

**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 August 2010 and WCAs to November 2010. Note that outcomes from the IB reassessment trial are not included in this report.

The headline figures are:

For all new ESA Claims from 27th October 2008 to 31st August 2010, the result of the initial WCA is as follows (proportions do not sum exactly to 100% due to rounding):

- Support Group – 6%
- Work Related Activity Group – 16%
- Fit for Work – 39%
- Claim closed before assessment complete – 36%
- Assessment still in progress – 2%

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1 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 provides the latest available data for ESA claims in Great Britain that are assessed by the WCA. This is an update to statistics previously released in January 2011.

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;
- Fit for Work – The ESA claim is ceased but individuals can ask for a reconsideration or appeal if they disagree with the decision, and
- From April 2011 the support system for customers claiming ESA is changing as a result of the introduction of the Work Programme. More information will become available in due course.

- 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 on the Departmental website, at the link below:

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

1.4 IB Reassessment Trial

- 1.4.1 This report does not include any information about claims and assessments that have been through the IB Reassessment trial running in Aberdeen and Burnley. More information on progress of the trial can be found on the Departmental website here:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/adhoc_analysis/2011/ib_reassessment.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 August 2010, the breakdown of the DWP decision at initial assessment (using all results known by the end of January 2011) is as shown below. Proportions do not sum exactly to 100% due to rounding.

- Support Group - 6%
- Work Related Activity Group - 16%
- Fit for Work - 39%
- Claim closed before assessment complete - 36%
- Assessment still in progress - 2%

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 November 2010 the breakdown of the DWP decision at initial assessment is as follows:

- Support Group – 10%
- Work Related Activity Group - 26%
- Fit for Work - 64%

2.3 WCA Appeals

2.3.1 Of people who made a claim for ESA between October 2008 and February 2010 and who were found Fit for Work at assessment, 36% have had an appeal heard by Tribunals Service to date. The original decision made by DWP has been confirmed for 61% 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%	1,300	14%	3,600	39%	3,700	40%	0	0%	9,300	100%
Nov-08	2,900	6%	6,000	13%	17,500	39%	18,200	41%	100	0%	44,800	100%
Dec-08	2,700	7%	5,700	14%	15,200	38%	16,600	41%	200	0%	40,300	100%
Jan-09	3,300	6%	7,800	15%	21,000	39%	21,000	39%	200	0%	53,300	100%
Feb-09	3,000	6%	7,300	15%	19,800	40%	19,200	39%	200	0%	49,500	100%
Mar-09	3,300	6%	8,600	15%	23,500	41%	21,000	37%	300	0%	56,700	100%
Apr-09	3,200	6%	8,300	16%	21,800	42%	18,800	36%	200	0%	52,400	100%
May-09	3,300	6%	8,300	16%	22,000	42%	19,200	36%	300	0%	53,000	100%
Jun-09	3,400	6%	9,000	16%	22,800	40%	21,300	37%	300	1%	56,800	100%
Jul-09	3,800	7%	9,300	16%	22,900	40%	21,200	37%	400	1%	57,700	100%
Aug-09	3,400	7%	8,700	17%	20,500	40%	18,600	36%	400	1%	51,600	100%
Sep-09	3,800	7%	9,500	17%	22,000	40%	19,500	35%	400	1%	55,200	100%
Oct-09	3,300	6%	8,900	17%	21,500	40%	19,000	36%	500	1%	53,300	100%
Nov-09	3,400	6%	8,700	17%	20,800	40%	18,800	36%	600	1%	52,300	100%
Dec-09	3,000	7%	7,600	17%	17,000	38%	16,300	37%	600	1%	44,500	100%
Jan-10	3,400	6%	9,900	17%	22,200	39%	20,300	36%	900	2%	56,700	100%
Feb-10	3,200	6%	9,400	17%	21,600	40%	19,100	35%	1,200	2%	54,500	100%
Mar-10	3,600	6%	10,000	17%	23,500	39%	20,900	35%	1,700	3%	59,700	100%
Apr-10	3,400	6%	9,400	17%	20,900	38%	18,900	35%	1,800	3%	54,300	100%
May-10	3,300	6%	8,700	17%	19,800	38%	18,500	35%	2,300	4%	52,500	100%
Jun-10	3,500	6%	9,000	16%	20,500	36%	20,100	36%	3,300	6%	56,400	100%
Jul-10	3,700	6%	8,900	16%	20,100	35%	20,300	35%	4,500	8%	57,500	100%
Aug-10	3,100	6%	8,000	15%	17,700	33%	18,300	34%	6,400	12%	53,500	100%
Total	73,500	6%	188,300	16%	458,500	39%	428,800	36%	26,700	2%	1,175,700	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 August 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 1,167,570 new ESA claims received between 27th October 2008 and 31st August 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	72%	0	15%	0	13%	100	100%
Dec-08	300	36%	100	17%	400	47%	900	100%
Jan-09	800	25%	500	18%	1,700	57%	3,100	100%
Feb-09	1,400	21%	1,200	19%	3,800	60%	6,400	100%
Mar-09	2,000	14%	3,000	21%	9,500	66%	14,500	100%
Apr-09	2,000	12%	3,500	21%	11,200	67%	16,700	100%
May-09	2,300	10%	4,900	22%	15,000	68%	22,200	100%
Jun-09	3,000	9%	8,100	23%	23,400	68%	34,500	100%
Jul-09	3,300	9%	8,700	24%	24,800	67%	36,700	100%
Aug-09	3,200	9%	8,700	25%	23,000	66%	34,900	100%
Sep-09	3,100	9%	8,400	25%	22,400	66%	33,900	100%
Oct-09	3,600	10%	8,600	23%	24,600	67%	36,800	100%
Nov-09	3,800	10%	9,300	25%	24,500	65%	37,500	100%
Dec-09	3,200	11%	8,100	27%	18,600	62%	29,900	100%
Jan-10	3,300	10%	8,600	26%	21,700	65%	33,600	100%
Feb-10	3,500	10%	9,300	27%	22,000	63%	34,900	100%
Mar-10	4,000	10%	10,500	27%	24,600	63%	39,100	100%
Apr-10	3,200	10%	9,100	28%	20,300	62%	32,600	100%
May-10	3,400	10%	9,700	28%	21,400	62%	34,500	100%
Jun-10	3,900	10%	10,500	27%	24,500	63%	38,900	100%
Jul-10	3,900	10%	11,100	27%	25,600	63%	40,700	100%
Aug-10	3,500	9%	9,800	26%	24,300	64%	37,600	100%
Sep-10	4,200	11%	10,600	27%	24,700	62%	39,500	100%
Oct-10	4,200	11%	10,900	28%	23,700	61%	38,800	100%
Nov-10	4,600	11%	12,400	29%	25,400	60%	42,300	100%
Total	73,800	10%	185,700	26%	461,300	64%	720,700	100%

3.1.3 Table 2 presents the DWP decision at initial assessment by the month assessment was completed up to the end of November 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	4,300	40%	60%
Dec-08	15,200	6,400	42%	2,600	3,800	41%	59%
Jan-09	21,000	9,100	43%	3,600	5,400	40%	60%
Feb-09	19,800	8,400	42%	3,400	4,900	41%	59%
Mar-09	23,500	9,800	42%	4,000	5,800	41%	59%
Apr-09	21,800	9,000	41%	3,700	5,300	41%	59%
May-09	22,000	8,800	40%	3,600	5,200	41%	59%
Jun-09	22,800	8,900	39%	3,700	5,300	41%	59%
Jul-09	22,900	8,900	39%	3,500	5,400	39%	61%
Aug-09	20,500	7,900	38%	3,100	4,800	40%	60%
Sep-09	22,000	8,200	37%	3,200	5,000	39%	61%
Oct-09	21,500	7,400	34%	2,800	4,500	38%	62%
Nov-09	20,800	6,500	31%	2,400	4,100	37%	63%
Dec-09	17,000	4,800	28%	1,600	3,100	35%	65%
Jan-10	22,200	5,300	24%	1,700	3,600	33%	67%
Feb-10	21,600	4,500	21%	1,400	3,100	32%	68%
Total	335,900	122,500	36%	48,000	74,400	39%	61%

3.1.4 Table 3 presents data on ESA claims up to the end of February 2010 (the latest month where we have sufficient volumes of appeals heard 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 February 2011 (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. Note also that the more recent cohort show a higher DWP Decision upheld rate. Data from previous quarters shows that the rate tends to be higher when a relatively low number of appeals have been heard and we expect the rate will fall as more appeals from the most recent cohorts are heard. 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 February 2010 around 36% of people found fit for work have had an appeal heard.
- For the earlier cohorts of ESA claims (October 2008 to March 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, 61% of DWP decisions have been upheld.

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%	0	0%	9,300	100%
Nov-08	3,200	7%	8,600	19%	14,600	33%	18,200	41%	100	0%	44,800	100%
Dec-08	2,900	7%	8,100	20%	12,500	31%	16,600	41%	200	0%	40,300	100%
Jan-09	3,600	7%	11,100	21%	17,400	33%	21,000	39%	200	0%	53,300	100%
Feb-09	3,300	7%	10,400	21%	16,400	33%	19,200	39%	200	0%	49,500	100%
Mar-09	3,700	7%	12,200	22%	19,500	34%	21,000	37%	300	0%	56,700	100%
Apr-09	3,500	7%	11,700	22%	18,100	35%	18,800	36%	200	0%	52,400	100%
May-09	3,600	7%	11,700	22%	18,400	35%	19,200	36%	300	0%	53,000	100%
Jun-09	3,700	6%	12,400	22%	19,200	34%	21,300	37%	300	1%	56,800	100%
Jul-09	4,100	7%	12,500	22%	19,500	34%	21,200	37%	400	1%	57,700	100%
Aug-09	3,600	7%	11,600	23%	17,400	34%	18,600	36%	400	1%	51,600	100%
Sep-09	3,900	7%	12,500	23%	18,800	34%	19,500	35%	400	1%	55,200	100%
Oct-09	3,500	7%	11,600	22%	18,700	35%	19,000	36%	500	1%	53,300	100%
Nov-09	3,500	7%	11,000	21%	18,400	35%	18,800	36%	600	1%	52,300	100%
Dec-09	3,100	7%	9,100	21%	15,400	35%	16,300	37%	600	1%	44,500	100%
Jan-10	3,500	6%	11,500	20%	20,400	36%	20,300	36%	900	2%	56,700	100%
Feb-10	3,200	6%	10,800	20%	20,200	37%	19,100	35%	1,200	2%	54,500	100%
Mar-10	3,600	6%	11,100	19%	22,300	37%	20,900	35%	1,700	3%	59,700	100%
Apr-10	3,400	6%	10,200	19%	20,100	37%	18,900	35%	1,800	3%	54,300	100%
May-10	3,300	6%	9,200	18%	19,300	37%	18,500	35%	2,300	4%	52,500	100%
Jun-10	3,500	6%	9,400	17%	20,200	36%	20,100	36%	3,300	6%	56,400	100%
Jul-10	3,700	6%	9,100	16%	19,800	34%	20,300	35%	4,500	8%	57,500	100%
Aug-10	3,100	6%	8,100	15%	17,600	33%	18,300	34%	6,400	12%	53,500	100%
Total	77,100	7%	235,800	20%	407,300	35%	428,800	36%	26,700	2%	1,175,700	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 – 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 - 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 - 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 Section 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	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Oct-08	100	13%	200	21%	0	2%	300	42%	100	9%	100	13%	800	100%
Nov-08	500	15%	600	18%	0	1%	1,200	37%	300	11%	600	18%	3,200	100%
Dec-08	500	17%	500	18%	0	1%	1,000	36%	300	11%	500	18%	2,900	100%
Jan-09	600	16%	600	17%	0	1%	1,300	36%	400	10%	700	20%	3,600	100%
Feb-09	500	16%	600	18%	0	1%	1,100	35%	300	10%	700	20%	3,300	100%
Mar-09	600	16%	700	19%	0	1%	1,300	36%	300	9%	700	20%	3,700	100%
Apr-09	600	17%	700	19%	0	1%	1,200	34%	400	10%	600	19%	3,500	100%
May-09	600	16%	700	19%	0	1%	1,200	34%	400	11%	600	18%	3,600	100%
Jun-09	600	15%	700	19%	0	1%	1,400	37%	400	10%	600	18%	3,700	100%
Jul-09	600	15%	800	19%	0	1%	1,600	40%	400	10%	600	15%	4,100	100%
Aug-09	600	17%	700	18%	0	1%	1,300	37%	400	10%	600	16%	3,600	100%
Sep-09	600	15%	800	20%	100	1%	1,600	42%	300	8%	500	14%	3,900	100%
Oct-09	600	16%	700	21%	100	1%	1,200	35%	400	10%	600	16%	3,500	100%
Nov-09	500	15%	800	24%	100	1%	1,300	37%	400	10%	500	13%	3,500	100%
Dec-09	500	18%	700	22%	0	1%	1,100	36%	400	12%	400	12%	3,100	100%
Jan-10	600	17%	900	25%	0	1%	1,200	35%	400	11%	400	12%	3,500	100%
Feb-10	500	16%	800	25%	0	1%	1,200	38%	300	9%	400	11%	3,200	100%
Mar-10	600	17%	900	26%	0	1%	1,300	37%	400	10%	400	10%	3,600	100%
Apr-10	500	16%	1,000	28%	0	1%	1,200	36%	400	10%	300	10%	3,400	100%
May-10	600	17%	800	25%	0	1%	1,200	37%	400	11%	300	9%	3,300	100%
Jun-10	600	17%	900	26%	0	1%	1,300	37%	300	9%	300	9%	3,500	100%
Jul-10	500	15%	900	24%	0	1%	1,500	41%	300	9%	300	9%	3,700	100%
Aug-10	500	17%	800	25%	0	1%	1,100	35%	300	11%	300	10%	3,100	100%
Total	12,400	16%	16,600	22%	900	1%	28,300	37%	7,800	10%	11,100	14%	77,100	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	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Oct-08	1,000	56%	100	4%	100	4%	600	31%	100	5%	1,800	100%
Nov-08	4,800	56%	400	4%	300	4%	2,600	31%	400	5%	8,600	100%
Dec-08	4,600	57%	400	5%	300	3%	2,400	30%	400	5%	8,100	100%
Jan-09	6,300	56%	600	5%	400	4%	3,400	30%	500	5%	11,100	100%
Feb-09	5,900	57%	400	4%	400	3%	3,200	31%	500	5%	10,400	100%
Mar-09	6,900	57%	500	4%	400	3%	3,800	31%	600	5%	12,200	100%
Apr-09	6,800	58%	500	4%	300	3%	3,500	30%	700	6%	11,700	100%
May-09	6,800	58%	500	4%	400	3%	3,400	30%	600	5%	11,700	100%
Jun-09	7,400	60%	500	4%	400	3%	3,500	28%	700	5%	12,400	100%
Jul-09	7,700	61%	500	4%	300	3%	3,300	27%	700	6%	12,500	100%
Aug-09	7,200	62%	500	4%	300	3%	3,000	26%	700	6%	11,600	100%
Sep-09	7,800	62%	500	4%	400	3%	3,100	25%	700	6%	12,500	100%
Oct-09	7,200	62%	500	4%	300	3%	2,700	23%	800	7%	11,600	100%
Nov-09	7,100	64%	500	5%	300	3%	2,300	21%	700	7%	11,000	100%
Dec-09	6,100	67%	500	6%	300	3%	1,600	17%	700	7%	9,100	100%
Jan-10	8,000	69%	600	5%	300	3%	1,700	15%	1,000	8%	11,500	100%
Feb-10	7,600	71%	500	5%	300	3%	1,400	13%	900	8%	10,800	100%
Mar-10	8,000	72%	600	6%	300	3%	1,100	10%	1,000	9%	11,100	100%
Apr-10	7,400	73%	700	7%	300	3%	800	7%	1,000	10%	10,200	100%
May-10	6,900	75%	600	7%	300	3%	500	5%	900	10%	9,200	100%
Jun-10	7,000	75%	700	8%	300	3%	300	4%	1,000	10%	9,400	100%
Jul-10	7,000	76%	700	8%	300	3%	200	2%	1,000	11%	9,100	100%
Aug-10	6,200	77%	700	8%	200	3%	100	1%	900	11%	8,100	100%
Total	151,600	64%	12,000	5%	7,200	3%	48,600	21%	16,400	7%	235,800	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 4 above and 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	1,300	12%	1,600	14%	3,400	30%	4,800	42%	300	2%	11,400	100%
Neoplasms	19,800	51%	5,200	13%	5,200	14%	7,900	20%	700	2%	38,700	100%
Diseases of the Blood etc.¹	200	8%	400	16%	1,000	44%	700	30%	100	2%	2,400	100%
Endocrine, Nutritional and Metabolic Diseases	700	5%	3,000	21%	6,500	46%	3,600	26%	300	2%	14,100	100%
Mental and Behavioural Disorders	20,500	5%	71,800	18%	182,500	45%	117,500	29%	14,600	4%	406,800	100%
Diseases of the Nervous System	5,700	16%	9,400	27%	11,400	32%	7,800	22%	900	2%	35,200	100%
Diseases of the Eye and Adnexa	200	4%	1,700	28%	2,100	36%	1,800	30%	100	2%	5,900	100%
Diseases of the Ear and Mastoid Process	100	4%	900	25%	1,300	36%	1,100	32%	100	2%	3,500	100%
Diseases of the Circulatory System	3,800	8%	9,300	21%	19,900	44%	11,400	25%	800	2%	45,200	100%
Diseases of the Respiratory System	1,600	7%	4,100	20%	8,900	42%	6,000	29%	400	2%	20,900	100%
Diseases of the Digestive System	1,400	6%	3,000	12%	9,700	39%	10,400	42%	400	2%	25,000	100%
Diseases of the Skin and Subcutaneous System	300	3%	1,200	14%	3,300	39%	3,500	42%	100	2%	8,400	100%
Diseases of the Musculoskeletal system and Connective Tissue	3,400	2%	32,000	20%	77,200	48%	45,300	28%	2,400	2%	160,300	100%
Diseases of the Genitourinary System	800	8%	2,000	19%	3,700	35%	3,800	37%	200	1%	10,500	100%
Pregnancy, Childbirth and the Puerperium	500	7%	700	9%	1,500	20%	4,900	63%	100	2%	7,800	100%
Certain Conditions Originating in the Perinatal Period	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations, Deformations etc.²	800	57%	300	19%	200	11%	100	10%	0	3%	1,500	100%
Symptoms, Signs etc., not elsewhere classified.³	7,400	5%	22,500	14%	61,500	39%	61,500	39%	3,300	2%	156,300	100%
Injury, Poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes	2,700	2%	16,700	11%	51,300	33%	83,600	54%	1,700	1%	156,000	100%
Factors influencing health status and contact with health services	1,300	13%	2,000	21%	3,400	34%	2,800	28%	300	3%	9,800	100%
Not recorded	900	2%	600	1%	4,500	8%	50,200	89%	0	0%	56,200	100%
Total	73,500	6%	188,300	16%	458,500	39%	428,800	36%	26,700	2%	1,175,700	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 August 2010 by result of initial assessment. These figures are consistent with the quarterly WCA statistics in Table 1 of 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%	23%
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%	22%
Feb-09	50%	9%	8%	5%	6%	31%	39%	23%
Mar-09	48%	9%	7%	4%	7%	33%	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	49%	10%	7%	4%	6%	32%	40%	23%
Nov-09	49%	8%	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%	20%
May-10	50%	9%	6%	4%	6%	30%	37%	19%
Jun-10	50%	9%	7%	4%	6%	30%	38%	20%
Jul-10	50%	9%	6%	4%	7%	30%	37%	20%
Aug-10	52%	10%	6%	4%	7%	28%	36%	19%
Total	50%	9%	7%	4%	6%	31%	39%	21%

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	Continenence	Consciousness	Understanding and Focus	Adapting to Change	Social Interaction
Certain Infectious and Parasitic Diseases	44%	6%	7%	16%	4%	40%	43%	27%
Neoplasms	71%	14%	15%	12%	8%	17%	16%	6%
Diseases of the Blood etc.¹	76%	9%	7%	6%	8%	17%	20%	8%
Endocrine, Nutritional and Metabolic Diseases	67%	11%	17%	6%	21%	15%	14%	7%
Mental and Behavioural Disorders	12%	2%	3%	3%	4%	57%	77%	42%
Diseases of the Nervous System	51%	16%	8%	6%	39%	23%	17%	8%
Diseases of the Eye and Adnexa	14%	2%	92%	2%	3%	6%	7%	3%
Diseases of the Ear and Mastoid Process	28%	3%	76%	1%	3%	9%	12%	6%
Diseases of the Circulatory System	81%	18%	15%	3%	7%	18%	14%	6%
Diseases of the Respiratory System	86%	7%	7%	5%	5%	12%	15%	6%
Diseases of the Digestive System	58%	6%	4%	33%	5%	21%	24%	12%
Diseases of the Skin and Subcutaneous System	83%	19%	5%	5%	3%	11%	14%	9%
Diseases of the Musculoskeletal system and Connective Tissue	92%	18%	4%	4%	2%	7%	7%	4%
Diseases of the Genitourinary System	74%	8%	8%	16%	6%	13%	19%	10%
Pregnancy, Childbirth and the Puerperium	49%	3%	1%	2%	10%	31%	41%	15%
Certain Conditions Originating in the Perinatal Period	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations, Deformations etc.²	51%	3%	27%	13%	3%	48%	32%	13%
Symptoms, Signs etc., not elsewhere classified³	63%	12%	8%	5%	8%	22%	24%	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%	6%	12%	15%	15%	8%
Not recorded	68%	10%	5%	6%	7%	16%	21%	6%
All Conditions	50%	9%	7%	4%	6%	31%	39%	21%

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 August 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 February 2011 (and which link to ESA claims up to the end of February 2010). 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.