

15 August 2002

Coverage: Great Britain  
Theme: Social and Welfare

## INCOME SUPPORT STATISTICS: MAY 2002 QUARTERLY STATISTICAL ENQUIRY

The results of the May 2002 Income Support (IS) Quarterly Statistical Enquiry (QSE) are published today. Income Support is a non-contributory, income-assessed benefit available to people who are not required to work. Those aged 60 or over receive the Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG), which is paid as IS. The IS QSE provides analyses of the characteristics of both MIG and other IS claimants at a point in time and makes comparisons over time. The type of analyses include numbers and ages of recipients, their partners and dependants, amounts of benefit, length of time spent on IS, details of other incomes, analysis of the caseload by Government Office Region and information on flows onto and off IS.

### Main findings:

- MIG numbers rose by 30 thousand (1.7%) in the year to May 2002 to stand at 1.75 million.
- Non-MIG numbers fell by 28 thousand (1.2%) in the year to May 2002 to stand at 2.18 million. 'Lone parent' numbers (aged under 60 and not in the disabled statistical group) were 32 thousand (3.6%) lower than at the same point a year earlier, at 856 thousand. The number of claimants receiving a disability premium increased by 49 thousand (4.9%) in the year, to stand at 1.07 million.
- The overall IS caseload was 3.93 million, virtually the same as a year earlier.



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**Next Publication:**  
21 November 2002

Statistical group	May 2002 Total ('000)	Change over quarter (%)	Change over year (%)
<b>All groups</b>	<b>3,930</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>
MIG	1,746	0.5	1.7
Non-MIG	2,184	-0.9	-1.2
<i>of which:</i>			
Lone parents	856	-0.5	-3.6
Disabled	1,067	1.2	4.9
Other	261	-9.9	-14.7

- At May 2002 6.7 million people (11.6% of the GB population) were in families dependent on Income Support. The proportion of beneficiaries by Government Office Region varied from 7.5% of the population in the South East to 15.2% in the North East.
- The average IS received by claimants fell by £0.57 (0.8%) in the year to May 2002 to stand at £69.64.

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

The IS QSE is based on a 5% sample of all claimants in Great Britain whose benefit is in payment on the last weekend in February, May, August and November.

### **Summary of results**

The attached set of tables summarise the main findings of the May 2002 IS QSE and give comparisons with earlier periods.

### **Effect of Jobseeker's Allowance on IS QSE results**

Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) was introduced in October 1996 and brought together payments of Unemployment Benefit and IS to unemployed people into a unified benefit. It is also payable to people on a Government training scheme who require assistance from a means tested benefit. JSA can also be claimed by people who could otherwise qualify for IS (e.g. lone parents, people with a disabled partner) but choose to register as unemployed, though numbers who actually claim in these circumstances are relatively low.

This group of claimants is therefore no longer included in the IS QSE. They are covered by a separate statistical enquiry into JSA and comparable figures for May 2002 that will be published in September. The figures in the publication and the first release for periods prior to November 1996 have been adjusted to be comparable with current definitions.

### **To obtain copies contact:**

Electronic copies – Christine Woods: 0191 225 3883

Paper copies - ASD Secretariat: 020 7962 8192

*Income Support Quarterly Statistical Enquiry -  
Great Britain (not seasonally adjusted)*

**Table 1: Number of claimants**

*Thousands*

		Statistical group				
		All	Aged 60 or over (MIG)	Lone parents	Disabled	Other
1998	Feb	<b>3,901</b>	1,684	972	870	375
	May	<b>3,853</b>	1,659	961	881	353
	Aug	<b>3,845</b>	1,651	955	893	346
	Nov	<b>3,824</b>	1,641	938	903	342
1999	Feb	<b>3,815</b>	1,620	940	914	341
	May	<b>3,814</b>	1,624	936	914	341
	Aug	<b>3,835</b>	1,628	940	926	341
	Nov	<b>3,835</b>	1,626	929	940	340
2000	Feb	<b>3,806</b>	1,604	919	949	333
	May	<b>3,811</b>	1,615	910	962	324
	Aug	<b>3,845</b>	1,638	909	976	323
	Nov	<b>3,877</b>	1,675	894	992	316
2001	Feb	<b>3,890</b>	1,679	895	1,003	313
	May	<b>3,928</b>	1,717	888	1,017	306
	Aug	<b>3,963</b>	1,736	893	1,033	301
	Nov	<b>3,950</b>	1,741	867	1,044	298
2002	Feb	<b>3,941</b>	1,737	861	1,054	289
	May	<b>3,930</b>	1,746	856	1,067	261

**Table 2: Average weekly payment of Income Support**

*£ per week*

		Statistical group				
		All	Aged 60 or over (MIG)	Lone parents	Disabled	Other
1998	Feb	<b>57.61</b>	41.64	78.44	62.76	63.42
	May	<b>58.72</b>	42.29	79.67	64.14	65.38
	Aug	<b>58.71</b>	42.36	79.16	64.43	65.53
	Nov	<b>59.86</b>	42.38	82.74	65.42	66.26
1999	Feb	<b>59.91</b>	42.28	82.33	65.68	66.36
	May	<b>61.42</b>	45.30	82.01	66.99	66.71
	Aug	<b>61.14</b>	45.16	81.43	66.85	65.99
	Nov	<b>63.06</b>	45.03	87.98	68.34	66.61
2000	Feb	<b>63.04</b>	44.88	88.04	68.24	66.73
	May	<b>65.72</b>	48.18	91.21	70.14	68.37
	Aug	<b>65.45</b>	47.70	91.23	70.47	67.76
	Nov	<b>67.17</b>	46.72	99.15	72.30	68.98
2001	Feb	<b>66.93</b>	46.31	98.86	72.48	68.40
	May	<b>70.21</b>	50.73	101.44	75.50	71.26
	Aug	<b>69.76</b>	50.09	101.14	75.28	71.17
	Nov	<b>70.18</b>	49.81	103.87	75.81	71.56
2002	Feb	<b>69.94</b>	49.43	103.57	75.82	71.65
	May	<b>69.64</b>	49.69	105.39	76.92	56.16

*Income Support Quarterly Statistical Enquiry -  
Great Britain (not seasonally adjusted)*

**Table 3: Number of partners and dependants**

*Thousands*

		Partners	All dependants	Dependants aged			
				Under 5	5 – 10	11 – 15	16 or over
1998	Feb	549	2,401	736	894	621	148
	May	537	2,379	722	883	618	155
	Aug	535	2,381	714	883	623	160
	Nov	534	2,337	703	872	618	143
1999	Feb	532	2,344	701	868	627	148
	May	531	2,344	698	859	631	156
	Aug	533	2,362	699	864	635	165
	Nov	536	2,333	696	858	635	145
2000	Feb	535	2,319	688	846	635	149
	May	539	2,317	685	839	634	159
	Aug	547	2,330	682	840	640	168
	Nov	556	2,287	677	829	633	147
2001	Feb	558	2,294	675	828	636	154
	May	565	2,289	669	820	634	166
	Aug	571	2,307	670	823	640	174
	Nov	574	2,247	657	804	632	154
2002	Feb	573	2,239	649	799	632	159
	May	577	2,242	644	797	633	168