

**Department for Social Development**

**Income Support  
Summary Statistics**

**DSD**

Department for  
Social Development

**May 2000**



**A Government Statistical Publication**



**Department for Social Development**

**Northern Ireland  
Income Support  
Summary Statistics**

**May 2000**

**Published BY**

*Statistics & Research Branch*

Department for Social Development  
Room 3 Block 4,  
The Village, Stormont,  
Belfast, BT4 3SJ

Telephone: 02890 5/23339

GTN (440) 23339

Fax: 02890 5/22763

e-mail: [srb@dndi.gov.uk](mailto:srb@dndi.gov.uk)

ISSN 1475-5777

Further Statistics for Northern Ireland relating to Social Security Benefits can be obtained by visiting our website;

<http://www.dndi.gov.uk/srb/index.html>

Statistics relating to Social Security Benefits in Great Britain can be obtained by visiting the following website;

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

**Contents**

	Page
Introduction	2
Glossary of Terms and Conventions	3
Summary	4
Section 1 Caseload-key characteristics and average payments	5
Section 2 Length of time on Income Support	12
Section 3 Main claimant groups	15
Section 4 Claimants, partners and dependants	18
Section 5 Premium payments	20
Section 6 Claimants in residential care and nursing homes (RCNH)	23
Section 7 District Council and Social Security Office analyses	25
Section 8 United Kingdom Regional Analyses	32
Annex 1: Technical Details	36
Annex 2: Sampling Errors	37
Index	39



## Introduction

This is the second 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 2000 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. IS is normally 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.



## 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



## 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.

### Main Findings

Between May 1999 and May 2000 the IS caseload has grown by approximately 2.2%, and now stands at 170,600 at May 2000.

A large proportion of this increase was due to the increased number of claimants receiving a disability premium. This effect was also seen in GB. There were 47,120 claimants in the disabled statistical group in Northern Ireland at May 2000 (27.6% of the total caseload), compared to 966,000 claimants in GB (25.2% of the total caseload).

With the exception of Lone Parents all other statistical groups have shown an increase in the numbers claiming Income Support. The number of lone parent claimants has fallen from 35,480 in May 1996 to 32,600 in May 2000, with the average weekly payment for this group rising from £76.84 to £91.20 in the same period. This group has the highest average weekly payment of IS.

The number of claimants in the 'other' statistical group increased between May 1999 and May 2000 (15,440 to 16,980 respectively) and makes up 10% of the IS caseload.

Those categorised as being aged 60 or over has declined slowly as a proportion of the total IS caseload and currently stands at 43.3%.

Generally, claimants with dependants receive a higher weekly payment of IS compared to those without dependants, irrespective of marital status. At May 2000 for example, a single claimant without dependants received on average £52.26 per week, compared to £95.46 received by a single person with dependants. Amongst couples, those without dependants received on average £60.54 per week, while those with dependants received on average £108.77 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 (35,400 and 25,820 respectively at May 2000). The largest number of females claimants is also in the 25-59 year old age bracket, closely followed by the 60 years or over age group (47,700 and 47,480 respectively at May 2000). The distribution of both male and female IS claimants by age has seen an increasing proportion in the 25-59 year old age bracket between May 1996 to May 2000.

The total number of IS claimants was higher in May 2000 than at any other time in the preceding four years (170,600 claimants at May 2000 and 158,560 at May 1996). In contrast, in GB the total number of IS claimants has fallen in



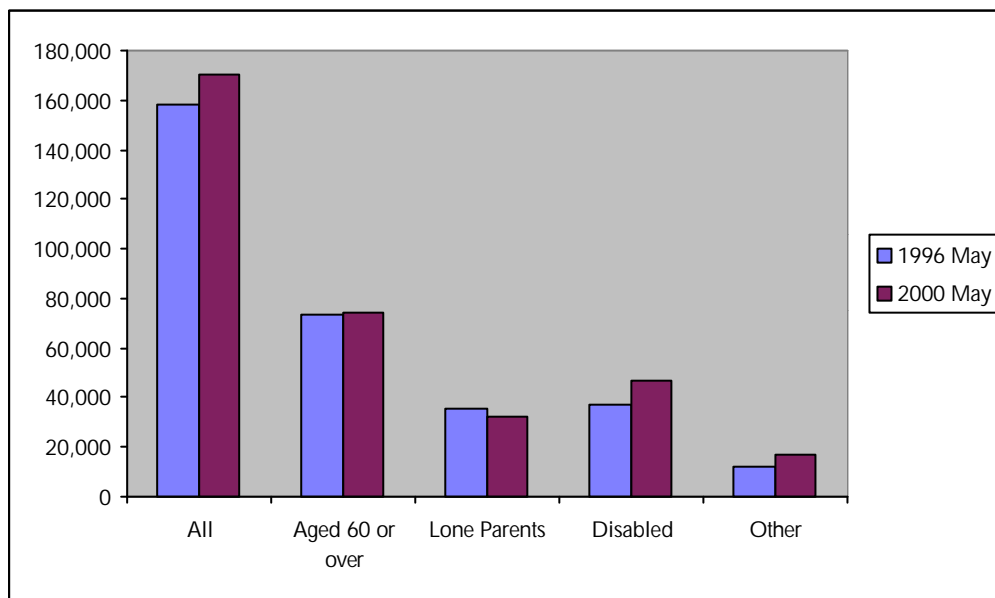
the same time period, with the total number of claimants at May 2000 standing at 3,811,000 compared to 3,963,000 at May 1996.



**Table 1.1 Income Support claimants by statistical group : May 1996 to May 2000**

	All Claimants	Statistical group			
		Aged 60 or over	Lone Parents	Disabled	Other
1996 May	<b>158,560</b>	73,360	35,480	37,400	12,320
1997 May	<b>165,080</b>	74,940	34,960	37,960	17,220
1998 May	<b>166,700</b>	74,540	33,800	43,120	15,240
1999 May	<b>166,860</b>	73,200	33,540	44,680	15,440
2000 May	<b>170,600</b>	73,900	32,600	47,120	16,980

**Chart 1A Income Support claimants by statistical group : May 1996 and May 2000**



**Table 1.2 Income Support claimants by statistical group : May 1996 to May 2000**

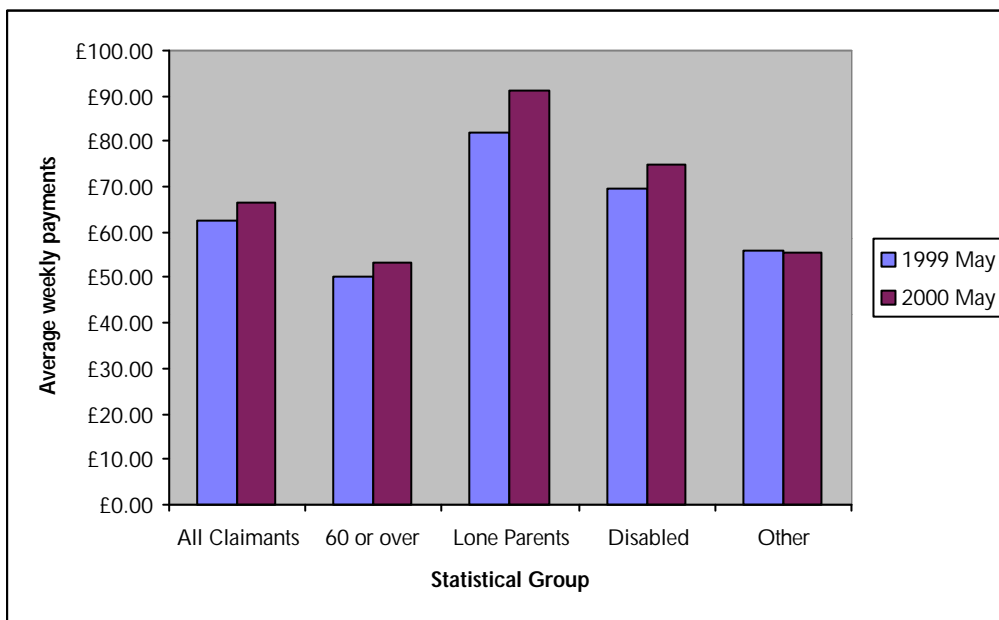
	All Claimants	Statistical group			
		% Aged 60 or over	% Lone Parents	% Disabled	% Other
1996 May	<b>100%</b>	46.3	22.4	23.6	7.8
1997 May	<b>100%</b>	45.4	21.2	23.0	10.4
1998 May	<b>100%</b>	44.7	20.3	25.9	9.1
1999 May	<b>100%</b>	43.9	20.1	26.8	9.3
2000 May	<b>100%</b>	43.3	19.1	27.6	10.0



**Table 1.3 Average weekly payments made to Income Support claimants by statistical group : May 1996 to May 2000 (£ pw)**

	All Claimants	Statistical group			
		Aged 60 or over	Lone Parents	Disabled	Other
1996 May	<b>£58.11</b>	£46.24	£76.84	£65.17	£53.42
1997 May	<b>£58.62</b>	£47.35	£78.67	£64.46	£54.09
1998 May	<b>£59.23</b>	£47.37	£78.61	£66.90	£52.53
1999 May	<b>£62.38</b>	£50.36	£82.00	£69.63	£55.76
2000 May	<b>£66.70</b>	£53.31	£91.20	£74.80	£55.42

**Chart 1B Average weekly payments made to Income Support claimants by statistical group : May 1999 and May 2000**



**Table 1.4 Income Support claimants by age and gender : May 1996 to May 2000**

	All Claimants	All males			All females		
		Under 25 years	25-59	60 or over	Under 25 years	25-59	60 or over
1996 May	<b>158,560</b>	3,400	29,040	24,940	10,520	42,800	47,860
1997 May	<b>165,080</b>	3,320	32,040	25,660	10,600	44,640	48,820
1998 May	<b>166,700</b>	3,480	33,640	25,640	9,900	45,600	48,440
1999 May	<b>166,860</b>	4,100	33,500	25,340	9,920	46,720	47,280
2000 May	<b>170,600</b>	4,180	35,400	25,820	10,020	47,700	47,480

**Chart 1C Income Support claimants by age : May 1999 and May 2000****Table 1.5 Average weekly payments made to Income Support claimants by age and gender : May 1996 to May 2000 (£ pw)**

	All Claimants	All males			All females		
		Under 25 years	25-59	60 or over	Under 25 years	25-59	60 or over
1996 May	<b>£58.11</b>	£42.84	£67.10	£48.30	£59.32	£73.20	£45.09
1997 May	<b>£58.62</b>	£36.31	£65.01	£50.14	£59.48	£74.22	£45.96
1998 May	<b>£59.23</b>	£44.52	£65.45	£50.18	£59.04	£75.13	£45.83
1999 May	<b>£62.38</b>	£46.08	£67.21	£54.08	£62.38	£79.04	£48.35
2000 May	<b>£66.70</b>	£48.88	£70.18	£58.27	£68.91	£85.87	£50.53

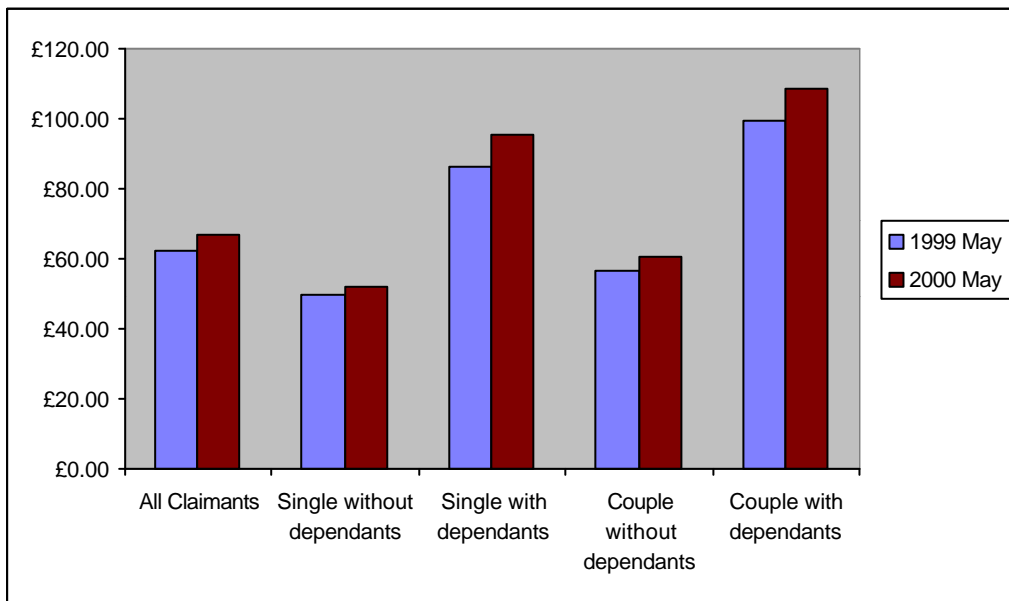
**Table 1.6 Income Support claimants by family type : May 1996 to May 2000**

	<b>All Claimants</b>	Single without dependants	Single with dependants	Couples without dependants	Couples with dependants
1996 May	<b>158,560</b>	91,480	40,180	16,740	10,160
1997 May	<b>165,080</b>	97,680	40,440	16,640	10,320
1998 May	<b>166,700</b>	99,680	39,980	16,520	10,520
1999 May	<b>166,860</b>	99,420	40,460	16,800	10,180
2000 May	<b>170,600</b>	102,860	39,500	17,400	10,840

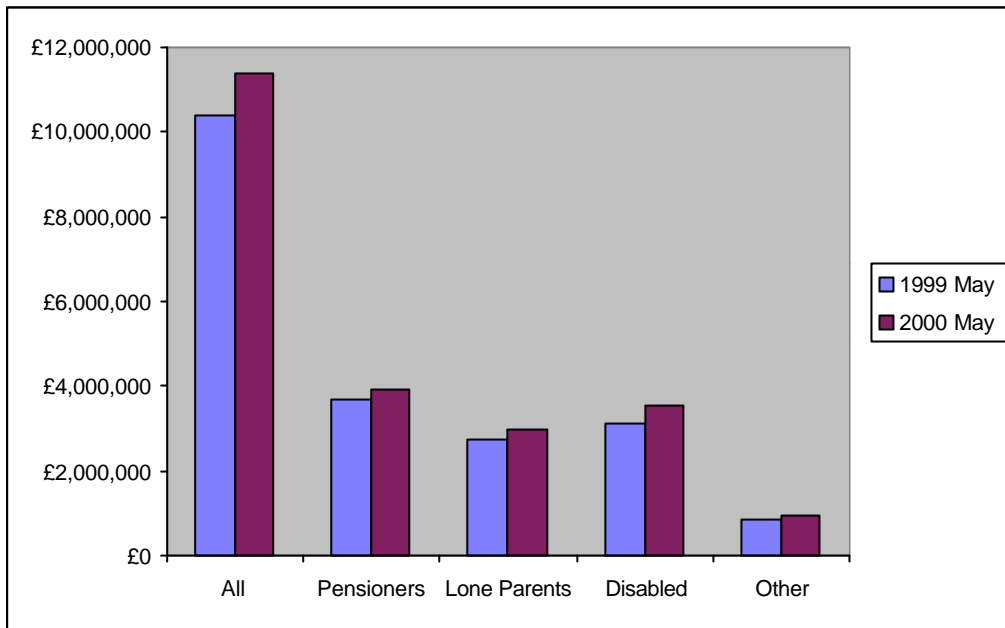
**Table 1.7 Average weekly payments made to Income Support claimants by family type : May 1996 to May 2000 (£ pw)**

	<b>All Claimants</b>	Single without dependants	Single with dependants	Couples without dependants	Couples with dependants
1996 May	<b>£58.11</b>	£47.15	£78.36	£47.11	£94.85
1997 May	<b>£58.62</b>	£47.53	£80.43	£47.60	£95.94
1998 May	<b>£59.23</b>	£47.92	£81.09	£50.61	£96.90
1999 May	<b>£62.38</b>	£49.98	£86.10	£56.34	£99.17
2000 May	<b>£66.70</b>	£52.26	£95.46	£60.54	£108.77

**Chart 1D Average weekly payments made to Income Support claimants by family type : May 1999 and May 2000**



**Chart 1E Estimated Total Weekly Expenditure on Income Support by group (Last week in May) : 1999 and 2000**



## 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 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.

### Main Findings

Although the overall numbers claiming IS has increased between 1999 and 2000, the proportion of claimants receiving benefit for under 3 months has decreased slightly to 4.4% from 4.8% a year previous. This decrease suggests a slight down-turn in the number of new applicants over the last year. Approximately 72% of all claimants have been in receipt of benefit for at least 2 years since 1997.

The majority of claimants over 25 have been on 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 2000 82.8% of males in this age bracket had a claim lasting 2 years or longer, while 83.4% of females in this age group had a claim of this duration.

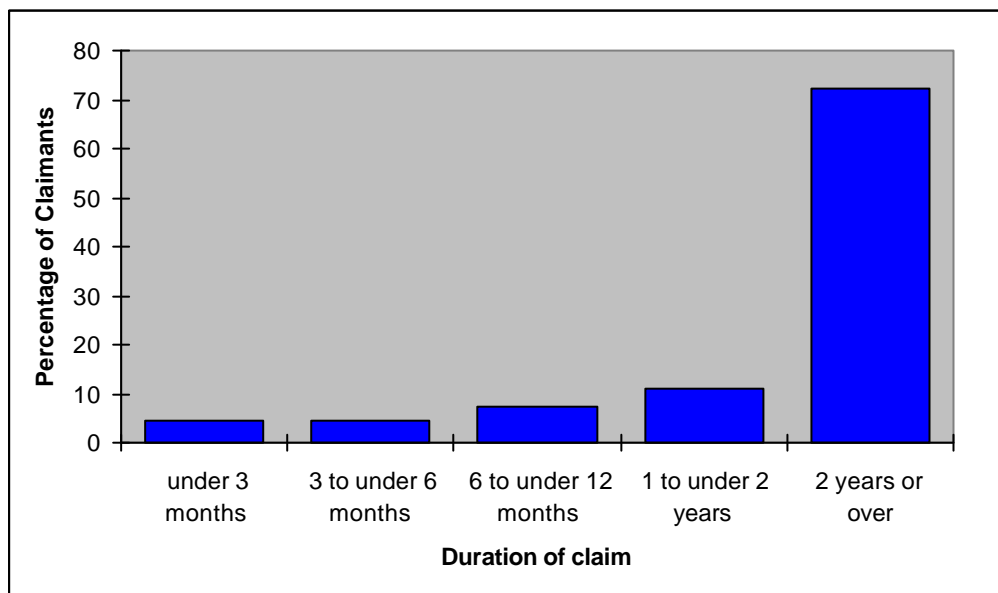
Those aged under 25 claiming IS at May 2000 also tended to be claiming benefit for longer durations, although when compared with other age groups, more young claimants were claiming for less than 3 months (15.3% males under 25 and 10.8% of females at May 2000).



**Table 2.1 Income Support claimants by duration of current claim : May 1996 to May 2000**

<b>Duration</b>	May 1996	May 1997	May 1998	May 1999	May 2000
<b>All claimants</b>	158560	165080	166700	166860	170600
% under 3 months	3.5	5.5	4.4	4.8	4.4
% 3 to under 6 months	3.9	4.4	4.2	4.3	4.5
% 6 to under 12 months	7.0	7.1	8.4	6.8	7.5
% 1 to under 2 years	11.7	10.8	11.9	12.0	11.2
% 2 years or over	73.9	72.1	72.1	72.2	72.3

**Chart 2A Income Support claimants by duration of current claim : May 2000**



**Table 2.2 Income Support claimants by duration of current claim, age and gender: May 2000**

Age/ Gender	All Claimants	Duration				
		% Under 3 Months	% 3 months to under 6 months	% 6 months to under 1 year	% 1 year to under 2 years	% 2 years or over
<b>Total</b>	<b>170,600</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>72.3</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>65,400</b>	5.8	5.2	8.6	12.2	68.2
Under 25	<b>4,180</b>	15.3	13.9	15.3	20.6	34.9
25-59	<b>35,400</b>	7.3	6.4	11.3	13.4	61.5
60 and over	<b>25,820</b>	2.3	2.1	3.7	9.1	82.8
<b>Female</b>	<b>105,200</b>	3.5	4.1	6.9	10.6	74.9
Under 25	<b>10,020</b>	10.8	10.0	19.0	20.6	39.7
25-59	<b>47,700</b>	3.4	4.3	7.2	11.4	73.7
60 and Over	<b>47,480</b>	2.1	2.7	4.1	7.7	83.4

**Table 2.3 Income Support claimants by duration of current claim and statistical group: May 2000**

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
<b>All Claimants</b>	<b>170,600</b>	<b>7,520</b>	<b>7,740</b>	<b>12,860</b>	<b>19,100</b>	<b>123,380</b>
<b>Aged 60 or over</b>	<b>73,900</b>	21.0	24.8	22.9	31.8	49.7
<b>Lone Parents</b>	<b>32,600</b>	18.4	21.2	22.9	23.8	17.9
<b>Disabled</b>	<b>47,120</b>	17.3	18.3	23.2	37.0	27.8
<b>Other</b>	<b>16,980</b>	43.4	35.7	31.1	7.4	4.5



## 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 which can be paid to people in the 60 or over group, depending upon age and disability.

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

### Main Findings

Females in the aged 60 or over statistical group tended to be older than the male claimants in this category, which is also the trend in the general population. In May 2000, 38.7% (18,500) of these women were aged 80 years or over, compared to just 15.7% (4,100) of men. Those aged 60-64 years accounted for 34.5% of the males in this premium group, while only 11.0% of the females were in this age bracket. This age distribution of claimants is broadly similar to that in Great Britain at May 2000, with 35.2% of males and 11.2% of females falling into the 60-64 years age bracket.

Disabled IS claimants were mainly in the 25-59 age range at May 2000 - a situation which has remained unchanged over the previous 4 years. 57.2% (26,940) of IS claimants receiving the disability premium were male, 42.8% (20,180) were female.

The majority of lone parents were female (95.6% at May 2000), and mainly concentrated in the 25-59 year old age band.

The number of 'Other' IS claimants has increased over the last two years. The number of 'other' IS claimants at May 2000 stands at 16,980. There continues to be a larger proportion of males than females in this category, 64.2% (10,900) and 35.8% (6,080) respectively. This distribution is mirrored in GB, with 63.3% (205,000) of 'other' claimants being male and 36.7% (119,000) female at May 2000.



**Table 3.1 Income Support claimants receiving a Pensioner premium<sup>1</sup> by age and gender: May 1996 to May 2000**

Age/ Gender	1996 May	1997 May	1998 May	1999 May	2000 May
<b>Total</b>	<b>73,360</b>	<b>74,940</b>	<b>74,540</b>	<b>73,180</b>	<b>73,900</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>25,300</b>	<b>25,940</b>	<b>25,920</b>	<b>25,700</b>	<b>26,140</b>
60-64	8,720	8,800	8,940	9,100	9,200
65-74	8,760	9,280	9,220	9,300	9,400
75-79	3,500	3,600	3,460	3,340	3,440
80 or over	4,320	4,260	4,300	3,960	4,100
<b>Female</b>	<b>48,060</b>	<b>49,000</b>	<b>48,620</b>	<b>47,480</b>	<b>47,760</b>
60-64	5,280	5,360	5,240	5,300	5,520
65-74	15,200	15,580	15,340	14,600	14,580
75-79	8,980	8,980	9,400	9,660	9,160
80 or over	18,600	19,080	18,640	17,920	18,500

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

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

**Table 3.2 Income Support claimants in receipt of a Disability premium by age and gender: May 1996 to May 2000**

Age/ Gender	1996 May	1997 May	1998 May	1999 May	2000 May
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,400</b>	<b>37,960</b>	<b>43,120</b>	<b>44,680</b>	<b>47,120</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>21,900</b>	<b>21,680</b>	<b>25,120</b>	<b>25,360</b>	<b>26,940</b>
Under 25	2,020	1,560	2,080	2,180	2,500
25-59	19,880	20,120	23,040	23,180	24,440
<b>Female</b>	<b>15,500</b>	<b>16,280</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>19,320</b>	<b>20,180</b>
Under 25	2,100	2,100	1,860	1,980	1,980
25-59	13,400	14,180	16,140	17,340	18,200



**Table 3.3 Income Support claimants in receipt of a Lone Parent premium by age and gender: May 1996 to May 2000**

<b>Age/ Gender</b>	1996 May	1997 May	1998 May	1999 May	2000 May
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,480</b>	<b>34,960</b>	<b>33,800</b>	<b>33,540</b>	<b>32,600</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>1,960</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>1,620</b>	<b>1,560</b>	<b>1,420</b>
<b>Female</b>	<b>33,520</b>	<b>33,360</b>	<b>32,180</b>	<b>31,980</b>	<b>31,180</b>
Under 25	7,660	7,220	6,660	6,860	6,720
25-59	25,860	26,140	25,520	25,120	24,460

**Table 3.4 "Other" Income Support claimants by age and gender : May 1996 to May 2000**

<b>Age/ Gender</b>	1996 May	1997 May	1998 May	1999 May	2000 May
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,340</b>	<b>17,220</b>	<b>15,240</b>	<b>15,440</b>	<b>16,980</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>8,240</b>	<b>11,800</b>	<b>10,100</b>	<b>10,320</b>	<b>10,900</b>
Under 25	1,320	1,740	1,320	1,840	1,600
25-59	6,920	10,060	8,780	8,480	9,300
<b>Female</b>	<b>4,100</b>	<b>5,420</b>	<b>5,140</b>	<b>5,120</b>	<b>6,080</b>
Under 25	760	1,280	1,380	1,080	1,320
25-59	3,340	4,140	3,760	4,040	4,760



## 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

From May 1996, the proportion of the population who are beneficiaries of IS (i.e. a claimant, partner or dependant) has risen slightly from 17.4% to 17.8% in May 2000. In GB, this proportion dropped slightly from 12.3% of the population in May 1996 to 11.7% of the population in May 2000.

The proportions of IS claimants having a partner increased slightly from May 1999 to May 2000 16.2% to 16.5% respectively. In GB the proportion also increased slightly from 13.9% to 14.1% over the same period.

The average number of dependants of an IS claimant in Northern Ireland at May 2000 was 2.0, compared 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 2000), these age bands also had the highest average number of dependants in GB (2.1 at May 2000).



**Table 4.1 Beneficiaries of Income Support by type : May 1996 to May 2000**

	All Beneficiaries	Type of beneficiary			Beneficiaries as % of population
		Claimant	Partner	Dependant	
1996 May	<b>290,620</b>	158,560	26,900	105,160	17.4%
1997 May	<b>299,120</b>	165,080	26,960	107,080	17.8%
1998 May	<b>299,280</b>	166,700	27,040	105,540	17.7%
1999 May	<b>297,520</b>	166,860	26,980	103,680	17.6%
2000 May	<b>300,680</b>	170,600	28,240	101,840	17.8%

**Table 4.2 Income Support claimants by age and number of dependants : May 2000**

	Total	Age of Claimant					
		Under 18	18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 49	50 to 59	60 or over
<b>All claimants</b>	<b>170,600</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>13,400</b>	<b>25,860</b>	<b>36,700</b>	<b>20,540</b>	<b>73,300</b>
Claimants without deps	<b>120,260</b>	500	6,260	8,760	15,940	16,500	72,300
Claimants with deps	<b>50,340</b>	300	7,140	17,100	20,760	4,040	1,000
Number of Deps							
1	<b>21,220</b>	260	5,100	5,680	6,860	2,560	760
2	<b>15,500</b>	40	1,740	5,860	6,560	1,160	140
3	<b>7,660</b>	0	240	3,100	4,100	140	80
4	<b>3,960</b>	0	60	1,620	2,140	120	20
5	<b>1,420</b>	0	0	540	840	40	0
6 or more	<b>580</b>	0	0	300	260	20	0
Average number of dependants	<b>2.0</b>	1.1	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 2000 received extra help in this way (159,380 claimants, 93.4% 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 1.54 per claimant in May 1999 to 1.56 in May 2000. This compares to an average of 1.3 premiums per claimant in GB over the last three years.

Premiums linked to a disability have shown the largest increases from 1996 with a similar scenario in GB, while those linked with age (the various rates of pensioner premiums) have also increased.

Those receiving the severe disability (low 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 1996 to May 2000**

Type of premium	May 1996	May 1997	May 1998	May 1999	May 2000
<b>All types</b>	<b>253,120</b>	<b>230,700</b>	<b>237,320</b>	<b>240,020</b>	<b>248,060</b>
Higher pensioner premium					
Claimant/partner aged 80 or over	21,120	22,180	22,240	21,820	22,600
Claimant/partner aged 60-79	28,200	32,240	33,220	34,040	35,700
Enhanced pensioner premium	4,980	4,040	4,160	3,720	3,200
Pensioner premium	15,860	13,880	13,200	12,560	11,600
Severe Disability premium - higher	2,360	3,020	3,420	3,600	3,780
Severe Disability premium - lower	25,360	29,680	32,080	34,540	37,360
Disability Premium	37,180	38,020	43,120	44,680	47,120
Disabled child premium	6,420	6,400	6,040	5,620	5,380
Lone Parent Premium*	35,340	34,960	32,720	25,940	-
Family Premium*	50,400	15,720	17,760	24,700	50,320
Carer Premium	14,820	16,880	18,520	18,300	19,780
Claimants not in receipt of an IS premium	11,080	13,680	10,840	10,500	11,220
Claimants with 1 or more premiums	147,480	151,400	155,860	156,360	159,380
Average number of premiums	1.72	1.52	1.52	1.54	1.56

\*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 2000**

Type of premium	Premiums in payment	Single Claimants		Couples	
		With dependants	Without dependants	With dependants	Without dependants
<b>All types</b>	<b>248,060</b>	<b>57,940</b>	<b>138,160</b>	<b>25,840</b>	<b>26,120</b>
Higher Pensioner Premium					
Claimant/partner aged 80 or over	<b>22,600</b>	0	20,600	20	1,980
Claimant/partner aged 60-79	<b>35,700</b>	120	25,500	540	9,540
Enhanced pensioner premium	<b>3,200</b>	0	2,980	0	220
Pensioner premium	<b>11,600</b>	180	9,460	200	1,760
Severe Disability premium-higher	<b>3,780</b>	0	40	260	3,480
Severe Disability premium - lower	<b>37,360</b>	2,720	34,160	40	440
Disability Premium	<b>47,120</b>	6,580	28,720	7,680	4,140
Disabled child premium	<b>5,380</b>	3,840	0	1,540	0
Family Premium	<b>50,320</b>	39,500	0	10,820	0
Carer Premium	<b>19,780</b>	5,000	5,960	4,740	4,080
No premium	<b>11,220</b>	0	10,740	0	480
Claimants with 1 or more premium	<b>159,380</b>	39,500	92,120	10,840	16,920



**Table 5.3 Income Support claimants premiums by type and statistical group of claimant : May 2000**

Type of premium	All Claimants	Statistical Group			
		Aged 60 or over	Lone Parents	Disabled	Other
<b>All types</b>	<b>246,640</b>	<b>107,160</b>	<b>40,520</b>	<b>80,100</b>	<b>18,860</b>
Higher pensioner premium					
Claimant/partner aged 80 or over	<b>22,600</b>	22,600	0	0	0
Claimant/partner aged 60-79	<b>34,280</b>	34,280	0	0	0
Enhanced pensioner premium	<b>3,200</b>	3,200	0	0	0
Pensioner premium	<b>11,600</b>	11,600	0	0	0
Severe Disability premium - higher	<b>3,780</b>	3,220	0	560	0
Severe Disability premium - lower	<b>37,360</b>	26,560	0	10,800	0
Disability Premium	<b>47,120</b>	0	0	47,120	0
Disabled child premium	<b>5,380</b>	60	3,300	1,400	620
Family Premium	<b>50,320</b>	1,020	32,600	14,260	2,440
Carer Premium	<b>19,780</b>	2,860	4,620	5,960	6,340
No premium	<b>11,220</b>	1,760	0	0	9,460
Claimants with 1 or more premium	<b>159,380</b>	72,140	32,600	47,120	7,520



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

### Summary

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

The date on which a customer entered a residential care nursing home determines the rules by which their entitlement to IS is assessed.

People who entered homes prior to April 1993 qualified for help with their fees directly through IS payments. These fees could be met in full. Or up to a maximum limit, depending on the type of care required. Those 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.

### Main Findings

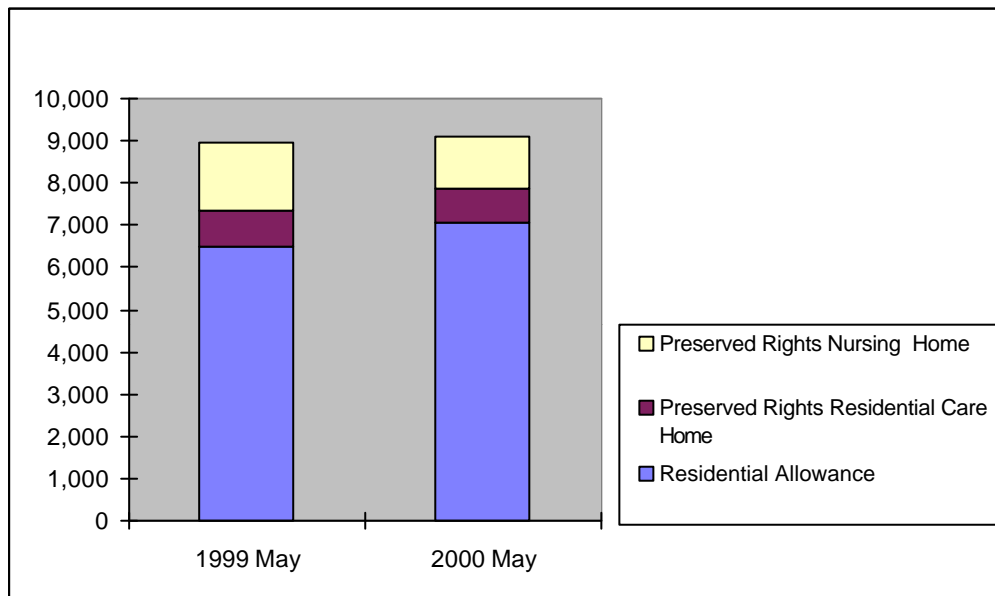
The number of preserved rights cases (i.e. those who entered RCNH before April 1993) has been falling steadily in Northern Ireland over the last five years; from 4,780 in May 1996 to 2,080 in May 2000. The number receiving a residential allowance increased from 6,480 in May 1999 to 7,040 in May 2000 after a fall of 580 claimants in the previous year. The overall number of RCNH claimants has shown a slight increase from 8,960 in May 1999 to 9,120 in May 2000, again this follows a decrease between May 1998 and May 1999. Currently RCNH cases make up 5.3% of the total IS caseload in Northern Ireland.



**Table 6.1 Income Support claimants in residential care and nursing homes : May 1996 to May 2000**

	All	Residential allowance	Preserved Rights		
			All	Residential care home	Nursing home
1996 May	<b>9,880</b>	5,100	4,780	1,360	3,420
1997 May	<b>10,180</b>	6,180	4,000	1,140	2,860
1998 May	<b>10,220</b>	7,060	3,160	1,000	2,160
1999 May	<b>8,960</b>	6,480	2,480	880	1,600
2000 May	<b>9,120</b>	7,040	2,080	820	1,260

**Chart 6A Income Support claimants in residential care and nursing homes by type of care : May 1999 and May 2000**



## 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 1996 to May 2000 (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).

### Main Findings

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 Strabane district council (19.6% of the population), closely followed by Belfast (19.4% of the population) and Derry (18.7% of the population).

Belfast and Derry district councils have the highest rate of beneficiaries (26.2%), followed by Strabane (25.8%), then Cookstown (24.5%). Castlereagh district council had the lowest rate, 8.7% of the population were beneficiaries of IS at May 2000.

Overall, 17.7% 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 11,700 claimants (6.9% of the total caseload) at May 2000, while Kilkeel had only 1,340 claimants (0.7% of the caseload) at the same point in time.

Corporation Street, Londonderry and Newry offices respectively experienced the largest increases in claimant numbers from May 1996 to May 2000.

In Magherafelt 57.3% of the caseload consisted of claimants aged 60 or over, while this category of claimant only accounted for 27.5% of the caseload in Andersonstown. Andersonstown had the highest proportion of lone parents, 34.0% of its caseload at May 2000. Dungannon has the highest proportion of disabled claimants (34.2% at May 2000).

The highest number of IS beneficiaries was found in Corporation Street Social Security Office (21,260 beneficiaries at May 2000), the lowest number of beneficiaries was in Newcastle (2,380 beneficiaries at May 2000).



**Table 7.1 Northern Ireland Income Support claimants by District Council : May 1996 to May 2000**

District Council	May 1996	May 1997	May 1998	May 1999	May 2000
Ards	4,600	4,740	4,720	4,800	4,720
Belfast	38,100	39,580	41,160	41,680	42,020
Castlereagh	3,160	3,320	3,420	2,680	3,540
Down	4,480	4,780	5,000	5,040	5,100
Lisburn	7,880	8,400	8,160	8,200	8,700
North Down	4,440	4,320	4,300	4,560	4,500
Antrim	4,040	4,120	3,880	3,900	4,060
Ballymena	4,180	4,380	4,240	4,120	4,220
Ballymoney	1,880	1,820	1,860	2,000	2,040
Carrickfergus	2,580	2,360	2,120	2,200	2,180
Coleraine	3,860	4,400	4,200	4,540	4,780
Cookstown	3,620	4,020	4,080	4,160	4,280
Larne	2,020	2,060	2,040	2,020	2,200
Magherafelt	3,380	3,640	3,580	3,580	3,760
Moyle	1,540	1,620	1,540	1,480	1,680
Newtownabbey	5,700	5,600	5,760	5,280	5,380
Armagh	4,360	4,520	4,200	4,240	4,480
Banbridge	2,020	2,120	2,360	2,440	2,280
Craigavon	7,340	7,680	7,960	7,800	8,040
Dungannon	4,800	4,920	5,140	5,260	5,800
Newry&Mourne	9,720	9,980	10,380	9,980	10,760
Derry	12,600	13,200	13,420	13,000	14,380
Fermanagh	5,520	5,840	5,700	5,940	6,140
Limavady	2,980	3,100	3,180	2,940	2,940
Omagh	4,500	4,700	4,720	4,820	5,140
Strabane	4,980	5,160	5,300	5,080	5,540
Missing Postcode *	4,280	4,700	4,280	5,120	1,940
<b>All Claimants</b>	<b>158,560</b>	<b>165,080</b>	<b>166,700</b>	<b>166,860</b>	<b>170,600</b>

\* 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 Northern Ireland Income Support claimants by Statistical group and District Council : May 2000**

District Council	All Claimants 100%	Statistical group				Claimants as a percentage of the population <sup>1</sup>
		Aged 60 or over %	Lone Parents %	Disabled %	Other %	
Ards	4,720	47.9%	17.8%	25.8%	8.5%	8.3%
Belfast	42,020	38.9%	22.4%	28.9%	9.8%	19.4%
Castlereagh	3,540	45.8%	22.6%	23.7%	7.9%	6.7%
Down	5,100	40.8%	18.4%	27.1%	13.7%	10.7%
Lisburn	8,700	37.0%	27.8%	26.7%	8.5%	10.3%
North Down	4,500	54.7%	14.7%	21.3%	9.3%	7.4%
Antrim	4,060	46.8%	18.7%	27.1%	7.4%	10.4%
Ballymena	4,220	48.8%	20.9%	21.8%	8.5%	9.1%
Ballymoney	2,040	53.9%	16.7%	19.6%	9.8%	10.3%
Carrickfergus	2,180	38.5%	23.9%	30.3%	7.3%	7.4%
Coleraine	4,780	47.3%	15.9%	24.3%	12.6%	10.9%
Cookstown	4,280	47.2%	10.7%	34.6%	7.5%	17.9%
Larne	2,200	45.5%	15.5%	30.0%	9.1%	9.1%
Magherafelt	3,760	63.3%	11.7%	17.0%	8.0%	13.3%
Moyle	1,680	53.6%	17.9%	17.9%	10.7%	14.1%
Newtownabbey	5,380	46.8%	17.5%	24.9%	10.8%	8.5%
Armagh	4,480	52.7%	12.1%	28.6%	6.7%	10.9%
Banbridge	2,280	52.6%	15.8%	24.6%	7.0%	7.3%
Craigavon	8,040	47.0%	16.7%	27.4%	9.0%	13.3%
Dungannon	5,800	41.4%	15.9%	32.8%	10.0%	16.2%
Newry&Mourne	10,760	42.8%	16.4%	30.1%	10.8%	16.9%
Derry	14,380	31.2%	24.2%	32.1%	12.5%	18.7%
Fermanagh	6,140	54.7%	13.0%	21.8%	10.4%	14.2%
Limavady	2,940	38.1%	20.4%	27.2%	14.3%	12.5%
Omagh	5,140	47.1%	14.4%	28.8%	9.7%	14.5%
Strabane	5,540	41.5%	16.2%	30.3%	11.9%	19.6%
Missing Postcode*	1,940	47.4%	18.6%	24.7%	9.3%	
<b>All Claimants</b>	<b>170,600</b>	<b>73,900</b>	<b>32,600</b>	<b>47,120</b>	<b>16,980</b>	<b>13.2%</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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 together as 'Missing Postcode'

The percentages shown for district councils are accordingly understated



**Table 7.3 Northern Ireland Beneficiaries of Income Support by type and District Council: May 2000**

District Council	All Beneficiaries	Type of beneficiary			Beneficiaries as a percentage of the population <sup>1</sup>
		Claimant	Partner	Dependant	
Ards	7,800	4,720	760	2,320	10.8%
Belfast	74,140	42,020	5,160	26,960	26.2%
Castlereagh	5,860	3,540	540	1,780	8.7%
Down	8,680	5,100	760	2,820	13.6%
Lisburn	17,800	8,700	1,260	7,840	15.9%
North Down	6,780	4,500	640	1,640	8.9%
Antrim	6,940	4,060	500	2,380	13.6%
Ballymena	7,360	4,220	460	2,680	12.3%
Ballymoney	3,440	2,040	460	940	13.1%
Carrickfergus	4,000	2,180	380	1,440	10.4%
Coleraine	7,500	4,780	720	2,000	13.4%
Cookstown	7,740	4,280	1,240	2,220	24.5%
Larne	3,600	2,200	420	980	11.6%
Magherafelt	6,160	3,760	860	1,540	15.7%
Moyle	2,700	1,680	300	720	17.5%
Newtownabbey	9,060	5,380	1,020	2,660	11.1%
Armagh	7,540	4,480	1,000	2,060	13.8%
Banbridge	3,840	2,280	320	1,240	9.5%
Craigavon	14,680	8,040	1,520	5,120	18.2%
Dungannon	10,660	5,800	1,300	3,560	22.0%
Newry&Mourne	19,900	10,760	2,240	6,900	22.7%
Derry	28,020	14,380	2,360	11,280	26.2%
Fermanagh	10,000	6,140	1,140	2,720	17.4%
Limavady	4,960	2,940	540	1,480	15.5%
Omagh	8,440	5,140	1,040	2,260	17.7%
Strabane	9,760	5,540	980	3,240	25.8%
Missing Postcode*	3,320	1,940	320	1,060	
<b>All Claimants</b>	<b>300,680</b>	<b>170,600</b>	<b>28,240</b>	<b>101,840</b>	<b>17.7%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Total Population

\* The computer scan contains missing postcodes.

No district council can be assigned in this circumstance so these cases have been grouped together as 'Missing Postcode'

The percentages shown for district councils are accordingly understated



**Table 7.4 Income Support claimants by Social Security Office: May 1996 to May 2000**

<b>Social Security Office</b>	<b>May 1996</b>	<b>May 1997</b>	<b>May 1998</b>	<b>May 1999</b>	<b>May 2000</b>
Andersonstown	6,940	7,540	7,840	8,000	8,000
Antrim	5,100	5,060	4,880	4,640	4,700
Armagh	3,940	4,160	3,800	4,040	4,140
Ballymena	4,800	4,860	4,700	4,580	4,800
Ballymoney	3,160	3,300	3,340	3,580	3,680
Ballynahinch	1,620	1,760	1,820	1,860	1,800
Banbridge	2,580	2,680	2,920	2,880	2,880
Bangor	4,600	4,700	4,680	5,100	4,900
Carrickfergus*	2,600	2,420	2,080		
Coleraine	4,100	4,600	4,380	4,600	4,800
Cookstown	3,040	3,320	3,360	3,520	3,660
Corporation Street	10,380	10,760	11,160	11,520	11,700
Downpatrick	2,440	2,660	2,680	2,540	2,580
Dungannon	4,780	4,940	5,100	5,220	5,500
Enniskillen	6,420	6,840	6,680	6,840	7,120
Falls Road	7,660	8,340	8,640	8,720	8,560
Hollywood Road	7,480	7,420	7,600	7,520	7,340
Kilkeel	1,420	1,340	1,500	1,440	1,340
Knockbreda	4,880	4,860	5,020	4,940	5,080
Larne	2,020	2,020	2,120	4,260	4,400
Limavady	2,780	2,840	2,880	2,700	2,680
Lisburn	4,920	5,080	4,880	4,760	5,020
Lisnagelvin	4,260	4,300	4,260	4,600	4,680
Londonderry	9,080	9,700	9,900	9,920	10,280
Lurgan	4,660	4,940	5,160	5,040	5,220
Magherafelt	3,740	4,160	4,040	3,840	3,980
Newcastle	1,220	1,180	1,420	1,420	1,440
Newry	7,780	8,220	8,400	8,280	8,900
Newtownabbey	4,480	4,600	4,760	4,440	4,640
Newtownards	3,680	3,680	3,640	3,660	3,520
Omagh	4,520	4,680	4,640	4,720	5,060
Portadown	3,800	3,860	3,880	3,720	3,900
Shaftesbury Sq.	4,240	4,340	4,600	4,520	4,480
Shankill Road	4,320	4,580	4,500	4,180	4,220
Strabane	5,120	5,340	5,440	5,260	5,600
<b>All Claimants</b>	<b>158,560</b>	<b>165,080</b>	<b>166,700</b>	<b>166,860</b>	<b>170,600</b>

\*Carrickfergus totals combined with Larne SSO from May 1999



**Table 7.5 Income Support claimants by Statistical group and Social Security Office: May 2000**

Social Security Office	All Claimants 100%	Statistical group			
		Aged 60 or over %	Lone Parents %	Disabled %	Other %
Andersonstown	8,000	27.5%	34.0%	27.8%	10.8%
Antrim	4,700	45.5%	18.7%	25.5%	10.2%
Armagh	4,140	52.2%	12.1%	29.0%	6.8%
Ballymena	4,800	50.8%	19.6%	20.4%	9.2%
Ballymoney	3,680	53.3%	15.8%	20.1%	10.9%
Ballynahinch	1,800	52.2%	11.1%	30.0%	6.7%
Banbridge	2,880	50.0%	16.7%	24.3%	9.0%
Bangor	4,900	55.9%	13.5%	21.6%	9.0%
Coleraine	4,800	47.9%	17.1%	23.3%	11.7%
Cookstown	3,660	45.4%	12.6%	33.3%	8.7%
Corporation Street	11,700	36.6%	23.2%	29.6%	10.6%
Downpatrick	2,580	41.1%	19.4%	27.9%	11.6%
Dungannon	5,500	41.5%	15.6%	34.2%	8.7%
Enniskillen	7,120	54.8%	12.9%	22.2%	10.1%
Falls Road	8,560	34.6%	25.0%	31.8%	8.6%
Hollywood Road	7,340	46.9%	20.2%	23.7%	9.3%
Kilkeel	1,340	49.3%	13.4%	28.4%	9.0%
Knockbreda	5,080	44.9%	20.1%	26.0%	9.1%
Larne	4,400	42.3%	19.5%	30.0%	8.2%
Limavady	2,680	37.3%	19.4%	28.4%	14.9%
Lisburn	5,020	47.4%	19.9%	23.1%	9.6%
Lisnagelvin	4,680	38.5%	20.5%	29.1%	12.0%
Londonderry	10,280	28.4%	25.9%	33.3%	12.5%
Lurgan	5,220	46.4%	15.3%	29.1%	9.2%
Magherafelt	3,980	57.3%	12.6%	22.6%	7.5%
Newcastle	1,440	31.9%	22.2%	26.4%	19.4%
Newry	8,900	40.9%	16.4%	31.5%	11.2%
Newtownabbey	4,640	48.3%	17.2%	26.3%	8.2%
Newtownards	3,520	47.2%	18.8%	24.4%	9.7%
Omagh	5,060	47.0%	13.8%	28.9%	10.3%
Portadown	3,900	51.3%	17.4%	23.1%	8.2%
Shaftesbury Sq.	4,480	44.6%	16.1%	30.4%	8.9%
Shankill Road	4,220	39.8%	23.7%	28.9%	7.6%
Strabane	5,600	41.8%	16.1%	30.4%	11.8%
<b>All Claimants</b>	<b>170,600</b>	<b>73,900</b>	<b>32,600</b>	<b>47,120</b>	<b>16,980</b>



**Table 7.6 Beneficiaries of Income Support by type and SSO: May 2000**

Social Security Office	All Beneficiaries	Type of beneficiary		
		Claimant	Partner	Dependant
Andersonstown	<b>17,180</b>	8,000	1,040	8,140
Antrim	<b>8,120</b>	4,700	600	2,820
Armagh	<b>6,980</b>	4,140	900	1,940
Ballymena	<b>8,300</b>	4,800	600	2,900
Ballymoney	<b>6,220</b>	3,680	860	1,680
Ballynahinch	<b>2,760</b>	1,800	280	680
Banbridge	<b>5,220</b>	2,880	560	1,780
Bangor	<b>7,440</b>	4,900	680	1,860
Coleraine	<b>7,520</b>	4,800	660	2,060
Cookstown	<b>6,680</b>	3,660	1,100	1,920
Corporation Street	<b>21,260</b>	11,700	1,500	8,060
Downpatrick	<b>4,480</b>	2,580	380	1,520
Dungannon	<b>10,100</b>	5,500	1,260	3,340
Enniskillen	<b>11,680</b>	7,120	1,340	3,220
Falls Road	<b>16,400</b>	8,560	1,220	6,620
Hollywood Road	<b>12,300</b>	7,340	920	4,040
Kilkeel	<b>2,380</b>	1,340	340	700
Knockbreda	<b>8,060</b>	5,080	580	2,400
Larne	<b>7,620</b>	4,400	800	2,420
Limavady	<b>4,420</b>	2,680	480	1,260
Lisburn	<b>8,920</b>	5,020	780	3,120
Lisnagelvin	<b>8,300</b>	4,680	940	2,680
Londonderry	<b>20,760</b>	10,280	1,560	8,920
Lurgan	<b>9,760</b>	5,220	1,000	3,540
Magherafelt	<b>6,680</b>	3,980	860	1,840
Newcastle	<b>2,540</b>	1,440	220	880
Newry	<b>16,260</b>	8,900	1,640	5,720
Newtownabbey	<b>7,640</b>	4,640	820	2,180
Newtownards	<b>5,920</b>	3,520	640	1,760
Omagh	<b>8,180</b>	5,060	1,000	2,120
Portadown	<b>6,640</b>	3,900	720	2,020
Shaftesbury Sq.	<b>6,940</b>	4,480	460	2,000
Shankill Road	<b>7,180</b>	4,220	520	2,440
Strabane	<b>9,840</b>	5,600	980	3,260
<b>All Claimants</b>	<b>300,680</b>	<b>170,600</b>	<b>28,240</b>	<b>101,840</b>



## Section 8 United Kingdom analyses

### Summary

A breakdown of the IS caseload is given by Government Office Region (GOR) comparing data from May 1996 to May 2000 (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 2000 IS QSE published by the Analytical Services Division of the Department of Social Security.

### Main Findings

There has been little change in the distribution of Income Support claimants between Government Office Regions from May 1996 to May 2000. London remains the GOR with the greatest share of the UK caseload (14.4% at May 2000.) Although Northern Ireland has the smallest share of the caseload (4.3% at May 2000), it is the only region which has seen it's caseload increase between May 1997 and May 2000.

11.6% of the population in Great Britain were beneficiaries of Income Support at May 2000. Among the regions this varied from 7.5% in the South East to 14.9% in London. In Northern Ireland 17.8% of the population were beneficiaries of IS. IS claimants in Northern Ireland were likely to have spent the longest time on benefit at May 2000 (72.3% 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 1996 to May 1999**

GOR	Thousands <sup>1</sup>				
	May 1996	May 1997	May 1998	May 1999	May 2000
North East	217	219	212	214	219
North West	593	592	575	565	559
Yorks & Humberside	356	354	345	343	348
East Midlands	246	250	243	240	241
West Midlands	376	379	366	362	364
East	276	268	268	265	266
London	614	604	582	575	573
South East	380	378	363	354	351
South West	275	276	268	269	264
Wales	229	230	226	228	229
Scotland	401	408	404	400	398
<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>3,963</b>	<b>3,958</b>	<b>3,853</b>	<b>3,814</b>	<b>3,811</b>
Northern Ireland	159	165	167	167	171

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

**Table 8.2 Income Support claimants by GOR and statistical group: May 2000**

GOR	All Claimants (000s) <sup>1</sup>	Aged 60 or over %	Lone Parents %	Disabled %	Other %	Claimants as % of GOR population <sup>2</sup>
North East	219	42.5	22.7	26.3	8.5	10.6
North West	559	40.6	22.8	28.7	7.9	10.3
Yorks & Humberside	348	44.9	23.2	23.8	8.1	8.7
East Midlands	241	45.2	22.9	24.4	7.5	7.2
West Midlands	364	46.3	22.7	23.4	7.6	8.6
East	266	46.1	24.5	22.4	7.0	6.2
London	573	35.1	29.6	23.7	11.6	10
South East	351	44.7	25.2	22.0	8.1	5.5
South West	264	46.6	22.1	23.0	8.3	6.7
Wales	229	40.7	22.2	29.4	7.7	9.8
Scotland	398	41.3	20.9	29.1	8.7	9.7
<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>3,811</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>23.9</b>	<b>25.2</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>8.3</b>
Northern Ireland	171	43.9	20.1	26.8	9.3	12.9

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

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

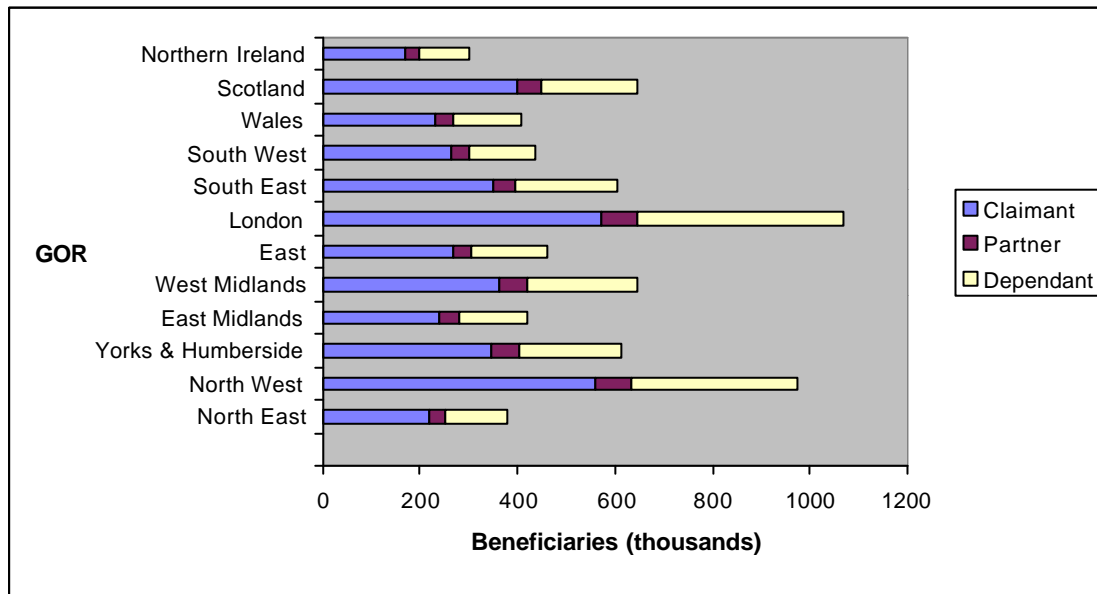


**Table 8.3 Beneficiaries of Income Support by type and GOR: May 2000**

GOR	Thousands <sup>1</sup>				
	All	Type of beneficiary			Beneficiaries as % GOR's population
		Claimant	Partner	Dependant	
North East	380	219	34	127	14.7
North West	976	559	76	341	14.2
Yorks & Humberside	615	348	54	212	12.2
East Midlands	421	241	38	142	10.1
West Midlands	647	364	58	225	12.1
East	461	266	37	158	8.6
London	1,069	573	74	422	14.9
South East	604	351	44	209	7.5
South West	438	264	36	138	8.9
Wales	408	229	37	141	13.9
Scotland	648	398	49	200	12.6
<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>6,666</b>	<b>3,811</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>2,317</b>	<b>11.6</b>
Northern Ireland	301	171	28	102	17.8

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

**Chart 8A Beneficiaries of Income Support by type and GOR: May 2000**



**Table 8.4 Average weekly payment of Income Support by GOR and statistical group: May 2000**

GOR	All Claimants	£pw			
		Aged 60 or over	Lone Parents	Disabled	Other
North East	<b>60.69</b>	41.97	88.56	67.93	57.42
North West	<b>65.56</b>	47.82	91.13	71.10	62.80
Yorks & Humberside	<b>63.49</b>	46.31	90.90	67.94	67.13
East Midlands	<b>63.94</b>	47.32	91.08	66.42	73.13
West Midlands	<b>63.37</b>	46.26	91.09	68.71	68.44
East	<b>64.25</b>	45.52	92.30	69.38	73.10
London	<b>74.44</b>	58.31	93.38	78.86	65.95
South East	<b>68.42</b>	49.86	92.58	71.45	87.65
South West	<b>66.49</b>	49.96	91.05	68.61	88.12
Wales	<b>63.32</b>	46.49	89.92	68.03	57.78
Scotland	<b>60.81</b>	44.12	87.62	65.77	59.12
<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>65.72</b>	<b>48.18</b>	<b>91.21</b>	<b>70.14</b>	<b>68.37</b>
Northern Ireland	<b>66.70</b>	53.31	91.20	74.80	55.42

**Table 8.5 Income Support claimants by GOR and duration of current claim: May 2000**

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	<b>214</b>	6.1	5.0	8.3	13.4	67.2
North West	<b>565</b>	4.9	4.7	7.8	12.3	70.3
Yorks & Humberside	<b>343</b>	5.8	4.8	9.1	13.9	66.5
East Midlands	<b>240</b>	5.7	5.0	8.8	13.2	67.3
West Midlands	<b>362</b>	5.3	4.4	8.4	12.9	69.0
East	<b>265</b>	5.1	4.8	8.5	13.0	68.7
London	<b>575</b>	4.1	4.3	8.6	13.0	70.1
South East	<b>354</b>	5.1	4.8	8.5	12.6	68.9
South West	<b>269</b>	5.5	5.0	8.1	13.4	67.9
Wales	<b>228</b>	5.6	4.8	8.1	13.3	68.3
Scotland	<b>400</b>	5.9	4.8	8.2	12.8	68.4
<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>3,811</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>68.7</b>
Northern Ireland	<b>171</b>	4.4	4.5	7.5	11.2	72.3



## **Annex 1: Technical Details**

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

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

This publication refers to the QSE conducted on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2000.

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
0.1	+/-86	+/-86%
0.2	+/-121	+/-61%
0.3	+/-148	+/-49%
0.4	+/-171	+/-43%
0.5	+/-191	+/-38%
0.6	+/-209	+/-35%
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*



## Index

### Section 1 Caseload-key characteristics and average payments

Table 1.1 Income Support claimants by statistical group: May 1996 to May 2000

Chart 1A Income Support claimants by statistical group: May 1996 and May 2000

Table 1.2 Income Support claimants by statistical group (%): May 1996 to May 2000

Table 1.3 Average weekly payments made to Income Support claimants by statistical group: May 1996 to May 2000

Chart 1B Average weekly payments made of Income Support claimants by statistical group: May 1999 & May 2000

Table 1.4 Income Support claimants by age and gender: May 1996 to May 2000

Chart 1C Income Support claimants by age: May 1999 and May 2000

Table 1.5 Average weekly payments made to Income Support claimants by age and gender: May 1996 to May 2000

Table 1.6 Income Support claimants by family type: May 1996 to May 2000

Table 1.7 Average weekly payments made to Income Support claimants by family type: May 1996 to May 2000

Chart 1D Average weekly payments made to Income Support claimants by family type: May 1999 and May 2000

Chart 1E Estimated total weekly expenditure on Income Support by group (£): May 1999 and May 2000

### Section 2 Length of time on IS

Table 2.1 Income Support claimants by duration of current claim: May 1996 to May 2000

Chart 2A Income Support claimants by duration of current claim: May 2000

Table 2.2 Income Support claimants by duration of current claim, age and gender: May 2000

Table 2.3 Income Support claimants by duration of current claim and statistical group: May 2000



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

Table 3.1 Income Support claimants receiving a Pensioner premium by age and gender: May 1996 to May 2000

Table 3.2 Income Support claimants in receipt of a Disability premium by age and gender: May 1996 to May 2000

Table 3.3 Income Support claimants in receipt of a Lone Parent premium by age and gender: May 1996 to May 2000

Table 3.4 "Other" Income Support claimants by age and gender: May 1996 to May 2000

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

Table 4.1 Beneficiaries of Income Support by type: May 1996 to May 2000

Table 4.2 Income Support claimants by age and number of dependants: May 2000

### **Section 5 Premium payments**

Table 5.1 Income Support premiums by type and number: May 1996 to May 2000

Table 5.2 Income Support claimants with premiums by family and premium type: May 2000

Table 5.3 Income Support premiums by type and statistical group: May 2000

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

Table 6.1 Income Support claimants in residential care and nursing homes: May 1996 to May 2000

Chart 6A Income Support claimants in residential care and nursing homes by type of care: May 1999 and May 2000

### **Section 7 District council and Social Security Office analyses**

Table 7.1 Income Support claimants by District Council: May 1996 to May 2000

Table 7.2 Income Support claimants by statistical group and District Council: May 2000



Table 7.3 Beneficiaries of Income Support by type and District Council: May 2000

Table 7.4 Income Support claimants by Social Security Office: May 1996 to May 2000

Table 7.5 Income Support claimants by statistical group and Social Security Office: May 2000

Table 7.6 Income Support claimants by type and Social Security Office: May 2000

## **Section 8 United Kingdom Analysis**

Table 8.1 Income Support claimants by GOR: May 1996 to May 2000

Table 8.2 Income Support by GOR and statistical group: May 2000

Table 8.3 Beneficiaries of Income Support by type and GOR: May 2000

Chart 8A Beneficiaries of Income Support by type and GOR: May 2000

Table 8.4 Average weekly payment of Income Support by GOR and statistical group: May 2000

Table 8.5 Income Support claimants by GOR and duration of current claim: May 2000



**ISSN 1475-5777**