



Department  
for Work &  
Pensions

# Youth Contract Official Statistics: April 2012 to May 2015

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## Summary

1. The Youth Contract was a flexible package of support provided through Jobcentre Plus between April 2012 and March 2015 as a response to high levels of youth unemployment during the recession. It aimed to support young unemployed people to move close to the labour market and gain sustained employment through a range of programmes, in addition to existing support. DWP is continuing to support young people through additional Jobcentre Plus advisor support, extra work experience and sector-based work academy places.
2. This publication contains Youth Contract official statistics on work experience and sector-based work academies up to and including May 2015. However, since April 2015, these have been funded by the Youth Offer not the Youth Contract. The publication also contains the final set of experimental statistics on Youth Contract Wage Incentive job starts. The programme finished in August 2014 and Wage Incentive payments are shown up to and including March 2015. A separate Excel file is available which contains copies of these tables and geographical breakdowns.
3. The Youth Contract provided funding for an extra 250,000 work experience or sector-based work academy places for 18- to 24-year-olds from April 2012 to March 2015. Funding for work experience and sector based work academies since March 2015 is made through our Youth Offer. While not funded by the Youth Contract, under-18s and over-25s can also take part in work experience and sector-based work academies where local funding and availability exists. To give a view of overall performance of the programmes, all starts are outlined in **Annex A**.
4. Work experience consists of a 2-to-8 week placement with a host employer. It aims to provide young people with work-related experience and skills, and can be a route into an apprenticeship. Between April 2012 and May 2015 there have been 238,890 starts to a work experience placement by 18- to 24-year-olds.
5. Sector-based work academies are made up of pre-employment training, work experience placements and a guaranteed job interview. From April 2012 up to and including May 2015 there have been 98,470 starts on sector-based work academy pre-employment training by 18- to 24-year-olds.
6. Wage Incentives were a temporary measure to encourage employers to offer sustained paid employment to young people during the recession. They could be claimed by employers that recruited young people who had been unemployed for more than six months. Between April 2012 and August 2014 there have been 116,140 Wage Incentive job starts, where a job start represents a form having been issued to an employer for taking on an eligible young person. Payments were made relating to 36,470 individuals.

7. 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.

## Official Statistics

**Table 1: Take up of Youth Contract measures by month (18- to 24-year-olds)**

	Work Experience starts	Sector based work academy pre-employment training starts
<b>Total</b>	<b>238,890</b>	<b>98,470</b>
Apr-Jun 2012	11,950	4,090
Jul-Sep 2012	13,340	5,460
Oct-Dec 2012	14,760	5,000
Jan-2013	4,750	1,990
Feb-2013	5,170	2,310
Mar-2013	4,800	2,300
Apr-2013	5,110	2,320
May-2013	4,700	2,010
Jun-2013	4,300	2,250
Jul-2013	5,650	2,640
Aug-2013	4,510	2,040
Sep-2013	5,740	2,800
Oct-2013	7,460	3,130
Nov-2013	7,960	3,320
Dec-2013	5,180	1,470
Jan-2014	8,080	3,220
Feb-2014	9,250	4,060
Mar-2014	9,920	4,210
Apr-2014	7,420	2,870
May-2014	7,920	3,410
Jun-2014	9,270	4,650
Jul-2014	8,250	3,820
Aug-2014	7,090	3,140
Sep-2014	9,080	4,330
Oct-2014	8,600	3,610
Nov-2014	8,400	3,330
Dec-2014	5,270	1,480
Jan-2015	7,220	2,780
Feb-2015	7,550	3,300
Mar-2015	8,020	3,050
Apr-2015	5,970	2,020
May-2015	6,210	2,070

**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. The Youth Contract was rolled out in April 2012. Prior to this, work experience and sector-based work academies were funded as part of Get Britain Working, which came to an end in March 2013. Between April 2012 and March 2013, funding for young people could be from either source. In March 2015 the Youth Contract came to an end and in April 2015, the Youth Offer was rolled out.

Data Source - DWP LMS opportunities evaluation database June 2015.

**Table 2: Demographic breakdown of Youth Contract starts (18- to 24-year-olds) for the period April 2012 to May 2015**

		<b>Work Experience starts</b>	<b>Sector based work academy pre-employment training starts</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>238,890</b>	<b>98,470</b>
Gender	Male	135,180	63,950
	Female	103,710	34,510
Disability <sup>1</sup>	Yes	36,580	13,130
	No	202,300	85,330
Ethnicity <sup>2</sup>	White	193,900	78,400
	Black or Black British	10,240	5,790
	Asian or Asian British	15,590	6,290
	Mixed	4,990	2,630
	Other/ Chinese	3,460	1,360
	Unknown	10,710	4,010
Region	North East	14,780	8,670
	North West	28,540	12,720
	Yorkshire and The Humber	26,800	11,300
	East Midlands	19,350	8,820
	West Midlands	29,800	11,340
	East	16,500	7,480
	London	28,470	13,370
	South East	20,670	8,100
	South West	14,460	4,980
	Wales	14,330	-
	Scotland	21,540	9,830
	Unknown	3650	1870

**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.

The Youth Contract was rolled out in April 2012. Prior to this, work experience and sector-based work academies were funded as part of Get Britain Working, which came to an end in March 2013. Between April 2012 and March 2013, funding for young people could be from either source. In March 2015 the Youth Contract came to an end and in April 2015, the Youth Offer was rolled out.

Data Source - DWP LMS opportunities and DWP Clients evaluation databases June 2015..

1. Disability status is declared by the Jobseeker during a Jobcentre Plus interview. Disability status is according to the claimant's own assessment.

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

## Management Information

**Table 3: Number of Youth Contract Wage Incentive job starts by month**

	YC Wage Incentive Job Starts
<b>Total</b>	<b>116,140</b>
Apr-2012	480
May-2012	710
Jun-2012	820
Jul-2012	1,040
Aug-2012	1,020
Sep-2012	1,110
Oct-2012	1,340
Nov-2012	1,190
Dec-2012	880
Jan-2013	1,150
Feb-2013	2,000
Mar-2013	2,660
Apr-2013	2,720
May-2013	4,240
Jun-2013	4,340
Jul-2013	5,750
Aug-2013	6,130
Sep-2013	7,560
Oct-2013	8,170
Nov-2013	7,430
Dec-2013	4,400
Jan-2014	5,290
Feb-2014	6,340
Mar-2014	8,010
Apr-2014	6,710
May-2014	7,630
Jun-2014	7,070
Jul-2014	6,620
Aug-2014	3,330

**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.

A job start is represented by the date a form is issued to an employer when an individual eligible for a Wage Incentive starts a job (full or part time).

Wage Incentives ended in August 2014. Consequently there have been no new job starts after August 2014.

Data Source: Management Information (from Work Programme providers and Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System)

## Experimental Statistics

**Table 4: Number of Youth Contract Wage Incentive payments by month**

	8 week interim payments	Between 14 & 25 weeks payments	18 week balance payments	26 week full payments	Individuals for whom a payment had been made
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,160</b>	<b>3,590</b>	<b>7,630</b>	<b>20,120</b>	<b>36,470</b>
Jun-Aug 2012	250	-	-	-	250
Sep-2012	140	10	0	0	150
Oct-2012	370	40	20	10	410
Nov-2012	160	40	100	110	310
Dec-2012	180	50	80	190	410
Jan-2013	220	80	130	380	660
Feb-2013	270	80	110	340	680
Mar-2013	190	70	120	420	670
Apr-2013	240	70	120	350	650
May-2013	240	40	130	290	570
Jun-2013	420	30	80	370	800
Jul-2013	500	50	90	270	810
Aug-2013	510	60	50	210	780
Sep-2013	500	50	110	240	780
Oct-2013	640	70	180	440	1,140
Nov-2013	680	100	270	540	1,320
Dec-2013	410	100	180	470	970
Jan-2014	710	160	270	710	1,560
Feb-2014	560	200	390	880	1,620
Mar-2014	710	350	460	1,370	2,400
Apr-2014	440	220	380	1,110	1,750
May-2014	500	190	580	1,110	1,790
Jun-2014	740	170	740	1,310	2,190
Jul-2014	1,010	200	290	1,560	2,740
Aug-2014	750	140	310	790	1,650
Sep-2014	800	190	360	1,110	2,070
Oct-2014	610	170	380	970	1,730
Nov-2014	250	170	420	1,030	1,430
Dec-2014	110	160	460	1,110	1,350
Jan-2015	20	140	320	780	930
Feb-2015	30	100	350	950	1,060
Mar-2015	10	110	180	730	850

**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.

The data are split by 26 week full payments, 8 week interim payments, 18 week balance payments and payments between 14 and 25 weeks. Note that 8 week interim payments could not be made until June 2012, 14 and 25 week payments until September 2012, 18 week balance payments and 26 week full payments until October 2012.

The final column - the number of individuals for whom a payment had been made - is the sum of 26 week full payments and 8 week interim payments and payments between 14 and 25 weeks where there has not been a previous 8 week interim payment.

For details of Wage Incentive payments, see the policy description. Data Source: Wage Incentive transactions payments data (from Work Programme and Jobcentre Plus)



## Policy Description

The Youth Contract was a flexible package of support provided through Jobcentre Plus between April 2012 and March 2015 as a response to high levels of youth unemployment during the recession. It aimed to support young unemployed people to move close to the labour market and gain sustained employment through a range of programmes, in addition to existing support. DWP is continuing to support young people through additional Jobcentre Plus advisor support, extra work experience and sector-based work academy places.

### Work experience

8. Work experience was launched in January 2011 and is primarily designed to help young people aged 18 to 24 with little or no work experience gain the experience they need to secure a job before they become eligible for the Work Programme. Jobcentre Plus works with employers to offer young jobseekers the opportunity to overcome barriers to employment through offering them a work experience placement lasting two to eight weeks.
9. Young people undertaking a work experience placement continue to receive their benefit and are expected to look for permanent work. There is also the opportunity for some participants to have their placement extended by up to four weeks, where an employer makes an offer to take them onto an Apprenticeship.

### Sector-based work academies

10. Sector-based work academies 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. Sector-based work academies are developed in partnership with employers and run in sectors with high volumes of current local vacancies. The scheme was introduced from 1 August 2011 in England and from 30 January 2012 in Scotland.

### Wage Incentive

11. Wage incentives were a time limited element of the Youth Contract to encourage employers to offer employment opportunities to young people during the recession. The last claim forms were issued to employers on 6 August 2014 to allow final incentive payments for employing an 18-24 year old for six months by March 2015.
12. Initially, the eligibility for Wage Incentives was restricted to all 18 to 24-year-olds attached to the Work Programme (regardless of benefit claimed). From July 2012, eligibility was extended to all 18 to 24-year-old Jobcentre Plus claimants who had reached six months on benefit in 20 hot-spot areas; this eligibility was expanded nationwide to all Jobcentres from 17 December 2012.

13. The Wage Incentive was available for employment of 16 hours or more per week. When an eligible young person started a job and it was expected that the job would last 26 weeks, the Work Programme provider or Jobcentre Plus issued a Wage Incentive claim form to the employer (a job start). The Wage Incentive was then paid to the employer after the young person had remained in work for 26 weeks (26 week full payment).
14. Payments could be for full time and part time work: the part-time rate (£1,137.50) was for employment of between 16 and 29 hours a week; the full-time rate (£2,275) was for 30 hours or more a week.
15. An employer with fewer than 50 employees could choose to receive a first £700 Wage Incentive payment (halved for part-time work) when a young person had completed eight weeks of employment (8 week interim payment). The remaining balance was then received when the young person had completed the remaining 18 weeks employment (18 week balance payment).
16. The employer was paid half of the Wage Incentive payment if an employee left work after 13 weeks but before 26 weeks had been completed (14-25 week payment). Fixed-term appointments could also attract a Wage Incentive payment where they meet the eligibility criteria and the job was expected to last for at least 26 weeks.
17. Work Programme providers and Jobcentre Plus staff were responsible for identifying 18- to 24-year-olds who could benefit from Wage Incentives, ensuring jobs are eligible and for marketing the incentive to employers. The DWP administered the incentive payments and paid them directly to employers.

## Technical Overview

18. These statistics are derived using a combination of data from the Jobcentre Plus claimant management systems (the Labour Market System) and the Client database.
19. 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.
20. The Labour Market System does not distinguish between Youth Contract and Get Britain Working funding. For these tables, 18- to 24-year-olds from April 2012 onwards are assumed to be Youth Contract-funded.
21. Interventions for claimants on Universal Credit are not captured by the Labour Market System, and so these official statistics will be a small undercount of referrals and starts in areas where Universal Credit has been introduced. These are the Universal Credit pathfinder areas from April 2013, the North West where

Universal Credit was rolled out from June 2014, and to other jobcentres nationally from February 2015 as part of the planned national rollout over 2015/16.

22. 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>

23. 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.

## **Work experience**

24. A work experience start is defined as the date the claimant accepted their work experience placement with the employer. This is input by an adviser to the Jobcentre Plus' Labour Market System.

## **Sector-based work academies**

25. A start is defined as the first date the claimant attended sector-based work academy pre-employment training. The number of starts was based on the individual claimant level data supplied by Further Education Colleges or training providers and entered by an adviser onto the Jobcentre Plus' Labour Market System. Further Education Colleges and training providers may submit data on starts some time after the actual event occurred.

## **Wage Incentives**

26. Wage Incentive statistics are provided as experimental statistics based on management information. The quality and reliability of experimental statistics is less certain than official statistics which have undergone more rigorous quality assurance processes.
27. Job starts data (Table 3) rely on a combination of clerical counts of forms issued from Work Programme providers and input of a marker on the Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System by an adviser when a Wage Incentive claim form is issued for an individual. Given the clerical aspect to their collation, some caution needs to be attached to these figures.
28. Table 4 shows the number of Youth Contract Wage Incentive payments paid to employers each month from June 2012 up to the end of March 2015. The data are collated from a database of payment transactions. The number of payments is

combined for eligible young people who had either gained employment from being on the Work Programme or identified as eligible by Jobcentre Plus.

## Retrospection

29. Retrospection refers to the time period allowed for additional or updated information to be incorporated into DWP's data systems.
30. Work coaches may submit, correct or resubmit data relevant to a mentor or allowance start some time after the actual event occurred. This means that the data presented in each release is subject to some retrospection, and figures may be revised in subsequent releases.
31. Labour Market System (LMS) datasets are produced with a month delay. For example: data for September 2014 was available at the end of October 2014. Generally we see significant retrospection in the last reported month of the latest LMS dataset (to use the same example: we see significant retrospection in the data for September 2014, which was released at the end of October 2014).
32. Therefore, to ensure the data published in these Official Statistics are accurate and will not be subject to significant change in the future, the statistics are published 2 to 3 months after the reference period.

## Revisions Policy

33. In accordance with Principle 2 of the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Official Statistics<sup>1</sup>, 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:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/series/dwp-statistics-policies-and-procedures>

## Rounding Policy

34. 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.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/code-of-practice-for-official-statistics.pdf>

## Annex A: Work experience and sector-based work academy starts (all starts)

**Table 5: Take up of work experience and sector-based work academies by month for all ages**

	Work Experience starts	Sector based work academy pre-employment training starts
<b>Total</b>	<b>361,210</b>	<b>199,380</b>
Jan-Mar 2011	1,490	-
Apr-Jun 2011	6,730	-
Jul-Sep 2011	13,180	1,240
Oct-Dec 2011	16,510	2,880
Jan-Mar 2012	17,220	5,660
Apr-Jun 2012	14,490	8,480
Jul-Sep 2012	16,530	11,050
Oct-Dec 2012	18,260	9,760
Jan-Mar 2013	19,680	13,650
Apr-Jun 2013	19,100	14,490
Jul-Sep 2013	20,550	15,920
Oct-Dec 2013	24,880	14,810
Jan-Mar 2014	31,950	20,390
Apr-Jun 2014	28,720	19,080
Jul-2014	9,640	6,640
Aug-2014	8,470	5,750
Sep-2014	11,220	7,790
Oct-2014	11,080	6,200
Nov-2014	11,340	6,060
Dec-2014	7,580	2,910
Jan-2015	10,410	5,450
Feb-2015	10,980	6,100
Mar-2015	11,510	6,140
Apr-2015	9,390	4,430
May-2015	10,310	4,500

**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.

This table includes all starts on the work experience and sector-based work academy schemes from the rollout of Get Britain Working. Funding may come from Get Britain Working (Jan 2011-Mar 2013) or Youth Contract (Apr 2012-present; 18-24 only). From April 2013, non-Youth Contract places are funded from Jobcentre Plus day-to-day expenses and are managed locally.

To provide a view of overall take-up of the schemes, and to allow comparison with the Get Britain Working publication series, individuals that appear in Table 1 also appear in this table.

Work experience started in January 2011. Sector-based work academies started in August 2011 in England and from 30<sup>th</sup> January 2012 in Scotland. They are not available in Wales.

Starts for 2011 to 2013 are shown as quarters in this table. Their monthly breakdown can be found in the accompanying spread sheet and the Get Britain Working series.

Data Source - DWP LMS opportunities evaluation database June 2015.

**Table 6: Demographic breakdown of all starts for the period January 2011 to May 2015**

		Work Experience starts	Sector based work academy pre-employment training starts
	<b>Total</b>	<b>361,210</b>	<b>199,380</b>
Gender	Male	199,940	128,470
	Female	161,270	70,910
Age Group <sup>1</sup>	<18	820	110
	18-24	287,820	103,400
	25-49	59,240	77,570
	50+	13,290	18,290
Disability <sup>2</sup>	Yes	72,350	38,930
	No	288,860	160,440
Ethnicity	White	295,450	160,070
	Black or Black British	16,080	13,620
	Asian or Asian British	21,870	10,760
	Mixed	7,270	4,610
	Other/ Chinese	5,090	3,010
	Unknown	15,440	7,310
Region	North East	20,560	19,730
	North West	40,370	29,860
	Yorkshire and The Humber	37,120	20,800
	East Midlands	32,680	18,860
	West Midlands	49,740	22,750
	East	26,580	14,110
	London	39,340	24,360
	South East	33,540	16,190
	South West	22,640	11,160
	Wales	21,120	-
	Scotland	31,950	18,240
	Unknown	5,590	3,340

**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.

This table includes all starts on the work experience and sector-based work academy schemes from the rollout of Get Britain Working. Funding may come from Get Britain Working (Jan 2011-Mar 2013) or Youth Contract (Apr 2012-present; 18-24 only). From April 2013, non-Youth Contract places are funded from Jobcentre Plus day-to-day expenses and are managed locally.

To provide a view of overall take-up of the schemes, and to allow comparison with the Get Britain Working publication series, individuals that appear in Table 2 also appear in this table.

Work experience started in January 2011. Sector-based work academies started in August 2011 in England and from 30<sup>th</sup> January 2012 in Scotland. They are not available in Wales.

Universal Credit was rolled out in the North West from June 2014. As a result, geographical breakdowns will show a small undercount in the North West region.

Data Source - DWP LMS opportunities and DWP Clients evaluation databases June 2015..

1. Disability status is declared by the Jobseeker during a Jobcentre Plus interview. Disability status is according to the claimant's own assessment.

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

## Annex B: Publication Timetable

Publication	Date	Notes
1 <sup>st</sup>	Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2014	The first publication covering Youth Contract starts
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> August 2014	The second Youth Contract publication
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2015	The third Youth Contract publication
4 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> August 2015	The fourth Youth Contract publication

Publication dates and content will be confirmed on the Government Statistics: release calendar website (<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements>) at least four weeks before publication date.

For general enquiries regarding Pre-Work programme measures please visit the DWP website: [www.gov.uk/dwp](http://www.gov.uk/dwp) or contact the DWP press office on 0203 267 5144.

Starts on work experience and sector-based work academy were previously included in the Get Britain Working series. This series is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/pre-work-programme-and-get-britain-working>

Wage Incentive data has previously been released as management information and experimental statistics:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/224573/Wage\\_Incentive\\_payment\\_adhoc\\_released.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/224573/Wage_Incentive_payment_adhoc_released.pdf)

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/224572/Wage\\_Incentive\\_job\\_starts\\_adhoc\\_released.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/224572/Wage_Incentive_job_starts_adhoc_released.pdf)

## Contact Details

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

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