



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Mandatory Programmes Official Statistics

Publication date: 9:30am Thursday 29th May 2014

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Summary

- This publication contains official statistics on Mandatory Work Activity and Skills Conditionality up to and including February 2014.
- Mandatory Work Activity (MWA) is a short placement of work-related activity intended to help people on Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) gain skills that are useful for work. It involves a four week role which benefits the local community.
- Between May 2011 and February 2014, 220,010 referrals were made to Mandatory Work Activity.
- During this period, there were 89,860 starts on a Mandatory Work Activity placement.
- Since early 2013, there has been a reduction in monthly referrals to MWA. Monthly starts have remained fairly constant, suggesting that a higher proportion of referrals have resulted in starts. Between March 2013 and February 2014, there were 73,200 referrals, a fall of 23,970 compared to the previous year. Between March 2013 and February 2014 there were 36,020 starts, similar to the 36,960 starts from the previous year.
- Skills Conditionality (SC) is a policy that mandates claimants receiving Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance (work-related activity group) to undertake activity to address an identified skills need which will aid their movement into work.
- Between August 2011 and February 2014 there have been:
 - 607,160 Skills Conditionality initial provider interview referrals
 - 337,050 Skills Conditionality initial provider interview starts
 - 719,030 Skills Conditionality training referrals
 - 377,630 Skills Conditionality training starts
 - 726,280 Skills Conditionality National Career Service referrals
 - 431,260 Skills Conditionality National Career Service starts
- The statistical tables and graphs showing trends in starts and referrals data are also available in a separate Excel file to allow users to engage with and reuse the data. This file will also include a table with a GOR (Government Offices for the Regions) geographical breakdown.
- Future editions of this publication will be published in line with the timetable shown in **Annex A**. Details regarding future content will be announced via the UK Statistics Authority publication hub.

Statistical tables

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

	Mandatory Work Activity referrals (GB)	Mandatory Work Activity starts (GB)
Total	220,010	89,860
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	1,930
Jan-2012	10,300	3,340
Feb-2012	9,690	3,000
Mar-2012	7,770	3,050
Apr-2012	5,330	2,440
May-2012	6,560	2,820
Jun-2012	6,300	2,270
Jul-2012	7,850	2,940
Aug-2012	7,030	2,800
Sep-2012	7,790	2,800
Oct-2012	9,500	3,730
Nov-2012	9,990	3,580
Dec-2012	7,100	2,410
Jan-2013	11,720	4,030
Feb-2013	10,250	4,090
Mar-2013	9,140	3,540
Apr-2013	7,380	4,020
May-2013	6,540	3,320
Jun-2013	5,860	2,810
Jul-2013	7,420	3,510
Aug-2013	6,080	3,070
Sep-2013	5,480	3,000
Oct-2013	6,180	2,980
Nov-2013	5,630	2,850
Dec-2013	2,490	1,720
Jan-2014	6,050	2,550
Feb-2014	4,960	2,670

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, Feb-2012 and Mar-2012 therefore include referrals and starts to the 'MWA Trailblazer'.

Data Source - DWP LMS opportunities evaluation database March 2014.

Table 2: Mandatory Work Activity Demographic Breakdown for the period May 2011 to February 2014

		Mandatory Work Activity referrals (GB)	Mandatory Work Activity starts (GB)
	Total	220,010	89,860
Gender	Male	160,370	62,280
	Female	59,640	27,580
	Unknown	-	-
Age Group	<18	10	-
	18-24	87,590	31,770
	25-49	110,300	46,400
	50+	22,100	11,680
	Unknown	20	10
Disability ¹	Yes	49,910	21,850
	No	170,100	68,010
	Unknown	10	-
Ethnicity ²	White	164,510	70,030
	Black or Black British	17,850	6,760
	Asian or Asian British	18,850	5,910
	Mixed	5,660	1,850
	Other/ Chinese	5,410	1,980
	Unknown	7,730	3,330
Jobcentre Plus Group	Central England	48,110	19,950
	London and the Home Counties	46,300	19,300
	North East	31,680	14,330
	North West	30,010	11,180
	Scotland	17,670	7,690
	Southern England	30,070	11,710
	Wales	11,740	4,530
	Unknown	4,430	1,170

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 2014.

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

2: 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 (GB) ¹	National Careers Service (England)	Initial Provider Interview (England)	Training (GB) ¹	National Careers Service (England)
Total	607,160	719,030	726,280	337,050	377,630	431,260
Aug-11	3,100	6,660	19,200	550	650	4,270
Sep-11	8,370	9,550	20,300	2,290	2,660	6,890
Oct-11	10,790	11,880	19,490	3,330	3,510	7,820
Nov-11	13,340	15,620	20,980	4,460	4,850	8,860
Dec-11	9,080	10,350	14,510	2,950	2,260	6,460
Jan-12	16,910	15,210	20,650	6,150	6,560	8,590
Feb-12	18,410	15,730	19,800	6,850	6,100	8,980
Mar-12	18,980	16,780	19,120	7,260	5,850	8,830
Apr-12	14,560	14,030	15,500	6,400	6,830	7,700
May-12	18,110	17,480	19,060	7,900	6,990	10,060
Jun-12	13,950	13,820	17,210	6,130	6,660	8,880
Jul-12	17,910	15,750	22,760	7,940	7,200	12,320
Aug-12	17,490	14,670	21,520	8,130	6,490	13,170
Sep-12	18,820	19,540	22,410	9,790	10,910	12,590
Oct-12	23,720	23,970	26,990	11,630	12,280	15,870
Nov-12	22,560	24,140	25,830	12,330	12,980	16,410
Dec-12	14,700	17,100	16,700	8,090	7,990	11,070
Jan-13	27,330	30,850	29,280	15,120	17,100	17,090
Feb-13	24,940	29,190	25,470	15,530	16,810	17,330
Mar-13	23,450	28,190	22,920	14,950	15,340	15,850
Apr-13	24,130	29,620	23,760	15,060	18,380	16,440
May-13	22,560	29,950	22,430	14,340	15,980	16,220
Jun-13	20,870	27,050	24,450	13,560	15,870	15,950
Jul-13	26,820	34,730	34,460	17,500	19,940	22,550
Aug-13	22,020	28,930	27,840	13,900	15,130	20,410
Sep-13	25,170	35,710	29,250	18,160	25,040	20,250
Oct-13	28,440	41,190	31,840	19,450	22,760	22,690
Nov-13	25,800	37,720	29,540	18,190	23,830	20,930
Dec-13	17,770	24,690	21,500	11,890	13,430	15,660
Jan-14	30,530	42,660	33,080	19,560	25,270	21,750
Feb-14	26,530	36,280	28,440	17,660	22,000	19,370

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, from 25th June 2012 in Scotland for training provision only, and from October 2012 in Wales for training provision only. In Wales, Skills Conditionality is Skills for Work (Wales) only.

For more information on Skills Conditionality and the three referral routes, please see the 'Skills Conditionality Policy Description' on page 8.

Data Source - DWP LMS opportunities evaluation database March 2014.

1: Figures include Skills Funding Agency (SFA) Basic Skills Training; SFA English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL); SFA Occupational Training; Other Training; and Skills for Work (Wales)

Table 4: Skills Conditionality Demographic Breakdown for the period August 2011 to February 2014.

		Skills Conditionality REFERRALS			Skills Conditionality STARTS		
		Initial Provider Interview (England)	Training (GB) ³	National Careers Service (England)	Initial Provider Interview (England)	Training (GB) ³	National Careers Service (England)
	Total	607,160	719,030	726,280	337,050	377,630	431,260
Gender	Male	398,500	469,560	451,250	217,130	241,560	263,410
	Female	208,660	249,480	275,030	119,920	136,080	167,850
	Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age Group	Under 18	100	120	60	40	40	30
	18-24	172,950	195,880	216,980	84,470	93,330	117,550
	25-49	339,520	401,340	394,980	191,580	211,580	236,830
	50+	94,570	121,680	114,270	60,950	72,670	76,860
	Unknown	20	20	-	-	10	-
Disability ¹	Yes	138,750	159,600	164,230	80,430	87,410	99,330
	No	468,400	559,420	562,040	256,610	290,220	331,930
	Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ethnicity ²	White	450,010	516,070	536,890	249,890	275,630	313,070
	Black or Black British	38,600	60,650	66,180	20,910	28,240	41,480
	Asian or Asian British	47,630	56,500	49,630	26,060	28,590	31,000
	Mixed	13,140	16,460	17,300	6,870	7,740	9,970
	Other/Chinese	29,810	34,660	22,270	17,120	18,510	14,650
	Unknown	27,980	34,690	34,010	16,200	18,930	21,090
Jobcentre Plus Group	Central England	154,800	145,070	123,470	87,090	76,120	70,170
	London and the Home Counties	126,790	216,210	259,330	68,550	101,480	165,680
	North East	112,500	164,130	96,150	63,210	93,740	49,380
	North West	138,370	104,950	130,930	76,340	60,880	77,870
	Southern England	74,700	73,270	116,410	41,860	36,700	68,170
	Scotland	-	2,960	-	-	1,970	-
	Wales	-	12,450	-	-	6,740	-

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 and from 25th June 2012 in Scotland for Training Provision only and from October 2012 in Wales for training provision only. In Wales, Skills Conditionality is Skills for Work (Wales) only.

Data Source - DWP LMS opportunities evaluation database March 2014.

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

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

3: Figures include Skills Funding Agency (SFA) Basic Skills Training; SFA English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL); SFA Occupational Training; Other training; and Skills for Work (Wales).

Table 5: Skills Conditionality Training Referrals and Starts (In-Month)

	Skills Conditionality Training REFERRALS					Skills Conditionality STARTS				
	Occu- pational Training	Basic Skills Training	ESOL	Other	Skills for Work ¹	Occu- pational Training	Basic Skills Training	ESOL	Other	Skills for Work ¹
Total	404,010	119,320	87,710	95,560	12,450	207,960	65,620	50,190	47,120	6,740
Aug-11	4,200	610	1,530	320	N/A	350	70	190	40	N/A
Sep-11	5,510	950	2,440	650	N/A	1,300	260	1,000	100	N/A
Oct-11	7,210	1,420	2,210	1,040	N/A	2,020	490	790	220	N/A
Nov-11	8,830	2,760	2,210	1,820	N/A	2,870	850	740	400	N/A
Dec-11	5,590	1,850	1,760	1,150	N/A	1,230	520	300	210	N/A
Jan-12	8,760	2,470	2,550	1,430	N/A	3,440	1,290	1,440	390	N/A
Feb-12	9,280	2,480	2,630	1,340	N/A	3,480	1,000	1,210	420	N/A
Mar-12	9,800	2,620	2,980	1,390	N/A	3,310	1,070	1,110	360	N/A
Apr-12	7,970	2,110	2,350	1,600	N/A	3,950	1,060	1,280	540	N/A
May-12	9,950	2,630	2,810	2,090	N/A	3,980	1,190	1,290	540	N/A
Jun-12	7,800	1,790	2,150	2,080	N/A	3,910	890	1,210	650	N/A
Jul-12	8,480	2,330	2,530	2,410	N/A	3,910	1,000	1,360	930	N/A
Aug-12	8,320	2,370	2,470	1,510	N/A	3,600	950	1,180	760	N/A
Sep-12	12,230	2,590	2,960	1,760	N/A	6,150	1,550	2,450	770	N/A
Oct-12	14,520	3,310	2,950	3,120	70	7,920	1,630	1,590	1,090	50
Nov-12	14,580	3,520	2,730	2,740	570	7,970	1,910	1,650	1,200	250
Dec-12	10,290	2,480	2,150	1,890	290	4,630	1,130	1,000	1,080	160
Jan-13	18,360	4,760	3,540	3,760	430	9,910	2,720	2,450	1,830	190
Feb-13	18,010	4,430	3,570	2,770	420	10,130	2,620	2,090	1,730	240
Mar-13	17,450	4,410	3,270	2,590	470	9,250	2,420	2,050	1,360	260
Apr-13	17,910	4,830	3,580	2,780	520	11,110	2,970	2,470	1,590	250
May-13	17,400	4,660	3,550	3,410	930	9,040	2,780	1,950	1,770	430
Jun-13	15,430	4,380	2,650	3,440	1,150	9,270	2,510	1,820	1,830	430
Jul-13	18,370	6,240	3,020	5,600	1,500	10,690	3,420	1,820	3,230	770
Aug-13	15,450	5,190	2,940	4,230	1,130	7,810	3,040	1,520	2,070	680
Sep-13	18,470	6,620	3,940	5,650	1,030	12,410	4,680	3,930	3,520	510
Oct-13	21,680	7,740	3,530	6,920	1,330	11,870	4,470	1,910	3,710	800
Nov-13	19,610	7,450	3,130	6,540	1,000	12,420	4,840	2,150	3,820	610
Dec-13	12,270	4,950	2,520	4,290	660	6,320	2,690	1,530	2,500	390
Jan-14	21,800	8,080	3,700	8,140	940	12,690	5,190	2,710	4,160	520
Feb-14	18,490	7,300	3,370	7,130	0	11,050	4,430	2,020	4,290	210

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, from 25th June 2012 in Scotland for training provision only, and from October 2012 in Wales for training provision only. In Wales, Skills Conditionality is Skills for Work (Wales) only.

For more information on Skills Conditionality and the three referral routes, please see the 'Skills Conditionality Policy Description' on page 8.

Data Source - DWP LMS opportunities evaluation database March 2014.

1: This refers to the Skills for Work programme in Wales.

Mandatory Work Activity – Policy Description

1. MWA was launched on 16 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 contributing to the local community.
2. Work related disciplines include attending on time, regularly carrying out specific tasks and working under supervision. MWA is about offering further support to some JSA claimants who would benefit from a short period of activity.
3. MWA involves work-based placements with hosts, sourced by external providers under contract to DWP. For those referred to a placement, participation is mandatory.
4. The placements sourced by the provider:
 - last for 4 weeks
 - are for 30 hours per week, unless restrictions apply, allowing the claimant time to look for work as required by their Jobseeker's Agreement
 - 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
5. MWA participants continue to claim JSA and attend Jobsearch Reviews.
6. Since 29 April 2013 it is possible Universal Credit claimants in the all work-related requirements group can be referred to MWA.

Skills Conditionality - Policy Description

7. Skills conditionality policy applies where it is identified that a skills need is preventing someone from moving closer to employment. Skills conditionality makes attendance at and the completion of skills related interventions a condition for receiving benefit. JCP Advisers screen JSA and ESA WRAG claimants for potential skills needed in the labour market, and they are referred to appropriate support.
8. In England that can be an interview with the National Careers Service where skills needs are unclear, or an initial provider interview with a training provider, or a referral direct to training. In Scotland it is referral to training. In Wales it is referral to the DWP training programme, Skills for Work Wales.
9. The training includes basic skills (English, numeracy, literacy), occupational skills, employability skills and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).

10. 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/ 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

11. These statistics are derived using a combination of data from the Jobcentre Plus claimant management systems (the Labour Market System) and the Clients database. For SC, data from the benefits administrative database (the National Benefits Database) is also used.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. The format of this publication will be kept under review and any feedback or suggestions to improve this publication are welcomed.
15. Interventions in Universal Credit pathfinder areas are not captured, and so these official statistics will be a small undercount.

Mandatory Work Activity

16. 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

17. A referral to SC is defined as the date the claimant is referred to an initial provider interview, training provision or the National Careers Service¹, 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 an initial provider interview, training provision or the National Careers Service. The number of starts was based on the individual claimant level data supplied by Further Education Colleges, training providers and the

¹ National Careers Service was previously called Next Step.

National Careers Service and entered onto the Provider Referrals and Payments (PraP) system, which was then pulled through onto the Jobcentre Plus' Labour Market System. Providers may submit data on starts some time after the actual event occurred.

Retrospection

18. Retrospection is the time period allowed for additional or updated information to be incorporated into DWP's data systems. 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.
19. Labour Market System (LMS) datasets are produced a month in arrears i.e. February 2014 data was available at the end of March 2014. Generally, for any given month's worth of LMS data, significant retrospection can be seen for a further month.
20. 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 2014 (which are published in May 2014) are produced using March 2014 data, which was released in April 2014).

Revisions Policy

21. In accordance with Principle 2 of the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Official Statistics², 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>

Rounding Policy

22. 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.

² <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/code-of-practice-for-official-statistics.pdf>

Annex A: Publication Timetable

Publication	Date	Notes
1 st	Wednesday 15 th February 2012	The first official statistics publication covering Mandatory Work Activity.
2 nd	Tuesday 12 th June 2012	The second publication covering Mandatory Work Activity and Skills Conditionality.
3 rd	Wednesday 14 th November 2012	The third publication covering Mandatory Work Activity and Skills Conditionality.
4 th	Wednesday 22 nd May 2013	The fourth publication covering Mandatory Work Activity and Skills Conditionality.
5 th	Wednesday 27 th November 2013	The fifth publication covering Mandatory Work Activity and Skills Conditionality.
6 th	Thursday 29 th May 2014	The sixth publication covering Mandatory Work Activity and Skills Conditionality
7 th	November 2014	The seventh publication covering Mandatory Work Activity and Skills Conditionality

For general enquiries regarding pre-work programmes and the Youth Contract (previously Get Britain Working Measures) please visit the DWP website: www.dwp.gov.uk or contact the DWP press office on 0203 267 5144.

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