

Accessing data from Stat-Xplore

Part of 'A guide to producing 'The State of Ageing' in your local area'. Summer 2022.

What data does Stat-Xplore hold?

Benefits statistics, including:

Attendance Allowance

Carers Allowance

Disability Living Allowance

Employment Support Allowance

Housing Benefit

Incapacity Benefit

Job Seekers Allowance

Universal Credit

Pension Credit

State Pension

As well as survey-based databases, including:

Households Below Average

Income (HBAI)

Pensioners' Income

Introduction

What is Stat-Xplore? Stat-Xplore is the site that holds the data published by the Department for Work and Pensions on 16 different benefits. It can tell you both the number of people/households receiving each benefit in an area, as well as the amount they receive. These data sets are a 'live' (they're updated regularly) record of benefits provision across England, Scotland and Wales.

What this guide will help you do: navigate Stat-Xplore, and download tables of data that show the distribution of different benefits across your local authority.

This guide won't teach you Stat-Xplore's full capacities but will help you access some important data for your local authority.

What can you do with Stat-Xplore? Through Stat-Xplore you can make tables which show the provision of benefits across any local authority, including at very small geographies. This may be useful to understand where residents in your area may need more support.

Troubleshooter: if you encounter problems while using this guide there is a [slide in this document](#) which helps you on some common errors, or go to the DWP's [online guide](#) to Stat-Xplore

Step 1: Getting set up

Log in to Stat-Xplore at <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/>

- From this page you can either create an account via ‘Register’ or ‘Guest log in’. You don’t have to create an account to use Stat-Xplore, but an account will let you save your tables which is very useful. It’s very quick and easy to create an account.
- Once you log in, you will be taken to the home screen.

Step 2: introducing the home screen



Yellow icon:
lists all the
benefits that
you can view
data about.



Blue cube
icon: lists all
the different
data sets that
you can view
for each
benefit.

Stat-Xplore Home Search

Select dataset or table

Datasets New Table

- Stat-Xplore
 - Alternative Claimant Count
 - Alternative Claimant Count
 - Alternative Claimant Count Off Flows
 - Alternative Claimant Count On Flows
 - Attendance Allowance
 - AA: Cases in Payment - Data from May
 - AA: Cases in Payment - Data to Februa
 - AA: Cases with entitlement - Data from
 - AA: Cases with entitlement - Data to Fe
 - Benefit Cap
 - HB Cumulative Caseload
 - HB Cumulative Caseload - 2001 COA (
 - HB Point in Time Caseload
 - HB Point in Time Caseload - 2001 COA
 - UC Cumulative Caseload
 - UC Point in Time Caseload
 - Benefit Combinations
 - Benefit Combinations - Data from Febrn
 - Benefit Combinations - Data to Novemt
 - Bereavement Benefits
 - Bereavement Benefits - Data from May
 - Bereavement Benefits - Data to Februa
 - Bereavement Support Payment

Tables Open Table

Select a dataset to see available tables

Welcome to Stat-Xplore

Stat-Xplore provides a guided way to explore DWP benefit statistics, currently holding data relating to:

- Alternative Claimant Count (ACC)
- Attendance Allowance (AA)
- Benefit Cap
- Benefit Combinations
- Bereavement Benefits (BB)
- Bereavement Support Payment
- Carer's Allowance (CA)
- Child Maintenance Service
- Children in Low Income Families
- Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
- Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- ESA Work Capability Assessments
- Housing Benefit (HB)
- Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance (IBSDA)
- Incapacity Benefits Reassessment (IBR)
- Income Support (IS)
- Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit (IIDB)
- Jobseekers Allowance (JSA)
- National Insurance number allocations to adult overseas nationals
- Pension Credit (PC)
- Personal Independence Payment (PIP)
- Population Estimates
- Sanction decisions for:
 - Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)

Step 3: editing existing data tables or creating new ones

Once you click on a data set (the blue cubes), information on that will come up in the right hand column (in this example, 'Pension Credit: Caseload').

From the middle column, 'Tables', you can view and edit pre-made tables under the yellow label 'Stat-Xplore'. If you make and save any of your own tables, they will also appear under 'Private' here.

Starting a new table from scratch: to create a new table, select the data set you want in the left hand column and click 'New table'.

Editing a pre-made table: Stat-Xplore has some pre-made tables for most data sets. If you want to view/edit one, select it in the middle column and click 'Open table'. However, largely if you're looking for detailed local data, you won't use these.

The screenshot shows the Stat-Xplore interface with the following elements:

- Navigation Bar:** Home, Table View, Graph view, Map View*
- Search Bar:** Search [] ?
- Left Column (Datasets):** A list of datasets including 'Pension Credit - Data from May 2018', 'Pension Credit - Data to February 2018', 'Pensioner Income', 'Personal Independence Payment', 'Child DLA to PIP Reassessments', 'DLA to PIP Reassessments', 'PIP Award Review Clearances from 20', 'PIP Award Review Clearances to 2016', 'PIP Award Review Registrations', 'PIP Cases with Entitlement', 'PIP Clearances', 'PIP MR Clearances', 'PIP MR Registrations', 'PIP Registrations', 'Population Estimates', 'Population Estimates', and 'Sanction Decisions'.
- Middle Column (Tables):** A list of tables under two categories: 'Private' (containing 'Pension credit') and 'Stat-Xplore' (containing 'Table 1 - Type of Pension Credit', 'Table 2 - Region', 'Table 3 - Pension Credit Type by Gender', and 'Table 4 - Age by Average Weekly Award Amount').
- Right Column (Pension Credit: Caseload):** Details for the selected dataset, including 'Latest Release: Tuesday 15th February 2022 at 9:30am', 'Next Release: Tuesday 17th May 2022 at 9:30am', a description of the data, 'Useful Links', and a 'Description' section.

(Don't worry about whether you want to edit an existing table or create a new one – you should be able to follow either one from this guide)

Step 4: setting up/editing your data table

Once you have the dataset open, you can start building/editing it. The column on the left gives you all the components for that – it lets you select what the table is reporting (**‘Measure’**), time period (**‘Quarter’**), geography, different demographic characteristics of residents receiving that benefit, and any other breakdowns within that benefit category (e.g. if there are different conditions under which people can qualify for that benefit, or differences in exactly which components they receive). These are called **‘Fields’**, and the options will vary a bit between data sets.

If you click on a field, it expands to show the different options within it. It’s easiest to go through the fields from top to bottom, and the few next slides will give you some guidance on how to select these, and things to consider when doing that. So if you need to, read them through before making your selections!

Important! Stat-Xplore won’t automatically fill in this table. You will see the table’s headings updating (in this example, we have ‘Quarter’ and ‘Aug-21’), but it won’t automatically show the results. If you want to see the numbers at any point, click **‘Retrieve data’**. But you don’t need to – the data is always there, just not visible.

The screenshot shows the Stat-Xplore interface. The top navigation bar includes 'Stat-Xplore', 'Home', 'Table View', 'Graph View', and 'Map View'. The main header displays 'Dataset: Pension Credit - Data from May 2018' and a 'Download Table: Excel 2007 (.xlsx)(ma)' link. The interface is divided into two main sections: 'Fields' on the left and 'Tables' on the right. The 'Fields' section has a search bar and a list of categories: Measures, Quarter (14), Geography (residence-based), Age (bands and single year), Duration of Claim, Gender, Grouped Amount of Benefit, Partner indicator, and Type of Pension Credit. The 'Tables' section has a toolbar with buttons for 'Retrieve Data', 'Clear Table', 'Save Table', 'Print Table', 'Table Options', and 'Remove Item'. Below the toolbar, the 'Quarter' field is selected, and the table shows a single row with the value 'Aug-21'. A red box highlights the 'Retrieve Data' button, and another red box highlights the table area. A red arrow points from the 'Retrieve Data' button to the table area.

This space on the right will show you the table that you’re building. It will update automatically as you add new fields.

Step 5: Selecting your 'measure'

1. 'Measures' are the different types of data available within the data set. Click 'Measures' and it expands to show you the different data available for your table.

In the pension credit example here, we can see that the Pension credit data set contains two possible measures to choose from: 'Count' (i.e. number of people receiving that benefit) and an average (£) of how much people receive from that benefit. In the example on the right, the default for this is 'mean' (a commonly used average).

The 'Measures' available to look at may vary depending on the benefit, but most will include a 'Count' and an average (£).

2. The measure in bold is the one that the table is currently reporting (it can only report one at a time). If you want to look at a different one, check the box by it and **click 'Filter'**. The column on the right will update automatically to reflect your new measure.

The screenshot shows the Stat-Explore interface for the dataset 'Pension Credit - Data from May 2018'. The 'Fields' panel is open, showing a list of measures under 'Measures'. The 'Filter' button is circled in red. The 'Measures' list includes 'Count' and 'Weekly Award Amount' with 'Mean' selected. The 'Quarter' field is set to 'Aug-21'. The 'Table View' is displayed on the right, showing a table with one row and one column.

3. In this example, you can also select 'Range' to open a pop up box to set a range for this value instead of using the mean. But most users won't need this, and the 'mean' and 'count' will be enough.

Step 6: Selecting the time period for your data set

As with 'Measures', there are different time periods available for different data sets in Stat-Xplore. While some are updated monthly or quarterly, some are only updated yearly. The default setting of Stat-Xplore starts your table with the most recent data (you can see in the 'Fields' column that Aug-21 is **bolded**, and appears as a column in the table on the right).

To select the point in time that you want, or to select multiple points to look at trends over time, click the time period listed in 'Fields' (this might be 'quarter', 'month', or 'financial year'). This will open the longer list of dates where data is available.

As you can see in the example, you tick all of the points that you want to add to your table, and hit "Add to Column". (You can also add to "Row", the table will just look a bit different).

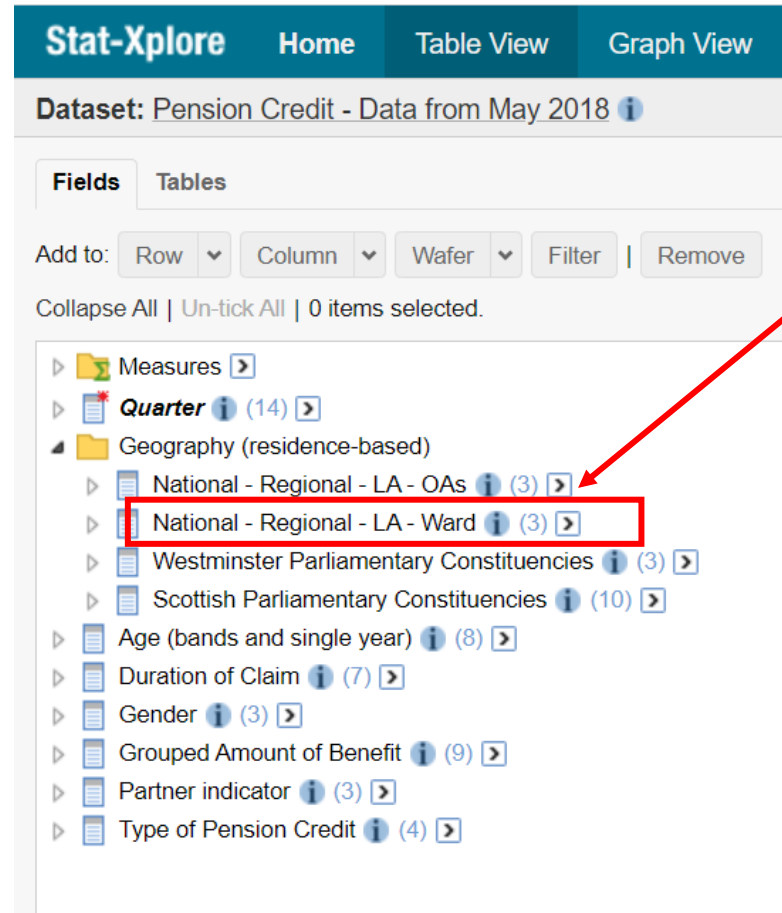
The screenshot shows the Stat-Xplore interface. The 'Fields' panel on the left is expanded to show a list of dates under the 'Quarter' category. The 'Add to:' buttons at the top of the 'Fields' panel are 'Row', 'Column', and 'Wafers'. The 'Column' button is circled in red. A red arrow points from the text 'click the time period listed in 'Fields'' to the 'Quarter' category. Another red arrow points from the text 'hit "Add to Column"' to the 'Column' button. A third red arrow points from the text 'you tick all of the points that you want to add to your table' to the list of dates. The 'Aug-21' date is bolded and has a blue tick box next to it. The 'Table View' tab is selected at the top. The 'Quarter' table on the right shows a single column with the header 'Quarter' and the value 'Aug-21'. A red arrow points from the text 'it will add each point in time as a new column' to the 'Aug-21' value in the table.

This will then update the table on the right – it will add each point in time as a new column. (Once it is added to this table, the blue tick boxes will disappear again).

Step 7: Selecting the geography for your data set

When selecting your area, there are quite a few options (which will vary by data set). You might want to compare your local authority to those around you, or to the country as a whole. Alternatively, you might want to compare small areas *within* your local authority.

The smallest area that you can access is LSOA (a lower-layer super output area), which is around 650 households (in any national statistics, this is the smallest area you will find). If you want to compare receipt of a benefit in different parts of your local authority, this is the most detailed level you can look at.



The screenshot shows the Stat-Xplore interface for the dataset 'Pension Credit - Data from May 2018'. The 'Fields' tab is active, and the 'Geography (residence-based)' section is expanded. The 'National - Regional - LA - Ward' option is highlighted with a red box, and a red arrow points to it from the text on the right. Other options in the list include 'National - Regional - LA - OAs', 'Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies', 'Scottish Parliamentary Constituencies', 'Age (bands and single year)', 'Duration of Claim', 'Gender', 'Grouped Amount of Benefit', 'Partner indicator', and 'Type of Pension Credit'.

In this example, the first one is probably the most useful, because, as the heading tells us, it contains **national** level data, **regional**, **local authority**, and **Output Area** (which includes LSOAs and their slightly bigger containers, MSOAs).

The process of selecting the LSOAs that make up your local authority Ticking all of the LSOA boxes for your local authority is a bit slow, especially if you want to look at the same places across multiple datasets/ types of benefit. The next slides will show you how to make and save your selection so you will only need to do this once through the 'Custom data' button.

Step 8: Saving your geography

Background: Ticking all of the LSOA boxes for your local authority is a bit slow, especially if you want to look at the same places across multiple datasets/ types of benefit.
The next slides will show you how to make and save your selection so you will only need to do this once through the 'Custom data' button.

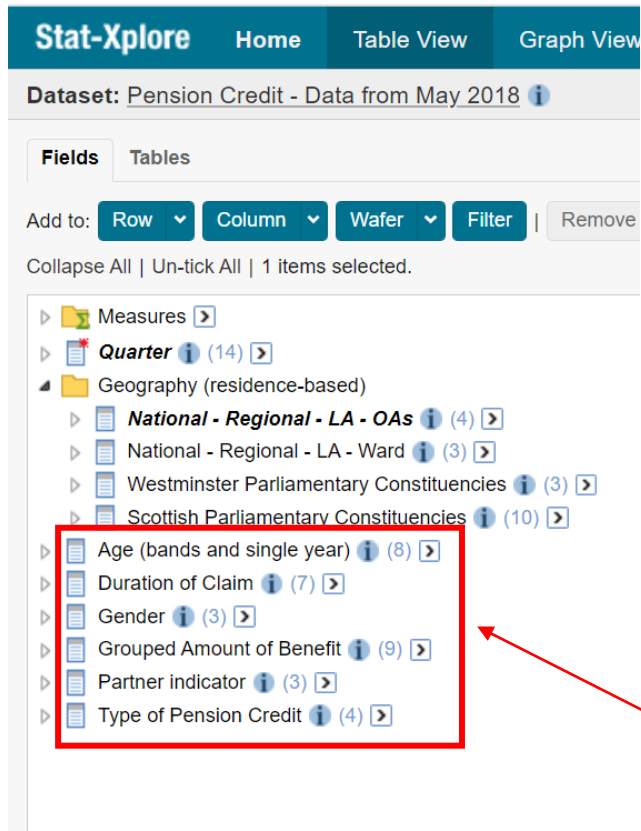
The screenshot shows the Stat-Xplore interface. At the top, the 'Table View' tab is selected and circled in red. Below the navigation bar, the 'Dataset: Pension Credit - Data from May 2018 II, I' is displayed. On the left, under 'My Custom Data', the 'Geography (residence-based)' folder is expanded, and the 'National - Regional - LA - OAs' sub-folder is selected. Within this sub-folder, the 'My local authority' checkbox is checked and circled in red. In the main content area, a list of data items is shown, including 'Quarter (14)', 'Geography (residence-based)', 'National - Regional - LA - OAs (3)', 'National - Regional - LA - Ward (3)', 'Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies (3)', 'Scottish Parliamentary Constituencies (10)', 'Age (bands and single year) (8)', 'Duration of Claim (7)', 'Gender (3)', 'Grouped Amount of Benefit (9)', 'Partner indicator (3)', and 'Type of Pension Credit (4)'. The '>>' button is circled in red. At the bottom left, the 'Edit' button is circled in red. Red arrows point from these elements to the text boxes on the right.

Click down the hierarchy of geographical layers, select all of the LSOAs that you want, transfer them across with the '>> >>' button, and hit 'save' in the bottom right. Then you can give this group a name, and it will save as an option in 'Geography'.

If you need to edit your group, you can find it nested within 'Geography' in the column on the left. Tick the boxes you want, click the 'Edit' button, and then you can use the add/remove buttons to change the areas that it includes.

Once you have made your group, you get back to your table using 'Table view' at the top.

Step 9: Breaking down data further: understanding your options



As well as cutting the data by different geographies, you can also cut it by other 'Fields', according to demographic characteristics and differences in how people access that benefit. This allows you to compare the take-up of a benefit between different parts of your population, for example men and women, age groups, or by ethnicity. These options vary between data sets and are listed in 'Fields'.

(It might be tempting to cut your data to the smallest possible groupings, but this is not necessarily a good idea. To protect individuals' identities, Stat-Xplore applies something called 'statistical disclosure controls' to the data, which makes data on specific groups at very small geographies either unreliable or unavailable. Stat-Xplore will tell you when this is the case.)

In our Pension Credit example, you can break down the data by demographics (age, gender, whether someone has a partner) and details of their claim (its duration, the amount claimed, and the type of PC they claim).

For a more detailed discussion on why you might want to cut data according to these demographic characteristics, see the section of our [guide on 'Thinking about age's intersections'](#).

Step 9: Applying your data breakdowns

You can use three tools to break down the data: **rows**, **columns**, or **'wafers'**.

The screenshot shows a data analysis interface. On the left, the 'Fields' panel lists various categories like 'Measures', 'Quarter', 'Geography', 'Age', 'Duration of Claim', 'Gender', 'Grouped Amount of Benefit', 'Partner indicator', and 'Type of Pension Credit'. The 'Gender' category is expanded, showing 'Male' and 'Female' selected. On the right, the 'Add to:' section has dropdown menus for 'Row', 'Column', and 'Wafer'. A red arrow points from the text above to the 'Wafer' dropdown. Below this, there are buttons for 'Retrieve Data', 'Clear Table', 'Save Table', and 'Print Table'. The main data table is titled 'National - Regional - LA - OAs by Quarter and Gender'. It has filters for 'Default Summation' and 'Wafers'. The table shows data for 'Aug-21' with columns for 'Gender' (Male, Female, Total) and rows for 'National - Regional - LA - OAs', 'My local authority', and 'Total'. A red arrow points from the text below to the 'Female' column in the table.

Quarter	Aug-21		
Gender	Male	Female	Total
National - Regional - LA - OAs			
My local authority	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-

Adding to a 'Wafer' will let you view 'Male', 'Female', and 'Unknown' in separate tables (and if you download them, they'll be separate sheets in Excel).

If you want to see them all on the same table, use either 'Row' or 'Column'.

In this example, 'male' and 'female' have been added to column, so each existing column is now divided between them.

Step 10: Wafers (if you need them)

The screenshot shows the Stat-Xplore interface for the dataset 'Pension Credit - Data from May 2018'. The 'Fields' panel on the left shows a tree view of available fields, with 'Gender' selected. The 'Wafers' dropdown menu is open, showing options for 'Male', 'Female', and 'Total'. The 'Male' option is currently selected. The main table displays data for 'National - Regional - LA - OAs by Qu' for the quarter 'Aug-21'. The table has columns for 'National - Regional - LA - OAs' and 'My local authority', with rows for 'Total' and 'My local authority'. A red circle highlights the 'Wafers' dropdown menu.

Quarter	Aug-21
National - Regional - LA - OAs	
My local authority	-
Total	-

Adding a lot of fields to the same table can get very unwieldy, especially if the table has a lot of rows. Adding to **'wafers'** instead of rows/columns will split the data into separate tables.

In the example here, we have added 'male' and 'female' as wafers. This will create a dropdown on the right, and you can switch back and forth to view each wafer.

Step 11: Viewing your data

Populate your table: At the moment, your table doesn't show up any data – it just shows the categories that you have selected, showing how the data will be organised. The **'Retrieve data'** button will populate the table (you can use this at any point).

You can also **'save'** it here to come back to later (you can do this at any point).

Stat-Xplore Home Table View **Graph View** Map View* Search

Dataset: Pension Credit - Data from May 2018 Download Table: Excel 2007 (.xlsx)(max 16,384 columns x 65,000 rows and < 100,000 cells) Go

Fields Tables

Add to: Row Column Wafer Filter Remove

Collapse All | Un-tick All | 0 Items selected.

Measures

- Quarter (14)
- Geography (residence-based)
 - National - Regional - LA - OAs (4)
 - National - Regional - LA - Ward (3)
 - Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies (3)
 - Scottish Parliamentary Constituencies (10)
- Age (bands and single year) (8)
- Duration of Claim (7)
- Gender (3)
 - Male
 - Female
 - Unknown
- Grouped Amount of Benefit (9)
- Partner indicator (3)
- Type of Pension Credit (4)

Custom Data

National - Regional - LA - OAs by Quarter and Gender

Filters: Default Summation : Pension Credit Caseload - 2011 Geographies

Wafers: Cell count: 6 (3 x 2 x 1) total.

Quarter	Aug-21			
	Gender	Male	Female	Total
National - Regional - LA - OAs				
My local authority		-	-	-
Total		-	-	-

For further information see [Data Confidentiality](#)
NOTE: Retrieve data to view table annotations.

Feedback/Enquiry Need Help? Terms and Conditions Privacy Accessibility Statement Stat-Xplore - Powered by SuperSTAR

Download your table: You can download the table as an Excel file, by hitting **'Go'**.

Or use **'Graph view'**, which lets you choose from a set of charts/graphs to visualise the data for you. You can download these as pdfs or images.

Common errors/FAQs

- **I have lost sight of my table and can't find it again:** Look at the bar at the top of the page and return to 'Table View'
- Error message: 'You have selected items from multiple fields or more than one layer on one field, multiple fields/layers are currently not supported.' – you get this error if you have tried to add too many types of thing at once. Look back at your selections on the left, and ensure that you are only adding one type of object to your table at a time.
- Error message: 'Can not add multiple fields at once' – you get this error if you try and add multiple fields to rows/columns at a time, for example trying to add both geography and age to 'rows' at the same time. You need to un-tick one of the fields, add to row, and then tick the other and add that.
- **I don't know which variables are included in my table:** check which units in 'Fields' are **highlighted in bold**. This indicates that they're in your table.