

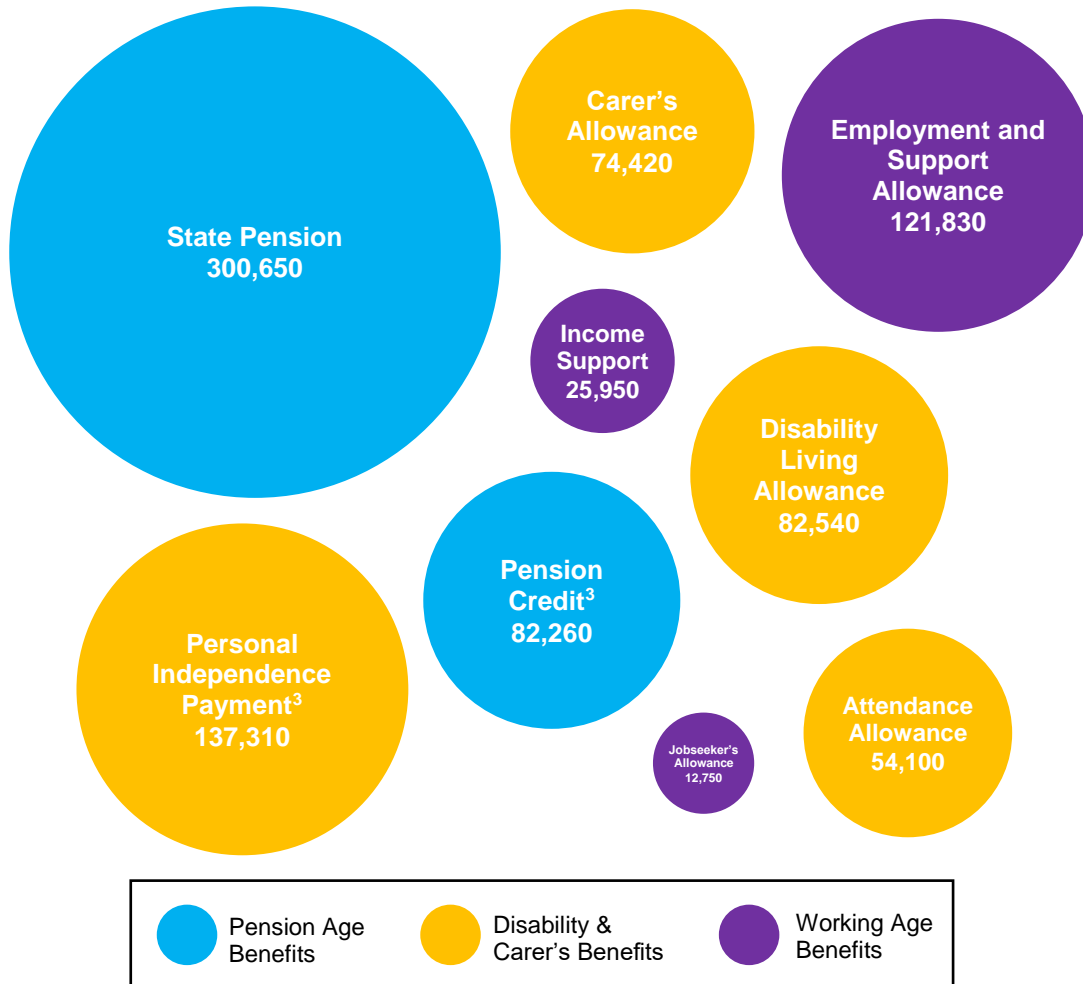
Quarterly

Coverage: Northern Ireland

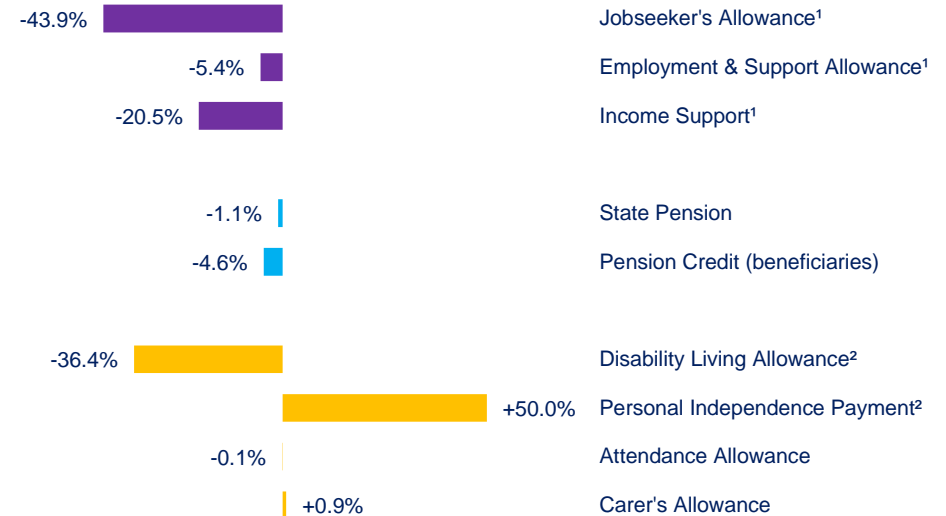
Published: 27th November 2019 by Professional Services Unit (Department for Communities)

The Northern Ireland Benefits Statistics Summary provides an up to date and concise overview of the benefits administered by DfC. **Statistics on Universal Credit are not yet included in this publication.** Additional benefits statistics are available at <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/topics/benefits-statistics>

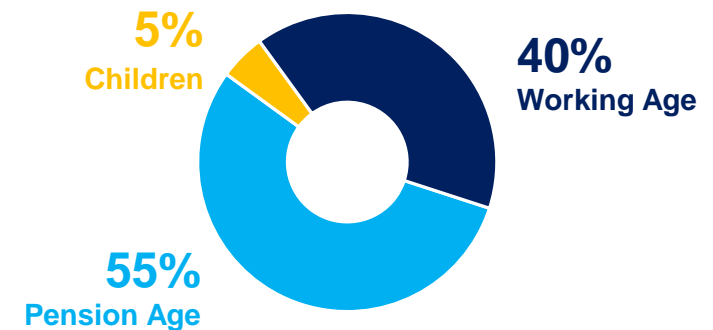
Claimants of Key Benefits – August 2019



Annual Percentage Change in Claimant Numbers



Age of Benefit Claimants



¹ With the introduction of Universal Credit (UC), there will be no new claimants to Income-based JSA, Income-related ESA and Income Support. Statistics on UC are not included in this publication.

² The fall in Disability Living Allowance (DLA) claimants is due to the introduction of Personal Independence Payment (PIP) in June 2016. The rise in PIP claims is due to a combination of new claims and reassessed DLA claims.

³ Figures typically refer to claimants although Personal Independence Payment figures refer to claims in payment and Pension Credit refers to beneficiaries (claimants and partners).

At a glance

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What you need to know

The Department for Communities (DfC) publishes the Benefits Statistics Summary Bulletin each quarter. The DfC Benefit Statistics Summary brings together key statistics on the main DfC administered benefits.

Detailed **Personal Independence Payment (PIP)** statistics are published in a separate publication, available [here](#).

Statistics on **Universal Credit (UC)** are not yet included in this publication but are published in a separate publication, available [here](#).

Housing Benefit statistics are published in a separate publication. Housing statistics can be found [here](#).

Data notes

Figures are rounded to the nearest ten to protect individual records and some additional disclosure control has also been applied - figures are only slightly affected by these procedures. Totals may not sum due to rounding. Time series are presented as a 5-year rolling period. Older figures are available on request.

Additional tables and data

In addition to the summary document, there are a large number of tables which enable the user to examine in further detail each benefit. These are provided to the user as:

- Supplementary benefit statistics tables – for each Benefit Statistics Summary release, Excel spreadsheets are produced containing a large number of tables with much more detailed breakdowns for each DfC administered benefit and also client group analysis: <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/topics/benefits-statistics>
- Jobseeker Statistics for Northern Ireland statistics are available via NOMIS: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/Default.asp>
- Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) statistics are available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions>
- Geographic statistics are available on NINIS: <http://www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk/>

Further information on individual benefits including eligibility criteria is available from NI Direct: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/money-tax-and-benefits/benefits-and-financial-support>

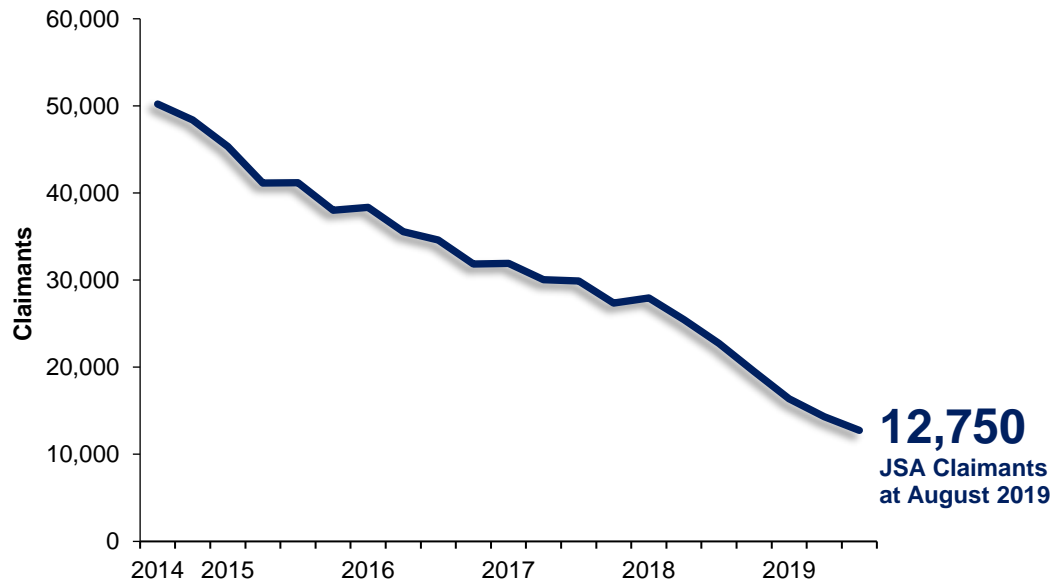
About these statistics

All of the statistics in this report are National Statistics except Personal Independence Payment and Client Group Analysis statistics. These are both designated as Experimental Statistics.

The United Kingdom 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. See Note 2 for further information.

Jobseeker's Allowance – National Statistics

Jobseeker's Allowance Claimants: August 2014 – August 2019

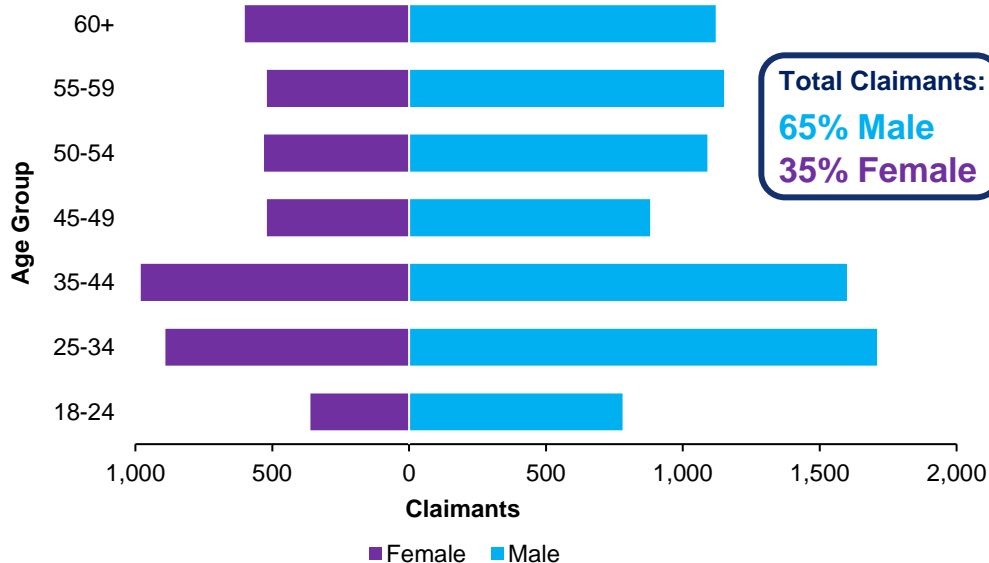


Key Facts

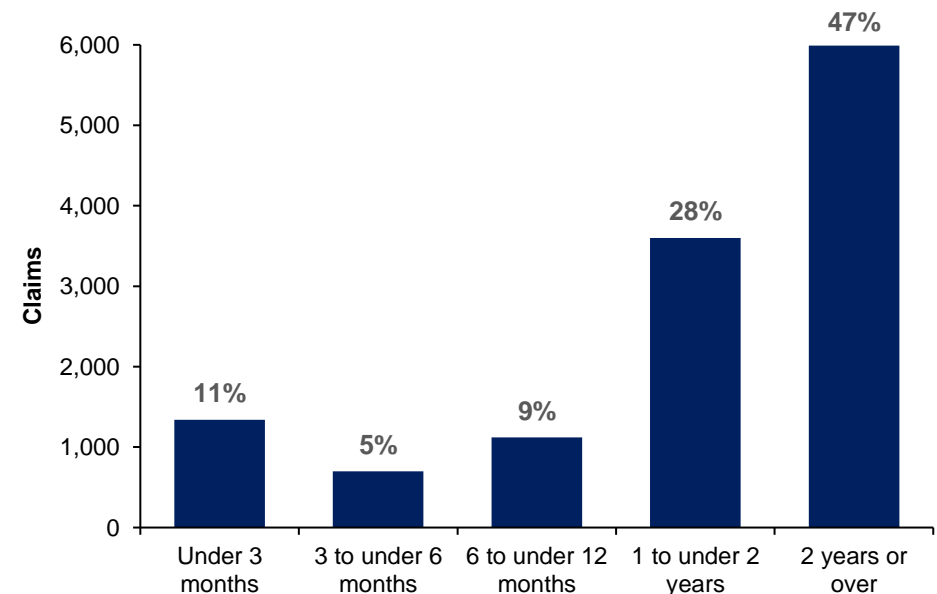
The official source of statistics for unemployment related benefits is the experimental Claimant Count, which includes Jobseeker's Allowance claimants and out-of-work Universal Credit claimants who are claiming principally for the reason of being unemployed. Details can be found [here](#). The DfC JSA figures are presented here to enable cross-benefit analysis and provide a wider range of breakdowns.

- **JSA figures have been impacted by the phased introduction of Universal Credit (UC). With the introduction of Universal Credit, there will be no new claimants to Income-based JSA.**
- **At August 2019, there were 12,750 claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance.** This represents a decrease of 43.9% (9,990) on a year earlier and a decrease of 10.8% (1,550) since May 2019. This fall is due to the introduction of Universal Credit (UC).
- Of the 12,750 claimants, 89.9% (11,460) were recipients and 10.2% (1,300) were receiving credits only.
- The average weekly Jobseeker's Allowance benefit payment was £77.49.
- See [supplementary tables](#) for further information.

Jobseeker's Allowance Claimants by Age and Gender

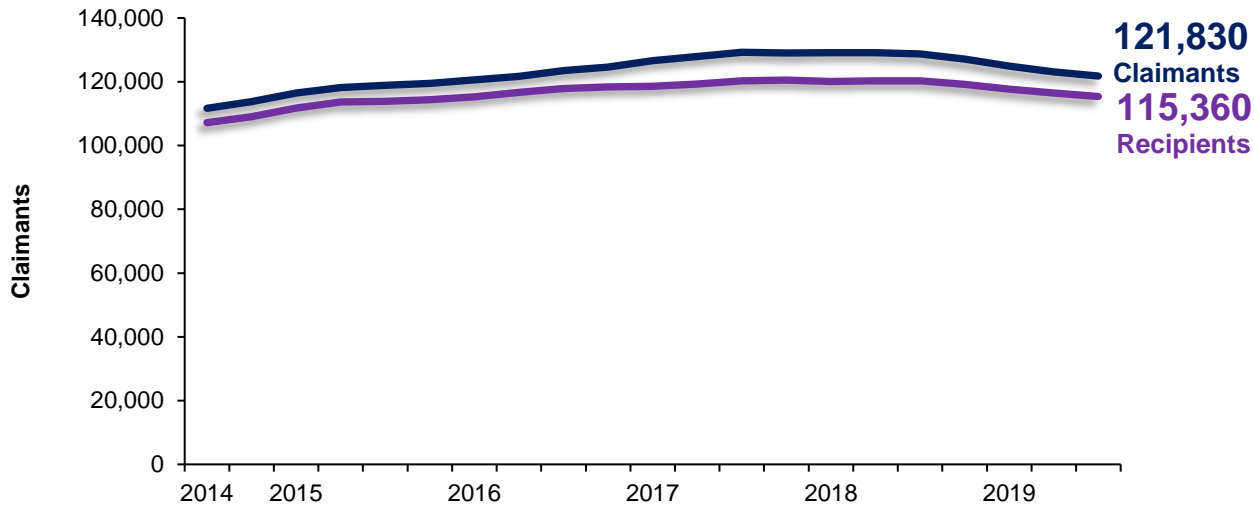


Jobseeker's Allowance Claims by Duration of Claim



Employment and Support Allowance – National Statistics

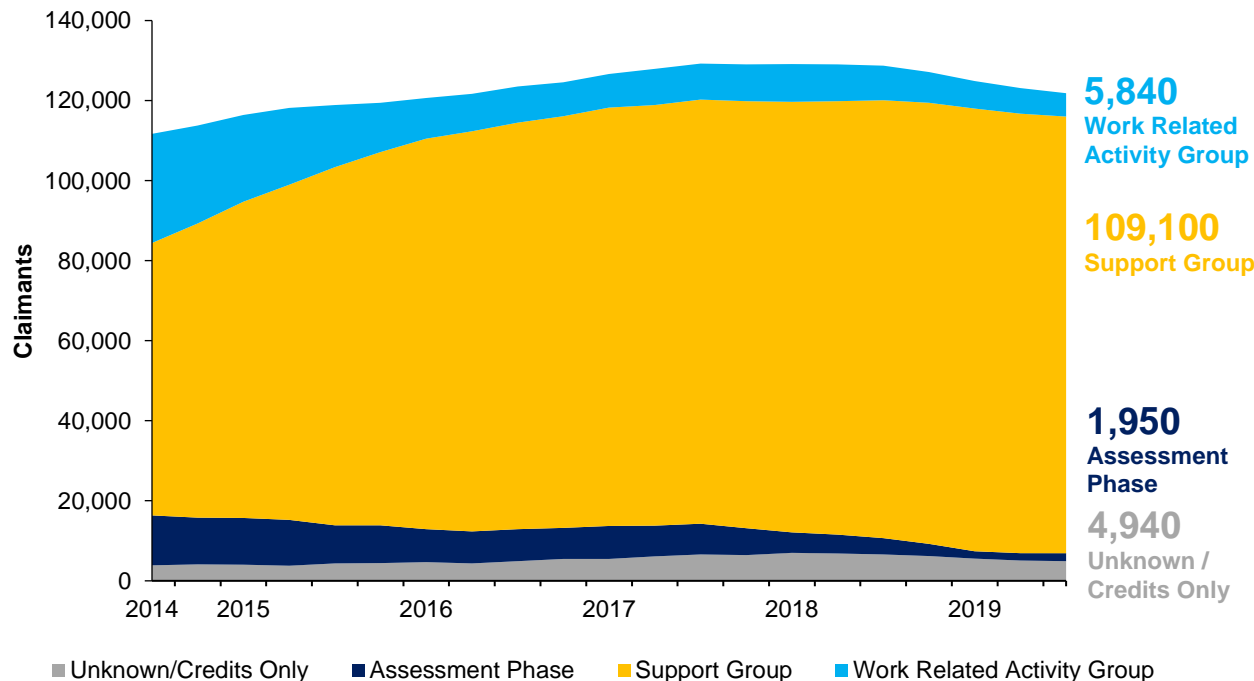
ESA Claimants & Recipients: August 2014 – August 2019



Key Facts

- **At August 2019, there were 121,830 claimants of Employment and Support Allowance.** This represents a decrease of 5.4% (6,920) on a year earlier. This decrease is mainly due to the introduction of Universal Credit.
- Of the 121,830 claimants, 50% (61,260) were female and 50% (60,570) were male.
- Of the 121,830 claimants, 5% (5,840) were in the Work Related Activity Group, 90% (109,100) were in the Support Group. The remaining 6% (6,890) were either in the assessment phase or were receiving credits only or their phase was unknown.
- The average weekly Employment and Support Allowance benefit payment was £142.54.
- See [supplementary tables](#) for further information. Note: due to the diminishing numbers of claimants, supplementary tables are no longer produced for Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance.

ESA Claims by Phase of Claim: August 2014 – August 2019

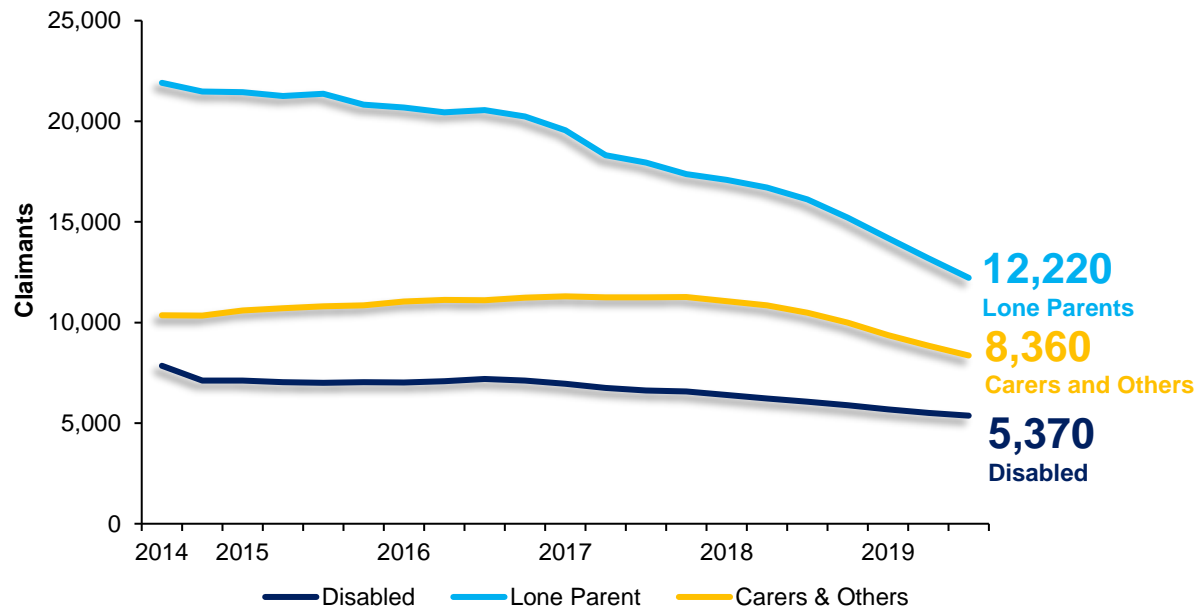


Incapacity Benefit & Severe Disablement Allowance

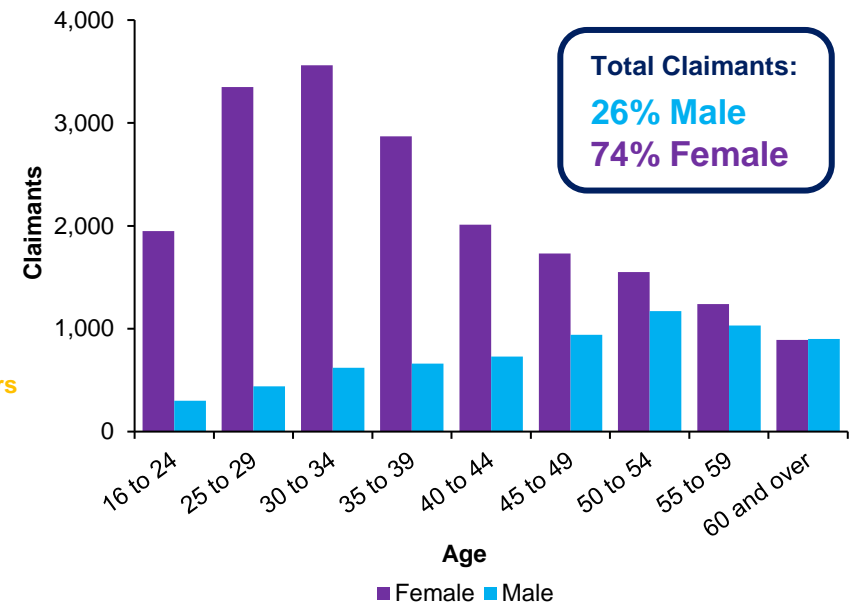
- Between 2010 and 2014, existing Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance customers were moved to ESA by reassessing their eligibility for the benefit. A small number of claimants remained on each benefit with numbers decreasing over time due to attrition.
- **At August 2019, there were 1,520 claimants of Incapacity Benefit and 1,080 claimants of Severe Disablement Allowance,** decreases of 170 and 100 respectively on a year earlier.

Income Support – National Statistics

Income Support Claimants: August 2014 – August 2019



Income Support Claimants by Age and Gender



Key Facts

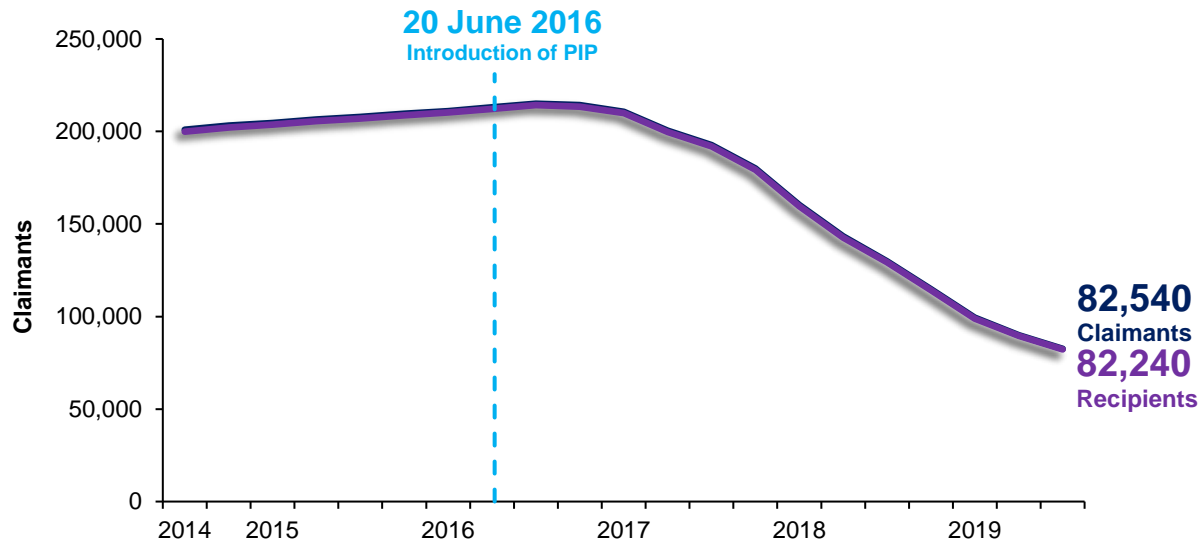
- **At August 2019, the number of Income Support claimants was 25,950**, a decrease of 20.5% (6,710) since August 2018. This decrease is mainly due the introduction of Universal Credit (UC).
- Of the 25,950 claimants, 47% (12,220) are lone parents and 21% (5,370) are disabled.
- The average weekly Income Support payment was £137.66 for a disabled claimant and £64.70 for a lone parent.
- The number of Lone Parents has been affected by the Lone Parent Obligations policy changes which came into effect in 2008. An extension of this is that from January 2017 existing Lone Parents with a youngest child aged 5 or over can no longer make a new or repeat claim for income support solely on the basis of their parental status. However, for this series Lone Parents are defined as “**single claimants with a child under 16**”.
- See [supplementary tables](#) for further information.

Universal Credit (UC)

- Universal Credit (UC) was introduced for new claims on a phased geographical basis across Northern Ireland from September 2017 to December 2018.
- **With the introduction of Universal Credit, there will be no new claimants to the following benefits covered in this publication:**
 - **Income-based JSA**
 - **Income-related ESA**
 - **Income Support**
- Statistics for Universal Credit are not included in this publication but are published separately [here](#).

Disability Living Allowance – National Statistics

DLA Claimants & Recipients: August 2014 – August 2019



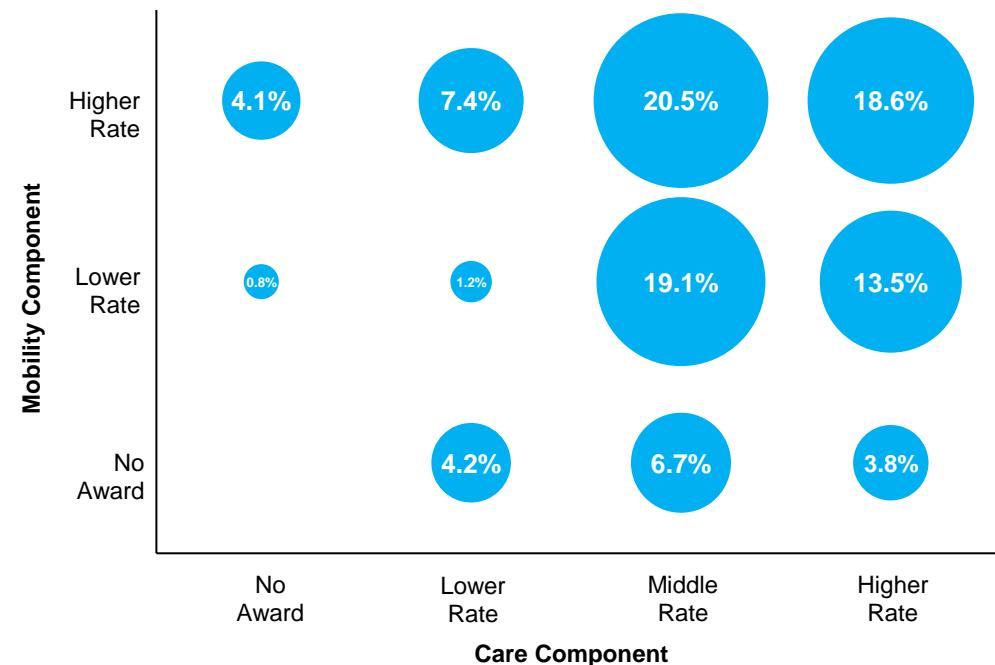
Personal Independence Payment (PIP)

- Personal Independence Payment (PIP) replaced Disability Living Allowance for claimants of working age on 20th June 2016. With the introduction of PIP there have been no new working age claimants to DLA from this date.
- The main reassessment of existing working age DLA claimants to PIP commenced in December 2016 and is expected to end in 2019.
- A summary of PIP statistics is included in this bulletin. Detailed PIP statistics are available via a [separate publication](#).

Key Facts

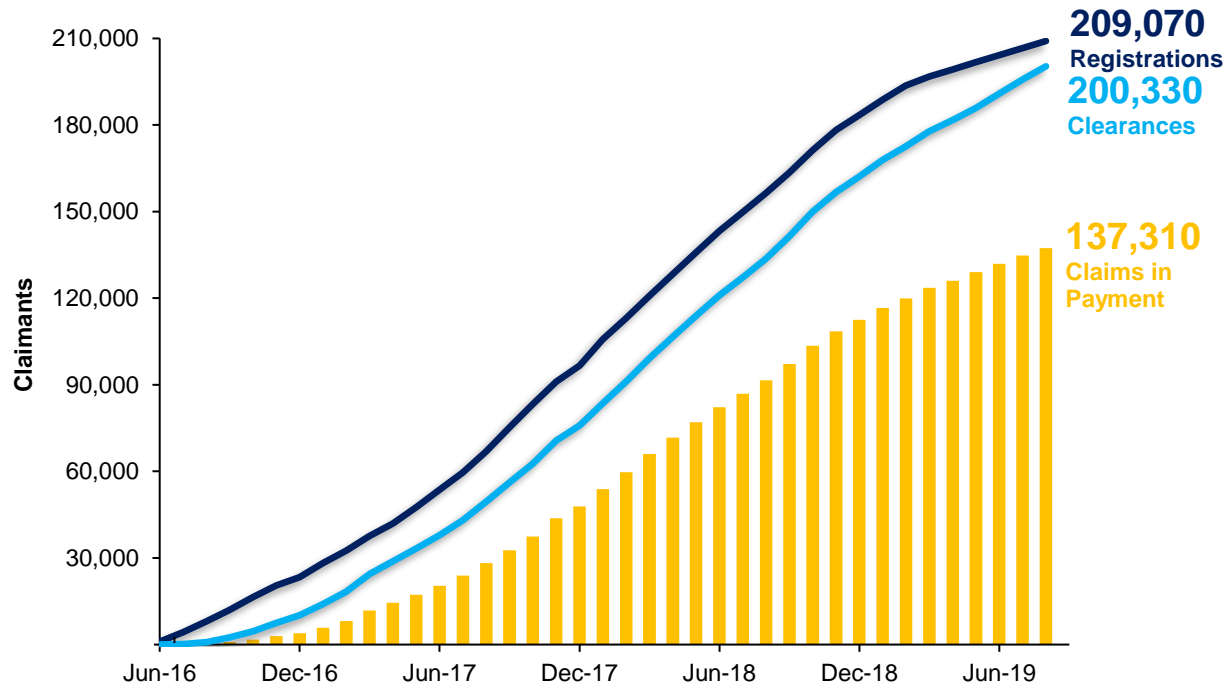
- **At August 2019, there were 82,540 claimants of Disability Living Allowance,** a fall of 36.4% (47,340) on a year earlier. This fall is due to the introduction of Personal Independence Payment (PIP) on 20th June 2016.
- There were 82,240 recipients of DLA (those actually in receipt of a payment).
- 30% (24,930) of claimants were children (under 16), 3%, (2,630) were aged between 16 and 64 and 67% (54,990) were aged over 65.
- 15% (12,200) of claimants were receiving the care component only, 5% (4,080) were receiving the mobility component only and 80% (66,270) were receiving both the care and mobility components.
- 19% (15,330) of claimants were receiving the highest rate of award (i.e. higher rate mobility and higher rate care components).
- The average weekly Disability Living Allowance benefit payment was £99.00.
- See [supplementary tables](#) for further information.

DLA Claimants by Care/Mobility Component



Personal Independence Payment – Experimental Statistics

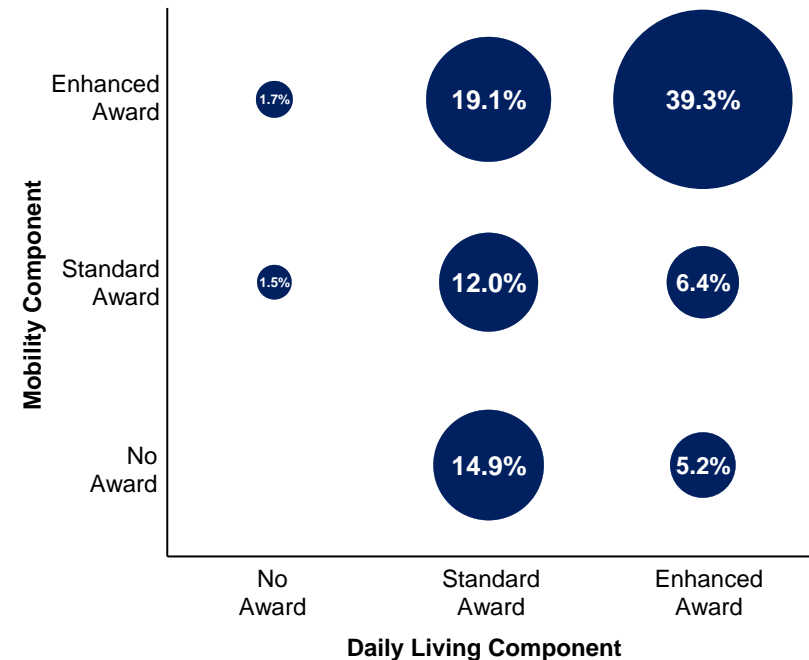
PIP Registrations, Clearances, & Claims in Payment: June 2016 – August 2019



Key Facts

- Personal Independence Payment replaced Disability Living Allowance for claimants of working age on 20th June 2016.
- **At August 2019, there were 137,310 Personal Independence Payment claims in payment.** The overall award rate for Personal Independence Payment claims was 67%.
- 41% (56,480) of claims in payment had psychiatric disorders as the main disabling condition.
- 20% (27,700) of claims in payment were receiving the daily living component only, 3% (4,290) were receiving the mobility component only and 77% (105,320) were receiving both the daily living and mobility components.
- See [Personal Independence Payment publication](#) for further information.

PIP Claims in Payment by Care/Mobility Component

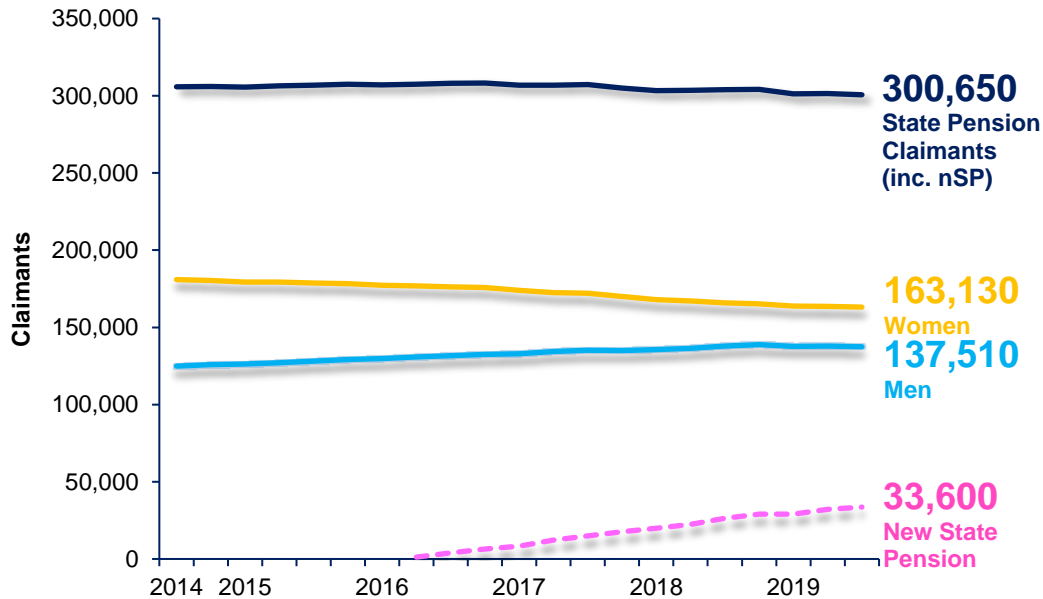


Reassessment of Disability Living Allowance Claimants

- The main reassessment of existing working age DLA claimants to PIP commenced in December 2016 and is expected to end in 2019.
- **77% of DLA reassessed claims are granted an award of PIP (based on initial decision).**
- Of the 137,310 claims in payment, 103,560 (75%) of these are reassessed DLA claims.
- Of the 103,560 reassessed DLA claims in payment, 79,070 (76%) received an award at the enhanced rate and 45,820 (44%) received the highest level of award (i.e. enhanced daily living component and enhanced mobility component).

State Pension – National Statistics

State Pension Claimants: September 2014 – August 2019

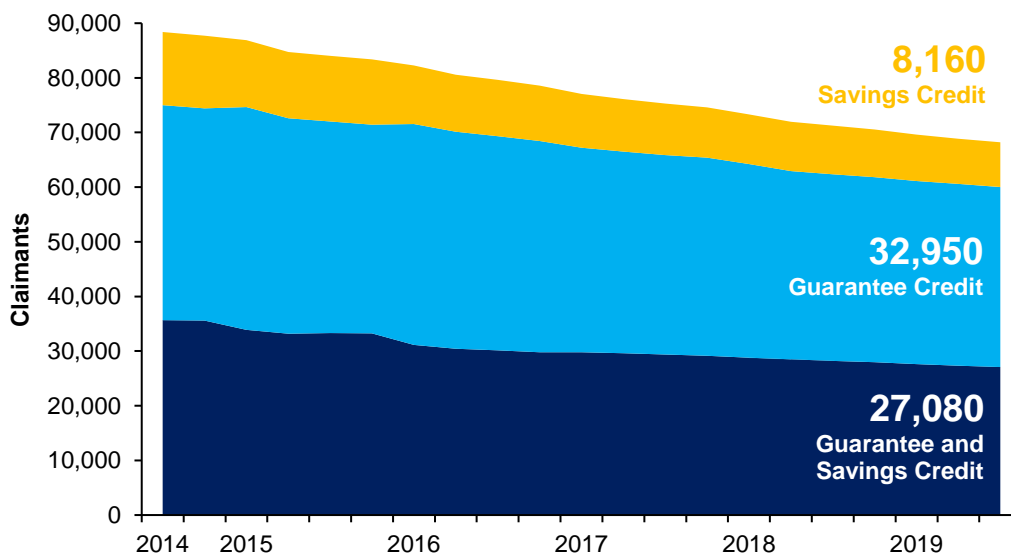


Key Facts

- **At August 2019, there were 300,650 claimants of State Pension**, a fall of 1.1% (3,240) on a year earlier.
- 54% (163,130) of claimants were women and 46% (137,510) were men.
- The numbers of female State Pension claimants has decreased steadily since 2012 due to increases in women's State Pension age. Pension age for men and women is increasing from 65 to 66 between November 2018 and October 2020. Further information is available [here](#).
- The average weekly State Pension amount in payment at August 2019 was £152.38, an increase of £4.64 since September 2018.
- The new State Pension (nSP) was introduced for people reaching State Pension age from 6 April 2016. **At August 2019 there were 33,600 nSP recipients**. The average weekly new State Pension amount in payment was £160.12 (including any protected payments).
- See [supplementary tables](#) for further information.

Pension Credit – National Statistics

Pension Credit Claims by Type of Claim: August 2014 – August 2019



Key Facts

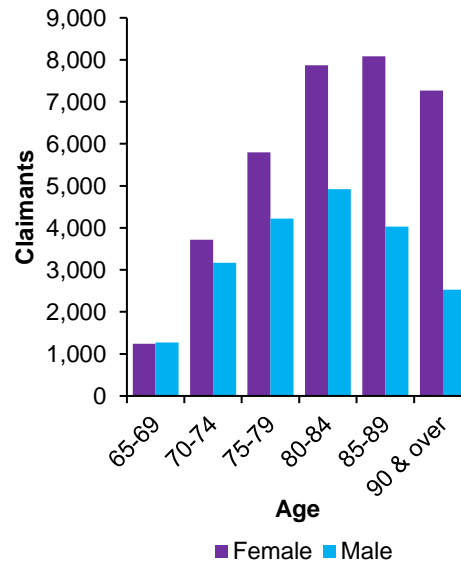
- **At August 2019, there were 68,190 claimants of Pension Credit**, a fall of 4.3% (3,080) on a year earlier.
- There were 82,260 beneficiaries (claimants and partners), a fall of 4.6% (3,950) on a year earlier. 83% (68,190) of beneficiaries were claimants and 17% (14,070) were partners.
- Of all beneficiaries (claimants and partners), 53% (43,950) were female and 47% (38,310) were male. Of all claimants, 60% (40,780) were female and 40% (27,410) were male.
- The average weekly Pension Credit benefit payment was £66.78.
- The downward trend in the number of Pension Credit claimants is mainly due to the increase in State Pension age and the increase in State Pension amounts as well as changes to the Savings Credit element of Pension Credit.
- See [supplementary tables](#) for further information.

Attendance Allowance – National Statistics

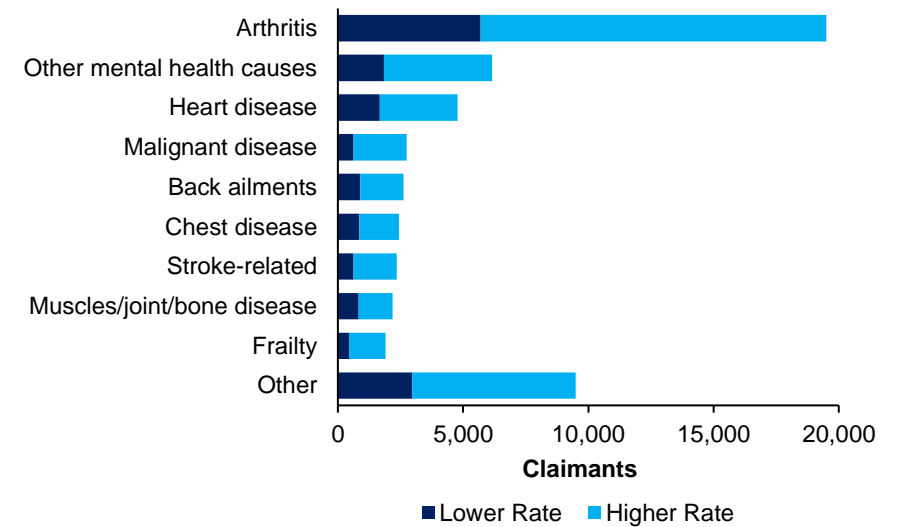
Key Facts

- **At August 2019 there were 54,100 claimants of Attendance Allowance**, a decrease of 0.1% (70) on a year earlier.
- Of the 54,100 claimants, 50,520 were recipients and 3,580 were receiving credits only.
- 63% (33,970) of claimants were female and 37% (20,130) of claimants were male.
- 64% (34,680) of claimants were aged 80 or over.
- 69% (34,990) of recipients were receiving the higher rate of award.
- See [supplementary tables](#) for further information.

AA Claimants by Age and Gender



AA Claimants by Disabling Condition, August 2019

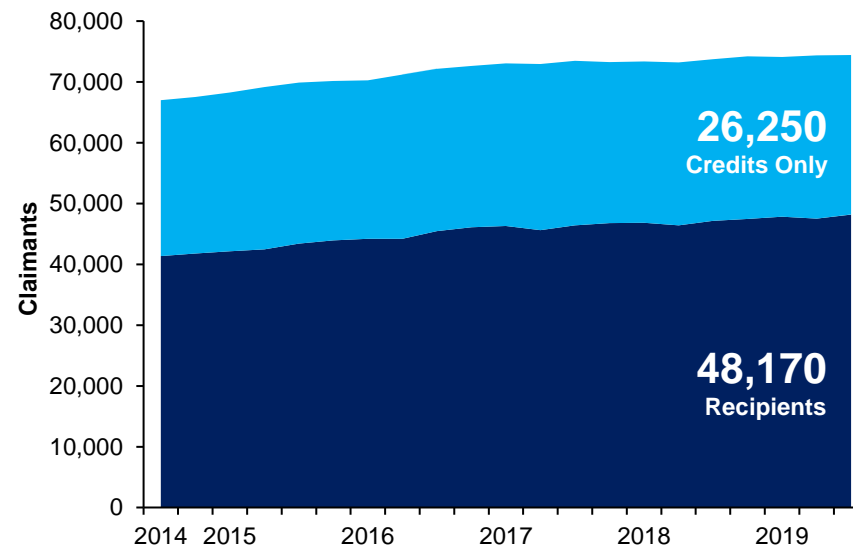


Carer's Allowance – National Statistics

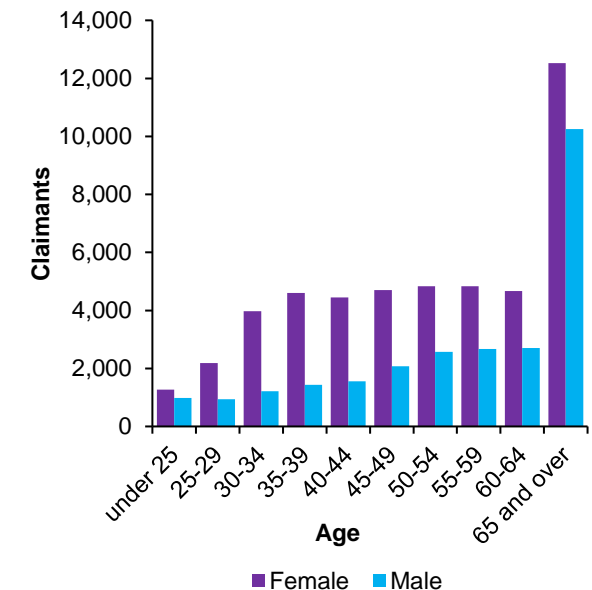
Key Facts

- **At August 2019, there were 74,420 claimants of Carer's Allowance**, an increase of 0.9% (690) on a year earlier.
- Of the 74,420 claimants, 48,170 were recipients and 26,250 were receiving credits only.
- Of all claimants, 65% (48,020) were female and 35% (26,390) were male.
- Of all claimants, 69% (51,660) were of working age and 31% (22,760) were of pension age.
- See [supplementary tables](#) for more information.

Carer's Allowance Claimants: August 2014 – August 2019

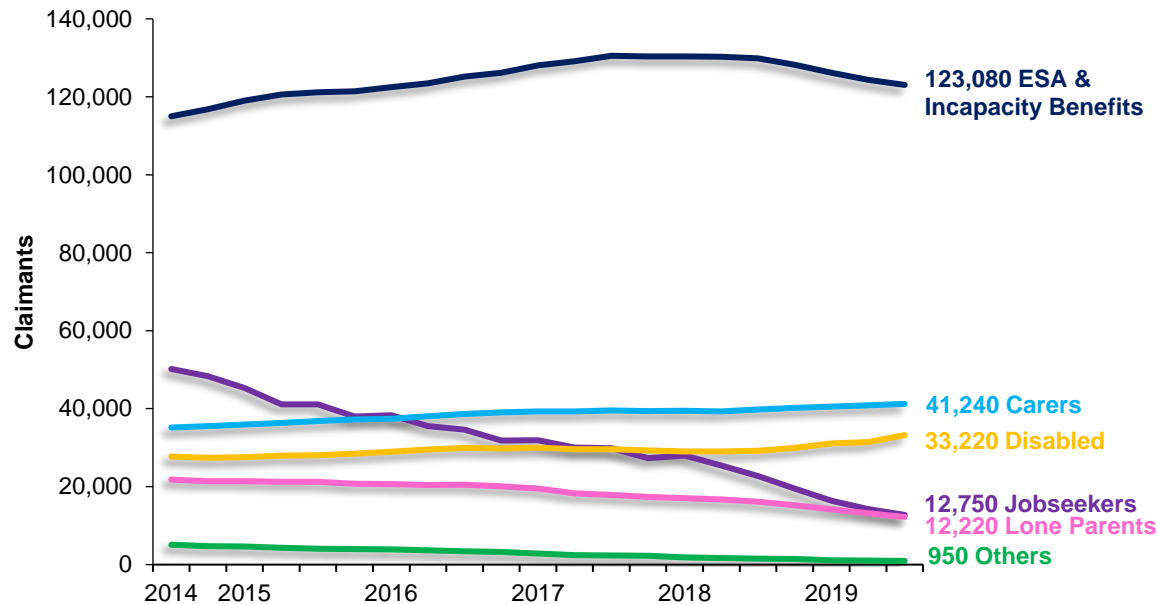


CA Claimants by Age and Gender

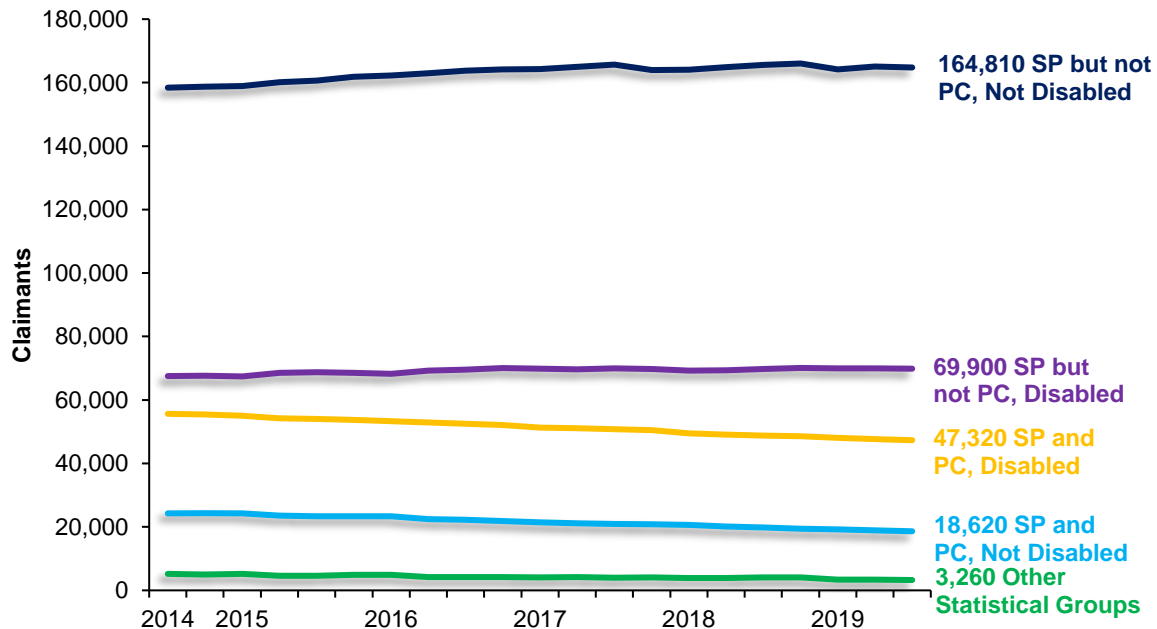


Client Group Analysis – Experimental Statistics

Working Age Client Group: August 2014 – August 2019



Pension Age Client Group: August 2014 – August 2019



Background Information & Key Facts

Data collected through the administration of individual benefits is merged together to create 'Client Group' data. This gives an estimate of the overall number of customers claiming benefit. Claimants have been allocated to statistical groups to give an indication of the main reason why they are claiming benefit. The benefits are arranged hierarchically and claimants are assigned to the first benefit they receive. Each customer is classified just once and as such the number of claimants for benefits quoted in the Client Group statistics may differ to the numbers published for the individual benefits. The hierarchy is detailed in Note 6 on page 12.

Widow's Benefit and Bereavement Benefit were removed from the Client Group Analysis as of the May 2019 publication (released August 2019) and the definition of a "Lone Parent" was updated to exclude Income Support claimants in receipt of a disability premium. The time series presented here have been backdated to reflect these changes. These statistics are currently classified as Experimental Statistics due to the inclusion of PIP figures.

Note: "Working Age" is defined as 16 to State Pension age.

Key Facts

- **At August 2019 there were 552,300 claimants of DfC administered benefits** (excluding Housing Benefit and Universal Credit). Of these, 223,470 were of Working Age and 303,900 were of Pension Age. There were also 24,930 children under 16 claiming Disability Living Allowance.
- Since August 2018, the Working Age client group has decreased by 15,830. This is largely due to the introduction of Universal Credit. **Data for Universal Credit is not yet included in this analysis.**
- 50% (111,000) of Working Age claimants claimed one benefit only and 50% (112,470) were claiming more than one benefit. Of those claiming more than one benefit, 94,580 (84%) were claiming Personal Independence Payment.
- Of the 303,900 Pension Age claimants, 39% (119,670) were claiming a disability benefit. 54% (164,920) of claimants were not claiming a disability benefit or Pension Credit and of these, 96% (158,450) claimed State Pension only. The remaining 4% (6,480) were claiming State Pension and Carer's Allowance.
- See [supplementary tables](#) for further information.

Request for User Feedback

DfC are continuing to reach out to users of this publication to better understand how the statistics are being used and whether there are any improvements that can be made.

We want to hear from people who use the figures within the Benefit Statistics Summary. We would like to find out what people use the statistics for and to make sure that the publication is as useful as it can be. PSU also wishes to assess how we communicate with users on an ongoing basis.

We would appreciate if you completed a short questionnaire to give us your views on the publication. An online version of this questionnaire is available at the following link: <http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/U2UE1/>

Alternatively, a hard copy can be requested by emailing psu@communities-ni.gov.uk

Many thanks for your time.

Notes

1. Glossary of terms

Claimants:	The number of clients on the administrative system at the reference date.
Recipients/Beneficiaries:	The number of clients on the administrative system at the reference date who received a benefit payment. For Pension Credit this includes partners.
Credits Only:	The number of clients entitled to the benefit, but who do not actually receive a payment.

2. National Statistics Code of Practice

National Statistics status means that our statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value and it is our responsibility to maintain compliance with these standards.

In June 2013, the United Kingdom Statistics Authority 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.

It is the Department for Communities' responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

Since designation as National Statistics, we have continued to comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics, and have made the following improvements:

- Moved to a more simplified and visually appealing format, explaining our statistics so that they can be better understood by all users.
- Introduced improved validation procedures to ensure quality.
- Revised outputs to reflect the impact of Welfare Reform on benefits contained in this publication, including incorporating Experimental Personal Independence Payment statistics.

3. Data source and quality

All statistics are based on 100% extracts from the benefit administrative systems. Data is partially validated and is deemed of sufficiently high quality to report on. Data is extracted at 2 weekly, 4 weekly or 6 weekly intervals. Data is represented as end of reported month to aid presentation, but actual extract data will not generally be exactly this date. The statistics show the number of people claiming benefit on the extract date.

As data is taken from live administrative systems, it relies on the customer reporting correct information about themselves and staff correctly inputting this data into the system. This does not always occur. Recent estimates (2018) indicate that approximately 2.3% of expenditure on benefits is misallocated due to fraud and error. Additional errors that do not result in an incorrect payment can also occur. The Department engages in initiatives to reduce fraud and error in the benefit systems on an ongoing basis.

4. Rounding/Disclosure control

The accuracy of statistics may be slightly effected by rounding and/or disclosure control. Even when data (either administrative or sample) do not contain National Insurance number, name and address it may still be possible to identify someone. Say, for example, a data table showed disability type, by ethnicity, within small geographic areas. Some of the cells in the table may only contain one person. It is possible in such cases for personal and sensitive information to be deduced. This is data disclosure and in DfC steps are taken to ensure that it doesn't happen. As an additional protective measure, details of the disclosure control methodology are not published.

5. Measure of unemployment related benefits

The official source of statistics for unemployment related benefits is the experimental Claimant Count, which includes Jobseeker's Allowance claimants and out-of-work Universal Credit claimants who are claiming principally for the reason of being unemployed. Details can be found here: <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/labour-market-and-social-welfare/claimant-count#toc-3>

The DfC JSA figures are presented in this publication because they are consistent with the other benefits used to produce DfC National Statistics and permit a wider set of breakdowns and cross-benefit analysis.

6. Statistical groups

Data collected through the administration of individual 'key' benefits are merged together to create 'Client Group' data. Each customer is classified just once. This gives an estimate of the overall number of customers claiming benefit. The client groups are 'Clients of working age' and 'Clients of pension age'.

DfC has a typology to define Statistical Groups within the Client Group classifications. The aim of the Statistical Group typology is to present each person by the main reasons they are in contact with the Department. Like the Client Group classification, each client is classified just once, permitting the estimation of the total number of people claiming one or more benefits. The working age statistical group hierarchy is as follows:

Working age statistical group	Benefit being claimed
Job Seeker	Jobseeker's Allowance
Employment and Support Allowance and incapacity benefits	Employment & Support Allowance, Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance
Lone Parent	Income Support with a child aged under 16 and no partner, not in receipt of disability premium
Carer	Carer's Allowance
Others on income related benefit	Other Income Support or Pension Credit
Disabled	Personal Independence Payment, Disability Living Allowance or Attendance Allowance

The number of claimants of individual benefits quoted in the Client Group publication may differ to the numbers published in the individual benefit publications. Claimants have been allocated to statistical groups to give an indication of the main reason why they are claiming benefit. The benefits are arranged hierarchically and claimants are assigned to the first benefit they receive. Thus a lone parent receiving both Income Support and Incapacity Benefit would be assigned to the "Employment & Support

Allowance and incapacity benefits” group. For this reason, the “Lone Parent” group will not contain all lone parents claiming Income Support. This also explains the disparity between the “Disabled” client group figures and the number of Disability Living Allowance recipients as the majority of working age DLA recipients are also receiving Employment and Support Allowance.

Note: Universal Credit figures are not yet included in the Client Group Analysis but will be added once they have been assessed as suitably robust.

7. Welfare Reform

Universal Credit (UC) was introduced for new claims on a phased geographical basis across Northern Ireland from September 2017 to December 2018. With the introduction of UC, there will be no new claimants to the following benefits covered in this publication: Income-based JSA, Income-related ESA and Income Support. Statistics for UC are not included in this publication but are published separately [here](#).

From 20 June 2016, DLA has been replaced for working age claimants by Personal Independence Payment (PIP). There have been no new working age claimants to DLA from this date. Reassessment of existing DLA claimants to PIP began in December 2016 and is expected to be completed in 2019. A summary of PIP statistics is included in this publication as Experimental Statistics. Detailed PIP statistics can be found in a separate publication [here](#).

The age at which women reach State Pension age gradually increased from 60 to 65 between May 2010 and November 2018. From November 2018 to October 2020, the State Pension age for men and women will continue to increase to 66. The changes will introduce a small increase to the number of working age benefit claimants and a small reduction to the number of pension age claimants. More information is available from [NI Direct](#).

The Lone Parent Obligation policy came into effect from 24th November 2008; Lone Parents with a youngest child aged 12 or over were no longer able to make a new or repeat claim for Income Support solely on the basis of their parental status. Existing Income Support Lone Parents with a youngest child aged 12 or over had their eligibility removed over a period of time commencing 2nd March 2009. From October 2009, this policy was extended to Lone Parents with a youngest child aged 10 or 11 and from October 2010, was extended to Lone Parents with a youngest child aged 7 or over. From January 2017, the policy has been extended to Lone Parents with a youngest child aged 5 or over. Many affected Lone Parents will leave Income Support and claim Jobseeker's Allowance. However, there are exceptions to these rules where the youngest child can legitimately be over the ages mentioned above. Similarly, some former Lone Parents remain on Income Support for other reasons (e.g. they have a long term caring responsibility and claim Carer's Allowance). However for this series, lone parents are defined as “single IS claimants with a child under 16”.

8. Known issues, changes and revisions

Changes for this release

New tables were added to the Employment and Support Allowance and Jobseeker's Allowance supplementary tables detailing the split of contribution and income-related claimants. These tables are at a point in time but backdated figures are available on request.

Previous changes – May 2019 (released August 2019)

Population figures were updated to the most recent mid-year estimates (June 2018).

Widow's Benefit and Bereavement Benefit figures along with the “Bereaved” statistical group were removed from the Client Group Analysis statistics due to limited data availability. The “Lone Parent” statistical group was also changed to exclude Income Support claimants who are in receipt of a disability premium. Time series published in this release have been backdated to reflect these changes. Other tables are at a point in time and will not be directly comparable to previous publications.

Supplementary tables containing information on the number of children of claimants were discontinued due to data quality concerns for the following benefits: Jobseeker's Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Income Support and the Client Group Analysis.

9. Great Britain statistics

Benefit statistics to cover Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) only are produced by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and are available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/dwp-statistical-summaries>

10. Other National and Official Statistics issued by the Department for Communities

Other National and Official Statistics produced by the Department for Communities can be found on the DfC website [here](#).