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**HM REVENUE AND CUSTOMS**  
Analysis Team

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**Child Benefit Statistics**  
**Quarterly Statistics**

**August 2007**

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Contact point for enquiries and further information:-

Child Benefit Statistics  
HM Revenue & Customs

Room 2e/07  
100 Parliament Street  
London SW1A 2BQ  
☎ : 020 - 7147 3021  
Fax : 020 - 7147 3119  
E-mail : ar\_tcasp.ir.sh@gtnet.gov.uk

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## Child Benefit Quarterly Statistics

### August 2007

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## Introduction and key figures

The following tables show the number of families in the United Kingdom in receipt of Child Benefit (CB) at 31 August 2007, and the number of children for whom the benefit was paid. The figures are estimates based on a sample of awards, and are therefore subject to sampling error - see Appendix A.

Statistics based on data for all awards are also available, but less frequently. Such data relating to August 2006 have been used to construct Best Estimates of the number and characteristics of recipients at that date. These estimates differ from the estimates for that date appearing in the publication. See page 7 for more details.

**Table 1.1** shows the trend over time of the number of families claiming CB since May 2000. At the end of August 2007, there were 7.5 million families receiving CB with 13.3 million children for whom the payments were being claimed.

The number of families at August 2007 has increased by 88.7 thousand compared with August 2006. The total number of children has also increased by 89.8 thousand over the same period. For children under 5, there has been an increase from 3.35 million in August 2006 to 3.45 million in August 2007.

There was also an increase in the number of children aged '16 and over' for whom CB is claimed in August 2007 as compared to August the previous year, from 1.78 million to 1.87 million. Part of this increase can be attributed to the new rules from April 2006 for claiming CB for young people in this age group - see Technical Note for more details.

**Table 1.2** shows the number of families claiming CB by family size. In August 2007, 45% of CB families have 1 child and 38% have 2 children for whom the benefit was claimed, which shows no change from the previous quarter.

A breakdown by country of residence of CB recipients is shown in **Table 1.3**. There was an increase of 79.0 thousand claimants in England in August 2007 compared with August 2006. Over the same period, there was an increase by 4.4 thousand in Scotland and 3.7 thousand in Northern Ireland but only a small increase for Wales.

**Table 2** shows how the number of children in the family for whom CB is claimed varies between countries within the UK. 45% of families in England have 1 child, compared with 46% in Wales, 49% in Scotland and 42% in Northern Ireland.

In **Table 3.1**, a profile of the individual year of age of children for whom CB is claimed can be seen. There were 643 thousand children aged under 1 for whom payments were made, compared with 711 thousand for those aged 1. The number aged under 1 is particularly affected by new and revised claims that were not received and processed by the reference date but will later be backdated to before the reference date. The table also shows that 64 thousand young people aged 19 had CB claimed for them in August 2007.

**Table 1.1 : Child Benefit recipients and their children, by age,  
May 2000 - August 2007***Thousands*

	Recipients	Children for whom Child Benefit received, by age				
		Total	Under 5	5 to 10	11 to 15	16 and over <sup>1</sup>
May 2000	7,305.3	13,252.3	3,457.4	4,573.4	3,792.1	1,429.5
August 2000	7,340.2	13,326.0	3,436.7	4,564.1	3,801.3	1,523.9
November 2000	7,216.9	13,021.0	3,428.1	4,557.2	3,805.6	1,230.1
February 2001	7,255.1	13,104.7	3,415.0	4,541.8	3,812.8	1,335.1
May 2001	7,297.5	13,198.1	3,395.8	4,520.1	3,822.7	1,459.6
August 2001	7,334.7	13,278.3	3,376.8	4,503.9	3,833.6	1,564.0
November 2001	7,207.0	12,962.5	3,367.1	4,492.8	3,845.9	1,256.8
February 2002	7,249.6	13,052.2	3,351.0	4,481.1	3,860.3	1,359.7
May 2002	7,296.7	13,154.3	3,327.8	4,468.5	3,863.3	1,494.7
August 2002	7,335.6	13,232.8	3,300.4	4,453.9	3,877.7	1,600.8
November 2002	7,203.0	12,888.5	3,292.3	4,443.0	3,881.9	1,271.3
February 2003	7,250.8	12,988.7	3,284.4	4,425.8	3,892.6	1,385.9
May 2003	7,298.1	13,091.9	3,262.9	4,404.8	3,894.8	1,529.4
August 2003	7,342.4	13,195.8	3,266.8	4,393.0	3,893.7	1,642.2
November 2003	7,206.8	12,859.6	3,262.2	4,386.3	3,892.3	1,318.6
February 2004	7,247.3	12,942.1	3,256.5	4,377.8	3,882.1	1,425.6
May 2004	7,301.3	13,062.3	3,257.0	4,365.9	3,868.6	1,570.8
August 2004	7,352.5	13,167.8	3,253.2	4,351.8	3,871.2	1,691.6
November 2004	7,195.6	12,773.2	3,271.2	4,334.3	3,877.7	1,290.0
February 2005	7,251.5	12,897.4	3,273.8	4,324.3	3,874.1	1,425.1
May 2005	7,311.4	13,025.1	3,277.5	4,304.0	3,867.3	1,576.3
August 2005	7,374.7	13,151.8	3,293.3	4,289.3	3,861.8	1,707.4
November 2005	7,220.8	12,762.9	3,314.2	4,279.7	3,864.0	1,305.0
February 2006	7,284.2	12,889.0	3,317.6	4,268.3	3,855.5	1,447.7
May 2006	7,365.4	13,056.8	3,332.2	4,258.2	3,840.9	1,625.4
August 2006 <sup>2</sup>	7,441.0	13,208.2	3,353.2	4,244.1	3,828.5	1,782.4
November 2006	7,287.5	12,816.4	3,382.5	4,237.1	3,815.4	1,381.4
February 2007	7,378.4	12,997.3	3,407.3	4,225.9	3,810.1	1,554.0
May 2007	7,449.6	13,144.3	3,423.2	4,210.2	3,791.2	1,719.7
August 2007	7,529.7	13,298.0	3,446.0	4,200.6	3,781.2	1,870.3

<sup>1</sup> From May 2006 this included qualifying young people aged 19. See Technical Note for more details.<sup>2</sup> See page 7 for a comparison with the Best estimates for this date.

**Table 1.2 : Child Benefit recipients by size of family,  
May 2000 - August 2007**

*Thousands*

	Total	Number of children for whom Child Benefit received					Average number of children per family
		1	2	3	4	5 or more	
May 2000	7,305.3	3,118.4	2,881.8	970.3	250.4	84.4	1.81
August 2000	7,340.2	3,127.8	2,898.1	977.4	251.3	85.6	1.82
November 2000	7,216.9	3,116.0	2,833.5	945.0	242.2	80.3	1.80
February 2001	7,255.1	3,123.6	2,854.1	951.9	244.1	81.4	1.81
May 2001	7,297.5	3,133.3	2,873.4	962.3	245.5	82.9	1.81
August 2001	7,334.7	3,143.1	2,890.7	969.6	246.8	84.4	1.81
November 2001	7,207.0	3,128.1	2,828.7	935.9	235.5	78.9	1.80
February 2002	7,249.6	3,140.4	2,848.0	943.2	237.6	80.4	1.80
May 2002	7,296.7	3,152.4	2,870.5	951.0	240.8	82.1	1.80
August 2002	7,335.6	3,162.0	2,893.6	954.4	242.4	83.1	1.80
November 2002	7,203.0	3,157.1	2,820.9	917.8	230.7	76.4	1.79
February 2003	7,250.8	3,171.1	2,843.0	925.3	233.4	77.9	1.79
May 2003	7,298.1	3,184.1	2,863.2	935.0	236.1	79.8	1.79
August 2003	7,342.4	3,189.2	2,890.4	942.1	238.8	81.9	1.80
November 2003	7,206.8	3,176.8	2,819.7	906.0	228.1	76.1	1.78
February 2004	7,247.3	3,191.5	2,836.0	911.5	230.5	77.8	1.79
May 2004	7,301.3	3,202.5	2,863.2	922.8	232.9	79.9	1.79
August 2004	7,352.5	3,218.9	2,885.4	931.3	235.4	81.5	1.79
November 2004	7,195.6	3,205.5	2,804.7	889.7	220.7	74.9	1.78
February 2005	7,251.5	3,220.0	2,829.5	899.8	224.9	77.3	1.78
May 2005	7,311.4	3,238.1	2,854.2	911.3	228.8	79.1	1.78
August 2005	7,374.7	3,259.8	2,881.5	920.3	232.7	80.3	1.78
November 2005	7,220.8	3,252.3	2,795.4	879.7	218.8	74.6	1.77
February 2006	7,284.2	3,276.5	2,818.1	891.4	222.5	75.7	1.77
May 2006	7,365.4	3,302.9	2,852.1	905.4	227.0	78.1	1.77
August 2006 <sup>1</sup>	7,441.0	3,329.3	2,883.6	917.2	230.7	80.2	1.78
November 2006	7,287.5	3,321.3	2,802.4	872.3	216.9	74.6	1.76
February 2007	7,378.4	3,355.3	2,838.2	886.2	221.1	77.6	1.76
May 2007	7,449.6	3,380.3	2,864.2	900.2	225.6	79.3	1.76
August 2007	7,529.7	3,414.1	2,893.2	910.7	230.7	81.0	1.77

<sup>1</sup> See page 7 for a comparison with the Best estimates for this date.

**Table 1.3 Child Benefit recipients and children, by country, May 2000 - August 2007**

	<i>Thousands</i>					
	United Kingdom <sup>1</sup>	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	Overseas
<b>Recipients</b>						
May 2000	7,305.3	6,096.3	358.5	608.7	231.5	10.2
August 2000	7,341.2	6,127.1	359.8	610.5	232.9	9.8
November 2000	7,216.9	6,025.9	354.0	598.5	228.8	9.8
February 2001	7,255.1	6,057.5	356.5	600.5	230.5	10.0
May 2001	7,297.5	6,092.1	359.0	604.1	232.1	10.2
August 2001	7,334.7	6,122.9	361.1	607.3	232.5	10.9
November 2001	7,207.0	6,015.6	355.4	596.8	228.1	11.2
February 2002	7,249.6	6,054.4	356.2	598.7	229.5	10.9
May 2002	7,296.7	6,093.8	358.7	602.6	230.8	10.7
August 2002	7,335.6	6,126.3	360.9	605.8	231.7	10.8
November 2002	7,203.0	6,016.7	353.8	594.7	227.3	10.5
February 2003	7,250.8	6,056.6	356.0	598.3	229.0	10.8
May 2003	7,298.1	6,096.1	358.2	602.6	230.2	11.0
August 2003	7,342.4	6,132.6	360.5	607.2	231.3	10.7
November 2003	7,206.8	6,020.7	352.7	596.3	226.6	10.4
February 2004	7,247.3	6,058.8	354.6	595.3	228.4	10.0
May 2004	7,301.3	6,105.3	357.1	599.7	229.8	9.4
August 2004	7,352.5	6,149.7	359.6	603.3	230.3	9.6
November 2004	7,195.6	6,022.4	351.5	587.4	225.2	9.0
February 2005	7,251.5	6,070.9	353.6	590.0	227.3	9.7
May 2005	7,311.4	6,121.9	355.9	595.2	229.0	9.4
August 2005	7,374.7	6,176.7	358.4	600.3	230.0	9.3
November 2005	7,220.8	6,050.8	349.6	585.7	225.5	9.1
February 2006	7,284.2	6,106.0	352.7	588.6	227.9	9.0
May 2006	7,365.4	6,173.7	356.0	595.4	230.8	9.5
August 2006 <sup>2</sup>	7,441.0	6,238.5	359.2	600.5	234.0	8.8
November 2006	7,287.5	6,112.4	350.1	587.6	229.3	8.1
February 2007	7,378.4	6,189.8	353.5	594.5	232.4	8.2
May 2007	7,449.6	6,248.6	357.4	599.8	235.1	8.7
August 2007	7,529.7	6,317.5	360.7	604.9	237.7	8.9
<b>Total number of children for whom Child Benefit received</b>						
May 2000	13,252.3	11,079.0	644.7	1,053.2	457.8	17.7
August 2000	13,326.0	11,143.6	648.3	1,057.2	460.2	16.8
November 2000	13,021.0	10,892.1	634.0	1,030.8	447.0	17.1
February 2001	13,104.7	10,963.4	639.0	1,033.5	451.2	17.5
May 2001	13,198.1	11,040.6	643.9	1,040.7	454.9	18.0
August 2001	13,278.3	11,105.4	649.2	1,047.7	456.3	19.8
November 2001	12,962.5	10,841.9	635.4	1,022.1	443.4	19.8
February 2002	13,052.2	10,924.2	637.0	1,025.1	446.9	19.0
May 2002	13,154.3	11,010.5	641.9	1,032.8	450.2	18.9
August 2002	13,232.8	11,076.4	645.8	1,039.1	452.3	19.3
November 2002	12,888.5	10,790.9	628.5	1,012.5	438.2	18.4
February 2003	12,988.7	10,877.6	633.5	1,016.6	442.0	19.1
May 2003	13,091.9	10,966.0	636.9	1,024.8	444.6	19.6
August 2003	13,195.8	11,053.4	642.1	1,034.2	446.9	19.2
November 2003	12,859.6	10,777.0	623.6	1,008.7	432.0	18.2
February 2004	12,942.1	10,855.8	626.3	1,005.4	437.0	17.6
May 2004	13,062.3	10,958.8	632.1	1,014.6	440.3	16.5
August 2004	13,167.8	11,052.0	636.6	1,020.5	441.9	16.8
November 2004	12,773.2	10,727.9	616.9	986.6	425.8	15.9
February 2005	12,897.4	10,835.6	621.9	991.5	431.5	16.8
May 2005	13,025.1	10,944.4	626.8	1,002.0	435.3	16.6
August 2005	13,151.8	11,053.9	631.5	1,012.2	437.5	16.7
November 2005	12,762.9	10,732.9	610.8	978.9	423.6	16.7
February 2006	12,889.0	10,845.3	616.2	982.9	428.4	16.2
May 2006	13,056.8	10,985.4	622.5	996.4	435.4	17.1
August 2006 <sup>2</sup>	13,208.2	11,113.4	629.2	1,007.2	442.5	15.9
November 2006	12,816.4	10,787.0	609.3	976.4	429.1	14.6
February 2007	12,997.3	10,942.3	615.6	989.2	435.3	14.9
May 2007	13,144.3	11,063.5	623.4	1,000.2	441.0	16.2
August 2007	13,298.0	11,197.3	628.6	1,009.9	446.0	16.2

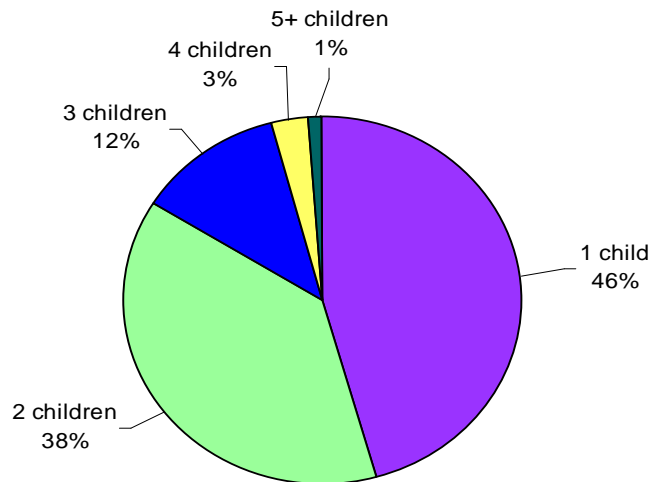
<sup>1</sup> Including overseas<sup>2</sup> See page 7 for a comparison with the Best estimates for this date.

**Table 2 Child Benefit recipients by size of family and country, August 2007**

	<i>Thousands</i>					
	United Kingdom <sup>1</sup>	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	Overseas
<b>Number of children in family for whom CB is received</b>						
All families	7,529.7	6,317.5	360.7	604.9	237.7	8.9
1	3,414.1	2,845.0	166.8	298.8	100.0	3.6
2	2,893.2	2,436.6	138.2	228.0	86.6	3.9
3	910.7	769.3	42.0	61.8	36.5	1.2
4	230.7	195.8	10.6	12.9	11.3	-
5	55.7	48.1	2.2	2.8	2.5	.
6	17.4	15.7	0.6	0.5	0.6	-
7	5.0	4.5	-	-	-	-
8	2.0	1.8	-	-	-	-
9 or more	0.9	0.8	-	-	-	-
Average number of children in family	1.77	1.77	1.74	1.67	1.88	1.81

<sup>1</sup> Including overseas

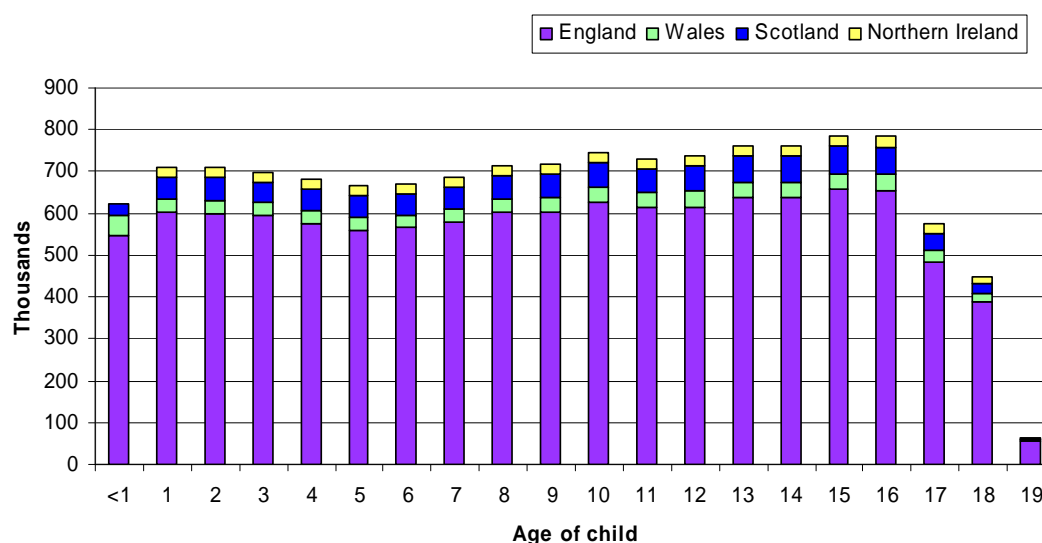
**Chart 1 Child Benefit recipients, by size of family at 31 August 2007, United Kingdom.**





**Table 3.1 Children in families of Child Benefit recipients, by age and country, August 2007**

	<i>Thousands</i>					
	United Kingdom <sup>1</sup>	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	Overseas
<b>All children for whom Child Benefit received</b>	13,298.0	11,197.3	628.6	1,009.9	446.0	16.2
<b>Age at 31 May 2007:</b>						
Under 1 <sup>2</sup>	642.9	545.7	28.0	48.1	20.6	0.6
1	711.0	603.9	31.5	52.1	22.7	0.8
2	709.8	599.1	32.2	54.3	23.1	1.1
3	700.1	593.5	31.9	50.6	23.2	1.0
4	682.1	575.3	31.3	53.3	21.3	0.9
5	665.8	561.0	30.6	50.6	22.7	1.0
6	670.4	565.1	30.9	50.4	22.8	1.2
7	685.8	576.9	32.1	52.6	23.0	1.1
8	714.5	602.5	33.1	54.2	23.7	1.0
9	718.8	603.0	33.6	56.7	24.6	1.0
10	745.3	624.5	36.1	59.3	24.6	0.8
11	731.3	614.8	35.4	56.3	23.8	1.0
12	737.4	615.3	37.1	60.5	23.5	1.0
13	761.3	639.4	35.4	60.7	25.0	0.8
14	763.6	636.8	37.3	63.3	25.4	0.8
15	787.5	657.6	38.1	65.4	25.6	0.8
16	784.0	656.0	39.3	61.1	26.9	0.6
17	574.4	484.3	29.0	38.7	22.1	-
18	448.4	387.8	22.5	20.0	17.8	-
19	63.5	54.7	3.2	1.7	3.8	-
Under 16	11,427.8	9,614.5	534.6	888.4	375.4	14.9
16 and over	1,870.3	1,582.8	94.0	121.6	70.7	1.2

<sup>1</sup> Including overseas<sup>2</sup> The number of children aged under 1 will be underestimated as these children will be particularly affected by new and revised claims that were not received by the reference date. They will later be backdated to before the reference date.**Chart 2 Children in families of Child Benefit recipients, by age at 31 August 2007, United Kingdom.**

## Differences between Quarterly estimates and Best estimates, August 2006

The estimates in the Quarterly publications are derived from 5 per cent scans of the CB computer system. They cover awards "current" at that date, defined in a particular way.

The Annual publications are based on separate scans taken at each August and November (with a different definition of "current"). For August 2006, a review of these scans established Best estimates of the number and characteristics of CB awards, based on entitlement information available at Summer 2007. The August 2006 annual publication gives more details, and reasons for discrepancies between them and the Quarterly estimates.

The Quarterly estimates for August 2006 differ from these Best estimates in certain coverage respects, notably:

- The Best estimates include backdated events, including about 70 thousand babies born in June, July and August but which had not been included in CB awards by August 2006;
- For around 25 thousand couples, both partners had CB awards at August 2006. These awards are consolidated in the Best estimates, which therefore count "families" rather than "recipients";
- The Quarterly scan includes some children payment for whom was in suspension at August 2006 and for whom information at Summer 2007 did not confirm them as having entitlement at that date.
- The allocation of claims to the constituent countries of the UK is less robust in the Quarterly figures; but some claims are shown as "Country Not known" in the Best estimates.

The following table shows some comparisons between the estimates for August 2006:

	Families / recipients				Children			
	Best estimates	Quarterly estimates	Difference from best estimates		Best estimates	Quarterly estimates	Difference from best estimates	
	'000	'000	'000	%	'000	'000	'000	%
Total	7,413	7,441	28	0.4%	13,233	13,208	-25	-0.2%
England	6,168	6,238	70	1.1%	11,051	11,113	62	0.6%
Wales	360	359	-1	-0.3%	635	629	-6	
Scotland	602	600	-2	-0.3%	1,020	1,007	-13	-1.3%
N Ireland	230	234	4	1.7%	435	442	7	1.6%
Foreign	11	9	-2	-18.2%	22	16	-6	-27.3%
Not known	42	-	-42	-	70	-	-70	-
1 child	3,266	3,329	63	1.9%				
2 children	2,910	2,884	-26	-0.9%				
3 children	919	917	-2	-0.2%				
4+ children	318	311	-7	-2.2%				
Age								
0					691	620	-71	-10.3%
1					698	702	4	0.6%
2					692	694	2	0.3%
3					677	676	-1	-0.1%
4					657	662	5	0.8%
5					666	666	0	0.0%
6					681	682	1	0.1%
7					704	711	7	1.0%
8					715	715	0	0.0%
9					737	742	5	0.7%
10					724	728	4	0.6%
11					735	734	-1	-0.1%
12					753	758	5	0.7%
13					757	759	2	0.3%
14					786	784	-2	-0.3%
15					792	793	1	0.1%
16					764	768	4	0.5%
17					547	546	-1	-0.2%
18					428	438	10	2.3%
19					30	31	1	3.3%

## Technical note

Child Benefit is paid to those responsible for children (aged under 16) or qualifying young people. The latter includes:

a) those in full-time non-advanced education or (from April 2006) on certain approved vocational training courses and who are under 19, or are aged 19 and have been on the same course since their 19th birthdays. (Note: those reaching 19 up to 9 April 2006 ceased to qualify on their 19th birthdays);

b) those entered for future external examinations, or are in the period between leaving education (or exams finishing) and the week containing the first Monday in September (or similar dates after Easter and in early January, if earlier), and are not in work (there are slight variations for Scotland);

c) those aged under 18 who have moved directly from full-time education to being registered for work or training with the Careers service or with Connexions.

Awards are also subject to residence criteria being satisfied.

The numbers shown in the tables are estimates based on a random 5 per cent sample of awards current at the reference date. The extract was taken on the reference date. The figures therefore take no account of new claims, or revisions to claims, that were received or processed after the reference date, even if they are backdated to start before the reference date. Figures based on fewer than 25 cases are shown as "-".

The data extracted for each sample family include details of each child in the family for whom Child Benefit was paid at the extract date. This yields estimates of the total number of children in families receiving Child Benefit, and their characteristics.

There are around 8,900 families in **Table 1.3** allocated to "Overseas". Investigations indicate that the vast majority of these are for families of armed forces or other crown servants serving overseas.

The figures are subject to sampling error - see Appendix A.

## Appendix A: Sampling error

The figures in the tables are based on a random 5 per cent sample of families with claims for Child Benefit fully processed by the reference date. The sampling method ensures that the sample cases are representative of all such families on the computer system. The data for the children in these families also comprise a 5 per cent sample of children.

The figures in the tables are therefore estimates, but we know how accurate they are. For example, suppose that there are 100,000 families or children with a particular characteristic (but this number is not known), and that each is sampled with a probability of 0.2. Statistical theory says that there is a 95 per cent probability that the number sampled will lie between 19,752 and 20,248. If we were estimating the total number with the characteristic from the number in the sample, there is therefore a 95 per cent probability that our estimate will lie between 98,760 and 101,240. Approximately, we can then say that, where an estimate of 100,000 is derived from the sample, the true figure lies within 1,240 of the estimate, with a 95 per cent probability. That is, the width of the "95 per cent confidence interval" for the estimate is 1,240, or 1.2 per cent, of the estimate itself.

The width of the confidence interval varies with the size of the estimate, as shown in the table below.

**Confidence interval widths for estimates**

<b>Estimated value</b>	<b><u>95% confidence interval</u></b>	<b><u>Confidence interval as % of the estimate</u></b>
'000	'000	
1	± 0.3	± 27%
2	± 0.4	± 19%
5	± 0.6	± 12%
10	± 0.9	± 9%
25	± 1.4	± 5%
50	± 1.9	± 3.8%
100	± 2.7	± 2.7%
250	± 4.3	± 1.7%
500	± 6.0	± 1.2%
1,000	± 8.5	± 0.9%

## Appendix B: Rates of Child Benefit, 1992-93 to 2007-08

	£ per week		
	Eldest child	Subsequent children	Lone parent <sup>1</sup>
April 1992	9.65	7.80	15.50
April 1993	10.00	8.10	16.05
April 1994	10.20	8.25	16.35
April 1995	10.40	8.45	16.70
April 1996	10.80	8.80	17.10
April 1997	11.05	9.00	17.10
April 1998	11.45	9.30	17.10
April 1999	14.40	9.60	17.10
April 2000	15.00	10.00	17.55
April 2001	15.50	10.35	17.55
April 2002	15.75	10.55	17.55
April 2003	16.05	10.75	17.55
April 2004	16.50	11.05	17.55
April 2005	17.00	11.40	17.55
April 2006	17.45	11.70	17.55
April 2007	18.10	12.10	-

## Notes:

1. This was payable instead of the standard eldest child rate to most people bringing up children on their own until 6 July 1998. From that date it has continued to be payable to recipients at that date. It is also payable to lone parents who were receiving the lone parent rate of family premium in Income Support or Jobseekers' Allowance and move into work; and lone parents ceasing to receive a "specified" benefit (Child's Special Allowance for the eldest dependent child; the higher rate of Industrial Death Benefit for the child; or an increase for the eldest dependent child with either Widowed Mother's Allowance, War Widow's Pension, Retirement Pension, Industrial Disablement Pension - which includes Unemployability Supplement - or Invalid Care Allowance). In April 2007, this transitionally protected rate of Child Benefit for lone parents was extinguished when the standard rate for the first eldest child increased to £18.10 per week.