



Universal Credit is a payment to help with living costs for those on a low income or out of work. Eligibility for Universal Credit depends on individual circumstances and location.

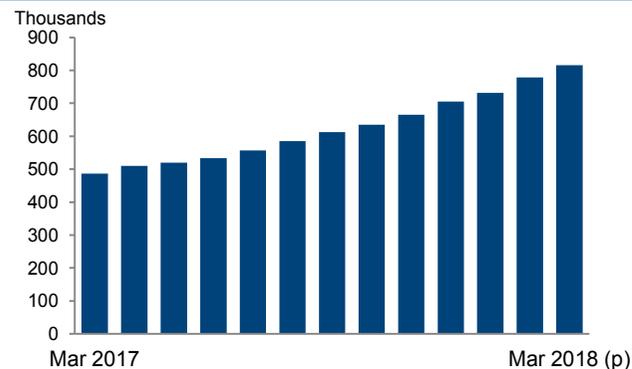
Universal Credit was introduced in April 2013 in certain pathfinder areas of North West England. It is now available to all types of claimants in certain areas of Great Britain and is being introduced in stages by postcode area.

Main story

The number of people on Universal Credit as of 8 March 2018 was 820 thousand. Of these people 310 thousand (38 per cent) were in employment.

820 thousand claimants

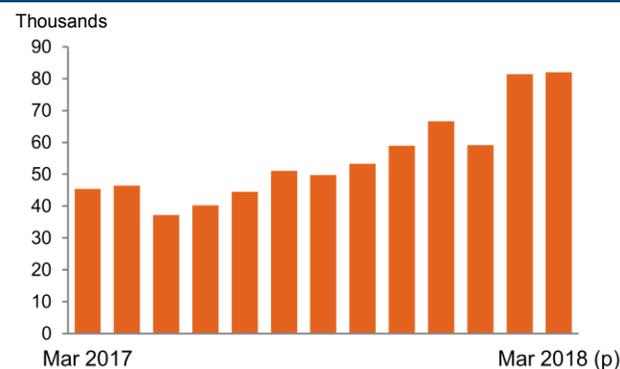
At 8 March 2018



The number of people on Universal Credit rose to 820 thousand in March 2018. This is a 5 per cent increase from last month.

Starts at 76 thousand

Month to 8 March 2018

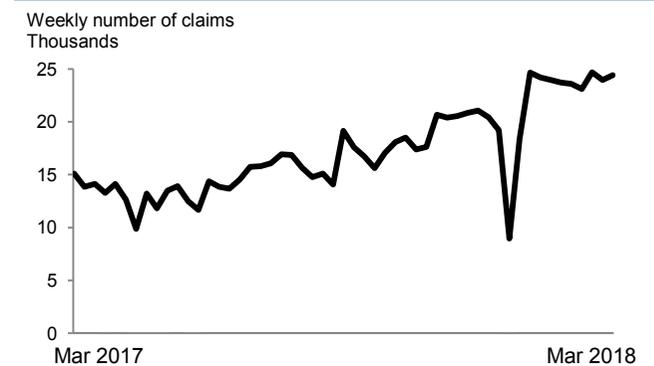


The total number of starts that have been made since Universal Credit began is 1.4 million. The number of starts made to Universal Credit was 76 thousand in the month up to 8 March 2018.

The figures in this chart have been standardised, so may not match figures in the document. Please see the Background Information and Methodology document for more detail.

Claims at 2 million

Up to 8 March 2018



2 million claims have been made for Universal Credit up to 8 March 2018. 96 thousand claims have been made for Universal Credit in the last four weeks at an average of 24 thousand per week.

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Lead Statistician: Elise Baseley

elise.baseley@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

DWP Press Office: 0203 267 5144

Thoughts? We welcome feedback

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What you need to know

This summary contains statistics on Universal Credit covering the period to 8 March 2018. Universal Credit is now available to all types of claimants in certain areas of Great Britain and is being introduced in stages across the country.

Universal Credit provides a single payment based upon the circumstances of the household. Support for housing costs, children and childcare costs are integrated into Universal Credit, and it also provides additions for disabled people and carers.

The following benefits will be replaced as Universal Credit rolls out:

- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Income Support
- Working Tax Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Housing Benefit

The main features of Universal Credit are:

- Universal Credit is available to people who are in work and on a low income, as well as to those who are out of work.
- Most people will apply online and manage their claim through an online account.
- Universal Credit will be responsive – as people on low incomes move in and out of work, they will get on-going support.
- Most claimants on low incomes will still be paid Universal Credit when they first start a new job or increase their part-time hours.
- Claimants will receive a single monthly household payment, paid into a bank account in the same way as a monthly salary; support with housing costs will usually go direct to the claimant as part of their monthly payment.

This report contains three measures. **Claims made** counts the number of applications submitted for Universal Credit. Some of these people will go on to **Start** on Universal Credit. **People on Universal Credit** include all those who have started and are still on Universal Credit at the count date (second Thursday of the month). Some people will have their claim terminated either at the request of the individual or if their entitlement to Universal Credit ends.

Biannually, this report will include the number of households on Universal Credit. Further breakdowns will also be published, such as information on the family type and the elements the household is entitled to receive as part of their Universal Credit award. The latest figures from March 2018 are available [here](#).

See the Background Information and Methodology document for more detail on the definitions used in this publication.

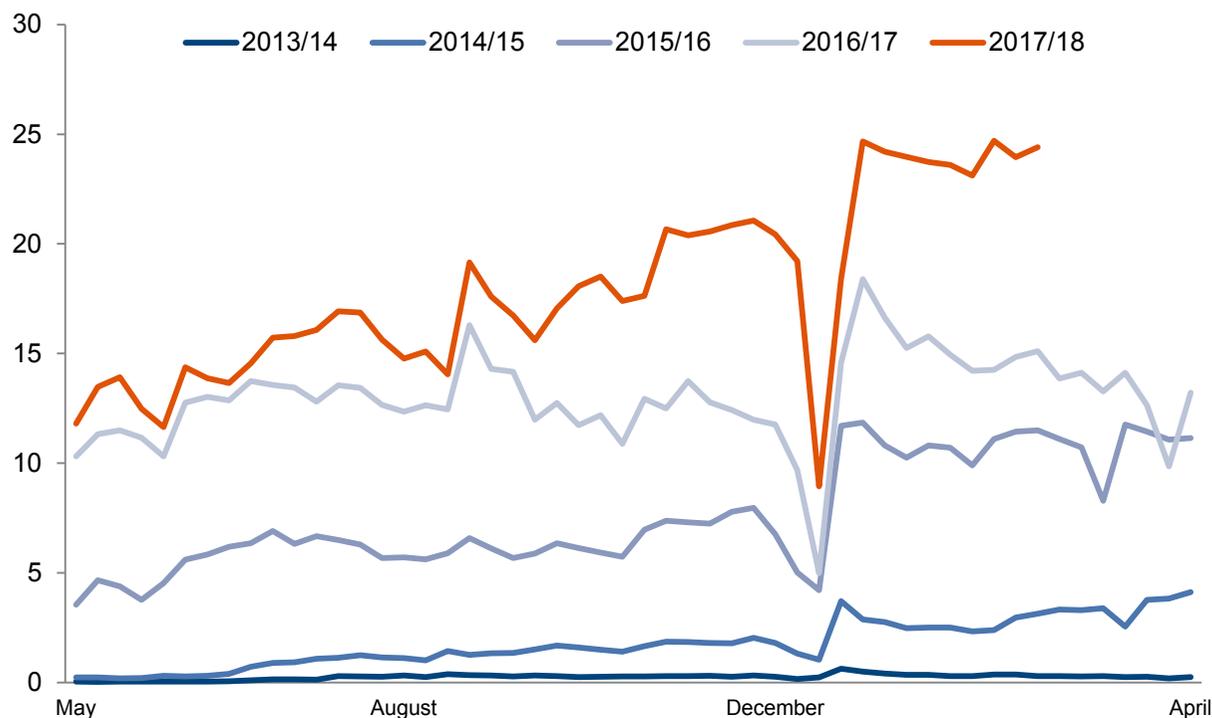
Claiming Universal Credit

Total claims made have reached 2 million

New claims per week, May to April of each year up to 8 March 2018

Weekly number of claims

Thousands



The total number of claims made for Universal Credit in the four weeks up to 8 March 2018 was 96 thousand, with an average of 24 thousand claims per week. Generally, more claims are made for Universal Credit on weekdays, compared to weekends. The total number of claims made for Universal Credit has now reached 2 million.

Since Universal Credit began, there has been a seasonal trend involving a large drop in the number of claims around the Christmas period. A similar yet smaller dip is also noticeable over the Easter period of each year. The second half of 2017 saw an increase in the number of claims in line with the expanded rollout of Universal Credit full service.

Claims made for Universal Credit reached a daily peak of 5,500 on Monday 26 February 2018, and a weekly peak of 25 thousand in the week ending 22 February 2018.

Claims to Universal Credit are being accepted from all types of claimants in certain areas of Great Britain. This service is being expanded across the country with every Jobcentre offering the new service by December 2018.

See **Table 1.1** for summary statistics and [Stat-Xplore](#) for the complete data series.

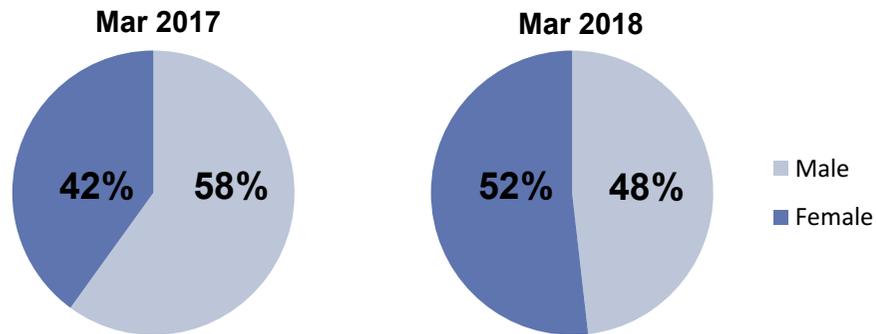
How people claim Universal Credit

People will usually make a claim for Universal Credit online, during which initial claim verification will take place. The claim date is the date that a claimant completes this process and submits their claim. After making a claim, an initial interview will take place with the claimant, where the eligibility for Universal Credit will be confirmed and the claimant will accept a [Claimant Commitment](#). At this point, a claimant will be recorded as starting Universal Credit. Not all people who make a claim for Universal Credit will go on to start, however the statistics for claims used in this publication include all claims made to Universal Credit.

Starts to Universal Credit

52 per cent of starts to Universal Credit in March were from females

Starts per month to Universal Credit by gender, at 9 March 2017 and 8 March 2018

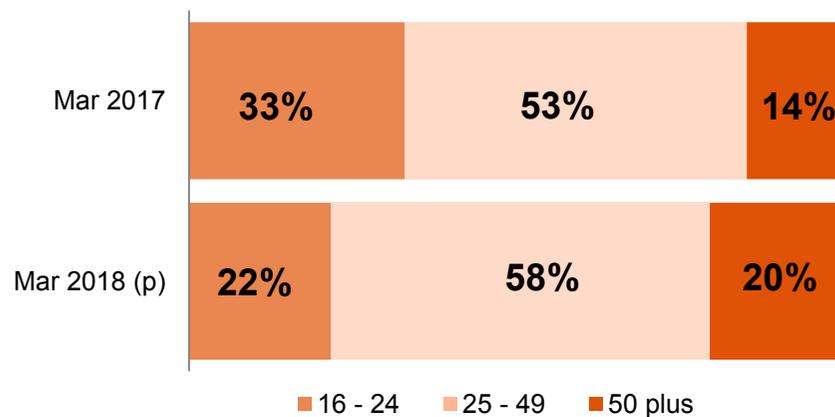


A total of 76 thousand starts were made to Universal Credit in the month up to 8 March 2018.

Of all starts in the month up to 8 March 2018, 52 per cent were by females and 48 per cent were by males. The proportion of females on Universal credit has grown in line with the rollout of full service.

In the month to 8 March 2018, the Central England Jobcentre Plus group accounted for 20 per cent of the total number of starts, followed closely by London and the Home Counties and the Southern England Jobcentre Plus groups which each accounted for 18 per cent of the total number of starts.

Starts per month to Universal Credit by age band, at 9 March 2017 and 8 March 2018



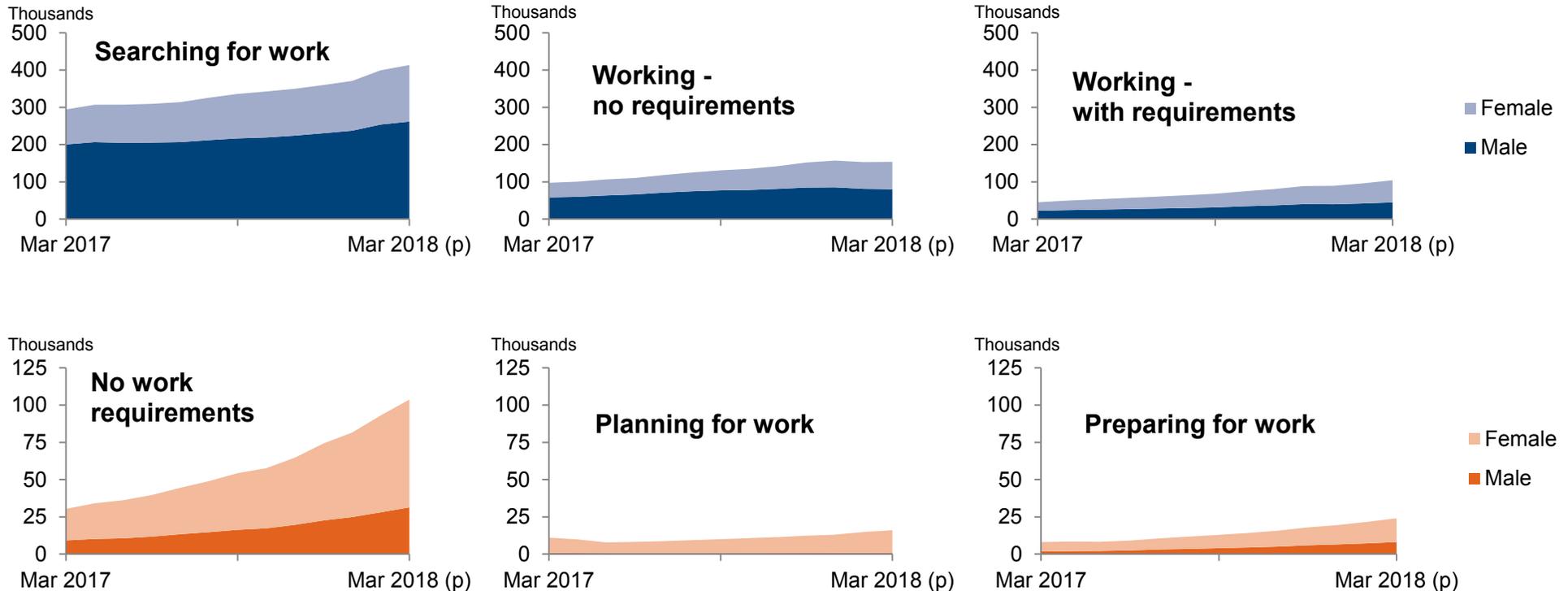
Of all starts in the month up to 8 March 2018, the 25-49 age group had the most starts at 58 per cent. The proportion of starters aged 50 and over in the month up to 8 March 2018 was 20 per cent, compared to 14 per cent in the equivalent month in 2017.

Please note the figures for the latest month (March 2018) are provisional (p) and will be finalised in the next release. See the Background Information and Methodology document for more details. See **table 2.1** for summary statistics and [Stat-Xplore](#) for the complete data series.

People on Universal Credit

Most people on Universal Credit are in the Searching for Work conditionality regime

The number of people on Universal Credit, by conditionality regime and gender, 8 March 2018



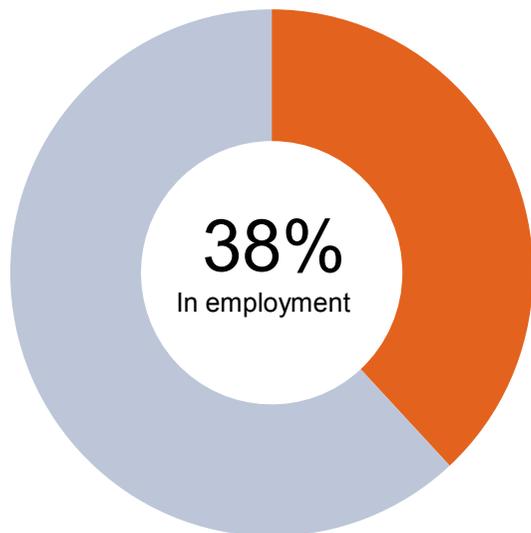
Of the 820 thousand people on Universal Credit as of 8 March 2018, 51 per cent (410 thousand) were in the Searching for Work conditionality regime.

Please note that the conditionality breakdown measures what regime an individual is in on the count date. This may not be representative of the entire assessment period for that individual. Conditionality regime figures are not the same as the employment breakdown, which shows whether an individual has had earnings during their assessment period. The two breakdowns should only be used together with caution.

Please see the [Background Information and Methodology](#) document for more information on conditionality regimes.

Around two in five people on Universal Credit are in employment

Percentage of people on Universal Credit who are in employment, 8 March 2018



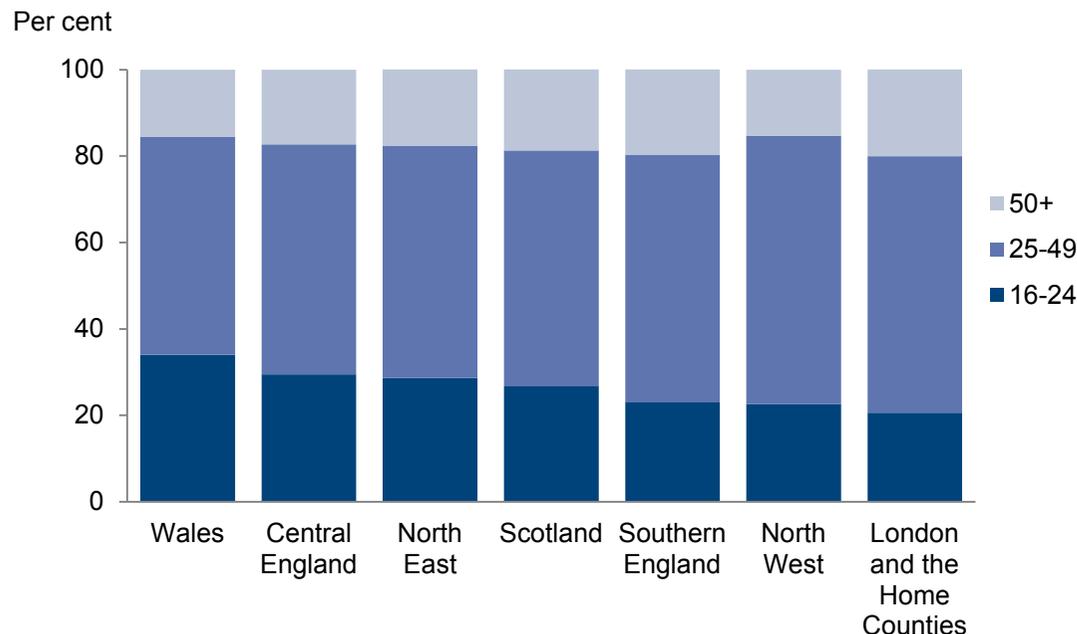
Of the 820 thousand people on Universal Credit as of 8 March 2018, 38 per cent (310 thousand) were in employment.

In March 2018, 48 per cent (390 thousand) of the people on Universal Credit were female, compared to 30 per cent in March 2014.

Regions where Universal Credit is more widely available to all claimant types tend to have a higher proportion of females on Universal Credit compared to other areas. For example, in the North West, South West and London regions, just over half of the people on Universal Credit as of 8 March 2018 were female.

Please note figures for the latest month (March 2018) are provisional (p) and will be finalised in the next release. See the Background Information and Methodology document for more details.

People on Universal Credit by Jobcentre Plus group and age group, 8 March 2018



Overall, 57 per cent of people on Universal Credit as of 8 March 2018 were aged 25-49. Males aged 25-49 made up 30 per cent of the total figure.

The age profile of people on Universal Credit also varies between Jobcentre Plus groups, due to Universal Credit being introduced in stages across Great Britain by postcode area. The North West had the highest proportion of 25-49 year olds as of 8 March 2018, at 62 per cent.

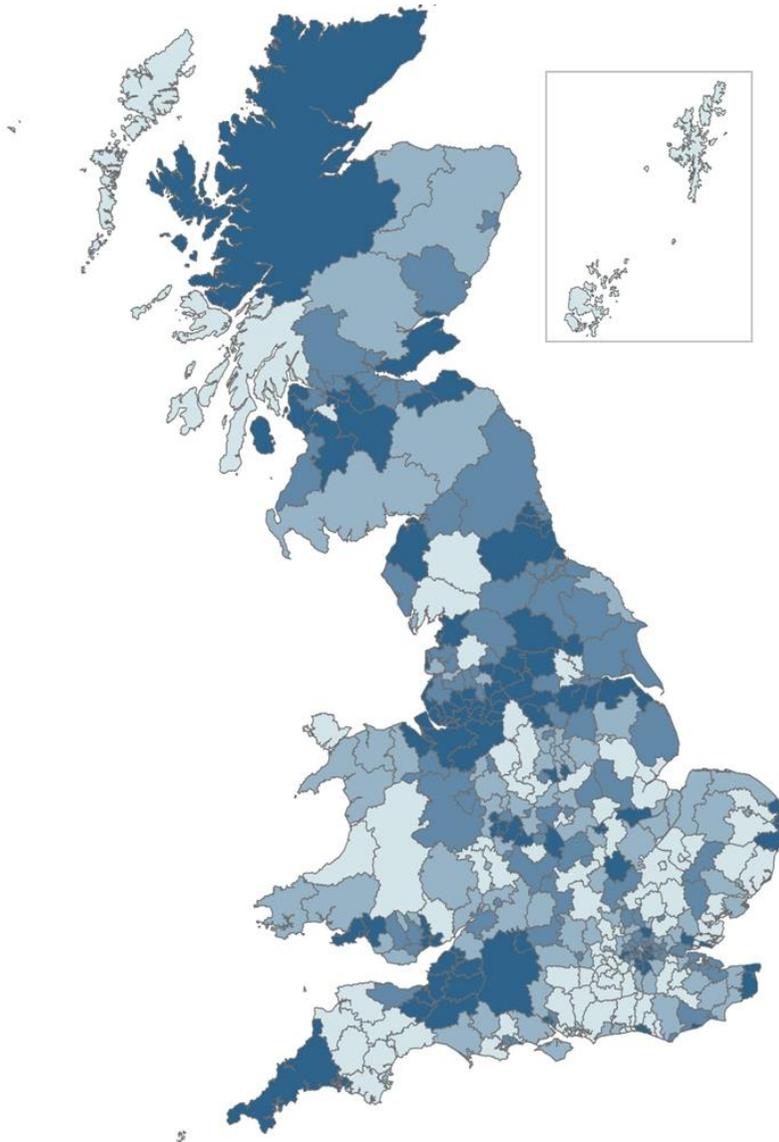
Breakdowns of people on Universal Credit by Jobcentre Plus office, local authority and parliamentary constituency are available on [Stat-Xplore](#).

See [table 3.1](#) for summary statistics and [Stat-Xplore](#) for the complete data series.

Please note DWP analysts are currently investigating a potential issue with data on Jobcentre Plus offices which may be impacting a limited number of offices where Universal Credit hasn't been fully rolled out. Therefore data on Jobcentre Plus offices should be treated with caution.

Where Universal Credit claimants live

The North West region, where roll-out started, has the largest number of Universal Credit claimants



The adjacent map shows people on Universal Credit by local authority as of 8 March 2018.

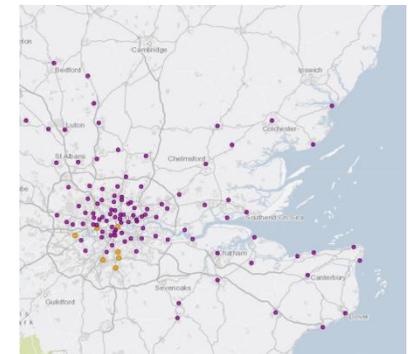
The darker areas of the map are local authorities with higher numbers of Universal Credit claimants, while the lighter areas are the local authorities with fewer Universal Credit claimants.

Where you live

Find information about your Jobcentre Plus office in our interactive map.

Please click [here](#) to access the interactive map.

The interactive map shows the number of people on Universal Credit by Jobcentre Plus office, per region, as can be seen in the adjacent example. Key statistics can be viewed by clicking on the Jobcentre Plus office.



Please note that this map will be unavailable from 3:30 p.m. on 14 May 2018 until 9:30 a.m. on 15 May 2018, ahead of the next release.

For further information on supported browsers, please visit the following website: <http://doc.arcgis.com/en/arcgis-online/reference/browsers.htm>

About these statistics

These official statistics have been compiled using data from systems within local offices and records of Universal Credit benefit payments made by the Department.

These and other new data sources will, in time, allow a progressively wider range of breakdowns to be published as new IT systems are introduced. The methodology used and definitions of the official statistics may be updated within subsequent releases, along with information on the impact of any changes to the time series already released. A [strategy](#) for the release of official statistics on Universal Credit was first published in September 2013 and last updated in January 2018.

These statistics have been developed using guidelines set out by the UK Statistics Authority, and are new official statistics undergoing evaluation. They have, therefore, been designated as [Experimental Statistics](#). Users are invited to [comment](#) on the development and relevance of these statistics at this stage.

Figures contained within this publication are subject to rounding unless otherwise stated. Percentages shown are calculated using figures prior to rounding. Please see the background information document for details on the level of rounding applied, which is dependent on the magnitude of the figure being quoted.

Universal Credit is being introduced in stages across Great Britain by postcode area to all types of claimants. See **table 4.1** for a full list of Jobcentre Plus offices by the date they implemented Universal Credit Full Service.

Further roll out

Universal Credit was introduced in 2013 and is now available to all types of claimants in certain areas of Great Britain. Universal Credit is being introduced in stages across Great Britain by postcode area. Rollout will be completed in 2018 and by 2022 all existing legacy claimants will have moved on to Universal Credit. Information on Universal Credit rollout can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/universal-credit-transition-to-full-service>

Where to find out more

This document and the summary tables can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/universal-credit-statistics>

Build your own tables using Stat-Xplore: <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/> which also contains data on households on Universal Credit.

See our claimant level interactive map: <http://dwp-stats.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=f90fb305d8da4eb3970812b3199cf489>

See our interactive map of households at Local Authority level: <http://dwp-stats.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=8560a06de0f2430ab71505772163e8b4>

Older releases can be found here but please note that figures are subject to change. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/universal-credit-statistics>

The release strategy for the statistics can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/universal-credit-statistics-background-information>

The background information and methodology document can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/universal-credit-statistics-background-information-and-methodology>

Information on Universal Credit Sanctions can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/jobseekers-allowance-sanctions>

Contact us

Lead Statistician: Elise Baseley - elise.baseley@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

DWP Press Office: 0203 267 5144

Comments? Feedback is welcome.