

**Six Month Offer Official Statistics**

**Publication Date:**  
**9:30am Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2010**

**Summary**

This publication contains official statistics on the Six Month Offer up to and including April 2010. **Annex A provides provisional statistics for May 2010.** The key statistics are:

From April 2009 up to and including April 2010:

- **34,730** JSA customers have used the Recruitment Subsidy
- **18,110** JSA customers have taken up the Self Employment Credit (six month eligibility)
- **13,550** JSA customers have taken up a Volunteering placement
- **48,430** JSA customers have taken up a Work Focused Training placement

The provisional headline figures for May 2010 are:

- **2,320** JSA customers have used the Recruitment Subsidy
- **2,230** JSA customers have taken up the Self Employment Credit (six month eligibility)

## Introduction

1. This publication contains statistics on the Six Month Offer (6MO) up to and including April 2010 with provisional figures for May 2010 (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), the Scottish Government and the Welsh Assembly 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 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 25<sup>th</sup> January and could affect take up of the Six Month Offer by young people.
9. From the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2010, customers in receipt of JSA for three or more months became eligible for Self Employment Credit instead of the usual six or more months.

## Technical Overview

10. 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.
11. 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:***

12. The statistics include both the number of self marketed vouchers used and the number of customers recruited via the bulk billing arrangements.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. 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. We will continue to monitor progress.

### ***Self-Employment Credit:***

16. The statistics count the number of first payments made by the month in which the first payment was invoiced.
17. Customers starting Self Employment Credit under the three to six month eligibility criteria are reported separately in the tables below. Extra care should be taken when using the three month eligibility figures as the policy is relatively new when compared to the other strands.

### ***Volunteering:***

18. This publication now makes use of the individual customer level data supplied by the volunteering brokers. The individual customer level data is the preferred data source because it allows us to cross check with our own data systems and produce demographic breakdowns. Previous publications have included figures from the management information summary reports for this strand because they were of sufficient quality and were also available at the time of the first publication.
19. As a result of using individual customer level data, previous monthly figures have been revised to provide a consistent time series and have therefore changed slightly. **Annex C** provides an assessment of the differences between the individual level data and the management information summary reports.

20. Demographic breakdowns for the volunteering strand which are produced by linking the data with the Labour Market System. Provider records which could not be successfully linked the data from the Labour Market System are recorded as unknown in the tables below.

### ***Work Focused Training:***

21. The Work Focused Training statistics cover England and Scotland 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.
22. 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.
23. Training providers may submit data on learner starts some time after the actual start occurred. This means that data presented in this Release is subject to some retrospection, and figures will be revised upward in subsequent releases.
24. Work Focused Training Demographics for Scotland will not be published in future publications. 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. The number of Work Focused Training starts will continue to be published. Any concerns regarding the removal of the Work Focused Training Demographics should be sent to [labour-market.statistics@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:labour-market.statistics@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

### **Job Outcomes**

25. Recruitment Subsidy and Self Employment Credit starts are by definition employment starts. We are investigating the feasibility of reporting job outcomes for the Volunteering and Work Focused Training strands by using the DWP longitudinal study database.

### **Rounding Policy**

26. 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 1: Take up of the Six Month Offer**

	Recruitment Subsidy <sup>1</sup>	Self Employment Credit (6 Month Eligibility) <sup>2</sup>	Self Employment Credit (3 to 6 Month Eligibility) <sup>2</sup>	Volunteering Placement Starts <sup>3</sup>	Work Focused Training Starts <sup>4</sup>
<b>Total</b>	34,730	18,110	230	13,550	48,430
Apr 2009	450	30		10	640
May 2009	1,500	190		140	250
Jun 2009	2,620	460		370	740
Jul 2009	2,730	780		720	1,290
Aug 2009	2,900	970		980	3,100
Sep 2009	3,960	1,360		1,330	4,680
Oct 2009	2,970	1,550		1,410	4,690
Nov 2009	2,400	1,190		1,580	6,340
Dec 2009	1,260	480		1,120	2,570
Jan 2010	2,990	2,770		1,360	6,190
Feb 2010	3,340	2,210	-	1,720	6,250
Mar 2010	4,140	3,030	10	1,590	6,880
Apr 2010	3,460	3,090	220	1,220	4,830

**Notes:** Figures are for Great Britain (except for Work Focused Training starts which exclude Wales). 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 June 2010. 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 June 2010. 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 2a: Demographics for Starts for the period April 2009 to April 2010**

		Recruitment Subsidy <sup>1,2</sup>	Self Employment Credit (Six Month Eligibility) <sup>1</sup>	Volunteering	Work Focused Training Starts <sup>3,4</sup>
<b>Total</b>		34,730	18,110	13,550	48,430
Gender	Male	22,910	15,000	8,360	36,830
	Female	7,880	2,850	4,640	11,590
	Unknown	3,950	270	550	-
Age Group	Under 25	6,850	1,010	2,300	7,290
	25-49	18,620	12,630	7,820	32,680
	50+	5,300	4,200	2,880	8,460
	Unknown	3,960	270	560	-
Disability	Yes	5,210	2,890	3,780	4,820
	No	25,580	14,950	9,220	41,170
	Unknown	3,950	270	550	2,440
Ethnicity	White	26,260	15,780	10,230	38,980
	Black or Black British	830	390	860	3,650
	Asian or Asian British	1,200	420	580	2,120
	Mixed	300	170	200	990
	Other/ Chinese	390	150	240	1,030
	Unknown	5,750	1,210	1,440	1,670
Region	East Midlands	2,880	1,920	2,650	5,330
	East of England	2,060	1,250	600	3,430
	London	2,280	1,330	1,770	6,740
	North East	n/a <sup>2</sup>	820	380	3,020
	North West	3,910	2,260	780	6,830
	Scotland	2,960	1,210	390	2,420
	South East	2,610	1,660	520	6,670
	South West	2,460	2,080	1,020	3,870
	Wales	2,300	1,300	450	n/a <sup>4</sup>
	West Midlands	4,230	1,950	2,420	4,450
	Yorkshire & Humberside	4,040	1,950	1,890	5,380
	Unknown	5,020 <sup>2</sup>	410	680	280

**Notes:** Figures are for Great Britain (except for Work Focused Training starts which exclude Wales) for the period April 2009 to April 2010 inclusive.

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: Figures for Work Focused Training starts in Wales are not available

**Table 2b: Work Focused Training Demographics by Country**

		England	Scotland	Total
<b>Total</b>		46,000	2,420	48,430
Gender	Male	35,230	1,610	36,830
	Female	10,780	820	11,590
	Unknown	-	-	-
Age Group	Under 25	6,960	330	7,290
	25-49	30,950	1,730	32,680
	50+	8,090	360	8,460
	Unknown	-	-	-
	19+	45,750	n/a	n/a
Disability <sup>1</sup>	Yes	4,760	60	4,820
	No	38,870	2,290	41,170
	Unknown	2,370	70	2,440
Ethnicity <sup>2</sup>	White	36,720	2,250	38,980
	Black or Black British	3,610	40	3,650
	Asian or Asian British	2,100	20	2,120
	Mixed	970	20	990
	Other/ Chinese	1,020	-	1,030
	Unknown	1,580	80	1,670
Month	Apr 2009	470	170	640
	May 2009	120	130	250
	Jun 2009	590	150	740
	Jul 2009	1,180	110	1,290
	Aug 2009	2,910	190	3,100
	Sep 2009	4,460	220	4,680
	Oct 2009	4,530	160	4,690
	Nov 2009	6,070	270	6,340
	Dec 2009	2,480	90	2,570
	Jan 2010	5,980	210	6,190
	Feb 2010	5,950	300	6,250
	Mar 2010	6,560	310	6,880
	Apr 2010	4,710	110	4,830

**Notes:** Figures are the period April 2009 to April 2010 inclusive.

Values less than 10 are suppressed and marked with a dash and any figures above 10 are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not be the sum of the individual cells due to rounding.

1: Disability status is according to the learners own assessment if a learner has a disability or disabilities.

2: Customers recording their ethnicity status as "prefer not to say" are categorised as unknown

## Publication Timetable

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

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

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## Annex A: Provisional DWP Figures for May 2010

1. In addition to the main statistics, provisional statistics for May 2010 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 gives the following starts for May 2010:
  - **2,320** JSA customers have used the Recruitment Subsidy;
  - **2,230** JSA customers have taken up the Self Employment Credit (six month eligibility);
3. The table below shows how the provisional figures for February 2010 given in the previous publication (April 2010) compare to the figures in this publication (July 2010).

	Provisional February 2010 figures given in April 2010 publication	February 2010 figures given in July 2010 publication	Absolute Increase	Percentage Increase
Recruitment Subsidy	2,550	3,340	790	31%
Self Employment Credit	2,130	2,210	80	4%

4. Provisional statistics for the Volunteering strand are not available due to the change in data source.

## 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 instead of the usual six 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.

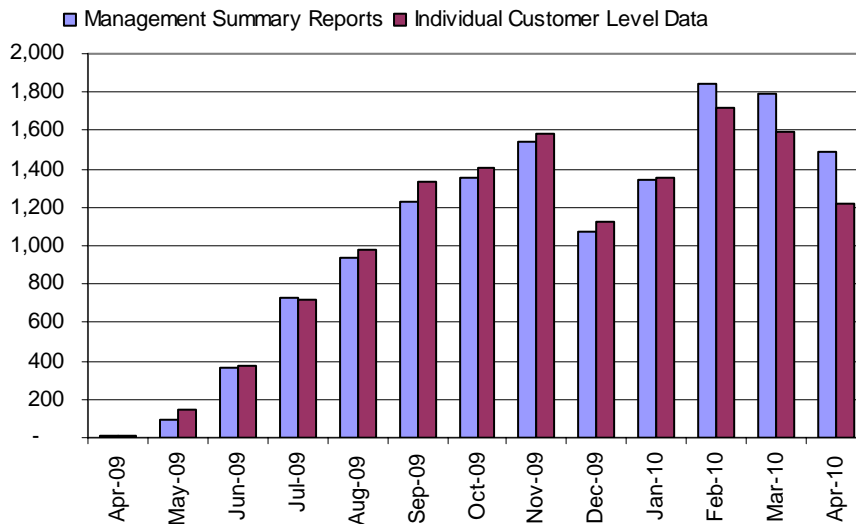
### **Work Focused Training**

6. The Work Focused Training strand of the Six Month Offer is led and funded by BIS 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.

## Annex C: Comparison of Volunteering Strand Data Sources

1. Previous publications of the Six Month Offer official statistics used provider's management information summary reports to provide volunteering starts. These summary reports were only intended as an interim measure until individual customer level data was available. Technical issues caused delays in obtaining and using the individual customer level data, but it has now been quality assured and deemed fit for publication.
2. The monthly figures reported in previous publications have been revised in this publication to ensure a consistent time series. The revisions have caused minor changes - for the period April 2009 to April 2010 (inclusive), the individual customer level data gives a cumulative total of 13,550 starts and the management information summary reports gives a cumulative total of 13,790 – a difference of 240. The graph below shows the difference by month.



3. Generally the two data sources are very similar. In the earlier months, individual customer level data show more starts, but the trend is reversed for the last three months which suggests retrospective inputting issues. We will continue to monitor the differences.