



## Social Security Scotland Statistics

# Summary statistics for Carer's Allowance at November 2019

### Frequency of publications

The next publication, covering Carer's Allowance at February 2020 and Carer's Allowance Supplement, April 2020 eligibility update will be released in August 2020.

Under the Code of Practice for Official Statistics<sup>1</sup> we publish a timetable of statistical releases for the twelve months ahead<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> The Code of Practice is found online at: <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html>

<sup>2</sup> The forthcoming publication timetable is available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/official-statistics-forthcoming-publications/>

# Introduction

This publication provides information on recipients of Carer's Allowance in Scotland at November 2019. All tables and charts relating to this publication can be found at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/carers-allowance-at-november-2019-summary-statistics>.

This publication does not include an update on recipients of the Carer's Allowance Supplement. This supplement is given to people in Scotland who receive Carer's Allowance on the Carer's Allowance Supplement eligibility dates. These are two dates each year - one in April and one in October - which are set by the Scottish Government. The latest statistics for Carer's Allowance Supplement can be found at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/summary-statistics-for-carers-allowance-at-august-2019-and-carers-allowance-supplement-october-eligibility-date-2019/>. Carer's Allowance Supplement statistics will be updated for April eligibility date 2020 in August 2020.

These statistics are being published as experimental statistics, which are defined in the Code of Practice for Statistics as "*new official statistics undergoing evaluation. They are published in order to involve users and stakeholders in their development and as a means to build in quality at an early stage.*" These statistics have not yet been assessed by the UK Statistics Authority, so have not been designated as National Statistics<sup>3</sup>.

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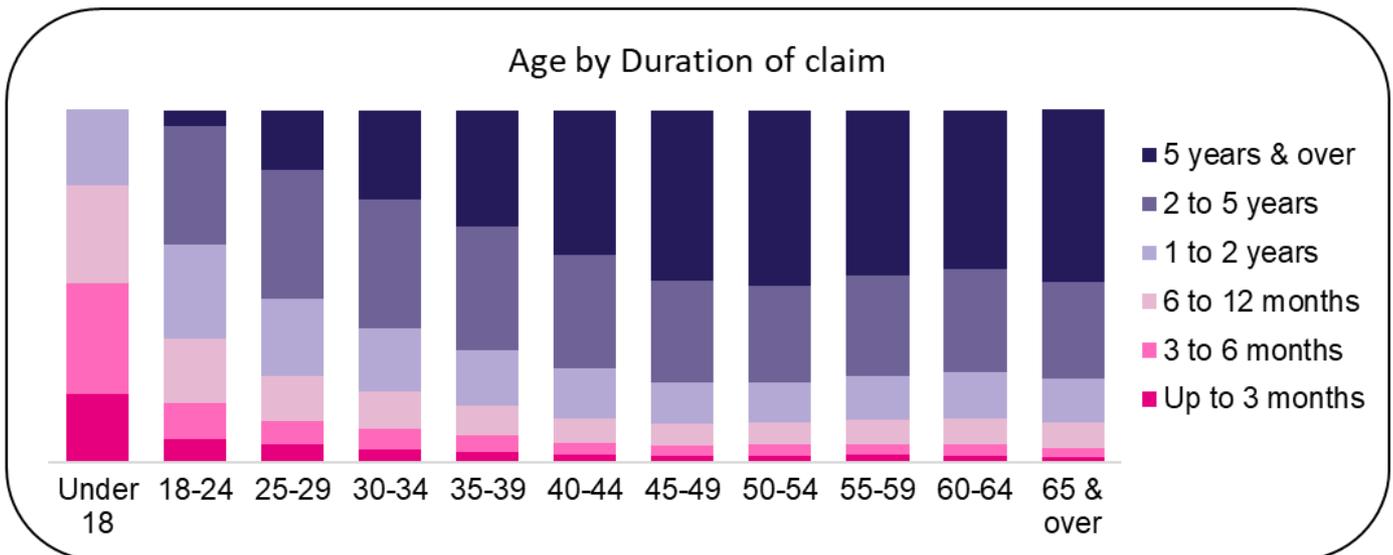
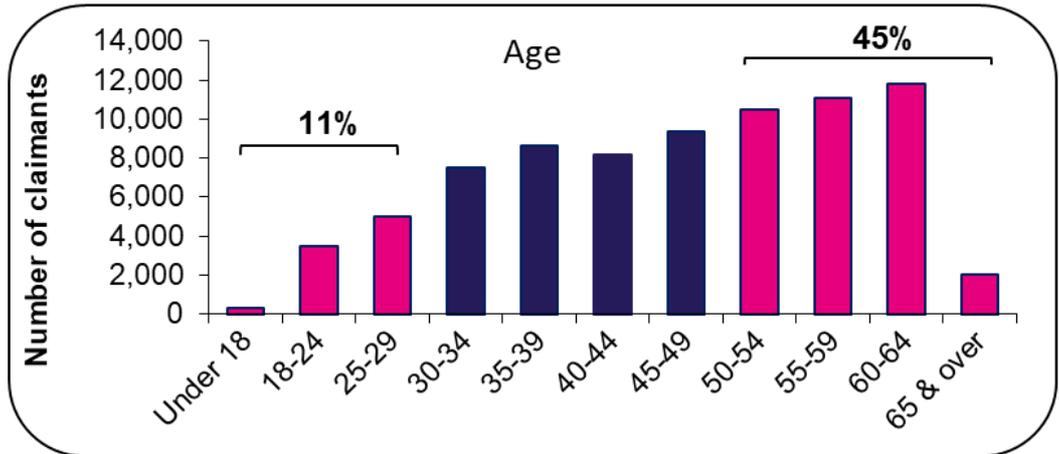
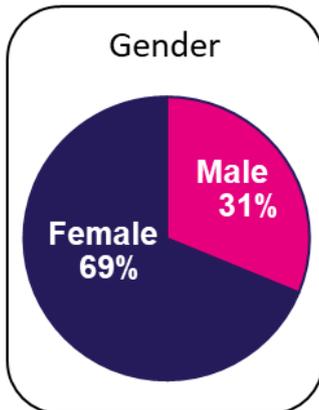
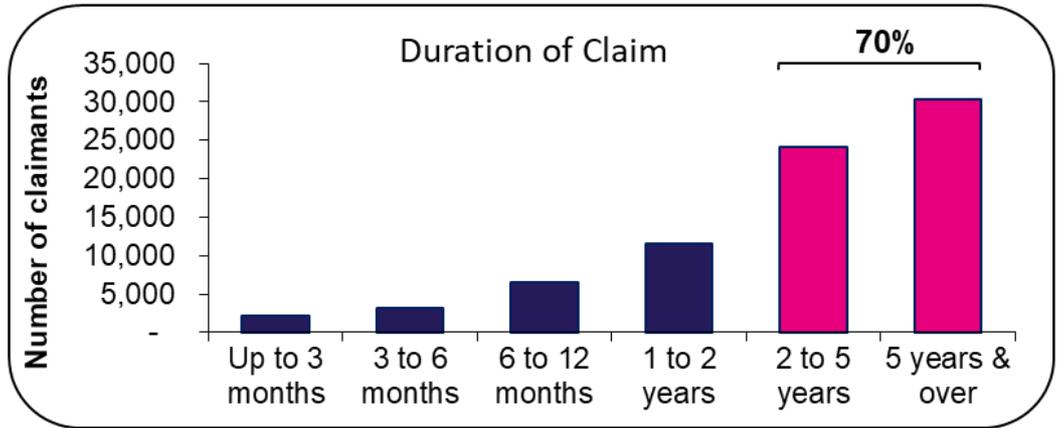
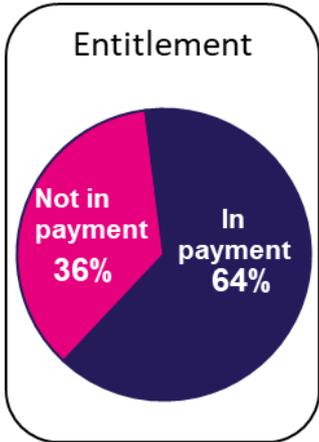
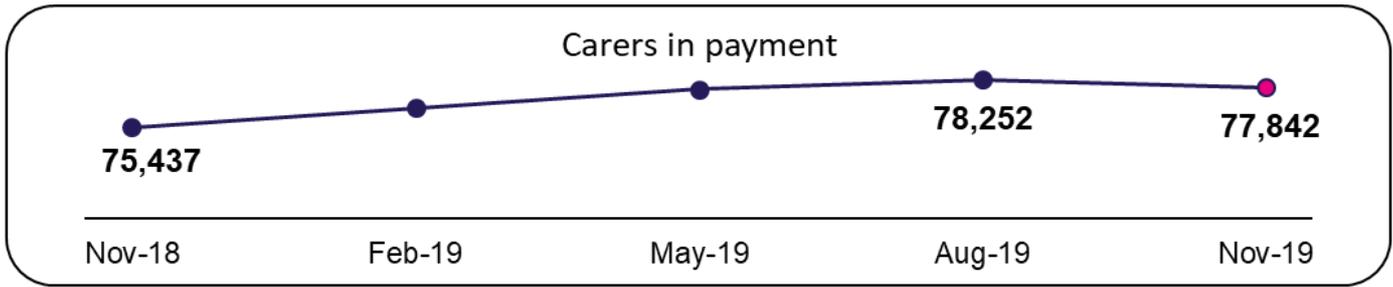
<sup>3</sup> For more information on experimental statistics please see:

[https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/images-assessmentanddesignationofexperimentalstatistic\\_tcm97-44327-1.pdf](https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/images-assessmentanddesignationofexperimentalstatistic_tcm97-44327-1.pdf)

## Carer's Allowance at November 2019

- At the end of November 2019, there were 77,842 carers in Scotland in receipt of Carer's Allowance. This is an increase of three per cent since the previous year (75,437 at the end of November 2018) and a less than one per cent decrease since the last quarter (78,252 at the end of August 2019).
- A further 43,891 carers were entitled to Carer's Allowance but did not receive a payment. The majority of these carers (82 per cent) were 65 or over, so may have been eligible to a State Pension with a value equal to or exceeding their weekly rate of Carer's Allowance (See [Background Note](#)).
- Over two thirds of Carer's Allowance claimants (69 per cent) were female and nearly a third (31 per cent) were male.
- Of the Carer's Allowance claimants in receipt of payments, 45 per cent were aged 50 or over, whereas only 11 per cent were under the age of 30.
- Two thirds of claimants (70 per cent) have been receiving Carer's Allowance payments for over two years. In total 39 per cent have been receiving Carer's Allowance payments for over five years.
- The average Carer's Allowance payment was £66.07 a week.

## Summary Panel: Carer's Allowance claimants to November 2019



# Background to Carer's Allowance

Carer's Allowance was introduced on 5th July 1976. To be eligible for Carer's Allowance:

- The person being cared for must already get one of these benefits:
  - Personal Independence Payment - daily living component
  - Disability Living Allowance - the middle or highest care rate
  - Attendance Allowance
  - Constant Attendance Allowance at or above the normal maximum rate with an Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit
  - Constant Attendance Allowance at the basic (full day) rate with a War Disablement Pension
  - Armed Forces Independence Payment
  
- The carer must earn no more than £123 a week after tax and expenses.  
Expenses can include:
  - 50 per cent of the carer's pension contributions
  - some of the costs of caring for the carer's children or the disabled person while you're at work
  
- And the carer must also:
  - be 16 or over
  - spend at least 35 hours a week caring for someone
  - have been in England, Scotland or Wales for at least two of the last three years (this does not apply if you're a refugee or have humanitarian protection status)
  - normally live in England, Scotland or Wales, or live abroad as a member of the armed forces
  - not be in full-time education
  - not be studying for 21 hours a week or more
  - not be subject to [immigration control](#)

Some carers might still be eligible if they are moving to or already living in another [EEA country or Switzerland](#).

Some carers are entitled to receive Carer's Allowance because they satisfy the conditions listed above, but they do not actually receive a payment. This may occur as a temporary suspension of the Carer's Allowance payments, if the claimant is in hospital. Otherwise, this is because the claimant receives another benefit (e.g. Incapacity Benefit for people of working age, or State Pension for people of State Pension age) which equals or exceeds their weekly rate of Carer's Allowance.

Where the overlapping benefit paid is less than the weekly rate of Carer's Allowance, only the amount of Carer's Allowance which exceeds the amount of the overlapping benefit is paid. Carers who are on low income and entitled to Carer's Allowance (whether in payment or not) may receive extra money with their Income Support/Jobseeker's Allowance/ Pension Credit/Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit.

# Background to the Carer's Allowance Supplement

The Scotland Act 2016<sup>4</sup> gives Scottish Parliament powers over a number of social security benefits which had been administered to Scottish claimants by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). In September 2018, Carer's Allowance became the first of these benefits to have executive competency transferred from DWP to Social Security Scotland, the executive agency of Scottish Government which is responsible for delivering the social security benefits for Scotland. More information on Carer's Allowance can be found [above](#).

There is a transitional period to allow administration of this benefit to be transferred, during which DWP will continue to administer Carer's Allowance on Social Security Scotland's behalf. During this time, Scottish recipients of Carer's Allowance will be eligible to receive Carer's Allowance Supplement. Carer's Allowance Supplement was initially set at a level which would raise their Carer's Allowance to the equivalent of the current rate of Jobseeker's Allowance for 25 and over, however following uprating the combined payment exceeded the rate of Jobseeker's Allowance for 2019/20.

Carer's Allowance Supplement payments are paid twice a year, based on eligibility at specific eligibility dates in April and October.

Eligibility date	Month payments made	Payment amount
16 April 2018	September 2018	£221
15 October 2018	December 2018	
15 April 2019	June 2019	£226.20
14 October 2019	December 2019	

To be eligible for Carer's Allowance Supplement the person you care for does not have to live in Scotland, but you must:

- live in Scotland on the eligibility date;
- be getting Carer's Allowance payments on the eligibility date.

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<sup>4</sup> The Scotland Act 2016 webpage at <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2015-16/scotland.html>

# About the data

## How Carer's Allowance data is collected

DWP holds information on those in payment of Carer's Allowance, and publish statistics as part of the quarterly DWP benefits statistics series at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/dwp-statistical-summaries>.

DWP produce summary tables for Carer's Allowance in Scotland based on the data that are published in these quarterly statistical summaries, and provide these to Scottish Government for publication.

## Carer's Allowance data quality

Information about the methodology used to produce Carer's Allowance statistics and the quality of the statistics is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dwp-statistical-summary-policies-and-statements>.

Carer's Allowance data are subject to DWP's rounding techniques for disclosure control.

## Further breakdowns of Carer's Allowance data

The data for Carer's Allowance in Scotland is available in more detail on Stat-Xplore, where you can access data at lower geographies e.g. Local Authority, Census Output Area, Scottish and Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies:

<https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/jsf/login.xhtml>.

## **An Official Statistics publication for Scotland**

Official and National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Both undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs and are produced free from any political interference.

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e-mail: [statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

### **How to access background or source data**

The data collected for this statistical bulletin:

are available in more detail through [statistics.gov.scot](http://statistics.gov.scot)

are available via an alternative route. Summary tables are available at:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/carers-allowance-at-november-2019-summary-statistics>

may be made available on request, subject to consideration of legal and ethical factors. Please contact [MI@socialsecurity.gov.scot](mailto:MI@socialsecurity.gov.scot) for further information.

cannot be made available by Scottish Government for further analysis as Scottish Government is not the data controller.

### **Complaints and suggestions**

If you are not satisfied with our service or have any comments or suggestions, please write to the Chief Statistician, 3WR, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG, Telephone: (0131) 244 0302, e-mail [statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk).

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