

**Mandatory Programmes Official Statistics**  
**Publication Date: 9:30am 12<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

## Summary

This publication contains official statistics on Mandatory Work Activity and Skills Conditionality up to and including February 2012. The key statistics are:

From May 2011 up to and including February 2012 there have been:

- **49,640** referrals to Mandatory Work Activity placements; and
- **16,790** starts on Mandatory Work Activity placements.

From August 2011 up to and including February 2012 there have been:

- **85,470** Skills Conditionality initial provider interview referrals;
- **25,760** Skills Conditionality initial provider interview starts;
- **94,410** Skills Conditionality training referrals;
- **25,570** Skills Conditionality training starts;
- **151,840** Skills Conditionality next step referrals; and
- **53,810** Skills Conditionality next step starts.

## Introduction

1. This publication contains statistics on Mandatory Work Activity (MWA) covering the period from May 2011 to February 2012 and Skills Conditionality (SC) covering the period from August 2011 to February 2012.
2. This includes statistics on MWA initial referrals and starts. SC referrals and starts, which were part of the 'Pre-Work Programme and Get Britain Working Measures' publication in February are also included in this publication. Future editions of this publication will be published in line with the timetable shown in **Annexe A**. Details regarding future content will be announced via the UK Statistics Authority publication hub.
3. Every effort has been made to ensure that the quality of these statistics is of the highest standard. However, it may be necessary to revise the statistics in subsequent publications when more complete data becomes available, particularly for more recent months.
4. The format of this publication will be kept under review and any feedback or suggestions to improve this publication are welcomed.

## **Mandatory Work Activity - Policy Description**

5. MWA was launched on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2011, enabling Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claimants to move closer to the labour market by helping them re-engage with the system, refocus their job search and gain work-related disciplines, whilst also delivering a contribution to the local community.
6. Such disciplines include attending on time, regularly carrying out specific tasks and working under supervision. MWA is about offering further support to some Jobseekers Allowance claimants who would benefit from a short period of activity.
7. The vehicle for MWA is work-based placements delivered by external providers under contract to DWP. For those referred to a placement, their participation is mandatory.
8. The placements sourced by the provider:
  - last for 4 weeks
  - are for 30 hours per week, unless restrictions apply, so allowing the claimant time to meet their actively seeking obligations
  - are reduced in line with any restrictions a claimant might have on their Jobseeker's Agreement. In such circumstances, placements will take up 75% of the time a claimant is available for work.
  - are of benefit to the local community
  - are additional to any existing or expected vacancies the host organisation might have
9. MWA participants continue to claim JSA and attend Jobsearch Reviews.

## **Skills Conditionality - Policy Description**

10. SC was introduced in England from August 2011. Claimants who are required to actively seek or prepare for work can be mandated to undertake activity to address an identified skills need which will aid their movement into work. The policy is designed to ensure that claimants referred to careers advice or skills training that will help them, actually start and finish the course. SC applies only to those receiving Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance (work-related activity group). SC embraces all types of training.
11. Some benefit claimants will take up training on Skills Funding Agency funded courses without being referred under SC. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) Further Education and Skills Statistical First Release, available at: [http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr\\_current/](http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current/) provides statistics on overall levels of training starts by learners reporting that they are claimants of JSA and ESA WRAG (Employment Support Allowance Work-Related Activity Group).

## Technical Overview

12. These statistics are derived using a combination of data from the Jobcentre Plus claimant management systems (the Labour Market System) and the Clients database.
13. Information on demographics is obtained by merging data across these separate administrative systems which sometimes results in unknown values. This is because either we are unable to find a match or the information has not been recorded for the particular claimant.

## Mandatory Work Activity:

14. A referral to MWA is defined as the date the claimant is referred to the placement, recorded within their adviser interview. This was inputted by the adviser to the Jobcentre Plus' Labour Market System. A start to a MWA placement is defined as the date the claimant attended their initial interview with the placement provider - this was inputted by the provider into the Provider Referrals and Payments system which then updated the Jobcentre Plus' Labour Market System.

## Skills Conditionality:

15. A referral to SC is defined as the date the claimant is referred to initial provider interview, training provision or Next Step service, recorded within their adviser interview. This was inputted by the adviser to the Jobcentre Plus' Labour Market System. A start on SC is defined as the first date the claimant commenced initial provider interview, training provision or Next Step service. The number of starts was based on the individual claimant level data supplied by Further Education Colleges, training providers and Next Step and entered by an adviser onto the Jobcentre Plus' Labour Market System. Providers may submit data on starts some time after the actual event occurred.

## Retrospection

16. Retrospection is the time period allowed for additional or updated information to be incorporated into DWP's data systems.
17. Labour Market System (LMS) datasets are produced a month in arrears i.e. November 2011 data was available at the end of December 2011. Generally, for any given month worth of LMS data, significant retrospection can then be seen for a further month.
18. Therefore to maximise the amount of retrospection captured, statistics in this series will be published around 2-3 months after the reference period (e.g. final statistics for February 2012 (which are published in June 2012) are produced using March 2012 data, which was released in April 2012).

## Revisions Policy

19. In accordance with Principle 2 of the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Official Statistics<sup>1</sup>, statistics within this publication adhere to DWP's statistics revisions policy,

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/code-of-practice-for-official-statistics.pdf>

which explains how we will make revisions and inform users of our statistics when they occur: <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=policy>

## **Rounding Policy**

20. To reduce the risk of inferring the identity of a claimant from these statistics and other statistics, values are rounded to the nearest ten. Values less than ten, including zeros, are suppressed and marked with a dash. Therefore totals may not equal the sum of the individual cells.

## Official Statistics

**Table 1: Mandatory Work Activity Referrals and Starts (In-Month)**

	Mandatory Work Activity referrals (GB)	Mandatory Work Activity starts (GB)
<b>Total</b>	<b>49,640</b>	<b>16,790</b>
May-2011	170	20
Jun-2011	1,390	380
Jul-2011	1,910	840
Aug-2011	2,590	1,210
Sep-2011	3,910	1,570
Oct-2011	5,940	2,120
Nov-2011	8,100	2,480
Dec-2011	5,650	1,920
Jan-2012	10,300	3,320
Feb-2012	9,690	2,930

**Notes:** Values are rounded to the nearest 10. Due to rounding totals may not be the sum of the individual cells. Months are calendar months. Mandatory Work Activity started in May 2011.

Between 16 January – 31 March 2012 the Department trailblazed an extension of Mandatory Work Activity across five Jobcentre Plus districts in London, Wales and the West Midlands. The trailblazer tested how the scheme works for claimants who have received more than one labour-market sanction or disallowance within the last year. Numbers for Jan-2012 and Feb-2012 therefore include referrals and starts to the 'MWA Trailblazer'.

Data Source - DWP LMS opportunities evaluation database March 2012.

**Table 2: MWA Demographic Breakdown for the period May 2011 to February 2012**

		Mandatory Work Activity referrals (GB)	Mandatory Work Activity starts (GB)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>49,640</b>	<b>16,790</b>
Gender	Male	37,000	11,870
	Female	12,640	4,920
	Unknown	-	-
Age Group <sup>1</sup>	18-24	20,920	6,410
	25-49	24,530	8,530
	50+	4,180	1,850
	Unknown	-	-
Disability <sup>2</sup>	Yes	10,460	3,980
	No	39,180	12,810
	Unknown	-	-
Ethnicity <sup>3</sup>	White	35,260	12,740
	Black or Black British	4,720	1,450
	Asian or Asian British	4,940	1,130
	Mixed	1,380	360
	Other/ Chinese	1,270	360
	Unknown	2,070	740
Region	Central England	13,030	3,940
	London and the Home Counties	11,430	4,620
	North East	7,550	2,530
	North West	5,460	1,560
	Scotland	3,940	1,500
	Southern England	5,120	1,860
	Wales	2,420	630
	Unknown	690	160

**Notes:** Values are rounded to the nearest 10. Values less than 10 are suppressed and marked with a dash. Totals may not be the sum of the individual cells due to rounding. Mandatory Work Activity started in May 2011.

Between 16 January – 31 March 2012 the Department trailblazed an extension of Mandatory Work Activity across five Jobcentre Plus districts in London, Wales and the West Midlands. The trailblazer tested how the scheme works for claimants who have received more than one labour-market sanction or disallowance within the last year. Numbers in those regions therefore include referrals and starts to the 'MWA Trailblazer'.

Data Source - DWP LMS opportunities evaluation database March 2012

1: The number of age categories has been expanded since the previous publication (18-24, 25+).

2: Disability status is declared by the Jobseeker during a Jobcentre Plus interview. Disability status is according to the learners own assessment if a learner has a disability or disabilities.

3: Claimants recording their ethnicity status as "prefer not to say" are categorised as unknown.

**Table 3: Skills Conditionality Referrals and Starts (In-Month)**

	Skills Conditionality Referrals			Skills Conditionality Starts		
	Initial Provider Interview (England)	Training <sup>1,2</sup> (England)	Next Step (England)	Initial Provider Interview (England)	Training <sup>1,2</sup> (England)	Next Step (England)
<b>Total</b>	<b>85,470</b>	<b>94,410</b>	<b>151,840</b>	<b>25,760</b>	<b>25,570</b>	<b>53,810</b>
Aug-11	3,270	8,590	21,440	570	720	4,520
Sep-11	8,930	11,010	23,080	2,350	2,830	7,460
Oct-11	11,450	13,070	21,950	3,360	3,640	8,340
Nov-11	14,080	17,170	23,620	4,490	4,920	9,330
Dec-11	9,630	11,280	16,200	2,890	2,240	6,730
Jan-12	18,200	16,360	23,190	5,860	6,100	8,710
Feb-12	19,900	16,930	22,360	6,240	5,110	8,740

**Notes:** Values are rounded to the nearest 10. Values less than 10 are suppressed and marked with a dash. Due to rounding totals may not be the sum of the individual cells. Months are calendar months. Skills Conditionality started from 1st August 2011 in England.

Data Source - DWP LMS opportunities evaluation database March 2012.

1: Figures include Skills Funding Agency (SFA) Basic Skills Training; SFA English for Speakers of Other Languages; SFA Occupational Training; and other training.

2: Statistics showing SFA funded training starts for all learners reporting that they are claimants of JSA and ESA-WRAG, regardless of whether or not they were referred under skills conditionality, are available in the BIS Further Education and Skills Statistical First Release available at [http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr\\_current/](http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current/).

**Table 4: Skills Conditionality Demographic Breakdown for the period August 2011 to February 2012**

		Skills Conditionality Referrals			Skills Conditionality Starts		
		Initial Provider Interview (England)	Training <sup>4,5</sup> (England)	Next Step (England)	Initial Provider Interview (England)	Training <sup>4,5</sup> (England)	Next Step (England)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>85,470</b>	<b>94,410</b>	<b>151,840</b>	<b>25,760</b>	<b>25,570</b>	<b>53,810</b>
Gender	Male	57,380	60,650	94,530	16,920	15,880	33,360
	Female	28,090	33,770	57,310	8,840	9,680	20,450
	Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age Group <sup>1</sup>	Under 18	10	20	20	-	-	-
	18-24	28,630	28,070	44,970	7,560	7,240	14,100
	25-49	46,840	54,640	85,650	14,580	14,760	30,880
	50+	9,970	11,660	21,190	3,620	3,550	8,820
	Unknown	10	20	20	-	-	-
Disability <sup>2</sup>	Yes	17,550	17,880	33,710	5,590	5,120	11,950
	No	67,910	76,530	118,120	20,170	20,440	41,860
	Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ethnicity <sup>3</sup>	White	60,370	55,710	113,380	17,850	15,640	37,470
	Black or Black British	6,520	12,310	13,120	2,250	2,970	6,020
	Asian or asian British	7,570	11,120	9,930	2,190	2,830	4,190
	Mixed	1,960	2,940	3,570	560	700	1,300
	Other/Chinese	4,510	6,800	4,620	1,460	1,830	2,130
	Unknown	4,530	5,540	7,220	1,450	1,610	2,710
Group Level	Central England	12,360	18,510	30,780	2,810	4,172	9,913
	London and the Home Countries	25,050	42,670	52,520	9,230	10,770	23,480
	North East	12,570	11,380	15,820	3,520	3,790	3,660
	North West	27,500	14,320	32,510	8,030	5,120	11,140
	Southern England	7,990	7,530	20,210	2,170	1,710	5,630
	Scotland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-

**Notes:** Values are rounded to the nearest 10. Values less than 10 are suppressed and marked with a dash. Due to rounding totals may not be the sum of the individual cells. Months are calendar months. Skills Conditionality started from 1st August 2011 in England.

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## Annexe A: Publication Timetable

Publication	Date	Notes
1 <sup>st</sup>	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2012	The first official statistics publication covering Mandatory Work Activity.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> June 2012	The second publication covering Mandatory Work Activity and Skills Conditionality.
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> November 2012	The third publication.

Publication dates and future content will be confirmed on the UK Statistics Authority's Publication Hub ([www.statistics.gov.uk/hub](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub)) at least four weeks before publication date.

### Contact Details

For general enquiries regarding Mandatory Work Activity or Skills Conditionality please visit the DWP website: [www.dwp.gov.uk](http://www.dwp.gov.uk) or contact the DWP press office on 0203 267 5144.

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