

Table 108 Housing benefit – numbers of claimants and average claim in Great Britain, 1980-2025

	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 revised	2025 provisional
Housing benefit claimants (000's)																						
Social rented	-	-	-	3,588	3,175	3,169	3,294	3,324	3,383	3,385	3,337	3,283	3,211	3,104	2,942	2,623	2,337	2,160	2,004	1,888	1,813	1,450
of which																						
Local authority housing	2,843	3,710	2,922	2,939	2,230	1,753	1,511	1,462	1,457	1,445	1,413	1,359	1,322	1,268	1,191	1,061	947	874	811	764	735	597
Housing association	-	-	-	649	945	1,416	1,783	1,862	1,926	1,941	1,925	1,924	1,889	1,836	1,752	1,562	1,389	1,287	1,193	1,125	1,078	853
Private rented sector	-	-	-	1,168	815	816	1,455	1,552	1,646	1,680	1,646	1,560	1,468	1,364	1,235	977	775	674	581	513	457	319
of which:																						
Regulated tenancies	-	-	-	257	124	76	50	45	41	36	33	29	26	23	21	19	17	15	14	12	11	10
Deregulated tenancies	-	-	-	900	687	713	1,406	1,507	1,605	1,644	1,614	1,531	1,304	1,216	1,211	955	755	655	567	501	446	309
Other or unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	3	3	0	0	0	0
Total	3,556	4,860	3,950	4,757	3,991	3,986	4,749	4,876	5,028	5,066	4,983	4,844	4,679	4,468	4,178	3,600	3,112	2,834	2,584	2,401	2,269	1,769
Universal credit claimants in receipt of housing payment (000's)																						
Social rented												15	49	121	257	606	1,098	1,365	1,521	1,703	1,924	2,375
Private rented sector												14	49	107	211	509	1,203	1,489	1,410	1,463	1,521	1,673
Other or unknown												-	0	1	5	11	35	49	66	82	96	113
Total												29	98	229	472	1,126	2,335	2,903	2,998	3,248	3,541	4,161
Total claimants in receipt of housing allowance (000's)																						
Social rented												3,298	3,260	3,224	3,199	3,229	3,435	3,526	3,525	3,591	3,737	3,825
Private rented sector												1,574	1,517	1,471	1,446	1,487	1,978	2,163	1,991	1,976	1,977	1,992
Other or unknown												-	0	1	8	14	38	52	67	82	97	113
Total												4,872	4,777	4,697	4,653	4,730	5,451	5,740	5,582	5,650	5,811	5,930
Mean weekly housing benefit award (£)																						
Local authority housing	5.67	11.87	21.85	35.43	45.22	57.58	67.66	71.19	75.53	76.34	79.81	82.38	82.84	82.11	82.79	85.51	91.93	94.96	100.50	109.40	120.50	135.33
Housing association	-	-	-	48.46	54.20	63.80	77.30	80.01	84.86	85.89	89.94	92.68	93.96	94.27	95.64	98.32	104.63	108.91	115.42	127.06	139.81	154.48
Private rented sector	-	-	-	62.46	70.92	87.23	109.79	111.62	107.06	105.73	106.8	108.82	110.30	110.78	113.95	118.73	130.29	132.66	134.78	139.43	152.20	153.84
of which:																						
Regulated tenancies	-	-	-	-	-	-	76.40	79.20	82.60	86.50	90.00	93.00	96.40	100.30	104.07	108.44	112.80	116.59	121.17	127.42	135.46	143.27
Deregulated tenancies	-	-	-	-	-	-	110.90	112.50	107.70	106.10	107.10	109.10	110.50	110.90	114.12	118.94	130.68	133.04	135.11	139.73	152.61	154.17
Total	5.52	12.54	24.74	43.85	54.25	67.02	84.14	87.4	89.4	89.72	92.61	94.97	96.03	95.95	97.36	100.06	107.15	110.25	115.08	124.07	136.03	147.81

Sources: DWP Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Summary Statistics and Stat-Xplore.

Notes: 1. Figures prior to 2009 are from DWP Summer Budget Expenditure and Caseload Statistics and are averages for the financial year. Stat-Xplore figures from 2009 are for May of each year.

2. Separate statistics for housing association tenants have only been collected since May 1992 and statistics for private and housing association claimants may be incomplete prior to 2008.

3. Universal credit statistics are based on households in receipt of a housing payment. All UC statistics are experimental and are subject to revision, especially those for 2020. Weekly UC housing payments are not reported by DWP.