

**Mandatory Work Activity Official Statistics**  
**Publication Date: 9:30am Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2012**

## Summary

This publication contains official statistics on Mandatory Work Activity up to and including November 2011. The key statistics are:

From May 2011 up to and including November 2011 there have been:

- **24,010** initial referrals to a Mandatory Work Activity placement

## Introduction

1. This publication contains statistics on Mandatory Work Activity covering the period from May 2011 to November 2011.
2. This currently includes statistics on initial referrals. 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. Mandatory Work Activity (MWA) was launched on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2011, enabling Jobseekers 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.

### **Technical Overview**

10. These statistics are derived using a combination of data from the Jobcentre Plus claimant management systems (the Labour Market System) and the Clients database.
11. 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:**

12. A referral to Mandatory Work Activity is defined as the date the claimant is referred to the placement, recorded within their adviser interview. This was input by the adviser to the Jobcentre Plus' Labour Market System.

### **Retrospection**

13. Retrospection is the time period allowed for additional or updated information to be incorporated into DWP's data systems.
14. 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.
15. Therefore to ensure that retrospection is fully captured, final statistics in this series will be published around 2-3 months after the reference period (e.g. final statistics for November 2011 (which are published in February 2012) are produced using December 2011 data, which was released in January 2012).

### **Revisions Policy**

16. 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, 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>

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

## **Rounding Policy**

17. 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 (In-Month)**

	<b>Mandatory Work Activity initial referrals<sup>1</sup> (GB)</b>
<b>Total</b>	24,010
May-2011	170
Jun-2011	1,390
Jul-2011	1,910
Aug-2011	2,590
Sep-2011	3,910
Oct-2011	5,940
Nov-2011	8,100

**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. Mandatory Work Activity started in May 2011.

1: Data Source - DWP LMS opportunities evaluation database December 2011.

**Table 2: Demographic Breakdown for the period May 2011 to November 2011**

		<b>Mandatory Work Activity initial referrals<sup>1</sup> (GB)</b>
<b>Total</b>		24,010
Gender	Male	17,970
	Female	6,030
	Unknown	-
Age Group	18-24	9,950
	25+	14,050
	Unknown	-
Disability <sup>2</sup>	Yes	5,270
	No	18,740
	Unknown	-
Ethnicity <sup>3</sup>	White	17,170
	Black or Black British	2,380
	Asian or Asian British	2,200
	Mixed	630
	Other/ Chinese	610
	Unknown	1,020
Group Level	Central England	5,610
	London and the Home Counties	6,360
	North East	3,360
	North West	2,550
	Scotland	2,210
	Southern England	2,490
	Wales	1,190
	Unknown	240

**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.

1: Data Source - DWP LMS opportunities and DWP Clients evaluation databases December 2011.

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

## Annexe A: Publication Timetable

Publication	Date	Notes
1 <sup>st</sup>	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2012	The first official statistics publication.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> May 2012	The second publication.
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> August 2012	The third publication.
4 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November 2012	The fourth 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 please visit the DWP website: [www.dwp.gov.uk](http://www.dwp.gov.uk) or contact the DWP press office on 0203 267 5144.

For enquiries relating to the statistics in this publication please contact:

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