



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Mandatory Programmes Official Statistics

May 2011 to August 2016

Publication date: 9:30am Wednesday 30th November 2016

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Summary

- This publication contains official statistics on Mandatory Work Activity up to and including March 2016, and Skills Conditionality up to and including August 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 March 2016, **334,350** referrals were made to Mandatory Work Activity. During this period, there were **144,390** starts on a Mandatory Work Activity placement.
- Skills Conditionality 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 August 2016 there have been:
 - **1,024,380** Skills Conditionality initial provider interview referrals
 - **603,810** Skills Conditionality initial provider interview starts
 - **1,282,430** Skills Conditionality training referrals
 - **716,770** Skills Conditionality training starts
 - **1,234,340** Skills Conditionality National Career Service referrals
 - **758,750** 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 an undercount of referrals and starts in areas where Universal Credit has been introduced. Work is underway to capture information on these claimants.

Statistical tables

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

	Mandatory Work Activity referrals (GB)	Mandatory Work Activity starts (GB)
Total	334,350	144,390
Annual		
May-Dec 2011	29,650	10,530
2012	95,190	35,160
2013	84,160	38,830
2014	59,510	30,110
2015	54,490	23,540
Monthly (2016)		
Jan-2016	5,450	2,120
Feb-2016	5,670	2,380
Mar-2016	220	1,720

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 and ended in March 2016. The monthly breakdown for May 2011 to June 2015, 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 and 31 March 2012, The Department tested 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 September 2016.

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

		Mandatory Work Activity referrals (GB)	Mandatory Work Activity starts (GB)
	Total	334,350	144,390
Gender	Male	246,570	102,440
	Female	87,780	41,960
Age Group	<18	10	10
	18-24	116,640	42,700
	25-49	175,040	77,660
	50+	42,630	24,010
	Unknown	30	20
Disability ¹	Yes	96,380	44,350
	No	237,950	100,040
	Unknown	10	0
Ethnicity ²	White	252,870	113,360
	Black or Black British	27,790	11,220
	Asian or Asian British	27,340	9,170
	Mixed	8,300	2,940
	Other/ Chinese	8,130	3,160
	Unknown	9,920	4,530
Region	North East	14,980	7,880
	North West	45,520	18,130
	Yorkshire and The Humber	33,790	14,770
	East Midlands	15,460	8,400
	West Midlands	45,220	17,470
	East	18,770	9,520
	London	49,320	21,390
	South East	33,210	14,400
	South West	23,280	9,110
	Wales	19,620	8,550
	Scotland	28,040	12,580
	Unknown	7,130	2,210

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 and ended in March 2016.

Between 16 January –31 March 2012. The Department tested 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 September 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	1,024,380	1,282,430	1,234,340	603,810	716,770	758,750
Annual						
Aug-Dec 2011	44,480	53,560	94,110	13,520	13,840	34,280
2012	214,120	206,370	245,430	97,700	95,970	133,430
2013	285,700	373,240	318,080	185,680	217,970	219,260
2014	236,450	349,650	273,750	160,440	217,920	191,850
2015	164,200	209,490	193,870	101,900	122,500	120,070
Monthly (2016)						
Jan-2016	13,080	14,380	17,690	7,290	8,120	9,270
Feb-2016	11,550	13,320	15,780	6,960	8,070	9,100
Mar-2016	10,740	12,200	13,840	5,920	6,320	8,090
Apr-2016	10,940	12,730	13,350	6,220	6,720	7,480
May-2016	9,680	11,050	12,340	5,690	6,150	6,980
Jun-2016	8,850	10,330	12,810	5,000	5,580	6,840
Jul-2016	6,950	8,160	11,650	3,730	3,870	5,860
Aug-2016	7,650	7,960	11,670	3,770	3,750	6,250

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 August 2011 to June 2015, 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 September 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 11. 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 August 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	1,024,380	1,282,430	1,234,340	603,810	716,770	758,750
Gender	Male	676,040	839,610	756,580	392,980	462,840	459,410
	Female	348,340	442,830	477,770	210,830	253,930	299,340
	Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age Group	<18	130	160	110	60	60	60
	18-24	257,750	314,280	336,000	133,510	157,850	188,720
	25-49	579,120	712,600	674,830	344,590	398,740	416,290
	50+	187,340	255,320	223,380	125,630	160,090	153,680
	Unknown	40	70	30	20	40	10
Disability ¹	Yes	292,290	360,290	340,300	178,280	208,500	213,500
	No	732,080	922,120	894,030	425,530	508,270	545,250
	Unknown	20	30	10	10	10	10
Ethnicity ²	White	752,800	929,990	916,420	444,290	525,390	557,380
	Black or Black British	73,120	109,450	114,170	41,860	56,190	71,360
	Asian or Asian British	84,330	101,610	84,860	49,450	55,890	54,480
	Mixed	23,390	29,310	29,820	12,950	15,070	17,570
	Other/ Chinese	51,190	60,650	37,970	31,240	35,060	25,240
	Unknown	39,570	51,430	51,110	24,020	29,170	32,720
Region	North East	83,970	151,740	40,260	50,730	93,650	22,920
	North West	213,130	180,200	224,170	126,250	110,250	140,400
	Yorkshire and The Humber	140,100	152,370	154,360	90,860	94,680	92,090
	East Midlands	82,140	117,620	100,520	46,080	62,290	58,060
	West Midlands	146,530	105,530	76,640	86,640	61,010	42,600
	East	68,770	126,200	119,520	36,630	63,640	68,500
	London	129,690	241,350	321,320	71,850	114,610	212,150
	South East	91,040	104,590	106,570	51,800	58,710	64,670
	South West	69,030	72,660	90,980	42,970	38,820	57,370
	Wales	0	15,330	0	0	8,500	0
	Scotland	0	14,860	0	0	10,620	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. These breakdowns are 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 11. 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 September 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 REFERRALS					Skills Conditionality STARTS				
	Occupational Training	Basic Skills Training	ESOL	Other	Skills for Work (Wales) ¹	Occupational Training	Basic Skills Training	ESOL	Other	Skills for Work (Wales) ¹
Total	655,020	227,540	154,720	233,130	12,030	360,860	133,700	95,580	120,110	6,520
Annual										
Aug-Dec 2011	31,170	7,490	10,080	4,820	-	7,730	2,170	3,000	950	-
2012	120,990	30,580	30,960	22,940	900	55,820	14,560	16,580	8,570	440
2013	207,690	65,250	38,610	51,470	10,220	119,190	39,090	25,380	28,910	5,400
2014	170,120	66,830	37,320	74,480	910	106,180	43,470	25,560	42,020	690
2015	88,640	40,100	26,160	54,590	-	52,510	24,480	17,890	27,630	-
Monthly (2016)										
Jan-2016	5,510	2,820	2,050	4,000	0	2,960	1,770	1,520	1,860	0
Feb-2016	5,490	2,600	1,760	3,470	0	3,330	1,570	1,230	1,940	0
Mar-2016	5,080	2,630	1,490	2,990	0	2,570	1,410	900	1,440	0
Apr-2016	5,260	2,350	1,870	3,250	0	2,630	1,500	1,120	1,470	0
May-2016	4,630	2,010	1,270	3,140	0	2,640	1,170	770	1,580	0
Jun-2016	4,210	1,950	1,170	3,010	0	2,330	1,140	650	1,470	0
Jul-2016	3,230	1,480	1,020	2,430	0	1,510	720	480	1,150	0
Aug-2016	3,010	1,460	950	2,540	0	1,470	660	490	1,120	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 11. 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 September 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 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 skills conditionality. 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 skills conditionality, 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. Since April 2016, Universal Credit has been operating in every Jobcentre office in Great Britain for single jobseekers. Referrals and starts to labour market interventions for claimants on Universal Credit are recorded in a different system to those that provide data for this statistical release. These official statistics therefore contain an undercount of referrals and starts where claimants are on Universal Credit.
16. 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

17. 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

18. A referral to skills conditionality 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 skills conditionality 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

19. 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.
20. Labour Market System (LMS) datasets are produced a month in arrears i.e. August 2016 data was available at the end of September 2016. Generally, for any given month's worth of LMS data, significant retrospection can be seen for a further month.
21. 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 2016 (which are published in November 2016) are produced using September data, which was released in October 2016).

Revisions Policy

22. 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

23. 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.*

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>

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
11 th	Wednesday 30 th November 2016	The eleventh and final publication covering Mandatory Work Activity and Skills Conditionality

For general enquiries regarding pre-work programmes and the Mandatory Work Programme please visit the DWP website: www.dwp.gov.uk or contact the DWP press office on 0203 267 5129.

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