

List of Jobcentre Plus Offices under Universal Credit

The Claimant Count is a measure of the number of people claiming benefit principally for the reason of being unemployed. Prior to the introduction of Universal Credit (UC) the Claimant Count only needed to reflect the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) or National Insurance Credits. As UC replaces a number of existing means-tested benefits, including the means-tested element of JSA, the Claimant Count should reflect both the remaining JSA claims and a subset of UC claimants who are claiming benefit principally for the reason of being unemployed.

Currently the Claimant Count does not include jobseeker Universal Credit claims, but ONS intends to include them as soon as possible. In the meantime ONS are publishing a table which presents the latest Universal Credit totals alongside Claimant Count figures, with an indicative adjusted count.

Roll-out Timetable

On 29 April 2013, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) started a Pathfinder for UC which created the first jobseeker UC claimants. This was initially extended to 10 Jobcentre Plus Offices across Great Britain. From June 2014 a further gradual roll out of Universal Credit was introduced to extend coverage to the rest of the North West region. [Guidance from DWP](#) can be found on the on the GOV.UK website, and lists all the Jobcentre Plus Offices which are affected by UC.

Universal Credit Coverage

Initially only a subset of people in these Jobcentres will be covered. Amongst the eligibility criteria claimants of UC must:

- be single
- be a Great Britain national and normally resident in Great Britain
- have a valid National Insurance number
- have a bank or building society account or Post Office Card Account
- not be pregnant
- not have responsibility for children (including adopted or foster children) or provide care for any other persons
- not be homeless or in supported accommodation
- not own their own home (including part ownership)
- not have more than £6,000 in savings and capital
- not be in receipt of Employment and Support Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payment, Incapacity Benefit, Carers Allowance, Income Support, Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit or Housing Benefit

- not be in any form of education or training or expect to commence education or training in the next month

Future Roll-out Plans

On Thursday 5 December 2013, Iain Duncan Smith announced plans for the next stage of implementing Universal Credit.

"Meanwhile, we will expand our current pathfinder service and develop functionality so that from next summer we progressively start to take claims for Universal Credit from couples and, in the

autumn, from families. Once safely tested in the 10 live Universal Credit areas, we will also expand the roll-out to cover more of the Northwest of England."

<http://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-vote-office/December%202013/5%20December/6-DWP-UniversalCredit.pdf>

The rollout to the north west of England is part of the expansion plan that was set out in December, 2013. Shortly DWP will announce that they are extending the service to couples, meeting their commitment to expand Universal Credit geographically and to more claimant types.

Publication of Universal Credit Statistics

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) publishes a statistical release providing data for the number of people claiming Universal Credit.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/universal-credit-statistics>