



In Work Progression Trial Progress Update

Data for April 2015 – October 2016

One off

Published 23 March 2017
Great Britain

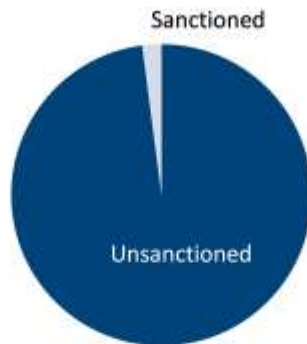
One off

In Work Progression (IWP) is one of the core principles of Universal Credit (UC) – supporting claimants to progress in work, earn more, become self-sufficient and eventually independent of benefits. The IWP Trial is looking to identify the most effective way of offering labour market support to in-work claimants.

Main stories

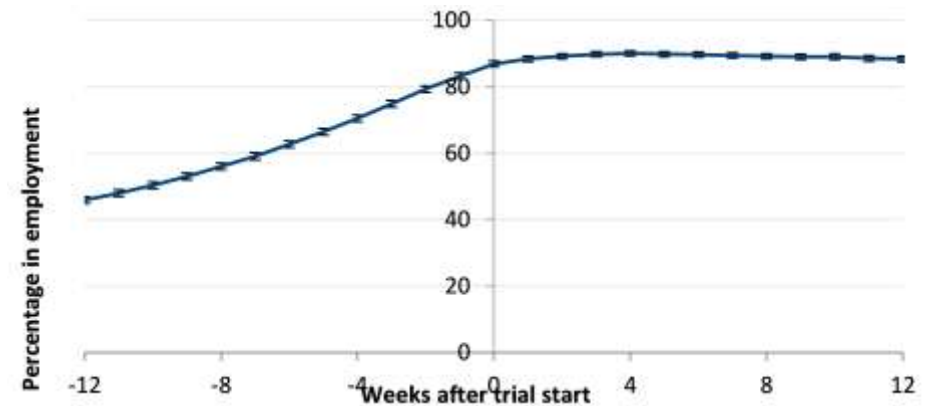
98% not sanctioned

Among trial participants



Most remain in work

12 weeks after trial start



At a glance

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Comments? Feedback is welcome

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What you need to know

In Work Progression Randomised Control Trial

The information in this report relates to a Randomised Control Trial (RCT) which seeks to test the effect on earnings of an active labour market regime for people who are in paid work but who have low earnings and are claiming Universal Credit. However, this report does not include comparisons between the trial groups. The trial has not yet been running long enough to show any differences.

Information from this trial will eventually be used to assess the effectiveness of the different approaches being trialled. Claimants are randomly assigned to one of three groups, and receive different degrees of in-work support and conditionality.

Claimants in Group 1 meet their work coach every eight weeks to get support and review mandatory actions agreed in their claimant commitment. These claimants have access to a flexible time bank of work coach support. Claimants in Group 2 have the same requirements as Group 1, and access to work coach support, but have fortnightly rather than eight-weekly reviews. Claimants in Group 3 receive the current business as usual service. This includes an initial telephone appointment at week one, to establish voluntary actions, and a follow-up telephone appointment at week eight to discuss progress. Although they do not automatically receive further Work Coach support, claimants in this group do receive it if they request it.

The charts in this report are based on information held about trial participants in Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) administrative systems. This includes real-time information on earnings, originally gathered by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC).

Universal Credit administrative systems

Universal Credit live service is now available to single jobseekers in all 712 Jobcentres across the country, covering all local authorities, and supported by 11 Service Centres. In May 2016 we expanded the full UC service into jobcentres, making it available to all claimant types. On 16 November 2016 we announced details of the complete rollout to local authorities and jobcentre areas month by month through to September 2018.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/universal-credit-transition-to-full-service>

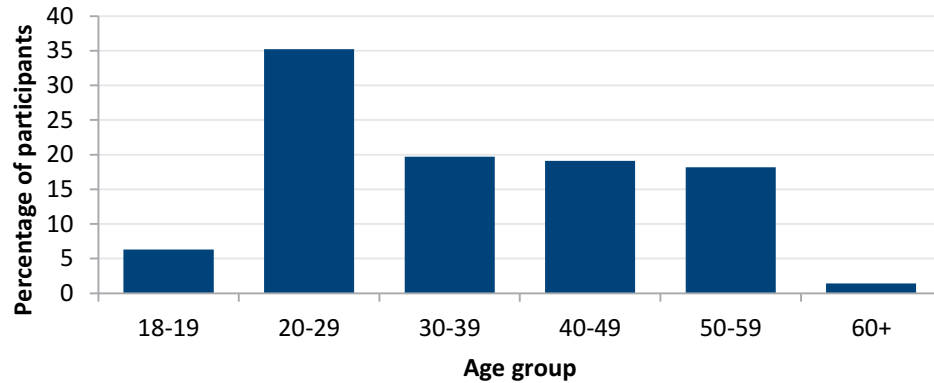
After the expansion process is complete, we will begin migrating claimants on other benefits such as Jobseekers Allowance, Income Support and Tax Credits to the full service in 2019. We are currently rolling out to 5 jobcentres per month. In July 2017 we will increase roll out 30 jobcentres. After a pause in August 2017 and September 2017 the transition will scale up to more than 50 jobcentres a month. The intention is that all cases are migrated, and a full service is available nationally, by March 2022.

Please note that some charts in this publication do not include full service data since it is unavailable for analysis so far. We state explicitly in the narrative where full service data is not available.

People participating in the trial

Ages of participants not in full service

A third of trial participants are aged 20-29



People participating in the trial come from the full range of ages entitled to claim Universal Credit. Under 30s make up more than one third of participants.

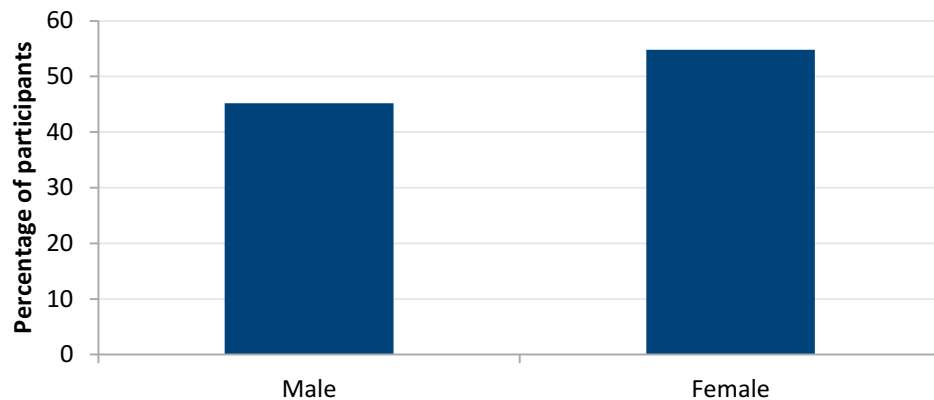
The population of this trial is influenced by the ways that Universal Credit and the trial were rolled out. Not every part of the country and every type of claimant received them at the same time. Therefore this population is not necessarily representative of a future in-work Universal Credit population.

This information is currently not available for participants on full service.

See **Table 1** for full data.

Sex of participants not in full service

There are more female than male participants



There are more female than male participants in this trial.

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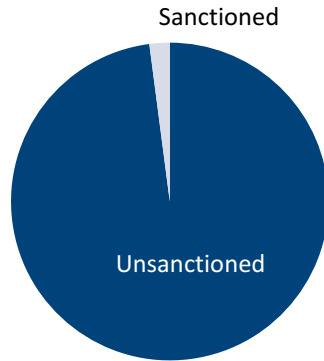
This information is currently not available for participants on full service.

See **Table 2** for full data.

Sanctions in the trial

98% of participants were not sanctioned

Most individuals are not sanctioned



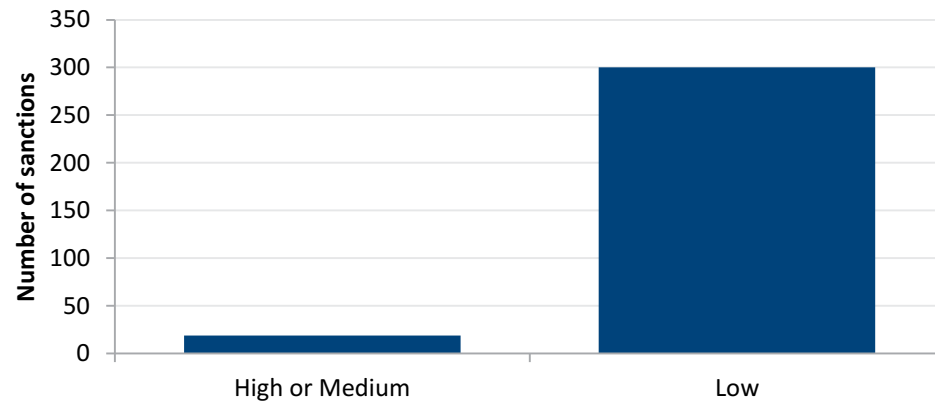
Up to the beginning of November 2016, 319 sanctions had been applied to 15,455 trial participants while they were in the trial. It is difficult to compare this to other Universal credit groups because they have different levels of conditionality. We would expect the sanction rate for the trial population to be lower than for non-working claimants. This is because there are more reasons why non-working claimants could face sanctions. However, the overall rate is low.

This number is expected to grow as the trial continues.

See **Table 3** for full data.

Most sanctions are low level sanctions

Level of sanctions



Low level sanctions are sanctions imposed for things such as failing to attend an interview without good reason. Medium and high level sanctions can be imposed for things such as losing a job through misconduct or refusing to take up a job offer.

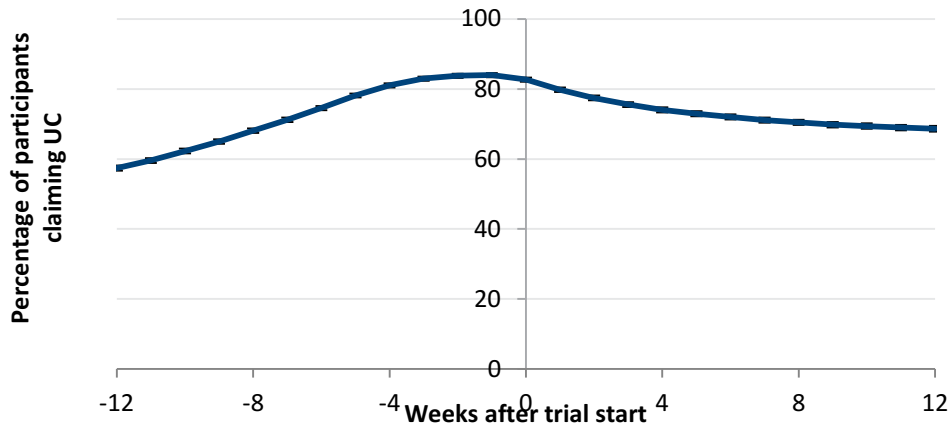
Of the sanctions that are applied, the majority were low level sanctions. 92% of all sanctions applied were for failing to attend meetings or phone calls without good reason.

See **Table 4** for full data.

Universal Credit for trial participants

Percentage of participants receiving any Universal Credit payment falls after joining the trial

Percentage of participants receiving any Universal Credit payment



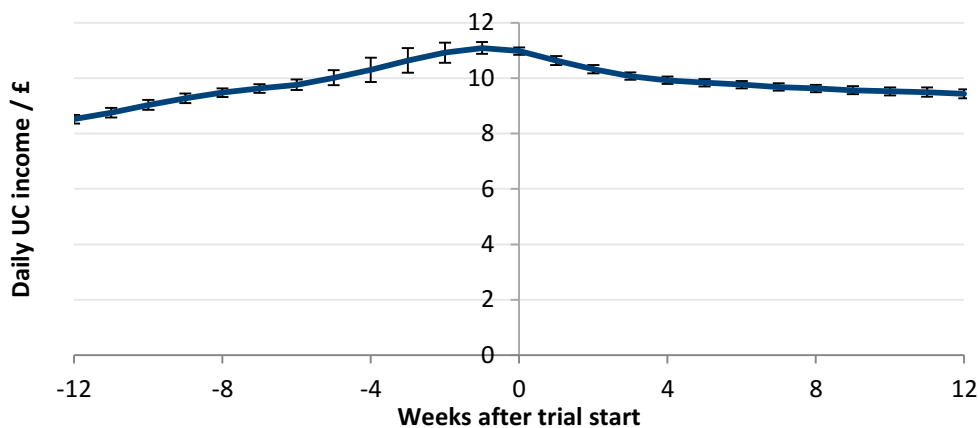
The number of participants who are being paid Universal Credit rises in the weeks before participants join the trial. It does not reach 100%. This is partly due to differences between the date someone enrolled in the trial and the Universal Credit payment cycle. It is also partly due to some individuals enrolled in the trial who have zero entitlement to Universal Credit. In practice, this group is excluded from the trial, but it is not yet possible to exclude them from this data. Please see the “About these statistics” section for further discussion.

The number in receipt falls again after they have joined the trial. This is consistent with participants progressing after they join the trial, although we cannot interpret it as an effect of the trial.

See **Table 5** for full data.

Amount of Universal Credit received falls once participants join the trial

Average Universal Credit payment to trial participants around the time they join the trial



The average amount of Universal Credit in payment to participants rises before they join the trial. Participants can join the trial either by making a new claim to Universal Credit or due to a rise or fall in income while already on Universal Credit. This means that the mean Universal Credit payment is partially driven by new claims to Universal Credit. In fact, the shape of the two graphs is similar, suggesting that movement on and off Universal Credit is an important factor.

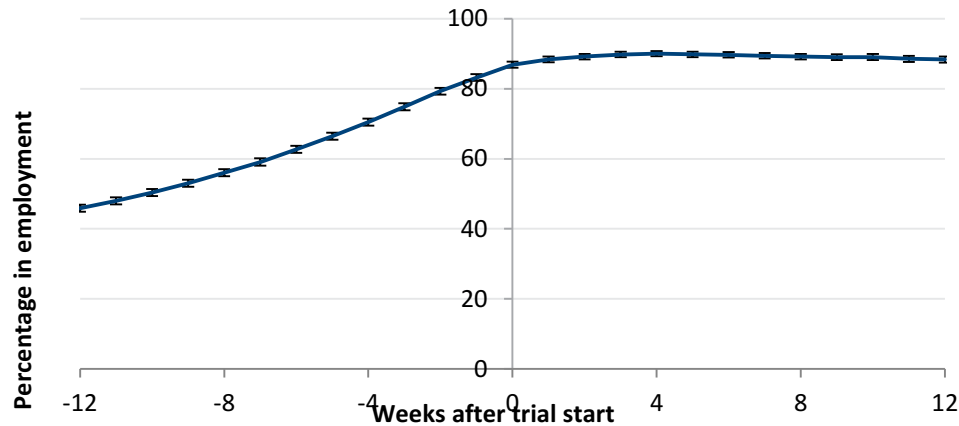
The average payment reduces after joining the trial. This is consistent with participants progressing after they join the trial, although we cannot interpret it as an effect of the trial.

See **Table 6** for full data.

Earnings and employment of trial participants

The percentage of participants with earnings remains high after they join the trial

Percentage of trial participants with any income from earnings



The percentage of participants in employment rises before joining the trial. This is largely because the trial is for in-work claimants with fairly low pay. The trial therefore tends to include people who have recently started a job

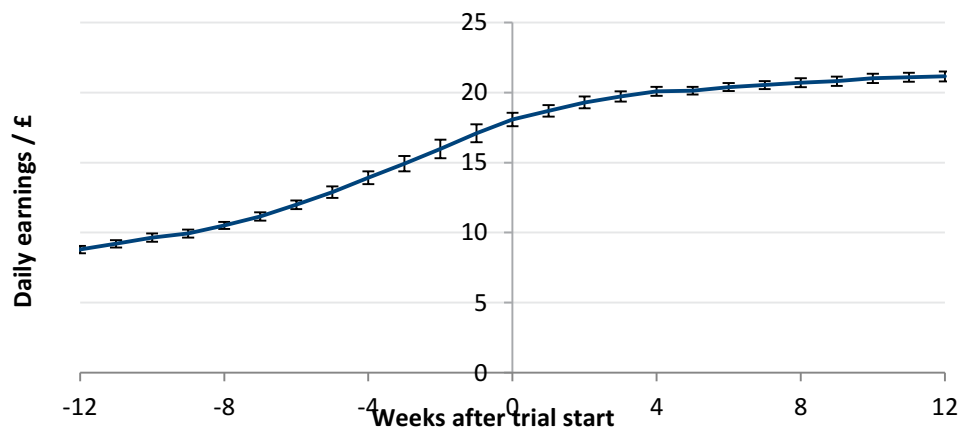
There is a slight downward trend in the number of participants in employment after the start of the trial. It is nowhere near as pronounced as the upslope before the trial starts. This is consistent with an overall picture of sustained employment among participants, with a minority of participants moving out of work after a short time or not earning in a particular week.

There are a small number of participants who are not employed. These are partners of people whose income brings them into the trial frame.

See **Table 7** for full data.

Average earnings of participants rises before and after joining the trial

Average daily earnings of trial participants



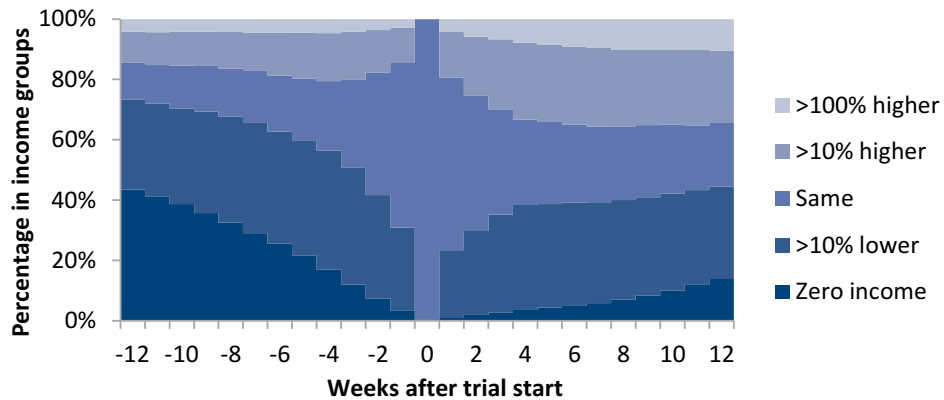
The average earnings of trial participants rises prior to joining the trial, which is to be expected since having an income is a requirement for joining the trial. The average earnings continue to rise after joining the trial. This is consistent with participants progressing after they join the trial, although we cannot interpret it as an effect of the trial.

See **Table 8** for full data.

Comparison with earnings when participants joined the trial

Participants' earnings can rise or fall following trial start

Income of trial participants compared to their income in the week they joined the trial



This chart compares the earnings of participants to their earnings in the week that they joined the trial. This shows the more complex picture underlying the mean earnings graph on the previous page. Twelve weeks after joining the trial, around 65% of participants are still earning at least 90% of what they earned when they joined. Around 40% are earning at least 10% more, including some who have at least doubled their income. But around 15% appear to have returned to unemployment.

Participants who had zero earnings in the week that they joined the trial are excluded from this analysis.

See **Table 9** for full data.

About these statistics

These statistics are an early look at participants in the In Work Progression (IWP) trial. IWP is a Randomised Control Trial testing three approaches to supporting individuals in the “All Work Related Requirements – Light Touch” group to progress in employment. One group receives only an initial telephone contact and a single follow-up appointment. The second group has appointments with a Work Coach every eight weeks after these initial contacts, either at a Jobcentre or over telephone. The final group has an appointment every two weeks after an initial eight week wait.

The data is not yet sufficiently complete to support comparisons between the groups, so the information presented here is for all trial participants. It is not a report on the trial outcome.

All individuals in the “All Work Related Requirements – Light Touch” group in participating Jobcentres were enrolled in the trial. Largely, this is people in fairly low income jobs. It does include some people who do not work, but who have a partner who brings the household income into this group. It also includes some people with a low entitlement to Universal Credit whose earnings are sufficient to reduce the Universal Credit payments to zero (single people with very low housing costs, for example). In practice, these groups are effectively excluded from the trial, but it has not yet been possible to remove them from the data.

The date that an individual is enrolled in the trial is the date that they report a change of earnings that brings them into the “All Work Related Requirements – Light Touch” group. This may be before or after they actually change earnings. Since Universal Credit assesses income in months, it may also not affect their Universal Credit income immediately, and may change it in stages. This is one of the reasons that the Universal Credit receipt does not reach 100%.

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Where to find out more

About Universal Credit:

<https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit/overview>

About the In Work Progression Trial:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/developing-in-work-support-for-people-claiming-universal-credit/universal-credit-in-work-progression-randomised-control-trial>

Statistics on Universal Credit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/universal-credit-29-apr-2013-to-8-dec-2016>