



Department
for Work &
Pensions

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 2013.
- Mandatory Work Activity (MWA) is a short placement of work-related activity intended to help people on Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) gain skills that are useful for work. It involves a four week role which benefits the local community.
- Between May 2011 and August 2013, 189,230 people were referred to Mandatory Work Activity.
- During this period, 74,070 people have begun a Mandatory Work Activity placement.
- Since January 2013, there has been a reduction in monthly referrals to MWA. Monthly starts have remained fairly constant, suggesting that a higher proportion of referrals have resulted in starts. There is not currently enough data to establish whether this represents a real change or is the result of seasonal variation, as similar patterns were observed last year.
- Skills Conditionality (SC) is a policy that mandates claimants receiving Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance (work-related activity group) to undertake activity to address an identified skills need which will aid their movement into work.
- Between August 2011 and August 2013 there have been:
 - 453,100 Skills Conditionality initial provider interview referrals
 - 227,710 Skills Conditionality initial provider interview starts
 - 500,520 Skills Conditionality training referrals
 - 239,680 Skills Conditionality training starts
 - 552,270 Skills Conditionality National Career Service referrals
 - 307,110 Skills Conditionality National Career Service starts
- The statistical tables and graphs showing trends in starts and referrals data are also available in a separate Excel file to allow users to engage with and reuse the data.
- Future editions of this publication will be published in line with the timetable shown in **Annex A**. Details regarding future content will be announced via the UK Statistics Authority publication hub.

Statistical tables

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

	Mandatory Work Activity referrals (GB)	Mandatory Work Activity starts (GB)
Total	189,230	74,070
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	2,480
Dec-2011	5,650	1,930
Jan-2012	10,300	3,350
Feb-2012	9,690	3,000
Mar-2012	7,770	3,050
Apr-2012	5,330	2,450
May-2012	6,560	2,820
Jun-2012	6,300	2,270
Jul-2012	7,850	2,950
Aug-2012	7,030	2,800
Sep-2012	7,790	2,810
Oct-2012	9,500	3,740
Nov-2012	9,990	3,580
Dec-2012	7,100	2,410
Jan-2013	11,720	4,020
Feb-2013	10,250	4,060
Mar-2013	9,140	3,520
Apr-2013	7,380	4,010
May-2013	6,540	3,310
Jun-2013	5,860	2,810
Jul-2013	7,420	3,510
Aug-2013	6,080	3,070

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

Data Source - DWP LMS opportunities evaluation database September 2013.

Table 2: Mandatory Work Activity Demographic Breakdown for the period May 2011 to August 2013

		Mandatory Work Activity referrals (GB)	Mandatory Work Activity starts (GB)
	Total	189,230	74,070
Gender	Male	137,200	50,740
	Female	52,020	23,330
	Unknown	-	-
Age Group	<18	10	-
	18-24	78,940	28,170
	25-49	93,430	37,500
	50+	16,840	8,390
	Unknown	10	-
Disability ¹	Yes	40,650	17,090
	No	148,580	56,980
	Unknown	-	-
Ethnicity ²	White	139,950	57,310
	Black or Black British	15,720	5,640
	Asian or Asian British	16,990	5,080
	Mixed	4,940	1,560
	Other/ Chinese	4,790	1,680
	Unknown	6,830	2,800
Region	Central England	41,960	16,680
	London and the Home Counties	40,400	16,090
	North East	26,800	11,670
	North West	25,540	9,160
	Scotland	14,620	6,090
	Southern England	25,900	9,700
	Wales	9,260	3,420
	Unknown	4,750	1,270

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 2013

1: Disability status is declared by the Jobseeker during a Jobcentre Plus interview. Disability status is according to the claimant's own assessment if a claimant 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 (GB)	National Careers Service (England)	Initial Provider Interview (England)	Training (GB)	National Careers Service (England)
Total	453,100	500,520	552,270	227,710	239,680	307,110
Aug-11	3,080	6,650	19,150	550	640	4,270
Sep-11	8,360	9,530	20,270	2,270	2,660	6,870
Oct-11	10,770	11,840	19,420	3,320	3,510	7,820
Nov-11	13,330	15,620	20,970	4,450	4,840	8,830
Dec-11	9,050	10,350	14,480	2,910	2,270	6,440
Jan-12	16,910	15,160	20,600	6,050	6,520	8,570
Feb-12	18,350	15,680	19,760	6,810	6,090	8,950
Mar-12	18,940	16,710	19,090	7,200	5,810	8,810
Apr-12	14,570	13,960	15,510	6,370	6,820	7,680
May-12	18,100	17,410	19,020	7,880	6,980	10,030
Jun-12	13,930	13,760	17,200	6,100	6,670	8,860
Jul-12	17,930	15,660	22,760	7,910	7,200	12,310
Aug-12	17,470	14,620	21,540	8,100	6,450	13,170
Sep-12	18,810	19,480	22,430	9,790	10,870	12,570
Oct-12	23,730	23,890	26,970	11,630	12,210	15,860
Nov-12	22,580	24,130	25,860	12,310	12,930	16,410
Dec-12	14,740	17,110	16,690	8,090	7,940	11,060
Jan-13	27,350	30,830	29,280	15,030	16,960	17,010
Feb-13	24,990	29,260	25,490	15,480	16,670	17,310
Mar-13	23,450	28,240	22,940	14,890	15,220	15,790
Apr-13	24,150	29,660	23,840	14,820	18,070	16,320
May-13	22,570	29,970	22,460	14,120	15,630	16,050
Jun-13	20,960	27,150	24,410	13,130	15,320	15,570
Jul-13	26,890	34,830	34,410	16,360	18,670	21,640
Aug-13	22,110	29,020	27,750	12,150	12,750	18,920

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, from 25th June 2012 in Scotland for training provision only, and from October 2012 in Wales for training provision only. In Wales, Skills Conditionality is Skills for Work (Wales) only.

For more information on Skills Conditionality and the three referral routes, please see the 'Skills Conditionality Policy Description' on page 8.

Data Source - DWP LMS opportunities evaluation database September 2013.

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

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 available at http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current.

Table 4: Skills Conditionality Demographic Breakdown for the period August 2011 to August 2013.

		Skills Conditionality REFERRALS			Skills Conditionality STARTS		
		Initial Provider Interview (England)	Training (GB)	National Careers Service (England)	Initial Provider Interview (England)	Training (GB)	National Careers Service (England)
	Total	453,100	500,520	552,270	227,710	239,680	307,110
Gender	Male	296,030	323,400	343,280	144,930	150,520	186,760
	Female	157,080	177,120	208,990	82,780	89,160	120,350
	Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age Group ¹	Under 18	90	100	40	30	30	20
	18-24	135,860	143,540	167,160	60,880	63,650	84,990
	25-49	252,040	279,900	301,510	128,940	134,690	169,740
	50+	65,110	76,970	83,550	37,860	41,310	52,370
	Unknown	10	10	-	-	-	-
Disability ²	Yes	98,190	104,000	120,760	51,130	51,350	67,610
	No	354,910	396,510	431,500	176,580	188,330	239,490
	Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ethnicity ³	White	332,760	351,380	408,090	166,880	171,250	221,330
	Black or Black British	29,760	43,970	50,000	14,720	18,640	30,340
	Asian or Asian British	36,040	42,230	38,230	17,870	19,470	22,600
	Mixed	9,970	11,860	13,230	4,730	5,110	7,200
	Other/Chinese	22,860	26,030	17,170	12,010	12,760	10,800
	Unknown	21,710	25,050	25,550	11,500	12,460	14,840
Region	Central England	107,700	98,790	96,180	53,690	45,800	50,150
	London and the Home Counties	104,890	156,720	199,880	53,930	67,990	123,520
	North East	79,180	111,540	66,680	38,970	58,930	30,130
	North West	106,660	72,720	101,780	52,830	38,840	56,010
	Southern England	54,680	52,040	87,750	28,300	23,950	47,300
	Scotland	N/A	1,150	N/A	N/A	550	N/A
	Wales	N/A	7,570	N/A	N/A	3,620	N/A

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 for Training Provision only and from October 2012 in Wales for training provision only. In Wales, Skills Conditionality is Skills for Work (Wales) only.

Data Source - DWP LMS opportunities evaluation database September 2013.

1: The number of age categories has been expanded since the previous publication (18-24, 25+).

2: Disability status is declared by the claimant during a Jobcentre Plus interview. Disability status is according to the claimant's own assessment if a claimant has a disability or disabilities.

3: Claimants recording their ethnicity status as "prefer not to say" are categorised as unknown.

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

5: 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 available at http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current.

Mandatory Work Activity – Policy Description

1. MWA was launched on 16 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 contributing to the local community.
2. Work related disciplines include attending on time, regularly carrying out specific tasks and working under supervision. MWA is about offering further support to some JSA claimants who would benefit from a short period of activity.
3. MWA involves work-based placements with hosts, sourced by external providers under contract to DWP. For those referred to a placement, participation is mandatory.
4. The placements sourced by the provider:
 - last for 4 weeks
 - are for 30 hours per week, unless restrictions apply, allowing the claimant time to look for work as required by their Jobseeker's Agreement
 - 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
5. MWA participants continue to claim JSA and attend Jobsearch Reviews.
6. Since 29 April 2013 it is possible Universal Credit claimants in the all work-related requirements group can be referred to MWA.

Skills Conditionality - Policy Description

7. Skills conditionality is a policy that makes attendance at and completion of skills related interventions a condition for receiving benefit. JCP Advisers screen JSA and ESA WRAG claimants for potential skills needed in the labour market, and they are referred to appropriate support.
8. In England that can be an interview with the National Careers Service where skills needs are unclear, or an initial provider interview with a training provider, or a referral direct to training. In Scotland it is referral to training. In Wales it is referral to the DWP training programme, Skills for Work Wales.
9. 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

10. 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, data from the benefits administrative database (the National Benefits Database) is also used.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. The format of this publication will be kept under review and any feedback or suggestions to improve this publication are welcomed.
14. Interventions in Universal Credit pathfinder areas are not captured, and so these official statistics will be a small undercount.

Mandatory Work Activity

15. 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

16. A referral to SC is defined as the date the claimant is referred to an initial provider interview, training provision or the National Careers Service¹, 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 onto the Provider Referrals and Payments (PraP) system, which was then pulled through onto the Jobcentre Plus' Labour Market System. Providers may submit data on starts some time after the actual event occurred.

Retrospection

17. Retrospection is the time period allowed for additional or updated information to be incorporated into DWP's data systems. All data used is drawn from administrative sources,

¹ National Careers Service was previously called Next Step.

which takes time to process and collate. There are therefore lags between the reference period and availability of the dataset for analysis.

18. Labour Market System (LMS) datasets are produced a month in arrears i.e. September 2013 data was available at the end of October 2013. Generally, for any given month's worth of LMS data, significant retrospection can be seen for a further month.
19. 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 2013 (which are published in November 2013) are produced using September 2013 data, which was released in October 2013).

Revisions Policy

20. In accordance with Principle 2 of the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Official Statistics², 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

21. 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.

² <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/code-of-practice-for-official-statistics.pdf>

Annex 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 covering Mandatory Work Activity and Skills Conditionality.
4 th	Wednesday 22 nd May 2013	The fourth publication covering Mandatory Work Activity and Skills Conditionality.
5 th	Wednesday 27 th November 2013	The fifth publication covering Mandatory Work Activity and Skills Conditionality.

For general enquiries regarding Get Britain Working Measures please visit the DWP website: www.dwp.gov.uk or contact the DWP press office on 0203 267 5144.

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