



HM REVENUE AND CUSTOMS
Analysis Team

Child Benefit Statistics

Quarterly Statistics

November 2005



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Introduction and key figures

The following tables show the number of families in the United Kingdom in receipt of Child Benefit at 30 November 2005, 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 Appendix A.

Table 1.1 shows the trend over time of the number of families claiming Child Benefit since May 2000. At the end of November 2005 there were 7.2 million families receiving Child Benefit, with 12.8 million children for whom payments were being claimed.

The number of families at November 2005 has increased slightly compared with November 2004. The total number of children has decreased very slightly over the same period. For children under 5, there has been an increase from 3.27 million in November 2004 to 3.31 million in November 2005.

There was a slight increase in children aged 16 and over for whom Child Benefit is claimed in November 2005 compared with the previous year. Only those aged 16 and over and in full-time non advanced education or registered with the Careers Service or Connexions are entitled to Child Benefit. The drop of about 400,000 children in this age category between August 2005 and November 2005 is explained by those that stopped being eligible, and payments ceased in early September 2005. See the Technical note for more information.

Table 1.2 shows the numbers of families claiming Child Benefit by the size of family. In November 2005, 45% of Child Benefit families have 1 child and 39% have 2 children for whom the benefit was claimed, no change from the previous year.

A breakdown by country of residence of Child Benefit recipients is shown in **Table 1.3**. There was an increase of about 30,000 claimants in England in November 2005 compared with November 2004. For Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland there was very little change over the same period.

Table 2 shows how the number of children in the family for whom Child Benefit is claimed varies between countries within the UK. 45% of families in England have 1 child, compared with 46% in Wales, 49% in Scotland and 42% in Northern Ireland.

In **Table 3.1**, a profile of the individual year of age of children for whom Child Benefit is claimed can be seen. There were 618 thousand children aged under 1 for whom payments were made, compared with 697 thousand for those aged 1. The number aged under 1 is particularly affected by new and revised claims that were not received and processed by the reference date but will later be backdated to before the reference date.

Table 3.2 shows the age of children at 31 August 2005, and therefore the age of children by school year. There were 690 thousand children that were under 1 at this date, the same amount as those aged 1.

**Table 1.1 : Child Benefit recipients and their children, by age,
May 2000 - November 2005***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	13,252	3,457	4,573	3,792	1,430
August 2000	7,340	13,326	3,437	4,564	3,801	1,524
November 2000	7,217	13,021	3,428	4,557	3,806	1,230
February 2001	7,255	13,105	3,415	4,542	3,813	1,335
May 2001	7,298	13,198	3,396	4,520	3,823	1,460
August 2001	7,335	13,278	3,377	4,504	3,834	1,564
November 2001	7,207	12,963	3,367	4,493	3,846	1,257
February 2002	7,250	13,052	3,351	4,481	3,860	1,360
May 2002	7,297	13,154	3,328	4,469	3,863	1,495
August 2002	7,336	13,233	3,300	4,454	3,878	1,601
November 2002	7,203	12,889	3,292	4,443	3,882	1,271
February 2003	7,251	12,989	3,284	4,426	3,893	1,386
May 2003	7,298	13,092	3,263	4,405	3,895	1,529
August 2003	7,342	13,196	3,267	4,393	3,894	1,642
November 2003	7,207	12,860	3,262	4,386	3,892	1,319
February 2004	7,247	12,942	3,257	4,378	3,882	1,426
May 2004	7,301	13,062	3,257	4,366	3,869	1,571
August 2004	7,353	13,168	3,253	4,352	3,871	1,692
November 2004	7,196	12,773	3,271	4,334	3,878	1,290
February 2005	7,252	12,897	3,274	4,324	3,874	1,425
May 2005	7,311	13,025	3,278	4,304	3,867	1,576
August 2005	7,375	13,152	3,293	4,289	3,862	1,707
November 2005	7,221	12,763	3,314	4,280	3,864	1,305

**Table 1.2 : Child Benefit recipients by size of family,
May 2000 - November 2005***Thousands*

	Total	Number of children for whom Child Benefit received					Ave number of children per family
		1	2	3	4	5 or more	
May 2000	7,305	3,118	2,882	970	250	84	1.81
August 2000	7,340	3,128	2,898	977	251	86	1.82
November 2000	7,217	3,116	2,834	945	242	80	1.80
February 2001	7,255	3,124	2,854	952	244	81	1.81
May 2001	7,298	3,133	2,873	962	246	83	1.81
August 2001	7,335	3,143	2,891	970	247	84	1.81
November 2001	7,207	3,128	2,829	936	236	79	1.80
February 2002	7,250	3,140	2,848	943	238	80	1.80
May 2002	7,297	3,152	2,871	951	241	82	1.80
August 2002	7,336	3,162	2,894	954	242	83	1.80
November 2002	7,203	3,157	2,821	918	231	76	1.79
February 2003	7,251	3,171	2,843	925	233	78	1.79
May 2003	7,298	3,184	2,863	935	236	80	1.79
August 2003	7,342	3,189	2,890	942	239	82	1.80
November 2003	7,207	3,177	2,820	906	228	76	1.78
February 2004	7,247	3,192	2,836	912	231	78	1.79
May 2004	7,301	3,203	2,863	923	233	80	1.79
August 2004	7,353	3,219	2,885	931	235	82	1.79
November 2004	7,196	3,206	2,805	890	221	75	1.78
February 2005	7,252	3,220	2,830	900	225	77	1.78
May 2005	7,311	3,238	2,854	911	229	79	1.78
August 2005	7,375	3,260	2,882	920	233	80	1.78
November 2005	7,221	3,252	2,795	880	219	75	1.77

Table 1.3 Child Benefit recipients and children, by country, May 2000 - November 2005

	<i>Thousands</i>					
	United Kingdom ¹	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	Overseas
Recipients						
May 2000	7,305	6,096	359	609	232	10
August 2000	7,341	6,127	360	611	233	10
November 2000	7,217	6,026	354	599	229	10
February 2001	7,255	6,058	357	601	231	10
May 2001	7,298	6,092	359	604	232	10
August 2001	7,335	6,123	361	607	233	11
November 2001	7,207	6,016	355	597	228	11
February 2002	7,250	6,054	356	599	230	11
May 2002	7,297	6,094	359	603	231	11
August 2002	7,336	6,126	361	606	232	11
November 2002	7,203	6,017	354	595	227	11
February 2003	7,251	6,057	356	598	229	11
May 2003	7,298	6,096	358	603	230	11
August 2003	7,342	6,133	361	607	231	11
November 2003	7,207	6,021	353	596	227	10
February 2004	7,247	6,059	355	595	228	10
May 2004	7,301	6,105	357	600	230	9
August 2004	7,353	6,150	360	603	230	10
November 2004	7,196	6,022	352	587	225	9
February 2005	7,252	6,071	354	590	227	10
May 2005	7,311	6,122	356	595	229	9
August 2005	7,375	6,177	358	600	230	9
November 2005	7,221	6,051	350	586	226	9
Total number of children for whom Child Benefit received						
May 2000	13,252	11,079	645	1,053	458	18
August 2000	13,326	11,144	648	1,057	460	17
November 2000	13,021	10,892	634	1,031	447	17
February 2001	13,105	10,963	639	1,034	451	18
May 2001	13,198	11,041	644	1,041	455	18
August 2001	13,278	11,105	649	1,048	456	20
November 2001	12,963	10,842	635	1,022	443	20
February 2002	13,052	10,924	637	1,025	447	19
May 2002	13,154	11,011	642	1,033	450	19
August 2002	13,233	11,076	646	1,039	452	19
November 2002	12,889	10,791	629	1,013	438	18
February 2003	12,989	10,878	634	1,017	442	19
May 2003	13,092	10,966	637	1,025	445	20
August 2003	13,196	11,053	642	1,034	447	19
November 2003	12,860	10,777	624	1,009	432	18
February 2004	12,942	10,856	626	1,005	437	18
May 2004	13,062	10,959	632	1,015	440	17
August 2004	13,168	11,052	637	1,021	442	17
November 2004	12,773	10,728	617	987	426	16
February 2005	12,897	10,836	622	992	432	17
May 2005	13,025	10,944	627	1,002	435	17
August 2005	13,152	11,054	632	1,012	438	17
November 2005	12,763	10,733	611	979	424	17

¹ Including overseas

Table 2 **Child Benefit recipients by size of family and country, November 2005**

Thousands

	United Kingdom ¹	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	Overseas
Number of children in family for whom Child Benefit is received						
All families	7,221	6,051	350	586	226	9
1	3,252	2,706	160	288	95	3
2	2,795	2,352	136	221	82	4
3	880	743	40	61	34	1
4	219	185	11	12	11	-
5	53	45	2	3	3	-
6	15	13	-	-	1	-
7	5	4	-	-	-	-
8	1	1	-	-	-	-
9 or more	1	1	-	-	-	-
 Average number of children in family	 1.77	 1.77	 1.75	 1.67	 1.88	 1.83

¹ Including overseas

Chart 1 **Children in families of Child Benefit recipients, by age at 30 November 2005 and country**

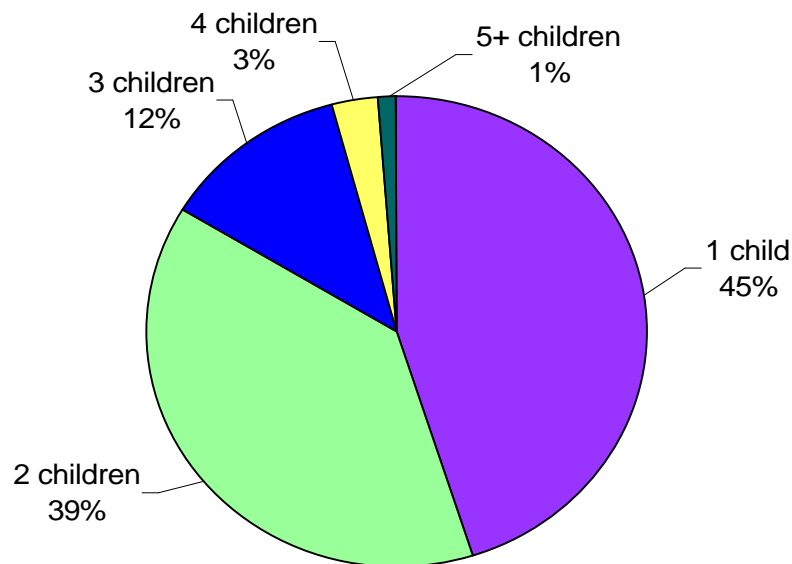


Table 3.1 Children in families of Child Benefit recipients, by age and country, November 2005

Thousands

	United Kingdom ¹	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	Overseas
All children for whom Child Benefit received	12,763	10,733	611	979	424	17
Age at 30 November 2005:						
Under 1 ²	618	521	29	48	20	-
1	697	591	31	50	23	1
2	677	571	30	53	21	1
3	660	557	31	50	21	1
4	663	558	31	50	23	1
5	677	572	31	51	22	1
6	697	586	33	54	23	1
7	716	601	33	56	25	1
8	729	611	35	58	24	1
9	730	613	36	57	24	1
10	729	612	35	58	23	1
11	747	626	35	61	24	1
12	762	638	37	62	24	1
13	779	648	39	65	27	1
14	782	653	38	64	25	1
15	793	665	40	61	27	1
16	622	522	31	47	22	-
17	507	433	26	30	18	-
18	176	154	9	4	9	-
Under 16	11,458	9,624	544	898	376	16
16 and over	1,305	1,109	67	81	48	1

¹ Including overseas

² The number of children aged under 1 will be underestimated as these children will be particularly affected by new and revised claims that were not received by the reference date. They will later be backdated to before the reference date.

Chart 2 Children in families of Child Benefit recipients, by age at 30 November 2005, United Kingdom

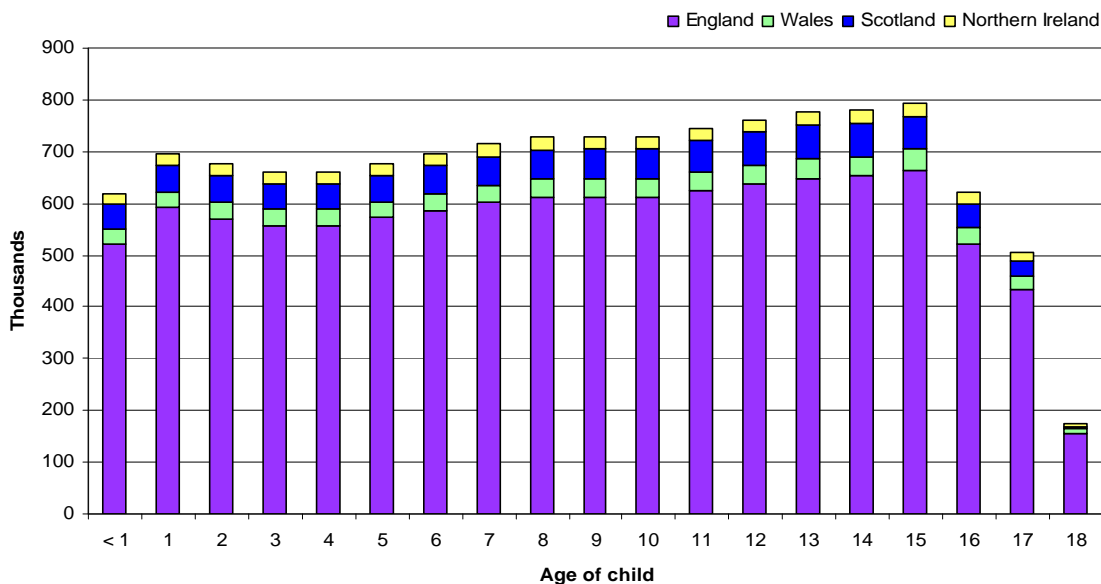
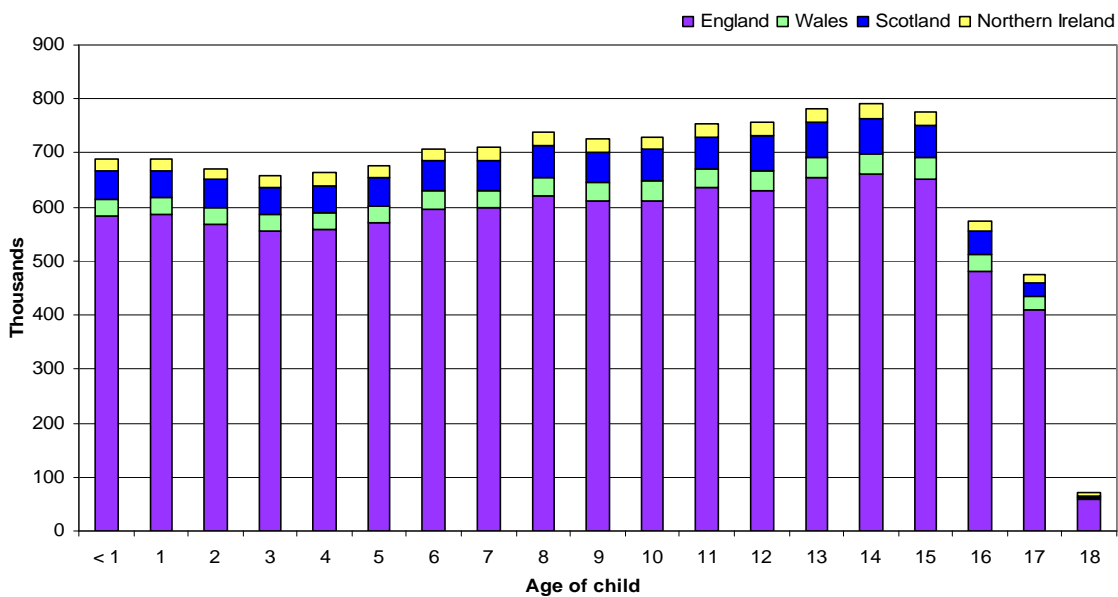


Table 3.2 Children in families of Child Benefit recipients, by age at 31 August 2005 and country

	<i>Thousands</i>					
	United Kingdom ¹	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	Overseas
All children for whom Child Benefit received	12,763	10,733	611	979	424	17
Born between 1 September 2005 and 30 November 2005	108	91	5	8	4	-
Age at 31 August 2005:						
Under 1	690	582	31	53	22	1
1	690	586	31	50	23	1
2	672	567	31	52	21	1
3	659	555	30	50	22	1
4	664	560	31	50	22	1
5	678	571	32	52	22	1
6	709	597	33	54	23	1
7	712	598	33	56	24	1
8	740	619	36	59	24	1
9	726	610	35	56	23	1
10	732	610	37	60	23	1
11	756	635	35	60	25	1
12	757	631	37	63	25	1
13	783	653	38	65	25	1
14	791	660	40	64	27	1
15	778	653	39	59	26	1
16	575	483	29	43	20	-
17	475	411	25	22	17	-
18	70	60	3	2	5	-
Under 16	11,643	9,780	553	912	382	16
16 and over	1,120	953	57	67	41	1

¹ Including overseas

Chart 3 Children in families of Child Benefit recipients, by age at 31 August 2005, United Kingdom



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) and not in work. Additionally, it 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 with 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 Child Benefit was paid at the extract date. This yields estimates of the total number of children in families receiving Child Benefit, and their characteristics.

There are around 9,000 families allocated to "Abroad". Investigations indicate that the vast majority of these are for families of armed forces or other crown servants serving overseas.

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

Appendix A: Sampling error

The figures in the tables are based on 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	<u>95% confidence interval</u>	<u>Confidence interval as % of the estimate</u>
'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 2005-06

	£ 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
April 2004	16.50	11.05	17.55
April 2005	17.00	11.40	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 Unemployment Supplement - or Invalid Care Allowance).