

2 Benefit claimant units

2.1 All benefit claimant units

This section presents information about the number of benefit claimant units across Cambridge City. Where a household operates as a 'family' unit, a single claim for Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit will be made on behalf of the claimant and a partner or dependants as appropriate. In this report, the term 'claimant unit' refers to the group on behalf of whom a single claim for Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit is made. In many cases this unit will approximate to a household, but it may not do so where a household is composed of a group of sharers, or where households contain non-dependent adults.

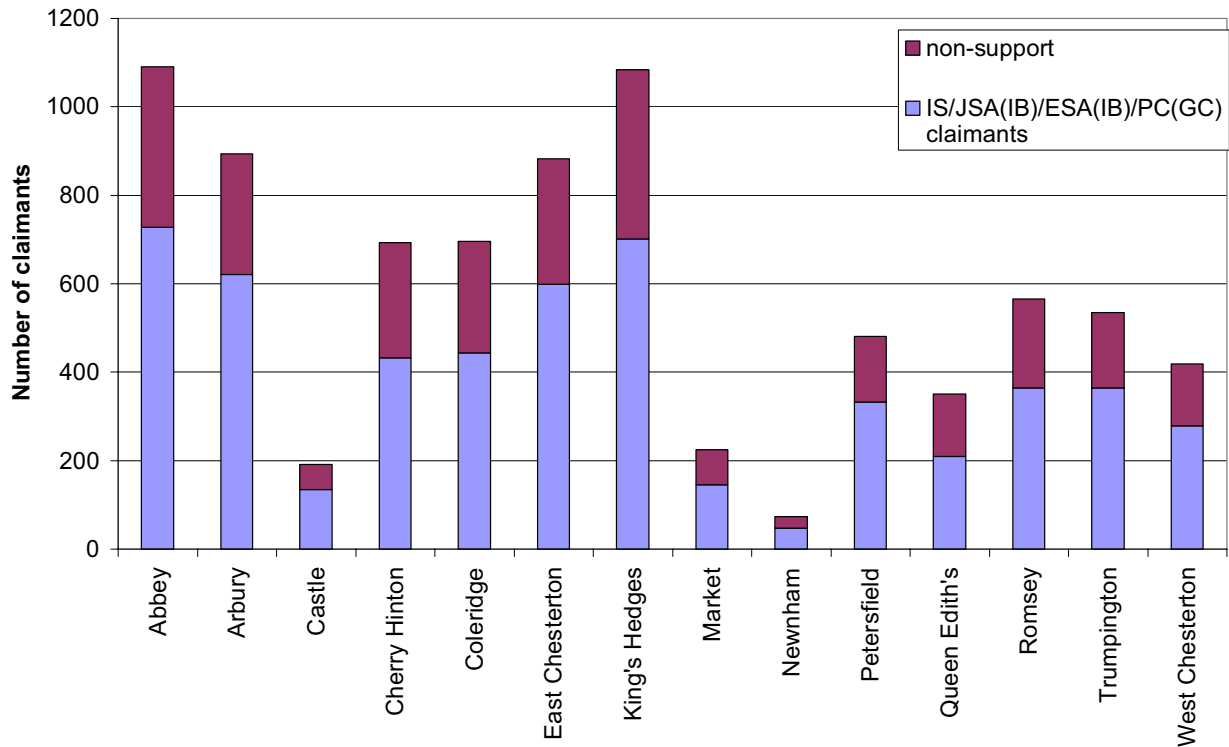
On 17th November 2009 there were 8,181 benefit claimant units in Cambridge City. Of these, 5,400 claims (66%) were made by a claimant also receiving Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance (Income Based), Employment and Support Allowance (Income Based) or Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit) (IS/JSA(IB)/ESA(IB)/PC(GC)).

In June 2008 the number of claimant units was 7,772, of whom 5,493 (71%) also claimed Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Pension Credit. Between 2000 and 2004 there was a gradual decline in both the number of claimant units and the proportion claiming IS/PC. Between 2004 and 2006 there was a notable increase in the number of claimant units, thought to have been caused by a change in the reapplication process. There was also a marked rise in the proportion receiving additional benefits, caused by including those claiming income-based Jobseeker's Allowance. Between 2006 and 2008 there was a slight decrease in the number of claimant units, however, we again saw a marked rise in the proportion receiving additional benefits, caused by including all those claiming Pension Credit (not just those claiming the Guarantee Credit element) due to a change in reporting by DWP. Since 2008 there has been a significant (5%) increase in the number of claimant units, however, because this report is including only those claiming the Guarantee Credit element, we have seen a marked fall in the proportion of these that are receiving additional benefits. The introduction of Employment and Support Allowance in October 2008, which replaced Incapacity Benefit and Income Support paid on incapacity grounds for new customers, may also have had an effect on the proportion of claimants receiving additional benefits.

2.2 All claimant units by ward

Figure 2.1 overleaf shows the number of benefit claimant units by ward, divided into those receiving IS/JSA(IB)/ESA(IB)/PC(GC) and those receiving no additional support. Abbey ward had the highest number of claimant units, with 1,090, followed by King's Hedges, with 1,084. Abbey also had the highest number of claimant units receiving IS/JSA(IB)/ESA(IB)/PC(GC), at 727. The lowest number of claimant units was in Newnham ward, with just 74 units. The proportion of claimant units receiving IS/JSA(IB)/ESA(IB)/PC(GC) was relatively stable across the City at around 66%, but was highest in Castle ward at 70% and lowest in Queen Edith's at 60%.

Figure 2.1: Number of claimant units by ward and level of support, 2009



Figures 2.2 and 2.3 below show the number of claimant units by ward and level of support in 2008 and 2006. Figure 2.4 shows the number of claimant units by ward in 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008 and 2009.

Figure 2.2: Number of claimant units by ward and level of support, 2008

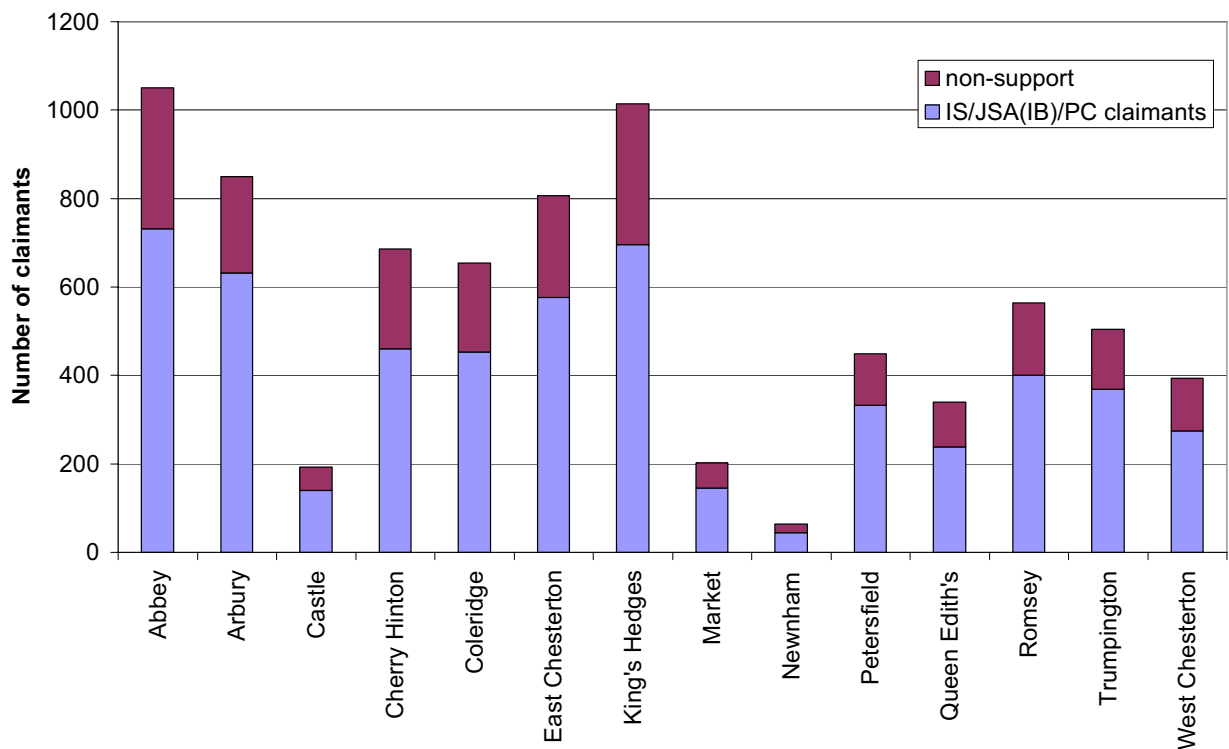


Figure 2.3: Number of claimant units by ward and level of support, 2006

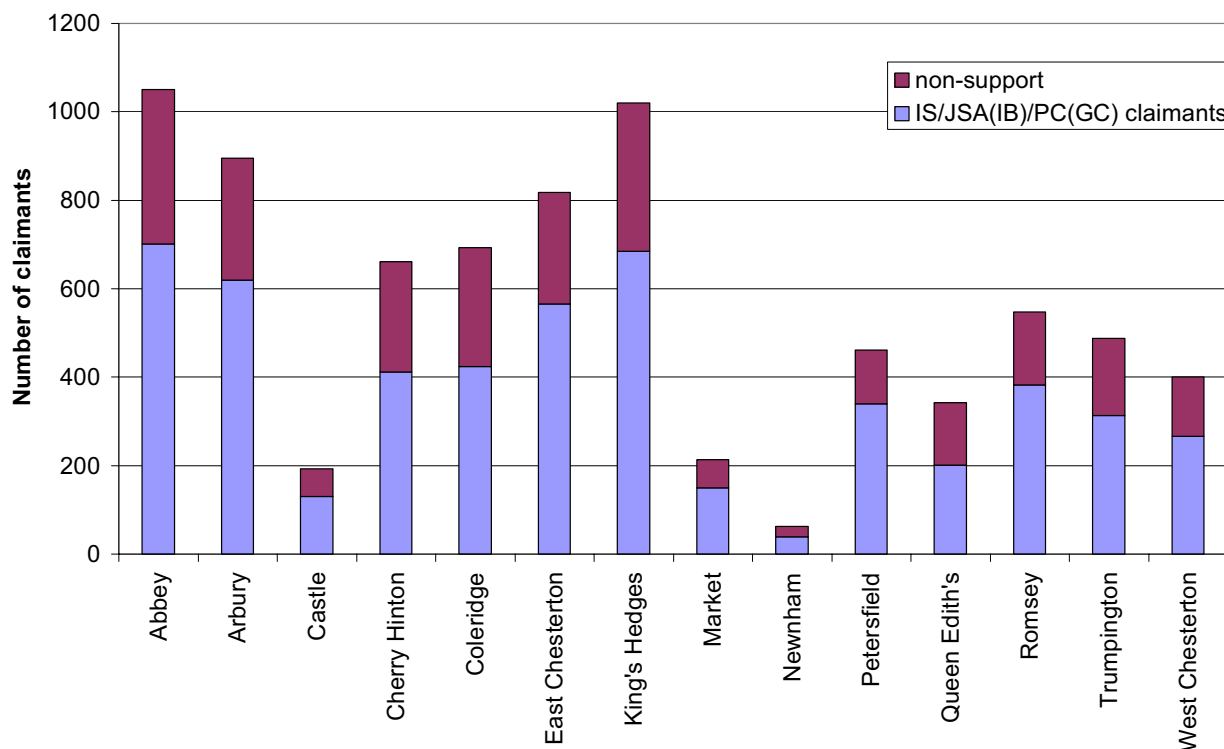


Figure 2.4: Number of claimant units by ward, 2002-2009

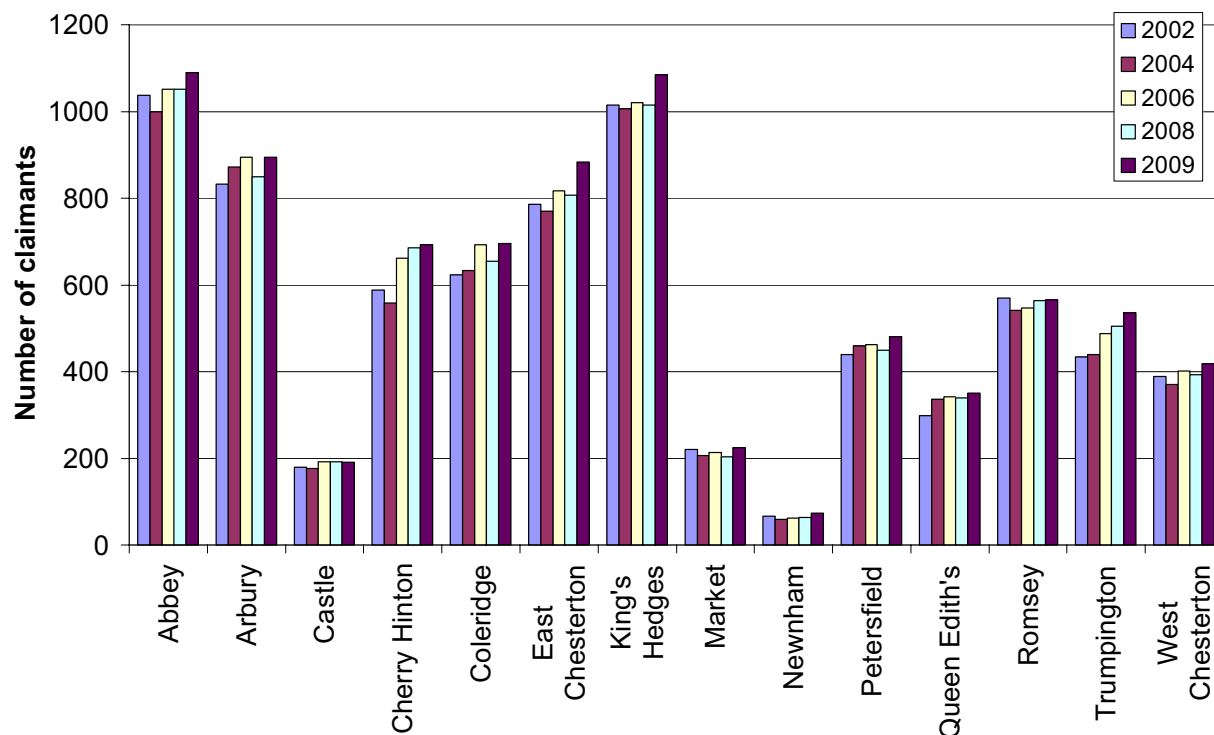
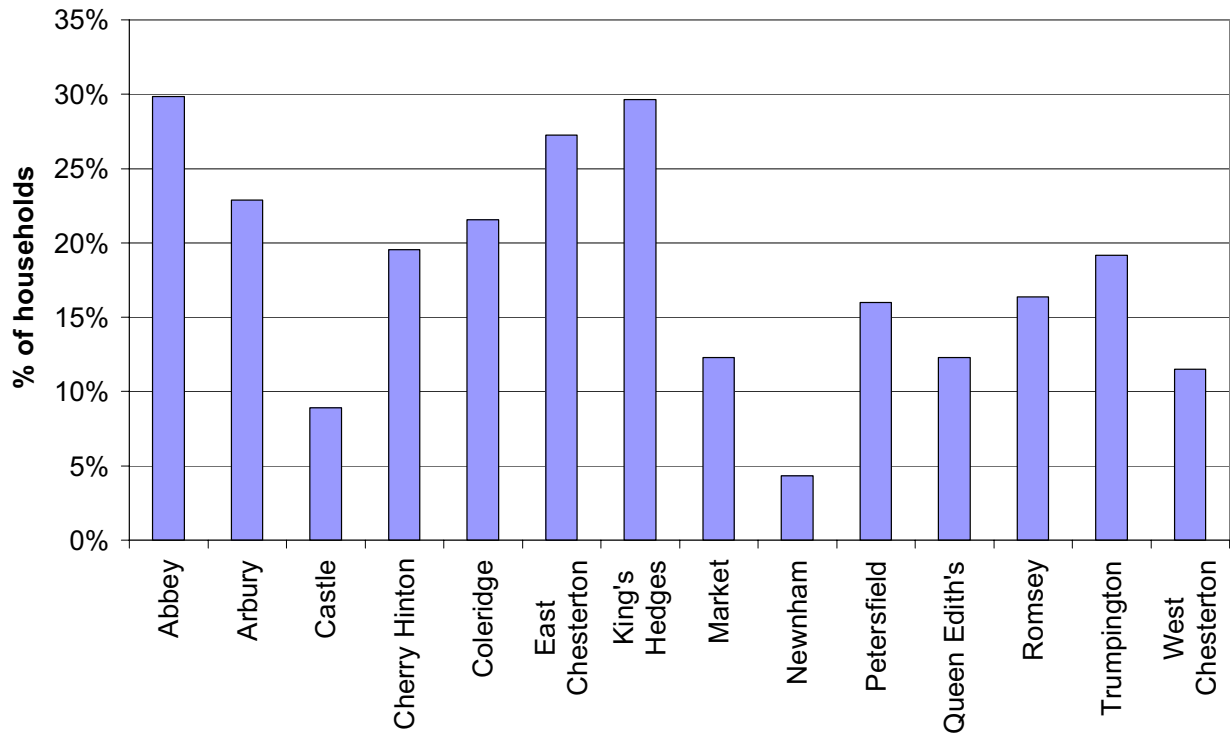


Figure 2.5 below shows the number of claimant units as a proportion of all households within each ward. While a claimant unit may not correspond to a household exactly, this is the closest denominator available. Across Cambridge, 19% of households received HB/CTB in 2009. This proportion varied by ward, from 30% of households in Abbey and King's Hedges to just 4% of households in Newnham. Variation between wards corresponds fairly closely to that seen in

Figure 2.1. The clearest differences are in the 'student' wards of Castle, Market and Newnham, where the low numbers of claimant units form a higher proportion of households than might be expected because of the low number of households in these wards where communal establishments for students dominate.

Figure 2.5: Number of claimant units as % of all households, by ward



2.3 Claimant unit composition

Figure 2.6: Composition of claimant units

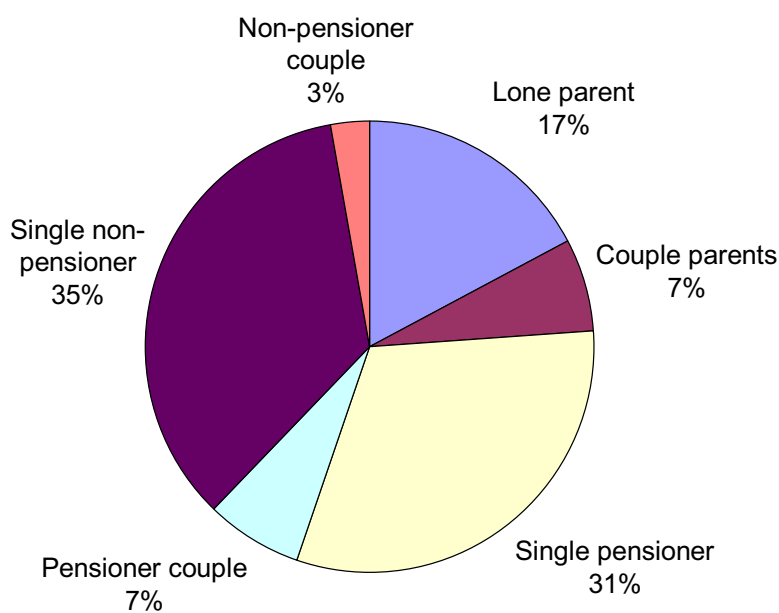


Figure 2.6 shows the composition of claimant units, dividing all claimant units into six 'household' types. Single non-pensioners without children account for the largest proportion of claimant units at 35% (2,865 units), closely followed by single pensioners (people aged 60 and over who live on their own) at 31% (2,559). Lone parents make up 17% (1,404) of units.

2.4 Claimant units by output area

Table 2.1 below shows the ten output areas containing the highest number of claimant units in 2009 and their rank in 2008. The top OA between 2006 and 2008 is ranked second in 2009, although it now contains slightly more claimant units, as does the top OA in 2009, which was ranked second in 2008. 12UBGD0009 in Trumpington, which moved from being ranked 150 in 2006 to 14 in 2008, has moved to 8 in 2009.

Table 2.1: Top 10 OAs containing the largest number of claimant units

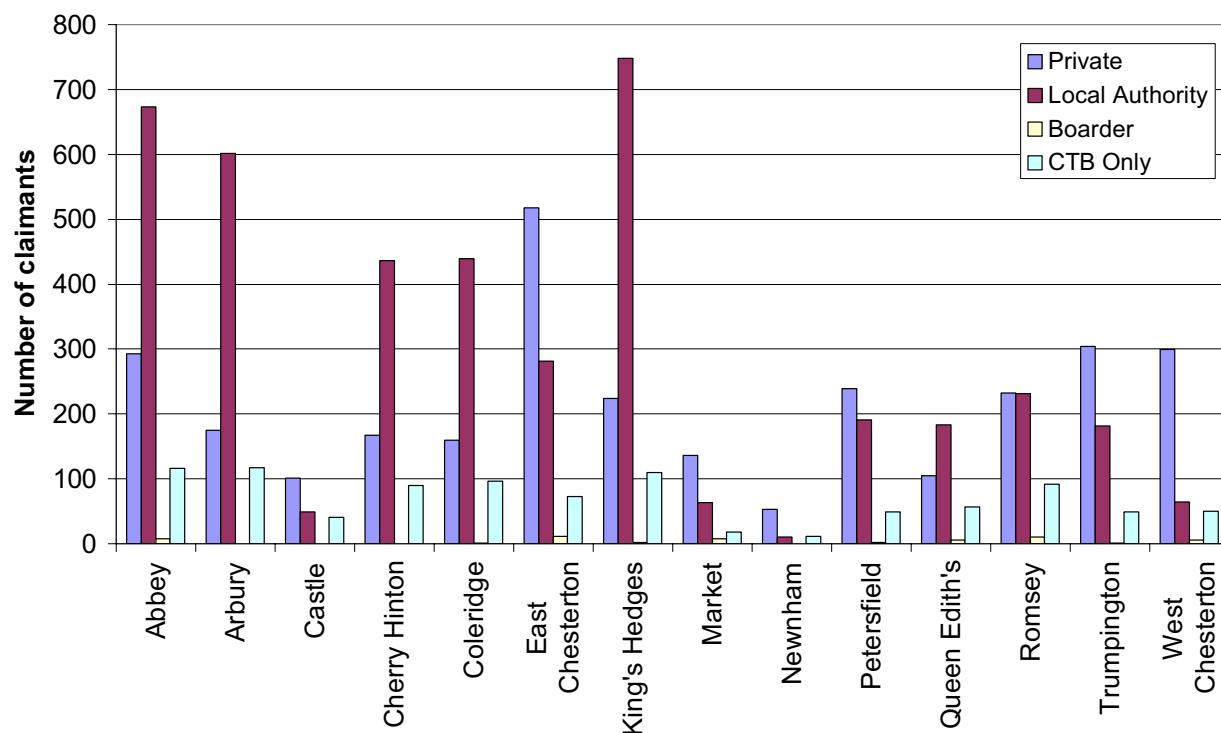
2009 Rank	2008 (2006) rank	Ward name	OA Code	Count 2009	Count 2008
1	2 (3)	Queen Edith's	12UBGB0021	107	85
2	1 (1)	Arbury	12UBFR0007	100	92
3	3 (2)	Coleridge	12UBFU0007	89	84
4	4 (9)	Trumpington	12UBGD0001	80	76
5	11 (11=)	Petersfield	12UBGA0014	73	63
6	75= (77=)	Petersfield	12UBGA0021	72	40
7	6 (8)	Romsey	12UBGC0002	71	71
8=	5 (4)	East Chesterton	12UBFW0005	70	75
8=	14 (150=)	Trumpington	12UBGD0009	70	59
10	7 (7)	Abbey	12UBFQ0014	67	69

Map 2.1 shows the distribution of claimant units across the City by output area. The output areas have been grouped into five bands (quintiles), each containing 20% of the OAs in the City. There is a clear east-west pattern across the City, with many more OAs among the highest quintile located to the east. The main exception to this trend is in the Anstey Way area of Trumpington, to the south of the City. Despite the east-west pattern, the only ward not to have an OA among the highest quintile is Newnham; every other ward contains at least one output area with a high number of claimant units.

2.5 Claimant tenure

Across Cambridge, over half of all claimants rent from the local authority (4,151 claimants, 51%). A further third of claimants rent privately or from a social landlord (3,006, 37%). 969 claimants (12%) receive just Council Tax Benefit, indicating that they own their home, and 55 claimants (1%) board or lodge. These proportions have changed slightly since 2008, with a rise in the proportion of private and social landlord renters from 34% and a fall in the proportion of local authority renters from 53%. Figure 2.7 shows the variation in claimant tenure breakdown by ward.

Figure 2.7: Tenure composition of claimants, by ward



King's Hedges, Arbury, Abbey, Cherry Hinton and Coleridge each have many more local authority renters than any other group. The large proportion of local authority tenants in these areas results from a larger stock of local authority housing. Local authority renters make up the highest proportion of claimants in King's Hedges, at 69%, and the lowest proportion in West Chesterton, at 15%, and Newnham, at 14%.

East Chesterton has by far the highest number of private and social landlord tenants at 518 (59% of the ward's claimants), yet is only ranked sixth highest in terms of numbers of local authority renters. Private and social renters make up the greatest proportion of claimants in West Chesterton, at 71%, and Newnham, at 72%, although these amount to just 53 claimants. The lowest proportion of private and social renters is found in Arbury, at 20%. Private and social renter claimants out-number local authority renter claimants in Castle, East Chesterton, Market, Newnham, Petersfield, Trumpington and West Chesterton.

The number of claimants claiming just CTB, and therefore assumed to own their home, is low across all wards. The highest number is in Arbury, at 117, while the highest proportions are in Castle (21%), Queen Edith's (16%) and Romsey (16%).

Table 2.2: Top 10 OAs containing the largest number of local authority rented claimant units

2009 (2008) Rank	Ward name	OA Code	Count Local Authority	Count Private or Social
1 (1)	Coleridge	12UBFU0007	86	0
2 (43=)	Petersfield	12UBGA0021	69	<5
3 (5=)	Petersfield	12UBGA0014	66	<5
4 (2)	Romsey	12UBGC0002	64	6
5 (5=)	Abbey	12UBFQ0016	62	<5
6 (3)	Abbey	12UBFQ0011	61	<5
7 (4)	Abbey	12UBFQ0018	58	<5
8 (7)	Arbury	12UBFR0018	55	0
9= (9=)	Cherry Hinton	12UBFT0002	54	0
9= (9=)	King's Hedges	12UBFX0023	54	<5

Table 2.3: Top 10 OAs containing the largest number of privately or socially rented claimant units

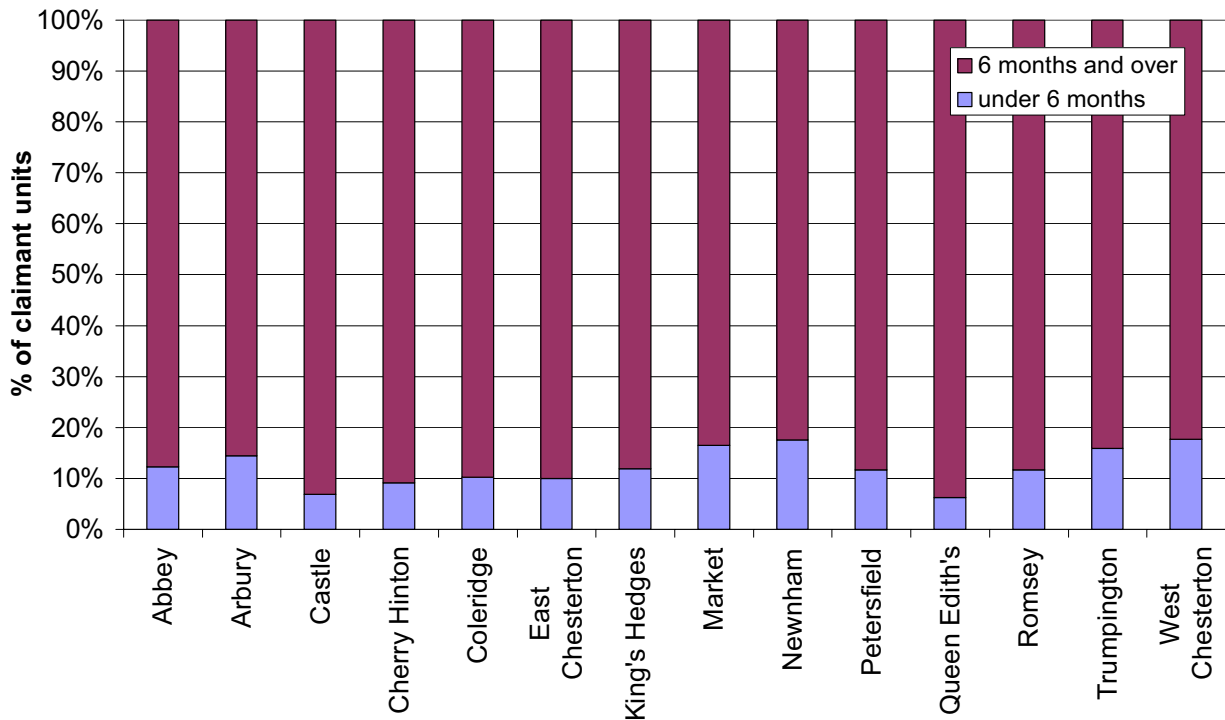
2009 (2008) Rank	Ward name	OA Code	Count Private or Social	Count Local Authority
1 (1)	Trumpington	12UBGD0001	79	0
2 (2)	Arbury	12UBFR0007	78	20
3 (4=)	Trumpington	12UBGD0009	68	0
4 (7=)	Queen Edith's	12UBGB0021	63	39
5 (3)	Abbey	12UBFQ0014	59	5
6 (6)	East Chesterton	12UBFW0022	58	0
7 (4=)	East Chesterton	12UBFW0005	54	13
8 (7=)	Abbey	12UBFQ0002	48	0
9= (14=)	East Chesterton	12UBFW0007	46	0
9= (9)	East Chesterton	12UBFW0011	46	0

Maps 2.2 and 2.3 illustrate the different tenure patterns of claimant units by output area. Output areas with high numbers of private and social renter claimant units are distributed across most of the City, with particularly concentrated patches in East Chesterton, Petersfield, Romsey and Trumpington. Output areas with high numbers of local authority claimant units show a more localised pattern, with particularly concentrated areas in King's Hedges, Abbey, Coleridge and the Anstey Way area of Trumpington. Since 2006, 12UBGD0009 in the Brooklands Avenue / Hills Road area of Trumpington has seen an increase in the number of privately or socially rented claimant units, and has moved from being ranked 40 in 2006 to 3 in 2009.

2.6 Length of claim

Across Cambridge, 88% of claims for HB/CTB had been in place for six months or more. This is significantly lower than the 93% reported in 2008. This proportion varied slightly by ward, as shown in Figure 2.8, from 82% in Newnham and West Chesterton, to 94% in Queen Edith's.

Figure 2.8: Length of claim, by ward



2.7 Claimants receiving Jobseeker's Allowance

13% (1,040) of all HB/CTB claims were made by a claimant who also claimed Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). This is significantly higher than the 8% reported in 2008. JSA is payable to working-age people who are available for, and actively seeking, work. JSA is either contribution-based or income-based depending on the jobseeker's circumstances. The number of claimants also receiving JSA accounts for 21% of non-pensioner claimants across the City (and 0% of pensioner claimants). Figure 2.9 shows how these figures varied between wards. The highest number of Jobseeker's Allowance claimants was found in Arbury, at 173, followed by King's Hedges at 149. JSA claimants make up 19% of claimants in Arbury, 17% in Trumpington and 16% in West Chesterton. They form the lowest proportion in Coleridge, at 7%.

Table 2.4 highlights the ten OAs containing the highest number of claimants also receiving JSA. Map 2.4 shows the location of claimant units where the claimant also received JSA. Output areas with high numbers are concentrated in Abbey, Arbury, King's Hedges and parts of Trumpington.

Figure 2.9: Number and proportion of claimants receiving JSA

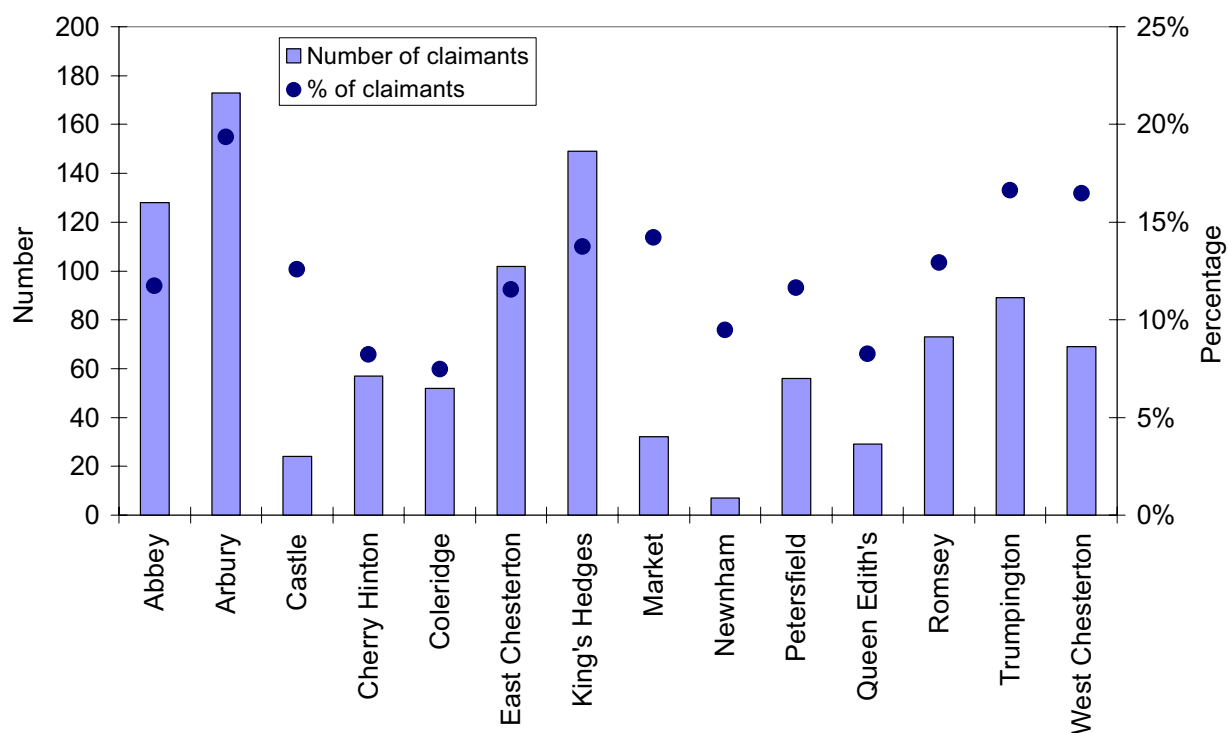


Table 2.4: Top 10 OAs containing the largest number of claimants receiving JSA

2009 rank	2008 rank	Ward name	OA Code	Count 2009	Count 2008
1	1	Arbury	12UBFR0007	42	32
2	2	Trumpington	12UBGD0001	37	28
3	9=	Romsey	12UBGC0015	18	7
4=	3	Arbury	12UBFR0018	13	11
4=	5	Arbury	12UBFR0031	13	9
6=	6=	Arbury	12UBFR0001	12	8
6=	15=	Arbury	12UBFR0017	12	6
8=	9=	Arbury	12UBFR0011	11	7
8=	15=	East Chesterton	12UBFW0006	11	6
8=	15=	Petersfield	12UBGA0024	11	6
8=	6=	Trumpington	12UBGD0009	11	8
8=	21=	West Chesterton	12UBGE0009	11	5

2.8 Claimants receiving Incapacity Benefit or Employment & Support Allowance

9% (759) of all HB/CTB claims were made by a claimant who also claimed Incapacity Benefit (IB) or Employment and Support Allowance (ESA). IB is paid to people who are incapable of work and who meet certain contribution conditions. ESA was introduced in October 2008 and, for new claimants, it replaces Incapacity Benefit and Income Support that is paid because of an illness or disability. The number of claimants also receiving IB or ESA accounts for 1% of pensioner and 15% of non-pensioner claimants across the City. These figures include both contribution-based and income-related ESA. Figure 2.10 shows how these figures varied between wards. The highest number of IB/ESA claimants was found in King's Hedges, at 114, followed by Abbey at 113. IB/ESA claimants make up 13% of claimants in West Chesterton and 12% in Petersfield. They form the lowest proportion in Newnham and Castle, at 5%.

Table 2.5 highlights the ten OAs containing the highest number of claimants also receiving IB/ESA. Map 2.5 shows the location of claimant units where the claimant also received IB/ESA. Output areas with high numbers are concentrated in Abbey, Arbury, East Chesterton and King's Hedges.

Figure 2.10: Number and proportion of claimants receiving IB or ESA

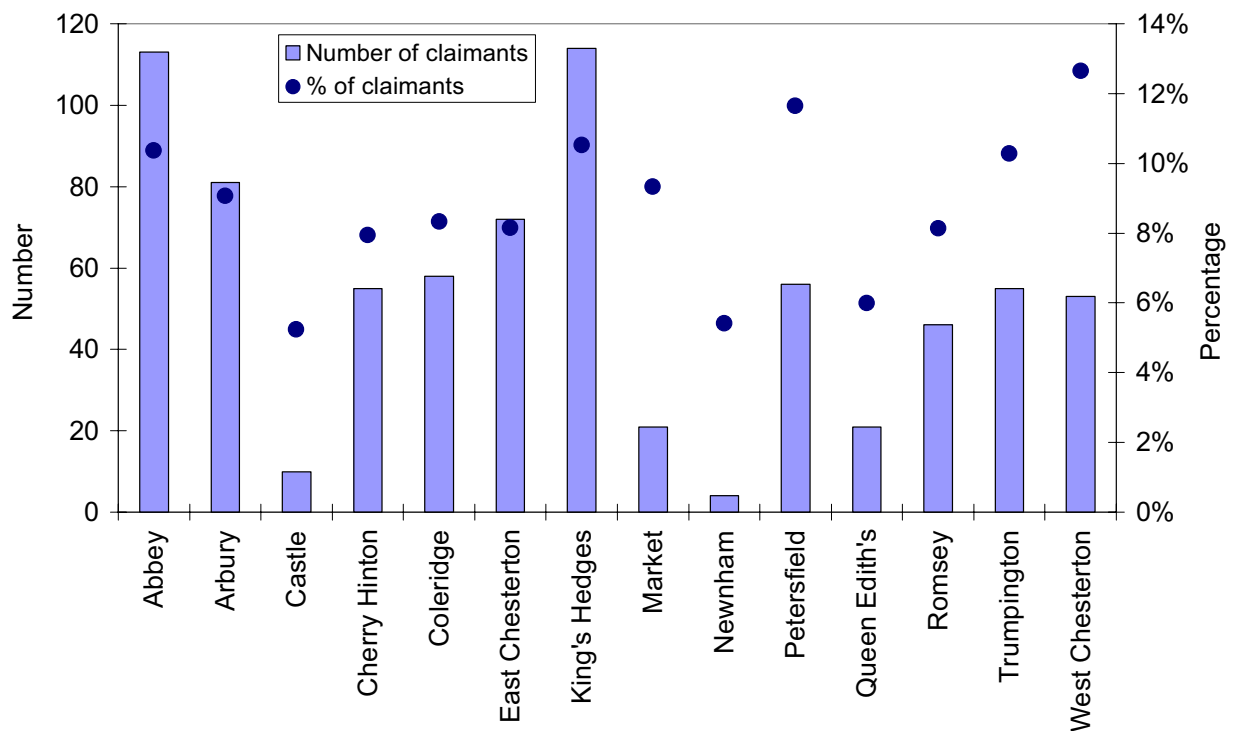


Table 2.5: Top 10 OAs containing the largest number of claimants receiving IB or ESA*Note: Ranks and totals are not given for 2008 as the benefit types included in 2009 are not comparable with 2008*

2009 rank	Ward name	OA Code	Count 2009
1=	Arbury	12UBFR0007	15
1=	Petersfield	12UBGA0021	15
3	Coleridge	12UBFU0006	13
4=	East Chesterton	12UBFW0012	12
4=	King's Hedges	12UBFX0013	12
6	West Chesterton	12UBGE0019	11
7=	Abbey	12UBFQ0021	10
7=	Coleridge	12UBFU0023	10
7=	King's Hedges	12UBFX0023	10
7=	Trumpington	12UBGD0007	10
7=	West Chesterton	12UBGE0009	10

2.9 Claimants receiving Attendance Allowance or Disability Living Allowance

19% (1,586) of all HB/CTB claims were made by a claimant who also claimed Attendance Allowance (AA) or Disability Living Allowance (DLA). This proportion has not changed since 2008. AA and DLA provide additional support for people who have a physical or mental disability and need help to care for themselves. The number of claimants also receiving AA/DLA accounts for 23% of pensioner and 17% of non-pensioner claimants across the City. The number of claimants also receiving AA/DLA has risen significantly from 725 in 2004, when it accounted for just under 10% of claimants. Figure 2.11 shows how these figures varied between wards. The highest number of disabled claimants was found in Abbey, at 203, followed by King's Hedges at 181. Disabled claimants make up 25% of claimants in Petersfield, where many will be residents in sheltered or very sheltered housing at Ditchburn Place, 24% in Romsey and 23% in Queen Edith's. They form the lowest proportion in Castle, Market and Newnham, at 16%.

Table 2.6 highlights the ten OAs containing the highest number of claimants also receiving AA/DLA. Map 2.6 shows the location of claimant units where the claimant also received AA/DLA. This pattern follows the pattern of local authority renter claimant units fairly closely, with output areas with high numbers concentrated in Abbey, King's Hedges, Cherry Hinton and East Chesterton.

Figure 2.11: Number and proportion of claimants receiving AA or DLA

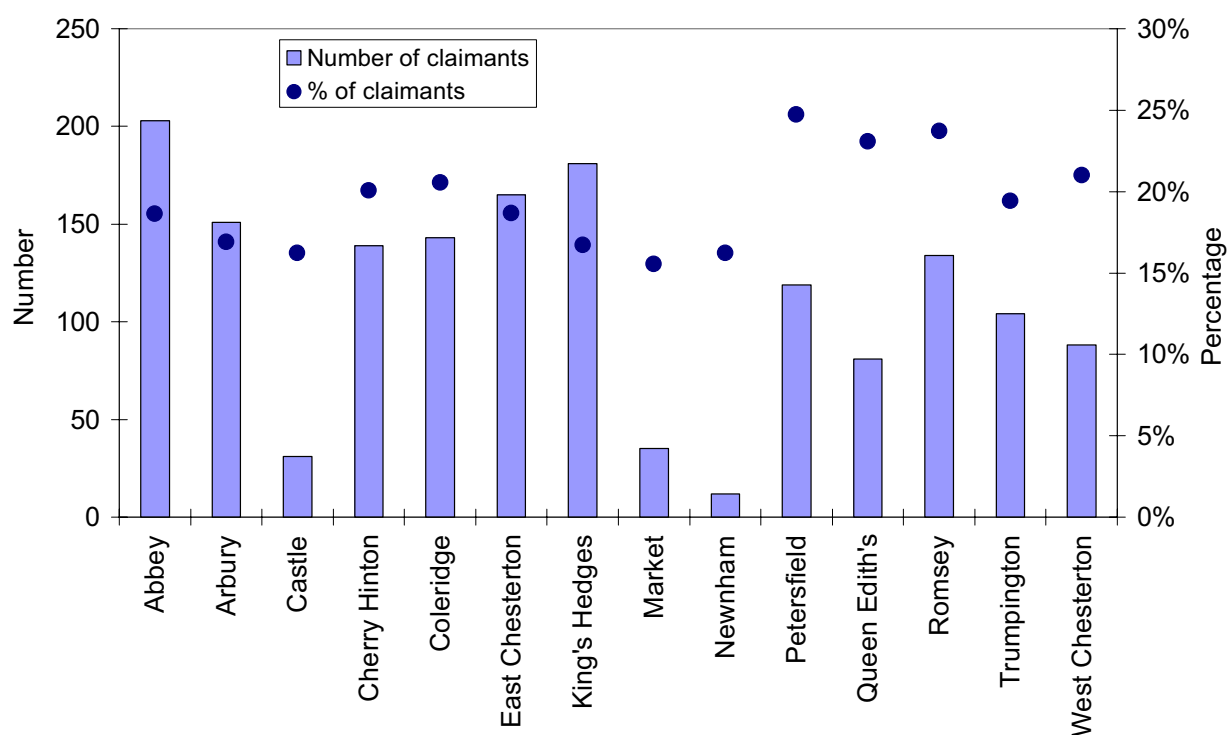


Table 2.6: Top 10 OAs containing the largest number of claimants receiving AA or DLA

2009 rank	2008 rank	Ward name	OA Code	Count 2009	Count 2008
1	2	Petersfield	12UBGA0021	36	26
2	1	Queen Edith's	12UBGB0021	34	27
3=	5=	Romsey	12UBGC0003	21	18
3=	5=	West Chesterton	12UBGE0009	21	18
5	18=	Romsey	12UBGC0002	20	13
6	4	Coleridge	12UBFU0007	19	19
7	9=	West Chesterton	12UBGE0013	17	15
8=	36=	Abbey	12UBFQ0006	16	11
8=	12=	East Chesterton	12UBFW0012	16	14
10=	9=	Arbury	12UBFR0030	15	15
10=	23=	Coleridge	12UBFU0006	15	12
10=	7=	East Chesterton	12UBFW0005	15	17
10=	18=	East Chesterton	12UBFW0014	15	13
10=	18=	Petersfield	12UBGA0014	15	13