

Benefit Claimants

Related Documents

[Disability in Kent](#)

The number of people claiming a disability related benefit

[Monthly Unemployment Bulletin](#)

The latest unemployment levels in Kent

[Welfare Reform Review](#)

This provides analysis on the past trends for a range of indicators relating to changes for benefit claimants due to welfare reform, and to the wider economic situation and housing market.

NOTE: When referring to Kent we mean the Kent County Council area which includes twelve local authority districts but does

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This bulletin looks at the number of claimants for individual Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) benefits in Kent . It also looks at benefits that are being claimed by people of working age.

In addition this bulletin looks at the introduction of Universal Credit (as at January 2017) and Personal Independence Payments in Kent (October 2016).

From August 2017 DWP discontinued this dataset when they changed the way they publish their benefit statistics. The last period of data is the November

Summary

The benefit with the highest number of claimants in Kent is State Pension with 307920 claimants

The benefit with the biggest increase in claimants since last quarter in Kent is Attendance Allowance with 257 more claimants

10351 people in Kent were claiming Universal Credit in 43009

30165 people in Kent were claiming Personal Independence Payments in July 2017

Individual benefits claimant rates are calculated as a proportion of those in the qualifying age group for each individual benefit .

Working age benefits rates are calculated as a proportion of the population aged 16-64.

This bulletin reports on the number of claimants for Kent as a whole. Data is also available at district level. This level of detail has not been included in the bulletin but is available upon request. Please see contact details at the end of the bulletin. This bulletin now includes figures for Employment and Support Allowance claimants, the benefit which replaced Incapacity Benefit for new claimants from October 2008.

This bulletin also looks at the introduction of Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payments in Kent. These are new benefits being introduced following changes to the benefits system Universal Credit will be replacing six means-tested benefits and tax credits: Jobseeker's Allowance, Housing Benefit, Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, Employment and Support Allowance and Income Support. Personal Independence Payment (PIP) replaces Disability Living Allowance for claimants aged 16-64.

Further information on the introduction of Universal Credit in Kent can be found in our **Monthly Unemployment Bulletin**. Information on PIP can be found in our **Disability in Kent Bulletin**.

Definitions and further information regarding the DWP benefits can be found at the end of this bulletin.

Analysis Section 1: Individual Benefit Claimants

This section shows a count of the total number of claimants for each of the following benefits:

- Carers Allowance (CA)
- Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
- Attendance Allowance (AA)
- Income Support (IS)
- Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)
- Incapacity Benefit (IB)/ Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA)
- Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) P
- ension Credit (PC)
- State Pension (SP)
- Universal Credit (UC)
- Personal Independence Payment (PIP)

Each of the benefits has a different qualifying age at which it can be claimed. Proportions are shown as a percentage of those in the qualifying age group for that benefit.

The following information shows the total number of people who claim or who are in receipt of each individual benefit. Changes in circumstances may affect whether a claimant receives a benefit payment, for example, if the claimant has to stay in hospital their payment will be suspended but they are still counted as a claimant. Therefore some benefits are shown as those claiming and those receiving payment. Pension Credit is shown as those claiming and those who are beneficiaries. It can be claimed by a couple living together or by an individual. If claimed by a couple it will be counted as one claim but there would be two beneficiaries.

The total number of claimants of each of the individual benefits in Kent is shown in Table 1. An increase in benefit claimants is shown in red.

Table 1

Total Claimants Quarterly Summary of Benefit Claims in Kent			May 2017			
Kent	Number	% Rate	Change Since Previous Quarter		Change Since Previous Year	
			Number	%	Number	%
Attendance Allowance	38,859	12.7%	257	0.7%	259	0.7%
Carers Allowance	19,980	1.6%	210	1.1%	920	4.8%
Disability Living Allowance - Claimants	56,330	3.7%	-3,310	-5.5%	-10,960	-16.3%
Income Support	14,530	1.7%	-180	-1.2%	-1,130	-7.2%
Job Seekers Allowance	10,450	1.2%	-480	-4.4%	-850	-7.5%
Allowance - Claimants - excludes claimants of ESA	1,650	0.2%	-150	-8.3%	-1,400	-45.9%
Allowance - Receiving Payment - excludes claimants of ESA	770	0.1%	-90	-10.5%	-1,190	-60.7%
Employment Support Allowance (ESA)	45,240	5.0%	-570	-1.2%	770	1.7%
Pension Credits - Claimants	39,340	10.1%	-630	-1.6%	-2,610	-6.2%
Pension Credits - Beneficiaries	46,960	12.0%	-800	-1.7%	-3,300	-6.6%
State Pension	307,920	88.1%	80	0.0%	-1,750	-0.6%

Source: NOMIS - DWP Work & Pensions

Chart 1 shows the proportion of claimants of each of the individual benefits in Kent compared to the South East and England & Wales. Chart 2 shows the change in claimants since the previous quarter and the previous year.

Chart 1

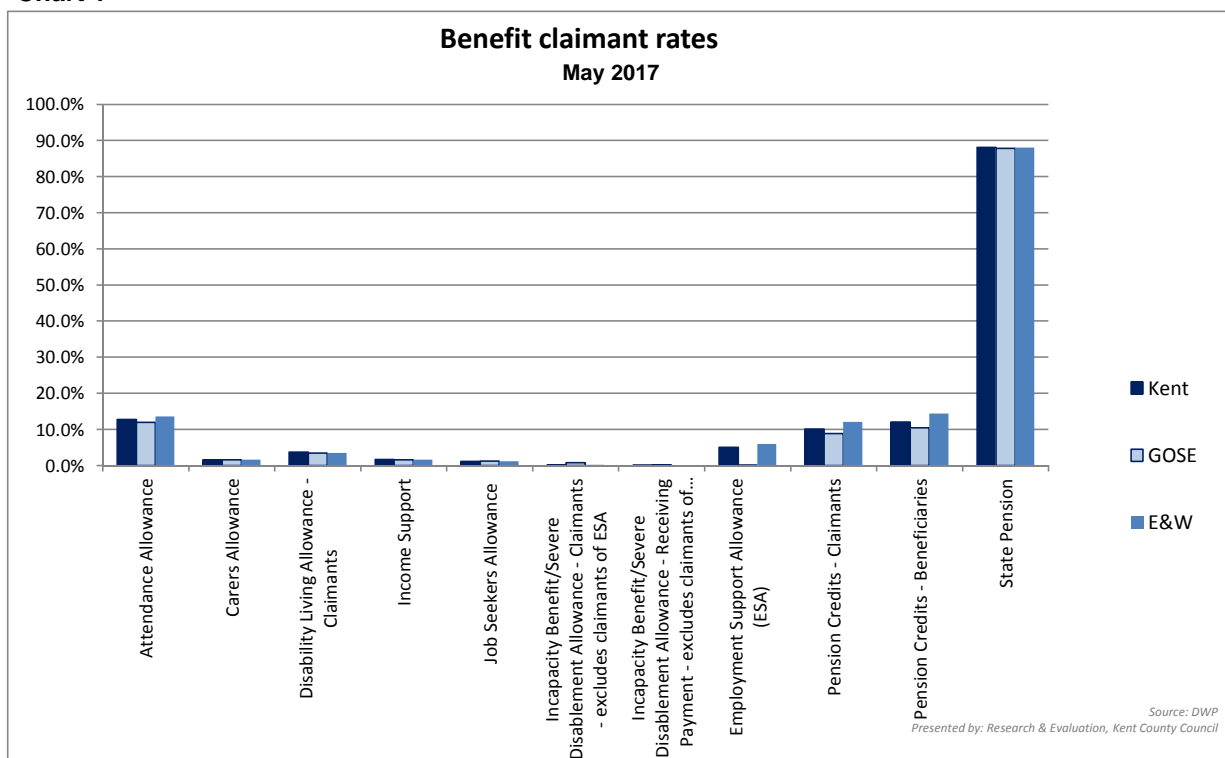
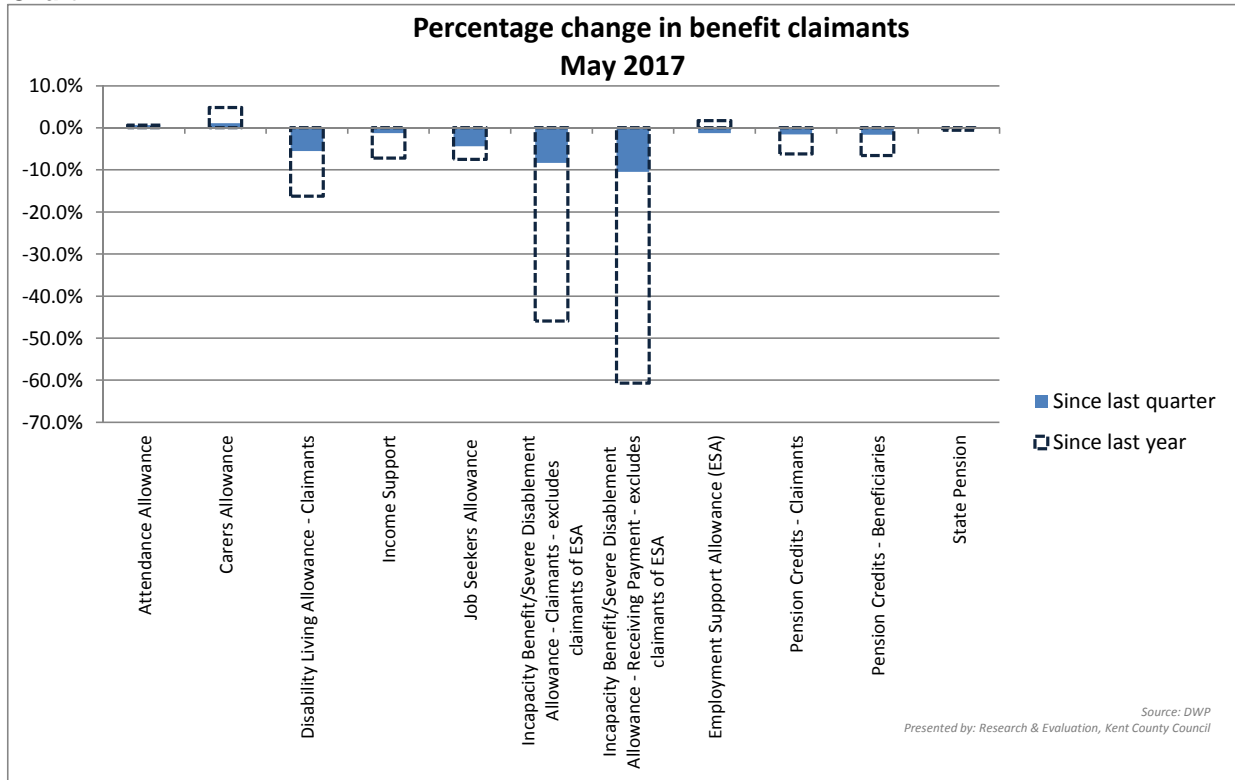


Chart 2



Welfare Reform Changes in Kent

The Welfare Reform Act 2012 made changes to the rules concerning a number of benefits offered within Britain.

One of the main changes is the introduction of a new single benefit called Universal Credit. Universal Credit will be replacing six means-tested benefits and tax credits: Jobseeker’s Allowance, Housing Benefit, Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, Employment and Support Allowance and Income Support. It will be available for people who are out of work or who are in work but on a low income.

Universal Credit data is produced monthly. This bulletin presents the latest data available at time of writing.

Table 2 shows the number of Universal Credit claimants in Kent districts. It also shows change since the

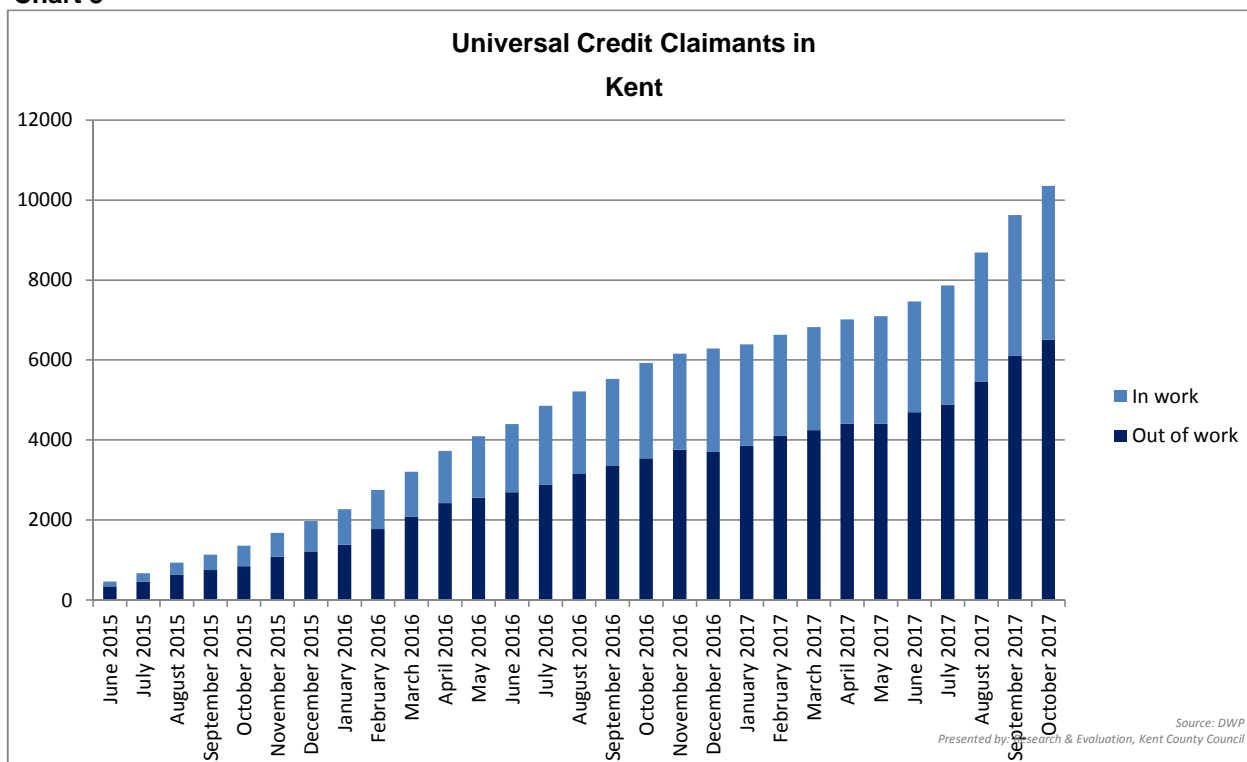
Table 2

Total Universal Credit Claimants In work or out of work			October 2017			
Total claimants in work or out of work	Number	% of 16+ population	Change since previous month		Change since previous year	
			Number	%	Number	%
Ashford	660	0.9%	-14	-2.1%	143	27.7%
Canterbury	692	0.7%	13	1.9%	218	46.0%
Dartford	427	0.6%	4	0.9%	108	33.9%
Dover	2,140	3.2%	277	14.9%	1,700	386.4%
Gravesham	691	1.0%	0	0.0%	120	21.0%
Maidstone	639	0.6%	-6	-0.9%	62	10.7%
Sevenoaks	252	0.4%	-6	-2.3%	67	36.2%
Shepway	627	1.0%	12	2.0%	233	59.1%
Swale	1,037	1.2%	17	1.7%	110	11.9%
Thanet	2,499	3.1%	414	19.9%	1,517	154.5%
Tonbridge & Malling	355	0.5%	0	0.0%	57	19.1%
Tunbridge Wells	321	0.4%	-7	-2.1%	92	40.2%
Kent	10,351	1.1%	726	7.5%	4,425	74.7%
Medway	1,615	0.9%	10	0.6%	320	24.7%
Kent + Medway	11,966	1.1%	736	6.6%	4,745	65.7%
South East	46,929	0.8%	2,211	4.9%	21,233	82.6%
England + Wales	569,726	1.5%	17,273	3.1%	208,837	57.9%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore

Chart 3 shows the number of in work and out of work claimants of Universal Credit since its introduction in Kent in 2015.

Chart 3



Another new benefit is Personal Independence Payment (PIP) a new benefit for people with a health condition or disability. This benefit contributes towards the extra cost of a health condition or disability. PIP will gradually be replacing Disability Living Allowance for people aged 16 to 64.

Increasingly more statistical information is being made available which reflects the changes which are underway. However many of the data are still classified as experimental statistics and are subject to revision.

Personal Independence Payment data is produced monthly. This bulletin presents the latest data available at time of writing.

Table 3 shows the number of PIP claimants in Kent districts. It also shows change since the previous month and the previous year

Table 3

Personal Independence Payment claimants	July 2017					
	% of 16+		Change since previous month		Change since previous year	
	Number	population	Number	%	Number	%
Ashford	2,394	2.4%	72	3.1%	1,001	71.9%
Canterbury	2,967	2.2%	90	3.1%	1,256	73.4%
Dartford	1,758	2.1%	54	3.2%	593	50.9%
Dover	2,768	2.9%	81	3.0%	1,138	69.8%
Gravesham	2,069	2.4%	43	2.1%	723	53.7%
Maidstone	2,644	2.0%	72	2.8%	1,055	66.4%
Sevenoaks	1,471	1.5%	56	4.0%	574	64.0%
Shepway	2,986	3.2%	93	3.2%	1,238	70.8%
Swale	3,551	3.1%	112	3.3%	1,379	63.5%
Thanet	4,139	3.6%	107	2.7%	1,619	64.2%
Tonbridge & Malling	1,917	1.9%	62	3.3%	766	66.6%
Tunbridge Wells	1,502	1.6%	21	1.4%	643	74.9%
Kent	30,165	2.4%	846	2.9%	11,984	65.9%
Medway	5,896	2.7%	163	2.8%	2,269	62.6%
Kent + Medway	36,064	2.5%	1,012	2.9%	14,256	65.4%
South East	146,365	2.0%	4,125	2.9%	60,124	69.7%
England + Wales	1,324,033	2.8%	34,927	2.7%	491,314	59.0%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore

Chart 4 shows the number of Personal Independence Payment claimants since its introduction to Kent in 2013.

Chart 4

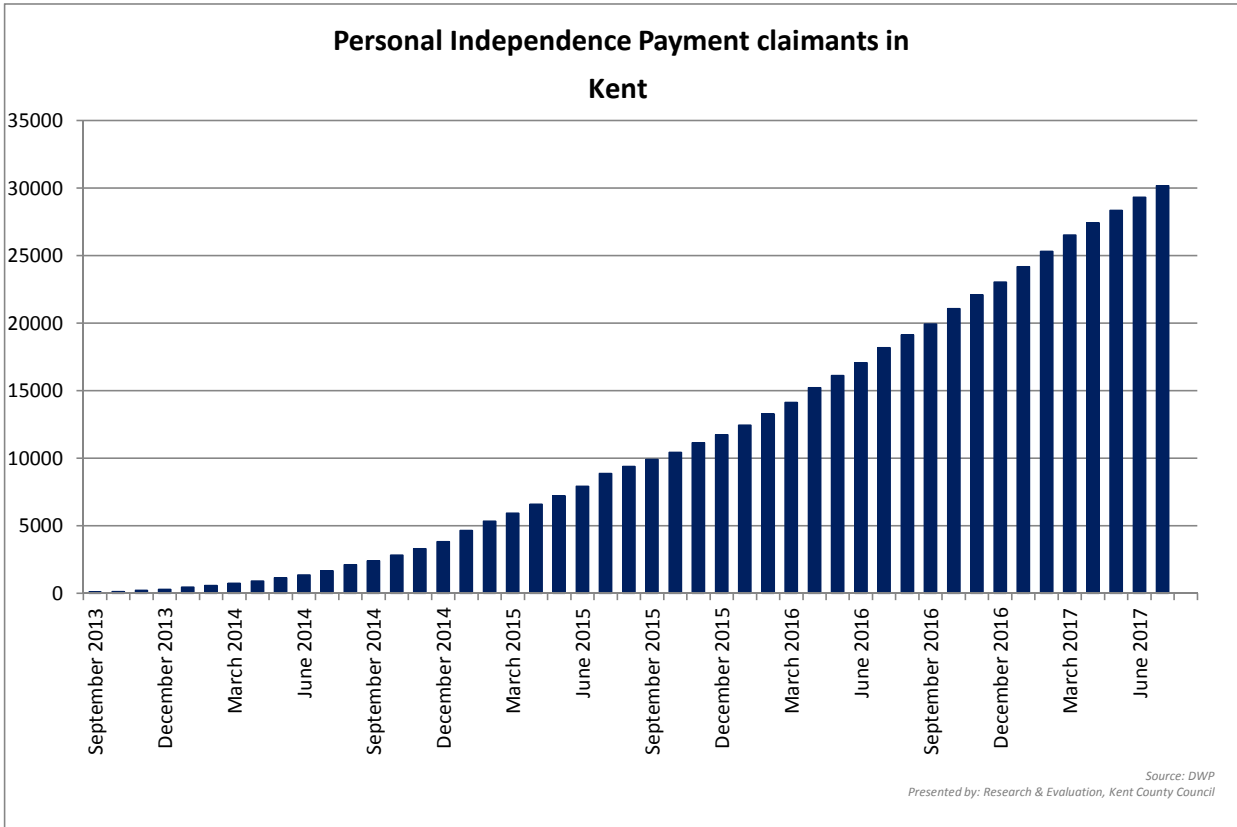
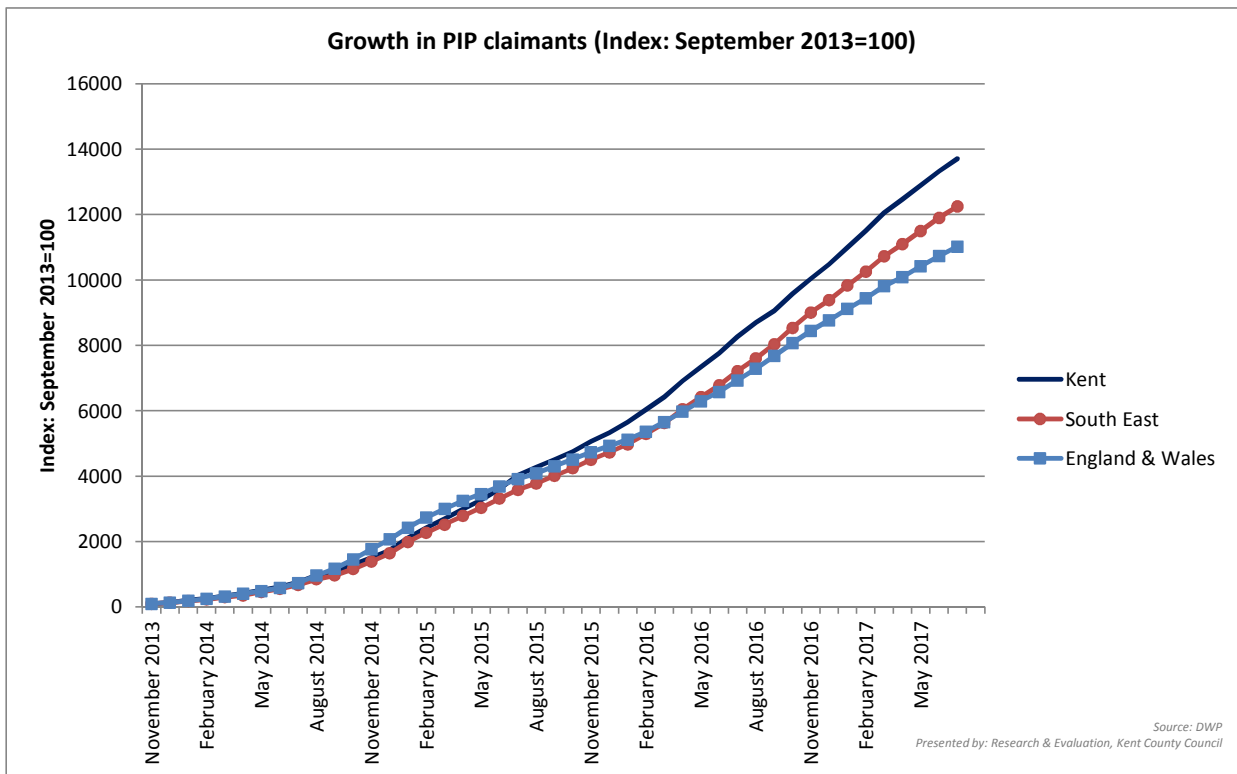


Chart 5 shows the growth in PIP claimants since its introduction in Kent in 2013. The South East Region and England & Wales are shown for comparison.

Chart 5



Working age benefit claimants

From August 2017 DWP discontinued this dataset when they changed the way they publish their benefit statistics. The last period of data is the November 2016 figures

This section reports on the number of people of working age who are claiming one or more DWP benefit. Percentages of population receiving state benefits have been calculated using populations aged 16-64 for both men and women.

The following map shows the proportion of people in Kent & Medway LSOAs aged 16-64 who were claiming any DWP benefit. Those areas coloured red indicate the 20% of LSOAs which have the highest

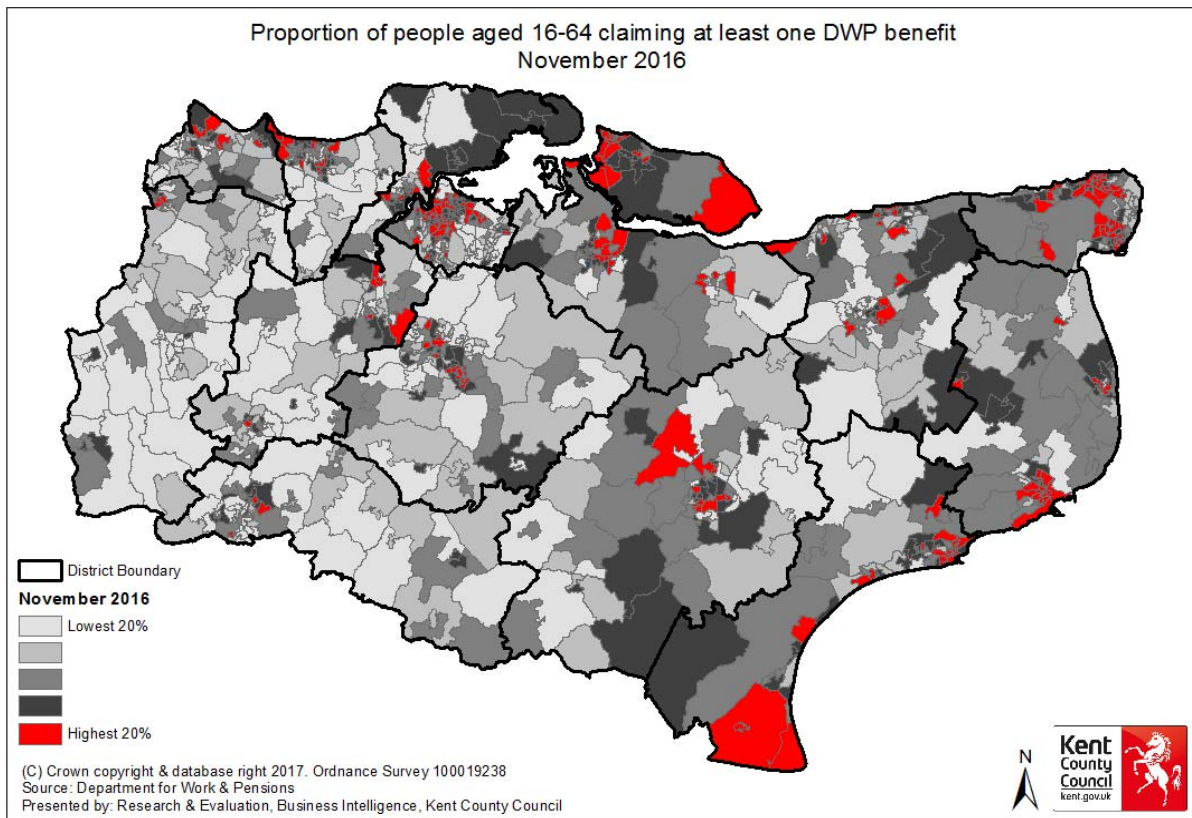


Table 4 shows the number of people aged 16-64 who are claiming at least one DWP benefit.

From August 2017 DWP discontinued this dataset when they changed the way they publish their benefit statistics. The last period of data is the November 2016 figures

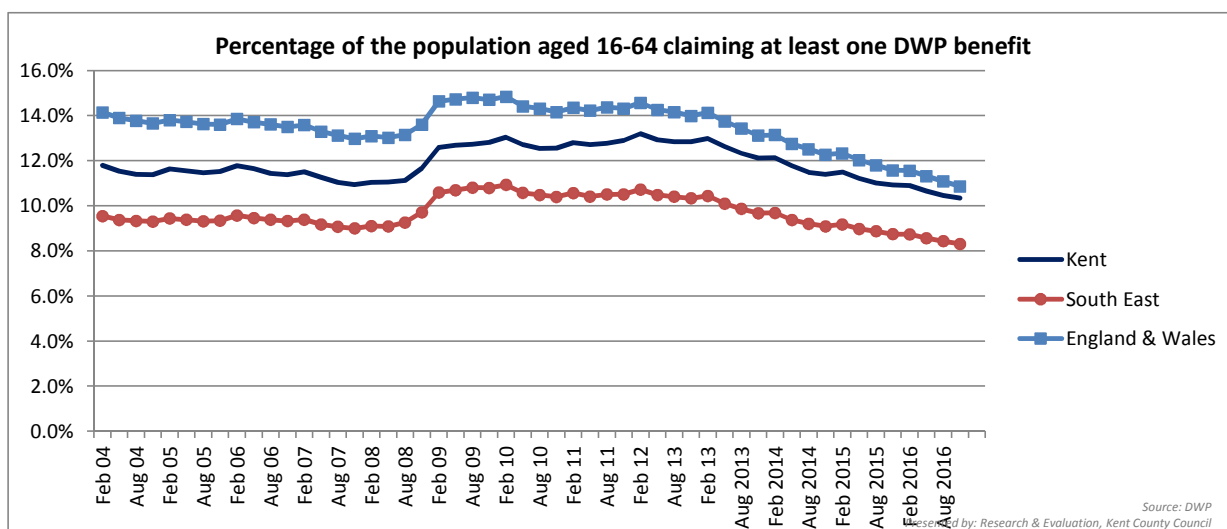
Table 4

	Number of working age people claiming at least one DWP benefit					
	% of 16-64 pop		Change since previous quarter		Change since previous year	
			Number	%	Number	%
Kent			n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
South East			n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
England & Wales			n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Source: NOMIS - DWP Work & Pensions

Chart 6 shows how the proportion of 16-64 year old people who claim a DWP benefit has changed since 2001. The South East Region and England & Wales are shown for comparison.

Chart 6



Statistical Groups

Benefit claimants can be allocated to statistical groups to give an indication of the main reason that they are claiming

One of the possible groupings of benefits claimants which is used by Kent County Council is the out of work benefits group. This group includes people claiming Jobseekers Allowance, lone parents claiming Income Support, Incapacity Benefits claimants and others on income related benefits with the exception of carers, and is used as an indicator of worklessness.

DWP also produces other statistical groupings based on the benefit that is claimed. For these statistical groups benefits are arranged hierarchically and claimants are assigned to a group according to the highest ranking benefit which they receive. For example a person who is a lone parent who claims Income Support and receives Incapacity Benefit would be classified in the incapacity benefits statistical group as Incapacity Benefit is a higher ranking benefit, whereas someone receiving both Bereavement Benefit and Disability Living Allowance would be classified in the disabled group as Disability Living Allowance is their highest ranking benefit. For this reason the statistical group lone parent, for example, will not contain all lone parents claiming Income Support. Some will be included in the incapacity benefits group instead.

The following table explains which statistical group each benefit's claimants would be in. The groups are

Statistical Group	Benefit claimed
Jobseekers	Jobseekers allowance
ESA & incapacity benefits	Incapacity benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance or Employment Support Allowance
Lone parents	Income Support with a child under the age of 16 and no partner
Carers	Carer's Allowance
Disabled	Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance or Industrial Injuries Benefit
Bereaved	Widow's Benefit, Bereavement Benefit or Industrial Death Benefit
Others on income related benefits	This includes other Income Support claimants or claiming pension credits.
Out of work benefits <i>This statistical group is used as a proxy for worklessness</i>	This group contains all those above who are in the Jobseekers, ESA & Incapacity Benefits and Lone Parents statistical groups. It also includes anyone claiming other income replacement benefits.

The number of benefit claimants in each of the statistical groups are shown in Table 5.

**From August 2017 DWP discontinued this dataset when they changed the way they publish their benefit statist
The last period of data is the November 2016 figures**

Table 5

Statistical Groups			Change Since Previous Quarter		Change Since Last Year	
	Number	% Rate	Number	%	Number	%
Kent						
Any Benefits	0	0.0%	0		-99,390	-100.0%
Job seekers	0	0.0%	0		-11,300	-100.0%
ESA & Incapacity Benefits	0	0.0%	0		-46,880	-100.0%
Lone Parents	0	0.0%	0		-10,130	-100.0%
Carers	0	0.0%	0		-16,190	-100.0%
Others on income related benefits	0	0.0%	0		-1,830	-100.0%
Disabled	0	0.0%	0		-11,270	-100.0%
Bereaved	0	0.0%	0		-1,810	-100.0%
Out of work benefits	0	0.0%	0		-70,130	-100.0%

Source: NOMIS - DWP Work & Pensions

Chart 7 shows the proportion of people aged 16-64 in each statistical group claiming DWP benefits. The South East Region and England & Wales are shown for comparison

Chart 7

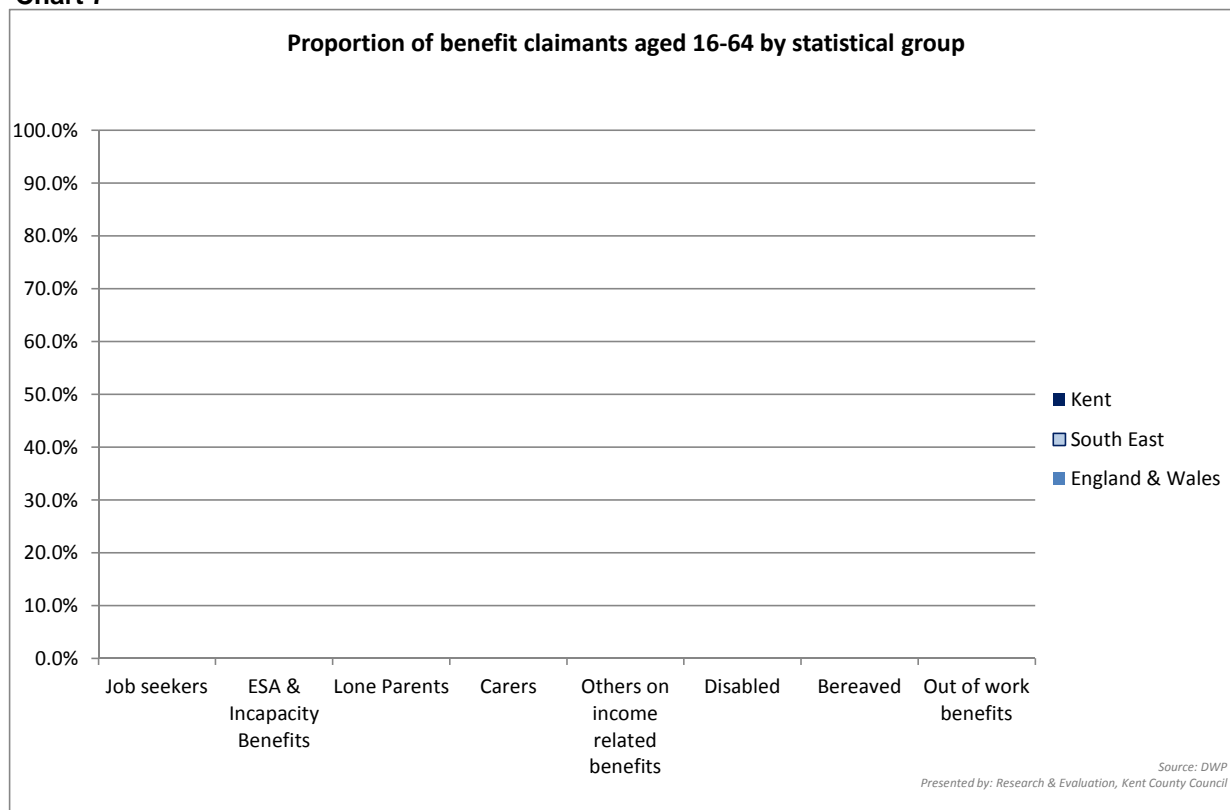


Chart 8 shows the change in working age benefit claimants by statistical group.

**From August 2017 DWP discontinued this dataset when they changed the way they publish their benefit statist
The last period of data is the November 2016 figures**

Chart 8

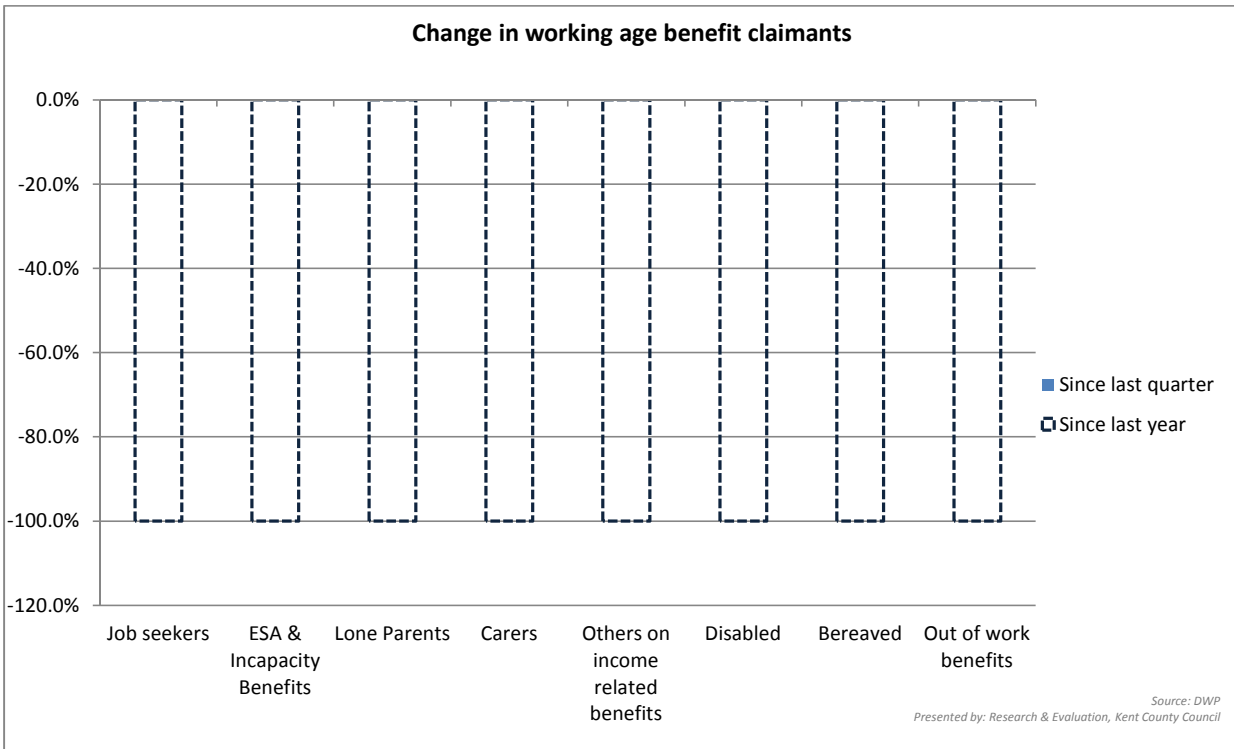
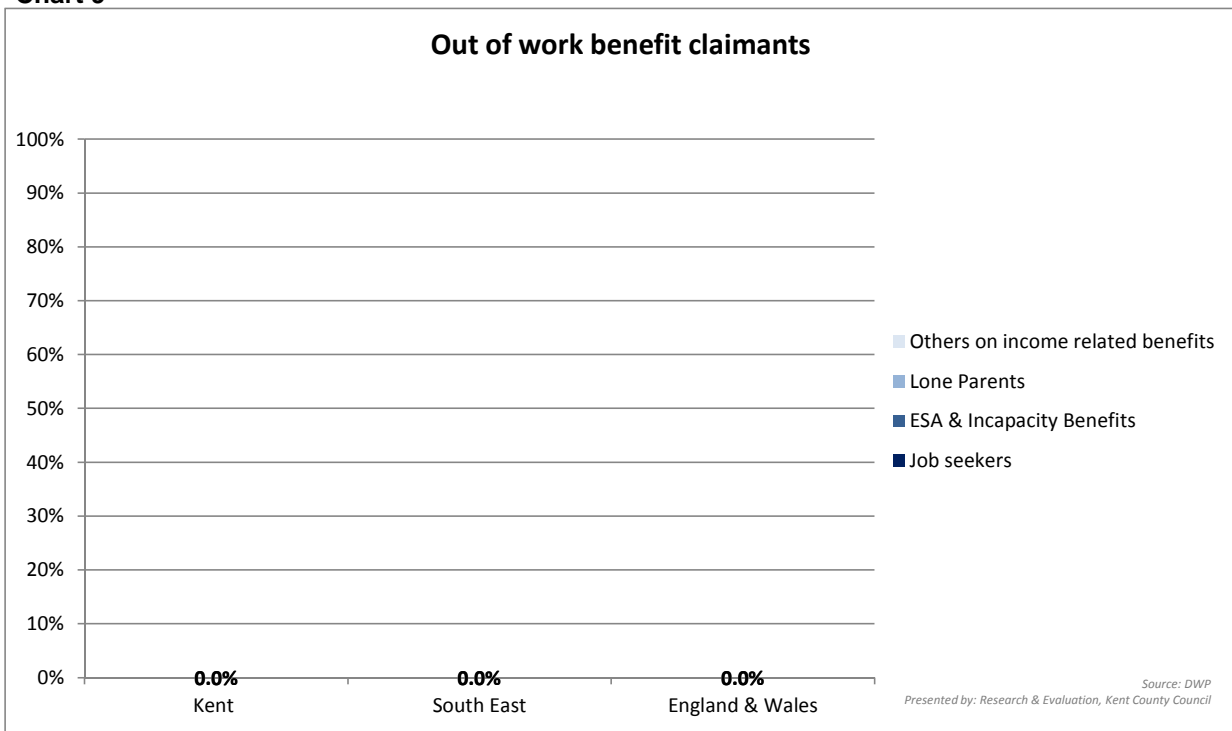


Chart 9 shows out of work benefit claimants by statistical group.

Chart 9



General Notes

Benefit rates are calculated using the Office for National Statistics resident population taken from the Mid Year Population Estimates 2001-2014. Working age benefit rates are calculated as a proportion of all people aged 16 to 64. Individual benefit claimant rates are calculated as a proportion of the age group eligible to claim each benefit.

All of the datasets used are based on all claims (100% of records) so are not subject to sampling error.

All data is rounded to the nearest 10 at source.

All data is shown as a snapshot in time.

Benefit Definitions

Any Benefits - The number of working age people claiming one or more key DWP benefits.

Out of Work Benefits – The number of working age people claiming out of work benefits. These include unemployed people on Job Seekers Allowance, lone parents on Income Support, Incapacity Benefits customers and others on income related benefits with the exception of carers. This is the DWP definition to support National Indicator 152 and often used as a proxy for worklessness. Data shown in this bulletin is a snapshot of claimants on a particular date not an average of four quarters on which NI 152 monitoring is based.

Carers Allowance - Non contributory benefit for people who look after a severely disabled person for at least 35 hours a week, are not gainfully employed, and are aged 16 or over and not in full-time education.

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) - Disability Living Allowance (DLA) provides a non-contributory, non means-tested and tax-free contribution towards the disability-related extra costs of severely disabled people who claim help with those costs before the age of 65. It replaced and extended Attendance Allowance and Mobility Allowance for people in this age group from April 1992.

Attendance Allowance (AA) – Attendance Allowance is a tax-free benefit which can be claimed from the age of 65 by a person who needs help with personal care because of physical or mental disability.

Incapacity Benefit - Incapacity Benefit (IB) is paid to people of working age who are incapable of work and who meet certain contribution conditions.

Employment and Support Allowance – Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) replaced Incapacity Benefit and Income Support paid because of an illness or disability, for new claims from 27 October 2008. It provides financial and practical help to working age people so that they can prepare and return to appropriate work. However, if the claimant has an illness or disability that severely affects their ability to work, they will receive increased financial support and will not be expected to prepare for a return to work. From October 2010 to 2014 Incapacity Benefit, Income Support paid on incapacity grounds and Severe Disablement Allowance claims will be reviewed by Jobcentre Plus and if appropriate claimants will be moved to Employment and Support Allowance.

Income Support - Income Support (IS) is available to those aged 16 to 59 who have a low income. Until October 2003, IS was also payable to males aged 60 to 64 and was called Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG). From October 2003 MIG was replaced by Pension Credit. Both MIG and Pension Credit claimants aged 60 to 64 are included in the working age client group dataset (and the related children and families client group data sets) as IS claimants.

Pension Credit - Pension Credit (PC) was introduced on October 6th, 2003 and replaced the Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG) - Income Support payable to people aged 60 or over. Pension Credit is paid to those aged 60 or over and guarantees an income of a certain amount per week, depending on whether they are part of a couple or are single. It also rewards those over 65 who have some savings for their retirement.

Job Seekers Allowance – Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA) was introduced on October 7th, 1996 and is a contributory or income-related benefit paid to people under State Pension age who are available for and actively seeking work of at least forty hours per week. They agree with Jobcentre Plus any restrictions on their availability for work and the steps they intend to take in order to find work. Additional help is available for partners and children of claimants. Additional help is available for partners and children of claimants.

Claimant Count - This records the number claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) and National Insurance Credits at Jobcentre Plus local offices. It is not an official measure of unemployment but is the only statistic available at areas smaller than local authority level.

State Pension - State Pension is paid to entitled people who claim it having reached State Pension age. It is based on National Insurance (NI) contributions. The State Pension age is currently 65 for men and 60 for women. Following changes under the Pensions Act 2011 the State Pension age for women will increase gradually from 2010, so that by 2018 it will be 65. It will then increase for both men and women to 66 by October 2020 and then to 68 between 2024 and 2046.

The government has proposed to introduce a flat rate (single-tier) State Pension from April 2016 and raise the State Pension age from 66 to 67 gradually between 2026 and 2028. The government has proposed that people born between 6 April 1960 and 5 March 1961 will reach State Pension age between 66 and 67 and people born on or after 6 March 1961 will reach State Pension age when they're 67 or older. Parliament will have to agree any changes to the State Pension before they become law.

Personal Independence payment - Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is a benefit paid to people who become disabled or unwell between the age of 16 and 64. It is a tax-free benefit that can help cover the additional cost of personal help within the home or additional mobility needs outside the home. A person can claim PIP if they have had problems with daily living or mobility for at least three months, and those problems are expected to continue for at least another nine months. First introduced in April 2013 PIP will gradually replace Disability Living Allowance for claimants aged 16-64.

Universal Credit - Universal Credit will be replacing six means-tested benefits and tax credits: Jobseeker's Allowance, Housing Benefit, Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, Employment and Support Allowance and Income Support. It will be available for people who are out of work or who are in work but on a low income