

Mandatory Programmes Official Statistics

May 2011 to February 2015

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Summary

- This publication contains official statistics on Mandatory Work Activity and Skills Conditionality up to and including February 2015.
- Mandatory Work Activity (MWA) is 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. It involves a four week role which benefits the local community.
- Between May 2011 and February 2015, 278,010 referrals were made to Mandatory Work Activity. During this period, there were 118,620 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 2015, there was a fall of 21% in the number of referrals to MWA compared with the previous year, with a comparable drop of 20% in starts. Around half of the referrals in the year to February 2015 (58,010) resulted in a MWA start (28,840), 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 2015 there have been:
 - 823,560 Skills Conditionality initial provider interview referrals
 - 482,050 Skills Conditionality initial provider interview starts
 - 1,046,340 Skills Conditionality training referrals
 - 579,350 Skills Conditionality training starts
 - 981,640 Skills Conditionality National Career Service referrals
 - 607,890 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.
- 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 | 278,010 | 118,620 |
| May-Dec 2011 | 29,650 | 10,530 |
| Jan-Dec 2012 | 95,190 | 35,160 |
| Jan-2013 | 11,720 | 4,030 |
| Feb-2013 | 10,250 | 4,090 |
| Mar-2013 | 9,140 | 3,540 |
| Apr-2013 | 7,380 | 4,010 |
| May-2013 | 6,540 | 3,310 |
| Jun-2013 | 5,860 | 2,810 |
| Jul-2013 | 7,420 | 3,490 |
| Aug-2013 | 6,080 | 3,050 |
| Sep-2013 | 5,480 | 2,980 |
| Oct-2013 | 6,180 | 2,970 |
| Nov-2013 | 5,630 | 2,840 |
| Dec-2013 | 2,490 | 1,720 |
| Jan-2014 | 6,050 | 2,550 |
| Feb-2014 | 4,960 | 2,690 |
| Mar-2014 | 3,710 | 2,190 |
| Apr-2014 | 4,600 | 2,390 |
| May-2014 | 5,410 | 2,670 |
| Jun-2014 | 6,060 | 2,960 |
| Jul-2014 | 6,290 | 3,200 |
| Aug-2014 | 5,120 | 2,550 |
| Sep-2014 | 5,490 | 2,750 |
| Oct-2014 | 5,100 | 2,470 |
| Nov-2014 | 4,550 | 2,210 |
| Dec-2014 | 2,170 | 1,470 |
| Jan-2015 | 4,900 | 1,850 |
| Feb-2015 | 4,610 | 2,130 |

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, 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 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 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 for 2011 and 2012 is collapsed in this table. Their monthly breakdown can be found in the accompanying spread sheet.

Table 2: Mandatory Work Activity demographic breakdown for the period May 2011 to February 2015

| | | 1 | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--|---|
| | | Mandatory Work Activity referrals (GB) | Mandatory Work Activity starts (GB) |
| | Total | 278,010 | 118,620 |
| Gender | Male | 204,320 | 83,580 |
| | Female | 73,690 | 35,040 |
| Age Group | <18 | 10 | 10 |
| | 18-24 | 103,550 | 38,000 |
| | 25-49 | 142,370 | 62,740 |
| | 50+ | 32,050 | 17,860 |
| | Unknown | 30 | 20 |
| Disability ¹ | Yes | 70,060 | 31,910 |
| | No | 207,940 | 86,710 |
| | Unknown | 10 | 1 |
| Ethnicity ² | White | 210,140 | 93,120 |
| | Black or Black British | 22,470 | 8,950 |
| | Asian or Asian British | 22,710 | 7,480 |
| | Mixed | 6,910 | 2,370 |
| | Other/ Chinese | 6,670 | 2,590 |
| | Unknown | 9,110 | 4,120 |
| Region | North East | 12,340 | 6,730 |
| | North West | 38,870 | 15,250 |
| | Yorkshire and The Humber | 28,330 | 12,190 |
| | East Midlands | 12,980 | 6,970 |
| | West Midlands | 39,340 | 14,930 |
| | East | 15,660 | 8,090 |
| | London | 40,980 | 17,520 |
| | South East | 26,470 | 11,300 |
| | South West | 19,750 | 7,480 |
| | Wales | 15,640 | 6,630 |
| | Scotland | 23,180 | 10,200 |
| | Unknown | 4,460 | 1,330 |

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. 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 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'.

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

^{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 Cor | nditionality REF | ERRALS | 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 | 823,560 | 1,046,340 | 981,640 | 482,050 | 579,350 | 607,890 | |
| Aug-Dec 11 | 44,800 | 53,940 | 94,670 | 13,610 | 13,910 | 34,400 | |
| Jan-Dec 12 | 215,800 | 207,860 | 247,140 | 98,440 | 96,640 | 134,310 | |
| Jan-13 | 27,240 | 30,750 | 29,150 | 15,080 | 17,080 | 17,020 | |
| Feb-13 | 24,910 | 29,170 | 25,350 | 15,500 | 16,760 | 17,260 | |
| Mar-13 | 23,410 | 28,150 | 22,840 | 14,890 | 15,340 | 15,790 | |
| Apr-13 | 24,050 | 29,540 | 23,640 | 14,980 | 18,350 | 16,370 | |
| May-13 | 22,530 | 29,830 | 22,350 | 14,320 | 15,960 | 16,200 | |
| Jun-13 | 20,810 | 26,980 | 24,290 | 13,550 | 15,850 | 15,890 | |
| Jul-13 | 26,710 | 34,710 | 34,350 | 17,480 | 19,950 | 22,560 | |
| Aug-13 | 21,960 | 28,900 | 27,750 | 13,880 | 15,160 | 20,490 | |
| Sep-13 | 25,050 | 35,610 | 29,040 | 18,100 | 25,110 | 20,260 | |
| Oct-13 | 28,340 | 41,000 | 31,690 | 19,430 | 22,870 | 22,680 | |
| Nov-13 | 25,660 | 37,580 | 29,380 | 18,160 | 23,890 | 20,950 | |
| Dec-13 | 17,620 | 24,550 | 21,360 | 11,890 | 13,540 | 15,690 | |
| Jan-14 | 30,230 | 42,440 | 32,720 | 19,820 | 25,990 | 22,050 | |
| Feb-14 | 26,350 | 35,990 | 28,130 | 18,540 | 23,670 | 20,410 | |
| Mar-14 | 26,090 | 36,920 | 28,560 | 18,590 | 25,280 | 20,630 | |
| Apr-14 | 21,690 | 33,410 | 23,990 | 15,500 | 20,850 | 18,270 | |
| May-14 | 21,070 | 33,200 | 23,820 | 14,350 | 19,610 | 17,220 | |
| Jun-14 | 19,900 | 31,320 | 23,530 | 14,100 | 22,530 | 17,420 | |
| Jul-14 | 17,680 | 26,630 | 23,810 | 11,980 | 15,350 | 16,690 | |
| Aug-14 | 14,980 | 21,610 | 19,040 | 9,440 | 11,670 | 13,770 | |
| Sep-14 | 17,840 | 26,530 | 20,110 | 12,140 | 18,290 | 13,370 | |
| Oct-14 | 16,540 | 26,020 | 20,580 | 10,410 | 13,560 | 12,840 | |
| Nov-14 | 15,610 | 23,640 | 19,360 | 10,080 | 14,250 | 11,810 | |
| Dec-14 | 10,860 | 16,300 | 14,240 | 6,710 | 8,620 | 9,740 | |
| Jan-15 | 18,820 | 28,180 | 21,760 | 10,670 | 15,220 | 12,270 | |
| Feb-15 | 17,000 | 25,600 | 19,020 | 10,450 | 14,060 | 11,540 | |

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, 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 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.

Data for 2011 and 2012 is collapsed in this table. Their monthly breakdown can be found in the accompanying spread sheet.

Data Source - DWP LMS opportunities evaluation database March 2015.

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 2015.

| | | Skills Cond | 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 | 823,560 | 1,046,340 | 981,640 | 482,050 | 579,350 | 607,890 | |
| Gender | Male | 542,140 | 684,800 | 606,230 | 312,630 | 372,890 | 369,820 | |
| | Female | 281,420 | 361,540 | 375,400 | 169,420 | 206,470 | 238,070 | |
| Age | Under 18 | 120 | 130 | 80 | 50 | 50 | 40 | |
| Group | 18-24 | 223,760 | 274,710 | 288,420 | 114,950 | 136,700 | 162,780 | |
| 0.00.0 | 25-49 | 462,220 | 580,450 | 532,030 | 274,470 | 322,670 | 332,450 | |
| | 50+ | 137,430 | 191,000 | 161,120 | 92,580 | 119,910 | 112,610 | |
| | Unknown | 30 | 50 | - | - | 30 | - | |
| Disability ¹ | Yes | 206,040 | 257,250 | 239,630 | 125,520 | 148,430 | 151,710 | |
| | No | 617,510 | 789,050 | 742,000 | 356,520 | 430,920 | 456,170 | |
| | Unknown | 20 | 30 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | |
| Ethnicity ² | White | 608,840 | 757,400 | 726,990 | 356,020 | 425,390 | 444,010 | |
| | Black or Black British | 54,220 | 86,860 | 89,110 | 31,120 | 43,380 | 57,060 | |
| | Asian or Asian British | 65,690 | 81,510 | 66,330 | 38,190 | 44,020 | 42,970 | |
| | Mixed | 18,270 | 23,590 | 23,530 | 10,080 | 11,820 | 14,100 | |
| | Other/Chinese | 40,550 | 48,970 | 29,780 | 24,730 | 27,690 | 20,170 | |
| | Unknown | 35,990 | 48,010 | 45,900 | 21,910 | 27,060 | 29,570 | |
| Region | North East | 58,050 | 123,950 | 28,910 | 33,210 | 75,040 | 16,280 | |
| i togion | North West | 175,040 | 147,060 | 178,560 | 101,860 | 88,430 | 111,320 | |
| | Yorkshire and The Humber | 103,450 | 120,970 | 117,210 | 65,260 | 73,400 | 68,020 | |
| | East Midlands | 70,520 | 96,450 | 71,560 | 40,950 | 52,550 | 41,710 | |
| | West Midlands | 122,190 | 87,470 | 66,280 | 74,010 | 51,790 | 38,150 | |
| | East | 60,080 | 95,540 | 94,040 | 31,610 | 48,460 | 55,270 | |
| | London | 104,610 | 208,530 | 263,290 | 58,500 | 96,840 | 177,680 | |
| | South East | 71,300 | 84,760 | 85,070 | 40,300 | 47,380 | 51,150 | |
| | South West | 58,330 | 60,620 | 76,720 | 36,350 | 32,730 | 48,310 | |
| | Wales | - | 13,880 | - | - | 7,420 | - | |
| | Scotland | - | 7,130 | - | - | 5,310 | - | |

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, 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.

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

^{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 Training | Basic Skills Training | ESOL | Other | Skills for Work ¹ | Occu- pational Training | Basic Skills Training | ESOL | Other | Skills for Work ¹ |
| Total | 558,560 | 182,200 | 125,100 | 168,200 | 12,280 | 304,070 | 106,080 | 75,640 | 86,900 | 6,660 |
| Aug-Dec 11 | 31,390 | 7,600 | 10,140 | 4,820 | - | 7,780 | 2,190 | 3,000 | 940 | - |
| Jan-Dec 12 | 121,920 | 30,800 | 31,210 | 23,000 | 930 | 56,230 | 14,640 | 16,730 | 8,580 | 460 |
| Jan-13 | 18,290 | 4,770 | 3,520 | 3,740 | 420 | 9,910 | 2,720 | 2,440 | 1,820 | 190 |
| Feb-13 | 17,980 | 4,460 | 3,550 | 2,760 | 420 | 10,090 | 2,630 | 2,090 | 1,730 | 230 |
| Mar-13 | 17,420 | 4,430 | 3,260 | 2,570 | 470 | 9,260 | 2,430 | 2,040 | 1,360 | 250 |
| Apr-13 | 17,850 | 4,840 | 3,570 | 2,770 | 510 | 11,070 | 2,980 | 2,460 | 1,590 | 260 |
| May-13 | 17,330 | 4,680 | 3,520 | 3,390 | 920 | 9,030 | 2,790 | 1,950 | 1,770 | 430 |
| Jun-13 | 15,390 | 4,370 | 2,640 | 3,450 | 1,140 | 9,250 | 2,540 | 1,810 | 1,830 | 430 |
| Jul-13 | 18,340 | 6,280 | 3,010 | 5,590 | 1,490 | 10,680 | 3,450 | 1,810 | 3,240 | 770 |
| Aug-13 | 15,370 | 5,250 | 2,930 | 4,240 | 1,110 | 7,790 | 3,100 | 1,520 | 2,090 | 670 |
| Sep-13 | 18,370 | 6,650 | 3,910 | 5,670 | 1,020 | 12,390 | 4,730 | 3,940 | 3,540 | 510 |
| Oct-13 | 21,510 | 7,770 | 3,500 | 6,910 | 1,300 | 11,900 | 4,500 | 1,920 | 3,760 | 790 |
| Nov-13 | 19,500 | 7,480 | 3,120 | 6,500 | 980 | 12,390 | 4,910 | 2,140 | 3,850 | 600 |
| Dec-13 | 12,170 | 4,980 | 2,500 | 4,250 | 660 | 6,390 | 2,720 | 1,550 | 2,500 | 390 |
| Jan-14 | 21,630 | 8,080 | 3,690 | 8,120 | 920 | 13,070 | 5,380 | 2,810 | 4,230 | 500 |
| Feb-14 | 18,290 | 7,330 | 3,240 | 7,120 | - | 11,890 | 4,850 | 2,190 | 4,540 | 200 |
| Mar-14 | 18,440 | 7,290 | 3,560 | 7,630 | - | 12,470 | 5,240 | 2,800 | 4,770 | - |
| Apr-14 | 17,130 | 6,250 | 3,230 | 6,800 | _ | 10,480 | 4,140 | 2,160 | 4,080 | - |
| May-14 | 16,180 | 6,400 | 3,800 | 6,830 | - | 9,550 | 4,030 | 2,430 | 3,600 | - |
| Jun-14 | 15,680 | 5,710 | 3,420 | 6,500 | - | 11,480 | 4,270 | 2,440 | 4,340 | - |
| Jul-14 | 12,880 | 4,550 | 2,920 | 6,280 | - | 7,750 | 2,640 | 1,590 | 3,370 | - |
| Aug-14 | 9,780 | 4,110 | 2,710 | 5,010 | - | 5,460 | 2,130 | 1,360 | 2,730 | = |
| Sep-14 | 12,180 | 4,970 | 3,770 | 5,610 | _ | 7,850 | 3,760 | 3,680 | 3,000 | - |
| Oct-14 | 11,960 | 5,000 | 3,020 | 6,040 | - | 6,610 | 2,670 | 1,560 | 2,710 | _ |
| Nov-14 | 10,700 | 4,730 | 2,620 | 5,580 | - | 6,490 | 2,990 | 1,790 | 2,990 | - |
| Dec-14 | 6,930 | 3,380 | 2,120 | 3,880 | - | 3,710 | 1,830 | 1,100 | 1,990 | - |
| Jan-15 | 12,820 | 5,310 | 3,330 | 6,730 | - | 6,900 | 3,140 | 2,290 | 2,900 | - |
| Feb-15 | 11,150 | 4,730 | 3,290 | 6,430 | - | 6,220 | 2,720 | 2,070 | 3,050 | - |

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, 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 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.

Data for 2011 and 2012 is collapsed in this table. Their monthly breakdown can be found in the accompanying spread sheet.

^{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 was launched on 16 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 contributing to the local community.
- 2. Work related disciplines include attending on time, regularly carrying out specific tasks and working under supervision. MWA is about offering further support to some JSA claimants who would benefit from a short period of activity.
- 3. MWA involves work-based placements with hosts, sourced by external providers under contract to DWP. For those referred to a placement, participation is mandatory.
- 4. The placements sourced by the provider:
 - last for 4 weeks
 - are for 30 hours per week, unless restrictions apply, allowing the claimant time to look for work as required by their Jobseeker's Agreement or Claimant Commitment
 - are reduced in line with any restrictions a claimant might have on their Jobseeker's Agreement or Claimant Commitment. 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
- 5. MWA participants continue to claim JSA and attend Jobsearch Reviews.
- 6. Since 29 April 2013 it is possible for Universal Credit claimants in the all work–related requirements group to be referred to MWA.

Skills Conditionality - Policy Description

- 7. 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.
- 8. 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 January 2014. From May 2014 it has been a referral to Work Ready Essentials Skills.
- 9. The training includes basic skills (English, numeracy, literacy), occupational skills, employability skills and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).

- 10. 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.
- 11. 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.
- 12. 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

- 13. 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.
- 14. 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.
- 15. 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.
- 16. The format of this publication will be kept under review and any feedback or suggestions to improve this publication are welcomed.
- 17. 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.

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

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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 2014 data was available at the end of September 2014. 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 2014 (which are published in November 2014) are produced using September 2014 data, which was released in October 2014).

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

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

¹ National Careers Service was previously called Next Step.

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 | November 2015 | The ninth 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.

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

DWP Analyst

Elbereth Puts

elbereth.puts@dwp.gsi.gov.uk