
NORTHERN IRELAND CLIENT GROUP ANALYSIS

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

MAY 2004

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Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Definitions and Conventions - Sections 1 and 2

Key benefits

Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)

Incapacity Benefit (IB)

Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA)

Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

Income Support (IS)

Symbols and conventions

Working age is 16 to 64 years for men

16 to 59 years for women

Population estimates are mid year from 1998 to 2003

16-18 year olds in full-time education from 1998/99 to 2003/04

“.” not applicable

Tax Credits

Child Tax Credit (CTC)

Statistical group

Claimants are assigned to one statistical group in the following order

Unemployed

Claimant in receipt of JSA (including credits)

Sick and Disabled

Claimant in receipt of one or more of IB (including credits), SDA, DLA, IS with a disability premium

Lone Parent

Single people with children on IS and not receiving a disability related premium

Others

IS claimants not in other groups

Family type

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

JSA (Contribution based only or Credits)

details available for partners, children's details may be incomplete

IB/SDA

details available only for claimants who qualify for a child and/or partner allowance (not payable in all cases)

DLA

no details available

Benefit type

Income replacement

IS, JSA (excluding credits), IB (excluding credits) and SDA

Other

DLA

NI Credits

Through claiming JSA or IB

Benefit entitlement

Contributory benefits

IB, Contribution based JSA

Means tested benefits

IS and Income based JSA

Other benefits

SDA, DLA

NI Credits

Through claiming JSA or IB

Definitions and Conventions - Section 3

Key benefits

Attendance Allowance (AA)
 Incapacity Benefit (IB)
 Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA)
 Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
 Pension Credit (PC)
 (Income Support prior to October 2003)
 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 2003
 “.” not applicable

Statistical group

Claimants are assigned to one statistical group in the following order

Sick and/or disabled	Claimant receiving one or more of AA, DLA, IB, SDA or on PC and - 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 PC	PC 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 PC only or PC 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 PC
	8 RP and PC and one of AA or DLA
Non Disabled PC	9 PC claimants not in sick and disabled statistical group
RP Only	10 Receiving RP only and not in other statistical group

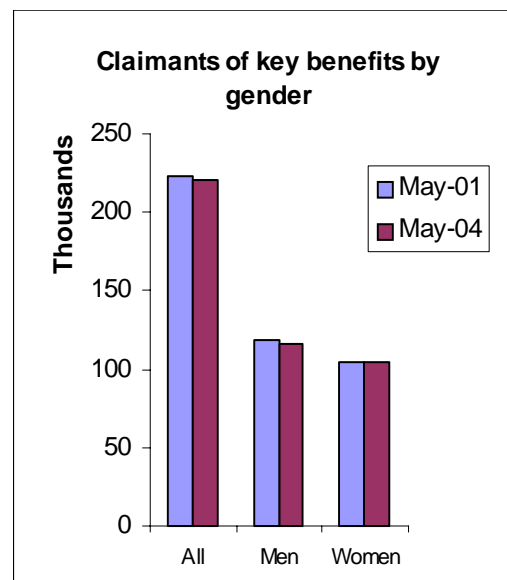
Section 1: Persons of Working Age on Key Benefits

1.1 Age and Gender

**Table 1.1.1 Claimants of key benefits by gender:
May 2001 to May 2004**

	May-01	May-02	May-03	May-04
All	223,680	222,700	226,260	220,680
% of pop¹	22	21	22	21
Men	118,640	117,800	121,040	116,300
% of pop ¹	22	22	22	22
Women	105,040	104,900	105,220	104,380
% of pop ¹	21	21	21	21

¹ Population of working age in Northern Ireland - see Methodology



- In May 2004 about 21% (220,680) of people of working age claimed a key benefit – down from 22% (223,680) in May 2001.
- About 116 thousand men of working age claimed a benefit, compared with 104 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 3,000 between May 2001 and May 2004.
- Older people were more likely to be claiming benefits. In 2004, 34% of those aged 55 to 59 claimed a benefit compared to 16% of those aged 18 to 24.
- Four age groups have increased in size since May 2001. The greatest increase was in the 45 to 54 group (up by 1,900). The largest reduction in size was in the 25 to 34 age group which fell by 6,260.

Table 1.1.2 Claimants of key benefits by age and gender: May 2004

	All		Men		Women	
		% of pop in age group		% of pop in age group		% of pop in age group
All	220,680	21	116,300	22	104,380	21
Under 18	2,260	4	1,060	4	1,200	5
18 to 24	25,960	16	13,180	16	12,780	16
25 to 34	39,780	17	18,280	16	21,500	18
35 to 44	52,840	21	25,020	20	27,820	22
45 to 54	52,420	25	26,680	26	25,740	25
55 to 59	31,980	34	16,640	36	15,340	32
60 to 64	15,440	41	15,440	41	.	.

Table 1.1.3 Claimants of key benefits by age: May 2001 to May 2004

	May-01		May-02		May-03		May-04	
		% of pop in age group ¹		% of pop in age group ¹		% of pop in age group ¹		% of pop in age group
All	223,680	22	222,700	21	226,260	22	220,680	21
Under 18	1,760	3	2,080	4	2,400	4	2,260	4
18 to 24	26,260	16	25,980	16	26,500	16	25,960	16
25 to 34	46,040	19	43,160	18	41,980	18	39,780	17
35 to 44	51,200	21	52,020	21	53,480	21	52,840	21
45 to 54	50,520	25	50,520	25	52,800	26	52,420	25
55 to 59	30,540	34	31,620	34	31,420	33	31,980	34
60 to 64	17,360	49	17,320	48	17,680	47	15,440	41

¹ See Methodology

Table 1.1.4 Claimants of key benefits by age and gender: May 2001 and May 2004

	Men				Women			
	May-01	% of pop in age group ¹	May-04	% of pop in age group	May-01	% of pop in age group ¹	May-04	% of pop in age group
All	118,640	22	116,300	22	105,040	21	104,380	21
Under 18	860	3	1,060	4	900	3	1,200	5
18 to 24	12,600	16	13,180	16	13,660	17	12,780	16
25 to 34	20,400	17	18,280	16	25,640	21	21,500	18
35 to 44	24,780	20	25,020	20	26,420	21	27,820	22
45 to 54	26,820	27	26,680	26	23,700	23	25,740	25
55 to 59	15,820	36	16,640	36	14,720	32	15,340	32
60 to 64	17,360	49	15,440	41

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: May 2004

	All	%	Men	%	Women	%
All	220,680	100	116,300	100	104,380	100
All couples	37,160	17	21,100	18	16,060	15
Couple - no children	7,880	4	6,280	5	1,600	2
Couple - children	29,280	13	14,820	13	14,460	14
All single	115,760	52	52,020	45	63,740	61
Single - no children	74,480	34	48,680	42	25,800	25
Single - children	41,280	19	3,340	3	37,940	36
Not known	67,760	31	43,180	37	24,580	24

¹ See Methodology for further details

- 115,760 claimants were single in May 2004.
- 32% (70,560) of claimants had children. The majority of claimants with children (41,280) were single.
- **The methodology used to assign information about children's details has been revised following the introduction of CTC in April 2003. Comparisons of family type and comparisons over time are affected by these changes. Please see Methodology for further details.**

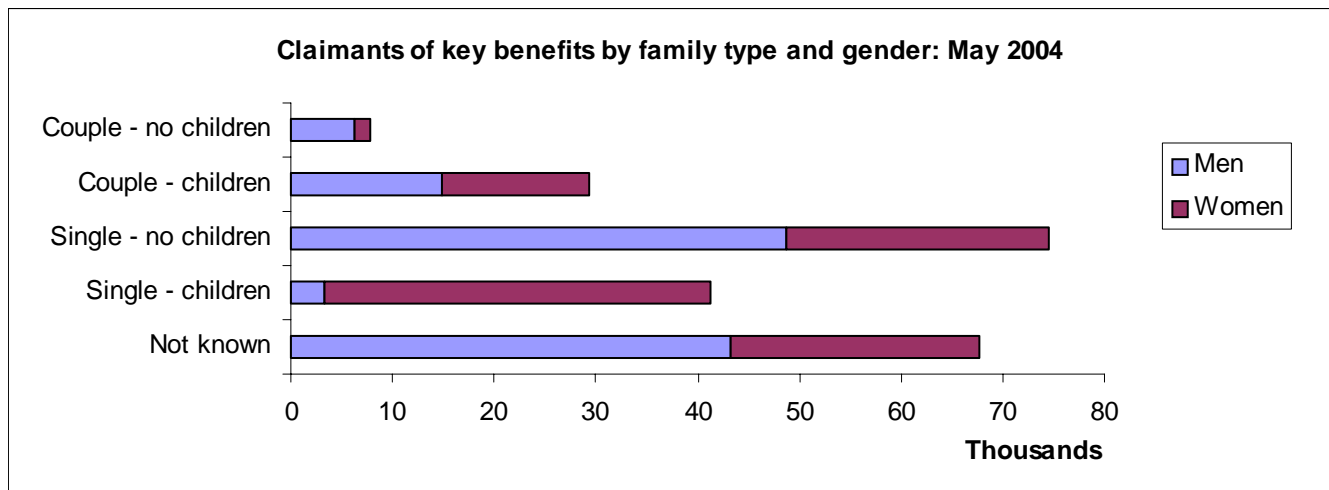


Table 1.2.2 Claimants of key benefits by family type¹: May 2001 to May 2004

	May-01		May-02		May-03		May-04	
	All	%	All	%	All	%	All	%
All	223,680	100	222,700	100	226,260	100	220,680	100
All couples	37,540	17	37,300	17	36,800	16	37,160	17
Couple - no children	11,360	5	11,460	5	11,860	5	7,880	4
Couple - children	26,180	12	25,840	12	24,940	11	29,280	13
All single	121,920	55	119,440	54	122,400	54	115,760	52
Single - no children	77,860	35	76,780	34	79,260	35	74,480	34
Single - children	44,060	20	42,660	19	43,140	19	41,280	19
Not known	64,220	29	65,960	30	67,060	30	67,760	31

¹ See Methodology for further details

Table 1.2.3 Claimants of key benefits by family type¹ and statistical group: May 2004

	All	Unemployed	Sick & Disabled	Lone Parent	Other
All	220,680	30,520	154,320	26,660	9,180
All couples	37,160	3,420	31,900	.	1,840
Couple - no children	7,880	1,500	5,840	.	540
Couple - children	29,280	1,920	26,060	.	1,300
All single	115,760	27,100	54,660	26,660	7,340
Single - no children	74,480	25,200	41,940	.	7,340
Single - children	41,280	1,900	12,720	26,660	.
Not known	67,760	.	67,760	.	.

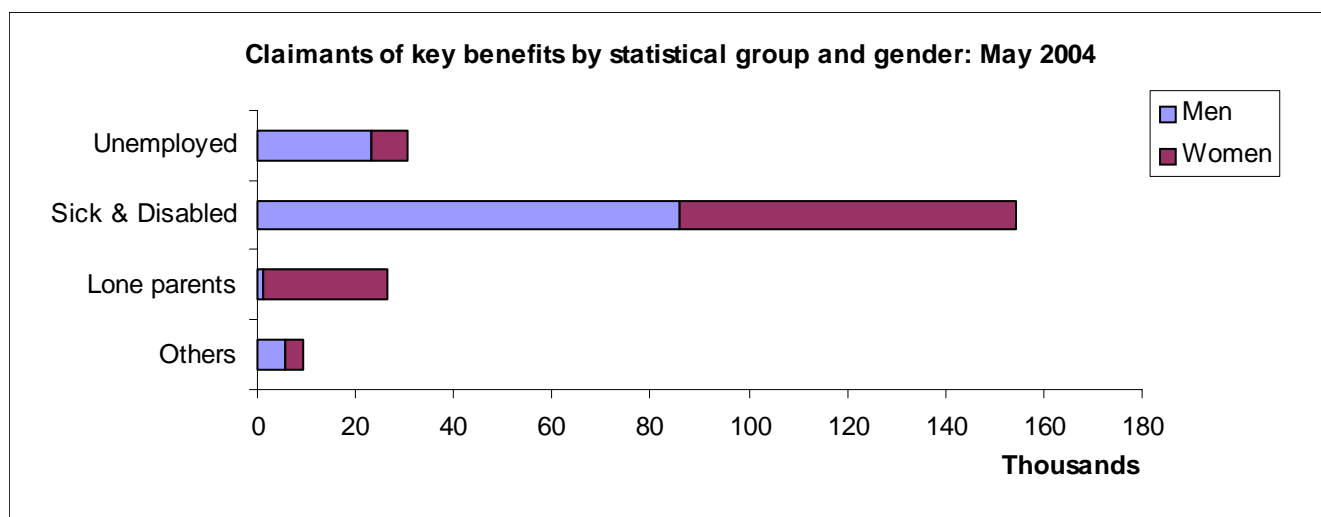
¹ See Methodology for further details

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: May 2004

	All	Men	Women
All	220,680	116,300	104,380
Unemployed	30,520	23,380	7,140
Sick & Disabled	154,320	85,780	68,540
Lone parents	26,660	1,420	25,240
Others	9,180	5,720	3,460



- The overall numbers fell by 3,000 between May 2001 and May 2004, mostly because of the unemployed group which fell by 7,200 (19%) over this period.
- In May 2004, 3% (30,520) of people of working age were classed as unemployed - down from 4% (37,720) in May 2001.
- Sick & disabled claimants were consistently the largest group between May 2001 and May 2004, rising from 64% of the total to 70% of the total; unemployed claimants were the second largest group.
- The size of the sick & disabled group rose by 11,820 (8%) between May 2001 and May 2004, whilst numbers in the lone parents group fell by 4,900 (16%) over the same period.

Table 1.3.2 Claimants of key benefits by statistical group: May 2001 to May 2004

	May-01		May-02		May-03		May-04	
	All	% of pop ¹	All	% of pop ¹	All	% of pop ¹	All	% of pop ¹
All	223,680	22	222,700	21	226,260	22	220,680	21
Unemployed	37,720	4	33,720	3	33,360	3	30,520	3
Sick & Disabled	142,500	14	147,260	14	152,220	15	154,320	15
Lone parents	31,560	3	29,160	3	28,660	3	26,660	3
Others	11,900	1	12,560	1	12,020	1	9,180	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: May 2001 to May 2004

	<u>On benefit in current year - status in previous year¹</u>				Left benefit since previous year ²
	All	Same statistical group	Different statistical group	Not on benefit	
May-01	223,680
May-02	222,700	170,580	13,420	38,700	39,680
May-03	226,260	171,860	14,180	40,220	36,660
May-04	220,680	174,600	11,720	34,360	39,940

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

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

- There was a decrease of 5,580 claimants between May 2003 and May 2004. The decrease was due to the number of people leaving benefit exceeding the number of people who had joined benefit. For example, 39,940 claimants on benefit in May 2003 were no longer on benefit in May 2004 whilst 34,360 of claimants in May 2004 were not on benefit in May 2003.
- The numbers in each statistical group were also affected by movements between them. For example, 11,720 claimants who were on benefit in both May 2003 and May 2004 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 2,840 between May 2003 and May 2004. The number of claimants who moved out of that group (4,460) exceeded those who moved in from another group (2,620) – a reduction of 1,840. Also, the number of new claimants who joined the group (14,540) was exceeded by those who left benefit from that group (15,540) – a decrease of 1,000. When combined those figures gave a total decrease of 2,840.

Table 1.3.4 Claimants of key benefits - changes between May 2003 and May 2004

Statistical group	All on benefit in May-03	Movement between May-03 and May-04			Overall change ²	All on benefit in May-04
		Outflow Not on benefit in May-04	Inflow Not on benefit in May-03	Net movement between Statistical groups ¹		
All	226,260	39,940	34,360	0	-5,580	220,680
Unemployed	33,360	15,540	14,540	-1,840	-2,840	30,520
Sick & Disabled	152,220	15,760	15,280	2,580	2,100	154,320
Lone parents	28,660	4,640	3,140	-500	-2,000	26,660
Others	12,020	4,000	1,400	-240	-2,840	9,180

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

² Overall change between May 2003 and May 2004 ie column 3 minus column 2 plus column 4

Table 1.3.5 Claimants of key benefits in both May 2003 and May 2004 - comparisons of statistical group

Comparison of statistical groups in 2003 and 2004 ¹	Statistical group in May 2004				
	All	Unemployed	Sick & Disabled	Lone parent	Other
All	186,320	15,980	139,040	23,520	7,780
Statistical group in May 2003					
Unemployed	17,820	13,360	3,380	260	820
Sick & Disabled	136,460	2,040	132,900	720	800
Lone parents	24,020	280	1,280	22,320	140
Others	8,020	300	1,480	220	6,020
2003 and 2004					
Total with no change	174,600	13,360	132,900	22,320	6,020
Leaving original statistical group	-11,720	-4,460	-3,560	-1,700	-2,000
Joining new statistical group	11,720	2,620	6,140	1,200	1,760
Net movement between statistical groups	0	-1,840	2,580	-500	-240

¹ For example there were 17,820 claimants in the Unemployed group in May 2003 who were also on benefit in May 2004: of these, 13,360 were still in this group, 3,380 were now in the Sick & Disabled group, 260 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 May 2001 with that in May 2004.

Table 1.3.6 Claimants of key benefits in May 2004 - by status in May 2001

Benefit status in May 2004	All on benefit in May 2004	Benefit status in May 2001		
		Not on benefit	Same statistical group	Different statistical group
All	220,680	65,160	136,140	19,380
Unemployed	30,520	18,440	9,140	2,940
Sick & Disabled	154,320	36,740	105,300	12,280
Lone Parents	26,660	7,340	17,660	1,660
Others	9,180	2,640	4,040	2,500

- Around 70% (155,520) of key benefit claimants in May 2004 were also on benefit in May 2001; 62% of the overall total were in the same statistical group.
- Claimants in the sick & disabled group in May 2004 were the most likely to have also been on benefit in May 2001 (76% of them - 117,580), followed by claimants in the lone parents group (72% – 19,320) and the others group (71% – 6,540) – those in the unemployed group (40% – 12,080) were least likely. Claimants in the sick & disabled group were also the most likely to have stayed in the same statistical group (68% – 105,300).

Table 1.3.7 Claimants of key benefits in May 2001 - by status in May 2004

Benefit status in May 2001	All on benefit in May 2001	Benefit status in May 2004			
		Reached state pension age ¹	Not on benefit	Same statistical group	Different statistical group
All	223,680	19,920	48,240	136,140	19,380
Unemployed	37,720	680	19,100	9,140	8,800
Sick & Disabled	142,500	16,940	16,900	105,300	3,360
Lone Parents	31,560	80	9,300	17,660	4,520
Others	11,900	2,220	2,940	4,040	2,700

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: May 2004

	All	Income replacement benefits ¹	Other benefits only ²	NI Credits ³
All	220,680	189,320	25,280	6,080
Unemployed	30,520	27,940	.	2,580
Sick & Disabled	154,320	125,540	25,280	3,500
Lone parents	26,660	26,660	.	.
Others	9,180	9,180	.	.

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

² Other is DLA

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

- In May 2004, 189,320 claimants received an income replacement benefit, down from 198,840 in May 2001.
- In May 2004, 61,960 claimants received only a contributory benefit.
- 124,440 claimants received a benefit that was means tested in May 2004. Of those 110,280 claimants received a benefit that was means tested whilst 14,160 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: May 2001 to May 2004

	All	Benefit type		NI Credits ³
		Income replacement benefits ¹	Other benefits only ²	
May-01	223,680	198,840	18,800	6,040
May-02	222,700	196,100	20,800	5,800
May-03	226,260	198,460	21,740	6,060
May-04	220,680	189,320	25,280	6,080

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: May 2004

	Basis of benefit entitlement					
	All	Contributory ¹	Contributory and means tested ²	Means tested ³	Other ⁴	NI Credits ⁵
All	220,680	61,960	14,160	110,280	28,200	6,080
Unemployed	30,520	4,260	280	23,400	.	2,580
Sick & Disabled	154,320	57,700	13,880	51,040	28,200	3,500
Lone Parents	26,660	.	.	26,660	.	.
Others	9,180	.	.	9,180	.	.

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

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

³ Means tested benefits are income based JSA, IS

⁴ Other benefits are SDA, DLA

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

Table 1.4.4 Claimants of key benefits by main basis of entitlement: May 2001 to May 2004

	Basis of benefit entitlement					
	All	Contributory ¹	Contributory and means tested ²	Means tested ³	Other ⁴	NI Credits ⁵
May-01	223,680	58,220	16,600	120,560	22,260	6,040
May-02	222,700	58,820	17,080	117,080	23,920	5,800
May-03	226,260	59,920	17,800	117,960	24,520	6,060
May-04	220,680	61,960	14,160	110,280	28,200	6,080

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: May 2004

	All	Type of benefit				
		IB Payment	IB Credits	SDA	Income Support	DLA
All sick and disabled	154,320	71,580	37,860	11,040	64,920	100,120
Single benefit only	57,360	27,900	3,500	240	4,060	21,660
Two or more benefits of which¹	96,960	43,680	34,360	10,800	60,860	78,460
Incapacity Benefit payment	43,680	43,680	.	.	13,880	40,380
Incapacity Benefit credits	34,360	.	34,360	.	30,740	19,840
Severe Disablement Allowance	10,800	.	.	10,800	8,120	10,120
Income Support	60,860	13,880	30,740	8,120	60,860	42,360
Disability Living Allowance	78,460	40,380	19,840	10,120	42,360	78,460

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

- Around 63% (96,960) of sick & disabled claimants received more than one key benefit in May 2004. The main combinations included IB payments and DLA (40,380) and IS and DLA (42,360).

Table 1.4.6 Claimants of sickness and/or disability benefits by type of benefit: May 2001 to May 2004

	May-01		May-02		May-03		May-04	
	All	%	All	%	All	%	All	%
All sick and disabled	142,500	100	147,260	100	152,220	100	154,320	100
Incapacity Only ¹	53,640	38	55,200	37	58,040	38	54,200	35
Incapacity and Disability	71,340	50	72,920	50	74,460	49	78,460	51
Disability Only ²	17,520	12	19,140	13	19,720	13	21,660	14

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: May 2004

	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	220,680	15,900	12,680	19,820	29,660	142,620
Unemployed	30,520	9,420	5,440	6,000	4,780	4,880
Sick & Disabled	154,320	4,360	5,440	10,900	20,040	113,580
Lone parents	26,660	1,000	1,280	1,840	3,700	18,840
Others	9,180	1,120	520	1,080	1,140	5,320

¹ Oldest benefit payable during current spell of benefit receipt

- Around 65% (142,620) of the claimants in May 2004 had been receiving a key benefit for 2 years or more.
- Of those longer duration claimants 80% (113,580) were in the sick & disabled group. That group was therefore more likely to have been on benefit for longer periods than all the others – 74% 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: May 2004

	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	220,680	15,900	12,680	19,820	29,660	142,620
%	100	7	6	9	13	65
Men	116,300	9,940	8,080	11,180	15,580	71,520
%	100	9	7	10	13	61
Women	104,380	5,960	4,600	8,640	14,080	71,100
%	100	6	4	8	13	68

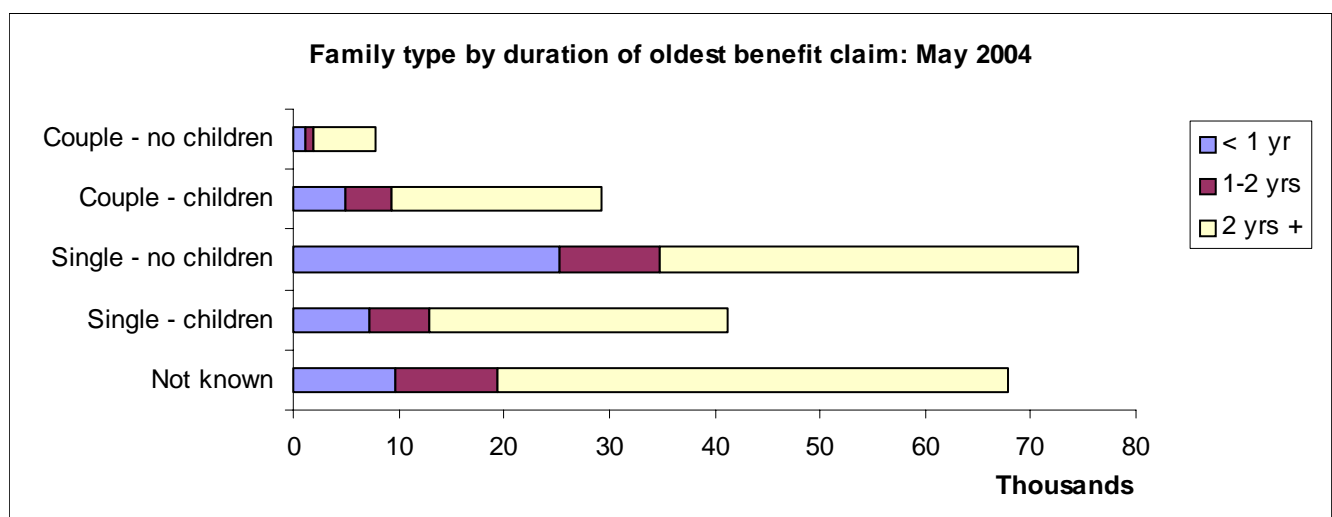
¹ Oldest benefit payable during current spell of benefit receipt

Table 1.5.3 Claimants of key benefits by family type and duration of claim: May 2004

	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	220,680	15,900	12,680	19,820	29,660	142,620
All Couples	37,160	1,320	1,600	3,160	5,100	25,980
Couple - no children	7,880	260	260	660	760	5,940
Couple - children	29,280	1,060	1,340	2,500	4,340	20,040
All single	115,760	12,460	8,540	11,560	15,000	68,200
Single - no children	74,480	10,240	6,540	8,500	9,440	39,760
Single - children	41,280	2,220	2,000	3,060	5,560	28,440
Not known	67,760	2,120	2,540	5,100	9,560	48,440

¹ Oldest benefit payable during current spell of benefit receipt

- Around 69% of single people with children/young adult dependants had been on benefit for 2 years or more compared with 68% of couples with children.
- **The methodology used to assign information about children's details has been revised following the introduction of CTC in April 2003. Comparisons of family type and comparisons over time are affected by these changes. Please see Methodology for further details.**



1.6 Claimants with children and young dependants aged under 19

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

Table 1.6.1 Claimants of key benefits with children and/or young adult dependants¹ by statistical group: May 2004

	Age of youngest child/dependant ³						
	All	All with children	Under 5	5 to under 11	11 to under 16	16 or over	Not known ²
All	220,680	71,560	24,080	23,400	16,120	6,820	1,140
Unemployed	30,520	3,820	1,240	920	820	760	-
Sick & Disabled	154,320	39,780	10,340	12,240	10,640	5,500	1,060
Lone parents	26,660	26,660	12,080	9,680	4,480	420	.
Others	9,180	1,300	420	560	180	140	.

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

² Children whose ages are not known

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

⁴ Numbers less than 100 are not disclosed due to DSD customer confidentiality policy

- In May 2004, 71,560 claimants of key benefits had children and/or young dependants.
- 34% (24,080) of claimants with children had a youngest child aged under 5. The majority of the under 5s were children of lone parents.
- **The methodology used to assign information about children's details has been revised following the introduction of CTC in April 2003.**

1.7 Children and young dependants aged under 19

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

Table 1.7.1 Children¹ of claimants of key benefits by age of child, statistical group and family type: May 2004

	Children aged under 16 years ²³					Young dependants aged 16 to 18 years ³				
	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	120,580	31	49,980	68,900	1,700	17,940	38	9,860	8,080	.
Unemployed	5,800	1	3,380	2,420	.	1,420	3	700	720	.
Sick & Disabled	64,480	17	43,960	18,820	1,700	12,480	26	8,720	3,760	.
Lone Parents	47,660	12	.	47,660	.	3,600	8	.	3,600	.
Others	2,640	1	2,640	0	.	440	1	440	0	.

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

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

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

- In May 2004, 120,580 children under the age of 16 were living in families in which a key benefit was claimed.
- The majority of these children 68,900 were living in single parent families.
- 17,940 young people aged 16 -18 (38% of all 16 - 18 year olds in full-time education) were living in families with a key benefit claimant.
- 22% of all young people aged 16 - 18 were living with key benefit claimants in May 2004.
- **The methodology used to assign information about children's details has been revised following the introduction of CTC in April 2003.**

1.8 Regional Analysis

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

Table 1.8.1 Claimants of key benefits by gender and Government Office Region: May 2004

	Thousands					
	All		Men		Women	
	(000s)	% of pop ¹	(000s)	% of pop ¹	(000s)	% of pop ¹
Great Britain	4,845	14	2,521	14	2,325	14
England	3,985	13	2,063	13	1,922	13
North East	292	19	157	20	135	18
North West	712	17	377	18	335	17
Yorkshire & the Humber	439	14	236	15	203	14
East Midlands	319	12	166	12	153	12
West Midlands	464	14	243	14	222	14
East	325	10	162	9	163	10
London	694	14	341	14	352	15
South East	430	9	218	9	212	9
South West	311	11	164	11	148	10
Wales	322	18	169	19	153	18
Scotland	538	17	289	18	249	16
Northern Ireland	221	21	116	22	104	21
IB/SDA claimants living abroad ²	11	.	7	.	4	.

¹ Population of working age

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

- The proportion of the working age population claiming a benefit ranges from 9% in South East England to 21% in Northern Ireland.
- The proportion of the working age population claiming a benefit ranges from 13% (North Down) to 31% (Derry and Strabane).
- The district councils with the greatest proportion of working age claimants in the sick & disabled group were Strabane (21%), followed by Cookstown, Derry and Dungannon (19%). The district council with the lowest proportion was North Down (9%).
- The proportion of the working age population in the unemployed group ranged from 6% (Strabane) to 1% (Banbridge, Cookstown and Magherafelt).

Table 1.8.2 Claimants of key benefits by gender and District Council: May 2004

	All		Men		Women	
		% of pop ¹		% of pop ¹		% of pop ¹
Northern Ireland	220,680	21	116,300	22	104,380	21
Ards	7,220	16	3,640	18	3,580	25
Belfast	47,840	29	26,040	31	21,800	26
Castlereagh	5,680	14	3,080	16	2,600	13
Down	7,460	19	4,340	21	3,120	17
Lisburn	11,540	17	5,560	16	5,980	18
North Down	6,120	13	3,440	14	2,680	12
Antrim	5,220	17	2,660	16	2,560	18
Ballymena	5,380	15	2,820	15	2,560	15
Ballymoney	3,040	18	1,660	19	1,380	17
Carrickfergus	4,200	18	1,920	16	2,280	20
Coleraine	6,060	18	3,340	19	2,720	17
Cookstown	4,840	24	2,600	24	2,240	23
Larne	3,220	17	1,720	17	1,500	17
Magherafelt	4,000	16	1,820	14	2,180	19
Moyle	1,900	19	1,140	22	760	16
Newtownabbey	8,140	16	3,980	16	4,160	17
Armagh	5,620	17	3,260	18	2,360	15
Banbridge	3,720	14	1,780	13	1,940	15
Craigavon	11,400	23	5,300	20	6,100	25
Dungannon	7,300	25	4,080	26	3,220	23
Newry & Mourne	12,620	23	7,040	25	5,580	21
Derry	20,480	31	10,260	31	10,220	31
Fermanagh	7,040	20	3,920	21	3,120	19
Limavady	4,400	21	2,220	19	2,180	22
Omagh	6,680	22	3,780	23	2,900	20
Strabane	7,420	31	4,040	33	3,380	30
Unknown	2,140	.	860	.	1,280	.

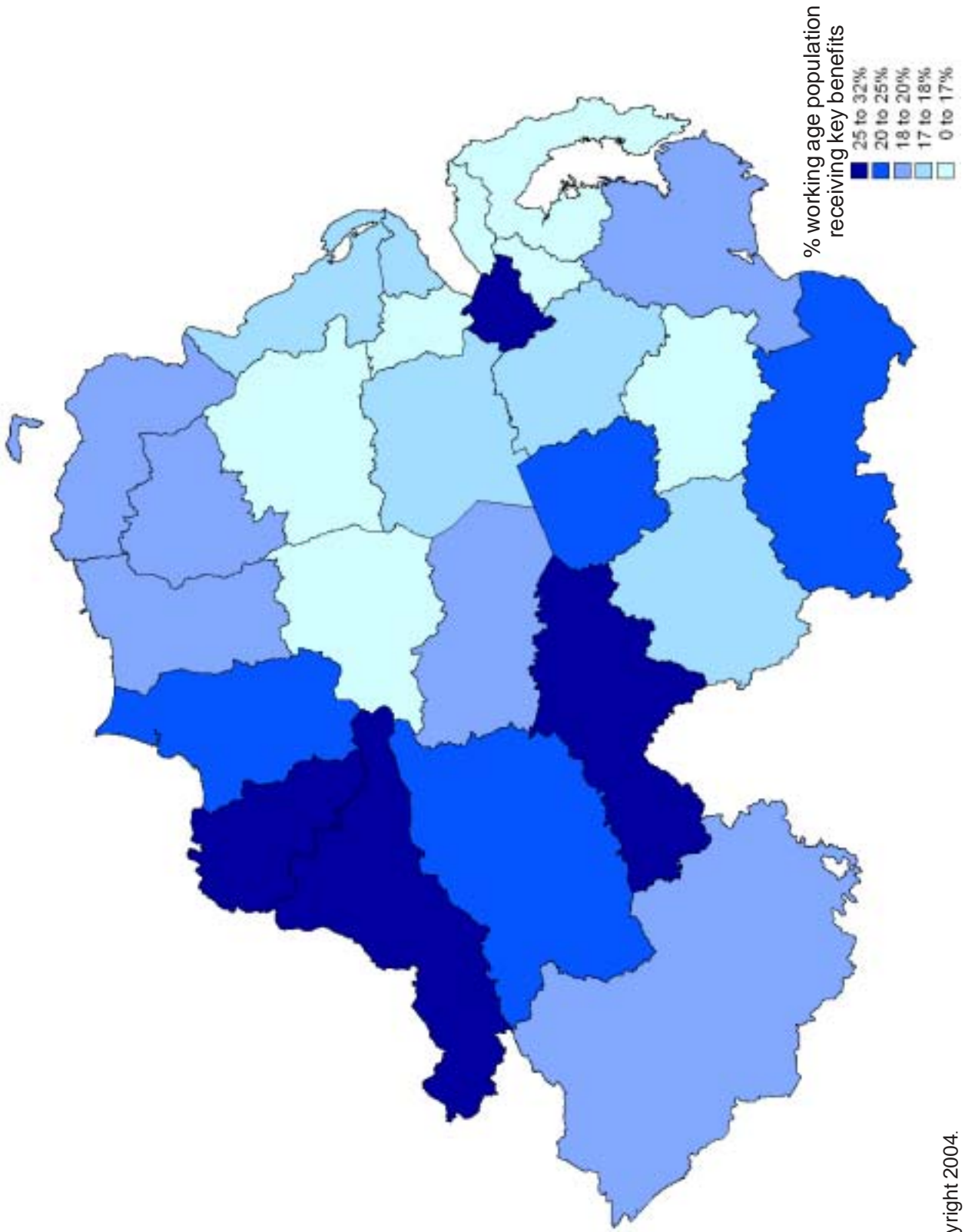
¹ Population of working age in Northern Ireland

**Table 1.8.3 Claimants of key benefits by statistical group and District Council:
May 2004**

		Statistical group				
		All	Unemployed	Sick & Disabled	Lone parents	Others
Northern Ireland		220,680	30,520	154,320	26,660	9,180
	% of pop ¹	21	3	15	3	1
Ards		7,220	1,060	5,480	560	120
	% of pop ¹	16	2	12	1	0
Belfast		47,840	7,540	30,440	7,100	2,760
	% of pop ¹	29	5	18	4	2
Castlereagh		5,680	880	4,180	460	160
	% of pop ¹	14	2	11	1	0
Down		7,460	1,200	5,220	820	220
	% of pop ¹	19	3	13	2	1
Lisburn		11,540	1,240	8,020	1,980	300
	% of pop ¹	17	2	12	3	0
North Down		6,120	1,100	4,380	500	140
	% of pop ¹	13	2	9	1	0
Antrim		5,220	740	3,800	460	220
	% of pop ¹	17	2	12	1	1
Ballymena		5,380	620	4,000	600	160
	% of pop ¹	15	2	11	2	0
Ballymoney		3,040	380	2,240	360	60
	% of pop ¹	18	2	13	2	0
Carrickfergus		4,200	600	2,940	560	100
	% of pop ¹	18	3	12	2	0
Coleraine		6,060	1,220	3,880	760	200
	% of pop ¹	18	4	11	2	1
Cookstown		4,840	260	3,960	420	200
	% of pop ¹	24	1	19	2	1
Larne		3,220	400	2,380	340	100
	% of pop ¹	17	2	13	2	1
Magherafelt		4,000	280	3,200	380	140
	% of pop ¹	16	1	13	2	1
Moyle		1,900	280	1,180	280	160
	% of pop ¹	19	3	12	3	2
Newtownabbey		8,140	920	5,940	1,140	140
	% of pop ¹	16	2	12	2	0
Armagh		5,620	780	4,300	440	100
	% of pop ¹	17	2	13	1	0
Banbridge		3,720	340	3,020	300	60
	% of pop ¹	14	1	11	1	0
Craigavon		11,400	1,140	8,660	1,120	480
	% of pop ¹	23	2	17	2	1
Dungannon		7,300	720	5,520	680	380
	% of pop ¹	25	2	19	2	1
Newry & Mourne		12,620	1,300	9,300	1,300	720
	% of pop ¹	23	2	17	2	1
Derry		20,480	3,220	12,860	3,320	1,080
	% of pop ¹	31	5	19	5	2
Fermanagh		7,040	1,280	4,800	600	360
	% of pop ¹	20	4	13	2	1
Limavady		4,400	620	2,960	560	260
	% of pop ¹	21	3	14	3	1
Omagh		6,680	800	5,080	580	220
	% of pop ¹	22	3	17	2	1
Strabane		7,420	1,420	4,980	740	280
	% of pop ¹	31	6	21	3	1
Unknown		2,140	180	1,600	300	60

¹ Population of working age of Northern Ireland

Percentage of the working age population claiming a key benefit by District Council: May 2004



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1.9 Quarterly Tables

1.9.1 Age and Gender

Table 1.9.1A Claimants of key benefits by gender

		All	% Pop ¹	Men	% Pop ¹	Women	% Pop ¹
1998	Feb	235,780	23	131,220	25	104,560	21
	May	232,760	23	128,960	25	103,800	21
	Aug	240,080	24	130,500	25	109,580	22
	Nov	232,160	23	127,600	25	104,560	21
1999	Feb	233,060	23	128,120	25	104,940	21
	May	228,620	23	124,680	24	103,940	21
	Aug	231,740	23	123,540	24	108,200	22
	Nov	224,120	22	119,920	23	104,200	21
2000	Feb	223,500	22	119,880	23	103,620	21
	May	222,540	22	117,900	23	104,640	21
	Aug	227,660	22	120,320	23	107,340	22
	Nov	223,380	22	118,260	23	105,120	21
2001	Feb	226,720	22	120,860	23	105,860	21
	May	223,680	22	118,640	23	105,040	21
	Aug	226,900	22	118,520	22	108,380	22
	Nov	222,740	22	117,680	22	105,060	21
2002	Feb	224,700	22	118,900	22	105,800	21
	May	222,700	21	117,800	22	104,900	21
	Aug	226,980	22	119,840	22	107,140	21
	Nov	223,480	22	119,640	22	103,840	21
2003	Feb	227,200	22	122,340	23	104,860	21
	May	226,260	22	121,040	22	105,220	21
	Aug	230,760	22	123,020	23	107,740	21
	Nov	223,300	21	118,680	22	104,620	21
2004	Feb	223,500	21	118,420	22	105,080	21
	May	220,680	21	116,300	22	104,380	21

¹ Population of working age in Northern Ireland - see Methodology

Table 1.9.1B Claimants of key benefits by gender - Annual changes May 2000 to May 2004

	All	%	Men	%	Women	%
May 01 / May 00	1,140	1	740	1	400	0
May 02 / May 01	-980	0	-840	-1	-140	0
May 03 / May 02	3,560	2	3,240	3	320	0
May 04 / May 03	-5,580	-2	-4,740	-4	-840	-1

Table 1.9.1C All claimants of key benefits by age

		All	Under 18	18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 59	60 to 64
1998	Feb	235,780	1,960	30,600	54,980	50,080	51,180	29,160	17,820
	May	232,760	1,560	29,540	53,640	49,700	50,740	29,640	17,940
	Aug	240,080	1,860	33,980	54,200	51,840	51,140	29,460	17,600
	Nov	232,160	1,580	27,480	53,340	52,400	50,840	29,300	17,220
1999	Feb	233,060	1,680	31,000	55,300	48,300	49,560	29,940	17,280
	May	228,620	1,600	27,080	51,240	51,060	50,160	30,020	17,460
	Aug	231,740	1,620	29,100	51,220	52,000	50,500	29,820	17,480
	Nov	224,120	1,680	26,960	47,900	50,360	50,120	29,580	17,520
2000	Feb	223,500	1,540	27,120	47,480	50,340	49,600	29,960	17,460
	May	222,540	1,760	26,420	47,000	49,980	50,100	29,800	17,480
	Aug	227,660	1,780	29,160	48,140	50,920	50,480	29,760	17,420
	Nov	223,380	1,740	25,980	46,260	51,040	50,620	30,100	17,640
2001	Feb	226,720	1,680	27,700	46,600	51,680	50,800	30,660	17,600
	May	223,680	1,760	26,260	46,040	51,200	50,520	30,540	17,360
	Aug	226,900	1,700	28,560	45,860	51,780	51,200	30,560	17,240
	Nov	222,740	1,820	25,980	44,240	51,760	50,800	30,740	17,400
2002	Feb	224,700	1,960	26,760	44,160	52,260	50,880	31,460	17,220
	May	222,700	2,080	25,980	43,160	52,020	50,520	31,620	17,320
	Aug	226,980	2,100	28,760	43,780	52,040	51,540	31,320	17,440
	Nov	223,480	2,220	26,520	41,800	52,320	51,740	31,160	17,720
2003	Feb	227,200	2,180	27,720	42,260	53,340	52,840	31,220	17,640
	May	226,260	2,400	26,500	41,980	53,480	52,800	31,420	17,680
	Aug	230,760	2,300	29,440	41,960	54,600	52,580	31,760	18,120
	Nov	223,300	2,360	26,760	40,280	53,620	52,620	32,080	15,580
2004	Feb	223,500	2,360	27,260	40,060	53,480	52,220	32,500	15,620
	May	220,680	2,260	25,960	39,780	52,840	52,420	31,980	15,440

Table 1.9.1D All claimants of key benefits by age

		Percentages							
		All	Under 18	18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 59	60 to 64
1998	Feb	100	1	13	23	21	22	12	8
	May	100	1	13	23	21	22	13	8
	Aug	100	1	14	23	22	21	12	7
	Nov	100	1	12	23	23	22	13	7
1999	Feb	100	1	13	24	21	21	13	7
	May	100	1	12	22	22	22	13	8
	Aug	100	1	13	22	22	22	13	8
	Nov	100	1	12	21	22	22	13	8
2000	Feb	100	1	12	21	23	22	13	8
	May	100	1	12	21	22	23	13	8
	Aug	100	1	13	21	22	22	13	8
	Nov	100	1	12	21	23	23	13	8
2001	Feb	100	1	12	21	23	22	14	8
	May	100	1	12	21	23	23	14	8
	Aug	100	1	13	20	23	23	13	8
	Nov	100	1	12	20	23	23	14	8
2002	Feb	100	1	12	20	23	23	14	8
	May	100	1	12	19	23	23	14	8
	Aug	100	1	13	19	23	23	14	8
	Nov	100	1	12	19	23	23	14	8
2003	Feb	100	1	12	19	23	23	14	8
	May	100	1	12	19	24	23	14	8
	Aug	100	1	13	18	24	23	14	8
	Nov	100	1	12	18	24	24	14	7
2004	Feb	100	1	12	18	24	23	15	7
	May	100	1	12	18	24	24	14	7

Table 1.9.1E Male claimants of key benefits by age

		All	Under 18	18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 59	60 to 64
1998	Feb	131,220	720	16,160	26,180	26,240	28,280	15,820	17,820
	May	128,960	580	15,320	25,120	26,020	28,000	15,980	17,940
	Aug	130,500	860	17,000	24,900	26,380	27,960	15,800	17,600
	Nov	127,600	640	13,700	24,980	26,780	27,780	16,500	17,220
1999	Feb	128,120	740	16,480	26,580	23,400	26,720	16,920	17,280
	May	124,680	720	13,240	23,360	26,440	27,060	16,400	17,460
	Aug	123,540	720	13,600	22,560	25,980	27,100	16,100	17,480
	Nov	119,920	560	13,060	20,880	25,260	26,860	15,780	17,520
2000	Feb	119,880	520	13,200	20,980	25,240	26,460	16,020	17,460
	May	117,900	780	12,600	20,200	24,600	26,440	15,800	17,480
	Aug	120,320	860	13,880	21,060	25,080	26,540	15,480	17,420
	Nov	118,260	760	11,940	20,460	25,080	26,760	15,620	17,640
2001	Feb	120,860	780	13,040	21,020	25,160	27,080	16,180	17,600
	May	118,640	860	12,600	20,400	24,780	26,820	15,820	17,360
	Aug	118,520	860	13,240	20,000	24,620	26,800	15,760	17,240
	Nov	117,680	940	12,700	19,420	24,720	26,520	15,980	17,400
2002	Feb	118,900	940	13,140	19,960	24,840	26,420	16,380	17,220
	May	117,800	1,000	12,840	19,160	25,260	25,760	16,460	17,320
	Aug	119,840	960	14,080	19,920	24,660	26,220	16,560	17,440
	Nov	119,640	1,080	13,060	19,560	25,320	26,420	16,480	17,720
2003	Feb	122,340	1,040	14,360	19,520	26,100	27,040	16,640	17,640
	May	121,040	1,140	13,360	19,200	25,980	26,820	16,860	17,680
	Aug	123,020	1,080	14,560	19,380	26,460	26,800	16,620	18,120
	Nov	118,680	1,060	13,340	19,220	25,880	27,160	16,440	15,580
2004	Feb	118,420	980	13,820	18,820	25,620	26,840	16,720	15,620
	May	116,300	1,060	13,180	18,280	25,020	26,680	16,640	15,440

Table 1.9.1F Female claimants of key benefits by age

		All	Under 18	18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 59	60 to 64
1998	Feb	104,560	1,240	14,440	28,800	23,840	22,900	13,340	.
	May	103,800	980	14,220	28,520	23,680	22,740	13,660	.
	Aug	109,580	1,000	16,980	29,300	25,460	23,180	13,660	.
	Nov	104,560	940	13,780	28,360	25,620	23,060	12,800	.
1999	Feb	104,940	940	14,520	28,720	24,900	22,840	13,020	.
	May	103,940	880	13,840	27,880	24,620	23,100	13,620	.
	Aug	108,200	900	15,500	28,660	26,020	23,400	13,720	.
	Nov	104,200	1,120	13,900	27,020	25,100	23,260	13,800	.
2000	Feb	103,620	1,020	13,920	26,500	25,100	23,140	13,940	.
	May	104,640	980	13,820	26,800	25,380	23,660	14,000	.
	Aug	107,340	920	15,280	27,080	25,840	23,940	14,280	.
	Nov	105,120	980	14,040	25,800	25,960	23,860	14,480	.
2001	Feb	105,860	900	14,660	25,580	26,520	23,720	14,480	.
	May	105,040	900	13,660	25,640	26,420	23,700	14,720	.
	Aug	108,380	840	15,320	25,860	27,160	24,400	14,800	.
	Nov	105,060	880	13,280	24,820	27,040	24,280	14,760	.
2002	Feb	105,800	1,020	13,620	24,200	27,420	24,460	15,080	.
	May	104,900	1,080	13,140	24,000	26,760	24,760	15,160	.
	Aug	107,140	1,140	14,680	23,860	27,380	25,320	14,760	.
	Nov	103,840	1,140	13,460	22,240	27,000	25,320	14,680	.
2003	Feb	104,860	1,140	13,360	22,740	27,240	25,800	14,580	.
	May	105,220	1,260	13,140	22,780	27,500	25,980	14,560	.
	Aug	107,740	1,220	14,880	22,580	28,140	25,780	15,140	.
	Nov	104,620	1,300	13,420	21,060	27,740	25,460	15,640	.
2004	Feb	105,080	1,380	13,440	21,240	27,860	25,380	15,780	.
	May	104,380	1,200	12,780	21,500	27,820	25,740	15,340	.

1.9.2 Family Type

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

Table 1.9.2A All claimants of key benefits by family type

		All	Couples		Single			Not known	
			All	No children	With children	All	No children		With children
1998	Feb ¹	235,780	45,060	11,100	33,960	127,860	84,600	43,260	62,860
	May	232,760	44,720	10,720	34,000	124,520	82,540	41,980	63,520
	Aug	240,080	42,740	9,420	33,320	134,360	89,420	44,940	62,980
	Nov	232,160	50,820	17,680	33,140	118,540	76,600	41,940	62,800
1999	Feb ¹	233,060	37,220	17,740	19,480	132,640	77,920	54,720	63,200
	May	228,620	40,440	10,840	29,600	124,080	81,040	43,040	64,100
	Aug	231,740	40,960	10,880	30,080	127,280	83,280	44,000	63,500
	Nov	224,120	38,800	11,000	27,800	121,200	78,640	42,560	64,120
2000	Feb ¹	223,500	27,260	11,060	16,200	133,560	78,900	54,660	62,680
	May	222,540	38,840	11,040	27,800	120,020	77,320	42,700	63,680
	Aug	227,660	39,440	10,680	28,760	124,820	81,120	43,700	63,400
	Nov	223,380	39,140	11,300	27,840	121,100	77,720	43,380	63,140
2001	Feb ¹	226,720	27,080	11,400	15,680	136,620	79,960	56,660	63,020
	May	223,680	37,540	11,360	26,180	121,920	77,860	44,060	64,220
	Aug	226,900	37,760	11,240	26,520	125,100	80,400	44,700	64,040
	Nov	222,740	37,860	11,900	25,960	121,120	78,060	43,060	63,760
2002	Feb	224,700	37,640	11,700	25,940	122,920	79,540	43,380	64,140
	May	222,700	37,300	11,460	25,840	119,440	76,780	42,660	65,960
	Aug	226,980	37,820	11,800	26,020	123,640	79,980	43,660	65,520
	Nov	223,480	36,960	12,100	24,860	120,360	78,140	42,220	66,160
2003	Feb	227,200	37,200	12,040	25,160	123,460	80,980	42,480	66,540
	May	226,260	36,800	11,860	24,940	122,400	79,260	43,140	67,060
	Aug	230,760	43,920	11,880	32,040	124,840	82,340	42,500	62,000
	Nov	223,300	38,980	8,260	30,720	116,280	75,880	40,400	68,040
2004	Feb	223,500	37,700	8,020	29,680	117,300	76,420	40,880	68,500
	May	220,680	37,160	7,880	29,280	115,760	74,480	41,280	67,760

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

Table 1.9.2B Male claimants of key benefits by family type

		All	Couples		Single			Not known	
			All	No children	With children	All	No children		With children
1998	Feb ¹	131,220	28,820	10,260	18,560	60,940	58,640	2,300	41,460
	May	128,960	28,280	9,860	18,420	59,600	57,260	2,340	41,080
	Aug	130,500	24,800	8,520	16,280	65,340	61,160	4,180	40,360
	Nov	127,600	32,680	15,180	17,500	54,600	52,300	2,300	40,320
1999	Feb ¹	128,120	32,680	15,200	17,480	55,680	53,240	2,440	39,760
	May	124,680	26,560	9,760	16,800	57,820	55,420	2,400	40,300
	Aug	123,540	25,880	9,720	16,160	57,620	55,280	2,340	40,040
	Nov	119,920	24,560	9,800	14,760	54,980	52,740	2,240	40,380
2000	Feb ¹	119,880	24,160	9,840	14,320	55,520	53,040	2,480	40,200
	May	117,900	23,840	9,800	14,040	54,020	51,700	2,320	40,040
	Aug	120,320	24,040	9,420	14,620	56,620	54,260	2,360	39,660
	Nov	118,260	23,880	10,040	13,840	54,660	52,300	2,360	39,720
2001	Feb ¹	120,860	23,640	10,040	13,600	56,940	54,160	2,780	40,280
	May	118,640	23,340	10,080	13,260	55,440	52,760	2,680	39,860
	Aug	118,520	23,040	10,040	13,000	55,900	53,200	2,700	39,580
	Nov	117,680	22,860	10,580	12,280	55,100	52,480	2,620	39,720
2002	Feb	118,900	22,780	10,340	12,440	56,160	53,460	2,700	39,960
	May	117,800	22,480	10,180	12,300	53,980	51,500	2,480	41,340
	Aug	119,840	22,560	10,400	12,160	55,900	53,340	2,560	41,380
	Nov	119,640	22,460	10,540	11,920	55,720	53,240	2,480	41,460
2003	Feb	122,340	22,460	10,360	12,100	58,000	55,360	2,640	41,880
	May	121,040	22,080	10,180	11,900	56,740	54,080	2,660	42,220
	Aug	123,020	26,880	10,160	16,720	58,500	55,340	3,160	37,640
	Nov	118,680	22,180	6,560	15,620	52,820	49,760	3,060	43,680
2004	Feb	118,420	21,540	6,320	15,220	53,100	49,840	3,260	43,780
	May	116,300	21,100	6,280	14,820	52,020	48,680	3,340	43,180

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

Table 1.9.2C Female claimants of key benefits by family type

		All	Couples		Single			Not known	
			All	No children	With children	All	No children		With children
1998	Feb ¹	104,560	16,240	840	15,400	66,920	25,960	40,960	21,400
	May	103,800	16,440	860	15,580	64,920	25,280	39,640	22,440
	Aug	109,580	17,940	900	17,040	69,020	28,260	40,760	22,620
	Nov	104,560	18,140	2,500	15,640	63,940	24,300	39,640	22,480
1999	Feb ¹	104,940	4,540	2,540	2,000	76,960	24,680	52,280	23,440
	May	103,940	13,880	1,080	12,800	66,260	25,620	40,640	23,800
	Aug	108,200	15,080	1,160	13,920	69,660	28,000	41,660	23,460
	Nov	104,200	14,240	1,200	13,040	66,220	25,900	40,320	23,740
2000	Feb ¹	103,620	3,100	1,220	1,880	78,040	25,860	52,180	22,480
	May	104,640	15,000	1,240	13,760	66,000	25,620	40,380	23,640
	Aug	107,340	15,400	1,260	14,140	68,200	26,860	41,340	23,740
	Nov	105,120	15,260	1,260	14,000	66,440	25,420	41,020	23,420
2001	Feb ¹	105,860	3,440	1,360	2,080	79,680	25,800	53,880	22,740
	May	105,040	14,200	1,280	12,920	66,480	25,100	41,380	24,360
	Aug	108,380	14,720	1,200	13,520	69,200	27,200	42,000	24,460
	Nov	105,060	15,000	1,320	13,680	66,020	25,580	40,440	24,040
2002	Feb	105,800	14,860	1,360	13,500	66,760	26,080	40,680	24,180
	May	104,900	14,820	1,280	13,540	65,460	25,280	40,180	24,620
	Aug	107,140	15,260	1,400	13,860	67,740	26,640	41,100	24,140
	Nov	103,840	14,500	1,560	12,940	64,640	24,900	39,740	24,700
2003	Feb	104,860	14,740	1,680	13,060	65,460	25,620	39,840	24,660
	May	105,220	14,720	1,680	13,040	65,660	25,180	40,480	24,840
	Aug	107,740	17,040	1,720	15,320	66,340	27,000	39,340	24,360
	Nov	104,620	16,800	1,700	15,100	63,460	26,120	37,340	24,360
2004	Feb	105,080	16,160	1,700	14,460	64,200	26,580	37,620	24,720
	May	104,380	16,060	1,600	14,460	63,740	25,800	37,940	24,580

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

1.9.3 Statistical group

Table 1.9.3A All claimants of key benefits by statistical group

		All	Unemployed	Sick & Disabled	Lone Parents	Others
1998	Feb	235,780	57,000	132,960	33,660	12,160
	May	232,760	54,220	133,080	33,060	12,400
	Aug	240,080	59,820	132,300	34,180	13,780
	Nov	232,160	52,960	134,940	33,060	11,200
1999	Feb	233,060	54,060	134,160	33,020	11,820
	May	228,620	49,640	133,760	32,940	12,280
	Aug	231,740	51,240	134,840	33,640	12,020
	Nov	224,120	42,820	136,860	32,240	12,200
2000	Feb	223,500	41,740	137,320	31,760	12,680
	May	222,540	39,680	137,880	32,000	12,980
	Aug	227,660	42,820	139,540	32,200	13,100
	Nov	223,380	38,920	140,720	31,300	12,440
2001	Feb	226,720	40,920	141,880	31,720	12,200
	May	223,680	37,720	142,500	31,560	11,900
	Aug	226,900	39,620	143,940	31,360	11,980
	Nov	222,740	36,140	144,200	29,840	12,560
2002	Feb	224,700	37,540	144,780	29,880	12,500
	May	222,700	33,720	147,260	29,160	12,560
	Aug	226,980	36,500	148,460	29,600	12,420
	Nov	223,480	32,500	149,680	28,720	12,580
2003	Feb	227,200	34,540	151,300	29,060	12,300
	May	226,260	33,360	152,220	28,660	12,020
	Aug	230,760	36,800	153,280	28,660	12,020
	Nov	223,300	33,100	153,940	27,140	9,120
2004	Feb	223,500	32,860	154,560	26,820	9,260
	May	220,680	30,520	154,320	26,660	9,180

Table 1.9.3B Claimants of key benefits by statistical group - Annual changes May 2000 to May 2004

	All	Unemployed	Sick & Disabled	Lone Parents	Others
May 01 / May 00	1,140	-1,960	4,620	-440	-1,080
May 02 / May 01	-980	-4,000	4,760	-2,400	660
May 03 / May 02	3,560	-360	4,960	-500	-540
May 04 / May 03	-5,580	-2,840	2,100	-2,000	-2,840

Table 1.9.3C Male claimants of key benefits by statistical group

		All	Unemployed	Sick & Disabled	Lone Parents	Others
1998	Feb	131,220	45,800	75,040	1,480	8,900
	May	128,960	43,460	74,880	1,560	9,060
	Aug	130,500	44,840	73,600	1,620	10,440
	Nov	127,600	42,040	75,700	1,540	8,320
1999	Feb	128,120	43,120	74,820	1,520	8,660
	May	124,680	39,420	74,700	1,520	9,040
	Aug	123,540	38,220	74,880	1,480	8,960
	Nov	119,920	33,400	76,120	1,400	9,000
2000	Feb	119,880	32,840	76,580	1,300	9,160
	May	117,900	30,780	76,700	1,380	9,040
	Aug	120,320	31,800	77,740	1,500	9,280
	Nov	118,260	29,800	78,300	1,440	8,720
2001	Feb	120,860	31,320	79,400	1,380	8,760
	May	118,640	29,540	79,020	1,540	8,540
	Aug	118,520	28,900	79,540	1,520	8,560
	Nov	117,680	27,540	79,700	1,540	8,900
2002	Feb	118,900	28,720	79,860	1,520	8,800
	May	117,800	26,100	81,580	1,400	8,720
	Aug	119,840	27,040	82,680	1,420	8,700
	Nov	119,640	25,500	83,780	1,400	8,960
2003	Feb	122,340	27,120	84,960	1,540	8,720
	May	121,040	25,880	85,040	1,560	8,560
	Aug	123,020	27,060	85,840	1,520	8,600
	Nov	118,680	25,580	86,020	1,460	5,620
2004	Feb	118,420	25,320	86,080	1,400	5,620
	May	116,300	23,380	85,780	1,420	5,720

Table 1.9.3D Female claimants of key benefits by statistical group

		All	Unemployed	Sick & Disabled	Lone Parents	Others
1998	Feb	104,560	11,200	57,920	32,180	3,260
	May	103,800	10,760	58,200	31,500	3,340
	Aug	109,580	14,980	58,700	32,560	3,340
	Nov	104,560	10,920	59,240	31,520	2,880
1999	Feb	104,940	10,940	59,340	31,500	3,160
	May	103,940	10,220	59,060	31,420	3,240
	Aug	108,200	13,020	59,960	32,160	3,060
	Nov	104,200	9,420	60,740	30,840	3,200
2000	Feb	103,620	8,900	60,740	30,460	3,520
	May	104,640	8,900	61,180	30,620	3,940
	Aug	107,340	11,020	61,800	30,700	3,820
	Nov	105,120	9,120	62,420	29,860	3,720
2001	Feb	105,860	9,600	62,480	30,340	3,440
	May	105,040	8,180	63,480	30,020	3,360
	Aug	108,380	10,720	64,400	29,840	3,420
	Nov	105,060	8,600	64,500	28,300	3,660
2002	Feb	105,800	8,820	64,920	28,360	3,700
	May	104,900	7,620	65,680	27,760	3,840
	Aug	107,140	9,460	65,780	28,180	3,720
	Nov	103,840	7,000	65,900	27,320	3,620
2003	Feb	104,860	7,420	66,340	27,520	3,580
	May	105,220	7,480	67,180	27,100	3,460
	Aug	107,740	9,740	67,440	27,140	3,420
	Nov	104,620	7,520	67,920	25,680	3,500
2004	Feb	105,080	7,540	68,480	25,420	3,640
	May	104,380	7,140	68,540	25,240	3,460

1.9.4 Benefit entitlement

Table 1.9.4A Claimants of key benefits by type of benefit

		All	Income replacement benefits ¹	Other benefits ²	NI Credits only ³
1998	Feb	235,780	214,080	15,280	6,420
	May	232,760	211,080	15,700	5,980
	Aug	240,080	217,880	15,420	6,780
	Nov	232,160	208,340	16,240	7,580
1999	Feb	233,060	209,760	15,940	7,360
	May	228,620	205,700	16,520	6,400
	Aug	231,740	208,000	17,120	6,620
	Nov	224,120	200,860	16,980	6,280
2000	Feb	223,500	200,960	17,320	5,220
	May	222,540	198,960	17,980	5,600
	Aug	227,660	203,960	18,000	5,700
	Nov	223,380	199,680	17,940	5,760
2001	Feb	226,720	202,400	18,180	6,140
	May	223,680	198,840	18,800	6,040
	Aug	226,900	202,060	19,040	5,800
	Nov	222,740	197,760	19,320	5,660
2002	Feb	224,700	198,340	20,380	5,980
	May	222,700	196,100	20,800	5,800
	Aug	226,980	199,920	20,660	6,400
	Nov	223,480	196,600	20,880	6,000
2003	Feb	227,200	200,340	20,840	6,020
	May	226,260	198,460	21,740	6,060
	Aug	230,760	202,780	21,800	6,180
	Nov	223,300	193,060	23,900	6,340
2004	Feb	223,500	191,880	25,240	6,380
	May	220,680	189,320	25,280	6,080

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 cr

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

		Basis of benefit entitlement					
		All	Contributory ¹	Contributory and means tested ²	Means tested ³	Other ⁴	NI Credits only ⁵
1998	Feb	235,780	63,300	14,820	132,220	19,020	6,420
	May	232,760	62,160	14,520	130,840	19,260	5,980
	Aug	240,080	63,520	15,240	135,580	18,960	6,780
	Nov	232,160	59,520	15,040	130,100	19,920	7,580
1999	Feb	233,060	60,260	14,920	130,840	19,680	7,360
	May	228,620	59,540	14,540	127,960	20,180	6,400
	Aug	231,740	59,780	14,920	129,720	20,700	6,620
	Nov	224,120	58,480	15,340	123,460	20,560	6,280
2000	Feb	223,500	59,180	15,220	123,000	20,880	5,220
	May	222,540	59,120	15,060	121,240	21,520	5,600
	Aug	227,660	59,480	15,700	125,160	21,620	5,700
	Nov	223,380	58,640	15,800	121,520	21,660	5,760
2001	Feb	226,720	59,560	15,980	123,320	21,720	6,140
	May	223,680	58,220	16,600	120,560	22,260	6,040
	Aug	226,900	59,220	16,880	122,440	22,560	5,800
	Nov	222,740	58,080	17,100	119,060	22,840	5,660
2002	Feb	224,700	58,120	16,880	120,020	23,700	5,980
	May	222,700	58,820	17,080	117,080	23,920	5,800
	Aug	226,980	60,120	17,340	119,500	23,620	6,400
	Nov	223,480	59,040	17,760	116,960	23,720	6,000
2003	Feb	227,200	60,040	18,280	119,120	23,740	6,020
	May	226,260	59,920	17,800	117,960	24,520	6,060
	Aug	230,760	61,520	18,480	120,060	24,520	6,180
	Nov	223,300	63,420	15,080	111,520	26,940	6,340
2004	Feb	223,500	62,420	14,640	111,860	28,200	6,380
	May	220,680	61,960	14,160	110,280	28,200	6,080

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

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

³ Means tested benefits are income based JSA, IS

⁴ Other benefits are SDA, DLA

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

1.9.5 Duration on benefit

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

		All	Under 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to under 12 months	1 to under 2 years	2 years or over
1998	Feb	235,780	23,000	18,980	23,420	31,340	139,040
	%	100	10	8	10	13	59
	May	232,760	19,160	16,160	25,420	32,780	139,240
	%	100	8	7	11	14	60
	Aug	240,080	27,940	14,900	24,400	33,600	139,240
	%	100	12	6	10	14	58
1999	Nov	232,160	23,480	15,560	20,840	32,700	139,580
	%	100	10	7	9	14	60
	Feb	233,060	23,440	16,720	21,240	31,620	140,040
	%	100	10	7	9	14	60
	May	228,620	21,220	16,700	21,840	29,420	139,440
	%	100	9	7	10	13	61
2000	Aug	231,740	25,200	16,300	23,080	28,520	138,640
	%	100	11	7	10	12	60
	Nov	224,120	23,040	14,940	22,320	26,300	137,520
	%	100	10	7	10	12	61
	Feb	223,500	20,320	17,840	22,180	26,900	136,260
	%	100	9	8	10	12	61
2001	May	222,540	20,860	15,480	23,880	27,700	134,620
	%	100	9	7	11	12	60
	Aug	227,660	25,680	15,820	23,560	28,220	134,380
	%	100	11	7	10	12	59
	Nov	223,380	22,200	15,740	21,180	30,200	134,060
	%	100	10	7	9	14	60
2002	Feb	226,720	21,180	17,520	22,960	29,560	135,500
	%	100	9	8	10	13	60
	May	223,680	19,400	15,920	22,700	29,660	136,000
	%	100	9	7	10	13	61
	Aug	226,900	22,100	15,520	22,620	30,380	136,280
	%	100	10	7	10	13	60
2003	Nov	222,740	20,960	14,020	21,700	29,040	137,020
	%	100	9	6	10	13	62
	Feb	224,700	19,800	17,080	20,540	29,640	137,640
	%	100	9	8	9	13	61
	May	222,700	18,920	14,780	22,060	29,700	137,240
	%	100	8	7	10	13	62
2004	Aug	226,980	22,160	15,580	22,400	28,240	138,600
	%	100	10	7	10	12	61
	Nov	223,480	20,480	13,600	20,840	29,880	138,680
	%	100	9	6	9	13	62
	Feb	227,200	20,260	16,700	21,280	28,680	140,280
	%	100	9	7	9	13	62
2005	May	226,260	19,380	15,000	22,160	29,360	140,360
	%	100	9	7	10	13	62
	Aug	230,760	20,980	15,000	22,820	30,040	141,920
	%	100	9	7	10	13	62
	Nov	223,300	19,160	12,860	21,020	29,300	140,960
	%	100	9	6	9	13	63
2006	Feb	223,500	16,420	15,400	19,720	30,680	141,280
	%	100	7	7	9	14	63
	May	220,680	15,900	12,680	19,820	29,660	142,620
%	100	7	6	9	13	65	

¹ Oldest benefit payable during current spell of benefit receipt

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

		All	Under 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to under 12 months	1 to under 2 years	2 years or over
1998	Feb	131,220	14,720	11,880	13,880	17,420	73,320
	%	100	11	9	11	13	56
	May	128,960	12,160	10,060	15,380	18,480	72,880
	%	100	9	8	12	14	57
	Aug	130,500	15,200	8,820	14,720	19,380	72,380
	%	100	12	7	11	15	55
1999	Nov	127,600	14,820	8,900	11,880	18,860	73,140
	%	100	12	7	9	15	57
	Feb	128,120	15,500	9,960	11,640	17,780	73,240
	%	100	12	8	9	14	57
	May	124,680	13,360	10,640	12,060	16,180	72,440
	%	100	11	9	10	13	58
2000	Aug	123,540	14,120	9,480	13,640	15,160	71,140
	%	100	11	8	11	12	58
	Nov	119,920	14,480	8,900	13,020	13,880	69,640
	%	100	12	7	11	12	58
	Feb	119,880	13,280	10,920	13,020	14,200	68,460
	%	100	11	9	11	12	57
2001	May	117,900	13,060	9,140	13,860	14,800	67,040
	%	100	11	8	12	13	57
	Aug	120,320	15,640	9,400	13,460	15,180	66,640
	%	100	13	8	11	13	55
	Nov	118,260	13,600	9,600	12,120	16,660	66,280
	%	100	12	8	10	14	56
2002	Feb	120,860	13,320	10,680	13,320	16,200	67,340
	%	100	11	9	11	13	56
	May	118,640	12,100	9,520	13,220	16,080	67,720
	%	100	10	8	11	14	57
	Aug	118,520	12,780	8,780	12,560	16,560	67,840
	%	100	11	7	11	14	57
2003	Nov	117,680	13,500	8,080	11,880	15,820	68,400
	%	100	11	7	10	13	58
	Feb	118,900	12,440	10,660	11,240	15,960	68,600
	%	100	10	9	9	13	58
	May	117,800	12,020	8,920	12,580	15,800	68,480
	%	100	10	8	11	13	58
2004	Aug	119,840	13,280	9,680	12,880	14,520	69,480
	%	100	11	8	11	12	58
	Nov	119,640	13,700	7,960	12,280	15,820	69,880
	%	100	11	7	10	13	58
	Feb	122,340	13,580	10,440	12,540	15,200	70,580
	%	100	11	9	10	12	58
2004	May	121,040	12,220	9,160	12,680	16,260	70,720
	%	100	10	8	10	13	58
	Aug	123,020	13,120	8,640	13,060	16,600	71,600
	%	100	11	7	11	13	58
2004	Nov	118,680	12,040	8,180	11,840	16,100	70,520
	%	100	10	7	10	14	59
	Feb	118,420	10,900	8,860	11,460	16,780	70,420
2004	%	100	9	7	10	14	59
	May	116,300	9,940	8,080	11,180	15,580	71,520
	%	100	9	7	10	13	61

¹ Oldest benefit payable during current spell of benefit receipt

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

		All	Under 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to under 12 months	1 to under 2 years	2 years or over
1998	Feb	104,560	8,280	7,100	9,540	13,920	65,720
	%	100	8	7	9	13	63
	May	103,800	7,000	6,100	10,040	14,300	66,360
	%	100	7	6	10	14	64
	Aug	109,580	12,740	6,080	9,680	14,220	66,860
	%	100	12	6	9	13	61
1999	Nov	104,560	8,660	6,660	8,960	13,840	66,440
	%	100	8	6	9	13	64
	Feb	104,940	7,940	6,760	9,600	13,840	66,800
	%	100	8	6	9	13	64
	May	103,940	7,860	6,060	9,780	13,240	67,000
	%	100	8	6	9	13	64
2000	Aug	108,200	11,080	6,820	9,440	13,360	67,500
	%	100	10	6	9	12	62
	Nov	104,200	8,560	6,040	9,300	12,420	67,880
	%	100	8	6	9	12	65
	Feb	103,620	7,040	6,920	9,160	12,700	67,800
	%	100	7	7	9	12	65
2001	May	104,640	7,800	6,340	10,020	12,900	67,580
	%	100	7	6	10	12	65
	Aug	107,340	10,040	6,420	10,100	13,040	67,740
	%	100	9	6	9	12	63
	Nov	105,120	8,600	6,140	9,060	13,540	67,780
	%	100	8	6	9	13	64
2002	Feb	105,860	7,860	6,840	9,640	13,360	68,160
	%	100	7	6	9	13	64
	May	105,040	7,300	6,400	9,480	13,580	68,280
	%	100	7	6	9	13	65
	Aug	108,380	9,320	6,740	10,060	13,820	68,440
	%	100	9	6	9	13	63
2003	Nov	105,060	7,460	5,940	9,820	13,220	68,620
	%	100	7	6	9	13	65
	Feb	105,800	7,360	6,420	9,300	13,680	69,040
	%	100	7	6	9	13	65
	May	104,900	6,900	5,860	9,480	13,900	68,760
	%	100	7	6	9	13	66
2004	Aug	107,140	8,880	5,900	9,520	13,720	69,120
	%	100	8	6	9	13	65
	Nov	103,840	6,780	5,640	8,560	14,060	68,800
	%	100	7	5	8	14	66
	Feb	104,860	6,680	6,260	8,740	13,480	69,700
	%	100	6	6	8	13	66
2005	May	105,220	7,160	5,840	9,480	13,100	69,640
	%	100	7	6	9	12	66
	Aug	107,740	7,860	6,360	9,760	13,440	70,320
	%	100	7	6	9	12	65
	Nov	104,620	7,120	4,680	9,180	13,200	70,440
	%	100	7	4	9	13	67
2006	Feb	105,080	5,520	6,540	8,260	13,900	70,860
	%	100	5	6	8	13	67
	May	104,380	5,960	4,600	8,640	14,080	71,100
%	100	6	4	8	13	68	

¹ Oldest benefit payable during current spell of benefit receipt

1.9.6 Claimants with children and dependants aged under 19

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

		Age of youngest child/dependant					
		All with children	Under 5	5 to under 11	11 to under 16	16 or over	Not known ²
1998	Feb	80,360	32,820	23,160	15,680	4,400	4,300
	May	80,160	31,760	23,580	15,320	5,020	4,480
	Aug	82,320	27,840	21,680	14,240	4,740	13,820
	Nov	78,860	27,160	20,960	14,540	4,440	11,760
1999	Feb	76,940	27,800	20,780	14,040	2,740	11,580
	May	76,220	27,660	19,760	13,880	2,980	11,940
	Aug	77,440	30,440	22,920	16,360	4,080	3,640
	Nov	73,700	29,140	21,600	15,580	3,760	3,620
2000	Feb	73,180	28,360	21,320	15,760	4,220	3,520
	May	73,800	28,260	21,600	15,840	4,600	3,500
	Aug	75,700	28,920	21,800	16,500	5,060	3,420
	Nov	74,360	28,580	21,360	16,080	4,880	3,460
2001	Feb	74,620	28,180	21,700	15,720	5,580	3,440
	May	73,340	28,080	21,180	15,660	4,920	3,500
	Aug	74,260	28,400	20,920	15,940	5,640	3,360
	Nov	71,840	27,600	20,440	15,740	4,940	3,120
2002	Feb	72,200	27,300	20,360	16,080	5,260	3,200
	May	71,440	26,260	20,840	15,400	5,620	3,320
	Aug	72,500	26,580	21,140	15,500	5,980	3,300
	Nov	69,620	25,520	20,900	15,540	4,680	2,980
2003	Feb	70,280	25,700	21,160	15,600	5,000	2,820
	May	70,860	25,480	21,380	15,680	5,300	3,020
	Aug	75,760	26,100	23,920	17,240	7,140	1,360
	Nov	72,140	25,100	22,880	16,740	6,300	1,120
2004	Feb	71,580	25,080	22,980	16,340	5,940	1,240
	May	71,560	24,080	23,400	16,120	6,820	1,140

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

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

1.9.7 Children and dependants aged under 19

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

		Children aged under 16 years ²				Young dependants aged 16 to 18 years					
		Family type				Family type					
		All	Couple	Single	Not known	All	Couple	Single	Not known		
		% of all aged under 16 yrs ³				% of all aged 16 to 18 yrs ³					
1998	Feb	152,540	37	66,500	79,580	6,460	16,000	21	9,260	6,740	.
	May	151,120	37	65,820	77,300	8,000	16,800	22	10,080	6,720	.
	Aug	156,540	38	66,140	82,800	7,600	15,420	20	7,760	7,660	.
	Nov	149,100	36	64,080	78,120	6,900	13,520	18	8,020	5,500	.
1999	Feb	148,100	36	40,820	101,880	5,400	9,820	13	3,840	5,980	.
	May	145,880	36	60,340	78,900	6,640	10,600	14	4,540	6,060	.
	Aug	144,480	35	58,840	79,420	6,220	14,240	18	7,520	6,720	.
	Nov	137,600	34	54,280	77,260	6,060	12,280	16	6,520	5,760	.
2000	Feb	134,620	33	31,560	98,600	4,460	12,840	17	4,860	7,980	.
	May	134,800	33	51,940	76,800	6,060	13,820	18	7,580	6,240	.
	Aug	136,060	34	52,700	77,360	6,000	15,420	20	8,580	6,840	.
	Nov	133,640	33	51,000	77,100	5,540	14,140	18	8,120	6,020	.
2001	Feb	132,880	33	30,180	98,520	4,180	14,900	19	4,680	10,220	.
	May	131,620	33	48,580	77,360	5,680	13,660	18	7,240	6,420	.
	Aug	131,540	33	48,760	77,180	5,600	15,340	20	8,000	7,340	.
	Nov	128,420	32	47,420	75,860	5,140	13,360	17	7,300	6,060	.
2002	Feb	128,220	33	47,360	75,520	5,340	14,180	18	7,740	6,440	.
	May	126,920	32	46,720	74,540	5,660	15,180	19	8,220	6,960	.
	Aug	127,580	32	46,720	75,320	5,540	16,140	20	8,540	7,600	.
	Nov	123,960	32	45,860	73,140	4,960	13,120	16	7,060	6,060	.
2003	Feb	124,640	32	46,320	73,280	5,040	14,280	18	7,600	6,680	.
	May	124,500	32	45,680	73,540	5,280	15,520	19	7,820	7,700	.
	Aug	130,380	34	56,700	71,440	2,240	20,260	25	11,380	8,880	.
	Nov	124,900	32	54,460	68,720	1,720	17,680	22	10,560	7,120	.
2004	Feb	122,900	32	52,140	69,020	1,740	16,880	21	9,440	7,440	.
	May	120,580	31	49,980	68,900	1,700	17,940	22	9,860	8,080	.

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

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

³ See Methodology

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

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

		Number of children/dependants					
		All children	Under 5	5 to under 11	11 to under 16	16 or over	Not known ²
1998	Feb	168,540	41,640	56,400	46,020	16,000	8,480
	May	167,920	40,200	56,200	46,220	16,800	8,500
	Aug	171,960	34,940	49,900	40,880	15,420	30,820
	Nov	162,620	33,900	48,100	40,660	13,520	26,440
1999	Feb	157,920	35,080	47,100	39,800	9,820	26,120
	May	156,480	34,800	45,780	39,160	10,600	26,140
	Aug	158,720	38,940	52,560	46,420	14,240	6,560
	Nov	149,880	37,060	50,200	43,740	12,280	6,600
2000	Feb	147,460	35,700	49,060	43,520	12,840	6,340
	May	148,620	35,840	49,220	43,400	13,820	6,340
	Aug	151,480	36,560	49,500	43,780	15,420	6,220
	Nov	147,780	35,940	48,500	43,280	14,140	5,920
2001	Feb	147,780	35,000	48,640	42,880	14,900	6,360
	May	145,280	35,080	47,740	42,560	13,660	6,240
	Aug	146,880	35,660	46,840	43,060	15,340	5,980
	Nov	141,780	34,560	45,800	42,520	13,360	5,540
2002	Feb	142,400	34,200	45,320	42,960	14,180	5,740
	May	142,100	33,080	45,660	42,060	15,180	6,120
	Aug	143,720	32,740	46,020	42,660	16,140	6,160
	Nov	137,080	31,540	44,800	42,040	13,120	5,580
2003	Feb	138,920	32,060	44,960	42,340	14,280	5,280
	May	140,020	31,680	44,920	42,360	15,520	5,540
	Aug	150,640	32,040	48,820	46,780	20,260	2,740
	Nov	142,580	30,740	46,880	44,980	17,680	2,300
2004	Feb	139,780	30,580	46,520	43,700	16,880	2,100
	May	138,520	29,400	46,200	43,040	17,940	1,940

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

² Children whose age is not known

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

1.9.8 Regional Analysis

Table 1.9.8A Claimants of key benefits by District Council

	Northern Ireland																				Unknown						
	Ard	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	
1998	Feb	7,340	52,960	5,960	8,160	12,340	6,440	5,320	6,080	2,780	3,680	5,360	3,280	4,360	2,180	9,320	6,340	3,780	11,820	7,120	13,840	20,920	6,800	4,540	7,140	6,940	4,600
	May	7,220	52,580	5,780	8,080	12,360	6,300	5,180	5,860	2,980	3,580	5,580	3,420	4,300	2,120	9,000	6,320	3,720	11,400	7,240	13,360	20,640	6,460	4,580	6,900	7,060	4,660
	Aug	7,540	53,540	5,840	8,300	13,180	6,740	5,420	5,880	3,080	3,760	5,540	3,420	4,680	2,280	9,280	6,560	4,180	11,620	7,560	13,780	20,880	7,100	4,500	7,380	7,160	4,580
	Nov	7,440	51,400	5,920	8,040	12,520	6,260	5,360	5,740	3,080	3,520	5,160	3,440	4,260	2,360	9,040	5,860	4,000	11,060	7,420	13,680	20,420	6,720	4,340	7,220	7,220	4,360
1999	Feb ¹	7,080	51,120	5,760	7,840	12,300	5,960	5,400	5,620	3,260	3,800	5,160	3,240	4,140	2,200	8,700	6,060	3,820	11,060	7,360	13,200	19,820	7,000	4,080	7,060	7,200	8,300
	May	7,240	51,580	5,940	7,840	12,000	5,980	5,480	5,600	3,280	3,660	5,040	3,360	4,180	2,120	8,860	5,840	3,780	11,120	7,020	13,160	20,060	6,920	4,160	6,760	7,080	4,180
	Aug	7,520	52,020	6,060	8,020	12,600	6,260	5,220	5,680	3,060	3,680	5,260	3,300	4,160	2,080	8,640	5,960	3,860	11,380	7,060	13,440	20,500	6,940	4,380	6,820	7,220	4,200
	Nov	7,320	50,720	5,760	7,760	11,780	6,180	5,140	5,220	2,960	3,540	5,160	3,300	4,180	2,100	8,260	5,460	3,660	10,920	6,900	12,680	19,800	6,680	4,180	6,740	7,120	3,980
2000	Feb	7,620	50,020	5,920	7,600	12,120	6,020	5,040	5,500	3,040	3,500	4,980	3,380	4,120	2,220	8,180	5,500	3,720	11,080	6,900	12,620	19,760	6,620	4,000	6,480	6,860	3,960
	May	7,620	49,820	5,840	7,460	12,080	5,900	5,120	5,440	2,960	3,480	5,080	3,320	4,040	2,140	8,040	5,540	3,700	11,140	6,760	12,180	20,060	6,600	4,000	6,480	7,280	4,120
	Aug	7,400	50,380	6,120	7,680	12,020	6,220	5,180	5,460	2,880	3,560	5,160	3,280	4,260	2,140	8,500	6,100	3,920	11,580	7,020	12,620	20,360	7,080	4,040	6,680	7,280	4,140
	Nov	7,040	49,380	5,940	7,400	12,000	6,160	5,000	5,420	3,040	3,560	4,980	3,180	4,540	2,160	8,120	5,620	3,920	11,480	6,920	12,500	20,220	7,060	4,160	6,240	7,340	3,440
2001	Feb	7,240	50,100	5,800	7,500	12,100	6,320	4,980	5,400	3,180	3,480	4,980	3,160	4,420	2,240	8,240	5,760	3,520	11,860	6,900	13,200	20,520	7,340	4,360	6,420	7,460	3,560
	May	7,320	49,240	5,700	7,360	12,280	5,960	5,080	5,500	3,080	3,280	6,640	3,000	4,400	2,220	8,380	5,600	3,760	11,480	6,980	12,780	20,280	7,020	4,260	6,200	7,440	3,500
	Aug	7,260	48,940	5,620	7,480	12,100	6,060	4,960	5,500	3,220	3,360	6,840	3,260	4,460	2,460	8,660	5,980	3,800	11,720	7,000	13,280	20,680	7,200	4,260	6,640	7,560	3,600
	Nov	7,240	48,340	5,620	7,420	11,880	6,000	4,940	5,220	3,140	3,620	4,980	3,240	4,060	2,340	8,420	5,740	3,800	11,460	7,000	12,680	20,000	7,080	4,240	6,540	7,360	3,900
2002	Feb	7,400	48,600	5,440	7,380	11,640	6,100	5,160	5,400	3,200	3,660	6,540	3,200	4,200	2,420	8,440	5,560	3,840	11,600	7,140	12,540	20,580	7,260	4,400	6,500	7,220	4,360
	May	7,140	48,300	5,500	7,480	11,520	5,860	5,140	5,380	3,180	3,480	6,200	3,220	4,220	2,260	8,480	5,400	4,040	11,540	6,880	12,500	20,180	7,140	4,500	6,380	7,300	4,720
	Aug	6,940	49,220	5,580	7,340	11,540	5,980	5,260	5,540	3,040	3,760	6,460	3,340	4,260	2,300	8,940	5,680	3,940	12,040	7,100	12,780	20,420	7,280	4,540	6,660	7,420	4,660
	Nov	7,060	47,500	5,360	7,460	11,540	5,880	5,240	5,460	2,840	3,760	6,420	3,260	4,200	2,420	8,760	5,740	4,020	11,880	7,200	12,660	19,900	7,020	4,400	6,800	7,240	4,820
2003	Feb	7,080	48,740	5,420	7,500	11,800	6,000	5,100	5,520	2,920	3,880	6,500	3,400	4,200	2,320	8,960	5,840	4,100	12,180	7,280	12,740	19,880	7,480	4,420	6,800	7,260	5,080
	May	7,260	48,780	5,520	7,580	12,120	6,080	5,180	5,400	2,960	3,920	6,460	3,180	4,340	2,200	9,120	6,040	4,200	11,960	7,500	12,860	20,720	7,640	4,620	7,060	7,220	1,580
	Aug	7,300	49,960	5,940	7,540	12,380	6,420	5,560	5,620	3,060	3,920	6,420	3,440	4,420	2,300	8,780	6,100	4,220	12,200	7,260	13,180	21,140	7,620	4,540	7,100	7,380	2,000
	Nov	7,520	48,380	5,520	7,240	11,680	6,020	5,400	5,620	2,940	3,860	6,220	4,780	4,120	2,080	8,520	5,920	3,960	11,580	7,360	12,540	20,660	7,460	4,520	6,780	7,340	2,020
2004	Feb	7,480	48,040	5,520	7,600	11,440	6,160	5,360	5,500	3,120	4,160	6,140	3,340	4,180	1,920	8,500	5,780	4,080	11,660	7,460	12,700	20,460	7,120	4,440	6,840	7,560	2,080
	May	7,220	47,840	5,680	7,460	11,540	6,120	5,220	5,380	3,040	4,200	6,060	3,220	4,000	1,900	8,140	5,620	3,720	11,400	7,300	12,620	20,480	7,040	4,400	6,680	7,420	2,140

¹ Figures for February 1999 have been revised

Table 1.9.8B Claimants of key benefits by District Council

	Percentages ¹																											
	Northern Ireland	Ard	Belfast	Castlereagh	Down	Lisburn	North Down	Antrim	Ballymena	Ballymoney	Carrickfergus	Coleraine	Cookstown	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	21	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	19	15	19	24	17	17	25	17	17	15	23	25	24	31	21	21	22	31	.
May	21	15	29	14	19	17	12	17	15	19	15	18	24	17	17	23	17	16	15	23	24	23	31	20	22	21	31	.
Aug	22	15	29	14	19	17	13	17	15	18	16	19	25	18	17	24	18	17	15	24	25	24	31	21	21	22	32	.
Nov	22	15	28	14	19	17	12	17	15	17	16	19	23	17	17	25	18	17	15	24	25	24	30	20	21	23	31	.
2003 Feb	22	15	29	14	19	17	13	16	15	17	16	19	23	18	17	24	18	17	15	24	25	24	30	21	21	22	31	.
May	22	16	29	14	19	18	13	17	15	18	16	19	23	17	17	23	18	18	16	24	26	24	31	21	21	22	31	.
Aug	22	16	30	15	19	18	14	18	15	18	16	19	24	18	18	24	18	18	16	24	25	24	32	21	21	23	31	.
Nov	21	16	29	14	18	17	13	17	15	17	16	18	23	17	16	21	17	18	15	23	25	23	31	21	21	22	31	.
2004 Feb	21	16	29	14	19	17	13	17	15	18	17	18	24	18	17	20	17	17	15	23	25	23	31	20	21	22	32	.
May	21	16	29	14	19	17	13	17	15	18	18	18	24	17	16	19	16	17	14	23	25	23	31	20	21	22	31	.

¹ Percentage of population of working age - see Methodology

² Figures for February 1999 have been revised

Section 2 : Families with children on key benefits

2.1 Children

Table 2.1.1 Children of claimants of key benefits by statistical group: May 2001 to May 2004

	Number of children ¹							
	May-01	%	May-02	%	May-03	%	May-04	%
All statistical groups	145,280	100	142,100	100	140,020	100	138,520	100
Unemployed	10,900	8	9,640	7	8,620	6	7,220	5
Sick & Disabled	69,320	48	71,860	51	72,420	52	76,960	56
Lone parents	61,420	42	57,320	40	55,440	40	51,260	37
Others	3,640	3	3,280	2	3,540	3	3,080	2

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

- At May 2004, 138,520 children were living in families claiming a key benefit. The total number of children in families claiming a key benefit was down by 5% (6,760) from May 2001.
- **The methodology used to assign information about children's details has been revised following the introduction of CTC in April 2003. Comparisons over time are affected by these changes. Please see Methodology for further details.**

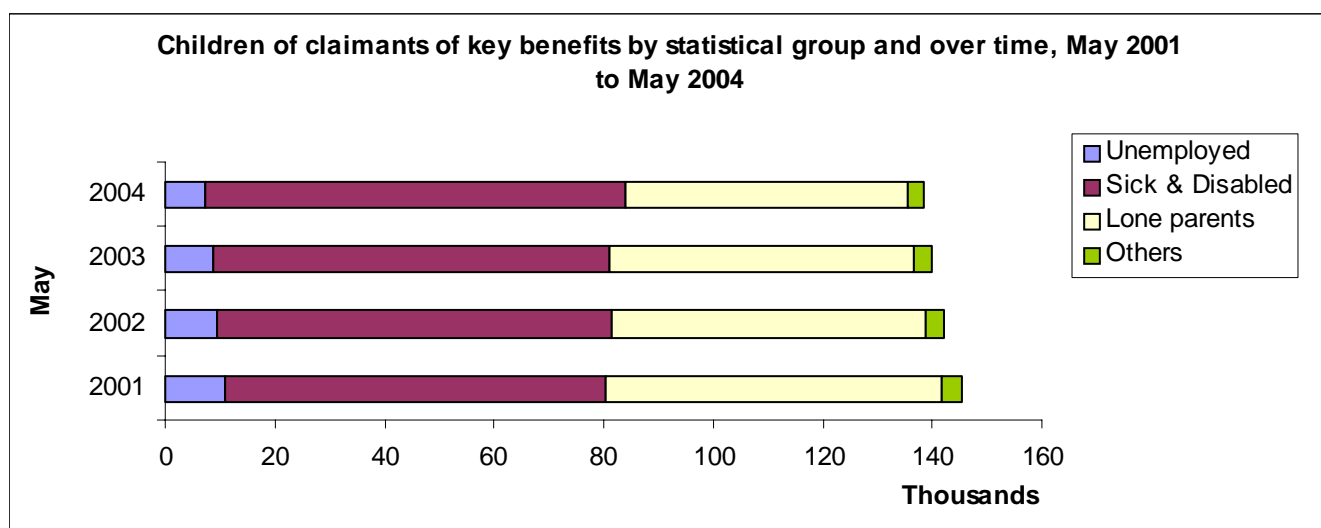


Table 2.1.2 Children¹ of claimants of key benefits by statistical group and family type: May 2004

	Children aged under 16 years ²					Young adult dependants aged 16 to 18 years				
	All	Family type				All	% pop aged 16 - 18 in full-time education	Family type		
		% pop aged under 16	Couple	Single	Not known			Couple	Single	Not known
All statistical groups	120,580	31	49,980	68,900	1,700	17,940	38	9,860	8,080	.
Unemployed	5,800	1	3,380	2,420	.	1,420	3	700	720	.
Sick & Disabled	64,480	17	43,960	18,820	1,700	12,480	26	8,720	3,760	.
Lone parents	47,660	12	.	47,660	.	3,600	8	.	3,600	.
Others	2,640	1	2,640	0	.	440	1	440	0	.

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

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

- The proportion of under 16s living in households claiming a key benefit was 31% in May 2004 whilst the proportion of 16 - 18 year olds was 38% of all 16 - 18 year olds in full-time education.

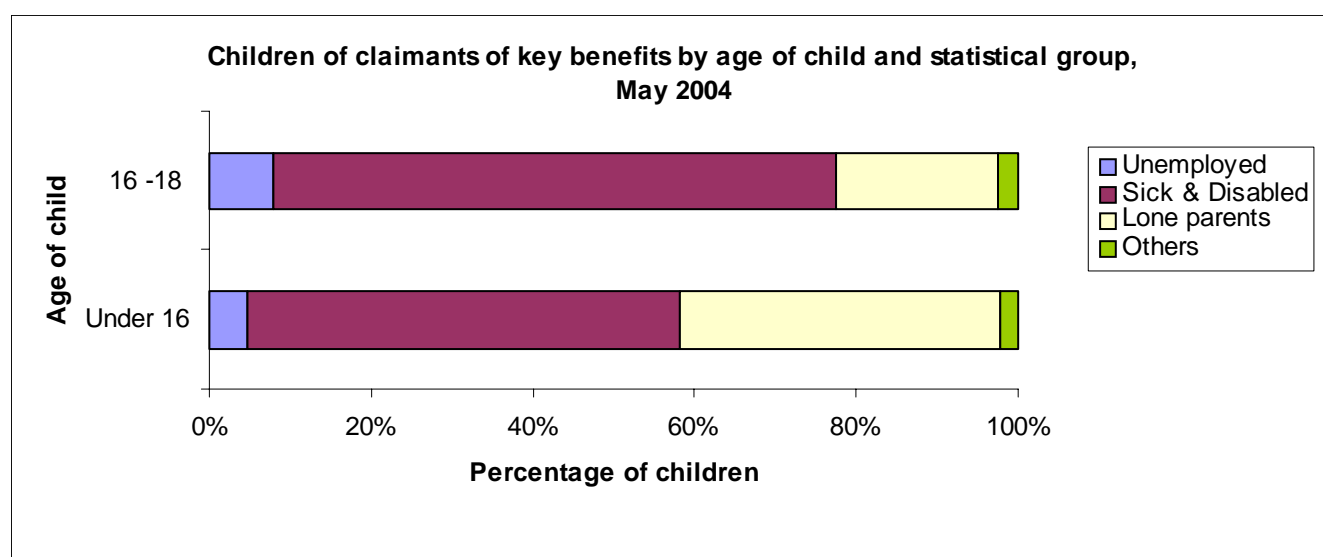


Table 2.1.3 Children¹ of claimants of key benefits by family type: May 2001 to May 2004

	Children aged under 16 years ²					Young adult dependants aged 16 to 18 years				
	All	% pop aged under 16 ³	Family type			All	% pop aged 16 - 18 in full-time education	Family type		
			Couple	Single	Not known			Couple	Single	Not known
May-01	131,620	33	48,580	77,360	5,680	13,660	32	7,240	6,420	.
May-02	126,920	32	46,720	74,540	5,660	15,180	35	8,220	6,960	.
May-03	124,500	32	45,680	73,540	5,280	15,520	35	7,820	7,700	.
May-04	120,580	31	49,980	68,900	1,700	17,940	38	9,860	8,080	.

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

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

³ See Methodology

- The proportion of children under 16 living in a household where the claimant was single was 57% in May 2004.
- The proportion of children aged 16 - 18 living in a household where the claimant was single was 45% in May 2004.
- **The methodology used to assign information about children's details has been revised following the introduction of CTC in April 2003. Comparisons of family type and over time are affected by these changes. Please see Methodology for further details.**

Table 2.1.4 Children¹ of claimants of key benefits by statistical group and age of child: May 2004

	Number of children/dependants											
	All ages	%	Under 5	%	5 to under 11	%	11 to under 16	%	16 or over	%	Not known ²	%
All statistical groups	138,520	100	29,400	21	46,200	33	43,040	31	17,940	13	1,940	1
Unemployed	7,220	100	1,480	20	2,080	29	2,160	30	1,420	20	-	1
Sick & Disabled	76,960	100	13,020	17	23,720	31	25,880	34	12,480	16	1,860	2
Lone parents	51,260	100	14,380	28	19,220	37	14,060	27	3,600	7	.	0
Others	3,080	100	520	17	1,180	38	940	31	440	14	.	0

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

² Children whose ages are not known

³ Numbers less than 100 are not disclosed due to DSD customer confidentiality policy

- 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 66% aged under 11.

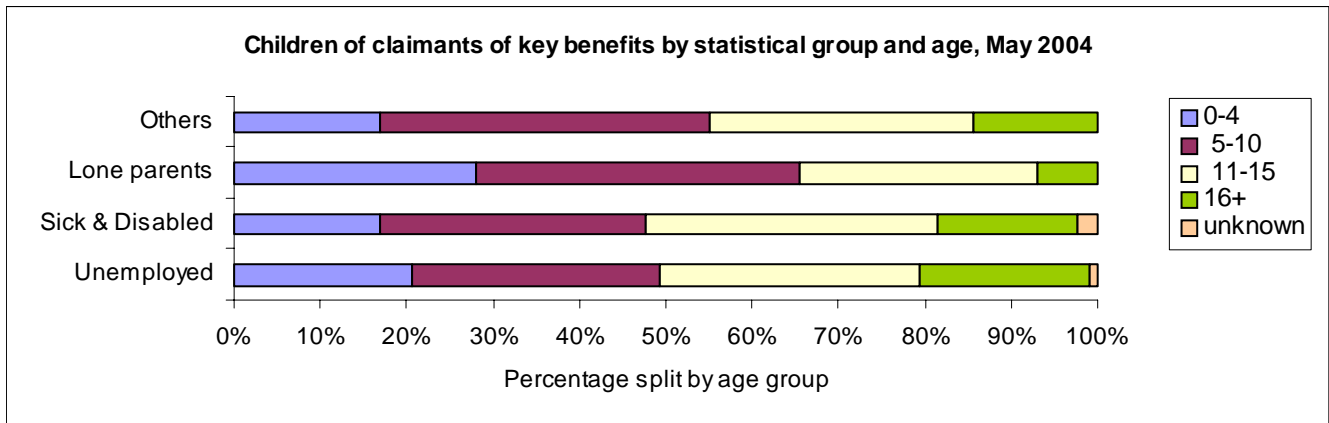


Table 2.1.5 Children¹ of claimants of key benefits by statistical group and duration of claim: May 2004

	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	138,520	100	6,080	4	5,680	4	9,980	7	18,720	14	98,060	71
Unemployed	7,220	100	2,080	29	1,120	16	1,000	14	1,480	20	1,540	21
Sick & Disabled	76,960	100	2,040	3	2,240	3	5,460	7	10,420	14	56,800	74
Lone parents	51,260	100	1,780	3	2,280	4	3,180	6	6,280	12	37,740	74
Others ³	3,080	100	180	6	-	1	340	11	540	18	1,980	64

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

² Oldest benefit payable during current spell of benefit receipt

³ Numbers less than 100 are not disclosed due to DSD customer confidentiality policy

- Of those children in families claiming a key benefit 71% 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 21%.
- Of those children in families classed as unemployed 58% had been on benefit for less than a year.

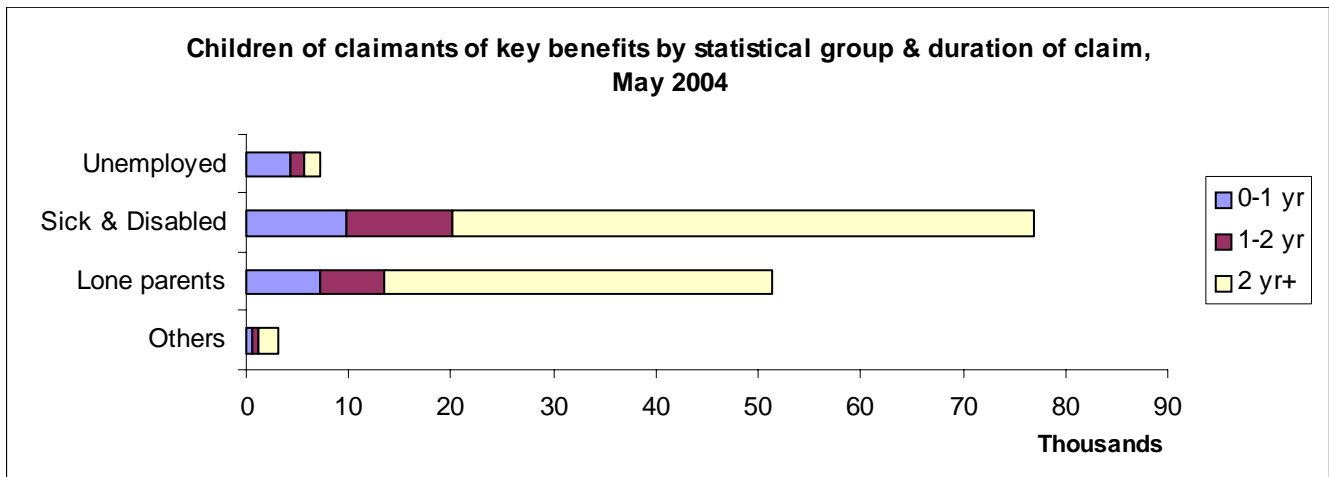


Table 2.1.6 Children¹ of claimants of key benefits by duration of claim: May 2001 to May 2004

	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
May-01	145,280	7,260	7,120	13,120	19,460	98,320
%	100	5	5	9	13	68
May-02	142,100	7,940	6,640	12,560	19,400	95,560
%	100	6	5	9	14	67
May-03	140,020	7,940	6,620	11,100	18,180	96,180
%	100	6	5	8	13	69
May-04	138,520	6,080	5,680	9,980	18,720	98,060
%	100	4	4	7	14	71

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

² Oldest benefit payable during current spell of benefit receipt

- The percentage of children in families claiming a key benefit for less than a year was 16% in May 2004.
- **The methodology used to assign information about children's details has been revised following the introduction of CTC in April 2003. Comparisons over time are affected by these changes. Please see Methodology for further details.**

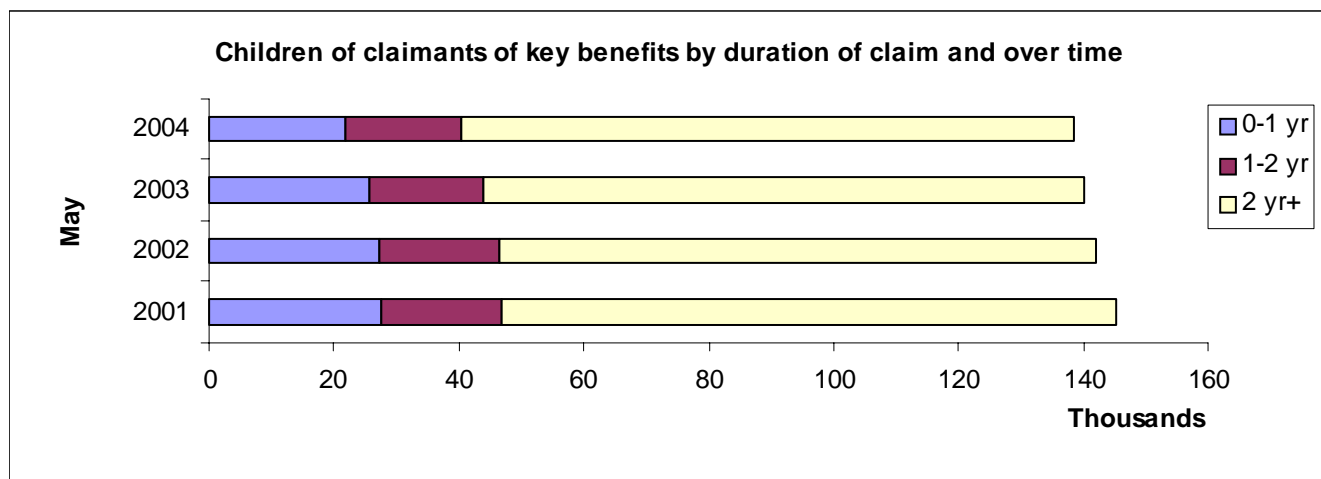


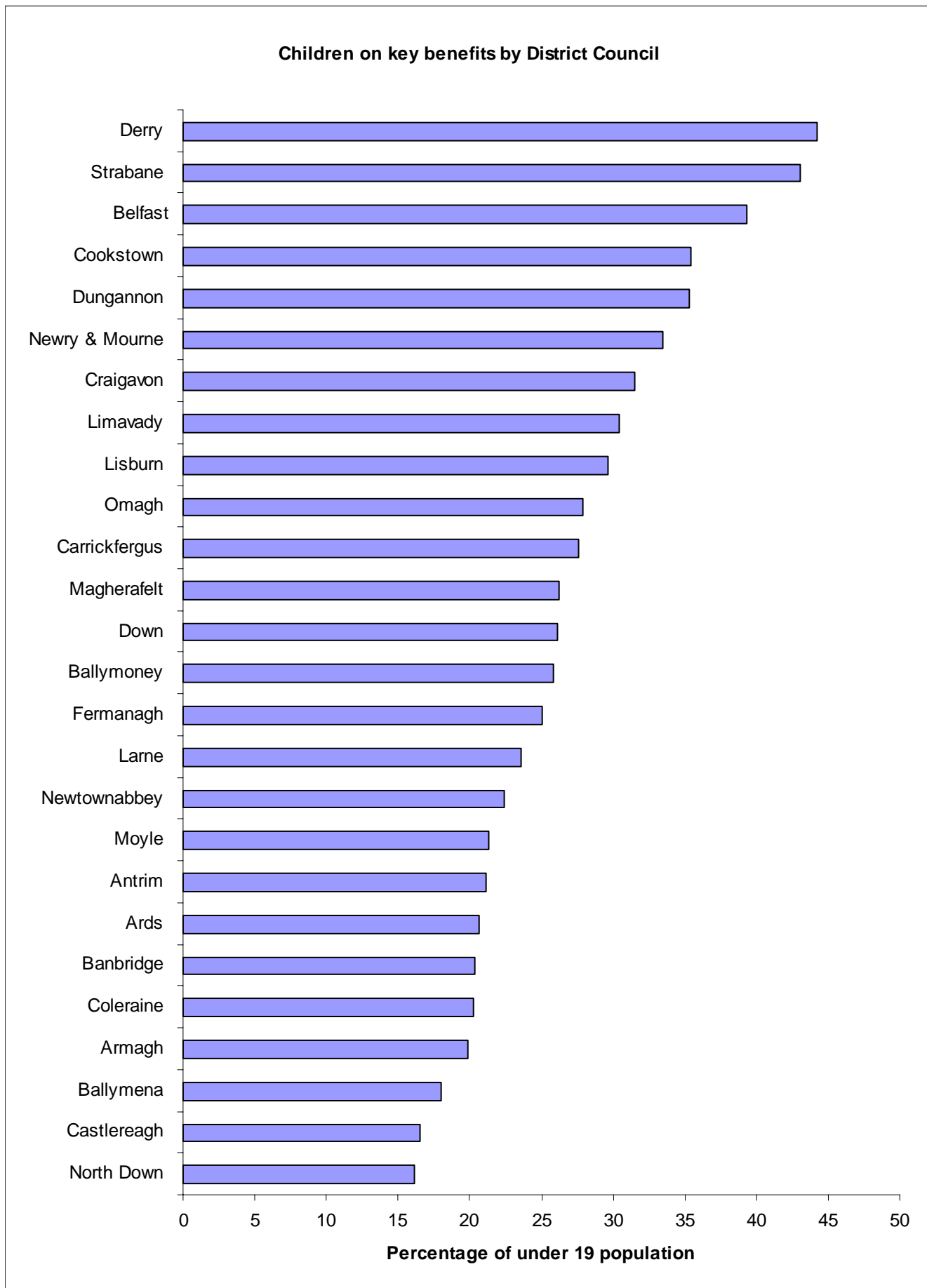
Table 2.1.7 Children¹ of claimants of key benefits by district council: May 2004

	Number of children	% of population ²
Northern Ireland	138,520	30
Ards	3,800	21
Belfast	27,580	39
Castlereagh	2,720	17
Down	4,900	26
Lisburn	9,260	30
North Down	2,920	16
Antrim	2,920	21
Ballymena	2,780	18
Ballymoney	1,980	26
Carrickfergus	2,780	28
Coleraine	3,000	20
Cookstown	3,540	35
Larne	1,840	24
Magherafelt	3,240	26
Moyle	960	21
Newtownabbey	4,620	22
Armagh	3,220	20
Banbridge	2,400	20
Craigavon	7,320	32
Dungannon	5,120	35
Newry & Mourne	9,260	34
Derry	14,700	44
Fermanagh	4,120	25
Limavady	3,040	30
Omagh	4,120	28
Strabane	4,980	43
Unknown	1,400	.

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

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

- The percentage of children (aged under 16 or aged 16 - 18) living in families claiming a key benefit varied from 44% in Derry to 16% in North Down.



Children of claimants of key benefits as a percentage of the population aged under 19 by District Council: May 2004

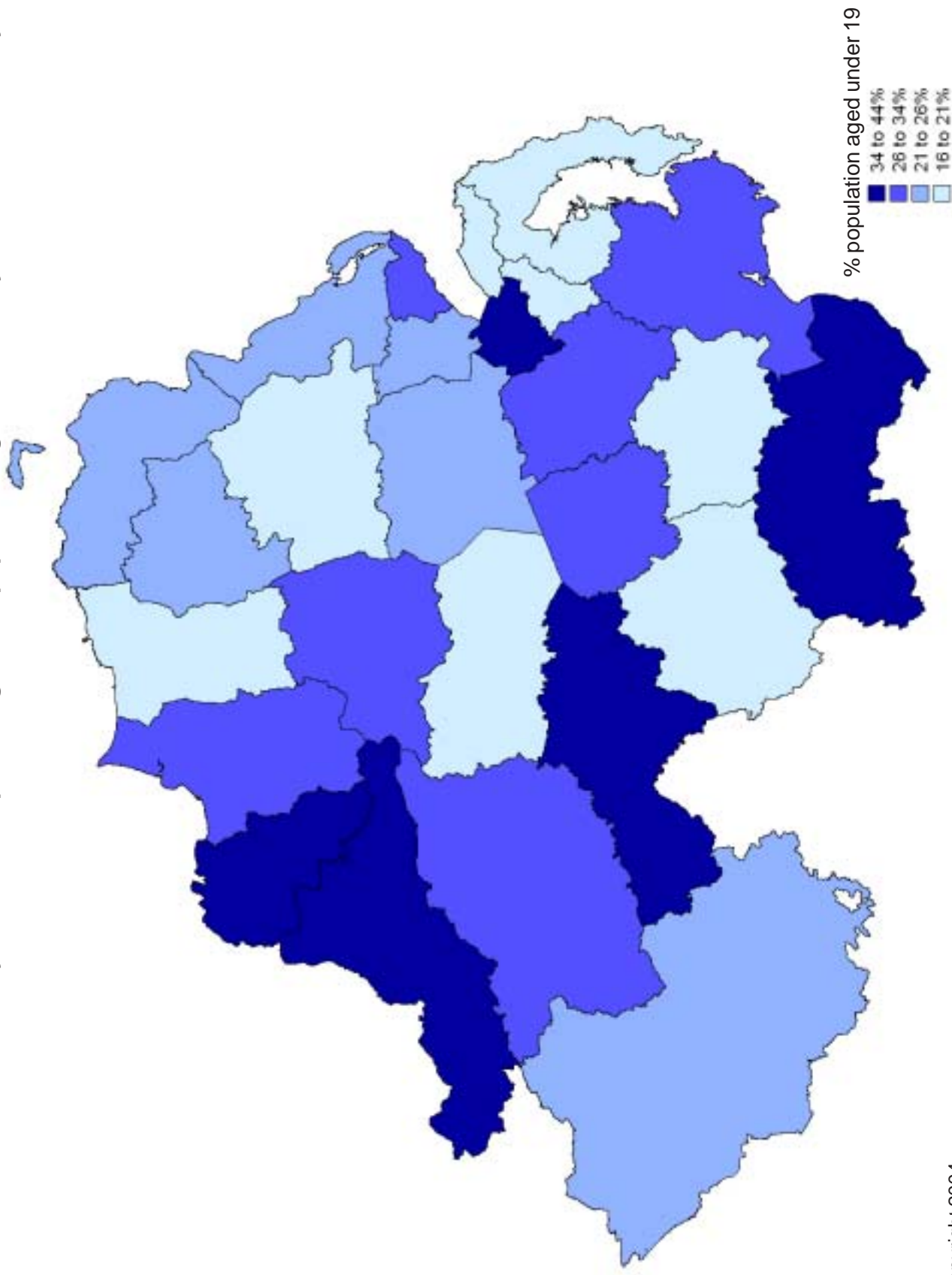


Table 2.1.8 Children¹ of claimants of combinations of key benefits: May 2004

	Number of children	% of population ²
All combinations	138,520	32
IS only	58,260	13
IB only	15,980	4
JSA only	6,860	2
IS, IB & DLA	9,960	2
DLA only	12,540	3
IB & DLA	13,120	3
IS & DLA	10,200	2
IS & IB	9,240	2
IS, DLA & SDA	940	0
DLA & SDA	740	0
IS & SDA	180	0
DLA & JSA	80	0
SDA only	140	0
Others ³	280	0

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

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

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

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

2.2 Families

Table 2.2.1 Families¹ on key benefits by statistical group and duration of claim: May 2004

	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	71,560	100	3,280	5	3,340	5	5,560	8	9,920	14	49,460	69
Unemployed	3,820	100	1,220	32	620	16	600	16	660	17	720	19
Sick & Disabled	39,780	100	1,000	3	1,420	4	2,960	7	5,340	13	29,060	73
Lone parents	26,660	100	1,000	4	1,280	5	1,840	7	3,700	14	18,840	71
Others ³	1,300	100	-	5	-	2	160	12	220	17	840	65

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

² Oldest benefit payable during current spell of benefit receipt

³ Numbers less than 100 are not disclosed due to DSD customer confidentiality policy

- 69% of families on key benefits had been on benefit for at least 2 years. For the sick & disabled group the figure was 73% whilst the figure for the unemployed was only 19%.
- 64% of families classed as unemployed had been on benefit for less than a year.

Table 2.2.2 Families¹ on key benefits by duration of claim: May 2001 to May 2004

	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
May-01	73,340	3,880	4,020	6,840	10,680	47,920
%	100	5	5	9	15	65
May-02	71,440	4,040	3,620	6,780	9,980	47,020
%	100	6	5	9	14	66
May-03	70,860	4,140	3,500	6,180	9,660	47,380
%	100	6	5	9	14	67
May-04	71,560	3,280	3,340	5,560	9,920	49,460
%	100	5	5	8	14	69

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

² Oldest benefit payable during current spell of benefit receipt

- At May 2004 69% of families on key benefits had been on benefit for at least 2 years. This compares to 71% of children in families where a key benefit was claimed.

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

Table 2.2.3 Families¹ on key benefits by statistical group and age of youngest child: May 2004

	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	71,560	100	24,080	34	23,400	33	16,120	23	6,820	10	1,140	2
Unemployed	3,820	100	1,240	32	920	24	820	21	760	20	-	2
Sick & Disabled	39,780	100	10,340	26	12,240	31	10,640	27	5,500	14	1,060	3
Lone parents ³	26,660	100	12,080	45	9,680	36	4,480	17	420	2	.	0
Others ³	1,300	100	420	32	560	43	180	14	140	11	.	0

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

² Children whose ages are not known

³ Numbers less than 100 are not disclosed due to DSD customer confidentiality policy

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

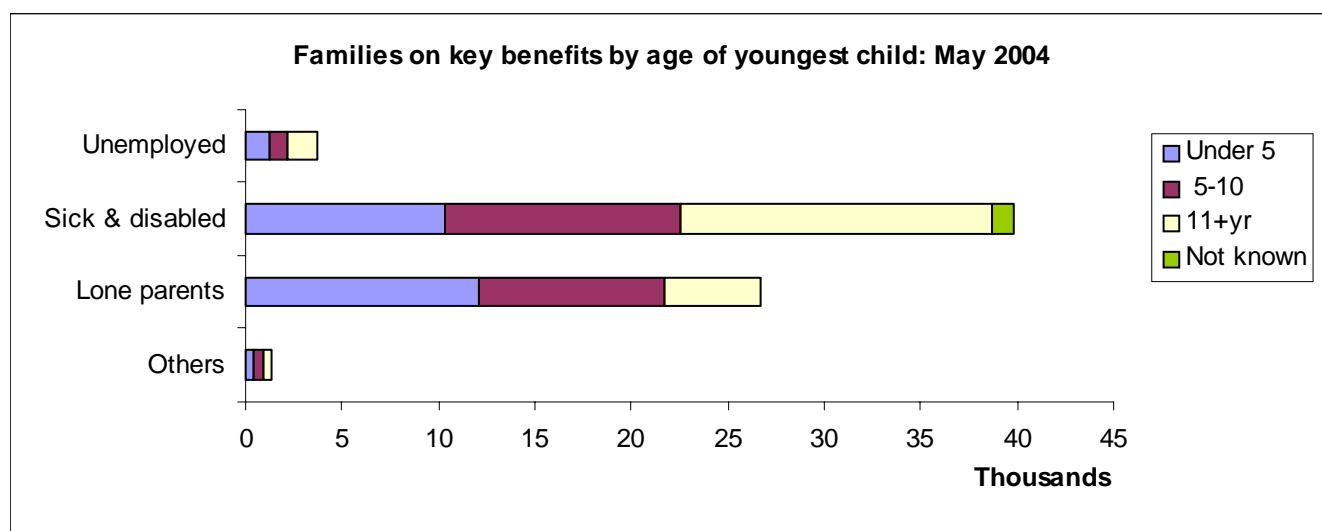


Table 2.2.4 Families¹ on key benefits by age of youngest child: May 2001 to May 2004

	Age of youngest child					
	All ages	Under 5	5 to under 11	11 to under 16	16 or over	Not known ²
May-01	73,340	28,080	21,180	15,660	4,920	3,500
%	100	38	29	21	7	5
May-02	71,440	26,260	20,840	15,400	5,620	3,320
%	100	37	29	22	8	5
May-03	70,860	25,480	21,380	15,680	5,300	3,020
%	100	36	30	22	7	4
May-04	71,560	24,080	23,400	16,120	6,820	1,140
%	100	34	33	23	10	2

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

² Children whose ages are not known

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

Table 2.2.5 Families¹ on key benefits by statistical group and number of children: May 2004

	Number of children				
	All families	One	Two	Three	Four or more
All statistical groups	71,560	31,140	22,820	11,340	6,260
Unemployed	3,820	1,780	1,120	660	260
Sick & Disabled	39,780	17,440	12,620	6,160	3,560
Lone parents	26,660	11,560	8,640	4,280	2,180
Others	1,300	360	440	240	260

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

- In May 2004, 9% of families on key benefits had 4 or more children.
- 44% (31,140) of claimants of key benefits had only 1 child.

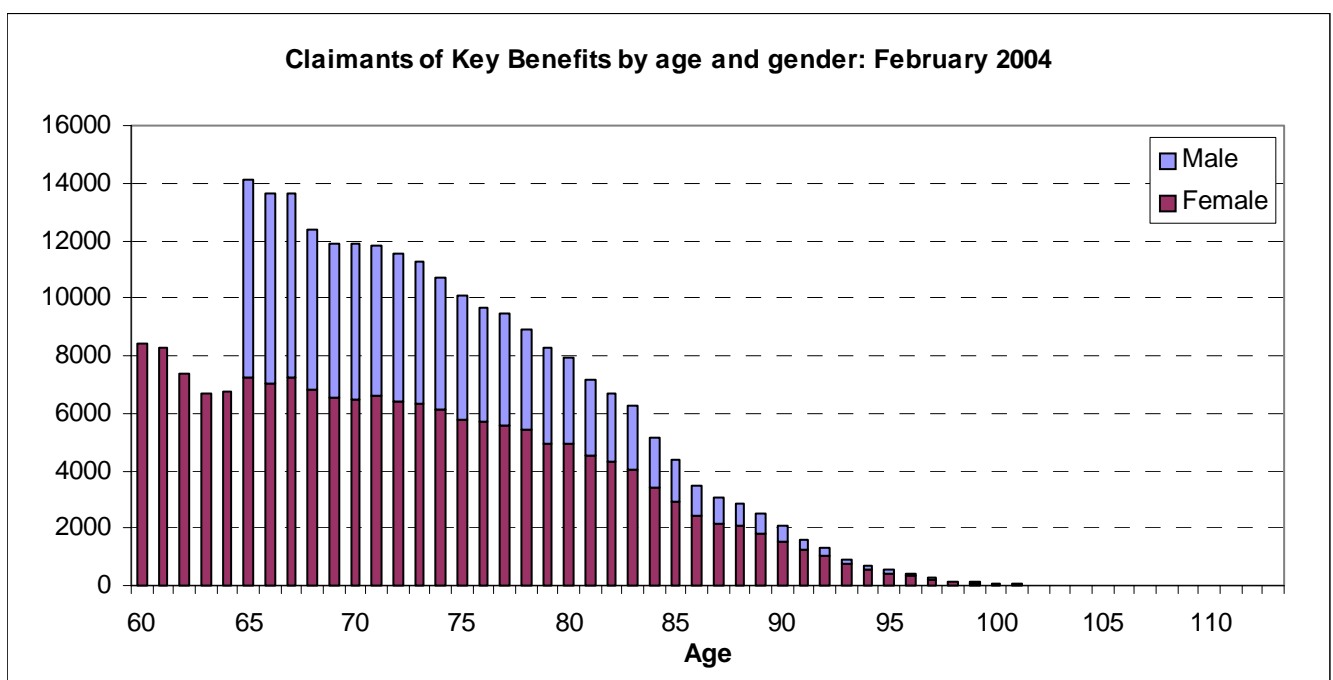
Section 3: Persons of Pensionable Age on Key Benefits

3.1 Age and gender

Table 3.1.1 Claimants over State Pension Age of key benefits by gender: February 2001 to February 2004

	Feb-01	Feb-02	Feb-03	Feb-04
Men	87,839	89,424	91,511	93,694
% of pop ¹	96	95	96	98
Women	163,646	164,338	167,514	171,087
% of pop ¹	96	95	96	98
All	251,485	253,762	259,025	264,781
% of pop ¹	96	95	96	98

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



- In February 2004 about 98% (264,781) of people over state pension age claimed a key benefit - an increase of 5% (13,296) since February 2001.
- 98% of both men and women were claiming at least one of the key state benefits in February 2004.

Table 3.1.2 Claimants over State Pension Age of key benefits by age and gender: February 2004

	Male		Female		All	
		% of pop ¹²		% of pop ¹²		% of pop ¹²
60-64	.	.	37,575	93	37,575	93
65-69	30,775	97	34,925	98	65,700	97
70-74	25,277	98	31,980	98	57,257	98
75-79	19,048	99	27,355	97	46,403	98
80-84	11,957	99	21,200	101	33,157	100
85-89	4,853	100	11,445	102	16,298	102
90+	1,784	106	6,607	113	8,391	111
All ages	93,694	98	171,087	98	264,781	98

¹ Population of Northern Ireland residents above state pension age

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

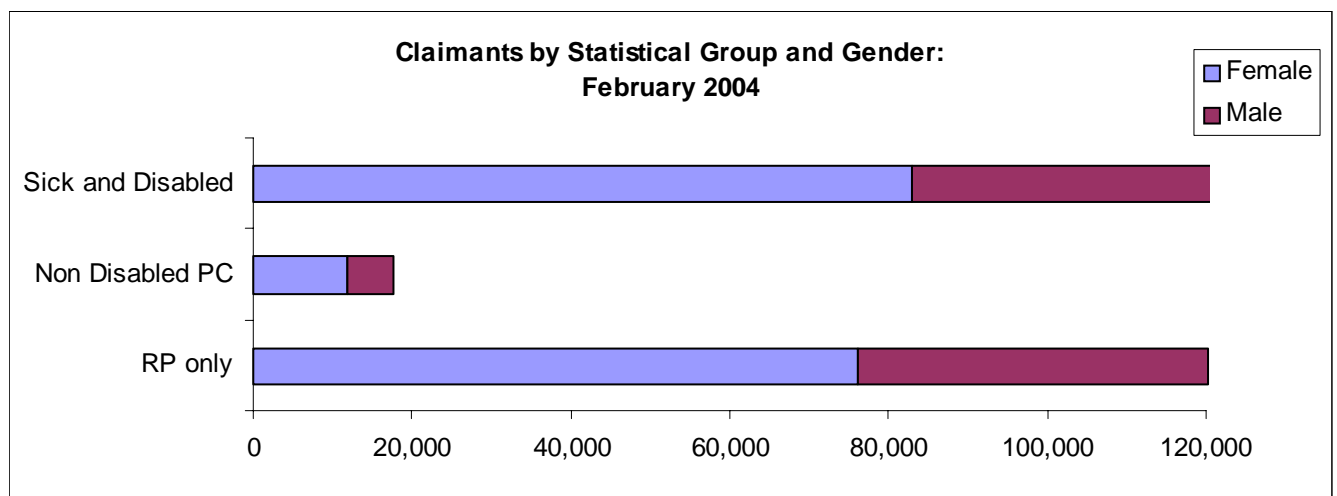
Table 3.1.3 Claimants over State Pension Age by Statistical group: February 2001 to February 2004

	Feb-01		Feb-02		Feb-03		Feb-04	
	All	% of pop ¹	All	% of pop ¹	All	% of pop ¹	All	% of pop ¹
Sick and/or Disabled	120,372	46	122,260	46	124,338	46	126,957	47
Non Disabled PC	11,962	5	12,575	5	14,547	5	17,622	7
RP only	119,151	45	118,927	45	120,140	44	120,202	44
All	251,485	96	253,762	95	259,025	96	264,781	98

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

3.2 Statistical groups

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



- The overall numbers rose by 13,296 between February 2001 and February 2004.
- Sick and/or disabled claimants rose from 120,372 to 126,957 between February 2001 and February 2004, rising from 46% to 47% of the total pensioner population.
- Over the same period, the non-disabled PC statistical group grew by 5,660.
- Over the same period, the RP only statistical group grew by 1,051.

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 2003 and February 2004 by gender and statistical group

	Male	Female	All
Sick and/or Disabled	2,719	3,258	5,977
Non Disabled PC	733	569	1,302
RP only	3,896	6,327	10,223
All	7,348	10,154	17,502

Table 3.2.2 Cases over State Pension Age receiving key benefits at February 2003 but no longer receiving a key benefit in February 2004: by gender and statistical group

	Male	Female	All
Sick and/or Disabled	3,737	5,253	8,990
Non Disabled PC	177	231	408
RP only	1,251	1,097	2,348
All	5,165	6,581	11,746

Table 3.2.3 Cases over State Pension Age changing statistical group: February 2003 and February 2004

Statistical group in February 2003	Statistical group in February 2004			All
	Sick and/or Disabled	Non Disabled PC	RP only	
Sick and/or Disabled	0	842	151	993
Non Disabled PC	1,097	0	155	1,252
RP only	5,528	2,591	0	8,119
All	6,625	3,433	306	10,364

- 58% of claimants moving onto a key benefit(s) between February 2003 and February 2004 received the state Retirement Pension as their only benefit.
- The number in the sick and/or disabled statistical group rose by 2,619 between February 2003 and February 2004. However, more people stopped claiming a key benefit in this statistical group (8,990) than moved onto benefit directly into the sick and/or disabled statistical group (5,977). This rise is due to a net 5,632 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 2001 and February 2004: by gender and statistical group

	Male	Female	All
Sick and/or Disabled	7,897	8,363	16,260
Non Disabled PC	1,781	1,634	3,415
RP only	11,114	17,420	28,534
All	20,792	27,417	48,209

Table 3.2.5 Cases over State Pension Age receiving a key benefit at February 2001 but no longer receiving key benefits in February 2004: by gender and statistical group

	Male	Female	All
Sick and/or Disabled	10,071	15,375	25,446
Non Disabled PC	419	713	1,132
RP only	4,446	3,889	8,335
All	14,936	19,977	34,913

Table 3.2.6 Cases over State Pension Age changing statistical group: February 2001 and February 2004

Statistical group in February 2001	Statistical group in February 2004			All
	Sick and/or Disabled	Non Disabled PC	RP only	
Sick and/or Disabled	0	1,877	291	2,168
Non Disabled PC	2,612	0	291	2,903
RP only	15,327	4,403	0	19,730
All	17,939	6,280	582	24,801

- The overall number of claimants on key benefits has risen during the period February 2001 to February 2004 by 13,296, with the number moving onto key benefits (48,209) exceeding those no longer claiming a key benefit (34,913).
- Approximately 76% of people on a key benefit in February 2001 have remained within the same statistical group in February 2004, 14% were no longer on a key benefit and 10% had moved statistical group.

Table 3.2.7 Sick and/or Disabled claimants over State Pension Age by benefit combination: February 2001 to February 2004

	Feb-01		Feb-02		Feb-03		Feb-04	
		%		%		%		%
AA or DLA	2,836	2	3,003	2	4,341	3	4,445	4
IB or SDA	179	0	149	0	119	0	107	0
AA or DLA and IB or SDA	851	1	870	1	896	1	875	1
PC only/PC with AA or DLA or IB or SDA	5,739	5	4,704	4	4,600	4	5,573	4
RP only (IVA or in hospital)	5,967	5	5,970	5	5,946	5	5,698	4
RP and one of AA or DLA	56,850	47	59,612	49	61,320	49	61,876	49
RP and PC	3,547	3	2,995	2	1,643	1	1,045	1
RP and PC and AA or DLA	44,402	37	44,948	37	45,472	37	47,335	37
Others ¹²	-	0	9	0	-	0	-	0
All	120,372	100	122,260	100	124,338	100	126,957	100

¹ Includes anomalies such as IB with RP

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

Table 3.2.8 Sick and/or Disabled over State Pension Age statistical group cases by benefit combination and gender: February 2004

	Male	%	Female	%	All	%
AA or DLA	1,395	3	3,050	4	4,445	4
IB or SDA	20	0	87	0	107	0
AA or DLA and IB or SDA	62	0	813	1	875	1
PC only/PC with AA or DLA or IB or SDA	1,706	4	3,867	5	5,573	4
RP only (IVA or in hospital)	3,774	9	1,924	2	5,698	4
RP and one of AA or DLA	22,565	51	39,311	47	61,876	49
RP and PC	623	1	422	1	1,045	1
RP and PC and AA or DLA	13,769	31	33,566	40	47,335	37
Others ¹²	-	0	-	0	-	0
All	43,914	100	83,043	100	126,957	100

¹ Includes anomalies such as IB with RP

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

- The sick and/or disabled statistical group as a whole increased by 6,585 (5%) between February 2001 and February 2004.
- RP plus AA or DLA in February 2004 accounted for 49% of the total claimants within the sick and/or disabled statistical group. This compares with only 47% in February 2001.

- The numbers claiming RP, plus PC and AA or DLA rose more slowly. The RP, plus PC and AA or DLA group has maintained its relative size over the period February 2001 to February 2004.

Table 3.2.9 Claimants over State Pension Age by all benefit combinations¹ and gender: February 2004

	Male	Female	All
DLA only	613	1,777	2,390
AA only	780	1,267	2,047
DLA, AA	-	6	8
SDA only	20	87	107
SDA, DLA	49	753	802
SDA, AA	12	52	64
SDA, DLA, AA	-	8	9
IB only	.	.	0
IB, DLA	.	.	0
IB, AA	.	.	0
PC only	982	1,341	2,323
PC, DLA	694	1,310	2,004
PC, AA	572	1,400	1,972
PC, DLA, AA	-	11	13
PC, SDA	70	179	249
PC, SDA, DLA	277	746	1,023
PC, SDA, AA	66	169	235
PC, SDA, AA, DLA	8	15	23
PC, IB	.	-	-
PC, IB, DLA	.	.	0
PC, IB, AA	.	.	0
RP only	47,719	78,177	125,896
RP, DLA	9,241	17,139	26,380
RP, AA	13,219	22,046	35,265
RP, AA, DLA	106	129	235
RP, PC	5,492	10,905	16,397
RP, PC, DLA	5,587	9,727	15,314
RP, PC, AA	8,098	23,651	31,749
RP, PC, AA, DLA	84	188	272
Other ²	-	-	-
All	93,694	171,087	264,781

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

² Includes anomalies such as IB with RP

- All Benefit combinations at August 2004 are included in the above table. The main combinations were RP only (48%), RP and AA (13%), RP, PC and AA (12%) and RP and DLA (10%).

3.3 Regional Analysis

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

Table 3.3.1 Claimants over State Pension Age of key benefits by gender and Government Office Region: May 2004

	Thousands and percentages					
	Men		Women		All	
	(000s)	% of pop ¹	(000s)	% of pop ¹	(000s)	% of pop ¹
Great Britain	3,947	100	6,677	99	10,625	100
England	3,392	100	5,700	99	9,092	100
North East	181	100	306	99	487	100
North West	465	100	799	99	1,264	100
Yorkshire & Humberside	346	100	583	98	929	100
East Midlands	300	100	491	100	791	100
West Midlands	372	100	622	100	994	100
East of England	398	100	648	100	1,046	100
London	369	97	636	97	1,005	97
South East	562	99	946	98	1,509	99
South West	399	100	668	100	1,066	100
Wales	220	100	367	98	587	100
Scotland	335	100	610	99	945	100
Northern Ireland ²	94	98	171	98	265	98

¹ Population over state pension age. Percentages shown as 100 may actually have been calculated as slightly higher than 100 - this can occur because the latest population estimates available are around a year behind the benefit data and/or because of slight inaccuracies associated with the data sources themselves

² Northern Ireland data is at February 2004

- The proportion of the population over state pension age claiming a key benefit ranges from 97% in London to 100% in all regions except London & the South East.
- The figure for Northern Ireland of 98% claiming a key benefit is below the Great Britain figure of 100%.

Table 3.3.2 Claimants over State Pension Age of key benefits by Statistical group and Government Office Region: May 2004

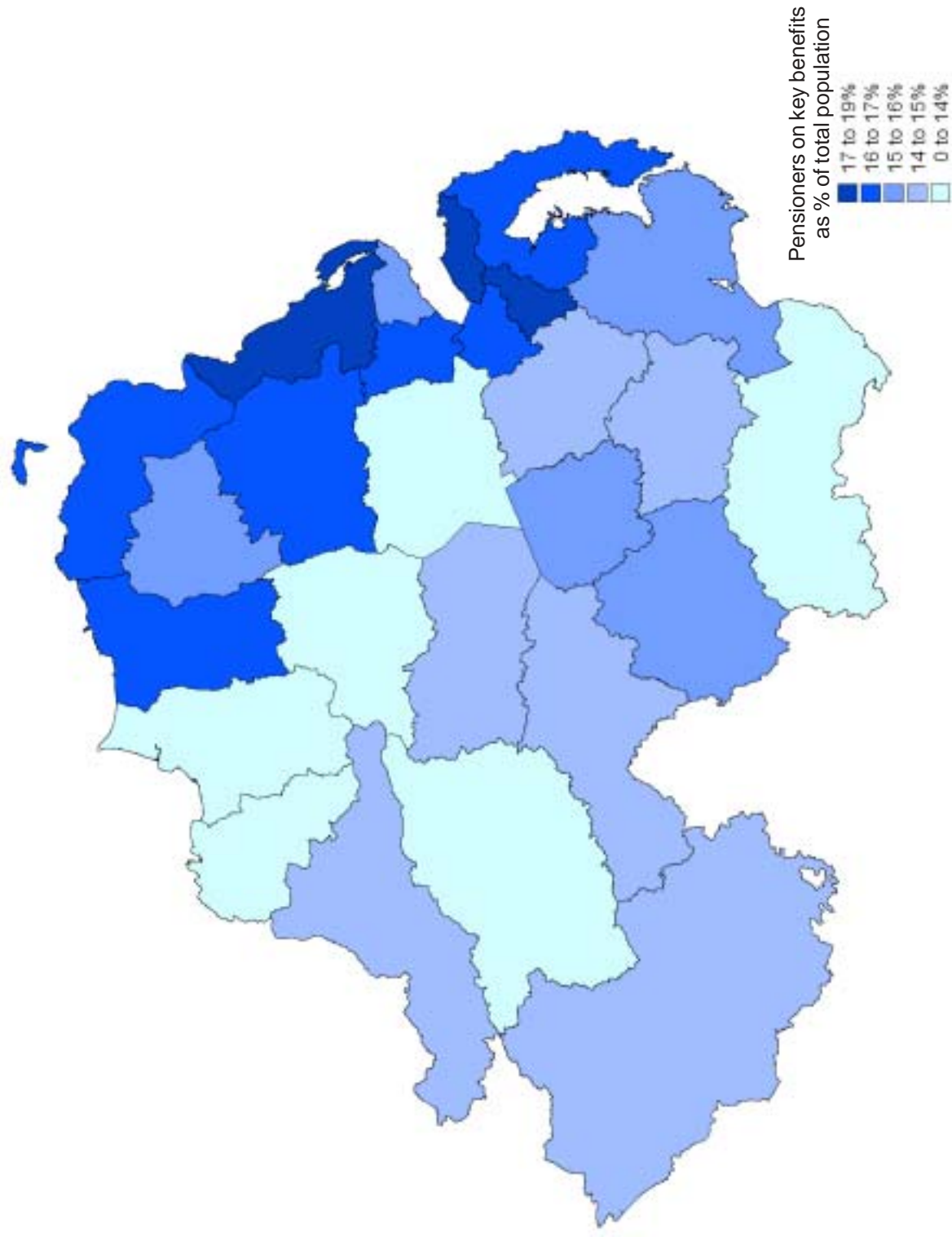
		Thousands and percentages			
		Statistical Group			
		Sick and/or Disabled	Non Disabled PC	RP only	All
Great Britain	(000s)	2,657	1,176	6,792	10,625
	% of pop ¹	25	11	64	100
England	(000s)	2,155	1,019	5,919	9,092
	% of pop ¹	24	11	65	100
North East	(000s)	158	66	263	487
	% of pop ¹	33	14	54	100
North West	(000s)	398	135	732	1,264
	% of pop ¹	32	11	58	100
Yorkshire & Humberside	(000s)	242	118	568	929
	% of pop ¹	26	13	61	100
East Midlands	(000s)	193	86	512	791
	% of pop ¹	25	11	65	100
West Midlands	(000s)	264	120	610	994
	% of pop ¹	27	12	62	100
East of England	(000s)	207	103	736	1,046
	% of pop ¹	20	10	71	100
London	(000s)	221	140	644	1,005
	% of pop ¹	21	14	62	97
South East	(000s)	250	144	1,115	1,509
	% of pop ¹	16	9	73	99
South West	(000s)	221	107	739	1,066
	% of pop ¹	21	10	69	100
Wales	(000s)	219	51	317	587
	% of pop ¹	37	9	54	100
Scotland	(000s)	283	106	556	945
	% of pop ¹	30	11	59	100
Northern Ireland ²	(000s)	127	18	120	265
	% of pop ¹	47	7	44	98

¹ Population over state pension age. Percentages shown as 100 may actually have been calculated as slightly higher than 100 - this can occur because the latest population estimates available are around a year behind the benefit data and/or because of slight inaccuracies associated with the data sources themselves

² Northern Ireland data is at February 2004

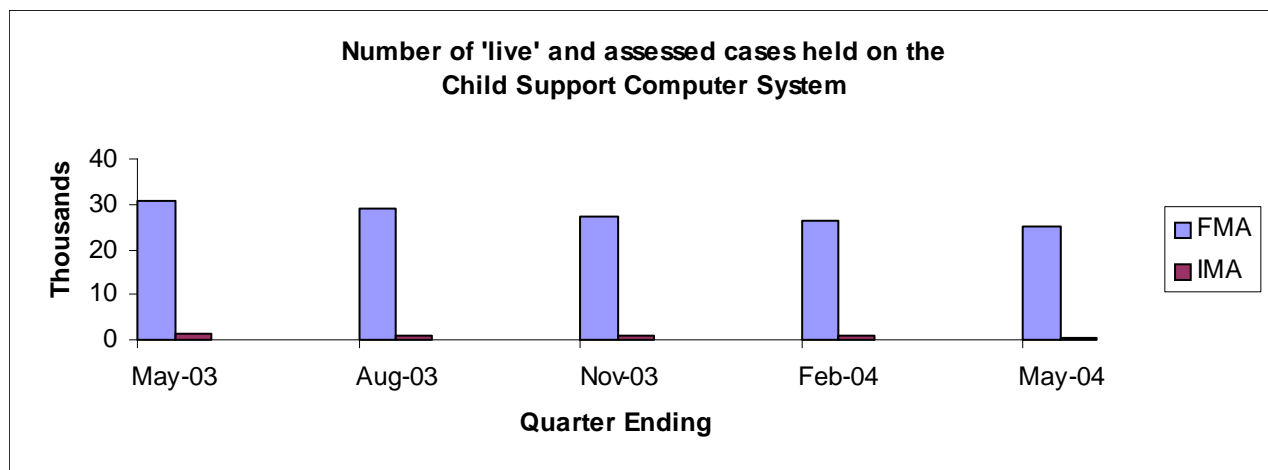
- Northern Ireland has by far the highest proportion claiming a key sickness and/or disability benefit at 47% compared to Wales (37%), which is next, with the South East lowest at 16%.
- For the RP only category Northern Ireland (44%) is considerably lower than any other office region, with Wales and the North East (54%) next. The highest proportion is the South East (73%).

Persons of pensionable age claiming key benefits as a percentage of the total population by District Council: February 2004



Appendix 1 - Child Support Agency

At the end of May 2004 there were 25,134 'live' and fully assessed cases held on the Child Support Computer System (CSCS) a drop of 5,665 since May 2003. This fall in the caseload is mainly due to the closure of a large number of suspended cases on the system. Also information on all new cases is held on a new computer system from which it is not possible to extract any reliable information at present. Therefore the figures for May 2004 quoted below do not give a true reflection of all cases on the CSA live load.



The average FMA (Full Maintenance Assessment) for all non-resident parents (NRPs) increased from £13.66 in May 2003 to £14.03 in May 2004. For NRPs recorded on CSCS as an employee the average maintenance in May 2004 was £35.01 per week, a decrease of £0.18 per week from May 2003. For self-employed NRPs, the average maintenance assessment increased from £19.48 per week in May 2003 to £20.44 in May 2004.

Table 1 Number of NRPs with full maintenance assessment and average value of assessment, May 2003 - May 2004

Month	FMA	Average, £pw
May-03	30,799	£13.66
Aug-03	28,891	£13.89
Nov-03	27,306	£13.89
Feb-04	26,259	£13.89
May-04	25,134	£14.03

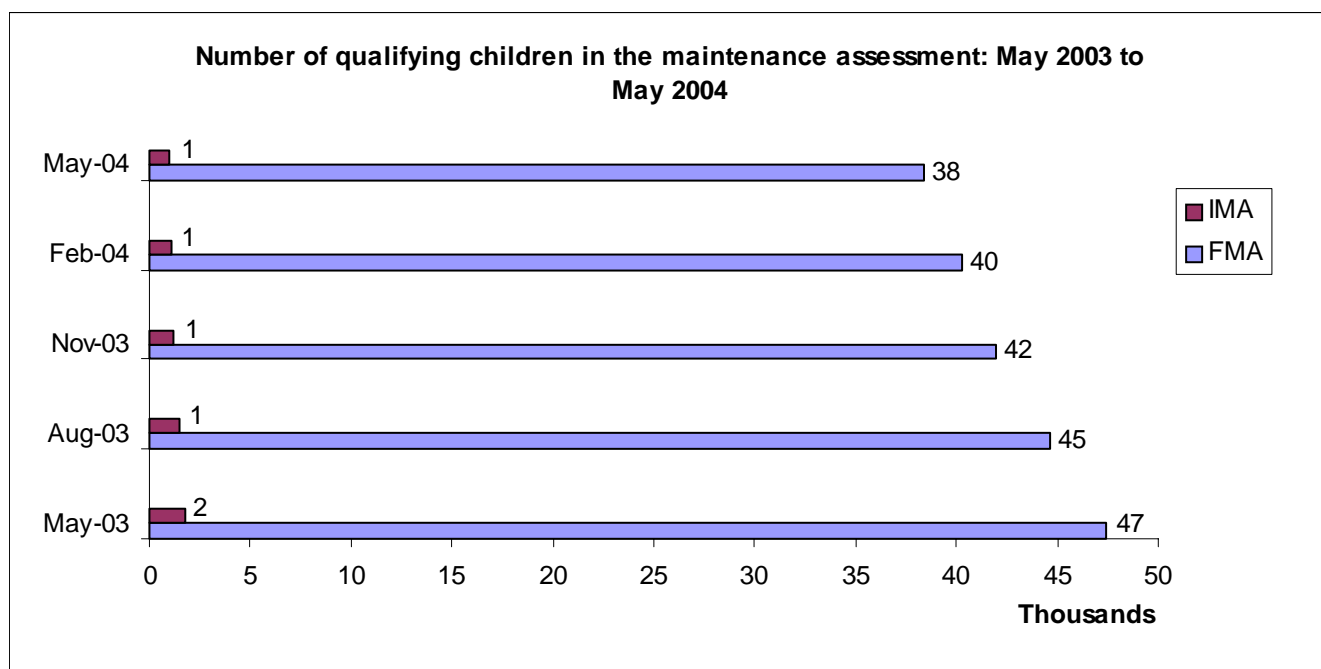
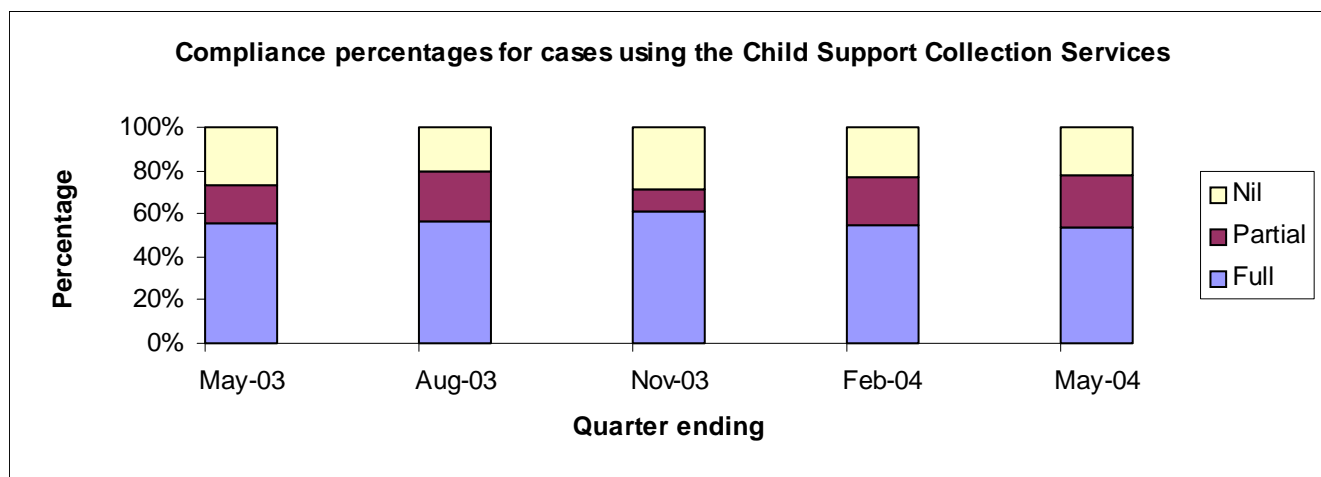
Table 2 Benefit status of Parent/Person with Care (PWC), May 2003 - May 2004: full assessments

Month	PWC benefit status							
	Total	%	IS	%	WFTC/ DPTC	%	Other	%
May-03	30,799	100	17,307	56	8,579	28	4,913	16
Aug-03	28,891	100	15,826	55	8,244	29	4,821	17
Nov-03	27,306	100	14,599	53	7,968	29	4,739	17
Feb-04	26,259	100	13,854	53	7,769	30	4,636	18
May-04	25,134	100	13,146	52	7,526	30	4,462	18

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, May 2003 - May 2004: caseload

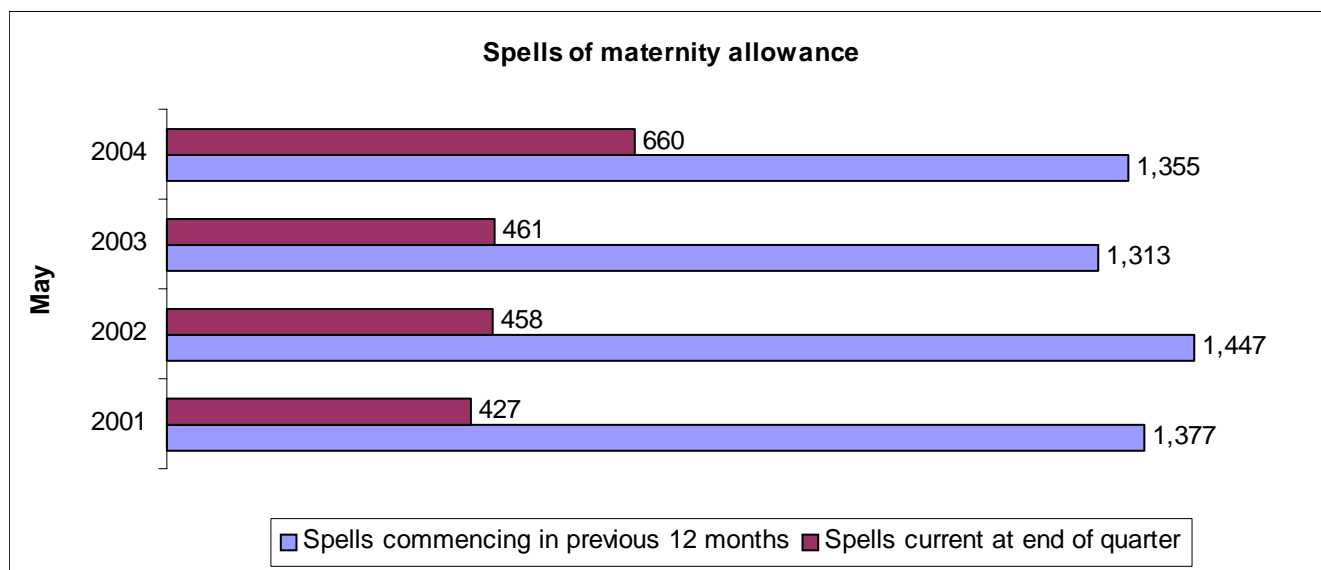
Month	Total	Not Applicable	Full	Partial	Nil
May-03	30,799	23,030	4,299	1,415	2,055
Aug-03	28,891	20,878	4,533	1,867	1,613
Nov-03	27,306	20,390	4,235	688	1,993
Feb-04	26,259	19,089	3,967	1,548	1,655
May-04	25,134	18,277	3,689	1,681	1,537



- The number of qualifying children in the fully assessed caseload has decreased by 19% since May 2003.

Appendix 2 - Maternity Allowance

At the end of May 2004 there were 660 spells of Maternity Allowance in payment an increase of 55% 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
Apr-03	100.00		33.65
Apr-04	102.80		34.60

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

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

Methodology

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

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

Summary of methodology

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

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

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

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

Family type and “People on benefits”

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

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

of paying money in respect of partners. In the vast majority of cases the information on children/young adult dependants and partners will be the same on both sources of data.

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

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

The effect of New Tax Credits

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

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

As a result particular changes may have occurred at

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

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

Statistical groups

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

Transitions analyses

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

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

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

In October 2003, Pension Credit (PC) replaced Income Support for persons aged 60 or over. PC has 2 elements: the Guarantee Credit (GC), which replaced IS for people aged 60 and over; and the Savings Credit (SC), which rewards pensioners who have modest income or savings. The majority of persons aged 60 or over receiving IS on 6 October 2003 were automatically transferred to PC. However, there were a small number of claims which were not transferred to PC. These were mainly cases where the claimant was aged under 60 and the partner was aged 60 or over.

Additional pensioner households not previously entitled to IS are entitled to PC. These are households who have deemed income from savings and/or a second pension that takes them above the guarantee level in GC but who are now rewarded for those savings via the SC. The knock on effect for the analysis of persons of pensionable age is that the non-disabled PC group is larger than the previous non-disabled IS group.

IS claimants on Government Training schemes

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

Clerical Cases

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

Population Estimates

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

Child Benefit

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

Sampling Errors

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

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

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

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

