
NORTHERN IRELAND CLIENT GROUP ANALYSIS

**Persons of
working age and their children
and persons of pensionable age
receiving key benefits**

AUGUST 2003

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Introduction

The Social Welfare Statistics and Consultancy Branch of the Department for Social Development (DSD) have developed a set of analyses from its existing scans of Social Security Benefit administrative data for the persons of Working Age and their Children and the persons over State Pension Age in Northern Ireland.

By matching data from the individual benefit scans an estimate can be made of the number of people who were claiming at least one of the key benefits that are available to the working age population and those over state pension age. People are assigned a statistical group depending on which key benefits they are claiming (see Definitions and Conventions).

Section 1 analyses persons of working age in receipt of the key benefits which are available to persons of working age with the main exception of Bereavement Benefit and Housing Benefit. Section 2 analyses the children of persons of working age on key benefits. They are designed to give a good indication of the size of the population on these benefits and how this changes over time. However, they are affected by changes to the conditions of entitlement and to the existence of the benefits themselves. No attempt has been made to adjust the series for such factors.

Section 3 analyses persons of pensionable age on key benefits that are available to persons over state pension age with the main exception of Widow's and Bereavement Benefits and Housing Benefit.

Information on the key characteristics of these claimants is also available for age, gender, duration, family type and regional analysis. It is also possible to look at changes in the composition of the statistical groups in the benefits system over time. Analysis of the movement on, off and between the benefits is also included (see Methodology).

The Appendices give additional information on Child Support Agency and Maternity Allowance data which are not included in the analysis of children in section 2.

The definitive details of caseloads and characteristics of claimants of each individual benefit can be found in the separate publications and press releases that Social Welfare Statistics and Consultancy Branch issue.

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Definitions and Conventions - Sections 1 and 2

Key benefits

Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
Incapacity Benefit (IB)
Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA)
Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
Income Support (IS)

Symbols and conventions

Working age is 16 to 64 years for men
16 to 59 years for women
Population estimates are mid year from 1998 to 2002
16-18 year olds in full-time education from 1998/99 to
2002/03
"." not applicable

Tax Credits

Child Tax Credit (CTC)

Statistical group

Claimants are assigned to one statistical group in the following order

Unemployed	Claimant in receipt of JSA (including credits)
Sick and Disabled	Claimant in receipt of one or more of IB (including credits), SDA, DLA, IS with a disability premium
Lone Parent	Single people with children on IS and not receiving a disability related premium
Others	IS claimants not in other groups

Family type

This is based mainly on whether the claimant has a partner and dependants for which additional amounts of benefit are payable. These are payable with all benefits except:

JSA (Contribution based only or Credits)	details available for partners, children's details may be incomplete
IB/SDA	details available only for claimants who qualify for a child and/or partner allowance (not payable in all cases)
DLA	no details available

Benefit type

Income replacement	IS, JSA (excluding credits), IB (excluding credits) and SDA
Other	DLA
NI Credits	Through claiming JSA or IB

Benefit entitlement

Contributory benefits	IB, Contribution based JSA
Means tested benefits	IS and Income based JSA
Other benefits	SDA, DLA
NI Credits	Through claiming JSA or IB

Definitions and Conventions - Section 3

Key benefits

Attendance Allowance (AA)
 Incapacity Benefit (IB)
 Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA)
 Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
 Income Support (IS)
 Retirement Pension (RP)

Symbols and conventions

State Pension Age is 65 years and over for men
 60 years and over for women
 Population estimates are mid year from 1998 to 2002
 “.” not applicable

Statistical group

Claimants are assigned to one statistical group in the following order

Sick and/or disabled	Claimant receiving one or more of AA, DLA, IB, SDA or on IS and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - single and aged 60-79 in receipt of a Higher Pensioner Premium (HPP) due to disability; - in a residential care or nursing home; - sick days being recorded; - hospitalised cases or an RP claimant and - in hospital - receiving Invalidity Allowance (IVA)
Non Disabled IS	IS claimants not included in the sick and/or disabled category
RP only	RP claimant not in other statistical groups above.

Note that the statistical groups refer only to SSA benefits. The majority of claimants within the RP only statistical group will also be receiving income from other sources e.g. occupational pensions and investments.

Benefit Combinations

Statistical group	Description
Sick and/or Disabled	1 AA or DLA
	2 IB or SDA
	3 One of AA or DLA and one of IB or SDA
	4 IS only (disability related higher pensioner premium) or IS with one or more of AA, DLA, IB and SDA
	5 RP only (receiving IVA or in hospital)
	6 RP and one of AA or DLA
	7 RP and IS
	8 RP and IS and one of AA or DLA
Non Disabled IS	9 IS claimants not in sick and disabled statistical group
RP Only	10 Receiving RP only and not in other statistical group

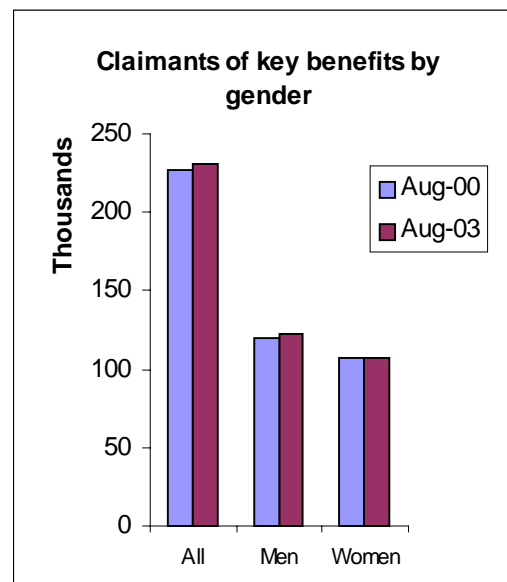
Section 1: Persons of Working Age on Key Benefits

1.1 Age and Gender

**Table 1.1.1 Claimants of key benefits by gender:
August 2000 to August 2003**

	Aug-00	Aug-01	Aug-02	Aug-03
All	227,660	226,900	226,980	230,760
% of pop¹	22	22	22	22
Men	120,320	118,520	119,840	123,020
% of pop ¹	23	22	22	23
Women	107,340	108,380	107,140	107,740
% of pop ¹	22	22	21	21

¹ Population of working age in Northern Ireland - see Methodology



- In August 2003 about 22% (230,760) of people of working age claimed a key benefit – unchanged from 22% (227,660) in August 2000.
- About 123 thousand men of working age claimed a benefit, compared with 108 thousand women. Some of that difference was due to differences in retirement age and because men normally claim a means tested benefit on behalf of a couple.
- The overall number of claimants rose by over 3 thousand between August 2000 and August 2003. This rise can mostly be accounted for by the rise in the number of male claimants - up from 120 thousand in August 2000.
- Older people were more likely to be claiming benefits. In 2003, 34% of those aged 55 to 59 claimed a benefit compared to 18% of those aged 18 to 24.
- Six age groups have increased in size since August 2000. The greatest increase was in the 35 to 44 group (up by 3,680). The only age group to decrease in size was the 25 to 34 age group which fell by 6,180.

Table 1.1.2 Claimants of key benefits by age and gender: August 2003

	All		Men		Women	
		% of pop in age group		% of pop in age group		% of pop in age group
All	230,760	22	123,020	23	107,740	21
Under 18	2,300	4	1,080	4	1,220	5
18 to 24	29,440	18	14,560	18	14,880	19
25 to 34	41,960	18	19,380	17	22,580	19
35 to 44	54,600	22	26,460	21	28,140	22
45 to 54	52,580	26	26,800	26	25,780	25
55 to 59	31,760	34	16,620	37	15,140	32
60 to 64	18,120	50	18,120	50	.	.

Table 1.1.3 Claimants of key benefits by age: August 2000 to August 2003

	Aug-00		Aug-01		Aug-02		Aug-03	
		% of pop in age group ¹		% of pop in age group ¹		% of pop in age group ¹		% of pop in age group
All	227,660	22	226,900	22	226,980	22	230,760	22
Under 18	1,780	3	1,700	3	2,100	4	2,300	4
18 to 24	29,160	19	28,560	18	28,760	18	29,440	18
25 to 34	48,140	19	45,860	19	43,780	18	41,960	18
35 to 44	50,920	21	51,780	21	52,040	21	54,600	22
45 to 54	50,480	25	51,200	25	51,540	25	52,580	26
55 to 59	29,760	34	30,560	34	31,320	34	31,760	34
60 to 64	17,420	49	17,240	49	17,440	48	18,120	50

¹ See Methodology

Table 1.1.4 Claimants of key benefits by age and gender: August 2000 and August 2003

	Men				Women			
	Aug-00	% of pop in age group ¹	Aug-03	% of pop in age group	Aug-00	% of pop in age group ¹	Aug-03	% of pop in age group
All	120,320	23	123,020	23	107,340	22	107,740	21
Under 18	860	3	1,080	4	920	4	1,220	5
18 to 24	13,880	18	14,560	18	15,280	20	14,880	19
25 to 34	21,060	17	19,380	17	27,080	22	22,580	19
35 to 44	25,080	21	26,460	21	25,840	21	28,140	22
45 to 54	26,540	27	26,800	26	23,940	24	25,780	25
55 to 59	15,480	37	16,620	37	14,280	32	15,140	32
60 to 64	17,420	49	18,120	50

¹ See Methodology

1.2 Family Type

This section contains analyses of the type of family in which claimants live. Family type was assigned according to whether the claimant had a partner and/or children. It was not possible to assign a family type in every case (Not known).

Table 1.2.1 Claimants of key benefits by family type¹ and gender: August 2003

	All	%	Men	%	Women	%
All	230,760	100	123,020	100	107,740	100
All couples	43,920	19	26,880	22	17,040	16
Couple - no children	11,880	5	10,160	8	1,720	2
Couple - children	32,040	14	16,720	14	15,320	14
All single	124,840	54	58,500	48	66,340	62
Single - no children	82,340	36	55,340	45	27,000	25
Single - children	42,500	18	3,160	3	39,340	37
Not known	62,000	27	37,640	31	24,360	23

¹ See Methodology for further details

- 124,840 claimants were single in August 2003.
- 32% (74,540) of claimants had children. The majority of claimants with children (42,500) were single.
- **The methodology used to assign information about children's details has been revised following the introduction of CTC in April 2003. Comparisons of family type and comparisons over time are affected by these changes. Please see Methodology for further details.**

Claimants of key benefits by family type and gender: August 2003

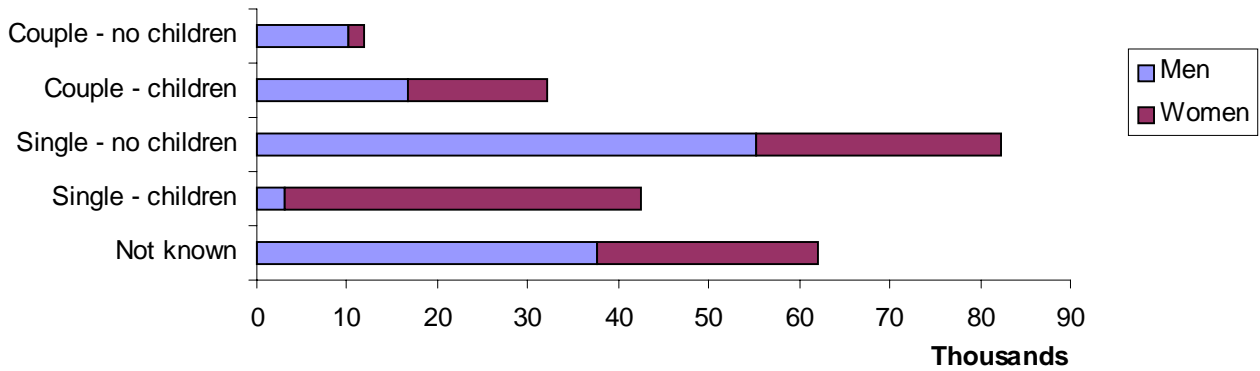


Table 1.2.2 Claimants of key benefits by family type¹: August 2000 to August 2003

	Aug-00		Aug-01		Aug-02		Aug-03	
	All	%	All	%	All	%	All	%
All	227,660	100	226,900	100	226,980	100	230,760	100
All couples	39,440	17	37,760	17	37,820	17	43,920	19
Couple - no children	10,680	5	11,240	5	11,800	5	11,880	5
Couple - children	28,760	13	26,520	12	26,020	11	32,040	14
All single	124,820	55	125,100	55	123,640	54	124,840	54
Single - no children	81,120	36	80,400	35	79,980	35	82,340	36
Single - children	43,700	19	44,700	20	43,660	19	42,500	18
Not known	63,400	28	64,040	28	65,520	29	62,000	27

¹ See Methodology for further details

Table 1.2.3 Claimants of key benefits by family type¹ and statistical group: August 2003

	All	Unemployed	Sick & Disabled	Lone Parent	Other
All	230,760	36,800	153,280	28,660	12,020
All couples	43,920	5,020	35,540	.	3,360
Couple - no children	11,880	1,640	8,420	.	1,820
Couple - children	32,040	3,380	27,120	.	1,540
All single	124,840	31,780	55,740	28,660	8,660
Single - no children	82,340	30,040	43,640	.	8,660
Single - children	42,500	1,740	12,100	28,660	.
Not known	62,000	.	62,000	.	.

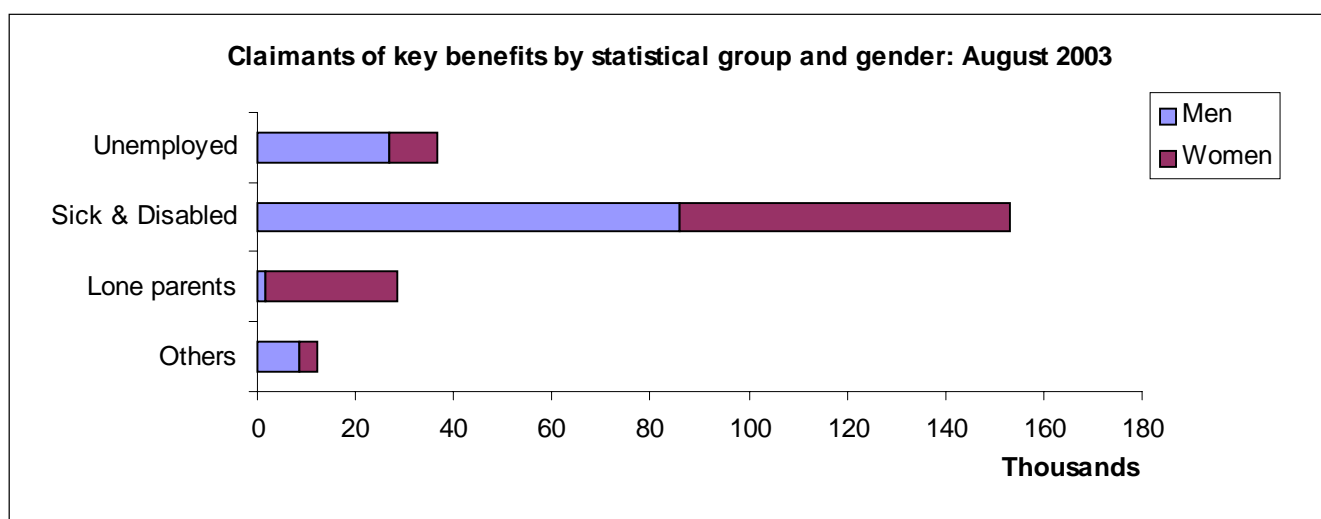
¹ See Methodology for further details

1.3 Statistical group and transitions

The claimants of key benefits were divided into statistical groups, based mainly on the type of benefit they received (see 'Definitions and Conventions'). This gave an indication of the main reason why they were in the benefit system.

Table 1.3.1 Claimants of key benefits by statistical group and gender: August 2003

	All	Men	Women
All	230,760	123,020	107,740
Unemployed	36,800	27,060	9,740
Sick & Disabled	153,280	85,840	67,440
Lone parents	28,660	1,520	27,140
Others	12,020	8,600	3,420



- The overall numbers rose by 3,100 between August 2000 and August 2003, mostly because of the sick and disabled group which rose by 13,740 (10%) over this period.
- In August 2003, 4% (36,800) of people of working age were classed as unemployed - unchanged from 4% (42,280) in August 2000.
- Sick & disabled claimants were consistently the largest group between August 2000 and August 2003, rising from 61% of the total to 66% of the total; unemployed claimants were the second largest group.
- The size of the sick & disabled group rose by 13,740 (10%) between August 2000 and August 2003, whilst numbers in the lone parents group fell by 3,540 (11%) over the same period.

Table 1.3.2 Claimants of key benefits by statistical group: August 2000 to August 2003

	Aug-00		Aug-01		Aug-02		Aug-03	
	All	% of pop ¹	All	% of pop ¹	All	% of pop ¹	All	% of pop ¹
All	227,660	22	226,900	22	226,980	22	230,760	22
Unemployed	42,820	4	39,620	4	36,500	4	36,800	4
Sick & Disabled	139,540	14	143,940	14	148,460	14	153,280	15
Lone parents	32,200	3	31,360	3	29,600	3	28,660	3
Others	13,100	1	11,980	1	12,420	1	12,020	1

¹ Population of working age in Northern Ireland - see Methodology

These statistical group analyses showed the stock of claimants on key benefits at a fixed point in time at the end of each quarter. An indication of how people moved in and out of the benefit system was obtained by comparing records for the individual claimants who appeared in these “snapshots” over time. The analyses also looked at how people moved between benefits and/or statistical group. This methodology did not cover all flows into and out of the benefit system. For example, it missed claims that started and ended between “snapshot” dates and did not capture changes in benefit for couples where the partner became the claimant. (See ‘Methodology’ for further details).

Table 1.3.3 Claimants of key benefits by status in previous year: August 2000 to August 2003

	<u>On benefit in current year - status in previous year¹</u>				Left benefit since previous year ²
	All	Same statistical group	Different statistical group	Not on benefit	
Aug-00	227,660
Aug-01	226,900	171,860	14,820	40,220	40,980
Aug-02	226,980	171,460	14,320	41,200	41,120
Aug-03	230,760	175,220	13,820	41,720	37,940

¹ Some claimants may have left benefit and then returned to it between years

² Includes a small number of claimants who will have remained on benefit but reached state pension age

- There was an increase of 3,780 claimants between August 2002 and August 2003. The increase was due to the number of people joining benefit exceeding the number of people who had left benefit. For example, 37,940 claimants on benefit in August 2002 were no longer on benefit in August 2003 whilst 41,720 of claimants in August 2003 were not on benefit in August 2002.
- The numbers in each statistical group were also affected by movements between them. For example, 13,820 claimants who were on benefit in both August 2002 and August 2003 changed statistical group over this period.

- The numbers in the individual statistical groups were affected by movements both on and off benefit and also between the groups. For example, the overall number of unemployed claimants rose by 300 between August 2002 and August 2003. The number of claimants who moved out of that group (5,240) exceeded those who moved in from another group (3,400) – a reduction of 1,840. Also, the number of new claimants who joined the group (18,600) exceeded those who left benefit from that group (16,460) – an increase of 2,140. When combined those figures gave a total increase of 300.

Table 1.3.4 Claimants of key benefits - changes between August 2002 and August 2003

Statistical group	All on benefit in August-02	Movement between August-02 and August-03			Overall change ²	All on benefit in August-03
		Outflow Not on benefit in August-03	Inflow Not on benefit in August-02	Net movement between Statistical groups ¹		
All	226,980	37,940	41,720	0	3,780	230,760
Unemployed	36,500	16,460	18,600	-1,840	300	36,800
Sick & Disabled	148,460	15,860	17,540	3,140	4,820	153,280
Lone parents	29,600	4,020	3,940	-860	-940	28,660
Others	12,420	1,600	1,640	-440	-400	12,020

¹ Numbers coming into statistical group less numbers moving out - see bottom half of table 1.3.5 for breakdown

² Overall change between August 2002 and August 2003 ie column 3 minus column 2 plus column 4

Table 1.3.5 Claimants of key benefits in both August 2002 and August 2003 - comparisons of statistical group

Comparison of statistical groups in 2002 and 2003 ¹	Statistical group in August 2003				
	All	Unemployed	Sick & Disabled	Lone parent	Other
All	189,040	18,200	135,740	24,720	10,380
Statistical group in August 2002					
Unemployed	20,040	14,800	4,080	300	860
Sick & Disabled	132,600	2,560	128,480	540	1,020
Lone parents	25,580	300	1,560	23,580	140
Others	10,820	540	1,620	300	8,360
2002 and 2003					
Total with no change	175,220	14,800	128,480	23,580	8,360
Leaving original statistical group	-13,820	-5,240	-4,120	-2,000	-2,460
Joining new statistical group	13,820	3,400	7,260	1,140	2,020
Net movement between statistical groups	0	-1,840	3,140	-860	-440

¹ For example there were 20,040 claimants in the Unemployed group in August 2002 who were also on benefit in August 2003: of these, 14,800 were still in this group, 4,080 were now in the Sick & Disabled group, 300 in the Lone parent group, etc.

These analyses also looked at changes over longer time periods, as well as comparisons over the latest year. Tables 1.3.6 and 1.3.7 compared the status of the stock of claimants in August 2000 with that in August 2003.

Table 1.3.6 Claimants of key benefits in August 2003 - by status in August 2000

Benefit status in August 2003	All on benefit in August 2003	Benefit status in August 2000		
		Not on benefit	Same statistical group	Different statistical group
All	230,760	71,540	137,360	21,860
Unemployed	36,800	22,180	11,000	3,620
Sick & Disabled	153,280	38,000	102,460	12,820
Lone Parents	28,660	8,100	18,720	1,840
Others	12,020	3,260	5,180	3,580

- Around 69% (159,220) of key benefit claimants in August 2003 were also on benefit in August 2000; 60% of the overall total were in the same statistical group.
- Claimants in the sick & disabled group in August 2003 were the most likely to have also been on benefit in August 2000 (75% of them - 115,280), followed by claimants in the others group (73% – 8,760) and the lone parents group (72% – 20,560) – those in the unemployed group (40% – 14,620) were least likely. Claimants in the sick & disabled group were also the most likely to have stayed in the same statistical group (67% – 102,460).

Table 1.3.7 Claimants of key benefits in August 2000 - by status in August 2003

Benefit status in August 2000	All on benefit in August 2000	Benefit status in August 2003			
		Reached state pension age ¹	Not on benefit	Same statistical group	Different statistical group
All	227,660	18,960	49,480	137,360	21,860
Unemployed	42,820	600	21,680	11,000	9,540
Sick & Disabled	139,540	16,000	16,400	102,460	4,680
Lone Parents	32,200	80	8,880	18,720	4,520
Others	13,100	2,280	2,520	5,180	3,120

¹ Some of these claimants may also have left benefit

1.4 Benefit Entitlement

These analyses can give an indication of the level of support that claimants receive from the benefit system. Some benefits are designed to be a claimant's main source of income. There are also benefits for special needs, such as disability, which are not linked to financial circumstances. It is also possible to see whether claimants qualified for benefit through National Insurance contributions, a means test or by another route. Many of those in the sick and disabled group received more than one benefit.

Table 1.4.1 Claimants of key benefits by statistical group and type of benefit: August 2003

	All	Income replacement benefits ¹	Other benefits only ²	NI Credits ³
All	230,760	202,780	21,800	6,180
Unemployed	36,800	33,740	.	3,060
Sick & Disabled	153,280	128,360	21,800	3,120
Lone parents	28,660	28,660	.	.
Others	12,020	12,020	.	.

¹ Income replacement benefits are JSA (excluding credits), IS, IB (excluding credits), SDA

² Other is DLA

³ NI Credits includes JSA credits only, JSA credits and IB credits, JSA credits with DLA, IB credits only

- In August 2003, 202,780 claimants received an income replacement benefit, down from 203,960 in August 2000.
- In August 2003, 61,520 claimants received only a contributory benefit.
- 138,540 claimants received a benefit that was means tested in August 2003. Of those 120,060 claimants received a benefit that was means tested whilst 18,480 claimants in receipt of a means tested benefit also received or satisfied the qualifying conditions for a contributory benefit.

Table 1.4.2 Claimants of key benefits by type of benefit: August 2000 to August 2003

	All	Benefit type		NI Credits ³
		Income replacement benefits ¹	Other benefits only ²	
Aug-00	227,660	203,960	18,000	5,700
Aug-01	226,900	202,060	19,040	5,800
Aug-02	226,980	199,920	20,660	6,400
Aug-03	230,760	202,780	21,800	6,180

¹ Income replacement benefits are JSA (excluding credits), IS, IB (excluding credits), SDA

² Other is DLA

³ NI Credits includes JSA credits only, JSA credits and IB credits, JSA credits with DLA, IB credits only

Table 1.4.3 Claimants of key benefits by statistical group and main basis of entitlement: August 2003

	Basis of benefit entitlement					
	All	Contributory ¹	Contributory and means tested ²	Means tested ³	Other ⁴	NI Credits ⁵
All	230,760	61,520	18,480	120,060	24,520	6,180
Unemployed	36,800	6,040	500	27,200	.	3,060
Sick & Disabled	153,280	55,480	17,980	52,180	24,520	3,120
Lone Parents	28,660	.	.	28,660	.	.
Others	12,020	.	.	12,020	.	.

¹ Contributory benefits are contribution-based JSA, IB and not with IS

² Contributory and means tested includes JSA claimants who receive income based benefit but who also satisfy the conditions for receiving contribution-based JSA, IB with IS

³ Means tested benefits are income based JSA, IS

⁴ Other benefits are SDA, DLA

⁵ NI Credits includes JSA credits only, JSA credits and IB credits, JSA credits with DLA, IB credits only

Table 1.4.4 Claimants of key benefits by main basis of entitlement: August 2000 to August 2003

	Basis of benefit entitlement					
	All	Contributory ¹	Contributory and means tested ²	Means tested ³	Other ⁴	NI Credits ⁵
Aug-00	227,660	59,480	15,700	125,160	21,620	5,700
Aug-01	226,900	59,220	16,880	122,440	22,560	5,800
Aug-02	226,980	60,120	17,340	119,500	23,620	6,400
Aug-03	230,760	61,520	18,480	120,060	24,520	6,180

¹ Contributory benefits are contribution-based JSA, IB and not with IS

² Contributory and means tested includes JSA claimants who receive income based benefit but who also satisfy the conditions for receiving contribution-based JSA, IB with IS

³ Means tested benefits are income based JSA, IS

⁴ Other benefits are SDA, DLA

⁵ NI Credits includes JSA credits only, JSA credits and IB credits, JSA credits with DLA, IB credits only

Table 1.4.5 Claimants of sickness and/or disability benefits by combinations of benefits: August 2003

	All	Type of benefit				
		IB Payment	IB Credits	SDA	Income Support	DLA
All sick and disabled	153,280	73,460	36,080	11,520	70,160	95,280
Single benefit only	57,100	29,560	3,120	300	4,420	19,700
Two or more benefits of which¹	96,180	43,900	32,960	11,220	65,740	75,580
Incapacity Benefit payment	43,900	43,900	.	.	17,980	39,060
Incapacity Benefit credits	32,960	.	32,960	.	30,860	17,940
Severe Disablement Allowance	11,220	.	.	11,220	8,800	10,480
Income Support	65,740	17,980	30,860	8,800	65,740	45,140
Disability Living Allowance	75,580	39,060	17,940	10,480	45,140	75,580

¹ Claimants with three or more benefits in payment are counted in each combination - therefore numbers by each combination of benefit exceed the overall total

- Around 63% (96,180) of sick & disabled claimants received more than one key benefit in August 2003. The main combinations included IB payments and DLA (39,060) and IS and DLA (45,140).

Table 1.4.6 Claimants of sickness and/or disability benefits by type of benefit: August 2000 to August 2003

	Aug-00		Aug-01		Aug-02		Aug-03	
	All	%	All	%	All	%	All	%
All sick and disabled	139,540	100	143,940	100	148,460	100	153,280	100
Incapacity Only ¹	53,880	39	54,320	38	56,440	38	58,000	38
Incapacity and Disability	69,060	49	72,060	50	73,140	49	75,580	49
Disability Only ²	16,600	12	17,560	12	18,880	13	19,700	13

¹ Incapacity benefits include IB payments, IB credits, IS on grounds of sickness and SDA

² Disability benefit is DLA. Some of these claimants may also be working.

1.5 Duration on benefit

These analyses show the length of time for which claimants have been receiving their current benefit. In many instances this will be the same as the length of time for which they have been in the benefits system, but a significant minority August have been receiving a different benefit immediately prior to their current claim. For those who received multiple benefits, duration was based on the one they had received for the longest time.

Table 1.5.1 Claimants of key benefits by statistical group and duration of claim: August 2003

	All	Duration of oldest claim ¹				
		Under 3 months	3 to under 6 months	6 months to under 1 year	1 year to under 2 years	2 years or over
All	230,760	20,980	15,000	22,820	30,040	141,920
Unemployed	36,800	14,200	6,140	6,180	4,940	5,340
Sick & Disabled	153,280	5,040	6,040	12,900	19,620	109,680
Lone parents	28,660	940	1,900	2,420	3,780	19,620
Others	12,020	800	920	1,320	1,700	7,280

¹ Oldest benefit payable during current spell of benefit receipt

- Around 62% (141,920) of the claimants in August 2003 had been receiving a key benefit for 2 years or more.
- Of those longer duration claimants 77% (109,680) were in the sick & disabled group. That group was therefore more likely to have been on benefit for longer periods than all the others – 72% had been on benefits for 2 years or more compared with only 15% of those in the unemployed group.

Table 1.5.2 Claimants of key benefits by gender and duration of claim: August 2003

	All	Duration of oldest claim ¹				
		Under 3 months	3 to under 6 months	6 months to under 1 year	1 year to under 2 years	2 years or over
All	230,760	20,980	15,000	22,820	30,040	141,920
%	100	9	7	10	13	62
Men	123,020	13,120	8,640	13,060	16,600	71,600
%	100	11	7	11	13	58
Women	107,740	7,860	6,360	9,760	13,440	70,320
%	100	7	6	9	12	65

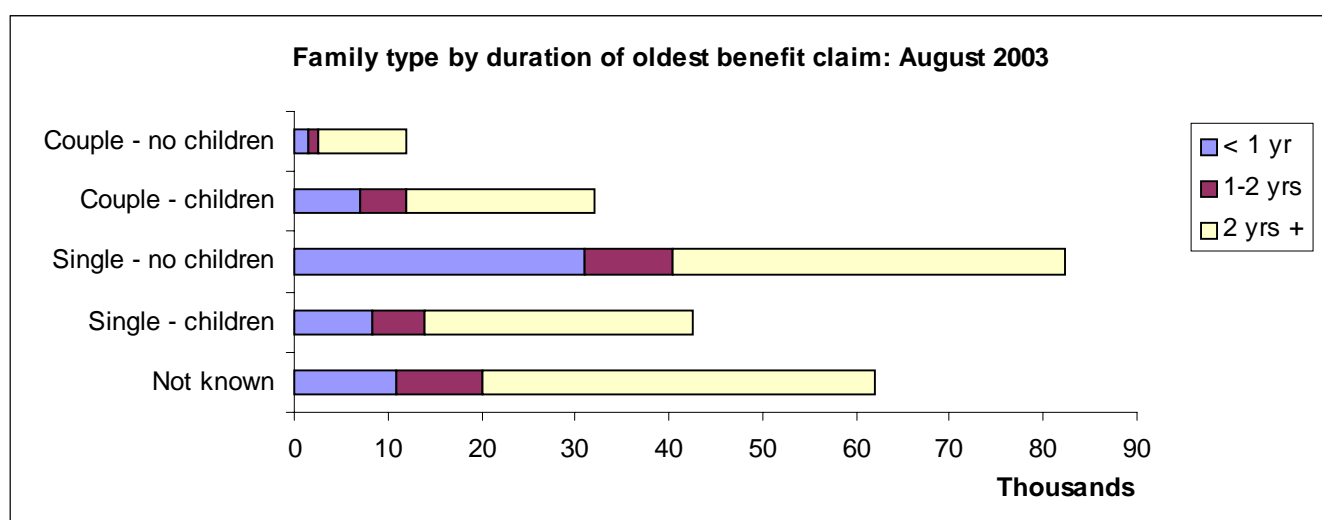
¹ Oldest benefit payable during current spell of benefit receipt

Table 1.5.3 Claimants of key benefits by family type and duration of claim: August 2003

	All	Duration of oldest claim ¹				
		Under 3 months	3 to under 6 months	6 months to under 1 year	1 year to under 2 years	2 years or over
All	230,760	20,980	15,000	22,820	30,040	141,920
All Couples	43,920	2,200	2,100	4,180	5,960	29,480
Couple - no children	11,880	360	300	780	1,100	9,340
Couple - children	32,040	1,840	1,800	3,400	4,860	20,140
All single	124,840	16,260	10,100	13,020	14,920	70,540
Single - no children	82,340	14,180	7,460	9,380	9,480	41,840
Single - children	42,500	2,080	2,640	3,640	5,440	28,700
Not known	62,000	2,520	2,800	5,620	9,160	41,900

¹ Oldest benefit payable during current spell of benefit receipt

- Around 68% of single people with children/young adult dependants had been on benefit for 2 years or more compared with 63% of couples with children.
- **The methodology used to assign information about children's details has been revised following the introduction of CTC in April 2003. Comparisons of family type and comparisons over time are affected by these changes. Please see Methodology for further details.**



1.6 Claimants with children and young dependants aged under 19

These analyses show the number of claimants who have children under 16 and/or young dependants aged 16 to 18.

Table 1.6.1 Claimants of key benefits with children and/or young adult dependants¹ by statistical group: August 2003

	All	All with children	Age of youngest child/dependant ³				Not known ²
			Under 5	5 to under 11	11 to under 16	16 or over	
All	230,760	75,760	26,100	23,920	17,240	7,140	1,360
Unemployed	36,800	5,120	1,760	1,240	1,120	1,000	.
Sick & Disabled	153,280	40,440	10,960	11,660	10,960	5,500	1,360
Lone parents	28,660	28,660	12,840	10,520	4,780	520	.
Others	12,020	1,540	540	500	380	120	.

¹ Children aged under 16 and young adults aged 16 to 18

² Children whose ages are not known

³ The method used to assign children's details has been revised - see methodology for further details.

- In August 2003, 75,760 claimants of key benefits had children and/or young dependants.
- 34% (26,100) of claimants with children had a youngest child aged under 5. The majority of the under 5s were children of lone parents.
- **The methodology used to assign information about children's details has been revised following the introduction of CTC in April 2003.**

1.7 Children and young dependants aged under 19

These analyses show the number of children under 16 and young dependants aged 16 to 18 living with claimants of key benefits.

Table 1.7.1 Children¹ of claimants of key benefits by age of child, statistical group and family type: August 2003

	Children aged under 16 years ²³					Young dependants aged 16 to 18 years ³				
	All	Family type				All	% of all aged 16 to 18 yrs in full-time education	Family type		
		% of all aged under 16 yrs	Couple	Single	Not known			Couple	Single	Not known
All	130,380	33	56,700	71,440	2,240	20,260	45	11,380	8,880	.
Unemployed	8,660	2	6,700	1,960	.	2,100	5	1,160	940	.
Sick & Disabled	67,020	17	46,840	17,940	2,240	13,680	30	9,780	3,900	.
Lone Parents	51,540	13	.	51,540	.	4,040	9	.	4,040	.
Others	3,160	1	3,160	0	.	440	1	440	0	.

¹ Children aged under 16 and young adults aged 16 - 18

² Includes a small percentage of children whose age is not known

³ The method used to assign children's details has been revised - see methodology for further details

- In August 2003, 130,380 children under the age of 16 were living in families in which a key benefit was claimed.
- The majority of these children 71,440 were living in single parent families.
- 20,260 young people aged 16 -18 (45% of all 16 - 18 year olds in full-time education) were living in families with a key benefit claimant.
- 25% of all young people aged 16 - 18 were living with key benefit claimants in August 2003.
- **The methodology used to assign information about children's details has been revised following the introduction of CTC in April 2003.**

1.8 Regional Analysis

These analyses show the number of working age claimants of key benefits in each Government Office Region and in each District Council within Northern Ireland.

Table 1.8.1 Claimants of key benefits by gender and Government Office Region: August 2003

	Thousands					
	All		Men		Women	
	(000s)	% of pop ¹	(000s)	% of pop ¹	(000s)	% of pop ¹
Great Britain	4,934	14	2,563	14	2,372	14
England	4,050	13	2,093	13	1,957	13
North East	304	20	163	21	141	19
North West	730	18	386	18	344	17
Yorkshire & Humberside	450	15	241	15	209	14
East Midlands	328	13	170	13	158	13
West Midlands	472	15	248	15	224	15
East	327	10	161	9	166	10
London	693	14	340	14	353	15
South East	430	9	215	8	214	9
South West	317	11	168	11	149	11
Wales	330	19	174	19	157	18
Scotland	554	18	296	18	258	17
Northern Ireland	231	22	123	23	108	21
IB/SDA claimants living abroad ²	11	.	7	.	4	.

¹ Population of working age

² Great Britain claimants only, a figure for Northern Ireland claimants was not available

- The proportion of the working age population claiming a benefit ranges from 9% in South East England to 22% in Northern Ireland.
- The proportion of the working age population claiming a benefit ranges from 14% (North Down) to 32% (Derry and Strabane).
- The district councils with the greatest proportion of working age claimants in the sick & disabled group were Cookstown and Strabane (20%), followed by Derry and Dungannon (19%). The district council with the lowest proportion was North Down (9%).
- The proportion of the working age population in the unemployed group ranged from 7% (Strabane) to 1% (Cookstown).

Table 1.8.2 Claimants of key benefits by gender and District Council: August 2003

	All		Men		Women	
		% of pop ¹		% of pop ¹		% of pop ¹
Northern Ireland	230,760	22	123,020	23	107,740	21
Ards	7,300	16	3,600	15	3,700	17
Belfast	49,960	30	27,540	33	22,420	26
Castlereagh	5,940	15	3,360	17	2,580	13
Down	7,540	19	4,420	21	3,120	17
Lisburn	12,380	18	6,060	18	6,320	19
North Down	6,420	14	3,720	15	2,700	12
Antrim	5,560	18	2,900	18	2,660	18
Ballymena	5,620	16	3,040	16	2,580	15
Ballymoney	3,060	18	1,740	20	1,320	17
Carrickfergus	3,920	17	1,860	15	2,060	18
Coleraine	6,420	19	3,420	20	3,000	18
Cookstown	4,960	25	2,660	25	2,300	24
Larne	3,440	18	1,800	18	1,640	18
Magherafelt	4,420	18	2,160	17	2,260	19
Moyle	2,300	24	1,320	26	980	21
Newtownabbey	8,780	18	4,500	18	4,280	18
Armagh	6,100	18	3,480	20	2,620	17
Banbridge	4,220	16	2,020	15	2,200	18
Craigavon	12,200	25	5,860	23	6,340	26
Dungannon	7,260	25	3,920	26	3,340	24
Newry & Mourne	13,180	25	7,320	27	5,860	23
Derry	21,140	32	10,700	32	10,440	32
Fermanagh	7,620	22	4,240	23	3,380	20
Limavady	4,540	22	2,260	20	2,280	24
Omagh	7,100	24	4,020	25	3,080	22
Strabane	7,380	32	4,180	34	3,200	29
Unknown	2,000	.	920	.	1,080	.

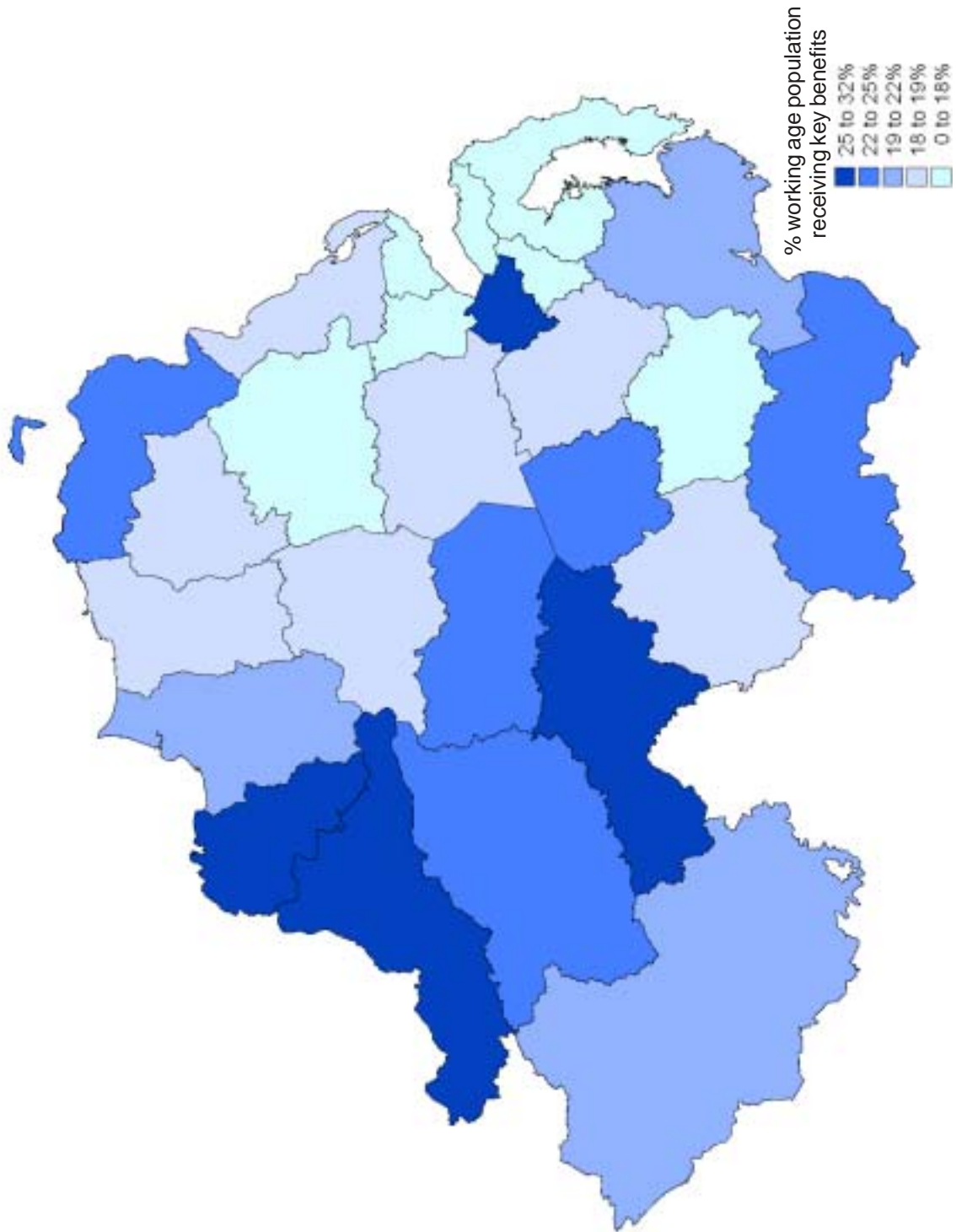
¹ Population of working age in Northern Ireland

**Table 1.8.3 Claimants of key benefits by statistical group and District Council:
August 2003**

		Statistical group				
		All	Unemployed	Sick & Disabled	Lone parents	Others
Northern Ireland		230,760	36,800	153,280	28,660	12,020
	% of pop ¹	22	4	15	3	1
Ards		7,300	1,080	5,340	700	180
	% of pop ¹	16	2	12	2	0
Belfast		49,960	8,640	30,360	7,560	3,400
	% of pop ¹	30	5	18	5	2
Castlereagh		5,940	1,180	3,900	520	340
	% of pop ¹	15	3	10	1	1
Down		7,540	1,140	5,060	960	380
	% of pop ¹	19	3	13	2	1
Lisburn		12,380	1,780	8,320	1,900	380
	% of pop ¹	18	3	12	3	1
North Down		6,420	1,460	4,280	520	160
	% of pop ¹	14	3	9	1	0
Antrim		5,560	760	4,040	620	140
	% of pop ¹	18	2	13	2	0
Ballymena		5,620	740	4,020	660	200
	% of pop ¹	16	2	11	2	1
Ballymoney		3,060	420	2,080	400	160
	% of pop ¹	18	3	12	2	1
Carrickfergus		3,920	480	2,800	500	140
	% of pop ¹	17	2	12	2	1
Coleraine		6,420	1,300	3,760	940	420
	% of pop ¹	19	4	11	3	1
Cookstown		4,960	300	3,940	460	260
	% of pop ¹	25	1	20	2	1
Larne		3,440	480	2,480	320	160
	% of pop ¹	18	3	13	2	1
Magherafelt		4,420	580	3,080	480	280
	% of pop ¹	18	2	13	2	1
Moyle		2,300	440	1,220	400	240
	% of pop ¹	24	5	13	4	2
Newtownabbey		8,780	1,200	6,200	1,160	220
	% of pop ¹	18	2	13	2	0
Armagh		6,100	1,060	4,380	500	160
	% of pop ¹	18	3	13	1	0
Banbridge		4,220	580	3,120	380	140
	% of pop ¹	16	2	12	1	1
Craigavon		12,200	1,440	8,860	1,140	760
	% of pop ¹	25	3	18	2	2
Dungannon		7,260	560	5,460	820	420
	% of pop ¹	25	2	19	3	1
Newry & Mourne		13,180	2,300	8,800	1,340	740
	% of pop ¹	25	4	17	3	1
Derry		21,140	3,740	12,780	3,420	1,200
	% of pop ¹	32	6	19	5	2
Fermanagh		7,620	1,620	4,840	640	520
	% of pop ¹	22	5	14	2	1
Limavady		4,540	720	3,000	560	260
	% of pop ¹	22	3	14	3	1
Omagh		7,100	980	5,040	740	340
	% of pop ¹	24	3	17	2	1
Strabane		7,380	1,580	4,640	820	340
	% of pop ¹	32	7	20	4	1
Unknown		2,000	240	1,480	200	80

¹ Population of working age of Northern Ireland

Percentage of the working age population claiming a key benefit by District Council: August 2003



1.9 Quarterly Tables

1.9.1 Age and Gender

Table 1.9.1A Claimants of key benefits by gender

		All	% Pop ¹	Men	% Pop ¹	Women	% Pop ¹
1998	Feb	235,780	23	131,220	25	104,560	21
	May	232,760	23	128,960	25	103,800	21
	Aug	240,080	24	130,500	25	109,580	22
	Nov	232,160	23	127,600	25	104,560	21
1999	Feb	233,060	23	128,120	25	104,940	21
	May	228,620	23	124,680	24	103,940	21
	Aug	231,740	23	123,540	24	108,200	22
	Nov	224,120	22	119,920	23	104,200	21
2000	Feb	223,500	22	119,880	23	103,620	21
	May	222,540	22	117,900	23	104,640	21
	Aug	227,660	22	120,320	23	107,340	22
	Nov	223,380	22	118,260	23	105,120	21
2001	Feb	226,720	22	120,860	23	105,860	21
	May	223,680	22	118,640	23	105,040	21
	Aug	226,900	22	118,520	22	108,380	22
	Nov	222,740	22	117,680	22	105,060	21
2002	Feb	224,700	22	118,900	22	105,800	21
	May	222,700	21	117,800	22	104,900	21
	Aug	226,980	22	119,840	22	107,140	21
	Nov	223,480	22	119,640	22	103,840	21
2003	Feb	227,200	22	122,340	23	104,860	21
	May	226,260	22	121,040	23	105,220	21
	Aug	230,760	22	123,020	23	107,740	21

¹ Population of working age in Northern Ireland - see Methodology

Table 1.9.1B Claimants of key benefits by gender - Annual changes August 1999 to August 2003

	All	%	Men	%	Women	%
August 00 / August 99	-4,080	-2	-3,220	-3	-860	-1
August 01 / August 00	-760	0	-1,800	-1	1,040	1
August 02 / August 01	80	0	1,320	1	-1,240	-1
August 03 / August 02	3,780	2	3,180	3	600	1

Table 1.9.1C All claimants of key benefits by age

		All	Under 18	18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 59	60 to 64
1998	Feb	235,780	1,960	30,600	54,980	50,080	51,180	29,160	17,820
	May	232,760	1,560	29,540	53,640	49,700	50,740	29,640	17,940
	Aug	240,080	1,860	33,980	54,200	51,840	51,140	29,460	17,600
	Nov	232,160	1,580	27,480	53,340	52,400	50,840	29,300	17,220
1999	Feb	233,060	1,680	31,000	55,300	48,300	49,560	29,940	17,280
	May	228,620	1,600	27,080	51,240	51,060	50,160	30,020	17,460
	Aug	231,740	1,620	29,100	51,220	52,000	50,500	29,820	17,480
	Nov	224,120	1,680	26,960	47,900	50,360	50,120	29,580	17,520
2000	Feb	223,500	1,540	27,120	47,480	50,340	49,600	29,960	17,460
	May	222,540	1,760	26,420	47,000	49,980	50,100	29,800	17,480
	Aug	227,660	1,780	29,160	48,140	50,920	50,480	29,760	17,420
	Nov	223,380	1,740	25,980	46,260	51,040	50,620	30,100	17,640
2001	Feb	226,720	1,680	27,700	46,600	51,680	50,800	30,660	17,600
	May	223,680	1,760	26,260	46,040	51,200	50,520	30,540	17,360
	Aug	226,900	1,700	28,560	45,860	51,780	51,200	30,560	17,240
	Nov	222,740	1,820	25,980	44,240	51,760	50,800	30,740	17,400
2002	Feb	224,700	1,960	26,760	44,160	52,260	50,880	31,460	17,220
	May	222,700	2,080	25,980	43,160	52,020	50,520	31,620	17,320
	Aug	226,980	2,100	28,760	43,780	52,040	51,540	31,320	17,440
	Nov	223,480	2,220	26,520	41,800	52,320	51,740	31,160	17,720
2003	Feb	227,200	2,180	27,720	42,260	53,340	52,840	31,220	17,640
	May	226,260	2,400	26,500	41,980	53,480	52,800	31,420	17,680
	Aug	230,760	2,300	29,440	41,960	54,600	52,580	31,760	18,120

Table 1.9.1D All claimants of key benefits by age

		Percentages							
		All	Under 18	18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 59	60 to 64
1998	Feb	100	1	13	23	21	22	12	8
	May	100	1	13	23	21	22	13	8
	Aug	100	1	14	23	22	21	12	7
	Nov	100	1	12	23	23	22	13	7
1999	Feb	100	1	13	24	21	21	13	7
	May	100	1	12	22	22	22	13	8
	Aug	100	1	13	22	22	22	13	8
	Nov	100	1	12	21	22	22	13	8
2000	Feb	100	1	12	21	23	22	13	8
	May	100	1	12	21	22	23	13	8
	Aug	100	1	13	21	22	22	13	8
	Nov	100	1	12	21	23	23	13	8
2001	Feb	100	1	12	21	23	22	14	8
	May	100	1	12	21	23	23	14	8
	Aug	100	1	13	20	23	23	13	8
	Nov	100	1	12	20	23	23	14	8
2002	Feb	100	1	12	20	23	23	14	8
	May	100	1	12	19	23	23	14	8
	Aug	100	1	13	19	23	23	14	8
	Nov	100	1	12	19	23	23	14	8
2003	Feb	100	1	12	19	23	23	14	8
	May	100	1	12	19	24	23	14	8
	Aug	100	1	13	18	24	23	14	8

Table 1.9.1E Male claimants of key benefits by age

		All	Under 18	18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 59	60 to 64
1998	Feb	131,220	720	16,160	26,180	26,240	28,280	15,820	17,820
	May	128,960	580	15,320	25,120	26,020	28,000	15,980	17,940
	Aug	130,500	860	17,000	24,900	26,380	27,960	15,800	17,600
	Nov	127,600	640	13,700	24,980	26,780	27,780	16,500	17,220
1999	Feb	128,120	740	16,480	26,580	23,400	26,720	16,920	17,280
	May	124,680	720	13,240	23,360	26,440	27,060	16,400	17,460
	Aug	123,540	720	13,600	22,560	25,980	27,100	16,100	17,480
	Nov	119,920	560	13,060	20,880	25,260	26,860	15,780	17,520
2000	Feb	119,880	520	13,200	20,980	25,240	26,460	16,020	17,460
	May	117,900	780	12,600	20,200	24,600	26,440	15,800	17,480
	Aug	120,320	860	13,880	21,060	25,080	26,540	15,480	17,420
	Nov	118,260	760	11,940	20,460	25,080	26,760	15,620	17,640
2001	Feb	120,860	780	13,040	21,020	25,160	27,080	16,180	17,600
	May	118,640	860	12,600	20,400	24,780	26,820	15,820	17,360
	Aug	118,520	860	13,240	20,000	24,620	26,800	15,760	17,240
	Nov	117,680	940	12,700	19,420	24,720	26,520	15,980	17,400
2002	Feb	118,900	940	13,140	19,960	24,840	26,420	16,380	17,220
	May	117,800	1,000	12,840	19,160	25,260	25,760	16,460	17,320
	Aug	119,840	960	14,080	19,920	24,660	26,220	16,560	17,440
	Nov	119,640	1,080	13,060	19,560	25,320	26,420	16,480	17,720
2003	Feb	122,340	1,040	14,360	19,520	26,100	27,040	16,640	17,640
	May	121,040	1,140	13,360	19,200	25,980	26,820	16,860	17,680
	Aug	123,020	1,080	14,560	19,380	26,460	26,800	16,620	18,120

Table 1.9.1F Female claimants of key benefits by age

		All	Under 18	18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 59	60 to 64
1998	Feb	104,560	1,240	14,440	28,800	23,840	22,900	13,340	.
	May	103,800	980	14,220	28,520	23,680	22,740	13,660	.
	Aug	109,580	1,000	16,980	29,300	25,460	23,180	13,660	.
	Nov	104,560	940	13,780	28,360	25,620	23,060	12,800	.
1999	Feb	104,940	940	14,520	28,720	24,900	22,840	13,020	.
	May	103,940	880	13,840	27,880	24,620	23,100	13,620	.
	Aug	108,200	900	15,500	28,660	26,020	23,400	13,720	.
	Nov	104,200	1,120	13,900	27,020	25,100	23,260	13,800	.
2000	Feb	103,620	1,020	13,920	26,500	25,100	23,140	13,940	.
	May	104,640	980	13,820	26,800	25,380	23,660	14,000	.
	Aug	107,340	920	15,280	27,080	25,840	23,940	14,280	.
	Nov	105,120	980	14,040	25,800	25,960	23,860	14,480	.
2001	Feb	105,860	900	14,660	25,580	26,520	23,720	14,480	.
	May	105,040	900	13,660	25,640	26,420	23,700	14,720	.
	Aug	108,380	840	15,320	25,860	27,160	24,400	14,800	.
	Nov	105,060	880	13,280	24,820	27,040	24,280	14,760	.
2002	Feb	105,800	1,020	13,620	24,200	27,420	24,460	15,080	.
	May	104,900	1,080	13,140	24,000	26,760	24,760	15,160	.
	Aug	107,140	1,140	14,680	23,860	27,380	25,320	14,760	.
	Nov	103,840	1,140	13,460	22,240	27,000	25,320	14,680	.
2003	Feb	104,860	1,140	13,360	22,740	27,240	25,800	14,580	.
	May	105,220	1,260	13,140	22,780	27,500	25,980	14,560	.
	Aug	107,740	1,220	14,880	22,580	28,140	25,780	15,140	.

1.9.2 Family Type

The methodology used to assign information about children's details has been revised following the introduction of CTC in April 2003. Comparisons of family type and comparisons over time are affected by these changes. Please see Methodology for further details.

Table 1.9.2A All claimants of key benefits by family type

		All	Couples		Single			Not known	
			All	No children	With children	All	No children		With children
1998	Feb ¹	235,780	45,060	11,100	33,960	127,860	84,600	43,260	62,860
	May	232,760	44,720	10,720	34,000	124,520	82,540	41,980	63,520
	Aug	240,080	42,740	9,420	33,320	134,360	89,420	44,940	62,980
	Nov	232,160	50,820	17,680	33,140	118,540	76,600	41,940	62,800
1999	Feb ¹	233,060	37,220	17,740	19,480	132,640	77,920	54,720	63,200
	May	228,620	40,440	10,840	29,600	124,080	81,040	43,040	64,100
	Aug	231,740	40,960	10,880	30,080	127,280	83,280	44,000	63,500
	Nov	224,120	38,800	11,000	27,800	121,200	78,640	42,560	64,120
2000	Feb ¹	223,500	27,260	11,060	16,200	133,560	78,900	54,660	62,680
	May	222,540	38,840	11,040	27,800	120,020	77,320	42,700	63,680
	Aug	227,660	39,440	10,680	28,760	124,820	81,120	43,700	63,400
	Nov	223,380	39,140	11,300	27,840	121,100	77,720	43,380	63,140
2001	Feb ¹	226,720	27,080	11,400	15,680	136,620	79,960	56,660	63,020
	May	223,680	37,540	11,360	26,180	121,920	77,860	44,060	64,220
	Aug	226,900	37,760	11,240	26,520	125,100	80,400	44,700	64,040
	Nov	222,740	37,860	11,900	25,960	121,120	78,060	43,060	63,760
2002	Feb	224,700	37,640	11,700	25,940	122,920	79,540	43,380	64,140
	May	222,700	37,300	11,460	25,840	119,440	76,780	42,660	65,960
	Aug	226,980	37,820	11,800	26,020	123,640	79,980	43,660	65,520
	Nov	223,480	36,960	12,100	24,860	120,360	78,140	42,220	66,160
2003	Feb	227,200	37,200	12,040	25,160	123,460	80,980	42,480	66,540
	May	226,260	36,800	11,860	24,940	122,400	79,260	43,140	67,060
	Aug	230,760	43,920	11,880	32,040	124,840	82,340	42,500	62,000

¹ The method used to assign family type has been updated - see Methodology for further details

Table 1.9.2B Male claimants of key benefits by family type

		All	Couples		Single			Not known	
			All	No children	With children	All	No children		With children
1998	Feb ¹	131,220	28,820	10,260	18,560	60,940	58,640	2,300	41,460
	May	128,960	28,280	9,860	18,420	59,600	57,260	2,340	41,080
	Aug	130,500	24,800	8,520	16,280	65,340	61,160	4,180	40,360
	Nov	127,600	32,680	15,180	17,500	54,600	52,300	2,300	40,320
1999	Feb ¹	128,120	32,680	15,200	17,480	55,680	53,240	2,440	39,760
	May	124,680	26,560	9,760	16,800	57,820	55,420	2,400	40,300
	Aug	123,540	25,880	9,720	16,160	57,620	55,280	2,340	40,040
	Nov	119,920	24,560	9,800	14,760	54,980	52,740	2,240	40,380
2000	Feb ¹	119,880	24,160	9,840	14,320	55,520	53,040	2,480	40,200
	May	117,900	23,840	9,800	14,040	54,020	51,700	2,320	40,040
	Aug	120,320	24,040	9,420	14,620	56,620	54,260	2,360	39,660
	Nov	118,260	23,880	10,040	13,840	54,660	52,300	2,360	39,720
2001	Feb ¹	120,860	23,640	10,040	13,600	56,940	54,160	2,780	40,280
	May	118,640	23,340	10,080	13,260	55,440	52,760	2,680	39,860
	Aug	118,520	23,040	10,040	13,000	55,900	53,200	2,700	39,580
	Nov	117,680	22,860	10,580	12,280	55,100	52,480	2,620	39,720
2002	Feb	118,900	22,780	10,340	12,440	56,160	53,460	2,700	39,960
	May	117,800	22,480	10,180	12,300	53,980	51,500	2,480	41,340
	Aug	119,840	22,560	10,400	12,160	55,900	53,340	2,560	41,380
	Nov	119,640	22,460	10,540	11,920	55,720	53,240	2,480	41,460
2003	Feb	122,340	22,460	10,360	12,100	58,000	55,360	2,640	41,880
	May	121,040	22,080	10,180	11,900	56,740	54,080	2,660	42,220
	Aug	123,020	26,880	10,160	16,720	58,500	55,340	3,160	37,640

¹ The method used to assign family type has been updated - see Methodology for further details

Table 1.9.2C Female claimants of key benefits by family type

		All	Couples		Single			Not known	
			All	No children	With children	All	No children		With children
1998	Feb ¹	104,560	16,240	840	15,400	66,920	25,960	40,960	21,400
	May	103,800	16,440	860	15,580	64,920	25,280	39,640	22,440
	Aug	109,580	17,940	900	17,040	69,020	28,260	40,760	22,620
	Nov	104,560	18,140	2,500	15,640	63,940	24,300	39,640	22,480
1999	Feb ¹	104,940	4,540	2,540	2,000	76,960	24,680	52,280	23,440
	May	103,940	13,880	1,080	12,800	66,260	25,620	40,640	23,800
	Aug	108,200	15,080	1,160	13,920	69,660	28,000	41,660	23,460
	Nov	104,200	14,240	1,200	13,040	66,220	25,900	40,320	23,740
2000	Feb ¹	103,620	3,100	1,220	1,880	78,040	25,860	52,180	22,480
	May	104,640	15,000	1,240	13,760	66,000	25,620	40,380	23,640
	Aug	107,340	15,400	1,260	14,140	68,200	26,860	41,340	23,740
	Nov	105,120	15,260	1,260	14,000	66,440	25,420	41,020	23,420
2001	Feb ¹	105,860	3,440	1,360	2,080	79,680	25,800	53,880	22,740
	May	105,040	14,200	1,280	12,920	66,480	25,100	41,380	24,360
	Aug	108,380	14,720	1,200	13,520	69,200	27,200	42,000	24,460
	Nov	105,060	15,000	1,320	13,680	66,020	25,580	40,440	24,040
2002	Feb	105,800	14,860	1,360	13,500	66,760	26,080	40,680	24,180
	May	104,900	14,820	1,280	13,540	65,460	25,280	40,180	24,620
	Aug	107,140	15,260	1,400	13,860	67,740	26,640	41,100	24,140
	Nov	103,840	14,500	1,560	12,940	64,640	24,900	39,740	24,700
2003	Feb	104,860	14,740	1,680	13,060	65,460	25,620	39,840	24,660
	May	105,220	14,720	1,680	13,040	65,660	25,180	40,480	24,840
	Aug	107,740	17,040	1,720	15,320	66,340	27,000	39,340	24,360

¹ The method used to assign family type has been updated - see Methodology for further details

1.9.3 Statistical group

Table 1.9.3A All claimants of key benefits by statistical group

		All	Unemployed	Sick & Disabled	Lone Parents	Others
1998	Feb	235,780	57,000	132,960	33,660	12,160
	May	232,760	54,220	133,080	33,060	12,400
	Aug	240,080	59,820	132,300	34,180	13,780
	Nov	232,160	52,960	134,940	33,060	11,200
1999	Feb	233,060	54,060	134,160	33,020	11,820
	May	228,620	49,640	133,760	32,940	12,280
	Aug	231,740	51,240	134,840	33,640	12,020
	Nov	224,120	42,820	136,860	32,240	12,200
2000	Feb	223,500	41,740	137,320	31,760	12,680
	May	222,540	39,680	137,880	32,000	12,980
	Aug	227,660	42,820	139,540	32,200	13,100
	Nov	223,380	38,920	140,720	31,300	12,440
2001	Feb	226,720	40,920	141,880	31,720	12,200
	May	223,680	37,720	142,500	31,560	11,900
	Aug	226,900	39,620	143,940	31,360	11,980
	Nov	222,740	36,140	144,200	29,840	12,560
2002	Feb	224,700	37,540	144,780	29,880	12,500
	May	222,700	33,720	147,260	29,160	12,560
	Aug	226,980	36,500	148,460	29,600	12,420
	Nov	223,480	32,500	149,680	28,720	12,580
2003	Feb	227,200	34,540	151,300	29,060	12,300
	May	226,260	33,360	152,220	28,660	12,020
	Aug	230,760	36,800	153,280	28,660	12,020

Table 1.9.3B Claimants of key benefits by statistical group - Annual changes August 1999 to August 2003

	All	Unemployed	Sick & Disabled	Lone Parents	Others
August 00 / August 99	-4,080	-8,420	4,700	-1,440	1,080
August 01 / August 00	-760	-3,200	4,400	-840	-1,120
August 02 / August 01	80	-3,120	4,520	-1,760	440
August 03 / August 02	3,780	300	4,820	-940	-400

Table 1.9.3C Male claimants of key benefits by statistical group

		All	Unemployed	Sick & Disabled	Lone Parents	Others
1998	Feb	131,220	45,800	75,040	1,480	8,900
	May	128,960	43,460	74,880	1,560	9,060
	Aug	130,500	44,840	73,600	1,620	10,440
	Nov	127,600	42,040	75,700	1,540	8,320
1999	Feb	128,120	43,120	74,820	1,520	8,660
	May	124,680	39,420	74,700	1,520	9,040
	Aug	123,540	38,220	74,880	1,480	8,960
	Nov	119,920	33,400	76,120	1,400	9,000
2000	Feb	119,880	32,840	76,580	1,300	9,160
	May	117,900	30,780	76,700	1,380	9,040
	Aug	120,320	31,800	77,740	1,500	9,280
	Nov	118,260	29,800	78,300	1,440	8,720
2001	Feb	120,860	31,320	79,400	1,380	8,760
	May	118,640	29,540	79,020	1,540	8,540
	Aug	118,520	28,900	79,540	1,520	8,560
	Nov	117,680	27,540	79,700	1,540	8,900
2002	Feb	118,900	28,720	79,860	1,520	8,800
	May	117,800	26,100	81,580	1,400	8,720
	Aug	119,840	27,040	82,680	1,420	8,700
	Nov	119,640	25,500	83,780	1,400	8,960
2003	Feb	122,340	27,120	84,960	1,540	8,720
	May	121,040	25,880	85,040	1,560	8,560
	Aug	123,020	27,060	85,840	1,520	8,600

Table 1.9.3D Female claimants of key benefits by statistical group

		All	Unemployed	Sick & Disabled	Lone Parents	Others
1998	Feb	104,560	11,200	57,920	32,180	3,260
	May	103,800	10,760	58,200	31,500	3,340
	Aug	109,580	14,980	58,700	32,560	3,340
	Nov	104,560	10,920	59,240	31,520	2,880
1999	Feb	104,940	10,940	59,340	31,500	3,160
	May	103,940	10,220	59,060	31,420	3,240
	Aug	108,200	13,020	59,960	32,160	3,060
	Nov	104,200	9,420	60,740	30,840	3,200
2000	Feb	103,620	8,900	60,740	30,460	3,520
	May	104,640	8,900	61,180	30,620	3,940
	Aug	107,340	11,020	61,800	30,700	3,820
	Nov	105,120	9,120	62,420	29,860	3,720
2001	Feb	105,860	9,600	62,480	30,340	3,440
	May	105,040	8,180	63,480	30,020	3,360
	Aug	108,380	10,720	64,400	29,840	3,420
	Nov	105,060	8,600	64,500	28,300	3,660
2002	Feb	105,800	8,820	64,920	28,360	3,700
	May	104,900	7,620	65,680	27,760	3,840
	Aug	107,140	9,460	65,780	28,180	3,720
	Nov	103,840	7,000	65,900	27,320	3,620
2003	Feb	104,860	7,420	66,340	27,520	3,580
	May	105,220	7,480	67,180	27,100	3,460
	Aug	107,740	9,740	67,440	27,140	3,420

1.9.4 Benefit entitlement

Table 1.9.4A Claimants of key benefits by type of benefit

		All	Income replacement benefits ¹	Other benefits ²	NI Credits only ³
1998	Feb	235,780	214,080	15,280	6,420
	May	232,760	211,080	15,700	5,980
	Aug	240,080	217,880	15,420	6,780
	Nov	232,160	208,340	16,240	7,580
1999	Feb	233,060	209,760	15,940	7,360
	May	228,620	205,700	16,520	6,400
	Aug	231,740	208,000	17,120	6,620
	Nov	224,120	200,860	16,980	6,280
2000	Feb	223,500	200,960	17,320	5,220
	May	222,540	198,960	17,980	5,600
	Aug	227,660	203,960	18,000	5,700
	Nov	223,380	199,680	17,940	5,760
2001	Feb	226,720	202,400	18,180	6,140
	May	223,680	198,840	18,800	6,040
	Aug	226,900	202,060	19,040	5,800
	Nov	222,740	197,760	19,320	5,660
2002	Feb	224,700	198,340	20,380	5,980
	May	222,700	196,100	20,800	5,800
	Aug	226,980	199,920	20,660	6,400
	Nov	223,480	196,600	20,880	6,000
2003	Feb	227,200	200,340	20,840	6,020
	May	226,260	198,460	21,740	6,060
	Aug	230,760	202,780	21,800	6,180

¹ Income replacement benefits are JSA (excluding credits), IS, IB (excluding credits), SDA

² Other is DLA

³ NI Credits includes JSA credits only, JSA credits and IB credits, JSA credits with DLA, IB credits only

Table 1.9.4B Claimants of key benefits by main basis of entitlement

		Basis of benefit entitlement					
		All	Contributory ¹	Contributory and means tested ²	Means tested ³	Other ⁴	NI Credits only ⁵
1998	Feb	235,780	63,300	14,820	132,220	19,020	6,420
	May	232,760	62,160	14,520	130,840	19,260	5,980
	Aug	240,080	63,520	15,240	135,580	18,960	6,780
	Nov	232,160	59,520	15,040	130,100	19,920	7,580
1999	Feb	233,060	60,260	14,920	130,840	19,680	7,360
	May	228,620	59,540	14,540	127,960	20,180	6,400
	Aug	231,740	59,780	14,920	129,720	20,700	6,620
	Nov	224,120	58,480	15,340	123,460	20,560	6,280
2000	Feb	223,500	59,180	15,220	123,000	20,880	5,220
	May	222,540	59,120	15,060	121,240	21,520	5,600
	Aug	227,660	59,480	15,700	125,160	21,620	5,700
	Nov	223,380	58,640	15,800	121,520	21,660	5,760
2001	Feb	226,720	59,560	15,980	123,320	21,720	6,140
	May	223,680	58,220	16,600	120,560	22,260	6,040
	Aug	226,900	59,220	16,880	122,440	22,560	5,800
	Nov	222,740	58,080	17,100	119,060	22,840	5,660
2002	Feb	224,700	58,120	16,880	120,020	23,700	5,980
	May	222,700	58,820	17,080	117,080	23,920	5,800
	Aug	226,980	60,120	17,340	119,500	23,620	6,400
	Nov	223,480	59,040	17,760	116,960	23,720	6,000
2003	Feb	227,200	60,040	18,280	119,120	23,740	6,020
	May	226,260	59,920	17,800	117,960	24,520	6,060
	Aug	230,760	61,520	18,480	120,060	24,520	6,180

¹ Contributory benefits are contribution-based JSA, IB and not with IS

² Contributory and means tested includes JSA claimants who receive income based benefit but who also satisfy the conditions for receiving contribution-based JSA, IB with IS

³ Means tested benefits are income based JSA, IS

⁴ Other benefits are SDA, DLA

⁵ NI Credits includes JSA credits only, JSA credits and IB credits, JSA credits with DLA, IB credits only

1.9.5 Duration on benefit

Table 1.9.5A Claimants of key benefits by duration of claim of oldest benefit¹

		All	Under 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to under 12 months	1 to under 2 years	2 years or over
1998	Feb	235,780	23,000	18,980	23,420	31,340	139,040
	%	100	10	8	10	13	59
	May	232,760	19,160	16,160	25,420	32,780	139,240
	%	100	8	7	11	14	60
	Aug	240,080	27,940	14,900	24,400	33,600	139,240
	%	100	12	6	10	14	58
1999	Nov	232,160	23,480	15,560	20,840	32,700	139,580
	%	100	10	7	9	14	60
	Feb	233,060	23,440	16,720	21,240	31,620	140,040
	%	100	10	7	9	14	60
	May	228,620	21,220	16,700	21,840	29,420	139,440
	%	100	9	7	10	13	61
2000	Aug	231,740	25,200	16,300	23,080	28,520	138,640
	%	100	11	7	10	12	60
	Nov	224,120	23,040	14,940	22,320	26,300	137,520
	%	100	10	7	10	12	61
	Feb	223,500	20,320	17,840	22,180	26,900	136,260
	%	100	9	8	10	12	61
2001	May	222,540	20,860	15,480	23,880	27,700	134,620
	%	100	9	7	11	12	60
	Aug	227,660	25,680	15,820	23,560	28,220	134,380
	%	100	11	7	10	12	59
	Nov	223,380	22,200	15,740	21,180	30,200	134,060
	%	100	10	7	9	14	60
2002	Feb	226,720	21,180	17,520	22,960	29,560	135,500
	%	100	9	8	10	13	60
	May	223,680	19,400	15,920	22,700	29,660	136,000
	%	100	9	7	10	13	61
	Aug	226,900	22,100	15,520	22,620	30,380	136,280
	%	100	10	7	10	13	60
2003	Nov	222,740	20,960	14,020	21,700	29,040	137,020
	%	100	9	6	10	13	62
	Feb	224,700	19,800	17,080	20,540	29,640	137,640
	%	100	9	8	9	13	61
	May	222,700	18,920	14,780	22,060	29,700	137,240
	%	100	8	7	10	13	62
2004	Aug	226,980	22,160	15,580	22,400	28,240	138,600
	%	100	10	7	10	12	61
	Nov	223,480	20,480	13,600	20,840	29,880	138,680
	%	100	9	6	9	13	62
	Feb	227,200	20,260	16,700	21,280	28,680	140,280
	%	100	9	7	9	13	62
2005	May	226,260	19,380	15,000	22,160	29,360	140,360
	%	100	9	7	10	13	62
	Aug	230,760	20,980	15,000	22,820	30,040	141,920
%	100	9	7	10	13	62	

¹ Oldest benefit payable during current spell of benefit receipt

Table 1.9.5B Male claimants of key benefits by duration of claim of oldest benefit¹

		All	Under 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to under 12 months	1 to under 2 years	2 years or over
1998	Feb	131,220	14,720	11,880	13,880	17,420	73,320
	%	100	11	9	11	13	56
	May	128,960	12,160	10,060	15,380	18,480	72,880
	%	100	9	8	12	14	57
	Aug	130,500	15,200	8,820	14,720	19,380	72,380
	%	100	12	7	11	15	55
1999	Nov	127,600	14,820	8,900	11,880	18,860	73,140
	%	100	12	7	9	15	57
	Feb	128,120	15,500	9,960	11,640	17,780	73,240
	%	100	12	8	9	14	57
	May	124,680	13,360	10,640	12,060	16,180	72,440
	%	100	11	9	10	13	58
2000	Aug	123,540	14,120	9,480	13,640	15,160	71,140
	%	100	11	8	11	12	58
	Nov	119,920	14,480	8,900	13,020	13,880	69,640
	%	100	12	7	11	12	58
	Feb	119,880	13,280	10,920	13,020	14,200	68,460
	%	100	11	9	11	12	57
2001	May	117,900	13,060	9,140	13,860	14,800	67,040
	%	100	11	8	12	13	57
	Aug	120,320	15,640	9,400	13,460	15,180	66,640
	%	100	13	8	11	13	55
	Nov	118,260	13,600	9,600	12,120	16,660	66,280
	%	100	12	8	10	14	56
2002	Feb	120,860	13,320	10,680	13,320	16,200	67,340
	%	100	11	9	11	13	56
	May	118,640	12,100	9,520	13,220	16,080	67,720
	%	100	10	8	11	14	57
	Aug	118,520	12,780	8,780	12,560	16,560	67,840
	%	100	11	7	11	14	57
2003	Nov	117,680	13,500	8,080	11,880	15,820	68,400
	%	100	11	7	10	13	58
	Feb	118,900	12,440	10,660	11,240	15,960	68,600
	%	100	10	9	9	13	58
	May	117,800	12,020	8,920	12,580	15,800	68,480
	%	100	10	8	11	13	58
2003	Aug	119,840	13,280	9,680	12,880	14,520	69,480
	%	100	11	8	11	12	58
	Nov	119,640	13,700	7,960	12,280	15,820	69,880
	%	100	11	7	10	13	58
	Feb	122,340	13,580	10,440	12,540	15,200	70,580
	%	100	11	9	10	12	58
2003	May	121,040	12,220	9,160	12,680	16,260	70,720
	%	100	10	8	10	13	58
	Aug	123,020	13,120	8,640	13,060	16,600	71,600
%	100	11	7	11	13	58	

¹ Oldest benefit payable during current spell of benefit receipt

Table 1.9.5C Female claimants of key benefits by duration of oldest benefit¹

		All	Under 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to under 12 months	1 to under 2 years	2 years or over
1998	Feb	104,560	8,280	7,100	9,540	13,920	65,720
	%	100	8	7	9	13	63
	May	103,800	7,000	6,100	10,040	14,300	66,360
	%	100	7	6	10	14	64
	Aug	109,580	12,740	6,080	9,680	14,220	66,860
	%	100	12	6	9	13	61
1999	Nov	104,560	8,660	6,660	8,960	13,840	66,440
	%	100	8	6	9	13	64
	Feb	104,940	7,940	6,760	9,600	13,840	66,800
	%	100	8	6	9	13	64
	May	103,940	7,860	6,060	9,780	13,240	67,000
	%	100	8	6	9	13	64
2000	Aug	108,200	11,080	6,820	9,440	13,360	67,500
	%	100	10	6	9	12	62
	Nov	104,200	8,560	6,040	9,300	12,420	67,880
	%	100	8	6	9	12	65
	Feb	103,620	7,040	6,920	9,160	12,700	67,800
	%	100	7	7	9	12	65
2001	May	104,640	7,800	6,340	10,020	12,900	67,580
	%	100	7	6	10	12	65
	Aug	107,340	10,040	6,420	10,100	13,040	67,740
	%	100	9	6	9	12	63
	Nov	105,120	8,600	6,140	9,060	13,540	67,780
	%	100	8	6	9	13	64
2002	Feb	105,860	7,860	6,840	9,640	13,360	68,160
	%	100	7	6	9	13	64
	May	105,040	7,300	6,400	9,480	13,580	68,280
	%	100	7	6	9	13	65
	Aug	108,380	9,320	6,740	10,060	13,820	68,440
	%	100	9	6	9	13	63
2003	Nov	105,060	7,460	5,940	9,820	13,220	68,620
	%	100	7	6	9	13	65
	Feb	105,800	7,360	6,420	9,300	13,680	69,040
	%	100	7	6	9	13	65
	May	104,900	6,900	5,860	9,480	13,900	68,760
	%	100	7	6	9	13	66
2003	Aug	107,140	8,880	5,900	9,520	13,720	69,120
	%	100	8	6	9	13	65
	Nov	103,840	6,780	5,640	8,560	14,060	68,800
	%	100	7	5	8	14	66
	Feb	104,860	6,680	6,260	8,740	13,480	69,700
	%	100	6	6	8	13	66
2003	May	105,220	7,160	5,840	9,480	13,100	69,640
	%	100	7	6	9	12	66
	Aug	107,740	7,860	6,360	9,760	13,440	70,320
%	100	7	6	9	12	65	

¹ Oldest benefit payable during current spell of benefit receipt

1.9.6 Claimants with children and dependants aged under 19

Table 1.9.6 Claimants of key benefits with children and/or young adult dependants¹ by age of youngest child/dependant

		Age of youngest child/dependant					
		All with children	Under 5	5 to under 11	11 to under 16	16 or over	Not known ²
1998	Feb	80,360	32,820	23,160	15,680	4,400	4,300
	May	80,160	31,760	23,580	15,320	5,020	4,480
	Aug	82,320	27,840	21,680	14,240	4,740	13,820
	Nov	78,860	27,160	20,960	14,540	4,440	11,760
1999	Feb	76,940	27,800	20,780	14,040	2,740	11,580
	May	76,220	27,660	19,760	13,880	2,980	11,940
	Aug	77,440	30,440	22,920	16,360	4,080	3,640
	Nov	73,700	29,140	21,600	15,580	3,760	3,620
2000	Feb	73,180	28,360	21,320	15,760	4,220	3,520
	May	73,800	28,260	21,600	15,840	4,600	3,500
	Aug	75,700	28,920	21,800	16,500	5,060	3,420
	Nov	74,360	28,580	21,360	16,080	4,880	3,460
2001	Feb	74,620	28,180	21,700	15,720	5,580	3,440
	May	73,340	28,080	21,180	15,660	4,920	3,500
	Aug	74,260	28,400	20,920	15,940	5,640	3,360
	Nov	71,840	27,600	20,440	15,740	4,940	3,120
2002	Feb	72,200	27,300	20,360	16,080	5,260	3,200
	May	71,440	26,260	20,840	15,400	5,620	3,320
	Aug	72,500	26,580	21,140	15,500	5,980	3,300
	Nov	69,620	25,520	20,900	15,540	4,680	2,980
2003	Feb	70,280	25,700	21,160	15,600	5,000	2,820
	May	70,860	25,480	21,380	15,680	5,300	3,020
	Aug	75,760	26,100	23,920	17,240	7,140	1,360

¹ Children aged under 16 and young adults aged 16 to 18. The method used to assign children's details has been revised - see Methodology for further details

² Children whose ages are not known

The methodology used to assign information about children's details has been revised following the introduction of CTC in April 2003. Comparisons over time are affected by these changes. Please see Methodology for further details.

1.9.7 Children and dependants aged under 19

Table 1.9.7A Children¹² of claimants of key benefits by age of child and family type

		Children aged under 16 years ²				Young dependants aged 16 to 18 years					
		Family type				Family type					
		All	% of all aged under 16 yrs ³			All to 18 yrs ³	% of all aged 16 to 18 yrs ³				
			Couple	Single	Not known		Couple	Single	Not known		
1998	Feb	152,540	37	66,500	79,580	6,460	16,000	21	9,260	6,740	.
	May	151,120	37	65,820	77,300	8,000	16,800	22	10,080	6,720	.
	Aug	156,540	38	66,140	82,800	7,600	15,420	20	7,760	7,660	.
	Nov	149,100	36	64,080	78,120	6,900	13,520	18	8,020	5,500	.
1999	Feb	148,100	36	40,820	101,880	5,400	9,820	13	3,840	5,980	.
	May	145,880	36	60,340	78,900	6,640	10,600	14	4,540	6,060	.
	Aug	144,480	35	58,840	79,420	6,220	14,240	18	7,520	6,720	.
	Nov	137,600	34	54,280	77,260	6,060	12,280	16	6,520	5,760	.
2000	Feb	134,620	33	31,560	98,600	4,460	12,840	17	4,860	7,980	.
	May	134,800	33	51,940	76,800	6,060	13,820	18	7,580	6,240	.
	Aug	136,060	34	52,700	77,360	6,000	15,420	20	8,580	6,840	.
	Nov	133,640	33	51,000	77,100	5,540	14,140	18	8,120	6,020	.
2001	Feb	132,880	33	30,180	98,520	4,180	14,900	19	4,680	10,220	.
	May	131,620	33	48,580	77,360	5,680	13,660	18	7,240	6,420	.
	Aug	131,540	33	48,760	77,180	5,600	15,340	20	8,000	7,340	.
	Nov	128,420	32	47,420	75,860	5,140	13,360	17	7,300	6,060	.
2002	Feb	128,220	33	47,360	75,520	5,340	14,180	18	7,740	6,440	.
	May	126,920	32	46,720	74,540	5,660	15,180	19	8,220	6,960	.
	Aug	127,580	32	46,720	75,320	5,540	16,140	20	8,540	7,600	.
	Nov	123,960	32	45,860	73,140	4,960	13,120	16	7,060	6,060	.
2003	Feb	124,640	32	46,320	73,280	5,040	14,280	18	7,600	6,680	.
	May	124,500	32	45,680	73,540	5,280	15,520	19	7,820	7,700	.
	Aug	130,380	33	56,700	71,440	2,240	20,260	25	11,380	8,880	.

¹ Children aged under 16 and young adults aged 16 - 18. The method used to assign children's details has been revised - see Methodology for further details

² Includes a small percentage of children whose age is not known

³ See Methodology

The methodology used to assign information about children's details has been revised following the introduction of CTC in April 2003. Comparisons over time are affected by these changes. Please see Methodology for further details.

Table 1.9.7B Children¹ of claimants of key benefits by age of children/dependants

		Number of children/dependants					
		All children	Under 5	5 to under 11	11 to under 16	16 or over	Not known ²
1998	Feb	168,540	41,640	56,400	46,020	16,000	8,480
	May	167,920	40,200	56,200	46,220	16,800	8,500
	Aug	171,960	34,940	49,900	40,880	15,420	30,820
	Nov	162,620	33,900	48,100	40,660	13,520	26,440
1999	Feb	157,920	35,080	47,100	39,800	9,820	26,120
	May	156,480	34,800	45,780	39,160	10,600	26,140
	Aug	158,720	38,940	52,560	46,420	14,240	6,560
	Nov	149,880	37,060	50,200	43,740	12,280	6,600
2000	Feb	147,460	35,700	49,060	43,520	12,840	6,340
	May	148,620	35,840	49,220	43,400	13,820	6,340
	Aug	151,480	36,560	49,500	43,780	15,420	6,220
	Nov	147,780	35,940	48,500	43,280	14,140	5,920
2001	Feb	147,780	35,000	48,640	42,880	14,900	6,360
	May	145,280	35,080	47,740	42,560	13,660	6,240
	Aug	146,880	35,660	46,840	43,060	15,340	5,980
	Nov	141,780	34,560	45,800	42,520	13,360	5,540
2002	Feb	142,400	34,200	45,320	42,960	14,180	5,740
	May	142,100	33,080	45,660	42,060	15,180	6,120
	Aug	143,720	32,740	46,020	42,660	16,140	6,160
	Nov	137,080	31,540	44,800	42,040	13,120	5,580
2003	Feb	138,920	32,060	44,960	42,340	14,280	5,280
	May	140,020	31,680	44,920	42,360	15,520	5,540
	Aug	150,640	32,040	48,820	46,780	20,260	2,740

¹ Children aged under 16 and young adults aged 16 - 18. The method used to assign children's details has been revised - see Methodology for further details

² Children whose age is not known

The methodology used to assign information about children's details has been revised following the introduction of CTC in April 2003. Comparisons over time are affected by these changes. Please see Methodology for further details.

1.9.8 Regional Analysis

Table 1.9.8A Claimants of key benefits by District Council

	Northern Ireland	Ards	Belfast	Castlereagh	Down	Lisburn	North Down	Antrim	Ballymena	Ballymoney	Carrickfergus	Coleraine	Cookstown	Larne	Magherafelt	Moyle	Newtownabbey	Armagh	Banbridge	Craigavon	Dungannon	Newry & Mourne	Derry	Fermanagh	Limavady	Omagh	Strabane	Unknown	
1998																													
Feb	235,760	7,340	52,960	5,960	8,160	12,340	6,440	5,320	6,080	2,780	3,680	6,380	5,360	3,280	4,360	2,180	9,320	6,340	3,780	11,820	7,120	13,840	20,920	6,800	4,540	7,140	6,940	4,600	
May	232,760	7,220	52,580	5,780	8,080	12,360	6,300	5,180	5,860	2,980	3,580	6,080	5,580	3,420	4,300	2,120	9,000	6,320	3,720	11,400	7,240	13,360	20,640	6,460	4,580	6,900	7,060	4,660	
Aug	240,080	7,540	53,540	5,840	8,300	13,180	6,740	5,420	5,880	3,060	3,760	6,340	5,540	3,420	4,680	2,280	9,260	6,560	4,180	11,620	7,560	13,780	20,880	7,100	4,500	7,380	7,160	4,580	
Nov	232,160	7,440	51,400	5,920	8,040	12,520	6,260	5,360	5,740	3,080	3,520	6,320	5,160	3,440	4,260	2,360	9,040	5,860	4,000	11,060	7,420	13,680	20,420	6,720	4,340	7,220	7,220	4,360	
1999																													
Feb ¹	233,060	7,080	51,120	5,760	7,840	12,300	5,960	5,400	5,620	3,260	3,800	6,520	5,160	3,240	4,140	2,200	8,700	6,060	3,820	11,060	7,360	13,200	19,820	7,000	4,080	7,060	7,200	8,300	
May	228,620	7,240	51,580	5,940	7,840	12,000	5,980	5,480	5,600	3,280	3,660	6,380	5,040	3,360	4,180	2,120	8,860	5,840	3,780	11,120	7,020	13,160	20,060	6,920	4,160	6,760	7,080	4,180	
Aug	231,740	7,520	52,020	6,060	8,020	12,600	6,260	5,220	5,680	3,060	3,680	6,420	5,260	3,300	4,160	2,080	8,640	5,960	3,860	11,380	7,060	13,440	20,500	6,940	4,380	6,820	7,220	4,200	
Nov	224,120	7,320	50,720	5,760	7,760	11,780	6,180	5,140	5,220	2,960	3,540	6,620	5,160	3,300	4,180	2,100	8,260	5,460	3,660	10,920	6,900	12,680	19,800	6,680	4,180	6,740	7,120	3,980	
2000																													
Feb	223,500	7,620	50,020	5,920	7,600	12,120	6,020	5,040	5,500	3,040	3,500	6,740	4,980	3,380	4,120	2,220	8,180	5,500	3,720	11,080	6,900	12,620	19,760	6,620	4,000	6,480	6,860	3,960	
May	222,540	7,620	49,820	5,840	7,460	12,080	5,900	5,120	5,440	2,960	3,480	6,340	5,080	3,320	4,040	2,140	8,040	5,540	3,700	11,140	6,760	12,180	20,060	6,600	4,000	6,480	7,280	4,120	
Aug	227,660	7,400	50,380	6,120	7,680	12,020	6,220	5,180	5,460	2,880	3,560	6,600	5,160	3,280	4,260	2,140	8,500	6,100	3,920	11,580	7,020	12,620	20,360	7,080	4,040	6,680	7,280	4,140	
Nov	223,380	7,040	49,380	5,940	7,400	12,000	6,160	5,000	5,420	3,040	3,560	6,560	4,980	3,180	4,540	2,160	8,120	5,620	3,920	11,480	6,920	12,500	20,220	7,060	4,160	6,240	7,340	3,440	
2001																													
Feb	226,720	7,240	50,100	5,800	7,500	12,100	6,320	4,980	5,400	3,180	3,480	6,680	4,980	3,160	4,420	2,240	8,240	5,760	3,520	11,860	6,900	13,200	20,520	7,340	4,360	6,420	7,460	3,560	
May	223,680	7,320	49,240	5,700	7,360	12,280	5,960	5,080	5,500	3,080	3,280	6,640	4,940	3,000	4,400	2,220	8,380	5,600	3,760	11,480	6,980	12,780	20,280	7,020	4,260	6,200	7,440	3,500	
Aug	226,900	7,260	48,940	5,620	7,480	12,100	6,060	4,960	5,500	3,220	3,360	6,840	5,000	3,260	4,460	2,460	8,660	5,980	3,800	11,720	7,000	13,280	20,680	7,200	4,260	6,640	7,560	3,600	
Nov	222,740	7,240	48,340	5,620	7,420	11,880	6,000	4,940	5,220	3,140	3,620	6,480	4,980	3,240	4,060	2,340	8,420	5,740	3,800	11,460	7,000	12,680	20,000	7,080	4,240	6,540	7,360	3,900	
2002																													
Feb	224,700	7,400	48,600	5,440	7,380	11,640	6,100	5,160	5,400	3,200	3,660	6,540	4,920	3,200	4,200	2,420	8,440	5,560	3,840	11,600	7,140	12,540	20,580	7,260	4,400	6,500	7,220	4,360	
May	222,700	7,140	48,300	5,500	7,480	11,520	5,860	5,140	5,380	3,180	3,480	6,200	4,760	3,220	4,220	2,260	8,480	5,400	4,040	11,540	6,880	12,500	20,180	7,140	4,500	6,380	7,300	4,720	
Aug	226,980	6,940	49,220	5,580	7,340	11,540	5,980	5,260	5,540	3,040	3,760	6,460	4,960	3,340	4,260	2,300	8,940	5,680	3,940	12,040	7,100	12,780	20,420	7,280	4,540	6,660	7,420	4,660	
Nov	223,480	7,060	47,500	5,360	7,460	11,540	5,880	5,240	5,460	2,840	3,760	6,420	4,640	3,260	4,200	2,420	8,760	5,740	4,020	11,880	7,200	12,660	19,900	7,020	4,400	6,800	7,240	4,820	
2003																													
Feb	227,200	7,080	48,740	5,420	7,500	11,800	6,000	5,100	5,520	2,920	3,880	6,500	4,800	3,400	4,200	2,320	8,960	5,840	4,100	12,180	7,280	12,740	19,880	7,480	4,420	6,800	7,260	5,080	
May	226,260	7,260	48,780	5,520	7,580	12,120	6,080	5,180	5,400	2,960	3,920	6,460	4,760	3,180	4,340	2,200	9,120	6,040	4,200	11,960	7,500	12,860	20,720	7,640	4,620	7,060	7,220	1,580	
Aug	230,760	7,300	49,960	5,940	7,540	12,380	6,420	5,560	5,620	3,060	3,920	6,420	4,960	3,440	4,420	2,300	8,780	6,100	4,220	12,200	7,260	13,180	21,140	7,620	4,540	7,100	7,380	2,000	

¹Figures for February 1999 have been revised

Table 1.9.8B Claimants of key benefits by District Council

	Percentages ¹																												
	Northern Ireland	Ard	Belfast	Castlereagh	Down	Lisburn	North Down	Antrim	Ballymena	Ballymoney	Carrickfergus	Coleraine	Cookstown	Lame	Magherafelt	Moyle	Newtownabbey	Armagh	Banbridge	Craigavon	Dungannon	Newry & Mourne	Derry	Fermanagh	Limavady	Omagh	Strabane	Unknown	
1998 Feb	23	17	31	15	22	18	14	17	17	18	16	19	28	18	19	24	19	20	16	25	26	28	28	33	21	22	25	31	.
May	23	16	29	15	22	18	14	17	17	19	16	18	29	18	19	23	18	20	16	24	26	27	27	33	21	22	25	31	.
Aug	24	17	31	15	22	20	15	18	17	20	17	19	29	18	20	25	19	20	17	25	27	28	28	33	21	22	26	32	.
Nov	23	17	30	15	22	19	14	17	16	20	15	19	27	18	18	26	18	18	17	24	27	27	27	32	20	21	25	32	.
1999 Feb ²	23	16	30	15	21	18	13	17	16	21	17	19	27	17	18	24	18	19	16	23	26	26	26	31	21	20	24	32	.
May	23	16	30	15	21	18	13	18	16	21	16	19	26	18	18	23	18	19	16	23	25	26	26	31	21	21	23	31	.
Aug	23	17	31	15	21	19	14	17	16	20	16	19	27	18	18	22	18	19	16	24	25	26	26	32	21	22	24	32	.
Nov	22	16	30	15	20	18	13	17	15	19	15	19	27	18	18	23	17	18	15	23	25	25	25	31	20	21	23	31	.
2000 Feb	22	17	30	15	20	18	13	16	15	19	15	20	26	18	17	24	17	17	15	23	25	25	25	30	20	20	22	30	.
May	22	17	29	15	20	18	13	17	15	19	15	19	26	18	17	23	16	17	15	23	24	24	24	31	19	20	22	32	.
Aug	22	16	30	16	20	18	13	17	15	18	15	19	27	17	18	23	17	19	16	24	25	25	25	31	21	20	23	32	.
Nov	22	16	29	15	19	18	13	16	15	19	15	19	26	17	19	23	16	18	16	24	25	25	25	31	21	21	21	32	.
2001 Feb	22	16	30	15	20	18	14	16	15	20	15	20	26	17	19	24	17	18	14	25	25	26	26	31	22	22	22	33	.
May	22	16	29	14	19	18	13	16	15	19	14	19	26	16	19	24	17	18	15	24	25	25	25	31	21	21	21	32	.
Aug	22	16	29	14	20	18	13	16	15	20	14	20	26	17	19	26	18	19	15	24	25	26	26	32	21	21	23	33	.
Nov	22	16	29	14	20	18	13	16	15	20	16	19	26	17	17	25	17	18	15	24	25	25	25	31	21	21	22	32	.
2002 Feb	22	16	29	14	19	17	13	17	15	19	15	19	24	17	17	25	17	17	15	23	25	24	24	31	21	21	22	31	.
May	21	15	29	14	19	17	12	17	15	19	15	18	24	17	17	23	17	16	15	23	24	23	23	31	20	22	21	31	.
Aug	22	15	29	14	19	17	13	17	15	18	16	19	25	18	17	24	18	17	15	24	25	24	24	31	21	22	22	32	.
Nov	22	15	28	14	19	17	12	17	15	17	16	19	23	17	17	25	18	17	15	24	25	24	24	30	20	21	23	31	.
2003 Feb	22	15	29	14	19	18	13	17	15	18	16	19	24	18	17	24	18	17	16	25	25	24	24	30	21	21	23	31	.
May	22	16	29	14	19	18	13	17	15	18	17	19	24	17	18	23	18	18	16	24	26	24	24	32	22	22	24	31	.
Aug	22	16	30	15	19	18	14	18	16	18	17	19	25	18	18	24	18	18	16	25	25	25	25	32	22	22	24	32	.

¹ Percentage of population of working age - see Methodology

² Figures for February 1999 have been revised

Section 2 : Families with children on key benefits

2.1 Children

Table 2.1.1 Children of claimants of key benefits by statistical group: August 2000 to August 2003

	Number of children ¹							
	Aug-00	%	Aug-01	%	Aug-02	%	Aug-03	%
All statistical groups	151,480	100	146,880	100	143,720	100	150,640	100
Unemployed	13,560	9	11,080	8	10,080	7	10,760	7
Sick & Disabled	70,000	46	70,860	48	72,700	51	80,700	54
Lone parents	63,420	42	60,980	42	57,680	40	55,580	37
Others	4,500	3	3,960	3	3,260	2	3,600	2

¹ Children aged under 16 and young adults aged 16 to 18. The method used to assign children's details has been revised - see Methodology for further details

- At August 2003, 150,640 children were living in families claiming a key benefit. The total number of children in families claiming a key benefit was down by 1% (840) from August 2000.
- **The methodology used to assign information about children's details has been revised following the introduction of CTC in April 2003. Comparisons over time are affected by these changes. Please see Methodology for further details.**

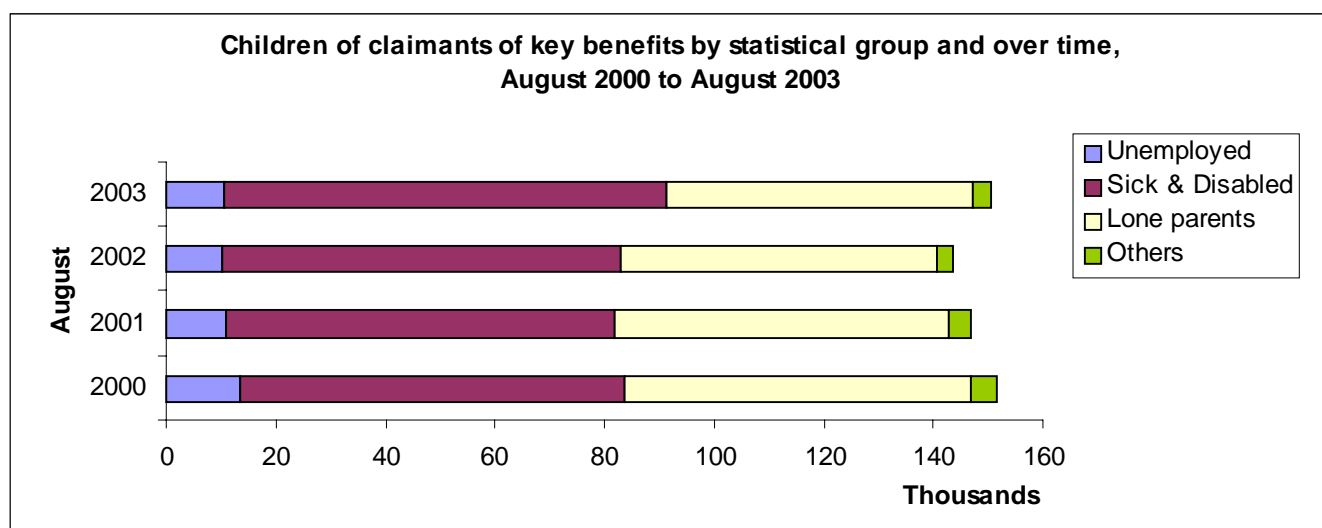


Table 2.1.2 Children¹ of claimants of key benefits by statistical group and family type: August 2003

	Children aged under 16 years ²					Young adult dependants aged 16 to 18 years				
	All	Family type			Not known	All	% pop aged 16 - 18 in full-time education	Family type		
		% pop aged under 16	Couple	Single				Couple	Single	Not known
All statistical groups	130,380	33	56,700	71,440	2,240	20,260	45	11,380	8,880	.
Unemployed	8,660	2	6,700	1,960	.	2,100	5	1,160	940	.
Sick & Disabled	67,020	17	46,840	17,940	2,240	13,680	30	9,780	3,900	.
Lone parents	51,540	13	.	51,540	.	4,040	9	.	4,040	.
Others	3,160	1	3,160	0	.	440	1	440	0	.

¹ Children aged under 16 and young adults aged 16 to 18. The method used to assign children's details has been revised - see Methodology for further details

² Includes a small percentage of children whose age is not known

- The proportion of under 16s living in households claiming a key benefit was 33% in August 2003 whilst the proportion of 16 - 18 year olds was 45% of all 16 - 18 year olds in full-time education.

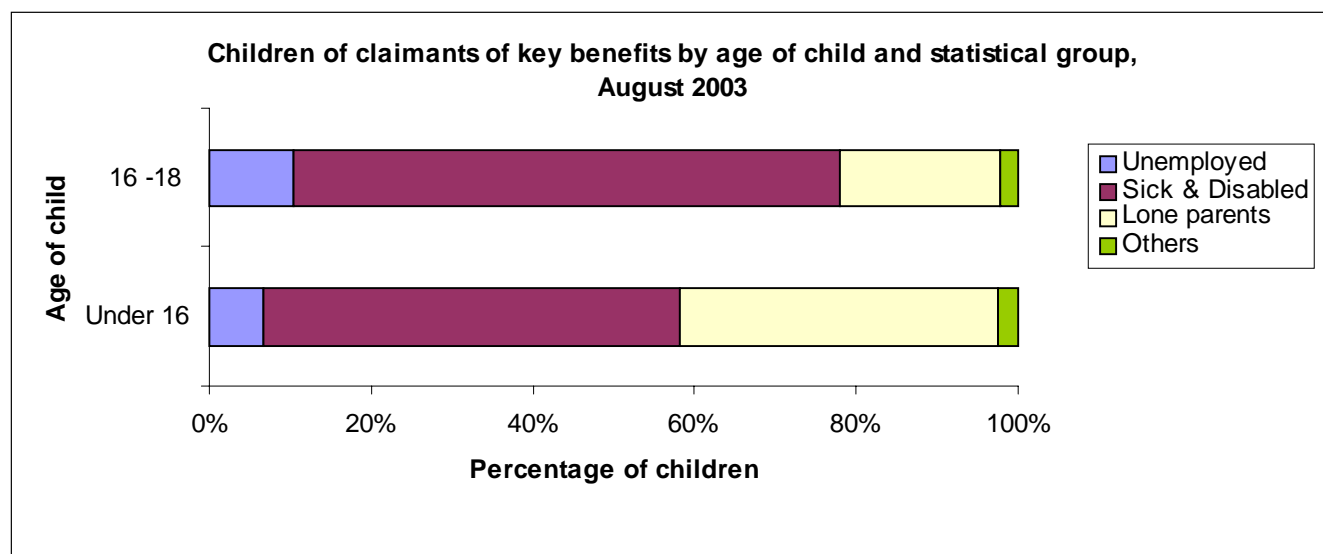


Table 2.1.3 Children¹ of claimants of key benefits by family type: August 2000 to August 2003

	Children aged under 16 years ²					Young adult dependants aged 16 to 18 years					
	All	Family type				All	% pop aged 16 - 18 in full-time education	Family type			Not known
		% pop aged under 16 ³	Couple	Single	Not known			Couple	Single		
Aug-00	136,060	34	52,700	77,360	6,000	15,420	36	8,580	6,840	.	
Aug-01	131,540	33	48,760	77,180	5,600	15,340	36	8,000	7,340	.	
Aug-02	127,580	32	46,720	75,320	5,540	16,140	36	8,540	7,600	.	
Aug-03	130,380	33	56,700	71,440	2,240	20,260	45	11,380	8,880	.	

¹ Children aged under 16 and young adults aged 16 to 18. The method used to assign children's details has been revised - see Methodology for further details

² Includes a small percentage of children whose ages are not known

³ See Methodology

- The proportion of children under 16 living in a household where the claimant was single was 55% in August 2003.
- The proportion of children aged 16 - 18 living in a household where the claimant was single was 44% in August 2003.
- **The methodology used to assign information about children's details has been revised following the introduction of CTC in April 2003. Comparisons of family type and over time are affected by these changes. Please see Methodology for further details.**

Table 2.1.4 Children¹ of claimants of key benefits by statistical group and age of child: August 2003

	Number of children/dependants											
	All ages	%	Under 5	%	5 to under 11	%	11 to under 16	%	16 or over	%	Not known ²	%
All statistical groups	150,640	100	32,040	21	48,820	32	46,780	31	20,260	13	2,740	2
Unemployed	10,760	100	2,320	22	3,120	29	3,180	30	2,100	20	40	0
Sick & Disabled	80,700	100	13,920	17	23,580	29	26,860	33	13,680	17	2,660	3
Lone parents	55,580	100	15,180	27	20,940	38	15,420	28	4,040	7	.	0
Others	3,600	100	620	17	1,180	33	1,320	37	440	12	40	0

¹ Children aged under 16 and young adults aged 16 to 18. The method used to assign children's details has been revised - see Methodology for further details

² Children whose ages are not known

- Amongst the sick & disabled group proportionally fewer children were under the age of five, reflecting the older age profile of those claiming a sickness and/or disability benefit (although the ages of many children in this group were unknown).
- The children of lone parents had the youngest profile with 65% aged under 11.

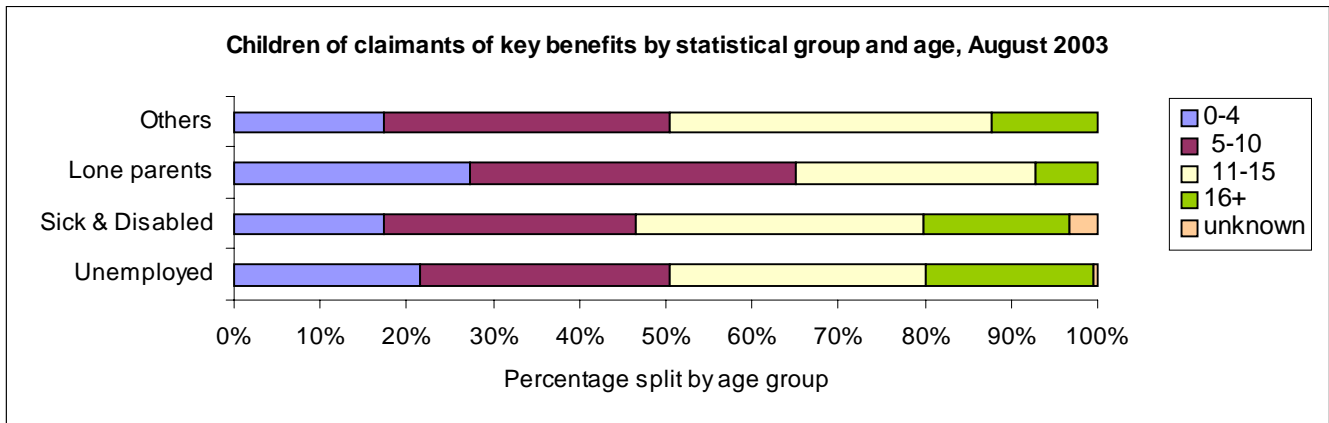


Table 2.1.5 Children¹ of claimants of key benefits by statistical group and duration of claim: August 2003

	Duration of oldest claim ²											
	All durations	%	Under 3 months	%	3 to under 6 months	%	6 months to under 1 year	%	1 to under 2 years	%	2 years and over	%
All statistical groups	150,640	100	7,300	5	9,100	6	13,020	9	19,920	13	101,300	67
Unemployed	10,760	100	3,400	32	1,800	17	1,360	13	2,280	21	1,920	18
Sick & Disabled	80,700	100	2,000	2	3,360	4	6,980	9	10,680	13	57,680	71
Lone parents	55,580	100	1,640	3	3,560	6	4,380	8	6,300	11	39,700	71
Others	3,600	100	260	7	380	11	300	8	660	18	2,000	56

¹ Children aged under 16 and young adults aged 16 to 18. The method used to assign children's details has been revised - see Methodology for further details

² Oldest benefit payable during current spell of benefit receipt

- Of those children in families claiming a key benefit 67% had been on benefits for at least 2 years. For the lone parents group the figure was 71% whilst the figure for the unemployed group was 18%.
- Of those children in families classed as unemployed 61% had been on benefit for less than a year.

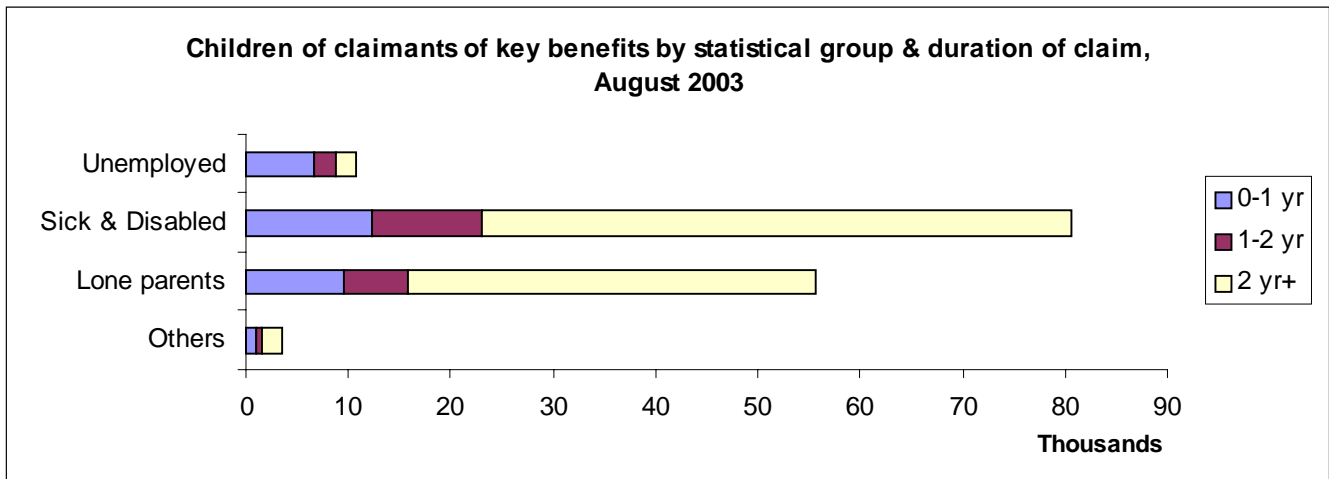


Table 2.1.6 Children¹ of claimants of key benefits by duration of claim: August 2000 to August 2003

	All durations	Duration of oldest claim ²				
		Under 3 months	3 to under 6 months	6 months to under 1 year	1 to under 2 years	2 years and over
Aug-00	151,480	9,860	8,340	12,920	19,660	100,700
%	100	7	6	9	13	66
Aug-01	146,880	7,440	7,680	12,960	19,940	98,860
%	100	5	5	9	14	67
Aug-02	143,720	7,620	7,520	12,480	18,500	97,600
%	100	5	5	9	13	68
Aug-03	150,640	7,300	9,100	13,020	19,920	101,300
%	100	5	6	9	13	67

¹ Children aged under 16 and young adults aged 16 to 18. The method used to assign children's details has been revised - see Methodology for further details

² Oldest benefit payable during current spell of benefit receipt

- Between August 2000 and August 2003 there was little change in the pattern of duration on key benefits.
- **The methodology used to assign information about children's details has been revised following the introduction of CTC in April 2003. Comparisons over time are affected by these changes. Please see Methodology for further details.**

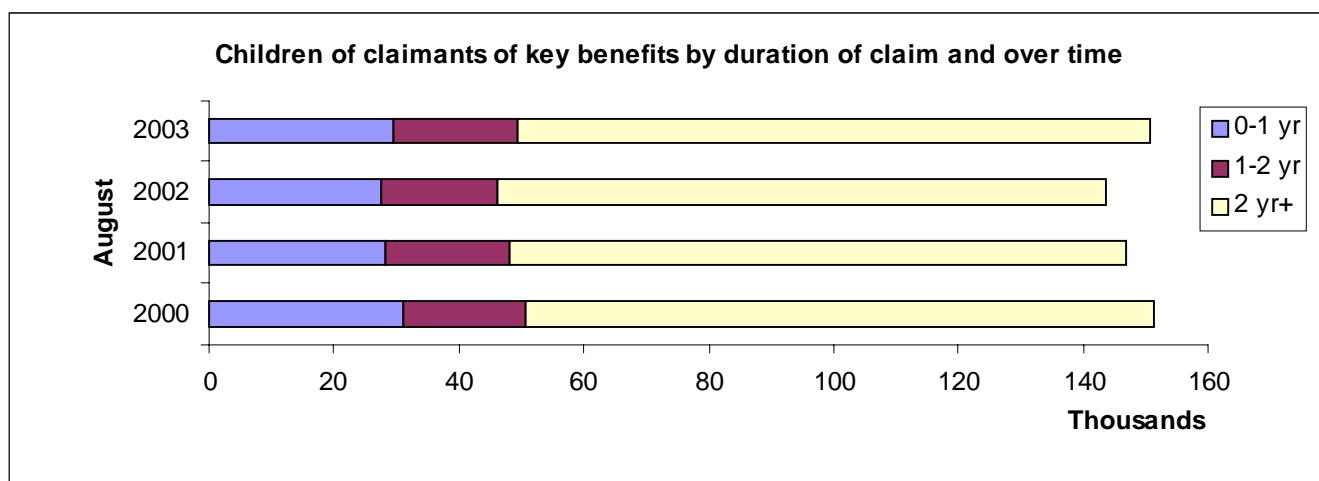


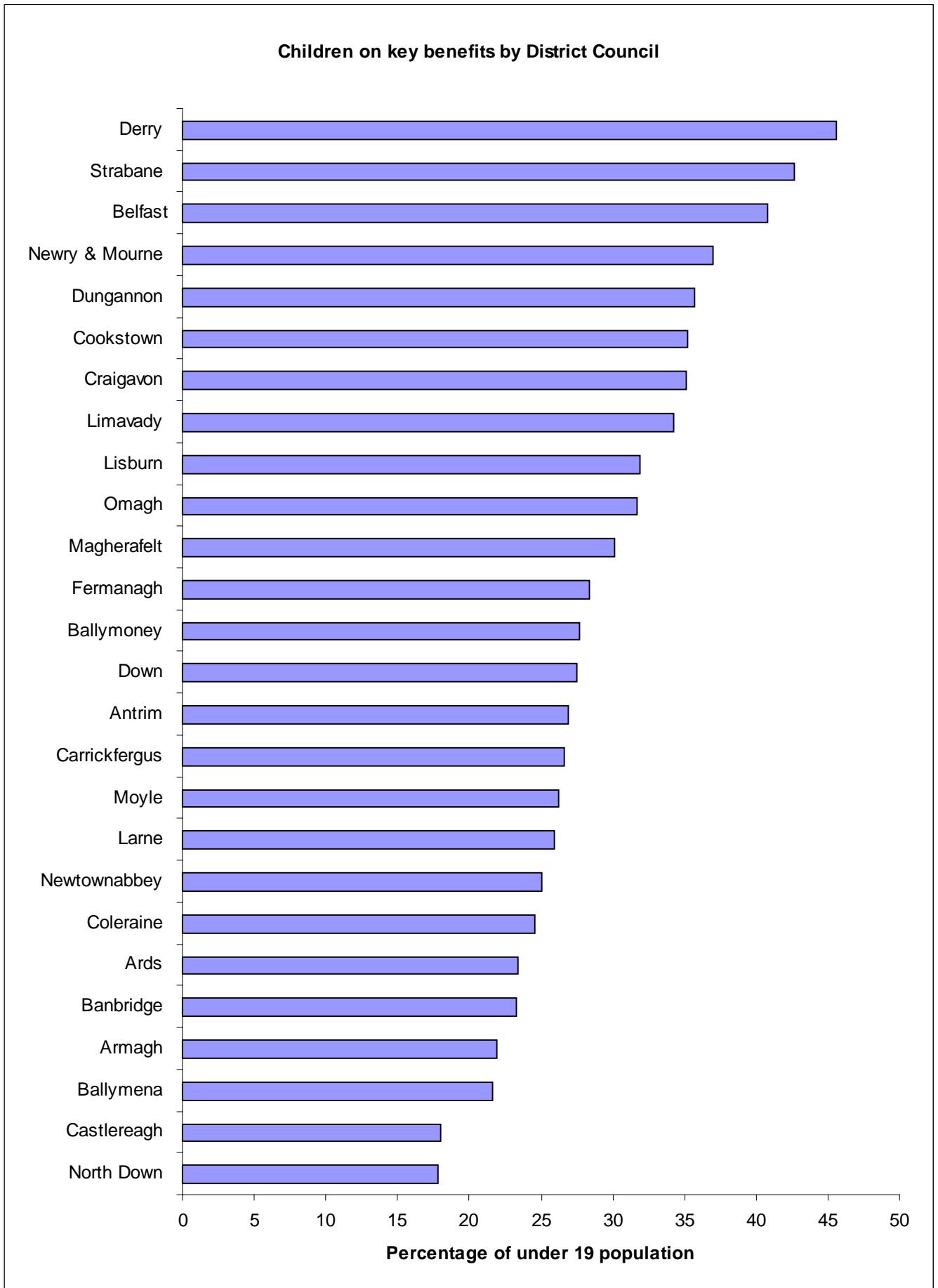
Table 2.1.7 Children¹ of claimants of key benefits by district council: August 2003

	Number of children	% of population ²
Northern Ireland	150,640	32
Ards	4,340	23
Belfast	29,100	41
Castlereagh	2,980	18
Down	5,220	28
Lisburn	10,060	32
North Down	3,240	18
Antrim	3,680	27
Ballymena	3,340	22
Ballymoney	2,120	28
Carrickfergus	2,680	27
Coleraine	3,680	25
Cookstown	3,580	35
Larne	2,040	26
Magherafelt	3,720	30
Moyle	1,200	26
Newtownabbey	5,160	25
Armagh	3,580	22
Banbridge	2,720	23
Craigavon	8,260	35
Dungannon	5,260	36
Newry & Mourne	10,260	37
Derry	15,400	46
Fermanagh	4,720	28
Limavady	3,420	34
Omagh	4,740	32
Strabane	4,980	43
Unknown	1,160	.

¹ Children aged under 16 and young adults aged 16 to 18. The method used to assign children's details has been revised - see Methodology for further details

² Population aged under 16 plus population aged 16 - 18 in Northern Ireland

- The percentage of children (aged under 16 or aged 16 - 18) living in families claiming a key benefit varied from 46% in Derry to 18% in Castlereagh and North Down.



Children of claimants of key benefits as a percentage of the population aged under 19 by District Council: August 2003

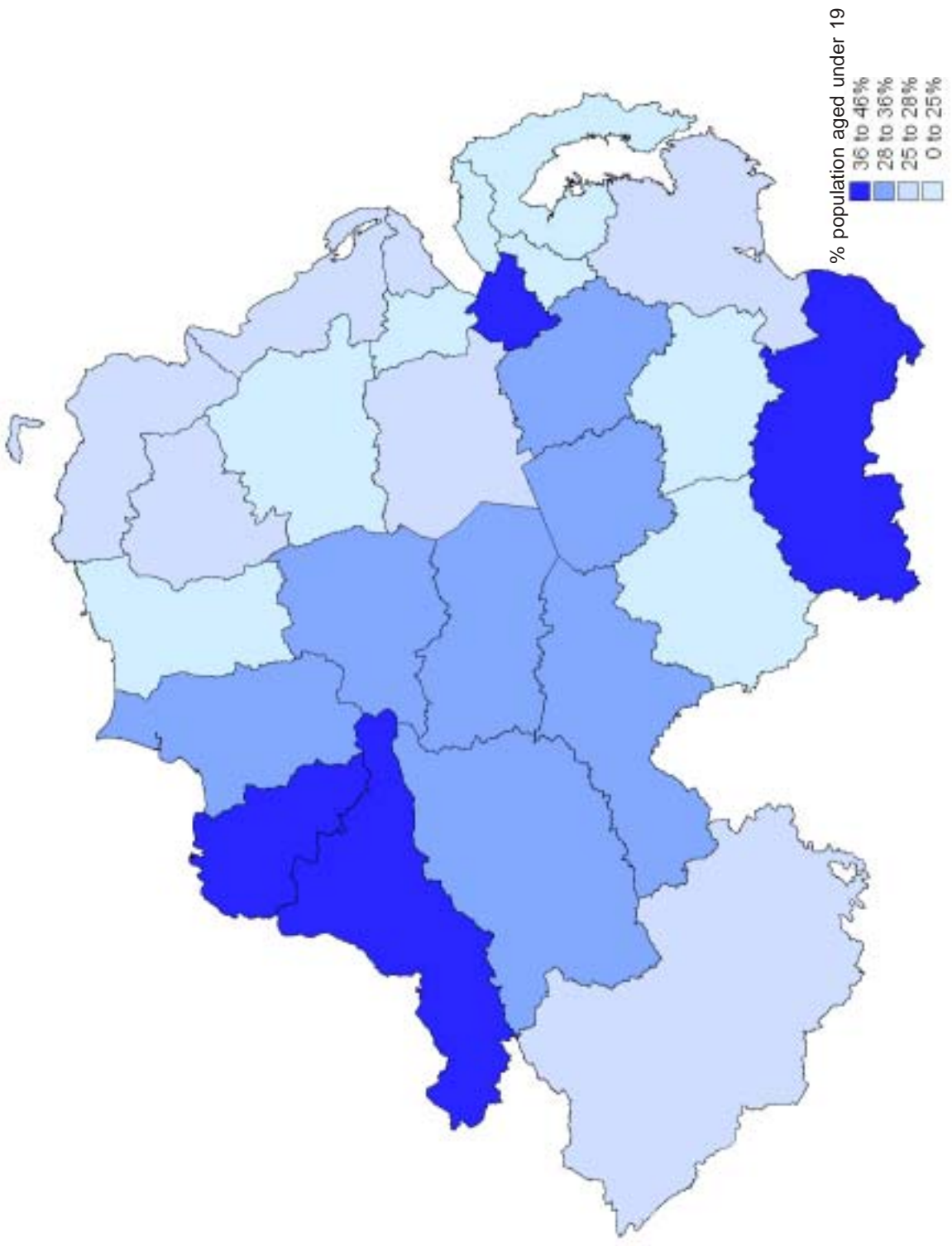


Table 2.1.8 Children¹ of claimants of combinations of key benefits: August 2003

	Number of children	% of population ²
All combinations	150,640	34
IS only	63,840	15
IB only	17,960	4
JSA only	10,580	2
IS, IB & DLA	11,500	3
DLA only	12,320	3
IB & DLA	12,160	3
IS & DLA	10,180	2
IS & IB	9,640	2
IS, DLA & SDA	980	0
DLA & SDA	860	0
IS & SDA	260	0
DLA & JSA	180	0
SDA only	180	0
Others ³	0	0

¹ Children aged under 16 and young adults aged 16 to 18. The method used to assign children's details has been revised - see Methodology for further details

² Population aged under 16 plus population aged 16-18 in full-time education

³ Includes anomalies such as JSA with IB due to the slight differences in dates of benefit data extracts

- 64% of 'key benefit' children were living in families where Income Support was claimed.

2.2 Families

Table 2.2.1 Families¹ on key benefits by statistical group and duration of claim: August 2003

	Duration of oldest claim ²											
	All durations		Under 3 months		3 to under 6 months		6 months to under 1 year		1 to under 2 years		2 years and over	
		%		%		%		%		%		%
All statistical groups	75,760	100	3,920	5	4,460	6	7,040	9	10,340	14	50,000	66
Unemployed	5,120	100	1,720	34	780	15	800	16	980	19	840	16
Sick & Disabled	40,440	100	1,140	3	1,680	4	3,660	9	5,300	13	28,660	71
Lone parents	28,660	100	940	3	1,900	7	2,420	8	3,780	13	19,620	68
Others	1,540	100	120	8	100	6	160	10	280	18	880	57

¹ Children aged under 16 and young adults aged 16 to 18. The method used to assign children's details has been revised - see Methodology for further details

² Oldest benefit payable during current spell of benefit receipt

- 66% of families on key benefits had been on benefit for at least 2 years. For the sick & disabled group the figure was 71% whilst the figure for the unemployed was only 16%.
- 64% of families classed as unemployed had been on benefit for less than a year.

Table 2.2.2 Families¹ on key benefits by duration of claim: August 2000 to August 2003

	Duration of oldest claim ²					
	All durations	Under 3 months	3 to under 6 months	6 months to under 1 year	1 to under 2 years	2 years and over
August-00	75,700	5,300	4,580	7,100	10,260	48,460
%	100	7	6	9	14	64
August-01	74,260	4,100	4,060	7,060	10,680	48,360
%	100	6	5	10	14	65
August-02	72,500	4,280	3,920	6,620	9,640	48,040
%	100	6	5	9	13	66
August-03	75,760	3,920	4,460	7,040	10,340	50,000
%	100	5	6	9	14	66

¹ Children aged under 16 and young adults aged 16 to 18. The method used to assign children's details has been revised - see Methodology for further details

² Oldest benefit payable during current spell of benefit receipt

- At August 2003 66% of families on key benefits had been on benefit for at least 2 years. This compares to 67% of children in families where a key benefit was claimed.

- The methodology used to assign information about children's details has been revised following the introduction of CTC in April 2003. Comparisons over time are affected by these changes. Please see Methodology for further details.

Table 2.2.3 Families¹ on key benefits by statistical group and age of youngest child: August 2003

	Age of youngest child											
	All ages	%	Under 5	%	5 to under 11	%	11 to under 16	%	16 or over	%	Not known ²	%
All statistical groups	75,760	100	26,100	34	23,920	32	17,240	23	7,140	9	1,360	2
Unemployed	5,120	100	1,760	34	1,240	24	1,120	22	1,000	20	.	0
Sick & Disabled	40,440	100	10,960	27	11,660	29	10,960	27	5,500	14	1,360	3
Lone parents	28,660	100	12,840	45	10,520	37	4,780	17	520	2	.	0
Others	1,540	100	540	35	500	32	380	25	120	8	.	0

¹ Children aged under 16 and young adults aged 16 to 18. The method used to assign children's details has been revised - see Methodology for further details

² Children whose ages are not known

- 34% of the youngest children were under the age of five.
- For the sick & disabled the age profile of the youngest children was older (although the ages of many children in this group were unknown).

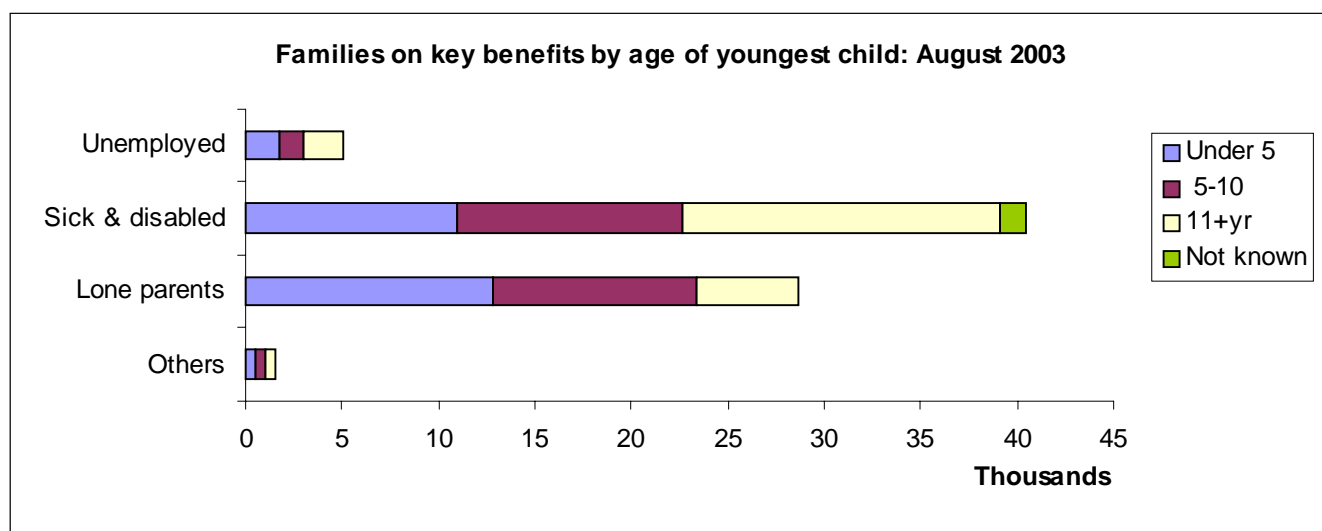


Table 2.2.4 Families¹ on key benefits by age of youngest child: August 2000 to August 2003

	Age of youngest child					
	All ages	Under 5	5 to under 11	11 to under 16	16 or over	Not known ²
Aug-00	75,700	28,920	21,800	16,500	5,060	3,420
%	100	38	29	22	7	5
Aug-01	74,260	28,400	20,920	15,940	5,640	3,360
%	100	38	28	21	8	5
Aug-02	72,500	26,580	21,140	15,500	5,980	3,300
%	100	37	29	21	8	5
Aug-03	75,760	26,100	23,920	17,240	7,140	1,360
%	100	34	32	23	9	2

¹ Children aged under 16 and young adults aged 16 to 18. The method used to assign children's details has been revised - see Methodology for further details

² Children whose ages are not known

- The methodology used to assign information about children's details has been revised following the introduction of CTC in April 2003. Comparisons over time are affected by these changes. Please see Methodology for further details.

Table 2.2.5 Families¹ on key benefits by statistical group and number of children: August 2003

	Number of children ²				
	All families	One	Two	Three	Four or more
All statistical groups	75,760	31,160	25,040	12,260	7,300
Unemployed	5,120	1,820	1,920	840	540
Sick & Disabled	40,440	16,580	13,180	6,700	3,980
Lone parents	28,660	12,320	9,420	4,380	2,540
Others	1,540	440	520	340	240

¹ Children aged under 16 and young adults aged 16 to 18. The method used to assign children's details has been revised - see Methodology for further details

- In August 2003, 10% of families had 4 or more children.
- 41% (31,160) of claimants of key benefits had only 1 child.

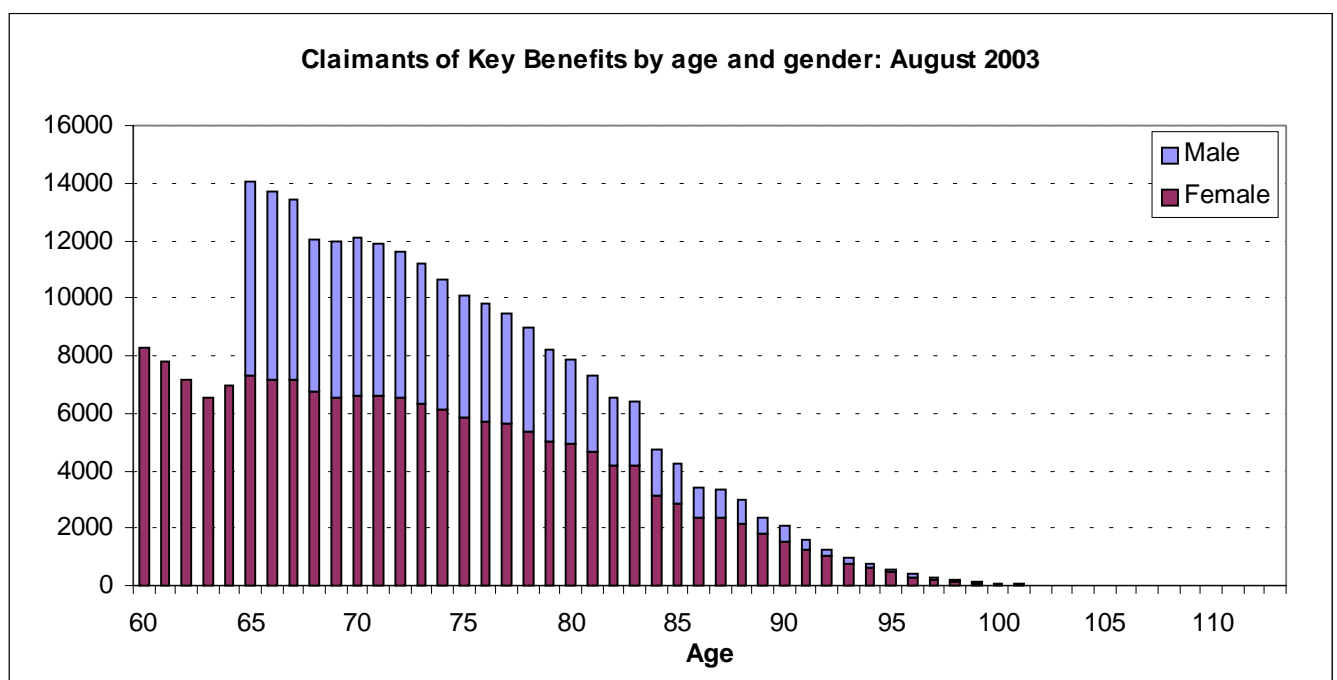
Section 3: Persons of Pensionable Age on Key Benefits

3.1 Age and gender

Table 3.1.1 Claimants over State Pension Age of key benefits by gender: August 2000 to August 2003

	Aug-00	Aug-01	Aug-02	Aug-03
Men	87,292	89,073	90,841	93,116
% of pop ¹	97	97	97	99
Women	163,403	164,994	166,486	170,413
% of pop ¹	97	97	97	99
All	250,695	254,067	257,327	263,529
% of pop ¹	97	97	97	99

¹ Population of Northern Ireland residents above state pension age - see Methodology



- In August 2003 about 99% (263,529) of people over state pension age claimed a key benefit - an increase of 5% (12,834) since August 2000.
- 99% of both men and women were claiming at least one of the key state benefits in August 2003.

Table 3.1.2 Claimants over State Pension Age of key benefits by age and gender: August 2003

	Male		Female		All	
		% of pop ¹²		% of pop ¹²		% of pop ¹²
60-64	.	.	36,747	95	36,747	95
65-69	30,327	98	34,871	98	65,198	98
70-74	25,354	100	32,081	98	57,435	99
75-79	19,016	100	27,505	98	46,521	99
80-84	11,844	101	21,031	104	32,875	103
85-89	4,800	100	11,547	102	16,347	101
90+	1,775	107	6,631	115	8,406	113
All ages	93,116	99	170,413	99	263,529	99

¹ Population of Northern Ireland residents above state pension age

² Percentages shown as greater than 100 indicate that the benefit caseload is higher than the corresponding population figure. This can occur because the latest population figures available are around a year behind the benefit data and/or because of inaccuracies associated with the data sources themselves.

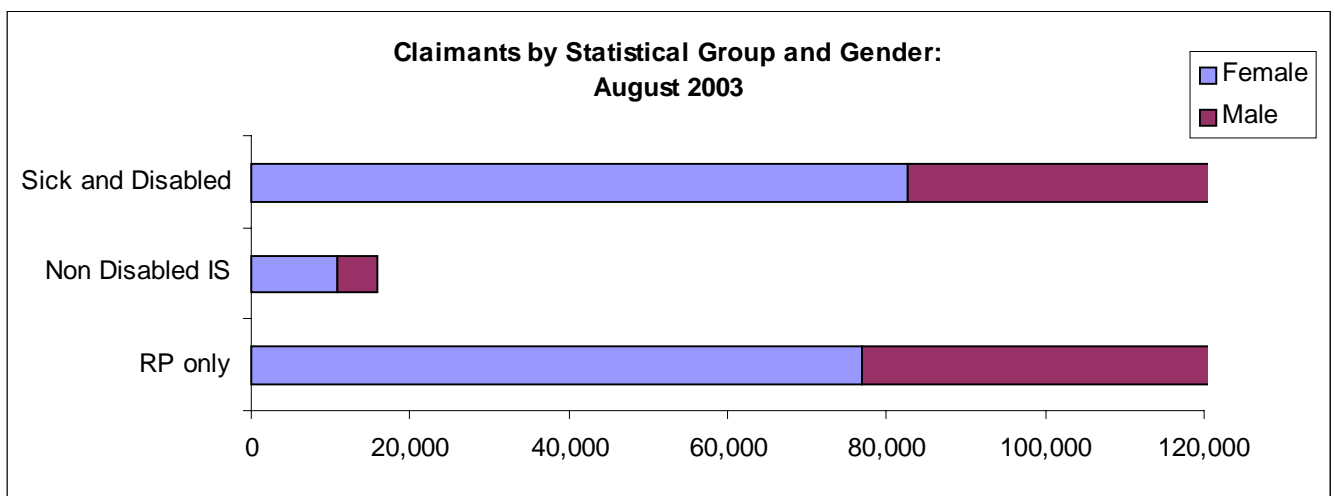
Table 3.1.3 Claimants over State Pension Age by Statistical group: August 2000 to August 2003

	Aug-00		Aug-01		Aug-02		Aug-03	
	All	% of pop ¹	All	% of pop ¹	All	% of pop ¹	All	% of pop ¹
Sick and/or Disabled	117,318	45	121,077	46	122,059	46	126,290	47
Non Disabled IS	12,990	5	13,698	5	14,492	5	15,849	6
RP only	120,387	46	119,292	45	120,776	45	121,390	46
All	250,695	97	254,067	97	257,327	97	263,529	99

¹ Population of Northern Ireland residents above state pension age - see Methodology

3.2 Statistical groups

The claimants of these benefits can be divided into statistical groups, based mainly on the type of benefit they received (see 'Definitions and Conventions').



- The overall numbers rose by 12,834 between August 2000 and August 2003.
- Sick and/or disabled claimants rose from 117,318 to 126,290 between August 2000 and August 2003, rising from 45% to 47% of the total pensioner population.
- Over the same period, the non-disabled IS statistical group grew by 2,859.
- Over the same period, the RP only statistical group grew by 1,003.

The statistical group analyses show the stock of claimants on key benefits at a fixed point in time. By comparing records for the individual claimants who appear in these 'snapshots' over time, the analyses can give an indication of how many people move in and out of the benefit system. They can also look at how people move between benefits and/or statistical groups.

Table 3.2.1 Cases over State Pension Age moving onto a key benefit between August 2002 and August 2003 by gender and statistical group

	Male	Female	All
Sick and/or Disabled	2,689	3,316	6,005
Non Disabled IS	691	643	1,334
RP only	3,891	6,146	10,037
All	7,271	10,105	17,376

Table 3.2.2 Cases over State Pension Age receiving key benefits at August 2002 but no longer receiving a key benefit in August 2003: by gender and statistical group

	Male	Female	All
Sick and/or Disabled	3,568	4,866	8,434
Non Disabled IS	192	253	445
RP only	1,236	1,059	2,295
All	4,996	6,178	11,174

Table 3.2.3 Cases over State Pension Age changing statistical group: August 2002 and August 2003

Statistical group in August 2002	Statistical group in August 2003			All
	Sick and/or Disabled	Non Disabled IS	RP only	
Sick and/or Disabled	0	846	150	996
Non Disabled IS	1,311	0	232	1,543
RP only	6,345	1,165	0	7,510
All	7,656	2,011	382	10,049

- 58% of claimants moving onto a key benefit(s) between August 2002 and August 2003 received the state Retirement Pension as their only benefit.
- The number in the sick and/or disabled statistical group rose by 4,231 between August 2002 and August 2003. However, more people stopped claiming a key benefit in this statistical group (8,434) than moved onto benefit directly into the sick and/or disabled statistical group (6,005). This rise is due to a net 6,660 moving from the other statistical groups (most importantly RP only) into the sick and/or disabled group.

Table 3.2.4 Cases over State Pension Age moving onto a key benefit between August 2000 and August 2003: by gender and statistical group

	Male	Female	All
Sick and/or Disabled	7,789	8,086	15,875
Non Disabled IS	1,610	1,634	3,244
RP only	11,133	16,948	28,081
All	20,532	26,668	47,200

Table 3.2.5 Cases over State Pension Age receiving a key benefit at August 2000 but no longer receiving key benefits in August 2003: by gender and statistical group

	Male	Female	All
Sick and/or Disabled	9,821	15,029	24,850
Non Disabled IS	490	697	1,187
RP only	4,396	3,933	8,329
All	14,707	19,659	34,366

Table 3.2.6 Cases over State Pension Age changing statistical group: August 2000 and August 2003

Statistical group in August 2000	Statistical group in August 2003			All
	Sick and/or Disabled	Non Disabled IS	RP only	
Sick and/or Disabled	0	1,114	263	1,377
Non Disabled IS	3,103	0	382	3,485
RP only	16,221	3,173	0	19,394
All	19,324	4,287	645	24,256

- The overall number of claimants on key benefits has risen during the period August 2000 to August 2003 by 12,834, with the number moving onto key benefits (47,200) exceeding those no longer claiming a key benefit (34,366).
- Approximately 77% of people on a key benefit in August 2000 have remained within the same statistical group in August 2003, 14% were no longer on a key benefit and 10% had moved statistical group.

Table 3.2.7 Sick and/or Disabled claimants over State Pension Age by benefit combination: August 2000 to August 2003

	Aug-00		Aug-01		Aug-02		Aug-03	
		%		%		%		%
AA or DLA	3,251	3	3,288	3	3,878	3	4,818	4
IB or SDA	189	0	152	0	133	0	113	0
AA or DLA and IB or SDA	852	1	859	1	871	1	868	1
IS only/IS with AA or DLA or IB or SDA	5,148	4	4,796	4	4,591	4	5,298	4
RP only (IVA or in hospital)	6,001	5	5,981	5	6,049	5	5,931	5
RP and one of AA or DLA	55,748	48	58,246	48	59,644	49	62,373	49
RP and IS	2,712	2	2,595	2	2,072	2	924	1
RP and IS and AA or DLA	43,417	37	45,159	37	44,818	37	45,964	36
Others ¹²	0	0	-	0	-	0	-	0
All	117,318	100	121,076	100	122,056	100	126,289	100

¹ Includes anomalies such as IB with RP

² Numbers less than 5 are not disclosed due to DSD customer confidentiality policy

Table 3.2.8 Sick and/or Disabled over State Pension Age statistical group cases by benefit combination and gender: August 2003

	Male		Female		All	
		%		%		%
AA or DLA	1,553	4	3,265	4	4,818	4
IB or SDA	20	0	93	0	113	0
AA or DLA and IB or SDA	64	0	804	1	868	1
IS only/IS with AA or DLA or IB or SDA	1,566	4	3,732	5	5,298	4
RP only (IVA or in hospital)	3,946	9	1,985	2	5,931	5
RP and one of AA or DLA	22,995	53	39,378	48	62,373	49
RP and IS	516	1	408	0	924	1
RP and IS and AA or DLA	12,926	30	33,038	40	45,964	36
Others ¹²	0	0	-	0	-	0
All	43,586	100	82,703	100	126,289	100

¹ Includes anomalies such as IB with RP

² Numbers less than 5 are not disclosed due to DSD customer confidentiality policy

- The sick and/or disabled statistical group as a whole increased by 8,972 (8%) between August 2000 and August 2003.
- RP plus AA or DLA in August 2003 accounted for 49% of the total claimants within the sick and/or disabled statistical group. This compares with only 48% in August 2000.
- The numbers claiming RP, plus IS and AA or DLA rose more slowly. The RP, plus IS and AA or DLA group has maintained its relative size (37/36%) over the period August 2000 to August 2003.

Table 3.2.9 Claimants over State Pension Age by all benefit combinations¹ and gender: August 2003

	Male	Female	All
DLA only	600	1,702	2,302
AA only	945	1,554	2,499
DLA, AA	8	9	17
SDA only	20	93	113
SDA, DLA	47	736	783
SDA, AA	16	58	74
SDA, DLA, AA	-	10	10
IB only	0	0	0
IB, DLA	0	0	0
IB, AA	0	0	0
IS only	865	1,325	2,190
IS, DLA	623	1,260	1,883
IS, AA	529	1,300	1,829
IS, DLA, AA	-	15	15
IS, SDA	70	195	265
IS, SDA, DLA	257	752	1,009
IS, SDA, AA	66	176	242
IS, SDA, AA, DLA	8	14	22
IS, IB	0	0	0
IS, IB, DLA	0	-	0
IS, IB, AA	0	0	0
RP only	48,464	78,851	127,315
RP, DLA	9,324	16,808	26,132
RP, AA	13,559	22,432	35,991
RP, AA, DLA	115	141	256
RP, IS	4,669	9,942	14,611
RP, IS, DLA	4,960	9,134	14,094
RP, IS, AA	7,880	23,715	31,595
RP, IS, AA, DLA	86	189	275
Other ²	0	-	0
All	93,111	170,411	263,522

¹ Numbers less than 5 are not disclosed due to DSD customer confidentiality policy

² Includes anomalies such as IB with RP

- All Benefit combinations at August 2003 are included in the above table. The main combinations were RP only (48%), RP and AA (14%), RP, IS and AA (12%) and RP and DLA (10%).

3.3 Regional Analysis

These analyses show the numbers of claimants of key benefits in each Government Office Region.

Table 3.3.1 Claimants over State Pension Age of key benefits by gender and Government Office Region: May 2003

	Thousands and percentages					
	Men		Women		All	
	(000s)	% of pop ¹	(000s)	% of pop ¹	(000s)	% of pop ¹
Great Britain	3,901	100	6,625	98	10,526	100
England	3,353	100	5,655	100	9,008	100
North East	180	100	305	98	484	100
North West	461	100	796	99	1,258	100
Yorkshire & Humberside	341	100	580	98	921	99
East Midlands	296	100	483	99	779	100
West Midlands	366	100	614	99	980	100
East of England	393	100	640	100	1,033	100
London	367	98	640	96	1,006	97
South East	555	100	936	98	1,491	99
South West	395	100	660	99	1,055	100
Wales	218	100	365	98	583	100
Scotland	330	100	606	98	936	99
Northern Ireland ²	93	99	170	99	264	99

¹ Population over state pension age

² Northern Ireland data is at August 2003

- The proportion of the population over state pension age claiming a key benefit ranges from 97% in London to 100% in North East, North West, East Midlands, West Midlands, East of England, South West and Wales.
- The figure for Northern Ireland of 99% claiming a key benefit is below the Great Britain figure of 100%.

Table 3.3.2 Claimants over State Pension Age of key benefits by Statistical group and Government Office Region: May 2003

Thousands and percentages

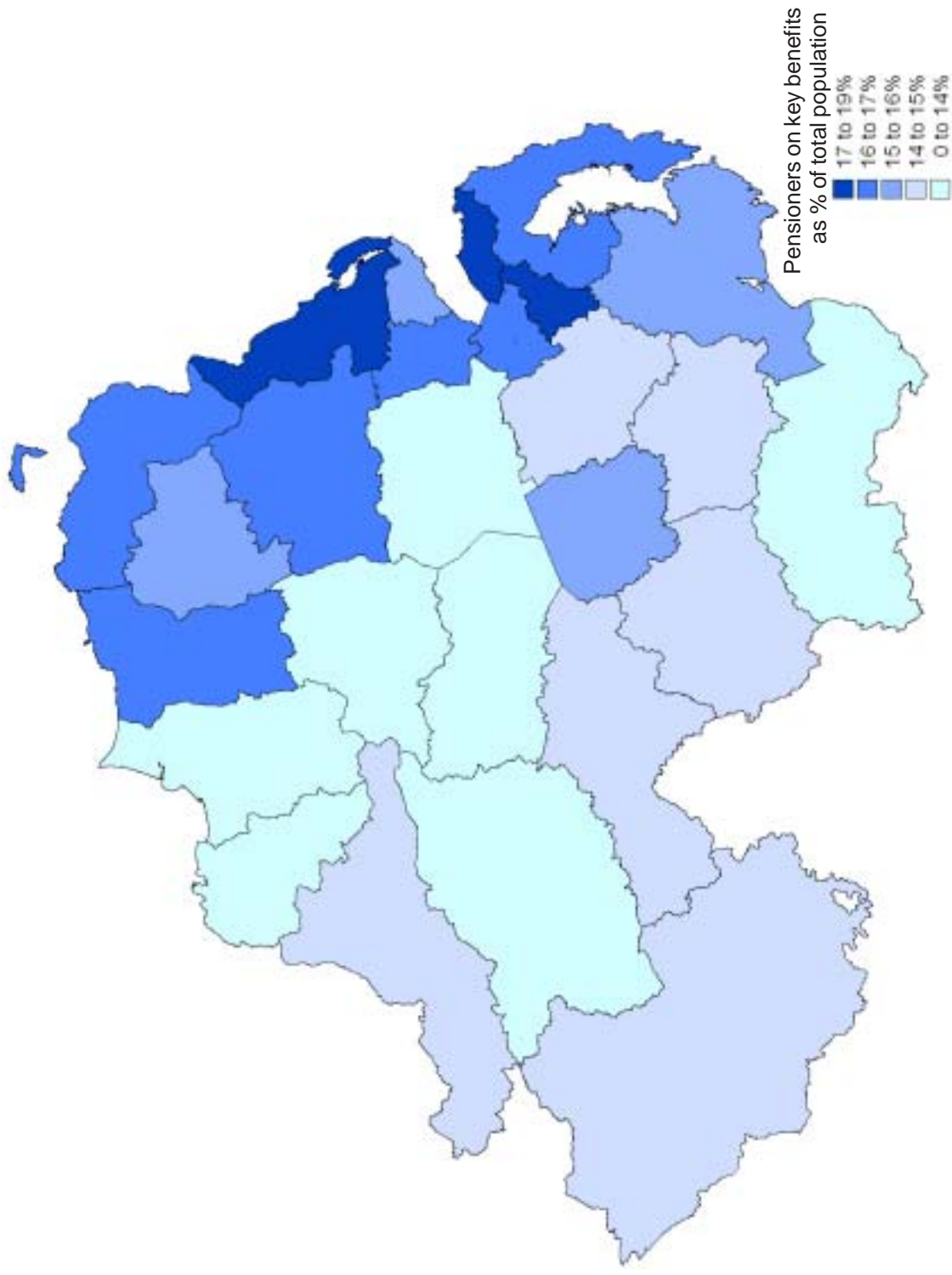
		Statistical Group			All
		Sick and/or Disabled	Non Disabled IS	RP only	
Great Britain	(000s)	2,577	715	7,235	10,526
	% of pop ¹	24	7	68	100
England	(000s)	2,088	620	6,300	9,008
	% of pop ¹	29	8	80	100
North East	(000s)	155	38	292	484
	% of pop ¹	32	8	60	100
North West	(000s)	389	84	785	1,258
	% of pop ¹	31	7	63	100
Yorkshire & Humberside	(000s)	239	68	615	921
	% of pop ¹	26	7	66	99
East Midlands	(000s)	186	49	543	779
	% of pop ¹	24	6	70	100
West Midlands	(000s)	256	75	649	980
	% of pop ¹	26	8	66	100
East of England	(000s)	200	59	774	1,033
	% of pop ¹	20	6	76	100
London	(000s)	215	103	689	1,006
	% of pop ¹	21	10	66	97
South East	(000s)	237	84	1,170	1,491
	% of pop ¹	16	6	78	99
South West	(000s)	212	60	784	1,055
	% of pop ¹	20	6	74	100
Wales	(000s)	214	31	338	583
	% of pop ¹	37	5	58	100
Scotland	(000s)	275	64	597	936
	% of pop ¹	29	7	63	99
Northern Ireland ²	(000s)	126	16	121	264
	% of pop ¹	47	6	46	99

¹ Population over state pension age

² Northern Ireland data is at August 2003

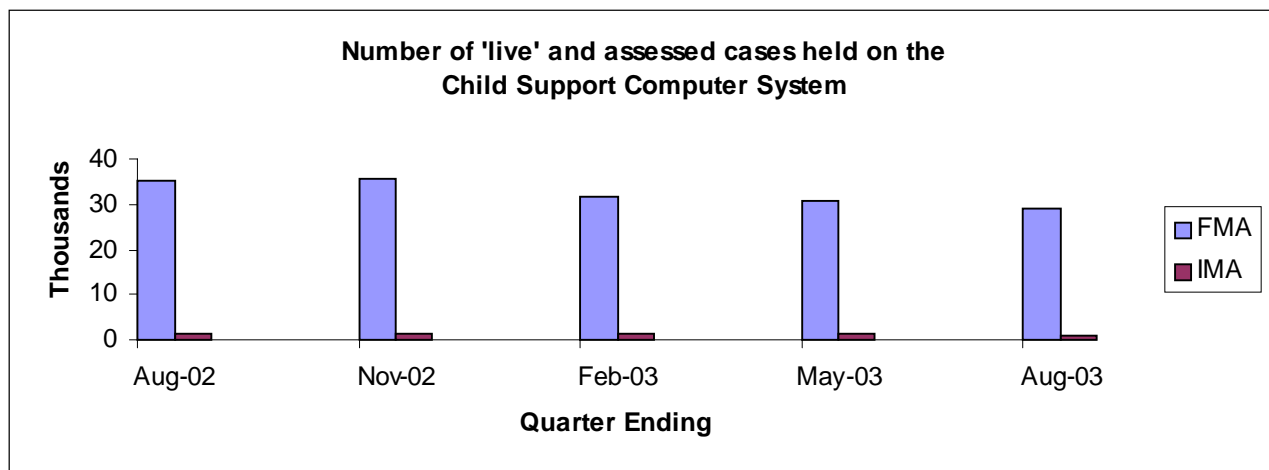
- Northern Ireland has by far the highest proportion claiming a key sickness and/or disability benefit at 47% compared to Wales (37%), which is next, with the South East lowest at 16%.
- For the RP only category Northern Ireland (46%) is considerably lower than any other office region, with Wales (58%) next. The highest proportion is the South East (78%).

Persons of pensionable age claiming key benefits as a percentage of the total population by District Council: August 2003



Appendix 1 - Child Support Agency

At the end of August 2003 there were 28,891 'live' and fully assessed cases held on the Child Support Computer System (CSCS) a drop of 6,728 since November 2002. This fall in the caseload is mainly due to the closure of a large number of suspended cases on the system. Also information on all new cases is held on a new computer system from which it is not possible to extract any reliable information at present. Therefore the figures for August 2003 quoted below do not give a true reflection of all cases on the CSA liveload.



The average FMA (Full Maintenance Assessment) for all non-resident parents (NRPs) fell from £14.21 in August 2002 to £13.89 in August 2003. For NRPs recorded on CSCS as an employee the average maintenance in August 2003 was £35.33 per week, a decrease of £0.08 per week from August 2002. For self-employed NRPs, the average maintenance assessment increased from £19.90 per week in August 2002 to £20.08 in August 2003.

Table 1 Number of NRPs with full maintenance assessment and average value of assessment, August 2002 - August 2003

Month	FMA	Average, £pw
Aug-02	34,965	£14.21
Nov-02	35,619	£14.26
Feb-03	31,472	£13.59
May-03	30,799	£13.66
Aug-03	28,891	£13.89

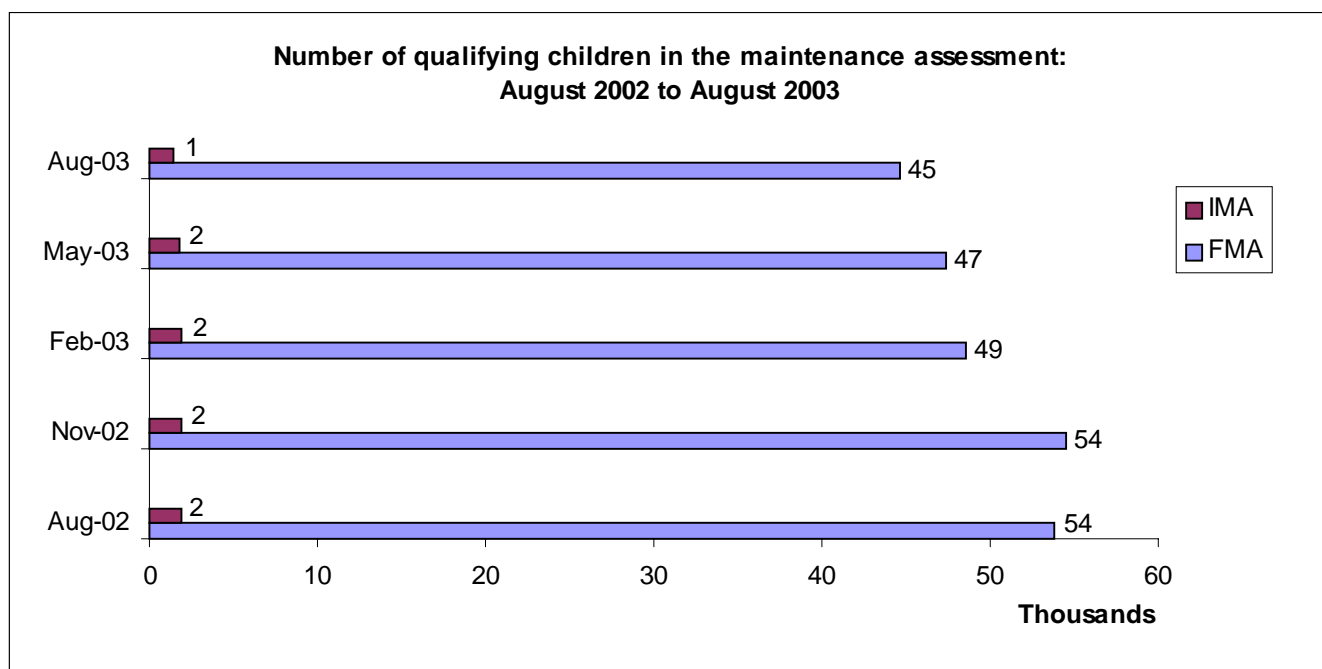
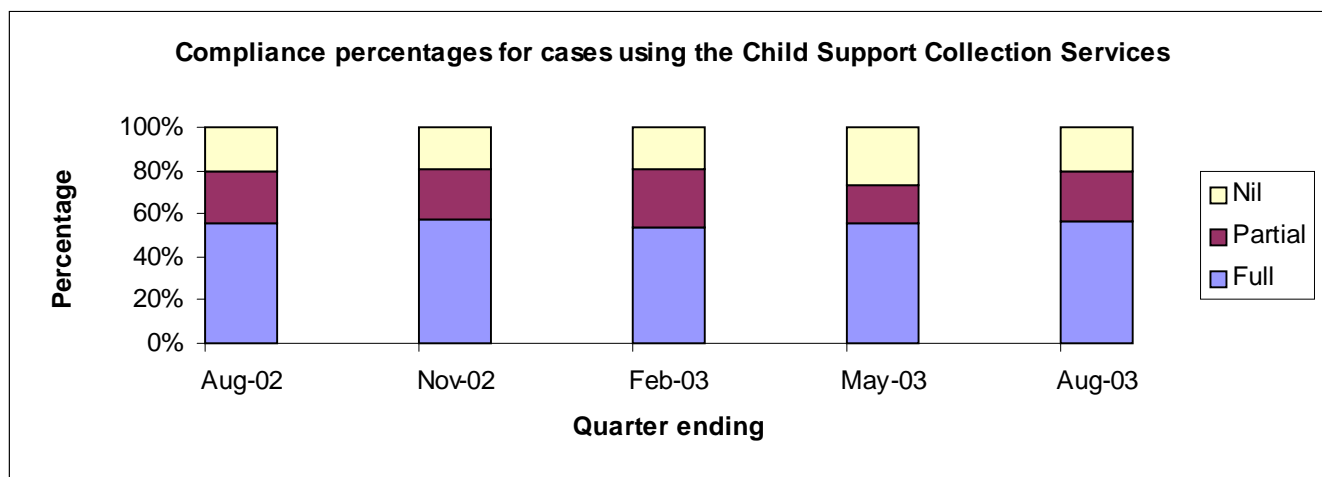
Table 2 Benefit status of Parent/Person with Care (PWC), August 2002 - August 2003: full assessments

Month	PWC benefit status							
	Total	%	IS	%	WFTC/ DPTC	%	Other	%
Aug-02	34,965	100	20,069	57	9,125	26	5,771	17
Nov-02	35,619	100	20,503	58	9,372	26	5,744	16
Feb-03	31,472	100	18,051	57	8,679	28	4,742	15
May-03	30,799	100	17,307	56	8,579	28	4,913	16
Aug-03	28,891	100	15,826	55	8,244	29	4,821	17

In the following table the 'Not Applicable' category covers 2 groups of NRPs. Firstly, 'direct pay' NRPs where payment is not via the CSA Collection Service. Secondly, 'nothing due' NRPs where no payment has been made in the Regular Payment Accounts (RPAs) during the last quarter and nothing is outstanding.

Table 3 Compliance levels for 'live' and fully assessed cases, August 2002 - August 2003: caseload

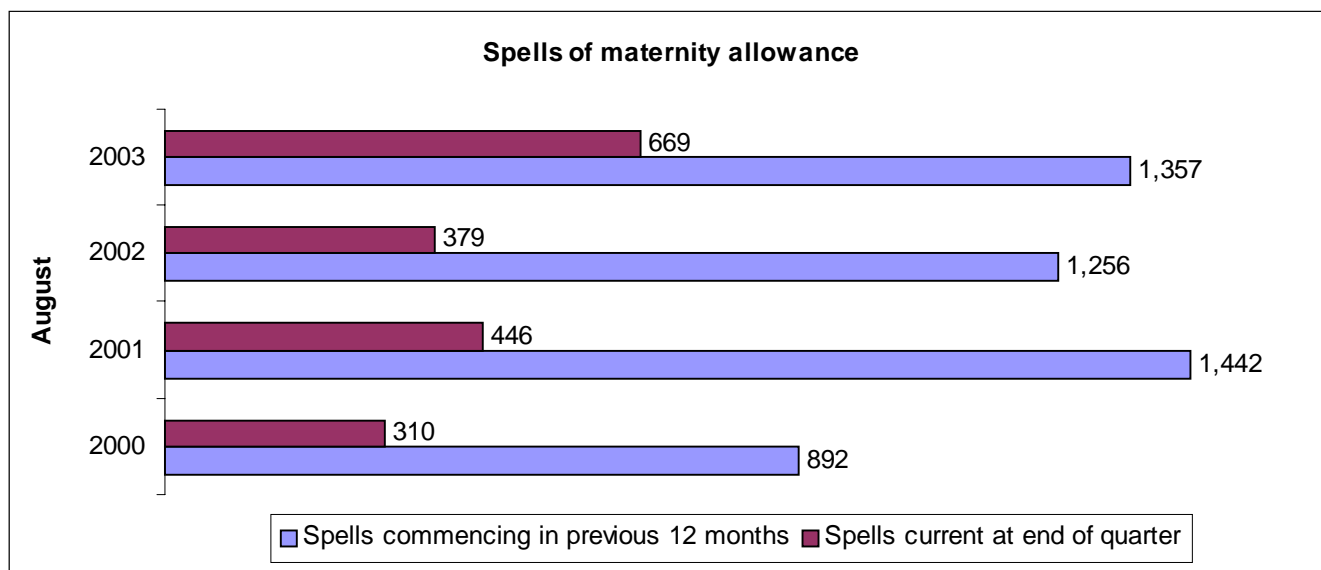
Month	Total	Not Applicable	Full	Partial	Nil
Aug-02	34,965	26,267	4,873	2,062	1,763
Nov-02	35,619	26,824	4,973	2,153	1,669
Feb-03	31,472	22,815	4,656	2,311	1,690
May-03	30,799	23,030	4,299	1,415	2,055
Aug-03	28,891	20,878	4,533	1,867	1,613



- The number of qualifying children in the fully assessed caseload has decreased by 17% since August 2002.

Appendix 2 - Maternity Allowance

At the end of August 2003 there were 669 spells of Maternity Allowance in payment an increase of 116% on 3 years earlier. This increase was due to the extension of maternity leave from 18 weeks to 26 weeks in April 2003.



Maternity Allowance rates (£ per week)

	Higher rate ¹	Lower rate	Increase for dependants
Apr-92	.	42.25	25.50
Apr-93	.	43.75	26.40
Apr-94	.	44.55	26.90
Oct-94	52.50	44.55	26.90
Apr-95	52.50	45.55	27.50
Apr-96	54.55	47.35	28.55
Apr-97	55.70	48.35	29.15
Apr-98	57.70	50.10	30.20
Apr-99	59.55	51.70	31.15
Apr-00	60.20	52.25	31.50
Apr-01	62.20 ²		32.55
Apr-02	75.00		33.10
Apr-03	100.00		33.65
Apr-04	102.80		34.60

¹ The woman must be an employee in the 15th week before the baby is expected (the 'qualifying week').

² In April 2001 the higher and lower rates of maternity allowance were abolished and replaced by a standard rate.

Methodology

The following notes are for the interpretation of Persons of Working Age and their Children. A full description of the methodology used to produce these analyses and the possible uses that can be made of the data is available from the contact point listed.

These analyses are based on data collected through the administration of the individual benefits. They are designed to give a good indication of the size of the population on these benefits and how this changes over time. However, they are affected by changes to the conditions of entitlement and to the existence of the benefits themselves. This includes such things as the introduction of new tax credits in April 2003. No attempt has been made to adjust the series for such factors.

Summary of methodology

The analysis of Persons of Working Age and their Children have been constructed by matching 5% samples for the individual benefits. People in these individual samples are selected using the last two digits of the National Insurance number (NINO). This sampling scheme ensures that the same set of people will be selected for each individual benefit and time period that they have a live claim.

(Note: The analysis of Persons of Pensionable Age has been constructed by matching 100% scans for the individual benefits that they cover).

To produce the client group analyses, a common “snapshot” date is chosen and the NINOs for each person claiming a benefit on this date are selected. The NINOs are then matched to produce an overall data set for those who are claiming at least one benefit on the snapshot date. The individual data items used for the various analyses (e.g. age, sex, number of children) are then taken from the source data sets and additional variables are then derived (e.g. statistical group, family type).

This methodology gives a “best estimate” of the overall number of claimants of benefits. However, there are some minor limitations (for example, the sample of JSA claimants is taken about two weeks before the snapshot date). The best estimates of the numbers claiming each benefit are still given by the individual samples from which the data are drawn. Benefit statistics are published by Social Welfare Statistics and Consultancy Branch, Department for Social Development.

Family type and “People on benefits”

The Family Type analyses in section 1.2 cover claimants who receive additional amounts of benefit for their partner and/or children and young adult dependants. These amounts are payable for all partners and dependants of claimants of means tested benefits, which are received by the majority of claimants covered by these analyses. The main gap comes from claimants of Incapacity Benefit/ Severe Disablement Allowance where additional benefit is payable only to those who have a partner who is not working and is looking after children. For Disability Living Allowance, partner and/or children information is not required since claimants make a claim in their own right from birth to pensionable age. For Jobseeker’s Allowance, Contributory and Credits, no additional payment is made for partners or children.

Child Tax Credit (CTC) data has been used to supplement the benefit data. In cases where both a key benefit and CTC is claimed, for example, IS claimants with children the CTC data has been the preferred source. However, where partner information is available from both benefit and CTC data, the benefit data has been the preferred source. This is because CTC is becoming the

primary means of paying additional money for children, whilst benefits remain the primary means of paying money in respect of partners. In the vast majority of cases the information on children/young adult dependants and partners will be the same on both sources of data.

In addition, Social Welfare Statistics and Consultancy Branch have been able to match partner's and dependant's details in this publication from other data sources i.e. Child Benefit and Child Support Agency. The main gaps are children/young adult dependants living in families receiving non-means tested benefits where there is no entitlement to CTC or where there is entitlement to CTC but it is not in payment.

In sections 1.6, 1.7 and in the Children's section, the analysis is based on Children of Working Age Claimants where we have been able to match details from either the Key Benefits themselves, CTC or from Child Benefit and Child Support Agency scans. There are a small number of children where their age is not known. It is assumed for the purposes of the relevant sections that they are '15 or less'.

The effect of New Tax Credits

In April 2003 Working Families' Tax Credit, Disabled Person's Tax Credit and Children's Tax Credit were replaced by Child Tax Credit (CTC) and Working Tax Credit (WTC). The New Tax Credits are administered by the Inland Revenue. Figures in this and future publications are affected by the introduction of the CTC. The main changes are

- Increases for child dependants paid with non-means tested benefits were abolished for new claims to Bereavement Benefit, Carer's Allowance, Incapacity Benefit and State Pension from April 2003.
- Child elements of Income Support and income-based Jobseeker's Allowance will be replaced by CTC from April 2004.

As a result particular changes may occur at

- April 2003, when increases for child dependants paid with non-means tested benefits were abolished for new claims
- October 2003, when it is planned that families on Minimum Income Guarantee with children will have the child elements transferred to CTC.
- Financial year 2004/2005, when families on Income Support and income-based Jobseeker's Allowance will have the child elements transferred to CTC.

A small number of former IS/JSA(IB) recipients will no longer be eligible once CTC is in payment. This is because CTC payments raise total income above the IS/JSA(IB) threshold, or other income exceeds the threshold once child allowances have been removed.

Statistical groups

Claimants have been allocated to statistical groups to give an indication of the main reason why they are claiming benefit (see Definitions and Conventions). This is only one of the possible ways in which claimants could be classified and alternative classifications are possible.

Transitions analyses

The transitions analyses shown in section 1.3 of this bulletin are produced by matching the “snapshot” data for the stock of claimants with a live claim at the end of each quarter. By matching claimants who appear in different quarters, we can get an indication of how many move on, off and between the benefits that are included. These analyses do not cover all claimants who come on and go off these benefits over the period covered by the analyses. For example, they do not cover those claims of very short duration, which start and end between the “snapshot” dates.

Also, as they are based on matching NINOs of claimants of these benefits, they do not cover all possible movements into and out of the benefit system. For example, if a claimant leaves Income Support because his partner claims Jobseeker’s Allowance, the analyses will not capture this change.

The importance of these “missing flows” will depend mainly upon the use that is made of the data. If, for example, we want to analyse the number of different benefits that a claimant receives over a three-year period, these analyses should be able to produce a good measure of it. However, if we were attempting to produce a similar analysis based on benefit units, we could miss a significant number of flows - for example, where the partners in a couple alternate as to who makes the claim for a benefit when the family circumstances change.

IS claimants on Government Training schemes

Prior to the introduction of JSA, people on Government Training schemes could claim Income Support. When JSA was introduced in October 1996, these claimants now had to claim Income-based JSA. They are not included in the client group analysis in this bulletin as validated source data are not currently available.

Clerical Cases

Some of the claims to each of the key benefits featured in this bulletin are not administered using the relevant DSS computer system. These claims are administered clerically and make up a very small proportion of people of working age who claim a key benefit.

Population Estimates

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency have revised the population estimates for 1998 - 2000 as a result of the 2001 Census.

Child Benefit

From April 2003, Child Benefit was administered by Inland Revenue. Statistics are now produced by Inland Revenue and can be found on www.inlandrevenue.gov.uk/stats/child_benefit/menu.htm

Sampling Errors

The analyses in this report are subject to ‘sampling error’, i.e. there is a chance that the number of cases in the sample may produce population estimates that are slightly lower or slightly higher than the true population value. An indication of the effect of these sampling errors can be gained from the tables of ‘confidence intervals’ below. The size of this range is usually indicated by a “95% confidence interval” i.e. there is only a 1 in 20 chance that the true value lies outside of this range. Usually this interval is approximately symmetric so, for example, an estimate of 10,000 is really showing that the true value lies in the range of 9,146 to 10,854.

The above method applies only to estimates of numbers of claimants and not to other characteristics.

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

Warning: Figures 600 or less should be used with caution.

