

Introduction

This is the second edition of 'Northern Ireland Summary of social security statistics'. It is published annually by Statistics and Research Branch 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 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 SRB Website (www.dsdni.gov.uk/srb) gives access to a range of statistical publications, and more detailed statistics for the individual benefits.

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