Northern Ireland Benefits Statistics Summary
February 2020

The NI Benefits Statistics Summary provides an up to date and concise overview of the benefits administered by DfC. Additional benefits statistics are available here.
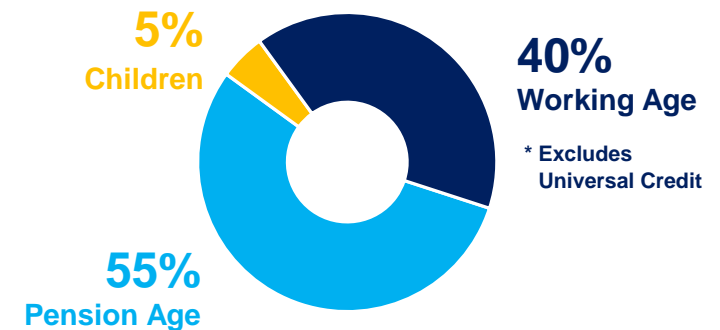
Claimants of Key Benefits – February 2020

State Pension
299,810

Carer's Allowance
74,800

Employment and Support Allowance
119,300

JSA
10,390

Disability Living Allowance
79,070

Income Support
23,280

Universal Credit[3]
57,920

Personal Independence Payment[3]
145,090

Pension Credit[3]
80,160

Attendance Allowance
54,010

Legend:
- Pension Age Benefits
- Disability & Carer's Benefits
- Working Age Benefits
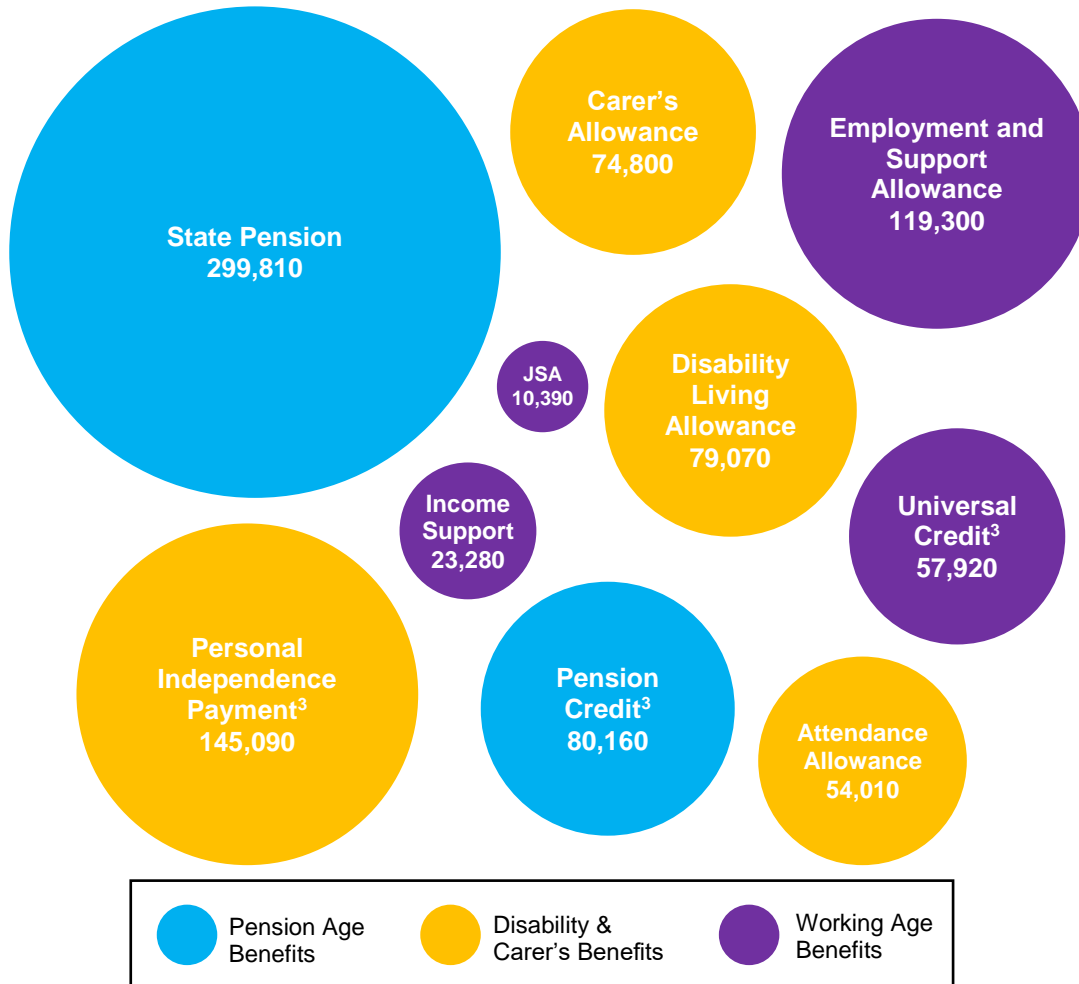
Annual Percentage Change in Claimant Numbers

Benefit	Change
Jobseeker's Allowance[1]	-36.6%
Employment & Support Allowance[1]	-4.5%
Income Support[1]	-20.4%
Universal Credit (households)[1]	+96.3%
State Pension	-0.5%
Pension Credit (beneficiaries)	-4.7%
Disability Living Allowance[2]	-20.5%
Personal Independence Payment[2]	+21.1%
Attendance Allowance	-0.7%
Carer's Allowance	+1.0%

Age of Benefit Claimants

5% Children

40% Working Age

* Excludes Universal Credit

55% Pension Age
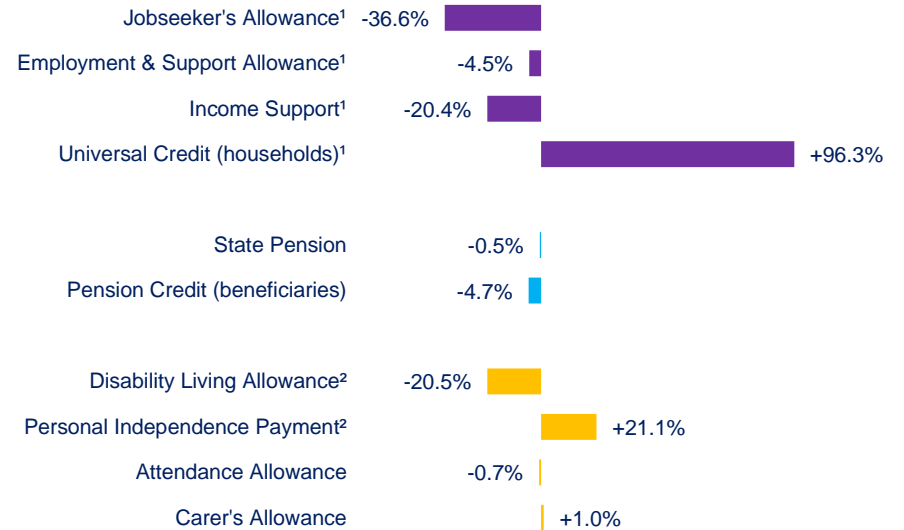
[1] With the introduction of Universal Credit (UC), there will be no new claimants to Income-based JSA, Income-related ESA and Income Support. UC was rolled out on a phased geographical basis from September 2017 to December 2018.

[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, Pension Credit refers to beneficiaries (claimants and partners) and Universal Credit refers to households.

At a glance

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)** and **Universal Credit (UC)** statistics are published in separate publications, 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 Universal Credit, Personal Independence Payment and Client Group Analysis statistics. These are 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.

Universal Credit – Experimental Statistics

Universal Credit Households & Claimants: October 2017 – February 2020

65,200 Claimants

57,920 Households

Legend:
- Households in Payment
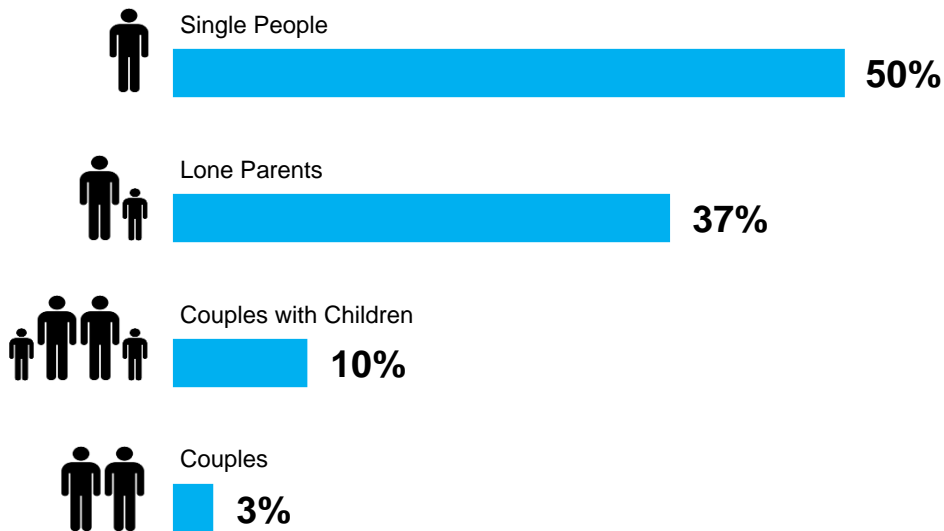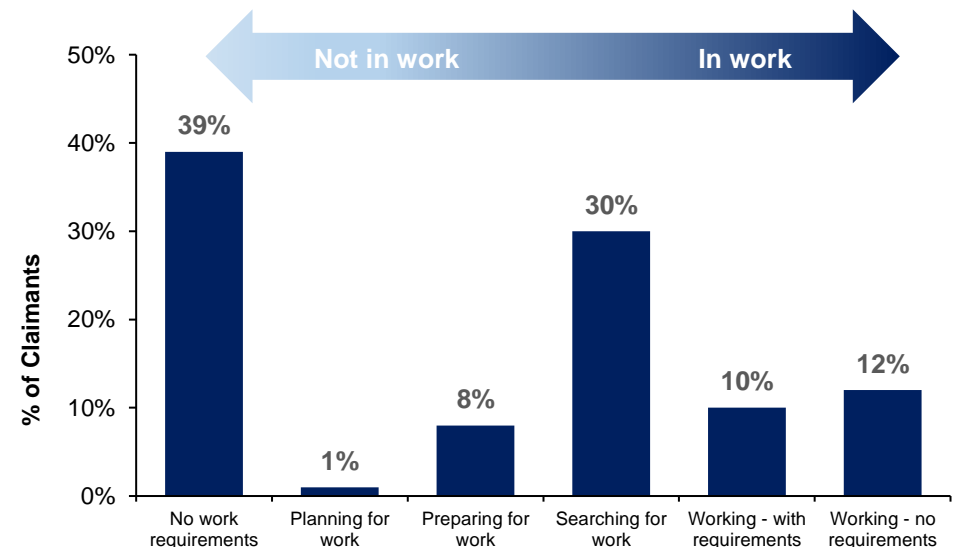- Housholds not in Payment
- Claimants
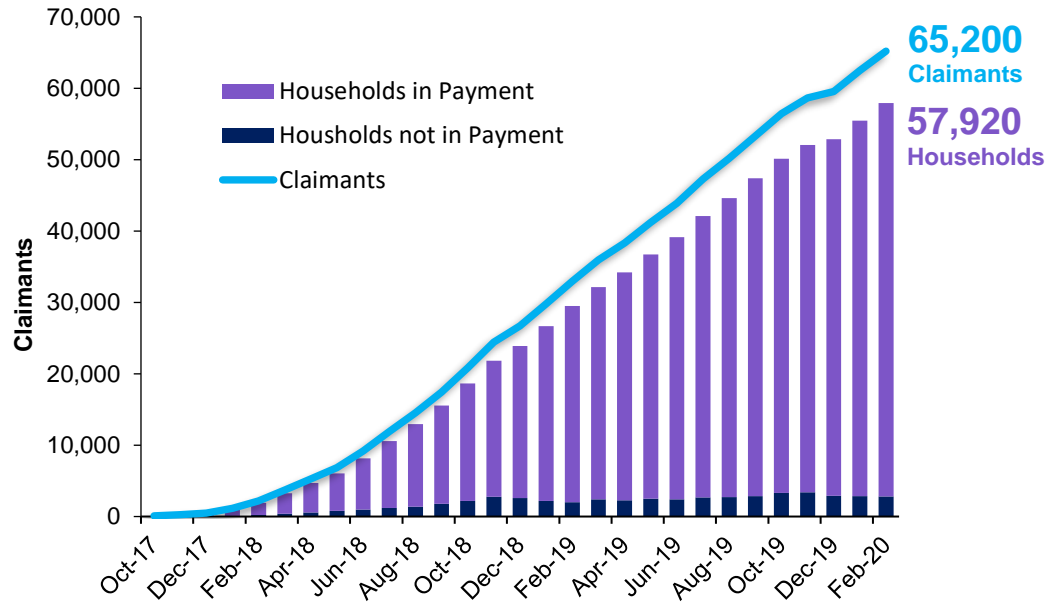
Key Facts

Universal Credit was introduced on a phased geographical basis from September 2017 to December 2018.

- The number of households on Universal Credit rose from 52,040 in November 2019 to 57,920 in February 2020. The number of claimants reached 65,200.

- Of the 65,200 claimants on Universal Credit, 30% (19,280) were in the "searching for work" conditionality regime.

- The majority of households (55,120) were in paid receipt of Universal Credit.

- In February 2020, 50% (27,690) of Universal Credit households in payment were single people and 37% (20,570) were lone parents.

- The average amount of Universal Credit paid to the 55,120 households in payment was £680 per month. This is an increase of £20 from November 2019.

- See Universal Credit publication for further information.

Structure of Households in Payment – February 2020

Single People **50%**

Lone Parents **37%**

Couples with Children **10%**

Couples **3%**

Universal Credit Claimants by Conditionality Regime – February 2020

Not in work → In work

- No work requirements: **39%**
- Planning for work: **1%**
- Preparing for work: **8%**
- Searching for work: **30%**
- Working - with requirements: **10%**
- Working - no requirements: **12%**

* See Note 6 on page 13 for further information on conditionality regimes.

Jobseeker's Allowance – National Statistics

Jobseeker's Allowance Claimants: February 2015 – February 2020


10,390
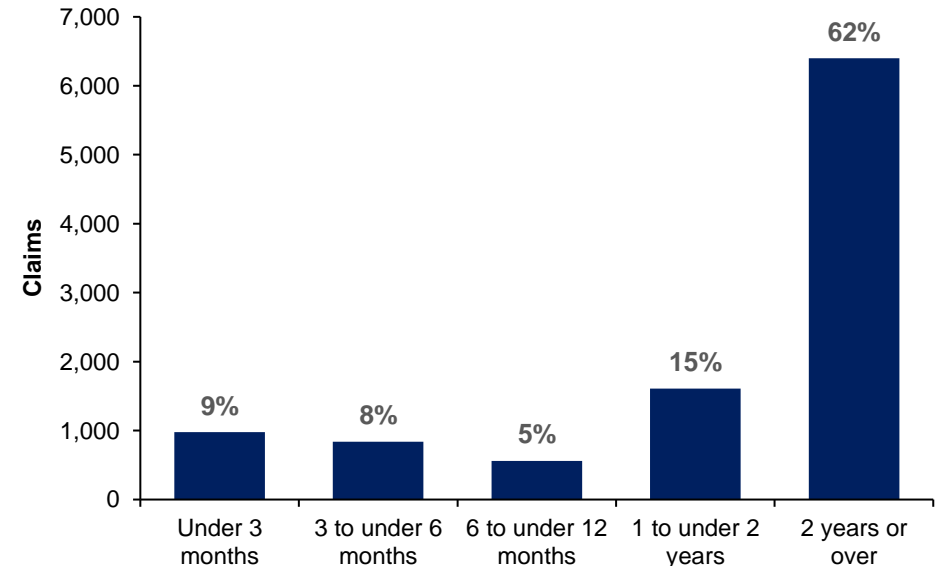**JSA Claimants at February 2020**
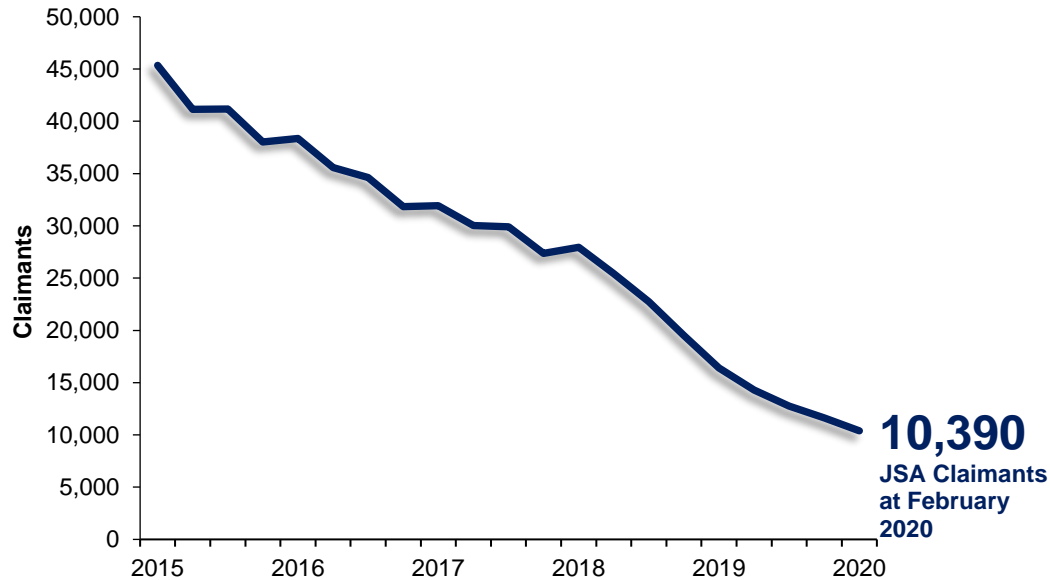
Key Facts

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 February 2020, there were 10,390 claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance.** This represents a decrease of 36.6% (6,000) on a year earlier and a decrease of 10.6% (1,230) since November 2019. This fall is due to the introduction of Universal Credit (UC).

- Of the 10,390 claimants, 91% (9,440) were recipients and 9% (950) were receiving credits only.

- The average weekly Jobseeker's Allowance benefit payment was £78.38.

- See supplementary tables for further information.
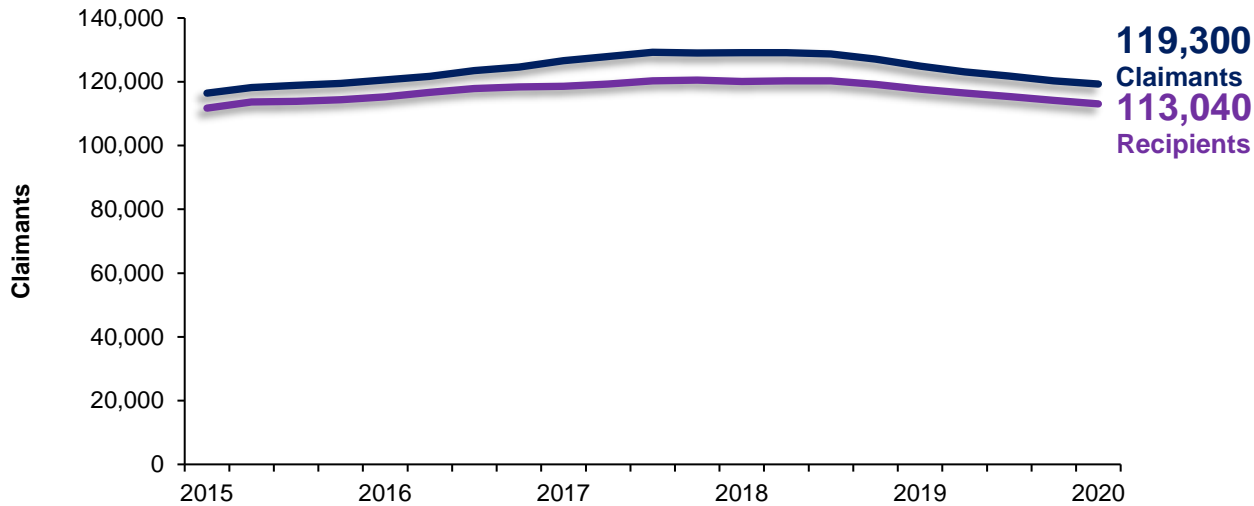
Jobseeker's Allowance Claimants by Age and Gender

Total Claimants:
67% Male
33% Female
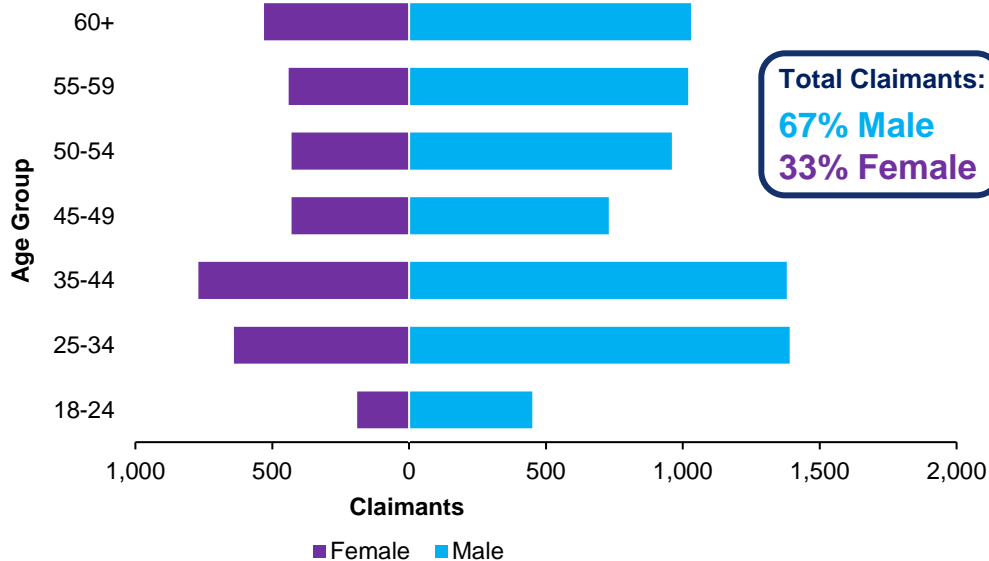
Jobseeker's Allowance Claims by Duration of Claim

Employment and Support Allowance – National Statistics

ESA Claimants & Recipients: February 2015 – February 2020

119,300 Claimants
113,040 Recipients

ESA Claims by Phase of Claim: February 2015 – February 2020

5,320 Work Related Activity Group

106,850 Support Group

2,520 Assessment Phase

4,620 Unknown / Credits Only

Legend: ■ Unknown/Credits Only ■ Assessment Phase ■ Support Group ■ Work Related Activity Group

Key Facts

- **At February 2020, there were 119,300 claimants of Employment and Support Allowance**. This represents a decrease of 4.5% (5,610) on a year earlier. This decrease is mainly due to the introduction of Universal Credit.

- Of the 119,300 claimants, 51% (60,260) were female and 49% (59,040) were male.

- Of the 119,300 claimants, 4% (5,320) were in the Work Related Activity Group, 90% (106,850) were in the Support Group. The remaining 6% (7,140) 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 £143.07.

- 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.

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 March 2020, there were 1,450 claimants of Incapacity Benefit and 1,020 claimants of Severe Disablement Allowance,** decreases of 170 and 110 respectively on a year earlier.

Income Support – National Statistics

Income Support Claimants: February 2015 – February 2020

10,490
Lone Parents
7,470
Carers and Others
5,320
Disabled

Legend: Disabled — Lone Parent — Carers & Others
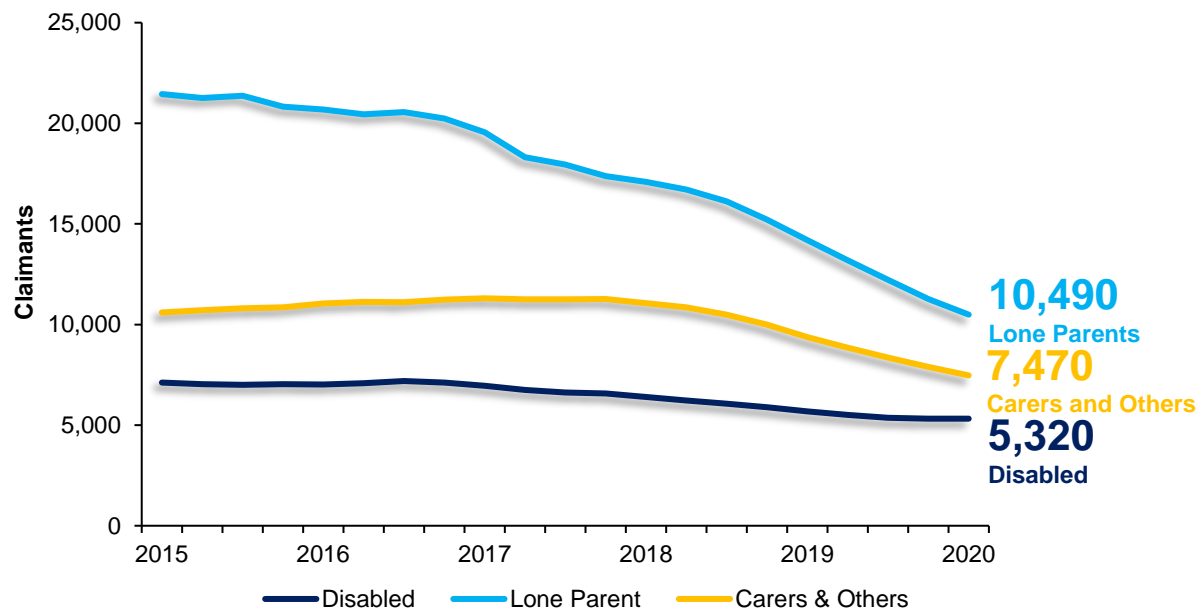
Income Support Claimants by Age and Gender

Total Claimants:
27% Male
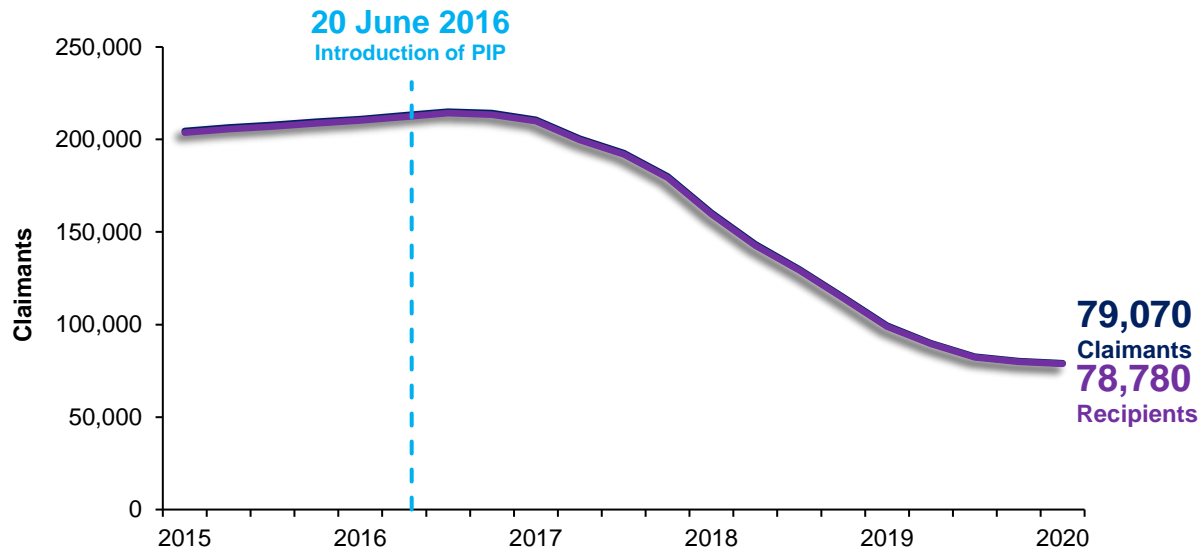**73% Female**

Legend: Female ■ Male
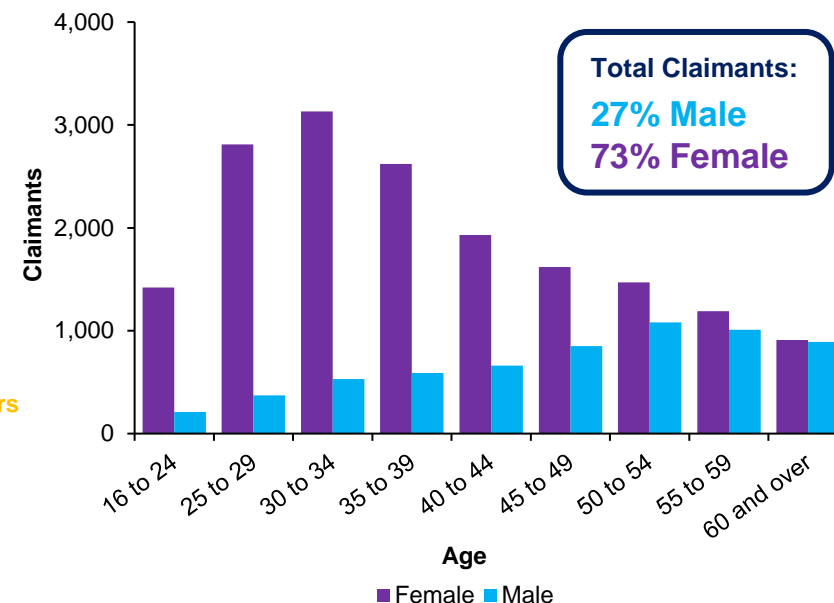
Key Facts

- **At February 2020, there were 23,280 Income Support claimants**, a decrease of 20.4% (5,970) since February 2019. This decrease is mainly due the introduction of Universal Credit (UC).

- Of the 23,280 claimants, 45% (10,490) are lone parents and 23% (5,320) are disabled.

- The average weekly Income Support payment was £138.44 for a disabled claimant and £63.82 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**

- A summary of UC statistics is included in this bulletin. Detailed UC statistics are available via a separate publication.

Disability Living Allowance – National Statistics

DLA Claimants & Recipients: February 2015 – February 2020

20 June 2016
Introduction of PIP

79,070
Claimants
78,780
Recipients

(Line chart: Claimants on the y-axis from 0 to 250,000, years 2015 to 2020 on the x-axis. The line rises slightly to a peak around 2016–2017 then falls steeply to approximately 79,000 by 2020. A dashed vertical line marks 20 June 2016.)
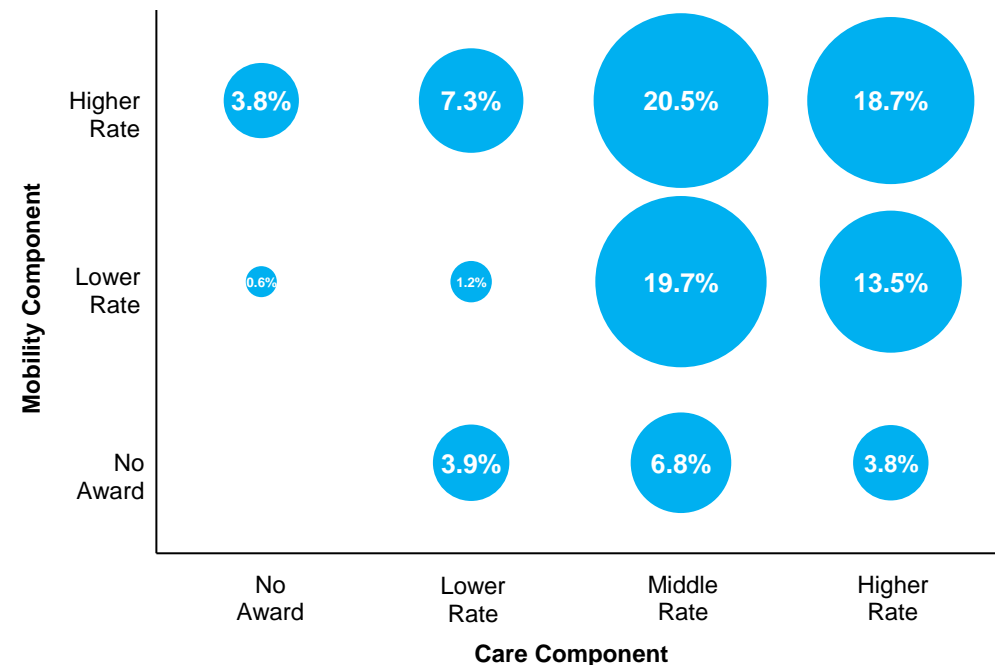
Personal Independence Payment (PIP)

- 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 has now been completed. DLA claimants turning 16 will continue to be reassessed for PIP.

- A summary of PIP statistics is included in this bulletin. Detailed PIP statistics are available via a separate publication.
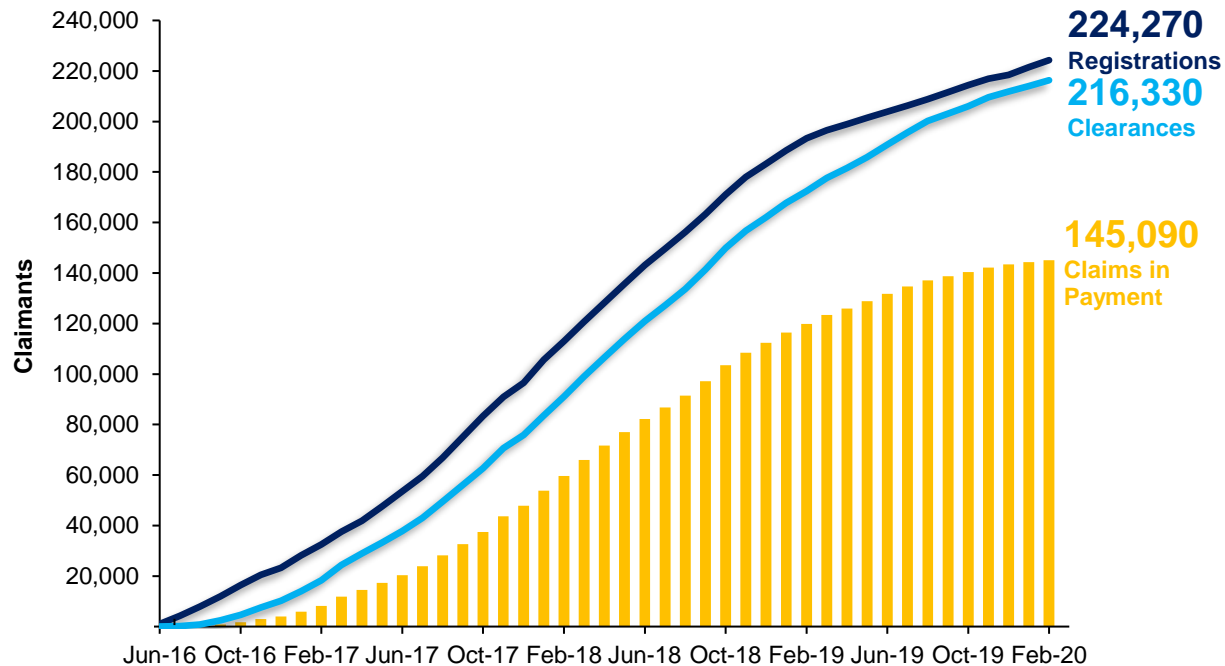
Key Facts

- **At February 2020, there were 79,070 claimants of Disability Living Allowance**, a fall of 20.5% (20,330) on a year earlier. This fall is due to the introduction of Personal Independence Payment (PIP) on 20th June 2016.

- There were 78,780 recipients of DLA (those actually in receipt of a payment).

- 32% (25,160) of claimants were children (under 16), 1%, (880) were aged between 16 and 64 and 67% (53,040) were aged 65 and over.

- 15% (11,490) of claimants were receiving the care component only, 5% (3,560) were receiving the mobility component only and 81% (64,020) were receiving both the care and mobility components.

- 19% (14,820) 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 £99.38.

- See supplementary tables for further information.

DLA Claimants by Care/Mobility Component

(Bubble chart. Y-axis: Mobility Component with categories Higher Rate, Lower Rate, No Award. X-axis: Care Component with categories No Award, Lower Rate, Middle Rate, Higher Rate.)

Mobility Component \ Care Component	No Award	Lower Rate	Middle Rate	Higher Rate
Higher Rate	3.8%	7.3%	20.5%	18.7%
Lower Rate	0.6%	1.2%	19.7%	13.5%
No Award		3.9%	6.8%	3.8%

Personal Independence Payment – Experimental Statistics

PIP Registrations, Clearances, & Claims in Payment: June 2016 – February 2020

224,270 Registrations

216,330 Clearances

145,090 Claims in Payment

PIP Claims in Payment by Care/Mobility Component

Mobility Component (vertical axis): Enhanced Award, Standard Award, No Award

Daily Living Component (horizontal axis): No Award, Standard Award, Enhanced Award

- Enhanced Award / No Award: 1.6%
- Enhanced Award / Standard Award: 18.7%
- Enhanced Award / Enhanced Award: 38.6%
- Standard Award / No Award: 1.4%
- Standard Award / Standard Award: 12.4%
- Standard Award / Enhanced Award: 6.8%
- No Award / Standard Award: 15.3%
- No Award / Enhanced Award: 5.2%

Key Facts

- Personal Independence Payment replaced Disability Living Allowance for claimants of working age on 20th June 2016.

- **At February 2020, there were 145,090 Personal Independence Payment claims in payment.** The overall award rate for Personal Independence Payment claims was 65%.

- 42% (60,290) of claims in payment had psychiatric disorders as the main disabling condition.

- 20% (29,730) of claims in payment were receiving the daily living component only, 3% (4,450) were receiving the mobility component only and 76% (110,920) were receiving both the daily living and mobility components.

- See Personal Independence Payment publication for further information.

Reassessment of Disability Living Allowance Claimants

- The main reassessment of existing working age DLA claimants to PIP commenced in December 2016 and has now been completed. DLA claimants turning 16 will continue to be reassessed for PIP.

- **76% of DLA reassessed claims are granted an award of PIP (based on initial decision).**

- Of the 145,090 claims in payment, 107,560 (74%) of these are reassessed DLA claims.

- Of the 107,560 reassessed DLA claims in payment, 81,780 (76%) received an award at the enhanced rate and 47,250 (44%) received the highest level of award (i.e. enhanced daily living component and enhanced mobility component).

8

State Pension – National Statistics

State Pension Claimants: February 2015 – March 2020

299,810
State Pension
Claimants
(inc. nSP)

162,480
Women

137,330
Men

39,850
New State
Pension
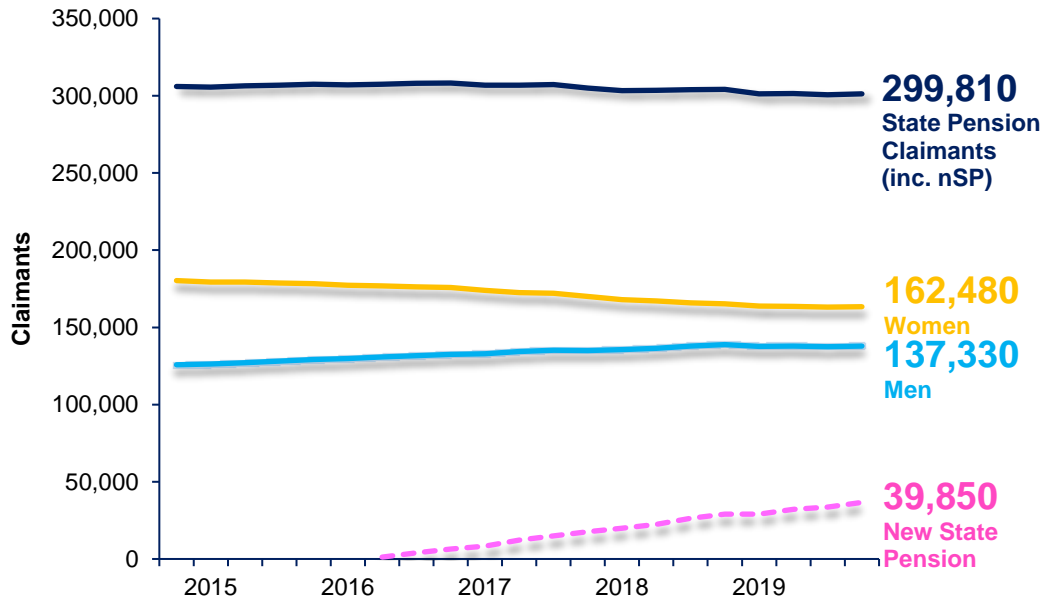
Key Facts

- **At March 2020, there were 299,810 claimants of State Pension**, a fall of 0.5% (1,530) on a year earlier.

- 54% (162,480) of claimants were women and 46% (137,330) 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 March 2020 was £152.90, an increase of £4.85 since March 2019.

- The new State Pension (nSP) was introduced for people reaching State Pension age from 6 April 2016. **At March 2020 there were 39,850 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: February 2015 – February 2020

7,660
Savings Credit

32,840
Guarantee Credit

26,180
Guarantee and
Savings Credit
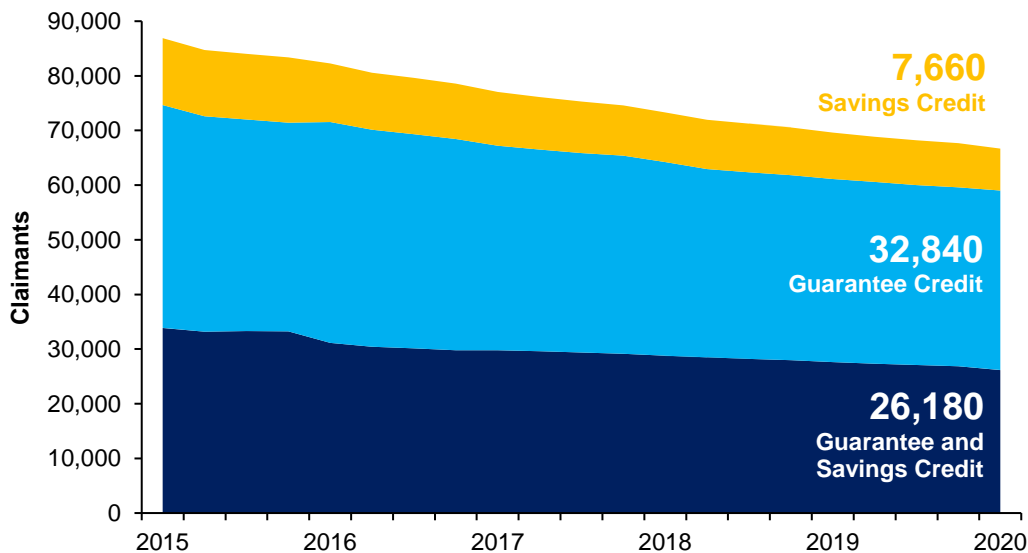
Key Facts

- **At February 2020, there were 66,680 claimants of Pension Credit,** a fall of 4.2% (2,930) on a year earlier.

- There were 80,160 beneficiaries (claimants and partners), a fall of 4.7% (3,950) on a year earlier. 83% (66,680) of beneficiaries were claimants and 17% (13,490) were partners.

- Of all beneficiaries (claimants and partners), 54% (43,090) were female and 46% (37,080) were male. Of all claimants, 60% (40,010) were female and 40% (26,670) were male.

- The average weekly Pension Credit benefit payment was £66.94.

- 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.

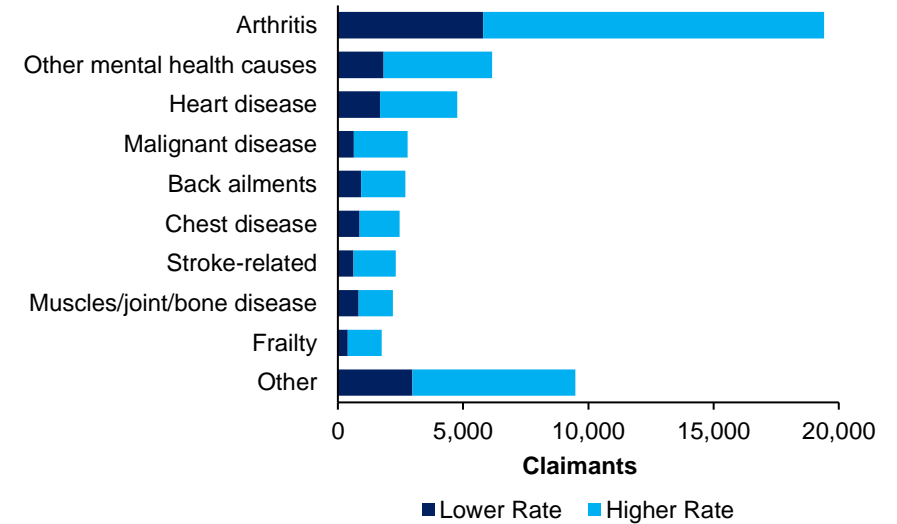# Attendance Allowance – National Statistics

Key Facts

- **At February 2020 there were 54,010 claimants of Attendance Allowance**, a decrease of 0.7% (360) on a year earlier.

- Of the 54,010 claimants, 50,560 (94%) were recipients and 3,450 (6%) were receiving credits only.

- 63% (33,790) of claimants were female and 37% (20,230) of claimants were male.

- 63% (34,220) of claimants were aged 80 or over.

- 69% (34,830) of recipients were receiving the higher rate of award.

- See supplementary tables for further information.

AA Claimants by Age and Gender
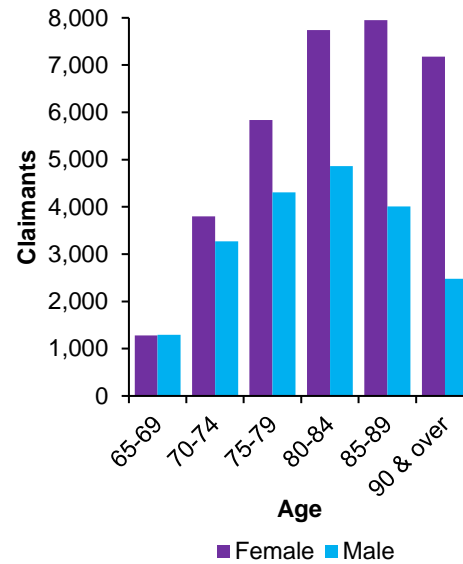
## AA Claimants by Disabling Condition, February 2020

# Carer's Allowance – National Statistics

Key Facts

- **At February 2020, there were 74,800 claimants of Carer's Allowance**, an increase of 1.0% (730) on a year earlier.

- Of the 74,800 claimants, 48,650 were recipients and 26,160 were receiving credits only.

- Of all claimants, 64% (48,220) were female and 36% (26,580) were male.

- Of all claimants, 69% (51,770) were of working age and 31% (23,030) were of pension age.

- See supplementary tables for more information.

Carer's Allowance Claimants: February 2015 – February 2020
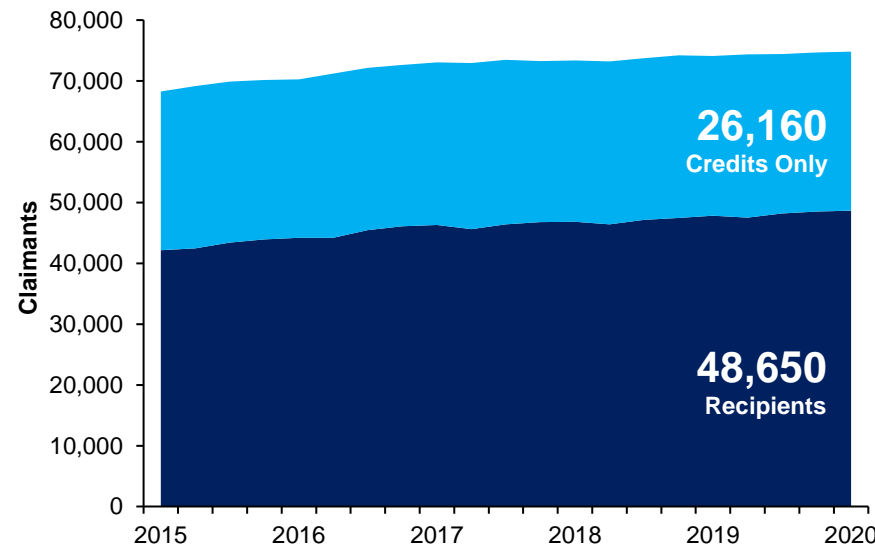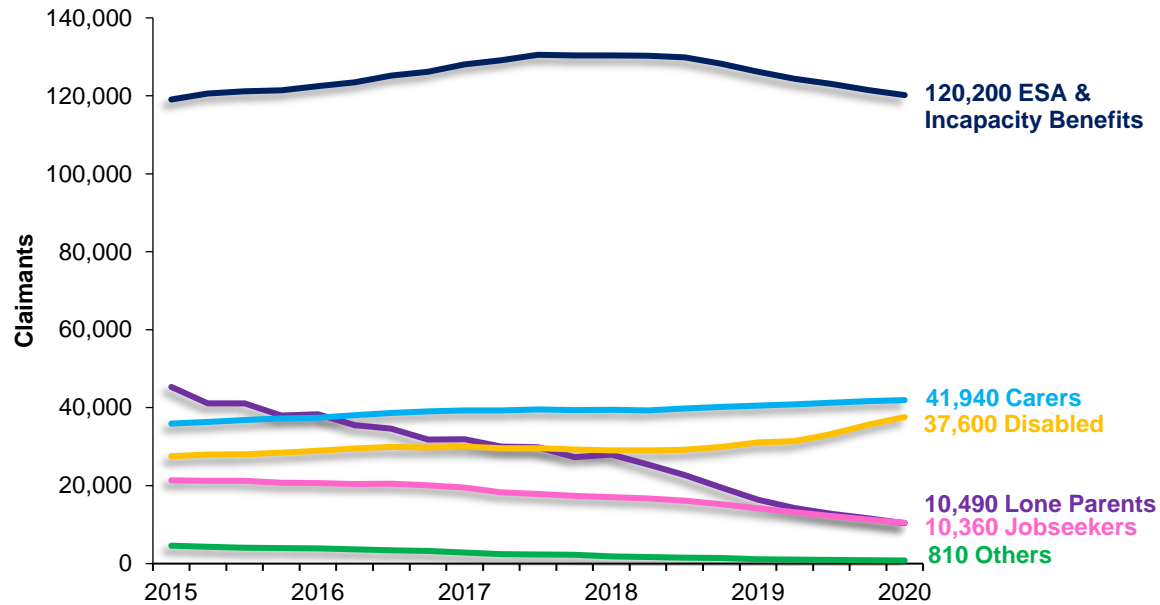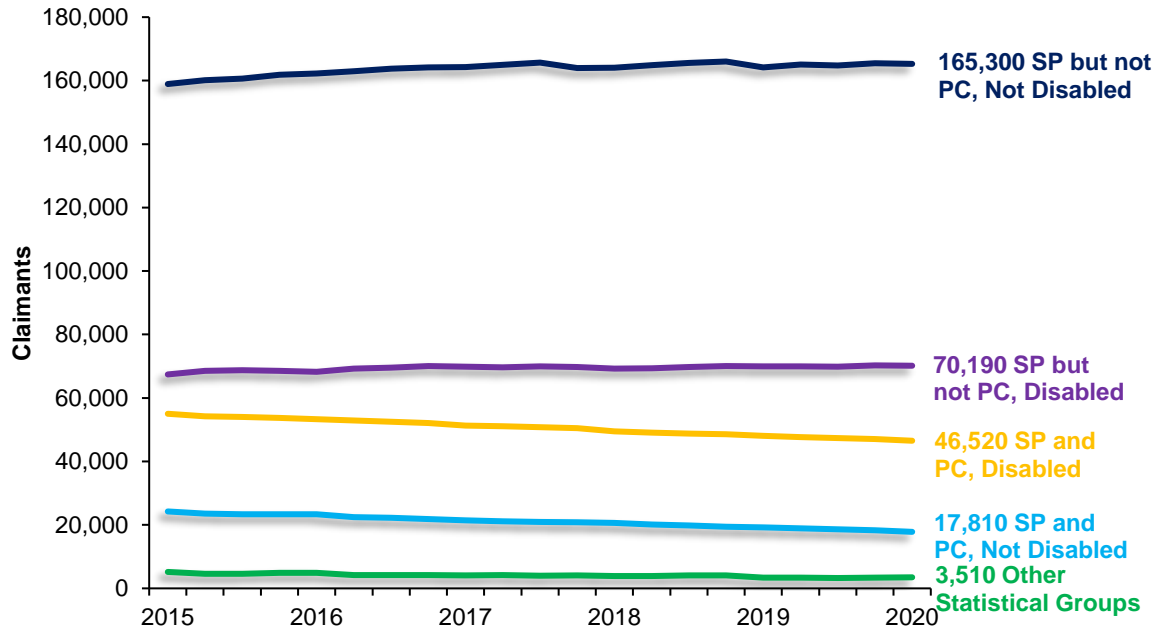

CA Claimants by Age and Gender
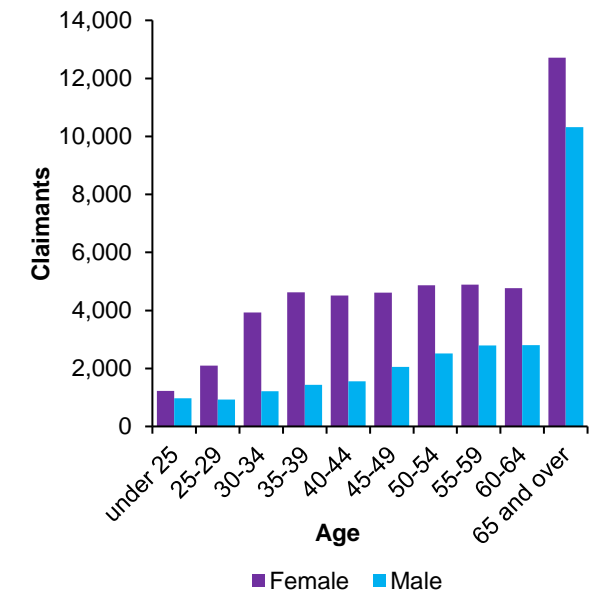
Client Group Analysis – Experimental Statistics

Working Age Client Group: February 2015 – February 2020

120,200 ESA & Incapacity Benefits

41,940 Carers
37,600 Disabled

10,490 Lone Parents
10,360 Jobseekers
810 Others

Y-axis: Claimants (0 to 140,000)
X-axis: 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020

Pension Age Client Group: February 2015 – February 2020

165,300 SP but not PC, Not Disabled

70,190 SP but not PC, Disabled

46,520 SP and PC, Disabled

17,810 SP and PC, Not Disabled
3,510 Other Statistical Groups

Y-axis: Claimants (0 to 180,000)
X-axis: 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020

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 7 on page 14.

Universal Credit figures are not yet included in these statistics but will be added once they have been assessed as suitably robust.

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 February 2020 there were 549,880 claimants of DfC administered benefits** (excluding Housing Benefit and Universal Credit). Of these, 221,400 were of Working Age and 303,330 were of Pension Age. There were also 25,160 children under 16 claiming Disability Living Allowance.

- Since February 2019, the Working Age client group has decreased by 8,120. This is largely due to the introduction of Universal Credit. **Data for Universal Credit is not yet included in this analysis.**

- The most common combination of working age benefits being claimed is Personal Independence Payment and Employment & Support Allowance – there were 84,010 (38%) Working Age claimants claiming this combination.

- 55.2% (122,320) of Working Age claimants were female and 44.8% (99,080) were male.

- Of the 303,330 Pension Age claimants, 39% (119,250) were claiming a disability benefit. 54% (165,300) of State Pension claimants were not claiming a disability benefit or Pension Credit and of these, 96% (158,860) claimed State Pension only. The remaining 4% (6,430) 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.

Households (Universal Credit): Households are counted as being on Universal Credit where a claimant or claimants within the household are included in the count of claimants.

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.

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. Universal Credit Conditionality Regimes

Conditionality regime specifies the category a claimant is in at the end of any given month. Conditionality refers to those work-related activities an eligible adult will have to carry out in order to retain eligibility for Universal Credit. Each eligible adult will fall into one of six conditionality regimes based on their capacity and circumstances. Different members of a household may be subject to the same or different requirements. As circumstances change claimants can also transition between different levels of conditionality.

The conditionality regimes within this publication have been taken from the Universal Credit Full Service system (UCFS) and renamed in order to aid the reader. 'No work requirements' covers the UCFS category 'no work related requirements', 'planning for work (light touch out of work)', 'preparing for work (work preparation and work focused interview)', 'searching for work (intensive)', 'working with requirements (light touch in work)' and 'working no requirements (no work related requirements)'. Conditionality Regimes are detailed in the following table:

No work requirements	Not expected to work at present. Health or caring responsibility prevents claimant from working or preparing for work.
Planning for work	Expected to work in the future. Lone parent/lead carer of child aged 1. Claimant required to attend periodic interviews to plan for their return to work.
Preparing for work	Expected to start preparing for future even with limited capability for work at the present time or parent of a child aged 2. The claimant is expected to take reasonable steps to prepare for working including Work Focused Interview.
Searching for work	Not working, or with very low earnings. Claimant is required to take action to secure work - or more/better paid work. The Work Coach supports them to plan their work search and preparation activity.
Working - with requirements	In work but could earn more, or not working but has a partner with low earnings.
Working - no requirements	Individual or household earnings over the level at which conditionality applies. Required to inform Department for Communities of changes of circumstances, particularly if at risk of decreasing earnings or losing job.

7. 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.

8. 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. A summary of UC statistics is included in this bulletin. Detailed UC statistics are available via a separate publication.

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 has now been completed. Claimants turning 16 will continue to be reassessed for PIP. 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".

9. Known issues, changes and revisions

Changes for this release

A summary of Universal Credit (UC) statistics are included in this bulletin for the first time. Note that all UC statistics are currently designated as Experimental Statistics.

Previous changes – November 2019 (released February 2020)

N/A

10. 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.

11. 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.