

KEY INDICATORS : EDINBURGH

13 : BENEFITS

<i>sources / notes</i>	1991	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Working age claimants of any key benefit (*1)								38,100	38,300	38,400	
Income Support claimants (*2)		44,639		30,275	29,185			29,500	29,500	18,400	
Pension Credit claimants (*3)								n/a	n/a	14,400	
Working Families Tax Credit recipients (*4)					4,990			7,200	7,500	n/a	
Child Tax Credit / Working Tax Credit recipier (*5)								n/a	n/a	25,000	
Incapacity Benefit recipients (*6)								11,200	10,600	10,600	
Disability Living Allowance recipients (*7)								17,600	18,300	18,900	
Attendance Allowance recipients (*8)								9,000	9,100	9,400	
Severe Disablement Allowance recipients (*9)								3,600	3,300	3,200	
Disabled Persons Tax Credit recipients (*10)								240	278	n/a	
Jobseeker's Allowance claimants (*11)								7,100	8,100	7,900	
Council Tax Benefit recipients (*12)								38,000	38,919	36,100	
Housing Benefit recipients (*13)			42,170	40,840	37,460	36,420	33,420	32,000	32,700	27,600	
Pupils entitled to free school meals : (*14)											
Primary school pupils				8,835	6,972	7,468	7,059	6,999	6,369	5,805	
.. as % of primary school roll				29.2%	23.2%	25.2%	24.4%	24.6%	22.9%	21.6%	
Secondary school pupils				3,752	2,966	3,302	3,446	3,292	3,412	3,122	
.. as % of secondary school roll				20.9%	16.2%	17.7%	18.2%	17.3%	17.6%	16.0%	

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- (*1-13) The information on benefits in this table relates to February at each year, unless otherwise specified. Most of this information is now sourced from the Department for Work & Pension's (DWP) web site (www.dwp.gov.uk). The exception is Child Tax Credits and Working Tax Credits, where information is sourced from HM Revenue and Customs (www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm). The Scottish Executive used to produce twice-yearly summaries of 'Benefits and Tax Credits in Scotland', which included details at the local authority level. These were first published in 2002 but were discontinued in 2005. On their web site the Department for Work and Pensions provides a useful 'Tabulation Tool' facility which allows users to extract customised data to meet their own requirements (subject to availability) : www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp It is important to note that DWP has two parallel data series : a full 100% coverage 'Work & Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) and a 5% sample which includes more options and variables, and more historic information, but is less reliable than the WPLS. Both can be analysed using Tabulation Tool. DWP advise that the 100% data should always be used if the required variables are available, and where practicable breakdowns from the 5% data should be applied to totals from the 100% data. Information in 'Key Indicators' is from a combination of the 100% and 5% sample data. The 5% sample data is used for some specific benefits (e.g. JSA) and also for some historic figures (leading sometimes to a small discontinuity in trend data). Housing Benefit and Council Tax benefit are not available at present on 'Tabulation Tool', but are available elsewhere in the stats section of the DWP web site (www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/hb_ctb/ht_ctb_quarterly_feb05.asp#tables) In addition to the above 'original' sources, some benefits information can also be found in 'Neighbourhood Statistics' datasets.
- (*1) Working age claimants of key benefits. Data relate to February. Key benefits comprise : Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), Incapacity Benefit (IB), Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA), Disability Living Allowance (DLA), Income Support (IS) and National Insurance credits. *N.B. benefits exclude tax credits* – notably the Working Families Tax Credit (WFTC) and Disabled Persons Tax Credit (DPTC). (DWP Tabulation Tool 5% data)
- (*2) No. of children in families of working age claimants of key benefits, and percentage of all children. Data relate to February and are from Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) 'Tabulation Tool' 5% dataset. More specifically, children are those in families where an adult of working age claims a key benefit (see definition above) and either:
- receives an additional allowance of benefit for children or young adult dependants (i.e. those aged 16-18 and still in full-time education); or
 - receives contribution-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) or JSA National Insurance credits only, with children or young adult dependants recorded in the assessment; or
 - receives Child Tax Credit (CTC).
- Additional amounts are payable for all dependant children in families receiving income related benefits (i.e. Income Support or Jobseeker's Allowance (Income Based)). These additional amounts for children will be payable via either benefit or CTC. The main gaps are children of claimants of Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance without CTC, for whom child information is incomplete; and children of claimants of Disability Living Allowance without CTC, for whom no child information is recorded. It should be noted that not all CTC children are included in these tables, only those in families also claiming a key benefit.

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- (*3) Income Support (IS) data relate to February and are from Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) 'Tabulation Tool' datasets (see note above). Income Support is a non-contributory, means tested, taxable benefit. It can be paid to British residents aged 16 or over who are not working 16 hours or more per week and who have less money coming in than the law says they need to live on. From October 1996 the Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) replaced Income Support for unemployed people. In general Income Support is now only available to people who are not required to be available for work – such as pensioners, lone parents, and sick and disabled people.

The applicable amounts and resources of a couple living in the same household are combined to work out how much Income Support they are entitled to. The costs and any assets belonging to dependent children are also taken into account. 16 and 17 year olds are only entitled to benefit in special circumstances. People in full-time non-advanced education are not normally entitled. Once they get Income Support, the claimant and any dependents are automatically entitled to certain welfare benefits.

The number of Income Support claimants fell significantly between 2003 and 2004 as a result of 'Pension Credit' being introduced (Oct. 2003) to replace the Minimum Income Guarantee and extend it to persons aged 60+. Persons claiming Pension Credit are not included in the Income Support figures.

- (*4) Pension Credit (PC) data relate to February and are from Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) 'Tabulation Tool' datasets (see above introductory note to items 1-13). Pension Credit was introduced in October 2003 to replace the Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG) for pensioners.. Many pensioner households not previously entitled to MIG found themselves eligible for Pension Credit. This is because the Pension Credit makes an allowance to reward pensioners aged 65+ who have savings or second pensions, which would otherwise take them above the threshold income levels. Data are published in 'Benefits and Tax Credits in Scotland' (Scottish Executive, Table B(ii)1).

- (*5) Working Families Tax Credit (WFTC) replaced Family Credit (FC) from 5 October 1999, and was itself replaced by Child & Working Tax Credits in April 2003.. 2002 and 2003 figures relate to WFTC (as at February) and earlier figures relate to FC (as at August). WFTC was a tax credit available to working families on low or modest incomes who are responsible for at least one child under 16 (or under 19 if in full-time education upto A-level or equivalent standard). It is payable to two-parent and one-parent families. To be eligible, at least one adult in the family had to be working, either as an employee or self-employed, for at least 16 hours a week. WFTC was not payable to families with over £8,000 in savings or capital. The amount payable depended on the family's net income, the amount of savings between £3,000 and £8,000, the number and ages of children, the number of hours worked, and in certain circumstances the amount paid for childcare.

Family Credit was a non-contributory, means tested, non-taxable benefit. It was a weekly benefit for working people who were responsible for bringing up at least one child under the age of 16 (or 19 in full-time non-advanced education). Both two-parent and one-parent families could get Family Credit. The claimant, or partner, had to be working for 16 hours or more per week. The work could be in more than one job, but the hours worked by a couple could not be added together.

- (*6) Child and Working Tax Credit data relate to February and are from HM Revenue and Customs web site (see above introductory note to items 1-13). The figures are the number of in-work 'families' in receipt of either Child or Working Tax Credit awards. Child and Working Tax Credits replaced Working Families Tax Credit, together with Disabled Persons Tax Credit and Children's Tax Credit in April 2003.

Child Tax Credit (CTC) provides support to families with responsibility for children - generally upto 16 years of age or 19 if in full-time non-advanced education. Working Tax Credit (WTC) tops up the earnings of families on low or moderate incomes, subject to a number of limitations and conditions. CTC and WTC may be claimed by individuals or jointly as couples. In the data all beneficiaries are recorded as 'families', whether or not they are couples or have children.

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- (*7) Incapacity Benefit (IB) data relate to February and are from Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) 'Tabulation Tool' datasets (see above introductory note to items 1-13). N.B. figures are the number of beneficiaries, rather than claimants. At February 2002 there were 18,900 claimants of Incapacity Benefit in Edinburgh but only 11,200 beneficiaries.

Incapacity Benefit is a contributory, non means tested, taxable benefit. It replaced Sickness Benefit and Invalidity Benefit from April 1995, and is payable to people who are assessed as being incapable of work, provided they meet the necessary contribution conditions. For the first 28 weeks of incapacity, claimants are assessed on the ability to carry out their own previous job. After this, the assessment is based on the 'all-work' test, which considers a wide range of work-related activities. Employees receive Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) for the first 28 weeks of sickness, after which they normally move on to Incapacity Benefit. People unable to get SSP can claim Incapacity Benefit if they satisfy the contribution conditions. Claimants who satisfy the incapacity conditions but not the benefit conditions receive national insurance credits only.

- (*8) Disability Living Allowance (DLA) data relate to February and are from Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) 'Tabulation Tool' datasets (see above introductory note to items 1-13). Disability Living Allowance is non-contributory, non income assessed and non taxable. It is payable to people who are disabled and who have personal care needs, mobility needs or both. It has two components : the care component (paid at one of three rates) and the mobility component (paid at one of two rates). To qualify, the need for help must have existed for 3 months and be expected to last for at least a further 6 months. DLA replaced and extended Attendance Allowance in April 1992 for disabled people who claim before the age of 65.

- (*9) Attendance Allowance (AA) data relate to February and are from Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) 'Tabulation Tool' datasets (see above introductory note to items 1-13). Attendance Allowance (AA) is a non-contributory, non income assessed and non taxable benefit for people who are so severely disabled, physically or mentally, that they need someone with them to help with personal care. A claimant who needs help both during the day and at night can get a higher allowance. Since April 1992, people who were disabled before the age of 65 receive Disability Living Allowance (DLA) instead of Attendance Allowance (AA).

- (*10) Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA) data relate to February and are from Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) 'Tabulation Tool' datasets (see above introductory note to items 1-13). N.B. figures are the number of beneficiaries, rather than claimants. Severe Disablement Allowance replaced both non-contributory invalidity pension (NCIP) and housewives' NCIP from November 1984. It is payable to those aged 16 or over who have been unable to work for a continuous period of 28 weeks because of incapacity, and who do not qualify for Incapacity Benefit (because of an insufficient contribution record). SDA is not available to new claimants from April 2001. From this point disabled people whose period of incapacity begins before the age of 20 (or 25 if in education or training before the age of 20) may be able to receive Incapacity Benefit without having to satisfy the National Insurance contribution conditions.

- (*11) Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA) data relate to February and are from Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) 5% sample 'Tabulation Tool' dataset (see above introductory note to items 1-13). Job Seeker's Allowance was introduced in October 1996. It replaced Unemployment Benefit (UB) and Income Support (IS) for unemployed people and brought them together in a unified benefit with two routes of entry : contribution-based (for those who have paid sufficient National Insurance contributions, payable only for the first 6 months of unemployment), and income-based (payable as long as needed, as long as the qualifying conditions continue to be met). In order to qualify for JSA, a person must be available for and actively seeking employment. It can be claimed by those working less than 16 hours per week paid employment, and by people on government training schemes.

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- (*12) Data relate to February and are from the Department for Work & Pensions' (DWP) Statistics Resource Centre. See under Benefit Statistics A to Z, Housing and Council Tax Benefit Quarterly Performance Statistics. Figures exclude persons receiving second adult rebates.

Council Tax Benefit (CTB) is an income-related benefit, administered by local authorities, designed to help people on low incomes pay their Council Tax. Generally, it mirrors the Housing Benefit scheme in the calculation of claimants' applicable amount, resources and deductions in respect of any non-dependents. There are two types of CTB : the Main Council Tax Benefit, and the Second Adult Rebate. Council Tax payers receiving Income Support or JSA(IB) can get upto 100% help. Others have their benefit assessed in a similar way to Housing Benefit, depending on income and savings. The Second Adult Rebate applies in situations where a second adult, who would normally be expected to contribute towards the household Council Tax bill, cannot afford to do so. It is assessed on the basis of the financial circumstances of the second adult.

- (*13) Data from 2002 onwards relate to February and are from the Department for Work & Pensions' (DWP) Statistics Resource Centre. See under Benefit Statistics A to Z, Housing and Council Tax Benefit Quarterly Performance Statistics. Data prior to 2002 relate to the year ending 31st March and are the average of the preceding quarterly figures for May, August, November and February. These are from Scottish Executive Statistical Bulletins : Housing Trends in Scotland : www.scotland.gov.uk/publications/recent.asp (Table 3 : Summary Information by Local Authority). Figures refer to 'benefit units', which may be individual persons or couples.

Housing Benefit (HB) is administered by local authorities. People on Income Support (IS) or income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) who have responsibility for paying rent qualify for maximum Housing Benefit. Others may also qualify, with the level of entitlement depending on the claimant's age and status, the number of dependent children, the level of rent payable (and eligible for benefit), and on the claimant's and dependants' capital and income. Full-time students ceased to be eligible from 1991, with a few exceptions such as disabled persons and single parents. Housing Benefit is administered either as a rebate, for council tenants, or a cash allowance for tenants of private landlords.

- (*14) Scottish Executive Statistical Bulletins : 'School Meals in Scotland' : www.scotland.gov.uk/publications/recent.asp (Tables 6 and 12) Pupils entitled to free meals are those whose parents are in receipt of Income Support, or Income Based Jobseekers Allowance, as well as any pupils who are themselves in receipt of these benefits. After 1 April 2000 the entitlement also extended to children of asylum seekers who are in receipt of support under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. N.B. Coverage is limited to Education Authority schools, and excludes schools which don't provide meals. The statistics are generally published in June, and relate to January of the same year.