

**NORTHERN IRELAND
CLIENT GROUP ANALYSIS**

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

FEBRUARY 2002

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Introduction

The Statistics and Research 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 Housing Benefit. Section 2 analyses the children of persons of working age on key benefits. The Inland Revenue Tax Credits are also included in these analyses in sections 1.10 and 2.3. They are designed to give a good indication of the size of the population on these benefits and/or tax credits and how this changes over time. However, they are affected by changes to the conditions of entitlement and to the existence of the benefits/tax credits themselves. This includes such things as: the replacement of Family Credit and Disability Working Allowance with Working Families' Tax Credit and Disabled Person's Tax Credit respectively. 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 Benefit 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 Benefit, 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 Statistics and Research 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 2001

16-18 year olds in full-time education from 1998 to 2001

“.” not applicable

Inland Revenue Tax Credits

Working Families' Tax Credit (WFTC) [Family Credit (FC) prior to October 1999]

Disabled Person's Tax Credit (DPTC) [Disability Working Allowance (DWA) prior to October 1999]

Statistical group

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 2001
 “.” not applicable

Statistical group

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

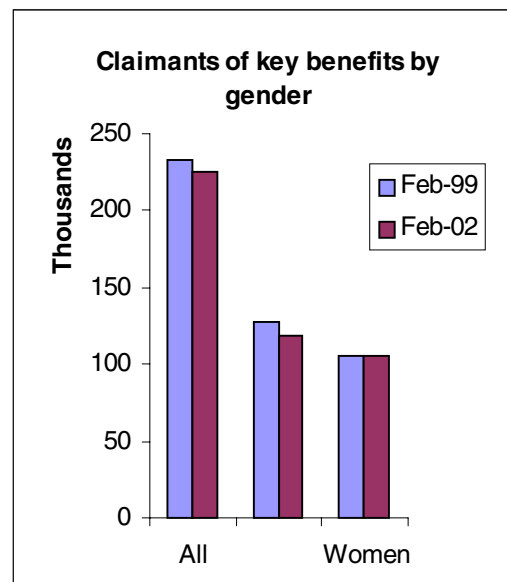
Section 1: Persons of Working Age on Key Benefits

1.1 Age and Gender

**Table 1.1.1 Claimants of key benefits by gender:
February 1999 to February 2002**

	Feb-99	Feb-00	Feb-01	Feb-02
All	233,060	223,500	226,720	224,700
% of pop¹	23	22	22	22
Men	128,120	119,880	120,860	118,900
% of pop ¹	25	23	23	22
Women	104,940	103,620	105,860	105,800
% of pop ¹	21	21	21	21

¹ Population of working age in Northern Ireland - see Methodology



- In February 2002 about 22% (224,700) of people of working age claimed a key benefit – down from 23% (233,060) in February 1999.
- About 119 thousand men of working age claimed a benefit, compared with 106 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 fell by over 8 thousand between February 1999 and February 2002. That can be accounted for by the drop in the number of male claimants – down from 128 thousand in 1999 to 119 thousand in 2002. The gap between men and women has therefore narrowed.
- Older people were more likely to be claiming benefits. In 2002, 35% of those aged 55 to 59 claimed a benefit compared to 17% of those aged 18 to 24.
- Most age groups have increased in size since February 1999. The largest reductions were in the younger age groups (18 to 24 fell by 4,240 and 25 to 34 fell by 11,140). Of the 4 age groups that increased in size the greatest increase was in the 35 to 44 group (up by 3,960).

Table 1.1.2 Claimants of key benefits by age and gender: February 2002

	All		Men		Women	
		% of pop in age group		% of pop in age group		% of pop in age group
All	224,700	22	118,900	22	105,800	21
Under 18	1,960	4	940	3	1,020	4
18 to 24	26,760	17	13,140	16	13,620	17
25 to 34	44,160	18	19,960	17	24,200	20
35 to 44	52,260	21	24,840	20	27,420	22
45 to 54	50,880	25	26,420	26	24,460	24
55 to 59	31,460	35	16,380	37	15,080	33
60 to 64	17,220	49	17,220	49	.	.

Table 1.1.3 Claimants of key benefits by age: February 1999 to February 2002

	Feb-99		Feb-00		Feb-01		Feb-02	
		% of pop in age group ¹		% of pop in age group ¹		% of pop in age group ¹		% of pop in age group
All	233,060	23	223,500	22	226,720	22	224,700	22
Under 18	1,680	3	1,540	3	1,680	3	1,960	4
18 to 24	31,000	20	27,120	17	27,700	18	26,760	17
25 to 34	55,300	22	47,480	19	46,600	19	44,160	18
35 to 44	48,300	20	50,340	21	51,680	21	52,260	21
45 to 54	49,560	25	49,600	25	50,800	26	50,880	25
55 to 59	29,940	36	29,960	35	30,660	36	31,460	35
60 to 64	17,280	50	17,460	50	17,600	50	17,220	49

¹ See Methodology

Table 1.1.4 Claimants of key benefits by age and gender: February 1999 and February 2002

	Men				Women			
	Feb-99		Feb-02		Feb-99		Feb-02	
		% of pop in age group ¹		% of pop in age group		% of pop in age group ¹		% of pop in age group
All	128,120	25	118,900	22	104,940	21	105,800	21
Under 18	740	3	940	3	940	4	1,020	4
18 to 24	16,480	21	13,140	16	14,520	19	13,620	17
25 to 34	26,580	21	19,960	17	28,720	23	24,200	20
35 to 44	23,400	20	24,840	20	24,900	21	27,420	22
45 to 54	26,720	27	26,420	26	22,840	23	24,460	24
55 to 59	16,920	41	16,380	37	13,020	31	15,080	33
60 to 64	17,280	50	17,220	49	.	.	.	.

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: February 2002

	All	%	Men	%	Women	%
All	224,700	100	118,900	100	105,800	100
All couples	37,640	17	22,780	19	14,860	14
Couple - no children	11,700	5	10,340	9	1,360	1
Couple - children	25,940	12	12,440	10	13,500	13
All single	122,920	55	56,160	47	66,760	63
Single - no children	79,540	35	53,460	45	26,080	25
Single - children	43,380	19	2,700	2	40,680	38
Not known	64,140	29	39,960	34	24,180	23

¹ See Methodology for further details

- 122,920 claimants were single in February 2002.
- Over 30% (69,320) of claimants had children. The majority of claimants with children (43,380) were single.
- The number of couples with children has risen by 6,460 between February 1999 and February 2002.
- The number of single claimants without children has risen by 1,620 over the same period.

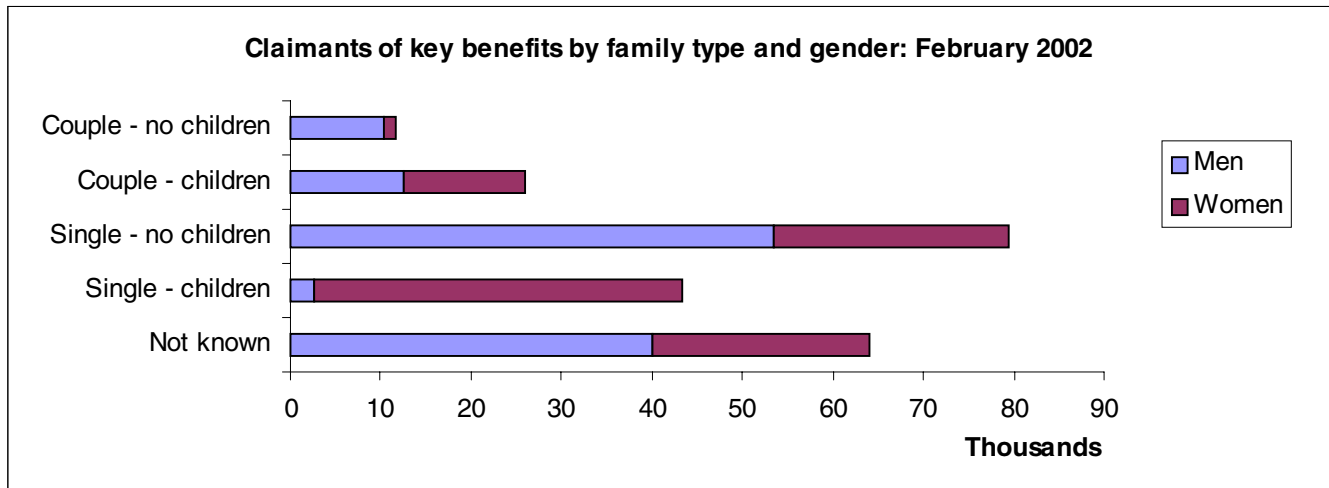


Table 1.2.2 Claimants of key benefits by family type¹: February 1999 to February 2002

	Feb-99		Feb-00		Feb-01		Feb-02	
	All	%	All	%	All	%	All	%
All	233,060	100	223,500	100	226,720	100	224,700	100
All couples	37,220	16	27,260	12	27,080	12	37,640	17
Couple - no children	17,740	8	11,060	5	11,400	5	11,700	5
Couple - children	19,480	8	16,200	7	15,680	7	25,940	12
All single	132,640	57	133,560	60	136,620	60	122,920	55
Single - no children	77,920	33	78,900	35	79,960	35	79,540	35
Single - children	54,720	23	54,660	24	56,660	25	43,380	19
Not known	63,200	27	62,680	28	63,020	28	64,140	29

¹ Between February 2001 and February 2002 the method used to assign family type was updated - see Methodology for further details

Table 1.2.3 Claimants of key benefits by family type¹ and statistical group: February 2002

	All	Unemployed	Sick & Disabled	Lone Parent	Other
All	224,700	37,540	144,780	29,880	12,500
All couples	37,640	6,160	27,980	.	3,500
Couple - no children	11,700	1,820	7,900	.	1,980
Couple - children	25,940	4,340	20,080	.	1,520
All single	122,920	31,380	52,660	29,880	9,000
Single - no children	79,540	30,520	40,020	.	9,000
Single - children	43,380	860	12,640	29,880	.
Not known	64,140	.	64,140	.	.

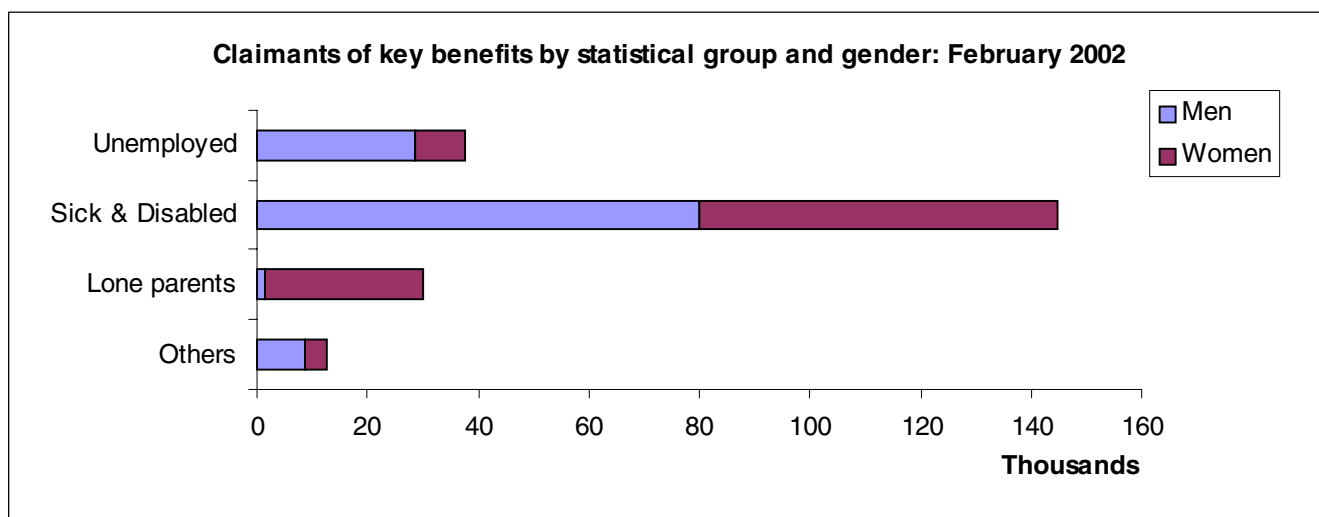
¹ See Methodology for further details

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: February 2002

	All	Men	Women
All	224,700	118,900	105,800
Unemployed	37,540	28,720	8,820
Sick & Disabled	144,780	79,860	64,920
Lone parents	29,880	1,520	28,360
Others	12,500	8,800	3,700



- The overall numbers fell by 8,360 between February 1999 and February 2002, mostly because of the unemployed group which fell by 16,520 (31%) over this period.
- In February 2002, 4% (37,540) of people of working age were classed as unemployed - down from 5% (54,060) in February 1999.
- Sick & disabled claimants were consistently the largest group between February 1999 and February 2002, rising from 58% of the total to 64% of the total; unemployed claimants were the second largest group.
- The size of the sick & disabled group rose by 10,620 (up 8%) between February 1999 and February 2002, whilst numbers in the lone parents group fell by 3,140 (down 10%) over the same period.

Table 1.3.2 Claimants of key benefits by statistical group: February 1999 to February 2002

	Feb-99		Feb-00		Feb-01		Feb-02	
	All	% of pop ¹	All	% of pop ¹	All	% of pop ¹	All	% of pop ¹
All	233,060	23	223,500	22	226,720	22	224,700	22
Unemployed	54,060	5	41,740	4	40,920	4	37,540	4
Sick & Disabled	134,160	13	137,320	13	141,880	14	144,780	14
Lone parents	33,020	3	31,760	3	31,720	3	29,880	3
Others	11,820	1	12,680	1	12,200	1	12,500	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: February 1999 to February 2002

	<u>On benefit in current year - status in previous year¹</u>				Left benefit since previous year²
	All	Same statistical group	Different statistical group	Not on benefit	
Feb-99	233,060	.	.	.	.
Feb-00	223,500	167,980	17,060	38,460	48,020
Feb-01	226,720	168,340	16,060	42,320	39,100
Feb-02	224,700	171,060	14,260	39,380	41,400

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

- The overall number of claimants of key benefits fell between February 1999 and February 2002. There was an decrease of 2,020 claimants between February 2001 and February 2002. That was due to the number of people who had left benefit exceeding the number of people who had joined. For example, 41,400 claimants on benefit in February 2001 were no longer on benefit in February 2002 whilst 39,380 of claimants in February 2002 were not on benefit in February 2001.
- The numbers in each statistical group were also affected by movements between them. For example, 14,260 claimants who were on benefit in both February 2001 and February 2002 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 fell by 3,380 between February 2001 and February 2002. The number of claimants who moved out of that group (5,620) exceeded those who moved in from another group (3,860) – a reduction of 1,760. Also, the number of new claimants who joined the group (16,480) was exceeded by those who left benefit from that group (18,100) – a decrease of 1,620. When combined those figures gave a total reduction of 3,380.

Table 1.3.4 Claimants of key benefits - changes between February 2001 and February 2002

Statistical group	All on benefit in Feb-01	Movement between Feb-01 and Feb-02			Overall change ²	All on benefit in Feb-02
		Outflow Not on benefit in Feb-02	Inflow Not on benefit in Feb-01	Net movement between Statistical groups ¹		
All	226,720	41,400	39,380	0	-2,020	224,700
Unemployed	40,920	18,100	16,480	-1,760	-3,380	37,540
Sick & Disabled	141,880	16,200	17,140	1,960	2,900	144,780
Lone parents	31,720	5,260	3,920	-500	-1,840	29,880
Others	12,200	1,840	1,840	300	300	12,500

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

² Overall change between February 2001 and February 2002 ie column 3 minus column 2 plus column 4

Table 1.3.5 Claimants of key benefits in both February 2001 and February 2002 - comparisons of statistical group

Comparison of statistical groups in 2001 and 2002 ¹	Statistical group in February 2002				
	All	Unemployed	Sick & Disabled	Lone parent	Other
All	185,320	21,060	127,640	25,960	10,660
Statistical group in February 2001					
Unemployed	22,820	17,200	3,820	360	1,440
Sick & Disabled	125,680	2,760	121,160	680	1,080
Lone parents	26,460	380	1,120	24,760	200
Others	10,360	720	1,540	160	7,940
2001 and 2002					
Total with no change	171,060	17,200	121,160	24,760	7,940
Leaving original statistical group	-14,260	-5,620	-4,520	-1,700	-2,420
Joining new statistical group	14,260	3,860	6,480	1,200	2,720
Net movement between statistical groups	0	-1,760	1,960	-500	300

¹ For example there were 22,820 claimants in the Unemployed group in February 2001 who were also on benefit in February 2002: of these, 17,200 were still in this group, 3,820 were now in the Sick & Disabled group, 360 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 February 1999 with that in February 2002.

Table 1.3.6 Claimants of key benefits in February 2002 - by status in February 1999

Benefit status in February 2002	All on benefit in February 2002	Benefit status in February 1999		
		Not on benefit	Same statistical group	Different statistical group
All	224,700	67,120	133,160	24,420
Unemployed	37,540	20,380	12,960	4,200
Sick & Disabled	144,780	34,980	96,820	12,980
Lone Parents	29,880	8,580	19,020	2,280
Others	12,500	3,180	4,360	4,960

- Around 70% (157,580) of key benefit claimants in February 2002 were also on benefit in February 1999; 59% of the overall total were in the same statistical group.
- Claimants in the sick & disabled group in February 2002 were the most likely to have also been on benefit in February 1999 (76% of them - 109,800), followed by claimants in the others group (75% – 9,320) and the lone parents group (71% – 21,300) – those in the unemployed group (46% – 17,160) were least likely. Claimants in the sick & disabled group were also the most likely to have stayed in the same statistical group (67% – 96,820).

Table 1.3.7 Claimants of key benefits in February 1999 - by status in February 2002

Benefit status in February 1999	All on benefit in February 1999	Benefit status in February 2002			
		Reached state pension age ¹	Not on benefit	Same statistical group	Different statistical group
All	233,060	17,700	57,780	133,160	24,420
Unemployed	54,060	280	28,560	12,960	12,260
Sick & Disabled	134,160	14,880	17,040	96,820	5,420
Lone Parents	33,020	40	10,020	19,020	3,940
Others	11,820	2,500	2,160	4,360	2,800

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: February 2002

	All	Income replacement benefits ¹	Other benefits only ²	NI Credits ³
All	224,700	198,340	20,380	5,980
Unemployed	37,540	34,420	.	3,120
Sick & Disabled	144,780	121,540	20,380	2,860
Lone parents	29,880	29,880	.	.
Others	12,500	12,500	.	.

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 February 2002, 198,340 claimants received an income replacement benefit, down from 209,760 in February 1999.
- In February 2002, 58,120 claimants received only a contributory benefit.
- 136,900 claimants received a benefit that was means tested in February 2002. Of those 120,020 claimants received a benefit that was means tested whilst 16,880 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: February 1999 to February 2002

	All	Benefit type		
		Income replacement benefits ¹	Other benefits only ²	NI Credits ³
Feb-99	233,060	209,760	15,940	7,360
Feb-00	223,500	200,960	17,320	5,220
Feb-01	226,720	202,400	18,180	6,140
Feb-02	224,700	198,340	20,380	5,980

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: February 2002

	Basis of benefit entitlement					
	All	Contributory ¹	Contributory and means tested ²	Means tested ³	Other ⁴	NI Credits ⁵
All	224,700	58,120	16,880	120,020	23,700	5,980
Unemployed	37,540	4,840	560	29,020	.	3,120
Sick & Disabled	144,780	53,280	16,320	48,620	23,700	2,860
Lone Parents	29,880	.	.	29,880	.	.
Others	12,500	.	.	12,500	.	.

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: February 1999 to February 2002

	Basis of benefit entitlement					
	All	Contributory ¹	Contributory and means tested ²	Means tested ³	Other ⁴	NI Credits ⁵
Feb-99	233,060	60,260	14,920	130,840	19,680	7,360
Feb-00	223,500	59,180	15,220	123,000	20,880	5,220
Feb-01	226,720	59,560	15,980	123,320	21,720	6,140
Feb-02	224,700	58,120	16,880	120,020	23,700	5,980

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: February 2002

	All	Type of benefit				
		IB Payment	IB Credits	SDA	Income Support	DLA
All sick and disabled	144,780	69,600	30,600	13,060	64,940	91,560
Single benefit only	53,920	27,500	2,860	360	4,360	18,840
Two or more benefits of which¹	90,860	42,100	27,740	12,700	60,580	72,720
Incapacity Benefit payment	42,100	42,100	.	.	16,320	37,760
Incapacity Benefit credits	27,740	.	27,740	.	26,200	14,780
Severe Disablement Allowance	12,700	.	.	12,700	9,740	11,860
Income Support	60,580	16,320	26,200	9,740	60,580	42,440
Disability Living Allowance	72,720	37,760	14,780	11,860	42,440	72,720

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% (90,860) of sick & disabled claimants received more than one key benefit in February 2002. The main combinations included IB payments and DLA (37,760) and IS and DLA (42,440).

Table 1.4.6 Claimants of sickness and/or disability benefits by type of benefit: February 1999 to February 2002

	Feb-99		Feb-00		Feb-01		Feb-02	
	All	%	All	%	All	%	All	%
All sick and disabled	134,160	100	137,320	100	141,880	100	144,780	100
Incapacity Only ¹	54,480	41	54,300	40	54,520	38	53,220	37
Incapacity and Disability	64,780	48	67,000	49	70,600	50	72,720	50
Disability Only ²	14,900	11	16,020	12	16,760	12	18,840	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 may 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: February 2002

	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	224,700	19,800	17,080	20,540	29,640	137,640
Unemployed	37,540	12,500	7,460	6,120	5,600	5,860
Sick & Disabled	144,780	5,120	7,260	10,440	18,120	103,840
Lone parents	29,880	1,140	1,500	2,400	3,940	20,900
Others	12,500	1,040	860	1,580	1,980	7,040

¹ Oldest benefit payable during current spell of benefit receipt

- Around 61% (137,640) of the claimants in February 2002 had been receiving a key benefit for 2 years or more.
- Of those longer duration claimants 75% (103,840) 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 16% of those in the unemployed group.

Table 1.5.2 Claimants of key benefits by gender and duration of claim: February 2002

	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	224,700	19,800	17,080	20,540	29,640	137,640
%	100	9	8	9	13	61
Men	118,900	12,440	10,660	11,240	15,960	68,600
%	100	10	9	9	13	58
Women	105,800	7,360	6,420	9,300	13,680	69,040
%	100	7	6	9	13	65

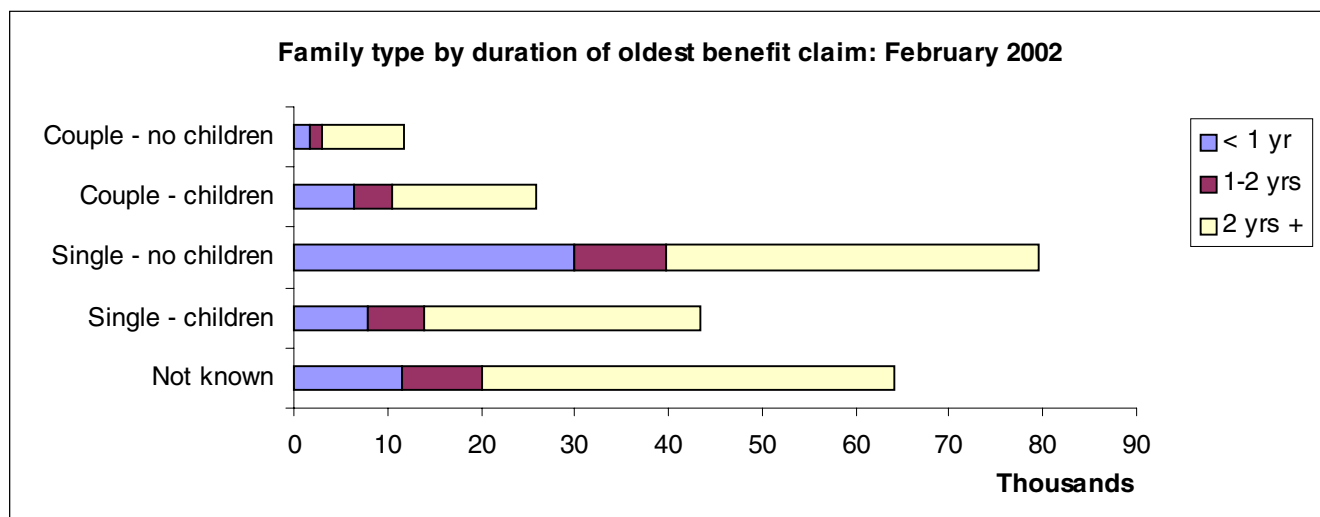
¹ Oldest benefit payable during current spell of benefit receipt

**Table 1.5.3 Claimants of key benefits by family type and duration of claim:
February 2002**

	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	224,700	19,800	17,080	20,540	29,640	137,640
All Couples	37,640	2,340	2,380	3,300	5,360	24,260
Couple - no children	11,700	440	440	760	1,280	8,780
Couple - children	25,940	1,900	1,940	2,540	4,080	15,480
All single	122,920	14,320	11,480	12,000	15,860	69,260
Single - no children	79,540	12,380	9,140	8,460	9,800	39,760
Single - children	43,380	1,940	2,340	3,540	6,060	29,500
Not known	64,140	3,140	3,220	5,240	8,420	44,120

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 60% of couples with children.



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: February 2002

	All	All with children	Age of youngest child/dependant				Not known ²
			Under 5	5 to under 11	11 to under 16	16 or over	
All	224,700	72,200	27,300	20,360	16,080	5,260	3,200
Unemployed	37,540	5,200	2,140	980	1,060	960	60
Sick & Disabled	144,780	35,600	10,400	8,920	9,380	3,760	3,140
Lone parents	29,880	29,880	14,120	10,140	5,200	420	.
Others	12,500	1,520	640	320	440	120	.

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

² Children whose ages are not known

- In February 2002, 72,200 claimants of key benefits had children and/or young dependants.
- 38% (27,300) of claimants with children had a youngest child aged under 5. The majority of the under 5s were children of lone parents.

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: February 2002

	Children aged under 16 years ²					Young dependants aged 16 to 18 years				
	All	% of all aged under 16 yrs	Family type			All	% of all aged 16 to 18 yrs in full-time education	Family type		
			Couple	Single	Not known			Couple	Single	Not known
All	128,220	32	47,360	75,520	5,340	14,180	33	7,740	6,440	.
Unemployed	8,260	2	7,800	460	.	1,760	4	1,200	560	.
Sick & Disabled	61,740	16	36,240	20,160	5,340	9,100	21	6,180	2,920	.
Lone Parents	54,900	14	.	54,900	.	2,960	7	.	2,960	.
Others	3,320	1	3,320	0	.	360	1	360	0	.

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

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

- In February 2002, 128,220 children under the age of 16 were living in families in which a key benefit was claimed.
- The majority of these children 75,520 were living in single parent families.
- 14,180 young people aged 16 -18 (33% of all 16 - 18 year olds in full-time education) were living in families with a key benefit claimant.
- 18% of all young people aged 16 - 18 were living with key benefit claimants in February 2002.

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: February 2002

	Thousands					
	All		Men		Women	
	(000s)	% of pop ¹	(000s)	% of pop ¹	(000s)	% of pop ¹
Great Britain	4,983	14	2,644	14	2,339	14
England	4,079	13	2,152	13	1,927	13
North East	318	20	178	22	140	19
North West ²	753	18	408	18	345	17
Yorkshire & Humberside	461	15	252	15	209	14
East Midlands	331	13	175	13	156	13
West Midlands	471	15	252	15	219	14
East	324	10	163	9	161	10
London	679	14	337	13	342	15
South East	421	8	215	8	206	9
South West	321	11	172	11	149	11
Wales	341	19	185	20	156	19
Scotland	562	18	306	19	256	17
Northern Ireland	225	22	119	22	106	21
IB/SDA claimants living abroad ³	9	.	6	.	3	.

¹ Population of working age

² The old Merseyside GOR was merged with North West GOR on 3rd November 1998

³ 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 8% in South East England to 22% in Northern Ireland.
- The proportion of the working age population claiming a benefit ranges from 13% (North Down) to 32% (Derry).
- The district councils with the greatest proportion of working age claimants in the sick & disabled group were Cookstown and Strabane (both 20%), followed by Derry (18%). The district councils with the lowest proportion were North Down (9%) and Ballymena and Castlereagh (both 10%).
- The proportion of the working age population in the unemployed group ranged from 7% (Moyle and Strabane) to 2% in several district councils.

Table 1.8.2 Claimants of key benefits by gender and District Council: February 2002

	All		Men		Women	
		% of pop ¹		% of pop ¹		% of pop ¹
Northern Ireland	224,700	22	118,900	22	105,800	21
Ards	7,400	16	3,660	16	3,740	17
Belfast	48,600	29	26,460	32	22,140	26
Castlereagh	5,440	14	3,060	15	2,380	12
Down	7,380	19	4,040	20	3,340	18
Lisburn	11,640	17	5,820	17	5,820	18
North Down	6,100	13	3,380	14	2,720	12
Antrim	5,160	17	2,540	15	2,620	18
Ballymena	5,400	15	3,040	16	2,360	14
Ballymoney	3,200	20	1,600	19	1,600	20
Carrickfergus	3,660	16	1,760	15	1,900	17
Coleraine	6,540	19	3,400	20	3,140	18
Cookstown	4,920	25	2,540	25	2,380	25
Larne	3,200	17	1,660	17	1,540	17
Magherafelt	4,200	17	2,080	16	2,120	19
Moyle	2,420	26	1,420	29	1,000	22
Newtownabbey	8,440	17	4,200	17	4,240	17
Armagh	5,560	17	3,200	18	2,360	15
Banbridge	3,840	15	1,900	14	1,940	16
Craigavon	11,600	24	5,400	21	6,200	26
Dungannon	7,140	25	3,920	26	3,220	24
Newry & Mourne	12,540	24	6,960	26	5,580	22
Derry	20,580	32	10,700	33	9,880	31
Fermanagh	7,260	21	4,040	22	3,220	20
Limavady	4,400	21	2,320	21	2,080	22
Omagh	6,500	22	3,800	24	2,700	20
Strabane	7,220	31	3,980	33	3,240	30
Unknown	4,360	.	2,020	.	2,340	.

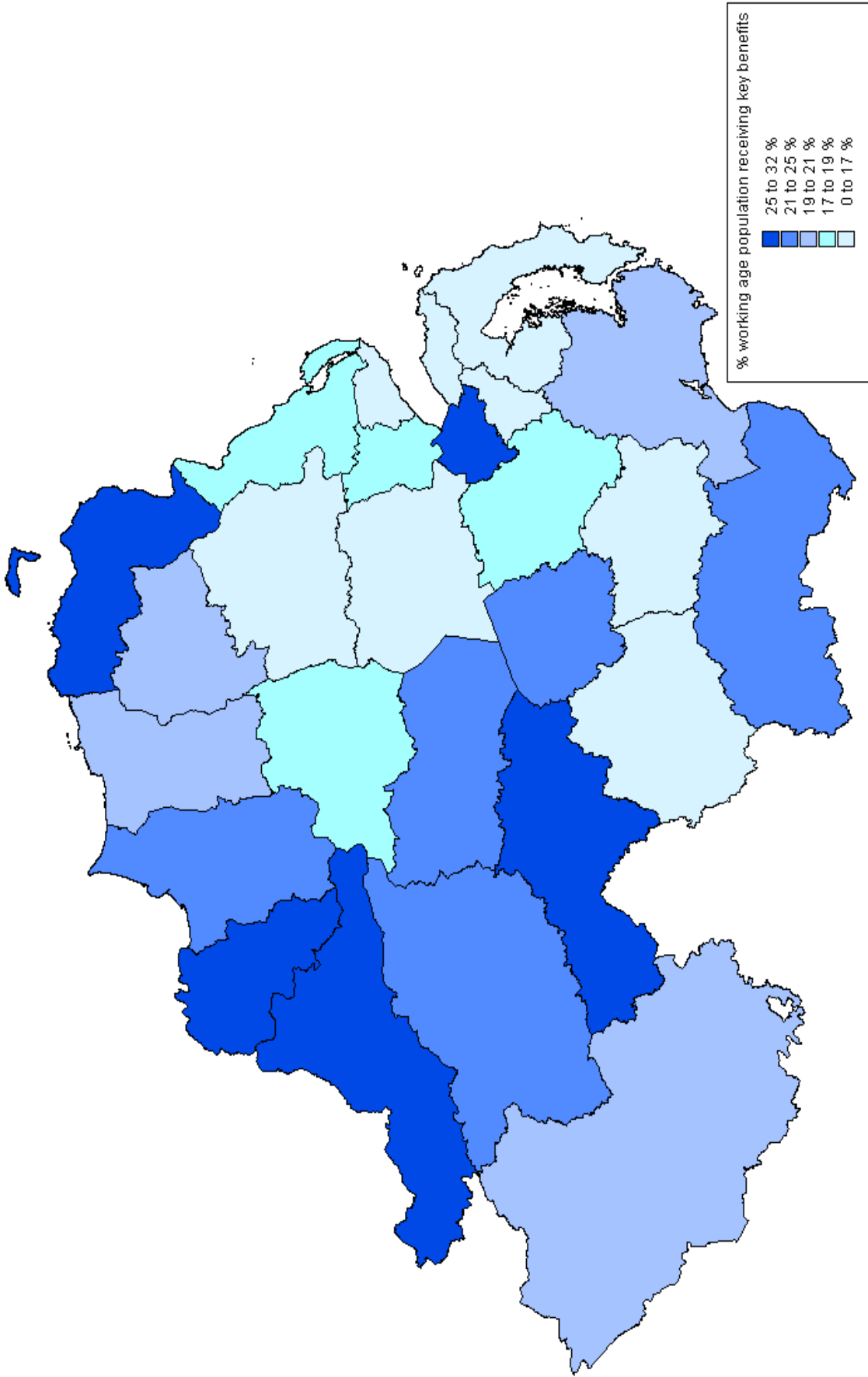
¹ Population of working age in Northern Ireland

**Table 1.8.3 Claimants of key benefits by statistical group and District Council:
February 2002**

		Statistical group				
		All	Unemployed	Sick & Disabled	Lone parents	Others
Northern Ireland		224,700	37,540	144,780	29,880	12,500
	% of pop ¹	22	4	14	3	1
Ards		7,400	1,180	5,280	720	220
	% of pop ¹	16	3	12	2	0
Belfast		48,600	9,060	28,280	7,880	3,380
	% of pop ¹	29	5	17	5	2
Castlereagh		5,440	880	3,780	500	280
	% of pop ¹	14	2	10	1	1
Down		7,380	1,120	4,880	1,040	340
	% of pop ¹	19	3	13	3	1
Lisburn		11,640	1,620	7,600	1,960	460
	% of pop ¹	17	2	11	3	1
North Down		6,100	1,140	4,040	660	260
	% of pop ¹	13	2	9	1	1
Antrim		5,160	580	3,740	560	280
	% of pop ¹	17	2	12	2	1
Ballymena		5,400	780	3,760	680	180
	% of pop ¹	15	2	10	2	1
Ballymoney		3,200	660	1,920	420	200
	% of pop ¹	20	4	12	3	1
Carrickfergus		3,660	500	2,680	400	80
	% of pop ¹	16	2	11	2	0
Coleraine		6,540	1,320	3,920	820	480
	% of pop ¹	19	4	11	2	1
Cookstown		4,920	320	3,900	420	280
	% of pop ¹	25	2	20	2	1
Larne		3,200	500	2,220	320	160
	% of pop ¹	17	3	12	2	1
Magherafelt		4,200	560	2,920	480	240
	% of pop ¹	17	2	12	2	1
Moyle		2,420	620	1,300	360	140
	% of pop ¹	26	7	14	4	1
Newtownabbey		8,440	1,300	5,800	1,000	340
	% of pop ¹	17	3	12	2	1
Armagh		5,560	800	4,000	560	200
	% of pop ¹	17	2	12	2	1
Banbridge		3,840	520	2,700	480	140
	% of pop ¹	15	2	11	2	1
Craigavon		11,600	1,500	8,080	1,360	660
	% of pop ¹	24	3	17	3	1
Dungannon		7,140	860	4,940	900	440
	% of pop ¹	25	3	17	3	2
Newry & Mourne		12,540	2,020	8,260	1,540	720
	% of pop ¹	24	4	16	3	1
Derry		20,580	3,980	11,880	3,380	1,340
	% of pop ¹	32	6	18	5	2
Fermanagh		7,260	1,800	4,340	660	460
	% of pop ¹	21	5	12	2	1
Limavady		4,400	800	2,660	620	320
	% of pop ¹	21	4	13	3	2
Omagh		6,500	1,040	4,480	660	320
	% of pop ¹	22	4	15	2	1
Strabane		7,220	1,540	4,520	760	400
	% of pop ¹	31	7	20	3	2
Unknown		4,360	540	2,900	740	180

¹ Population of working age of Northern Ireland

Percentage of the working age population claiming a key benefit by District Council: February 2002



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	23	108,380	22
	Nov	222,740	22	117,680	22	105,060	21
2002	Feb	224,700	22	118,900	22	105,800	21

¹ Population of working age in Northern Ireland - see Methodology

Table 1.9.1B Claimants of key benefits by gender - Annual changes February 1998 to February 2002

	All	%	Men	%	Women	%
February 99 / February 98	-2,720	-1	-3,100	-2	380	0
February 00 / February 99	-9,560	-4	-8,240	-6	-1,320	-1
February 01 / February 00	3,220	1	980	1	2,240	2
February 02 / February 01	-2,020	-1	-1,960	-2	-60	0

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

Table 1.9.1D 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
Percentages									
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

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

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	.

1.9.2 Family Type

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

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

Table 1.9.2B Claimants of key benefits by family type¹ - Annual changes February 1998 to February 2002

	All	Couples		Single			Not known	
		All	No children	With children	All	No children		With children
February 99 / February 98	-2,720	-7,840	6,640	-14,480	4,780	-6,680	11,460	340
February 00 / February 99	-9,560	-9,960	-6,680	-3,280	920	980	-60	-520
February 01 / February 00	3,220	-180	340	-520	3,060	1,060	2,000	340
February 02 / February 01	-2,020	10,560	300	10,260	-13,700	-420	-13,280	1,120

¹ Between February 2001 and February 2002 the method used to assign family type was updated - see methodology for further details

Table 1.9.2C 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

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

Table 1.9.2D 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

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

Table 1.9.3B Claimants of key benefits by statistical group - Annual changes February 1998 to February 2002

	All	Unemployed	Sick & Disabled	Lone Parents	Others
February 99 / February 98	-2,720	-2,940	1,200	-640	-340
February 00 / February 99	-9,560	-12,320	3,160	-1,260	860
February 01 / February 00	3,220	-820	4,560	-40	-480
February 02 / February 01	-2,020	-3,380	2,900	-1,840	300

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

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

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

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

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:
February 1998 to February 2002**

		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
2002	Nov	222,740	20,960	14,020	21,700	29,040	137,020
	%	100	9	6	10	13	62
2002	Feb	224,700	19,800	17,080	20,540	29,640	137,640
	%	100	9	8	9	13	61

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:
February 1998 to February 2002**

		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
2002	Nov	117,680	13,500	8,080	11,880	15,820	68,400
	%	100	11	7	10	13	58
2002	Feb	118,900	12,440	10,660	11,240	15,960	68,600
	%	100	10	9	9	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:
February 1998 to February 2002**

		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
2002	Nov	105,060	7,460	5,940	9,820	13,220	68,620
	%	100	7	6	9	13	65
2002	Feb	105,800	7,360	6,420	9,300	13,680	69,040
	%	100	7	6	9	13	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

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

² Children whose ages are not known

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					
		% of all aged under 16 yrs ³			Not known	% of all aged 16 to 18 yrs ³			Not known		
		All	Couple	Single		All	Couple	Single			
1998	Feb ⁴	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 ⁴	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 ⁴	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 ⁴	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	32	47,360	75,520	5,340	14,180	18	7,740	6,440	.

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

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

³ See Methodology

⁴ The method used to assign family type has been updated - 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

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

² Children whose age is not known

Table 1.9.8B Claimants of key benefits by District Council

		Percentages ¹																											
		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	23	17	31	15	22	18	14	17	17	18	16	19	28	18	19	24	19	20	16	25	26	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	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	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	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	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	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	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	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	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	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	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	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	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	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	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	31	21	21	22	32	.
2002	Feb	22	16	29	14	19	17	13	17	15	20	16	19	25	17	17	26	17	17	15	24	25	24	32	21	21	22	31	.

¹ Percentage of population of working age - see Methodology

² Figures for February 1999 have been revised

1.10 Benefits and Tax Credits

Working Families' Tax Credit (WFTC) is a tax credit available to working families with children. Disabled Person's Tax Credit (DPTC) is a tax credit available to working people who have an illness or disability, which puts them at a disadvantage in getting a job. On 5 October 1999 Working Families' Tax Credit and Disabled Person's Tax Credit replaced Family Credit (FC) and Disability Working Allowance (DWA) respectively. The Inland Revenue administers both tax credits. A small number of people are in receipt of both key benefits and tax credits.

Claimants of key benefits and recipients of tax credits can be divided into groups based mainly on the type of benefit and/or tax credit they receive. This gives an indication of the main reason why they are claiming a benefit and/or receiving a tax credit.

This grouping is defined as:

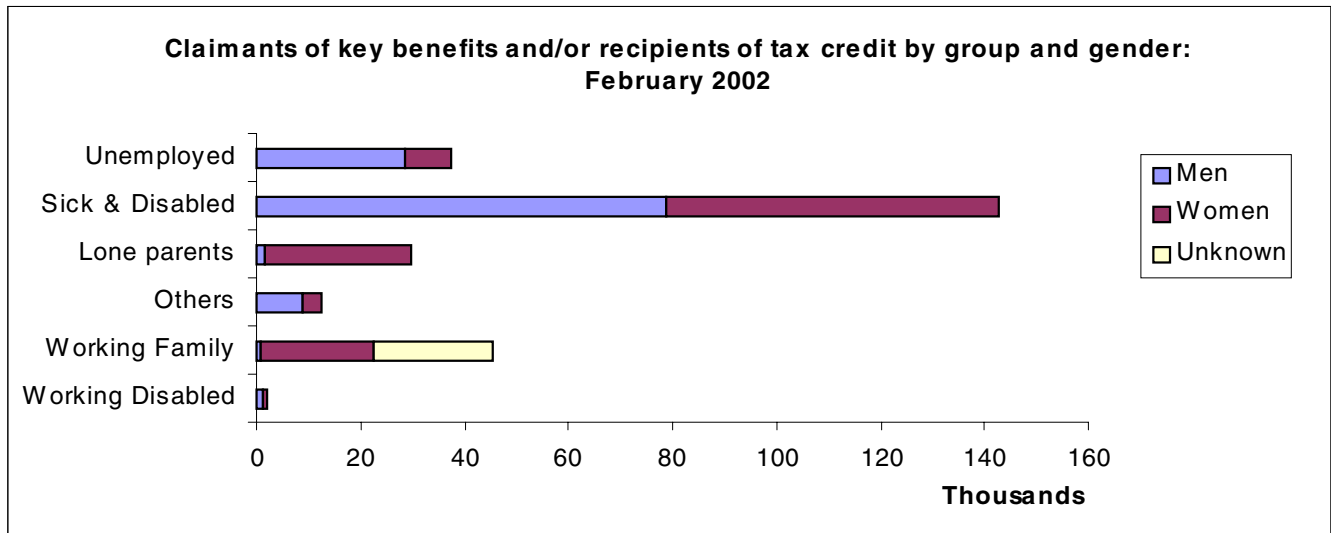
Unemployed	JSA
Sick & disabled ¹	IB, SDA, DLA or IS with a disability premium
Lone parent	Single people with children on IS and not receiving a disability related premium
Other	IS claimant not in other groups
Working Family	FC or WFTC
Working Disabled	DWA or DPTC

¹Due to the inclusion of FC/WFTC and DWA/DPTC data, the "Sick & Disabled" group figures in this section differ slightly from those given elsewhere in the publication as "statistical group". Includes DLA only cases who may be working.

Table 1.10.1 Claimants of key benefits and/or recipients of tax credits by group and gender: February 2002

	All	Men	Women	Unknown
All	270,533	119,858	127,715	22,960
Unemployed	37,540	28,720	8,820	.
Sick & Disabled ¹	142,840	78,860	63,980	.
Lone parents	29,880	1,520	28,360	.
Others	12,500	8,800	3,700	.
Working Family	45,620	820	21,840	22,960
Working Disabled	2,153	1,138	1,015	.

¹ Due to the inclusion of FC/WFTC and DWA/DPTC data, the "Sick & Disabled" group figures in this section differ slightly from those given elsewhere in the publication as "statistical group". Includes DLA only claimants who may be working.



- The overall number of claimants of key benefits and/or tax credits rose by 9,084 between February 1999 and February 2002. The largest reduction was in the unemployed group which fell by 16,520 (down 31%). However, this fall was offset by an increase of 17,420 (up 62%) in the working family group.
- Sick and disabled claimants were consistently the largest group over the period February 1999 to February 2002, rising from 51% of the total to 53% of the total; unemployed claimants were the second largest group but have been overtaken by the working family group.
- The size of the sick & disabled group rose by 9,640 (7%), working families by 17,420 (62%) and working disabled by 1,004 (87%) between February 1999 and February 2002. The numbers in the lone parents group fell by 3,140 (10%).

**Table 1.10.2 Claimants of key benefits and/or recipients of tax credits by group:
February 1999 to February 2002**

	Feb-99		Feb-00		Feb-01		Feb-02	
	All	% of pop ¹	All	% of pop ¹	All	% of pop ¹	All	% of pop ¹
All	261,449	26	259,999	25	261,277	26	270,533	26
Unemployed	54,060	5	41,740	4	40,920	4	37,540	4
Sick & Disabled ²	133,200	13	135,900	13	140,040	14	142,840	14
Lone parents	33,020	3	31,760	3	31,720	3	29,880	3
Others	11,820	1	12,680	1	12,200	1	12,500	1
Working Family	28,200	3	36,520	4	34,540	3	45,620	4
Working Disabled	1,149	0	1,399	0	1,857	0	2,153	0

¹Population of working age in Northern Ireland - see Methodology

²Due to the inclusion of FC/WFTC and DWA/DPTC data, the Sick & Disabled group figures in this section differ slightly from those given elsewhere in the publication as "statistical group". Includes DLA only claimants who may be working.

These statistical analyses showed the stock of people claiming key benefits and/or receiving tax credits 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, tax credits 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).

- The overall number of people claiming key benefits and/or tax credits has increased since February 2001. This is because the number of people who had started to claim benefit and/or receive a tax credit exceeded the numbers who had stopped. For example, 43,292 of those claiming benefits and/or receiving tax credits in February 2001 were no longer there in February 2002. However, 52,548 people claiming benefits and/or tax credits in February 2002 were not there in February 2001.
- The numbers in each group are also affected by movements between the groups. For example, 21,130 people who were on benefit and/or tax credits in February 2001 and February 2002 changed group over this period.
- The numbers in the individual statistical groups were affected by movements both on and off benefits and tax credits and also between the groups. For example, the overall number of unemployed claimants fell by 3,380 between February 2001 and February 2002. The number of claimants who moved out of that group (6,161) exceeded those who moved in from another group (4,261) - a reduction of 1,900. The number of claimants who left benefit from that group (17,540) exceeded new claimants who joined the group (16,060) - a decrease of 1,480. When combined those figures gave a total reduction of 3,380.

Table 1.10.3 Claimants of key benefits and/or recipients of tax credits by status in previous year: February 1999 to February 2002

	On benefit/tax credit in current year - status in previous year ¹				Left benefit and/or tax credit since previous year ²
	All	Same group	Different group	Not on benefit or tax credit	
Feb-99	261,449	.	.	.	.
Feb-00	259,999	187,200	24,992	47,807	49,257
Feb-01	261,277	190,422	22,554	48,301	47,023
Feb-02	270,533	196,855	21,130	52,548	43,292

¹ Some people may have left benefit/tax credit and then returned to it between years

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

Table 1.10.4 Claimants of key benefits and/or recipients of tax credits - changes between February 2001 and February 2002

	All on benefit and/or tax credit in Feb-01	Movement between Feb-01 and Feb-02			Overall change ²	All on benefit and/or tax credit in Feb-02
		Outflow Not on benefit and/or tax credit in Feb-02	Inflow Not on benefit and/or tax credit in Feb-01	Net movement between groups ¹		
All	261,277	43,292	52,548	0	9,256	270,533
Unemployed	40,920	17,540	16,060	-1,900	-3,380	37,540
Sick & Disabled ³	140,040	15,531	16,260	2,071	2,800	142,840
Lone parents	31,720	2,420	2,900	-2,320	-1,840	29,880
Others	12,200	1,741	1,580	461	300	12,500
Working Family	34,540	5,638	15,040	1,678	11,080	45,620
Working Disabled	1,857	422	708	10	296	2,153

¹ Numbers coming into group less numbers moving out - see bottom half of table 1.10.5 for breakdown

² Overall change between February 2001 and February 2002 ie column 3 minus column 2 plus column 4

³ Due to the inclusion of FC/WFTC and DWA/DPTC data, the Sick & Disabled group figures in this section differ slightly from those given elsewhere in the publication as "statistical group". Includes DLA only claimants who may be working.

Table 1.10.5 Claimants of key benefits and/or recipients of tax credits in both February 2001 and February 2002 - comparisons of grouping

	All	Statistical group in February 2002					
		Unemployed	Sick & Disabled ²	Lone parents	Other	Working Family	Working Disabled
Comparison of groups in 2001 and 2002¹							
All	217,985	21,480	126,580	26,980	10,920	30,580	1,445
Group in February 2001							
Unemployed	23,380	17,219	3,800	360	1,440	560	1
Sick & Disabled ²	124,509	2,740	119,383	680	1,080	600	26
Lone parents	29,300	380	1,120	24,760	200	2,840	0
Others	10,459	720	1,540	160	7,959	80	0
Working Family	28,902	420	720	1,020	240	26,499	3
Working Disabled	1,435	1	17	0	1	1	1,415
2001 and 2002							
Total with no change	197,235	17,219	119,383	24,760	7,959	26,499	1,415
Leaving original group	-20,750	-6,161	-5,126	-4,540	-2,500	-2,403	-20
Joining new group	20,750	4,261	7,197	2,220	2,961	4,081	30
Net movement between groups	0	-1,900	2,071	-2,320	461	1,678	10

¹ For example, there were 23,380 claimants in the unemployed group in February 2001 who were also on benefit/tax credits in February 2002. Of these 17,219 were still in this group, 3,800 were now in the sick & disabled group, 360 in the lone parents group, etc.

² Due to the inclusion of FC/WFTC and DWA/DPTC data, the Sick & Disabled group figures in this section differ slightly from those given elsewhere in the publication as "statistical group". Includes DLA only claimants who may be working.

These analyses also looked at changes over longer time periods, as well as comparisons over the latest year. Tables 1.10.6 and 1.10.7 compared the status of the stock of claimants in February 1999 with that in February 2002.

Table 1.10.6 Claimants of key benefits and/or recipients of tax credits in February 2002 - by status in February 1999

Group in February 2002	All on benefit and/or tax credit in February 2002	Benefit status in February 1999		
		Not on benefit	Same group	Different group ²
All	270,533	85,113	147,085	38,335
Unemployed	37,540	19,880	12,960	4,700
Sick & Disabled ¹	142,840	33,248	95,140	14,452
Lone Parents	29,880	7,039	19,020	3,821
Others	12,500	3,059	4,360	5,081
Working Family	45,620	21,659	14,960	9,001
Working Disabled	2,153	228	645	1,280

¹ Due to the inclusion of FC/WFTC and DWA/DPTC data, the Sick & Disabled group figures in this section differ slightly from those given elsewhere in the publication as "statistical group". Includes DLA only claimants who may be working.

² Since samples were used for all benefits except DWA/DPTC figures in this table differ from those given in table 1.10.7

- Over two thirds (185,420) of claimants of key benefits and/or recipients of tax credits in February 2002 were also on benefit in February 1999 and just over half of the overall total were in the same group.
- People in the working disabled group in February 2002 were the most likely to have been on benefit in February 1999 (89% of them – 1,925), followed by those in the sick & disabled group (77% - 109,592), the lone parents group(76% - 22,841) and those in the others group (76% - 9,441). Those in the unemployed group were the least likely (47% - 17,660). Sick & disabled claimants were the most likely to have stayed in the same group (67% - 95,140).

Table 1.10.7 Claimants of key benefits in February 1999 - by status in February 2002

Group in February 1999	All on benefit and/or tax credit in February 1999	Benefit and/or tax credit status in February 2002			
		Reached state pension age ¹	Not on benefit or tax credit	Same group	Different group ³
All	261,449	17,794	59,166	147,085	37,404
Unemployed	54,060	280	25,913	12,960	14,907
Sick & Disabled ²	133,200	14,860	16,831	95,140	6,369
Lone Parents	33,020	40	4,880	19,020	9,080
Others	11,820	2,500	1,960	4,360	3,000
Working Family	28,200	100	9,392	14,960	3,748
Working Disabled	1,149	14	190	645	300

¹ Some of these people may also have left benefit/tax credits.

² Due to the inclusion of FC/WFTC and DWA/DPTC data, the Sick & Disabled group figures in this section differ slightly from those given elsewhere in the publication as "statistical group". Includes DLA only claimants who may be working.

³ Since samples were used for all benefits except DWA/DPTC figures in this table differ from those given in table 1.10.6

Section 2 : Families with children on key benefits

2.1 Children

Table 2.1.1 Children of claimants of key benefits by statistical group: February 1999 to February 2002

	Number of children ¹							
	Feb-99	%	Feb-00	%	Feb-01	%	Feb-02	%
All statistical groups	157,920	100	147,460	100	147,780	100	142,400	100
Unemployed	23,040	15	13,180	9	12,000	8	10,020	7
Sick & Disabled	65,260	41	67,420	46	70,260	48	70,840	50
Lone parents	65,860	42	63,260	43	61,680	42	57,860	41
Others	3,760	2	3,600	2	3,840	3	3,680	3

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

- At February 2002, 142,400 children were living in families claiming a key benefit. The total number of children in families claiming a key benefit was down by 10% (15,520) from February 1999.
- The number of children in the unemployed group fell by 57% between February 1999 and February 2002, whilst the number in the lone parents group fell by 12%. The number in the sick & disabled group rose by 9%.

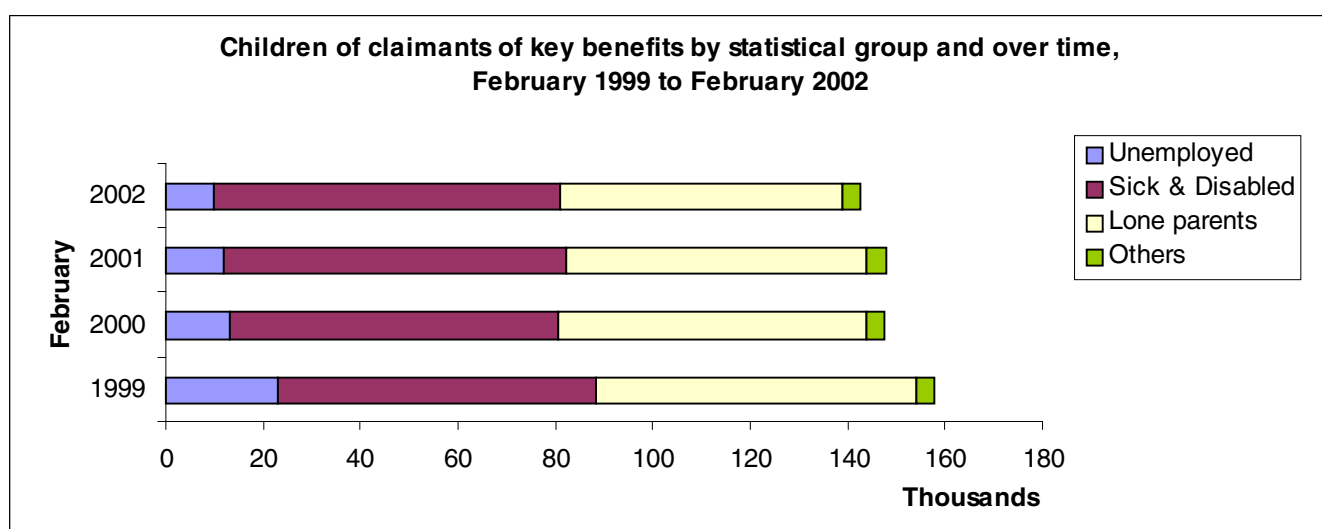


Table 2.1.2 Children¹ of claimants of key benefits by statistical group and family type: February 2002

	Children aged under 16 years ²					Young adult dependants aged 16 to 18 years				
	All	Family type				All	Family type			
		% pop aged under 16	Couple	Single	Not known		% pop aged 16 - 18 in full-time education	Couple	Single	Not known
All statistical groups	128,220	32	47,360	75,520	5,340	14,180	33	7,740	6,440	.
Unemployed	8,260	2	7,800	460	.	1,760	4	1,200	560	.
Sick & Disabled	61,740	16	36,240	20,160	5,340	9,100	21	6,180	2,920	.
Lone parents	54,900	14	.	54,900	.	2,960	7	.	2,960	.
Others	3,320	1	3,320	0	.	360	1	360	0	.

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

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 32% in February 2002 whilst the proportion of 16 - 18 year olds was 33% of all 16 - 18 year olds in full-time education.

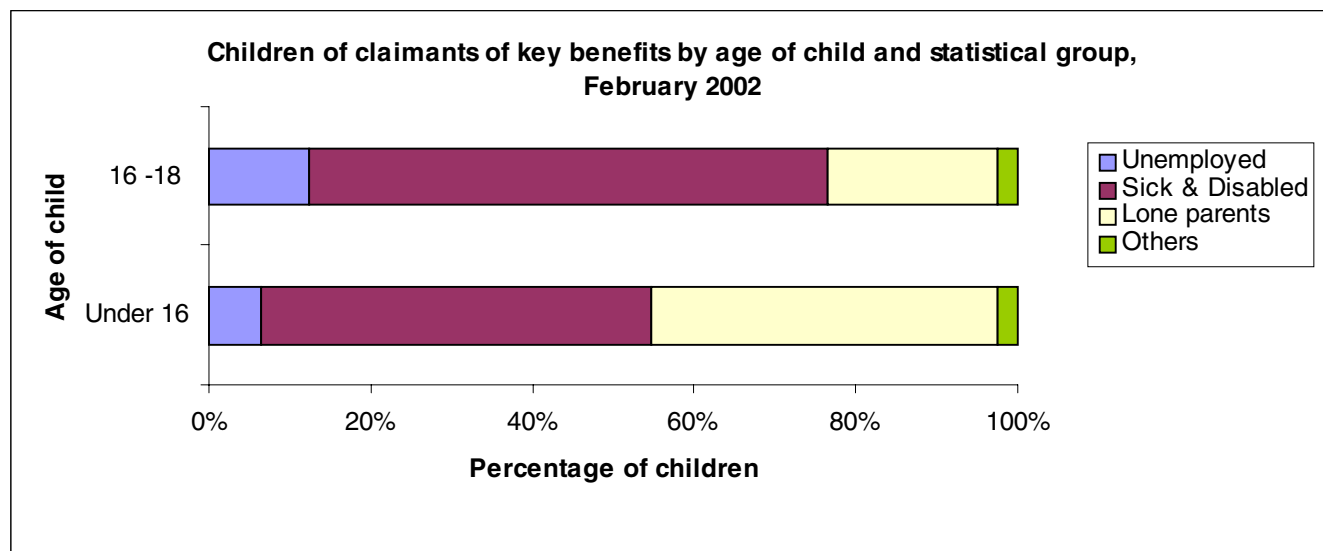


Table 2.1.3 Children¹ of claimants of key benefits by family type²: February 1999 to February 2002

	Children aged under 16 years ³					Young adult dependants aged 16 to 18 years				
	% pop aged All	Family type			Not known	% pop aged 16 - 18 in full-time education	Family type			Not known
		under 16 ⁴	Couple	Single			Couple	Single		
Feb-99	148,100	36	40,820	101,880	5,400	9,820	24	3,840	5,980	.
Feb-00	134,620	33	31,560	98,600	4,460	12,840	31	4,860	7,980	.
Feb-01	132,880	33	30,180	98,520	4,180	14,900	35	4,680	10,220	.
Feb-02	128,220	32	47,360	75,520	5,340	14,180	33	7,740	6,440	.

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

² Between February 2001 and February 2002 the method used to assign family type was updated

³ Includes a small percentage of children whose ages are not known

⁴ See Methodology

- The number of children under 16 living in families where the benefit claimant was single fell between February 1999 and February 2002. The number of children under 16 living in households where the claimant had a partner rose over this period.
- The proportion of children under 16 living in a household where the claimant was single was 59% in February 2002.
- The proportion of children aged 16 - 18 living in a household where the claimant was single was 45% in February 2002.

Table 2.1.4 Children¹ of claimants of key benefits by statistical group and age of child: February 2002

	Number of children/dependants											
	All ages	%	Under 5	5 to		11 to		16 or		Not		%
				%	under 11	%	under 16	%	over	%	known ²	
All statistical groups	142,400	100	34,200	24	45,320	32	42,960	30	14,180	10	5,740	4
Unemployed	10,020	100	2,700	27	2,920	29	2,560	26	1,760	18	80	0
Sick & Disabled	70,840	100	13,560	19	19,760	28	22,760	32	9,100	13	5,660	8
Lone parents	57,860	100	17,100	30	21,500	37	16,300	28	2,960	5	.	0
Others	3,680	100	840	23	1,140	31	1,340	36	360	10	.	0

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

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 67% aged under 11.

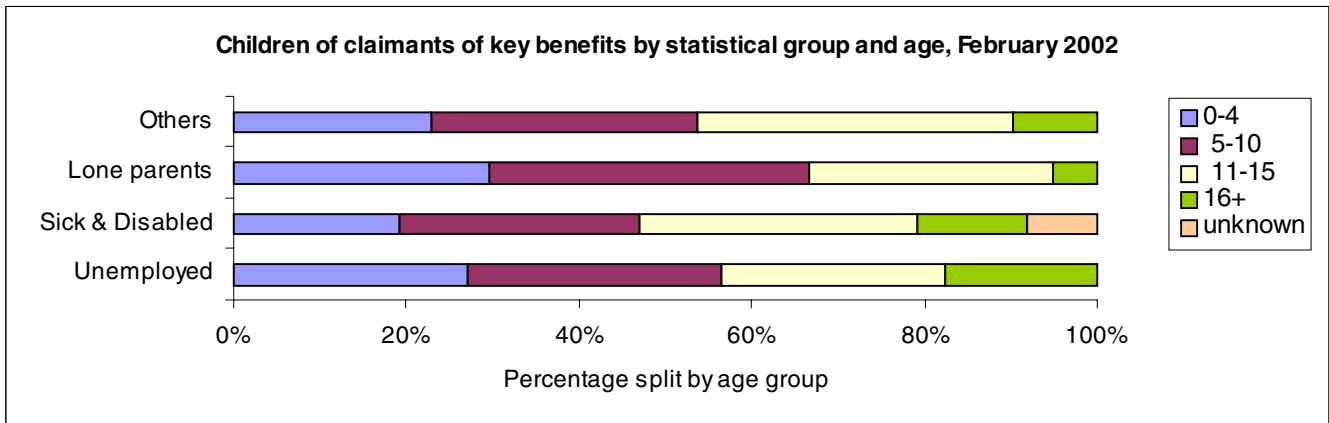


Table 2.1.5 Children¹ of claimants of key benefits by statistical group and duration of claim: February 2002

	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	142,400	100	6,980	5	7,960	6	11,720	8	19,460	14	96,280	68
Unemployed	10,020	100	2,680	27	1,640	16	1,500	15	2,000	20	2,200	22
Sick & Disabled	70,840	100	2,180	3	3,560	5	5,720	8	10,260	14	49,120	69
Lone parents	57,860	100	1,680	3	2,660	5	3,920	7	6,720	12	42,880	74
Others	3,680	100	440	12	100	3	580	16	480	13	2,080	57

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

² Oldest benefit payable during current spell of benefit receipt

- Of those children in families claiming a key benefit 68% had been on benefits for at least 2 years. For the lone parents group the figure was 74% whilst the figure for the unemployed group was 22%.
- Of those children in families classed as unemployed 58% had been on benefit for less than a year.

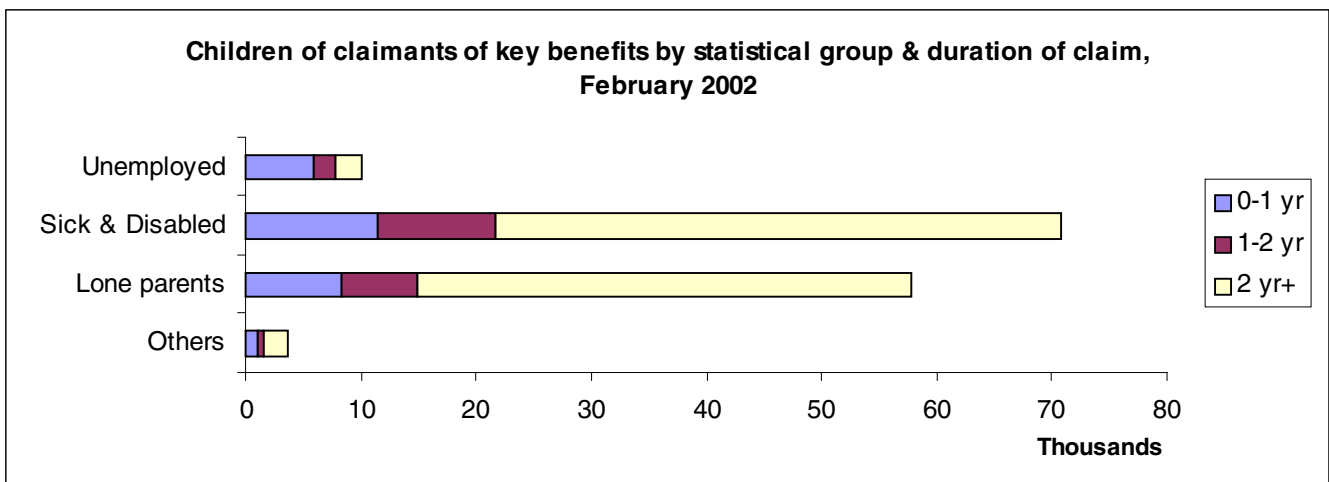


Table 2.1.6 Children¹ of claimants of key benefits by duration of claim: February 1999 to February 2002

	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
Feb-99	157,920	9,180	8,600	13,620	20,780	105,740
%	100	6	5	9	13	67
Feb-00	147,460	6,880	7,880	12,820	19,700	100,180
%	100	5	5	9	13	68
Feb-01	147,780	7,120	8,100	13,700	19,580	99,280
%	100	5	5	9	13	67
Feb-02	142,400	6,980	7,960	11,720	19,460	96,280
%	100	5	6	8	14	68

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

² Oldest benefit payable during current spell of benefit receipt

- Between February 1999 and February 2002 there was little change in the pattern of duration on key benefits.

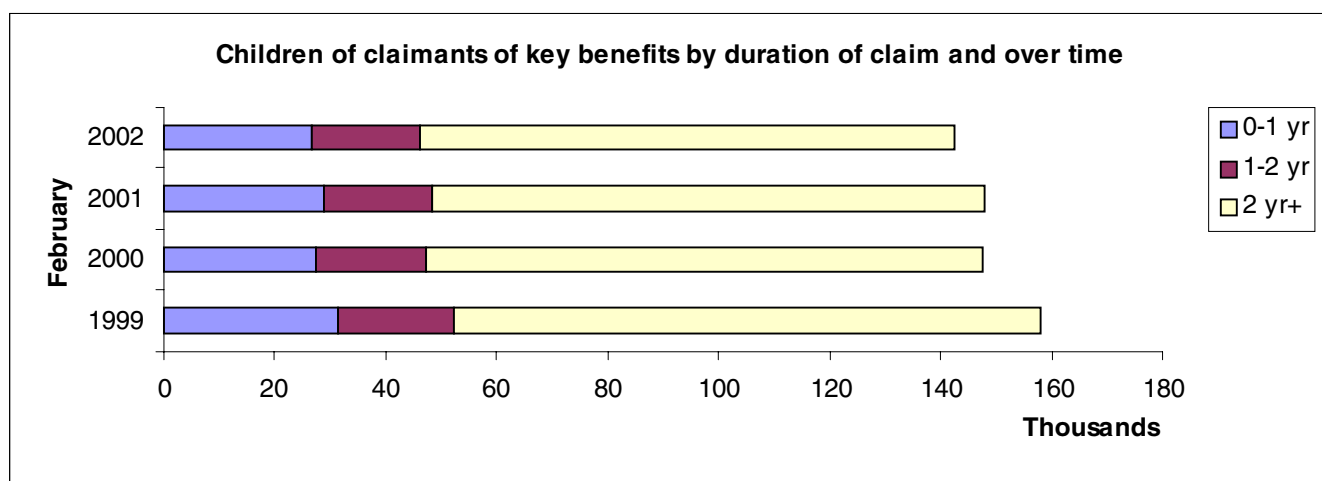


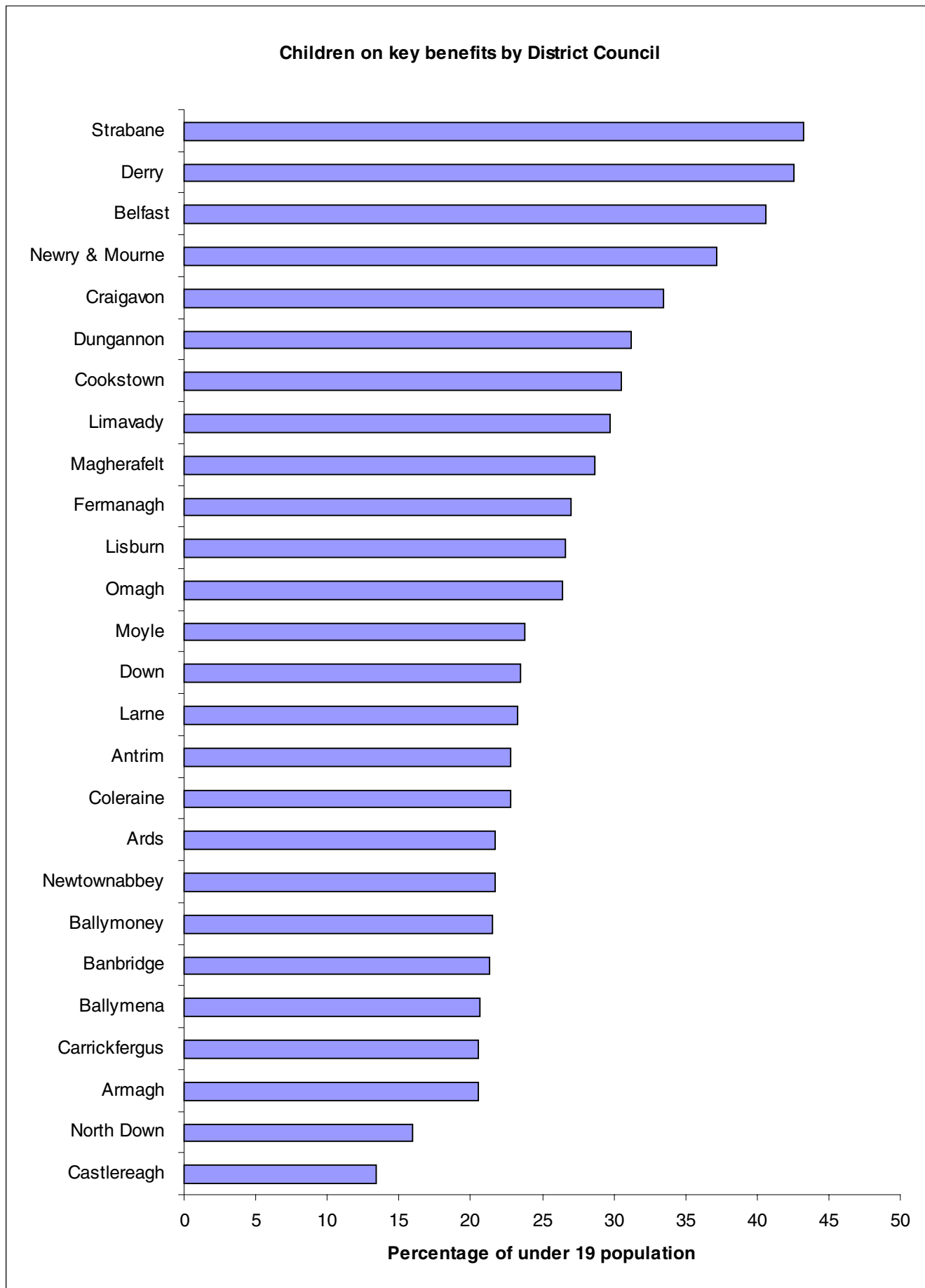
Table 2.1.7 Children¹ of claimants of key benefits by district council: February 2002

	Number of children	% of population ²
Northern Ireland	142,400	30
Ards	4,040	22
Belfast	29,460	41
Castlereagh	2,240	13
Down	4,480	23
Lisburn	8,440	27
North Down	2,920	16
Antrim	3,120	23
Ballymena	3,200	21
Ballymoney	1,640	21
Carrickfergus	2,060	21
Coleraine	3,400	23
Cookstown	3,120	30
Larne	1,860	23
Magherafelt	3,540	29
Moyle	1,080	24
Newtownabbey	4,460	22
Armagh	3,360	21
Banbridge	2,480	21
Craigavon	7,940	33
Dungannon	4,620	31
Newry & Mourne	10,340	37
Derry	14,460	43
Fermanagh	4,560	27
Limavady	2,940	30
Omagh	3,960	26
Strabane	5,140	43
Unknown	3,540	.

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

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 43% in Derry and Strabane to 13% in Castlereagh.



Children of claimants of key benefits as a percentage of the population aged under 19 by District Council: February 2002

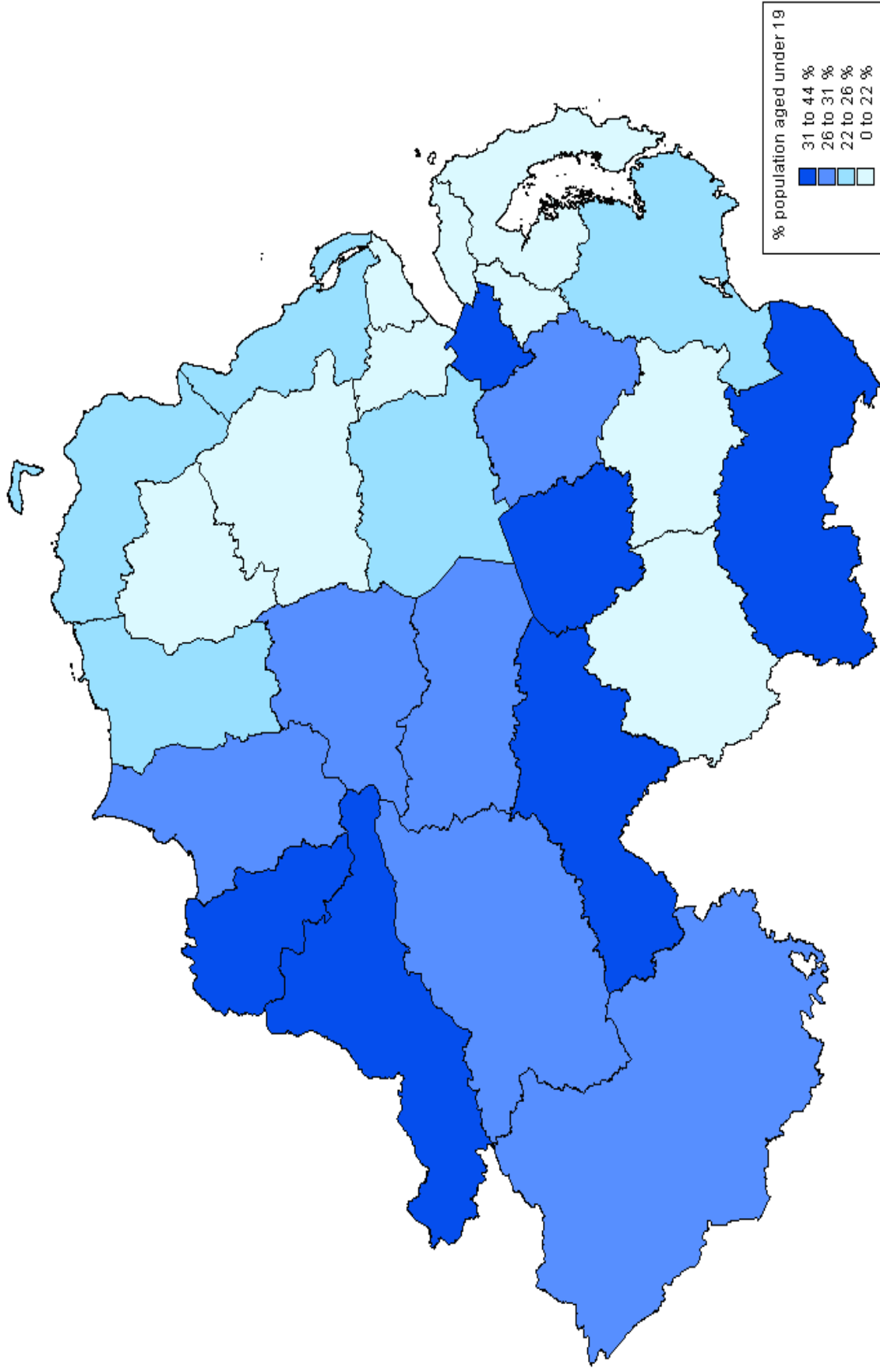


Table 2.1.8 Children¹ of claimants of combinations of key benefits: February 2002

	Number of children	% of population ²
All combinations	142,400	32
IS only	66,120	15
IB only	14,660	3
JSA only	9,680	2
IS, IB & DLA	10,720	2
DLA only	10,060	2
IB & DLA	9,660	2
IS & DLA	10,080	2
IS & IB	8,460	2
IS, DLA & SDA	1,200	0
DLA & SDA	960	0
IS & SDA	240	0
DLA & JSA	160	0
SDA only	220	0
Others ³	180	0

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

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

- 68% 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: February 2002

	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	72,200	100	3,920	5	4,280	6	6,220	9	10,380	14	47,400	66
Unemployed	5,200	100	1,420	27	900	17	740	14	1,020	20	1,120	22
Sick & Disabled	35,600	100	1,160	3	1,820	5	2,880	8	5,240	15	24,500	69
Lone parents	29,880	100	1,140	4	1,500	5	2,400	8	3,940	13	20,900	70
Others	1,520	100	200	13	60	4	200	13	180	12	880	58

¹ Claimants with children aged under 16 or young adults aged 16 to 18

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 69% whilst the figure for the unemployed was only 22%.
- 59% 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: February 1999 to February 2002

	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
February-99	76,940	4,800	4,520	7,140	10,680	49,800
%	100	6	6	9	14	65
February-00	73,180	3,680	4,300	6,860	10,160	48,180
%	100	5	6	9	14	66
February-01	74,620	3,880	4,300	7,480	10,580	48,380
%	100	5	6	10	14	65
February-02	72,200	3,920	4,280	6,220	10,380	47,400
%	100	5	6	9	14	66

¹ Claimants with children aged under 16 or young adults aged 16 to 18

² Oldest benefit payable during current spell of benefit receipt

- Between February 1999 and February 2002 there was little change in the pattern of duration on benefit.

Table 2.2.3 Families¹ on key benefits by statistical group and age of youngest child: February 2002

	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	72,200	100	27,300	38	20,360	28	16,080	22	5,260	7	3,200	4
Unemployed	5,200	100	2,140	41	980	19	1,060	20	960	18	60	1
Sick & Disabled	35,600	100	10,400	29	8,920	25	9,380	26	3,760	11	3,140	9
Lone parents	29,880	100	14,120	47	10,140	34	5,200	17	420	1	.	0
Others	1,520	100	640	42	320	21	440	29	120	8	.	0

¹ Claimants with children aged under 16 or young adults aged 16 to 18

² Children whose ages are not known

- 38% 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).

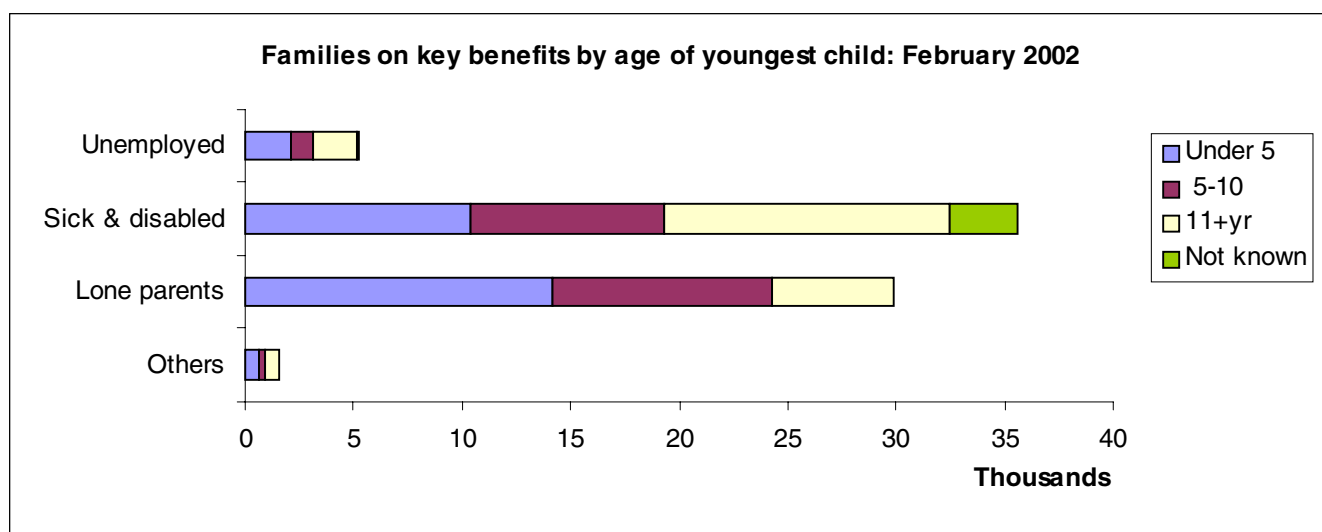


Table 2.2.4 Families¹ on key benefits by age of youngest child: February 1999 to February 2002

	Age of youngest child					
	All ages	Under 5	5 to under 11	11 to under 16	16 or over	Not known ²
Feb-99	76,940	27,800	20,780	14,040	2,740	11,580
%	100	36	27	18	4	15
Feb-00	73,180	28,360	21,320	15,760	4,220	3,520
%	100	39	29	22	6	5
Feb-01	74,620	28,180	21,700	15,720	5,580	3,440
%	100	38	29	21	7	5
Feb-02	72,200	27,300	20,360	16,080	5,260	3,200
%	100	38	28	22	7	4

¹ Claimants with children aged under 16 or young adults aged 16 to 18

² Children whose ages are not known

- Between February 1999 and February 2002 there was little change in the age profile of the youngest child in families on key benefits.

Table 2.2.5 Families¹ on key benefits by statistical group and number of children: February 2002

	Number of children				
	All families	One	Two	Three	Four or more
All statistical groups	72,200	31,000	22,800	11,080	7,320
Unemployed	5,200	2,160	1,920	700	420
Sick & Disabled	35,600	14,960	11,200	5,820	3,620
Lone parents	29,880	13,400	9,220	4,340	2,920
Others	1,520	480	460	220	360

¹ Claimants with children aged under 16 or young adults aged 16 to 18

- In February 2002, 7.5% of families (see appendix 1) claiming child benefit had 4 or more children while the figure was 10.1% of families on key benefits.
- Over 42% (31,000) of claimants of key benefits had only 1 child.

2.3 Benefits and Tax Credits

Working Families' Tax Credit (WFTC) is a tax credit available to working families with children. Disabled Person's Tax Credit (DPTC) is a tax credit available to working people who have an illness or disability, which puts them at a disadvantage in getting a job. On 5 October 1999 Working Families' Tax Credit and Disabled Person's Tax Credit replaced Family Credit (FC) and Disability Working Allowance (DWA) respectively. The Inland Revenue administers both tax credits. A small number of people are in receipt of both key benefits and tax credits.

Claimants of key benefits and recipients of tax credits can be divided into groups based mainly on the type of benefit and/or tax credit they receive. This gives an indication of the main reason why they are claiming a benefit and/or receiving a tax credit.

This grouping is defined as:

Unemployed ¹	JSA
Sick & disabled ¹	IB, SDA, DLA or IS with a disability premium
Lone parent	Single people with children on IS and not receiving a disability related premium
Other	IS claimant not in other groups
Working Family	FC or WFTC
Working Disabled	DWA or DPTC

¹Due to the inclusion of FC/WFTC and DWA/DPTC data, the "Unemployed" group and "Sick & Disabled" group figures in this section differ slightly from those given elsewhere in the publication as "statistical group". The sick & disabled group includes DLA only cases who may be working.

Dependent children do not affect the amounts of award of 'Contribution-based' or 'Credits only' JSA/IB and as such information relating to these children can be incomplete. However when combined with information from means-tested benefits as in sections 2.1 and 2.2 a much better indication of dependants is obtained. In section 2.3 information from tax credits is also used therefore the figures relating to 'Unemployed' and 'Sick & Disabled' may differ slightly to those shown in the benefits only tables.

Table 2.3.1 Children¹ of claimants of key benefits and/or recipients of tax credits by statistical group: February 1999 to February 2002

	Number of children							
	Feb-99	%	Feb-00	%	Feb-01	%	Feb-02	%
All statistical groups	220,478	100	225,833	100	221,345	100	238,783	100
Unemployed ²	23,080	10	13,180	6	12,000	5	10,100	4
Sick & disabled ²	65,180	30	66,840	30	69,700	31	70,500	30
Lone parents	65,860	30	63,260	28	61,680	28	57,860	24
Working family	61,340	28	77,360	34	72,060	33	94,320	40
Working disabled	1,258	1	1,593	1	2,065	1	2,323	1
Others	3,760	2	3,600	2	3,840	2	3,680	2

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

² Due to the inclusion of FC/WFTC and DWA/DPTC data, the Unemployed and the Sick & Disabled group figures in this section differ slightly from those given elsewhere in the publication.

Table 2.3.2 Children¹ of claimants of key benefits and/or recipients of tax credits by statistical group and family type: February 2002

	Children aged under 16 years ²					Young adult dependants aged 16 to 18 years				
	All	Family type				All	Family type			
		% pop aged under 16	Couple	Single	Not known		% pop aged 16-18 in full-time education	Couple	Single	Not known
All statistical groups	216,233	54	101,342	109,631	5,260	22,550	53	12,958	9,592	.
Unemployed ³	8,340	2	7,800	540	.	1,760	4	1,200	560	.
Sick & disabled ³	61,480	15	36,640	19,580	5,260	9,020	21	6,220	2,800	.
Lone parents	54,900	14	.	54,900	.	2,960	7	.	2,960	.
Working family	86,160	22	52,240	33,920	.	8,160	19	5,000	3,160	.
Working disabled	2,033	1	1,342	691	.	290	1	178	112	.
Others	3,320	1	3,320	0	.	360	1	360	0	.

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

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

³ Due to the inclusion of FC/WFTC and DWA/DPTC data, the Unemployed and the Sick & Disabled group figures in this section differ slightly from those given elsewhere in the publication.

Table 2.3.3 Children¹ of claimants of key benefits and/or recipients of tax credits by statistical group and age of children: February 2002

	Age of children											
	All ages		Under 5		5 to 11		11 to 16		16 or over		Not known	
		%		%		%		%		%		%
All statistical groups	238,783	100	61,117	26	78,891	33	70,585	30	22,550	9	5,640	2
Unemployed ²	10,100	100	2,780	28	2,920	29	2,560	25	1,760	17	80	1
Sick & disabled ²	70,500	100	13,600	19	19,760	28	22,560	32	9,020	13	5,560	8
Lone parents	57,860	100	17,100	30	21,500	37	16,300	28	2,960	5	.	0
Working family	94,320	100	26,340	28	32,800	35	27,020	29	8,160	9	.	0
Working disabled	2,323	100	457	20	771	33	805	35	290	12	.	0
Others	3,680	100	840	23	1,140	31	1,340	36	360	10	.	0

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

² Due to the inclusion of FC/WFTC and DWA/DPTC data, the Unemployed and the Sick & Disabled group figures in this section differ slightly from those given elsewhere in the publication.

Table 2.3.4 Children¹ of claimants of key benefits and/or recipients of tax credits by statistical group and duration of claim: February 2002

	Duration of oldest claim ²											
	All durations		Under 3 months		3 to 6 months		6 months to under 1 year		1 to 2 years		2 years or over	
		%		%		%		%		%		%
All statistical groups	238,783	100	48,369	20	63,319	27	11,935	5	19,042	8	96,118	40
Unemployed ³	10,100	100	2,400	24	2,000	20	1,500	15	2,000	20	2,200	22
Sick & disabled ³	70,500	100	2,100	3	4,040	6	5,680	8	9,780	14	48,900	69
Lone parents	57,860	100	1,580	3	2,760	5	3,920	7	6,720	12	42,880	74
Working family	94,280	100	41,180	44	53,080	56	0	0	40	0	20	0
Working disabled	2,323	100	769	33	1,239	53	255	11	22	1	38	2
Others	3,680	100	340	9	200	5	580	16	480	13	2,080	57

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

² Oldest benefit payable during current spell of benefit receipt

³ Due to the inclusion of FC/WFTC and DWA/DPTC data, the Unemployed and the Sick & Disabled group figures in this section differ slightly from those given elsewhere in the publication.

Table 2.3.5 Families¹ on key benefits and/or tax credits by statistical group and duration of claim: February 2002

	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 or over	
		%		%		%		%		%		%
All statistical groups	118,584	100	23,727	20	31,131	26	6,292	5	10,171	9	47,263	40
Unemployed ³	5,260	100	1,280	24	1,100	21	740	14	1,020	19	1,120	21
Sick & disabled ³	35,200	100	1,080	3	2,000	6	2,820	8	4,980	14	24,320	69
Lone parents	29,880	100	1,040	3	1,600	5	2,400	8	3,940	13	20,900	70
Working family	45,600	100	19,780	43	25,760	56	.	0	40	0	20	0
Working disabled	1,124	100	367	33	591	53	132	12	11	1	23	2
Others	1,520	100	180	12	80	5	200	13	180	12	880	58

¹ Claimants with children aged under 16 and young adults aged 16 to 18

² Oldest benefit payable during current spell of benefit receipt

³ Due to the inclusion of FC/WFTC and DWA/DPTC data, the Unemployed and the Sick & Disabled group figures in this section differ slightly from those given elsewhere in the publication.

Table 2.3.6 Families¹ on key benefits and/or tax credits by statistical group and age of youngest child: February 2002

	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	118,584	100	48,346	41	34,601	29	25,131	21	7,366	6	3,140	3
Unemployed ³	5,260	100	2,200	42	980	19	1,060	20	960	18	60	1
Sick & disabled ³	35,200	100	10,380	29	8,760	25	9,260	26	3,720	11	3,080	9
Lone parents	29,880	100	14,120	47	10,140	34	5,200	17	420	1	.	0
Working family	45,600	100	20,640	45	14,040	31	8,880	19	2,040	4	.	0
Working disabled	1,124	100	366	33	361	32	291	26	106	9	.	0
Others	1,520	100	640	42	320	21	440	29	120	8	.	0

¹ Claimants with children aged under 16 and young adults aged 16 to 18

² Children whose ages are not known

³ Due to the inclusion of FC/WFTC and DWA/DPTC data, the Unemployed and the Sick & Disabled group figures in this section differ slightly from those given elsewhere in the publication.

Table 2.3.7 Families¹ on key benefits and/or tax credits by statistical group and number of children: February 2002

	All families	Number of children			
		One	Two	Three	Four or more
All statistical groups	118,584	48,346	38,178	19,871	12,189
Unemployed ²	5,260	2,200	1,940	700	420
Sick & Disabled ²	35,200	14,640	11,080	5,780	3,700
Lone Parents	29,880	13,400	9,220	4,340	2,920
Working family	45,600	17,200	15,100	8,640	4,660
Working disabled	1,124	426	378	191	129
Others	1,520	480	460	220	360

¹ Claimants with children aged under 16 or young adults aged 16 to 18

² Due to the inclusion of FC/WFTC and DWA/DPTC data, the Unemployed and the Sick & Disabled group figures in this section differ slightly from those given elsewhere in the publication.

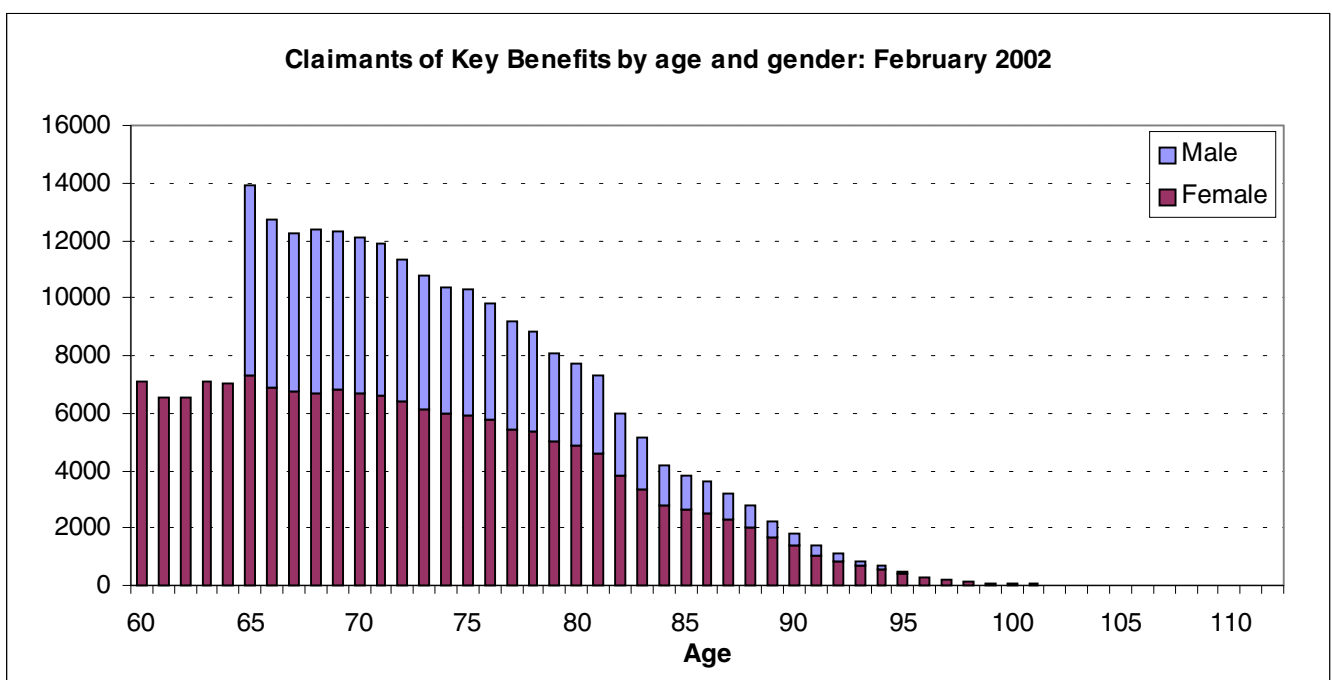
Section 3: Persons of Pensionable Age on Key Benefits

3.1 Age and gender

Table 3.1.1 Claimants over State Pension Age of key benefits by gender: February 1999 - February 2002

	Feb-99	Feb-00	Feb-01	Feb-02
Men	86,703	86,784	87,839	89,424
% of pop ¹	98	97	97	97
Women	162,831	162,691	163,646	164,338
% of pop ¹	97	96	97	96
All	249,534	249,475	251,485	253,762
% of pop ¹	97	97	97	97

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



- In February 2002 about 97% (253,762) of people over state pension age claimed a key benefit - an increase of 2% (4,228) since February 1999.
- The proportion of women claiming at least one of the key state benefits is slightly lower than for men; 96% compared with 97% respectively.

Table 3.1.2 Claimants over State Pension Age of key benefits by age and gender: February 2002

	Male		Female		All	
		% of pop ¹²		% of pop ¹²		% of pop ¹²
60-64	-	-	34,376	90	34,376	90
65-69	29,138	96	34,436	98	63,574	97
70-74	24,747	99	31,808	97	56,555	98
75-79	18,610	100	27,519	98	46,129	99
80-84	10,891	97	19,437	100	30,328	99
85-89	4,524	95	11,094	97	15,618	97
90+	1,514	94	5,668	100	7,182	99
All ages	89,424	97	164,338	96	253,762	97

¹ Population of Northern Ireland residents above state pension age

² The population estimates for the very elderly may be inaccurate

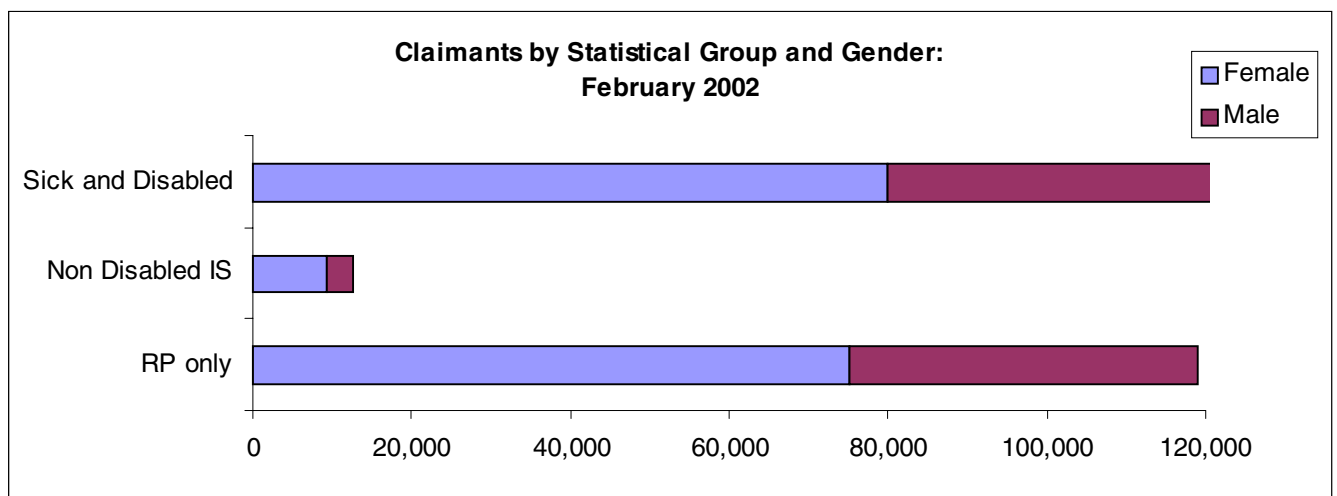
Table 3.1.3 Claimants over State Pension Age by Statistical group: February 1999 - February 2002

	Feb-99		Feb-00		Feb-01		Feb-02	
	All	% of pop ¹	All	% of pop ¹	All	% of pop ¹	All	% of pop ¹
Sick and/or Disabled	111,817	44	114,872	45	120,372	46	122,260	47
Non Disabled IS	13,883	5	12,756	5	11,962	5	12,575	5
RP only	123,834	48	121,847	47	119,151	46	118,927	45
All	249,534	97	249,475	97	251,485	97	253,762	97

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 their statistical group (see 'Definitions and Conventions').



- The overall numbers rose by 4,228 between February 1999 and February 2002.
- Sick and/or disabled claimants rose from 111,817 to 122,260 between February 1999 and February 2002, rising from 44% to 47% of the total pensioner population.
- Over the same period, the non-disabled IS statistical group fell by 1,308.
- The size of the RP only statistical group has also decreased, from 48% of the total pensioner population at February 1999 to 45% at February 2002.

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 February 2001 and February 2002 by gender and statistical group

	Male	Female	All
Sick and/or Disabled	2,732	2,562	5,294
Non Disabled IS	424	422	846
RP only	3,959	5,722	9,681
All	7,115	8,706	15,821

Table 3.2.2 Cases over State Pension Age receiving key benefits at February 2001 but no longer receiving a key benefit in February 2002: by gender and statistical group

	Male	Female	All
Sick and/or Disabled	4,012	6,538	10,550
Non Disabled IS	163	309	472
RP only	1,355	1,167	2,522
All	5,530	8,014	13,544

Table 3.2.3 Cases over State Pension Age changing statistical group: February 2001 and February 2002

Statistical group in February 2001	Statistical group in February 2002			All
	Sick and/or Disabled	Non Disabled IS	RP only	
Sick and/or Disabled	0	564	188	752
Non Disabled IS	1,388	0	211	1,599
RP only	6,508	1,274	0	7,782
All	7,896	1,838	399	10,133

- 61% of claimants moving onto a key benefit(s) between February 2001 and February 2002 received the state Retirement Pension as their only benefit.
- The number in the sick and/or disabled statistical group rose by 1,888 between February 2001 and February 2002. However more people stopped claiming a key benefit in this statistical group (10,550) than moved onto benefit directly into the sick and/or disabled statistical group (5,294). This rise is due to a net 7,144 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 February 1999 and February 2002: by gender and statistical group

	Male	Female	All
Sick and/or Disabled	7,995	7,709	15,704
Non Disabled IS	1,046	1,257	2,303
RP only	9,650	14,883	24,533
All	18,691	23,849	42,540

Table 3.2.5 Cases over State Pension Age receiving a key benefit at February 1999 but no longer receiving key benefits in February 2002: by gender and statistical group

	Male	Female	All
Sick and/or Disabled	10,452	16,819	27,271
Non Disabled IS	574	1,033	1,607
RP only	4,944	4,490	9,434
All	15,970	22,342	38,312

Table 3.2.6 Cases over State Pension Age changing statistical group: February 1999 and February 2002

Statistical group in February 1999	Statistical group in February 2002			All
	Sick and/or Disabled	Non Disabled IS	RP only	
Sick and/or Disabled	0	495	657	1,152
Non Disabled IS	4,766	0	475	5,241
Rp only	18,396	2,742	0	21,138
All	23,162	3,237	1,132	27,531

- The overall number of claimants on key benefits has risen during the period February 1999 to February 2002 by 4,228, with the number moving onto key benefits (42,540) exceeding those no longer claiming a key benefit (38,312).
- Approximately 74% of people on a key benefit in February 1999 have remained within the same statistical group in February 2002, 15% were no longer on a key benefit and 11% had moved statistical group.

Table 3.2.7 Sick and/or Disabled claimants over State Pension Age by benefit combination: February 1999 to February 2002

	Feb-99		Feb-00		Feb-01		Feb-02	
		%		%		%		%
AA or DLA	2,829	3	2,766	2	2,836	2	3,003	2
IB or SDA	1,007	1	241	0	179	0	149	0
AA or DLA and IB or SDA	1,704	2	882	1	851	1	870	1
IS only/IS with AA or DLA or IB or SDA	5,645	5	5,156	4	5,739	5	4,704	4
RP only (IVA or in hospital)	5,687	5	5,907	5	5,967	5	5,970	5
RP and one of AA or DLA	51,279	46	54,892	48	56,850	47	59,612	49
RP and IS	3,110	3	2,750	2	3,547	3	2,995	2
RP and IS and AA or DLA	40,556	36	42,235	37	44,402	37	44,948	37
All	111,817	100	114,829	100	120,371	100	122,251	100

Table 3.2.8 Sick and/or Disabled over State Pension Age statistical group cases by benefit combination and gender: February 2002

	Male	%	Female	%	All	%
AA or DLA	910	2	2,093	3	3,003	2
IB or SDA	32	0	117	0	149	0
AA or DLA and IB or SDA	67	0	803	1	870	1
IS only/IS with AA or DLA or IB or SDA	1,482	4	3,222	4	4,704	4
RP only (IVA or in hospital)	4,045	10	1,925	2	5,970	5
RP and one of AA or DLA	21,900	52	37,712	47	59,612	49
RP and IS	1,502	4	1,493	2	2,995	2
RP and IS and AA or DLA	12,354	29	32,594	41	44,948	37
All	42,292	100	79,959	100	122,251	100

- The sick and/or disabled statistical group as a whole increased by 10,434 (9%) between February 1999 and February 2002.
- RP plus AA or DLA in February 2002 accounted for 49% of the total claimants within the sick and/or disabled statistical group. This compares with only 46% in February 1999.
- The numbers claiming RP, plus IS and AA or DLA rose more slowly. The relative size of the RP, plus IS and AA or DLA group has increased from 36% within the sick and/or disabled statistical group at February 1999 to 37% at February 2002.

**Table 3.2.9 Claimants over State Pension Age by all benefit combinations and gender:
February 2002**

	Male	Female	All
DLA only	368	1,302	1,670
AA only	539	786	1,325
DLA, AA	3	5	8
SDA only	28	111	139
SDA, DLA	47	722	769
SDA, AA	14	64	78
SDA, DLA, AA	1	14	15
IB only	4	6	10
IB, DLA	5	3	8
IB, AA	.	.	0
IS only	783	1,204	1,987
IS, DLA	450	1,076	1,526
IS, AA	388	742	1,130
IS, DLA, AA	5	19	24
IS, SDA	79	212	291
IS, SDA, DLA	242	688	930
IS, SDA, AA	81	190	271
IS, SDA, AA, DLA	8	16	24
IS, IB	1	8	9
IS, IB, DLA	2	10	12
IS, IB, AA	.	.	0
RP only	47,828	77,067	124,895
RP, DLA	8,354	15,141	23,495
RP, AA	13,405	22,398	35,803
RP, AA, DLA	145	177	322
RP, IS	4,289	9,781	14,070
RP, IS, DLA	4,101	7,966	12,067
RP, IS, AA	8,145	24,404	32,549
RP, IS, AA, DLA	108	224	332
All	89,423	164,336	253,759

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: November 2001

	Thousands and percentages					
	Men		Women		All	
	(000s)	% of pop ¹	(000s)	% of pop ¹	(000s)	% of pop ¹
Great Britain	3,842	100	6,600	98	10,442	99
England	3,305	100	5,635	98	8,939	99
North East	178	100	307	98	485	100
North West ²	456	100	797	98	1,253	100
Yorkshire & Humberside	338	100	581	97	919	99
East Midlands	289	100	478	98	767	99
West Midlands	360	100	609	98	969	100
East	385	100	632	99	1,016	100
London	367	97	650	95	1,016	96
South East	545	100	929	97	1,475	98
South West	387	100	652	98	1,039	100
Wales	213	100	362	97	575	98
Scotland	324	100	603	100	928	100
Northern Ireland ³	89	97	164	96	254	97

1 Population over state pension age

2 The old Merseyside GOR was merged with North West GOR on 3rd August 1998

3 Northern Ireland data is at February 2002

- The proportion of the population over state pension age claiming a key benefit ranges from 96% in London to 100% in several other government office regions.
- The figure for Northern Ireland of 97% claiming a key benefit is below the Great Britain average of 99%, only London has a lower percentage of claimants than Northern Ireland.

Table 3.3.2 Claimants over State Pension Age of key benefits by Statistical group and Government Office Region: November 2001

Thousands and percentages

		Statistical Group			
		Sick and/or Disabled Non Disabled IS		RP only	All
Great Britain	(000s)	2,484	689	7,270	10,442
	% of pop ¹	24	7	69	99
England	(000s)	2,013	597	6,329	8,939
	% of pop ¹	22	7	70	99
North East	(000s)	150	36	299	485
	% of pop ¹	31	7	62	100
North West ²	(000s)	379	80	794	1,253
	% of pop ¹	30	6	63	100
Yorkshire & Humberside	(000s)	235	65	618	919
	% of pop ¹	25	7	67	99
East Midlands	(000s)	180	46	541	767
	% of pop ¹	23	6	70	99
West Midlands	(000s)	247	71	651	969
	% of pop ¹	25	7	67	100
East	(000s)	188	58	770	1,016
	% of pop ¹	19	6	76	100
London	(000s)	204	100	712	1,016
	% of pop ¹	19	9	67	96
South East	(000s)	226	83	1,166	1,475
	% of pop ¹	15	6	78	98
South West	(000s)	203	58	778	1,039
	% of pop ¹	19	6	75	100
Wales	(000s)	205	30	340	575
	% of pop ¹	35	5	58	98
Scotland	(000s)	266	62	600	928
	% of pop ¹	29	7	65	100
Northern Ireland	(000s)	122	13	119	254
	% of pop ¹	47	5	45	97

1 Population over state pension age

2 The old Merseyside GOR was merged with North West GOR on 3rd August 1998

3 Northern Ireland data is at February 2002

- Northern Ireland has by far the highest proportion claiming a key sickness and/or disability benefit at 47% compared to Wales (35%), which is next, with the South East lowest at 15%.
- For the RP only category Northern Ireland (45%) is considerably lower than any other office region, with Wales (58%) next. The highest proportion is the South East (78%).

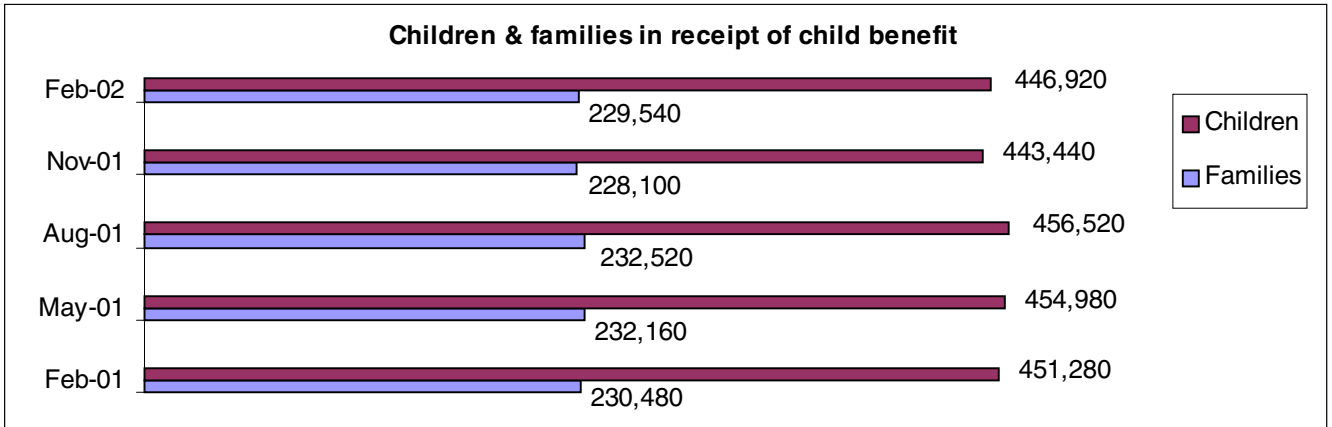
Appendices

Appendix 1 - Child Benefit

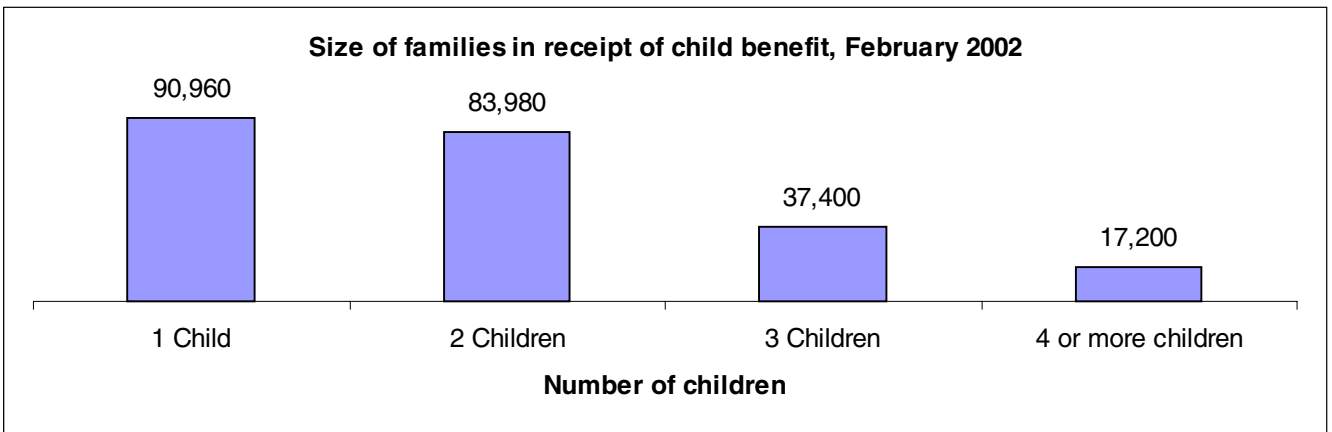
At the end of February 2002 there were 229,540 families receiving child benefit and 446,920 children in respect of whom the payment was being made.

76% of families were receiving child benefit for either 1 or 2 children only.

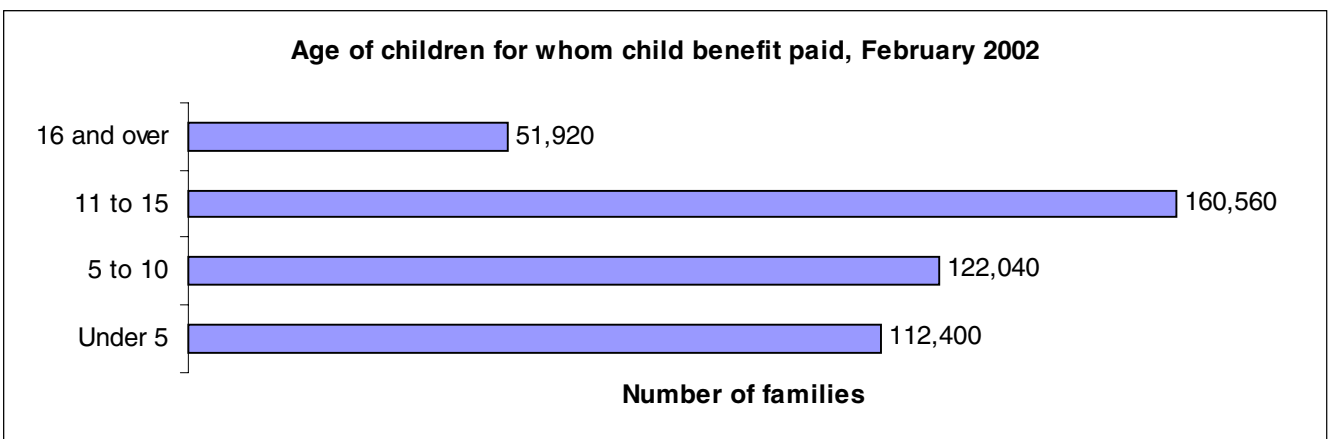
Child Benefit caseload: families and children



Child Benefit families by number of children, February 2002



Child Benefit caseload by age of children, February 2002

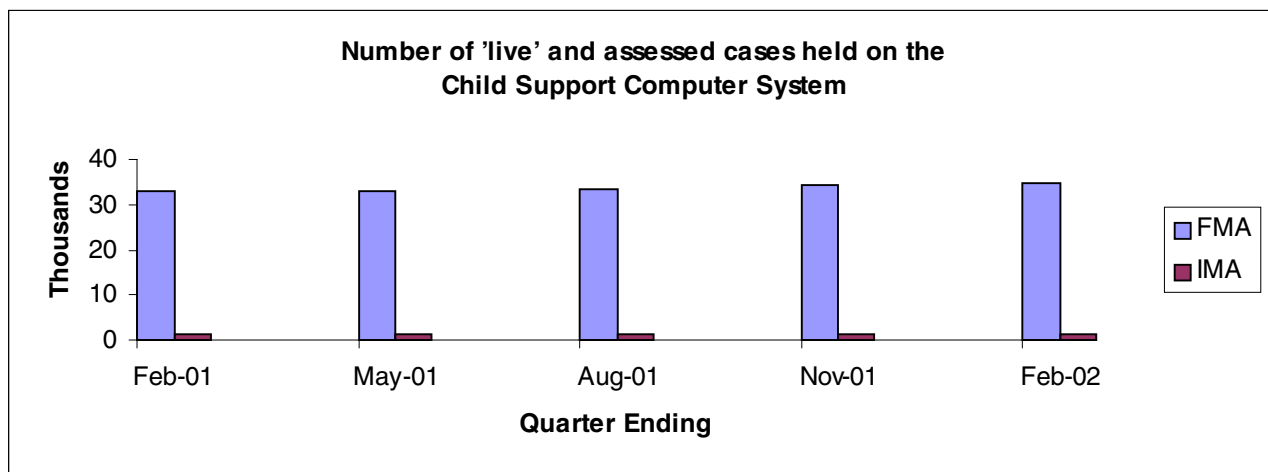


Child Benefit rates (£ per week)

	Eldest qualifying child of a couple	Eldest qualifying child of a lone parent	Each other child
Apr-92	9.65	15.50	7.80
Apr-93	10.00	16.05	8.10
Apr-94	10.20	16.35	8.25
Apr-95	10.40	16.70	8.45
Apr-96	10.80	17.10	8.80
Apr-97	11.05	17.10	9.00
Apr-98	11.45	17.10	9.30
Apr-99	14.40	17.10	9.60
Apr-00	15.00	17.55	10.00
Apr-01	15.50	17.55	10.35
Apr-02	15.75	17.55	10.55

Appendix 2 - Child Support Agency

At the end of February 2002 there were 34,526 'live' and fully assessed cases held on the Child Support Computer System (CSCS).



The average FMA (Full Maintenance Assessment) for all non-resident parents (NRPs) rose from £13.75 in February 2001 to £14.16 in February 2002. For NRPs recorded on CSCS as an employee the average maintenance in February 2002 was £34.80 per week, an increase of £0.61 per week from February 2001. For self-employed NRPs, the average maintenance assessment increased from £20.13 per week in February 2001 to £20.17 in February 2002.

Table 1 Number of NRPs with maintenance assessment and average value of assessment, February 2001 - February 2002

Month	FMA	Average, £pw
Feb-01	32,793	£13.75
May-01	33,084	£13.86
Aug-01	33,590	£13.96
Nov-01	34,068	£14.08
Feb-02	34,526	£14.16

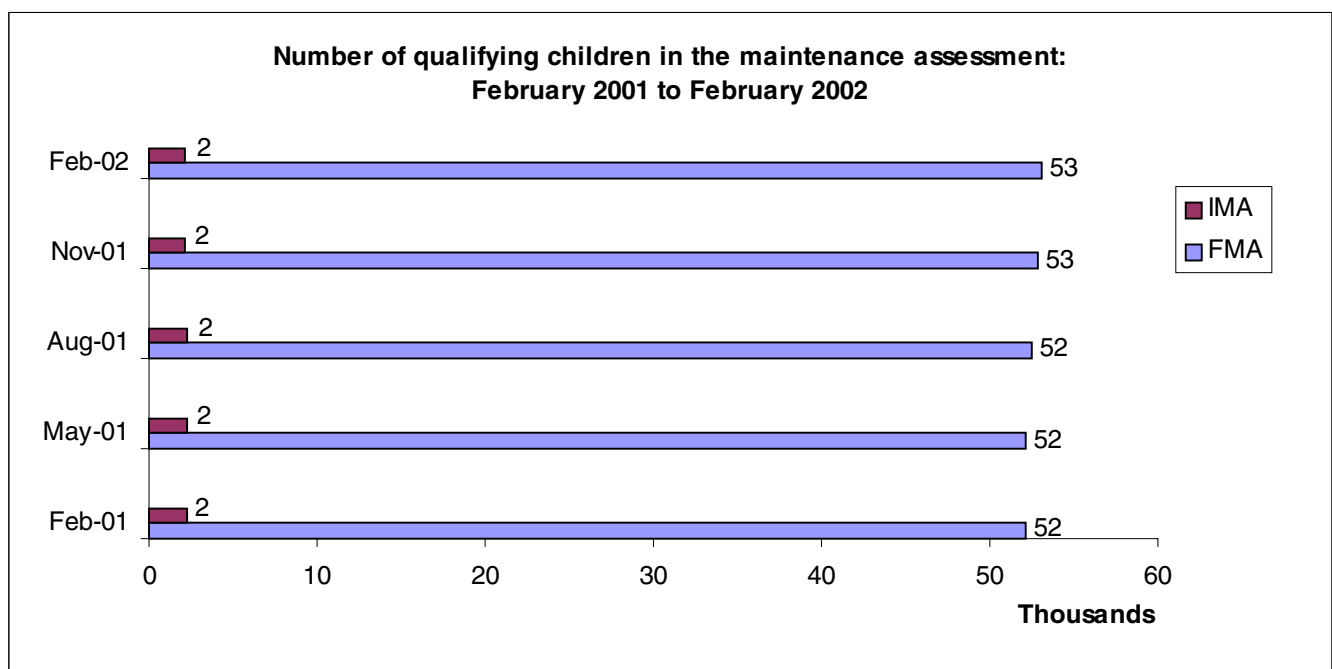
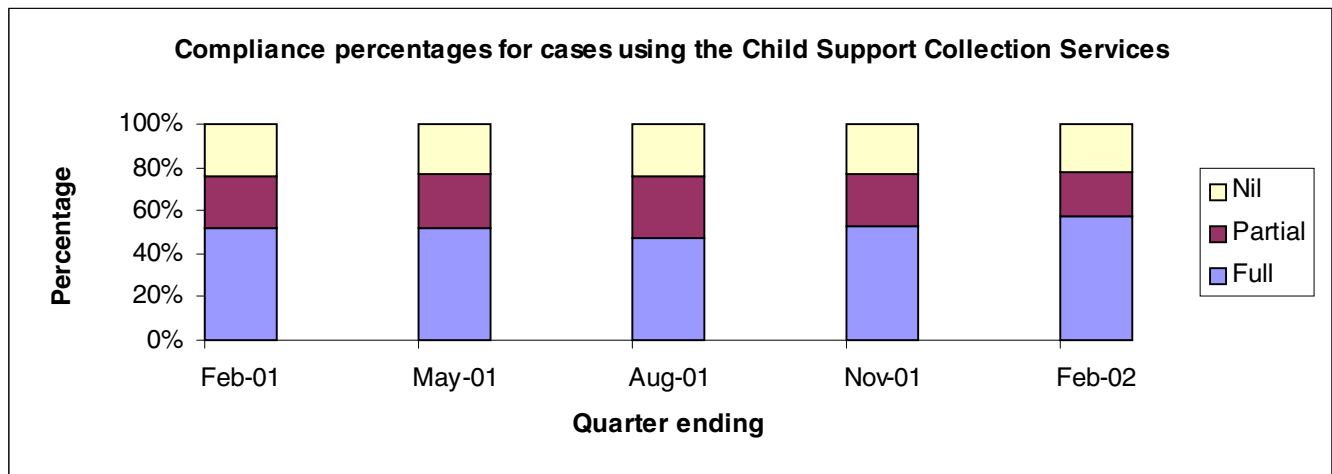
Table 2 Benefit status of PWC, February 2001 - February 2002: full assessments

Month	PWC benefit status							
	Total	%	IS	%	WFTC/ DPTC	%	Other	%
Feb-01	32,793	100	20,448	62	8,455	26	3,890	12
May-01	33,084	100	20,602	62	8,564	26	3,918	12
Aug-01	33,590	100	20,850	62	8,747	26	3,993	12
Nov-01	34,068	100	20,977	62	9,003	26	4,088	12
Feb-02	34,526	100	20,065	58	9,634	28	4,827	14

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, February 2001 - February 2002: caseload

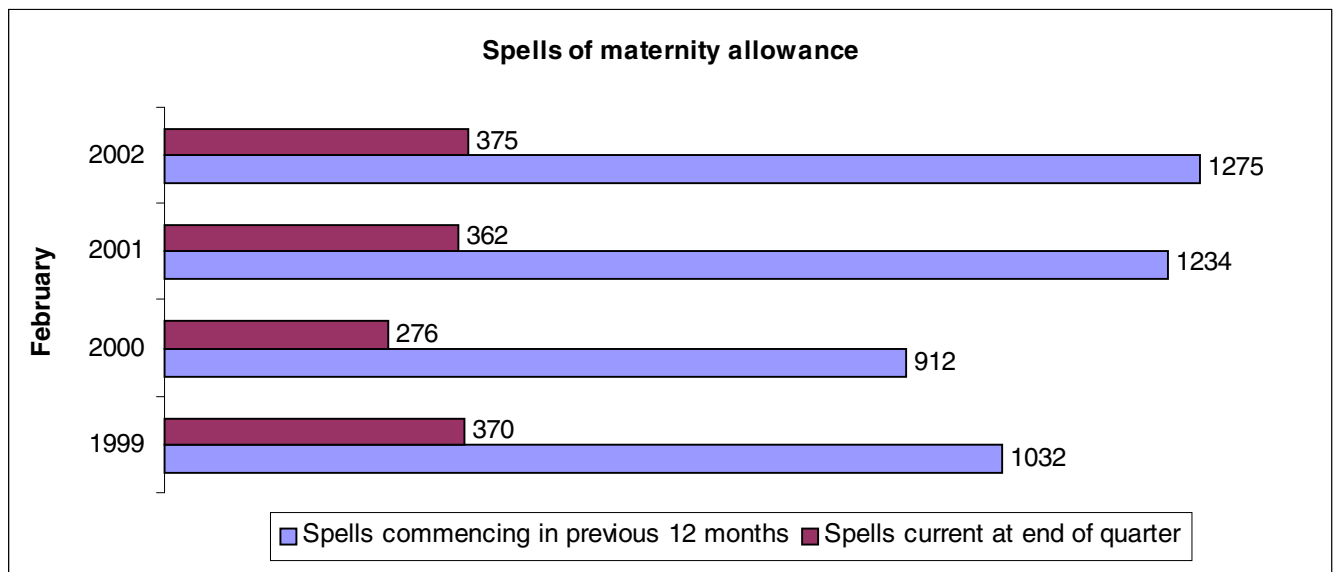
Month	Total	Not Applicable	Full	Partial	Nil
Feb-01	32,793	24,192	4,495	2,074	2,032
May-01	33,084	24,421	4,521	2,173	1,969
Aug-01	33,590	24,862	4,129	2,521	2,078
Nov-01	34,068	25,272	4,675	2,095	2,026
Feb-02	34,526	25,841	4,914	1,853	1,918



- The number of qualifying children in the fully assessed caseload has increased by 2% since February 2001.

Appendix 3 - Maternity Allowance

At the end of February 2002 there were 375 spells of maternity allowance in payment an increase of 1% on 3 years earlier.



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

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 and tax credits. They are designed to give a good indication of the size of the population on these benefits and/or tax credits and how this changes over time. However, they are affected by changes to the conditions of entitlement and to the existence of the benefits/tax credits themselves. This includes such things as: the replacement of Family Credit and Disability Working Allowance with Working Families' Tax Credit and Disabled Person's Tax Credit respectively. 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/ tax credits that they cover, with the exception of Disabled Person's Tax Credit. Due to the low number of individuals receiving Disabled Person's Tax Credit each person was included in these analyses rather than using a sample. 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/ tax credit 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 or receiving a tax credit 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 or receiving a tax credit 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 and recipients of tax credits. 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 or receiving each tax credit are still given by the individual samples from which the data are drawn. Benefit statistics are published by Statistics and Research Branch, Department for Social Development and tax credit statistics are published by Inland Revenue Analytical Services Division.

Family type and "People on benefits"

The Family Type analyses in section 1.2 are based mainly on 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.

However, Statistics and Research 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. This has reduced the percentage of 'Not Known' cases from 36% to 29% at February 2002. The 'Not Known' group is made up of the remaining Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance and Disability Living Allowance cases. It includes a small number (1% at February 2002) who receive allowances for dependants but not partners.

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 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'.

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.

In sections 1.10 and 2.3, claimants of key benefits and recipients of tax credits have been divided into groups based mainly on the type of benefit and/or tax credit they receive. This gives an indication of the main reason why they are claiming a benefit and/or receiving a tax credit. As WFTC and DPTC awards can remain in payment after employment has ended (they are paid for six months irrespective of circumstances), those people who also receive a key benefit (other than DLA) are allocated to the appropriate group based on the benefit received. For example, a person receiving WFTC who also receives IS as a lone parent has been allocated to the "Lone Parent" group. This explains why the numbers in some groups shown in this bulletin can differ from those shown in the separate DSD and IR benefit and tax credit publications.

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 transitions analysis shown in section 1.10 of this bulletin additionally shows movements between benefits and tax credits. They are subject to similar constraints as the analysis in section 1.3 described above.

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 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.

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.