

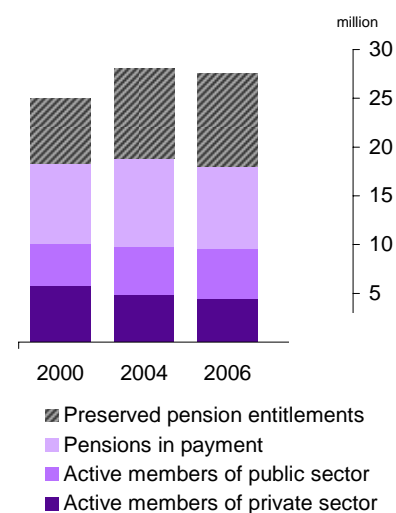
10 July 2007

**Coverage**  
United Kingdom  
**Theme**  
Social and Welfare

## Occupational pension schemes survey 2006

In 2006, the total membership of occupational pension schemes was provisionally estimated to be 27.5 million, a decrease of 0.5 million since 2004. The overall number of active employee members of schemes was 9.6 million, a fall of 0.2 million compared with 2004. There were 4.4 million active employee members within the private sector, a decrease of 0.4 million on 2004, while the public sector accounted for 5.1 million members, an increase of 0.1 million on the 2004 figure.

**Total occupational pension scheme membership**



There were 8.5 million pensions in payment in 2006, a fall of 0.5 million since 2004. The private sector accounted for 5.1 million pensions in payment compared with 5.6 million in 2004. There were 9.4 million preserved pension entitlements, a rise of 0.1 million since 2004. The private sector accounted for 7.0 million of preserved pension entitlements, a fall of 0.1 million since 2004.

**Total occupational pension scheme membership (millions)<sup>1</sup>**

	2000	2004	2005 <sup>2</sup>	2006
<b>Active employee members</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>9.8</b>		<b>9.6</b>
private sector	5.7	4.8	4.7	4.4
public sector	4.4	5.0		5.1
<b>Pensions in payment</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>9.0</b>		<b>8.5</b>
private sector		5.6	5.3	5.1
public sector		3.4		3.4
<b>Preserved pension entitlements</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>9.3</b>		<b>9.4</b>
private sector		7.1	6.4	7.0
public sector		2.2		2.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>28.0</b>		<b>27.5</b>

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<sup>1</sup> Data for years 2000 to 2005 inclusive were produced by the Government Actuary's Department (GAD). See background note 4 for the coverage of the Occupational Pension Schemes Survey. Results may not sum to totals shown due to rounding.

Individuals can be a member of more than one scheme.

<sup>2</sup> Unlike other years the 2005 survey only covered private sector schemes.

## Scheme membership

### Active employee members of private sector schemes by scheme size and benefit type

Around 75 per cent of the active employee members in private sector schemes were in defined-benefit schemes or sections of schemes, and around 57 per cent of private sector defined-benefit scheme membership was in schemes which had 10,000 or more members. Around 37 per cent of private sector defined-contribution scheme active membership was in schemes which had a total membership of 10,000 or more.

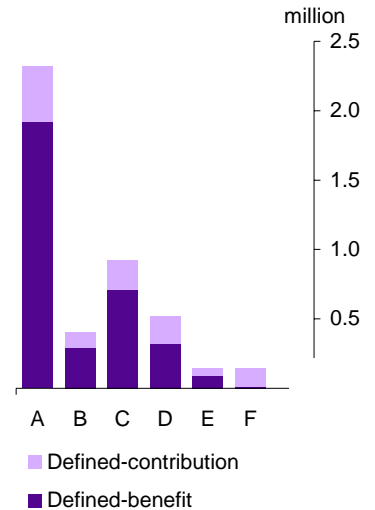
**Active employee members of private sector schemes by scheme size and benefit type: 2006 (millions)<sup>1</sup>**

Scheme size (total membership)	Defined-benefit	Defined-contribution	Total
10,000+	1.92	0.40	2.32
5,000 to 9,999	0.29	0.11	0.40
1,000 to 4,999	0.71	0.21	0.92
100 to 999	0.32	0.20	0.52
12 to 99	0.09	0.05	0.14
2 to 11 <sup>2</sup>	0.01	0.13	0.14
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.35</b>	<b>1.09</b>	<b>4.44</b>

<sup>1</sup> Results may not sum to totals shown due to rounding.

<sup>2</sup> Estimates of numbers of very small schemes are subject to considerable uncertainty.

**Active employee members of private sector schemes by scheme size and benefit type**



#### Key

A = 10,000+

B = 5,000 to 9,999

C = 1,000 to 4,999

D = 100 to 999

E = 12 to 99

F = 2 to 11

### Active employee members of private sector schemes by scheme size, benefit type and status – open schemes

**Active employee members of private sector schemes by scheme size, benefit type and status: 2006 (millions)<sup>1</sup>**

#### (i) Open schemes (and open sections of schemes)

Scheme size (total membership)	Defined-benefit	Defined-contribution	Total
10,000+	1.00	0.37	1.38
5,000 to 9,999	0.09	0.10	0.20
1,000 to 4,999	0.33	0.19	0.52
100 to 999	0.12	0.18	0.30
12 to 99	0.07	0.04	0.11
2 to 11 <sup>2</sup>	-	0.10	0.11
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.63</b>	<b>0.99</b>	<b>2.62</b>

<sup>1</sup> Results may not sum to totals shown due to rounding.

<sup>2</sup> Estimates of numbers of very small schemes are subject to considerable uncertainty.

Open schemes accounted for 59 per cent of the total active membership of private sector schemes. Within open schemes 62 per cent of the active membership was in defined-benefit schemes and, of this, 61 per cent was in schemes with 10,000 or more total membership.

Closed schemes

**Active employee members of private sector schemes by scheme size, benefit type and status: 2006 (millions)<sup>1</sup>**

**(ii) Closed schemes (and closed sections of schemes)**

Scheme size (total membership)	Defined-benefit	Defined-contribution	Total
10,000+	0.92	0.03	0.94
5,000 to 9,999	0.20	-	0.21
1,000 to 4,999	0.38	0.02	0.40
100 to 999	0.20	0.02	0.22
12 to 99	0.02	0.01	0.02
2 to 11 <sup>2</sup>	0.01	0.02	0.03
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.73</b>	<b>0.10</b>	<b>1.83</b>

<sup>1</sup> Results may not sum to totals shown due to rounding.

<sup>2</sup> Estimates of numbers of very small schemes are subject to considerable uncertainty.

Within closed schemes 95 per cent of the active membership was in defined-benefit schemes and, of this, 53 per cent was in schemes with 10,000 or more total membership.

Active employee members of private sector schemes by scheme size, and route to being contracted-out

The proportion of active members in the private sector who were in a contracted-out scheme in 2006 was 75 per cent. Within the total for contracted out schemes around 87 per cent of active members were in contracted-out salary related schemes, and, of these, 59 per cent were in the largest size band.

**Active employee members of private sector schemes by scheme size and route to being contracted-out: 2006 (millions)<sup>1</sup>**

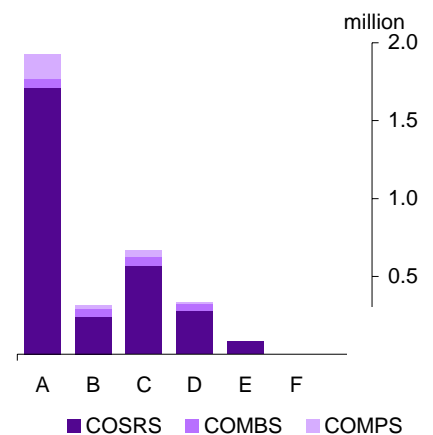
Scheme size (total membership)	Non contract-ed-out schemes	Contracted-out schemes			Total
		COSRS <sup>3</sup>	COMBS <sup>3</sup>	COMPS <sup>3</sup>	
10,000+	0.39	1.71	0.06	0.16	1.93
5,000 to 9,999	0.09	0.24	0.05	0.02	0.31
1,000 to 4,999	0.26	0.57	0.06	0.04	0.66
100 to 999	0.19	0.28	0.04	0.01	0.33
12 to 99	0.05	0.08	-	-	0.09
2 to 11 <sup>2</sup>	0.13	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.11</b>	<b>2.88</b>	<b>0.21</b>	<b>0.24</b>	<b>3.32</b>

<sup>1</sup> Results may not sum to totals shown due to rounding.

<sup>2</sup> Estimates of numbers of very small schemes are subject to considerable uncertainty.

<sup>3</sup> See background note 6 for definitions.

**Active employee members of private sector schemes by scheme size and route to being contracted-out**



Key

- A = 10,000+
- B = 5,000 to 9,999
- C = 1,000 to 4,999
- D = 100 to 999
- E = 12 to 99
- F = 2 to 11

Active employee members of schemes by normal pension age, sector and benefit type

Generally, normal pension ages in the private sector are either 60 or 65, with a minority of schemes choosing an age somewhere in between. Around 65 per cent of defined-benefit private sector schemes have a normal pension age of 65. In private sector defined-contribution schemes 59 per cent have a normal pension age of 65. Around 55 per cent of public sector defined benefit schemes have a normal pension age of 60.

**Active employee members of schemes by normal pension age, sector and benefit type: 2006 (millions)<sup>1</sup>**

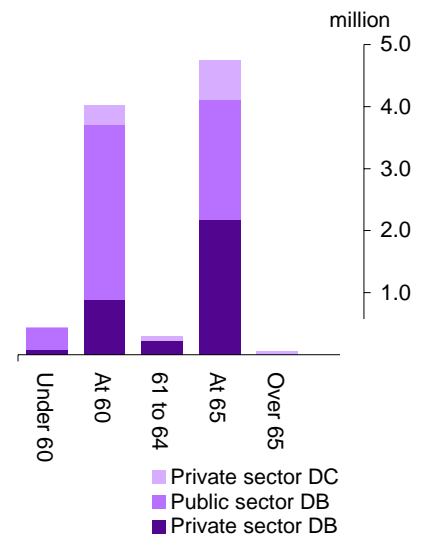
Normal pension age	Private Sector			Public sector (all DB)	Total DB schemes	Total all schemes
	DB	DC	Total			
Under 60	0.07	0.01	0.08	0.37	0.44	0.45
At 60	0.89	0.32	1.21	2.82	3.70	4.02
61 to 64	0.23	0.07	0.30	-	0.23	0.30
At 65	2.17	0.64	2.80	1.93	4.10	4.74
Over 65	-	0.05	0.05	-	-	0.05
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.35</b>	<b>1.09</b>	<b>4.44</b>	<b>5.12</b>	<b>8.48</b>	<b>9.57</b>

<sup>1</sup> Results may not sum to totals shown due to rounding. See background note 6 for definitions

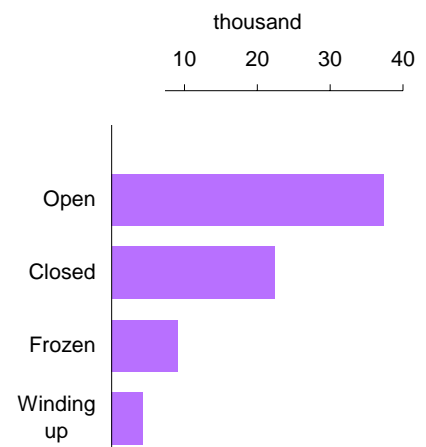
**Scheme numbers**

In 2006 the provisional estimate of the total number of schemes was 73,100 which is 23,100 lower than the 2004 figure. The number of schemes in the largest size band (10,000 or more) increased over the period, while the third largest size band (1,000 to 4,999 members) remained unchanged at 1,300. The remaining size bands all decreased over the period, the most notable of which was the decrease of 20,500 in the smallest size band (2 to 11). In 2006 the total number of schemes in the UK with 12 or more members was 14,000, a decrease of around 2,600 compared with 2004.

**Active employee members of schemes by normal pension age**



**Public & private sector scheme numbers**



**Public and private sector schemes by scheme size and status: 2006**

Scheme size (total membership)	Number of schemes <sup>1</sup>				
	Open	Closed	Frozen	Winding up	Total
10,000+	240	90	10	5	350
5,000 to 9,999	110	90	10	-	200
1,000 to 4,999	520	650	90	40	1,300
100 to 999	1,600	1,800	680	450	4,500
12 to 99	2,100	2,000	1,800	1,800	7,700
2 to 11 <sup>2</sup>	32,800	17,700	6,600	2,000	59,100
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,400</b>	<b>22,400</b>	<b>9,100</b>	<b>4,300</b>	<b>73,100</b>

<sup>1</sup> Results are rounded to ease interpretation and therefore may not sum to totals shown due to rounding and non-response.

<sup>2</sup> Estimates of numbers of very small schemes are subject to considerable uncertainty.

Private sector

The total number of private sector schemes in 2006 was 72,800. This represents an increase of 3,800 on the 2005 figure and reflects rises in three of the size bands, the most notable of which was the increase of 4,400 in the smallest size band. The most notable fall was in the 100 to 999 size band, falling by 430. When compared with 2005 the number of open schemes fell by 14,100. However, closed, frozen and winding up schemes increased by 9,400, 7,320 and 1,210 respectively.

**Private sector schemes by scheme size and status: 2006**

Scheme size (total membership)	Number of schemes <sup>1</sup>				
	Open	Closed	Frozen	Winding up	Total
10,000+	150	..	..	5	250
5,000 to 9,999	90	..	..	-	170
1,000 to 4,999	510	600	80	40	1,200
100 to 999	1,600	1,700	660	450	4,400
12 to 99	2,100	2,000	1,700	1,800	7,700
2 to 11 <sup>2</sup>	32,800	17,700	6,600	2,000	59,100
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,200</b>	<b>22,200</b>	<b>9,100</b>	<b>4,300</b>	<b>72,800</b>

<sup>1</sup> Results are rounded to ease interpretation and therefore may not sum to totals shown due to rounding and non-response.

<sup>2</sup> Estimates of numbers of very small schemes are subject to considerable uncertainty.

".." It is sometimes necessary to suppress figures for certain items in order to avoid disclosing information on individual contributors.

Within the total of 72,800 private sector schemes, 71,800 had one section and 1,000 had more than one section. Of the single section schemes, 58,400 were defined-contribution schemes and 13,400 were defined-benefit. In terms of the status of single section schemes, 36,600 were open, 21,900 were closed and the remainder were either frozen or winding up. The largest size band accounted for 140 schemes

(120 defined-benefit and 20 defined-contribution). There were 1000 schemes with more than one section, 120 of which fell into the largest size band, while size bands 1,000 to 4,999 and 100 to 999 had 330 and 350 schemes respectively. There were 300 closed schemes and 660 were open schemes.

### Public sector

The total number of public sector schemes in 2006 was 320. 100 of these were in the top sizeband with total membership at or above 10,000.

<b>Public sector schemes by scheme size and status: 2006</b>					
<b>Scheme size (total membership)</b>	<b>Number of schemes<sup>1</sup></b>				<b>Total</b>
	Open	Closed	Frozen	Winding up	
10,000+	90	..	..	-	100
5,000 to 9,999	10	..	..	-	30
1,000 to 4,999	10	50	10	-	70
100 to 999	9	40	20	-	60
12 to 99	..	..	30	-	30
2 to 11	..	..	8	-	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>320</b>

In line with the approach of the Pension Schemes Registry, each Local Authority, police force & fire & rescue service is treated as having its own separate scheme, even though in practice there is one nationwide scheme for all local authorities, one for police force & one for fire & the rescue service.

<sup>1</sup> Results may not sum to totals shown due to rounding.

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Results rounded to ease interpretation.

## **Contribution rates to private sector schemes**

### Weighted-average contribution rates by scheme status

Between 2004 and 2006 contribution rates to open defined-benefit schemes increased from 16.8 per cent to 19.2 per cent, while contribution rates to closed defined benefit schemes decreased from 21.0 per cent to 19.5 per cent. Employer contribution rates to open defined benefit schemes increased from 12.1 per cent to 14.2 per cent, while contribution rates to employer closed defined-benefit schemes fell from 17.1 per cent to 15.0 per cent.

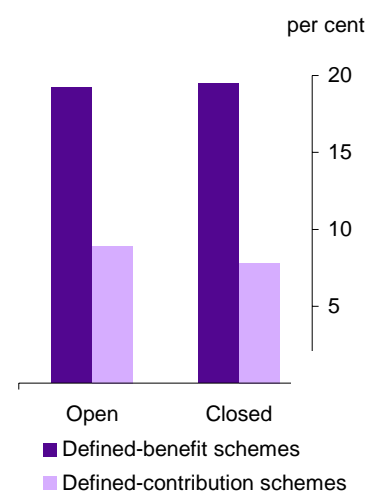
Contribution rates to open private sector defined-contribution schemes fell from 9.1 per cent to 8.9 per cent in 2006, while contribution rates to closed schemes increased from 7.3 per cent to 7.8 per cent. The most notable movement, within defined-contribution, was the rise from 4.2 per cent in 2004 to 5.4 per cent in 2006 in employer closed schemes.

**Weighted-average contribution rates by scheme status for the private sector: 2006 (per cent)<sup>1</sup>**

Benefit type	Member contributions		Employer contributions		Total contributions	
	Open	Closed	Open	Closed	Open	Closed
Defined-benefit schemes	4.9	4.5	14.2	15.0	19.2	19.5
Defined-contribution schemes	3.0	2.5	5.8	5.4	8.9	7.8

<sup>1</sup> Includes schemes where standard contributions were zero. Contributions in the form of lump sum payments have been excluded from the analysis in this table. Excludes schemes with fewer than 12 members. Rates are weighted by number of active members.

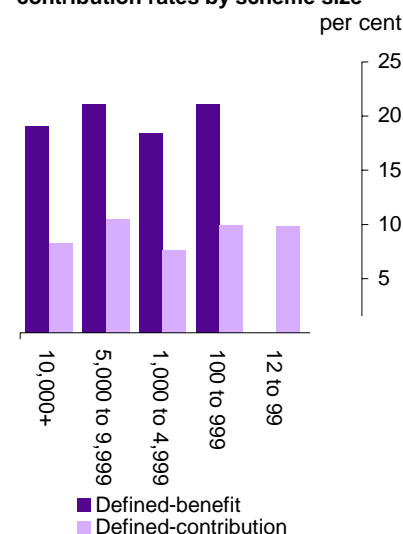
**Private sector weighted-average contribution rates by scheme status**



**Private sector weighted-average contribution rates by scheme size**

This table shows the 2006 average contribution rate for each size band (excluding schemes with less than 12 members) weighted by number of active members. The most notable change between 2004 and 2006 was reflected in the second largest size band (5,000 to 9,999), where total contributions to defined-benefit schemes increased from 16.6 per cent to 21.2 per cent and total contribution rates to defined-contribution schemes increased from 5.6 per cent to 10.5 per cent. These increases were reflected in both member and employer contributions in both cases, the most notable of which were the increases in employer contributions (defined-benefit increasing from 12.6 per cent to 16.2 per cent and defined-contribution from 3.6 per cent to 7.0 per cent).

**Private sector weighted-average contribution rates by scheme size**



**Private sector weighted-average contribution rates by scheme size: 2006 (percent)<sup>1</sup>**

Scheme size (total membership)	Defined-benefit			Defined-contribution		
	Member	Employer	Total	Member	Employer	Total
10,000+	4.2	14.9	19.2	2.3	6.0	8.3
5,000 to 9,999	4.9	16.2	21.2	3.5	7.0	10.5
1,000 to 4,999	5.3	13.1	18.4	2.8	4.8	7.5
100 to 999	5.1	16.0	21.0	4.0	5.9	9.9
12 to 99	..	..	..	3.8	6.0	9.9

<sup>1</sup> Includes schemes where standard contributions were zero. Contributions in the form of lump sum payments have been excluded from the analysis in this table. Excludes schemes with fewer than 12 members. Rates are weighted by number of active members.

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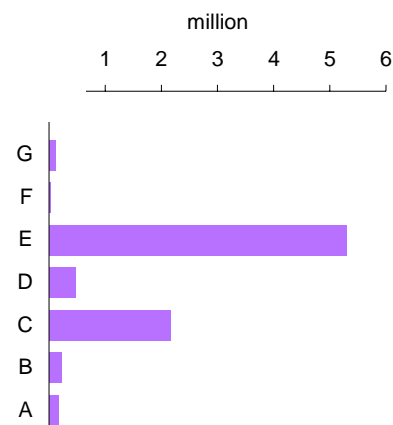
## Benefits in defined-benefit schemes

### Active members of all defined-benefit schemes by the accrual rate of their scheme

In 2006, 63 per cent of the active membership of all defined-benefit schemes had an accrual rate of 80ths or 80ths plus an additional lump sum. In the same period the majority (60 per cent) of active employee members in private sector defined-benefit schemes had an accrual rate of 60ths, while, in the public sector, 93 per cent of active members accrued benefits at 80ths or 80ths plus an additional lump sum.

In 2006, the active membership of all defined-benefit schemes decreased to 8.46 million from 8.63 million in 2004. This decrease reflected falls of 0.22 million and 0.18 million in the membership of those with accrual rates of 60ths and between 50ths and 60ths respectively.

**Active membership of DB schemes by their scheme's accrual rate**



**Active members of all defined-benefit schemes by the accrual rate of their scheme: 2006 (millions)<sup>1 2</sup>**

Accrual rate	Private sector schemes	Public sector schemes	All defined-benefit schemes
50ths or better	0.17	-	0.17
Between 50ths & 60ths, or 60ths + an additional lump sum	0.22	-	0.22
60ths	1.99	0.18	2.16
Between 60ths & 80ths	0.27	0.20	0.47
80ths or 80ths + an additional lump sum	0.55	4.74	5.29
Less generous than 80ths	0.02	-	0.02
No response	0.11	0.01	0.12
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.35</b>	<b>5.12</b>	<b>8.48</b>

#### Key

- A = 50ths or better
- B = Between 50ths & 60ths, or 60ths plus an additional lump sum
- C = 60ths
- D = Between 60ths & 80ths
- E = 80ths or 80ths plus an additional lump sum
- F = Less generous than 80ths
- G = No response

<sup>1</sup> Results may not sum to totals shown due to rounding.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes schemes with fewer than 12 members.

## Very small schemes in the private sector

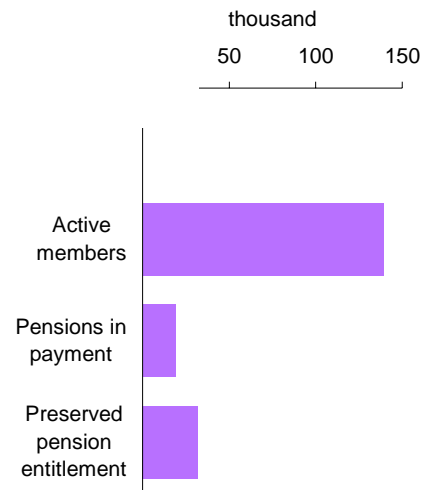
### Membership of very small schemes in the private sector

There were 190,000 members of very small schemes (scheme size with total membership of 2 -11) within the private sector, compared with 170,000 in 2005. Active members accounted for 139,000 of the total and, of these, 94 per cent were in a defined-contribution scheme. There were 19,000 pensions in payment which compares to 20,000 in 2005. There were 32,000 preserved pension entitlements, an increase of 22,000 on the 2005 figure.

<b>Members of very small schemes in the private sector: 2006</b>	
(thousands)	
<b>Active members</b>	<b>139</b>
Defined-benefit	7
Defined-contribution	131
<b>Pensions in payment</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Preserved pension entitlements</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>190</b>

It should be noted that comparatively few responses were received from this category of scheme, so the results presented are less robust than those for larger schemes.

Members of very small schemes in the private sector



## Winding up schemes

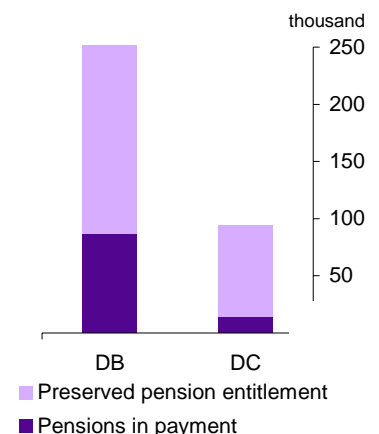
### Members of winding up schemes in the private sector

ONS estimates that there were around 346,000 members of schemes which were at some stage in the process of winding up. This compares to 344,000 in 2005. The 2006 figure comprises of around 101,000 pensions in payment, a rise of 17,000 when compared with 2005, and 245,000 preserved pension entitlements compares to 260,000 in 2005.

<b>Members of winding up schemes (private sector): 2006</b> (thousands)	
<b>Pensions in payment</b>	<b>101</b>
Defined-benefit	87
Defined-contribution	14
<b>Preserved pension entitlements</b>	<b>245</b>
Defined-benefit	165
Defined-contribution	80
<b>Total</b>	<b>346</b>

It should be noted that comparatively few responses were received from this category of scheme, so the results presented are less robust than those for other schemes.

Members of winding up schemes in the private sector



## BACKGROUND NOTES

### Basic quality information

1. **Key issues specific to this release:** The responsibility for running the occupational pension schemes surveys was transferred from the Government Actuary's Department (GAD) to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) for the 2006 survey onwards following the Government's acceptance in March 2005 of the Morris Review recommendations. This First Release is the first since the ONS took over responsibility for the survey.
2. **Link to Summary Quality Report:** A link to the Summary Quality Report for occupational pension schemes survey will be available in the next release. This report will describe, in detail, the intended uses of the statistics presented in this publication, their general quality and the methods used to produce them.

### Relevance to users:

3. The survey includes only schemes that are registered in the UK. Where membership figures are given, these relate only to members based in the UK. The 2006 survey had a sample of 1800 private sector schemes and 300 public sector schemes.
4. The survey does not cover personal pensions, where individuals enter into a contract with a pension provider (usually an insurance company). This exclusion also extends to group personal pensions (GPPs). Although GPPs can be sponsored by employers, with the employers facilitating membership and payment of contributions for the members, the legal contract is between the individual and the pension provider. Stakeholder pensions are almost always another form of contract-based personal pension, and are therefore also excluded from the survey.
5. To maintain consistency of coverage with earlier surveys, figures for the Building and Civil Engineering Retirement Pension Benefit Scheme (closed to further accruals from April 2001) have been excluded from the 2006 survey results. This scheme has a total membership of approximately 450,000.
6. **Definitions:**

**Occupational Pension Scheme:** An arrangement (other than accident or permanent health insurance) organised by an employer (or on behalf of a group of employers) to provide benefits for employees on their retirement and for their dependants on their death.

**Public sector schemes:** The part of the economy that is state-provided, including central and local government, schooling, health and social services, policing and the armed forces.

**Private sector schemes:** The part of the economy consisting of individuals, firms and other institutions. The private sector includes state-owned enterprises such as the BBC and other public corporations with outputs paid for by individuals directly rather than through taxation.

**Group Personal Pension:** An arrangement made for the employees of a particular employer to participate in a personal pension scheme on a group basis. This is a collecting arrangement, not a separate pension scheme.

**Defined-Benefit Scheme (DB):** A pension scheme in which the rules specify the rate of benefits to be paid. The most common defined benefit scheme is a salary-related scheme in which the benefits are based on the number of years of pensionable service; the accrual rate; and on the final salary, the average of selected years' salaries, or the best year's salary within a specified period before retirement.

**Defined-Contribution Scheme (DC):** A pension scheme in which the benefits are determined by the contributions paid into the scheme, the investment return on those contributions, and the type of annuity purchased upon retirement. It is also known as a money purchase scheme.

**Contracted-out mixed benefit scheme (COMBS):** an occupational pension scheme which has separate defined-benefit and money-purchase sections and which contracts out on both bases.

**Contracted-out money purchase scheme (COMPS):** A scheme that contracts out on a money purchase basis.

**Contracted-out salary related scheme (COSRS):** An occupational pension scheme that has retirement benefits that are based on salary, and which has been contracted out according to Section 9(2) of the Pensions Schemes Act 1993.

**Scheme status:** An occupational pension scheme may be open, closed, frozen or winding up. An open scheme admits new members. A closed scheme does not admit new members but may continue to receive contributions from or on behalf of existing members who continue to accrue pension rights. In a frozen scheme, benefits continue to be payable to existing members but no new members are admitted, and no further benefits accrue to existing members. Members can make no more contributions but further employer contributions may, and perhaps must be made, for example to correct a deficit. A scheme that is winding up is in the process of termination, either by buying annuities for the beneficiaries or by transferring assets and liabilities to another scheme.

7. ONS conducts the Occupational Pension Schemes Survey from a sample of occupational pension schemes in both the public and private sectors. The survey presents a range of statistics, including the extent to which employees in the UK are covered by occupational pension schemes, the nature of the benefits provided and contributions paid. Data are produced

on the membership of occupational pension schemes by type of member and type of scheme.

8. The estimates for the whole population of occupational pension schemes are produced on the basis of sample numbers. This is done by "rating-up" the data from responses, by reference to a sampling fraction and response rate, with different size bands rated up individually.
9. The schemes in the survey are selected at random within membership size bands from the Pension Schemes Registry - a list of all occupational (and personal) pension schemes in the UK with two or more members - maintained by the Pensions Regulator.
10. More detailed information on the 2006 occupational pension schemes survey will appear in the *Occupational Pension Schemes Annual Report*. This will be available from the National Statistics website later in 2007, at <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=1721&Pos=1&ColRank=1&Rank=422>

The results published in this Annual Report will include comparisons with results in earlier surveys carried out by the Government Actuary's Department and other data sources. It will also include details on how the survey was carried out and a glossary of terms.

Past GAD publications (2004 and 2005) are also available at:  
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=1721&Pos=1&ColRank=1&Rank=422>

## Accuracy

11. **Response Rates:** Response rate by number (count) of schemes 2006

Response Rates (per cent)			
Scheme Size (total membership)	Private sector	Public sector	Total
10,000+	89	94	91
5,000 to 9,999	83	89	84
1,000 to 4,999	87	91	88
100 to 999	78	89	80
12 to 99	70	89	74
2 to 11	60	78	63
<b>Total</b>	79	90	82

## Publication Policy

12. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from the press office. Also available is a list of the names of those given pre-publication access to the contents of this release.
13. **National Statistics** are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference. © Crown copyright 2007.