

# 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.

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**This bulletin looks at the number of claimants of Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) benefits in Kent as of November 2023. It also looks at Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payment claimants as of April 2024.**

- In May 2023, 32.0% of Kent's population were claiming at least one DWP benefit.
- Thanet had the highest number and proportion of claimants (58,314 claimants, 41.4% of the population).
- In April 2024, 139,666 working age people in Kent were claiming Universal Credit (14.2% of the 16-64 population).
- Over the last year Universal Credit claimants in Kent has risen by 9.1%.
- 37.9% of Universal Credit claimants in Kent were in employment.
- The number of Universal Credit Claimants in Kent who were in employment has increased by 14.0% over the last year. Claimants who were not in employment have risen by 13.1%.
- 83,364 people in Kent were claiming Personal Independence Payment in April 2024.

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## 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

The release of State Pension statistics have been temporarily suspended by DWP because of issues with internal processing of State Pension data. The data regarding Any Benefit is only available until May 2023 because of this suspension.

In May 2023, 32.0% of the population of Kent were claiming at least one DWP benefit. This has increased slightly since the previous quarter (0.4%) and by 1.6% since May 2022.

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 risen fractionally in Kent, the South East and England and Wales, and claimant rates are still higher than pre-pandemic levels.

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

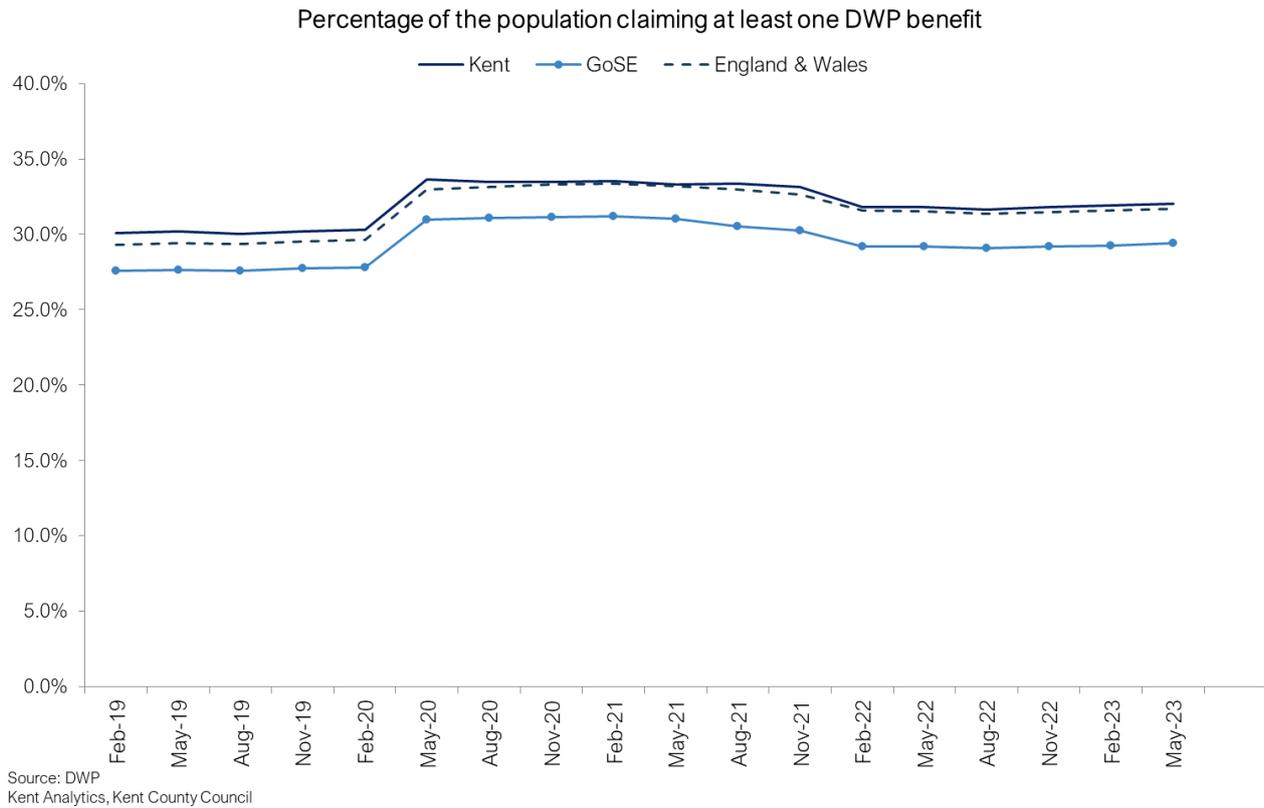


Table 1 shows the number and proportion of the population in Kent districts who were claiming at least one DWP benefit in May 2023.

There were 510,644 benefit claimants in Kent accounting for almost a third of the population (32.0%).

Thanet had the highest number and proportion of the population claiming at least one DWP benefit with 58,314 claimants accounting for 41.4% of the resident population.

Dartford district had the lowest number and proportion of claimants (29,015 claimants, 24.4%).

All districts in Kent have seen the number of claimants increase over the last year. Swale (1,181), Maidstone (1,174) and Canterbury (975) have seen the biggest rise in number of claimants since May 2022.

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

May 23 Total claimants - Any benefit	Number	% of total population	Change since previous quarter	% Change since previous quarter	Change since previous year	% Change since previous year
Ashford	41,963	30.9%	275	0.7%	741	1.8%
Canterbury	52,303	33.0%	238	0.5%	975	1.9%
Dartford	29,015	24.4%	110	0.4%	489	1.7%
Dover	43,973	37.4%	102	0.2%	734	1.7%
Folkestone & Hythe	42,938	38.9%	97	0.2%	445	1.0%
Gravesham	33,235	31.1%	61	0.2%	369	1.1%
Maidstone	52,772	29.2%	405	0.8%	1,174	2.3%
Sevenoaks	35,083	28.9%	139	0.4%	627	1.8%
Swale	51,434	33.3%	263	0.5%	1,181	2.4%
Thanet	58,314	41.4%	21	0.0%	410	0.7%
Tonbridge & Malling	37,049	27.7%	192	0.5%	550	1.5%
Tunbridge Wells	32,565	28.0%	253	0.8%	560	1.7%
<b>Kent</b>	<b>510,644</b>	<b>32.0%</b>	<b>2,156</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>8,255</b>	<b>1.6%</b>
Medway	86,562	30.6%	583	0.7%	1,884	2.2%
Kent + Medway	597,206	31.8%	2,739	0.5%	10,139	1.7%
South East	2,760,033	29.4%	13,346	0.5%	48,381	1.8%
England + Wales	19,102,844	31.7%	87,777	0.5%	304,553	1.6%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

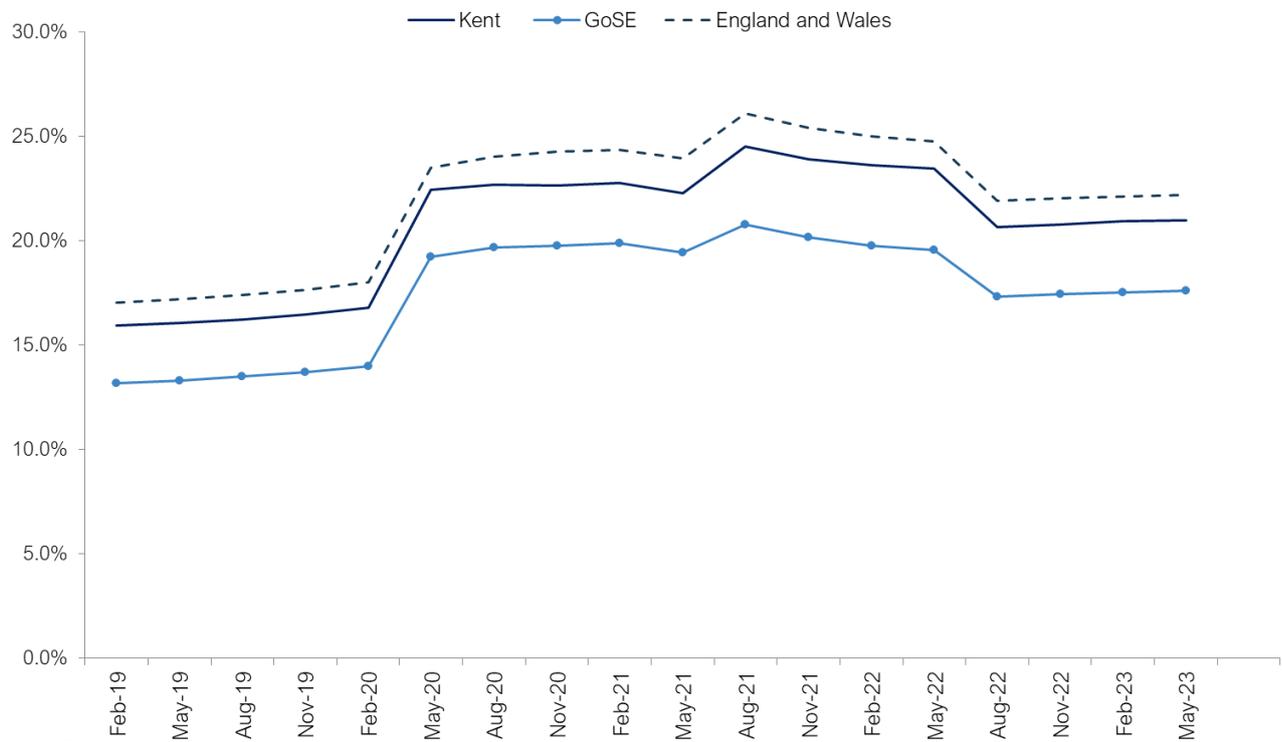
## Any Benefit – Working Age

In May 2023 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 working age population claiming at least one DWP benefit**  
Percentage of the population aged 16-64 claiming at least one DWP benefit



Source: DWP  
Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

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 May 2023.

There were 202,062 claimants in Kent accounting for just over a fifth of the working age population. This has increased by 0.3% since the previous quarter (February 2023) and by 2.3% since the previous year.

Thanet had the highest number and proportion of working age benefit claimants (26,193 claimants accounting for 32.0% of the resident population).

Sevenoaks district had the lowest number and proportion of working age claimants (10,084 claimants, 14.3%).

All districts in Kent have seen the number of working age claimants rise over the last year. Maidstone (747) saw the biggest rise in number of claimants since May 2022.

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

May-23 Total claimants - Any benefit	Number	% of 16-64 population	Change since previous quarter	% Change since previous quarter	Change since previous year	% Change since previous year
Ashford	16,548	20.1%	129	0.8%	320	2.0%
Canterbury	19,359	19.8%	94	0.5%	550	2.9%
Dartford	13,687	18.1%	31	0.2%	345	2.6%
Dover	17,118	25.0%	-19	-0.1%	374	2.2%
Folkestone & Hythe	16,336	25.5%	-37	-0.2%	129	0.8%
Gravesham	15,626	23.7%	54	0.3%	359	2.4%
Maidstone	20,398	18.4%	188	0.9%	747	3.8%
Sevenoaks	10,084	14.3%	-36	-0.4%	296	3.0%
Swale	23,325	24.6%	89	0.4%	699	3.1%
Thanet	26,193	32.0%	-83	-0.3%	255	1.0%
Tonbridge & Malling	12,538	15.5%	71	0.6%	268	2.2%
Tunbridge Wells	10,850	15.5%	121	1.1%	231	2.2%
<b>Kent</b>	<b>202,062</b>	<b>21.0%</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>4,573</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
Medway	41,850	23.6%	378	0.9%	1,215	3.0%
Kent + Medway	243,912	21.4%	980	0.4%	5,788	2.4%
South East	1,018,010	17.6%	4,420	0.4%	23,836	2.4%
England + Wales	8,390,397	22.2%	35,185	0.4%	160,311	1.9%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

## Any Benefit – Pension Age

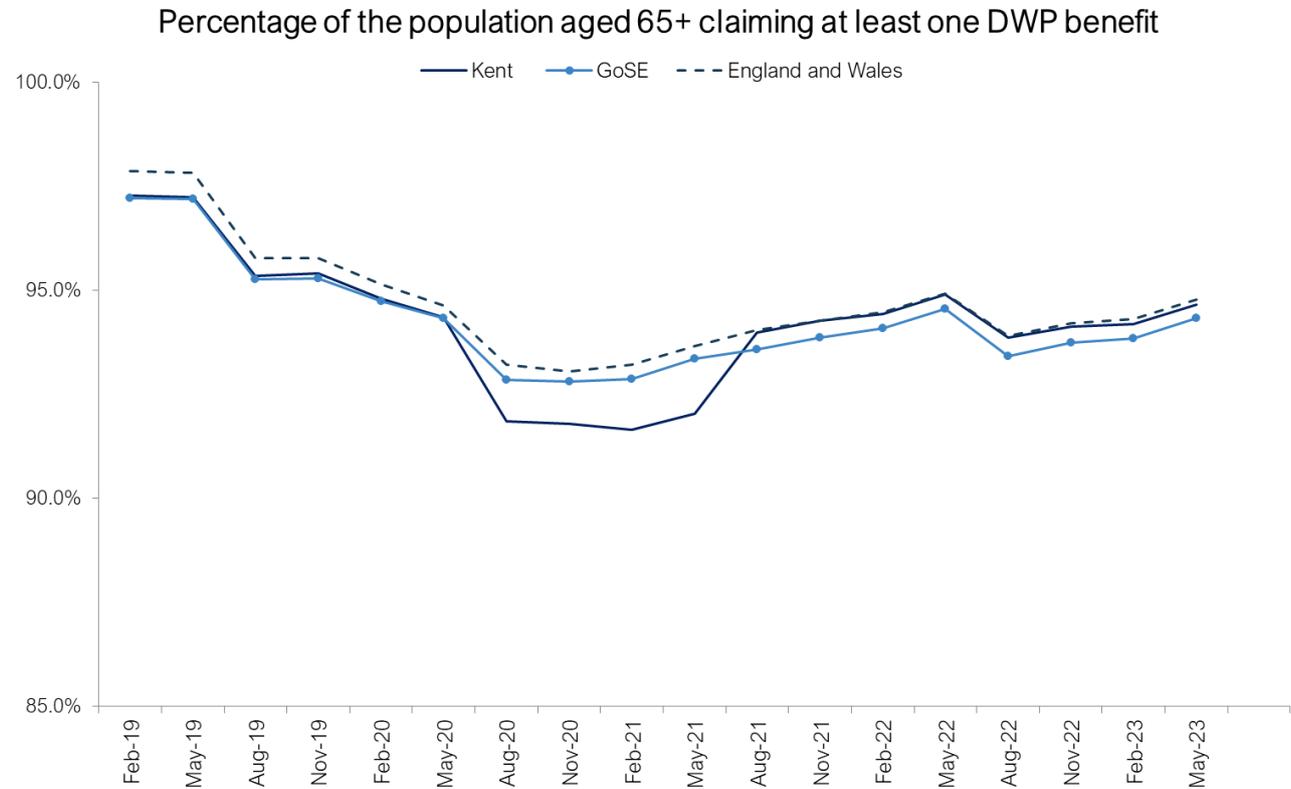
In May 2023, 94.7% of the pension age population in Kent were claiming at least one DWP benefit. Pension age is defined as the population aged 65 and above.

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.

In August 2021 the percentage in Kent rose above the South East region and more in line with the England and Wales percentage. This has been the case to May 2023.

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



Source: DWP  
Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

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 May 2023.

308,565 pension age people in Kent were claiming at least one DWP benefit as of May 2023, 94.7% of the population aged 65 and above.

Canterbury district had the highest number of pension age claimants (32,945) and Swale and Thanet had the highest proportion (both 95.3%).

Pension age claimants have increased in all Kent districts over the last year, with Swale (480) seeing the biggest rise in number of claimants since May 2022.

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

May-23 Pension age claimants - Any benefit	Number	% of 65+ population	Change since previous quarter	% Change since previous quarter	Change since previous year	% Change since previous year
Ashford	25,415	95.2%	149	0.6%	421	1.7%
Canterbury	32,945	93.9%	143	0.4%	431	1.3%
Dartford	15,324	94.6%	75	0.5%	136	0.9%
Dover	26,855	93.9%	123	0.5%	364	1.4%
Folkestone & Hythe	26,603	95.0%	135	0.5%	314	1.2%
Gravesham	17,610	95.2%	8	0.0%	8	0.0%
Maidstone	32,374	94.1%	215	0.7%	429	1.3%
Sevenoaks	24,993	94.3%	170	0.7%	331	1.3%
Swale	28,108	95.3%	172	0.6%	480	1.7%
Thanet	32,120	95.3%	107	0.3%	157	0.5%
Tonbridge & Malling	24,508	95.0%	126	0.5%	278	1.1%
Tunbridge Wells	21,710	94.4%	125	0.6%	327	1.5%
<b>Kent</b>	<b>308,565</b>	<b>94.7%</b>	<b>1,548</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>3,676</b>	<b>1.2%</b>
Medway	44,710	95.1%	202	0.5%	669	1.5%
Kent + Medway	353,275	94.7%	1,750	0.5%	4,345	1.2%
South East	1,742,025	94.3%	8,925	0.5%	24,544	1.4%
England + Wales	10,712,437	94.8%	52,583	0.5%	144,228	1.4%

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.

The production of State Pension statistics by DWP are currently suspended and therefore figures for the August 2023 and November 2023 quarters are not available.

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

Job Seekers Allowance grew the smallest amount with only 21 extra people whereas Attendance Allowance grew the most with 3,449 extra people.

**Table 4: Benefit claimants by benefit type in Kent**

Nov-23 Kent	Number	% Rate	Change Since Aug-23	% Change Since Aug-23	Change Since Nov-22	% Change Since Nov-22
Attendance Allowance	44,493	13.5%	1,078	2.5%	3,449	8.4%
Carers Allowance	34,025	2.6%	397	1.2%	846	2.5%
Disability Living Allowance	38,343	2.4%	553	1.5%	1,958	5.4%
Income Support	3,137	0.4%	-184	-5.5%	-724	-18.8%
Job Seekers Allowance	1,808	0.2%	-15	-0.8%	21	1.2%
Employment Support Allowance	30,330	3.2%	-433	-1.4%	-1,651	-5.2%
Pension Credit	30,289	7.6%	-31	-0.1%	168	0.6%
State Pension	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Source: DWP Stat Xplore

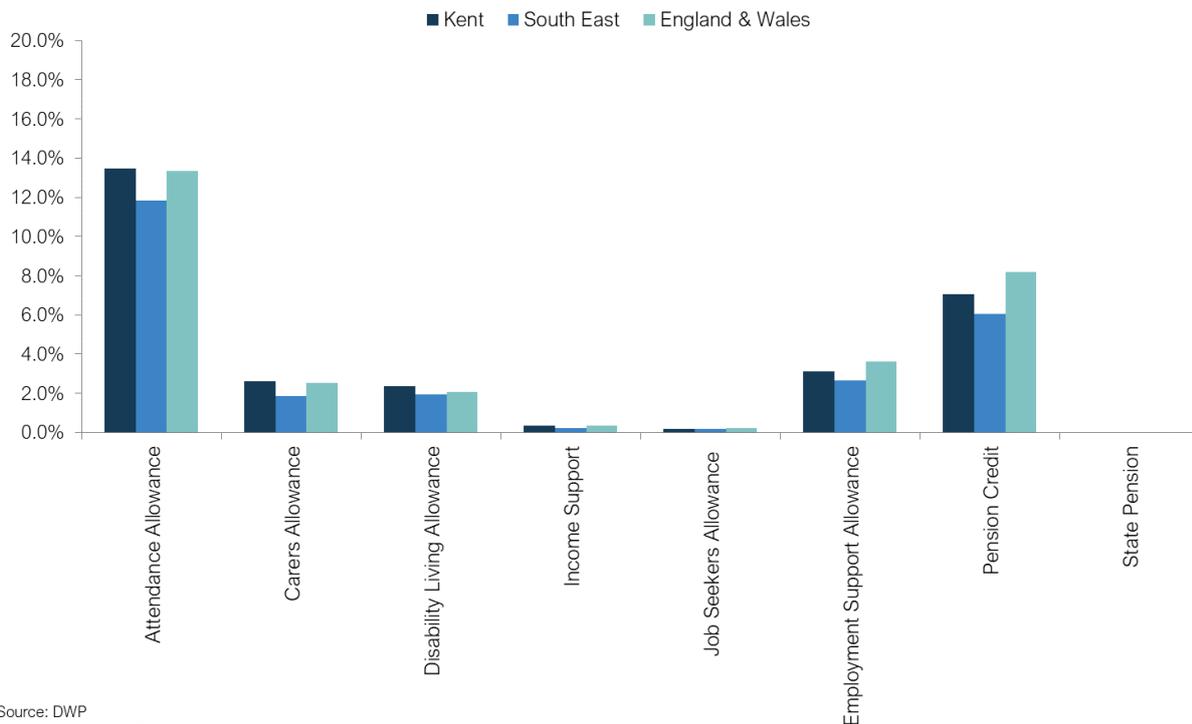
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Note: The production of State Pension statistics is currently suspended

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

Benefit claimant rates November 2023



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. DWP are gradually transferring claimants of existing benefits (those that Universal Credit was designed to replace) onto Universal Credit. This includes people claiming Working and Child Tax Credits (including people in receipt of Tax Credits and ESA), Job Seekers Allowance (Income-Related), Income Support (Income-Related) or Housing Benefit (Income-Related). This managed migration should be complete by March 2025. The managed migration of claimants on Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance, except for those receiving Child Tax Credit, will now take place in 2028.

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

Our [Universal Credit Claimants](#) bulletin gives detailed analysis of Universal Credit claimants.

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

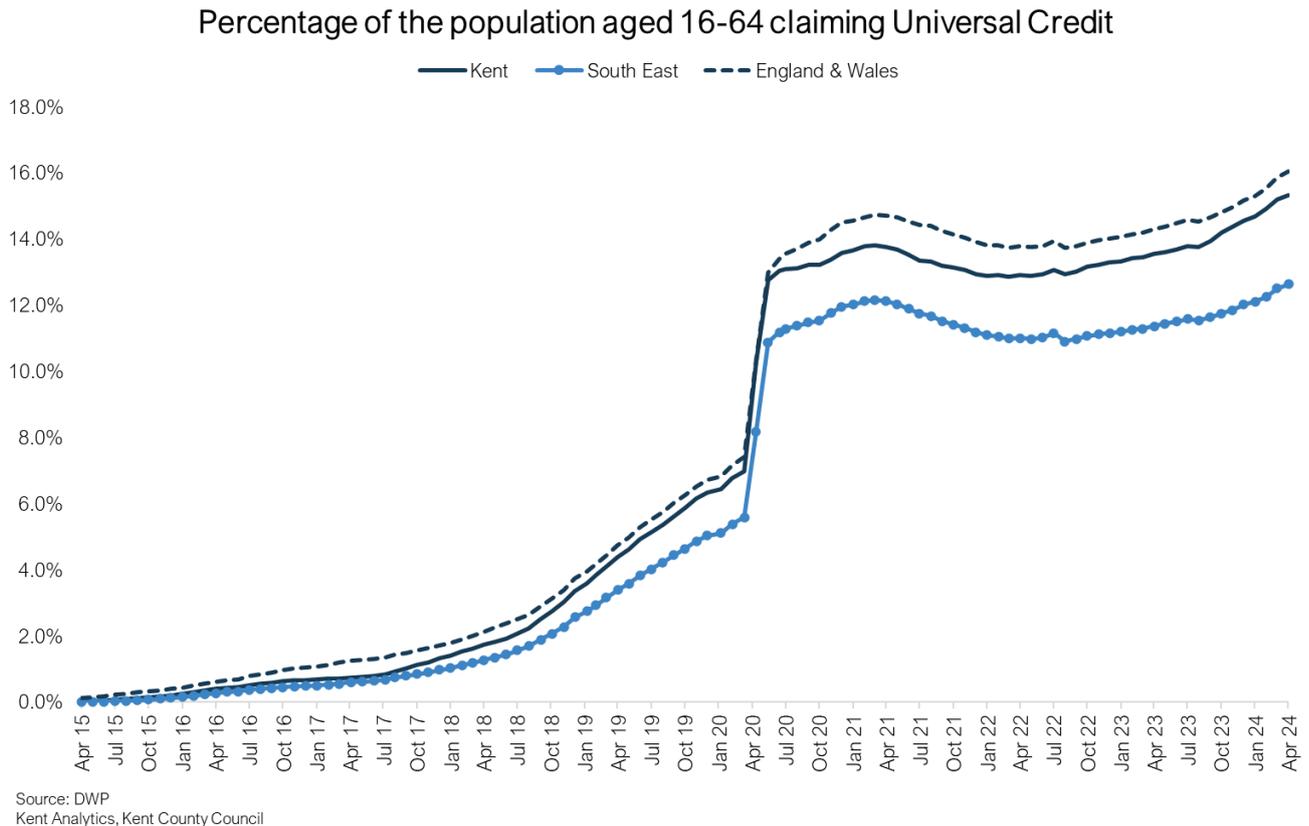


Table 5 shows the total number of Universal Credit claimants in Kent districts. It also shows change since the previous month and the previous year.

In April 2024, 139,666 working age people in Kent were claiming Universal Credit (14.2% of the working age population). There has been a small increase since the previous month (+1.3%) and over the last year the number of claimants has risen greatly by 9.1% (11,609 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 (18,870 claimants or 23.0%).

The smallest number and proportion of claimants was in Sevenoaks where 5.7% were claiming Universal Credit (6,550 claimants).

Over the last year all Kent authorities have seen the number of claimants increase. The biggest rise was in Swale where there were 1,557 more claimants than in April 2023.

Tonbridge and Malling saw the biggest percentage increase with a 11.6% rise in claimants.

**Table 5: Total Universal Credit Claimants in Kent Districts**

Apr-24 Total UC Claimants	Number	% of 16-64 population	Change since previous month	% Change since previous month	Change since previous year	% Change since previous year
Ashford	11,405	13.4%	122	1.1%	891	8.5%
Canterbury	13,110	13.0%	216	1.7%	1,341	11.4%
Dartford	9,889	12.7%	92	0.9%	881	9.8%
Dover	12,069	17.4%	128	1.1%	894	8.0%
Folkestone & Hythe	10,460	14.7%	92	0.9%	829	8.6%
Gravesham	11,388	17.4%	172	1.5%	952	9.1%
Maidstone	14,116	21.0%	228	1.6%	1,389	10.9%
Sevenoaks	6,550	5.7%	49	0.8%	591	9.9%
Swale	16,208	16.7%	334	2.1%	1,557	10.6%
Thanet	18,870	23.0%	143	0.8%	783	4.3%
Tonbridge & Malling	8,294	10.0%	108	1.3%	859	11.6%
Tunbridge Wells	7,307	10.3%	45	0.6%	642	9.6%
<b>Kent</b>	<b>139,666</b>	<b>14.2%</b>	<b>1,729</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>11,609</b>	<b>9.1%</b>
Medway	29,517	16.3%	284	1.0%	2,531	9.4%
Kent + Medway	169,183	14.5%	2,013	1.2%	14,140	9.1%
South East	693,248	11.8%	5,903	0.9%	46,244	7.1%
England + Wales	5,714,467	14.8%	55,137	1.0%	411,470	7.8%

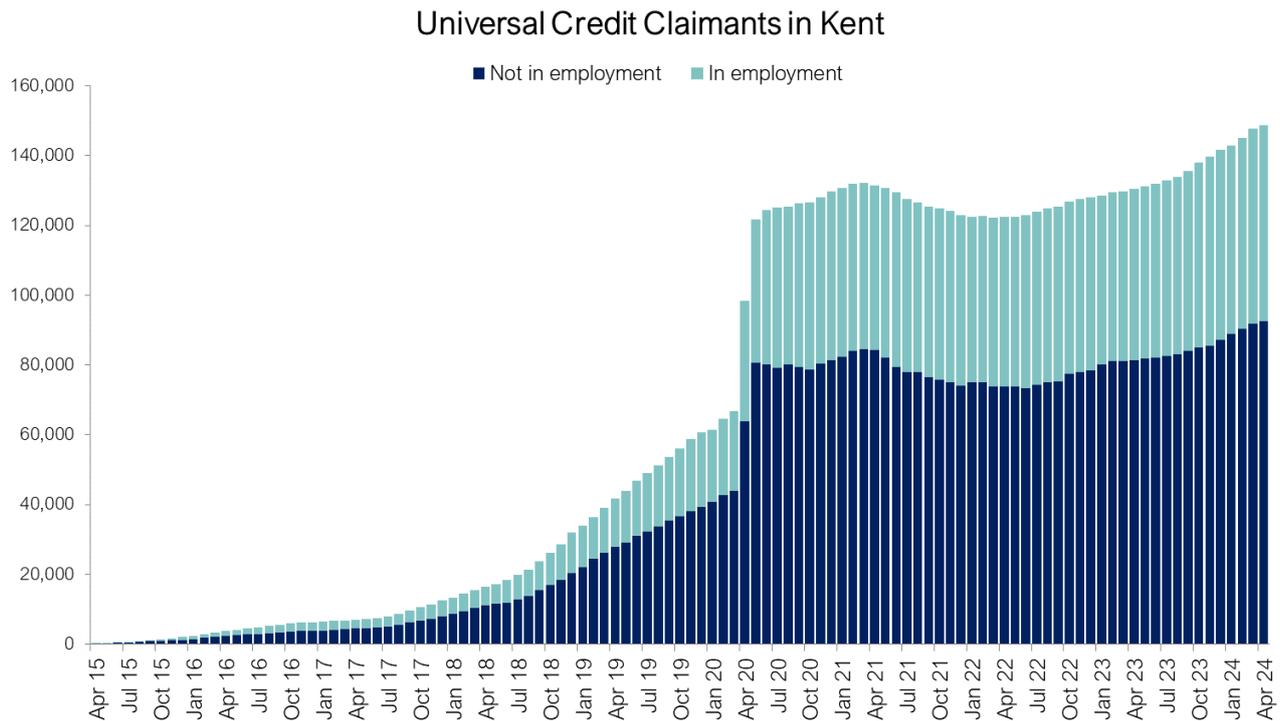
Source: DWP Stat Xplore

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 June 2022 where 40.2% of claimants were in work and while this has fallen to 37.9% in April 2024, 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 shows the number of Universal Credit claimants in Kent districts by employment status.

In April 2024 37.9% of those people in Kent claiming Universal credit were in employment, slightly lower than the national average of 38.1%, and 62.1% were not in employment (61.9% in England and Wales).

This varies across the county. In Dartford 42.1% were in employment (57.9% not in employment) while in Thanet 35.1% were in employment and 64.9% were not.

**Table 6: Universal Credit Claimants by Employment Status in Kent Districts**

Apr-24 Total UC Claimants	Total	% of 16-64 population	In employment	% In employment	Not in employment	% Not in employment
Ashford	12,375	14.6%	4,921	39.8%	7,454	60.2%
Canterbury	14,056	14.2%	5,121	36.4%	8,935	63.6%
Dartford	10,382	13.4%	4,366	42.1%	6,016	57.9%
Dover	12,877	18.7%	4,662	36.2%	8,215	63.8%
Folkestone & Hythe	11,084	15.6%	3,964	35.8%	7,120	64.2%
Gravesham	12,118	18.6%	4,738	39.1%	7,380	60.9%
Maidstone	15,138	22.7%	5,935	39.2%	9,203	60.8%
Sevenoaks	6,975	6.1%	2,699	38.7%	4,276	61.3%
Swale	17,189	18.0%	6,171	35.9%	11,018	64.1%
Thanet	19,984	24.4%	7,024	35.1%	12,960	64.9%
Tonbridge & Malling	8,918	10.7%	3,717	41.7%	5,201	58.3%
Tunbridge Wells	7,724	10.9%	3,062	39.6%	4,662	60.4%
<b>Kent</b>	<b>148,820</b>	<b>15.2%</b>	<b>56,380</b>	<b>37.9%</b>	<b>92,440</b>	<b>62.1%</b>
Medway	31,119	17.2%	11,565	37.2%	19,554	62.8%
Kent + Medway	179,939	15.5%	67,945	37.8%	111,994	62.2%
South East	738,746	12.5%	300,864	40.7%	437,882	59.3%
England + Wales	6,133,306	15.9%	2,337,551	38.1%	3,795,755	61.9%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Tables 7 and 8 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 2024, 56,380 working age people in Kent were in-work claimants of Universal Credit. This equates to 5.8% of the working age population.

Maidstone had the highest in-work claimant rate at 9.0% (5,935 claimants). Sevenoaks had the lowest number and percentage of claimants who were working (2,699 claimants, 2.4% of the working age population).

92,440 Universal Credit claimants in Kent were not in employment. This is equating to 9.5% of the working age population.

Thanet had the highest number and proportion of out of work claimants. 12,960 working age people in Thanet were not in employment and claiming Universal Credit (15.9% of the population aged 16-64).

The number of Universal Credit claimants in Kent who were not in employment has risen by 13.1% over the last year while those in work grew by 14.0%.

**Table 7: Universal Credit Claimants in employment in Kent Districts**

UC Claimants in employment Apr-24	Number	% of 16-64 population	Change since previous month	% Change since previous month	Change since previous year	% Change since previous year
Ashford	4,921	5.9%	33	0.7%	730	17.4%
Canterbury	5,121	5.2%	31	0.6%	711	16.1%
Dartford	4,366	5.7%	55	1.3%	441	11.2%
Dover	4,662	6.8%	66	1.4%	664	16.6%
Folkestone & Hythe	3,964	5.6%	58	1.5%	437	12.4%
Gravesham	4,738	7.4%	36	0.8%	547	13.1%
Maidstone	5,935	9.0%	-14	-0.2%	739	14.2%
Sevenoaks	2,699	2.4%	17	0.6%	414	18.1%
Swale	6,171	6.5%	2	0.0%	766	14.2%
Thanet	7,024	8.6%	78	1.1%	586	9.1%
Tonbridge & Malling	3,717	4.5%	68	1.9%	543	17.1%
Tunbridge Wells	3,062	4.4%	-15	-0.5%	329	12.0%
<b>Kent</b>	<b>56,380</b>	<b>5.8%</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>6,907</b>	<b>14.0%</b>
Medway	11,565	6.4%	5	0.0%	1,062	10.1%
Kent + Medway	67,945	5.9%	420	0.6%	7,969	13.3%
South East	300,864	5.1%	4,224	1.4%	28,223	10.4%
England + Wales	2,337,551	6.1%	35,787	1.6%	250,076	12.0%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

**Table 8: Universal Credit Claimants who are not in employment in Kent Districts**

UC Claimants not in employment Apr-24	Number	% of 16-64 population	Change since previous month	% Change since previous month	Change since previous year	% Change since previous year
Ashford	7,454	8.9%	67	0.9%	862	13.1%
Canterbury	8,935	9.0%	10	0.1%	1,123	14.4%
Dartford	6,016	7.8%	59	1.0%	682	12.8%
Dover	8,215	11.9%	-28	-0.3%	888	12.1%
Folkestone & Hythe	7,120	11.2%	28	0.4%	785	12.4%
Gravesham	7,380	8.1%	127	1.8%	868	13.3%
Maidstone	9,203	6.1%	148	1.6%	1,284	16.2%
Sevenoaks	4,276	11.1%	19	0.4%	499	13.2%
Swale	11,018	11.6%	66	0.6%	1,365	14.1%
Thanet	12,960	15.9%	-2	0.0%	1,087	9.2%
Tonbridge & Malling	5,201	6.3%	37	0.7%	691	15.3%
Tunbridge Wells	4,662	6.6%	83	1.8%	554	13.5%
<b>Kent</b>	<b>92,440</b>	<b>9.5%</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>10,688</b>	<b>13.1%</b>
Medway	19,554	10.9%	150	0.8%	1,951	11.1%
Kent + Medway	111,994	9.7%	764	0.7%	12,639	12.7%
South East	437,882	7.5%	3,353	0.8%	47,007	12.0%
England + Wales	3,795,755	9.9%	36,174	1.0%	439,805	13.1%

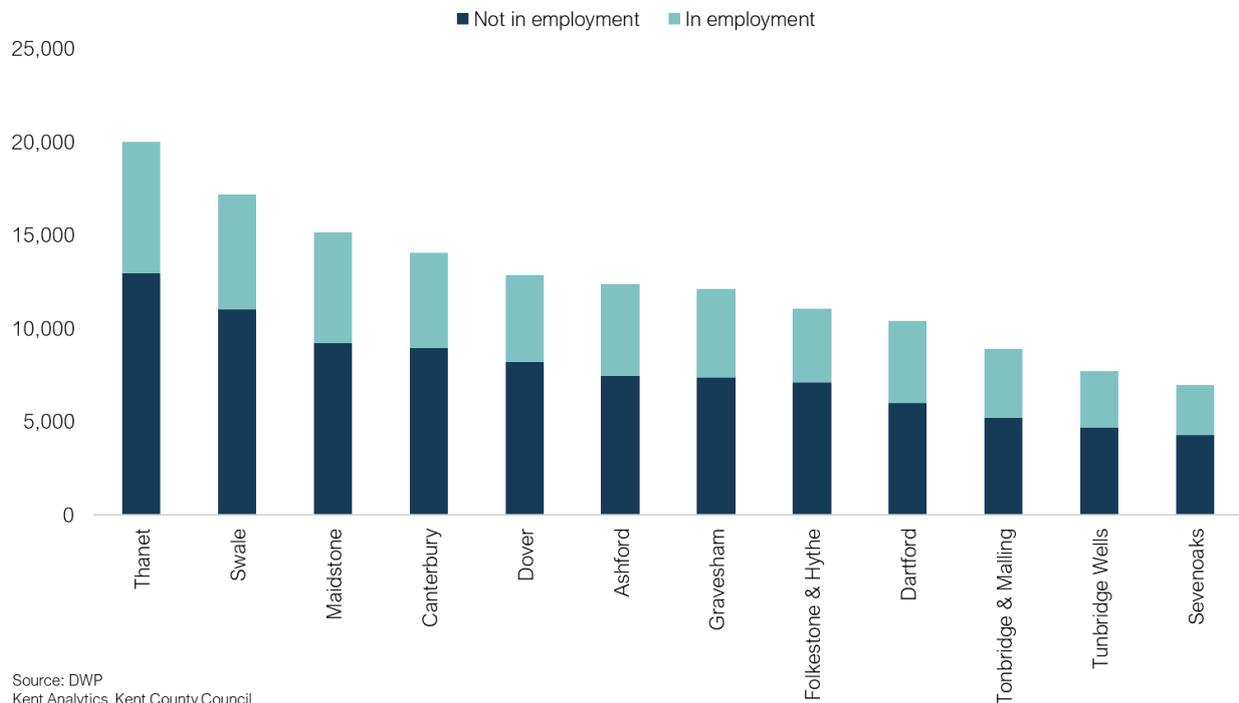
Source: DWP Stat Xplore

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

Number of Universal Credit claimants in Kent districts by employment status, April 2024



## 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

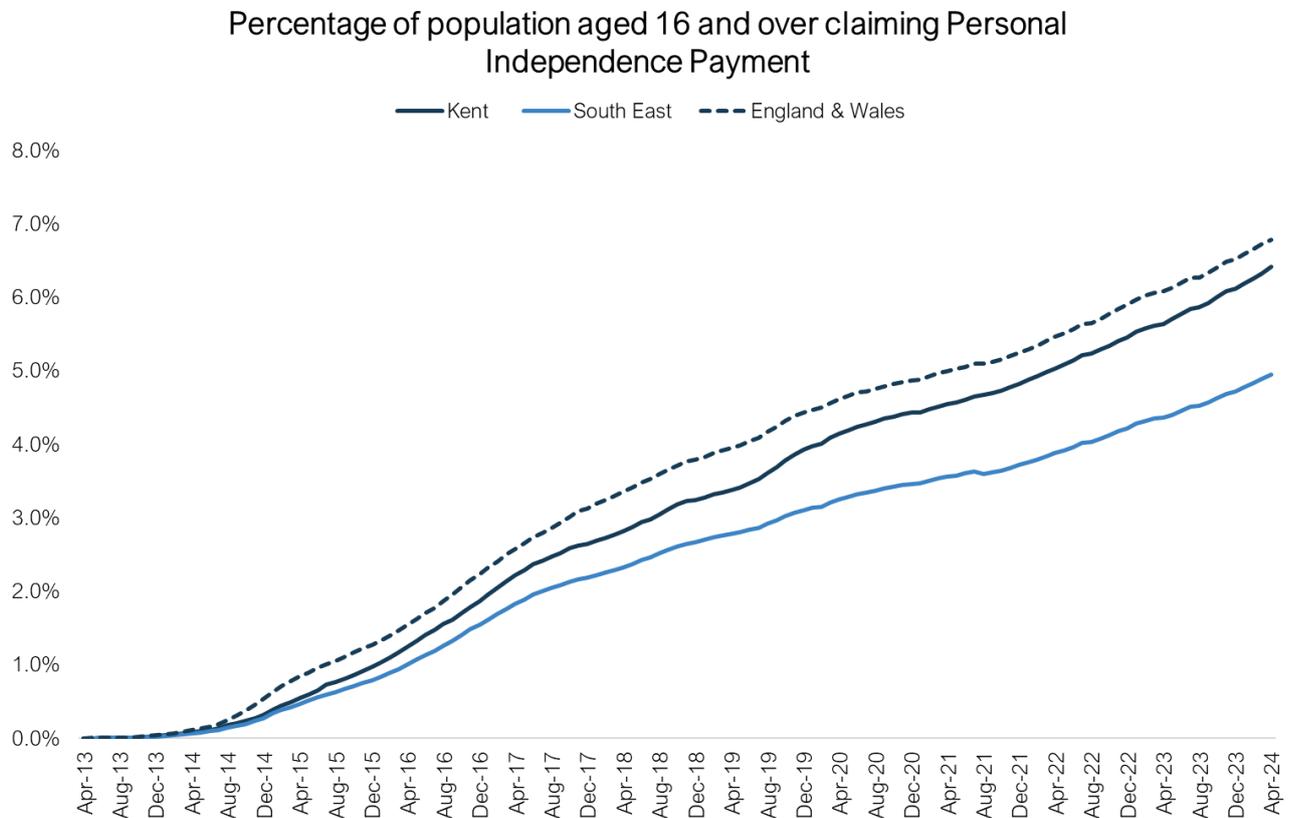
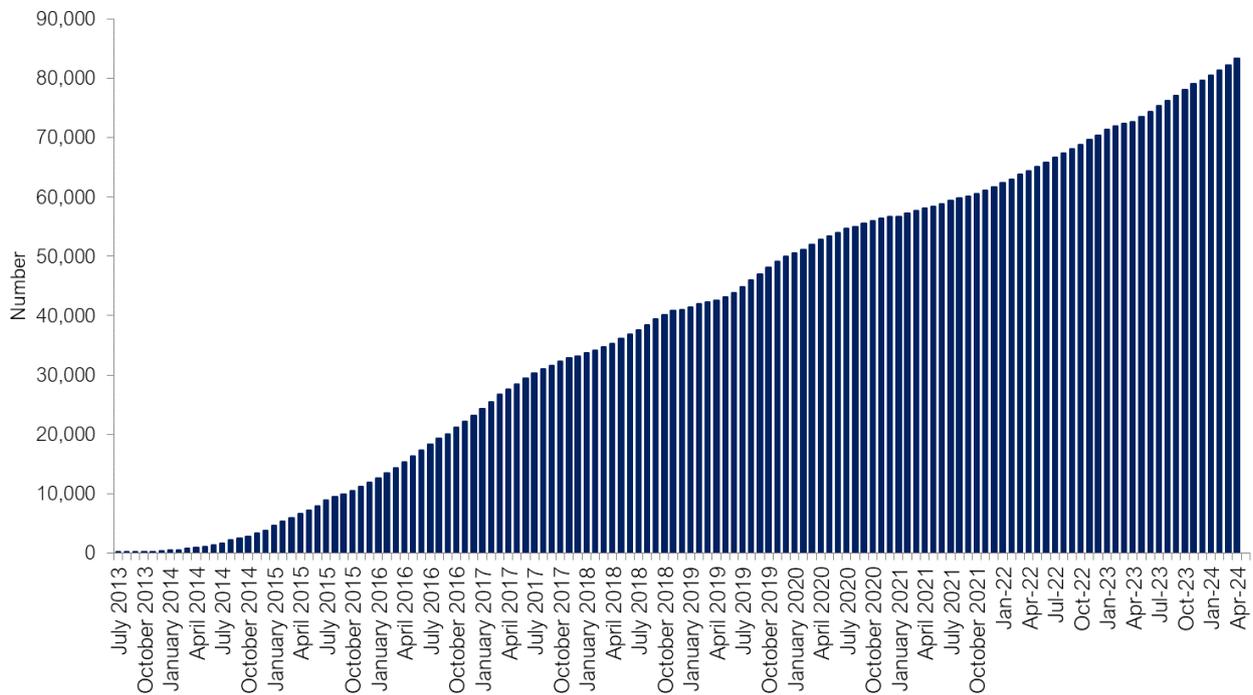


Chart 9 overleaf shows the number of PIP claimants in Kent since its introduction in Kent in 2013.

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 1.1% per month.

## Chart 9: Personal Independence Payment Claimants in Kent

Personal Independent Payment claimants in Kent



Source: DWP  
Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

In April 2024, 83,364 people in Kent were claiming PIP, equivalent to 6.4% of the population aged 16 and above. Over the last year this has increased by 13.5% (+9,903 claimants).

Thanet had the highest number of claimants in the county. 11,023 people in Thanet were claiming PIP in April 2024 equivalent to 9.6% of the 16+ population.

All districts in Kent saw an increase in PIP claimants. Thanet district saw the biggest increase in number of claimants over the last year, increasing by 1,211 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 Apr-24	Number	% of 16+ population	Change since previous month	% Change since previous month	Change since previous year	% Change since previous year
Ashford	6,372	5.7%	78	1.2%	779	13.9%
Canterbury	8,642	6.4%	110	1.3%	925	12.0%
Dartford	4,866	5.2%	62	1.3%	621	14.6%
Dover	7,926	8.1%	109	1.4%	882	12.5%
Folkestone & Hythe	7,704	8.3%	73	1.0%	736	10.6%
Gravesham	5,563	6.6%	69	1.3%	712	14.7%
Maidstone	7,730	5.2%	123	1.6%	1,047	15.7%
Sevenoaks	4,261	4.4%	75	1.8%	616	16.9%
Swale	10,131	8.1%	143	1.4%	1,160	12.9%
Thanet	11,023	9.6%	158	1.5%	1,211	12.3%
Tonbridge & Malling	5,172	4.8%	64	1.3%	701	15.7%
Tunbridge Wells	3,974	4.2%	49	1.2%	513	14.8%
<b>Kent</b>	<b>83,364</b>	<b>6.4%</b>	<b>1,113</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>9,903</b>	<b>13.5%</b>
Medway	16,219	7.1%	171	1.1%	1,789	12.4%
Kent + Medway	99,583	6.5%	1,284	1.3%	11,692	13.3%
South East	381,518	4.9%	4,518	1.2%	45,379	13.5%
England + Wales	3,368,590	6.8%	32,186	1.0%	361,357	12.0%

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 2001-2023. 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 can be found in our [Universal Credit Claims](#) bulletin about Universal Credit claimants in Kent.

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