INLAND REVENUE
Analysis and Research

Child Benefit

Quarterly Statistics

November 2003

A National Statistics Publication

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Introduction and main aggregates

These tables show the number of families in the United Kingdom in receipt of Child Benefit at 30 November 2003, and the number of children for whom the Benefit was paid. The figures are estimates based on a sample of awards, and are therefore subject to sampling error - see the Technical note. Some time series information is also shown.

At the end of November 2003 there were about 7.21 million families receiving Child Benefit, and 12.86 million children for whom payments were being made.

Table 1.1 shows the time series of these figures. The number of families at November 2003 has increased by 0.05 per cent since November 2002; the number of children has declined by 0.2 per cent over the same period. The table also demonstrates the drop in the number of families and children between end August and November. Benefit payment ceases in early September for children not in full-time non-advanced education, or registered with the Careers service or Connexions.

More than 4 out of 5 Child Benefit recipients have 1 or 2 children.

1.13 million children (8.8 per cent) for whom payments were made were aged at least 16 by 31 August 2003. They were thus in full-time non-advanced education, or registered with the Careers service or Connexions.

There were 589 thousand children aged under 1 for whom payments were made, compared with 651 thousand between their first and second birthdays. The number aged under 1 is particularly affected by new claims, and revisions to claims, that were not received and processed by the reference date but will later be backdated to before the reference date.

Technical note

Child Benefit is paid to those responsible for children. Here "children" includes all those aged under 16. It also includes young people aged under 19 who are in full-time non-advanced education, or are entered for future external examinations, or are in the period between leaving (or exams finishing) and the week containing the first Monday in September (or similar dates after Easter and in early January, if earlier). It also includes young people aged under 18 who have moved directly from full-time education to being registered for work or training with the Careers service or Connexions. Awards are also subject to residence criteria being satisfied.

The numbers shown in the tables are estimates based on a random 5 per cent sample of awards current at the reference date. The extract was taken on the reference date. The figures therefore take no account of new claims, or revisions to claims, that were received or processed after the reference date, even if they are backdated to start before the reference date. Figures based on fewer than 25 cases are shown as "-".

The data extracted for each sample family include details of each child in the family for whom Benefit was paid at the extract date. This yields estimates of the total number of children in families receiving Child Benefit, and their characteristics.

The figures are subject to sampling error - see Appendix A.

Table 1.1 : Child Benefit recipients and their children, by age, May 2000 - November 2003

Thousands

	Recipients	Children for whom Child Benefit received, by age				
		Total	Under 5	5 to 10	11 to 15	16 and over
May 2000	7,305.3	13,252.3	3,457.4	4,573.4	3,792.1	1,429.5
August 2000	7,340.2	13,326.0	3,436.7	4,564.1	3,801.3	1,523.9
November 2000	7,216.9	13,021.0	3,428.1	4,557.2	3,805.6	1,230.1
February 2001	7,255.1	13,104.7	3,415.0	4,541.8	3,812.8	1,335.1
May 2001	7,297.5	13,198.1	3,395.8	4,520.1	3,822.7	1,459.6
August 2001	7,334.7	13,278.3	3,376.8	4,503.9	3,833.6	1,564.0
November 2001	7,207.0	12,962.5	3,367.1	4,492.8	3,845.9	1,256.8
February 2002	7,249.6	13,052.2	3,351.0	4,481.1	3,860.3	1,359.7
May 2002	7,296.7	13,154.3	3,327.8	4,468.5	3,863.3	1,494.7
August 2002	7,335.6	13,232.8	3,300.4	4,453.9	3,877.7	1,600.8
November 2002	7,203.0	12,888.5	3,292.3	4,443.0	3,881.9	1,271.3
February 2003	7,250.8	12,988.7	3,284.4	4,425.8	3,892.6	1,385.9
May 2003	7,298.1	13,091.9	3,262.9	4,404.8	3,894.8	1,529.4
August 2003	7,342.4	13,195.8	3,266.8	4,393.0	3,893.7	1,642.2
November 2003	7,206.8	12,859.6	3,262.2	4,386.3	3,892.3	1,318.6

Table 1.2 : Child Benefit recipients by size of family, May 2000 - November 2003

Thousands

	Total	Number of children for whom Child Benefit received				
		1	2	3	4	5 or more
May 2000	7,305.3	3,118.4	2,881.8	970.3	250.4	84.4
August 2000	7,340.2	3,127.8	2,898.1	977.4	251.3	85.6
November 2000	7,216.9	3,116.0	2,833.5	945.0	242.2	80.3
February 2001	7,255.1	3,123.6	2,854.1	951.9	244.1	81.4
May 2001	7,297.5	3,133.3	2,873.4	962.3	245.5	82.9
August 2001	7,334.7	3,143.1	2,890.7	969.6	246.8	84.4
November 2001	7,207.0	3,128.1	2,828.7	935.9	235.5	78.9
February 2002	7,249.6	3,140.4	2,848.0	943.2	237.6	80.4
May 2002	7,296.7	3,152.4	2,870.5	951.0	240.8	82.1
August 2002	7,335.6	3,162.0	2,893.6	954.4	242.4	83.1
November 2002	7,203.0	3,157.1	2,820.9	917.8	230.7	76.4
February 2003	7,250.8	3,171.1	2,843.0	925.3	233.4	77.9
May 2003	7,298.1	3,184.1	2,863.2	935.0	236.1	79.8
August 2003	7,342.4	3,189.2	2,890.4	942.1	238.8	81.9
November 2003	7,206.8	3,176.8	2,819.7	906.0	228.1	76.1

Table 1.3 Child Benefit recipients and children, by country, May 2000 - November 2003

Thousands

	United Kingdom[1]	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	Overseas
Recipients						
May 2000	7,305.3	6,096.3	358.5	608.7	231.5	10.2
August 2000	7,341.2	6,127.1	359.8	610.5	232.9	9.8
November 2000	7,216.9	6,025.9	354.0	598.5	228.8	9.8
February 2001	7,255.1	6,057.5	356.5	600.5	230.5	10.0
May 2001	7,297.5	6,092.1	359.0	604.1	232.1	10.2
August 2001	7,334.7	6,122.9	361.1	607.3	232.5	10.9
November 2001	7,207.0	6,015.6	355.4	596.8	228.1	11.2
February 2002	7,249.6	6,054.4	356.2	598.7	229.5	10.9
May 2002	7,296.7	6,093.8	358.7	602.6	230.8	10.7
August 2002	7,335.6	6,126.3	360.9	605.8	231.7	10.8
November 2002	7,203.0	6,016.7	353.8	594.7	227.3	10.5
February 2003	7,250.8	6,056.6	356.0	598.3	229.0	10.8
May 2003	7,298.1	6,096.1	358.2	602.6	230.2	11.0
August 2003	7,342.4	6,132.6	360.5	607.2	231.3	10.7
November 2003	7,206.8	6,020.7	352.7	596.3	226.6	10.4
Total number of children for whom Child Benefit received						
May 2000	13,252.3	11,079.0	644.7	1,053.2	457.8	17.7
August 2000	13,326.0	11,143.6	648.3	1,057.2	460.2	16.8
November 2000	13,021.0	10,892.1	634.0	1,030.8	447.0	17.1
February 2001	13,104.7	10,963.4	639.0	1,033.5	451.2	17.5
May 2001	13,198.1	11,040.6	643.9	1,040.7	454.9	18.0
August 2001	13,278.3	11,105.4	649.2	1,047.7	456.3	19.8
November 2001	12,962.5	10,841.9	635.4	1,022.1	443.4	19.8
February 2002	13,052.2	10,924.2	637.0	1,025.1	446.9	19.0
May 2002	13,154.3	11,010.5	641.9	1,032.8	450.2	18.9
August 2002	13,232.8	11,076.4	645.8	1,039.1	452.3	19.3
November 2002	12,888.5	10,790.9	628.5	1,012.5	438.2	18.4
February 2003	12,988.7	10,877.6	633.5	1,016.6	442.0	19.1
May 2003	13,091.9	10,966.0	636.9	1,024.8	444.6	19.6
August 2003	13,195.8	11,053.4	642.1	1,034.2	446.9	19.2
November 2003	12,859.6	10,777.0	623.6	1,008.7	432.0	18.2

[1] Including overseas

Table 2 Child Benefit recipients by size of family and country, November 2003

Thousands

	United Kingdom[1]	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	Overseas
Number of children in the family for whom Child Benefit received						
All families	7,206.8	6,020.7	352.7	596.3	226.6	10.4
1	3,176.8	2,634.1	158.7	285.8	93.6	4.5
2	2,819.7	2,367.9	135.9	229.9	81.7	4.2
3	906.0	760.9	43.8	64.2	35.8	1.4
4	228.1	192.6	10.9	12.7	11.6	-
5	54.3	46.0	2.4	2.9	2.9	-
6	15.0	13.1	0.6	0.6	0.6	-
7	4.7	4.1	-	-	-	-
8	1.4	1.2	-	-	-	-
9 or more	0.8	0.7	-	-	-	-

[1] Including overseas

Chart 1 Child Benefit recipients by size of family, United Kingdom, November 2003

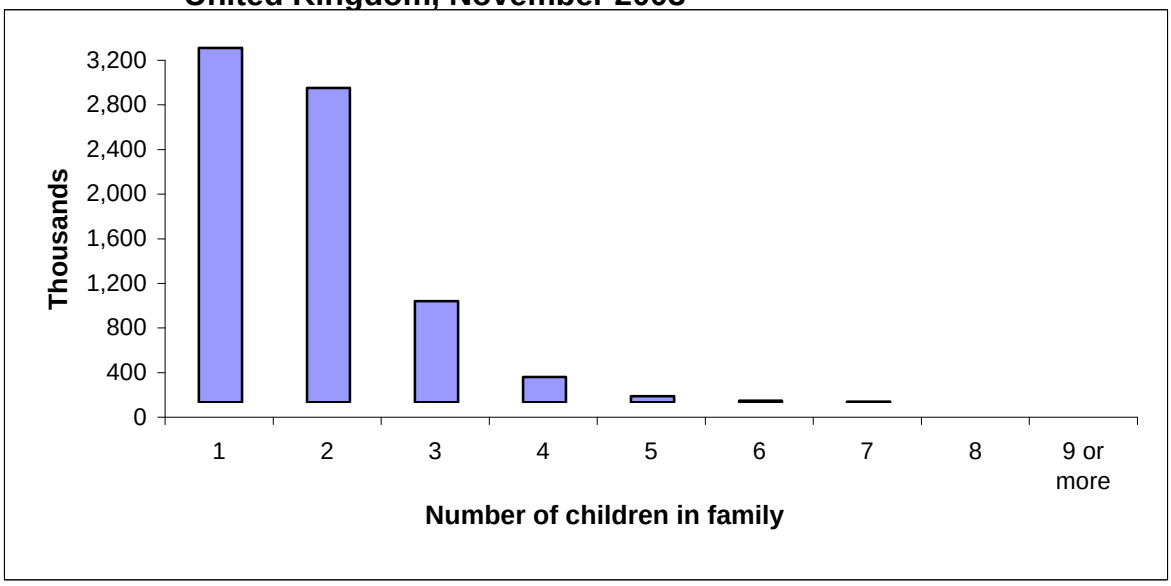


Table 3.1 Children in families of Child Benefit recipients, by age and country, November 2003

Thousands

	United Kingdom[1]	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	Overseas
All children for whom Child Benefit received	12,859.6	10,777.0	623.6	1,008.7	432.0	18.2
Age at 30 November 2003						
Under 1	588.7	495.2	26.7	47.7	18.6	-
1	650.9	548.6	30.5	49.9	20.8	1.0
2	658.0	553.9	30.4	49.9	22.9	1.0
3	671.1	566.9	30.6	50.5	21.8	1.2
4	693.5	583.6	32.4	53.5	23.2	0.9
5	711.8	597.2	33.1	55.6	24.5	1.3
6	726.0	608.7	34.5	57.5	24.0	1.4
7	725.4	608.0	35.9	56.6	23.7	1.1
8	724.9	607.2	35.4	57.9	23.3	1.2
9	741.9	620.6	35.4	60.5	24.1	1.2
10	756.4	631.9	36.7	61.9	24.5	1.3
11	776.6	645.4	38.6	64.9	26.5	1.3
12	778.6	649.9	37.9	64.5	25.4	1.0
13	789.4	661.2	39.6	61.2	26.6	0.8
14	766.6	639.6	38.0	61.9	26.0	1.1
15	781.2	649.8	40.1	63.9	26.6	0.8
16	633.0	528.0	32.1	48.7	23.7	-
17	490.8	413.8	25.7	33.4	17.5	-
18	194.8	167.6	10.1	8.6	8.3	-

[1] Including overseas

Chart 2 Children in families of Child Benefit recipients, by age at 30 November 2003, United Kingdom

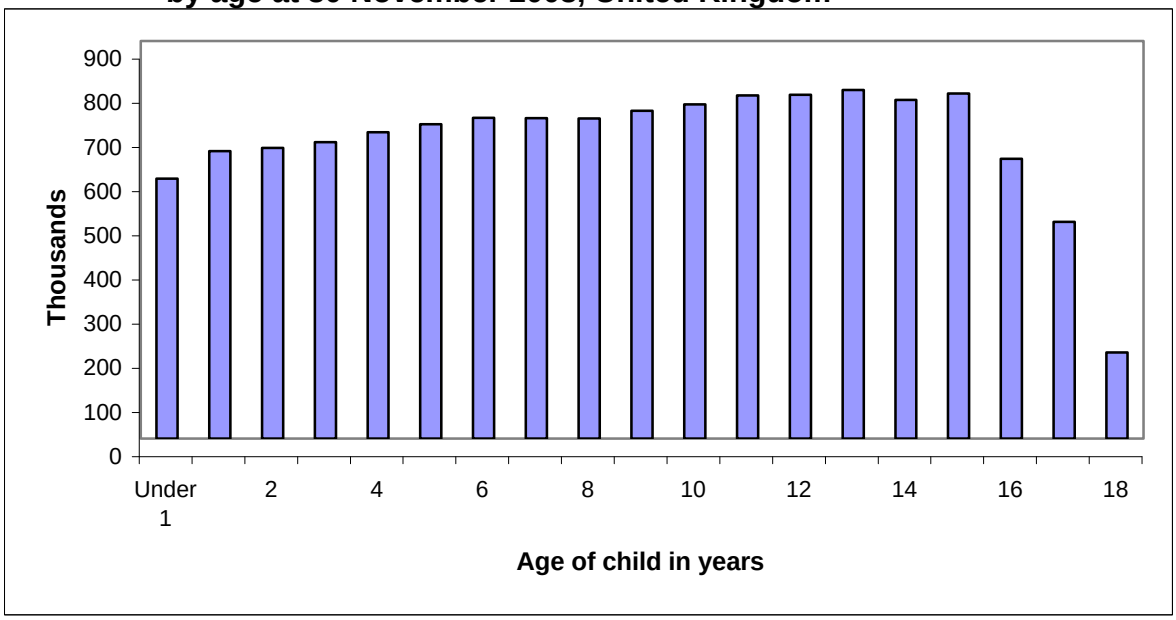


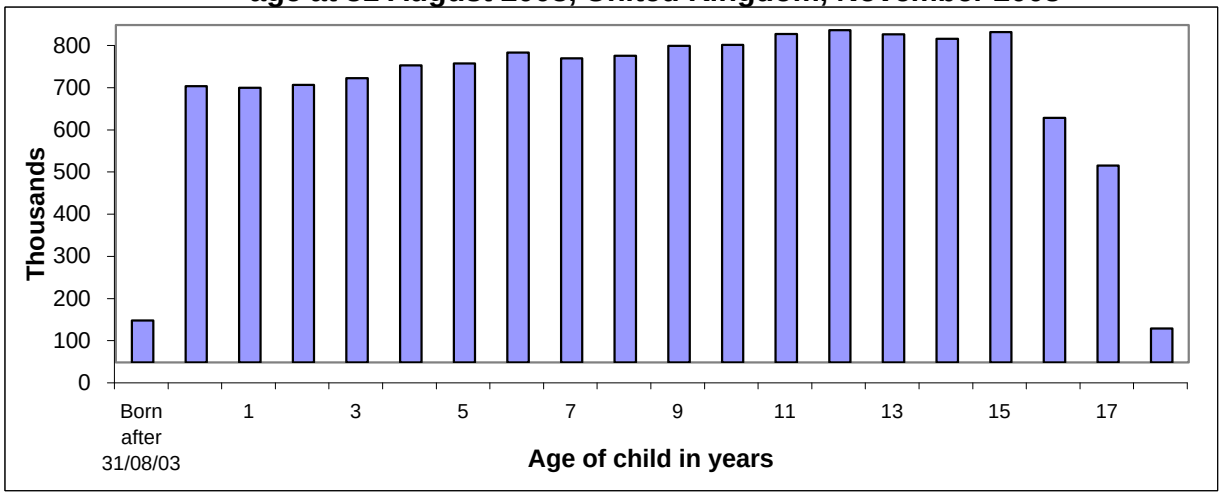
Table 3.2 **Children in families of Child Benefit recipients, by age at 31 August 2003 and country, November 2003**

Thousands

	United Kingdom[1]	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	Overseas
All children for whom Child Benefit received	12,859.6	10,777.0	623.6	1,008.7	432.0	18.2
Born between 1 Sept 2003 and 30 Nov 2003	99.7	83.4	5.0	8.3	3.0	-
Age at 31 August 2003						
Under 1	654.7	551.5	30.0	51.7	20.7	0.7
1	651.1	548.6	29.8	49.8	21.9	1.0
2	658.0	554.6	30.3	49.9	22.3	0.9
3	674.0	567.5	31.1	51.7	22.3	1.4
4	704.0	593.2	32.6	53.8	23.4	1.0
5	708.9	594.7	32.8	55.9	24.1	1.3
6	734.8	614.9	35.4	58.9	24.2	1.4
7	720.8	606.1	35.2	55.0	23.3	1.1
8	727.2	606.4	36.9	59.8	23.1	1.0
9	750.8	629.6	35.1	60.0	24.7	1.4
10	752.6	626.8	36.8	62.5	25.3	1.3
11	778.5	649.2	37.5	65.3	25.1	1.4
12	787.9	657.0	39.7	63.5	26.8	0.9
13	778.3	652.0	38.4	60.9	26.2	0.8
14	767.7	640.0	38.5	62.1	25.9	1.1
15	783.1	652.0	40.6	62.8	26.9	0.8
16	580.0	483.7	29.7	45.0	21.3	-
17	466.7	395.9	24.2	28.9	17.4	-
18	80.6	70.0	4.0	2.6	4.0	-
Under 16	11,732.2	9,827.4	565.8	932.2	389.3	17.5
16 or over	1,127.3	949.6	57.8	76.5	42.7	0.7

[1] Including overseas

Chart 3 **Children in families of Child Benefit recipients, by age at 31 August 2003, United Kingdom, November 2003**



Appendix A: Sampling error

The figures in the tables are based on what is in effect a random 5 per cent sample of families with claims for Child Benefit fully processed by the reference date. The sampling method ensures that the sample cases are representative of all such families on the computer system. The data for the children in these families also comprise a 5 per cent sample of children.

The figures in the tables are therefore estimates, but we know how accurate they are. For example, suppose that there are 100,000 families or children with a particular characteristic (but this number is not known), and that each is sampled with a probability of 0.2. Statistical theory says that there is a 95 per cent probability that the number sampled will lie between 19,752 and 20,248. If we were estimating the total number with the characteristic from the number in the sample, there is therefore a 95 per cent probability that our estimate will lie between 98,760 and 101,240. Approximately, we can then say that, where an estimate of 100,000 is derived from the sample, the true figure lies within 1,240 of the estimate, with a 95 per cent probability. That is, the width of the "95 per cent confidence interval" for the estimate is 1,240, or 1.2 per cent, of the estimate itself.

The width of the confidence interval varies with the size of the estimate, as shown in the table below.

Confidence interval widths for estimates

Estimated value	95% confidence interval	Confidence interval as % of the estimate
'000	'000	
1	± 0.3	± 27%
2	± 0.4	± 19%
5	± 0.6	± 12%
10	± 0.9	± 9%
25	± 1.4	± 5%
50	± 1.9	± 3.8%
100	±2.7	± 2.7%
250	±4.3	± 1.7%
500	±6.0	± 1.2%
1,000	± 8.5	± 0.9%

Appendix B: Rates of Child Benefit, 1992-93 to 2003-04

£ per week

	Eldest child	Subsequent children	Lone parent[1]
April 1992	9.65	7.80	15.50
April 1993	10.00	8.10	16.05
April 1994	10.20	8.25	16.35
April 1995	10.40	8.45	16.70
April 1996	10.80	8.80	17.10
April 1997	11.05	9.00	17.10
April 1998	11.45	9.30	17.10
April 1999	14.40	9.60	17.10
April 2000	15.00	10.00	17.55
April 2001	15.50	10.35	17.55
April 2002	15.75	10.55	17.55
April 2003	16.05	10.75	17.55

Notes:

1. This was payable instead of the standard eldest child rate to most people bringing up children on their own until 6 July 1998. From that date it has continued to be payable to recipients at that date. It is also payable to lone parents who were receiving the lone parent rate of family premium in Income Support or Jobseekers' Allowance and move into work; and lone parents ceasing to receive a "specified" benefit (Child's Special Allowance for the eldest dependent child; the higher rate of Industrial Death Benefit for the child; or an increase for the eldest dependent child with either Widowed Mother's Allowance, War Widow's Pension, Retirement Pension, Industrial Disablement Pension - which includes Unemployability Supplement - or Invalid Care Allowance).