

Six Month Offer Official Statistics
Publication Date: 9:30am Wednesday 13th July 2011

Summary

This publication contains official statistics on the Six Month Offer up to and including March 2011. The key statistics are:

From April 2009 up to and including March 2011:

- **45,970** Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) claimants have used the Recruitment Subsidy
- **48,180** JSA claimants have taken up the Self Employment Credit (six month eligibility)
- **11,770** JSA claimants have taken up the Self Employment Credit (three month eligibility)
- **21,810** JSA claimants have taken up a Volunteering placement
- **100,300** JSA claimants have taken up a Work Focused Training placement

Introduction

1. This publication contains statistics on the Six Month Offer (6MO) up to and including March 2011. Figures for more recent months may be subject to small changes as more complete data becomes available.
2. This is a joint statistical publication between the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the Scottish Government.
3. Every effort has been made to ensure 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. This will be carried out in line with the Code of Practice. The format of this publication will be kept under review and any feedback or suggestions to improve this publication are welcomed.
4. Please note that this publication does not include statistics on Work Focused Training for Wales. The support on offer in Wales was different to that in England and Scotland and we were not able to separately identify 6MO Work Focused Training starts in Wales.

Policy Background

5. The Six Month Offer was announced in January 2009 as a support package for Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claimants reaching six months unemployment. The Six Month Offer was introduced nationally from the 6th April 2009.

6. There were four strands to the Six Month Offer: (1) Recruitment Subsidy, (2) Self Employment, (3) Volunteering and (4) Work Focused Training. A more detailed description of each of the strands can be found in **Annexe A** of this document.
7. In Flexible New Deal Phase 2 areas the New Deal for Young People delivered support similar to the Self Employment and Work Focused Training strand of the Six Month Offer. It was expected that young people used this support where it was available. From January 2010 the New Deal employment subsidy was withdrawn and the Six Month Recruitment Subsidy was available to all claimants, including young people, in Phase 1 and Phase 2 areas.
8. From October 2009 elements of the Young Person Guarantee were introduced, including Future Jobs Fund, Routes into Work and Work Focused Training. The Young Person Guarantee applied nationally from 25th January 2010 and could have affected take up of the Six Month Offer by young people.
9. From the 22nd February 2010, claimants in receipt of JSA for three or more months became eligible for Self Employment Credit.
10. The Recruitment Subsidy was withdrawn from 30th June 2010. Employers had until 30th July in which to submit a claim for any employment starts before the 30th June 2010.
11. All remaining elements of the Six Month Offer ceased in March 2011, although continued revisions to data are still possible up until the end of July 2011. This means that there will be one further publication in this statistical series in October 2011.

Technical Overview

12. These statistics are derived from a range of administrative data sources some of which have not been used to produce official statistics before. The process for producing these statistics will be kept under review and refined as appropriate as more data becomes available.
13. Please note that figures in previous releases have been updated in this release as more complete data has become available. Similarly, statistics in this publication may be updated in future publications.

Recruitment Subsidy:

14. The statistics include both the number of self marketed vouchers used and the number of claimants recruited via the bulk billing arrangements.
15. The number of self marketed vouchers is based on DWP financial payments data and was reported against the month the payment was invoiced. The data was cleaned to remove erroneous records according to agreed processes.
16. The number of claimants recruited through bulk billing is based on administrative records of eligibility checks conducted by Jobcentre Plus. A start was recorded under the month in which they started employment as declared by the employer.

17. There were difficulties matching demographic information for self marketed voucher payments made in the North East region. As a result the “unknown” categories were larger than expected. We have taken action to address this issue but changes could not be fully back dated.
18. Some residual Recruitment Subsidy starts were present post July 10 because DWP report by the date the payment is invoiced on their financial system which is not necessarily the employment start date. These starts were grouped together and shown under July 2010.

Self-Employment Credit:

19. The statistics count the number of first payments made by the month in which the first payment was invoiced.
20. Claimants starting Self Employment Credit under the three to six month eligibility criteria are reported separately in the tables below.
21. Some residual Self-employment credit starts are present post March 11 because DWP report by the date the payment is invoiced on their financial system which is not necessarily the employment start date. These starts have been grouped together and included within the March 2011 total.

Volunteering:

22. The number of volunteering placements was based on the individual claimant level data supplied by the volunteering brokers.
23. Demographic breakdowns for the volunteering strand were produced by linking the data with the Labour Market System.
24. From October 2010, the Work Together element of Get Britain Working was introduced which could have affected take up of the Six Month Offer Volunteering.
25. The availability of Volunteering placements as part of the Six Month Offer ended in November 2010. A small number of residual Volunteering starts were present post November 10. These starts were grouped together and shown under December 2010.
26. Volunteering statistics were reported within the April 2011 publication based on the final set of individual level data. Therefore there has been no further update to volunteering statistics within this publication.

Work Focused Training:

27. The statistics on starts for Work Focused Training cover England and Scotland only. This publication includes statistics on the number of completions of Work Focused Training for England only. Data on Work Focused Training in England is sourced from training provider returns made through the Individualised Learner Record (ILR) database. The ILR holds data on all government-funded learners studying at a Further Education College or training provider.

28. Data on training in Scotland is sourced from Skills Development Scotland (Corporate Training System). This is similar to the ILR in England, in that it is a collection of data from training providers on learners and their learning participation.
29. Training providers may submit data on learner starts and completions some time after the actual event occurred. This means that data presented in this Release is subject to some retrospection, and figures will be revised upward in subsequent releases.
30. Statistics for earlier months have been updated following the provision of more complete data from training providers.
31. The numbers of Work Focused Training starts for Scotland are included in this publication, but the demographic breakdown of those starts and statistics on the number of completions are not included. This decision has been taken jointly by the Scottish Government and Skills Development Scotland in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics in relation to Principle 6: Proportionate Burden. Demographic breakdowns for Work Focused Training in Scotland were included in previous publications and can be found at: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/jsa/6month_offer/index.php?page=6month_of_fer_arc
32. Training completion statistics are included within this publication. Currently, only data for England is available. Again the demographic breakdown of those completion statistics is not included. This decision has been taken in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics in relation to Principle 6: Proportionate Burden.
33. Completion figures for Work Focused Training have been revised due to an improvement in the methodology used to match completions to academic years. This has had the effect of slightly reducing the total number of completions, in particular from July 2010.
34. The final set of Work Focused Training statistics will be released within the October 2011 publication as revisions of data are still possible up until the end of the academic year in July 2011.

Job Outcomes

35. Recruitment Subsidy and Self Employment Credit starts are by definition employment starts. As the final publication in this series is due in October 2011, we will not be reporting on job outcomes for the Volunteering and Work Focused Training strands.

Rounding Policy

36. To reduce the risk of inferring the identity of a claimant from these statistics and other statistics, values less than ten, including zeros, are suppressed and marked with a dash. Values above ten are rounded to the nearest ten. Therefore totals may not equal the sum of the individual cells.

Official Statistics

Table 1a: Take up of the Six Month Offer

	Recruitment Subsidy ¹ (GB)	Self Employment Credit (6 Month Eligibility) ² (GB)	Self Employment Credit (3 to 6 Month Eligibility) ² (GB)	Volunteering Placement Starts ³ (GB)	Work Focused Training Starts ⁴ (England and Scotland)
Total	45,970	48,180	11,770	21,810	100,300
Apr-09	460	30		10	640
May-09	1,510	190		140	250
Jun-09	2,650	460		360	740
Jul-09	2,770	790		720	1,290
Aug-09	3,000	980		980	3,080
Sep-09	4,180	1,380		1,320	4,650
Oct-09	3,370	1,590		1,410	4,690
Nov-09	3,470	1,720		1,590	6,360
Dec-09	1,620	1,100		1,170	2,620
Jan-10	3,080	1,620		1,370	6,250
Feb-10	3,490	2,230	30	1,730	6,310
Mar-10	4,530	3,050	220	1,690	7,170
Apr-10	4,010	3,180	530	1,320	5,580
May-10	3,520	2,930	630	1,240	5,660
Jun-10	3,880	3,410	670	1,360	5,790
Jul-10	420	2,820	770	1,310	4,390
Aug-10		2,680	740	1,140	4,140
Sep-10		2,560	780	1,120	5,080
Oct-10		2,310	840	980	4,100
Nov-10		2,370	910	840	5,080
Dec-10		1,170	450	20	1,580
Jan-11		2,030	990		5,380
Feb-11		2,340	1,310		4,870
Mar-11		5,230	2,890		4,620

Notes: Values less than 10 are suppressed and marked with a dash and any figures above 10 are rounded to the nearest 10. Therefore totals may not be the sum of the individual cells. Months are calendar months.

1: Source - DWP Financial Systems (Resource Management) using payments made up to the end of May 2011. Includes Initial payments for Self Marketed Vouchers and payments made under the Bulk Billing arrangement. The date recorded is the date the voucher was invoiced (Self Marketed Vouchers) or the date the claimant is recorded as having started employment (Bulk Billing).

2: Source - DWP Financial Systems (Resource Management) using payments made up to the end of May 2011. Reports the number of initial payments against the date the first payment was invoiced. The three and six month eligibility starts are recorded against separate account codes on Resource Management.

3: Source - Placement starts as recorded by the Volunteering Brokers based on individual claimant level data

4: Source - BIS Individual Learner Record system and Skill Development Scotland's Corporate Training System. Does not include starts in Wales

Table 1b: Work Focused Training Starts and Completions by Country

Work Focused Training Starts	Starts		Completions ¹
	England	Scotland	England
Total	95,570	4,730	90,160
Apr-09	470	170	
May-09	120	130	
Jun-09	590	150	
Jul-09	1,180	110	550
Aug-09	2,900	190	1,320
Sep-09	4,430	220	2,100
Oct-09	4,540	160	3,460
Nov-09	6,080	270	3,960
Dec-09	2,540	90	4,000
Jan-10	6,040	210	3,750
Feb-10	6,010	300	5,290
Mar-10	6,850	310	6,920
Apr-10	5,410	170	5,210
May-10	5,370	300	5,210
Jun-10	5,520	270	5,670
Jul-10	4,180	210	6,760
Aug-10	3,830	320	3,870
Sep-10	4,880	200	3,480
Oct-10	3,970	120	4,160
Nov-10	4,880	200	4,280
Dec-10	1,540	40	3,560
Jan-11	5,130	250	2,980
Feb-11	4,680	190	4,650
Mar-11	4,460	160	8,920
Apr-11	-	-	70

Notes: Values less than 10 are suppressed and marked with a dash and any figures above 10 are rounded to the nearest 10. Therefore totals may not be the sum of the individual cells. Months are calendar months.

1: Completions information is only available for England.

Table 2: Demographics for Starts for the period April 2009 to March 2011

		Recruitment Subsidy ^{1,2} (GB)	Self Employment Credit (Six Month Eligibility) ¹ (GB)	Volunteering (GB)	Work Focused Training Starts ^{3,4} (England only)
	Total	45,970	48,180	21,810	95,570
Gender	Male	29,250	38,710	12,840	72,980
	Female	10,040	8,670	8,110	22,590
	Unknown	6,700	800	870	-
Age Group	18-24	8,430	3,150	3,060	13,270
	25-49	24,080	33,250	13,250	65,530
	50+	6,770	10,980	4,630	16,770
	Unknown	6,710	810	880	-
	19+	38,610	47,240	20,530	95,250
Disability	Yes	6,800	7,770	6,220	10,250
	No	32,480	39,610	14,720	81,100
	Unknown	6,700	800	880	4,220
Ethnicity	White	33,600	41,390	16,030	76,060
	Black or Black British	1,100	1,440	1,620	7,950
	Asian or Asian British	1,570	1,340	1,170	4,810
	Mixed	380	460	350	2,160
	Other/ Chinese	510	490	430	1,960
	Unknown	8,810	3,070	2,220	2,630
Region	East Midlands	3,470	4,180	3,710	9,540
	East of England	2,500	3,750	1,110	8,770
	London	3,040	4,270	3,210	12,890
	North East	n/a ²	2,100	690	7,160
	North West	5,350	6,590	1,630	13,790
	Scotland	3,970	3,250	600	n/a ⁴
	South East	3,160	4,450	980	13,680
	South West	3,240	5,200	1,630	8,520
	Wales	2,820	3,000	690	n/a ⁴
	West Midlands	5,150	4,690	3,520	9,470
	Yorkshire & Humberside	4,870	5,320	2,940	11,320
Unknown	7,310	1,390	1,110	410	

Notes: Values less than 10 are suppressed and marked with a dash and any figures above 10 are rounded to the nearest 10. Therefore totals may not be the sum of the individual cells. Recruitment Subsidy, Self Employment Credit and Volunteering demographics are taken from Jobcentre Plus' Labour Market System (LMS). n/a = "not available".

1: Disability status is declared by the claimant during a Jobcentre Plus interview. Claimants recording their ethnicity status as "prefer not to say" are categorised as unknown. Some regions have greater NDYP coverage than others and therefore may appear to have proportionately fewer starts.

2: Most Recruitment Subsidy payments in the North East region do not contain a personal identifier to allow the payment to be linked with the Labour Market System to obtain demographics. Therefore most of the North East records appear under "unknown".

3: Disability status is according to the learners own assessment if a learner has a disability or disabilities. Claimants recording their ethnicity as "prefer not to say" are categorised as unknown

4: Demographic breakdowns of figures for training starts in Scotland and Wales are not available.

Publication Timetable

Publication	Date	Notes
1 st	Wednesday 14 th October 2009	First Publication.
2 nd	Wednesday 20 th January 2010	Work Focused Training statistics published in February as an annexe to the January publication.
	Wednesday 17 th February 2010	
3 rd	Wednesday 21 st April 2010	The first full publication to include all four strands.
4 th	Wednesday 14 th July 2010	Volunteering statistics based on Individual claimant level data returned by the brokers.
5 th	Wednesday 13 th October 2010	
6 th	Wednesday 19 th January 2011	The first publication to include Work Focused Training completion statistics.
7 th	Wednesday 13 th April 2011	
8 th	Wednesday 13 th July 2011.	
9 th	Wednesday 12 th October 2011.	The final publication in the official statistics series.

Publication dates will be confirmed on the UK Statistics Authority's Publication Hub (www.statistics.gov.uk/hub) at least 4 weeks before publication date.

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Annexe A: Further Details on the Strands

Recruitment Subsidy:

1. The recruitment subsidy was a payment to employers for recruiting claimants who had been claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) for six months, where the job was for at least 16 hours per week and was expected to last at least 26 weeks. It was delivered in two ways;
 - ***Self Marketed Voucher:*** Individual claimants were given a voucher when they reached six months unemployed to present to employers at interviews. If the employer recruited the claimant, the employer submitted the voucher to DWP and received a £500 payment. If the claimant did not return to claim benefit within 26 weeks the employer received a further £500 payment.
 - ***Bulk Billing:*** Involved working directly with employers who recruited in bulk. Under this arrangement the employer received a £1000 subsidy for every six month plus unemployed claimant they recruited.

Self Employment:

2. Eligible Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claimants could receive a Self-Employment Credit (SEC) worth £50 per week for up to 16 weeks once they left benefit to help with start-up costs. Jobcentre Plus directed claimants to expert enterprise help from Business Link (England), Business Gateway and Training for Work (Scotland) and Flexible Support for Business (Wales) who provided tailored information, advice and practical support to claimants interested in becoming self-employed or starting a business.
3. Eligibility for SEC was not dependent upon the claimants having engaged with the 'expert partner' and all claims had to be submitted within five weeks of their JSA claim ending.
4. From 22nd February 2010 the eligibility for the Self Employment support was extended to include claimants with JSA claims over three months.

Volunteering:

5. Claimants with an interest in volunteering to develop their work skills were directed to a broker to find and arrange a suitable volunteering placement.

Work Focused Training

6. The Work Focused Training strand of the Six Month Offer was led and funded by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills in England, the Scottish Government in Scotland and the Welsh Assembly Government in Wales. It offered training to Jobseeker's Allowance claimants who would benefit from significant up-skilling or re-skilling in order to re-enter the local job market.
7. In England, as part of this package of enhanced support, there were 75,000 new training places on offer to jobseekers who reached the six month point on Jobseeker's Allowance who would benefit from significant up-skilling or re-skilling in

8. In Scotland, the training for the Six Month Offer was provided through Training for Work, the national vocational training programme for the unemployed. Training was demand led, aimed at specific job opportunities and could vary in length from a week to a year. Support for those wishing to be self employed was also available through this programme. Training for Work could be accessed by all people seeking work who were unemployed for three months or more. Day one access was available to those who were disadvantaged in the labour market, such as lone parents, or those with disabilities.

9. The support offered in Wales was different from both England and Scotland. The training element of the Six Month Offer was delivered by the Welsh Assembly Government's existing Skill Build programme, which continued to offer pre-employment training to Jobseeker's Allowance claimants from their first day of unemployment, with additional funding for 2009-10 to meet rising demand. It was not possible to separately identify 6MO Work Focused Training starts joining the Skill Build programme from overall Skill Build starts.