



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Mandatory Programmes Official Statistics

May 2011 to February 2016

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Summary

- This publication contains official statistics on Mandatory Work Activity and Skills Conditionality up to and including February 2016.
- Mandatory Work Activity (MWA) was a short placement of work-related activity intended to help people on Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) and Universal Credit claimants in the all work-related requirements group gain skills that are useful for work. Placements had to be of benefit to the local community and could not displace jobs or be used to fill vacancies for paid work. MWA placements were sourced by contracted providers. Contracts ended in March 2016 and referrals to this programme have ceased.
- Between May 2011 and February 2016, **334,110** referrals were made to Mandatory Work Activity. During this period, there were **142,660** starts on a Mandatory Work Activity placement.
- Since early 2013, the number of monthly referrals to MWA and the number of monthly starts have been reducing. In the year to February 2016, there was a fall of **3%** in the number of referrals to MWA compared with the previous year, with a comparable drop of **17%** in starts. Just under half of the referrals in the year to February 2016 (**56,110**) resulted in a MWA start (**24,020**), broadly the same proportion as in the previous year.
- Skills Conditionality (SC) is a policy that mandates claimants receiving Jobseeker's Allowance, claimants receiving Employment and Support Allowance (work-related activity group) and Universal Credit claimants in the all work-related requirements group to undertake activity to address an identified skills need which will aid their movement into work.
- Between August 2011 and February 2016 there have been:
 - **972,960** Skills Conditionality initial provider interview referrals
 - **574,180** Skills Conditionality initial provider interview starts
 - **1,223,460** Skills Conditionality training referrals
 - **684,490** Skills Conditionality training starts
 - **1,162,290** Skills Conditionality National Career Service referrals
 - **718,200** 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. This file will also include a table with a GOR (Government Offices for the Regions) geographical breakdown.

- Interventions for claimants on Universal Credit are not captured in the data presented here, and so these official statistics will be a small undercount of referrals and starts in areas where Universal Credit has been introduced. For more information, please refer to the Technical Overview for more information.

Mandatory Programmes Official Statistics

- 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	334,110	142,660
May11 - Dec11	29,650	10,540
2012	95,190	35,160
2013	84,160	38,830
2014	59,510	30,110
Jan-2015	4,900	1,850
Feb-2015	4,610	2,140
Mar-2015	3,960	2,320
Apr-2015	3,750	1,480
May-2015	3,800	1,750
Jun-2015	4,700	2,110
Jul-2015	4,680	2,060
Aug-2015	4,230	1,840
Sep-2015	5,120	1,960
Oct-2015	6,180	2,120
Nov-2015	5,380	2,530
Dec-2015	3,190	1,370
Jan-2016	5,450	2,110
Feb-2016	5,670	2,370

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. The monthly breakdown for 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014, here collapsed, is available from the accompanying Excel file which can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/pre-work-programme-and-get-britain-working#mandatory-programmes>

Between 16 January –31 March 2012 , The Department trail blazed 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 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 2016.

Table 2: Mandatory Work Activity demographic breakdown for the period May 2011 to February 2016

		Mandatory Work Activity referrals (GB)	Mandatory Work Activity starts (GB)
	Total	334,110	142,660
Gender	Male	246,400	101,160
	Female	87,710	41,500
Age Group	<18	10	10
	18-24	116,590	42,440
	25-49	174,890	76,620
	50+	42,580	23,580
	Unknown	30	20
Disability ¹	Yes	93,200	42,350
	No	240,890	100,310
	Unknown	20	-
Ethnicity ²	White	252,520	112,000
	Black or Black British	27,680	11,000
	Asian or Asian British	27,230	9,010
	Mixed	8,280	2,890
	Other/ Chinese	8,150	3,120
	Unknown	10,260	4,630
Region	North East	14,970	7,780
	North West	45,610	17,930
	Yorkshire and The Humber	33,840	14,640
	East Midlands	15,440	8,260
	West Midlands	45,300	17,270
	East	18,750	9,450
	London	49,480	21,210
	South East	33,350	14,320
	South West	23,310	9,040
	Wales	19,600	8,410
	Scotland	28,030	12,400
	Unknown	6,430	1,960

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 trail blazed 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 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'.

Claimants on Universal Credit are not captured in the data presented here

Data Source - DWP LMS opportunities evaluation database March 2016.

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) ¹	National Careers Service (England)	Initial Provider Interview (England)	Training (GB) ¹	National Careers Service (England)
Total	972,960	1,223,460	1,162,290	574,180	684,490	718,200
Aug11-Dec11	44,560	53,650	94,260	13,550	13,870	34,300
2012	214,530	206,690	245,860	97,870	96,110	133,680
2013	286,310	373,970	318,930	186,050	218,380	219,840
2014	237,330	350,500	274,800	161,050	218,410	192,540
Jan-15	18,690	27,880	21,430	10,960	15,740	12,340
Feb-15	16,910	25,330	18,760	11,110	15,340	12,050
Mar-15	18,980	22,900	17,290	11,730	15,040	11,940
Apr-15	15,880	19,500	15,020	10,480	11,320	9,990
May-15	14,080	17,780	13,280	9,040	10,030	9,040
Jun-15	14,850	18,470	15,940	9,460	11,700	9,870
Jul-15	12,510	15,600	16,590	7,690	8,430	10,140
Aug-15	9,630	11,520	13,770	5,650	6,250	8,320
Sep-15	11,740	14,850	16,310	7,200	9,190	9,220
Oct-15	12,670	14,260	17,720	7,300	6,980	10,120
Nov-15	12,130	13,900	16,850	7,460	9,030	10,040
Dec-15	7,230	8,520	11,840	4,140	3,610	7,280
Jan-16	13,250	14,530	17,790	7,050	7,710	9,110
Feb-16	11,710	13,640	15,870	6,400	7,380	8,390

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. The monthly breakdown for 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014, here collapsed, is available from the accompanying Excel file which can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/pre-work-programme-and-get-britain-working#mandatory-programmes>. Months are calendar months.

Data Source - DWP LMS opportunities evaluation database March 2016.

Skills Conditionality started from 1st August 2011 in England, from 25th June 2012 in Scotland for training provision only, from November 2014 for DWP ad hoc training and from October 2012 in Wales for basic skills training provision only. In Wales, Skills Conditionality is Skills for Work (Wales) only until February 2014, from May 2014 to June 2015 is Work Ready Essential Skills training and from November 2014 for DWP ad hoc training. For more information on Skills Conditionality and the three referral routes, please see the 'Skills Conditionality Policy Description' on page 9. DWP ad hoc training refers to training purchased directly by Jobcentres using Low-Value Procurement / Flexible Support Fund.

1: Figures include Skills Funding Agency (SFA) Basic Skills Training; SFA English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) including mandatory referrals through the English Language Requirements (ELR) policy; SFA Occupational Training; Other Training; Skills for Work (Wales) and Work Ready Essential Skills Training (Wales)

Table 4: Skills Conditionality Demographic Breakdown for the period August 2011 to February 2016

		Skills Conditionality REFERRALS			Skills Conditionality STARTS		
		Initial Provider Interview (England)	Training (GB) ³	National Careers Service (England)	Initial Provider Interview (England)	Training (GB) ³	National Careers Service (England)
	Total	972,960	1,223,460	1,162,290	574,180	684,490	718,200
Gender	Male	641,240	800,730	714,400	373,190	441,650	435,730
	Female	331,720	422,730	447,900	200,990	242,840	282,470
Age Group	Under 18	120	160	90	60	60	50
	18-24	250,960	306,720	325,670	130,140	154,200	183,610
	25-49	548,560	678,520	633,170	327,300	380,580	393,350
	50+	173,280	237,990	203,330	116,680	149,620	141,170
	Unknown	40	70	30	10	30	10
Disability ¹	Yes	267,290	330,460	308,780	163,440	191,680	195,100
	No	705,660	892,970	853,510	410,740	492,810	523,090
	Unknown	10	30	10	10	10	10
Ethnicity ²	White	716,260	886,850	863,390	422,840	501,710	527,290
	Black or Black British	67,930	103,540	106,390	39,110	53,070	67,260
	Asian or Asian British	79,430	96,500	79,240	46,660	53,060	51,150
	Mixed	22,020	27,820	27,940	12,220	14,270	16,580
	Other/Chinese	48,260	57,600	35,170	29,590	33,330	23,580
	Unknown	39,060	51,140	50,170	23,760	29,050	32,340
Region	North East	76,490	144,530	37,080	45,720	89,230	21,030
	North West	202,680	171,220	209,870	119,550	104,270	131,750
	Yorkshire and The Humber	130,720	143,710	144,180	84,400	89,040	85,800
	East Midlands	79,990	113,560	92,730	45,300	60,860	53,900
	West Midlands	140,280	101,080	73,360	83,970	59,140	41,580
	East	67,070	118,380	113,140	35,760	60,160	65,400
	London	123,670	234,550	304,570	68,970	111,230	202,940
	South East	85,700	98,970	100,430	49,090	55,650	61,020
	South West	66,360	69,630	86,950	41,410	37,190	54,800
	Wales	0	15,220	0	0	8,370	0
	Scotland	0	12,620	0	0	9,350	0

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. The monthly breakdown for 2011 and 2012, here collapsed, is available from the accompanying Excel file which can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/pre-work-programme-and-get-britain-working#mandatory-programmes>. Months are calendar months.

Skills Conditionality started from 1st August 2011 in England, from 25th June 2012 in Scotland for training provision only, from November 2014 for DWP ad hoc training and from October 2012 in Wales for basic skills training provision only. In Wales, Skills Conditionality is Skills for Work (Wales) only until February 2014, from May 2014 to June 2015 is Work Ready Essential Skills training and from November 2014 for DWP ad hoc training. For more information on Skills Conditionality and the three referral routes, please see the 'Skills Conditionality Policy Description' on page 9. DWP ad hoc training refers to training purchased directly by Jobcentres using Low-Value Procurement / Flexible Support Fund.

Claimants on Universal Credit are not captured in the data presented here.

Data Source - DWP LMS opportunities evaluation database March 2016.

1: 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.

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

3: Figures include Skills Funding Agency (SFA) Basic Skills Training; SFA English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) including mandatory referrals through the English Language Requirements (ELR) policy; SFA Occupational Training; Other Training; Skills for Work (Wales) and Work Ready Essential Skills Training (Wales).

Table 5: Skills Conditionality Training Referrals and Starts (In-Month)

	Skills Conditionality Training REFERRALS					Skills Conditionality STARTS				
	Occu- pational Train- ing	Basic Skills Train- ing	ESOL	Other	Skills for Work ¹	Occu- pational Train- ing	Basic Skills Train- ing	ESOL	Other	Skills for Work ¹
Total	630,810	216,280	147,340	216,910	12,120	347,780	126,850	91,170	112,110	6,580
Aug11-Dec11	31,220	4,820	10,100	4,820	0	7,750	1,500	3,000	950	0
2012	121,180	22,970	30,980	22,970	920	55,910	14,410	16,600	8,580	450
2013	208,010	51,580	38,660	51,580	10,280	119,380	39,190	25,420	28,950	5,440
2014	170,470	74,630	37,460	74,630	920	106,410	43,590	25,650	42,070	690
Jan-15	12,670	6,640	3,260	6,640	0	7,120	3,300	2,340	2,980	0
Feb-15	11,030	6,340	3,240	6,340	0	6,810	3,090	2,240	3,200	0
Mar-15	9,770	5,990	2,780	5,990	0	6,510	2,890	2,280	3,360	0
Apr-15	8,210	5,170	2,390	5,170	0	4,980	2,260	1,470	2,610	0
May-15	7,330	4,930	2,130	4,930	0	4,240	1,940	1,580	2,270	0
Jun-15	7,970	5,010	2,050	5,010	0	5,260	2,080	1,600	2,750	0
Jul-15	6,640	4,160	1,880	4,160	0	3,750	1,660	880	2,140	0
Aug-15	4,630	3,240	1,400	3,240	0	2,450	1,290	960	1,540	0
Sep-15	5,960	3,690	2,160	3,690	0	3,430	1,940	1,830	2,000	0
Oct-15	5,880	3,750	1,820	3,750	0	2,830	1,470	840	1,840	0
Nov-15	5,580	3,830	1,840	3,830	0	3,800	1,850	1,220	2,170	0
Dec-15	3,260	2,260	1,330	2,260	0	1,360	660	670	910	0
Jan -16	5,500	4,150	2,060	4,150	0	2,820	1,590	1,490	1,810	0
Feb - 16	5,510	3,750	1,780	3,750	0	2,970	1,310	1,110	2,000	0

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. The monthly breakdown for 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014, here collapsed, is available from the accompanying Excel file which can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/pre-work-programme-and-get-britain-working#mandatory-programmes>. Months are calendar months.

Skills Conditionality started from 1st August 2011 in England, from 25th June 2012 in Scotland for training provision only, from November 2014 for DWP ad hoc training and from October 2012 in Wales for basic skills training provision only. In Wales, Skills Conditionality is Skills for Work (Wales) only until February 2014, from May 2014 to June 2015 is Work Ready Essential Skills training and from November 2014 for DWP ad hoc training. For more information on Skills Conditionality and the three referral routes, please see the 'Skills Conditionality Policy Description' on page 9. DWP ad hoc training refers to training purchased directly by Jobcentres using Low-Value Procurement / Flexible Support Fund.

Data Source - DWP LMS opportunities evaluation database March 2016.

1: This refers to the Skills for Work programme in Wales. Skills for Work (Wales) closed at the end of February 2014 and no more referrals were subsequently made.

Mandatory Work Activity – Policy Description

1. MWA ran from May 2011 to end March 2016. It was designed to help Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)/Universal Credit claimants move closer to the labour market. Claimants undertook a short work placement to help 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.
3. MWA work-placements were sourced by external providers under contract to DWP. For those referred to a placement, participation is mandatory.
4. The placements sourced by the provider:
 - lasted for 4 weeks
 - were for 30 hours per week, unless restrictions applied, allowing the claimant time to look for work as required by their Jobseeker's Agreement or Claimant Commitment
 - were reduced in line with any restrictions a claimant might have on their Jobseeker's Agreement or Claimant Commitment. In such circumstances, placements took up 75% of the time a claimant was available for work
 - had to be of benefit to the local community
 - had to be additional to any existing or expected vacancies for paid employment the host organisation might have
5. MWA participants continued to claim JSA/UC and attend Jobsearch Reviews.

Skills Conditionality - Policy Description

6. Skills conditionality policy applies where it is identified that a skills need is preventing someone from moving closer to employment. Skills conditionality makes attendance at and the 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.
7. 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 from June 2012. In Wales it was a referral to the DWP training programme, Skills for Work Wales between October 2012 and February 2014. Between May 2014 and June 2015 it has been a referral to Work Ready Essentials Skills.
8. The training includes basic skills (English, numeracy, literacy), occupational skills, employability skills and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).

9. From April 2014, all new claimants to JSA or Universal Credit (subject to intensive work search requirements) in England, Scotland and Wales with a poor level of spoken English are screened for English language skills. If a claimant is identified as having English speaking or listening skills below Entry Level 2 (expected standard at ages 7-9) at the initial work search interview, then they will be required to attend appropriate provision to improve their language skills, with the intention of improving their prospects of finding employment.
10. Identified claimants are mandated to a full assessment completed by a provider and where appropriate, mandated to attend English Language training to improve their language skills. These referrals are recorded as ESOL Training on the Labour Market System.
11. Some benefit claimants will take up training on Skills Funding Agency funded courses without being referred under SC. The joint publication between DWP and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), accessible here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/further-education-for-benefit-claimants> 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 system (the Labour Market System, LMS) and the LMS Client Extract. For SC, data from the benefits administrative database (the National Benefits Database) is also used.
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.
14. 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.
15. The format of this publication will be kept under review and any feedback or suggestions to improve this publication are welcomed.
16. Since April 2016, Universal Credit has been operating in every Jobcentre office in Great Britain for single jobseekers. Referrals to training for claimants on Universal Credit use different systems to those that provide data for this statistical release. These official statistics therefore contain a small undercount of referrals and starts where claimants are on Universal Credit.
17. Further information on Universal Credit statistics and rollout volumes can be found using the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/universal-credit-statistics>

Mandatory Work Activity

18. 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 Work Coach 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

19. 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 Work Coach 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

20. 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, which takes time to process and collate. There are therefore lags between the reference period and availability of the dataset for analysis.
21. Labour Market System (LMS) datasets are produced a month in arrears i.e. August 2015 data was available at the end of September 2015. Generally, for any given month's worth of LMS data, significant retrospection can be seen for a further month.
22. 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 2015 (which are published in November 2015) are produced using September data, which was released in October 2015).

Revisions Policy

23. 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

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 10 are*

¹ National Careers Service was previously called Next Step.

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

suppressed and marked with a dash. Due to rounding totals may not be the sum of the individual cells.

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.
6 th	Thursday 29 th May 2014	The sixth publication covering Mandatory Work Activity and Skills Conditionality
7 th	Thursday 20 th November 2014	The seventh publication covering Mandatory Work Activity and Skills Conditionality
8 th	Wednesday 27 th May 2015	The eighth publication covering Mandatory Work Activity and Skills Conditionality
9 th	Wednesday 25 th November 2015	The ninth publication covering Mandatory Work Activity and Skills Conditionality
10 th	Wednesday 25 th May 2016	The tenth publication covering Mandatory Work Activity and Skills Conditionality

For general enquiries regarding pre-work programmes and the Youth Contract (previously 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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