

- OUT-OF-WORK BENEFITS -

Almost one-in-ten (9.5%) South West residents of working age were claiming out-of-work benefits in August 2008 compared to 11.5% in England. Regionally, this comprises:

- 46,600 jobseekers;
- 191,600 people on Incapacity Benefit (IB);
- 46,000 lone parents;
- 12,400 other people claiming Income Support or Pension Credit.

Claimant rates in the South West fell between August 1999 and August 2005 but have remained reasonably stable since then with the current rate equal to that of 2005 and half a percentage point higher than 12 months ago.

Men are marginally more likely to be claiming out-of-work benefits than women (9.6% compared to 9.5%). Rates are not available by age but claimants have the following age profile:

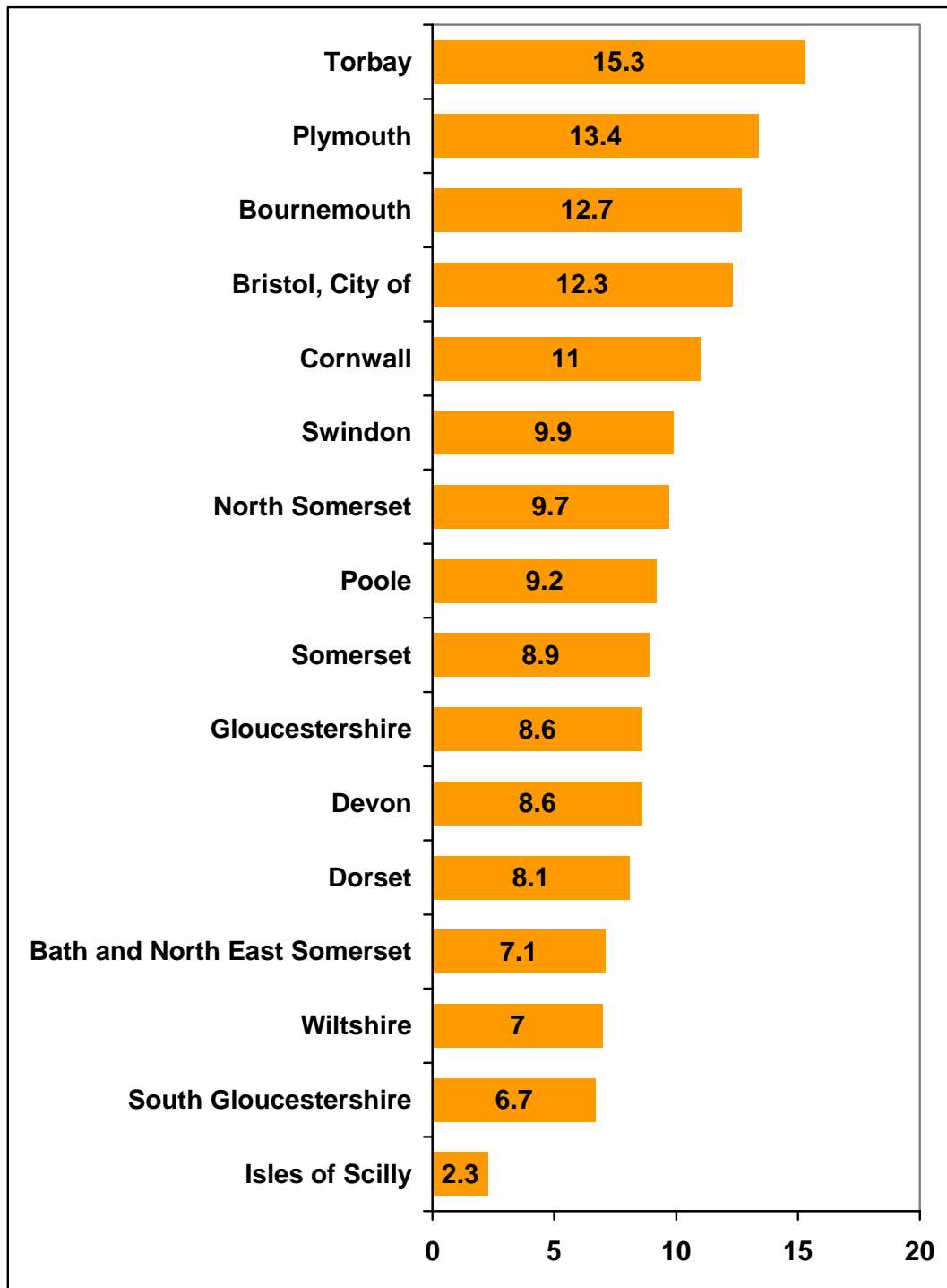
- Almost two-thirds are aged 25 to 54;
- More than one-fifth are aged 55 and over;
- One-in-seven are aged under 25.

Whilst the majority of men are either jobseekers (21%) or IB claimants (71%), the majority of women are either IB claimants or lone parents. Women account for:

- 95% of lone parents;
- 28% of job seekers;
- 41% of IB claimants;
- 26% of those on other work-related benefits.

Most people claiming out-of-work-related benefits aged 25 and over are claiming IB whereas the under 25s are more broadly evenly split between jobseekers, IB and to a lesser extent lone parents.

Figure 16: Percentage of the working age population claiming out-of-work benefits by higher tier local authority, August 2008, South West



Source: DWP benefit data