

13 February 2003

Coverage: Great Britain  
Theme: Social and Welfare

## STATE PENSION (SP) SUMMARY OF STATISTICS: SEPTEMBER 2002

The State Pension Summary of Statistics for September 2002 is published today. The publication details numbers of state pensioners, broken down by country, government office region, sex and age, plus amounts of pension in payment. All tables and charts are based on 'live' cases on the Pension Strategy Computer System at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2002.

### The main findings are:

- The number of state pension recipients was 11.22Mn at September 2002 (up 0.7% on a year earlier), with 10.31Mn resident in Great Britain (GB) and 0.90 million overseas. The GB caseload increased by 54 thousand in the year to September 2002 and the overseas caseload by 26 thousand.
- The number and proportion of people in GB receiving the state pension is increasing, now standing at between 97 and 98% of the total population over state pension age. This is explained by the increasing proportion of women reaching state pension age who qualify immediately for the basic state pension on their own contributions.

**DWP** Department for Work and Pensions

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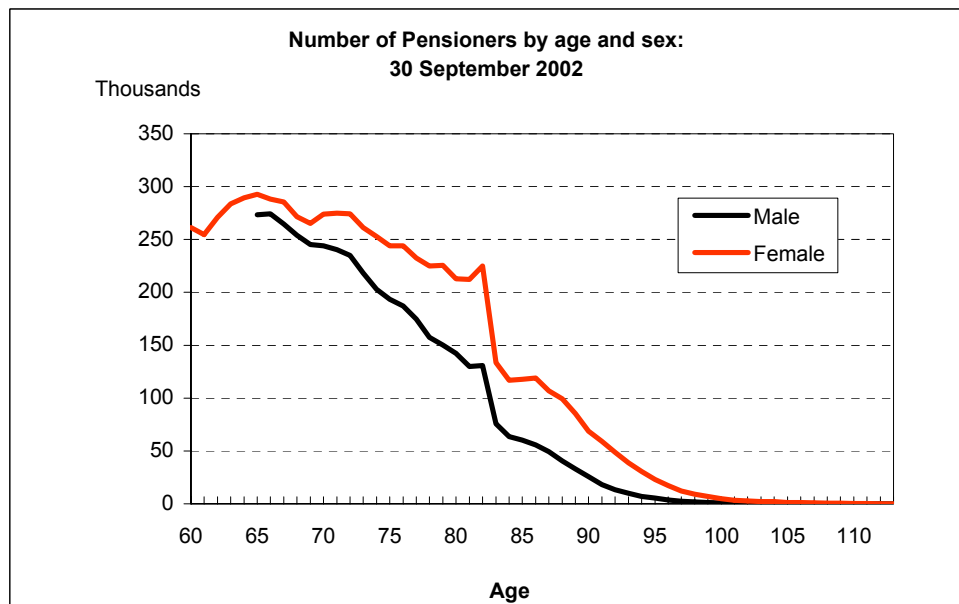
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**Next Publication:**  
18 September 2003 (see notes to editors)

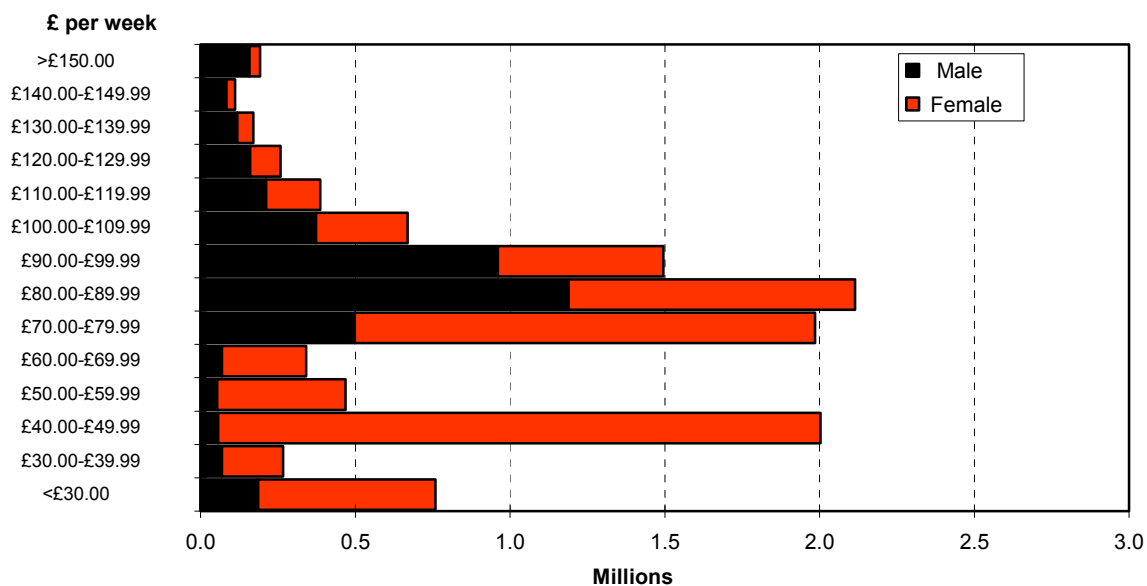


- Of the 11.22Mn total caseload, 4.19 million (37%) are male and 7.03 million (63%) are female. The chart above shows gender by age for all people receiving the state pension.

### Average Amounts of Pension Entitlement

The average amount of state pension entitlement at September 2002 was £75.96pw (an annual increase of 4.7%). This consists of several different components: principally the basic state pension (BSP) and additional pension (AP), or its forerunner, the graduated retirement benefit (GRB). Within the overall annual increase of 4.7%, average BSP rose by 4.1% (from £60.09pw to £62.53pw), and average AP by 9.3% (from £9.42pw to £10.30pw).

**Number of Pensioners by average weekly amount  
of State Pension payable: September 2002**



### The Recently Retired

In the recently retired category, defined as men aged 65 and women aged 60, there are 254 thousand males (up 2.8% on a year earlier) and 249 thousand females (up 12.9%). The number of female pensioners aged 60 at September 2002 is much higher than a year earlier because of the increase in birth rate between 1941 and 1942 (and indeed until 1947). The average entitlement to a state pension for men aged 65 and women aged 60 is £99.45pw for men and £61.81pw for women, representing annual increases of 4.2% and 6.5% respectively. For men, average BSP rose by 4.3% (from £70.45pw to £73.45pw), reflecting the above-inflation increase in full BSP at April 2002. Average AP for men rose by 9.5% in the year to September 2002 (from £19.75pw to £21.63pw). For women, average BSP rose by 6.6% (from £48.07pw to £51.24pw) and average AP by 7% (from £8.95pw to £9.58pw).

### Notes to editors

This publication contains data taken from the Pensions Strategy Computer System every six months. Until September 1995 the results were derived from a 10 per cent sample of records. From September 1995 this sample was replaced by a 5 per cent scan of the 'live' cases on the computer system.

All data within the tables have been grossed to the total 'live' state pensioner caseload for Great Britain (including overseas but excluding Northern Ireland cases). Please note the publication includes analysis by Government Office Region and Local Authority (map). They are representative at September 2002. As with any grossed sample, the results are subject to sampling error (see Appendix A of publication)

### Important Information

This is the last time the State Pension Summary of Statistics will be published in 'hard copy' or as pdf file. Instead, the Department will be focusing on publishing client group based statistics (Working Age; Children & Families; and Pensioners)

In future the State Pension Summary of Statistics will be published on the DWP internet site ([www.dwp.gov.uk/asd](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd)) in Microsoft Excel format.

If you have difficulty printing the spreadsheets please contact us on 0191 22 49233.

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