



Department  
for Work &  
Pensions

# Ad hoc analysis of referrals, starts, completers and achievers to Skills for Work (Wales)

November 2013

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## Background

1. This publication contains statistics on Skills for Work (Wales) covering the period from October 2012 to August 2013.
2. These figures are a subset of the Skills Conditionality statistics released in the latest publication of the 'Mandatory Programmes Official Statistics'. The latest edition of the 'Mandatory Programmes Official Statistics' can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pre-work-programme-support-mandatory-programmes-november-2013>

## Policy description

3. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) funded Skills for Work (Wales) programme commenced in October 2012. It was set up in order to provide skills training for claimants in Wales whose lack of ESOL or Essential skills is a barrier to finding work. Claimants are mandated to attend.
4. The Skills for Work (Wales) programme is aimed at improving engagement and retention to training, certification, benefit off-flows and progression into further training or employment.
5. Those referred to the programme will be identified as requiring either Essential Skills (literacy/numeracy) or learning for English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). The provider is required to support the main barrier identified in the referral rather than a combination of Essential Skills and ESOL.
6. The Skills for Work (Wales) programme is intended to support claimants on Jobseekers' Allowance (JSA) and Employment and Support Allowance (Work-Related Activity Group) (ESA WRAG), helping them to progress towards and achieve an appropriate Entry Level<sup>1</sup> qualification (minimum of Entry Level 1). The primary target groups are therefore those claimants who are below Entry Level 3 at the point of referral.

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<sup>1</sup> Entry level is the first level of qualifications on all four main frameworks in England, Wales and Northern Ireland: National Qualifications Framework (NQF), Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) in England and Northern Ireland, Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales (CQFW) in Wales and the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ). They are offered in Maths and English as well as vocational subjects. These qualifications are offered at three levels: Entry Level 1, Entry Level 2 and Entry Level 3. A learner can then progress from Entry level 3 on to Level 1 qualifications.

## Results

7. This publication contains the statistics on Skills for Work (Wales) training referrals, starts, completers and achievers over the period October 2012 up to and including August 2013.

### Referrals and starts

**Table 1: Referrals and Starts to Skills for Work (Wales) (October 2012 to August 2013)**

	Referrals	Starts
Oct-12	80	60
Nov-12	580	250
Dec-12	300	150
Jan-13	430	200
Feb-13	430	240
Mar-13	470	250
Apr-13	530	260
May-13	950	430
Jun-13	1,160	420
Jul-13	1,510	740
Aug-13	1,140	640
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,570</b>	<b>3,620</b>

Source: DWP LMS Opportunities evaluation and Client Databases September 2013

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.

**Table 2: Referrals and Starts to Skills for Work (Wales) by Jobcentre Plus District (October 2012 to August 2013)**

Jobcentre Plus District	Referrals	Starts
North & Mid Wales	1,650	770
South East Wales	3,620	1,610
South West Wales	2,300	1,240
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,570</b>	<b>3,620</b>

Source: DWP LMS Opportunities evaluation and Client Databases September 2013

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.

## Skills for Work (Wales) – November 2013

**Table 3: Demographic Information on referrals to Skills for Work (Wales) (October 2012 to August 2013)**

		Referrals	Starts
	<b>Total</b>	7,570	3,620
Gender	Male	5,120	2,400
	Female	2,450	1,220
Age Group	Under 18	-	-
	18-24	2,470	990
	25-49	3,970	2,000
	50+	1,120	630
Disability <sup>1</sup>	Yes	1,970	990
	No	5,600	2,630
	Unknown	-	-
Ethnicity <sup>2</sup>	White	6,250	2,870
	Black or Black British	130	80
	Asian or Asian British	200	120
	Mixed	160	90
	Other/Chinese	380	220
	Unknown	440	250

Source: DWP LMS Opportunities evaluation and Client Databases September 2013

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.

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

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

**Table 4: Point in claim referred to Skills for Work (Wales) (October 2012 to August 2013)**

Point in claim	0-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	12+ months	Total
Oct-12	40	20	20	-	-	80
Nov-12	310	150	80	40	10	580
Dec-12	180	60	40	20	-	300
Jan-13	260	100	50	20	10	430
Feb-13	270	90	50	20	-	430
Mar-13	310	100	50	20	10	470
Apr-13	330	110	60	20	10	530
May-13	560	200	130	50	10	950
Jun-13	570	210	150	60	170	1,160
Jul-13	690	170	120	60	470	1,510
Aug-13	500	140	90	60	340	1,140
<b>Total</b>	4,000	1,340	820	370	1,030	7,570

## Skills for Work (Wales) – November 2013

Source: DWP LMS Opportunities evaluation and Client Databases September 2013

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.

1: Point of claim is defined as the difference between the referral date and the start of the JSA spell

## Outcomes

**Table 5: Volumes and rates of Skills for Work (Wales) (October 2012 to August 2013)**

	Referrals	Starts	Attendance rate - Starts/Referrals (%)	Completers	Achievers	Achievers/Completers (%)
Oct-12	80	10	8%	0	0	-
Nov-12	580	320	56%	230	200	84%
Dec-12	300	150	51%	100	90	92%
Jan-13	430	230	53%	150	120	82%
Feb-13	430	250	58%	140	130	92%
Mar-13	470	270	57%	140	130	96%
Apr-13	530	300	56%	140	130	93%
May-13	950	470	50%	220	210	93%
Jun-13	1,160	520	45%	210	200	92%
Jul-13	1,510	750	49%	240	230	96%
Aug-13	1,140	430	38%	70	60	90%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,570</b>	<b>3,680</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>1,640</b>	<b>1,490</b>	<b>91%</b>

Source: DWP LMS Opportunities evaluation September 2013 and PraP datasets October 2013

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.

1: A completer is defined as anyone who has completed the programme. An achiever is someone who completed the course and obtained a certificate (qualification).

2: For a provider to be paid, a qualification has to be attained (achiever). The figures for achievers will therefore represent those where a payment has been or will be made to the provider. Due to the time lags in payments, those classified as completers may also have achieved but it may not show up on the PraP system yet.

3: The data is presented on a cohort basis, based on the referral month. For example, if someone was referred in November, the start, completion, and achievers information will be inputted under the November heading, even if they started in December and achieved in January. Therefore the starts figures presented in Table 5 will differ to starts in Table 1.

**Table 6: Off-flows and movement into further training**

<b>% of all completers ...</b>	
who off-flowed benefit by week 4	17%
who off-flowed benefit by week 8	22%
who off-flowed benefit by week 13	27%
who entered further training	1%

## Skills for Work (Wales) – November 2013

Source: DWP LMS Opportunities evaluation September 2013, National Benefits Database June 2013 and PraP datasets October 2013

1: Off-flow proportions are the percentage of completers off benefit 4, 8 and 13 weeks after the completion date. The data includes all JSA, ESA (WRAG) and Training Allowance claims; claimants may return to these benefits after previously off-flowing.

3: Referrals to further training are defined as any referrals to the Welsh Government's learning programme, Steps to Employment (STEP), recorded on the LMS. Please note, referrals and starts to STEP are under-recorded on LMS and therefore volumes are likely to be underestimated and should be treated with caution.

# Technical Overview

## Data sources

8. The analysis uses a range of datasets, including the Labour Market System (LMS) and the Clients database, as well as the National Benefits Database (NBD) and Provider Referrals and Payments (PraP). 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.

## Methodology

9. A referral to Skills for Work (Wales) is defined as the date the claimant is referred to the programme, recorded within their adviser interview. This was inputted by the adviser to the Jobcentre Plus' Labour Market System (LMS). A start to Skills for Work (Wales) is defined as the first date the claimant commenced training on the programme. The number of starts was based on the individual claimant level data entered by the provider, Working Links, onto the Provider Referrals and Payments (PraP) system, which was then pulled through onto the LMS. Providers may submit data on starts some time after the actual event occurred.
10. Skills for Work (Wales) is being run on a payment by results model. For a provider to be paid, a qualification has to be attained. Using the Provider Referrals and Payments (PraP) dataset, information on completion and achievement can be seen. This dataset is currently the only dataset to contain this information. A completer is defined as anyone who has completed the programme. An achiever is someone who completed the course and obtained a certificate (qualification).
11. To look at benefit outcomes of completers, the National Benefits Database, one of DWP's administrative data source, has been used. This dataset is limited for destination outcomes due to time lags between the reference period and availability of the dataset for analysis. Off-flows have been presented on a cohort basis. Referrals to further training are defined as any referrals to the Welsh Government's learning programme Steps to Employment (STEP) recorded on the LMS. Please note, referrals and starts to STEP are not always recorded on LMS and therefore volumes are likely to be underestimated.

## Skills for Work (Wales) – November 2013

12. These statistics are intended as a further breakdown of the Skills Conditionality statistics released in the latest publication of the 'Mandatory Programmes Official Statistics'. Therefore the methodology used to produce the figures for Skills for Work (Wales) is the same methodology used to produce the Official Statistics on Skills Conditionality. The latest edition of the 'Mandatory Programmes Official Statistics' can be found here:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pre-work-programme-support-mandatory-programmes-november-2013>

### Retrospection

13. All data used is drawn from administrative sources, which takes time to process and collate. There are therefore lags between the reference period and availability of the dataset for analysis. Labour Market System (LMS) datasets are produced a month in arrears i.e. September 2013 data was available at the end of October 2013. Generally, for any given month's worth of LMS data, significant retrospection can be seen for a further month. 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 August 2013 (which are published in November 2013) are produced using September 2013 data, which was released in October 2013).
14. Information on the Provider Referrals and Payments (PraP) dataset may be submitted, corrected or resubmitted some time after the event occurred, for example payment information being received late or subsequently changed or removed. This means data presented on completers and achievers is subject to some retrospection and figures may be revised in subsequent releases. It is also worth remembering that this is an 8 week programme. Those referred in July and August would not be expected to complete until September or October. The number of completions as a result will be much lower due to the time lags in the data. Over time the numbers, with retrospection are likely to increase.

### Rounding Policy

15. 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.

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