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NORTHERN IRELAND

**SUMMARY OF
SOCIAL SECURITY STATISTICS**

2004



A National Statistics Publication



NORTHERN IRELAND

Summary of Social Security Statistics

2004

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First published 2004

Published by : Social Welfare Statistics and Consultancy Branch

ISSN 1476-2463 Print - June 2004
ISSN 1476-2471 Online - June 2004

ISBN 1-904105-11-4

Next publication: Online - June 2005
 Print - June 2005

Introduction

This is the fourth 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 are 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 are 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/statistics-research/introduction.asp) 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 2002
Disability Living Allowance (DLA)	16-18 year olds in full-time education from 1998/99 to 2002/03
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)
 Income Support (IS)
 Retirement Pension (RP)

Symbols and conventions

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

Statistical group

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

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

Benefit Combinations

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

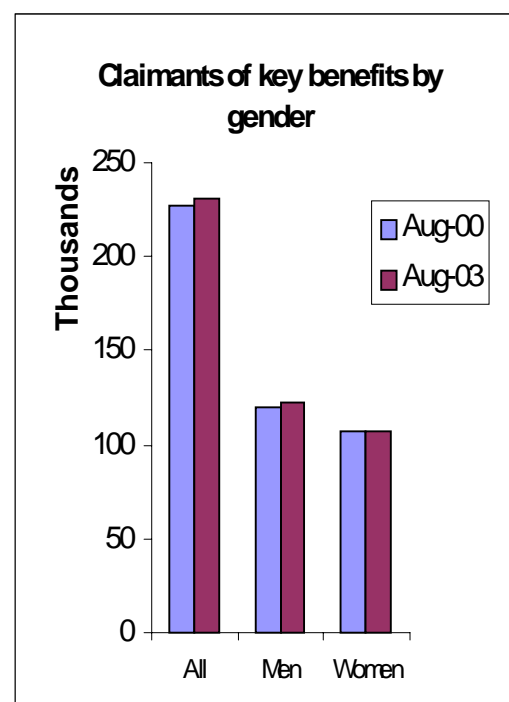
Section 1: Persons of Working Age on Key Benefits

1.1 Age and Gender

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

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

¹ Population of working age in Northern Ireland - see Methodology



- In August 2003 about 22% (230,760) of people of working age claimed a key benefit – unchanged from 22% (227,660) in August 2000.
- Older people were more likely to be claiming benefits. In 2003, 34% of those aged 55 to 59 claimed a benefit compared to 18% of those aged 18 to 24.

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

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

1.2 Family Type

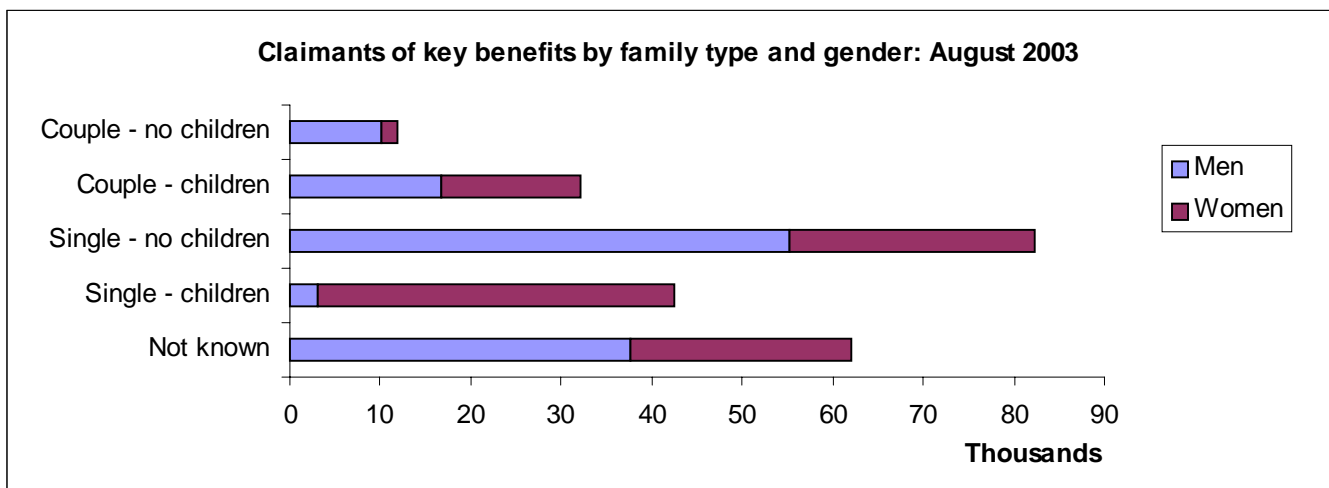
This section contains analyses of the type of family in which claimants live. Family type was assigned according to whether the claimant had a partner and/or children. It was not possible to assign a family type in every case (Not known).

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

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

¹ See Methodology for further details

- 124,840 claimants were single in August 2003.
- 32% (74,540) of claimants had children. The majority of claimants with children (42,500) were single.
- **The methodology used to assign information about children's details has been revised following the introduction of CTC in April 2003.**



**Table 1.2.2 Claimants of key benefits by family type¹ and statistical group:
August 2003**

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

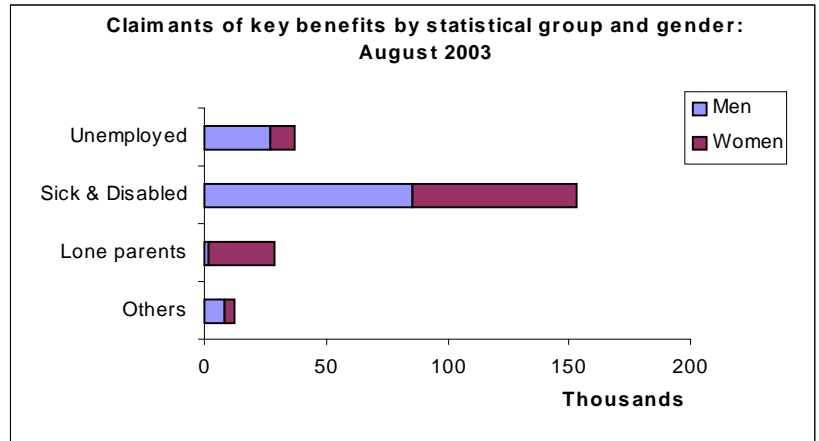
¹ See Methodology for further details

1.3 Statistical group and transitions

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

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

	All	Men	Women
All	226,980	119,840	107,140
Unemployed	36,500	27,040	9,460
Sick & Disabled	148,460	82,680	65,780
Lone parents	29,600	1,420	28,180
Others	12,420	8,700	3,720



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

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

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

¹ Population of working age in Northern Ireland - see Methodology

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

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

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

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

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

Table 1.3.4 Claimants of key benefits in August 2003 - by status in August 2000

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

- Around 69% (159,220) of key benefit claimants in August 2003 were also on benefit in August 2000; 60% of the overall total were in the same statistical group.

1.4 Benefit Entitlement

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

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

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

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

² Other is DLA

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

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

Table 1.4.2 Claimants of key benefits by statistical group and main basis of entitlement: August 2003

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

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

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

³ Means tested benefits are income based JSA, IS

⁴ Other benefits are SDA, DLA

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

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 2003

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

¹ Oldest benefit payable during current spell of benefit receipt

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

1.6 Claimants with children and young dependants aged under 19

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

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

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

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

² Children whose ages are not known

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

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

1.7 Children and young dependants aged under 19

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1.8 Regional Analysis

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

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

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

¹ Population of working age

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

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

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

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

¹ Population of working age in Northern Ireland

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

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

¹ Population of working age of Northern Ireland

Section 2 : Families with Children on Key Benefits

2.1 Children

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

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

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

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

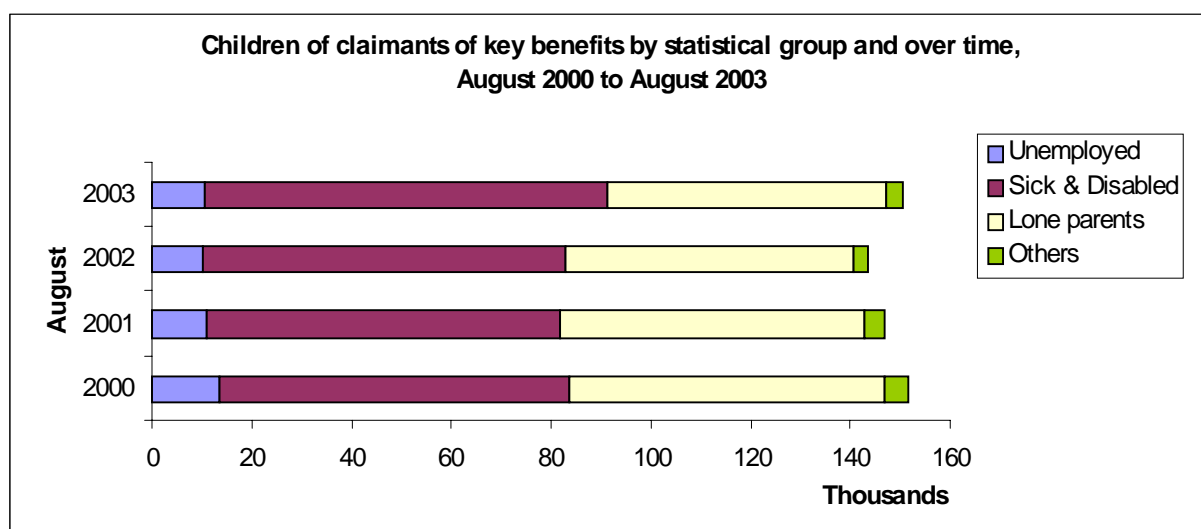


Table 2.1.2 Children¹ of claimants of key benefits by statistical group and family type: August 2003

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

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

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

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

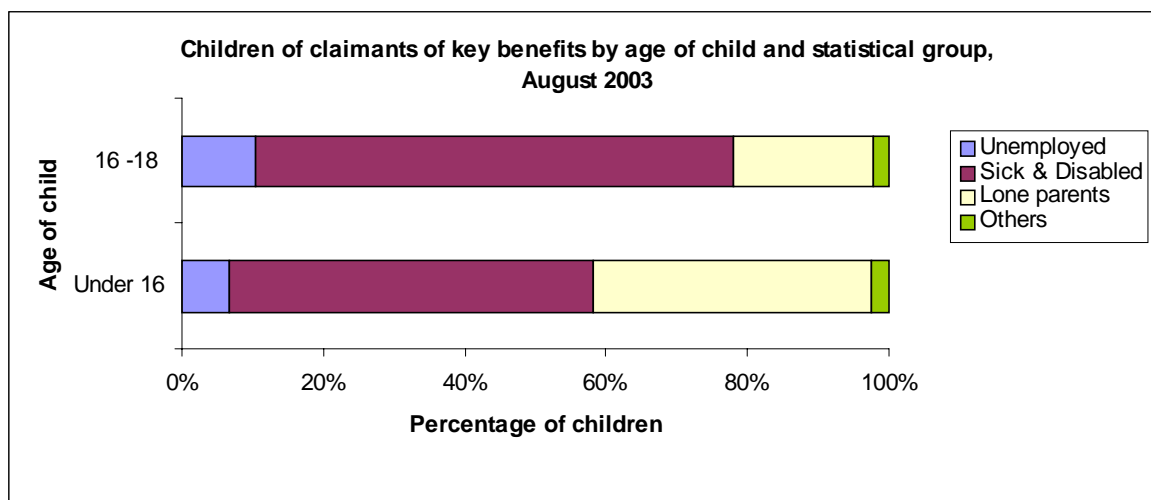


Table 2.1.3 Children¹ of claimants of key benefits by statistical group and age of child: August 2003

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

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

² Children whose ages are not known

- Amongst the sick & disabled group proportionally fewer children were under the age of five.
- The children of lone parents had the youngest profile with 65% aged under 11.

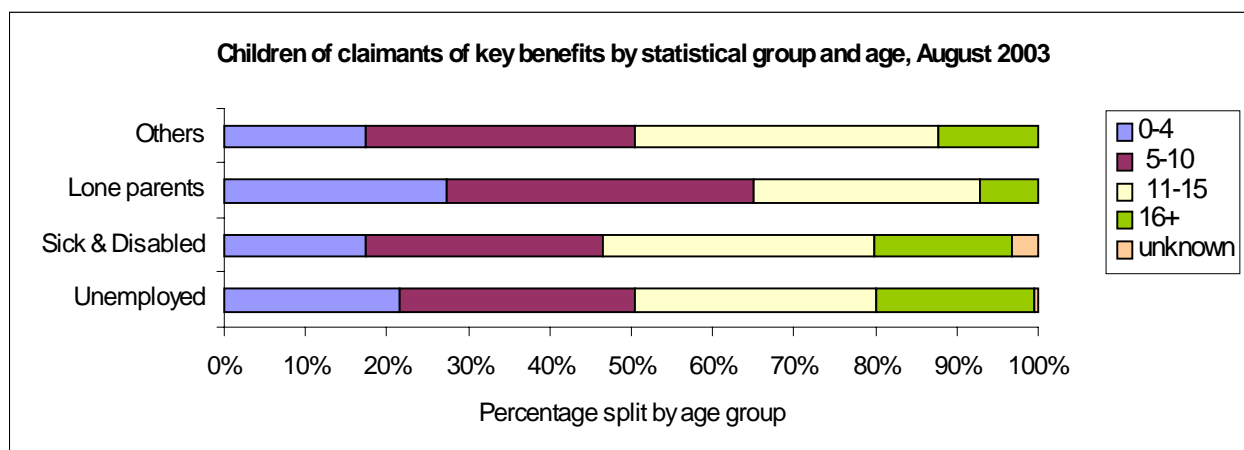


Table 2.1.4 Children¹ of claimants of key benefits by statistical group and duration of claim: August 2003

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

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

² Oldest benefit payable during current spell of benefit receipt

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

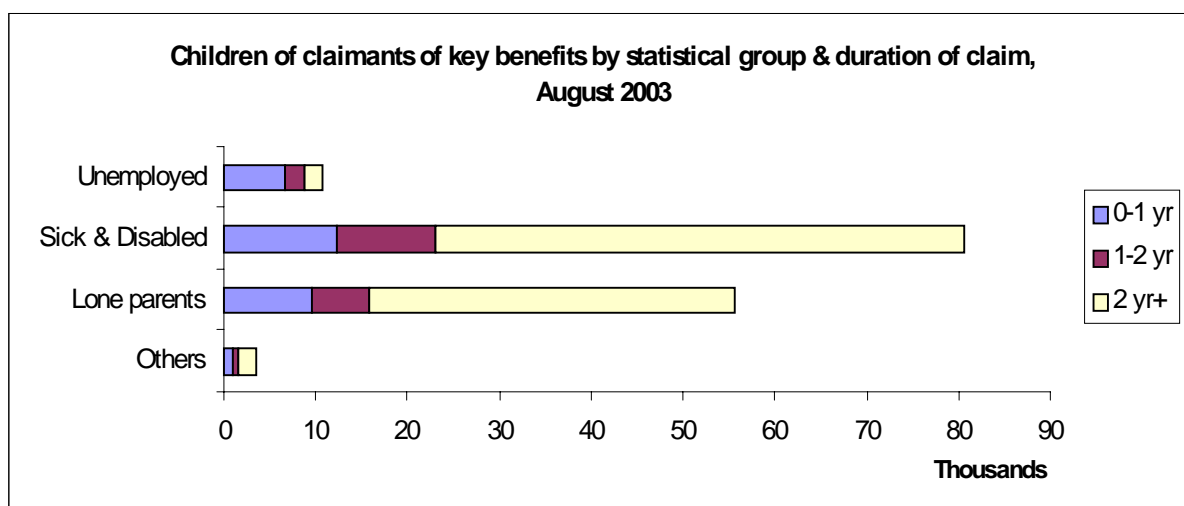


Table 2.1.5 Children¹ of claimants of key benefits by district council: August 2003

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

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

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

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

Children on key benefits by District Council

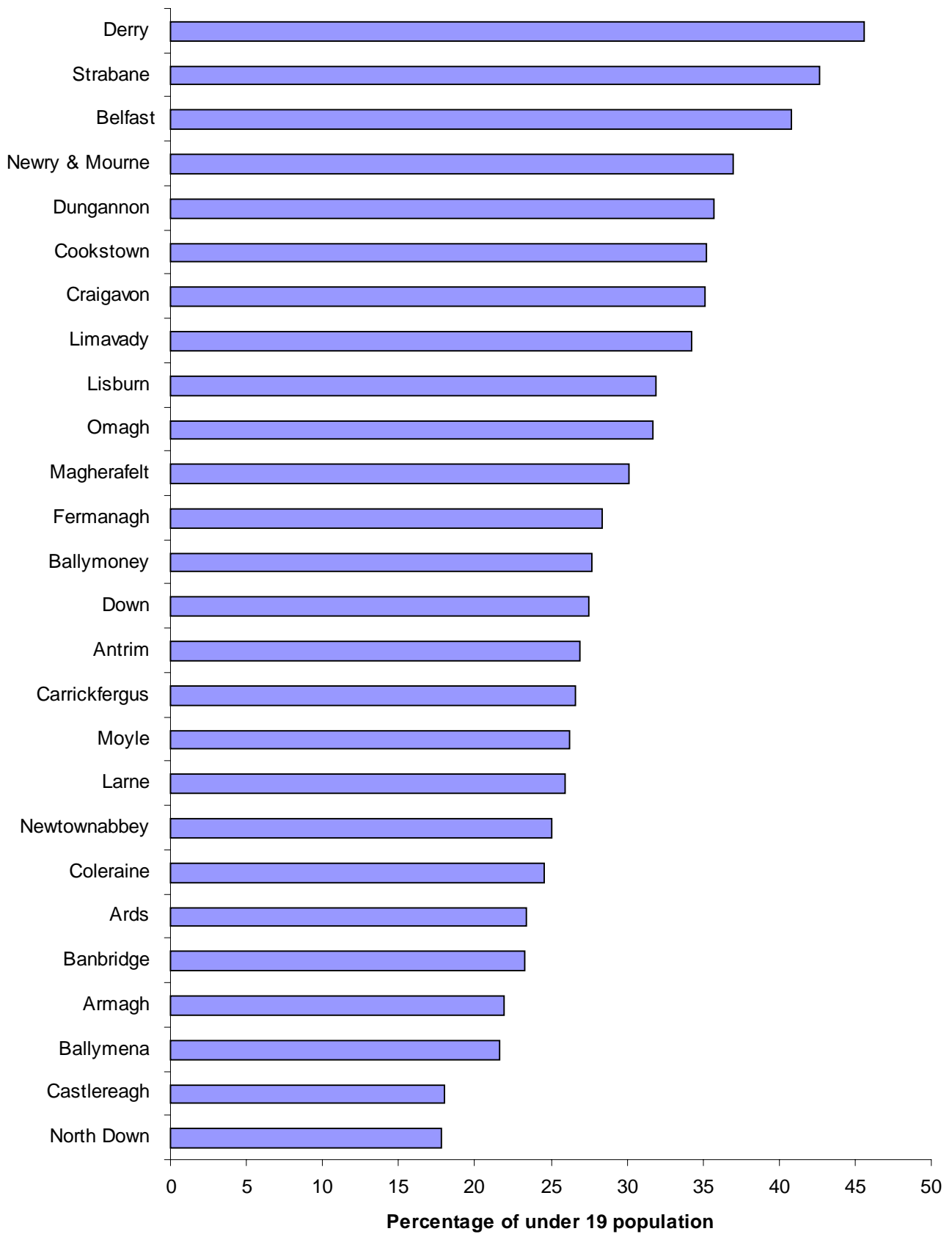


Table 2.1.6 Children¹ of claimants of combinations of key benefits: August 2003

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

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

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

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

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

2.2 Families

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

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

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

² Oldest benefit payable during current spell of benefit receipt

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

Table 2.2.2 Families¹ on key benefits by statistical group and age of youngest child: August 2003

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

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

² Children whose ages are not known

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

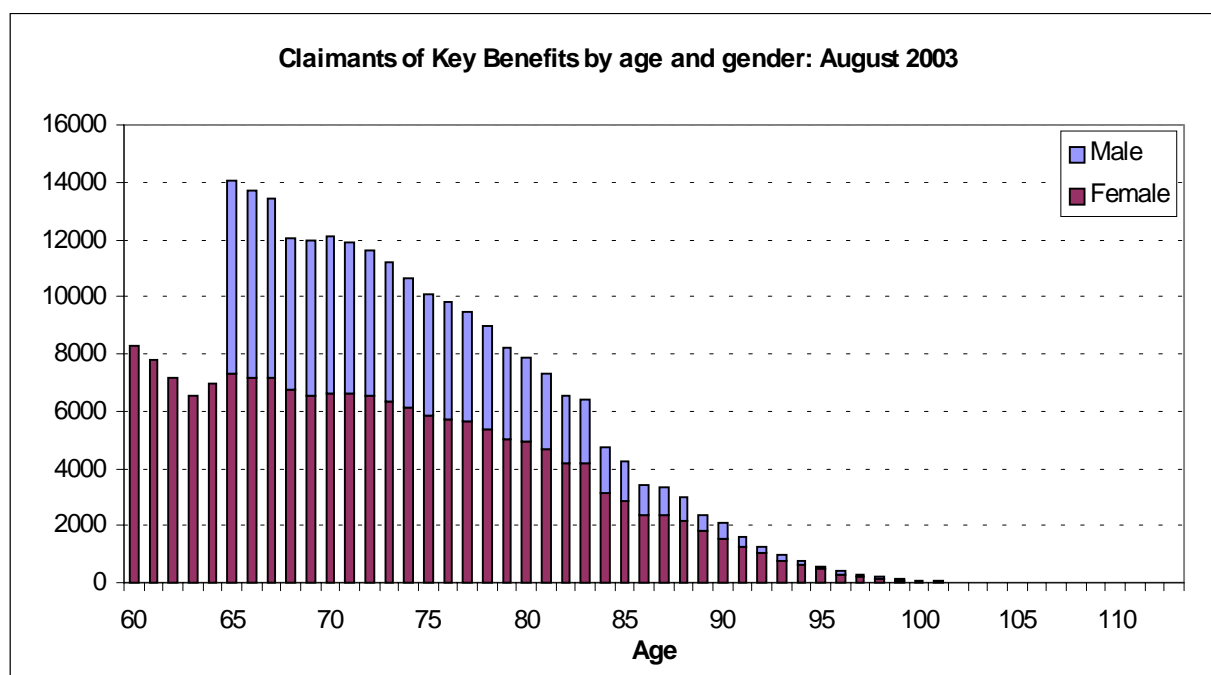
Section 3: Persons of Pensionable Age on Key Benefits

3.1 Age and gender

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

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

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



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

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

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

¹ Population of Northern Ireland residents above state pension age

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

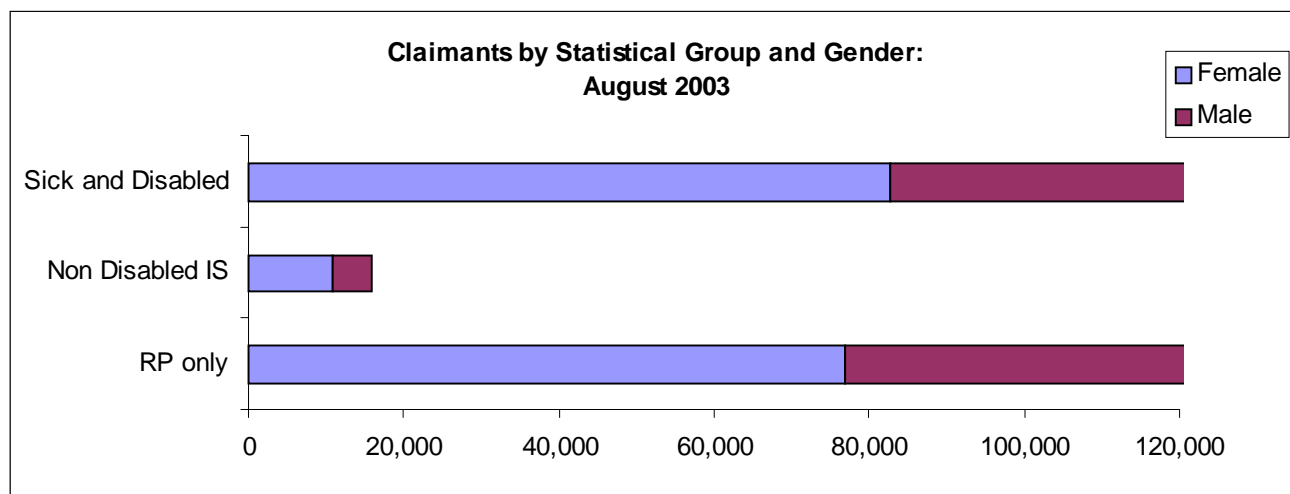
Table 3.1.3 Claimants over State Pension Age by Statistical group: August 2000 to August 2003

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

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

3.2 Statistical groups

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



- The overall numbers rose by 12,834 between August 2000 and August 2003.
- Sick and/or disabled claimants rose from 117,318 to 126,290 between August 2000 and August 2003, rising from 44% to 47% of the total pensioner population.
- Over the same period, the non-disabled IS statistical group grew by 2,859.
- Over the same period, the size of the RP only statistical group grew by 1,003.

Table 3.2.1 Cases over State Pension Age changing statistical group: August 2000 and August 2003

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

Table 3.2.2 Claimants over State Pension Age by all benefit combinations¹ and gender: August 2003

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

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

² Includes anomalies such as IB with RP

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

3.3 Regional Analysis

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

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

	Thousands and percentages					
	Men		Women		All	
	(000s)	% of pop ¹	(000s)	% of pop ¹	(000s)	% of pop ¹
Great Britain	3901	100	6,625	98	10,526	100
England	3353	100	5,655	100	9,008	100
North East	180	100	305	98	484	100
North West	461	100	796	99	1,258	100
Yorkshire & Humberside	341	100	580	98	921	99
East Midlands	296	100	483	99	779	100
West Midlands	366	100	614	99	980	100
East of England	393	100	640	100	1,033	100
London	367	98	640	96	1,006	97
South East	555	100	936	98	1,491	99
South West	395	100	660	99	1,055	100
Wales	218	100	365	98	583	100
Scotland	330	100	606	98	936	99
Northern Ireland ²	93	99	170	99	264	99

¹ Population over state pension age

² Northern Ireland data is at August 2003

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

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

Thousands and percentages

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

¹ Population over state pension age

² Northern Ireland data is at August 2003

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

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 occur at

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

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

Statistical groups

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

Transitions analyses

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

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

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

IS claimants on Government Training schemes

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

Clerical Cases

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

Population Estimates

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

Child Benefit

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

Sampling Errors

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

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

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

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

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.

If the claimant, or their partner, has more than £8,000 in capital assets, they cannot get Income Support. 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 claimant or their partner has between £3,000 and £8,000 in assets, £1 a week is taken off their benefit for each £250, or part of £250 over £3,000. For claimants in residential care or nursing homes, the upper limit is £16,000 (rather than £8,000) and the lower limit is £10,000 (rather than £3,000).

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, Family Credit, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Disability Working Allowance, 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.

From April 1997 the lone parent premium was replaced by a higher value of family premium for lone parent families. Eligibility for the Family Premium (Lone Parent) is the same as for the lone parent premium currently.

Figures in these tables are affected by the introduction of the Child Tax Credit in April 2003. See introduction for more details.

Source

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

Summary

Between August 2002 and August 2003 the IS caseload has grown by approximately 2.0%, and now stands at 181,580 at August 2003.

The most noticeable change in the IS caseload recently is the increased number of claimants receiving a disability premium. This effect was also seen in GB. There were 56,040 claimants in the disabled statistical group in Northern Ireland at August 2003 (30.9% of the total caseload), compared to 1,110,000 claimants in GB (27.7% of the total caseload).

The number of lone parent claimants has fallen from 34,280 in August 1999 to 29,660 in August 2003, with the average weekly payment for this group rising from £80.96 to £113.87 in the same period. This group has the highest average weekly payment of IS.

The number of claimants in the 'other' statistical group decreased between August 2002 and August 2003 (16,440 to 15,500 respectively) and makes up 8.5% of the IS caseload. Those categorised as being aged 60 or over has increased by 2.6% between August 2002 and August 2003 and now stands at 80,380, making up 44.3% of the total IS caseload.

Generally, claimants with dependants receive a higher weekly payment of IS compared to those without dependants, irrespective of marital status. At August 2003 for example, a single claimant without dependants received on average £56.44 per week, compared to £120.65 received by a single person with dependants. Amongst couples, those without dependants received on average £73.36 per week, while those with dependants received on average £148.59 per week.

The largest number of male IS claimants lies in the 25-59 year old age bracket, followed by the 60 years or over age group (39,980 and 29,340 respectively at August 2003). The largest number of female claimants is in the 60 years or over age group, closely followed by the 25-59 year old age bracket (50,100 and 48,620 respectively at August 2003). The distribution of both male and female IS claimants by age has seen an increasing proportion in the 25-59 year old age bracket between August 1999 to August 2003.

The highest numbers of claimants were found in Belfast, Derry and Strabane district councils. When taken as a percentage of the population aged 16 and over, the highest proportion of claimants is in Derry district council (20.4% of the population), closely followed by Belfast (19.7% of the population) and Strabane (18.9% of the population).

Overall, 13.9% of the population aged 16 and over of Northern Ireland were claimants of IS, compared to 8.7% in GB. The proportion of claimants receiving benefit for under 3 months has decreased from 3.9% in August 2002 to 2.9% in August 2003. Approximately 75.3% 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. Older claimants (60 or over), both male and female, are the most likely to have spent the longest time on Income Support. At August 2003, 84.2% of males in this age bracket had a claim lasting 2 years or longer, while 84.5% of females in this age group had a claim of this duration.

Those aged under 25 claiming IS at August 2003 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 (16.6% of males aged 18-24 and 6.7% of females aged 18-24 at August 2003).

Table 4.1 Income Support claimants by statistical group: August 1998 to August 2003

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

*Data unavailable for August 1998

Figures in this table may be affected by the introduction of new tax credits in April 2003.

Table 4.2 Income Support claimants by family type: August 1998 to August 2003

	All claimants	Single without dependants	Single with dependants	Couple without dependants	Couple with dependants
August 1998*					
August 1999*	169,180				
August 2000	173,500	104,120	40,260	17,740	11,380
August 2001	176,880	106,960	40,160	19,160	10,600
August 2002	178,080	108,840	38,420	20,340	10,480
August 2003	181,580	112,140	38,280	20,760	10,400

* 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.

Table 4.3 Beneficiaries of Income Support by type: August 1998 to August 2003

	All	Type of beneficiary			Beneficiaries as % of population
		Claimant	Partner	Dependant	
August 1998*					
August 1999	302,300	168,900	27,500	105,900	18.0
August 2000	307,020	173,500	29,120	104,400	18.3
August 2001	308,080	176,880	29,760	101,440	18.3
August 2002	306,840	178,080	30,820	97,940	18.2
August 2003	309,720	181,580	31,160	96,980	18.3

*Data unavailable for August 1998

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

Table 4.4 Income Support claimants at August 2003 by age and gender

	Total	Men	Women
All Ages	181,580	73,420	108,160
16-19	3,300	1,180	2,120
20-24	10,240	2,920	7,320
25-29	11,020	3,920	7,100
30-34	13,240	4,800	8,440
35-39	14,940	5,820	9,120
40-44	13,540	6,260	7,280
45-49	13,060	6,560	6,500
50-54	11,300	6,080	5,220
55-59	11,500	6,540	4,960
60-64	14,980	8,740	6,240
65-69	12,840	5,960	6,880
70-74	13,280	5,100	8,180
75-79	14,120	4,200	9,920
80 and over	24,220	5,340	18,880

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

Table 4.5 Income Support claimants at August 2003 by statistical group and District Council

District Council	All claimants	Statistical group				Claimants as % of the population ¹
		Aged 60 or over (MIG) %	Lone parents %	Disabled %	Other %	
All	181,580	44.3	16.3	30.9	8.5	13.9
Antrim	4,200	48.6	15.7	29.5	6.2	11.3
Ards	5,380	51.7	14.1	27.9	6.3	9.2
Armagh	4,680	55.1	10.7	26.5	7.7	11.3
Ballymena	4,280	54.2	16.4	22.9	6.5	9.3
Ballymoney	2,580	54.3	15.5	26.4	3.9	12.2
Banbridge	3,040	54.6	13.2	24.3	7.9	7.9
Belfast	42,480	39.4	18.4	32.4	9.8	19.7
Carrickfergus	2,560	39.1	20.3	34.4	6.3	8.6
Castlereagh	3,760	48.9	14.4	25.5	11.2	7.2
Coleraine	5,300	45.7	17.7	28.7	7.9	12.1
Cookstown	4,320	50.9	10.6	33.3	5.1	17.5
Craigavon	8,880	44.6	13.7	30.9	10.8	14.4
Derry	15,960	32.3	22.3	35.5	9.9	20.4
Down	5,140	43.2	18.7	29.6	8.6	10.5
Dungannon	6,740	43.0	12.8	35.3	8.9	18.7
Fermanagh	6,880	53.2	9.9	27.6	9.3	15.4
Larne	2,300	47.0	13.9	27.0	12.2	9.4
Limavady	3,480	38.5	17.2	36.2	8.0	14.0
Lisburn	9,360	41.5	21.2	30.6	6.8	11.3
Magherafelt	3,800	57.4	12.6	22.1	7.9	12.6
Moyle	2,000	52.0	20.0	19.0	9.0	16.0
Newry & Mourne	11,320	43.3	12.7	35.0	9.0	17.3
Newtownabbey	6,320	49.4	18.4	26.9	5.4	10.0
North Down	4,600	54.3	11.7	28.7	5.2	7.4
Omagh	5,740	47.7	13.2	31.4	7.7	15.7
Strabane	5,440	42.6	15.1	34.6	7.7	18.9
Missing Postcode ²	1,040	38.5	19.2	26.9	15.4	

¹Aged 16 or over per Mid-Year Estimate 2002.

²In 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.

Table 4.6 Income Support claimants at August 2003 by Government Office Region and statistical group

GOR	All claimants '000(=100%)	Statistical group			Claimants as	
		Aged 60 or over (MIG) %	Lone parents %	Disabled %	Other % of GOR's population ¹	% of GOR's population ¹
North East	234	45.3	19.4	28.2	7.1	11.6
North West	582	43.0	19.6	30.8	6.7	10.8
Yorkshire and the Humber	368	46.8	19.5	26.7	7.0	9.3
East Midlands	259	47.8	19.9	26.0	6.3	7.7
West Midlands	393	48.8	20.5	24.7	6.0	9.3
East	279	48.2	21.8	24.6	5.3	6.4
London	581	37.3	28.3	27.5	6.9	9.8
South East	369	46.9	22.6	25.1	5.4	5.7
South West	279	49.6	18.1	26.7	5.7	6.9
Wales	238	43.9	19.0	31.2	5.9	10.2
Scotland	433	44.2	17.7	30.6	7.6	10.6
Great Britain	4,016	44.9	21.0	27.7	6.4	8.7
Northern Ireland	182	44.3	16.3	30.9	8.5	13.9

¹Aged 16 or over

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

Table 4.7 Income Support claimants at August 2003 by duration of current claim and statistical group

Duration	All claimants	Statistical group			
		Aged 60 or over (MIG)	Lone parents	Disabled	Other
All claimants	181,580	80,380	29,660	56,040	15,500
% under 3 months	2.9	1.1	3.4	1.6	15.5
% 3 to under 6 months	4.0	2.1	6.8	2.3	14.6
% 6 to under 12 months	7.5	4.7	9.0	6.4	23.1
% 1 to under 2 years	10.4	7.8	12.7	13.3	8.9
% 2 to under 3 years	9.2	8.4	9.3	10.4	8.5
% 3 to under 4 years	8.7	7.9	8.9	10.2	6.6
% 4 to under 5 years	6.7	6.0	8.0	7.9	4.0
% 5 years and over	50.7	62.0	41.9	48.0	18.8

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

Table 4.8 Income Support claimants at August 2003 by duration of current claim, age and gender

Age/ Gender	All claimants	Duration				
		% under 3 months	% 3 months to under 6 months	% 6 months to under 1 year	% 1 year to under 2 years	% 2 years or over
Total	181,580	2.9	4.0	7.5	10.4	75.3
Male	73,420	3.7	4.1	8.6	11.2	72.3
Under 18	240	25.0	41.7	33.3	-	-
18 to 24	3,860	16.6	10.4	17.6	23.8	31.6
25 to 59	39,980	4.4	5.3	10.1	12.3	68.0
60 or over	29,340	1.0	1.4	5.2	8.1	84.2
Female	108,160	2.3	3.9	6.7	9.8	77.3
Under 18	500	20.0	20.0	36.0	24.0	-
18 to 24	8,940	6.7	8.9	14.8	22.4	47.2
25 to 59	48,620	2.4	4.3	7.4	9.7	76.2
60 or over	50,100	1.2	2.4	4.4	7.5	84.5

- Nil or negligible

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

Table 4.9 Average weekly payments made to Income Support claimants by statistical group: August 1998 to August 2003

	All claimants	Statistical group			
		Aged 60 or over (MIG)	Lone parents	Disabled	Other
August 1998*					
August 1999	£62.17	£50.20	£80.96	£70.50	£53.51
August 2000	£66.90	£53.16	£91.13	£75.69	£55.77
August 2001	£72.58	£56.35	£101.33	£82.49	£60.70
August 2002	£73.32	£56.69	£105.45	£85.86	£52.86
August 2003	£77.19	£58.15	£113.87	£91.20	£55.07

*Data unavailable for August 1998

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

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	
11 April 1988	19.40	-	26.05	33.40	19.40	-	33.40
10 April 1989	20.80	-	27.40	34.90	20.80	-	34.90
09 April 1990	21.90	28.80	28.80	36.70	21.90	-	36.70
08 April 1991	23.65	31.15	31.15	39.65	23.65	31.15	39.65
07 October 1991	23.90	31.40	31.40	39.65	23.90	31.40	39.65
06 April 1992	25.55	33.60	33.60	42.45	25.55	33.60	42.45
12 April 1993	26.45	34.80	34.80	44.00	26.45	34.80	44.00
11 April 1994	27.50	36.15	36.15	45.70	27.50	36.15	45.70
10 April 1995	28.00	36.80	36.80	46.50	28.00	36.80	46.50
08 April 1996	28.85	37.90	37.90	47.90	28.85	37.90	47.90
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
<hr/>							
	Couple		Dependant children				
	Both under 18	One or both 18 or over	Under 11	11 to 15	16 to 17	18	
11 April 1988	38.80	51.45	10.75	16.10	19.40	26.05	
10 April 1989	41.60	54.80	11.75	17.35	20.80	27.40	
09 April 1990	43.80	57.60	12.35	18.25	21.90	28.80	
08 April 1991	47.30	62.25	13.35	19.75	23.65	31.15	
07 October 1991	47.30	62.25	13.60	20.00	23.90	31.40	
06 April 1992	50.60	66.60	14.55	21.40	25.55	33.60	
12 April 1993	52.40	69.00	15.05	22.15	26.45	34.80	
11 April 1994	54.55	71.70	15.65	23.00	27.50	36.15	
10 April 1995	55.55	73.00	15.95	23.40	28.00	36.80	
08 April 1996	57.20	75.20	16.45	24.10	28.85	37.90	
<hr/>							
	Both under 18	One or both 18 or over	Dependant children			Up to and inc. ^{3a}	16 to 18 ^{3b}
			Under 11 ^{1a}	11 to 16 ^{1b}	16 to 18 ^{1c}		
07 April 1997 ¹	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 ²	61.35	80.65	20.20	25.90	30.95		
04 October 1999	-	80.65	24.90	25.90	30.95		
<hr/>							
10 April 2000 ³	-	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	

Notes

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

^{1a}.Birth to September following 11th birthday.

^{1b}.From September following the 11th birthday to September following the 16th birthday

^{1c}.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

².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.

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

^{3a}Birth to September following 16th birthday.

^{3b}From September following 16th birthday to the day before 19th birthday.

Table 4.11 Rates of Premiums

	£ per week									
	Disabled		Disability		Enhanced Disability			Severe Disability		
			Child	Carer ¹	Single	Couple	Child	Single	Couple	Single	Couple (one)	Couple (both)
11 April 1988	6.15	-	13.05	18.60	-	-	-	24.75	24.75	49.50
10 April 1989	6.50	-	13.70	19.50	-	-	-	26.20	26.20	52.40
09 April 1990	15.40	10.00	15.40	22.10	-	-	-	28.20	28.20	56.40
08 April 1991	16.65	10.80	16.65	23.90	-	-	-	31.25	31.25	62.50
06 April 1992	17.80	11.55	17.80	25.55	-	-	-	32.55	32.55	65.10
12 April 1993	18.45	11.95	18.45	26.45	-	-	-	33.70	33.70	67.40
11 April 1994	19.45	12.40	19.45	27.80	-	-	-	34.30	34.40	68.60
10 April 1995	19.80	12.60	19.80	28.30	-	-	-	35.05	35.05	70.10
08 April 1996	20.40	13.00	20.40	29.15	-	-	-	36.40	36.40	72.80
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
	Family		Lone		Pensioner		Enhanced Pensioner ⁵		Higher Pensioner	
	All	Couple	Parent	Parent ⁴	Single	Couple	Single	Couple	Single	Couple
11 April 1988	6.15	-	-	3.70	10.65	16.25	-	-	13.05	18.60
10 April 1989	6.50	-	-	3.90	11.20	17.05	-	-	13.70	19.50
09 October 1989	6.50	-	-	3.90	11.20	17.05	13.70	20.55	16.20	23.00
09 April 1990	7.35	-	-	4.10	11.80	17.95	14.40	21.60	17.05	24.25
08 April 1991 ²	7.95	-	-	4.45	13.75	20.90	15.55	23.35	18.45	26.20
06 April 1992	9.30	-	-	4.75	14.70	22.35	16.65	25.00	20.75	29.55
12 April 1993	9.65	-	-	4.90	17.30	26.25	19.30	29.00	23.55	33.70
11 April 1994	10.05	-	-	5.10	18.25	27.55	20.35	30.40	24.70	35.30
10 April 1995	10.25	-	-	5.20	18.60	28.05	20.70	30.95	25.15	35.95
08 April 1996	10.55	-	-	5.20	19.15	28.90	21.30	31.90	25.90	37.05
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 ⁴	-	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
	Bereavement ⁷									
09 April 2001 ⁶	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

¹ Carer premium introduced in October 1990.

² Family Premium increased to £8.70 from 7 October 1991.

³ Enhanced Pensioner premium introduced in October 1989.

⁴ From 7 April 1997 Lone parents received one premium (Family/Lone parent rate)

⁵ Enhanced Disability Premium introduced in April 2001

⁶ Alignment of Premiums paid to 'aged 60 or over' (MIG) April 2001

⁷ Bereavement Premium introduced in April 2001

Section 5 - Jobseeker's Allowance

Introduced 7 October 1996

Contributory or means tested, Taxable

Jobseeker's Allowance 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.

JSA is a weekly benefit. The earnings rules are similar to those which currently apply in Income Support. For most people, a £5 weekly disregard applies to all earnings. This disregard for couples in JSA(IB) is £10 as a whole. Some people, such as lone parents, benefit from a higher £20 disregard in Income-based JSA. Earnings that exceed these disregards will be taken fully into account in the assessment of benefit.

Figures in these tables are affected by the introduction of Child Tax Credit in April 2003. See the introduction for more details.

Source

Figures are based on 20% scans.

Summary

The overall number of unemployed claimants fell by under one thousand (595) between August 2002 and August 2003 to 37,000. The majority of this reduction in numbers was accounted for by recipients of income-based benefit - a fall of 1,310 in the year to August 2003.

There was a slightly higher proportion of claims of short duration (less than 3 months) in August 2003, 39.6% compared to 32.3% a year earlier. Claims of less than 3 months are a proxy for new claims.

There was also a decrease in the proportion of claims of more than a year between August 2003 (25.7%) and August 2002 (28.6%). Great Britain saw a similar trend, with claims of long duration (more than one year) falling to 17.8% of the overall caseload, from 18.4% in the previous year.

Between August 2000 and August 2003 the proportion of JSA claimants who had been out of work for one year or more decreased from 32% to 26% 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 25.7% of the overall caseload in August 2003, compared to the Great Britain figure of 17.8%.

JSA claimants as a proportion of people of working age in Northern Ireland in August 2003 was 3.6%. These proportions range from 1.8% in Banbridge to 6.2% in Strabane.

JSA claimants in Great Britain have decreased by 1.4% in the year to August 2003. There has been an increase in five Government Office Regions, with South East having the largest increase at 5.6%. The other regions have seen a decrease ranging from 2.5% in Scotland to 9.9% in the North East.

Single claimants without dependants tend to receive the lowest amounts of benefit, on average £51.23 per week for contribution-based and £50.63 for those with income-based. Recipients of income-based JSA with partners and/or dependants receive higher amounts (£93.35 for couples without dependants and £139.97 for single/couples with dependants). However the former account for only 4.8% of all JSA claimants, whilst the latter account for 10.8%. The corresponding figures for Great Britain in August 2003, with regards to JSA with partners and dependants, are similar.

Table 5.1 Unemployed JSA claimants by benefit entitlement - 1997 to 2003

		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

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

Table 5.2 Unemployed JSA claimants at August 2003 by age and benefit entitlement

Claimants age	All claimants '000 (=100%)	All with benefit %	Type of JSA			No JSA in payment %
			Contribution based only %	Contribution and income-based %	Income-based only %	
All ages	37,000	91.3	16.3	1.0	74.1	8.7
Under 20	3,800	95.5	0.5	-	95.0	4.5
20-24	8,175	95.2	18.6	0.4	76.1	4.8
25-29	4,900	94.9	27.0	0.3	67.6	5.1
30-34	3,950	93.3	20.9	0.6	71.8	6.7
35-39	3,655	91.7	15.3	1.6	74.7	8.3
40-44	3,320	92.5	15.8	1.8	74.8	7.5
45-49	2,840	87.0	17.8	3.3	65.8	13.0
50-54	2,985	83.9	11.4	1.3	71.2	16.1
55-59	3,065	79.1	10.8	0.8	67.5	20.9
60 and over	310	74.2	22.6	3.2	48.4	25.8

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

Table 5.3 Unemployed JSA claimants by gender, marital status and benefit entitlement - August 2003

Claimants	All claimants '000(=100%)	All with benefit %	Type of JSA			No JSA in payment %
			Contribution based only %	Contribution and income-based %	Income based only %	
All	37,000	91.3	16.3	1.0	74.1	8.7
All males	27,025	93.0	14.2	1.1	77.7	7.0
single	21,550	96.4	14.0	0.2	82.2	3.6
with partner	5,475	79.6	14.9	4.6	60.2	20.4
All females	9,975	86.8	21.9	0.7	64.3	13.2
single	8,025	93.9	16.6	0.7	76.5	6.1
with partner	1,950	57.4	43.3	0.3	13.8	42.6

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

Table 5.4 JSA claimants at August 2003 by District Council and as a percentage of working age population

District Council	All Claimants '000(=100%)	Working Age Population ¹	Claimants as % of the population
All	37,000	1,037,438	3.6
Antrim	795	30,844	2.6
Ards	1,200	46,130	2.6
Armagh	1,020	33,389	3.1
Ballymena	845	35,938	2.4
Ballymoney	415	16,662	2.5
Banbridge	480	26,246	1.8
Belfast	8,540	167,560	5.1
Carrickfergus	720	23,651	3.0
Castlereagh	930	39,370	2.4
Coleraine	1,245	34,050	3.7
Cookstown	435	20,135	2.2
Craigavon	1,435	49,475	2.9
Derry	4,000	65,629	6.1
Down	1,265	39,288	3.2
Dungannon	640	28,859	2.2
Fermanagh	1,675	35,263	4.8
Larne	520	18,942	2.7
Limavady	830	20,928	4.0
Lisburn	1,690	67,371	2.5
Magherafelt	500	24,628	2.0
Moyle	340	9,682	3.5
Newry&Mourne	2,190	53,242	4.1
Newtownabbey	1,160	49,421	2.3
North Down	1,315	47,408	2.8
Omagh	1,190	30,020	4.0
Strabane	1,445	23,307	6.2
Missing Postcode ²	180		

¹Population of working age per Mid-Year Estimate 2002: 16-59 for females, 16-64 for males.

²In 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.

**Table 5.5 JSA claimants by Government Office Region:
August 2002 and August 2003**

GOR	August 2002	August 2003	Annual % Change
North East	58	52.1	-9.9
North West	120	113.2	-5.3
Yorkshire and the Humber	90	84.2	-6.1
East Midlands	59	60.3	2.0
West Midlands	96	97.5	1.7
East	58	58.3	1.0
London	169	173.2	2.4
South East	72	75.9	5.6
South West	49	47.7	-3.3
Wales	47	44.6	-5.5
Scotland	107	104.2	-2.5
Great Britain	924	911.3	-1.4
Northern Ireland	38	37	-1.6

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

Table 5.6 Unemployed claimants by duration of claim: August 1998 to August 2003

Duration	August 1998	August 1999	August 2000	August 2001	August 2002	August 2003
All claimants	60,580	51,640	43,455	41,255	37,595	37,000
Under 3 months	16,960	15,080	14,135	12,900	12,120	14,635
3 to under 6 months	7,270	7,120	7,345	6,995	6,830	6,275
6 to under 12 months	9,050	9,235	8,260	7,665	7,885	6,595
1 to under 2 years	9,215	6,905	6,580	6,930	5,695	4,810
2 years or over	18,085	13,300	7,135	6,765	5,065	4,685

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

Table 5.7 Unemployed claimants at August 2003 by benefit entitlement and duration of current claim

Duration of claim	All claimants	All with benefit	Type of JSA			No JSA in payment
			Contribution based only	Contribution and income-based	Income-based only	
All (=100%)	37,000	33,795	6,020	365	27,410	3,205
Duration						
% up to 2 weeks	6.4	5.2	9.1	6.8	4.3	19.3
% 2 to under 6 weeks	13.4	13.3	24.8	20.5	10.7	14.0
% 6 to under 13 weeks	19.7	20.2	35.2	32.9	16.7	14.8
% 13 to under 26 weeks	17.0	17.7	28.6	35.6	15.0	9.7
% 26 to under 39 weeks	10.3	10.0	1.7	-	11.9	13.6
% 39 weeks to under 1 year	7.5	7.3	-	-	8.9	9.4
% 1 to under 2 years	13.0	13.2	-	-	16.3	10.6
% 2 years or over	12.7	13.0	-	-	16.1	8.6

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

Table 5.8 Unemployed JSA claimants with income-based benefit by average weekly amount: 1997 to 2003

		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
1997	February ¹								
	May	53,480	51.10	38,715	40.82	5,855	37.72	8,910	104.53
	August	52,050	57.33	40,055	44.92	3,575	63.92	8,420	113.57
	November	48,590	61.16	35,480	45.76	3,645	69.63	9,465	115.61
1998	February	47,985	60.62	35,350	45.81	3,410	70.23	9,225	113.82
	May	46,445	62.38	34,160	47.04	3,320	72.77	8,965	116.96
	August	49,535	60.68	37,315	46.58	3,335	73.36	8,885	115.18
	November	44,830	62.42	33,220	47.14	3,435	73.05	8,175	120.04
1999	February	45,130	62.15	33,655	47.30	3,250	73.72	8,225	118.35
	May	41,935	63.22	32,005	48.27	2,535	83.09	7,395	121.13
	August	41,940	61.40	32,785	47.91	2,400	81.92	6,755	119.56
	November	35,825	61.58	28,270	48.03	2,035	80.97	5,520	123.83
2000	February	35,230	60.30	28,150	47.86	1,960	79.09	5,120	121.52
	May	32,550	61.73	26,150	48.85	1,720	81.68	4,680	126.33
	August	34,710	60.33	28,415	48.35	1,650	81.47	4,645	126.12
	November	31,940	62.30	25,890	48.88	1,670	80.70	4,380	134.64
2001	February	32,975	61.88	26,735	48.80	1,715	81.75	4,525	131.59
	May	31,300	63.36	25,330	49.92	1,565	85.05	4,405	132.96
	August	32,415	61.59	26,790	49.27	1,460	86.76	4,165	132.00
	November	28,855	62.12	23,625	49.51	1,535	85.65	3,695	133.00
2002	February	29,545	61.35	24,550	49.58	1,480	85.23	3,515	133.56
	May	27,510	62.87	22,710	50.43	1,425	87.42	3,375	136.19
	August	29,175	61.51	24,405	49.97	1,475	88.45	3,295	134.88
	November	25,955	63.40	21,480	50.41	1,405	87.50	3,070	143.24
2003	February	26,990	62.57	22,460	50.25	1,480	88.30	3,050	140.76
	May	25,770	64.28	21,400	51.24	1,350	90.38	3,020	145.01
	August	27,775	62.30	23,445	50.63	1,340	93.35	2,990	139.97

¹Not available

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 5.9 Rates of Jobseeker's Allowance

£ per week

	Single person / Lone Parents						Couple	
	Under 18		18 to 24	Lone parent 18 or over / Single person 25 or over			Both under 18	One or both 18 or over
	Usual rate	Higher rate						
07 October 1996	28.85	37.90	37.90	47.90		57.20	75.20	
07 April 1997	29.60	38.90	38.90	49.15		58.70	77.15	
06 April 1998	30.30	39.85	39.85	50.35		60.10	79.00	
09 November 1998	30.30	39.85	39.85	50.35		60.10	79.00	
12 April 1999	30.95	40.70	40.70	51.40		.	80.65	
10 April 2000	31.45	41.35	41.35	52.20		.	81.95	
09 April 2001	31.95	42.00	42.00	53.05		63.35	83.25	
08 April 2002	32.50	42.70	42.70	53.95		64.45	84.65	
07 April 2003	32.90	43.25	43.25	54.65		65.30	85.75	
	Dependant children				Dependant children			
	Under 11	11 to 15	16 to 17	18	Under 11	11 to 16	16 to 18	
07 October 1996	16.45	24.10	28.85	37.90	.	.	.	
07 April 1997	.	.	.	.	16.90	24.75	29.60
06 April 1998	.	.	.	.	17.30	25.35	30.30
09 November 1998	.	.	.	.	19.80	25.35	30.30
12 April 1999	.	.	.	.	20.20	25.90	30.95
04 October 1999	.	.	.	.	24.90	25.90	30.95
						Under 16	16 to 18	
10 April 2000	.	.	.	.		26.60	31.75
09 April 2001	.	.	.	.		31.45	32.25
08 April 2002	.	.	.	.		33.50	34.30
						Birth to day before 19th birthday		
07 April 2003	.	.	.	.		38.50	

Table 5.10 Rates of Premiums

	£ per week									
	Dis-abled child	Carer	Disability		Severe Disability			Family		
			Single	Couple	Single	Couple (one)	Couple (both)	Couple	Lone Parent	
07 October 1996	20.40	13.00	20.40	29.15	36.40	36.40	72.80	10.55	.	.
07 April 1997	20.95	13.35	20.95	29.90	37.15	37.15	74.30	.	10.80	15.75
06 April 1998	21.45	13.65	21.45	30.60	38.50	38.50	77.00	.	11.05	15.75
09 November 1998	21.45	13.65	21.45	30.60	38.50	38.50	77.00	.	11.05	15.75
12 April 1999	21.90	13.95	21.90	31.25	39.75	39.75	79.50	.	13.90	15.75
10 April 2000	22.25	14.15	22.25	31.75	40.20	40.20	80.40	.	14.25	15.90
09 April 2001	30.00	24.40	22.60	32.25	41.55	41.55	83.10	.	14.50	15.90
08 April 2002	35.50	24.80	23.00	32.80	42.25	42.25	84.50	.	14.75	15.90
07 April 2003	41.30	25.10	23.30	33.25	42.95	42.95	85.90	.	15.75	15.90

	Lone parent	Pensioner		Enhanced Pensioner		Higher Pensioner	
		Single	Couple	Single	Couple	Single	Couple
		07 October 1996	5.20	19.15	28.90	21.30	31.90	25.90	37.05
07 April 1997	.	19.65	29.65	21.85	32.75	26.55	38.00
06 April 1998	.	20.10	30.35	22.35	33.55	27.20	38.90
09 November 1998	.	20.10	30.35	22.35	33.55	27.20	38.90
12 April 1999	.	23.60	35.95	25.90	39.20	30.85	44.65
10 April 2000	.	26.25	40.00	28.65	43.40	33.85	49.10
09 April 2001	.	39.10	57.30	39.10	57.30	39.10	57.30
08 April 2002	.	44.20	65.15	44.20	65.15	44.20	65.15
07 April 2003	.	47.45	70.05	47.45	70.05	47.45	70.05

Section 6 - Incapacity Benefit

Introduced 13 April 1995

Contributory, Not means tested, Taxable

Incapacity Benefit 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 6.8. 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. See the introduction for more details. An age addition is paid with the long-term rate. There are two rates depending on the age when incapacity began, where incapacity began before age 45.

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 (Lower)

IBST(H) – Incapacity Benefit (Higher)

IBLT – Incapacity Benefit (Long Term)

Summary

At the end of August 2003 there were 110,642 IB claimants, up 4,334 (4.1%) on the previous year. Of these, 72,208 were in receipt of the benefit, a 1.3% increase on the August 2002 figure. The corresponding figure for Great Britain as a whole was down (1.0%) on the previous year.

Numbers claiming the different rates of the benefit were as follows (see table 6.2):

- Numbers on short term lower rate in the year rose to 4,303.
- Numbers on short term higher rate in the year rose to 5,148.
- Numbers on long term rate in the year rose to 63,806.

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

At August 2003, the main diagnosis groups for claimants were mental and behavioural disorders (36.5%) and diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue (20.3%). A higher proportion of women (41.4%) were recorded in the group of mental and behavioural disorders compared to men (33.3%). However a higher proportion of men (10.3%) were in the group diseases of the circulatory system compared to women (4.3%).

The proportion of people of working age claiming IB at August 2003 was 10.7%, which is higher than the figure for Great Britain (6.8%). These proportions for the district councils in Northern Ireland range from 6.0% in North Down to 15.1% in Derry.

The average weekly payment increased slightly from £81.23 to £81.41 over the year ending August 2003. The Northern Ireland average payment for all IB rates was £1.85 less than the average payment in Great Britain.

Table 6.1 Claimants to Incapacity Benefit by rate of benefit and split between ex-IVB and other claimants

		Number of IB claimants						
		IBLT						
Quarter ending	Total	IBST(L)	IBST(H)	Total IBLT	Ex-IVB (protected)	Other IBLT	Credits only	
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
1998	Nov	97,034	5,782	5,863	64,136	47,952	16,184	21,253
	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
1999	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
	Feb	98,637	5,133	4,328	63,534	39,753	23,781	25,642
2000	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
2001	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
2002	Nov	100,229	5,042	4,886	60,879	30,571	30,308	29,422
	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
2003	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
	Feb	102,821	4,049	4,531	61,914	26,520	35,394	32,327
2004	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
2005	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

Table 6.2 Claimants to Incapacity Benefit at 31 August 2003 by age, gender, and rate of benefit

	All IB	IBST(L)	IBST(H)	IBLT			Credits Only
				Total IBLT	Ex-IVB (protected)	Other IBLT	
All Persons							
All Ages	110,642	4,303	5,148	63,806	22,398	41,408	37,385
Under 20	2,078	115	92	444	0	444	1427
20-24	5,630	416	322	1361	0	1361	3531
25-29	5,652	424	411	1688	11	1677	3129
30-34	8,571	541	594	3888	530	3358	3548
35-39	11,383	493	663	5740	1479	4261	4487
40-44	13,168	465	611	7255	2508	4747	4837
45-49	14,166	487	614	8158	3128	5030	4907
50-54	16,333	509	666	10296	4170	6126	4862
55-59	20,715	548	744	14464	5947	8517	4959
60-64	12,946	305	431	10512	4625	5887	1698
65 and over	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Men							
All Ages	66,746	2,885	3,125	38,582	13,373	25,209	22,154
Under 20	1,069	61	50	254	0	254	704
20-24	3,280	272	197	751	0	751	2060
25-29	3,308	268	207	811	-	807	2022
30-34	4,680	319	314	1657	142	1515	2390
35-39	6,235	323	362	2618	491	2127	2932
40-44	7,197	306	355	3702	1022	2680	2834
45-49	7,725	317	363	4419	1585	2834	2626
50-54	8,748	338	394	5624	2172	3452	2392
55-59	11,559	376	452	8234	3332	4902	2497
60-64	12,945	305	431	10512	4625	5887	1697
65 and over	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Women							
All Ages	43,896	1,418	2,023	25,224	9,025	16,199	15,231
Under 20	1,009	54	42	190	0	190	723
20-24	2,350	144	125	610	0	610	1471
25-29	2,344	156	204	877	7	870	1107
30-34	3,891	222	280	2231	388	1843	1158
35-39	5,148	170	301	3122	988	2134	1555
40-44	5,971	159	256	3553	1486	2067	2003
45-49	6,441	170	251	3739	1543	2196	2281
50-54	7,585	171	272	4672	1998	2674	2470
55-59	9,156	172	292	6230	2615	3615	2462
60 and over	-	0	0	0	0	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

- Denotes less than 5 observations.

Table 6.3 Claimants to Incapacity Benefit at 31 August 2003 by gender and Diagnosis Group¹ Heading

	All IB	% of all IB	Men	Women
All Cases	110,642	100.0%	66,746	43,896
Claimants without any diagnosis code on the system	131	0.1%	75	56
Certain infectious and Parasitic Diseases (A00 - B99)	873	0.8%	536	337
Neoplasms (C00 - D48)	1,288	1.2%	671	617
Diseases of the Blood and Blood forming organs and certain diseases involving the immune mechanism (D50 - D89)	264	0.2%	120	144
Endocrine, Nutritional and Metabolic Diseases (E00 - E90)	1,460	1.3%	949	511
Mental and Behavioural Disorders (F00 - F99)	40,422	36.5%	22,230	18,192
Diseases of the Nervous System (G00 - G99)	4,559	4.1%	2,506	2,053
Diseases of the Eye and Adnexa (H00 - H59)	478	0.4%	351	127
Diseases of the Ear and Mastoid Process (H60 - H95)	431	0.4%	275	156
Disease of the Circulatory System (I00 - I99)	8,729	7.9%	6,860	1,869
Diseases of the Respiratory System (J00 - J99)	3,004	2.7%	1,857	1,147
Diseases of the Digestive System (K00 - K93)	1,984	1.8%	1,256	728
Diseases of the Skin and Subcutaneous System (L00 - L99)	1,134	1.0%	710	424
Diseases of the Musculoskeletal system and Connective Tissue (M00 - M99)	22,514	20.3%	13,577	8,937
Diseases of the Genitourinary System (N00 - N99)	882	0.8%	353	529
Pregnancy, Childbirth and the Puerperium (O00 - O99)	804	0.7%	5	799
Certain Conditions Originating in the Perinatal Period (P00 - P96)	6	0.0%	0	6
Congenital Malformations, Deformations and Chromosomal Abnormalities (Q00 - Q99)	270	0.2%	161	109
Symptoms, Signs and Abnormal Clinical and Laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified (R00 - R99)	12,500	11.3%	7,404	5,096
Injury, Poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes (S00 - U22)	8,031	7.3%	6,241	1,790
Factors influencing Health Status and Contact with Health Services (Z00 - Z99)	878	0.8%	609	269

¹Diagnosis Group is taken from ICD10 published by the World Health Organisation.

Table 6.4 Claimants to Incapacity Benefit at 31 August 2003 by rate of benefit and District Council

	All IB	IBST(L)	IBST(H)	IBLT	Credits only	Working age Population ¹	All IB as % of population
All Cases	110,642	4,303	5,148	63,806	37,385	1,037,438	10.66%
Antrim	2,507	124	151	1,492	740	30,844	8.13%
Ards	3,763	146	226	2,400	991	46,130	8.16%
Armagh	3,488	148	175	2,131	1,034	33,389	10.45%
Ballymena	3,135	135	183	1,841	976	35,938	8.72%
Ballymoney	1,754	68	95	1,068	523	16,662	10.53%
Banbridge	2,507	142	137	1,600	628	26,246	9.55%
Belfast	21,624	698	868	11,053	9,005	167,560	12.91%
Carrickfergus	1,900	95	105	1,246	454	23,651	8.03%
Castlereagh	3,061	130	160	2,046	725	39,370	7.77%
Coleraine	2,964	129	140	1,708	987	34,050	8.70%
Cookstown	2,736	108	137	1,605	886	20,135	13.59%
Craigavon	6,011	257	290	3,869	1,595	49,475	12.15%
Derry	9,885	243	332	5,200	4,110	65,629	15.06%
Down	3,694	148	156	2,237	1,153	39,288	9.40%
Dungannon	3,532	131	166	2,022	1,213	28,859	12.24%
Fermanagh	3,126	117	156	1,714	1,139	35,263	8.86%
Larne	1,694	67	101	1,016	510	18,942	8.94%
Limavady	2,193	85	83	1,292	733	20,928	10.48%
Lisburn	5,684	230	273	3,330	1,851	67,371	8.44%
Magherafelt	2,504	128	140	1,543	693	24,628	10.17%
Moyle	1,044	38	50	581	375	9,682	10.78%
Newry & Moume	6,452	258	281	3,504	2,409	53,242	12.12%
Newtownabbey	4,285	233	239	2,659	1,154	49,421	8.67%
North Down	2,848	104	131	1,869	744	47,408	6.01%
Omagh	3,677	175	159	2,136	1,207	30,020	12.25%
Strabane	3,500	119	144	2,004	1,233	23,307	15.02%
Missing postcode	1,074	47	70	640	317	..	..

¹ = NI Mid Year Estimates 2002. Population of working age. Namely 16-59 for Females, and ages 16-64 for Males.

.. = Not available

Note: Approximately 1% of records on the August 2003 dataset had missing or invalid postcodes, without which district council cannot be assigned.

**Table 6.5 Claimants to Incapacity Benefit by Government Office Region:
31 August 2003**

	All IB	IBST(L)	IBST(H)	IBLT	Credits only	All IB as % of working age population ¹
All Cases (GB)	2,400.5	87.7	90.5	1,330.6	891.7	6.8
North East	162.1	5.7	6.2	97.3	52.9	10.5
North West	395.4	13.8	13.9	222.5	145.2	9.6
Yorks & Humber	215.9	8.8	8.1	123.1	75.9	7.1
East Midlands	156.5	5.7	6.6	95.1	49.1	6.0
West Midlands	218.4	7.9	8.3	126.5	75.6	6.8
South West	157.9	7.1	7.1	85.7	58.0	5.3
Eastern	145.4	6.2	6.8	81.1	51.4	4.4
London	268.1	7.0	7.8	102.3	150.9	5.5
South East	189.9	7.6	7.9	101	73.4	3.8
England	1,909.5	69.9	72.7	1,034.5	732.5	6.2
Scotland	289.7	11.9	11.2	163.3	103.3	9.2
Wales	191	5.9	6.4	123.4	55.3	10.9
Northern Ireland	110.6	4.3	5.1	63.8	37.4	10.7
Overseas	10.3	-	*0.2	9.3	0.7	-

¹Mid 2002 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.

Table 6.6 Claimants to Incapacity Benefit at 31 August 2003 by age, 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
All Persons							
All Ages	110,642	5,388	6,026	10,011	13,672	20,289	55,256
Under 20	2,078	354	377	547	474	326	0
20-24	5,630	602	672	1058	1211	1355	732
25-29	5,652	478	526	876	1071	1259	1442
30-34	8,571	583	651	1046	1351	1777	3163
35-39	11,383	669	710	1241	1575	2278	4910
40-44	13,168	636	701	1220	1744	2464	6403
45-49	14,166	622	746	1142	1704	2625	7327
50-54	16,333	627	657	1090	1742	2872	9345
55-59	20,715	605	653	1226	1854	3407	12970
60-64	12,946	212	333	565	946	1926	8964
65 and over	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Men							
All Ages	66,746	3,223	3,565	6,153	8,205	12,275	33,325
Under 20	1,069	179	200	262	238	190	0
20-24	3,280	393	411	653	682	740	401
25-29	3,308	300	321	536	646	731	774
30-34	4,680	325	377	656	810	987	1525
35-39	6,235	387	410	782	951	1363	2342
40-44	7,197	347	393	711	1037	1426	3283
45-49	7,725	348	402	655	934	1456	3930
50-54	8,748	362	360	614	936	1536	4940
55-59	11,559	370	358	719	1025	1920	7167
60-64	12,945	212	333	565	946	1926	8963
65 and over	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Women							
All Ages	43,896	2,165	2,461	3,858	5,467	8,014	21,931
Under 20	1,009	175	177	285	236	136	0
20-24	2,350	209	261	405	529	615	331
25-29	2,344	178	205	340	425	528	668
30-34	3,891	258	274	390	541	790	1638
35-39	5,148	282	300	459	624	915	2568
40-44	5,971	289	308	509	707	1,038	3120
45-49	6,441	274	344	487	770	1,169	3397
50-54	7,585	265	297	476	806	1,336	4405
55-59	9,156	235	295	507	829	1,487	5803
60 and over	-	0	0	0	0	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

- Denotes less than 5 observations

Table 6.7 Number of recipients of Incapacity Benefit at 31 August 2003 by rate of benefit, and weekly amounts in payment

	All Recipients	Total weekly amount paid £	Average weekly amount paid £
All Persons			
All IB Rates	72,208	5,878,744	81.41
IBST(L)	3,803	202,820	53.33
IBST(H)	4,953	315,219	63.64
IBLT (All)	63,452	5,360,705	84.48
IBLT (Ex-IVB)	22,389	2,106,326	94.08
Invalidity Allowance	14,691	159,471	10.85
Additional Pension	16,174	243,153	15.03
Graduated Retirement Benefit	0	0	0.00
IBLT (Other)	41,063	3,254,379	79.25
Incapacity Age Addition	19,385	223,891	11.55

Table 6.8 Rates of Incapacity Benefit

	£ per week							
	Short term (lower rate)			Short term (higher rate)				
	Under pension age		Over pension age	Increase for dependants				
	Standard dependant	Adult	Standard dependant	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
Long term (No transitional protection)								
	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		

Section 7 - 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 20th birthday could qualify on this basis alone. People who became incapable of work after their 20th 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 and Recipients of Severe Disablement Allowance has decreased from 14,290 in August 2002 to 13,727 in August 2003.

The main diagnosis group for claimants of Severe Disablement Allowance was mental and behavioural disorders (40.9%). A higher proportion of men (46.3%) were in the group of mental and behavioural disorders compared to women (36.6%). However a higher proportion of women (13.2%) were in the group diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue compared to men (4.6%).

The proportion of people aged 16 and over in receipt of the allowance at 31 August 2003 was 1.1%. These proportions for the district councils in Northern Ireland range from 0.67% in Ards to 1.68% in Antrim.

The average weekly payment of Severe Disablement Allowance was £55.46 in August 2003 - £0.75 less than the average in Great Britain.

Table 7.1 Severe Disablement Allowance claimants and recipients by start of spell

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

¹ Claimants include all those on the benefit, while recipients only include claimants who are in receipt of payment

² Incapacity Benefit was introduced on 13 April 1995, replacing Sickness and Invalidity benefit

Table 7.2 Claimants and recipients of Severe Disablement Allowance at 31 August 2003 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
All Persons						
All Ages	13,727	13,695	10,512	10,497	3,215	3,198
Under 20	0	0	0	0	0	0
20 - 24	520	516	45	45	475	471
25 - 29	1,169	1,163	789	786	380	377
30 - 34	1,374	1,372	1,123	1,122	251	250
35 - 39	1,542	1,538	1,225	1,223	317	315
40 - 44	1,566	1,563	1,222	1,221	344	342
45 - 49	1,460	1,459	1,127	1,127	333	332
50 - 54	1,471	1,466	1,178	1,175	293	291
55 - 59	1,639	1,636	1,246	1,245	393	391
60 - 64	1,152	1,148	862	858	290	290
65 and over	1,834	1,834	1,695	1,695	139	139
Men						
All Ages	6,045	6,030	4,707	4,701	1,338	1,329
Under 20	0	0	0	0	0	0
20 - 24	286	283	23	23	263	260
25 - 29	635	634	427	427	208	207
30 - 34	751	750	626	625	125	125
35 - 39	854	852	715	714	139	138
40 - 44	780	778	631	631	149	147
45 - 49	635	634	517	517	118	117
50 - 54	594	592	515	513	79	79
55 - 59	559	558	443	443	116	115
60 - 64	466	464	363	361	103	103
65 and over	485	485	447	447	38	38
Women						
All Ages	7,682	7,665	5,805	5,796	1,877	1,869
Under 20	0	0	0	0	0	0
20 - 24	234	233	22	22	212	211
25 - 29	534	529	362	359	172	170
30 - 34	623	622	497	497	126	125
35 - 39	688	686	510	509	178	177
40 - 44	786	785	591	590	195	195
45 - 49	825	825	610	610	215	215
50 - 54	877	874	663	662	214	212
55 - 59	1,080	1,078	803	802	277	276
60 and over	2,035	2,033	1,747	1,745	288	288

**Table 7.3 Claimants of Severe Disablement Allowance at 31 August 2003
by Diagnosis Group¹**

	All SDA	% of all SDA	Men	Women
All Cases	13,727	100.0%	6,045	7,682
Claimants without any diagnosis code on the system	8	0.1%	-	5
Certain infectious and Parasitic Diseases (A00 - B99)	48	0.3%	19	29
Neoplasms (C00 - D48)	110	0.8%	33	77
Diseases of the Blood and Blood forming organs and certain diseases involving the immune mechanism (D50 - D89)	16	0.1%	7	9
Endocrine, Nutritional and Metabolic Diseases (E00 -E90)	128	0.9%	50	78
Mental and Behavioural Disorders (F00 - F99)	5609	40.9%	2,800	2,809
Diseases of the Nervous System (G00 - G99)	1450	10.6%	586	864
Diseases of the Eye and Adnexa (H00 -H59)	213	1.6%	89	124
Diseases of the Ear and Mastoid Process (H60 - H95)	123	0.9%	45	78
Disease of the Circulatory System (I00 - I99)	681	5.0%	227	454
Diseases of the Respiratory System (J00 - J99)	347	2.5%	87	260
Diseases of the Digestive System (K00 - K93)	114	0.8%	36	78
Diseases of the Skin and Subcutaneous System (L00 - L99)	58	0.4%	13	45
Diseases of the Musculoskeletal system and Connective Tissue (M00 - M99)	1293	9.4%	278	1,015
Diseases of the Genitourinary System (N00 - N99)	80	0.6%	31	49
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)	957	7.0%	514	443
Symptoms, Signs and Abnormal Clinical and Laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified (R00 - R99)	1654	12.0%	726	928
Injury, Poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes (S00 - U22)	306	2.2%	191	115
Factors influencing Health Status and Contact with Health Services (Z00 - Z99)	526	3.8%	308	218

¹Diagnosis Group is taken from ICD10 published by the World Health Organisation.

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

Table 7.4 Claimants and recipients of Severe Disablement Allowance at 31 August 2003, by District Council

	Claimants	Recipients	Population aged 16 and over ¹	Recipients as % of Population
All Persons				
All Cases	13,727	13,695	1,303,626	1.05%
Antrim	627	626	37,303	1.68%
Ards	395	395	58,593	0.67%
Armagh	566	558	41,482	1.35%
Ballymena	387	387	46,103	0.84%
Ballymoney	238	238	21,078	1.13%
Banbridge	301	300	32,577	0.92%
Belfast	2,303	2,300	215,893	1.07%
Carrickfergus	282	282	29,696	0.95%
Castlereagh	386	386	52,143	0.74%
Coleraine	376	376	43,789	0.86%
Cookstown	257	257	24,690	1.04%
Craigavon	596	594	61,791	0.96%
Derry	978	974	78,273	1.24%
Down	562	561	49,059	1.14%
Dungannon	440	438	35,999	1.22%
Fermanagh	517	515	44,597	1.15%
Larne	187	187	24,404	0.77%
Limavady	262	262	24,847	1.05%
Lisburn	694	692	82,929	0.83%
Magherafelt	318	318	30,106	1.06%
Moyle	172	172	12,493	1.38%
Newry & Mourne	809	808	65,388	1.24%
Newtownabbey	462	462	63,028	0.73%
North Down	494	494	62,017	0.80%
Omagh	489	486	36,633	1.33%
Strabane	424	423	28,715	1.47%
Missing postcode	205	204	..	..

Note: Approximately 1.5% of records on the August 2003 dataset had missing or invalid postcodes, without which district council cannot be assigned.

¹NI Mid Year Estimates 2002. Population aged 16 and over

.. Not available

**Table 7.5 Claimants and recipients of Severe Disablement Allowance
by Government Office Region: 31 August 2003**

Thousands

	Claimants	Recipients
All Persons		
All Cases (Great Britain)	315.3	314.8
North East	17.9	17.9
North West	42.0	42.0
Yorks & Humber	29.7	29.6
East Midlands	24.1	24.0
West Midlands	27.3	27.2
South West	27.7	27.6
Eastern	24.6	24.5
London	28.1	28.0
South East	36.0	36.0
England	257.2	256.9
Scotland	36.4	36.4
Wales	21.2	21.1
Northern Ireland	13.7	13.7
Overseas	*0.5	*0.4

*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 7.6 Claimants of Severe Disablement Allowance at 31 August 2003
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
All Persons	13,727	14	17	30	67	588	13,011
Men	6,045	8	5	10	23	229	5,770
Women	7,682	6	12	20	44	359	7,241

Table 7.7 Rates of Severe Disablement Allowance

	£ per week						
	Personal benefit	Age related addition ¹			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

¹ 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 8 - 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 65,505 in August 2003, a increase of 83 (0.13%) on the August 2002 figure. Of those claiming 33% were male and 67% were female.

The proportion receiving the high rate of AA was 73%, which is higher than that for Great Britain (50% at August 2003).

The proportion receiving the low rate of AA was 27% , which is lower than that for Great Britain (50% at August 2003).

The main diagnosis group for allowances current at August 2003 was arthritis (29%). This was also the case in Great Britain with a proportion of 29% at August 2003.

Between district councils the proportion of AA claimants varied between 36% of those aged 65 and over in Cookstown to 23% of those aged 65 and over in Antrim, Ballymena, Castlereagh and Larne.

Allowances current in Northern Ireland at August 2003 stood at 28.8 per 1000 population. This is considerably higher than the situation in Great Britain (23.6 per 1000 population).

Table 8.1 Allowances current¹ by rate: August 1996 to August 2003

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

¹Cases where payment of benefit has been suspended are excluded

Table 8.2 Allowances current at 31 August 2003 by age and gender

	Total	Men	Women
All ages	65,505	21,526	43,979
65-69	3,033	1,348	1,685
70-74	9,800	3,739	6,061
75-79	19,251	6,787	12,464
80-84	18,314	5,797	12,517
85-89	10,163	2,769	7,394
90 & over	4,944	1,086	3,858

Table 8.3 Allowances current at 31 August 2003 by main disabling condition¹² and rate

	All Awards	Higher Rate	Lower Rate
All conditions	65,505	47,928	17,577
Terminally ill	716	716	0
Arthritis	19,095	13,979	5,116
Back ailments	1,198	856	342
Muscles/joint/bone disease	928	659	269
Trauma to limbs	365	259	106
Blindness	1,099	549	550
Heart disease	6,344	4,542	1,802
Chest disease	2,293	1,702	591
Asthma	590	454	136
Stroke-related	2,400	1,880	520
Peripheral vascular disease	347	238	109
Frailty	6,366	4,521	1,845
Neurological disorder	671	477	194
Parkinsons disease	595	484	111
Diabetes	1,007	684	323
Other mental health causes	3,069	2,211	858
Malignant disease	869	692	177
Conversion ³	16,418	12,208	4,210
Other ⁴	1,135	817	318

¹Where more than one disability is present only the main disabling condition is recorded.

²For a small number of cases the main disabling condition is recorded inaccurately.

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

⁴Other includes medical conditions that constitute less than 0.5% of all conditions.

Table 8.4 Allowances current at 31 August 2003 by District Council and Population

Country and District Council	AA Allowances	AA Allowances as a % of the population¹
NORTHERN IRELAND	65,505	28.8%
Unallocated	695	
Antrim	1,248	23.4%
Ards	2,793	26.5%
Armagh	2,162	31.5%
Ballymena	2,037	23.6%
Ballymoney	1,029	27.4%
Banbridge	1,573	29.4%
Belfast	12,719	30.3%
Carrickfergus	1,253	24.3%
Castlereagh	2,553	23.0%
Coleraine	2,122	25.8%
Cookstown	1,406	36.6%
Craigavon	3,059	29.3%
Derry	2,955	27.8%
Down	2,332	27.9%
Dungannon	2,105	34.6%
Fermanagh	2,625	32.4%
Larne	1,106	23.8%
Limavady	1,085	33.1%
Lisburn	3,376	25.8%
Magherafelt	1,592	34.3%
Moyle	676	28.3%
Newry & Mourne	3,581	34.5%
Newtownabbey	2,820	24.3%
North Down	3,070	24.2%
Omagh	1,986	35.4%
Strabane	1,547	34.1%

¹2002 Mid Year Estimates

**Table 8.5 Attendance Allowance claimants by Government Office Region:
August 2003**

Government Office Region	Allowances 000s	Allowances per 1,000 population¹
Great Britain	1,358.4	23.6
England	1,124.9	22.7
North East	65.9	26.2
North West	184.3	27.3
Yorkshire & Humber	112.9	22.7
East Midlands	101.3	24.0
West Midlands	141.7	26.7
East	121.6	22.4
London	121.5	16.5
South East	144.0	17.9
South West	131.7	26.6
Wales	99.6	34.1
Scotland	133.8	26.5
Northern Ireland	65.5	28.8

¹ Sources are Office for National Statistics and General Registrar of Scotland.

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 8.6 Rates of Attendance Allowance

Date	£ per week	
	Higher rate	Lower rate
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

Section 9 - 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 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 153,791 in August 2003, an increase of 6,812 (4.6%) on the August 2002 figure. Of those claiming 47.5% were male and 52.5% were female.

The proportion receiving the DLA mobility component only was 11.1% (compared to 11.4% a year earlier), which is lower than that for Great Britain (22.5% at August 2003).

The proportion receiving the DLA care component only was 13.5%, the same as the previous year, which is higher than that for Great Britain (13.3% at August 2003).

The proportion receiving the combined DLA mobility component and care component was higher at 75.4% compared to 75.2% a year earlier. This figure is higher than that for Great Britain, which has a proportion of 64.2% at August 2003.

The main disabling conditions in Northern Ireland were other mental health causes (20.7%) and arthritis (19.0%). For Great Britain the main disabling condition was arthritis (20.1% at August 2003).

The proportion of the population claiming DLA in Northern Ireland at August 2003 stood at 9.1%. Between district councils the proportion of the population claiming DLA varied between 13.0% in Strabane to 5.3% in North Down.

Allowances current in Northern Ireland at August 2003 stood at 91.0 per 1000 population. This is considerably higher than the situation in Great Britain (43.9 per 1000 population).

Table 9.1 Allowances current¹ by rate: August 1998 to August 2003

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

¹ Cases where payment of benefit has been suspended are excluded

Table 9.2 Allowances current at 31 August 2003 by age and gender

	Total	Men	Women
All ages	153,791	73,093	80,698
0 - 4	1,791	1,127	664
5 - 9	4,626	3,049	1,577
10-15	5,306	3,365	1,941
16-19	2,723	1,538	1,185
20-24	3,914	2,067	1,847
25-29	4,684	2,351	2,333
30-34	7,106	3,401	3,705
35-39	9,971	4,621	5,350
40-44	11,816	5,295	6,521
45-49	12,608	5,747	6,861
50-54	14,451	6,533	7,918
55-59	18,652	8,476	10,176
60-64	20,672	9,609	11,063
65-69	19,285	8,914	10,371
70-74	13,019	5,688	7,331
75-79	2,748	1,156	1,592
80 and over	419	156	263

Table 9.3 Allowances current at 31 August 2003 by main disabling condition¹² and component

	All Awards	Care component only	Mobility component only	Care and mobility component
All conditions	153,791	20,812	17,091	115,888
Terminally ill	1,284	28	7	1,249
Arthritis	29,054	3,779	2,905	22,370
Back ailments	11,695	1,560	1,266	8,869
Muscles/joint/bone disease	14,312	3,428	1,598	9,286
Trauma to limbs	776	256	101	419
Blindness	2,117	84	156	1,877
Deafness	1,780	134	124	1,522
Heart disease	11,792	705	2,461	8,626
Chest disease	4,208	214	848	3,146
Asthma	4,223	1,136	759	2,328
Stroke-related	3,257	266	208	2,783
Peripheral vascular disease	1,106	27	328	751
Epilepsy	4,592	443	106	4,043
Neurological disorder	2,895	341	144	2,410
Multiple sclerosis	1,647	46	88	1,513
Chronic fatigue	1,548	294	105	1,149
Diabetes	2,430	599	115	1,716
Learning difficulties	8,284	622	1,060	6,602
Other mental health causes	31,772	3,880	2,552	25,340
Alcohol abuse	2,583	637	80	1,866
Skin disease	1,036	687	43	306
Malignant disease	2,059	401	94	1,564
Conversion ³	5,137	254	1,692	3,191
Other ⁴	4,204	991	251	2,962

¹Where more than one disability is present only the main disabling condition is recorded

²For a small number of cases the main disabling condition is recorded inaccurately

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

⁴Other includes medical conditions that constitute less than 0.5% of all conditions

Table 9.4 Allowances current at 31 August 2003 by District Council

Country and District Council	DLA Allowances	DLA Allowances as a % of the population ¹
NORTHERN IRELAND	153,791	9.1%
Unallocated	1,505	
Antrim	3,677	7.5%
Ards	5,021	6.8%
Armagh	4,582	8.3%
Ballymena	3,373	5.7%
Ballymoney	2,082	7.6%
Banbridge	3,385	8.0%
Belfast	33,235	12.1%
Carrickfergus	2,619	6.9%
Castlereagh	4,572	6.9%
Coleraine	3,296	5.9%
Cookstown	3,693	11.2%
Craigavon	8,201	10.1%
Derry	12,523	11.8%
Down	5,671	8.7%
Dungannon	5,059	10.5%
Fermanagh	4,312	7.4%
Larne	1,955	6.3%
Limavady	2,680	8.1%
Lisburn	8,750	8.0%
Magherafelt	2,831	7.0%
Moyle	1,176	7.2%
Newry & Mourne	9,120	10.3%
Newtownabbey	5,840	7.3%
North Down	4,098	5.3%
Omagh	5,534	11.3%
Strabane	5,001	13.0%

¹2002 Mid Year Estimates

**Table 9.5 Disability Living Allowances current by Government Office Region:
August 2003**

Country and Government Office Region	Allowances ('000s)	Allowances per 1,000 population ¹
Great Britain	2,526.7	43.9
England	2,040.4	41.2
North East	155.1	61.7
North West	401.5	59.5
Yorkshire & Humber	246.8	49.5
East Midlands	181.5	43.1
West Midlands	242.8	45.8
East	178.2	32.9
London	245.9	33.4
South East	219.1	27.3
South West	169.4	34.2
Wales	205.0	70.2
Scotland	281.2	55.6
Northern Ireland	153.8	91.0

¹ Sources are Office for National Statistics and General Registrar of Scotland.

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 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

Section 10 - 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 contributions

Category B – dependent on 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), and
- 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. See the introduction for more details. 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 insurance, if she meets the conditions. Otherwise she can claim a category B pension on her husband's insurance, 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 insurance.

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 insurance, 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 insurance or both. Increments on her husband's insurance 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 2003 is 251,218. The number of men in receipt of Retirement Pension is 89,491 and the number of women is 161,727.

There has been a net increase of 4,053 (1.6%) in the retirement pensioner caseload over the period September 2002 to September 2003. This growth is greater than that of Great Britain, which had a net increase of 1.1% in the same period. Within this total net increase in Northern Ireland, the number of men increased by 1,612 and the number of women increased by 2,441. The proportion of men within the Retirement Pension caseload currently stands at 35.6%. The corresponding figure for Great Britain stands at 37.5%.

The average amount of actual entitlement at September 2003 was £81.19 per week (an annual increase of 3.2%). The corresponding figure for Great Britain was an average entitlement of £78.48 per week, which also had an annual increase of 3.3%.

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 10.1 Retirement Pensioners by category of pensioners:
September 1996 to September 2003**

	All Types	A	B	ABL	BL	GRB Only	AP Only	C	D	Unallocated
Men and Women										
Sep-96	227,274	150,101	36,865	17,213	20,069	781	228	6	2,011	0
Mar-97	228,944	152,352	36,130	17,821	19,749	728	221	6	1,937	0
Sep-97	232,288	155,810	35,569	18,568	19,484	733	211	6	1,907	0
Mar-98	234,104	158,152	34,875	19,203	19,129	684	207	6	1,848	0
Sep-98 ²										
Mar-99	237,320	162,638	33,338	20,254	18,587	610	197	-	1,692	0
Sep-99	239,396	164,868	32,657	21,004	18,292	564	189	5	1,672	145
Mar-00	239,425	166,213	31,686	21,400	17,788	543	181	5	1,609	0
Sep-00	240,253	167,671	31,087	21,807	17,390	529	187	5	1,577	0
Mar-01	241,201	169,501	30,320	22,108	17,023	504	190	5	1,550	0
Sep-01	244,039	172,848	29,721	22,486	16,748	490	183	5	1,558	0
Mar-02	244,425	174,336	28,875	22,693	16,333	475	176	5	1,532	0
Sep-02	247,165	177,698	28,173	23,059	16,056	475	168	5	1,531	0
Mar-03	248,564	180,162	27,296	23,239	15,699	446	179	-	1,540	0
Sep-03	251,218	183,455	26,615	23,572	15,459	418	187	-	1,509	0
Men¹²										
Sep-99	84,071	83,647	5	-	-	12	34	-	342	29
Mar-00	84,313	83,932	5	-	-	11	35	-	328	0
Sep-00	84,610	84,247	-	-	-	11	33	-	316	0
Mar-01	85,177	84,821	-	-	-	10	33	-	310	0
Sep-01	86,470	86,090	-	-	-	12	33	-	331	0
Mar-02	86,828	86,456	-	-	-	12	30	-	328	0
Sep-02	87,879	87,507	-	-	-	12	30	-	328	0
Mar-03	88,436	88,070	-	-	-	14	28	-	322	0
Sep-03	89,491	89,129	-	-	-	14	29	-	317	0
Women¹²										
Sep-99	155,325	81,221	32,652	21,002	18,292	552	155	5	1,330	116
Mar-00	155,112	82,281	31,681	21,399	17,787	532	146	5	1,281	0
Sep-00	155,643	83,424	31,084	21,807	17,390	518	154	5	1,261	0
Mar-01	156,024	84,680	30,317	22,108	17,023	494	157	5	1,240	0
Sep-01	157,569	86,758	29,717	22,486	16,748	478	150	5	1,227	0
Mar-02	157,597	87,880	28,873	22,693	16,333	463	146	5	1,204	0
Sep-02	159,286	90,191	28,171	23,059	16,056	463	138	5	1,203	0
Mar-03	160,128	92,092	27,294	23,239	15,699	432	151	-	1,218	0
Sep-03	161,727	94,326	26,613	23,572	15,459	404	158	-	1,192	0

¹ Separate breakdowns for gender are unavailable due to data restrictions.

² Data for September 1998 is unavailable.

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

Table 10.2 Retirement Pensioners by category of pension and average amount of actual entitlement: September 1996 to September 2003

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

¹Data is unavailable at September 1998

Table 10.3 Retirement Pensioners at September 2003 by category of pension, age and gender

	All Types	Contributory						Non contributory	
		A	B	ABL	BL	GRB only	AP only	C	D
Men and Women									
All ages	251,218	183,455	26,615	23,572	15,459	418	187	-	1,509
Age 60 - 64	33,779	27,274	382	3,920	1,839	268	96	-	-
Age 65 - 69	61,822	48,721	1,582	7,562	3,853	62	42	-	-
Age 70 - 79	100,535	74,948	7,900	10,509	7,072	64	41	-	-
Age 80 - 89	47,308	29,316	12,757	1,575	2,509	22	8	-	1,119
Age 90 - 99	7,582	3,120	3,897	6	185	-	-	-	372
Age 100 +	192	76	97	0	-	-	-	-	18
Men									
All ages	89,491	89,129	-	-	-	14	29	-	317
Age 65 - 69	28,579	28,564	-	-	-	6	9	-	-
Age 70 - 79	43,127	43,103	-	-	-	7	17	-	-
Age 80 - 89	16,131	15,861	-	-	-	-	-	-	265
Age 90 - 99	1,634	1,583	-	-	-	-	-	-	50
Age 100 +	20	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Women									
All ages	161,727	94,326	26,613	23,572	15,459	404	158	-	1,192
Age 60 - 64	33,779	27,274	382	3,920	1,839	268	96	-	-
Age 65 - 69	33,243	20,157	1,582	7,562	3,853	56	33	-	-
Age 70 - 79	57,408	31,845	7,900	10,509	7,072	57	24	-	-
Age 80 - 89	31,177	13,455	12,756	1,575	2,509	21	5	-	854
Age 90 - 99	5,948	1,537	3,896	6	185	-	-	-	322
Age 100 +	172	58	97	0	-	-	-	-	16

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

Table 10.4 Retirement Pension claimants at September 2003 by District Council and gender

District Council	Male	Female	Total
Antrim	2,252	4,038	6,290
Ards	4,250	7,651	11,901
Armagh	2,683	4,857	7,540
Ballymena	3,544	6,313	9,857
Ballymoney	1,542	2,604	4,146
Banbridge	2,177	3,809	5,986
Belfast	15,109	29,508	44,617
Carrickfergus	2,086	3,766	5,852
Castlereagh	4,338	7,777	12,115
Coleraine	3,244	5,734	8,978
Cookstown	1,565	2,647	4,212
Craigavon	4,160	7,562	11,722
Derry	4,099	7,474	11,573
Down	3,329	5,891	9,220
Dungannon	2,364	4,048	6,412
Fermanagh	2,804	4,595	7,399
Larne	1,859	3,351	5,210
Limavady	1,337	2,238	3,575
Lisburn	5,195	9,790	14,985
Magherafelt	1,875	3,142	5,017
Moyle	950	1,589	2,539
Newry & Mourne	4,108	7,001	11,109
Newtownabbey	4,631	8,290	12,921
North Down	4,775	9,018	13,793
Omagh	2,154	3,666	5,820
Strabane	1,825	3,000	4,825
Unallocated Postcodes ¹	1,236	2,368	3,604
Total	89,491	161,727	251,218

¹In 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 10.5 Retirement Pensioners at September 2003 by category of pension by Government Office Region

	All types	Contributory						Non contributory	
		A	B	ABL	BL	GRB only	AP only	C	D
All countries¹	11,351.2	7,625.4	1,348.3	1,124.5	1,133.0	77.7	18.8	* 0.1	23.3
England	8,897.0	5,959.7	1,066.2	908.8	878.7	49.4	14.6	* 0.1	19.6
North East	478.1	318.3	62.1	48.0	45.9	2.8	* 0.4	-	* 0.5
North West	1,242.5	875.9	132.6	129.1	95.9	5.6	1.3	-	2.1
Yorkshire and the Humber	913.3	599.5	117.7	92.1	96.7	5.3	1.1	-	0.9
East Midlands	774.3	506.8	94.2	81.4	84.9	4.7	1.2	-	1.1
West Midlands	970.9	649.5	115.9	100.5	97.0	5.3	1.1	-	1.7
East of England	1,025.2	669.9	122.8	109.7	113.9	5.4	1.4	-	1.9
London	956.9	667.4	110.4	82.3	81.3	6.6	4.1	-	4.9
South East	1,483.0	984.1	180.4	151.7	151.9	8.5	2.5	-	3.9
South West	1,052.9	688.2	130.2	114.1	111.1	5.3	1.4	-	2.5
Scotland	925.5	654.8	102.6	93.4	67.5	4.1	0.7	-	2.2
Wales	576.2	387.1	75.1	55.9	53.7	2.8	0.6	-	1.1
Channel Islands	14.1	8.8	2.1	1.1	2.1	* 0.1	-	-	-
Overseas	938.3	615.1	102.3	65.2	131.0	21.2	2.9	-	* 0.5
of which:									
frozen rate	507.0	311.7	61.2	33.1	85.9	13.0	1.9	-	* 0.3
Northern Ireland	251.2	183.5	26.6	23.6	15.5	* 0.4	* 0.2	-	1.5

¹ 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 10.6 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

Section 11 - 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 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 dependent 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 Credits on 6 April 2003 no new child dependency increases will be awarded, although all existing increases are transitionally protected. See the introduction for more details. 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 Parents 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 £23.24 a week if you were aged 45, up to £72.03 if you were aged 54. If you were aged 55 or over but below pension age on the day they died, the full-rate pension of £77.45 may be payable. If your spouse's NI contribution 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 Benefit at September 2003 is 7,016. This represents a net decrease of 339 (4.6%) in the bereavement related benefit caseload over the period September 2002 to September 2003.

Of the total number of persons in receipt of Bereavement Related Benefit 61.3% were in receipt of Widow's Pension, 18.2% were in receipt of Widowed Mother's Allowance, 11.9% were in receipt of Widowed Parent's Allowance and 8.6% were receiving Bereavement Allowance.

The average amount of actual entitlement at September 2003 was £77.23 per week. This represents an increase of £0.62 (0.8%) over the period September 2002 to September 2003.

Table 11.1 Bereavement Related Benefit by category - September 1996 to September 2003

	Widow's Pension		Widowed Mother's Allowance		Widowed Parent's Allowance	Bereavement Allowance		All types
	Not Age related	Age related	With increase for child	Without increase for child		Not Age related	Age related	
Sep-96	3,080	4,498	2,403	148				10,129
Mar-97	2,850	4,443	2,518	131				9,942
Sep-97	2,607	4,473	2,334	139				9,553
Mar-98	2,389	4,455	2,413	108				9,365
Sep-98 ¹								
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 ²	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

¹Data is unavailable at September 1998

²Since 9 April 2001 the system of widows' benefits has been replaced by bereavements benefits.

Table 11.2 Bereavement Related Benefit by category and average amount of actual entitlement: September 1996 to September 2003

	Widow's Pension		Widowed Mother's Allowance		Widowed Parent's Allowance	Bereavement Allowance		All types
	Not Age related	Age related	With increase for child	Without increase for child		Not Age related	Age related	
Sep-96	64.69	45.17	68.52	37.13				56.52
Mar-97	64.98	45.33	69.20	35.36				56.88
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 ¹								
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 ²	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

¹Data is unavailable at September 1998

²Since 9 April 2001 the system of widows' benefits has been replaced by bereavements benefits.

Table 11.3 Rates of Bereavement Related Benefit

£ per week								
	<u>Widow's</u>	<u>Bereavement</u>	<u>Widowed Mother's Allowance</u>			<u>Widowed Person's Allowance</u>		
	<u>Pension</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	Personal	Increase for	Increase for	Personal	Increase for	Increase for
	Not Age Related			first child	other child		first child	other child
23-Nov-81	29.60		29.60	7.70	7.70			
22-Nov-82	32.85		32.85	7.95	7.95			
21-Nov-83	34.05		34.05	7.60	7.60			
26-Nov-84	35.80		35.80	7.65	7.65			
25-Nov-85	38.30		38.30	8.05	8.05			
28-Jul-86	38.70		38.70	8.05	8.05			
06-Apr-87	39.50		39.50	8.05	8.05			
01-Apr-88	41.15		41.15	8.40	8.40			
10-Apr-89	43.60		43.60	8.95	8.95			
09-Apr-90	46.90		46.90	9.65	9.65			
08-Apr-91	52.00		52.00	9.70	10.70			
06-Apr-92	54.15		54.15	9.75	10.85			
12-Apr-93	56.10		56.10	9.80	10.95			
11-Apr-94	57.60		57.60	9.80	11.00			
10-Apr-95	58.85		58.85	9.85	11.05			
08-Apr-96	61.15		61.15	9.90	11.15			
07-Apr-97	62.45		62.45	9.90	11.20			
06-Apr-98	64.70		64.70	9.90	11.30			
06-Apr-99	66.75		66.75	9.90	11.35			
10-Apr-00	67.50		67.50	9.85	11.35			
09-Apr-01 ¹	72.50	72.50	72.50	9.70	11.35	72.50	9.70	11.35
08-Apr-02	75.50	75.50	75.50	9.65	11.35	75.50	9.65	11.35
07-Apr-03	77.45	77.45	77.45	9.55	11.35	77.45	9.55	11.35

¹ Since April 2001 the system of widows' benefits has been replaced by bereavements benefits.

Section 12 - 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 1 to 6 are based on a 100% scan on the Child Support Computer System at 31 August 2003. 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 2002 and August 2003 the CSA liveload has decreased by 6,370 (17.6%) and now stands at 29,807. This fall in the caseload is mainly due to the closure of a large number of suspended cases on the system. Also information on all new cases is held on a new computer system from which it is not possible to extract any reliable information at present. Therefore the figures for August 2003 quoted 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 44% of NRPs and 45% of PWCs are between the ages of 30 and 39 years, with an average age of 37.6 years for NRPs and 35.5 years for PWCs.

For PWCs, 55% are in receipt of Income Support and 29% 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 mean full maintenance assessment for all NRPs is £13.89 per week. The mean full maintenance assessment for NRPs with regular income from employment, as an employee is £35.33 per week, compared with £20.08 for the self-employed. The mean maintenance assessment for NRPs with an interim maintenance assessment is £99.26 per week.

Table 12.1 Total number of live and assessed cases on the Child Support Computer System: August 1999 - August 2003

Month	Total	Full	Interim
Aug-99	29,896	28,397	1,499
Aug-00	33,215	31,630	1,585
Nov-00	33,725	32,276	1,449
Feb-01	34,186	32,793	1,393
May-01	34,459	33,084	1,375
Aug-01	34,954	33,590	1,364
Nov-01	35,401	34,068	1,333
Feb-02	35,819	34,526	1,293
May-02	36,481	35,235	1,246
Aug-02	36,177	34,965	1,212
Nov-02	36,812	35,619	1,193
Feb-03	32,644	31,472	1,172
May-03	31,918	30,799	1,119
Aug-03	29,807	28,891	916

**Table 12.2 Gender of Non-resident Parent and Parent/Person with Care
Full assessments: August 2003**

	Non-resident parent		Parent/Person with care	
		%		%
Total	28,890	100%	28,891	100%
Male	27,450	95%	1,421	5%
Female	1,440	5%	27,470	95%

**Table 12.3 Age of Non-resident Parent by age of Parent/Person with Care
Full assessments: August 2003**

Parent/Person with Care	Non-resident Parent									
	Total	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55 & over
Total	28,890	97	1,546	3,217	5,730	6,954	5,771	3,262	1,503	810
Under 20	302	73	184	32	9	3	1	0	0	0
20-24	2,477	23	1,112	940	295	78	20	5	2	2
25-29	4,299	1	196	1,751	1,714	470	122	30	10	5
30-34	6,135	0	35	393	2,820	2,135	557	141	33	21
35-39	6,810	0	11	80	705	3,309	2,043	465	134	63
40-44	4,972	0	7	11	133	778	2,404	1,221	290	128
45-49	2,565	0	1	6	40	153	500	1,144	565	156
50-54	971	0	0	4	9	17	96	222	407	216
55 & over	359	0	0	0	5	11	28	34	62	219

Average Age of :

Non-resident Parent	37.6 years
Parent/Person with Care	35.5 years

**Table 12.4 Benefit Status of Parent/Person with Care and Non-resident Parent
Full assessments: August 2003**

Parent/Person With Care	Non-resident Parent							Other
	Total	In Employment Employee	Self Emp	Income Support	JSA (IB)	JSA (Cont)	Incapac/ Disabled	
Total	28,891	10,086	1,075	7,215	3,526	907	1,658	4,424
Income Support	15,826	4,047	469	5,058	2,461	461	987	2,343
WFTC/DPTC	8,244	3,846	378	1,339	717	304	414	1,246
Others	4,821	2,193	228	818	348	142	257	835

Table 12.5 Maintenance assessment by Non-resident Parent's employment status/benefit type, All assessments: August 2003

Maintenance (£ per week)	Non-resident Parents								Total
	Total	FMAs					IMAs		
		In Employment	Employee Self Emp	Income Support	JSA (IB)	JSA (Cont)	Incapac/ Disabled	Other	
Total	28,891	10,086	1,075	7,215	3,526	907	1,658	4,424	916
£0	18,297	1,460	269	7,144	3,458	507	1,536	3,923	97
£0.01-£5.40	1,911	1,006	307	46	42	305	10	195	1
£5.41-£9.99	463	336	48	5	1	40	14	19	-
£10.00-£19.99	1,125	962	83	5	5	10	18	42	1
£20.00-£29.99	1,294	1,116	90	4	4	8	21	51	1
£30.00-£39.99	1,266	1,094	76	4	6	12	25	49	27
£40.00-£49.99	1,242	1,118	46	2	4	11	17	44	39
£50.00-£59.99	985	882	49	3	3	6	7	35	41
£60.00-£69.99	890	816	39	1	2	3	5	24	28
£70.00-£79.99	534	484	28	-	-	2	1	19	38
£80.00-£89.99	342	319	12	-	-	-	-	11	27
£90.00-£99.99	227	209	8	-	-	2	1	7	90
£100.00-£109.99	139	122	9	1	-	1	2	4	120
£110.00-£119.99	68	63	5	-	-	-	-	-	107
£120 & over	108	99	6	-	1	-	1	1	299
Average maintenance	£13.89	£35.33	£20.08	£0.12	£0.34	£4.30	£2.31	£3.03	£99.26

NRPs on Income Support in August 2003 pay either zero or £5.40 per week.

The small number of IS cases where the maintenance assessment is greater than £5.40 are normally suspended cases where the CSA is investigating the current status of the NRP.

ISSN 1476-2463 Print
ISSN 1476-2471 Online

ISBN 1-904105-11-4
Price £10.00