

Children in out-of-work benefit households – Official Statistics at May 2014



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Introduction

This release contains annual [official statistics](#) on the numbers of children living in Great Britain households where at least one parent or guardian claimed one or more of the following out-of-work benefits: Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Employment and Support Allowance, Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance or Pension Credit at 31st May each year. A claimant may be in receipt of a combination of the above benefits. Universal Credit (UC) is **not** included in these statistics. These statistics have been derived by matching DWP out-of-work benefit data with HMRC Child Benefit data. Children are matched through the Child Benefit claimant or partner records to DWP benefit claimants.

Main findings (at May 2014):

There were **2.18 million children** living in an **out-of-work benefit household**. A **decrease of 204 thousand children** (or 8.6%) since May 2013.

There were **1.16 million households** claiming at least one out-of-work benefit. A **decrease of 107 thousand** (or 8.5%) since May 2013.

Around **one third** of children (735 thousand) living in an out-of-work benefit household were **aged under 5**.

The **majority** of children (1.08 million) in out-of-work benefit households lived with **Income Support** claimants.

Since May 2010, the overall trend in the total number of children in out-of-work benefit households has decreased.

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1.1 Official Statistics – Children in out-of-work benefit claimant households

These statistics have been derived by matching DWP out-of-work benefit data with HMRC Child Benefit data. Children are matched through the Child Benefit claimant or partner records to DWP benefit claimants. There is a considerable overlap in the breakdown by benefit type, as for example, a claimant of Income Support may also be claiming Incapacity Benefit. The “All Benefit Types” bar captures children once, irrespective of the combination of benefits being claimed by parents or guardians.

Figures from all benefit groups continue to follow their recent, respective trends, except for Jobseeker’s Allowance where a decrease in the number of children in out-of-work benefit households can be seen in 2014.

Children in out-of-work benefit households by year and benefit type between May 2008 and May 2014.



Main Messages

At May 2014 the majority of children in out-of-work benefit households lived with Income Support claimants. Comparatively fewer children lived in Jobseeker’s Allowance claimant households.

Between 2009 and 2014, the number of children living in households claiming **Income Support** began to fall due to the effects of Lone Parent entitlement conditions introduced in November 2008. See [Notes](#) section for further information.

Employment and Support Allowance replaced Incapacity Benefit and Income Support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008. **With no new claims to Incapacity Benefit since 2008, the numbers of children in Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance households are falling. However, numbers in Employment and Support Allowance households are rising.**

Supporting data tables containing statistical breakdowns (by age, benefit and lower geographical areas e.g. Local Authority, Parliamentary Constituency, County, Output Areas), for the period 2010 to 2014 can be found [here](#). Previous years’ data can be found in the [national archives](#).

Notes

1. Known Issues, Changes and Revisions

This is the first release of a separate Children in out-of-work Benefit Households Statistical Bulletin. The last publication in 2014 was included in the June 2014 Monthly Statistical Summary: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/318818/stats_summary_jun14.pdf

2. DWP Children living in out-of-work household Statistics

Guidelines on the use and interpretation of these statistics: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidelines-on-the-use-and-interpretation-of-official-statistics-on-children-in-out-of-work-benefit-households> . Note that care should be exercised in interpretation of the term out-of-work benefit household, which means that at least one parent or guardian is claiming an out-of-work benefit. A distinction needs to be drawn between households where no one in the family unit is working.

Policies and procedures on DWP National and Official Statistics, including a **Quality Guideline, Confidentiality and Access Policy Statement, Pre-release Access arrangements and Statement of Administrative Sources**: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/dwp-statistical-summary-policies-and-statements>

Changes to Income Support: <https://www.gov.uk/income-support>

3. Other National and Official Statistics

Details of other National and Official Statistics produced by the Department for Work and Pensions can be found on Gov.uk via the following link:

- A schedule of statistical releases and a list of the most recent releases: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/about/statistics>

In addition, users can find links to DWP additional statistical analyses that have not been included in our standard publications at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/series/ad-hoc-statistical-publications-list>

4. Feedback

DWP would like to hear your views on our statistical publications. If you use any of our statistics publications, we would be interested in hearing what you use them for and how well they meet your requirements. Please email DWP at stats-consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk.

An on-going questionnaire, enabling DWP to target future consultations at interested users; shaping the future direction of statistics development to address user needs; and helping ensure value for money, whilst giving users a structured way of expressing their views is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/children-in-out-of-work-benefit-households--2>

Completed questionnaires can be returned by e-mail to stats-consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk or by post to the following address:
Dissemination Team, Data & Analytics, Department for Work and Pensions, Room BP5201, Benton Park Road, Longbenton, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, NE98 1YX

Users can also join the “Welfare and Benefit Statistics” community at: <http://www.statsusernet.org.uk>. DWP announce items of interest to users in this forum, as well as reply to users’ questions.