



Universal Credit in Oxfordshire

Universal Credit replaces: *Child Tax Credit; Housing Benefit; Income Support; income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA); income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and Working Tax Credit.*

Universal Credit was introduced in Oxfordshire in October 2017.

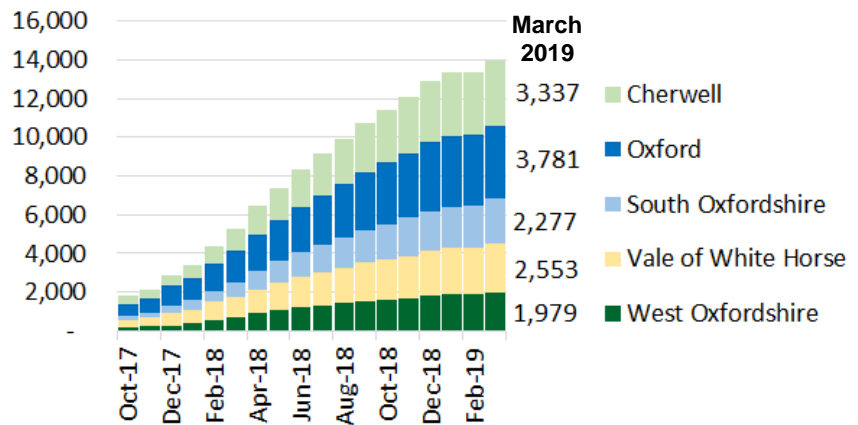
The number of people claiming Universal Credit (UC) in Oxfordshire is increasing. The highest number were living in Oxford City, the highest rate per population was in Cherwell.

As of March 2019, there was a total of **13,931** people in Oxfordshire claiming Universal Credit¹ of whom 40% were in employment.

The highest rate of people claiming (per 1,000 population aged 16-64²) was in Cherwell (36.3). The rate in Oxford was 34.7, South Oxfordshire 27, Vale of White Horse 32 and West Oxfordshire 30.

The rate of people claiming UC in March 2019 per population aged 16-64 in Oxfordshire of 32.3 was below the England average (45).

People claiming Universal Credit



Sources: [1] DWP StatXplore; [2] ONS mid-2017 population estimate

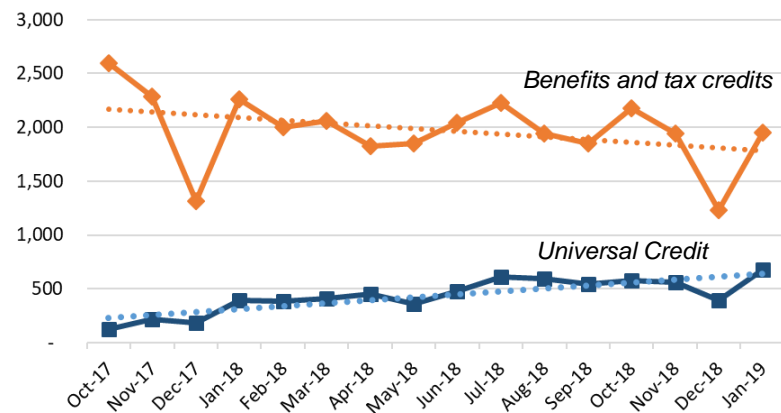
Since the introduction of Universal Credit in October 2017, Citizens Advice agencies in Oxfordshire have seen an increasing number of people requesting help with the new benefit.

In January 2019, contacts about UC were 71% higher than in January 2018.

For the full year 2016-17, Oxfordshire's CAs handled 15,904 benefit and tax credit enquiries. In 2017-18 (to end March 2018) CAs handled 20,036 benefits and tax credit issues and, in addition, 1,710 Universal Credit issues.

Contacts per month with Oxfordshire Citizens Advice agencies about Benefits & tax credits vs Universal Credit

October 2017 to January 2019 (count and linear trendline)



Source: Citizens Advice Oxfordshire

With thanks to Citizens Advice Oxfordshire

We welcome your comments, please email jsna@oxfordshire.gov.uk