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## Glossary of Terms and Conventions

### Glossary of Terms

***Couple***

Two persons either married or living together as husband and wife

***Dependant***

A person who is not a partner and whose resources and requirements are included with those of the claimant

***Duration of claim***

Duration of current period in receipt of Income Support

***Family Type***

Single or couple, with or without dependants

***Lone Parent***

A single parent aged under 60 and not in the disabled group

***Partner***

One of a married or unmarried couple living together

***Single***

A claimant who is not living as one of a couple

***Single Parent***

A claimant without a partner but with one or more dependants

***Statistical Group***

The main groups of claimants

**Conventions**

IS	Income Support
JSA	Jobseekers Allowance
£pw	Pounds per week
£million	Millions of pounds
QSE	Quarterly Statistical Enquiry
RCNH	Residential Care Nursing Homes
GOR	Government Office Region
-	Numbers are too small to be statistically reliable
<i>Italics</i>	Counts in italics are not statistically reliable



## Summary

Income Support (IS) is a means-tested benefit, intended to provide for basic living expenses for an individual and their family. A customer can claim for self, partner and any dependent children under the age of 19, providing they are not able to claim in their own right. Only one person in the family can be the primary customer at one time. The main types of people who receive IS are pensioners, lone parents, long and short-term sick, people with disabilities and other special groups.

Prior to October 1996, unemployed people or those on a government training scheme could claim IS, but now claim Jobseekers Allowance (JSA). In order for valid comparisons to be drawn of the IS population before and after the introduction of JSA, unemployed IS claimants and those on government training schemes have been excluded from those tables which show data prior to May 1997.

IS is made up of a personal allowance, a premium payment and where applicable help in meeting accommodation costs. The personal allowance provides money for normal expenses for the customer (and partner and dependants if appropriate). Premium payments are extra payments for groups of people whose expenses are likely to be higher than normal. The maximum amount that a customer can receive is normally reduced by any amount of income they have from most other benefits or other sources.



## Section 1 Caseload-key characteristics and average payments

### Summary

The opening section of this report looks at the IS caseload and the average amount of benefit in payment per week (Table 1.3). Breakdowns according to certain key characteristics (statistical group, age, gender) are also given, although more detailed information is given in the more specialised sections later in the report.

Between August 2000 and August 2001 the IS caseload has grown by approximately 1.9% and now stands at 176,880 at August 2001.

A large proportion of this increase was due to the increased number of claimants receiving a disability premium or those aged 60 or over. This effect was also seen in GB. Between August 2000 and August 2001 the disabled statistical group in Northern Ireland increased by approximately 6.9% to 51,800 claimants (29.3% of the total caseload) compared to the GB disabled statistical group increasing by approximately 5.8% to 1,033,000 claimants (26.1% of the total caseload). Similarly, in the statistical group aged 60 or over, between August 2000 and August 2001 this group in Northern Ireland increased by approximately 3.4% to 77,220 claimants (43.7% of the total caseload) compared to the GB statistical group aged 60 or over increasing by approximately 6% to 1,736,000 claimants (43.8% of the total caseload).

Lone Parents, along with the 'Other' statistical group, has shown a decrease in both the numbers claiming IS and the proportion of the total IS caseload. The number of lone parent claimants has fallen from 32,820 in August 2000 to 32,220 in August 2001, with the average weekly payment for this group rising from £91.13 to £101.33. This group has the highest average weekly payment of IS. The number of claimants in the 'Other' statistical group has decreased between August 2000 and August 2001 (17,560 to 15,640) and makes up 8.8% of the IS caseload.

Generally, claimants with dependants receive a higher weekly payment of IS compared to those without dependants, irrespective of marital status. At August 2001, for example, a single claimant without dependants received on average £55.39 per week, compared to £106.17 received by a single person with dependants. Amongst couples, those without dependants received on average £67.71 per week, while those with dependants received on average £127.58 per week.

The largest number of male IS claimants lies in the 25-59 year age bracket, followed by the 60 years or over age bracket (37,840 and 27,200 respectively at August 2001). The largest number of females is in the 60 years and over age bracket, closely followed by the 25-59 year age bracket (49,400 and 47,980 respectively at August 2001).



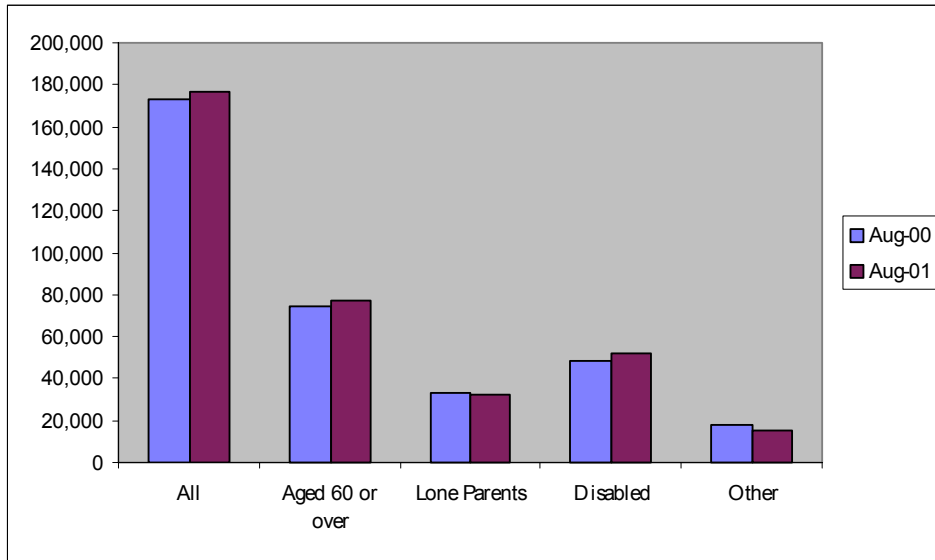
The total number of IS claimants was higher in August 2001 than at any other time in the preceding five years (176,880 claimants in August 2001 and 158,560 at May 1996). In contrast, in GB the total number of IS claimants has remains the same, with the total number of claimants at August 2001 and May 1996 standing at 3,963,000.



**Table 1.1 Income Support claimants by statistical group: August 2000 to August 2001**

	All Claimants	Statistical group			
		Aged 60 or over	Lone Parents	Disabled	Other
Aug-00	<b>173,500</b>	74,680	32,820	48,440	17,560
Nov-00	<b>174,360</b>	76,060	32,140	49,640	16,520
Feb-01	<b>175,160</b>	76,520	32,580	49,800	16,260
May-01	<b>175,420</b>	76,460	32,400	50,940	15,620
Aug-01	<b>176,880</b>	77,220	32,220	51,800	15,640

**Chart 1A Income Support claimants by statistical group: August 2000 and August 2001**



**Table 1.2 Income Support claimants by statistical group: August 2000 to August 2001**

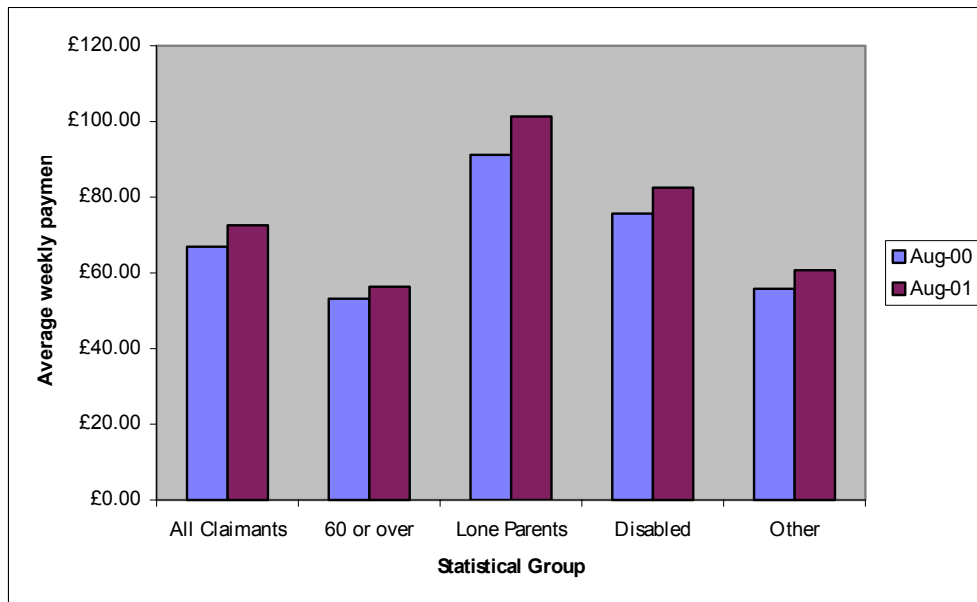
	All Claimants	Statistical group			
		% Aged 60 or over	% Lone Parents	% Disabled	% Other
Aug-00	<b>100%</b>	43.0%	18.9%	27.9%	10.1%
Nov-00	<b>100%</b>	43.6%	18.4%	28.5%	9.5%
Feb-01	<b>100%</b>	43.7%	18.6%	28.4%	9.3%
May-01	<b>100%</b>	43.6%	18.5%	29.0%	8.9%
Aug-01	<b>100%</b>	43.7%	18.2%	29.3%	8.8%



**Table 1.3 Average weekly payments made to Income Support claimants by statistical group: August 2000 to August 2001 (£pw)**

	All Claimants	Statistical group			
		Aged 60 or over	Lone Parents	Disabled	Other
Aug-00	<b>£66.90</b>	£53.16	£91.13	£75.69	£55.77
Nov-00	<b>£68.85</b>	£52.62	£98.77	£78.52	£56.30
Feb-01	<b>£68.39</b>	£52.19	£98.52	£77.96	£54.98
May-01	<b>£73.10</b>	£56.72	£102.05	£82.83	£61.45
Aug-01	<b>£72.58</b>	£56.35	£101.33	£82.49	£60.70

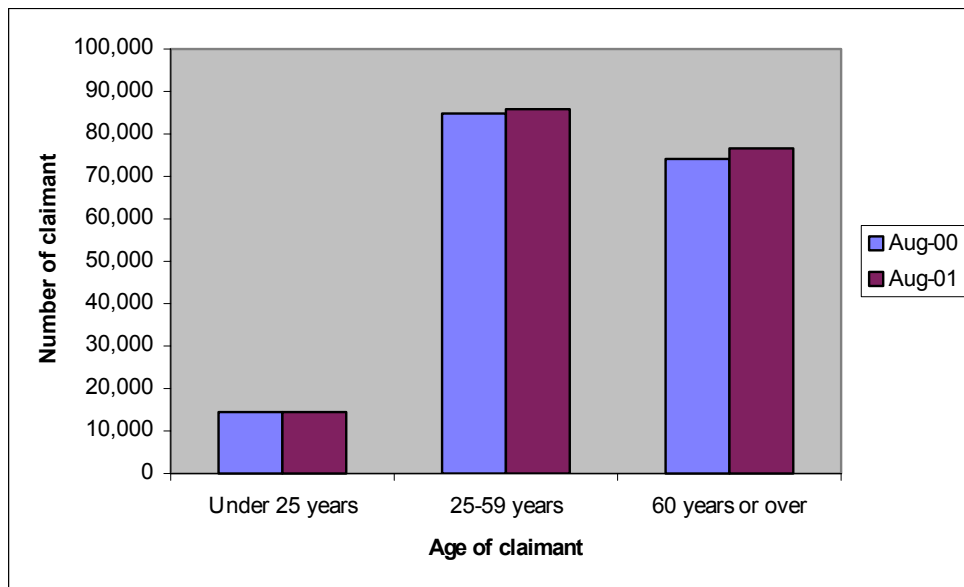
**Chart 1B Average weekly payments made to Income Support claimants by statistical group: August 2000 and August 2001**



**Table 1.4 Income Support claimants by age and gender: August 2000 to August 2001**

	All Claimants	All males			All females		
		Under 25 years	25-59	60 or over	Under 25 years	25-59	60 or over
Aug-00	<b>173,500</b>	4,420	36,800	26,180	10,060	48,100	47,940
Nov-00	<b>174,360</b>	4,180	36,940	26,580	10,160	47,580	48,920
Feb-01	<b>175,160</b>	4,240	37,180	26,620	10,540	47,320	49,260
May-01	<b>175,420</b>	4,340	37,240	26,800	10,040	48,020	48,980
Aug-01	<b>176,880</b>	4,200	37,840	27,200	10,260	47,980	49,400

**Chart 1C Income Support claimants by age: August 2000 and August 2001**



**Table 1.5 Average weekly payments made to Income Support claimants by age and gender: August 2000 to August 2001 (£pw)**

	All Claimants	All males			All females		
		Under 25 years	25-59	60 or over	Under 25 years	25-59	60 or over
Aug-00	<b>£66.90</b>	£48.91	£70.81	£58.57	£70.60	£85.99	£50.16
Nov-00	<b>£68.85</b>	£48.70	£73.24	£57.66	£75.99	£91.52	£49.80
Feb-01	<b>£68.39</b>	£47.45	£72.85	£57.18	£75.79	£91.31	£49.30
May-01	<b>£73.10</b>	£47.31	£79.17	£63.12	£78.66	£95.74	£52.87
Aug-01	<b>£72.58</b>	£45.99	£78.44	£62.84	£77.59	£95.49	£52.42

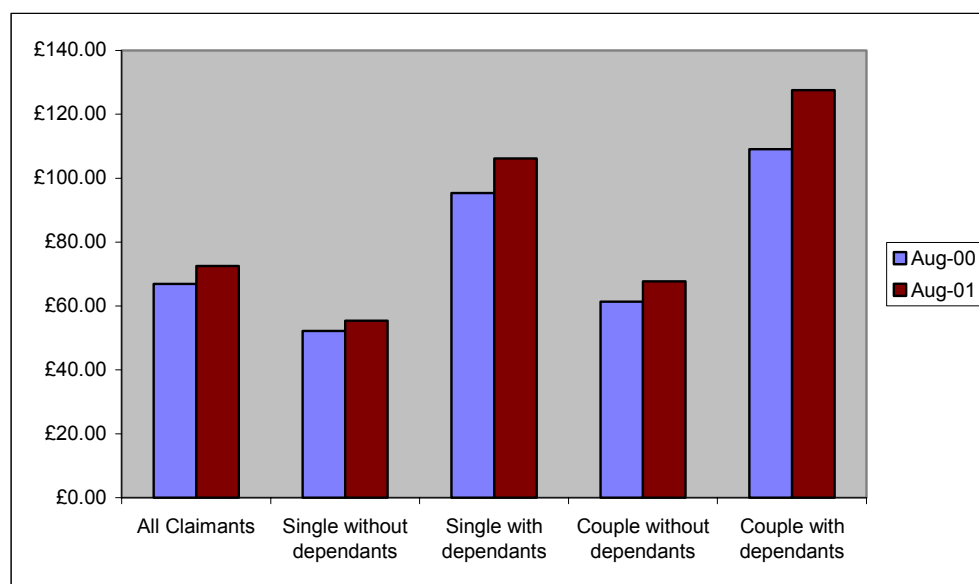


**Table 1.6 Income Support claimants by family type: August 2000 to August 2001**

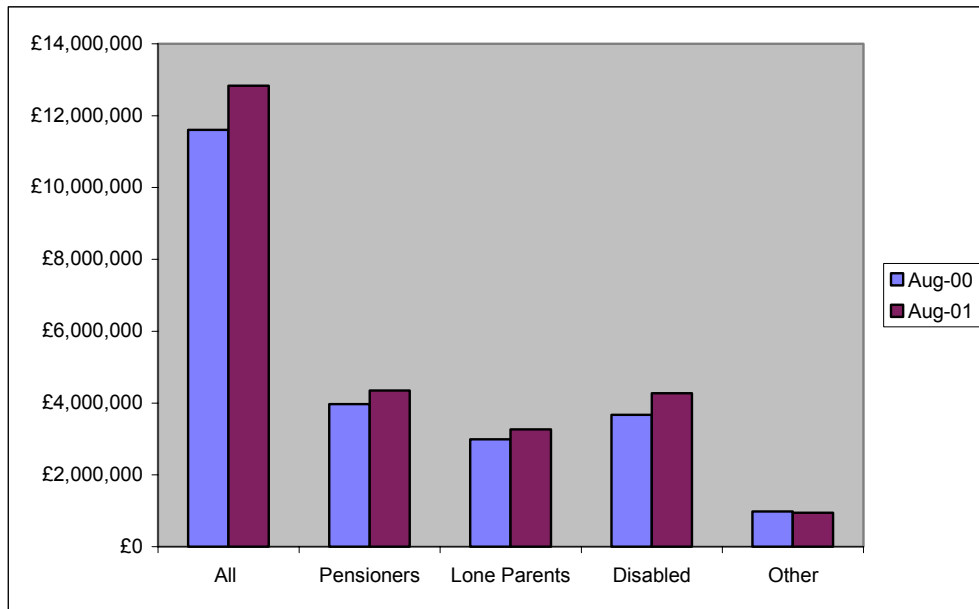
	<b>All Claimants</b>	Single without dependants	Single with dependants	Couples without dependants	Couples with dependants
Aug-00	<b>173,500</b>	104,120	40,260	17,740	11,380
Nov-00	<b>174,360</b>	105,160	39,680	18,760	10,760
Feb-01	<b>175,160</b>	105,620	39,920	18,940	10,680
May-01	<b>175,420</b>	105,960	39,800	19,040	10,620
Aug-01	<b>176,880</b>	106,960	40,160	19,160	10,600

**Table 1.7 Average weekly payments made to Income Support claimants by family type: August 2000 to August 2001 (£pw)**

	<b>All Claimants</b>	Single without dependants	Single with dependants	Couples without dependants	Couples with dependants
Aug-00	<b>£66.90</b>	£52.23	£95.35	£61.29	£109.11
Nov-00	<b>£68.85</b>	£52.21	£103.03	£60.65	£119.76
Feb-01	<b>£68.39</b>	£51.75	£102.79	£60.62	£118.22
May-01	<b>£73.10</b>	£55.62	£106.84	£68.21	£129.76
Aug-01	<b>£72.58</b>	£55.39	£106.17	£67.71	£127.58

**Chart 1D Average weekly payments made to Income Support claimants by family type: August 2000 and August 2001**

**Chart 1E Estimated Total Weekly Expenditure on Income Support by group (Last week in August): 2000 and 2001**



## Section 2 Length of time on IS

### Summary

This section examines the length of time customers spend on IS with respect to their key characteristics (Table 2.2, 2.3). A comparison over time is also given (Table 2.1).

Duration data may have an indication of changes in the flow of claimants on and off benefit. A sudden increase in the number of claimants on benefit indicates that more individuals are flowing into the benefit than leaving and may lead to a rise in the number of claimants having relatively short spells of benefit receipt. On the other hand, an increase that occurs over a longer period of time may be due to claimants having longer spells of benefit receipt, reflected in longer durations on benefit.

### Main Findings

Although the overall numbers claiming IS has increased between August 2000 and August 2001, the proportion of claimants receiving benefit for the duration periods of under 3 months, 3 to under 6 months and 6 to under 12 months have decreased slightly (4.3% to 3.6%, 5.4% to 4.9% and 7.7% to 7.5% respectively). This decrease suggests a slight downturn in the number of new applicants over the last year. Approximately 72% of all IS claimants have been in receipt of the benefit for at least 2 years since 1997. Claimants in the statistical group aged 60 or over were most likely to have spent the longest time on IS in August 2001 (80.4% had a claim which lasted 2 years or over) whilst those in the 'other' group were likely to have spent the shortest time (36.6% had made their claim in the 6 months to August 2001).

The majority of claimants over 25 have been in receipt of IS for 2 years or more. Older claimants (over 60), both male and female, are the most likely to have spent the longest time on Income Support. At August 2001 79.9% of males in this age bracket had a claim lasting 2 Years or longer, while 80.8% of females in this age group had a claim of this duration. Those aged under 25 claiming IS at August 2001 also tended to be claiming benefit for longer durations although, when compared with other age groups, more young claimants were claiming for less than 3 months (12.4% males under 25 and 9.6% of females under 25 at August 2001).

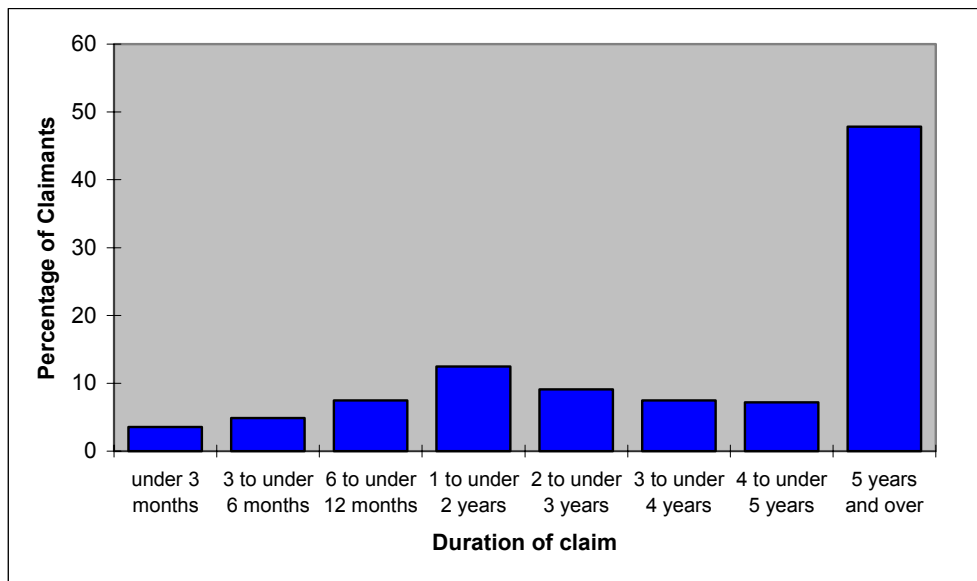
Claimants with longer claim durations were more likely to receive higher amounts of benefit than those claimants with shorter claim durations in August 2001. 41.6% of those with a duration of 2 years or more received £80 or more per week compared with only 27% for those with a duration of under 3 months.



**Table 2.1 Income Support claimants by duration of current claim: August 2000 to August 2001**

<b>Duration</b>	<b>Aug 2000</b>	<b>Nov 2000</b>	<b>Feb 2001</b>	<b>May 2001</b>	<b>Aug 2001</b>
<b>All claimants</b>	<b>173,500</b>	<b>174,360</b>	<b>175,160</b>	<b>175,420</b>	<b>176,880</b>
% under 3 months	4.3%	4.4%	3.5%	4.1%	3.6%
% 3 to under 6 months	5.4%	4.9%	5.5%	4.1%	4.9%
% 6 to under 12 months	7.7%	7.9%	8.2%	8.2%	7.5%
% 1 to under 2 years	11.3%	11.5%	11.5%	11.9%	12.5%
% 2 to under 3 years	8.8%	8.7%	8.6%	9.0%	9.1%
% 3 to under 4 years	8.6%	8.4%	8.3%	8.0%	7.5%
% 4 to under 5 years	5.8%	6.1%	6.1%	6.6%	7.2%
% 5 years and over	48.1%	48.0%	48.3%	48.2%	47.8%

**Chart 2A Income Support claimants by duration of current claim: August 2001**

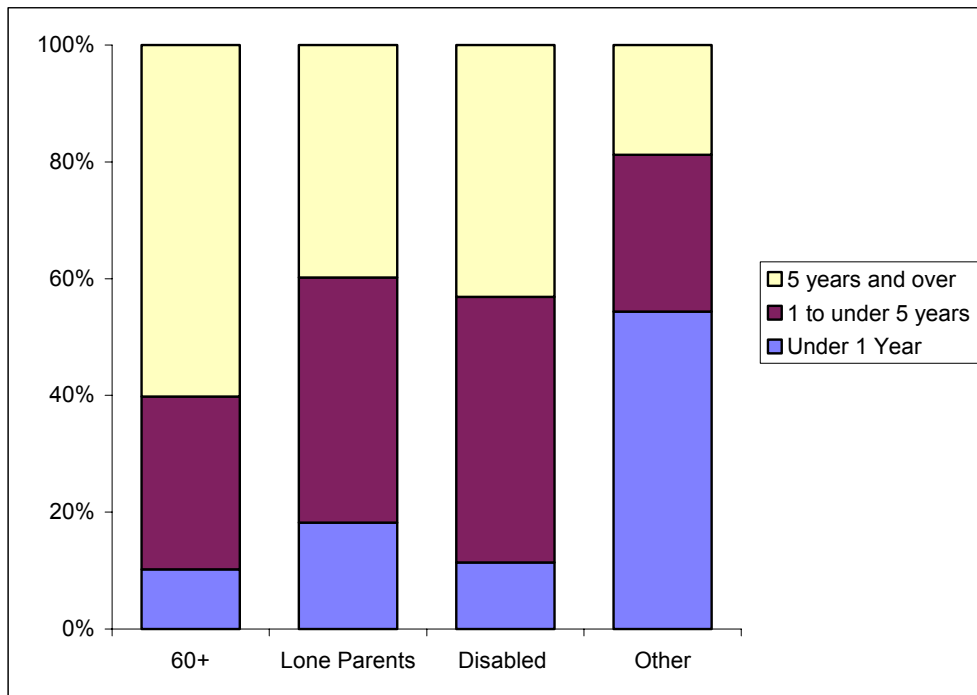


**Table 2.2 Income Support claimants by duration of current claim and statistical group: August 2001**

	All Claimants	Statistical group			
		Aged 60 or over	Lone Parents	Disabled	Other
Total	176,880	77,220	32,220	51,800	15,640
% under 3 months	3.6	1.8	3.9	1.9	17.0
% 3 to under 6 months	4.9	2.7	5.5	3.4	19.6
% 6 to under 12 months	7.5	5.7	8.8	6.1	17.8
% 1 to under 2 years	12.5	9.3	14.2	16.3	12.1
% 2 to under 3 years	9.1	7.2	11.2	11.8	5.2
% 3 to under 4 years	7.5	6.0	8.4	9.8	5.1
% 4 to under 5 years	7.2	7.0	8.3	7.6	4.3
% 5 years and over	47.8	60.2	39.8	43.1	18.8

**Chart 2B: Income Support claimants by duration of current claim and statistical group: August 2001**

*Percentages*



**Table 2.3 Income Support claimants by duration of current claim, age and gender: August 2001**

Age/ Gender	All Claimants	Duration				
		% Under 3 Months	% 3 months to under 6 months	% 6 months to under 1 year	% 1 year to under 2 years	% 2 years or over
<b>Total</b>	<b>176,880</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>71.6</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>69,240</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>67.1</b>
Under 18	260	15.4	38.5	38.5	7.7	-
18-24	3,940	12.2	13.7	18.8	23.4	32.0
25-59	37,840	5.1	7.5	8.6	16.8	62.1
60 and Over	27,200	2.1	3.3	5.8	8.9	79.9
<b>Female</b>	<b>107,640</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>74.5</b>
Under 18	520	26.9	19.2	38.5	15.4	-
18-24	9,740	8.6	9.2	14.4	24.8	42.9
25-59	47,980	3.0	4.5	6.6	10.8	75.1
60 and Over	49,400	1.7	2.4	5.6	9.5	80.8

**Table 2.4 Income Support claimants by duration of current claim and range of weekly IS payment: August 2001**

Age/ Gender	All Claimants	Duration				
		% Under 3 Months	% 3 months to under 6 months	% 6 months to under 1 year	% 1 year to under 2 years	% 2 years or over
<b>All amounts</b>	<b>176,880</b>	<b>6,300</b>	<b>8,680</b>	<b>13,180</b>	<b>22,100</b>	<b>126,620</b>
Under £10	3.5	7.6	15.2	7.3	5.6	1.7
£10 to under £30	17.4	11.1	13.8	15.8	15.8	18.4
£30 to under £40	7.0	11.7	7.1	9.1	7.3	6.5
£40 to under £50	7.1	17.5	12.7	8.6	8.3	5.8
£50 to under £70	16.6	19.7	16.6	17.0	11.9	17.2
£70 to under £80	8.7	5.4	4.1	7.4	12.3	8.7
£80 to under £100	15.2	13.7	13.1	16.7	17.6	14.8
£100 or over	24.5	13.3	17.3	18.1	21.1	26.8
<b>Average amount £ per week</b>	<b>72.58</b>	<b>59.34</b>	<b>58.05</b>	<b>63.71</b>	<b>69.69</b>	<b>75.66</b>



### **Section 3 Main claimant groups**

#### **Summary**

This section looks at the main claimant groups within the overall caseload (60 or over, disabled, lone parents and “others”). Claimants are allocated to groups based firstly upon entitlement to pensioner or disability premiums, and then to the lone parent group if they are single with dependants and not already classed as a pensioner or disabled.

Eligibility for the pensioner or disability premium may be based on either the claimant’s or their partner’s circumstances. For example, a 59 year old claimant with a 62 year old partner would receive a pensioner premium. Some claimants are eligible for more than one of these premiums but their benefit is assessed using only the one that gives them the highest allowance. They are therefore allocated to statistical groups in the following order: pensioner, disabled, lone parent and “other” (i.e. not in one of the other groups). There are several rates of pensioner premium which can be paid to people in the 60 or over group, depending upon age and disability.

This section presents a set of tables for each group, and identifies key claimant characteristics.

#### **Main Findings**

Females in the aged 60 or over statistical group tended to be older than the male claimants in this category, which is also the trend in the general population. In August 2001, 37.3% (18,540) of these women were aged 80 years or over compared to just 16.5% (4,560) of men. Those aged 60-64 accounted for 34.3% of males in this premium group, while only 12.3% were in this age bracket for females. This age distribution is broadly similar to that in Great Britain at this time, with 33.1% of males and 11.5% of females falling into the 60-64 years age bracket.

Disabled IS claimants were mainly in the 25-59 age range at August 2001, a situation which has remained relatively unchanged since 1995. 57.7% (29,880) of IS claimants receiving the disability were male, 42.3% (21,920) female. This is mirrored in Great Britain where the percentages are 55.5% male and 44.5% female.

The majority of lone parents were female (95.3%) and concentrated mainly in the 25-59 year old age band.

The number of ‘other’ claimants fell from 17,560 in August 2000 to 15,640 in August 2001. There continues to be almost twice as many males than females in this category (10,300 and 5,340 respectively). This distribution is mirrored in GB, with 62.1% (187,000) of ‘other’ claimants being male and 37.9% (115,000) female at August 2001.



**Table 3.1 Income Support claimants receiving a Pensioner premium<sup>1</sup> by age and gender: August 2000 to August 2001**

Age/ Gender	Aug-00	Nov-00	Feb-01	May-01	Aug-01
<b>Total</b>	<b>74,680</b>	<b>76,060</b>	<b>76,520</b>	<b>76,440</b>	<b>77,220</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>26,460</b>	<b>26,840</b>	<b>26,960</b>	<b>27,140</b>	<b>27,560</b>
60-64	9,280	9,140	9,320	9,300	9,460
65-74	9,640	10,120	10,080	10,260	10,440
75-79	3,240	3,180	3,080	3,100	3,100
80 or over	4,300	4,400	4,480	4,480	4,560
<b>Female</b>	<b>48,220</b>	<b>49,220</b>	<b>49,560</b>	<b>49,300</b>	<b>49,660</b>
60-64	5,820	5,980	5,940	6,020	6,120
65-74	14,580	14,740	14,900	15,100	15,280
75-79	9,300	9,800	9,880	9,660	9,720
80 or over	18,520	18,700	18,840	18,520	18,540

<sup>1</sup> This includes cases where the claimant/partner is aged 60 or over

<sup>2</sup> 60-64 age band includes claimants aged under 60 where there is a partner aged 60 or over/ in receipt of a pensioner premium

**Table 3.2 Income Support claimants in receipt of a Disability premium by age and gender: August 2000 to August 2001**

Age/ Gender	Aug-00	Nov-00	Feb-01	May-01	Aug-01
<b>Total</b>	<b>48,440</b>	<b>49,640</b>	<b>49,800</b>	<b>50,940</b>	<b>51,800</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>27,800</b>	<b>28,380</b>	<b>28,600</b>	<b>29,260</b>	<b>29,880</b>
Under 18	140	100	100	160	200
18-24	2,380	2,240	2,300	2,300	2,260
25-59	25,280	26,040	26,200	26,800	27,420
<b>Female</b>	<b>20,640</b>	<b>21,260</b>	<b>21,200</b>	<b>21,680</b>	<b>21,920</b>
Under 18	120	140	140	140	120
18-24	1,780	1,900	1,820	1,960	1,940
25-59	18,740	19,220	19,240	19,580	19,860



**Table 3.3 Income Support claimants in receipt of a Lone Parent premium by age and gender: August 2000 to August 2001**

<b>Age/ Gender</b>	<b>Aug-00</b>	<b>Nov-00</b>	<b>Feb-01</b>	<b>May-01</b>	<b>Aug-01</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,820</b>	<b>32,140</b>	<b>32,580</b>	<b>32,400</b>	<b>32,220</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,480</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,580</b>	<b>1,500</b>
<b>Female</b>	<b>31,320</b>	<b>30,660</b>	<b>31,080</b>	<b>30,820</b>	<b>30,720</b>
Under 18	300	280	200	200	160
18-24	6,700	6,880	7,380	6,800	6,980
25-59	24,320	23,500	23,500	23,820	23,580

**Table 3.4 "Other" Income Support claimants by age and gender: August 2000 to August 2001**

<b>Age/ Gender</b>	<b>Aug-00</b>	<b>Nov-00</b>	<b>Feb-01</b>	<b>May-01</b>	<b>Aug-01</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,560</b>	<b>16,520</b>	<b>16,260</b>	<b>15,620</b>	<b>15,640</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>11,640</b>	<b>11,000</b>	<b>10,980</b>	<b>10,380</b>	<b>10,300</b>
Under 18	100	140	120	-	-
18-24	1,720	1,620	1,640	1,720	1,640
25-59	9,820	9,240	9,220	8,580	8,600
<b>Female</b>	<b>5,920</b>	<b>5,520</b>	<b>5,280</b>	<b>5,240</b>	<b>5,340</b>
Under 18	-	140	140	180	240
18-24	1,080	820	860	760	820
25-59	4,760	4,560	4,280	4,300	4,280



## **Section 4 Claimants, partners and dependants**

### **Summary**

In this section beneficiaries of IS are classified by type (claimant, partner or dependant). Data is given according to the age and number of dependants of the claimant (Table 4.2). Income Support may be claimed by either member of a couple, but only one person in the family can be the primary customer at any one time. In other words a customer claims on behalf of themselves, their partner and any dependent children. Entitlement to IS takes account of the claimant's and partner's circumstances and is based on a personal allowance, plus allowances for a partner and any dependent children.

### **Main Findings**

Between August 2000 and August 2001 the proportion of the population who are beneficiaries of IS (i.e. a claimant, partner or dependant) has remained the same at 18.3%. In contrast this proportion of the population in GB has increased from 11.6% to 11.8% during this period.

The proportion of IS claimants having a partner has also remained the same between August 2000 and August 2001 at 16.8%. In GB the proportion similarly increased slightly from 14.2% to 14.4% over the same period.

The average number of dependants of an IS claimant in Northern Ireland at August 2001 was 2.0 which compares to 1.9 in GB. The highest average number of dependants was found in the 25-34 and 35-49 year old age bands in Northern Ireland (2.2 dependants at August 2001). The highest average number of dependants was mirrored in the 25-34 and 35-49 year old GB age bands (2.1 dependants at August 2001).



**Table 4.1 Beneficiaries of Income Support by type: August 2000 to August 2001**

	All Beneficiaries	Type of beneficiary			Beneficiaries as % of population
		Claimant	Partner	Dependant	
Aug-00	<b>307,020</b>	173,500	29,120	104,400	18.3%
Nov-00	<b>305,600</b>	174,360	29,520	101,720	18.2%
Feb-01	<b>306,020</b>	175,160	29,620	101,240	18.2%
May-01	<b>306,220</b>	175,420	29,660	101,140	18.2%
Aug-01	<b>308,080</b>	176,880	29,760	101,440	18.3%

**Table 4.2 Income Support claimants by age and number of dependants: August 2001**

	Total	Age of Claimant					
		Under 18	18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 49	50 to 59	60 or over
<b>All claimants</b>	<b>176,880</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>13,680</b>	<b>25,600</b>	<b>38,640</b>	<b>21,580</b>	<b>76,600</b>
Claimants without deps	<b>126,120</b>	620	6,120	9,040	17,040	17,620	75,680
Claimants with deps	<b>50,760</b>	160	7,560	16,560	21,600	3,960	920
Number of Deps							
1	<b>22,220</b>	160	5,600	5,680	7,520	2,560	700
2	<b>15,160</b>	0	1,660	5,780	6,600	980	140
3	<b>7,360</b>	0	260	2,780	4,080	180	-
4	<b>4,160</b>	0	-	1,760	2,180	180	-
5	<b>1,200</b>	0	0	320	880	0	0
6 or more	<b>580</b>	0	0	240	340	0	0
Average number of dependants	<b>2.0</b>	1.0	1.3	2.2	2.2	1.5	1.3



## Section 5 Premium payments

### Summary

Where it is recognised that a customer has special needs an additional amount, known as a premium, is awarded. The allocation of claimants to statistical groups is governed by the premiums mentioned in Section 3, i.e. pensioner premiums, disability premium and lone parent premium. Of these premiums, claimants benefit from the one giving the highest allowance. Other types of premiums e.g. severe disability, caring responsibilities, may be paid in combination with these.

This section gives a breakdown of the IS caseload by the type of premium which a claimant is receiving (Table 5.1). The claimants are subsequently further classified, firstly by family type (Table 5.2) and then by statistical group (Table 5.3).

A comparison over time is given.

### Main Findings

The premium structure of Income Support is designed for those claimants who have extra expenses. The majority of IS claimants in 2001 received extra help in this way (167,840 claimants, 94.9% of the total IS caseload). The proportion of claimants receiving one or more premiums has consistently been above 90% since 1996. In Northern Ireland the average number of premiums per claimant has risen from 1.40 per claimant in August 2000 to 1.51 in August 2001. This increase is principally due to the inclusion of two new premiums - the enhanced disability premium and the enhanced disabled child premium. In GB 1.3 premiums per claimant has been the average over the last four years.

The number of premiums awarded in Northern Ireland has increased by 10.1% from August 2000 to August 2001 which compares to an increase of 8.3% in GB. The number of premiums linked to disability and age (the various rates of pensioner premium) in Northern Ireland have both shown increases from August 2000 to August 2001, 7.3% and 4% respectively (numbers for enhanced disability premium and the enhanced disabled child premium ignored for comparative purposes). In GB the equivalent increases for disability and age for this time period are 6.9% and 6.6% respectively.

All single people with dependants and couples with dependants were receiving the family premium. Single claimants without dependants were mostly in receipt of pensioner premiums, premiums linked with disabilities and the carer premium, but 8.5% of this group were not in receipt of any premium. The situation was similar in GB, with 9% of this group not receiving any premium.



Those receiving the severe disability (lower and higher rate) premium were mainly in the aged 60 or over statistical group, the remainder falling into the disabled category. The majority of claimants receiving a premium for a disabled child were in the lone parent statistical group, followed by claimants in the disabled and other groups.



**Table 5.1 Income Support premiums by type and number: August 2000 to August 2001**

Type of premium	Aug 2000	Nov 2000	Feb 2001	May 2001	Aug 2001
<b>All types</b>	<b>242,320</b>	<b>245,700</b>	<b>247,420</b>	<b>262,660</b>	<b>266,740</b>
Higher pensioner premium					
Claimant/partner aged 80 or over	22,740	23,160	23,460	23,260	23,420
Claimant/partner aged 60-79	36,440	37,420	37,760	37,460	37,820
Enhanced pensioner premium	3,180	3,300	3,320	3,260	3,260
Pensioner premium	11,540	11,560	11,460	12,020	12,340
Severe Disability premium - higher	3,980	4,120	4,080	4,080	3,940
Severe Disability premium - lower	38,660	40,560	41,000	41,380	42,740
Disability Premium	48,460	49,640	49,780	50,960	51,820
Enhanced disability premium				11,240	11,460
Disabled child premium	5,540	5,280	5,220	5,140	5,180
Enhanced disabled child premium				2,460	2,460
Family Premium (lone parent)*	20,660	0	-	16,600	16,520
Family Premium*	30,980	50,400	50,540	33,800	34,240
Carer Premium	20,140	20,260	20,800	21,000	21,540
Claimants not in receipt of an IS premium	11,360	10,320	10,040	9,420	9,040
Claimants with 1 or more premiums	162,140	164,040	165,100	166,000	167,840
Average number of premiums	1.40	1.41	1.41	1.50	1.51

\*As from April 1997 the Lone Parent Premium was amalgamated with the Family Premium to form a single higher rate Family premium for Lone Parents

\*From April 1998 the Family Premium (Lone Parent) was abolished, although those in receipt at that time continue to receive it until a relevant change of circumstances



**Table 5.2 Income Support claimants with premiums by family and premium type: August 2001**

Type of premium	Single Claimants		Couples		
	With Dependants	Without Dependants	With Dependants	Without Dependants	
<b>All premiums</b>	<b>266,740</b>	<b>63,480</b>	<b>144,680</b>	<b>28,120</b>	<b>30,460</b>
Higher Pensioner Premium					
Claimant/partner aged 80 or over	23,420	0	21,420	-	1,980
Claimant/partner aged 60-79	37,820	140	26,680	540	10,460
Enhanced pensioner premium	3,260	0	2,860	0	400
Pensioner premium	12,340	120	10,060	180	1,980
Severe Disability premium-higher	3,940	0	0	240	3,700
Severe Disability premium - lower	42,740	3,700	38,400	-	600
Disability Premium	51,820	7,680	31,860	7,600	4,680
Enhanced disability premium	11,460	1,540	6,800	1,660	1,460
Disabled child premium	5,180	3,680	0	1,500	0
Enhanced disabled child premium	2,460	1,660	0	800	0
Family Premium(lone parent)*	16,520	16,520	0	0	0
Family Premium*	34,240	23,640	0	10,600	0
Carer Premium	21,540	4,800	6,600	4,940	5,200
Claimants with 1 or more premiums	167,840	40,160	98,360	10,600	18,720
Claimants with no premium	9,040	0	8,600	0	440
Average number of premiums	1.51	1.58	1.35	2.65	1.59

\*As from April 1997 the Lone Parent Premium was amalgamated with the Family Premium to form a single higher rate Family premium for Lone Parents

\*From April 1998 the Family Premium (Lone Parent) was abolished, although those in receipt at that time continue to receive it until a relevant change of circumstances



**Table 5.3 Income Support claimants premiums by type and statistical group of claimant: August 2001**

Type of premium	All Claimants	Statistical Group			
		Aged 60 or over	Lone Parents	Disabled	Other
<b>All premiums</b>	<b>266,740</b>	<b>113,560</b>	<b>40,760</b>	<b>102,300</b>	<b>10,120</b>
Higher pensioner premium					
Claimant/partner aged 80 or over	<b>23,420</b>	23,420	0	0	0
Claimant/partner aged 60-79	<b>37,820</b>	37,820	0	0	0
Enhanced pensioner premium	<b>3,260</b>	3,260	0	0	0
Pensioner premium	<b>12,340</b>	12,340	0	0	0
Severe disability premium - higher	<b>3,940</b>	3,460	0	480	0
Severe disability premium - lower	<b>42,740</b>	28,840	0	13,900	0
Disability Premium	<b>51,820</b>	-	0	51,800	0
Enhanced disability premium	<b>11,460</b>	0	0	11,460	0
Disabled child premium	<b>5,180</b>	-	2,980	1,560	600
Enhanced disabled child premium	<b>2,460</b>	-	1,300	800	340
Family Premium(lone parent) <sup>1,2</sup>	<b>16,520</b>	0	16,520	0	0
Family Premium <sup>1,2</sup>	<b>34,240</b>	980	15,700	15,280	2,280
Carer Premium	<b>21,540</b>	3,360	4,260	7,020	6,900
Claimants with 1 or more premiums	<b>167,840</b>	75,860	32,220	51,800	7,960
Claimants with no premium	<b>9,040</b>	1,360	0	0	7,680
Average number of premiums	1.51	1.47	1.27	1.97	0.65

<sup>1</sup>As from April 1997 the Lone Parent Premium was amalgamated with the Family Premium to form a single higher rate Family premium for Lone Parents

<sup>2</sup>From April 1998 the Family Premium (Lone Parent) was abolished, although those in receipt at that time continue to receive it until a relevant change of circumstances

\*Those aged 60 or over without premiums are in Residential Care/Nursing Homes



## **Section 6 Claimants in residential care and nursing homes (RCNH)**

### **Summary**

As well as the categories of IS claimants previously mentioned, there are individuals whose entitlement to IS takes into account special circumstances. A large proportion of these cases is made up of individuals receiving care in residential care or nursing homes (Table 6.1).

The date on which a customer entered a residential care nursing home determines the rules by which their entitlement to IS is assessed. People who entered homes prior to April 1993 qualified for help with their fees directly through IS payments. These fees could be met in full or up to a maximum limit, depending on the type of care required. Those who were still in residential care nursing homes after the introduction of the new scheme in April 1993 had preserved rights to IS payments under the old scheme (this includes those who were not claiming at the point of the change, but have since done so).

The amount of IS received by people who entered residential homes after April 1993 is assessed on a broadly similar basis to people living in their own homes and does not depend directly on the fees for care. This means they are entitled to IS premiums. Their assessment also contains a residential allowance (RA) to assist with the recognised extra accommodation costs incurred.

### **Main Findings**

The number of preserved rights cases (i.e. those who entered RCNH before April 1993) has been falling steadily in Northern Ireland over the last six years; from 4,780 in May 1996 to 1,640 in August 2001. The number of Residential allowance cases during this same time period has increased from 5,100 to 7,380. Currently RCNH cases make up 5.1% of the total IS caseload in Northern Ireland. In contrast, the equivalent GB percentage stands at 6.9%.

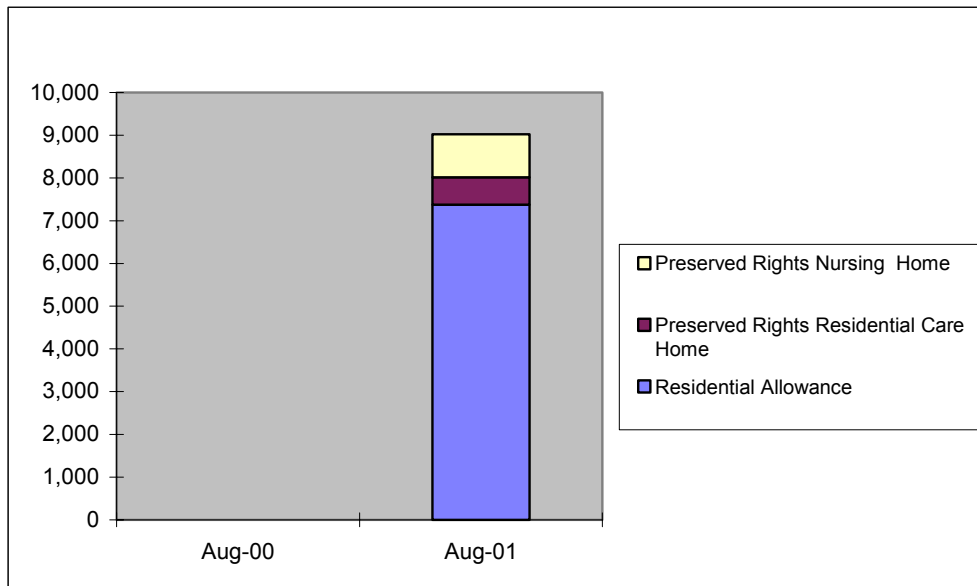


**Table 6.1 Income Support claimants in residential care and nursing homes: August 2000 to August 2001**

	All	Residential allowance	Preserved Rights		
			All	Residential care home	Nursing home
Nov-00	<b>8,920</b>	7,000	1,920	760	1,160
Feb-01	<b>9,160</b>	7,360	1,800	740	1,060
May-01	<b>8,740</b>	7,020	1,720	700	1,020
Aug-01	<b>9,020</b>	7,380	1,640	640	1,000

\*Data unavailable for August 2000

**Chart 6A Income Support claimants in residential care and nursing homes by type of care: August 2000 and August 2001**



## Section 7 District Council and Social Security Office analyses

### Summary

A breakdown of the IS caseload is given by District Council and Social Security Office, comparing data from August 2000 to August 2001 (Tables 7.1 and 7.4). The caseload is also split by statistical group (Tables 7.2 and 7.5) and a distribution of IS beneficiaries given (Tables 7.3 and 7.6).

The highest number of claimants were found in the Belfast, Derry and Newry & Mourne district councils. When taken as a percentage of the population aged 16 and over, the highest proportion of claimants is in Strabane district council (19.9% of the population), closely followed by Derry (19.7% of the population) and Belfast (19% of the population). The lowest proportion of claimants is in the Castlereagh district council (6.9% of population) followed by Carrickfergus (7.3% of population) and Banbridge (7.9% of the population).

Similarly, in regard to the percentage of beneficiaries as a percentage of total population, the highest proportion of claimants is in Derry district council (27.6%), closely followed by Strabane (25.8%) and Belfast (25.7%). The lowest proportion of beneficiaries is in the Castlereagh district council (8.5%) followed by Carrickfergus (9.2%) and Banbridge (9.6%). Overall 18.3% of the population in Northern Ireland were beneficiaries of IS, compared to 11.8% in GB.

Corporation Street Social Security Office had the largest share of the IS caseload with 11,060 claimants (6.3% of the caseload) at August 2001, while Newcastle had only 1,440 claimants (0.8% of the caseload) at the same point in time. Newtownards, Enniskillen and Lisburn experienced the largest increases in claimant numbers between August 2000 and August 2001. Similarly Corporation Street and Falls Road offices all experienced the largest claimant decreases during this period.

In Ballymena 57% of the caseload consisted of claimants aged 60 or over, while this category of claimant only accounted for 27.7% of the caseload in Foyle. Newcastle had the highest proportion of lone parents in comparison to Ballynahinch which had the lowest (33.3% and 10.9% respectively at August 2001). In regard to the disabled claimants, Strabane had the highest proportion while Ballymena had the lowest proportion (36.4% and 20.5% respectively).

The highest number IS beneficiaries was found in the Foyle Social Security Office (21,920 beneficiaries at August 2001) the lowest number being in Newcastle (2,940 beneficiaries at August 2001).



**Table 7.1 Northern Ireland Income Support claimants by District Council:  
August 2000 to August 2001**

<b>District Council</b>	<b>Aug 2000</b>	<b>Nov 2000</b>	<b>Feb 2001</b>	<b>May 2001</b>	<b>Aug 2001</b>
Antrim	4,120	4,160	3,960	3,960	4,140
Ards	4,740	4,680	4,740	4,860	5,000
Armagh	4,640	4,620	4,660	4,700	4,780
Ballymena	4,240	4,440	4,380	4,380	4,380
Ballymoney	2,020	2,100	2,040	2,000	2,160
Banbridge	2,480	2,420	2,380	2,360	2,460
Belfast	42,220	42,080	42,200	42,080	41,500
Carrickfergus	2,100	2,220	2,340	2,200	2,120
Castlereagh	3,640	3,560	3,640	3,620	3,580
Coleraine	4,960	4,980	5,060	4,980	5,160
Cookstown	4,240	4,280	4,200	4,300	4,260
Craigavon	8,040	7,920	8,140	8,280	8,300
Derry	14,960	14,860	14,960	15,260	15,280
Down	5,020	4,880	5,060	5,040	5,140
Dungannon	6,060	5,960	5,980	6,180	6,200
Fermanagh	6,320	6,440	6,520	6,540	6,700
Larne	2,180	2,300	2,340	2,340	2,460
Limavady	2,980	2,980	3,080	3,140	3,200
Lisburn	8,580	8,840	9,000	8,960	9,080
Magherafelt	3,980	3,980	3,940	3,880	3,940
Moyle	1,820	1,900	1,940	1,820	1,880
Newry&Mourne	10,960	11,100	11,140	10,960	11,300
Newtownabbey	5,680	5,700	5,680	5,840	5,800
North Down	4,680	4,880	4,780	4,860	4,920
Omagh	5,180	5,140	5,100	5,160	5,300
Strabane	5,500	5,620	5,640	5,560	5,580
Missing Postcode *	2,160	2,320	2,260	2,160	2,260
<b>All Claimants</b>	<b>173,500</b>	<b>174,360</b>	<b>175,160</b>	<b>175,420</b>	<b>176,880</b>

In producing this analysis, individual records were attributed on the basis of their postcode. Not all records can be correctly allocated to a ward using this method, and some cannot be allocated at all. Past investigation has demonstrated that mis-allocations and non-allocations do not necessarily occur randomly between areas, and at ward level, the proportion of records mis-allocated or unallocated can be substantial. At present it seems likely that a higher than average proportion of the records that can not be attributed to a ward are in the following areas: Fermanagh District Council, Derry District Council and parts of Belfast City Council.



**Table 7.2 Northern Ireland Income Support claimants by Statistical group and District Council: August 2001**

District Council	All Claimants 100%	Statistical group				Claimants as a percentage of the population <sup>1</sup>
		Aged 60 or over %	Lone Parents %	Disabled %	Other %	
Antrim	4,140	48.3%	16.4%	30.0%	5.3%	11.2%
Ards	5,000	48.8%	15.2%	28.4%	7.6%	8.8%
Armagh	4,780	49.8%	14.2%	28.0%	7.9%	12.1%
Ballymena	4,380	56.2%	15.5%	21.5%	6.8%	9.7%
Ballymoney	2,160	53.7%	18.5%	21.3%	6.5%	10.8%
Banbridge	2,460	52.0%	17.1%	21.1%	9.8%	7.9%
Belfast	41,500	39.5%	20.5%	31.4%	8.6%	19.0%
Carrickfergus	2,120	38.7%	17.0%	32.1%	12.3%	7.3%
Castlereagh	3,580	48.0%	17.3%	26.8%	7.8%	6.9%
Coleraine	5,160	47.3%	16.7%	24.4%	11.6%	11.9%
Cookstown	4,260	46.5%	9.9%	36.6%	7.0%	17.9%
Craigavon	8,300	45.8%	15.7%	28.7%	9.9%	13.8%
Derry	15,280	30.1%	24.0%	35.7%	10.2%	19.7%
Down	5,140	40.9%	20.2%	29.2%	9.7%	10.8%
Dungannon	6,200	42.6%	14.8%	30.0%	12.6%	17.7%
Fermanagh	6,700	53.7%	12.8%	24.5%	9.0%	15.6%
Larne	2,460	47.2%	17.1%	26.0%	9.8%	10.2%
Limavady	3,200	38.1%	16.9%	31.3%	13.8%	13.4%
Lisburn	9,080	39.6%	25.3%	28.0%	7.0%	11.1%
Magherafelt	3,940	61.4%	13.7%	19.8%	5.1%	13.6%
Moyle	1,880	53.2%	20.2%	17.0%	9.6%	15.7%
Newry&Mourne	11,300	44.1%	15.4%	31.0%	9.6%	18.1%
Newtownabbey	5,800	48.3%	17.9%	27.2%	6.6%	9.3%
North Down	4,920	52.4%	15.9%	21.5%	10.2%	8.1%
Omagh	5,300	50.9%	13.2%	29.1%	6.8%	14.9%
Strabane	5,580	36.9%	17.2%	36.6%	9.3%	19.9%
Missing Postcode*	2,260	39.8%	28.3%	23.9%	8.0%	
<b>All Claimants</b>	<b>176,880</b>	<b>43.7%</b>	<b>18.2%</b>	<b>29.3%</b>	<b>8.8%</b>	<b>13.8%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Population aged 16 and over

\*In producing this analysis, individual records were attributed on the basis of their postcode. Not all records can be correctly allocated to a ward using this method, and some cannot be allocated at all. Past investigation has demonstrated that mis-allocations and non-allocations do not necessarily occur randomly between areas, and at ward level, the proportion of records mis-allocated or unallocated can be substantial. At present it seems likely that a higher than average proportion of the records that can not be attributed to a ward are in the following areas: Fermanagh District Council, Derry District Council and parts of Belfast City Council.  
City Council.



**Table 7.3 Northern Ireland Beneficiaries of Income Support by type and District Council: August 2001**

District Council	All Beneficiaries	Type of beneficiary			Beneficiaries as a percentage of the population <sup>1</sup>
		Claimant	Partner	Dependant	
Antrim	7,000	4,140	560	2,300	14.3%
Ards	8,180	5,000	880	2,300	11.2%
Armagh	7,860	4,780	980	2,100	14.8%
Ballymena	7,040	4,380	520	2,140	12.1%
Ballymoney	3,700	2,160	440	1,100	14.0%
Banbridge	3,900	2,460	320	1,120	9.6%
Belfast	72,120	41,500	5,060	25,560	25.7%
Carrickfergus	3,480	2,120	380	980	9.2%
Castlereagh	5,660	3,580	620	1,460	8.5%
Coleraine	7,960	5,160	780	2,020	14.2%
Cookstown	7,760	4,260	1,300	2,200	24.1%
Craigavon	15,080	8,300	1,700	5,080	18.8%
Derry	29,400	15,280	2,600	11,520	27.6%
Down	9,080	5,140	780	3,160	14.3%
Dungannon	10,760	6,200	1,280	3,280	22.7%
Fermanagh	10,640	6,700	1,240	2,700	18.6%
Larne	4,180	2,460	480	1,240	13.5%
Limavady	5,620	3,200	620	1,800	17.5%
Lisburn	17,740	9,080	1,360	7,300	16.3%
Magherafelt	6,660	3,940	980	1,740	16.9%
Moyle	3,160	1,880	360	920	20.0%
Newry&Mourne	21,500	11,300	2,520	7,680	25.0%
Newtownabbey	9,540	5,800	980	2,760	11.9%
North Down	7,660	4,920	740	2,000	10.1%
Omagh	8,260	5,300	1,000	1,960	17.2%
Strabane	9,840	5,580	960	3,300	25.8%
Missing Postcode*	4,300	2,260	320	1,720	
<b>All Claimants</b>	<b>308,080</b>	<b>176,880</b>	<b>29,760</b>	<b>101,440</b>	<b>18.3%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Total Population

In producing this analysis, individual records were attributed on the basis of their postcode. Not all records can be correctly allocated to a ward using this method, and some cannot be allocated at all. Past investigation has demonstrated that mis-allocations and non-allocations do not necessarily occur randomly between areas, and at ward level, the proportion of records mis-allocated or unallocated can be substantial. At present it seems likely that a higher than average proportion of the records that can not be attributed to a ward are in the following areas: Fermanagh District Council, Derry District Council and parts of Belfast City Council.



**Table 7.4 Income Support claimants by Social Security Office: August 2000 to August 2001**

<b>Social Security Office</b>	<b>Aug 2000</b>	<b>Nov 2000</b>	<b>Feb 2001</b>	<b>May 2001</b>	<b>Aug 2001</b>
Andersonstown	8,000	8,160	8,160	7,960	7,900
Antrim	4,840	5,000	4,780	4,720	4,940
Armagh	4,220	4,300	4,300	4,340	4,500
Ballymena	4,860	5,080	4,920	4,940	4,980
Ballymoney	3,640	3,800	3,820	3,720	3,940
Ballynahinch	1,760	1,840	1,960	1,820	1,840
Banbridge	3,100	3,040	2,980	2,940	3,020
Bangor	5,020	5,200	5,120	5,120	5,160
Carrickfergus*					
Coleraine	5,060	5,100	5,180	5,060	5,260
Cookstown	3,640	3,680	3,640	3,640	3,620
Corporation Street	11,520	11,280	11,200	11,200	11,060
Downpatrick	2,560	2,460	2,580	2,560	2,660
Dungannon	5,720	5,600	5,540	5,800	5,860
Enniskillen	7,300	7,400	7,500	7,540	7,700
Falls Road	8,700	8,560	8,520	8,640	8,500
Foyle	10,580	10,440	10,560	10,800	10,900
Hollywood Road	7,500	7,560	7,540	7,540	7,520
Kilkeel	1,420	1,400	1,460	1,440	1,500
Knockbreda	5,280	5,200	5,240	5,160	5,120
Larne	4,320	4,560	4,700	4,620	4,600
Limavady	2,720	2,740	2,860	2,900	2,960
Lisburn	4,960	5,060	5,200	5,220	5,340
Lisnagelvin	4,980	5,040	4,960	5,020	5,060
Lurgan	5,240	5,300	5,480	5,380	5,360
Magherafelt	4,160	4,100	4,100	4,040	4,040
Newcastle	1,480	1,420	1,400	1,460	1,440
Newry	8,940	9,120	9,080	9,040	9,320
Newtownabbey	4,940	4,800	4,900	5,080	4,980
Newtownards	3,500	3,540	3,560	3,760	3,920
Omagh	5,080	5,060	5,080	5,120	5,240
Portadown	4,000	3,780	3,900	4,020	4,020
Shaftesbury Sq.	4,540	4,680	4,880	4,900	4,780
Shankill Road	4,340	4,360	4,320	4,260	4,180
Strabane	5,580	5,700	5,740	5,660	5,660
<b>All Claimants</b>	<b>173,500</b>	<b>174,360</b>	<b>175,160</b>	<b>175,420</b>	<b>176,880</b>

\*Carrickfergus totals combined with Larne SSO from May 1999



**Table 7.5 Income Support claimants by Statistical group and Social Security Office: August 2001**

Social Security Office	All Claimants 100%	Statistical group			
		Aged 60 or over %	Lone Parents %	Disabled %	Other %
Andersonstown	7,900	29.6%	30.4%	29.6%	10.4%
Antrim	4,940	47.4%	15.4%	30.0%	7.3%
Armagh	4,500	49.3%	14.7%	28.0%	8.0%
Ballymena	4,980	57.0%	16.1%	20.5%	6.4%
Ballymoney	3,940	54.3%	16.2%	21.3%	8.1%
Ballynahinch	1,840	54.3%	10.9%	26.1%	8.7%
Banbridge	3,020	51.0%	16.6%	21.9%	10.6%
Bangor	5,160	52.7%	14.0%	23.6%	9.7%
Coleraine	5,260	47.1%	17.9%	22.8%	12.2%
Cookstown	3,620	45.9%	11.0%	35.9%	7.2%
Corporation Street	11,060	36.3%	21.3%	33.5%	8.9%
Downpatrick	2,660	42.1%	19.5%	31.6%	6.8%
Dungannon	5,860	42.0%	15.0%	30.4%	12.6%
Enniskillen	7,700	53.5%	13.0%	24.7%	8.8%
Falls Road	8,500	34.6%	23.5%	33.2%	8.7%
Foyle	10,900	27.7%	26.4%	36.1%	9.7%
Hollywood Road	7,520	47.9%	16.5%	26.6%	9.0%
Kilkeel	1,500	46.7%	12.0%	29.3%	12.0%
Knockbreda	5,120	46.9%	16.4%	30.9%	5.9%
Larne	4,600	43.9%	17.0%	28.3%	10.9%
Limavady	2,960	37.2%	17.6%	31.8%	13.5%
Lisburn	5,340	49.8%	19.5%	25.1%	5.6%
Lisnagelvin	5,060	37.2%	17.8%	33.6%	11.5%
Lurgan	5,360	45.1%	15.3%	29.1%	10.4%
Magherafelt	4,040	55.9%	14.9%	24.8%	4.5%
Newcastle	1,440	30.6%	33.3%	27.8%	8.3%
Newry	9,320	42.5%	15.9%	32.0%	9.7%
Newtownabbey	4,980	48.2%	20.1%	26.1%	5.6%
Newtownards	3,920	49.0%	16.8%	26.0%	8.2%
Omagh	5,240	50.4%	13.4%	29.4%	6.9%
Portadown	4,020	49.3%	15.9%	26.4%	8.5%
Shaftesbury Sq.	4,780	42.3%	15.5%	33.1%	9.2%
Shankill Road	4,180	42.6%	23.0%	29.2%	5.3%
Strabane	5,660	36.7%	17.3%	36.4%	9.5%
<b>All Claimants</b>	<b>176,880</b>	<b>76,460</b>	<b>32,400</b>	<b>50,940</b>	<b>15,620</b>



**Table 7.6 Beneficiaries of Income Support by type and SSO: August 2001**

Social Security Office	All Beneficiaries	Type of beneficiary		
		Claimant	Partner	Dependant
Andersonstown	16,840	7,900	1,080	7,860
Antrim	7,980	4,940	600	2,440
Armagh	7,600	4,500	940	2,160
Ballymena	8,100	4,980	680	2,440
Ballymoney	6,620	3,940	840	1,840
Ballynahinch	2,960	1,840	280	840
Banbridge	5,000	3,020	560	1,420
Bangor	8,160	5,160	800	2,200
Coleraine	8,120	5,260	760	2,100
Cookstown	6,700	3,620	1,160	1,920
Corporation Street	19,780	11,060	1,400	7,320
Downpatrick	4,560	2,660	380	1,520
Dungannon	10,300	5,860	1,240	3,200
Enniskillen	12,240	7,700	1,380	3,160
Falls Road	15,800	8,500	1,180	6,120
Foyle	21,920	10,900	1,740	9,280
Hollywood Road	12,380	7,520	980	3,880
Kilkeel	3,080	1,500	440	1,140
Knockbreda	7,980	5,120	600	2,260
Larne	7,700	4,600	880	2,220
Limavady	5,140	2,960	540	1,640
Lisburn	9,240	5,340	880	3,020
Lisnagelvin	8,620	5,060	1,020	2,540
Lurgan	9,880	5,360	1,100	3,420
Magherafelt	7,100	4,040	980	2,080
Newcastle	2,940	1,440	240	1,260
Newry	17,380	9,320	1,840	6,220
Newtownabbey	8,260	4,980	840	2,440
Newtownards	6,480	3,920	740	1,820
Omagh	8,120	5,240	960	1,920
Portadown	6,880	4,020	780	2,080
Shaftesbury Sq.	7,080	4,780	420	1,880
Shankill Road	7,160	4,180	540	2,440
Strabane	9,980	5,660	960	3,360
<b>All Claimants</b>	<b>308,080</b>	<b>176,880</b>	<b>29,760</b>	<b>101,440</b>



## Section 8 United Kingdom analyses

### Summary

A breakdown of the IS caseload is given by Government Office Region (GOR) comparing data from August 1997 to August 2001 (Table 8.1). The caseload is then split by statistical group and GOR at August 2001 (Table 8.2). The average weekly payment of IS by statistical group is given (Table 8.4). The caseload is also given by the duration of the current claim to IS (Table 8.5).

GB data was taken from the August 2001 IS QSE published by the Information and Analysis Directorate of the Department for Work and Pensions.

There has been little change in the distribution of Income Support claimants between Government Office Regions since August 1997. The North West is the GOR with the greatest share of the UK caseload (14.1% at August 2001) in comparison with Northern Ireland which has the smallest share of the caseload (4.3% at August 2001). The North East has exhibited the largest increase in its share of the caseload, with its share increasing by 0.3% over the period of August 1997 to August 2001.

11.8% of the population in Great Britain were beneficiaries of Income support at August 2001. Among the regions this varied from 7.6% in the South East to 15.2% in the North East. In Northern Ireland 18.3% of the population were beneficiaries of IS. IS claimants in Northern Ireland were likely to have spent a longer time on benefit at August 2001 (71.6% had a claim with a duration of 2 years or more compared with 67.4% for Great Britain as a whole).



**Table 8.1 Income Support claimants by GOR: August 1997 to August 2001**

GOR	Thousands <sup>1</sup>				
	Aug 1997	Aug 1998	Aug 1999	Aug 2000	Aug 2001
North East	212	214	219	226	229
North West	575	565	559	577	583
Yorks & Humberside	345	343	348	361	364
East Midlands	243	240	241	250	254
West Midlands	366	362	364	376	382
East	268	265	266	276	278
London	582	575	573	572	573
South East	363	354	351	363	364
South West	268	269	264	274	277
Wales	226	228	229	236	236
Scotland	404	400	398	417	422
<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>3,853</b>	<b>3,814</b>	<b>3,811</b>	<b>3,928</b>	<b>3,963</b>
Northern Ireland	167	167	171	175	177

<sup>1</sup> Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand

**Table 8.2 Income Support claimants by GOR and statistical group: August 2001**

GOR	All Claimants (000s) <sup>1</sup>	%					Claimants as % of GOR population <sup>2</sup>
		Aged 60 or over	Lone Parents	Disabled	Other	Claimants as % of GOR population <sup>2</sup>	
North East	229	43.8	20.9	27.1	8.3	11.1	
North West	583	42.0	21.1	29.5	7.4	10.6	
Yorks & Humberside	364	46.3	21.7	24.6	7.4	9.0	
East Midlands	254	46.7	21.3	24.8	7.3	7.5	
West Midlands	382	47.4	21.5	24.0	7.1	9.0	
East	278	47.4	23.1	23.1	6.4	6.4	
London	573	36.5	29.5	25.5	8.5	9.7	
South East	364	46.1	23.4	22.8	7.6	5.6	
South West	277	48.0	20.6	23.6	7.9	6.9	
Wales	236	42.4	20.6	30.2	6.8	10.0	
Scotland	422	42.8	19.5	29.6	8.2	10.3	
<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>3,963</b>	<b>43.8</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>26.1</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>8.5</b>	
Northern Ireland	177	43.7	18.2	29.3	8.8	13.8	

<sup>1</sup> Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand

<sup>2</sup> Aged 16 and over

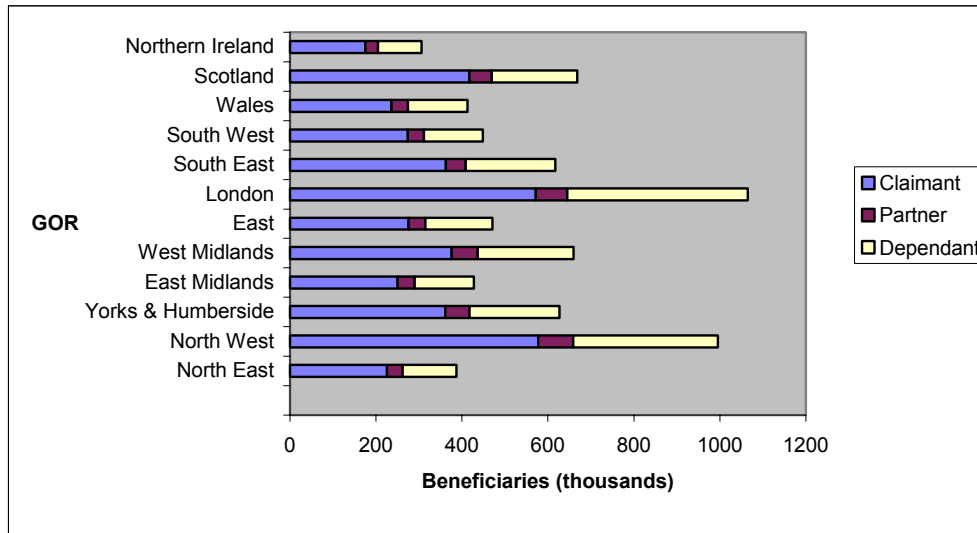


**Table 8.3 Beneficiaries of Income Support by type and GOR: August 2001**

GOR	All	Type of beneficiary			Beneficiaries as % GOR's population
		Claimant	Partner	Dependant	
North East	392	229	37	126	15.2
North West	1,004	583	83	338	14.6
Yorks & Humberside	633	364	58	211	12.5
East Midlands	434	254	41	140	10.3
West Midlands	672	382	63	227	12.6
East	474	278	40	157	8.7
London	1,071	573	73	424	14.5
South East	619	364	46	208	7.6
South West	454	277	38	139	9.1
Wales	414	236	40	138	14.0
Scotland	674	422	54	199	13.2
<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>6,842</b>	<b>3,963</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>2,307</b>	<b>11.8</b>
Northern Ireland	308	177	30	101	18.3

<sup>1</sup> Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand

**Chart 8A Beneficiaries of Income Support by type and GOR: August 2001**



**Table 8.4 Average weekly payment of Income Support by GOR and statistical group: August 2001**

GOR	£pw				
	All Claimants	Aged 60 or over	Lone Parents	Disabled	Other
North East	64.71	43.59	98.66	73.56	61.77
North West	69.34	49.23	101.24	76.20	65.17
Yorks & Humberside	67.44	48.23	100.42	73.51	70.40
East Midlands	67.54	48.64	100.77	72.13	76.11
West Midlands	67.45	48.10	101.53	74.19	70.64
East	68.17	47.97	100.93	74.87	75.27
London	81.20	63.76	103.59	84.35	69.11
South East	71.82	50.73	103.02	76.44	89.68
South West	69.02	50.16	100.86	72.76	89.74
Wales	67.26	47.62	100.39	73.58	61.06
Scotland	64.10	45.97	96.82	69.57	61.10
<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>69.76</b>	<b>50.09</b>	<b>101.14</b>	<b>75.28</b>	<b>71.17</b>
Northern Ireland	72.58	56.35	101.33	82.49	60.70

**Table 8.5 Income Support claimants by GOR and duration of current claim: August 2001**

GOR	All Claimants (000s)	Duration of claim				
		% Under 3 Months	% 3 months to under 6 months	% 6 months to under 1 year	% 1 year to under 2 years	% 2 years or over
North East	229	5.6	6.6	8.3	13.2	66.3
North West	583	5.0	6.0	8.1	12.6	68.4
Yorks & Humberside	364	5.2	6.3	8.9	13.7	65.9
East Midlands	254	5.1	7.1	9.5	13.5	64.9
West Midlands	382	5.0	6.2	8.8	12.6	67.4
East	278	4.7	6.3	9.0	13.3	66.8
London	573	3.6	5.0	7.9	12.2	71.4
South East	364	4.5	6.1	9.6	13.5	66.4
South West	277	5.3	6.5	9.8	13.3	65.1
Wales	236	4.9	5.8	8.2	12.9	68.2
Scotland	422	5.5	6.1	9.0	13.2	66.2
<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>3,963</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>67.4</b>
Northern Ireland	177	3.6	4.9	7.5	12.5	71.6



## **Annex 1: Technical Details**

### **Income Support Quarterly Statistical Enquiry**

The Income Support Quarterly Statistical Enquiry (QSE) is a sample survey that collects information on the number and characteristics of claimants receiving Income Support in Northern Ireland. The QSE includes all people who are recorded as having entitlement to receive benefit on the enquiry date. This is based on claims held on the Income Support Computer System on that day. It therefore misses claims where entitlement had not been established, but is subsequently backdated.

This publication refers to the QSE conducted on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2001.

The QSE is based on a sample of approximately 5% of the IS population (1 in every 20 IS claimants). The data in each table has been rated up by a factor of 20 to give estimates for the population of IS claimants in Northern Ireland.

The data collected from the QSE is used to provide information to monitor and evaluate IS, answer parliamentary Questions and queries from the public, academics and researchers.

### **Impact of Jobseekers Allowance**

Unemployed claimants or those participating in government training schemes now claim JSA instead of IS. Data that relates to periods prior to the introduction of JSA therefore excludes these claimants.

### **Data sources and validation**

Information in the Northern Ireland QSE is taken directly from the Income Support Computer System, which is used to administer the benefit.

Validation procedures are carried out both by Information and Analysis Directorate and Statistics and Research Branch (Department for Social Development) on the data collected. Amendments are made where it is obvious that some of the information recorded for individual cases is inconsistent e.g. where the recorded statistical group does not match the appropriate premium.



## Annex 2: Sampling Errors

The analyses carried out on the QSE are subject to sampling error. That is, there is a chance that the number of cases in the sample may produce population estimates that are in fact higher or lower than the true value in the population.

The effects of these sampling errors are indicated below in the table of confidence intervals. The figures in this report are the best estimate based on the sample data. The true number will lie in a range around the estimate. The 95% confidence interval means that there is only a 1 in 20 chance that the actual value lies outside this range.

The figures in the table below give the 95% confidence intervals for the true value in the population, based on the estimated value from the 5% sample.

Estimated Value	95% Confidence Interval	Confidence interval as a % of the estimate
100	+/-86	+/-86%
200	+/-121	+/-61%
300	+/-148	+/-49%
400	+/-171	+/-43%
500	+/-191	+/-38%
600	+/-209	+/-35%
700	+/-226	+/-32%
800	+/-242	+/-30%
900	+/-256	+/-28%
1,000	+/-270	+/-27%
2,000	+/-382	+/-19%
3,000	+/-468	+/-16%
4,000	+/-540	+/-14%
5,000	+/-604	+/-12%
6,000	+/-662	+/-11%
7,000	+/-715	+/-10%
8,000	+/-764	+/-10%
9,000	+/-811	+/-9%
10,000	+/-854	+/-9%
20,000	+/-1,208	+/-6%
30,000	+/-1,480	+/-5%
40,000	+/-1,709	+/-4%
50,000	+/-1,910	+/-4%
100,000	+/-2,702	+/-3%
200,000	+/-3,821	+/-2%
300,000	+/-4,679	+/-2%



### Annex 3: Main changes to benefit rules

- Mortgage interest paid direct to lender for most claimants who receive the full amount (November 1992).
- A new scheme to provide support to claimants in residential care and nursing homes was introduced (April 1993).
- Special rules over the treatment of capital held by claimants in residential care, nursing home (RCNH) were introduced (April 1995).
- On 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1995 waiting periods were introduced for claimants without a pensioner premium before help is given (8 weeks for those with loans taken out before that date and 9 months for those with loans taken out thereafter). From the same date, most claimants with mortgage interest payments have them calculated using a standard rate based on the average of the largest building societies' basic mortgage rates (October 1995).
- Claimants in RCHN, part III accommodation are allowed capital of up to £16,000. Tariff income is payable where the savings are over £10,000 (April 1996).
- Changes to the rules for asylum seekers (May 1996).
- Family premium and lone parent premium were combined to form family premium (lone parent) which was paid to all eligible claimants (April 1997).
- One parent benefit was replaced by a new rate of child benefit for lone parents (April 1997).
- Deductions for payment of arrears of mortgage interest abolished (April 1997).
- Family premium (lone parent) was abolished, although those in receipt at that time continue to receive it until a relevant change of circumstances (April 1998).
- The dependants allowance payable for each child under 11 was increased by £2.50 per week (November 1998).
- The Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG) was introduced increasing the amount payable to those aged 60 or over, except for special category cases (April 1999).
- Introduction of the new budgeting loan scheme.
- The dependants allowance payable for each child under 11 was increased by a further £4.70 per week (October 1999).



- Family Credit and Disability Working Allowance were replaced by Working Families Tax Credit and Disabled Persons Tax Credit respectively (October 1999).
- The dependants allowance for under 11's was abolished increasing the amount payable for children aged under 11 to match that of the under 16's: There are now two remaining rates for: dependants under 16, and the dependants aged 16 and over (April 2000).
- The MIG was updated in line with earnings (April 2000).
- Persons claiming asylum on or after 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2000 and who are awaiting decisions from the Home Office will be excluded from claiming social security benefits. They will receive support from either the National Asylum Support Service (set up by the Home Office) or local authorities (April 2000).
- Further increase (by £4.35) in the amount payable in respect of children aged up to 16 in October 2000.
- Claimants aged over 60 that are not in residential accommodation are now allowed up to £6000 in capital assets before their benefit is affected by tariff income. If capital totals more than £12000 the claimant is not entitled to Income Support (April 2001).
- All pensioner premiums are paid at the same rate i.e. the HPP rate (April 2001).
- The Government introduced a new Disability Income Guarantee (DIG) for severely disabled people and the Enhanced Disability Premium (April 2001).



## Annex 4: Personal Allowances and Rates of Premium

### Table 1: Income Support: personal allowance 1989 to 2001

	£ per week							
	Single Person				Lone Parent			
	Under 18		18 or over		Under 18		18 or over	
	Usual rate	Higher rate	18 to 24	25 or over	Usual rate	Higher rate		
April 10, 1989	20.80	-	27.40	34.90	20.80	-	34.90	
April 9, 1990	21.90	28.80	28.80	36.70	21.90	-	36.70	
April 8, 1991	23.65	31.15	31.15	39.65	23.65	31.15	39.65	
October 7, 1991	23.90	31.40	31.40	39.65	23.90	31.40	39.65	
April 6, 1992	25.55	33.60	33.60	42.45	25.55	33.60	42.45	
April 12, 1993	26.45	34.80	34.80	44.00	26.45	34.80	44.00	
April 11, 1994	27.50	36.15	36.15	45.70	27.50	36.15	45.70	
April 10, 1995	28.00	36.80	36.80	46.50	28.00	36.80	46.50	
April 8, 1996	28.85	37.90	37.90	47.90	28.85	37.90	47.90	
April 7, 1997	29.60	38.90	38.90	49.15	29.60	38.90	49.15	
April 6, 1998	30.30	39.85	39.85	50.35	30.30	39.85	50.35	
April 12, 1999	30.95	40.70	40.70	51.40	30.95	40.70	51.40	
April 10, 2000	31.45	41.35	41.35	52.20	31.45	41.35	52.20	
April 9, 2001	31.95	42.00	42.00	53.05	31.95	42.00	53.05	
	Couple		Dependant children					
	Both under 18	One or both 18 or over	Under 11	11 to 15	16 to 17	18		
April 10, 1989	41.60	54.80	11.75	17.35	20.80	27.40		
April 9, 1990	43.80	57.60	12.35	18.25	21.90	28.80		
April 8, 1991	47.30	62.25	13.35	19.75	23.65	31.15		
October 7, 1991	47.30	62.25	13.60	20.00	23.90	31.40		
April 6, 1992	50.60	66.60	14.55	21.40	25.55	33.60		
April 12, 1993	52.40	69.00	15.05	22.15	26.45	34.80		
April 11, 1994	54.55	71.70	15.65	23.00	27.50	36.15		
April 10, 1995	55.55	73.00	15.95	23.40	28.00	36.80		
April 8, 1996	57.20	75.20	16.45	24.10	28.85	37.90		
			Dependant children					
			Under 11 <sup>(1a)</sup>	11 to 16 <sup>(1b)</sup>	16-18 <sup>(1c)</sup>			
April 7, 1997	58.70	77.15		16.90	24.75	29.60		
April 6, 1998	60.10	79.00		17.30	25.35	30.30		
November 5, 1998				19.80	25.35	30.30		
April 12, 1999 <sup>(2)</sup>		80.65		20.20	25.90	30.95		
October 4, 1999		80.65		24.90	25.90	30.95		
			Dependant children					
			Up to and inc 16 <sup>(3a)</sup>		16-18 <sup>(3b)</sup>			
April 10, 2000 <sup>(3)</sup>			26.60		31.75			
October 23, 2000			30.95		31.75			
April 9, 2001			31.45		32.25			

## Notes

1. From 7 April 1997 the age banding used for the benefit calculation of dependant children have changed.

from this date the banding are as follows:

a. Birth to September following 11th birthday.

b. From September following the 11th birthday to September following the 16th birthday

c. From September following the 16th birthday to the day before the 19th birthday.

Some children will remain eligible for a different rate of benefit i.e. have 'protected rights'. These are as follows:-

\*Child aged 11 before 7 April 1997 : allowance £25.35

\*Child aged 16 before 7 April 1997 : allowance £30.30

\*Child aged 18 before 7 April 1997 : allowance £39.85

2. From 12 April 1999 the personal allowance for married or unmarried couples where both members are not yet 18 or one of the couple is aged 18 or over depends on the couple's circumstances. They may be entitled to a couple allowance or a single person's allowance dependant upon certain criteria.

3. From 10 April 2000 there are only 2 age bands for dependants. From this date the age banding are as follows:

(a) Birth to September following 16th birthday.

(b) From September following 16th birthday to the day before th 19th birthday.



**Table 2: Income Support: Rates of Premium 1988 to 2001**

	<i>£ per week</i>									
			Disability		Enhanced Disability <sup>(2)</sup>			Severe Disability		
	Disabled child	Carer <sup>(1)</sup>	Single	Couple	Child	Single	Couple	Single	Couple (one)	Couple (both)
April 11, 1988	6.15	-	13.05	18.60	-	-	-	24.75	24.75	49.50
April 10, 1989	6.50	-	13.70	19.50	-	-	-	26.20	26.20	52.40
April 9, 1990	15.40	10.00	15.40	22.10	-	-	-	28.20	28.20	56.40
April 8, 1991	16.65	10.80	16.65	23.90	-	-	-	31.25	31.25	62.50
April 6, 1992	17.80	11.55	17.80	25.55	-	-	-	32.55	32.55	65.10
April 12, 1993	18.45	11.95	18.45	26.45	-	-	-	33.70	33.70	67.40
April 11, 1994	19.45	12.40	19.45	27.80	-	-	-	34.30	34.40	68.60
April 10, 1995	19.80	12.60	19.80	28.30	-	-	-	35.05	35.05	70.10
April 8, 1996	20.40	13.00	20.40	29.15	-	-	-	36.40	36.40	72.80
April 7, 1997	20.95	13.35	20.95	29.90	-	-	-	37.15	37.15	74.30
April 6, 1998	21.45	13.65	21.45	30.60	-	-	-	38.50	38.50	77.00
April 12, 1999	21.90	13.95	21.90	31.25	-	-	-	39.75	39.75	79.50
April 10, 2000	22.25	14.15	22.25	31.75	-	-	-	40.20	40.20	80.40
April 9, 2001	30.00	24.40	22.60	32.25	11.05	11.05	16.00	41.55	41.55	83.10

	Family		Lone Parent		Pensioner		Enhanced Pensioner <sup>(3)</sup>		Higher Pensioner	
	All	Couple	Lone Parent	Lone Parent <sup>(4)</sup>	Single	Couple	Single	Couple	Single	Couple
	April 11, 1988	6.15	-	-	3.70	10.65	16.25	-	-	13.05
April 10, 1989	6.50	-	-	3.90	11.20	17.05	-	-	13.70	19.50
October 9, 1989	6.50	-	-	3.90	11.20	17.05	13.70	20.55	16.20	23.00
April 9, 1990	7.35	-	-	4.10	11.80	17.95	14.40	21.60	17.05	24.25
April 8, 1991	7.95	-	-	4.45	13.75	20.90	15.55	23.35	18.45	26.20
April 6, 1992	9.30	-	-	4.75	14.70	22.35	16.65	25.00	20.75	29.55
April 12, 1993	9.65	-	-	4.90	17.30	26.25	19.30	29.00	23.55	33.70
April 11, 1994	10.05	-	-	5.10	18.25	27.55	20.35	30.40	24.70	35.30
April 10, 1995	10.25	-	-	5.20	18.60	28.05	20.70	30.95	25.15	35.95
April 8, 1996	10.55	-	-	5.20	19.15	28.90	21.30	31.90	25.90	37.05
April 7, 1997	-	10.80	15.75	-	19.65	29.65	21.85	32.75	26.55	38.00
April 6, 1998	-	11.05	15.75 <sup>(4)</sup>	-	20.10	30.35	22.35	33.55	27.20	38.90
April 12, 1999	-	13.90	15.75	-	23.60	35.95	25.90	39.20	30.85	44.65
April 10, 2000	-	14.25	15.90	-	26.25	40.00	28.65	43.40	33.85	49.10
April 9, 2001 <sup>(6)</sup>	-	14.20	15.90	-	39.10	57.30	39.10	57.30	39.10	57.30

Notes

1. Carer premium introduced in October 1990.

2. Family Premium increased to £8.70 from 7 October 1991.

3. Enhanced Pensioner premium introduced in October 1989.

4. From 7 April 1997 Lone parents receive one premium (Family premium-Lone parent rate) instead of two separate premiums i.e. Family premium &amp; Lone parent premium.

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