

# **Northern Ireland Summary of Social Security Statistics 2005**

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First published 2005

Published by : Social Welfare Statistics and Consultancy Branch

ISSN 1476-2463 Print - June 2005  
ISSN 1476-2471 Online - June 2005

ISBN 1-904105-17-3

Next publication: Online - June 2006  
Print - June 2006

# Introduction

This is the fifth edition of 'Northern Ireland Summary of Social Security Statistics'. It is published annually by Social Welfare Statistics and Consultancy Branch (SCB) on behalf of the Department for Social Development. The publication replaces the annual statistical publications of individual benefits. It is intended to provide a single source of information on claimants of all social security benefits. As well as providing information of the individual benefits it also contains information from the publication 'Northern Ireland Client Group Analysis - Persons of working age and their children and persons of pensionable age receiving key benefits' which concentrates on the three major social security client groups.

Social Security Benefits give financial support to individuals and families who have certain needs or who are in times of hardship.

The National Insurance Fund provides contributory benefits against loss of income for those who are retired, widowed, unemployed, sick or disabled. It also provides help for some people with the costs involved in having a baby.

Non-contributory benefits fall into two categories. There is means-tested support for people on low incomes in the form of Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance (Income Based), Housing Benefit and help from the Social Fund. There are also non-contributory benefits, which are not means-tested. These include Child Benefit, Industrial Injuries benefits, War Pensions, and Attendance Allowance and Disability Living Allowance for the long-term sick and disabled.

## The effect of Child Tax Credit

Figures in this and future publications are affected by the introduction of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) in April 2003. The main changes are:

Child dependency increases paid with non-income related benefits were abolished for new claims to Retirement Pension, Bereavement Benefit, Incapacity Benefit, and Carer's Allowance from April 2003. CTC will replace the child elements of Income Support and Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA(IB)). This will happen from April 2004 onwards.

Dates when there may be particular changes in the figures are:

- April 2003, when Child Dependency increases paid with non-income related benefits were abolished for new claims.
- October 2003, when it is planned that families on Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG) with children will have child elements migrated to CTC.
- Financial Year 2004/05, when families on Income Support and Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance will have child elements migrated to CTC.

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

We therefore advise caution when performing year on year comparisons, or when comparing with the previous quarter.

The main benefits/client groups are explained in the prologue to the section.

Where figures have been rounded, component parts may not sum to totals.

Detailed analyses are provided for the latest available period.

The SCB Website ([www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/stats\\_and\\_research.htm](http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/stats_and_research.htm)) gives access to a range of statistical publications, and more detailed statistics for the individual benefits.

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# **CLIENT GROUP ANALYSIS**



# Definitions and Conventions - Sections 1 and 2

## Key benefits

## Symbols and conventions

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)        | Working age is 16 to 64 years for men                          |
| Incapacity Benefit (IB)            | 16 to 59 years for women                                       |
| Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA) | Population estimates are mid year from 1998 to 2003            |
| Disability Living Allowance (DLA)  | 16-18 year olds in full-time education from 1998/99 to 2003/04 |
| Income Support (IS)                | “.” not applicable   |

## Inland Revenue Tax Credits

Child Tax Credit (CTC)

## Statistical group

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

## Family type

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

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

## Benefit type

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

## Benefit entitlement

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

## Definitions and Conventions - Section 3

### Key benefits

Attendance Allowance (AA)  
 Incapacity Benefit (IB)  
 Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA)  
 Disability Living Allowance (DLA)  
 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

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Sick and/or disabled | Claimant receiving one or more of AA, DLA, IB, SDA or on PC and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- in a residential care or nursing home;</li> <li>- sick days being recorded;</li> <li>- hospitalised cases or an RP claimant and</li> <li>- in hospital</li> <li>- receiving Invalidity Allowance (IVA)</li> </ul> |
| 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   |

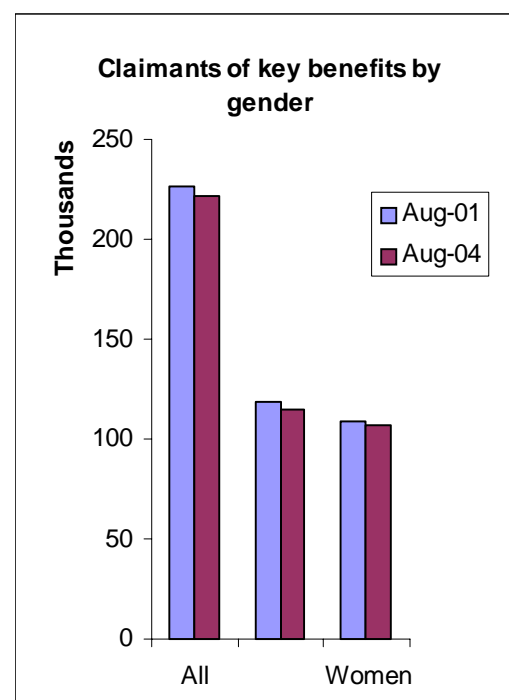
## Section 1: Persons of Working Age on Key Benefits

### 1.1 Age and Gender

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

|                       | Aug-01         | Aug-02         | Aug-03         | Aug-04         |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>All</b>            | <b>226,900</b> | <b>226,980</b> | <b>230,760</b> | <b>221,760</b> |
| % of pop <sup>1</sup> | 22             | 22             | 22             | 21             |
| <b>Men</b>            | <b>118,520</b> | <b>119,840</b> | <b>123,020</b> | <b>115,100</b> |
| % of pop <sup>1</sup> | 22             | 22             | 23             | 21             |
| <b>Women</b>          | <b>108,380</b> | <b>107,140</b> | <b>107,740</b> | <b>106,660</b> |
| % of pop <sup>1</sup> | 22             | 21             | 21             | 21             |

<sup>1</sup> Population of working age in Northern Ireland - see Methodology



- In August 2004 about 21% (221,760) of people of working age claimed a key benefit – down from 22% (226,900) in August 2001.
- Older people were more likely to be claiming benefits. In 2004, 35% of those aged 55 to 59 claimed a benefit compared to 16% of those aged 18 to 24.

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

|            | All            |                       | Men            |                       | Women          |                       |
|------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
|            | Number         | % of pop in age group | Number         | % of pop in age group | Number         | % of pop in age group |
| <b>All</b> | <b>221,760</b> | <b>21</b>             | <b>115,100</b> | <b>21</b>             | <b>106,660</b> | <b>21</b>             |
| Under 18   | 2,420          | 4                     | 1,120          | 4                     | 1,300          | 5                     |
| 18 to 24   | 26,860         | 16                    | 13,180         | 16                    | 13,680         | 17                    |
| 25 to 34   | 39,780         | 17                    | 18,020         | 16                    | 21,760         | 18                    |
| 35 to 44   | 52,660         | 21                    | 24,540         | 20                    | 28,120         | 22                    |
| 45 to 54   | 52,100         | 25                    | 26,240         | 26                    | 25,860         | 25                    |
| 55 to 59   | 32,560         | 35                    | 16,620         | 36                    | 15,940         | 33                    |
| 60 to 64   | 15,380         | 41                    | 15,380         | 41                    | .              | .                     |

## 1.2 Family Type

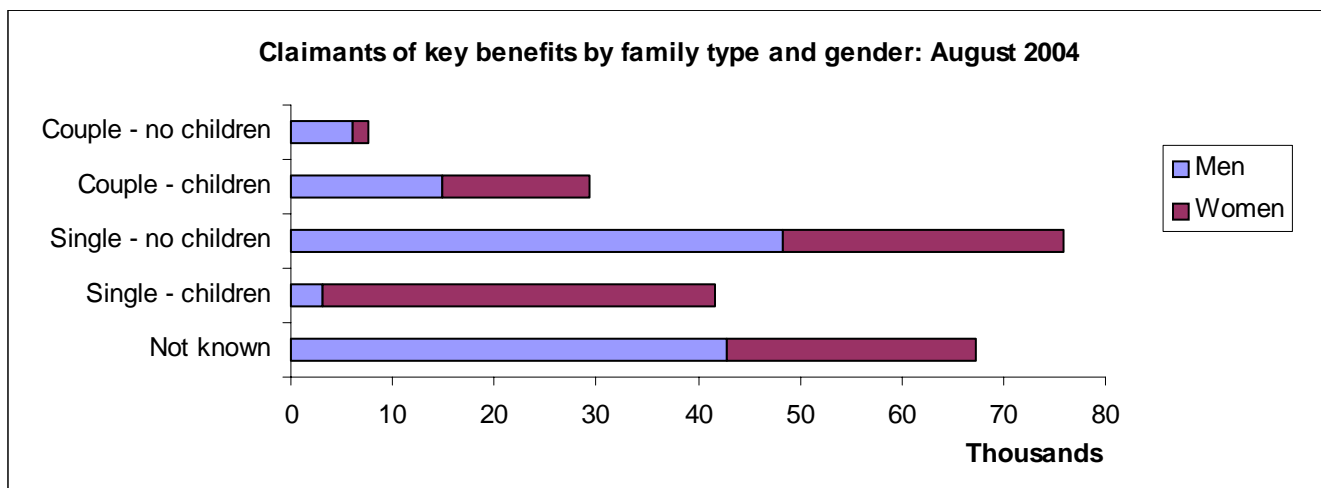
This section contains analyses of the type of family in which claimants live. Family type was assigned according to whether the claimant had a partner and/or children. It was not possible to assign a family type in every case (Not known).

**Table 1.2.1 Claimants of key benefits by family type<sup>1</sup> and gender: August 2004**

|                      | All            | %   | Men            | %   | Women          | %   |
|----------------------|----------------|-----|----------------|-----|----------------|-----|
| <b>All</b>           | <b>221,760</b> | 100 | <b>115,100</b> | 100 | <b>106,660</b> | 100 |
| <b>All couples</b>   | <b>36,880</b>  | 17  | <b>20,800</b>  | 18  | <b>16,080</b>  | 15  |
| Couple - no children | 7,560          | 3   | 6,000          | 5   | 1,560          | 1   |
| Couple - children    | 29,320         | 13  | 14,800         | 13  | 14,520         | 14  |
| <b>All single</b>    | <b>117,500</b> | 53  | <b>51,440</b>  | 45  | <b>66,060</b>  | 62  |
| Single - no children | 75,820         | 34  | 48,260         | 42  | 27,560         | 26  |
| Single - children    | 41,680         | 19  | 3,180          | 3   | 38,500         | 36  |
| <b>Not known</b>     | <b>67,380</b>  | 30  | <b>42,860</b>  | 37  | <b>24,520</b>  | 23  |

<sup>1</sup> See Methodology for further details

- 117,500 claimants were single in August 2004.
- 32% (71,000) of claimants had children. The majority of claimants with children (41,680) were single.
- **The methodology used to assign information about children's details has been revised following the introduction of CTC in April 2003.**



**Table 1.2.2 Claimants of key benefits by family type<sup>1</sup> and statistical group:  
August 2004**

|                      | All            | Unemployed    | Sick & Disabled | Lone Parent   | Other        |
|----------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| <b>All</b>           | <b>221,760</b> | <b>31,220</b> | <b>154,380</b>  | <b>26,400</b> | <b>9,760</b> |
| <b>All couples</b>   | <b>36,880</b>  | <b>3,460</b>  | <b>31,500</b>   | .             | <b>1,920</b> |
| Couple - no children | 7,560          | 1,380         | 5,620           | .             | 560          |
| Couple - children    | 29,320         | 2,080         | 25,880          | .             | 1,360        |
| <b>All single</b>    | <b>117,500</b> | <b>27,760</b> | <b>55,500</b>   | <b>26,400</b> | <b>7,840</b> |
| Single - no children | 75,820         | 25,960        | 42,020          | .             | 7,840        |
| Single - children    | 41,680         | 1,800         | 13,480          | 26,400        | .            |
| <b>Not known</b>     | <b>67,380</b>  | .             | <b>67,380</b>   | .             | .            |

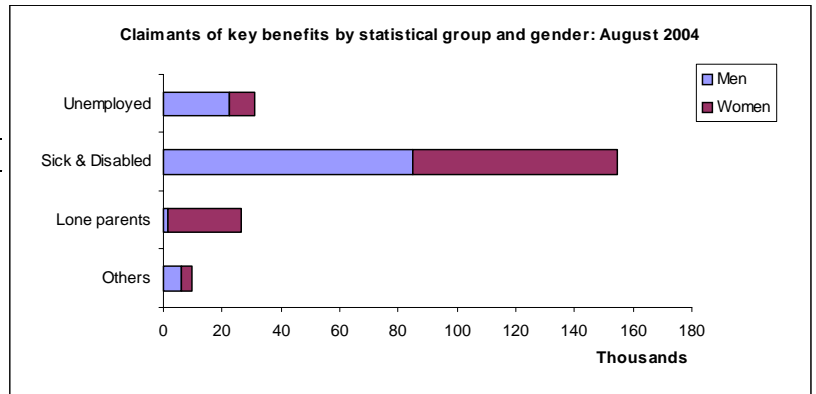
<sup>1</sup> See Methodology for further details

### 1.3 Statistical group and transitions

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

**Table 1.3.1 Claimants of key benefits by statistical group and gender: August 2004**

|                 | All            | Men            | Women          |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>All</b>      | <b>221,760</b> | <b>115,100</b> | <b>106,660</b> |
| Unemployed      | 31,220         | 22,460         | 8,760          |
| Sick & Disabled | 154,380        | 85,100         | 69,280         |
| Lone parents    | 26,400         | 1,400          | 25,000         |
| Others          | 9,760          | 6,140          | 3,620          |



- The overall numbers fell by 5,140 between August 2001 and August 2004, mostly because of the unemployed group which fell by 8,400 (21%) over this period.
- Sick & disabled claimants were consistently the largest group between August 2001 and August 2004, rising from 63% of the total to 70% of the total; unemployed claimants were the second largest group.
- The size of the sick & disabled group rose by 10,440 (up 7%) between August 2001 and August 2004, whilst numbers in the lone parents group fell by 4,960 (down 16%) over the same period.

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

|                 | Aug-01         |                       | Aug-02         |                       | Aug-03         |                       | Aug-04         |                       |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
|                 | All            | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | All            | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | All            | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | All            | % of pop <sup>1</sup> |
| <b>All</b>      | <b>226,900</b> | <b>22</b>             | <b>226,980</b> | <b>22</b>             | <b>230,760</b> | <b>22</b>             | <b>221,760</b> | <b>21</b>             |
| Unemployed      | 39,620         | 4                     | 36,500         | 4                     | 36,800         | 4                     | 31,220         | 3                     |
| Sick & Disabled | 143,940        | 14                    | 148,460        | 14                    | 153,280        | 15                    | 154,380        | 15                    |
| Lone parents    | 31,360         | 3                     | 29,600         | 3                     | 28,660         | 3                     | 26,400         | 3                     |
| Others          | 11,980         | 1                     | 12,420         | 1                     | 12,020         | 1                     | 9,760          | 1                     |

<sup>1</sup> Population of working age in Northern Ireland - see Methodology

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

**Table 1.3.3 Claimants of key benefits by status in previous year: August 2001 to August 2004**

|               | <u>On benefit in current year - status in previous year<sup>1</sup></u> |                        |                             |                | Left benefit since previous year <sup>2</sup> |
|---------------|---|------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|---|
|               | All   | Same statistical group | Different statistical group | Not on benefit |   |
| <b>Aug-01</b> | <b>226,900</b>  | .                      | .                           | .              | .   |
| <b>Aug-02</b> | <b>226,980</b>  | 171,460                | 14,320                      | 41,200         | 41,120  |
| <b>Aug-03</b> | <b>230,760</b>  | 175,220                | 13,820                      | 41,720         | 37,940  |
| <b>Aug-04</b> | <b>221,760</b>  | 175,460                | 11,700                      | 34,600         | 43,600  |

<sup>1</sup> Some claimants may have left benefit and then returned to it between years

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

**Table 1.3.4 Claimants of key benefits in August 2004 - by status in August 2001**

| Benefit status in August 2004 | All on benefit in August 2004 | Benefit status in August 2001 |                        |                             |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                               |                               | Not on benefit                | Same statistical group | Different statistical group |
| <b>All</b>                    | <b>221,760</b>                | <b>64,980</b>                 | <b>137,460</b>         | <b>19,320</b>               |
| Unemployed                    | 31,220                        | 18,620                        | 9,460                  | 3,140                       |
| Sick & Disabled               | 154,380                       | 36,080                        | 106,260                | 12,040                      |
| Lone Parents                  | 26,400                        | 7,300                         | 17,620                 | 1,480                       |
| Others                        | 9,760                         | 2,980                         | 4,120                  | 2,660                       |

- Around 71% (156,780) of key benefit claimants in August 2004 were also on benefit in August 2001; 62% of the overall total were in the same statistical group.

## 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, income assessment or by another route. Many of those in the sick and disabled group received more than one benefit.

**Table 1.4.1 Claimants of key benefits by statistical group and type of benefit: August 2004**

|                 | All            | Income replacement benefits <sup>1</sup> | Other benefits only <sup>2</sup> | NI Credits <sup>3</sup> |
|-----------------|----------------|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>All</b>      | <b>221,760</b> | 190,040                                  | 25,820                           | 5,900                   |
| Unemployed      | <b>31,220</b>  | 28,540                                   | .                                | 2,680                   |
| Sick & Disabled | <b>154,380</b> | 125,340                                  | 25,820                           | 3,220                   |
| Lone parents    | <b>26,400</b>  | 26,400                                   | .                                | .                       |
| Others          | <b>9,760</b>   | 9,760                                    | .                                | .                       |

<sup>1</sup> Income replacement benefits are JSA (excluding credits), IS, IB (excluding credits), SDA

<sup>2</sup> Other is DLA

<sup>3</sup> NI Credits includes JSA credits only, JSA credits and IB credits, JSA credits with DLA, IB credits only

- In August 2004, 190,040 claimants received an income replacement benefit, down from 202,060 in August 2001.
- In August 2004, 62,180 claimants received only a contributory benefit.
- 124,900 claimants received a benefit that was income related in August 2004. Of those 110,960 claimants received a benefit that was income related whilst 13,940 claimants in receipt of a income related benefit also received or satisfied the qualifying conditions for a contributory benefit.

**Table 1.4.2 Claimants of key benefits by statistical group and main basis of entitlement: August 2004**

|                 | Basis of benefit entitlement |                           |  |                             |                    |                         |
|-----------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
|                 | All                          | Contributory <sup>1</sup> | Contributory and income related <sup>2</sup> | Income related <sup>3</sup> | Other <sup>4</sup> | NI Credits <sup>5</sup> |
| <b>All</b>      | <b>221,760</b>               | 62,180                    | 13,940                                       | 110,960                     | 28,780             | 5,900                   |
| Unemployed      | <b>31,220</b>                | 4,820                     | 120  | 23,600                      | .                  | 2,680                   |
| Sick & Disabled | <b>154,380</b>               | 57,360                    | 13,820                                       | 51,200                      | 28,780             | 3,220                   |
| Lone Parents    | <b>26,400</b>                | .                         | .  | 26,400                      | .                  | .                       |
| Others          | <b>9,760</b>                 | .                         | .  | 9,760                       | .                  | .                       |

<sup>1</sup> Contributory benefits are contribution-based JSA, IB and not with IS

<sup>2</sup> 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

<sup>3</sup> Means tested benefits are income based JSA, IS

<sup>4</sup> Other benefits are SDA, DLA

<sup>5</sup> NI Credits includes JSA credits only, JSA credits and IB credits, JSA credits with DLA, IB credits only

## 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: August 2004**

|                 | All            | Duration of oldest claim <sup>1</sup> |                     |                          |                         |                 |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
|                 |                | Under 3 months                        | 3 to under 6 months | 6 months to under 1 year | 1 year to under 2 years | 2 years or over |
| <b>All</b>      | <b>221,760</b> | <b>18,020</b>                         | <b>12,620</b>       | <b>19,000</b>            | <b>28,440</b>           | <b>143,680</b>  |
| Unemployed      | <b>31,220</b>  | 12,080                                | 4,880               | 4,980                    | 4,480                   | 4,800           |
| Sick & Disabled | <b>154,380</b> | 3,860                                 | 5,600               | 11,000                   | 19,140                  | 114,780         |
| Lone parents    | <b>26,400</b>  | 880                                   | 1,040               | 2,020                    | 3,640                   | 18,820          |
| Others          | <b>9,760</b>   | 1,200                                 | 1,100               | 1,000                    | 1,180                   | 5,280           |

<sup>1</sup> Oldest benefit payable during current spell of benefit receipt

- Around 65% (143,680) of the claimants in August 2004 had been receiving a key benefit for 2 years or more.
- Of those longer duration claimants 80% (114,780) 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 15% of those in the unemployed group.

## 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 dependants<sup>1</sup> by statistical group: August 2004**

|                 | All            | All with children | Age of youngest child/dependant <sup>3</sup> |               |                |              | Not known <sup>24</sup> |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|--|---------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------------|
|                 |                |                   | Under 5                                      | 5 to under 11 | 11 to under 16 | 16 or over   |                         |
| <b>All</b>      | <b>221,760</b> | <b>71,980</b>     | <b>23,660</b>                                | <b>23,260</b> | <b>16,020</b>  | <b>7,920</b> | <b>1,120</b>            |
| Unemployed      | 31,220         | <b>3,880</b>      | 1,200  | 880           | 840            | 900          | -                       |
| Sick & Disabled | 154,380        | <b>40,340</b>     | 10,420                                       | 12,180        | 10,360         | 6,320        | 1,060                   |
| Lone parents    | 26,400         | <b>26,400</b>     | 11,620                                       | 9,580         | 4,680          | 520          | .                       |
| Others          | 9,760          | <b>1,360</b>      | 420  | 620           | 140            | 180          | .                       |

<sup>1</sup> Children aged under 16 and young adults aged 16 to 18

<sup>2</sup> Children whose ages are not known

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

<sup>4</sup> Numbers less than 100 are not disclosed due to DSD customer confidentiality policy

- In August 2004, 71,980 claimants of key benefits had children and/or young dependants.
- 33% (23,660) 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 Children<sup>1</sup> of claimants of key benefits by age of child, statistical group and family type: August 2004**

|                 | Children aged under 16 years <sup>23</sup> |                            |               |               |              | Young dependants aged 16 to 18 years <sup>3</sup> |   |               |              |           |
|-----------------|--|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---|---|---------------|--------------|-----------|
|                 | 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 |
| <b>All</b>      | <b>119,600</b>                             | <b>31</b>                  | <b>49,100</b> | <b>68,900</b> | <b>1,600</b> | <b>19,640</b>                                     | <b>41</b>   | <b>10,900</b> | <b>8,740</b> | <b>.</b>  |
| Unemployed      | <b>5,800</b>                               | <b>1</b>                   | 3,640         | 2,160         | .            | <b>1,520</b>                                      | <b>3</b>  | 840           | 680          | .         |
| Sick & Disabled | <b>63,960</b>                              | <b>16</b>                  | 42,720        | 19,640        | 1,600        | <b>13,780</b>                                     | <b>29</b>   | 9,620         | 4,160        | .         |
| Lone Parents    | <b>47,100</b>                              | <b>12</b>                  | .             | 47,100        | .            | <b>3,900</b>                                      | <b>8</b>  | .             | 3,900        | .         |
| Others          | <b>2,740</b>                               | <b>1</b>                   | 2,740         | 0             | .            | <b>440</b>  | <b>1</b>  | 440           | 0            | .         |

<sup>1</sup> Children aged under 16 and young adults aged 16 - 18

<sup>2</sup> Includes a small percentage of children whose age is not known

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

- In August 2004, 119,600 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.
- 19,640 young people aged 16 -18 (41% of all 16 - 18 year olds in full-time education) were living in families with a key benefit claimant.
- **The methodology used to assign information about children's details has been revised following the introduction of CTC in April 2003.**

## 1.8 Regional Analysis

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

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

|   | Thousands    |                       |              |                       |              |                       |
|---|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
|   | All          |                       | Men          |                       | Women        |                       |
|   | (000s)       | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | (000s)       | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | (000s)       | % of pop <sup>1</sup> |
| <b>Great Britain</b>                        | <b>4,824</b> | <b>14</b>             | <b>2,489</b> | <b>13</b>             | <b>2,335</b> | <b>14</b>             |
| England                                     | 3,965        | 13                    | 2,035        | 13                    | 1,930        | 13                    |
| North East                                  | 288          | 18                    | 153          | 19                    | 135          | 18                    |
| North West                                  | 708          | 17                    | 372          | 17                    | 335          | 17                    |
| Yorkshire & the Humber                      | 436          | 14                    | 232          | 15                    | 203          | 14                    |
| East Midlands                               | 315          | 12                    | 163          | 12                    | 152          | 12                    |
| West Midlands                               | 465          | 14                    | 240          | 14                    | 224          | 15                    |
| East  | 325          | 10                    | 161          | 9                     | 164          | 10                    |
| London                                      | 693          | 14                    | 337          | 13                    | 355          | 15                    |
| South East                                  | 427          | 9                     | 215          | 8                     | 212          | 9                     |
| South West                                  | 311          | 10                    | 162          | 10                    | 149          | 10                    |
| Wales                                       | 322          | 18                    | 168          | 19                    | 154          | 18                    |
| Scotland                                    | 537          | 17                    | 286          | 18                    | 251          | 16                    |
| <b>Northern Ireland</b>                     | <b>222</b>   | <b>21</b>             | <b>115</b>   | <b>21</b>             | <b>107</b>   | <b>21</b>             |
| IB/SDA claimants living abroad <sup>2</sup> | 11           | .                     | 7            | .                     | 4            | .                     |

<sup>1</sup> Population of working age

<sup>2</sup> 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 (20%). 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% (Magherafelt).

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

|                         | All            |                       | Men            |                       | Women          |                       |
|-------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
|                         |                | % of pop <sup>1</sup> |                | % of pop <sup>1</sup> |                | % of pop <sup>1</sup> |
| <b>Northern Ireland</b> | <b>221,760</b> | <b>21</b>             | <b>115,100</b> | <b>21</b>             | <b>106,660</b> | <b>21</b>             |
| Ards                    | 7,160          | 15                    | 3,520          | 17                    | 3,640          | 25                    |
| Belfast                 | 48,020         | 29                    | 25,800         | 31                    | 22,220         | 26                    |
| Castlereagh             | 5,720          | 15                    | 2,940          | 15                    | 2,780          | 14                    |
| Down                    | 7,620          | 19                    | 4,320          | 21                    | 3,300          | 17                    |
| Lisburn                 | 11,440         | 17                    | 5,420          | 16                    | 6,020          | 18                    |
| North Down              | 6,000          | 13                    | 3,340          | 14                    | 2,660          | 12                    |
| Antrim                  | 5,140          | 17                    | 2,640          | 16                    | 2,500          | 17                    |
| Ballymena               | 5,520          | 15                    | 2,740          | 15                    | 2,780          | 16                    |
| Ballymoney              | 3,020          | 18                    | 1,640          | 19                    | 1,380          | 17                    |
| Carrickfergus           | 3,980          | 17                    | 1,840          | 15                    | 2,140          | 18                    |
| Coleraine               | 6,380          | 19                    | 3,400          | 20                    | 2,980          | 18                    |
| Cookstown               | 4,960          | 24                    | 2,720          | 25                    | 2,240          | 23                    |
| Larne                   | 3,260          | 17                    | 1,700          | 17                    | 1,560          | 17                    |
| Magherafelt             | 4,080          | 16                    | 1,880          | 14                    | 2,200          | 19                    |
| Moyle                   | 2,120          | 22                    | 1,300          | 25                    | 820            | 18                    |
| Newtownabbey            | 8,360          | 17                    | 4,000          | 16                    | 4,360          | 18                    |
| Armagh                  | 5,640          | 17                    | 3,220          | 18                    | 2,420          | 15                    |
| Banbridge               | 3,800          | 14                    | 1,780          | 13                    | 2,020          | 16                    |
| Craigavon               | 11,540         | 23                    | 5,280          | 20                    | 6,260          | 26                    |
| Dungannon               | 6,960          | 24                    | 3,700          | 24                    | 3,260          | 24                    |
| Newry & Mourne          | 12,640         | 23                    | 6,900          | 25                    | 5,740          | 22                    |
| Derry                   | 20,540         | 31                    | 10,280         | 31                    | 10,260         | 32                    |
| Fermanagh               | 7,100          | 20                    | 3,800          | 20                    | 3,300          | 20                    |
| Limavady                | 4,340          | 21                    | 2,120          | 19                    | 2,220          | 23                    |
| Omagh                   | 6,820          | 22                    | 3,880          | 24                    | 2,940          | 20                    |
| Strabane                | 7,300          | 31                    | 4,000          | 32                    | 3,300          | 30                    |
| Unknown                 | 2,300          | .                     | 940            | .                     | 1,360          | .                     |

<sup>1</sup> Population of working age in Northern Ireland

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

|                         |                       | Statistical group |               |                    |               |              |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------|
|                         |                       | All               | Unemployed    | Sick &<br>Disabled | Lone parents  | Others       |
| <b>Northern Ireland</b> |                       | <b>221,760</b>    | <b>31,220</b> | <b>154,380</b>     | <b>26,400</b> | <b>9,760</b> |
|                         | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | <b>21</b>         | <b>3</b>      | <b>15</b>          | <b>3</b>      | <b>1</b>     |
| Ards                    |                       | <b>7,160</b>      | 1,000         | 5,380              | 580           | 200          |
|                         | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | <b>15</b>         | 2             | 12                 | 1             | 0            |
| Belfast                 |                       | <b>48,020</b>     | 7,340         | 30,660             | 7,080         | 2,940        |
|                         | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | <b>29</b>         | 4             | 18                 | 4             | 2            |
| Castlereagh             |                       | <b>5,720</b>      | 820           | 4,260              | 500           | 140          |
|                         | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | <b>15</b>         | 2             | 11                 | 1             | 0            |
| Down                    |                       | <b>7,620</b>      | 1,160         | 5,460              | 800           | 200          |
|                         | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | <b>19</b>         | 3             | 14                 | 2             | 1            |
| Lisburn                 |                       | <b>11,440</b>     | 1,500         | 7,840              | 1,860         | 240          |
|                         | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | <b>17</b>         | 2             | 12                 | 3             | 0            |
| North Down              |                       | <b>6,000</b>      | 1,060         | 4,300              | 500           | 140          |
|                         | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | <b>13</b>         | 2             | 9                  | 1             | 0            |
| Antrim                  |                       | <b>5,140</b>      | 780           | 3,720              | 480           | 160          |
|                         | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | <b>17</b>         | 3             | 12                 | 2             | 1            |
| Ballymena               |                       | <b>5,520</b>      | 600           | 4,100              | 640           | 180          |
|                         | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | <b>15</b>         | 2             | 11                 | 2             | 0            |
| Ballymoney              |                       | <b>3,020</b>      | 340           | 2,160              | 380           | 140          |
|                         | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | <b>18</b>         | 2             | 13                 | 2             | 1            |
| Carrickfergus           |                       | <b>3,980</b>      | 520           | 2,920              | 480           | 60           |
|                         | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | <b>17</b>         | 2             | 12                 | 2             | 0            |
| Coleraine               |                       | <b>6,380</b>      | 1,480         | 4,000              | 660           | 240          |
|                         | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | <b>19</b>         | 4             | 12                 | 2             | 1            |
| Cookstown               |                       | <b>4,960</b>      | 340           | 4,000              | 420           | 200          |
|                         | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | <b>24</b>         | 2             | 20                 | 2             | 1            |
| Larne                   |                       | <b>3,260</b>      | 400           | 2,440              | 320           | 100          |
|                         | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | <b>17</b>         | 2             | 13                 | 2             | 1            |
| Magherafelt             |                       | <b>4,080</b>      | 360           | 3,200              | 360           | 160          |
|                         | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | <b>16</b>         | 1             | 13                 | 1             | 1            |
| Moyle                   |                       | <b>2,120</b>      | 360           | 1,220              | 320           | 220          |
|                         | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | <b>22</b>         | 4             | 12                 | 3             | 2            |
| Newtownabbey            |                       | <b>8,360</b>      | 960           | 6,000              | 1,180         | 220          |
|                         | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | <b>17</b>         | 2             | 12                 | 2             | 0            |
| Armagh                  |                       | <b>5,640</b>      | 780           | 4,340              | 400           | 120          |
|                         | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | <b>17</b>         | 2             | 13                 | 1             | 0            |
| Banbridge               |                       | <b>3,800</b>      | 500           | 2,920              | 300           | 80           |
|                         | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | <b>14</b>         | 2             | 11                 | 1             | 0            |
| Craigavon               |                       | <b>11,540</b>     | 1,220         | 8,680              | 1,100         | 540          |
|                         | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | <b>23</b>         | 2             | 17                 | 2             | 1            |
| Dungannon               |                       | <b>6,960</b>      | 640           | 5,340              | 640           | 340          |
|                         | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | <b>24</b>         | 2             | 18                 | 2             | 1            |
| Newry & Mourne          |                       | <b>12,640</b>     | 1,560         | 8,940              | 1,340         | 800          |
|                         | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | <b>23</b>         | 3             | 16                 | 2             | 1            |
| Derry                   |                       | <b>20,540</b>     | 3,360         | 12,700             | 3,240         | 1,240        |
|                         | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | <b>31</b>         | 5             | 19                 | 5             | 2            |
| Fermanagh               |                       | <b>7,100</b>      | 1,400         | 4,740              | 620           | 340          |
|                         | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | <b>20</b>         | 4             | 13                 | 2             | 1            |
| Limavady                |                       | <b>4,340</b>      | 540           | 3,020              | 580           | 200          |
|                         | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | <b>21</b>         | 3             | 14                 | 3             | 1            |
| Omagh                   |                       | <b>6,820</b>      | 720           | 5,260              | 560           | 280          |
|                         | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | <b>22</b>         | 2             | 17                 | 2             | 1            |
| Strabane                |                       | <b>7,300</b>      | 1,300         | 5,000              | 780           | 220          |
|                         | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | <b>31</b>         | 6             | 21                 | 3             | 1            |
| Unknown                 |                       | <b>2,300</b>      | 180           | 1,780              | 280           | 60           |

<sup>1</sup>Population of working age of Northern Ireland



## Section 2 : Families with Children on Key Benefits

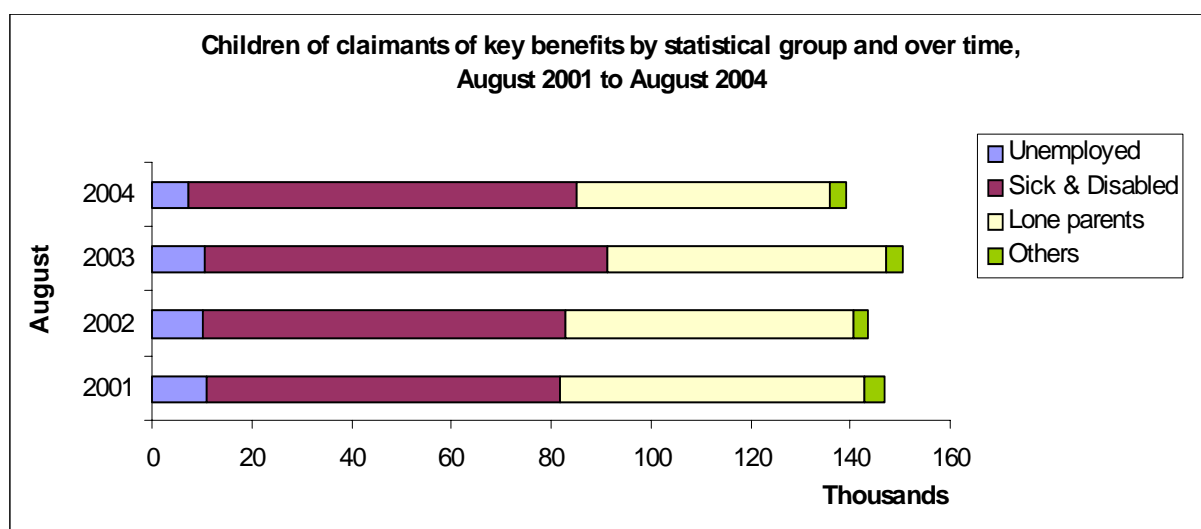
### 2.1 Children

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

|                               | Number of children <sup>1</sup> |            |                |            |                |            |                |            |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|
|                               | Aug-01                          | %          | Aug-02         | %          | Aug-03         | %          | Aug-04         | %          |
| <b>All statistical groups</b> | <b>146,880</b>                  | <b>100</b> | <b>143,720</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>150,640</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>139,240</b> | <b>100</b> |
| Unemployed                    | 11,080                          | 8          | 10,080         | 7          | 10,760         | 7          | 7,320          | 5          |
| Sick & Disabled               | 70,860                          | 48         | 72,700         | 51         | 80,700         | 54         | 77,740         | 56         |
| Lone parents                  | 60,980                          | 42         | 57,680         | 40         | 55,580         | 37         | 51,000         | 37         |
| Others                        | 3,960                           | 3          | 3,260          | 2          | 3,600          | 2          | 3,180          | 2          |

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

- At August 2004, 139,240 children were living in families claiming a key benefit. The total number of children in families claiming a key benefit was down by 5% (7,640) from August 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.



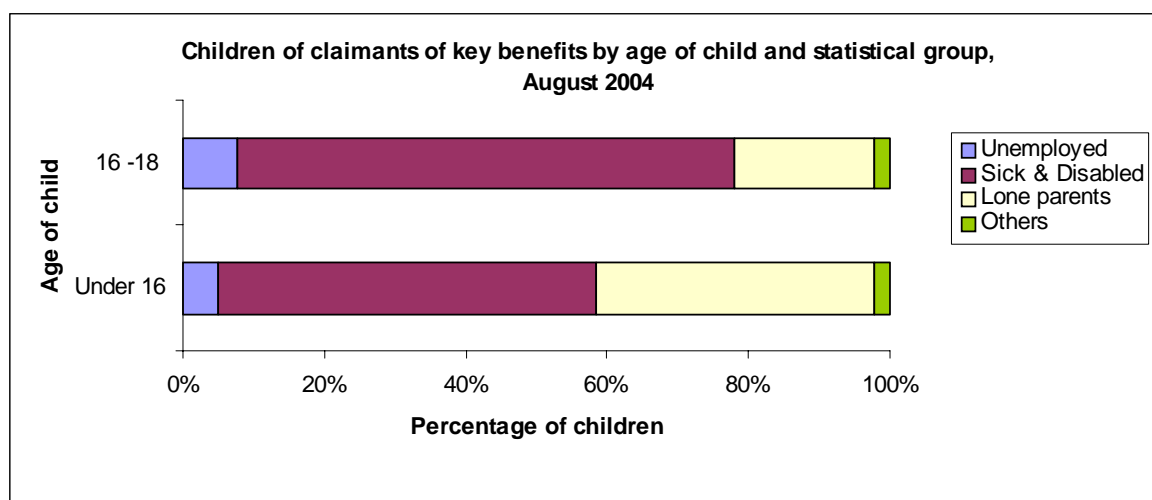
**Table 2.1.2 Children<sup>1</sup> of claimants of key benefits by statistical group and family type: August 2004**

|                               | Children aged under 16 years <sup>2</sup> |                     |               |               |              | 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 |
| <b>All statistical groups</b> | <b>119,600</b>                            | <b>31</b>           | <b>49,100</b> | <b>68,900</b> | <b>1,600</b> | <b>19,640</b>                              | <b>41</b>                                 | <b>10,900</b> | <b>8,740</b> | <b>.</b>  |
| Unemployed                    | 5,800                                     | 1                   | 3,640         | 2,160         | .            | 1,520                                      | 3   | 840           | 680          | .         |
| Sick & Disabled               | 63,960                                    | 16                  | 42,720        | 19,640        | 1,600        | 13,780                                     | 29  | 9,620         | 4,160        | .         |
| Lone parents                  | 47,100                                    | 12                  | .             | 47,100        | .            | 3,900                                      | 8   | .             | 3,900        | .         |
| Others                        | 2,740                                     | 1                   | 2,740         | 0             | .            | 440  | 1   | 440           | 0            | .         |

<sup>1</sup> 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

<sup>2</sup> 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 August 2004 whilst the proportion of 16 - 18 year olds was 41% of all 16 - 18 year olds in full-time education.



**Table 2.1.3 Children<sup>1</sup> of claimants of key benefits by statistical group and age of child: August 2004**

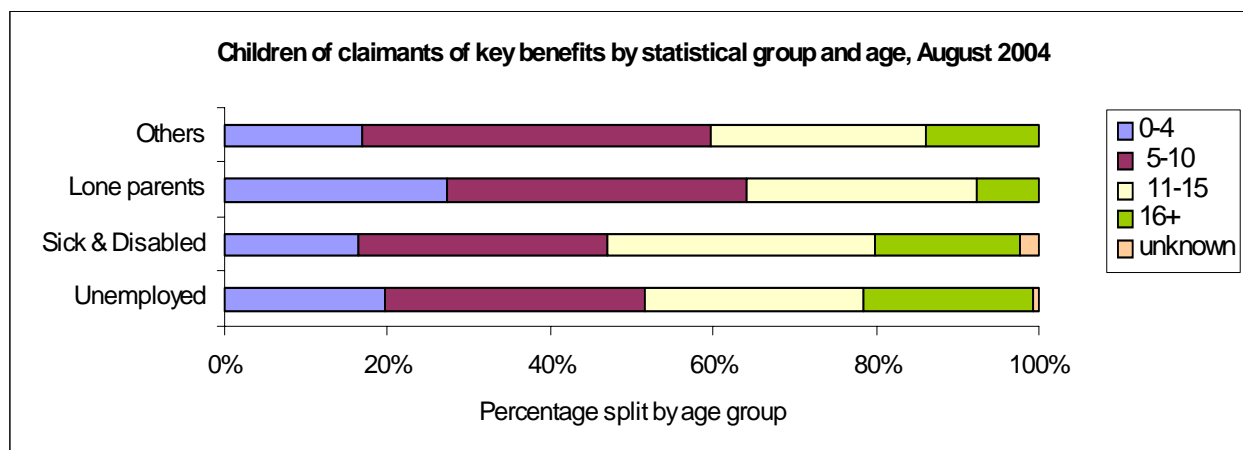
|                               | Number of children/dependants |            |               |           |               |           |                |           |               |           |                         |          |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|---------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|-------------------------|----------|
|                               | All ages                      | %          | Under 5       | %         | 5 to under 11 | %         | 11 to under 16 | %         | 16 or over    | %         | Not known <sup>23</sup> | %        |
| <b>All statistical groups</b> | <b>139,240</b>                | <b>100</b> | <b>28,680</b> | <b>21</b> | <b>46,180</b> | <b>33</b> | <b>42,860</b>  | <b>31</b> | <b>19,640</b> | <b>14</b> | <b>1,880</b>            | <b>1</b> |
| Unemployed                    | 7,320                         | 100        | 1,440         | 20        | 2,340         | 32        | 1,960          | 27        | 1,520         | 21        | -                       | -        |
| Sick & Disabled               | 77,740                        | 100        | 12,740        | 16        | 23,780        | 31        | 25,620         | 33        | 13,780        | 18        | 1,820                   | 2        |
| Lone parents                  | 51,000                        | 100        | 13,960        | 27        | 18,700        | 37        | 14,440         | 28        | 3,900         | 8         | .                       | 0        |
| Others                        | 3,180                         | 100        | 540           | 17        | 1,360         | 43        | 840            | 26        | 440           | 14        | .                       | 0        |

<sup>1</sup> 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

<sup>2</sup> Children whose ages are not known

<sup>3</sup> 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 64% aged under 11.



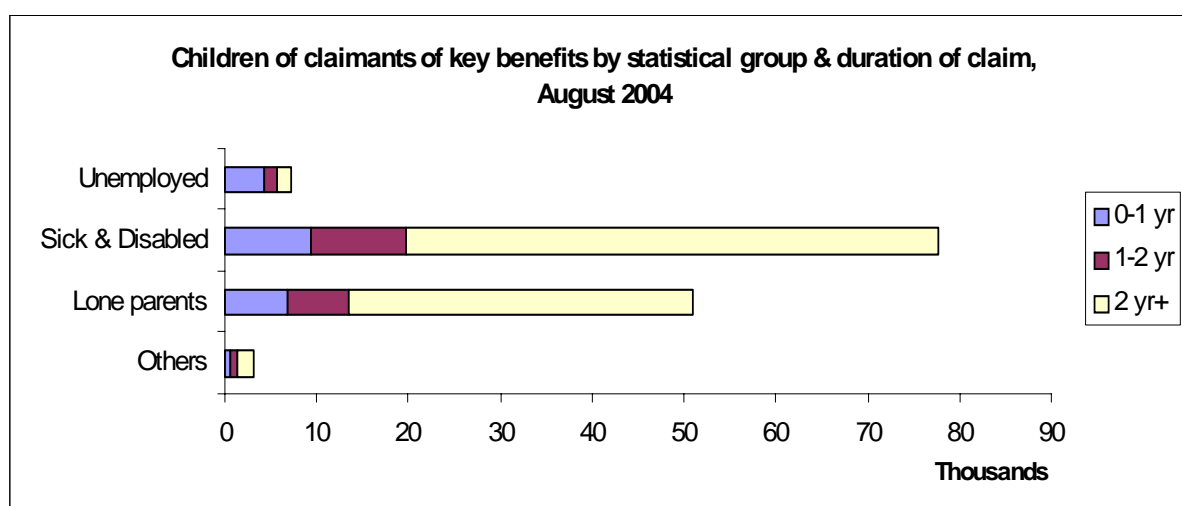
**Table 2.1.4 Children<sup>1</sup> of claimants of key benefits by statistical group and duration of claim: August 2004**

|                               | Duration of oldest claim <sup>2</sup> |            |                |          |                     |          |                          |          |                    |           |                  |           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|----------------|----------|---------------------|----------|--------------------------|----------|--------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|
|                               | 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 | %         |
| <b>All statistical groups</b> | <b>139,240</b>                        | <b>100</b> | <b>5,260</b>   | <b>4</b> | <b>6,120</b>        | <b>4</b> | <b>9,960</b>             | <b>7</b> | <b>18,720</b>      | <b>13</b> | <b>99,180</b>    | <b>71</b> |
| Unemployed                    | 7,320                                 | 100        | 2,080          | 28       | 1,160               | 16       | 1,140                    | 16       | 1,200              | 16        | 1,740            | 24        |
| Sick & Disabled               | 77,740                                | 100        | 1,440          | 2        | 2,960               | 4        | 5,000                    | 6        | 10,400             | 13        | 57,940           | 75        |
| Lone parents                  | 51,000                                | 100        | 1,540          | 3        | 1,780               | 3        | 3,560                    | 7        | 6,520              | 13        | 37,600           | 74        |
| Others                        | 3,180                                 | 100        | 200            | 6        | 220                 | 7        | 260                      | 8        | 600                | 19        | 1,900            | 60        |

<sup>1</sup> 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

<sup>2</sup> Oldest benefit payable during current spell of benefit receipt

- 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 24%.
- Of those children in families classed as unemployed 60% had been on benefit for less than a year.



**Table 2.1.5 Children<sup>1</sup> of claimants of key benefits by district council: August 2004**

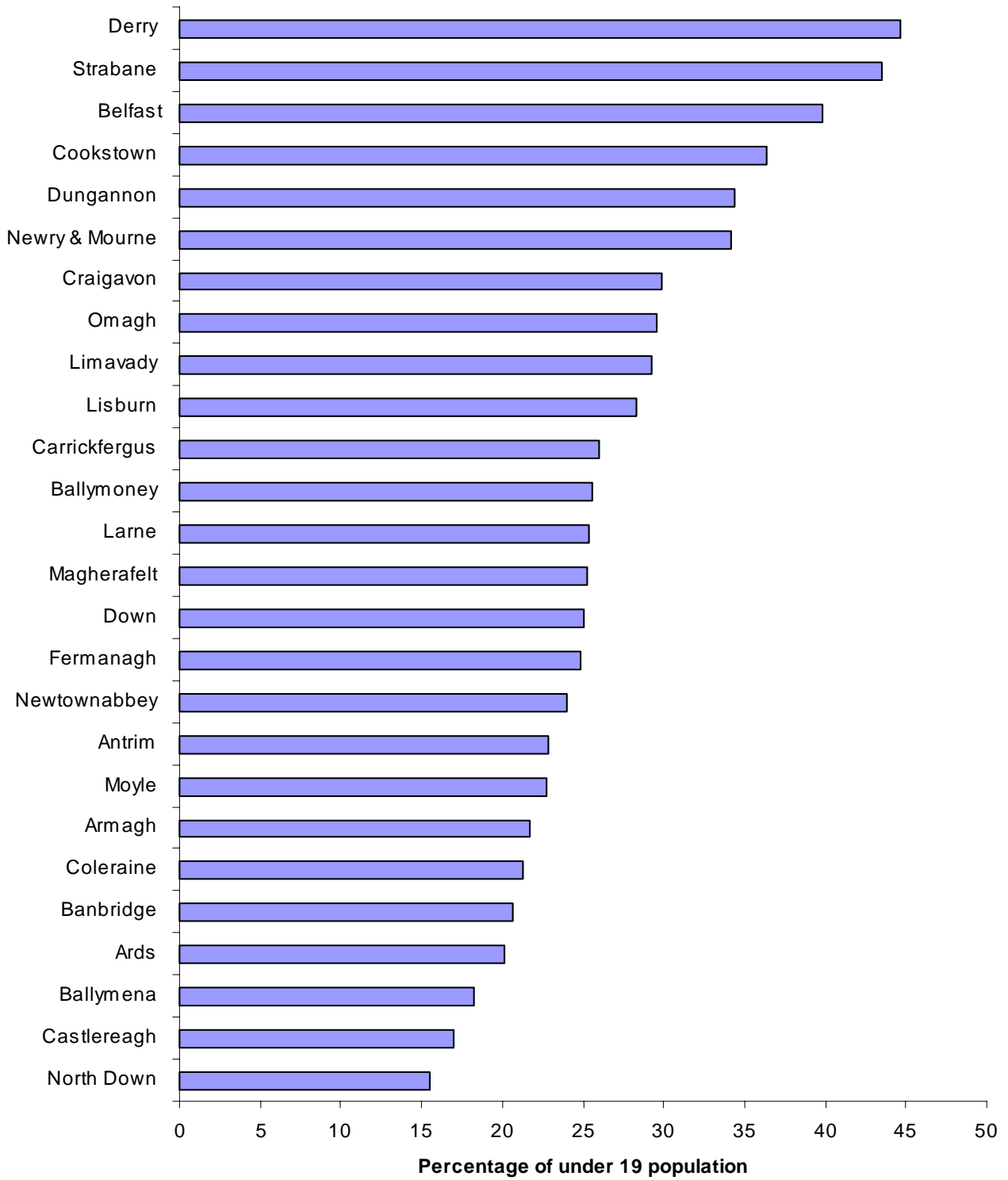
|                         | Number of children | % of population <sup>2</sup> |
|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Northern Ireland</b> | <b>139,240</b>     | <b>30</b>                    |
| Ards                    | 3,700              | 20                           |
| Belfast                 | 27,920             | 40                           |
| Castlereagh             | 2,780              | 17                           |
| Down                    | 4,700              | 25                           |
| Lisburn                 | 8,840              | 28                           |
| North Down              | 2,800              | 16                           |
| Antrim                  | 3,160              | 23                           |
| Ballymena               | 2,820              | 18                           |
| Ballymoney              | 1,960              | 26                           |
| Carrickfergus           | 2,620              | 26                           |
| Coleraine               | 3,160              | 21                           |
| Cookstown               | 3,640              | 36                           |
| Larne                   | 1,980              | 25                           |
| Magherafelt             | 3,120              | 25                           |
| Moyle                   | 1,020              | 23                           |
| Newtownabbey            | 4,940              | 24                           |
| Armagh                  | 3,520              | 22                           |
| Banbridge               | 2,440              | 21                           |
| Craigavon               | 6,940              | 30                           |
| Dungannon               | 4,980              | 34                           |
| Newry & Mourne          | 9,440              | 34                           |
| Derry                   | 14,860             | 45                           |
| Fermanagh               | 4,080              | 25                           |
| Limavady                | 2,920              | 29                           |
| Omagh                   | 4,360              | 30                           |
| Strabane                | 5,040              | 44                           |
| Unknown                 | 1,500              | .                            |

<sup>1</sup> 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

<sup>2</sup> 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 45% in Derry to 16% in North Down.

### Children on key benefits by District Council



**Table 2.1.6 Children<sup>1</sup> of claimants of combinations of key benefits: August 2004**

|                         | Number of children | % of population <sup>2</sup> |
|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>All combinations</b> | <b>139,240</b>     | <b>32</b>                    |
| IS only                 | 57,920             | 13                           |
| IB only                 | 16,100             | 4                            |
| JSA only                | 7,180              | 2                            |
| IS, IB & DLA            | 10,360             | 2                            |
| DLA only                | 12,900             | 3                            |
| IB & DLA                | 12,820             | 3                            |
| IS & DLA                | 10,900             | 3                            |
| IS & IB                 | 8,880              | 2                            |
| IS, DLA & SDA           | 940                | 0                            |
| DLA & SDA               | 780                | 0                            |
| IS & SDA                | 160                | 0                            |
| DLA & JSA               | 100                | 0                            |
| SDA only                | 160                | 0                            |
| Others <sup>34</sup>    | -                  | 0                            |

<sup>1</sup> 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

<sup>2</sup> Population aged under 16 plus population aged 16-18 in full-time education

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

<sup>4</sup> Numbers less than 100 are not disclosed due to DSD customer confidentiality policy

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

## 2.2 Families

**Table 2.2.1 Families<sup>1</sup> on key benefits by statistical group and duration of claim: August 2004**

|                               | Duration of oldest claim <sup>2</sup> |            |                |          |                     |          |                          |          |                    |           |                  |           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|----------------|----------|---------------------|----------|--------------------------|----------|--------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|
|                               | 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 | %         |
| <b>All statistical groups</b> | <b>71,980</b>                         | <b>100</b> | <b>2,900</b>   | <b>4</b> | <b>3,440</b>        | <b>5</b> | <b>5,680</b>             | <b>8</b> | <b>9,880</b>       | <b>14</b> | <b>50,080</b>    | <b>70</b> |
| Unemployed                    | 3,880                                 | 100        | 1,140          | 29       | 700                 | 18       | 580                      | 15       | 620                | 16        | 840              | 22        |
| Sick & Disabled               | 40,340                                | 100        | 780            | 2        | 1,600               | 4        | 2,960                    | 7        | 5,380              | 13        | 29,620           | 73        |
| Lone parents                  | 26,400                                | 100        | 880            | 3        | 1,040               | 4        | 2,020                    | 8        | 3,640              | 14        | 18,820           | 71        |
| Others <sup>3</sup>           | 1,360                                 | 100        | 100            | 7        | 100                 | 7        | 120                      | 9        | 240                | 18        | 800              | 59        |

<sup>1</sup> 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

<sup>2</sup> Oldest benefit payable during current spell of benefit receipt

- 70% 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 22%.
- 62% of families classed as unemployed had been on benefit for less than a year.

**Table 2.2.2 Families<sup>1</sup> on key benefits by statistical group and age of youngest child: August 2004**

|                               | Age of youngest child |            |               |           |               |           |                |           |              |           |                        |          |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|------------|---------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|------------------------|----------|
|                               | All ages              | %          | Under 5       | %         | 5 to under 11 | %         | 11 to under 16 | %         | 16 or over   | %         | Not known <sup>2</sup> | %        |
| <b>All statistical groups</b> | <b>71,980</b>         | <b>100</b> | <b>23,660</b> | <b>33</b> | <b>23,260</b> | <b>32</b> | <b>16,020</b>  | <b>22</b> | <b>7,920</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>1,120</b>           | <b>2</b> |
| Unemployed                    | 3,880                 | 100        | 1,200         | 31        | 880           | 23        | 840            | 22        | 900          | 23        | -                      | -        |
| Sick & Disabled               | 40,340                | 100        | 10,420        | 26        | 12,180        | 30        | 10,360         | 26        | 6,320        | 16        | 1,060                  | 3        |
| Lone parents <sup>3</sup>     | 26,400                | 100        | 11,620        | 44        | 9,580         | 36        | 4,680          | 18        | 520          | 2         | .                      | 0        |
| Others <sup>3</sup>           | 1,360                 | 100        | 420           | 31        | 620           | 46        | 140            | 10        | 180          | 13        | .                      | 0        |

<sup>1</sup> 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

<sup>2</sup> Children whose ages are not known

<sup>3</sup> Numbers less than 100 are not disclosed due to DSD customer confidentiality policy

- 33% 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).

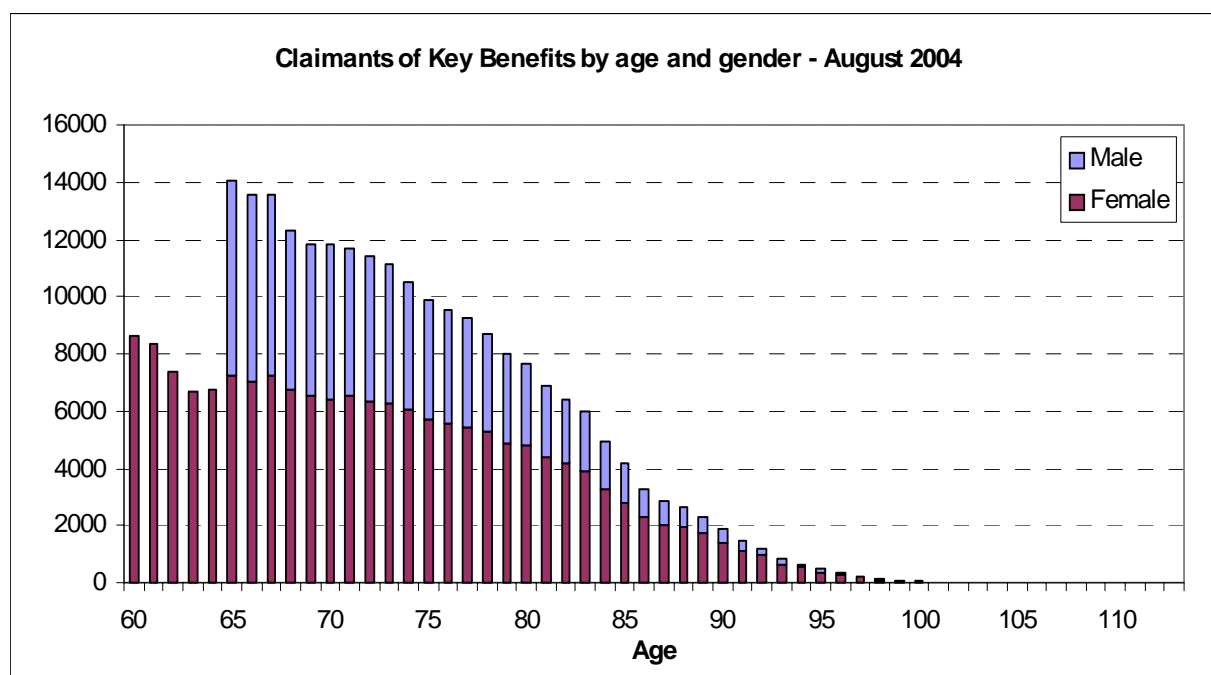
## Section 3: Persons of Pensionable Age on Key Benefits

### 3.1 Age and gender

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

|                              | Aug-01         | Aug-02         | Aug-03         | Aug-04         |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Men                          | 89,073         | 90,841         | 93,116         | 91,358         |
| % of pop <sup>1</sup>        | 97             | 97             | 98             | 96             |
| Women                        | 164,994        | 166,486        | 170,413        | 168,158        |
| % of pop <sup>1</sup>        | 97             | 97             | 97             | 96             |
| <b>All</b>                   | <b>254,067</b> | <b>257,327</b> | <b>263,529</b> | <b>259,516</b> |
| <b>% of pop <sup>1</sup></b> | <b>97</b>      | <b>97</b>      | <b>97</b>      | <b>96</b>      |

<sup>1</sup> Population of Northern Ireland residents above state pension age - see Methodology



- In August 2004 about 96% (259,516) of people over state pension age claimed a key benefit - an increase of 2% (5,449) since August 2001.
- 96% of both men and women were claiming at least one of the key state benefits in August 2004.

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

|          | Male   |                        | Female  |                        | All            |                        |
|----------|--------|------------------------|---------|------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
|          |        | % of pop <sup>12</sup> |         | % of pop <sup>12</sup> |                | % of pop <sup>12</sup> |
| 60-64    | .      | .                      | 37,769  | 93                     | <b>37,769</b>  | <b>93</b>              |
| 65-69    | 30,583 | 96                     | 34,756  | 97                     | <b>65,339</b>  | <b>97</b>              |
| 70-74    | 24,835 | 96                     | 31,651  | 97                     | <b>56,486</b>  | <b>97</b>              |
| 75-79    | 18,491 | 96                     | 26,833  | 95                     | <b>45,324</b>  | <b>95</b>              |
| 80-84    | 11,394 | 94                     | 20,485  | 97                     | <b>31,879</b>  | <b>96</b>              |
| 85-89    | 4,484  | 93                     | 10,785  | 96                     | <b>15,269</b>  | <b>95</b>              |
| 90+      | 1,571  | 93                     | 5,879   | 101                    | <b>7,450</b>   | <b>99</b>              |
| All ages | 91,358 | 96                     | 168,158 | 96                     | <b>259,516</b> | <b>96</b>              |

<sup>1</sup> Population of Northern Ireland residents above state pension age

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

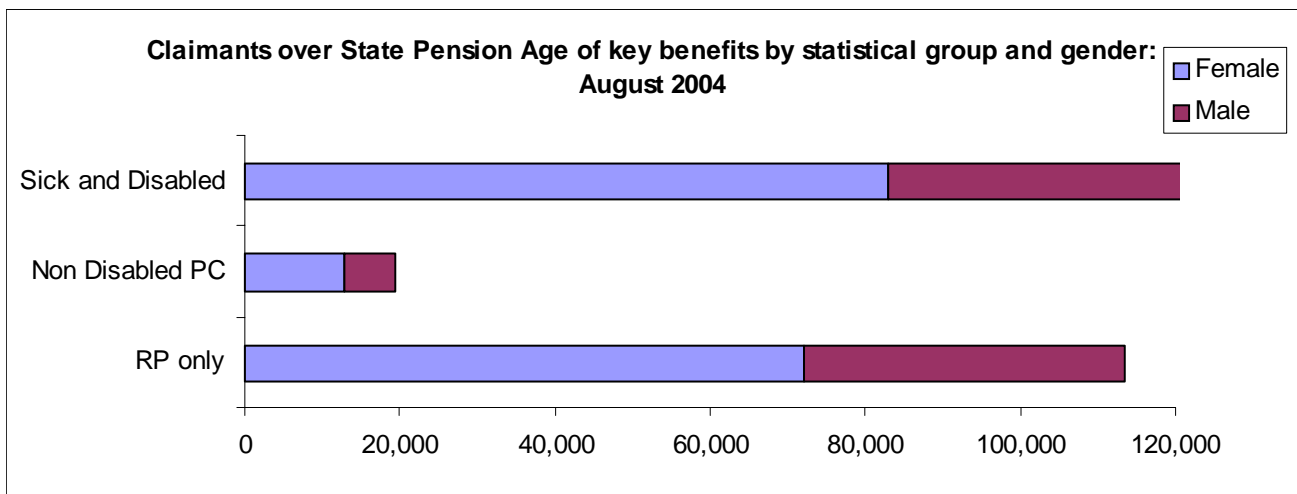
**Table 3.1.3 Claimants over State Pension Age by Statistical group: August 2001 to August 2004**

|                      | Aug-01         |                       | Aug-02         |                       | Aug-03         |                       | Aug-04         |                       |
|----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
|                      | All            | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | All            | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | All            | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | All            | % of pop <sup>1</sup> |
| Sick and/or Disabled | 121,077        | 46                    | 122,059        | 46                    | 126,290        | 47                    | 126,669        | 47                    |
| Non Disabled PC      | 13,698         | 5                     | 14,492         | 5                     | 15,849         | 6                     | 19,468         | 7                     |
| RP only              | 119,292        | 45                    | 120,776        | 45                    | 121,390        | 45                    | 113,379        | 42                    |
| <b>All</b>           | <b>254,067</b> | <b>97</b>             | <b>257,327</b> | <b>97</b>             | <b>263,529</b> | <b>97</b>             | <b>259,516</b> | <b>96</b>             |

<sup>1</sup> 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 5,449 between August 2001 and August 2004.
- Sick and/or disabled claimants rose from 121,077 to 126,669 between August 2001 and August 2004, rising from 46% to 47% of the total pensioner population.
- Over the same period, the non-disabled PC statistical group grew by 5,770.
- Over the same period, the size of the RP only statistical group fell by 5,913.

**Table 3.2.1 Cases over State Pension Age changing statistical group: August 2001 and August 2004**

| Statistical group in August 2001 | Statistical group in August 2004 |                 |            | All           |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|------------|---------------|
|                                  | Sick and/or Disabled             | Non Disabled PC | RP only    |               |
| Sick and/or Disabled             | 0                                | 930             | 239        | <b>1,169</b>  |
| Non Disabled PC                  | 2,865                            | 0               | 290        | <b>3,155</b>  |
| RP only                          | 15,947                           | 5,992           | 0          | <b>21,939</b> |
| <b>All</b>                       | <b>18,812</b>                    | <b>6,922</b>    | <b>529</b> | <b>26,263</b> |

**Table 3.2.2 Claimants over State Pension Age by all benefit combinations<sup>1</sup> and gender: August 2004**

|                    | Male          | Female         | All            |
|--------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| DLA only           | 541           | 1,665          | 2,206          |
| AA only            | 836           | 1,348          | 2,184          |
| DLA, AA            | 6             | 5              | 11             |
| SDA only           | 18            | .              | 18             |
| SDA, DLA           | 48            | 712            | 760            |
| SDA, AA            | 11            | 49             | 60             |
| SDA, DLA, AA       | -             | 8              | 9              |
| IB only            | .             | .              | 0              |
| IB, DLA            | -             | -              | -              |
| IB, AA             | .             | .              | 0              |
| PC only            | 935           | 1,273          | 2,208          |
| PC, DLA            | 632           | 1,249          | 1,881          |
| PC, AA             | 487           | 1,119          | 1,606          |
| PC, DLA, AA        | -             | 12             | 14             |
| PC, SDA            | 62            | 168            | 230            |
| PC, SDA, DLA       | 270           | 751            | 1,021          |
| PC, SDA, AA        | 65            | 170            | 235            |
| PC, SDA, AA, DLA   | 7             | 13             | 20             |
| PC, IB             | .             | -              | -              |
| PC, IB, DLA        | -             | 10             | 11             |
| PC, IB, AA         | .             | .              | 0              |
| RP only            | 44,651        | 74,012         | 118,663        |
| RP, DLA            | 8,507         | 16,418         | 24,925         |
| RP, AA             | 12,866        | 21,220         | 34,086         |
| RP, AA, DLA        | 93            | 112            | 205            |
| RP, PC             | 6,343         | 12,134         | 18,477         |
| RP, PC, DLA        | 6,018         | 10,537         | 16,555         |
| RP, PC, AA         | 8,870         | 24,986         | 33,856         |
| RP, PC, AA, DLA    | 86            | 184            | 270            |
| Other <sup>2</sup> | -             | -              | -              |
| <b>All</b>         | <b>91,358</b> | <b>168,158</b> | <b>259,516</b> |

<sup>1</sup> Numbers less than 5 are not disclosed due to DSD customer confidentiality policy

<sup>2</sup> 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 (46%), RP and AA (13%), RP, PC and AA (13%) 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: November 2004**

|                               | Thousands and percentages |                       |              |                       |               |                       |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
|                               | Men                       |                       | Women        |                       | All           |                       |
|                               | (000s)                    | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | (000s)       | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | (000s)        | % of pop <sup>1</sup> |
| <b>Great Britain</b>          | <b>3,954</b>              | <b>100</b>            | <b>6,684</b> | <b>98</b>             | <b>10,720</b> | <b>100</b>            |
| England                       | 3,424                     | 100                   | 5,750        | 99                    | 9,174         | 100                   |
| North East                    | 181                       | 100                   | 306          | 98                    | 491           | 100                   |
| North West                    | 465                       | 100                   | 799          | 99                    | 1,273         | 100                   |
| Yorkshire & Humberside        | 346                       | 100                   | 583          | 98                    | 938           | 100                   |
| East Midlands                 | 300                       | 100                   | 491          | 98                    | 800           | 100                   |
| West Midlands                 | 372                       | 100                   | 622          | 99                    | 1,004         | 100                   |
| East of England               | 398                       | 100                   | 648          | 99                    | 1,056         | 100                   |
| London                        | 369                       | 97                    | 636          | 97                    | 1,010         | 98                    |
| South East                    | 562                       | 100                   | 946          | 98                    | 1,524         | 99                    |
| South West                    | 399                       | 99                    | 668          | 99                    | 1,077         | 100                   |
| Wales                         | 220                       | 100                   | 367          | 97                    | 594           | 100                   |
| Scotland                      | 335                       | 100                   | 610          | 99                    | 953           | 99                    |
| Northern Ireland <sup>2</sup> | <b>91</b>                 | <b>96</b>             | <b>168</b>   | <b>96</b>             | <b>260</b>    | <b>96</b>             |

<sup>1</sup> 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

<sup>2</sup> Northern Ireland data is at August 2004

- The proportion of the population over state pension age claiming a key benefit ranges from 98% in London to 100% in all regions except London, South East England and Scotland.
- The figure for Northern Ireland of 96% 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: November 2004**

Thousands and percentages

|                               |                       | Statistical Group    |                 |              |               |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|
|                               |                       | Sick and/or Disabled | Non Disabled PC | RP only      | All           |
| <b>Great Britain</b>          | (000s)                | <b>2,712</b>         | <b>1,243</b>    | <b>6,765</b> | <b>10,720</b> |
|                               | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | 25                   | 12              | 63           | 100           |
| England                       | (000s)                | 2,199                | 1,078           | 5,896        | 9,174         |
|                               | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | 24                   | 12              | 64           | 100           |
| North East                    | (000s)                | 161                  | 69              | 261          | 491           |
|                               | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | 33                   | 14              | 53           | 100           |
| North West                    | (000s)                | 406                  | 142             | 726          | 1,273         |
|                               | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | 32                   | 11              | 57           | 100           |
| Yorkshire & Humberside        | (000s)                | 246                  | 125             | 567          | 938           |
|                               | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | 26                   | 13              | 60           | 100           |
| East Midlands                 | (000s)                | 197                  | 92              | 511          | 800           |
|                               | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | 25                   | 11              | 64           | 100           |
| West Midlands                 | (000s)                | 269                  | 128             | 607          | 1,004         |
|                               | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | 27                   | 13              | 61           | 100           |
| East of England               | (000s)                | 211                  | 110             | 735          | 1,056         |
|                               | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | 20                   | 10              | 70           | 100           |
| London                        | (000s)                | 225                  | 149             | 636          | 1,010         |
|                               | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | 22                   | 14              | 61           | 98            |
| South East                    | (000s)                | 257                  | 153             | 115          | 1,524         |
|                               | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | 17                   | 10              | 73           | 99            |
| South West                    | (000s)                | 227                  | 111             | 739          | 1,077         |
|                               | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | 21                   | 10              | 69           | 100           |
| Wales                         | (000s)                | 224                  | 54              | 316          | 594           |
|                               | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | 38                   | 9               | 53           | 100           |
| Scotland                      | (000s)                | 289                  | 112             | 552          | 953           |
|                               | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | 30                   | 12              | 58           | 99            |
| Northern Ireland <sup>2</sup> | (000s)                | 127                  | 19              | 113          | 260           |
|                               | % of pop <sup>1</sup> | 47                   | 7               | 42           | 96            |

<sup>1</sup> 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

<sup>2</sup> Northern Ireland data is at August 2004

- Northern Ireland has by far the highest proportion claiming a key sickness and/or disability benefit at 47% compared to Wales (38%), which is next, with the South East lowest at 17%.
- For the RP only category Northern Ireland (42%) is considerably lower than any other office region, with Wales and the North East (53%) next. The highest proportion is the South East (73%).

## Methodology - Sections 1, 2 and 3

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 it is planned that families on Minimum Income Guarantee with children will have the child elements transferred to CTC.
- Financial year 2004/2005, when families on Income Support and income-based Jobseeker's Allowance will have the child elements transferred to CTC.

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

### **Statistical groups**

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

## **Transitions analyses**

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

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

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

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.

## 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.

| <b>Estimated Value</b> | <b>95% Confidence Interval</b> | <b>Confidence interval as a % of the Estimate</b> |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| 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%   |

|  |
|--|
| <b>Warning:</b> Figures 600 or less should be used with caution. |
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# **INDIVIDUAL BENEFIT STATISTICS**



## Section 4 - Income Support

*Introduced 11 April 1988*

*Non-contributory, Means tested, Taxable*

Income Support can be paid to a person who:

- is resident in Northern Ireland
- is aged 16 or over
- is not working 16 hours or more a week
- has less money coming in than the law says they need to live on.

Income Support (IS) is a non-contributory benefit. From October 1996, the Jobseeker's Allowance replaced IS for unemployed people. In general IS is now only available to people who are not required to be available for work such as pensioners, lone parents and sick and disabled people. The conditions for entitlement are the Income Support regulations.

The applicable amounts and resources of a couple living in the same household are lumped together to work out how much Income Support they can get. Any dependant children living with them are also included in the assessment. If the children have any capital, it is taken into account separately. Unmarried couples who live together as husband and wife are treated as if they were married. Either partner can claim Income Support.

A person who works 16 hours or more a week, or whose partner works 24 hours or more a week (16 or more prior to October 1996), cannot normally get Income Support. Most 16 and 17 year olds cannot get benefit, except in certain circumstances.

People in full-time non-advanced education are not normally entitled. Any children age 16 or over but under 19 who are still at school can be included as dependants in their parent's Income Support assessment. Someone involved in a trade dispute cannot get Income Support, although it can be paid for their dependants. In certain cases the regulations do allow people to get Income Support who would not normally be entitled to it.

Once they get Income Support, the claimant and any dependants are automatically entitled to certain welfare benefits.

### **Rate of Benefit**

The rate of Income Support paid to a claimant is the amount needed to bring their income up to their 'applicable amount'. This is the level the law says they need to live on.

### **Applicable Amounts**

These are set down in the regulations. The applicable amount is made up of personal allowances, and premiums for certain groups with special needs.

### **Housing Costs**

The applicable amount can also include an amount for certain housing costs such as:

- an amount for mortgage interest (but not capital payments)
- ground rent
- other miscellaneous costs which are not covered by Housing Benefit such as certain service charges.

Deductions are made from the amount allowed for housing costs for any non-dependants in the household, whether or not they make a contribution.

Income Support does not cover rent. Someone getting Income Support automatically qualifies for maximum Housing Benefit. This means that the Council pays 100% of rent eligible for Housing Benefit less an amount for any non-dependants.

A person in a Council run home gets the IS equivalent to the basic rate of Retirement Pension. This includes an amount for personal needs.

Someone in hospital for more than 6 weeks gets the hospital personal allowance rate and an amount for any continuing housing costs.

## **Resources**

The resources of a claimant are their total income and any capital. If they qualify for any disregards described below, these will be taken off.

If the claimant is working, a certain amount of the net weekly earnings is ignored. The rest is counted as a resource. The same applies to the partner's earnings.

Any money earned by children of school age is ignored. If the child has left school but is still dependant, some of their earnings may be included in the assessment.

Child Benefit and the main National Insurance benefits and pensions are counted in full as income. Part of any War or War Widow's Pension is ignored. Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance are usually totally ignored.

Some other types of income, e.g. certain payments received from charities, can be ignored in full or in part. The annuity paid to the holder of a Victoria Cross is ignored totally. Maintenance payments and most other types of income are counted in full.

The claimant is not entitled to Income Support if their capital and any capital belonging to their partner is more than £8,000 or £12,000 if their partner is aged 60 or over, or £16,000 if living in a care home. Capital assets mean savings, investments or property other than their home. However some assets, e.g. property occupied by an aged relative, can be ignored. If the capital assets are between the lower and upper limits a 'tariff income' is assumed. One pound a week is taken off their benefit for each £250 (or part £250) above the upper limit. The capital limits are:

- under age 60 £3,000 - £8,000
- partner aged 60 and over £6,000 - £12,000
- permanently in a care home £10,000 - £16,000.

## **Liability to maintain**

A husband is liable to maintain (financially support) his wife and a wife is liable to maintain her husband. Both parents, whether married or not, are liable to maintain their children up to the age of 16, or 19 if the children are on an approved course of higher education.

If someone gives a written undertaking to be responsible for the maintenance and accommodation of an immigrant, they must look after that person. If the sponsored immigrant claims Income Support the Secretary of State can enforce these responsibilities by applying for a Court Order against the responsible relative or sponsor.

On 5 April 1993 the Child Support Agency took over the assessment, collection, review and enforcement of maintenance for children. Parents who look after a child for whom maintenance is an issue, and who get Income Support, Child Tax Credit, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or

Working Tax Credit, may have to apply for child support maintenance. People who are not on benefit can also use the Agency. Under the Child Support Act of 1991, parents are responsible for natural and adopted children only.

### **Exceptional Expenses**

Income Support is intended to meet regular weekly needs. The Social Fund can provide extra help with particular additional needs in certain circumstances.

### **Lone Parents and One Parent Families**

'Lone Parents' in these tables represent Income Support claimants who are not in receipt of a pensioner or disability premium.

Figures in these tables are affected by the introduction of Child Tax Credit in April 2003. Child Tax Credit will eventually replace all existing child elements paid to families with children within Income Support. There is no provision for children within Income Support after April 2004. Claimants will need to claim Child Tax Credit to provide this income. Families who receive the child elements within Income Support will be moved to Child Tax Credit from October 2004 onwards.

### **MIG Group**

Claimants aged 60 and over transferred to Pension Credit on 6 October 2003.

### **Source**

Analyses are taken from the Quarterly Statistical Analyses and are based on a 5% scan.



## Summary

Between August 2003 and August 2004 the IS caseload has decreased by approximately 44.2%, and now stands at 101,320 at August 2004. This fall in the caseload is due to claimants aged 60 and over transferring to Pension Credit on 6 October 2003.

The most noticeable change in the IS caseload recently is the decreased number of claimants receiving a Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG) premium. This effect was also seen in GB. There were 900 claimants in the MIG statistical group in Northern Ireland at August 2004 (0.9% of the total caseload), compared to 11,000 claimants in GB (0.5% of the total caseload). This fall is due to the introduction of Pension Credit on 6 October 2003. The 'guarantee credit' element of Pension Credit replaced MIG, Income Support for people aged 60 and over.

The number of lone parent claimants has fallen from 29,660 in August 2003 to 22,640 in August 2004. This fall in case load is due to the introduction of the Child Tax Credit in April 2003. The allowances for children, along with the premiums payable for children, are replaced by the Child Tax Credit. Families who receive the child elements within Income Support will be moved to Child Tax Credit from October 2004 onwards. The average weekly payment for this group has risen from £80.96 to £126.12 from August 1999 to August 2004. This group has the highest average weekly payment of IS.

The number of claimants in the 'other' statistical group increased between August 2003 and August 2004 (15,500 to 19,060 respectively) and makes up 18.8% of the IS caseload. Those categorised as being aged 60 or over has decreased by 99.0% between August 2003 and August 2004 and now stands at 900, making up 1.0% of the total IS caseload. This decrease is due to claimants aged 60 and over transferring to Pension Credit on 6 October 2003.

Generally, claimants with dependants receive a higher weekly payment of IS compared to those without dependants, irrespective of marital status. At August 2004 for example, a single claimant without dependants, received on average £63.08 per week, compared to £122.86 received by a single person with dependants. Amongst couples, those without dependants received on average £85.73 per week, while those with dependants received on average £156.84 per week.

The largest number of male and female IS claimants lies in the 25-59 year old age bracket 39,360 and 48,040 respectively at August 2004.

The highest numbers of claimants were found in Belfast, Derry and Newry & Mourne district councils. When taken as a percentage of the population aged 16 -59, the highest proportion of claimants is in Derry district council (31.0% of the population), closely followed by Belfast (16.6% of the population) and Strabane (14.3% of the population).

The proportion of claimants receiving benefit for under 3 months has increased from 2.9% in August 2003 to 3.9% in August 2004. Approximately 70.1% of all claimants have been in receipt of benefit for at least 2 years.

The majority of claimants over 25 have been on IS for 2 years or more. Those aged under 25 claiming IS at August 2004 also tended to be claiming benefit for longer durations, although when compared with other age groups, more young claimants were claiming for less than 3 months (8.8% of males aged 18 - 24 and 6.7% of females 18 - 24 at August 2004).



**Table 4.1 Income Support claimants by statistical group: August 1998 to August 2004**

|              | All claimants  | Statistical group     |              |          |        |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------------|--------------|----------|--------|
|              |                | Aged 60 or over (MIG) | Lone parents | Disabled | Other  |
| August 1998* |                |                       |              |          |        |
| August 1999  | <b>169,180</b> | 73,840                | 34,280       | 45,260   | 15,800 |
| August 2000  | <b>173,500</b> | 74,680                | 32,820       | 48,440   | 17,560 |
| August 2001  | <b>176,880</b> | 77,220                | 32,220       | 51,800   | 15,640 |
| August 2002  | <b>178,080</b> | 78,360                | 30,360       | 52,920   | 16,440 |
| August 2003  | <b>181,580</b> | 80,380                | 29,660       | 56,040   | 15,500 |
| August 2004  | <b>101,320</b> | 900                   | 22,640       | 58,720   | 19,060 |

\*Data unavailable for August 1998

Figures in this table may be affected by the introduction of New Tax Credits in April 2003.

Claimants aged 60 and over transferred to Pension Credit on 6th October 2003. Includes claimants aged under 60 where there is a partner aged 60 or over.

Reduction in the Lone Parent figure is due to the introduction of new rules in April 2004 governing Child Tax Credit.

**Table 4.2 Income Support claimants by family type: August 1998 to August 2004**

|              | All claimants  | Single without dependants | Single with dependants | Couple without dependants | Couple with dependants |
|--------------|----------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| August 1998* |                |                           |                        |                           |                        |
| August 1999* | <b>169,180</b> |                           |                        |                           |                        |
| August 2000  | <b>173,500</b> | 104,120                   | 40,260                 | 17,740                    | 11,380                 |
| August 2001  | <b>176,880</b> | 106,960                   | 40,160                 | 19,160                    | 10,600                 |
| August 2002  | <b>178,080</b> | 108,840                   | 38,420                 | 20,340                    | 10,480                 |
| August 2003  | <b>181,580</b> | 112,140                   | 38,280                 | 20,760                    | 10,400                 |
| August 2004  | <b>101,320</b> | 50,120                    | 36,260                 | 6,240                     | 8,700                  |

\* Data unavailable for August 1998 and August 1999

Figures in this table may be affected by the introduction of New Tax Credits in April 2003.

Claimants aged 60 and over transferred to Pension Credit on 6th October 2003. Includes claimants aged under 60 where there is a partner aged 60 or over.

**Table 4.3 Beneficiaries of Income Support by type: August 1998 to August 2004**

|              | All            | Type of beneficiary |         |           | Beneficiaries as % of population <sup>1</sup> |
|--------------|----------------|---------------------|---------|-----------|---|
|              |                | Claimant            | Partner | Dependant |   |
| August 1998* |                |                     |         |           |   |
| August 1999  | <b>302,300</b> | 168,900             | 27,500  | 105,900   | 18.0  |
| August 2000  | <b>307,020</b> | 173,500             | 29,120  | 104,400   | 18.3  |
| August 2001  | <b>308,080</b> | 176,880             | 29,760  | 101,440   | 18.3  |
| August 2002  | <b>306,840</b> | 178,080             | 30,820  | 97,940    | 18.2  |
| August 2003  | <b>309,720</b> | 181,580             | 31,160  | 96,980    | 18.3  |
| August 2004  | <b>205,060</b> | 101,320             | 14,940  | 88,800    | 14.7  |

\*Data unavailable for August 1998

Figures in this table may be affected by the introduction of New Tax Credits in April 2003.

Claimants aged 60 and over transferred to Pension Credit on 6th October 2003. Includes claimants aged under 60 where there is a partner aged 60 or over.

<sup>1</sup>Aged 16 - 59 per Mid-Year Estimates 2003.

**Table 4.4 Income Support claimants at August 2004 by age and gender**

|                 | <b>Total</b>   | <b>Men</b>    | <b>Women</b>  |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>All Ages</b> | <b>101,320</b> | <b>43,900</b> | <b>57,420</b> |
| 16-19           | <b>3,380</b>   | 1,120         | 2,260         |
| 20-24           | <b>9,640</b>   | 3,040         | 6,600         |
| 25-29           | <b>10,640</b>  | 3,780         | 6,860         |
| 30-34           | <b>12,660</b>  | 4,480         | 8,180         |
| 35-39           | <b>14,560</b>  | 5,740         | 8,820         |
| 40-44           | <b>14,320</b>  | 6,740         | 7,580         |
| 45-49           | <b>13,360</b>  | 6,800         | 6,560         |
| 50-54           | <b>10,980</b>  | 5,820         | 5,160         |
| 55-59           | <b>11,660</b>  | 6,340         | 5,320         |
| 60 and over     | <b>120</b>     | 40            | 80            |

Figures in this table may be affected by the introduction of New Tax Credits in April 2003.

Claimants aged 60 and over transferred to Pension Credit on 6th October 2003. Includes claimants aged under where there is a partner aged 60 or over.

**Table 4.5 Income Support claimants at August 2004 by statistical group and District Council**

| District Council              | All claimants  | Statistical group       |                |             |             | Claimants as % of the population <sup>1</sup> |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|---|
|                               |                | Aged 60 or over (MIG) % | Lone parents % | Disabled %  | Other %     |   |
| <b>All</b>                    | <b>101,320</b> | <b>0.9</b>              | <b>22.3</b>    | <b>58.0</b> | <b>18.8</b> | <b>10.1</b>                                   |
| Antrim                        | 1,900          | 0                       | 20.0           | 61.1        | 18.9        | 6.4   |
| Ards                          | 2,400          | 0                       | 19.2           | 61.7        | 19.2        | 5.4   |
| Armagh                        | 2,040          | **                      | 17.6           | 64.7        | 15.7        | 6.3   |
| Ballymena                     | 1,940          | **                      | 24.7           | 50.5        | 23.7        | 5.6   |
| Ballymoney                    | 1,260          | 0                       | 22.2           | 54.0        | 23.8        | 7.8   |
| Banbridge                     | 1,360          | 0                       | 22.1           | 63.2        | 14.7        | 5.7   |
| Belfast                       | 26,820         | 0.5                     | 23.8           | 56.5        | 19.2        | 16.6  |
| Carrickfergus                 | 1,480          | **                      | 24.3           | 58.1        | 16.2        | 6.4   |
| Castlereagh                   | 1,900          | 0                       | 22.1           | 56.8        | 21.1        | 5.0   |
| Coleraine                     | 2,560          | **                      | 25.0           | 57.0        | 17.2        | 7.9   |
| Cookstown                     | 2,180          | **                      | 19.3           | 64.2        | 13.8        | 11.0  |
| Craigavon                     | 5,060          | **                      | 17.0           | 61.3        | 20.6        | 10.5  |
| Derry                         | 10,680         | 0.9                     | 25.8           | 52.4        | 20.8        | 31.0  |
| Down                          | 2,880          | **                      | 21.5           | 57.6        | 20.1        | 7.6   |
| Dungannon                     | 3,520          | **                      | 15.9           | 65.9        | 16.5        | 12.4  |
| Fermanagh                     | 3,120          | **                      | 16.0           | 66.0        | 16.0        | 15.2  |
| Larne                         | 1,180          | **                      | 27.1           | 57.6        | 13.6        | 6.5   |
| Limavady                      | 2,160          | **                      | 19.4           | 58.3        | 21.3        | 3.4   |
| Lisburn                       | 5,320          | **                      | 30.1           | 54.1        | 15.0        | 8.2   |
| Magherafelt                   | 1,500          | **                      | 20.0           | 60.0        | 18.7        | 3.2   |
| Moyle                         | 920            | **                      | 32.6           | 32.6        | 30.4        | 9.8   |
| Newry & Mourne                | 6,700          | **                      | 19.4           | 61.2        | 18.5        | 12.8  |
| Newtownabbey                  | 3,320          | **                      | 25.9           | 53.6        | 19.9        | 7.0   |
| North Down                    | 2,160          | **                      | 18.5           | 63.0        | 16.7        | 4.7   |
| Omagh                         | 3,000          | **                      | 17.3           | 64.0        | 17.3        | 10.1  |
| Strabane                      | 3,260          | 0                       | 20.2           | 62.6        | 17.2        | 14.3  |
| Missing Postcode <sup>2</sup> | 700            | 0                       | 25.7           | 48.6        | 25.7        | 0   |

\*\* Percentages based on numbers less than 100 are not displayed due to DSD Confidentiality Policy

<sup>1</sup>Aged 16 - 59 Mid-Year Estimate 2003.

<sup>2</sup>In producing this analysis, individual records were attributed on the basis of their postcode. Not all records can be correctly allocated to a ward using this method, and some cannot be allocated at all. Past investigation has demonstrated that mis-allocations and non-allocations do not necessarily occur randomly between areas, and at ward level, the proportion of records mis-allocated or unallocated can be substantial. At present it seems likely that a higher than average proportion of records that can not be attributed to a ward are in the following areas: Fermanagh District Council, Derry District Council and parts of Belfast City Council. The percentages shown for District Councils are accordingly understated.

Figures in this table may be affected by the introduction of New Tax Credits in April 2003.

Claimants aged 60 and over transferred to Pension Credit on 6th October 2003. Includes claimants aged under 60 where there is a partner aged 60 or over.

**Table 4.6 Income Support claimants at August 2004 by Government Office Region and statistical group**

| GOR                      | All claimants<br>'000(=100%) | Statistical group             |                      |               |             | Claimants as<br>% of GOR's<br>population <sup>12</sup> |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|-------------|--|
|                          |                              | Aged 60 or<br>over (MIG)<br>% | Lone<br>parents<br>% | Disabled<br>% | Other<br>%  |  |
| North East               | 121                          | 0.6                           | 34.3                 | 53.4          | 11.7        | 7.8  |
| North West               | 321                          | 0.5                           | 33.1                 | 56.1          | 10.3        | 7.7  |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 189                          | 0.6                           | 35.4                 | 52.5          | 11.4        | 6.2  |
| East Midlands            | 130                          | 0.6                           | 37.1                 | 51.4          | 10.9        | 5.0  |
| West Midlands            | 200                          | 0.6                           | 39.1                 | 49.3          | 11.0        | 6.2  |
| East                     | 144                          | 0.7                           | 40.7                 | 49.0          | 9.7         | 4.3  |
| London                   | 370                          | 0.3                           | 44.2                 | 44.4          | 11.1        | 7.5  |
| South East               | 193                          | 0.4                           | 40.9                 | 49.5          | 9.2         | 3.9  |
| South West               | 138                          | 0.6                           | 34.7                 | 54.3          | 10.4        | 4.6  |
| Wales                    | 129                          | 0.7                           | 33.2                 | 56.3          | 9.8         | 7.3  |
| Scotland                 | 233                          | 0.4                           | 30.3                 | 56.9          | 12.4        | 7.4  |
| <b>Great Britain</b>     | <b>2,170</b>                 | <b>0.5</b>                    | <b>37.1</b>          | <b>51.7</b>   | <b>10.8</b> | <b>6.1</b>   |
| Northern Ireland         | 101                          | 0.9                           | 23.6                 | 57.8          | 17.7        | 10.1   |

<sup>1</sup>Aged 16 - 59 Mid Year Estimates 2003.

<sup>2</sup>Aged 16 - 64 for men and 16 - 59 for women. Based on Office for National Statistics Mid-Year population estimates for England, Scotland, Wales and Great Britain.

Figures in this table may be affected by the introduction of New Tax Credits in April 2003.

Claimants aged 60 and over transferred to Pension Credit on 6th October 2003. Includes claimants aged under 60 where there is a partner aged 60 or over.

**Table 4.7 Income Support claimants at August 2004 by duration of current claim and statistical group**

| Duration               | All claimants  | Statistical group        |                 |               |               |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
|                        |                | Aged 60 or<br>over (MIG) | Lone<br>parents | Disabled      | Other         |
| <b>All claimants</b>   | <b>101,320</b> | <b>900</b>               | <b>22,640</b>   | <b>58,720</b> | <b>19,060</b> |
| % under 3 months       | 3.9            | **                       | **              | 1.2           | 16.7          |
| % 3 to under 6 months  | 5.6            | **                       | 1.3             | 3.1           | 18.3          |
| % 6 to under 12 months | 7.9            | **                       | 4.9             | 5.1           | 20.0          |
| % 1 to under 2 years   | 12.5           | 15.6                     | 12.5            | 12.8          | 11.3          |
| % 2 to under 3 years   | 9.6            | **                       | 12.0            | 10.1          | 5.4           |
| % 3 to under 4 years   | 8.2            | **                       | 8.9             | 8.8           | 5.6           |
| % 4 to under 5 years   | 8.3            | 11.1                     | 9.2             | 8.8           | 5.6           |
| % 5 years and over     | 44.0           | 46.7                     | 51.1            | 49.9          | 17.2          |

\*\* Percentages based on numbers less than 100 are not displayed due to DSD Confidentiality Policy

Figures in this table may be affected by the introduction of New Tax Credits in April 2003.

Claimants aged 60 and over transferred to Pension Credit on 6th October 2003. Includes claimants aged under 60 where there is a partner aged 60 or over.

**Table 4.8 Income Support claimants at August 2004 by duration of current claim, age and gender**

| Age/<br>Gender | All<br>claimants | Duration            |                                 |                               |                              |                      |
|----------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
|                |                  | % under 3<br>months | % 3 months to<br>under 6 months | % 6 months to<br>under 1 year | % 1 year to<br>under 2 years | % 2 years<br>or over |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>101,320</b>   | <b>3.9</b>          | <b>5.6</b>                      | <b>7.9</b>                    | <b>12.5</b>                  | <b>70.1</b>          |
| <b>Male</b>    | <b>43,900</b>    | <b>4.1</b>          | <b>6.5</b>                      | <b>9.4</b>                    | <b>13.3</b>                  | <b>66.7</b>          |
| Under 18       | 300              | **                  | 33.3                            | 46.7                          | **                           | 0                    |
| 18 to 24       | 3,860            | 8.8                 | 19.7                            | 21.8                          | 15.0                         | 34.7                 |
| 25 to 59       | 39,360           | 3.6                 | 5.1                             | 7.9                           | 13.3                         | 70.2                 |
| 60 or over     | 380              | **                  | 0                               | **                            | **                           | 78.9                 |
| <b>Female</b>  | <b>57,420</b>    | <b>3.8</b>          | <b>4.8</b>                      | <b>6.8</b>                    | <b>11.8</b>                  | <b>72.8</b>          |
| Under 18       | 540              | 33.3                | 29.6                            | 25.9                          | **                           | 0                    |
| 18 to 24       | 8,320            | 6.7                 | 10.6                            | 15.4                          | 19.0                         | 48.3                 |
| 25 to 59       | 48,040           | 2.9                 | 3.6                             | 5.0                           | 10.5                         | 78.0                 |
| 60 or over     | 520              | **                  | **                              | **                            | 23.1                         | 61.5                 |

\*\* Percentages based on numbers less than 100 are not displayed due to DSD Confidentiality Policy

Figures in this table may be affected by the introduction of New Tax Credits in April 2003.

Claimants aged 60 and over transferred to Pension Credit on 6th October 2003. Includes claimants aged under 60 where there is a partner aged 60 or over.

**Table 4.9 Average weekly payments made to Income Support claimants by statistical group: August 1998 to August 2004**

|              | All<br>claimants | Statistical group        |                 |          |        |
|--------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|----------|--------|
|              |                  | Aged 60 or<br>over (MIG) | Lone<br>parents | Disabled | Other  |
| August 1998* |                  |                          |                 |          |        |
| August 1999  | <b>£62.17</b>    | £50.20                   | £80.96          | £70.50   | £53.51 |
| August 2000  | <b>£66.90</b>    | £53.16                   | £91.13          | £75.69   | £55.77 |
| August 2001  | <b>£72.58</b>    | £56.35                   | £101.33         | £82.49   | £60.70 |
| August 2002  | <b>£73.32</b>    | £56.69                   | £105.45         | £85.86   | £52.86 |
| August 2003  | <b>£77.19</b>    | £58.15                   | £113.87         | £91.20   | £55.07 |
| August 2004  | <b>£93.92</b>    | £104.46                  | £126.12         | £93.72   | £55.80 |

\*Data unavailable for August 1998

Figures in this table may be affected by the introduction of New Tax Credits in April 2003.

Claimants aged 60 and over transferred to Pension Credit on 6th October 2003. Includes claimants aged under 60 where there is a partner aged 60 or over.

**Table 4.10 Rates of Income Support**

|                            | £ per week    |                        |                                |                        |                        |             |            |
|----------------------------|---------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------|------------|
|                            | Single person |                        |                                |                        | Lone parent            |             |            |
|                            | Under 18      |                        | 18 to 24                       | 25 or over             | Under 18               |             | 18 or over |
|                            | Usual rate    | Higher rate            |                                |                        | Usual rate             | Higher rate |            |
| 07 April 1997              | 29.60         | 38.90                  | 38.90                          | 49.15                  | 29.60                  | 38.90       | 49.15      |
| 06 April 1998              | 30.30         | 39.85                  | 39.85                          | 50.35                  | 30.30                  | 39.85       | 50.35      |
| 12 April 1999              | 30.95         | 40.70                  | 40.70                          | 51.40                  | 30.95                  | 40.70       | 51.40      |
| 10 April 2000              | 31.45         | 41.35                  | 41.35                          | 52.20                  | 31.45                  | 41.35       | 52.20      |
| 09 April 2001              | 31.95         | 42.00                  | 42.00                          | 53.05                  | 31.95                  | 42.00       | 53.05      |
| 08 April 2002              | 32.50         | 42.70                  | 42.70                          | 53.95                  | 32.50                  | 42.70       | 53.95      |
| 07 April 2003              | 32.90         | 43.25                  | 43.25                          | 54.65                  | 32.90                  | 43.25       | 54.65      |
| 12 April 2004              | 33.50         | 44.05                  | 44.05                          | 55.65                  | 33.50                  | 44.05       | 55.65      |
|                            | Couple        |                        | Dependant children             |                        |                        |             |            |
|                            | Both under 18 | One or both 18 or over | Under 11 <sup>1a</sup>         | 11 to 16 <sup>1b</sup> | 16 to 18 <sup>1c</sup> |             |            |
| 07 April 1997 <sup>1</sup> | 58.70         | 77.15                  | 16.90                          | 24.75                  | 29.60                  |             |            |
| 06 April 1998              | 60.10         | 79.00                  | 17.30                          | 25.35                  | 30.30                  |             |            |
| 05 November 1998           | 60.10         | 79.00                  | 19.80                          | 25.35                  | 30.30                  |             |            |
| 12 April 1999 <sup>2</sup> | 61.35         | 80.65                  | 20.20                          | 25.90                  | 30.95                  |             |            |
|                            |               | Both 18 or over        | 24.90                          | 25.90                  | 30.95                  |             |            |
| 04 October 1999            | -             | 80.65                  | Up to and inc.16 <sup>3a</sup> |                        | 16 to 18 <sup>3b</sup> |             |            |
| 10 April 2000 <sup>3</sup> | -             | 81.95                  | 26.60                          |                        | 31.75                  |             |            |
| 09 April 2001              | -             | 83.25                  | 31.45                          |                        | 32.25                  |             |            |
| 08 April 2002              | -             | 84.65                  | 33.50                          |                        | 34.30                  |             |            |
| 07 April 2003              | -             | 85.75                  | 38.50                          |                        | 38.50                  |             |            |
| 12 April 2004              | -             | 87.30                  | 42.27                          |                        | 42.27                  |             |            |

**Notes**

<sup>1</sup> From 7 April 1997 the age banding used for the benefit calculation of dependant children have changed.

<sup>1a</sup>.Birth to September following 11th birthday.

<sup>1b</sup>.From September following the 11th birthday to September following the 16th birthday

<sup>1c</sup>.From September following the 16th birthday to the day before the 19th birthday.

Some children will remain eligible for a different rate of benefit i.e. have 'protected rights'. These are as follows:-

\*Child aged 11 before 7 April 1997 : allowance £25.35

\*Child aged 16 before 7 April 1997 : allowance £30.30

\*Child aged 18 before 7 April 1997 : allowance £39.85

<sup>2</sup>.From 12 April 1999 the personal allowance for married or unmarried couples where both members are not yet 18 or one of the couple is aged 18 or over depends on the couple's circumstances. They may be entitled to a couple allowance or a single person's allowance dependant upon certain criteria.

<sup>3</sup> From 10 April 2000 there are only 2 age bands for dependants. From this date the age banding are as follows:

<sup>3a</sup>Birth to September following 16th birthday.

<sup>3b</sup>From September following 16th birthday to the day before the 19th birthday.

Table 4.11 Rates of Premiums

|                            | £ per week               |                    |            |                     |                                  |        |                                 |                   |                  |               |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------|
|                            | Disabled                 |                    | Disability |                     | Enhanced Disability <sup>4</sup> |        |                                 | Severe Disability |                  |               |
|                            | child                    | Carer <sup>1</sup> | Single     | Couple              | Child                            | Single | Couple                          | Single            | Couple (one)     | Couple (both) |
| 07 April 1997              | 20.95                    | 13.35              | 20.95      | 29.90               | -                                | -      | -                               | 37.15             | 37.15            | 74.30         |
| 06 April 1998              | 21.45                    | 13.65              | 21.45      | 30.60               | -                                | -      | -                               | 38.50             | 38.50            | 77.00         |
| 12 April 1999              | 21.90                    | 13.95              | 21.90      | 31.25               | -                                | -      | -                               | 39.75             | 39.75            | 79.50         |
| 10 April 2000              | 22.25                    | 14.15              | 22.25      | 31.75               | -                                | -      | -                               | 40.20             | 40.20            | 80.40         |
| 09 April 2001              | 30.00                    | 24.40              | 22.60      | 32.25               | 11.05                            | 11.05  | 16.00                           | 41.55             | 41.55            | 83.10         |
| 08 April 2002              | 35.50                    | 24.80              | 23.00      | 32.80               | 11.25                            | 11.25  | 16.25                           | 42.25             | 42.25            | 84.50         |
| 07 April 2003              | 41.30                    | 25.10              | 23.30      | 33.25               | 16.60                            | 11.40  | 16.45                           | 42.95             | 42.95            | 85.90         |
| 12 April 2004              | 42.49                    | 25.55              | 23.70      | 33.85               | 17.08                            | 11.60  | 16.75                           | 44.15             | 44.15            | 88.30         |
|                            | Bereavement <sup>6</sup> |                    | Family     |                     | Pensioner                        |        | Enhanced Pensioner <sup>2</sup> |                   | Higher Pensioner |               |
|                            |                          |                    | Lone       |                     |                                  |        |                                 |                   |                  |               |
|                            |                          |                    | Couple     | Parent <sup>3</sup> | Single                           | Couple | Single                          | Couple            | Single           | Couple        |
| 07 April 1997              | -                        | -                  | 10.80      | 15.75               | 19.65                            | 29.65  | 21.85                           | 32.75             | 26.55            | 38.00         |
| 06 April 1998              | -                        | -                  | 11.05      | 15.75               | 20.10                            | 30.35  | 22.35                           | 33.55             | 27.20            | 38.90         |
| 12 April 1999              | -                        | -                  | 13.90      | 15.75               | 23.60                            | 35.95  | 25.90                           | 39.20             | 30.85            | 44.65         |
| 10 April 2000              | -                        | -                  | 14.25      | 15.90               | 26.25                            | 40.00  | 28.65                           | 43.40             | 33.85            | 49.10         |
| 09 April 2001 <sup>5</sup> | 19.45                    | 14.50              | 14.50      | 15.90               | 39.10                            | 57.30  | 39.10                           | 57.30             | 39.10            | 57.30         |
| 08 April 2002              | 21.55                    | 14.75              | 14.75      | 15.90               | 44.20                            | 65.15  | 44.20                           | 65.15             | 44.20            | 65.15         |
| 07 April 2003              | 22.80                    | 15.75              | 15.75      | 15.90               | 47.45                            | 70.05  | 47.45                           | 70.05             | 47.45            | 70.05         |
| 12 April 2004              | 23.95                    | 15.95              | 15.95      | 15.95               | 49.80                            | 73.65  | 49.80                           | 73.65             | 49.80            | 73.65         |

<sup>1</sup> Carer premium introduced in October 1990.

<sup>2</sup> Enhanced Pensioner premium introduced in October 1989.

<sup>3</sup> From 7 April 1997 Lone parents received one premium (Family/Lone parent rate)

<sup>4</sup> Enhanced Disability Premium introduced in April 2001

<sup>5</sup> Alignment of Premiums paid to 'aged 60 or over' (MIG) April 2001

<sup>6</sup> Bereavement Premium introduced in April 2001



## Section 5 – Pension Credit

*Introduced 6 October 2003*

*Non-contributory, Means tested, Taxable*

### **Pension Credit**

Pension Credit (PC) was introduced on 6 October 2003. PC has two elements: the 'Guarantee Credit' which replaced the Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG), income support for people aged 60 and over and the 'savings credit' for people aged 65 and over, which is intended to provide extra money for people who have modest savings.

### **Guarantee Credit**

For claimants aged 60 or over, the Guarantee Credit guarantees an income of £105.45 (single person) or £160.95 (couples). This is the standard minimum income guarantee, which is the minimum amount the Government say they need to live on.

Extra amounts will be added to the standard minimum income guarantee for those who have:

- relevant housing costs
- severe disabilities
- caring responsibilities

The resultant amount is the customer's appropriate minimum income guarantee (if the customer is not entitled to any extra amount(s), their appropriate minimum income guarantee will be the amount of the standard minimum income guarantee).

Entitlement to the Guarantee Credit will be calculated by comparing the customer's income with their appropriate minimum income guarantee amount. The Guarantee Credit will make up any shortfall between the two totals.

### **Income-what will be taken into account**

The Guarantee Credit concentrates on the main sources of income available to people over 60, not going into every penny of income from every source. Consequently, the level of intrusion into people's private affairs will be radically reduced compared to MIG.

The categories of income that are relevant to calculating the Guarantee Credit (such as state retirement pension, second pensions, assumed income from capital, earnings and certain benefits) are set out in legislation. This differs from MIG, which specified that all income was taken into account unless specifically excluded.

This makes the PC assessment transparent and reflects the fact that some of the less common or more obscure income streams will be ignored. For example, the following were taken into account in MIG, but are completely ignored in PC.

- cash in lieu of concessionary coal
- student grants and loans
- payments from family/friends and charitable payments
- payments for children-such as child maintenance and child benefit
- strike pay

## **Savings and investments-what will be taken into account**

In MIG, people were excluded from any help if they had savings of £12,000 or more (or £16,000 for care and nursing home residents). PC abolishes this rule. Savings below a threshold of £6,000 (£10,000 for those in care homes) will have no effect on entitlement. Unlike MIG, details of savings below £6,000 (or £10,000 for those in care homes) will not be recorded.

The other main change in PC is that less tariff income is assumed from capital (£1 in every £500 or part thereof over the threshold, rather than £1 in every £250 under MIG). This means that customers can have an amount of capital that would have previously disqualified them from MIG, but does not disqualify them from PC.

Unlike MIG, compensation payments made in consequence of a personal injury to the claimant or their partner will also be ignored.

## **Savings Credit**

Single people age 65 or over (and couples where one member is 65 or over) may be entitled to a Savings Credit. This will reward pensioners who have modest income from savings and/or income from a second pension.

The Savings Credit will be calculated by taking into account any qualifying income above a fixed threshold – called the savings credit threshold. The threshold is £79.60 per week for single people (£127.25 per week for couples).

The Savings Credit will give customers a cash addition calculated at 60% of the amount by which their qualifying income (up to the level of the standard minimum guarantee) exceeds the savings credit threshold. The maximum Savings Credit is £15.51 for single people per week (£20.22 per week for couples). Only qualifying income above the level of the savings credit threshold will be rewarded.

Single people age 65 or over (and couples where one member is age 65 or over and the other at least 60) may not need to report any changes in money set aside for retirement for up to 5 years. This is called an assessed income period. An assessed income period will normally be set for 5 years. During this time customers will not need to report changes to any:

- second pensions (such as work pensions, stakeholder pensions, state second pensions, private pensions)
- income from annuities
- income from capital.

They will need to report any other changes in circumstances. A shorter period may be set if:

- the money the customer has set aside for retirement is likely to change within 12 months of the decision on Pension Credit entitlement
- in couple cases, the other member reaches age 65 within 5 years. For example, in the case of a customer aged 67 whose partner is aged 62, the assessed income period would be set to run until the partner's 65th birthday

During an assessed income period income from second pensions and annuities will be automatically up rated using information provided by customers about the rate and timing of any increases.

## **Source**

Analyses are taken from the Quarterly Statistical Analyses and are based on a 5% scan.

## Summary

At August 2004 the PC caseload was 89,820.

There were 48,560 claimants in the Guarantee Credit and Savings Credit statistical group in Northern Ireland at August 2004 (54.1% of the total caseload), compared to 1,298,100 claimants in GB (49.9% of the total caseload). The weekly payment for this group was £46.44.

There were 35,000 claimants in the Guarantee Credit statistical group in Northern Ireland at August 2004 (39.0% of the total caseload), compared to 759,800 claimants in GB (29.2% of the total caseload). The weekly payment for this group was £75.49.

There were 6,260 claimants in the Savings Credit statistical group in Northern Ireland at August 2004 (7.0% of the total caseload), compared to 544,500 claimants in GB (20.9% of the total caseload). The weekly payment for this group was £10.70.

Generally, couples receive a higher weekly payment of PC compared to those who are single. At August 2004 for example, a single claimant received on average £52.32 per week, compared to £69.65 received by a couple.

The largest number of male PC claimants lies in the 60-64 year old age bracket with 8,760. The largest number of female PC claimants lies in the 80 or over age bracket with 21,140 at August 2004.

The highest numbers of claimants were found in Belfast, Derry and Newry & Mourne district councils.

The proportion of claimants receiving benefit for under 3 months was at 1.0% in August 2004. Approximately 75.4% of all claimants have been in receipt of benefit for at least 2 years.

The majority of claimants aged 80 and over have been on PC for 2 years or more. Those aged 60-64 claiming PC at August 2004 also tended to be claiming benefit for longer durations.



**Table 5.1 Pension Credit claimants by benefit entitlement: 2003 to August 2004**

|      |          | All claimants | Type of Pension Credit              |                       |                     |
|------|----------|---------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
|      |          |               | Guarantee Credit and Savings Credit | Guarantee Credit only | Savings Credit only |
| 2003 | November | <b>79,960</b> | 45,420                              | 33,380                | 1,160               |
| 2004 | February | <b>83,200</b> | 46,260                              | 33,700                | 3,240               |
|      | May      | <b>87,640</b> | 48,020                              | 34,480                | 5,140               |
|      | August   | <b>89,820</b> | 48,560                              | 35,000                | 6,260               |

These figures are not seasonally adjusted. Any comparisons should be made "year on year"

**Table 5.2 Pension Credit claimants by family type: 2003 to August 2004**

|      |          | All claimants | Single   | Couple        |
|------|----------|---------------|----------|---------------|
|      |          | 2003          | November | <b>79,960</b> |
| 2004 | February | <b>83,200</b> | 66,800   | 16,400        |
|      | May      | <b>87,640</b> | 69,900   | 17,740        |
|      | August   | <b>89,820</b> | 71,260   | 18,560        |

These figures are not seasonally adjusted. Any comparisons should be made "year on year"

**Table 5.3 Beneficiaries of Pension Credit by type: 2003 to August 2004**

|      |          | All            | Type of beneficiary |         | Beneficiaries as % of population <sup>1</sup> |
|------|----------|----------------|---------------------|---------|---|
|      |          |                | Claimant            | Partner |   |
| 2003 | November | <b>95,160</b>  | 79,960              | 15,200  | 30.9  |
| 2004 | February | <b>99,600</b>  | 83,200              | 16,400  | 32.3  |
|      | May      | <b>105,380</b> | 87,640              | 17,740  | 34.2  |
|      | August   | <b>108,380</b> | 89,820              | 18,560  | 35.1  |

These figures are not seasonally adjusted. Any comparisons should be made "year on year"

<sup>1</sup>Population aged 60 and over per 2003 Mid-Year Estimate for Northern Ireland

**Table 5.4 Pension Credit claimants by age and gender: 2003 to August 2004**

|      |          | All<br>claimants | All males |          |          |          |               | All females |          |          |          |               |
|------|----------|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|---------------|-------------|----------|----------|----------|---------------|
|      |          |                  | 60 to 64  | 65 to 69 | 70 to 74 | 75 to 79 | 80<br>or over | 60 to 64    | 65 to 69 | 70 to 74 | 75 to 79 | 80<br>or over |
| 2003 | November | <b>79,960</b>    | 8,500     | 6,200    | 5,080    | 4,160    | 5,440         | 6,000       | 7,100    | 8,400    | 9,880    | 19,200        |
| 2004 | February | <b>83,200</b>    | 8,180     | 6,860    | 5,500    | 4,600    | 5,960         | 5,980       | 7,360    | 8,720    | 10,220   | 19,820        |
|      | May      | <b>87,640</b>    | 8,600     | 7,280    | 5,920    | 5,160    | 6,240         | 6,220       | 7,500    | 9,340    | 10,760   | 20,620        |
|      | August   | <b>89,820</b>    | 8,760     | 7,820    | 6,160    | 5,340    | 6,440         | 6,340       | 7,600    | 9,460    | 10,760   | 21,140        |

These figures are not seasonally adjusted. Any comparisons should be made "year on year"

**Table 5.5 Pension Credit claimants by Type and District Council: August 2004**

| District Council              | Numbers / Percentages |                                       |                         |                       |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
|                               | All claimants         | Type of Pension Credit                |                         |                       |
|                               |                       | Guarantee Credit and Savings Credit % | Guarantee Credit only % | Savings Credit only % |
| Antrim                        | 2,180                 | 55.0                                  | 33.0                    | 11.9                  |
| Ards                          | 3,140                 | 56.7                                  | 37.6                    | 5.7                   |
| Armagh                        | 2,740                 | 57.7                                  | 38.7                    | 3.6                   |
| Ballymena                     | 2,720                 | 55.1                                  | 33.1                    | 11.8                  |
| Ballymoney                    | 1,680                 | 54.8                                  | 44.0                    | **                    |
| Banbridge                     | 2,020                 | 53.5                                  | 37.6                    | 8.9                   |
| Belfast                       | 17,900                | 58.3                                  | 34.7                    | 6.9                   |
| Carrickfergus                 | 1,340                 | 50.7                                  | 29.9                    | 19.4                  |
| Castlereagh                   | 2,320                 | 55.2                                  | 27.6                    | 17.2                  |
| Coleraine                     | 3,080                 | 55.2                                  | 38.3                    | 6.5                   |
| Cookstown                     | 2,260                 | 43.4                                  | 53.1                    | **                    |
| Craigavon                     | 4,620                 | 59.3                                  | 31.6                    | 9.1                   |
| Derry                         | 5,580                 | 50.9                                  | 43.4                    | 5.7                   |
| Down                          | 2,740                 | 48.9                                  | 39.4                    | 11.7                  |
| Dungannon                     | 3,000                 | 54.7                                  | 42.7                    | **                    |
| Fermanagh                     | 3,780                 | 45.0                                  | 52.4                    | 2.6                   |
| Larne                         | 1,440                 | 58.3                                  | 36.1                    | **                    |
| Limavady                      | 1,640                 | 46.3                                  | 47.6                    | 6.1                   |
| Lisburn                       | 4,520                 | 58.4                                  | 32.7                    | 8.8                   |
| Magherafelt                   | 2,480                 | 50.0                                  | 42.7                    | 7.3                   |
| Moyle                         | 980                   | 49.0                                  | 51.0                    | 0                     |
| Newry&Mourne                  | 5,140                 | 50.6                                  | 45.1                    | 4.3                   |
| Newtownabbey                  | 3,940                 | 52.3                                  | 35.5                    | 12.2                  |
| North Down                    | 2,860                 | 70.6                                  | 23.1                    | 6.3                   |
| Omagh                         | 2,820                 | 46.1                                  | 51.8                    | **                    |
| Strabane                      | 2,440                 | 43.4                                  | 54.9                    | **                    |
| Missing Postcode <sup>1</sup> | 460                   | 34.8                                  | 56.5                    | **                    |
| <b>All Claimants</b>          | <b>89,820</b>         | <b>54.1</b>                           | <b>39.0</b>             | <b>7.0</b>            |

\*\* Percentages based on numbers less than 100 are not displayed due to DSD Confidentiality Policy

<sup>1</sup>In producing this analysis, individual records were attributed on the basis of their postcode.

Not all records can be correctly allocated to a ward using this method, and some cannot be allocated at all.

Past investigation has demonstrated that mis-allocations and non-allocations do not necessarily occur randomly between areas, and at ward level, the proportion of records mis-allocated or unallocated can be substantial.

At present it seems likely that a higher than average proportion of records that can not be attributed to a ward are in the following areas: Fermanagh District Council, Derry District Council and parts of Belfast City Council.

These figures are not seasonally adjusted. Any comparisons should be made "year on year"

**Table 5.6 Pension Credit claimants by Government Office Region and benefit entitlement:  
August 2004**

| GOR                   | All claimants<br>000(=100%) | Type of Pension Credit                 |                          |                        | Claimants as %<br>of GOR's<br>population (1)(2) |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------|------------------------|---|
|                       |                             | Guarantee Credit<br>and Savings Credit | Guarantee Credit<br>only | Savings Credit<br>only |   |
| England               | 2,181.5                     | 49.2                                   | 29.6                     | 21.2                   | 21.0  |
| North East            | 154.1                       | 51.9                                   | 24.1                     | 24.0                   | 27.8  |
| North West            | 346.7                       | 51.7                                   | 28.4                     | 19.9                   | 24.1  |
| Yorkshire and the Hum | 252.1                       | 50.6                                   | 26.0                     | 23.4                   | 23.8  |
| East Midlands         | 187.5                       | 50.6                                   | 26.4                     | 23.1                   | 20.7  |
| West Midlands         | 270.9                       | 52.2                                   | 27.6                     | 20.2                   | 24.0  |
| East                  | 208.8                       | 52.1                                   | 25.0                     | 22.9                   | 17.6  |
| London                | 278.7                       | 35.4                                   | 50.9                     | 13.7                   | 23.9  |
| South East            | 267.2                       | 48.4                                   | 28.1                     | 23.5                   | 15.5  |
| South West            | 215.4                       | 52.9                                   | 23.9                     | 23.2                   | 17.8  |
| Wales                 | 151.5                       | 54.2                                   | 26.3                     | 19.5                   | 22.5  |
| Scotland              | 269.3                       | 52.8                                   | 27.4                     | 19.8                   | 24.8  |
| <b>Great Britain</b>  | <b>2,602.3</b>              | <b>49.9</b>                            | <b>29.2</b>              | <b>20.9</b>            | <b>21.4</b>                                     |
| Northern Ireland      | 89.8                        | 54.1                                   | 39.0                     | 7.0                    | 29.1  |

Population aged 60 and over per 2003 Mid-Year Estimates

**Table 5.7 Pension Credit claimants by duration of current claim and benefit entitlement:  
August 2004**

| Duration               | All claimants | Type of Pension Credit                 |                          |                        |
|------------------------|---------------|--|--------------------------|------------------------|
|                        |               | Guarantee Credit<br>and Savings Credit | Guarantee Credit<br>only | Savings Credit<br>only |
| <b>All claimants</b>   | <b>89,820</b> | <b>48,560</b>                          | <b>35,000</b>            | <b>6,260</b>           |
| % under 3 months       | 1.0           | 0.2                                    | 2.1                      | **                     |
| % 3 to under 6 months  | 2.0           | 0.9                                    | 3.1                      | 5.1                    |
| % 6 to under 12 months | 14.3          | 10.3                                   | 8.9                      | 76.0                   |
| % 1 to under 2 years   | 7.2           | 7.7                                    | 6.8                      | 5.8                    |
| % 2 to under 3 years   | 6.5           | 7.1                                    | 6.5                      | **                     |
| % 3 to under 4 years   | 6.6           | 7.3                                    | 6.3                      | 3.2                    |
| % 4 to under 5 years   | 6.5           | 7.9                                    | 5.5                      | 1.6                    |
| % 5 years and over     | 55.8          | 58.6                                   | 60.7                     | 6.1                    |

\*\* Percentages based on numbers less than 100 are not displayed due to DSD Confidentiality Policy.

Duration reflects total time spent on Income Support (MIG) and Pension Credit, and not just time spent in the current statistical group.

**Table 5.8 Pension Credit claimants by duration of current claim, age and gender: August 2004**

| Age/Gender    | All claimants<br>(=100%) | Duration            |                                 |                               |                              |                      |
|---------------|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
|               |                          | % under 3<br>months | % 3 months to<br>under 6 months | % 6 months to<br>under 1 year | % 1 year to<br>under 2 years | % 2 years<br>or over |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>89,820</b>            | <b>1.0</b>          | <b>2.0</b>                      | <b>14.3</b>                   | <b>7.2</b>                   | <b>75.4</b>          |
| <b>Male</b>   | <b>34,520</b>            | <b>1.5</b>          | <b>2.6</b>                      | <b>16.7</b>                   | <b>6.7</b>                   | <b>72.5</b>          |
| 60 to 64      | 8,760                    | 4.8                 | 7.1                             | 15.8                          | 10.0                         | 62.3                 |
| 65 to 69      | 7,820                    | **                  | **                              | 14.1                          | 5.6                          | 78.8                 |
| 70 to 74      | 6,160                    | 0                   | **                              | 17.5                          | 3.9                          | 77.9                 |
| 75 to 79      | 5,340                    | **                  | **                              | 22.8                          | 4.9                          | 70.4                 |
| 80 or over    | 6,440                    | **                  | **                              | 15.5                          | 7.5                          | 75.2                 |
| <b>Female</b> | <b>55,300</b>            | <b>0.8</b>          | <b>1.7</b>                      | <b>12.8</b>                   | <b>7.6</b>                   | <b>77.2</b>          |
| 60 to 64      | 6,340                    | 4.4                 | 6.3                             | 15.1                          | 10.4                         | 63.7                 |
| 65 to 69      | 7,600                    | **                  | **                              | 14.5                          | 7.6                          | 76.3                 |
| 70 to 74      | 9,460                    | **                  | 1.3                             | 14.8                          | 8.7                          | 74.8                 |
| 75 to 79      | 10,760                   | **                  | 1.9                             | 12.3                          | 8.7                          | 77.0                 |
| 80 or over    | 21,140                   | **                  | 0.7                             | 10.8                          | 5.7                          | 82.7                 |

\*\* Percentages based on numbers less than 100 are not displayed due to DSD Confidentiality Policy.

Duration reflects total time spent on Income Support (MIG) and Pension Credit.

**Table 5.9 Average weekly payments made to Pension Credit claimants by benefit entitlement: 2003 to August 2004**

|      |          | £ per week       |  |                          |                        |
|------|----------|------------------|--|--------------------------|------------------------|
|      |          | All<br>claimants | Type of Pension Credit                 |                          |                        |
|      |          |                  | Guarantee Credit and<br>Savings Credit | Guarantee Credit<br>only | Savings Credit<br>only |
| 2003 | November | <b>57.01</b>     | 45.93                                  | 73.74                    | 9.57                   |
| 2004 | February | <b>55.16</b>     | 45.46                                  | 72.93                    | 8.81                   |
|      | May      | <b>55.83</b>     | 46.59                                  | 75.53                    | 10.03                  |
|      | August   | <b>55.27</b>     | 46.44                                  | 75.49                    | 10.70                  |

These figures are not seasonally adjusted. Any comparisons should be made "year on year"

**Table 5.10 Rates of Pension Credit**

£ per week

|           | Standard          |        | Additional amounts |                   |                 |                  | Savings Credit |        |         |        |
|-----------|-------------------|--------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|--------|---------|--------|
|           | Minimum Guarantee |        | Carers             | Severe Disability |                 |                  | Threshold      |        | Maximum |        |
|           | Single            | Couple | Single             | Single            | Couple<br>(one) | Couple<br>(both) | Single         | Couple | Single  | Couple |
|           |                   |        |                    |                   |                 |                  |                |        |         |        |
| 06-Oct-03 | 102.10            | 155.80 | 25.10              | 42.95             | 42.95           | 85.90            | 77.45          | 123.80 | 14.79   | 19.20  |
| 12-Apr-04 | 105.45            | 160.95 | 25.55              | 44.15             | 44.15           | 88.30            | 79.60          | 127.25 | 15.51   | 20.22  |

## Section 6 - Jobseeker's Allowance

*Introduced 7 October 1996*

*Contributory or means tested, Taxable*

Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) replaced Unemployment Benefit and Income Support for unemployed people on 7 October 1996. It is payable to people under pensionable age who are available for, and actively seeking, work of at least 40 hours a week. Certain groups of people, including carers and those with a physical or mental condition, are able to restrict their availability to less than 40 hours depending upon their personal circumstances.

A further basic condition for the receipt of benefit is that a person claiming Jobseeker's Allowance needs to enter into a Jobseeker's Agreement with the Employment Service. The agreement sets out:

- any agreed restrictions on the jobseeker's availability for work
- the steps the jobseeker intends to take to look for work.

In addition, to be entitled to Jobseeker's Allowance the person must:

- be resident in Northern Ireland
- be capable of work
- not be in relevant education
- not be working 16 hours or more a week on average, or have a partner who is not working 24 hours or more a week on average.

There are contribution-based and income-based routes of entry to Jobseeker's Allowance which is paid at standard rates. Those who have paid sufficient National Insurance contributions receive contribution-based Jobseeker's Allowance for up to six months. Those who do not qualify for, or whose needs are not met by contribution-based Jobseeker's Allowance, may qualify for income-based help for themselves and their dependants. This help will continue for as long as it is needed, provided that the qualifying conditions continue to be met.

Entitlement to contribution-based JSA is based on a person meeting the contribution conditions. These depend on Class1 contributions paid as an employed earner in two specified tax years. National Insurance credits alone will not enable a person to qualify but they can help towards meeting the conditions. If they satisfy the test, they may receive a personal, age-related rate of benefit for up to 6 months irrespective of savings, capital or a partner's earnings.

Figures in these tables are affected by the introduction of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) in April 2003. Child Tax Credit will eventually replace all existing child elements paid to families with children within Jobseeker's Allowance. There is no provision for children within income-based JSA after April 2004. Claimants will need to claim CTC to provide this income. Families who receive the child elements within income-based JSA will be moved to CTC from October 2004 onwards.

### Source

Figures are based on 20% scans.



## Summary

The overall number of unemployed claimants fell by over five thousand (5,350) between August 2003 and August 2004 to 31,650. The majority of this reduction in numbers was accounted for by recipients of income-based benefit - a fall of 3,310 in the year to August 2004.

There was a similar proportion of claims of short duration (less than 3 months) in August 2004, 39.9% compared to 39.6% a year earlier. Claims of less than 3 months are a proxy for new claims.

There was a slight increase in the proportion of claims of more than a year between August 2004 (27.8%) and August 2003 (25.7%). Great Britain saw an increase, with claims of long duration (more than one year) rising to 18.9% of the overall caseload, from 17.8% in the previous year.

Between August 2001 and August 2004 the proportion of JSA claimants who had been out of work for one year or more decreased from 33% to 27.8% of all JSA claimants. Some of this decrease will be due to changing economic circumstances. But, it will also be impacted upon by the introduction of the New Deal for 18 to 24 year olds and the New Deal for 25+ both of which are designed to assist the longer-term unemployed into work or training.

When compared with the corresponding figures for Great Britain, Northern Ireland is shown to have a greater proportion of claims of long duration (more than one year), namely 27.8% of the overall caseload in August 2004, compared to the Great Britain figure of 18.9%.

JSA claimants as a proportion of people of working age in Northern Ireland in August 2004 was 3.0%. These proportions range from 1.4% in Magherafelt to 5.7% in Strabane.

JSA claimants in Great Britain have decreased by 10.6% in the year to August 2004. There has been a decrease in all Government Office Regions, with South West having the largest decrease at 16.7%. The other regions have seen a decrease ranging from 6.0% in London to 14.7% in the East Midlands.

Single claimants without dependants tend to receive the lowest amounts of benefit, on average £51.72 per week for contribution-based and £51.72 for those with income-based. Recipients of income-based JSA with partners and/or dependants receive higher amounts (£93.07 for couples without dependants and £127.70 for single/couples with dependants). However the former account for only 3.6% of all JSA claimants, whilst the latter account for 6.8%. The corresponding figures for Great Britain in August 2004, with regards to JSA with partners and dependants, are similar.



Table 6.1 JSA claimants by benefit entitlement - 1997 to 2004

|      |          | All claimants | All with benefit | Type of JSA             |                               |                   | No JSA in payment |
|------|----------|---------------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|      |          |               |                  | Contribution based only | Contribution and income-based | Income-based only |                   |
| 1997 | February | 65,765        | 60,480           | 5,750                   | 815                           | 53,915            | 5,285             |
|      | May      | 61,895        | 57,240           | 3,760                   | 785                           | 52,695            | 4,655             |
|      | August   | 63,225        | 58,500           | 6,450                   | 615                           | 51,435            | 4,725             |
|      | November | 57,675        | 53,625           | 5,035                   | 575                           | 48,015            | 4,050             |
| 1998 | February | 57,690        | 53,690           | 5,705                   | 605                           | 47,380            | 4,000             |
|      | May      | 54,920        | 51,160           | 4,715                   | 580                           | 45,865            | 3,760             |
|      | August   | 60,580        | 56,285           | 6,750                   | 675                           | 48,860            | 4,295             |
|      | November | 53,935        | 50,040           | 5,210                   | 515                           | 44,315            | 3,895             |
| 1999 | February | 54,530        | 50,565           | 5,435                   | 645                           | 44,485            | 3,965             |
|      | May      | 50,005        | 46,390           | 4,455                   | 615                           | 41,320            | 3,615             |
|      | August   | 51,640        | 47,315           | 5,375                   | 520                           | 41,420            | 4,325             |
|      | November | 43,225        | 39,830           | 4,005                   | 415                           | 35,410            | 3,395             |
| 2000 | February | 43,315        | 39,995           | 4,765                   | 470                           | 34,760            | 3,320             |
|      | May      | 40,035        | 36,850           | 4,300                   | 465                           | 32,085            | 3,185             |
|      | August   | 43,455        | 39,995           | 5,285                   | 435                           | 34,275            | 3,460             |
|      | November | 40,035        | 36,510           | 4,570                   | 425                           | 31,515            | 3,525             |
| 2001 | February | 41,115        | 37,860           | 4,885                   | 355                           | 32,620            | 3,255             |
|      | May      | 38,860        | 35,680           | 4,380                   | 365                           | 30,935            | 3,180             |
|      | August   | 41,255        | 37,965           | 5,550                   | 385                           | 32,030            | 3,290             |
|      | November | 36,470        | 33,445           | 4,590                   | 380                           | 28,475            | 3,025             |
| 2002 | February | 37,650        | 34,360           | 4,815                   | 485                           | 29,060            | 3,290             |
|      | May      | 34,825        | 31,845           | 4,335                   | 445                           | 27,065            | 2,980             |
|      | August   | 37,595        | 34,395           | 5,220                   | 455                           | 28,720            | 3,200             |
|      | November | 33,105        | 30,130           | 4,175                   | 370                           | 25,585            | 2,975             |
| 2003 | February | 35,015        | 32,010           | 5,020                   | 370                           | 26,620            | 3,005             |
|      | May      | 33,800        | 30,685           | 4,915                   | 350                           | 25,420            | 3,115             |
|      | August   | 37,000        | 33,795           | 6,020                   | 365                           | 27,410            | 3,205             |
|      | November | 32,875        | 29,965           | 4,550                   | 350                           | 25,065            | 2,910             |
| 2004 | February | 33,200        | 30,365           | 4,360                   | 240                           | 25,765            | 2,835             |
|      | May      | 30,420        | 27,730           | 3,965                   | 250                           | 23,515            | 2,690             |
|      | August   | 31,650        | 29,125           | 4,815                   | 210                           | 24,100            | 2,525             |

Figures in this table may be affected by the introduction of New Tax Credits in April 2003.

**Table 6.2 JSA claimants at August 2004 by age and benefit entitlement**

| Claimants age   | All claimants<br>'000 (=100%) | All with<br>benefit % | Type of JSA                  |                                    |                        | No JSA in<br>payment % |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
|                 |                               |                       | Contribution<br>based only % | Contribution and<br>income-based % | Income-based<br>only % |                        |
| <b>All ages</b> | <b>31,650</b>                 | <b>92.0</b>           | <b>15.2</b>                  | <b>0.7</b>                         | <b>76.1</b>            | <b>8.0</b>             |
| Under 20        | 3,585                         | 95.4                  | 1.0                          | 0.0                                | 94.4                   | 4.6                    |
| 20-24           | 6,805                         | 96.1                  | 18.3                         | 0.3                                | 77.5                   | 3.9                    |
| 25-29           | 4,170                         | 96.5                  | 25.4                         | 0.2                                | 70.9                   | 3.5                    |
| 30-34           | 3,345                         | 94.6                  | 18.8                         | 1.8                                | 74.0                   | 5.4                    |
| 35-39           | 2,895                         | 91.9                  | 17.4                         | 0.5                                | 73.9                   | 8.1                    |
| 40-44           | 2,675                         | 90.5                  | 14.2                         | 1.3                                | 75.0                   | 9.5                    |
| 45-49           | 2,545                         | 89.8                  | 13.2                         | 1.6                                | 75.0                   | 10.2                   |
| 50-54           | 2,570                         | 85.4                  | 11.5                         | 0.4                                | 73.5                   | 14.6                   |
| 55-59           | 2,850                         | 78.9                  | 9.8                          | 0.2                                | 68.9                   | 21.1                   |
| 60 and over     | 210                           | 78.6                  | 23.8                         | 7.1                                | 47.6                   | 21.4                   |

Figures in this table may be affected by the introduction of New Tax Credits in April 2003.

**Table 6.3 JSA claimants by gender, marital status and benefit entitlement - August 2004**

| Claimants          | All claimants<br>'000(=100%) | All with<br>benefit % | Type of JSA                  |                                    |                        | No JSA in<br>payment % |
|--------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
|                    |                              |                       | Contribution<br>based only % | Contribution and<br>income-based % | Income based<br>only % |                        |
| <b>All</b>         | <b>31,650</b>                | <b>92.0</b>           | <b>15.2</b>                  | <b>0.7</b>                         | <b>76.1</b>            | <b>8.0</b>             |
| <b>All males</b>   | <b>22,985</b>                | <b>93.9</b>           | <b>12.8</b>                  | <b>0.8</b>                         | <b>80.2</b>            | <b>6.1</b>             |
| single             | 18,765                       | 97.1                  | 12.4                         | 0.3                                | 84.4                   | 2.9                    |
| with partner       | 4,220                        | 79.3                  | 14.6                         | 3.2                                | 61.5                   | 20.7                   |
| <b>All females</b> | <b>8,665</b>                 | <b>87.1</b>           | <b>21.5</b>                  | <b>0.2</b>                         | <b>65.4</b>            | <b>12.9</b>            |
| single             | 6,875                        | 93.7                  | 14.3                         | 0.0                                | 79.5                   | 6.3                    |
| with partner       | 1,790                        | 61.7                  | 49.4                         | 1.1                                | 11.2                   | 38.3                   |

Figures in this table may be affected by the introduction of New Tax Credits in April 2003.

**Table 6.4 JSA claimants at August 2004 by District Council and as a percentage of working age population**

| <b>District Council</b> | <b>All Claimants<br/>'000(=100%)</b> | <b>Working Age<br/>Population<sup>1</sup></b> | <b>Claimants as<br/>% of the<br/>population</b> |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>All</b>              | <b>31,650</b>                        | <b>1,043,893</b>                              | <b>3.0</b>                                      |
| Antrim                  | 605                                  | 30,976  | 2.0   |
| Ards                    | 1,050                                | 46,210  | 2.3   |
| Armagh                  | 840                                  | 33,817  | 2.5   |
| Ballymena               | 680                                  | 36,286  | 1.9   |
| Ballymoney              | 340                                  | 16,875  | 2.0   |
| Banbridge               | 525                                  | 26,787  | 2.0   |
| Belfast                 | 7,425                                | 166,974                                       | 4.4   |
| Carrickfergus           | 655                                  | 23,913  | 2.7   |
| Castlereagh             | 740                                  | 39,270  | 1.9   |
| Coleraine               | 1,280                                | 33,777  | 3.8   |
| Cookstown               | 370                                  | 20,506  | 1.8   |
| Craigavon               | 1,235                                | 50,120  | 2.5   |
| Derry                   | 3,660                                | 66,034  | 5.5   |
| Down                    | 1,260                                | 39,620  | 3.2   |
| Dungannon               | 555                                  | 29,398  | 1.9   |
| Fermanagh               | 1,270                                | 35,779  | 3.5   |
| Larne                   | 465                                  | 18,882  | 2.5   |
| Limavady                | 645                                  | 21,151  | 3.0   |
| Lisburn                 | 1,500                                | 67,512  | 2.2   |
| Magherafelt             | 360                                  | 24,995  | 1.4   |
| Moyle                   | 255                                  | 9,768   | 2.6   |
| Newry&Mourne            | 1,680                                | 54,196  | 3.1   |
| Newtownabbey            | 940                                  | 49,432  | 1.9   |
| North Down              | 930                                  | 47,438  | 2.0   |
| Omagh                   | 925                                  | 30,615  | 3.0   |
| Strabane                | 1,350                                | 23,562  | 5.7   |

<sup>1</sup>Population of working age per Mid-Year Estimate 2003:16-59 for females, 16-64 for males.

The allocation of allowances to District Council is based on the postcode of the recipient. There is evidence that this process is not equally accurate for all District Councils.

Figures in this table may be affected by the introduction of New Tax Credits in April 2003.

**Table 6.5 JSA claimants by Government Office Region:  
August 2003 and August 2004**

| <b>GOR</b>           | <b>August<br/>2003</b> | <b>August<br/>2004</b> | <b>Annual<br/>% Change</b> |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>England</b>       | <b>762.5</b>           | <b>681.4</b>           | <b>-10.6</b>               |
| North East           | 52.1                   | 44.7                   | -14.2                      |
| North West           | 113.2                  | 98.9                   | -12.6                      |
| Yorks & Humberside   | 84.2                   | 72.7                   | -13.6                      |
| East Midlands        | 60.3                   | 51.4                   | -14.7                      |
| West Midlands        | 97.5                   | 88.2                   | -9.6                       |
| East                 | 58.3                   | 54.8                   | -6.1                       |
| London               | 173.2                  | 162.9                  | -6.0                       |
| South East           | 75.9                   | 68.0                   | -10.4                      |
| South West           | 47.7                   | 39.8                   | -16.7                      |
| Wales                | 44.6                   | 39.7                   | -11.1                      |
| Scotland             | 104.2                  | 94.5                   | -9.4                       |
| <b>Great Britain</b> | <b>911.3</b>           | <b>815.5</b>           | <b>-10.5</b>               |
| Northern Ireland     | 37                     | 31.7                   | -10.0                      |

Figures in this table may be affected by the introduction of New Tax Credits in April 2003.

**Table 6.6 JSA claimants by duration of current claim: August 1999 to August 2004**

| <b>Duration</b>      | <b>August 1999</b> | <b>August 2000</b> | <b>August 2001</b> | <b>August 2002</b> | <b>August 2003</b> | <b>August 2004</b> |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>All claimants</b> | <b>51,640</b>      | <b>43,455</b>      | <b>41,255</b>      | <b>37,595</b>      | <b>37,000</b>      | <b>31,650</b>      |
| Under 3 months       | 15,080             | 14,135             | 12,900             | 12,120             | 14,635             | 12,620             |
| 3 to under 6 months  | 7,120              | 7,345              | 6,995              | 6,830              | 6,275              | 4,990              |
| 6 to under 12 months | 9,235              | 8,260              | 7,665              | 7,885              | 6,595              | 5,225              |
| 1 to under 2 years   | 6,905              | 6,580              | 6,930              | 5,695              | 4,810              | 4,570              |
| 2 years or over      | 13,300             | 7,135              | 6,765              | 5,065              | 4,685              | 4,245              |

Figures in this table may be affected by the introduction of New Tax Credits in April 2003.

**Table 6.7 JSA claimants at August 2004 by benefit entitlement and duration of current claim**

| <b>Duration of claim</b>   | <b>Type of JSA</b>   |                         |                                |                                      |                          |                          |
|----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
|                            | <b>All claimants</b> | <b>All with benefit</b> | <b>Contribution based only</b> | <b>Contribution and income-based</b> | <b>Income-based only</b> | <b>No JSA in payment</b> |
| <b>All (=100%)</b>         | <b>31,650</b>        | <b>29,125</b>           | <b>4,815</b>                   | <b>210</b>                           | <b>24,100</b>            | <b>2,525</b>             |
| <b>Duration</b>            |                      |                         |                                |                                      |                          |                          |
| % up to 2 weeks            | <b>6.7</b>           | <b>5.7</b>              | 10.8                           | 7.1                                  | 4.7                      | 17.6                     |
| % 2 to under 6 weeks       | <b>13.5</b>          | <b>13.7</b>             | 24.0                           | 19.0                                 | 11.6                     | 10.3                     |
| % 6 to under 13 weeks      | <b>19.7</b>          | <b>19.7</b>             | 37.0                           | 26.2                                 | 16.2                     | 20.2                     |
| % 13 to under 26 weeks     | <b>15.8</b>          | <b>15.9</b>             | 28.2                           | 47.6                                 | 13.2                     | 13.7                     |
| % 26 to under 39 weeks     | <b>9.8</b>           | <b>9.8</b>              | -                              | -                                    | 11.9                     | 9.5                      |
| % 39 weeks to under 1 year | <b>6.7</b>           | <b>6.7</b>              | -                              | -                                    | 8.1                      | 6.9                      |
| % 1 to under 2 years       | <b>14.4</b>          | <b>14.6</b>             | -                              | -                                    | 17.6                     | 13.1                     |
| % 2 years or over          | <b>13.4</b>          | <b>13.8</b>             | -                              | -                                    | 16.7                     | 8.7                      |

Figures in this table may be affected by the introduction of New Tax Credits in April 2003.

**Table 6.8 JSA claimants with income-based benefit by average weekly amount: 1998 to 2004**

|      |          | All            |              | Single without dependants |       | Couple without dependants |       | Single or couple with dependants |        |
|------|----------|----------------|--------------|---------------------------|-------|---------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|--------|
|      |          | Average amount |              | Average amount            |       | Average amount            |       | Average amount                   |        |
|      |          | Total          | £pw          | Total                     | £pw   | Total                     | £pw   | Total                            | £pw    |
| 1998 | February | <b>49,242</b>  | <b>60.71</b> | 36,215                    | 45.81 | 3,506                     | 70.32 | 9,521                            | 113.85 |
|      | May      | <b>46,832</b>  | <b>62.33</b> | 34,454                    | 47.04 | 3,356                     | 72.73 | 9,022                            | 116.87 |
|      | August   | <b>50,198</b>  | <b>60.73</b> | 37,801                    | 46.58 | 3,391                     | 73.22 | 9,006                            | 115.40 |
|      | November | <b>45,367</b>  | <b>62.50</b> | 33,590                    | 47.15 | 3,500                     | 73.00 | 8,277                            | 120.33 |
| 1999 | February | <b>46,437</b>  | <b>62.26</b> | 34,570                    | 47.33 | 3,388                     | 73.66 | 8,479                            | 118.60 |
|      | May      | <b>43,138</b>  | <b>63.33</b> | 32,871                    | 48.29 | 2,633                     | 82.99 | 7,634                            | 121.32 |
|      | August   | <b>42,956</b>  | <b>61.45</b> | 33,559                    | 47.93 | 2,470                     | 81.83 | 6,927                            | 119.70 |
|      | November | <b>36,348</b>  | <b>61.64</b> | 28,656                    | 48.04 | 2,075                     | 80.68 | 5,617                            | 123.98 |
| 2000 | February | <b>35,964</b>  | <b>60.31</b> | 28,712                    | 47.89 | 2,017                     | 78.82 | 5,236                            | 121.26 |
|      | May      | <b>34,434</b>  | <b>61.67</b> | 27,664                    | 48.83 | 1,822                     | 81.65 | 4,947                            | 126.10 |
|      | August   | <b>35,315</b>  | <b>60.28</b> | 28,922                    | 48.34 | 1,683                     | 81.39 | 4,711                            | 126.04 |
|      | November | <b>31,990</b>  | <b>62.29</b> | 25,926                    | 48.88 | 1,682                     | 80.68 | 4,382                            | 134.56 |
| 2001 | February | <b>32,951</b>  | <b>61.90</b> | 26,695                    | 48.79 | 1,722                     | 81.77 | 4,534                            | 131.57 |
|      | May      | <b>31,320</b>  | <b>63.36</b> | 25,350                    | 49.91 | 1,563                     | 85.34 | 4,407                            | 132.98 |
|      | August   | <b>33,241</b>  | <b>61.56</b> | 27,482                    | 49.26 | 1,497                     | 87.34 | 4,262                            | 131.77 |
|      | November | <b>29,149</b>  | <b>62.04</b> | 23,889                    | 49.54 | 1,550                     | 84.89 | 3,710                            | 132.99 |
| 2002 | February | <b>30,352</b>  | <b>61.32</b> | 25,210                    | 49.54 | 1,525                     | 84.07 | 3,617                            | 133.81 |
|      | May      | <b>26,779</b>  | <b>61.92</b> | 22,331                    | 50.37 | 1,341                     | 86.90 | 3,107                            | 134.18 |
|      | August   | <b>28,332</b>  | <b>60.87</b> | 23,859                    | 49.94 | 1,418                     | 87.89 | 3,055                            | 133.68 |
|      | November | <b>26,693</b>  | <b>63.36</b> | 22,071                    | 50.36 | 1,449                     | 86.22 | 3,173                            | 143.38 |
| 2003 | February | <b>27,825</b>  | <b>62.55</b> | 23,134                    | 50.21 | 1,523                     | 87.14 | 3,168                            | 140.84 |
|      | May      | <b>25,770</b>  | <b>64.21</b> | 21,400                    | 51.24 | 1,350                     | 89.11 | 3,020                            | 145.01 |
|      | August   | <b>27,775</b>  | <b>62.25</b> | 23,445                    | 50.63 | 1,340                     | 92.21 | 2,990                            | 139.97 |
|      | November | <b>25,415</b>  | <b>62.62</b> | 21,355                    | 51.05 | 1,330                     | 91.78 | 2,730                            | 138.91 |
| 2004 | February | <b>26,005</b>  | <b>61.55</b> | 22,205                    | 50.85 | 1,315                     | 93.65 | 2,485                            | 140.20 |
|      | May      | <b>23,765</b>  | <b>62.15</b> | 20,410                    | 52.07 | 1,180                     | 94.41 | 2,175                            | 139.25 |
|      | August   | <b>24,310</b>  | <b>60.40</b> | 21,005                    | 51.72 | 1,155                     | 93.07 | 2,150                            | 127.70 |

Includes claimants in receipt of income-based JSA who would also be entitled to the contributory element. Only the amount of income-based award above the level of contribution-based award is included. Figures in this table may be affected by the introduction of New Tax Credits in April 2003.

Table 6.9 Rates of Jobseeker's Allowance

|                            | £ per week    |                        |                                |                        |                        |             |            |  |
|----------------------------|---------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------|------------|--|
|                            | Single person |                        |                                |                        | Lone parent            |             |            |  |
|                            | Under 18      |                        | 18 to 24                       | 25 or over             | Under 18               |             | 18 or over |  |
|                            | Usual rate    | Higher rate            |                                |                        | Usual rate             | Higher rate |            |  |
| 07 April 1997              | 29.60         | 38.90                  | 38.90                          | 49.15                  | 29.60                  | 38.90       | 49.15      |  |
| 06 April 1998              | 30.30         | 39.85                  | 39.85                          | 50.35                  | 30.30                  | 39.85       | 50.35      |  |
| 12 April 1999              | 30.95         | 40.70                  | 40.70                          | 51.40                  | 30.95                  | 40.70       | 51.40      |  |
| 10 April 2000              | 31.45         | 41.35                  | 41.35                          | 52.20                  | 31.45                  | 41.35       | 52.20      |  |
| 09 April 2001              | 31.95         | 42.00                  | 42.00                          | 53.05                  | 31.95                  | 42.00       | 53.05      |  |
| 08 April 2002              | 32.50         | 42.70                  | 42.70                          | 53.95                  | 32.50                  | 42.70       | 53.95      |  |
| 07 April 2003              | 32.90         | 43.25                  | 43.25                          | 54.65                  | 32.90                  | 43.25       | 54.65      |  |
| 12 April 2004              | 33.50         | 44.05                  | 44.05                          | 55.65                  | 33.50                  | 44.05       | 55.65      |  |
|                            | Couple        |                        | Dependant children             |                        |                        |             |            |  |
|                            | Both under 18 | One or both 18 or over | Under 11 <sup>1a</sup>         | 11 to 16 <sup>1b</sup> | 16 to 18 <sup>1c</sup> |             |            |  |
| 07 April 1997 <sup>1</sup> | 58.70         | 77.15                  | 16.90                          | 24.75                  | 29.60                  |             |            |  |
| 06 April 1998              | 60.10         | 79.00                  | 17.30                          | 25.35                  | 30.30                  |             |            |  |
| 05 November 1998           | 60.10         | 79.00                  | 19.80                          | 25.35                  | 30.30                  |             |            |  |
| 12 April 1999 <sup>2</sup> | 61.35         | 80.65                  | 20.20                          | 25.90                  | 30.95                  |             |            |  |
|                            |               | Both 18 or over        | 24.90                          | 25.90                  | 30.95                  |             |            |  |
| 04 October 1999            | -             | 80.65                  | Up to and inc.16 <sup>3a</sup> |                        | 16 to 18 <sup>3b</sup> |             |            |  |
| 10 April 2000 <sup>3</sup> | -             | 81.95                  | 26.60                          |                        | 31.75                  |             |            |  |
| 09 April 2001              | -             | 83.25                  | 31.45                          |                        | 32.25                  |             |            |  |
| 08 April 2002              | -             | 84.65                  | 33.50                          |                        | 34.30                  |             |            |  |
| 07 April 2003              | -             | 85.75                  | 38.50                          |                        | 38.50                  |             |            |  |
| 12 April 2004              | -             | 87.30                  | 42.27                          |                        | 42.27                  |             |            |  |

**Notes**

<sup>1</sup> From 7 April 1997 the age banding used for the benefit calculation of dependant children have changed.

<sup>1a</sup> Birth to September following 11th birthday.

<sup>1b</sup> From September following the 11th birthday to September following the 16th birthday

<sup>1c</sup> From September following the 16th birthday to the day before the 19th birthday.

Some children will remain eligible for a different rate of benefit i.e. have 'protected rights'. These are as follows:-

\*Child aged 11 before 7 April 1997 : allowance £25.35

\*Child aged 16 before 7 April 1997 : allowance £30.30

\*Child aged 18 before 7 April 1997 : allowance £39.85

<sup>2</sup> From 12 April 1999 the personal allowance for married or unmarried couples where both members are not yet 18 or one of the couple is aged 18 or over depends on the couple's circumstances. They may be entitled to a couple allowance or a single person's allowance dependant upon certain criteria.

<sup>3</sup> From 10 April 2000 there are only 2 age bands for dependants. From this date the age banding are as follows:

<sup>3a</sup> Birth to September following 16th birthday.

<sup>3b</sup> From September following 16th birthday to the day before the 19th birthday.

**Table 6.10 Rates of Premiums**

| £ per week    |          |                    |            |        |                                  |        |        |                   |              |               |
|---------------|----------|--------------------|------------|--------|----------------------------------|--------|--------|-------------------|--------------|---------------|
|               | Disabled |                    | Disability |        | Enhanced Disability <sup>4</sup> |        |        | Severe Disability |              |               |
|               | child    | Carer <sup>1</sup> | Single     | Couple | Child                            | Single | Couple | Single            | Couple (one) | Couple (both) |
| 07 April 1997 | 20.95    | 13.35              | 20.95      | 29.90  | -                                | -      | -      | 37.15             | 37.15        | 74.30         |
| 06 April 1998 | 21.45    | 13.65              | 21.45      | 30.60  | -                                | -      | -      | 38.50             | 38.50        | 77.00         |
| 12 April 1999 | 21.90    | 13.95              | 21.90      | 31.25  | -                                | -      | -      | 39.75             | 39.75        | 79.50         |
| 10 April 2000 | 22.25    | 14.15              | 22.25      | 31.75  | -                                | -      | -      | 40.20             | 40.20        | 80.40         |
| 09 April 2001 | 30.00    | 24.40              | 22.60      | 32.25  | 11.05                            | 11.05  | 16.00  | 41.55             | 41.55        | 83.10         |
| 08 April 2002 | 35.50    | 24.80              | 23.00      | 32.80  | 11.25                            | 11.25  | 16.25  | 42.25             | 42.25        | 84.50         |
| 07 April 2003 | 41.30    | 25.10              | 23.30      | 33.25  | 16.60                            | 11.40  | 16.45  | 42.95             | 42.95        | 85.90         |
| 12 April 2004 | 42.49    | 25.55              | 23.70      | 33.85  | 17.08                            | 11.60  | 16.75  | 44.15             | 44.15        | 88.30         |

|                            | Bereavement <sup>6</sup> | Family |                     | Pensioner |        | Enhanced Pensioner <sup>2</sup> |        | Higher Pensioner |        |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------|---------------------|-----------|--------|---------------------------------|--------|------------------|--------|
|                            |                          | Lone   |                     | Single    | Couple | Single                          | Couple | Single           | Couple |
|                            |                          | Couple | Parent <sup>3</sup> |           |        |                                 |        |                  |        |
| 07 April 1997              | -                        | 10.80  | 15.75               | 19.65     | 29.65  | 21.85                           | 32.75  | 26.55            | 38.00  |
| 06 April 1998              | -                        | 11.05  | 15.75               | 20.10     | 30.35  | 22.35                           | 33.55  | 27.20            | 38.90  |
| 12 April 1999              | -                        | 13.90  | 15.75               | 23.60     | 35.95  | 25.90                           | 39.20  | 30.85            | 44.65  |
| 10 April 2000              | -                        | 14.25  | 15.90               | 26.25     | 40.00  | 28.65                           | 43.40  | 33.85            | 49.10  |
| 09 April 2001 <sup>5</sup> | 19.45                    | 14.50  | 15.90               | 39.10     | 57.30  | 39.10                           | 57.30  | 39.10            | 57.30  |
| 08 April 2002              | 21.55                    | 14.75  | 15.90               | 44.20     | 65.15  | 44.20                           | 65.15  | 44.20            | 65.15  |
| 07 April 2003              | 22.80                    | 15.75  | 15.90               | 47.45     | 70.05  | 47.45                           | 70.05  | 47.45            | 70.05  |
| 12 April 2004              | 23.95                    | 15.95  | 15.95               | 49.80     | 73.65  | 49.80                           | 73.65  | 49.80            | 73.65  |

<sup>1</sup> Carer premium introduced in October 1990.

<sup>2</sup> Enhanced Pensioner premium introduced in October 1989.

<sup>3</sup> From 7 April 1997 Lone parents received one premium (Family/Lone parent rate)

<sup>4</sup> Enhanced Disability Premium introduced in April 2001

<sup>5</sup> Alignment of Premiums paid to 'aged 60 or over' (MIG) April 2001

<sup>6</sup> Bereavement Premium introduced in April 2001

## Section 7 - Incapacity Benefit

*Introduced 13 April 1995*

*Contributory, Not means tested, Taxable*

Incapacity Benefit (IB) replaced Sickness Benefit and Invalidity Benefit from 13 April 1995. It is paid to people who are assessed as being incapable of work and who meet the same contribution conditions as for Sickness Benefit. The only change is that those who do not satisfy the contribution conditions do not have them treated as satisfied, if they cannot work because of an industrial accident or prescribed disease.

### Assessing Incapacity

For the first 28 weeks of incapacity, people previously in work are assessed on the 'own occupation' test – the claimant's ability to do their own job.

Otherwise, incapacity is based on the Personal Capability Assessment (PCA) which replaced the All Work Test (AWT) from April 2000. The PCA assesses ability to perform a range of every-day activities and provides constructive information about capabilities to help plan a return to work where appropriate. The PCA applies after 28 weeks of incapacity or from the start of the claim for people who did not previously have a job. Certain people are exempt from the PCA.

### Rates of Benefit

The rates of Incapacity Benefit are set out in Table 7.8. For people under state pension age there are two short-term rates: the lower rate is paid for the first 28 weeks of sickness and the higher rate for weeks 29 to 52. Employees receive Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) for the first 28 weeks of sickness, after which they normally move on to Incapacity Benefit. People unable to get SSP can claim Incapacity Benefit if they satisfy the contribution conditions.

The long-term rate of Incapacity Benefit applies to people under state pension age who have been sick for more than a year. People with a terminal illness or who are receiving the highest rate care component of Disability Living Allowance get the long-term rate from week 29.

For people over state pension age, the short-term rate of Incapacity Benefit, based on Retirement Pension entitlement, is paid for up to a year if incapacity began before pension age. The long-term rate is not paid for people over pension age.

The higher short-term rate and long term rate are treated as taxable income.

Increases are paid for a dependant who is caring for a child or where the spouse is aged 60 or over. Increases for children are paid with the short-term higher rate and with the long-term rate. With the introduction of the new Child Tax Credits on 6 April 2003 no new child dependency increases will be awarded, although all existing increases are transitionally protected. An age addition is paid with the long-term rate. There are two rates depending on the age when incapacity began. If you are under 35 on the first day of your period of incapacity you are paid the higher rate. If you are aged 35 - 44 when incapacity began you are paid the lower rate.

### Transitional Rules

There were transitional provisions for people who were on Sickness or Invalidity Benefit on 12 April 1995. They were automatically transferred to Incapacity Benefit, payable on the same basis as before. Former Invalidity Benefit recipients continue to get Additional Pension entitlement, but frozen at 1994 levels. Also their Incapacity Benefit is not subject to tax. If they were over state pension age on 12 April 1995 they may get Incapacity Benefit for up to 5 years beyond pension

age.

**Source**

Figures are based on 100% scans.

**Abbreviations**

IVB – Invalidity Benefit

IBST(L) – Incapacity Benefit Short Term (Lower)

IBST(H) – Incapacity Benefit Short Term (Higher)

IBLT – Incapacity Benefit Long Term

## Summary

At the end of August 2004 there were 109,616 IB claimants, down 1,026 (0.9%) on the previous year. Of these, 70,608 were in receipt of the benefit, a 2.2% decrease on the August 2003 figure. The corresponding figure for Great Britain as a whole was down (2.0%) on the previous year.

Numbers claiming the different rates of the benefit were as follows (see Table 7.2):

- Numbers on short term lower rate in the year fell to 3,240.
- Numbers on short term higher rate in the year fell to 4,405.
- Numbers on long term rate in the year rose to 64,112.

The proportions claiming the different rates of the benefit for Great Britain as a whole, mirrored that of Northern Ireland.

At August 2004, the main diagnosis groups for claimants were mental and behavioural disorders (38.8%) and diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue (19.7%). A higher proportion of women (43.5%) were recorded in the group of mental and behavioural disorders compared to men (35.7%). However a higher proportion of men (9.7%) were in the group diseases of the circulatory system compared to women (4.0%).

The proportion of people of working age claiming IB at August 2004 was 10.5%, which is higher than the figure for Great Britain (6.7%). These proportions for the district councils in Northern Ireland range from 6.0% in North Down to 15.0% in Strabane.

The average weekly payment increased slightly from £81.41 to £83.07 over the year ending August 2004. The Northern Ireland average payment for all IB rates was £1.21 less than the average payment in Great Britain.



**Table 7.1 Claimants to Incapacity Benefit by rate of benefit and split between ex-IVB and other claimants**

|      | Quarter ending | Number of IB claimants |         |         |            |                    |            | Credits only |
|------|----------------|------------------------|---------|---------|------------|--------------------|------------|--------------|
|      |                | Total                  | IBST(L) | IBST(H) | IBLT       |                    |            |              |
|      |                |                        |         |         | Total IBLT | Ex-IVB (protected) | Other IBLT |              |
| 1996 | May            | 95,072                 | 5,476   | 4,927   | 67,488     | 63,462             | 4,026      | 17,181       |
|      | Aug            | 94,218                 | 5,462   | 5,026   | 66,711     | 60,713             | 5,998      | 17,019       |
|      | Nov            | 96,654                 | 6,711   | 4,947   | 66,306     | 58,324             | 7,982      | 18,690       |
| 1997 | Feb            | 97,683                 | 7,063   | 4,846   | 66,280     | 56,388             | 9,892      | 19,494       |
|      | May            | 98,469                 | 6,286   | 5,722   | 66,168     | 54,257             | 11,911     | 20,293       |
|      | Aug            | 98,956                 | 6,228   | 6,527   | 65,309     | 51,613             | 13,696     | 20,892       |
|      | Nov            | 97,034                 | 5,782   | 5,863   | 64,136     | 47,952             | 16,184     | 21,253       |
| 1998 | Feb            | 99,141                 | 5,946   | 5,338   | 65,753     | 47,499             | 18,254     | 22,104       |
|      | May            | 98,342                 | 5,134   | 5,416   | 65,601     | 45,454             | 20,147     | 22,191       |
|      | Aug            | 98,779                 | 5,050   | 5,333   | 64,872     | 43,510             | 21,362     | 23,524       |
|      | Nov            | 98,656                 | 5,131   | 4,732   | 62,602     | 40,090             | 22,512     | 26,191       |
| 1999 | Feb            | 98,637                 | 5,133   | 4,328   | 63,534     | 39,753             | 23,781     | 25,642       |
|      | May            | 97,332                 | 4,657   | 4,329   | 62,963     | 38,446             | 24,517     | 25,383       |
|      | Aug            | 97,587                 | 4,855   | 4,512   | 62,154     | 36,858             | 25,296     | 26,066       |
|      | Nov            | 99,303                 | 5,489   | 4,692   | 61,608     | 35,076             | 26,532     | 27,514       |
| 2000 | Feb            | 98,296                 | 5,477   | 4,555   | 60,670     | 33,422             | 27,248     | 27,594       |
|      | May            | 99,040                 | 5,089   | 5,069   | 60,556     | 32,253             | 28,303     | 28,326       |
|      | Aug            | 99,368                 | 4,893   | 5,164   | 60,654     | 31,402             | 29,252     | 28,657       |
|      | Nov            | 100,229                | 5,042   | 4,886   | 60,879     | 30,571             | 30,308     | 29,422       |
| 2001 | Feb            | 101,211                | 4,904   | 4,682   | 61,418     | 29,858             | 31,560     | 30,207       |
|      | May            | 100,989                | 4,854   | 4,888   | 61,278     | 28,931             | 32,347     | 29,969       |
|      | Aug            | 103,253                | 4,987   | 5,201   | 61,743     | 28,094             | 33,649     | 31,322       |
|      | Nov            | 103,667                | 4,260   | 5,098   | 62,112     | 27,311             | 34,801     | 32,197       |
| 2002 | Feb            | 102,821                | 4,049   | 4,531   | 61,914     | 26,520             | 35,394     | 32,327       |
|      | May            | 105,135                | 4,089   | 4,523   | 63,084     | 25,730             | 37,354     | 33,439       |
|      | Aug            | 106,308                | 4,298   | 4,736   | 63,105     | 25,050             | 38,055     | 34,169       |
|      | Nov            | 107,926                | 4,585   | 4,671   | 63,376     | 24,409             | 38,967     | 35,294       |
| 2003 | Feb            | 109,433                | 4,750   | 4,674   | 63,808     | 23,826             | 39,982     | 36,201       |
|      | May            | 109,866                | 4,356   | 4,894   | 63,940     | 23,197             | 40,743     | 36,676       |
|      | Aug            | 110,642                | 4,303   | 5,148   | 63,806     | 22,398             | 41,408     | 37,385       |
|      | Nov            | 110,854                | 4,097   | 4,828   | 64,106     | 21,803             | 42,303     | 37,823       |
| 2004 | Feb            | 110,970                | 3,922   | 4,463   | 64,390     | 21,240             | 43,150     | 38,195       |
|      | May            | 111,029                | 3,761   | 4,416   | 64,214     | 20,632             | 43,582     | 38,638       |
|      | Aug            | 109,616                | 3,240   | 4,405   | 64,112     | 20,097             | 44,015     | 37,859       |

**Table 7.2 Claimants to Incapacity Benefit at 31 August 2004 by age, gender, and rate of benefit**

|                    | All IB         | IBST(L)      | IBST(H)      | IBLT          |                    |               | Credits Only  |
|--------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
|                    |                |              |              | Total IBLT    | Ex-IVB (protected) | Other IBLT    |               |
| <b>All Persons</b> |                |              |              |               |                    |               |               |
| All Ages           | <b>109,616</b> | <b>3,240</b> | <b>4,405</b> | <b>64,112</b> | <b>20,097</b>      | <b>44,015</b> | <b>37,859</b> |
| Under 20           | 1,931          | 60           | 105          | 453           | 0                  | 453           | 1,313         |
| 20-24              | 5,575          | 318          | 240          | 1,604         | 0                  | 1,604         | 3,413         |
| 25-29              | 5,516          | 314          | 346          | 1,733         | -                  | 1,732         | 3,123         |
| 30-34              | 8,087          | 385          | 489          | 3,747         | 303                | 3,444         | 3,466         |
| 35-39              | 11,067         | 392          | 505          | 5,764         | 1,224              | 4,540         | 4,406         |
| 40-44              | 13,247         | 357          | 533          | 7,279         | 2,228              | 5,051         | 5,078         |
| 45-49              | 14,376         | 395          | 573          | 8,386         | 2,910              | 5,476         | 5,022         |
| 50-54              | 16,113         | 349          | 595          | 10,222        | 3,781              | 6,441         | 4,947         |
| 55-59              | 20,571         | 442          | 670          | 14,277        | 5,365              | 8,912         | 5,182         |
| 60-64              | 13,126         | 228          | 349          | 10,640        | 4,279              | 6,361         | 1,909         |
| 65 and over        | 7              | 0            | 0            | 7             | 6                  | -             | 0             |
| <b>Men</b>         |                |              |              |               |                    |               |               |
| All Ages           | <b>65,737</b>  | <b>2,213</b> | <b>2,626</b> | <b>38,638</b> | <b>11,948</b>      | <b>26,690</b> | <b>22,260</b> |
| Under 20           | 966            | 33           | 59           | 256           | 0                  | 256           | 618           |
| 20-24              | 3,243          | 214          | 162          | 899           | 0                  | 899           | 1,968         |
| 25-29              | 3,238          | 201          | 193          | 865           | 0                  | 865           | 1,979         |
| 30-34              | 4,446          | 240          | 230          | 1,679         | 77                 | 1,602         | 2,297         |
| 35-39              | 6,071          | 271          | 273          | 2,650         | 403                | 2,247         | 2,877         |
| 40-44              | 7,248          | 241          | 319          | 3,666         | 854                | 2,812         | 3,022         |
| 45-49              | 7,670          | 251          | 326          | 4,460         | 1,424              | 3,036         | 2,633         |
| 50-54              | 8,553          | 231          | 319          | 5,556         | 1,973              | 3,583         | 2,447         |
| 55-59              | 11,194         | 304          | 396          | 7,984         | 2,948              | 5,036         | 2,510         |
| 60-64              | 13,104         | 227          | 349          | 10,619        | 4,266              | 6,353         | 1,909         |
| 65 and over        | -              | 0            | 0            | -             | -                  | -             | 0             |
| <b>Women</b>       |                |              |              |               |                    |               |               |
| All Ages           | <b>43,879</b>  | <b>1,027</b> | <b>1,779</b> | <b>25,474</b> | <b>8,149</b>       | <b>17,325</b> | <b>15,599</b> |
| Under 20           | 965            | 27           | 46           | 197           | 0                  | 197           | 695           |
| 20-24              | 2,332          | 104          | 78           | 705           | 0                  | 705           | 1,445         |
| 25-29              | 2,278          | 113          | 153          | 868           | -                  | 867           | 1,144         |
| 30-34              | 3,641          | 145          | 259          | 2,068         | 226                | 1,842         | 1,169         |
| 35-39              | 4,996          | 121          | 232          | 3,114         | 821                | 2,293         | 1,529         |
| 40-44              | 5,999          | 116          | 214          | 3,613         | 1,374              | 2,239         | 2,056         |
| 45-49              | 6,706          | 144          | 247          | 3,926         | 1,486              | 2,440         | 2,389         |
| 50-54              | 7,560          | 118          | 276          | 4,666         | 1,808              | 2,858         | 2,500         |
| 55-59              | 9,377          | 138          | 274          | 6,293         | 2,417              | 3,876         | 2,672         |
| 60 and over        | 25             | -            | 0            | 24            | 16                 | 8             | 0             |

Includes SDA cases where incapacity has not yet been decided.

May include a small number of cases over pension age - incorrectly held or recorded on the computer system.

- Number less than 5 not disclosed due to DSD customer confidentiality policy.

**Table 7.3 Claimants to Incapacity Benefit at 31 August 2004 by gender and Diagnosis Group<sup>1</sup> Heading**

|  | All IB         | % of all IB   | Men           | Women         |
|--|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>All Cases</b>   | <b>109,616</b> | <b>100.0%</b> | <b>65,737</b> | <b>43,879</b> |
| Claimants without any diagnosis code on the system   | 119            | 0.1%          | 64            | 55            |
| Certain infectious and Parasitic Diseases (A00 - B99)  | 798            | 0.7%          | 491           | 307           |
| Neoplasms (C00 - D48)  | 1,355          | 1.2%          | 701           | 654           |
| Diseases of the Blood and Blood forming organs and certain diseases involving the immune mechanism (D50 - D89) | 257            | 0.2%          | 124           | 133           |
| Endocrine, Nutritional and Metabolic Diseases (E00 - E90)  | 1,495          | 1.4%          | 969           | 526           |
| Mental and Behavioural Disorders (F00 - F99)   | 42,573         | 38.8%         | 23,493        | 19,080        |
| Diseases of the Nervous System (G00 - G99)   | 4,556          | 4.2%          | 2,500         | 2,056         |
| Diseases of the Eye and Adnexa (H00 - H59)   | 472            | 0.4%          | 343           | 129           |
| Diseases of the Ear and Mastoid Process (H60 - H95)  | 410            | 0.4%          | 255           | 155           |
| Disease of the Circulatory System (I00 - I99)  | 8,095          | 7.4%          | 6,358         | 1,737         |
| Diseases of the Respiratory System (J00 - J99)   | 2,794          | 2.5%          | 1,716         | 1,078         |
| Diseases of the Digestive System (K00 - K93)   | 1,869          | 1.7%          | 1,177         | 692           |
| Diseases of the Skin and Subcutaneous System (L00 - L99)   | 1,031          | 0.9%          | 646           | 385           |
| Diseases of the Musculoskeletal system and Connective Tissue (M00 - M99)                                       | 21,613         | 19.7%         | 12,940        | 8,673         |
| Diseases of the Genitourinary System (N00 - N99)   | 844            | 0.8%          | 346           | 498           |
| Pregnancy, Childbirth and the Puerperium (O00 - O99)   | 682            | 0.6%          | 7             | 675           |
| Certain Conditions Originating in the Perinatal Period (P00 - P96)   | -              | 0.0%          | 0             | -             |
| Congenital Malformations, Deformations and Chromosomal Abnormalities (Q00 - Q99)                               | 296            | 0.3%          | 174           | 122           |
| Symptoms, Signs and Abnormal Clinical and Laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified (R00 - R99)            | 11,957         | 10.9%         | 7,058         | 4,899         |
| Injury, Poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes (S00 - U22)                                | 7,540          | 6.9%          | 5,788         | 1,752         |
| Factors influencing Health Status and Contact with Health Services (Z00 - Z99)                                 | 857            | 0.8%          | 587           | 270           |

<sup>1</sup>Diagnosis Group is taken from ICD10 published by the World Health Organisation.

**Table 7.4 Claimants to Incapacity Benefit at 31 August 2004 by rate of benefit and District Council**

|                  | All IB         | IBST(L)      | IBST(H)      | IBLT          | Credits only  | Working age Population <sup>1</sup> | All IB as % of population |
|------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>All Cases</b> | <b>109,616</b> | <b>3,240</b> | <b>4,405</b> | <b>64,112</b> | <b>37,859</b> | <b>1,043,893</b>                    | <b>10.50</b>              |
| Antrim           | 2,459          | 76           | 116          | 1,532         | 735           | 30,976                              | 7.94                      |
| Ards             | 3,762          | 132          | 201          | 2,416         | 1,013         | 46,210                              | 8.14                      |
| Armagh           | 3,469          | 125          | 177          | 2,120         | 1,047         | 33,817                              | 10.26                     |
| Ballymena        | 3,115          | 95           | 138          | 1,862         | 1,020         | 36,286                              | 8.58                      |
| Ballymoney       | 1,758          | 48           | 68           | 1,103         | 539           | 16,875                              | 10.42                     |
| Banbridge        | 2,468          | 82           | 129          | 1,631         | 626           | 26,787                              | 9.21                      |
| Belfast          | 21,430         | 570          | 691          | 11,027        | 9,142         | 166,974                             | 12.83                     |
| Carrickfergus    | 1,866          | 49           | 109          | 1,259         | 449           | 23,913                              | 7.80                      |
| Castlereagh      | 3,027          | 110          | 122          | 2,060         | 735           | 39,270                              | 7.71                      |
| Coleraine        | 2,958          | 102          | 144          | 1,712         | 1,000         | 33,777                              | 8.76                      |
| Cookstown        | 2,609          | 94           | 102          | 1,574         | 839           | 20,506                              | 12.72                     |
| Craigavon        | 5,955          | 187          | 246          | 3,894         | 1,628         | 50,120                              | 11.88                     |
| Derry            | 9,678          | 148          | 258          | 5,155         | 4,117         | 66,034                              | 14.66                     |
| Down             | 3,734          | 127          | 147          | 2,280         | 1,180         | 39,620                              | 9.42                      |
| Dungannon        | 3,449          | 109          | 151          | 2,014         | 1,175         | 29,398                              | 11.73                     |
| Fermanagh        | 3,063          | 91           | 134          | 1,703         | 1,135         | 35,779                              | 8.56                      |
| Larne            | 1,706          | 49           | 71           | 1,038         | 548           | 21,151                              | 8.07                      |
| Limavady         | 2,216          | 69           | 102          | 1,302         | 743           | 18,882                              | 11.74                     |
| Lisburn          | 5,532          | 142          | 205          | 3,339         | 1,846         | 67,512                              | 8.19                      |
| Magherafelt      | 2,418          | 109          | 109          | 1,530         | 670           | 24,995                              | 9.67                      |
| Moyle            | 1,035          | 31           | 34           | 575           | 395           | 9,768                               | 10.60                     |
| Newry & Mourne   | 6,333          | 174          | 237          | 3,471         | 2,451         | 54,196                              | 11.69                     |
| Newtownabbey     | 4,213          | 153          | 204          | 2,670         | 1,186         | 49,432                              | 8.52                      |
| North Down       | 2,856          | 97           | 146          | 1,865         | 748           | 47,438                              | 6.02                      |
| Omagh            | 3,626          | 101          | 146          | 2,146         | 1,233         | 30,615                              | 11.84                     |
| Strabane         | 3,546          | 112          | 138          | 2,038         | 1,258         | 23,562                              | 15.05                     |
| Missing postcode | 1,335          | 58           | 80           | 796           | 401           | ..                                  | ..                        |

<sup>1</sup>NI Mid Year Estimates 2003. Population of working age. Namely 16-59 for Females, and ages 16-64 for Males.

.. Not available.

Approximately 1% of records on the August 2004 dataset had missing or invalid postcodes, without which district council cannot be assigned.

**Table 7.5 Claimants to Incapacity Benefit by Government Office Region:  
31 August 2004**

|                       | Thousands      |             |             |                |              |  |
|-----------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|--|
|                       | All IB         | IBST(L)     | IBST(H)     | IBLT           | Credits only | All IB as % of working age population <sup>1</sup> |
| <b>All Cases (GB)</b> | <b>2,403.3</b> | <b>82.8</b> | <b>82.9</b> | <b>1,313.3</b> | <b>924.1</b> | <b>6.7</b>   |
| North East            | 157.3          | 4.7         | 4.9         | 94.1           | 53.5         | 10.1   |
| North West            | 391.4          | 12.6        | 13.2        | 217.8          | 147.7        | 9.4  |
| Yorks & Humber        | 217.1          | 8.5         | 8.1         | 121.5          | 79.0         | 7.1  |
| East Midlands         | 155.7          | 5.1         | 5.6         | 94.5           | 50.5         | 5.9  |
| West Midlands         | 218.8          | 7.9         | 7.7         | 124.7          | 78.5         | 6.7  |
| South West            | 159.4          | 6.6         | 5.9         | 86.9           | 59.9         | 5.3  |
| Eastern               | 149.6          | 6.0         | 6.3         | 82.4           | 55.0         | 4.5  |
| London                | 274.5          | 7.3         | 6.4         | 101.2          | 159.6        | 5.6  |
| South East            | 197.0          | 7.9         | 8.4         | 102.2          | 78.6         | 4.0  |
| England               | 1,920.8        | 66.6        | 66.5        | 1,025.3        | 762.3        | 6.2  |
| Scotland              | 285.6          | 10.1        | 10.3        | 159.9          | 105.3        | 9.0  |
| Wales                 | 186.7          | 6.1         | 6.1         | 118.4          | 56.1         | 10.6   |
| Northern Ireland      | 109.6          | 3.2         | 4.4         | 64.1           | 37.9         | 10.5   |
| Overseas              | 10.2           | -           | *0.1        | 9.7            | *0.5         |  |

<sup>1</sup>Mid 2003 estimates. Population of working age. Namely 16-59 for Females, 16-64 for Males.

\*Figures under 500 are subject to a high degree of sampling error and should only be used as a guide to the current situation as GB data are taken from a 5% extract of the computer system.

- Number less than 5 not disclosed due to DSD customer confidentiality policy.

**Table 7.6 Claimants to Incapacity Benefit at 31 August 2004 by age, gender, and duration of benefit**

|                    | <b>All IB</b>  | Under<br>3 months | 3 to under<br>6 months | 6 to under<br>12 months | 1 to under<br>2 years | 2 to under<br>4 years | 4 years<br>and over |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| <b>All Persons</b> |                |                   |                        |                         |                       |                       |                     |
| All Ages           | <b>109,613</b> | <b>3,306</b>      | <b>5,287</b>           | <b>9,184</b>            | <b>13,548</b>         | <b>20,366</b>         | <b>57,922</b>       |
| Under 20           | <b>1,928</b>   | 190               | 306                    | 593                     | 520                   | 319                   | -                   |
| 20-24              | <b>5,575</b>   | 379               | 576                    | 954                     | 1,229                 | 1,614                 | 823                 |
| 25-29              | <b>5,516</b>   | 306               | 423                    | 782                     | 1,089                 | 1,352                 | 1,564               |
| 30-34              | <b>8,087</b>   | 360               | 553                    | 948                     | 1,271                 | 1,792                 | 3,163               |
| 35-39              | <b>11,067</b>  | 398               | 611                    | 1,003                   | 1,623                 | 2,260                 | 5,172               |
| 40-44              | <b>13,247</b>  | 411               | 634                    | 1,096                   | 1,708                 | 2,560                 | 6,838               |
| 45-49              | <b>14,376</b>  | 356               | 637                    | 1,124                   | 1,665                 | 2,694                 | 7,900               |
| 50-54              | <b>16,113</b>  | 358               | 658                    | 1,051                   | 1,632                 | 2,781                 | 9,633               |
| 55-59              | <b>20,571</b>  | 385               | 630                    | 1,158                   | 1,861                 | 3,160                 | 13,377              |
| 60-64              | <b>13,126</b>  | 163               | 259                    | 475                     | 950                   | 1,834                 | 9,445               |
| 65 and over        | <b>7</b>       | 0                 | 0                      | 0                       | 0                     | 0                     | 7                   |
| <b>Men</b>         |                |                   |                        |                         |                       |                       |                     |
| All Ages           | <b>65,732</b>  | <b>1,957</b>      | <b>3,108</b>           | <b>5,475</b>            | <b>8,022</b>          | <b>12,080</b>         | <b>35,090</b>       |
| Under 20           | <b>965</b>     | 82                | 147                    | 284                     | 274                   | 178                   | -                   |
| 20-24              | <b>3,243</b>   | 247               | 346                    | 601                     | 696                   | 881                   | 472                 |
| 25-29              | <b>3,238</b>   | 194               | 246                    | 487                     | 670                   | 786                   | 855                 |
| 30-34              | <b>4,446</b>   | 196               | 334                    | 539                     | 764                   | 1,018                 | 1,595               |
| 35-39              | <b>6,071</b>   | 233               | 356                    | 600                     | 966                   | 1,330                 | 2,586               |
| 40-44              | <b>7,248</b>   | 238               | 352                    | 659                     | 955                   | 1,494                 | 3,550               |
| 45-49              | <b>7,670</b>   | 186               | 357                    | 603                     | 876                   | 1,415                 | 4,233               |
| 50-54              | <b>8,553</b>   | 190               | 355                    | 579                     | 855                   | 1,461                 | 5,113               |
| 55-59              | <b>11,194</b>  | 228               | 356                    | 649                     | 1,017                 | 1,685                 | 7,259               |
| 60-64              | <b>13,104</b>  | 163               | 259                    | 474                     | 949                   | 1,832                 | 9,427               |
| 65 and over        | <b>0</b>       | 0                 | 0                      | 0                       | 0                     | 0                     | -                   |
| <b>Women</b>       |                |                   |                        |                         |                       |                       |                     |
| All Ages           | <b>43,873</b>  | <b>1,349</b>      | <b>2,179</b>           | <b>3,708</b>            | <b>5,525</b>          | <b>8,284</b>          | <b>22,828</b>       |
| Under 20           | <b>963</b>     | 108               | 159                    | 309                     | 246                   | 141                   | -                   |
| 20-24              | <b>2,332</b>   | 132               | 230                    | 353                     | 533                   | 733                   | 351                 |
| 25-29              | <b>2,278</b>   | 112               | 177                    | 295                     | 419                   | 566                   | 709                 |
| 30-34              | <b>3,641</b>   | 164               | 219                    | 409                     | 507                   | 774                   | 1,568               |
| 35-39              | <b>4,996</b>   | 165               | 255                    | 403                     | 657                   | 930                   | 2,586               |
| 40-44              | <b>5,999</b>   | 173               | 282                    | 437                     | 753                   | 1,066                 | 3,288               |
| 45-49              | <b>6,706</b>   | 170               | 280                    | 521                     | 789                   | 1,279                 | 3,667               |
| 50-54              | <b>7,560</b>   | 168               | 303                    | 472                     | 777                   | 1,320                 | 4,520               |
| 55-59              | <b>9,377</b>   | 157               | 274                    | 509                     | 844                   | 1,475                 | 6,118               |
| 60 and over        | <b>21</b>      | 0                 | 0                      | -                       | -                     | -                     | 21                  |

Includes SDA cases where incapacity has not yet been decided.

May include a small number of cases over pension age - incorrectly held or recorded on the computer system.

- Number less than 5 not disclosed due to DSD customer confidentiality policy.

**Table 7.7 Number of recipients of Incapacity Benefit at 31 August 2004 by rate of benefit, and weekly amounts in payment**

|                              | All Recipients | Total weekly amount paid<br>£ | Average weekly amount paid<br>£ |
|------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>All Persons</b>           |                |                               |                                 |
| <b>All IB Rates</b>          | <b>70,608</b>  | <b>5,865,716</b>              | <b>83.07</b>                    |
| <b>IBST(L)</b>               | 2,881          | 157,023                       | 54.50                           |
| <b>IBST(H)</b>               | 4,155          | 270,026                       | 64.99                           |
| <b>IBLT (All)</b>            | 63,572         | 5,438,667                     | 85.55                           |
| <b>IBLT (Ex-IVB)</b>         | 20,082         | 1,921,943                     | 95.70                           |
| Invalidity Allowance         | 13,484         | 151,811                       | 11.26                           |
| Additional Pension           | 14,464         | 212,126                       | 14.67                           |
| Graduated Retirement Benefit | 0              | 0                             | 0.00                            |
| <b>IBLT (Other)</b>          | 43,490         | 3,516,723                     | 80.86                           |
| Incapacity Age Addition      | 21,088         | 250,256                       | 11.87                           |

**Table 7.8 Rates of Incapacity Benefit**

|   | £ per week              |                  |                          |                  |                         |                  |                  |       |
|---|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------|
|   | Short term (lower rate) |                  | Short term (higher rate) |                  |                         |                  | Each other child |       |
|   | Under pension age       | Over pension age | Increase for dependants  |                  |                         |                  |                  |       |
|   | Adult                   | Adult            | Standard                 | Adult dependant  | First child             | Each other child |                  |       |
| 11 April 1996                                 | 46.15                   | 28.55            | 58.65                    | 35.15            | 54.55                   | 28.55            | 9.90             | 11.15 |
| 10 April 1997                                 | 47.10                   | 29.15            | 59.90                    | 35.90            | 55.70                   | 29.15            | 9.90             | 11.20 |
| 09 April 1998                                 | 48.80                   | 30.20            | 62.05                    | 37.20            | 57.70                   | 30.20            | 9.90             | 11.30 |
| 12 April 1999                                 | 50.35                   | 31.15            | 64.05                    | 38.40            | 59.55                   | 31.15            | 9.90             | 11.35 |
| 13 April 2000                                 | 50.90                   | 31.50            | 64.75                    | 38.80            | 60.20                   | 31.50            | 9.85             | 11.35 |
| 09 April 2001                                 | 52.60                   | 32.55            | 66.90                    | 40.10            | 62.20                   | 32.55            | 9.70             | 11.35 |
| 08 April 2002                                 | 53.50                   | 33.10            | 68.05                    | 40.80            | 63.25                   | 33.10            | 9.65             | 11.35 |
| 07 April 2003                                 | 54.40                   | 33.65            | 69.20                    | 41.50            | 64.35                   | 33.65            | 9.55             | 11.35 |
| 12 April 2004                                 | 55.90                   | 34.60            | 71.15                    | 42.65            | 66.15                   | 34.60            | 9.55             | 11.35 |
| <b>Long term (No transitional protection)</b> |                         |                  |                          |                  |                         |                  |                  |       |
|   | Increase for dependants |                  |                          |                  | Incapacity age addition |                  |                  |       |
|   | Standard                | Adult            | First child              | Each other child | Higher rate             | Lower rate       |                  |       |
| 11 April 1996                                 | 61.15                   | 36.60            | 9.90                     | 11.15            | 12.90                   | 6.45             |                  |       |
| 10 April 1997                                 | 62.45                   | 37.35            | 9.90                     | 11.20            | 13.15                   | 6.60             |                  |       |
| 09 April 1998                                 | 64.70                   | 38.70            | 9.90                     | 11.30            | 13.60                   | 6.80             |                  |       |
| 12 April 1999                                 | 66.75                   | 39.95            | 9.90                     | 11.35            | 14.05                   | 7.05             |                  |       |
| 13 April 2000                                 | 67.50                   | 40.40            | 9.85                     | 11.35            | 14.20                   | 7.10             |                  |       |
| 09 April 2001                                 | 69.75                   | 53.05            | 9.70                     | 11.35            | 14.65                   | 7.35             |                  |       |
| 08 April 2002                                 | 70.95                   | 42.45            | 9.65                     | 11.35            | 14.90                   | 7.45             |                  |       |
| 07 April 2003                                 | 72.15                   | 43.15            | 9.55                     | 11.35            | 15.15                   | 7.60             |                  |       |
| 12 April 2004                                 | 74.15                   | 44.35            | 9.55                     | 11.35            | 15.55                   | 7.80             |                  |       |



## Section 8 - Severe Disablement Allowance

*Introduced 29 November 1984*

*Non-contributory, Not means tested, Non-taxable*

Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA) replaced Non-Contributory Invalidity Pension and Housewives Non-Contributory Invalidity Pension from 29 November 1984.

Until April 2001, people who were incapable of work and did not satisfy the contribution conditions for Incapacity Benefit (IB) could get SDA. Claimants had to be aged between 16 and 65 when they made their claim. There is no upper age limit for receiving the allowance once it has been awarded.

Claimants had to have been incapable of work for at least 28 weeks. Anyone who became incapable of work before their 20<sup>th</sup> birthday could qualify on this basis alone. People who became incapable of work after their 20<sup>th</sup> birthday also had to prove they had been 80% disabled for at least 28 weeks.

Like IB recipients, SDA recipients can get extra money added to their allowance for any dependants, although with the introduction of the new Child Tax Credits on 6 April 2003 no new child dependency increases will be awarded. All existing increases are transitionally protected. They can also get age additions. The amount of the age addition depends on the claimant's age when they became incapable of work. However, the age bands for SDA are different from those for IB.

In April 1992, the residence and presence conditions for SDA were relaxed to align with other benefits for disabled people.

In February 1996, SDA was added to the list of social security benefits not available to people whose right to reside or remain in the UK is subject to a limitation or condition.

In April 1997, regulations were introduced to treat satisfaction of the SDA 80% disability test as a passport through the All Work Test; which was replaced by the Personal Capability Assessment from April 2000; and to tighten the criteria which passport people through the SDA 80% disability test.

From 6 April 2001 there have been no new claims to SDA. From this date people under the age of 20 (or 25 if in education or training before age 20) may be able to qualify for IB without needing to satisfy the contribution conditions.

Existing SDA recipients aged under 20 on 6 April 2001 were automatically transferred to long-term IB in April 2002. Those aged 20 or over at the point of change continue to get SDA. The benefit is maintained for existing claimants only.

### **Source**

Figures are based on 100% scans.



## Summary

Claimants of Severe Disablement Allowance have decreased from 13,727 in August 2003 to 13,233 in August 2004.

The main diagnosis group for claimants of Severe Disablement Allowance was mental and behavioural disorders (41.4%). A higher proportion of men (46.7%) were in the group of mental and behavioural disorders compared to women (37.2%). However a higher proportion of women (12.9%) were in the group diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue compared to men (4.4%).

The proportion of people aged 16 and over in receipt of the allowance at 31 August 2004 was 1.3%. These proportions for the district councils in Northern Ireland range from 0.8% in Ards and Larne to 1.9% in Antrim.

The average weekly payment of Severe Disablement Allowance was £57.16 in August 2004 - £0.68 less than the average in Great Britain.



**Table 8.1 Severe Disablement Allowance claimants and recipients by start of spell**

|      | Quarter ending | SDA claimants <sup>1</sup> |   |  | SDA recipients <sup>1</sup> |   |  |
|------|----------------|----------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------|---|--|
|      |                | Total                      | Pre 13th <sup>2</sup><br>April '95<br>cases | Post 13th <sup>2</sup><br>April '95<br>cases | Total                       | Pre 13th <sup>2</sup><br>April '95<br>cases | Post 13th <sup>2</sup><br>April '95<br>cases |
| 1996 | May            | <b>14,901</b>              | 14,049                                      | 852  | <b>14,784</b>               | 13,981                                      | 803  |
|      | Aug            | <b>15,045</b>              | 13,922                                      | 1,123  | <b>14,892</b>               | 13,854                                      | 1,038  |
|      | Nov            | <b>15,239</b>              | 13,770                                      | 1,469  | <b>15,077</b>               | 13,702                                      | 1,375  |
| 1997 | Feb            | <b>15,306</b>              | 13,634                                      | 1,672  | <b>15,177</b>               | 13,582                                      | 1,595  |
|      | May            | <b>15,400</b>              | 13,506                                      | 1,894  | <b>15,278</b>               | 13,457                                      | 1,821  |
|      | Aug            | <b>15,504</b>              | 13,350                                      | 2,154  | <b>15,376</b>               | 13,312                                      | 2,064  |
| 1998 | Nov            | <b>15,559</b>              | 13,216                                      | 2,343  | <b>15,449</b>               | 13,191                                      | 2,258  |
|      | Feb            | <b>15,579</b>              | 13,068                                      | 2,511  | <b>15,470</b>               | 13,041                                      | 2,429  |
|      | May            | <b>15,589</b>              | 12,939                                      | 2,650  | <b>15,502</b>               | 12,915                                      | 2,587  |
| 1999 | Aug            | <b>15,612</b>              | 12,799                                      | 2,813  | <b>15,498</b>               | 12,767                                      | 2,731  |
|      | Nov            | <b>15,689</b>              | 12,599                                      | 3,090  | <b>15,520</b>               | 12,573                                      | 2,947  |
|      | Feb            | <b>15,629</b>              | 12,517                                      | 3,112  | <b>15,514</b>               | 12,497                                      | 3,017  |
| 2000 | May            | <b>15,593</b>              | 12,430                                      | 3,163  | <b>15,509</b>               | 12,415                                      | 3,094  |
|      | Aug            | <b>15,571</b>              | 12,330                                      | 3,241  | <b>15,494</b>               | 12,308                                      | 3,186  |
|      | Nov            | <b>15,507</b>              | 12,180                                      | 3,327  | <b>15,407</b>               | 12,158                                      | 3,249  |
| 2001 | Feb            | <b>15,463</b>              | 12,028                                      | 3,435  | <b>15,366</b>               | 12,011                                      | 3,355  |
|      | May            | <b>15,470</b>              | 11,904                                      | 3,566  | <b>15,352</b>               | 11,886                                      | 3,466  |
|      | Aug            | <b>15,458</b>              | 11,795                                      | 3,663  | <b>15,355</b>               | 11,772                                      | 3,583  |
| 2002 | Nov            | <b>15,489</b>              | 11,690                                      | 3,799  | <b>15,385</b>               | 11,668                                      | 3,717  |
|      | Feb            | <b>15,507</b>              | 11,582                                      | 3,925  | <b>15,397</b>               | 11,564                                      | 3,833  |
|      | May            | <b>15,494</b>              | 11,467                                      | 4,027  | <b>15,384</b>               | 11,452                                      | 3,932  |
| 2003 | Aug            | <b>15,443</b>              | 11,370                                      | 4,073  | <b>15,364</b>               | 11,353                                      | 4,011  |
|      | Nov            | <b>15,333</b>              | 11,266                                      | 4,067  | <b>15,274</b>               | 11,253                                      | 4,021  |
|      | Feb            | <b>15,199</b>              | 11,169                                      | 4,030  | <b>15,149</b>               | 11,157                                      | 3,992  |
| 2004 | May            | <b>14,412</b>              | 11,070                                      | 3,342  | <b>14,371</b>               | 11,057                                      | 3,314  |
|      | Aug            | <b>14,290</b>              | 10,976                                      | 3,314  | <b>14,245</b>               | 10,959                                      | 3,286  |
|      | Nov            | <b>14,146</b>              | 10,854                                      | 3,292  | <b>14,115</b>               | 10,842                                      | 3,273  |
| 2003 | Feb            | <b>14,026</b>              | 10,757                                      | 3,269  | <b>13,993</b>               | 10,744                                      | 3,249  |
|      | May            | <b>13,916</b>              | 10,654                                      | 3,262  | <b>13,912</b>               | 10,652                                      | 3,260  |
|      | Aug            | <b>13,727</b>              | 10,512                                      | 3,215  | <b>13,695</b>               | 10,497                                      | 3,198  |
| 2004 | Nov            | <b>13,602</b>              | 10,420                                      | 3,182  | <b>13,569</b>               | 10,407                                      | 3,162  |
|      | Feb            | <b>13,479</b>              | 10,320                                      | 3,159  | <b>13,440</b>               | 10,305                                      | 3,135  |
|      | May            | <b>13,346</b>              | 10,212                                      | 3,134  | <b>13,308</b>               | 10,196                                      | 3,112  |
|      | Aug            | <b>13,233</b>              | 10,119                                      | 3,114  | <b>13,189</b>               | 10,102                                      | 3,087  |

<sup>1</sup> Claimants include all those on the benefit, while recipients only include claimants who are in receipt of payment.

<sup>2</sup> Incapacity Benefit was introduced on 13 April 1995, replacing Sickness and Invalidity benefit.

**Table 8.2 Claimants and recipients of Severe Disablement Allowance at 31 August 2004 by age, gender, and commencement of benefit**

|                    | All SDA       |            | SDA Pre 13 April 1995 |            | SDA Post 13 April 1995 |            |
|--------------------|---------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|------------------------|------------|
|                    | Claimants     | Recipients | Claimants             | Recipients | Claimants              | Recipients |
| <b>All Persons</b> |               |            |                       |            |                        |            |
| <b>All Ages</b>    | <b>13,233</b> | 13,189     | 10,119                | 10,102     | 3,114                  | 3,087      |
| Under 20           | 0             | 0          | 0                     | 0          | 0                      | 0          |
| 20 - 24            | 322           | 320        | 0                     | 0          | 322                    | 320        |
| 25 - 29            | 1,061         | 1,056      | 600                   | 599        | 461                    | 457        |
| 30 - 34            | 1,367         | 1,360      | 1,108                 | 1,103      | 259                    | 257        |
| 35 - 39            | 1,470         | 1,466      | 1,191                 | 1,189      | 279                    | 277        |
| 40 - 44            | 1,560         | 1,552      | 1,221                 | 1,220      | 339                    | 332        |
| 45 - 49            | 1,458         | 1,456      | 1,127                 | 1,127      | 331                    | 329        |
| 50 - 54            | 1,422         | 1,417      | 1,126                 | 1,123      | 296                    | 294        |
| 55 - 59            | 1,588         | 1,582      | 1,223                 | 1,221      | 365                    | 361        |
| 60 - 64            | 1,091         | 1,086      | 797                   | 794        | 294                    | 292        |
| 65 and over        | 1,894         | 1,894      | 1,726                 | 1,726      | 168                    | 168        |
| <b>Men</b>         |               |            |                       |            |                        |            |
| All Ages           | 5,834         | 5,812      | 4,550                 | 4,543      | 1,284                  | 1,269      |
| Under 20           | 0             | 0          | 0                     | 0          | 0                      | 0          |
| 20 - 24            | 184           | 183        | 0                     | 0          | 184                    | 183        |
| 25 - 29            | 558           | 556        | 318                   | 318        | 240                    | 238        |
| 30 - 34            | 741           | 737        | 609                   | 606        | 132                    | 131        |
| 35 - 39            | 828           | 825        | 695                   | 694        | 133                    | 131        |
| 40 - 44            | 808           | 803        | 659                   | 659        | 149                    | 144        |
| 45 - 49            | 640           | 638        | 524                   | 524        | 116                    | 114        |
| 50 - 54            | 567           | 565        | 487                   | 485        | 80                     | 80         |
| 55 - 59            | 560           | 560        | 452                   | 452        | 108                    | 108        |
| 60 - 64            | 436           | 433        | 337                   | 336        | 99                     | 97         |
| 65 and over        | 512           | 512        | 469                   | 469        | 43                     | 43         |
| <b>Women</b>       |               |            |                       |            |                        |            |
| All Ages           | 7,399         | 7,377      | 5,569                 | 5,559      | 1,830                  | 1,818      |
| Under 20           | 0             | 0          | 0                     | 0          | 0                      | 0          |
| 20 - 24            | 138           | 137        | 0                     | 0          | 138                    | 137        |
| 25 - 29            | 503           | 500        | 282                   | 281        | 221                    | 219        |
| 30 - 34            | 626           | 623        | 499                   | 497        | 127                    | 126        |
| 35 - 39            | 642           | 641        | 496                   | 495        | 146                    | 146        |
| 40 - 44            | 752           | 749        | 562                   | 561        | 190                    | 188        |
| 45 - 49            | 818           | 818        | 603                   | 603        | 215                    | 215        |
| 50 - 54            | 855           | 852        | 639                   | 638        | 216                    | 214        |
| 55 - 59            | 1,028         | 1,022      | 771                   | 769        | 257                    | 253        |
| 60 and over        | 2,037         | 2,035      | 1,717                 | 1,715      | 320                    | 320        |

**Table 8.3 Claimants of Severe Disablement Allowance at 31 August 2004  
by Diagnosis Group<sup>1</sup>**

|  | All SDA       | % of<br>all SDA | Men          | Women        |
|--|---------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>All Cases</b>   | <b>13,233</b> | <b>100.0%</b>   | <b>5,834</b> | <b>7,399</b> |
| Claimants without any diagnosis code on the system   | -             | 0.0%            | -            | -            |
| Certain infectious and Parasitic Diseases (A00 - B99)  | 47            | 0.4%            | 19           | 28           |
| Neoplasms (C00 - D48)  | 104           | 0.8%            | 31           | 73           |
| Diseases of the Blood and Blood forming organs and certain diseases involving the immune mechanism (D50 - D89) | 13            | 0.1%            | 6            | 7            |
| Endocrine, Nutritional and Metabolic Diseases (E00 - E90)  | 122           | 0.9%            | 47           | 75           |
| Mental and Behavioural Disorders (F00 - F99)   | 5,481         | 41.4%           | 2,727        | 2,754        |
| Diseases of the Nervous System (G00 - G99)   | 1,408         | 10.6%           | 572          | 836          |
| Diseases of the Eye and Adnexa (H00 - H59)   | 200           | 1.5%            | 82           | 118          |
| Diseases of the Ear and Mastoid Process (H60 - H95)  | 119           | 0.9%            | 43           | 76           |
| Disease of the Circulatory System (I00 - I99)  | 633           | 4.8%            | 206          | 427          |
| Diseases of the Respiratory System (J00 - J99)   | 328           | 2.5%            | 78           | 250          |
| Diseases of the Digestive System (K00 - K93)   | 109           | 0.8%            | 33           | 76           |
| Diseases of the Skin and Subcutaneous System (L00 - L99)   | 54            | 0.4%            | 13           | 41           |
| Diseases of the Musculoskeletal system and Connective Tissue (M00 - M99)                                       | 1,214         | 9.2%            | 259          | 955          |
| Diseases of the Genitourinary System (N00 - N99)   | 75            | 0.6%            | 31           | 44           |
| Pregnancy, Childbirth and the Puerperium (O00 - O99)   | 6             | 0.0%            | -            | -            |
| Certain Conditions Originating in the Perinatal Period (P00 - P96)   | 0             | 0.0%            | 0            | 0            |
| Congenital Malformations, Deformations and Chromosomal Abnormalities (Q00 - Q99)                               | 947           | 7.2%            | 507          | 440          |
| Symptoms, Signs and Abnormal Clinical and Laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified (R00 - R99)            | 1,566         | 11.8%           | 688          | 878          |
| Injury, Poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes (S00 - U22)                                | 298           | 2.3%            | 190          | 108          |
| Factors influencing Health Status and Contact with Health Services (Z00 - Z99)                                 | 505           | 3.8%            | 299          | 206          |

<sup>1</sup>Diagnosis Group is taken from ICD10 published by the World Health Organisation.

- Number less than 5 not disclosed due to DSD customer confidentiality policy.

**Table 8.4 Claimants and recipients of Severe Disablement Allowance at 31 August 2004, by District Council**

|                    | Claimants     | Recipients    | Population aged 16 and over <sup>1</sup> | Recipients as % of Population |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|--|-------------------------------|
| <b>All Persons</b> |               |               |  |                               |
| <b>All Cases</b>   | <b>13,233</b> | <b>13,189</b> | <b>1,043,893</b>                         | <b>1.26</b>                   |
| Antrim             | 588           | 587           | 30,976                                   | 1.90                          |
| Ards               | 389           | 388           | 46,210                                   | 0.84                          |
| Armagh             | 538           | 530           | 33,817                                   | 1.57                          |
| Ballymena          | 359           | 358           | 36,286                                   | 0.99                          |
| Ballymoney         | 238           | 238           | 16,875                                   | 1.41                          |
| Banbridge          | 282           | 282           | 26,787                                   | 1.05                          |
| Belfast            | 2,198         | 2,191         | 166,974                                  | 1.31                          |
| Carrickfergus      | 277           | 277           | 23,913                                   | 1.16                          |
| Castlereagh        | 373           | 373           | 39,270                                   | 0.95                          |
| Coleraine          | 363           | 363           | 33,777                                   | 1.07                          |
| Cookstown          | 252           | 252           | 20,506                                   | 1.23                          |
| Craigavon          | 572           | 569           | 50,120                                   | 1.14                          |
| Derry              | 953           | 949           | 66,034                                   | 1.44                          |
| Down               | 541           | 536           | 39,620                                   | 1.35                          |
| Dungannon          | 427           | 423           | 29,398                                   | 1.44                          |
| Fermanagh          | 498           | 496           | 35,779                                   | 1.39                          |
| Larne              | 178           | 178           | 21,151                                   | 0.84                          |
| Limavady           | 255           | 255           | 18,882                                   | 1.35                          |
| Lisburn            | 663           | 659           | 67,512                                   | 0.98                          |
| Magherafelt        | 313           | 313           | 24,995                                   | 1.25                          |
| Moyle              | 167           | 167           | 9,768                                    | 1.71                          |
| Newry & Mourne     | 796           | 795           | 54,196                                   | 1.47                          |
| Newtownabbey       | 448           | 448           | 49,432                                   | 0.91                          |
| North Down         | 473           | 472           | 47,438                                   | 0.99                          |
| Omagh              | 475           | 473           | 30,615                                   | 1.54                          |
| Strabane           | 401           | 401           | 23,562                                   | 1.70                          |
| Missing postcode   | 216           | 216           | ..                                       | ..                            |

<sup>1</sup>NI Mid Year Estimates 2003. Population aged 16 and over.

.. Not available.

Approximately 1.5% of records on the August 2004 dataset had missing or invalid postcodes, without which district council cannot be assigned.

**Table 8.5 Claimants and recipients of Severe Disablement Allowance by Government Office Region: 31 August 2004**

Thousands

|                                  | Claimants    | Recipients   |
|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>All Persons</b>               |              |              |
| <b>All Cases (Great Britain)</b> | <b>301.0</b> | <b>300.5</b> |
| North East                       | 17.2         | 17.2         |
| North West                       | 40.4         | 40.4         |
| Yorks & Humber                   | 28.5         | 28.5         |
| East Midlands                    | 22.9         | 22.9         |
| West Midlands                    | 25.7         | 25.7         |
| South West                       | 25.9         | 25.9         |
| Eastern                          | 23.4         | 23.4         |
| London                           | 26.8         | 26.7         |
| South East                       | 34.6         | 34.5         |
| England                          | 245.5        | 245.2        |
| Scotland                         | 34.5         | 34.5         |
| Wales                            | 20.4         | 20.4         |
| Northern Ireland                 | 13.2         | 13.2         |
| Overseas                         | 0.6          | *0.5         |

\*Figures under 500 are subject to a high degree of sampling error and should only be used as a guide to the current situation as GB data are taken from a 5% extract of the computer system.

**Table 8.6 Claimants of Severe Disablement Allowance at 31 August 2004 by gender and duration of benefit**

|                    | All IB        | Under 3 months | 3 to under 6 months | 6 to under 12 months | 1 to under 2 years | 2 to under 4 years | 4 years and over |
|--------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| <b>All Persons</b> | <b>13,233</b> | 13             | 12                  | 29                   | 62                 | 274                | 12,843           |
| <b>Men</b>         | <b>5,834</b>  | -              | -                   | 8                    | 22                 | 108                | 5,688            |
| <b>Women</b>       | <b>7,399</b>  | 9              | 8                   | 21                   | 40                 | 166                | 7,155            |

- Number less than 5 not disclosed due to DSD customer confidentiality policy.

**Table 8.7 Rates of Severe Disablement Allowance**

|                  | £ per week       |                                   |        |       |                         |             |                  |
|------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|--------|-------|-------------------------|-------------|------------------|
|                  | Personal benefit | Age related addition <sup>1</sup> |        |       | Increase for dependants |             |                  |
|                  |                  | Higher                            | Middle | Lower | Adult                   | First child | Each other child |
| 26 November 1981 | 17.75            | .                                 | .      | .     | 10.65                   | 7.70        | 7.70             |
| 25 November 1982 | 19.70            | .                                 | .      | .     | 11.80                   | 7.95        | 7.95             |
| 24 November 1983 | 20.45            | .                                 | .      | .     | 12.25                   | 7.60        | 7.60             |
| 29 November 1984 | 21.50            | .                                 | .      | .     | 12.85                   | 7.65        | 7.65             |
| 28 November 1985 | 23.00            | .                                 | .      | .     | 13.75                   | 8.05        | 8.05             |
| 31 July 1986     | 23.25            | .                                 | .      | .     | 13.90                   | 8.05        | 8.05             |
| 09 April 1987    | 23.75            | .                                 | .      | .     | 14.20                   | 8.05        | 8.05             |
| 14 April 1988    | 24.75            | .                                 | .      | .     | 14.80                   | 8.40        | 8.40             |
| 13 April 1989    | 26.20            | .                                 | .      | .     | 15.65                   | 8.95        | 8.95             |
| 12 April 1990    | 28.20            | .                                 | .      | .     | 16.85                   | 9.65        | 9.65             |
| 03 December 1990 | 28.20            | 10.00                             | 6.20   | 3.10  | 16.85                   | 9.65        | 9.65             |
| 11 April 1991    | 31.25            | 11.10                             | 6.90   | 3.45  | 18.70                   | 9.70        | 10.70            |
| 09 April 1992    | 32.55            | 11.55                             | 7.20   | 3.60  | 19.45                   | 9.75        | 10.85            |
| 15 April 1993    | 33.70            | 11.95                             | 7.50   | 3.75  | 20.15                   | 9.80        | 10.95            |
| 14 April 1994    | 34.80            | 12.15                             | 7.60   | 3.80  | 20.70                   | 9.80        | 11.00            |
| 13 April 1995    | 35.55            | 12.40                             | 7.80   | 3.90  | 21.15                   | 9.85        | 11.05            |
| 11 April 1996    | 36.95            | 12.90                             | 8.10   | 4.05  | 21.95                   | 9.90        | 11.15            |
| 10 April 1997    | 37.75            | 13.15                             | 8.30   | 4.15  | 22.40                   | 9.90        | 11.20            |
| 09 April 1998    | 39.10            | 13.60                             | 8.60   | 4.30  | 23.20                   | 9.90        | 11.30            |
| 15 April 1999    | 40.35            | 14.05                             | 8.90   | 4.45  | 23.95                   | 9.90        | 11.35            |
| 13 April 2000    | 40.80            | 14.20                             | 9.00   | 4.50  | 24.20                   | 9.85        | 11.35            |
| 09 April 2001    | 42.15            | 14.65                             | 9.30   | 4.65  | 25.00                   | 9.70        | 11.35            |
| 08 April 2002    | 42.85            | 14.90                             | 9.50   | 4.75  | 25.45                   | 9.65        | 11.35            |
| 07 April 2003    | 43.60            | 15.15                             | 9.70   | 4.85  | 25.90                   | 9.55        | 11.35            |
| 12 April 2004    | 44.80            | 15.55                             | 10.00  | 5.00  | 26.65                   | 9.55        | 11.35            |

<sup>1</sup>Age related additions were introduced from 3 December 1990 and depend on the claimant's age when incapacity for work began:

Higher rate                      Under age 40  
 Middle rate                      Age 40 - 49  
 Lower rate                        Age 50 - 59

Non-contributory Invalidity Pension and Housewives Non-contributory Invalidity Pension were replaced by Severe Disablement Allowance from 29 November 1984.

## Section 9 - Attendance Allowance

Introduced 6 December 1971

Non-contributory, Not means tested, Non-taxable

Attendance Allowance (AA) is a benefit for people who are so severely disabled, physically or mentally, that they need someone with them to help with personal care. They could need either frequent help coping with their bodily functions or constant care to stop them hurting themselves or others. This could be either during the day or at night.

A claimant who needs help both during the day and at night can get the higher rate of AA. A claimant who needs help either during the day or at night gets the lower rate. From October 1990, people who have a terminal illness, and are therefore not likely to live for more than 6 months, were also invited to claim. Since April 1992, people who were disabled before the age of 65 receive DLA instead of AA.

### **Source**

Figures are based on 100% scans.



## Summary

The number of people claiming Attendance Allowance (AA) stood at 65,355 in August 2004, a decrease of 150 (0.23%) on the August 2003 figure. Of those claiming 33% were male and 67% were female.

The proportion receiving the high rate of AA was 74%, which is higher than that for Great Britain (51% at August 2004).

The proportion receiving the low rate of AA was 26% , which is lower than that for Great Britain (49% at August 2004).

The main diagnosis group for allowances current at August 2004 was arthritis (31%). This was also the case in Great Britain with a proportion of 30% at August 2004.

Between district councils the proportion of AA claimants varied between 36.7% of those aged 65 and over in Cookstown to 23.1% of those aged 65 and over in Castlereagh.

Allowances current in Northern Ireland at August 2004 stood at 38.4 per 1000 population. This is considerably higher than the situation in Great Britain (24.3 per 1000 population).



**Table 9.1 Allowances current<sup>1</sup> by rate: August 1996 to August 2004**

| <b>Year</b> | <b>All awards</b> | <b>Higher rate</b> | <b>Lower rate</b> |
|-------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1996        | <b>61,389</b>     | 40,120             | 21,269            |
| 1997        | <b>64,282</b>     | 43,350             | 20,932            |
| 1998        | <b>64,367</b>     | 44,208             | 20,159            |
| 1999        | <b>64,770</b>     | 45,083             | 19,687            |
| 2000        | <b>65,221</b>     | 46,447             | 18,774            |
| 2001        | <b>65,730</b>     | 47,447             | 18,283            |
| 2002        | <b>65,422</b>     | 47,640             | 17,782            |
| 2003        | <b>65,505</b>     | 47,928             | 17,577            |
| 2004        | <b>65,355</b>     | 48,478             | 16,877            |

<sup>1</sup>Cases where payment of benefit has been suspended are excluded

**Table 9.2 Allowances current at 31 August 2004 by age and gender**

|                 | <b>Total</b>  | <b>Men</b>    | <b>Women</b>  |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>All ages</b> | <b>65,355</b> | <b>21,647</b> | <b>43,708</b> |
| 65-69           | <b>2,990</b>  | 1,311         | 1,679         |
| 70-74           | <b>9,613</b>  | 3,707         | 5,906         |
| 75-79           | <b>18,332</b> | 6,514         | 11,818        |
| 80-84           | <b>18,924</b> | 6,086         | 12,838        |
| 85-89           | <b>10,370</b> | 2,900         | 7,470         |
| 90 & over       | <b>5,126</b>  | 1,129         | 3,997         |

**Table 9.3 Allowances current at 31 August 2004 by main disabling condition<sup>12</sup> and rate**

|                             | <b>All Awards</b> | <b>Higher Rate</b> | <b>Lower Rate</b> |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| <b>All conditions</b>       | <b>65,355</b>     | <b>48,478</b>      | <b>16,877</b>     |
| Terminally ill              | 682               | 682                | 0                 |
| Arthritis                   | 20,291            | 15,143             | 5,148             |
| Back ailments               | 1,317             | 958                | 359               |
| Muscles/joint/bone disease  | 1,007             | 725                | 282               |
| Trauma to limbs             | 367               | 260                | 107               |
| Blindness                   | 1,095             | 566                | 529               |
| Heart disease               | 6,334             | 4,606              | 1,728             |
| Chest disease               | 2,289             | 1,715              | 574               |
| Asthma                      | 605               | 468                | 137               |
| Stroke-related              | 2,464             | 1,964              | 500               |
| Peripheral vascular disease | 345               | 242                | 103               |
| Frailty                     | 7,126             | 5,193              | 1,933             |
| Neurological disorder       | 641               | 463                | 178               |
| Parkinsons disease          | 592               | 490                | 102               |
| Diabetes                    | 1,091             | 736                | 355               |
| Other mental health causes  | 3,237             | 2,302              | 935               |
| Malignant disease           | 930               | 751                | 179               |
| Conversion <sup>3</sup>     | 13,814            | 10,387             | 3,427             |
| Other <sup>4</sup>          | 1,128             | 827                | 301               |

<sup>1</sup>Where more than one disability is present only the main disabling condition is recorded.

<sup>2</sup>For a small number of cases the main disabling condition is recorded inaccurately.

<sup>3</sup>Disabling conditions were not recorded for existing cases when they were transferred to the computer system.

<sup>4</sup>Other includes medical conditions that constitute less than 0.5% of all conditions.

Table 9.4 Allowances current at 31 August 2004 by District Council and Population

| Country and District Council | AA Allowances | AA Allowances as a % of the population <sup>1</sup> |
|------------------------------|---------------|---|
| <b>NORTHERN IRELAND</b>      | <b>65,355</b> | <b>28.4</b>   |
| Unallocated                  | 777           |   |
| Antrim                       | 1,306         | 24.0  |
| Ards                         | 2,781         | 25.8  |
| Armagh                       | 2,140         | 30.5  |
| Ballymena                    | 2,101         | 23.7  |
| Ballymoney                   | 1,074         | 28.1  |
| Banbridge                    | 1,565         | 28.9  |
| Belfast                      | 12,249        | 29.4  |
| Carrickfergus                | 1,281         | 24.4  |
| Castlereagh                  | 2,561         | 23.0  |
| Coleraine                    | 2,153         | 25.5  |
| Cookstown                    | 1,410         | 35.8  |
| Craigavon                    | 3,028         | 28.5  |
| Derry                        | 2,874         | 26.5  |
| Down                         | 2,426         | 28.4  |
| Dungannon                    | 2,080         | 33.5  |
| Fermanagh                    | 2,599         | 31.6  |
| Larne                        | 1,159         | 34.2  |
| Limavady                     | 1,082         | 23.1  |
| Lisburn                      | 3,447         | 26.0  |
| Magherafelt                  | 1,564         | 33.3  |
| Moyle                        | 710           | 29.1  |
| Newry & Mourne               | 3,582         | 33.9  |
| Newtownabbey                 | 2,839         | 24.2  |
| North Down                   | 3,135         | 24.6  |
| Omagh                        | 1,936         | 34.0  |
| Strabane                     | 1,496         | 32.4  |

<sup>1</sup>Population Aged 65 and over - 2003 Mid Year Estimates

**Table 9.5 Attendance Allowance claimants by Government Office Region:  
August 2004**

| <b>Government Office Region</b> | <b>Allowances<br/>000s</b> | <b>Allowances per<br/>1,000 population<sup>1</sup></b> |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Great Britain</b>            | <b>1,403.0</b>             | <b>24.3</b>  |
| England                         | 1,161.7                    | 23.3   |
| North East                      | 68.3                       | 26.9   |
| North West                      | 189.0                      | 27.8   |
| Yorkshire & Humber              | 113.6                      | 22.7   |
| East Midlands                   | 104.4                      | 24.6   |
| West Midlands                   | 145.4                      | 27.3   |
| East                            | 126.3                      | 23.1   |
| London                          | 124.9                      | 16.9   |
| South East                      | 152.3                      | 18.9   |
| South West                      | 137.6                      | 27.5   |
| Wales                           | 103.0                      | 35.1   |
| Scotland                        | 138.3                      | 27.3   |
| Northern Ireland                | 65.4                       | 38.4   |

<sup>1</sup>2003 Mid Year Estimates.

All figures excluding Northern Ireland are based on a 5% sample.

From November 2002, the methodology for producing these figures was changed to allow statistics to be published much sooner. This has resulted in a small increase in the reported caseload. This is because some cases which have actually terminated but have not yet been updated on the computer system are now included.

**Table 9.6 Rates of Attendance Allowance**

| <b>Date</b>   | <b>£ per week</b>      |                       |
|---------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
|               | <b>Higher<br/>rate</b> | <b>Lower<br/>rate</b> |
| 06 April 1992 | 43.35                  | 28.95                 |
| 10 April 1993 | 44.90                  | 30.00                 |
| 11 April 1994 | 45.70                  | 30.55                 |
| 10 April 1995 | 46.70                  | 31.20                 |
| 08 April 1996 | 48.50                  | 32.40                 |
| 07 April 1997 | 49.50                  | 33.10                 |
| 08 April 1998 | 51.30                  | 34.30                 |
| 12 April 1999 | 52.95                  | 35.40                 |
| 12 April 2000 | 53.55                  | 35.80                 |
| 09 April 2001 | 55.30                  | 37.00                 |
| 08 April 2002 | 56.25                  | 37.65                 |
| 07 April 2003 | 57.20                  | 38.30                 |
| 12 April 2004 | 58.80                  | 39.35                 |

## Section 10 - Disability Living Allowance

*Introduced 1 April 1992*

*Non-contributory, Not means tested, Non-taxable*

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) replaced and extended Attendance Allowance and Mobility Allowance in April 1992 for people who became disabled before the age of 65. People already in receipt of either Attendance Allowance or Mobility Allowance before April 1992 were invited to make a 'top up' claim for the other component.

DLA is payable to people who are disabled and who have personal care needs, mobility needs or both. DLA consists of two components:

- The care component: for people who need help with personal care
- The mobility component: for people who need help with getting around (it is not available for children under five).

The care component is paid at one of three rates and the mobility component at one of two rates. These are shown in Table 10.6.

To qualify for DLA the need for help must have existed for three months (the qualifying period) and be expected to last for at least a further six months (the prospective test). People who are not expected to live longer than six months because of an illness do not have to satisfy either the qualifying period or the prospective test. Once awarded, DLA will continue to be paid as long as the conditions of entitlement are met.

### **Source**

Figures are based on 100% scans.



## **Summary**

The number of people claiming Disability Living Allowance (DLA) stood at 162,529 in August 2004, an increase of 8,738 (5.7%) on the August 2003 figure. Of those claiming 47.6% were male and 52.4% were female.

The proportion receiving the DLA mobility component only was 10% (compared to 11.1% a year earlier), which is lower than that for Great Britain (21.3% at August 2004).

The proportion receiving the DLA care component was higher at 13.9% compared to 13.5% the previous year, which is approximately the same as that for Great Britain (13.4% at August 2004).

The proportion receiving the combined DLA mobility component and care component was higher at 76% compared to 75.4% a year earlier. This figure is higher than that for Great Britain, which has a proportion of 65.4% at August 2004.

The main disabling conditions in Northern Ireland were other mental health causes (22.1%) and arthritis (18.7%). For Great Britain the main disabling condition was arthritis (19.8% at August 2004).

The proportion of the population claiming DLA in Northern Ireland at August 2004 stood at 9.6%. Between district councils the proportion of the population claiming DLA varied between 13.8% in Strabane to 5.6% in North Down.

Allowances current in Northern Ireland at August 2004 stood at 95.5 per 1000 population. This is considerably higher than the situation in Great Britain (45.5 per 1000 population).



**Table 10.1 Allowances current<sup>1</sup> by rate: August 1998 to August 2004**

|   | Year           |                |                |                |                |                |                |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|   | 1998           | 1999           | 2000           | 2001           | 2002           | 2003           | 2004           |
| <b>All components:</b>                    | <b>121,481</b> | <b>127,745</b> | <b>133,965</b> | <b>141,451</b> | <b>146,979</b> | <b>153,791</b> | <b>162,529</b> |
| Higher rate care only                     | 3,019          | 2,547          | 2,322          | 2,094          | 2,027          | 2,076          | 2,154          |
| Middle rate care only                     | 8,452          | 7,447          | 7,323          | 7,362          | 7,588          | 8,242          | 9,276          |
| Lower rate care only                      | 10,637         | 10,730         | 10,484         | 10,226         | 10,166         | 10,494         | 11,225         |
| Higher rate mobility only                 | 12,453         | 12,041         | 11,903         | 12,110         | 12,530         | 12,795         | 12,247         |
| Lower rate mobility only                  | 3,292          | 3,571          | 3,619          | 3,613          | 4,156          | 4,296          | 4,077          |
| Higher rate care and higher rate mobility | 20,777         | 21,769         | 22,490         | 23,756         | 24,674         | 25,693         | 26,726         |
| Higher rate care and lower rate mobility  | 7,568          | 9,296          | 10,330         | 11,260         | 11,622         | 12,079         | 12,578         |
| Middle rate care and higher rate mobility | 23,735         | 24,944         | 26,718         | 29,005         | 30,417         | 32,082         | 34,009         |
| Middle rate care and lower rate mobility  | 11,726         | 15,108         | 18,833         | 22,361         | 24,121         | 25,836         | 29,881         |
| Lower rate care and higher rate mobility  | 15,481         | 15,723         | 15,908         | 16,035         | 16,166         | 16,887         | 16,926         |
| Lower rate care and lower rate mobility   | 4,341          | 4,569          | 4,035          | 3,629          | 3,512          | 3,311          | 3,430          |

<sup>1</sup> Cases where payment of benefit has been suspended are excluded

**Table 10.2 Allowances current at 31 August 2004 by age and gender**

|                 | Total          | Men           | Women         |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>All ages</b> | <b>162,529</b> | <b>77,350</b> | <b>85,179</b> |
| 0 - 4           | 1,687          | 1,049         | 638           |
| 5 - 9           | 4,833          | 3,227         | 1,606         |
| 10-15           | 5,703          | 3,702         | 2,001         |
| 16-19           | 3,012          | 1,709         | 1,303         |
| 20-24           | 4,165          | 2,247         | 1,918         |
| 25-29           | 4,966          | 2,458         | 2,508         |
| 30-34           | 7,208          | 3,478         | 3,730         |
| 35-39           | 10,395         | 4,828         | 5,567         |
| 40-44           | 12,646         | 5,775         | 6,871         |
| 45-49           | 13,602         | 6,135         | 7,467         |
| 50-54           | 15,008         | 6,783         | 8,225         |
| 55-59           | 19,235         | 8,683         | 10,552        |
| 60-64           | 21,770         | 10,146        | 11,624        |
| 65-69           | 19,917         | 9,213         | 10,704        |
| 70-74           | 13,826         | 6,026         | 7,800         |
| 75-79           | 4,062          | 1,709         | 2,353         |
| 80 and over     | 494            | 182           | 312           |

**Table 10.3 Allowances current at 31 August 2004 by main disabling condition<sup>12</sup> and component**

|                             | <b>All Awards</b> | <b>Care component only</b> | <b>Mobility component only</b> | <b>Care and mobility component</b> |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>All conditions</b>       | <b>162,529</b>    | <b>22,655</b>              | <b>16,324</b>                  | <b>123,550</b>                     |
| Terminally ill              | 1,379             | 29                         | 10                             | 1,340                              |
| Arthritis                   | 30,384            | 4,111                      | 2,847                          | 23,426                             |
| Back ailments               | 12,166            | 1,695                      | 1,209                          | 9,262                              |
| Muscles/joint/bone disease  | 15,043            | 3,705                      | 1,590                          | 9,748                              |
| Trauma to limbs             | 891               | 306                        | 92                             | 493                                |
| Blindness                   | 2,199             | 88                         | 156                            | 1,955                              |
| Deafness                    | 1,876             | 149                        | 124                            | 1,603                              |
| Heart disease               | 11,841            | 788                        | 2,332                          | 8,721                              |
| Chest disease               | 4,234             | 222                        | 795                            | 3,217                              |
| Asthma                      | 3,961             | 978                        | 729                            | 2,254                              |
| Stroke-related              | 3,420             | 294                        | 201                            | 2,925                              |
| Peripheral vascular disease | 1,056             | 24                         | 301                            | 731                                |
| Epilepsy                    | 4,854             | 445                        | 92                             | 4,317                              |
| Neurological disorder       | 3,131             | 388                        | 157                            | 2,586                              |
| Multiple sclerosis          | 1,732             | 58                         | 82                             | 1,592                              |
| Chronic fatigue             | 1,740             | 365                        | 110                            | 1,265                              |
| Diabetes                    | 2,614             | 644                        | 104                            | 1,866                              |
| Learning difficulties       | 8,705             | 697                        | 955                            | 7,053                              |
| Other mental health causes  | 35,845            | 4,472                      | 2,466                          | 28,907                             |
| Alcohol abuse               | 2,899             | 715                        | 84                             | 2,100                              |
| Skin disease                | 1,030             | 691                        | 37                             | 302                                |
| Malignant disease           | 2,294             | 476                        | 86                             | 1,732                              |
| Conversion <sup>3</sup>     | 4,775             | 232                        | 1,515                          | 3,028                              |
| Other <sup>4</sup>          | 4,460             | 1,083                      | 250                            | 3,127                              |

<sup>1</sup>Where more than one disability is present only the main disabling condition is recorded

<sup>2</sup>For a small number of cases the main disabling condition is recorded inaccurately

<sup>3</sup>Disabling conditions were not recorded for existing cases when they were transferred to the computer system

<sup>4</sup>Other includes medical conditions that constitute less than 0.5% of all conditions

**Table 10.4 Allowances current at 31 August 2004 by District Council**

| <b>Country and District Council</b> | <b>DLA Allowances</b> | <b>DLA Allowances as a % of the population<sup>1</sup></b> |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| <b>NORTHERN IRELAND</b>             | <b>162,529</b>        | <b>9.5%</b>  |
| Unallocated                         | 1,885                 |  |
| Antrim                              | 3,869                 | 7.9%   |
| Ards                                | 5,375                 | 7.2%   |
| Armagh                              | 4,864                 | 8.8%   |
| Ballymena                           | 3,622                 | 6.1%   |
| Ballymoney                          | 2,263                 | 8.1%   |
| Banbridge                           | 3,622                 | 8.4%   |
| Belfast                             | 34,307                | 12.6%  |
| Carrickfergus                       | 2,780                 | 7.2%   |
| Castlereagh                         | 4,792                 | 7.3%   |
| Coleraine                           | 3,590                 | 6.4%   |
| Cookstown                           | 3,900                 | 11.7%  |
| Craigavon                           | 8,678                 | 10.6%  |
| Derry                               | 13,095                | 12.3%  |
| Down                                | 6,024                 | 9.2%   |
| Dungannon                           | 5,379                 | 11.0%  |
| Fermanagh                           | 4,664                 | 7.9%   |
| Larne                               | 2,092                 | 6.2%   |
| Limavady                            | 2,902                 | 9.4%   |
| Lisburn                             | 9,228                 | 8.4%   |
| Magherafelt                         | 2,988                 | 7.3%   |
| Moyle                               | 1,259                 | 7.7%   |
| Newry & Mourne                      | 9,620                 | 10.7%  |
| Newtownabbey                        | 6,214                 | 7.7%   |
| North Down                          | 4,333                 | 5.6%   |
| Omagh                               | 5,877                 | 11.9%  |
| Strabane                            | 5,307                 | 13.8%  |

<sup>1</sup>2003 Mid Year Estimates

**Table 10.5 Disability Living Allowances current by Government Office Region:  
August 2004**

| Country and Government Office Region | Allowances ('000s) | Allowances per 1,000 population <sup>1</sup> |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| <b>Great Britain</b>                 | <b>2,634.3</b>     | <b>45.5</b>                                  |
| England                              | 2,128.1            | 42.7   |
| North East                           | 157.4              | 62.0   |
| North West                           | 416.7              | 61.2   |
| Yorkshire & Humber                   | 256.3              | 51.2   |
| East Midlands                        | 189.5              | 44.6   |
| West Midlands                        | 251.7              | 47.3   |
| East                                 | 185.5              | 34.0   |
| London                               | 258.8              | 35.0   |
| South East                           | 233.1              | 28.8   |
| South West                           | 179.1              | 35.8   |
| Wales                                | 213.2              | 72.6   |
| Scotland                             | 293.0              | 57.9   |
| Northern Ireland                     | 162.5              | 95.5   |

<sup>1</sup>2003 Mid Year Estimates.

All figures excluding Northern Ireland are based on a 5% sample.

From November 2002, the methodology for producing these figures was changed to allow statistics to be published much sooner. This has resulted in a small increase in the reported caseload. This is because some cases which have actually terminated but have not yet been updated on the computer system are now included.

**Table 10.6 Rates of Disability Living Allowance**

|               | Care component |             |            | Mobility component |            |
|---------------|----------------|-------------|------------|--------------------|------------|
|               | Higher rate    | Middle rate | Lower rate | Higher rate        | Lower rate |
| 06 April 1992 | 43.35          | 28.95       | 11.55      | 30.30              | 11.55      |
| 10 April 1993 | 44.90          | 30.00       | 11.95      | 31.40              | 11.95      |
| 11 April 1994 | 45.70          | 30.55       | 12.15      | 31.95              | 12.15      |
| 10 April 1995 | 46.70          | 31.20       | 12.40      | 32.65              | 12.40      |
| 08 April 1996 | 48.50          | 32.40       | 12.90      | 33.90              | 12.90      |
| 07 April 1997 | 49.50          | 33.10       | 13.15      | 34.60              | 13.15      |
| 06 April 1998 | 51.30          | 34.30       | 13.60      | 35.85              | 13.60      |
| 05 April 1999 | 52.95          | 35.40       | 14.05      | 37.00              | 14.05      |
| 10 April 2000 | 53.55          | 35.80       | 14.20      | 37.40              | 14.20      |
| 09 April 2001 | 55.30          | 37.00       | 14.65      | 38.65              | 14.65      |
| 08 April 2002 | 56.25          | 37.65       | 14.90      | 39.30              | 14.90      |
| 07 April 2003 | 57.20          | 38.30       | 15.15      | 39.95              | 15.15      |
| 12 April 2004 | 58.80          | 39.35       | 15.55      | 41.05              | 15.55      |

## Section 11 - Retirement Pension

*Introduced 1 January 1909*

*Contributory, Not means tested, Taxable*

There are two categories of contributory retirement pension and two categories of non-contributory retirement pension.

### **Contributory Retirement Pension**

The categories of contributory retirement pension are:

Category A – dependent on a person's own National Insurance contribution (NIC) record.

Category B – dependent on National Insurance contributions paid by a spouse.

The two main conditions for payment are that:

- the person has reached State pension age (65 for men, 60 for women)
- the contributions conditions are satisfied.

People who meet the contribution conditions, get a flat-rate basic pension at the standard rate. If the conditions are only partly met, the basic pension is reduced. The minimum basic pension paid is 25% of the standard rate. Since April 1978, a person's contribution record can be protected, if their opportunities to work are limited because of responsibilities at home, such as bringing up a family or looking after a sick or disabled person, (see the section on Home Responsibilities Protection). There are also special arrangements to help widows and widowers qualify for a retirement pension.

Extra money for dependant children can be paid with Category A or B pensions. However, since 6 April 2003, provision for children is made through the Child Tax Credit. Extra money can also be added to a Category A pension for a dependant spouse or someone who looks after the children.

A married woman can get a Category A pension on her own NIC record, if she meets the conditions. Otherwise she can claim a category B pension on her husband's NIC record, when he qualifies for his own pension and she has reached State pension age. She can also claim a Category B pension if her own pension would be less than the rate payable on her husband's NIC record.

### **Home Responsibility Protection (HRP)**

Since April 1978 people who cannot work because of caring commitments at home can claim Home Responsibilities Protection. When calculating entitlement to Retirement Pension, the number of years in the person's working life is reduced by the number of complete tax years for which they get HRP. The number of years left over cannot be reduced to less than 20. A woman who has paid reduced rate contributions for any part of a year cannot get HRP for that year. This was extended to foster carers from April 2003.

### **Additional Pension**

This is the earnings-related element of the state retirement pension. It is also known as the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme (SERPS). The amount payable is based on the earnings between the lower and upper earnings limit for National Insurance contributions in tax years from April 1978 up to the final relevant year. The final relevant year is the last complete tax year before a person reaches State pension age. Earnings for the years before the final relevant year are revalued in line with the growth in average earnings.

SERPS was reformed by the State Second Pension, which was introduced from 6 April 2002. State Second Pension provides a more generous pension than would have been provided by SERPS for low and moderate earners, carers who are looking after young children or a disabled person and disabled people with broken work records.

### **Contracted Out Deduction**

The Additional Pension is reduced when someone has been a member of a contracted out scheme or personal pension scheme used in place of SERPS. Contracted out salary related schemes provide a Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) worth about the same as the Additional Pension payable under the state scheme. The Additional Pension is reduced by the GMP. With contracted out money purchase schemes, and personal pensions, there is no guaranteed minimum but the Additional Pension is reduced in a similar way.

From 6 April 1997 the links with SERPS were broken and contracted-out-salary-related schemes no longer have to pay a GMP. To remain contracted out, salary-related schemes have to pass a new overall test of scheme quality. Additionally from April 1997 there will be no Additional Pension top-up for any period of contracted out service, but rights earned before that date will be paid with State Pension when claimed.

### **Notional Additional Pension**

This is the entitlement to Additional Pension before reduction for Contracted Out Deduction.

### **Net Additional Pension**

This is the entitlement to Additional Pension after reduction for Contracted Out Deduction.

### **Increments**

If a person does not take their retirement pension until after State pension age, or cancels their claim, they can earn increments. They get the increments with their pension they get on their own NIC record, either when they do claim or five years after they reach State pension age. The amount of the increment is about 7.5% per year of deferred retirement on the basic rate, including Invalidity Allowance and Additional Pension. The minimum deferment is 42 days. A married woman can earn increments whether her pension is based on her own or her husband's NIC record or both. Increments on her husband's NIC record can only be earned if the couple are both over State pension age. Widows and widowers can get the increments earned by their deceased spouse.

### **Graduated Retirement Benefit**

This is paid to those people who paid into the graduated pension scheme, which ended on 5 April 1975. It is paid whether or not they are entitled to the basic retirement pension. The entitlement is based on each unit of graduated contributions paid (£7.50 for a man, £9 for a woman). Someone who delays claiming can earn increments in the same way as for other parts of the pension. Widows and widowers can get half of any Graduated Retirement Benefit for which their deceased spouse had qualified.

### **Invalidity Addition**

This is paid to a person who was entitled to Invalidity Allowance, as an increase of invalidity pension, at any time during 8 weeks before they reach State pension age. The amount they get is the rate of invalidity allowance they were entitled to when they reached State pension age. The rate of invalidity pension is reduced by the notional rate of additional pension.

### **Non-Contributory Retirement Pension**

The two categories of non-contributory retirement pension for people who do not meet the contributions are Category C and Category D.

**Category C Pensions**

These are people who were over State pension age on 5 July 1948, and are therefore excluded from the National Insurance scheme. The wife or widow of a man who was over 65 on July 1948 can also get a category C pension.

**Category D Pensions**

These are awarded to people who reach the age of 80, satisfy certain residence conditions, and failed to qualify for a Category A or B pension, or would receive less than the non-contributory rate.

**Age Addition**

All pensioners over 80 years old get an age addition of 25p a week. This is paid with their retirement pension.

**Christmas Bonus**

In the first week of December, retirement pensioners, widows and people receiving certain other benefits in the relevant week get a Christmas Bonus. It is currently £10.

**Frozen and non-frozen rate countries**

People living abroad can get Retirement Pension. However, people who live in countries which the UK has no reciprocal agreement cannot get uprating of pension. People living in 'non-frozen rate countries', which include members of the European Union, get their pensions uprated in the same way as people living in Great Britain.

**Source**

Statistics are based on a 100% scan.



## Summary

The total number of persons in receipt of Retirement Pension at September 2004 was 254,859. The number of men in receipt of Retirement Pension was 90,874 and the number of women was 163,985.

There has been a net increase of 3,641 (1.4%) in the retirement pensioner caseload over the period September 2003 to September 2004. This growth is greater than that of Great Britain, which had a net increase of 1.3% in the same period. Within this total net increase in Northern Ireland, the number of men increased by 1,383 and the number of women increased by 2,258. The proportion of men within the Retirement Pension caseload currently stands at 35.7%. The corresponding figure for Great Britain stands at 37.5%.

The average amount of actual entitlement at September 2004 was £84.12 per week (an annual increase of 3.6%). The corresponding figure for Great Britain was an average entitlement of £81.47 per week (an annual increase of 3.7%).

Across all individual ages the number of men in receipt of a Retirement Pension is lower than the number of women. Due to the higher life expectancy for females this imbalance increases with age.



**Table 11.1 Retirement Pensioners by category of pensioners:  
September 1996 to September 2004**

|                           | All Types      | A       | B      | ABL    | BL     | GRB Only | AP Only | C | D     | Unallocated |
|---------------------------|----------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|----------|---------|---|-------|-------------|
| <b>Men and Women</b>      |                |         |        |        |        |          |         |   |       |             |
| Sep-96                    | <b>227,274</b> | 150,101 | 36,865 | 17,213 | 20,069 | 781      | 228     | 6 | 2,011 | 0           |
| Mar-97                    | <b>228,944</b> | 152,352 | 36,130 | 17,821 | 19,749 | 728      | 221     | 6 | 1,937 | 0           |
| Sep-97                    | <b>232,288</b> | 155,810 | 35,569 | 18,568 | 19,484 | 733      | 211     | 6 | 1,907 | 0           |
| Mar-98                    | <b>234,104</b> | 158,152 | 34,875 | 19,203 | 19,129 | 684      | 207     | 6 | 1,848 | 0           |
| Sep-98 <sup>2</sup>       |                |         |        |        |        |          |         |   |       |             |
| Mar-99                    | <b>237,320</b> | 162,638 | 33,338 | 20,254 | 18,587 | 610      | 197     | - | 1,692 | 0           |
| Sep-99                    | <b>239,396</b> | 164,868 | 32,657 | 21,004 | 18,292 | 564      | 189     | 5 | 1,672 | 145         |
| Mar-00                    | <b>239,425</b> | 166,213 | 31,686 | 21,400 | 17,788 | 543      | 181     | 5 | 1,609 | 0           |
| Sep-00                    | <b>240,253</b> | 167,671 | 31,087 | 21,807 | 17,390 | 529      | 187     | 5 | 1,577 | 0           |
| Mar-01                    | <b>241,201</b> | 169,501 | 30,320 | 22,108 | 17,023 | 504      | 190     | 5 | 1,550 | 0           |
| Sep-01                    | <b>244,039</b> | 172,848 | 29,721 | 22,486 | 16,748 | 490      | 183     | 5 | 1,558 | 0           |
| Mar-02                    | <b>244,425</b> | 174,336 | 28,875 | 22,693 | 16,333 | 475      | 176     | 5 | 1,532 | 0           |
| Sep-02                    | <b>247,165</b> | 177,698 | 28,173 | 23,059 | 16,056 | 475      | 168     | 5 | 1,531 | 0           |
| Mar-03                    | <b>248,564</b> | 180,162 | 27,296 | 23,239 | 15,699 | 446      | 179     | - | 1,540 | 0           |
| Sep-03                    | <b>251,218</b> | 183,455 | 26,615 | 23,572 | 15,459 | 418      | 187     | - | 1,509 | 0           |
| Mar-04                    | <b>252,537</b> | 186,014 | 25,735 | 23,703 | 15,076 | 396      | 195     | - | 1,415 | 0           |
| Sep-04                    | <b>254,859</b> | 189,205 | 25,081 | 23,873 | 14,735 | 387      | 188     | - | 1,387 | 0           |
| <b>Men<sup>12</sup></b>   |                |         |        |        |        |          |         |   |       |             |
| Sep-99                    | <b>84,071</b>  | 83,647  | 5      | -      | -      | 12       | 34      | - | 342   | 29          |
| Mar-00                    | <b>84,313</b>  | 83,932  | 5      | -      | -      | 11       | 35      | - | 328   | 0           |
| Sep-00                    | <b>84,610</b>  | 84,247  | -      | -      | -      | 11       | 33      | - | 316   | 0           |
| Mar-01                    | <b>85,177</b>  | 84,821  | -      | -      | -      | 10       | 33      | - | 310   | 0           |
| Sep-01                    | <b>86,470</b>  | 86,090  | -      | -      | -      | 12       | 33      | - | 331   | 0           |
| Mar-02                    | <b>86,828</b>  | 86,456  | -      | -      | -      | 12       | 30      | - | 328   | 0           |
| Sep-02                    | <b>87,879</b>  | 87,507  | -      | -      | -      | 12       | 30      | - | 328   | 0           |
| Mar-03                    | <b>88,436</b>  | 88,070  | -      | -      | -      | 14       | 28      | - | 322   | 0           |
| Sep-03                    | <b>89,491</b>  | 89,129  | -      | -      | -      | 14       | 29      | - | 317   | 0           |
| Mar-04                    | <b>89,986</b>  | 89,644  | -      | -      | -      | 13       | 29      | - | 299   | 0           |
| Sep-04                    | <b>90,874</b>  | 90,532  | -      | -      | -      | 16       | 29      | - | 296   | 0           |
| <b>Women<sup>12</sup></b> |                |         |        |        |        |          |         |   |       |             |
| Sep-99                    | <b>155,325</b> | 81,221  | 32,652 | 21,002 | 18,292 | 552      | 155     | 5 | 1,330 | 116         |
| Mar-00                    | <b>155,112</b> | 82,281  | 31,681 | 21,399 | 17,787 | 532      | 146     | 5 | 1,281 | 0           |
| Sep-00                    | <b>155,643</b> | 83,424  | 31,084 | 21,807 | 17,390 | 518      | 154     | 5 | 1,261 | 0           |
| Mar-01                    | <b>156,024</b> | 84,680  | 30,317 | 22,108 | 17,023 | 494      | 157     | 5 | 1,240 | 0           |
| Sep-01                    | <b>157,569</b> | 86,758  | 29,717 | 22,486 | 16,748 | 478      | 150     | 5 | 1,227 | 0           |
| Mar-02                    | <b>157,597</b> | 87,880  | 28,873 | 22,693 | 16,333 | 463      | 146     | 5 | 1,204 | 0           |
| Sep-02                    | <b>159,286</b> | 90,191  | 28,171 | 23,059 | 16,056 | 463      | 138     | 5 | 1,203 | 0           |
| Mar-03                    | <b>160,128</b> | 92,092  | 27,294 | 23,239 | 15,699 | 432      | 151     | - | 1,218 | 0           |
| Sep-03                    | <b>161,727</b> | 94,326  | 26,613 | 23,572 | 15,459 | 404      | 158     | - | 1,192 | 0           |
| Mar-04                    | <b>162,551</b> | 96,370  | 25,734 | 23,703 | 15,076 | 383      | 166     | - | 1,116 | 0           |
| Sep-04                    | <b>163,985</b> | 98,673  | 25,080 | 23,873 | 14,735 | 371      | 159     | - | 1,091 | 0           |

<sup>1</sup>Separate breakdowns for gender are unavailable due to data restrictions.

<sup>2</sup>Data for September 1998 is unavailable.

- Number less than 5 not disclosed due to DSD customer confidentiality policy.

**Table 11.2 Retirement Pensioners by category of pension and average amount of actual entitlement: September 1996 to September 2004**

|                     |              | £ per week |       |       |       |          |         |       |       |
|---------------------|--------------|------------|-------|-------|-------|----------|---------|-------|-------|
|                     | All Types    | A          | B     | ABL   | BL    | GRB Only | AP Only | C     | D     |
| Sep-96              | <b>60.64</b> | 66.44      | 63.27 | 38.91 | 36.58 | 0.75     | 1.95    | 31.66 | 36.19 |
| Mar-97              | <b>60.94</b> | 66.78      | 63.39 | 38.92 | 36.56 | 0.73     | 1.90    | 31.66 | 36.20 |
| Sep-97              | <b>62.58</b> | 68.62      | 64.89 | 39.78 | 37.27 | 0.74     | 2.02    | 32.30 | 36.98 |
| Mar-98              | <b>62.86</b> | 68.93      | 65.03 | 39.81 | 37.23 | 0.71     | 1.97    | 32.30 | 37.03 |
| Sep-98 <sup>1</sup> |              |            |       |       |       |          |         |       |       |
| Mar-99              | <b>65.89</b> | 72.30      | 67.76 | 41.33 | 38.50 | 1.60     | 2.14    | 30.78 | 38.39 |
| Sep-99              | <b>68.58</b> | 75.31      | 70.46 | 42.66 | 39.71 | 1.95     | 2.36    | 33.41 | 39.70 |
| Mar-00              | <b>68.90</b> | 75.64      | 70.70 | 42.68 | 39.69 | 1.89     | 2.52    | 33.46 | 39.78 |
| Sep-00              | <b>69.95</b> | 76.77      | 71.73 | 43.17 | 40.11 | 2.19     | 2.35    | 31.79 | 40.26 |
| Mar-01              | <b>70.18</b> | 76.96      | 71.93 | 43.17 | 40.09 | 2.08     | 2.31    | 33.83 | 40.40 |
| Sep-01              | <b>75.32</b> | 82.48      | 77.19 | 46.28 | 42.99 | 2.20     | 2.57    | 36.33 | 43.37 |
| Mar-02              | <b>75.57</b> | 82.69      | 77.44 | 46.28 | 42.96 | 2.21     | 2.38    | 36.33 | 43.47 |
| Sep-02              | <b>78.71</b> | 85.99      | 80.77 | 48.13 | 44.70 | 2.24     | 2.45    | 37.83 | 45.19 |
| Mar-03              | <b>78.90</b> | 86.09      | 81.01 | 48.12 | 44.65 | 2.25     | 2.41    | 39.07 | 45.27 |
| Sep-03              | <b>81.19</b> | 88.47      | 83.48 | 49.36 | 45.77 | 2.25     | 2.45    | 40.06 | 46.50 |
| Mar-04              | <b>81.44</b> | 88.62      | 83.75 | 49.35 | 45.73 | 2.34     | 2.70    | 40.06 | 46.65 |
| Sep-04              | <b>84.12</b> | 91.44      | 86.36 | 50.72 | 46.97 | 2.68     | 2.87    | 41.18 | 48.01 |

<sup>1</sup>Data is unavailable at September 1998

**Table 11.3 Retirement Pensioners at September 2004 by category of pension, age and gender**

|                      | All<br>Types   | Contributory   |               |               |               |            |            | Non contributory |              |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------|------------|------------------|--------------|
|                      |                | A              | B             | ABL           | BL            | GRB only   | AP only    | C                | D            |
| <b>Men and Women</b> |                |                |               |               |               |            |            |                  |              |
| <b>All ages</b>      | <b>254,859</b> | <b>189,205</b> | <b>25,081</b> | <b>23,873</b> | <b>14,735</b> | <b>387</b> | <b>188</b> | -                | <b>1,387</b> |
| Age 60 - 64          | <b>35,464</b>  | 29,424         | 289           | 3,765         | 1,649         | 240        | 97         | -                | -            |
| Age 65 - 69          | <b>62,569</b>  | 49,972         | 1,369         | 7,504         | 3,617         | 62         | 45         | -                | -            |
| Age 70 - 79          | <b>100,330</b> | 75,183         | 7,477         | 10,715        | 6,856         | 61         | 37         | -                | -            |
| Age 80 - 89          | <b>48,499</b>  | 31,347         | 11,817        | 1,882         | 2,408         | 22         | 9          | -                | 1,012        |
| Age 90 - 99          | <b>7,781</b>   | 3,195          | 4,018         | 7             | 205           | -          | -          | -                | 354          |
| Age 100 +            | <b>216</b>     | 84             | 111           | -             | -             | -          | -          | -                | 21           |
| <b>Men</b>           |                |                |               |               |               |            |            |                  |              |
| <b>All ages</b>      | <b>90,874</b>  | <b>90,532</b>  | -             | -             | -             | <b>16</b>  | <b>29</b>  | -                | <b>296</b>   |
| Age 65 - 69          | <b>29,301</b>  | 29,283         | -             | -             | -             | 8          | 10         | -                | -            |
| Age 70 - 79          | <b>43,043</b>  | 43,022         | -             | -             | -             | 6          | 15         | -                | -            |
| Age 80 - 89          | <b>16,774</b>  | 16,526         | -             | -             | -             | -          | -          | -                | 242          |
| Age 90 - 99          | <b>1,732</b>   | 1,680          | -             | -             | -             | -          | -          | -                | 51           |
| Age 100 +            | <b>24</b>      | 21             | -             | -             | -             | -          | -          | -                | -            |
| <b>Women</b>         |                |                |               |               |               |            |            |                  |              |
| <b>All ages</b>      | <b>163,985</b> | <b>98,673</b>  | <b>25,080</b> | <b>23,873</b> | <b>14,735</b> | <b>371</b> | <b>159</b> | -                | <b>1,091</b> |
| Age 60 - 64          | <b>35,464</b>  | 29,424         | 289           | 3,765         | 1,649         | 240        | 97         | -                | -            |
| Age 65 - 69          | <b>33,268</b>  | 20,689         | 1,369         | 7,504         | 3,617         | 54         | 35         | -                | -            |
| Age 70 - 79          | <b>57,287</b>  | 32,161         | 7,477         | 10,715        | 6,856         | 55         | 22         | -                | -            |
| Age 80 - 89          | <b>31,725</b>  | 14,821         | 11,817        | 1,882         | 2,408         | 20         | 5          | -                | 770          |
| Age 90 - 99          | <b>6,049</b>   | 1,515          | 4,017         | 7             | 205           | -          | -          | -                | 303          |
| Age 100 +            | <b>192</b>     | 63             | 111           | -             | -             | -          | -          | -                | 18           |

- Number less than 5 not disclosed due to DSD customer confidentiality policy.

**Table 11.4 Retirement Pension claimants at September 2004 by District Council and gender**

| District Council                   | Male          | Female         | Total          |
|------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| Antrim                             | 2,303         | 4,158          | 6,461          |
| Ards                               | 4,302         | 7,765          | 12,067         |
| Armagh                             | 2,770         | 4,938          | 7,708          |
| Ballymena                          | 3,668         | 6,453          | 10,121         |
| Ballymoney                         | 1,592         | 2,684          | 4,276          |
| Banbridge                          | 2,212         | 3,853          | 6,065          |
| Belfast                            | 15,022        | 29,251         | 44,273         |
| Carrickfergus                      | 2,126         | 3,861          | 5,987          |
| Castlereagh                        | 4,377         | 7,852          | 12,229         |
| Coleraine                          | 3,306         | 5,823          | 9,129          |
| Cookstown                          | 1,577         | 2,719          | 4,296          |
| Craigavon                          | 4,252         | 7,701          | 11,953         |
| Derry                              | 4,200         | 7,619          | 11,819         |
| Down                               | 3,450         | 6,085          | 9,535          |
| Dungannon                          | 2,386         | 4,092          | 6,478          |
| Fermanagh                          | 2,850         | 4,682          | 7,532          |
| Larne                              | 1,891         | 3,399          | 5,290          |
| Limavady                           | 1,382         | 2,290          | 3,672          |
| Lisburn                            | 5,315         | 9,983          | 15,298         |
| Magherafelt                        | 1,912         | 3,202          | 5,114          |
| Moyle                              | 954           | 1,620          | 2,574          |
| Newry & Mourne                     | 4,168         | 7,084          | 11,252         |
| Newtownabbey                       | 4,745         | 8,410          | 13,155         |
| North Down                         | 4,838         | 9,226          | 14,064         |
| Omagh                              | 2,203         | 3,742          | 5,945          |
| Strabane                           | 1,856         | 3,084          | 4,940          |
| Unallocated Postcodes <sup>1</sup> | 1,217         | 2,409          | 3,626          |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>90,874</b> | <b>163,985</b> | <b>254,859</b> |

<sup>1</sup>In producing this analysis, individual records were attributed to District Councils on the basis of their postcode. Not all records can be correctly allocated to a District Council using this method, and some cannot be allocated at all.

**Table 11.5 Retirement Pensioners at September 2004 by Government Office Region and category of pension**

|                                  | All types       | Contributory   |                |                |                |             |             | Non contributory |             |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|
|                                  |                 | A              | B              | ABL            | BL             | GRB only    | AP only     | C                | D           |
| <b>All countries<sup>1</sup></b> | <b>11,502.7</b> | <b>7,847.8</b> | <b>1,289.3</b> | <b>1,144.8</b> | <b>1,101.8</b> | <b>76.5</b> | <b>19.8</b> | <b>* 0.1</b>     | <b>22.7</b> |
| England                          | <b>8,996.2</b>  | 6,124.1        | 1,016.9        | 923.8          | 850.2          | 46.8        | 15.0        | * 0.1            | 19.3        |
| North East                       | <b>482.4</b>    | 327.3          | 59.0           | 48.4           | 44.4           | 2.4         | * 0.4       | -                | * 0.5       |
| North West                       | <b>1,249.8</b>  | 893.2          | 125.5          | 129.8          | 92.2           | 5.7         | 1.3         | -                | 2.1         |
| Yorkshire and the Humber         | <b>922.6</b>    | 616.7          | 111.8          | 93.9           | 93.0           | 5.2         | 1.3         | -                | 0.8         |
| East Midlands                    | <b>786.3</b>    | 523.5          | 90.7           | 83.2           | 82.2           | 4.2         | 1.2         | -                | 1.2         |
| West Midlands                    | <b>985.8</b>    | 670.9          | 110.1          | 102.0          | 94.8           | 5.0         | 1.2         | -                | 1.8         |
| East of England                  | <b>1,042.7</b>  | 691.2          | 118.7          | 113.4          | 110.9          | 5.1         | 1.6         | -                | 1.8         |
| London                           | <b>956.3</b>    | 678.0          | 103.0          | 81.6           | 77.9           | 6.6         | 4.4         | -                | 4.9         |
| South East                       | <b>1,504.0</b>  | 1,014.9        | 172.2          | 155.5          | 147.4          | 7.7         | 2.5         | -                | 3.8         |
| South West                       | <b>1,066.3</b>  | 708.4          | 125.9          | 116.0          | 107.4          | 5.0         | 1.3         | -                | 2.4         |
| Scotland                         | <b>935.3</b>    | 672.3          | 97.0           | 94.8           | 64.8           | 3.7         | 0.9         | -                | 1.8         |
| Wales                            | <b>582.6</b>    | 399.6          | 70.5           | 56.7           | 51.5           | 2.4         | 0.7         | -                | 1.1         |
| Channel Islands                  | <b>14.6</b>     | 9.4            | 1.9            | 1.0            | 2.0            | * 0.1       | -           | -                | -           |
| Overseas                         | <b>974.1</b>    | 642.4          | 103.0          | 68.5           | 133.1          | 23.5        | 3.1         | -                | 0.6         |
| of which:                        |                 |                |                |                |                |             |             |                  |             |
| frozen rate                      | <b>512.3</b>    | 317.1          | 60.0           | 33.4           | 85.6           | 14.0        | 1.9         | -                | * 0.3       |
| Northern Ireland                 | <b>254.9</b>    | 189.2          | 25.1           | 23.9           | 14.7           | 0.4         | 0.2         | -                | 1.4         |

<sup>1</sup> All Countries excludes a small number of Northern Ireland cases incorrectly included within the sample.

Up to and including September 1999, country totals were derived using PSCS country codes. From March 2000, a new methodology has been used which derives country and Government Office Region codes from the claimant's postcode on PSCS. Due to the improved accuracy of this new methodology, there is a slight discontinuity in the country totals between September 1999 and March 2000.

All figures excluding Northern Ireland are based on a 5% sample.

\*Figures 500 and under are subject to a high degree of sampling error and should be used only as a guide to the correct situation.

**Table 11.6 Rates of Retirement Pension**

*£ per week*

|                  | Category A or B 100% rate |             | Category ABL, BL,C,D or Adult Dependant |             | Increase for dependent children |                     | Graduated Retirement Benefit per 100 units |
|------------------|---------------------------|-------------|---|-------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|--|
|                  | Under 80                  | 80 and over | Under 80                                | 80 and over | 1st Child                       | Subsequent children |  |
| 23 November 1981 | 29.60                     | 29.85       | 17.75                                   | 18.00       | 7.70                            | 7.70                | 3.86                                       |
| 22 November 1982 | 32.85                     | 33.10       | 19.70                                   | 19.95       | 7.95                            | 7.95                | 4.28                                       |
| 21 November 1983 | 34.05                     | 34.30       | 20.45                                   | 20.70       | 7.60                            | 7.60                | 4.44                                       |
| 26 November 1984 | 35.80                     | 36.05       | 21.50                                   | 21.75       | 7.65                            | 7.65                | 4.67                                       |
| 25 November 1985 | 38.30                     | 38.55       | 23.00                                   | 23.25       | 8.05                            | 8.05                | 5.00                                       |
| 28 July 1986     | 38.70                     | 38.95       | 23.25                                   | 23.50       | 8.05                            | 8.05                | 5.06                                       |
| 06 April 1987    | 39.50                     | 39.75       | 23.75                                   | 24.00       | 8.05                            | 8.05                | 5.17                                       |
| 01 April 1988    | 41.15                     | 41.40       | 24.75                                   | 25.00       | 8.40                            | 8.40                | 5.39                                       |
| 10 April 1989    | 43.60                     | 43.85       | 26.20                                   | 26.45       | 8.95                            | 8.95                | 5.71                                       |
| 09 April 1990    | 46.90                     | 47.15       | 28.20                                   | 28.45       | 9.65                            | 9.65                | 6.14                                       |
| 08 April 1991    | 52.00                     | 52.25       | 31.25                                   | 31.50       | 9.70                            | 10.70               | 6.81                                       |
| 06 April 1992    | 54.15                     | 54.40       | 32.55                                   | 32.80       | 9.75                            | 10.85               | 7.09                                       |
| 12 April 1993    | 56.10                     | 56.35       | 33.70                                   | 33.95       | 9.80                            | 10.95               | 7.35                                       |
| 11 April 1994    | 57.60                     | 57.85       | 34.50                                   | 34.75       | 9.80                            | 11.00               | 7.48                                       |
| 10 April 1995    | 58.85                     | 59.10       | 35.25                                   | 35.50       | 9.85                            | 11.05               | 7.64                                       |
| 08 April 1996    | 61.15                     | 61.40       | 36.60                                   | 36.85       | 9.90                            | 11.15               | 7.94                                       |
| 07 April 1997    | 62.45                     | 62.70       | 37.35                                   | 37.60       | 9.90                            | 11.20               | 8.11                                       |
| 06 April 1998    | 64.70                     | 64.95       | 38.70                                   | 38.95       | 9.90                            | 11.30               | 8.40                                       |
| 12 April 1999    | 66.75                     | 67.00       | 39.95                                   | 40.20       | 9.90                            | 11.35               | 8.67                                       |
| 10 April 2000    | 67.50                     | 67.75       | 40.40                                   | 40.65       | 9.85                            | 11.35               | 8.77                                       |
| 10 April 2001    | 72.50                     | 72.75       | 43.40                                   | 43.65       | 9.70                            | 11.35               | 9.06                                       |
| 08 April 2002    | 75.50                     | 75.75       | 45.20                                   | 45.45       | 9.65                            | 11.35               | 9.21                                       |
| 07 April 2003    | 77.45                     | 77.70       | 46.35                                   | 46.60       | 9.55                            | 11.35               | 9.37                                       |
| 12 April 2004    | 79.60                     | 79.85       | 47.65                                   | 47.90       | 9.55                            | 11.35               | 9.63                                       |

## Section 12 - Bereavement Related Benefits

*Introduced 6 July 1948*

*Contributory, Not means tested, Taxable*

Since 9 April 2001 the system of widows' benefits has been replaced by bereavement benefits. Bereavement benefits are available to both men and women.

There are three main types of Bereavement Benefits available:

### **Bereavement payment**

This is a single tax-free lump-sum payment of £2,000. You must be under pension age when your spouse dies; or if you are older, your spouse was not getting a retirement pension based on their own National Insurance contribution (NIC) record.

### **Widowed Parent's Allowance (WPA)**

Widowed Parent's Allowance, is a weekly benefit payable to widowed parents. A widower/widow may be able to get this benefit if his/her late spouse has paid enough NIC and the widower/widow is receiving Child Benefit, or she is expecting her husband's baby, or in certain cases of artificial insemination. The amount of Widowed Parent's Allowance they will get is based on their late spouse's NIC record. He/she may also get benefit for her eldest dependant child and further higher benefit for each subsequent child and may also include an additional State Pension based on their late spouse's earnings. With the introduction of the new Child Tax Credit on 6 April 2003 no new child dependency increases will be awarded, although all existing increases are transitionally protected. If their late spouse was a member of a contracted-out occupational scheme or a personal pension scheme, that scheme is responsible for paying the whole or part of the additional pensions. Widowed Parent's Allowance is taxable.

### **Bereavement Allowance**

The bereavement allowance is payable for 52 weeks starting from the day your spouse died. You cannot get a bereavement allowance at the same time as WPA but you can claim bereavement allowance for the remainder of the 52 weeks if your WPA ends during that time. If you are aged between 45 and 54 on the day your spouse died, you may qualify for reduced allowance. Payments range from £23.88 a week if you were aged 45, up to £74.03 if you were aged 54. If you were aged 55 or over but below pension age on the day they died, the full-rate allowance of £79.60 may be payable. If your spouse's NIC record was incomplete, the amount payable is reduced, unless they died as a result of an industrial accident or prescribed industrial disease.

For women widowed between 11 April 1988 and 8 April 2001 the benefits are:

### **Widow's Payment (WPT)**

This was a single tax-free payment of £1,000 paid to a widow who was under 60 when she was widowed. It would also have been paid to a widow over 60 if her husband was not entitled to a Category A retirement pension when he died.

### **Widowed Mother's Allowance (WMA)**

Widowed Mother's Allowance, is a weekly benefit payable to a widowed mother if her husband has paid enough NIC and receiving child benefit for one of her children, or her husband was receiving child benefit, or she was expecting her husband's baby, or if she was widowed before 11 April 1988 and has a young person under 19 living with her for whom she was receiving Child Benefit. A widow entitled to a Widowed Mother's Allowance will get an amount based on her husband's NIC.

She will also get benefit for her eldest dependent child and further higher benefit for each subsequent child, and she may also get an additional pension based on her husband's earnings since 1978. Widowed Mother's Allowance is taxable.

### **Widow's Pension (WP)**

A widow who is 45 or over when she stops being entitled to WMA, or when she is widowed, can get Widow's Pension. If she is 55 or over at that time she will get the standard rate of benefit. Younger widows have their pension reduced by 7% for each year they are under the age of 55, so that they get 93% rate at age 54, falling to 30% at age 45. This reduction is also applied to any Additional Pension they get. Widow's Pension is usually paid until the widow is entitled to Retirement Pension. Widow's Pension is taxable.

### **Additional Pension**

This part of Widowed Mother's Allowance and Widow's Pension is based on earnings. The amount payable is based on the husband's earnings between the lower and upper earnings limits for payment of National Insurance contributions in tax years from April 1978 up to the last complete tax year before his death or 65 if earlier. Earnings for the years before the last complete tax year are re-valued in line with the growth in average earnings. If he was in contracted-out employment or had a Personal Pension instead of SERPS, the widow's Additional Pension is reduced by the Contracted Out Deduction. For occupational pension schemes, this will be half the Guaranteed Minimum Pension to which her husband was entitled.

### **Notional Additional Pension**

This is the entitlement to Additional Pension before reduction for Contracted Out Deduction. Net Additional Pension is the entitlement to Additional Pension after reduction for Contracted Out Deduction. A contracted-out deduction does not apply to any pension earned from and including 6 April 1997.

For women widowed before 11 April 1988, the benefits are:

### **Widow's Allowance**

This was paid instead of Widow's Payment, in the same circumstances. It was an especially high rate of benefit paid to the widow for the first 26 weeks after her husband died. She received extra money for each dependant child.

### **Widowed Mother's Allowance**

- paid as above. It was also paid at a personal rate only, if the widow had at least one child aged under 19 living with her, which she would have received an increase for had they been eligible for Child Benefit.

### **Widow's Pension**

This was for widows who were at least 40 years old either when their husband died or when they stopped being entitled to WMA. Widows aged 50 or over received the standard rate.

### **Frozen and non-frozen rate countries**

Widow's living abroad can get Widow's Benefit. Widow's who live in countries with which the UK has no reciprocal agreement cannot get upratings of benefit. People living in 'non-frozen rate countries', which include the members of the European Union, get their benefit uprated in the same way as those living in Great Britain.

### **Source**

Statistics are calculated from 100% scans.

## Summary

The total number of persons in receipt of bereavement related benefits at September 2004 was 6,270. This represents a net decrease of 746 (10.6%) in the bereavement related benefit caseload over the period September 2003 to September 2004.

Of the total number of persons in receipt of bereavement related benefits at September 2004 60.5% were in receipt of Widow's Pension, 15.7% were in receipt of Widowed Mother's Allowance, 15% were in receipt of Widowed Parent's Allowance and 8.8% were receiving Bereavement Allowance.

The average amount of actual entitlement at September 2004 was £77.58 per week. This represents an increase of £0.35 (0.5%) over the period September 2003 to September 2004.



**Table 12.1 Bereavement Related Benefits by category - September 1997 to September 2004**

|                     | Widow's Pension    |                | Widowed Mother's Allowance |                               | Widowed<br>Parent's<br>Allowance | Bereavement Allowance |                | All types |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------|
|                     | Not Age<br>related | Age<br>related | With increase<br>for child | Without increase<br>for child |                                  | Not Age<br>related    | Age<br>related |           |
| Sep-97              | 2,607              | 4,473          | 2,334                      | 139                           |                                  |                       |                | 9,553     |
| Mar-98              | 2,389              | 4,455          | 2,413                      | 108                           |                                  |                       |                | 9,365     |
| Sep-98 <sup>1</sup> | -                  | -              | -                          | -                             |                                  |                       |                | -         |
| Mar-99              | 2,058              | 4,349          | 2,227                      | 83                            |                                  |                       |                | 8,717     |
| Sep-99              | 1,898              | 4,320          | 2,124                      | 88                            |                                  |                       |                | 8,430     |
| Mar-00              | 1,750              | 4,175          | 2,159                      | 66                            |                                  |                       |                | 8,150     |
| Sep-00              | 1,645              | 4,116          | 1,911                      | 70                            |                                  |                       |                | 7,742     |
| Mar-01              | 1,543              | 4,000          | 1,952                      | 59                            |                                  |                       |                | 7,554     |
| Sep 01 <sup>2</sup> | 1,434              | 3,889          | 1,677                      | 53                            | 279                              | 105                   | 64             | 7,501     |
| Mar-02              | 1,258              | 3,686          | 1,647                      | 39                            | 460                              | 273                   | 180            | 7,543     |
| Sep-02              | 1,150              | 3,586          | 1,427                      | 40                            | 606                              | 317                   | 229            | 7,355     |
| Mar-03              | 1,059              | 3,460          | 1,453                      | 31                            | 755                              | 359                   | 236            | 7,353     |
| Sep-03              | 980                | 3,320          | 1,255                      | 21                            | 836                              | 385                   | 219            | 7,016     |
| Mar-04              | 870                | 3,115          | 1,201                      | 17                            | 898                              | 337                   | 225            | 6,663     |
| Sep-04              | 808                | 2,984          | 971                        | 17                            | 940                              | 318                   | 232            | 6,270     |

<sup>1</sup>Data is unavailable at September 1998

<sup>2</sup>Since 9 April 2001 the system of widows' benefits has been replaced by bereavement benefits.

**Table 12.2 Bereavement Related Benefits by category and average amount of actual entitlement: September 1997 to September 2004**

|                     | Widow's Pension    |                | Widowed Mother's Allowance |                               | Widowed<br>Parent's<br>Allowance | Bereavement Allowance |                | All types |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------|
|                     | Not Age<br>related | Age<br>related | With increase<br>for child | Without increase<br>for child |                                  | Not Age<br>related    | Age<br>related |           |
| Sep-97              | 67.18              | 46.48          | 72.02                      | 41.19                         |                                  |                       |                | 58.29     |
| Mar-98              | 68.25              | 46.57          | 72.36                      | 35.66                         |                                  |                       |                | 58.62     |
| Sep-98 <sup>1</sup> | -                  | -              | -                          | -                             |                                  |                       |                | -         |
| Mar-99              | 73.08              | 51.46          | 75.80                      | 35.02                         |                                  |                       |                | 62.63     |
| Sep-99              | 77.07              | 53.73          | 93.95                      | 41.23                         |                                  |                       |                | 68.99     |
| Mar-00              | 77.34              | 53.69          | 94.79                      | 39.52                         |                                  |                       |                | 69.54     |
| Sep-00              | 79.58              | 54.56          | 97.35                      | 42.76                         |                                  |                       |                | 70.33     |
| Mar-01              | 80.13              | 54.40          | 97.72                      | 40.34                         |                                  |                       |                | 70.74     |
| Sep-01 <sup>2</sup> | 85.82              | 57.69          | 102.86                     | 47.87                         | 98.20                            | 64.59                 | 50.54          | 74.64     |
| Mar-02              | 85.88              | 57.28          | 102.84                     | 47.02                         | 102.01                           | 63.59                 | 49.45          | 74.71     |
| Sep-02              | 89.02              | 59.44          | 104.46                     | 55.55                         | 104.86                           | 67.43                 | 50.74          | 76.61     |
| Mar-03              | 87.68              | 59.31          | 103.76                     | 48.16                         | 102.00                           | 65.71                 | 48.96          | 76.50     |
| Sep-03              | 89.18              | 60.60          | 104.60                     | 42.81                         | 100.33                           | 67.30                 | 51.65          | 77.23     |
| Mar-04              | 89.22              | 60.14          | 104.62                     | 46.06                         | 96.19                            | 66.95                 | 51.80          | 76.84     |
| Sep-04              | 92.07              | 61.63          | 106.73                     | 45.53                         | 95.16                            | 69.38                 | 52.53          | 77.58     |

<sup>1</sup>Data is unavailable at September 1998

<sup>2</sup>Since 9 April 2001 the system of widows' benefits has been replaced by bereavement benefits.

**Table 12.3 Rates of Bereavement Related Benefits**

|                        | £ per week      |                       |                            |                          |                          |                            |                          |                          |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
|                        | Widow's Pension | Bereavement Allowance | Widowed Mother's Allowance |                          |                          | Widowed Person's Allowance |                          |                          |
|                        | Not Age Related | Related               | Personal                   | Increase for first child | Increase for other child | Personal                   | Increase for first child | Increase for other child |
| 23 November 1981       | 29.60           |                       | 29.60                      | 7.70                     | 7.70                     |                            |                          |                          |
| 22 November 1982       | 32.85           |                       | 32.85                      | 7.95                     | 7.95                     |                            |                          |                          |
| 21 November 1983       | 34.05           |                       | 34.05                      | 7.60                     | 7.60                     |                            |                          |                          |
| 26 November 1984       | 35.80           |                       | 35.80                      | 7.65                     | 7.65                     |                            |                          |                          |
| 25 November 1985       | 38.30           |                       | 38.30                      | 8.05                     | 8.05                     |                            |                          |                          |
| 28 July 1986           | 38.70           |                       | 38.70                      | 8.05                     | 8.05                     |                            |                          |                          |
| 06 April 1987          | 39.50           |                       | 39.50                      | 8.05                     | 8.05                     |                            |                          |                          |
| 01 April 1988          | 41.15           |                       | 41.15                      | 8.40                     | 8.40                     |                            |                          |                          |
| 10 April 1989          | 43.60           |                       | 43.60                      | 8.95                     | 8.95                     |                            |                          |                          |
| 09 April 1990          | 46.90           |                       | 46.90                      | 9.65                     | 9.65                     |                            |                          |                          |
| 08 April 1991          | 52.00           |                       | 52.00                      | 9.70                     | 10.70                    |                            |                          |                          |
| 06 April 1992          | 54.15           |                       | 54.15                      | 9.75                     | 10.85                    |                            |                          |                          |
| 12 April 1993          | 56.10           |                       | 56.10                      | 9.80                     | 10.95                    |                            |                          |                          |
| 11 April 1994          | 57.60           |                       | 57.60                      | 9.80                     | 11.00                    |                            |                          |                          |
| 10 April 1995          | 58.85           |                       | 58.85                      | 9.85                     | 11.05                    |                            |                          |                          |
| 08 April 1996          | 61.15           |                       | 61.15                      | 9.90                     | 11.15                    |                            |                          |                          |
| 07 April 1997          | 62.45           |                       | 62.45                      | 9.90                     | 11.20                    |                            |                          |                          |
| 06 April 1998          | 64.70           |                       | 64.70                      | 9.90                     | 11.30                    |                            |                          |                          |
| 06 April 1999          | 66.75           |                       | 66.75                      | 9.90                     | 11.35                    |                            |                          |                          |
| 10 April 2000          | 67.50           |                       | 67.50                      | 9.85                     | 11.35                    |                            |                          |                          |
| 09-Apr-01 <sup>1</sup> | 72.50           | 72.50                 | 72.50                      | 9.70                     | 11.35                    | 72.50                      | 9.70                     | 11.35                    |
| 08 April 2002          | 75.50           | 75.50                 | 75.50                      | 9.65                     | 11.35                    | 75.50                      | 9.65                     | 11.35                    |
| 07 April 2003          | 77.45           | 77.45                 | 77.45                      | 9.55                     | 11.35                    | 77.45                      | 9.55                     | 11.35                    |
| 12 April 2004          | 79.60           | 79.60                 | 79.60                      | 9.55                     | 11.35                    | 79.60                      | 9.55                     | 11.35                    |

<sup>1</sup>Since April 2001 the system of widows' benefits has been replaced by bereavement benefits.

## Section 13 - Child Support Agency

*Introduced 5 April 1993*

The Child Support Agency (CSA) was launched on 5 April 1993. It is an executive agency of the Department for Social Development, formerly the Department of Social Security, set up to implement the Child Support Act 1991 and operate the new child maintenance system in Northern Ireland (there is a separate but parallel agency for Great Britain).

Parents who live apart from their children should pay maintenance towards their keep. The CSA is responsible for tracing Non-resident Parents, working out how much maintenance they should pay, and can collect and enforce payments.

The CSA main clients are:

### **Parents with Care**

These are parents who live with their children, but who do not live with the child's other parent. The parent with care may have a new partner, but may still claim maintenance for their children from the other parent.

### **Persons with Care**

These are people who look after children who are not their own, and at least one of the children's parents is alive and living elsewhere.

### **Non-resident Parents**

These are parents who live apart from their children, but continue to be financially responsible for them and need to know how much they should contribute to their children's maintenance.

Applicants to the agency give their details on a Maintenance Application Form. Non-resident Parents fill in a Maintenance Enquiry Form.

On receipt of full details from the Parent/Person with Care and Non-resident Parent a full maintenance assessment is carried out.

Where full details are not provided by the Non-resident Parent the Agency may make an interim maintenance assessment based on the available facts.

The amounts of interim maintenance assessments are generally higher than full maintenance assessments.

### **Source**

Tables 13.1 to 13.5 are based on a 100% scan on the Child Support Computer System at 31 August 2004. Figures for these tables relate to assessed Northern Ireland cases.

### **Abbreviations**

CSCS Child Support Computer System

FMA Full Maintenance Assessment

IMA Interim Maintenance Assessment

NRP Non-resident Parent

PWC Parent/Person with Care



## Summary

Between August 2003 and August 2004 the CSA liveload has decreased by 4,672 (15.7%) and now stands at 25,135. This fall in the caseload is mainly due to the closure of a large number of suspended cases on the system. Also information on all new cases is held on a new computer system from which it is not possible to extract any reliable information at present. Therefore the figures for August 2004 quoted in this section do not give a true reflection of all cases on the CSA liveload.

Of all full assessment cases 95% of the Parent/Persons with Care are female, and consequently 95% of the Non-resident Parents are male.

Over 43% of NRPs and 45% of PWCs are between the ages of 30 and 39 years, with an average age of 38.4 years for NRPs and 36.3 years for PWCs.

For PWCs, 51% are in receipt of Income Support and 30% are in receipt of WFTC/DPTC. For the NRPs, 39% have an earned income, 25% are in receipt of Income Support and the remaining 36% have other sources of income, mostly other benefits.

The average full maintenance assessment for all NRPs is £14.14 per week. The average full maintenance assessment for NRPs with regular income from employment, as an employee is £34.97 per week, compared with £20.37 for the self-employed. The average maintenance assessment for NRPs with an interim maintenance assessment is £103.13 per week.



**Table 13.1 Total number of live and assessed cases on the Child Support Computer System: August 1999 - August 2004**

|      |          | <b>Total</b> | <b>Full</b> | <b>Interim</b> |
|------|----------|--------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1999 | August   | 29,896       | 28,397      | 1,499          |
| 2000 | August   | 33,215       | 31,630      | 1,585          |
|      | November | 33,725       | 32,276      | 1,449          |
| 2001 | February | 34,186       | 32,793      | 1,393          |
|      | May      | 34,459       | 33,084      | 1,375          |
|      | August   | 34,954       | 33,590      | 1,364          |
| 2002 | November | 35,401       | 34,068      | 1,333          |
|      | February | 35,819       | 34,526      | 1,293          |
|      | May      | 36,481       | 35,235      | 1,246          |
| 2003 | August   | 36,177       | 34,965      | 1,212          |
|      | November | 36,812       | 35,619      | 1,193          |
|      | February | 32,644       | 31,472      | 1,172          |
|      | May      | 31,918       | 30,799      | 1,119          |
| 2004 | August   | 29,807       | 28,891      | 916            |
|      | November | 28,071       | 27,306      | 765            |
|      | February | 26,968       | 26,259      | 709            |
|      | May      | 25,789       | 25,134      | 655            |
|      | August   | 25,135       | 24,486      | 649            |

**Table 13.2 Gender of Non-resident Parent and Parent/Person with Care  
Full assessments: August 2004**

|              | <b>Non-resident parent</b> |             | <b>Parent/Person with care</b> |             |
|--------------|----------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
|              |                            | <b>%</b>    |                                | <b>%</b>    |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>24,485</b>              | <b>100%</b> | <b>24,486</b>                  | <b>100%</b> |
| Male         | 23,364                     | 95%         | 1,106                          | 5%          |
| Female       | 1,121                      | 5%          | 23,380                         | 95%         |

**Table 13.3 Age of Non-resident Parent by age of Parent/Person with Care  
Full assessments: August 2004**

| Parent/Person<br>with Care | Non-resident Parent |           |            |              |              |              |              |              |              |            |
|----------------------------|---------------------|-----------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
|                            | Total               | Under 20  | 20-24      | 25-29        | 30-34        | 35-39        | 40-44        | 45-49        | 50-54        | 55 & over  |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>24,485</b>       | <b>22</b> | <b>935</b> | <b>2,380</b> | <b>4,563</b> | <b>5,981</b> | <b>5,323</b> | <b>3,097</b> | <b>1,405</b> | <b>779</b> |
| Under 20                   | 97                  | 17        | 64         | 14           | 0            | 2            | 0            | 0            | 0            | 0          |
| 20-24                      | 1,624               | 5         | 710        | 640          | 203          | 45           | 15           | 3            | 1            | 2          |
| 25-29                      | 3,401               | 0         | 134        | 1368         | 1375         | 398          | 88           | 28           | 7            | 3          |
| 30-34                      | 5,030               | 0         | 20         | 282          | 2256         | 1827         | 476          | 126          | 29           | 14         |
| 35-39                      | 5,964               | 0         | 3          | 56           | 575          | 2870         | 1862         | 419          | 131          | 48         |
| 40-44                      | 4,668               | 0         | 3          | 13           | 116          | 684          | 2293         | 1167         | 256          | 136        |
| 45-49                      | 2,414               | 0         | 1          | 4            | 30           | 125          | 483          | 1094         | 522          | 155        |
| 50-54                      | 955                 | 0         | 0          | 2            | 4            | 24           | 78           | 227          | 397          | 223        |
| 55 & over                  | 332                 | 0         | 0          | 1            | 4            | 6            | 28           | 33           | 62           | 198        |

**Average Age of :**

|                         |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Non-resident Parent     | <b>38.4 years</b> |
| Parent/Person with Care | <b>36.3 years</b> |

**Table 13.4 Benefit Status of Parent/Person with Care and Non-resident Parent  
Full assessments: August 2004**

| Parent/Person<br>With Care | Non-resident Parent |                           |            |                   |              |               |                      |              |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------------|--------------|
|                            | Total               | In Employment<br>Employee | Self Emp   | Income<br>Support | JSA<br>(IB)  | JSA<br>(Cont) | Incapac/<br>Disabled | Other        |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>24,486</b>       | <b>8,687</b>              | <b>977</b> | <b>6,134</b>      | <b>2,872</b> | <b>762</b>    | <b>1,437</b>         | <b>3,617</b> |
| Income Support             | 12,536              | 3,130                     | 392        | 4,208             | 1,915        | 353           | 809                  | 1,729        |
| WFTC/DPTC                  | 7,387               | 3,499                     | 359        | 1,180             | 638          | 282           | 371                  | 1,058        |
| Others                     | 4,563               | 2,058                     | 226        | 746               | 319          | 127           | 257                  | 830          |

**Table 13.5 Maintenance assessment by Non-resident Parent's employment status/benefit type, All assessments: August 2004**

| Maintenance<br>(£ per week) | Non-resident Parents |               |               |                |              |              |                   |              | Total          |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|----------------|
|                             | FMAs                 |               |               |                |              |              | IMAs              |              |                |
|                             | Total                | In Employment |               | Income Support | JSA (IB)     | JSA (Cont)   | Incapac/ Disabled | Other        |                |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>24,486</b>        | <b>8,687</b>  | <b>977</b>    | <b>6,134</b>   | <b>2,872</b> | <b>762</b>   | <b>1,437</b>      | <b>3,617</b> | <b>649</b>     |
| £0                          | 15,381               | 1,314         | 250           | 6,080          | 2,811        | 435          | 1,331             | 3,160        | 48             |
| £0.01-£5.40                 | 1,482                | 801           | 256           | 31             | 36           | 195          | 7                 | 156          | 2              |
| £5.41-£9.99                 | 553                  | 374           | 63            | 4              | 7            | 74           | 16                | 15           | -              |
| £10.00-£19.99               | 976                  | 831           | 72            | 3              | 4            | 7            | 10                | 49           | 2              |
| £20.00-£29.99               | 1,112                | 940           | 90            | 4              | 3            | 9            | 20                | 46           | 2              |
| £30.00-£39.99               | 1,100                | 953           | 66            | 5              | 3            | 7            | 24                | 42           | 20             |
| £40.00-£49.99               | 1,054                | 937           | 38            | 3              | 3            | 11           | 14                | 48           | 22             |
| £50.00-£59.99               | 809                  | 726           | 40            | 2              | 3            | 8            | 5                 | 25           | 39             |
| £60.00-£69.99               | 763                  | 688           | 32            | 2              | 1            | 3            | 4                 | 33           | 20             |
| £70.00-£79.99               | 473                  | 421           | 27            | -              | 1            | 6            | 1                 | 17           | 20             |
| £80.00-£89.99               | 294                  | 269           | 12            | -              | -            | 1            | -                 | 12           | 19             |
| £90.00-£99.99               | 195                  | 170           | 10            | -              | -            | 4            | 1                 | 10           | 71             |
| £100.00-£109.99             | 134                  | 121           | 6             | -              | -            | 1            | 3                 | 3            | 94             |
| £110.00-£119.99             | 67                   | 61            | 5             | -              | -            | 1            | -                 | -            | 76             |
| £120 & over                 | 93                   | 81            | 10            | -              | -            | -            | 1                 | 1            | 214            |
| <b>Average maintenance</b>  | <b>£14.14</b>        | <b>£34.97</b> | <b>£20.37</b> | <b>£0.13</b>   | <b>£0.31</b> | <b>£5.45</b> | <b>£2.37</b>      | <b>£3.69</b> | <b>£103.13</b> |

NRPs on Income Support in August 2004 pay £5.00 per week.

The small number of IS cases where the maintenance assessment is greater than £5.00 are normally suspended cases where the CSA is investigating the current status of the NRP.

ISSN 1476-2463 Print  
ISSN 1476-2471 Online

ISBN 1-904105-17-3  
**Price £10.00**