

## Benefit Claimants in Kent

### 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

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

### Further information

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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 the total number of people aged 16 and above who are claiming at least one DWP benefit.

In addition this bulletin looks at the introduction of Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payments in

### Summary

The benefit with the highest number of claimants in Kent is State Pension with 301,147 claimants

36.2% of people in Kent aged 16 and above were claiming at least one DWP benefit as at Aug 19

48,101 people in Kent were claiming Personal Independence Payments in October 2019

60,609 people in Kent were claiming Universal Credit in December 2019

*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*

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.

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.

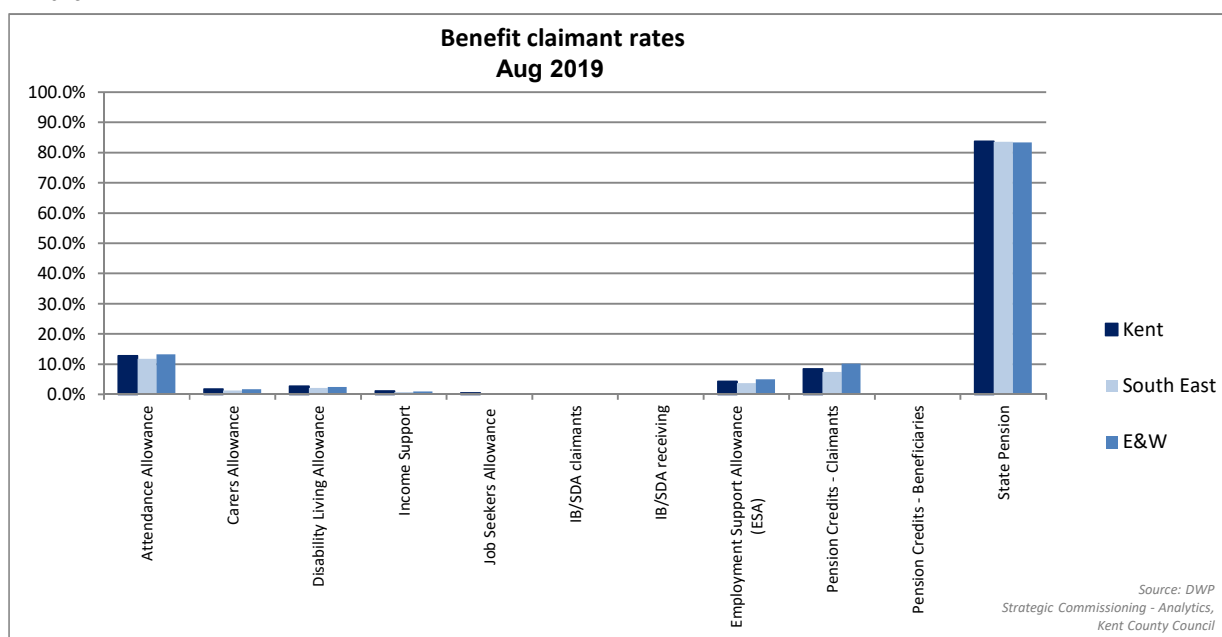
**Table 1**

Total Claimants			Aug 2019			
Quarterly Summary of Benefit Claims in Kent						
Kent	Number	% Rate	Change Since Previous Quarter		Change Since Previous Year	
			Number	%	Number	%
Attendance Allowance	39,863	12.7%	450	1.1%	879	2.3%
Carers Allowance	21,808	1.7%	240	1.1%	508	2.4%
Disability Living Allowance - Claimants	41,823	2.7%	-1,631	-3.8%	-5,407	-11.4%
Income Support	9,163	1.1%	-874	-8.7%	-3,675	-28.6%
Job Seekers Allowance	3,685	0.4%	-540	-12.8%	-3,712	-50.2%
Employment Support Allowance (ESA)	38,097	4.2%	-723	-1.9%	-4,531	-10.6%
Pension Credits - Claimants	33,842	8.4%	-350	-1.0%	-2,061	-5.7%
State Pension	301,147	83.7%	-1,130	-0.4%	-4,257	-1.4%

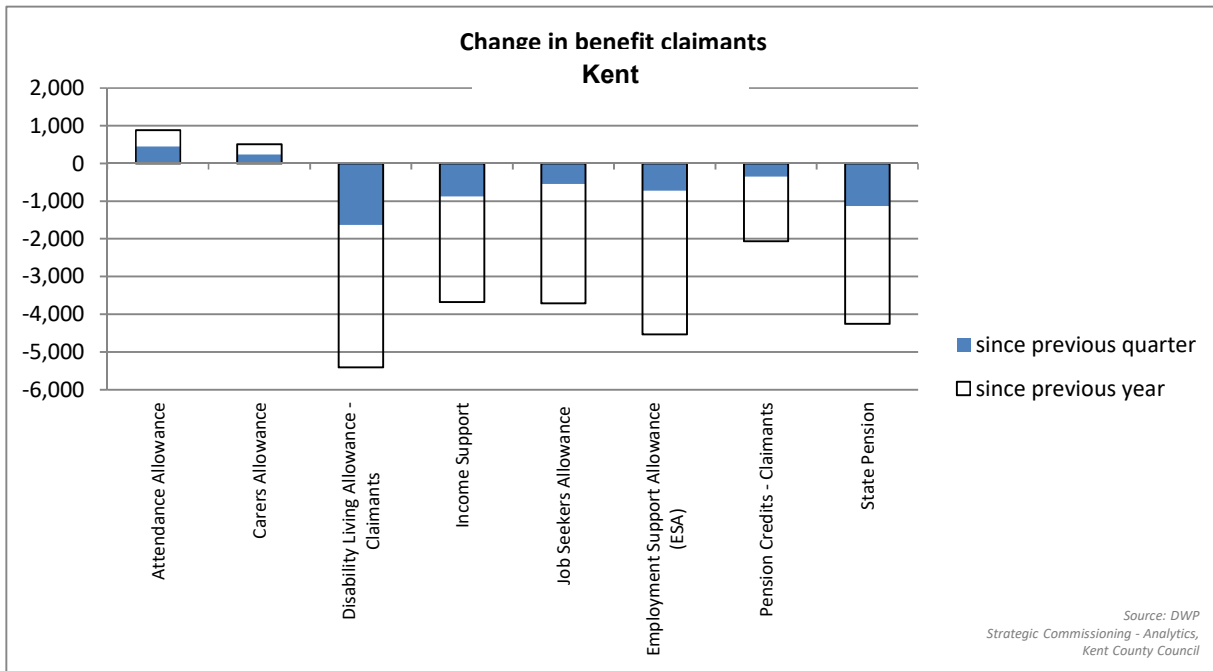
Source: NOMIS - DWP Work & Pensions

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**



**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

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

**Table 4**

Total number of people claiming at least one DWP benefit		
Aug 19	Number	% of 16+ pop
Kent	457,408	36.2%
South East	2,455,819	33.3%
England & Wales	16,916,607	35.4%

*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

### Map 1

Proportion of population aged 16-64 claiming at least one DWP benefit in Kent & Medway, August 2019

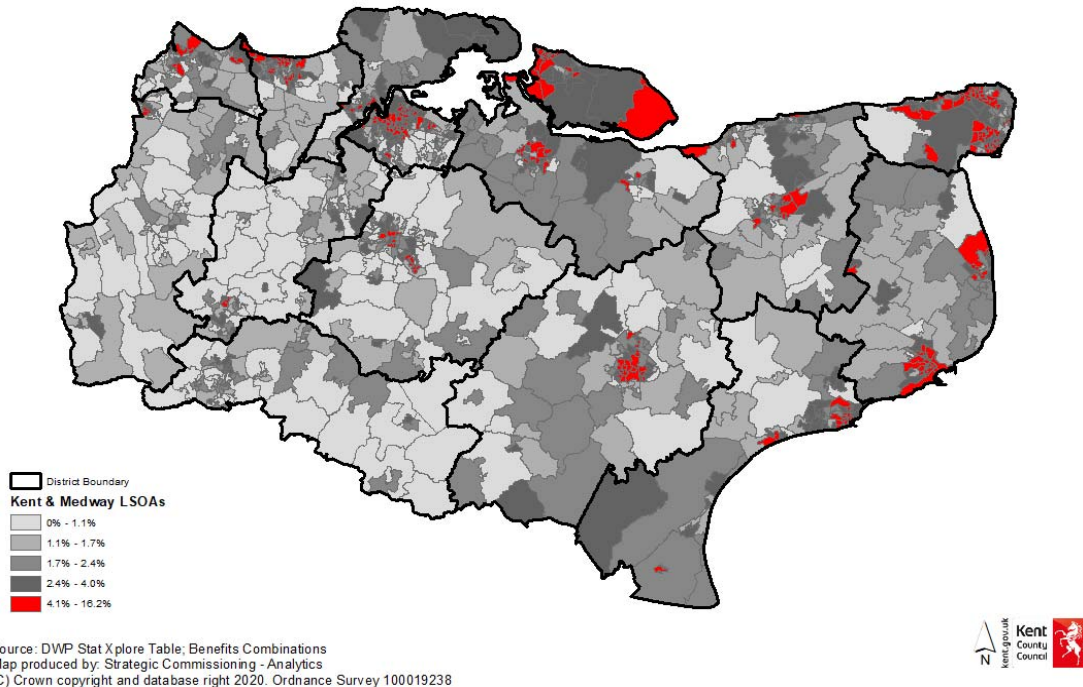
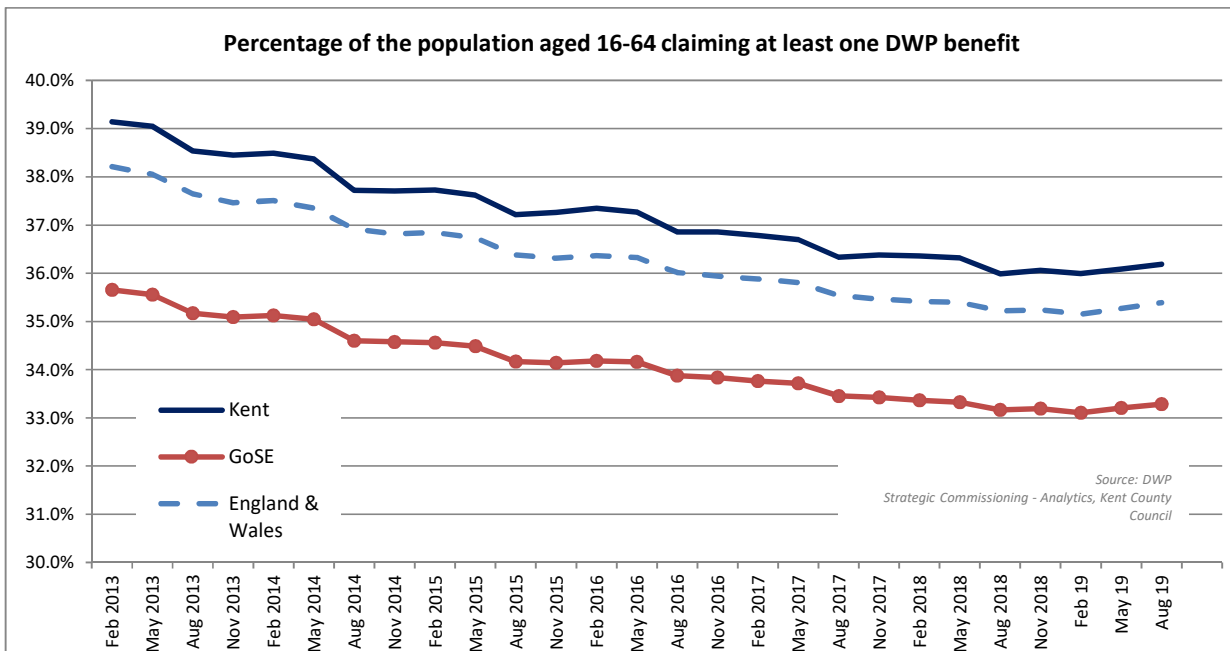


Chart 6 shows how the proportion of people aged 16 and over who claim a DWP benefit has changed since 2013. The South East Region and England & Wales are shown for comparison.

### Chart 6



## 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

Chart 3 shows the number of in work and out of work claimants of Universal Credit since it's introduction in Kent in 2015

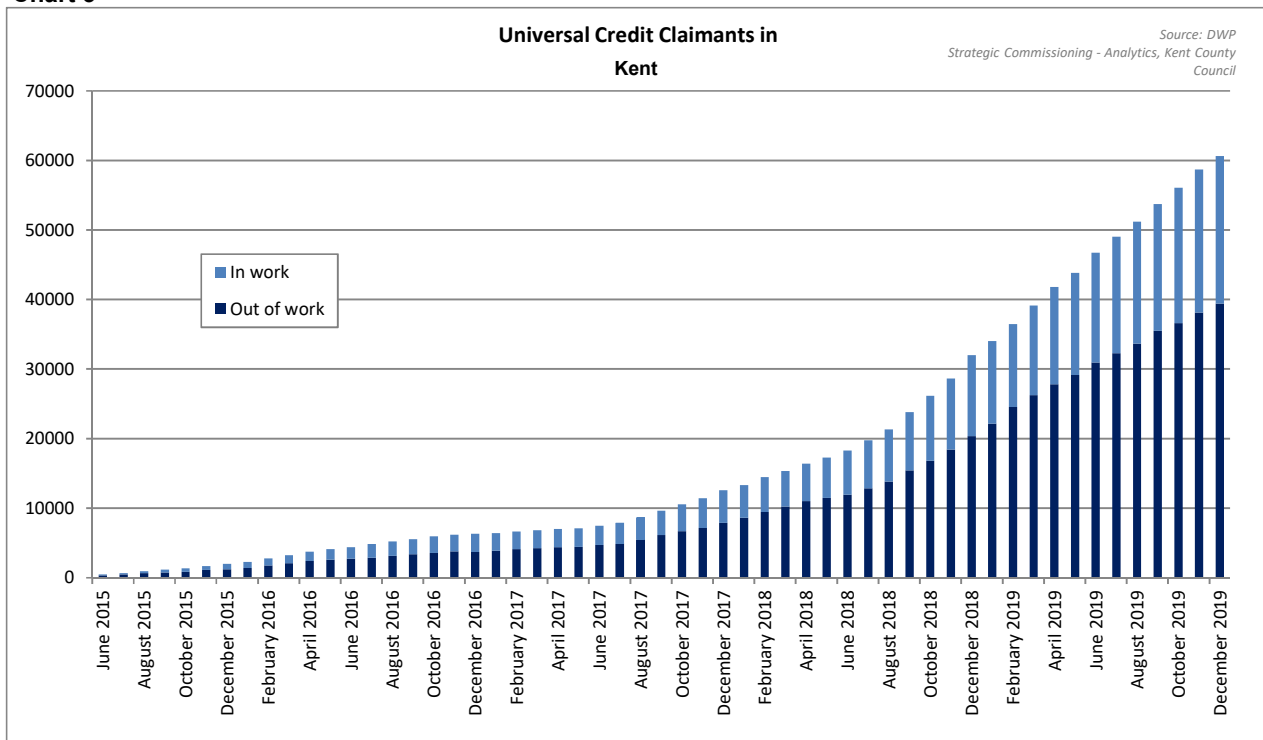


Table 2 shows the total number of Universal Credit claimants in Kent districts. It also shows change since the previous month and the previous year.

**Table 2**

Total Universal Credit Claimants In work or out of work			December 2019			
Total claimants in work or out of work	Number	% of 16+ population	Change since previous month		Change since previous year	
			Number	%	Number	%
Ashford	4,953	6.4%	151	3.1%	2,512	102.9%
Canterbury	5,188	4.9%	219	4.4%	2,773	114.8%
Dartford	3,827	5.5%	169	4.6%	2,238	140.8%
Dover	6,485	9.4%	122	1.9%	1,300	25.1%
Gravesham	4,738	7.2%	134	2.9%	2,393	102.0%
Maidstone	4,793	4.6%	247	5.4%	4,079	571.3%
Sevenoaks	2,345	3.3%	112	5.0%	1,657	240.8%
Folkestone & Hythe	4,610	7.0%	166	3.7%	2,129	85.8%
Swale	7,684	8.5%	137	1.8%	2,558	49.9%
Thanet	10,692	13.1%	221	2.1%	2,411	29.1%
Tonbridge & Malling	2,827	3.6%	94	3.4%	2,439	628.6%
Tunbridge Wells	2,467	3.4%	118	5.0%	2,115	600.9%
Kent	60,609	5.4%	1,890	3.2%	28,596	89.3%
Medway	12,212	6.9%	418	3.5%	6,179	102.4%
Kent + Medway	72,821	5.6%	2,308	3.3%	34,774	91.4%
South East	283,460	5.0%	9,665	3.5%	138,985	96.2%
England + Wales	2,488,965	6.7%	71,314	2.9%	1,099,069	79.1%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore

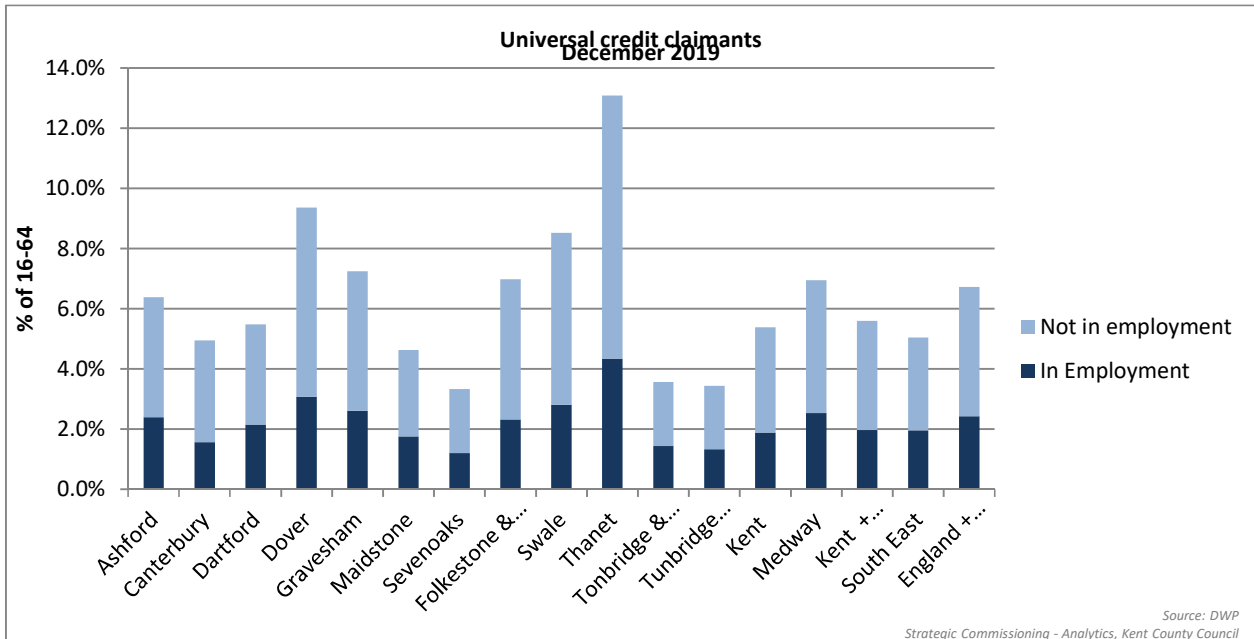
Table 3 shows the number of Universal Credit claimants in Kent districts who are in employment or not in employer

**Table 3**

Universal Credit Claimants		December 2019		
	In work	% of 16+ population	Out of work	% of 16+ populatio
Canterbury	1,646	1.6%	3,542	3.4%
Dartford	1,501	2.1%	2,326	3.3%
Dover	2,135	3.1%	4,350	6.3%
Gravesham	1,704	2.6%	3,034	4.6%
Maidstone	1,819	1.8%	2,974	2.9%
Sevenoaks	850	1.2%	1,495	2.1%
Folkestone & Hythe	1,530	2.3%	3,080	4.7%
Swale	2,536	2.8%	5,148	5.7%
Thanet	3,551	4.3%	7,141	8.7%
Tonbridge & Malling	1,143	1.4%	1,684	2.1%
Tunbridge Wells	952	1.3%	1,515	2.1%
Kent	21,224	1.9%	39,385	3.5%
Medway	4,463	2.5%	7,749	4.4%
Kent + Medway	25,687	2.0%	47,134	3.6%
South East	110,166	2.0%	173,294	3.1%
England + Wales	898,846	2.4%	1,590,119	4.3%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore

Chart 4



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

Table 4

	October 2019					
			Change since		Change since previous	
	Number	% of 16+	Number	%	Number	%
Ashford	3,558	3.5%	48	1.4%	445	14.3%
Canterbury	5,062	3.7%	156	3.2%	1,005	24.8%
Dartford	2,743	3.2%	58	2.2%	451	19.7%
Dover	4,731	4.9%	149	3.3%	907	23.7%
Gravesham	3,231	3.9%	68	2.1%	448	16.1%
Maidstone	4,238	3.1%	108	2.6%	730	20.8%
Sevenoaks	2,296	2.4%	49	2.2%	281	13.9%
Folkestone & Hythe	4,848	5.2%	155	3.3%	903	22.9%
Swale	5,640	4.8%	130	2.4%	972	20.8%
Thanet	6,632	5.8%	186	2.9%	1,093	19.7%
Tonbridge & Malling	2,847	2.7%	56	2.0%	368	14.8%
Tunbridge Wells	2,275	2.4%	38	1.7%	307	15.6%
Kent	48,101	3.2%	1,201	2.6%	7,910	19.7%
Medway	9,237	4.2%	296	3.3%	1,557	20.3%
Kent + Medway	57,338	3.4%	1,497	2.7%	9,467	19.8%
South East	223,946	3.0%	4,443	2.0%	31,531	16.4%
England + Wales	2,076,767	4.3%	39,213	1.9%	302,547	17.1%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore

Chart 5 shows the number of Personal Independence Payment claimants since its introduction to Kent in 2013.



**Chart 5**

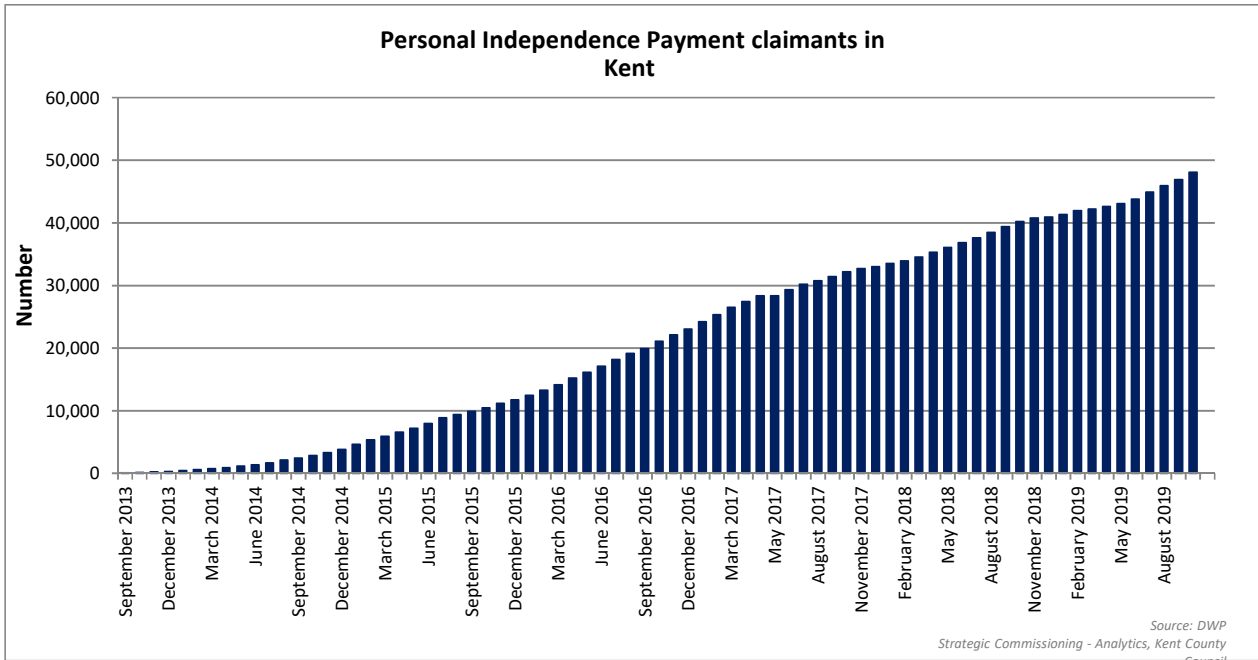
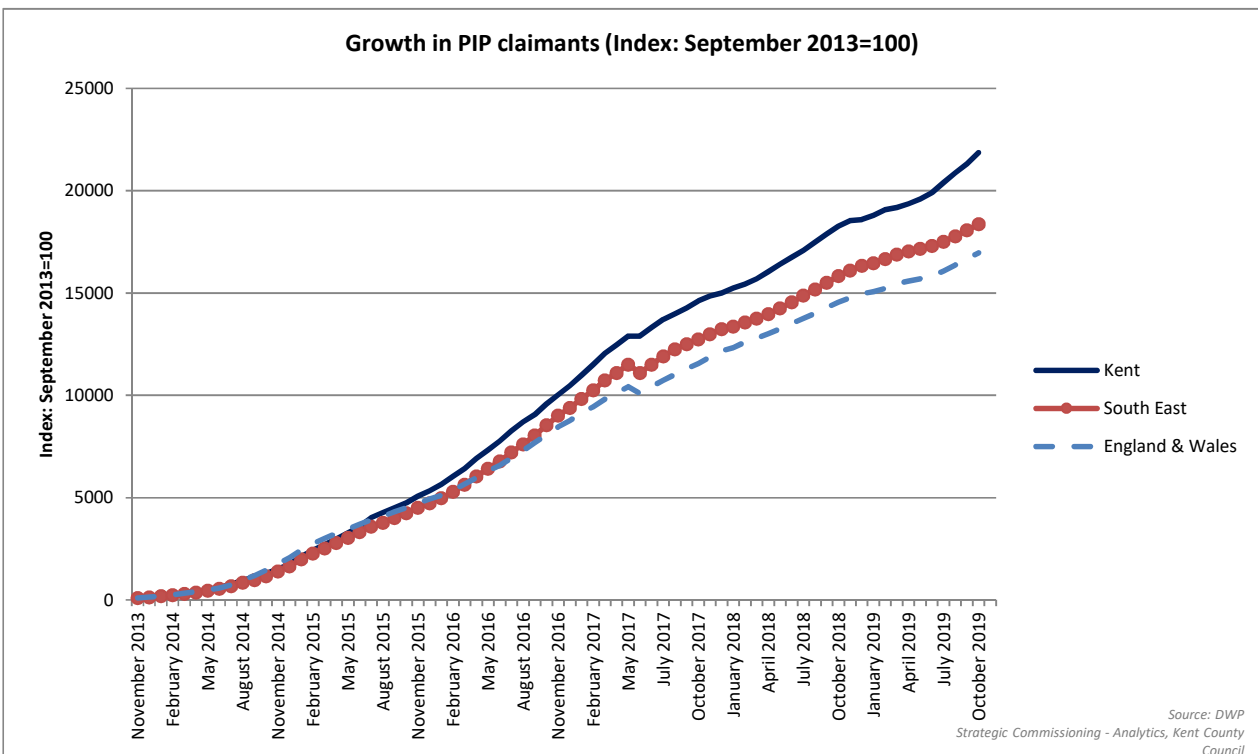


Chart 6 shows the growth in PIP claimants since its introduction in Kent in 2013. The South East Region and England & Wales are shown for comparison.

**Chart 6**



## General Notes

Benefit rates are calculated using the Office for National Statistics resident population taken from the Mid Year Population Estimates 2001-2017. 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.

**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.

**Severe Disablement Allowance** - Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA) was paid to those unable to work for 28 weeks in a row or more because of illness or disability. Since April 2001 it has not been possible to make a new claim for Severe Disablement Allowance.

**Widows Benefit** - Widow's Benefit (WB) was introduced on 6 July 1948 and is payable to women widowed between 11 April 1988 and 8 April 2001 inclusive.

**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