

# Universal Credit – experimental official statistics to September 2014

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*If you have any comments or suggestions regarding this publication, please contact DWP via [stats-consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:stats-consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk).*

## Introduction

Universal Credit has started to replace six existing benefits and tax credits with a single monthly payment. Universal Credit will eventually replace:

- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Income Support
- Working Tax Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Housing Benefit

The main differences between Universal Credit and the current welfare system are:

- Universal Credit is available to people who are in work and on a low income, as well as to those who are out-of-work
- most people will apply online and manage their claim through an online account
- Universal Credit will be responsive – as people on low incomes move in and out of work, they'll get ongoing support
- most claimants on low incomes will still be paid Universal Credit when they first start a new job or increase their part-time hours
- claimants will receive a single monthly household payment, paid into a bank account in the same way as a monthly salary
- support with housing costs will usually go direct to the claimant as part of their monthly payment

## Key findings

### Claims

- Between April 2013 and **9<sup>th</sup> October 2014**, a total of **30,370** people have made a claim for Universal Credit.

### Starters

- Between April 2013 and **11<sup>th</sup> September 2014**, a total of **16,590** people have started Universal Credit.
- The majority of starters to Universal Credit were males, nearly **70 per cent**, and most, over **60 per cent** were under 25 years old.

### Caseload

- Provisional caseload figures show that as at **11<sup>th</sup> September 2014**, a total of **14,170** people were on the Universal Credit
- Over **80 per cent** of the Universal Credit caseload were from Jobcentre Offices in the North West

## In this Summary

This Summary contains statistics on starters and caseload covering the period to **11<sup>th</sup> September 2014** (the 'count date') for the 39 Jobcentre Plus offices who had implemented Universal Credit up to this date (see *Section 5 – Further Roll Out* for more details).

An additional measure on the number of individuals who have made a claim to Universal Credit covering the period to **9<sup>th</sup> October 2014** is now also included in this report. This covers the 57 Jobcentre Plus offices who had implemented Universal Credit up to this date (see *Section 5 – Further Roll Out* for more details). The number of claims made is defined as the number of individuals who have submitted a claim to Universal Credit regardless of whether they then go on to start Universal Credit. There are a number of reasons why they may not start e.g. the individual is not eligible to claim Universal Credit (see **Section 4 – Methodology** for more details)

These statistics have been developed and released in accordance with the Code of Practice for statistics and its supporting principles.

It is important to note that although new claims for Universal Credit were initially restricted to single, unemployed people without children these statistics include all people claiming Universal Credit, both those people in work and out-of-work. People on Universal Credit who are in employment may or may not be receiving a Universal Credit payment. **A breakdown of the caseload by whether a claimant is in employment or not in employment will be available in the next release of these statistics.**

The ONS they have already begun to produce an adjusted version of the Claimant Count<sup>1</sup>, which is a measure of the number of people who are claiming benefits principally for the reason of being unemployed, using information contained within this publication.

## Future Releases

The next release of Universal Credit statistics will be on 12 November 2014 and will contain starters, caseload and employment data to 9 October 2014 and information on claims made to 7 November 2014.

**For the first time these statistics will include a measure of how many people on the Universal Credit caseload were in employment.**

DWP plans to further expand the range of statistics included in future editions of this release as their reliability is confirmed.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/labour-market/claimant-count/indicative-representation-of-the-claimant-count-including-universal-credit-caseload-guidance-document.pdf>

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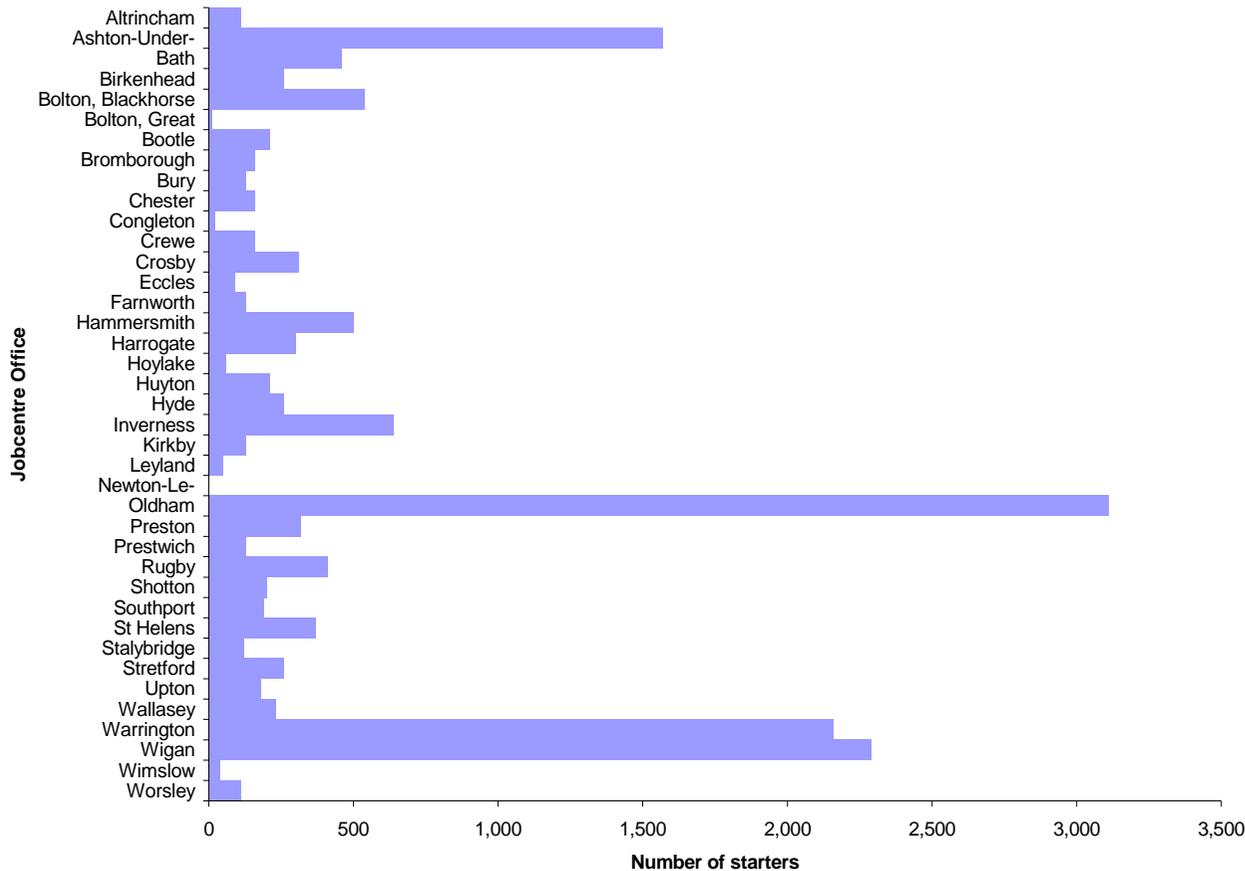
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# Section 1. Official statistics and commentary

\*\* Further breakdowns are available for some of the charts below in the accompanying Excel tables.

## 1a. Analysis of starters

Chart 1.1 Universal Credit starters, cumulative to 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014, by Jobcentre Office



## Key messages

- Between 29<sup>th</sup> April 2013 and 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014, a total of **16,590** people have started on Universal Credit;
- Over **60 per cent** of new claims are for people aged under 25 and reflect the initial take-on for Universal Credit, of single, non home owning, unemployed people without children;
- Nearly **70 per cent** of starters to Universal Credit were males.

**Table 2.1** and **Supplementary Table 1.1** show a time series of monthly starts to Universal Credit, split by Jobcentre district.

- These show that the number of new on-flows has increased significantly in the last two months. This is mainly due to number of offices which have now implemented Universal Credit however the numbers have also risen in offices where Universal Credit was in operation prior to this point.
- By September 2014 the highest number of new starters in that month, were in by Merseyside followed by Greater Manchester East and West.

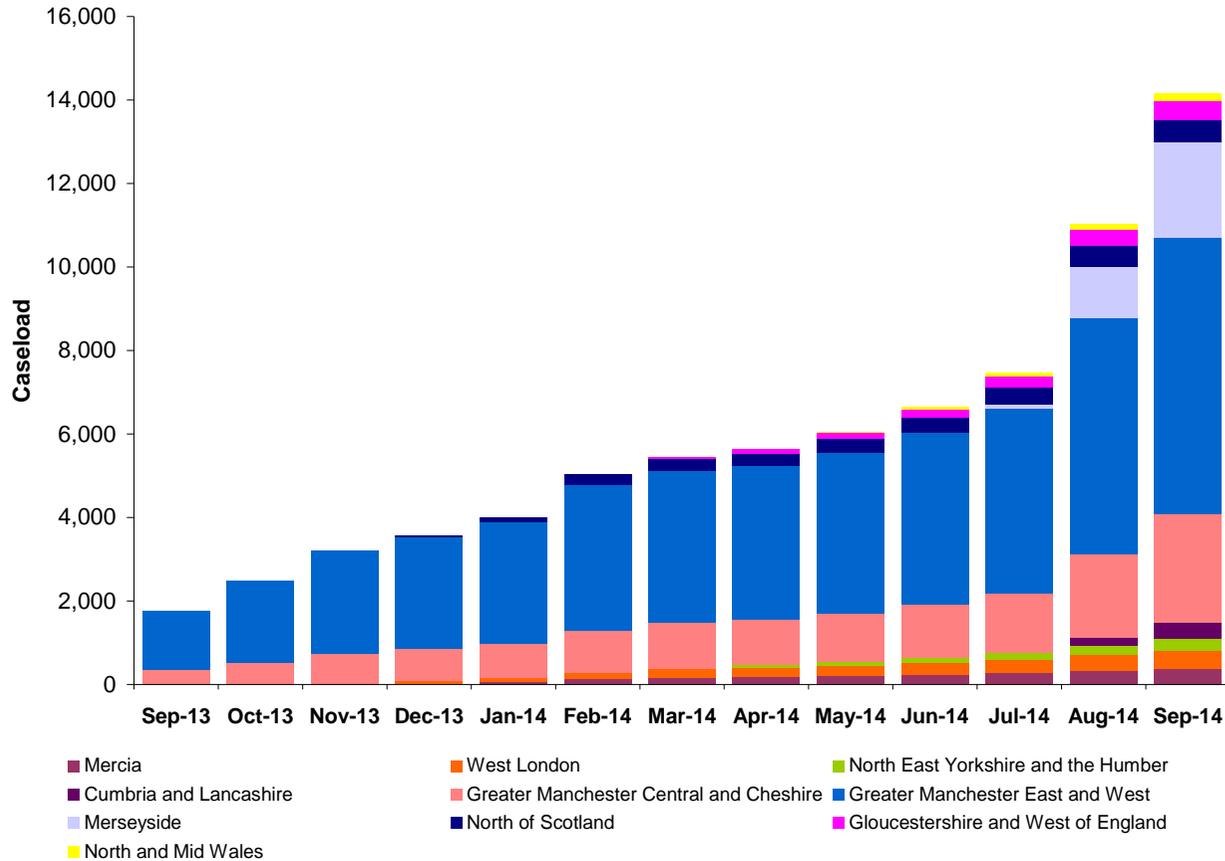
**Chart 1.1, Table 2.2** and **Supplementary Tables (1.2 to 1.4)** show the cumulative number of new starters. During the period April 2013 to September 2014 **16,590** people started on the benefit. The majority of new starters were from offices in the four districts in the North West (Greater Manchester East and West, Greater Manchester Central and Cheshire, Merseyside and Cumbria and Lancashire) which had more than one office where Universal Credit was live. The other six districts had only one office in operation which is the main reason why the numbers for these areas were lower.

**Table 2.2** and **Supplementary Tables 1.2** and **1.4** show the proportion of the cumulative Universal Credit starters by gender, in the period looked at by this release, nearly **70 per cent** were males.

## 1b: Analysis of caseload

*Figures for September 2014 are provisional figures and will be finalised within the next monthly release.*

Chart 1.2: Universal Credit caseload, as at end of month, by Jobcentre District: Sep-13 to Sep-14



## Key messages

- On the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014, the total caseload of Universal Credit claimants was **14,170** people;
- Over **60 per cent** of the Universal Credit caseload on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014 are younger people, under the age of 25.
- **Chart 1.2, Table 3.1 and Supplementary Table 2.1** show the time series of the monthly caseloads of Universal Credit. The highest caseload as at September 2014 is in Greater Manchester East and West followed by Greater Manchester Central and Cheshire.
- The caseload has shown a similar pattern to the figures for starters in that there has been a significant increase in the last two months.

**Table 3.1 and Supplementary Table 2.1** show the percentage of September 2014's caseload of Universal Credit, split by age. These show that over **60 per cent** of claimants of Universal Credit in the latest month were under 25.

**Table 3.2, Table 3.3 and Supplementary Tables (2.2 to 2.7)** break the Universal Credit caseload, at 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014, down by further geographies (based on the latest held address of the claimant)

For further details of the Jobcentre Offices and Districts that have now implemented Universal Credit please see [Section 5 – Further Roll Out](#).

## Section 2. Tables on Universal Credit starters

\*\* Further breakdowns of statistics in the tables below are available in the accompanying Excel tables \*\*

The following definitions and conventions are used in the next two sections

"-" Nil or Negligible;

"." Not applicable;

Figures are rounded to the nearest ten.

Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Local Authorities and Parliamentary Constituencies are assigned by matching the claimant's postcode against the relevant postcode directory and may therefore differ to those given by Jobcentre District/Office.

**Table 2.1 Monthly numbers of starters to Universal Credit, Apr-14 to Sep-14**

		Start Month					
		Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14
<b>Total</b>		<b>620</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>3,650</b>	<b>3,330</b>
<b>Gender</b>	Male	440	390	450	560	2,420	2,270
	Female	180	160	190	330	1,220	1,060
<b>Age</b>	16-24	360	310	350	580	2,190	2,070
	25-49	230	200	240	270	1,240	1,060
	50+	40	30	30	40	220	200
<b>District</b>	Mercia	30	20	40	40	60	40
	West London	30	40	40	40	80	60
	North East Yorkshire and the Humber	40	30	40	30	70	60
	Cumbria and Lancashire	.	.	.	.	170	200
	Greater Manchester Central and Cheshire	100	90	100	170	580	670
	Greater Manchester East and West	300	260	290	380	1,270	1,060
	Merseyside	.	.	.	70	1,170	1,070
	North of Scotland	50	30	40	60	80	50
	Gloucestershire and West of England	60	50	60	70	110	80
	North and Mid Wales	-	20	30	40	60	50

**Table 2.2 Cumulative numbers of starters to Universal Credit, Apr-14 to Sep-14**

		Start Month					
		Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14
<b>Total</b>		<b>7,560</b>	<b>8,100</b>	<b>8,730</b>	<b>9,610</b>	<b>13,260</b>	<b>16,590</b>
<b>Gender</b>	Male	5,280	5,660	6,110	6,660	9,090	11,360
	Female	2,280	2,440	2,620	2,950	4,170	5,240
<b>Age</b>	16-24	4,850	5,160	5,510	6,090	8,270	10,350
	25-49	2,410	2,610	2,850	3,120	4,350	5,410
	50+	300	340	370	410	630	840
<b>District</b>	Mercia	220	240	280	310	370	410
	West London	260	290	330	370	450	500
	North East Yorkshire and the Humber	70	100	140	170	240	300
	Cumbria and Lancashire	.	.	.	.	170	370
	Greater Manchester Central and Cheshire	1,500	1,590	1,690	1,860	2,440	3,110
	Greater Manchester East and West	5,040	5,300	5,590	5,970	7,230	8,290
	Merseyside	.	.	.	70	1,230	2,300
	North of Scotland	380	410	450	510	590	640
	Gloucestershire and West of England	100	150	210	270	390	460
	North and Mid Wales	.	20	50	90	150	200

## Section 3. Tables on Universal Credit caseload

*Figures for September 2014 are provisional figures and will be finalised within the next monthly release.*

**Table 3.1 Caseload of Universal Credit, Apr-14 to Sep-14 (provisional)**

		Caseload Month					
		Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14
<b>Total</b>		<b>5,640</b>	<b>6,060</b>	<b>6,630</b>	<b>7,460</b>	<b>11,030</b>	<b>14,170</b>
<b>Gender</b>	Male	3,950	4,240	4,650	5,160	7,560	9,690
	Female	1,690	1,810	1,980	2,300	3,480	4,470
<b>Age</b>	16-24	3,500	3,690	4,000	4,510	6,590	8,510
	25-49	1,900	2,080	2,320	2,600	3,870	4,870
	50+	240	280	310	350	580	780
<b>District</b>	Mercia	180	200	240	270	320	360
	West London	220	250	280	330	400	450
	North East Yorkshire and the Humber	60	90	130	160	220	290
	Cumbria and Lancashire	.	.	.	-	180	370
	Greater Manchester Central and Cheshire	1,110	1,170	1,260	1,410	1,990	2,620
	Greater Manchester East and West	3,660	3,840	4,110	4,450	5,670	6,600
	Merseyside	.	.	.	70	1,230	2,300
	North of Scotland	310	340	380	430	510	540
	Gloucestershire and West of England	100	140	190	260	360	440
	North and Mid Wales	.	20	50	90	140	190
<b>Duration</b>	Up to 3 months	2,500	2,090	1,790	2,050	4,970	7,720
	3 - 6 months	1,630	2,080	2,330	2,400	1,860	1,620
	More than 6 months	1,510	1,880	2,510	3,010	4,210	4,830

**Table 3.2 Universal Credit Caseload by Local Authority: 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014 (provisional)**

Local Authority	Caseload	Local Authority	Caseload
Oldham	<b>2,380</b>	Preston	<b>240</b>
Wigan	<b>1,680</b>	Salford	<b>220</b>
Warrington	<b>1,610</b>	Cheshire East	<b>210</b>
Tameside	<b>1,440</b>	Flintshire	<b>190</b>
Wirral	<b>860</b>	Cheshire West and Chester	<b>160</b>
Sefton	<b>710</b>	South Ribble	<b>120</b>
Bolton	<b>630</b>	West Lancashire	<b>30</b>
Highland (Islands)	<b>530</b>	Manchester	<b>20</b>
Bath & North East Somerset	<b>410</b>	Kensington & Chelsea	<b>20</b>
St. Helens	<b>410</b>	Halton	<b>10</b>
Hammersmith & Fulham	<b>400</b>	Rochdale	<b>10</b>
Trafford	<b>360</b>	Stockport	<b>10</b>
Rugby	<b>340</b>	Birmingham	<b>10</b>
Knowsley	<b>320</b>	Leeds	<b>10</b>
Bury	<b>300</b>	Liverpool	<b>10</b>
Harrogate	<b>270</b>	Other Local Authority <sup>2</sup>	<b>250</b>

**Table 3.2 Universal Credit Caseload by Parliamentary Constituency: 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014 (provisional)**

<b>Parliamentary Constituency</b>	<b>Caseload</b>	<b>Parliamentary Constituency</b>	<b>Caseload</b>
Oldham West and Royton	<b>1,240</b>	North East Somerset	<b>140</b>
Wigan	<b>1,020</b>	Wirral South	<b>130</b>
Ashton-under-Lyne	<b>1,020</b>	City of Chester	<b>120</b>
Oldham East and Saddleworth	<b>950</b>	Crewe and Nantwich	<b>120</b>
Warrington North	<b>850</b>	Altrincham and Sale West	<b>110</b>
Warrington South	<b>760</b>	Bury North	<b>100</b>
Makerfield	<b>640</b>	South Ribble	<b>100</b>
Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey	<b>490</b>	Bolton West	<b>80</b>
Bootle	<b>400</b>	Salford and Eccles	<b>70</b>
Hammersmith	<b>400</b>	Skipton and Ripon	<b>50</b>
Rugby	<b>340</b>	Tatton	<b>40</b>
Birkenhead	<b>320</b>	Congleton	<b>40</b>
Bolton South East	<b>310</b>	Ross, Skye and Lochaber	<b>40</b>
Stalybridge and Hyde	<b>310</b>	Wyre and Preston North	<b>30</b>
Denton and Reddish	<b>300</b>	Ribble Valley	<b>30</b>
Bath	<b>270</b>	Wythenshawe and Sale East	<b>30</b>
Wallasey	<b>270</b>	West Lancashire	<b>20</b>
Knowsley	<b>270</b>	Weaver Vale	<b>20</b>
Bolton North East	<b>240</b>	Kensington	<b>20</b>
St Helens South and Whiston	<b>230</b>	Leigh	<b>20</b>
St Helens North	<b>230</b>	Eddisbury	<b>20</b>
Stretford and Urmston	<b>220</b>	Fylde	<b>10</b>
Harrogate and Knaresborough	<b>220</b>	Ellesmere Port and Neston	<b>10</b>
Preston	<b>200</b>	Manchester Central	<b>10</b>
Bury South	<b>200</b>	Rochdale	<b>10</b>
Alyn and Deeside	<b>190</b>	Manchester, Withington	<b>10</b>
Sefton Central	<b>170</b>	Blackley and Broughton	<b>10</b>
Worsley and Eccles South	<b>150</b>	Stockport	<b>10</b>
Wirral West	<b>150</b>	Leeds Central	<b>10</b>
Southport	<b>140</b>	Other Parliamentary Constituency <sup>2</sup>	<b>280</b>

<sup>2</sup>Note the "Other" categories will contain claimants that were originally based in Universal Credit areas when their claim started but have since moved to another area.

## Section 4. Methodology

### 4a. Data Source

These official statistics have been compiled using data from systems within local offices and records of Universal Credit benefit payments made by the Department.

This and other new data sources will, in time, allow a progressively wider range of breakdowns to be published as the new IT systems are introduced. The methodology used and definitions of the official statistics will be updated within subsequent releases, along with information on the impact of any changes to the time series already released.

These statistics have been developed using guidelines set out by the UK Statistics Authority, and are new official statistics undergoing evaluation. They have therefore been badged as being Experimental Statistics<sup>3</sup>. Users are invited to comment on the development and relevancy of these statistics at this stage.

### 4b. Definitions used

This report contains three main measures:

- The number of **claims** made is defined as the number of individuals who have submitted a claim to Universal Credit regardless of whether they then go on to start Universal Credit. There are a number of reasons why they may not start e.g. the individual is not eligible to claim Universal Credit. It is also important to note that the headline figure relates to all claims made up to 9th October 2014 which is 4 weeks later than the figures provided for starters and caseload. This means that individuals who have made their first claim to Universal Credit after the 11th September 2014 will be included in the claims made figure but will not be included in the starters and caseload figures even if they complete the claim process and are still on Universal Credit. They will however be captured in future releases which cover the period after 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014.
- A **starter** to Universal Credit is defined as an individual who has completed the Universal Credit claim process and accepted their Claimant Commitment<sup>4</sup>. The reporting month in relation to **starts** to Universal Credit relates to a period from the second Friday in the previous month to the second Thursday in the current month, e.g. for September 2014 the starts recorded relate to the period 15<sup>th</sup> August 2014 to 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014. Figures show the first successful claim per individual. Subsequent claims by the same individual will not be counted in this release. Work is currently ongoing to identify and include these cases in future publications. The number of individuals with multiple starts to Universal Credit, up to the reporting point, is negligible.
- The **caseload** of Universal Credit claimants includes those who have started Universal Credit (as above) and have not had a termination recorded for this spell, up to the 'count date'. A termination would be recorded either at the request of the individual or if their entitlement to Universal Credit ends, for example, they no longer satisfy the financial conditions to receive Universal Credit as they have capital over £16,000, or increased earnings which reduce their award to zero for six consecutive months. The latest overall Universal Credit caseload figure reported in this release relates to the second Thursday in September, i.e. 11<sup>th</sup> September. Please note that this figure is provisional and will be finalised in the next release (although the expectation is that the provisional figure will be within one per cent of the final figure).

<sup>3</sup><http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/news/assessment-and-designation-of-experimental-statistics.html>

<sup>4</sup><https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/universal-credit-and-your-claimant-commitment-quick-guide>

## Section 5. Further roll out

Universal Credit, which is already available in a number of areas<sup>5</sup> across England, Scotland and Wales, continued its roll out across the North West of England from 23rd June 2014. From 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014 Universal Credit also expanded to include claims from couples

Universal Credit will continue its roll out to Jobcentres in the **North West** until the whole region is covered and then to all Jobcentres and local authorities across the country from February 2015

In total over 90 Jobcentres, or 1 in 8 Jobcentres in Britain, will offer the service once the **North West** expansion has been completed.

Further information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/north-west-universal-credit-expansion>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/universal-credit-to-take-the-first-new-claims-for-couples>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/plans-announced-for-accelerated-rollout-of-universal-credit-after-success-in-north-west>

For the period for which these statistics cover there were **39**, for **starters** and **caseloads** and **57** for **claims made**, Jobcentre offices delivering Universal Credit:

Further information can be found in the table below.

**Table 5.1 Universal Credit Jobcentre Office and District by implementation date: 29<sup>th</sup> April 2013 to 9<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

Jobcentre Plus office	Jobcentre Plus district	Implementation Date
Ashton-Under-Lyne	Greater Manchester East and West	29th April 2013
Wigan	Greater Manchester East and West	1st July 2013
Warrington	Greater Manchester Central and Cheshire	29th July 2013
Oldham	Greater Manchester East and West	29th July 2013
Hammersmith	West London	28th October 2013
Rugby	Mercia	25th November 2013
Inverness	North of Scotland	25th November 2013
Harrogate	North East Yorkshire and the Humber	24th February 2014
Bath	Gloucestershire and West of England	24th February 2014
Shotton	North and Mid Wales	7th April 2014
Hyde	Greater Manchester East and West	23rd June 2014
Stalybridge	Greater Manchester East and West	23rd June 2014
Stretford	Greater Manchester Central and Cheshire	23rd June 2014
Altrincham	Greater Manchester Central and Cheshire	23rd June 2014
Southport	Merseyside	30th June 2014
Crosby	Merseyside	30th June 2014
Bootle	Merseyside	30th June 2014
Bolton, Great Moor Street	Greater Manchester East and West	30th June 2014
Bolton, Blackhorse Street	Greater Manchester East and West	30th June 2014
Farnworth	Greater Manchester East and West	30th June 2014
Birkenhead	Merseyside	7th July 2014
Bromborough	Merseyside	7th July 2014
Hoylake	Merseyside	7th July 2014
Upton	Merseyside	7th July 2014
Wallasey	Merseyside	7th July 2014
Leyland	Cumbria and Lancashire	14th July 2014
Preston	Cumbria and Lancashire	14th July 2014
Bury	Greater Manchester East and West	14th July 2014
Prestwich	Greater Manchester East and West	14th July 2014
Eccles	Greater Manchester Central and Cheshire	21st July 2014
Worsley	Greater Manchester Central and Cheshire	21st July 2014
Huyton	Merseyside	21st July 2014
Kirkby	Merseyside	21st July 2014

St Helens	Merseyside	21st July 2014
Newton-Le-Willows	Merseyside	21st July 2014
Chester	Greater Manchester Central and Cheshire	28th July 2014
Congleton	Greater Manchester Central and Cheshire	28th July 2014
Crewe	Greater Manchester Central and Cheshire	28th July 2014
Wilmslow	Greater Manchester Central and Cheshire	28th July 2014
Heywood <sup>6</sup>	Greater Manchester East and West	15th September 2014
Middleton <sup>6</sup>	Greater Manchester East and West	15th September 2014
Ormskirk <sup>6</sup>	Cumbria and Lancashire	15th September 2014
Rochdale <sup>6</sup>	Greater Manchester East and West	15th September 2014
Skelmersdale <sup>6</sup>	Cumbria and Lancashire	15th September 2014
Cheetham Hill <sup>6</sup>	Greater Manchester Central and Cheshire	22nd September 2014
Newton Heath <sup>6</sup>	Greater Manchester Central and Cheshire	22nd September 2014
Wavertree <sup>6</sup>	Merseyside	22nd September 2014
Wythenshawe <sup>6</sup>	Greater Manchester Central and Cheshire	22nd September 2014
Edge Hill, Liverpool <sup>6</sup>	Merseyside	29th September 2014
Everton <sup>6</sup>	Merseyside	29th September 2014
Toxteth <sup>6</sup>	Merseyside	29th September 2014
Williamson Square, Liverpool <sup>6</sup>	Merseyside	29th September 2014
Accrington <sup>6</sup>	Cumbria and Lancashire	6th October 2014
Burnley <sup>6</sup>	Cumbria and Lancashire	6th October 2014
Colne <sup>6</sup>	Cumbria and Lancashire	6th October 2014
Nelson <sup>6</sup>	Cumbria and Lancashire	6th October 2014
Rawtenstall <sup>6</sup>	Cumbria and Lancashire	6th October 2014

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/jobcentres-where-you-can-claim-universal-credit> <sup>6</sup> Offices cover the period for **claims made** statistics only