

Table 113 Housing benefit – numbers of claimants and average claim in Great Britain

	1980/81	1985/86	1990/91	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Number of claimants (000s):																					
Rent rebates	1,330	3,710	2,944	2,981	3,023	3,060	3,007	2,953	2,887	2,762	2,664	2,469	2,250	2,103	1,985	1,831	1,819	1,745	1,684	1,625	1,487
Rent allowances	240	1,150	1,044	1,219	1,315	1,519	1,660	1,798	1,875	1,829	1,811	1,775	1,718	1,764	1,814	1,982	2,124	2,236	2,341	2,416	2,662
Rate rebates, council tax & community charge benefit	3,350	7,020	6,898	6,506	6,646	5,450	5,606	5,676	5,643	5,491	5,281	5,083	4,756	4,668	4,590	4,653	4,893	4,998	5,088	5,079	5,152
Average payment (£ per annum):																					
Rent rebates	240	606	1,030	1,184	1,375	1,505	1,654	1,763	1,830	1,893	1,924	2,028	2,137	2,293	2,423	2,493	2,718	2,876	3,047	3,261	3,392
Rent allowances	199	619	1,323	1,694	1,999	2,268	2,454	2,621	2,735	2,818	2,876	2,943	3,011	3,156	3,411	3,271	3,492	3,648	3,840	4,019	4,317
Rate rebates, council tax & community charge benefit	82	209	319	178	236	317	332	349	374	406	426	452	489	520	562	629	678	703	740	757	785

Sources: Parliamentary Questions 10/3/92 & 13/3/92, Social Security Departmental Reports Cms 2213, 2513, 2813, 3213 & 3613, Social Security Statistics 1991 to 1996, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Summary Statistics.

Notes: From 1985/86 figures include supplementary benefit cases. This accounts for part of the substantial increase in numbers and the average benefit payment that year. Rate rebate figures are for the years up to 1989/90; community charge benefit figures are for the years 1990/91 to 1992/93 and council tax benefit figures are for 1993/94 onwards. Average benefit payments from 1988/89 onwards are derived from Social Security Statistics and Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Summary Statistics and relate to the August of each year, except for 1991/92 to 1995/96, where May figures are given, and 2008/09 where they are for November. Average figures for numbers of claimants from 1988/89 are derived from the DSS Annual Reports; figures for earlier years are derived from the Parliamentary Questions.