

Department for Social Development

**Income Support
Summary Statistics**

DSD

Department for
Social Development

May 1999



A Government Statistical Publication

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<http://www.dss.gov.uk/asd/contact.html>

Introduction

This is the first of an annual publication series presenting data from the Income Support (IS) Quarterly Statistical Enquiry (QSE). The data presented deals with Northern Ireland Income Support claimants at May of each year. The QSE is a 5% sample of IS claimants conducted on the last weekend of February, May, August and November each year.

Its purpose is to have summary analyses which show the features of the IS population in May 1999 and how they compare with earlier periods. It will also provide a guide to the types of analysis that can be produced from the QSE dataset.

An individual whose income, from all sources, is below the minimum level set by Parliament is entitled to IS. It can normally be claimed by people who are aged 16 or over, not working 16 hours or more (and/or with a partner working less than 24 hours) and not required to be available for full-time employment. The main types of people who receive this benefit are pensioners, lone parents, the long and short-term sick and people with disabilities.

Prior to October 1996, a person who was unemployed or on a government training scheme could also claim IS. Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) was introduced on 7 October 1996 and replaced Unemployment Benefit and IS for unemployed people. JSA is intended for those available for work and actively seeking employment.

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.

This publication contains a limited range of the analyses that may be conducted on the IS QSE. Further advice or requests for additional analysis should be made to the contact point on page 1.

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
<i>Italics</i>	Counts in italics are not statistically reliable

Summaries

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

The opening section of this report looks at the IS caseload and the average amount of benefit in payment per week (Table 1.3). The IS caseload is then split by its component groups, age and gender of the claimants (Table 1.4) and finally by family type (whether single or a couple, with or without dependants, Table 1.6).

Section 2 Length of time on Income Support

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 analyses will have been affected by the introduction of JSA. An unemployed claimant for example, may have remained on IS were it not for the introduction of JSA.

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 indicated 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.

Section 3 Main claimant groups

This section looks at the main claimant groups which make up the IS caseload. The caseload is made up of those categorised as aged 60 or over (Table 3.1), those in receipt of a disability premium (Table 3.2), lone parents (Table 3.3) and 'others' (i.e. do not fall into the preceding categories, Table 3.4).

Claimants are allocated to groups based firstly upon entitlement to pensioner or disability premiums, 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 wither on the claimant's or their partner's circumstances. Although a claimant may be entitled to more than one premium, their benefit is assessed using only the premium that gives them the highest allowance. Within the aged 60 years or over group, there are several rates of premium that can be awarded, depending on age and disability.

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

Section 4 Claimants, partners and dependants

In this section beneficiaries of IS are classified by type (claimant, partner or dependant). A comparison over time is also given (Table 4.1). Data is also 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

Section 5 Premium payments

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.

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

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 still in residential care nursing homes after the introduction of the new scheme 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.

Section 7 District Council and Social Security Office analyses

A breakdown of the IS caseload is given by District Council and Social Security Office, comparing data from May 1995 to May 1999 (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).

Section 8 United Kingdom Regional Analyses

A breakdown of the IS caseload is given by Government Office Region (GOR) comparing data from May 1995 to May 1999 (Table 8.1). The caseload is then split by statistical group and GOR at May 1999 (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 1999 IS QSE published by the Analytical Services Division of the Department of Social Security.

Main Findings

Section 1 Caseload-key characteristics and average payments

From May 1998 to May 1999 growth in the IS caseload has slowed to approximately 0.1% (year on year), compared to approximately 1% in the previous year, to stand at 166,860 at May 1999.

The most noticeable change in the IS caseload recently is the increased number of claimants receiving a disability premium. This effect was also seen in GB. There were 44,680 claimants in the disabled statistical group in Northern Ireland at May 1999 (26.8% of the total caseload), compared to 914,000 claimants in GB (24.0% of the total caseload).

Falling numbers in the lone parent and pensioner (those aged 60 or over) statistical groups has offset the rise in the numbers receiving the disability premium. The number of claimants in the 'other' statistical group increased slightly from May 1998 to May 1999 (15,240 and 15,440 respectively) following a high of 17,220 in May 1997.

Those categorised as being aged 60 or over has remained a relatively constant proportion of the total IS caseload at around 44%.

The number of lone parent claimants has fallen from 35,340 in May 1995 to 33,540 in May 1999, with the average weekly payment for this group rising from £74.66 to £82.00 in the same period. This group has the highest average weekly payment of IS.

Generally, claimants with dependants receive a higher weekly payment of IS compared to those without dependants, irrespective of marital status. At May 1999 for example, a single claimant without dependants received on average £49.98 per week, compared to £86.10 received by a single person with dependants. Amongst couples, those with dependants received on average £99.17 per week, while those without dependants received on average £56.34 per week.

The largest number of male IS claimants lies in the 25-59 year old age bracket, followed by the 60 years or over age group (33,500 and 25,340 respectively at May 1999). The largest number of females claimants is found

in the 60 years or over age group, closely followed by those aged 25 to 59 years (47,280 and 46,720 respectively at May 1999). The distribution of IS claimants by age and gender has not changed greatly from May 1995 to May 1999.

The total number of IS claimants was higher in May 1999 than at any other time in the preceding four years (151,940 at May 1995 and 166,860 claimants at May 1999). 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 1999 standing at 3,814,000 compared to 3,889,000 at May 1995.

Section 1 Caseload-key characteristics and average payments

Table 1.1 Income Support claimants by statistical group : May 1995 to May 1999

	All Claimants	Statistical group			
		Aged 60 or over	Lone Parents	Disabled	Other
1995 May	151,940	71,000	35,340	32,900	12,700
1996 May	158,560	73,360	35,480	37,400	12,320
1997 May	165,080	74,940	34,960	37,960	17,220
1998 May	166,700	74,540	33,800	43,120	15,240
1999 May	166,860	73,200	33,540	44,680	15,440

Chart 1A Income Support claimants by statistical group : May 1995 and May 1999

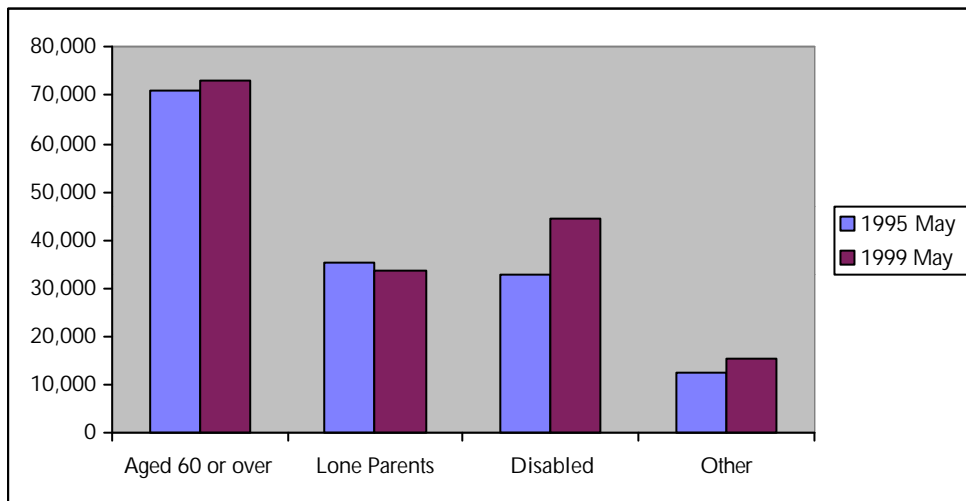


Table 1.2 Income Support claimants by statistical group : May 1995 to May 1999

	All Claimants	Statistical group			
		% Aged 60 or over	% Lone Parents	% Disabled	% Other
1995 May	100%	46.7	23.3	21.7	8.4
1996 May	100%	46.3	22.4	23.6	7.8
1997 May	100%	45.4	21.2	23.0	10.4
1998 May	100%	44.7	20.3	25.9	9.1
1999 May	100%	43.9	20.1	26.8	9.3

Table 1.3 Average weekly payments made to Income Support claimants by statistical group : May 1995 to May 1999

	£pw				
	All Claimants	Statistical group			
Aged 60 or over		Lone Parents	Disabled	Other	
1995 May	£57.46	£46.29	£74.66	£60.83	£63.37
1996 May	£58.11	£46.24	£76.84	£65.17	£53.42
1997 May	£58.62	£47.35	£78.67	£64.46	£54.09
1998 May	£59.23	£47.37	£78.61	£66.90	£52.53
1999 May	£62.38	£50.36	£82.00	£69.63	£55.76

Chart 1B Average weekly payments made to Income Support claimants by statistical group : May 1998 and May 1999

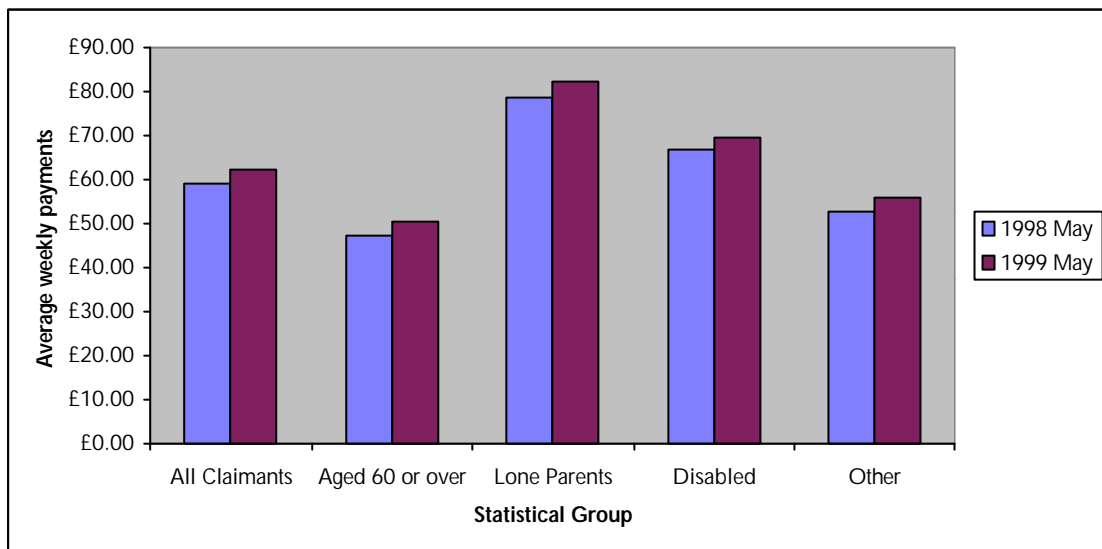
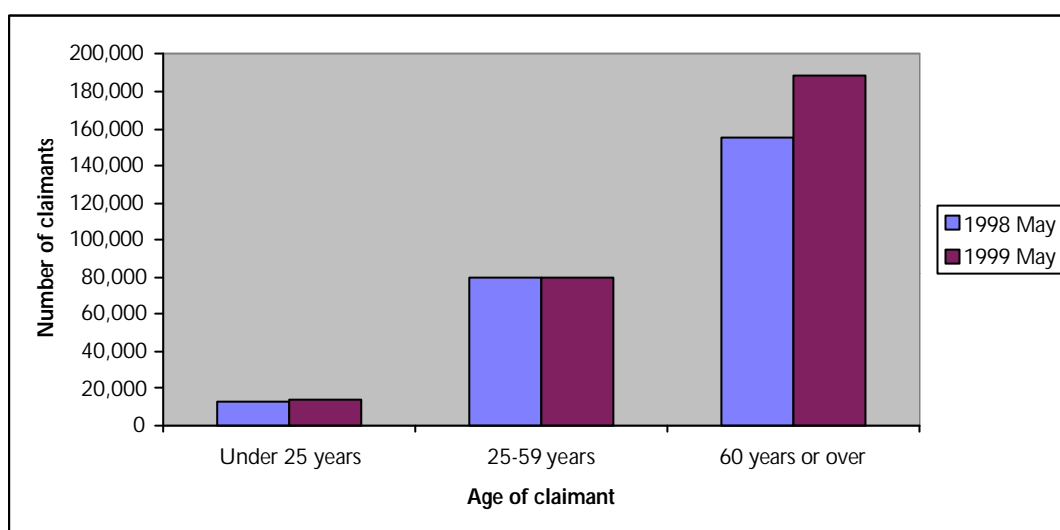


Table 1.4 Income Support claimants by age and gender : May 1995 to May 1999

	All Claimants	All males			All females		
		Under 25 years	25-59	60 or over	Under 25 years	25-59	60 or over
1995 May	151,940	3,200	26,580	23,580	10,440	41,180	46,960
1996 May	158,560	3,400	29,040	24,940	10,520	42,800	47,860
1997 May	165,080	3,320	32,040	25,660	10,600	44,640	48,820
1998 May	166,700	3,480	33,640	25,640	9,900	45,600	48,440
1999 May	166,860	4,100	33,500	25,340	9,920	46,720	47,280

Chart 1C Income Support claimants by age : May 1998 and May 1999**Table 1.5 Average weekly payments made to Income Support claimants by age and gender : May 1995 to May 1999**

	All Claimants	All males			All females		
		Under 25 years	25-59	60 or over	Under 25 years	25-59	60 or over
1995 May	£57.46	£46.05	£67.24	£48.09	£57.60	£71.22	£45.31
1996 May	£58.11	£42.84	£67.10	£48.30	£59.32	£73.20	£45.09
1997 May	£58.62	£36.31	£65.01	£50.14	£59.48	£74.22	£45.96
1998 May	£59.23	£44.52	£65.45	£50.18	£59.04	£75.13	£45.83
1999 May	£62.38	£46.08	£67.21	£54.08	£62.38	£79.04	£48.35

Table 1.6 Income Support claimants by family type : May 1995 to May 1999

	All Claimants	Single without dependants	Single with dependants	Couples without dependants	Couples with dependants
1995 May	151,940	86,400	39,260	15,340	10,940
1996 May	158,560	91,480	40,180	16,740	10,160
1997 May	165,080	97,680	40,440	16,640	10,320
1998 May	166,700	99,680	39,980	16,520	10,520
1999 May	166,860	99,420	40,460	16,800	10,180

Table 1.7 Average weekly payments made to Income Support claimants by family type : May 1995 to May 1999

	All Claimants	Single without dependants	Single with dependants	Couples without dependants	Couples with dependants
					£pw
1995 May	£57.46	£46.95	£75.77	£45.46	£91.60
1996 May	£58.11	£47.15	£78.36	£47.11	£94.85
1997 May	£58.62	£47.53	£80.43	£47.60	£95.94
1998 May	£59.23	£47.92	£81.09	£50.61	£96.90
1999 May	£62.38	£49.98	£86.10	£56.34	£99.17

Chart 1D Average weekly payments made to Income Support claimants by family type : May 1998 and May 1999

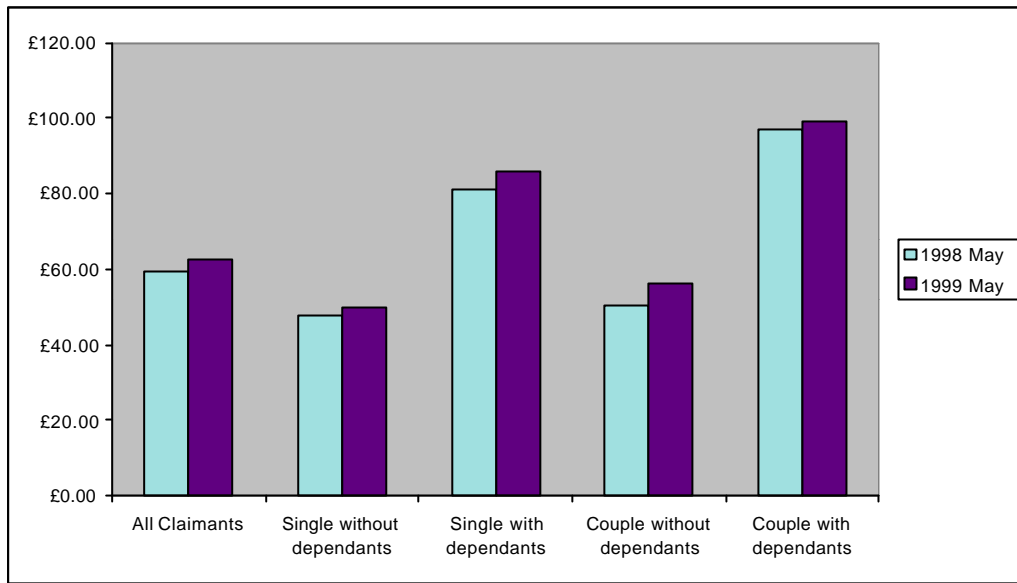
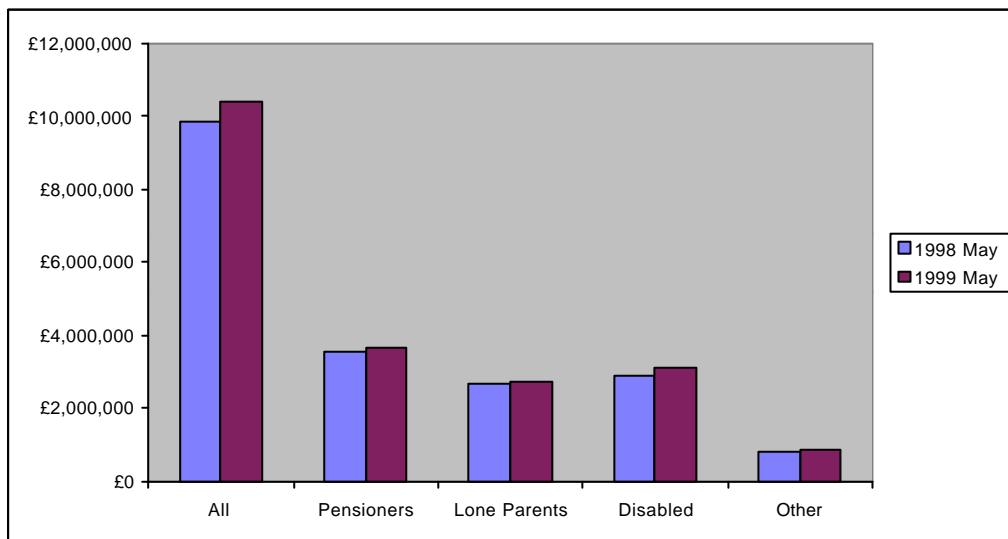


Chart 1E Estimated Total Weekly Expenditure on Income Support by group (£, last week in May) : 1998 and 1999



Main Findings

Section 2 Length of time on IS

Although growth in the overall numbers claiming IS slowed considerably in 1998-99 compared with 1997-98, the duration of benefit receipt has remained broadly similar. Approximately 73% of all claimants were in receipt of benefit for at least 2 years since 1996. The proportion of claimants receiving benefit for under 3 months increased slightly to 4.9% of the caseload at May 1999 compared to 4.4% a year previous. This is higher than in 1995 and 1996, and suggests an up-turn in the number of new applicants over the last three years.

Older claimants (over 60), both male and female, were most likely to have spent the longest time on Income Support. At May 1999 80.7% of males in this age bracket had a claim lasting 2 years or longer, while 85.0% of females in this age group had a claim of this duration.

Those aged under 25 claiming IS at May 1999 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 (13.7% males under 25 and 11.1% of females at May 1999).

Section 2 Length of time on Income Support

**Table 2.1 Income Support claimants by duration of current claim :
May 1995 to May 1999**

Duration	May 1995	May 1996	May 1997	May 1998	May 1999
All claimants	158,560	158,560	165,080	166,700	166,860
% under 3 months	3.1	3.5	5.5	4.4	4.9
% 3 to under 6 months	2.6	3.9	4.4	4.2	4.3
% 6 to under 12 months	6.0	7.0	7.1	8.4	6.8
% 1 to under 2 years	9.5	11.7	10.8	11.9	12.1
% 2 years or over	78.7	73.9	72.1	72.1	72.9

Chart 2A Income Support claimants by duration of current claim : May 1999

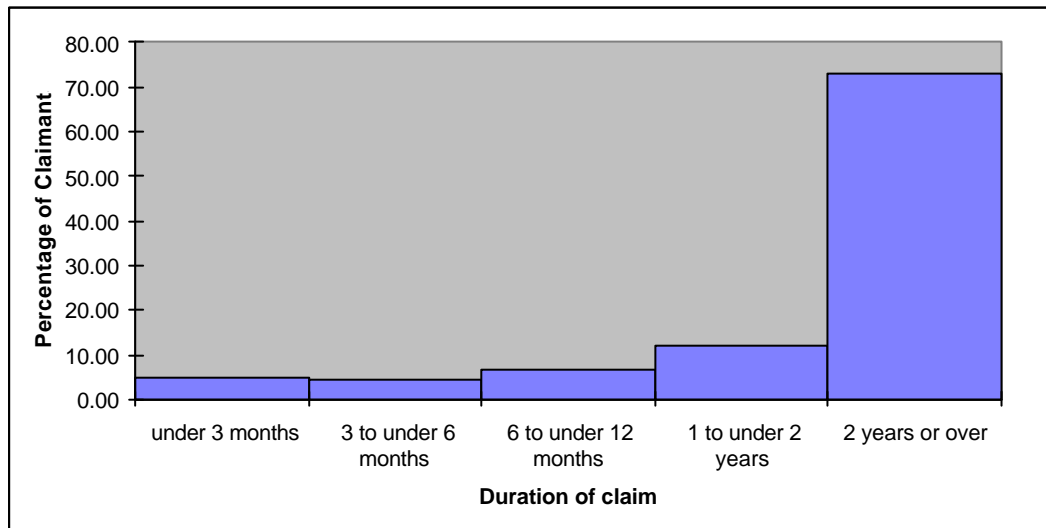


Table 2.2 Income Support claimants by duration of current claim, age and gender: May 1999

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	166,860	4.8	4.3	6.8	12.0	72.2
Male	62,940	6.2	5.0	7.6	14.2	67.1
Under 25	4,100	13.7	15.1	20.5	23.4	27.3
25-59	33,500	7.8	6.0	8.2	16.4	61.7
Over 60	25,340	2.8	2.1	4.7	9.8	80.7
Female	103,920	4.0	3.9	6.3	10.6	75.2
Under 25	9,920	11.1	10.7	14.3	24.4	39.5
25-59	46,720	4.4	4.1	7.3	11.3	72.9
Over 60	47,280	2.1	2.2	3.6	7.1	85.0

Table 2.3 Income Support claimants by duration of current claim and statistical group: May 1999

Age/ Statistical group	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 Claimants	166,860	8,040	7,160	11,280	19,980	120,400
Aged 60 or over	73,200	21.4	22.1	25.9	29.6	50.7
Lone Parents	33,540	21.1	25.4	28.0	23.2	18.5
Disabled	44,680	13.7	21.2	25.7	39.0	26.0
Other	15,440	43.8	31.3	20.4	8.1	4.8

Main Findings

Section 3 Main claimant groups

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 1999, 37.7% (17,920) of these women were aged 80 years or over, compared to just 15.4% (3,960) of men. Those aged 60-64 years accounted for 35.4% of the males in this premium group, while only 11.2% of the females were in this age bracket. This age distribution is broadly similar to that in Great Britain at this time, with 35.4% of males and 10.7% of females falling into the 60-64 years age bracket.

Disabled IS claimants were mainly in the 25-59 age range at May 1999—a situation relatively unchanged since 1995. 56.8% (25,360) of IS claimants receiving the disability premium were male, 43.2% (19,320) female.

The majority of lone parents were female (95.3% at May 1999), and mainly concentrated in the 25-59 year old age band.

The number of 'other' IS claimants fell from 17,220 in May 1997 to 15,240 in May 1998, and increased slightly to 15,440 at May 1999. There continues to be almost twice as many males than females in this category (10,320 and 5,120 respectively). This distribution is mirrored in GB, with 62.5% (212,000) of 'other' claimants being male and 37.5% (127,000) female at May 1999.

Section 3 Main Claimant Groups

Table 3.1 Income Support claimants receiving a Pensioner premium¹ by age and gender: May 1995 to May 1999

Age/ Gender	Year				
	1995 May	1996 May	1997 May	1998 May	1999 May
Total	71,000	73,360	74,940	74,540	73,200
Male	23,900	25,300	25,940	25,920	25,700
60-64	8,360	8,720	8,800	8,940	9,100
65-74	8,200	8,760	9,280	9,220	9,300
75-79	2,940	3,500	3,600	3,460	3,340
80 or over	4,400	4,320	4,260	4,300	3,960
Female	47,100	48,060	49,000	48,620	47,500
60-64	5,020	5,280	5,360	5,240	5,320
65-74	14,960	15,200	15,580	15,340	14,600
75-79	8,940	8,980	8,980	9,400	9,660
80 or over	18,180	18,600	19,080	18,640	17,920

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 1995 to May 1999

Age/ Gender	Year				
	1995 May	1996 May	1997 May	1998 May	1999 May
Total	32,900	37,400	37,960	43,120	44,680
Male	19,400	21,900	21,680	25,120	25,360
Under 25	2,100	2,020	1,560	2,080	2,180
25-59	17,300	19,880	20,120	23,040	23,180
Female	13,500	15,500	16,280	18,000	19,320
Under 25	2,000	2,100	2,100	1,860	1,980
25-59	11,500	13,400	14,180	16,140	17,340

Table 3.3 Income Support claimants in receipt of a Lone Parent premium by age and gender: May 1995 to May 1999

Age/ Gender	Year				
	1995 May	1996 May	1997 May	1998 May	1999 May
Total	35,340	35,480	34,960	33,800	33,540
Male	1,740	1,960	1,600	1,620	1,560
Female	33,600	33,520	33,360	32,180	31,980
Under 25	7,540	7,660	7,220	6,660	6,860
25-59	26,060	25,860	26,140	25,520	25,120

Table 3.4 "Other" Income Support claimants by age and gender : May 1995 to May 1999

Age/ Gender	Year				
	1995 May	1996 May	1997 May	1998 May	1999 May
Total	12,700	12,340	17,220	15,240	15,440
Male	8,320	8,240	11,800	10,100	10,320
Under 25	1,020	1,320	1,740	1,320	1,840
25-59	7,300	6,920	10,060	8,780	8,480
Female	4,380	4,100	5,420	5,140	5,120
Under 25	900	760	1,280	1,380	1,080
25-59	3,480	3,340	4,140	3,760	4,040

Main Findings

Section 4 Claimants, partners and dependants

From May 1995, the proportion of the population who are beneficiaries of IS (i.e. a claimant, partner or dependant) has risen slightly from 17.2% to 17.6% in May 1999. In GB, this proportion dropped slightly from 12.0% of the population in May 1995 to 11.7% of the population in May 1999.

The proportions of IS claimants having a partner remained constant from May 1998 to May 1999 at 16.2% of the caseload. In GB the proportion also remained constant at 13.9% from May 1998 to May 1999.

The average number of dependants of an IS claimant in Northern Ireland at May 1999 was 2.0, compared to 1.9 in GB. The highest average number of dependants was found in the 35-49 year old band in Northern Ireland (2.3 dependants at May 1999), and in the 18-34 and 35-49 year old age bands in GB (2.0 at May 1999).

Section 4 Claimants, partners and dependants

Table 4.1 Beneficiaries of Income Support by type : May 1995 to May 1999

	All Beneficiaries	Type of beneficiary			Beneficiaries as % of population ¹
		Claimant	Partner	Dependant	
1995 May	284,880	151,940	26,280	106,660	17.2%
1996 May	290,620	158,560	26,900	105,160	17.4%
1997 May	299,120	165,080	26,960	107,080	17.8%
1998 May	299,280	166,700	27,040	105,540	17.7%
1999 May	297,520	166,860	26,980	103,680	17.6%

¹ Mid Year Population Estimate (total population)

**Table 4.2 Income Support claimants by age and number of dependants :
May 1999**

	Total	Age of claimant					
		Under 18	18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 49	50 to 59	60 or over
All claimants	166,860	820	13,200	26,820	34,220	19,180	72,620
Claimants without dependants	116,220	540	5,800	8,520	14,280	15,380	71,700
Claimants with dependants	50,640	280	7,400	18,300	19,940	3,800	920
Number of Dependants							
1	21,040	260	5,480	5,740	6,460	2,420	680
2	15,420	20	1,660	6,320	6,280	980	160
3	8,140	0	260	3,720	3,800	300	60
4	3,880	0	0	1,520	2,340	0	20
5	1,480	0	0	680	700	100	0
6 or more	680	0	0	320	360	0	0
Average number of dependants	2.0	1.1	1.3	2.2	2.3	1.5	1.4

Main Findings

Section 5 Premium payments

The premium structure of Income Support is designed for those claimants who have extra expenses. The majority of IS claimants in 1999 received extra help in this way (156,360 claimants, 93.7% of the total IS caseload). The number of claimants receiving one or more premiums has risen since 1995 when it stood at 140,160 (92.2% of the caseload) compared to 156,350 (93.7% of the caseload) in 1999. In Northern Ireland the average number of premiums per claimant remained the same in 1997 and 1998 at 1.52, rising to 1.54 in May 1999. This compares to an average of 1.3 premiums per claimant in GB in the last two years.

Premiums linked to a disability have shown the largest increases from 1995 with a similar scenario in GB, while those linked with age (the various rates of pensioner premiums) have remained broadly constant (again reflected in GB).

In 1999, most single people with dependants were receiving the family premium (LP), 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 10.2% of this group were not in receipt of any premium. The situation was similar in GB, with 13.2% 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 (low rate) premium were mainly in the aged 60 or over age 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 or other group.

Section 5 Premium payments

Table 5.1 Income Support premiums by type and number : May 1995 to May 1999

Type of premium	May 1995	May 1996	May 1997	May 1998	May 1999
All types	238,780	253,120	230,700	237,320	240,020
Higher pensioner premium					
Claimant/partner aged 80 or over	19,960	21,120	22,180	22,240	21,820
Claimant/partner aged 60-79	25,000	28,200	32,240	33,220	34,040
Enhanced pensioner premium	5,440	4,980	4,040	4,160	3,720
Pensioner premium	16,400	15,860	13,880	13,200	12,560
Severe Disability premium - higher	1,480	2,360	3,020	3,420	3,600
Severe Disability premium - lower	20,260	25,360	29,680	32,080	34,540
Disability Premium	32,720	37,180	38,020	43,120	44,680
Disabled child premium	7,260	6,420	6,400	6,040	5,620
Lone Parent Premium*	35,240	35,340	34,960	32,720	25,940
Family Premium*	50,360	50,400	15,720	17,760	24,700
Carer Premium	12,880	14,820	16,880	18,520	18,300
Claimants not in receipt of an IS premium	11,780	11,080	13,680	10,840	10,500
Claimants with 1 or more premiums	140,160	147,480	151,400	155,860	156,360
Average number of premiums	1.70	1.72	1.52	1.52	1.54

*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 1999

Type of premium	Premiums in payment	Single claimants		Couples	
		With dependants	Without dependants	With dependants	Without dependants
All types	240,020	58,860	131,540	24,560	25,060
Higher Pensioner Premium					
Claimant/partner aged 80 or over	21,820	0	19,760	0	2,060
Claimant/partner aged 60-79	34,040	180	24,280	480	9,100
Enhanced pensioner premium	3,720	0	3,460	0	260
Pensioner premium	12,560	140	10,140	220	2,060
Severe Disability premium-higher	3,600	0	20	280	3,300
Severe Disability premium - lower	34,540	2,720	31,300	40	480
Disability Premium	44,680	6,380	27,100	7,300	3,900
Disabled child premium	5,620	4,080	0	1,540	0
Lone Parent premium	25,940	25,940	0	0	0
Family Premium	24,700	14,520	0	10,180	0
Carer Premium	18,300	4,900	5,380	4,520	3,500
No premium	10,500	0	10,100	0	400
Claimants with 1 or more premium	156,360	40,440	89,340	10,180	16,400

Table 5.3 Income Support claimants premiums by type and statistical group of claimant : May 1999

Type of premium	All Claimants	Statistical group			
		Aged 60 or over	Lone Parents	Disabled	Other
All types	239,680	104,700	41,160	75,500	18,320
Higher pensioner premium					
Claimant/partner aged 80 or over	21,820	21,820	0	0	0
Claimant/partner aged 60-79	32,580	32,580	0	0	0
Enhanced pensioner premium	3,720	3,720	0	0	0
Pensioner premium	12,560	12,560	0	0	0
Severe Disability premium - higher	3,600	3,100	0	500	0
Severe Disability premium - lower	34,540	25,240	0	9,300	0
Disability Premium	44,680	0	0	44,680	0
Disabled child premium	6,740	40	3,260	1,720	1,720
Lone Parent premium	25,940	0	25,940	0	0
Family Premium	24,700	1,020	7,600	13,680	2,400
Carer Premium	18,300	2,440	4,360	5,620	5,880
No premium	10,500	2,180	0	0	8,320
Claimants with 1 or more premium	156,360	71,020	33,540	44,680	7,120

Main Findings

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

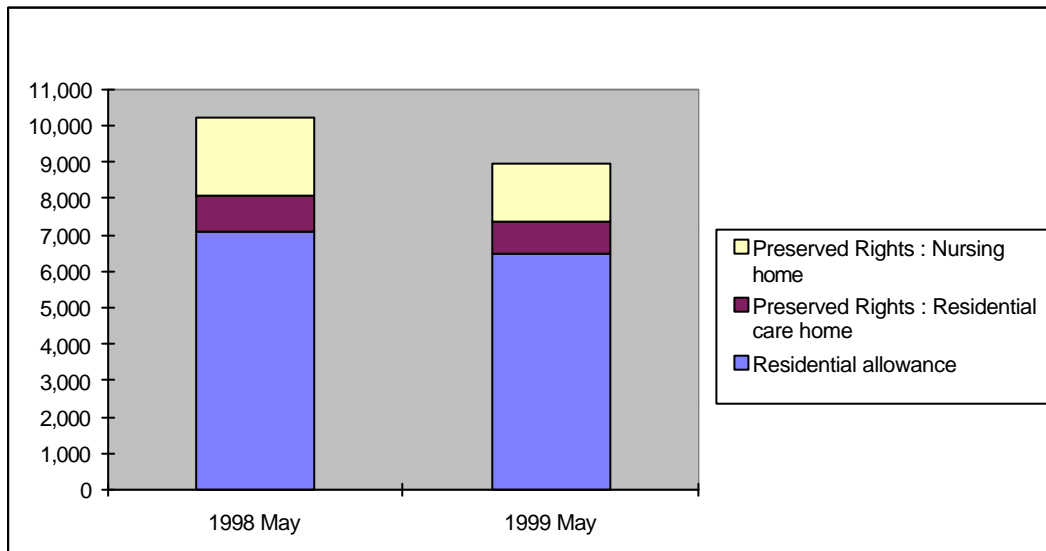
The number of preserved rights cases (i.e. those who entered RCNH before April 1993) had been falling steadily in Northern Ireland, but at a slightly lower rate than in GB. Meanwhile the number receiving a residential allowance almost doubled from 1995 to 1998 (3,600 and 7,060 respectively), but fell back to 6,480 in 1999. The overall number of RCNH claimants also fell back to 8,960 cases in May 1999, representing 5.4% of the total IS caseload at this time. At May 1999 RCNH cases made up 7.4% of the total IS caseload in GB.

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

Table 6.1 Income Support claimants in residential care and nursing homes : May 1995 to May 1999

	Type of care				
	All	Residential allowance	Preserved rights		
			All	Residential care home	Nursing home
1995 May	9,440	3,600	5,840	1,520	4,320
1996 May	9,880	5,100	4,780	1,360	3,420
1997 May	10,180	6,180	4,000	1,140	2,860
1998 May	10,220	7,060	3,160	1,000	2,160
1999 May	8,960	6,480	2,480	880	1,600

Chart 6A Income Support claimants in residential care and nursing homes by type of care : May 1998 and May 1999



Main Findings

Section 7 District Council and Social Security Office analyses

The number of IS claimants in Northern Ireland has risen from 151,940 in May 1995 to 166,860 in May 1999.

The highest numbers of claimants were found in 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 Belfast district council (41,680 claimants, 18.9% of the population), closely followed by Strabane (5,080 claimants, 18.5% of the population).

If the district councils are ranked according to the number of IS beneficiaries in relation to the population size, Belfast district council had the highest rate (26.2%), followed by Strabane (25.3%), then Derry (24.5%). Castlereagh district council had the lowest rate, 6.5% of the population were beneficiaries of IS at May 1999.

Overall, 17.6% of the population of 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 11,520 claimants (6.9% of the total caseload) at May 1999, while Newcastle had only 1,420 claimants (0.9% of the caseload) at the same point in time.

Corporation Street, Londonderry and Andersonstown offices respectively experienced the largest increases in claimant numbers from May 1995 to May 1999.

In Magherafelt 56.3% of the caseload consisted of claimants aged 60 or over, while this category of claimant only accounted for 27.0% of the caseload in Andersonstown. Andersonstown had the highest proportion of lone parents, 33.8% of its caseload at May 1999. Dungannon has the highest proportion of disabled claimants (33.7% at May 1999).

The highest number of IS beneficiaries was found in Corporation Street Social Security Office (21,300 beneficiaries at May 1999), the lowest number of beneficiaries was in Newcastle (2,720 beneficiaries at May 1999).

Section 7 District Council and Social Security Office analyses

**Table 7.1 Income Support claimants by District Council :
May 1995 to May 1999**

District Council	May 1995	May 1996	May 1997	May 1998	May 1999
Northern Ireland					
Ards	4,540	4,600	4,740	4,720	4,800
Belfast	36,160	38,100	39,580	41,160	41,680
Castlereagh	3,020	3,160	3,320	3,420	2,680
Down	4,140	4,480	4,780	5,000	5,040
Lisburn	7,620	7,880	8,400	8,160	8,200
North Down	4,080	4,440	4,320	4,300	4,560
Antrim	3,520	4,040	4,120	3,880	3,900
Ballymena	3,880	4,180	4,380	4,240	4,120
Ballymoney	1,860	1,880	1,820	1,860	2,000
Carrickfergus	2,440	2,580	2,360	2,120	2,200
Coleraine	3,800	3,860	4,400	4,200	4,540
Cookstown	3,780	3,620	4,020	4,080	4,160
Larne	1,960	2,020	2,060	2,040	2,020
Magherafelt	3,300	3,380	3,640	3,580	3,580
Moyle	1,500	1,540	1,620	1,540	1,480
Newtownabbey	4,960	5,700	5,600	5,760	5,280
Armagh	4,080	4,360	4,520	4,200	4,240
Banbridge	2,220	2,020	2,120	2,360	2,440
Craigavon	7,100	7,340	7,680	7,960	7,800
Dungannon	4,720	4,800	4,920	5,140	5,260
Newry&Mourne	9,720	9,720	9,980	10,380	9,980
Derry	12,060	12,600	13,200	13,420	13,000
Fermanagh	5,320	5,520	5,840	5,700	5,940
Limavady	2,800	2,980	3,100	3,180	2,940
Omagh	4,100	4,500	4,700	4,720	4,820
Strabane	4,740	4,980	5,160	5,300	5,080
Missing Postcode *	4,520	4,280	4,700	4,280	5,120
All Claimants	151,940	158,560	165,080	166,700	166,860

* The computer scan contains missing postcodes.

No district council can be assigned in this circumstance so these cases have been grouped as 'Missing Postcode'
The percentages shown for district councils are accordingly understated

**Table 7.2 Income Support claimants by Statistical group and District Council :
May 1999**

District Council	All Claimants 100%	Statistical group				Claimants as a percentage of the population ¹
		Aged 60 or over %	Lone Parents %	Disabled %	Other %	
Northern Ireland						
Ards	4,800	48.8%	18.8%	22.5%	10.0%	8.7%
Belfast	41,680	38.8%	23.2%	28.7%	9.3%	18.9%
Castlereagh	2,680	53.0%	20.1%	18.7%	8.2%	5.1%
Down	5,040	43.7%	23.4%	23.0%	9.9%	10.8%
Lisburn	8,200	36.8%	30.2%	27.1%	5.9%	9.8%
North Down	4,560	53.5%	17.5%	20.2%	8.8%	7.6%
Antrim	3,900	47.2%	18.5%	24.6%	9.7%	10.2%
Ballymena	4,120	50.0%	19.4%	20.4%	10.2%	9.1%
Ballymoney	2,000	56.0%	14.0%	22.0%	8.0%	10.4%
Carrickfergus	2,200	40.0%	24.5%	28.2%	7.3%	7.6%
Coleraine	4,540	47.6%	18.9%	21.1%	12.3%	10.5%
Cookstown	4,160	48.1%	12.0%	31.3%	8.7%	17.5%
Larne	2,020	46.5%	17.8%	22.8%	12.9%	8.5%
Magherafelt	3,580	62.0%	12.8%	16.8%	8.4%	12.9%
Moyle	1,480	52.7%	21.6%	18.9%	6.8%	12.6%
Newtownabbey	5,280	45.8%	20.1%	25.8%	8.3%	8.4%
Armagh	4,240	53.8%	10.4%	27.4%	8.5%	10.3%
Banbridge	2,440	51.6%	15.6%	21.3%	11.5%	8.1%
Craigavon	7,800	47.4%	17.9%	26.7%	7.9%	13.2%
Dungannon	5,260	40.7%	15.2%	34.2%	9.9%	15.0%
Newry&Mourne	9,980	45.5%	15.8%	29.9%	8.8%	16.0%
Derry	13,000	31.4%	25.8%	30.8%	12.0%	17.3%
Fermanagh	5,940	54.5%	13.5%	24.6%	7.4%	14.0%
Limavady	2,940	40.8%	18.4%	29.9%	10.9%	12.4%
Omagh	4,820	49.8%	16.2%	26.1%	7.9%	13.8%
Strabane	5,080	43.3%	16.5%	31.9%	8.3%	18.5%
Missing Postcode*	5,120	42.2%	22.7%	24.2%	10.9%	
All Claimants	166,860	73,200	33,540	44,680	15,440	13.1%

¹ Population aged 16 and over

* The computer scan contains missing postcodes.

No district council can be assigned in this circumstance so these cases have been grouped as 'Missing Postcode'
The percentages shown for district councils are accordingly understated

**Table 7.3 Beneficiaries of Income Support by type and District Council :
May 1999**

District Council	All Beneficiaries	Type of beneficiary			Beneficiaries as % of population
		Claimant	Partner	Dependant	
Northern Ireland					
Ards	7,700	4,800	660	2,240	10.9%
Belfast	75,240	41,680	5,220	28,340	26.2%
Castlereagh	4,360	2,680	500	1,180	6.5%
Down	9,060	5,040	740	3,280	14.4%
Lisburn	17,320	8,200	1,140	7,980	15.5%
North Down	6,940	4,560	620	1,760	9.1%
Antrim	6,500	3,900	540	2,060	12.9%
Ballymena	6,800	4,120	380	2,300	11.5%
Ballymoney	3,340	2,000	420	920	13.1%
Carrickfergus	4,220	2,200	440	1,580	11.2%
Coleraine	7,260	4,540	580	2,140	13.1%
Cookstown	7,720	4,160	1,140	2,420	24.2%
Larne	3,360	2,020	380	960	10.9%
Magherafelt	6,160	3,580	880	1,700	16.0%
Moyle	2,400	1,480	220	700	15.7%
Newtownabbey	8,820	5,280	920	2,620	10.9%
Armagh	7,180	4,240	980	1,960	13.1%
Banbridge	4,120	2,440	360	1,320	10.5%
Craigavon	14,300	7,800	1,440	5,060	18.1%
Dungannon	9,840	5,260	1,260	3,320	20.5%
Newry&Mourne	18,380	9,980	2,000	6,400	21.2%
Derry	25,880	13,000	2,080	10,800	24.5%
Fermanagh	9,500	5,940	980	2,580	16.6%
Limavady	4,960	2,940	540	1,480	15.3%
Omagh	7,920	4,820	860	2,240	16.6%
Strabane	9,440	5,080	1,080	3,280	25.3%
Missing Postcode*	8,800	5,120	620	3,060	
All Claimants	297,520	166,860	26,980	103,680	17.6%

* The computer scan contains missing postcodes.

No district council can be assigned in this circumstance so these cases have been grouped as 'Missing Postcode'
The percentages shown for district councils are accordingly understated

**Table 7.4 Income Support claimants by Social Security Office:
May 1995 to May 1999**

Social Security Office	May 1995	May 1996	May 1997	May 1998	May 1999
Andersonstown	6,460	6,940	7,540	7,840	8,000
Antrim	4,460	5,100	5,060	4,880	4,640
Armagh	3,760	3,940	4,160	3,800	4,040
Ballymena	4,540	4,800	4,860	4,700	4,580
Ballymoney	3,120	3,160	3,300	3,340	3,580
Ballynahinch	1,520	1,620	1,760	1,820	1,860
Banbridge	2,740	2,580	2,680	2,920	2,880
Bangor	4,240	4,600	4,700	4,680	5,100
Carrickfergus*	2,460	2,600	2,420	2,080	
Coleraine	4,000	4,100	4,600	4,380	4,600
Cookstown	3,060	3,040	3,320	3,360	3,520
Corporation Street	9,800	10,380	10,760	11,160	11,520
Downpatrick	2,180	2,440	2,660	2,680	2,540
Dungannon	4,760	4,780	4,940	5,100	5,220
Enniskillen	6,240	6,420	6,840	6,680	6,840
Falls Road	7,360	7,660	8,340	8,640	8,720
Hollywood Road	7,220	7,480	7,420	7,600	7,520
Kilkeel	1,540	1,420	1,340	1,500	1,440
Knockbreda	4,560	4,880	4,860	5,020	4,940
Larne	1,940	2,020	2,020	2,120	4,260
Limavady	2,640	2,780	2,840	2,880	2,700
Lisburn	4,740	4,920	5,080	4,880	4,760
Lisnagelvin	4,400	4,260	4,300	4,260	4,600
Londonderry	8,520	9,080	9,700	9,900	9,920
Lurgan	4,680	4,660	4,940	5,160	5,040
Magherafelt	3,740	3,740	4,160	4,040	3,840
Newcastle	1,120	1,220	1,180	1,420	1,420
Newry	7,860	7,780	8,220	8,400	8,280
Newtownabbey	3,860	4,480	4,600	4,760	4,440
Newtownards	3,600	3,680	3,680	3,640	3,660
Omagh	4,100	4,520	4,680	4,640	4,720
Portadown	3,440	3,800	3,860	3,880	3,720
Shaftesbury Sq.	4,220	4,240	4,340	4,600	4,520
Shankill Road	4,160	4,320	4,580	4,500	4,180
Strabane	4,900	5,120	5,340	5,440	5,260
All Claimants	151,940	158,560	165,080	166,700	166,860

*Carrickfergus totals combined with Larne SSO from May 1999

Table 7.5 Income Support claimants by Statistical group and Social Security Office: May 1999

Social Security Office	All Claimants 100%	Statistical group			
		Aged 60 or over %	Lone Parents %	Disabled %	Other %
Andersonstown	8,000	27.0%	33.8%	29.0%	10.3%
Antrim	4,640	45.7%	19.0%	23.7%	11.6%
Armagh	4,040	51.5%	11.4%	28.2%	8.9%
Ballymena	4,580	52.4%	18.8%	19.2%	9.6%
Ballymoney	3,580	54.2%	15.1%	21.8%	8.9%
Ballynahinch	1,860	51.6%	11.8%	26.9%	9.7%
Banbridge	2,880	49.3%	16.7%	22.2%	11.8%
Bangor	5,100	56.1%	17.6%	18.0%	8.2%
Coleraine	4,600	47.4%	20.9%	20.0%	11.7%
Cookstown	3,520	46.6%	13.6%	31.3%	8.5%
Corporation Street	11,520	37.0%	23.4%	30.7%	8.9%
Downpatrick	2,540	43.3%	24.4%	22.8%	9.4%
Dungannon	5,220	41.0%	14.2%	33.7%	11.1%
Enniskillen	6,840	54.7%	12.6%	25.7%	7.0%
Falls Road	8,720	33.5%	27.5%	30.0%	8.9%
Hollywood Road	7,520	47.1%	21.3%	22.9%	8.8%
Kilkeel	1,440	47.2%	16.7%	29.2%	6.9%
Knockbreda	4,940	48.6%	19.8%	22.7%	8.9%
Larne	4,260	43.2%	21.1%	25.4%	10.3%
Limavady	2,700	41.5%	16.3%	31.1%	11.1%
Lisburn	4,760	48.3%	23.9%	23.1%	4.6%
Lisnagelvin	4,600	39.1%	19.6%	28.7%	12.6%
Londonderry	9,920	28.8%	28.0%	32.1%	11.1%
Lurgan	5,040	46.0%	16.3%	28.6%	9.1%
Magherafelt	3,840	56.3%	14.6%	20.8%	8.3%
Newcastle	1,420	40.8%	29.6%	22.5%	7.0%
Newry	8,280	44.2%	16.9%	30.0%	8.9%
Newtownabbey	4,440	46.4%	19.4%	27.5%	6.8%
Newtownards	3,660	47.5%	19.1%	22.4%	10.9%
Omagh	4,720	49.6%	16.1%	26.3%	8.1%
Portadown	3,720	53.2%	17.7%	22.6%	6.5%
Shaftesbury Sq.	4,520	46.5%	15.0%	28.3%	10.2%
Shankill Road	4,180	36.8%	24.9%	28.7%	9.6%
Strabane	5,260	43.0%	16.3%	32.3%	8.4%
All Claimants	166,860	73,200	33,540	44,680	15,440

**Table 7.6 Beneficiaries of Income Support by type and SSO :
May 1999**

Social Security Office	All Beneficiaries	Type of beneficiary		
		Claimant	Partner	Dependant
Andersonstown	17,560	8,000	1,020	8,540
Antrim	7,780	4,640	620	2,520
Armagh	6,880	4,040	880	1,960
Ballymena	7,620	4,580	520	2,520
Ballymoney	5,920	3,580	740	1,600
Ballynahinch	2,940	1,860	300	780
Banbridge	4,960	2,880	520	1,560
Bangor	7,660	5,100	640	1,920
Coleraine	7,440	4,600	540	2,300
Cookstown	6,520	3,520	1,020	1,980
Corporation Street	21,300	11,520	1,520	8,260
Downpatrick	4,720	2,540	420	1,760
Dungannon	10,000	5,220	1,280	3,500
Enniskillen	11,000	6,840	1,160	3,000
Falls Road	17,380	8,720	1,260	7,400
Hollywood Road	12,980	7,520	920	4,540
Kilkeel	2,900	1,440	380	1,080
Knockbreda	7,940	4,940	600	2,400
Larne	7,620	4,260	820	2,540
Limavady	4,380	2,700	500	1,180
Lisburn	8,720	4,760	680	3,280
Lisnagelvin	8,080	4,600	820	2,660
Londonderry	20,500	9,920	1,460	9,120
Lurgan	9,460	5,040	980	3,440
Magherafelt	6,500	3,840	820	1,840
Newcastle	2,720	1,420	220	1,080
Newry	15,160	8,280	1,440	5,440
Newtownabbey	7,260	4,440	780	2,040
Newtownards	6,020	3,660	560	1,800
Omagh	7,760	4,720	860	2,180
Portadown	6,180	3,720	660	1,800
Shaftesbury Sq.	6,660	4,520	420	1,720
Shankill Road	7,260	4,180	520	2,560
Strabane	9,740	5,260	1,100	3,380
All Claimants	297,520	166,860	26,980	103,680

Main Findings

Section 8 United Kingdom analyses

There has been little change in the distribution of Income Support claimants between Government Office Regions from May 1995 to May 1999. London remains the GOR with the greatest share of the caseload (14.4% at May 1999.) Although Northern Ireland has the smallest share of the caseload (4.2% at May 1999), it is also the region which has had the largest increase in the share of the caseload, with it's share increasing by 0.4% over the four year period from May 1995 to May 1999.

11.7% of the population in Great Britain were beneficiaries of Income Support at May 1999. Among the regions this varied from 7.7% in the South East to 15.1% in London. In Northern Ireland 17.6% of the population were beneficiaries of IS. IS claimants in Northern Ireland were likely to have spent the longest time on benefit at May 1999 (72.9% had a claim with a duration of 2 years or more compared with 68.7% for Great Britain as a whole)

Section 8 United Kingdom analyses

Table 8.1 Income Support claimants by GOR: May 1995 to May 1999

GOR	I thousands ¹				
	May 1995	May 1996	May 1997	May 1998	May 1999
North East	213	217	219	212	214
North West	582	593	592	575	565
Yorks & Humberside	348	356	354	345	343
East Midlands	240	246	250	243	240
West Midlands	374	376	379	366	362
East	274	276	268	268	265
London	599	614	604	582	575
South East	373	380	378	363	354
South West	269	275	276	268	269
Wales	226	229	230	226	228
Scotland	392	401	408	404	400
Great Britain	3,889	3,963	3,958	3,853	3,814
Northern Ireland	152	159	165	167	167

¹ Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand

Table 8.2 Income Support claimants by GOR and statistical group: May 1999

GOR	All Claimants (000s) ¹	%					Claimants as % of GOR population ²
		Aged 60 or over %	Lone Parents %	Disabled %	Other %		
North East	214	42.8	22.9	25.3	9.0	10.4	
North West	565	40.5	23.4	27.6	8.5	10.4	
Yorks & Humberside	343	45.4	23.9	22.5	8.2	8.6	
East Midlands	240	45.1	23.7	23.0	8.2	7.3	
West Midlands	362	46.6	23.4	22.4	7.7	8.6	
East	265	46.8	24.9	21.3	7.1	6.2	
London	575	35.1	30.0	22.7	12.3	10.2	
South East	354	45.3	25.7	20.6	8.4	5.6	
South West	269	47.0	22.7	21.7	8.6	6.8	
Wales	228	40.9	22.9	27.5	8.7	9.8	
Scotland	400	41.5	22.0	27.5	9.0	9.7	
Great Britain	3,814	42.6	24.5	24.0	8.9	8.4	
Northern Ireland	167	43.9	20.1	26.8	9.3	13.1	

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 1999

GOR	Thousands				
	All	Type of beneficiary			Beneficiaries as % GOR's population
		Claimant	Partner	Dependant	
North East	371	214	33	124	14.3
North West	989	565	75	350	14.4
Yorks & Humberside	605	343	52	210	12.0
East Midlands	422	240	37	145	10.2
West Midlands	645	362	57	225	12.1
East	461	265	37	159	8.6
London	1,076	575	75	427	15.1
South East	613	354	45	214	7.7
South West	448	269	36	144	9.2
Wales	407	228	37	142	14.0
Scotland	653	400	49	205	12.8
Great Britain	6,689	3,814	531	2,344	11.7
Northern Ireland	297	167	27	104	17.6

Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand

Chart 8A Beneficiaries of Income Support by type and GOR: May 1999

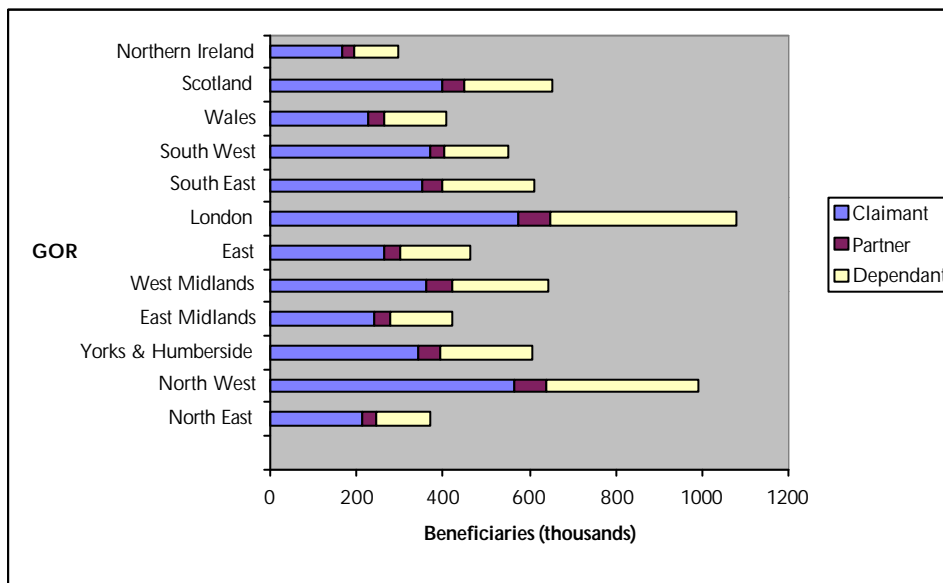


Table 8.4 Average weekly payment of Income Support by GOR and statistical group: May 1999

GOR	£pw				
	All Claimants	Aged 60 or over	Lone Parents	Disabled	Other
North East	56.30	39.12	79.89	64.18	55.81
North West	61.32	45.24	81.87	67.53	61.22
Yorks & Humberside	59.07	43.76	81.32	64.13	65.05
East Midlands	59.76	44.49	81.49	63.11	71.52
West Midlands	58.85	43.21	81.83	65.60	64.05
East	59.93	42.43	83.24	66.71	73.25
London	69.25	53.60	84.38	76.02	64.46
South East	64.48	47.54	83.47	68.49	87.97
South West	62.73	47.80	81.79	65.53	86.93
Wales	59.33	43.75	80.57	65.40	57.35
Scotland	56.92	41.81	78.43	62.72	56.28
Great Britain	61.42	45.30	82.01	66.99	66.71
Northern Ireland	62.38	50.36	82.00	69.63	55.76

Table 8.5 Income Support claimants by GOR and duration of current claim: May 1999

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	214	6.0	6.1	8.3	12.0	67.6
North West	565	5.5	4.7	8.0	12.2	69.6
Yorks & Humberside	343	6.1	5.6	8.7	12.5	67.1
East Midlands	240	6.1	5.1	8.9	12.6	67.3
West Midlands	362	5.5	4.7	8.4	12.1	69.3
East	265	5.3	5.0	8.2	12.1	69.3
London	575	4.5	4.9	8.1	12.6	69.9
South East	354	5.2	5.0	8.2	12.0	69.6
South West	269	5.9	5.4	8.6	12.0	68.1
Wales	228	6.0	5.2	8.5	12.4	67.8
Scotland	400	6.0	5.4	8.2	12.6	67.9
Great Britain	3,814	5.5	5.1	8.3	12.3	68.7
Northern Ireland	167	4.9	4.3	6.8	12.1	72.9

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 1999.

The QSE is based on a sample of approximately 5% of the IS population (1 in every 20 IS claimants). To generate a sample for Northern Ireland the National Insurance Numbers ending in 4 and 7 are used, and also the Local Social Security Office code. 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 Analytical Services Division 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 (thousands)	95% Confidence Interval	Confidence interval as a % of the estimate
0	(0,58)	
0.1	(33,230)	
0.2	(98,364)	
0.3	(170,490)	
0.4	(248,612)	
0.5	(328,730)	
0.6	(409,851)	
0.7	+/-226	+/-32%
0.8	+/-242	+/-30%
0.9	+/-256	+/-28%
1.0	+/-270	+/-27%
2.0	+/-382	+/-19%
3.0	+/-468	+/-16%
4.0	+/-540	+/-14%
5.0	+/-604	+/-12%
6.0	+/-662	+/-11%
7.0	+/-715	+/-10%

8.0	+/-764	+/-10%
9.0	+/-811	+/-9%
10.0	+/-854	+/-9%
20.0	+/-1,208	+/-6%
30.0	+/-1,480	+/-5%
40.0	+/-1,709	+/-4%
50.0	+/-1,910	+/-4%
100.0	+/-2,702	+/-3%
200.0	+/-3,821	+/-2%
300.0	+/-4,679	+/-2%

Warning: Figures in italics should be used with caution

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