

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

NOTE: When referring to Kent we mean the Kent County Council Area which includes all twelve local authority districts but does not include the Medway Unitary Authority.

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This bulletin looks at the number of claimants for individual Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) benefits in Kent as at February 2020. It also looks at benefits that are being claimed by people of working age.

Kent Summary

- The benefit with the highest number of claimants in Kent is State Pension with 299,337 claimants
- The benefit with the biggest increase in claimants since last quarter in Kent is Carers Allowance with 374 more claimants
- 36.2% of people in Kent aged 16 and above were claiming at least one DWP benefit as at Feb 2020
- 54,651 people in Kent were claiming Personal Independence Payments in July 2020
- 125,217 people in Kent were claiming Universal Credit in July 2020

As the number of Universal Credit claimants increases the number of claimants of the benefits that are being replaced by Universal Credit is reducing. The number of claimants of these benefits will continue to decline as existing claimants are moved onto Universal Credit.

For more information on the Welfare Reform changes in Kent please see our [Welfare Reform Review](#).

Introduction

Individual benefits claimant rates are calculated as a proportion of those in the qualifying age group for each individual benefit . Population denominators are taken from the Office For National Statistics Mid-Year Population Estimates.

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)
- Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Pension 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.

The data presented here is a count of total claimants for each individual benefit. As it is possible for a person to claim more than one benefit the totals cannot be summed to create a total count of benefit claimants as this could result in a claimant being counted more than once.

This bulletin will be updated with February 2021 figures in August 2021.

Analysis

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			Feb 2020			
Quarterly Summary of Benefit Claims in Kent						
Kent	Number	% Rate	Change Since Previous Quarter		Change Since Previous Year	
			Number	%	Number	%
Attendance Allowance	40,125	12.6%	-28	-0.1%	831	2.1%
Carers Allowance	22,150	1.7%	374	1.7%	847	4.0%
Disability Living Allowance - Claimants	37,009	2.3%	-2,558	-6.5%	-7,341	-16.6%
Income Support	7,795	0.9%	-570	-6.8%	-3,318	-29.9%
Job Seekers Allowance	3,464	0.4%	108	3.2%	-1,555	-31.0%
Employment Support Allowance (ESA)	36,811	4.1%	-500	-1.3%	-3,275	-8.2%
Pension Credits - Claimants	33,037	8.0%	-529	-1.6%	-1,720	-4.9%
State Pension	299,337	81.8%	-2,000	-0.7%	-3,131	-1.0%

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 Great Britain as a whole.

Chart 1

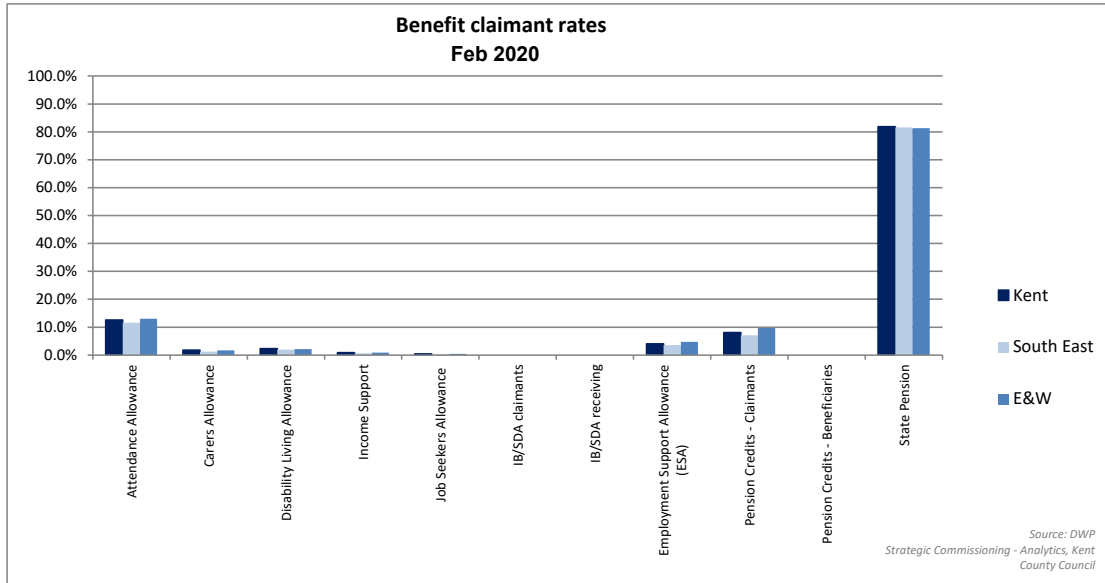
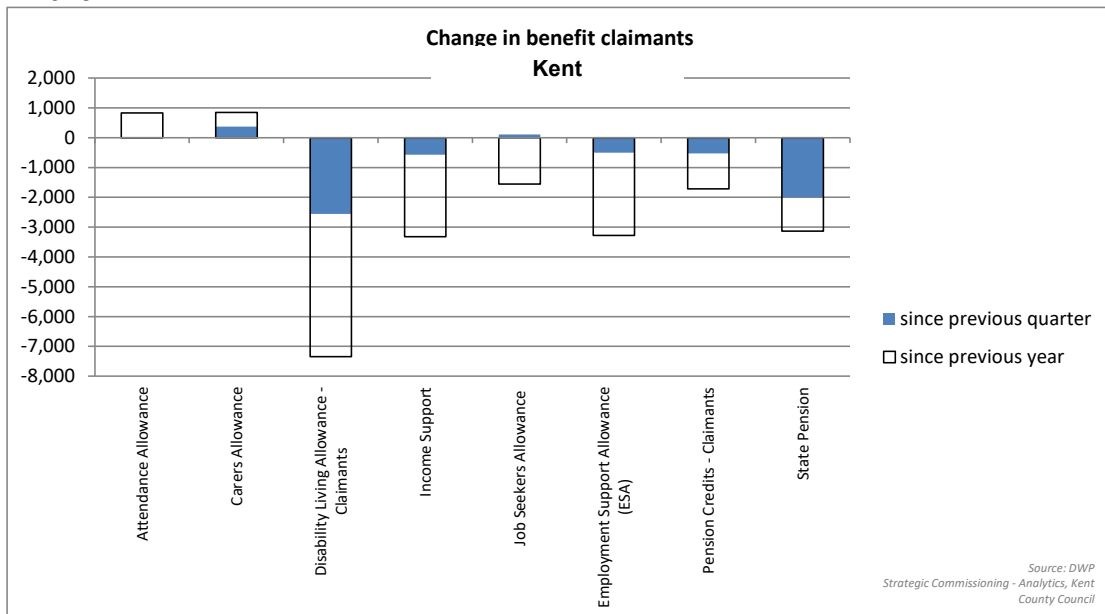


Chart 2 shows the change in the number of benefit claimants in Kent since the previous quarter and the previous year.

Chart 2



Total Benefit Claimants

This section reports on the total number of people who are claiming at least one DWP benefit. This includes the following benefits: Attendance Allowance, Bereavement Benefit, Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Housing Benefit, Incapacity Benefit, Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance, Pension Credit, Personal Independence Payment, Severe Disablement Allowance, State Pension, Universal Credit or Widow's Benefit.

Percentages of the population receiving state benefits have been calculated using mid year population estimates for population aged 16 and above.

Table 2 shows the number of people in Kent who are claiming at least one DWP benefit compared to the South East and England & Wales.

Table 2

Total number of people claiming at least one DWP benefit		
Feb 2020	Number	% of 16+
Kent	461,094	36.2%
South East	2,474,021	33.4%
England & Wales	17,074,593	35.5%

Source: Stat-Xplore - DWP Work & Pensions

The following map shows the proportion of people in Kent & Medway LSOAs aged 16+ who were claiming at least one DWP benefit. Those areas coloured red indicate the 20% of LSOAs which have the highest proportion of claimants.

Map 1

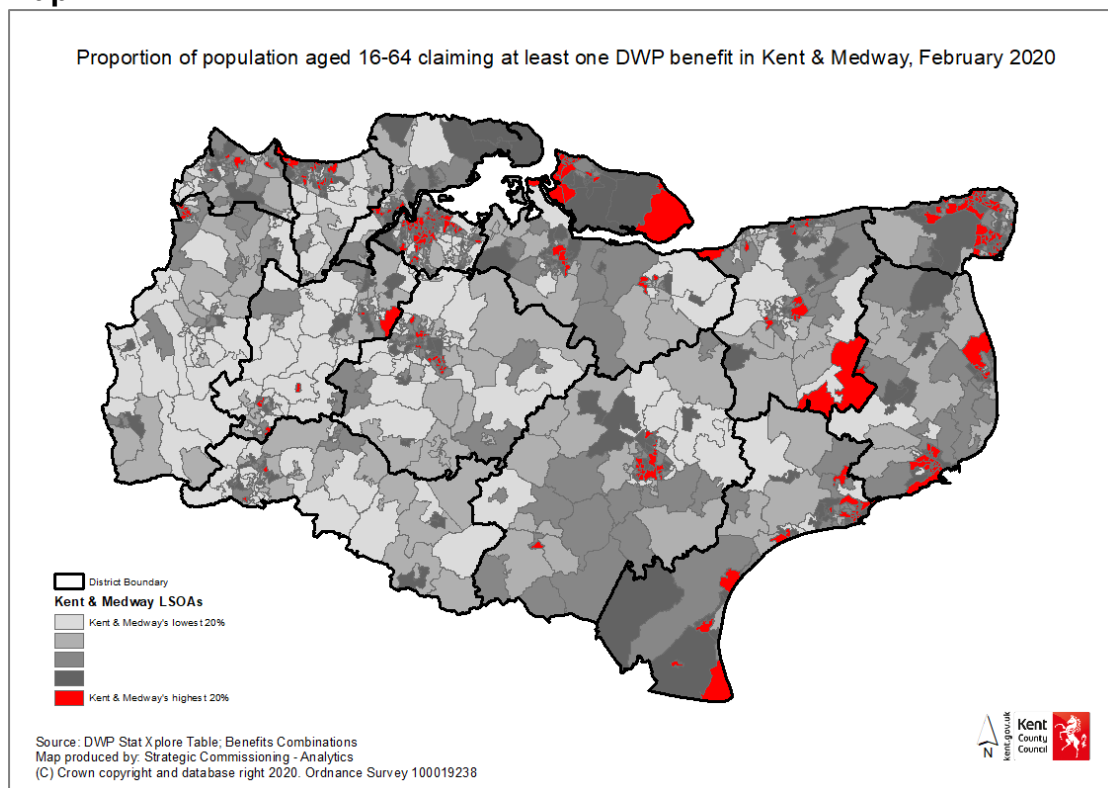
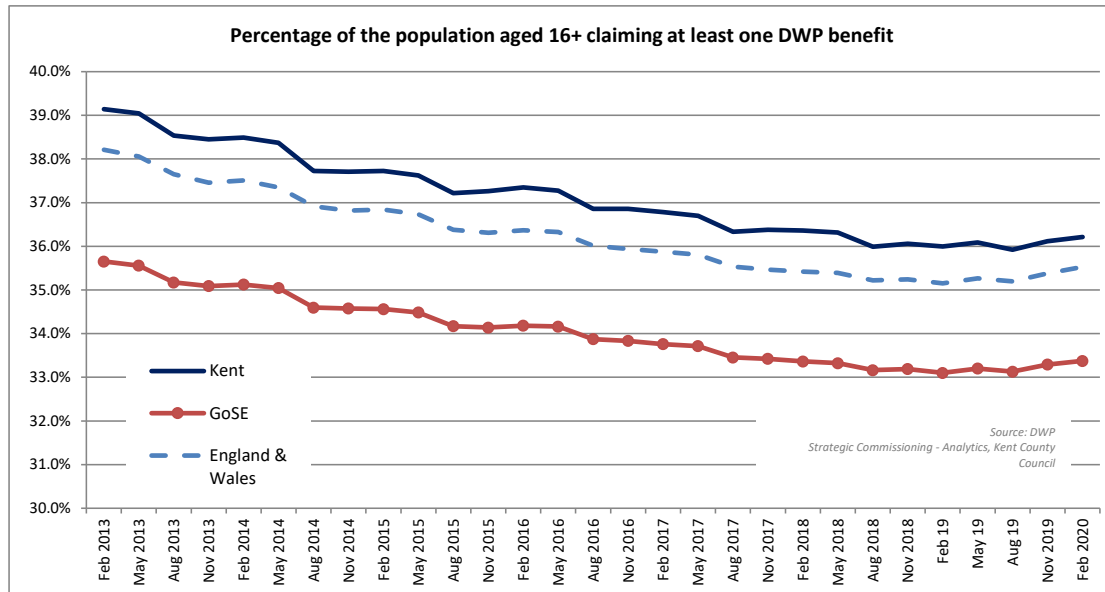


Chart 3 shows how the proportion of people aged 16 and over who claim a DWP benefit has changed since 2013. The South East Region and England & Wales are shown for comparison.

Chart 3



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.

Initially Universal Credit was only available to single claimants without a partner and without child dependents however now 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.

From July 2019 the government intends to begin a pilot scheme transferring claimants of existing benefits (those that Universal Credit was designed to replace) onto Universal Credit. This managed migration will start initially with 10,000 existing claimants. They won’t start moving people over to Universal Credit in great numbers until the pilot scheme has been completed and assessed, however they plan to have completed the full migration process by the end of 2023.

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

Chart 4 shows the number of in work and out of work claimants of Universal Credit since its introduction in Kent in 2015.

Chart 4

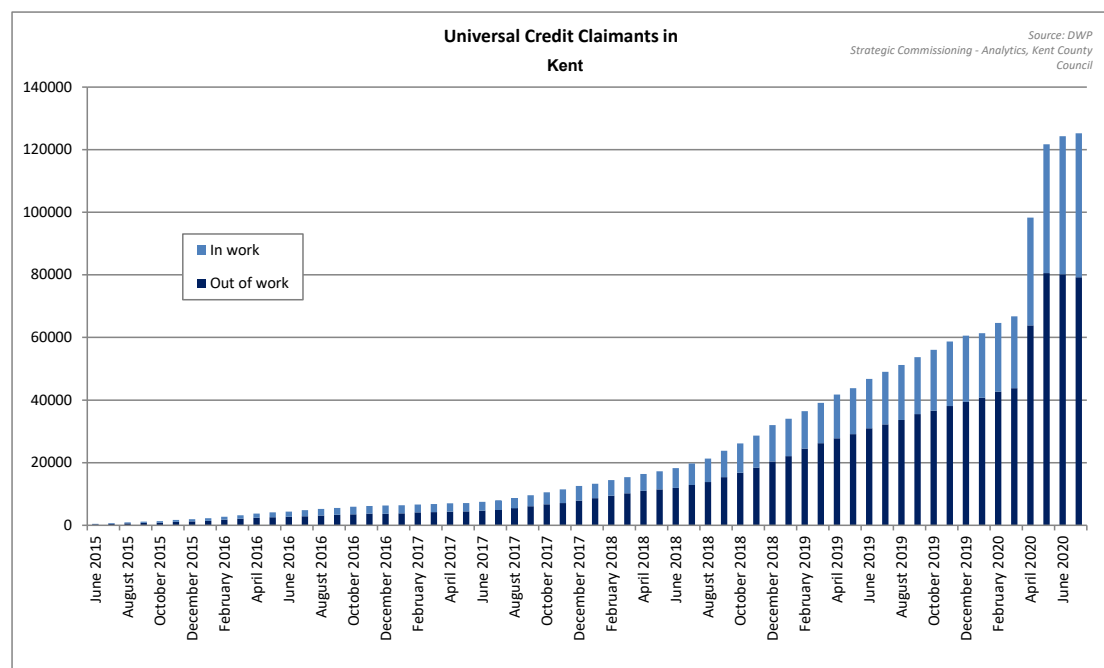


Table 3 shows the total number of Universal Credit claimants in Kent districts. It also shows change since the previous month and the previous year.

Table 3

Total Universal Credit Claimants			July 2020			
In work or out of work			Change since previous month		Change since previous year	
Total claimants in work or out of work	Number	% of 16+ population	Number	%	Number	%
Ashford	10,506	13.5%	52	0.5%	6,568	166.8%
Canterbury	11,276	10.7%	72	0.6%	7,187	175.8%
Dartford	8,904	12.5%	27	0.3%	5,987	205.2%
Dover	11,023	15.8%	68	0.6%	5,161	88.0%
Gravesham	10,068	15.4%	87	0.9%	6,245	163.4%
Maidstone	11,690	11.2%	-13	-0.1%	8,392	254.5%
Sevenoaks	6,158	8.8%	29	0.5%	4,470	264.8%
Folkestone & Hythe	9,428	14.3%	150	1.6%	5,721	154.3%
Swale	13,906	15.3%	58	0.4%	7,390	113.4%
Thanet	18,266	22.5%	191	1.1%	8,743	91.8%
Tonbridge & Malling	7,212	9.0%	45	0.6%	5,274	272.1%
Tunbridge Wells	6,783	9.5%	108	1.6%	5,063	294.4%
Kent	125,217	13.1%	882	0.7%	76,198	155.4%
Medway	25,292	14.4%	206	0.8%	15,551	159.6%
Kent + Medway	150,514	13.3%	1,089	0.7%	91,754	156.2%
South East	636,151	11.3%	6,919	1.1%	409,967	181.3%
England + Wales	5,040,559	13.6%	70,525	1.4%	2,999,213	146.9%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore

Table 4 shows the number of Universal Credit claimants in Kent districts who are in employment or not in employment

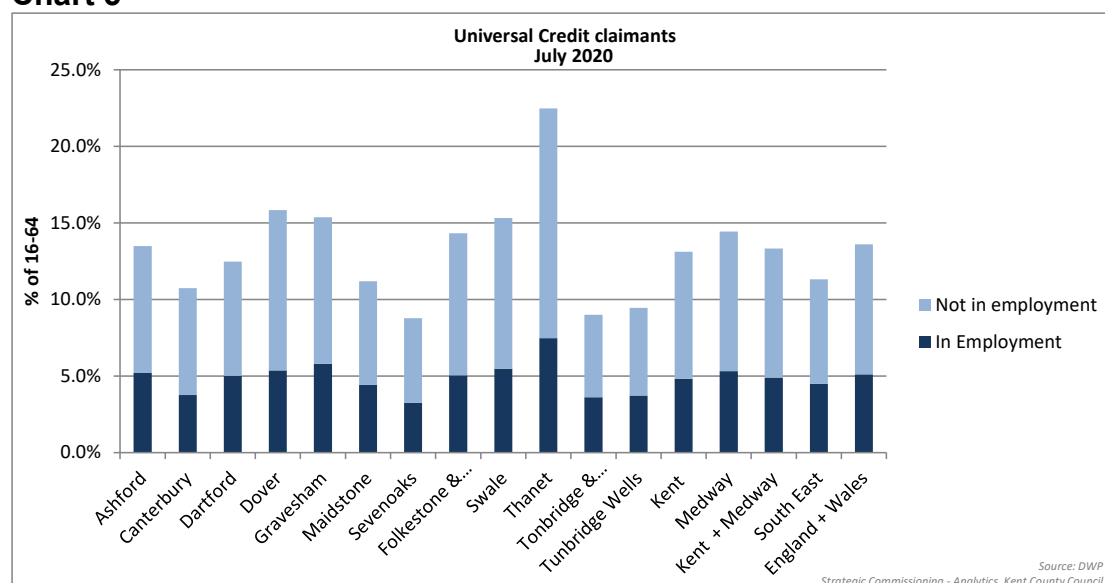
Table 4

Universal Credit Claimants	July 2020			
	In work	% of 16+ population	Out of work	% of 16+ population
Ashford	4,072	5.2%	6,434	8.3%
Canterbury	3,953	3.8%	7,323	7.0%
Dartford	3,573	5.0%	5,331	7.5%
Dover	3,734	5.4%	7,289	10.5%
Gravesham	3,800	5.8%	6,268	9.6%
Maidstone	4,617	4.4%	7,073	6.8%
Sevenoaks	2,281	3.2%	3,877	5.5%
Folkestone & Hythe	3,324	5.0%	6,104	9.3%
Swale	4,978	5.5%	8,928	9.8%
Thanet	6,072	7.5%	12,194	15.0%
Tonbridge & Malling	2,897	3.6%	4,315	5.4%
Tunbridge Wells	2,670	3.7%	4,113	5.7%
Kent	45,966	4.8%	79,251	8.3%
Medway	9,312	5.3%	15,980	9.1%
Kent + Medway	55,281	4.9%	95,233	8.4%
South East	252,959	4.5%	383,192	6.8%
England + Wales	1,890,699	5.1%	3,149,860	8.5%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore

Chart 5 shows the number of Universal Credit claimants in Kent districts who are in employment or not in employment.

Chart 5



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.

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

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

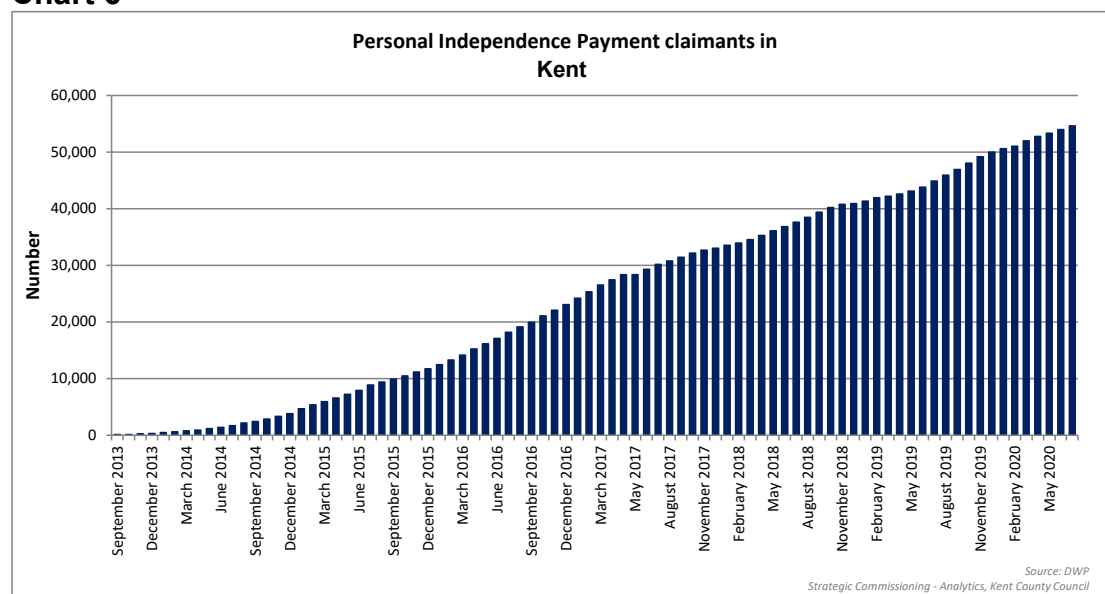
Table 5

Personal Independence Payment claimants			July 2020			
	Number	% of 16+ population	Change since previous month		Change since previous year	
			Number	%	Number	%
Ashford	4,002	3.9%	42	1.1%	588	17.2%
Canterbury	5,857	4.2%	84	1.5%	1,220	26.3%
Dartford	3,072	3.5%	17	0.6%	486	18.8%
Dover	5,461	5.6%	64	1.2%	1,097	25.1%
Gravesham	3,602	4.3%	59	1.7%	528	17.2%
Maidstone	4,792	3.5%	49	1.0%	865	22.0%
Sevenoaks	2,586	2.7%	30	1.2%	397	18.1%
Folkestone & Hythe	5,499	5.9%	70	1.3%	1,038	23.3%
Swale	6,443	5.4%	65	1.0%	1,216	23.3%
Thanet	7,579	6.6%	105	1.4%	1,407	22.8%
Tonbridge & Malling	3,187	3.0%	44	1.4%	505	18.8%
Tunbridge Wells	2,576	2.7%	41	1.6%	420	19.5%
Kent	54,651	4.3%	667	1.2%	9,762	21.7%
Medway	10,480	4.8%	138	1.3%	1,951	22.9%
Kent + Medway	65,131	4.4%	805	1.3%	11,713	21.9%
South East	248,926	3.4%	2,606	1.1%	36,579	17.2%
England + Wales	2,281,655	4.7%	20,366	0.9%	315,813	16.1%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore

Chart 6 shows the number of Personal Independence Payment claimants since its introduction to Kent in 2013.

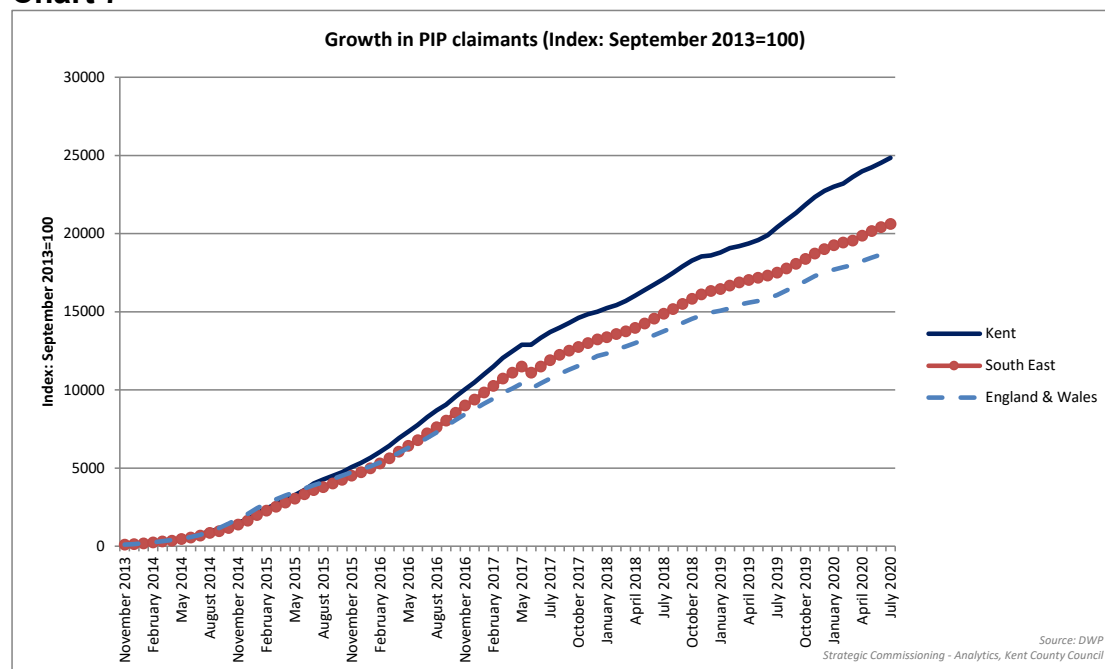
Chart 6



Source: DWP
Strategic Commissioning - Analytics, Kent County Council

Chart 7 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 7



General Notes

Benefit rates are calculated using the Office for National Statistics resident population taken from the Mid Year Population Estimates 2001-2019. 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 subject to rounding 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 DWP benefits.

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 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.

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