

West Oxfordshire Welfare Statistics

District Data Analysis Service
10 August 2018

This data note summarizes welfare statistics for West Oxfordshire from DWP's Stat Xplore database. The data was downloaded in July 2018.

Note that, when comparing the graphs and the text, totals may not sum due to rounding and anonymization. This is especially true where any cell has fewer than 10 cases.

PLEASE NOTE. This is the first edition of this bulletin. Please don't hesitate to give feedback on data content, presentation or any other aspect of the document. **Your comments would be greatly appreciated.**

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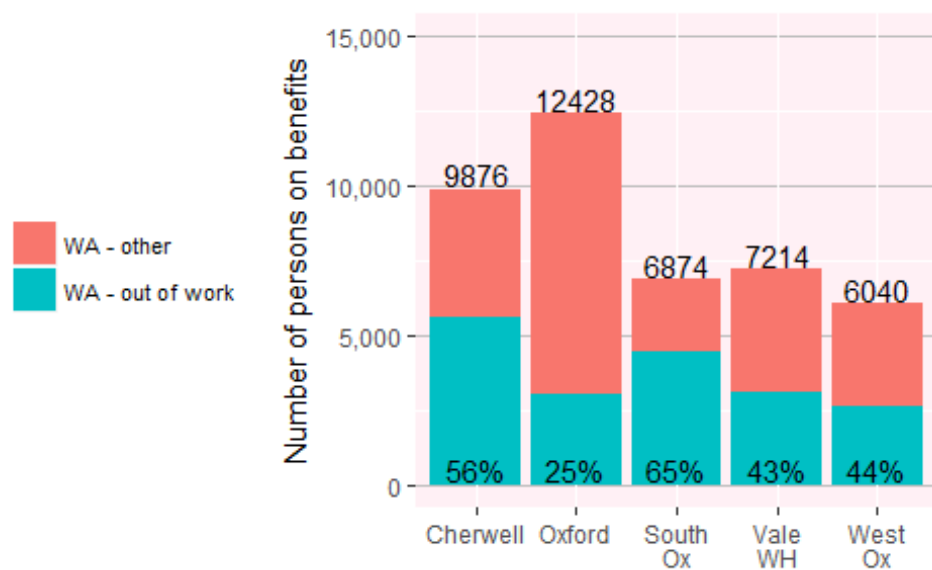
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A. All Benefits

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1. As can be seen from Figure 1, there are 6,040 working-age benefit claimants of working age in West Oxfordshire.
 - Of these, 44% are on out-of-work benefits.
 - In addition, West Oxfordshire has 22,974 benefit claimants of pension age.

Figure 1: Working Age Benefit Claimants, Oxfordshire Nov-17



Note: percentages give the proportion of Working Age claimants who are out of work.

2. In the past, it was possible to divide benefit claimants into client groups. This split is no longer available.

B. Housing Benefit

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3. There were 4055 cases of Housing Benefit in West Oxfordshire in Feb-18.
4. *Trends.* Over the last few years, the number of HB cases has decreased and the average amount they receive has stayed flat. See Figures 2 and 3. Here are some factors that may have affected the trends:
 - 2013: The spare room reduction was introduced.
 - 2016: The family premium was withdrawn for future children.
 - 2016: A four-year freeze on benefit rates was introduced.
 - In addition, Universal Credit has been phasing in over the last few years (see below); this contains an element which replaces Housing Benefit.

Figure 2: West Oxfordshire, HB claimants

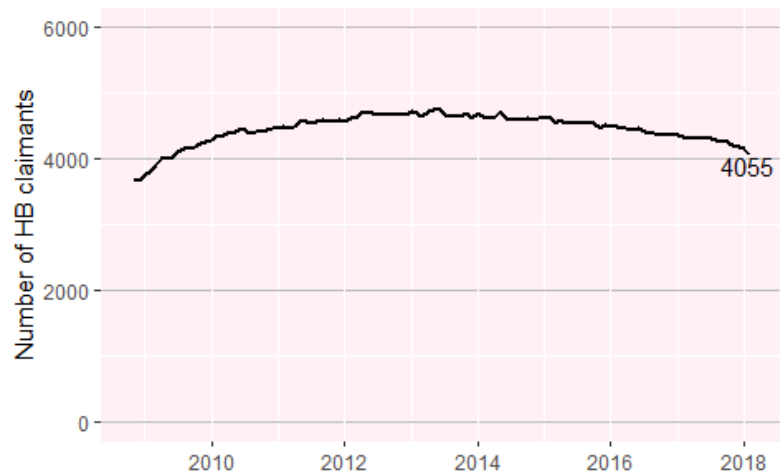
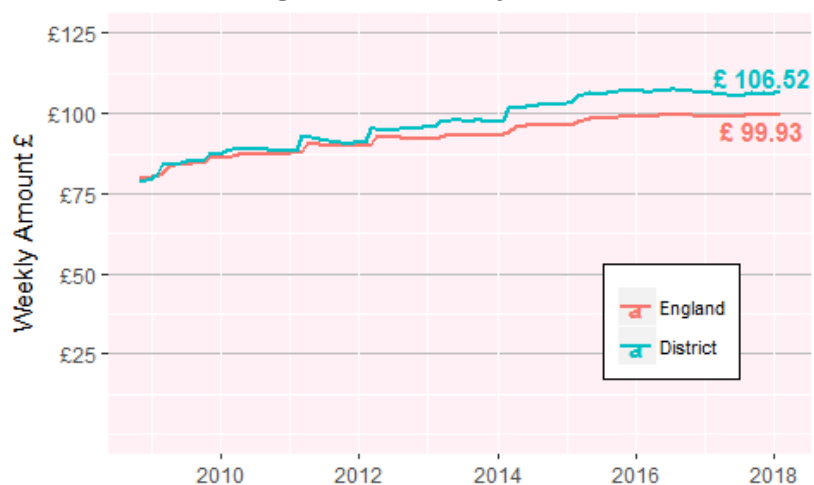
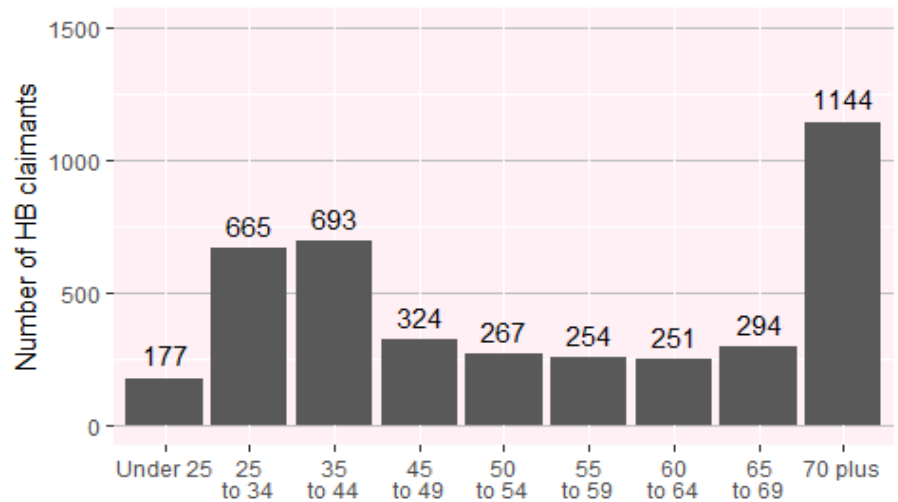


Figure 3: West Oxfordshire, HB amounts



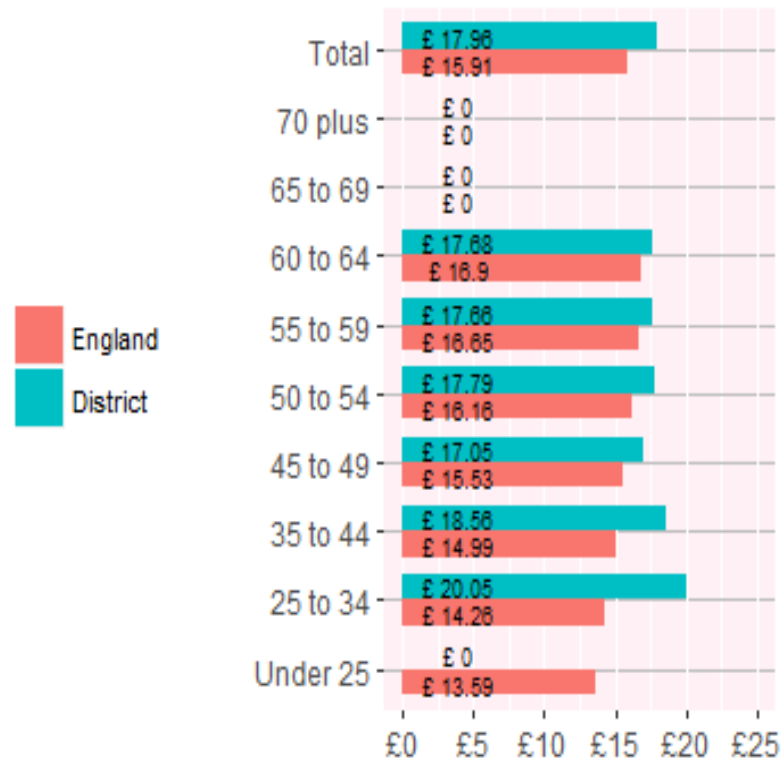
5. *Age Bands.* In West Oxfordshire, the majority of HB claimants are aged 25-44 or 70+. See Figure 4.

Figure 4: West Oxfordshire, HB claimants by age



6. *Spare room reduction.* This was introduced in Apr-13. In West Oxfordshire, 305 Housing Benefit cases had money removed as a result of having a spare room; this is 7.5% of all HB claimants. See Figure 5.

Figure 5: West Oxfordshire, amount of Spare Room Reduction



C. Benefit Cap

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7. *Background.* The benefit cap was introduced to limit the total amount that can be received in welfare by any household.
 - Summer 2013: The benefit cap was introduced, limiting a household's welfare to £26,000 a year (for Oxfordshire).
 - Nov-16: The benefit cap was lowered to a rate of £20,000 per household (for Oxfordshire).
 - Nov-16: Those receiving the carers element on Universal Credit are exempted from the benefit cap.

8. *Caseload.* In West Oxfordshire in Nov-17, 72 households had their benefits capped. Further, 175 children were in affected households. See Figures 6 and 7.

Figure 6: West Oxfordshire, households affected by benefit cap

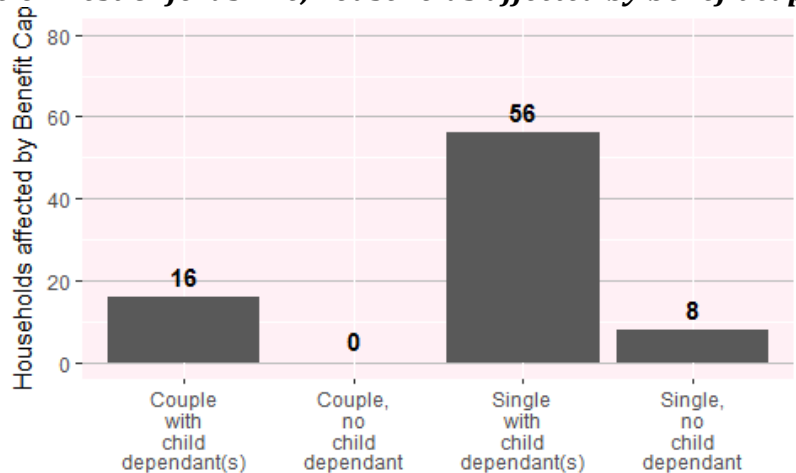
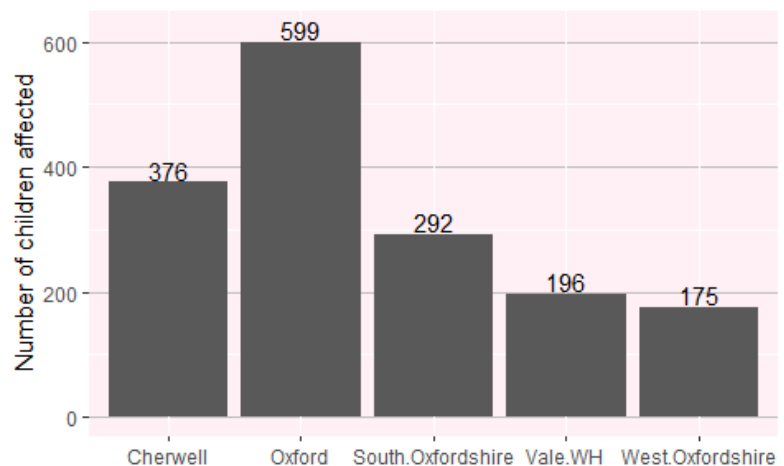


Figure 7: Number of children in benefit capped households, across Oxfordshire



9. *Average amounts.* In West Oxfordshire in Nov-17, the average amount of benefit capped was £49.95. This compares with an average of £55.17 for England as a whole. See Figures 8 and 9.

Figure 8: West Oxfordshire, amount of benefit capped

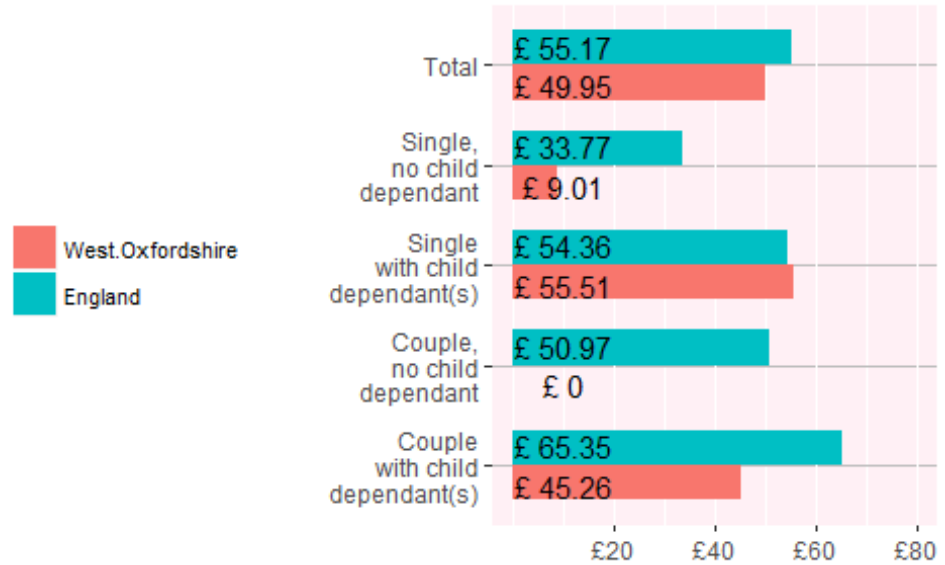
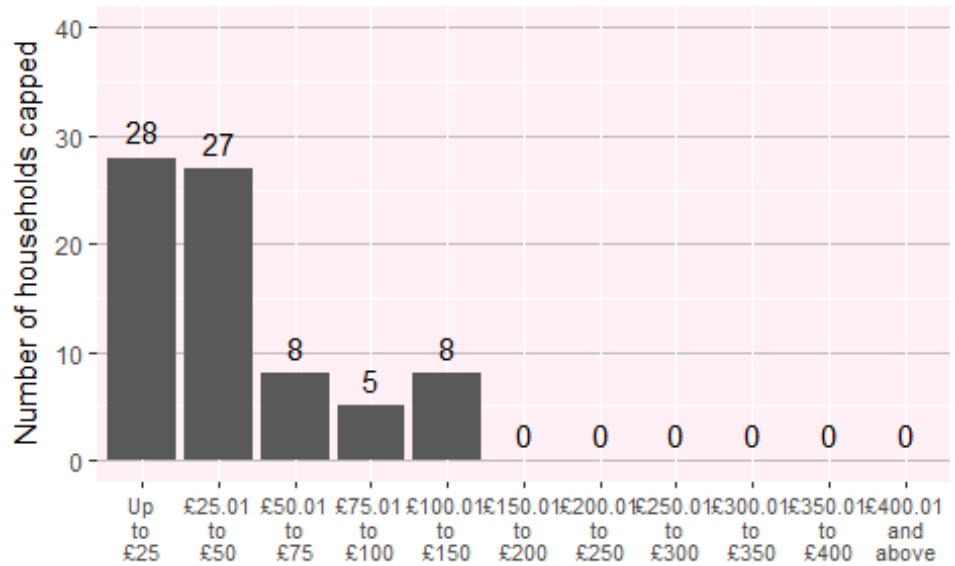


Figure 9: West Oxfordshire, amount of benefit capped in bands



D. Universal Credit

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10. *Background.* Universal Credit was introduced to replace a range of other benefits. It has been phasing in across the UK since 2013.
 - Until 2017, Universal Credit was the new benefit available for 'simple' cases (largely, single people looking for work).
 - From autumn 2017 onwards, UC has been rolled out in full across Oxfordshire districts. It now replaces some or all elements of the following: Housing Benefit, Jobseekers' Allowance, Employment & Support Allowance, Income Support, Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit (HB, JSA, ESA, IS, WTC, CTC).
11. *Caseload.* In Dec-17 there were 291 households in West Oxfordshire on Universal Credit. The average amount is £352.83, compared to £455.05 across England as a whole. See Figures 10 and 11.

Figure 10: West Oxfordshire, numbers on Universal Credit

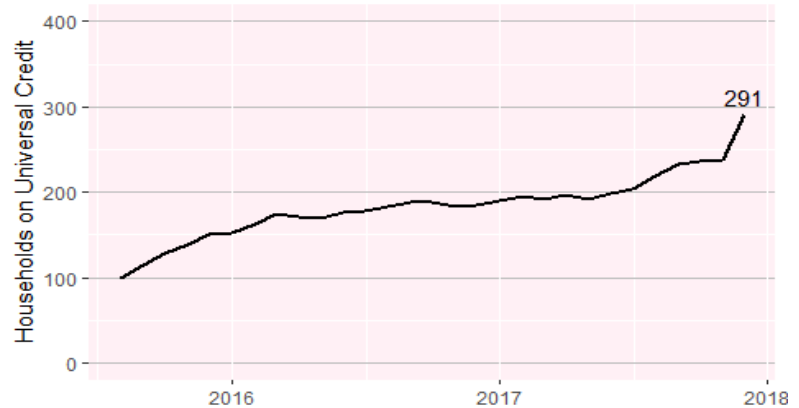
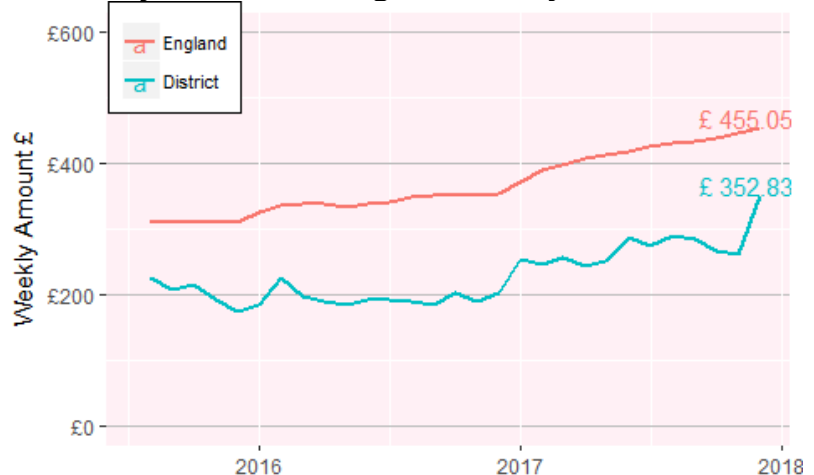


Figure 11: West Oxfordshire, average amount of Universal Credit



E. Nino registrations

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12. *Breakdown.* In 2017 in West Oxfordshire, 689 individuals registered for National Insurance numbers (NINOs). This includes 9 children aged under 18.
13. It is possible to break down these 689 individuals to understand more about their age and country of origin. See Figures 12 and 13.
 - The majority come from the EU. However, this proportion has been decreasing since about 2014.
 - More than two-thirds of registrations are to individuals under the age of 35.

Figure 12: West Oxfordshire, breakdown of NINO registrations by age

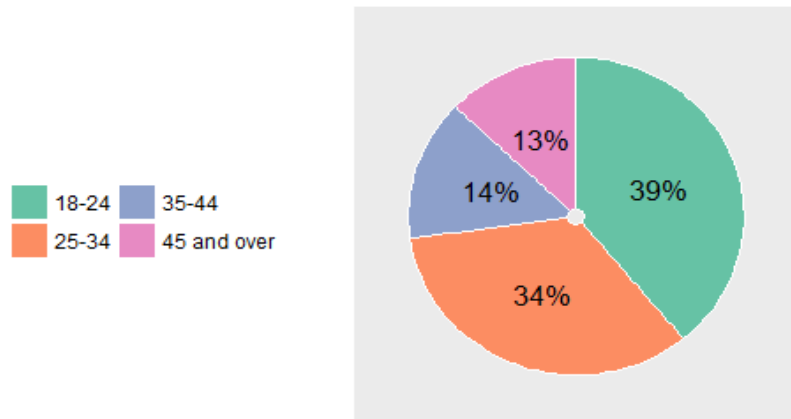
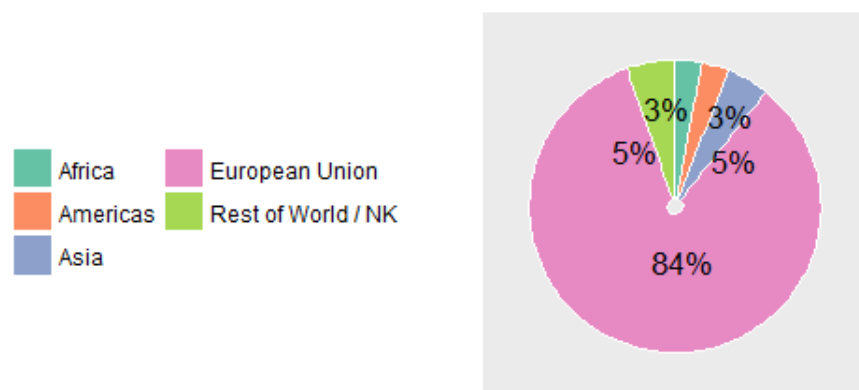


Figure 13: West Oxfordshire, breakdown of NINO registrations by origin



14. *Trend.* Nino registrations are not an exact reflection of migration; for example, short-term visitors may apply for a Nino. However, the trend in Nino registrations reflects immigration events nationally.
- 2004: The 'EU8' countries join the EU
 - 2008 and 2009: the dip possibly reflects the recession in those years
 - 2013: citizens from 'EU2' countries (Romania and Bulgaria) are permitted to travel visa-free to the UK
 - 2016: Brexit referendum.

Figure 14: West Oxfordshire, Nino registrations

