

Table 108 Housing benefit – numbers of claimants and average claim in Great Britain

	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 provisional	
Housing benefit claimants (000's)																							
Social rented	-	-	-	3,588	3,175	3,169	3,154	3,101	3,116	3,186	3,294	3,324	3,383	3,385	3,337	3,283	3,211	3,104	2,942	2,623	2,337	2,160	
of which																							
Local authority housing	2,843	3,710	2,922	2,939	2,230	1,753	1,674	1,581	1,533	1,505	1,511	1,462	1,457	1,445	1,413	1,359	1,322	1,268	1,191	1,061	947	874	
Housing association	-	-	-	649	945	1,416	1,480	1,520	1,583	1,681	1,783	1,862	1,926	1,941	1,925	1,924	1,889	1,836	1,752	1,562	1,389	1,287	
Private rented sector (000's)	-	-	-	1,168	815	816	866	934	1,049	1,221	1,455	1,552	1,646	1,680	1,646	1,560	1,468	1,364	1,235	977	775	674	
of which:																							
Regulated tenancies	-	-	-	257	124	76	71	69	56	54	50	45	41	36	33	29	26	23	21	19	17	15	
Deregulated tenancies	-	-	-	900	687	713	794	864	998	1,167	1,406	1,507	1,605	1,644	1,614	1,531	1,304	1,216	1,211	955	755	655	
Other or unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	3	3	
Total	3,556	4,860	3,950	4,757	3,991	3,986	4,021	4,036	4,166	4,408	4,749	4,876	5,028	5,066	4,983	4,844	4,679	4,468	4,178	3,600	3,112	2,834	
Universal credit claimants in receipt of housing payment (000's)																							
Social rented																	15	49	121	257	606	1,101	1,370
Private rented sector																	14	49	107	211	509	1,213	1,536
Other or unknown																	-	0	1	5	11	34	43
Total																	29	98	229	472	1,126	2,349	2,949
Total claimants in receipt of housing allowance (000's)																							
Social rented																	3,298	3,260	3,224	3,199	3,229	3,438	3,530
Private rented sector																	1,574	1,517	1,471	1,446	1,487	1,989	2,209
Other or unknown																	-	-	1	8	14	37	46
Total																	4,872	4,777	4,697	4,653	4,730	5,464	5,786
Mean weekly housing benefit award (£)																							
Local authority housing	5.67	11.87	21.85	35.43	45.22	57.58	61.52	66.16	67.16	68.19	67.66	71.19	75.53	76.34	79.81	82.38	82.84	82.11	82.79	85.51	91.93	94.96	
Housing association	-	-	-	48.46	54.20	63.80	65.80	69.10	71.70	75.46	77.30	80.01	84.86	85.89	89.94	92.68	93.96	94.27	95.64	98.32	104.63	108.91	
Private rented sector	-	-	-	62.46	70.92	87.23	94.48	96.47	100.40	104.06	109.79	111.62	107.06	105.73	106.80	108.82	110.30	110.78	113.95	118.73	130.29	132.66	
of which:																							
Regulated tenancies	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	71.30	73.10	76.40	79.20	82.60	86.50	90.00	93.00	96.40	100.30	104.07	108.44	112.80	116.59	
Deregulated tenancies	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	102.00	105.50	110.90	112.50	107.70	106.10	107.10	109.10	110.50	110.90	114.12	118.94	130.68	133.04	
Total	5.52	12.54	24.74	43.85	54.25	67.02	70.79	74.76	78.74	80.86	84.14	87.40	89.40	89.72	92.61	94.97	96.03	95.95	97.36	100.06	107.15	110.25	

Sources: DWP Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Summary Statistics and Stat-Xplore.

- Notes: 1. Figures prior to 2009 are from DWP Summer Budget Expenditure and Caseload Statistics and are averages for the financial year. Stat-Xplore figures from 2009 are for May of each year, except 2016 which are from August.
2. Separate statistics for housing association tenants have only been collected since May 1992 and statistics for private and housing association claimants may be incomplete prior to 2008.
3. Universal credit statistics are based on households in receipt of a housing payment. All UC statistics are subject to revision, especially those for 2020. Weekly UC housing payments are not reported by DWP.