

Freedom of Information request 2015-1533

Date received 9 April 2015

Date of response 8 May 2015

Information request

I would like data on the number of claimants who stopped claiming Job Seekers Allowance and put in a new claim after six months.

I would like to request the number of claimants who flowed off JSA in the quarter to December 2013 and flowed on again in the quarter to August 2014.

If possible I would also like the claimant destinations after they stopped their initial claim.

DWP response

In response to the first parts of your query the source data for this information is taken quarterly in February, May, August and November, with the latest available being for May 2014. We have taken your request therefore to be for those who have flowed off Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) in the November 2013 quarter and flowed on again in the May 2014 quarter.

Please note that the figure supplied below is derived from unpublished information and has not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard. It should therefore be treated with caution.

The number of JSA claimants who flowed off JSA in the November 2013 quarter and flowed back onto JSA in the May 2014 quarter is **91,680**.

Source:

DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) 100% JSA computerised claims data,

Notes

1. The figure is rounded to the nearest 10.
2. The data will exclude some short term flows not captured by the relevant scans.

You may be interested to know that data on claimant count off-flows and on-flows can be found on the NOMIS website here:

<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

Please note that the responsibility for statistics on the NOMIS website lies with the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Information on how to submit a freedom of information request to ONS can be found via the link below.

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/about-ons/what-we-do/FOI/how-to-make-a-foi-request/index.html>

Please note there will be differences between the information we have provided and any produced by ONS from the claimant count. This is for the following reasons;

- The claimant count includes Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claims which are processed clerically, whereas the DWP statistics only include computer processed claims.
- Claimant count statistics allow approximately 3 weeks for late processed claims to be input onto the DWP computer systems, whereas DWP JSA statistics allow at least 9 weeks.

In response to the final part of your query we can confirm that the Department does hold some information on JSA off-flow destinations however we estimate that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit of £600.

The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for central Government it is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3½ working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act the Department is not obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing your request further.

You may wish to know that some information on the numbers leaving JSA is published on the NOMIS website. Please note, Jobseekers are asked to complete a form at the end of their claim, but only around 50% of customers return these forms. Statistics from this source are collated and published on the website, but given the low recording there are strong caveats attached to the statistics and they need to be interpreted with caution.

To produce a table of claimants who have flowed off JSA and the recorded destinations, go to www.nomisweb.co.uk. Select **Query Data** and then select the dataset **claimant off-flows – reasons, age and duration** from the **claimant count** drop down menu from where you can construct your own data table.