

Mandatory Programmes Official Statistics
Publication Date: 9:30am 22nd May 2013

Summary

This publication contains official statistics on Mandatory Work Activity and Skills Conditionality up to and including February 2013. The key statistics are:

From May 2011 up to and including February 2013 there have been:

- **146,810** referrals to Mandatory Work Activity placements; and
- **53,720** starts on Mandatory Work Activity placements.

From August 2011 up to and including February 2013 there have been:

- **314,410** Skills Conditionality initial provider interview referrals;
- **139,570** Skills Conditionality initial provider interview starts;
- **322,770** Skills Conditionality training referrals;
- **140,120** Skills Conditionality training starts;
- **397,570** Skills Conditionality National Career Service referrals; and
- **200,440** Skills Conditionality National Career Service starts.

Introduction

1. This publication contains statistics on Mandatory Work Activity (MWA) covering the period from May 2011 to February 2013 and Skills Conditionality (SC) covering the period from August 2011 to February 2013.
2. This publication¹ includes statistics on MWA initial referrals and starts and SC referrals and starts. Future editions of this publication will be published in line with the timetable shown in **Annexe A**. Details regarding future content will be announced via the UK Statistics Authority publication hub.
3. Every effort has been made to ensure that the quality of these statistics is of the highest standard. However, it may be necessary to revise the statistics in subsequent publications when more complete data becomes available, particularly for more recent months.
4. The format of this publication will be kept under review and any feedback or suggestions to improve this publication are welcomed.

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

Mandatory Work Activity - Policy Description

5. MWA was launched on 16th May 2011, enabling Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claimants to move closer to the labour market by helping them re-engage with the system, refocus their job search and gain work-related disciplines, whilst also delivering a contribution to the local community.
6. Such disciplines include attending on time, regularly carrying out specific tasks and working under supervision. MWA is about offering further support to some Jobseeker's Allowance claimants who would benefit from a short period of activity.
7. The vehicle for MWA is work-based placements delivered by external providers under contract to DWP. For those referred to a placement, their participation is mandatory.
8. The placements sourced by the provider:
 - last for 4 weeks
 - are for 30 hours per week, unless restrictions apply, so allowing the claimant time to meet their actively seeking obligations
 - are reduced in line with any restrictions a claimant might have on their Jobseeker's Agreement. In such circumstances, placements will take up 75% of the time a claimant is available for work.
 - are of benefit to the local community
 - are additional to any existing or expected vacancies the host organisation might have
9. MWA participants continue to claim JSA and attend Jobsearch Reviews.

Skills Conditionality - Policy Description

10. SC was introduced in England from August 2011. In Scotland, the SC training provision only was introduced from the end of June 2012. In Wales, the SC training provision was only introduced as Skills for Work (Wales) from October 2012. Claimants who are required to actively seek or prepare for work can be mandated to undertake activity to address an identified skills need which will aid their movement into work. The policy is designed to ensure that claimants referred to careers advice or skills training that will help them, actually start and finish the course. SC applies only to those receiving Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance (work-related activity group). SC embraces all types of training.
11. Some benefit claimants will take up training on Skills Funding Agency funded courses without being referred under SC. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) Further Education and Skills Statistical First Release, available at: http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current/ provides statistics on overall levels of training starts by learners reporting that they are claimants of JSA and ESA WRAG (Employment Support Allowance Work-Related Activity Group).

Technical Overview

12. These statistics are derived using a combination of data from the Jobcentre Plus claimant management systems (the Labour Market System) and the Clients database. For SC, the National Benefits Database is used alongside the Labour Market system and Clients databases.
13. Information on demographics is obtained by merging data across these separate administrative systems, which sometimes results in unknown values. This is because either we are unable to find a match or the information has not been recorded for the particular claimant.

Mandatory Work Activity:

14. A referral to MWA is defined as the date the claimant is referred to the placement, recorded within their adviser interview. This was inputted by the adviser to the Jobcentre Plus' Labour Market System. A start to a MWA placement is defined as the date the claimant attended their initial interview with the placement provider - this was inputted by the provider into the Provider Referrals and Payments system which then updated the Jobcentre Plus' Labour Market System.

Skills Conditionality:

15. A referral to SC is defined as the date the claimant is referred to an initial provider interview, training provision or the National Careers Service², recorded within their adviser interview. This was inputted by the adviser to the Jobcentre Plus' Labour Market System. A start on SC is defined as the first date the claimant commenced an initial provider interview, training provision or the National Careers Service. The number of starts was based on the individual claimant level data supplied by Further Education Colleges, training providers and the National Careers Service and entered by an adviser onto the Jobcentre Plus' Labour Market System. Providers may submit data on starts some time after the actual event occurred.

Retrospection

16. Retrospection is the time period allowed for additional or updated information to be incorporated into DWP's data systems.
17. Labour Market System (LMS) datasets are produced a month in arrears i.e. November 2011 data was available at the end of December 2011. Generally, for any given month's worth of LMS data, significant retrospection can be seen for a further month.
18. 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 February 2013 (which are published in May 2013) are produced using March 2013 data, which was released in April 2013).

² National Careers Service was previously called Next Step.

Revisions Policy

19. In accordance with Principle 2 of the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Official Statistics³, statistics within this publication adhere to DWP's statistics revisions policy, which explains how we will make revisions and inform users of our statistics when they occur: <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=policy>

Rounding Policy

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

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

Official Statistics

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

	Mandatory Work Activity referrals (GB)	Mandatory Work Activity starts (GB)
Total	146,810	53,720
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	2,440
May-2012	6,560	2,820
Jun-2012	6,300	2,270
Jul-2012	7,850	2,940
Aug-2012	7,030	2,800
Sep-2012	7,790	2,800
Oct-2012	9,500	3,730
Nov-2012	9,990	3,570
Dec-2012	7,100	2,410
Jan-2013	11,720	4,000
Feb-2013	10,250	3,990

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 March 2013.

Table 2: MWA Demographic Breakdown for the period May 2011 to February 2013

		Mandatory Work Activity referrals (GB)	Mandatory Work Activity starts (GB)
	Total	146,810	53,720
Gender	Male	107,190	37,200
	Female	39,620	16,520
	Unknown	-	-
Age Group	<18	-	-
	18-24	62,530	21,030
	25-49	72,010	26,920
	50+	12,270	5,770
	Unknown	-	-
Disability	Yes	30,750	12,230
	No	116,060	41,490
	Unknown	-	-
Ethnicity ²	White	107,950	41,600
	Black or Black British	12,170	4,020
	Asian or Asian British	13,660	3,740
	Mixed	3,870	1,130
	Other/ Chinese	3,770	1,180
	Unknown	5,400	2,060
Region	Central England	34,500	12,780
	London and the Home Counties	30,890	11,790
	North East	21,050	8,550
	North West	20,050	6,370
	Scotland	11,510	4,540
	Southern England	18,620	6,610
	Wales	6,960	2,310
	Unknown	3,230	770

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 March 2013

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

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

Table 3: Skills Conditionality Referrals and Starts (In-Month)

	Skills Conditionality Referrals			Skills Conditionality Starts		
	Initial Provider Interview (England)	Training (GB)	National Careers Service (England)	Initial Provider Interview (England)	Training (GB)	National Careers Service (England)
Total	314,410	322,770	397,570	139,570	140,120	200,440
Aug-11	3,090	6,630	19,200	550	640	4,260
Sep-11	8,380	9,550	20,340	2,280	2,680	6,860
Oct-11	10,800	11,920	19,530	3,320	3,500	7,830
Nov-11	13,370	15,680	21,010	4,460	4,850	8,800
Dec-11	9,070	10,390	14,540	2,910	2,270	6,440
Jan-12	16,980	15,260	20,640	6,060	6,570	8,570
Feb-12	18,400	15,740	19,850	6,810	6,120	8,940
Mar-12	19,050	16,810	19,190	7,210	5,840	8,810
Apr-12	14,620	14,030	15,580	6,370	6,810	7,680
May-12	18,190	17,470	19,130	7,880	7,000	10,010
Jun-12	14,010	13,870	17,290	6,070	6,660	8,830
Jul-12	18,000	15,720	22,860	7,870	7,150	12,290
Aug-12	17,580	14,710	21,680	8,090	6,390	13,100
Sep-12	18,940	19,640	22,650	9,750	10,810	12,550
Oct-12	23,850	24,060	27,220	11,550	12,130	15,890
Nov-12	22,790	24,310	26,100	12,080	12,740	16,200
Dec-12	14,860	17,170	16,880	7,880	7,690	10,900
Jan-13	27,680	30,980	29,510	14,420	15,790	16,530
Feb-13	24,780	28,840	24,380	14,030	14,500	15,950

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.

Data Source - DWP LMS opportunities evaluation database March 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 February 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	314,410	322,770	397,570	139,570	140,120	200,440
Gender	Male	206,000	207,720	248,870	88,820	87,420	122,180
	Female	108,400	115,050	148,710	50,760	52,700	78,270
	Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age Group	Under 18	70	70	40	20	20	10
	18-24	100,120	98,130	124,870	39,980	39,920	57,990
	25-49	173,300	180,050	216,220	78,380	78,440	110,420
	50+	40,910	44,520	56,440	21,190	21,730	32,020
	Unknown	10	-	-	-	-	-
Disability ¹	Yes	65,910	63,940	85,010	30,650	28,710	42,920
	No	248,500	258,830	312,560	108,930	111,410	157,520
	Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ethnicity ²	White	228,930	219,330	295,220	101,820	97,260	143,930
	Black or Black British	21,920	30,330	34,900	9,660	11,530	19,830
	Asian or Asian British	25,210	29,730	27,340	10,860	12,340	15,090
	Mixed	6,990	8,140	9,430	2,880	3,080	4,720
	Other/Chinese	16,270	18,610	12,420	7,460	8,420	7,260
	Unknown	15,090	16,640	18,260	6,910	7,500	9,610
	Region	Central England	66,210	63,410	71,310	27,130	25,060
	London and the Home Counties	82,090	107,160	141,440	39,290	42,310	81,870
	North East	51,450	70,190	45,690	22,200	35,090	18,110
	North West	77,280	46,290	76,700	32,970	22,700	37,620
	Southern England	37,370	33,400	62,430	17,980	13,990	30,400
	Scotland	N/A	470	N/A	N/A	160	N/A
	Wales	N/A	1,850	N/A	N/A	820	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.

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Annexe A: Publication Timetable

Publication	Date	Notes
1 st	Wednesday 15 th February 2012	The first official statistics publication covering Mandatory Work Activity.
2 nd	Tuesday 12 th June 2012	The second publication covering Mandatory Work Activity and Skills Conditionality.
3 rd	Wednesday 14 th November 2012	The third publication 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	November 2013	The fifth publication.

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

Contact Details

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

For enquiries relating to the statistics in this publication please contact:

DWP Analyst:

Alex Snowsill

Frances.Snowsill@dwp.gsi.gov.uk