

Mandatory Programmes Official Statistics
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Summary

This publication contains official statistics on Mandatory Work Activity and Skills Conditionality up to and including August 2012. The key statistics are:

From May 2011 up to and including August 2012 there have been:

- **90,470** referrals to Mandatory Work Activity placements; and
- **33,170** starts on Mandatory Work Activity placements.

From August 2011 up to and including August 2012 there have been:

- **182,780** Skills Conditionality initial provider interview referrals;
- **67,270** Skills Conditionality initial provider interview starts;
- **175,230** Skills Conditionality training referrals;
- **63,210** Skills Conditionality training starts;
- **251,660** Skills Conditionality National Career Service referrals; and
- **109,560** Skills Conditionality National Career Service starts.

Introduction

1. This publication contains statistics on Mandatory Work Activity (MWA) covering the period from May 2011 to August 2012 and Skills Conditionality (SC) covering the period from August 2011 to August 2012.
2. This publication¹ includes statistics on MWA initial referrals and starts and SC referrals and starts. Future editions of this publication will be published in line with the timetable shown in **Annexe A**. Details regarding future content will be announced via the UK Statistics Authority publication hub.
3. 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.
4. The format of this publication will be kept under review and any feedback or suggestions to improve this publication are welcomed.

¹ An early impact analysis of MWA was published alongside the previous Official Statistics in June 2012 and can be found at: http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/adhoc_analysis/2012/early_impacts_mwa.pdf

Mandatory Work Activity - Policy Description

5. MWA was launched on 16th 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 delivering a contribution to the local community.
6. Such disciplines include attending on time, regularly carrying out specific tasks and working under supervision. MWA is about offering further support to some Jobseeker's Allowance claimants who would benefit from a short period of activity.
7. The vehicle for MWA is work-based placements delivered by external providers under contract to DWP. For those referred to a placement, their participation is mandatory.
8. The placements sourced by the provider:
 - last for 4 weeks
 - are for 30 hours per week, unless restrictions apply, so allowing the claimant time to meet their actively seeking obligations
 - 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
9. MWA participants continue to claim JSA and attend Jobsearch Reviews.

Skills Conditionality - Policy Description

10. SC was introduced in England from August 2011. In Scotland, the SC training provision only was introduced from the end of June 2012. Claimants who are required to actively seek or prepare for work can be mandated to undertake activity to address an identified skills need which will aid their movement into work. The policy is designed to ensure that claimants referred to careers advice or skills training that will help them, actually start and finish the course. SC applies only to those receiving Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance (work-related activity group). SC embraces all types of training.
11. 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

12. 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, the National Benefits Database is used alongside the Labour Market system and Clients databases.
13. 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.

Mandatory Work Activity:

14. 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:

15. A referral to SC is defined as the date the claimant is referred to an initial provider interview, training provision or the National Careers Service², 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 National Careers Service and entered by an adviser onto the Jobcentre Plus' Labour Market System. Providers may submit data on starts some time after the actual event occurred.

Methodological Change- Skills Conditionality:

16. DWP continuously reviews and improves data sources, methods and systems to improve the quality of official statistics. In this publication, a methodological change has been applied to Skills Conditionality statistics which will continue to be used going forward. The change includes two improvements which more accurately captures the claimants who are mandated to undertake activity to address an identified skills need which will aid their movement into work. Further details including the impact of the methodological change are outlined in **Annexe B**.
17. All figures, including the historical series, in this and future publications will be based on the new methodology. The methodological change reduces Skills Conditionality statistics for both referrals and starts.

² National Careers Service was previously called Next Step.

Retrospection

18. Retrospection is the time period allowed for additional or updated information to be incorporated into DWP's data systems.
19. Labour Market System (LMS) datasets are produced a month in arrears i.e. November 2011 data was available at the end of December 2011. 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 August 2012 (which are published in November 2012) are produced using September 2012 data, which was released in October 2012).

Revisions Policy

21. In accordance with Principle 2 of the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Official Statistics³, 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.

³ <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/code-of-practice-for-official-statistics.pdf>

Official Statistics

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

	Mandatory Work Activity referrals (GB)	Mandatory Work Activity starts (GB)
Total	90,470	33,170
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	2,470
Dec-2011	5,650	1,930
Jan-2012	10,300	3,330
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	2,790

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

Data Source - DWP LMS opportunities evaluation database September 2012.

Table 2: MWA Demographic Breakdown for the period May 2011 to August 2012

		Mandatory Work Activity referrals (GB)	Mandatory Work Activity starts (GB)
	Total	90,470	33,170
Gender	Male	67,330	23,450
	Female	23,140	9,730
	Unknown	-	-
Age Group	18-24	38,630	12,980
	25-49	44,300	16,630
	50+	7,520	3,560
	Unknown	-	0
Disability ¹	Yes	19,040	7,720
	No	71,430	25,460
	Unknown	-	-
Ethnicity ²	White	64,890	25,460
	Black or Black British	8,140	2,630
	Asian or Asian British	8,970	2,330
	Mixed	2,470	700
	Other/ Chinese	2,430	730
	Unknown	3,580	1,330
Region	Central England	23,210	7,930
	London and the Home Counties	19,200	7,530
	North East	13,810	5,510
	North West	11,290	3,940
	Scotland	7,560	2,940
	Southern England	9,270	3,520
	Wales	3,930	1,280
	Unknown	2,200	540

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 September 2012

1: Disability status is declared by the Jobseeker 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 3: Skills Conditionality Referrals and Starts (In-Month)

	Skills Conditionality Referrals			Skills Conditionality Starts		
	Initial Provider Interview (England)	Training ^{1,2,3} (GB)	National Careers Service (England)	Initial Provider Interview (England)	Training ^{1,2,3} (GB)	National Careers Service (England)
Total	182,780	175,230	251,660	67,270	63,210	109,560
Aug-11	3,090	6,640	19,220	550	650	4,230
Sep-11	8,380	9,540	20,380	2,270	2,660	6,870
Oct-11	10,800	11,880	19,570	3,300	3,500	7,800
Nov-11	13,410	15,600	21,070	4,410	4,820	8,790
Dec-11	9,110	10,300	14,560	2,890	2,220	6,420
Jan-12	17,110	15,090	20,710	6,000	6,410	8,460
Feb-12	18,560	15,640	19,910	6,780	5,970	8,850
Mar-12	19,140	16,680	19,290	7,120	5,700	8,700
Apr-12	14,730	13,650	15,680	6,170	6,550	7,530
May-12	18,260	17,050	19,240	7,640	6,590	9,650
Jun-12	14,090	13,480	17,330	5,790	6,180	8,500
Jul-12	18,170	15,370	22,970	7,310	6,600	11,730
Aug-12	17,920	14,320	21,750	7,050	5,360	12,050

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 (training only).

Data Sources – DWP LMS Opportunities evaluation and Client databases September 2012.

1: Figures include Skills Funding Agency (SFA) Basic Skills Training; SFA English for Speakers of Other Languages; SFA Occupational Training; and other training.

2: Statistics showing SFA funded training starts for all learners reporting that they are claimants of JSA and ESA-WRAG, regardless of whether or not they were referred under skills conditionality, are available in the BIS Further Education and Skills Statistical First Release : http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current/.

3. GB includes England and Scotland only.

Table 4: Skills Conditionality Demographic Breakdown for the period August 2011 to August 2012

		Skills Conditionality Referrals			Skills Conditionality Starts		
		Initial Provider Interview (England)	Training ^{3,4,5} (GB)	National Careers Service (England)	Initial Provider Interview (England)	Training ^{3,4,5} (GB)	National Careers Service (England)
	Total	182,780	175,230	251,660	67,270	63,210	109,560
Gender	Male	122,930	115,290	161,350	44,200	40,470	68,510
	Female	59,850	59,940	90,310	23,060	22,740	41,050
	Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age Group	Under 18	50	50	30	-	20	-
	18-24	61,130	53,840	77,520	20,140	18,260	30,570
	25-49	99,510	98,610	138,010	37,450	35,640	61,140
	50+	22,090	22,730	36,100	9,670	9,290	17,840
	Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disability ¹	Yes	37,510	33,560	54,780	14,540	12,610	23,770
	No	145,260	141,660	196,880	52,720	50,600	85,790
	Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ethnicity ²	White	130,370	108,740	185,950	47,590	40,630	77,210
	Black or Black British	14,380	20,320	22,550	5,610	6,240	11,630
	Asian or Asian British	15,080	19,070	17,580	5,340	6,540	8,630
	Mixed	4,350	5,190	6,050	1,530	1,560	2,600
	Other/Chinese	9,610	12,050	7,940	3,740	4,540	4,230
	Unknown	8,990	9,860	11,600	3,460	3,710	5,270
Region	Central England	31,700	33,030	47,150	9,320	11,270	18,640
	London and the Home Countries	54,970	70,520	89,470	23,430	22,690	46,900
	North East	26,130	28,130	26,550	9,100	11,740	8,150
	North West	51,200	26,870	52,180	17,930	11,690	21,480
	Southern England	18,780	16,590	36,310	7,490	5,810	14,390
	Scotland	N/A	90	N/A	N/A	-	N/A

Notes: Values are rounded to the nearest 10. Values less than 10 are suppressed and marked with a dash. N/A indicates Initial Provider Interviews and National Careers Service are not available in Scotland. 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 (training only).

Data Sources – DWP LMS Opportunities evaluation and Client databases September 2012.

- 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.
- 3: Figures include Skills Funding Agency (SFA) Basic Skills Training; SFA English for Speakers of Other Languages; SFA Occupational Training; and other training.
- 4: Statistics showing SFA funded training starts for all learners reporting that they are claimants of JSA and ESA-WRAG, regardless of whether or not they were referred under skills conditionality, are available in the BIS Further Education and Skills Statistical First Release : http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current/.
- 5: GB includes England and Scotland only.

Annexe 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.
4 th	May 2013	The fourth publication.
5 th	November 2013	The fifth publication.

Publication dates and future content will be confirmed on the UK Statistics Authority's Publication Hub (www.statistics.gov.uk/hub) at least four weeks before publication date.

Annexe B: Methodological change – Skills Conditionality

1. In this publication, a methodological change has been applied to Skills Conditionality statistics which will continue to be used going forward. The change includes two improvements which more accurately captures the claimants who are mandated to undertake activity to address an identified skills need which will aid their movement into work.
2. The first improvement is to count individuals with a claim for Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance (Work Related Activity Group) only. As Skills Conditionality applies only to these two claimant groups, this ensures only applicable cases are counted. The new methodology excludes claims:
 - where type of benefit claimed is unknown. This is likely to be from failure to match individuals in the two databases – Opportunities Evaluation database containing data on referrals and starts, and Client database with information on benefit claimed and other personal information;
 - recorded as a Skills Conditionality referral or start but the claimants have a claim for another benefit type e.g. not Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance (Work Related Activity Group). This may be due to incorrect recording; and
 - recorded under National Careers Service where the claimants have a claim for another benefit type. The National Careers Service opportunity is used for recording both mandatory and non-mandatory referrals.
3. The second improvement is to include training opportunities on DWP's Labour Market System that are specific to Skills Conditionality only. Previously, general training opportunities used prior to the introduction of Skills Conditionality, with referrals and starts recorded against them following the introduction of Skills Conditionality (from

August 2011), were included. It is unclear whether none, some or all of these are mandated. Due to this uncertainty, they have been excluded in the new methodology.

4. The methodological change reduces Skills Conditionality statistics for both referrals and starts. Table B1 outlines the impact of the new methodology for Initial Provider Interview, Training and National Careers Service for the period August 2011 to August 2012 inclusive.

Table B1: Impact of Skills Conditionality methodological change - Percentage difference between old methodology and new methodology, August 2011 – August 2012 (%)

	Initial Provider Interview	Training	National Careers Service
Skills Conditionality Referrals	-5	-8	-9
Skills Conditionality Starts	-4	-5	-6

Notes:

*Comparison between the old and new methodologies have been made using the latest dataset available. It is not accurate to directly compare statistics in this publication with previous publications because of retrospection.
Data Source – DWP LMS Opportunities evaluation database September 2012.*

Contact Details

For general enquiries regarding Mandatory Work Activity or Skills Conditionality please visit the DWP website: www.dwp.gov.uk or contact the DWP press office on 0203 267 5144.

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