

13 October 2005
IFD131005SSOct05

Coverage: Great Britain (unless otherwise stated)

Theme: Social and Welfare

MODERNISED DWP STATISTICS – PRELIMINARY RELEASE OF MAY 2005 BENEFIT STATISTICS

Introduction

On 27th October 2005, DWP will be publishing an improved set of National Statistics through an enhanced quarterly National Statistics First Release (the Statistical Summary). Some key headlines from those statistics are being published in advance, via this 'preliminary' release.

These headline statistics are being used in the Welfare Reform Green Paper and the Opportunity for All report, both due to be published by DWP shortly. Making the information generally available through this release supports the National Statistics' principle of equal access.

The improved Statistical Summary is one strand of the modernisation of DWP statistics. Other key elements of modernisation are:-

- Key benefit statistics are now sourced from 100% administrative data, replacing the 5% sample data used in the past
- Through linking to newly available data from HMRC on employment starts, improvements have been made to New Deal statistics
- A new hierarchy of Statistical Group classifications has been adopted
- A new Internet Tabulation Tool will be available allowing users to view and query a wide range of DWP statistics

The move to 100% data for key benefits has meant some changes to headline figures. Further details on the magnitude of these revisions and why they have occurred are given in an earlier National Statistics paper (see Notes to Editors).

Key Findings in this Preliminary Release

Information provided for the Welfare Reform Green Paper and the Opportunity for All report is summarised in the tables below. Key findings from this are that:-

- Over the 8 years to May '05, the caseload for working age incapacity benefits has risen by 3.7% to 2.74 million. It has fallen in each of the last 3 quarters.
- Whilst the trend over time in working-age incapacity benefits is unchanged from the statistics based on 5% data, the caseload has been revised upwards by 125,000 reflecting an improvement in accuracy.
- Over the 8 year period to May '05, the number of Income Support Lone Parent recipients has fallen by 22.6% to around 790,000.
- As at May '05, 2.68 million people were claiming Pension Credit, of which 63% were female
- As at May '05, 2.72 million people were receiving Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and 1.52 million Attendance Allowance. DLA recipients have increased by around 40% since May 1997.

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Next Publication: 27 October 2005

Table 1.1 Key benefits time-series : May 1997 to May 2005

Thousands

	Working Age Incapacity Benefits (IB/SDA) caseload	Income Support lone parents recipients	Disability Living Allowance (DLA) caseload	Attendance Allowance (AA) caseload
May-97	2,642	1,017	1,941	1,309
Aug-97	2,644	1,016	1,982	1,331
Nov-97	2,659	986	2,016	1,346
Feb-98	2,648	976	2,037	1,340
May-98	2,639	965	2,054	1,356
Aug-98	2,640	959	2,072	1,374
Nov-98	2,652	942	2,089	1,373
Feb-99	2,650	944	2,101	1,363
May-99	2,662	940	2,121	1,376
Aug-99	2,663	943	2,144	1,401
Nov-99	2,684	925	2,159	1,390
Feb-00	2,687	927	2,171	1,374
May-00	2,695	918	2,192	1,382
Aug-00	2,716	919	2,223	1,405
Nov-00	2,734	903	2,261	1,428
Feb-01	2,759	906	2,275	1,415
May-01	2,766	898	2,305	1,427
Aug-01	2,777	897	2,337	1,432
Nov-01	2,759	876	2,365	1,433
Feb-02	2,756	874	2,390	1,429
May-02	2,780	869	2,423	1,428
Aug-02	2,783	872	2,453	1,431
Nov-02	2,790	854	2,487	1,439
Feb-03	2,790	846	2,515	1,438
May-03	2,787	853	2,546	1,451
Aug-03	2,789	849	2,573	1,467
Nov-03	2,790	829	2,601	1,479
Feb-04	2,788	828	2,625	1,479
May-04	2,782	821	2,644	1,492
Aug-04	2,783	816	2,670	1,508
Nov-04	2,779	794	2,691	1,520
Feb-05	2,764	791	2,703	1,521
May-05	2,741	787	2,715	1,525

1 Figures are sourced from 100% records on the Work & Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) replacing previously published data sourced from 5% samples. Further details are given in the National Statistics paper 'DWP statistics transformed: the modernisation of the DWP's data sources and statistical publications'

2 All figures rounded to the nearest thousand

3 Figures pre 1999 have been backcast for incapacity benefits and Income Support. Figures pre 2002 have been backcast for AA and DLA.

Table 1.2 Numbers claiming Pension Credit : November 2003 to May 2005

	Total	Female	Male	Thousands
Nov-03	2,085	1,354	731	
Feb-04	2,282	1,469	813	
May-04	2,490	1,593	897	
Aug-04	2,591	1,653	938	
Nov-04	2,628	1,674	953	
Feb-05	2,659	1,690	968	
May-05	2,680	1,699	981	

1 Figures are sourced from 100% records on the Work & Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) replacing previously published data sourced from 5% samples. Further details are given in the National Statistics paper 'DWP statistics transformed: the modernisation of the DWP's data sources and statistical publications'

2 All figures rounded to the nearest thousand

Notes to Editors

1. Modernisation of DWP statistics

The National Statistics paper “DWP statistics transformed: the modernisation of the DWP’s data sources and statistical publications” announced major changes to the Department’s National Statistics, both in the data sources employed and the methods of dissemination. This paper is available from:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/stats_consultation/modstats.pdf

2. Links to Internet based statistical tables

From 27th October, a new internet based Tabulation Tool will be available for users to define their own statistical queries. The tool will cover key benefit statistics derived from the new 100% sources, along with other information. DWP statistics which remain outside the scope of the Tabulation Tool at the moment will continue to be available via the internet as pre-defined summary tables.

5% data on key benefits continue to be available via the National Online Manpower Information System (NOMIS) <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

3. DWP Green Paper on Welfare Reform and Opportunity for All Report

The Department for Work and Pensions Green Paper on Welfare Reform is due to be published shortly. The Opportunity for All report is due to be published on Monday 17th October.

4. Other National Statistics issued by the Department for Work and Pensions

Abstract of Statistics for Benefits and Contributions and Indices of Prices and Earnings (annual) – provides a reference source for those people interested in the main aspects of benefits, contributions and indices of prices and earnings. Latest published figures: http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/other_stats.asp

Appeal Tribunal Statistics (quarterly) – provides statistics on appeals and decisions. Latest published figures: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/qat.asp>

Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics – provides statistics on the Child Support Agency. Latest published figures: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/csa.asp>

Contributions and Qualifying Years for Retirement Pension (annual) – provides statistics on the number of people who have qualified for State Pension.

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Annual Summary of Statistics – provides statistics on Housing Benefit / Council Tax Benefit from a 1 per cent sample of data from Local Authorities. Latest published figures: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/hbctb.asp>

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Quarterly Summary of Statistics – provides statistics on Housing Benefit / Council Tax Benefit from quarterly caseload counts. Includes average amounts of benefit. Latest published figures: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/hbctb.asp>

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Quarterly Performance Statistics – provides high level statistics on Local Authority processing of Housing Benefit / Council Tax Benefit from quarterly administrative returns. Includes speed of processing new claims and charges of circumstances. Latest published figures: http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/hb_ctb/performance.asp

Housing Benefit Quarterly Fraud Performance Statistics – provides high level statistics on Local Authority fraud performance from quarterly administrative returns. Includes numbers of referrals, investigations actioned and sanctions administered. Latest published figures: http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/hb_ctb/performance.asp

Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit and Reduced Earnings Allowance Statistics (annual) – provides statistics on current assessments and movements during statistical period.

Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit Quarterly Summary of Statistics – provides statistics on people in receipt of Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit, new claims and newly diagnosed prescribed diseases. Latest published figures: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/iidb.asp>

National Insurance numbers allocated to overseas nationals (Previously migrant workers statistics – annual) provides statistics on migrant workers. Latest published figures http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/niall/nino_allocation.asp

Pensioner Income Series (annual) - examines the levels, sources and distribution of pensioners' incomes and the position of pensioners within the population income distribution. Latest published figures: http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd6/pensioners_income.asp

Second Tier Pension Provision (annual) – contains analysis of contracted out pension schemes. Latest published figures: http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/dsu/second_tier/second_tier.asp

Tax/Benefit Model Tables (annual) – designed to illustrate the weekly financial circumstances of a selection of hypothetical local authority and private tenants. Latest published figures: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tbmt.asp>

Work and Pension Statistics (annual) – a summary of all Department for Work and Pensions' National Statistics, covers all benefits and schemes. Also includes take up of benefits and appeals. Latest published figures: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/wandp.asp>

5. Other statistical outputs issued by the Department for Work and Pensions

Benefit Expenditure Tables - financial year historic information on benefit expenditure and caseloads, along with forecasts are available from <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/expenditure.asp>

Neighbourhood Statistics – ward and local authority statistics for Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance (income based), Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance, Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance and State Pension are available from <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/home.asp> (1998 - 2000); from <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/neighbourhood/neighbourhood.asp> (2001-2003); or on request.