

Six Month Offer Official Statistics
Publication Date: 9:30am Wednesday 13th April 2011

Summary

This publication contains official statistics on the Six Month Offer up to and including January 2011. **Annex A** provides provisional statistics for February 2011. The key statistics are:

From April 2009 up to and including January 2011:

- **45,970** Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) customers have used the Recruitment Subsidy
- **40,520** JSA customers have taken up the Self Employment Credit (six month eligibility)
- **7,500** JSA customers have taken up the Self Employment Credit (three month eligibility)
- **21,810** JSA customers have taken up a Volunteering placement
- **90,030** JSA customers have taken up a Work Focused Training placement

The provisional headline figures for February 2011 are:

- **1,550** JSA customers have taken up the Self Employment Credit (six month eligibility)
- **880** JSA customers have taken up the Self Employment Credit (three month eligibility)

Introduction

1. This publication contains statistics on the Six Month Offer (6MO) up to and including January 2011 with provisional figures for February 2011 (see **Annex A**). Figures for more recent months may be subject to small changes as more complete data becomes available.
2. This is a joint statistical publication between the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the Scottish Government.
3. Every effort has been made to ensure 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. This will be carried out in line with the Code of Practice. The format of this publication will be kept under review and any feedback or suggestions to improve this publication are welcomed.

4. Please note that this publication does not include statistics on Work Focused Training for Wales. The support on offer in Wales is different to that in England and Scotland and we are not able to separately identify 6MO Work Focused Training starts in Wales.

Policy Background

5. The Six Month Offer was announced in January 2009 as a support package for Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) customers reaching six months unemployment. The Six Month Offer was introduced nationally from the 6th April 2009.
6. There are four strands to the Six Month Offer: (1) Recruitment Subsidy, (2) Self Employment, (3) Volunteering and (4) Work Focused Training. A more detailed description of each of the strands can be found in **Annex B** of this document.
7. In Flexible New Deal Phase 2 areas the New Deal for Young People currently delivers support similar to the Self Employment and Work Focused Training strand of the Six Month Offer. It is expected that young people will use this support where it is available. From January 2010 the New Deal employment subsidy was withdrawn and the Six Month Recruitment Subsidy was available to all customers, including young people, in Phase 1 and Phase 2 areas.
8. From October 2009 elements of the Young Person Guarantee were introduced, including Future Jobs Fund, Routes into Work and Work Focused Training. The Young Person Guarantee applied nationally from 25th January 2010 and could affect take up of the Six Month Offer by young people.
9. From the 22nd February 2010, customers in receipt of JSA for three or more months became eligible for Self Employment Credit.
10. The Recruitment Subsidy was withdrawn from 30th June 2010. Employers had until 30th July in which to submit a claim for any employment starts before the 30th June 2010.

Technical Overview

11. These statistics are derived from a range of administrative data sources some of which have not been used to produce official statistics before. The process for producing these statistics will be kept under review and refined as appropriate as more data becomes available.
12. Please note that figures in previous releases have been updated in this release as more complete data has become available. Similarly, statistics in this publication may be updated in future publications.

Recruitment Subsidy:

13. The statistics include both the number of self marketed vouchers used and the number of customers recruited via the bulk billing arrangements.
14. The number of self marketed vouchers is based on DWP financial payments data and is reported against the month the payment was invoiced. The data is cleaned to remove erroneous records according to agreed processes.

15. The number of customers recruited through bulk billing is based on administrative records of eligibility checks conducted by Jobcentre Plus. A start is recorded under the month in which they started employment as declared by the employer.
16. There have been difficulties matching demographic information for self marketed voucher payments made in the North East region. As a result the “unknown” categories are larger than expected. We have taken action to address this issue but changes cannot be back dated.
17. Some residual Recruitment Subsidy starts are present post July 10 because DWP report by the date the payment is invoiced on their financial system which is not necessarily the employment start date. These starts are grouped together and shown under July 2010.

Self-Employment Credit:

18. The statistics count the number of first payments made by the month in which the first payment was invoiced.
19. Customers starting Self Employment Credit under the three to six month eligibility criteria are reported separately in the tables below.

Volunteering:

20. The number of volunteering placements is based on the individual customer level data supplied by the volunteering brokers.
21. Demographic breakdowns for the volunteering strand are produced by linking the data with the Labour Market System.
22. From October 2010, the Work Together element of Get Britain Working was introduced which could have affected take up of the Six Month Offer Volunteering.
23. The availability of Volunteering placements as part of the Six Month Offer ended in November 2010. A small number of residual Volunteering starts are present post November 10. These starts are grouped together and shown under December 2010.
24. Volunteering statistics are reported within this publication based on the final set of customer level data. Please note that small amounts of retrospection are present in some earlier months. There will be no further updates to volunteering statistics in these publications.

Work Focused Training:

25. The statistics on starts for Work Focused Training cover England and Scotland only. This publication includes statistics on the number of completions of Work Focused Training for England only. Data on Work Focused Training in England is sourced from training provider returns made through the Individualised Learner Record (ILR) database. The ILR holds data on all government-funded learners studying at a Further Education College or training provider.

26. Data on training in Scotland is sourced from Skills Development Scotland (Corporate Training System). This is similar to the ILR in England, in that it is a collection of data from training providers on learners and their learning participation.
27. Training providers may submit data on learner starts and completions some time after the actual event occurred. This means that data presented in this Release is subject to some retrospection, and figures will be revised upward in subsequent releases.
28. The numbers of Work Focused Training starts for Scotland are included in this publication, but the demographic breakdown of those starts and statistics on the number of completions are not included. This decision has been taken jointly by the Scottish Government and Skills Development Scotland in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics in relation to Principle 6: Proportionate Burden. Demographic breakdowns for Work Focused Training in Scotland were included in previous publications and can be found at: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/jsa/6month_offer/index.php?page=6month_of fer_arc
29. Training completion statistics are included within this publication. Currently, only data for England is available. Again the demographic breakdown of those completion statistics is not included. This decision has been taken in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics in relation to Principle 6: Proportionate Burden.
30. Statistics for some earlier months have been updated following the provision of more complete data from training providers. Additionally, a more robust methodology of assigning a learner that has completed their course to the correct month of completion has resulted in a small revision to the number of completions in some months, particularly at the beginning and end of the academic year (August and July).

Job Outcomes

31. Recruitment Subsidy and Self Employment Credit starts are by definition employment starts. As the final publication in this series is due in October 2011, we will not be reporting on job outcomes for the Volunteering and Work Focused Training strands.

Rounding Policy

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

Official Statistics

Table 1a: Take up of the Six Month Offer

	Recruitment Subsidy ¹ (GB)	Self Employment Credit (6 Month Eligibility) ² (GB)	Self Employment Credit (3 to 6 Month Eligibility) ² (GB)	Volunteering Placement Starts ³ (GB)	Work Focused Training Starts ⁴ (England and Scotland)
Total	45,970	40,520	7,500	21,810	90,030
Apr-09	460	30		10	640
May-09	1,510	190		140	250
Jun-09	2,650	460		360	740
Jul-09	2,770	790		720	1,290
Aug-09	3,000	980		980	3,080
Sep-09	4,180	1,380		1,320	4,650
Oct-09	3,370	1,590		1,410	4,690
Nov-09	3,470	1,720		1,590	6,360
Dec-09	1,620	1,100		1,170	2,620
Jan-10	3,080	1,620		1,370	6,250
Feb-10	3,490	2,230	10	1,730	6,310
Mar-10	4,530	3,060	220	1,690	7,170
Apr-10	4,010	3,180	530	1,320	5,580
May-10	3,520	2,930	630	1,240	5,660
Jun-10	3,880	3,410	670	1,360	5,790
Jul-10	420	2,820	770	1,310	4,390
Aug-10		2,680	740	1,140	4,300
Sep-10		2,560	780	1,120	4,990
Oct-10		2,310	840	980	4,000
Nov-10		2,360	910	840	4,970
Dec-10		1,170	450	20	1,510
Jan-11		1,940	940		4,790

Notes: Values less than 10 are suppressed and marked with a dash and any figures above 10 are rounded to the nearest 10. Therefore totals may not be the sum of the individual cells. Months are calendar months.

1: Source - DWP Financial Systems (Resource Management) using payments made up to the end of February 2011. Includes Initial payments for Self Marketed Vouchers and payments made under the Bulk Billing arrangement. The date recorded is the date the voucher was invoiced (Self Marketed Vouchers) or the date the customer is recorded as having started employment (Bulk Billing).

2: Source - DWP Financial Systems (Resource Management) using payments made up to the end of February 2011. Reports the number of initial payments against the date the first payment was invoiced. The three and six month eligibility starts are recorded against separate account codes on Resource Management.

3: Source – Placement starts as recorded by the Volunteering Brokers based on individual customer level data

4: Source – BIS Individual Learner Record system and Skill Development Scotland's Corporate Training System. Does not include starts in Wales

Table 1b: Work Focused Training Starts and Completions by Country

Work Focused Training Starts	Starts		Completions ¹
	England	Scotland	England
Total	85,700	4,330	76,790
Apr-09	470	170	
May-09	120	130	
Jun-09	590	150	
Jul-09	1,180	110	730
Aug-09	2,900	190	1,390
Sep-09	4,430	220	2,220
Oct-09	4,540	160	3,540
Nov-09	6,080	270	4,000
Dec-09	2,540	90	4,020
Jan-10	6,040	210	3,800
Feb-10	6,010	300	5,370
Mar-10	6,850	310	7,000
Apr-10	5,410	170	5,390
May-10	5,370	300	5,420
Jun-10	5,520	270	5,910
Jul-10	4,180	210	7,250
Aug-10	3,980	320	3,930
Sep-10	4,790	200	3,440
Oct-10	3,880	120	3,920
Nov-10	4,780	190	3,940
Dec-10	1,470	40	3,180
Jan-11	4,590	200	2,340

*Notes: Values less than 10 are suppressed and marked with a dash and any figures above 10 are rounded to the nearest 10. Therefore totals may not be the sum of the individual cells. Months are calendar months.
1: Completions information is only available for England.*

Table 2: Demographics for Starts for the period April 2009 to January 2011

		Recruitment Subsidy ^{1,2} (GB)	Self Employment Credit (Six Month Eligibility) ¹ (GB)	Volunteering (GB)	Work Focused Training Starts ^{3,4} (England only)
	Total	45,970	40,520	21,810	85,700
Gender	Male	29,250	32,830	12,840	65,400
	Female	10,040	7,000	8,110	20,310
	Unknown	6,700	690	870	-
Age Group	18-24	8,430	2,630	3,060	11,920
	25-49	24,080	27,990	13,250	58,670
	50+	6,770	9,190	4,630	15,100
	Unknown	6,710	700	880	-
	19+	38,610	39,710	20,530	85,410
Disability	Yes	6,800	6,420	6,220	9,180
	No	32,480	33,400	14,720	72,780
	Unknown	6,700	690	880	3,740
Ethnicity	White	33,600	34,870	16,030	68,410
	Black or Black British	1,100	1,130	1,620	7,070
	Asian or Asian British	1,570	1,100	1,170	4,270
	Mixed	380	380	350	1,960
	Other/ Chinese	510	400	430	1,810
	Unknown	8,810	2,630	2,220	2,190
Region	East Midlands	3,470	3,660	3,710	8,850
	East of England	2,500	3,040	1,110	7,350
	London	3,040	3,370	3,210	11,940
	North East	n/a ²	1,710	690	5,890
	North West	5,350	5,580	1,630	12,500
	Scotland	3,970	2,730	600	n/a ⁴
	South East	3,160	3,720	980	12,610
	South West	3,240	4,350	1,630	7,480
	Wales	2,820	2,590	690	n/a ⁴
	West Midlands	5,150	4,140	3,520	8,460
	Yorkshire & Humberside	4,870	4,470	2,940	10,230
Unknown	7,310	1,160	1,110	400	

Notes: Values less than 10 are suppressed and marked with a dash and any figures above 10 are rounded to the nearest 10. Therefore totals may not be the sum of the individual cells. Recruitment Subsidy, Self Employment Credit and Volunteering demographics are taken from Jobcentre Plus' Labour Market System (LMS). n/a = "not available".

1: Disability status is declared by the customer during a Jobcentre Plus interview. Customers recording their ethnicity status as "prefer not to say" are categorised as unknown. Some regions have greater NDYP coverage than others and therefore may appear to have proportionately fewer starts.

2: Most Recruitment Subsidy payments in the North East region do not contain a personal identifier to allow the payment to be linked with the Labour Market System to obtain demographics. Therefore most of the North East records appear under "unknown".

3: Disability status is according to the learners own assessment if a learner has a disability or disabilities. Customers recording their ethnicity as "prefer not to say" are categorised as unknown

4: Demographic breakdowns of figures for training starts in Scotland and Wales are not available.

Publication Timetable

Publication	Date	Notes
1 st	Wednesday 14 th October 2009	First Publication.
2 nd	Wednesday 20 th January 2010	Work Focused Training statistics published in February as an annex to the January publication.
	Wednesday 17 th February 2010	
3 rd	Wednesday 21 st April 2010	The first full publication to include all four strands.
4 th	Wednesday 14 th July 2010	Volunteering statistics based on Individual customer level data returned by the brokers.
5 th	Wednesday 13 th October 2010	
6 th	Wednesday 19 th January 2011	The first publication to include Work Focused Training completion statistics.
7 th	Wednesday 13 th April 2011	
8 th	Wednesday 13 th July 2011.	
9 th	Wednesday 12 th October 2011.	The final publication in the official statistics series.

Publication dates will be confirmed on the UK Statistics Authority's Publication Hub (www.statistics.gov.uk/hub) at least 4 weeks before publication date.

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Annex A: Provisional DWP Figures for February 2011

1. In addition to the main statistics, provisional statistics for February 2011 are included below. These statistics are expected to increase in the next publication due to the time it takes for further starts to be recorded on the systems.
2. The latest data shows **1,550** JSA customers took up the Self Employment Credit (six month eligibility) and **880** JSA customers took up the Self Employment Credit (three month eligibility) in February 2010. The Recruitment Subsidy ended in June 2010 so provisional figures for Recruitment Subsidy are no longer reported in this publication.
3. The table below shows how the provisional figures for November 2010 given in the previous publication (January 2011) compare to the figures in this publication (April 2011).

	Provisional November 2010 figures given in January 2011 publication	November 2010 figures given in April 2011 publication	Absolute Increase	Percentage Increase
Self Employment Credit (six month eligibility)	1,700	2,360	660	38.8%
Self Employment Credit (three month eligibility)	650	910	260	40.0%

Annex B: Further Details on the Strands

Recruitment Subsidy:

1. The recruitment subsidy is a payment to employers for recruiting customers who have been claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) for six months, where the job is for at least 16 hours per week and is expected to last at least 26 weeks. It is delivered in two ways;
 - ***Self Marketed Voucher:*** Individual customers are given a voucher when they reach six months unemployed to present to employers at interviews. If the employer recruits the customer, the employer submits the voucher to DWP and receives a £500 payment. If the customer does not return to claim benefit within 26 weeks the employer will receive a further £500 payment.
 - ***Bulk Billing:*** Involves working directly with employers who recruit in bulk. Under this arrangement the employer receives a £1000 subsidy for every six month plus unemployed customer they recruit.

Self Employment:

2. Eligible Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) customers can receive a Self-Employment Credit (SEC) worth £50 per week for up to 16 weeks once they leave benefit to help with start-up costs. Jobcentre Plus direct customers to expert enterprise help from Business Link (England), Business Gateway and Training for Work (Scotland) and Flexible Support for Business (Wales) who provide tailored information, advice and practical support to customers interested in becoming self-employed or starting a business.
3. Eligibility for SEC is not dependent upon the customer having engaged with the 'expert partner' and all claims have to be submitted within five weeks of their JSA claim ending.
4. From 22nd February 2010 the eligibility for the Self Employment support was extended to include customers with JSA claims over three months.

Volunteering:

5. Customers with an interest in volunteering to develop their work skills are directed to a broker to find and arrange a suitable volunteering placement.

Work Focused Training

6. The Work Focused Training strand of the Six Month Offer is led and funded by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills in England, the Scottish Government in Scotland and the Welsh Assembly Government in Wales. It offers training to Jobseeker's Allowance customers who would benefit from significant up-skilling or re-skilling in order to re-enter the local job market.
7. In England, as part of this package of enhanced support, there are 75,000 new training places on offer to jobseekers who reach the six month point on Jobseeker's Allowance who would benefit from significant up-skilling or re-skilling in order to re-

enter the local job market. Training, commissioned by the Skills Funding Agency and delivered through the Further Education sector, is focused to meet both the individual's work aspirations and employer demand, taking into account the needs of the local job market. Training will be at a range of levels, from Skills for Life to level 3 depending on need. Training can be part-time or up to eight weeks full-time provision. It must be relevant to the local labour market, be a significant uplift in skills, and allow people to progress to a full qualification. Full-time provision is supported by a Training Allowance.

8. In Scotland, the training for the Six Month Offer is provided through Training for Work, the national vocational training programme for the unemployed. Training is demand led, aimed at specific job opportunities and can vary in length from a week to a year. Support for those wishing to be self employed is also available through this programme. Training for Work can be accessed by all people seeking work who have been unemployed for three months or more. Day one access is available to those who are disadvantaged in the labour market, such as lone parents, or those with disabilities.
9. The support offered in Wales is different from both England and Scotland. The training element of the Six Month Offer is delivered by the Welsh Assembly Government's existing Skill Build programme, which continues to offer pre-employment training to Jobseeker's Allowance customers from their first day of unemployment, with additional funding for 2009-10 to meet rising demand. It has not been possible to separately identify 6MO Work Focused Training starts joining the Skill Build programme from overall Skill Build starts.