

# **Welfare Benefit Trends in Manchester March 2012 - March 2016**

Flavia D'souza  
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## Welfare Benefit Trends in Manchester (March 2012 - March 2016)

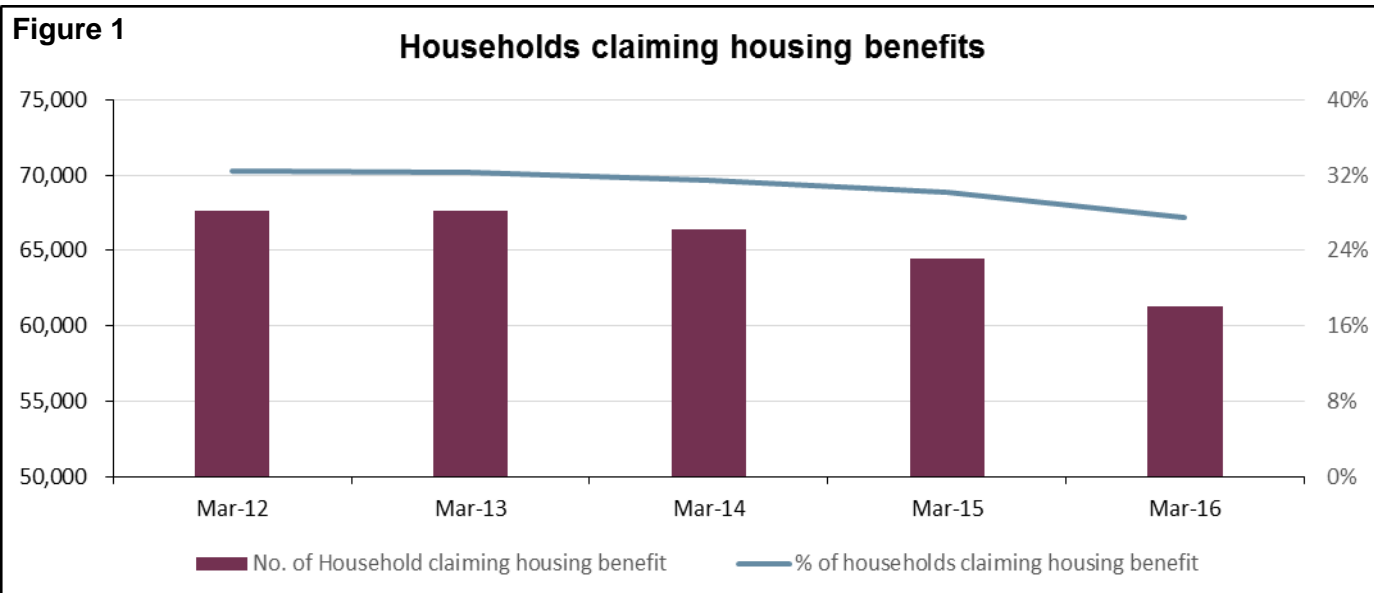
**Table 1** shows the number of households claiming housing benefit in Manchester for the last five years (March 2012 - March 2016). The number of households claiming housing benefit has decreased by 6,285 during this period. In contrast with this, the number of occupied households in Manchester is steadily increasing each year from 208,360 at March 2012 to 222,767 at March 2016 which represents an increase of 6.9%.

**Table 1: Housing Benefit**

	Mar-12		Mar-13		Mar-14		Mar-15		Mar-16	
	No.	%*	No.	%*	No.	%*	No.	%*	No.	%*
Claimant households	67,612	32.4%	67,661	32.2%	66,366	31.4%	64,465	30.2%	61,327	27.5%

\* Occupied properties

**Figure 1** shows the number and percentage (against occupied properties) of households claiming housing benefit in Manchester for the last five years and it indicates that it is declining gradually.



**Table 2** shows four-year and one-year change in households claiming housing benefit by type of tenure, bearing in mind that this benefit is only payable to people renting property. It shows that there has been a significant decline in housing benefit claimant households. One factor is to do with the introduction of Universal Credit (UC) as some households may be claiming the UC housing cost element to help pay towards housing costs such as rent, eligible service charge (not including bills, for example utility, council tax) or towards mortgage interest payments (for home owners). Data is not yet available to determine how many households are claiming this. Eventually, housing benefit will be replaced by the housing element of Universal Credit. The other factor is that the number of people in employment is increasing. The latest figure shows that a total number of 355,300 Manchester residents were in employment in 2015 as compared to 341,100 in 2014.

**Table 2: Housing Benefit by Tenure**

Tenure	Four Year Change: Mar-12 to Mar-16				One Year Change: Mar-15 to Mar-16			
	Mar-12	Mar-16	Change	% Change	Mar-15	Mar-16	Change	% Change
Council Tenant	12,578	10,488	-2,090	-16.6%	11,207	10,488	-719	-6.4%
Housing Association Tenant	37,293	33,626	-3,667	-9.8%	35,368	33,626	-1,742	-4.9%
Private Tenant	17,741	17,213	-528	-3.0%	17,890	17,213	-677	-3.8%

\* Occupied properties

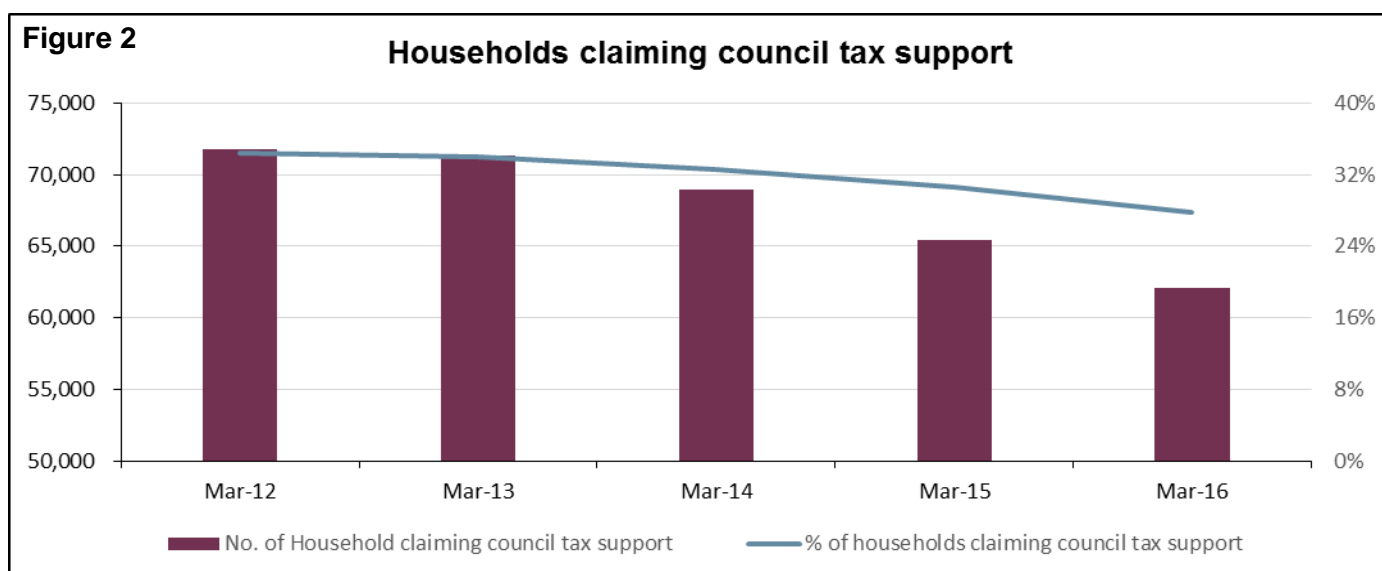
**Table 3** shows the number of households receiving council tax support in Manchester between March 2012 and March 2016. This shows a significantly high reduction in council tax support claimant households (13.6%) as compared to housing benefit (9.3%). The percentage of occupied properties claiming council tax support has fallen from 34.5% at March 2012 to 27.9% at March 2016. The council tax support scheme is designed to assist low-income households with payment of their council tax and the amount of council tax due is reduced up to a maximum of 85% (which took effect from April 2014). This scheme replaced council tax benefit in 2013, which was abolished under the Welfare Reform Act 2012.

**Table 3: Council Tax Support**

	Mar-12		Mar-13		Mar-14		Mar-15		Mar-16	
	No.	%*	No.	%*	No.	%*	No.	%*	No.	%*
Claimant households	71,799	34.5%	71,302	34.0%	68,929	32.6%	65,426	30.6%	62,043	27.9%

\* Occupied properties

**Figure 2** shows the number and percentage (against occupied properties) of households claiming council tax support in Manchester for the last five years and it indicates that it is declining gradually.



**Table 4** details the households claiming council tax support by type of ownership. There has been a high reduction since 2012 in the number of Housing Association tenants claiming council tax support. Owner occupiers have shown a sudden increase in the number of households claiming council tax support from March 2015 to March 2016 (5%).

**Table 4: Council Tax Support by Tenure**

Tenure	Four Year Change: Mar-12 to Mar-16				One Year Change: Mar-15 to Mar-16			
	Mar-12	Mar-16	Change	% Change	Mar-15	Mar-16	Change	% Change
Council Tenant	11,860	9,520	-2,340	-19.7%	10,365	9,520	-845	-8.2%
Housing Association Tenant	34,892	29,781	-5,111	-14.6%	31,915	29,781	-2,134	-6.7%
Private Tenant	14,384	13,063	-1,321	-9.2%	13,969	13,063	-906	-6.5%
Owner Occupier	10,078	8,961	-1,117	-11.1%	8,533	8,961	428	5.0%
Tenure not available	585	718	133	22.7%	644	718	74	11.5%

\* Occupied properties

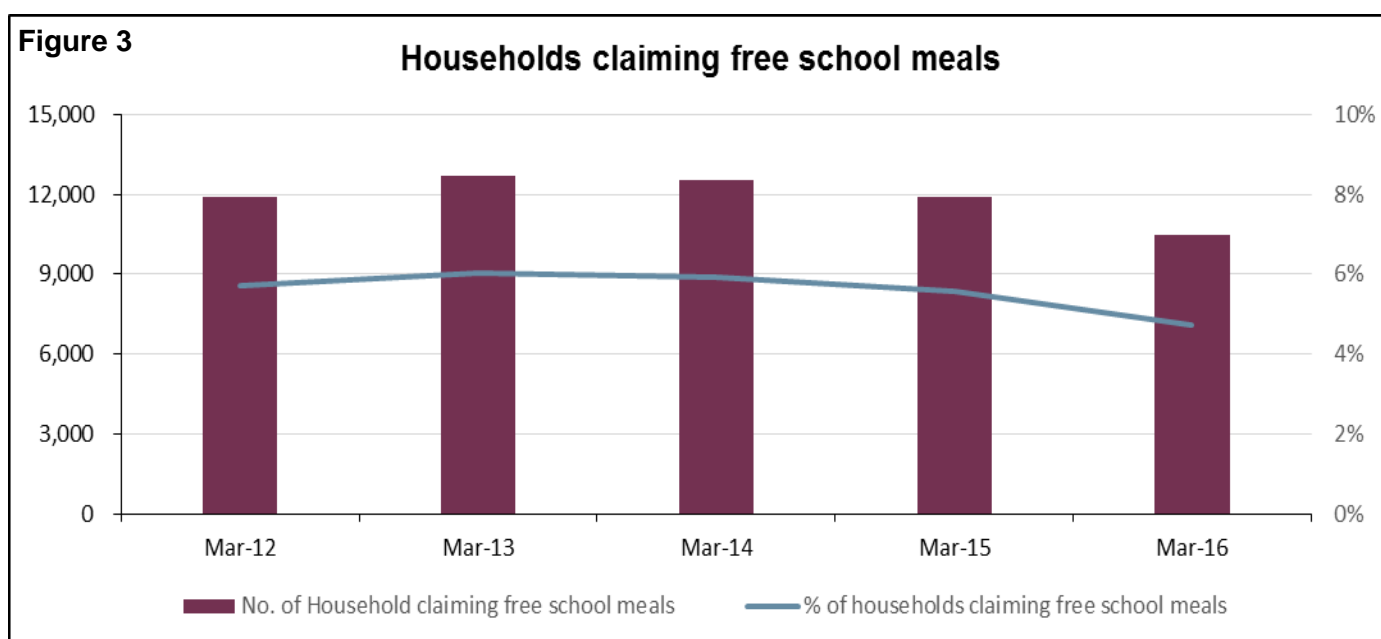
**Table 5** shows that at March 2016, 11,498 households in the City were in receipt of free school meals for their children (18,951). The number of households claiming free school meals is showing a decline over the past three years given the fact that free school meals is given to all pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2 irrespective of household income from September 2014.

**Table 5: Free School Meal Households**

	Mar-12		Mar-13		Mar-14		Mar-15		Mar-16	
	No.	%*	No.	%*	No.	%*	No.	%*	No.	%*
Claimant households	11,879	5.7%	12,674	6.0%	12,544	5.9%	11,905	5.6%	10,498	4.7%

\* Occupied properties

**Figure 3** shows the number and percentage (against occupied properties) of households claiming free school meals in Manchester for the last five years and this too indicates that it is declining gradually.



**Table 6** further shows that the highest change in the four-year period of households in receipt of free school meals are private tenants and other tenures have shown a fall in claimants between 2012 and 2016. Owner occupiers are not showing as claiming any free school meals at March 2016; it is likely that a proportion of those listed below as 'Tenure not available' are in fact owner occupiers.

**Table 6: Free School Meals by Tenure**

Tenure	Four Year Change: Mar-12 to Mar-16				One Year Change: Mar-15 to Mar-16			
	Mar-12	Mar-16	Change	% Change	Mar-15	Mar-16	Change	% Change
Council Tenant	1,956	1,528	-428	-21.9%	1,826	1,528	-298	-16.3%
Housing Association Tenant	5,616	4,445	-1,171	-20.9%	5,418	4,445	-973	-18.0%
Private Tenant	1,514	2,546	1,032	68.2%	3,367	2,546	-821	-24.4%
Tenure not available	2,793	1,979	-814	-29.1%	1,294	1,979	685	52.9%

\* Occupied properties

**Table 7** shows the distribution of the numbers and percentages of households receiving housing benefit, council tax support and free school meals. The highest three figures in each category have been highlighted. It shows that the highest number of claimant households for all three categories and the highest percentage claimants for housing benefit and free schools meals is Harpurhey with Miles Platting & Newton Heath having the highest percentage of households claiming council tax support. The wards showing significantly lower numbers and proportions of households claiming across other parts of Manchester are City Centre, Didsbury West, Didsbury East and Chorlton.

**Table 7: Housing benefit, council tax support & free school meals claimant households by wards: Mar-16**

Ward name	Housing benefit claimant households	Council tax support households	Free School Meal claimant households	% households claiming housing benefit	% households claiming council tax support	% households claiming free school meals	Rank for % households claiming HB	Rank for % households claiming CTS	Rank for % households claiming FSM
Ancoats & Clayton	2,303	2,295	411	24.2%	24.2%	4.3%	23	23	22
Ardwick	2,786	2,464	413	37.0%	32.7%	5.5%	5	12	14
Baguley	2,075	2,082	362	30.9%	31.0%	5.4%	14	17	15
Bradford	2,778	2,616	484	33.9%	31.9%	5.9%	9	15	11
Brooklands	1,723	1,835	263	26.2%	27.9%	4.0%	20	19	23
Burnage	1,688	1,864	392	28.4%	31.4%	6.6%	17	16	7
Charlestown	2,308	2,327	472	35.2%	35.5%	7.2%	7	6	3
Cheetham	2,911	3,044	553	32.2%	33.7%	6.1%	13	10	10
Chorlton	677	768	41	10.9%	12.4%	0.7%	29	29	30
Chorlton Park	1,379	1,437	219	19.9%	20.8%	3.2%	27	27	24
City Centre	329	332	1	3.3%	3.4%	0.0%	32	32	32
Crumpsall	2,167	2,321	316	30.5%	32.7%	4.5%	16	13	21
Didsbury East	549	686	72	9.2%	11.5%	1.2%	30	30	29
Didsbury West	532	560	30	8.2%	8.7%	0.5%	31	31	31
Fallowfield	1,406	1,466	246	28.2%	29.4%	4.9%	18	18	18
Gorton North	2,729	2,739	500	36.3%	36.4%	6.6%	6	4	6
Gorton South	2,720	2,748	529	33.1%	33.4%	6.4%	11	11	8
Harpurhey	3,571	3,427	685	42.4%	40.6%	8.1%	1	2	1
Higher Blackley	2,143	2,244	410	32.6%	34.1%	6.2%	12	8	9
Hulme	2,137	1,992	215	25.0%	23.3%	2.5%	21	24	26
Levenshulme	1,209	1,258	155	20.8%	21.6%	2.7%	25	26	25
Longsight	1,886	1,986	295	33.5%	35.2%	5.2%	10	7	16
Miles Platting & Newton Heath	3,077	3,059	519	42.3%	42.1%	7.1%	2	1	4
Moss Side	2,930	2,817	598	37.3%	35.9%	7.6%	4	5	2
Moston	1,506	1,661	314	22.7%	25.0%	4.7%	24	21	20
Northenden	1,838	1,837	375	27.4%	27.4%	5.6%	19	20	13
Old Moat	1,389	1,400	278	24.3%	24.5%	4.9%	22	22	19
Rusholme	1,476	1,534	242	30.8%	32.0%	5.0%	15	14	17
Sharston	2,457	2,446	478	34.2%	34.1%	6.7%	8	9	5
Whalley Range	1,366	1,474	166	20.7%	22.3%	2.5%	26	25	27
Withington	833	872	96	16.1%	16.9%	1.9%	28	28	28
Woodhouse Park	2,449	2,452	368	37.9%	38.0%	5.7%	3	3	12

Figure 4 is a map showing percentage of households claiming welfare benefits by ward at March 2016. Some households claim a combination of all three welfare benefits, i.e. housing benefit, council tax support and free school meals whereas some other households claim either two or only one. In Manchester there are 72,267 households claiming welfare benefits at March 2016 and this accounts to 32.4% based on occupied properties.

Figure 4

