

Quick guide

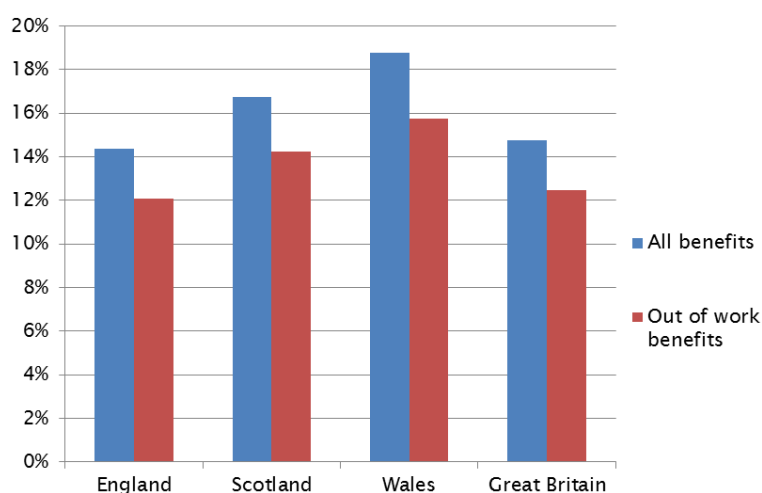
Welfare in Wales series: Welfare statistics

September 2011

Introduction

Wales has the one of the highest dependencies on welfare in Britain. Nearly **19 per cent of the working age population** receive some type of benefit, compared with the British average of 14.5 per cent. The percentage of people claiming **out of work benefits** is around **16 per cent** in Wales and 13 per cent in Great Britain.

Figure 1: Percentage of working age population receiving benefits, average January-December 2010¹



Source: DWP statistics, NOMIS

The primary reasons for the high number of claimants are the number of people claiming **disability and sickness benefits**, and the number of people claiming these benefits **for five years or more**.

Working age benefit claimants

According to fourth quarter statistics from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) for 2010, there were **350,640 people claiming all types of benefits** in Wales, and **292,740 people claiming out of work benefits**.

Additionally, nearly **10 per cent of the entire working age population were receiving**

¹ **Out of work benefits include:** Job Seekers Allowance (JSA), Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), Incapacity Benefit (IB), lone parents and other income-related benefits.

All benefits include: All out of work benefits, plus: Disability Living Allowance (DLA), Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA), Carers' Allowance (CA), Income Support (IS), Pension Credit (PC), and Widows' Benefit (WB).

Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) or Incapacity Benefit (IB), usually in combination with another benefit.

Figure 2: Benefit claimants in Wales, October -December 2010

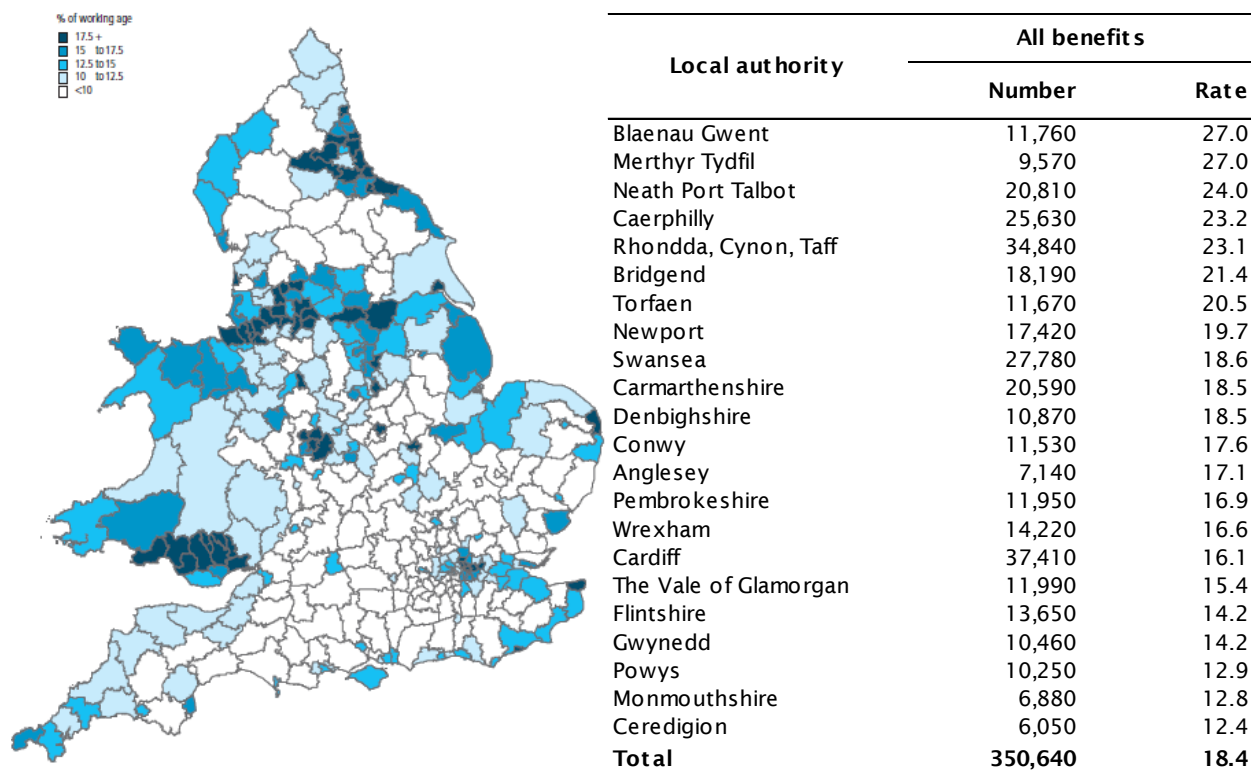
Benefit	Wales		Great Britain	
	Number of claimants	Percentage of working age population	Number of claimants	Percentage of working age population
Carers Allowance (CA) only	19,440	1.0	308,920	0.8
Disability Living Allowance (DLA) only	24,890	1.3	395,040	1.0
Incapacity Benefit (IB) or ESA only	61,560	3.2	821,490	2.1
Income Support (IS)/Pension Credit (PC) only	36,620	1.9	725,140	1.9
Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) only	65,150	3.4	1,294,070	3.3
Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA) only	280	0.0	4,380	0.0
Widows Benefit (WB) only	1,560	0.1	29,720	0.1
DLA and SDA	2,240	0.1	33,700	0.1
IB/ESA and DLA	49,240	2.6	621,180	1.6
IS/PC and CA	11,300	0.6	185,200	0.5
IS/PC and IB/SDA	23,110	1.2	389,250	1.0
IS/PC, DLA and SDA	8,640	0.5	140,700	0.4
IS/PC, IB and DLA	32,050	1.7	501,260	1.3
Other combinations	14,560	0.8	219,320	0.6
Total	350,640	18.4	5,669,370	14.5

Source: DWP, NOMIS

Benefit claimants by local authority

The geographical spread of benefit claimants across Wales is uneven. The majority of benefit claimants in Wales are concentrated in the South Wales valleys area, where in many areas over 17 per cent of the resident working age population are claiming a benefit (see figure 3).

Figure 3: Working age benefit claimant rate by local authority, 2009 (map) and Oct-Dec 2010 (table)



Source: Map: Beatty, C. and Fothergill, S. (2011) [Tackling worklessness in Wales](#), p10; Table: DWP, NOMIS

The low number of job vacancies in the South Wales valleys areas may contribute to the high number of out of work benefit claimants.

In June 2011, there was a ratio of **22 Job Seekers' Allowance (JSA) claimants for every Job Centre vacancy advertised** in Merthyr Tydfil, compared with the **Wales average of 5.4.**²

Benefit claimants by statistical group and gender

Wales has the highest proportion of **disabled benefit claimants** at 1.3 per cent of the working age population, compared with the GB average of 1 per cent. The percentage of **lone parent** benefit claimants is the same as in Great Britain at 1.7 per cent, and Scotland has a higher percentage of **job seekers** than Wales or England.

Figure 4: Benefit claimants by statistical group, October - December 2010

Stat group	Great Britain		England		Scotland		Wales	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Job seeker	1,328,680	3.4	1,130,590	3.4	131,090	3.8	67,010	3.5
ESA and incapacity benefits	2,576,340	6.6	2,115,800	6.3	277,840	8.1	182,700	9.6
Lone parent	648,270	1.7	563,200	1.7	51,830	1.5	33,240	1.7
Carer	445,230	1.1	376,660	1.1	40,000	1.2	28,570	1.5
Others on income related benefit	192,010	0.5	164,970	0.5	17,240	0.5	9,790	0.5
Disabled	398,880	1.0	335,380	1.0	38,320	1.1	25,180	1.3
Bereaved	79,960	0.2	67,470	0.2	8,350	0.2	4,140	0.2
Total	5,669,370	14.5	4,754,060	14.1	564,670	16.5	350,640	18.4

Note: 'Stat group' is a hierarchical variable that allocates people to the **main benefit** that they are claiming

Source: DWP statistics, NOMIS

There are **around the same proportion of men and women** claiming all types of benefits. 52 per cent of benefit claimant are men in Wales, compared to 51 per cent in Great Britain overall.³

Duration of claims

Wales has a significantly higher number of long term benefit claimants than in Great Britain. 8.5 per cent of the working age population have been claiming a benefit for five years or more, compared with 5.9 per cent in Great Britain overall.

Figure 5: Duration of benefit claims, GB and Wales, October - December 2010

Duration	Wales		Great Britain	
	Number of claimants	Percentage of working age population	Number of claimants	Percentage of working age population
Up to 6 months	71,980	3.8	1,329,310	3.4
6 months up to 1 year	27,300	1.4	509,860	1.3
1 year and up to 2 years	34,770	1.8	609,440	1.6
2 years and up to 5 years	55,570	2.9	928,360	2.4
5 years and over	161,020	8.5	2,292,400	5.9
Total	350,640	18.4	5,669,370	14.5

Source: DWP, NOMIS

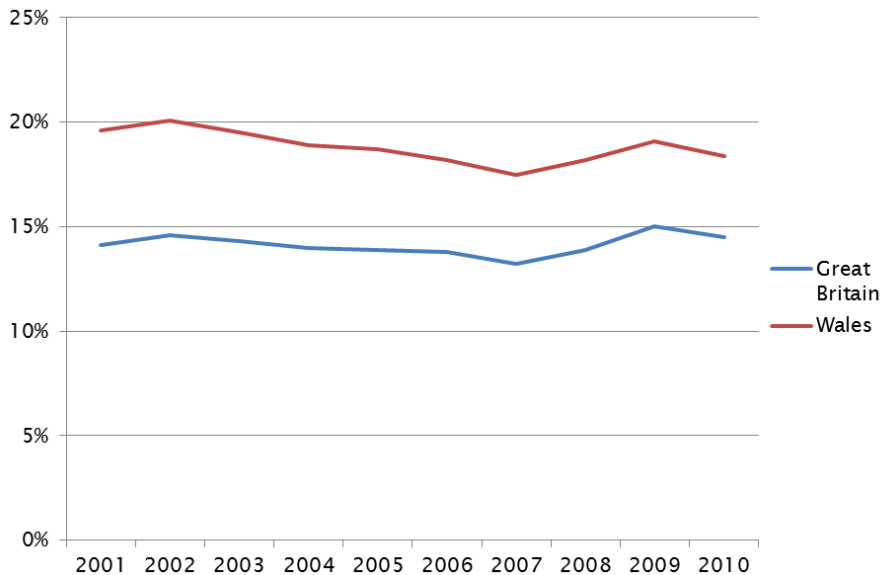
² House of Commons Library, [Unemployment by constituency](#), July 2011, Table 2

³ DWP, NOMIS

Long term trends

According to DWP statistics, the numbers and rates of all benefit claimants have been fluctuating for the last ten years in Wales and in Great Britain. The rate in Wales has hovered between 17 per cent and 20 per cent, whereas in Great Britain it has been between 13 per cent and 15 per cent.

Figure 6: Percentage of working age population claiming any type of benefit, fourth quarter each year, 2001-2010



Source: DWP, NOMIS

Further information

For further information on this series, please contact **Hannah Johnson** (Hannah.Johnson@Wales.gov.uk), Research Service.

See also:

- House of Commons Library, [Unemployment by constituency](#), July 2011

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