

## Benefit Claimants in Small Areas in Wales

### Highlights

- There are more than 70 communities in Wales in which 3 out of 10 people or more claim an out-of-work welfare benefit. These communities are likely to be substantially affected by changes to benefits over the coming months.
- These communities account for nearly one in five of ALL benefit claimants in Wales.
- There have been sharp increases in the number of claimants in some communities across Wales, notably Cardiff, while only 13 wards have recorded a decrease in claimants of 40 or more.
- High rates of claims because of unemployment are found in wards in Anglesey, Blaenau Gwent, Newport and Wrexham. There have been increases in unemployment in wards in Cardiff and decreases in wards in Swansea and Neath Port Talbot.
- High rates of claims because of incapacity are found in former industrial areas and also a small number of rural areas. Although the general trend in the number of claimants is down, with some traditionally high-claiming areas seeing a large decrease, the number of claimants is increasing in a small number of communities.
- There are a few wards across Wales where 5% or more of the population claim benefits because of being a lone parent. The general trend in the number of claimants is down, with some wards (notably in Cardiff, Newport and Caerphilly) recording relatively large changes.
- The proportion of the working-age population claiming a benefit solely because of disability is small.

### IMPORTANT NOTES ON THE DATA

*All data relate to 2003 electoral wards.*

*Claimants are analysed by the Department for Work and Pensions 'statistical groups', which categorise claimants by the primary reason for a claim and **not** the benefits claimed. The categories are hierarchical, in the order analysed here.*

*Data are rounded to the nearest 5 by DWP, and were downloaded from NOMIS.*

*The dates used for analysing change over time are the nearest available to changes in the relevant benefits. Different dates are therefore used for analysing different statistical groups of claimants. For the overview of all claims, a year on year analysis is used.*

## Claimants in Small Areas

There are 72 communities in Wales in which 30% or more of the working-age population claim at least one out-of-work welfare benefit. These communities account for nearly a fifth of all claimants of out-of-work benefits in Wales.

There are high-claiming communities in all local authority areas, although there is a particular concentration in former industrial areas. Increases in the number of claimants have occurred throughout Wales, but especially in Cardiff. Claimants have decreased in 13 wards.

**Table 1 Wards with a High Proportion of Claimants and Change Nov 2010- Nov 11**

Local Authority	Wards with 30% or more claimants, Nov 2011	Wards with an increase in claimants of 40 or more 2010-11	Wards with a decrease in claimants of 40 or more Nov 2010-11
Anglesey	Morawelon; Holyhead Town; Tudur		
Blaenau Gwent	Tredegar Central and West & Sirhowy; Nantyglo; Llanhilleth; Cwmtillery	Blaina	
Bridgend	Bettws; Caerau; Morfa; Blackmill		Caerau
Caerphilly	Twyn Carno; Aberbargoed; New Tredegar; Moriah; Bargoed; Pontlottyn;	Ystrad Mynach	St. Martins; Morgan Jor
Cardiff	Ely; Caerau	Plasnewydd; Cathays; Ely; Grangetown; Caerau; Pentwyn; Splott; Llandaff North; Canton	Butetown; Rumney
Ceredigion	Aberteifi Rhyd-y-fuwch; Aberteifi-Teifi		
Carmarthen-shire	Tyisha; Glanymor		
Conwy	Abergele Pensarn; Glyn;	Rhiw; Pantyrafon;	
Denbighshire	Rhyl W.; Rhyl SW.;	Rhyl W.,	
Flintshire	Holywell Central; Flint Castle		
Gwynedd	Peblig; Marchog		
Merthyr Tydfil	Gurnos; Penydarren; Merthyr Vale	Park; Cyfarthfa	
Monmouthshire	Severn; Cantref	Mill	
Newport	Pillgwenlly;	Pillgwenlly; Stow Hill;	Ringland
Neath Port Talbot	Gwynfi; Cymmer; Sanfields W., Neath E., Briton Ferry W., Sandfields E., Ystalyfera; Glyncorwg	Port Talbot	
Pembrokeshire	Pembroke: Monkton; Pembroke Dock: Llanion;		
Powys	Llandrindod East; Newtown South		
Rhondda Cynon Taf	Penywaun; Tylorstown; Maerdy; Penrhiwceiber; Gilfach Goch; Glyncoch; Aberaman South; Llwynypia; Treherbert; Rhydyfelin Central/Ilan; Mountain Ash W., Cymmer; Trealaw	Cwmbach	Hawthorn
Swansea	Townhill; Penderry;		Morrison; Landore; Cockett; Cwmbwrla; Townhill
Torfaen	Cwmyniscoy; Trevethin; St Cadocs & Penygarn	Snatchwood	
Vale	Gibbonsdown	Court; Illytyd	St Athan
Wrexham	Plas Madoc; Queensway; Wynnstay; Cartrefle;		

## Jobseekers in Small Areas

In 41 wards in Wales 8% or more of the working-age population claim benefits because they are Jobseekers. Some concentrations of Jobseekers stand out – Anglesey with six wards, Blaenau Gwent with five and Newport and Wrexham each with four.

In 117 wards, the number of claimants increased by 20 or more. The number increased by 50 claimants or more in 13 wards (shown in Table 2) – more than half were in Cardiff. There have also been a striking increase in the number of claims in Denbighshire wards where there are already a high proportion of claims. In 54 wards the number of claimants doubled between May and November 2011, but the numbers were mostly small and occurred on a small base. All except Lisvane (Cardiff) were in rural areas.

The number of Jobseeker claimants fell by 20 claimants or more in 16 wards, of which 13 were in Swansea or Neath Port Talbot. It is not clear if this is because of an improvement in the local labour market or other factors.

**Table 2 Wards in which more than 8% of the working-age population are Jobseekers**

Local Authority	Wards with 8%+ claimants. Nov 2011	Increase of 50+ claimants May - Nov 2011	Decrease of 20+ claimants May – Nov 2011
Anglesey	Holyhead Town; Morawelon; Tudur; Maeshyfryd, Porthyfelin		
Blaenau Gwent	Tredegar Central and West; Nantyglo; Llanhilleth; Ebbw Vale North; Ebbw Vale South		
Bridgend	Morfa		Maesteg W.
Caerphilly	Twyn Carno; New Tredegar; Argoed;		St. Martins
Cardiff	Ely	Plasnewydd; Pentwyn; Ely; Splott; Llandaff North; Canton; Fairwater	
Carmarthenshire	Tyisha;		Hengoed
Ceredigion			
Conwy	Abergele Pensarn; Glyn		
Denbighshire	Rhyl W; Rhyl SW;	Rhyl SE; Rhyl SW; Rhyl W.	
Flintshire	Holywell Central		Buckley Bistre W.,
Gwynedd			
Merthyr Tydfil	Gurnos;	Penydarren; Cyfarthfa.	
Monmouthshire	Severn		
Newport	Pillgwenlly; Bettws; Victoria; Stow Hill	Pillgwenlly	Liswerry;
Neath Port Talbot			Briton Ferry W., Aberdulais; Port Talbot; Blaengwrach; Resolven; Sandfields W., Sandfields E., Clydach; Neath E.
Pembrokeshire	Milford East; Pembroke Dock Central; Pembroke Monkton		
Powys	Llandrindod East / West		Presteigne.
RCT	Tylorstown; Glyncoch		
Swansea			Cockett; Llansamlet; Landore; Mynyddbach; Townhill; Penderry; Morrision.
Torfaen	Trevethin; Snatchwood		
Vale	Castleland; Court;		Dinas Powys; St.Augustine's.
Wrexham	Plas Madoc; Queensway; Wynnstay; Cartrefle		

## Incapacity benefits in small areas

In 14 wards, more than 20% of the population claimed benefits on grounds of incapacity – almost all of these in former industrial communities. The high-claiming wards are listed in Table 3.

Since February 2011, when claimants began to undergo Work Capability Assessments, there has been a decrease of 3,740 in the total number of claimants of incapacity benefits in Wales. The number of claimants has decreased by 20 claimants or more in 70 wards. They include two which are high claim wards (Maerdy in Rhondda Cynon Taf and Gurnos in Merthyr Tydfil).

The number of claimants has increased in 13 wards, some of which have an already high proportion of incapacity claimants (Rhyl West and Tylorstown).

**Table 3 Wards with a High Proportion of Incapacity Claimants, and Largest Changes**

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>With 20% or more claimants Nov 2011</b>	<b>Increase of 20 or more claimants Feb – Nov 2011</b>	<b>Decrease of 20 or more claimants Feb – Nov 2011</b>
Anglesey	None	None	None
Blaenau Gwent	None	Rassau	Brynmaur; Llanhilleth; Six Bells.
Bridgend	Bettws; Caerau	None	Caerau; Porthcawl East Central
Caerphilly	Twyn Carno.	Ystrad Mynach	Risca East; Risca West; St. Martins, Crosskeys; Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen; St. James; Hengoed; Moriah; Morgan Jones; Bargoed.
Cardiff	None	Cathays	Canton; Llanishen; Rumney; Pentwyn; Riverside; Trowbridge; Butetown; Ely; Grangetown.
Carmarthenshire	None	Tyisha	Glanymor; Saron; Hengoed
Ceredigion	Aberteifi Rhyd-y-Fuwch	None	Llangybi
Conwy	None	None	Llandrillo;
Denbighshire	Rhyl West	Rhyl West, Bodelwyddan	Rhyl East; Rhyl SE; Rhyl SW.
Flintshire	Holywell Central	Saltney Stonebridge	Buckley Bistre West; Flint Coleshill; Flint Trelawny
Gwynedd	None	None	None
Merthyr Tydfil	Gurnos	None	Gurnos; Cyfarthfa; Dowlais; Town.
Monmouthshire	None	None	None
Neath Port Talbot	Cymmer; Neath E.; Gwynfi; Sandfields W.	Port Talbot	Baglan; Blaengwrach; Cimla; Sandfields E.
Newport	None	Stow Hill	Bettws; Marshfield; Victoria.
Pembrokeshire	None	None	Goodwick
Powys	None	None	None
Rhondda Cynon Taf	Pen-y-waun; Maerdy; Tylorstown	Tylorstown	Aberdare W. Llwydcoed; Aberaman S; Trealaw; Hirwaun; Tyn-y-nant; Maerdy
Swansea	None	Mynydd Bach	Cockett; Sketty; Pontardulais; Bonymaen; Penderry; Penyrheol; Llansamlet.
Torfaen	None	None	Blaenavon
Vale	None	Court	Llantwit Major; Peterston-super-Ely; Cadoxton; Castleland.
Wrexham	None	Offa	Queensway, Llay, Gerswyllt; Brymbo

## Lone parent benefits in small areas

In nine wards 5% or more of the working age population claim benefits for lone parents

The number of claimants has increased in 150 wards since November 2010, when eligibility to claim benefits for lone parents began to change, although the numbers are mostly very small. In only 3 wards is the number up by 15 or more.

The number of claimants has decreased by 20 or more in 47 wards. It is not clear if this is because lone parents have been moved onto other benefits or because of other factors e.g. finding a new partner or a job. None of the wards with decreases of 20 or more are high-claim areas.

**Table 3 Wards with a High Proportion of Incapacity Claimants, and Largest Changes**

Local Authority	With 5% or more claimants Nov 2011	Increase of 15 or more claimants Nov 2010–Nov 2011	Decrease of 20 or more claimants Nov 2010 – Nov 2011
Anglesey	None	None	None
Blaenau Gwent	None	None	Cwmtillery; Brynmawr;
Bridgend	None	None	Caerau; Maesteg W.,
Caerphilly	None	None	Hengoed; Blackwood; Moriah; Penyrheol; Aber Valley; Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen; Pontllanfraith
Cardiff	Ely	None	Whitchurch & Tongwynlais; Llanishen; Adamsdown; Caerau; Rumney; Butetown; Pentwyn
Carmarthenshire	None	None	Bigyn;
Ceredigion	None	None	None
Conwy	None	None	None
Denbighshire	None	None	Rhyl W.;
Flintshire	None	None	None
Gwynedd	Peblig	None	None
Merthyr Tydfil	Gurnos	None	Dowlais; Plymouth;
Monmouthshire	None	None	None
Neath Port Talbot	None	Bryn & Cwm Afan	Briton Ferry W.; Tai Bach; Neath S., Sandfields W.
Newport	None	None	Gaer; St. Julian's; Tredegar Park.; Ringland; Alltyr-yn; Pillgwenlly.
Pembrokeshire	Pembroke Monkton		Milford Hubberston;
Powys	None	None	None
Rhondda Cynon Taf	Pen-y-waun	None	Pen-y-waun; Mountain Ash W.; Hawthorn; Ynyshir; Rhydyfelin Central
Swansea	Townhill	None	Bonymaen; Landore; Townhill; Penderry; Morryston; Cockett;
Torfaen	None	Greenmeadow	None
Vale	None	Castleland	Illtyd; Castle.
Wrexham	Queensway, Plas Madoc, Wynnstay	None	Gwersyllt E.

## Disability Benefits for Small Areas

1.4% of the Welsh population of working age (26,080) claim a benefit mainly on the grounds of disability. The wards with the highest rates of claims (over 2.5% of the population) are shown in Table 5. The numbers are small in even the high claiming wards. Some wards (such as Pen-y-waun, Maerdy and Rhyl South West) also have levels of claimants in other statistical groups.

As yet the UK Government has not implemented changes to benefits such as Disability Living Allowance (although the Independent Living Fund has been closed to new applicants), and so changes are not measured over time.

**Table 4 Claimants of Disability Benefits, Nov 2011**

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Ward</b>	<b>Number of Claimants Nov. 2011</b>	<b>Rate of Claims (% working age population)</b>
Monmouthshire	Severn	35	3.5
Bridgend	Cefn Glas	30	3.4
Neath Port Talbot	Gwynfi	25	3.1
Flintshire	Saltney Mold Junction	25	3.0
Torfaen	Cwmyniscoy	25	3.0
Neath Port Talbot	Cwmlllynfell	20	2.8
Bridgend	Bettws	35	2.7
Caerphilly	Hengoed	95	2.7
Carmarthen	Penygroes	45	2.7
Conwy	Abergele Pensarn	35	2.7
Conwy	Llanddulas	25	2.7
Powys	Cwm-twrch	30	2.6
Rhondda Cynon Taf	Pen-y-waun	50	2.6
Torfaen	St. Cadocs and Penygarn	25	2.6
Conwy	Crwst	25	2.5
Denbighshire	Rhyl South West	80	2.5
Anglesey	Amlwch Rural	15	2.5
Pembrokeshire	Fishguard North West	20	2.5
Rhondda Cynon Taf	Cwmbach	65	2.5
Rhondda Cynon Taf	Maerdy	50	2.5

## ANNEX

Cuts Watch Cymru is a coalition of third sector organisations investigating the impacts of welfare reforms on people living in Wales. Through talking to people affected by the changes, we seek to build a clearer picture about the impacts on different groups of people in different localities. This statistical briefing has been produced to give an overview of the characteristics of claimants across the main benefits, using the latest available data for Wales. In particular, it pays attention to possible issues in light of the welfare reforms. This will be a regular briefing which focuses on specific benefits that are subject to change, where data is available. The current briefing focuses on several of the major out-of-work benefits that are subject to change, which include:

### **Job Seeker's Allowance**

Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) is a benefit for people who are either unemployed or work a limited number of hours, and are required to be available for work. There are two types of JSA:

- Contribution-based JSA – depends on an individual's National Insurance contribution record but is not affected by other income or capital, and
- Income-based JSA – is means-tested and dependent on income and capital.

For both JSA types, those aged under 25 receive a lower rate of payment. It is a condition of entitlement of JSA that a claimant must be willing and able to take up employment immediately. Recipients must be able to prove that they are actively seeking work.

### **Incapacity Benefit**

Incapacity Benefit is paid to those who cannot work due to illness or disability. From January 2011 people were no longer able to make new claims for Incapacity Benefit, and have to claim Employment and Support Allowance instead. Current recipients of Incapacity Benefit, who are required to switch to Employment and Support Allowance, are currently being transferred, and this is expected to be complete by 2014. In order to be transferred over to the new benefit, people have to take the Work Capability Assessment, in order to determine their entitlement.

### **Employment and Support Allowance**

Employment and Support Allowance provides financial support to those who are unable to work as a result of illness or impairment. After being assessed by the Work Capability Assessment, claimants are then placed into either the 'work-related activity group', or the 'support group'. Those in the 'work-related group' are expected to take part in work focused interviews to help them prepare for work. People in the support group are not expected to work due to the severity of their illness or impairment.

### **Income Support**

Income Support is a means-tested benefit paid to people of working age who are on a low income, but who are not available for work, e.g. because they are lone parents or carers.

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