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Coverage: Great Britain (unless otherwise stated)

Theme: Social and Welfare

DWP QUARTERLY STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Introduction

This Statistical Summary aims to give users a structured overview of the National Statistics published by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). Statistics are grouped by component area of DWP and, for each statistic, links are given for users to access more detailed information.

Key benefit statistics and New Deal statistics from 100 per cent sources are available on an internet-based tabulation tool. A similar tabulation tool derived from 5 per cent sample data is also available, however wherever possible 100 per cent data should be used in preference to 5 per cent estimates, as they are more accurate and form DWP's headline statistics.

Not all DWP National Statistics are covered by this release. Some statistics have their own first releases but links to these are given throughout.

Key Findings

- The working age incapacity benefits caseload has fallen for the second consecutive year - by 61 thousand to 2.71 million in the year to November '05
- The number of jobseekers decreased steadily between November '01 and November '04 - from 909 thousand to 770 thousand - but rose to 871 thousand at November '05.
- The lone parent caseload fell from 879 thousand to 797 thousand between November '01 and November '04. This decrease continued in the year to November '05 when the caseload stood at 779 thousand.
- A total of 2.50 million people had started on a New Deal programme by February '06. Some 1.58 million people had gained a job through the New Deal programme, with a further 65 thousand people gaining a job through Employment Zones.
- At November '05 there were 11.80 million claimants in the Pensioner Client Group, an increase of 94 thousand since November '04. Of these, 21 per cent were in receipt of Pension Credit.
- At November '05, there were 11.59 million claimants of State Pension, a rise of 88 thousand on a year earlier. Of these, 38 per cent were male and 62 per cent female.
- At November '05, there were 2.71 million claimants of Pension Credit (3.30 million including partners), a rise of 78 thousand on a year earlier. Of these, 777 thousand claimed Guarantee Credit only, 1.31 million claimed Guarantee and Savings Credit, and 618 thousand claimed Savings Credit only.
- At the end of March '06 the total CSA caseload stood at 1.52 million cases, of whom 39 per cent were new scheme cases.

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- At November '05 there were 2.76 million recipients of Disability Living Allowance and 444 thousand recipients of Carer's Allowance. The number receiving Attendance Allowance is currently unavailable; the number entitled to the benefit, but not necessarily in receipt, was 1.64 million.

Notes to Editors

1. Modernisation of DWP statistics

The National Statistics paper “DWP statistics transformed: the modernisation of the DWP’s data sources and statistical publications” announced major changes to the National Statistics it publishes, both in the data sources employed and the methods of dissemination. The paper is available from http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/stats_consultation/modstats.pdf

2. Links to internet-based statistical tables

For each statistic in this publication, access to more detailed statistics are available by clicking on the web links. For key benefit statistics and New Deal statistics derived from 100% sources, an internet-based Tabulation Tool is available with the ability for users to define their own statistical queries (available from <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp>). A similar Tabulation Tool, derived from 5 per cent sample data, is also available. 5 per cent sample data on key benefits continue to be available via NOMIS <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>. Whenever possible, 100 per cent data should be used in preference to 5 per cent estimates, as these are both more accurate and form DWP’s headline statistics.

Some statistics remain outside the scope of the Tabulation Tool but will continue to be available via the internet as pre-defined summary tables.

3. Updates to Tabulation Tool statistics

Figures on Jobseeker's Allowance sanctions and disallowances are included on the Tabulation Tool for the first time.

There is also a wholesale revision of benefit caseloads to improve the treatment of people who flow between DWP benefits. The changes are minor. For example, working age IB/SDA is now 7 thousand lower on average since 1999; Income Support totals are now 4 thousand lower.

4. Statistical Groups

DWP has introduced a new typology to define Statistical Groups within the client group classifications. The aim of the Statistical Group typology is to present each person by the main reasons they are in contact with the Department. Like the client group classification, each client is classified just once, permitting the estimation of the total number of people claiming one or more benefits. The Statistical Group hierarchy is a) Jobseeker b) Incapacity benefits c) Lone parents d) Carers e) Other income-related benefits f) Disabled g) Bereaved h) Housing Benefit i) receiving State Pension only. More information can be found in the National Statistics paper described in paragraph 1 above.

The full 23 page version of this Statistical Summary is available at : http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/statistical_summaries.asp