

Statistical Notice

12th September 2017

Coverage: Great Britain



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/access-to-work-statistics>

Email:

access.toworkstatistics@dpw.gsi.gov.uk

Feedback is welcome

Access to Work statistics

We will be publishing a new series of experimental Access to Work statistics and withdrawing the previously published Access to Work official statistics. The reasons for this are explained below.

The new series of experimental Access to Work statistics

The new series will focus on a specific part of the Access to Work customer journey: the approval of Access to Work provision. This is the first stage in the customer journey for which comprehensive and reliable data are available (the main stages of the Access to Work customer journey are summarised in the Annex). The headline statistic will be the number of people who had Access to Work provision approved and this will be available by:

- financial year between 2007/08 and 2016/17
- the type of provision approved
- the age of the customer
- the gender of the customer
- the customer's primary medical condition.

These statistics will not be comparable with previously published Access to Work official statistics because they have been calculated differently.

The new series of experimental Access to Work statistics will be published on 10th October 2017 and will be available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/access-to-work-statistics>.

These statistics have been developed using guidelines set out by the UK Statistics Authority and are new official statistics undergoing development. They have therefore been designated as [experimental statistics](#). We plan to publish these statistics annually and to develop them with reference to user feedback. Users are invited to send feedback on the development and relevance of the statistics to: access.toworkstatistics@dpw.gsi.gov.uk.

Following publication we will explore the feasibility of expanding the scope of the statistics to cover other parts of the Access to Work customer journey such as Access to Work payments.

The withdrawal of the Access to Work official statistics

We reviewed how we calculated and presented the previously published Access to Work official statistics and found some issues. We have therefore decided to withdraw them. The main reasons for this are explained below.

“Numbers helped” statistic

The definition of “helped” that was used conflated different parts of the Access to Work customer journey.

“New [Access to Work] customers”

We can’t always tell if people are “new customers” or if they have been on Access to Work before because some historic Access to Work data is incomplete.

“Further numbers who continue to benefit [from Access to Work]”

This statistic was based on the assumption that people who had ‘Special Aids and Equipment’ benefited from this for two years but this may not always be the case.

“New starts”

This statistic was not clearly defined and “new starts” could potentially be confused with “new customers” (see above).

“Numbers of [Access to Work] awards”

This statistic counted people instead of awards.

Annex A

The main stages of a typical Access to Work customer journey are summarised below.

1. Application	The customer applies for Access to Work provision.
2. Approval/Rejection	DWP approves or rejects the provision after considering the customer's eligibility and their employer's duty to make reasonable adjustments under the Equality Act 2010. The customer is notified of the decision and a grant may be approved to cover some or all of the costs of the approved provision.
3. Commissioning	The customer or their employer commissions the approved provision and submits invoices relating to approved grants to DWP.
4. Receipt	The customer receives the approved and commissioned provision.
5. Payment	DWP pays the invoices relating to the approved grants. In some cases a DWP payment is not required, for example because provision can be provided at no cost or the employer covers the costs.
6. Review	DWP schedules reviews to ensure the provision is still adequate and to check that the customer is still eligible.