

Incapacity Benefit

General details	Data derived from a 100% scan of Incapacity Benefit Claimants
Area output	National, regional, district and ward (2003) boundaries
Time period	August 13 th 2001, August 26 th 2002
Source	Department for Work and Pensions (DWO)
Provider	ONS, Neighbourhood Statistics
Comments	The data is regarded as being of very high quality.

1 Introduction

1.1 Incapacity Benefit is financial assistance for people who are unable to work due to an illness or disability. It is often paid to people who have no entitlement to statutory sick pay or whose entitlement has to statutory sick pay has finished.

1.2 Entitlement is based on the National Insurance contributions you have paid. People who are incapacitated and are unemployed may get Incapacity Benefit if they have paid enough National Insurance contributions.

1.3 The rates for Incapacity Benefit are:

Short-term Incapacity Benefit (under pension age)

- Lower rate £55.90 (first 28 weeks)
- Higher rate £66.15 (weeks 29–52)

Short-term Incapacity Benefit (over pension age)

- Lower rate £71.15
- Higher rate £74.15
- Long-term Incapacity Benefit £74.15 (after 52 weeks)

(See notes* for an explanation of rates)

2 National and Regional Figures

2.1 Over two million people in England and Wales claimed Incapacity Benefit in 2003

2.2 Nationally, regionally and in four out of the five districts in West Yorkshire, the number has grown over the last two years.

Table 1: Claimants of Incapacity Benefit 2001 to 2003

Area	Claimants 2001	Claimants 2002	Claimants 2003	Change 2001 - 2	Change 2002 - 3	Change 2001 - 3
England & Wales	2079666	2104281	2131947	1.2	1.3	2.5
Bradford	21575	21810	22345	1.1	2.5	3.6
Calderdale	7785	8020	8265	3.0	3.1	6.2
Kirklees	15570	16155	16675	3.8	3.2	7.1
Leeds	27840	28090	28815	0.9	2.6	3.5
Wakefield	18770	18840	18810	0.4	-0.2	0.2
West Yorkshire	91540	92915	94910	1.5	2.1	3.7

2.3 Approximately half of Incapacity Benefit Claimants are aged under 50 years nationally, in West Yorkshire and in Kirklees. In Wakefield the proportion is much less, about 44% and in Bradford it is higher, about 53%.

3 Kirklees Figures

3.1 In Kirklees, almost 17,000 people were claiming Incapacity Benefit in August 2003. This number had risen by over 1000 since August 2001 and the increase of over 7% was the largest in West Yorkshire (almost double the West Yorkshire rate) and almost 3 times the national increase.

3.2 Over 1000 people were claiming Incapacity Benefit in Dewsbury West and Batley West in August 2003 and the four wards with the highest number of claimants were all in North Kirklees.

3.3 The greatest increases in the number of claimants were in South Kirklees, with Golcar, Holme Valley North and South and Dalton all experiencing increase in the number of Incapacity Benefit Claimants of more than 13% between August 2001 and August 2003.

Figure 1: Incapacity Benefit Claimants 2003 by Kirklees 2003 wards

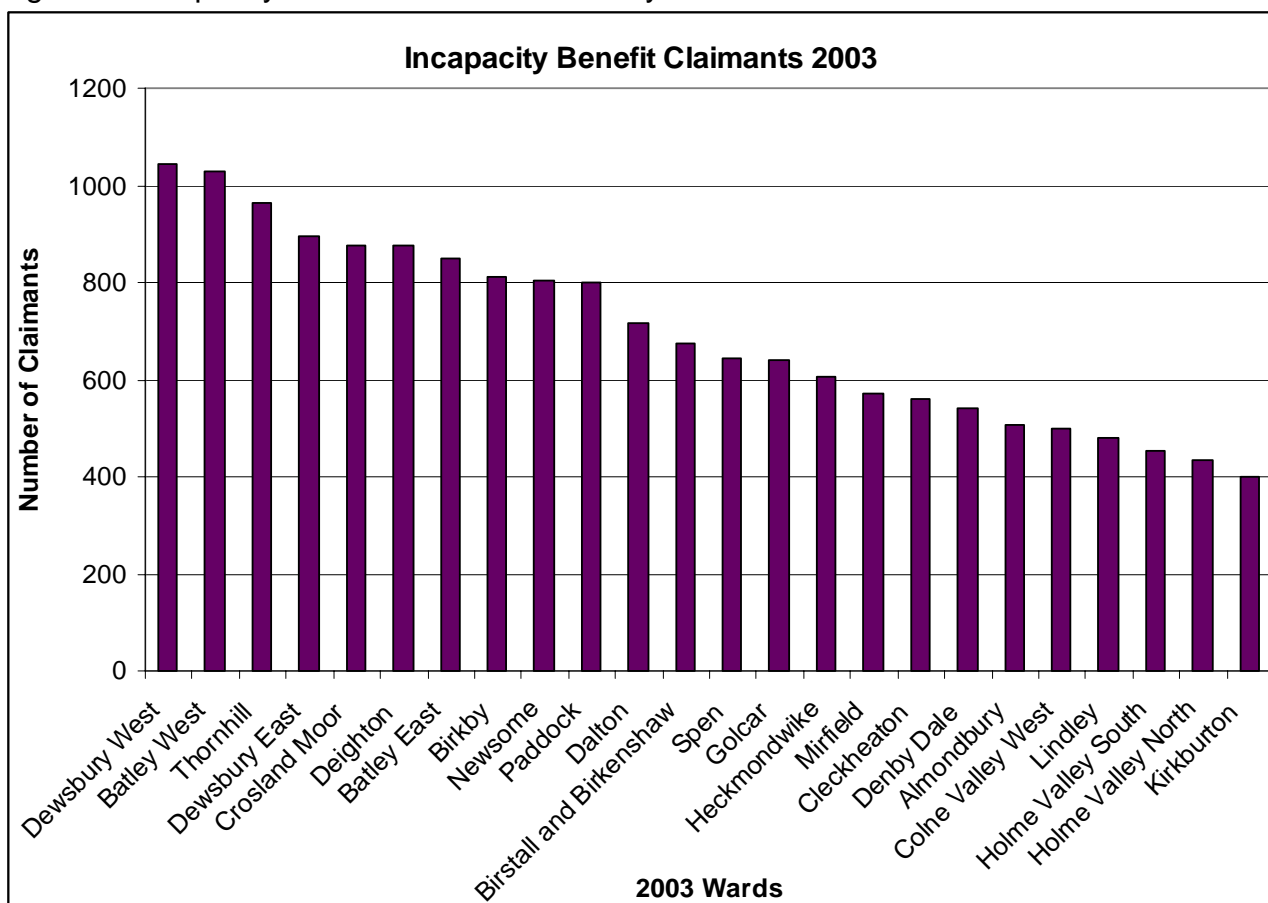
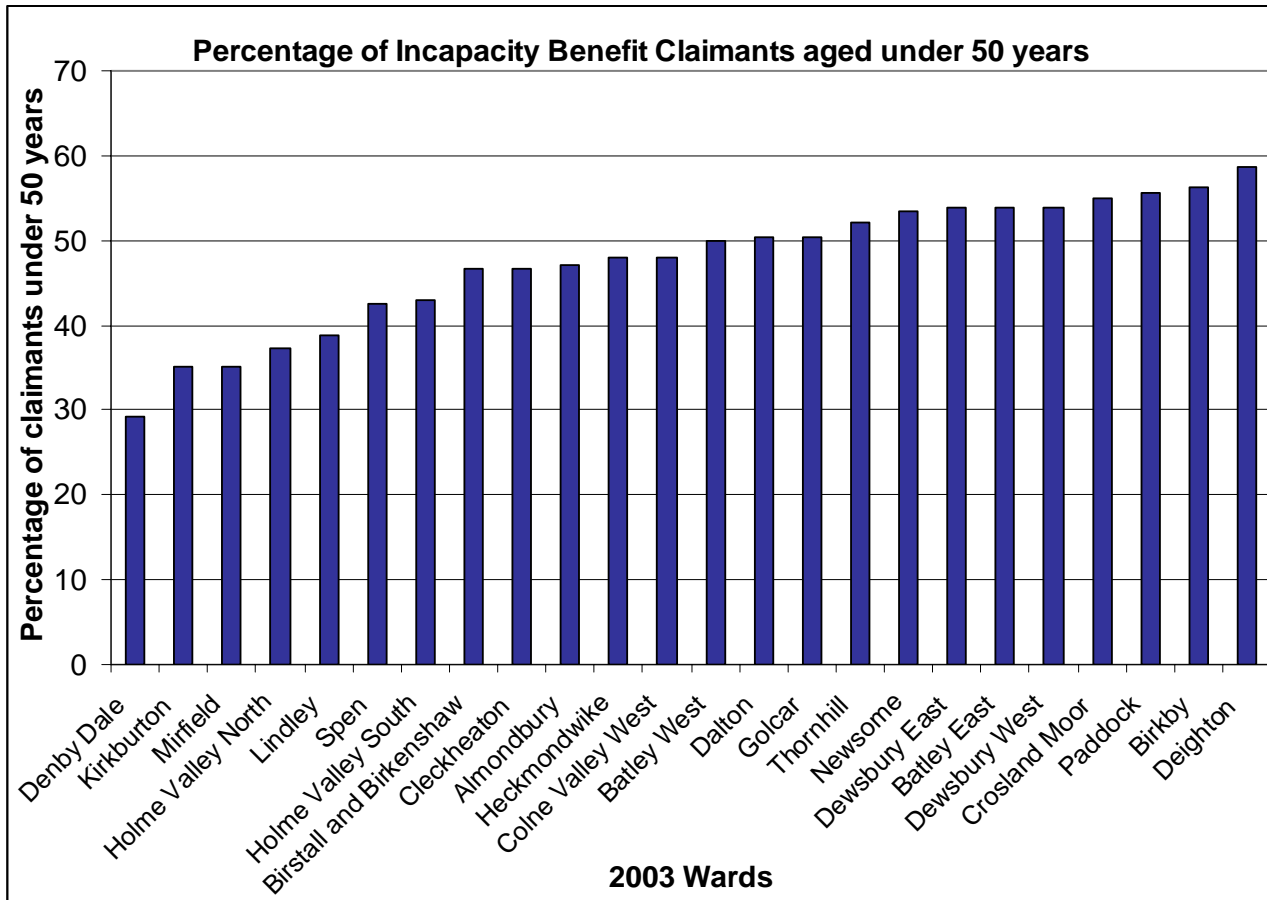


Table 2: Incapacity Benefit Claimants 2001 - 3 by Kirklees 2003 wards

Area	Claimants 2001	Claimants 2002	Claimants 2003	Change 2001 - 2	Change 2002 - 3	Change 2001 - 3
Almondbury	465	500	505	7.5	1.0	8.6
Batley East	810	845	850	4.3	0.6	4.9
Batley West	970	1000	1030	3.1	3.0	6.2
Birkby	750	790	810	5.3	2.5	8.0
Birstall and Birkenshaw	645	665	675	3.1	1.5	4.7
Cleckheaton	500	535	560	7.0	4.7	12.0
Colne Valley West	470	510	500	8.5	-2.0	6.4
Crosland Moor	815	855	875	4.9	2.3	7.4
Dalton	625	675	715	8.0	5.9	14.4
Deighton	860	870	875	1.2	0.6	1.7
Denby Dale	490	515	540	5.1	4.9	10.2
Dewsbury East	840	865	895	3.0	3.5	6.5
Dewsbury West	1000	1010	1045	1.0	3.5	4.5
Golcar	545	565	640	3.7	13.3	17.4
Heckmondwike	585	615	605	5.1	-1.6	3.4
Holme Valley North	385	415	435	7.8	4.8	13.0
Holme Valley South	390	420	455	7.7	8.3	16.7
Kirkburton	395	385	400	-2.5	3.9	1.3
Lindley	445	465	480	4.5	3.2	7.9
Mirfield	575	555	570	-3.5	2.7	-0.9
Newsome	765	815	805	6.5	-1.2	5.2
Paddock	730	745	800	2.1	7.4	9.6
Spennithorne	595	600	645	0.8	7.5	8.4
Thornhill	910	940	965	3.3	2.7	6.0
Kirklees	15570	16155	16675	3.8	3.2	7.1
North Kirklees	7430	7630	7840	2.7	2.8	5.5
South Kirklees	8130	8525	8835	4.9	3.6	8.7

3.4 There is a marked difference in the proportion of Incapacity Benefit Claimants aged under 50 years between Kirklees wards. The affluent wards (such as Denby Dale, Kirkburton and Mirfield) have a lower figure than the more deprived wards such as (Deighton, Birkby and Paddock.)

Figure 2: Incapacity Benefit Claimants aged under 50 years by Kirklees 2003 wards



* Notes

Short-term Incapacity Benefit at the lower rate is paid if you do not get Statutory Sick Pay and have been sick for at least four days in a row including weekends and public holidays, or if you qualify under the special rules for young people. You will only get Incapacity Benefit under the rules for young people if you have been incapable of work for 28 weeks without a break.

Short-term Incapacity Benefit at the higher rate is paid if you have been sick for more than 28 weeks and less than 52 weeks. If you qualify under the rules for young people, you must have been getting Incapacity Benefit for 28 weeks.

Long-term Incapacity Benefit is paid if you have been sick for over 52 weeks. If you qualify under the special rules for young people, you must have been getting Incapacity Benefit for 52 weeks.

3.5 People who are eligible for Incapacity Benefit do not all share a common set of circumstances. Some may be in employment but temporarily ill and some may have no prospects of ever re-entering the workforce. These figures therefore just give a guide to the number of people who are unable to work because of ill-health.

3.6 We would expect higher rates of claiming in West Yorkshire due to the known impact on health of occupations in the mining and industrial manufacturing industries. The rate of increase in IB claimants is higher in Kirklees than the national rate probably because manufacturing is still a major employer.

4 Links and further information

Office for National Statistics

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/default.asp>

Department for Work and Pensions

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/>

5 Indicator archive

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