



Surveys Branch publications

- Agenda
 - Brief overview
 - Developments
- Family Resources Survey (**Kyle Robertson**)
 - FRS Transformation (**Jacob Hamblin-Pyke**)
- Households Below Average Income (**Neil Sorensen**)
 - other Surveys-based statistics
- Income Dynamics (**Helen Smith**)



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Family Resources Survey

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/family-resources-survey--2>

team.frs@dwp.gov.uk



Kyle Robertson
FRS Social Researcher
DWP



What is the **Family Resources Survey**?

- It's **big**: Face-to face interviews with around 20,000 private households.
 - Update: Due to COVID-19, we are currently conducting interviews via telephone.
- It's **nationwide**: All UK households stand a chance of being selected. So it's the whole UK population, not just DWP claimants.
- It's **detailed**: Information on concepts which are core to the DWP policy arena
 - *income*, from both work & earnings, pensions, or state benefit receipt, or other sources such as investments
 - *characteristics* such as demographics, tenure, disability, carers, and also education and child maintenance
 - *other facets* such as material deprivation, pension participation, wellbeing and happiness
- Interviews average last approx. an hour, but can be significantly longer for some households. Our survey methodology document is published & gives far more detail.



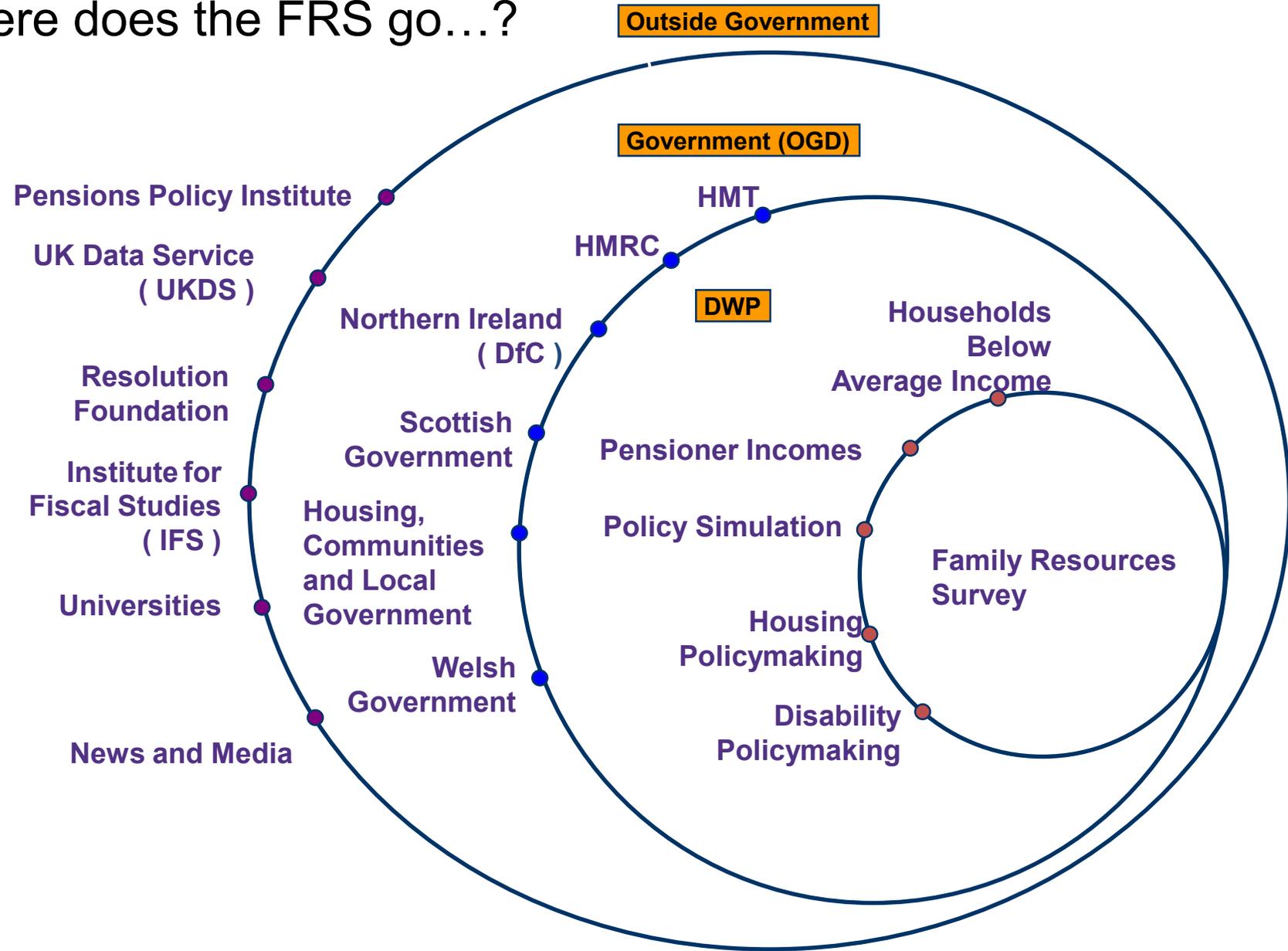
The FRS is a **National Statistic** produced under the Code of Practice for Statistics.

FRS is **long-running** ... for over 26 years now, with Northern Ireland added to the survey in 2002/03. It has been vital to the development, costing and evaluation of every major welfare reform over the last 26 years.

And of course, parts of the FRS are used for several other statistical outputs: **Households Below Average Income**, the **Pensioners' Incomes Series**, and also **Income-Related Benefits: estimates of take-up**.

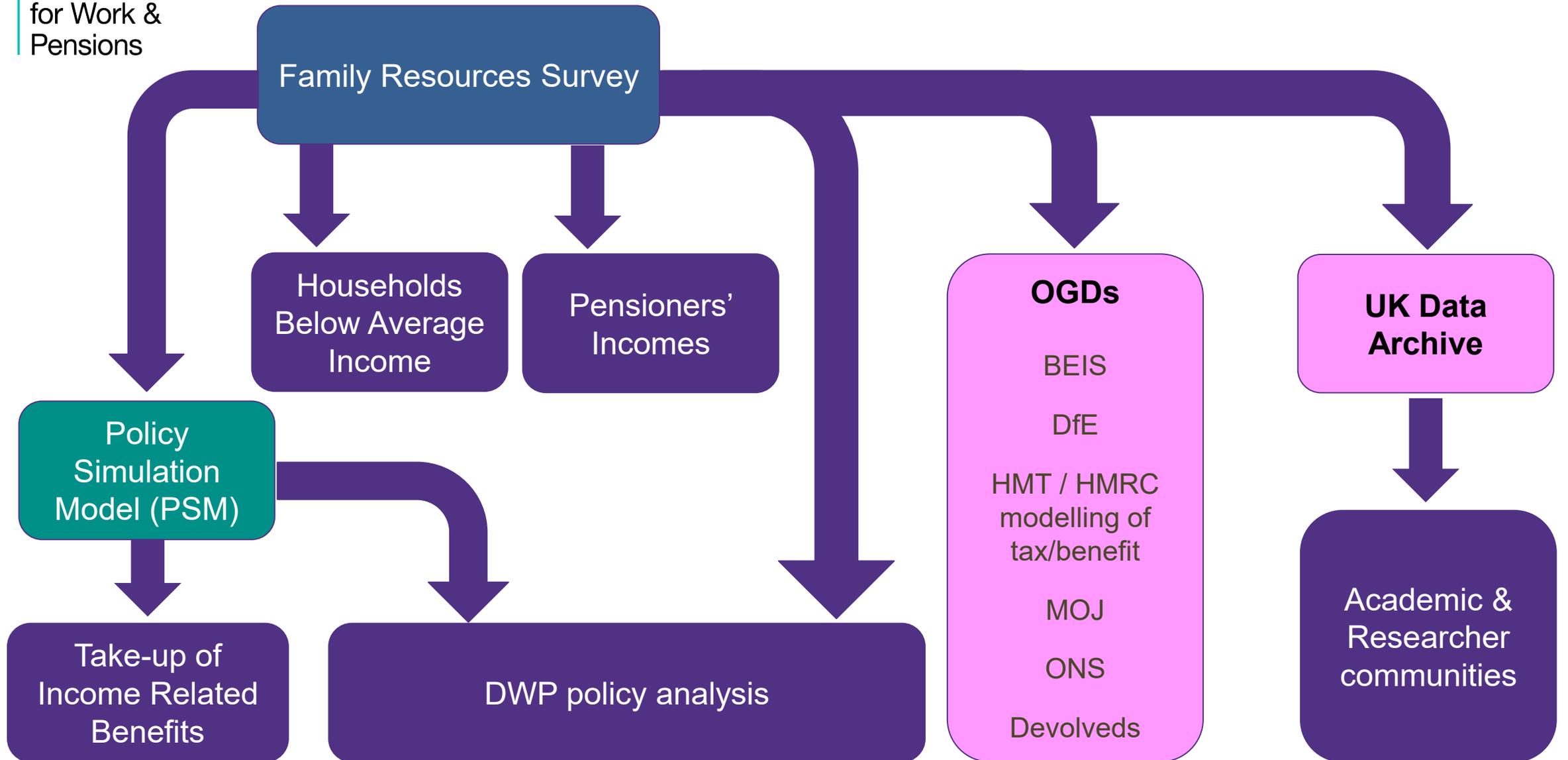


Where does the FRS go...?





Where does the FRS go...?





Main Annual Publication

Department for Work & Pensions

Family Resources Survey 2018/19

Annual Financial year 2018/19 Published: 26 March 2020 Coverage: United Kingdom

The Family Resources Survey (FRS) is a continuous household survey which collects information on a representative sample of private households in the United Kingdom. Detailed information is recorded on each respondent: their incomes, from all sources including self-employment; housing tenure; caring needs and responsibilities; disability; expenditure on housing; education; pension participation; child care; family circumstances; child maintenance.

This report summarises the key findings from the FRS for the 2018/19 financial year, when over 19,000 households were interviewed.

Income and State Support



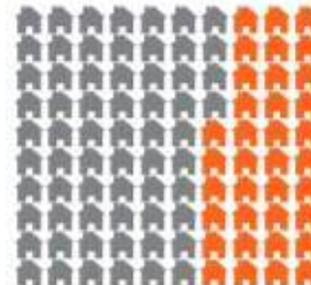
Income from employment and self-employment made up 73p of every £1 of household income

Focus on sources of income, especially earnings

Mostly but not wholly at family level

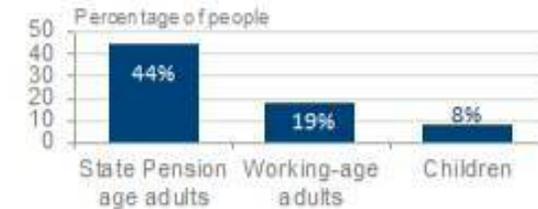
Many wider characteristics incl caring, disability and tenure

Tenure



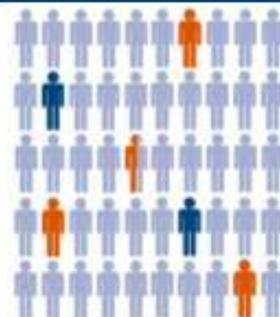
36 per cent of households were in rented accommodation

Disability



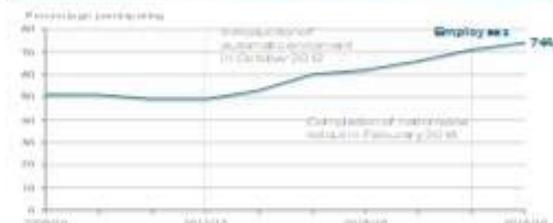
The percentage of people reporting a disability varied by age

Care



Two out of every 50 people were receiving care, with more than three in every 50 people providing informal care to someone else

Pension Participation



The percentage of employees contributing to a pension continued to increase after nationwide rollout of automatic enrolment ended in February 2018

Self Employment



On average, take-home pay of self-employed workers who were full-time was 24 per cent lower than that of full-time employees



What changes have we introduced for 2020/21? **COVID-19 Impacts**

- Survey year begins in April
- May & June changes were introduced to capture:
 - Changes in employment status (e.g. furlough)
 - For those receiving furlough / paid leave, we also captured the proportion received relative to their usual pay.
 - Whether reasons given for deviations from usual pay were due to COVID-19
 - Self-Employment Income Support Scheme grants
 - Mortgage holidays for homeowner
 - Whether or not SSP or ESA is being claimed on the basis of COVID-19



What changes have we introduced? **Food Insecurity**

- Policy colleagues in DWP and from Scottish Government submitted a proposal to collect information on **food insecurity** in 2018.

The aim is to improve statistics on the prevalence & severity of food insecurity in UK households, and ultimately to better inform the development of policy in this area.

- From April 2019, we introduced ten **adult-facing** questions from the well-established US Department of Agriculture module, in use since 1997. Including these questions, which investigate difficulties in accessing adequate food - because of insufficient income or other resources - was seen as the most beneficial solution for future analysis.
- The questions offer insight into different severities of food insecurity, and their structure offers a within-response validation of the answers given.
- The question set focuses on experience in the **last 30 days** at the time of the interview. That reference period is consistent with other reference periods used elsewhere in the survey.



What changes have we introduced? **Food Insecurity**

Q1-Q3

- **“We worried whether our food would run out before we got money to buy more.”** Was that often true, sometimes true, or never true for you in the last 30 days?
- **“The food that we bought just didn’t last, and we didn’t have money to get more.”** Was that often, sometimes, or never true for you in the last 30 days?
- **“We couldn’t afford to eat balanced meals.”** Was that often, sometimes, or never true for you in the last 30 days?

And if any of Q1-Q3 are ‘often’ or ‘sometimes’ follow with Q4-Q7

Q4-Q7

- In the last 30 days, did you ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food (Yes / No)? If so, how many days (or 3 or more, if not sure)?
- In the last 30 days, did you ever eat less than you felt you should because there wasn't enough money for food (Yes / No)?
- In the last 30 days, were you ever hungry but didn't eat because there wasn't enough money for food (Yes / No)?
- In the last 30 days, did you lose weight because there wasn't enough money for food (Yes / No)?

And if any of Q4-Q7 are “yes”, follow with Q8

Q8

- In the last 30 days, did you ever not eat for a whole day because there wasn't enough money for food (Yes / No)?
 - If so how many days (or 3 or more, if not sure)?



Next steps: **Food Insecurity**

- 1. Quality assurance of data collected:
 - Additional to regular data processing approaches
 - This helps us consider what results we would expect to see and undertake other elements of QA.
- 2. Once data is quality assured, we will need to determine which breakdowns we will publish in March 2021. FRS team members are currently exploring with users which initial analyses would be helpful to them.
 - Given richness of the FRS dataset, we are limited in what we can publish.
 - With considerable interest in the data, we may not be able to meet all user needs in the first publication while keeping to legal deadline.
 - It would be helpful hear any thoughts from users on potential content of first publication. Please e-mail team.frs@dwp.gov.uk for engagement.
- 3. Likely to be experimental statistics, initially, but expected be included in the FRS and HBAI 2019/20 datasets, released around late March 2021 (available via the UK Data Service and OGDs through data sharing agreements).



FRS Transformation

- With changes introduced by GDPR in 2018, we now have a firm legal basis to link all respondents to their admin records.
- This has opened the opportunity to transform the FRS through the integration of administrative data:
 - Improving data quality: using - DWP admin data to eliminate the 20% benefit reporting undercount, monthly HMRC RTI PAYE income data, self-assessment data for self-employed earnings, savings and investment income
 - Reducing interview costs and respondent burden by shortening the questionnaire
 - Improving timeliness: by reducing editing time and using more timely admin data
 - Increasing analytical potential for users by increasing the breath of information contained in on the FRS
- We have developed an outline research programme to take this work forward but internal DWP work and intended recruitment of additional staff has been interrupted by COVID-19



Jacob Hamblin-Pyke
Statistician



FRS Transformation

- IMPROVING THE MATCH RATE: We have completed work on improving the match rate between FRS respondents and their administrative records – enhancing standard match routines with probabilistic and manual matching methodologies:
 - FRS16-17 (and earlier): 58% linking success rate
 - FRS17-18: 71% linking success rate - using existing methodology but matching all respondents
 - FRS18-19: 93% linking success rate - through the addition of probabilistic and manual matching methodologies.
- PRODUCING AN ADMIN-BASED BENEFITS TABLE: Initial work on a set of key benefits variables has been completed
- NON-RESPONSE RESEARCH: We have worked through legal and internal permissions issues and are about to start a project to match non-responding addresses to admin records to analyse non-response bias
- PLANNING AND RECRUITMENT We are hoping to get the fundamental core research work on integrating admin data back on track in the coming months.
- Any questions, feel free to email myself (jacob.hamblin-pyke@dwp.gov.uk) or the FRS Transformation lead, Don Burke (donncha.burke@dwp.gov.uk)

When **not** to use FRS

- Living standards, low income measures, or material deprivation
 - Use Households Below Average Income
 - HBAI data is on [Stat-Xplore](#)! Create your own tables in Excel with this easy-to-use online tool
 - Note that Stat Xplore also has lots of other DWP statistics, for individuals on DWP benefits (including Universal Credit and many more). This would be your first port of call for benefit statistics, and has many basic characteristics of claimants
- Details of pensioner incomes
 - Use the Pensioners' Incomes series
 - Check out the very latest publication for 2018/19
- Changes in individual incomes over time
 - [Income Dynamics – official* statistics](#)
 - Understanding Society
- Background to earnings & income across surveys
 - FRS is one resource, but the overall starting point for official statistics is [this page](#) from ONS which gives a clear guide to the various sources of data on earnings and income



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Households Below Average Income (HBAI)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/households-below-average-income-hbai--2>

team.hbai@dwp.gov.uk



Neil Sorensen
Statistician, HBAI
DWP

The Households Below Average Income (HBAI) report presents information on UK living standards based on household income measures for the 2018/19 financial year. Estimates are provided for average incomes, income inequality, and for the number and percentage of people living in low income households. Please note that comparisons between years are generally made using percentages rounded to the nearest percentage point for each year. Changes are not statistically significant unless stated.

Main stories

- Median household income before housing costs (BHC) decreased slightly between 2017/18 and 2018/19 and was flat after housing costs (AHC).
- Income inequality BHC and AHC remained similar to the levels seen since 2010/11, in turn slightly lower than the levels around the 2008/09 UK economic recession.
- Absolute low income AHC for the overall population rose slightly in the latest year - from 19% to 20% according to the rounded percentages – although the rise is less than 0.5 percentage points using the unrounded data. All other measures of low income remained the same.

Household Income

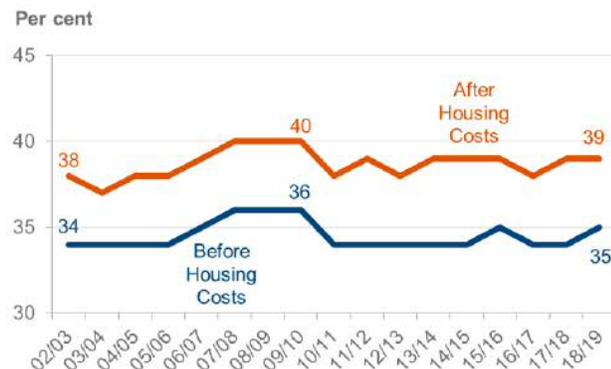
Average decrease to £514 (BHC) in 2018/19



Between 2017/18 and 2018/19, average (median) household net disposable income BHC decreased slightly in real terms (i.e. taking account of inflation). AHC remained flat in real terms. Since their lows in 2011/12, incomes BHC and AHC have both increased by around £35 per week.

Income Inequality

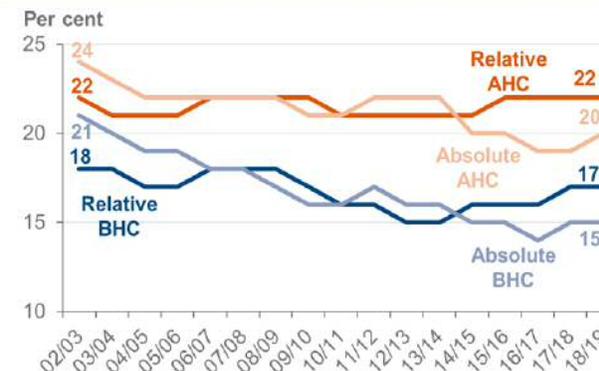
Gini increase BHC and flat AHC



The Gini coefficient, ranging from 0% (low) to 100% (high), measures income inequality. The Gini coefficient has been broadly flat BHC and AHC since 2006/07, currently 35% BHC and 39% AHC. Looking at the unrounded data, both are increases of over 0.5 percentage points on 2017/18, although only the BHC figure rises plotting the rounded percentages.

Low Income Measures

Absolute AHC rose in 2018/19, while other measures remained stable



The percentage of individuals in relative low income has risen since around 2013/14 both BHC and AHC, however both were stable this year. Absolute low income has fallen over the same period BHC and AHC, although AHC has risen this year from 19% to 20% on the rounded percentages (less than 0.5 percentage points on unrounded data).



New for HBAI 2018/19 – Universal Credit breakdowns

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Table 4.6db: Percentage of children in low-income groups by various family and household characteristics, United Kingdom¹

	Material deprivation		Income thresholds - Below median						All children (millions)
	and low income ²	and severe low income ³	Before housing costs			After housing costs			
			50%	60%	70%	50%	60%	70%	
State support received by family^{4,7}									
Disability Living Allowance	11	2	4	9	20	11	16	28	0.8
Personal Independence Payment	17	4	5	13	25	13	24	36	0.5
Jobseeker's Allowance	54	26	40	72	86	63	83	92	0.2
Employment and Support Allowance	39	15	19	35	50	34	51	63	0.5
Child Tax Credit	21	7	14	31	51	31	48	62	5.1
Working Tax Credit	17	5	12	27	48	28	45	61	2.2
Income Support	39	13	18	36	57	38	60	69	0.7
Housing Benefit	34	13	19	36	56	43	63	76	2.6
Universal Credit	30	7	17	34	55	38	56	76	0.5
Universal Credit or Equivalent benefits	23	8	16	32	52	32	49	64	5.8
Not in receipt of any state support listed above	2	1	8	12	17	12	16	21	7.9

Percentage of children

7. "Universal Credit or Equivalent" covers families in receipt of Universal Credit (UC) or any of the Legacy benefits it is replacing i.e. working age Jobseeker's Allowance (income-related), Employment and Support Allowance (income-related), Income Support, Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit and Housing Benefit. This category is included to provide a consistent series of working age families on income-related benefits over time whilst UC is being rolled out. The composition of the UC caseload at any particular point will depend on how rollout has occurred by geography and type of claim and is not expected to be completed until September 2024.



HBAI – What do we publish?

1. Publication:
Off-the-peg Excel tables

2. Stat-Xplore:
User defined tables

3. UK Data Archive:
End User License and Saferoom versions



HBAI – Options for 2019/20 (and beyond)

- Main publication report in **HTML** format (rather than pdf).
- As many tables as possible available via **Stat-Xplore** rather than off-the-peg.
- May include **Food Insecurity variables** in published HBAI datasets, but not publication report, off-the-peg tables or Stat-Xplore due to experimental nature.
- **Wider Poverty Measures** work (ref Social Metrics Commission).
- What about **2020/21**?



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Other DWP Surveys-based Statistics

This report examines how much income pensioners get each week and where they get that income from. It looks at how their incomes have changed over time and variations in income between different types of pensioners. The population age distribution has changed a lot since the start of this series in 1994/95 and pensioners now make up a larger proportion of the overall population. Changes in the economy and to the benefit system mean that the amount and components of pensioners' average weekly incomes have changed over time. These statistics look at these changes.

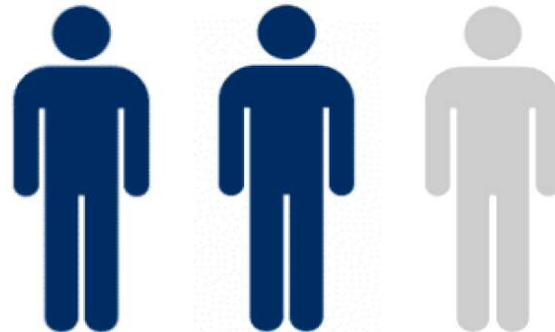
Main Stories

Pensioners' incomes stable for nine years



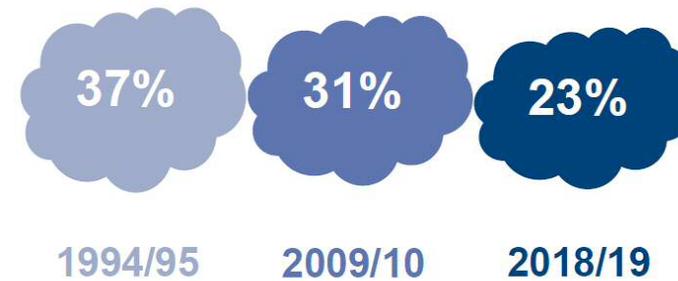
In 2018/19, pensioners had similar average incomes to 2009/10. The average income increased between the start of the series in 1994/95 and 2009/10. This increase is statistically significant.

Over two in three pensioners received private pension income



In 2018/19, 69 per cent of pensioners received income from private pensions. In 1994/95, this was 59 per cent. This increase is statistically significant. Private pension income includes income from occupational pensions and personal pensions.

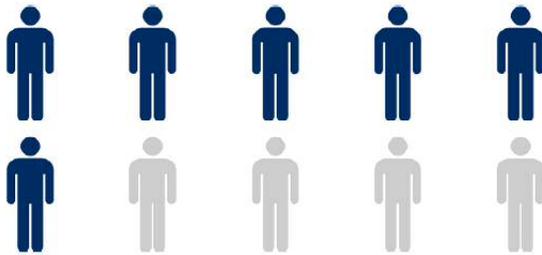
Fewer pensioners are receiving income-related benefits



The percentage of pensioners in receipt of income-related benefits in 2018/19 was 23 per cent. This has been decreasing since the survey began in 1994/95 when 37 per cent of pensioners were in receipt. Thirty-one per cent of pensioners were in receipt in 2009/10. The difference between 1994/95 and 2009/10, and the difference between 2009/10 and 2018/19 are both statistically significant.

This report looks at estimates of take-up for income-related benefits. The benefits covered are Pension Credit (PC), Housing Benefit (HB) and Income Support/Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (IS/ESA (IR)). Take-up refers to the receipt of benefits someone is entitled to and we estimate take-up in two ways, by numbers of people who claim these benefits ('caseload') and by the amount these people claim ('expenditure').

Pension Credit

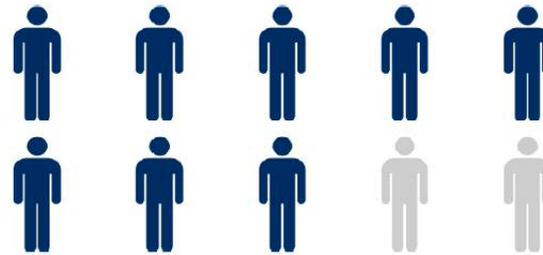


6 out of 10 of those entitled to Pension Credit claimed the benefit



70 per cent of the total amount of Pension Credit that could have been claimed was claimed

Housing Benefit

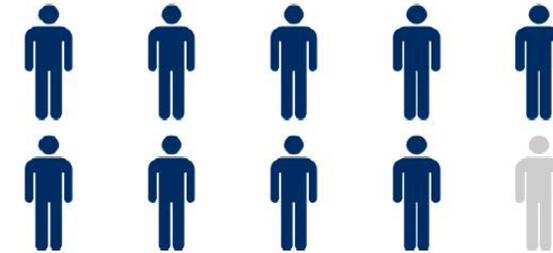


8 out of 10 of those entitled to Housing Benefit claimed the benefit



89 per cent of the total amount of Housing Benefit that could have been claimed was claimed

Income Support/Income-related Employment and Support Allowance



9 out of 10 of those entitled to Income Support/Income-related Employment and Support Allowance claimed the benefit



92 per cent of the total amount of Income Support/Income-related Employment and Support Allowance that could have been claimed was claimed



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Income Dynamics

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/income-dynamics-statistics>

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Helen Smith
Social Researcher
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Income Dynamics: Income Movements and the Persistence of Low Incomes

Data for 2010-2018

● Annual

Published: 26 March 2020

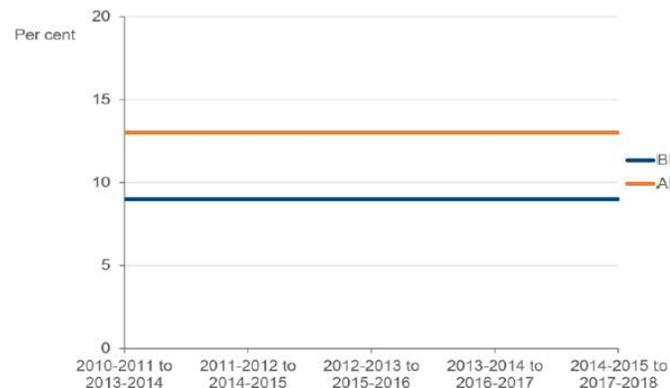
United Kingdom

Official Statistics

Income Dynamics (ID) presents information on changes in income over time. Its main findings relate to persistent low income. Individuals are in persistent low income if they are in relative low income for at least three out of four consecutive annual interviews. Analysis of entries into and exits from persistent low income is also included, as well as individual movements within the overall income distribution over time.

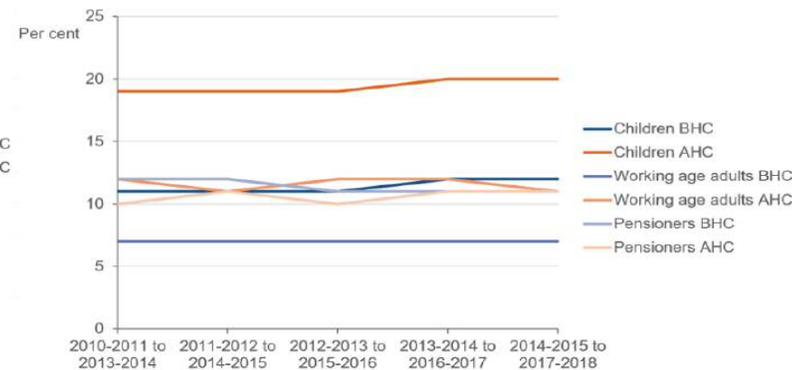
- In 2014-2018, nine per cent of individuals were in persistent low income before housing costs (BHC), and 13 per cent after housing costs (AHC). Persistent low income rates are lower than the single year rates published by [Households Below Average Income](#). This is because people move out of and into low income: fewer people remain in low income for three years out of four than experience low income in any single year.
- Children and pensioners had higher rates of persistent low income than working-age adults BHC. AHC rates for children were considerably higher than rates for working-age adults and pensioners.
- There has been less movement at the top and bottom of the income distribution both over the short and longer term. Rates of entry into and exit from persistent low income have been relatively stable over time.

Persistent low income over time



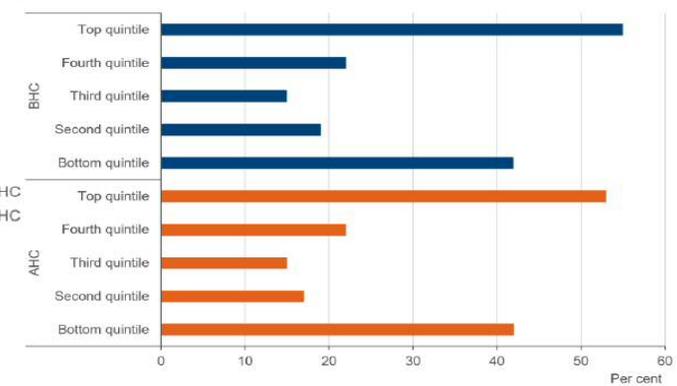
Persistent low income has been stable over time: nine per cent of individuals (BHC) and 13 per cent (AHC).

Persistent low income by population group, over time



Trends for individual population groups have changed little over time.

Percentage of those who spent all or most of their time in the same quintile since 2010-2011



Those at the top or bottom of the income distribution experienced less movement over the period 2010-2011 to 2017-2018 than those nearer the middle.

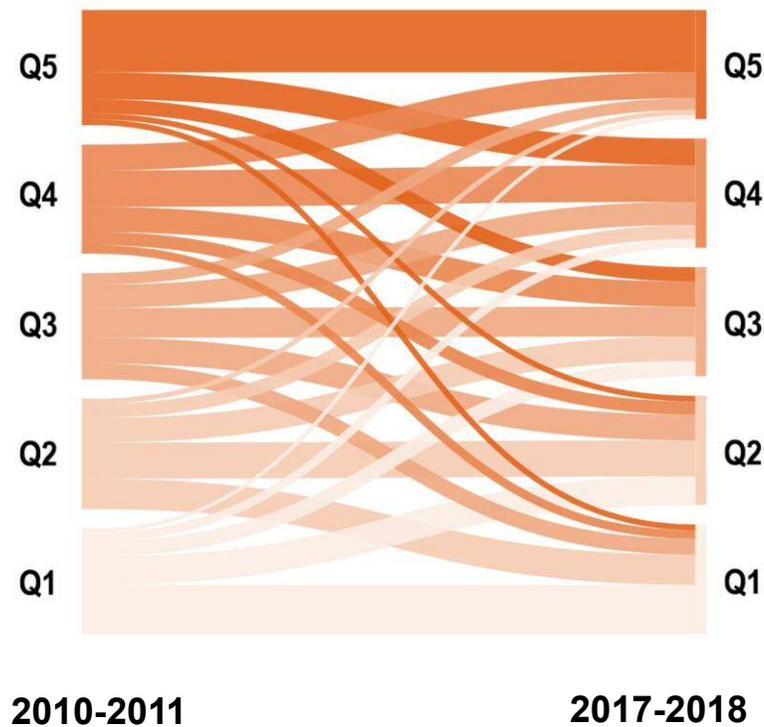


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Income Dynamics developments for 2010-2018 publication

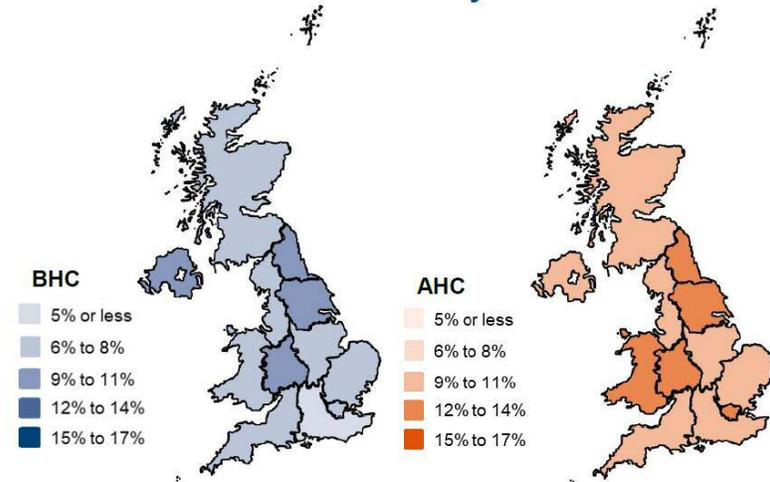
- Income Dynamics is now 'Official Statistics'.

Sankey diagrams showing
movements across the income
distribution (AHC)

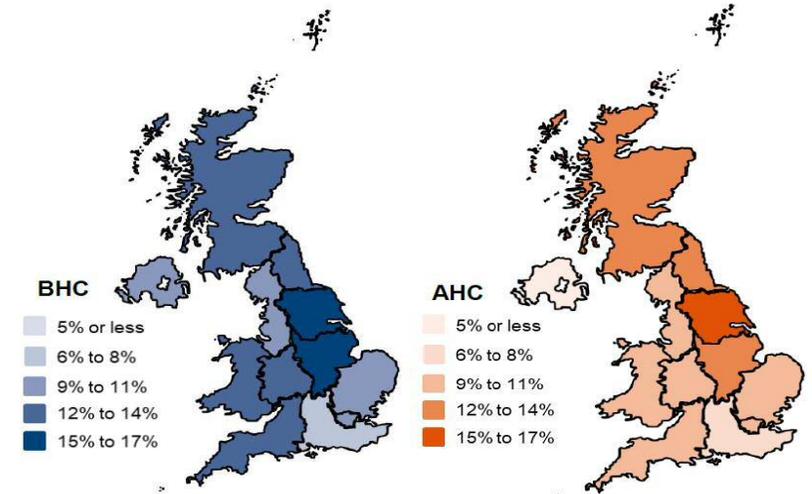


Maps showing regional variation in persistent low income

Working-age adults



Pensioners





Income Dynamics: potential developments for 2010-2019

Each year there is churn in the group of individuals who are in low income (roughly equal numbers enter and exit).

Feasibility of including analysis on the factors linked to low income entry and exit. Aim is to identify range of reasons and those which are most closely associated with low income entry and exit.

Factors include:

- Changes in earnings or other income components e.g. benefits.
- Changes in the number of workers in a household or the status of those workers
- Changes in household composition such as the number of children or relationship breakdown.



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Q & A Session

We welcome your views, so do feel free to get in touch now during the Q&A or via the e-mails provided below.

Contact details:

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HBAI: team.hbai@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Income Dynamics: team.incomedynamics@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Thank you.