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## ABSTRACT OF STATISTICS FOR BENEFITS CONTRIBUTIONS AND INDICES OF PRICES AND EARNINGS - 2004

The 2004 edition of the Abstract of Statistics for Benefits, Contributions and Indices of Prices and Earnings is published today. It shows a wide range of benefit rates, earnings indices and levels of expenditure on benefits.

The Abstract of Statistics is an annual publication by the Department for Work and Pensions. The purpose of the publication is to provide a reference source for people interested in the main aspects of social security benefits, contributions and indices of prices and earnings. The publication is an update of the 2003 Abstract of Statistics. The standard tables and charts showing comparisons between various benefits, earnings and family types over time have been included.

### The main contents of the publication are:

The Retail Prices Index (All Items) since 1946, the ROSSI and New Rossi Indices (Retail Prices Index (All items) less rents, local taxes and mortgage interest payments); the Consumer Prices Index (previously the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices); the average earnings of all full-time employees (using ASHE survey); examples of net income after housing costs for a variety of earners and family types; the rates for a number of benefits, including State Pension, Pension Credit, Jobseeker's Allowance and Incapacity Benefit, in terms of April 2004 prices and as a percentage of average earnings; levels of National Insurance contributions and expenditure since 1955/56 on social security benefits as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product.

Versions of this publication in Adobe Acrobat format (pdf) are placed on the internet on the DWP website. The full address is:

[http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/other\\_stats.asp](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/other_stats.asp)

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