Quarterly Work Programme National Statistics to Mar 2015

Work Programme was launched throughout Great Britain in June 2011. It is part of a number of welfare to work reforms aimed at getting unemployed people into lasting work. Private and public companies called providers work with claimants sent to them from Jobcentre Plus at specified points in their claim. Providers are paid when an individual reaches six months in work, or three months for those expected to require more assistance. Providers are also paid for further work beyond this, usually up to a maximum of an additional one year or a little over a year and half for the harder to help groups.

Main findings

Minimum performance levels have been exceeded for each contract over the past twelve months. The Department calculates expectations of what providers should deliver. Three claimant types have contractual minimum performance levels.

Results against the Department’s transparency measure have continuously improved since the start of the programme. This measure applies to all claimant types. Overall levels at the 12 month point are now twice those of the earliest joiners. The latest three claimant intakes to complete a year on the scheme (January, February and March 2014) show the highest ever levels, well above minimum expectation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Claimant type</th>
<th>Contracts performing above Minimum Expected Levels</th>
<th>Transparency measure</th>
<th>Each intake after year</th>
<th>Current level</th>
<th>Level of expectation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All participants</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 to 24 year old JSA claimants</td>
<td>39 / 39</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JSA claimants aged 25 and over</td>
<td>39 / 39</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESA new claimants</td>
<td>39 / 39</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The 18 to 24 year old JSA claimant group is showing its highest ever levels for the latest three monthly intakes. The other JSA group shows similar results to those 25 and over. For the other ESA group, levels are well below the minimum expected.

Just over 1.7 million people have joined Work Programme. A little over a quarter of those with sufficient time to do so spent at least six months in work (or three for the harder to help); 433 thousand individuals in total.

Around 1.2 million individuals have completed their allotted time on the scheme. Of those completing the programme, approaching a quarter were still in work at the two year point (or providers had received the maximum payments). Around 7 in 10 returned to Jobcentre plus.
Introduction
This release contains the latest Work Programme National Statistics on people joining and those gaining sustained employment up to 31 March 2015.

In this document
Claimants are assigned to one of nine Payment Groups and randomly allocated to a provider in their area. To reflect your needs and DWP contracts with providers, throughout this summary document JSA Claimants aged 18 to 24 (Payment Group 1), JSA Claimants aged 25 and over (Payment Group 2) and ESA new customers (Payment Group 6) are presented individually. Payment Group 6 is presented excluding 12 month prognosis claimants. These have been grouped with Payment Groups 5, 7, and 8 and presented together as “Other ESA/IB”. Referrals to Payment Group 8 ceased in March 2015. Payment Groups 3, 4 and 9 are presented together as “other JSA”. Providers are paid when an individual reaches six months in work for JSA ages 18-24 and JSA aged 25 plus (and most of the JSA other groups) or three months for the ESA groups (and some limited other JSA groups).

Providers are paid when an individual reaches six months in work (or three months for those expected to require more assistance) and also for further work beyond this. Validation procedures ensure that only valid outcomes are paid for. The National Statistics use data from these procedures to reflect the final outcomes.

The statistics are released quarterly in September, December, March and June and are primarily sourced from data originally collected via administrative systems. To reflect any updates, the full historical statistical series is refreshed with each release and so previous figures may be updated based on new data. Each scheduled release of Work Programme National Statistics is subject to a complete historical revision to previous figures as well as entirely new records relating to the latest time period i.e. they are fully retrospective. The Department’s policy statement describes more generally how DWP will handle revisions. For more details see our background information note.

The UK Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods; and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

Changes in this release include
- Changes to the Sustainment payment validation process,
- Changes to contracts in the North East Yorkshire and Humber Contract Package Area (CPA 18),
- Performance measured against the new contractual Minimum Performance Levels,

For more details see our background information note.

Future Releases
The next release will be on 17th September 2015. This will contain data to 30th June 2015.

Summary of additional available data
All the information underlying the charts and figures featured in this summary are included in accompanying excel tables.

This includes tables on those joining the Work Programme, those that achieve three/six months in employment, those that stay in employment longer, the benefit status of participants and the current status of all participants.

The other statistical products we release include further breakdowns by age, gender, disability indicator, ethnicity, primary health condition (for IB and ESA Claimants) and lone parent status (for JSA and IS Claimants)

Lower level geography information is available by local authority, parliamentary constituency and Jobcentre Plus district. Information is also broken down by contract, contract package area and Payment Group.

This summary provides an overview. The presentation in the other statistical products are more detailed and reflect the terminology used in the Work Programme process. Page 10 provides an overview of the Work Programme and key terminology.
Joining the Work Programme

The Work programme uses private and public companies, called providers, to find work for claimants transferred from Jobcentre Plus at specific points in their claim.

Main findings

The number of individuals joining each month has been decreasing. Since individuals generally remain on the Work Programme for 2 years, until late May 2013, the overall number being supported increased month on month, at which point the first intake began to complete the Programme.

See Table 1.1 for full data.

More recent intakes contain a higher proportion of individuals expected to require more support and assistance. A little over a quarter of the March 2015 intake is from ESA groups compared to less than 3% in the first intakes to the scheme.

Differences since September 2012 reflect changes in access to the Programme, especially for ESA claimants including the introduction of information sessions for potential ESA volunteers and a Jobcentre Plus exercise to identify eligible ESA Claimants who had not been referred to the Programme.

See Table 1.2 for full data.
Three or six months in work

Providers are paid when an individual reaches six months in work, or three months for those expected to require more assistance. DWP have minimum expected levels.

Main findings

The proportion of the most recent participants to complete a year on the scheme with at least six months in work (or three if they are expected to need more help) are well above minimum expected levels. They are also over twice the levels of the earliest intakes. In general all groups of claimants have seen an increase to above minimum expected levels since the start of the scheme with the exception of the Other ESA/IB group.

The initial higher level of performance for the Other ESA/IB group is likely a result of the comparatively smaller early intake. The size of this group has increased considerably since the start of the scheme, coinciding with the changes in access to the Programme with a greater number of harder to help claimants joining; as a result of this, the minimum expected performance level has reduced.

Volumes being supported on the scheme increased until late May 2013 when the first intake began to complete. Each intake leading up to the December 2012 has at least six months on the scheme with these increasing volumes. This coincides with a decline in the proportion of those with at least three/six months in work after a year. The April 2012 intake was the first to complete before the peak volumes.

See Table 1.3 for full data.

In total 433 thousand individuals have found sustained employment of at least 3 or 6 months whilst on the scheme. This represents 26% of all claimants who have had enough time to achieve it regardless of if they have spent a year on the scheme or if the time in work was completed after the first year.

See Table 1.4 for full data.
Staying in work longer than three/six months

Providers are paid more for further employment, usually up to a maximum of an additional one year or a little over a year and a half for the harder to help groups. If individuals remain in work, providers can receive payments after the two year completion point. Payments end following a break in employment after the two year point.

Main findings

On average those with three/six months in work within a year have a further eleven months in work by the two year point.

We use data on payments to track further work. Providers are paid for further work after the six (or three) month point up to a maximum of a year (a little over a year and a half for the harder to help groups). Therefore the ESA groups and the Other JSA group have a higher average further time in work although JSA aged 18-14 and 25 plus groups have an average closer to the maximum.

We track those who had three/six months in work after a year and compare at the two year point. This gives enough time to assess fairly. We use data on payments to providers to track further work. Whilst employment may continue beyond the maximum, we can no longer track this.

Results vary by group with JSA closer to the maximum measurable time in work

Average further weeks in work at the two year point, by intake

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Jun-11</th>
<th>Dec-11</th>
<th>Jun-12</th>
<th>Dec-12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JSA aged 18-24</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>51</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JSA aged 25+</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>48</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other JSA</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>57</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

New ESA Customers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Jun-11</th>
<th>Dec-11</th>
<th>Jun-12</th>
<th>Dec-12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New ESA Customers</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>57</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other ESA/IB

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Jun-11</th>
<th>Dec-11</th>
<th>Jun-12</th>
<th>Dec-12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other ESA/IB</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>57</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each dashed line indicates the maximum measurable time in work

Where we have summarised groups e.g. the JSA and ESA other, no line is presented since the maximum number of payments varies by group.

In total there were 4.2 million payments made to providers, each equating to a 4 week spell in work after the three/six month point. Two thirds of these were for JSA claimants aged 18-24 or 25 plus.

See Table 1.1, Table 1.2 and Table 1.3 for full data.

188 thousand people so far have generated the maximum payments possible.

See Table 1.7 for full data.
Completing the Work Programme

Once referred, individuals generally remain on the scheme for two years. Those out of work at this point return to Jobcentre Plus. Providers can continue to receive payments after this, up to the maximum allowable, if individuals remain in work. Payments end following a break in employment after the two year point.

After two years

Around a quarter have at least three/six months in work
percentage of each monthly intake with at least three/six months in work after two years

Main findings

28% of the most recent participants to complete two years on the scheme had a minimum of six months in work (three for the harder to help). This is higher than the level of the earliest intakes which was around 22%, and an increase of around 3 percentage points over the last quarter and is currently above expected levels.

See Table 1.6 for full data.

Around 70% return to Jobcentre Plus
percentage of each monthly intake returning to JCP at the two year point

Around 1.2 million individuals have now completed the scheme. Around 70% (797 thousand people) returned to Jobcentre Plus at the end of their two years on the programme.

Around 1% of completers (around 18 thousand individuals) did not attach to the programme or completed early. The remainder were in employment at the end of their 2 years.

See Table 1.7 for full data.

The most recent participants to complete two years on the scheme spent, on average, nearly a third of their time on the Work Programme off benefit. This is higher than the level of the earliest intakes where the figure was around a quarter.

See Table 1.8 for full data.
Contracts and Providers

There are 16 private and public companies called providers holding 41 contracts. 39* are currently assessed on a rolling 12 months against Minimum Performance Levels.

Main findings

Minimum performance levels have been exceeded for each contract over the past twelve months (April 2014 to March 2015).

The Department calculates expectations of what providers should deliver. Overall, performance over the last twelve months is above expectations for each contract; the number of individuals reaching three/six months in work totalled 137 thousand, compared to an expectation of 101 thousand.

For more details on the Minimum Performance Levels see our background information note.

Contracts are assessed against JSA aged 18-24, JSA aged 25 plus and New ESA claimant groups. The minimum performance levels have been exceeded for each contract for all of these groups over the past twelve months.

For the groups not assessed, Other JSA exceeded the expected performance for each contract over the last twelve months. Whilst for the Other ESA group, none of the contracts met the expected performance.

See Table 1.9 for full data.

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*The figures for the contracts run by Newcastle College Group and Maximus in North East Yorkshire and Humber have not been included in these minimum performance level results. This is because they are not currently measured by the contractual MPL measure. See background information note for details.

**Leardirect was formerly JHP Group Ltd and Interserve Learning and Employment was formerly Interserve Working Futures. Both appear under their former names in the published tables.
Characteristic Information

We make information underlying the charts within this summary available as excel tables. Further information is also available such as characteristic breakdowns.

Characteristic summary

The gender, age, ethnicity and regional split of claimants joining the Work Programme are broadly in line with those for the benefits claimed by those joining.

Just under two thirds of people joining the Work Programme are male. This is a similar proportion to those claiming JSA (which is the main qualifying benefit of the Work Programme). A little over half of ESA claimants are male.

Around half of all people who join the Work Programme are under the age of 34 which is consistent with the proportion of JSA claimants as a whole. A little over a quarter of ESA claimants are under 34.

Almost 8 in 10 of individuals joining the programme view their ethnicity as “white”; roughly 1 in 15 as “Black/Black British” and just over 1 in 20 as “Asian/Asian British”. These proportions are consistent with the proportion of JSA claimants as a whole.

The proportion with at least three/six months in work split by gender, ethnicity and region are broadly in line with those joining the scheme. However a higher proportion of younger claimants go on to achieve three/six months in work compare to those that join.

Comparatively more young people have had three/six months in work than those that joined the scheme. For example 27% of all joiners to the scheme are aged 18-24 but the same age range is responsible for 35% of all those achieving three/six months in work.

See Table 2.10 and Table 2.11 for full data.
Work Programme National Statistics: overview and measures

Statistical products

The statistical summary gives an overview. We present key points and trends using charts and commentary. We make the information underlying the charts available as Excel tables. Alongside this we publish a large number of tables and animated charts which enable you to get much more detail by provider, contract, personal characteristics and geography. These are provided via the DWP Tabulation Tool and data visualisation tools. Underlying data is also available.

A background information note provides you with supplementary information on the processes involved in developing and releasing the National Statistics including information on the quality, revisions and known issues. The Work Programme statistics page provides links to these and other related statistics and research.

Compare monthly intakes over time

Those joining the Work Programme in a particular month compared by total, by group and tracked over the same duration of support.

Since providers are paid when individuals reach three or six months in work, this approach avoids comparisons which would include those who have not had long enough to achieve this.

Examine all those joining to date

All of those to have joined the Work Programme up to the reference date of the publication.

Includes totals joining the programme; totals reaching three/six months in work and those staying in work longer. Also includes time series of payments to providers by month of payment and information regarding the current status of individuals (linked to the Work Programme overview on page 10).

Main Measures

The Department publishes a range of measures to support transparency of public information. For the Work Programme, the transparency indicator is the proportion of individuals in each monthly intake to reach three/six months in work in their first year. For example, for those joining to the Work Programme in June 2011 this is the proportion with at least three/six months in work by the end of June 2012. A two year equivalent is also published.

The Department calculates expectations of what providers should deliver. All expectations are based on the analysis of historical data.

For certain groups (JSA 18-24, JSA 25 and over and ESA new customers - excluding 12 Month prognosis) these expectations are contractual minimum performance levels (MPLs). This means that if providers do not achieve them, they may be subject to a formal performance improvement process.

From March 2015 provider performance is assessed against a new contractual measure on a quarterly rather than annual basis. At the end of each quarter (aligned to financial years) the number of individuals reaching six months in work (or three months for those expected to require more assistance) in the prior twelve months are measured against MPLs (for each contract and for JSA aged 18-24, JSA aged 25 plus and New ESA claimant groups payment). For more information please see our background information note.
Programme overview and terminology

The statistical summary presents an overview. The other statistical products contain terminology which reflects the Work Programme processes. These are explained here.

Intakes

Referral

Jobcentre Plus refer Claimants to the Work Programme.

Attachment

Claimants’ circumstances dictate the entry point and the nature of participation.

Outcomes Payments

Outcome Payments are paid for defined outcomes. Outcome Payments are subject to validation procedures to ensure Providers are only paid for valid outcomes.

Job Outcome Payment

Following a defined period of continuous or cumulative spells in employment, the Provider will receive a Job Outcome Payment.

The time it takes to achieve a Job Outcome Payment is defined by the Payment Group.

Payment Groups 3-8

- Job Outcome payment paid following 13 weeks in employment.
- Sustainment payments paid following each further period of four weeks in employment up to a maximum of 20 (except Payment Groups 7 and 8 where the maximum is 26 and 13 respectively).

Payment Groups 1, 2 and 9

- Job Outcome payment paid following 26 weeks in employment.
- Sustainment payments paid following each further period of four weeks in employment up to a maximum of 13 (except Payment Group 9 where the maximum is 20).

Sustainment Payments

Following a job outcome payment and after a further four continuous weeks in employment the provider will receive a Sustainment payment.

Subsequent sustainment outcomes can be claimed following further periods of four weeks continuous employment. The maximum number of Sustainment payments is defined by Payment Group.

Breaks in employment of up to two calendar days will be accepted as long as the individual does not return to benefit. Gaps of any length are permitted between four week spells of employment.

Completion

Once referred, individuals remain on the Work Programme for an allotted time of 104 weeks, unless they complete early.

During this time participants may leave or change benefits or move into employment. Jobcentre Plus will continue to see them to check that they are meeting their conditions for claiming benefits (if applicable).

Participants cannot be re-referred to the Work Programme within their 104 week support period.

Early completion can occur, where the participant becomes deceased or where they are referred to another employment provision by Jobcentre Plus.

Completion can occur when the Provider has claimed the final eligible outcome payment (this may occur before or after 104 weeks).

Once individuals complete 104 weeks:

- If they are not in employment then they go back to JCP
- Outcome payments continue to be paid beyond 104 weeks if individuals remain in employment. However, eligibility ceases following a break in employment of two calendar days or more even if individuals remain off benefit.

For further information see Background Information note via this link: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/work-programme-official-statistics-background-information-note
Notes

Work Programme Statistics

Our background information note provides further information on the Work Programme and Work Programme National Statistics. A technical annex in this note provides information on some of the processes involved in developing and releasing National Statistics on the Work Programme.


Employment Programme Statistics


Other National and Official Statistics

Details of other National and Official Statistics produced by the Department for Work and Pensions can be found on the DWP website at the following links:

- A schedule of statistical releases over the next 12 months and a list of the most recent releases: https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/about/statistics

In addition, users can find links to DWP additional statistical analyses that have not been included in our standard publications at https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/series/ad-hoc-statistical-publications-list

If you would like to receive occasional e-mails from DWP to directly inform you of documents seeking the views of users, please email general.statistics@dwp.gsi.gov.uk giving details of the DWP publications you use.

Profiles

The Office of Budget Responsibility produces an independent aggregate Claimant count projection that is the basis of the Department’s forecasting of Jobseeker’s Allowance. The Department produces inflow and off-flow projections consistent with this overall projection, including splits into over and under 25 age groups, using assumptions based on trends in historical data.

Indicative Claimant volumes attaching to the Work Programme from the jobseeker’s allowance (JSA) 18-24 group are profiled by applying an assumption about the rate of attachment of eligible Claimants to the Department’s forecast volumes of JSA 18-24 year olds that reach the 9 month threshold stage of their claims.