each subsequent year.
2. Data includes new claims to PIP only made under normal rules. Though individuals may have had a previous spell on PIP and submitted a new claim.
3. Data includes working age claims only at the start of the claim (there are small number of people who start claiming PIP above state pension age).
4. Data only includes claimants living in regions under DWP policy ownership (England, Wales and Abroad).
5. Caseload date (i.e. final month of being on the caseload) is taken to mean the first of the month. This means there are some which have a negative duration, but are included within '0 years' above.
6. The analysis tracks individual claims, checking whether they remain on the PIP caseload each month.

Source: Figures derived from DWP administrative data

10. By 2029/2030, the working age PIP caseload is forecast to be 4.2 million people.

Chart 1.10: Forecast Working Age PIP claimant caseload, by financial year, 2024/25 - 2029/30

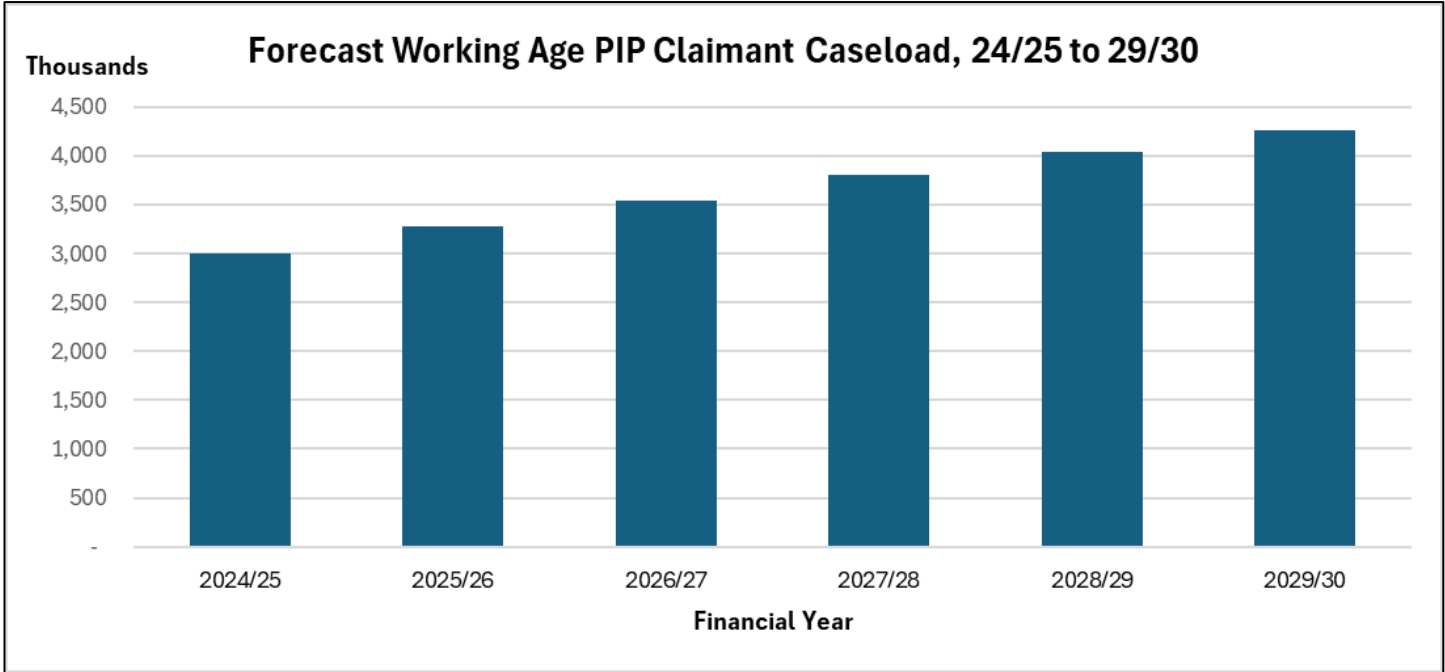


Table 1.10: Forecast Working Age Claimants for Personal Independence Payment, by Financial Year

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
Working Age PIP caseload, thousands	3,002	3,283	3,544	3,801	4,033	4,260

Note:
Numbers are in line with the Green paper and therefore are from Autumn Budget 2024, these have subsequently been updated at the Spring Statement 2025.

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/benefit-expenditure-and-caseload-tables-2024>

11. The number of people on the highest rate of Universal Credit Health or ESA is forecast to rise

The table below shows that the number of people on the highest rate of Universal Credit Health or ESA is set to rise by over 50 per cent from 1.9 million in 2019/20 to a forecast of 3 million by 2029/30 which equates to the entire population of Birmingham.

The population of Birmingham was 1,144,900 in 2021.

Table 1.11: UC Health and ESA claimant volumes

	2019/20 Outturn	2029/30 Forecast
Incapacity benefits caseload, thousands		
Employment and Support Allowance	1,961	811
Employment and Support Allowance (contributory)	797	730
of which Support Group	755	682
Employment and Support Allowance (income based, without contributory benefit)	1,056	Not applicable
of which Support Group	805	Not applicable
Universal Credit for those with health conditions	588	3,587
of which limited capability for work and work-related activity	319	2,584
of which, Universal Credit for those with health conditions also in receipt of Employment and Support Allowance	34	249
of which Support Group / limited capability for work and work-related activity	29	243
Highest rate of Universal Credit Health or ESA	1,850	3,023

Note:

Numbers are in line with the Green paper and therefore are from Autumn Budget 2024, these have subsequently been updated at the Spring Statement 2025 where WCA descriptor change policy was reversed.

Sources:

[Benefit expenditure and caseload tables 2024 - GOV.UK](#)

[Birmingham population change, Census 2021 – ONS](#)

12. The proportion of people being placed in the LWCRA group has increased significantly

Table 1.12: Annual proportions of ESA and UC Health Work Capability Assessment decision outcomes

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Fit for Work / No limited capability for work	53%	47%	38%	33%	22%	22%	30%	28%	24%	15%	11%	2%	17%	15%	16%	14%
Work Related Activity Group / Limited capability for work	36%	41%	33%	30%	21%	17%	14%	22%	23%	20%	17%	15%	17%	18%	18%	18%
Support Group / Limited capability for work and work-related activity	11%	12%	28%	37%	57%	61%	56%	50%	54%	64%	71%	83%	66%	67%	66%	68%

The proportion of people being placed into the LCWRA group is increasing – to around two-thirds in 2024 – up from a fifth at the start of April 2011.

According to the latest UC WCA Official Statistics release: Universal Credit Work Capability Assessment statistics - GOV.UK for 2024, 18% of decisions were LCW and 68% were LCWRA.

Notes:

- 1. ESA and UC Work Capability Assessment statistics are published on Stat-Xplore
- 2. The proportions in the table above are based on the sum total of decisions made for ESA and UC Health over the financial year. Both New claims and Re-referrals are included in the counts.
- 3. UC WCA decisions data is only available from 2019 onwards. Therefore, the proportions for the preceding years refer solely to allocations to the ESA groups FFW, WRAG and Support Group. The proportions for 2024 are based on the available data from Apr-24 to Sep-24.

Source: [Stat-Xplore - Home](#)

13. Between May 2018 and May 2024 the caseload on the higher rates of UC Health and ESA increased by just over 1 million

Table 1.13: Updated decomposition of growth in the number of claimants of Universal Credit with Limited Capability for Work and Work-Related Activity, or in the Employment and Support Allowance Support Group

This is an update of the following ad hoc publication, to include updated 2024 data:
[Decomposition of growth in the number of claimants of Universal Credit with Limited Capability for Work and Work-Related Activity, or in the Employment and Support Allowance Support Group - GOV.UK](#)

The analysis shows that between May 2018 and May 2024 the caseload on the higher rates of UC health and ESA increased by just over 1 million, of this:

- 128,000 is because UC rolls six benefits into one. People who were not eligible for ESA, but might have received another benefit - that UC is replacing, are now counted in UC health
- 96,000 is because of changes to state pension age
- 77,000 is because of demographic change, with the population getting older, on average

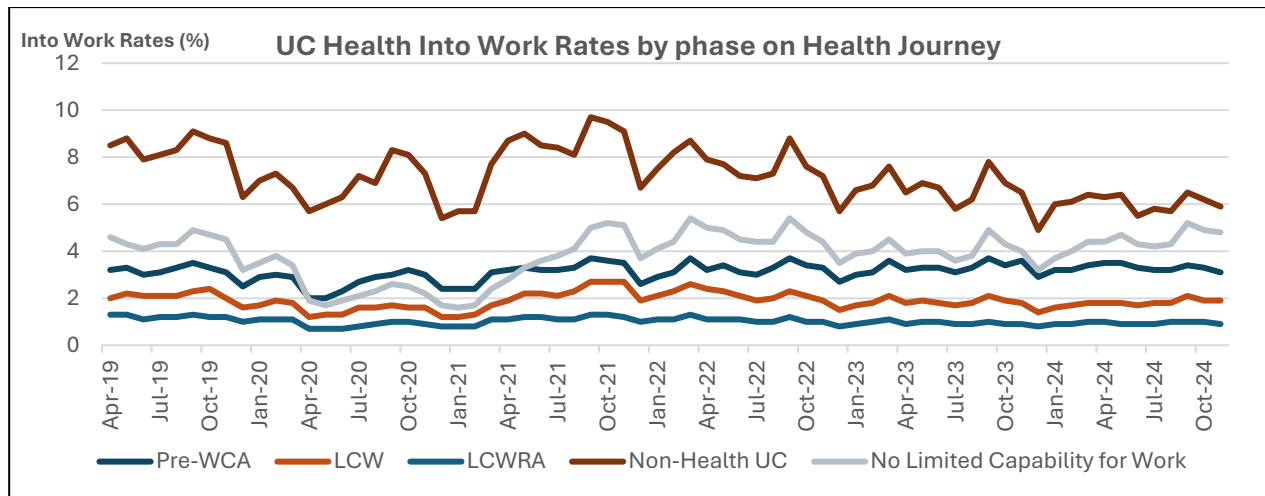
After taking out the effects of all these factors, the number claiming the higher rates of UC health and ESA increased by 741,000 over those 6 years – or 71% of the overall observed increase.

	Caseload in May of year (thousands, unless otherwise stated)						
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Employment and Support Allowance – Support Group	1,589	1,574	1,544	1,480	1,405	1,338	1,291
Universal Credit – Limited Capability for Work and Work-Related Activity	29	157	392	596	864	1,179	1,487
<i>Less dual ESA / UC claims</i>	4	17	34	56	78	102	123
Total incapacity benefits	1,614	1,714	1,903	2,021	2,191	2,415	2,656
Growth compared to 2018							
Not applicable		100	289	407	576	801	1,042
Effect of UC structural change compared to ESA (a - e)	0	6	19	30	66	97	128
a. Claimants in employment	0	4	11	14	38	56	72
b. Two claimant couples	0	1	4	6	11	17	24
c. Housing costs	0	1	2	3	7	11	14
d. Child elements	0	1	1	1	3	4	5
e. Mixed-age couples	0	0	1	5	6	9	13
Effect of State Pension Age increases	0	32	64	79	84	91	96
ESA SG / UC LCWRA net of above consequences of policy change	1,614	1,676	1,820	1,912	2,041	2,228	2,432
Effect of demographic change	0	10	17	26	39	60	77
ESA SG / UC LCWRA net of policy and demographic change	1,614	1,666	1,803	1,886	2,003	2,168	2,355
Growth compared to 2018		52	188	272	388	554	741
Growth due to identified policy and demographic change		48	100	135	188	248	301
<i>Share of total growth</i>		48%	35%	33%	33%	31%	29%

Source: DWP administrative data

14. The Into Work Rates of Claimants on the Universal Credit Health Journey

Chart 1.14: UC Health Into Work Rates by phase on Health Journey



The chart and table 1.14* present the trend in the into work rates for claimants on UC Health split by phase on the Health Journey and includes non-Health claimants.

Between April 2019 and December 2024, the into work rates for non-Health UC claimants have remained the highest, although they have steadily decreased, from 8.5% in April 2019 to 5.9% in November 2024.

Over the same period, the into work rates for claimants pre-Work Capability Assessment (WCA) with a live fit-note have remained relatively stable. In April 2019, the into work rates for fit-note claimants were 3.2%, roughly similar to their into work rates in November 2024 at 3.1%.

For claimants following a WCA, the into work rates for the Limited Capability for Work group have remained relatively stable, from 2.0% in April 2019 to 1.9% in November 2024. The rates for those in the Limited Capability for Work and Work-related Activity group have decreased from 1.3% in April 2019 to 0.9% in November 2024.

Finally, the rates for those found with No Limited Capability for Work after a WCA have returned to pre-pandemic levels and were 4.8% in November 2024.

Notes:

* Table 1.14 is not shown in this document. Please refer to the accompanying Excel tables.

2. Since 2019 the caseload has significantly increased due to the factors outlined in 1.14, but also due to the maturity of UC and the health journey replacing ESA (income related) over time

3. The UC Health Into Work Rates are calculated using administrative data held on DWP computer systems with encrypted personal identifiers.

4. The Into Work Rates account for claimants who were not in work in the month immediately preceding the base month but were in work in the base month. The rates are calculated as a sustained measure. This means that only those claimants who enter work in the base month and sustain work for at least two months are included within the scope of these rates as a flow into work in the base month. In addition, these rates also cover those claimants who have already satisfied this criterion in a month earlier than the base month and have remained in work alongside staying on UC Health ever since. The growth in numbers of people in the health journey means that the denominator is growing over time, resulting in lower rates into employment using this method.

5. Since UC Health caseload is subject to retrospection, it implies that these rates are subject to retrospection as well. Further, the calculation of these rates involves rounding the percentage rates to one decimal place which brings about small but often noticeable changes to the figures.

Source: DWP Administrative Data

15. Many people who are economically inactive due to long-term sickness want to work, with nearly 700,000 stating they would like a job.

There is growing evidence that many people who are currently not working due to a health condition or disability would like to work or believe they could work. Data on economic inactivity published in January 2025 by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) demonstrates that many people who are economically inactive due to long-term sickness want to work, with nearly 700,000 stating they would like a job.

This is covered in Table 1.15*

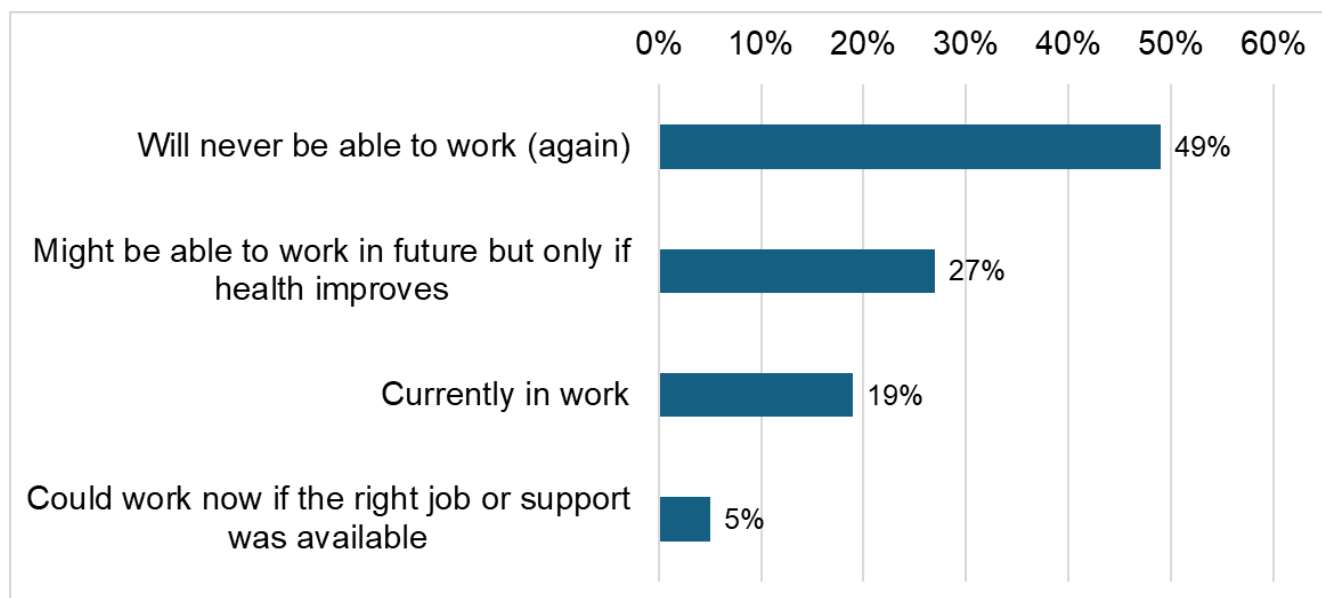
Notes:

* Table 1.15 is not shown in this document. Please refer to the accompanying Excel tables.

Source: Labour Force Survey

16. Around a quarter of health and disability customers surveyed report they may be able to work in the future, but only if their health improves.

Chart 1.16: Percentage of respondents who answered the question: "Which of the following is closest to how you currently feel about paid work"



Base: All health and disability customers (3,361)

The chart shows the self-assessment of benefit customers claiming PIP, ESA, or UC Health of their ability to work.

Of a total of 3,361 customers who responded to the survey, 19% were already in work and 49% thought they would never be able to work again. Around a quarter (27%) reported they might be able to work in the future if their health improves, but just 5% thought they could work right now if the right job or support was available.

Table 1.16: Health and disability benefit customers' self-assessed ability to work

Self-assessed ability to work	All health and disability benefit customers	ESA/UC with work-related activity requirements			ESA/UC with no work-related activity requirements			ESA/UC assessment phase	PIP, not on the UC Health Journey
		All	With PIP	Without PIP	All	With PIP	Without PIP		
Currently in work	19%	17%	9%	22%	6%	5%	9%	22%	49%
Could work now if the right job or support was available	5%	8%	7%	9%	3%	3%	5%	9%	7%
Might be able to work in future but only if health improves	27%	38%	38%	39%	28%	22%	41%	47%	16%
Will never be able to work (again)	49%	36%	47%	29%	62%	70%	22%	22%	28%
Base	3361	472	202	270	1861	1411	450	171	857

Source: [Work aspirations and support needs of health and disability customers: Interim findings - GOV.UK](#)

17. If you fall out of work sick, your chances of a return to work are 5 times higher in the first year.

Table 1.17: Number and proportion of flows of people aged 16 to 64 from economic inactivity (short or long-term sickness) to active employment by characteristic and subgroup

Table 1.17 represents the number of people who are out of work, and who are not looking for and/or available to work. It also represents those who move into work (and are not off work sick). This is broken down by age, length and time out of work and the number of health conditions.

Characteristic	Subgroup	Total	Economically inactive - Short or long-term sick - active employment	Economically inactive - Short or long-term sick - active employment (Percentage)
Total		2,542	96	3.8
Age	16 to 34	639	47	7.3
	35 to 49	643	22	3.4
	50 to 64	1,260	28	2.2
When left last job	Less than a year ago	154	28	18.4
	Between one and two years ago	140	15	10.4
	Two more years ago or never had a paid job	2,218	51	2.3
Number of long-term health conditions	One long-term health condition	632	32	5.1
	Two long-term health conditions	499	23	4.5
	Three or more long-term health conditions	1,350	30	2.2

Of the 2,542 people covered in the analysis, roughly 50% were aged between 50 and 64 years. Around 87% left their last job either more than two years ago or never had a paid job, while around 53% had three or more long-term health conditions.

Source: Annual Population Survey/Labour Force Survey

18. Spend on incapacity and disability benefits is set to rise to £70 billion for working age people over the next 5 years.

Chart 1.18: Expenditure on Disability and Incapacity Benefits for people of working age, in nominal terms

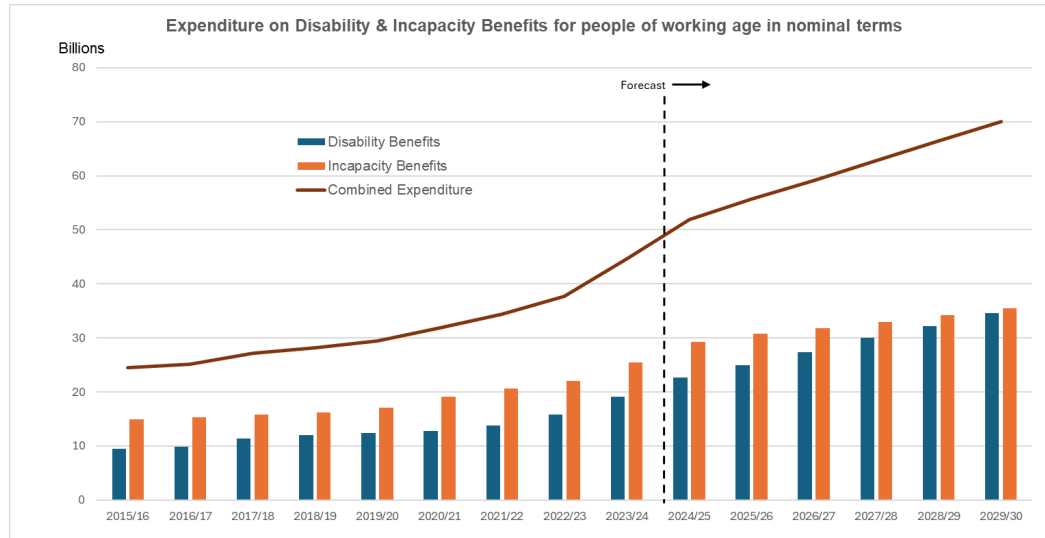


Table 1.18: Benefit expenditure to support disabled people and people with health conditions, for people of working age

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
£ million, nominal terms	Outturn	Outturn	Outturn	Outturn	Outturn	Outturn	Outturn	Outturn	Outturn	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
Disability Benefits	9,518	9,877	11,307	12,004	12,437	12,706	13,755	15,755	19,131	22,648	24,920	27,309	29,951	32,202	34,534
Incapacity Benefits	14,925	15,276	15,819	16,227	17,031	19,160	20,630	21,976	25,505	29,307	30,776	31,780	32,899	34,242	35,508
Combined Expenditure	24,443	25,153	27,127	28,231	29,467	31,866	34,385	37,731	44,635	51,956	55,696	59,089	62,850	66,444	70,042

Table 1.18 shows that in nominal terms, the combined expenditure on disability and incapacity benefits has grown from £24.4 billion in 2015-16 to £44.6 billion in 2023-24. Of the increase, the expenditure on disability benefits accounts for £9.6 billion, expenditure on incapacity benefits accounts for £10.6 billion.

In nominal terms, the combined expenditure on disability and incapacity benefits is forecast to grow further and reach £70 billion by 2029-30.

Notes:

1. Figures are for working age people.
2. Numbers are in line with the Green paper and therefore are from Autumn Budget 2024, these have subsequently been updated at the Spring Statement 2025 where WCA descriptor change policy was reversed.

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/benefit-expenditure-and-caseload-tables-2024>