

Income Support

Quarterly Statistical Enquiry

May 2002

DWP Department for
Work and Pensions

Information Centre, Analytical Services Directorate

© Crown Copyright 2002

Contents

	Page
Main findings	3
Introduction	9
Glossary of terms and conventions.....	11
Section 1: Caseload: key characteristics and average payments	13
Section 2: Main claimant groups	25
Claimants categorised as aged 60 or over	33
Income Support claimants with a disability premium	35
Lone parents	37
Other Income Support claimants.....	39
Section 3: Length of time on Income Support.....	41
Section 4: Regional analysis	49
Section 5: Claimants, partners and dependants	57
Section 6: Premium payments	67
Section 7: Special category cases	75
Section 8: Claimants of Residential Allowance (historical – RCNH).....	81
Section 9: Housing costs	89
Section 10: Income and other benefits.....	97
Section 11: Capital	105
Section 12: Deductions from benefit	111
Section 13: Income Support flows.....	117
Section 14: Full IS caseload: pre-Jobseeker’s Allowance	133
Annex 1: Technical details.....	139
Annex 2: Sampling errors	141
Annex 3: Description of the Income Support scheme	143
Annex 4: Main changes to benefit rules	149
Annex 5: Personal allowances and rates of Premia.....	151
Annex 6: Regional analysis	153
Index:	155

Contact point for enquiries:

DWP Information Centre
Analytical Services Directorate
Room BP5201
Benton Park View
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE98 1YX

Telephone: STD 0191 22 57661
GTN 5 22 57661

Fax: 0191 22 53193

Main findings

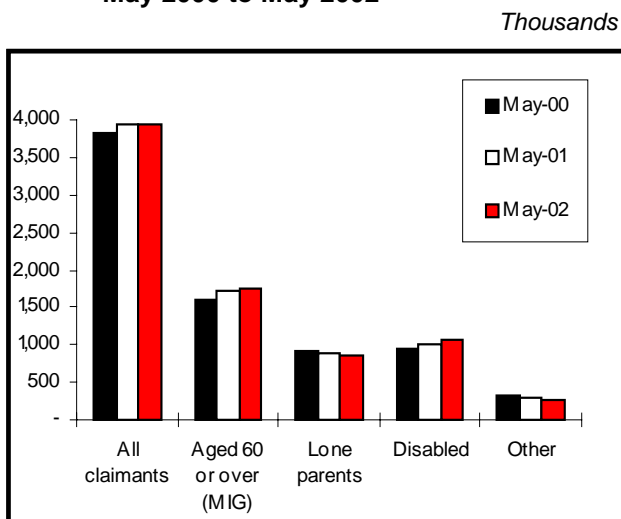
This section summarises the main findings of the May 2002 QSE. The summaries at the start of each section give further details plus any important caveats about the data. Of particular note is section 13 which provides an insight into inflows and outflows to and from Income Support (IS) and movement between statistical groups.

Caseload, benefit entitlement and - statistical group (Sections 1, 2 and 13)

The IS caseload fell by 11 thousand in the 3 months to May 2002 (and rose by 2 thousand in the year) to stand at 3.93 million.

The number of claimants 'Aged 60 or over' (MIG) rose by 30 thousand over the year to May 2002. In the 3 months to May 2002 the caseload rose by 9 thousand to stand at 1.75 million.

Fig 1: IS claimants by statistical group: May 2000 to May 2002



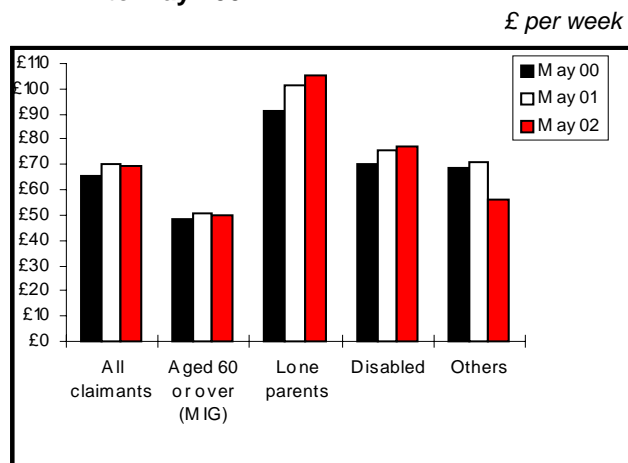
The number of 'Lone parents' (single people aged under 60 with dependants and not in the disabled group) fell by 4 thousand in the three months to May 2002 to stand at 856 thousand. The caseload was 32 thousand lower than at the same point a year earlier.

The number of claimants in the 'Disabled' statistical group rose by 13 thousand in the quarter to May 2002, to stand at 1.07 million. The number of claimants receiving a disability premium was 49 thousand higher than at the same point a year earlier.

The number of claimants in the 'Other' group fell by 29 thousand in the quarter to May 2002 to stand at 261 thousand. The 'Other' caseload was 45 thousand lower than at the same point a year earlier.

The average IS received by claimants fell by £0.57 in the year to May 2002 to stand at £69.64. This decrease reflected the abolition of Preserved Rights cases in April 2002. Of the main groups 'Lone parents' received the highest weekly amount of IS in May 2002 (£105.39 per week on average). Those 'Aged 60 or over' received the lowest (£49.69 on average).

Fig 2: Average weekly payments made to IS claimants by statistical group: May 2000 to May 2002

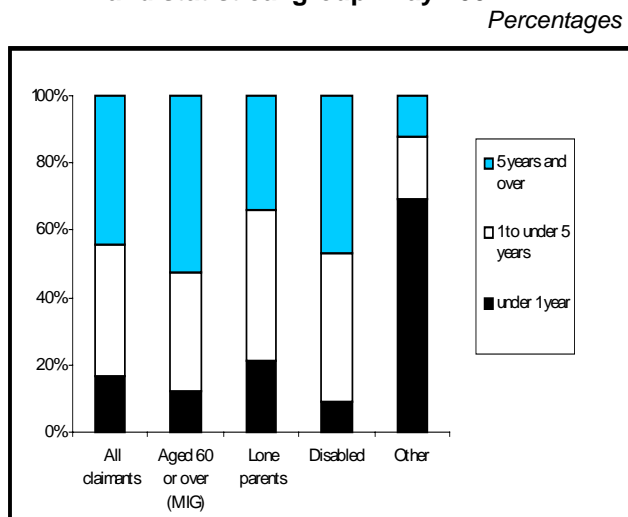


Length of time on IS (Section 3)

The proportion of claimants who had been on IS for five years or more fell slightly in the year to May 2002 to 44%. This fall was largely due to the increased inflow of those 'Aged 60 or over'.

Those 'Aged 60 or over' (MIG) were still most likely to have spent the longest time on IS in May 2002 (53% had spent 5 years or more). Those in the 'Other' group were likely to have had the shortest spells (45% had been on for less than 6 months.)

Fig 3: IS claimants by duration of current claim and statistical group: May 2002

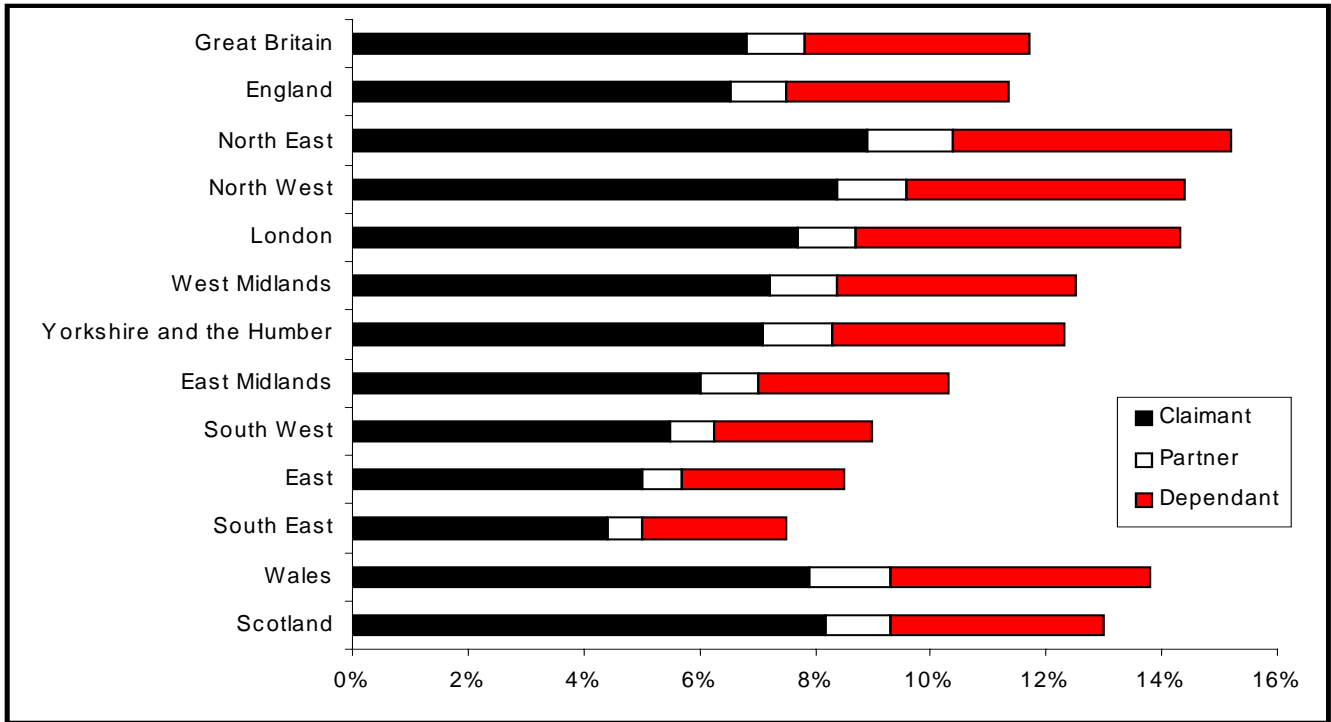


Regions - Government Office Region (GOR) (Section 4)

Just under 12% of the Great Britain population were beneficiaries (i.e. claimant, partner or dependant) of IS in May 2002. This varied from 8% in the South East to 15% in the North East.

Fig 4: Beneficiaries of IS as a percentage of the population by GOR: May 2002

Percentages



Claimants, partners and dependants (Sections 1 and 5)

In May 2002 single women, the majority of whom were either 'Aged 60 or over' (MIG) or 'Lone parents', accounted for 62% of all IS claimants. Around 15% of IS claimants (mostly males) had a partner in May 2002.

Across the groups, claimants with dependants received the highest average weekly amounts of IS. Couples with dependants received £129.48 per week while single people without dependants received £50.60. However, the number of couples with dependants was much smaller (201 thousand), compared with 2.38 million single people without dependants.

Fig 5: IS claimants by gender, marital status and statistical group: May 2002

Percentages

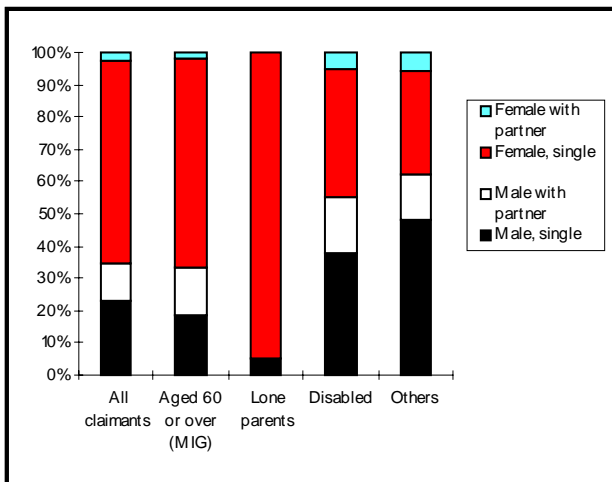


Fig 6: Dependants by statistical group of claimant: May 2002

Thousands

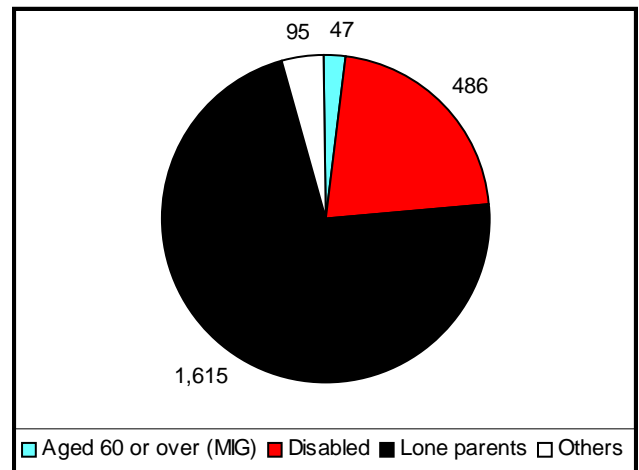


Fig 7: IS claimants by family type: May 2002

Thousands

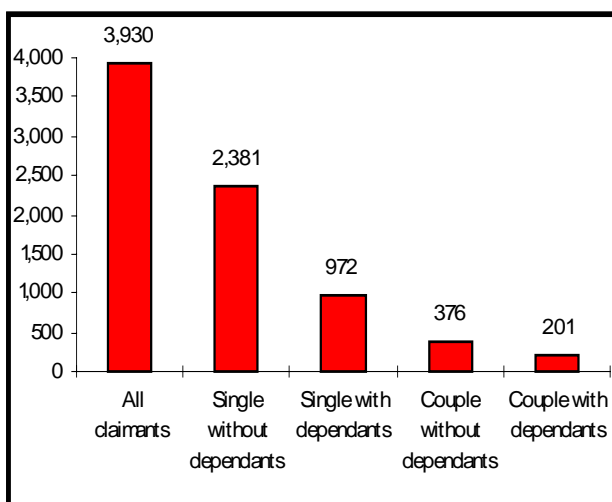
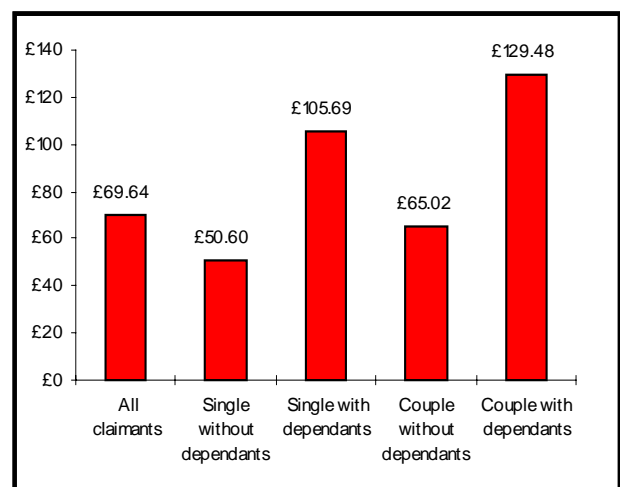


Fig 8: Average weekly payments by family type: May 2002

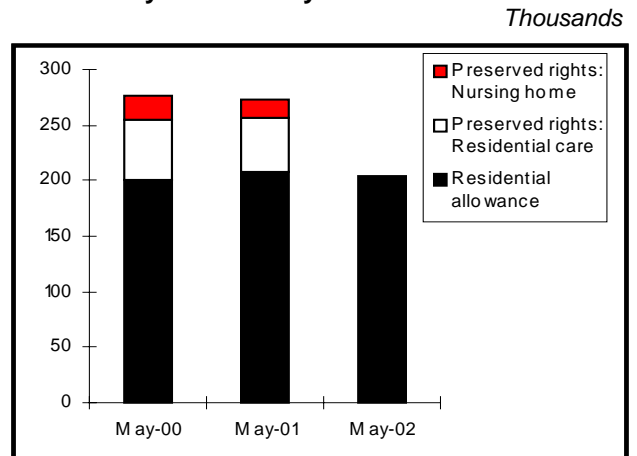
£ per week



**Residential Allowance
(*historical RCNH) (Section 8)**

*From April 2002 claimants in Residential care/nursing homes had preserved rights abolished, and became the financial responsibility of Local Authorities.

Fig 9: IS claimants of residential allowance (*historical RCNH) by type: May 2000 to May 2002



Housing costs (Section 9)

The number of IS claimants who received help with their housing costs (mostly for mortgage interest payments) continued to fall to 225 thousand. This was partly due to changes to the scheme in October 1995.

Around 6% of all IS claimants received some help with housing costs. Claimants in the 'Disabled' group were most likely to be receiving this assistance (8%), while those in the 'Other' group were least likely (4%).

Lone parents received the highest average weekly amount of housing costs (£36.89).

The average weekly housing costs paid to IS claimants with mortgage interest fell over the year to May 2002 due to changes in the standard interest rate. The average weekly housing cost paid with IS was £25.01.

Fig 10: IS claimants with housing costs as a percentage of all claimants by statistical group: May 2002

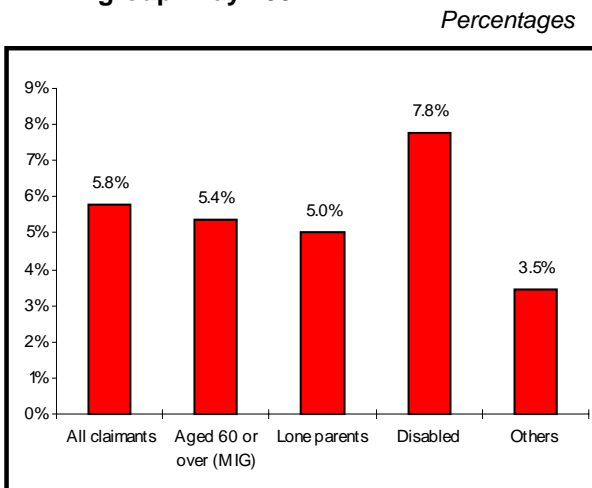
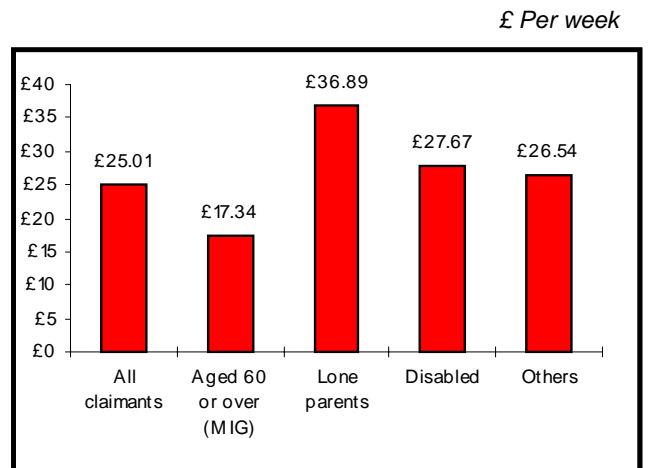


Fig 11: Average weekly amount of housing costs by statistical group: May 2002

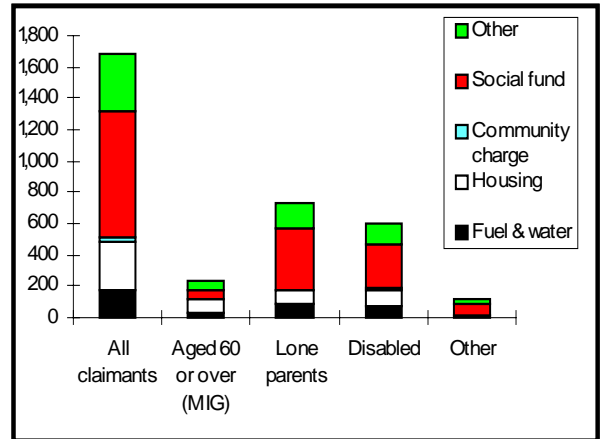


Deductions (Section 12)

Around 1.68 million deductions were made from weekly IS payments in the quarter ending May 2002 from 1.22 million claimants. Of these deductions 178 thousand were for fuel and water, while 806 thousand were to repay a Social Fund loan. 'Lone parents' were the group from which the most deductions were taken, while those in the 'Other' group had the least taken.

Fig 12: Deductions from IS by type and statistical group: May 2002

Thousands



Introduction

About this publication

This publication presents data from the Income Support (IS) Quarterly Statistical Enquiry (QSE) which covers claimants in Great Britain. Its main purpose is to:

- give summary analyses which show the key features of the IS population in May 2002 and how they compare with claimants in earlier periods
- provide a basic summary of the main features of IS and how they affect numbers of recipients and amounts of benefit in payment
- provide a menu of the types of analysis which can be produced from the QSE data set (additional analysis can be obtained from the contact point on page 1)

Income Support

IS is intended to help people on low incomes who do not have to be available for employment. It can normally be claimed by people who are: aged 16 or over; working under 16 hours (and/or with a partner working under 24 hours); not required to be available for full-time employment; and in receipt of insufficient income to meet prescribed needs. The main types of people who receive it are pensioners, lone parents, the long and short-term sick, people with disabilities and other special groups. Full details can be found in Annex 3.

The amount of IS that a claimant can receive depends mainly upon their age; whether they have a partner and dependent children; whether they have special needs such as a disability or caring responsibilities; and whether they have liabilities for certain types of housing costs such as mortgage interest payments. The maximum amount that a claimant can receive is normally reduced by income from other types of benefits or other sources. See Annex 3 and relevant sections for further details.

Unemployed IS claimants

Prior to October 1996 people who were unemployed or on a government training scheme could also claim IS. On 7 October 1996 Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) was introduced to replace Unemployment Benefit and IS for unemployed people and brought them together in a unified benefit. It is intended for people who are available for and actively seeking employment, including those in remunerative work for less than 16 hours a week on average, and by people on a government training scheme. See Annex 1 for further details.

To allow valid comparisons of the population of IS claimants before and after the introduction of JSA, unemployed IS claimants and those on government training schemes are excluded from those tables in this report which show data prior to November 1996. However, section 14 contains a set of analyses of the full IS caseload for periods prior to JSA. Data on JSA claimants from November 1996 onwards is available in a separate publication, which can be obtained from the contact point on page 1.

IS Quarterly Statistical Enquiry

The IS QSE is a 5% sample of all IS claimants which is conducted on the last weekend in February, May, August and November of each year. Prior to 1992 it was conducted only on an annual basis (formerly known as the IS Annual Statistical Enquiry).

Using the publication

The first four sections of this publication give a summary of the trends in the overall caseload and average benefit payment. This includes detailed analysis of: the main groups of IS recipients (Section 2); duration of current claim (section 3) and regional comparisons (section 4). The remaining sections look at the main features of the IS scheme and how they affect benefit payments, e.g. entitlement for partners and dependants, premiums, housing costs, etc.

Each section contains a list of tables, a brief summary of the subject area and a list of any key benefit rules that affect comparisons over time. Annex 3 provides a more detailed description of these rule changes.

Further advice and analysis

This publication contains only a limited range of the analyses which can be produced from the IS QSE. Further advice on their use or requests for additional analysis should be made to the contact point on page 1.

An electronic version of the latest publication is available on the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) external website at www.dwp.gov.uk/asd

An electronic version of the latest publication and electronic versions of some of the previous publications are also available on the internal DWP Intranet site via the Analytical Services Directorate web pages.

Glossary of Terms and Conventions

Definitions of the main terms referred to in this report are listed below.

Capital

Claimants and/or *partners* capital assets e.g. savings, investments or property other than their home.

Child

A *dependant* aged under 16.

Couple

Two persons either married or living together as husband and wife.

Dependant

A person who is not a *partner* and whose resources and requirements are included with those of the claimant.

Income taken into Account

See section 10.

Family Type

Whether *single* or *couple*, with or without *dependants*.

Hospital Case

A person whose normal requirements are modified to the IS rate payable for a *single* hospital in-patient.

Length of Time on IS

Duration of current period in receipt of *Supplementary Benefit / IS* (breaks of less than one week are ignored).

Lone Parent

A *single* parent aged under 60 and not in the disabled group.

No Fixed Abode / Persons Without Accommodation

Persons who have no permanent accommodation or who are homeless.

Part III Accommodation

Accommodation provided by the Local Authority under Part III of the National Assistance Act 1948.

Partner

One of a married or unmarried *couple*, living together.

Region

Government Office Region.

Single

A claimant who is not living as a member of a *couple*.

Single Parent

A claimant without a *partner*, but with one or more *dependants*.

DWP Benefits

Those benefits payable under Part II of the Social Security Acts.

Statistical Groups

The main groups of claimants - see section 2.

Supplementary Benefit

The predecessor to IS, which ceased in April 1988.

Tariff Income

The amount of weekly income assumed on capital between £3000 - £16000. See notes in section 4 of Annex 3 on rules for claimants in residential care and nursing homes.

Inflow

Cases which have come onto IS since the previous extract and are live at the end of the quarter.

Outflow

Cases, which were live at the end of the previous quarter, but have since left IS.

Conventions

GOR	Government Office Region
IS	Income Support
JSA	Jobseeker's Allowance
-	Nil or negligible
.	Not applicable
N/A	Not available
£pw	Pounds per week

Section 1: Caseload: key characteristics and average payments

	Page
Summary	15
Key findings.....	15
Table 1.1 Income Support claimants by statistical group: 1997 to 2002	17
Chart 1A Income Support claimants by statistical group: May 2000 to May 2002	17
Table 1.2 Income Support claimants by statistical group: 1997 to 2002	18
Table 1.3 Average weekly payments made to Income Support claimants by statistical group: 1997 to 2002	19
Chart 1B Average weekly payments made to Income Support claimants by statistical group: May 2000 to May 2002	19
Table 1.4 Income Support claimants by age and gender: 1997 to 2002	20
Chart 1C Income Support claimants by age: May 2000 to May 2002.....	20
Table 1.5 Average weekly payments made to Income Support claimants by age and gender: 1997 to 2002	21
Chart 1D Average weekly payments made to Income Support claimants by age: May 2000 to May 2002.....	21
Table 1.6 Income Support claimants by family type: 1997 to 2002	22
Table 1.7 Average weekly payments made to Income Support claimants by family type: 1997 to 2002	23
Chart 1E Average weekly payments made to Income Support claimants by family type: May 2000 to May 2002.....	23

Summary - Caseload: key characteristics and average payment

This section looks at caseload and amount of payments made to Income Support (IS) claimants in February 2002 and compares it with earlier periods. Breakdowns according to certain key characteristics (statistical group, age, gender) are also given, although more detailed information is given in more specialised sections later in the report.

Key findings

The overall number of claimants fell by 11 thousand in the 3 months to May 2002 to stand at 3.93 million. This was 2 thousand higher than in May 2001 and 62 thousand lower than August 1996 when the overall number of IS claimants reached a peak of 3.99 million.

The 'Aged 60 or over' (Minimum Income Guarantee) caseload rose by 9 thousand in the quarter to May 2002 to stand at 1.75 million (30 thousand more than a year earlier).

The 'Lone parent' caseload fell by 4 thousand in the quarter to May 2002 to stand at 856 thousand. The caseload was 32 thousand lower than at the same point a year earlier.

The number of claimants in the 'Disabled' statistical group rose by 13 thousand in the three months to May 2002 to stand at 1.07 million (49 thousand higher than a year earlier). The 'Disabled' statistical group accounts for just over 1 in 4 claimants receiving IS.

The number of claimants in the 'Other' group fell by 29 thousand in the three months to May 2002 to stand at 261 thousand, 45 thousand lower than at the same point in 2001.

The average IS received by claimants fell by £0.57 in the year to May 2002 to stand at £69.64. This decrease reflects the abolition of Preserved Rights cases in April 2002.

The 'Lone parent' group, which had the largest number of dependants, received the highest average weekly IS payment, £105.39 in May 2002. The 'Disabled' group and the 'Other' group had the next highest average weekly payments (£76.92 and £56.16 respectively in May 2002), whilst those 'Aged 60 or over' received the lowest average weekly amount - £49.69.

Claimants with partners and/or dependants received the highest amounts of IS - couples with dependants received on average £129.48 in May 2002, whilst single claimants with dependants received £105.69. For couples and single people without dependants the comparable amounts were £65.02 and £50.60 respectively.

Main changes to benefit rules

See Annex 4.

Section 1: Caseload: key characteristics and average payments

Table 1.1: Income Support claimants by statistical group: 1997 to 2002

Thousands

		All claimants	Statistical group			
			Aged 60 or over (MIG)	Lone parents	Disabled	Other
1997	Feb	3,954	1,724	1,020	809	402
	May	3,958	1,720	1,013	827	398
	Aug	3,974	1,714	1,012	841	406
	Nov	3,938	1,701	982	858	397
1998	Feb	3,901	1,684	972	870	375
	May	3,853	1,659	961	881	353
	Aug	3,845	1,651	955	893	346
	Nov	3,824	1,641	938	903	342
1999	Feb	3,815	1,620	940	914	341
	May	3,814	1,624	936	914	341
	Aug	3,835	1,628	940	926	341
	Nov	3,835	1,626	929	940	340
2000	Feb	3,806	1,604	919	949	333
	May	3,811	1,615	910	962	324
	Aug	3,845	1,638	909	976	323
	Nov	3,877	1,675	894	992	316
2001	Feb	3,890	1,679	895	1,003	313
	May	3,928	1,717	888	1,017	306
	Aug	3,963	1,736	893	1,033	301
	Nov	3,950	1,741	867	1,044	298
2002	Feb	3,941	1,737	861	1,054	289
	May	3,930	1,746	856	1,067	261

Chart 1A: Income Support claimants by statistical group: May 2000 to May 2002

Thousands

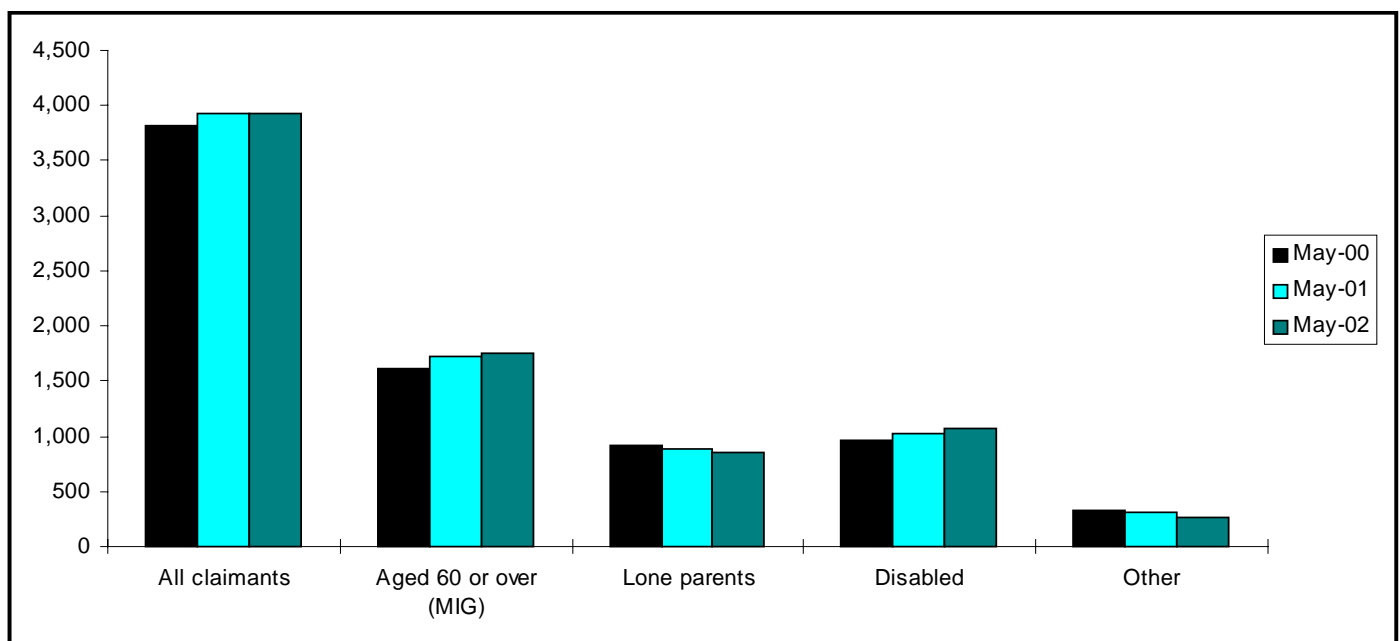


Table 1.2: Income Support claimants by statistical group: 1997 to 2002*Thousands / Percentages*

		All claimants '000(=100%)	Statistical group			
			Aged 60 or over (MIG) %	Lone parents %	Disabled %	Other %
1997	Feb	3,954	43.6	25.8	20.5	10.2
	May	3,958	43.5	25.6	20.9	10.1
	Aug	3,974	43.1	25.5	21.2	10.2
	Nov	3,938	43.2	24.9	21.8	10.1
1998	Feb	3,901	43.2	24.9	22.3	9.6
	May	3,853	43.1	24.9	22.9	9.2
	Aug	3,845	42.9	24.8	23.2	9.0
	Nov	3,824	42.9	24.5	23.6	8.9
1999	Feb	3,815	42.5	24.7	24.0	8.9
	May	3,814	42.6	24.5	24.0	8.9
	Aug	3,835	42.5	24.5	24.1	8.9
	Nov	3,835	42.4	24.2	24.5	8.9
2000	Feb	3,806	42.2	24.1	25.0	8.8
	May	3,811	42.4	23.9	25.2	8.5
	Aug	3,845	42.6	23.6	25.4	8.4
	Nov	3,877	43.2	23.1	25.6	8.2
2001	Feb	3,890	43.2	23.0	25.8	8.0
	May	3,928	43.7	22.6	25.9	7.8
	Aug	3,963	43.8	22.5	26.1	7.6
	Nov	3,950	44.1	22.0	26.4	7.5
2002	Feb	3,941	44.1	21.8	26.7	7.3
	May	3,930	44.4	21.8	27.1	6.6

Table 1.3: Average weekly payments made to Income Support claimants by statistical group: 1997 to 2002

£ per week

		All Claimants	Statistical group			
			Aged 60 or over (MIG)	Lone parents	Disabled	Other
1997	Feb	56.60	41.11	77.34	60.59	62.36
	May	58.03	42.24	79.21	62.42	63.24
	Aug	57.77	42.00	78.55	62.51	62.71
	Nov	57.71	41.94	78.69	62.59	62.85
1998	Feb	57.61	41.64	78.44	62.76	63.42
	May	58.72	42.29	79.67	64.14	65.38
	Aug	58.71	42.36	79.16	64.43	65.53
	Nov	59.86	42.38	82.74	65.42	66.26
1999	Feb	59.91	42.28	82.33	65.68	66.36
	May	61.42	45.30	82.01	66.99	66.71
	Aug	61.14	45.16	81.43	66.85	65.99
	Nov	63.06	45.03	87.98	68.34	66.61
2000	Feb	63.04	44.88	88.04	68.24	66.73
	May	65.72	48.18	91.21	70.14	68.37
	Aug	65.45	47.70	91.23	70.47	67.76
	Nov	67.17	46.72	99.15	72.30	68.98
2001	Feb	66.93	46.31	98.86	72.48	68.40
	May	70.21	50.73	101.44	75.51	71.26
	Aug	69.76	50.09	101.14	75.28	71.17
	Nov	70.18	49.81	103.87	75.81	71.56
2002	Feb	69.94	49.43	103.57	75.82	71.65
	May	69.64	49.69	105.39	76.92	56.16

Chart 1B: Average weekly payments made to Income Support claimants by statistical group: May 2000 to May 2002

£ per week

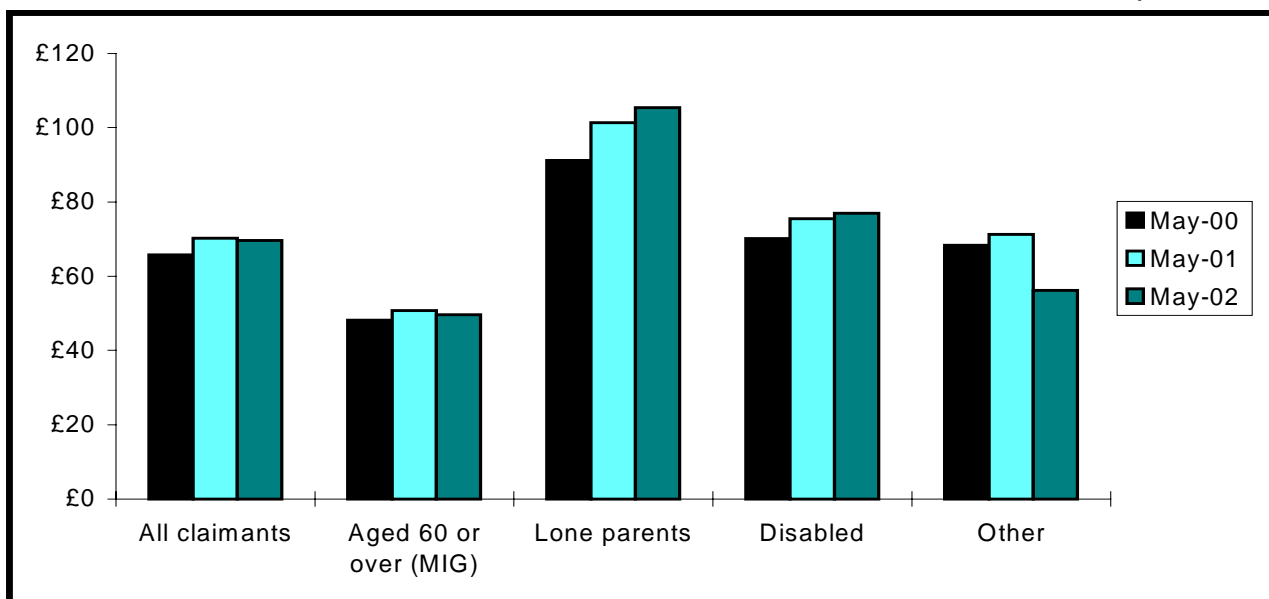


Table 1.4: Income Support claimants by age and gender: 1997 to 2002

Thousands

		All claimants	All males				All females			
			Under 18	18-24	25-59	60 or over (MIG)	Under 18	18-24	25-59	60 or over (MIG)
1997	Feb	3,954	8	79	677	534	20	256	1,201	1,179
	May	3,958	8	77	686	536	20	253	1,204	1,174
	Aug	3,974	9	78	696	536	20	254	1,213	1,169
	Nov	3,938	9	75	703	531	20	247	1,194	1,159
1998	Feb	3,901	9	74	696	527	19	243	1,187	1,146
	May	3,853	9	73	688	516	19	239	1,178	1,131
	Aug	3,845	9	72	688	514	19	238	1,180	1,126
	Nov	3,824	8	72	688	512	20	234	1,172	1,118
1999	Feb	3,815	8	74	692	507	20	234	1,178	1,102
	May	3,814	8	74	690	510	20	233	1,177	1,102
	Aug	3,835	8	76	696	515	20	235	1,184	1,101
	Nov	3,835	8	76	702	515	20	236	1,179	1,098
2000	Feb	3,806	7	76	705	510	18	235	1,172	1,082
	May	3,811	7	77	706	516	17	233	1,168	1,087
	Aug	3,845	8	75	712	525	17	234	1,175	1,101
	Nov	3,877	7	75	716	537	17	232	1,167	1,126
2001	Feb	3,890	7	75	721	539	16	232	1,173	1,128
	May	3,928	7	76	723	552	16	232	1,170	1,153
	Aug	3,963	7	76	729	560	17	232	1,179	1,163
	Nov	3,950	6	76	731	564	16	227	1,166	1,164
2002	Feb	3,941	6	74	730	567	15	226	1,165	1,158
	May	3,930	4	65	729	573	14	221	1,163	1,160

Chart 1C: Income Support claimants by age: May 2000 to May 2002

Thousands

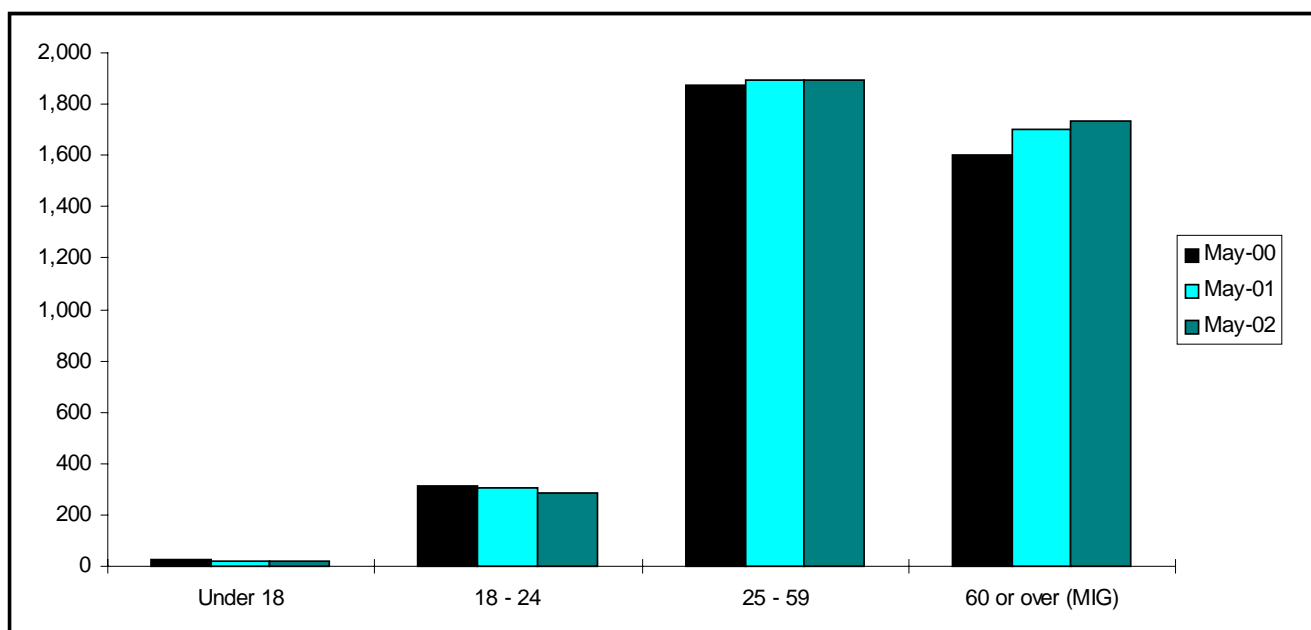


Table 1.5: Average weekly payments made to Income Support claimants by age and gender: 1997 to 2002

		<i>£ per week</i>									
		All claimants	All males				All females				
			Under 18	18-24	25-59	60 or over (MIG)	Under 18	18-24	25-59	60 or over (MIG)	
1997	Feb	56.60	27.27	43.90	66.17	47.06	40.85	62.48	73.48	38.28	
	May	58.03	28.60	44.83	67.49	48.42	41.41	63.88	75.31	39.27	
	Aug	57.77	30.72	45.03	67.24	48.16	40.07	63.42	74.73	39.03	
	Nov	57.71	29.06	45.14	66.99	48.08	40.23	63.45	74.86	38.94	
1998	Feb	57.61	28.93	44.93	67.16	47.82	40.26	63.49	74.79	38.61	
	May	58.72	29.58	45.54	68.75	48.98	40.98	64.39	76.18	39.06	
	Aug	58.71	29.70	45.74	68.77	49.07	40.15	63.78	76.05	39.10	
	Nov	59.86	29.80	46.15	69.87	49.16	41.58	66.07	78.60	39.09	
1999	Feb	59.91	28.32	46.28	70.05	49.20	41.77	66.01	78.38	38.90	
	May	61.42	29.69	46.33	71.01	52.64	42.69	66.72	78.50	41.70	
	Aug	61.14	31.20	46.34	70.40	52.44	42.87	66.36	78.14	41.55	
	Nov	63.06	29.66	46.66	71.85	52.31	45.23	71.48	82.61	41.40	
2000	Feb	63.04	29.19	46.30	71.61	52.38	44.78	71.64	82.64	41.10	
	May	65.72	27.84	47.57	73.52	55.84	46.08	74.23	85.34	44.27	
	Aug	65.45	28.26	47.76	73.40	55.18	46.01	74.15	85.37	43.87	
	Nov	67.17	28.34	49.16	75.39	54.00	49.34	78.84	90.85	42.98	
2001	Feb	66.93	28.19	49.13	75.30	53.55	49.38	78.72	90.63	42.55	
	May	70.21	31.03	50.44	78.51	59.35	50.03	79.97	93.68	46.23	
	Aug	69.76	31.17	50.18	78.22	58.40	51.20	80.01	93.38	45.72	
	Nov	70.18	32.06	49.80	78.62	57.99	51.25	81.77	95.00	45.49	
2002	Feb	69.94	31.72	50.24	78.36	57.45	51.16	81.62	94.80	45.16	
	May	69.64	38.61	54.84	75.17	58.25	53.97	84.46	94.67	45.01	

Chart 1D: Average weekly payments made to Income Support claimants by age: May 2000 to May 2002

£ per week

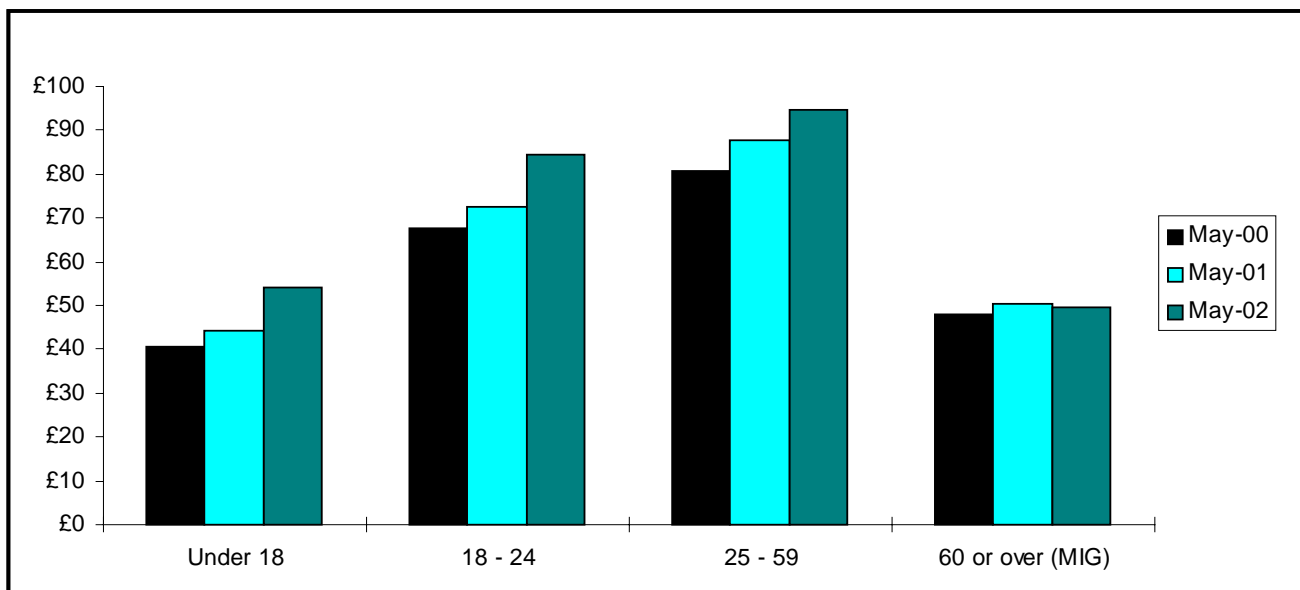


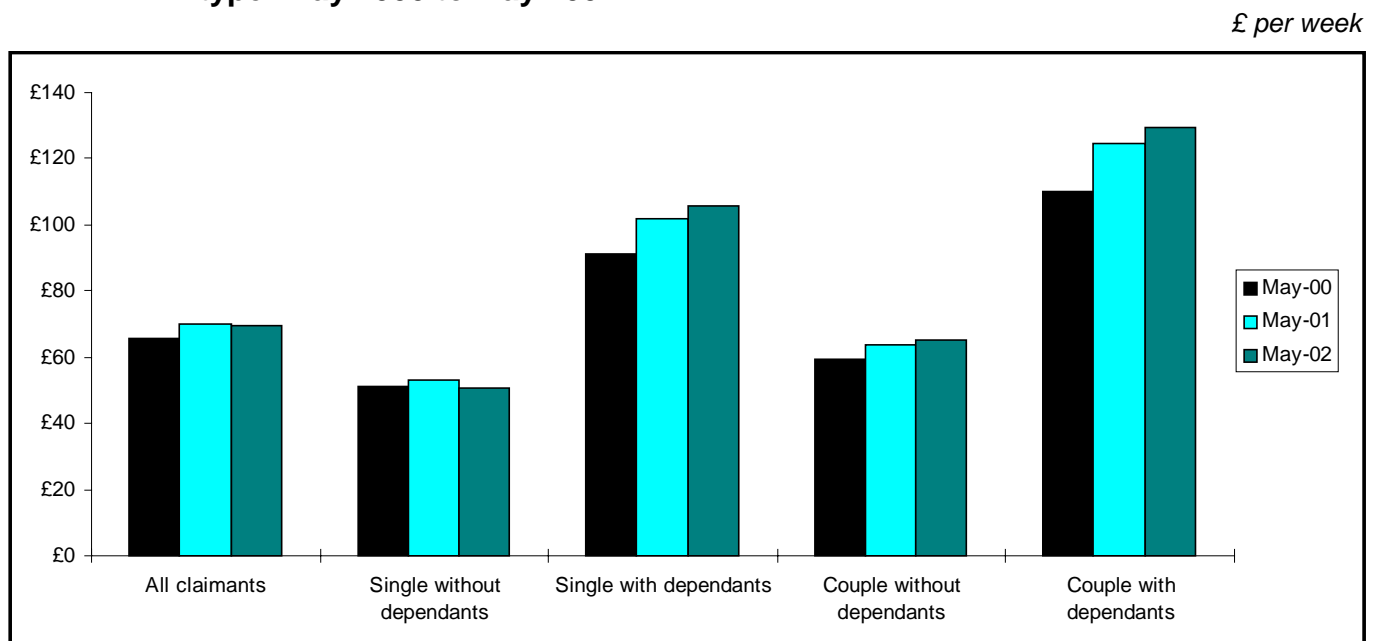
Table 1.6: Income Support claimants by family type: 1997 to 2002

		All claimants	Single without dependants	Single with dependants	<i>Thousands</i>	
					Couple without dependants	Couple with dependants
1997	Feb	3,954	2,298	1,106	349	200
	May	3,958	2,306	1,101	349	202
	Aug	3,974	2,317	1,101	349	206
	Nov	3,938	2,311	1,072	349	206
1998	Feb	3,901	2,289	1,062	346	203
	May	3,853	2,264	1,052	338	199
	Aug	3,845	2,262	1,048	335	200
	Nov	3,824	2,259	1,032	335	199
1999	Feb	3,815	2,245	1,037	334	199
	May	3,814	2,250	1,034	334	197
	Aug	3,835	2,260	1,042	335	198
	Nov	3,835	2,269	1,029	338	199
2000	Feb	3,806	2,250	1,021	336	199
	May	3,811	2,258	1,014	339	200
	Aug	3,845	2,283	1,016	345	202
	Nov	3,877	2,321	999	356	200
2001	Feb	3,890	2,330	1,002	356	202
	May	3,928	2,365	998	363	202
	Aug	3,963	2,388	1,004	368	203
	Nov	3,950	2,398	978	373	201
2002	Feb	3,941	2,394	974	372	201
	May	3,930	2,381	972	376	201

Table 1.7: Average weekly payments made to Income Support claimants by family type: 1997 to 2002

		<i>£ per week</i>				
		All claimants	Single without dependants	Single with dependants	Couple without dependants	Couple with dependants
1997	Feb	56.60	44.80	77.40	48.82	90.61
	May	58.03	45.97	79.29	50.54	92.72
	Aug	57.77	45.78	78.69	50.55	92.93
	Nov	57.71	45.78	78.83	51.04	92.93
1998	Feb	57.61	45.73	78.56	51.28	92.79
	May	58.72	46.61	79.87	52.67	95.05
	Aug	58.71	46.76	79.37	53.09	95.13
	Nov	59.86	46.79	82.90	53.44	99.65
1999	Feb	59.91	46.81	82.54	53.99	99.73
	May	61.42	48.99	82.50	56.46	100.99
	Aug	61.14	48.89	81.95	55.98	100.27
	Nov	63.06	48.85	88.34	55.91	106.67
2000	Feb	63.04	48.76	88.32	56.21	106.35
	May	65.72	51.15	91.47	59.49	110.28
	Aug	65.45	50.89	91.53	59.08	109.82
	Nov	67.17	50.35	99.27	57.68	118.88
2001	Feb	66.93	50.12	98.97	57.61	118.31
	May	70.21	53.26	101.69	63.90	124.47
	Aug	69.76	52.93	101.36	62.85	123.83
	Nov	70.18	52.83	104.09	62.22	127.12
2002	Feb	69.94	52.67	103.82	61.77	126.54
	May	69.64	50.60	105.69	65.02	129.48

Chart 1E: Average weekly payments made to Income Support claimants by family type: May 2000 to May 2002



Section 2: Main claimant groups

	Page
Summary	29
Key findings.....	29
Chart 2A IS claimants by gender and statistical group.....	31
Chart 2B IS claimants by family type and statistical group.....	31
Chart 2C IS claimants by duration of current claim and statistical group.....	31
Chart 2D Beneficiaries of IS claimants by statistical group	31
 <i>Claimants and/or partner aged 60 or over (MIG)</i>	
Table 2.1 Income Support claimants aged 60 or over (MIG) by age and gender: May 1998 to May 2002	33
Table 2.2 Income Support claimants aged 60 or over (MIG) by family type: May 1998 to May 2002	33
Table 2.3 Income Support claimants aged 60 or over (MIG) by duration of current claim, age and gender: May 2002.....	33
Table 2.4 Beneficiaries of Income Support claimants aged 60 or over (MIG) by type and Government Office Region (GOR): May 2002.....	34
Table 2.5 Partners and dependants of Income Support claimants aged 60 or over (MIG): May 1998 to May 2002	34
Table 2.6 Average weekly amount paid to Income Support claimants aged 60 or over (MIG) by age and gender: May 1998 to May 2002.....	34

Income Support claimants with a disability premium

Table 2.7	Income Support claimants with a disability premium by age and gender: May 1998 to May 2002	35
Table 2.8	Income Support claimants with a disability premium by family type: May 1998 to May 2002.....	35
Table 2.9	Income Support claimants with a disability premium by duration of current claim, age and gender: May 2002.....	35
Table 2.10	Beneficiaries of Income Support claimants with a disability premium by type and Government Office Region (GOR): May 2002	36
Table 2.11	Partners and dependants of Income Support claimants with a disability premium: May 1998 to May 2002.....	36
Table 2.12	Average weekly amount paid to Income Support claimants with a disability premium by age and gender: May 1998 to May 2002	36

Lone parents

Table 2.13	Single Income Support claimants with dependants by premium group: May 1998 to May 2002	37
Table 2.14	Lone parent Income Support claimants by age and gender: May 1998 to May 2002	37
Table 2.15	Lone parent Income Support claimants by duration of current claim, age and gender: May 2002.....	37
Table 2.16	Beneficiaries of lone parent Income Support claimants by type and Government Office Region (GOR): May 2002	38
Table 2.17	Dependants of lone parent Income Support claimants: May 1998 to May 2002	38
Table 2.18	Average weekly amount paid to lone parent Income Support claimants by age and gender: May 1998 to May 2002.....	38

Other income support claimants (i.e. not classified as 'Aged over 60', 'Lone parents' or 'Disabled')

Table 2.19	Other Income Support claimants by age and gender: May 1998 to May 2002	39
Table 2.20	Other Income Support claimants by family type: May 1998 to May 2002	39
Table 2.21	Other Income Support claimants by duration of current claim, age and gender: May 2002.....	39
Table 2.22	Beneficiaries of other Income Support claimants by type and Government Office Region (GOR): May 2002	40
Table 2.23	Partners and dependants of other Income Support claimants: May 1998 to May 2002	40
Table 2.24	Average weekly amount paid to other Income Support claimants by age and gender: May 1998 to May 2002.....	40

Summary - Main claimant groups

This section looks at the main claimant groups within the overall caseload ('Aged 60 or over', 'Disabled', 'Lone parents' and 'Other'). Claimants are allocated to groups based firstly upon entitlement to the pensioner or disability premiums, and then to the lone parent group if they are single with dependants and not already classed as pensioner or disabled. (see section 6).

Eligibility for the pensioner or disability premium can be based on either the claimant's or their partner's circumstances. For example a 59 year old claimant with a 62 year old partner would receive a pensioner premium. Some claimants are eligible for more than one of these premiums but their benefit is assessed using only the premium that gives them the highest allowance. They are therefore allocated to statistical groups in the following order: 'Aged 60 or over', 'Disabled', 'Lone parents' and 'Other' (i.e. not in one of other groups).

This section presents a set of tables for each group, and identifies key characteristics.

Key findings

Male claimants in the 'Aged 60 or over' (MIG) group tend to be younger than female claimants. In May 2002 32% (188 thousand) of males in this group were aged 60 to 64 compared with only 12% (138 thousand) of females. Those aged 80 or over accounted for 21% (121 thousand) and 46% (538 thousand) of males and females respectively.

Male claimants aged 60 to 64 received the highest average weekly payments of IS among the 'Aged 60 or over' (MIG) group - £87.04 per week in May 2002, partly because they are not old enough to receive a state retirement pension. Among the MIG group females, those aged 60 to 64 received the highest average amounts (£51.36).

Males accounted for over half of all claimants entitled to a disability premium (55% in May 2002), partly reflecting the fact that they are more likely to claim on behalf of a couple.

There were just 972 thousand single IS claimants with dependants in May 2002. Some received a pensioner premium (8 thousand) or a disability premium (108 thousand). But the vast majority (856 thousand) were in the 'Lone parent' group (under age 60 and not disabled).

The number of dependants of 'Lone parents' on IS stood at 1.62 million in May 2002, 69% of these were aged under 11.

Males accounted for the majority (62%) of claimants in the 'Other' statistical group in May 2002. Most of this group (81%) were single people without dependants.

Main changes to benefit rules

See Annex 4.

Income Support claimants by statistical group: May 2002

Chart 2A: IS claimants by gender and statistical group

Thousands

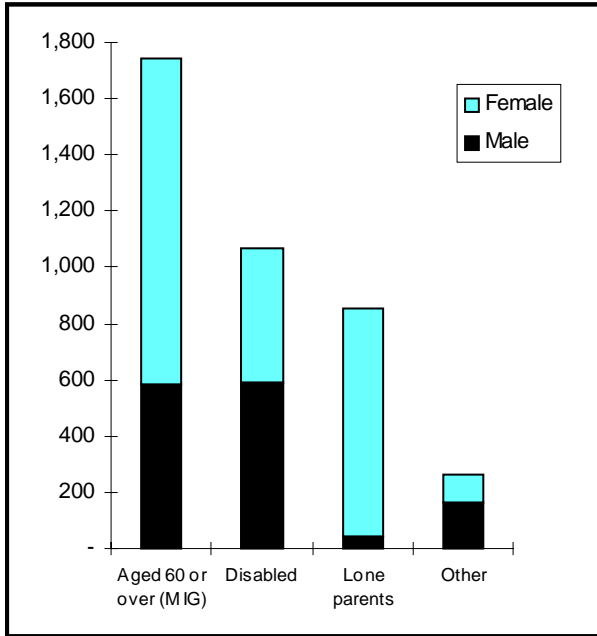


Chart 2B: IS claimants by family type and statistical group

Thousands

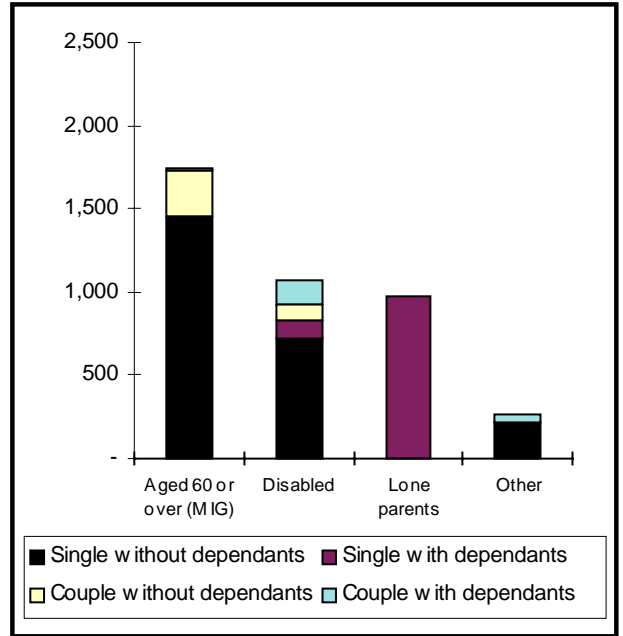


Chart 2C: IS claimants by duration of current claim and statistical group

Thousands

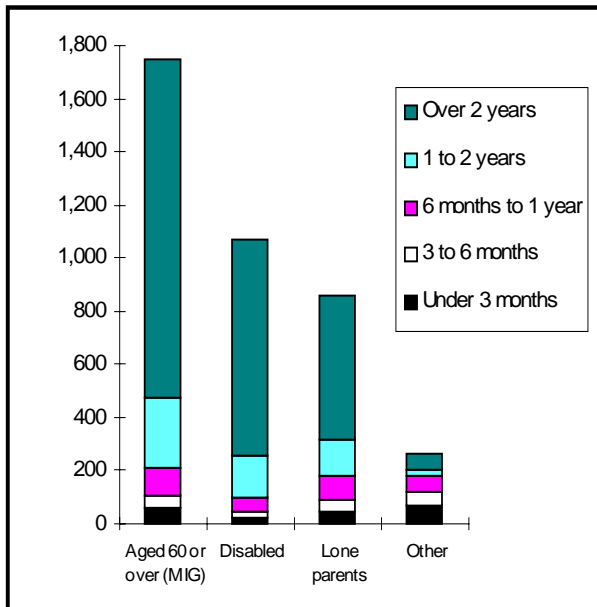
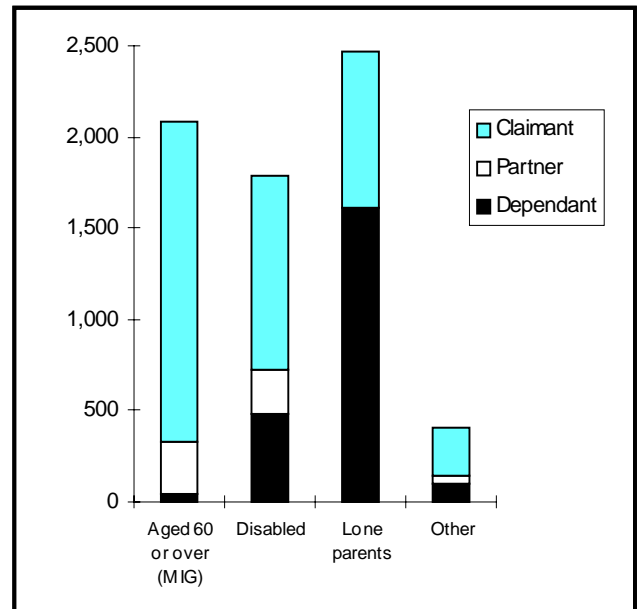


Chart 2D: Beneficiaries of IS claimants by statistical group

Thousands



Claimants categorised as aged 60 or over (MIG)

Table 2.1: Income Support claimants aged 60 or over (MIG) by age and gender: May 1998 to May 2002

	All claimants	Males				Females			
		60-64 ⁽¹⁾	65-74	75-79	80 or over	60-64 ⁽¹⁾	65-74	75-79	80 or over
1998 May	1,659	181	161	59	121	116	270	205	545
1999 May	1,624	183	159	61	114	119	262	205	521
2000 May	1,615	184	165	61	112	122	260	193	517
2001 May	1,717	185	183	69	122	133	281	202	543
2002 May	1,746	188	199	72	121	138	291	199	538

Notes: 1. 60-64 age band includes claimants aged under 60 where there is a partner aged 60 or over

Table 2.2: Income Support claimants aged 60 or over (MIG) by family type: May 1998 to May 2002

	All claimants	Single without dependants	Single with dependants	Couple without dependants	Couple with dependants
1998 May	1,659	1,399	7	232	21
1999 May	1,624	1,371	7	226	20
2000 May	1,615	1,358	7	229	20
2001 May	1,717	1,436	7	253	20
2002 May	1,746	1,452	8	265	21

Table 2.3: Income Support claimants aged 60 or over (MIG) by duration of current claim, age and gender: May 2002

Age	All claimants '000(=100%)	Duration				
		% under 3 months	% 3 to under 6 months	% 6 months to under 1 year	% 1 year to under 2 years	% 2 years or over
Total	1,746	3.3	2.9	5.9	14.9	73.0
Male	580	4.0	3.4	6.9	15.7	70.1
60-64 ⁽¹⁾	188	4.7	4.4	9.3	14.9	66.7
65-74	199	3.6	2.5	4.9	13.5	75.5
75-79	72	4.1	3.5	7.2	19.3	65.8
80 or over	121	3.4	3.1	6.1	18.2	69.2
Female	1,166	2.9	2.7	5.4	14.6	74.4
60-64 ⁽¹⁾	138	4.4	3.6	6.9	15.3	69.8
65-74	291	2.9	2.5	5.6	14.7	74.3
75-79	199	2.9	3.0	6.1	17.9	70.1
80 or over	538	2.5	2.5	4.6	13.1	77.3

Notes: 1. 60-64 age band includes claimants aged under 60 where there is a partner aged 60 or over.
 2. The number and proportion of claims with short duration's will be undercounted in this table due to new awards which were not added to the IS computer system by the time of the data extract. Duration reflects total time spent on IS and not just time spent in the current client group.

Table 2.4: Beneficiaries of Income Support claimants aged 60 or over (MIG) by type and Government Office Region (GOR): May 2002

GOR	All	Type of beneficiary			Beneficiaries as % of GOR's population
		Claimant	Partner	Dependant	
Great Britain	2,079	1,746	286	47	3.6
England	1,747	1,463	242	42	3.5
North East	119	101	17	1	4.6
North West	288	245	38	6	4.2
Yorkshire and the Humber	203	170	28	5	4.0
East Midlands	142	120	21	2	3.4
West Midlands	224	184	34	6	4.2
East	157	132	22	3	2.9
London	262	211	37	14	3.6
South East	196	167	25	4	2.4
South West	155	133	20	2	3.1
Wales	121	100	18	2	4.1
Scotland	211	183	26	2	4.1

Table 2.5: Partners and dependants of Income Support claimants aged 60 or over (MIG): May 1998 to May 2002

	Partners ('000)	All dependants '000(=100%)	Dependants aged			
			Under 5 %	5 – 10 %	11 – 15 %	16 or over %
			Thousands / Percentages			
1998 May	253	50	5.7	21.9	44.1	28.3
1999 May	246	48	5.5	21.4	44.4	28.6
2000 May	250	48	5.0	20.9	44.6	29.5
2001 May	274	47	4.5	20.6	44.0	31.0
2002 May	286	47	4.5	19.1	44.4	32.0

Table 2.6: Average weekly amount paid to Income Support claimants aged 60 or over (MIG) by age and gender: May 1998 to May 2002

All claimants	£ per week								
	Males				Females				
	60-64 ⁽¹⁾	65-74	75-79	80 or over	60-64 ⁽¹⁾	65-74	75-79	80 or over	
1998 May	42.29	70.47	38.24	36.50	37.45	40.52	31.50	31.87	45.46
1999 May	45.30	74.00	41.88	40.74	40.40	44.57	35.10	34.82	47.33
2000 May	48.18	78.09	44.50	44.09	43.29	46.72	38.28	37.80	49.45
2001 May	50.73	87.13	49.06	43.63	42.65	51.58	42.52	40.17	49.57
2002 May	49.68	87.04	47.69	41.83	42.19	51.36	42.23	40.14	47.26

Notes: 1. 60-64 age band includes claimants aged under 60 where there is a partner aged 60 or over.

Income Support claimants with a disability premium

Table 2.7: Income Support claimants with a disability premium by age and gender: May 1998 to May 2002

	All claimants	Thousands					
		Males			Females		
		Under 18	18-24	25-59	Under 18	18-24	25-59
1998 May	881	4	40	447	2	38	350
1999 May	914	4	40	462	3	37	368
2000 May	962	4	43	486	3	38	389
2001 May	1,017	3	46	514	2	39	412
2002 May	1,067	2	38	548	1	34	444

Table 2.8: Income Support claimants with a disability premium by family type: May 1998 to May 2002

	All claimants	Thousands			
		Single without dependants	Single with dependants	Couple without dependants	Couple with dependants
1998 May	881	583	84	88	126
1999 May	914	602	90	92	129
2000 May	962	639	96	95	132
2001 May	1,017	680	102	97	139
2002 May	1,067	718	108	99	141

Table 2.9: Income Support claimants with a disability premium by duration of current claim, age and gender: May 2002

Age	All claimants '000(=100%)	Thousands / Percentages				
		Duration				
		% under 3 months	% 3 to under 6 months	% 6 months to under 1 year	% 1 year to under 2 years	% 2 years or over
Total	1,067	1.8	2.2	5.0	14.8	76.2
Male	587	1.9	2.3	5.1	16.0	74.8
under 18	2	24.0	25.3	42.7	8.0	-
18-24	38	2.6	3.8	9.2	24.3	60.1
25-59	548	1.8	2.1	4.7	15.4	76.0
Female	479	1.7	2.0	4.8	13.3	78.0
under 18	1	13.8	24.1	48.3	13.8	-
18-24	34	2.6	3.4	8.0	23.8	62.2
25-59	444	1.6	1.9	4.5	12.5	79.5

Notes: 1. The number and proportion of claims with short durations will be undercounted in this table due to new awards which were not added to the IS computer system by the time of the data extract. Duration reflects total time spent on IS and not just time spent in the current client group.

Table 2.10: Beneficiaries of Income Support claimants with a disability premium by type and Government Office Region (GOR): May 2002

GOR	All	Type of beneficiary			Beneficiaries as % of GOR's population
		Claimant	Partner	Dependant	
		<i>Thousands / Percentages</i>			
Great Britain	1,792	1,067	240	486	3.1
England	1,468	868	197	403	2.9
North East	114	65	18	32	4.4
North West	298	176	38	85	4.3
Yorkshire and the Humber	163	92	25	46	3.2
East Midlands	112	65	16	30	2.7
West Midlands	171	95	25	51	3.2
East	113	67	16	30	2.1
London	243	149	27	67	3.3
South East	140	89	18	34	1.7
South West	114	71	16	27	2.3
Wales	129	72	20	37	4.4
Scotland	195	126	24	45	3.8

Table 2.11: Partners and dependants of Income Support claimants with a disability premium: May 1998 to May 2002

	Partners ('000)	All dependants '000(=100%)	Dependants aged			
			Under 5	5 – 10	11 – 15	16 or over
			%	%	%	%
1998 May	214	416	21.4	32.9	33.8	11.9
1999 May	221	430	20.5	33.1	34.2	12.2
2000 May	227	447	21.4	32.4	33.9	12.3
2001 May	236	473	21.3	32.5	33.4	12.8
2002 May	240	486	21.0	32.0	34.0	13.0

Table 2.12: Average weekly amount paid to Income Support claimants with a disability premium by age and gender: May 1998 to May 2002

All claimants	<i>£ per week</i>						
	Males			Females			
	Under 18	18-24	25-59	Under 18	18-24	25-59	
1998 May	64.14	21.85	45.06	66.48	20.87	50.88	65.54
1999 May	66.99	22.28	46.79	68.97	24.41	53.12	68.88
2000 May	70.14	18.89	48.43	71.71	27.12	58.38	72.51
2001 May	75.50	23.54	51.70	77.11	26.40	61.38	78.17
2002 May	76.92	40.80	59.21	76.99	42.10	69.49	79.10

Lone parents

Table 2.13: Single Income Support claimants with dependants by premium group: May 1998 to May 2002

						<i>Thousands</i>
	Single claimants with dependants	Aged 60 or over (MIG)	Disabled	Lone parents	Other	
1998 May	1,052	7	84	961	-	
1999 May	1,034	7	90	936	1	
2000 May	1,014	7	96	910	1	
2001 May	998	7	102	888	-	
2002 May	972	8	108	856	-	

Notes: 1. Lone Parent figures include a number of cases where the youngest child is aged 16+

Table 2.14: Lone parent Income Support claimants by age and gender: May 1998 to May 2002

								<i>Thousands</i>
	All claimants	Males			Females			
		Under 18	18-24	25-59	Under 18	18-24	25-59	
1998 May	961	-	2	48	8	177	726	
1999 May	936	-	1	46	9	171	708	
2000 May	910	-	1	44	7	172	686	
2001 May	888	-	2	44	8	169	666	
2002 May	856	-	1	41	7	165	641	

Notes: 1. Lone Parent Figures include a number of cases where the youngest child is aged 16+

Table 2.15: Lone parent Income Support claimants by duration of current claim, age and gender: May 2002

							<i>Thousands / Percentages</i>
Age	All claimants '000(=100%)	Duration					
		% under 3 Months	% 3 to under 6 months	% 6 months to under 1 year	% 1 year to under 2 years	% 2 years or over	
All	856	5.3	5.5	10.2	16.2	62.9	
Male	43	7.5	7.5	12.2	19.2	53.5	
under 18	-	-	-	-	-	-	
18-24	1	9.6	20.5	11.0	38.4	20.5	
25-59	41	7.5	7.1	12.3	18.5	54.7	
Female	814	5.2	5.4	10.1	16.0	63.3	
under 18	7	10.5	23.0	38.1	27.8	0.6	
18-24	165	6.7	7.9	15.0	24.5	45.9	
25-59	641	4.7	4.6	8.5	13.7	68.5	

Notes: 1. The number and proportion of claims with short durations will be undercounted in this table due to new awards which were not added to the IS computer system by the time of the data extract. Duration reflects total time spent on IS and not just time spent in the current client group.
2. Lone Parent figures include a number of cases where the youngest child is aged 16+

Table 2.16: Beneficiaries of lone parent Income Support claimants by type and Government Office Region (GOR): May 2002

Thousands / Percentages

GOR	All	Type of beneficiary		Beneficiaries as % of GOR's population
		Claimant	Dependant	
Great Britain	2,471	856	1,615	4.3
England	2,123	732	1,391	4.2
North East	132	47	85	5.1
North West	341	118	223	4.9
Yorkshire and the Humber	219	75	143	4.3
East Midlands	151	52	99	3.6
West Midlands	231	79	152	4.3
East	176	61	115	3.2
London	482	164	318	6.5
South East	241	83	158	3.0
South West	151	53	98	3.0
Wales	135	47	88	4.6
Scotland	213	78	135	4.2

Table 2.17: Dependants of lone parent Income Support claimants: May 1998 to May 2002

Thousands/Percentages

	All dependants '000(=100%)	Dependants aged			
		Under 5 %	5 - 10 %	11 - 15 %	16 or over %
1998 May	1,788	33.1	38.6	23.7	4.7
1999 May	1,748	32.6	38.1	24.7	4.7
2000 May	1,707	32.3	37.6	25.3	4.8
2001 May	1,667	32.1	37.2	25.7	5.0
2002 May	1,615	31.7	37.0	26.1	5.2

Table 2.18: Average weekly amount paid to lone parent Income Support claimants by age and gender: May 1998 to May 2002

£ per week

	All claimants	Males			Females		
		Under 18	18-24	25-59	Under 18	18-24	25-59
1998 May	79.67	-	72.16	83.09	51.03	69.98	82.16
1999 May	82.01	-	73.96	83.11	52.99	72.82	84.54
2000 May	91.21	-	81.34	89.99	60.55	81.54	94.07
2001 May	101.44	-	84.92	97.87	66.22	88.91	105.30
2002 May	105.39	-	91.10	99.50	68.64	92.54	109.51

Other Income Support claimants (i.e. not classified as 'Aged over 60', 'Lone parents' or 'Disabled')

**Table 2.19: Other Income Support claimants by age and gender:
May 1998 to May 2002**

	All claimants	Thousands					
		Males			Females		
		Under 18	18-24	25-59	Under 18	18-24	25-59
1998 May	353	5	31	186	8	24	99
1999 May	314	4	32	176	8	24	95
2000 May	324	4	32	170	7	23	88
2001 May	306	3	28	158	7	24	86
2002 May	261	3	26	133	6	22	71

**Table 2.20: Other Income Support claimants by family type:
May 1998 to May 2002**

	All claimants	Thousands			
		Single without dependants	Single with dependants	Couple without dependants	Couple with dependants
1998 May	353	282	-	19	52
1999 May	341	275	1	16	48
2000 May	324	262	1	15	47
2001 May	306	250	-	13	43
2002 May	261	210	-	12	39

Table 2.21: Other Income Support claimants by duration of current claim, age and gender: May 2002

Age	All claimants '000(=100%)	Thousands / Percentages				
		Duration				
		% under 3 months	% 3 to under 6 months	% 6 months to under 1 year	% 1 year to under 2 years	% 2 years or over
Total	261	25.0	19.9	24.6	7.2	23.4
Male	162	25.5	21.6	26.2	6.2	20.5
under 18	3	42.6	31.1	23.0	3.4	-
18-24	26	31.3	23.9	28.7	6.2	10.1
25-59	133	24.0	20.9	25.8	6.3	22.9
Female	99	24.2	17.1	21.9	8.8	28.1
under 18	6	47.3	25.0	18.8	8.6	0.3
18-24	22	37.3	21.4	23.1	9.1	9.1
25-59	71	18.2	15.0	21.7	8.7	36.4

Notes: 1. The number and proportion of claims with short durations will be undercounted in this table due to new awards which were not added to the IS computer system by the time of the data extract. Duration reflects total time spent on IS and not just time spent in the current client group

Table 2.22: Beneficiaries of other Income Support claimants by type and Government Office Region (GOR): May 2002

GOR	Type of beneficiary				Beneficiaries as % of GOR's population
	All	Claimant	Partner	Dependant	
Great Britain	406	261	50	95	0.7
England	339	213	43	82	0.7
North East	26	16	4	7	1.0
North West	59	38	7	14	0.9
Yorkshire and the Humber	39	24	5	10	0.8
East Midlands	26	15	4	7	0.6
West Midlands	40	24	5	10	0.7
East	23	14	3	6	0.4
London	69	43	9	16	0.9
South East	31	20	4	8	0.4
South West	26	17	3	6	0.5
Wales	24	15	3	6	0.8
Scotland	44	33	4	7	0.9

Table 2.23: Partners and dependants of other Income Support claimants: May 1998 to May 2002

	Partners ('000)	All dependants '000(=100%)	Dependants aged			
			Under 5	5 – 10	11 – 15	16 or over
			%	%	%	%
1998 May	70	126	31.2	36.3	25.6	7.0
1999 May	64	118	32.2	34.6	26.6	6.7
2000 May	62	114	31.5	36.3	25.6	6.7
2001 May	56	102	30.6	35.8	26.7	6.9
2002 May	50	95	29.1	36.4	27.3	7.3

Table 2.24: Average weekly amount paid to other Income Support claimants by age and gender: May 1998 to May 2002

All claimants	£ per week						
	Males			Females			
	Under 18	18-24	25-59	Under 18	18-24	25-59	
1998 May	65.38	35.69	44.85	70.97	36.55	44.38	70.16
1999 May	66.71	35.80	44.60	73.59	37.41	44.44	71.23
2000 May	68.37	36.17	44.88	74.60	38.13	45.97	74.62
2001 May	71.26	38.28	46.54	77.66	38.39	46.98	78.12
2002 May	56.17	37.50	46.32	59.66	38.64	47.28	58.22

Section 3: Length of time on Income Support

	Page
Summary	43
Key findings.....	43
Table 3.1 Income Support claimants by duration of current claim: May 1998 to May 2002	45
Chart 3A Income Support claimants by duration of current claim: May 2002	45
Table 3.2 Income Support claimants by duration of current claim and statistical group: May 2002	46
Chart 3B Income Support claimants by duration of current claim and statistical group: May 2002	46
Table 3.3 Income Support claimants by duration of current claim, age and gender: May 2002	47
Table 3.4 Income Support claimants by duration of current claim and range of weekly IS payments: May 2002	47

Summary - Length of time on Income Support

This section examines the duration of Income Support (IS) claims with respect to key characteristics of claimants. A comparison over time is also given. It should be noted however, that comparison of duration analyses for cases that were unemployed before becoming eligible for one of the current IS groups, have been affected by the introduction of JSA. This is because prior to JSA, time spent unemployed before transferring to one of the other IS groups would have been included in the duration calculation. Under JSA this is no longer the case.

Duration analysis can give an indication of why the caseload is changing in terms of flows of claimants onto and off benefit. For example, when the overall number of claimants rises this is because numbers coming onto benefit exceed the numbers who leave. More detailed information on flows can be found in Section 13. A sharp increase in overall numbers is normally associated with an increase in the number of claimants with shorter durations on benefit. A longer term increase in overall numbers can also be due to people having longer spells on IS, which in turn is reflected in an increase in numbers with longer durations.

Key findings

The proportion and number of IS claimants who began their current claim in the 13 weeks prior to the May 2002 enquiry fell slightly from 5.6% (221 thousand) to 4.8% (187 thousand).

Claimants who received a disability premium, in the 'Disabled' statistical group, had spent the longest time on IS in May 2002 (76.2% had a claim which has lasted 2 years or over). Claimants in the 'Other' group were likely to have spent the shortest time (25.0% had made their claim in the 3 months to May 2002).

Claimants with longer claim durations were more likely to receive higher amounts of benefit than those claimants with shorter claim durations. 38.8% of those with a duration of 2 years or more received £80 or more per week, compared with only 29.4% for those with a duration of under 3 months.

Section 3: Length of time on Income Support

Table 3.1: Income Support claimants by duration of current claim: May 1998 to May 2002

Duration	<i>Thousands / Percentages</i>				
	May 1998	May 1999	May 2000	May 2001	May 2002
All claimants '000(=100%)	3,853	3,814	3,811	3,928	3,930
% Under 3 months	5.0	5.5	5.2	5.6	4.8
% 3 to under 6 months	5.0	5.1	4.7	4.8	4.4
% 6 to under 12 months	8.6	8.3	8.4	9.7	7.8
% 1 to under 2 years	11.5	12.3	13.0	12.4	14.6
% 2 to under 3 years	9.0	8.8	9.5	9.7	9.8
% 3 to under 4 years	8.0	7.2	7.2	7.6	8.0
% 4 to under 5 years	7.1	6.5	5.8	5.7	6.4
% 5 years and over	45.8	46.2	46.2	44.5	44.3

Chart 3A: Income Support claimants by duration of current claim: May 2002

Thousands

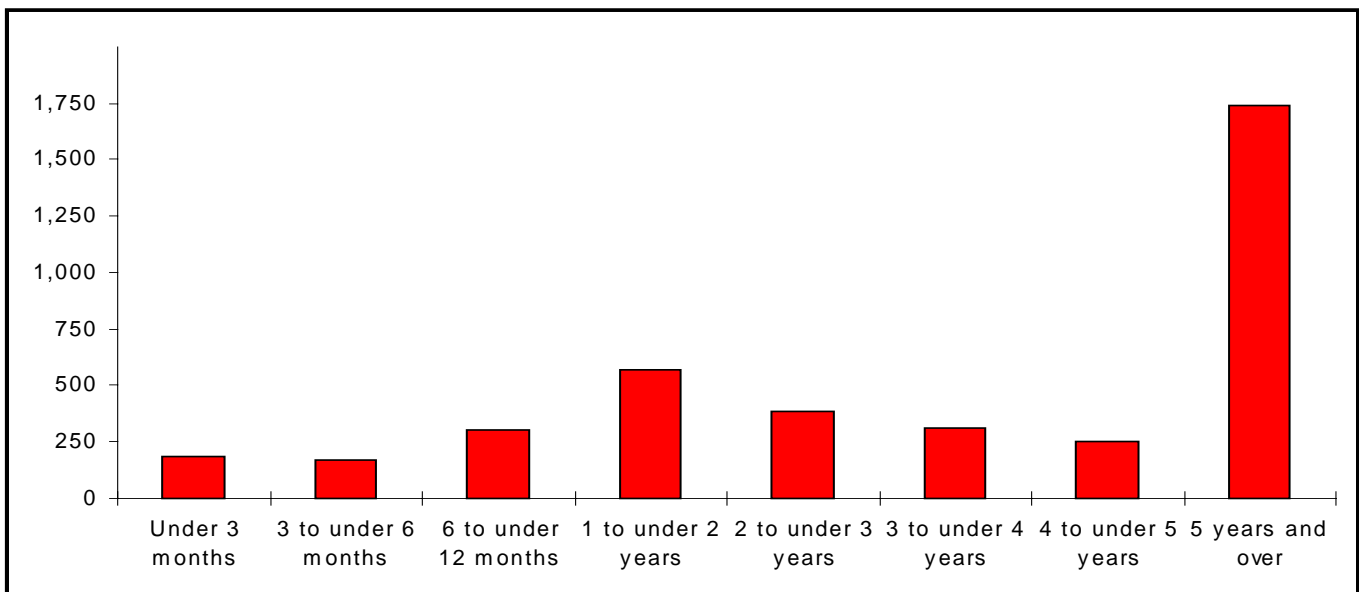


Table 3.2: Income Support claimants by duration of current claim and statistical group: May 2002

Thousands / Percentages

Duration	All claimants	Statistical group			
		Aged 60 or over (MIG)	Lone parents	Disabled	Other
All claimants '000(=100%)	3,930	1,746	856	1,067	261
% Under 3 months	4.8	3.3	5.3	1.8	25.0
% 3 to under 6 months	4.4	2.9	5.5	2.2	19.9
% 6 to under 12 months	7.8	5.9	10.2	5.0	24.6
% 1 to under 2 years	14.6	14.9	16.2	14.8	7.2
% 2 to under 3 years	9.8	8.2	12.3	11.3	5.3
% 3 to under 4 years	8.0	6.7	9.6	9.9	3.5
% 4 to under 5 years	6.4	5.4	7.2	8.2	2.7
% 5 years and over	44.3	52.7	33.8	46.8	11.9

Notes: 1. Duration reflects total time spent on IS and not just the time spent in the current client group.

Chart 3B: Income Support claimants by duration of current claim and statistical group: May 2002

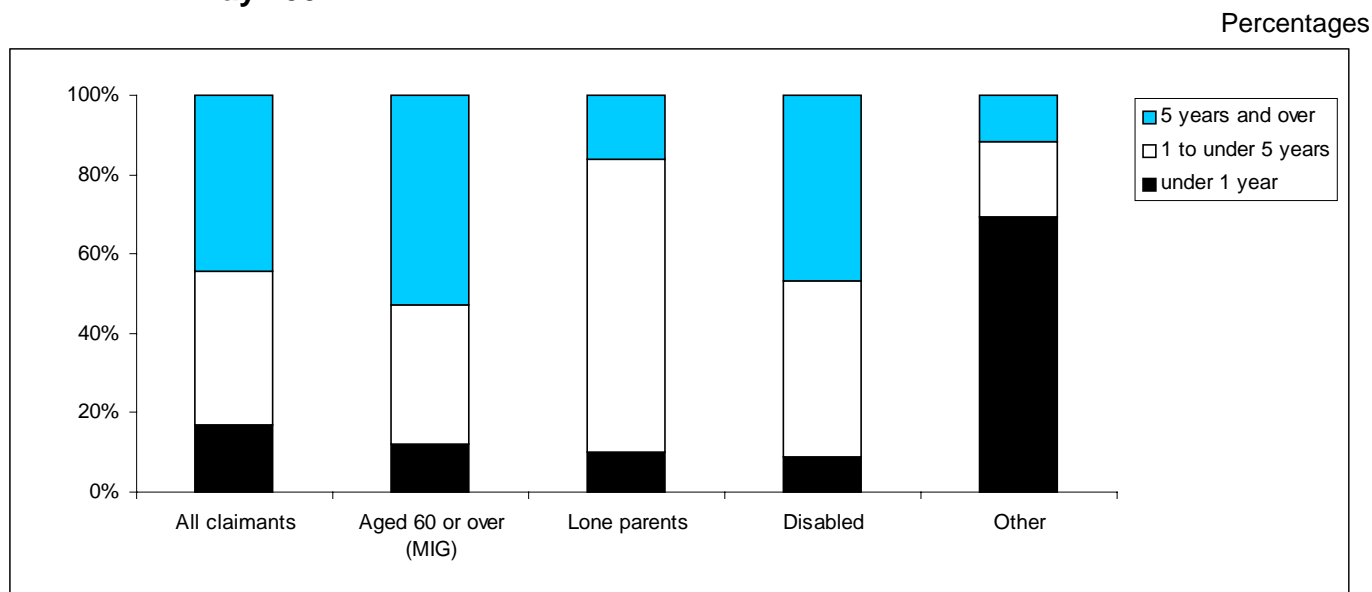


Table 3.3: Income Support claimants by duration of current claim, age and gender: May 2002

		<i>Thousands / Percentages</i>				
Age / Gender	All claimants	Duration				
		% under 3 months	% 3 months to under 6 months	% 6 months to under 1 year	% 1 year to under 2 years	% 2 years or over
Total	3,930	4.8	4.4	7.8	14.6	68.4
Male	1,372	5.7	5.2	8.6	14.8	65.7
under 18	4	36.3	29.1	29.6	4.9	-
18-24	65	14.1	12.1	16.9	17.5	39.5
25-59	729	6.2	5.8	9.0	13.9	65.1
over 60	573	4.0	3.4	6.9	15.7	70.1
Female	2,558	4.2	4.0	7.4	14.6	69.8
under 18	14	26.1	23.9	30.9	18.7	0.4
18-24	221	9.1	8.6	14.7	22.9	44.7
25-59	1,163	4.4	4.2	7.8	12.9	70.8
over 60	1,160	2.9	2.7	5.4	14.6	74.4

Table 3.4: Income Support claimants by duration of current claim and range of weekly IS payment: May 2002

		<i>Thousands / Percentages / £ per week</i>				
	All claimants	Duration				
		Under 3 months	3 months to under 6 months	6 months to under 1 year	1 year to under 2 years	2 years or over
All amounts '000(=100%)	3,930	187	173	307	576	2,687
Under £10	4.6	13.3	9.9	8.1	9.3	2.2
£10 to under £30	20.5	14.2	12.6	13.8	20.7	22.2
£30 to under £40	5.9	5.9	6.3	5.9	5.5	6.0
£40 to under £50	5.8	12.8	10.4	8.1	5.3	4.8
£50 to under £70	14.2	20.4	20.4	19.1	10.7	13.6
£70 to under £80	11.2	4.1	5.0	6.3	12.1	12.4
£80 to under £100	15.7	13.3	17.1	18.2	16.6	15.4
£100 or over	22.1	16.1	18.3	20.4	19.8	23.5
Average amount £ per week	69.64	58.43	63.86	67.46	65.85	71.86

Section 4: Regional analysis – Government Office Regions (GOR)

	Page
Summary	51
Key findings.....	51
Table 4.1 Income Support claimants by GOR: May 1998 to May 2002	53
Table 4.2 Income Support claimants by GOR and statistical group: May 2002	53
Table 4.3 Beneficiaries of Income Support by type and GOR: May 2002	54
Chart 4A Beneficiaries of Income Support as a percentage of the population by GOR: May 2002.....	54
Table 4.4 Average weekly payment of Income Support by GOR and statistical group: May 2002	55
Table 4.5 Income Support claimants by GOR and duration of current claim: May 2002.....	55

Summary - Regional analysis – Government Office Regions (GOR)

This section gives regional breakdowns of the overall caseload by Government Office Regions (GOR). The map at annex 5 shows the boundaries for GOR.

These tables look at regional variations in caseload and compare it with earlier periods. They also examine regional variation of certain other key features, i.e. statistical group, beneficiaries, average weekly payment and duration of claim. The rules that determine entitlement to Income Support (IS) are the same for people in all regions. Any differences between regions in average weekly payments therefore reflect a different claimant mix.

Key findings

There has been little change in the distribution of IS claimants between GORs over the period May 1998 to May 2002.

Just under 12% of the population of Great Britain was an IS beneficiary (i.e. claimant, partner or dependant) in May 2002. This varied from 7.5% in the South East to 15.2% in the North East.

IS claimants in London were likely to have spent the longest time on benefit at May 2002 (72.2% had a claim with a duration of 2 years or more compared with 68.4% for Great Britain as a whole). IS claimants in London were also likely to have spent the shortest time on benefit (14.6% had a claim with a duration of under 1 year compared with 17% for Great Britain as a whole).

Please note - statistical data is also available on the NS website at the following address:
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/neighbourhood/home.asp>

Section 4: Regional Analysis – Government Office Region (GOR)

Table 4.1: Income Support claimants by GOR: May 1998 to May 2002

GOR	<i>Thousands</i>				
	May 1998	May 1999	May 2000	May 2001	May 2002
Great Britain	3,853	3,814	3,811	3,928	3,930
England	3,223	3,186	3,183	3,275	3,276
North East	212	214	219	226	229
North West	575	565	559	577	576
Yorkshire and the Humber	345	343	348	361	362
East Midlands	243	240	241	250	253
West Midlands	366	362	364	376	382
East	268	265	266	276	275
London	582	575	573	572	567
South East	363	354	351	363	359
South West	268	269	264	274	274
Wales	226	228	229	236	234
Scotland	404	400	398	417	419

Table 4.2: Income Support claimants by GOR and statistical group: May 2002

GOR	All claimants '000(=100%)	Statistical group				Claimants as % of GOR's population ⁽¹⁾
		Aged 60 or over (MIG) %	Lone parents %	Disabled %	Other %	
Great Britain	3,930	44.4	21.8	27.1	6.6	8.5
England	3,276	44.7	22.3	26.5	6.5	8.2
North East	229	44.3	20.4	28.3	7.0	11.1
North West	576	42.5	20.4	30.5	6.6	10.5
Yorkshire and the Humber	362	47.0	20.8	25.6	6.6	9.0
East Midlands	253	47.4	20.7	25.8	6.1	7.5
West Midlands	382	48.1	20.7	24.8	6.4	9.0
East	275	48.1	22.3	24.4	5.2	6.3
London	567	37.2	28.9	26.3	7.7	9.6
South East	359	46.7	23.1	24.7	5.5	5.5
South West	274	48.5	19.3	25.9	6.3	6.8
Wales	234	42.8	19.9	30.8	6.5	10.0
Scotland	419	43.6	18.5	30.1	7.8	10.2

Notes: 1. Aged 16 or over

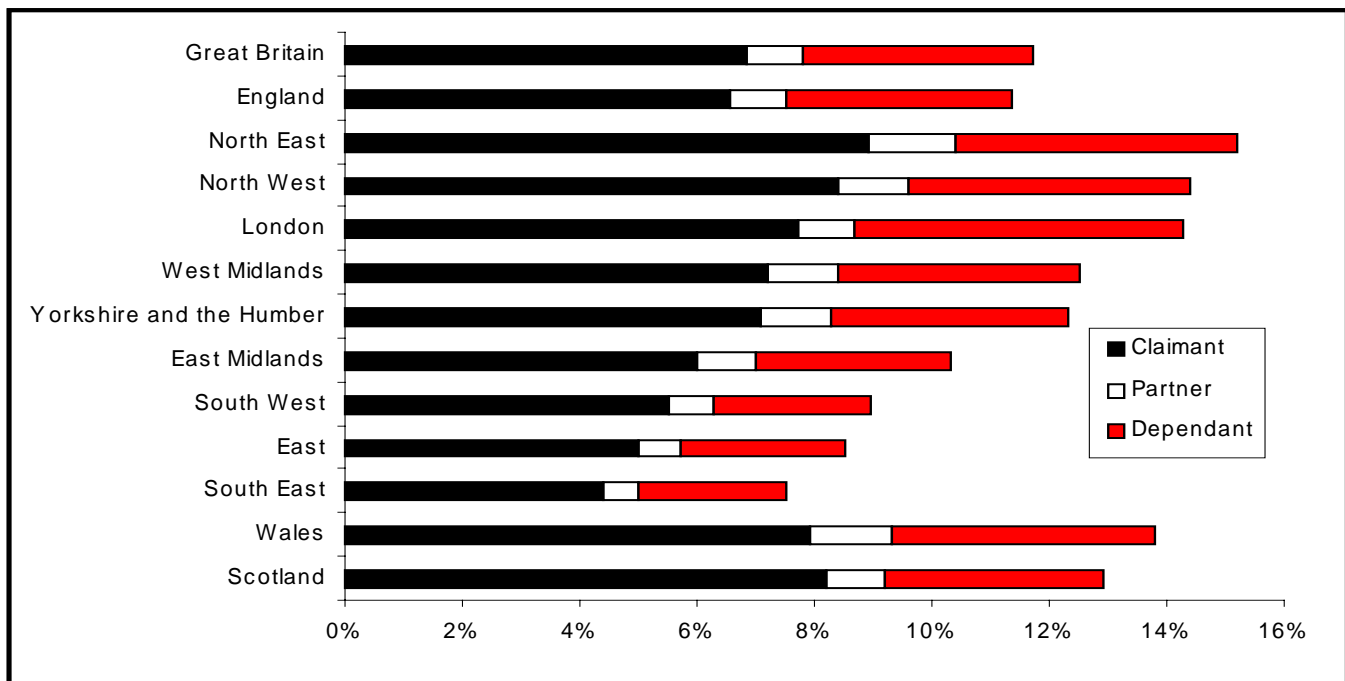
Table 4.3: Beneficiaries of Income Support by type and GOR: May 2002

Thousands / Percentages

GOR	Type of beneficiary				Beneficiaries as % of GOR's population
	All	Claimant	Partner	Dependant	
Great Britain	6,749	3,930	577	2,242	11.6
England	5,677	3,276	482	1,919	11.4
North East	392	229	38	125	15.2
North West	987	576	82	328	14.3
Yorkshire and the Humber	624	362	59	204	12.3
East Midlands	431	253	41	138	10.2
West Midlands	666	382	64	220	12.5
East	469	275	41	153	8.6
London	1,056	567	73	416	14.3
South East	608	359	46	203	7.5
South West	446	274	39	132	9.0
Wales	408	234	41	134	13.9
Scotland	663	419	54	190	13.0

Chart 4A: Beneficiaries of Income Support as a percentage of the population by GOR: May 2002

Percentages



**Table 4.4: Average weekly payment of Income Support by GOR and statistical group:
May 2002**

GOR	All claimants	Statistical group				<i>£ per week</i>
		Aged 60 or over (MIG)	Lone parents	Disabled	Other	
		Great Britain	69.64	49.69	105.39	76.92
England	70.35	50.12	105.79	77.77	57.21	
North East	65.56	43.64	102.41	75.49	56.57	
North West	69.37	48.39	105.19	77.74	55.16	
Yorkshire and the Humber	67.36	47.08	105.56	75.99	57.57	
East Midlands	66.91	48.06	104.92	73.19	57.88	
West Midlands	67.86	48.40	106.22	76.45	56.67	
East	68.07	48.08	105.03	76.07	56.83	
London	83.11	65.75	107.88	86.89	61.07	
South East	68.61	47.85	105.90	75.78	56.25	
South West	65.14	46.49	104.88	73.17	53.74	
Wales	68.30	47.67	105.24	76.16	53.98	
Scotland	64.87	47.29	101.69	71.43	50.33	

**Table 4.5: Income Support claimants by GOR and duration of current claim:
May 2002**

GOR	All claimants '000(=100%)	Duration of claim					<i>Thousands / Percentages</i>
		% under 3 months	% 3 months to under 6 months	% 6 months to under 1 year	% 1 year to under 2 years	% 2 years or over	
		Great Britain	3,930	4.8	4.4	7.8	14.6
England	3,276	4.7	4.4	7.8	14.7	68.4	
North East	229	5.7	4.5	8.0	14.3	67.6	
North West	576	4.6	4.3	7.6	14.2	69.3	
Yorkshire and the Humber	362	5.4	4.6	8.3	14.9	66.8	
East Midlands	253	5.5	4.8	8.2	16.1	65.5	
West Midlands	382	4.6	4.5	8.2	14.6	68.1	
East	275	4.7	4.5	7.8	14.9	68.1	
London	567	3.6	3.9	7.1	13.1	72.2	
South East	359	4.5	4.5	8.0	15.6	67.4	
South West	274	5.2	4.6	8.1	16.0	66.1	
Wales	234	4.8	4.1	7.6	13.8	69.7	
Scotland	419	5.2	4.5	7.7	15.1	67.5	

Section 5: Claimants, partners and dependants

	Page
Summary	59
Key findings.....	59
Table 5.1 Beneficiaries of Income Support by type: 1997 to 2002.....	61
Table 5.2 Income Support claimants by age and gender: May 2002	62
Chart 5A Income support claimants by age: May 2000 to May 2002	62
Table 5.3 Partners and dependants of Income Support claimants: 1997 to 2002.....	63
Chart 5B Dependants of Income Support claimants by age: May 2002	63
Table 5.4 Income Support claimants by age and number of dependants: May 2002	64
Chart 5C Income Support claimants with dependants by number: May 2002.....	64
Table 5.5 Income Support claimants with dependants by number and average weekly payment: May 2002.....	65
Table 5.6 Partners of Income Support claimants by age and statistical group: May 2002	65
Table 5.7 Income Support claimants by gender, marital status and statistical group: May 2002	66
Chart 5D Income Support claimants by gender and marital status: May 2002	66

Summary - Claimants, partners and dependants

This section looks at the distribution of claimants by gender, age, marital status and family profile (i.e. number of dependants, age of dependants).

Either member of a couple can claim Income Support (IS) (though in practice normally by the male) but they do so on behalf of themselves and their partner, plus any dependent children. Entitlement to IS takes account of both the claimant and their partner's circumstances and is based on age related personal allowances plus extra allowances for a partner and any dependent children (aged under 16, plus those aged under 19 who are still in full time education).

Key findings

Claimants with partners and/or dependants tend to receive higher amounts of payment than single, childless claimants. This is because they are entitled to a higher rate and/or additional allowances.

The proportion of the population benefiting from IS (i.e. claimant, partner or dependant) remained broadly constant over the year to stand at 11.6% in May 2002.

In May 2002 just under a third (1.17 million) of IS claimants had dependants - on average 1.9 dependants per claimant.

There was a rise in the number of dependants of IS claimants in the quarter to May 2002 – up by 3 thousand to 2.24 million. The number of partners of IS claimants rose by 4 thousand over the same period.

Just under three-quarters (0.86 million) of claimants with dependants were classed as lone parents (i.e. single with dependants aged under 60 and not in receipt of a disability premium) in May 2002.

Section 5: Claimants, partners and dependants

Table 5.1: Beneficiaries of Income Support by type: 1997 to 2002

		Type of beneficiary				<i>Thousands / Percentages</i>
		All	Claimant	Partner	Dependant	Beneficiaries as % of population
1997	Feb	6,971	3,954	549	2,467	12.2
	May	6,973	3,958	551	2,464	12.2
	Aug	7,011	3,974	556	2,481	12.2
	Nov	6,919	3,938	555	2,426	12.1
1998	Feb	6,848	3,901	549	2,398	12.0
	May	6,769	3,853	537	2,379	11.8
	Aug	6,760	3,845	535	2,379	11.8
	Nov	6,695	3,824	534	2,337	11.7
1999	Feb	6,691	3,815	532	2,344	11.7
	May	6,689	3,814	531	2,344	11.6
	Aug	6,730	3,835	533	2,362	11.7
	Nov	6,704	3,835	536	2,333	11.6
2000	Feb	6,660	3,806	535	2,319	11.6
	May	6,666	3,811	539	2,317	11.7
	Aug	6,722	3,845	547	2,330	11.6
	Nov	6,720	3,877	556	2,287	11.6
2001	Feb	6,742	3,890	558	2,294	11.7
	May	6,782	3,928	565	2,289	11.7
	Aug	6,842	3,963	571	2,307	11.8
	Nov	6,770	3,950	574	2,247	11.7
2002	Feb	6,752	3,941	573	2,239	11.6
	May	6,749	3,930	577	2,242	11.6

Table 5.2: Income Support claimants by age and gender: May 2002

Age group	All claimants		Male		Female	
	Total		Total		Total	
	'000(=100%)	%	'000(=100%)	%	'000(=100%)	%
All ages	3,930	100	1,372	100	2,558	100
Under 18	19	0.5	4	0.3	14	0.5
18 - 24	286	7.3	65	4.7	221	8.6
25 - 39	964	24.5	298	21.7	666	26.0
40 - 59	929	23.6	431	31.4	497	19.4
60 - 79	1,073	27.3	452	32.9	621	24.3
80 or over	659	16.8	121	8.8	538	21.0

Chart 5A: Income Support claimants by age: May 2000 to May 2002

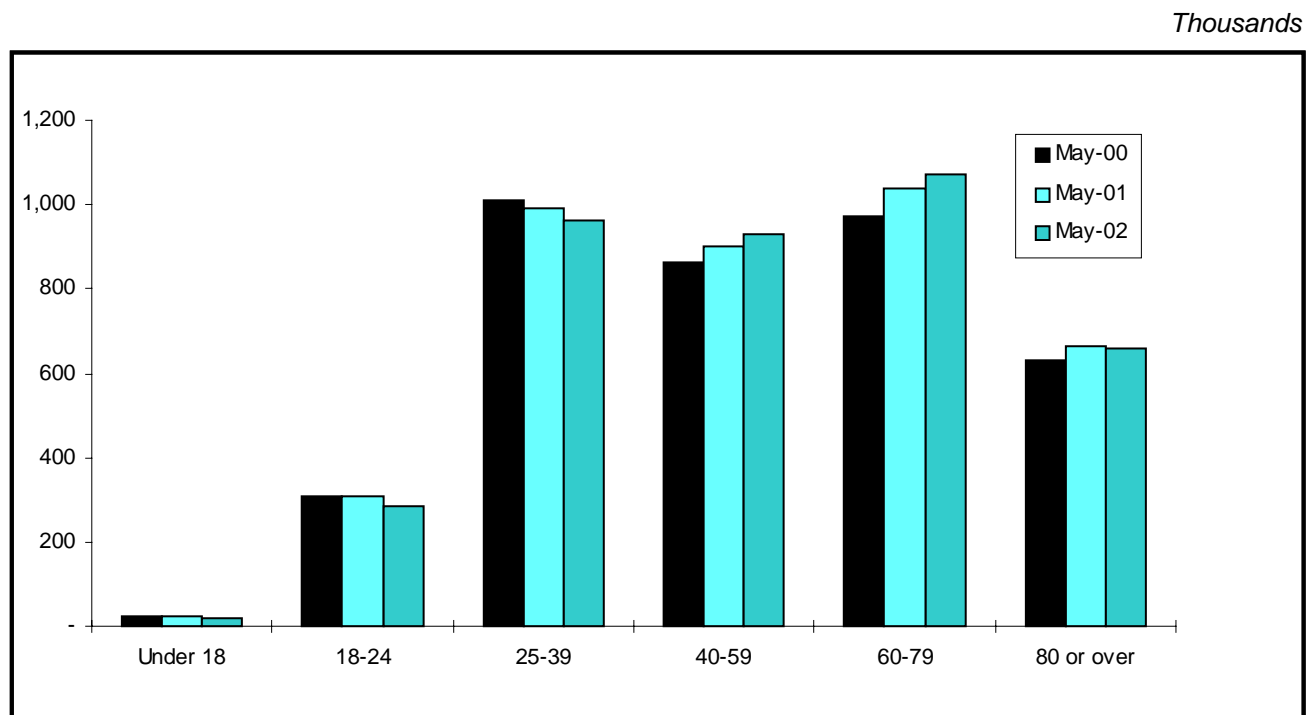


Table 5.3: Partners and dependants of Income Support claimants: 1997 to 2002

Thousands / Percentages

		Partners	All dependants '000(=100%)	Dependants aged							
				Under 5		5 – 10		11 – 15		16 or over	
				Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
1997	Feb	549	2,470	769	31.1	926	37.5	619	25.1	153	6.2
	May	551	2,464	759	30.9	923	37.5	618	25.1	161	6.5
	Aug	556	2,481	760	30.6	929	37.4	628	25.3	164	6.6
	Nov	555	2,427	746	30.7	909	37.4	624	25.7	147	6.1
1998	Feb	549	2,401	736	30.7	894	37.3	621	25.9	148	6.1
	May	537	2,379	722	30.4	883	37.1	618	26.0	155	6.5
	Aug	535	2,381	714	30.0	883	37.1	623	26.2	160	6.7
	Nov	534	2,337	703	30.1	872	37.3	618	26.4	143	6.1
1999	Feb	532	2,344	701	29.9	868	37.0	627	26.8	148	6.3
	May	531	2,344	698	29.8	859	36.7	631	26.9	156	6.6
	Aug	533	2,362	699	29.6	864	36.6	635	26.9	165	7.0
	Nov	536	2,333	696	29.8	858	36.8	635	27.2	145	6.2
2000	Feb	535	2,319	688	29.7	846	36.5	635	27.4	149	6.4
	May	539	2,317	685	29.6	839	36.2	634	27.4	159	6.9
	Aug	547	2,330	682	29.3	840	36.1	640	27.5	168	7.2
	Nov	556	2,287	677	29.6	829	36.3	633	27.7	147	6.5
2001	Feb	558	2,294	675	29.5	828	36.1	636	27.7	154	6.7
	May	565	2,289	669	29.2	820	35.8	634	27.7	166	7.2
	Aug	571	2,307	670	29.1	823	35.7	640	27.7	174	7.6
	Nov	574	2,247	657	29.2	804	35.8	632	28.1	154	6.9
2002	Feb	573	2,239	649	29.0	799	35.7	632	28.2	159	7.1
	May	577	2,242	644	28.7	797	35.5	633	28.2	168	7.5

Chart 5B: Dependants of Income Support claimants by age: May 2002

Percentages

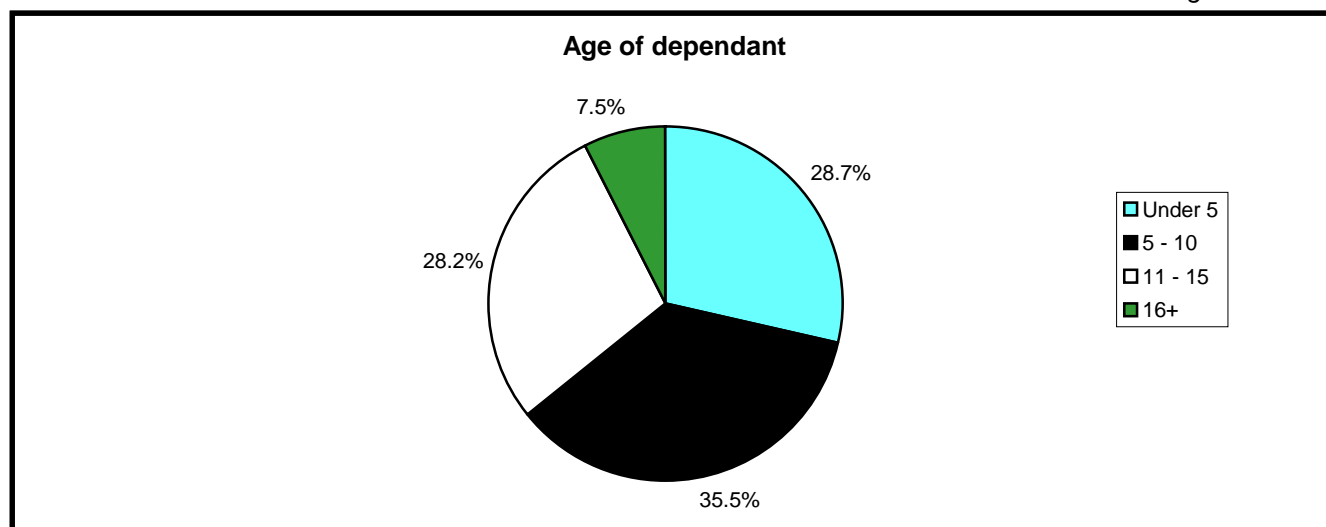


Table 5.4: Income Support claimants by age and number of dependants: May 2002

Thousands

	Total	Age of claimant					
		Under 18	18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 49	50 to 59	60 or over (MIG)
All claimants	3,930	19	286	619	844	430	1,733
Claimants without dependants	2,757	11	102	200	373	364	1,705
Claimants with dependants	1,173	7	184	419	470	66	27
Number of dependants							
1	524	7	129	150	179	42	17
2	375	-	44	149	160	16	6
3	176	-	9	78	82	5	2
4	67	-	2	30	32	2	1
5	21	-	-	9	11	1	1
6 or more	10	-	-	3	6	-	-
Average number of dependants	1.9	1.0	1.4	2.1	2.1	1.6	1.7

Chart 5C: Income Support claimants with dependants by number: May 2002

Percentages

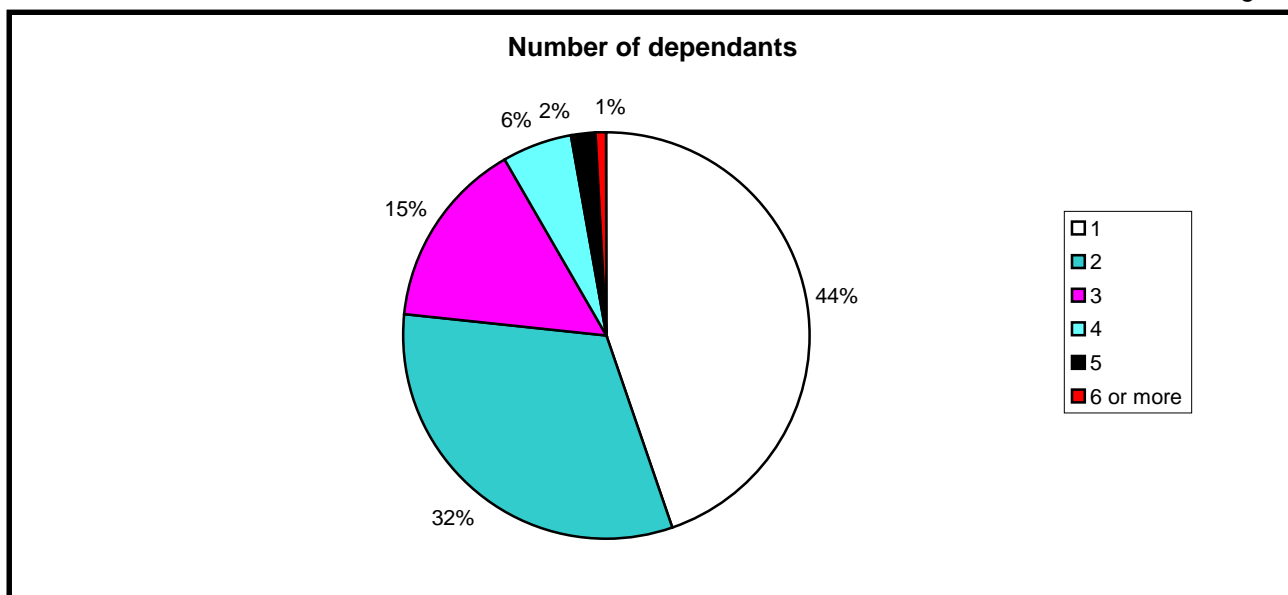


Table 5.5: Income Support claimants with dependants by number and average weekly payment: May 2002

Number of dependants	<i>Thousands / £ per week</i>					
	All claimants		Lone parents		All other groups	
	Number	Average amount £pw	Number	Average amount £pw	Number	Average amount £pw
1 or more	1,173	109.76	856	105.39	317	121.57
1	524	88.15	382	84.51	142	97.97
2	375	111.40	281	108.23	93	120.94
3	176	135.74	128	131.68	48	146.66
4	67	159.99	45	155.06	21	170.41
5 or more	32	197.24	19	186.98	13	212.51

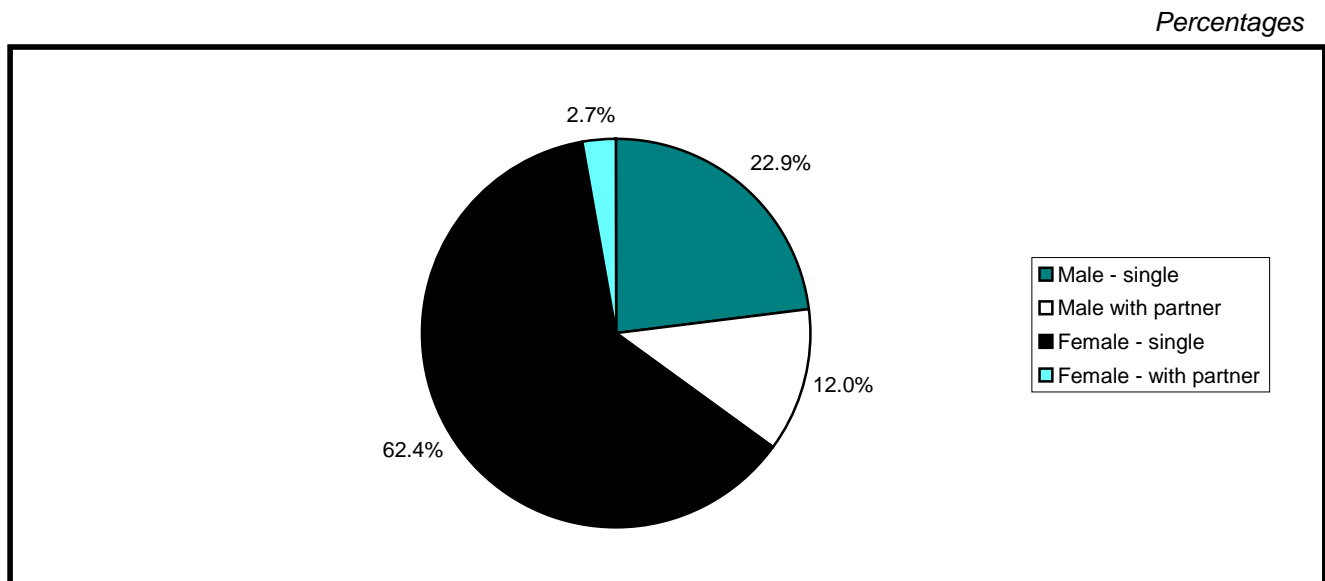
Table 5.6: Partners of Income Support claimants by age and statistical group: May 2002

Age range of partner	All claimants with partners	<i>Thousands</i>		
		Statistical group of claimant		
		Aged 60 or over (MIG)	Disabled	Other
All ages	577	286	240	50
Under 18	1	-	-	1
18 - 24	19	-	12	7
25 - 39	108	2	81	25
40 - 59	236	71	146	19
60 - 79	184	184	.	.
80 or over	28	28	.	.

**Table 5.7: Income Support claimants by gender, marital status and statistical group:
May 2002**

Claimants	All claimants '000(=100%)	Statistical group			
		Aged 60 or over (MIG) %	Lone parents %	Disabled %	Other %
		<i>Thousands / Percentages</i>			
All	3,930	44.4	21.8	27.1	6.6
All males	1,372	42.3	3.1	42.8	11.8
Single	902	36.6	4.7	44.7	13.9
With partner	470	53.1	.	39.2	7.7
All females	2,558	45.6	31.8	18.7	3.9
Single	2,451	46.1	33.2	17.3	3.5
With partner	107	34.1	.	52.4	13.5

Chart 5D: Income Support claimants by gender and marital status: May 2002



Section 6: Premium payments

Page

Summary 69

Key findings..... 69

Table 6.1 Income Support claimants with premiums by type and numbers: May 1998 to May 2002 71

Table 6.2 Income Support claimants with premiums by type, number and statistical group: May 2002 72

Table 6.3 Income Support claimants with premiums by number and age: May 200273

Table 6.4 Income Support claimants with premiums by family and premium type: May 2002 73

Table 6.5 Income Support premium combinations: May 2002..... 74

Summary - Premium payments

Income Support (IS) claimants can receive additional allowances in recognition of certain types of special needs, known as premiums. Section 2 listed the main types of premiums, which also determine the allocation of claimants to statistical group, i.e. pensioner premiums, the disability premium and the lone parent premium. Claimants only benefit from one of these premiums. However, there are a number of other types of premiums, which can be paid in combination with them which cover: severe disability; caring responsibilities; and the needs of a family.

The tables in this section consider changes over time in premiums granted. Also considered is breakdown in terms of numbers and types of premiums granted according to certain claimant characteristics.

Key findings

The vast majority of IS claimants receive some extra help through the premium structure.

In May 2002 there were 3.75 million claimants with one or more premiums. This was 82 thousand higher than at the same point a year earlier and reflected the larger 'Aged 60 or over' (MIG) and 'Disabled' groups and the smaller 'Other' group.

Disability premiums continued to increase to stand at 1.07 million. In May 2002 the higher pensioner premium paid to those under 80 was 475 thousand; the severe disability premium and the disabled child premium (which can be paid in combination with the other two premiums) were 564 thousand and 80 thousand respectively.

The number of cases with Family premium (Lone Parent) fell by 18 thousand in the 3 months to May 2002. This was due to the change in the qualifying rules detailed in Annex 4. Instead these cases received the basic Family premium, the numbers of which had risen by 16 thousand.

The number of carer premiums (which are paid to claimants who provide care for other people) continued to grow and stood at 227 thousand in May 2002.

Main changes to benefit rules

See Annex 4.

Section 6: Premium payments

**Table 6.1: Income Support claimants with premiums by type and numbers:
May 1998 to May 2002**

Type of premium	<i>Thousands</i>				
	May 1998	May 1999	May 2000	May 2001	May 2002
All premiums	4,401	4,433	4,495	4,865	5,012
Higher pension premium					
Claimant/partner aged 80 or over	623	603	605	647	663
Claimant/partner aged 60-79	432	455	468	447	475
Enhanced pensioner premium	152	148	139	151	157
Pensioner premium	373	355	351	427	445
Severe disability premium - higher	16	19	20	23	24
Severe disability premium - lower	424	451	470	517	540
Disability premium	881	914	962	1,017	1,067
Enhanced disability premium	.	.	.	119	125
Disabled child premium	63	66	69	75	80
Enhanced disabled child premium	.	.	.	31	35
Family premium (lone parent) ^{(1) (2)}	929	690	544	410	354
Family premium ^{(1) (2)}	321	541	669	789	819
Carer premium	186	192	197	211	227
Bereavement premium
Claimants with 1 or more premiums	3,519	3,503	3,524	3,663	3,746
Claimants with no premium	335	311	286	265	184
Average number of premiums	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3

- Notes: 1. From April 1997 the Lone Parent Premium was amalgamated with the Family Premium to form a single higher rate Family premium for Lone parents.
2. From April 1998 the Family Premium (Lone Parent) was abolished, although those in receipt at that time continue to receive it until a relevant change of circumstances.

Table 6.2: Income Support claimants with premiums by type, number and statistical group: May 2002

Type of premium	All claimants	Statistical group			
		Aged 60 or over (MIG)	Lone parents	Disabled	Other
All premiums	5,012	2,230	975	1,698	109
Higher pension premium					
Claimant/partner aged 80 or over	663	663	.	.	.
Claimant/partner aged 60-79	475	475	.	.	.
Enhanced pensioner premium	157	157	.	.	.
Pensioner premium	445	445	.	.	.
Severe disability premium - higher	24	21	.	3	.
Severe disability premium - lower	540	393	.	146	.
Disability premium	1,067	.	.	1,067	.
Enhanced disability premium	125	.	.	125	.
Disabled child premium	80	2	50	20	9
Enhanced disabled child premium	35	1	21	9	5
Family premium (lone parent) ^{(1) (2)}	354	.	354	.	.
Family premium ^{(1) (2)}	819	28	502	250	39
Carer premium	227	44	47	79	56
Bereavement Premium	-	.	.	.	-
Claimants with 1 or more premiums	3,746	1,740	856	1,067	83
Claimants with no premium	184	6	.	.	178
Average number of premiums	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.6	1.3

Notes: 1. As from April 1997 the Lone Parent Premium was amalgamated with the Family Premium to form a single higher rate Family premium for Lone parents.
2. From April 1998 the Family Premium (Lone Parent) was abolished, although those in receipt at that time continue to receive it until a relevant change of circumstances.

Table 6.3: Income Support claimants with premiums by number and age: May 2002

Age range	Number of premiums					Average number of premiums
	1	2	3	4	5 or more	
All ages	2,732	828	129	47	9	1.3
under 18	9	1	-	.	.	1.1
18-24	216	24	5	1	-	1.2
25-39	676	142	51	25	4	1.4
40-59	580	192	68	20	4	1.5
60-79	831	233	5	1	-	1.2
80 or over	420	236	-	-	.	1.4

Table 6.4: Income Support claimants with premiums by family and premium type: May 2002

Type of premium	Thousands				
	All claimants	Single claimants		Couples	
		With dependants	Without dependants	With dependants	Without dependants
All premiums	5,012	1,256	2,819	464	473
Higher pension premium					
Claimant/partner aged 80 or over	663	-	617	-	46
Claimant/partner aged 60-79	475	2	330	11	132
Enhanced pensioner premium	157	-	142	-	15
Pensioner premium	445	5	358	9	73
Severe disability premium - higher	24	.	.	1	23
Severe disability premium - lower	540	22	514	-	3
Disability premium	1,067	108	718	141	99
Enhanced disability premium	125	9	81	16	19
Disabled child premium	80	58	.	23	.
Enhanced disabled child premium	35	24	.	11	.
Family premium (lone parent) ^{(1) (2)}	354	354	.	.	.
Family premium ^{(1) (2)}	819	618	.	201	.
Carer premium	227	53	59	51	64
Bereavement premium	-	.	-	.	.
Claimants with 1 or more premiums	3,746	972	2,206	201	366
Claimants with no premium	184	.	175	.	10
Average number of premiums	1.3	1.3	1.3	2.3	1.3

Notes: 1. As from April 1997 the Lone Parent Premium was amalgamated with the Family Premium to form a single higher rate Family premium for Lone parents.

2. From April 1998 the Family Premium (Lone Parent) was abolished, although those in receipt at that time continue to receive it until a relevant change of circumstances.

Table 6.5: Income Support premium combinations: May 2002*Thousands / £ per week*

Premium combinations	Total ('000)	Weekly amount of Income Support			Average weekly amount £pw
		Under £30.00	£30.00 To £69.99	£70.00 or over	
All cases	3,930	986	1,017	1,926	69.64
No premiums	184	32	143	10	44.11
Single premiums					
Higher pensioner premium (HPP)	681	386	125	170	43.38
Enhanced pensioner premium (EPP)	156	108	27	22	33.40
Ordinary pensioner premium (OPP)	421	202	100	119	49.24
Disability premium (DP)	610	150	78	382	62.18
Family premium /Lone parent premium ¹	855	12	45	797	105.15
Carer premium	44	6	36	1	37.62
Bereavement premium	-	-	-	-	-
2-way premiums					
HPP/Severe disability-higher (SDH)	20	1	5	14	86.67
HPP/Severe disability-lower (SDL)	392	39	291	62	58.77
HPP/Family	10	1	3	6	113.95
HPP/Carer	29	3	14	11	66.52
OPP/Family	13	1	2	10	127.13
OPP/Carer	10	1	4	5	68.98
SDH/Disability	1	-	-	1	102.65
SDL/Disability	81	4	45	32	74.23
Disability/Family	176	21	28	127	114.69
Disability/Carer	24	7	9	7	53.99
Family/Disabled child	12	-	-	12	151.56
Family/Carer	17	-	7	10	88.39
Other combinations	44	9	23	12	47.22
3-way premiums					
Family/SDH/Disability	-	.	-	-	-
Family/SDL/Disability	13	-	2	11	136.81
Family/Disabled child/Disability	4	.	1	3	152.07
Family/Carer/HPP	3	-	-	2	115.55
Family/Carer/Disability	18	1	5	13	107.38
SDH/Disability/EDP	1	-	-	1	117.20
SDL/Disability/EDP	42	1	15	27	83.37
Disability/EDP/Family	6	-	1	5	117.04
Disability/EDP/Carer	13	1	7	5	69.85
Family/Disabled child/EDCP	5	-	-	5	164.39
Other combinations	25	-	1	24	126.08
4-way premiums					
Family/Disabled child/Carer/Disability	5	-	-	5	146.75
Family/SDH/Disability/EDP	-	.	-	-	-
Family/SDL/Disability/EDP	7	-	-	6	148.86
Other combinations	35	-	2	32	138.97
5-way premiums					
Family/Disabled child/EDCP/ Disability/EDP	-	.	-	-	-
Other combinations	8	-	-	8	165.63
6-way premiums					
Family/Disabled/Child/Carer/ Disability/EDP	1	.	.	1	178.54
Other combinations	-	-	.	-	-

Notes: 1. In publications prior to May 2002 the 2-way to 6-way premium combinations that included the Family Premium had incorrectly excluded the Family Premium (Lone Parent).

Section 7: Special category cases

Page

Summary..... 77

Key findings..... 77

Table 7.1 Special category Income Support claimants by type:
May 1998 to May 2002..... 79

Table 7.2 Special category Income Support claimants by statistical group:
May 2002 79

Table 7.3 Average weekly amount paid to special category Income Support
claimants: May 2002 80

Summary - Special category cases

Special category cases are groups of claimants whose entitlement to Income Support (IS) is determined by rules which apply only in special circumstances. This includes claimants who qualify for IS: who are temporarily in hospital; who do not have a permanent address (including those staying temporarily with friends or relatives); asylum seekers and other persons from abroad who qualify for IS.

This section looks at changes in the numbers and types of special category cases and the amount of weekly IS paid to them.

Key findings

The overall numbers of special category cases on IS has fallen slightly over recent years. However, due to changes in funding rules (April 2002) governing residential care homes and nursing homes, the overall numbers dropped over the last quarter by 63 thousand and 74 thousand since May 2001.

The resulting figures for May 2002 were 245 thousand special category cases, 9 thousand of which were asylum seekers.

Main changes to benefit rules

See Annex 3 and 4.

Section 7: Special category cases

Table 7.1: Special category Income Support claimants by type: May 1998 to May 2002

	<i>Thousands / Percentages</i>				
	May 1998	May 1999	May 2000	May 2001	May 2002
All types	353	345	339	319	245
Residential care homes ³	69	59	53	48	.
Private nursing homes ³	35	27	22	17	.
Residential allowance Part III	183	195	201	208	205
Hospital personal allowance (over 52 weeks)	11	11	10	9	8
Hospital personal allowance (6 - 52 weeks)	2	3	3	3	3
No fixed abode / person without accommodation	3	4	3	3	3
Asylum seekers ¹	8	9	10	14	16
Other urgent case payments ²	40	37	36	17	9
	3	2	2	-	-
% of all cases	9.2	9.1	8.9	8.1	6.2

Notes: 1. The number of asylum seekers and other urgent case payments are now being produced using a new methodology
 2. The number of other urgent case payments may include some asylum seeker cases which have not been possible to identify
 3. From April 2002 claimants in residential accommodation and nursing homes had preserved rights abolished, and became the financial responsibility of Local Authorities

Table 7.2: Special category Income Support claimants by type and age: May 2002

	<i>Thousands</i>		
	All claimants	Aged over 60 ²	Aged under 60
All types	245	177	68
Residential care homes ³	.	.	.
Private nursing homes ³	.	.	.
Residential allowance Part III	205	170	35
Hospital personal allowance (over 52 weeks)	8	5	4
Hospital personal allowance (6 - 52 weeks)	3	1	3
No fixed abode / person without accommodation	3	1	3
Asylum seekers	16	-	16
Other urgent case payments ¹	9	-	8
	-	-	-

Notes: 1. The number of urgent case payments may include some asylum seeker cases that have not been possible to identify.
 2. Special category cases aged over 60 are not included in the MIG group.
 3. From April 2002 claimants in residential accommodation and nursing homes had preserved rights abolished, and became the financial responsibility of Local Authorities

**Table 7.3: Average weekly amount paid to special category Income Support claimants:
May 2002**

	<i>£ per week</i>		
	All claimants	Aged over 60 ²	Aged under 60
All types	75.53	76.79	72.28
Residential care homes ³	.	.	.
Private nursing homes ³	.	.	.
Residential allowance Part III	79.85	78.22	87.81
Hospital personal allowance (over 52 weeks)	31.77	36.41	26.03
Hospital personal allowance (6 - 52 weeks)	14.91	14.50	14.98
No fixed abode / person without accommodation	17.87	14.42	18.73
Asylum seekers	62.01	77.42	61.56
Other urgent case payments ¹	85.77	111.91	84.71
	81.40	.	81.40

- Notes:
1. The number of urgent case payments may include some asylum seeker cases that have not been possible to identify.
 2. Special category cases aged over 60 are not included in the MIG group.
 3. From April 2002 claimants in residential accommodation and nursing homes had preserved rights abolished, and became the financial responsibility of Local Authorities

Section 8: Claimants of Residential Allowance (and historical RCNH)

	Page
Summary	83
Key findings.....	83
Table 8.1 Income Support claimants of residential allowance (and historical RCNH): 1997 to 2002	85
Chart 8A Income Support claimants of residential allowance (and historical RCNH) by type of care: May 2000 to May 2002...	85
Table 8.2 Average weekly payments made to Income Support claimants of residential allowance (and historical RCNH): 1997 to 2002	86
Table 8.3 Income Support claimants of residential allowance (and historical RCNH) by age and gender: May 1998 to May 2002.....	86
Table 8.4 Income Support claimants of residential allowance by age and Government Office Region(GOR): May 2002	87
Table 8.5 Average weekly payments made to Income Support claimants of residential allowance by Government Office Region (GOR): May 2002	87

Summary - Claimants of Residential Allowance (and historical RCNH)

This section covers Income Support (IS) claimants who benefited from two types of schemes that previously existed. Which scheme a claimant was able to use depended upon the point at which the claimant entered residential care and nursing homes (RCNH).

People who entered homes after April 1993 and need financial help have their care needs and their ability to contribute towards the costs assessed by their local authority. These residents are eligible to receive help through IS. However, the amount they receive is assessed on a broadly similar basis to people living in their own homes and does not depend directly on the fees for care. This means that they are entitled to IS premiums (see section 6). In addition their IS assessment also includes a residential allowance (RA) to assist with the recognised extra accommodation costs incurred.

People who entered homes prior to April 1993 could qualify for help towards their fees directly through payments of IS. Their fees could either be met in full or up to a maximum prescribed limit depending upon the type of care they required. Those who were still in RCNH after the introduction of the new scheme in April 1993 had preserved rights to IS payments under the old scheme. This includes people who were not claiming IS at the point of change (for example because of savings) but have since done so.

From 8th April 2002 preserved rights cases were abolished and are now the financial responsibility of the Local Authorities.

The tables in this section analyse RCNH claimants by age, Government Office Region (GOR) and benefit payment. In addition historically, for preserved rights cases, there were analysis of weekly fees normally charged by homes and how they compared with the weekly IS limits. IS entitlement for RA cases does not depend on fees actually charged so no information is collected on this.

Key findings

The overall number of RCNH claimants rose sharply during the 1980s and continued to rise up until the introduction of the new RCNH scheme in 1993. Since then, the number of RCNH cases has fallen slightly although the growth in RA cases has broadly offset the reduction in preserved rights cases.

In May 2002 the RA caseload stood at 205 thousand, 68 thousand lower than at the same point a year earlier. The average weekly payments made to RA claimants cases was £79.85.

Main changes to benefit rules

See Annex 4.

Section 8: Claimants of residential allowance (and historical RCNH)

Table 8.1 Income Support claimants of residential allowance (and historical RCNH): 1997 to 2002

		<i>Thousands</i>				
				Type of care		
		All	Residential allowance	Preserved rights ¹		
				All	Residential care home	Nursing home
1997	Feb	289	159	130	82	48
	May	292	169	124	79	45
	Aug	292	174	119	76	43
	Nov	292	178	114	74	40
1998	Feb	289	181	108	72	36
	May	286	183	104	69	35
	Aug	286	186	101	67	34
	Nov	284	189	95	64	32
1999	Feb	279	189	90	61	29
	May	281	195	86	59	27
	Aug	283	199	84	58	26
	Nov	282	201	81	56	24
2000	Feb	275	198	77	54	23
	May	275	201	74	53	22
	Aug	277	205	72	51	20
	Nov	276	206	70	50	20
2001	Feb	274	207	67	49	18
	May	273	208	65	48	17
	Aug	273	210	63	46	17
	Nov	272	211	61	45	16
2002	Feb	268	209	58	44	15
	May	205	205	.	.	.

Notes: 1. From April 2002 claimants in residential accommodation/Nursing homes had preserved rights abolished, and became the financial responsibility of Local Authorities.

Chart 8A Income Support claimants of residential allowance (and historical RCNH) by type of care: May 2000 to May 2002

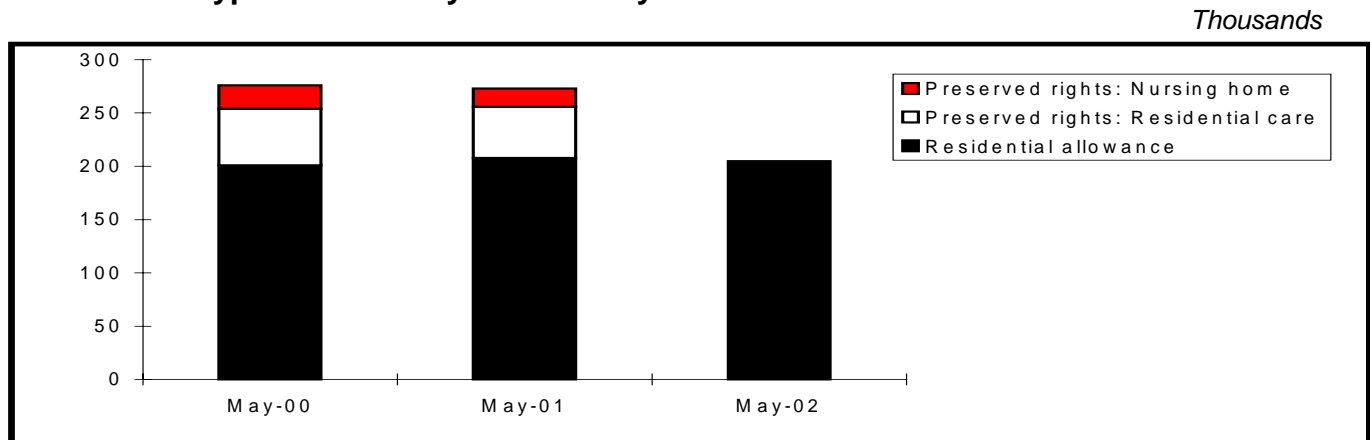


Table 8.2 Average weekly payments made to Income Support claimants of residential allowance (and historical RCNH): 1997 to 2002

		<i>£ per week</i>				
		Type of care				
		Residential allowance	Preserved rights ¹			
All	All		Residential care home	Nursing home		
1997	Feb	121.01	63.05	191.81	166.07	232.23
	May	121.30	65.63	197.15	173.64	238.30
	Aug	118.74	65.11	197.25	174.09	238.52
	Nov	116.68	64.89	197.36	174.64	238.81
1998	Feb	114.71	64.87	197.65	176.40	238.20
	May	115.18	65.89	201.99	181.36	242.32
	Aug	113.99	65.84	203.00	182.78	242.85
	Nov	112.15	65.85	203.82	184.38	242.91
1999	Feb	110.49	65.83	203.92	185.44	243.04
	May	112.01	69.83	207.35	189.05	247.66
	Aug	110.73	69.81	208.02	190.02	248.47
	Nov	109.28	69.57	208.39	190.76	249.20
2000	Feb	108.60	69.56	208.94	191.96	249.55
	May	111.33	73.87	212.75	196.22	253.19
	Aug	109.94	73.77	213.24	197.36	253.37
	Nov	108.84	73.42	213.66	198.05	253.48
2001	Feb	107.65	73.24	213.62	198.93	252.63
	May	110.13	77.11	215.44	201.24	254.24
	Aug	109.58	76.86	218.58	204.47	257.67
	Nov	108.98	76.83	220.93	206.92	260.45
2002	Feb	108.12	76.39	221.77	207.73	263.34
	May	79.85	79.85	.	.	.

Notes: 1. From April 2002 claimants in residential accommodation/Nursing homes had preserved rights abolished, and became the financial responsibility of Local Authorities.

Table 8.3 Income Support claimants of residential allowance (and historical RCNH) by age and gender: May 1998 to May 2002

		<i>Thousands</i>						
		Males			Females			
		All	Under 60	60 to under 80	80 or over	Under 60	60 to under 80	80 or over
1998	May							
1999	May	281	37	27	25	25	39	128
2000	May	275	37	26	23	25	38	125
2001	May	273	37	25	23	26	37	125
2002	May	205	20	17	20	15	28	105

Notes: 1. From April 2002 claimants in residential accommodation/Nursing homes had preserved rights abolished, and became the financial responsibility of Local Authorities.

Table 8.4 Income Support claimants of residential allowance by age and Government Office Region (GOR): May 2002

GOR	<i>Thousands / Percentages</i>				
	All	Claimants aged under 60		Claimants aged 60 or over	
		Thousands	as % of population aged 18 to 59	Thousands	as % of population aged 60 or over
Great Britain	205	35	0.1	170	1.4
England	175	30	0.1	145	1.4
North East	12	2	0.1	11	1.9
North West	29	3	0.1	26	1.8
Yorkshire and the Humber	22	3	0.1	19	1.8
East Midlands	16	3	0.1	14	1.5
West Midlands	18	3	0.1	15	1.4
East	15	3	0.1	12	1.1
London	17	4	0.1	13	1.1
South East	26	6	0.1	19	1.2
South West	20	4	0.1	16	1.4
Wales	10	1	0.1	9	1.3
Scotland	20	3	0.1	17	1.6

Notes: 1. From April 2002 claimants in residential accommodation/Nursing homes had preserved rights abolished, and became the financial responsibility of Local Authorities

Table 8.5 Average weekly payments made to Income Support claimants of residential allowance by Government Office Region (GOR): May 2002

GOR	<i>Thousands /£ per week</i>			
	All		Residential allowance	
	Thousands	£ per week	Thousands	£ per week
Great Britain	205	79.85	205	79.85
England	175	80.08	175	80.08
North East	12	75.46	12	75.46
North West	29	78.16	29	78.16
Yorkshire and the Humber	22	78.54	22	78.54
East Midlands	16	77.18	16	77.18
West Midlands	18	78.98	18	78.98
East	15	79.54	15	79.54
London	17	93.65	17	93.65
South East	26	79.56	26	79.56
South West	20	80.41	20	80.41
Wales	10	77.62	10	77.62
Scotland	20	78.97	20	78.97

Notes: 1. From April 2002 claimants in residential accommodation/Nursing homes had preserved rights abolished, and became the financial responsibility of Local Authorities.

Section 9: Housing costs

	Page
Summary	91
Key findings.....	91
Table 9.1 Income Support claimants with housing costs by type: 1997 to 2002.....	93
Table 9.2 Average weekly amounts paid to Income Support claimants for housing costs by type: 1997 to 2002	93
Table 9.3 Income Support claimants with housing costs by statistical group: 1997 to 2002.....	94
Chart 9A Income Support claimants with housing costs as a percentage of all claimants by statistical group: May 2002.....	94
Table 9.4 Income Support claimants with housing costs by average weekly amount and statistical group: 1997 to 2002	95

Summary - Housing costs

See **Section 5 of Annex 3** for further details.

Key findings

The number of Income Support (IS) claimants who receive assistance with mortgage interest payments has been falling since August 1995, to 225 thousand in May 2002, mainly due to changes in benefit rules.

The average weekly housing costs paid to IS claimants with mortgage interest fell by £10.11 over the year to May 2002 due to changes in the standard interest rate. At May 2002 the average weekly housing cost paid with IS stood at £25.01.

Claimants receiving a disability premium (in the 'Disabled' statistical group) are most likely to be in receipt of help with their housing costs, 8% of the group in May 2002 compared with 4% of claimants in the 'Other' group.

Main changes to benefit rules

See Annex 4.

Section 9: Housing costs

Table 9.1: Income Support claimants with housing costs by type: 1997 to 2002

		<i>Thousands</i>		
		All	Mortgage interest	
			Full interest	Half interest
1997	Feb	308	299	9
	May	301	294	7
	Aug	297	290	7
	Nov	292	284	7
1998	Feb	288	281	7
	May	281	275	6
	Aug	278	272	6
	Nov	272	266	7
1999	Feb	269	264	5
	May	263	258	5
	Aug	259	254	5
	Nov	254	250	5
2000	Feb	251	247	4
	May	248	244	4
	Aug	246	242	4
	Nov	243	239	4
2001	Feb	241	237	3
	May	239	235	3
	Aug	237	234	3
	Nov	233	230	3
2002	Feb	229	226	2
	May	225	222	2

Table 9.2: Average weekly amounts paid to Income Support claimants for housing costs by type: 1997 to 2002

		<i>£ per week</i>		
		All	Mortgage interest	
			Full interest	Half interest
1997	Feb	30.82	31.13	20.13
	May	31.72	32.00	19.38
	Aug	31.66	31.96	19.83
	Nov	32.93	33.25	20.73
1998	Feb	34.56	34.86	22.11
	May	35.72	35.99	23.08
	Aug	37.14	37.46	23.43
	Nov	37.06	37.38	24.09
1999	Feb	38.55	38.81	25.43
	May	31.76	31.99	20.52
	Aug	29.65	29.86	19.08
	Nov	29.47	29.67	18.22
2000	Feb	29.57	29.76	19.40
	May	32.76	32.93	21.44
	Aug	35.09	35.30	22.66
	Nov	34.92	35.16	21.87
2001	Feb	34.85	35.05	21.52
	May	35.12	35.27	24.59
	Aug	32.57	32.73	21.45
	Nov	31.19	31.32	20.64
2002	Feb	28.96	29.07	18.35
	May	25.01	25.10	16.83

Table 9.3: Income Support claimants with housing costs by statistical group: 1997 to 2002

		<i>Thousands</i>				
		All claimants with mortgage interest	Statistical group			
			Aged 60 or over (MIG)	Lone parents	Disabled	Other
1997	Feb	308	100	95	89	24
	May	301	98	92	89	22
	Aug	297	98	89	90	22
	Nov	292	97	84	89	22
1998	Feb	288	97	81	90	19
	May	281	96	78	90	17
	Aug	278	96	76	90	17
	Nov	272	95	72	89	16
1999	Feb	269	95	70	89	16
	May	263	93	67	88	15
	Aug	259	93	66	87	14
	Nov	254	93	62	87	13
2000	Feb	251	92	59	87	13
	May	248	92	57	86	12
	Aug	246	92	55	86	13
	Nov	243	93	52	86	12
2001	Feb	241	94	50	85	11
	May	239	94	50	84	11
	Aug	237	94	48	84	11
	Nov	233	94	45	83	11
2002	Feb	229	93	43	82	10
	May	225	93	41	81	10

Chart 9A: Income Support claimants with housing costs as a percentage of all claimants by statistical group: May 2002

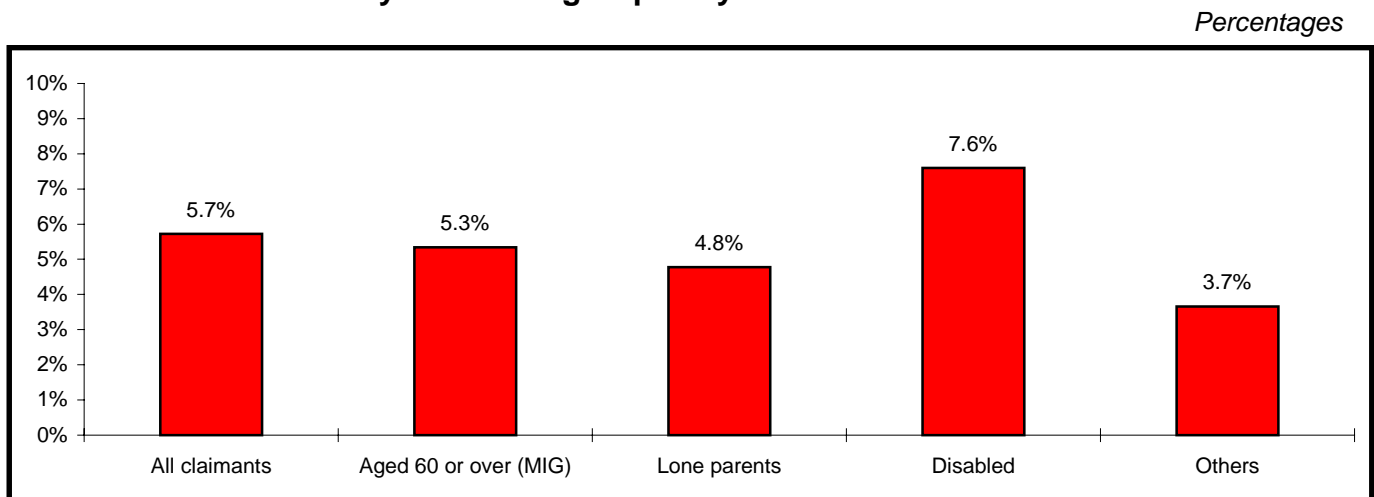


Table 9.4: Income Support claimants with housing costs by average weekly amount and statistical group: 1997 to 2002

£ per week

		All claimants with mortgage interest	Statistical group			
			Aged 60 or over (MIG)	Lone parents	Disabled	Other
1997	Feb	30.82	18.15	41.59	32.58	32.23
	May	31.72	18.89	43.33	33.71	32.30
	Aug	31.66	19.12	43.43	33.43	32.81
	Nov	32.93	20.18	45.20	34.81	34.67
1998	Feb	34.56	21.50	47.30	36.57	37.29
	May	35.72	22.47	49.23	37.82	37.70
	Aug	37.14	23.46	50.95	39.80	39.07
	Nov	37.06	23.64	51.18	39.86	37.46
1999	Feb	38.55	24.62	53.38	41.37	40.80
	May	31.76	20.41	44.12	34.26	32.10
	Aug	29.65	19.29	41.25	32.01	29.79
	Nov	29.47	19.37	41.12	32.00	29.21
2000	Feb	29.57	19.56	41.68	31.91	29.68
	May	32.76	21.86	46.47	35.42	32.21
	Aug	35.09	23.51	49.83	38.10	34.87
	Nov	34.92	23.60	50.02	38.10	34.97
2001	Feb	34.85	23.54	50.27	38.10	35.32
	May	35.12	23.76	50.96	38.22	36.89
	Aug	32.57	22.06	47.50	35.58	33.83
	Nov	31.19	21.30	45.65	34.30	32.53
2002	Feb	28.96	19.89	42.48	31.92	30.77
	May	25.01	17.34	36.89	27.67	26.54

Section 10: Income and other benefits

	Page
Summary	99
Key findings	99
Table 10.1 Income Support claimants, partners and dependants with income taken into account against average weekly benefit: 1998 to 2002.....	101
Table 10.2 Income Support claimants with income taken into account or disregarded, by number and type of items: May 2002	102
Table 10.3 Income Support partners and dependants with income taken into account or disregarded, by number and type of items: May 2002	103
Table 10.4 Free welfare foods: 1998 to 2002	104

Summary - Income and other benefits

This section looks at Income Support (IS) recipients who receive other Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) benefits and have other forms of income. Most of this type of income is taken into account against the assessment, i.e. the amount of IS payable to the claimant is reduced by the amount of other income (though in some circumstances all or part of it is disregarded, i.e. ignored for the purposes of calculating benefit).

Most types of income are taken fully into account against IS. The main exceptions are:

Earnings from employment - Normally the first £5 of any part-time earnings is disregarded (£10 for couples and £20 for certain groups, e.g. lone parents).

Certain benefits - attendance allowance and disability living allowance are normally disregarded in full.

See Section 4 of Annex 3 for further details.

Key findings

The most common types of other benefits received by claimants in May 2002 were retirement pension (1.43 million) and child benefit (1.0 million). The same applied for partners with 164 and 139 thousand receiving retirement pension and child benefit respectively.

The most common types of other incomes for claimants were occupational pensions (340 thousand) and income from savings (96 thousand). For partners and dependants occupational pension (17 thousand) and part-time earnings (16 thousand) were the most common other income types taken into account.

Main changes to benefit rules

See Annex 4.

Section 10: Income and other benefits

Table 10.1: Income Support claimants, partners and dependants with income taken into account against average weekly benefit: 1998 to 2002

Thousands / Percentages / £ per week

	Claimants with income taken into account			Partners and dependants with income taken into account		
	Total ('000)	% of all claimants	Average weekly amount £pw	Total ('000)	% of all partners and dependants	Average weekly amount £pw
1998 May	3,065	79.5	53.14	340	11.7	37.75
1999 May	3,009	78.9	55.12	325	11.3	40.02
2000 May	2,994	78.6	56.52	340	11.9	41.49
2001 May	3,106	79.1	60.51	369	12.9	44.62
2002 May	3,094	78.7	62.75	379	13.4	46.78

Table 10.2: Income Support claimants with income taken into account or disregarded, by number and type of items: May 2002

Thousands

	Claimants			
	Aged under 60		Aged 60 or over	
	Items into account	Items disregarded	Items into account	Items disregarded
All items.	1,777	984	2,016	886
DWP pensions and benefits				
Bereavement benefit	23	7	7	-
Industrial injury disablement benefits & pensions	7	-	10	-
Invalid care allowance	132	-	14	-
Working families tax credit	8	-	-	-
Disabled persons tax credit	-	-	-	-
Child benefit	1,009	-	12	-
Retirement pension	-	-	1,428	-
Incapacity benefit – STL	28	-	2	-
Incapacity benefit – STH	13	-	3	-
Incapacity benefit – LT	203	-	64	-
Severe disablement allowance	205	-	32	-
Attendance allowance	-	-	-	439
DLA care component	-	425	-	180
DLA mobility component	-	477	-	238
War disablement pension	2	2	7	7
War widows pension	-	-	1	1
Other benefits	1	-	3	-
Other types of income				
Occupational pensions	15	-	325	-
Part-time earnings	37	63	3	4
Self-employed earnings	1	2	1	1
Earnings from boarders	1	2	2	2
Income from sub-tenants	-	-	-	-
Maintenance payments	56	-	1	-
Sick pay	4	-	1	-
Charitable or voluntary payments	-	1	-	10
Maternity pay	1	-	-	-
Tariff income (Income from savings)	19	-	76	-
All other income	11	7	26	4

Table 10.3 Income Support partners and dependants with income taken into account or disregarded, by number and type of items: May 2002

Thousands

	Partners and dependants of claimants			
	Aged under 60		Aged 60 or over	
	Items into account	Items disregarded	Items into account	Items disregarded
All items	200	210	231	126
DWP pensions and benefits				
Bereavement benefit
Industrial injury disablement benefits & pensions	1	-	1	-
Invalid care allowance	41	-	15	-
Working families tax credit	1	-	-	-
Disabled persons tax credit	-	-	-	-
Child benefit	123	-	16	-
Retirement pension	-	-	164	-
Incapacity benefit – STL	1	-	1	-
Incapacity benefit – STH	1	-	-	-
Incapacity benefit – LT	10	-	7	-
Severe disablement allowance	7	-	5	-
Attendance allowance	-	-	-	30
DLA care component	-	111	-	42
DLA mobility component	-	83	-	47
War disablement pension	-	-	-	-
Jobseekers allowance	-	-	-	-
Other benefits	-	-	-	-
Other types of income				
Occupational pensions	1	-	15	-
Part-time earnings	11	14	5	6
Self-employed earnings	1	1	-	1
Earnings from boarders	-	-	-	-
Income from sub-tenants	-	-	-	-
Maintenance payments	1	-	-	-
Sick pay	-	-	-	-
Charitable or voluntary payments	-	-	-	-
Maternity pay	-	-	-	-
Tariff income (Income from savings)	-	-	-	-
All other income	1	1	1	-

Table 10.4: Free welfare foods: 1998 to 2002

	All claimants	Beneficiaries	Expectant mothers	<i>Thousands</i> Children up to 5
1998 May	598	765	46	718
1999 May	579	736	42	694
2000 May	567	722	41	682
2001 May	556	707	41	666
2002 May	533	677	36	641

Section 11: Income Support claimants with capital:

	Page
Summary.....	107
Key findings.....	107
Table 11.1 Income Support claimants with capital, by age: claimants <u>not in</u> residential accommodation: May 2002.....	109
Table 11.2 Income Support claimants with capital, by age: claimants <u>in</u> residential accommodation: May 2002.....	109

Summary – Income support claimants with capital

The capital assets (e.g. savings, investments or property other than their home) of Income Support (IS) recipients have to exceed certain limits before it affects their entitlement. Some assets are disregarded, e.g. where property is occupied by an aged relative.

Claimants aged under 60 and not in residential accommodation (i.e. Part III accommodation) are allowed up to £3,000 before their benefit is affected; then it is reduced by £1 for every £250. This is up to an upper limit of £8,000, when they are no longer entitled to IS. This is called tariff income. (See notes in Annex 3, section 4 for more information on this).

From April 2001 claimants aged over 60 and not in residential accommodation are allowed up to £6,000 before their benefit is affected; then it is reduced by £1 for every £250. This is up to an upper limit of £12,000, when they are no longer entitled to IS.

From April 2002 claimants who are in residential accommodation/nursing homes have had their preserved rights abolished. These cases have become the financial responsibility of Local Authorities. However, any higher capital limits afforded to these cases are protected as long as there is no break in residency. These claimants are allowed up to a higher total of £10,000 before their benefit is affected; then it is reduced by £1 for every £250. This is up to an upper limit of £16,000, when they are no longer entitled to IS.

From November 2000, the procedure for calculating capital has been revised. This has resulted in a slight increase in numbers.

Key Findings

In May 2002 around 1.79 million IS recipients (46%) had capital assets compared to 1.60 million (41%) in May 2001. Of these, 1.55 million were not in residential accommodation, and 246 thousand were.

Around 227 thousand recipients not in residential accommodation had capital over £3,000 that would attract tariff income and around 23 thousand recipients in residential accommodation had capital above the higher disregard total of £10,000.

Main changes to benefit rule

See Annex 4.

Section 11: Capital

Table 11.1: Income Support claimants with capital, by age; claimants not in residential accommodation: May 2002

		<i>Thousands</i>			
Amount of capital	All claimants	Age of claimant			
		Under 60	60 - 69	70 - 79	80 and over
Total	1,546	628	256	284	378
Under £500	720	463	116	83	58
£501 - £1,000	171	55	36	40	41
£1,001 - £1,500	123	31	23	29	39
£1,501 - £2,000	113	25	20	27	40
£2,001 - £2,500	129	24	19	33	53
£2,501 - £3,000	64	10	7	16	32
£3,001 - £4,000	77	8	10	20	38
£4,001 - £5,000	50	5	8	12	26
£5,001 - £6,000	38	3	6	10	19
£6,001 - £7,000	24	3	4	6	13
£7,001 - £8,000	17	2	3	4	8
£8,001 - £12,000	20	.	4	5	11

Notes: 1. From April 2001, claimants aged over 60 (MIG) are allowed to have up to £6,000 before their benefit is affected (see annex 4 for details).

Table 11.2: Income Support claimants with capital, by age; claimants in residential accommodation: May 2002

		<i>Thousands</i>			
Amount of capital	All claimants	Age of claimant			
		Under 60	60 - 69	70 - 79	80 and over
Total	246	53	17	38	138
Under £3,000	164	46	14	26	78
£3,001 - £8,000	48	5	2	7	34
£8,001 - £10,000	12	1	-	2	8
£10,001 - £12,000	9	-	-	1	7
£12,001 - £14,000	7	-	-	1	5
£14,001 - £16,000	7	-	-	1	6

Notes: From April 2002 claimants in Part III accommodation or who are still permanent residents of RCNH have had their higher capital limits protected – (see annex 4 for details).

Section 12: Deductions from benefit

	Page
Summary	113
Key findings.....	113
Table 12.1 Deductions from Income Support payments by type: May 1998 to May 2002.	115
Chart 12A Deductions from Income Support payments by type: May 1998 to May 2002.	115
Table 12.2 Deductions from Income Support payments by type and average weekly amount: May 2002	116
Table 12.3 Deductions from Income Support payments by statistical group: May 2002	116

Summary - Deductions from benefit

This section looks at Income Support (IS) claimants who have amounts deducted from their weekly benefit to pay for certain costs they incur, for example arrears on fuel bills.

These deductions are made for a variety of reasons. Some are made to maintain vital supplies to the claimant, such as fuel and water supplies, where claimants have built up arrears on their domestic bills. Payments are made direct from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to the fuel and water companies and deducted from the claimant's benefit payment. Some claimants also choose to have deductions made from their benefit to meet their current bills.

Deductions can also be made without the claimant's consent to recover a contribution towards liabilities incurred by them, such as the payment of a fine or contribution towards child maintenance. There are rules governing the maximum amount that can be deducted without the claimant's consent and the order in which deductions are taken where there are three or more which could be made.

See **Section 9 of Annex 3** for further details.

Key findings

In May 2002 around 1.22 million (31.2%) IS claimants had one or more deduction made from their weekly benefit.

The most common type of deduction in May 2002 was for the repayment of a social fund loan (806 thousand). This was followed by mortgage interest payments (210 thousand), council tax (188 thousand) and overpayment recovery (168 thousand).

Main changes to benefit rules

See Annex 4.

Section 12: Deductions

Table 12.1: Deductions from Income Support payments by type: May 1998 to May 2002

Type of deduction	<i>Thousands / Percentages</i>				
	May 1998	May 1999	May 2000	May 2001	May 2002
All types	1,535	1,530	1,620	1,688	1,683
Electricity	33	29	25	24	22
Gas	87	57	44	37	32
Water & sewerage	125	131	131	131	124
Mortgage interest	265	246	233	225	210
Other housing costs	105	102	103	105	102
Community charge - lower rate	90	57	37	24	15
Community charge - higher rate	4	2	2	1	1
Council tax	121	131	152	179	188
Fines recovery	13	13	12	13	15
Social fund loan recovery	577	622	734	786	806
Overpayment recovery	114	139	147	162	168
Child support maintenance	1	1	1	1	1
Claimants with one or more deductions	1,114	1,121	1,183	1,223	1,224
% of all claimants	28.9	29.4	31.0	31.1	31.2

Chart 12A: Deductions from Income Support payments by type: May 1998 to May 2002

Thousands

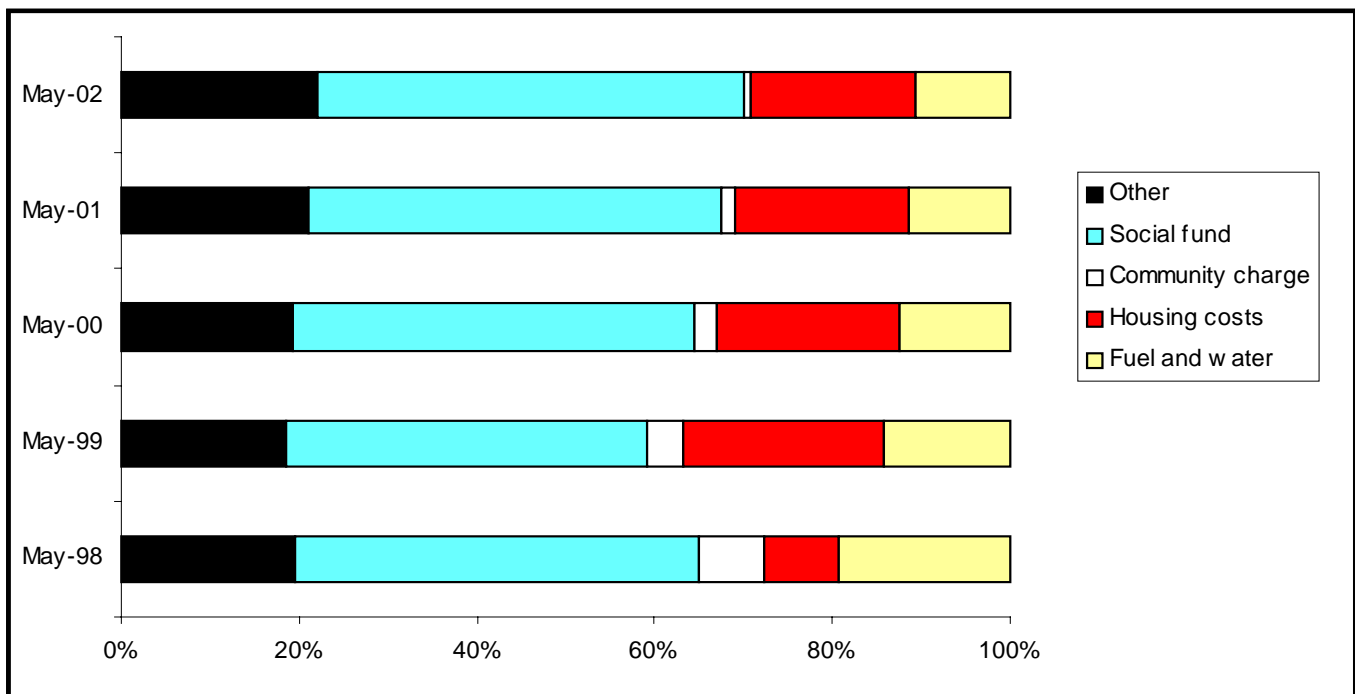


Table 12.2: Deductions from Income Support payments by type and average weekly amount: May 2002

Type of deduction	Thousands / £ per week					
	All payments		Type of payment ¹			
	Total	Average amount deducted £pw	Including arrears		Not including arrears	
		Total	Average amount deducted £pw	Total	Average amount deducted £pw	
All types	1,683	10.43	463	4.95	1,221	12.51
Electricity	22	11.51	14	12.98	8	8.81
Gas	32	10.80	24	11.66	8	8.07
Water & sewerage	124	6.77	113	7.06	11	3.92
Mortgage interest	210	25.19	-	-	210	25.19
Other housing costs	102	8.29	93	4.66	8	48.42
Community charge – lower rate	15	2.68	15	2.68	-	-
Community charge – higher rate	1	4.50	1	4.50	-	-
Council tax	188	2.72	188	2.72	-	-
Fines recovery	15	2.69	15	2.69	-	-
Social fund loan recovery	806	10.40	-	-	806	10.40
Overpayment recovery	168	5.99	-	-	168	5.99
Child support maintenance	1	5.21	.	.	1	5.21

Notes: 1. Deductions for fuel, water and housing costs can be made for debts (arrears) and current bills. All other types are for a fixed amount to meet liabilities, except for repayment of Social Fund loan where the amount is discretionary.0

Table 12.3: Deductions from Income Support payments by statistical group: May 2002

Type of deduction	Thousands				
	All claimants	Aged 60 or over (MIG)	Lone parents	Disabled	Other
All types	1,683	235	732	603	112
Electricity	22	5	7	10	1
Gas	32	5	13	13	1
Water & sewerage	124	14	61	45	4
Mortgage interest	210	85	40	77	9
Other housing costs	102	8	53	34	6
Community Charge - lower rate	15	3	5	6	1
Community Charge - higher rate	1	-	-	-	-
Council Tax	188	21	90	65	11
Fines recovery	15	-	7	7	1
Social Fund loan recovery	806	62	391	287	66
Overpayment recovery	168	32	65	59	12
Child Support maintenance	1	1	-	-	-

Section 13: Income Support flows

	Page
Summary	119
Key findings.....	119
Table 13.1 'All claimant' Income Support flows: February 1997 to May 2002.....	121
Chart 13A 'All claimant' Income Support flows: February 1997 to May 2002.....	121
Table 13.2 'All claimant' Income Support flows – average weekly award: February 1997 to May 2002.....	122
Chart 13B 'All claimant' Income Support flows – average weekly award: February 1997 to May 2002.....	122
Table 13.3 'Aged 60 or over' Income Support flows: February 1997 to May 2002	123
Chart 13C 'Aged 60 or over' Income Support flows: February 1997 to May 2002	123
Table 13.4 'Aged 60 or over' Income Support flows – average weekly award: February 1997 to May 2002.....	124
Chart 13D 'Aged 60 or over' Income Support flows – average weekly award: February 1997 to May 2002.....	124
Table 13.5 'Lone parent' Income Support flows: February 1997 to May 2002	125
Chart 13E 'Lone parent' Income Support flows: February 1997 to May 2002	125

	Page
Table 13.6 'Lone parent' Income Support flows – average weekly award: February 1997 to May 2002.....	126
Chart 13F 'Lone parent' Income Support flows – average weekly award: February 1997 to May 2002.....	126
Table 13.7 Income Support claimants with a disability premium flows: February 1997 to May 2002	127
Chart 13G Income Support claimants with a disability premium flows: February 1997 to May 2002	127
Table 13.8 Income Support claimants with a disability premium flows – average weekly award: February 1997 to May 2002.....	128
Chart 13H Income Support claimants with a disability premium flows – average weekly award: February 1997 to May 2002.....	128
Table 13.9 'Other' Income Support flows: February 1997 to May 2002	129
Chart 13I 'Other' Income Support flows: February 1997 to May 2002	129
Table 13.10 'Other' Income Support flows – average weekly award: February 1997 to May 2002.....	130
Chart 13J 'Other' Income Support flows – average weekly award: February 1997 to May 2002.....	130
Table 13.11 Income Support claimants by previous group: February 2001 – May 2002	131

Summary - Income Support flows

This section examines Income Support (IS) flows with respect to the main client groups and average weekly award. It covers both flows on and off IS as well as flows between the main client groups. A comparison over time is given, showing quarterly flows and average amounts.

The flows analysis provides a deep insight as to why the caseload changes. For example, if a client group suddenly increases in size, flows analysis would show whether this is due to an increased inflow to the group (from new claims or other groups) or a decreased outflow from the group (terminated claims or to other groups), or indeed a combination of the two. However, as enquiries are taken at a point in time, **no account can be taken of claimants who flow on and then off again, and vice versa, between the dates of the enquiry.** Therefore, the numbers will underestimate the true level of inflows and outflows although the net combined effect will be correct. Another point worth noting is that there are varying lengths of time between enquiry dates, ranging from 84 to 98 days. A long quarter allows more time for flows to occur and will hence exaggerate the volume of flows during that period, making comparisons unrealistic. The figures have not been adjusted to account for these differences, although the non-standard quarters have been identified.

Key findings

The quarter to May 2002 saw a decrease of 11 thousand in the overall caseload figure due to outflows being higher than inflows.

The number of claimants 'Aged 60 or over' increased by 29 thousand in the year to May 2002.

The 'Lone parent' caseload was down by 32 thousand in the year to May 2002. There is a clear seasonal pattern in the 'Lone parent' outflow rates with a peak in the quarter to November (coinciding with the start of the school year in September).

In the 3 months to May 2002 inflows and outflows from the 'Disabled' statistical group remained broadly constant compared with the previous quarter. The 'Disabled' statistical group increased by 50 thousand in the year to May 2002.

The number of claimants in the 'Other' group fell by 29 thousand in the quarter to May 2002 to stand at 261 thousand. The increased outflow to another statistical group (61 thousand in May 2002 compared to 40 thousand in May 2001) partly reflects the abolishment of Preserved Rights from April 2002.

Those who stayed on IS between February 2002 and May 2002 stood at 3.71 million compared with 3.75 million between November 2001 and February 2002. The largest flow between groups was from 'Other' to 'Disabled'. This is due to the fact that claimants in the 'Other' group claiming as short term sick become eligible for the disability premium after 12 months. The number of new claims in the quarter to May 2002 rose 32 thousand to 223 thousand.

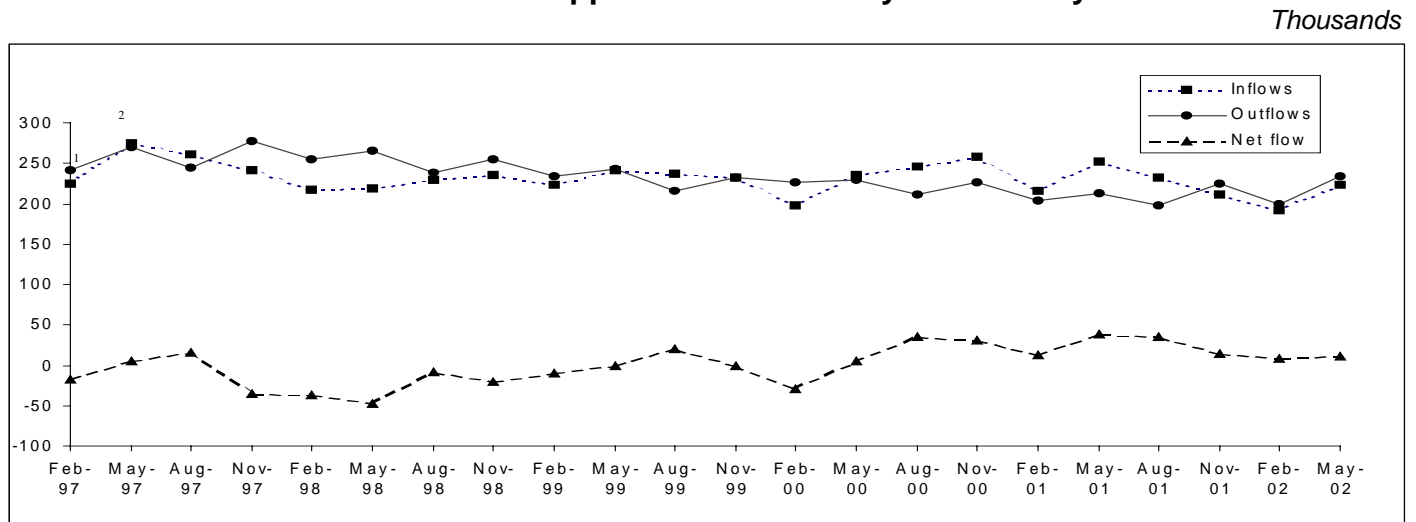
Section 13: Income Support flows

Table 13.1: 'All claimant' Income Support flows: February 1997 to May 2002

		<i>Thousands / Percentages</i>				
		Caseload	Net flow	Inflow	Outflow	
					Total	As % of caseload
1997	Feb ¹	3,954	-17	225	242	6.1
	May ²	3,958	5	274	270	6.8
	Aug	3,974	15	260	245	6.2
	Nov	3,938	-35	242	277	7.0
1998	Feb	3,901	-37	217	254	6.5
	May	3,853	-48	218	266	6.8
	Aug	3,845	-8	230	238	6.2
	Nov	3,824	-20	235	255	6.6
1999	Feb	3,815	-10	224	234	6.1
	May	3,814	-	242	242	6.3
	Aug	3,835	21	237	216	5.7
	Nov	3,835	-	232	232	6.1
2000	Feb	3,806	-29	198	227	5.9
	May	3,811	5	235	230	6.0
	Aug	3,845	35	246	212	5.6
	Nov	3,877	31	258	226	5.9
2001	Feb	3,890	13	217	203	5.2
	May	3,928	38	251	213	5.5
	Aug	3,963	35	233	197	5.0
	Nov	3,950	-14	211	225	5.7
2002	Feb	3,941	-9	191	200	5.1
	May	3,930	-11	223	234	5.9

Notes: 1. Those who flow on and off benefit between the quarters will not be counted. Therefore these figures underestimate true inflows and outflows
 2. Quarter lengths are 91 days except: 1. 84 days; 2. 98 days

Chart 13A: 'All claimant' Income Support flows: February 1997 to May 2002



Notes: 1. Quarter lengths are 91 days except: 1. 84 days, 2. 98 days

**Table 13.2: 'All claimant' Income Support flows – average weekly award:
February 1997 to May 2002**

			<i>£ per week</i>	
All claimants			Inflow	Outflow
1997	Feb	56.60	50.43	58.67
	May	58.03	51.54	58.55
	Aug	57.77	51.37	59.30
	Nov	57.71	51.37	58.96
1998	Feb	57.61	49.86	57.92
	May	58.72	50.82	54.77
	Aug	58.71	51.44	58.56
	Nov	59.86	52.38	60.43
1999	Feb	59.91	53.48	60.25
	May	61.42	51.72	57.60
	Aug	61.14	53.26	61.44
	Nov	63.06	55.47	61.54
2000	Feb	63.04	55.28	62.08
	May	65.72	54.31	62.65
	Aug	65.45	52.78	65.06
	Nov	67.17	50.83	65.09
2001	Feb	66.93	54.54	64.93
	May	70.21	51.25	64.35
	Aug	69.76	56.06	67.99
	Nov	70.18	59.57	70.48
2002	Feb	69.94	59.35	67.65
	May	69.64	58.33	67.97

**Chart 13B: 'All claimant' Income Support flows – average weekly award:
February 1997 to May 2002**

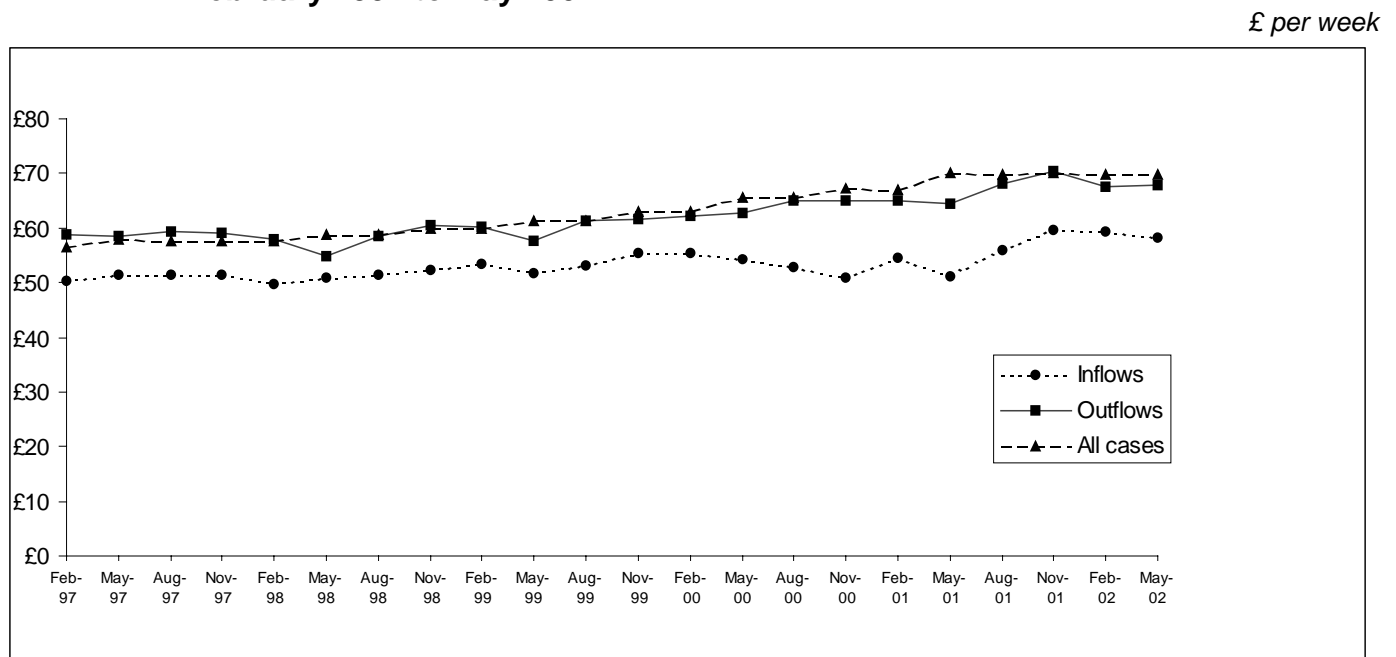


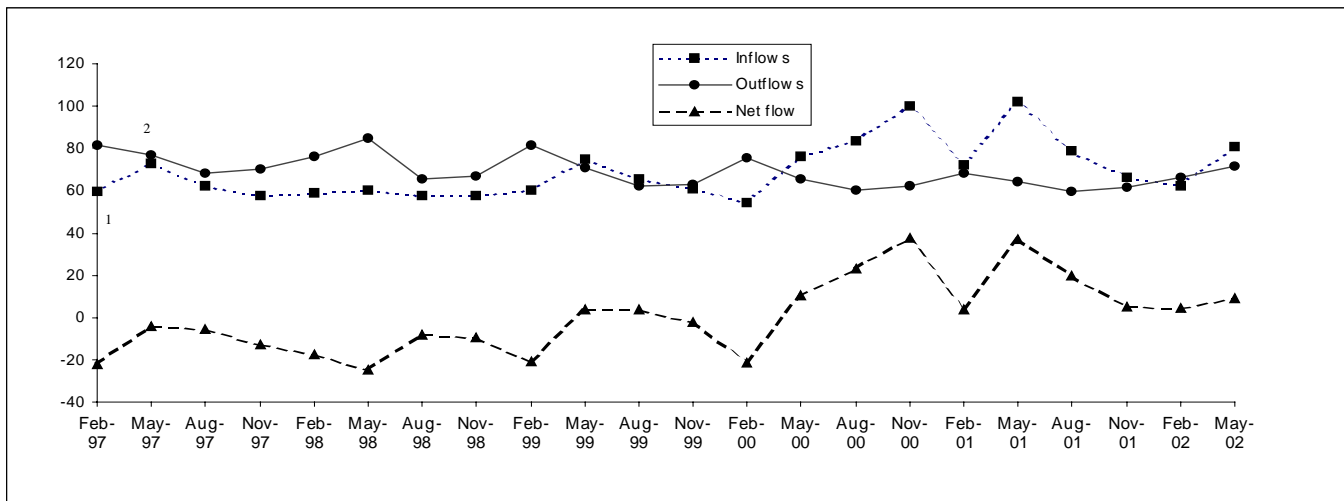
Table 13.3: 'Aged 60 or over' Income Support flows: February 1997 to May 2002

		Inflow					Outflow			
		Caseload	Net flow	Total	New claims	From another group	Total	Thousands / Percentages		
								As % of caseload	Off Income Support	To another group
1997	Feb ¹	1,724	-22	60	49	10	82	4.7	81	1
	May ²	1,720	-4	73	64	9	77	4.5	76	1
	Aug	1,714	-5	62	53	10	68	3.9	67	1
	Nov	1,701	-13	58	47	10	70	4.1	70	1
1998	Feb	1,684	-17	59	49	10	76	4.5	76	1
	May	1,659	-25	60	50	10	85	5.1	85	-
	Aug	1,651	-8	57	48	10	66	4.0	65	-
	Nov	1,641	-10	57	49	9	67	4.1	67	-
1999	Feb	1,620	-21	60	50	10	81	4.9	81	1
	May	1,624	4	75	64	11	71	4.4	71	-
	Aug	1,628	4	66	56	10	62	3.8	61	1
	Nov	1,626	-2	61	52	9	63	3.9	62	1
2000	Feb	1,604	-21	54	44	10	76	4.6	75	-
	May	1,615	10	76	66	10	66	4.1	66	-
	Aug	1,638	23	83	74	10	60	3.7	60	-
	Nov	1,675	38	100	91	9	63	3.8	62	-
2001	Feb	1,679	4	72	63	10	68	4.1	68	-
	May	1,717	37	102	92	10	65	3.9	64	-
	Aug	1,736	20	79	70	9	60	3.5	59	-
	Nov	1,741	5	67	57	9	61	3.5	61	-
2002	Feb	1,737	-4	62	53	9	66	3.8	66	-
	May	1,746	9	81	70	11	72	4.1	72	-

Notes: 1. Those who flow on and off benefit between the quarters will not be counted. Therefore these figures underestimate true inflows and outflows.
 2. Quarter lengths are 91 days except: 1. 84 days; 2. 98 days.

Chart 13C: 'Aged 60 or over' Income Support flows: February 1997 to May 2002

Thousands



Notes: 1. Quarter lengths are 91 days except: 1. 84 days, 2. 98 days

**Table 13.4: 'Aged 60 or over' Income Support flows – average weekly award:
February 1997 to May 2002**

		<i>£ per week</i>						
All claimants		Inflow			Outflow			
		Total	New claims	From another group	Total	Off Income Support	To another group	
1997	Feb	41.11	46.44	42.64	64.48	54.28	54.22	55.49
	May	42.24	44.83	41.50	67.41	52.80	52.77	48.52
	Aug	42.00	46.09	42.74	64.30	53.81	53.50	77.19
	Nov	41.94	47.04	43.47	63.70	51.61	51.65	34.82
1998	Feb	41.64	44.08	40.55	61.82	53.18	53.12	58.30
	May	42.29	45.04	41.30	62.90	42.87	42.75	-
	Aug	42.36	46.24	43.13	61.54	48.97	48.98	-
	Nov	42.38	46.18	43.37	61.65	52.56	52.45	-
1999	Feb	42.28	49.83	46.52	65.68	53.31	53.30	50.12
	May	45.30	42.99	38.52	68.09	50.54	50.61	-
	Aug	45.16	47.47	43.72	68.43	52.37	52.50	40.83
	Nov	45.03	48.99	44.50	74.86	55.10	54.95	60.76
2000	Feb	44.88	49.93	46.19	66.97	53.25	53.33	-
	May	48.18	43.09	38.33	73.19	52.48	52.50	-
	Aug	47.70	40.21	35.97	75.21	55.21	55.02	-
	Nov	46.72	32.90	29.22	71.58	54.32	54.28	-
2001	Feb	46.31	41.63	36.93	72.32	53.42	53.44	-
	May	50.73	36.59	31.64	82.22	52.90	52.67	-
	Aug	50.09	43.86	39.14	78.73	57.34	57.17	-
	Nov	49.81	50.20	44.53	85.28	57.76	57.61	-
2002	Feb	49.43	50.84	45.23	82.30	56.83	56.72	-
	May	49.69	45.87	40.14	83.64	62.95	62.85	-

**Chart 13D: 'Aged 60 or over' Income Support flows – average weekly award:
February 1997 to May 2002**

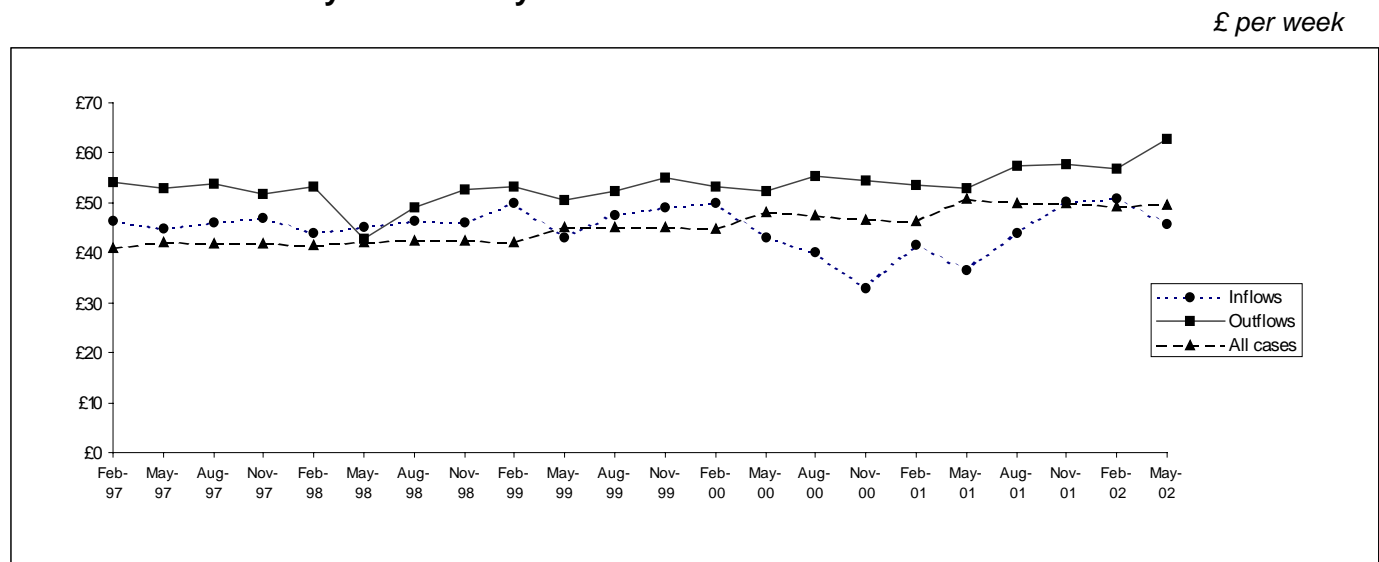


Table 13.5: 'Lone parent' Income Support flows: February 1997 to May 2002

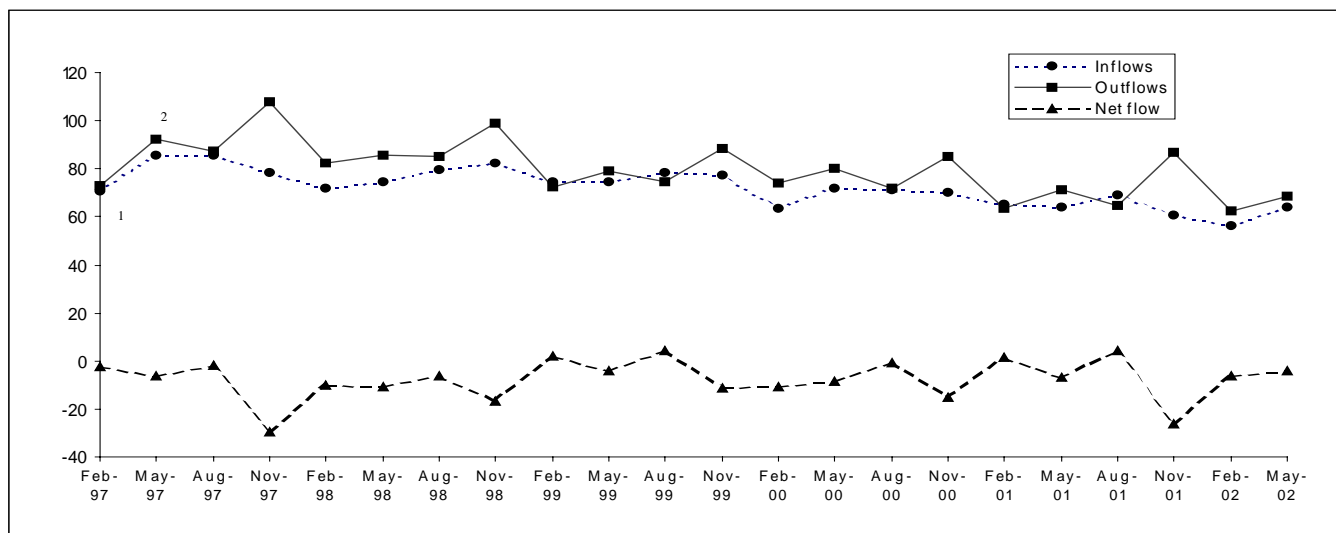
Thousands / Percentages

		Caseload	Net flow	Inflow		Outflow				
				Total	New claims	From another group	Total	As % of caseload	Off Income Support	To another group
1997	Feb ¹	1,020	-2	71	60	11	73	7.1	65	8
	May ²	1,013	-6	86	73	13	92	9.0	84	8
	Aug	1,012	-2	86	74	12	87	8.6	78	9
	Nov	982	-30	79	66	13	108	10.7	99	9
1998	Feb	972	-10	72	61	11	82	8.4	74	8
	May	961	-11	75	64	11	86	8.8	78	7
	Aug	955	-6	79	69	11	85	8.9	78	7
	Nov	938	-17	82	70	12	99	10.4	90	9
1999	Feb	940	2	75	64	11	73	7.7	65	7
	May	936	-4	75	64	11	79	8.4	71	8
	Aug	940	4	79	67	11	75	8.0	67	7
	Nov	929	-11	78	66	12	89	9.4	80	8
2000	Feb	919	-10	63	53	11	74	8.0	66	8
	May	910	-8	72	60	11	80	8.7	73	7
	Aug	909	-1	71	62	9	72	7.9	64	8
	Nov	894	-15	70	59	11	85	9.4	77	8
2001	Feb	895	1	65	55	10	64	7.1	56	8
	May	888	-7	64	55	9	71	7.9	63	8
	Aug	893	4	69	59	10	65	7.3	57	8
	Nov	867	-26	61	51	10	87	9.7	77	10
2002	Feb	861	-6	56	47	10	63	7.2	54	9
	May	856	-4	64	54	10	68	7.9	61	8

Notes: 1. Those who flow on and off benefit between the quarters will not be counted. Therefore these figures underestimate true inflows and outflows.
 2. Quarter lengths are 91 days except: 1. 84 days; 2. 98 days.

Chart 13E: 'Lone parent' Income Support flows: February 1997 to May 2002

Thousands

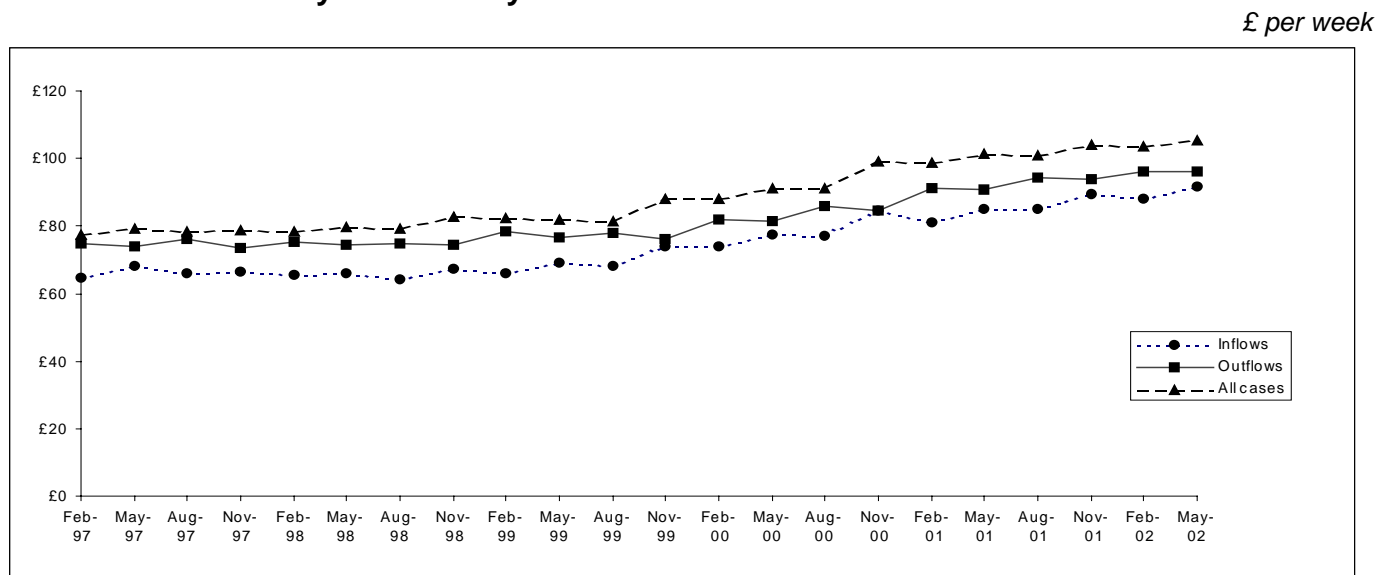


Note: Quarter lengths are 91 days except: 1. 84 days; 2. 98 days.

**Table 13.6: 'Lone parent' Income Support flows – average weekly award:
February 1997 to May 2002**

		<i>£ per week</i>						
All claimants		Inflow			Outflow			
		Total	New claims	From another group	Total	Off Income Support	To another group	
1997	Feb	77.34	64.58	62.95	73.35	74.79	74.72	73.87
	May	79.21	68.41	67.31	74.66	74.03	73.73	76.46
	Aug	78.55	65.84	64.71	72.85	76.02	75.76	75.88
	Nov	78.69	66.38	65.31	71.80	73.69	73.45	75.23
1998	Feb	78.44	65.50	64.02	73.40	75.18	75.11	75.10
	May	79.67	65.97	64.70	73.36	74.52	74.45	78.37
	Aug	79.16	64.03	63.05	70.24	74.83	74.75	77.86
	Nov	82.74	67.25	66.02	74.37	74.31	74.05	80.30
1999	Feb	82.33	66.18	64.81	74.10	78.37	78.61	80.51
	May	82.01	69.08	67.94	76.03	76.45	76.26	86.31
	Aug	81.43	68.11	67.07	74.32	77.75	77.94	83.17
	Nov	87.98	73.95	72.99	79.39	76.37	76.32	84.52
2000	Feb	88.04	73.84	72.50	80.58	82.12	82.32	86.49
	May	91.21	77.59	76.66	82.61	81.58	81.67	91.09
	Aug	91.23	76.83	75.90	83.20	85.82	85.78	95.41
	Nov	99.15	84.40	83.23	90.76	84.72	85.44	86.97
2001	Feb	98.86	81.14	80.10	87.06	91.08	91.63	92.36
	May	101.44	85.11	84.34	89.56	90.81	90.88	105.12
	Aug	101.14	84.93	84.28	88.67	94.27	94.81	98.98
	Nov	103.87	89.32	89.29	89.52	94.06	94.70	94.87
2002	Feb	103.57	88.23	87.37	92.29	96.06	96.68	98.97
	May	105.39	91.68	91.56	92.31	96.01	96.20	106.50

**Chart 13F: 'Lone parent' Income Support flows – average weekly award:
February 1997 to May 2002**

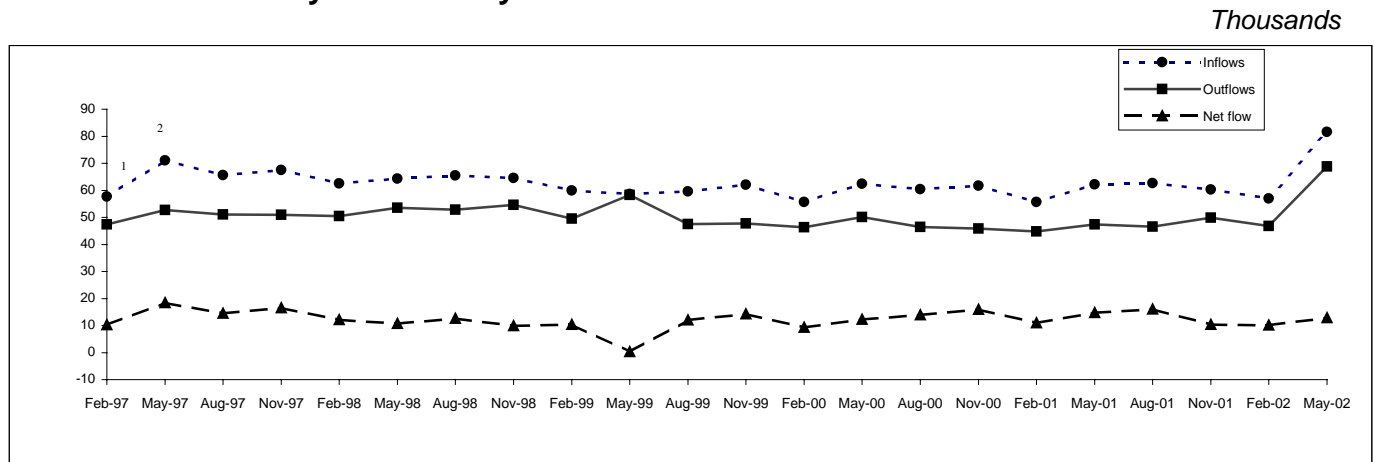


**Table 13.7: Income Support claimants with a disability premium:
February 1997 to May 2002**

		Inflow					Outflow			
		Caseload	Net flow	Total	New claims	From another group	Total	Thousands / Percentages		
								As % of caseload	Off Income Support	To another group
1997	Feb ¹	809	10	58	23	34	47	5.9	32	16
	May ²	827	18	71	29	42	53	6.5	35	17
	Aug	841	15	66	27	39	51	6.2	33	18
	Nov	858	16	67	27	40	51	6.1	35	16
1998	Feb	870	12	63	23	39	50	5.9	35	16
	May	881	11	64	25	40	54	6.2	38	16
	Aug	893	13	66	27	39	53	6.0	36	17
	Nov	903	10	65	26	38	55	6.1	39	16
1999	Feb	914	10	60	26	34	50	5.5	33	17
	May	914	-	59	25	34	58	6.4	42	16
	Aug	926	12	60	25	35	48	5.2	32	15
	Nov	940	14	62	25	37	48	5.2	34	14
2000	Feb	949	9	56	22	33	46	4.9	31	15
	May	962	12	62	26	36	50	5.3	34	17
	Aug	976	14	60	25	35	46	4.8	32	14
	Nov	992	16	62	26	36	46	4.7	32	13
2001	Feb	1,003	11	56	22	34	45	4.5	31	14
	May	1,017	15	62	25	37	47	4.7	33	15
	Aug	1,033	16	63	25	38	47	4.6	32	14
	Nov	1,044	10	60	25	36	50	4.8	36	14
2002	Feb	1,054	10	57	22	35	47	4.5	31	15
	May	1,067	13	82	24	58	69	6.5	51	18

Notes: 1. Those who flow on and off benefit between the quarters will not be counted. Therefore these figures underestimate true inflows and outflows.
2. Quarter lengths are 91 days except: 1. 84 days; 2. 98 days.

**Chart 13G: Income Support claimants with a disability premium:
February 1997 to May 2002**



Notes: 1. Quarter lengths are 91 days except: 1. 84 days; 2. 98 days.

Table 13.8: Income Support claimants with a disability premium: – average weekly award: February 1997 to May 2002

		<i>£ per week</i>						
All claimants		Inflow			Outflow			
		Total	New claims	From another group	Total	Off Income Support	To another group	
1997	Feb	60.59	63.86	51.77	72.13	62.95	61.38	60.26
	May	62.42	66.59	53.43	75.70	63.41	62.88	63.10
	Aug	62.51	66.11	52.25	75.70	62.76	60.70	61.73
	Nov	62.59	66.08	51.52	76.00	65.63	63.50	62.98
1998	Feb	62.76	66.38	48.23	77.00	62.77	61.12	61.62
	May	64.14	68.39	50.74	79.42	63.60	62.16	61.70
	Aug	64.43	67.10	51.50	77.80	64.73	64.02	59.01
	Nov	65.42	68.09	49.23	81.20	65.71	64.24	63.91
1999	Feb	65.68	69.53	54.61	81.16	65.87	64.78	61.60
	May	66.99	70.42	53.72	82.81	56.55	52.42	65.24
	Aug	66.85	70.75	54.02	82.61	68.13	67.99	64.08
	Nov	68.34	71.54	54.76	82.84	65.76	63.33	68.86
2000	Feb	68.24	70.23	53.39	81.47	68.45	66.60	66.67
	May	70.14	72.19	55.95	84.02	69.09	66.86	69.09
	Aug	70.47	73.51	55.09	86.52	70.70	70.68	67.79
	Nov	72.30	73.31	55.29	86.49	70.16	68.21	70.15
2001	Feb	72.48	75.68	56.38	88.32	70.33	69.52	67.23
	May	75.50	75.69	55.14	89.96	68.89	67.50	73.14
	Aug	75.28	74.74	56.00	87.04	73.87	72.73	73.72
	Nov	75.81	78.12	61.25	89.89	74.19	72.96	75.48
2002	Feb	75.82	77.35	60.07	88.39	72.69	69.99	75.73
	May	76.92	64.00	61.20	65.16	58.85	52.28	76.99

Chart 13H: Income Support claimants with a disability premium: – average weekly award: February 1997 to May 2002

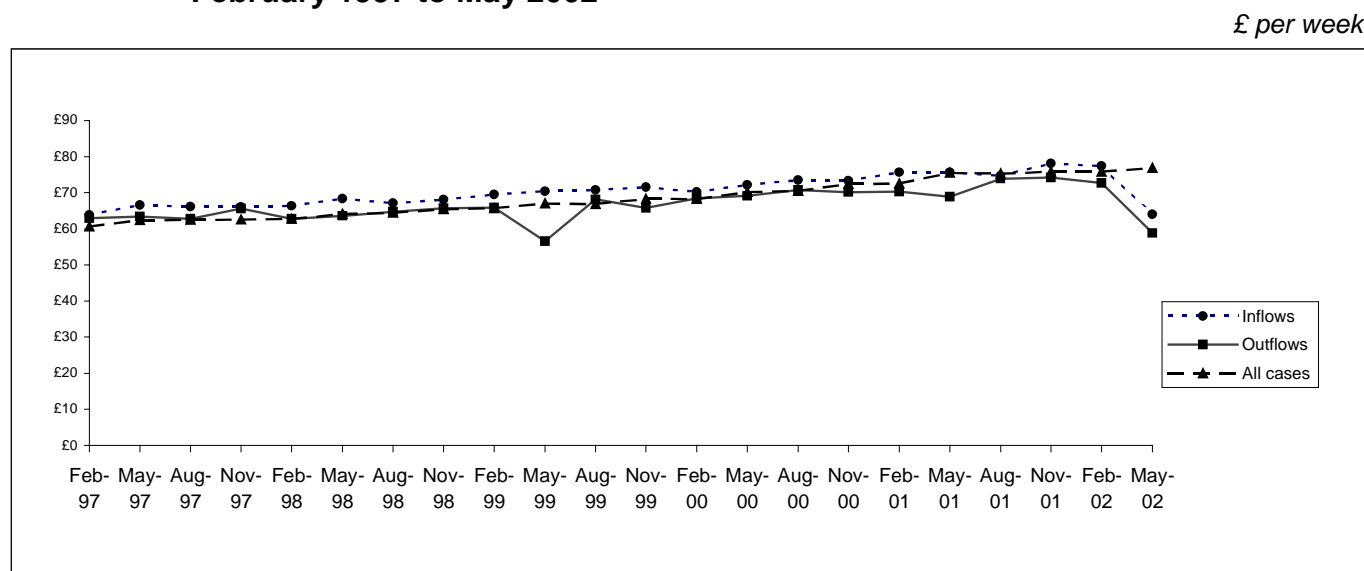
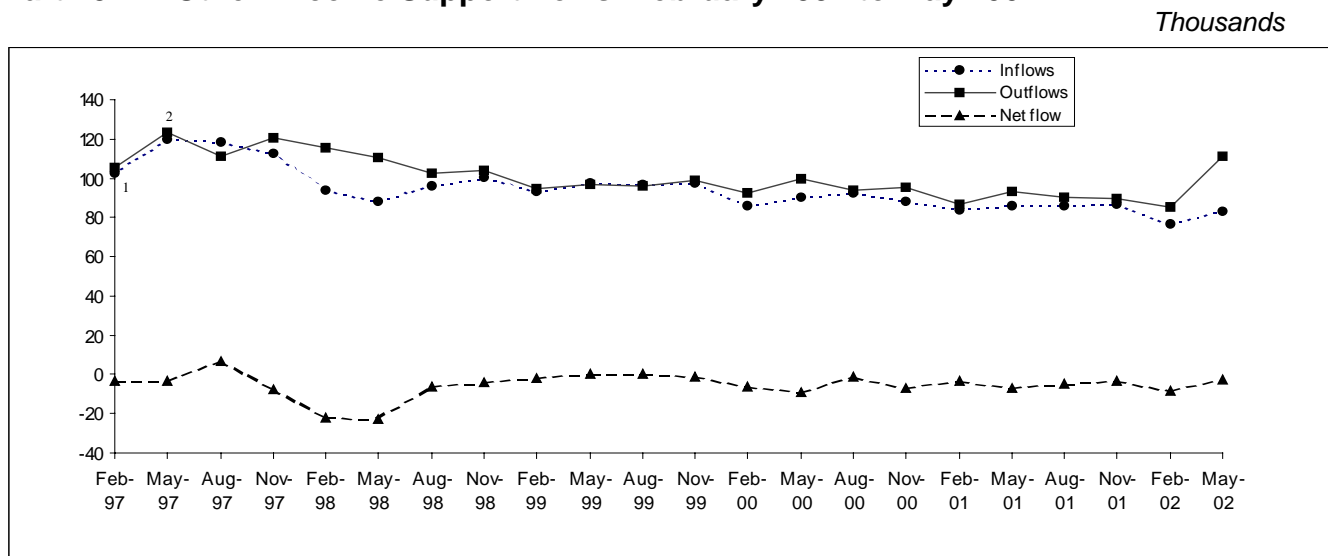


Table 13.9: 'Other' Income Support flows: February 1997 to May 2002

		Inflow					Outflow			
		Caseload	Net flow	Total	New claims	From another group	Total	As % of caseload	Off Income Support	To another group
1997	Feb ¹	402	-3	102	92	10	106	26.1	64	42
	May ²	398	-3	120	108	12	123	30.7	74	49
	Aug	406	8	119	107	13	111	28.0	66	45
	Nov	397	-8	113	101	11	120	29.7	73	48
1998	Feb	375	-22	94	84	10	115	29.1	70	46
	May	353	-23	88	80	8	111	29.5	65	46
	Aug	346	-6	96	87	9	103	29.1	59	44
	Nov	342	-4	100	90	10	104	30.1	60	44
1999	Feb	341	-2	93	84	9	95	27.7	55	40
	May	341	-	97	89	8	97	28.5	58	39
	Aug	341	-	97	89	8	96	28.3	56	41
	Nov	340	-1	98	89	8	99	28.9	56	43
2000	Feb	333	-7	86	78	8	93	27.3	54	38
	May	324	-9	90	82	8	100	29.9	58	42
	Aug	323	-1	93	86	7	94	28.9	55	38
	Nov	316	-7	88	81	7	95	29.6	55	41
2001	Feb	313	-3	84	76	8	87	27.5	49	38
	May	306	-7	86	79	7	93	29.8	54	40
	Aug	301	-5	86	79	7	90	29.6	49	42
	Nov	298	-3	87	78	8	90	29.7	51	38
2002	Feb	289	-9	77	69	8	86	28.7	48	37
	May	261	-29	83	75	9	112	38.6	51	61

Notes: 1. Those who flow on and off benefit between the quarters will not be counted. Therefore these figures underestimate true inflows and outflows.
 2. Quarter lengths are 91 days except: 1. 84 days; 2. 98 days.

Chart 13I: 'Other' Income Support flows: February 1997 to May 2002

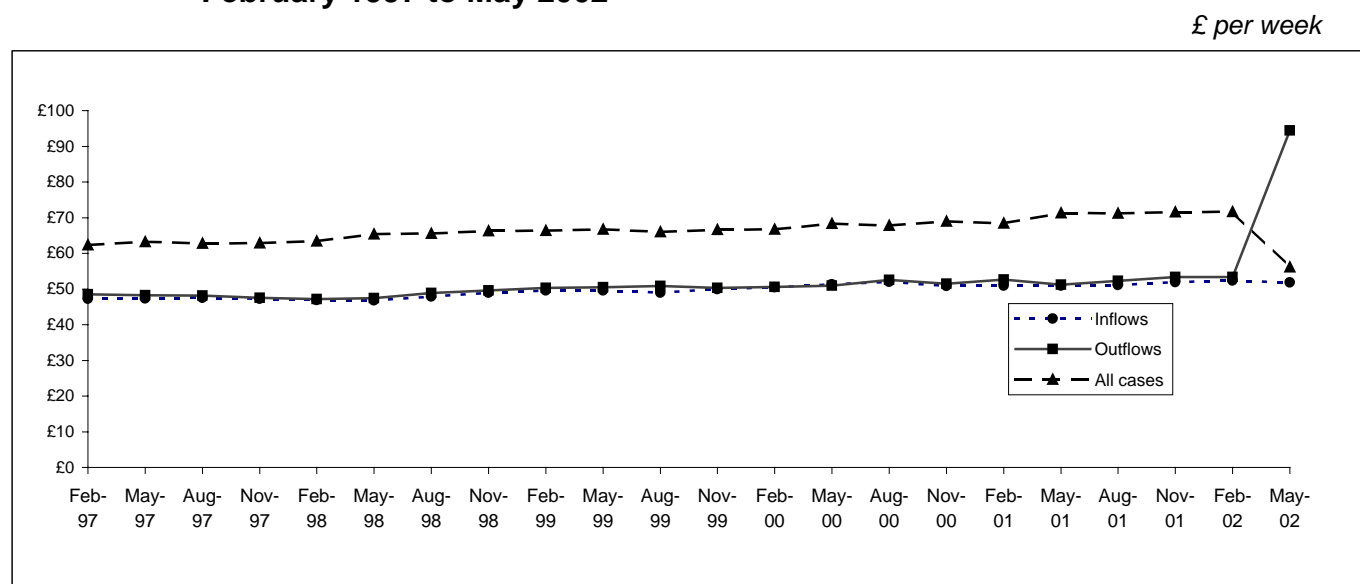


Notes: 1. Quarter lengths are 91 days except: 1. 84 days; 2. 98 days

**Table 13.10: 'Other' Income Support flows – average weekly award:
February 1997 to May 2002**

		<i>£ per week</i>						
All claimants		Inflow			Outflow			
		Total	New claims	From another group	Total	Off Income Support	To another group	
1997	Feb	62.36	47.27	46.16	57.45	48.55	46.60	71.46
	May	63.24	47.31	46.34	56.42	48.29	45.38	74.23
	Aug	62.72	47.53	46.15	59.16	48.13	45.06	73.41
	Nov	62.85	47.22	46.00	58.15	47.55	44.19	73.43
1998	Feb	63.42	46.90	45.55	58.57	47.21	43.32	74.77
	May	65.38	46.81	45.72	57.63	47.47	42.53	76.59
	Aug	65.53	47.85	46.82	57.43	48.88	44.32	75.39
	Nov	66.26	48.96	47.51	61.50	49.64	46.54	77.24
1999	Feb	66.36	49.60	48.70	57.82	50.27	46.00	78.52
	May	66.71	49.58	48.91	57.22	50.46	46.90	78.73
	Aug	65.99	48.93	48.57	52.92	50.82	47.51	78.68
	Nov	66.61	49.94	49.08	59.20	50.33	46.58	80.30
2000	Feb	66.73	50.49	49.32	62.09	50.57	46.87	78.91
	May	68.37	51.32	50.11	63.89	50.92	47.89	81.91
	Aug	67.76	50.52	49.84	59.29	52.58	48.62	82.73
	Nov	68.98	50.85	50.17	58.38	51.50	46.95	84.86
2001	Feb	68.40	50.94	50.01	60.46	52.67	47.61	85.91
	May	71.26	50.92	49.93	62.43	51.17	45.30	86.41
	Aug	71.17	51.14	50.01	64.89	52.29	46.62	84.60
	Nov	71.56	51.96	50.69	64.04	53.34	47.74	87.17
2002	Feb	71.65	52.36	51.06	64.40	53.32	48.62	85.94
	May	56.16	51.82	50.44	63.93	94.42	57.06	63.92

**Chart 13J: 'Other' Income Support flows – average weekly award:
February 1997 to May 2002**



**Table 13.11: Income Support claimants by previous group:
February 2002 – May 2002**

		<i>Thousands</i>			
	All claimants	Statistical group at May 2002			
		Aged 60 or over (MIG)	Lone parent	Disabled	Other
Statistical group at February 2002					
Aged 60 or over (MIG)	1,666	1,665	-	-	-
Lone parent	800	-	792	5	2
Disabled	1,003	9	3	985	6
Other	239	1	7	52	178
Total that stayed on IS	3,707	1,676	802	1,043	186
New claims to May 2002	223	70	54	24	75
Caseload	3,930	1,746	856	1,067	261

Notes: 1. Those who flow on and off benefit between the quarters will not be counted

Section 14: Full Income Support Caseload: Pre – Jobseeker’s Allowance

Page

Summary 135

Table 14.1 Full Income Support caseload-pre JSA: 1993-1996 137

Table 14.2 Average weekly payments made to the full Income Support caseload - pre JSA: 1993 to 1996..... 137

Table 14.3 Beneficiaries of the full Income Support caseload - pre JSA: 1993 to 1996..... 137

Table 14.4 Full Income Support caseload with housing costs - pre JSA: 1993 to 1996..... 138

Table 14.5 Deductions from full Income Support caseload - pre JSA: May 1993 and May 1996 138

Summary - Full Income Support caseload: pre-Jobseeker's Allowance

Prior to the introduction of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) in October 1996, people who had to be available for employment or were on a Government Training scheme could claim IS. These people now claim JSA. A small number of claimants in other IS statistical groups also chose to register as available for employment (e.g. men aged 60 to 64, claimants with disabled partners). Since October 1996 these claimants also have to claim JSA instead of IS.

QSE publications for August 1996 and earlier periods contain analysis of the full IS caseload. The caseload analysis for the periods prior to November 1996 shown in Sections 1 to 12 of this publication include only those claimants who would not have claimed JSA if it had existed prior to October 1996. This is to enable valid comparisons to be made with the full IS caseload post JSA.

This section gives key trends in the full IS caseload pre-JSA.

Section 14: Full Income Support caseload: pre Jobseeker's Allowance

Table 14.1 Full Income Support caseload - pre JSA: 1993 – 1996

	All claimants	Unemployed and government training	Others
			<i>Thousands</i>
1993 May	5,569	2,009	3,561
1994 May	5,675	1,986	3,689
1995 May	5,670	1,781	3,889
1996 May	5,549	1,586	3,963

Table 14.2: Average weekly payments made to the full Income Support caseload - Pre JSA: 1993 to 1996

	All claimants	Unemployed and government training	Others
			<i>£ per week</i>
1993 May	54.77	54.82	54.75
1994 May	55.78	55.09	56.16
1995 May	55.56	53.95	56.29
1996 May	57.04	56.49	57.26

Table 14.3: Beneficiaries of the full Income Support caseload - pre JSA: 1993 to 1996

	All beneficiaries	Unemployed and government training	Others	Beneficiaries as % of population
				<i>Thousands / Percentages</i>
1993 May	9,634	3,488	6,146	17.0
1994 May	9,852	3,387	6,465	17.4
1995 May	9,774	2,916	6,858	17.2
1996 May	9,587	2,584	7,004	16.8

Table 14.4: Full Income Support caseload with housing costs¹ - Pre JSA: 1993 to 1996

	<i>Thousands / £ per week</i>					
	Number of claimants			Amount included in the weekly assessment (£pw)		
	All claimants	Unemployed and government training	Others	All claimants	Unemployed and government training	Others
1993 May	531	246	285	41.12	47.03	36.01
1994 May	529	219	310	37.81	44.08	33.37
1995 May	499	170	329	39.16	45.89	35.69
1996 May	452	130	322	36.96	43.54	34.30

¹ Claimants with Mortgage Interest

Table 14.5: Deductions from the full Income Support caseload - Pre JSA: May 1993 and May 1996

Type of deduction	<i>Thousands / Percentages</i>			
	Unemployed and government training		Others	
	May 1993	May 1996	May 1993	May 1996
All types	767	709	1,282	1,702
Electricity	20	11	56	49
Gas	52	32	152	147
Water & sewerage	49	51	113	172
Mortgage interest	202	122	244	300
Other housing costs	34	42	80	113
Community charge - lower rate	168	97	233	202
Community charge - higher rate	20	7	8	7
Council tax	-	42	-	82
Fines recovery	1	7	2	8
Social fund loan recovery	187	227	334	529
Overpayment recovery	34	42	60	91
Child support maintenance	-	29	-	2
Claimants with one or more deductions	579	520	866	1,162
% of all claimants	16.3	13.1	24.3	29.3

ANNEX 1: TECHNICAL DETAILS

1. What is the IS Quarterly Statistical Enquiry?

The Income Support Quarterly Statistical Enquiry (QSE) is a sample survey that collects information on the number and characteristics of claimants receiving Income Support (IS) in Great Britain (GB). This is used to produce estimates for the whole of the population of IS claimants. Samples are taken at the end of February, May, August and November each year. This report refers to the QSE conducted on 24nd May 2002.

2. What is it used for?

The results are used to: provide information to monitor and evaluate IS; answer parliamentary questions and similar queries; inform costings of possible changes to the IS scheme and expenditure forecasts; and answer queries from the public, researchers, academics, etc.

3. Who is included?

The IS QSE includes all people who are recorded as having entitlement to receive benefit on the enquiry date. This is based mainly on claims held on the Income Support computer system (ISCS - see section 6 below) on that day. It therefore misses some claims where entitlement had not been established at that point in time, but is subsequently backdated.

4. Impact of Jobseeker's Allowance

Prior to the introduction of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) in October 1996 the following groups could claim IS:

- Unemployed claimants who had to be available for work as a condition of entitlement

- Claimants on government training schemes

- Claimants who were exempt from having to be available for employment but who chose to register for it (e.g. some males aged 60 to 64, lone parents, etc.)

- Other claimants who were exempt from having to be available for employment

Claimants in the first three groups now claim JSA instead of IS. They are therefore no longer included in the IS QSE, but instead appear in the JSA QSE (see section 6 below).

5. Comparisons with pre-JSA data

All of the sections in this report contain tables that give comparisons of data for the latest quarter with earlier periods, including those prior to the introduction of JSA. To allow comparisons to be made on a consistent basis, analysis for periods prior to JSA (August 1996 and earlier) exclude those claimants who would have claimed JSA if it had existed at that time (see section 4 above). The only exception to this is section 14 of the report, which gives analysis of the full, IS caseload over the period 1993 to 1996 to show the impact of removing the 'JSA caseload'.

QSE reports published prior to November 1996 also contain detailed analyses for the full IS caseload. Comparable data for periods after the introduction of JSA can be obtained by using the IS QSE publication in conjunction with the JSA QSE publication. This gives comparable analysis for JSA claimants who receive income-based benefit (this replaced IS for this group of claimants) and can be obtained from the contact point on page 1.

6. Impact of JSA on durations

Comparison of duration analysis for claimants who were unemployed before becoming eligible for one of the current IS groups, have been affected by the introduction of JSA. This is because prior to JSA, time spent unemployed before transferring to one of the other IS groups would have been included in the duration calculation. Under JSA this is no longer the case.

7. Data sources and validation procedures

The majority of information in the QSE is taken directly from the Income Support computer system (ISCS), which administers the benefit. This is supplemented by a small amount of clerically collected data from local offices of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) for those few cases not held on ISCS.

Comprehensive sets of validation procedures are undertaken by the DWP Information Centre on the data collected for the QSE. Amendments are made where it is apparent that some of the information recorded for individual sample cases is inconsistent (e.g. where the recorded statistical group does not match the appropriate premium).

8. Rating up of results

The QSE is now based on a sample of approximately 1 in every 20 IS claimants (5% of the population). The sample data shown in each table is rated up by factor of 20 to give estimates for the whole population of IS claimants. Prior to August 1992 a sample of only approximately 1 in every 100 IS claimants (1% of the population) were used.

9. Undercount

The number and proportion of claims with short durations will be undercounted. This is because a small number (compared to the overall figures) of new awards had not been added to the IS computer system by the date of the data extract.

ANNEX 2: SAMPLING ERRORS

1. Sampling effects

The analyses in the Income Support (IS) Quarterly Statistical Enquiry (QSE) are subject to 'sampling error'. That is by chance the number of cases in the sample with certain characterisations (e.g. with children) may produce rated up estimates for the population which are slightly lower or slightly higher than the true population value. An indication of the effect of these sampling errors can be gained from the tables of 'confidence intervals' below. Each figure shown in the tables in the QSE report is a best estimate based on the sample data. The true number will lie somewhere in a range around the estimate. The size of this range is usually indicated by a '95% confidence interval'. There is only a 1 in 20 chance that the true value lies outside of this range. Usually this interval is approximately symmetric so, for example, an estimate of 10,000 is really showing that the true value lies in the range of 9,100 to 10,900.

2. 95% Confidence intervals

Approximate 95% confidence intervals (rounded to the nearest 100) for a sample based on 1 in every 20 cases in the population are shown below for estimates of 2,000 or more.

Estimated Value	95% Confidence interval (+ or -)	Confidence interval as % of estimate (+ or -)
1,000	270	27
2,000	382	19
3,000	468	16
4,000	540	14
5,000	604	12
6,000	662	11
7,000	715	10
8,000	764	10
9,000	811	9
10,000	854	9
20,000	1,208	6
30,000	1,480	5
40,000	1,709	4
50,000	1,910	4
100,000	2,702	3
200,000	3,821	2
300,000	4,679	2
400,000	5,403	1
500,000	6,041	1
600,000	6,618	1
700,000	7,148	1
800,000	7,641	1
900,000	8,105	1
1,000,000	8,543	1

The above method applies only to estimates of numbers of claimants and not to other characteristics, e.g. amounts of benefit

ANNEX 3: DESCRIPTION OF THE INCOME SUPPORT SCHEME

1. Introduction

Income Support (IS) replaced Supplementary Benefit from April 1988. Up until 7 October 1996 it could be claimed by all people who worked for less than 16 hours a week. Since then, those who are required to be available for employment now have to claim Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). This section briefly describes the main conditions which a claimant must satisfy to receive IS and other key features of the scheme. Full details can be found in leaflet IS20 'A Guide to Income Support', printed by HMSO.

2. Eligibility for Income Support

IS is a non-contributory benefit and the full basis for entitlement is set out in regulations. People in Great Britain who are aged: 16 or over; not working 16 hours or more a week or with a partner not working more than 24 hours or more per week; and not required to be available for employment are eligible to claim IS. It is payable if a person's resources are less than their applicable amounts (see below) and they satisfy the qualifying conditions. Provision is made for payment to be made outside the normal rules in certain urgent cases (see section 8 below).

A person undergoing full-time education of a non-advanced nature is not eligible for IS. The majority of 16 and 17 years old are also normally unable to claim IS, following a change in the rules made in September 1988. Those still at school whose parents claim IS can be treated as a dependant in the calculation of their benefit. There are, however, a limited number of prescribed circumstances under which they can receive it, which mainly apply to those who have dependent children, disabilities or caring responsibilities. Severe hardship provisions which used to allow some 16 and 17 year olds who could not live with their parents to claim IS are now part of JSA.

3. Assessment of benefit

IS claims are made and assessed on a 'benefit unit' basis. A benefit unit consists of the claimant plus any partner and/or dependent children they have. Unmarried couples who are living together as husband and wife are treated in the same way as a married couple. Dependent children are those aged 15 or under plus those aged 16 to 19 who are in non-advanced full-time education. Either partner may claim IS.

The resources (income) of a benefit unit are counted together for the purposes of working out benefit entitlement (see next section), with the exception of any children's capital, which is taken into account separately.

4. Rate of benefit

The amount of benefit that a claimant can receive is calculated using an 'applicable amount' and takes account of any resources they have. Receipt of IS also automatically entitles the claimant and his dependants to certain other welfare benefits.

Applicable Amounts are specified by regulation and are used to calculate the maximum amount of benefit that a claimant can receive. These consist of a personal allowance which depends upon the age of the claimant and the presence and age of a partner; additions for any dependants; 'premiums' which provide additional allowances in recognition of special needs such as old age or disability; and certain types of housing costs (see section 5 below). The actual rates are shown in Appendix 4.

Resources of a benefit unit consist of its total income (e.g. from other DWP benefits, earnings from part-time employment, etc.) and assumed income from capital assets (see below).

The rate of IS payable to a claimant is normally the amount needed to bring the resources of the benefit unit up to their applicable amount (i.e. the applicable amount less the total resources). Some types of resources are subject to a disregard, that is all or parts of them are ignored when calculating total resources.

The main types that are subject to a disregard are:

Part-time earnings where the first £5 each week is disregarded for the claimant and/or their partner. 'Lone parents' and 'Disabled' claimants qualify for a £20 earnings disregard. The earnings of children are fully disregarded, but if the child has left school some earnings may be taken into account.

Benefits and pensions where war disablement pension and war widow's pension are subject to a partial disregard and mobility allowance, attendance allowance and disability living allowance are normally disregarded in full.

Other miscellaneous types of income are disregarded such as certain payments received from charities, the annuity paid to a holder of the Victoria Cross, etc.

Capital assets (e.g. savings, investments or property other than their home)

Claimants aged under 60 where income of assets worth under £3,000 is ignored (some assets may also be disregarded, e.g. property occupied by an aged relative). Savings between £3000 and £8000 are treated as if each £250 or part of £250 brings in an income of £1 per week (tariff income). If capital assets total more than £8000, the claimant is not entitled to IS.

Claimants aged over 60 are now allowed up to £6,000 in capital assets before their benefit is affected by tariff income (see above). If capital totals more than £12,000 the claimant is not entitled to IS.

Claimants in residential care and nursing homes have their capital treated differently. They are allowed to have up to £16,000 and still be entitled to IS. Up to £10,000 of their assets are also disregarded. However, from April 2002 preserved rights were abolished. The higher capital rates remain in place providing there is no break in residency.

IS is intended to meet regular weekly needs. If people have exceptional expenses, which are difficult for them to pay from their regular income, they may be able to get help from the social fund.

5. Housing costs

Claimants in rented accommodation can receive assistance with most of their housing costs through housing benefit. Amounts for certain other types of housing costs can be included in the assessment of a person's applicable amount. These include:

Mortgage interest payments (but not capital repayments)

Ground rent

Other miscellaneous outgoings that are not met by housing benefit, such as certain service charges.

The amount for these items may be reduced in certain circumstances to take account of contributions from non-dependants (i.e. other adults in the property who are not part of the benefit unit) and any amount by which the housing costs are excessive. Housing costs in IS do not cover water charges as these are part of the day to day living expenses already covered by the personal allowances and premiums in the applicable amount.

Council tax cannot normally be met by housing costs in IS. Instead, help with council tax is provided through council tax benefit that, like housing benefit, is a departmental benefit administered by local authorities.

IS entitles the claimant to maximum housing benefit and council tax benefit which can be up to 100 per cent of the claimant's eligible rent and council tax subject to any deductions in respect to non-dependants.

Help with housing costs is also available to recipients of JSA – see the JSA Quarterly Statistical Enquiry.

6. Disability premiums

The disability premium is awarded to those claimants who are long term sick or disabled. This has always been linked to the payment of disability benefits (attendance allowance or disability living allowance) or claims for long-term incapacity benefits (now primarily incapacity benefit - IB). These benefits can be in payment to the claimant and/or their partner. Under IB, long-term incapacity is defined as 365 days or more. People who have claimed IB for this length of time therefore become entitled to the disability premium.

Prior to the introduction of IB on 13 April 1995, claimants could qualify for the disability premium after only 26 weeks of incapacity. This was linked to claims for invalidity benefit, which was replaced by IB.

7. Lone parent premiums

Most cases with dependants receive family premium. Prior to April 1998 single parent's aged under 60 and not in the disabled group, received the higher rate known as family premium (lone parent). This higher rate premium was abolished from April 1998, although those in receipt at that time continue to receive it until a relevant change of circumstances.

The 'Lone parent' figure contains a small number of cases where the youngest child is aged 16 and over. Technically such claimants should no longer be classed as a 'Lone parent' if the youngest child is aged 16 (or over).

8. Special groups

There are special rules which cover entitlement to and the assessment of benefit for certain groups of IS claimants. The main ones include:

People in private residential care and nursing homes receive help with their fees either wholly or partly through IS, depending upon when they entered care (see the introduction to Section 8 in the main report for further details).

People in a local authority home have an applicable amount equal to the total amount prescribed for the minimum charge for the accommodation and personal requirements.

People in a hospital for more than 6 weeks receive special rates of IS. For the *first six weeks* IS is normally paid in full, except for the severe disability premium (SDP) that is withdrawn from a single person or reduced when one member of a couple is admitted. *After six weeks*: single people receive only a hospital allowance rate plus appropriate housing costs; For couples, when one partner enters hospital, the couple rate personal allowance is reduced but premiums (except for SDP) and housing costs are unchanged. *After 52 weeks* in hospital: single people have their IS reduced further and assistance with any housing costs is withdrawn; both members of a couple are treated as single people and are required to make separate claims.

Asylum seekers and other types of persons from abroad could claim IS prior to April 3rd 2000 under certain circumstances. Their personal allowance was reduced by 10%. Changes to the benefit rules were introduced in February 1996. Only those asylum seekers who made an application for asylum when they first arrived in the UK, or whose countries had been declared an upheaval country were able to claim IS or income-based Jobseeker's Allowance. Entitlement ceased in the event of an initial negative decision from the Home Office on the asylum seeker's asylum application, and benefit was no longer payable during the asylum appeal process. Asylum seekers in receipt of benefit when the changes were introduced were covered by transitional protection up until the next negative Home Office decision on their application. The Home Office have been funding IS payments to asylum seekers since April 1999, however from 3 April 2000 persons claiming asylum will be excluded from claiming social security benefits. Instead they will receive support depending upon their circumstances, either from the National Asylum Support Service (NASS) that has been set up by the Home Office to manage such claims, or Local Authorities. Asylum seekers who claimed IS prior to 3rd April 2000 will be entitled to IS at the 'urgent cases' payment rate. Transitional protection for these cases will continue until there is a relative change of circumstances.

9. Deductions from benefit

Amounts can be deducted from IS and paid to a third party where the claimant is in debt for or has difficulty in meeting the cost of a basic amenity, such as water or fuel, and it is essential to safeguard the continued supply of that amenity. Deductions from IS can also be made to enable the recovery of statutory and other liabilities, for example rent and council tax arrears and child maintenance payments, as well as enabling the recovery of overpayments of departmental benefit and social fund loans.

The main conditions for making a deduction are:

The claimants must have a debt (arrears) before they can be considered for the scheme:

Normally, each deduction for arrears is set at 5% of the adult personal allowance;

The maximum aggregate deduction for arrears is 15% of the adult personal allowance;

A priority order is used where more than three deductions can be taken;

Deductions can exceed the 5 or 15% maximum where they are to cover liabilities for current consumption as well as arrears.

10. Back to Work Bonus (*analyses not yet available*)

The back to work bonus was introduced on 7 October 1996. It enables people who receive IS or JSA (and their partners, if they are claiming for one) to build up a lump sum based on earnings from part-time work. Following completion of a 3-month qualifying period, an amount equivalent to half of any earnings above the appropriate earnings disregard will count towards the accrued bonus amount. The minimum bonus payable is £5 and the maximum is £1,000.

In the majority of cases, a bonus payment will be made where the claimant or partner moves into work or increases their hours of work or earnings, so that entitlement to IS or JSA ceases. However, any accrued bonus amount is paid automatically when the claimant reaches age 60 in IS or state pensionable age (age 65 for men and age 60 for women) in JSA.

Both the IS and JSA QSE will eventually include analysis of people who have an accrual whilst their claim is current (or at the point at which it ends). This will not include information on amounts actually paid out as this information is not available until after the claim has ended (this cannot be collected by the QSE).

11. Liability to maintain

A husband is liable to maintain his wife and a wife is liable to maintain her husband. Parents are liable to maintain their children. From October 1989 liability for children has been extended to include young people up to their nineteenth birthday where the young person is still treated as a dependent child and IS is in payment in respect of him/her.

From October 1990 legislation allows maintenance to be pursued in divorced or never married lone parent cases to cover not only benefit being paid for children but also benefit being paid to the person looking after those children, reflecting the cost of such care.

ANNEX 4 – MAIN CHANGES TO BENEFIT RULES

- Mortgage interest paid direct to lender for most claimants who receive the full amount (November 1992).
- A new scheme to provide support to claimants in residential care and nursing homes was introduced (April 1993).
- Special rules over the treatment of capital held by claimants in residential care, nursing home (RCNH) were introduced (April 1995).
- On 2nd October 1995 waiting periods were introduced for claimants without a pensioner premium before help is given (8 weeks for those with loans taken out before that date and 9 months for those with loans taken out thereafter). From the same date, most claimants with mortgage interest payments have them calculated using a standard rate based on the average of the largest building societies' basic mortgage rates (October 1995).
- Claimants in RCNH, part III accommodation are allowed capital of up to £16,000. Tariff income is payable where the savings are over £10,000 (April 1996).
- Changes to the rules for asylum seekers (May 1996).
- Family premium and lone parent premium were combined to form family premium (lone parent) which was paid to all eligible claimants (April 1997).
- One parent benefit was replaced by a new rate of child benefit for lone parents (April 1997).
- Deductions for payment of arrears of mortgage interest abolished (April 1997).
- Family premium (lone parent) was abolished, although those in receipt at that time continue to receive it until a relevant change of circumstances (April 1998).
- The dependants allowance payable for each child under 11 was increased by £2.50 per week (November 1998).
- The minimum income guarantee (MIG) was introduced increasing the amount payable to those aged 60 or over, except for special category cases (April 1999).
- Introduction of new budgeting loan scheme (April 1999).
- The dependants allowance payable for each child under 11 was increased by a further £4.70 per week (October 1999).
- Family credit and disability working allowance were replaced by working families tax credit and disabled persons tax credit respectively (October 1999).
- The dependants allowance for under 11's was abolished increasing the amount payable for children aged under 11 to match that of the under 16's: There are now two remaining rates for: dependants under 16, and the dependants aged 16 and over (April 2000).

- The MIG was updated in line with earnings (April 2000).
- Persons claiming asylum on or after 3rd April 2000 and who are awaiting decisions from the Home Office will be excluded from claiming social security benefits. They will receive support from either the National Asylum Support Service (set up by the Home Office) or local authorities (April 2000).
- Further increase (by £4.35) in the amount payable in respect of children aged up to 16 in October 2000.
- *Claimants aged over 60* that are not in residential accommodation are now allowed up to £6,000 in capital assets before their benefit is affected by tariff income. If capital totals more than £12,000 the claimant is not entitled to Income Support (April 2001).
- Preserved rights on all existing claims were abolished; these cases became the financial responsibility of the Local Authorities. (April 2002)
- Part III/RA was transitionally protected if still in payment on the 8th April 2002. (April 2002)
- From 8th April 2002 claimants in Part III or who are still permanent residents of RCNH had their higher capital limits protected (April 2002).

ANNEX 5: PERSONAL ALLOWANCES AND RATES OF PREMIUM

Table 1: Income Support: personal allowances 1988 to 2002

	<i>£ per week</i>						
	Single person				Lone parent		
	Under 18		18 or over		Under 18		18 or over
	Usual rate	Higher rate	18 to 24	25 or over	Usual rate	Higher rate	
10 April 1989	20.80	.	27.40	34.90	20.80	.	34.90
9 April 1990	21.90	28.80	28.80	36.70	21.90	.	36.70
8 April 1991	23.65	31.15	31.15	39.65	23.65	31.15	39.65
7 October 1991	23.90	31.40	31.40	39.65	23.90	31.40	39.65
6 April 1992	25.55	33.60	33.60	42.45	25.55	33.60	42.45
12 April 1993	26.45	34.80	34.80	44.00	26.45	34.80	44.00
11 April 1994	27.50	36.15	36.15	45.70	27.50	36.15	45.70
10 April 1995	28.00	36.80	36.80	46.50	28.00	36.80	46.50
8 April 1996	28.85	37.90	37.90	47.90	28.85	37.90	47.90
7 April 1997	29.60	38.90	38.90	49.15	29.60	38.90	49.15
6 April 1998	30.30	39.85	39.85	50.35	30.30	39.85	50.35
12 April 1999	30.95	40.70	40.70	51.40	30.95	40.70	51.40
10 April 2000	31.45	41.35	41.35	52.20	31.45	41.35	52.20
9 April 2001	31.95	42.00	42.00	53.05	31.95	42.00	53.05
8 April 2002	32.50	42.70	42.70	53.95	32.50	42.70	53.95
	Couple		Dependent children				
	Both under 18	One or both 18 or over	Under 11	11 to 15	16 to 17	18	
10 April 1989	41.60	54.80	11.75	17.35	20.80	27.40	
9 April 1990	43.80	57.60	12.35	18.25	21.90	28.80	
8 April 1991	47.30	62.25	13.35	19.75	23.65	31.15	
7 October 1991	47.30	62.25	13.60	20.00	23.90	31.40	
6 April 1992	50.60	66.60	14.55	21.40	25.55	33.60	
12 April 1993	52.40	69.00	15.05	22.15	26.45	34.80	
11 April 1994	54.55	71.70	15.65	23.00	27.50	36.15	
10 April 1995	55.55	73.00	15.95	23.40	28.00	36.80	
8 April 1996	57.20	75.20	16.45	24.10	28.85	37.90	
			Dependant children				
			Under 11 ^(1a)	11 to 16 ^(1b)	16-18 ^(1c)		
7 April 1997	58.70	77.15	16.90	24.75	29.60		
6 April 1998	60.10	79.00	17.30	25.35	30.30		
5 November 1998			19.80	25.35	30.30		
12 April 1999 ⁽²⁾		80.65	20.20	25.90	30.95		
4 October 1999		80.65	24.90	25.90	30.95		
			Dependant Children				
			Up to and inc 16 ^(3a)	16 -18 ^(3b)			
10 April 2000 ⁽³⁾		81.95	26.60	31.75			
23 October 2000			30.95	31.75			
9 April 2001		83.25	31.45	32.25			
22 October 2001			32.95	33.75			
8 April 2002		84.65	33.50	34.30			

Notes: 1. From 7 April 1997 the age banding used for the benefit calculation of dependent children have changed.

From this date the banding are as follows:

a. Birth to September following 11th birthday.

b. From September following the 11th birthday to September following the 16th birthday.

c. From September following the 16th birthday to the day before the 19th birthday.

Some children will remain eligible for a different rate of benefit i.e. have 'protected rights'. These are as follows :-

*Child aged 11 before 7 April 1997 : allowance £25.35

*Child aged 16 before 7 April 1997 : allowance £30.30

*Child aged 18 before 7 April 1997 : allowance £39.85

2. From 12 April 1999 the personal allowance for married or unmarried couples where both members are not yet 18 or one of the couple is aged 18 or over depends on the couple's circumstances. they may be entitled to a couple allowance or a single person's allowance dependent upon certain criteria.

3. From 10 April 2000 there are only 2 age bands for dependants. From this date the age banding are as follows:

a. Birth to September following 16th birthday

b. From September following 16th birthday to the day before the 19th birthday

Table 2: Income Support: Rates of Premiums 1988 to 2001

£ per week

	Disabled child	Carer ⁽¹⁾	Disability		Enhanced Disability ⁽⁵⁾			Severe Disability		
			Single	Couple	Child	Single	Couple	Single	Couple (one)	Couple (both)
11 April 1988	6.15	.	13.05	18.60	.	.	.	24.75	24.75	49.50
10 April 1989	6.50	.	13.70	19.50	.	.	.	26.20	26.20	52.40
9 April 1990	15.40	10.00	15.40	22.10	.	.	.	28.20	28.20	56.40
8 April 1991	16.65	10.80	16.65	23.90	.	.	.	31.25	31.25	62.50
6 April 1992	17.80	11.55	17.80	25.55	.	.	.	32.55	32.55	65.10
12 April 1993	18.45	11.95	18.45	26.45	.	.	.	33.70	33.70	67.40
11 April 1994	19.45	12.40	19.45	27.80	.	.	.	34.30	34.40	68.60
10 April 1995	19.80	12.60	19.80	28.30	.	.	.	35.05	35.05	70.10
8 April 1996	20.40	13.00	20.40	29.15	.	.	.	36.40	36.40	72.80
7 April 1997	20.95	13.35	20.95	29.90	.	.	.	37.15	37.15	74.30
6 April 1998	21.45	13.65	21.45	30.60	.	.	.	38.50	38.50	77.00
12 April 1999	21.90	13.95	21.90	31.25	.	.	.	39.75	39.75	79.50
10 April 2000	22.25	14.15	22.25	31.75	.	.	.	40.20	40.20	80.40
10 April 2000	22.25	14.15	22.25	31.75	.	.	.	40.20	40.20	80.40
9 April 2001	30.00	24.40	22.60	32.25	11.05	11.05	16.00	41.55	41.55	83.10
8 April 2002	35.50	24.80	23.00	32.80	11.25	11.25	16.25	42.25	42.25	84.50
	Family ⁽²⁾				Pensioner		Enhanced Pensioner ⁽³⁾		Higher Pensioner	
	All	Couple	Lone Parent	Lone Parent ⁽⁴⁾	Single	Couple	Single	Couple	Single	Couple
11 April 1988	6.15	.	.	3.70	10.65	16.25	.	.	13.05	18.60
10 April 1989	6.50	.	.	3.90	11.20	17.05	.	.	13.70	19.50
9 October 1989	6.50	.	.	3.90	11.20	17.05	13.70	20.55	16.20	23.00
9 April 1990	7.35	.	.	4.10	11.80	17.95	14.40	21.60	17.05	24.25
8 April 1991	7.95	.	.	4.45	13.75	20.90	15.55	23.35	18.45	26.20
6 April 1992	9.30	.	.	4.75	14.70	22.35	16.65	25.00	20.75	29.55
12 April 1993	9.65	.	.	4.90	17.30	26.25	19.30	29.00	23.55	33.70
11 April 1994	10.05	.	.	5.10	18.25	27.55	20.35	30.40	24.70	35.30
10 April 1995	10.25	.	.	5.20	18.60	28.05	20.70	30.95	25.15	35.95
8 April 1996	10.55	.	.	5.20	19.15	28.90	21.30	31.90	25.90	37.05
7 April 1997	.	10.80	15.75	.	19.65	29.65	21.85	32.75	26.55	38.00
6 April 1998	.	11.05	15.75 ⁽⁴⁾	.	20.10	30.35	22.35	33.55	27.20	38.90
12 April 1999	.	13.90	15.75	.	23.60	35.95	25.90	39.20	30.85	44.65
10 April 2000	.	14.25	15.90	.	26.25	40.00	28.65	43.40	33.85	49.10
9 April 2001 ⁽⁶⁾	.	14.20	15.90	.	39.10	57.30	39.10	57.30	39.10	57.30
8 April 2002	.	14.75	15.90	.	44.20	65.15	44.20	65.15	44.20	65.15
	Bereavement ⁽⁷⁾									
8 April 2002	21.55									

- Notes: 1. Carer premium introduced in October 1990.
 2. Family Premium increased to £8.70 from 7 October 1991.
 3. Enhanced Pensioner premium introduced in October 1989.
 4. From 7 April 1997 Lone parents receive one premium (Family premium - Lone parent rate) instead of two separate premiums i.e. Family premium & Lone parent premium.
 5. Enhanced Disability Premium introduced in April 2001
 6. Alignment of Premiums paid to 'aged 60 or over' (MIG) April 2001
 7. Bereavement Premium introduced in April 2002

ANNEX 6: REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Illustration of Government Office Regions



Index: Alphabetical list of Subjects

The following index lists the subjects covered by the tables and indicates the main table series, which deal with each subject. The index contains the terms most commonly used when referring to the various items.

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Series</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Series</u>
Ages:		Deductions:	
Claimants	1, 2, 3, 5, 8	Number	12, 14
Children	2, 5	Average amount	12
Dependants	2, 5	Dependants:	
Partners	2, 5	Ages	5, 2
Amounts, Average:		Cases with dependant	5, 2
Deductions	12	Number in families	5, 2
Housing requirements	9	Total	5, 2
Mortgage interest	9	Direct Payments:	
Weekly IS	1, 4, 5, 8, 3	Number	11
Amounts, Ranges:		Average amount	11
Mortgage interest	9	Disabled:	
Weekly IS	1, 3	Number with disability premium (see note)	2
Amounts, Total:		Durations:	
Weekly IS	1	Length of time on IS	2, 3, 4
Attendance Allowance:		Earnings:	
Number of recipients	10	Claimant	10
Carers:		Partner	10
Number with carer premium	6	Electricity:	
Capital:		Deductions	12
Number of recipients	11	Families:	
Ages	11	Number with children	2
Children:		Number with dependants	2
Ages	2, 5	Size	2
Cases with children	2	Flows:	
Number in families	2	Cases moving onto IS	13
Total	2	Cases moving off IS	13
Child Benefit:		Gas:	
Number of recipients	10	Deductions	12
Claimants:		Housings Requirements:	
Number	1, 2, 4, 5	Mortgage interest	9
Community Charge:		Housing costs	12
Deductions	12		

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Series</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Series</u>
Income:		Pensioners, IS	
DWP benefits/pensions	10	Number of recipients age 60 and over (MIG)	2
Other	10	(see note)	
Invalid Care Allowance:		Premiums:	
Number of recipients	10	Types	6
		Number	6
Local Authority Homes:		Residential Care:	
Number of residents	8	Number of recipients	7, 8
Lone Parents:		Retirement Pension:	
Numbers (see note)	2	Number of recipients	10
Number of family premium (LP)	5		
Maintenance Payments:		Savings:	
Number of recipients	10	Number with capital	10
Mortgage interest:		Severe Disablement Allowance:	
Cases with full interest	9	Number of recipients	10
Cases with half interest	9		
Nursing homes:		Sickness Benefit:	
Number of residents	8	Number of recipients	10
Occupational Pensions:		Single Parents:	
Number of recipients	10	Number of recipients	2
Other		Tariff Income:	
Numbers (see note)	2	Number of recipients	10
Partners:		Working Families Tax Credit (WFTC)	
Age	10, 5	Number of recipients	10
Number	2		
Part III Accommodation:			
(See under local authority home)			

Note: These subjects are the main statistical groups and are therefore covered by most of the tables.

ISSN 1473-317X