

## State Pension Claimants

<b>General details</b>	Drawn from a 100% scan of State Pension claimants
<b>Area output</b>	National, regional, district and ward (2003) boundaries
<b>Time period</b>	May 23 <sup>rd</sup> 2001, August 26 <sup>th</sup> 2002, August 23 <sup>rd</sup> 2003
<b>Source</b>	Department for Work and Pensions
<b>Provider</b>	ONS Neighbourhood Statistics
<b>Comments</b>	The data is regarded as being of very high quality.

### 1 Introduction

1.1 State Pensions are available to people who have reached the State Pension age which is currently 60 for women and 65 for men.

1.2 Eligibility for the pension is based on National Insurance contributions accrued through a person's working life. Most people who have worked will be eligible, but some, mostly women who have not worked for many years are not. Eligibility criteria are less exclusive for people over 80 years.

1.3 The basic State Pension should not be confused with the State Second Pension which is a contributory and non-obligatory pension (previously known as SERPS, State Earnings Related Pension Scheme).

### 2 National and Regional Figures

Table 1: Total claimants of State Pension England and Wales

Year	2001	2002	2003	Increase 2001 to 2003	% Increase 2001 to 2003
<b>England</b>	8678948	8773664	8831592	152644	1.8
<b>Wales</b>	558351	564997	571627	13276	2.4
<b>England and Wales</b>	9239300	9340663	9405222	165920	1.8

2.1 The population of England and Wales rose by approximately 1.4% between 2001 and 2003 according to the Office for National Statistics Mid Year Population Estimates. During the same period the number of people of pensionable age rose by 1.7%. The number of claimants of State Pension rose by a slightly higher proportion, 1.8%

2.2 In West Yorkshire, the two largest authorities have a pensionable age population that is declining slightly, while the other districts have pensionable age populations that are rising at or below the national rate.

Table 2: Increase in the pensionable age population in West Yorkshire 2001 to 2003

District	% increase in pensionable age population 2001 to 2003
<b>Bradford</b>	-0.1
<b>Calderdale</b>	0.9
<b>Kirklees</b>	1.1
<b>Leeds</b>	-0.2
<b>Wakefield</b>	1.9

Source: Office for National Statistics, Mid Year Estimates

2.3 The growth in the number of State Pension claimants in West Yorkshire is higher than the pensionable population growth. This could be due to an increasing eligibility and take-up among women.

Table 3: Total claimants of State Pension, West Yorkshire

Year	2001	2002	2003	Increase 2001 to 2003	% Increase 2001 to 2003
<b>Bradford</b>	75825	76090	76070	245	0.3
<b>Calderdale</b>	33295	33515	33585	290	0.9
<b>Kirklees</b>	64080	64885	65260	1180	1.8
<b>Leeds</b>	121030	121625	121075	45	0.0
<b>Wakefield</b>	54060	54825	55585	1525	2.8

### 3 Kirklees Figures

3.1 The Office for National Statistics has published State Pension Claimant figures by 2003 wards. These figures are based on a 100% download of the claimant data and allocated to wards on the basis of unit postcodes of the claimant's home address.

Table 4: Total claimants of State Pension, Kirklees wards 2003

Year	2001	2002	2003	Increase 2001 to 2003	% Increase 2001 to 2003
<b>Almondbury</b>	2690	2705	2700	10	0.4
<b>Batley East</b>	2410	2470	2415	5	0.2
<b>Batley West</b>	2540	2580	2595	55	2.2
<b>Birkby</b>	2535	2580	2595	60	2.4
<b>Birstall and Birkenshaw</b>	2965	3050	3140	175	5.9
<b>Cleckheaton</b>	2750	2755	2840	90	3.3
<b>Colne Valley West</b>	2330	2360	2380	50	2.1
<b>Crosland Moor</b>	2975	3010	2960	-15	-0.5
<b>Dalton</b>	2805	2860	2835	30	1.1
<b>Deighton</b>	1860	1845	1805	-55	-3.0
<b>Denby Dale</b>	2985	3045	3135	150	5.0
<b>Dewsbury East</b>	2625	2635	2685	60	2.3
<b>Dewsbury West</b>	2370	2385	2375	5	0.2
<b>Golcar</b>	2455	2490	2535	80	3.3
<b>Heckmondwike</b>	2890	2985	3005	115	4.0
<b>Holme Valley North</b>	2840	2895	2995	155	5.5
<b>Holme Valley South</b>	2535	2620	2625	90	3.6
<b>Kirkburton</b>	2740	2795	2835	95	3.5
<b>Lindley</b>	3405	3425	3435	30	0.9
<b>Mirfield</b>	3110	3140	3235	125	4.0
<b>Newsome</b>	2355	2340	2325	-30	-1.3
<b>Paddock</b>	2820	2755	2680	-140	-5.0
<b>Spennithorne</b>	2785	2790	2780	-5	-0.2
<b>Thornhill</b>	2325	2355	2360	35	1.5

3.2 The ward figures show relatively large changes in the numbers of State Pension claimants between 2001 and 2003 with Birstall and Birkenshaw, Denby Dale and Holme Valley North all showing increases of 5% or more and Paddock showing a decline of 5%.

3.3 Older people are a key group for service provision particularly for health and social care services. The Office for National Statistics does not produce small area population

estimates e.g. for wards so it would be useful for service provision if the number of claimants of State Pension could serve as a reliable proxy figure for the number of older people.

3.4 The numbers of State Pension Claimants for 2001 were compared to the 2001 Census figures for residents of pensionable age by ward. Inconsistencies between actual and expected figures of claimants raise questions about the accuracy of both sets of data. These include:

- A significant surplus of claimant men aged 65 to 69 and 70 to 74 over the number of men in those age cohorts reported by the Census in several wards
- A small overall surplus of claimant men over 65 years compared with the same age group from the Census in the combined total for all wards
- A small surplus of claimant women in age cohorts aged over 65 in a few wards

3.5 A similar comparison of claimant data and Office for National Statistics Mid-Year Population Estimates 2001 to 2003 confirmed that claimant totals exceeded the number of men in the age cohorts 65 to 69 and 70 to 74.

3.6 Possible explanations for these inconsistencies include:

- Inaccurate allocation of postcoded claimant data to wards
- The 2001 Census may have undercounted people of pensionable age and this mistake has been carried forward to ONS population estimates
- Over claiming of State Pension

#### 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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