

Northern Ireland Social Security Statistics Bulletin August 2003



Introduction

The Northern Ireland Social Security Statistics Bulletin is produced each quarter by the Statistics and Research Branch of the Department for Social Development.

The Bulletin provides an up to date and concise overview of the main benefits administered by the Social Security Agency and Northern Ireland Housing Executive. It also provides information on Working Families Tax Credit and Child Benefit which are administered by the Inland Revenue. It is based on data available within DSD, Statistics and Research Branch at the end of August 2003. Statistics are based on a 100% sample of information unless otherwise stated.

Individual benefit publications produced by Statistics and Research Branch will be available on the Department's Internet site at:

www.dsdni.gov.uk/statistics-research/introduction.asp

As well as Client Group Analysis (Families with Children, Working Age and Over State Pension Age) statistics on the following benefits are available:

Income Support - February 2003
Jobseeker's Allowance - February 2003
Incapacity Benefit - February 2003
Attendance Allowance - May 2003
Disability Living Allowance - May 2003
Carer's Allowance - May 2003
Housing Benefit - March 2003
Child Benefit - March 2003
Retirement Pension - March 2003
Widow's Benefit - March 2003
Bereavement Benefit - March 2003
Working Families Tax Credit - November 2002

The rest of this bulletin comprises brief details of the statistics being released, including links to the Internet for benefits administered by the Inland Revenue.

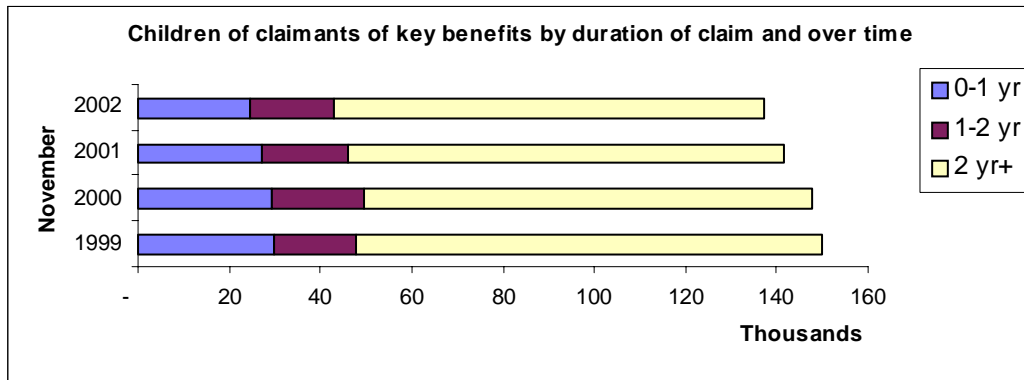
Issued by:

Statistics and Research Branch
Department of Social Development
Block 4.3, Castle Buildings, Stormont Estate
BELFAST BT4 3SJ
Telephone: 028 90523339 Facsimile: 028 90522763
email: rosemary.crothers@dsdni.gov.uk



Client Group Analysis:

Families with Children

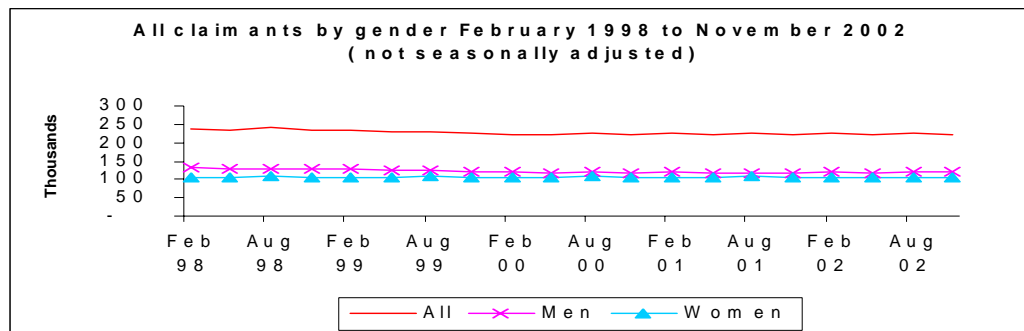


At November 2002:

- 137,080 children were living in families claiming a key benefit. This number was down by 9% (12,800) from November 1999.
- 69% were children of claimants who had been on benefit for at least 2 years.

<http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/publications/DisplayItem.asp?intCategory=6>

Population of Working Age

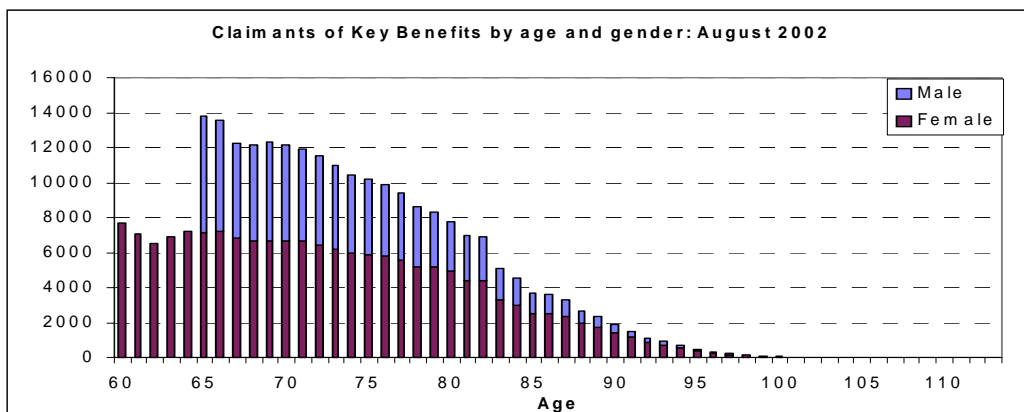


At November 2002:

- 22% (223,480) of people of working age claimed a key benefit
- 54% of claimants are men and 46% are women.

<http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/publications/DisplayItem.asp?intCategory=6>

Population over State Pension Age



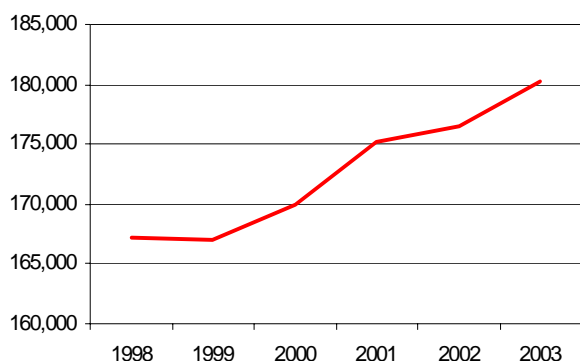
At August 2002:

- 97% (257,327) of people over state pension age claimed a key benefit
- 35% of claimants are men and 65% are women.

<http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/publications/DisplayItem.asp?intCategory=6>

Income Support

Number of Recipients



At February 2003:

Total recipients:	180,180
- disabled	30.5%
- lone parents	16.6%
- elderly	43.8%
- other	9.2%
Total beneficiaries:	308,000
Average weekly payment:	£74.58
% of recipients who are male	40.6%
% of recipients who are female	59.4%
% claiming more than 2 years	74.1%

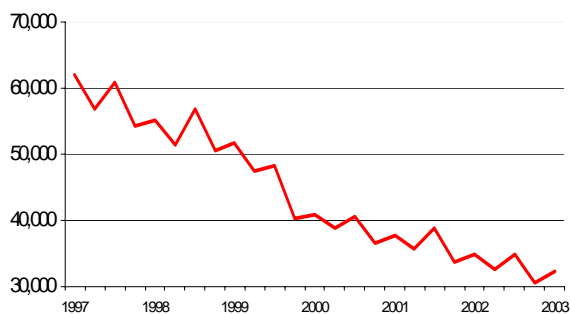
Source: Information is taken from a validated 5% sample.

Latest published figures:

<http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/publications/DisplayItem.asp?intCategory=3>

Jobseeker's Allowance (not seasonally adjusted)

Number of Recipients



At February 2003:

Total claimants:	35,176
Total recipients:	32,158
- income-based only	83.2%
- contribution-based only	15.7%
- contribution and income-based	1.1%
Average weekly entitlement:	
- income-based	£61.76
- contribution-based	£50.49
% of recipients who are male	79.2%
% of recipients who are female	20.8%
% claiming more than 1 year	27.1%
% claiming more than 2 years	13.4%

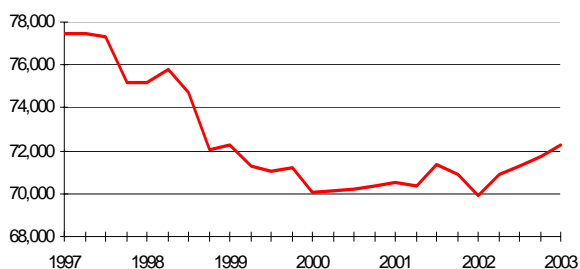
Source: IAD 20% sample which has been grossed.

Latest Published Figures:

<http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/publications/DisplayItem.asp?intCategory=4>

Incapacity Benefit

Number of Recipients (excluding credits only cases)



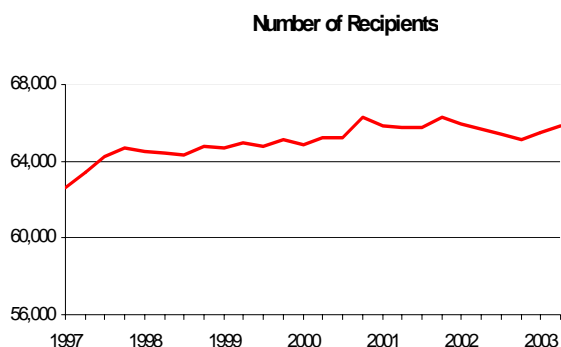
At February 2003:

Total claimants:	109,433
Total recipients:	72,274
Total long-term claimants	63,506
Average weekly entitlement: (exc. credits only cases)	£80.49
% of recipients who are male	61.1%
% of recipients who are female	38.9%

Latest Published Figures:

<http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/publications/DisplayItem.asp?intCategory=2>

Attendance Allowance



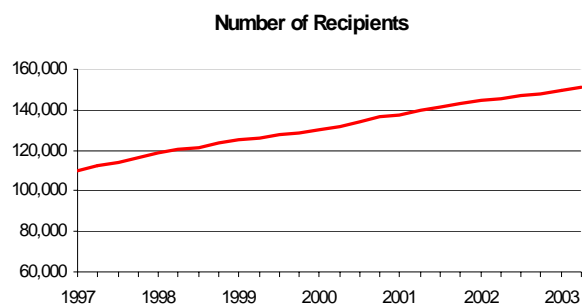
At May 2003:

Total recipients:	65,837
Average weekly entitlement:	£52.12
% of recipients who are male	32.8%
% of recipients who are female	67.2%
Average age of male recipients	79
Average age of female recipients	80

Latest Published Figures:

<http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/publications/DisplayItem.asp?intCategory=1>

Disability Living Allowance



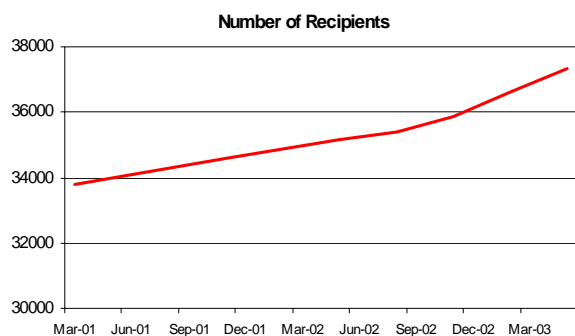
At May 2003:

Total recipients:	151,025
- receiving Mobility component only	11.2%
- receiving Care component only	13.5%
- receiving both Care and Mobility component	75.2%
Average weekly entitlement:	£61.49
% of recipients who are male	47.5%
% of recipients who are female	52.5%

Latest Published Figures:

<http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/publications/DisplayItem.asp?intCategory=1>

Carers Allowance



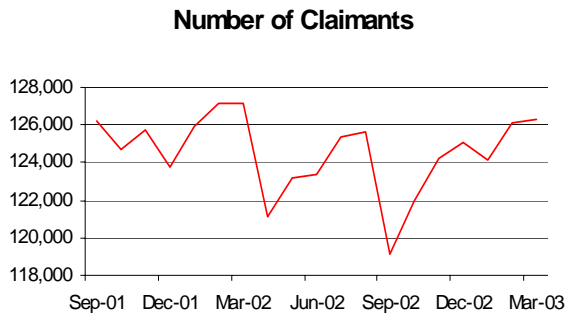
At May 2003:

Total recipients:	37,357
% of recipients who are male	68.1%
% of recipients who are female	31.9%

Latest Published Figures:

<http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/publications/DisplayItem.asp?intCategory=1>

Housing Benefit



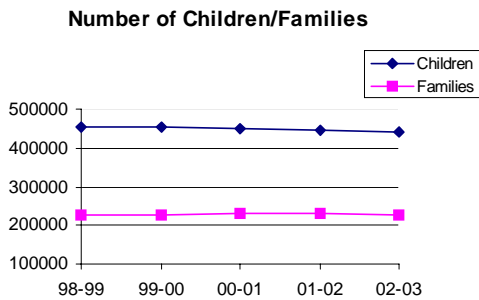
At March 2003:

Total claimants	126,349
Total public rented	63.3%
Total private rented	36.7%
Average weekly entitlement – Public rented	£45.34
Average weekly entitlement – Private rented	£59.27
% of recipients who are male	41.5%
% of recipients who are female	58.5%
% claiming more than 2 years	66.2%

Source:

Information is taken from Housing Benefit scan.

Child Benefit



At March 2003:

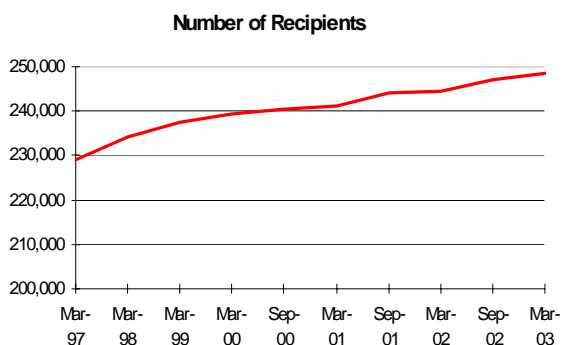
Total recipient families:	228,075
Total recipient children:	440,425

Source:

Information is taken from Child Benefit Summary Tables.
<http://www.inlandrevenue.gov.uk>

The information for the Child Support Agency has been removed from this Bulletin

Retirement Pension



At March 2003:

Total recipients: **248,564**
 - Male 36%
 - Female 64%

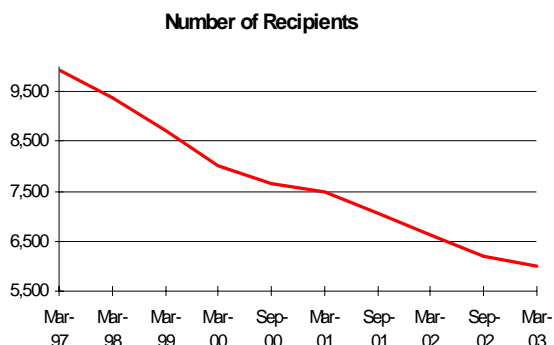
Average payment (£pw)
 - **All pensioners** **£78.90**
 - Male £92.64
 - Female £71.32

Source: Information is taken from a validated 100% extract of the Pension Services Computer System.

Latest Published Figures:

<http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/publications/DisplayItem.asp?intCategory=61>

Widow's Benefit



At March 2003:

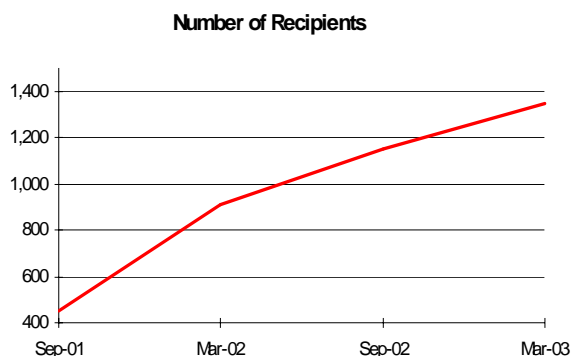
Total recipients: **6,003**
 All of the recipients are women

Average payment (£pw) **£75.02**

Note: Bereavement Benefit replaced Widow's Benefit in April 2001. These figures exclude Widow's Payment.

Source: Information is taken from a validated 100% extract of the Pension Services Computer System.

Bereavement Benefit



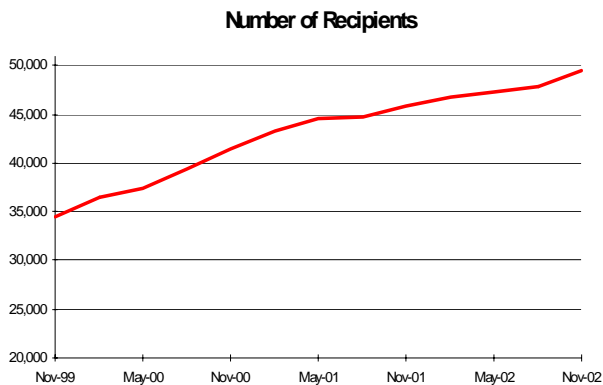
At March 2003:

Total recipients: **1350**
 - Male 36%
 - Female 64%

Average payment (£pw)
 - **All pensioners** **£83.08**
 - Male £82.09
 - Female £83.65

Source: Information is taken from a validated 100% extract of the Pension Services Computer System.

Working Families Tax Credit



At November 2002:

Total families receiving WFTC:	49,447
- main earner is male	41%
- main earner is female	59%
Average weekly payment:	£91
Average gross earnings	£169
Average working week (hours)	31.0
% of families headed by a Lone Parent	50%

<http://www.taxcredits.inlandrevenue.gov.uk/Home.aspx>

A brief description of the analyses included in this publication:

Client Group Analysis (Families with Children) combines data collected for Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Disability Living Allowance, Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance on children/young adult dependants for whom additional benefit is payable.

Client Group Analysis (Working Age) combines data collected for Jobseeker's Allowance, Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance, Disability Living Allowance and Income Support.

Client Group Analysis (Over State Pension Age) combines data for Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Incapacity Benefit, Income Support, State Pension and Severe Disablement Allowance.

Income Support (IS) was introduced on April 11th, 1988 and is an income related benefit that can be claimed by people normally aged 18 or over that work less than 16 hours a week and have insufficient income to meet their needs. Additional help is available for partners and children of claimants.

Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) was introduced on October 7th, 1996 and replaced Unemployment Benefit and Income Support for unemployed people. JSA is a contributory or income related benefit paid to people under Retirement Pension age who are available for and actively seeking employment, including those in work for less than 16 hours a week on average, and by people on a Government training scheme.

Incapacity Benefit (IB) was introduced on April 13th, 1995 and is paid to people who are incapable of work and who have paid sufficient contributions throughout their working life.

Attendance Allowance (AA) was introduced on December 6th, 1971 and is a benefit for people over the age of 65 who are so severely disabled, physically or mentally, that they need a great deal of help with personal care or supervision. This assistance could be required during the day and/or at night. Those requiring constant help receive the higher rate of benefit.

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) was introduced on April 1st, 1992 and is a benefit for people who have become disabled before the age of 65 and who need assistance with personal care or mobility.

Carer's Allowance (formerly Invalid Care Allowance) was introduced on July 5th, 1976, it is paid to someone who looks after a severely disabled person for at least 35 hours a week. The severely disabled person must be getting either higher or middle rate DLA care component or AA or constant AA at the maximum rate under War Pensions or Industrial Injuries Scheme.

Housing Benefit (HB) was introduced on April 1st, 1983 and is an income related benefit, designed to help people on low incomes pay for rented accommodation whether in or out of work.

Child Benefit (ChB) was introduced on April 5th, 1977 and is a benefit paid for all children up to the age of sixteen (or nineteen if in full time education up to A-level or equivalent standard). A higher rate of child benefit is payable for the first child. Certain lone parents with preserved rights may remain eligible for Child Benefit (Lone Parent). This benefit is administered by Inland Revenue details available from <http://www.inlandrevenue.gov.uk/childbenefit/index.htm>

Retirement Pension (RP) was introduced on January 1st, 1909 and is paid to people who have reached the retired pension age (65 for men, 60 for women) and who fulfil the residency and contributions conditions.

Widow's Benefit was introduced on July 6th, 1948 and is payable to women on or after 11 April 1988 and up to and including 8 April 2001. There are three types of widow's benefits: Widow's Payment, Widowed Mother's Allowance and Widow's Pension. Women widowed before 11 April 1988 continue to receive Widow's Benefit based on the rules that existed before that date.

Bereavement Benefit was introduced on April 9th, 2001 as a replacement to Widow's Benefit, payable to both men and women widowed on or after 9 April 2001. There are three types of Bereavement Benefits available: Bereavement Payment, Widowed Parent's Allowance and Bereavement Allowance.

Working Families Tax Credit (WFTC) was introduced on October 5th 1999 as a replacement to Family Credit and was a tax credit available to families with at least one adult in remunerative work for at least 16 hours per week, and who were responsible for at least one child under 16 (under 19 if in full-time education up to A-level or equivalent standard). It was payable to two-parent and one-parent families. It is replaced by Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit from April 2003 and is administered by the Inland Revenue, details available from <https://www.taxcredits.inlandrevenue.gov.uk/Home.aspx>