

**Working Age
Benefits Division**

**EMPLOYMENT AND SUPPORT
ALLOWANCE: WORK CAPABILITY
ASSESSMENT BY HEALTH
CONDITION AND FUNCTIONAL
IMPAIRMENT:
Official Statistics**

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DWP Department for
Work and Pensions

Executive summary

This is the official statistics publication of Work Capability Assessment (WCA) figures relating to Employment and Support Allowance Claims (ESA). It contains figures on ESA claims to May 2010 and WCAs to October 2010.

The headline figures are:

For all new ESA Claims from 27th October 2008 to 31st May 2010, the result of the initial WCA is as follows:

- Support Group - 6%
- Work Related Activity Group -16%
- Fit for Work - 39%
- Claim closed before assessment complete - 36%
- Assessment still in progress - 3%

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Work Capability Assessment

1.1 Summary

- 1.1.1 Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) replaced Incapacity Benefit and Income Support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27th October 2008. The introduction of ESA for new claimants in October 2008 was accompanied by a new assessment, the Work Capability Assessment (WCA). The WCA is based on advice delivered by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) assessment services contractor, Atos Healthcare.

1.2 Previous publications

- 1.2.1 This publication reports on latest available data on ESA claims in England, Scotland and Wales that are assessed by the WCA. This is an update to statistics previously released in October 2010.

1.3 Background

- 1.3.1 This report presents monthly data on ESA claims and their subsequent WCA outcomes. ESA claimants begin the functional assessment process shortly after starting their claim. Atos Healthcare undertakes an assessment and following the assessment, their recommendation is passed on to DWP to make a final decision on the claimant's ESA status. This will be one of the following:

- Support Group (for those with severe disabilities) – They receive a higher rate of benefit entitlement overall and exemption from mandatory involvement with Pathways to Work;
- Work Related Activity Group – They receive a higher rate of benefit than those on JSA and are mandated to engage with Pathways to Work; and,
- Fit for Work – The ESA claim is ceased but individuals can ask for a reconsideration or appeal if they disagree with the decision.

- 1.3.2 If someone is found Fit for Work by DWP they are no longer entitled to claim ESA. However, they may ask for a revision and/or they may appeal against the DWP decision. A large proportion of people claiming ESA cease their claim before assessment is complete (for example, if they have a short term health condition) and this is reflected in the figures presented in this paper. A recent DWP Research Report included a section looking at what happened to a sample of people who left ESA after being found Fit for Work or leaving ESA before completing assessment. These findings have been published and can be accessed here:

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2009-2010/rrep707.pdf>

2 Work Capability Assessment - Headline Statistics

2.1 WCA results for all ESA Claims

2.1.1 For all new ESA claims from October 2008 to May 2010, the breakdown of the DWP decision at initial assessment (by the end of October 2010) is as follows:

- Support Group - 6%
- Work Related Activity Group -16%
- Fit for Work - 39%
- Claim closed before assessment complete - 36%
- Assessment still in progress - 3%

2.2 WCA results for all completed assessments

2.2.1 For all completed initial assessments (not including assessments still in progress or people who left ESA before completing assessment) to the end of August 2010 the breakdown of the DWP decision at initial assessment is as follows:

- Support Group – 10%
- Work Related Activity Group - 25%
- Fit for Work - 65%

2.3 WCA Appeals

2.3.1 Of people who made a claim for ESA between October 2008 and November 2009 and who were found Fit for Work at assessment, 33% have had an appeal heard by Tribunals Service to date. The original decision made by DWP has been confirmed for 60% of these appeals heard.

3 Work Capability Assessment tables

Table 1: Monthly ESA on-flows by month of claim start and result of initial functional assessment.

Month of Claim Start	Support Group		Work Related Activity Group		Fit for Work		Claim closed before assessment complete		Assessment still in progress		Total	
Oct-08	700	8%	1,200	13%	3,600	39%	3,700	40%	100	1%	9,300	100%
Nov-08	2,900	6%	5,900	13%	17,500	39%	18,200	41%	200	1%	44,800	100%
Dec-08	2,700	7%	5,600	14%	15,200	38%	16,600	41%	200	1%	40,300	100%
Jan-09	3,200	6%	7,700	15%	21,000	39%	21,000	39%	300	1%	53,300	100%
Feb-09	2,900	6%	7,200	15%	19,800	40%	19,200	39%	400	1%	49,500	100%
Mar-09	3,300	6%	8,400	15%	23,500	41%	20,900	37%	500	1%	56,700	100%
Apr-09	3,200	6%	8,200	16%	21,800	42%	18,800	36%	500	1%	52,400	100%
May-09	3,300	6%	8,200	15%	22,000	41%	19,100	36%	400	1%	53,100	100%
Jun-09	3,400	6%	9,000	16%	22,700	40%	21,200	37%	600	1%	56,800	100%
Jul-09	3,800	7%	9,300	16%	22,800	40%	21,200	37%	700	1%	57,700	100%
Aug-09	3,300	6%	8,700	17%	20,400	40%	18,600	36%	600	1%	51,600	100%
Sep-09	3,700	7%	9,500	17%	21,800	39%	19,400	35%	800	2%	55,300	100%
Oct-09	3,300	6%	8,900	17%	21,200	40%	18,900	36%	1,100	2%	53,300	100%
Nov-09	3,300	6%	8,500	16%	20,500	39%	18,600	36%	1,300	2%	52,300	100%
Dec-09	2,900	7%	7,400	17%	16,800	38%	16,100	36%	1,300	3%	44,500	100%
Jan-10	3,300	6%	9,500	17%	21,900	39%	20,100	35%	1,900	3%	56,700	100%
Feb-10	3,100	6%	8,900	16%	21,400	39%	18,700	34%	2,500	5%	54,500	100%
Mar-10	3,400	6%	9,200	15%	23,100	39%	20,400	34%	3,500	6%	59,700	100%
Apr-10	3,200	6%	8,600	16%	20,300	37%	18,200	34%	4,100	8%	54,300	100%
May-10	2,900	6%	7,600	15%	18,700	36%	17,700	34%	5,700	11%	52,500	100%
Total	61,800	6%	157,600	16%	396,100	39%	366,600	36%	26,500	3%	1,008,600	100%

3.1.1 Table 1 presents initial assessment results by breaking down cohorts of ESA benefit claims. This is presented for claim starts to May 2010. Beyond this date the results are not reliable as many claims are still within the process.

3.1.2 National Statistics on ESA on-flows and caseload are published on the DWP Tabulation Tool¹. Latest data available shows there were 1,001,050 new ESA claims received between 27th October 2008 and 31st May 2010. Note that rounding, retrospection and exclusion of the small number of clerical claims with an unknown assessment result mean the total figures in Table 1 won't match the Tabulation Tool figures exactly.

¹ The Tabulation Tool and instructions on how to use it can be found on the Departmental website here: <http://83.244.183.180/100pc/tabtool.html>

Table 2: Completed assessments by month of assessment and result – initial assessments only.

Month of Assessment	Support Group		Work Related Activity Group		Fit for Work		Total	
Oct-08	0	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	100%
Nov-08	100	73%	0	15%	0	13%	100	100%
Dec-08	300	36%	100	16%	400	47%	900	100%
Jan-09	800	26%	500	17%	1,700	57%	2,900	100%
Feb-09	1,400	22%	1,100	18%	3,800	60%	6,300	100%
Mar-09	2,000	14%	2,900	20%	9,300	66%	14,200	100%
Apr-09	2,000	12%	3,400	20%	11,100	68%	16,500	100%
May-09	2,300	10%	4,700	22%	15,000	68%	22,000	100%
Jun-09	3,000	9%	7,900	23%	23,500	68%	34,300	100%
Jul-09	3,300	9%	8,500	23%	25,100	68%	36,900	100%
Aug-09	3,100	9%	8,600	24%	23,400	67%	35,100	100%
Sep-09	3,100	9%	8,400	25%	22,700	67%	34,100	100%
Oct-09	3,600	10%	8,600	24%	24,000	66%	36,200	100%
Nov-09	3,800	10%	9,400	25%	24,600	65%	37,800	100%
Dec-09	3,200	11%	8,100	27%	18,600	62%	29,900	100%
Jan-10	3,400	10%	8,800	26%	22,200	65%	34,400	100%
Feb-10	3,600	10%	9,500	27%	22,300	63%	35,300	100%
Mar-10	4,100	10%	10,700	27%	24,800	63%	39,600	100%
Apr-10	3,300	10%	9,200	28%	20,500	62%	32,900	100%
May-10	3,400	10%	9,800	28%	21,900	62%	35,100	100%
Jun-10	4,000	10%	10,500	27%	24,800	63%	39,300	100%
Jul-10	4,000	10%	11,000	27%	25,800	63%	40,800	100%
Aug-10	3,500	9%	9,700	26%	24,600	65%	37,900	100%
Total	61,000	10%	151,500	25%	390,100	65%	602,600	100%

3.1.3 Table 2 presents the DWP decision at initial assessment by the month assessment was completed up to the end of August 2010. Repeat assessments and clerical assessments where the result cannot be determined from DWP benefits data are excluded from these figures. Note that these figures are not intended to match the figures in Table 1 above. Table 2 covers completed assessments, excluding claims still in progress, whilst Table 1 covers all ESA claims.

Table 3: WCA Appeals heard on ‘Fit for Work’ Decision (initial assessments only)

Month of Claim Start	Fit for Work	Appeals heard (to date)	% fit for Work with an appeal heard (to date)	Decision in favour of appellant	DWP decision upheld	% Decision in favour of appellant	% DWP decision upheld
Oct-08	3,600	1,500	41%	600	900	40%	60%
Nov-08	17,500	7,200	41%	2,800	4,400	40%	60%
Dec-08	15,200	6,400	42%	2,700	3,800	41%	59%
Jan-09	21,000	8,900	42%	3,600	5,300	40%	60%
Feb-09	19,800	8,100	41%	3,300	4,800	41%	59%
Mar-09	23,500	9,400	40%	3,800	5,500	41%	59%
Apr-09	21,800	8,300	38%	3,400	4,900	41%	59%
May-09	22,000	8,000	36%	3,200	4,800	40%	60%
Jun-09	22,700	7,600	33%	3,100	4,500	41%	59%
Jul-09	22,800	7,100	31%	2,700	4,300	39%	61%
Aug-09	20,400	5,600	28%	2,200	3,500	39%	61%
Sep-09	21,800	5,300	24%	2,000	3,300	37%	63%
Oct-09	21,200	4,100	19%	1,400	2,600	35%	65%
Nov-09	20,500	2,800	14%	900	2,000	31%	69%
Total	273,900	90,300	33%	35,800	54,600	40%	60%

3.1.4 Table 3 presents data on ESA claims up to the end of November 2009 (the earliest month where we have sufficient volumes of heard appeals to include in this publication) where the person claiming has been found Fit for Work, they subsequently appeal the Department’s decision and the appeal has been heard by Tribunals Service by the end of September 2010 (the latest data we have from Tribunals Service).

3.1.5 Due to the time it takes for appeals to be submitted to the Tribunals Service and heard, it is likely that there are more appeals that have not yet been heard, particularly for the most recent cohorts of ESA claims, as can be observed from the declining percentage of people found fit for work who appeal in Table 3. These figures should continue to be treated as emerging findings and not final at this stage.

3.1.6 Table 3 shows that:

- For the cohorts of ESA claims to November 2009 around 33% of people found fit for work have had an appeal heard.
- For the earlier cohorts of ESA claims (October 2008 to January 2009), this proportion is around 42% and we would expect the later cohorts to rise to at least a similar level. Additionally these earlier cohorts may continue to increase beyond 42%.
- To date, 60% of DWP decisions have been upheld.
- Note that Nov-09 shows a higher than typical DWP Decision upheld rate of 69%. Data from previous quarters shows that the rate tends to be higher when a relatively low number of appeals have been heard. We expect the rate for Nov-09 will fall as more appeals from this cohort are heard.

Table 4: Monthly ESA on-flows by month of claim start and result of initial assessment after the effect of appeals.

Month of Claim Start	Support Group		Work Related Activity Group		Fit for Work		Claim closed before assessment complete		Assessment still in progress		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Oct-08	800	8%	1,800	19%	3,000	32%	3,700	40%	100	1%	9,300	100%
Nov-08	3,200	7%	8,400	19%	14,700	33%	18,200	41%	200	1%	44,800	100%
Dec-08	3,000	7%	7,900	20%	12,500	31%	16,600	41%	200	1%	40,300	100%
Jan-09	3,700	7%	10,900	20%	17,400	33%	21,000	39%	300	1%	53,300	100%
Feb-09	3,300	7%	10,100	20%	16,500	33%	19,200	39%	400	1%	49,500	100%
Mar-09	3,700	7%	11,900	21%	19,700	35%	20,900	37%	500	1%	56,700	100%
Apr-09	3,500	7%	11,300	22%	18,400	35%	18,800	36%	500	1%	52,400	100%
May-09	3,500	7%	11,200	21%	18,800	35%	19,100	36%	400	1%	53,100	100%
Jun-09	3,600	6%	11,800	21%	19,600	34%	21,200	37%	600	1%	56,800	100%
Jul-09	4,000	7%	11,800	20%	20,100	35%	21,200	37%	700	1%	57,700	100%
Aug-09	3,500	7%	10,700	21%	18,200	35%	18,600	36%	600	1%	51,600	100%
Sep-09	3,900	7%	11,400	21%	19,800	36%	19,400	35%	800	2%	55,300	100%
Oct-09	3,400	6%	10,200	19%	19,800	37%	18,900	36%	1,100	2%	53,300	100%
Nov-09	3,400	6%	9,400	18%	19,700	38%	18,600	36%	1,300	2%	52,300	100%
Dec-09	2,900	7%	7,800	17%	16,400	37%	16,100	36%	1,300	3%	44,500	100%
Jan-10	3,300	6%	9,800	17%	21,600	38%	20,100	35%	1,900	3%	56,700	100%
Feb-10	3,100	6%	9,000	17%	21,200	39%	18,700	34%	2,500	5%	54,500	100%
Mar-10	3,400	6%	9,300	16%	23,000	39%	20,400	34%	3,500	6%	59,700	100%
Apr-10	3,200	6%	8,600	16%	20,200	37%	18,200	34%	4,100	8%	54,300	100%
May-10	2,900	6%	7,600	15%	18,600	36%	17,700	34%	5,700	11%	52,500	100%
Total	65,300	6%	190,900	19%	359,300	36%	366,600	36%	26,500	3%	1,008,600	100%

3.1.7 Table 4 is the same as Table 1 except that results are presented after the effect of appeals against the decision made at the WCA. This effectively increases the number of people in the Support Group and the Work Related Activity Group and reduces the number of people in the Fit for Work category.

4 Health Condition and Functional Impairment

4.1 Summary

- 4.1.1 This section presents information relating specifically to the health condition of the people making a claim for ESA and the reason Work Related Activity Group (WRAG) or Support Group (SG) status was awarded (where applicable).
- 4.1.2 In principle, the functional impairment is the reason ESA entitlement is granted after assessment and the health condition is the main health condition recorded at the start of the ESA claim.
- 4.1.3 Health Condition breakdowns are based on ICD 10 codes (International Classification of Diseases)¹.

¹ <http://www.who.int/classifications/icd/en/>

4.2 Reasons for placement in the Support Group

4.2.1 People who are placed in the Support Group after assessment will usually have the reason they have been put in the Support Group recorded which will be either:

- Support Group - Chemotherapy
- Support Group - Physical or Mental Health Risk
- Support Group - Pregnancy Risk
- Support Group - Severe Functional Disability
- Support Group - Terminally Ill

4.2.2 Section 6.2 provides more detail on what these reasons mean.

4.2.3 For some people the reason they have been placed in the Support Group is not recorded in the database. They are categorised as Support Group – other category. This group includes:

- **Clerical assessments** -where Atos recommendation is recorded clerically and Support Group Status can only be determined from the Jobcentre Plus Decision Maker (JCP DM) Decision, but no more detail is available;
- **At reconsideration** - in a small number of cases the JCP DM may determine that people should qualify for the SG when the Atos recommendation was fit for work or WRAG. Or the case may have been returned to Atos for reconsideration and subsequently changed – note that as reconsiderations are only recorded clerically we can only infer this has occurred via the JCP DM decision;
- **After appeal** – again, in a small number of cases, people who move to the Support Group from Fit for Work or WRAG after a successful appeal.

4.2.4 Section 5.1 presents the breakdown of people in the Support Group and the reason they have been placed in the Support Group.

4.3 Reasons for Placement in the Work Related Activity Group (WRAG)

4.3.1 People are typically assessed as in the WRAG because they score 15 points or more at the face-to-face WCA. However, the full list of determinants includes:

- **WRAG – 15 points or more at the face-to-face WCA:** applies where someone attends the face-to-face assessment, scores 15 points or more and qualifies for the WRAG;
- **WRAG - clerical assessment:** where Atos recommendation is recorded clerically and WRAG Status can only be determined from the Jobcentre Plus Decision Maker (JCP DM) Decision, but no more detail is available;
- **WRAG – medical reasons:** this combines people who are placed in the WRAG due to falling into the Non-Functional Descriptor or the WCA Treat as Limited Capability to Work category (see paragraph 6.3.4 for details);
- **WRAG - at reconsideration:** in a small number of cases the JCP DM may determine that people should qualify for the WRAG when the Atos recommendation was fit for work. Or the case may have been returned to Atos for reconsideration and subsequently changed – note that as reconsiderations are only recorded clerically we can only infer this has occurred via the JCP DM decision
- **WRAG - after appeal:** people who move to the WRAG from Fit for Work after a successful appeal. Note that people found fit for work who are in the process of appealing remain in the fit for work category (for the purpose of this breakdown) until their appeal is heard.

4.3.2 Section 5.2 presents the breakdown of people in the WRAG and the reason they have been placed in the WRAG.

4.4 Functional Impairment breakdowns

- 4.4.1 Functional Impairment information is taken from points scored at the face-to-face work capability assessment. For people scoring 15 points or more at the face-to-face WCA and who are placed in the WRAG the functional impairment is the basis for entitlement to ESA.
- 4.4.2 For people placed in the Work Related Activity Group, Sections 5.4 and 5.5 provide detail on where people scored points against the different functional descriptors. Section 6.3 provides further information on what activities the functional descriptors relate to.

4.5 Health Condition breakdowns

- 4.5.1 Medical information is predominantly taken from the information recorded on the medical certificate provided by the GP when someone first makes a claim for ESA. It is based on the primary condition of the person claiming and represents what their GP considers to be the main reason the person cannot work at that time.
- 4.5.2 In 2010, this information was transferred to central administrative databases for all claims still live in November 2009 and new claims thereafter. For some claims that closed before November 2009 we have used other sources to determine medical condition such as that recorded at the WCA or that recorded by Jobcentre Plus at first contact. However, in some cases the information is missing, particularly for ESA claims that closed before November 2009.
- 4.5.3 Note that a decision on entitlement to ESA is not normally based on looking at what condition, or conditions, a person has. Instead, the department assesses the functional effects on each individual. So the Work Capability Assessment looks at someone's functional ability to carry out activities which are important for work, like getting around, picking things up, learning new tasks and understanding things. For example, an individual will not qualify for ESA on the basis that they have arthritis, but they might qualify because they cannot hold a pen or use a keyboard and mouse.
- 4.5.4 Sections 5.3 presents figures by health condition. Combined health condition and functional impairment information is available in Section 5.5.

5 Health Condition and Functional Impairment Tables

5.1 Support Group

Table 5: Support Group by reason in Support Group (including effect of appeals)

Month of Claim Start	Support Group - Chemotherapy		Support Group - Physical or Mental Health Risk		Support Group - Pregnancy Risk		Support Group - Severe Functional Disability		Support Group - Terminally ill		Support Group - other		Support Group - Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Oct-08	100	13%	200	20%	0	2%	300	41%	100	9%	100	15%	800	100%
Nov-08	500	15%	600	18%	0	1%	1,200	36%	300	11%	600	20%	3,200	100%
Dec-08	500	16%	500	17%	0	1%	1,000	35%	300	11%	600	20%	3,000	100%
Jan-09	600	16%	600	16%	0	1%	1,300	35%	400	10%	800	21%	3,700	100%
Feb-09	500	16%	600	17%	0	1%	1,100	34%	300	10%	700	21%	3,300	100%
Mar-09	600	15%	700	18%	0	1%	1,300	35%	300	9%	800	21%	3,700	100%
Apr-09	600	17%	600	19%	0	1%	1,200	34%	400	10%	700	19%	3,500	100%
May-09	600	16%	700	19%	0	1%	1,200	34%	400	11%	600	18%	3,500	100%
Jun-09	600	15%	700	19%	0	1%	1,300	37%	400	10%	600	18%	3,600	100%
Jul-09	600	15%	800	19%	0	1%	1,600	40%	400	10%	600	15%	4,000	100%
Aug-09	600	17%	600	18%	0	1%	1,300	38%	400	11%	500	15%	3,500	100%
Sep-09	600	15%	800	20%	100	2%	1,600	42%	300	8%	500	13%	3,900	100%
Oct-09	600	17%	700	22%	0	1%	1,200	35%	400	11%	500	15%	3,400	100%
Nov-09	500	15%	800	24%	100	2%	1,300	37%	400	11%	400	12%	3,400	100%
Dec-09	500	19%	600	22%	0	1%	1,100	36%	400	12%	300	11%	2,900	100%
Jan-10	600	17%	800	25%	0	1%	1,200	35%	400	11%	300	10%	3,300	100%
Feb-10	500	17%	800	25%	0	1%	1,200	38%	300	10%	300	10%	3,100	100%
Mar-10	600	17%	900	26%	0	1%	1,200	36%	400	11%	300	9%	3,400	100%
Apr-10	500	17%	900	28%	0	1%	1,100	35%	300	11%	300	8%	3,200	100%
May-10	500	18%	700	25%	0	1%	1,000	35%	300	12%	200	8%	2,900	100%
Total	10,600	16%	13,500	21%	800	1%	23,700	36%	6,800	10%	9,800	15%	65,300	100%

5.1.1 Table 5 presents figures for people in the Support Group (SG) using the detailed reasons described in the introduction. The 'Support Group – other' category includes people identified as SG from JCP DM data or Tribunals Service data or where the Atos recommendation was recorded clerically, Section 6.2, gives more detail on SG reasons.

5.2 Work Related Activity Group

Table 6 - Work Related Activity Group by reason (including effect of appeals).

Month of Claim Start	WRAG - 15 Points or more at WCA		WRAG - for medical reasons		WRAG - Clerical assessment		WRAG - after appeal		WRAG - at reconsideration		WRAG - Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Oct-08	1,000	56%	100	4%	100	4%	600	32%	100	4%	1,800	100%
Nov-08	4,700	56%	400	4%	300	3%	2,700	31%	400	4%	8,400	100%
Dec-08	4,500	57%	400	5%	300	3%	2,500	31%	300	4%	7,900	100%
Jan-09	6,200	57%	600	5%	400	4%	3,300	31%	500	4%	10,900	100%
Feb-09	5,800	57%	400	4%	300	3%	3,100	30%	500	4%	10,100	100%
Mar-09	6,800	57%	500	4%	400	3%	3,600	30%	600	5%	11,900	100%
Apr-09	6,700	59%	500	4%	300	3%	3,200	29%	600	5%	11,300	100%
May-09	6,700	60%	500	4%	400	3%	3,000	27%	600	5%	11,200	100%
Jun-09	7,300	62%	500	4%	400	3%	2,900	25%	700	6%	11,800	100%
Jul-09	7,600	65%	500	4%	300	3%	2,600	22%	700	6%	11,800	100%
Aug-09	7,100	66%	500	5%	300	3%	2,100	19%	700	7%	10,700	100%
Sep-09	7,700	68%	500	5%	400	4%	1,900	17%	800	7%	11,400	100%
Oct-09	7,100	70%	500	5%	300	3%	1,400	13%	900	8%	10,200	100%
Nov-09	6,900	74%	500	6%	300	3%	800	9%	800	8%	9,400	100%
Dec-09	6,000	77%	500	7%	200	3%	400	5%	700	8%	7,800	100%
Jan-10	7,800	79%	600	6%	300	3%	300	3%	800	8%	9,800	100%
Feb-10	7,400	82%	500	6%	300	3%	200	2%	700	8%	9,000	100%
Mar-10	7,700	82%	600	6%	300	3%	100	1%	700	7%	9,300	100%
Apr-10	7,000	81%	700	8%	200	3%	0	0%	700	8%	8,600	100%
May-10	6,200	81%	600	8%	200	3%	0	0%	600	8%	7,600	100%
Total	128,200	67%	9,800	5%	6,100	3%	34,700	18%	12,200	6%	190,900	100%

5.2.1 Table 6 presents figures for people in the Work Related Activity Group (WRAG) using the detailed reasons described in Section 4.3. Total WRAG figures are the same as those in Table 7 below, except for the inclusion of people in the WRAG after appeal. The number of people in the WRAG after appeal is likely to increase as more appeals are heard which will in turn affect the percentage shares in the other categories.

5.3 WCA Assessment Result by Health Condition

Table 7 - Result of assessment by ICD10 Condition Group – ESA claims to May 2010.

ICD10 Condition Group	Support Group		Work Related Activity Group		Fit for Work		Claim closed before assessment complete		Assessment still in progress		Total	
Certain Infectious and Parasitic Diseases	1,100	12%	1,400	14%	2,800	30%	3,900	41%	300	3%	9,400	100%
Neoplasms	16,800	51%	4,300	13%	4,600	14%	6,600	20%	700	2%	33,000	100%
Diseases of the Blood etc. ¹	200	8%	300	16%	900	44%	600	29%	100	3%	1,900	100%
Endocrine, Nutritional and Metabolic Diseases	600	5%	2,500	21%	5,600	47%	2,900	24%	300	2%	12,000	100%
Mental and Behavioural Disorders	16,800	5%	60,200	17%	156,600	45%	96,400	28%	14,500	4%	344,500	100%
Diseases of the Nervous System	4,700	16%	8,000	27%	9,900	33%	6,500	22%	900	3%	29,900	100%
Diseases of the Eye and Adnexa	200	4%	1,400	28%	1,800	37%	1,500	29%	100	2%	5,000	100%
Diseases of the Ear and Mastoid Process	100	4%	700	25%	1,100	37%	900	32%	100	2%	3,000	100%
Diseases of the Circulatory System	3,200	8%	7,800	20%	17,500	45%	9,600	25%	800	2%	38,900	100%
Diseases of the Respiratory System	1,300	8%	3,500	19%	7,700	43%	4,900	28%	400	2%	17,800	100%
Diseases of the Digestive System	1,200	6%	2,600	12%	8,400	39%	8,600	41%	400	2%	21,200	100%
Diseases of the Skin and Subcutaneous System	200	3%	1,000	14%	2,800	40%	2,900	41%	100	2%	7,200	100%
Diseases of the Musculoskeletal system and Connective Tissue	2,900	2%	27,000	20%	67,200	49%	38,200	28%	2,400	2%	137,700	100%
Diseases of the Genitourinary System	700	8%	1,700	19%	3,100	36%	3,100	35%	200	2%	8,700	100%
Pregnancy, Childbirth and the Puerperium	400	7%	500	9%	1,200	20%	3,700	62%	100	2%	5,900	100%
Certain Conditions Originating in the Perinatal Period	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations, Deformations etc. ²	700	56%	200	19%	100	12%	100	11%	0	3%	1,200	100%
Symptoms, Signs etc., not elsewhere classified ³	6,100	5%	18,700	14%	52,700	40%	52,100	39%	3,200	2%	132,800	100%
Injury, Poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes	2,300	2%	13,700	10%	44,100	34%	68,900	53%	1,800	1%	130,800	100%
Factors influencing health status and contact with health services	1,100	14%	1,600	21%	2,800	35%	2,100	26%	300	4%	7,900	100%
Not recorded	1,000	2%	600	1%	5,100	8%	53,200	89%	0	0%	59,900	100%
Total	61,800	6%	157,600	16%	396,100	39%	366,600	36%	26,500	3%	1,008,600	100%

¹Diseases of the Blood and Blood forming organs and certain diseases involving the immune mechanism

²Congenital Malformations, Deformations and Chromosomal Abnormalities

³Symptoms, Signs and Abnormal Clinical and Laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified

5.3.1 Table 7 shows the health condition recorded against each ESA claim from October 2008 to May 2010 by result of initial assessment. These figures are consistent with the quarterly WCA statistics in Section 3 (which do not include the impact of appeals). A dash in the table above indicates that no cases were recorded with that particular health condition.

5.4 WRAG by Functional Impairment

Table 8 - Points scored by people in the WRAG scoring 15 points or more by functional impairment.

Month of Claim Start	Lower Limb	Upper Limb	Sensory	Continenence	Consciousness	Understanding and Focus	Adapting to Change	Social Interaction
Oct-08	47%	11%	8%	5%	7%	31%	38%	22%
Nov-08	50%	11%	8%	5%	7%	31%	39%	21%
Dec-08	53%	11%	8%	4%	6%	29%	37%	20%
Jan-09	51%	10%	7%	5%	7%	30%	39%	21%
Feb-09	50%	9%	8%	5%	6%	31%	39%	23%
Mar-09	48%	10%	7%	4%	7%	32%	41%	23%
Apr-09	50%	9%	7%	5%	6%	31%	40%	21%
May-09	50%	9%	7%	4%	6%	32%	40%	23%
Jun-09	49%	10%	7%	4%	6%	32%	41%	23%
Jul-09	47%	10%	7%	4%	6%	33%	42%	23%
Aug-09	49%	10%	7%	4%	6%	32%	40%	22%
Sep-09	49%	10%	7%	4%	6%	32%	41%	23%
Oct-09	50%	10%	7%	4%	6%	32%	40%	23%
Nov-09	49%	9%	6%	4%	6%	32%	40%	23%
Dec-09	51%	10%	7%	4%	6%	31%	38%	22%
Jan-10	51%	9%	6%	4%	6%	30%	38%	20%
Feb-10	49%	9%	7%	4%	6%	31%	41%	21%
Mar-10	49%	9%	6%	4%	6%	31%	40%	21%
Apr-10	51%	9%	7%	4%	6%	30%	38%	19%
May-10	51%	9%	6%	4%	6%	30%	36%	19%
Total	50%	10%	7%	4%	6%	31%	40%	22%

5.4.1 Table 8 shows people in the WRAG who scored 15 points at the WCA and in which functional impairment category they scored points. For example 47% of people who started their ESA claim in October 2008 scored points in an activity relating to their lower limbs. Further information on the functional impairment groups is available in Section 6.3. Note that percentages total more than 100% as people often score points in more than one category.

5.5 WRAG by Functional Impairment and Medical Condition

Table 9 - People who score 15 points or more at the WCA by points scored at the WCA and medical condition—percentages.

ICD10 Condition Group	Lower Limb	Upper Limb	Sensory	Continece	Consciousness	Understanding and Focus	Adapting to Change	Social Interaction
Certain Infectious and Parasitic Diseases	44%	6%	7%	16%	4%	39%	42%	26%
Neoplasms	70%	14%	15%	12%	8%	18%	17%	6%
Diseases of the Blood etc. ¹	75%	9%	7%	6%	8%	18%	21%	8%
Endocrine, Nutritional and Metabolic Diseases	68%	11%	16%	7%	21%	15%	14%	8%
Mental and Behavioural Disorders	11%	2%	3%	3%	4%	57%	77%	43%
Diseases of the Nervous System	51%	16%	8%	7%	39%	24%	17%	8%
Diseases of the Eye and Adnexa	14%	3%	92%	2%	4%	6%	7%	3%
Diseases of the Ear and Mastoid Process	27%	4%	77%	2%	3%	9%	12%	6%
Diseases of the Circulatory System	81%	18%	15%	3%	7%	18%	14%	7%
Diseases of the Respiratory System	86%	7%	7%	4%	5%	13%	15%	6%
Diseases of the Digestive System	58%	6%	4%	33%	5%	22%	24%	12%
Diseases of the Skin and Subcutaneous System	83%	19%	5%	5%	3%	12%	15%	9%
Diseases of the Musculoskeletal system and Connective Tissue	92%	18%	4%	4%	1%	7%	8%	4%
Diseases of the Genitourinary System	73%	8%	9%	17%	6%	13%	19%	10%
Pregnancy, Childbirth and the Puerperium	48%	3%	1%	3%	9%	32%	43%	15%
Certain Conditions Originating in the Perinatal Period	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations, Deformations etc. ²	51%	2%	28%	15%	3%	48%	32%	12%
Symptoms, Signs etc., not elsewhere classified ³	63%	12%	8%	5%	8%	22%	25%	14%
Injury, Poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes	81%	13%	5%	3%	3%	10%	11%	7%
Factors influencing health status and contact with health services	70%	13%	7%	5%	11%	15%	16%	8%
Not recorded	70%	9%	5%	7%	6%	16%	22%	7%
All Conditions	50%	10%	7%	4%	6%	31%	40%	22%

¹Diseases of the Blood and Blood forming organs and certain diseases involving the immune mechanism

²Congenital Malformations, Deformations and Chromosomal Abnormalities

³Symptoms, Signs and Abnormal Clinical and Laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified

5.5.1 Table 9 shows people who made an ESA claim between October 2008 and May 2010 and were then placed in the WRAG after scoring 15 points or more at the WCA by health condition and functional impairment. For example, of people with Certain Infectious and Parasitic Diseases, 44% scored points in an activity relating to their lower limbs. Note that percentages total more than 100% as people often score points in more than one category.

6 Health Condition and Functional Impairment Categories

6.1.1 Below is a more detailed explanation of the Support Group breakdown, the functional impairment breakdown, the non-functional descriptors and WCA deferred categories.

6.2 Support Group

6.2.1 In most cases the reason for being placed in the Support Group is recorded at assessment. The following provides a more detailed description of the breakdowns in Table 5:

- **Chemotherapy** – people receiving certain types of chemotherapy automatically qualify for the support group;
- **Physical or Mental Health Risk** – the regulations (see link below) allow that in ‘exceptional circumstances’ a person may be entitled to ESA and put into the support group if there would be ‘serious risk to the mental or physical health of any person’ if the claimant were to be found ‘fit for work’;
- **Pregnancy Risk** – if a woman is pregnant and there is serious risk to her health or the health of her unborn child if she works;
- **Severe functional disability** – if the claimant meets the functional criteria, covering physical and mental capacity, laid out in the legislation (see link below);
- **Terminally ill** – someone diagnosed as terminally ill with a prognosis of 6 months or less.

6.2.2 The link below is to The Employment and Support Allowance Regulations 2008. Part 6 gives a full description of how people can qualify for the Support Group:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2008/794/contents/made?view=plain>

6.3 Functional Impairment

6.3.1 Below is a more detailed description of the functional impairment categories in which people will score points if they score 15 points or more at the face-to-face WCA. They are split between Physical and Mental, cognitive and intellectual functions:

Physical Functions

- **Lower limb** – physical functions such as ability to walk, stand, sit and bend.
- **Upper Limb** – physical functions such as ability to reach, pick up and manual dexterity.
- **Sensory** – functions such as speech, hearing and vision.
- **Continence** – functions relating to control over the bladder and bowel.
- **Consciousness** – functions relating to involuntary loss of consciousness.

Mental, cognitive and intellectual functions

- **Understanding and focus** – ability to learn and comprehend, hazard awareness, memory and concentration, and initiating and executing tasks. For example, these descriptors might include someone with a learning disability or someone with dementia.
- **Adapting to change** – ability to cope with changes to routine, to get about and to cope with social situations. These are the sort of challenges someone with autism might face.
- **Social Interaction** – ability to deal with other people. These are the sort of challenges someone with a psychotic condition might face.

6.3.2 The link below provides further information on the Work Capability Assessment and includes a document explaining the functional impairments in further detail:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/FinancialSupport/esa/DG_172012

Non-Functional Descriptors

6.3.3 Customers will be treated as having limited capability for work and placed in the WRAG if they are:

- suffering from a life-threatening disease in relation to which:
 - there is medical evidence that the disease is uncontrollable, or uncontrolled, by a recognised therapeutic procedure, and
 - in the case of a disease that is uncontrolled, there is a reasonable cause for it not to be controlled by a recognised therapeutic procedure;

- suffering from some specific disease or bodily or mental disablement and, by reasons of such disease or disablement, there would be a substantial risk to the mental or physical health of any person if they were found not to have limited capability for work.

WCA – Treat as Limited Capability to Work

6.3.4 Customers will be treated as having limited capability for work and placed in the WRAG if they are:

- An in-patient in a hospital or similar institution undergoing medical or other treatment ;
- Recovering from treatment as an in-patient;
- Pregnant where there is a risk of harm to the mother and/or child;
- During a period of confinement for pregnancy;
- Pregnant and in receipt of Maternity Allowance with an ESA top-up;
- Undergoing regular treatment - this means a customer receiving:
 - regular weekly treatment by way of haemodialysis for chronic renal failure;
 - treatment by way of plasmapheresis or by way of radiotherapy;
 - regular weekly treatment by way of total parenteral nutrition for gross impairment of enteric function;
 - receiving treatment by way of intravenous, intraperitoneal or intrathecal chemotherapy; or
 - recovering from intravenous, intraperitoneal or intrathecal chemotherapy treatment.

6.3.5 The link below is to The Employment and Support Allowance Regulations 2008. Part 5 gives a full description of how people can qualify for the Work Related Activity Group:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2008/794/contents/made?view=plain>

7 Technical Notes

7.1 Rounding

7.1.1 All caseload figures have been rounded to the nearest 100 and percentages to the nearest percentage point. As a result, summing the columns or rows in a table may not add up exactly to the totals shown.

7.2 Source Data

7.2.1 The data presented in this publication combines three main data sources:

- benefit claims data held by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) covering new ESA claims that started between October 2008 and May 2010;
- functional assessment data sourced from Atos Healthcare covering assessments completed up to October 2010; and
- appeals data sourced from Tribunals Service covering appeals heard up to September 2010 (and which link to ESA claims up to the end of November 2009). Note that data from Tribunals Service does not record the reason for appeal and we must infer this from the original JCP DM Decision. This is typically a fit for work decision.