

Benefit claimants in Kent

Benefits data are published by DWP on a quarterly basis, 6 months in arrears.

UC data is published monthly 1 month in arrears and PIP data is published quarterly for individual months.

NOTE: The term Kent means the Kent County Council Area and excludes Medway.

Further Information

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[Facts and figures about Kent](#)

This bulletin looks at the number of claimants of Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) benefits in Kent as of November 2021. It also looks at Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payment claimants as of April 2022.

Summary

- In November 2021 32.8% of Kent's population were claiming at least one DWP benefit.
- Thanet had the highest number and proportion of claimants (60,603 claimants, 42.8% of the population).
- In April 2022 122,547 working age people in Kent were claiming Universal Credit (12.8% of the 16-64 population).
- Over the last year Universal Credit claimants in Kent have fallen by 6.3%.
- 39.7% of Universal Credit claimants in Kent were in employment.
- The number of Universal Credit Claimants in Kent who were in employment has fallen by 0.3% over the last year. Claimants who were not in employment have fallen by 9.9%.
- 64,391 people in Kent were claiming Personal Independence Payment in April 2022.

Introduction

This bulletin reports on the total number of people in Kent who are claiming at least one Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) benefit. Data is also presented at district level. A person could be claiming one, or a combination of the following benefits: Attendance Allowance, Bereavement Benefit, Bereavement Support Payment, Carers Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Housing Benefit, Incapacity Benefit, Industrial Injuries Disablement Payment, Income Support, Jobseekers Allowance, Pension Credit, Personal Independence Payment, Severe Disablement Allowance, State Pension, Universal Credit, Widows Benefit.

The bulletin then looks at the following individual benefits claimants for Kent with regional and national comparisons (district level statistics are available on request):

- Carers Allowance (CA)
- Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
- Attendance Allowance (AA)
- Income Support (IS)
- Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)
- Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Pension Credit (PC)
- State Pension (SP)

Finally, this bulletin looks at the introduction of Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payment in Kent. These are new benefits being introduced following changes to the benefits system. Universal Credit is 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.

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

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. Pension age benefits are calculated as a proportion of the population aged 65 and above.

Population denominators are taken from the Office for National Statistics Mid-Year Population Estimates.

Analysis

Any Benefit – all ages

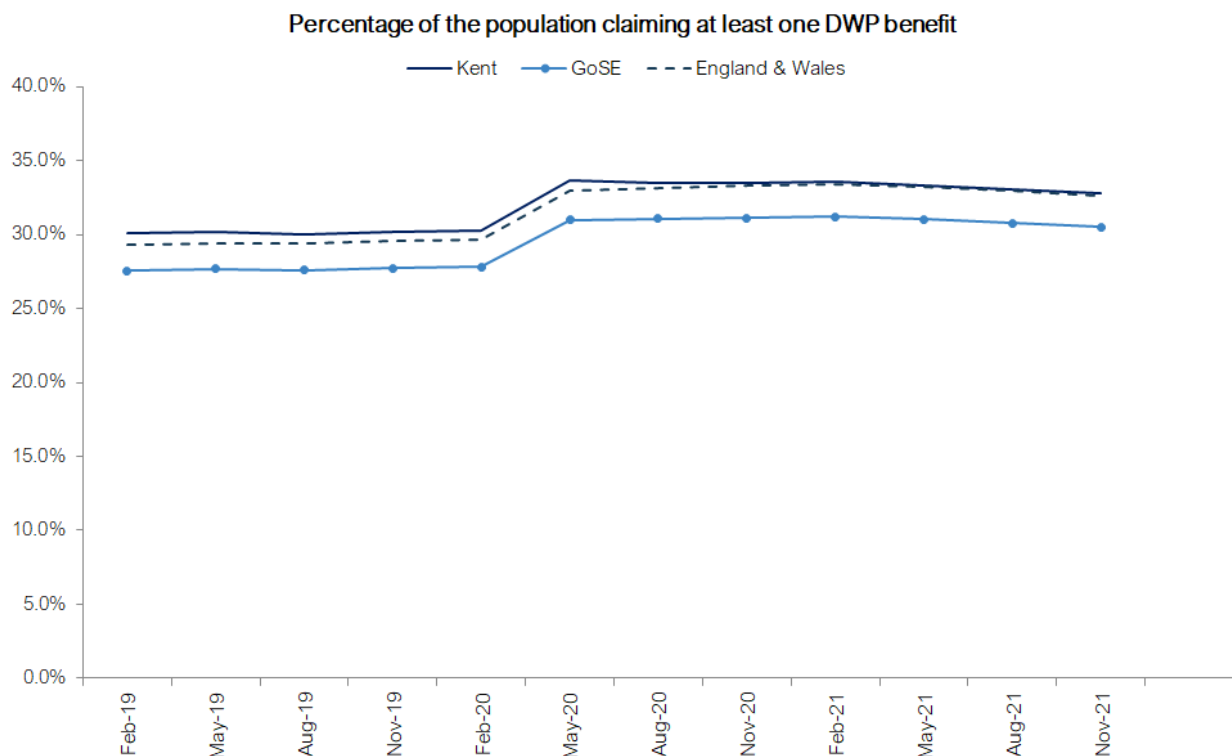
In November 2021 32.8% of the population of Kent were claiming at least one DWP benefit. This has fallen slightly since the previous quarter (-0.7%) and by 2% since November 2020.

Chart 1 shows the proportion of people claiming at least one DWP benefit in Kent compared to the South East Region and England and Wales since February 2019.

The chart shows the increase in the proportion of people who were claiming benefits between February and May 2020. This was due to the impact of the first national lockdown and the restrictions on people being able to work. This resulted in a loss of income for many people which meant that they were eligible to claim a DWP benefit.

Over the last year the claimant rate has fallen steadily in Kent, the South East and England and Wales, however claimant rates are still higher than pre-pandemic levels.

Chart 1: Proportion of the population claiming at least one DWP benefit



Source: DWP
Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 1 shows the number and proportion of the population in Kent districts who were claiming at least one DWP benefit in November 2021.

There were 522,707 benefit claimants in Kent accounting for almost a third of the population.

Thanet had the highest number and proportion of the population claiming at least one DWP benefit with 60,603 claimants accounting for 42.8% of the resident population.

Dartford district had the lowest number and proportion of claimants (30,254 claimants, 26.5%).

All districts in Kent have seen the number of claimants fall over the last year. Thanet (-1,530), Gravesham (-1,406) and Folkestone & Hythe (-1,047) have seen the biggest fall in number of claimants since November 2020.

Table 1: Claimants of at least one DWP benefit (all ages)

Nov-21			Change since previous quarter		Change since previous year	
Total claimants - Any benefit	Number	% of total population	Number	%	Number	%
Ashford	42,807	32.7%	-155	-0.4%	-736	-1.7%
Canterbury	52,903	31.7%	-98	-0.2%	-777	-1.4%
Dartford	30,254	26.5%	-445	-1.4%	-960	-3.1%
Dover	44,658	37.7%	-190	-0.4%	-810	-1.8%
Folkestone & Hythe	44,099	38.9%	-318	-0.7%	-1,047	-2.3%
Gravesham	34,270	32.1%	-517	-1.5%	-1,406	-3.9%
Maidstone	53,360	30.8%	-310	-0.6%	-535	-1.0%
Sevenoaks	35,890	29.6%	-433	-1.2%	-774	-2.1%
Swale	52,923	35.0%	-162	-0.3%	-432	-0.8%
Thanet	60,603	42.8%	-491	-0.8%	-1,530	-2.5%
Tonbridge & Malling	37,949	27.8%	-256	-0.7%	-754	-1.9%
Tunbridge Wells	32,990	27.7%	-237	-0.7%	-767	-2.3%
Kent	522,707	32.8%	-3,608	-0.7%	-10,530	-2.0%
Medway	88,975	31.9%	-643	-0.7%	-1,701	-1.9%
Kent + Medway	611,684	32.7%	-4,247	-0.7%	-12,223	-2.0%
South East	2,811,453	30.5%	-25,063	-0.9%	-57,687	-2.0%
England + Wales	19,480,376	32.6%	-187,172	-1.0%	-393,041	-2.0%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore

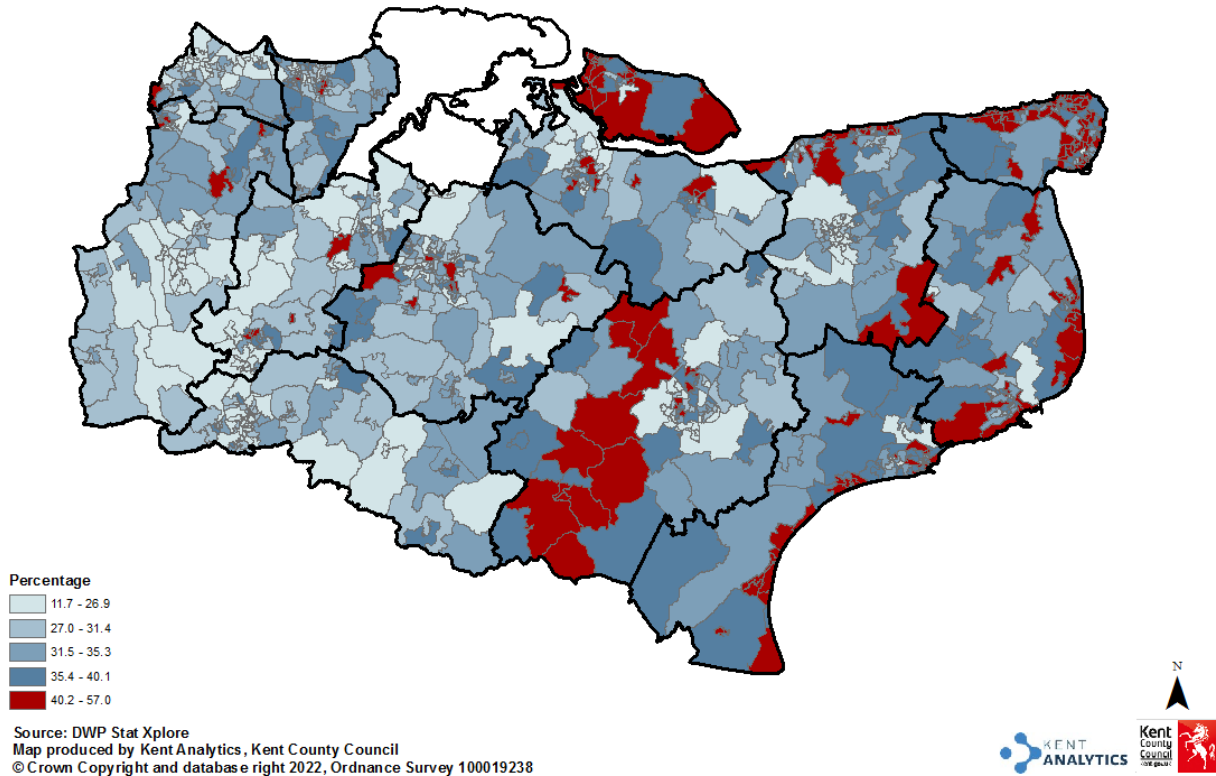
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Map 1 overleaf shows the proportion of the population claiming at least one DWP benefit in November 2021 across Kent.

The map shows that claimant rates tend to be highest in the east of the county, although there are areas with high claimant rates in all Kent districts.

Map 1: Proportion of people in Kent claiming at least one DWP benefit

Proportion of people in Kent LSOAs who are claiming at least one DWP benefit
November 2021



Any Benefit - Working age

In November 2021 just over a fifth of the working age population in Kent were claiming at least one DWP benefit. Working age is defined as the population aged 16-64.

Chart 2 overleaf shows the proportion of people of working age who were claiming at least one DWP benefit in Kent compared to the South East Region and England and Wales since February 2019.

The chart clearly shows the increase in claimants between February and May 2020. The claimant rate in Kent has remained below the national level but above the regional level.

Chart 2: Proportion of the working age population claiming at least one DWP benefit

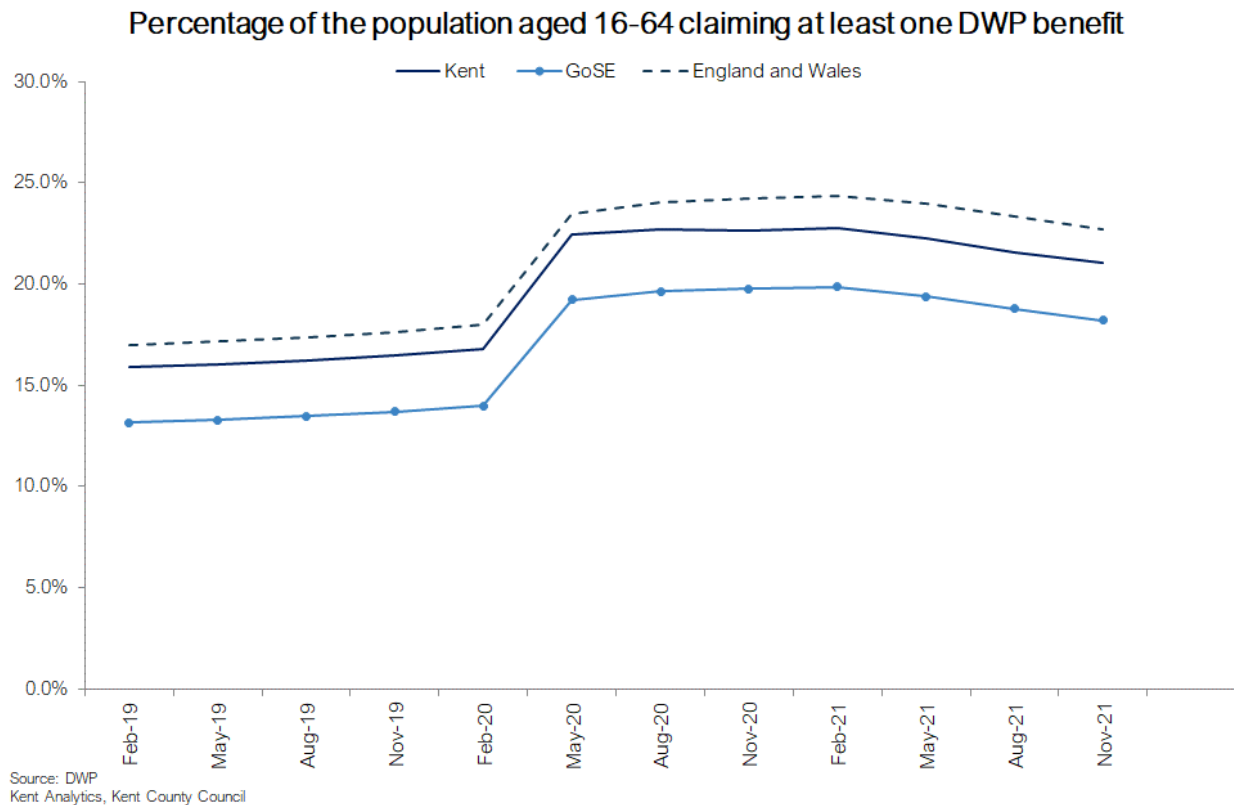


Table 2 overleaf shows the number and proportion of the working age population in Kent districts who were claiming at least one DWP benefit in November 2021.

There were 201,415 claimants in Kent accounting for just over a fifth of the working age population. This has fallen by 2.4% since the previous quarter (August 2021) and by 6.9% since the previous year.

Thanet had the highest number and proportion of working age benefit claimants (26,557 claimants accounting for 32.9% of the resident population).

Sevenoaks district had the lowest number and proportion of working age claimants (10,238 claimants, 14.5%).

All districts in Kent have seen the number of working age claimants fall over the last year. Thanet (-2,060) saw the biggest fall in number of claimants since November 2020.

Table 2: Claimants of at least one DWP benefit (working age)

Nov-21			Change since previous quarter		Change since previous year	
Working age claimants - Any benefit	Number	% of 16-64 population	Number	%	Number	%
Ashford	16,508	21.1%	-370	-2.2%	-1,324	-7.4%
Canterbury	19,014	18.0%	-244	-1.3%	-1,251	-6.2%
Dartford	13,769	19.1%	-466	-3.3%	-1,058	-7.1%
Dover	16,910	24.3%	-345	-2.0%	-1,344	-7.4%
Folkestone & Hythe	16,609	25.2%	-358	-2.1%	-1,240	-6.9%
Gravesham	15,351	23.5%	-537	-3.4%	-1,404	-8.4%
Maidstone	19,929	19.0%	-503	-2.5%	-1,138	-5.4%
Sevenoaks	10,238	14.5%	-458	-4.3%	-1,012	-9.0%
Swale	23,023	25.3%	-398	-1.7%	-988	-4.1%
Thanet	26,557	32.9%	-624	-2.3%	-2,060	-7.2%
Tonbridge & Malling	12,542	15.6%	-337	-2.6%	-1,078	-7.9%
Tunbridge Wells	10,964	15.3%	-352	-3.1%	-1,060	-8.8%
Kent	201,415	21.1%	-4,995	-2.4%	-14,959	-6.9%
Medway	41,787	23.9%	-816	-1.9%	-2,302	-5.2%
Kent + Medway	243,205	21.5%	-5,811	-2.3%	-17,252	-6.6%
South East	1,025,073	18.2%	-32,046	-3.0%	-87,079	-7.8%
England + Wales	8,448,717	22.7%	-226,257	-2.6%	-566,950	-6.3%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Any Benefit - Pension age

In November 2021 92.7% of the pension age population in Kent were claiming at least one DWP benefit. Pension age is defined as the population aged 65 and above.

Chart 3 overleaf shows the proportion of people of pension age who were claiming at least one DWP benefit in Kent compared to the South East Region and England and Wales since February 2019.

The chart shows that up until August 2020 the proportion of the 65+ population claiming a DWP benefit was falling steadily. This reflects the increase to state pension age and to the eligibility criteria for Pension Credit. Additionally, the introduction of the New State Pension (nSP) in 2016 has meant that women tend to get more pension under the new rules than under the pre-2016 rules. This increased amount of pension could impact their eligibility for Pension Credit.

Chart 3: Proportion of the pension age population claiming at least one DWP benefit

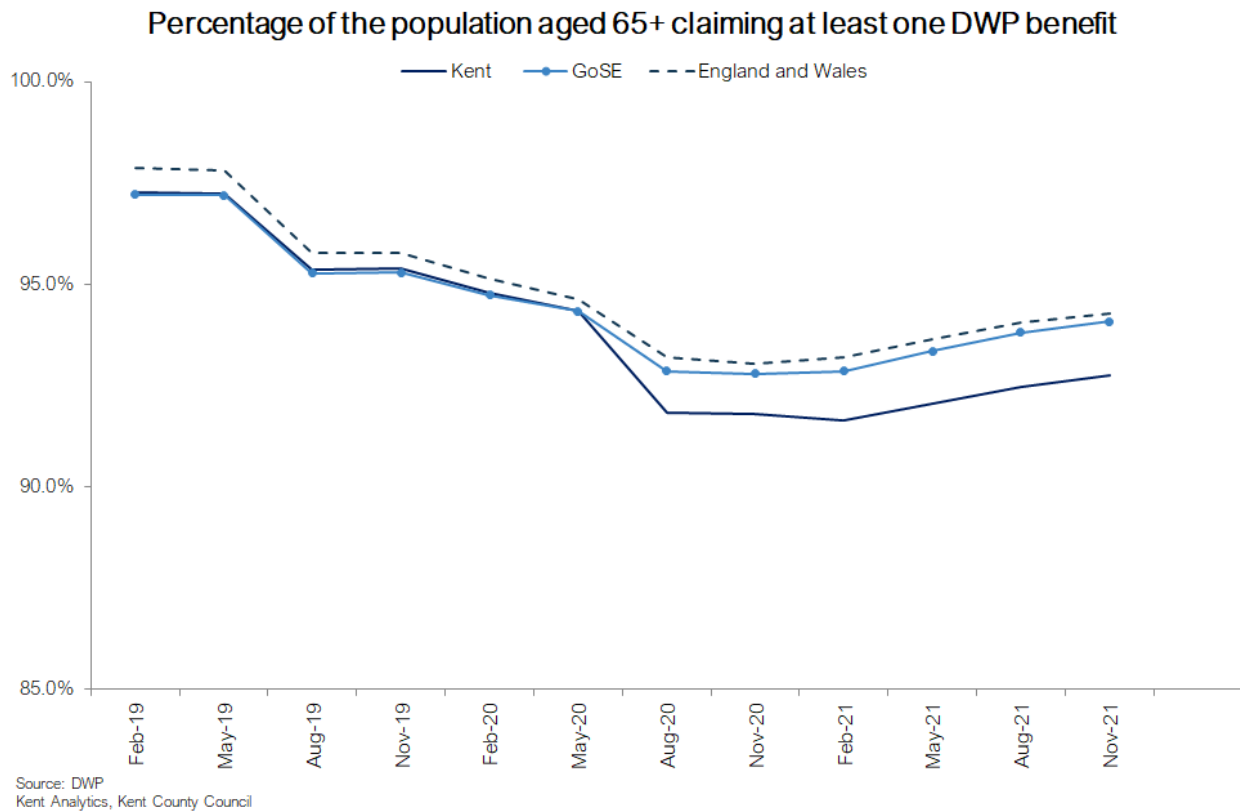


Table 3 overleaf shows the number and proportion of the pension age population in Kent districts who were claiming at least one DWP benefit in November 2021.

302,867 pension age people in Kent were claiming at least one DWP benefit as of November 2021, 92.7% of the population aged 65 and above.

Canterbury district had the highest number of pension age claimants (32,273) and Ashford had the highest proportion (96.1%).

Pension age claimants have increased in all Kent districts over the last year with the exception for Dartford, where there was no change, and Gravesham where the number fell slightly.

Table 3: Claimants of at least one DWP benefit (pension age)

Nov-21			Change since previous quarter		Change since previous year	
Pension age claimants - Any benefit	Number	% of 65+ population	Number	%	Number	%
Ashford	24,778	96.1%	178	0.7%	463	1.9%
Canterbury	32,273	93.2%	110	0.3%	355	1.1%
Dartford	15,081	95.1%	-5	0.0%	0	0.0%
Dover	26,318	93.3%	100	0.4%	404	1.6%
Folkestone & Hythe	26,134	92.4%	8	0.0%	141	0.5%
Gravesham	17,508	94.1%	1	0.0%	-35	-0.2%
Maidstone	31,703	94.9%	135	0.4%	462	1.5%
Sevenoaks	24,486	93.2%	-1	0.0%	177	0.7%
Swale	27,429	94.2%	150	0.5%	369	1.4%
Thanet	31,891	93.7%	78	0.2%	339	1.1%
Tonbridge & Malling	24,034	83.0%	45	0.2%	210	0.9%
Tunbridge Wells	21,228	90.7%	94	0.4%	238	1.1%
Kent	302,867	92.7%	887	0.3%	3,126	1.0%
Medway	43,787	96.7%	102	0.2%	441	1.0%
Kent + Medway	346,648	93.2%	982	0.3%	3,562	1.0%
South East	1,704,759	94.1%	4,932	0.3%	23,444	1.4%
England + Wales	10,496,555	94.3%	25,561	0.2%	137,595	1.3%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Individual Benefits

This section looks at the individual count of claims for Attendance Allowance, Carers Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Income Supports, Jobseekers Allowance, Employment Support Allowance, Pension Credit and State Pension.

The total number of claimants of each of the individual benefits in Kent, and the change since the previous quarter and the previous year are shown in Table 4.

At the time of writing figures for State Pension for the November 2021 quarter were not available.

Income Support, Jobseekers Allowance, and Employment and Support Allowance have all seen large decreases in the number of claimants over the last year. This is largely due to the introduction of Universal Credit which is replacing a number of benefits for working age people.

Pension Credit claimants in Kent have also fallen. This is due to changes to the eligibility criteria for that benefit, and the introduction of the New State Pension.

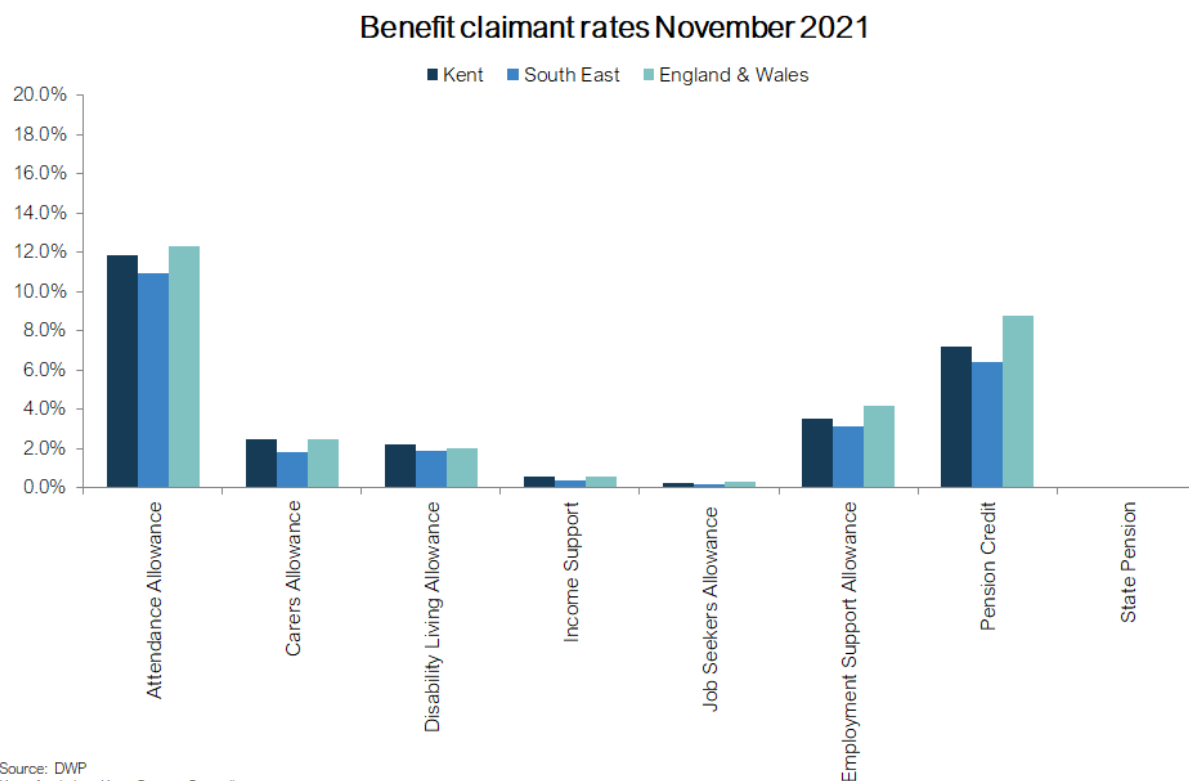
Table 4: Benefit claimants by benefit type in Kent

Nov-21			Change Since Aug-21		Change Since Nov-20	
Kent	Number	% Rate	Number	%	Number	%
Attendance Allowance	38,667	11.8%	361	0.9%	-65	-0.2%
Carers Allowance	31,577	2.5%	68	0.2%	289	0.9%
Disability Living Allowance	35,499	2.2%	297	0.8%	27	0.1%
Income Support	4,851	0.6%	-415	-7.9%	-1,564	-24.4%
Job Seekers Allowance	2,410	0.3%	-406	-14.4%	-3,999	-62.4%
Employment Support Allowance	33,983	3.9%	-497	-1.4%	-2,075	-5.8%
Pension Credit	30,379	8.2%	-312	-1.0%	-1,583	-5.0%
State Pension	n.a.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Source: DWP Stat Xplore

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Benefit claimant rates for Kent compared to the South East region and England and Wales are shown in chart 4.

Chart 4: Benefit claimant rates


Source: DWP
Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Universal Credit

Universal Credit is a payment to help with living costs for those on a low income or who are out of work. Universal Credit provides a single payment per household based upon the circumstances of the household. Support for housing costs, children and childcare costs are integrated into Universal Credit. It also provides additions for disabled people and carers.

Universal Credit was introduced after the Welfare Reform Act 2012 made changes to the rules concerning a number of benefits offered within Britain.

Universal Credit is 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. These are known as legacy benefits.

Initially Universal Credit was only available to single claimants without a partner and without child dependents however the coverage has been expanded to include new claimants of all types and existing benefit claimants who report changes to their personal circumstances.

In 2017 the full service began to be rolled out across Kent. This staggered roll out was completed in Kent in Autumn 2018. Universal Credit is now available to new claimants and existing benefit claimants who report changes to their personal circumstances.

Plans to migrate all legacy benefit claimants was paused in 2020 due to the Covid 19 pandemic. The DWP plans to resume the migration with the aim that all legacy benefit claimants will be moved onto Universal Credit by 2024.

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

Detailed analysis of Universal Credit claimants can be found in our [Universal Credit Claimants](#) bulletin.

Chart 5 shows the proportion of people aged 16-64 claiming Universal Credit since its introduction in 2015 in Kent, the South East region and England and Wales.

Universal Credit can be claimed by unemployed claimants or if the claimant is employed but they have a low income. Because of coronavirus measures, many people experienced a reduction in their income. For example, under the Coronavirus Job

Retention Scheme an individual placed on temporary leave ('furlough') and receiving 80% of their regular wage may still have been eligible to make a claim for Universal Credit. The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme ended on 30 September 2021.

Chart 5 clearly shows the impact of the coronavirus measures with a sharp increase in claimants between April and May 2020.

Chart 5: Percentage aged 16-64 claiming Universal Credit

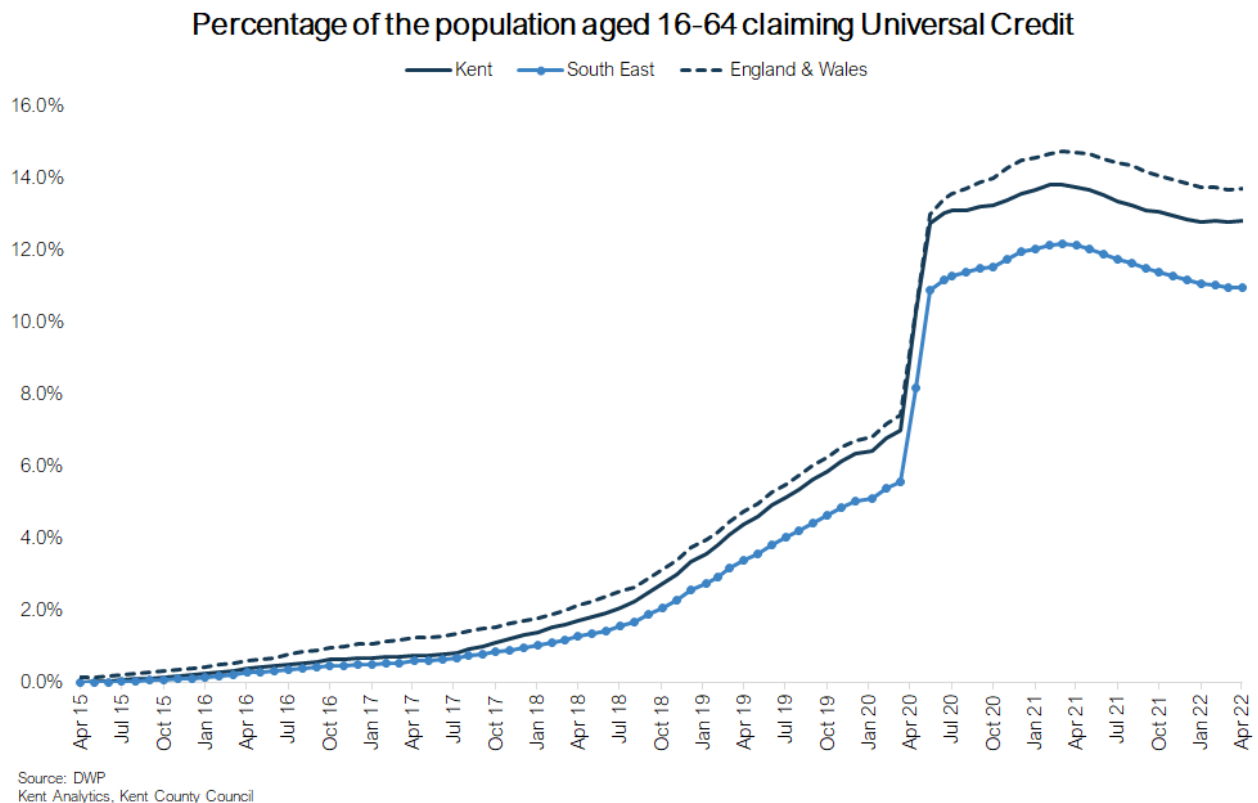


Table 5 shows the total number of Universal Credit claimants in Kent districts. It also shows change since the previous month and the previous year.

In April 2022, 122,547 working age people in Kent were claiming Universal Credit (12.8% of the working age population). While there has been a small increase since the previous month (+0.3%) over the last year the number of claimants has fallen by 6.3% (-8,246 claimants).

Thanet district had the highest number and proportion of claimants with more than 1 in 5 of the resident working age population claiming Universal Credit (17,523 claimants or 21.7%).

The smallest number and proportion of claimants was in Sevenoaks where 5.3% were claiming Universal Credit (5,576 claimants).

Over the last year all Kent authorities have seen the number of claimants fall. The biggest reduction was in Thanet where there were 1,319 fewer claimants than in April 2021. Sevenoaks saw the biggest percentage decrease with a 13.6% reduction in claimants.

Table 5: Total Universal Credit claimants in Kent districts

April 2022			Change since previous month		Change since previous year	
	Total UC claimants	% of 16-64 population	Number	%	Number	%
	Number					
Ashford	10,161	12.8%	101	1.0%	-753	-6.9%
Canterbury	11,151	10.5%	13	0.1%	-436	-3.8%
Dartford	8,610	11.9%	29	0.3%	-807	-8.6%
Dover	10,719	15.3%	67	0.6%	-520	-4.6%
Folkestone & Hythe	9,366	13.4%	-55	-0.6%	-712	-7.1%
Gravesham	10,046	15.1%	101	1.0%	-537	-5.1%
Maidstone	11,973	18.3%	27	0.2%	-522	-4.2%
Sevenoaks	5,576	5.3%	-25	-0.4%	-876	-13.6%
Swale	13,985	15.4%	-1	0.0%	-577	-4.0%
Thanet	17,523	21.7%	24	0.1%	-1,319	-7.0%
Tonbridge & Malling	7,016	8.6%	73	1.1%	-506	-6.7%
Tunbridge Wells	6,432	9.0%	-19	-0.3%	-646	-9.1%
Kent	122,547	12.8%	326	0.3%	-8,246	-6.3%
Medway	25,499	14.5%	149	0.6%	-1,464	-5.4%
Kent + Medway	148,052	13.0%	476	0.3%	-9,701	-6.1%
South East	618,104	11.0%	689	0.1%	-59,499	-8.8%
England + Wales	5,094,043	13.7%	11,716	0.2%	-355,609	-6.5%

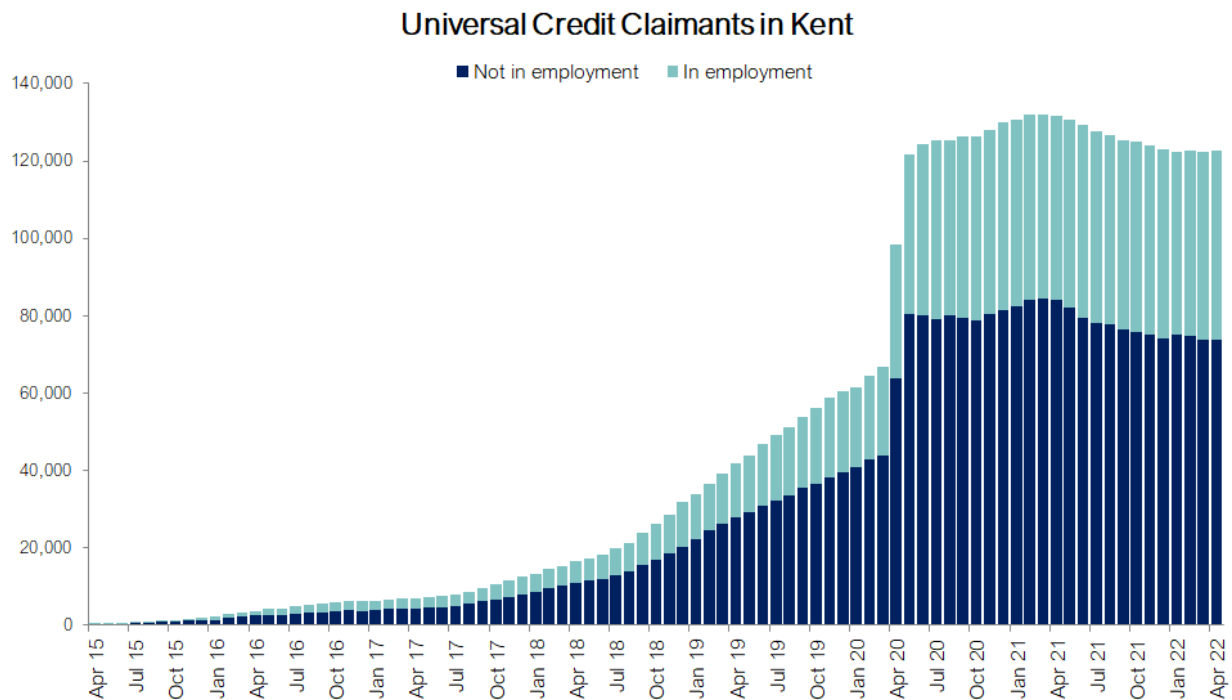
Source: DWP Stat Xplore

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Chart 6 shows Universal Credit claimants by work status in Kent since April 2015.

In February 2020, before any coronavirus measures were put in place, Kent claimants that were in employment made up a third of all Universal Credit claimants (33.9%). This reached a peak in December 2021 where 39.8% of claimants were in work and while this has fallen slightly to 39.7% in April 2022, claimants who are in employment still make up a larger proportion of claimants than seen before the pandemic.

Chart 6: Universal Credit claimants in Kent by employment status



Source: DWP
Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 6 overleaf shows the number of Universal Credit claimants in Kent districts by employment status.

In April 2022 39.7% of those people in Kent claiming Universal credit were in employment, slightly lower than the national average of 41%, and 60.3% were not in employment (59% in England and Wales).

This varies across the county. In Dartford 45.2% were in employment (54.8% not in employment) while in Thanet 36.6% were in employment and 63.4% were not.

Table 6: Universal Credit claimants by employment status in Kent districts

April 2022				In employment		Not in employment	
	UC claimants	Total	% of 16-64 population	Number	% of total claimants	Number	% of total claimants
Ashford		10,161	12.8%	4,252	41.8%	5,909	58.2%
Canterbury		11,151	10.5%	4,275	38.3%	6,876	61.7%
Dartford		8,610	11.9%	3,891	45.2%	4,719	54.8%
Dover		10,719	15.3%	4,066	37.9%	6,653	62.1%
Folkestone & Hythe		9,366	13.4%	3,532	37.7%	5,834	62.3%
Gravesham		10,046	15.1%	4,186	41.7%	5,860	58.3%
Maidstone		11,973	18.3%	4,905	41.0%	7,068	59.0%
Sevenoaks		5,576	5.3%	2,171	38.9%	3,405	61.1%
Swale		13,985	15.4%	5,266	37.7%	8,719	62.3%
Thanet		17,523	21.7%	6,412	36.6%	11,111	63.4%
Tonbridge & Malling		7,016	8.6%	3,018	43.0%	3,998	57.0%
Tunbridge Wells		6,432	9.0%	2,663	41.4%	3,769	58.6%
Kent		122,547	12.8%	48,635	39.7%	73,912	60.3%
Medway		25,499	14.5%	10,090	39.6%	15,409	60.4%
Kent + Medway		148,052	13.0%	58,728	39.7%	89,324	60.3%
South East		618,104	11.0%	266,802	43.2%	351,302	56.8%
England + Wales		5,094,043	13.7%	2,088,175	41.0%	3,005,868	59.0%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Tables 7 and 8 overleaf show the number and proportion of 16–64-year-olds who were claiming Universal Credit and were in employment and not in employment.

In April 2022 48,365 working age people in Kent were in-work claimants of Universal Credit. This equates to 5.1% of the working age population.

Thanet had the highest in-work claimant rate at 7.9% (6,412 claimants). Sevenoaks had the lowest number and percentage of claimants who were working (2,171 claimants, 2.1% of the working age population).

73,912 Universal Credit claimants in Kent were not in employment. This is equating to 7.7% of the working age population.

Thanet had the highest number and proportion of out of work claimants. 11,111 working age people in Thanet were not in employment and claiming Universal Credit (13.8% of the population aged 16-64).

The number of Universal Credit claimants in Kent who were not in employment has fallen by 9.9% over the last year while those in work fell by 0.3%.

Table 7: Universal Credit claimants in employment in Kent districts

April 2022			Change since previous month		Change since previous year	
UC claimants in employment	Number	% of 16-64 population	Number	%	Number	%
Ashford	4,252	5.4%	14	0.3%	-89	-2.1%
Canterbury	4,275	4.0%	30	0.7%	99	2.4%
Dartford	3,891	5.4%	30	0.8%	18	0.5%
Dover	4,066	5.8%	63	1.6%	54	1.3%
Folkestone & Hythe	3,532	5.0%	-17	-0.5%	-19	-0.5%
Gravesham	4,186	6.3%	54	1.3%	231	5.8%
Maidstone	4,905	7.5%	47	1.0%	-6	-0.1%
Sevenoaks	2,171	2.1%	-15	-0.7%	-288	-11.7%
Swale	5,266	5.8%	18	0.3%	111	2.2%
Thanet	6,412	7.9%	44	0.7%	-101	-1.6%
Tonbridge & Malling	3,018	3.8%	4	0.1%	5	0.2%
Tunbridge Wells	2,663	3.7%	3	0.1%	-141	-5.0%
Kent	48,635	5.1%	270	0.6%	-138	-0.3%
Medway	10,090	5.8%	36	0.4%	283	2.9%
Kent + Medway	58,728	5.2%	308	0.5%	152	0.3%
South East	266,802	4.7%	1,193	0.4%	-7,433	-2.7%
England + Wales	2,088,175	5.6%	6,639	0.3%	-7,447	-0.4%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 8: Universal Credit claimants who are not in employment in Kent districts

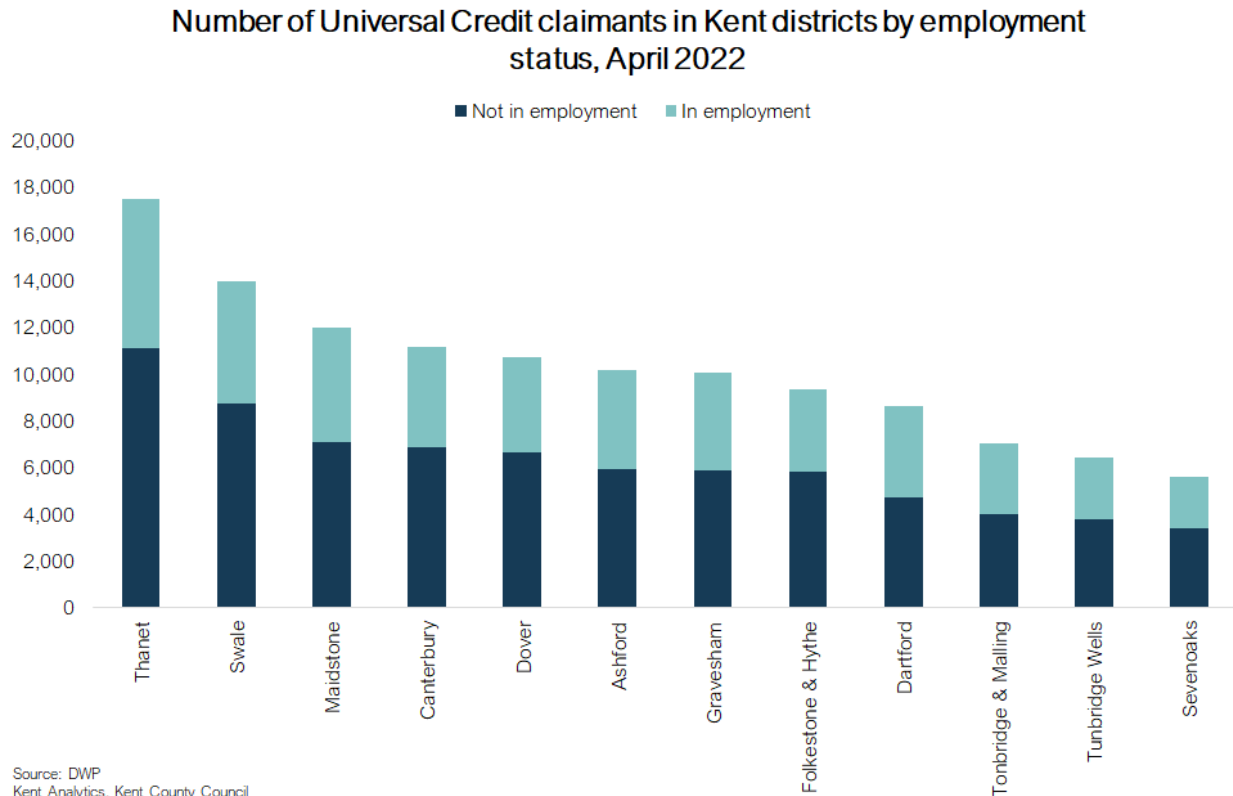
April 2022			Change since previous month		Change since previous year	
UC claimants not in employment	Number	% of 16-64 population	Number	%	Number	%
Ashford	5,909	7.5%	87	1.5%	-664	-10.1%
Canterbury	6,876	6.5%	-17	-0.2%	-535	-7.2%
Dartford	4,719	6.5%	-1	0.0%	-825	-14.9%
Dover	6,653	9.6%	4	0.1%	-574	-7.9%
Folkestone & Hythe	5,834	8.9%	-38	-0.6%	-693	-10.6%
Gravesham	5,860	10.8%	47	0.8%	-768	-11.6%
Maidstone	7,068	3.2%	-20	-0.3%	-516	-6.8%
Sevenoaks	3,405	8.3%	-10	-0.3%	-588	-14.7%
Swale	8,719	9.6%	-19	-0.2%	-688	-7.3%
Thanet	11,111	13.8%	-20	-0.2%	-1,218	-9.9%
Tonbridge & Malling	3,998	5.0%	69	1.8%	-511	-11.3%
Tunbridge Wells	3,769	5.3%	-22	-0.6%	-505	-11.8%
Kent	73,912	7.7%	56	0.1%	-8,108	-9.9%
Medway	15,409	8.8%	113	0.7%	-1,747	-10.2%
Kent + Medway	89,324	7.9%	168	0.2%	-9,853	-9.9%
South East	351,302	6.2%	-504	-0.1%	-52,066	-12.9%
England + Wales	3,005,868	8.1%	5,077	0.2%	-348,162	-10.4%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Chart 7 shows the number of Universal Credit claimants in Kent districts who are in employment or not in employment.

Chart 7: Universal Credit claimants by employment status in Kent districts



Personal Independence Payment

Another new benefit, introduced in 2013, is Personal Independence Payment (PIP). This is a benefit for people with a health condition or disability. It contributes towards the extra cost of a health condition or disability. PIP is gradually replacing Disability Living Allowance for people aged 16 to 64.

PIP can continue to be received by a claimant past the age of 64 until the claimant reports a change of circumstance or their claim is reviewed, at which point they would need to make a new claim for Attendance Allowance.

Personal Independence Payment statistics are produced monthly. This bulletin presents the latest data available at time of writing. Percentages are calculated using the population aged 16 and above.

More information about disability benefits can be found in our [Disability In Kent](#) bulletin.

The proportion of the population claiming PIP in Kent is lower than seen nationally although it has grown steadily since its introduction at a similar rate to that seen in England and Wales.

The South East has seen slower growth and the claimant rate is lower than seen in Kent and nationally.

This is shown in chart 8.

Chart 8: Percentage claiming Personal Independence Payment

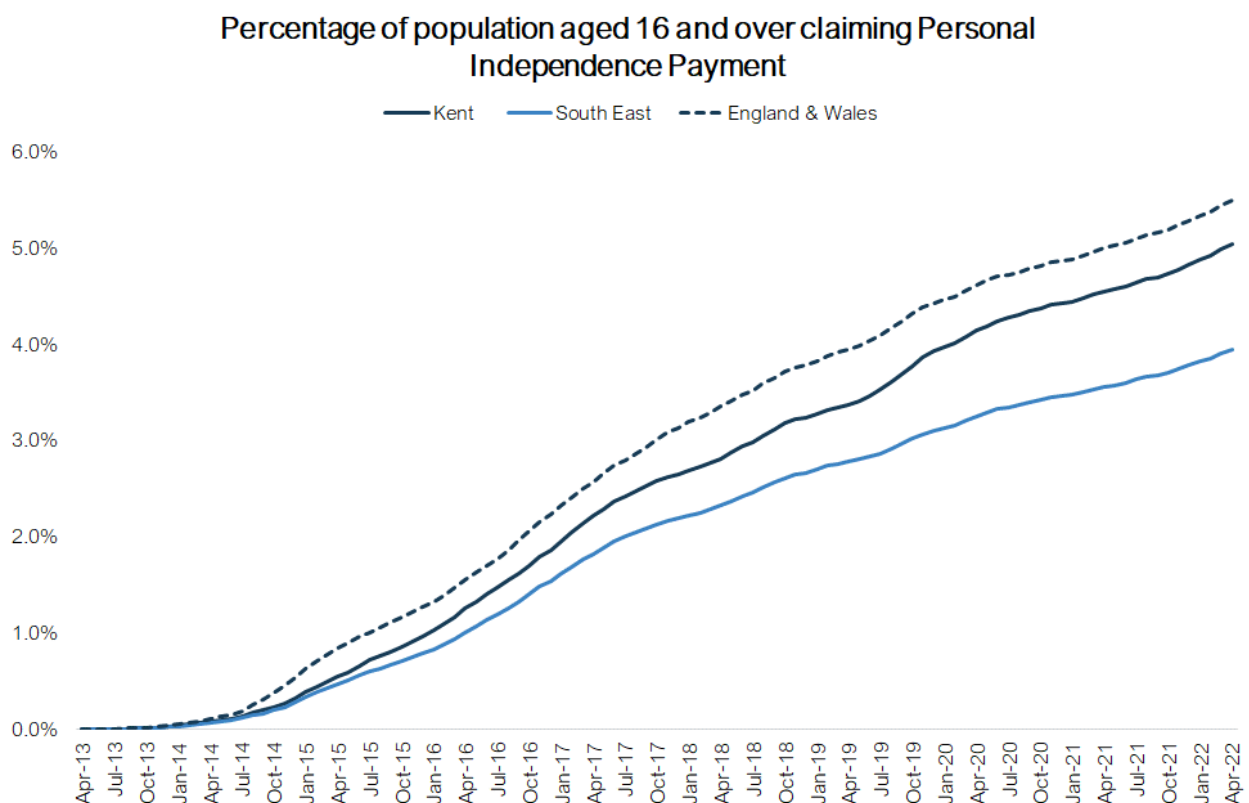
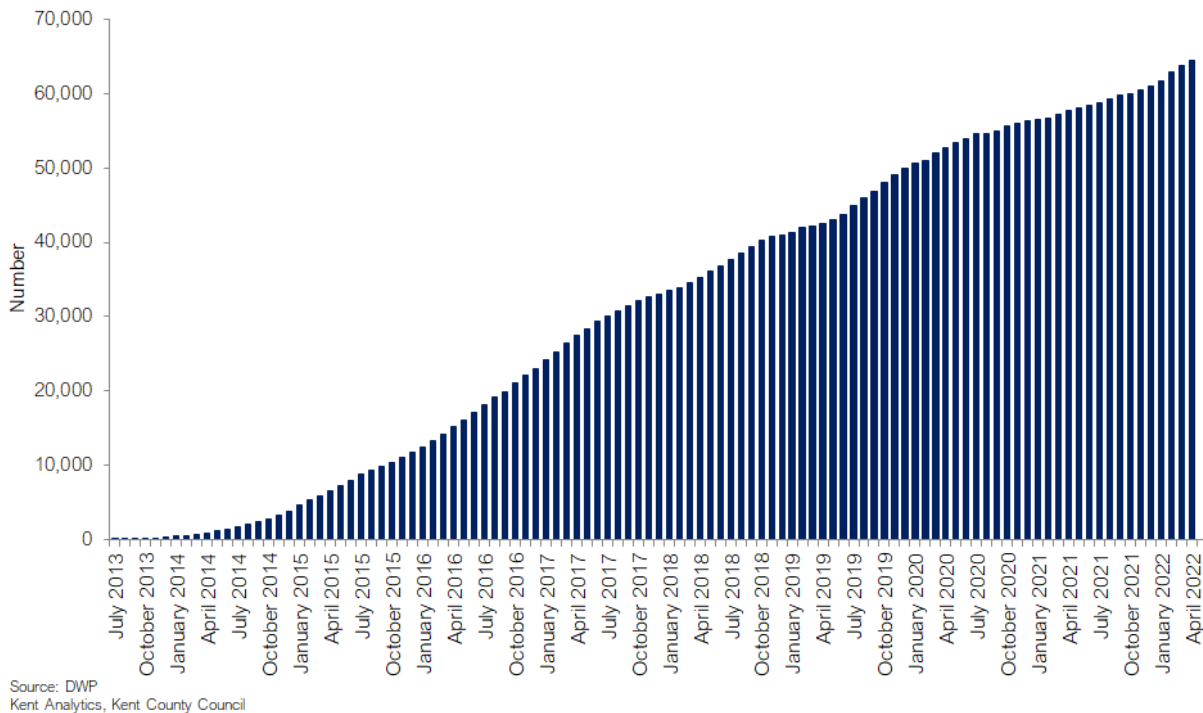


Chart 9 overleaf shows the number of PIP claimants in Kent since its introduction in Kent in 2013.

Kent saw its first claimants of PIP in June 2013 and by September 2013 there were claimants in all Kent districts. Over the last year claimants have increased at an average rate of 0.8% per month.

Chart 9: Personal Independence Payment claimants in Kent

Personal Independent Payment claimants in Kent



In April 2022, 64,391 people in Kent were claiming PIP, equivalent to 5% of the population aged 16 and above. Over the last year this has increased by 10.3% (+6,021 claimants).

Thanet had the highest number of claimants in the county. 8,751 people in Thanet were claiming PIP in April 2022 equivalent to 7.6% of the 16+ population.

All districts in Kent saw an increase in PIP claimants. Swale district saw the biggest increase in number of claimants over the last year, increasing by 846 claimants (+12.3%).

Table 9 shows the number of PIP claimants in Kent districts. It also shows change since the previous month and the previous year.

Table 9: Personal Independence Payment claimants in Kent

Personal Independence Payment claimants						April 2022
	Number	% of 16+ population	Change since previous month		Change since previous year	
			Number	%	Number	%
Ashford	4,860	4.7%	50	1.0%	542	12.6%
Canterbury	6,844	4.9%	59	0.9%	585	9.3%
Dartford	3,703	4.2%	51	1.4%	399	12.1%
Dover	6,203	6.3%	46	0.7%	468	8.2%
Folkestone & Hythe	6,268	6.6%	31	0.5%	461	7.9%
Gravesham	4,231	5.0%	67	1.6%	408	10.7%
Maidstone	5,774	4.2%	54	0.9%	594	11.5%
Sevenoaks	3,153	3.3%	36	1.2%	331	11.7%
Swale	7,733	6.4%	78	1.0%	846	12.3%
Thanet	8,751	7.6%	78	0.9%	693	8.6%
Tonbridge & Malling	3,857	3.7%	45	1.2%	412	12.0%
Tunbridge Wells	3,016	3.2%	36	1.2%	276	10.1%
Kent	64,391	5.0%	638	1.0%	6,021	10.3%
Medway	12,488	5.7%	132	1.1%	1,252	11.1%
Kent + Medway	76,877	5.1%	767	1.0%	7,265	10.4%
South East	293,689	3.9%	2,967	1.0%	27,729	10.4%
England + Wales	2,655,775	5.5%	26,478	1.0%	229,390	9.5%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

General Notes

Benefit rates are calculated using the Office for National Statistics resident population taken from the Mid-Year Population Estimates 2001-2020. Individual benefit claimant rates are calculated as a proportion of the age group eligible to claim each benefit.

All the datasets used are based on all claims (100% of records) so are not subject to sampling error. All data is subject to rounding at source and is shown as a snapshot in time.

Benefit Definitions

Any Benefits - The number of people claiming one or more DWP benefit.

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.

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 were reviewed by Jobcentre Plus and if appropriate claimants were 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.

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.

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. Following changes under the Pensions Act 2011 the State Pension age for women increased gradually from 2010, so that by 2018 it was 65. State Pension age is now gradually increasing for men and women and will reach 67 by 2028. It continues to be under review, which means that it could change again in the future, depending on different factors, such as changes in life expectancy.

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 is 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 is available for people who are out of work or who are in work but on a low income.

Related documents

Information about Universal Credit claimants in Kent can be found in our [Universal Credit Claims](#) bulletin.

Information about disability related benefit claimants can be found in our [Disability in Kent](#) bulletin.