

Unemployment

The claimant count is an administrative data source derived from Jobs and Benefits Offices systems, which records the number of people claiming unemployment-related benefits. From 21st March 2018 NISRA changed the claimant count measure from one based solely on Jobseekers Allowance to an experimental measure based on Jobseeker's Allowance claimants plus out-of-work Universal Credit claimants who were claiming principally for the reason of being unemployed.

The definition of out-of-work Universal Credit Claimants is close to but not exactly the same as Jobseekers Allowance claimants. The GB and NI Claimant counts are now calculated on an equivalent basis.

As Universal Credit Full Service is rolled out in particular areas, the number of people recorded as being on the Claimant Count is therefore likely to rise.

Table 1: Claimant Count (unadjusted), DCSDC and NI, March 2020¹

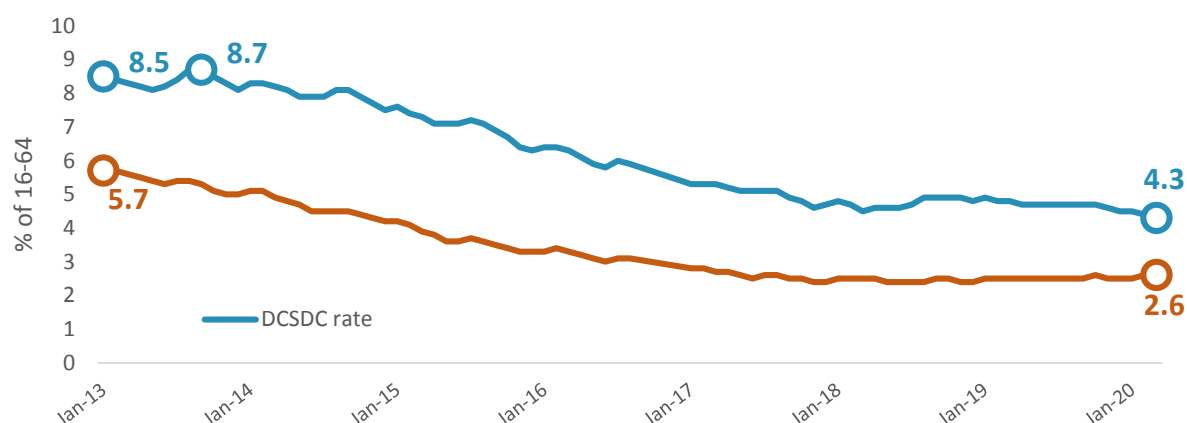
Region	Number of claimants			% of those aged 16-64		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
DCSDC	2,645	1,485	4,130	5.6	3.1	4.3
NI	19,185	11,120	30,305	3.3	1.9	2.6

Source: NISRA, Claimant Count

¹ Large revisions are to be expected while the series is experimental and improvements are being made to the process.

- In March 2020, the unadjusted claimant count rate for DCSDC was 4.3% compared with a rate of 2.6% for NI.
- Within DCSDC this equated to a total of 4,130 claimants, of which 2,645 were male and 1,485 were female.
- The DCSDC claimant count rate for males was 5.6% (3.3% NI) and for females it stood at 3.1% (1.9% NI).

Figure 1: Claimant count rate (unadjusted), DCSDC and NI, 2013 - 2020



Source: NISRA, Claimant Count

- The DCSDC and NI unadjusted claimant count rates have reported a downward trend since 2013.
- Before the onset of the 2007 recession, the unadjusted claimant count in DCSDC stood at 3.8% (2.0% in NI).
- The unadjusted claimant count in DCSDC peaked at 8.7% compared with a peak of 5.7% in NI.

Table 2: Jobseeker's Allowance by age and duration^{1, 2}, DCSDC and NI, March 2020

Region	Total	12mths+		24 and under			
		Number	%	Number	%	12 mths+	
						Number	%
DCSDC	1,795	1,660	92%	95	5%	90	95%
NI	10,415	8,430	81%	615	6%	520	85%

Source: NOMIS

1. Data based on rounded numbers
 2. Does not include clerical returns
- Within the DCSDC area, at March 2020, 92% of JSA claimants had been claiming for a year or more. This compared to a rate of 81% for NI as a whole.
 - Both DCSDC (5%) and NI (6%) had similar rates of young people on the claiming JSA.
 - However, DCSDC (95%) has a higher proportion of young people claiming for a year or more compared to NI (85%).

Table 3: Jobseeker's Allowance by usual occupation^{1,2}, DCSDC and NI, March 2020

Occupation	DCSDC		NI
	Number	%	%
Corporate Managers	15	1%	1%
Managers and Proprietors In Agriculture and Services	5	0%	0%
Science and Technology Professionals	10	1%	1%
Health Professionals	0	0%	0%
Teaching and Research Professionals	15	1%	1%
Business and Public Service Professionals	5	0%	0%
Science and Technology Associate Professionals	10	1%	1%
Health and Social Welfare Associate Professionals	15	1%	1%
Protective Service Occupations	0	0%	0%
Culture, Media and Sports Occupations	30	2%	1%
Business and Public Service Associate Professionals	10	1%	1%
Administrative Occupations	120	7%	8%
Secretarial and Related Occupations	20	1%	1%
Skilled Agricultural Trades	75	4%	3%
Skilled Metal and Electronic Trades	30	2%	2%
Skilled Construction and Building Trades	95	5%	3%
Textiles, Printing and Other Skilled Trades	25	1%	1%
Caring Personal Service Occupations	100	6%	4%
Leisure and Other Personal Service Occupations	55	3%	3%
Sales Occupations	350	19%	22%
Customer Service Occupations	20	1%	1%
Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	90	5%	6%
Transport and Mobile Machine Drivers and Operatives	105	6%	6%
Elementary Trades, Plant and Storage Related Occupations	285	16%	16%
Elementary Administration and Service Occupations	315	18%	16%
Occupation unknown	0	0%	0%
Total	1,795	100%	100%

Source: NISRA, Claimant Count

1. Data based on rounded numbers
2. Does not include clerical returns