

DWP Benefits Statistical Summary - Northumberland

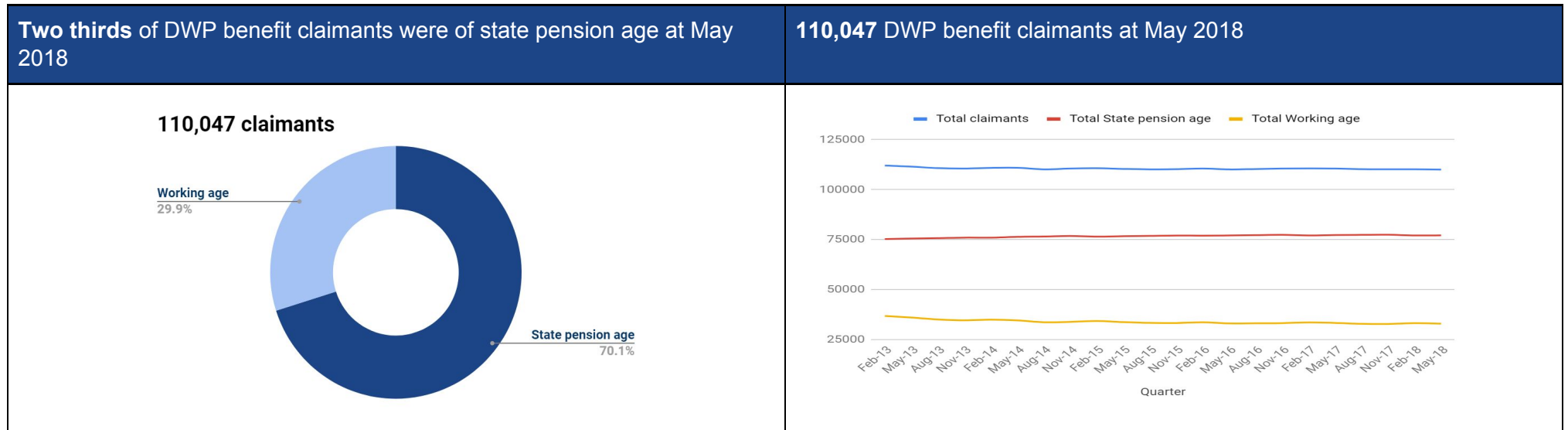
Data to May 2018 (or latest available)

Published: March 2019

This paper is based on the [DWP Statistical Summary](#) which aims to give users a structured overview of National Statistics on DWP administered benefits. The data in this paper covers **Northumberland**. As Universal Credit full service commenced in November, additional analysis of this data is provided to complement the [DWP analysis paper](#), where possible. Housing Benefit and Tax Credits are also included.

Statistics of Interest

- Experimental statistics show that there were 110,047 DWP benefit claimants at May 2018; a third were working age claimants and two-thirds were of state pension age.
- The number of working age benefit claimants has fallen by 381 in the year to May 2018 to stand at 32,909.
- There were 77,138 state pension age claimants of DWP benefits; a decrease of 152 compared to May 2017.



At a glance	Page	What you need to know
Overview	3	<p>DWP benefit statistics are published quarterly but this paper is published on an annual basis. It aims to give users a high-level summary of the latest National Statistics available on DWP administered benefits - at Northumberland level. Housing Benefit and Tax Credit statistics are also included.</p> <p>Data is obtained via Stat-Xplore and NOMIS.</p>
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2.1 Pensions	14	<p>About these statistics</p>
3.1 Attendance Allowance and Carer's Allowance	15	<p>Most statistics are released quarterly in February, May, August and November and are primarily sourced from data originally collected via administrative systems. All are National Statistics except Personal Independence Payments and Universal Credit (which are official experimental), and Benefit Combinations (which are experimental). Tax Credit data is supplied by HMRC.</p>
3.2 Personal Independence Payment and Disability Living Allowance	16	
4.1 Housing Benefit	17	<p>Abbreviations: AA=Attendance Allowance, BB=Bereavement Benefit, CA=Carer's Allowance, DLA=Disability Living Allowance, ESA=Employment and Support Allowance, HB=Housing Benefit, IB=Incapacity Benefit, IS=Income Support, JSA=Jobseeker's Allowance, PC=Pension Credit, PIP=Personal Independence Payment, SDA=Severe Disablement Allowance, SP=State Pension, UC=Universal Credit, WB=Widows Benefit. INCAP=ESA/IB/SDA/IS(IB) (p)=provisional, (r)=revised.</p>
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1.1 Benefit Combinations - Experimental Statistics

DWP administers benefits to a range of different claimants, many of whom have different interactions with the Department. Many of these claimants are eligible for more than one benefit.

DWP have issued new experimental statistics which bring together existing DWP benefit statistics, Housing Benefit (HB), Personal Independence Payment (PIP), and Universal Credit (UC) which provides the total number of people claiming benefits (across all DWP benefits), and the number of people on various different combinations of benefits.

This section focuses on working age benefit claimants at May 2018.

A worked example (rounded figures) - Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)

There were 32,900 working age benefit claimants at May 2018. Of which;

3,600 claimed JSA. Of which;

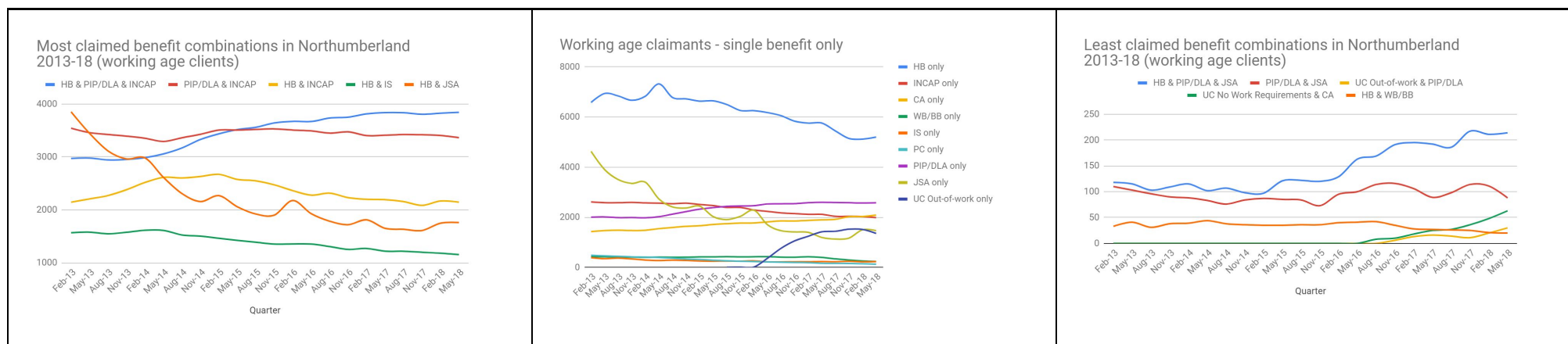
1,500 claimed JSA only

2,100 claimed JSA and another benefit;

100 also claimed PIP/DLA only

1,800 also claimed HB only

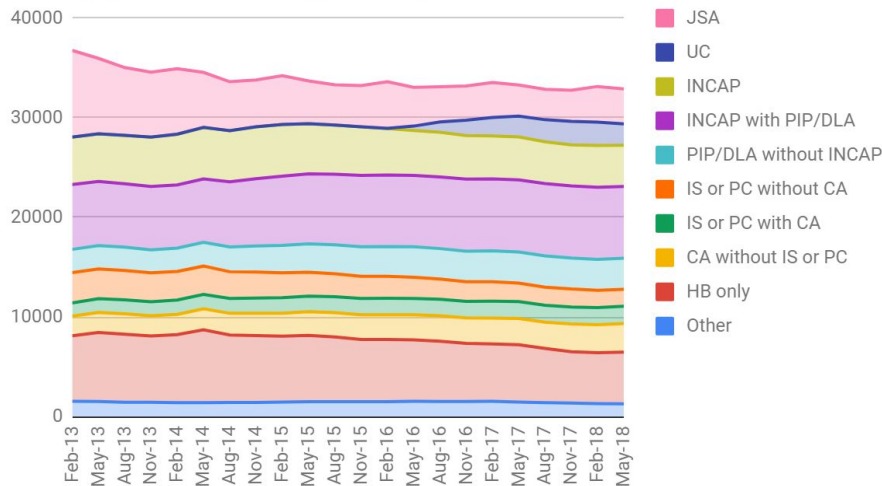
200 also claimed both HB and PIP/DLA.



1.1 Benefit Combinations - Experimental Statistics

The number of working age claimants has slowly decreased over time

Working age claimants February 2013-May 2018



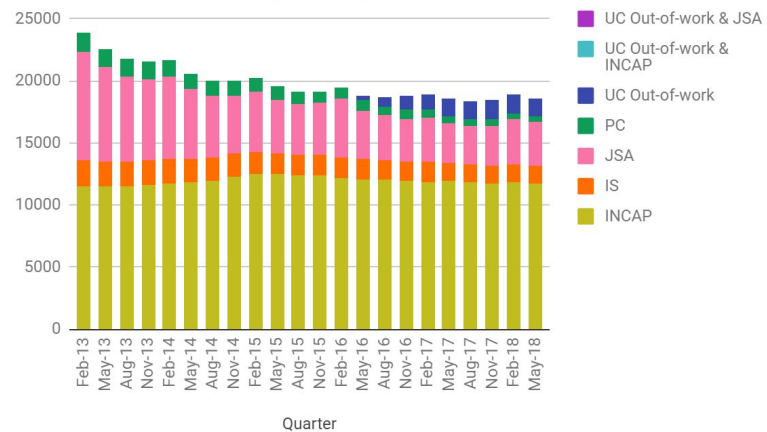
There were 32,909 working age claimants at May 2018. Almost half of these claimants received only one benefit. 15,961 (49%) claimed one benefit only, 10,571 (32%) were on two benefits, and a further 5,360 (16%) were on three.

More people claimed Housing Benefit than any other benefit. 52% (17,152) of the 32,909 working age claimants were on HB. A large number of people claimed Incapacity Benefits (INCAP=ESA/IB/SDA/IS(IB)) (11,342), and PIP/DLA (10,550).

UC commenced full transition rollout in Northumberland in November 2018 (Ashington, Berwick, Cramlington, Morpeth JCPs) and December 2018 (Alnwick, Bedlington, Blyth, Hexham JCPs). Although new single claimants began going live mid 2015, this stopped temporarily in February 2018 in preparation for full live service. The number of people on UC will increase and will gradually replace most working age benefits over the next few years.

An experimental working age “out of work” benefit figure has been introduced by DWP. The new series shows numbers claiming an “out of work” benefit (including UC) have generally fallen over time. In Northumberland, there has been a 22% fall in claimants from almost 24,000 to just over 18,500 in the last 5 years.

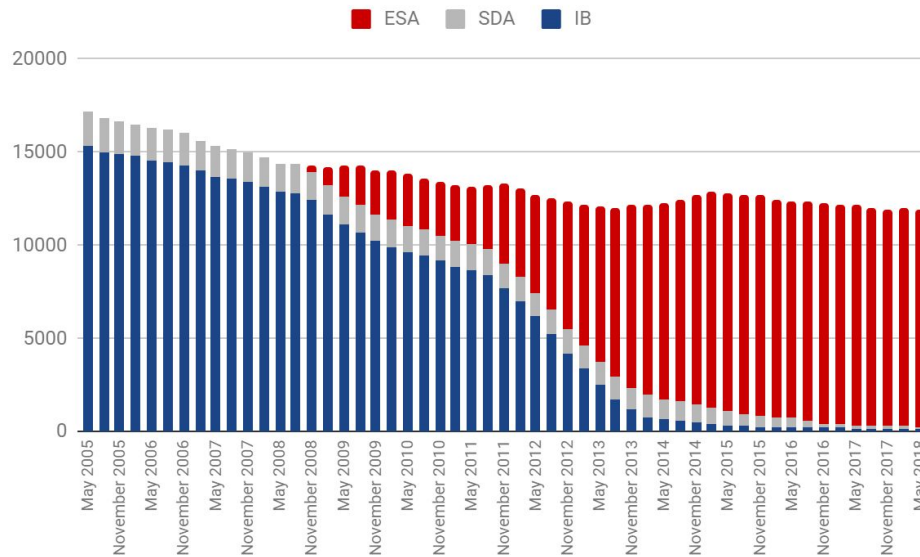
Out of work benefits - February 2013-May 2018



1.2 Employment and Support Allowance and Incapacity Benefits - National Statistics

The number of people on Employment and Support Allowance and incapacity benefits is falling

Employment and Support Allowance/Incapacity benefits claimants since May 2005



There were 11,890 people on Employment and Support Allowance and incapacity benefits (Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance) at May 2018, a decrease of 280 on a year earlier.

The number of people on Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) is now at 11,630. There are 200 fewer when compared to a year earlier.

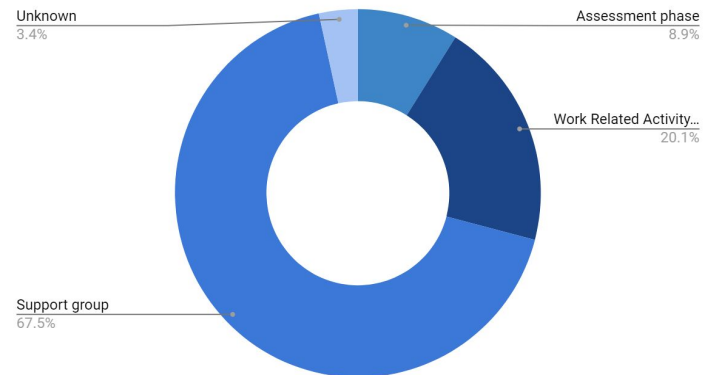
There were only 260 people on incapacity benefits at May 2018. The number of people on incapacity benefits has been steadily decreasing over time, due to incapacity benefits being replaced by ESA from October 2008.

The numbers of ESA claimants will gradually decrease as Universal Credit rolls out and replaces income related ESA.

At May 2018, over two-thirds (68%) of ESA claimants were in the support group, 20% were in the work related activity group, and 9% were still in the assessment phase. The phase could not be determined for the remaining 3%. *When a new customer applies for ESA they enter an assessment phase. During this phase the customer will have their ability to work assessed to determine their entitlement, this is called the Work Capability Assessment (WCA). The possible outcomes of the WCA are that claimants can be assessed as:*

- Suitable for the ESA Work Related Activity Group (where claimants are able to undertake and participate in work-related activity to help them move towards the labour market),
- Suitable for the ESA Support Group (where claimants are not required to undertake any interviews or work related activity), or
- Fit for work and therefore not entitled to ESA, although there is a right of appeal.

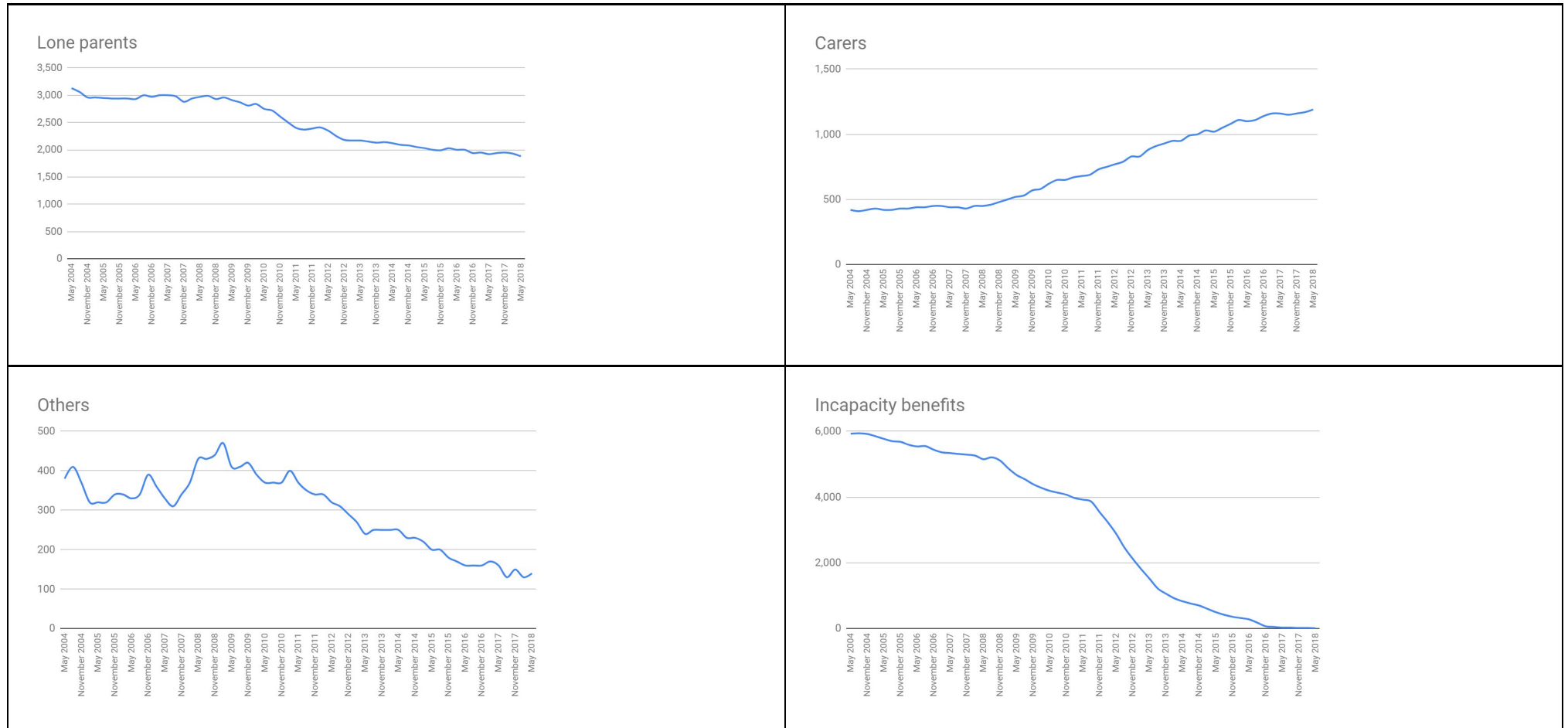
11,630 ESA Claimants



1.3 Income Support - National Statistics

The number of people on Income Support continues to decrease

Income support claimants by statistical group: May 2004 to May 2018



At May 2018, the total number of Income Support claimants was 3,220.

Lone Parents (all single claimants with dependents under 16, excluding claimants of incapacity benefits) represented 58% of the IS caseload (1,880). The number of lone parents claiming Income Support has been affected by the Lone Parent Obligations policy changes which came into effect from November 2008.

Claimants of incapacity benefits represented <1% of the IS caseload (10), while Carers and Others represented 41% of the caseload (1,190 and 140 respectively).

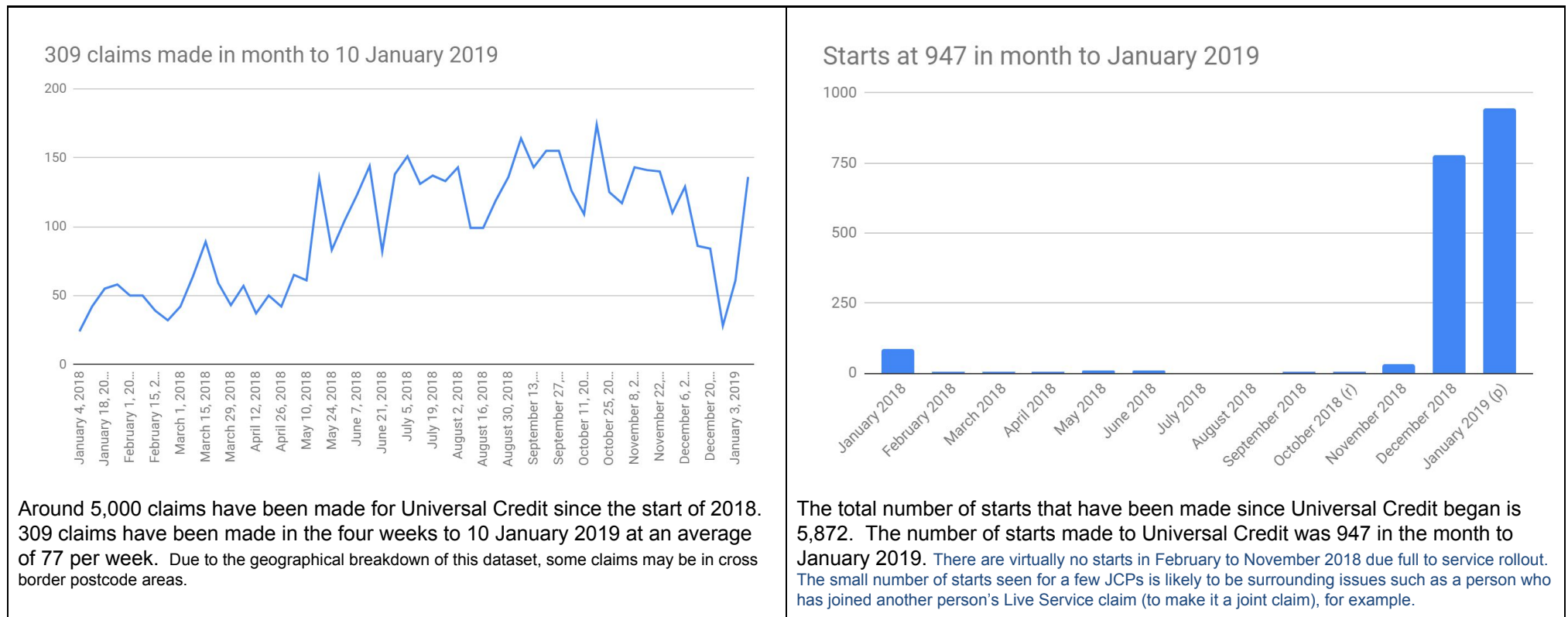
Numbers on income-related Income Support will reduce over time as Universal Credit rolls out and gradually replaces income-related Income Support.

1.4 Universal Credit - Official Experimental Statistics

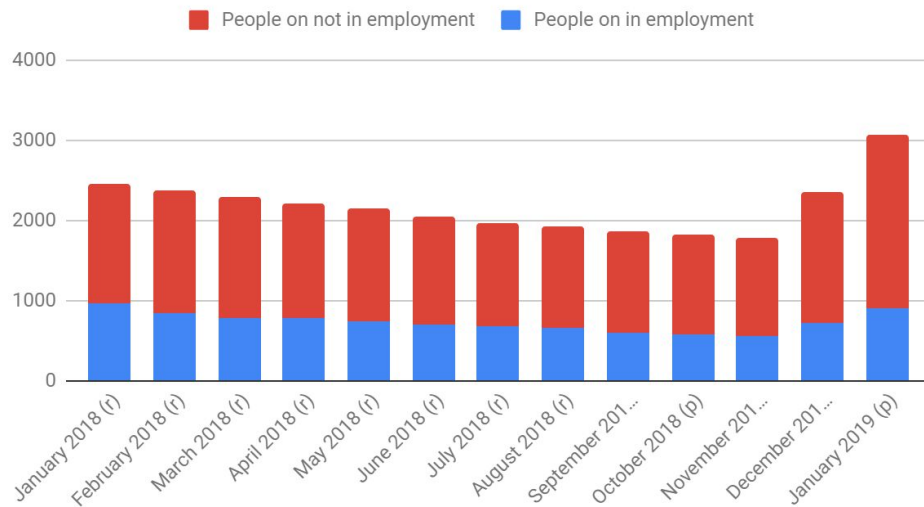
Four Universal Credit measures are shown below. **Claims made** counts the number of applications submitted for Universal Credit. Some of these people will go on to **Start on** Universal Credit. **People on** Universal Credit includes all those who have started and are still on Universal Credit at the count date (second Thursday of the month). Some people will have their claim terminated either at the request of the individual or if their entitlement to Universal Credit ends. The number of **households on** Universal Credit gives information on family type and housing. This data is based on the DWP monthly release entitled [Universal Credit Statistics](#) and expands on the analysis in the quarterly Benefits Summary.

How people claim Universal Credit

People will usually make a claim for Universal Credit online, during which initial claim verification will take place. The claim date is the date that a claimant completes this process and submits their claim. After making a claim, an initial interview will take place with the claimant, where the eligibility for Universal Credit will be confirmed and the claimant will accept a Claimant Commitment. At this point, a claimant will be recorded as starting Universal Credit. Not all people who make a claim for Universal Credit will go on to start.

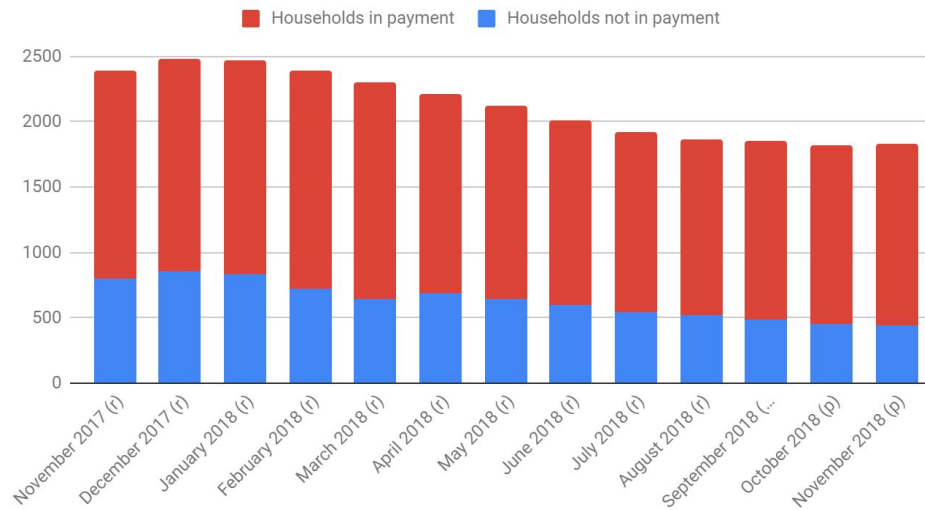


3,066 claimants at January 2019



The number of people on Universal Credit rose to 3,066 in January 2019. This is a 31% increase from the previous month.

1,831 households at November 2018



In November 2018, 1,831 households were on Universal Credit. Of those, 1,393 (76%) were receiving a Universal Credit payment. There are a number of reasons why a household may not be in receipt of a payment, one being when someone moves into work and their level of earnings means they no longer receive a payment.

The number of people on Universal Credit as of January 2019 was 3,066. Of these people 894 (29%) were in employment. In November 2018, 1,831 households were on Universal Credit. The average amount paid to households on Universal Credit was £392 per month.

The following benefits will be replaced as Universal Credit rolls out:

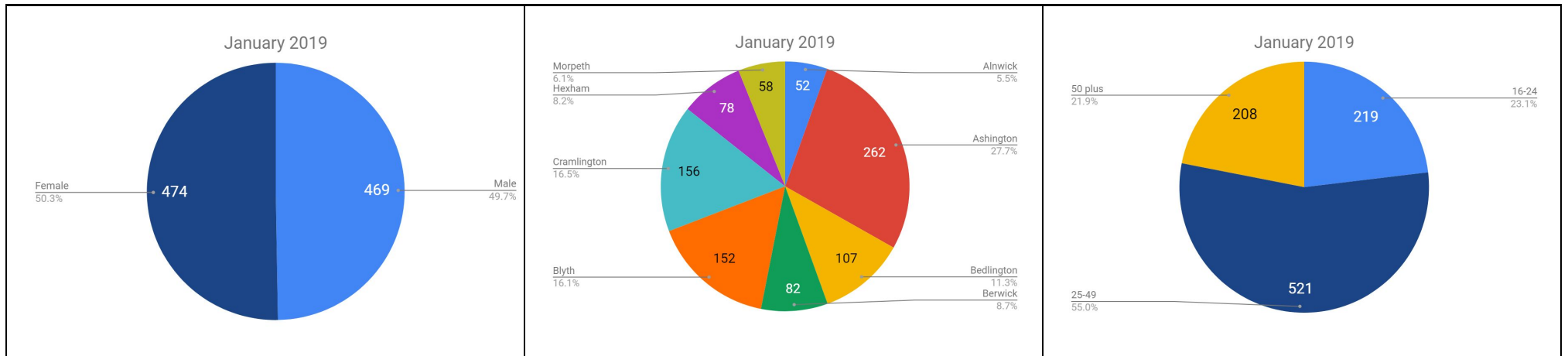
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Income Support
- Working Tax Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Housing Benefit.

DWP has noted that since Universal Credit began, there has been a seasonal trend involving a large drop in the number of claims around the Christmas period. A similar, yet smaller dip is also noticeable over the Easter period. Since UC didn't commence full rollout in Northumberland until November 2018, it has not been possible to monitor these figures over a sufficient period of time.

Starts to Universal Credit

A starter to Universal Credit is defined as an individual who has completed the Universal Credit claim process and accepted their Claimant Commitment.

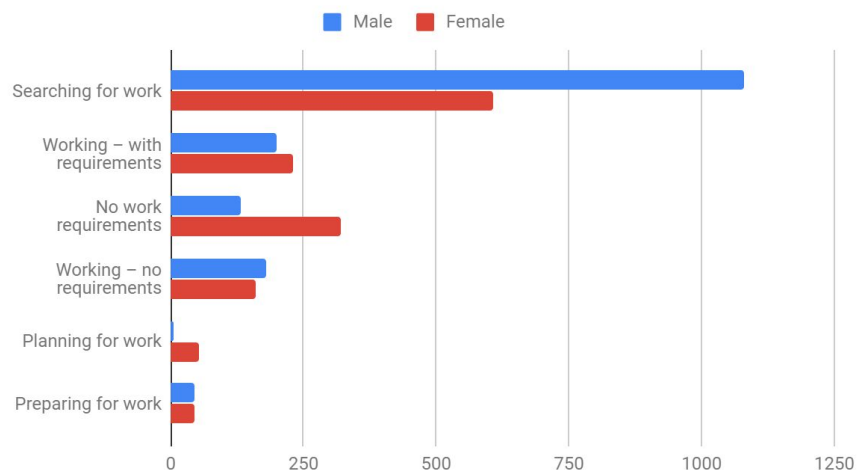
50.3% of starts to Universal Credit in January 2019 were from females. The largest number (262) and proportion (27.7%) of starts were recorded at Ashington Jobcentre Plus Office and the 25-49 age group had the most starts at 55%.



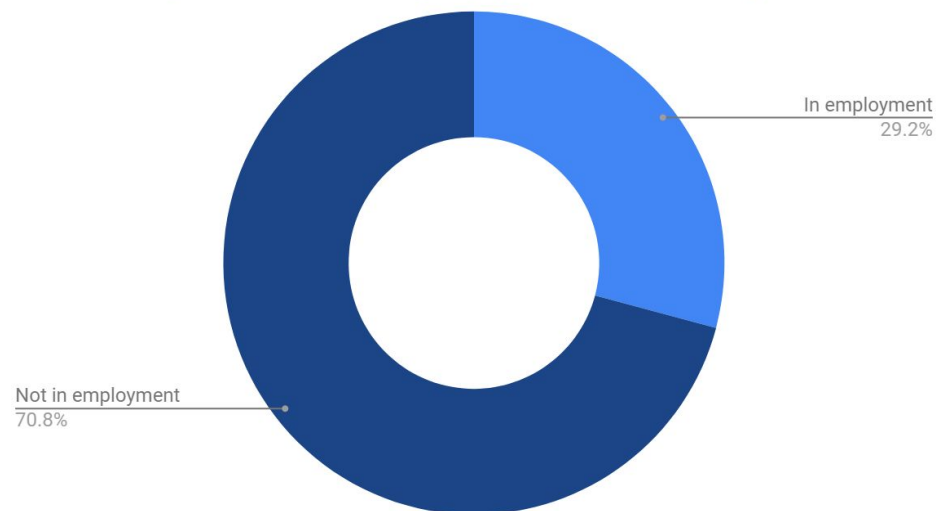
People on Universal Credit

Most people on Universal Credit are in the Searching for Work conditionality regime. The conditionality breakdown measures what regime an individual is in on the count date. Conditionality regime figures are not the same as the employment breakdown, which shows whether an individual has had earnings during their assessment period. Of the 3,066 people on Universal Credit at January 2019, 55% (1,687) were in the Searching for Work conditionality regime.

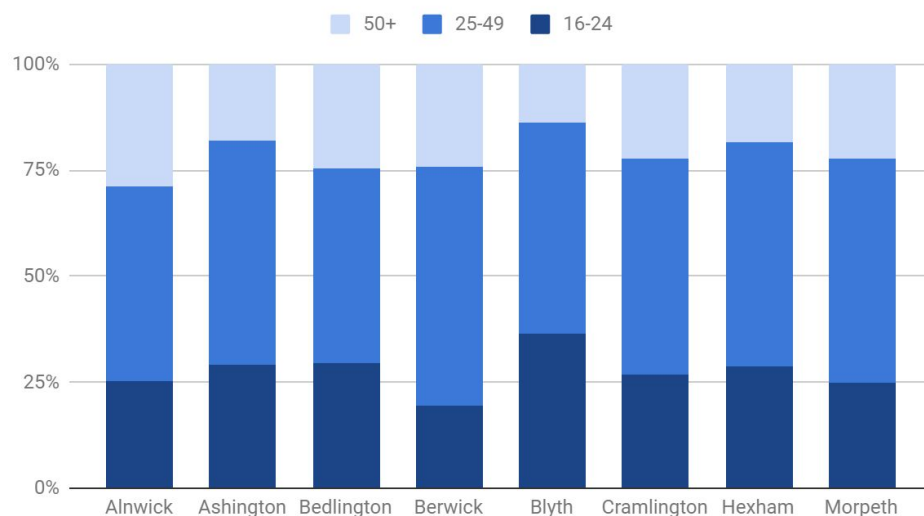
People on Universal Credit by conditionality regime and gender, January 2019



People on Universal Credit by employment indicator - January 2019



People on Universal Credit by Jobcentre Plus office and age group, January 2019



Of the 3,066 people on Universal Credit at January 2019:

- 55% (1,687) were in the Searching for Work conditionality regime
- 29% (894) were in employment
- 46% (1,421) were female
- 53% (1,612) were 25-49

When figures are reported at Jobcentre Plus Office level, the office is recorded at the point the individual started their initial claim. It is possible for the claimant to reside in a different area (e.g. Local Authority) to the area administering their benefit claim, hence there is some discrepancy between data reported at residence level (using postcode) and data reported at Jobcentre Plus Office level.

- 29% (834) of the people on Universal Credit at January 2019 were recorded at Ashington Jobcentre Plus Office.

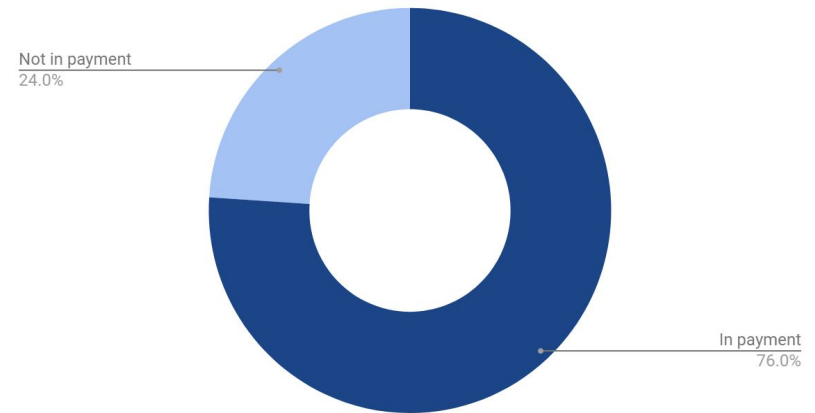
The age profile varies between different offices - Blyth has the highest proportion of younger claimants and Alnwick has the highest proportion of older claimants.

Households receiving Universal Credit

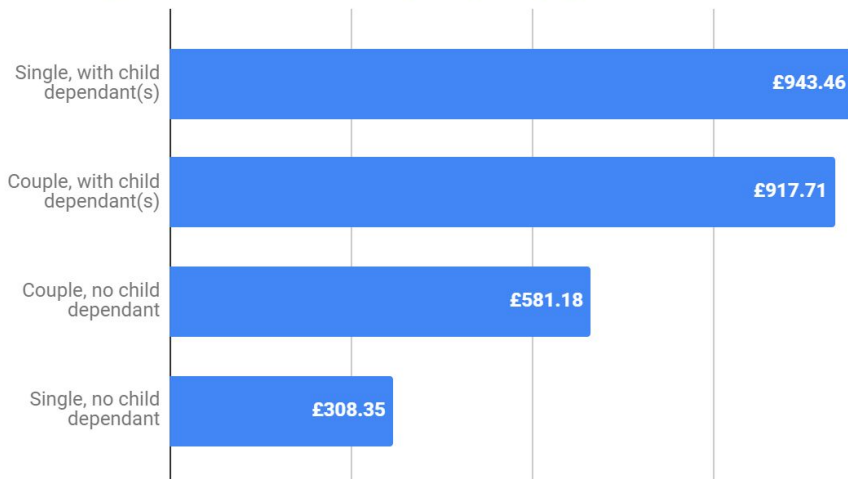
1,831 households were on Universal Credit in November 2018. Over three-quarters of these (1,393) were receiving a payment. There are a number of reasons why a household may not be in receipt of a payment. Universal Credit is responsive to changing circumstances and supports people both in and out of work. Universal Credit payments can be restarted up to six months after a household's last payment.

The average amount of Universal Credit paid to households is £392 per month

Percentage of Households on Universal Credit who are receiving a payment, November 2018



Mean monthly amount of Universal Credit paid by family type, November 2018



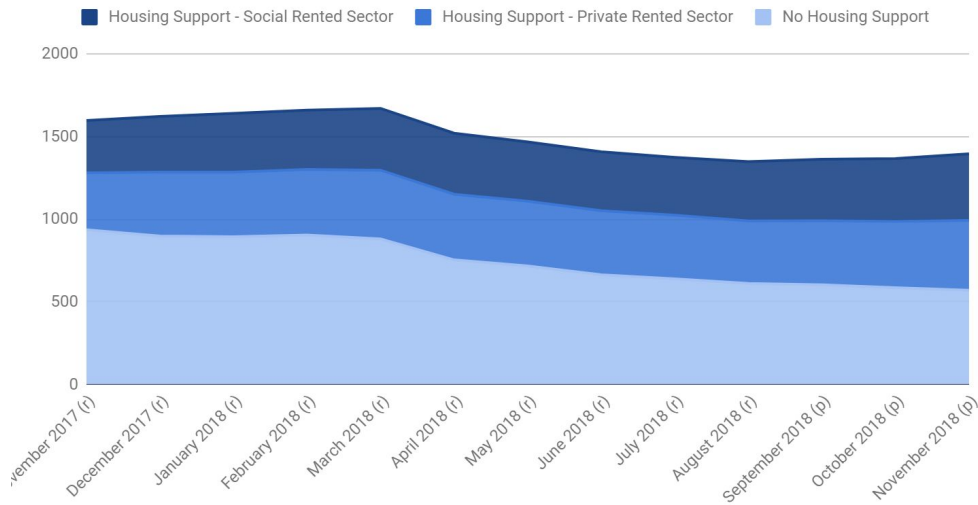
In November 2018, the average amount of Universal Credit paid to households on Universal Credit was £392 per month. This is the mean award for households where Universal Credit is in payment.

For households with children, higher average payments are a result of entitlement to support for one or more child, and a higher proportion with entitlement to support for housing. The mean is affected by a small number of households receiving relatively large payments of Universal Credit: In November 2018, 30 households received a monthly payment of over £1,500. This was 2% of all households in payment.

81% of Universal Credit awards are paid to single people without children. In November 2018, 15% of awards were paid to households with children. This proportion is likely to rise with full rollout of Universal Credit to a wider range of claimant types.

More than half of all households receiving a payment of Universal Credit are entitled to support for housing

Number of households receiving a payment of Universal Credit by Housing Support entitlement and Tenure, November 2017-November 2018

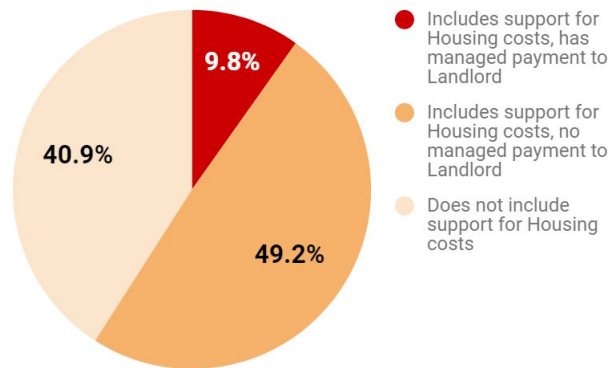


Universal Credit pays for different sorts of support required by the household, but in order to be entitled to this support certain conditions have to be met.

Support for housing helps households with costs such as rent or the interest charged on a mortgage. 823 households that received a payment of Universal Credit in November 2018 were entitled to support for housing - 60% of all households in payment.

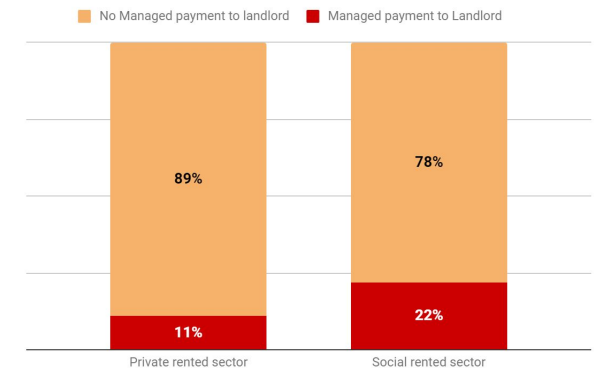
In November 2018, 49% of households receiving a payment of Universal Credit with entitlement to support for housing were in the Social Rented Sector, compared to 5% in the Private Rented Sector.

Proportion of households receiving a payment of Universal Credit with entitlement to support for housing costs and Managed Payment to Landlords by Tenure, November 2018



Universal Credit, including support for housing costs, is usually paid directly to the household in a single payment. Where this is not suitable, landlords and claimants can apply for housing costs to be paid directly via Managed Payment to Landlord.

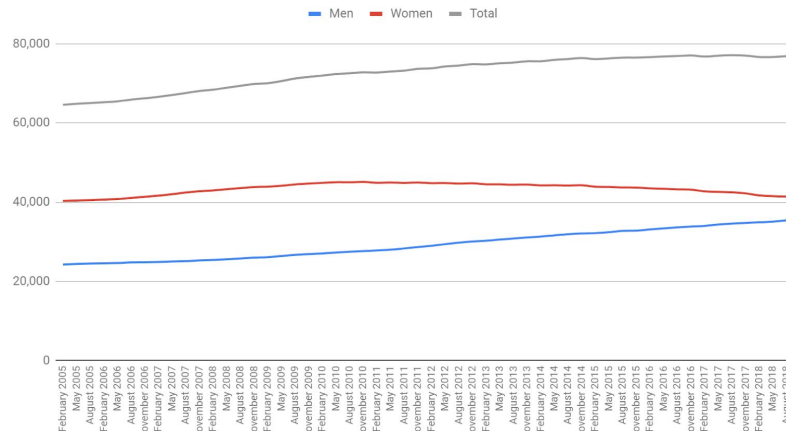
In November 2018, 22% of households in the Social Rented Sector had housing costs paid directly to a landlord, compared to 11% in the Private Rented Sector.



2.1 State Pension and Pension Credit - National Statistics

The number of people on State Pension has decreased slightly over the last year

Pensioner client group and State Pension recipients 2005 to August 2018

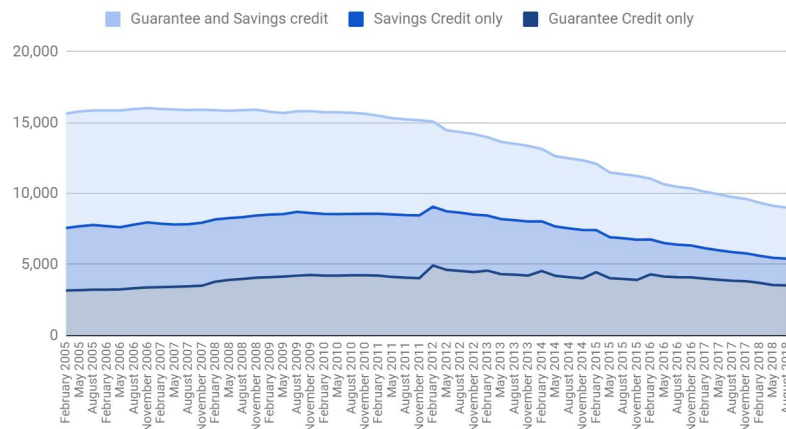


There were **76,840** recipients of State Pension at August 2018, a fall of 220 on a year earlier. There has been a decrease in the number of female State Pension recipients relating to State Pension Age rises. The average weekly State Pension amount in payment at August 2018 was £150.73, a rise of £5.72 since August 2017.

The new State Pension (nSP) was introduced for people reaching State Pension age from 6th April 2016. **At August 2018 there were 6,470 nSP recipients** with an average weekly amount in payment of £157.89 (including any Protected Payments).

The number of people on Pension Credit is falling

Pension Credit recipients: 2005 to August 2018



At August 2018, there were **9,020 claimants of Pension Credit (1,610 including partners)**, a fall of 740 on the previous year. Over two thirds of recipients (67%) were women.

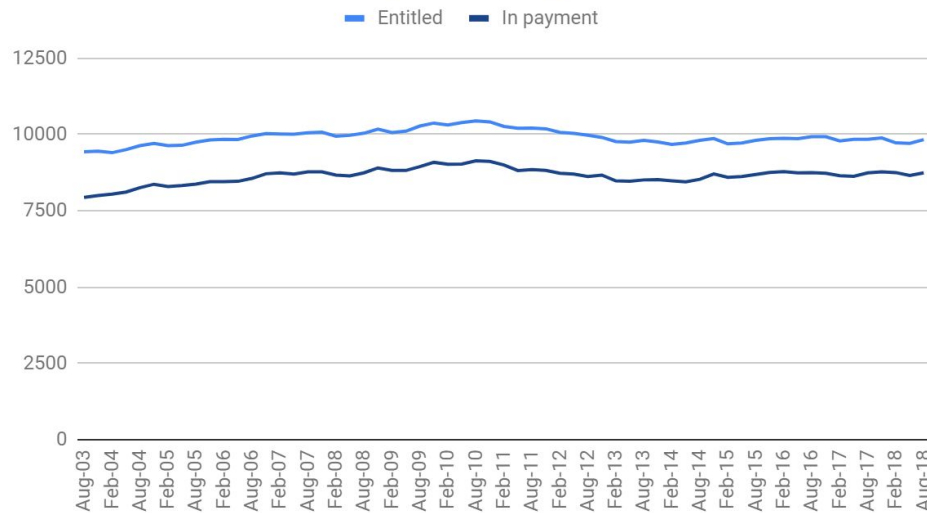
The number of people on Pension Credit has been decreasing since November 2009; both for Savings Credit claimants and Guarantee Credit.

The downward trend in overall Pension Credit caseload is partly due to equalisation of State Pension age, which results in the Pension Credit qualifying age increasing; partly due to changes in the Savings Credit element of Pension Credit, including the abolition of Savings Credit for those that reach State Pension age after 6th April 2016; and partly due to the introduction of new State Pension, which was introduced in April 2016.

3.1 Attendance Allowance and Carer's Allowance - National Statistics

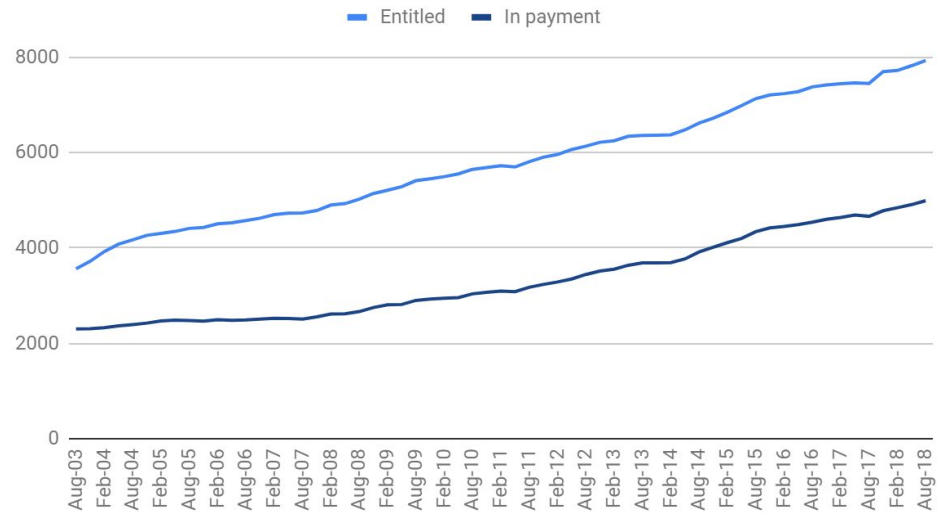
The number of people on Attendance Allowance has remained stable in the last year

Attendance Allowance claimants: August 2013 to August 2018



The number of people receiving Carer's Allowance continues to rise

Carer's Allowance claimants: August 2003 to August 2018



At August 2018, the number of people on Attendance Allowance has decreased slightly on a year earlier from 9,843 to 9,832.

Of these Attendance Allowance claimants, 36% (3,497) are male, a decrease of 20 from August 2017. 64% (6,330) are female, an increase of 8 from August 2017.

There were 1,090 (11%) claimants who were entitled to the benefit but not in payment.

Note: Some claimants are eligible but do not receive a payment. These individuals are still counted as claimants because, for example, payments can be temporarily suspended if the claimant is in hospital.

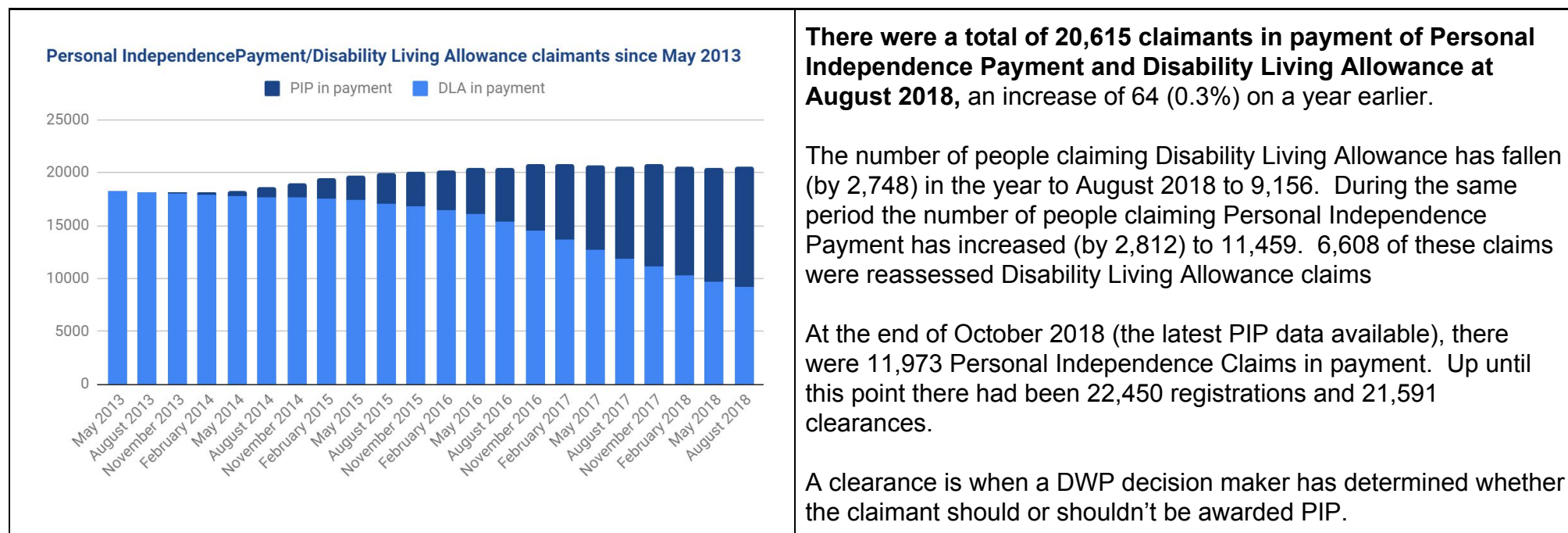
The total number claiming Carer's Allowance at August 2018 is 7,932, a rise of 482 from August 2017. Increases in women's State Pension age and in the number of people claiming disability benefits, as well as an ageing population, may have contributed to this rise.

35%, or 2,753, of Carer's Allowance claimants are male and 65%, or 5,178, are female.

Of the total number Claiming Carers Allowance (7,932), 37% (2,940) were entitled to the benefit but receiving no payment.

3.2 Personal Independence Payment and Disability Living Allowance - National Statistics

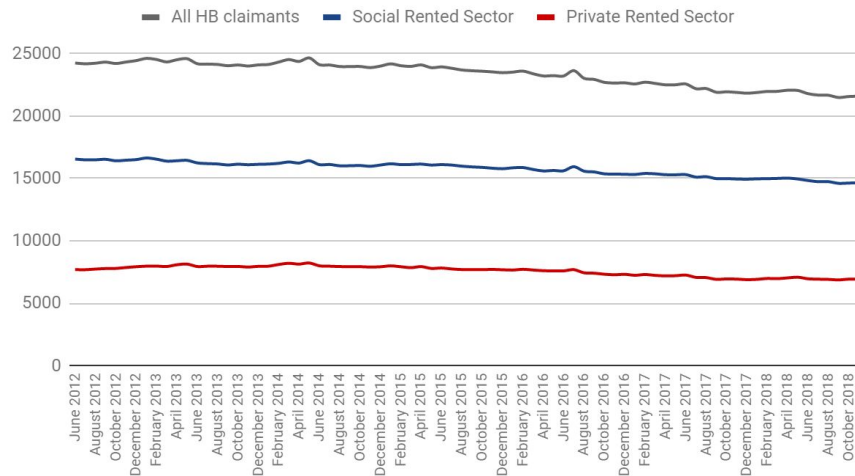
The number of people on PIP is rising as the number of people on Disability Living Allowance continues to fall



4.1 Housing Benefit - National Statistics

The number of people claiming Housing Benefit is decreasing

Housing Benefit recipients: June 2012 to November 2018



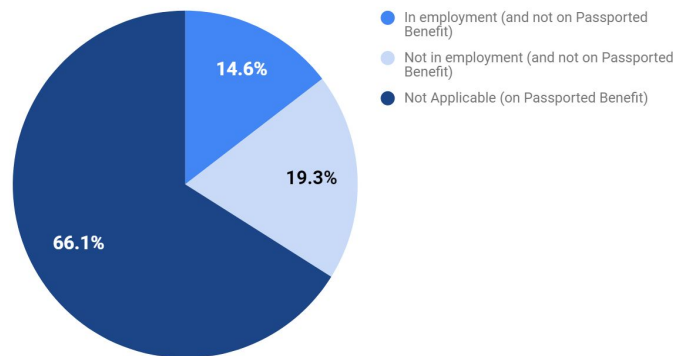
Overall numbers claiming housing benefit have been gradually decreasing and will continue to fall as Universal Credit rolls out and replaces Housing Benefit for working age claimants. **At November 2018, there were 21,592 recipients of Housing Benefit.**

The majority of HB recipients (68%, 14,660) were tenants in the social sector and the rest in the private sector (6,933).

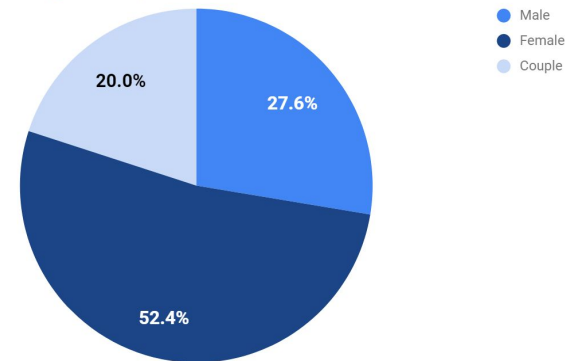
The majority (66%) of Housing Benefit recipients entitlement was due to being in receipt of a passported benefit: Income Support, income-based Jobseekers Allowance, income-based Employment and Support Allowance or Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit).

As at November 2018, 30% (2,640) recipients of Housing Benefit (which were of working age) had a reduction to their weekly award amount due to the spare room subsidy scheme, whereby tenants in social housing whose accommodation is larger than they need may lose part of their Housing Benefit.

Percentage of Housing Benefit recipients at November 2018 by employment indicator (and benefit status)



Gender (where single claimant)



Addendum: Personal Tax Credits - HMRC finalised awards data

This data is included to provide a more complete overview of Northumberland's benefit data; Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit will be replaced as Universal Credit rolls out.

Tax credits are based on household circumstances and can be claimed jointly by members of a couple, or by singles.

Entitlement is based on age, income, hours worked, number and age of children, childcare costs, disabilities.

Working Tax Credit (WTC) provides in-work support for people on low incomes, with or without children.

Child Tax Credit (CTC) provides income-related support for children and qualifying young people aged 16-19 who are in full time, non-advanced education or approved training. Families can claim CTC whether or not the adults are in work.

When Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit were first introduced in 2003/04 the first £2,500 of any difference between the previous year and the current year's income was disregarded when calculating the final award.

From 2006/07 the income increase disregard increased to £25,000.

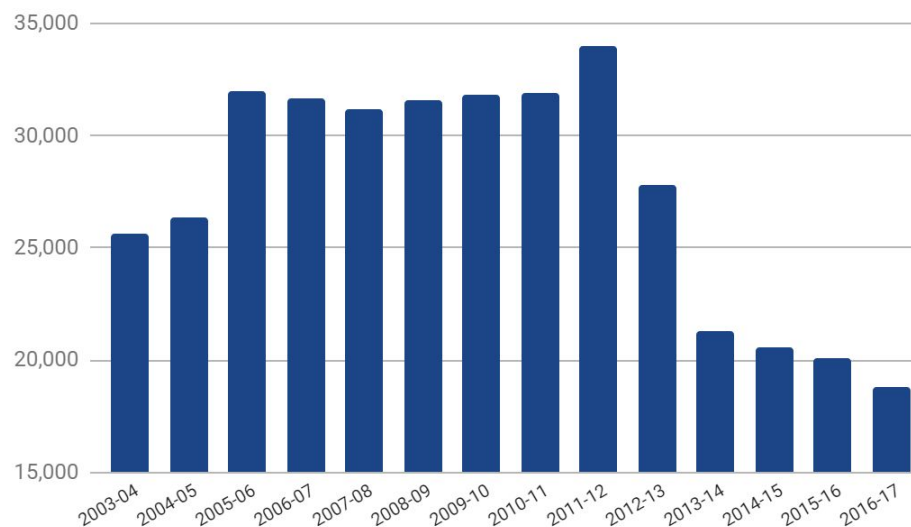
From April 2011 the income disregard decreased to £10,000.

From April 2013 the income disregard decreased to £5,000.

From April 2016 the income disregard decreased to £2,500.

From April 2012, an income disregard of £2,500 for falls in income was introduced. Thus any reduction in income of less than £2,500 has no impact on a tax credit award.

Families receiving Child and Working Tax Credits Awards



18,800 Northumberland families received a Tax Credit award in 2016/17.