

Department for Social Development

**Income Support
Summary Statistics**

DSD

Department for
Social Development

May 2001



A Government Statistical Publication

Published by***Statistics & Research Branch***

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ISSN 1475-5777

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Contents

GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND CONVENTIONS.....	4
SECTION 1 CASELOAD-KEY CHARACTERISTICS AND AVERAGE PAYMENTS	6
SECTION 2 LENGTH OF TIME ON IS	13
SECTION 3 MAIN CLAIMANT GROUPS	17
SECTION 4 CLAIMANTS, PARTNERS AND DEPENDANTS	20
SECTION 5 PREMIUM PAYMENTS	22
SECTION 6 CLAIMANTS IN RESIDENTIAL CARE AND NURSING HOMES (RCNH)	27
SECTION 7 DISTRICT COUNCIL AND SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE ANALYSES.....	29
SECTION 8 UNITED KINGDOM ANALYSES.....	36
ANNEX 1: TECHNICAL DETAILS	40
ANNEX 2: SAMPLING ERRORS.....	41
ANNEX 3: MAIN CHANGES TO BENEFIT RULES	42
ANNEX 4: PERSONAL ALLOWANCES AND RATES OF PREMIUM	44
INDEX.....	46



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, while housing costs cover certain costs of a customer's accommodation that are not met by Housing Benefit. 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 more specialised sections later in the report.

Between May 2000 and May 2001 the IS caseload has grown by approximately 2.8% and now stands at 175,420 at May 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 May 2000 and May 2001 the disabled statistical group in Northern Ireland increased by approximately 8.1% to 50,940 claimants (29% of the total caseload) compared to the GB disabled statistical group increasing by approximately 5.7% to 1,017,000 claimants (25.9% of the total caseload). Similarly, in the statistical group aged 60 or over, between May 2000 and May 2001 this group in Northern Ireland increased by approximately 3.5% to 76,460 claimants (43.6% of the total caseload) compared to the GB disabled statistical group increasing by approximately 6.3% to 1,717,000 claimants (43.7% 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 32,600 in May 2000 to 32,400 in May 2001, with the average weekly payment for this group rising from £91.20 to £102.05. This group has the highest average weekly payment of IS. The number of claimants in the 'Other' statistical group has decreased between May 2000 and May 2001 (16,980 to 15,620) and makes up 8.9% 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 May 2001, for example, a single claimant without dependants received on average £55.62 per week, compared to £106.84 received by a single person with dependants. Amongst couples, those without dependants received on average £68.21 per week, while those with dependants received on average £129.76 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 (37,240 and 26,800 respectively at May 2001). The largest number of females is in the 60 years and over age bracket, closely followed by the 25-59 year age bracket (48,980 and 48,020 respectively at May 2001).



The total number of IS claimants was higher in May 2001 than at any other time in the preceding five years (175,420 claimants in May 2001 and 158,560 at May 1996). In contrast, in GB the total number of IS claimants has fallen in the same time period, with the total number of claimants at May 2001 standing at 3,928,000 compared to 3,963,000 at May 1996.



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

	All Claimants	Statistical group			
		Aged 60 or over	Lone Parents	Disabled	Other
May-00	170,600	73,900	32,600	47,120	16,980
Aug-00	173,500	74,680	32,820	48,440	17,560
Nov-00	174,360	76,060	32,140	49,640	16,520
Feb-01	175,160	76,520	32,580	49,800	16,260
May-01	175,420	76,460	32,400	50,940	15,620

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

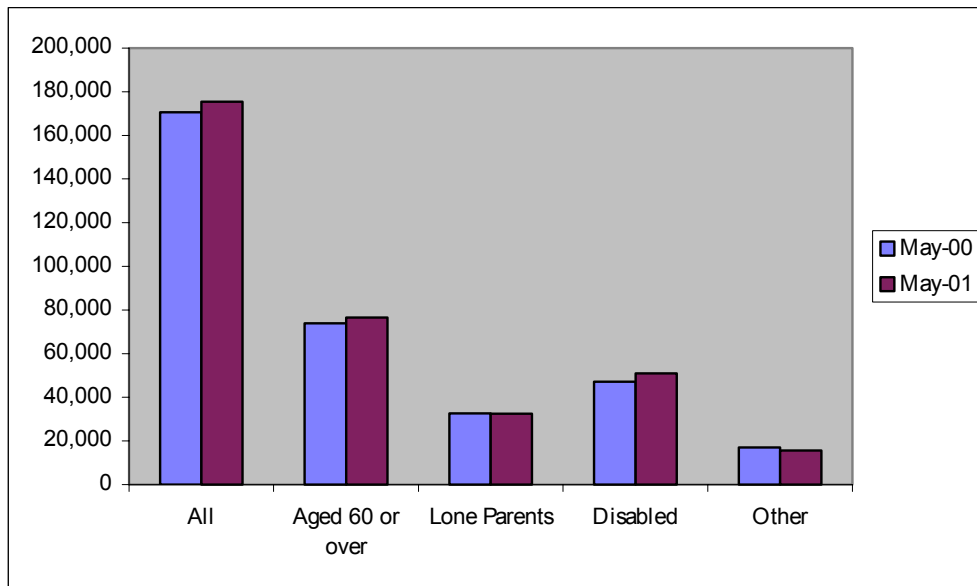


Table 1.2 Income Support claimants by statistical group: May 2000 to May 2001

	All Claimants	Statistical group			
		% Aged 60 or over	% Lone Parents	% Disabled	% Other
May-00	100%	43.3%	19.1%	27.6%	10.0%
Aug-00	100%	43.0%	18.9%	27.9%	10.1%
Nov-00	100%	43.6%	18.4%	28.5%	9.5%
Feb-01	100%	43.7%	18.6%	28.4%	9.3%
May-01	100%	43.6%	18.5%	29.0%	8.9%



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

	All Claimants	Statistical group			
		Aged 60 or over	Lone Parents	Disabled	Other
May-00	£66.70	£53.31	£91.20	£74.80	£55.42
Aug-00	£66.90	£53.16	£91.13	£75.69	£55.77
Nov-00	£68.85	£52.62	£98.77	£78.52	£56.30
Feb-01	£68.39	£52.19	£98.52	£77.96	£54.98
May-01	£73.10	£56.72	£102.05	£82.83	£61.45

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

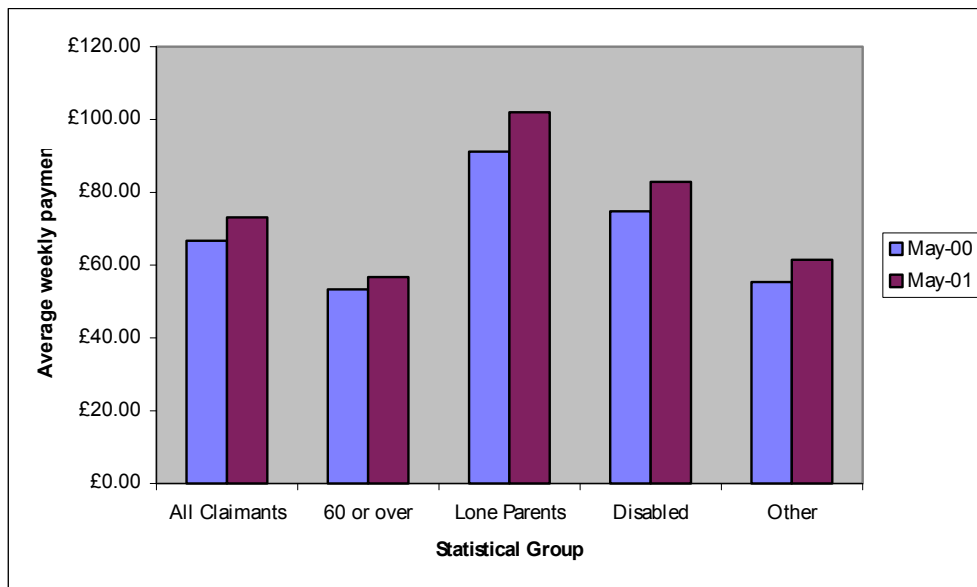


Table 1.4 Income Support claimants by age and gender: May 2000 to May 2001

	All Claimants	All males			All females		
		Under 25 years	25-59	60 or over	Under 25 years	25-59	60 or over
May-00	170,600	4,180	35,400	25,820	10,020	47,700	47,480
Aug-00	173,500	4,420	36,800	26,180	10,060	48,100	47,940
Nov-00	174,360	4,180	36,940	26,580	10,160	47,580	48,920
Feb-01	175,160	4,240	37,180	26,620	10,540	47,320	49,260
May-01	175,420	4,340	37,240	26,800	10,040	48,020	48,980

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

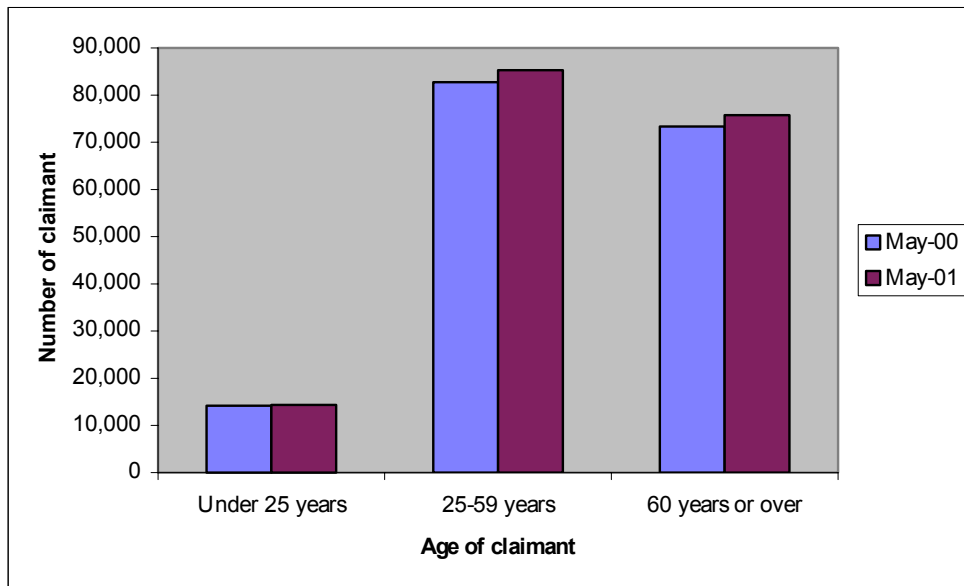


Table 1.5 Average weekly payments made to Income Support claimants by age and gender: May 2000 to May 2001 (£pw)

	All Claimants	All males			All females		
		Under 25 years	25-59	60 or over	Under 25 years	25-59	60 or over
May-00	£66.70	£48.88	£70.18	£58.27	£68.91	£85.87	£50.53
Aug-00	£66.90	£48.91	£70.81	£58.57	£70.60	£85.99	£50.16
Nov-00	£68.85	£48.70	£73.24	£57.66	£75.99	£91.52	£49.80
Feb-01	£68.39	£47.45	£72.85	£57.18	£75.79	£91.31	£49.30
May-01	£73.10	£47.31	£79.17	£63.12	£78.66	£95.74	£52.87



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

	All Claimants	Single without dependants	Single with dependants	Couples without dependants	Couples with dependants
May-00	170,600	102,860	39,500	17,400	10,840
Aug-00	173,500	104,120	40,260	17,740	11,380
Nov-00	174,360	105,160	39,680	18,760	10,760
Feb-01	175,160	105,620	39,920	18,940	10,680
May-01	175,420	105,960	39,800	19,040	10,620

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

	All Claimants	Single without dependants	Single with dependants	Couples without dependants	Couples with dependants
May-00	£66.70	£52.26	£95.46	£60.54	£108.77
Aug-00	£66.90	£52.23	£95.35	£61.29	£109.11
Nov-00	£68.85	£52.21	£103.03	£60.65	£119.76
Feb-01	£68.39	£51.75	£102.79	£60.62	£118.22
May-01	£73.10	£55.62	£106.84	£68.21	£129.76

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

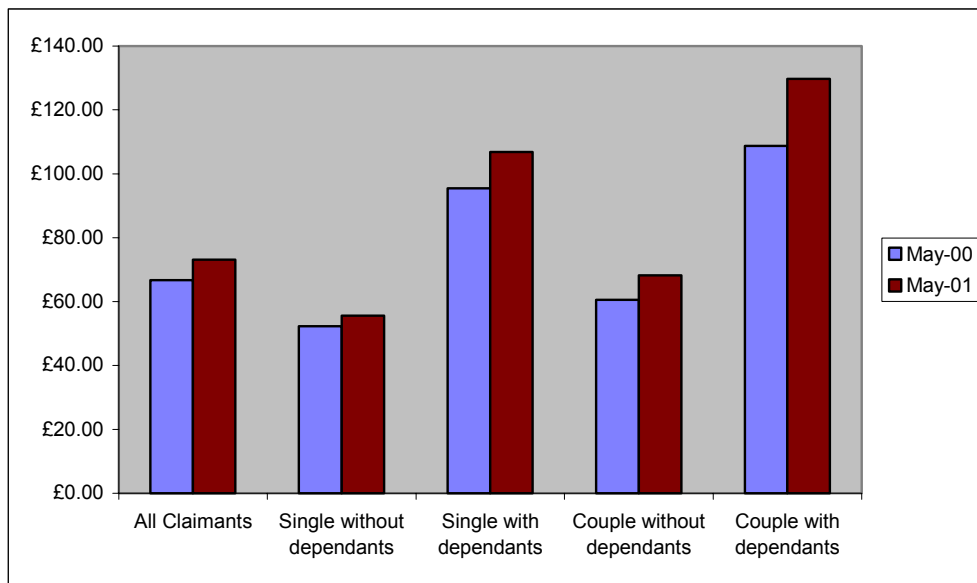
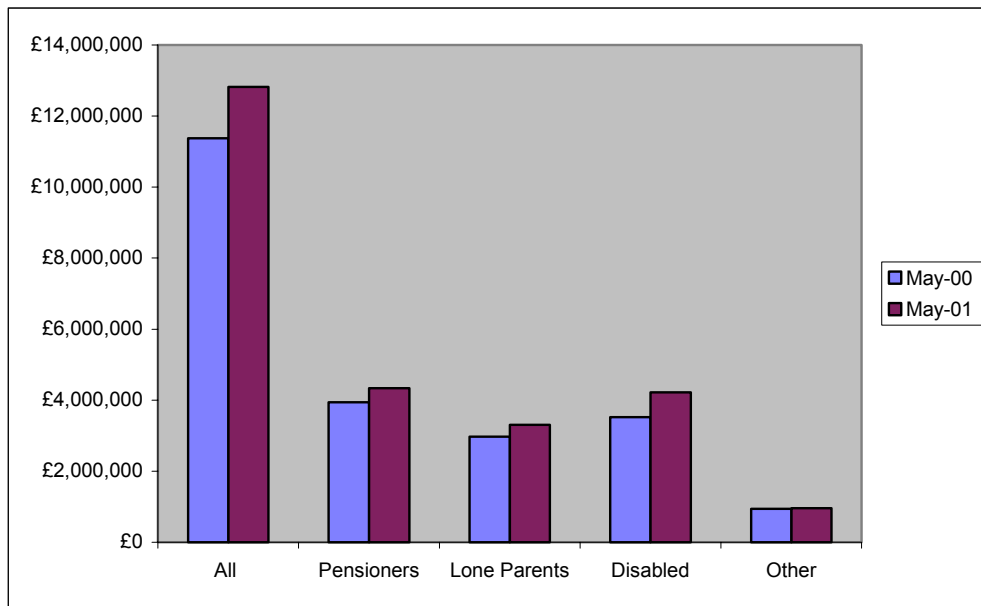


Chart 1E Estimated Total Weekly Expenditure on Income Support by group (Last week in May): 2000 and 2001



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 May 2000 and May 2001, the proportion of claimants receiving benefit for the duration periods of under 3 months and 3 to under 6 months have decreased slightly (4.4% to 4.1% and 4.5% to 4.1% 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 May 2001 (81.2% had a claim which lasted 2 years or over) whilst those in the 'other' group were likely to have spent the shortest time (34.8% had made their claim in the 6 months to May 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 May 2001 80.7% of males in this age bracket had a claim lasting 2 Years or longer, while 81.5% of females in this age group had a claim of this duration.

Those aged under 25 claiming IS at May 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 (14.3% males under 25 and 8.4% of females under 25 at May 2001).

Claimants with longer claim durations were more likely to receive higher amounts of benefit than those claimants with shorter claim durations in May 2001. 41.5% of those with a duration of 2 years or more received £80 or more per week compared with only 27.8% for those with a duration of under 3 months.



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

Duration	May 2000	Aug 2000	Nov 2000	Feb 2001	May 2001
All claimants	170600	173500	174360	175160	175420
% under 3 months	4.4%	4.3%	4.4%	3.5%	4.1%
% 3 to under 6 months	4.5%	5.4%	4.9%	5.5%	4.1%
% 6 to under 12 months	7.5%	7.7%	7.9%	8.2%	8.2%
% 1 to under 2 years	11.2%	11.3%	11.5%	11.5%	11.9%
% 2 to under 3 years	9.6%	8.8%	8.7%	8.6%	9.0%
% 3 to under 4 years	7.8%	8.6%	8.4%	8.3%	8.0%
% 4 to under 5 years	6.3%	5.8%	6.1%	6.1%	6.6%
% 5 years and over	48.6%	48.1%	48.0%	48.3%	48.2%

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

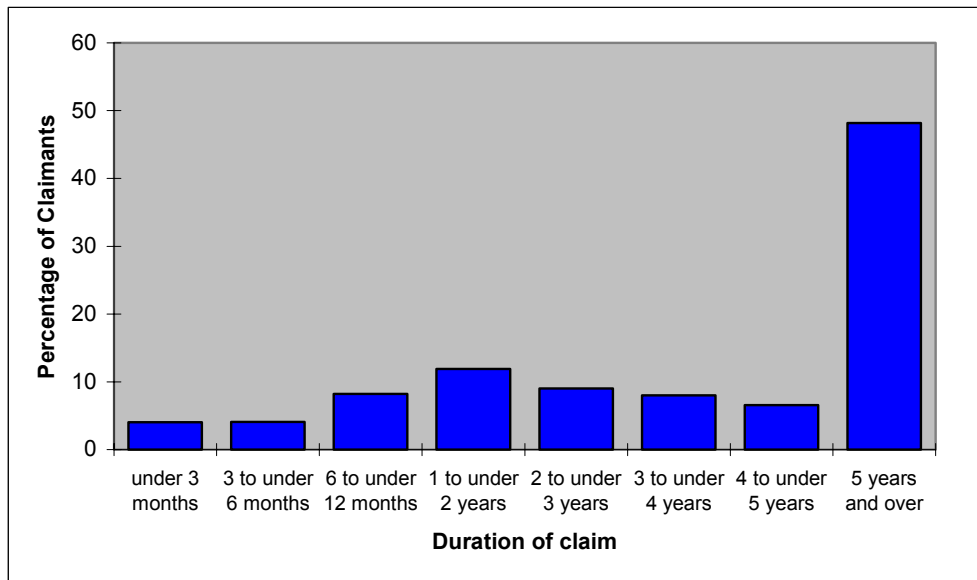


Table 2.2 Income Support claimants by duration of current claim and statistical group: May 2001

	All Claimants	Statistical group			
		Aged 60 or over	Lone Parents	Disabled	Other
Total	175,420	76,460	32,400	50,940	15,620
% under 3 months	4.1	1.9	4.4	2.6	18.6
% 3 to under 6 months	4.1	2.3	4.7	2.6	16.3
% 6 to under 12 months	8.2	6.3	9.3	6.9	19.3
% 1 to under 2 years	11.9	8.2	14.7	15.7	11.8
% 2 to under 3 years	9.0	7.3	10.7	11.6	5.2
% 3 to under 4 years	8.0	6.6	9.1	10.1	5.1
% 4 to under 5 years	6.6	6.6	7.0	7.0	4.2
% 5 years and over	48.2	60.7	40.0	43.4	19.5

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

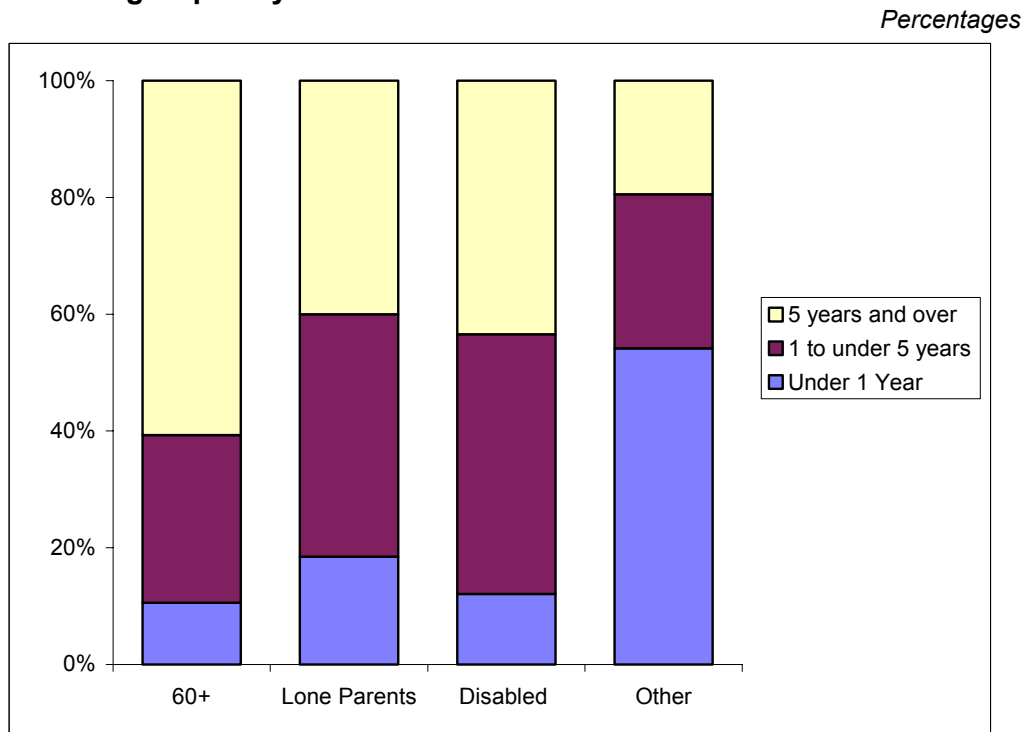


Table 2.3 Income Support claimants by duration of current claim, age and gender: May 2001

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
Total	175,420	4.1	4.1	8.2	11.9	71.7
Male	68,380	5.2	4.9	9.6	12.9	67.4
Under 18	240	25.0	33.3	33.3	8.3	
18-24	4,100	13.7	12.2	19.0	21.0	34.1
25-59	37,240	6.1	5.6	10.8	15.5	61.9
60 and Over	26,800	2.4	2.6	6.3	8.1	80.7
Female	107,040	3.3	3.6	7.3	11.3	74.5
Under 18	520	30.8	30.8	23.1	15.4	
18-24	9,520	7.1	9.5	15.3	26.1	42.0
25-59	48,020	4.0	3.5	6.5	11.4	74.6
60 and Over	48,980	1.7	2.2	6.3	8.3	81.5

Table 2.4 Income Support claimants by duration of current claim and range of weekly IS payment: May 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
All amounts	175,420	7,120	7,180	14,380	20,900	125,840
Under £10	3.4	14.6	11.7	6.4	5.0	1.7
£10 to under £30	17.3	11.5	10.9	17.5	13.7	18.5
£30 to under £40	6.6	6.5	7.2	8.2	7.7	6.2
£40 to under £50	6.9	15.4	11.7	9.6	7.1	5.8
£50 to under £70	17.1	20.2	20.6	17.4	12.6	17.4
£70 to under £80	8.7	3.9	8.9	6.5	11.3	8.7
£80 to under £100	15.3	11.0	14.5	15.3	19.1	15.0
£100 or over	24.7	16.9	14.5	19.1	23.5	26.6
Average amount £ per week	73.10	58.33	60.60	64.46	73.21	75.61



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 which 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 that 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 May 2001, 37.6% (18,520) of these women were aged 80 years or over compared to just 16.5% (4,480) of men. Those aged 60-64 accounted for 34.3% of males in this premium group, while only 12.2% 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 May 2001, a situation which has remained relatively unchanged since 1995. 57.4% (29,260) of IS claimants receiving the disability were male, 42.6% (21,680) female. This is mirrored in Great Britain where the percentages are 55.4% male and 44.6% female.

The majority of lone parents were female (95.1%) and concentrated mainly in the 25-59 year old age band. This is again mirrored in Great Britain.

The number of ‘other’ claimants fell from 16,980 in May 2000 to 15,620 in May 2001. There continues to be almost twice as many males than females in this category (10,380 and 5,240 respectively). This distribution is mirrored in GB, with 61.8% (189,000) of ‘other’ claimants being male and 38.2% (117,000) female at May 2001.



Table 3.1 Income Support claimants receiving a Pensioner premium¹ by age and gender: May 2000 to May 2001

Age/ Gender	May-00	Aug-00	Nov-00	Feb-01	May-01
Total	73,900	74,680	76,060	76,520	76,440
Male	26,140	26,460	26,840	26,960	27,140
60-64	9,200	9,280	9,140	9,320	9,300
65-74	9,400	9,640	10,120	10,080	10,260
75-79	3,440	3,240	3,180	3,080	3,100
80 or over	4,100	4,300	4,400	4,480	4,480
Female	47,760	48,220	49,220	49,560	49,300
60-64	5,520	5,820	5,980	5,940	6,020
65-74	14,580	14,580	14,740	14,900	15,100
75-79	9,160	9,300	9,800	9,880	9,660
80 or over	18,500	18,520	18,700	18,840	18,520

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

² 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: May 2000 to May 2001

Age/ Gender	May-00	Aug-00	Nov-00	Feb-01	May-01
Total	47,120	48,440	49,640	49,800	50,940
Male	26,940	27,800	28,380	28,600	29,260
Under 18	140	140	100	100	160
18-24	2,360	2,380	2,240	2,300	2,300
25-59	24,440	25,280	26,040	26,200	26,800
Female	20,180	20,640	21,260	21,200	21,680
Under 18	140	120	140	140	140
18-24	1,840	1,780	1,900	1,820	1,960
25-59	18,200	18,740	19,220	19,240	19,580



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

Age/ Gender	May-00	Aug-00	Nov-00	Feb-01	May-01
Total	32,600	32,820	32,140	32,580	32,400
Male	1,420	1,500	1,480	1,500	1,580
Female	31,180	31,320	30,660	31,080	30,820
Under 18	300	300	280	200	200
18-24	6,420	6,700	6,880	7,380	6,800
25-59	24,460	24,320	23,500	23,500	23,820

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

Age/ Gender	May-00	Aug-00	Nov-00	Feb-01	May-01
Total	16,980	17,560	16,520	16,260	15,620
Male	10,900	11,640	11,000	10,980	10,380
Under 18	-	100	140	120	-
18-24	1,540	1,720	1,620	1,640	1,720
25-59	9,300	9,820	9,240	9,220	8,580
Female	6,080	5,920	5,520	5,280	5,240
Under 18	160	-	140	140	180
18-24	1,160	1,080	820	860	760
25-59	4,760	4,760	4,560	4,280	4,300



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

In comparison to May 2000, the proportion of the population who are beneficiaries of IS (i.e. a claimant, partner or dependant) has risen slightly from 17.9% to 18.2% in May 2001. In contrast this proportion of the population in GB has remained at 11.7% during this period.

The proportion of IS claimants having a partner increased slightly from May 2000 to May 2001 from 16.6% to 16.9% respectively. In GB this proportion has similarly increased from 14.1% to 14.4% over the same period.

The average number of dependants of an IS claimant in Northern Ireland at May 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 May 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 May 2001).



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

	All Beneficiaries	Type of beneficiary			Beneficiaries as % of population
		Claimant	Partner	Dependant	
May-00	300,680	170,600	28,240	101,840	17.9%
Aug-00	307,020	173,500	29,120	104,400	18.3%
Nov-00	305,600	174,360	29,520	101,720	18.2%
Feb-01	306,020	175,160	29,620	101,240	18.2%
May-01	306,220	175,420	29,660	101,140	18.2%

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

	Total	Age of Claimant					
		Under 18	18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 49	50 to 59	60 or over
All claimants	175,420	760	13,620	26,060	38,000	21,200	75,780
Claimants without deps	125,000	560	6,240	9,020	16,860	17,380	74,940
Claimants with deps	50,420	200	7,380	17,040	21,140	3,820	840
Number of Deps							
1	21,900	200	5,400	5,740	7,440	2,500	620
2	14,900	0	1,640	6,000	6,200	940	120
3	7,700	0	300	3000	4140	180	-
4	4,140	0	-	1620	2300	160	-
5	1,160	0	0	400	720	-	0
6 or more	620	0	0	280	340	0	0
Average number of dependants	2.0	1.0	1.3	2.2	2.2	1.5	1.4



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 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 (166,000 claimants, 94.6% 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 1.39 per claimant in May 2000 to 1.5 in May 2001. This increase is primarily 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 10.9% from May 2000 to May 2001 which compares to an increase of 8.2% in GB. The number of premiums linked to disability and age (the various rates of pensioner premium) in Northern Ireland has shown increases from May 2000 to May 2001, 8.5% and 4% respectively (numbers for enhanced disability premium and the enhanced disabled child premium ignored for comparative purposes). In GB the increases for disability and age are 7% and 6% respectively.

Most single people with dependants were receiving the family premium and all of these claimants were in receipt of at least one 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 10.7% of this group not receiving any premium. Claimants with dependants, irrespective of marital status, were in receipt of at least one IS 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: May 2000 to May 2001

Type of premium	May 2000	Aug 2000	Nov 2000	Feb 2001	May 2001
All types	236,840	242,320	245,700	247,420	262,660
Higher pensioner premium					
Claimant/partner aged 80 or over	22,600	22,740	23,160	23,460	23,260
Claimant/partner aged 60-79	35,700	36,440	37,420	37,760	37,460
Enhanced pensioner premium	3,200	3,180	3,300	3,320	3,260
Pensioner premium	11,600	11,540	11,560	11,460	12,020
Severe Disability premium - higher	3,780	3,980	4,120	4,080	4,080
Severe Disability premium - lower	37,360	38,660	40,560	41,000	41,380
Disability Premium	47,120	48,460	49,640	49,780	50,960
Enhanced disability premium					11,240
Disabled child premium	5,380	5,540	5,280	5,220	5,140
Enhanced disabled child premium					2,460
Family Premium(lone parent)*	0	20,660	0	-	16,600
Family Premium*	50,320	30,980	50,400	50,540	33,800
Carer Premium	19,780	20,140	20,260	20,800	21,000
Claimants not in receipt of an IS premium	11,220	11,360	10,320	10,040	9,420
Claimants with 1 or more premiums	159,380	162,140	164,040	165,100	166,000
Average number of premiums	1.39	1.40	1.41	1.41	1.50

*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: May 2001

Type of premium	Single Claimants		Couples		
	With Dependants	Without Dependants	With Dependants	Without Dependants	
All premiums	262,480	62,020	142,120	28,200	30,140
Higher Pensioner Premium					
Claimant/partner aged 80 or over	23,240	0	21,240	-	2,000
Claimant/partner aged 60-79	37,340	-	26,400	540	10,400
Enhanced pensioner premium	3,260	0	2,880	0	380
Pensioner premium	12,020	120	9,920	120	1,860
Severe Disability premium-higher	4,080	0	0	240	3,840
Severe Disability premium - lower	41,340	3,340	37,460	-	540
Disability Premium	50,960	7,160	31,300	7,740	4,760
Enhanced disability premium	11,240	1,480	6,600	1,700	1,460
Disabled child premium	5,140	3,580	0	1,560	0
Enhanced disabled child premium	2,460	1,660	0	800	0
Family Premium(lone parent)*	16,600	16,600	0	0	0
Family Premium*	33,800	23,200	0	10,600	0
Carer Premium	21,000	4,880	6,320	4,900	4,900
Claimants with 1 or more premiums	166,000	39,800	96,920	10,620	18,660
Claimants with no premium	9,420	0	9,040	0	380
Average number of premiums	1.50	1.56	1.34	2.66	1.58

*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: May 2001

Type of premium	All Claimants	Statistical Group			
		Aged 60 or over	Lone Parents	Disabled	Other
All premiums	262,580	112,160	40,920	99,740	9,760
Higher pensioner premium					
Claimant/partner aged 80 or over	23,260	23,260	0	0	0
Claimant/partner aged 60-79	37,460	37,460	0	0	0
Enhanced pensioner premium	3,260	3,260	0	0	0
Pensioner premium	12,020	12,020	0	0	0
Severe disability premium - higher	4,080	3,560	0	520	0
Severe disability premium - lower	41,380	28,480	0	12,900	0
Disability Premium	50,940	-	0	50,940	0
Enhanced disability premium	11,240	0	0	11,240	0
Disabled child premium	5,100	-	2,880	1,560	660
Enhanced disabled child premium	2,440	-	1,300	780	360
Family Premium(lone parent) ^{1,2}	16,600	0	16,600	0	0
Family Premium ^{1,2}	33,800	900	15,800	14,880	2,220
Carer Premium	21,000	3,220	4,340	6,920	6,520
Claimants with 1 or more premiums	166,000	75,080	32,400	50,940	7,580
Claimants with no premium	8,040	1380*	0	0	8,040
Average number of premiums	1.50	1.47	1.26	1.96	0.62

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

²From 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 are 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 1,720 in May 2001. The number of Residential allowance cases during this same time period has increased from 5,100 to 7,020. The overall number of RCNH claimants has shown a decrease from 9,120 in May 2000 to 8,740 in May 2001 after following an increase of 160 between May 1999 and May 2000. Currently RCNH cases make up 5% of the total IS caseload in Northern Ireland. In contrast, the equivalent GB percentage stands at 7%.

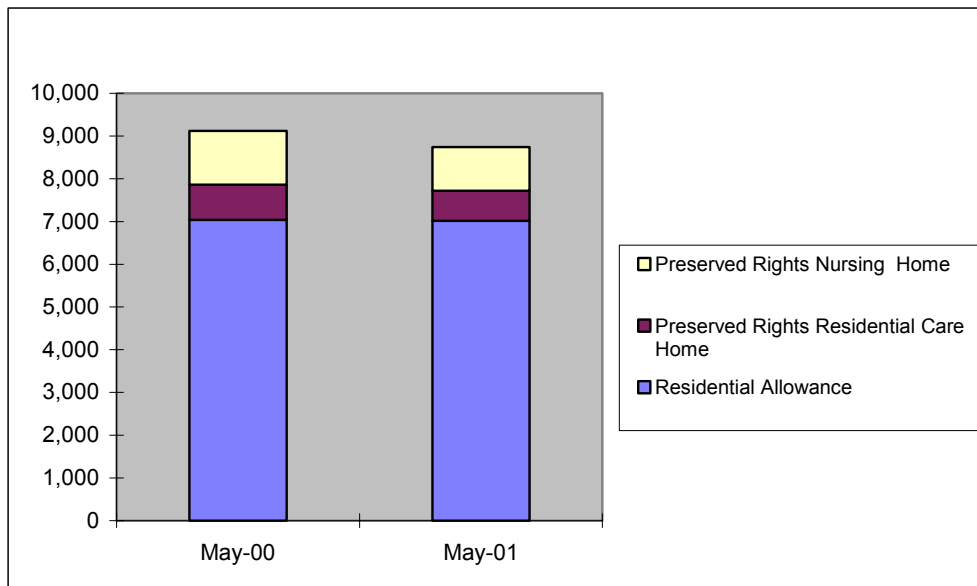


Table 6.1 Income Support claimants in residential care and nursing homes: May 2000 to May 2001*

	All	Residential allowance	Preserved Rights		
			All	Residential care home	Nursing home
May-00	9,120	7,040	2,080	820	1,260
Nov-00	8,920	7,000	1,920	760	1,160
Feb-01	9,160	7,360	1,800	740	1,060
May-01	8,740	7,020	1,720	700	1,020

*Data unavailable for August 2000

Chart 6A Income Support claimants in residential care and nursing homes by type of care: May 2000 and May 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 May 2000 to May 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 numbers 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 (19.8% of the population), closely followed by Derry (19.7% of the population) and Belfast (19.3% of the population). The lowest proportion of claimants is in the Castlereagh district council (7.0% of population) followed by Carrickfergus and Banbridge (7.6% 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 (27.9%), closely followed by Belfast (26%) and Strabane (25.7%). The lowest proportion of beneficiaries is in the Castlereagh district council (9%) followed by Banbridge (9.6%) and Carrickfergus (9.7% of the population). Overall 18.2% of the population in Northern Ireland were beneficiaries of IS, compared to 11.7% in GB.

Corporation Street Social Security Office had the largest share of the IS caseload with 11,200 claimants (6.4% of the caseload) at May 2001, while Kilkeel had only 1,440 claimants (0.8% of the caseload) at the same point in time. Foyle, Newtownabbey, Enniskillen and Shaftesbury Square respectively experienced the largest increases in claimant numbers between May 2000 and May 2001. Similarly Corporation Street, Andersonstown, Cookstown and Downpatrick Offices all experienced claimant decreases during this period.

In Magherafelt 56.9% of the caseload consisted of claimants aged 60 or over, while this category of claimant only accounted for 28% of the caseload in Foyle. Andersonstown had the highest proportion of lone parents in comparison to Ballynahinch which had the lowest (33.2% and 9.9% respectively at May 2001). In regard to the disabled claimants, Cookstown had the highest proportion while both Ballymena and Ballymoney had the lowest proportion (36.3% and 21.5% respectively).

The highest number IS beneficiaries was found in the Foyle Social Security Office (21,700 beneficiaries at May 2001) the lowest number being in Newcastle (2,760 beneficiaries at May 2001).



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

District Council	May 2000	Aug 2000	Nov 2000	Feb 2001	May 2001
Antrim	4,060	4,120	4,160	3960	3960
Ards	4,720	4,740	4,680	4740	4860
Armagh	4,480	4,640	4,620	4660	4700
Ballymena	4,220	4,240	4,440	4380	4380
Ballymoney	2,040	2,020	2,100	2040	2000
Banbridge	2,280	2,480	2,420	2380	2360
Belfast	42,020	42,220	42,080	42200	42080
Carrickfergus	2,180	2,100	2,220	2340	2200
Castlereagh	3,540	3,640	3,560	3640	3620
Coleraine	4,780	4,960	4,980	5060	4980
Cookstown	4,280	4,240	4,280	4200	4300
Craigavon	8,040	8,040	7,920	8140	8280
Derry	14,380	14,960	14,860	14960	15260
Down	5,100	5,020	4,880	5060	5040
Dungannon	5,800	6,060	5,960	5980	6180
Fermanagh	6,140	6,320	6,440	6520	6540
Larne	2,200	2,180	2,300	2340	2340
Limavady	2,940	2,980	2,980	3080	3140
Lisburn	8,700	8,580	8,840	9000	8960
Magherafelt	3,760	3,980	3,980	3940	3880
Moyle	1,680	1,820	1,900	1940	1820
Newry&Mourne	10,760	10,960	11,100	11140	10960
Newtownabbey	5,380	5,680	5,700	5680	5840
North Down	4,500	4,680	4,880	4780	4860
Omagh	5140	5180	5,140	5100	5160
Strabane	5540	5500	5620	5640	5560
Missing Postcode *	1,940	2,160	2,320	2,260	2,160
All Claimants	170,600	173,500	174,360	175,160	175,420

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: May 2001

District Council	All Claimants 100%	Statistical group				Claimants as a percentage of the population ¹
		Aged 60 or over %	Lone Parents %	Disabled %	Other %	
Ards	4,860	49.0%	15.2%	30.0%	5.8%	8.5%
Antrim	3,960	48.5%	15.7%	29.8%	6.1%	10.7%
Armagh	4,700	50.6%	13.2%	26.8%	9.4%	11.9%
Ballymena	4,380	55.3%	16.9%	21.9%	5.9%	9.7%
Ballymoney	2,000	55.0%	18.0%	21.0%	6.0%	10.0%
Banbridge	2,360	52.5%	14.4%	26.3%	6.8%	7.6%
Belfast	42,080	39.3%	21.1%	30.6%	9.1%	19.3%
Carrickfergus	2,200	34.5%	17.3%	32.7%	15.5%	7.6%
Castlereagh	3,620	45.3%	20.4%	26.5%	7.7%	7.0%
Coleraine	4,980	47.0%	17.3%	24.1%	11.6%	11.5%
Cookstown	4,300	46.0%	10.2%	37.2%	6.5%	18.1%
Craigavon	8,280	45.7%	16.2%	28.7%	9.4%	13.8%
Derry	15,260	30.0%	24.0%	34.6%	11.4%	19.7%
Down	5,040	40.9%	19.0%	29.4%	10.7%	10.6%
Dungannon	6,180	42.4%	15.5%	30.4%	11.7%	17.7%
Fermanagh	6,540	54.4%	12.2%	25.1%	8.3%	15.2%
Larne	2,340	48.7%	16.2%	26.5%	8.5%	9.7%
Limavady	3,140	36.9%	17.8%	32.5%	12.7%	13.2%
Lisburn	8,960	38.2%	27.0%	28.1%	6.7%	10.9%
Magherafelt	3,880	61.9%	13.9%	17.5%	6.7%	13.4%
Moyle	1,820	51.6%	19.8%	17.6%	11.0%	15.2%
Newry&Mourne	10,960	45.3%	15.3%	30.3%	9.1%	17.5%
Newtownabbey	5,840	48.6%	18.2%	25.7%	7.5%	9.4%
North Down	4,860	56.0%	15.6%	21.4%	7.0%	8.0%
Omagh	5,160	50.4%	14.7%	29.5%	5.4%	14.5%
Strabane	5,560	37.4%	17.3%	35.6%	9.7%	19.8%
Missing Postcode*	2,160	41.7%	23.1%	24.1%	11.1%	
All Claimants	175,420	44%	18%	29%	9%	13.7%

¹ 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.



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

District Council	All Beneficiaries	Type of beneficiary			Beneficiaries as a percentage of the population ¹
		Claimant	Partner	Dependant	
Antrim	6620	3960	540	2120	13.6%
Ards	7940	4860	820	2260	10.9%
Armagh	7800	4700	1020	2080	14.7%
Ballymena	7280	4380	540	2360	12.5%
Ballymoney	3420	2000	420	1000	13.0%
Banbridge	3900	2360	320	1220	9.6%
Belfast	73000	42080	5160	25760	26.0%
Carrickfergus	3660	2200	400	1060	9.7%
Castlereagh	5980	3620	660	1700	9.0%
Coleraine	7640	4980	700	1960	13.6%
Cookstown	8000	4300	1340	2360	24.9%
Craigavon	15440	8280	1840	5320	19.3%
Derry	29640	15260	2660	11720	27.9%
Down	8880	5040	820	3020	14.0%
Dungannon	10640	6180	1240	3220	22.4%
Fermanagh	10380	6540	1260	2580	18.2%
Larne	4040	2340	480	1220	13.0%
Limavady	5340	3140	600	1600	16.6%
Lisburn	17980	8960	1300	7720	16.5%
Magherafelt	6420	3880	940	1600	16.3%
Moyle	3000	1820	280	900	19.0%
Newry&Mourne	20340	10960	2360	7020	23.7%
Newtownabbey	9540	5840	1020	2680	11.9%
North Down	7420	4860	720	1840	9.8%
Omagh	8280	5160	1020	2100	17.3%
Strabane	9800	5560	940	3300	25.7%
Missing Postcode*	3,840	2,160	260	1,420	
All Claimants	306,220	175,420	29,660	101,140	18.2%

¹ 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: May 2000 to May 2001

Social Security Office	May 2000	Aug 2000	Nov 2000	Feb 2001	May 2001
Andersonstown	8000	8000	8160	8160	7960
Antrim	4700	4840	5000	4780	4720
Armagh	4140	4220	4300	4300	4340
Ballymena	4800	4860	5080	4920	4940
Ballymoney	3680	3640	3800	3820	3720
Ballynahinch	1800	1760	1840	1960	1820
Banbridge	2880	3100	3040	2980	2940
Bangor	4900	5020	5200	5120	5120
Coleraine	4800	5060	5100	5180	5060
Cookstown	3660	3640	3680	3640	3640
Corporation Street	11700	11520	11280	11200	11200
Downpatrick	2580	2560	2460	2580	2560
Dungannon	5500	5720	5600	5540	5800
Enniskillen	7120	7300	7400	7500	7540
Falls Road	8560	8700	8560	8520	8640
Foyle	10280	10580	10440	10560	10800
Hollywood Road	7340	7500	7560	7540	7540
Kilkeel	1340	1420	1400	1460	1440
Knockbreda	5080	5280	5200	5240	5160
Larne	4400	4320	4560	4700	4620
Limavady	2680	2720	2740	2860	2900
Lisburn	5020	4960	5060	5200	5220
Lisnagelvin	4680	4980	5040	4960	5020
Lurgan	5220	5240	5300	5480	5380
Magherafelt	3980	4160	4100	4100	4040
Newcastle	1440	1480	1420	1400	1460
Newry	8900	8940	9120	9080	9040
Newtownabbey	4640	4940	4800	4900	5080
Newtownards	3520	3500	3540	3560	3760
Omagh	5060	5080	5060	5080	5120
Portadown	3900	4000	3780	3900	4020
Shaftesbury Sq.	4480	4540	4680	4880	4900
Shankill Road	4220	4340	4360	4320	4260
Strabane	5600	5580	5700	5740	5660
All Claimants	170,600	173,500	174,360	175,160	175,420



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

Social Security Office	All Claimants	Statistical group			
		Aged 60 or over %	Lone Parents %	Disabled %	Other %
Andersonstown	7,960	29.1%	33.2%	28.9%	8.8%
Antrim	4,720	47.0%	16.1%	28.8%	8.1%
Armagh	4,340	50.7%	13.4%	25.8%	10.1%
Ballymena	4,940	55.9%	16.6%	21.5%	6.1%
Ballymoney	3,720	53.8%	16.7%	21.5%	8.1%
Ballynahinch	1,820	53.8%	9.9%	27.5%	8.8%
Banbridge	2,940	51.0%	15.0%	25.2%	8.8%
Bangor	5,120	55.9%	13.7%	23.4%	7.0%
Coleraine	5,060	47.4%	18.2%	22.5%	11.9%
Cookstown	3,640	45.6%	11.5%	36.3%	6.6%
Corporation Street	11,200	37.3%	22.1%	31.8%	8.8%
Downpatrick	2,560	41.4%	19.5%	31.3%	7.8%
Dungannon	5,800	40.3%	16.2%	31.4%	12.1%
Enniskillen	7,540	54.6%	11.9%	25.2%	8.2%
Falls Road	8,640	34.5%	24.3%	32.6%	8.6%
Foyle	10,800	28.0%	25.6%	34.8%	11.7%
Hollywood Road	7,540	47.2%	17.2%	26.8%	8.8%
Kilkeel	1,440	47.2%	12.5%	30.6%	9.7%
Knockbreda	5,160	44.2%	17.4%	30.2%	8.1%
Larne	4,620	42.4%	16.9%	29.0%	11.7%
Limavady	2,900	35.9%	18.6%	33.1%	12.4%
Lisburn	5,220	49.4%	19.2%	24.9%	6.5%
Lisnagelvin	5,020	36.7%	19.9%	32.7%	10.8%
Lurgan	5,380	45.4%	16.0%	29.0%	9.7%
Magherafelt	4,040	56.9%	14.4%	22.8%	5.9%
Newcastle	1,460	31.5%	27.4%	27.4%	13.7%
Newry	9,040	44.0%	15.9%	31.2%	8.8%
Newtownabbey	5,080	48.8%	19.3%	25.6%	6.3%
Newtownards	3,760	48.4%	17.0%	28.7%	5.9%
Omagh	5,120	50.0%	14.1%	29.7%	6.3%
Portadown	4,020	48.3%	15.4%	27.9%	8.5%
Shaftesbury Sq.	4,900	41.6%	15.5%	31.0%	11.8%
Shankill Road	4,260	41.8%	22.5%	29.1%	6.6%
Strabane	5,660	37.5%	17.3%	35.3%	9.9%
All Claimants	175,420	76,460	32,400	50,940	15,620



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

Social Security Office	All Beneficiaries	Type of beneficiary		
		Claimant	Partner	Dependant
Andersonstown	17,160	7,960	1,060	8,140
Antrim	7,680	4,720	600	2,360
Armagh	7,300	4,340	940	2,020
Ballymena	8,240	4,940	680	2,620
Ballymoney	6,280	3,720	780	1,780
Ballynahinch	2,940	1,820	300	820
Banbridge	5,060	2,940	560	1,560
Bangor	7,940	5,120	780	2,040
Coleraine	7,740	5,060	660	2,020
Cookstown	6,860	3,640	1,180	2,040
Corporation Street	20,000	11,200	1,440	7,360
Downpatrick	4,480	2,560	420	1,500
Dungannon	10,160	5,800	1,180	3,180
Enniskillen	12,000	7,540	1,420	3,040
Falls Road	16,120	8,640	1,160	6,320
Foyle	21,700	10,800	1,780	9,120
Hollywood Road	12,420	7,540	1,020	3,860
Kilkeel	2,800	1,440	420	940
Knockbreda	8,140	5,160	600	2,380
Larne	7,860	4,620	900	2,340
Limavady	4,860	2,900	520	1,440
Lisburn	9,060	5,220	820	3,020
Lisnagelvin	8,900	5,020	1,020	2,860
Lurgan	10,140	5,380	1,180	3,580
Magherafelt	6,880	4,040	940	1,900
Newcastle	2,760	1,460	220	1,080
Newry	16,580	9,040	1,700	5,840
Newtownabbey	8,380	5,080	880	2,420
Newtownards	6,240	3,760	700	1,780
Omagh	8,100	5,120	1,000	1,980
Portadown	7,020	4,020	860	2,140
Shaftesbury Sq.	7,220	4,900	420	1,900
Shankill Road	7,220	4,260	560	2,400
Strabane	9,980	5,660	960	3,360
All Claimants	306,220	175,420	29,660	101,140



Section 8 United Kingdom analyses

Summary

A breakdown of the IS caseload is given by Government Office Region (GOR) comparing data from May 1997 to May 2001 (Table 8.1). The caseload is then split by statistical group and GOR at May 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 May 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 May 1997. The North West is the GOR with the greatest share of the UK caseload (14.1% at May 2001) in comparison with Northern Ireland which has the smallest share of the caseload (4.3% at May 2001). The London GOR is the only area that has exhibited a decrease in claimants over the period from May 2000 to May 2001. Scotland has exhibited the largest increase in its share of the caseload, with its share increasing by 0.3% over the period of May 1997 to May 2001.

11.7% of the population in Great Britain were beneficiaries of Income support at May 2001. Among the regions this varied from 7.6% in the South East to 15% in the North East. In Northern Ireland 18.2% of the population were beneficiaries of IS. IS claimants in Northern Ireland were likely to have spent a longer time on benefit at May 2001 (71.7% had a claim with a duration of 2 years or more compared with 67.5% for Great Britain as a whole).



Table 8.1 Income Support claimants by GOR: May 1997 to May 2001

GOR	Thousands ¹				
	May 1997	May 1998	May 1999	May 2000	May 2001
North East	219	212	214	219	226
North West	592	575	565	559	577
Yorks & Humberside	354	345	343	348	361
East Midlands	250	243	240	241	250
West Midlands	379	366	362	364	376
East	268	268	265	266	276
London	604	582	575	573	572
South East	378	363	354	351	363
South West	276	268	269	264	274
Wales	230	226	228	229	236
Scotland	408	404	400	398	417
Great Britain	3,958	3,853	3,814	3,811	3,928
Northern Ireland	165	167	167	171	175

¹ Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand

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

GOR	All Claimants (000s) ¹	Aged 60 or over %	Lone Parents %	Disabled %	Other %	Claimants as % of GOR population ²
North East	226	43.5	21.2	27.3	8.0	11.0
North West	577	41.9	21.3	29.2	7.6	10.6
Yorks & Humberside	361	46.3	21.8	24.5	7.5	9.0
East Midlands	250	46.5	21.4	24.7	7.4	7.5
West Midlands	376	47.3	21.6	24.1	7.1	8.9
East	276	47.4	23.1	23.2	6.4	6.4
London	572	36.4	29.3	24.9	9.4	9.9
South East	363	46.1	23.8	22.5	7.7	5.6
South West	274	48.1	20.5	23.6	7.9	6.9
Wales	236	42.1	20.7	30.2	7.1	10.1
Scotland	417	42.8	19.6	29.4	8.3	10.1
Great Britain	3,928	43.7	22.6	25.9	7.8	8.5
Northern Ireland	175	43.6%	18.5%	29.0%	8.9%	13.7

¹ Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand

² Aged 16 and over



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

GOR	All ¹	Type of beneficiary			Beneficiaries as % GOR's population
		Claimant	Partner	Dependant	
North East	388	226	36	125	15.0
North West	995	577	82	336	14.5
Yorks & Humberside	627	361	57	209	12.4
East Midlands	429	250	40	138	10.2
West Midlands	660	376	61	223	12.4
East	472	276	39	156	8.7
London	1,065	572	73	420	14.6
South East	616	363	46	208	7.6
South West	449	274	38	137	9.1
Wales	414	236	39	138	14.1
Scotland	668	417	53	198	13.0
Great Britain	6,782	3,928	565	2,289	11.7
Northern Ireland	306	175	30	101	18.2%

¹ Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand

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

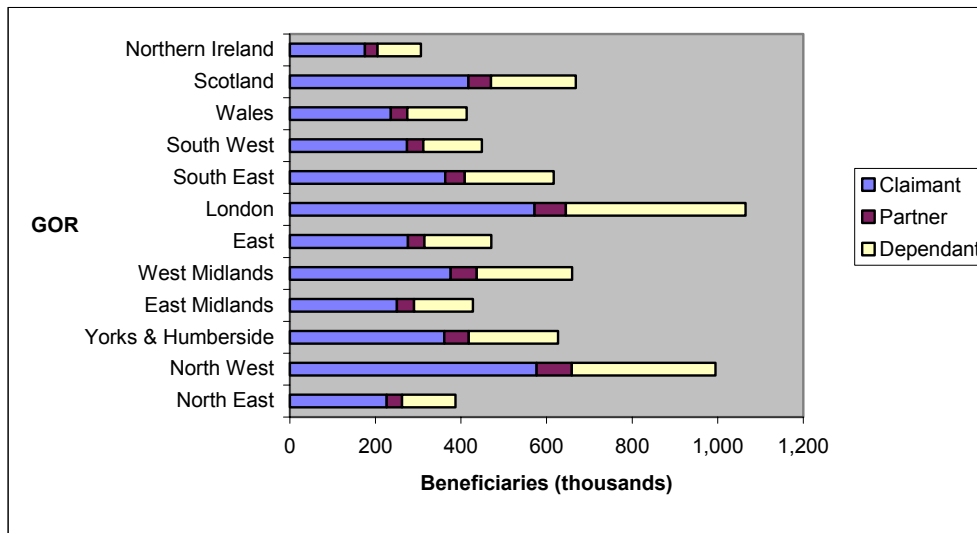


Table 8.4 Average weekly payment of Income Support by GOR and statistical group: May 2001

GOR	£pw				
	All Claimants	Aged 60 or over	Lone Parents	Disabled	Other
North East	65.21	44.14	98.59	73.92	61.71
North West	69.75	49.87	101.40	76.39	65.01
Yorks & Humberside	67.85	48.79	101.14	73.53	70.03
East Midlands	68.06	49.40	100.94	72.50	75.58
West Midlands	68.01	48.89	101.79	74.58	70.35
East	69.04	48.82	101.82	75.56	76.85
London	81.22	64.13	103.65	84.63	68.30
South East	72.35	51.46	103.48	76.48	89.18
South West	69.42	50.84	100.83	72.76	91.09
Wales	67.75	48.31	100.69	73.55	62.23
Scotland	64.64	46.39	97.29	70.00	62.70
Great Britain	70.21	50.73	101.44	75.50	71.26
Northern Ireland	73.10	56.72	102.05	82.83	61.45

Table 8.5 Income Support claimants by GOR and duration of current claim: May 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	226	6.6	4.7	9.5	12.6	66.6
North West	577	5.7	4.5	9.3	11.9	68.6
Yorks & Humberside	361	5.7	5.1	10.2	13.1	65.9
East Midlands	250	6.6	5.3	10.0	12.9	65.2
West Midlands	376	5.5	4.7	9.7	12.5	67.8
East	276	5.8	4.7	9.8	12.7	66.9
London	572	4.1	4.2	8.6	12.2	70.9
South East	363	5.6	4.9	10.6	12.5	66.3
South West	274	6.1	5.2	10.6	12.2	65.9
Wales	236	5.8	4.7	8.9	12.7	67.9
Scotland	417	6.0	5.0	10.4	12.3	66.4
Great Britain	3,928	5.6	4.8	9.7	12.4	67.5
Northern Ireland	175	4.1%	4.1%	8.2%	11.9%	71.7%



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 28th May 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 2nd 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).
- Working Families Tax Credit and Disabled Persons Tax Credit replaced Family Credit and Disability Working Allowance 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 3rd 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 ^(1a)	11 to 16 ^(1b)	16-18 ^(1c)			
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 ⁽²⁾		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 ^(3a)	16-18 ^(3b)				
April 10, 2000 ⁽³⁾			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 ⁽⁵⁾			Severe Disability			
	Disabled child	Carer ⁽¹⁾	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 ⁽⁴⁾		Pensioner		Enhanced Pensioner ⁽³⁾		Higher Pensioner	
	All	Couple	Lone Parent	Lone Parent ⁽⁴⁾	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 ⁽⁴⁾	-	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 ⁽⁶⁾	-	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 & Lone parent premium.
5. Enhanced Disability Premium introduced in April 2001
6. Alignment of Premiums paid to 'aged 60 or over' (MIG) April 2001



Index

Section 1 Caseload-key characteristics and average payments

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

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

Table 1.2 Income Support claimants by statistical group (%): May 2000 to May 2001

Table 1.3 Average weekly payments made to Income Support claimants by statistical group: May 2000 to May 2001

Chart 1B Average weekly payments made of Income Support claimants by statistical group: May 2000 & May 2001

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

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

Table 1.5 Average weekly payments made to Income Support claimants by age and gender: May 2000 to May 2001

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

Table 1.7 Average weekly payments made to Income Support claimants by family type: May 2000 to May 2001

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

Chart 1E Estimated total weekly expenditure on Income Support by group (£): May 2000 and May 2001



Section 2 Length of time on IS

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section 3 Main claimant groups

Table 3.1 Income Support claimants receiving a Pensioner premium by age and gender: May 2000 to May 2001

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

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

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

Section 4 Claimants, partners and dependants

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

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

Section 5 Premium payments

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

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

Table 5.3 Income Support premiums by type and statistical group: May 2001



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

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

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

Section 7 District council and Social Security Office analyses

Table 7.1 Income Support claimants by District Council: May 2000 to May 2001

Table 7.2 Income Support claimants by statistical group and District Council: May 2001

Table 7.3 Beneficiaries of Income Support by type and District Council: May 2001

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

Table 7.5 Income Support claimants by statistical group and Social Security Office: May 2001

Table 7.6 Income Support claimants by type and Social Security Office: May 2001

Section 8 United Kingdom Analysis

Table 8.1 Income Support claimants by GOR: May 1997 to May 2001

Table 8.2 Income Support by GOR and statistical group: May 2001

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

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

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

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



ISSN 1475-5777

