

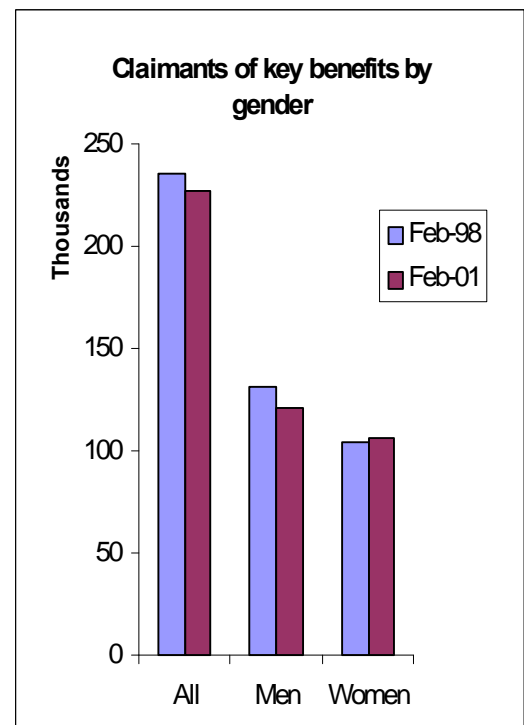
Section 1: Persons of Working Age on Key Benefits

1.1 Age and Gender

Table 1.1.1 Claimants of key benefits by gender: February 1998 to February 2001

	Feb-98	Feb-99	Feb-00	Feb-01
All	235,780	233,060	223,500	226,720
% of pop ¹	23	23	22	22
Men	131,220	128,120	119,880	120,860
% of pop ¹	25	24	22	23
Women	104,560	104,940	103,620	105,860
% of pop ¹	21	21	21	21

¹ Population of working age in Northern Ireland



- In February 2001 about 22% (226,720) of people of working age claimed a key benefit – down from 23% (235,780) in February 1998.
- Older people were more likely to be claiming benefits. In 2001, 35% of those aged 55 to 59 claimed a benefit compared to 17% of those aged 18 to 24.

Table 1.1.2 Claimants of key benefits by age and gender: February 2001

	All		Men		Women	
	Number	% of pop in age group	Number	% of pop in age group	Number	% of pop in age group
All	226,720	22	120,860	23	105,860	21
Under 18	1,680	3	780	3	900	4
18 to 24	27,700	17	13,040	16	14,660	19
25 to 34	46,600	18	21,020	16	25,580	20
35 to 44	51,680	21	25,160	21	26,520	21
45 to 54	50,800	26	27,080	28	23,720	24
55 to 59	30,660	35	16,180	38	14,480	33
60 to 64	17,600	50	17,600	50	.	.

1.2 Family Type

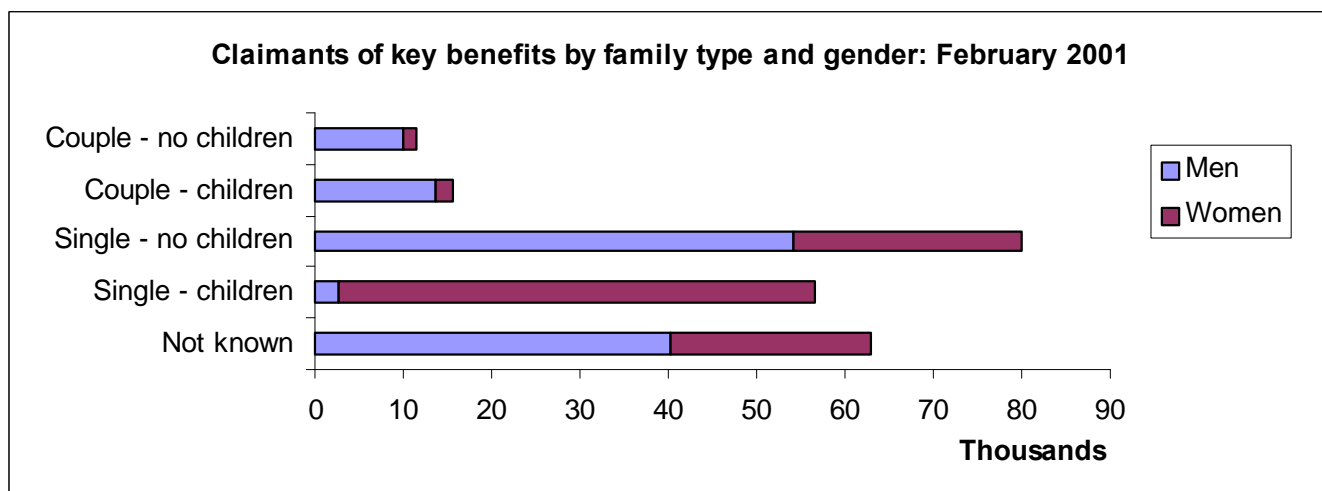
This section contains analyses of the type of family in which claimants live. Family type was assigned according to whether the claimant had a partner and/or children. It was not possible to assign a family type in every case (Not known).

Table 1.2.1 Claimants of key benefits by family type¹ and gender: February 2001

	All	%	Men	%	Women	%
All	226,720	100	120,860	100	105,860	100
All couples	27,080	12	23,640	20	3,440	3
Couple - no children	11,400	5	10,040	8	1,360	1
Couple - children	15,680	7	13,600	11	2,080	2
All single	136,620	60	56,940	47	79,680	75
Single - no children	79,960	35	54,160	45	25,800	24
Single - children	56,660	25	2,780	2	53,880	51
Not known	63,020	28	40,280	33	22,740	21

¹ See Methodology for further details

- 136,620 claimants were single in February 2001.
- Over 30% (72,340) of claimants had children. The majority (56,660) were single - up 13,400 since February 1998.



**Table 1.2.2 Claimants of key benefits by family type¹ and statistical group:
February 2001**

	All	Unemployed	Sick & Disabled	Lone Parent	Other
All	226,720	40,920	141,880	31,720	12,200
All couples	27,080	6,340	17,180	.	3,560
Couple - no children	11,400	1,880	7,560	.	1,960
Couple - children	15,680	4,460	9,620	.	1,600
All single	136,620	34,580	61,680	31,720	8,640
Single - no children	79,960	33,020	38,380	.	8,560
Single - children	56,660	1,560	23,300	31,720	80
Not known	63,020	.	63,020	.	.

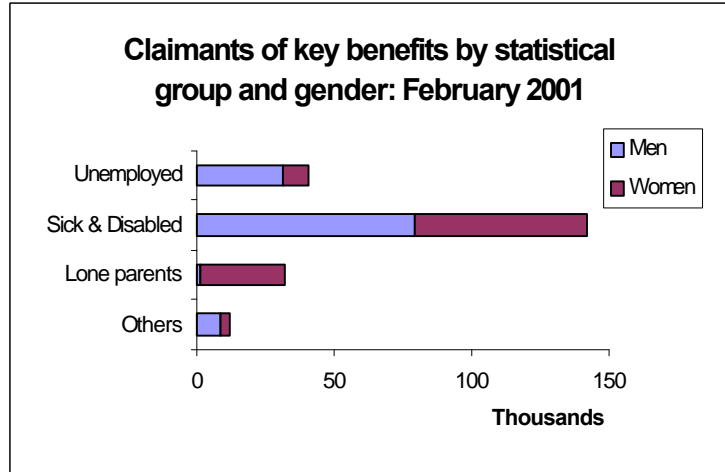
¹ See Methodology for further details

1.3 Statistical group and transitions

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

Table 1.3.1 Claimants of key benefits by statistical group and gender: February 2001

	All	Men	Women
All	226,720	120,860	105,860
Unemployed	40,920	31,320	9,600
Sick & Disabled	141,880	79,400	62,480
Lone parents	31,720	1,380	30,340
Others	12,200	8,760	3,440



- The overall numbers fell by 9,060 between February 1998 and February 2001, mostly because of the unemployed group which fell by 16,080 (28%) over this period.
- Sick & disabled claimants were consistently the largest group between February 1998 and February 2001, rising from 56% of the total to 63% of the total; unemployed claimants were the second largest group.
- The size of the sick & disabled group rose by 8,920 (up 7%) between February 1998 and February 2001, whilst numbers in the lone parents group fell by 1,940 (down 6%) over the same period.

Table 1.3.2 Claimants of key benefits by statistical group: February 1998 to February 2001

	Feb-98		Feb-99		Feb-00		Feb-01	
	All	% of pop ¹	All	% of pop ¹	All	% of pop ¹	All	% of pop ¹
All	235,780	23	233,060	23	223,500	22	226,720	22
Unemployed	57,000	6	54,060	5	41,740	4	40,920	4
Sick & Disabled	132,960	13	134,160	13	137,320	13	141,880	14
Lone parents	33,660	3	33,020	3	31,760	3	31,720	3
Others	12,160	1	11,820	1	12,680	1	12,200	1

¹ Population of working age in Northern Ireland

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

Table 1.3.3 Claimants of key benefits by status in previous year: February 1998 to February 2001

	On benefit in current year - status in previous year ¹				Left benefit since previous year ²
	All	Same statistical group	Different statistical group	Not on benefit	
Feb-98	235,780
Feb-99	233,060	175,720	15,020	42,320	45,040
Feb-00	223,500	167,980	17,060	38,460	48,020
Feb-01	226,720	168,340	16,060	42,320	39,100

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 February 2001 - by status in February 1998

Benefit status in February 2001	All on benefit in February 2001	Benefit status in February 1998		
		Not on benefit	Same statistical group	Different statistical group
All	226,720	68,480	132,660	25,580
Unemployed	40,920	21,920	14,560	4,440
Sick & Disabled	141,880	34,640	93,840	13,400
Lone Parents	31,720	9,120	19,840	2,760
Others	12,200	2,800	4,420	4,980

- Around 70% (158,240) of key benefit claimants in February 2001 were also on benefit in February 1998; 59% 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: February 2001

	All	Income replacement benefits ¹	Other benefits only ²	NI Credits ³
All	226,720	202,400	18,180	6,140
Unemployed	40,920	37,540	.	3,380
Sick & Disabled	141,880	120,940	18,180	2,760
Lone parents	31,720	31,720	.	.
Others	12,200	12,200	.	.

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

² Other is DLA

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

- In February 2001, 202,400 claimants received an income replacement benefit, down from 214,080 in February 1998.
- In February 2001, 59,560 claimants received only a contributory benefit.
- 139,300 claimants received a benefit that was income based in February 2001. Of those 123,320 claimants received a benefit that was means tested whilst 15,980 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: February 2001

	Basis of benefit entitlement					
	All	Contributory ¹	Contributory and means tested ²	Means tested ³	Other ⁴	NI Credits ⁵
All	226,720	59,560	15,980	123,320	21,720	6,140
Unemployed	40,920	4,880	320	32,340	.	3,380
Sick & Disabled	141,880	54,680	15,660	47,060	21,720	2,760
Lone Parents	31,720	.	.	31,720	.	.
Others	12,200	.	.	12,200	.	.

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: February 2001

	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	226,720	21,180	17,520	22,960	29,560	135,500
Unemployed	40,920	13,000	7,280	7,640	5,660	7,340
Sick & Disabled	141,880	5,960	7,180	10,880	17,200	100,660
Lone parents	31,720	1,220	1,780	2,900	4,540	21,280
Others	12,200	1,000	1,280	1,540	2,160	6,220

¹ Oldest benefit payable during current spell of benefit receipt

- Around 60% (135,500) of the claimants in February 2001 had been receiving a key benefit for 2 years or more.
- Of those longer duration claimants 74% (100,660) were in the sick & disabled group. That group was therefore more likely to have been on benefit for longer periods than all the others – 71% had been on benefits for 2 years or more compared with only 18% 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: February 2001

	All	All with children	Age of youngest child/dependant				Not known ²
			Under 5	5 to under 11	11 to under 16	16 or over	
All	226,720	74,620	28,180	21,700	15,720	5,580	3,440
Unemployed	40,920	6,020	2,380	1,480	1,160	980	20
Sick & Disabled	141,880	35,200	9,400	9,260	9,040	4,080	3,420
Lone parents	31,720	31,720	15,840	10,540	5,000	340	.
Others	12,200	1,680	560	420	520	180	.

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

² Children whose ages are not known

- In February 2001, 74,620 claimants of key benefits had children and/or young dependants.
- 38% (28,180) of claimants with children had a youngest child aged under 5. The majority of the under 5s were children of lone parents.

1.7 Children and young dependants aged under 19

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

Table 1.7.1 Children¹ of claimants of key benefits by age of child, statistical group and family type: February 2001

	Children aged under 16 years ²					Young dependants aged 16 to 18 years				
	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	132,880	33	30,180	98,520	4,180	14,900	35	4,680	10,220	.
Unemployed	10,220	3	8,260	1,960	.	1,780	4	1,140	640	.
Sick & Disabled	60,680	15	18,740	37,760	4,180	9,580	23	3,000	6,580	.
Lone Parents	58,720	14	.	58,720	.	2,960	7	.	2,960	.
Others	3,260	1	3,180	80	.	580	1	540	40	.

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

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

- In February 2001, 132,880 children under the age of 16 were living in families in which a key benefit was claimed.
- The majority of these children 98,520 were living in single parent families.
- 14,900 young people aged 16 -18 (35% of all 16 - 18 year olds in full-time education) were living in families with a key benefit claimant.
- 20% of all young people aged 16 - 18 were living with key benefit claimants in February 2001.

1.8 Regional Analysis

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

Table 1.8.1 Claimants of key benefits by gender and Government Office Region: February 2001

	Thousands					
	All		Men		Women	
	(000s)	% of pop ¹	(000s)	% of pop ¹	(000s)	% of pop ¹
Great Britain	5,069	14	2,713	14	2,355	14
England	4,145	14	2,210	14	1,935	13
North East	323	20	182	22	140	19
North West ²	768	18	419	19	349	18
Yorkshire & Humberside	477	15	265	16	211	15
East Midlands	337	13	183	13	155	13
West Midlands	480	15	259	15	221	14
East	323	10	164	9	159	10
London	688	15	346	14	342	15
South East	424	9	218	8	206	9
South West	326	11	174	11	153	11
Wales	351	20	191	21	160	19
Scotland	572	18	312	19	260	17
Northern Ireland	227	22	121	23	106	21
IB/SDA claimants living abroad ³	9	.	6	.	3	.

¹ Population of working age

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

³ Great Britain claimants only, a figure for Northern Ireland claimants was not available

- The proportion of the working age population claiming a benefit ranges from 9% in South East England to 22% in Northern Ireland.
- The proportion of the working age population claiming a benefit ranges from 14% (Banbridge, Castlereagh, North Down) to 32% (Strabane).
- The district council with the greatest proportion of working age claimants in the sick & disabled group was Cookstown (21%), followed by Strabane (20%) and Derry (18%). The district council with the lowest proportions were Castlereagh (9%) and North Down (9%).
- The proportion of the working age population in the unemployed group ranged from 6% (Belfast, Derry, Strabane) to 2% (Antrim, Ballymena, Banbridge, Carrickfergus, Castlereagh, Cookstown).

Table 1.8.2 Claimants of key benefits by gender and District Council: February 2001

	All		Men		Women	
		% of pop ¹		% of pop ¹		% of pop ¹
Northern Ireland	226,720	22	120,860	23	105,860	21
Ards	7,240	16	3,520	15	3,720	17
Belfast	50,100	30	27,320	33	22,780	28
Castlereagh	5,800	14	3,260	16	2,540	13
Down	7,500	20	4,200	21	3,300	18
Lisburn	12,100	18	6,020	17	6,080	18
North Down	6,320	14	3,420	14	2,900	13
Antrim	4,980	15	2,340	13	2,640	17
Ballymena	5,400	15	3,000	15	2,400	14
Ballymoney	3,180	20	1,760	22	1,420	18
Carrickfergus	3,480	15	1,800	15	1,680	14
Coleraine	6,680	19	3,460	20	3,220	19
Cookstown	4,980	26	2,600	26	2,380	26
Larne	3,160	17	1,600	16	1,560	17
Magherafelt	4,420	19	2,320	19	2,100	19
Moyle	2,240	24	1,320	27	920	21
Newtownabbey	8,240	16	4,460	17	3,780	15
Armagh	5,760	17	3,320	19	2,440	16
Banbridge	3,520	14	1,840	14	1,680	14
Craigavon	11,860	24	5,620	22	6,240	27
Dungannon	6,900	24	3,920	26	2,980	21
Newry & Mourne	13,200	25	7,380	27	5,820	23
Derry	20,520	31	10,500	31	10,020	31
Fermanagh	7,340	21	4,240	23	3,100	19
Limavady	4,360	22	2,300	22	2,060	22
Omagh	6,420	22	3,680	24	2,740	20
Strabane	7,460	32	4,160	34	3,300	30
Unknown	3,560	.	1,500	.	2,060	.

¹ Population of working age in Northern Ireland

**Table 1.8.3 Claimants of key benefits by statistical group and District Council:
February 2001**

		Statistical group				
		All	Unemployed	Sick & Disabled	Lone parents	Others
Northern Ireland		226,720	40,920	141,880	31,720	12,200
	% of pop ¹	22	4	14	3	1
Ards		7,240	1,460	4,920	660	200
	% of pop ¹	16	3	11	1	0
Belfast		50,100	9,560	28,560	8,680	3,300
	% of pop ¹	30	6	17	5	2
Castlereagh		5,800	1,000	3,680	760	360
	% of pop ¹	14	2	9	2	1
Down		7,500	1,360	4,840	900	400
	% of pop ¹	20	4	13	2	1
Lisburn		12,100	1,920	7,280	2,440	460
	% of pop ¹	18	3	11	4	1
North Down		6,320	1,320	3,900	760	340
	% of pop ¹	14	3	9	2	1
Antrim		4,980	720	3,400	640	220
	% of pop ¹	15	2	10	2	1
Ballymena		5,400	760	3,780	700	160
	% of pop ¹	15	2	10	2	0
Ballymoney		3,180	760	1,820	380	220
	% of pop ¹	20	5	11	2	1
Carrickfergus		3,480	480	2,400	480	120
	% of pop ¹	15	2	10	2	1
Coleraine		6,680	1,580	3,720	940	440
	% of pop ¹	19	5	11	3	1
Cookstown		4,980	400	4,000	380	200
	% of pop ¹	26	2	21	2	1
Larne		3,160	540	2,100	340	180
	% of pop ¹	17	3	11	2	1
Magherafelt		4,420	680	3,080	480	180
	% of pop ¹	19	3	13	2	1
Moyle		2,240	500	1,180	380	180
	% of pop ¹	24	5	13	4	2
Newtownabbey		8,240	1,360	5,520	980	380
	% of pop ¹	16	3	11	2	1
Armagh		5,760	1,120	3,880	600	160
	% of pop ¹	17	3	12	2	0
Banbridge		3,520	520	2,640	300	60
	% of pop ¹	14	2	10	1	0
Craigavon		11,860	1,900	8,020	1,340	600
	% of pop ¹	24	4	16	3	1
Dungannon		6,900	1,000	4,500	880	520
	% of pop ¹	24	3	15	3	2
Newry & Mourne		13,200	2,160	8,540	1,700	800
	% of pop ¹	25	4	16	3	2
Derry		20,520	3,960	11,860	3,520	1,180
	% of pop ¹	31	6	18	5	2
Fermanagh		7,340	1,820	4,340	760	420
	% of pop ¹	21	5	13	2	1
Limavady		4,360	1,020	2,420	600	320
	% of pop ¹	22	5	12	3	2
Omagh		6,420	1,240	4,140	800	240
	% of pop ¹	22	4	14	3	1
Strabane		7,460	1,480	4,700	860	420
	% of pop ¹	32	6	20	4	2
Unknown		3,560	300	2,660	460	140

¹ Population of working age of Northern Ireland

1.9 Benefits and Tax Credits

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

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

This grouping is defined as:

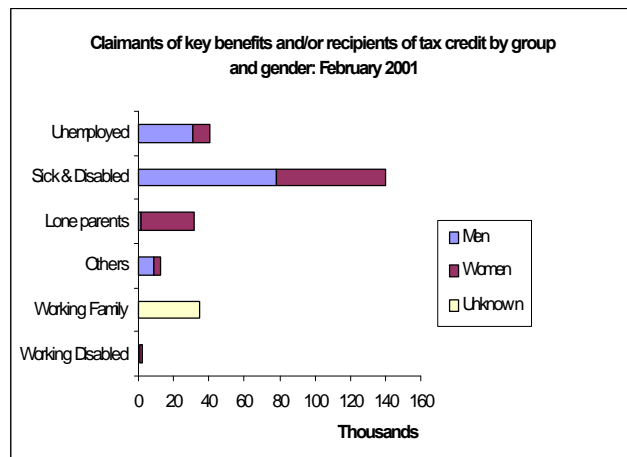
Unemployed	JSA
Sick & disabled ¹	IB, SDA, DLA or IS with a disability premium
Lone parent	Single people with children on IS and not receiving a disability related premium
Other	IS claimant not in other groups
Working Family	FC or WFTC
Working Disabled	DWA or DPTC

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

Table 1.9.1 Claimants of key benefits and/or recipients of tax credits by group and gender: February 2001

	All	Men	Women	Unknown
All	261,277	120,892	105,885	34,500
Unemployed	40,920	31,320	9,600	.
Sick & Disabled ¹	140,040	78,440	61,600	.
Lone parents	31,720	1,380	30,340	.
Others	12,200	8,760	3,440	.
Working Family	34,540	.	40	34,500
Working Disabled	1,857	992	865	.

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



- The overall number of claimants of key benefits and/or tax credits fell by 2,434 between February 1998 and February 2001. The largest reduction was in the unemployed group which fell by 16,080 (down 28%). However, this fall was offset by an increase of 6,780 (up 24%) in the working family group.

- Sick and disabled claimants were consistently the largest group over the period February 1998 to February 2001, rising from 50% of the total to 54% of the total; unemployed claimants were the second largest group.
- The size of the sick & disabled group rose by 7,860 (6%), working families by 6,780 (24%) and working disabled by 906 (95%) between February 1998 and February 2001. There was also a slight increase in the others group. The numbers in the lone parents group fell by 1,940 (6%).

Table 1.9.2 Claimants of key benefits and/or recipients of tax credits by group: February 1998 to February 2001

	Feb-98		Feb-99		Feb-00		Feb-01	
	All	% of pop ¹	All	% of pop ¹	All	% of pop ¹	All	% of pop ¹
All	263,711	26	261,449	26	259,999	25	261,277	25
Unemployed	57,000	6	54,060	5	41,740	4	40,920	4
Sick & Disabled ²	132,180	13	133,200	13	135,900	13	140,040	14
Lone parents	33,660	3	33,020	3	31,760	3	31,720	3
Others	12,160	1	11,820	1	12,680	1	12,200	1
Working Family	27,760	3	28,200	3	36,520	4	34,540	3
Working Disabled	951	0	1,149	0	1,399	0	1,857	0

¹Population of working age in Northern Ireland

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