

Youth Offer Statistics

Data to 31st May 2016

Bi-Annually

Published: 31st August 2016
Great Britain

Official Statistics

Work experience and sector-based work academies support claimants getting into work by offering work related skills and experience. Work experience was introduced in January 2011, and sector-based work academies were introduced in August 2011. These opportunities are available to claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance, those in the Work Related Activity Group of Employment and Support Allowance, and some other out-of-work benefits, including Universal Credit. These statistics show starts to work experience and starts to the pre-employment training (PET) element of sector-based work academy placements.

516,570 work experience and 249,770 work sector-based academy starts

to 31st May 2016

2 in 3 starts to work sector-based academies are by males

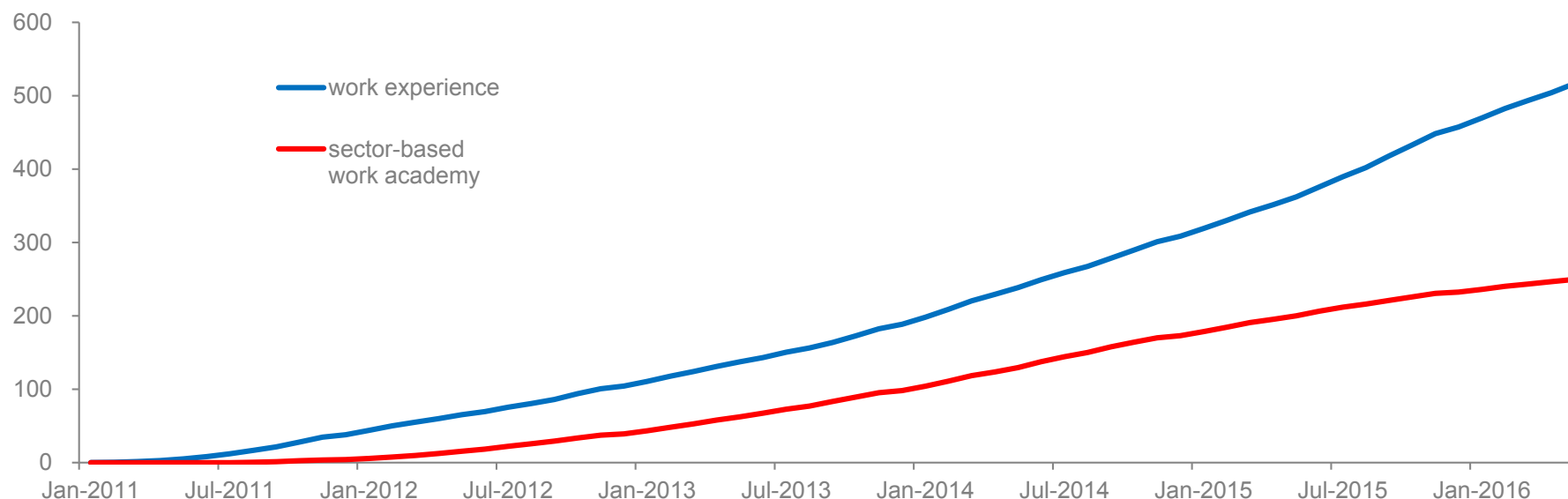
to 31st May 2016

1 in 7 individuals starting a work experience placement are from ethnic minorities

to 31st May 2016

Cumulative work experience and sector-based work academy starts

Thousands



At a glance

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All starts to work experience and sector-based work academies

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There have been 516,570 work experience and 249,770 sector-based work academy starts since January 2011 and August 2011 respectively.

Characteristics

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Around two thirds of those participating in sector-based work academies are men and 1 in 7 participating in work experience are from ethnic minorities.

Eligibility of work experience and sector-based work academies

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Work experience and sector-based work academies have been available since January 2011 and August 2011 respectively, under various initiatives.

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Work experience and sector-based work academies: An introduction

Opportunities to participate in **work experience** and **sector-based work academies** with additional Jobcentre Plus work coach support are available to claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance, those in the Work Related Activity Group of Employment and Support Allowance, and some other out-of-work benefits, including Universal Credit. These opportunities provide work related skills, and aim to improve employability prospects.

Work experience opportunities have been available since January 2011. These are placements of up to 8 weeks with a host employer, with the aim to provide participants with the skills employers are looking for. **Work experience** placements are available for those who have been on **Jobseeker's Allowance** for **at least 3 months**

Sector-based work academies were introduced in August 2011 in England and January 2012 in Scotland. They are not available in Wales. These offer pre-employment training, work experience placements and a guaranteed job interview for recipients of Jobseeker's Allowance, Universal Credit (all work-related requirements group) or Employment and Support Allowance (Work-Related Activity Group), aged 18 years or over, or eligible lone parents aged 18-24 in receipt of Income Support, whose youngest child is under the age of four.

Sector-based work academies are developed in partnership with employers and run in sectors with high volumes of current local vacancies. Sector-based work academy opportunities are voluntary, although once a participant takes up pre-employment training, these opportunities are mandatory. Participants are now able to apply from day one of their claim date and until they are referred to the work programme.

Status of the statistics

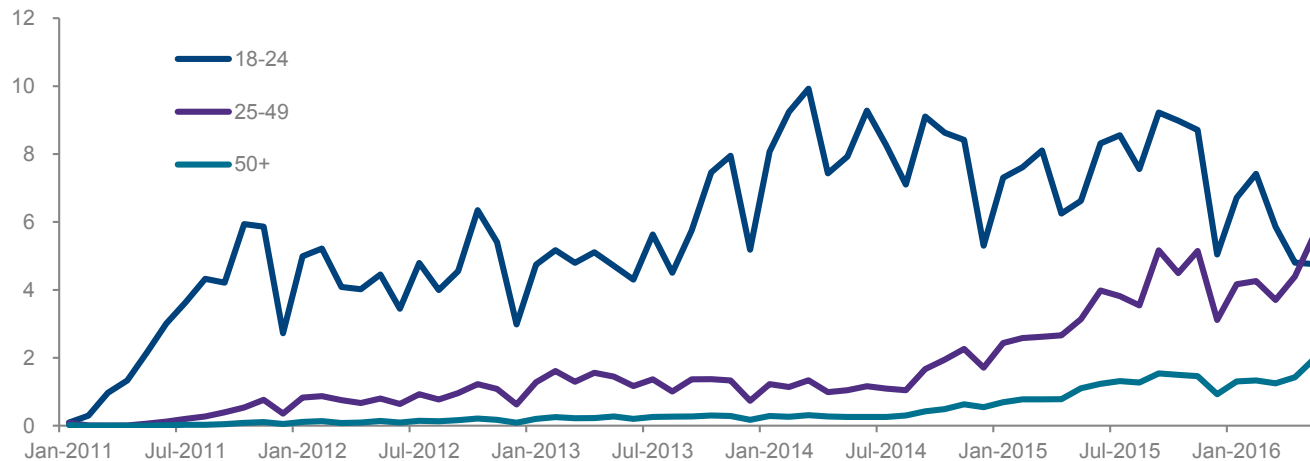
This document shows various breakdowns, including age group, **from January 2011 to May 2016** for **work experience** and **sector-based work academy** (pre-employment training starts) opportunities. **Further breakdowns** of all of these figures are available in the **accompanying tables**.

There will be an undercount of starts in areas where Universal Credit has been introduced. As the proportion of **Universal Credit** claimants on the scheme rises, this undercount will increase. This will be addressed in the **next publication**.

Starts to work experience and sector-based work academies

Number of work experience starts by age group

Thousands

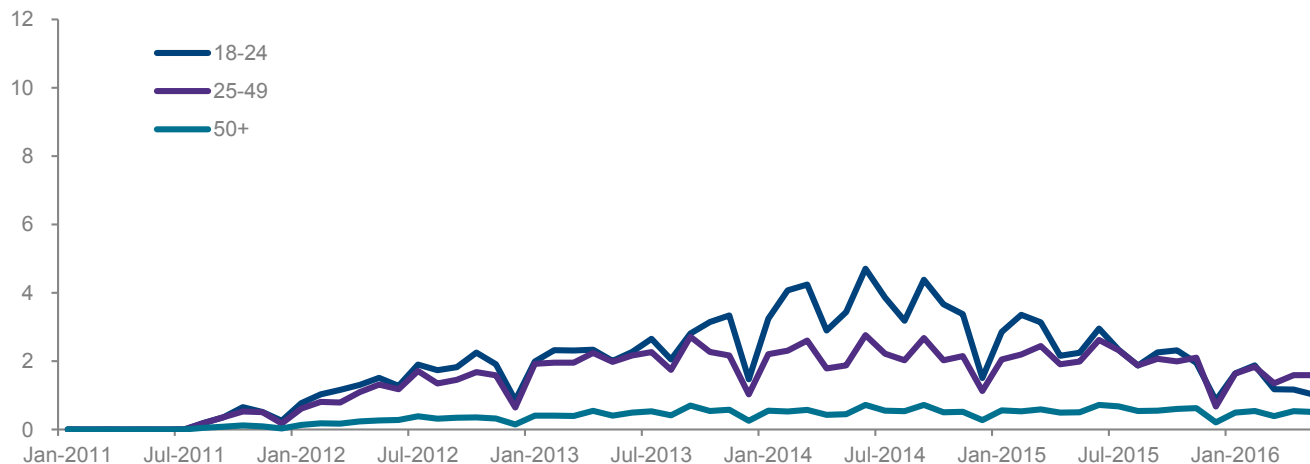


Main Findings

From January 2011-May 2016, there have been **516,570 work experience** starts, with **154,280** starts over the last year (June 2015-May 2016). This is an increase in uptake of 24.7% compared to the previous year (June 2014-May 2015), with an increase in the 25-49 and 50+ age categories being driven by local initiatives.

Number of sector-based work academy starts by age group

Thousands

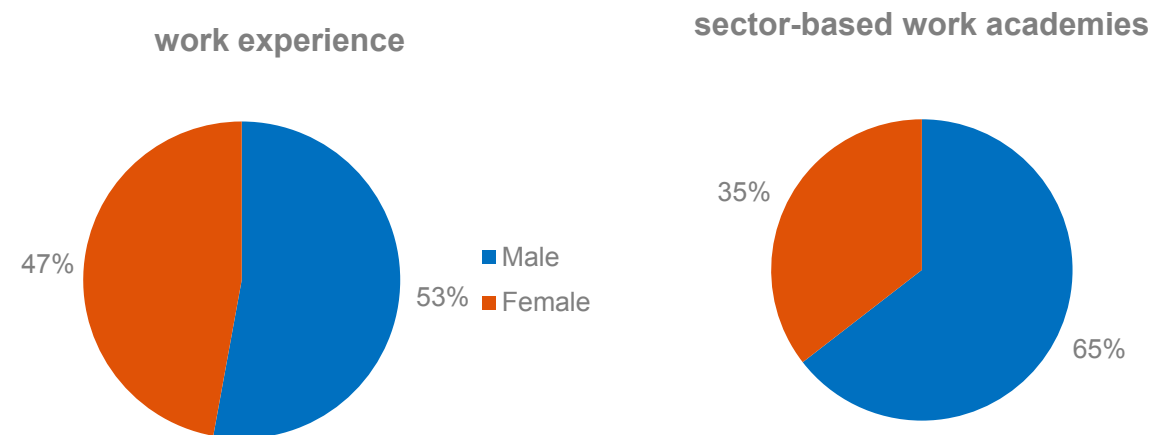


From August 2011-May 2016, there have been **249,770 sector-based work academy** starts, with 49,620 starts over the last year (June 2015-May 2016). This decrease of 29.8% is largely due to a fall in the claimant count. There have also been changes in the funding available for these opportunities.

Characteristics of those on work experience and sector-based work academies

Just over a third participating in sector-based work academies are women

Percentage, by gender

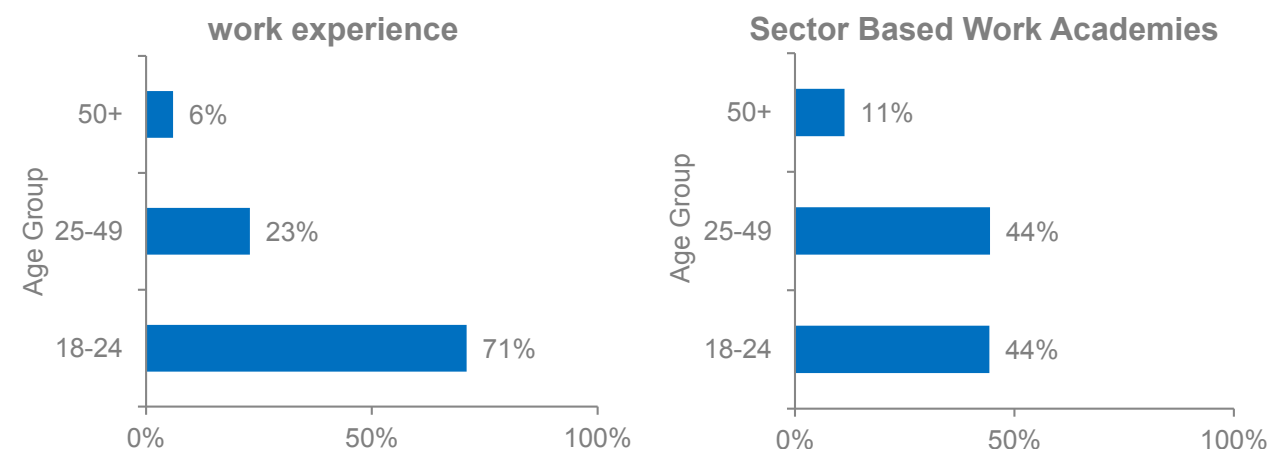


Main findings

Of the people who started on work experience, **(47%) are women (185,290)**, whilst a significantly smaller proportion **35% (69,130)** started a sector-based work academy placement.

Around 3 in 4 participating in work experience are aged 18-24

Percentage, by age group.

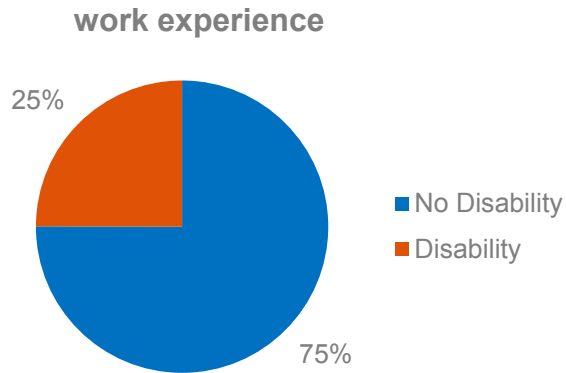


71% (280,450) of participants on work experience and **44% (86,250)** of participants on sector-based work academies were aged 18-24.

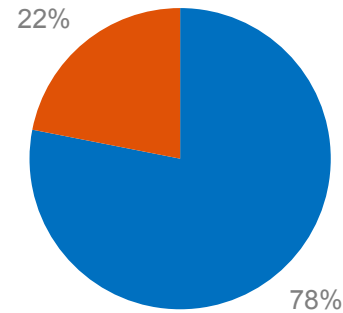
Note: values in charts may not add to 100% due to missing values and rounding.

1 in 4 of those starting on work experience have a self-declared disability

Percentage, by self-declared disability.



sector-based work academies

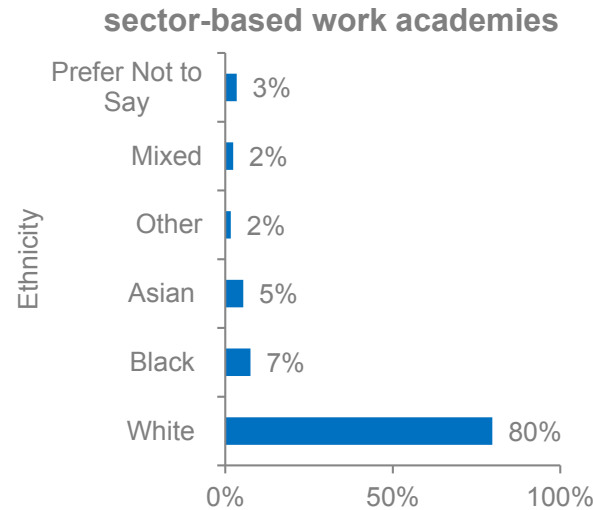
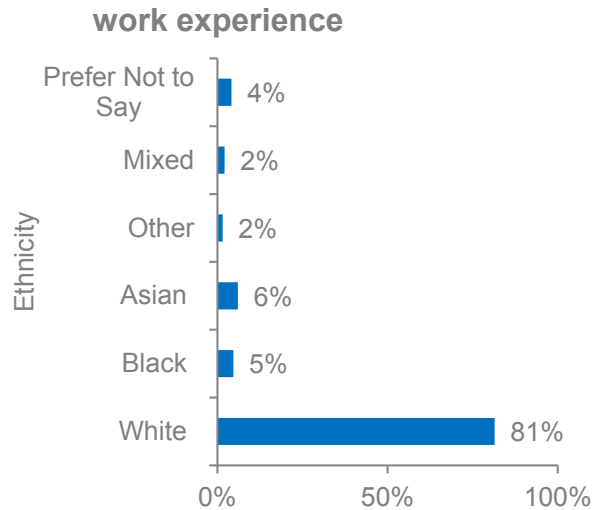


Main findings

98,300 (25%) of those starting on work experience and **42,700 (22%)** of those starting on sector-based work academy identified themselves as having a disability.

Around 1 in 7 of those starting on work experience and sector-based work academies are from ethnic minorities

Percentage, by ethnicity.



321,070 (81%) of those starting on work experience identified as white, with a further **56,420 (14%)** from ethnic minorities and **16,320 (4%)** where ethnicity was not identified. Similar proportions were seen for those participating in sector-based work academies.

Note: values in charts may not add to 100% due to missing values and rounding.

Eligibility and Phases

People claiming out of work benefits have been able to participate in work experience and sector-based work academies through a variety of schemes.

January 2011

Work Experience offers claimants a placement with an employer for up to 8 weeks to give them the skills employers are looking for ages.

August 2011

Sector-based work academy placements are also made available. These placements lasting up to 6 weeks include pre-employment training provided by further education colleges which can include English, Maths and IT skills along with providing job specific skills. Participants then complete a work placement with an employer, and are guaranteed a job interview after completing the scheme. The scheme is open for those claiming Jobseeker's Allowance and those in the Work Related Activity Group of Employment Support Allowance.

April 2012

Youth Contract starts. The Youth Contract was a cross Government programme of support for 18-24 year olds during the recession. It ran from April 2012 to March 2015.

April 2014

Sector-based work academy opportunities extend to Income Support claimants aged 18-24 years olds in the lone parent group, whose youngest child is under the age of four.

February 2015

Nationwide roll-out of **Universal Credit** begins. Those claiming **Universal Credit** who are not in work, education or training are able to take part in work experience and sector-based work academy opportunities.

April 2015

The **Youth Offer** provides extra support for young people aged 18-24 from April 2015 to March 2017. This includes referrals to work experience and sector based work academy placements.

About these statistics

These official statistics have been compiled using the April 2016 DWP Labour Market System opportunities database and the March 2016 National Benefits Database.

Where to find out more

This document and the summary tables can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/youth-offer-work-experience-and-sector-based-work-academy-starts-to-may-2016>

Older releases can be found here but please note that figures are subject to change. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/pre-work-programme-and-get-britain-working>