

First Release

DWP WORK PROGRAMME STATISTICAL RELEASE

This document contains official statistics produced by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) on referrals and attachments to the Work Programme which were released on 8th August 2012.

Introduction

Work Programme was launched throughout Great Britain in June 2011. It provides personalised work-focused support for people who are long-term unemployed or who are at risk of becoming so. It is delivered through 40 contracts held by 18 Private, Public and Voluntary and Community Sector organisations. Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) and Employment Support Allowance (ESA) claimants are referred to the Work Programme at specified points in their claims, depending on their circumstances. In England only, people who receive incapacity benefits who have not yet been reassessed for ESA and people who claim Income Support (IS) are also eligible to volunteer for the Work Programme. There are separate arrangements outside the Work Programme for these claimants in Scotland and Wales, commissioned and administered by the devolved administrations. Pension Credit claimants are also eligible to volunteer for the Work Programme.

Key findings

- Claimants are referred to the Work Programme by Jobcentre Plus. The total number of referrals to the Work Programme from 1st June 2011 to end of April 2012 is 738 thousand.
- Following the referral of a participant to a Work Programme provider, that provider is responsible for contacting the participant to discuss the programme and begin planning the steps needed to support them into sustained employment. Once this activity has taken place, the provider registers an 'attachment' to the Work Programme. The total number of attachments to the Work Programme from 1st June 2011 to the end of April 2012 is 693 thousand.

Information on the official statistics

The full release of figures and a background information note to provide context to the figures can be accessed by using the following link:

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=wp>

The figures can be viewed by using the DWP tabulation tool which allows users to produce their own bespoke tables of referrals and attachments to the Work Programme. Figures can also be viewed graphically by using the data visualisation tool. These tools can both be accessed using the link above.

Difference between referral and attachments

The statistics on referrals record the number of eligible claimants referred to the Work Programme by Jobcentre Plus. A claimant remains on the Work Programme for 2 years from the date of their referral to the programme. The statistics on attachments record the number of people with whom a provider has completed initial engagement activity.

Since attachment activity must take place following a referral, at any given date, the number of attachments will be lower than the number of referrals. In addition, there will be a proportion of claimants who either sign off benefit or move into work after referral but before the point at which the provider has completed engagement activity with them.

Evidence from figures collected so far suggests that on average 95% of referrals are attached to the Work Programme within 3 months of being referred.

8th August 2012

Coverage: Great Britain

Theme: [People and Places](#)



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Payment Groups

There are nine separate “Payment Groups” into which claimants can be referred, based on their circumstances at the point of referral and the benefits that they receive. Section 3 of The ‘Notes’ section on page 9 contains a table which summarises the different payment groups and referral points.

A new payment group was introduced in March to help provide immediate employment support to prisoners when leaving jail. There is now access to the Work Programme from day 1 for JSA claimants who have made an advanced claim prior to leaving prison and for those prison leavers who make a claim to JSA within 13 weeks of their release.

If you have any comments or suggestions regarding this publication, please contact DWP via stats-consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk.

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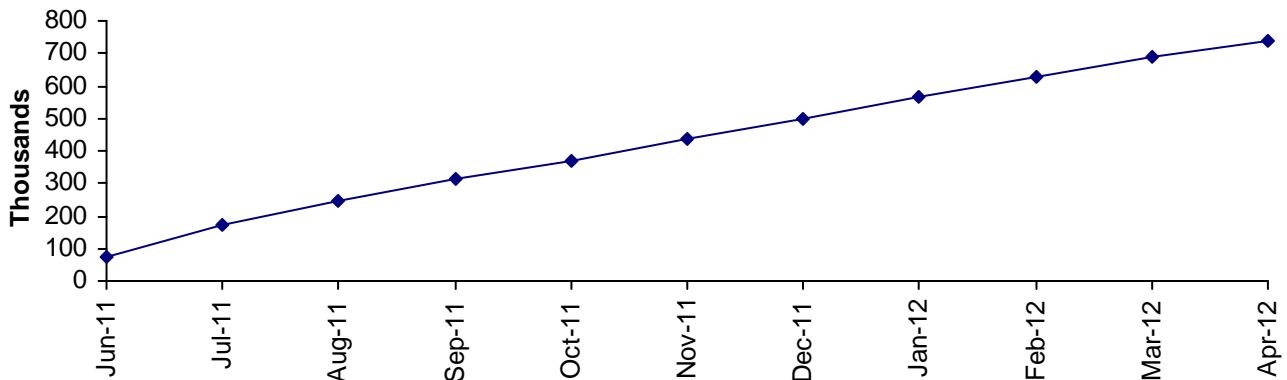
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1. Official Statistics: Referrals to the Work Programme

Claimants are referred to the Work Programme by Jobcentre Plus at a Work Programme referral interview. Jobcentre Plus randomly allocate claimants to one of the two or three providers in their area.

Cummulative Referrals to Work Programme by Month: June 2011 to April 2012



Whilst for more recent months the effects of the early roll out activity diminishes, the current data series inhibits identification of definitive trends. The first few months of figures for referrals reflect initial roll out activity; the volumes of referrals are lower in June since providers began to deliver the Work Programme at different times from the start of June 2011.

The figures also reflect the referrals to the Work Programme that accumulated following the closure of the Flexible New Deal. This is seen as an increase in referrals in July and a lower total in October reflecting the clearance of these cases.

Table 1.1: Time series of referrals to the Work Programme by Payment Group: June 2011 to April 2012

	<i>Thousands</i>									
	Payment Group									
	Total	JSA 18 to 24	JSA 25 and over	JSA Early Entrants	JSA Ex- IB	ESA Volunteers	New ESA claimants	ESA Ex- IB	IB/IS Volunteers	JSA Prison Leavers
Jun-11	74.69	10.93	41.82	19.40	0.18	0.30	1.80	0.09	0.17	-
Jul-11	99.27	16.36	49.88	28.35	0.37	0.50	3.40	0.12	0.29	-
Aug-11	73.71	14.30	36.19	18.85	0.28	0.46	3.29	0.13	0.21	-
Sep-11	63.33	13.16	29.86	15.63	0.24	0.48	3.55	0.18	0.23	-
Oct-11	58.32	13.63	26.23	12.23	0.21	0.60	4.82	0.42	0.18	-
Nov-11	69.19	14.34	28.82	12.82	0.27	1.88	9.95	0.85	0.25	-
Dec-11	58.70	11.65	24.37	15.25	0.20	2.15	4.23	0.67	0.17	-
Jan-12	66.61	14.04	31.86	12.67	0.34	2.42	4.30	0.81	0.16	-
Feb-12	65.28	11.05	23.87	23.49	0.52	2.19	3.06	0.83	0.13	0.15
Mar-12	61.89	11.60	23.26	18.47	0.63	2.34	3.18	1.03	0.10	1.28
Apr-12	47.33	11.19	17.60	10.88	0.65	2.05	2.30	0.91	0.05	1.69

Of the claimants referred up to the end of April 2012, 334 thousand (45.2%) were in the JSA 25 and over payment group, 188 thousand (25.5%) were JSA early entrants, 142 thousand (19.3%) were in the JSA 18-24 payment group & 65 thousand (8.8%) were ESA claimants.

Referrals to the new JSA Prison Leavers group commenced in February 2012 and just over 3 thousand referrals were made up to the end of April 2012, which accounted for 1.8% of all referrals during the three months to April 2012.

There was a significant rise in ESA referrals towards the end of last year, compared to earlier months, reflecting changes in the way ESA claimants are identified and receive information about the Work Programme as well as changes to referral criteria and focused Incapacity Benefit reassessment activity.

1. Official Statistics: Referrals to the Work Programme

Work Programme information sessions for potential ESA volunteers were introduced in October 2011 and people expected to be fit for work within 6 months are now immediately referred to the Work Programme, rather than three months later. The discernible increase in new ESA referrals in November 2011 reflects a Jobcentre Plus exercise to identify eligible ESA claimants who had not been referred to the Work Programme.

The total number of monthly referrals fell to 47.3 thousand in April 2012, its lowest level since the introduction of the scheme in June 2011. This reduction in monthly referrals was also reflected in the JSA 25 and over and JSA early entrant payment groups with 17.6 thousand and 10.9 thousand being referred in April 2012.

The reduction in monthly referrals is likely to be explained by the two Easter bank holidays in April reducing the amount of operational time in which referrals could occur. In addition, the Department published new profiles of expected JSA attachments to the Work Programme on July 5th, based on updated forecasts from the Office of Budgetary Responsibility (<http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2012-1134/WorkProgrammeattachmentprofilesMay2012.doc>). These suggest that JSA attachments will be lower in the second year of operation (2012/13) than they were in the first year (2011/12).

The rise in referrals to the JSA early entrant group in February 2012 reflects the introduction of a new process which has since been refined.

DEFINITIONS AND CONVENTIONS: *Figures are rounded to the nearest ten; some additional disclosure control has also been applied. Totals may not sum due to rounding. Figures are refreshed each quarter and are subject to change. Months are calendar months.*

SOURCE: *DWP: Information, Governance and Security Directorate (IGS)*

Notes:

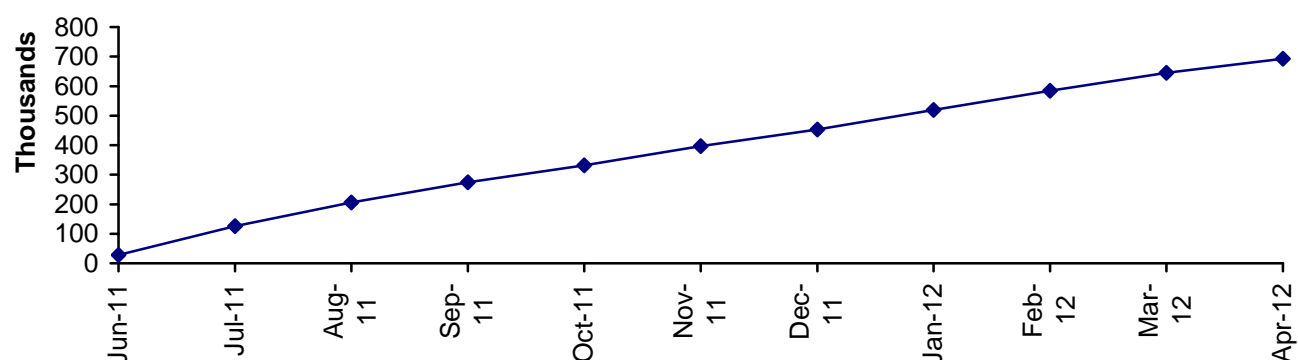
Referrals (Thousands) *Referrals shown are 'net' referrals which do not include rejections, cancellations or referrals to ESA information sessions.*

Payment Group *Payment Groups are assigned by Jobcentre Plus, on the basis of a claimant's circumstances, and benefit they receive. A small number of claimants appear in an incorrect group caused by the way information is recorded on the administrative system: for more details on this and for the full list of payment groups see the information note on the Work Programme landing page. Also, please note that referrals to the JSA prison leavers payment group started from the 12th February 2012 and attachments from 1st March 2012. For more information and for the full list of payment groups see the information note on the Work Programme landing page.*

2. Official Statistics: Attachments to the Work Programme

Following the referral of a participant to a Work Programme provider, that provider is responsible for contacting the participant to discuss the programme and begin planning the steps needed to support them into sustained employment. Once this activity has taken place, the provider registers an 'attachment' to the Work Programme. The date this activity takes place is recorded on the payment system by the provider.

Cummulative Attachments to Work Programme by Month: June 2011 to April 2012



The volumes of attachments, as with those of referrals, reflect the staggered roll out activity and referral of ex Flexible New Deal participants with lower levels in June 2011 and a higher volume in July 2011. This effect is exacerbated since attachment activity takes place following a referral. At the end of April 2012 the total attachments to the Work Programme was 693 thousand. Evidence collected so far suggests that 95% of referrals are attached to the Work Programme within 3 months of being referred.

Table 2.1: Time series of Attachments to the Work Programme by Payment Group: June 2011 to April 2012

Thousands

Payment Group

	Total	JSA 18 to 24	JSA 25 and over	JSA Early Entrants	JSA Ex- IB	ESA Volunteers	New ESA claimants	ESA Ex- IB	IB/IS Volunteers	JSA Prison Leavers
Jun-11	28.58	4.16	16.82	6.72	0.08	0.10	0.60	0.03	0.07	-
Jul-11	97.67	15.26	50.47	27.99	0.31	0.40	2.91	0.09	0.25	-
Aug-11	79.29	13.85	39.53	21.65	0.28	0.49	3.12	0.13	0.23	-
Sep-11	68.48	13.71	33.26	16.93	0.24	0.50	3.44	0.16	0.23	-
Oct-11	58.18	12.79	27.05	13.09	0.24	0.49	4.04	0.30	0.19	-
Nov-11	65.00	13.75	28.21	12.34	0.23	0.98	8.60	0.68	0.20	-
Dec-11	55.55	11.19	23.70	13.99	0.20	1.10	4.66	0.57	0.15	-
Jan-12	66.02	13.97	31.59	13.14	0.31	1.43	4.62	0.81	0.15	-
Feb-12	65.25	11.91	26.13	20.84	0.46	1.60	3.42	0.75	0.14	-
Mar-12	61.18	11.36	23.66	19.42	0.59	1.70	3.16	0.91	0.10	0.29
Apr-12	47.60	10.82	18.38	12.05	0.64	1.48	2.48	0.82	0.06	0.86

Of the total attachments to the Work programme at the end of April 2012, 633 thousand (91.4%) were in the JSA payment groups, 57 thousand (8.2%) were in the ESA payment groups, just under 2 thousand (0.3%) were in the IB/IS volunteer group and just over 1 thousand were in the JSA Prison Leavers group, which accounted for 1.1% of all referrals during the two months to April 2012.

2. Official Statistics: Attachments to the Work Programme

DEFINITIONS AND CONVENTIONS: Figures are rounded to the nearest ten; some additional disclosure control has also been applied. Totals may not sum due to rounding. Figures are refreshed each quarter and are subject to change. Months are calendar months.

SOURCE: DWP: Information, Governance and Security Directorate (IGS)

Notes:

Attachments (Thousands) *The date of the first engagement activity between the provider and the participant as recorded on the payment administrative system.*

Payment Group *Payment Groups are assigned by Jobcentre Plus, on the basis of a claimant's circumstances, and benefit they receive. A small number of claimants appear in an incorrect group caused by the way information is recorded on the administrative system: for more details on this and for the full list of payment groups see the information note on the Work Programme landing page. Also, please note that referrals to the JSA prison leavers payment group started from the 12th February 2012 and attachments from 1st March 2012. For more information and for the full list of payment groups see the information note on the Work Programme landing page.*

NOTES

1. Work Programme Statistics

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) publish a regular Work Programme Statistical Release or the Work Programme official statistics on referrals and attachments.

Alongside this, there are a large number of tables which enable the user to delve into the detail. These are provided to the user as:

- The DWP Tabulation Tool – this provides the user with an interactive tool to select one of thousands of possible tabulations.
- A data visualisation tool - this allows the user to view the figures as various animated charts.

Both tools can be found on the Work Programme Statistics web page:

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=wp>

The following characteristic breakdowns are available on those being referred to the Work Programme and attached by a provider: age, gender, disability indicator, ethnicity, primary health condition (for IB and ESA claimants) and lone parent status (for JSA and IS claimants).

Lower level geography information is available for the participant by local authority, parliamentary constituency and Jobcentre Plus district. Tables also contain information broken down by contract, contract package area and payment group.

The next release date for Work Programme referral and attachment statistics will be November 2012. For future release dates see HUB release calendar: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/release-calendar>

2. Definitions

For full definitions see background information note available via this link

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=wp>

Summary of main definitions:

Referral

Claimants are referred by Jobcentre Plus at a Work Programme referral interview. Jobcentre Plus randomly allocate claimants to a provider in their area.

Attachment

Following the referral of a participant to a Work Programme provider, that provider is responsible for contacting the participant to discuss the programme and begin planning the steps needed to support them into sustained employment. Once this activity has taken place, the provider registers an 'attachment' to the Work Programme. The date the activity takes place is recorded on the payment system by the provider (this is the closest proxy for a 'start' to the Work Programme).

The difference between referral and attachments

The statistics on referrals record the number of eligible claimants referred to the Work Programme by Jobcentre Plus. A claimant remains on the Work Programme for 2 years from the date of their referral to the programme. The statistics on attachments record the number of people with whom a provider has completed initial engagement activity. There will be a proportion of claimants who either sign off benefit or move into work after referral but before the point which the provider has completed engagement activity with them. Therefore the number of attachments will be slightly lower than the number of referrals. If a claimant who has not been attached to the Work Programme makes a further claim to benefit in the two year period after they have been referred to the Work Programme, then the provider will engage with and attach the claimant at this point.

Payment Group

Claimants will have different entry points to the Work Programme, and different participation requirements, depending on their circumstances, such as age and benefit type. There is a summary of the payment groups and participants' entry points in section 3 below.

3. Work Programme referral points and payment groups.

Claimants have different referral points to the Work Programme depending on their circumstances, such as age and benefit type. See table below for a summary of the different payment groups and referral points.

Payment Group	Time of Referral	Basis for referral	Payment Group
JSA 18-24	From 9 months on JSA	Mandatory	1
JSA 25+	From 12 months on JSA	Mandatory	2
JSA Early Access	From 3 months on JSA	Mandatory or voluntary depending on circumstance	3
JSA Ex-IB	From 3 months on JSA	Mandatory	4
ESA Volunteers	At any time from point of Work Capability Assessment	Voluntary	5
New ESA claimants	Mandatory when expected to be fit for work within 3-6 months. Voluntary from point of Work Capability Assessment for specified participants.	Mandatory or voluntary depending on circumstance	6
ESA Ex-IB	Mandatory when expected to be fit for work within 3-6 months. Voluntary from point of Work Capability Assessment for participants with longer prognoses	Mandatory or voluntary depending on circumstance	7
IB/IS (England only)	From benefit entitlement	Voluntary	8
JSA Prison leavers	Day one of release from prison	Mandatory	9

Note: Full details can be seen in Annex A at <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/wp-pg-chapter-2.pdf>

4. Work Programme performance outcome official statistics

The focus of the Work Programme is on supporting participants to achieve sustained employment. Participants are supported by the Work Programme for two years. Providers receive job outcome payments when a participant has been in work for either three or six months, depending on the participant's circumstances. Once a job outcome payment has been paid, providers will receive sustainment payments for each subsequent four week period the participant spends in employment up to a maximum of two years, depending on the participants' circumstances. Further details on the payment arrangements for each claimant group are provided above.

The Department is working to guidelines set by the UK Statistics Authority to ensure we are able to publish official statistics on the Work Programme that meet high quality standards at the earliest opportunity. Official statistics on job outcomes and sustainment payments will be released from autumn 2012.

The release strategy for statistics on job outcomes and sustainment payments is dependant on the availability, reliability, quality and accuracy of the data and the details of what we will publish are still to be finalised. When details are finalised we will make an announcement on this website:

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=wp>

5. Pre-Work Programme Support measures

A new package of Pre-Work Programme Support measures were introduced between October 2010 and August 2011, including Work Clubs, Work Together, New Enterprise Allowance, Enterprise Clubs, Mandatory Work Activity, sector based work academies, work experience and Skills Conditionality. These statistics can be found via the following link: <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/pwp/index.php?page=pwp>

6. Code of Practice for Official Statistics

In developing The Work Programme official statistics, DWP has acted in accordance with the Code of Practice and supporting Principles. Detailed policy statements and statement of compliance with the pre-release access to official statistics order 2008 are given below:

The Work Programme official statistics will undergo the formal assessment process by the Statistic Authority to determine compliance with the Code and designation with the quality mark 'National Statistics'.

DWP policy statements

DWP would like to hear your views on our statistical publications. If you use any of our statistics publications, we would be interested in hearing what you use them for and how well they meet your requirements. Please email DWP at stats-consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk. If you would like to receive occasional e-mails from DWP to directly inform you of documents seeking the views of users, please email general.statistics@dwp.gsi.gov.uk giving details of the DWP publications you use.

7. Other National and Official Statistics issued by the Department for Work and Pensions

Details of other National and Official Statistics produced by the Department for Work and Pensions can be found on the DWP website at the following links:

- A list of Tabulation Tools: <http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool>;
- An A to Z list of DWP statistics: http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=statistics_a_to_z ;
- A schedule of statistical releases over the next 12 months: <http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=schedule> ;
- And a list of the most recent releases: <http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=recent> .
- In accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, all DWP National Statistics are also announced via the UK Statistics Authority publication hub at: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/statistics-producers/publications/index.html?newquery=* &source-agency=Work+and+Pensions&pagetype=release-landing-page

In addition, users can find links to DWP additional statistical analyses that have not been included in our standard publications at http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=adhoc_analysis.